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BLACK TERN NESTLING

PHOTO BY PAUL HOFFMANN



The PASSENGER PIGEON

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Black Terns at Big Muskego

By EMMA HOFFMANN

Many years ago a few choice camera shots of the black tern were sent in to a contest. The letter which came with the prints when they were returned, after stating that a number of good tern pictures were already on hand, read "we don't want to be over-terned." I hope your knowledge of birds is not "over-terned" for the black tern is really a very interesting bird. He is well represented in Wisconsin and is commonly found nesting in colonies in almost any marshy area of good size. Small marshy spots such as those found in glacial kettles so numerous in southeastern Wisconsin, however, do not attract them. They seem to prefer a large expanse of water and readily place their nests in the shallow bays of our larger inland lakes or in shallow river widenings—provided that water plants such as cattails, bullrushes, wild rice, pond lilies, pickerel weed, etc., are in abundance. Such a situation is usually one of long standing and supports a vigorous insect life, food for the black tern. And so we find them in such localities as one would expect to find the coot, gallinule, least bittern, sora and Virginia rail, prairie marsh wren, pied-billed grebe, and/or some of our ducks. Such a place is Big Muskego Lake in Waukesha County just west of Milwaukee. It is about four square miles in extent, and in the 1920's and 1930's was a fine place to study waterfowl. In the early 1930's it was especially so, perhaps because of a widespread drought causing birds to concentrate near water areas.

The 1930's were quite interesting, insofar as they posed a problem as to bird population in this big marsh. The fact that there was a high population during the years of 1930 through 1933 was brought home to us in the succeeding years when it was greatly reduced. Our banding totals reflect the number of breeding pairs of black terns present. 491 of their young were banded in the four year period of 1930 through 1933, compared to 306 in the preceding four years, and 291 in the following four years. Present in numbers too, were the gallinule, coot, pied-billed grebe, and least bittern, and though these four continued fairly numerous through 1934, 1935 and 1936, there was a constant decrease. The prairie marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds and yellow-headed blackbirds maintained a fairly even population in this decade. In looking for a reason for the fluctuations in the black tern population, a survey of the situation disclosed habitat to have been more or less constant through that period. Cottagers became more numerous, but were concentrated at a deep water bay and rarely came into the shallow water areas, causing only negligible disturbance to the birds. Lack of rainfall however, caused drought conditions which apparently were responsible to a large degree for the increase in nesting birds. Big Muskego had ample water of course, and it followed that birds were attracted here from other usually good tern nesting areas which were not so fortunate. These latter soon responded to the wet years that followed, and theorizing further along

those lines it seemed like the terns must once more occupy them, bringing about a decrease at Big Muskego Lake.

In 1924, after a short acquaintance with the black terns, Paul and I decided to do some banding. In our efforts to band as many young terns as possible we learned much about them. They arrive here the early part of May in breeding plumage—head, neck and underparts black except for the under tail-coverts, which are pale gray. The back, wings and tail are dark gray, the wings having a pale gray lining. Occasionally an observer is startled by seeing a black tern in the light winter plumage. This is probably a bird which has failed to assume the nuptial plumage.



REMOVING AN EGG SHELL

PHOTO BY PAUL HOFFMANN

In a few short weeks with very little ado they build their simple nests. The nest is placed slightly above water level on the broken down dead rushes of the previous year, which gather about the outer edges of the heavier stands of cattails and rushes. Occasionally they are found on a sunken muskrat house, or again atop a muddy bar, exposed by lowering water levels. It is composed of decaying vegetable matter much of which is to be had close at hand, but which the home builders prefer to bring from some distance. A mere semblance of a nest usually suffices for the first egg, but by the time the usual three eggs are laid the nest has improved considerably. Like many other birds, the black tern keeps its nest in repair while in use, but the birds are hard put to keep the eggs safe when water levels rise suddenly. A severe rain and wind storm during the nesting season is a calamity for the terns. In many cases the entire nest and its clutch of eggs is swamped. A second attempt at nest-

ing is usually made, resulting in smaller clutches and a comparatively small hatch for that year.

The eggs, numbering two to three and on rare occasions four, are quite varied in coloration, the background ranging from clay color to pale green, the scrawls and blotches being deep brown. Sometimes the entire egg is covered with an even sprinkling of this deep brown, but more often a scrawled effect is the case, giving the eggs a handsome appearance. We find the terns busiest at nest-building around Memorial Day. Incubation—in which both sexes take part—takes seventeen to eighteen days with the height of hatching occurring in the last half of June. As mentioned before, the terns nest in colonies, but we never found them crowding. We rarely found nests as close as five feet apart; usually the distance was at least ten feet—often more. But we did observe that in a large area of suitable nesting sites, such as existed at Big Muskego Lake, there were always concentrations of nests, with large areas of equally good territory going unused.

Our banding efforts soon taught us to take note of the warning cries of the nesting birds. We banded only the young as we had no means of capturing the adults. When we arrived within 100 to 300 feet of the nest the owners would arise with an excited "kip-kip-kip" call. This aroused more terns in the vicinity; they seem to share their troubles, for when danger threatens a single youngster, the parents and all the neighbors gather to combat it. Almost immediately there would be from six to twenty or even more birds circling overhead, all quite vociferous. The call would then become very rapid, loud and piercing. Variations of intensity provided an index of what there was at the nest. Early in the season the very spot where the nest was to be placed was protected; more important was the nest with eggs; but most precious of all were the young. Long after the young were on wing, parent birds continued to care for them. Every effort was made to protect them and to drive away the intruder. In their anxiety some would strike at our heads or the prow of the boat. They did this repeatedly, hovering a moment as if to take aim, then plunging to attack, striking with the bill, then veering off to arise again and repeat the performance.

Upon hearing the first cry of warning we learned to hurry through and around the bogs in order to arrive before the complete disappearance of the youngsters which by that time are quite distracted. They would climb obediently out of the nest and then take any direction from it, paddling along hurriedly over lily pads and dodging through the rushes. They did not dive. Often the parent birds swooped down and gave the fleeing youngsters a peck at the back of the head to hurry them into hiding. Immediately upon arriving at a cattail plant or a cluster of foliage of any kind the little one would stop suddenly and "freeze." Arriving upon the scene when they were all thus hidden, we found it difficult to find them. The parents would ease off in their attacks and screaming to the extent that they too would begin a search for their babies. Soon after banding and restoring them to their nest, and then quitting the area, peace and quiet would reign again.

The young are precocial, born with a furry coat of down and able to move about within an hour after hatching. They have a cinnamon

color with darker spots and whitish faces. This coloration changes rapidly, and when they are between three and four weeks of age their feathers are developed enough to give them a gray and white appearance. The early color of cinnamon with darker spots is excellent protective coloration, blending well with the habitat in which they are usually found. In our experience we found that they stay in or near the nest until they are about nine days of age. Up to that time they are called back to the nest by the parents, after all danger is past, by a low, short, soft "g-r-r-k" repeated two or three times. After that begins a period of wandering for the little ones with the parents following along to feed and protect them wherever they happen to be. When they are still quite small, insects and very small fish are the usual fare, the young taking food from the tip of the parent's bill. Sometimes the parent will hold a larger insect in its bill and allow the youngster to take small pieces from it. Great care is exercised in alighting at the nest; wings are not folded and tucked away until there is certainty of firm footing on the nest and no chance of injuring the young. Egg shells are promptly removed. They are usually carried away, but on occasion are broken to bits which soon disappear.



YOUNG OF THE YEAR

PHOTO BY PAUL HOFFMANN

The young learn to fly when they are about five or six weeks old and have attained the handsome juvenal plumage. They soon learn to get up onto a hummock, and using it as a perch, take off from there to fly about a few minutes, returning to the perch to rest. The parents are usually in attendance and feed them while they are resting. The minutes in flight increase as the youngster grows stronger but it is quite common to see groups of them resting on almost any kind of perch they can find. Very often this is a large area of exposed water plants, dead and dry from falling water levels.

In 1932 twenty nests were marked with numbered aluminum tags. Each nest contained from one to three eggs at the time. Imitation

wooden eggs were added to the first ten nests. The terns greeted this experiment with varied reaction. In four nests the wooden eggs were found out of the nest up to six inches away on each visit even though they were carefully replaced each time. In the other six the wooden eggs were tolerated in the nest with the exception of one where it was covered or pushed down into the floor of the nest. Five of these nests brought out successful broods. The other ten nests under observation had exactly the same hatching results, five of these also producing their quota of chicks.

In twenty years a total of 1220 black terns were banded, and of this number there was one "return." A card from the banding office stated that a nestling black tern banded on July 4, 1931, was found dead at Delafield, Wisconsin, on June 27, 1933.

Photographing birds opened new avenues of study and we learned things about the terns which do not ordinarily come to the attention of a bander. Photographing black terns is not too difficult, but it is wise



BLACK TERNS STUDYING PAUL HOFFMANN

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

to select a bold individual, since the best pictures are made of a bird entirely at ease. During the hottest part of the day they are inactive and often stand over the eggs to shade them from the sun. This same posture, partly opened wings and spread tail, is assumed in shielding eggs or tiny young from pelting rain. Most feeding is done on wing, quite gracefully executed as the bird skims over the water, taking flying insects from the air, or daintily plucking insects and the larvae of various dragon-flies from the stems of emergent water plants. They rarely plunge into the water for food, as do other members of the tern family. Beautiful to see is a group of twenty or thirty of them circling and hovering over a school of fingerling bowfin. These fingerling, 1½ to 2 inches long, guided by the adult male bowfin, move around in the warm, shallow water to feed, coming to the surface in such numbers as to cause the water

to bubble. The terns recognize this activity and hover in fluttering groups over the spot, gliding down one by one in the same path to pick up a tiny fish. Many of these fish are fed to the young. The terns also relish grasshoppers, as we discovered quite by accident. Large numbers of grasshoppers were crossing a dirt road one day, and we watched the terns hovering over them and constantly dropping down to pick one up.

Black terns seem to remain on wing from dawn to dusk, stopping only occasionally to rest—and that always on a firm perch, preferably a few feet over water. On the few occasions a black tern does alight on water, it is usually for the purpose of bathing. A bath takes only one or two minutes. There is a rolling from side to side with first one and then the other wing extended, the head is submerged and water is tossed upon the back, and an up-ending on the tail takes place which is unbelievable and quite comical. Molting begins in August but many terns show flecks of white on the head as early as the 4th of July.

During 1935-1936-1937 the Forster's tern also nested at Big Muskego Lake. We found the black terns and the Forster's terns very tolerant of each other, observing on one occasion a black tern bringing food to the young of a Forster's tern. At another time we found a fine nest of a Forster's tern containing two eggs of her own and three two-day old black tern babies. As we watched from a distance an adult black tern arrived and seemed to try and coax the little ones away, but one of the Forster's terns would have none of that; it drove the black away. The Forster's then came down to the nest, settled down to brood the eggs and one of the little blacks crawled under her while the other two walked around for a time and finally settled down close beside her to sleep. Soon along came another Forster's tern and fed these little blacks.

Migration begins in a leisurely fashion in August, their numbers rapidly decreasing in September in this part of Wisconsin. Time then to put aside our tern bands, cameras and note books until another year.

Route 4, Box 116
Oconomowoc

NEWS . . .

In the middle of this issue you will find a questionnaire on the red-tailed hawk, the subject of the 1954 range-and-population-study conducted by W. S. O. Your cooperation will be of great assistance in this study; please fill out the questionnaire as completely as you can, and send it before July 1 to Mr. Gordon Orians, 1611-16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin.

One reason why Mr. Orians is anxious to complete this study this summer is because he has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in England next year. Congratulations!

Funds for the new Wisconsin Audubon Camp have been growing. But if new buildings are to be erected for the camp opening in 1955, your contribution is needed. If you have not already done so, send your check to Mrs. F. L. Larkin,

5333 North Idlewild, Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin.

If by any chance you forgot to send in your 1954 W. S. O. dues, please attend to this immediately. Send your check for \$2.00 (active membership) or \$5.00 (sustaining membership) to Mr. C. P. Frister, 2956A North 38th Street, Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin.

New arm bands displaying the W. S. O. emblem in green and gold were on sale at the convention, and may be purchased from the W. S. O. supply department.

Extensive banding of grackles is being carried on near Memphis, Tennessee, by Oliver Irwin. A scattering of "returns" already received suggests that many of the grackles may be in Wisconsin and northern Illinois during May and June. If you come across a dead or injured grackle, be sure to look for a leg band.

(more news on page 32)

THE 1953 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By C. DENNIS BESADNY

One hundred and sixteen species of birds were found in 44 Christmas bird counts between December 24, 1953, and January 3, 1954, to set a new record for Christmas counts. More than 240 observers participated in the counts covering 43 different areas in the state. The relatively mild weather which spread over Wisconsin from the 24th to the 28th, and again during the first week in January, not only accounted for the large number of species seen, but also for the record number of observers in the field and the total areas covered, giving the best coverage Wisconsin has ever had.

December was the fifth consecutive month with temperatures averaging above normal, and with the lack of a good snow cover in most parts of Wisconsin, many southern birds remained. Highlighting the rarities are the duck hawk, pigeon hawk, killdeer, black-backed gull, snowy owl, Carolina wren, Bohemian waxwing, white-winged crossbill, red-eyed towhee, and Harris's sparrow.

Open water areas harbored a fair number of ducks with most species being represented. Large flocks of geese were found wintering on the Rock prairie. The mild winter also accounted for the presence of a large variety of hawks, a fair scattering of kingfishers and flickers, a good number of mourning doves, and more than the usual number of tufted titmice.

A number of winter visitors from the north were also represented. Snowy owls were seen in the Arkdale, Horicon Marsh, Milwaukee, and Oshkosh areas; they were last reported on Christmas counts in 1950. Northern shrikes appeared on a great many counts—more than are usually reported. Bohemian waxwings were observed in Adams and Wausau. Evening grosbeaks, goldfinches, and purple finches were reported in many areas, but there was a definite lack of pine grosbeaks and crossbills.

