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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



The Passenger Pigeon

Fall 1968

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 3

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Wisconsin's 1966-67

Snowy Owl Invasion



By THOMAS H. NICHOLLS

Reports of the occurrence of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) during the winter of 1966-67 have been compiled for Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. This paper reports the results of the survey in Wisconsin. Reports were obtained through an appeal to members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Conservation.

The objective of the survey was to determine the number, distribution, and activities of Snowy Owls, the duration of the invasion, and the habitats used by the owls. This information was obtained for use in a possible Snowy Owl radio tracking study that may become a reality in the years ahead. It is hoped that such a study will reveal some of the secrets of this magnificent bird. For example, the specific geographical origin of Snowy Owls coming to the Midwest is virtually unknown and it is uncertain whether they return to the same local area in the Arctic from which they came. Following these birds with the use of radio transmitters may answer such questions.

Of the 345 Snowy Owls reported in the North Central States by 175 observers, 93 were seen in Wisconsin (Figure 1). The first owl was seen on October 19 in Eau Claire perched atop a television antenna on a house. Most Snowy Owl sightings occurred during the month of December (Figure 2) when 31 were seen, but this may be biased by the Audubon

perch is important. The higher the perch is from the ground, the greater the distance a receiving antenna can detect signals from owls wearing radio transmitters.

Winter habitats selected in Wisconsin by this tundra owl were most often open fields and urban areas near bodies of water. Owls that concentrated in urban areas were generally found in cities adjacent to large lakes such as Green Bay, Superior, Ashland, Milwaukee, and Oshkosh. Hamerstrom (1962) and Sindelar (1966), who have done extensive work on the Snowy Owl in Wisconsin, reported the same results in their studies. Selection of habitats (Table 2) appeared to be based on their resemblance to habitats in the Arctic and the availability of prey. Wooded areas were almost never used by Snowy Owls.

The activities of Snowy Owls at time of observation were recorded. Of 85 owls observed, 40 (47%) were flying from one perch to another, 38 (45%) were perching, 5 (6%) were flying, 1 (1%) was eating prey, and 1 (1%) was found dead. Some of the flying and perching activity may

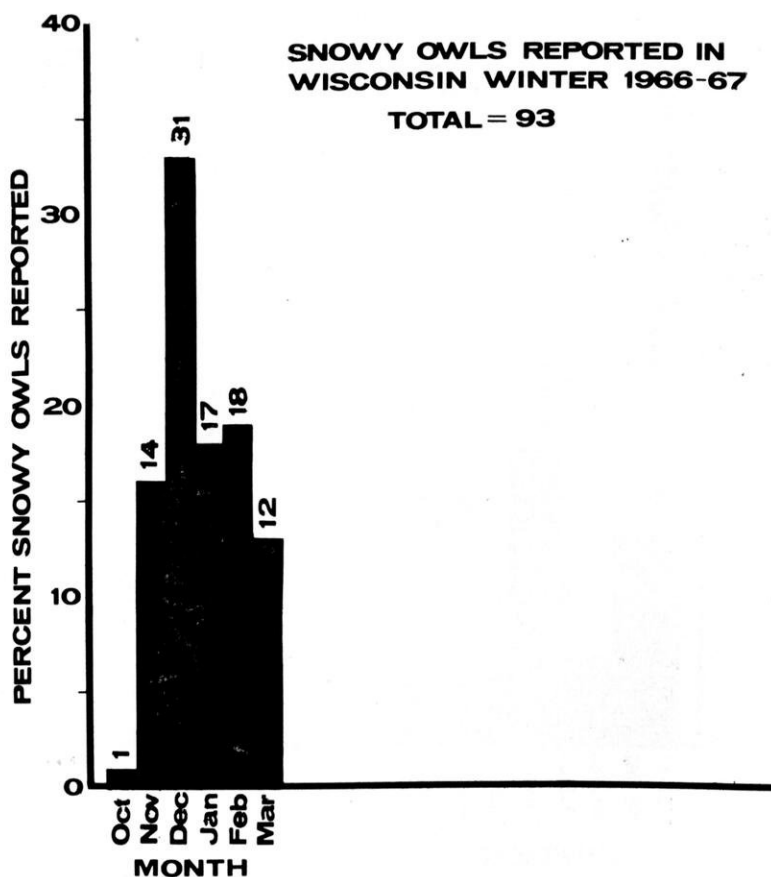


Figure 2. Snowy Owls reported by month in Wisconsin for the winter of 1966-67.

have been a result of owls frightened by observers but generally owls were easily observed for long periods of time without being disturbed by human activity.

Data from this study, Sindelar (1966), and THE PASSENGER PIGEON "Field Notes" show that 609 Snowy Owls were reported in Wisconsin from 1960 to 1968. Figure 3 shows a definite cyclical trend for Snowy Owl migrations into Wisconsin. Peak years were 1960-61, 1963-64, and 1966-67. The data show that a few owls can be seen in the state every winter and that large numbers have appeared in the state about every three years.

Notes from observers who sent in reports were interesting. Richard F. Bernard from Superior told about nine Snowy Owls in that city. The owls were first reported on November 1, 1966. They were often seen in town perching on buildings and telephone poles. One owl was observed perched on a car in a parking lot near a dormitory. The owl fed mainly on pigeons and rats with an occasional pheasant taken. It was not un-

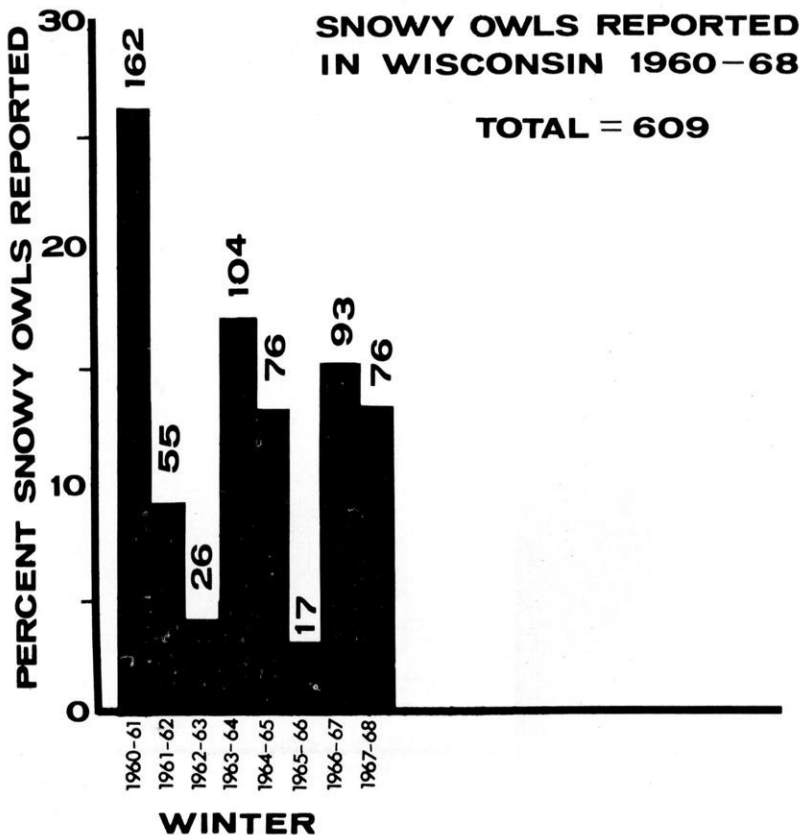


Figure 3. Snowy Owls reported in Wisconsin from 1960-1968.

common for these owls to be seen perching on snow and ice in the harbor at Superior.

William D. Laut, Conservation Warden at Winneconne, and Federal Game Warden Lloyd Lindvall were observing a Snowy Owl perched on a muskrat house on November 11. An unlucky duck hunter shot the owl, was arrested and fined for shooting a protected bird. Warden Laut also reported that he had received several complaints from trappers who said that Snowy Owls were feeding on muskrats caught in their traps. He heard also that a few trappers were shooting the owls to protect muskrats in traps.

Table 1. Perches used by 82* Snowy Owls in Wisconsin at time of observation, winter 1966-67.

Number	Percent	Perch
26	32	Utility pole
13	16	Ground
13	16	Miscellaneous
12	15	Tree
6	7	Lake or river ice
6	7	Building roof
4	5	Fence post
2	2	Muskrat house
82	100	TOTALS

*Of 93 reports, 82 indicated perch.

Table 2. Habitats used by 80* Snowy Owls in Wisconsin at time of observation, winter 1966-67.

Number	Percent	Habitat
38	48	Open field
21	26	Urban area
11	14	Lake
5	6	Marsh
3	4	River
1	1	Oak-savanna
1	1	Wooded area
80	100	TOTALS

*Of 93 reports, 80 indicated habitat.

Daniel Olson and Alex Feucht of Mayville saw a Snowy Owl being harassed by a Harrier and a Rough-legged Hawk in a cattail marsh on the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge on December 21. Frederick Leshner sent the author two Snowy Owl pellets from La Crosse which he obtained during January 1967. One pellet, measuring 60 x 35 mm contained 3 skulls and 6 mandibles of the Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). The other, 58 x 34 mm contained 2 skulls and 4 mandibles of *M. pennsylvanicus* and 2 unidentified incisors.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Dr. Walter Breckenridge and Dr. Dwain Warner, Director and Curator of Birds respectively, of the University of Minnesota's James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History who made the Museum facilities available to me. Marie A. Gravidahl prepared the illustrations. I would like to especially thank the observers who sent in observations.

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Notes On Pigeon Hawk/Herring Gull Encounter

By JAMES O. EVRARD and DANIEL W. ANDERSON

On 3 May 1968, we visited a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) colony located on the Sister Islands in Green Bay. The purpose of the visit was to collect gull eggs for pesticide analysis. The weather was cool, cloudy and at times, raining. On our return trip to the mainland at 1:30 p. m., we observed a Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*) flying rapidly over the water at an altitude of 10 to 15 ft. in a northeasterly direction toward our boat. As the falcon approached us, it ascended slightly and passed approximately 150 ft. beyond the bow of the boat. When within a mile of the shoreline, it flew beneath two Herring Gulls that were soaring at an altitude of about 100 ft., obviously searching for food. One of the gulls turned and dove upon the falcon. Both birds dropped low toward the water in a spectacular, twisting flight, the gull close behind and appearing at least three times as large as the falcon. After a few seconds of pursuit, the gull was left behind as the falcon put forth a sudden burst of speed, climbing rapidly. The Pigeon Hawk then continued its flight to the shoreline and the gull rejoined its partner in the search for food.

The behavior of the gull was puzzling to us after observing many intraspecific associations which did not result in any visible interaction. During visits to the colony in a three-year period, the herring gulls were often seen in peaceful proximity to feral Rock Doves (*Columba livia*), Purple Martins (*Progne subis*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), sandpipers (*Erolia* sp.), Lesser Yellow Legs (*Totanus flavipes*), Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Pintails (*Anas acuta*), Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*), American Widgeon (*Mareca americana*), and Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*). The reaction of the gull to the falcon is possibly explained by the gull recognizing it either as a potential predator or as a potential food source.

Tinbergen (1960) found that most birds, especially those that live in open situations, recognize birds of prey by their characteristic short-necked silhouette. He also stated that Herring Gulls mistrust birds of prey especially during the breeding season when parent gulls respond to their presence with panic and defense behavior. The gulls have good reason to react in this manner since the raptors have been known to prey upon them. Although Tinbergen (*op. cit.*) has never observed a Herring Gull attacked by a predator, he has found the remains of gulls that were probably killed by a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Rose (1965) observed a peregrine that killed a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) after an extended chase. Cade (1951) reported that approximately 20% of the food items found in a peregrine eyrie in the interior of Alaska was composed of the remains of the Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) and the Herring Gull.

The Pigeon Hawk has not been known to prey upon gulls, but Bent (1938) reports two separate occasions, one in Alaska and one in Mexico,

where the falcon was observed to have harassed them. On one occasion, the Pigeon Hawk actually drove its talons into the back of a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) and rode the flying bird for a moment before releasing its grip and flying away. A search of the literature failed to find evidence of a Herring Gull reacting to a falcon by pursuing it, but there is a record of a related species, the Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) actively pursuing a Peregrine Falcon (Drury, 1960). The falcon flew near a jaeger that was participating in aerial breeding displays with two other birds. The jaeger pursued and repeatedly dove upon the peregrine which met each attack by rolling upon its back and presenting its "fists" to the diving bird.

A second explanation for the pursuit of the Pigeon Hawk by the Herring Gull is given by Tinbergen (1960). He found that another side of the Herring Gull's character is the chasing of other birds in order to steal the prey which they have taken. The Herring Gull does this on the wing and chases both members of its own species and other species. Tinbergen (*op. cit.*) observed a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) chasing and forcing a Peregrine Falcon to drop its kill, a teal, which it then itself ate. A Herring Gull was observed by Anderson (1967) to have chased a peregrine in an attempt to obtain a duck that the falcon had killed. Other birds of prey are also pursued in this manner. A Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was forced to drop its prey by a group of 50 Herring Gulls which arose from their roosting area and harassed the eagle when it flew near them (Stone, 1937). Perhaps the Herring Gull that we observed mistakenly thought that the Pigeon Hawk had a prey item in its talons and pursued the falcon for this reason.

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Letter to The Editor . . .

Charles A. Kemper, M.D.
Editor, The Passenger Pigeon
733 Maple Street
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

FPO, San Francisco, Calif. 96654
FIC PAC FAC Box 23
August 28, 1968

Dear Mr. Kemper:

Let me be counted with those who oppose the hunting of mourning doves in Wisconsin.

