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# THE PASSENGER PIGEON

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**T H E *PASSENGER  
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## **Deer Hunting is for the Birds . . . and Bucks**

For me, fall passed with little fanfare. What sticks in my mind is the fact that I was regularly wearing cotton shirts in November and December. No jacket, just a shirt! I never heard a single complaint from anyone. The extended Indian summer of 1998 will probably go down as one of the most balmy fall periods on record. It was so unseasonably warm just prior to our December 18th Christmas Bird Count that I actually wondered if we would encounter spring migrants.

It has chilled a bit since then. Temperatures on many days have dipped into the single digits, so it's perfect weather to reminisce about the birds I've encountered in the past few months. That is exactly why the subject of this *President's Statement* is deer hunting!

I had the best hunt in decades. My week in the woods was spent on property that Jody and I recently acquired in Langlade County. The nice mix of upland hardwoods and lowland conifers had potential to produce a monster buck and I was ready to wait him out.

Necessary preparations were made for seven days of enjoying crisp, clear air while perched on a stump deep in the forest. My priorities were all in order. First, packing of equipment and supplies was crucial. Warm clothes, a cooler full of food, and plenty of reading material were all readied for the trip north. Second, I had to search more than 100 acres to find just the right stump. Third, my bird feeding station had to be established. Fourth, . . . you read right, a bird feeding station!

Yes, I hunt for whitetails but there is so much more to enjoy than just searching for deer for hours on end. Remember, this property was new to me and I hadn't a clue as to what feathered residents might be present. I figured the next 70 hours of daylight would offer plenty of time to discover which birds frequented my tract of rich habitat along the upper Wolf River.

While other hunters were putting finishing touches on deer blinds or erecting tree stands, I hauled a couple of plywood platforms and pails of sunflower seeds, cracked corn, and wild bird mix into the forest. Piles of brush were strategically placed near the platforms that I screwed to stumps and to exposed roots of maples and hemlocks.

My late friend, Dr. Gregg Miller, taught me this trick a dozen years ago. He often carried birdseed into the woods during our deer hunts together. After climbing to his elevated stand, he'd sprinkle the seed around his feet, enough to last an entire daylight vigil. His stories of chickadees tugging on his bootlaces while they dined on his bird food are memories that still bring a smile to my face.

Gregg would be proud. I simply took his basic concept to a higher level and the birds responded. Although pleased to see two or three deer on day one of

the hunt, I was ecstatic that birds immediately located my table fare. At 7:10 A.M., a Blue Jay was the first to dine. By 7:40 A.M., juncos were on the food. Periodic visits from crows and ravens soon followed. A Red-tailed Hawk nonchalantly offered a low altitude fly-by. The first Pileated Woodpecker arrived at 9:40 A.M. Chickadees were next. This parade continued throughout the day and finally, as the light was fading into dusk, White-breasted Nuthatches were the last birds to feed.

The week progressed. Although I had yet to see many deer, the numbers of birds continued to escalate. Eventually, Thanksgiving rolled around to remind me that only two days remained until I was obligated to return to a desk, telephone, and the computer connected to my alter life.

I had saved something really special to help me celebrate this holiday away from home and family. Carefully placed in the pocket of my camouflaged day pack was a copy of the spring 1998 *Passenger Pigeon*. I had saved this particular issue in order to read Sumner Matteson's excellent interview with Sam Robbins. With every turned page, I would glance up to survey my surroundings. With no deer in sight, it was back to reading. I wanted this biography of one of Wisconsin's most prominent ornithologists to go on and on.

Unfortunately, the lengthy text finally came to an end. I decided to eat a sandwich. With my lunch and article both consumed, I slipped some ear phones on and dialed in a local FM radio station to see how the rest of the world was faring. Can you imagine my joy at tuning in Wisconsin Public Radio and recognizing a familiar voice over the air waves? It was none other than Sam Robbins doing his bird-oriented, Thanksgiving call-in show from Madison! The minutes passed like seconds, and Sam expended the allotted window of time for his incredibly interesting show much too soon.

The remainder of the afternoon and all of Friday produced no deer; however, the birds continued to make their appearances. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Brown Creepers, Barred Owls, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were all added to the list before I left my stump, empty handed, for the last time.

Will there be venison in the freezer next fall? Who knows? Who cares! No one ever said that hunting has to be consumptive. However, there are two things for certain. You will again find me camped on that same stump come next November, and the birds will have no excuse to be hungry when I'm in the woods.

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Jim" on the left and "Anderson" on the right.

*President*

## Some Changes and Corrections

Most WSO members are probably aware that 1998 saw numerous official changes in the names of birds, a result of the publication of the 7th Edition of the *Check-List of North American Birds* by the American Ornithologist's Union (AOU). The AOU updates the Check-List on an irregular basis in order to reflect changes in species distribution and advances in ornithological research and taxonomy.