Winter wrens were seen in Beloit, Green Bay, Madison, Monroe, and the Wyalusing area. A remarkable event was the presence of Carolina wrens in Adams and near Sauk City. A great variety of sparrows was present which also testifies to the mildness of the winter. The finding of a Harris's sparrow in Monroe was another outstanding find during the winter season.

The 1953 Christmas bird count was the most successful in the history of the society. The record-breaking number of species seen and number of observers in the field is something to aim for in 1954.

Details of Individual Counts

ADAMS—Dec. 28. Partly cloudy; wind s. w. 3 to 10 mph.; temp. 21 to 31; ground bare; creeks open, Wisconsin River open below Castle Rock dam, frozen above dam. Area covered: east bank of Wisconsin River from Point Bluff north past Castle Rock dam to Dellwood, thence east along Little Roche A Cri Creek to Adams and Friendship. One observer. 6:15 a. m. to 4:15 p. m.; total miles, 100 (2 on foot, 98 by car). 30 species, 1478 individuals.—Sam Robbins.

APPLETON—Dec. 28. Partly cloudy in morning; wind s. w. 7 mph.; temp. 24 to 32; trace of snow on ground; river partly frozen, Lake Winnebago frozen except at river entrance. Area covered: a 7-mile radius of Appleton—east to Kaukauna, west and south to lake front and Neenah, northwest to Center Swamp. Nine observers in 3 parties. 7:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total miles, 85 (15 on foot, 70 by car). 24 species, 1643 individuals.—Mrs. Lynn Copper, Miss Cora Harvey, Mrs. Carroll McEathron, Jim McEathron, Mrs. H. L. Playman, Mrs. W. C. Rehbein, George Rehbein, Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Mrs. Dale Vaater.

ARKDALE—Jan. 1. Fair in a. m., cloudy in p. m.; wind west 5 to 10 mph.; temp. 31 to 38; trace of snow on ground; creeks mostly open. Area covered: east bank of Wisconsin River from Dellwood north to Petenwell dam and Strong's Prairie, thence east along Big Roche A Cri Creek to Arkdale. Two observers together. 6:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 75 (7 on foot, 68 by car). 36 species, 1031 individuals.—N. R. Barger, Sam Robbins.

BELOIT—Dec. 27. Partly cloudy; wind s. e. 10 to 15 mph.; temp. 29 to 40; no fresh snow; streams and rivers open. Area covered: 7½-mile radius of Beloit. Thirteen observers in 5 parties. 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 163 (34 on foot, 129 by car). 38 species, 1737 individuals.—Ned Hollister Bird Club: Bernice Andrews, Charlotte Chamberlin, Roy Cole, Mr. and Mrs. David Cox, Frances Glenn, E. A. Hepler, Mrs. Oscar Kidd, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Liebherr, Mrs. Fred Mezger, Mr. and Mrs. H. Roy Williams.

CALEDONIA—Dec. 26. Partly cloudy; wind 3 to 10 mph.; temp. 28 to 32; trace of snow about 3 p. m. Three observers together. 8:00 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.; total miles, 12 (5 on foot, 7 by car). 18 species, 374 individuals.—John Vrana, Raymond Vrana, Mary Elizabeth Whelan.

CHIPPEWA CO.—Dec. 26. Clear in a. m., overcast in p. m.; wind westerly 3 to 23 mph.; temp. 23 to 33; two inches of fresh snow on ground. One observer. 7:15 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 106 (5 on foot, 101 by car). 20 species, 950 individuals.—Dr. C. A. Kemper.

COOKSVILLE—Jan. 1. Clouding over at noon; wind south 5 mph.; temp. 30-35; trace of old snow in places, otherwise ground bare. Two observers together. 7:30 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.; total miles, 32 (5 on foot, 27 by car). 31 species, 856 individuals.—Olga Porter, John Wilde.

DODGE CO.—Dec. 26. Cloudy; wind n. w. 10 to 15 mph.; temp. 30 to 35; trace of snow, otherwise ground bare. Area covered: valley of Wildcat Creek from its confluence with Rock River at Hustisford, north to its headwaters in Wildcat Public Hunting Grounds west of Iron Ridge. One observer. 8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.; total miles, 9 (4 on foot, 5 by car). 19 species, 464 individuals.—H. Bauers.

GREEN BAY—Dec. 27. Cloudy; wind s. w. 10 to 20 mph.; temp. 26 to 35; snow flurries depositing ¼ inch of snow. Sixteen observers in 5 parties. 7:00 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.; total miles, 179 (22 on foot, 157 by car). 45 species, 3088 individuals.—Green Bay Bird Club: Edwin Cleary, Ed Paulson, Jim Quinn, R. Bethe, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hussong, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Duquaine, Mildred Van Vonderen, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Holz, Mrs. Andrew Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Romig, Chester and Vernon Krawczyk.

GREEN LAKE—Dec. 30. Cloudy; wind n. w. 10 to 15 mph.; temp. 10 to 20; snow on ground in sheltered areas; snow flurries during the day; Green Lake mostly open. Area covered: southern and eastern parts of Town of Brooklyn and northeast part of Town of Green Lake. One observer. 1:00 p. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 22 (2 on foot, 20 by car). 23 species, 311 individuals.—Paul B. Cors.

HORICON MARSH—Jan. 2. Cloudy; wind south 10 mph.; temp. 32 to 40. Area covered: State owned portion of Horicon Marsh and adjacent upland. One observer. 6:45 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total miles, 70 (5 on foot, 65 by car). 22 species, 378 individuals.—Harold A. Mathiak.

IOWA CO.—Dec. 29. Partly cloudy; wind n. w.; temp. 25 to 30; ground mostly free of snow. Area covered: Dodgeville—upland and creek bottoms, and Wisconsin River—Spring Green to Lone Rock. Two observers together. 9:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.; total miles, 60 (by car). 26 species, 898 individuals.—Dorothy and Lois Webster.

KENOSHA CO.—Dec. 25. Clear; wind s. w. to w.; temp. 30 to 40. Two observers together. 9:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m.; total miles, 35. 22 species, 469 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higgins.

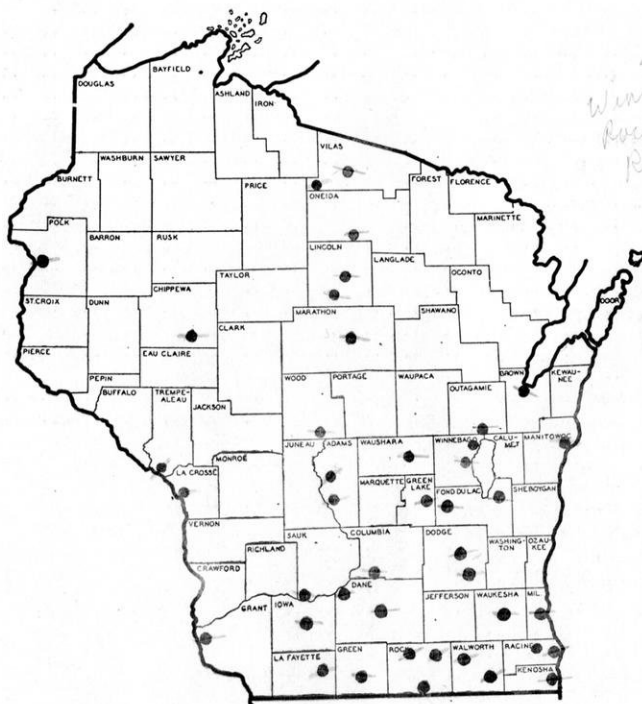
KENOSHA CO.—Dec. 29. Partly cloudy; light s. w. wind; temp. 32 to 36. Four observers in one party. Five hours in field; total miles, 13 (1 on foot, 12 by car). 24

species, 557 individuals.—Nell Craig, Mabel Higgins, Evelyn Thomsen, Ethel Wallis. (Black-backed gull on list was in second-year plumage and was seen by Dick Gordon).

LA CROSSE CO.—Dec. 25. Fair and calm; temp. 30 to 42. Area covered: city of Onalaska (3rd ward), Upper French Island, east shore of Lake Onalaska, McGilvray Bottoms, Camp Decorah, Grandad Bluff and Garber's Coulee. Four observers together. 7:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m. and 2:30 p. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total miles, 80 (5 on foot, 75 by car). (Time and mileage also included in count for Trempealeau county). 21 species, 763 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Alvin M. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schick.

LAFAYETTE CO.—Jan. 1-3. Partly cloudy; fair; temp. 28 to 40. Two observers together. Eight hours in field; total miles, 60 (2 on foot, 58 by car). (Time and mileage also included in count for Walworth county). 36 species, 575 individuals.—Lola Welch, Ethel Olson.

LOCATION OF 1953 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



LAKE GENEVA—Dec. 26. Partly cloudy; wind s. w. 30 mph.; temp. 30 to 35; ground bare with few sheltered spots of snow, lake entirely free of ice. Area covered: around entire lake by car, stopping at suitable localities for observations; also covered a tamarack bog southeast of Lake Geneva. Ten observers in 3 cars. 7:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 50 (5 on foot, 45 by car). 49 species, 1893 individuals.—Earl Anderson, Karl E. Bartel, Jack Bicket, Ted Dreyer, Harold Fetter, Rich Guschausky, Crag Hall, C. O. Palmquist, Bob Palmquist, Dr. J. O. Young.

LAKE WINNEBAGO—Dec. 26-27. No weather data. One observer. Total miles, 105 (5 on foot, 100 by car—partly on business). 23 species, 440 individuals.—Alfred S. Bradford.

LINCOLN CO.—Jan. 2. Cloudy; no wind; temp. 32; three inches of snow on ground and a light snow falling. Area covered: Council Grounds State Forest. Five observers; 7½ man-hours in field. 4 species, 24 individuals.—Edna Andrews, Roy Andrews, David Andrews, Lorna and Herbert Levi.

	Adams	Appleton	Aridale	Beloit	Caledonia	Chippewa Co.	Cocksville	Dodge Co.	Green Bay	Green Lake	Horicon Mar.	Iowa Co.	Kenosha Co.	Kenosha Co.	Lacrosse Co.	Lafayette Co.	L. Geneva	L. Winnebago	Lincoln Co.	Lincoln Co.	Lodi	Madison
No. Observers	1	9	2	13	3	1	2	1	16	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	10	1	5	4	2	27
No. Species	30	24	36	38	18	20	31	19	45	23	22	26	22	24	21	36	49	23	4	6	14	56
Red-thr. Loon
Loon	1	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Grebe	1	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-bl. Grebe	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Great-bl. Heron	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Bittern	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	..	..	..	..	..
Mallard	1	2	150	..	..	1	2	18	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	1	..	150	2550	..
Black Duck	..	168	100	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	..	..	2368	..
Gadwall
Raldpate	1	..
Pintail	4	..
Green-w. Teal	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoveller
Wood Duck
Redhead	2	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	2	..
Ring-neck. Duck	2	..
Canvasback	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	27	..
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup	11	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	60	..	..	..	61	..
Am. Golden-eye	4	598	2	..	..	146	..	11	22	..	..	4	2	5	..	200	50	..	..	..	27	..
Bufflehead	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old-squaw	50	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-w. Scoter	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Duck	8	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merg.	2	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Merganser	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	2	..
Red-br. Merg.	1	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..
Goshawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-shin Hawk	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cooper's Hawk	3	..
Red-tail Hawk	1	..	3	2	..	..	22	3	..	4	1	2	1	..	3	6	4	..	..	..	1	6
Red-sh. Hawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Broad-w. Hawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rough-leg Hawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	..	..	15	4	..	..	..	..	6	..
Bald Eagle	2	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	2	..	..	1	..	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	1	..	..	3	..
Duck Hawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pigeon Hawk	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	1	2	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	..	..	..
European Partridge	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..
Bob-white	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pheasant	..	1	..	13	5	..	5	..	10	2	18	3	..	1	..	4	6	14	..	..	71	..
Coot	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	10	..
Killdeer
Wilson's Snipe	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Black-bk. Gull	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	..	21	..	7	1	..	..	36	62	..	..	150	200	..	..	80	3	..	..	..	8	..
Ring-bill Gull	6	8	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Bonaparte's Gull	100	125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rock Dove	39	..	6	..	2	13	75	14	69	5	..	20	..	..	..	50	4	8	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove	1	23	..	2	..	1	..	34	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Screech Owl	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snowy Owl	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Horned Owl	6	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barred Owl	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

