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Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Bird Reports Coordinator (see inside back cover). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Assistant Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 131–132 of the Summer 2007 issue (Vol. 69, No. 2) or contact the Editors. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

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Front Cover: Sunil Gopalan has contributed his photo of the King Rail found in late May, 2014 in Belleville, Wisconsin

Spring Ahead

Rebirth . . . transformation . . . renewal . . . these are words that come to mind when I think of spring. As winter finally loosens its grip, an awakening of life begins. Trees around us unveil their buds and then burst forth with new leaves. Flowers stretch towards the warmth of the sun and carpet our landscape in a myriad of colors. Birds return in their spring finery and serenade us with joyful song. The quiet solitude of winter is replaced with the energetic activity of spring.

Rebirth . . . transformation . . . renewal . . . these are also words that come to mind when I now think of WSO. Our organization is experiencing a reawakening of sorts. We have recently recruited many new faces to our Board of Directors, who, in turn, have brought new ideas and perspective. Our current combination of long-term board members and new recruits creates an atmosphere ripe for transformation by keeping us grounded in our rich history but also instilling a new sense of purpose for our organization, which we captured in WSO's first-ever strategic plan. We now have an official mission statement "to promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of Wisconsin's birds" and have developed six overarching goals to help us achieve our mission: 1) advance bird conservation, 2) promote bird research in Wisconsin, 3) communicate effectively, 4) engage members and non-members, 5) keep official Wisconsin bird records, and 6) strengthen the organization.

Last year we made significant progress towards accomplishing these goals. We **ADVANCED BIRD CONSERVATION** by alerting the public of the proposed golf course development on an ecologically valuable 247-acre parcel of land in Sheboygan County, and then testified at a public hearing and emphasized the importance of this land as migratory stopover habitat. We also were an official sponsor of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association annual conference, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative annual meeting and the Great Wisconsin Birdathon.

We **PROMOTED BIRD RESEARCH** by partnering in Project SNOWstorm—an exciting new research project that tracks Snowy Owls using cellular tracking devices. WSO funded one of the first two transmitters for this project. We also hosted a research symposium titled "The Latest Technology in Avian Research and Monitoring" and profiled a wide range of fascinating topics.

We had many advances with **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY** in 2014, perhaps most significant the major upgrade to our website. Our new site now has improved content, better navigation with drop-down menus, a calendar function on our home page, direct access to our Facebook and Twitter accounts and stunning photographs. We also greatly expanded content to our Badger Birder newsletter and issued monthly eAlerts and birding events calendars.

We **ENGAGED MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS** through our field trips and even added several new ones to an already stellar lineup. We hosted more than 200 people at our annual convention. We helped sponsor the film "From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction," which has now been viewed

by millions of people across the country. We provided financial support to the Urban Ecology Center's "I Spy Birds Summer Camp," and in so doing, introduced urban youth of Milwaukee to bird watching.

WSO continues to **KEEP OFFICIAL WISCONSIN BIRD RECORDS** as we have done since our founding. Last year the WSO Records Committee reviewed more than 400 records and published their results in each issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*.

All of these efforts together help to **STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION**. Our partnerships, our volunteers and our members help to keep WSO one of the largest and most active ornithological organizations in the nation. I thank you for your support of our mission!

While we celebrate the success of 2014, 2015 promises to be an even bigger year of growth for the organization. WSO is one of the key leaders for the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, scheduled to begin fieldwork this spring. From the early planning stages of the second atlas, WSO has served on the steering committee in order to bring our institutional knowledge from the first atlas and provide continuity. The Wisconsin atlas portal will be accessed through WSO's website, which has recently been upgraded, in part, to accommodate the needs of the second atlas effort. WSO has also funded the development of the online data entry portal hosted by eBird. Because so many of Wisconsin's birders are already familiar with eBird, it seemed very logical to use this same platform for atlas data entry. As with the first atlas, WSO members will be crucial to providing the volunteer power needed to successfully complete a second atlas project. Consider signing up for a survey block today on our website!

In 2015, WSO will become the main coordinator for the Great Wisconsin Oriole Count, a fun birding event that introduces kids to birding through observing and counting orioles. More than 470,000 Baltimore Orioles nest in Wisconsin, so our state is an important place for this species! Because of our important stewardship responsibilities, former WSO President Noel Cutright proposed the idea of an annual Oriole Count as a means to monitor the state's Baltimore Oriole population and also engage our state's youth in citizen science and bird conservation. To conduct the Oriole Count, school groups spend the month of May observing a bird feeder and tracking the number of orioles present at one time.

After more than a year of planning, the Great Wisconsin Oriole Count took flight last year as part of the Great Wisconsin Birdathon. WSO and Wild Birds Unlimited—Mequon teamed up to offer free oriole feeders to participating schools, and Eagle Optics generously donated two Birding Bonanza prize packages, which included five pairs of binoculars, a spotting scope, and a tripod. More than forty teams from across Wisconsin competed in the event. The winning teams were EAGLE School led by Maggie von Boldrik, and Highlands Elementary led by Tamara Baker, both in Madison. We look forward to continued success of this event in 2015.

As President of WSO, I am proud of the direction the organization is headed. Our success as an organization would not be possible without the loyal support of our members. Thank you for helping us to be a leading steward and ambassador for Wisconsin's birds!

Why We Need the Second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas

William P. Mueller

ABSTRACT

In early 2015, we will see the start of field-work for the Second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (now known as WBBAIL). A robust planning effort has been underway for more than two years, with five standing committees, and more than thirty-seven people from many organizations, all working on various aspects of the process. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory (WGLBBO) have helped to bring partners together and lead efforts on the second atlas.

WHAT IS A BREEDING BIRD ATLAS?

Atlases enlist the aid of hundreds or thousands of volunteers and a number of professional ornithologists to find evidence for, and map the distribution of all breeding bird species in a particular region. Usually the region may be a state or province (NORAC 2009). Data and analyses from atlases are widely used in avian conservation and management programs.

HISTORY AND GOALS OF ATLAS 1

The field work for the first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas was done between 1995 and 2000. The book that resulted,

the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin, was edited by Noel J. Cutright, Bettie R. Harriman, and Robert W. Howe, and was published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in 2006. WSO was the lead organization for the first atlas effort, with an array of partners who provided both personnel and funding, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at UW-Green Bay, many local bird clubs, and the participation of 1,602 individual atlas observers.

The first Atlas kickoff meeting was held in 1993. During Atlas 1, observers logged 68,898 hours in the field, amassing 172,096 breeding records (Cutright et al. 2006). Breeding evidence for 239 species was found in Wisconsin, with 228 of those confirmed.

By comparison, Ontario's second atlas conducted 69,000 point counts (a type of standard survey methodology; see Farnsworth et al. 2002 for a method example) across the province, providing information that helped build the first maps of relative abundance for many of Ontario's bird species (Bird Studies Canada 2009). The second Wisconsin atlas will also incorporate point counts, to be primarily done by paid atlasers and technicians.

The goals stated for Atlas 1 included the following:

- To provide a permanent record of the bird species breeding in the state;
- To provide baseline data for monitoring future changes in bird populations;
- To assess habitat needs of breeding species and document species diversity;
- To document abundance and distribution of rare and endangered species;
- To provide comparisons with historical studies;
- To complement existing or on-going avian monitoring programs in Wisconsin and in nearby states;
- To assist international efforts to preserve Neotropical migratory birds;
- To help in-land use planning by local and state governments;
- To assist industry in preparing environmental impact assessments;
- To bring together birders in an exciting new cooperative venture.

Spatially, each 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle in Wisconsin was divided into six area blocks—northwest, northeast, center-west, center-east, southwest, and southeast—each one being 5 kilometers by 5 kilometers in extent (approximately 10 square miles). Within a given atlas block, observers recorded each bird species they detected, “adding the breeding code of the species, observation date, and optionally, a habitat code and abundance code. Due to time constraints, it was not possible for atlasers to survey every block within a given quad, thus the center-east (CE) block was designated the Priority Block” (Cutright et al. 2006.) The Priority Block was completed for each quad. Habitat information was

gathered for a group of “Specialty Blocks” in a set of 138 quadrangles.

Field cards were used to record information for each block. Each field visit was recorded, each one having the following: date, daytime or nocturnal period of each survey, number of hours spent in the field on each survey trip, total number of observers, number of hours spent traveling to and from field sites, and the total mileage. Atlas observers also completed “casual observation forms”, for the purpose of recording species in any blocks the observer was not officially surveying (Cutright et al. 2006.)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ATLAS 1

Eighty-three donors gave more than \$500 each to Atlas 1; 324 others gave less than \$500 each. WDNR funding of \$25,000 a year over 10 years was the primary funding source for Atlas 1, along with some additional support from a number of private foundations. Along with The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, the following organizations sponsored the first atlas:

The Bradley Foundation; Bradley Fund for the Environment; Consolidated Papers Foundation; Donald Foundation; Environmental Systems Research Institute; Kaytee Avian Foundation; Madison Community Foundation; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus; U.S. Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Forest Service; The University of Wisconsin–Green Bay; Weyenberg Charitable Foundation; Windway Foundation; The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Wisconsin Electric Power Company; Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conser-

vancy; and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

Many individuals and organizations sponsored an individual species for the atlas, and provided a unique funding source via that means. WBBAIL is once again seeking support from these and other organizations, and individual citizens across Wisconsin.

CHANGES IN THE LANDSCAPE: WHAT THEY MEAN FOR WISCONSIN'S BIRDLIFE

In the past several decades, Wisconsin's and much of the United States' landscape has changed dramatically (Wisconsin DNR 2012). Habitats for birds have, in some cases, been lost, have shifted geographically/spatially, have expanded, or have been altered in ways that make them less useable by birds. Some breeding species have benefited from some of these changes, while other species have significantly declined. Other changes are more complex, and less easily explained. A few species have expanded their ranges into Wisconsin (Kirtland's Warbler), some have expanded their range within the state (Bald Eagle, Osprey), while some others may be on their way to being eliminated as breeding species (Barn Owl, Loggerhead Shrike).

The unfolding reality of the changes mentioned above was made clear during the first atlas, and habitat and bird population changes have continued, or in some cases have accelerated. Other, similar discoveries are waiting to be made during the next multi-year atlas-ing period, undoubtedly along with some unexpected and surprising new revelations.

For a few examples, Northern Bobwhite (a native species) and Gray Partridge (an introduced species), two for-

merly important game species that have long been a part of Wisconsin's birdlife, both appear to be in serious decline. The Red-headed Woodpecker continues its half-century-long decline, while Pileated Woodpecker numbers are increasing at 4% + per year. We now have a small breeding population of Kirtland's Warblers, while Black Tern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Nighthawk, Short-eared Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Greater Prairie Chicken, and Western Meadowlark have diminished populations within Wisconsin and in other regions in North America (Kreitinger et al. 2013, NABCI 2014). A few species we once thought of as rare (Trumpeter Swan is one example) have benefited from endangered species protection in Wisconsin, and in some cases have been "delisted".

CHANGES BETWEEN ATLAS 1 AND 2

As mentioned above, utilizing point counts will be a new feature of WBBAIL, but even more important will be online data entry, utilizing a new eBird interface and data management tools built by the eBird team at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. WSO and eBird have a contract for this data management development.

We also expect to learn how climate change has affected Wisconsin's bird species and their habitats, from analyses done after data has been gathered. Research of this type has already been in progress in areas around the globe (Huntley et al. 2007.) Atlas data are being utilized to assess patterns of occupancy, colonization and extinction (Sadoti 2013.)

To gain a more complete understanding of trends in Wisconsin's bird populations and to investigate the

changes that have occurred over the past 20 years, we need to ascertain the current status of our breeding bird species. WBBII will accomplish this task, and engage birders in a new multi-year project. The atlas organizers hope the reader will become part of this effort.

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eBird: Easy to Use and Invaluable to Conservation

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ABSTRACT

eBird is now unquestionably the preferred way to submit your bird observations to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. In addition, sightings go into an ever-growing pool of data that is used by ornithologists, conservation biologists, wildlife managers, and others. This free program has a vast array of benefits for birders including generation of lists on every scale, and needs-alerts. It also offers tools to help your birding such as graphs and maps to explore bird sightings, distribution, and trends as well as tools to explore hotspots and larger areas. For those who are not a part of the 4,400 observers to have eBirded in Wisconsin, there isn't a better time to start than now. The second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas begins this year and the main data entry platform will be eBird. I discuss the benefits eBird gives to birders, the significant effect your data will have, and for beginners, I describe exactly how to enter a checklist. You will see that there is no reason not to use this user-friendly program which will revolutionize your birding.

Since its launch in 2002, over 4,400 Wisconsin observers have entered eBird data and over 1450 observers in the

state have entered more than five checklists. This does not include the many observers from out of state. In 2013 alone, 86,542 checklists containing 1,145,019 individual observations were submitted in the state. Yet, considering how simple and beneficial it is to use this program, a surprising number of Wisconsin birders still have not jumped onto the bandwagon. If you are not one of these 4,400 people or have only entered observations sparingly, I encourage you to read on to see what eBird is, how to use it, and how both you and others will benefit by using it. eBird is an interface in which you can simultaneously contribute your observations to science, share your findings with other birders, keep track of your observations in an unlimited array of lists, and educate yourself further about birdlife at any scale you wish. Once you give it a try, you will likely become addicted to the benefits that can be accessed at the click of a mouse.

You can join the 1450 birders consistently using eBird in Wisconsin by simply signing up for a username and password that will be connected to your email address. The server is secure, including recent steps to increase privacy

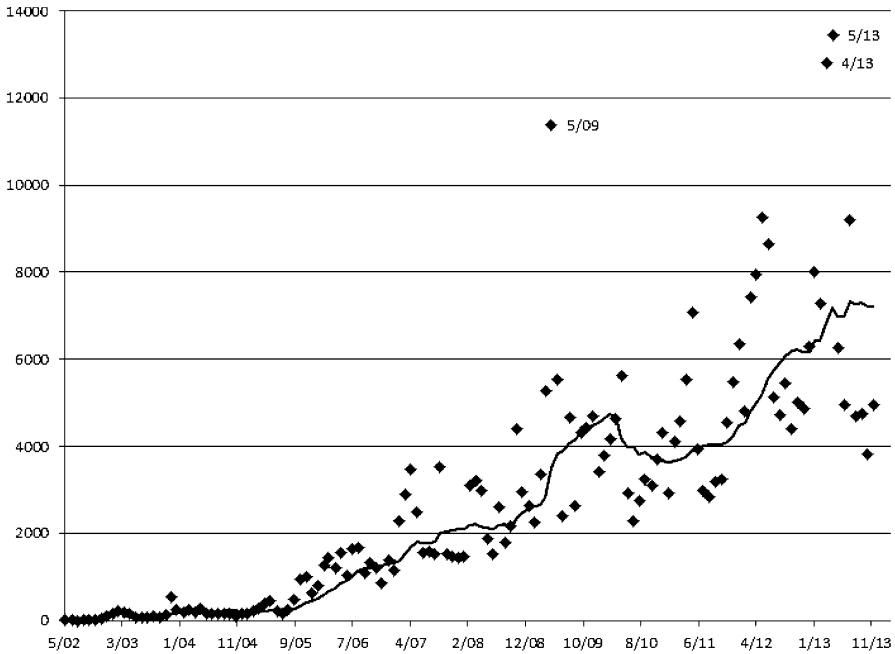


Figure 1. Checklists submitted by Wisconsin birders (with a 12-month moving average trendline).

that even let you hide your name if you wish to remain anonymous. Becoming a user is completely free unless you wish to donate. Your email address will not be distributed; the purpose of connecting it to the program is to allow volunteer eBird reviewers to contact you if they have questions about your observations and to make sharing your observations with fellow birders easy. Within minutes of creating your account, you can contribute to the ever-increasing utility of eBird in Wisconsin. Since its creation, the number of checklists submitted by Wisconsin birders has steadily and quickly increased (Figure 1).

eBird is an internet-based checklist program developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with the purpose of gathering, archiving, and disseminating

bird records throughout the world (eBird 2009). To accomplish this, it organizes and harnesses observations from all birdwatchers, from casual backyard observers to professional researchers. After only 12 years in existence, eBird is now one of the richest sources available for biodiversity data. Unlike other organized bird data such as the Christmas Bird Count or Breeding Bird Survey which serve as a small snapshot into a population, eBird monitors bird populations year-round in all locations. The data is used by wildlife managers and biologists, conservation biologists, ornithologists and other researchers and educators to understand and predict population trends and associations. Additionally, it is the primary way the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology collects and catalogues bird

records for each season. If you enter sightings into eBird, they automatically enter the permanent archives and are included in the Passenger Pigeon seasonal reports. This takes much less time and effort than the antiquated seasonal report forms which needed to be filled out for each county and mailed in. Observers of all skill levels are welcomed and encouraged to enter observations because more data equals more powerful data. A group of expert regional volunteers evaluates records of rare birds so undocumented records are hidden from public output. If a record is rejected, it is still in the database and a review decision can be reversed at any time.

To a birder or even just to a person mildly interested in birds, eBird offers fantastic benefits. Gone are the days when you needed to keep track of your life, state, county, and year lists on checklists or in a notebook or other listing software. eBird automatically generates personalized lists with the data you enter for all possible scales. All lists are accessible in the click of a mouse and can be sorted at multiple layers instantly. You can even click on a bird on your list and it will bring up all times you've seen that species in that location or the complete checklist from that observation. If you like, you can even link photos to your checklists.

eBird has developed several tools that use your personalized lists to help you find birds that you have not seen at any time scale or location. You can register for email alerts for states or counties, which will alert you any time somebody has entered an observation of a species that you have not yet recorded in that area. If you'd like, you can receive these alerts in real time or every 24 hours to reduce the amount of

emails. Many birders have realized that this can be an even quicker way to learn about rare bird sightings than being subscribed to a listserv or Facebook group. In a new tool called "Target Species," you can explore any region, and eBird will search your life list and tell you which birds you do not yet have for that area that you are most likely to detect at any time of year based on the existing data from other birders. This is a fantastic tool for listers and a great aid for exploratory birding or trip planning.

Another benefit for listers is the "Top 100" tool where users can see how their lists stack up against other birders in any region. This isn't just for friendly competition, it is a great way to see who the local experts are if you have a question about the birds in an area or are traveling to an area you're unfamiliar with.

If listing isn't a primary interest of yours, there are plenty of other tools eBird offers to make using it worthwhile. For any species, you can instantly view a map or graph for any time of year, or period of years, for any location. Bar charts can be used to compare the frequency and phenology of species at any time period while histograms and line graphs can compare the relative frequency of observation of multiple species across multiple years. All graphs are interactive and can easily be changed in seconds, making browsing easy and informative. While researchers use this data to study population trends, you can use it to track something as simple as the arrival of your favorite species in spring over the past decade.

Probably the most popular eBird tool is the interactive mapping tool. This is also very easy to use. All you need to do

is pick which species and time frame you're interested in and its data will be mapped. The zoom tool is all that is needed to differentiate between a national range map and a street-level map showing exact locations for the species you're interested in. When zoomed in to a scale fine enough to see the individual points, clicking on a point will show you the observer, the date, and how many of the species were counted. You can also view the observer's checklist to see what else they reported during that outing. This tool is an excellent way to quickly find where to see a bird you're looking for and to look at up-to-date range maps that are more accurate and detailed than those in any field guide.

As if easy-to-access needs-alerts, target species suggestions, graphs, and maps weren't enough benefits for birders, eBird has developed multiple new exploratory tools further aiding the curious birder or someone planning a trip to an unfamiliar area. The first is called "Explore Hotspots" which lets you pick a designated hotspot anywhere in the world and explore a list of the species that have been detected and their high counts, bar charts showing when they are most common, a list of the most prolific birders at the site by species detected, and when the site was most recently birded and what was seen. There are designated hotspots for over 1600 locations in Wisconsin. This same info can be found at a larger scale for any state, province, or country in the "Explore a Region" tool. These quick and easy tools are so effective that they can make hiring a guide or buying a pricey bird-finding book obsolete.

Since the maps, graphs, and exploratory tools are all based on the existing pool of observations and not only

your data, you don't even need to have an account to access them. However, adding your data to make these tools even richer is very rewarding and makes them even more fun to browse.

For those who have not used eBird, below is a step-by-step explanation for how to enter data. You'll see that it's rather simple and self-explanatory and once you get used to it, it becomes second nature. After you log in on ebird.org or ebird.org/wi (a portal unique to Wisconsin featuring local stories, tips, and pictures), click the "Submit Observations" tab. Next, choose "Find it on a map", enter the county if you know it, and the map will zoom to the area you have selected. You will see clusters of red pin marks which are hotspots. Birders are encouraged to eBird at hotspot levels if they birded at a hotspot which collects all the data into the same pool. To do this, just zoom until you see the pin with the correct name and select it. If you birded somewhere which is not a pre-designated hotspot, such as private property or some country roads, it's easy to mark a spot on the map for a personal location. If you feel the area should be a hotspot, just click the box next to the prompt that says "Suggest as birding HotSpot?"

If you found a species that you wish not to reveal the location of such as a roosting owl or endangered species, the eBird team encourages you to eBird the observation at the county level. As an alternative, you can wait until the bird is gone and then eBird it to location, except for endangered species which return to the same spot year after year, such as Kirtland's Warblers.

On the next page, you will enter the date and your type of observation. Read the descriptions to see which type fits

your observation the best. After filling out the time and duration (you can estimate if needed), distance, and party size, click “Continue” and you’re ready to enter the birds you detected. On the next page, you will see a checklist tailored to the date and location you are entering data for. This is helpful since it weeds out birds that are not expected for the location or time of year, and that saves time scrolling through the otherwise longer checklist. You can enter numbers or X’s but numbers are encouraged since the data is much more powerful. It is completely fine if you don’t remember exactly how many of each species you saw or heard, an estimate is still more informative than an X.

If you found a species that isn’t on the checklist, you probably found a pretty rare bird! Just click the box that says “Show Rarities” and then you’ll be able to find the species. If you aren’t sure of identification, you can find it as a “slash” (e.g. Thayer’s/Iceland Gull) or use other more general options (e.g. peep sp.). This is a normal circumstance for shorebirds, gulls, and sparrows. To find these (or any possible option not on the main checklist), click “add species” and begin typing the family name or one of the species you believe should be included in the slash and a grouping should show up on the drop-down menu.

When you eBird a species that was not on the original checklist or a high count, you will be prompted to confirm the observation and enter comments. These flagged records are forwarded to volunteer reviewers who are regional experts in bird identification and distribution. Describing field marks and behavior for flagged records helps reviewers validate your sighting more

quickly. Acceptable documentation ranges between a sentence for something that isn’t very rare, like a slightly high count or out-of-season Hermit Thrush, to several sentences including as many details as possible for rare and difficult birds to ID such as White-faced Ibis or Hoary Redpoll. Many times, a reviewer will follow up with you to obtain more details or a photo. Species on the WSO Review List are to be written-up for the WSO Records Committee. The eBird review team defers to the Records Committee in decisions regarding these species so if you provide a description on the WSO rare bird report form, you do not need to do so on eBird.

Finally, the last step is to check “Yes” or “No” where it asks if you are reporting all birds you were able to identify. This is an easy and important prompt to take seriously. Simply, click “Yes” if you entered a number or X for every species you detected and click “No” if you only entered some. An example of the latter is if you are driving to work and find an interesting bird on the commute but don’t have time to see what else is present. An incidental observation like this would have “No” checked in the box.

For birders with smartphones, the “Birdlog” application is a great way to enter data quickly and easily from the field. Many of the steps are the same as described above and the prompts are self-explanatory to follow. The biggest benefits to eBirding on your smartphone are that the program uses your phone’s GPS to plot and map the location for you (including recognizing nearby hotspots) and you don’t need to enter checklists later on the computer, possibly forgetting some birds you previously detected. Checklists entered

from the app go directly into your eBird page and the eBird data, just as they would if entered from the computer.

Data from eBird have already produced many noteworthy products. Since its debut more than a decade ago, eBird has already been a major citation in at least 140 scientific publications. Topics include avian response to climate and land-use changes, migratory patterns, modeling human and bird conflict, species competition and hybridization, habitat niche selection, and many others. Here in Wisconsin, Prestby and Anich (2013) used eBird data to compare the 2012 Dickcissel irruption to other historic irruptions. Wisconsin is one of at least 33 states that now uses eBird as its primary data source for record keeping and quarterly reporting to North American Birds (eBird 2009).

Starting this year, Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II will use eBird as its platform for entering and organizing data. This brand new application, built especially for Wisconsin will streamline the efforts of observers, county coordinators, and editors and pave the way for other states to follow in Wisconsin's footsteps. It will allow for real time maps and visualizations of effort, and will allow for easy comparison to the results from the first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. The use of eBird for this project is another great reason to begin using eBird if you haven't already.

The benefits to birders, user-friendly simplicity of observation entry and data exploration, and practical applications such as the upcoming Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, make now a better time than ever to begin eBirding your sightings regularly. The bandwagon of 1,450 consistent users in Wisconsin is constantly growing so why not join rather than be left behind? You will be surprised by how rewarding it is to contribute your sightings to science and conservation and how enjoyable it is to look through your data and others in many formats. If you have any questions, please contact myself or any of the members of the Wisconsin eBird team which is listed on the Wisconsin eBird portal at ebird.org/wi. Happy eBirding and if you haven't already, have fun letting this program revolutionize your birding!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Nick Anich for help in editing.

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Lost Creek Wetland: A Restored Bird Haven

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INTRODUCTION

Birders near and far regard Lost Creek Wetland (Lost Creek) as one of Portage County's top hot spots, and rightfully so. This restored wetland site now boasts a bird list of 218 species, which include sought-after water-and prairie-dwelling species. Such a high number can be explained by the diversity of habitats surrounded by intense agricultural development. This 345-acre wetland complex may be teeming with birds and other wildlife now, but just a few years ago this diverse landscape consisted of vast fields of potatoes, corn and soybeans cross-hatched with deep drainage ditches. Much of the public may be surprised to learn that this is a wetland restoration project designed, constructed and monitored by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). This article is intended to provide readers with insight

into why and how the Lost Creek wetland was restored, how it is currently managed, and the birdlife that now abounds here.

MITIGATION 101

Mitigation includes avoiding and minimizing impacts to wetlands or reducing impact by preservation of wetlands, as well as rectifying through restoring or compensating for the impact, by replacement of the resource that is lost. WisDOT follows a specific sequence when mitigating for wetland loss, which is to avoid impacts, minimize impacts, mitigate on-site (in close proximity to impacted wetlands), and then "bank" wetland impacts at a location elsewhere in the state. Banking is to be used only when no practicable means are available to avoid wetland impacts, for projects with small impacts, or when adjacent lands are not suitable to support

wetlands. Projects with wetland impacts cannot be permitted without an acceptable means of mitigation as authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

There are a number of criteria that should be evaluated before a site is considered for wetland mitigation purposes. Primary criteria include the presence of wetland (hydric) soils, ditches and drain tiles, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designation as “prior converted” (drained) cropland, parcel size, minimum number of property owners, and willing seller(s). Secondary criteria include location within the watershed, proximity to WDNR or public lands, and acreage of existing wetlands on the parcel(s). Sites that in some way fail to meet these criteria have a lower potential for success and often result in a higher cost per acre to restore. Therefore, to maximize the cost effectiveness of a wetland mitigation project, sites that meet all the criteria are preferred.

CREATING LOST CREEK

WisDOT evaluated potential mitigation sites for the U.S. Highway (USH) 10 Stevens Point bypass project during the Environmental Impact phase of the project. Ten sites in Portage County near the proposed highway project were evaluated for suitability for wetland restoration; two ranked highest for restoration potential. The Lost Creek mitigation site was ranked second highest, and was selected as the preferred site because the highest ranked site was an unwilling seller. Following the site selection, landowner negotiations, land acquisitions, hydro-

logic studies, and engineering design studies were conducted from 2004 to 2007.

The Lost Creek mitigation site is located approximately three-fourths of a mile east of the City of Stevens Point corporate limits, approximately one-half mile north of USH 10 and approximately one-half mile west of CTH J (Figure 1). The site is surrounded primarily by agricultural land. A large wetland complex, including Lost Creek itself, is located north of these adjacent lands. This is the southern extent of the Jordan Swamp, a huge complex of wetlands that stretches north to the Dewey Marsh State Wildlife Area. Duck Lane, a north-south town road, traverses the site south from 9th Street. The legal description for the site is: Part of Section 30, T24N R9E, Town of Stockton, Portage County, Wisconsin. WisDOT acquired 220 acres west of Duck Lane and 125 acres east of Duck Lane for this project.

The site is located in the Lost Creek watershed, which contributes to the Plover River and ultimately the Wisconsin River. The headwaters of the Lost Creek watershed, located approximately three-quarters of a mile north of the site, consist of a natural stream channel with extensive riparian wetlands surrounded by large wooded tracts. In approximately 1970, a large segment of the natural Lost Creek channel was realigned to the south and connected to a network of channelized drainage ditches within an intensive agricultural area that includes the Lost Creek mitigation site. Historically, the Lost Creek mitigation site and surrounding lands were part of a large groundwater-fed, forested and emergent wetland with no known stream history prior to construction of the



Figure 1. Lost Creek Community Map

drainage ditch network. This large tract of high quality undeveloped land provided abundant resources for many wildlife species.

The wetland mitigation design included restoring the farmed land, enhancing existing wetlands, realigning a degraded trout stream, creating riparian wetland buffer habitats, and creating native prairie as upland buffer habitat. The mitigation design maximized restorable wetland acreage on this site and created a diverse, high quality mix of self-sustaining wetland, aquatic, and upland environments using techniques that require low maintenance costs. The wetland plant communities established include scrub-shrub, wet meadow, shallow marsh, riparian wooded, riparian emergent and wooded swamp (Figure 2).

Restoring wetland hydrology is the key criterion of wetland establishment.

Groundwater, rather than surface water, is the primary source of hydrology for this site. The groundwater hydrology was altered by the network of drainage ditches and subsurface drain tiles.

As part of the design, hydrogeologists from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) were retained to complete a hydrogeologic model of the site using pre-design and post-design scenarios to predict the historic, existing and future groundwater regimes. To complete the hydrogeologic study, 13 on-site and three off-site groundwater-monitoring wells, five on-site and four off-site staff gauges were installed, surveyed and monitored. Six off-site high capacity irrigation wells and the on-site and off-site drainage ditch network were monitored as well.