To be sure there is a great hunting potential in our doves, but this may also be true of other song birds such as the meadowlark and blue jay. Why, even the familiar and trusting robin who nests about our homes would learn to fear man, once hunted, and would thus provide a good target for hunters. But as far as I'm concerned, doves are song birds and therefore should be treated as such.

The question seems to be: Is there enough of a demand for dove hunting? It is my hope that Wisconsin residents will veto any attempt to remove the dove from song bird status, that the peaceful call of a dove at dawn or dusk will be considered of more value than a dove in a gunner's sights.

Sincerely yours,
Stuart Johnston



Unusual Nighthawk Migration

On Sept. 2, 1968, I observed a small flock of Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) (approximately 15 individuals) migrating in the fashion of broad-winged hawks. We were spending the day at our farm north of Arena in Iowa County, the weather was cool and sunny with some high cumulus clouds and a strong steady northwest wind blowing.

About 2:30 p. m. my son Scott called my attention to a flock of birds circling above the valley. They were very high, and one had to look closely to spot them. At first glance I took them to be hawks, but on closer inspection they proved to be Nighthawks circling on fixed wings and drifting in a southeasterly direction, obviously riding thermal air currents. During the time the birds were under my observation, I saw only 2 or 3 birds take a few strokes with their wings; all of the other birds rode on fixed pinions until they were lost from view.

There was a noticeable migration of Nighthawks throughout much of the day, but these birds were all migrating in typical Nighthawk fashion at fairly low levels and were feeding as they moved.

I was unable to locate any references in the literature to similar Nighthawk behavior.

Robert S. Ellarson
Madison

THE BUSY SUMMER OF 1967

By MRS. HENRY KOENIG

Once again it's September and the earth is getting ready for its long winter rest. Only recently the evening sky was filled with Nighthawks and Swifts but today it is lonely and empty for me because Martis, a young Purple Martin which has been our daily companion for about 5 weeks, did not return last evening. It was with mixed feelings of sadness and joy that I stood on the patio scanning the sky and watching the TV tower next door which had become her favorite perching place these past weeks.

It was an indescribable thrill and heartwarming experience to have a wild creature come down from the blue at one's call or without it, to alight on a low wire and from there come to one's hand to be fed.

The summer of 1967 brought us a total of 22 patients, 11 of which were released. The others either died or had to be relieved of their suffering. These patients included: 6 Robins (1 released); 1 Redwinged Blackbird; 1 Rosebreasted Grosbeak, 1 Scarlet Tanager and 1 Bluebird (all 3 adult males and all released); 1 young Meadowlark; 6 Purple Martins (5 released); 1 tiny Chimney Swift; 1 tiny Killdeer; 1 Nighthawk (released); and 2 Cedar Waxwings (1 released).

I shall concentrate here on transcribing from my notebook only about the Purple Martins and the Nighthawk.

July 13: A young Martin found on the ground was brought to us by the Cushing children so we called the bird "Cushing". It was well feathered but unable to fly. After being force fed several times it accepted the meat formula from a toothpick.

July 14: Tonight there was a rap on the door but no one was around. I then noticed a box on the porch containing a little foundling, another Martin.

July 15: Our new little Martin was very weak and ate only a bit before it died. Perhaps some children had had it for a time. Cushing is thriving on the meat formula, mealworms and moth. During the day she sat in a tree in the kitchen or on the patio and tonight I put her into a darkened box. I am calling the bird "she" even though at this time one can't tell the sex of a Martin.

July 21: This year we have a new 4 room Martin house which is occupied by a pair of Martins on the west side and Sparrows on the east. Two very young Martins from our own house fell down, were injured and died. Sometime later another one was seen on the porch but went back into the house. We are wondering if we may have to mother any of the young.

July 22: Today we received a call from Pettersens at Madison asking if we would accept a young bird, species unknown. This bird proved to be another young Martin well feathered which had gotten drenched in a downpour and became grounded. We called the bird Pettersen to distinguish it from Cushing who seemed younger. It refused meat and moths but was hand fed mealworms. We wondered what our 2 year old Marty (a Martin) thought of the invaders. Marty came from Mineral Point where he had been deserted by his parents and was brought here

September 12, 1965. He would not leave the following summer so he lives with us uncaged.

July 23: This date brought us a third young Martin. Agnes Ellen has been added to our bird family. It is a full time job to keep all of them, besides our 3 permanent residents, well fed.

July 27: Cushing and Pettersen responded well to good food and lots of it. They were released today, Cushing having been with us 2 weeks and Pettersen only 5 days.

July 28: We were blessed with a 4th young Martin, this one from our own house in the yard. The bird was found in front of our garage crouched in a corner, not well feathered and the worst looking one of the lot. We called this bird Martis. She was fed mealworms and loved them. Our birds enjoy being out on the patio in the trees where Henry has taken movies of them.

August 5: Today a nest mate of Martis was found on the grass under the house and taken inside. We named this bird "Twin". It seems more advanced than Martis who does not fly. At night our kitchen is the bedroom for the Martins which are kept in covered boxes. Today the parents of Martis and Twin came to the wire near the patio with huge dragon flies hoping to feed their young. Much to our regret they are not yet ready for release since they haven't flown inside.

August 6: Agnes Ellen developed well and after 2 weeks of care was released today when there were 24 Martins on the wires above the alley.

August 11: The parents have continued to come with dragon flies for their young. Twin has been quite active and is well feathered. Even though we have had the bird only a week we thought it should go while the Martins are still numerous. Twelve were on the wire this morning. We carried a tree from the patio outside and put Twin into it. We then suddenly decided to put Martis there too. Upon returning from the house with some mealworms I was just in time to see Twin take off for the tall maple and land there. When the 12 Martins disappeared I thought it best to bring Martis in again. Most everyone has reported that their Martins are already gone so it is high time that we get that last baby on its way.

August 12: This afternoon I carried Martis outside in her tree from the patio but she would not leave it so again brought her inside. When early this evening we heard an adult Martin calling in the yard I carried Martis out and put her on the clothes line in the back yard near the Martin house. When the adult finally flew away I felt it best to bring Martis in for the night. But just as I reached up to take her she flew across the street and clung to the ledge of a house. Henry ran for the net attached to a long pole but before he returned Martis took off toward the north and I wondered if we'd ever see her again. She had been with us 16 days.

August 14: Martis has been gone 2 days but this evening we saw 2 young Martins on the wire above the alley. They surely must be Martis and Twin. A male was around and one young bird always followed him but returned to the wire. This no doubt was Twin for the father led it to the house for the night. The other little one came to the wire near our house. When I called to it with the familiar worm dish in one hand and a mealworm in the other it fluttered its wings but didn't quite come

down.

August 16: Yesterday I saw one little Martin on the porch of its house. Sometimes recently the adults have fluttered and chattered around the house. Later today I had a real thrill. The 2 young Martins slept in their house last night for I saw them leave this morning and then disappeared. However, at 3:15 Martis was on a wire just beyond our back yard. When she saw me she circled the yard and landed on a rug hanging on the clothes line. There she sat for about an hour while I fed her 50 mealworms. She seemed contented and satisfied at last, dozing at times between lunches. Martis allowed me to pet her as I had always done when on the patio. Usually birds do not like to be touched but this one was different in that respect. She probably hadn't had such a big meal since her release 4 days ago. This evening the father came as usual to put the 2 birds to bed in their house.

August 17: This is the 5th day after the release of Martis. We heard her call before we were up. At 9:30 she came to the clothes line to be fed. Soon 9 Martins came to coax her away but she would not follow them. This afternoon at 12:30 Martis again landed on the clothes line. Parts of it were quite high and I could hardly reach her so I put up my hand palm down and she hopped on it. I then sat on a bench to feed her on my lap until she flew to a wire above the patio. At 4:00 Martis was waiting for me on the clothes line where Henry took some movies of us. This evening he put up a low wire just outside the patio, hoping she would come down to call for food where she could be seen and heard more easily. Martis did come down and sit on a wire about 4 feet above the new one. So Henry stood on a bench and reached up to feed her. She was such a friendly trusting little bird that she allowed him to put her on the new low wire where I gave her a few more worms.

August 18: We had to go to Madison today and how I disliked leaving Martis. When fed at 9:15 she had been so very hungry and this was her only feeding until we returned at 4:30. An elderly woman living in a small house on our property said Martis had been on her new wire calling constantly. Had we only left some mealworms with the woman but she, like many people, would have been squeamish about handling them. It was cold and rainy when we reached home and Martis was not in sight. But when I whistled I was happy to see her emerge from her house. She usually circled to a high wire, then to a lower and still lower one and finally to the lowest one from which she came to my hand. Martis at this time was so hungry that she ate about 50 mealworms fed from a blunt tweezer. I ran out of worms several times so came in for more accompanied by Martis on my arm.

August 19: Our pet Martis and Twin continue to sleep in their house every night. Today I brought her into our home for a while for it was so cold this morning. Like formerly she sat in a tree next to the radiator and cried to be fed. About 20 Martins sailed around in the yard and tonight before her bedtime Martis did likewise. The father brought his other little one in for the night.

August 20: This morning 5 Martins were on the alley wire including the 2 young and their mother. Wherever Martis went her mother followed. Again we had to be gone from 9:30 until 12:00 but my heart stayed here with Martis. When we returned the woman living

above our garage came to tell us she had heard Martis cry for food so came with some bread crumbs which the bird ate while sitting on her arm. We had a dinner invitation at 6:30 and fortunately Martis came just before this to be fed. It is impossible to put out a supply of mealworms for they would crawl away. It had been much simpler last summer when going away, to put little chunks of the meat formula along a branch where Virie, the baby Warbling Vireo always came to the window to be fed.

August 21: We thought Martis had been deserted by the others of her species but later in the day her parents came with Twin plus another bird. When the father only remained he tried 3 times to push Martis off the wire but finally gave up. Recently a Bluejay has been seen near Martis whenever she is alone and when she flew off he followed. I do hope the Jay isn't plannign to kill our precious bird. Perhaps he is aware of the worms being fed which he too would relish. Martis was fed at 4:30 after she had called loudly. Later I took her into the house for worms and when we came out she immediately made a long flight around the neighborhood. She flies so low when just having left me that we hope she will never be struck by a car. This evening her parents again were on the wire with her but soon left. She remained until 7:15 when she retired.

August 22: Little Martis had company briefly this morning but soon the bird disappeared. I fed her every 2 hours starting at 8:00 for it was so cold. Tonight Martis made many long flights. We hope she is catching insects. Up to now she has spent most of her time on the wires except when circling to come down to be fed. After her last meal at 7:00 she soon retired alone.

August 23: Martis is growing up at last. She leaves on long flights and we hope she is successful in catching bugs for she would not find mealworms on the wing! Today 2 Bluejays seemed to annoy her so for a time she was inside the patio but clung to the screen seeming dissatisfied so released her at once. Saw no other Martins today. On one of her flights Martis landed in the top of our tallest elm.

August 24: Fed Martis only 5 times today. At noon another Martin sat on a wire with her. She retired at 7:35.

August 25: Martis still comes to my hand to be fed on my lap and enjoys the mealworms. She had 6 meals today. For the first time we saw her on our neighbor's TV tower high above the roof of the 2 story house.

August 26: Fed Martis as usual this mornng. At noon when it began to rain we saw her and another Martin on the wire above the alley. They were having a wonderful time fluttering their wings and bathing in the rain. After a while the other bird was gone. At 1:20 I went out to look for Martis who was not accustomed to rain. I whistled and whistled and finally heard her cry. At last I found her on the grass huddled under a lilac completely drenched and consequently grounded. She seemed glad to be picked up and brought into the house where an electric hair dryer was used to make her more comfortable and warm. She spent the rest of the day in the kitchen in a tree where she was well fed. Since it continued to rain we kept her inside all night putting her to bed in an individual Martin house perched on top of the kitchen cup-

board.

August 27: This day was also rainy and chilly so Martis was content to spend the morning inside in her tree. I told her she was my best little bird but of course I tell that to every one of our birds! By noon the sun came out and it grew warmer. It seemed like a good day to give Martis her freedom again. She hunted often and later returned with another Martin to the TV tower, both preening. Finally her friend left. While having supper on the patio from which we can see the tower, I called and whistled but she didn't come to eat and hadn't since her release at noon. However at 7:15 we heard her call so rushed out to feed her. Martis sat on my hand a while but wasn't very hungry.

August 28: I fed Martis at 8:00 but all day she hunted and wasn't around often although she spent some time on the tower. At 4:00 the 2 Martins were there together but later she sat alone. Tonight when eating on the patio she came crying to the low wire. As usual Martis perched on my hand and I sat down to feed her on my lap where I could pet her every once in a while as I talked to her.

August 29: Before Martis came flying out of her house at 6:45 A. M. her little head had peeked out every few minutes. We had to go to Madison and how I hated to leave her these last days of August for surely the time is drawing near for her to migrate, if she is ever to go. Martis came for breakfast at 9:20 and we left at 11:00. It rained heavily at Madison and I hoped there was much less at home on account of the bird. There wasn't a sign of Martis when we returned at 3:30 and it had rained heavily here too. I looked everywhere for her even going down along the riverbank to call and whistle. At 6:45 while on the patio I was overjoyed to see her on the TV tower. My repeated whistle however did not bring her down but we knew it was Martis for she retired to her house at 7:33. She was maturing at last but how I longed to feed and pet her again.