	Mosmanite	Milton	Milwaukee	Monroe	St. Calvary	Waukegan	Oneida Co.	Oshkosh	Racine	Ripon	St. Croix Co.	St. Croix Co.	Sauk Co.	Sauk Lake	Trapp. Co.	Two Rivers	Vilas Co.	Walworth Co.	Waukesha	Wausau	Waukegan Co.	Waukegan
No. Observers	2	1	30	12	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	20	25	2	6
No. Species	36	28	70	42	18	22	7	29	23	25	9	12	16	11	14	22	8	7	42	28	21	14
Red-thr. Loon	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Loon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Grebe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-bl. Grebe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..
Great-bl. Heron	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Bittern	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose	..	2000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1000	..	..	..	..
Mallard	..	300	1127	..	..	..	..	8	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10	..	..
Black Duck	..	2	130	..	..	..	..	40	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..
Gadwall	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baldpate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green-w. Teal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoveller	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Redhead	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-neck. Duck	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canvasback	..	..	135	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Greater Scaup	..	..	4003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesser Scaup	..	..	41	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Am. Golden-eye	7	..	3015	..	..	..	..	50	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	4	9	..	..	..
Bufflehead	..	..	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old-squaw	..	..	501	..	..	..	..	..	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-w. Scoter	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Duck	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merg.	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Merg.	..	..	1511	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-br. Merg.	..	..	609	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goshawk	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-shin Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cooper's Hawk	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Red-tail Hawk	1	5	10	23	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	24	..	2	..
Red-sh. Hawk	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Broad-w. Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rough-leg Hawk	..	3	5	10	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Bald Eagle	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Marsh Hawk	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
Duck Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pigeon Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	..	1	8	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..
Ruffed Grouse	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	2	..	..	..	4	10	..	..
European Partridge	..	8	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bob-white	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	..
Pheasant	8	..	47	47	4	..	..	7	2	17	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	6	1	13	..
Coot	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson's Snipe	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-bk. Gull	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	4	..	5112	..	..	..	..	15	962	1	..	..	..	..	..	450	..	2	38	..	..	..
Ring-bill Gull	..	..	110	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Bonaparte's Gull	..	..	181	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rock Dove	93	25	..	..	..	1	..	..	43	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..
Mourning Dove	..	..	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	29	7	..	..
Screech Owl	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Snowy Owl	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gt. Horned Owl	8	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Barred Owl	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Adams	Appleton	Arkdale	Beloit	Caledonia	Chippewa Co.	Cocksville	Dodge Co.	Green Bay	Green Lake	Horicon Mar.	Iowa Co.	Kenosha Co.	Kenosha Co.	LaCrosse Co.	Lafayette Co.	L. Geneva	L. Waukegan	Lincoln Co.	Lincoln Co.	Lodi	Madison
No. Observers	1	9	2	13	3	1	2	1	16	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	10	1	5	4	2	27
No. Species	30	24	36	38	18	20	31	19	45	23	22	26	22	24	21	36	49	23	4	6	14	56
Long-eared Owl	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Short-ear. Owl	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..
Kingfisher	..	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	3	2	..	..	..	3
Flicker	..	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	6
Pileat. Woodpkr.	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-b. Woodpkr.	2	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	4	3	..	1	..	..	1	6
Red-h. Woodpkr.	..	..	3	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Y-b. Sapsucker	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hairy Woodpkr.	2	5	3	6	2	1	2	2	8	1	..	2	..	1	1	4	3	3	..	..	1	7
Downy Woodpkr.	2	13	5	18	1	2	15	11	26	1	5	3	2	3	3	6	7	2	..	..	1	43
Pr. Horn. Lark	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	15	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Canada Jay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay	35	2	22	62	3	28	25	..	74	1	5	9	3	6	38	10	25	1	..	1	7	133
Raven	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crow	98	5	145	98	4	57	50	13	10	1	8	12	6	10	1	100	300	8	..	..	..	706
B-c. Chickadee	47	61	35	108	10	4	25	12	50	8	18	34	2	6	21	30	33	2	6	1	2	175
Tufted Titmouse	..	..	..	20	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wh-b. Nuthatch	18	20	9	23	..	4	8	10	41	1	2	8	..	2	13	4	8	2	4	..	3	45
Red-b Nuthatch	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..
Brown Creeper	..	7	3	10	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	38
Winter Wren	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Carolina Wren	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robin	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Bluebird	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gl.-cr. Kinglet	32	17	23	5	..	3	1	6	25	1	..	1	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	51
R-cr. Kinglet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bohemian Waxwing	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cedar Waxwing	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	20	..	..	..	..	..	17
Northern Shrike	1	1	1	..	2	1	..	1	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	3	6	..	..	..	..	1
Starling	125	35	60	254	30	84	80	44	281	3	16	151	..	15	66	100	200	75	..	21	40	280
Eng. Sparrow	145	598	130	417	103	311	200	171	1410	100	155	250	..	20	245	100	200	200	..	17	65	1040
B. Meadowlark	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	12	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
W. Meadowlark	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Red-wing	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rusty Bk-bird	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronzed Grackle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cardinal	6	10	1	39	1	..	2	..	15	..	2	54	..	7	13	15	7	2	..	..	3	57
Bre. Grosbeak	44	..	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Purple Finch	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	10	6	..	..	..	..	..	50
Pine Grosbeak	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red Poll	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Pine Siskin	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goldfinch	680	..	140	212	..	98	3	6	7	1	..	115	5	..	21	4	30	..	..	49	..	140
Wh-w. Crossbill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Towhee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Savannah Spar.	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Junco	64	50	3	190	149	49	10	12	186	1	26	36	50	75	103	20	50	2	..	..	3	496
Oregon Junco	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tree Sparrow	103	5	75	214	29	143	300	153	154	75	62	120	25	3	187	20	30	15	..	..	..	365
Field Sparrow	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Harris Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wh-cr. Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
Wh-thr. Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fox Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swamp Sparrow	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	5
Song Sparrow	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	7
Lapland Longsp.	..	..	..	..	..	..	127	..	..	..	..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snow Bunting	2	..	14	..	8	..	..	395	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Masonville	Milton	Milwaukee	Monroe	Mt. Calvary	Nekoosa	Oneida Co.	Oshkosh	Racine	Ripon	St. Croix Co.	St. Croix Co.	Sauk Co.	Squaw Lake	Trapp. Co.	Two Rivers	Vilas Co.	Walworth Co.	Waukesha	Wausau	Wausara Co.	Wausling
No. Observers	2	1	30	12	1	1	4	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	20	25	2	6
No. Species	36	28	70	42	18	22	7	29	23	25	9	12	16	11	14	22	8	7	42	28	21	14
Long-eared Owl	..	..	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Short-ear. Owl	..	..	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..
Kingfisher	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Flicker	1	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Pileat. Woodpr.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Red-b. Woodpr.	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	4	..	..	6
Red-h. Woodpr.	1	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	8	..	6	..
Y-b. Sapsucker	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hairy Woodpr.	2	1	10	3	1	5	..	1	..	5	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	14	7	3	3
Downy Woodpr.	6	4	41	22	2	6	..	4	..	8	1	1	4	..	..	2	..	..	46	7	12	16
Pr. Horn. Lark	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Jay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay	45	7	26	33	6	18	1	5	3	6	2	3	4	1	7	3	..	..	72	18	32	..
Raven	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..
Crow	93	35	7213	431	..	49	..	64	..	1	..	..	6	..	2	3	..	..	1920	7	25	18
B-c. Chickadee	17	6	119	39	6	44	26	6	..	23	3	3	5	24	4	22	20	..	116	89	34	23
Tufted Titmouse	1	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Wh-b. Nuthatch	12	3	22	25	7	4	4	2	1	10	..	2	6	..	2	1	..	..	45	24	13	22
Red-b Nuthatch	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	4	..	..
Brown Creeper	2	1	3	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	..	1
Winter Wren	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Carolina Wren	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robin	20	..	44	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..
Bluebird	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gl-cr. Kinglet	1	..	13	10	2	6	12	..	2	5	..	..	..	4	..	5	..	..	15	..	..	..
R-cr. Kinglet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bohemian Waxwing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	..	..
Cedar Waxwing	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	..	..
Northern Shrike	..	..	4	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	1	..	..
Starling	130	75	1249	750	125	..	..	75	226	240	24	3	60	..	65	28	..	..	587	400	15	..
Eng. Sparrow	280	50	1127	5540	400	180	..	200	150	200	50	45	125	..	14	157	..	..	1523	750	275	4
E. Meadowlark	..	..	117	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
W. Meadowlark	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-wing	91	1	1	..	..	..	..	8	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rusty Bk-bird	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Bronzed Grackle	..	25	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cardinal	20	2	29	9	2	6	..	1	1	3	1	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	8	44	2	1
Eve. Grosbeak	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	12	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	..
Purple Finch	2	5	27	2	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	5	..	..
Pine Grosbeak	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red Poll	..	..	2	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..
Pine Siskin	..	..	25	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Goldfinch	25	17	72	3	..	16	..	..	..	3	..	214	..	9	2	..	..	..	47	220	250	8
Wh-w. Crossbill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..
Towhee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Savannah Spar.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Junco	108	20	686	151	56	8	..	70	18	12	..	2	21	..	23	21	1	..	397	7	95	24
Oregon Junco	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tree Sparrow	152	27	199	291	74	22	..	70	8	38	..	85	..	9	6	..	..	..	1363	40	85	..
Field Sparrow	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	37
Harris Sparrow	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wh-cr. Sparrow	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wh-thr. Sparrow	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fox Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Swamp Sparrow	..	..	2	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Song Sparrow	..	1	7	9	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	2	..
Lapland Longsp.	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snow Bunting	1	..	..	..	..	2	200	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	..	..

LINCOLN CO.—Jan. 3. No weather data. Four observers spent 1 hour driving north on route 51. 6 species, 91 individuals.—Edna and Roy Andrews, Emily and David Bierbrauer.

LODI—Dec. 27. Partly cloudy; temp. 36. Area covered: around city limits of Lodi. Two observers together. 12:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m.; total miles, 10 (2 on foot, 8 by car). 14 species, 281 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Thompson.

MADISON—Jan. 2. Clear; wind w.s.w.; temp. 32 to 40; ground frozen with trace of snow in sheltered places. Area covered: 7½-mile radius of Madison. Twenty-seven observers spent most of the day in the field. 56 species, 9755 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger and Norval Jr., Mrs. B. T. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Brown, Mrs. M. C. Dutton, Alice Fosse, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hickey, Mrs. R. H. Lound, Mr. and Mrs. James Neis, Helen Northup, Andrew Ragatz, A. W. Schorger, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. James Watrous and Lynne, Dr. J. G. Waddell, Mary and John Waddell, Ray White, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Williams, Richard and Thomas Wills.

MAZOMANIE—Dec. 24. Partly cloudy; wind s. w. 3 to 15 mph.; temp. 8 to 22; trace of snow on ground; Wisconsin River partly frozen. Area covered: marshes and wooded bottomland on south side of Wisconsin River between Mazomanie and Sauk City, fields and woodlands along north side of Prairie du Sac to Cactus Bluff. Two observers together. 6:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 55 (5 on foot, 50 by car). 36 species, 1143 individuals.—N. R. Barger, Sam Robbins.

MILTON—Dec. 27. Cloudy; wind south 20 mph.; temp. 30 to 35; trace of snow on ground. Area covered: south on highway M to Turtle Creek, north on side road to Lima marsh, then to Haight's marsh on south shore of Lake Koshkonong and back to Milton. One observer. 8:00 a. m. to 11:00 a. m. and 1:00 p. m. to 3:00 p. m. 28 species, 2627 individuals.—Chester J. Skelly.

MILWAUKEE—Dec. 27. Cloudy; wind south 7 to 15 mph.; temp. 26 to 37. Thirty observers in 7 parties and watchers at feeding stations. 7:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total party miles, 243 (29 on foot, 214 by car). 70 species, 28,030 individuals. Members of the John Muir Club and City Bird Club participating.

MONROE—Dec. 31. Cloudy in a. m., clearing in p. m.; wind south 18 mph.; temp. 21 to 33; ground mostly bare with some crusted snow in sheltered spots. Area covered: bottomlands along the Sugar and Pecatonica Rivers; selected areas near Monroe. Twelve observers. 7:15 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total party miles, 126 (16 on foot, 110 by car). 42 species, 7497 individuals.—Dr. and Mrs. George R. Barry, Charlotte Churchill, E. O. Evans, Eugene Harms, Ronald Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Orians, Gordon Orians, Helen Smith, Dr. and Mrs. James R. Weir, Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Weston.

MT. CALVARY—Dec. 28. Overcast; wind s. w. 15 mph.; temp. 32; ground almost bare. One observer. 10:30 a. m. to 11:30 a. m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 2 on foot. 18 species, 695 individuals.—George Henseler.

NEKOOSA—Dec. 31. Cloudy; wind s. w. 5 to 12 mph.; temp. 5 to 25; one inch of snow on ground; river and creeks frozen. Area covered: both banks of the Wisconsin River from New Rome to Port Edwards, then west to Babcock. One observer. 7:00 a. m. to 3:30 p. m.; total miles, 97 (2 on foot, 95 by car). 22 species, 388 individuals.—Sam Robbins.

ONEIDA CO.—Jan. 3. Clear, wind 10 mph.; temp. 26; six inches of snow on ground. Area covered: Nokomis Flowage—six miles north of Tomahawk. Four observers spent 12 man-hours in the field. 7 species, 250 individuals.—Edna and Roy Andrews, Emily and David Bierbrauer.

OSHKOSH—Dec. 28 and 30. Clear; no wind; temp. 30. Area covered: north and west of Oshkosh on Dec. 28; south and west on Dec. 30. Five observers spent seven hours in the field. 29 species, 953 individuals.—Lee Baxandall, J. H. Evans, Jack Kaspar, Dave Lyon, Stanley Wellso.

RACINE—Dec. 28. Partly cloudy; wind 3 mph.; temp. 28 to 34. One observer. 7:15 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 18 (12 on foot, 6 by bus). 23 species, 1562 individuals.—Mary Elizabeth Whelan.

RIPON—Dec. 28. Overcast; wind s. w. to n. w. 5 to 10 mph.; temp. 20 to 30; trace of snow in sheltered spots. Area covered: Town of Ripon in its entirety. One observer. 8:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.; total miles, 35 (5½ on foot, 29½ by car). 25 species, 617 individuals.—Paul B. Cors.

ST. CROIX FALLS—Dec. 25. Overcast; temp. 35; snow cover. Observations at bird feeder in yard. One observer. 9 species, 95 individuals.—Mrs. J. A. Riegel.

ST. CROIX FALLS—Jan. 3. Partly overcast; strong s. e. wind; temp. 26; snow cover. Observations at bird feeder in yard. One observer. 12 species, 102 individuals.—Mrs. J. A. Riegel.