The drainage ditches were found to contain suitable habitat for brook trout.



Figure 2. Virginia Rail – photo by Alyssa DeRubeis

Fishery biologists from WDNR provided a preliminary habitat characterization, fish survey and historic review of the Lost Creek watershed.

The project design realigned the existing ditches designated as navigable trout streams and replaced them with naturalized stream channels with enhanced brook trout habitat. WisDOT evaluated a reference reach of an undisturbed segment of the Lost Creek to assess the channel profile and sinuosity and incorporated this information into the naturalized stream channel design. In cooperation with a WDNR biologist, brook trout were relocated prior to construction within the existing ditches. Wetland delineation and archaeological surveys were also completed prior to construction.

A high-pressure underground natu-

ral gas pipeline traverses the northern portion of the site. To accommodate current and future use of this pipeline corridor, WisDOT maintained the easement and restored this area to native grassland species including little and big bluestem, black-eyed susan and stiff goldenrod.

Construction of the Lost Creek mitigation site was initiated in July 2008 and was completed in September 2009. The hydrology of the wetland mitigation site was restored by filling interior drainage ditches, breaking drain tile, soil excavation, topsoil replacement, seeding and planting native wetland and upland species, and construction and maintenance of a perimeter ditch system to convey stormwater during high precipitation events and lower groundwater levels on adjacent lands.

LOST CREEK TODAY

Following construction WisDOT implemented a monitoring, management and maintenance plan. Monitoring and maintenance activities have been underway since 2010, and will be completed after a period of ten years. Ecological performance standards are required as part of monitoring to measure the site's functional effectiveness, as well as those characteristics that define an area as wetland versus upland. The performance standards provide quantitative methods to determine if the following objectives have been met:

1. **Floral Diversity, Wildlife and Fishery Habitat.** These functions involve the ability of wetland and aquatic habitats to conserve the long-term productivity and diversity of native flora and fauna. The primary characteristics influencing these functions are cover type diversity and structural diversity, such as vegetative layering and interspersions, and vegetation-water interspersions. Specific project design elements that address floral diversity and wildlife habitat functional objectives include:

- Placement of the wetland mitigation site contiguous to a large existing wetland area to the north to enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat within the local watershed and provide a large tract of high quality undeveloped land;
- Restoring and creating over 200 acres of wetland habitat through site grading and micro-topographic variation resulting in varying hydrologic regimes to promote a diverse complex of wetland species;
- Creating 1.3 miles of new stream

channel with aquatic habitat features suitable for maintaining a reproducing population of brook trout to replace approximately one mile of stream channel (excavated ditches) filled to restore wetland hydrology;

- Planting native species that have high wildlife value and are typical in natural or undisturbed wetlands and upland prairie in the project vicinity to replace the existing cropland which provides minimal wildlife values;
 - Implementing a management strategy to control invasive species during the initial period of vegetation establishment with follow up management during the remaining term of the monitoring period.
2. **Water Quality Protection and Flood/Storm Water Attenuation.** Changing the land use within this large agricultural tract from annual soil disturbance and intensive application of pesticides and herbicides typical of central Wisconsin farming practices to native plant communities has improved both surface and groundwater quality within the Lost Creek and Plover River watersheds. Soil erosion has been eliminated, and stormwater runoff has decreased. Flood and stormwater is retained longer in the wetland, allowing suspended solids to settle out. Permanent native vegetation cover provides filtration of pollutants prior to entering the stream and protects the stream from potential thermal impacts.
3. **Aesthetic, Recreational and Educational Values.** The project design incorporated a designated recre-

ational trail for use by snowmobiles and other, non-motorized activities. Future recreational plans include expansion of the Green Circle Trail onto the site that will allow the public to access the site and enhance the recreational values. Educational values have been enhanced through signage illustrating the wetland restoration process and importance of Lost Creek's natural, social and cultural resources.

4. Cultural Resource Preservation. Various artifacts were found when archaeologists surveyed the site, resulting in identification of a previously unknown archaeological site that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This area was utilized by Native American groups throughout the last 8000 years. People utilized the site, most likely on a seasonal basis, to collect a wide variety of plant and animal resources. WisDOT protected this area from disturbance during construction, has restored it with native vegetation and acquired it as part of the mitigation site so it is preserved in perpetuity.

Successful wetland monitoring, data analysis, and maintenance activities have been completed over the past five years. Studies include vegetation monitoring and community mapping, measurement of surface and groundwater levels and documentation of wildlife use.

Vegetation is developing as expected during the initial years of establishment, but remedial seeding is being done in areas where early successional native and/or non-native species are abundant. Five wetland communities were mapped on the site, and the wet-

land acreage is greater than anticipated. Desirable native species are abundant throughout the site, but aggressive management techniques targeting reed canary grass, common reed grass and non-native broadleaf species is ongoing to ensure that performance standards relating to vegetation are met at the end of the monitoring period.

The increase in the amount of wildlife use at the site from the agricultural preconstruction state to the restored post-construction state is staggering. As indicated earlier, the site has quickly become a well-known birding site in the Stevens Point area. It provides habitat for an abundant number of bird species and a variety of insects, small mammals and some herptiles. A more detailed breeding bird survey will be conducted in 2015. This will provide a more accurate measure of seasonal wildlife use on the site.

Long term management and stewardship of this site is anticipated to be transferred via deed from WisDOT to a public or non-profit organization (such as WDNR, UWSP, Portage County or the Audubon Society) at the end of the monitoring period. The site will be protected with a deed instrument and maintained as wetland in perpetuity.

BIRDS OF LOST CREEK WETLAND

Uncommon, rare and breeding birds listed by order (-iformes) or family (-idae) are highlighted in the following narrative. Note that the area for this list encompasses the sod farm north of 9th Street and the shrubby area east of Duck Trail, both outside Lost Creek's boundaries. The authors felt compelled to include these sites because they are immediately adjacent to and likely influenced by the wetland habitat at Lost



Common Gallinule—photo by Rob Pendergast

Creek, and have hosted species of interest. For the complete Lost Creek checklist, please contact Alyssa DeRubeis.

ANSERIFORMES (Swans, Geese, and Ducks), PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes): Twenty-five waterfowl species have been recorded here, consisting of all five indigenous goose species, both native swan species and eighteen duck species (with such “goodies” as American Black Duck and Canvasback). On a good day, one can observe most of the duck species in mixed flocks on the east side of Duck Trail. Tundra Swans sometimes rest in the hundreds during spring migration. Some waterfowl do use the western ponds (i.e. Tundra Swans, geese, and some ducks), although it is difficult to determine how much or how frequently they use them

due to vegetation obstruction. Confirmed nesting species at Lost Creek are Mallard, Blue-winged Teal and Red-head. Canada Goose, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal have all been observed during the summer, so breeding is quite possible. Three grebe species have been recorded: Pied-billed (nests), Horned and Red-necked.

PELICANIFORMES (Hérons and Allies): Herons and egrets are hard to come by in Portage County, but Lost Creek is the most reliable place for species such as American and Least Bitterns, Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron. Green Heron is the most commonly seen species, and a pair usually nests in or nearby Lost Creek every year.

ACCIPITRIFORMES (Hawks, Eagles, and Allies), STRIGIFORMES (Owls), FALCONIFORMES (Falcons): Raptors are observed on occasion at Lost Creek. Nineteen species have been recorded here, with highlights being Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Eastern Screech-Owl, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, and Peregrine Falcon. Many raptors can be seen soaring high over Lost Creek during migration, or in some cases hunting over the wetlands. The most commonly observed species are Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk.

GRUIFORMES (Cranes and Rails): Virginia Rail and Sora are readily heard on the west side of Duck Trail, where they probably breed. Sandhill Cranes roost and forage in the wetland. A pair of Common Gallinules nested in the southeast pond from 2011–2013, marking not only a first county breeding record but also a first county record overall! American Coots regularly nest here as well.

CHARADRIIFORMES (Plovers, Sandpipers, Gulls, and Allies): Shorebirds are another taxon that is pretty tough to find in Portage County, but Lost Creek is easily number one for shorebirding in the county. Twenty-six species have been recorded here. Only four shorebird species have been seen exclusively on the sod farm and not Lost Creek itself: Black-bellied Plover, Upland Sandpiper, and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. American Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers are more reliably found on the sod farm but have occasionally been seen flying over or using Lost Creek's wetlands. Other "good" shorebird species found here include Willet, Sanderling, Dun-

lin and Stilt Sandpiper. Killdeer nest at Lost Creek regularly, American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe probably do, and it is possible that Wilson's Phalarope does also, since the species has been seen in the early summer in some years. With any suitable shorebird habitat, the quality is largely dependent on local rain events. The sod farm is good in wet years, while Lost Creek is best during dry years. When scouring the wetlands, the north and central ponds on the east side of Duck Trail typically host the most shorebirds. Lost Creek attracts few gulls and terns: Bonaparte's, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls plus Black Tern.

COLUMBIFORMES (Doves and Pigeons), CUCULIFORMES (Cuckoos), PICIFORMES (Woodpeckers), PASSERIFORMES (Songbirds): The shrubby area just south and east of the wetlands does not consistently host "good" birds, but it is always worth checking, especially during migration. The following species have been observed in these wooded areas: six woodpecker species (including Red-headed Woodpecker), Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Olive-sided Flycatcher (and seven other flycatcher species), all five regular vireo species, Winter Wren, four thrush species, twenty-three warbler species (with highlights being Blue-winged, Orange-crowned, Mourning, Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Canada Warblers plus Northern Parula), Orchard Oriole and even Northern Mockingbird. During the summer, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole and Ameri-

can Goldfinch all nest near or in this shrubby area.

CAPRIMULGIFORMES (Nightjars), CORACIIFORMES (Kingfishers), PASSERIFORMES (Songbirds): The wetlands are occupied by not-previously-discussed birds of interest, many of which breed here. Common Nighthawk can be heard “peenting” overhead at dusk in the late summer and fall. Belted Kingfisher hunts the wetlands infrequently. Willow Flycatcher nests in the willows in the southern shore of the south pond. Alder Flycatcher has been noted here and in the shrubby area too, mainly during migration. Northern Shrike can be observed patrolling the wetlands and the sod farm edges during the late fall, winter and early spring. Common Raven (locally uncommon) is occasionally seen soaring high over the wetlands. All six indigenous swallow species forage over the wetlands, sometimes congregating in dead tree branches on the south side of the wetlands (especially Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows). Bank and Northern Rough-winged Swallows have been confirmed nesting in or near Lost Creek. Marsh Wren and Common Yellowthroat nest and sing loudly from both sides of Duck Trail. Sedge Wren also nests, but its territory is confined to the drier areas, mainly west of the wetlands and in the wet meadow sandwiched between the north and central ponds and east of Duck Trail. Open-ground birds like American Pipit, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting are commonly seen using pond edges during dry years. Lost Creek is the most reliable site in the county to observe Yellow-headed Blackbird, which also breeds here. Brewer’s Blackbird is often

found foraging on the sod fields during the spring and summer. Rusty Blackbird visits Lost Creek during migration. Lastly, while most of the eight finch species recorded here don’t reside in Lost Creek itself (except for American Goldfinch and House Sparrow), they can sometimes be heard or seen flying over the wetlands, especially in the winter. Pine Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill, in addition to Purple and House Finches, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin, are all examples of flyovers.

PASSERIFORMES (Songbirds): Some prairie species are reliably found at Lost Creek as well. Dickcissel can be heard singing from the mesic upland prairie on the west side of Duck Trail and from the wet meadow on the east side of the road. Bobolink and Eastern and Western Meadowlarks frequent Lost Creek mostly during migration.

EMBERIZIDAE (Emberizine Sparrows): Eighteen sparrow species have used Lost Creek, and it is arguably the easiest place to find Nelson’s Sparrow in the county. Look for this secretive species during September and October on the east side of Duck Trail in the wet meadow area between the north and central ponds. Grasshopper and Henslow’s Sparrow can be heard singing in small numbers on the west side of Duck Trail. Savanna, Song and Swamp Sparrows abound during the summer, American Tree Sparrow in the winter and Clay-colored, Lincoln’s, White-crowned and sometimes Harris’s Sparrows are most often observed during migration.

In an increasingly urban landscape, high quality wildlife habitat becomes scarcer. Restoration efforts such as Lost Creek can return the landscape to a

productive site for wildlife, showing that wetland mitigation sites can and do provide quality avian habitat. Lost Creek serves as an example of a successful mitigation and restoration project.

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Wildlife Biology emphasis from the University of Michigan. Janet has been involved with planning, implementation, monitoring and management of numerous wetland restoration projects for over 20 years and has been an avid birder for most of her life.

Alyssa DeRubeis has been passionate about birds and other wildlife from a young age. Originally from Minnesota, she lived in Stevens Point, Wisconsin from 2009–2013 to receive her Bachelor of Science degrees in Wildlife Ecology and Biology. During that time, Alyssa fell in love with Lost Creek Wetland. After compiling a checklist for Lost Creek, it was clear that this was an important restored area for birds so co-writing an article about it came naturally to her.

50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

Carl H. Richter of Oconto witnesses cannibalism in Gray Jays—“Following a canoe trip on the flooded Peshtigo River (on May 10), we returned to the home of the ‘in-laws’ at long Lake for Supper. After a good hearty meal I decided to drive up to check on our deer camp . . . on Hwy 139. Where the road crosses a spruce swamp we spotted a bird ahead, lying in the center of the road. It turned out to be a downy young Gray (Canada) Jay. The wing feathers were developed enough to allow the bird to fly at least short distances. It was too damaged a condition to save as a specimen, so I placed it on the grassy shoulder of the road. Less than a half an hour later, upon returning, we found an adult Gray Jay (perhaps one of the parents) tearing the dead young apart and carrying portions into the swamp, probably feeding it to the remaining young.”

Wisconsin’s first Lark Bunting spent five months near a Milton feeder at the home of Mrs. E.M.Rumpf. She first observed it on December 17, 1963 on her driveway looking for grit. The bird visited regularly every day near the times of 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. and again at 4:00 p.m.—seeming to prefer eating on the ground with the sparrows versus the feeder. Professor Hadow of Milton College set up a blind and studied the bird for weeks, obtaining an excellent photo of the Bunting in immature plumage. Mrs. Melva Maxson of Milton trapped and banded it on April 30. It stayed in the area three weeks after the banding.

A Barn Owl was seen in Racine County on May 19.

Excerpts from Vol. 27(1), 1965 by WSO Historian Nancy J. Nabak, 410 Stonehedge Road, Green Bay, WI 54302; 920. 655. 4185; historian@wsobirds.org



Male Hooded Merganser by Michael J. Huebschen”

Wisconsin May Day Counts 2014

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The winter of 2013–2014 will be remembered as one of the longest, coldest, least-finchy winters in recent memory with many northern lakes still frozen as we entered the May birding season. The slow thaws made for some fantastic birding according to Mark Kordecki, the Milwaukee/Ozaukee compiler whose team ticked a 2014 May Day best 191 species, affirming it was the “best count for us in over 10 years”. They weren’t alone; seven of this year’s nine teams saw increases over their 2013 totals thanks to several lingering waterfowl, sparrow and gull species.

Species diversity within each of the major guilds (excluding those elusive finches) was also up since 2013. The Milwaukee/Ozaukee crew tallied the most shorebirds (17), and gulls (5) while the Winnebago team once again registered the most waterfowl (19), Oconto the most flycatchers (9), and Marathon the most raptors (12). The Winnebago and Fond Du Lac crews saw a whopping 15 species of sparrows and a total of 28 warblers were observed on three of this year’s counts (Oconto, Waukesha, and Milwaukee/Ozaukee). When all was said and done, a total of 158 birders (+9.4% from 2013) partici-

pated in counting 57,817 individuals of 236 species (the highest species total since 2008).

Among the exceptional birds observed during this year’s count were a Tufted Titmouse on the Oconto count, two Harris’s Sparrows (Fond Du Lac and Marathon), two Fox Sparrows (Winnebago and Waupaca), and *only one* cuckoo (Florence). The following birds were observed on only one count: those in bold italics are considered *rare/very rare but regular* according to the official WSO checklist.

Florence—Black-billed Cuckoo

Fond du Lac—Bell’s Vireo,

Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Meadowlark

Marathon—American Avocet, Dickcissel

Milw./Ozaukee—White-winged

Scoter, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone,

Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Lesser

Black-backed Gull, Eurasian

Collared-Dove, Long-eared Owl,

White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren,

Kentucky Warbler, Hooded

Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat,

Summer Tanager

Oconomowoc—Le Conte’s Sparrow

Table 1. The 2014 Wisconsin May Counts (highs are in bold)

Count	Date	Sky	Wind	Temp.	Party Hours	Obs.	Species
Milwaukee/Ozaukee	5/10	Clear	W 8–10	42–68	–	24	191
Winnebago	5/10	Fair	W 4–12	46–71	130	26	186
Oconto	5/22	Clear	W <15	46–70	43	10	175
Fond Du Lac	5/11	Partly Cloudy	–	57–79	–	5	160
Marathon	5/10	Clear	W 7–12	44–71	92	31	158
Waukesha	5/10	Clear	S 0–8	46–70	73	26	147
Waupaca	5/24	Clear	Slight	47–80	66	8	142
Oconomowoc (CBC Circle)	5/19	Partly Cloudy	S 5–20	46–66	–	22	134
Florence	5/28	Clear	NE 1–2	45–79	25	6	116

Oconto—Franklin’s Gull

Waukesha—*Prairie Warbler*

Winnebago—Cattle Egret, *White-faced Ibis*, Common Gallinule, Rusty Blackbird

Several of this year’s May Day Counts were submitted as eBird checklists. This is an excellent—and easy—way to ensure your data is fully utilized. To submit your count totals via eBird, simply follow the instructions on the May Day Count webpage on the WSO website.

Rules for the WSO May Day Counts are:

1. Count period is May 1–31.
2. Count must be taken within a 24-hour calendar day.
3. Count must cover a set area, ideally a county or a circle consisting of a predetermined distance diameter (10, 15, 20 miles).
4. The number of parties and observers involved may vary.
5. Count areas may be recovered as

often as desired during the count day, unless individuals are being tallied.

6. The counting of individuals is optional (but encouraged).
7. Do not initiate a May Count within an area where one is already conducted. Instead join the existing count or establish one in a new area. If you are thinking of doing a May Day Count and are unsure if there is one already started in your area, you can contact me at MayDay@WSO-Birds.org or at the mailing address at the beginning of this article.
8. There are no count fees.
9. May Day Counts can be submitted online via eBird or mailed in on paper.
 - a. Completely document unusual species, whether they are late or rare.
 - b. Don’t forget to include details on weather conditions (i.e. temp. wind speed, sky conditions).

The Spring Season: 2014

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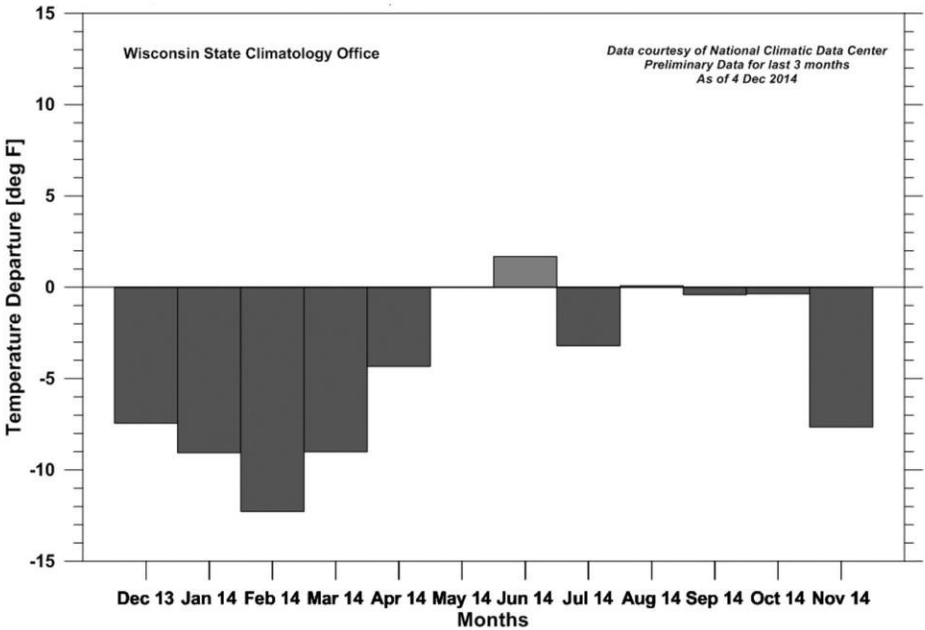
The official spring season (March 1–May 31) followed three months of below average temperatures, above average ice cover, and at least for areas of the state north of the Tension Zone, above average snow depth. These factors led to a protracted spring onset characterized by lower temperatures and slower leaf-out.

50–100 year records for average cold, below normal daily temperatures, below zero days, and hours of extreme wind chill temperatures (below –20 degrees F) were common throughout Wisconsin. Frequent fluffy snowfalls produced long periods of above normal snow coverage, 1–2 feet at the end of February, although the water content was only moderately above normal amounts.

The Great Lakes ice coverage peaked above 90% for all lakes, a modern record and one which has probably only occurred a few times in the last 100 years. River ice was unusually extensive and ice thickness on all lakes was much greater than normal. Ground frost had penetrated to 3 feet in many counties, with deeper penetrations under local paved locations. Below average temperatures persisted through the first two months of the

spring period (March and April) but by May temperatures reached the 30-year average and, in-fact, June temperatures would be above average by a couple of degrees F. The result of this unseasonable cold and frozen spring was less waterfowl early in the season, and waterfowl staging in large numbers once water opened up later on. A delayed spring is often a welcome treat to woodland birders since leaf-out tends to be later and insects tend to be concentrated closer to the ground where it is warmer. This results in high visibility of woodland songbirds as was the case with Pheasant Branch Conservancy in early May, as many species of neotropical migrants were making landfall in southern Wisconsin. Of course from a climate change perspective, these major departures from normal pose a threat to decouple the birds from their required resources at a rate more aggressive than their ability to adapt to the change. How this will ultimately play out we do not know, but what is clear is that 2014 was a cold year up to and including the spring report period.

Lack of open water led to hundreds of waterbird deaths on the Great Lakes in March. By mid-March ice cover in Lake Michigan was still at 93% and



Wisconsin Statewide Monthly Temperature Departures (from 1981–2010 Normals) for the year 2014.

many waterbirds including ducks, loons and grebes were being found dead in the near-shore area, all of them emaciated (Chicago Tribune article). Particularly susceptible were Red-breasted Mergansers.

METHODOLOGY

The overwhelming majority of the data used to compose this report comes from eBird. It is a database containing the statewide bird observations from hundreds and hundreds (!) of observers. A download is requested from eBird headquarters at Cornell University and the file is converted into a useable format. Additional sources of information for the report come in the form of paper county forms, rare bird report forms, May Day count reports,

and select special communications from organizations or individual observers. The Bird Reports Coordinator is the main conduit for these secondary sources of information.

An eBird “data build” is constructed from the above information and provides the main framework for the data that is later presented to readers in the accounts that follow. The specific data that is examined for each species includes, but is not limited to, the following: first and last date of observation, high count, county distribution, and total number of counties observed in. A final review is performed to double-check that the text of an individual species account matches the original data points. In addition, all arrival and departure dates are checked against a master document maintained by Bob Domagalski. Bob also maintains a Rare



Bird list, which is consulted when special species are observed in the state. Bob's record arrival and departure document can be found on the WSO webpage. According to current WSO Records Committee rules (created under the guidance of Records Committee chair Ryan Brady), any bird observation date that is among the "top three" earliest arrival or latest departure dates on record requires documentation to be sent to the Committee for formal approval. This means that

submission through eBird is not enough! In the accounts that follow, there are too many examples of birds that were observed and went undocumented. The forms available on the WSO webpage for documenting bird observations have recently been streamlined and are easy to use – there are no excuses for not doing it!

With regard to the chronological order with which the first and last observation dates are listed in the accounts, 95% of the time, the dates are

listed as they actually occurred. In a certain percentage of cases, dates are omitted or disregarded when legitimate questions can be raised about how the observation came to be entered either in the eBird database or on a county form. Reasons for rejection include but are not limited to the following: observation is prior all other dates for that year by a significant number of days, yet contains no comments or supportive data, as well as, the absence of other more likely species on a checklist, indicating a likely misidentification or other error.

While the specified high counts are normally the actual highest counts observed during the season, occasionally they are not. Sometimes it is instructive to point out an “early” high count in favor of a later, larger number to demonstrate how migration was progressing at a specific time during the season. Also, some high counts are eliminated because they are the result of unspecified miles of driving, imprecise estimates, or Big Day totals that can skew data. When such totals are included, they will specifically be identified as such within the accounts.

Data sources consulted included:

eBird – Explore Data “Range and Point Maps”

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Species Maps

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) website – “Wisconsin All-Bird Conservation Plan”

The following species were **not** included: Canada Goose, Mallard, Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon), Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, European

Starling, House Finch and House Sparrow.

Symbols and terms used:

* = Species requiring a Short Form to be submitted to WSO or details to be entered directly into the eBird database for review by the field note compiler.

** = Species requiring a Long Form to be submitted for consideration by the WSO Records Committee.

Record cut-off date = a threshold date which distinguishes the normal arrival/departure dates from exceptional records (access the Early/Late list Records list by visiting the WSO webpage and looking under “Report Sightings”).

eBird abundance = line graphs show the average number of birds reported on all checklists within a specified date, range, and region.

EBird average count = line graphs show the average number of birds on checklists with a positive observation.

EBird frequency = line graphs show percentage of checklists reporting the species within a specified date, range and region.

Atlas = the WSO Atlas of Breeding Birds of Wisconsin (Cutright et al. 2006) censused the counties of the entire state for breeding bird activity.

Abbreviations used:

BCA = Bird Conservation Area; BIGBY = Big Green Birding Year; BOP = beginning of period (1 March); WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; EOP = end of period (31 May); EVNP = Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County (limited access); FBMP = Forest Beach Migratory Preserve; m.obs = multiple observers; ICF = International Crane Foundation; NLDC = North Lakeland Discovery Center; NWR = National Wildlife

Refuge; PBC = Pheasant Branch Conservancy; SANC = Schlitz Audubon Nature Center; SF = State Forest; SNA = State Natural Area; SP = State Park; SWA = State Wildlife Area; TTP = throughout the period; unk.obs. = unknown observer; WA = Wildlife Area; WGLBBO = Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; WSO = Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

REPORTS

(1 MARCH–31 MAY 2014)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck**—Two found—Eighth state record (first record ever in northern WI) found 8–27 May in Ashland (Tom Nutt); and one 22–25 Horicon NWR in Dodge Co. (Deb Potts) is the ninth WI record.

Greater White-fronted Goose—Quentin Yoerger found 11 birds during the first week of the count (hereafter BOP), on 2 March, in Green County. During the following week birds appeared in Dane, Columbia Sauk and Ozaukee Counties with up to 17 birds in both Dane and Sauk Counties. By the end of March five counties were reporting counts over 100 individuals, and on 2 April Pamela Campbell tallied 32 birds in Dunn County. On that same date numbers in Columbia County increased significantly with 750 birds tallied in the ephemeral flooded fields on Wangsness Road. By the third week in April numbers had thinned out across the state. On 26 April a single bird was reported from Necedah NWR in Juneau County, and on the 14th of May Ryan Brady tallied the last record of the spring season: two individuals in Bayfield County.

Snow Goose—Multiple observers reported two individuals on 1 March in Ozaukee County, otherwise no BOP birds were reported for the other 31 counties that would hold Snow Geese over the spring season. By mid-March birds began to show up in Racine, Grant and Dane Counties, and by 21 March double-digits were being reported in Dane County. On 30 March 50 birds were tallied in Horicon Marsh, Dodge County (Michael Gray) and seven birds were reported on 12 April in Marathon County (Dan Belter, Myles Hurlburt). Of the northern counties, only Door (16 April) and Vilas (23 April) Counties tallied one and five birds respectively during the spring period.

Ross's Goose—The tiny white goose was reported in 20 counties across Wisconsin during the spring of 2014. Two birds were present in Kenosha and Ozaukee Counties BOP, on 1 and 2 March respectively (the Kenosha record appears to be a continuing bird from the Winter period). Columbia County produced the highest count with eight individuals tallied by Thomas Wood on 26 March from Kronke and Wangsness roads. The "Ashton K Ponds" in Dane County held six birds on 11 April (m.obs.). The last report came from Ryan Brady in Bayfield County of a single bird in a concentration of ducks in the main channel at the head of the bay. Brady noted that as of 11 April the bay was still socked in with ice.

Cackling Goose—By 15 March had been found in Ozaukee, Dane, Grant, Milwaukee and Iowa Counties. In Rock County Joshua Cullum tallied an impressive 23 individuals on 20 March, and 55 individuals on 21 March mixed in with migrating Canada Geese over Rock County. Jim Schwarz had 20 birds in the ephemeral ponds off of Harvey Road, in Columbia County on 21 March and a similar number persisted there through the end of the month. The last sightings of the season were both on 2 May, the first in Crex Meadows WMA, Burnett County, by Ezra Hosch, and the second over to the east in Bayfield County by Paula Anich.

Mute Swan—Recorded in 22 counties during the spring season. Reported from Kenosha, Manitowoc, Waukesha and Winnebago Counties in singles and pairs BOP. Maximum count was eight birds in Jackson Harbor, Door County, on 26 May.

Trumpeter Swan—With little open water this wintering species was found in very few locales BOP. Specifically they were found in small numbers in five counties: Waukesha, Sauk, Green Lake, Fond du Lac and Portage, and in good numbers at Willow River SP in St. Croix County; 182 individuals (Larry Perisco). Persisted in St. Croix, Polk, Marathon, Juneau, and Dodge EOP.

Whooper Swan**—Two sightings of Whooper Swan occurred in Wisconsin during 2014, the first in Waukesha County on 22 March of a single individual, and the second in Marathon County of two individuals. As with most vagrant waterfowl provenance is questionable. The WSO Records Committee did not take up these cases so at this point they are assumed to be illegitimate.