August 30: Martis was on the porch of her house at 7:25 A. M. and answered my whistle. She came to the low wire and was fed a great many worms for she had been without them almost 24 hours. At 9:25 she came for food and I took her inside to refill the worm dish. After having a huge meal she went to her favorite perch on the tower. At 1:00 Martis came again sitting on my hand for over 15 minutes while eating and taking a sunbath at times. She closed her eyes and tipped up one wing at a time. It was wonderful to have her back as usual but I was getting quite anxious about her with 40 degrees predicted for morning. Her next feeding was at 4:00 and another at 6:20. I know our own Robbie, Marty and Cliffie feel neglected these days when I am constantly on the alert for Martis whose slave I have been from morning until night.

August 31: This was somewhat a repetition of yesterday. Martis came for mealworms at 7:45, 9:00, 11:15 and then disappeared for 6 hours, the longest ever. She begged to be fed at 5:15 and again at 6:15. By 7:00 she was no longer around so concluded she had retired in her house.

September 1: This first day of September it was 45 degrees, cold and foggy and it was 8:30 before our pet came to the feeding wire. Martis came again at 9:50 but did not feed heavily. Then she disappeared and was not seen again today. We think she isn't sleeping in her house to-

night. It seems as if this could be the finale of a wonderful experience with a trusting little bird. Martis is the tamest of any we have fed outside after release. There were orioles and the Warbling Vireo before Martis. I watched the TV tower until dark with a lump in my throat but it remained empty. Of course we want Martis to migrate and lead a normal life instead of having to be a prisoner inside all winter. She would miss her long flights outside even though our house is far from small.

September 2: Oh, joy I could hardly believe my eyes at 10:05 this morning but there was Martis again on the wire crying to be fed. She must have spent the night with other late migrant friends of her species. After eating and eating Martis flew off with a rush to the tower. She ate again while on my lap at 11:15 and very heavily at 2:20 when she also sunbathed while I petted her. Later while Martis was on the tower a hawk sailed high overhead and I hoped he would not spot her. At 3:45 a Starling landed on the tower and frightened her away. At 5:35 Martis was back and my whistle brought her down for a huge meal of mealworms. She had never accepted frozen moths which our other birds relish greatly. It was 6:40 when she came for her last meal of this day. Later Martis gracefully circled and circled the yard, finally slipping into her house once more so we know where she is spending this night.

September 3: At 7:50 our dear little Martis called from the feeding wire waiting for a handout. Since the wire is a bit high for me she always hopped on my hand and I could sit on a bench with her on my lap, as mentioned before. At this time she ate 21 worms; at 8:45, 18 worms; at 10:15, 18 worms; at 10:50, 28 worms; at 5:00 after an abscence of 6 hours, 18 worms; at 6:05, 19 worms; making a total of 122 worms on this day. After each feeding she went to the TV tower. Later we watched Martis circle and finally go to her house, twice to the Sparrow side and then to her own at 7:22. Since January 1966 we have bought 92,000 mealworms.

September 4: Martis came to be fed at 8:00 this morning eating 21 worms and again at 9:15 when she had 30 mealworms while sitting on my hand on my lap as I petted her from time to time, loved her and talked to her. She was so precious and each time could be the last. Martis did not return all day nor this night and I silently spilled tears of loneliness.

Later: Martis did not return the following day or ever again. We hope she safely migrated to South America with a companion but how we missed her. It is terrible to be born with too soft a heart for each little bird upon departure leaves one with a feeling of emptiness and longing to see it just once more. For several days I watched the TV tower hopelessly. These little feathered creatures entwine themselves around one's heart and in so short a time become very much a part of our daily lives that we are lost without them. Of course they do tie one down and keep one close to home for bird sitters are very scarce.

August 28, 1967: A beautiful nighthawk which had sat on a driveway add day was brought here from Lodi today. We force fed it 2 mealworms which it did not swallow so they were removed again. Since the bird would not accept food we had to continue to force feed it using large moths which it swallowed. Of course I imagine worms are rather foreign

to a bird of the skies. We have him in a box covered with screen.

September 3: The lovely Nighthawk is now free on the patio where it can move about and it likes to sit on a large log on the floor. It is a real job to open that tiny bill which is done by Henry and I pop in the food.

September 7: The Nighthawk finally accepts mealworms. The moths seem insufficient for so large a bird, and at this time of year we can not catch enough to supply his needs. What a great relief it was this afternoon to find the Nighthawk willing and ready to open his bill to be fed. He cries when Henry picks him up or we come near.

September 11: We heard the Nighthawk attempt some flying during the night. Perhaps he was attracted to the bugs just outside the screen where the bug catching machine and light are. Nighthawks were heard during the night.

September 12: About 6:00 o'clock this evening we tried to release the Nighthawk but he got no more than 8 feet above the ground. Henry tried to catch him with the net but he flew across the street and landed on the sidewalk. Upon following him he flew farther up the street and came down in a yard where he was caught. I am so thankful to have him back since he couldn't gain altitude.

September 14, 15, 16: Heard Nighthawks during the night and in the early morning.

September 17: The Nighthawk is so beautiful. This morning when we got up he was sitting in our bedroom doorway leading to the patio. He spends most of the day sitting on the log dozing but he is fed regularly. When we come with the mealworms he cries softly and when he has had enough he glides away along the floor. He weighs 70 grams. This afternoon I could see our bird on the patio and then noticed him on the window sill in our bedroom. Tonight about 7:30 he came into the kitchen and sat on the rug in front of the sink until we carried him to the patio at 11:00 P. M. We again heard the Nighthawks calling this evening and were glad of that for it is getting quite late for them so do wish we could release our bird.

September 23: Early this morning while we were still in bed the Nighthawk flew into our bedroom and landed on the telephone which is on a shelf aside of my bed. Even though I am not afraid of him he startled me and I instinctively ducked under the covers until Henry carried him out.

September 24: It seemed best to make another attempt to release the Nighthawk before it was too late and he might have to be kept over winter which would be very hard on the bird and on us. Insects have become scarce and those moths we do catch are too small. When we carried the Nighthawk outside at 6:00 o'clock he flew across the street behind some houses. Due to the trees we could not see what became of him so I walked up the alley to investigate but saw no sign of him. Perhaps he rested on a roof until dark or spent the night there.

September 26: Again this morning at 6:15 I thought I heard 3 beeps of a Nighthawk and wondered if it might be our bird. If so we hope he will be on his way south very soon. Now the patio seems empty without this last patient of the season, and how I miss him.

Do Circles Cause Cycles?

By GERALD E. LINDSAY

Everyone acquainted with wildlife as a hunter or observer has heard of cycles in which the Ruffed Grouse, hereinafter called "Partridge" and the Varying Hare, hereinafter called "Rabbit" have periods of great changes in numbers. There are times when it is advocated that hunters should reap as many as possible for "they" are at their peak, or the advice is to hunt in groups or with a good dog for the swing of the cycle is near the bottom and game is quite scarce.

What is this cycle? What causes it?

In Iron county in the year of 1908 I was 8 years of age. I snared, skinned and cleaned rabbits to sell to the saloonkeepers for 25 cents apiece. There were plenty of rabbits and I soon had enough money earned to buy a single-shot lever action "Hamilton" .22 rifle. I didn't snare any more rabbits after that, not because of any game laws prohibiting it for if there were any such laws we didn't know about them but it was more exciting to meet on more even terms in a chase.

Many times these rabbits were under a severe handicap in the late fall, for their fur would be white before there was any snow on the ground and they could be seen for long distances through the woods and that is when I first became aware of their habit of travelling in a circle when chased. Later when there was snow on the ground and we had to track them it was very seldom that they left the area beyond a quarter of a mile. They would often return to the exact spot they started from and use the same trail for a second round or more. Continued observance made me aware of the fact that this circling habit created island-like areas in which there would be considerable game and in just a short distance the same kind of cover would be barren of game, and it seems that these island-like areas seldom if ever overlapped.

There would be seasons of plenty of rabbits, then they would be hard to find for a couple of years. When the rabbits were at their peak of the cycle they were very alert and active but as the cycle began to swing downward again they appeared to be sluggish and too lazy to run, and then we found that the "lazy rabbits" usually had lumps on their bodies which were polyp-like sacs under their skin containing a sort of pus. After that the lazy rabbits were nothing to carry home and were not hunted.

It was noted that the partridge were prone to have a rise and fall in their numbers from one season to the next also and a few years later we began to hear about the cycles of these two species of game. The partridge is also a home-body, seldom travelling far from a certain area.

So—could this habit on the part of these creatures of staying within a certain circle be the cause of this so-called cycle?

We humans have laws prohibiting marriage between close relatives but there in the wilds where some game is confined to a small area and no doubt breed somewhat promiscuously regardless of relationship be it mother and son, father and daughter, or brother and sister, their bodies become weaker each year and the cycle is in evidence. Then when there

are no mates to be found in the area for those that do survive they are forced to widen their range in quest of a mate; this widened range would no doubt bring about a mating in which there would be no close blood ties and a new and strong cycle would start on the up-swing.

Taking a cue from Longfellow's "Evangeline" one can wonder—

Would some stability be realized by periodic trapping of some of these cycle-prone creatures and moving them to some other area well beyond their normal range?

The incidence of inter-breeding would be lowered and the cycle would be altered, lengthening, I believe, the period of a higher game count of healthy stock.



Help Save Hell's Canyon !!

The Federal Power Commission has scheduled hearings in Portland, Oregon on proposals for dams on the Snake River in Hell's Canyon.

Write the Federal Power Commission, Washington, D. C. 20246 requesting that your letter be made a part of the Hell's Canyon hearing record. It is most important that your opinion be in the hearing record. Simply state your feelings regarding this free-flowing section of the Snake River—Hell's Canyon.

Where is Hell's Canyon? Hell's Canyon is the deepest part of the 350-mile series of fantastic gorges carved by the Snake River, where it forms the border between Oregon and Idaho. **Many of these gorges have been drowned out in the last dozen years by a chain of seven power dams and reservoirs.** One hundred miles of free-flowing river remain, including the famous Hell's Canyon, of which the deepest part would be flooded by the proposed dams.

It is here in Hell's Canyon that the clear cold waters of the mighty Snake and Salmon Rivers rush and tumble through great gorges of basalt and granite to form one of the most scenic whitewater rivers in the entire world. In the course of its cutting action, the river has left numerous unique features, amazing white sandy beaches, great polished boulders, and inviting beaches and sandbars for campsites. Approximately 300,000 acres of potential wilderness border Hell's Canyon on both the Idaho and Oregon rims.

A variety of recreational opportunities—boating, hunting, fishing, camping and hiking—as well as scientific study and scenic viewing are available here. Numerous trails give access to the canyon country, and one parallels the river for about forty miles. The canyon abounds in wildlife and is a treasure house for botanists. Deer and elk herds are dependent on the lower canyon slopes for sustenance in hard winters. Fishing is superb, especially for channel catfish, small mouth bass, large native rainbow, and the great white sturgeon which grows to lengths of over nine feet. The canyon is home to Great Basin Canada geese and golden eagles. The Snake and Salmon Rivers are also famous for their

salmon and steelhead fisheries. Each year more people discover these many values of Hell's Canyon.

Who wants to build the dam? A combine of private power companies (Pacific Northwest Power Company) and a combine of public power companies (Washington Public Power Supply System), have submitted proposals to construct the High Mountain Sheep Dam. This 670-foot-high structure would be located approximately one-half mile above the mouth of the Salmon River. Another dam, China Gardens, is planned about 20 miles below the mouth of the Salmon River.

The U. S. Department of the Interior proposes, as an alternative, to construct the Appaloosa Dam, about 8 miles above the mouth of the Salmon. This would also require a second dam, Low Mountain Sheep.

Who opposes the dams? Northwest and national conservation and wildlife organizations are joining together to oppose any further dam construction on this part of the Snake River.

What will be the effect of the dams? Any of the dams under consideration would drown out the unique values of Hell's Canyon. The river benches and beaches will be gone, replaced by a deep well with as much as 170 feet of drawdown that would leave long, ugly benches, mud flats, and stained canyon walls. Construction activities and the reservoir would adversely affect surrounding *de facto* wilderness lands, by destroying key wild values of this canyon-and-river wilderness landscape.

Nearly 8,000 acres of big game winter range would be flooded, with the probability that game herds would be severely affected. Salmon and steelhead fishing would be completely eliminated. The rare white sturgeon will also be wiped out. In place of the present superb game fishery there would be a reservoir favorable to trash fish.

There is no other great river in America which has such wild and unique features, yet is so easily accessible either by boat or by trail.

There are alternative sources of electric power. The power companies say that this is the last major power dam site in the northwest. They also say that they are going to start building nuclear plants on a large scale to meet the future power needs of the Northwest. Government officials have indicated that even if dams in Hell's Canyon are constructed, **it will only delay the construction of nuclear plants in the Northwest some seven months.**

Conservationists do not believe it is necessary to sacrifice the unique resources of Hell's Canyon for the sake of a seven-month delay in switching to nuclear power. There are alternate sources of power; **there is only one Hell's Canyon.**

You may wish to join the Hell's Canyon Preservation Council (\$2.00; P. O. Box 691, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401). They will keep you informed on this vitally important issue.

* * * * *

The text is taken from **Wilderness Society Newsletter**, August 12, 1968, with editorial changes by Tom McAllister.



By the Wayside...

Summer Tanager Observation: On September 29, 1967 in mid-afternoon and in good light, a Summer Tanager came to our yard. It lit in a large poplar about 15 feet from the ground. This tree stands 15 feet from the window where I had an excellent opportunity to study and identify it. I am well acquainted with the Scarlet Tanager, but this bird was **all red!** The red on the wings and tail was a duller red than the rest of its body. The beak was quite long and a dull yellow in color. This sighting took place on our farm in southern Burnett county.—Helen Caldwell, Grantsburg.