SAUK CO.—Jan. 1. Partly cloudy; no wind; temp. 35 to 48; ground bare. Area covered: 4-mile radius of Spring Green. One observer. 9:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.; total miles, 31½ (2½ on foot, 29 by car). 16 species, 554 individuals plus 31 unidentified individuals.—Mrs. Edna J. Goldsmith.

SQUAW LAKE—Jan. 3. Partly cloudy; temp. 20; 12 to 14 inches of snow on the ground. Area covered: around Squaw Lake in the southwest corner of Vilas county. One observer. 11 species, 77 individuals.—Roy Bickelhaupt.

TREMPEALEAU CO.—Dec. 25 (see write-up for LaCrosse county for weather data). Area covered: mostly in Perrot State Park. Four observers together. 14 species, 144 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schick.

TWO RIVERS—Dec. 31. Cloudy; temp. 0 to 30; one inch of snow on ground. Two observers in a. m.; one in p. m. 8:00 a. m. to 12:00 p. m. and 2:30 p. m. to 4:00 p. m.; total miles, 45 (3 on foot, 42 by car). 22 species, 742 individuals.—John Kraupa, Bernard Brouchoud.

VILAS CO.—Jan. 3. Clear, calm in a. m., 10 mph. wind in p. m.; temp. 26 to 30; 14 inches of snow on ground. Area covered: between Trout Lake and Winegar. Four observers spent 12 man-hours in the field. 8 species, 72 individuals.—Barbara and Spencer Doty, Lorna and Herbert Levi.

WALWORTH CO.—Jan. 1-3. (See details under Lafayette county write-up). Two observers together. 7 species, 1034 individuals.—Lola Welch, Ethel Olson.

WAUKESHA—Dec. 26. Cloudy, wind n. w. 22 mph.; temp. 32 to 34; no snow on ground; springs open; river partially open. Area covered: 15-mile diameter—3 wooded areas in city; southwest to Kettle Moraine State Forest; along Fox River Valley to Mukwonago Marsh; and to Saylesville, south to Mukwonago and Big Bend, north to Pewaukee Lake. Twenty observers in 8 parties (2 at feeding stations). 7:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total party miles, 321 (35½ on foot, 285½ by car). 42 species, 6396 individuals.—S. Paul Jones, Clarence Anthes, Peter Weber, Charles Sontag, Fred Alyea, Paul G. Hoffmann, Emma Hoffmann, T. G. Wilder, Iona Wilder, Robert Adams, Vince Batha, Tom Soulen, Mary Sydow, Helen Kramer, Olive and Les Compton, Mary and Charles Nelson, Carl Fies, Ernest Zimmerman.

WAUSAU—Dec. 27. Overcast; wind s. e. 0 to 5 mph.; temp. 28 to 32; one-half inch of snow on ground. Area covered: within 5 miles of Wausau. Twenty-five observers spent 70 man-hours in the field. 28 species, 1700 individuals.—Members of the Wausau Bird Club.

WAUSHARA CO.—Jan. 2. Cloudy; wind n. w. 10 to 15 mph.; temp. 30 to 36; 7 hours in the field; total miles, 8 on foot. Jan. 3. Clear; wind n. w. 15 to 18 mph.; temp. 32 to 38; 4 hours in the field; total miles, 6 on foot. One inch of old snow on ground both days. Area covered: 1-mile radius of Mt. Morris. Two observers together. 21 species, 926 individuals.—Harold and Flora Bauers.

WYALUSING—Dec. 30. No weather data. Area covered: part of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge immediately below Wyalusing State Park. Six observers. 14 species, 165 individuals. Harold Burgess reporting.

RARE NESTS AT LA CROSSE

By ALVIN M. PETERSON

i. Bell's Vireo

One of the best places to go for bird study in the La Crosse area is French Island, just below the Onalaska end of Lock and Dam No. 7. This area adjoins the La Crosse airport on the east and is partly prairie, sand dune country, and lowland and swamp. There is variety in the landscape and vegetation, and hence a wide variety of birds—ranging from the upland plover, lark sparrow, prairie horned lark, and both meadowlarks on the one hand to the yellow-throated vireo, prothonotary warbler, American bittern and blue-winged teal on the other.

Hoary vervain, devil's shoestring, prairie clover and spotted wild bergamot are plentiful about the prairie area; scrub oak, wild black raspberry and sumac about the sand dunes; and river birch, willow, black locust, cottonwood, silver maple and ash in the lowlands bordering the Black River. It was about the sand dunes that we were fortunate enough to find the Bell's vireo rather plentiful in 1953.

We saw the first pair of these birds on June 28. They were flying back and forth between a clump of oak shoots and some medium-sized black oaks. Back and forth they went, each time rustling the leaves of an oak branch a few inches from the ground, as if putting the finishing touches to a nest.

The birds usually alighted near the top of the oak shoots and from there made their way to the branch near the ground, the male occasionally appearing on a twig in plain view and singing again and again. So often did he thus appear that we had little trouble seeing that he was plainly dressed in gray, olive and yellowish-white, gray about the head, olive on the back, and whitish underneath. Conspicuous were his dark eyes, the yellowish wash on the sides, and the two white bars on each wing.

Though we were tolerably sure the birds had a nest in a crotch of the branch near the ground, we remained at a distance that first day, watching the birds and listening to the singing of the male, a rather short song but rapidly delivered and hence more like that of the warbling vireo than those of either the red-eye or yellow-throated vireo. The bird's voice, we thought, had a distinct vireo quality.

We were back on June 30 and found the birds as interested in the oak shoots as ever, going and coming frequently as we watched, and singing and jiggling that branch near the ground. We visited the place again on July 4 but failed to find either of the birds about the oak shoots. Later, we saw and heard the male about a brushy depression about a hundred feet farther east. Though we watched for a long time, not once did either of the birds visit the oak shoots, leading us to wonder if there was a nest there after all, or if it was deserted. I decided the nest was deserted and walked slowly past the oak shoots, looking them over as carefully as possible but failed to see or find a nest. My wife, however, took her cue from that jiggling branch, lifted it a bit, and found the nest at once. It held a dainty white egg, that of the vireo, and two that were about twice as large rather profusely spotted with darker shades—cowbirds' eggs. The nest, we now were quite sure, was deserted. However, we let it alone until July 9, when only the cowbirds' eggs remained.

The nest was located about 14 inches from the ground in a crotch, was very small and dainty, purse-shaped and made of fine grass, weeds, and tissue-thin red-birch bark. It was $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across on the inside. Strangely enough, as we drove along the river shore that day we heard another Bell's vireo in a swale or depression to our right, overgrown with willow and red birch. The spot was 80 rods from the oak shoots in which the first birds were interested, and as soon as we reached the shoots we heard the first male singing as freely as ever. On this occasion we found the female just over a little hill to the north,

moving rather slowly from leafy twig to leafy twig as if searching for food or nesting material. We came home with the feeling that the birds either were getting ready to nest again or were perhaps already nesting again.

The biggest surprise came on July 24 when we found the first birds 100 feet east of the oak shoots, the second male about the brushy swale 80 rods to the south, and two other singing males—the first in a brushy pocket among some sand dunes 30 rods northwest of the oak shoots, and the other in a red birch thicket about as far to the northeast. Since there were four singing males in the area, isn't it possible that there were as many nests? We think so. Finally, on July 28, we found a fifth singing male not too far away in some willows and other young trees and shrubs along the north side of the Gillette Street Road.

ii. Yellow-Breasted Chat

Two yellow-breasted chats were first seen on May 23, 1953, along the McGilvray Road in the McGilvray Bottoms area of La Crosse County. On that date I got an excellent look at a male who seemed reluctant to go far from a ditch beside the road. The ditch was over grown with poison ivy, wild black raspberry, ferns, and other plants, including two wild gooseberry bushes.

We were in the same area again on May 30 for a picnic. Both chats appeared while we were eating, and soon the male began to utter a great variety of queer calls and cries, all the unearthly noises for which chats are noted: mews, whistles, squeaks, and imitations. We thought at first it was a mockingbird, but soon realized it was the chat seen on May 23. We were quite sure the birds had a nest in or near the ditch after that performance.

We were back the next day for another look at the birds, the male being around and uttering a variety of notes as on the 30th. Eventually I climbed down into the ditch to look at some ferns and, when opposite the second gooseberry bush, frightened the female from a nest. I located the cradle, took a quick look, made out three eggs, and then hurriedly deserted or robbed we could not tell.

We did not return to the Bottoms until June 11, and then with misgivings because we know from experience that if you search long enough to actually find a nest and learn what it holds you often do enough to doom it to disaster. We found the nest empty but whether deserted or robbed we could not tell.

We collected the nest which was located about two feet from the ground and about 15 feet from the edge of the pavement. The cradle was loosely constructed of coarse weed stalks and leaves, rather frail and not stout and compact, better than the nest built by a mourning dove, but not as good as the one made by the robin, catbird or yellow warbler. It was rather shallow, and the bowl or cup was $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep on the inside and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across. The lining was brown in color and seemed to consist of fine weed stalks and fibers. Some of the larger weeds were white and extended far beyond the nest proper.

Disaster and tragedies in bird-land at nesting time are so common that the birds seem hardened or accustomed to them, and if one nest is

destroyed by enemies or the elements they at once build another, being so persistent that they usually succeed in bringing off a brood each year. Knowing this, we drove to the McGilvray Bottoms again on July 4 to see if we could see anything of the chats. They were there as we hoped they would be, and we heard a good deal of the male's queer cries, though we failed to get so much as a glimpse of either him or his spouse. Now and then we heard a bird rustling the leaves in a large thicket near us and were quite sure this was one of the chats, curious as to what we were doing there but sly enough to keep out of sight while spying on us.

The birds were around on July 11 also, when we got a good look at both birds and listened long to their many strange notes: a soft "caw, caw," much like the common call of the crow, only not so loud, the "cuh-cuh-cuh" of the flicker, the "pip, pip, pip" of the wood thrush, and even a subdued "quack, quack."

On July 15 we found the birds in the vicinity of the main-channel bridge, and this time we often heard the tufted titmouse imitated to perfection. On the 18th, the cardinal's song received a going over, though the most common note heard was a subdued "quack, quack," low but otherwise so much like the "quack" of a duck that one might have thought there were some wild ducks around.

Though we often looked we failed to find a second nest, not surprising because there was a vast wilderness area around us and much dense vegetation as well. We were, however, quite sure the birds nested in the vicinity of the bridge a second time because we saw and heard so much of them after that first nest failed and they remained in the vicinity until late July at least.

Onalaska, Wisconsin

Outdoor Calendar . . .

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

The 1954 Bird Migration Study. This department has proposed a number of projects, and hopes to continue them, as well as starting still others, in the future. (For instance, we hope that members will continue to keep lists of the summer resident birds in June and July. Some very fine reports were received in 1953. Some day these reports will form the basis for a comprehensive study of the distribution of each species that nests in Wisconsin.)

But the migration project, begun by W. S. O. members in 1951, has shown such growth and promise that it will be best to concentrate on that this spring, when the arrival dates noted by each of our members will have much more meaning than ever before. For with the help of many persons, especially Mr. Chandler S. Robbins at the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, the study is going strong—for the first time, this year, in almost every state and province in the whole area from Texas to Florida to Maine to Saskatchewan, inclusive. So many co-operators will participate this year that, now at last, we shall begin to have a really quantitative picture of migration from the Gulf across the continent, into and through Wisconsin and on into Canada. At last the

relation of the migratory progress of birds to time, weather and topography can begin to be assessed.

The 1951 and 1952 results showed that one state was far too small an area in which to trace the often rapid progress of migrants; hence it was necessary to expand the study to include many states. The many other studies of migration, past and present, have utilized intensive observations which were possible at only the few stations qualified or equipped to measure the quantity of migrants passing each day—such as by banding, or by daily counts on a fixed route, or by telescopic observations of migrants silhouetted against the moon. Much as we can learn about the largely invisible migration of birds from these studies, the limited number of observers makes the results difficult to interpret. How could we utilize all bird watchers, instead of just the few who have the time and training to make a science of bird study? It was this question which led to the present project. The only kind of observation that can be made by everyone, amateur or professional alike, in town and rural areas across the whole country, is the date when one first sees or hears house wrens or chimney swifts or other familiar birds each year. So this study aims to collect and utilize just these first dates which so many persons bury in their personal bird notes each year and forget. No one has ever compiled these individual records on so broad a scale before. In fact, there were not enough “birders” to make such an attempt worth while until recent years, when enthusiastic bird clubs and Audubon societies sprang up gratifyingly everywhere to encourage interest in nature. It is hoped that this study will not only help us learn more about the mysteries of migration, but will also serve to stimulate further interest in bird study by showing that, no matter how insignificant or worthless one’s individual observations may seem, the trouble one went to in making them will open new worlds of personal contact with and enjoyment of wildlife, as well as revealing knowledge about nature which no scientist can uncover.

How can we obtain any useful information from so meager an observation as the fact that someone at Sauk City may see his first white-throated sparrow on April 22, 1954? Only if what this observer’s first date lacks in further detail is compensated for by the large number of similar reports of first white-throats by other persons in 1954—from Sauk City, from other places in Sauk County, from the other 70 counties in Wisconsin, and likewise from the other states in the flyway. Thus it is very important that enough persons report their first dates. Only then will the sheer numbers of first dates show where and when the majority of white-throats arrive, and only then will the few erroneous identifications and the few early stragglers, or wintering individuals mistaken for arriving migrants, be conspicuously out of line and easily discounted. Even last year’s results suggested some unexpected and interesting facts about migration. (These results will be duly reported when it is certain that no more reports will come in for 1953.) But we need many more cooperators if we are to be sure of the results.

W. S. O. members are to be congratulated for their enthusiastic cooperation that gave this study its start. Now it is in full swing, we hope to triple the number of Wisconsin participants this year. (We needn’t

let New York get ahead of us!) The 1954 form, mailed to those who reported last year, is reproduced below. Since each species is being studied separately, your reports are welcome even if you see only a few of the birds on the list.