Tundra Swan—During BOP small numbers present: three in Winnebago County on 21 February, two in Door County on 1 February and

Table 1. Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory Spring 2014 Lakewatch (unofficial counts from eBird data)

Species	3/29– 4/4	4/5– 4/11	4/12– 4/18	4/19– 4/25	4/26– 5/2	5/3– 5/9	5/10– 5/16	5/17– 5/23	Season Total
Canada Goose	18	217	12	81	10	23	7		368
Tundra Swan		23							23
Wood Duck	19	42	15		1		4		81
Gadwall	133	65	113	33	29		1		374
American Wigeon	128	81	93	14	7	6			329
American Black Duck		3	10						13
Mallard	265	225	264	21	21	1	5		802
Blue-winged Teal	5	94	400	143	77	18	14		751
Northern Shoveler	137	107	183	48	24	18	7		524
Northern Pintail	154	72	30	8					264
Green-winged Teal	124	290	453	68		3			938
Canvasback	41	46	108	7					202
Redhead	338	763	506	27	2	14	2		1652
Ring-necked Duck			26	8	7				41
Greater Scaup	2,541	4,377	1,340	280	186	82	10		8816
Lesser Scaup	159	165	117	135	78	30			684
Greater/Lesser Scaup	47			117		8			172
Surf Scoter	2	2		5	1		8		18
White-winged Scoter	32	22	8	2		2	5		71
Red-breasted Merganser	1,787	2,641	1,229	2,719	1,849	4,975	5,114	274	20588
Black Scoter	6								6
Long-tailed Duck	141	1,958	385	278	285	2	3	2	3054
Bufflehead	34	88	85	32	8	6	1		254
Common Goldeneye	186	316	53	4	4	6	1		570
Hooded Merganser	4	15	12						31
Common Merganser	85	119	26	4	2				236
Grand Total	6,386	11,731	5,468	4,034	2,591	5,194	5,182	276	40,862

nine on 17 February, and one in Milwaukee County on 8 February. On 9 March two birds were reported in Dane County, and by mid-March small numbers were present throughout the state. A delayed spring limited available water and by the end of March some staging had begun in Outagamie County (600). Numbers at Shioc-ton swelled to over 2000 birds by the first week in April. By the end of April most birds had moved on to points north, while at the EOP only a single flock of ten birds was reported from Ashland County, as it flew north overhead (Paula and Nick Anich).

Wood Duck—An early male and female were found associated with Mallards in Oneida County on 2 March (Karen McKinley), otherwise singletons reported BOP from Dane, Waukesha, and Brown Counties. Birds reached Door County on 31 March. On 6 April Ann Geraghty tallied 60 birds in ~ five km of kayaking on the Chippewa River, north of Riverview, Eau Claire County. Passage by the WGLBBO Lakewatch peaked between the first and second week of April with 11 birds heading north on the 7th. Birds showed up in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on 12 April.

Gadwall—Present BOP in Winnebago, Waukesha, Dane and Crawford Counties. Lack of open water kept birds south longer than previous years. Only one bird was reported for Door County, in Little Sturgeon Bay, on 22 April (Stephanie Beilke). Birds appeared in Bayfield County on 24 April and on 25 April Ryan Brady noted four individuals and made the following notes in his eBird checklist: “Water opening up as Long Bridge and Short Bridge connected now. Also open out near Dusenberry’s and Whittlesey. Tons of ducks moved in last night even though it was cool with northerly winds.” On 3 May Tom Prestby and Nick Anich noted 25 birds “standing on the ice” at the Ashland Breakwall, Ashland County. Very few observations were over 100 individuals. Seen EOP at Horicon NWR, Dodge County, and in Kewaunee County.

American Wigeon—No birds reported BOP. First individuals reported on 9 March from both Sheboygan and Waukesha Counties, then on 14 March from Dane and Iowa Counties. The Dane record was of six individuals on the south side of Lower Mud Lake. By the first week of April, 30 counties were reporting and the WGLBBO Waterbird Watch peaked at 128 individuals migrating north (See Table 1). On 9 April multiple observers tallied 125 individuals in the Resort Rd. Ponds, Brown County. These numbers still pale in comparison to spring 2013. By the second to last week only singletons were reported from the following six counties: Dane, Kewaunee, Calumet, Green Lake, Door, and Brown, and by

EOP only one bird remained in Kewaunee County.

American Black Duck—Observed BOP north to Brown, Marinette, and Ashland Counties. Brown County high count was 110 on 2 March (Bob and Kay Kavanagh). Viewed EOP in Vilas, Dodge, Bayfield and Ashland Counties.

American Black Duck × Mallard—Hybrid ducks reported 2 March–29 May from fifteen counties. High counts all from Brown County, ranging up to eight birds. All other counties had three or fewer birds per count.

Blue-winged Teal—Two birds first observed on 14 March in Dane County, then on 19 March in Kewaunee and 21 March in Iowa County. On 16 April Tom Klubertanz had 300 birds at the Hanover Sod Farm in Rock County. Passage at the WGLBBO peaked during the second week of April, and by the third week sixty-one counties were reporting the species. Jack Swelstad had 150 in Brown County on 29 April. Nine counties reported birds during EOP.

Cinnamon Teal—One bird from Columbia County 12–22 April (Darren Ludwig, Mark Martin).

Cinnamon × Blue-winged (Hybrid)—Images of a Cinnamon × Blue-winged hybrid 11 April from La Crosse County (Doug Stratton).

Northern Shoveler—BOP in Brown and Dane Counties, with a significant number of birds piled up at Babcock County Park in Dane County: 300 birds on 4 March by Jim Schwarz and Charles Henrikson. 64 counties reported birds during the count period, only six counties by EOP.

Northern Pintail—Four counties reporting BOP, all single bird observations. Numbers began to build in mid-March with the first triple-digit report being of 185 birds from Lower Mud Lake, Dane County, on 24 March. Several counties reported over 200 individuals at a single location including 300 in Waukesha County on 6 April, 250 in Calumet County on 8 April, and 200 in Dodge County on 12 April. By mid-May most migrants had cleared out and only a few individuals remained in five counties. A pair was seen in Marathon on 27 May and suspected of breeding (Dan Belter). Two individuals were reported from Horicon NWR but no details were provided to imply breeding (James Frank).

Garganey—First state record. While most of the Upper Midwest states have had indi-



Lazuli Bunting ‘noshing’ in a Grant County backyard during the last half of May 2014, image captured by Kevin Sweeney.

vidual records of Garganey over recorded history, the adult male bird discovered by Kathy Java on 25 April in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area of Burnett County marks the first one for Wisconsin. To the delight of many birders from the region and beyond, this gorgeous duck stuck to the same area for nearly three weeks, last seen on 14 May. Provenance is always a concern with vagrant waterfowl given the number of aviculturists across the country, but Garganey has a known pattern of vagrancy in North America, having occurred in most states and provinces and represented by over 176 records (Howell et al. 2014). Interestingly, the spring arrival, association with Blue-winged Teal, and the fact that it was unpaired (pairing typically occurs on the wintering grounds), all lend support to the notion of a true vagrant individual following the “South Atlantic Route” model in Howell et al. (2014). In this model, birds are blown off course when heading to the African wintering region, ending up instead in South America or the Caribbean where they spend the winter, and finally migrated north with Blue-winged Teal in the spring.

Green-winged Teal—This typically hardy species was absent from the state during the first week of the count period, presumably due to the lack of open water during the preceding winter. The first record for the season was in Dane County on 14 March, a single bird in Lower Mud Lake (m.obs.). A total of 511 from three locations in Horicon NWR on 1 April (Kay Kavanagh), and a total of 550 from two locations in Marathon County on 12 April (Dan Belter). By the EOP only Marathon, Jackson and Portage counties were still reporting.

Canvasback—Observed BOP in Crawford, Dane, Green, Rock and Waukesha Counties. Jan Crawford found a large raft of 5000 birds at Lock and Dam #9, Crawford County, and coupled with two other locations along the Mississippi tallied a total of 7000 birds on 30 March. Still fewer counties logged larger concentrations of Canvasback exceeding 1000 birds. In fact, the only other county to do so was Vernon, with 1000 birds on 18 April. Seen EOP in Brown, Green Lake and Marquette Counties.



Crested Caracara pictured by Melody Walsh on Washington Island in Door County on 17 May 2014.

Redhead—Present in five counties BOP, only two of which were inland: Richland and Dane. Lake Winnebago held 100 individuals during the first week as well (Dave and Kerry Schloff). Peak passage by the WGLBBO Lakewatch occurred in the second week of April with 420 birds counted on 7 April and 763 tallied for the week. There was one report from Washington Island in Door County on 17 April of 450 birds. Reached Bayfield County almost a month later than last year, on the 24th of April! EOP reports from four counties.

Ring-necked Duck—Conspicuous and ubiquitous, the Ring-necked duck appeared in 71 of 72 counties in 2014, missing only from Rusk County. Found BOP in Dane, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Waukesha Counties. Reached Door County on 3 April, Chippewa County on 4 April, Bayfield and Ashland Counties on 10 April, and Vilas County on 26 April. Kay Kavanagh tallied 1220 and 1050 at two locations in Burnett County on 22 April. Birds began to thin out by the first week in May and by the EOP birds were present in only three counties: Marathon, Oneida and Outagamie.

Greater Scaup—Birds present BOP in seven counties along Lake Michigan and the mouth of the Fox River in Brown County. Northbound pas-

sage recorded at the WGLBBO Lakewatch, Ozaukee County, peaked during the second week of April with 4,377 birds (full season in WGLBBO table). Numbers picked up in northern counties in the latter half of April, with 800 birds reported from Bayfield County on 25 April, 250 from Ashland County on 30 April, and 500 from Ashland County on 3 May. Only one report from EOP—Charles Sontag tallied 26 birds from Manitowoc Lakefront in Manitowoc County on 31 May.

Lesser Scaup—During BOP birds were recorded in eight counties north to Manitowoc and Trempealeau. 16 birds were tallied in Rock County (Aaron Boone) on 1 March, otherwise counts were 10 or fewer for BOP. On 27 March Jason Thiele tallied 2000 birds at Potosi Landing, Grant County, and a total of 4500 were tallied from three locations in Crawford County on 30 March. A total of 684 birds passed the WGLBBO Lakewatch count site in Ozaukee County, peaking at 165 birds in the first week of April. Lesser Scaup reached the northern counties at the end of April, with 125 birds being tallied in Bayfield County on 25 April (m.obs.), two birds in Florence on 1 May, and four birds in Vilas County on 4 May. Five counties reported birds on the final day of the spring period: Dane, Brown, Keewaunee, Manitowoc, and Trempealeau.

Surf Scoter—Thirty-seven in six counties—only four in two counties away from Lake Michigan—is similar to the count of last spring. Two birds on the Mississippi River were seen from La Crosse County and one at Lake Waubesa in Dane County.

White-winged Scoter—Record high numbers of these birds were found in winter 2013–14, apparently due to the long cold winter and extensive ice cover on the Great Lakes. Birds began moving out by mid-March, although a raft of 340 was recorded from Milwaukee Co. (S. Lubahn) on 4 April, and dozens remained visible along Lake Michigan throughout mid-April, and three birds lingered until 22 May in Bayfield (Nick Anich).

Black Scoter—Reported from Ozaukee County and Milwaukee County during the spring period. Up to twelve individuals during April only. High count of five came from the WGLBBO Waterbird Watch on 1 April.

Long-tailed Duck—Reported from 14 counties, all but one of which were along either Lake Superior or Lake Michigan. High counts consistently reported from the Waterbird Watch, conducted by the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory (WGLBBO). A single adult male was observed on the Wisconsin River (Wood County) from 3–12 March.

Bufflehead—As is typical of this species, several dozen scattered around the lakeshore counties BOP while concentrations built in April across the state. All counties except for one, Rusk, reported Bufflehead during the count period. Richard Smallwood in a survey of Walworth County tallied 150 birds on 21 April. Reported EOP in Bayfield County (two) and Florence County (one) on 28 May.

Common Goldeneye—Compared to last year, few birds were encountered BOP across the state likely due to the lack of open water statewide. Still, birds were reported in 27 counties during the first week of the count period with a high count of 200 individuals in Dane County on 7 March (Lindsay Boland). By late March concentrations were building on lakeshore counties, including 1,600 in Milwaukee County on 23 March (Steven Lubahn), and along the Mississippi River, with 2,300 birds recorded from three locations in Crawford County on 30 March (Jan Collins). The last count exceeding 100 birds was from the Ashland Breakwall (Ashland County) on 3 May (m.obs.).

Barrow's Goldeneye** —A single male present from 22–23 March at Cave Point, Door County (Paul Schilke).

Hooded Merganser—Six counties reported birds BOP including two interior counties: Rock and Dane. Present in all but two counties during the count period (missing were Pepin and Rusk). Dan Belter had 75 on 19 April in Marathon County, while Andy Paulios tallied 60 birds at Crex Meadows, Burnett County, on 22 April.

Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser (Hybrid)—One photographed by Stuart Malcolm on 14 March in Winnebago County.

Common Merganser—All but Juneau County reported Common Mergansers during the count period. Twenty-six counties reported them during the BOP. Jack Swelstad had 660 birds in Jefferson Park, Winnebago County on 4 March and noted it was a “low estimate.” 12 counties reported daily counts of 150 or more individuals, including 400 at the Manitowoc Lakefront on 14 March (Charles Sontag), 350 on Lower Mud Lake, Dane County, also on 14 March (Kyle Lindemer), and 325 on Green Lake, Green Lake County on 7 April (Thomas Schultz). Birds present EOP in both Door and Vilas Counties.

Red-breasted Merganser—Found BOP in 11 counties, all typically along the Great Lakes or larger water-bodies including the Mississippi River (Grant County). The high count was 3,598 birds on 4 May from the WGLBBO Waterbird Watch, Ozaukee County (Jonathan Stein). EOP records from three counties: Door, Kewaunee, and Milwaukee.

Ruddy Duck—As is typical, only single digit observations are reported in the BOP for Kenosha and Milwaukee Counties. Earliest “high” counts came in the eighth week of the count, with 1,000 birds in Racine County on 19 April (Steve Lubahn and Mike Wagner), 975 in Dodge County on the same date (Brian Doverspike and Becky Anderson), and Jefferson County with 400 on 21 April (Aaron Stutz). A whopping 2,000 birds was tallied during the WSO field trip to Lake Maria County Park on 3 May (Tom Schultz) and on the same date Scott Puchalski had 500 birds in Trempealeau NWR, Trempealeau County. Birds cleared out by the EOP with only Trempealeau County reporting a single individual in the NWR on 31 May.

Northern Bobwhite—We may never know what reports represent true wild birds versus those released as game birds, but reports from Door, Kenosha, Marquette, Waukesha, and

Waushara Counties were all recorded during the spring period. Similar to last year, the Kenosha report comes from Richard Bong SRA, a site known for deer and pheasant hunting but not quail stocking (although stocking on private property is the main source of game farm quail). Two reports from Door County, the first on 25 March and the second on 30 May, are from within a mile of each other. A note in the earlier of the two reports states that a “covey of eight birds wintered in Ray Hansen’s yard” (Melody Walsh). If this is the case, it seems to support that the birds are indeed wild (game farm birds are known to have very low survival in the wild).

Chukar—An introduced species in Wisconsin, and one usually assumed to be an escaped bird, without a sufficiently detailed description. One report from Waukesha on 19 March in a private yard. Appeared to be an adult based on plumage.

Gray Partridge—Only two reports in spring 2014, both from Iowa County, each consisting of four individual birds, on 8 and 9 March (m.obs.).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Groups numbering 8–35 were tallied in Burnett, Columbia, Vernon, and Wood Counties from 24 March to 3 May. Overall 51 counties reported the species with nine reporting during the EOP.

Ruffed Grouse—Reported from 51 counties during the spring period with high counts including nine birds in Vilas County on 30 April and 15 birds during a full day of walking the woods in Price County on 10 May (Ryan Chrouser). Southern county records consisted of single birds found in Dane and Columbia Counties.

Spruce Grouse—Reported from Vilas and Sawyer Counties between 6 and 15 May. Max count was seven males in Sawyer County on the Natural Resource Foundation field trip in search of SPGR (m.obs.).

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Reports from Taylor, Douglas, Burnett and Bayfield Counties from 20 March to 30 May. The final report was also the highest count of seven birds in the north unit of the Namekagon Barrens SWA, Burnett County (Thomas Wood).

Greater Prairie-Chicken—The traditional strongholds of this species, Adams, Marathon and Portage Counties, held the only spring records for 2014. Counts were considerably higher this year than last, which might have something to do with the amount of time spent by birders in the

Buena Vista Grassland of Portage County. An abundance of Snowy Owls followed by the regular (but sometimes very elusive!) appearance of a Gyrfalcon had many eyes scanning the vast fields of the grassland complex early in the count period. As a result reports of 70 individuals in a single group on 2 March, and an observation of 110 individuals in two groups on 8 March were accompanied by many reports of 10–50 birds during the first three weeks of the spring season. Leola Marsh in Adams County held at least 14 birds (7 March) and the maximum count in Marathon County was of eight individuals on 29 March. Birds were detected in both Portage and Marathon counties during EOP.

Wild Turkey—All but Pepin County reported Wild Turkey during the spring period. Dane, Shawano and Wood Counties all tallied max counts of 70–75 birds, down from the 100+ max counts last year. It’s possible that the harsh winter had an impact on last year’s crop of turkey, but anecdotal reports from the WI-DNR Outdoor Report suggest high reproductive output in 2014...so we will have to see what the numbers say next year!

Red-throated Loon—The first bird of the season was discovered at the mouth of the Milwaukee River, Milwaukee County on 1 March, then in Ozaukee County on the following day. During the following week up to six birds would be seen at a time in Ozaukee County, up to three in Milwaukee and one at the Manitowoc Lakefront in Manitowoc County. Birds would eventually be reported in nine counties including Sheboygan, Racine, Kewaunee, Door and Bayfield, with a maximum of 12 individuals in Bayfield County on 21 April after a sizable nocturnal migration event (Ryan Brady). For the final report of the count period, Dan Jackson had four breeding plumage adults at Wisconsin Point on 25 May.

Pacific Loon**—One reported at Kohler-Andrae SP in Sheboygan County on 7 April (Daryl Tessen). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Common Loon—Present only in very small numbers in counties along Lake Michigan during March, the great northern divers only began showing in numbers during the first week of April. four birds on 30 March in Rock County, five birds on 31 March in Dane County, and four in Jefferson County represented the high early inland counts, while numbers in April climbed rapidly including 120 from Lake Koshkonong in Jefferson County on 7 April (Cynthia Bridge) and 54 from the WGLBBO Lakewatch in Ozaukee County on 10 April (Jonathan Stein). Birds reached Bayfield on 21 April and Ashland on 22



Western Tanager imaged by Carl Rudenberg on 6 May 2014 in Menomonie in Dunn County.

April but with little open water it wasn't until the last days of April when numbers hit double-digits in either county.

Pied-billed Grebe—Again, with little open water to be found in March, these birds were all but absent BOP. One bird in Milwaukee was present before the count period and persisted into March (Joe Luedtke and Judith Huf). By the end of the period, though, all counties except for Forest County had logged at least one bird. Reached Bayfield County on 5 April and Ashland County on 6 April. Peak occurrence was mid-April with a high count in Dane County on 21 April of 150 birds on Lake Wingra (Charles Henrikson). No other high counts above 100 birds were reported, unlike last year.

Horned Grebe—No birds present BOP. The first individuals to show up were singletons in Milwaukee County on 8 March (Matt Kemp) and Racine County on 20 March (Thomas Wood). By mid-April 30 of 62 counties were reporting birds. By 18 April Brown, Bayfield, Ashland, Marathon, and Milwaukee Counties reported individual counts over 100 birds, with standouts being 300

birds recorded in Marathon County on 1 May (Dan Belter) and 600 birds from the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County on 28 April (Nick Walton). EOP reports came from Bayfield and Columbia Counties only.

Red-necked Grebe—The first bird of the season showed up in Kewaunee County on 15 March (m.obs.), followed by a second bird in Milwaukee County on 30 March (Steve Lubahn). One to three birds were seen in up to six counties until the last week of April when birds began showing up farther north and in increasing numbers. Most notable was the large staging event in Bayfield County on 25 April when Ryan Brady tallied 112 birds at the Head of the Bay. As he put it, this count “smashed our local record of 38 and the previous eBird high count of 50”. Still, high counts were few and far between in other counties, with only three other double-digit counts during the period, in Ashland (12), again in Bayfield (27), and in Marathon (10). EOP reports from Bayfield, Columbia, Douglas, and Outagamie Counties.



Western Kingbird at the S. Wisconsin Regional Airport in Rock County on 28 May 2014 by Aaron Boone.



Say's Phoebe found by Ryan Brady on 26 May 2014 in the City of Ashland, Ashland County.

Eared Grebe*—First sighted on 23 April in both Jefferson and Outagamie Counties. A high count of four birds was reported from Goose Pond in Columbia County on 2 May, and a total of seven counties reported during the spring compilation period. This was down from 14 counties reporting birds in 2013.

Western Grebe*—One bird was seen from Gull Bluff, Wisconsin Point (Douglas County) on 29 May (Michael Gray).

Double-crested Cormorant—One bird overwintered in Milwaukee County and was reported from the 11th Street Bridge BOP. The colony on Cat Island was down from last year's count of 4000 birds, to 1500 on 23 April (Tom Prestby). This represents the highest count on Cat Island in 2014. 1300 were reported from a six km stretch of Milwaukee County lakefront on 28 April (William Mueller). 700 were reported from Manitowoc Lakefront, Manitowoc County on 15 May (Charles Sontag).

American White Pelican—Two birds continued from the previous winter period in Lakeside Park, Fond du Lac County, whereas the second report for the state wasn't until 9 March, of 40 birds migrating overhead in Grant County (Jason Thiele). The nesting colony on Cat Island in Brown County held 1600 birds. Otherwise individual high counts were few and far between, with five counties reporting counts of 300 or more birds: Buffalo (300), Grant (325), La Crosse (300), St. Croix (375) and Vernon (400), all of which lie along the Mississippi River. Birds reached the northern counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett and Douglas as in 2013, as well as Marinette and Price Counties.

American Bittern—First detected on 12 April in Fond du Lac, Rock Chippewa and Winnebago Counties, followed by Dodge and Dane Counties on 13 April. On 27 April Noah Humfeld detected 14 individuals while drift-fishing for Walleye down the Wolf River (Winnebago County). Rebecca Sher and Seth Cutright had a high count of 15 birds on 10 May from Horicon NWR, a stronghold of marsh birds in the state. Birds reached Ashland County on 4 May (Ryan Brady), Bayfield County on 14 May (Tim Oksiuta), and Douglas County by 17 May (m.obs.). Found statewide in 51 counties.

Least Bittern—Detected in 25 counties throughout the state, more than double the number of counties in 2013. Similar to last year birds were only detected during the month of May. The first birds were detected on 4 May during the WBCI Marshbird Survey (Eric Howe) in Honey

Creek SWA, Racine County. Less than a week later the second was found at the Kiel Marsh SWA boat landing (Calumet County) by Steve Murkowski. By the EOP birds were detected as far north as Douglas, Burnett, Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

Great Blue Heron—Despite the lack of open water throughout the state in early spring, these hardy herons overwintered in at least three counties: one bird each in Dane and Milwaukee Counties, and two in Waukesha County. Single returning birds reached Ashland on 3 April (Ryan Brady) and Bayfield on 18 April (Tim Oksiuta), at the same time numbers were building in more southern counties, including 60 birds tallied at the Jefferson County heron rookery on 29 March (Cynthia Bridge). Dan Belter also tallied 200 birds in and around the rookery in D.C. Everest Park, Marathon County on 10 April.

Great Egret—Mike Wanger reported the first returning bird on 31 March from Trinity Creek Wetland, Ozaukee County. Vernon, Jefferson, Brown and Rock Counties all reported birds during the first week of April. The Boomsite Rookery in St. Croix County held 40 birds on 11 May, while the Walworth County rookery at Natureland Park held 90 birds on 21 May (Marianne and Dave Nowak). Other observations of note were 220 birds tallied by Seth Cutright and Rebecca Sher from Dike Road in Horicon NWR, Dodge County, on 10 May!

Snowy Egret—Reports of single birds from Jefferson, Dane, Grant and Dunn Counties during the spring of 2014. Only April observation was of the Dane County bird on 15 April (Kurt Moyer). The Jefferson County bird was present from 1 May to 30 May, while birds in the other aforementioned counties were only reported on single dates.

Tricolored Heron*—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014, Accepted Records". Two reports of this species came in during the spring of 2014, the first from Horicon NWR, Dodge County on 4 May (Peter Fissel), and the second from Paddler's Park—Two Rivers, Manitowoc County on 18–21 May (Kay Kavanagh, Thomas Wood).

Cattle Egret—First spotted by the Northeast Wisconsin Bird Club on 26 April, flying over the road in Horicon NWR, Dodge County. Subsequent reports from 10 other counties through 20 May. The high count was of 12 birds from Omro, Winnebago County, on 7 May (Daniel Schneider), followed by seven birds by Thomas Wood in Fond du Lac County on 16 May.

Green Heron—This widespread heron was detected in 65 of 72 counties during the spring of 2014. The first returning bird was detected on 11 April at the Platte River Mississippi Junction in Grant County. Next seen on 18 April in both Dane and Jefferson Counties, and by mid-May was being seen in 51 counties throughout Wisconsin. One bird on 10 May was found in Bayfield County, while Ashland County had only a single report during the spring period, on 24 May, from Big Bay State Park (Anand Sankarraj).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—The species was reported from 25 counties during the spring of 2014, north to Vilas and Burnett Counties. First returning birds were reported from Veterans Park (one bird) and Juneau Lagoon (three birds), Milwaukee County on 7 April (m.obs.). Joshua Cullum had 15 fly over during the Night Sounds tour at Horicon Marsh Bird Festival on 10 May (Dodge County). Tom Mooran had 16 in the Mack SWA, Outagamie County on 10 May, while Tom Prestby tallied 40 from the Cat Island Causeway rookery on 25 May (Brown County). The Vilas County bird, as expected, occurred EOP on 27 May.

Glossy Ibis—Discovered on 21 May by Darrell Schiffman on Dike Road in Horicon Marsh. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

White-faced Ibis—Removed last year from the WSO Review List due to a more regular occurrence in the state, White-faced Ibis were reported from eight counties during the spring of 2014. Doug Stratton had the first returning birds, a threesome, at Halfway Creek Marsh in La Crosse County on 3 May. On 4 May a bird was discovered in the County Road V Ponds (Dane County) and persisted at the location through 10 May. On 9 May three birds were found in Jefferson Marsh SWA, Jefferson County (M. Lanois) and one in Vernon County (Dan Jackson). The high season count goes to the five birds hanging out in Quilling Pond, Dunn County on 10 May. Also on 10 May Dennis Greeniger found two birds in Winnebago County. The last bird of spring was reported on 24 May, flying over Horicon NWR, Dodge County (Jason Weber).

Mississippi Kite**—Reported off Long Valley Road in Wyalusing SP on 14 May (Brian Doverspike, Daryl Tessen). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Turkey Vulture—First returning bird spotted in Green County on 7 March, followed by one in Rock County on the 8th, Waukesha on the 9th,

Dane and Ozaukee on the 10th, with the Dane County observation being the first of the spring with two individuals. Turkey Vultures would eventually be reported for all 72 counties in 2014. Art Sonneland and Jack Swelstad conservatively tallied 100 birds in Door County on 19 May but otherwise high counts between 50 and 60 birds were only tallied in Pepin and Rock Counties during April.

Black Vulture**—See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014,” accepted records. A single bird found on 25 May by Eric Howe on Washington Island, Door County. The bird persisted to the delight of many until at least the EOP.

Osprey—67 counties reported this species in the spring of 2014 with the first birds showing up on 28 March in Racine County (Steven Lubahn). Between one and four birds showed up in Dane, Portage, Racine and Brown Counties during the BOP. A high count of eight birds was tallied from D.C. Everest Park in Marathon County on 18 April.

Golden Eagle—Clearly more of a winter visitor than a spring bird, Golden Eagles were present in 15 counties prior to the spring compilation season, but were found in only three counties (Marquette, Monroe and Portage) during the first week (BOP). On 10 March Jason Thiele tallied three adult birds from Eagle Valley, Grant County. On 16 March Ryan Brady had three birds from Bayfield County as well. The last bird of the spring season was tallied on 14 April in Iowa County (Carol Berglund).

Northern Harrier—Present in the southern part of the state prior to the count period and into the BOP, birds made their way into the northern latitudes by early April, with records in Florence County on 4 April, Bayfield County on 10 April, and Ashland County on 19 April. 15 birds were tallied at Horicon NWR on 23 April (Stuart Malcolm). High counts averaged 2.7 birds across 69 reporting counties.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Found primarily in the southern half of the state BOP north to Vilas County. Migrants over northern Wisconsin picked up in the latter part of April, with reports of 93 migrating along Lake Superior on 20 April, Iron County (Tim Oksiuta) and 21 birds migrating over Herbster (Bayfield County) on 21 April (Ryan Brady). There was only one other double-digit count for the spring—15 birds over Forest Park (Ozaukee County) on 3 May (Seth Cutright, Rebecca Sher). Reported EOP in Door County only.



Loggerhead Shrike found and photographed by Dennis Gustafson on 10 April 2014 at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher northwest of Ashland in Bayfield County on 22 May 2014 by Ryan Brady



Black-necked Stilt, Dane County by Sunil Gopalan

Cooper's Hawk—Reported in 50 of 72 counties in spring 2014 with maximum counts of four or fewer throughout the period.

Northern Goshawk—Reported in 14 counties in spring 2014. The only reports of multiple birds came from Vilas County. Two birds were reported BOP from Vilas County, one identified as a juvenile (Nathan Martineau). Martineau then had a second bird in the following week, an adult, and later a second adult courting the first, plus the juvenile for a total of three birds on 16 March. A report of an adult bird came in from Clark County on 25 March. Birds reported in EOP from Vilas and Florence Counties.

Bald Eagle—Present statewide. The highest counts came from Grant County on 24 March when Jason Thiele counted 152 northbound migrants, plus four breeding birds on nests; 294 tallied by Ryan Brady and Tim Oksiuta from the Herbster lakefront on 30 March, only three of which were local birds; and a conservative count of 250 birds on the ice at Lake Pepin, Buffalo County, on 2 April (Robert Burmaster).

Red-shouldered Hawk—Birds present in Oconto and Manitowoc Counties prior to period most likely overwintered but were not detected BOP. BOP birds were present as far north as Winnebago and Trempealeau Counties, otherwise in southern counties of Dane, Walworth, Rock, Iowa and Grant. As noted in previous years, these birds seem to “sneak” into the state with no apparent migration concentrations reported. Birds were reported in 48 of 72 counties.