Beginning with this issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*, bird names and species order in the quarterly seasonal reports will follow the dictates of the new Check-List. A quick glance at the species accounts in Jerry Smith's spring 1998 report will reveal some of the changes: vultures now follow herons in the species sequence, geese now precede the swans, and shrikes and vireos have been moved from their berth immediately before the warblers to a spot just after the flycatchers (see Daryl Tesssen's report in the October 1998 *Badger*

*Birds* for a more thorough update on sequence changes). Careful readers may also note some subtle spelling changes (e.g., Ross' Goose is now Ross's Goose) or outright changes in both common and scientific names (e.g., Little Blue Heron and Tricolored Heron have been moved from the genera *Florida* and *Hydranassa*, respectively, to the genus *Egretta*).

In another matter, a red-faced Jim Anderson wishes to apologize for recording inaccuracies in field data from the Mosquito Hill Nature Center that resulted in a number of erroneous dates in Mark Peterson's Seasonal Field Notes report for fall 1997 (*The Passenger Pigeon*, Vol. 60, No. 2, Summer 1998). Note that these errors resulted in the publication of inaccurate "last seen" dates for many species. The correct dates, along with the erroneous dates and the pages on which they appear in the journal, appear in Table 1 on the following page.

Table 1. Corrections to fall 1997 Seasonal Field Notes (*The Spring Season: 1997*), which appeared in *The Passenger Pigeon*, Vol. 60, No. 2. Presented are corrected "last seen" dates for 13 species, along with the erroneous dates and the pages on which they appear in the journal.

Page	Species	"Last Seen" Dates	
		As Printed	Correct Date
174	Broad-winged Hawk	October 24	October 19, Verch, Ashland/Bayfield Counties
179	Eastern Wood-Pewee	October 24	October 8, Hewitt, Waupaca County
179	Great Crested Flycatcher	October 7	September 24, Sontag, Milwaukee County
180	House Wren	October 26	October 29, Anderson and Petznick, Outagamie County
180	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	October 5	October 5, Korducki, Milwaukee County
182	Blue-winged Warbler	October 5	September 20, Diehl, Washington County
182	Chestnut-sided Warbler	October 13	October 5, Korducki, Milwaukee County
182	Magnolia Warbler	October 21	October 18, Bontly, Milwaukee County
183	Blackburnian Warbler	October 24	October 12, Parsons, Walworth County
183	American Redstart	October 24	October 17, Sontag, Manitowoc County
183	Ovenbird	October 21	October 8, Ashman, Dane County
184	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	October 18	October 11, Burcar, Dane County; Anderson and Petznick, Outagamie County
184	Vesper Sparrow	October 26	October 6, Stover, Door County

R. Tod Highsmith, Editor

# Northern Harrier Nest Site Characteristics in Northwest Wisconsin

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*Site characteristics of 17 Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) nests found during a 1982–1991 waterfowl production study in northwest Wisconsin were measured in an effort to determine what factors influenced nest site selection and nest success.*

*Harriers preferred to nest in tall, dense cover dominated by switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*). Dead, residual vegetation was apparently important for nest site selection and contributed to the hatching success of the nests.*

---

by James O. Evrard and Bruce R. Bacon

The ground-nesting Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) nests in a variety of North American habitats, ranging from tall, dense wetland vegetation in Manitoba (Hecht 1951) to blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) bramble patches in Missouri (Toland 1986). In a Manitoba study, harrier nests were found in both wet lowland sites and dry upland sites (Clark 1972). Harrier nests have been found in undisturbed native and planted upland grasslands in the north central United States and south central Canada (Duebbert and Lokemoen 1977, Kantrud and Higgins 1992).

While searching for duck nests in seeded grasslands in northwest Wisconsin during 1982–1991, we found 17 Northern Harrier nests. The objectives of this study were to describe characteristics of the harrier nest sites and at-

tempt to determine if any of those characteristics influenced nest success.

## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

The study area was in the prairie pothole region of northwestern Wisconsin (Figure 1). The 1,295 sq. km study area in northcentral St. Croix and southcentral Polk Counties has been described in detail by Evrard (in review). Most of the land area was used for agricultural crops and pasture. Corn, oats, and hay are the main crops, with emphasis on dairy and livestock production. About 11% of the area was wooded and 13% was wetland. Approximately 2,800 ha, or 2.2% of the study area, was in federal and state Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), which were managed until recently by the Wiscon-

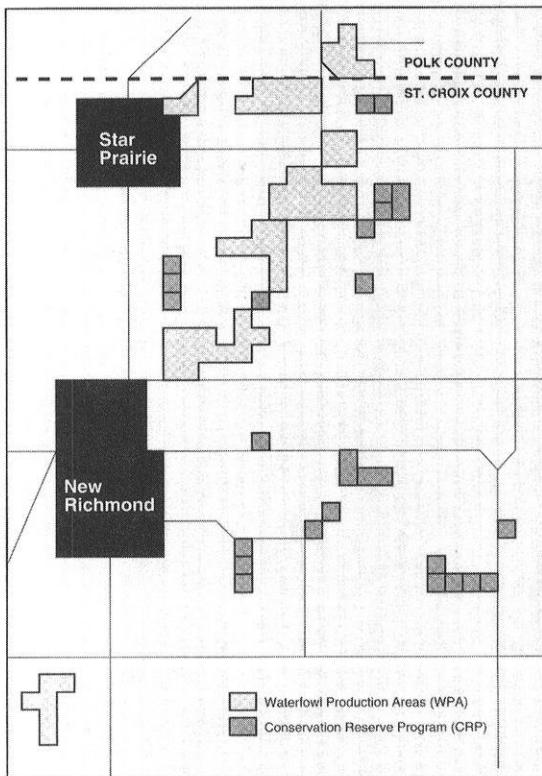


Figure 1. Map showing location of Waterfowl Production Areas and Conservation Reserve Program fields used in the Northern Harrier nest study.