COOPERATIVE STUDY OF BIRD MIGRATION THROUGH THE USE OF SPRING ARRIVAL DATES—1954

The reports received for the spring of 1953 were very encouraging. About 7,500 observations were reported, representing 47 states and provinces. Cooperators in New York State supplied the largest number of records, followed by Wisconsin, Ontario, Illinois and Pennsylvania in that order. The arrival dates for the 28 species on the 1953 list have been put in IBM cards, which are on file at the Patuxent Research Refuge. These cards enable the data to be sorted and arranged in any desired order, and then listed by electric tabulating machine. Copies of the 1953 material are already being used by several research workers.

Nine additional species have been added to the list for 1954.

The success of the various studies involved depends directly upon the number of records received. Preliminary analysis of some of the 1953 data indicates that we need several times as many reports in subsequent years as were received in 1953, if we are to reach our objectives in correlating migratory movement with specific weather conditions. We urge you, therefore, to encourage others in your community to report their arrival dates, either direct, or through you.

Birds that are not seen until several days after they have arrived (due to the observer's absence from that particular area during the intervening time) should not be reported; nor do we wish 25 reports on the same individual bird from 25 people who saw it on the same bird club trip. But if 25 or 50 people in the same town recorded the date on which their house wrens returned to their gardens, each and every report would be welcome. This study is scheduled to continue for four more years.

No one is expected to be able to provide arrival dates for every species on the list. Several of the species probably wintered in your area; do not report the first date you observed these unless you were able to detect the arrival of migrating individuals. Departure dates may be listed if known, provided they are marked as departures. Otherwise only arrival dates are requested except for the Canada goose and white-throated sparrow; for these two species please also state any dates of increases or decreases, dates of main flights, or daily counts.

STATE:..... COUNTY:..... LOCALITY:.....

OBSERVER:..... ADDRESS:.....

Canada Goose	Wood Thrush
Marsh Hawk	E. Bluebird (male)
Killdeer	E. Bluebird (fem.)
Wilson's Snipe	Red-eyed Vireo
Mourning Dove	Black & White Warb.
Common Nighthawk	Yellow Warbler
Chimney Swift	Myrtle Warbler
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Oven-bird
Yel.-shaft Flicker	American Redstart
Eastern Kingbird	Red-wing Blackbird
Crested Flycatcher	Baltimore Oriole
Eastern Phoebe	Scarlet Tanager
E. Wood Pewee	Rose-br. Grosbeak
Barn Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Purple Martin	American Goldfinch
Common Crow	Slate-colored Junco
House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Catbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Brown Thrasher	White-thr. Sparrow

Please send reports to C. S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.
2114 Van Hise Avenue
Madison 5, Wisconsin

1954 RANGE AND POPULATION STUDY RED-TAILED HAWK

This questionnaire can be removed easily from the magazine. Please fill out as much of it as you can, as quickly as you can, and return it to Mr. Gordon Orians, 1611—16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin. He would like to have all the questionnaires in by July 15.

Observer

County

Years of Observation

I. Distribution and Migration

1. If the red-tail is absent from your area, check here and return questionnaire
2. Is the species present in your area in winter?.....
In what numbers?
3. What is the age ratio of wintering birds?
4. When do birds arrive in spring? Or if present all winter, can you ascertain when the first spring migrants appear?
5. When is the peak of the spring migration?
6. When is the peak of the fall migration?
7. What weather conditions seem to produce large migrations of these birds?

II. Plumage Variation

8. Have you ever seen any very light individuals in your area?

If so, give dates and as much descriptive detail as possible.

[illegible]

9. Have you ever seen any very dark individuals in your area?

If so, give dates and as much descriptive detail as possible.

[illegible]

III. Nesting

10. If the species does not nest in your area, check here.
11. When does nesting begin?
.....
.....
12. What type of site (dense woods, open woods, lone tree) is selected for the nest?
.....
.....
13. Which species of trees are most frequently utilized?
.....
.....
14. Give heights of nests reached by climbing, or estimated heights of nests observed.
.....
.....
15. How many eggs are laid?
16. How many young are reared successfully?
.....
.....
17. What food remains have you found on the ground either beneath the nest or in the nest?
.....
.....
.....
18. What is the behavior of the adults while you are at the nest? Are both adults present? Do they scream? Do they attack?
.....
.....
.....

IV. Relationship to Man

19. What is the attitude of local residents in your area toward hawks in general?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

20. What is the attitude of local residents in your area toward red-tails? Are they able to distinguish red-tails from other species of hawks? Is their attitude toward red-tails different in any way from their attitude toward other hawks?

[illegible]

AOU CONVENTION

Madison, Wisconsin
September 8-12, 1954

For the first time in its history, the American Ornithologists' Union will hold an annual meeting in Wisconsin. The dates have been set from September 8-12, 1954. The place is the Memorial Union on the University of Wisconsin campus. At this headquarters, all of the public sessions of the Union will take place from Thursday, September 9, to Saturday, September 11. Six public sessions for the reading of papers and showing of moving pictures will be held. The pictures will be scheduled insofar as possible for Saturday afternoon. Field trips will include a Saturday a. m. trip to the Arboretum, and more extended field trips on Sunday.

Social events at the AOU meeting include an after-dinner coffee hour in the Main Lounge of the Union at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, a formal reception at 7:30 PM on Thursday in Great Hall of the Union, an informal evening on Friday, with such things as a display of the fall plumages of Wisconsin birds, and a banquet in Tripp Commons on Saturday, at 7:00 PM. Wives of ornithologists attending the meeting will have an opportunity to tour the University Arboretum, visit the Unitarian Church designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and meet Mrs. Edwin B. Fred at a tea in the President's house on the campus. A boat ride on beautiful Lake Mendota is also scheduled for the ladies.

Members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology are cordially invited to attend this meeting. They need not be members of the Union to do so. The usual hotels in Madison will be available as well as facilities in the Short Course Dorms on the campus. There, double rooms will be available at \$4.00 per night, and triples at \$4.50. These dorms, of course, have easy parking facilities, but only one bathroom to each floor. Persons attending the meeting can also secure a list of the city's hotels from the Local Committee on Arrangements. Reservations for the Short Course Dorms must be received at the University by August 15. Tickets for the banquet should also be reserved at that time. The cost will be approximately the same as that at the WSO dinner (about \$2.75). The Union will open its dining facilities for the American Ornithologists' Union, its members, and its guests if 150 people coming to the meeting make reservations by August 15. A specially reduced rate for nine meals beginning with Wednesday dinner (6:00 PM) has been set at \$12.45. If this quota is not met, the Memorial Union will open its first floor cafeteria to the AOU and to the public.

This promises to be the most interesting ornithological meeting Wisconsin has ever scheduled. A host of extremely interesting ornithological exhibits will be placed on display by the local committee. If you are unable to come to the full meeting, we hope that you will feel free to come for the Saturday and Sunday sessions. By all means, however, be sure to write the local committee, stating when you expect to arrive, and make a reservation with it for dorms or meals as are necessary. Reservations should be made with the AOU Committee on Local Arrangements, care of Department of Wildlife Management, 424 University Farm Place, Madison 5. **By August 15!**

Joseph J. Hickey

HAWK MIGRATION AT CEDAR GROVE

By DANIEL D. BERGER

During the fall migrations of the past four years as effort has been made to tabulate the numbers of birds of prey moving through Cedar Grove on their southward journeys. The gathering of this information is somewhat incidental to the main purpose of our organization, which is the trapping of migrating birds of prey for banding and other research purposes. The project is purely of a voluntary nature, and the operational costs are presently being supplied by Helmut C. Mueller, Kenneth H. Kuhn, and the writer. Additional field assistance has been given by Gordon Orians, John Kaspar, Harry Meinel, Frank Kuhlmann and others. During the first three years (1950-1952) systematic observations were made only during weekends, holidays, and a few other scattered days. Our figures, however, became far more complete during the 1953 season when the writer was on hand every day during the month of September and during the greater part of October. In addition to keeping tab on the fall migrations we were able to record a good part of the migration during the spring of 1953. We were quite astounded to observe how completely different, in numbers and variety, the spring migration is from the fall.

The Fall Hawk Flight

Although it has been learned from banding returns that a few hawks begin their migration shortly after the beginning of August, we normally consider the fall migration at Cedar Grove as beginning on the first of September. Putting a closing date on the migration is difficult. While we have experienced a few rather spectacular days in November and December (primarily rough-legged hawks in December), we have found it somewhat discouraging, in the long run, to continue our operations after the end of October. Table 1 shows the total number of days spent at the refuge during the autumn months of the last four years, and the average number of birds seen per day during each month.

TABLE 1

Column A represents the number of days spent at the refuge
Column B represents the average number of hawks seen per day

Month	1950		1951		1952		1953	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
September	11	29	12	77	20	580	30	110
October	10	46	6	20	11	29	19	20
November	6	4	2	36	5	12	0	....

This shows the relative abundance of birds from one month to the next, and illustrates the comparative possibilities of observing a good migration during any of the three months listed.

Table 2 illustrates the fall migratory status for each of the more abundant species seen at Cedar Grove showing the approximate start, peak and finish of the migration.

TABLE 2

	Start	Peak	Finish
Broad-winged Hawk	Sept. 12	Sept. 19-21	Oct. 6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Sept. 1	Sept. 15	Nov. 1
Pigeon Hawk	Sept. 1	Variable	Nov. 1
Marsh Hawk	Aug. 15	Variable	late Nov.
Red-tailed Hawk	Aug. 28	Variable	Nov. 30
Sparrow Hawk	Sept. 1	Variable	Oct. 12
Cooper's Hawk	Aug. 28	Sept. 15-20	Nov. 10
Duck Hawk	Sept. 13	Sept. 15-20	Oct. 30
Osprey	Sept. 2	Variable	Oct. 4

Occasional birds are seen before and after the limits set above; these dates merely represent the greater bulk of the migration and are shown above primarily for comparative purposes. It might also be noted regarding species where specific or near-specific dates are given for the "peak" of the migration, that after the "start" for that species the "peak" is attained in rather short order while the decline to the "finish" is much more gradual.

Some Exciting Days

There have been some memorable days at Cedar Grove in the past four years. September 16, 1951, is a date I shall not soon forget; that was the day we caught and saw our first Swainson's hawk. I say "caught and saw" because we had no idea that the bird was anything but a red-tail until we were about to remove it from the trap. This bird was well photographed, taken to the Milwaukee Public Museum where it was photographed some more, and compared with the skin of an almost identical bird that had been collected at the same place and on the same date well over a decade earlier. The bird was finally released at Monroe, Wisconsin, by Gordon Orians, while the Reverend Howard Orians secured some excellent colored movies of it. Little did we dream that the following year—September 2 and 3—we were to see four more Swainson's hawks.

The most exciting day we have ever experienced was September 15, 1952. We were blessed with ideal weather conditions and a favorable date. Based upon our experience in the past three years we have learned to expect the peak of the "sharp-shin" migration as close to the 15th of September as weather permits. On that eventful day four observers were kept well occupied from 6:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. without a break for there was one continuous stream of sharp-shins, broad-wings, pigeon hawks, marsh hawks, and half a dozen other species in smaller numbers. By the end of the day we had seen 1,219 sharp-shins, 415 broad-wings, 124 pigeon hawks, 39 marsh hawks, 12 sparrow hawks, 10 ospreys, 8 red-tails, 7 duck hawks, 5 Cooper's, and a grand total of 1,839 hawks for the day.

We were fortunate again on September 15, 1953, when we again observed the best "sharpie" migration of the season—although the migration a year earlier was far superior to it. Our tally for the day was 349

broad-wings, 248 sharp-shins, 12 red-tails, 10 pigeon hawks, 7 marsh hawks, 4 sparrow hawks, 2 ospreys, and 2 unidentified—all adding up to 634. As far as numbers are concerned, our best days are usually those on which good broad-wing movements take place. To date, the best we have seen was on September 20, 1952, when we counted—as best we could—7,462 broad-wings. Also seen were 110 “sharpies” and small numbers of the other usual species.

Since our records for the fall seasons of 1950 and 1951 are so incomplete, due to the limited time spent at the refuge, Table 3 lists only the figures for 1952 and 1953. Although we were at the refuge only 36 days during the fall of 1952, we feel—after examination of our weather records—that very few birds came through on the days when we were not present. In 1953 all of September and 19 days of October are accounted for. Most of the remaining 12 days in October were considered poor migration days.

TABLE 3

Species	1952	1953
Broad-winged Hawk	9018	1908
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2268	933
Pigeon Hawk	229	91
Marsh Hawk	196	298
Red-tailed Hawk	105	243
Sparrow Hawk	38	41
Cooper's Hawk	34	48
Duck Hawk	33	40
Osprey	18	38
Rough-legged Hawk	5	10
Swainson's Hawk	4	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	7
Goshawk	2	1
Turkey Vulture	2	2
Unidentified	10	20
TOTAL	11,966	3,686

Though we were at the refuge 20 days more in 1953 than in 1952, we saw less than one-third the number of hawks. Examination of the various weather factors—wind direction and velocity, barometric pressure, etc.—shows that 1952 weather was considerably more conducive to lake-shore migration than was that of the past season. Though weather conditions will not be discussed in detail here, it has been our experience that a low pressure center moving through Wisconsin from the west with resulting westerly winds rarely fails to stimulate a very satisfactory hawk flight.