Broad-winged Hawk—In contrast to the similar sized Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged hawks migrate much farther south and therefore don't typically return to Wisconsin until early to mid-April. By the second week of April singletons were reported in Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties. On 12 April Joshua Cullum experienced a nice movement of Broad-wings in Rock County, where he tallied 58 individuals in “many small flocks and several large flocks migrating north”. Other reports of > 100 birds came from Door County on 2 May (Melody Walsh), and Bayfield County on 4 May (m.obs.). Consistent concentrations were reported in Door County during the latter half of May, with some traveling counts tallying up to 400 birds in a day, including a count of 200 birds in two hours on 31 May during the Door County Birding Festival (Elaine Vokoun).

Red-tailed Hawk—Joshua Cullum tallied 26 migrating birds during a big early spring flight over Rock County on 12 April. Other migration

counts included 19 birds over Bayfield County on 19 April (Tim Oksiuta) and 21 birds during the big lakefront flight on 21 April at Herbster (Ryan Brady and Tim Oksiuta), as well as 22 birds over Iron County on 20 April (Tim Oksiuta).

Rough-legged Hawk—The Arctic buteo was present in 38 counties prior to the count period, 29 counties BOP, and tallied in 55 total during the spring of 2014. No large concentrations (migration flights) were recorded from stationary points, but several routes of nine km or more tallied some good numbers. These include 14 birds on 1 March on the beach roads, Ozaukee County (Seth Cutright and Rebecca Sher), 23 birds in the Buena Vista Grasslands, Portage County, on 23 March, and eight birds migrating overhead in Bayfield County on 19 April (Tim Oksiuta). EOP reports of singletons came from Fond du Lac and Portage Counties.

Yellow Rail**— This elusive bird was reported from two locations during the spring 2014 period. The first sightings were from Walworth County beginning on 30 April and continuing through 4 May (Eric Howe) and represent migrating birds (2–4 individuals). The second sightings occurred in Comstock Bog in Marquette County and likely represent a bird on territory based solely on date (Tom and Wendy Schultz, m.obs.). The Comstock bird was detected on 24 May during a Big Day birdathon, and subsequent reports from the location indicate that the bird continued at least through 31 May (Rob Pendergast). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

King Rail**—See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014, Accepted Records”. One record of two birds found by Ray Tushoski on 30 May in Dane County that persisted through EOP. These birds really put on a show with frequent calling and appearances, which is exciting given their status as a species of greatest conservation concern in the state. Unfortunately some birders insisted on using playback to entice calling and aggressive displays and the birds eventually disappeared soon thereafter. Whether or not they moved on due to disturbance is unknown.

Virginia Rail—The first bird was detected in Washington County on 21 March (Tom Schaefer) and then only present in Walworth, Dane and Dodge Counties through 11 April. By mid-April numbers began to increase, but still restricted to the southern half of the state. By the end of April birds reached Crex Meadows, in Burnett County, and by the first week of May were in Door County. Counts of four or more birds from Waukesha, Dodge, Wood and Bayfield Counties occurred between 21 April and 28 May.

Sora—Detected first on 12 April in Waukesha County (m.obs.), then in Calumet, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Kenosha Counties from 13–18 April. Jason Thiele tallied a conservative 30 individuals from Potosi Landing in Grant County on 8 May. Stationary counts typically ranged in the single-digits, while traveling counts reached between 10 and 20 individuals in mid-May when birds are most vocal. On 25 and 26 of May Scott Puchalski tallied 20 and 10 birds respectively, at Myrick Marsh, La Crosse County.

Common Gallinule—First detected at Horicon NWR, Fond Du Lac County, on 25 April (Drew Goldberg) then on 8 May in Outagamie County (Andrew Gilbert), then in Jefferson, Sauk and Waukesha Counties by 16 May. The high count was low this year, with only six birds tallied by Tom Schaefer in Waukesha County. One bird was reported EOP in Shoveler's Sink WPA, Dane County (m.obs.).

American Coot—Present in five counties prior to the spring period, and in three during BOP including Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Dane Counties. Reports from 66 counties came in during the spring period with birds reaching Ashland County on 10 April, Bayfield County on 25 April, Vilas County on 2 May, Iron County on 6 May, and Douglas County on 21 May. High counts were roughly half those of last year in total individuals counted, including 1,690 from Eagle Point, in Grant County, on 15 April (David Shealer) and 3,500 from Sauk County on 17 April (Aaron Holschbach).

Sandhill Crane—A lingering bird in Washington County continued from the previous count period, while BOP birds were recorded in Dane and Milwaukee Counties, as well as a report of three individuals again in Washington County. Robin Maercklein first observed a pair in Polk County on 2 April and the first bird detected in Bayfield County was on the 6th. It wasn't until 17 May when a pair was reported in Douglas County (m.obs.). The first migratory flocks were of 11–16 birds from Iowa and Jefferson Counties on 13 March. On 5 April Aaron Stutz tallied 1000 birds in Jefferson County with 600 of them in the air at once, and another 400 on the ground! Tim Ewing tallied 2120 individuals roosting in the Pike's Peak Foliage, Shawano County on 12 April. After 25 April high counts ranged between 30 and 90 birds.

Whooping Crane—The first birds of the spring were a pair reported by Jodi Denker on 17 March in Rock County, then four birds at Indian Lake, Dane County, on 21 March (Eugene Smith). Counts, at least those reported to eBird,

were low this year with the largest tally being six birds flying over Walworth County being led by the ultralight from Operation Migration (Scott Weberpal). EOP report was from Necedah NWR in Juneau County on 31 May.

Black-necked Stilt*—Birds were found in eight counties during the period as far north as Chippewa. The first report, and also the high count for the season, occurred on 14 April of eight birds in the County V Ponds, Dane County (Aaron Green). Mary Maertz had five birds at the Anderson Sod Farm, Winnebago County, on 20 April. Reports of one to three birds from Horicon NWR, representing both Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties came in throughout the period as well. A single bird in Jefferson County lingered into the EOP in some flooded fields on Hwy. 106, Fort Atkinson (Daniel Schneider), as did one in Dodge County seen from the Rockvale Overlook (Matt Herzmann).

American Avocet—Reported from nine counties during spring 2014, all in the southern part of the state north to Portage and Eau Claire. This is the third highest count of counties reporting Avocet over the last decade (13 counties in 2013, and 10 counties in 2011). First reported by Helen Pugh in Racine County where two were found at Samuel Myers Park (both assumed to be female based on apparent bill length and curvature) on 29 April. In early May at Grant Park in Milwaukee County, numbers appeared to build from three birds on 3 May to 30 birds two days later (James Frank). On 9 May a WGLBBO observer had 14 birds feeding in a pond at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, Ozaukee County. By EOP one bird remained in Manitowoc County (m.obs.).

Black-bellied Plover—First found by Eric Howe in Racine County on 28 April, the species would eventually be reported in 21 counties. Greg Huset found five birds in Ashland County on 14 May and Michael Gray had a single bird at Wisconsin Point, Douglas County, on 29 May. High counts were from Cat Island, Brown County, where Tom Prestby tallied 30 birds on 18 May. Flooded fields in Fond Du Lac County held from 11 to 20 birds between 19 and 23 May. Birds were reported from eight counties EOP including four birds in Door County on 24 May.

American Golden-Plover—Numbers were way down from the double-digit counts of last year. Multiple observers found three birds on 4 April in Racine County, followed a day later by two birds in Milwaukee County. Ultimately 12 counties would report the species during the count period. Max counts were of four birds in



Garganey, Crex Meadows by Chris West

Monroe County on 13 May, and six birds on Church Road, Fond Du Lac County, on 14 May.

Semipalmated Plover—First reported on 20 April from Nine Springs E-Way in Dane County (m.obs.), then one bird in Racine County on 29 April (m.obs.), followed by two birds in Milwaukee County on 3 May (Steven Lubahn). High counts were 24 birds at Harvey-Wangsness Wetland in Columbia County on 11 May, 25 birds at the Ashton K Ponds, Dane County, on 14 May (Melissa and Rowan Gibson), 40 birds in the Hwy. 12 ponds, Eau Claire County, on 18 May (Ann

Geraghty), and 35 birds in Outagamie, Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties during the same week. During the EOP 12 counties were still reporting birds including Ashland, which finally picked up a pair on 28 May (Nick Anich and Ryan Brady).

Piping Plover—Piping Plover were reported from six counties in 2014 including two birds in Milwaukee County's Grant Park on 6 May (m.obs.). The first bird of the season was found on 28 April at North Beach, Racine County (m.obs.). Individual birds occurred also in Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Iron counties. It is worth



Merlin, Buena Vista Grasslands by Stephen Fisher

noting that a second bird was documented in Racine County on 13 May, identified as such because it lacked leg color bands (Eric Howe). A bird found in Ashland County on 16 May lingered until at least 19 May and was originally banded as a hatchling in 2013 in Vermilion, Michigan (Ryan Brady).

Killdeer—Reported at BOP only in Vernon County for the first two weeks. First to arrive were five birds on 1 February at Genoa National Fish Hatchery in Vernon County. Four birds were seen the next day at the same location (Paul Hayes). Then, Dan Jackson reported five birds from Vernon County on 8 February. The number of counties reporting grew week by week until by 11 April the species had been reported observed in 61 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. By EOP 72 counties had reported sightings. The high count was 108 Killdeer on 1 April in Ozaukee County (Jonathan Stein) followed by a count of 100 on 31 March in Clark County (Judy Peche).

Spotted Sandpiper—The first birds reported were spotted by Eddie Hicks in Dane County—a single bird on 10 April in Vilas Park, Madison, and then two birds at Nine Springs on 11 April. Observations on 12 April quickly followed in Dodge County (Jeffrey Reese) and Green County (Dianne & Billy Eisenhuth). The birds' flight north reached the far northern counties by the first two weeks of May. Spotted Sandpipers were reported in groups of ten or more birds in a dozen counties mainly in the southern part of the state and along Lake Michigan. The high count was 32 birds seen by Ryan Brady at Bark Point in Bayfield County on May 20th.

Solitary Sandpiper—Reports on this bird started on 19 April in Jefferson County (Cynthia Bridge; Brad Steger). Beginning with 11 May observations from the northernmost part of the state starting to arrive. Numbers seen stayed around 2–4 for the most part, although Joe & Patti Schaufenbuel spotted 15 during their Portage County Big Day on 13 May. The last full

week of May through 31 May saw one to two birds, for the most part, still lingering in Dane, Dodge, Douglas, Fond du Lac, La Crosse (five), Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties.

Greater Yellowlegs—Migration in Wisconsin started with a single bird seen by Jay Watson doing a BIGBY ride in Rock County on 28 March. The flow of birds spread over 22 counties during the following week. In early April, the birds gathered mainly in the south and along Lake Michigan and reached most of the northern counties by the week of 19–25 April. By the last week of April and the first week of May, the influx peaked. Jack Swelstad had the high count, 200 birds on Van Patten Road in Outagamie County on 28 April. On 31 May a single bird still remained at Horicon Marsh (John Longhenry).

Willet—This species was observed in 23 of the 72 Wisconsin counties, and almost all the sightings occurred in the southern half of the state, along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior or along the Mississippi River, pretty much avoiding the interior of the state. The first reports were on 28 April—five along the Milwaukee lakefront (William Mueller) and two along the Manitowoc lakefront (Charles Sontag). This was eight days later than the initial appearance last year. Then on the 29th, an additional 12 birds appeared at Governor Dodge State Park (Kay Kavanagh), four were along the Manitowoc lakefront (Charles Sontag), seven at the South Metro Pier, Oak Creek (John McCaw) and nine at Lulu Lake Preserve in Walworth County (Eric Howe). The high count was 45 at Bagley Bottoms in Grant County on 5 May (Jason Thiele). Second high was the group of 42 seen by Thomas Wood on 30 April at North Beach in Racine County. One bird was still in the state on 31 May in Belleville Community Park, Dane County (unk.obs.).

Lesser Yellowlegs—1 April marked the first appearance of this species in the state—one at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve (Seth Cutright & Rebecca Sher) and five at the Kickapoo River and Wetlands in Vernon County (Jay Roth-Reynolds). One to two birds were subsequently seen the following day in Washington (Tom Schaefer), Vernon (Barbara Duerksen), Outagamie (Jack Swelstad) and Dane (Kyle Lindemer & others) Counties. The species reached almost all the counties by the week of 29 April–5 May, and the high count of 110 was by Steven Lubahn in the Norman area of Kenosha County on 5 May. Three counts of 100 birds each came the week earlier—from Outagamie (Jack Swelstad) and Ozaukee (Joan Sommer & Danielle Baumann) Counties. One bird was still being seen EOP at the Belleville Community Park in Belleville (unk.obs.).

Upland Sandpiper—This year the species was seen in only 14 counties, one fewer than last year, underlining it's being a species of concern. Its earliest presence was reported on 12 April from Juneau County (ICF Annual Count, Liz Housworth). The next report was of a single bird from the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County on 23 April (Rob Pendergast), followed by a singleton on 25 April at Thousand's Rock Prairie in Dane County (Kyle Lindemer). Ben Winesett found the high count of 10 at Thousand's Rock on 25 May.

Whimbrel—Reported altogether in seven counties in May, the earliest record being one bird spotted by Ryan Brady in Cornucopia, Bayfield County on 25 May. Two days later on the Manitowoc lakefront, Charles Sontag found 17 birds, the highest for this season. The next highest count was five at Harrington Beach State Park on 31 May (Seth Cutright & Rebecca Sher). No inland records this spring.

Hudsonian Godwit—Observations came from six counties, compared to last year's 10 counties. Earliest bird seen was 8 May, recorded by Dave & Kerry Sehloff on Church Rd., Fond du Lac County. On 14 May, a single Godwit was first reported by Cynthia Bridge at the Ashton-K Ponds in Dane County and it was subsequently seen by m.obs. The high count came two days later when Thomas Wood spotted eight birds off Oakwood Rd., in Dodge County. The next day, seven of the birds remained, and on 18 May, six were still present, all seen by m.obs. The latest bird record of the season was at Goose Pond, Columbia County on 26 May (Chuck Heikkinen & Delia Unson).

Marbled Godwit—Records from 12 counties. First reported was one bird found at the Ashton-K ponds in Dane County by Jay Watson on 17 April and seen by four other observers. Following that were two birds on 30 April, one in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag) and one first reported by Jacob Collison at North Beach in Racine, then seen by m.obs. later the same day. Eau Claire County had its only one on 20 May (m.obs.), and Ashland County on 16 May (Tim Oksiuta). The high count by far was 15, observed by DNR staff at Powell Marsh SWA in Vilas County on 20 May. The final sighting in May was by Jack Swelstad on 27 May (Brown County).

Ruddy Turnstone—Viewed 8–31 May in 20 counties scattered around the state inland as well as by large bodies of water. First reported were single birds in Fond du Lac and Manitowoc Counties on 8 May (Dave & Kerry Sehloff and Charles Sontag, respectively). High count was a

whopping 85 reported by Kay Kavanagh on 14 May from Red River Park in Kewaunee County. Second highest was the 40-bird group at the Yacht Club in Winnebago County on 23 May (Michael Gray). Two birds were still in state on 31 May in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag).

Red Knot—A single bird that stayed only for two days—22–23 May—in Fond du Lac County (Dave & Kerry Schloff, Steve Murkowski).

Stilt Sandpiper—Records of this species came from only nine counties. First reported on 5 May from Nine Springs Natural Area, Dane County (Darrell Schifman). The last birds recorded were singles on 23 May, all in Dane County, each in a separate location (Rob Pendergast, John Kivikoski, Kay Kavanagh). The high count of three was on 16 May, also in Dane County (Lindsey Boland, Kyle Lindemer & Kristin Schmitt) during a Dane County Big Day.

Sanderling—Reported from 16 counties. Earliest was a single bird on 30 April at North Beach, Racine seen by m.obs. The week of 17–23 May was peak migration with 11 counties noting the bird's presence. High Count was 21, well below last year's 100, seen on 17–18 May at North Beach in Racine (Thomas Wood and Davor Grgic, respectively). On 29 May, the last bird of the spring was seen at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Michael Gray).

Dunlin—First to arrive, single birds were spotted on 5 April in both Calumet (Carl Schroeder) and Green (Quentin Yoerger) Counties. In all, Dunlins graced 40 counties this spring. Peak migration was during the week of 17–23 May, with 28 counties reporting. On 23 May, Tom Prestby found the high count of 260 birds at a restricted location in Brown County. Second highest, Kay Kavanagh reported 225 birds the same day at the DM & WIBU ponds in Dane County. Still present at EOP, a single bird was recorded at the Buena Vista Grasslands on 31 May (Paula Stich, Tim Hahn & Danielle Baumann).

Baird's Sandpiper—2 April saw the first birds to arrive in both Dane (m.obs.) and Jefferson (Jim Edlhuber) Counties, a full five weeks earlier than they arrived last year, and record early for the state. Only 13 counties hosted this species, and there appeared to be two waves of arrivals, the first 2–19 April and the second 7–30 May. The birds appeared almost every day within these periods and at no time did the count exceed the high of five birds found by Kyle Lindemer at the DM & I ponds in Dane County on 28 May. The second high of four was achieved on five separate dates—6 April and 14 May in Dane

County (Kyle Lindemer), on 21 May in Manitowoc County (Joel Trick), on 23 May in Sheboygan County (Carl Schroeder) and on 25 May in Dane County (Matthew Nechvatal). EOP had two birds still in the state on 30 May at the DM & I ponds in Dane County (Chuck Heikkinen).

Least Sandpiper—Reported in 45 counties. The first record was of three birds on 12 April at the Dane County V ponds (Darrell Schifman). The next reports were of two birds in Columbia County (John Kivikoski) on 21 April, two birds in Washington County on 23 April (Tom Schaefer) and one bird in Dane County on 24 April (Kyle Lindemer). Migration peaked during the week of 10–16 May with 39 counties reporting. Aaron Stutz observed the high count of 150 in Jefferson County on 9 May. EOP had an undisclosed number in Kewaunee County on 31 May (Adam Sinkula).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Brad Steger found one on 25 April at the Island Lake WPA in Dane County. Two weeks later, the next to be reported were birds in three different areas on 8 May—four in Rock County (Quentin Yoerger) and one each in Dane (Kay Kavanagh) and Grant (Jason Thiele) Counties. May 16–22 saw the most birds in the most counties, the season high count of 16 occurring on 22 May in Ozaukee County (Seth Cutright & Rebecca Sher). EOP had three birds remaining at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Tim Hahn, Paula Stich & Danielle Baumann).

Pectoral Sandpiper—Unlike most of the other shorebirds, the Pectorals scattered themselves fairly evenly among several counties from the start and continued to do so throughout. The migrational peak also started earlier and lasted longer—19 April to 16 May. The earliest arrived on 29 March in Dane County. On the 30th records came also from Fond du Lac and Ozaukee Counties. The highest count of 160 occurred in Jefferson County on 23 April. Second highest was the 118 found by Brad Steger on 25 April in Dane County. EOP showed birds still lingering in Brown, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Marathon and Vilas Counties. The latest were observed on 29 May in Bagley Bottoms, Grant County (Jason Thiele).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—These birds went through the state in the more typical bell-curve pattern, arriving and departing in much smaller numbers and peaking 10–23 May. Earliest was the single bird on 5 April in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger & John McCaw). The next to arrive were the two seen in Iowa County on 30 April (John Kivikoski) and the single bird in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag) plus six birds in



Great Blue Heron by David Franzen

Dane County (Charles Henrikson) appearing on 1 May. High counts were 43 in Ozaukee County on 22 May (Seth Cutright & Rebecca Sher), followed by 40 in Dane County on 28 May (Kyle Lindemer). May 31st found birds still hanging out in Dane (16), Portage (30), and Sheboygan (1) Counties.

Western Sandpiper**—Reported at Nine Springs in Dane County on 3 May by Lindsey Boland and Kim Kreitinger. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Short-billed Dowitcher—First seen on 29 April—birds were reported at Samuel Myers Park in Racine (Helen Pugh, Drew Goldberg) and off Pennsylvania Ave. in Milwaukee County (Steve Lubahn). The next day birds also appeared in Brown (Art Sonneland) and Dane (Paul Senner, Kay Kavanagh, Kyle Lindemer) Counties. The high number was 41 found during a 16 May Dane County Big Day (Kristin Schmitt, Kyle Lindemer & Lindsey Boland). The greatest number found at a single location was 29 at Mack SWA in Outagamie County on 17 May by Carl Schroeder. The latest bird in the season was feeding at the Super-

rior landfill in Douglas County on 26 May (Peder Svingen).

Long-billed Dowitcher—Much less plentiful and widespread than the Short-bills, these birds, with the exception of solo birds in Brown, Crawford and Vilas County, were observed in the southeast corner of the state. First appearing were single birds on 30 April at Nine Springs Natural Area in Dane County (Kay Kavanagh) and off Pennsylvania Ave. in Milwaukee County (Steven Lubahn). These were followed on 2 May by three birds at Paradise Valley SWA in Waukesha County (Andy Paulios). They continued to be seen in scattered very small numbers up to 18 May when the high count of 10 was at the Hawthorne and KK pond in Ozaukee County (Seth Cutright, Rebecca Sher & Joan Sommer). The second high count of nine was seen the day preceding at KK & LL in Ozaukee County (Heidi Roesselet). The latest report was a single bird seen in Brown County on 23 May (Tom Prestby).

Wilson’s Snipe—Reported in 61 counties. Present in seven counties at BOP—Dane, Eau Claire, Green, Iowa, Rock, Vernon and Walworth. Other counties were not added, apart from a single bird adding Monroe County on 3 March (Eric



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Gray Partridge, Iowa County By Chuck Heikkinen

Epstein), until 16 additional counties hosted the species starting the week of 29 March–4 April. Steve Murkowski had the highest count of 53 on 21 April at Highway KW-north of Highway K in Sheboygan County. Although known to nest in most of the state, they became hard to find at EOP. Sightings tapered off significantly after 23 May. The latest records came on 31 May from Marathon (Myles Hurlbut & Dan Belter), Marquette (Rob Pendergast) and Polk (Andrew Birch) Counties.

American Woodcock—Records came from 67 counties. The earliest observation came on 17 March at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in Vernon County (Jay Roth-Reynolds), followed by the 18 March sighting of a single bird at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Schlitz Audubon). On the next day observations increased somewhat—one bird at the Badfish Wildlife Area in Dane County (Steve Thiessen), one at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens in Madison (David La Puma), one at Havenwood State Forest in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger), and two found by Tom Schaefer off Wildlife Road in Washington County. Ashland County had its first record on 15 April during an owl count (Nick Anich). The high count was 23 at Cliffside Park in Racine County (Eric Howe & Kristin Wegner). Observations peaked 5–18 April, and dropped significantly by EOP with only Green Lake, Ozaukee, Racine, Trempealeau and Washburn Counties reporting on 31 May.

Wilson's Phalarope—Thirty-one counties reporting—three by 1 March, 25 at peak, and 10 during the last full week of May. Earliest sightings were two birds in Dane County on 19 April (Sam Krewowicz) and one in Dodge County on 25 April (Brad Steger). High counts of 12 came on 10 May from Walworth County (Scott Weberpal) and Waukesha County (Andrew Cassini). Second highest were tallies of 11 from Calumet County on 11 May (Kay Kavanagh) and 13 May (Steve Murkowski). The last spring record came on 30 May with one bird seen at the Lark Road Ponds in Brown County (Joel Trick).

Red-necked Phalarope—Earliest sighting was one bird in Dodge County on 16 May (Thomas Wood). Following were six birds in Green Lake County on 18 May (m.obs.) and six on 19 May in Eau Claire County (Anne Geraghty). The last recorded were all in Dane County—one to three birds on 20 May (m.obs.), one to two birds on 22 May (Marty Evanson & David La Puma, respectively) and two birds each on 23 May by Kay Kavanagh, Paul Senner & John Kivikoski.

Bonaparte's Gull—First reported on 31 March in Racine County (Jerry DeBoer). Subsequently on 2 April, Jim Veltman found five at the Richard Bong area in Kenosha County, and Scott Weberpal at Cravath Lake in Walworth County had one. By the end of the week of 29 March–4 April the birds had arrived in nine counties. The numbers quickly grew as the birds spread

through the state, enabling a high count of 5000 in Grant Park in Milwaukee on 4–5 May (Steven Lubahn). Next high were three separate counts of 3000—21 April at the Oak Creek Power Plant in Milwaukee County (Steven Lubahn, Mike Wanger), 24 April at Bender Park in Milwaukee County (Steven Lubahn) and 13 May at Thompson’s West End Park in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady). Migration peaked rapidly, maintaining a fairly even distribution around the state. Once the flow of birds reached the far northern counties 5–9 May, it started to taper off until EOP when only three Lake Michigan counties had remaining representatives—Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee.

Black-headed Gull**—Thomas Wood found one at North Point in Sheboygan, Sheboygan County on 17 May. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Little Gull**—Appeared in only three counties (Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Milwaukee); all except one were single bird records. Steven Lubahn found the first bird on 18 April in Milwaukee County. Sightings of a single bird (m.obs.) in Milwaukee County 19–22 April may all have been of the same bird. Manitowoc County also reported single bird sightings 24–27 May, found first by Joel and Patti Trick and then seen by m.obs. Then on 31 May two birds, an adult and an immature, were observed by Charles Sontag on the Manitowoc lakefront. Also on the 31st, Quentin Yoerger found a single bird at North Point Park in Sheboygan.

Laughing Gull*—Reported only from Racine and Manitowoc Counties. Drew Goldberg saw the Racine County Gull only once on 25 May at Carre-Hogle Park. In Manitowoc County, the first sighting was of a single bird on 22 May on the Manitowoc lakefront (Charles Sontag). Charles Sontag and Tom Prestby recorded two birds the following day, an adult and a sub-adult. Two days later Charles Sontag reported one bird on the lakefront, most likely one of those reported earlier in the week.

Franklin’s Gull—Reported only in two counties early in the period—on 1 April three observers found a single bird in the Picnic Point area of Madison (Max Henschel, David La Puma, Charles Henrikson). The same day Cynthia Bridge recorded a single bird in Jefferson County. Over the whole period birds appeared in 17 counties, the preponderance being found in Dane County. The scene of most activity was the Dane County Ashton-K pond, where Joshua Senner first spotted 15 birds on 10 May, and then m.obs. had numbers in the same location ranging from three to 19 (the period high count)

until 16 May. EOP birds were singletons in three counties—24–25 May in Manitowoc County (first reported by Joel & Patti Trick), 28 May in Rock County (Joshua Cullum) and 26 May at North Point Park in Sheboygan (Michael Gray).

Ring-billed Gull—Already present BOP in 18 counties. The high count was 2500 birds off Wisconsin Point on 29 May (Michael Gray). Interestingly, this is only half of last year’s high count. The end of May saw 11 counties still hosting birds, most of them likely settling into their breeding colonies.

Herring Gull—Twenty-three counties had birds present BOP, mostly along the Great Lakes. Mike Wanger estimated 4000 birds (the season high) at the Franklin Dump on 1 March. A 31 May count along the Manitowoc lakefront still had 1100 birds present (Charles Sontag).

Thayer’s Gull—Present prior to 1 March in Ozaukee County. Mike Wanger observed the first one of the season at Bender Park in Milwaukee County on 1 March. Birds were reported in small numbers throughout the spring, but only from eight counties, all of which are on Lake Michigan except for the Johnson Creek landfill in Jefferson County and the Black River area in La Crosse County. The high count was seven birds seen at the McKinley Marina and Park in Milwaukee on 15 April by Jym Mooney. Second high was four birds seen 11 April by Jym Mooney at the same location. EOP had at least one bird seen on 26 and 29 May in the Wisconsin Point area in Douglas County, reported by Peder Svingen and Michael Gray, respectively.

Thayer’s x Iceland Gull—Two counties reported hybrid Thayer’s/Iceland Gulls. Three showed up at the Franklin Dump in Milwaukee County on 1 March (Mike Wanger). A single later appeared at the South Shore Yacht Club in Milwaukee County on 23 March (Steven Lubahn). Two singles appeared in Racine County on 29 and 31 March, the first at Samuel Myers Park in Racine (Steven Lubahn) and the other at Mount Pleasant along the Pike River (Eric Howe).

Iceland Gull—Except for the birds present immediately prior to BOP in three counties, the first sightings of the season were one to three birds seen in Milwaukee County on 1 March (Dennis Casper, Mike Wanger, Jym Mooney). These were followed on 2 March by two birds seen by Aaron Stutz in Jefferson County, and one bird seen in Waukesha County on 5 March. At no point were more than three birds reported in one location. EOP saw a single bird in Milwaukee County on 17 May (Steven Lubahn) and another

single bird in Jefferson County on 19 May (Jay Watson).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—First sightings of the season were a single bird at the Franklin dump in Milwaukee County on 1 March (Mike Wanger), a single bird in the Johnson Creek parking lot in Jefferson County on 2 March (Aaron Stutz), two birds at the Superior Landfill also on 2 March (Clinton & Collin Nienhaus) and a single bird on 4 March in Menasha, Winnebago County (Jack Swelstad). Again, sightings were sprinkled through the spring. The high count was six birds reported on Lake Wisconsin, Columbia County on 31 March by Gregg Newman. At EOP single birds were seen on 26 May in Manitowoc County (Carl Schroeder) and on 28 May in Ozaukee County (Danielle Baumann).

Glaucous Gull—Birds were present and scattered since before BOP to EOP, except after 16 May only a single bird was reported every week to EOP in Manitowoc County. During the season, birds appeared in 22 counties, half of them inland counties. Far and away the high count was 15 birds along the Manitowoc lakefront reported by Charles Sontag on 9 April.

Great Black-backed Gull—Present at BOP in Jefferson, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties. As might be expected most birds were observed in Lake Michigan counties, with the Manitowoc lakefront and impoundment reporting the high counts of 15 on 16 March and 12 on 21 March (Jack Swelstad and Julie Woodcock, respectively). Sightings tapered off radically after 16 May. The final EOP bird spotted was along the Manitowoc lakefront on 31 May (Charles Sontag).