sin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). We searched approximately 800 ha of undisturbed grassland in WPAs and federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields for duck nests once in May, June, and July each year using a cable-chain drag (Higgins et al. 1969) pulled between two vehicles. The cable-chain device consisted of a 200 ft steel cable with three loops of medium-weight steel chain attached to the cable (Figure 2).

Nests were found when female harriers flushed as the cable-chain drag passed over occupied nests (Figure 3). The cable-chain device rode over the nests on surrounding vegetation so no

eggs or young were damaged or destroyed (Figure 4). Nests were marked so we could revisit them to determine their fate.

Nests were revisited an average of 3 times. A review of recent literature showed that marking and revisiting ground-nesting bird nests in grasslands in some cases increased nest predation (Hein and Hein 1996) and in other cases had no effect (Greenwood and Sargeant 1995). Where avian nest predators were important, mainly in western North America where nesting cover is relatively short and thin, marking nests apparently increased nest predation (Hein and Hein 1996). This

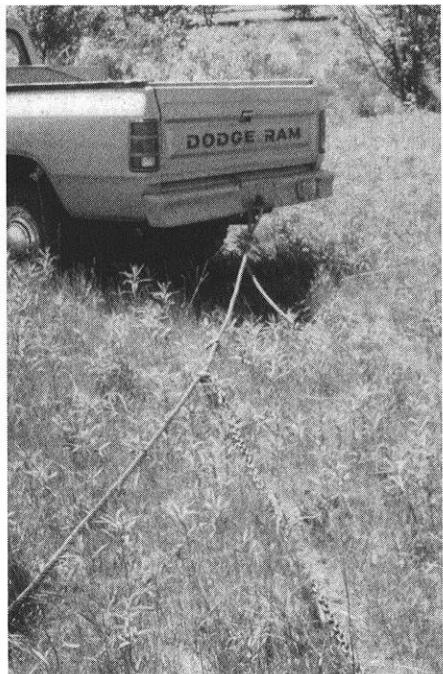


Figure 2. Cable-chain drag, used for locating duck and harrier nests, attached to 4WD pickup truck. Photo by J. Evrard.



Figure 3. Cable-chain drag suspended above the ground on nesting cover. Photo by J. Evrard.

was not the case in our study and in others in Wisconsin (Livezey 1980), where nesting cover is relatively tall and dense and mammalian nest predators were responsible for nearly all the destroyed ground-nesting bird nests encountered. Nests that hatched at least 1 egg were considered successful. Based upon nest fates, we calculated apparent nest success [ $(\text{successful nests}/\text{total nests}) \times 100$ ]. Apparent nest success estimates derived from nests found with the cable-chain device are biased because nests unattended by the female harrier (including those hatched, abandoned, or destroyed by predators prior to searching for nests) are not found. The Mayfield nest success method (Johnson 1979) was not used because we did not estimate the

date of nest initiation at the time of nest discovery.

We measured the vegetation at the nest sites, including 100% visual obstruction readings (VORs), vegetation height, and litter depth. A Robel pole (Robel et al. 1970), graduated in decimeters, was placed at the nest and 8 VORs were taken to and from the nest using another Robel pole placed 3.7 m from the nest in the four cardinal directions (Figure 5). The vegetation height and litter depth were measured on the Robel pole at the nest. There was a very strong relationship (simple correlation analysis,  $r = 0.919$ ,  $t = 8.746$ ,  $P = 0.000001$ ) between a mean of the 8 VORs and a single vegetation height measured at 825 duck nests during the same study. As mean vegetation



Figure 4. Northern Harrier nest with one egg found during the course of the study. Photo by B. Bacon.

VORs increased, so did mean vegetation height. In addition, vegetation species composition surrounding the nest was determined using a 0.25 sq. m quadrat centered on the nest.

We compared nest characteristics of hatched and destroyed nests using the nonparametric Wilcoxon 2-sample tests (SAS Inst. Inc. 1989). Results were considered significant at  $P < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Six (35%) of the 17 Northern Harrier nests were successful, 7 (41%) of the nests were destroyed by predators, and 4 (24%) were abandoned or destroyed by unknown causes. Duebbert and Lokemoen (1977) reported 65% apparent nest success for 20 harrier nests found with a cable-chain drag in undisturbed planted cool-season grass

cover in North Dakota. Kantrud and Higgins (1992) found 61% apparent nest success for 112 harrier nests found with cable-chain drags in seeded grasslands in the north central United States and south central Canada. They reported that 35% of the nests were destroyed by predators and that 4% were abandoned.