The 1953 Spring Flight

A brief description of the 1953 spring migration at Cedar Grove is in order. Broad-wings and sharp-shins, two species which comprise the bulk of the fall migration, were not commonly seen during March or the first three weeks of April. However, there are normally some good broad-

wing flights seen during early May. It is doubtful, however, that the sharp-shin is ever an important component of the spring movement. The three most important species as seen in our spring notes were: (1) the marsh hawk, (2) the sparrow hawk, and (3) the Cooper's hawk. The spring migration is apparently begun in earnest by the adult male marsh hawks in early March. The adult males seen to outnumber the adult females for about a month, and then the relationship reverses. Although the spring flight is quite inferior to the fall migration from the standpoint of numbers, we find it quite satisfactory from a banding viewpoint.

Table 4 shows the total number of each species seen in the nine days of March and 15 days of April during which records were kept.

TABLE 4

Species	Number Seen
Marsh Hawk	230
Sparrow Hawk	188
Cooper's Hawk	116
Red-tailed Hawk	64
Sharp-shinned Hawk	37
Red-shouldered Hawk	33
Pigeon Hawk	21
Rough-legged Hawk	14
Osprey	6
Broad-winged Hawk	3
Bald Eagle	2
Duck Hawk	1
Turkey Vulture	1
Short-eared Owl	1
Unidentified	10
TOTAL	729

5026 North Elkhart Avenue
Milwaukee 17, Wisconsin

THE MILWAUKEE FIELD TRIP

By **CHARLES E. NELSON**

The shores of Lake Michigan in and around Milwaukee were scoured by members and friends of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology on Sunday, March 7, 1954. The occasion was the annual late-winter WSO field trip—held in Milwaukee at about the same time of year for the past three years.

By 8:00 a. m. 39 interested birders had gathered at McKinley Beach to start the day's observation. In the harbor and lagoon a good variety of ducks was noted—mallard, black duck, gadwall, pintail, shoveller, redhead, canvas-back, both scaup ducks, American golden-eye, bufflehead, old-squaw, ruddy duck, American and red-breasted merganser. Most of these are a common sight to the Milwaukee birders, but some were a real treat to some of the inland observers.

The group worked the lake shore north to Virmond Park in southern Ozaukee County. No sooner had the group gathered at the park when Dixie Larkin spotted a red-throated loon. With the help of 20-power binoculars and a 20-power spotting scope, most of the group had an excellent view of what proved to be the outstanding find of the day.

The group had its noon picnic lunch at South Shore Park, and then headed south along the lake to Grant Park. A short-eared owl hunting field mice provided a thrill for some of the observers. One touch of spring was provided by a killdeer. A marsh hawk, Eastern meadowlark and song sparrow were seen, though these may have been wintering birds.

The weather was favorable—clear and cool, but not cold. The total of 44 species represented a gain of two over the total for the 1953 trip. Those attending included: Edward Peartree of Oconomowoc; Gerald Vogelsang of West Bend; Dr. Charles Kemper of Chippewa Falls; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lound, Helen Northup, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Helen Schroeder and Eleanor Peterson of Madison; Fred Alyea, Peter Weber, Charlie Sontag, S. Paul Jones, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nelson of Waukesha; Allie Kruger of Wood; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kassilke of Wauwatosa; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Polacheck; Harold Bauers, Emil Urban, Kenneth Lange, Tom Ellenbecker, Rufin Jankowski, Mrs. J. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frister, Helen Brown, Frances Riegel, Dr. Anna Hehn, Ivy Balsom, Dixie Larkin, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bromm, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaiman, Ernie Timm, and George Wilkins of Milwaukee.

124 Oxford Road, Waukesha

THE 1954 WSO CONVENTION

By HELEN NORTHUP

It was a fine convention. If you listened to all the papers, saw the two superb movies in the evenings, and managed a field trip each morning, you came away refreshed and stimulated by a program of a very high quality and variety and a fellowship that was, as always, delightful.

The convention was held at the Memorial Union and nearby Science Hall on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison with 256 persons registered. Things got off to an early start with an afternoon session in Great Hall on Friday. A welcome from Dr. Schorger preceded a series of papers planned on the general theme of the "Ecological Geography of Wisconsin Birds." Donald R. Thompson of the Wisconsin Conservation Department discussed the "Bobwhite Quail in Wisconsin." Fran and Fred Hamerstrom reported on "Trends in the Distribution of Wisconsin Prairie Chickens," emphasizing the need of setting aside more barren areas for their preservation. Jim Hale paralleled this talk with one on "Trends in the Distribution of Wisconsin Spruce Grouse," and Dr. Schorger rounded out the program with a report on "The White Pelican in Wisconsin."

After dinner that evening the colorful Rare Book Room in the new Memorial Library was opened to receive the members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, who found the great Audubon folios and vol-

umes of Wilson and Gould on display. The reception was held in Great Hall, and Carl Buchheister of the National Audubon Society was on hand to outline the Audubon camp program and report on the Wisconsin Audubon Camp to be established near Spooner. He wound up his talk with movies of the Maine camp. Howard Cleaves, well-known naturalist and lecturer, showed a superb film of wildlife taken at night, much of it in the lush swamp areas of Florida.

Field trips had been planned for five o'clock on Saturday morning, for the vicinity of Madison and one group went to Goose Lake. Mrs. R.



ALVIN THRONE AND KARL BARTEL
—PHOTO BY EDWIN STEIN, COURTESY WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

A. Walker, G. William Foster, George Knudson, Jack Kaspar, and Jim Hale were leaders. Thirty persons turned up, in spite of leaden skies, and a total of 125 species were spotted. Highlights were the red-breasted nuthatch and two white-eyed vireos seen by the Foster group.

The morning session in Science Hall was concerned with "Behavior and Population Relationships in Wisconsin Birds." Robert Ellarson, of the University Wildlife Management Department, reported on "A Ten-year Breeding Study of Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds on the University of Wisconsin Arboretum." He found that the tree swallows preferred

the boxes in open places, preferably facing open meadows or marshes, while the bluebirds liked boxes near trees or brush. Wesley Lanyon, research assistant in zoology, talked—with sound track and slides—on "The Intermediate or Hybrid Song of Meadowlarks," concluding from his observations that the meadowlark's song is learned, not inherited. Robert Nero, assistant in zoology, reported his observations on "Symbolic Nesting in the Red-winged Blackbird," attributing this activity of the male to courtship rather than participation in nesting preparations. Gordon Orians discussed the "Territorial and Feeding Behavior Relationships between the Red-tailed Hawk and the Great Horned Owl in Green County." These excellent papers were interrupted during the



PRESIDENT J. J. HICKEY

entire morning by the late arrival of practically everybody, creeping in full view but pretending to be quite invisible. The morning session wound up with three excellent short films of hummingbirds and waterfowl.

Dean Amadon, of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History on loan to the University, started the afternoon sessions with a paper on "Recent Discoveries About the Homing Ability of Birds," offering the theory that the homing ability in birds apparently rests on an exact sense of time and an incredibly sensitive interpretation of the sun's position. Jim Zimmerman, assistant in botany, discussed "The Use of First Arrival Dates in the Study of Bird Migration," Laurence R. Jahn of Horicon reported on "Wisconsin Waterfowl Migrations," and Fred Wagner

gave an account of his work on the "Relationships Between Distribution, Migration Routes, and Possible Subspecific Status of the Mourning Dove in Wisconsin."

Highlights of the business meeting were the resolutions submitted by Wallace Grange, chairman of the Conservation Committee, one to support the Wisconsin Audubon Camp at Spooner, and the other a plan for raising money to buy land to save the prairie chicken. (These resolutions are printed elsewhere in this issue.) Membership of the W. S. O. was reported at 644. New officers for 1954-55 are Joseph Hickey, Professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin, president; George Brabender of Wausau, vice-president; Helen Northup and Carl Frister, of Madison and Milwaukee, continuing as secretary and treasurer; Sam Robbins of Adams continuing as editor of **The Passenger Pigeon** and C. Dennis Besadny of Madison as assistant editor; Mrs. Walter Rogers of Appleton and Mrs. Dixie Larkin of Milwaukee continuing as directors, and Harold Liebherr of Beloit, G. William Foster of Madison and N. R. Barger of Madison becoming new directors.

The banquet, held in Great Hall and attended by 228 persons, was a great success, partly due to the Union's Southern fried chicken and famous fudge-bottomed pie (Walter Scott insisted on that.) The West End Garden Club had decorated the tables beautifully with spring flowers. Mr. Howard Orians, one of WSO's two distinguished minister-naturalists, toastmastered the affair with graciousness and dispatch, and Cleveland and Ruth Grant presented a magnificent film of birds, big-horns and other wildlife. Since the Grants are masters of their art, the film was a wonderful climax to a full and exciting convention.

The Sunday morning field trips, which were attended by 60 persons despite the early hour (5 a. m.) and the weather (rain turning into a downpour), were by no means an anti-climax to the previous events. Three trips were organized, one to the Wisconsin River bottoms and two to the Leopold Memorial Tract near Baraboo. Leaders were Joe Hickey, Bill Foster, Mrs. Walker, Fred Wagner, George Knudson, Norv Barger, and Bob Ellarson. Total species seen were 132; especially noteworthy were a Bewick's wren and a Wilson's phalarope. The morning was punctuated by coffee stops and thunder storms, but everybody had a wonderful time.

251 Langdon Street
Madison 3, Wisconsin

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by C. DENNIS BESADNY

Hawk Checked For Speeding. On October 11, 1953, while driving along the highway I noticed an immature red-tailed hawk flying parallel with the road. It was about thirty feet from the car and between five and twenty feet above the ground. The car speedometer showed the bird to be traveling about 20-25 MPH. This speed was kept up for over a mile.—John Wilde, Evansville.

Sight Observation of Four King Eiders. On the morning of September 21, 1953, we stood on the bluff at Virmond Park in southern Ozaukee County overlooking a large expanse of Lake Michigan, when we caught sight of four chunky, dark duck-shaped birds far to our right, flying north. Exclamations came from all of us as we realized that the wing beat of these birds was unusual—too slow for any ducks we would expect, and too fast for geese or cormorants. As the birds flew by, low over the water, we noticed that they were good-sized ducks—as large as red-breasted or American mergansers—but definitely smaller than loons. Three of the birds were very dark—almost black—and uniform in coloration except for a conspicuous white patch on the fore edge of the wing—closer to the base of the wing than the wing-tip. The fourth bird was a bit lighter and browner; it lacked the white wing patch, but the area where the patch would have been appeared somewhat lighter than the rest of the bird.

The location and shape (rounded) of the wing patches forced us to discard the theory that the birds might be scoters. It was then that Mr. Gordon expressed his growing conviction that the birds were king eiders; he had recently returned from a period of observation in Alaska, where king eiders had been seen frequently in the very plumage displayed by the four birds we were looking at. The birds were watched in flight for at least half a mile before they alighted on the water. We made our way up shore to get as close to the birds as possible; distance was still too great for thorough observation while the birds rested, but the white wing patch area could still be seen to some extent. The birds did not rest long, but soon headed north again.

During the best period of observation the birds were flying at a considerable distance—an estimated 300 to 400 yards; but light conditions were good, and the above field marks were clearly seen and concurred in by all three observers. Because the plumage of these birds was not described in the field guide that was available, and because the date was so amazingly early for any sort of eider observation on the Great Lakes, the birds might have left us permanently puzzled, had it not been for Mr. Gordon's recent Alaskan observations. But subsequent research confirms the identification of four adult king eiders in autumn plumage; three males and one female. The possibility of American eiders was eliminated by the shape of the head (rounded on the birds we saw; sloping on the American), by the absence of white blotches on the breast (the American would show some in any adult plumage), and by the rounded white wing patches (entire fore-wing of American eiders would be white). Mr. Gordon has examined king eider skins in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, and has found two specimens corresponding perfectly with the birds we saw.

These birds were far removed from their normal range. Eiders nest near seacoasts exclusively; the king eider, however, prefers to nest individually near shores or on islands of fresh water ponds and streams, while other eiders nest in loose colonies near salt water. In winter eiders are pelagic; the few eiders that stray inland are usually king eiders. If eiders were to be seen in the Great Lakes region, they would be expected only in winter. However, during the days just previous to September 21, an unusually severe low pressure area was moving east-southeast over James Bay; it is quite likely that the birds followed, or were carried south by the strong northerly winds which blew to the west of this storm area.—Dixie Larkin, Milwaukee; Dick Gordon, Kenosha; Sam Robbins, Adams.

MORE NEWS . . .

The Supply Department did sell \$1,000 worth of merchandise during the convention this year, thus accomplishing what it hoped to do as its part in our fifteenth anniversary celebration. Items donated to the Supply Department also came in quite well. If you have some items of interest to our group which you no longer want, even though they show signs of wear—donate them to the Society as your part in the celebration. Full credit will be given in a news item in the near future.

The ten percent discount now being offered will be in effect until August 31, 1954, in order to give members who could not attend the convention an equal chance to buy. If you want to stock up on gift items, or need something for yourself, there is no time like the present to take action.

A new Stillwell long-play record of bird songs is now available for \$7.95 postpaid. It has 140 songs and calls of 58 species,

including scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, six species of vireos, Lincoln's sparrow, Harris's sparrow, olive-sided flycatcher, fourteen species of warblers, and five species of thrushes, to mention a few. Also available is a canary record—real canary songs against an organ background of Stephen Foster melodies. 78 and 45 R.P.M. for \$1.49 from the Supply Department.

Another new item is the set of four place mats for \$1.00. The design is the well-known Barton-Cotton wild-rose previously used on stationery and prints. The place mats may be cleaned with a damp cloth.

So many W. S. O. members have been appreciative of the Hamerstroms hospitality in field trips to the prairie chicken booming grounds, that they have made a gift to the Hamerstroms of the back numbers of the *Journal of Mammalogy* needed to complete their set. The Hamerstroms wish to convey their sincere thanks to all who helped with this gift.