Gull-billed Tern**—Discovered by Janine Polk on the Highway B ponds in Dunn County on 22 May. Accepted as a hypothetical record by the Records Committee. See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Caspian Tern—Earliest to arrive was a single bird in Milwaukee County on 6 April (Steven Lubahn). The next to appear came on 10 April—one in Dane County (Eddie Hicks), three in Manitowoc County (Charles Sontag) and two at Harrington Beach State Park in Ozaukee County (Jonathan Stein). The influx peaked during the week of 10–16 May with the season high count of 200 appearing in Milwaukee Harbor on 12 May (William Mueller). Fifteen counties were still reporting birds during the last full week of May and four counties shared the season’s final observations—Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan.

Black Tern—Black Terns arrived during the first full week of May, with a single bird at Horicon Marsh on 6 May being spotted first (Scot Rambo). The next day one to two more birds appeared in the same area. By 9 May an estimated 50 birds were seen at Horicon Marsh during the bus tour for the annual festival (m.obs.) During the same week the terns also made their entrance into Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Marathon, Outagamie and La Crosse Counties. Peak influx came rapidly. The following week already had two season-high counts of 200, both at Horicon Marsh (Erin Giese, Stephanie Beilke). Two observers on 12 May reported a significantly high count of 75 at Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County (John Kivikoski & Liz Miller). On 13 May there was a report of 32 at Old Elk Lake in Dunn County (Pamela Campbell) and 100 birds at Zeloski Marsh in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz). By 27 May 118 were spotted in Trempealeau NWR (Eric Epstein). Overall during the season there were sightings in 37 counties.

Common Tern—Helen Pugh observed the biggest group of the season’s first arrivals (24) on 29 April off North Beach in Racine. Milwaukee County had two single sightings the same day (Matt Kemp, James Frank). The next day saw three birds also at Point au Sauble in Brown County (Tom Prestby). Season-high counts were achieved in Racine County during the two week period 10–23 May, with massive sightings of 865 off North Beach on 15 May (Eric Howe) and 765 off Wind Point on 16 May (Jed Hertz). The Sheboygan lakefront had counts of 600 on 16 May (Jack Swelstad) and on 18 May (Kay Kavanagh). EOP had viewings still occurring in 15 counties.

Forster’s Tern—The season’s first observation was one bird at Bakken’s Pond in Sauk County on 30 March (Liz Miller & John Kivikoski). The next sighting was on 9 April with one bird off North Point Park in Sheboygan County (Carl Schroeder). Numbers of incoming migrants steadily increased thereafter, reaching a peak during the two weeks of 3–16 May. The season high of 220 was spotted off the Manitowoc Lakefront on 18 May (Betsy & Tom Kocourek).

Parasitic Jaeger*—Only one record, 29 May at Wisconsin Point, Douglas County (Michael Gray). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Eurasian Collared Dove—Established populations in Columbia, Grant and Iowa Counties continued to thrive. Birds were also observed in other counties, notably two to seven birds in Crawford County from 29 March (Jason Thiele,



Marbled Godwit,
Madison by Sunil
Gopalan

Jan Collins) through the period; one to two birds in Elk Mound in Dunn County from 29 March (Steve Betchkal) through 11 May (Pamela Campbell); La Crosse County from 18 March (Doug Stratton) through the period; one to two birds in Spring Green in Sauk County from 10 March (John Kivikoski) through the period; one in Trempealeau NWR on 11 May (Dan Jackson) and one in Walworth County on 12 April (Sean Fitzgerald).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Early birds were spotted on 8 May in three different counties—Iowa (Aaron Holschbach), Sauk (Rebecca Schroeder) and Walworth (Andrea Szymczak). Not until the week of 24–30 May when the Cuckoos were observed in 19 counties did the inflow become significant. In all the birds appeared in 24 counties during the period, but not in any north of Portage County.

Black-billed Cuckoo—Seen only during May, beginning with 10 May in Pierce (David Astin) and Waukesha (John Winze) Counties. Devon Cupery saw another at Horicon Marsh on 11 May. In-migration expanded rapidly after that, reaching 42 counties by EOP. The high count of four was reported at Baxter's Hollow in Sauk County on 25 May (Joshua Mayer, Mike McDowell & Aaron Stutz).

Eastern Screech Owl—Generally, no birds appeared north of a line from Monroe County to Marathon County to Brown County. The single exception was a bird heard near Butternut in Price County on 10 May (Ryan Chrouser).

Snowy Owl—This year, saw an unusual number of winter residents in the state. Multiple sightings were the norm and the birds were observed in 36 counties during the season. John Kivikoski observed the season's high of eight birds in Iowa



Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Horicon Marsh by Chuck Heikkinen



Prothonotary Warbler by David Lund

County on 8 March and saw seven at the same site two days later. Six birds were spotted in Dane County on 16 March (Marty Evanson) and two days later at the same location (Sharon Gericke Fandel). Views of 4–5 birds were relatively common. Birds continued to be recorded as late as 2 May in Dunn County (Anne Geraghty, Rory Cameron & Pamela Hoyland).

Northern Hawk Owl**—One bird stayed most of the winter at least until 7 April (Terrie Cooper) in Door County and was viewed fairly consistently by many observers.

Long-eared Owl—Spotty records came through the season from Douglas (J.G. Bennett, Robby Johnson & Peder Svingen), Green Lake (Thomas Schultz), Jefferson (Jay Watson), Marathon (Lynn Ott), Monroe (Eric Epstein), Portage (Rob Pendergast) and Washington (Tom Schaefer) Counties—all single bird reports.

Short-eared Owl—Observed during the season in Adams, Burnett, Columbia, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Portage, Rock, Sauk and Waukesha Counties. The last sightings of the season were a single bird at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County on 27 and 31 May (Alyssa DeRubeis). The highest number seen was 11 at Buena Vista Grasslands on 18 April (Brad Steger).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Sightings of one to two birds scattered around 17 counties occurred through the season, the latest being a lone bird on 28 May in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady & Nick Anich). The high count was six birds in Portage County on 26 May (Penny VanTassel). Six of the reports were from the southern part of the state—Dane (Lisa Mettel, Kay Kavanagh), Grant (Richard Ouren), Green Lake (m.obs.), Kenosha (Sean Fitzgerald), La Crosse (Gary Wiegel) and Ozaukee (Tara Kos) Counties. The only nesting information available is from Gene Jacobs at the Linwood Springs Research Station in Portage County. He reported a female with five small chicks in a nest box on 11 May, the chicks half-grown on 22 May and the chicks nearing fledging on 2 June.

Common Nighthawk—Sixty counties had sightings during the period. The first viewings were on 7 May—single birds in La Crosse County (Steven Houdek) and Brown County (Jean Clausen). Records came from 10 additional counties the next day. The number and size of the sighting steadily increased until the week 17–23 May when the peak numbers were reached—65 in New Richmond, St. Croix County on 17 May (Meriah Jacobs-Frost), 53 in downtown Beloit,

Rock County on 23 May (Aaron Boone) and 45 in Portage County also on 23 May (Brad Zinda). Forty-five were also spotted on the Bois-Brule River in Douglas County on 25 May (Seth Spencer).

Chuck-will's-widow**—Sightings from three counties this year—Jefferson and Walworth (hosting the recurrent “Young Road Chuck”) and Milwaukee. The Young Road bird was first heard 11 May (Scott Weberpal) and then on 13 May by Mariette Nowak and it continued calling through the season. Although this bird usually stayed on the Walworth County side of the road, it was also heard on 17, 23 and 30 May calling from the Jefferson County side (Kay Kavanagh, Matt Kemp, and Eric Howe, respectively). Two birds were heard calling off Young Road on 29 May. The Milwaukee County bird was an adult female taken into the Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center on 15 May, after having wandered into an industrial building, and then reported by Scott Diehl.

Eastern Whip-poor-will—Found in 36 counties throughout the state. The first bird seen was on 18 April at Governor Dodge State Park (Tim Fenske). The next day two birds showed up in Iowa County (Brad Steger). On 21 May a single bird appeared at the Arena Boat Landing in Iowa County (Aaron Holschbach). Scattered appearances increased from then, and peaked during the period 3–30 May. The high count of 13 was achieved on 10 May at the Buena Vista Grasslands (Rob Pendergast). Twelve were counted singing off Young Road in Jefferson County on 17 May (Cynthia Bridge & Aaron Stutz).

Chimney Swift—The earliest birds seen were 40 on 18 April in Grant County (Cody Vacha). On 20 April there were four additional sightings. Two were in Dane County—a single bird in Indian Mound Conservation Park (Andy Paulios) and another single at Nine Springs Natural Area (Lindsey Boland & Cynthia Bridge). Aaron Stutz had another lone bird in Jefferson County and five birds were observed at Case Eagle Park in Racine County (Gregory Havel). Migration peaked 10–23 May, with the season high count of 800 at the South Milwaukee lakefront on 13 May (William Mueller). On 21 May Paul Hayes spotted 375 in Vernon County.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—The earliest birds returned on 28 April in Grant County (Beth Tubbs Fortner), on 30 April in Dane County (unk.obs.), one in Milwaukee County (Chris Petherick) and one in Waukesha County (Stephanie Jobke). Most arrived during 10–30 May, the northern counties being reached during the week of 10–16 May. The high count was

26 on 29 May in Clark County. Second high was 24 on 28 May in Florence County (Kay Kavanagh). Reported in 72 counties overall.

Belted Kingfisher—Reported in 71 counties during this period, eight southern counties of which already had residents BOP. The earliest birds in season, all lone birds, were found on 1 March in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak), 2 March in Trempealeau County (Seth Spencer), 4 March in Vernon County (Paul Hayes) and 7 March—one in Dane County (Benjamin Dunnington) and one in Iowa County (Jesse Decker). The birds did not reach far northern counties until 7 April.

Red-headed Woodpecker—By 1 March already back in 15 counties. Ingress was erratic. Three birds reached Brown County on 1 March (Jack Swelstad) before one was observed in Milwaukee County on 31 March (Norma Renner). The first bird was spotted in Sawyer County on 17 May (Cathy Gagliardi), whereas the ICF Count in 12 April found one in nearby Lincoln County. The high count was 12 seen at Necedah NWR on 20 April (Chuck Heikkinen & Delia Unson). Second high were the eight birds seen in the same location on 16 May (John & Susan Forbes).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—These birds continue to be found in the northernmost counties, and this year the first week of the season had sightings in Barron (Chris Jerome), Florence (Kay & Bob Kavanagh), Forest (m.obs.), Iron (Tim Oksiuta), Marinette (Joan Campbell) and Vilas (Nathan Martineau) Counties. Recorded overall in 70 counties during the spring.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—By BOP birds were already in Dane, Iowa, Jefferson, Marquette, Monroe and Sauk Counties. The first week of the period Columbia, Walworth and Waukesha Counties also had sightings. By the end of the second full week of April most northern tier counties, including Bayfield on April 10 (Ryan Brady), had records, but Douglas County had its first report three weeks later on 5 May (Paula Anich & Northland College).

Black-backed Woodpecker—Single sightings only in Vilas (Nathan Martineau), Price (Carey & Ryan Chrouser) and Forest (Thomas Wood) Counties, with two birds observed in Vilas County on 29 and 30 March (Nathan Martineau)

Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker—Reported in 72 counties. By BOP found as far north as Marinette County with February observations by Mary Uecker and Joan Campbell. Dunn County, in contrast to last year's 31 March initial

sighting, already had one sighting by 1 February (Pamela Hoyland) and another on 6 March (Joan Campbell). For the most part, the far northern counties had to wait for views until the week of 29 March–4 April. There was one exception, however. Vilas County had two birds on 16 March (Nathan Martineau). The seasonal high count was a staggering 432-bird migration flight on 20 April in Iron County (Tim Oksiuta).

Pileated Woodpecker—Found in 70 counties, again including the southeastern counties: Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Racine. High counts of six were recorded on two occasions: the first at Buena Vista Grasslands on 26 April (m.obs.), the second in Florence County on the annual May Day County on 28 May (Kay Kavanagh).

Crested Caracara—First State Record** found on Washington Island, Door County on 12 May by Randy Holm and Christopher Smith, then seen and photographed through the 26th (m.obs.). This bird is an omnivore, native from northern South America up through Central America to southern parts of Texas, Arizona and Florida. It can be seen in open country, sometimes feeding on carrion with vultures. See accepted records in "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014."

American Kestrel—Seen statewide from BOP to EOP in the south and from mid- to late May in the north. Seen in 71 counties with the high count of 18 on 3 May (Seth Cutright & Rebecca Sher) at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County. Douglas County garnered the honor of the latest initial spring sighting, one bird on 5 May (Ted Keyel).

Mertlin—Statewide by mid-April. Seen EOP in Bayfield, Door and Vilas Counties, which have breeding records in the past, as well as in the following northern counties showing no breeding history during the first atlas: Brown (Jay Watson, Tom Prestby), Manitowoc (Charles Sontag, Stephanie Beilke, Erin Giese), Marathon (Myles Hurlbut) and Oconto (John Curnutt).

Gyr Falcon**—One bird reported during the period: from winter through 13 March in the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (m.obs.). See accepted records in "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014."

Peregrine Falcon—Reported in 43 counties across the state. Present prior to 1 March in Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine and Winnebago Counties. One then spotted in Kewaunee County on 6 March (Julie Woodcock);



Great Horned Owls by Alyssa DeRubeis

singles in Jefferson County on 8 March (Quentin Yoerger) and Pierce County (Tammy Holmer); one in La Crosse County on 9 March (Doug Stratton); then two in Waukesha County on 14 March (Jacob Barnes). Only once were more than two birds sighted when Marilyn Bontly observed three at the Port Washington Bird Sanctuary in Ozaukee County on 22 March.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—First reported was a single bird in La Crosse County on 7 May (Doug Stratton). The next day saw three arrivals in Door County (Sue Peterson) and singles in Ozaukee (Joan Sommer & Marge Anderson), Rock (Jay Watson) and Sauk (Steve Westre, Matt McDonald) Counties. The birds was viewed in the northern tier of counties by the fourth full week in May, indicating that migration was still on-going at EOP. No count exceeded three birds. Reported in 48 counties across the state.

Eastern Wood-Pewee—Found in 68 counties. The first arrival reported was on 5 May, a single bird in Milwaukee County (Tom Samsone). On 6 May birds appeared solo in Kenosha (John Krerowicz) and Walworth (Marietta Nowak) Counties. The next day found one bird in Grant (Paul Hayes) and two birds in La Crosse (Marty

Allen) County. The number of counties receiving birds quickly accelerated and the northern counties finally saw the birds in the last full week of May. The high count was 20 birds in Brown County on 12 May (Art Sonneland) and St. Croix County on 24 May (Larry Persico). As evidenced by first county sightings on 31 May—two in Barron County (Marty Evanson) and a single in Sawyer County (Nikki Flood) migration was still active at EOP. Seen in 48 counties across the state.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—La Crosse County hosted the very first migrants of the season with two single birds found separately in Hixon Forest on 8 May by Dan Jackson and Paul Hayes. The next day Paul Senner found one at Picnic Point in Madison. Susanne Harp saw her first of the year in Langlade County on 21 May. Birds were found in the northern-tier states by the last full week of May. The high count never exceeded three birds. Found in 42 counties overall.

Acadian Flycatcher—Richard Cimino found the first migrant in Necedah NWR on 6 May. The next sightings occurred on 10 May with two birds in Grant County seen separately in Wyalusing State Park by Kay Kavanagh, and by



Cape May Warbler, Horicon Marsh by Sunil Gopalan

Jim Otto, Peter Fissel & Peter Gorman. Two were sighted in Milwaukee's Lake Park by Heidi Roesselet, and one was spotted at Mt. Pisgah in Vernon County by Peter & Gail Epping Overholt. The high count was nine birds spotted in Kettle Moraine Forest in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak) on 31 May, followed by eight seen at Baxter's Hollow in Sauk County on 25 May (m.obs.) and eight in the Kettle Moraine Forest, Sheboygan County on 28 May (Tom Prestby). Reports of five to six birds also came from Nelson Dewey SP (Jason Thiele) and Wyalusing State Park (Patti & Joel Trick and Molly Zahn) in Grant County and from Governor Dodge State Park in Iowa County (Matthew Nechvatal).

Alder Flycatcher—First sighting was a single bird at Willow River State Park in St. Croix County on 10 May (Sarah Wynn). Another was seen the following day at Goose Island in La Crosse County (Bradley McDonald). Following that were first appearances on 13 May in Brown County (Kay Kavanagh), Burnett County (Alex Lamoreaux & Ian Gardner) and Richland County (Barbara Duerksen). Found in 56 counties overall. High count was 20 at the Pewaukee River Parkway in Waukesha County on 26 May (Danielle Baumann, Jasonn Weber & Tim Hahn).

Willow Flycatcher—Earliest was the Dane County single sighting on 3 May (Sam Krerowicz), followed by one at the Leopold “Shack” in Sauk County on 8 May (Connor England) and one in the South Kettle Moraine in Waukesha County on 9 May (Marlyn Winter). Migratory flow north continued as birds were spotted in Marathon County on 21 May (Mary Backus); although they had already been seen in Marinette County by 11 May (Joan Campbell). With the exception of Marinette County, the species was notably unreported from the northernmost counties. The high count was 15 at Turtle Creek SWA in Walworth County on 22 May (Jeff Aufmann). Next high was the 14 recorded on 25 May in Brown County (Tom Prestby) at the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve. Observed in 46 counties overall.

Least Flycatcher—Reported from 69 counties. The first seen were all single birds at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton, Dane County from 30 April to 2 May (Mike McDowell, Kyle Lindemer, Lindsey Boland, Cynthia Bridge and Jennifer Lanzendorf). The next week 32 additional counties enjoyed sightings as far north as Burnett County on 9 May (David Pavlik). The high count of 26 came from Joe and Patti Schaufenbuel’s Portage County Big Day. Second high was the 18 seen in St. Croix County on 10 May (Larry Persico). Lesser counts of 16 were achieved at Point au Sauble in Brown County on 9 May (Stephanie Beilke) and at Spring Creek SWA in Price County on 23 May (Jim Krakowski).

Eastern Phoebe—Earliest was the one sighted on 21 March at the Arena Boat Landing in Iowa County by Aaron Holschbach. Next were single birds on 22 March in Dane County (Brian Doverspike & Becky Anderson) and in Sauk County (Jay Roth-Reynolds; Nolan Pope, Peter Fissel & Chuck Heikkinen). By 6 April the birds were viewed in Dunn County (Pamela Campbell, Nina Koch), and on 21 April were first spotted in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady). Highest counts were 12 at Governor Dodge State park on 5 April (Peter Fissel & Chuck Heikkinen) and in Green Lake County on a 10 April bike outing by Thomas and Wendy Schultz. Reported from 72 counties.

Say’s Phoebe**—Sixth state record. Seen on Woodbury Lane in Ashland from 26 April to 4 May. First reported by Ryan Brady, then seen by m.obs. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Great Crested Flycatcher—Mike Wanger found the first bird of the season on 25 April at the WE Energies Grassland in St. Francis, Milwaukee County. On 27 April, Bob Bucci spotted

one at Dunn’s Marsh in Madison, and the same day Cynthia Bridge and Aaron Stutz found another at Tyrana Park in Jefferson County. Ozaukee (Aaron Skinner) and Sheboygan (Natalie Miller) Counties also had sightings that week). Although migration rapidly heated up during the week 3–9 May, it wasn’t until two weeks later that birds started showing up in the northern counties. High counts of 12 were obtained on 25 May at the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve in Brown County (Tom Prestby) and on 30 May on a Big Green Bike Day in Florence County by Kay & Bob Kavanagh.

Western Kingbird**—On 21 May Laura LaValley found one on Highway 13 in Douglas County. Then, on 28 May, Aaron Boone saw one on W. Airport Road in Rock County. As if that weren’t enough, Marty Evanson then found a third on Peshtigo Point in Marinette County on 29 May. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Eastern Kingbird—Seen in 70 counties around the state. First to appear on 26 April were single birds in Clark County (Judy Lund) and in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in Grant County (Kevin Halling). On 30 April Barbara Duerksen had one in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in Vernon County. Then on 2 May, Joan Sommer found others in two Ozaukee County locations, and Andy Paulios spotted one at Paradise Valley SWA in Waukesha County. Chippewa County had its first sighting on 10 May (Pamela Campbell, Pamela Hoyland), and Vilas County had a sighting on the next day (James Baughman). The high count of 20 was found at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Tim Hahn, David La Puma & Paula Stich). There were also two counts of 17—at Wind Point in Racine on 16 May (Magill Weber), and the other on the Florence County May Day Count on 28 May, reported by Kay Kavanagh.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—One bird seen 22–23 May in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady & Nick Anich, Tim Oksiuta, Peder Svingen). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Loggerhead Shrike*—Lone birds seen in five counties—on 10 April in Sauk County at Peck Road Marsh (Aaron Holschbach), as well as in Portage County at the Buena Vista Grasslands (Dennis Gustafson); on 12 April in Walworth County off Taylor Road (Scott Weberpal); on 2 May in Burnett County at Grantsburg High School (Tom Prestby) and on 24 May in Oneida County at Thunder Lake SWA (John Rasmussen). These birds still need to be reported to the WSO

Records Committee in order to become “official.”

Northern Shrike—Seen in 47 counties in the month prior to BOP. Their presence dropped rapidly after mid-April. The last seen were one at Crex Meadows on 26 April (Bradley McDonald), one in Langlade County on 30 April (Nancy Richmond), and at Crex Meadows (record late date) on 3 May (David Flores & Rita Flores Wiskowski). The high count was four, seen by Ryan Brady in Bayfield County on 9 April.

White-eyed Vireo—Reported in only five southern counties. First found was one on 8 May at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton, Dane County (Mike McDowell, Kyle Lindemer, Cynthia Bridge & Lindsey Boland). This bird was seen by m.obs. also during the next two days. Another was spotted on Dike Road in Horicon Marsh on 11 May during a bus tour (m.obs.). Then on 21 May, Matthew Nechvatal found one at Yellowstone Lake State Park in Lafayette County, and re-found the bird on 24 May. The fourth showed up at Harrington Beach State Park in Ozaukee County on 22 May (James Frank). Thomas Shultz found the last one as he was biking in Green Lake County on 23 May.

Bell's Vireo—One of these birds of concern was spotted first on 11 May off a Highway 45 way-side in Fond du Lac County (Thomas Schultz). Thomas Wood saw the bird two days later in the same location. On 16 May Sam Krerowicz had one in Prairie du Chien in Crawford County. Birds were subsequently also seen in Dane, Green, Iowa, La Crosse and Sauk Counties. The most seen in one location were the five found in the A–Z Unit of Mounds View Grassland in Iowa County (John Dadisman). Interestingly, almost all birds were in the southwest or south-central part of the state. The only outliers were the single birds in Fond du Lac County.

Yellow-throated Vireo—Mike Wanger noted the earliest at Grant Park in Milwaukee County on 28 April. The number of counties reporting increased to 27 in the week following, reaching as far north as Door County in the east, St. Croix County in the west. Most counties received the bird by the week of 17–23 May. The high count of 10 was on 23 May at Governor Dodge State Park (Matthew Nechvatal), followed by nine seen at Straight Lake SWA in Polk County on 22 May (Robin Maercklein) and eight observed at Wyalusing State Park on 10 May (Kay Kavanagh). Seen in 60 counties overall.

Blue-headed Vireo—Observed in 63 counties, beginning with the sighting of a single bird

at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County on 25 April (Marilyn Bontly; Schlitz Audubon Nature Center). The following day birds appeared at Frautschi Point in Madison (m.obs.) and at Lake Farm County Park (Paul Jakoubek), as well as at Kickapoo Valley Reserve in Vernon County (Hugh Spann, Glenn Forchione). The flow north reached both Polk County (m.obs.) and Douglas County on 9 May (Nick Anich) and other northern counties a week later. The high count was eight, seen at Harrington Beach SP (Jonathan Stein) on 10 May. Next high was seven birds spotted at a restricted area in Vilas County on 15 May (Nathan Martineau) and at Peninsula State Park in Door County on 19 May (Andrea Szymczak & Tom Schaefer).

Warbling Vireo—Reported earliest from Chippewa County on 18 April (two birds). On 26 April birds started to appear at the Ho-nee-um section of the UW-Madison Arboretum (Grady Munroe) and at Yellowstone Lake SP in Lafayette County (Matthew Nechvatal). Seen in two other counties on 2 May—at Doctors Park in Fox Point, Milwaukee County (James Frank) and at Colonial Park in Racine (Drew Goldberg). Birds were then seen north to Iron County on 10 May (m.obs.) and in Forest County on 17 May (April Patterson). Twenty-three occupied Lake Farm County Park in Dane County (Charles Henrikson) on 24 May. Twenty were seen on three separate occasions—on the Glacial Drumlin State Trail in Jefferson County on 10–11 May (Cynthia Bridge & Aaron Stutz), on 21 May at Lake Farm County Park in Dane County (Charles Henrikson), on 25 May at the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve in Brown County (Tom Prestby). Seen in 67 counties overall.

Philadelphia Vireo—First to be seen was one at Owen Conservation Park in Madison on 5 May (Rebecca Herb). Then Dan Jackson had birds at Goose Island in La Crosse County on 7 May. On the 8th birds were reported also moving into Dodge, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Waukesha Counties. Pierce County had its first views on 10 May (Dan Versa), and Florence County on 20 May (Kay & Bob Kavanagh). The high count was five, at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County on 9 May (Jim Pecquex). Counts of four occurred at the UW Lakeshore Preserve in Madison on 13 May, at Lion's Den Gorge in Ozaukee County on 12 May (James Frank) and at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Brown County on 20 May (Jack Swelstad & Art Sonneland). Reported from 45 counties statewide.

Red-eyed Vireo—No April reports this year. The earliest sightings were in Dane County on 3 May (Aaron Nolan), followed by new county appearances on 7 May at Point Au Sable in Brown



Indigo Bunting by David Franzen

County (Tom Prestby), Wyalusing State Park in Grant County (Eric Epstein) and Green Lake County (Tom Schultz). The species was noted in Eau Claire County on 23 May (Steve Betchkal) and in Price County on 17 May (Jim Krakowski). The May Day count in Florence County reached the high of 121 (Kay Kavanagh) on 28 May, and on a Big Green Day bike ride two days later found 109 (Bob & Kay Kavanagh). The closest to those

numbers was 68 recorded on an Oconto County Big Day on 22 May (Bob & Kay Kavanagh with Jerry Smith).

Gray Jay—Noticeably absent this year from Douglas County reports, this elusive northern species appeared in Ashland, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Price, Vilas and Waupaca Counties. The sightings outside of Vilas County were minimal.



Sandhill Crane, Horicon Marsh by Delia Unson

An unusually large group of nine was seen on 15 May at Copper Falls SP in Ashland County during the Chequamegon Bay Birding Festival led by Joan Elias. Kay Kavanagh had the lone sighting in Florence County the next day. Two birds, possibly the same duo, were seen on three different dates in different locations in Forest County—on 11 March (Spencer Jablonski), 11 April (Dennis Gustafson) and 8 May (Tom Geitz). On 16 May, two showed up in Oneida County (Mike Peczynski). Three appeared in Price County on 29 May (Mary Backus). Justin Sipiorski found single bird

in Waupaca County on 3 March. Of the 11 sightings in Vilas County, 10 from BOP to 2 May were viewed at a restricted access location (Nathan Martineau) with one to eight birds at a time. The other observation of two birds came from James Baughman on 2 May.

Blue Jay—Migrational movement of this species appeared to vary around the state in time and place, although the biggest numbers came in the Great Lakes counties. The highest count of 614 occurred on Wisconsin Point in Douglas

County on 18 May (Karl Bardon). On Bark Point in Bayfield County, Nick Anich “gave up” counting after 550 migrated past on 14 May. On 17 May Greg Huset and Ryan Brady had at least 400 in the same area. Andrea Szymczak noted an “undercount” of 120 in Milwaukee’s Sheridan Park on 10 May.

Common Raven—Observed in 46 counties as far south as Devil’s Lake SP in Sauk County on 13 March (Kay Kavanagh), at Wyalusing SP in Grant County on 18 May (Dan Jackson) and in Ozaukee County on 29 March (Natalie Miller). No flocks over 20 birds.

Horned Lark—North to Barron, Marathon and Clark Counties BOP. High count was a flock of 143 found on 8 March in Iowa County (Peter Fissel, Delia Unson & Chuck Heikkinen).

Purple Martin—A group of nine birds were first seen off the Mississippi River in Grant County on 3 April (Noah Humfeld). Subsequent sightings came on 8 April—six at Stricker’s Pond in Middleton, Dane County (Alice Gugerty & Amanda Scalia) and two at the South Shore Yacht Club in Milwaukee (Steven Lubahn). Not seen in Florence County until 30 May (Kay & Bob Kavanagh). A high of 80 was recorded at High Cliff SP in Calumet County on 14 May (Tony Nowak). Counts of 50 were achieved in Marathon County on 19 May (Myles Hurlbut) and in Manitowoc on 9 May (Julie Woodcock). Observed in 51 counties statewide.

Tree Swallow—One seen on 13 March in Dane County (Timothy Baker), followed by 11 on 16 May in Grant County (Jesse Decker), one on 18 May in Dane County (Shawn Miller) and five on 19 May in Iowa County (Jesse Decker). Douglas County was not reached until 25 May (Dan Jackson) and Marinette County not until 29 May (Bruce Carroll & Marty Evanson). An estimated 1000 birds was reported from Shady Lane in Winnebago County on 17 April (Stuart Malcolm) and 935 in Sheboygan Marsh on 25 April (Marty Evanson).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Reported in 64 counties. First observed was a single bird in West Allis, Milwaukee County on 9 April (James Frank). Singles were then recorded on 10 April at Nine Springs in Dane County (Eddie Hicks) and in Cassville, Grant County (Jason Thiele). Then on 11 April three appeared at Bakken’s Pond in Sauk County (Aaron Holschbach). The push north finally reached Douglas (Eric Epstein) and Ashland (Nick Anich) Counties the week of 17–23 May. North of Sheboygan City on the lakefront on 9 May,

Robert Domagalski on his part of the Long Walk for Birds observed 575.

Bank Swallow—Nine Springs in Dane County welcomed the first of the season on 10 April (Eddie Hicks) and the second was reported in Bender Park in Milwaukee (Steven Lubahn) the next day. Three were noted in Mitchell Park in Brookfield, Waukesha County on 12 April during the Annual Midwest Crane Count (ICF, Brian Lee). They spread north, reaching Douglas County by 9 May (Nick Anich), Ashland County by 19 May (Nick Anich), and Vilas County also by 19 May (Nathan Martineau). The high of 400 birds was spotted on the Milwaukee lakefront south on 13 May (William Mueller).