Much higher nest success has been reported for Northern Harrier nests found in wetland sites. Simmons and Smith (1985) reported nest success in New Brunswick ranging from 56% in *Spirea latifolia* to 88% in cattails (*Typha* spp.).

Northern Harriers prefer tall, dense cover as upland nesting sites (Kantrud and Higgins 1992; Duebbert and Lokemoen 1977). Mean vegetation height at harrier nests in our study was 106 cm (Table 1). Half (52%) of the



Figure 5. Measuring nesting cover at a Northern Harrier nest using Robel poles. Photo by J. Evrard.

harrier nests discovered by Duebbert and Lokemoen (1977) were in cover over 60 cm tall and 41% were in 30–60 cm cover. The average vegetation height at 15 harrier nests in Missouri and 19 nests in north central North America was 79 cm (Toland 1986) and 57 cm (Kantrud and Higgins 1992), respectively.

The mean VOR for harrier nests was 42 cm in our study (Table 1). Kantrud and Higgins (1992) reported a mean VOR of 57 cm for their harrier nests.

Grasses dominated forbs (80% vs. 20%) in the vegetation surrounding the harrier nest sites (Figure 6). The dominant plant species surrounding the harrier nests was switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) (Table 1). The single harrier nest found by Buhnerkempe and Westemeier (1984) was found in an undisturbed field of switchgrass and

redtop (*Agrostis alba*). Twenty-four (89%) of the 27 harrier nests studied by Duebbert and Lokemoen (1977) were found in cover dominated by cool-season grasses with the balance found in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) or sweet clover (*Melilotus sp.*).

Vegetation at harrier nests in our study was 57% dead grass, 24% live grass, 19% live forbs, and 1% dead forbs. Kantrud and Higgins (1992) reported that dead vegetation made up 42% of the vegetation surrounding the harrier nests in their study.

Successful harrier nests in our study had a significantly lower percentage of live grass coverage than destroyed nests ( $Z = 2.324, P = 0.02$ ). The converse was that there was a higher percentage of dead grass at successful nests than at destroyed nests, supporting previous research (Toland 1986) which also re-

Table 1. Location and vegetation characteristics of Northern Harrier nest sites in northwest Wisconsin.

Variable	n	Mean	SD	Range
Distance (m) to:				
nearest path	15	11.4	8.557	1-26
cover edge	15	75.0	47.215	18-183
nearest water	15	212.4	127.990	0-457
Vegetation (cm):				
VORs	13	41.6	14.566	24-69
max. height	13	106.4	29.792	43-140
litter depth	13	2.6	2.599	1-10
Percent live grasses	13	23.5	22.210	0-70
Percent live forbs	14	18.6	15.733	0-50
Percent coverage of:				
switchgrass	17	48.9	41.471	0-100
quack grass ( <i>Agropyron repens</i> )	17	10.4	23.973	0-80
smooth brome grass ( <i>Bromis inermis</i> )	17	7.5	19.685	0-70
timothy grass ( <i>Phleum pratense</i> )	17	7.1	23.966	0-90
bluegrass ( <i>Poa</i> sp.)	17	1.8	4.644	0-15
other grasses	17	4.6	17.372	0-65
goldenrod ( <i>Solidago</i> sp.)	17	3.2	5.749	0-15
sweet clover	17	2.5	8.026	0-30
clover ( <i>Trifolium</i> sp.)	17	1.4	5.345	0-20
alfalfa	17	1.1	4.001	0-15
milkweed ( <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> )	17	0.7	2.673	0-10
other forbs	17	10.8	15.143	0-50

ported higher harrier nesting success in dead, residual vegetation from previous growing seasons.

There was also a nearly significant relationship between switch grass coverage at the nest and nest success ( $Z = -1.851$ ,  $P = 0.06$ ). Nests with greater switch grass coverage tended to have higher nest success. No other measured nest site parameter, shown in Table 1, was significantly different among successful and unsuccessful nests.

## CONCLUSIONS

Undisturbed grassy vegetation established as nesting cover for ducks on

WPAs and for protecting soil from erosion under the CRP agricultural land retirement program provided nesting habitat for Northern Harriers. Like other early nesting birds in our study, such as the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), the Northern Harrier apparently preferred to nest in tall, dense vegetation dominated by switchgrass. Dead, residual vegetation remaining from previous growing seasons was apparently important for nest site selection and contributed to the hatching success of the nests. Although not within the scope of our study, it would be interesting to determine if



Figure 6. Switch grass nesting cover at Northern Harrier nest site (nest located in center of photograph). Photo by B. Bacon.

residual switchgrass had survival value for young harriers from hatching to fledging.