Rare Western Shorebird Visits State: On September 1, 1967, a companion and I found an Avocet in a shallow slough of the Mississippi River, just beyond the Wisconsin end of the Dubuque-Wisconsin bridge. This would be in extreme southwest Grant county.

We had the Avocet under observation for more than fifteen minutes—flying, at rest and feeding. It fed mostly near, rather than in, the company of a small group of Blue-winged Teal. There also were other shorebirds present but it consistently fed in deeper water than any of the rest. There was no trace of the cinnamon streak on the neck; the bird was entirely black and white. (Only six weeks earlier birds I observed in the West were still in brilliant nuptial plumage.)—Rev. Edward Greer, Dubuque, Iowa.

Cattle Egret Near Plymouth: On Friday, October 20 I went east of Plymouth about a half mile to perhaps see the white egret which was reported to me. From the description I believed it to be a Cattle Egret.

Driving east on Highway 23 I noticed a white bird fly across the highway about a hundred yards away. Then as I got closer, I spotted the bird in tall grass a few feet from the shoulder of the road, but plainly visible. The size, for an egret, was small. It was white with a yellow bill and dark, but not black looking legs. I also noted the ruffed feathers under the bill at the throat.

I saw the bird again on October 23. It was just off the road on a bank and plainly visible. I drove the car on the shoulder to get a picture but the bird flew a hundred feet away. This time I drove fairly close and got out of the car with the camera but as I approached, the bird took off, this time going into a field amongst some cows.

Initial observations were made at 40 feet with 7x binoculars.—Harold Koopman, Plymouth.

Western Grebe Observed: October 17, 1967. 5:00 to 5:30 p. m. Columbia county. Sky clear, sun starting to set behind us. Wind 20-25mph with small waves, few white caps on lake.

The Western Grebe was about 30 to 60 yards offshore, and kept swimming in and out very slowly. He stayed nearby the entire time we watched and only in the last few minutes did he show any activity other than sometimes ducking his head for a matter of seconds. He

seemed rather sleepy, closing his eyes from time to time. He dove about twice just before we left him, each time on his dive he traveled about 15 to 20 yards before resurfacing.

He was very large for a grebe, almost twice as large as the Pied-billed Grebes which were in the general area. The neck was the most noticeable part of the bird; it was long and slender and very white on the under throat part. The white ended sharply in a line which seemed to show a little rufous before it blended into black. The front of the breast was also very white. The shoulders of the bird were black. This extended down the sides and back to the rump. The white and black of the head continued from the neck onto the face in a straight, crisp line.

This bird was on the east side of Whalens Grade which is a bay off of Lake Wisconsin, about seven miles west of Poynette. Observation was made with 7x binoculars and 20x scope.—Mark Tomlinson, Columbia county.

Leconte's Sparrow Sighting: I observed a Leconte's Sparrow on October 15 and 17 in a field of tall, wet reed canary grass about 200 yards from where we live in southern Madison. I probably saw the species two other times about a week earlier in the same place but only got glimpses of a short, sharptailed, yellowish sparrow which flashed ahead of me and somehow escaped me even though I knew exactly where it lit. However on October 15 I was able to watch the bird at my leisure as it perched on a tall clump of grass. I noted all the field marks including the buffy throat and breast with fine streaks and the purplish collar and buffy median head stripe. I also observed that the bird is able to walk up and down two adjacent grass stems much like a marsh wren with one foot about each stem.—Richard Sandburg, Madison.

Herring Gull Attacking Ducks: On October 22, 1967, I watched a Herring Gull harassing a raft of ducks on Lake Winnebago—hundreds would flee as it approached. During the afternoon of that day, two Ruddy Ducks were approached by the gull. It was a near adult gull, probably in its third year bearing only freckles of brown or gray on its neck. It made two sweeps at the ducks and each time they would dive. On the third attack it grabbed one by the back of the neck. While the gull continued to flap its wings, it pushed on the duck's back with its feet and pulled up as if attempting to decapitate it. The duck managed to free itself and dove. After two more attempts the gull gave up and flew out again.—Rockne Knuth, Fond du Lac.

Frederick Kent Truslow, a freelance naturalist and wildlife photographer from Florida, reported in the **Living Bird**, Sixth Annual of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 1967, p. 227, an amazing (well documented by color photographs) account of egg-carrying by the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileates*). The pine tree in which the pair of birds had excavated, collapsed suddenly across the hole. The female returned to the stub and carried off (one at a time) three eggs to an unknown site.





FIELD NOTES

The Autumn Season

August 16-November 30, 1967

By DARYL TESSEN

Unfavorable weather, which typified the summer period, continued into the autumn season. August was abnormally cool, with four frosts occurring during the month. Northeastern Wisconsin (Langlade county) experienced the first frost on August 11, with western Wisconsin experiencing a killing frost on August 18. Temperatures continued somewhat on the cool side during September, broken by short intervals of warm weather. October opened with abnormally warm weather but by late October snow flurries were spreading over the state. Many lakes and ponds froze over during the first week of November but with the return of above normal temperatures during mid-November most areas had reopened. At the close of the season, lower temperatures had caused the majority of lakes to freeze over for the winter. Precipitation was highly variable throughout the period. Generally the ground was bare throughout the state with the advent of the winter season.

Despite the unseasonably cool temperatures there was only a small migration at the outset of the period, that occurring on August 17-19. The major flights commenced at the end of August, with one occurring on Aug. 29-30. This was followed by additional flights on Sep. 17-19, Sep. 25-27, Oct. 2, Oct. 14, and Oct. 24-28.

This autumn reporters were unanimous in their comments regarding the migration. Comments indicated many species were below average in numbers, and therefore expectantly uncommonly difficult to observe during the period. Mrs. Carol Rudy, Langlade county, writes about the migration: "Poor! Many species which should be common were not seen at all or only in small numbers, so that I was unable to note any arrival, departure, or peak dates only a few scattered individuals." This was especially true for a variety of waterfowl species, i.e., Mallard, Canvasback, Wood and Ring-necked Ducks, and the passerines.

An explanation for such a disappointing migration is not easy. However a probable factor is the unseasonably wet and cool summer, especially during June. Carol Rudy writes: "Of the many species that were down (in numbers), the most drastic were the ground nesters. Last June was the wettest we have had in a long time, and cold. I remember going into good Ovenbird territory several times and finding 2 to 3 inches of water standing on the ground surface. This of course was disastrous to their nesting success. In the bog where I have been carrying out a band-

ing project, the water was standing several inches deep all summer. The few times that I was able to get my nets up there, I didn't catch a thing—usually in summer it abounds with young White-throats, Hermit Thrushes and Nashville Warblers. I do not believe these species were able to raise young due to the depth of the water in the moss where they nest.”

A similar comment comes from Irma Chipman, Waushara county: “Local songbird hatch was poor this year with the exception of Bluejays. I think their first nestings were lost but we had many young jays here from August 16 on. There were fewer Red-headed Woodpeckers than in past years. I only saw three young all summer and two of these were road kill. This is the first year that we had no Song Sparrows bring their young into the yard to feed. Local birds with young stayed around longer than usual, due to their early nestings being mostly failures. This is the first time I have ever noted so many birds still feeding young after Labor Day.”

Thus the stage was set for this fall's subpar migration during the summer months. Reinforcing this is the fact that the normal fall migration is less spectacular than that in the spring. Instead it is of a more leisurely variety extending over a longer period of time. Normally spectacular flights occur only if major frontal systems pass through the state. This fall such was lacking. Evidence to this effect is to be found in the unusually late major flight that occurred during the last week of October (24th-28th). In 1966 the last major flight occurred between Oct. 16-19, while in 1965 the last flight was on Oct. 1.

Species Summary

Waterfowl: Whistling Swan, away from Lakes Michigan and Superior, were less widely distributed and numerous Canada Geese were likewise observed in lower numbers. This was especially true at Horicon Marsh where they peaked 35,000 lower than in 1966. Biologist James March, in an extensive summary of the waterfowl migration this fall, writes: “The usual flight (of Canada Geese) down the west shore of Lake Michigan did not materialize or at least the geese did not stop off, and areas such as Green Bay, Collins Marsh and Sheboygan Marsh had far fewer geese than in 1966.” In regard to the duck flight he comments: “Mallard numbers were down from 1966. Once local birds were either shot off or had migrated, this species was scarce. The number of migrant Mallards was also apparently below average. The anticipated decrease in the Wood Duck flight was evident as this species was not present in the numbers that might be expected in a year of good or average production. Blue-winged Teal were slightly up from 1966 but because the major Blue-winged migration came in September, they were not available to hunters. Canvasbacks were again down in numbers. Redheads remained about the same as in 1966 despite fair local production. The major diver flights came during the last week of October. The inland scaup flight was not exceptional but Lake Michigan held large numbers. Ring necks probably were below 1966 because of poor production.” Also noteworthy is the excellent flight of all three scoter species in the state this fall.

Game Birds: Ruffed Grouse were up in numbers in the state. However, Pheasants were considerably lower in numbers, perhaps due to the abnormal rainfall during the early summer.

Shorebirds: No sizable concentrations were reported in the state, with higher than normal waterlevels eliminating many favorable habitats in the eastern part of the state. In the western portion of the state opposite conditions prevailed where unseasonably dry weather occurred during September and October, drying up shorebird haunts. As a result the migration was again subpar.

Cuckoos: A poor cuckoo year was implied by very few reports of either species during the migratory period.

Chickadees, Nuthatches: Both the Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees were present in low numbers. However the scarcity of the Black-capped is most alarming, as they were present throughout the state in shockingly low numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatches have not been numerous in the state since the fall of 1965. This year their numbers were even subpar in the northern counties.

Thrushes: A big movement over last fall, with most reporters indicating a good migration. Of particular interest is the spectacular day had by Bernard Brouchoud at his banding station in Manitowoc where 700 thrushes were banded on Sep. 21. Only the Bluebirds remain disturbingly low in numbers. However the Hermit Thrush could bear close watching if another poor nesting season or two follow up this year's.

Kinglets: Both species were present in good numbers with the Golden-crowned making its best showing since 1961.

Warblers: Despite a series of unusually late departure dates, including several state records, the flight of this bird group was extremely poor. Numerous reporters failed to observe many of the warbler species at all this fall or noted only one or two individuals of various species during the entire fall period. Only the Myrtle Warbler seemed present in good numbers.

Finches: Another "finchless" fall best describes the migration this year. Only one White-winged Crossbill and Pine Grosbeak were observed during the entire period. Evening Grosbeaks were found only in the northern counties while Redpolls were almost totally absent from the state. Likewise the Purple Finch flight was very poor, with one day observations of single birds predominating. Pine Siskins were almost totally absent in the state until late November when a major movement commenced in several northern counties. The only species to show up in good numbers was the Red Crossbill. There were reports of flocks from various parts of the state with their numbers increasing sharply in the northern counties commencing in mid-November. The cone crop in these latter counties was exceptionally good, being reported as the best ever in some instances. This undoubtedly accounted for the movement of several finch species into the counties during November.

Sparrows: No general pattern evident for this group, with some species below par in numbers with others above average. The Harris' and especially the White-crowned had good flights.

Interesting Species

A total of 260 species was observed in the state during the period. This represents a modest gain of five species over 1966. Most unusual was the sighting of a Summer Tanager; two rarely observed American Avocets; the observation of three Swainson's Hawks; the presence in east-

central Wisconsin of Cattle Egrets; two reports of Western Grebes; the finding of a dead Yellow Rail; and the sighting of four White Pelicans and five Leconte's Sparrows this fall. Also noteworthy are the following species: Eared Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Brant, Harlequin Duck, Surf and Common Scoters, Golden Eagle, Spruce Grouse, King Rail, Western Sandpiper, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Brewster's Warbler and Orchard Oriole.

The Season Summary

Common Loon: Birds lingered into December in the following counties: Sauk (KL), Washington (NS), and Dane (JE, R & ES).

Red-throated Loon: Two reports this fall: Columbia county, Oct. 19 (R & ES); Ozaukee county, Oct. 28 (DG).

Horned Grebe: Late November dates reported from Winnebago county, Nov. 25 (DT); Washington county, 10 on Nov. 26 (NS); and Kenosha county, Nov. 28 (JH).

Eared Grebe: Two individuals were observed in Wisconsin this fall. One was noted on Vernon Marsh in Waukesha county on Sep. 4 (DG). The other was present in Dane county between Nov. 7 and 19 (R & ES et al).

Western Grebe: Three individuals were noted in St. Croix county on Oct. 6 (SR). One individual was observed on Lake Wisconsin in Columbia county on Oct. 17 (RD, MT). See "By the Wayside."

Pied-billed Grebe: Seven November departure dates with individuals still present at the beginning of the winter period in Sauk (KL) and Winnebago (DT) counties.

White Pelican: This western species was seen for the second consecutive fall in the state. All sightings occurred during the month of November beginning with one in Milwaukee county on the 4th (DG). This was followed by one in Brown county on the 6th (GD); one found dying on Sherwood Lake in Clark county on the 13th (TH); one in Washburn county on the 15th.

Double-crested Cormorant: This species continues to become increasingly harder to observe in the state, especially during the autumn season. This fall there were two sightings, as compared to three in 1966 and one in 1965. One individual was observed in Lincoln county on Oct. 15 (AR). A late individual was noted in Dane county on Nov. 17 (JB).

Great Blue Heron: A similar migratory pattern existed this fall for this species as did in 1966. There was but one November observation in the state, that on the 12th in Racine county (LE).