FIELD NOTES

THE AUTUMN SEASON

August-October, 1953

By C. DENNIS BESADNY

The fall migration started in late July with the appearance of a few species of shorebirds in central Wisconsin. A few other early birds were reported around the state. Migrants began to appear as expected in August, but no large flights were reported. The month was very hot, especially the last ten days. Temperatures around the 100-degree mark were found over most of central and southern Wisconsin between the 26th and the 31st. Very little rainfall occurred during the month and near drought conditions existed in some sections of the state. With water areas drying up many mudflats were exposed and good shorebirds spots were springing up in most areas. The shorebird migration was moderate and the bulk of the birds was gone by the end of August, but many lingered through September and a fair number of species was seen in late October. A few stragglers remained in the state as October came to an end. Among the shorebird rarities present during the fall were the yellow rail, piping plover, knot, white-rumped sandpiper, Baird's sandpiper, stilt sandpiper, western sandpiper, and northern phalarope.

There was little evidence of land bird migration until late August. Warblers began to appear in Adams and Milwaukee fairly early in the month, but these few seemed to be straggling individuals.

The unseasonably hot weather during the last week of August continued until September 3. Hot weather was again experienced on the 28th and 29th. Temperatures averaged somewhat below normal between the 3rd and 28th. Near drought conditions still existed. The land bird migration increased considerably in early September and good flights of small birds were seen in northern Wisconsin on September 4. This was the same day that the first large wave of warblers and flycatchers appeared in the Madison area—later than usual. The big push came September 12 and lasted through the 18th when many observers reported the birds on the move. However, it wasn't until the last week in September that the warbler flights in the Milwaukee area were heavy.

October temperatures averaged 6.2 degrees above normal with several unseasonably warm days scattered throughout the month—reported at all weather stations. Rainfall was extremely light. A killing frost on the 7th ended the 1953 growing season.

The waterfowl migrations weren't pronounced until the last few days in October, although a few species began to trickle into the state in August. The peak of the Canada goose flights came at the end of October; later than usual due to the mild weather in the northern regions.

In general the unseasonably warm, dry weather this fall delayed arrival and departure of many species commonly passing through Wisconsin. An unusually large number of stragglers was seen in late October and there is every reason to believe that stragglers will be seen well into the winter months.

The mild fall weather kept many a birder on the alert for an unfamiliar song or flick of feather for all know that unusual weather patterns affect bird life noticeably. As a result of a little extra effort, many rarities and several very late stragglers were seen. A dickcissel was observed near Mazomanie, September 28—very late; a yellow-breasted chat was seen near Two Rivers, Oct. 10—the latest date on record. The Leconte's and Nelson's sparrows, both rare in Wisconsin, were seen later than usual in October. Other rarities appearing during the fall were the little blue heron, king eider, American scoter, glaucous and Iceland gulls, jaeger, Bewick's and Carolina wren, and the Bell's vireo (which also nested in La Crosse county this past summer).

The season's highlights follow.

LOON: Arrived in Adams County, Aug. 22 (Sam Robbins).

RED-THROATED LOON: Fifteen seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 3 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

HORNED GREBE: Seen in Brown County, Sept. 6 (Wm. Fisk); later in Milwaukee, Oct. 11 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

WESTERN GREBE: In Milwaukee, Oct. 5 (Mary Donald).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Arrived in the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, Aug. 31 (Harold Burgess).

AMERICAN EGRET: Quite a few fall reports: Seen in Dane County, Aug. 10 (the Walter E. Scotts); thirty-six in Dodge County, Aug. 12 (the Harold Liebherrs); eight at Lake Puckaway, Oct. 1 and later one in Winnebago County, Oct. 3 (Frank King); one in Rock County, Oct. 9 (John Wilde); and one at Horicon on Oct. 18 (Mrs. W. H. Degner). Others seen during the Autumn season in Adams, Brown, Columbia, Crawford, Fond du Lac, and Jefferson Counties.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Three seen at the Beaver Dam Marsh, Waukesha County, Aug. 13 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin) and again on the 16th and 22nd (Tom Soulen); near Cedarburg on Aug. 16 (Mrs. Gimmler—Mrs. Larkin).

GREEN HERON: Departed from Cedar Grove, Oct. 10 (Gordon Orians).

WHISTLING SWAN: A very few reports during this season. None were seen in the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge (Harold Burgess). First seen in Burnett County, Oct. 23 (N. R. Stone).

CANADA GOOSE: The peak of the goose flight seemed to be about Oct. 30—a little later than usual due to the mild fall weather which kept the birds in the north longer. Two were seen on the Lake Michigan shore near Two Rivers on Aug. 8 (John Kraupa).

SNOW GOOSE: Good flights reported at several stations.

BLUE GOOSE: 102 seen flying over Cedar Grove, Oct. 31 (Gordon Orians).

GADWALL: Arrived at the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, Aug. 29 (Harold Burgess); seen in Brown County, Sept. 10 (Ed Paulson); in Dane County, Oct. 18 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

BALDPATE: In Dane County, Aug. 9 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

SHOVELLER: Adult with eight young near Fort Atkinson, Aug. 16 (Leonard Brosig).

WOOD DUCK: Departed from Burnett County, Oct. 15 (N. R. Stone).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE: First seen at Cedar Grove, Oct. 31 (Gordon Orians).

OLD-SQUAW: Present in Two Rivers, Oct. 28 (John Kraupa).

KING EIDER: Four of these casual visitors were carefully observed on Lake Michigan in southern Ozaukee County on Sept. 21 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin—Dick Gordon—Sam Robbins); seen in same area on Sept. 30 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Mary Donald). See "By the Wayside."

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Only one report for the Autumn season: Seen in the Milwaukee area, Oct. 2 (Mary Donald).

AMERICAN SCOTER: One was observed at Cedar Grove, Oct. 10 (Gordon Orians)—rare.

RUDDY DUCK: Adults and approximately fifteen young seen at the Horicon Marsh, Aug. 10 and 14 (Tom Soulen).

HOODED MERGANSER: Seen in Waupaca County, Sept. 7 (Tom Soulen).

TURKEY VULTURE: Fifteen were counted in Waukesha County, Sept. 13 (Mrs. L. E. Compton); one in the town of Big Falls, Rusk County, Oct. 3 (James B. Hale).

GOSHAWK: Seen at Horicon, Oct. 23 (Nila O'Hearn—Mary Donald—Karl Priebe).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Present in Dunn County, Sept. 10 (H. E. Clark); Monroe County, Sept. 11 (Sam Robbins); Sawyer County, Oct. 16 (Karl Kahmann); last seen in Lafayette County, Oct. 31 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

BALD EAGLE: In Juneau County, Aug. 9 (Marilu Madura); two in Adams County, Aug. 15 (Sam Robbins); seen in Waukesha County on three occasions: Aug. 16, 24, and Sept. 5 (Emma Hoffmann); in Crawford County, Oct. 6 (Harold Burgess); and in Sawyer County, Oct. 11 (Karl Kahmann).

OSPREY: Migrants in Brown County, Aug. 28 (Wm. Fisk); Adams County, Aug. 24 (Sam Robbins); three at Cedar Grove, Sept. 5 (Dick Gordon); in Chippewa County, Sept. 19 (C. A. Kemper); Half Moon Lake in Eau Claire County, Sept. 25 (Roald Ager); three in Winnebago County, Sept. 30 (Frank King); in Columbia County, Oct. 3 (R. Dryer); and a fresh road-kill in Milwaukee County, Oct. 18 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

DUCK HAWK: At the Cedarburg Swamp, Sept. 2 (Mary Donald—Karl Priebe); in Madison, Sept. 6 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); and on the WSO field trip to Cedar Grove, Sept. 27 (many observers).

PIGEON HAWK: One in Lincoln County, Aug. 19 (Frank Seymour—Sam Robbins); seen in Crawford County, Sept. 3 (Harold Burgess);

Monroe County, Sept. 11 and again on Sept. 20 (Sam Robbins); Chippewa County, Sept. 12 (C. A. Kemper); Dunn County, Sept. 25 (H. E. Clark); around Appleton, Oct. 18 (A. Bradford); and in Eau Claire County, Oct. 25 (Roald Ager).

SPARROW HAWK: Green Bay, Aug. 2 (Ed Paulson); Juneau County, Aug. 10 (Sam Robbins); last seen in Kenosha, Oct. 29 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

SANDHILL CRANE: Adams County, Aug. 17 (Sam Robbins); six in Shawano County, Aug. 27 (C. F. Banasiak); 175 seen near Princeton, Sept. 20 (S. Paul Jones—L. E. Comptons); two in Marquette County, Sept. 21 (Sam Robbins); in Dane County, Sept. 27 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Dunn County, Oct. 1 (H. E. Clark); two in Adams County, Oct. 22 (Chester Skelly); and thirty-seven on the same day in Green Lake County (Frank King—N. Damaske).

KING RAIL: Seen in Dodge County, Aug. 9 (Mrs. R. A. Walker—Tom Soulen); in Milwaukee, Aug. 21 (Mrs. Gimmmler—Mrs. Larkin); last seen in Dodge County, Sept. 13 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

VIRGINIA RAIL: Last seen in Chippewa Falls, Oct. 27 (C. A. Kemper).

YELLOW RAIL: One bird was seen in northeastern Iowa County on Sept. 28 (Larkin—Jones—Compton—Robbins)—rare.

PIPING PLOVER: First seen in Dane County on the mudflats at Monona Bay, Aug. 28 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); straggler seen in the same area, Sept. 27 (Bill Foster)—rare.

GOLDEN PLOVER: Fourteen seen in Jefferson County, Aug. 22 (Tom Soulen—S. Paul Jones—Mrs. F. L. Larkin); ten in Kenosha, Sept. 4 (Mrs. Howard Higgins—Dick Gordon); in Madison, Sept. 7 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); two in Viroqua, Sept. 13 (Margarette Morse); departed from Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Mary Donald).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Wisconsin River Bottoms in Dane County, Aug. 30 and at Lake Monona, Sept. 2 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); near Fort Atkinson, Sept. 6 (Mrs. H. W. Degner); first seen in Adams County, Sept. 8 (Sam Robbins); departed from Brown County, Oct. 24 (Ed Paulson).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: In Adams County, Aug. 24 (Sam Robbins); and in Milwaukee, Sept. 20 (the C. P. Fristers); last in Brown County, Oct. 31 (Ed Paulson).

UPLAND PLOVER: Departed from the Oshkosh area, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); a straggler in Lafayette County, Oct. 4 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

KNOT: First in Milwaukee, Aug. 27 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and last for this area, Sept. 20 (the C. P. Fristers); at Horicon Marsh, Sept. 13 (Mrs. H. W. Degner).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Arrived in Adams County, Aug. 1 (Sam Robbins); seen in Dodge County, Aug. 12 (the Harold Liebheers); in Viroqua, Sept. 13 (Margarette Morse); in Rock County, Sept. 26 (the Harold Liebheers); Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom)—rare on Lake Michigan; in Winnebago County, Oct. 16 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); and last seen in Sawyer County, Oct. 18 (Karl Kahmann).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Seen on Oct. 15 in Milwaukee County (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and also on the same day in Rock County (Mary Donald).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This rare transient visitant was seen in several places in August and September. First seen in Adams County, Aug. 1, with a peak of six birds on Aug. 22, and the last bird departing on Sept. 15 (Sam Robbins); seen in Waukesha County, Aug. 18 (S. Paul Jones—Tom Soulen); in Milwaukee, Aug. 19 (Karl Priebe); two in Kenosha, Sept. 4 (Mrs. Howard Higgins—Dick Gordon); in Madison, Sept. 5 thru 8 (Walker—Keitt—Ragatz—Williams—Skaar); at Cedar Grove, Sept. 5 (Gordon Orians); last seen in Vernon County, Sept. 13 (Margarette Morse).

LEAST SANDPIPER: Departed from Lafayette County, Oct. 10 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER: Present in Dane County, Aug. 6 (Harold Liebherr); last seen in Winnebago County, Oct. 13 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

DOWITCHER: Seen in Waukesha County, Aug. 18 (Tom Soulen—S. Paul Jones); two in Milwaukee, Aug. 21 (Mrs. Gimmler—Mrs. Larkin); one seen in Adams County, Aug. 25 (Sam Robbins); and one in Kenosha, Oct. 29 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

STILT SANDPIPER: Observed in Waukesha County, Aug. 19 (Mary Donald—Karl Priebe); seen in Milwaukee, Aug. 21 (Mrs. Gimmler—Mrs. Larkin); four arrived in Adams County, Aug. 22 and the last two departed on Aug. 28 (Sam Robbins).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: One present in Adams County, Aug. 4-17 (Sam Robbins et al); in Milwaukee, Aug. 13 (Karl Priebe) and two on Aug. 22 (S. Paul Jones—Tom Soulen).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Present in Madison from Aug. 29 thru Sept. 3 (Mrs. R. A. Walker—A. Keitt)—rare.

MARBLED GODWIT: Near Watertown, Jefferson County, Aug. 19 (Mary Donald—Karl Priebe).

SANDERLING: Twenty in Adams County, Sept. 8 (Sam Robbins); a peak of twenty-five at Cedar Grove, Oct. 4 (Gordon Orians); last seen in Manitowoc County, Oct. 11 (John Kraupa).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Dane County, Sept. 27 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: In Milwaukee, Sept. 24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin) thru Sept. 26 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom)—rare.

JAEGER: What was believed to be a parasitic jaeger was seen in the Milwaukee area between Sept. 13 and Oct. 25 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Karl Priebe—Dick Gordon); seen in the Port Washington area, Sept. 12-27 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin—the C. P. Fristers).

GLAUCOUS GULL: One was observed in Milwaukee, Aug. 21—later found dead and reported to the Milwaukee Public Museum (Karl Priebe).