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# Baseline Bird Surveys of Waterfowl Production Areas in Polk and Dunn Counties, Wisconsin

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*The authors present baseline species lists for six recently purchased Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in the St. Croix Wetland Management District in northwestern Wisconsin. Overall, the new WPAs contribute to the biodiversity of the area by providing additional habitat for a variety of birds, including state priority marsh bird species and grassland species of concern.*

---

*by Christine A. Ribic, David Curson,  
and Katherine Lewandowski*

The St. Croix Wetland Management District, established in 1993, includes some of the most important waterfowl breeding areas in Wisconsin. The district manages over 30 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), which are purchased with money from the sale of federal duck stamps, in three counties in the northwestern part of the state. Although one of the primary objectives of the district is to provide waterfowl production habitat, the mosaic of wetlands and grassland in the WPAs also provide habitat for a diversity of other bird species (Petersen et al. 1982, Hoffman 1990, Evrard and Bacon 1995, Evrard and Lillie 1996). Six new WPAs were recently added to the St. Croix Wetlands Management Dis-

trict, but the bird species composition of these sites is poorly known. The purpose of this survey was to provide a baseline species list at these recently purchased WPAs.

## METHODS

We surveyed six WPAs in the St. Croix Wetlands Management District in Polk and Dunn Counties, Wisconsin, on 5 and 6 June 1996 (Figure 1). The WPAs varied in size from 48 to 480 acres (Table 1). All WPAs contained wetlands and four of the six wetlands had areas of cattail (*Typha* spp.) habitat. Of the other two wetlands, one was dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and the other was flooded

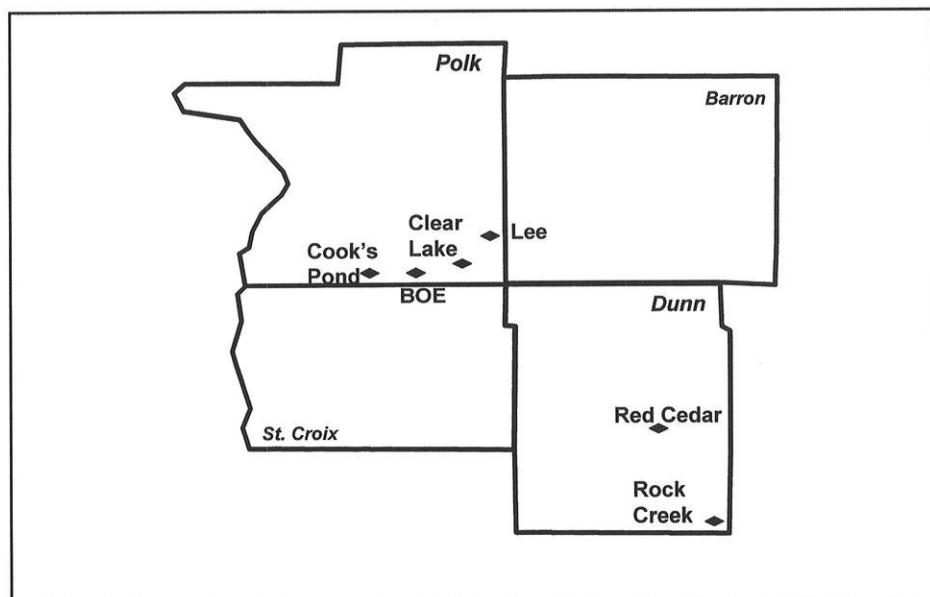


Figure 1. Location of six Waterfowl Production Areas in Polk and Dunn Counties, Wisconsin, surveyed in June 1996.

Table 1. Description of the six Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) surveyed in June 1996.

WPA	acres	wetland vegetation	habitat surrounding wetland portion of WPA		land use on WPA	notes
			wet grassland	woodland		
BOE	48	sedge, reed canary grass	no	no	farmland	wetland created by drainage of adjacent uncultivated farmland
Cook's Pond	60	cattail	no	no	grazed pasture	
Lee	147	emergent snags, willow thicket	yes	no	ungrazed pasture	pool created from flooded woodland; wood duck nest boxes present
Red Cedar	151	cattail	no	no	agriculture	
Clear Lake	152	cattail, sedge, willow	yes	no	agriculture, woodland	
Rock Creek	480	cattail, sedge	no	yes	ungrazed pasture with woodland patches	west pond partially drained

woodland. Wet grassy meadows were adjacent to two of the four wetlands, thus increasing habitat complexity, while woodland surrounded one of the wetlands (Table 1). All WPAs had been used for agriculture, either farmland or pasture.

We surveyed each site once, spending 45–80 minutes on site, depending on the size of the parcel. All surveys were made between 0500 and 1015 each morning and were conducted by two observers working together. The mornings were calm and clear. We walked one to two transects per site, passing through or close to all habitat types on the WPA, regardless of the size of the WPA. Survey effort was standardized across sites by walking a route that brought the surveyors within 100–150 m of all habitats on the WPA. We counted and identified all birds seen or heard within an unlimited distance of the transect. We compiled species lists and categorized species by predominant habitat (wetland, riparian [usually wooded], edge [wooded, shrubland, and old field], grassland, forest, and urban/farmland) taken from Best et al. (1996). Summary statistics of species richness by habitat were calculated.

## RESULTS

Overall, an average of 22 species per site was seen ( $SE = 4$ ) (Table 2). Species richness was not correlated with size of the parcel (Spearman's rho = 0.54, df = 5,  $P = 0.25$ ).