Green Heron: Two October departure dates: the 11th in Waukesha county (DB) and the 28th in Dane county (R & ES). The latter is a very late departure date.

Common Egret: A poor season for this species. There were very few reports indicating few individuals present and little movement away from their breeding grounds. It was present between Sep. 10 and Oct. 21 in Fond du Lac county (R & CK); noted in Dodge county on Sep. 30 (DG); present at the beginning of the period until Oct. 7 in Brown county (EC, EP).

Cattle Egret: One individual observed on Oct. 20 and 23 in Sheboygan county (HK). See "By the Wayside." One also observed in Dodge county on Oct. 23 (HM).

Black-crowned Night Heron: There were four October departure dates again this year with the latest being on the 25th in Dane county (JE).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: The only report this fall was of the individuals in Milwaukee county which remained on their breeding ground through Aug. 29 (DG).

Least Bittern: The only fall report of this highly illusive species came from Dane county where it was last noted on Sep. 21 (R & ES).

American Bittern: This fall there were no less than eight October departure dates in contrast to three in 1966 and only one in 1965. The latest this year was the 21st from Winnebago county (DT).

Whistling Swan: For the third consecutive fall this species was noted in twelve counties. It was first observed in the state on Oct. 21 in Fond du Lac county (CK). A major migration occurred during the week of November 3 when several thousand

moved onto Green Bay (JM). Individuals were still present at the beginning of December in Marinette county (HL).

Canada Goose: First noted in Wood county when two individuals were observed on Aug. 19 (SR). This was followed by September dates from Door county, the 3rd (LE) and 8th (JH). The first migration occurred on Sep. 20-24 with reports coming from many observers. However the migration this year was off from the previous year as the peak at Horicon Marsh occurred on Oct. 19 with 113,000 present. In 1966 the peak was 147,000. Individuals lingered into December in Rock and Dane counties and at Horicon Marsh with 70,000 birds still present at the latter place (JM).

American Brant: The ninth state record occurred for this species when one was observed at Horicon Marsh on Nov. 14 (DH).

Snow and Blue Geese: Both species were observed in 13 counties this fall, being first noted on the Crex Meadows on Sep. 20. The peak occurred there on Oct. 25 with a combined total of 4,500 individuals present; the peak at Horicon Marsh was 1,200 on Oct. 19 and at Powell Marsh 1,100 on Oct. 18. 80 Snow Geese were counted in Racine county on Nov. 30 (EP) while the last Blues were observed in Sheboygan county on Nov. 11 (DG).

Mallard: Interesting are the peaks reached at various refuges in the state: the Mead Wildlife Area had 10,000-15,000 present on Oct. 7; Necedah Refuge peaked at 9,500 on Oct. 22-28; Crex Meadows had 12,000 present on Oct. 25. Despite these figures the overall report was not encouraging as this species was reported down in numbers from 1966 (JM).

Gadwall: 575 individuals were present on Oct. 29-Nov. 4 at Necedah Refuge. One was still present on Nov. 29 in Racine county (LE); also reported present at the end of the period in Dane county (R & ES).

Pintail: The following peaks were noted this year: 1,000 on Sep. 23, Mead Wildlife Area; 1,000 on Oct. 7, Rush Lake; 700 on Oct. 15-21, Necedah Refuge.

Green-winged Teal: 450 birds were present at Necedah Refuge on Aug. 27-Sep. 2. Last noted in the state on Nov. 24 in Columbia county (DG) and eight individuals on Nov. 26 in Racine county (LE).

Blue-winged Teal: 1,150 birds also present at Necedah on Aug. 27-Sep. 2; in Milwaukee county on Nov. 26 (ES).

American Widgeon: Peaks at Necedah of 5,200 on Oct. 1-7 and at Rush Lake of 3,500 on Oct. 7. Reported as present at the end of the period in Winnebago (DT), Dane (R & ES) and Racine (EP) counties.

Shoveler: Reported at the beginning of the winter period in Racine county (LE).

Wood Duck: Peaks of 1,500 individuals at both Crex Meadows and Necedah Refuge this fall, both occurring around the end of September. There were several November departure dates with only Racine county reporting a lingering individual into December (LE).

Redhead: First reported in the state this fall on Sep. 2 in Columbia county (RD). Last report was three individuals in Winnebago county on Nov. 25 (DT).

Ring-necked Duck: First from Outagamie county on Aug. 22 (DT); peaking at Crex Meadows on Oct. 2 at 5,500 and at Necedah Refuge on Oct. 22-28 at 4,400. Still present in Sauk county at the end of November (KL).

Canvasback: First arrivals were noted in Brown county on Sep. 15 (EC, EP). 10,000 birds were present on Lake Poygan on Oct. 29-Nov. 4 (JM). Lingered into the winter period in Dane county (R & ES), 15 individuals in Winnebago county (DT) and 18 individuals in Racine county (LE).

Greater Scaup: Fall arrivals in Brown county on Oct. 13 (EC, EP). Noted inland in Fond du Lac (RK) and Price (AV) counties this fall.

Lesser Scaup: Reported as present at the beginning of the period in St. Croix county (SR). This was followed by a Sep. 7 arrival date from Douglas county (RB). Seven counties had birds at the beginning of December: Brown (EC, EP), Washington (NS), Sauk (KL), Outagamie (DT), Racine (LE), Dane (R & ES), and 120 in Winnebago (DT).

Common Goldeneye: A report of one summering bird present into the fall period in St. Croix county (SR). This was followed by one individual observed on Aug. 22 in Outagamie county with two present on Sep. 16 (DT). None were noted until Oct. 21 in Fond du Lac county (CK). Then a wave of early November arrival dates followed.

Bufflehead: There were five October arrival dates with the first coming from Price county on the 8th (AV).

Old Squaw: No observations until Nov. 4 when 500 were counted in Milwaukee (R & ES).

Harlequin Duck: The only report this fall comes from Racine county where an individual appeared on Nov. 25 and remained well into December (LE).

White-winged Scoter: A good migration of this as well as the other scoter species which differs greatly from the autumns of 1966 and 1965. It was observed in four counties including Fond du Lac, 3 on Oct. 21 (RK, CK), Milwaukee on Oct. 25 (MD) and 12 on Nov. 4 (R & ES); Ozaukee, 31 on Oct. 28 and 18 on Nov. 11 (DG); Washington on Nov. 19 (NS).

Surf Scoter: Three individuals were observed on Oct. 15 in Price county (AV); two females were first noted on Oct. 23 in Milwaukee (MD, DG), remaining through Nov. 2.

Common Scoter: Reported from three counties this fall: Green Lake where three were present on Oct. 22 (JM); Milwaukee, where ten were first noted on Oct. 23 (MD, DG) with three still present on Nov. 9; Taylor, where one was reportedly shot by a hunter during October (TH).

Ruddy Duck: Present at the beginning of the period in St. Croix county (SR). This was followed by arrival dates from Brown county, Sep. 3 (EC, EP), Dane (R & ES) and Outagamie (DT) counties, Sep. 16. Individuals were still present at the end of November in Dane, Racine and Winnebago counties.

Hooded Merganser: Price (AV) and St. Croix (SR) counties had individuals already at the beginning of the period. Next noted in Brown county on Sep. 4 (EC, EP) and Douglas county on Sep. 15 (RB). 175 were present at the Necedah Refuge between Nov. 12-18. Early December dates from Dane (JE, R & ES) and Racine (LE) counties.

Common Merganser: A typical fall migration with three October arrival dates: the 25th in St. Croix county (SR), the 26th in Milwaukee (MD) and the 28th in Fond du Lac county (RK). 650 were counted in Racine county on Nov. 29.

Red-breasted Merganser: Oct. 18, Sauk county (KL); Oct. 20, Brown county (EC, EP); Oct. 21, Winnebago county (DT); 330 birds on Nov. 29 in Racine county (LE).

Turkey Vulture: Only four counties reporting this fall: Waukesha, where it was observed from mid-August through Oct. 4 (DB, Mrs. PH, DG, JB); Vernon, Aug. 23 (VW); Jefferson, Sep. 9 (ES); St. Croix, Sep. 27-30 (SR).

Goshawk: Three reports: Oct. 8, Sheboygan county (FR); Oct. 15, Brown county (EC, EP); Nov. 19, Milwaukee county (DG).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: First on Aug. 17 from Racine county (LE). Last on Nov. 23 in Milwaukee county (DG). Also seen in Waukesha, Marinette, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, St. Croix and Sauk counties. No definite migration pattern was noted this fall.

Cooper's Hawk: Observations were made between Aug. 20 and Nov. 18 this fall with no major flights noted. Reports came from nine counties again this fall.

Red-shouldered Hawk: The only flight noted was of 65 birds seen on Sep. 21 in St. Croix county (SR).

Broad-winged Hawk: First on Sep. 7 in Brown county (EC, EP). On Sep. 21 probably a major flight occurred in the state although confirming information from major hawk observation points is lacking. On this day 65 were seen in St. Croix (SR) and 50 in Jackson (RF) counties. Last, and late for a flock, on Oct. 15 when 21 were counted in Price county (TN).

Swainson's Hawk: Three individuals of this western species were noted in the state this fall. One was observed on Sep. 1, and two on Sep. 11, all in St. Croix county (SR).

Rough-legged Hawk: Sep. 21, Vernon county (VW) and Sep. 23, Outagamie county (DT) were the arrival dates this fall.

Golden Eagle: Only one report this fall, that from Washburn county on Nov. 24 (RSO).

Bald Eagle: Reported only from seven counties this fall, in contrast to 9 in 1966, and 14 in 1965. Largest number reported was seven from Necedah Refuge.

Osprey: Nine counties reporting this fall including Brown, Rock, Dane, Marinette, St. Croix, Sauk, LaCrosse, Buffalo and Racine. The last four counties reported unusually late departure dates: Oct. 13 (KL), Oct. 17 (FL), Oct. 19 (WH), Oct. 29 (LE), respectively.

Peregrine Falcon: This species continues to become rarer each year in the state. Only two reports this fall: Aug. 24, Bayfield county (BK); Oct. 14, Dane county (CW).

Spruce Grouse: Two were observed on Oct. 15 in Ashland county (MH).

Bobwhite: Only two counties reporting this fall: Rock (Mrs. JB, Mrs. JM) and LaCrosse (FL).

Sandhill Crane: More reports than usual and good numbers noted in several places in the state this fall, with six counties reporting: Waukesha, present through Sep. 17 (DB); Ozaukee, present through Oct. 21 (DG); Marquette, Sep. 10 (R & ES); Juneau, with 180 present between Sep. 10-16 at the Necedah Refuge; Wood, with 100 present on Sep. 30 (DC); Jefferson—2 on Sep. 2, 46 on Oct. 16, 20 on Oct. 21 and 55 on Nov. 4 (ES, AR).

King Rail: Three reports: Aug. 19, Dodge county (DB); Sep. 4, Waukesha county (DG); Sep. 7, Dane county (R & ES).

Virginia Rail: Seven reporting counties including Winnebago, Rock, Marinette, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Dane and on Oct. 14 in Ozaukee (DG).

Sora: Three October departure dates: Oct. 1, St. Croix county (SR); Oct. 1, Dane county (R & ES); Oct. 14, Ozaukee county (DG).

Yellow Rail: One found dead in Milwaukee county in September (JG).

Common Gallinule: October departure dates from Fond du Lac, Brown, and Winnebago counties and a state record departure date of Nov. 4 in Waukesha county (DG).

American Coot: Present at the beginning of the winter period in Brown, Dane, Milwaukee, Racine, Sauk with many still present in Washington county (NS).

Semipalmated Plover: A normal departure date of Sep. 28 from Milwaukee county (DG).

Piping Plover: Two observed in Milwaukee on Aug. 18 (MD, DG).

Killdeer: Six November departure dates with the latest on Nov. 12 in Racine county (LE).

Golden Plover: Fewer reports this fall with the species observed in seven counties. 91 present on Aug. 21 in Racine county (DG). Last on Oct. 2 in St. Croix county (SR).

Black-bellied Plover: Likewise fewer reports this fall with only nine counties reporting. First—Aug. 23, Fond du Lac county (RK); last—Nov. 12, Racine county (EP).

Ruddy Turnstone: Milwaukee county, Aug. 18 (MD), Sep. 10 (DG); Racine county, Sep. 10 (DG); Brown county, Sep. 24 (EC, EP); Outagamie county, a unusually late date of Oct. 21 (DT).

Woodcock: Last noted in Outagamie county on Nov. 12 (AB).

Common Snipe: In Milwaukee county on Nov. 20 (ES) was the last bird observed.

Upland Plover: Two reports: Milwaukee county, Aug. 17 (DG); Brown county, Sep. 2 (EC, EP).

Spotted Sandpiper: A departure date of Oct. 14 in Fond du Lac county (CK, RK).

Solitary Sandpiper: Oct. 10, Milwaukee county (ES).

Greater Yellowlegs: An unusually late departure date, three weeks later than any others this fall, occurred in Waukesha county on Nov. 25 (JB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: An unusually late departure date comes from two counties, both a month later than other dates. Birds were observed on Nov. 12 in Sauk (KL) and Racine (LE) counties.

Knot: One in Fond du Lac county on Aug. 28 (RK); three in Racine county, also on Aug. 28 (DG).

Pectoral Sandpiper: A late departure date of Nov. 12 when 6 birds were counted in Racine county (EP).

White-rumped Sandpiper: This species is seen far less frequently in the fall than the spring. This fall there were these observations: Sep. 5, Waukesha county (Mrs. PH); Sep. 7, Douglas county (RB); Sep. 16, Dane county (CW).