ICELAND GULL: One sighted in Milwaukee, Aug. 28 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin). There is no Wisconsin specimen although this bird has been seen occasionally in winter. This is a remarkably early date for this and the preceding species to be seen in the Great Lakes region.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Arrived in Milwaukee, Aug. 2 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Karl Priebe); six in same area, Aug. 11 (Mary Donald); arrived in Madison, Aug. 19 with a peak of fifteen birds on Oct. 22 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); in Adams County, Sept. 24 (Sam Robbins).

BONAPARTE'S GULL: In Green Bay, Aug. 12 (Wm. Fisk).

CASPIAN TERN: Five in Adams County, Sept. 24 (Sam Robbins); departed from Winnebago County, Oct. 25 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: A fresh road-killed bird found near Viroqua, Oct. 17 (Margarette Morse)—late.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Departed from Oshkosh, Oct. 26 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

SAW-WHET OWL: An immature seen in Columbia County, Aug. 4 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Mary Donald—Karl Priebe).

NIGHTHAWK: About 200 observed in Rock County on the eve of Aug. 23 (John Wilde); large flock seen migrating in Shawano County, Aug. 30 (Frank King); approximately 400 seen in Adams County, Aug. 31 (Sam Robbins); a flock of about 500 was seen in Rock County on Sept. 4 and a straggling flock of 30 was seen on Oct. 17 (John Wilde).

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Flock of 100 observed in Adams County, Aug. 31 (Sam Robbins); large numbers seen in Kenosha on eve of Oct. 2 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); one near Oshkosh, Sept. 28 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); and five were still in Madison, Oct. 13 (Tom Soulen).

FLICKER: 163 observed migrating over Cedar Grove on Oct. 3 (Gordon Orians).

PILEATED WOODPECKER: Seen near Milton between Sept. 14 and Oct. 17 (Mrs. Melva Maxson—Chester Skelly)—first time it was seen in this area. Reports also from Dunn (H. E. Clark), Juneau (Marilu Madura), and Vilas (A. Bradford) Counties.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Seen in Brown County from Sept. 26 thru Oct. 30 (Wm. Fisk)—first time seen in this area.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Last seen in Lincoln County, Sept. 8 (Robert Schlising); departed from Green Bay, Sept. 24 (Edwin Cleary).

CRESTED FLYCATCHER: Waukesha County, Aug. 3 (Emma Hoffmann); Juneau County, Aug. 14 (Marilu Madura).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: Departed from Lafayette County, Oct. 5 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson)—late.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Winnebago County, Aug. 15 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); Chippewa County, Sept. 7 (C. A. Kemper); Cedar Grove, Oct. 3 (Gordon Orians).

CANADA JAY: Five spent the summer in the area of Clearwater Lake (Tom Soulen—S. D. Fells).

BLUE JAY: Flock of 125 seen in Adams County, Sept. 18 (Sam Robbins).

RAVEN: In Madison, Oct. 10 (Mrs. R. A. Walker)—remarkable southern record. Several in Lincoln County, Aug. 18-20 (Sam Robbins). Also seen during the autumn season in Vilas County (A. Bradford).

TUFTED TITMOUSE: Observed in Adams County, Aug. 15 (Sam Robbins); one banded in Rock County, Aug. 20 (Melva Maxson); present in Eau Claire County, Oct. 17-22 (Roald Ager).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Adams, Aug. 17 (Sam Robbins); eighteen at Cedar Grove, Sept. 8 (Gordon Orians); Viroqua, Sept. 16 (Margarette Morse); Manitowoc, Sept. 22 (John Kraupa); Shawano County, Sept. 26 (Mary Staeger); Madison, Oct. 1-17 (Mrs. R. A. Walker—Tom Soulen); Winnebago County, Oct. 13 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Ozaukee County, Oct. 18 (the C. P. Fristers); and Fond du Lac County, Oct. 27 (George Henseler).

HOUSE WREN: Remained in Ozaukee County through Oct. 18 (the C. P. Fristers); and in Lafayette County, Oct. 25 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

WINTER WREN: Madison, Sept. 13 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Adams County, Sept. 22 (Sam Robbins); Rock County, Sept. 23 (Melva Maxson). Milwaukee, Oct. 3 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Winnebago County, Oct. 3-16 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Cedar Grove, Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians); Vernon County, Oct. 18-24 (Margarette Morse—Richard Weber); Dane County, Oct. 24 (James B. Hale).

BEWICK'S WREN: Adults and four recently fledged young seen in Adams County, Aug. 5-11, with the departure of this species on Sept. 22 (Sam Robbins).

CAROLINA WREN: One banded at Cedar Grove, Sept. 6 (Gordon Orians); seen around Port Washington, Sept. 20-27 (the C. P. Fristers—Karl Priebe—Lisa Decker); in Milwaukee Oct. 4-8 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Mary Donald).

PRAIRIE MARSH WREN: Ozaukee County, Oct. 18 (the C. P. Fristers).

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: Lingered in Lafayette County until Oct. 25 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

BROWN THRASHER: Last seen in Milwaukee County, Oct. 11 (Mrs. F. L. Hook).

ROBIN: An albino sighted in Chippewa Falls, Sept. 1 (C. A. Kemper).

HERMIT THRUSH: Departed from Milwaukee, Oct. 30 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: Arrived in Sheboygan County, Sept. 22 (H. Koopmann); last for the Lake Winnebago area, Oct. 8 (Mrs. Glen Fisher—George Henseler); departed from Milwaukee, Oct. 18 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: At Mazomanie, Aug. 1 (Sam Robbins); Juneau County, Aug. 10 (Sam Robbins); Outagamie County, Oct. 17 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

PIPIT: Noted in Iowa County, Sept. 28 (Larkin—Compton—Jones—Robbins); Madison, Oct. 12 (Tom Soulen); fifteen in Waukesha County, Oct. 15 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Mary Donald—Karl Priebe); twelve in Vernon County, Oct. 24 (Margarette Morse).

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Chippewa County, Oct. 17 (C. A. Kemper); Milwaukee, Oct. 20 (Mary Donald—Karl Priebe); Brown County, Oct. 28 (Edwin Cleary); Lafayette County, Oct. 31 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

MIGRANT SHRIKE: Dane County, Aug. 1 (Larkin—Compton—Jones—Robbins); Plainfield, Aug. 12 (Tom Soulen) and same day in Adams County (Sam Robbins).

BELL'S VIREO: Mazomanie, Aug. 1 (Sam Robbins).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: A nest with two young found in a willow tree on the shores of Mendota Bay, Madison, Sept. 10 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: Early migrant in Adams County, Aug. 13 (Sam Robbins); last seen in Kenosha, Oct. 2 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Two seen at Cedar Grove, Sept. 5 and one on Sept. 20 (Gordon Orians); in Adams County, Sept. 8 (Sam Robbins); and in Milwaukee, Sept. 20-27 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Last seen in Shawano County, Sept. 10 (Mary Staeger).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: One at Mazomanie, Aug. 1 (Sam Robbins).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Last, Viroqua, Oct. 21 (Margarette Morse).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Four reports: Fond du Lac County, Oct. 6 (George Henseler); Adams County, Oct. 9 (Sam Robbins); Cedar Grove, Oct. 10 (Gordon Orians); Madison, Oct. 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

YELLOW WARBLER: A straggler in Fond du Lac County, Oct. 6 (George Henseler).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Departed from Columbia County, Oct. 10 (R. Dryer); and from Rock County, Oct. 11 (the Harold Liebherers).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Last, Milwaukee, Oct. 8 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Milwaukee, Sept. 9 (Karl Priebe); Oshkosh, Sept. 17 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Chippewa Falls, Sept. 20 (C. A. Kemper); Lafayette County, Oct. 11 (Lola Welch—Ethel Olson).

CERULEAN WARBLER: In song, Adams, Aug. 11 (Sam Robbins).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Juneau County, Aug. 10 (Sam Robbins)—migrant; Sheboygan County, Sept. 15 (H. Koopmann); Viroqua, Sept. 17 (Margarette Morse); Iowa County, Sept. 28 (Larkin—Compton—Jones—Robbins); Oshkosh, Oct. 3 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); last in Fond du Lac County, Oct. 8 (George Henseler).

BLACK-POLL WARBLER: Sheboygan County, Sept. 9 (H. Koopmann); Manitowoc County, Sept. 17 (John Kraupa); Chippewa Falls, Sept. 21 (C. A. Kemper); last seen on Oct. 9 in Adams (Sam Robbins) and Cedar Grove (Gordon Orians).

PINE WARBLER: Last seen in Green Bay, Oct. 11 (Ed Paulson)

PALM WARBLER: Arrived on Sept. 2 in Chippewa County (C. A. Kemper) and Outagamie County (A. Bradford); last seen around Eau Claire, Oct. 22 (Roald Ager).

OVENBIRD: Milwaukee, Oct. 3 (Mrs. F. L. Hook).

GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH: Seen at Cedar Grove between Sept. 8 and Oct. 31 (Gordon Orians).

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH: One in song in Adams County, Aug. 11 (Sam Robbins); seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 11 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: A male was banded in Milton, Sept. 26 (Mrs. Melva Maxson).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Rock County, Aug. 15 (Mrs. Melva Maxson); one in Price County, Aug. 20 (Sam Robbins); one in Kenosha,

Sept. 21 (Dick Gordon); Chippewa Falls, Sept. 4 (C. A. Kemper); departed from Cedar Grove, Oct. 9 (Gordon Orians).

MOURNING WARBLER: Seen in Lincoln and Price Counties, Aug. 20 (Sam Robbins); Cedar Grove, Sept. 8 (Gordon Orians).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: At Mazomanie, Aug. 1 (Sam Robbins); one positively identified at Two Rivers feeding on Virginia Creeper berries, Oct. 10 (Winnifred Smith Mayer)—latest on record.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Dodge County, Aug. 12 (the Harold Lieberrs); Adams County, Sept. 2 (Sam Robbins).

SCARLET TANAGER: Departed from Waukesha County, Oct. 16 (Emma Hoffmann).

INDIGO BUNTING: Young seen in Milwaukee, Aug. 18 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin)—late; last seen on Oct. 3 in Juneau County (Marilu Madura) and Fond du Lac County (George Henseler).

DICKCISSEL: A bird was very carefully observed at Mazomanie, Sept. 28 (Larkin—Compton—Jones—Robbins)—very late date.

PINE SISKIN: Fall migrants in Brown, Dane, Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Ozaukee Counties.

GOLDFINCH: One nesting in a pine tree brought off a brood in Shawano County, Sept. 14 (Mary Staeger).

RED CROSSBILL: In Lincoln County, Aug. 18-21 (Sam Robbins).

LECONTE'S SPARROW: One in Milwaukee, Oct. 19 (Mary Donald).

HENSLow'S SPARROW: Last in Dane County, Oct. 18 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

NELSON'S SPARROW: At Port Washington, Sept. 20 (the C. P. Fristers); Iowa County, Sept. 28 (Larkin—Compton—Jones—Robbins).

LARK SPARROW: Adams County, Aug. 11 (Sam Robbins).

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Quite a few fall reports: Eau Claire County, Sept. 21 (Roald Ager); Lincoln County, Oct. 4-9 (Robert Schlising); small flight in Outagamie County, Oct. 3-4 (A. Bradford); Barron County, Oct. 5 (Roald Ager); Dane County, Oct. 9-20 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee, Oct. 10-20 (Mary Donald—Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Adams County, Oct. 15 (Sam Robbins); Chippewa County, Oct. 17 (C. A. Kemper); six in Viroqua, Oct. 22 (Margarette Morse).

GAMBEL'S SPARROW: Madison, Oct. 12-18 (Mrs. R. A. Walker—Tom Soulen).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: First in Madison, Sept. 13 (N. R. Barger)—later than usual. Approximately eight immatures seen in Rock County, Sept. 27 (John Wilde).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Winnebago County, Sept. 17 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); in both Dane and Iowa Counties, Sept. 28 (Larkin—Compton—Jones—Robbins) and the same day in Juneau County (Marilu Madura); Fond du Lac, Oct. 21 (George Henseler); and last for Vernon County, Oct. 24 (Margarette Morse).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: First in Oshkosh, Sept. 23 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Green Bay, Oct. 8 (Edwin Cleary); Adams, Oct. 12 (Sam Robbins); Madison, Oct. 17 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

SNOW BUNTING: Reports from Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Milwaukee, Monroe, and Winnebago Counties.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June 20-July 10, 1954—Make a summer count of breeding bird populations; send results to James H. Zimmerman.

July 15, 1954—Send red-tailed hawk questionnaire to Gordon Orians; send spring arrival dates of key species to Chandler S. Robbins.

August 1-10, 1954—Field notes for May, June, July should be sent to the Associate Editor.

September 8-12, 1954—American Ornithologists Union meets at Madison.

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RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted by the members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology at the annual meeting in Madison on May 1, 1954.

RESOLVED: that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology give all possible support as an organization, and by individual action, to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp.

RESOLVED:

Whereas the prairie chicken, a native species of extraordinary interest both aesthetically and scientifically, has been reduced to a dangerously low population level because of loss of breeding habitat, and

Whereas continued loss of habitat and further reduction of the population are clearly foreseeable, due to intensifying agricultural pressure on the land, to the extent that the prairie chicken may disappear from Wisconsin unless immediate steps for its preservation are taken, and

Whereas the critical step in preservation of the prairie chicken is preservation of its breeding habitat, namely, relatively undisturbed long-term grassland,

Be It Resolved: (1) that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology buy a tract of land in Wisconsin's best remaining prairie chicken area (the neighboring Buena Vista and Leola marshes); (2) that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Board of Directors, to accomplish this purpose, is authorized by membership vote of this meeting, to work out the mechanics of, and to assess, a "W. S. O. prairie chicken tax" of approximately \$2.00 per member, by such method as will not require change of the constitution and by-laws; and (3) that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology urge the Wisconsin Conservation Commission to buy such additional lands as are necessary to perpetuate the prairie chicken at least in this area, and in as many other areas as funds and public support will allow.



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