**Wetland and Riparian Species**—The median number of wetland species per site was 5.5 (range = 4–9) (Table 2). These species made up, on average, 30% of the species seen on the sites

( $SE = 4\%$ ). On average, 47% of the wetland species on a site were Wisconsin species of management concern or species of concern for monitoring ( $SE = 5\%$ ) (Table 2). Red-winged Blackbird was the most commonly detected species, being seen on four of the six sites (Table 2). The maximum number of wetland species (9) was seen at Clear Lake, the wetland with the most diverse wetland habitat (areas of cattail, sedge, and willow) and an adjacent wet meadow (Table 1). Clear Lake was unique in having both Common Snipe and Virginia Rail present. The average number of waterfowl (Anatidae) species was 2 ( $SE = 0.3$ ), with Mallard being the most common (Table 2). Mallard young and a nest were found on Lee and BOE, respectively.

Few riparian species were seen on any of the sites (Table 2). This may have been due to the definition we used for riparian species, which was primarily wooded riparian species. The most riparian species (3) were seen at Lee WPA (Table 2), where the wetland was created from flooded woodland (Table 1). Woodland was not a predominant habitat surrounding the other wetlands on the WPAs (Table 1).

**Wooded Edge (Forest, Shrubland, Old field) Species**—The median number of edge species was 7 (range = 2–15) (Table 2). Edge species made up an average of 39% of the species on a site ( $SE = 5\%$ ). The most edge species were seen at Lee (15 species), which was formed from flooded woodland, and at Rock Creek (14 species), which is surrounded by woodland (Table 1). No one species was numerically dominant over all the sites, although Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, and

Table 2. Number of birds seen (by species) on six Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in June 1996. E&L = status categories from Evrard and Lillie (1996). P/H = status categories from Petersen et al. (1982, Table 19 [Northeast Area column] and Table 20), and Hoffman (1990, Table 3, WPA North column). Blank in status column means the species was not listed in the tables of Evrard and Lillie (1996), Petersen et al. (1982), or Hoffman (1990).

Species	WPA					Status		
	BOE	Cook's Pond	Lee	Red Cedar	Clear Lake	Rock Creek	E&L	P/H
<i>Wetland</i>								
Pied-billed Grebe <sup>2</sup>						1	Abundant	Common
Canada Goose			2				Abundant	Rare
Mallard	1	1	1	2	4	1	Abundant	Common
Blue-winged Teal <sup>1</sup>	3	2			1		Abundant	Common
Green-winged Teal					3		Abundant	Rare
Wood Duck			3			3	Abundant	Uncommon
Hooded Merganser		1					Abundant	
Virginia Rail <sup>2</sup>					1		Rare	Uncommon
Sora <sup>2</sup>	1			2	3	1	Rare	Common
Common Snipe <sup>2</sup>					2		Uncommon	Common
Marsh Wren		3		2	2		Uncommon	
Yellow-headed Blackbird <sup>3,4</sup>	10			2			Uncommon	Common
Red-winged Blackbird <sup>3</sup>	10	6	5	10	1	1	Uncommon	Abundant**
Swamp Sparrow			1		2	1	Rare	
<i>Riparian (usually wooded)</i>								
Green Heron <sup>3</sup>		1				1	Common	Common
Belted Kingfisher <sup>3</sup>			1				Common	Uncommon
Eastern Phoebe			1				Rare	
Warbling Vireo <sup>4</sup>			1			1		
Rough-winged Swallow <sup>4</sup>					2			
<i>Wooded Edge</i>								
<i>(Forest, Shrubland, Oldfield)</i>								
Red-tailed Hawk	1						Common	
Mourning Dove			1		1		Rare	
Common Flicker						1	Rare	
Eastern Kingbird <sup>4</sup>		1	2		1	1	Common	
Willow Flycatcher <sup>3,4</sup>	1				1	1	Rare	
Tree Swallow		1	3		1	1	Common	
Gray Catbird <sup>4</sup>			1			1	Rare	
American Robin	2	1					Rare	
Eastern Bluebird						2	Uncommon	
Cedar Waxwing		1	5				Rare	
Yellow Warbler <sup>4</sup>		1	2		1	1	Rare	
Chestnut-sided Warbler <sup>4</sup>						1		
Common Yellowthroat <sup>3</sup>	2	3	4	4	1	1	Rare	
Common Grackle	5		1			1	Rare	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1	1		1	1	Rare	
Baltimore Oriole <sup>4</sup>			1			1	Rare	
Northern Cardinal			1				Rare	
American Goldfinch			5		1	1	Rare	Rare**
Clay-colored Sparrow <sup>1,4</sup>			1				Uncommon	Common**
Field Sparrow						1	Uncommon	Rare**
Song Sparrow	2	2	4	3	3		Rare	Common**