Cliff Swallow—First seen were 25 at Goose Island in La Crosse County on 11 April (Scott Puchalski), followed on 12 April by 13 reported at the Helena Unit of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (Aaron Holschbach), and by one in Rock County (Joshua Cullum). The first five migrants into Bayfield County were noticed on 10 May (Tim Oksiuta) and a single bird was seen in Vilas County on 18 May (Nathan Martineau). The “heaviest” weeks of migration were 10–23 May, when 280 birds were observed in Dane County on 16 May (Andy Paulios) and 300 were viewed in Dodge County on 17 May (Jack Swelstad & Art Sonneland). Reported in 61 counties statewide.

Barn Swallow—Interestingly, the first migrant into the state was viewed at the Manitowoc lakefront on 1 April (Charles Sontag). Next was a single bird gracing Lower Mud Lake in Dane County (Andy Paulios) on 5 April. The first bird into Winnebago County was spotted at Lake Poygan on 17 April (Andrew Gilbert), and Wisconsin Point in Douglas County didn’t see its first until 18 May (Karl Bardon). The highest counts came from Ozaukee County with 800 on 9 May (William Mueller) and Dane County with 500 on 9 May (Ryan Rysewyk).

Boreal Chickadee—Two were found off Bark Point in Bayfield County during the Chequamegon Bay Bird and Nature Festival on 15 May (Ryan Brady, Linn Birr). There was a sighting in Hazelhurst, Oneida County on 21 May (Lynn Ott). Forest County hosted 2–4 birds BOP and had three separate sightings of one or two birds 10 March, 12 March and 11 April (Susan Haug, Spencer Jablonski, Dennis Gustafson, respectively). Vilas County garnered the most sightings from before BOP but all were on restricted locations before and during the spring period (Nathan Martineau).

Great Tit—One bird seen in the City of Sheboygan on 16 May (Robert Domagalski). This is a recurrent sighting from at least a year ago.

Tufted Titmouse—Most of the sightings came from an area reaching from Grant east to Walworth Counties and north to Dunn and Chippewa Counties. Scattered observations continue to show east and northward expansion in Racine (m.obs.), Kenosha (m.obs.), Oconto, (Kay & Bob Kavanagh, Jerry Smith) and Manitowoc (Patti Trick) Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Present throughout the state BOP. Migration peaked 3–23 May when the weekly reports exceeded 200 observations, most heavily along Lake Michigan.

Brown Creeper—Found in 33 counties at BOP. High count of 15 found at Harrington Beach SP on 16 April (Stuart Malcolm). At year end of season on 30 May, birds were found at Point au Sauble in Brown County (Erin Giese & Stephanie Beilke), in Florence County (Kay & Bob Kavanagh) and in Sheboygan County (Susan Haug).

House Wren—The early birds were all reported from Dane County, one on 7 April (Melissa & Rowan Gibson), another on 10 April (Kimberly Sucey), and the other on 11 April (David Spitzer). The next counties to check in were Manitowoc on 15 April (Greg Evans), Milwaukee the next day (Elaine Vokoun) and Sauk on 17 April (Logan Carlton). Migrants reached Dunn County by 7 May (Pamela Campbell, Nina Koch) and Douglas County by 21 May (Nick Anich). The high count was 40 seen at High Cliff SP on 14 May (Tony Nowak). Recorded in 66 counties.

Winter Wren—Reported from 52 counties statewide. Present BOP in Brown County. First seen in period on 28 March at Fish Camp Park in Dane County (Kyle Lindemer). Following that were sightings on 31 March in Sauk (Liz Miller & John Kivikoski) and Portage (Brad Zinda) Counties. Iron County finally had sightings on 8 May (NLDC Birders). The highest count reported was seven at Schlitz Audubon in Milwaukee County on 15 April (Marilyn Bontly).

Sedge Wren—First birds were reported on 31 March at Lake Farm County Park in Dane County (Jim Schwarz), at Kozickowski Park in Portage County (Brad Zinda) and at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County (John Kivikoski & Liz Miller). The birds were then observed at Crex Meadows in Burnett County on 5 May (Ted Keyel). High count was 35 birds, possibly on territory, in

Oconto County (William Mueller) on 24 May, followed on 31 May with 25 at George Mead SWA (Myles Hurlbut & Dan Belter). Recorded in 50 counties statewide.

Marsh Wren—Found first at Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County on 25 April (Darrell Schiffman). Seen the next day on the Auto Tour at Horicon NWR on 26 April (Brad Steger). Polk County had its first sighting on 30 May at Unity School Forest (Brian Collins). Migration peaked 17–30 May, with a high count of 25 on Dike Road in Horicon Marsh on 25 May (Jason Weber).

Carolina Wren—Reported in 17 counties, three of which had birds by BOP. The high count of two was achieved on 8 and 17 May in Grant Park, Milwaukee, as well as at Pheasant Branch in Middleton, Dane County on 13 May. First or continued observations in late May occurred in Dane (Jeff Yunke), Grant (Lisa Maier), Iowa (Chuck Heikkinen & Delia Unson), Oconto (William Mueller), Rock (Aaron Boone) and Walworth (Matt McDonald) Counties.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Seen first on 11 April as single birds at three separate locations—Indian Lake in Dane County (Eddie Hicks), Lion's Den Gorge in Ozaukee County (Danielle Baumann) and Wind Point in Racine (Joan Sommer). A flood of county newcomers followed the week beginning on 12 April, arriving in: Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock and Sauk Counties. The inflow extended not quite all the way north, ending just below the northern tier of counties. The high count was 24 at Lake Park in Milwaukee on 8 May (Brian Hansen), followed by two sightings of 20—at Warnimont County Park in Milwaukee County (Mike Goodman) on 4 May and at Kettle Moraine SF in Waukesha County on 23 May (Jack Coulter).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Present prior to BOP. Reports trickled in during the first three weeks March, except in Vilas County, where numbers grew steadily from week to week at a restricted site from two on 7 March to 12 on 3 April to 18 on 11 April (Nathan Martineau). At the beginning of April the floodgates opened and birds started arriving in more counties in larger numbers, reaching 42 in Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County on 30 April (Jonathan Stein), 38 at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County on 12 April (Charles Hagner) and 25 at Peninsula SP in Door County on 10 April (Sue Peterson). Seen in 62 counties.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—On 1 April observers recorded the earliest migrants in Dane County (Lindsey Boland), Grant County

(Richard Ouren) and Waukesha County (Curt Jacoby). The birds were noted in the northern counties mainly during 10–16 May. The high count of 20 was found at Bay Beach Sanctuary on 20 May (Jack Swelstad & Art Sonneland).

Eastern Bluebird—Reported in 72 counties. As with last year, prior to 1 March birds had already reached most of the southern counties, but it wasn't until the last week of April, beginning of May that they were found in the northern tier of counties. The high count in the south was 25 seen on 26 May on a bluebird trail in Columbia County (Brian Doverspike). Florence County had the high of 15 for the northern counties during the May Day County on 28 May (Kay Kavanagh).

Mountain Bluebird**—Recorded at Crex Meadows in Burnett County on 20 April (Derek Johnson & Michael Hardy, David Anderson) and 26 April (Daryl Tessen). See accepted records in "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014."

Townsend's Solitaire—Anywhere from one to three were reported at Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County from before BOP to 13 March (Kay Kavanagh). This is one-third the number of counties that last year reported holdovers from the winter.

Veery—First sighting was of nine birds at Governor Dodge SP on 26 April (Jesse Decker), followed by some at Hixon Forest in La Crosse County on 30 April (Rob Tyser) and one at Hoyt Park in Madison on 1 May (Emma Beachy). On 3–9 May birds were spotted in 25 counties. The high count came on 20 May at Peninsula SP where Tom Schaefer & Andrea Szymczak had 19. Next high was 15 at Clough Island in Douglas County on 23 May (Nick Anich). The returning birds reached the northernmost counties during 10–23 May. Seen in 67 counties overall.

Gray-cheeked Thrush—Andrew Cassini found the first at Nine Springs in Dane County on 30 April. Then a single was found at Blackhawk County Park in Lafayette County on 3 May (Matthew Nechvatal). The following day birds checked in to two locations in Racine County—Tichigan SWA (Jerry DeBoer) and Trout Ponds Conservancy (Drew Goldberg), as well as Waukesha County at Fox River Parkway (Tom Mertins). Mid-May saw birds arriving in the north—13 May in Ashland (Nick Anich) and Bayfield (Paula Anich, Northland College), with birds not arriving in Douglas County until 20 May (Nick Anich). EOP found birds still in Ashland, Brown, Dane, Forest, Grant, Lafayette, Marathon and Milwaukee Counties. High count of eight was at Lake

Farm County Park in Dane County on 19 May (Charles Henrikson).

Swainson's Thrush—Appeared first on 29 April at South Metro Pier in Milwaukee County (Rita Flores Wiskowski) and Rock County (Joshua Cullum), followed by a 30 April finding in South Kettle Moraine SF in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak). Birds were still lingering in southern counties at EOP. The high count was 39 at Peninsula SP on 20 May (Andrea Szymczak & Tom Schaefer), with counts of 20 and above in Brown, Burnett and Ozaukee Counties. Seen in 64 counties.

Hermit Thrush—Dane County had the first two on 31 March at Lake Farm County Park (Jim Schwarz). Next were singles on 1 April at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County (Dale Bonk) and at South Kettle Moraine SF (Curt Jacoby). Brown, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Rock Counties received their first migrants on 2 April. The heaviest southern influx was during 12–18 April when season highs of 53 were found in Milwaukee County (Steve Lubahn), 35 in Ozaukee County (Noah Mezera), and 30 in Brown County (Stephanie Beilke). Comparatively, the north had more of an in-trickle, although 18 were observed on the Florence County May Day Count on 28 May (Kay Kavanagh).

Wood Thrush—Sixty-seven counties had records. Earliest was a record early sighting on 7 April at Indian Lake in Dane County (Darrell Schiffman). Next were birds on 29 April in Dane (Aaron Nolan, Mike McDowell, Cynthia Bridge), Grant (Jason Thiele), and Waukesha Counties (Andrea Szymczak). Twenty birds were observed on 20 May in Brown County (Jack Swelstad & Art Sonneland), and 14 appeared in Rusk County on 25 May (Rory Cameron). Northern counties saw their first birds on mid- to late May.

American Robin—Robins had already been in most of the state prior to BOP, with counts of 100–125 in Green Lake, Iowa and St. Croix Counties, and by the very end of March they had penetrated into the far north. On 31 March there were an estimated 999 birds in Dorchester, Clark County (Judy Peche). On 1 April a tour of the Washington Island loop yielded 300 (Melody Walsh). Eric Epstein in Monroe County reported a total of 465 birds on 8 April, and noted that the "actual number was probably 5–10 X what I'm reporting here." Reported from 72 counties.

Varied Thrush—A female bird was in the city of Eau Claire since before BOP and was seen up to 3 March (Steven Glynn). Another bird

stayed for just one day in a Brown County backyard on 20 April (Paul Schilke).

Gray Catbird—Reported in 71 counties, with the earliest report coming on 10 April from Lima Marsh SWA in Rock County (Jay Watson). Almost two weeks later one each was reported on 22 April in Jefferson (Daniel Schneider) and in La Crosse (Gwyneth Calvetti) Counties. The big push into the state started around the beginning of May, when 52 counties reported the birds. The northern tier of counties welcomed the birds during the week of 10–16 May. On 11 May Robert Domagalski counted 41 birds at Kohler-Andrae SP in Sheboygan County, and on 14 May Tony Nowak recorded 40 at High Cliff SP in Calumet County.

Brown Thrasher—BOP present in La Crosse County. The first in period was found at Nine Springs in Dane County on 31 March (Jim Schwarz). Then on 2 April, one was reported off Mounds View Road in Iowa County (Kay Kavanagh). Grant, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Oconto, Racine, Rock and Waukesha Counties reported their first observations during 5–11 April. It wasn't until 10 May that Bayfield County had its first bird (Tim Oksiuta), but by the next day Nick Anich reported 27 in the Barrens in western Bayfield County. Douglas County reported its first two on 13 May at Wisconsin Point (Clinton Nienhaus). A week later, on 20 May, Douglas County had the state high count of 30.

Northern Mockingbird—Thirteen counties reported this bird, the first appearing in Ashland County on 29 April (Ryan Brady, Nick Anich). The same bird was viewed at the same location on 3–4 May (m.obs.). Subsequent reports had possibly the same bird wandering around the Ashland coal docks from 12–17 May. Brief appearances followed in Calumet County on 5 May (Matthew King) and Sheboygan County on 9 May (Robert Domagalski). Starting the week of 10 May five new counties reported birds: Dane (Shawn Miller, Andy Paulios), Fond du Lac (Dave & Kerry Schloff), Manitowoc (Julie Woodcock), Milwaukee (Steve Lubahn, Mike Wanger) and Racine (Magill Weber, Drew Goldberg, Jed Hertz) Counties. The other counties eventually hosting the bird included Bayfield, Crawford, Door, Marathon and Waukesha Counties. No more than one bird was seen at any time.

American Pipit—First recorded was a fly-over in Racine County on 17 March (Ted Keyel), followed by birds in Dane County on 2 April (Kay Kavanagh) and La Crosse County on 4 April (Matthew Paulson). The high count of 50 was found in Door County on 19 May (Art Sonneland & Jack Swelstad). A group of 25 birds was spotted

in Iowa County on 15 May. Notable was the absence of birds in the northeast corner of the state. Reported in 26 counties overall.

Bohemian Waxwing—Two sightings in the month prior to 1 March, and only one thereafter—a single bird in Eau Claire's Putnam Park on 6 March (Steve Betchkal). This is a radical drop from the number of birds seen last year at this time.

Cedar Waxwing—North to Chippewa County by BOP. Mitch Bergeson reported flock of 547 in Madison on 26 March, the season high. Reported throughout the state in 67 counties.

Lapland Longspur—Present in 18 counties prior to BOP. A flock of around 1000 found near Ripon in Fond du Lac County on 5 April (Thomas Schultz) was the largest group, followed by 750 spotted in Outagamie County on 31 March (Jack Swelstad). Last seen by EOP was a single bird at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County on 6 May (Scot Rambo).

Chestnut-collared Longspur**—Found in Crex Meadows in Burnett County on 26 April (J.G. Bennett). See accepted records in "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014."

Smith's Longspur**—Found in Island Lake WPA in Dane County 21–27 April. Initially located by Steve Thiessen, and subsequently seen by m.obs. See accepted records in "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014."

Snow Bunting—Recorded in 50 counties statewide BOP. A flock of 500 found on the Iowa County Grasslands on 15 March (Liz Miller & John Kivikoski). Judy Peche observed a flock of 340 near Dorchester, Clark County on 31 March. Last to be seen in the state was a single bird at Sheboygan Harbor on 2–3 May (Brandon Prim).

Ovenbird—Reported in 70 counties statewide. First to appear was one bird on 29 April in Rock County (Joshua Cullum) followed on 30 April by birds in Brown (Stephanie Beilke), Dane (Paul Noeldner) and Iowa (John Kivikoski) Counties. After the initial trickle, migration quickly spread through the state with birds reaching north to Douglas County by 17 May (Peder Svingen, Robbye Johnson & J.G. Bennett) The high day-count for a whole county was 103 in Florence County on 28 May (Kay Kavanagh). A 90 mile northeast Oconto County Big Day on 22 May garnered 62 birds (Kay & Bob Kavanagh, Jerry Smith). Clough Island in Douglas County yielded 40 birds on 18 May to Nick Anich.

Worm-eating Warbler*—One seen on 28 April–1 May at Fox River Parkway in Waukesha County (m.obs.) that was originally reported by Curt Jacoby, and one reported on 11 May at High Cliff SP in Calumet County (Tony Nowak).

Louisiana Waterthrush—Jason Thiele observed the first in Grant County on 3 April, tied for the fourth earliest state arrival. Arrivals then began at Governor Dodge SP in Iowa County on 12 April (Aaron Holschbach) and on 15 April at Wagner Park in Waukesha County (Jack Coulter). By 26 April Sauk County had birds at Honey Creek (Joshua Mayer), as well as the season high five birds on 29 April (Matt McDonald). Overall birds were recorded in 21 counties—west up to St. Croix County (Brent Ankeny), central up to Juneau County (Kelly Rueckheim) and east up to Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula).

Northern Waterthrush—Reported in 66 counties statewide, seen first in Racine County on 18 April (Eric Howe). Migration north reached 44 counties by 9 May, peaking 10–23 May. Fifty birds was the high mark reached at Myrick Marsh in La Crosse county on 17 May (Scott Puchalski).

Blue-winged Warbler—Seen north to a rough line from Polk (Robin Maercklein) to Marathon (Dan Belter) to Marinette (Joan Campbell) Counties, with records overall in 50 counties. By EOP 37 counties were reporting sightings suggesting breeding activity. First appeared in Milwaukee County on 2 May (Schlitz Audubon).

Golden-winged Warbler—First spotted at Schlitz Audubon in Milwaukee County on 2 May. Seen at Peshtigo Harbor WA in Marinette County on 8 May (Joan Campbell, Marcia Hurst) and discovered at Tiffany Bottoms in Pepin County on 17 May (m.obs.). First spotted in Rusk County on 17 May (Ralph Fischer), and noted in Douglas County on 21 May (Ted Keyel). Last reported on 31 May, in Brown, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Rusk, St. Croix and Washburn Counties. Observed in 63 counties statewide. Peninsula SP in Door County had a count of eight on 8 May (Andrea Szymczak & Tom Schaefer).

Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler—“Brewster’s” Warbler was found in six counties, first in Washington County on 10 May (Andrea Szymczak & Tom Schaefer), then on 11 May in Milwaukee County (Steven Lubahn) and in Kewaunee County (Adam Sinkula), on 12 May in Dane County (Andy Paulios), on 17 May in Oneida County (Vanessa Haese-Lehman, April Strzelczyk & Amber Roth) and 21 May in Eau Claire County (Carey & Ryan Chrouser). An hy-

brid appeared in Rock County on 15 May that defied nomenclature (Joshua Cullum), and a “Lawrence’s” Warbler was seen by Matt Clark on 22 May in Sauk County.

Black-and-white Warbler—Reported statewide in 70 counties. Seen on 22 April in Calumet County (Matthew King), Dane County (Joshua Mayer, Paul Senner), Sheboygan County (Andy & Janet Raddatz) and Waukesha County (Jim Edlhuber). Viewed north in Bayfield County on 9 May (Keith Nemecek) and observed in Sawyer County on 14 May (m.obs.). The high count was 35 birds seen at High Cliff SP in Calumet County on 8 May (Michael Gray).

Prothonotary Warbler—Seen north to Trempealeau (m.obs.), Portage (Myles Hurlbut, Rob Pendergast, Dan Belter) and Waupaca (Michael Gray) Counties. First showed up on 13 April, matching the earliest spring sighting, at Bartel’s Beach on Rock Lake in Jefferson County (Aaron Stutz). Next came one on the Davidson Road flood-lands on 1 May in Dodge County (Tom Schaefer) and then on 3 May at Cherokee Park in Madison (Dan Graham). The high was seven in Grant County, west of Woodward (Richard Ouren). Observed in 24 counties.

Tennessee Warbler—First reports came from Eau Claire County on 28 April (Jana Lind) and on 2 May from La Crosse (Gwyneth Calvetti) and Milwaukee (John McCaw) Counties. Ashland County didn’t have a sighting until 24 May (Anand Sankarraj). High count was 40 at Lake Farm County Park in Dane County on 13 May (Peter Fissel). On 11 May Aaron Stutz had 30 on the Glacial Drumlin State Trail in Jefferson County.

Orange-crowned Warbler—Appeared 22 April in Kettle Moraine SF in Jefferson County (Cynthia Bridge), Bender Park in Milwaukee County (Drew Goldberg) and Cliffside Park in Racine County (Jim Veltman). Reached the Eau Claire River Conservancy in Marathon County on 10 May (Dan Belter, Mary Backus, Sarah Sabatke) and Prentice Park in Ashland the next day (Tim Oksiuta). The City of Sheboygan lakefront had the high of 12 on 16 May (Robert Domagalski). The final sighting of the season was 25 May in Peninsula SP in Door County (Sue Peterson).

Nashville Warbler—Earliest were the sightings on 26 April in Dane County (m.obs.) and at Yellowstone Lake SP in Lafayette County (Matthew Nechvatal). The next wave of records came on 29 April into yards in Jefferson County (Daniel Schneider) and Milwaukee County (Judith Huf, Jennifer Ambrose), Rock County

(Joshua Cullum) and the Fox River Parkway in Waukesha County (Thomas Wood). A total of 75 was counted near Mineral Point in Iowa County on 9 May (John Kivikoski).

Connecticut Warbler—This secretive species was recorded in 27 counties. First were birds on 10 May in Crex Meadows in Burnett County, at the Menomonee River Parkway in Milwaukee County (Steven Schwinn) and Trempealeau NWR (Scott Puchalski). Susan Haug then found one on 13 May in Marathon County. Only once was there a sighting of more than one—the two birds found in Crex Meadows by Laurie S.

Mourning Warbler—First to be spotted were single birds on 7 May in a Dunn County yard (Pamela Hoyland) and at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Eric Epstein). The next day had sightings in Dane, Jefferson and Kenosha Counties. The species reached Bayfield County on 22 May. William Mueller found 23 in a five-mile survey route in Oconto County on 24 May. Florence County's May Day Count located 12 on 28 May.

Kentucky Warbler—Seven counties hosted this bird, which appeared first on 7 May in Grant County at its customary spot in Wyalusing SP (Eric Epstein) and the next day at Cassville Bluffs SNA (Jason Thiele). Andrea Szymczak had one also on 8 May off the John Muir Trails in Walworth County. Three birds were noted at Wyalusing SP on three separate dates. The other counties with this species were Brown, Dane, Iowa, Lafayette and Milwaukee.

Common Yellowthroat—Reported from 71 counties. First on the scene was a bird showing up at a private home in Iowa County on 26 April (Michelle Helin). Four days later, there was a spate of sightings in Dane, Milwaukee, Walworth and Waukesha Counties. The birds reached Menominee County on 11 May (Marty Evanson) and Douglas County by 17 May (m.obs.). The high count of 75 was reached twice at Myrick Marsh in La Crosse County on 17 and 25 May (Scott Puchalski).

Hooded Warbler—Observed in 16 counties, roughly all southeast of a line from Manitowoc County to Iowa County. Found first on 22 April in a brushy creek in Rock County (Joni Denker). Seen on 30 April at Kettle Moraine SF in Washington County on a DNR point count (Tom Prestby) and Southern Kettle Moraine SF in Waukesha County (Andrea Szymczak). Two days later one found at Scout Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Andrea Szymczak). No nesting information disclosed other than finding many males singing at the same location for over seven days,

and males and females in the same location. High was 12 birds on Emma Carlin Trail at Kettle Moraine SF in Jefferson County (Cynthia Bridge).

American Redstart—Initially seen in Green Lake, Green Lake County on 1 May (Laurie S.) and then on 2 May at Sevastopol, Door County (Jack & Jesse Louthain). The species spread statewide quickly and was spotted in Douglas County already by 9 May (Nick Anich). The high count was 125 at Bay Beach Sanctuary in Brown County on 20 May (Art Sonneland & Jack Swelstad).

Kirtland's Warbler*—Recorded only in Adams County, beginning with 11 May (Joel & Patti Trick) and 2–3 birds, including both genders, noted through EOP. All reported to USFWS. No nesting information available.

Cape May Warbler—First observed on a bike path in Ozaukee County on 4 May (m.obs.), then on 6 May in the Cook Arboretum in Rock County (Dale Kittleson) and in La Crosse County at Myrick Marsh (Doug Stratton) and Goose Island (Scott Puchalski). Migration spread quickly statewide from there, reaching Bayfield County by 10 May. The high mark was 50 at Bay Beach Sanctuary in Brown County on 20 May (Jack Swelstad & Art Sonneland).

Cerulean Warbler—Noted in 22 counties, roughly south of a line drawn from Florence County in the northeast to Pepin County in the west. The first records were from 7 May from Wyalusing SP and EVNP in Grant County (Eric Epstein, Jason Thiele, respectively) and Washington County (Brad Steger). At EOP birds were documented in Florence, Grant, Iowa, Sauk, Washington, Waukesha and Waupaca Counties suggesting possible nesting.

Northern Parula—After early sightings of 1–2 birds on 26 April in Dodge (Jesse Decker), Kenosha (Frank DeAngelis) and Lafayette (Matthew Nechvatal) Counties and on the 27th in Milwaukee County (Steven Lubahn), sightings proliferated rapidly around the state. Kay Kavanagh reported 19 at Bay Beach Sanctuary on 13 May, noting “fallout.”

Magnolia Warbler—The early bird was a singleton at Schlitz Audubon on 2 May. Vilas County had its first record on 10 May (James Baughman). Following that was a lone bird at Doctors Park in Ozaukee County on 4 May (Frank James). On 20 May Art Sonneland and Jack Swelstad found “probably more than 50” birds at Bay Beach Sanctuary in Brown County.

By the end of EOP the only southern counties reporting finds were Dane, Milwaukee, Racine and Vernon Counties. Reported from 69 counties around the state.

Bay-breasted Warbler—7 May marked the first appearance of this species in Dane County (Kim Kreitinger, Andrew Cassini, Charles Roberts), as well as in La Crosse (Scott Puchalski) and Walworth (Joel Thiele, Scott Weberpal) Counties. By 12 May this species had arrived in Eau Claire County (Ryan Chrouser) and by 15 May in Bayfield County (Kathy Morales). Joan Sommer reported 18 at Riveredge Nature Center in Ozaukee County on 14 May. The last bird observed was observed in Kenosha County on 27 May (Sean Fitzgerald).

Blackburnian Warbler—The “Fire-throat” showed up first on 29 April in Milwaukee County (Matt Kemp) and on 30 May in Ozaukee County (Natalie Miller). By 16 May the species reached Forest County (April Patterson) and by 18 May Douglas County (Karl Bardon). At High Cliff SP in Calumet County, Tony Nowak spotted 14. On 20 May Tom Schaefer & Andrea Szymczak had 13 at Peninsula SP in Door County.

Yellow Warbler—Reported in 70 counties. First arrivals showed up on 22 April at UW-Platteville Memorial Park in Grant County (Allison Miller) and Whitnall Park in Milwaukee (Francesca Sanchez). The next day they popped up at Storrs Lake SWA in Rock County (Jay Watson). Dunn County had viewings by 7 May (Pamela Hoyland), Adams County by 11 May (Joel & Patti Trick; Mike Reese) and Barron County by 24 May (Chris Jerome). Other than the 100 noted on the Glacial Drumlin State Trail in Jefferson County on 11 May (Aaron Stutz), there were estimates of 50 birds per outing in Brown, Burnett, Dane, Kenosha, La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties.

Chestnut-sided Warbler—Jym Mooney found the first bird at Lake Park in Milwaukee on 3 May. The next day Jon Roti Roti had the species at Green Lake Sunnyside Conservancy in Green Lake County. Marquette County had a sighting on 17 May (Geoffrey Geupel, Scott Froehlke), and Iron County saw two on 23 May (Eric Epstein). The high for a single location was 41 at Peninsula SP on 20 May (Andrea Szymczak & Tom Schaefer).

Blackpoll Warbler—Earliest sightings were on 1 May in Dane (Jean Clausen) and Grant (Allison Miller) Counties. Manitowoc County had one on 4 May (Joel Trick) and by 9 May the species had appeared as far north as Marathon

County. Ashland County had its first on 13 May at the Ashland Coal Docks (Alex Lehner). Scott Puchalski had 37 on a half-mile route at Oak Grove Cemetery in La Crosse County on 24 May. Reported from 62 counties statewide.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—Seen in 31 counties. 4 May was the early date, appearing in Milwaukee’s Lake Park (Richard Cimino, Jeff Kingery, Thomas Wood). On 7 May the bird was viewed in La Crosse, Dane and Brown Counties. It was first noted in Oneida County by 22 May (Jessica Gorzo) and Bayfield County by 28 May (Nick Anich & Ryan Brady). Four individuals were enjoyed at Bay Beach Sanctuary on 14 May (m.obs.).

Palm Warbler—Sighted first along the Windsor-DeForest Bike Path in Dane County on 14 April (Edward Saur) and then on 18 April in a private yard in Sauk County (Jane Furchgott). Marathon County saw its first on 20 April. Shawano County had no reports until 12 May. On 18 May Karl Bardon recorded 1087 off Gull Bluff near Wisconsin Point in Douglas County.

Pine Warbler—The first one was reported at Grant Park in Milwaukee on 11 April (Spencer Jablonski). The next was found at Kettle Moraine SF in Fond du Lac County on 13 April (Sandy Vorpahl), and the next day one showed up at O’Riley Road in Rock County (Joel Thiele). Clark County welcomed one on 2 May. May 10th was the date the birds were noted in Douglas County. High was a count of 22 in a survey across Vilas County on 11 May (James Baughman).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler—BOP present in Brown, Grant and Iowa Counties. The first in-season was sighted on 15 April off Eagle Lake in Racine County (Kristen Fulk). Appearance soon followed in Grant and then Milwaukee Counties. The species was reported in Juneau County by 15 April, then in Bayfield County on 19 April. Karl Bardon tallied 3624 off Gull Bluff on the “massive migration” past Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on 18 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler*—All but three of the Grant County observations for this species were at the customary location in Wyalusing SP between 3 and 31 May with 1–4 birds per occasion (m.obs.) The other three sightings were of a single bird at Cassville during 11–18 May, perhaps a stray from Wyalusing. The only other sighting in the state was one bird on 13 May on the Milwaukee lakefront (William Mueller).

Prairie Warbler*—One bird seen off the Scuppernong Trail of Kettle Moraine SF in

Waukesha County from 4 May through EOP. First found by Tim Hahn and Paula Stich. See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Townsend’s Warbler*—Fifth WI record. One seen at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton, Dane County on 4 May from 6:00 a.m. To 9:00 a.m. (m.obs.). First reported by Mike McDowell. In order to become an official record, this bird needs to be written up for the WSO Records Committee.