Baird's Sandpiper: Found in seven counties, with a maximum of 9 in Dane county on Sep. 16 (CW). Interestingly the last report came from a northern county, St. Croix, on Oct. 5 (SR).

Least Sandpiper: Two unusually late departure dates for the state: Oct. 20, Waukesha county (DB); Oct. 21, Outagamie county (DT).

Dunlin: An Aug. 12 arrival date in Fond du Lac county (RK). Reports followed from seven additional counties, with the last noted in Racine county on Nov. 19 (EP).

Dowitcher: Present through Aug. 23 when 13 were observed in St. Croix county (SR); Outagamie county, Aug. 19, 11 on Aug. 20, Sep. 23 (DT); Fond du Lac county, Aug. 31, Sep. 4 (CK, RK); Brown county, Sep. 4 (MW); Douglas county, Sep. 5 (RB); Columbia county, an unusually late date of Oct. 21 (RD). Birds identified by their call-note as Short-billed were noted in Waukesha county, Aug. 19-Sep. 21 (DB, JB, DG); St. Croix county, Sep. 20 (SR); Dane county, Aug. 22-Sep. 15 (JB, R & ES); and Milwaukee county where 29 were counted on Sep. 5 (DG). Long-billed, also identified by their call-note, were observed in Dane county, 2 on Sep. 21 (R & ES) and Dodge county, Aug. 25, Sep. 30 (DG).

Stilt Sandpiper: St. Croix county, Aug. 14, 7 on Aug. 23, Sep. 12 (SR); Douglas county, Aug. 16 (MG); Dodge county, Aug. 25 (DG), Sep. 3 (RD); Fond du Lac county, 2 on Aug. 28 and 31 (RK); Dane county, between Sep. 2-10 with a maximum of 3 present (JB, R & ES, SR); Outagamie county, Sep. 16 (DT); Racine county, a record state departure of Nov. 12 (EP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A departure date of Oct. 1 in Waukesha county (DG).

Western Sandpiper: Two well documented reports this fall of one observed in Milwaukee county on Aug. 27 and Sep. 1-2 (DC) and six in Dane county on Sep. 13 (R & ES).

Sanderling: Inland reports from Outagamie county where one was present between Sep. 15-23 (AB, DT) and Fond du Lac county where it was noted between Aug. 20-Oct. 3 (RK, CK). Also observed in Brown, Douglas, Sheboygan and Racine with four being noted on Nov. 12 (EP) in the latter county.

Avocet: Two observations of this rarely observed western shorebird in the state this fall. One was observed in Grant county on Sep. 1 (REG), see "By the Wayside," and one was observed during September in Pierce county (RB).

Wilson's Phalarope: Four reports: Aug. 21, Dane county (R & ES); Aug. 26, Dodge county (DG); Sep. 2, Columbia county (RD); unusually late dates of Oct. 12-29, Fond du Lac county (RK).

Northern Phalarope: Observed in Dane county, Aug. 27-Sep. 13 (R & ES, JB, CW); Brown county, Sep. 4 (MW); Price county, Sep. 11-14 (AV); St. Croix county, 2 on Sep. 19 (SR) but the most unusual was the Racine record where one individual was observed swimming along the shore in Racine on Dec. 3 (LE) and 2 were noted at Wood Point on Dec. 4-5 (MD, LD).

Herring Gull: 1,670 counted at Racine on Nov. 10 (LE).

Ring-billed Gull: 400 at Kenosha on Oct. 24 (JH) and 415 at Racine on Nov. 30 (LE).

Franklin's Gull: There was no major movement of this species into the state this fall as in past years. Individuals were observed on Aug. 19, on Sep. 3 (19) and last on Nov. 2 in Milwaukee (DG); Sep. 15 in Douglas county (RB); Oct. 22 in Fond du Lac county (RK, CK); Sep. 29-Oct. 25 with 25 counted on Sep. 30 in St. Croix county (SR).

Bonaparte's Gull: August dates from Fond du Lac and St. Croix counties, the 19th and 26th, respectively. November dates from Milwaukee, Waukesha, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, where 200 were noted on Nov. 21 (JH) and Winnebago, where 5 were observed on Nov. 25 (DT), counties.

Forster's Tern: Fewer reports this year than last with only two October dates: Oct. 14, Dane county (R & ES) and Oct. 21, Winnebago county (DT).

Common Tern: Last from Fond du Lac county, Oct. 1 (CK); Brown and Milwaukee counties, Oct. 2 (EC, EP, DG).

Caspian Tern: Reported between Aug. 18 and Oct. 4 from Outagamie, Door, Milwaukee, Winnebago and Brown counties. 21 in Door county on Sep. 4 (LE) and 14 in Outagamie county on Sep. 16 (DT) were the maximum numbers reported.

Black Tern: Interestingly, the last report is one month later than all other reported dates this fall—Oct. 5, Milwaukee county (DG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sep. 22, Dane county (R & ES).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only October departure date came from Dane county, Oct. 11 (R & ES).

Barn Owl: One was found dead on Oct. 2 in Racine county (MM).

Screech Owl: Observed in Brown, St. Croix, Winnebago, Vernon, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Waukesha, Milwaukee and Rock counties.

Snowy Owl: Observed in Douglas county commencing on Nov. 11 with 5 present by Nov. 23 (RB). One began appearing on Nov. 26 in Washington county (NS).

Long-eared Owl: The following observations this fall: Rock county, Aug. 28 and Nov. 10 (Mrs. JB); Sheboygan county, Oct. 21 (DG); Milwaukee county, Nov. 16 (MD); Dane county, Nov. 12 (R & ES, CW).

Short-eared Owl: Two individuals were present during the entire fall period in Waukesha county (DB); Washington county, Sep. 2-12 (Mrs. LM); Jefferson county, 2 on Oct. 21 (AR); Racine county, Nov. 12 (EP); Milwaukee county, Nov. 5-18 with 7 present on the latter date (DG, MD).

Saw-whet Owl: Douglas county, Sep. 10-11 (RB); Rock county, Oct. 7 (MM); Sheboygan county, Oct. 21 (DG); Ozaukee county, one found dead on Oct. 21 (DG); only 45 were banded by November in Manitowoc county, as compared to 94 during a similar period last year (BB).

Whip-poor-will: Sep. 21, Dane county (TS).

Nighthawk: Two large migrations were observed this fall. The first occurred on Aug. 25 in Langlade county, when an average of twenty birds per minute passed through all afternoon (Mrs. CR). The other was in Waupaca county when a large flight was observed moving before a storm front (Mrs. RR). Departed on Oct. 1 from Milwaukee and Brown counties; Oct. 2 from Outagamie and Racine counties; Oct. 3 from Dane and Kenosha counties.

Chimney Swift: Two October 8 departure dates: Fond du Lac (RK, CK) and Dane (R & ES) counties.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oct. 3, Milwaukee county (ES).

Belted Kingfisher: Reported as present at the beginning of the winter period from Sauk (KL) and Waukesha (DB) counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reported from Door (RL) and Rock (Mrs. JB) counties in early December.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: One bird was observed in Sheboygan county on Oct. 16 (FR). Another was observed in Milwaukee county on Nov. 13 and 15 (DH).

Eastern Kingbird: A very late bird observed in Rock county on Oct. 3 (Mrs. JM).

Crested Flycatcher: Sep. 19, Dane county (JE).

Phoebe: A remarkable series of departure dates this year. There were nine dates between Oct. 1-17. In addition there were two late October dates and the following in November: the 1st, Waushara county (IC); the 4th, Waukesha county (DG); and the 7th, Dane county (JE).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Observed between Aug. 22, St. Croix (SR) and Waukesha (DG) counties and Sep. 16, Waukesha county (DB).

Acadian Flycatcher: A record state departure of Sep. 8, when a bird was carefully identified by its song in Waukesha county (JB).

Traill's Flycatcher: Only four counties reporting this fall: Outagamie, Aug. 20 (DT); Brown, Aug. 25 (EC, EP); Ozaukee, Aug. 28 (DG); Fond du Lac, Sep. 3 (CK).

Least Flycatcher: The last individual was observed from a northern county, St. Croix, when one was identified by its call on Oct. 3 (SR).

Wood Pewee: Three departure dates: Oct. 1, Vernon county (VW); Oct. 3, Rock county (Mrs. JB); Oct. 6, Dane county (JE).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Only five reports this fall, all between Aug. 21 and Sep. 4, coming from Milwaukee, Sauk, St. Croix, Rock and Waukesha counties.

Tree Swallow: The only sizable migration occurred in Outagamie and Winnebago counties on Sep. 23 when several hundred were observed moving south (DT). Last noted on Oct. 21 in Fond du Lac county (CK, RK).

Bank Swallow: A Sep. 26 departure date from Fond du Lac county (RK).

Rough-winged Swallow: Latest, also in Fond du Lac, on Sep. 27 (RK).

Barn Swallow: Thousands were reported migrating through Winnebago county on Sep. 19 (IC). A late date from Waukesha county on Oct. 1 (DG) and an exceptionally late date of Oct. 25 in Fond du Lac county (CK).

Cliff Swallow: Only five reports, all from mid-September on, with the last on Sep. 30 in Dodge county (DG).

Purple Martin: Sep. 30, Fond du Lac county, is a late date (RK).

Gray Jay: There were considerably fewer reports this fall with numbers being below average. The only exception occurred in Bayfield county when large numbers were reported beginning on November 17 and continuing into December (Mrs. JB). Also observed in October and November in Price county (AV), October in Sawyer county (Mrs. JM), and November in Douglas (RB) and Forest (Mrs. RR, WH, CR) counties.

Raven: Reports from Forest, Price, Bayfield and Douglas counties. In addition there were two reports south of the normal range: Jackson county on Nov. 3 (SR) and Monroe county on Nov. 16 (WH). There were fewer reports of this species this fall.

Crow: 250 on Oct. 27 in Vernon county (VW) and 12,000+ on Nov. 13 in Milwaukee county (ES).

Black-capped Chickadee: A suddenly disturbing situation with this species. This fall individuals were shockingly scarce, as commented by several observers. Apparently a similar situation exists in several of the surrounding states, as illustrated by a report in Michigan where 479 were banded at a station in 1965, 824 in 1966 and only 3 this fall (**Audubon Field Notes**). Whether this is due to a fall migration of the species or for some other reason is not known as yet but this species should be watched closely.

Boreal Chickadee: The only report this fall came from Forest county where it was observed between Sep. 3 and Nov. 25 (Mrs. RR).

Red-breasted Nuthatcher: Very few reports this fall, including from the northern counties where they are a resident. First report came from Milwaukee county on Sep. 17 (DG). This was followed by single reports from St. Croix, Racine, Bayfield, Wausara and Forest counties.

Brown Creeper: All observers reported arrival between Sep. 21-30 with the first from Price county on Sep. 21 (MH) and the second from Kenosha county on Sep. 22 (JH). These were followed by a deluge of reports.

House Wren: Four reports from three counties of departure on Sep. 30. In addition there were four October departure dates with the latest from Milwaukee county on Oct. 22 (DG).

Winter Wren: Another good fall for this species as there were 13 reports from eight counties. The first individual was observed in Milwaukee county on Sep. 9 (MD) and the last in Dane county on Nov. 5 (JE).

Carolina Wren: The first fall report in several years comes from Lafayette county where one was observed at a feeder on Nov. 5 and 9 (JW).

Long-billed Marsh Wren: Two exceptionally late dates this fall of single birds observed in Fond du Lac county on Nov. 10 (RK) and Winnebago county on Nov. 25 (DT). The latter bird lingered into December.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Dane county had the last reported individual, observed on Oct. 16 (R & ES).

Mockingbird: A single bird was observed at close range in a yard in Racine on Oct. 28 (LE).

Catbird: None after Nov. 9 in Dane county (JE).

Brown Thrasher: Reported as present in late November in Dane (JE), Racine (DJ), and Milwaukee (MD) counties.

Robin: 500 were observed on Oct. 16 in Waukesha county (Mrs. PH).

Wood Thrush: Last in the state on Sep. 25 in Sauk county (KL).

Hermit Thrush: Reports this fall occurred between August 29 and November 26, the latter in Kenosha county (JH).

Swainson's Thrush: Arrival dates from these counties: St. Croix, Aug. 27 (SR); Outagamie, Aug. 28 (DT); Sheboygan, Aug. 28 (DG); Manitowoc, Aug. 29 (JK); Pierce, Aug. 29 (SR); and Waukesha, Aug. 31 (DB). A major flight occurred on Sep. 21 as 235 were banded by Brouchoud in Manitowoc county. Last observed on Oct. 28 in Milwaukee (ES) and Racine (NB).

Gray-checked Thrush: Interestingly the first fall report comes from a far southern county, Rock, on Sep. 1 (MM). 470 were banded by Brouchoud, also on Sep. 21, in Manitowoc county. Oct. 27 in Washington county (Mrs. LM), was the departure date this fall.

Veery: Last reported in Price county on Nov. 8 (AV).

Bluebird: Numbers remain unimproved this fall with the largest numbers observed in Vernon county on Oct. 1 (18) (VW) and in St. Croix county on Oct. 16 (30) (SR). Three were observed on Nov. 3 in Milwaukee county (MD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: There were three reports this fall: Aug. 17 in Sheboygan county (DG); five on Aug. 23 in Sauk county (DG); Sep. 16 in Dane county (JE).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First observed in the state on Sep. 20 in Racine county (GB). This was followed by 10 arrivals from all over the state within the next five days. It was still present in late November in the following counties: Brown, Douglas, St. Croix, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sauk and Waukesha.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Observations were reported from Sep. 4 Marathon county (JW) through Nov. 25, Dane county (JE).