continued

Table 2. *Continued*

Species	WPA					Status		
	BOE	Cook's Pond	Lee	Red Cedar	Clear Lake	Rock Creek	E&L	P/H
<i>Grassland</i>								
Ring-necked Pheasant		1		1			Abundant	Uncommon
Killdeer		1			2		Uncommon	Common
Horned Lark		2		2			Rare	Rare**
Sedge Wren <sup>1</sup>	4	2	2	5		1	Rare	Uncommon**
Bobolink <sup>1,4</sup>	2				3	6	Common	Abundant**
Eastern Meadowlark <sup>1</sup>		1	1		1		Uncommon	Rare**
Savannah Sparrow <sup>1</sup>		1	1	1	3	1	Rare	Abundant**
Vesper Sparrow <sup>1</sup>				1		3	Rare	Rare**
Grasshopper Sparrow <sup>1,4</sup>						5	Rare	Abundant**
<i>Forest</i>								
Red-bellied Woodpecker			1				Rare	
Downy Woodpecker						1		
Eastern Wood-Pewee <sup>4</sup>						1		
Great Crested Flycatcher <sup>4</sup>						1	Rare	
Blue Jay			1				Rare	
Black-capped Chickadee						1	Rare	
<i>Urban/Farmstead</i>								
Barn Swallow <sup>4</sup>		1			1		Rare	
European Starling			1				Rare	
Total No. Species	12	22	30	11	24	31		

<sup>1</sup> = Wisconsin DNR Species of Management Concern (Sample and Mossman 1997)

<sup>2</sup> = primary species of concern for a Marsh Bird Monitoring Program (Ribic et al. 1999)

<sup>3</sup> = secondary species of concern for a Marsh Bird Monitoring Program (Ribic et al. 1999)

<sup>4</sup> = neotropical migratory bird (Peterjohn et al. 1995)

\*\*applying Evrard and Lillie (1996) status categorization to percentages in Table 20 of Petersen et al. (1982)

Brown-headed Cowbird were seen at almost every site (Table 2).

**Grassland Species**—The median number of grassland species per site was 4 (range = 2–6) (Table 2). These species made up, on average, 21% of the species seen on the sites (SE = 4%). Six of the 9 grassland species were Wisconsin Species of Management Concern (Table 2). Sedge Wren was one of the more common species, being seen on five of the six sites, and Savannah Sparrow, though not numerically dominant, was also seen on five of the six sites (Table 2).

**Forest and Urban/Farmstead Species**—Few forest and urban/farmstead spe-

cies were seen on the sites (Table 2). Rock Creek, whose wetlands were fringed with woodlands, and Lee, made from flooded woodland, contained all the woodland species seen.

## DISCUSSION

Evrard and Lillie (1996) presented a list of bird species seen in the northwest Waterfowl Production Areas with which we can compare our results. Petersen et al. (1982) and Hoffman (1990), in general, agreed with the abundance designations of Evrard and

Lillie (1996), though there were some exceptions (e.g., Common Snipe was listed as uncommon by Evrard and Lillie, but was listed as common by Petersen et al. and by Hoffman) (Table 2).

The wetland species seen on the new WPAs ranged from the abundant to the rare species of Evrard and Lillie (1996) (Table 2). Mallard, an abundant species of Evrard and Lillie (1996) and a common species of Petersen et al. (1982) and Hoffman (1990), was seen on all six new WPAs. The priority species for a marsh bird monitoring program (Sora, Virginia Rail, and Common Snipe; Ribic et al. 1999) seen on the six new WPAs were the uncommon and rare species of Evrard and Lillie (1996). Only Clear Lake contained all three priority species.

We found several state grassland species of management concern (Sample and Mossman 1997) on the new WPAs. Seven of the nine species seen on the new WPAs were uncommon or rare species of Evrard and Lillie (1996) (Table 2). Sedge Wren and Savannah Sparrow, rare species of Evrard and Lillie (1996), were seen on five of the new WPAs. We note that Petersen et al. (1986) found that Savannah Sparrow was abundant in their study. The uplands on one of the WPAs, Red Cedar, were farmed when we did our surveys, but were subsequently planted into prairie grasses. Red Cedar is also one of the set of WPAs being used for monitoring grassland bird species on the Wetland Management District (D. McConnell, unpublished report, St. Croix Wetland Management District).

Some neotropical migratory birds have become a focus of management concern due to population declines (Peterjohn et al. 1995), and neotropical migrants were represented on the

new WPAs. Some neotropical migrants are state species of management concern (e.g., Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow) and were discussed above. Two neotropical migrant species that are declining in Wisconsin (D. Sample, Wisconsin DNR, pers. comm.), Eastern Kingbird and Clay-colored Sparrow, varied in their presence on the new WPAs. Eastern Kingbird, a common species of Evrard and Lillie (1996), was seen on four of the new WPAs, while Clay-colored Sparrow, an uncommon species of Evrard and Lillie (1996), was seen on one of the new WPAs. Of the five species we saw on the WPAs that were not listed by Evrard and Lillie (1996), Hoffman (1990), or Petersen et al. (1982), four were neotropical migrants. The majority of these "new" species were seen on the Rock Creek WPA. Given the different survey techniques used in the different studies, it is not surprising that we detected additional species.

Overall, the six new Waterfowl Production Areas contribute to the biodiversity of the St. Croix Wetland Management District by providing more habitat for a variety of species, including priority marsh bird species, neotropical migratory species, and grassland species of concern in Wisconsin.