Black-throated Green Warbler—Seen first at the UW-Madison Arboretum in Dane County on 25 April (Molly Zahn). North to Barron County by 27 April (Rory Cameron & Pamela Campbell). The species didn’t appear in Douglas County until 18 May (Seth Spencer). High count was 34 on 20 May at Peninsula SP in Door County (Tom Schaefer & Andrea Szymczak), followed by 25 at Rock Island SP off Door County the next day (Melody Walsh).

Canada Warbler—This is one of the few warblers that didn’t first pop up in the far south. It first showed up on 7 May in Eau Claire (Ryan Chrouser) and Sauk (Rebecca Schroeder) Counties and was seen in Manitowoc County the next day. The birds were in Sawyer County a week later, on the 14th, but weren’t seen in Bayfield County until the 28 May. High counts of 15 were acquired in both Milwaukee and Racine Counties.

Wilson’s Warbler—Migration of this bird appeared pretty evenly distributed around the state during each week of May. It was first seen on 4 May at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Andrew Cassini) and in Port Washington, Ozaukee County (m.obs.). By 12 May it was already observed in Bayfield County (Ryan Brady). Marcia Hurst reported a high count of 21 birds at Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area on 20 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat—Seen in six counties. One to two birds were observed at LaRiviere Park in Crawford County 17–20 May (m.obs.). A single bird was spotted in Middleton, Dane County on 13 May (Tim Fenske), but appears to have been a vagrant. Another single wanderer appeared at Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in Grant County on 16 May (m.obs.). One was seen on 23–24 May at Albany SWA in Green County (m.obs.). Two birds were found at Warnimont County Park in Milwaukee on 8 May but only one of them on follow-up two days later (Steven Lubahn). Andrea Szymczak had one at Whitnall Park in Milwaukee on 14–16 May. Finally, Rock County had a single bird at Avon Bottoms on 12 May (Thomas Cimino).

Eastern Towhee—Reported from 66 counties statewide. Found first on 1 April at Kettle Moraine SF in Jefferson County (Cynthia Bridge) and at a private address in Winnebago County (James Rudolph). The next day the species was reported from Lake Farm County Park in Dane County (Aaron Greene) and Washington Park in Milwaukee County (Tim Vargo). Birds arrived in Vilas County on 26 April, Marathon County on 2 May and Bayfield County on 10 May. The high count was 40 at the Germann/Highway 27 area of Douglas County on 20 May (Nick Anich).

Spotted × Eastern Towhee—A bird reported on 20 April at Nine Springs Natural Area in Dane County. The record was not accepted by the WSO Records Committee as a Spotted Towhee due to markings consistent with both species. See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014”.

American Tree Sparrow—Recorded in 70 counties around the state, including almost all the counties of the northern tier. Present in 53 counties BOP. Last seen on 10 May in Bayfield and Brown Counties. High count for the season was 185 birds seen on a 10-mile Albany Survey Route on 2 March (Quentin Yoerger).

Chipping Sparrow—The first birds seen were on 17 March at Milwaukee’s Lake Park (Mike Wanger) and on the 18th at a private home in Dane County (Timothy Baker). Migration didn’t start to gather steam until about 29 March–5 April when nine counties reported views. The species was viewed in Eau Claire County by 1 April (Jana Lind) and Vilas County by 21 April (Nathan Martineau). The high point came with the 1214 birds flying past Gull Bluff near Wisconsin Point in the enormous migration of 18 May (Karl Bardon).

Clay-colored Sparrow—Early arrivals on 26 April were in Dane (Charles Henrikson), Iowa (John Kivikoski), and La Crosse (Scott Puchalski) Counties, and moved to nesting territory relatively rapidly. By 2 May birds had been seen to progress north to Eau Claire County in the west and Brown County in the east. Ashland County had its first on the 9th of May. The high count was 35 birds in Polk County on 8 May (Brian Collins).

Field Sparrow—One, possibly over-wintering, present from before BOP to 25 March at a private home in Grant County (Richard Ouren). First migrants seen on 24 March in Rock County (Beth C., Dale Kittleson), followed by sightings in Walworth County on 29 March, Dane County on 31 March, and Grant and Sauk Counties on 2 April. By the end of April, the new-comers had

appeared also in Burnett, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Waushara Counties. By 25 May, they reached Douglas County. Thirty birds were found on 8 April in Trempealeau NWR (Dustan Hoffman) and on 2 May at EVNP in Grant County (Jason Thiele).

Vesper Sparrow—Found first at Pine Hollow SNA in Sauk County on 29 March (Ashley Hannah), then on 31 March at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Rob Pendergast) and on 4 April at a private home in Iowa County (John Mack). Langlade County got its first on 14 April at Bryant Flats (Nancy Richmond) and Barron County not until 31 May (Marty Evanson). Nick Anich had 40 at the Germann/Highway 27 area in Douglas County on 20 May.

Lark Sparrow—Reported from 18 counties. Earliest seen arrivals were on 18 April at Cook's Pond in Dunn County (Pamela Campbell & Rory Cameron) and at EVNP in Grant County (Jason Thiele). Birds appeared at the Fish Lake area in Burnett County on 30 April (Pamela Hoyland). Records came entirely south of a rough line from Burnett County to Portage County to Columbia County to Milwaukee County. The high count was 23 seen at Spring Green Preserve-East in Sauk County on 30 May (Jesse Decker).

Savannah Sparrow—Joe Luedtke found the first arrival on 24 March in Milwaukee County, and that seems to have stayed at least until 2 April. The next county reporting was Waukesha County at Frame Park on 31 March (Joe Luedtke). Forest County reported its first on 11 May (Mary Maertz). The last county recording a sighting was Marquette at the Grand River Marsh on 24 May (Peter Fissel). Brad Steger recorded a total of 34 birds on 18 April in Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County.

Grasshopper Sparrow—The first appeared on 17 April near Mineral Point in Iowa County (John Kivikoski). Next found were birds on 23 April in Dane County (m.obs.), and on 25 April at Unimin in Columbia County (Brian Dover-spoke) and at Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County (Aaron Holschbach). Found in 31 counties, mostly south of a line from Pepin County to Chippewa County to Marathon County to Door County. The exceptions were Price County with a single bird on 20 May (Delbert Parkinson) and Florence County with two, possibly four, birds on 30 May (Kay & Bob Kavanagh). Dane County had

the high count of 16 at the Erbe Grassland Preserve on 26 May (Ben Winesett).

Henslow's Sparrow—Birds penetrated this year as far north as Polk, Marathon, Portage, Fond du Lac, and Ozaukee Counties. First to be sighted was a bird at the Iowa County Prairie Restoration on 19 April (Jesse Decker). By 26 April birds were reported in Dodge (Matt Herzmann) and Sauk (Paul Senner) Counties, and Andy Paulios found two in Dane County on 2 May. Marathon County had its first bird on 18 May at Mead SWA (Dan Belter), and Pierce County had three birds at Kinnickinnic SP on 25 May (Larry Persico). Kim Kreitinger found 10 at Schurch-Thomson Prairie in Iowa County on 31 May.

Le Conte's Sparrow—Spotted first were two birds off the Rutland-Dunn Town Line Road in Dane County on 26 April (Jay Watson & Nick Walton). On 2 May, Matthew Paulson saw one at Kickapoo Valley Reserve in Vernon County. Milwaukee's Lake Park on 3 May was the next setting where Matt Kemp found a single bird. On 17 May Mary Maertz and others noted one in Ashland County. Up to 11 appeared at Clough Island in Douglas County on 18–30 May (Nick Anich), where the birds presumably nest, and up to three were observed in Powell Marsh in Vilas County (m.obs.).

Nelson's Sparrow—Three counties reporting. First was a bird at Milwaukee's Sheridan Park seen on 19 May (Steven Lubahn, Rita Flores Wiskowski, John McCaw). The next day one, possibly the same one, was at Milwaukee's Lake Park (m.obs.). Ryan Treves reported two at Madison's Lakeshore Preserve in Dane County on 26 May, and one was observed at Powell Marsh in Vilas County the same day (Dennis Gustafson).

Fox Sparrow—Present by BOP in Dane, Dodge, Grant, Jefferson, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties. The first "official" birds were found on 1 March at the UW-Madison Arboretum in Dane County (Benjamin Cunningham, Charles Henrikson, Heather Kauffman) and at a private home in St. Croix County (Larry Persico). Sightings more or less dribbled in until the week of 29 March–4 April. One appeared as far north as Barron County on 2 April, and it took until 30 April for Ashland County to have its first view. The high was a staggering 250 seen at Lost Creek Wetlands in Portage County on 1 April (Rob Pendergast).

Song Sparrow—Thirteen counties reported birds prior to BOP. The initial in-season birds appeared on 2 March at Pheasant Branch in Dane

County (Mike McDowell) and at a private reserve in Rock County (Jay Watson). Outagamie County had its first birds on 15 March (Ari Rice) and Sawyer County on 12 April (Rick Pertile). High was the count of 110 seen by Kyle Lindemer on 20 April at Nine Springs Natural Area in Dane County.

Lincoln's Sparrow—The first seasonal bird was at a Marquette County crane count site on 12 April (Scott Swengel). Next to appear was one at Kohler-Andrae SP in Sheboygan County on 14 April (Davor Grgic), followed by the 15 April showing at Halfway Creek Marsh in La Crosse County (Dan Jackson). The species was spotted in Langlade County on 10 May (Nancy Richmond), and in Bayfield County by 7 May (Ryan Brady). The high count for this bird, usually found as one, or maybe as many as three, birds was 12 in Lake Park in Milwaukee County on 16 May (Matt Kemp, Mark Korducki). Charles Henrikson had 11 at Lake Farm County Park in Dane County on 9 May. In addition, La Crosse and Ashland Counties each had counts of 10.

Swamp Sparrow—Goose Island in La Crosse County on 20 March was the site of the first observation (Doug Stratton). No other counties saw this species until Dane (Seth Spencer) and Walworth (Richard Smallwood) Counties had their first sightings on 28 March. Migration north reached the Willow River SP area in St. Croix County by 8 May (Larry Persico). Barron County had no records until 31 May (Marty Evanson). The high count was 45 on Dike Road in Horicon Marsh on 24 May (Delia Unson & Chuck Heikkinen).

White-throated Sparrow—An early spring species, it had been seen before BOP in 15 counties. On March 1st birds showed up at a private home in Grant County (Richard Ouren), at three different locations in Milwaukee County (Mike Wanger, Steve Lubahn, John Winze) and at Freistadt in Ozaukee County (James Frank). By 2 March it already was observed in Brown County (Jack Swelstad) and on 8 April in Vilas County (Spencer Jablonski), but not until 5 May in Douglas County (Clinton Nienhaus, Paula Anich, Northland College). Two hundred birds were tallied on two occasions: on 2 May at EVNP in Grant County (Jason Thiele) and at Point au Sable in Brown County on 8 May (Tom Prestby).

Harris's Sparrow—Reports from 28 counties continue to show a marked increase of this western species in Wisconsin. Prior to BOP there was a sighting in Brown County. The first in-season report was 20 April in La Crosse County (Timothy Baker). Chippewa County had its first on 1 May (Seth Meyer). The birds appeared

north to Bayfield by 9 May (Barbara Moldenhauer) and northeast to Marinette County a day earlier (Kurt Miller, Marcia Hurst, Joan Campbell).

White-crowned Sparrow—Seen prior to BOP in Dane, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson and La Crosse Counties. Grant County had one at a private home on 1 March (Richard Ouren) and Jefferson County had another on Koshkonong Creek (Matt Schaning). Racine County hosted six at a private home on 2 March (Becky Kasun). The birds were recorded in Waushara County by 20 April and Douglas County by 9 May. Brad Steger had 50 at a private address in Washington County on 7 May. La Crosse County at Oak Grove Cemetery had 47 the same day (Scott Puchalski).

Dark-Eyed (Slate-colored) Junco—Reported in 61 of 72 counties before BOP. Most of the far northern counties, as expected, had their initial looks later in the season. Iron County had its first record on 5 March. Ashland County saw its first on 7 March and Langlade County on 8 March. Rusk County was next on 10 March. Forest County welcomed the species on 30 March. Both Douglas and Price Counties viewed it on 12 April. By contrast, Vilas and Marinette Counties had birds present throughout the season. Two counties reached counts of 200: Langlade on 16 April at a private residence (Nancy Richmond, who noted "low estimate") and Washburn at Grassy Lake on 12 April (International Crane Foundation).

Summer Tanager—First seen was a juvenile male 20–23 April at a farm in Columbia County (Laura Wentz). (This bird needs to be documented for the WSO Records Committee since it appeared before the April 27 cutoff date and is tied with a Rock County bird for second earliest.) Then a juvenile male showed up on 4 May in Waukesha County (m.obs.), followed by a juvenile male that moved around in the Madison area during 6–8 May (m.obs.). La Crosse County had an adult male on 8–9 May at a private home (Amy Stockert). On 9 May three counties viewed singles—a female in Iowa (Aaron Holschbach), a juvenile male in Milwaukee (m.obs.) and a female in Racine (Jerry DeBoer). Subsequently, birds showed up in 12 more counties: Barron (Chris Jerome), Bayfield (Thomas Hmielewski & Coke Lindsey), Burnett (Carl Schroeder), Calumet (Stuart Malcolm), Dodge (Brianne Keehan), Iron (m.obs.), Outagamie (m.obs.), Ozaukee (Jean Strelka & Carol Thomas), Portage (Rob Pendergast), St. Croix (Nette Jenkins) and Vernon (Dan Jackson). No observations were of more than one bird.

Scarlet Tanager—Observed first on 4 May at Nelson Dewey SP (Jason Thiele), followed by sightings on 5 May at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County (Sam Krerowicz) and Waukesha County (Paula Stich), and as far north as Wood County by 9 May (Laurie Skusevich). Ashland County had its first on 13 May (Nick Anich). Kim Kreitinger recorded 20 at Hudson Park in Dane County on 20 May.

Western Tanager**—Single birds were reported on 6 May in Dunn County (Carl Rudenberg) and on 9–10 May (Rory Cameron, Pamela Campbell & Anne Geraghty), on 10 May at Duncan Creek in Chippewa County (Anne Mehls), at West Branch Road in Iron County on 11 May (Kathy Funk), in Marathon County on 13–16 May (Dan Belter) and at Whitewater Creek Fishery in Walworth County on 23 May (Kerri Warzyn). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Northern Cardinal—Records in 61 of 72 counties BOP, including in Ashland, Bayfield and Marinette Counties. Vilas County, however, didn’t report any until 13 March (Mike Peczynski), and Douglas County wasn’t represented until 17 May (Peder Svingen, J.G. Bennett & Robbye Johnson). Despite the species’ range moving north, reports in the northern tier were few and scattered.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—The earliest appearance was at a private home in Iowa County on 25 April (John Mack), followed by a bird in Monroe County the next day (Eric Epstein). Birds appeared next on 27 April at a farm in Grant County (Richard Ouren), in Mineral Point in Iowa County (John Kivikoski) and at a home in Vernon County (Glenn Forchione). On 2 May a bird popped up at a cottage as far north as Forest County (Mary Maertz), and on 6 May John & Victoria Meining found one in Douglas County. Karl Bardon reported 119 moving past Gull Bluff in Douglas County during the massive migration of 18 May.

Lazuli Bunting**—The sixth and seventh state records were viewed on 18 May at homes in Brown County (Don & Katrina DeWitt) and in Grant County (Kevin Sweeny). The eighth state record was seen in Price County on 22 May (Terry Teeters). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Indigo Bunting—Spotted in Doctors Park in Milwaukee County on 21 April (James Frank), then on 27 April in Outagamie County (Todd Ward). Early sightings followed 30 April at a home in Clark County (Judy Lund) and on 2 May

at Lion’s Den Gorge in Ozaukee County (Joan Sommer). Vilas County had its first view on 12 May and Douglas County 10 days later. 50 were seen at EVNP in Grant County on 13 May (Jason Thiele), and 43 were seen around Florence County during a Big Green Bike Day by Kay & Bob Kavanagh.

Painted Bunting**—Seen and photographed in Door County on 11 May by an anonymous observer. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Dickcissel—Reported from 22 counties overall, and seen on 31 May north to Eau Claire (Steve Betchkal) and in Dunn (Pamela Campbell) Counties. The first two were seen in Avon Bottoms on 9 May on a Natural Resources Foundation birding tour (Andy Paulios). Next were reports on 13 May from Portage (Joseph Schaufenbuel) and Sauk (Aaron Holschbach) Counties. Kim Kreitinger observed 15 at Schurch-Thomson Prairie in Iowa County on 31 May. Ben Winesett found 14 on the nearby Thomson Memorial Prairie in Dane County on 26 May.

Bobolink—Jon Kivikoski recorded two birds near Mineral Point, Iowa County on 17 April, tied for second earliest in the spring. The next bird appeared on 25 April at the WE-Energies Grassland in Milwaukee County. (Steven Lubahn). Following that was a bird at Faville Grove in Jefferson County on 27 April (Aaron Stutz) and birds on the 29th—one in Kenosha County (John Winze) and eight in Adams County (Mike Reese). By 9 May birds had already been seen north to Ashland County (Keith Nemeč). Apart from the 261 flying past Gull Bluff in Douglas County on 18 May (Karl Bardon), the high count was 60 at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County on 24 May (Jack Swelstad & Art Sonneland).

Red-winged Blackbird—Already at BOP in Calumet, Dane, Iowa, Kenosha, La Crosse, Racine and Waukesha Counties. The first to appear in other counties was spotted on 8 March in Rock (Jay Watson) and Trempealeau (Doug Stratton) Counties. By the next day, the birds were reported in Brown County (Kay Kavanagh), and in Eau Claire County on 16 March (Nina Koch). They were observed in Bayfield County on 30 March (Tim Oksiuta, Barbara Moldenhauer), and finally seen in Douglas County on 12 April (Bill Albano). Marty Evanson tallied 1300 on 4 April at Lake Farm County Park in Dane County.

Eastern Meadowlark—First seen on 10 March at UW-Madison’s Lakeshore Preserve in Dane County (David La Puma) and on Nicolai Road in Waupaca County (Michael Gray). It

wasn't until 18 March that the birds were observed in Rock County (Dale Kittleson). The species arrived in a scattered pattern: they were first viewed in Shawano County on 12 April (Bill Koonz), in Forest County on 3 May (Mary Maertz) and in Buffalo County on 10 May (Anne Geraghty). Jesse Decker tallied 30 at the Iowa County Prairie Restoration on 2 May, and Andy Paulios recorded 25 at Prairie Primrose BCA in Dane County on 29 May.

Western Meadowlark—For a species that was once as abundant as, or more abundant than the Eastern Meadowlark, things have changed. The Western was reported in 21 counties as opposed to 72 counties for the Eastern. Earliest observed was a bird on Dane County Hwy. F on 22 March (Richard Henderson). Following that were birds on 30 March at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Gerry Janz & Maureen Brocken) and on 2 April off Iowa County Road D (Matthew Nechvatal). The species was viewed in Bayfield County on 25 April (Ryan Brady) but not until 23 May was it reported from Green Lake County (Jon Roti Roti). The most seen were 15 at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County on 20 April (Kay Kavanagh).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Appearing first was a bird mixed in with Red-winged Blackbirds at Lake Barney in Dane County on 24 March (Steve Thiessen). A second was spotted at Storrs Lake SWA in Rock County on 9 April (Jay Watson). Beginning on 12 April, birds were seen in Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, Outagamie and Walworth Counties. Portage County had its first report on 5 May (Andrew Gilbert), and six were noted in Douglas County on 18 May mixed in with the huge diurnal migration off Gull Point (Karl Bardon). Aaron Stutz located 25 at Mud Lake SWA-West in Dodge County on 24 May, as did Jack Swelstad and Art Sonneland at Horicon Marsh on 17 May.

Rusty Blackbird—“Rusties” had been seen only in Iowa County by 1 March. The first “official” spring reports were at two Rock County locations—Storrs Lake SWA (Jay Watson) and Fair Meadows (Gary Shackelford). Then birds appeared at Yellowstone Lake SP in Lafayette County on 9 March (Matthew Nechvatal), in Dane County on the 10th (Kyle Lindemer) and off Three Springs Road in Grant County on 12 March (Jeff Huebschman). Birds were recorded in St. Croix County by 19 April (Larry Persico), Brown County by 31 March (Kay Kavanagh), and Bayfield County by 6 April (Wayne Seeger). The high count was 1232 at Goose Island in La Crosse County on 20 April (Scott Puchalski).

Brewer's Blackbird—These birds were reported first on 31 March at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Rob Pendergast) and at Dorchester in Clark County (Judy Peche). On 1 April, they appeared at McComb's ponds in Chippewa County (Anne Geraghty). They were observed in Marathon County on 19 April (Dan Belter), on 26 April in Vilas County (Nathan Martineau) and in Douglas County by 20 May (Eric Epstein). High count was 300 at Bryant Flats in Langlade County on 1 May (Nancy Richmond). Kay Kavanagh happened upon a flock of 110 at Buena Vista Grasslands on 20 April.

Common Grackle—Present before 1 March in Fond du Lac, Ozaukee and Portage Counties. The first in-season birds were found on 8 March: at Goose Pond in Columbia County (unk.obs.), and at Ackerman's Grove County Park in Washington County the next day (Noah Mezera). Shawn Miller had one on commute to work in Dane County on 10 March. On 13 March Outagamie County saw its first birds (Ryan Atwater). Oconto County had to wait until 7 April (Barb Byron). Douglas County viewed its first on 12 April (Bill Albano), and Barron County didn't report any until 22 April (Judy Haseleu). Joshua Cullum had a count of 505 on 21 March in Rock County; 300 showed up at a Washington County home on 30 March (Tom Schaefer).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Already reported in Dane, Monroe and Waukesha Counties by BOP. The next county reached was at Freistadt in Ozaukee on 8 March (James Frank), followed on 15 March by Milwaukee (Chris Petherick) and Rock (Aaron Haycraft, Quentin Yoerger, Joshua Cullum). Door County had a bird on 1 April (Melody Walsh), Douglas County had its first on 12 April (Bill Albano) and Ashland County had its first arrival on 25 April (Ryan Brady). Robin Maercklein obtained a count of 400 on 28 April at Sand Lake in Polk County. Found in 72 counties reporting on eBird.

Orchard Oriole—The first report, came from Betsy Abert who had one from 25–28 April in Milwaukee County; then one was seen at a home in Crawford County on 26 April (Jo Severson). The next day one appeared at a dwelling in Milwaukee County (Steven Lubahn). By 3 May the species was in Wood County (Gary Stout), by 6 May in Chippewa County (Rory Cameron), by 12 May in Marinette County (Joan Campbell), by 17 May in Sawyer County (Cathy Gagliardi). Bayfield County had its first record on 30 May. The high count was 10 at Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County on 17 May (Keith Anderson). Reported from 53 counties throughout the state.

Bullock's Oriole**—One reported by Hope Rutledge at Fall Creek in Eau Claire County on 21 May. See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

Baltimore Oriole—Ethan Grant spotted the first of the year at UW-Platteville Memorial Park in Grant County on 25 April. On 27 April, one had appeared at a home in Milwaukee County (Audrey Peterson). The next day Gregg Newman had one at Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County. Winnebago County had its first on 2 May (Ruth Syson) and Clark County tallied its first on 6 May (Judy Lund). The birds were observed in Iron County by 10 May (Mari Dallapiazza, NLDC Birders). Sixty-eight flew past Gull Bluff in Douglas County during the great migration on 18 May (Karl Bardon). A count of 40 was achieved twice: first at Eagle Valley Preserve in Grant County on 16 May (Paula Stich, Tim Hahn & Danielle Baumann), and at Myrick Marsh in La Crosse County the following day (Scott Puchalski & Peter Hamstra).

Purple Finch—Seen in 30 counties prior to BOP. The first “new” counties reporting 1 March sightings were: Marquette at a private home (Kari Stauffer), St. Croix at (Larry Persico) and Trempealeau at Trempealeau NWR (Doug Stratton). Juneau County had no reports until 18 May (m.obs.) and Kenosha County saw its first on 17 May (Carole Sherwood). Nathan Martineau had 34 at a private location in Vilas County on 25 April and Ryan Brady reported 31 at Herbster in Bayfield County on 21 April.

Red Crossbill—Recorded in Vilas County before 1 March, and subsequently seen there on 29 March, 14 May and 22–23 May (Nathan Martineau, Marge Anderson). Sightings also occurred in three other counties: two off Armstrong Creek in Forest County on 8 May (Tom Geitz), three in Moquah Barrens in Bayfield County on 13 May (Paula Anich, Northland College) and four seen at Baxter's Hollow on 25 May (Aaron Stutz & Mike McDowell).

Common Redpoll—A single spring sighting occurred on 6 April in Marinette County (Thomas Johnston).

Pine Siskin—Reported in nine counties. Three were seen at a farm in Portage County on 11 March (Katie Kozak) and then at a different home on 12 April (Gerry Janz). One was spotted on 11 March at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Vilas County (Guy David). Vilas is the only county that had sightings continuing over several weeks through 31 May. One showed up at a home in Ozaukee County on 30 April

(Danielle Baumann & Rebecca Sher). Manitowoc County hosted one at a feeder on 28 May (Robert Domagalski), and Iron County boasted one at Turtle-Flambeau Foliage on 10 May (Mary Dallapiazza). Forest County had two appear in Alvin on 24 May (Thomas Wood). Bayfield County saw sightings on 22–28 May (Pam Rubinstein, Ryan Brady & Nick Anich), and Ashland County sported a single neighborhood sighting on 22 May (Ted Keyel, Peder Svingen & Robbye Johnson). Only once did the count exceed three birds, when four were observed in Bayfield County on 22 May (Pam Rubinstein).

European Goldfinch**—One sighting each at homes in Racine County on 21 and 29 March (Jerry DeBoer, Eric Howe). The only other record was a singleton at a dwelling in Rock County on 15 March (Joel Thiele).

Evening Grosbeak—Seen primarily in period in Vilas and Florence Counties, with a high count of 16 seen on 28 May during the annual May Day Count (Kay Kavanagh). Second high was the 15 birds tallied at a restricted setting in Vilas County on 8 May (Nathan Martineau). Birds were also reported on 9 April in Ashland County (Ryan Brady), on 10–22 May in Bayfield County (m.obs.), on 18 May in Douglas County (Karl Bardon), on 18 March and 24 May in Forest County (Jerry DeBoer, Thomas Wood), on 20 March in Oconto County (Susan Bauer) and on 9 May in Sawyer County (Ryan Brady). The high count at a single location was 15 at a restricted site in Vilas County (Nathan Martineau).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow**—Observed in two counties—at the old gun club site at Lake Park in Milwaukee on 9 May (Mark Korducki), and off West Shore Road in Vilas County on 25 May (Andy Paulios). See accepted records in “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014.”

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WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2014

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The WSO Records Committee reviewed 92 records of 43 species for the Spring 2014 season, accepting 73 of them (79%). The season highlights included two new species for the official Wisconsin checklist, Garganey and Crested Caracara. A hypothetical new species of Gull-billed Tern was reported as well. Species new to the state checklist are only added when a picture or specimen is obtained.

Three separate Lazuli Buntings were found. There have been only five accepted Lazuli Bunting sightings prior to 2014. Chestnut-collared Longspur

was found for the fourth time ever in the state. Bullock's Oriole and Say's Phoebe were found for the sixth time.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Table 1 provides a list of records accepted by the WSO Records Committee during the Spring 2014 season. Information on each record, such as species, location, observer(s), and date(s), is accompanied by the tally of votes made by the five-person committee. Records with one or fewer dissenting votes are accepted into the state records.