Water Pipit: First in Dane county on Sep. 24 (R & ES). 12 were observed on Oct. 5 in St. Croix county. Other reporting counties included Columbia, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Brown. It was last noted in Fond du Lac county on Nov. 25 (CK, RK).

Northern Shrike: Nov. 8, Douglas county (RB); Nov. 12, Forest County (CW); Nov. 14, Langlade county (Mrs. CR); Nov. 29, Monroe county (EH).

Loggerhead Shrike: None reported this fall.

Yellow-throated Vireo: The majority of departure dates fell between Sep. 14-24. The exceptions were Oct. 3, St. Croix county (SR); Oct. 5 (Vernon county (VW); Oct. 11, Rock county (Mrs. JB).

Solitary Vireo: A typical migration this fall with observations between Aug. 29, Pierce county (SR) and Oct. 16, Rock county (MM).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last noted in Dane county on Oct. 16 (JE).

Philadelphia Vireo: Normal arrival and departure dates of Aug. 25 and Oct. 3, both from Milwaukee county.

Warbling Vireo: All departure dates occurred Sep. 13-23 with one exception—Oct. 8, in Dane county (JE) which is late.

Black & White Warbler: October 3 departures from Dane (JB) and Milwaukee (ES, DG) counties.

Golden-winged Warbler: All departure dates were noted by mid-September with the last on Sep. 17 in Waukesha county (DB).

Blue-winged Warbler: There were five reports this fall in comparison to none last fall. These included Aug. 17, Sheboygan county (DG); Aug. 23, Sauk county (DG); Sep. 8, Dane county (JE); Sep. 17, Vernon county (VW); Sep. 7-24, Milwaukee county (MD).

Brewster's Warbler: Single birds were banded by Brouchoud on Sep. 7 and 21 in Manitowoc county.

Tennessee Warbler: 13 October departure dates, the latest being Oct. 23 in Rock county (MM).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Recorded first on Aug. 28 in Milwaukee county (ES). Nov. 2 departure dates from Milwaukee (DG) and Dane (JB) counties.

Nashville Warbler: Two record breaking departure dates this fall: one from Dane county on Nov. 2 (JB) and the other from Ozaukee county on Nov. 11 (DG). The latter date is 10 days later than the previous state departure record.

Parula Warbler: This fall there were six observations, commencing on Aug. 29 in Pierce county (SR) and continuing through Oct. 14 in Dane county (JE). This breaks the state departure record by four days.

Yellow Warbler: Seven observations this fall with the latest on Sep. 25 in Milwaukee county (ES).

Magnolia Warbler: There were two August 16 arrival dates—Waukesha (JB) and Kenosha (JH) counties, and two October 14 departure dates—Marathon (JW) and Brown (Fr. W) counties.

Cape May Warbler: Observations occurred between Aug. 28, Brown county (Fr. W) and Nov. 23, Milwaukee (DG). The latter was well documented and is an exceptionally late date.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: These reports: Aug. 29, Pierce county (SR); Sep. 5, Rock county (MM); Sep. 7, Milwaukee county (MD); Sep. 9, Ozaukee county (DG); Sep. 17, Washington county (Mrs. LM); Sep. 24-30, Dane county (CW, JB); Sep. 29, Racine county (LE); 7 banded during September in Manitowoc county (BB); and Oct. 16, which is a near record departure date, in Waukesha county (NS).

Myrtle Warbler: First observed in the state this fall in Milwaukee county on Aug. 23 (ES). A large migration was observed at Wind Point on Oct. 8 (NB). Last reported from Dane county on Nov. 24 (JE).

Black-throated Green Warbler: There were 7 August arrival dates, the first being on Aug. 23 in Milwaukee (MD). A near record departure date, also from Milwaukee, of Nov. 2 (DG).

Cerulean Warbler: Three were observed in Sauk county on Aug. 23 (DG). A single bird was noted in Waukesha county on Sep. 16 (DB) with another present on Oct. 12 (Mrs. PH). The latter was well documented and is a record departure date, beating the old mark by four weeks!

Blackburnian Warbler: First on Aug. 22 in Waukesha county (DG) and last on Sep. 27 in Sauk county (KL).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Departed the state on Oct. 5, Dane county (R & ES).

Bay-breasted Warbler: An arrival date of Aug. 19 from Green Lake county (SR). A record departure date, by one week, of Oct. 27 in Washington county (Mrs. LM).

Blackpoll Warbler: Observations were made between Aug. 28, Sheboygan county (DG) and Oct. 3, Milwaukee (DG).

Pine Warbler: First from Rock County, Sep. 1 (Mrs. JM). Last from Price county, Sep. 19 (MH).

Palm Warbler: St. Croix county on Aug. 30 (SR) was the first report in the state this fall, with the last from Milwaukee on Nov. 5 (DG).

Ovenbird: This fall there were nine departure dates on Oct. 1-2 with three additional ones on Oct. 3, from Dane, Waukesha and Milwaukee counties.

Northern Waterthrush: None after Oct. 10 in Dane county (JB, R & ES).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Two reports: Aug. 23, Souk county (DG) and Sep. 8, Milwaukee county (ES).

Connecticut Warbler: Observations occurred between Aug. 29—St. Croix county (SR) and Oct. 2—Dane county (JE).

Mourning Warbler: Last date, Sep. 22, Outagamie county (DT).

Yellowthroat: Last seen in Dane county on Oct. 28 (R & ES).

Wilson's Warbler: The observation period this fall extended between Aug. 12, Milwaukee (DG), and Sep. 24, also Milwaukee (ES).

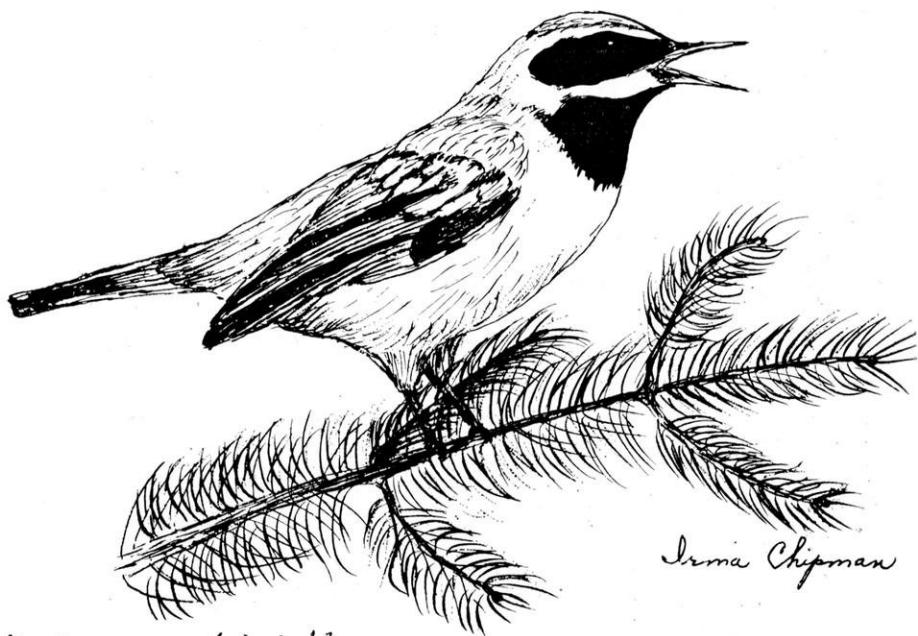
Canada Warbler: Observations occurred during August and September, with the latest on Sep. 23, Milwaukee (MD).

Redstart: Last date, Oct. 16, Milwaukee (DG).

Bobolink: Last date, Sep. 21, St. Croix county (SR).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Early September reports from Fond du Lac and Ozaukee counties. 16 birds were observed on Sep. 6 in St. Croix county (SR). Last reported on Sep. 16 in Winnebago county (DT).

Orchard Oriole: The first fall reports of this species since 1964 when one was observed on Aug. 25 in Waushara county (IC) and another single bird on Sep. 1 in Racine county (NB).



Golden-winged Warbler

Baltimore Oriole: Two Sep. 19 departure dates: St. Croix (SR) and Vernon (VW) counties.

Rusty Blackbird: Arrival date from Dane county of Sep. 27 (R & ES).

Brewer's Blackbird: Several hundred were observed in Outagamie and Winnebago counties on Sep. 23 (DT). Last reported bird in Racine on Nov. 12 (LE).

Common Grackle: 500 were observed in Burnett county on Oct. 18 (HC). End of the period reports from Waukesha, Brown, Outagamie, Racine and St. Croix counties.

Cowbird: Reported at the end of the period in Fond du Lac (CK) and Racine (NB) counties.

Scarlet Tanager: Departure dates of Oct. 11, Outagamie county (DT) and Oct. 14, Walworth county (LE).

Summer Tanager: A careful study of one individual was made in Burnett county on Sep. 29 (HC). See "By the Wayside."

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Three weeks later than all other departure dates this fall was that of a bird on Nov. 1 in Marathon county (JW)

Indigo Bunting: Last on Oct. 11, Dane county (R & ES).

Dickcissel: Four reports only: Aug. 16, Milwaukee (MD); 25 in a flock, unusual, on Aug. 27 in Waukesha county (JB); Sep. 4, Waukesha county (DG); Sep. 24, Rock county (Mrs. JM). One would have expected more observations this fall after the record numbers present during the summer.

Evening Grosbeak: Restricted to the northern counties of Marinette, Forest, Douglas, Price, and Ashland. (In the latter county 155 birds were reported on Nov. 7—TN). Exceptions were reports of single birds in Washington county Sep. 14-20 (Mrs. LM) and Outagamie county Oct. 28 (DT). This indicates that little movement would occur throughout the state during the winter period.

Purple Finch: 23 reports during the period. However 90% of the reports were of single observations indicating no movement into the state again this fall and winter. Reported as abundant in Langlade county in August but tapered off thereafter (Mrs. CR). The only other August date came from St. Croix county (SR). It was reported as fairly common in Forest and Florence counties at the end of October (CR) and 50 were observed on Nov. 18 in Bayfield county (DB). It was observed sparingly during the period in Price county (AV, MH).

Pine Grosbeak: No movement into the state this fall. A single report comes from Forest county, Nov. 25 (Mrs. RR).

Common Redpoll: No improvement over last fall with only four reports this year, likewise indicating no movement into the state for the winter. Two were observed in Ozaukee county on Oct. 28 (DG); Milwaukee had birds on Oct. 28 (MD), Nov. 4 and 20 (ES); Fond du Lac county on Nov. 3 (CK).

Pine Siskin: Observed during the period in Price county (AV). Other observations came from Sheboygan county, Sep. 30 and Nov. 11 (DG); Brown county, Oct. 21 and 27 (EC, EP); Milwaukee county, Nov. 6 (ES); Sauk county, 2 on Nov. 16 (Mrs. HK); and Langlade county where a gradual buildup occurred, climaxed during the last week of November when flocks ranging to 300 were observed, with the species being "everywhere" (Mrs. CR).

Red Crossbill: This species provides the only reversal in the finch pattern this fall. It appeared in unusual numbers throughout the state, invariably in flocks. Observations commenced on Oct. 19 with 25 sighted (KL). Other October observations occurred in Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Manitowoc and Dane counties. Early November reports came from Racine, Outagamie and Waukesha counties. Numerous flocks were observed in Florence, on Nov. 17 (CR) and Forest, on Nov. 25 (Mrs. RR) counties. In Langlade county flocks varying between 10 to 20 were reported "everywhere" during the last week of November (Mrs. CR).

White-winged Crossbill: A single report from Milwaukee on Sep. 18 (OL).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Departure dates from Waukesha county, Nov. 3 (NS) and Dane county, Nov. 11 (JE).

Savannah Sparrow: 30 were present on Oct. 5 in St. Croix county, with the last observed on Oct. 25 (SR). Two birds were observed on Oct. 28 in Racine county (LE).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Four reports: Sep. 1, Brown county (EC, EP); Sep. 5, Waukesha county (JB); and late departures of Oct. 2, St. Croix county (SR) and Oct. 7, Jefferson county (ES).

Leconte's Sparrow: Three reports of this rarely seen sparrow this fall: 3 males, which had been present since mid-June, were still singing in mid-August in Oconto county (CR); one individual on Sep. 29, 30 and Oct. 2 in St. Croix county (SR); Oct. 15 and 17 in Dane county (RS, CW). See "By the Wayside."

Henslow's Sparrow: Last observed this autumn on Oct. 21 in Outagamie and Winnebago counties (DT) and Oct. 22 in Waukesha county (JB).

Slate-colored Junco: Arrival date of Sep. 15 from Price county (AV).

Oregon Junco: Price county, Sep. 5-20 (AV); Kenosha (JH) and Outagamie (DT) counties, Oct. 16 into December; Racine county, Oct. 22 and 28 (LE); Rock county, Oct. 24-Nov. 20 (Mrs. JB); Milwaukee county, Nov. 16 (DG); Washington county, Nov. 20 into December (Mrs. LM).

Tree Sparrow: An early arrival, two weeks ahead of the next date this fall, on Sep. 24 in Marinette county (HL).

Chipping Sparrow: This fall it was reported in St. Croix county through Oct. 6 (SR). Also reported in Rock county, Aug. 25 (Mrs. JM); Dane county, Sep. 21 (JE); Fond du Lac county, Sep. 22 (RK); Racine county, Oct. 14-15 (NB).

Field Sparrow: Last observed in Racine county on Nov. 9 (LE).

Harris' Sparrow: The second consecutive excellent fall migration for this species with 14 reports from 12 counties. It was first observed on Sep. 22 in Douglas (RB) and Price (AV, MH) counties. Other September dates were recorded in St. Croix and Dane counties. October reports came from Polk, Monroe, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Marinette, LaCrosse, Price, Outagamie, Racine and St. Croix counties. In St. Croix 30 were observed on Oct. 2 with the last individual noted on Nov. 2 (SR).

White-crowned Sparrow: Most encouraging as there was an excellent migration this fall. There were 26 reports representing 20 counties with 65% of the reporters noting the number observed. An early arrival date of Sep. 6 in Milwaukee county (ES). Six were recorded in Jefferson county on Sep. 16 and 15 in St. Croix county on Oct. 2. Last observed on Nov. 8 in Kenosha county.

White-throated Sparrow: One was observed in Price county on Aug. 8 (AV). A single bird was observed on Aug. 5, and 2 on Aug. 20 in Outagamie county (DT). Individuals were reported at feeders in December in Sauk (KL) and Outagamie (DT) counties.

Fox Sparrow: First observed on Sep. 22 in Douglas county (RB). Still present during the last week of November in Sauk county (DG, KL).

Lincoln's Sparrow: A Sep. 9 arrival date in Waushara county (IC). Peaks of 12+ on Sep. 23 in Dane county (CW) and 20 on Oct. 2 in St. Croix county (SR). A Nov. 1 departure date in Dane county (JB).

Lapland Longspur: A Sep. 13 (R & ES) arrival date in Dane county is lacking only six days from tying the state record. Subsequently reported in Douglas, Sheboygan, Pierce, St. Croix and LaCrosse counties.

Snow Bunting: First observed in Brown county on Oct. 9 (EC, EP). This was followed by reports from 18 additional counties. Large numbers were reported from Nov. 17 into December in Bayfield county (JB). 500 were observed at the end of November in Langlade county (Mrs. CR).

ED. NOTE: In the future we will go back to the use of contributors' names instead of initials by their observations.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Incorporated

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

March 30, 1968

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Becker; other officers present: Mr. and Mrs. Holz, Mr. and Mrs. Hamerstrom, Mrs. Hussong, Dr. Kemper, Mr. Baumgartner, Mr. Peartree, Mr. Hendrick and Mr. and Mrs. Cox. Charles Sindelar, who is conducting the Osprey Study, also met with the group to present his report and expense budget.

MINUTES of the January meeting—With the notation that expenses approved by motion for 4H Project continuance and for the Education Chairman had been previously provided for, the excellent minutes taken by Mrs. Baumgartner were approved.

TREASURER (Rpt. appended)—Mrs. Holz explained certain items. Report approved.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT—Mr. Cox extended an invitation for the 1969 Convention to be held in Beloit under the sponsorship of the Ned Hillister Bird Club—invitation accepted. A letter from Dr. Bernard to Dr. Becker was read by the Secretary. His offer to host the 1970 Convention at Superior was discussed and accepted on motion by Mr. Holz, seconded by Mr. Peartree. The Secretary was instructed to notify Dr. Bernard of this action, enclosing program for the coming Convention in Green Bay.

RESEARCH—Dr. Hamerstrom told of the meeting in Madison Feb. 3, 1968, at which the very real concern of many distinguished ornithologists over the situation regarding Osprey population and distribution was shown by the attendance and the interest evinced. The Study in Wisconsin and neighboring states will be continued this year with the WCD giving more aid, making two inspection flights instead of one—a May flight and another in July. Charles Sindelar will be in charge of this survey in Wisconsin and after hearing his report of last year's expenses, about \$672.00 and his estimate for this year, approximately \$845.00, members of the Board discussed at length both his problems and theirs. Mrs. Hussong announced that there had been no requests for the Steenbock Scholarship and Mrs. Hamerstrom moved that this unused \$100.00 be transferred from the Scholarship Fund to Research to be used by Chas. Sindelar in making the Osprey Survey in 1968. Seconded by Mr. Hendrick, carried.

Dr. Kemper then moved that WSO underwrite the above survey to the extent of \$750.00 to be taken from the General Savings Fund; seconded by Mr. Holz, carried.

Full payment of \$850.00 was immediately made to Mr. Sindelar by the Treasurer. Hamerstroms would like the next project to be "woodpeckers" and hope that a request in **The Birder** will bring response from someone who has a deep interest in such a study and will be willing to take charge.

CONSERVATION—Communications to and from the Manager of the Federal Refugee at Horicon in regard to goose management were read by Dr. Baumgartner.

Nature Conservancy International is interested in the establishment of a rain-forest preserve for the Quetzal in Central America and will be pleased to receive resolutions approving this project from individuals and from Conservation groups. Such a Resolution will be sent from WSO and from as many interested persons as possible. (Send to N.C.I.A. . . . To whom it may concern).

The suggested \$4,000,000 expenditure for beautification of the median strip on Interstate 94 between Madison and Milwaukee was roundly denounced as it was felt that the money would be used for exotic plantings, blinding travelers to natural beauties. The hiring of a plant ecologist instead of a landscape architect was considered extremely important and after some discussion, President Becker appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Hamerstrom, Baumgartner (Chm.) and Hendricks to give this matter careful attention and, after study and investigation, come up with a Resolution in regard to progress of beautification by May 18, 1968. They are to determine also to whom such a Resolution should be presented.

There is a strong movement afoot again to place the Mourning Dove on the game bird list. This matter was interrupted by adjournment for lunch at 12:00 noon.

Mr. Sindelar and Dr. Baumgartner left the group at this time.

Reconvening at 1:15—the Mourning Dove's case was hashed over thoroughly. It was decided that, since the Society's stated purpose is the protection and the preservation of our native birds and their habitats, it must take a stand against such a change of status for mourning doves, even though experience has shown that these birds have been able to survive well under hunting pressures in other states.

Drs. Becker and Hamerstrom will draw up a brief statement to submit to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT—Mr. Romig absent—Report presented by Mr. Holz who passed around copies of Convention programs and said that all was in order.

LEGAL COUNSEL—Mr. Hall absent—Dr. Becker said that he had urgently written Mr. Hall several times but had had no reply at all. He will write again.

ADVERTISING AND ENDOWMENTS—Mr. Hayssen absent—The Pugh account has been renewed.

PUBLICITY—Mr. Hendrick told of releasing items about the WSO 4H Awards to thirty-two state dailies and said that he would release Convention material soon.

A number of interesting ideas as to methods of reaching public attention presented. Harold Mathiak came to visit a bit and told of interest roused by various activities and by articles in the publication, **The Purple Martin**.

EDUCATION—Mrs. Hussong had sent information requested by a young man from Valders regarding the Steenbock Scholarship but had had no reply. She reported good response to her appeal for slides, especially from Ed Prins and Wm. Pugh of Racine, to whom the Secretary was instructed to send thank you notes. David Cox, telling the Sauk County's Summer School Nature Walks led by Harold Kruse and the continuing interest

shown in the banding operations, wishes that more such programs could be carried on.

Arol Epple's report on the WSO display at the Wausau Teacher's Convention thanked Mr. Holz, the Kruses and Mrs. Baumgartner for their cooperation. He found that the teachers seemed eager for practical, usable material and suggested that this could be WSO's great opportunity. Setting up a series of graded programs as teaching aids was enthusiastically accepted as a major contribution which the Society might make and Mrs. Husong was instructed to pursue the matter further. She was asked to find out what educational material is now available from Audubon and other sources, to appoint a committee to examine such material, set up tentative programs and send them to the proper places for evaluation, returning them to the Board for consideration and recommendations for resource conferences. This will be a long-range project requiring much study and deliberation but, hopefully, far-reaching in its influence toward better teaching methods for rousing a lasting interest in birds and related ecology among the children of our school systems.

FIELD TRIPS—Mr. Peartree mentioned the coming work-week at Honey Creek, May 4-5 and said that everything was in the **Birder**.

AWARDS—Mr. Holz stated that all was in order, all taken care of.

HONEYCREEK—Mr. Kruse absent—sent report of work done by members in March.

BOOKSTORE—The catalog is being processed—Need for revision of check-list booklet was emphasized as the supply is running low. Dr. Becker will contact Rev. Robbins.

EDITOR—BADGER BIRDER—Miss Donald in Mexico, wrote asking information regarding the exchange of publications with other like groups and was encouraged to do so.

EDITOR—PASSENGER PIGEON—Dr. Kemper laid the delay in the appearance of the P.P. to confusion about envelopes, said it was now in the mail. The exchange publications he receives go to the Custodian—listing of Research Chairmen will be changed—importance of Field Notes was discussed and sending of them to Season Editors. Previous publishing cost were looked up, processing of 4-color printing of covers explained and a request for a complete file of **PASSENGER PIGEONS**, received from West Berlin was referred to Circulation Manager, Frank King.

President Becker said that he had written a thank you note to Chas. Sindelar, a note of sympathy to Mrs. Steenbock and would write to Mr. Scott regarding the death of William Aberg, requesting him to write—or have written, a memorial to be printed in the **PIGEON** if he thinks it advisable.

Establishing a separate file of rare Wisconsin birds was discussed as was the method of presenting officer's reports at the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that each officer is to send his report to Dr. Becker and these will be combined and condensed into his presidential report covering the actions and achievements of the Society during the past year.

No further business being brought up, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hazel Cox, Secretary

From Our Exchange Journals

A description of the departure of Whooping Cranes from their wintering grounds in Texas is given in the *Auk*, Vol. 85, p. 318, April, 1968 by Shields and Benham. This spectacular event has perhaps not been witnessed before by more than a handful of people in the past 50 years.

On a clear sunlit morning, April, 1966, at 9:00 a. m., 20 cranes left the ground; 12 minutes later they were visible as only tiny airborne specks. The flock, after taking to the air, quickly divided into groups of 3, 3, 2, 7 and 5 birds and circled upward and northward in a spiraling motion. It is interesting that the cranes displayed some aerial territorialism, although they were all observed feeding side by side a few minutes before departure.

In the same journal is a report of a pair of Pintails breeding at 82° N on Ellesmere Island. This is 700 miles north of previous breeding records of the species (it seems fantastic). The authors, Maher and Nettleship, suggest that the birds may have been from the European Pintail population.

The strange behavior of an Eastern Kingbird feeding nestling Baltimore Orioles was reported in Mississippi by Bragg in this journal, p. 321. A noisy conflict erupted when the Kingbird fought her way past the adult Orioles and fed the young in the nest. By noon of the next day the Orioles became reconciled. By the third day the three birds shared the feeding and nest-cleaning chores. It would be interesting to receive reports from some of our **Passenger Pigeon** correspondents on similar behavior.

An Indian Tree Pipit (*Anthus hodgson*) was recorded for the first time in North America by Thomas Burleigh, *Auk*, Vol. 85, April, 1968, p. 323. It was found near Reno, Nevada and collected. This species breeds in Russia and Siberia, the Kuriles and Japan, northward to the Himalayas and Selchwan and winters in India, Burma, Siam, Indo-China, Japan and the Philippine Islands.

If anyone sees an Indian Tree Pipit in Wisconsin, he can have my job.

* * * * *

A plea for the passage of the Dingell bill (H.R. 11618) appears in the *Atlantic Naturalist*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Spring 1968, p. 3. The bill, which hopefully will have passed by the time this appears in print, provides no importation into the U. S. or any species or parts thereof which the Secretary of the Interior determines to be threatened with extinction. This extends to mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans. This will close the largest single market to the commercial exploitation of endangered species. It is hoped that leopard coats, tiger rugs, alligator bags, etc., will cease to be status symbols.

Dr. Charles Wurster, Jr., State University of New York at Stony Brook, reports that DDT, now widespread in the oceans of the world, is damaging to phytoplankton, the microscopic plant life of the sea. Experiments show that 1 part of DDT in 10 million parts of sea water reduces the activity of the plants to 10% of normal. These unicellular organisms not only are the basic foodstuff in the food chain of sea life, but they produce two thirds of the world's atmospheric oxygen supply. (Ed. Note: Let us all pray.)—**Florida Naturalist**, Sept., 1968, Vol. 41, No. 315.

* * * * *

There has been a major reduction in the Lewis' Woodpecker population in western Oregon the past couple of years. It is speculated that the decrease is either a temporary decline related to a poor acorn crop, or it may be due to the increase in the Starling as a nesting bird in that area.—**The Audubon Warbler**, Vol. 32, No. 9, Sept. 1968.

* * * * *

Observations of Red-headed Woodpecker depredation of Starling nests were reported by G. E. Grube, in the **Nebraska Bird Review**, Vol. XXXVI, 3, pp. 50-52, July, 1968. He reports also antagonistic response behavior by cavity nesting birds, the Sparrow Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, and the Eastern Bluebird. The author states that the predator recognition by these potential prey species suggests that the Red-headed Woodpecker is an important avian predator, particularly on cavity-nesting species.

* * * * *

An analysis in **Bird Banding**, Vol. XXXIX, No. 3, July, 1968, pp. 161-187, is given based on a total of 457 banded Kirtland's Warblers between 1931-1965. The authors, Andrew Berger and Bruce Radabaugh, conclude that 60% of the adult birds return to their breeding areas. The oldest known longevity was a male that lived at least nine years. The average span is about two years.

* * * * *

Herring Gulls are threatening seriously the tern populations in New England, according to Deborah V. Howard in the **Maine Field Naturalist**, Sept, 1968, Vol. 25, No. 4.

Incidentally, this publication must rank as close to the most beautiful and artistic of all the state bird publications. It is published by the Maine Audubon Society and the Portland Society of Natural History, 22 Elm St., Portland, Maine 04111. This editor recommends it to all WSO members.





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