Table 1 – Spring Accepted Records

Species	Date	Observer	Location	County	Notes	Photo?	Vote
Baird's Sandpiper	4/2	Jim Edlhuber	Hwy 106 east of Mehring Rd	Jefferson	Early	Yes	5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/2	Sunil Gopalan	Ashton - K Ponds	Dane	Early		5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/2	Kyle Lindemer	Hwy DM at WIBU Rd	Dane	Early		5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/4	Ashley Hannah	Ashton - K Ponds	Dane	Early	Yes	5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/6	Kim Kreitinger	Nine Springs	Dane	Early		5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/6	Aaron Stutz	Lake Mills Wildlife Area - Zeloski Marsh	Jefferson	Early		5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/10	Jim Frank	Ledge Rd east of Horicon Marsh	Dodge	Early		5 - 0
Baird's Sandpiper	4/11	Thomas Wood	Ashton - K Ponds	Dane	Early		5 - 0
Black Vulture	5/25	Eric Howe	Washington Island - Main Rd	Door		Yes	5 - 0
Black Vulture	5/27	Melody Walsh	Washington Island - Michigan Rd	Door		Yes	5 - 0
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	5/8?-5/27	Tom Nutt/Ryan Brady	Lake Park Rd	Ashland		Yes	5 - 0
Black-headed Gull	5/17	Thomas Wood	North Point - Sheboygan	Sheboygan			5 - 0
Bullock's Oriole	5/21	Hope Rutledge	130th Ave - Fall Creek	Eau Claire		Yes	5 - 0
Chestnut-collared Longspur	4/26	Joseph G. "JG" Bennett	East Refuge and Main within Crew Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Chuck-will's-widow	5/18	Thomas Wood	Young Rd	Walworth			5 - 0
Cinnamon Teal	4/12-4/22	Mark Martin	Wycocna Township	Columbia		Yes	5 - 0
Crested Caracara	5/13	Randy Holm	Washington Island - Michigan Rd	Door		Yes	5 - 0
Crested Caracara	5/19	Daryl Tessen	Washington Island	Door			5 - 0
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5/9	Mark Korducki	Lake Park - old gun club	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5/25	Andy Paulios	West Shore Rd just north of Hwy 8	Vilas			5 - 0
Garganey	4/25	Kathy Java	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Garganey	4/25	Robin Maercklein	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Garganey	4/26	Ted Keyel	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Garganey	4/26	Daryl Tessen	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett			5 - 0
Garganey	4/27	Kelly Rueckheim	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett			5 - 0
Garganey	5/3	Sunil Gopalan	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Garganey	5/5	Dennis Gustafson	Abel Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Glossy Ibis	5/21	Darrell Schiffman	Dike Rd - Horicon Marsh	Dodge		Yes	5 - 0
Gull-billed Tern	5/22	Janine Polk	"Hwy B" "B Ponds"	Dunn			5 - 0
Lazuli Bunting	5/18	Kevin Sweeny	Private Residence	Grant		Yes	5 - 0
Lazuli Bunting	5/18	Don DeWitt	Green Bay	Brown		Yes	5 - 0
Lazuli Bunting	5/22	Terry Teeters	Spruce St Prentice	Price			5 - 0
Little Gull	4/15	Jim Frank	Bradford Beach	Milwaukee			4 - 1
Little Gull	4/18	Steven Lubahn	Bender Park	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Little Gull	4/19	Steven Lubahn	Bender Park	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Little Gull	4/20	Steven Lubahn	Bender Park	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Little Gull	4/21	Steven Lubahn	Oak Creek Power Plant	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Little Gull	4/22	Thomas Wood	Bender Park	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Little Gull	5/5	Steven Lubahn	South Metro Pier	Milwaukee			5 - 0
Mississippi Kite	5/14	Brian Doverspike	Long Valley Rd - Wyalusing Park	Grant			5 - 0
Mississippi Kite	5/14	Daryl Tessen	Long Valley Rd - Wyalusing Park	Grant			5 - 0
Mountain Bluebird	4/26	Daryl Tessen	Crex Meadows	Burnett			5 - 0
Mountain Bluebird	4/22?	Derek Johnson	Crex Meadows	Burnett		Yes	5 - 0
Northern Hawk-Owl	4/7	Sue Peterson	Hwy 57 and Cty Rd Q	Door			5 - 0
Northern Shrike	5/3	Rita Wiskowski	Main Dike Rd - Crex Meadows	Burnett	Late	Yes	5 - 0
Orchard Oriole	4/25-4/28	Betsy Abert	Montana Ave	Milwaukee	Early	Yes	5 - 0
Pacific Loon	4/7	Daryl Tessen	Kohler-Andrae State Park	Sheboygan			5 - 0
Painted Bunting	5/11			Door		Yes	5 - 0
Prothonotary Warbler	4/13	Aaron Stutz	Bartel's Beach - Rock Lake	Jefferson	Early		5 - 0
Prothonotary Warbler	4/14	Janet Pyles	Bartel's Beach - Rock Lake	Jefferson	Early		4 - 1
Say's Phoebe	4/26	Ryan Brady	Woodbury Lane - Ashland	Ashland		Yes	5 - 0
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	5/22	Ryan Brady	Lindahl and Lutkie Rds	Bayfield		Yes	5 - 0
Smith's Logspur	4/21	Steve Thiessen	Rutland-Dunn Rd WPA	Dane			5 - 0
Smith's Logspur	4/22	Daryl Tessen	Rutland-Dunn Rd WPA	Dane			5 - 0
Smith's Logspur	4/23	Kyle Lindemer	Rutland-Dunn Rd WPA	Dane			5 - 0
Tricolored Heron	5/4	Peter Fissel	Dike Rd - Horicon Marsh	Dodge			5 - 0
Tricolored Heron	5/21	Thomas Wood	Paddler's Park - Two Rivers	Manitowoc			5 - 0
Western Kingbird	5/21	Laura LaValley	Hwy 13 west of Becks Rd	Douglas			5 - 0
Western Kingbird	5/28	Aaron Boone	W. Airport Rd	Rock		Yes	4 - 1
Western Kingbird	5/29	Marty Evenson	Peshigo Point	Marinette		Yes	4 - 1
Western Sandpiper	5/3	Lindsey Boland	Nine Springs Natural Area	Dane		Yes	5 - 0
Western Sandpiper	5/3	Kim Kreitinger	Nine Springs Natural Area	Dane			5 - 0
Western Tanager	5/6	Panetti				Yes	5 - 0
Western Tanager	5/6	Carl Rudenberg	Cherry Blossom Lane - Menomonie	Dunn		Yes	5 - 0
Western Tanager	5/9	Rory Cameron	Cherry Blossom Lane - Menomonie	Dunn			5 - 0
Western Tanager	5/10	Katherine Mehls	Duncan Creek north of Chippewa Falls	Chippewa		Yes	5 - 0
Western Tanager	5/11	Kathy Funk	W. Branch Rd	Iron		Yes	5 - 0
Western Tanager	5/23	Kerri Warzyn	Whitewater Creek Fishery	Walworth			4 - 1
Western Tanager	5/13-5/16	Dan Belter	Douglas Lane - Weston	Marathon		Yes	4 - 1
Wood Thrush	4/7	Darrell Schiffman	Indian Lake	Dane	Early		4 - 1
Yellow Rail	4/30	Eric Howe	Lulu Lake Preserve	Walworth			5 - 0
Yellow Rail	5/4	Eric Howe	Lulu Lake Preserve	Walworth		Audio	5 - 0
Yellow Rail	5/24	Tom Schultz	Comstock Bog	Marquette			5 - 0

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

In the header for each record, voting tallies are shown in parentheses. Votes to accept are listed first. Two or more dissenting votes from the five-person committee result in a Record Not Accepted.

Black Turnstone—

Wisconsin Point, Douglas County, 26 May 2014 (0-5).

The bird was observed amid the ice on Lake Superior “standing on a floating log somewhat offshore.” It was described as “a chunky, medium sized shorebird, larger than a peep” and that “it was mainly black”. “It was facing away from me so I could see the back of the head, back, wings, and tail. The belly, what I could see was white. It would move its head occasionally ... a little white was visible near the eyes. The legs were dark red/brown.”

This is an interesting report and would represent only the second record of this species in Wisconsin. Committee members noted that the bird was seen only with binoculars, not with a scope. Concerns included that the strong light reflected off the ice made the bird appear darker than normal. More detail would be required explaining why this bird was not a winter plumage Ruddy Turnstone.

Black-headed Grosbeak—

Sunset Blvd Lake Geneva, Walworth County, 13 May 2014 (0-5).

Several Grosbeaks were seen visiting a feeder. This bird was described as “definitely orange and black”. The photos provided did show a bird with orangish/red breast and black back, but the bird in question was a first year male Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Black-throated Gray Warbler –

Onalaska, La Crosse County, 27 April 2014 (0-5).

A pair of birds “larger than a chickadee but smaller than a sparrow with gray back and white breasts with black marking around the head and neck and the white spot above the eye”. These birds were seen with the naked eye and no detail was provided in the report that would eliminate several much more common eastern warblers such as the Yellow-rumped, Black and White, or Blackpoll.

Brant—

Patton Rd north of DM, Columbia County, 30 March 2014 (3-2).

Three geese in flight were observed. One was a Canada Goose. The others were described as having “a whitish tail, black head, neck and upper breast, with a grayish belly. The wings and back were darkish but not like the head, neck, and breast.” The report didn’t contain details about size of the birds, structure of the neck or bill, or mention a necklace. Not enough details were provided to eliminate a more common species such as Cackling Goose.

Cerulean Warbler—

Town of Rochester, Racine County, 13 April 2014 (1-4).

Birds were noted from two locations with up to ten individuals seen. This report is about two weeks earlier than Cerulean Warblers normally return to Wisconsin. The report also lacked enough detail to rule out other warbler species.

Cinnamon Teal—

French Island, La Crosse County, 11 April 2014 (1-4).

This report came in as a possible Cin-

namon Teal or Cinnamon Teal hybrid. The report included photos. The photos show lightly colored flanks matching a Blue-winged Teal's flanks. The Committee believes the bird is a hybrid.

Garganey—

Oconomowoc River, Washington County, 2 May 2014 (0-5).

A male and female pair of ducks was reported on the river. The male was described as having a "distinct white head stripe that went from the bill, over the eye, curving back along the neck." "His back appeared two tone, dark and light grays and then dark browns further back. The female was quite plain, shades of brown, about the same size as the male." The report is interesting but does not include enough detail to rule out more common ducks. A species of this rarity requires a very detailed description and discussion eliminating all possible similar species.

Great Gray Owl—

Westfield, Marquette County, 7 March 2014 (0-5).

No description of the bird was provided. Reporter indicated it matched the picture on a web site and in a book. Documentation describing the bird and a discussion that eliminates more common species are required.

Gyr Falcon—

Everglade Drive, Outagamie County, 5 April 2014 (0-5).

"A large white hawk sitting in a field" with "a round white head with a light brown line through the eye to the back of head. The whole bird was white with a white front and its back was white with some fine dark barring on it." The report did discuss why the bird was not a Snowy Owl, but it did not provide a dis-

ussion as to why it was a falcon instead of a hawk. Apparently there is a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk known to be in the area.

Kirtland's Warbler—

Tuggle Parkway, Polk County, 8 May 2014 (1-4).

The observer noted a bird while watching a warbler flock that had a "clear yellow throat and breast with a black mustache consisting of a series of very small black spots. It made me think of the throat of a northern waterthrush but these were clearly distinct spots." "The breast and upper belly were yellow but the spotting continued on the upper breast forming a narrow band across the chest. The spotting seemed less dense in the center of the chest. The sides were streaked with black. I had good views of the white undertail coverts and the white appeared to continue onto the lowest part of the belly. The head and back were olive in color and it had a broken eye ring. Two white wing bars were visible."

Committee members noted several additional field marks that were not noted such as dark lores and blue gray back with black streaks. It was also noted in the report that the bird did not pump its tail similar to a Palm Warbler, but Kirtland's are known for tail pumping behavior as well.

Least Sandpiper—

Horicon Marsh north of HWY 49, Fond du Lac County, 28 March 2014 (1-4).

The bird was described as a "Smallish bird 6-7 inches, yellow legs, black thin bill, brown breast, white belly, only other possibility would be Pectoral but the size appeared to be smaller." The committee feels that more detail needs to be provided. No mention was made

of streaking on the chest, wing projection, or head color. For a report that would be record early by a week, more field marks would need to be noted and more discussion eliminating other shorebirds.

Mississippi Kite—

Bakken's Pond, Sauk County, 8 May 2014 (2-3).

A bird seen in flight with Turkey Vultures and a Red-tailed Hawk was described as having "long pointed wings and a long dark tail with narrow white bands. The underparts had brownish streaking, the under wings were mottled brown and black, and the head was lighter colored than the rest of the body." "The shape of the wingtips was noticeably different from a falcon with the first primary being much shorter than the second. The streaking on the underparts, lack of white rump, and wing shape also set this bird apart from a Northern Harrier." Committee members felt the report does not include enough detail on the color of the bird and where the streaking was. The report does not conclusively eliminate Merlin or Peregrine.

Painted Bunting—

Abbotsford, Marathon County, 18 May 2014 (2-3).

The report is of a female bird observed at a feeder. It was described as a tad bigger than a female Purple Finch feeding next to her. "Short, stocky Finch-like bill. She did not have the brighter yellowish underside color of the breeding female, but a more drab color. Her whole topside had a green look to it, more so a dull green." Also the bird was noted to have an eye ring.

The committee requires more detail in a report especially for a bird of this rarity. The report does not discuss the overall shape of the bird.

Spotted Towhee—

Nine Springs, Dane County, 16–18 April 2014 (3-2). Multiple reports.

A well documented and photographed bird. The bird in question was a male Towhee. Committee members indicate that the white on the primaries and little white on the scapulars indicate this bird was most likely a hybrid Eastern/Spotted Towhee.

Spotted Towhee—

West Bend, Washington County, 11 May 2014 (0-5).

The bird was first seen at a distance and described as appearing like an Eastern Towhee. The reporter indicated they don't know bird songs, but listened to the bird for some time. Observed a bird later in the same area and said that "the spots were visible" and "the coloring was mottled for an Eastern". The report contained no discussion of the location or color of the spotting. Distinguishing between Eastern, Spotted, or hybrids requires a detailed description of the spots on the scapulars and white on the primaries.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—

Albany Wildlife Area, Green County, 22 May 2014 (3-2).

The observer heard a heron call "that I immediately recognized" and then "noticed a medium-sized, chunky, short-legged heron flying away from me at some altitude." Tracked the bird with binoculars "until it banked slightly and

I could see it was completely medium-gray above, with very little contrast anywhere above or below.” “The feet did seem to project out well past the tail.” The call was described as “a “skwa” call three times, higher and sharper than a Black-crowned’s hollow “kwok”, but lower and shorter than a Green Heron’s “keeoughhh”.”

The committee members that did not accept this report both indicated the identification was made mostly upon the vocalization and felt there needed to be more detailed discussion included comparing the two very similar night heron species.



Peregrine Falcon by Davor Grgic



Short-eared Owl by Michael J. Huebschen

“By the Wayside”—Spring 2014

These reports of rare species include Black-headed Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Smith’s Longspur and Lazuli Bunting.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

15 June 2014, Lake Park Road, Ashland, Ashland County—Bird was first found by the homeowner, Tom Nutt, on ~May 8. It departed on May 27. It was found in a small woodland pond almost right on the Lake Superior shore, hanging out with 2 Amer. Black Ducks and occasional Wood Ducks. The ID was never in doubt—pics at <http://www.pbases.com/rbrady/bbwd2014>. However, provenance is always a question. Pointing toward wild origin: (1) time of year is right, (2) habitat is right, (3) both halluxes present, (4) no bands or other auxiliary markers, (5) wings unclipped, (6) feather wear not atypical, and (7) this species has a well-known pattern of vagrancy, including records this spring from OH, NJ, Horicon Marsh, and up to 9 birds in one flock in IL. The bird was alert but rather tame, which initially gave me reservations given I know next to nothing about this species. However, smarter people who have seen this duck in places where they belong have told me they are naturally a very tame duck. The Black Ducks it’s hanging out with are also tame. So collectively, there appears to be no reason to suspect any-

thing other than a wild vagrant. – *Ryan Brady, Washburn, Wisconsin.*

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

24 May 2014, Comstock Bog SNA, Marquette Co—This bird was heard only, by Tom & Wendy Schultz and Jeff Baughman. We were participating in a Big Day Birdathon, and had walked north along the trail about 300 yards from Edgewood Road, then out to the edge of the bog. This was our main target bird for this site, and we hoped to hear one—even though we had heard no previous reports of this species here for the current year.

We arrived and started immediately started listening carefully, with our hands cupped to our ears to maximize our hearing. Immediately we started hearing the very distinctive cadence of ticking of a Yellow Rail, emanating from the bog. Its clicking calls sounded like “tick-tick, tick-tick-tick, tick-tick, tick-tick-tick . . .” This continued for some time, perhaps a minute or so, followed by a short silent period, then another long, continuous series of similar clicks.

The three of us looked at one another with big smiles, knowing what we all had heard (and were still hearing)

very clearly, and we softly exclaimed, "Yellow Rail!". There was no mistaking this very distinctive call, and we felt very fortunate to be hearing it – *Tom Shultz, Green Lake, Wisconsin.*

BLACK-HEADED GULL
(*Larus ridibundus*)

17 May 2014, North Point, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County – I scanned the point from near the gazebo with my binoculars and picked out a gull that appeared a couple of inches larger than the Bonaparte's Gulls, but with the same mantle color. I had to walk about a 1/4 mile back to the car to get my scope, but the bird was still there when I returned and I was able to study it for about 20 minutes until a paddleboarder spooked all the gulls and terns on the point, and cleared the point.

This gull had a pale gray mantle and gray wings with pale brown horizontal markings in the carpal bar area. The tertials were pale brown and the primaries were solid black without any apical spots. The primaries extended way beyond the tail. In flight I could see that the leading edge of the wing had a lot of white, but it was not as distinctive as on the Bonaparte's Gulls. A brief look at the underwing revealed black on the primaries, but not on the underwing coverts. The tail was white with a black terminal band. The underparts were clean white. The bird had a white forehead (white feathering touched the bill) and a mottled dark hood which terminated at the back of the head in about the same relative position it does on a Bonaparte's Gull, but perhaps a little higher on the nape. There was no black spot on the auriculars because the hood covered this area.

There was a distinct white orbital ring, but it was broken at the front of the eye.

The bill was largely one color, longer and thicker than the bills of the Bonaparte's Gulls, and with a small gonydeal angle. Through the binoculars it looked black, but with the scope I could see it was a dirty dark red. The legs were similarly colored, darker than the legs of any Bonaparte's Gull that was present.—*Thomas Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

LITTLE GULL
(*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

18 April 2014, Bender Park, Milwaukee County—This was a first winter plumaged Little Gull. I first saw the bird in flying in to a large group of BOGU just off-shore. Immediately, I noticed the broad dark black 'M' across the back. The 'M' which comprised of dark primaries to greater coverts was broader than BOGU. It was also obvious this bird was smaller than nearby BOGU, smaller wings, slightly rounder primaries. The secondaries were also dark with a white trailing edge. When the bird landed, I could see the heavy dark spot behind the eye and dark cap and small bill.—*Steven Lubahn, Cudahy, Wisconsin.*

GULL-BILLED TERN
(*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

22 May 2014, "B" Pond, Dunn County—... hoping to catch a glimpse of a pair of ibises that I had last seen the week before. I was really hoping to find some evidence of breeding, and as I waited I observed all the regular species including Coots, various ducks, Ring-billed Gulls going back and forth to

their breeding colony on the roof of the Walmart distribution center just to the west, five Black Terns, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, plus a Caspian Tern and a few Bonaparte's Gulls resting with some Ring-bills in a field adjacent to the pond.

After about half an hour (around 7:30) a group of five Bonaparte's Gulls lifted up and started to fly west, and at the same time I noticed an unfamiliar tern flying with the Black Terns over the marsh, about 1/4 mile away. It was quite pale above, appearing almost white in the evening light, and had a band of dark feathering from eye to eye around the back of the head. I was confused by this, because while I might ordinarily associate this head pattern with Forster's Tern, this tern seemed too large and long-winged for that species.

Despite its long wings the bird appeared to be quite adept at hawking insects in the company of the much smaller Black Terns. As it flew I noticed gray markings in the wing tips, a short tail, and I could see that the bill was dark, not red or orange. Compared to nearby Ring-billed Gulls, the tern appeared smaller-bodied and less bulky.

After a few minutes the tern started to fly west, away from the pond. It flew with a rather steady, deliberate wing beat on its long wings, less buoyantly than a Common or Forster's Tern. The tern flew directly west, passing just north of my car and fairly low overhead, and I observed the steady flight with bent wrists, very long swept back wing tips with grayish markings, pale gray mantle, white underparts, the head pattern (black behind the eye continuing around the back of the head where it was somewhat broken up with white speckling), short tail without long streamers, and . . . the bill, which was

completely black, medium length, pointed, and THICK. I would like to emphasize that the bird was close enough that I could see this very well.

In fact I could even see the gonydeal angle along the bottom edge of the lower mandible. As the tern passed by it uttered a single short, reedy, raspy call.—*Janine Polk, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.*

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

28 May 2014, Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport, Rock County—

Head: Bill dark and moderate in size for a kingbird; similar in size to that of Eastern Kingbird. Head muted gray with paler throat but not bright white. Crown feathers occasionally raised but no hint of red central crown feathering. Eye dark.

Upperparts: Mantle olive green. Wings solidly dark brown with no noticeably paler feather edging, except for the tertials, which appeared to be off-white to tan. Wing bars not present.

Underparts: The most obvious part of the bird that stood out at 250 meters with a binocular scan. Moderately bright yellow from upper breast all the way through the undertail coverts.

Tail: Tail color all dark (very dark brown approaching to blackish at a distance). Upon first seeing that I was dealing with a "yellow-bellied" kingbird species, I paid particular attention right away to variations in the tail. There was no hint of notching in the tail (i.e., shorter central rectrices). The tip of the tail was uniform in color with no pale markings at rectrices tips (such as is noted on the tail tip of Cassin's Kingbird). With the bird perched, there were no obvious white edging marks on the outer rectrices. One of the photos I

was able to secure shows a hint of white edging but photo quality is poor. However, I was able to watch the bird long enough in the scope, especially as it hover hunted for extended period of times at close range, to secure a visual on the white edges to the outer rectrices. Also when the bird hover hunted, the edge of the tail exhibited a slight convex curve.—*Aaron Boone, Beloit, Wisconsin.*

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
(*Sialia currucoides*)

20 April 2014, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Grantsburg, Burnett County – The bird was about 6.5 to 7 inches in length and was sleeker than the Eastern Bluebirds I am used to. The head, nape, back and wings were a vivid, fluorescent blue. The primaries had black/gray tips and the secondaries had a gray coloration. The throat, and breast was lightly colored with blue and gray, fading down to an almost all gray belly, with some blue tint. The eyes, bill and feet were all black. The primaries, when folded, extended almost to the tip of the tail. The tip of the rectrices were also tipped in a black/gray coloration.—*Derek Johnson, Dorchester, Wisconsin.*

SMITH'S LONGSPUR
(*Calcarius pictus*)

23 April 2014, Island Lake WPA, Dane County—Large sparrow sized bird initially flushed making a clicking alarm call (dry, ticking rattle, same at iBird Pro) when flushed. We tried sneaking up on that bird and ended up flushing two birds that made the clicking alarm call, climbed to about 50 feet

and landed about 100m away, unlike the sparrows that would fly low and only flush a few meters. White sides of tail feathers were immediately seen, as well as orangy buff breasts and bellies on both birds and dark backs. Birds had pointed wings and flew fairly direct with a few rapid wing beats, followed by tucked wings for a second and then rapid beats again. Other field marks were indistinguishable due to the birds turning and flying away from us. We flushed a second pair around 8:05 that made the same calls in flight. The same field marks were visible plus white lesser coverts were also visible. These birds were viewed for about 45 seconds in the air and flushed towards the road, on the NE corner of the property.—*Kyle Lindemer, Madison, Wisconsin.*

LAZULI BUNTING
(*Passerina amoena*)

22 May 2014, Spruce Street, Prentice, Price County—Similar to an Eastern Blue Bird, however somewhat smaller. This bird was with a male Indigo Bunting just below my bird feeder. This bird was similar in size and shape to the Indigo Bunting it was traveling with. Orange/brownish breast color similar to a Blue Bird. The head of this bird was a lighter blue than the wings and back. White under belly with a white band across the wings. Bill was heavier than an Eastern Blue Birds, This birds bill was similar to a grosbeak. Did not note leg color, but started a Blue Bird trail 30 years ago and have become familiar with their markings. I checked the internet bird guide within minutes of the bird leaving for a positive identification. Camera was in pickup truck by the deck.—*Terry Teeters, Prentice, Wisconsin.*

Book Review

Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America. Revised and Updated Edition. Guy A. Baldassarre. 2014. Two volumes, in slipcase; xxxvii + 1027 pp. + CD-ROM. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218; ISBN 978-1-4214B0751-1. US\$69.95.

This is effectively Edition 4, though not so labeled. It is a publication of the Wildlife Management Institute, which is an organization of conservationists and hunters—not mutually exclusive categories by any means. The author was Distinguished Teaching Professor, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York, Syracuse. A candid photograph of him (unlabelled) appears on p. xvii. He earned an MS degree in 1978 at UW-Stevens Point, and Ph.D. from Texas Tech in 1982.

The coverage is of the family Anatidae as it occurs in North America, which is defined as extending from the Arctic south to Panama. The slipcase features a photograph of a male Northern Pintail; Volume 1 has on its cover a painting of a male and female Northern Pintail; Volume 2 has on its cover a male and two female Common Goldeneye. All of these are unlabeled, but of course would be instantly recognizable to almost anyone who would have these books in hand.

The contents of each volume are given in taxonomic order on the back covers, by common name. The sequence is not exactly that of the current

AOU Checklist, the swans being treated before the geese, rather than after, but that will not trouble members of the intended audience. There is one snag, however, in that volume 1 has no index - volume 2 contains the complete index for both volumes. Hence, if you have volume 1 in hand, and you want to read up on Mute Swan, say, you have to go to the back of volume 2 to find what page the treatment begins on.

The treatments for each species are very thorough, averaging just over 20 pages per species. The illustrations of the adult and juvenile plumages are very well done. The distribution maps use color shading to indicate ranges for breeding, year-round distribution, and wintering distribution. Where appropriate, concentrations of breeding distribution and wintering distribution are indicated in contrasting colors.

The index at the end of volume 2 includes only bird names. One will only find Mute Swan alphabetized under its full name; there is no entry for Swan, Mute. The two volumes are replete with stray comments, anecdotes, and bits of history, none of which are recoverable from the index. Early in the treatment of the Mute Swan, for example, there is mention of how it may destroy submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Thereafter, SAV is mentioned repeatedly, but if you missed the initial expansion of the abbreviation, you are lost. (Google will find it for you, not surprisingly.)

The “Literature Cited” is 104 pages

in PDF format on a separate CD-ROM, in an envelope on cover 3 of volume 2. It is easy to see why the publisher chose this option, given that the books themselves are already almost too heavy to hold in one's lap to read. The volume of literature cited attests to the scholarship that went into these books. (When the file loads, it shows one page on the left, in tiny type, with an extensive tools screen on the right. Left click on "Tools" in the taskbar at the top of the screen to remove the right-hand pane and see the literature entries full-screen.) The citations are blessedly *without* abbreviations. All readers and all librarians may breathe a sigh of relief. The CD also contains 5 regional maps.

Volume 2 has two appendices, the latter of which is a three-page spread of paintings of ducklings, goslings, and cygnets. One is impressed by how much alike they are, given their extraordinary differences at maturity.

These two volumes, in their slipcase, will be available at the silent auction at the May, 2015 WSO Convention. You will want to bid generously for a reference of lasting value and excellence.

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Dunlin by Davor Crgic

About the Artists

Alyssa DeRubeis, a Minnesota native, has been spending the past year hopping from one field job to the next. She has worked in Arkansas, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, where the work varies from wildlife (mostly bird) surveys to environmental education. She hopes to pursue a Master's Degree in wildlife conservation in the near future. Alyssa graduated from UW-Stevens Point in May 2013 with Bachelor's Degrees in Wildlife Ecology and Biology. She has been birding since 1996 as a five-year old and started snapping photos in 2011. The natural world never ceases to amaze her, whether it's a bird, a bug, or simply a nice vista.

David Lund is an amateur photographer who lives near Eau Claire. Following his retirement as a Mathematics Professor at UW-Eau Claire in 2000, he and his wife Judy now include birding and photography as part of all of their travels. Although many of his pictures are taken in Wisconsin, wintering in the southern US has provided many additional opportunities birding photography experiences. He has recently begun making presentations on birds and birding.

Stephen Fisher is a serious amateur photographer, enjoying both landscape and wildlife photography. He is a retired high school English teacher who worked as an environmental/wildlife

educator and Education Director for the Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI) for seven years following his retirement from teaching in Wausau. He now serves as a volunteer at REGI, rescuing and/or transporting sick and injured birds. He and his wife, Evelyn, have always enjoyed and respected the natural world, and he has a special appreciation for birds, particularly raptors. He also enjoys traveling, reading, hiking, snowshoeing, observing wildlife, spending time at his cabin in northern Vilas County, walking his dogs in the wonderful Wisconsin outdoors, and lifelong learning.

David Franzen and his wife June have lived in Phelps, Wisconsin since 1969. He worked for 34 years in the woods of northern Wisconsin, retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2001 and from a private forestry consulting business in 2004. After retirement he took up bird photography with most of his work being shot within 100 yards of his house. His primary interest is in photographing bird behavior. He does not use blinds, but quietly waits in a chair for a bird to strike an interesting pose within close range. During 34 years of forestry work, he captured with the mind, many images that far surpass what he has captured with the camera. The most beautiful nature scene he ever viewed was encountered while trout fishing a small stream surrounded by maple forest that had sparse under-

story prior to spring leaf emergence. On that misty morning, a huge timber wolf glided over a hill across the stream and came toward him to stream's edge. When a wolf moves slowly, it kind of glides effortlessly, and this big guy was more like a spirit than a real animal. A real magical moment. David does occasional slide programs for local groups.

Sunil Gopalan moonlights as a nature photographer and birding enthusiast. His primary focus with wildlife photography is to capture nature in its raw form in the least intrusive manner possible. His other photography interests lie in macro and landscape imagery, as well as pictures of his family. He currently lives and works in the Madison area with his family and credits his wife Heidi for allowing this father to indulge in his passion. His work from Wisconsin and beyond can be viewed at: www.sunilimages.com

Davor Grgic is an avid birder and amateur nature photographer. He and his wife Patti live in rural Elkhart Lake. When his "day job" in IT and sustainability permits, he also enjoys travelling and exploring nature. In addition to birds, Davor's photography interests include other wildlife, landscape and occasional macrophotography. Beyond Wisconsin, many of his photographs reflect bird and nature explorations across the U.S. and international locations. You can find more of his work at: www.flickr.com/photos/dgrgic

Chuck Heikkinen is currently the co-editor of *The Passenger Pigeon* and is an avid amateur nature photographer. He is retired and enjoys travel and photography both in and outside the U.S. He particularly enjoys traveling and taking images of birds in Wisconsin.

Michael J. Huebschen is the current Art Editor for *The Passenger Pigeon* and has been an amateur wildlife photographer for over 45 years. He is retired from UW-Oshkosh and lives in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with his wife Cynthia. They enjoy travel, wildlife observations, hiking, canoeing and fishing.

Rob Pendergast Rob's interest in birds started when he was 9, and at the age of 14 his uncle took him out birding for the first time. He notes, "I've been a birdaholic ever since." He is an amateur in photography but, has always enjoyed documenting nature respectfully through a lens. He finds it very humbling that there is always something new to learn, be it in photography or birding!

Delia Unson got hooked on birding while participating in the first Breeding Bird Atlas of Wisconsin from 1996 to 2000. She enjoyed learning about the lives of the birds she watched—their migration to Wisconsin, courtship and nest building, chick hatching and raising, flight and food-gathering training and for most, their eventual migration to warmer climates for the winter.

About 10 years ago, she added bird and other nature photography to the mix, which greatly increased her enjoyment in nature forays. Recently, she and her husband, Chuck Heikkinen, started co-editing *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Chris West is a professional bird tour leader and photographer who started birding in his rural southwestern Wisconsin back yard at age 6. He started photography soon after and has since had photos used in over a dozen publi-

cations and online articles. He loves photographing birds in their natural environments and particularly enjoys photo-documenting vagrants whenever and wherever they turn up. In 2010, he took his first trip to the tropics and never looked back. His latest trip was three months as a guide at Cristalino Lodge in Amazonian Brazil, and is now planning and leading numerous tours to tropical countries. Even though the tropics call, he always returns to his native rural Wisconsin.



Wood Duck, Otsego Marsh by Sunil Gopalan



Osprey Building Nest by David Franzen



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Magnolia Warbler, Horicon Marsh by Sunil Gopalan

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 “to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds.” The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation and publication.

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