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Sandhill Crane *by Jack Bartholmai*

## The Spring Season: 1998

by *Jerry H. Smith*

For the third year in a row, the spring season began with warm weather carried over from February. Although the calendar indicated spring, the weather behaved differently at times as the season progressed. Early March's mild weather was followed by cold and snow later in the month, with April generally wet and warm. May became drier and unseasonably warm (into the 90s), ending with rain over most of the state.

Waterfowl migration began early as a result of the February warmth, but cold and snow took over by mid-March and lakes refroze, putting a damper on further movements by the birds. April's above normal rains and temperatures did nothing to prompt any massive movements, but a few species did trickle through. The birds were outpaced by the warm weather, and the advanced emergence of foliage made them difficult to see. Then, in May, with high temperatures and few passerine waves, migration suddenly seemed over. But even though it was a poor one, the season resulted in new early arrival dates for six species, and saw the addition of one new species to the state

list, the Eurasian Collared-Dove. Two other species, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Prairie Falcon, were added as state hypothetical records.

March began with mild weather, but that ended abruptly on the 7th and 8th with 2–6 in of snow statewide. Renewed cold temperatures persisted for several weeks, refreezing or skimming lakes even in the southern part of the state. Much of the northeast still had 7–12 in of snow on the ground at mid-month. Rains occurred on the 28th, generating large (1.5 in) hail in the northeastern part of the state. This was rough on trees and shrubs, and one wonders how the birds fared through it all. The rains continued into April, heavy in some regions, and carried into the second week with mild temperatures. Then, on the 16th, 6–7 in of snow fell in mid-central areas, with rains elsewhere. Despite all the precipitation, seasonally warm temperatures persisted. Late April was generally dry, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Temperatures remained above normal to month's end, but no substantial movements of migrants occurred.

May started springlike, mostly dry with scattered showers, but some low temperatures in the 20s still occurred in the north. Rain in the southeast was soon above normal, but temperatures held in the 70s and 80s around the state into the second week, bringing some scattered movement of birds. Many species were hard to see because of the advanced foliage and the lack of much active singing, as occurred in 1996. Very warm temperatures continued through the month, resulting in very dry conditions in the northeast, but with occasional showers elsewhere. May ended with warmth and rain over most of the state, including some heavy storms.

Many observers reflected on the strangeness of the season and the dearth of migrants, and especially on the small numbers of warblers. The following comments on the season's events, beginning with a particularly informative report from Philip Ashman in Dane County, were submitted from various counties around the state:

Philip Ashman, Dane County: "The spring 1998 migration in Dane County was unusual, primarily due to some strange weather patterns. Late February and early March were warmer than usual and this resulted in an early and impressive waterfowl migration, with all lakes and ponds open on record early dates. However, this ended abruptly with a blizzard on 8 March, followed by very cold weather. Consequently, the waterfowl migration ended and it never really got going again, with poor numbers of ducks in late March and early April. The last week of March and first weeks of April were incredibly wet; this fueled a spurt in vegetation growth, which was two

weeks earlier than normal, and an early mosquito crop, which made May birding very difficult. Unfortunately, the early May winds—first south, then north-northeast, then south again—continued unabated until 19 May, with no fronts to slow migrants down. This resulted in the worst warbler migration in my memory. I pretty much gave up on trying to find many warblers after 20 May.

"The usual April landbird migrants were found in small numbers for the most part. I missed Winter Wren entirely this spring—the first time this has happened in over 30 years of birding in the Madison area. Fox and White-throated Sparrows moved through fairly rapidly. Flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers all had a miserable showing this spring, with all groups represented by only a few individuals. Warblers, in particular, were scarce. I was able to see 29 species in the Madison area (not a bad total), but in ridiculously low numbers.

"There were many theories for the poor migration that were bandied about by birders in the UW-Arboretum, desperately searching for a view of any warbler species. The three main ones were:

- 1) No wave day weather patterns. Generally the weather was too nice to slow birds down during 12–20 May; we had strong south-southeast winds and no fronts during this period and although new species would show up every day, it was generally thought that a lot of birds overflew our area.
- 2) The incredibly advanced vegetation growth (2 to 3 weeks earlier than normal). Birds were able to disperse over a much wider area because of

an abundant food supply. Possibly birds were foraging silently at the top of trees; if so, they were not seen. During the last two springs when the foliage was delayed, I would often see 10-12 species a day which never made a sound.

3) The big fires in Mexico and resulting smoke clouds that affected a large area of the south-central states. We had a very hazy day on 15 May in Madison which had a smoky smell to it. Could migrants have moved to the east or west of their normal route through Wisconsin because of the smoke?"

Daryl Tessen, Outagamie County: "What a strange spring! Early March was warm, then two weeks later it was more like January. April was like May, and May was like June or July. The foliage was unbelievable; 3 to 4 weeks ahead of schedule. The migration was equally strange. Weirdest in years!"

John Regan, Brown County: "Easily the worst spring migration for me in 8 years of active birding. First time I haven't broken 20 warbler species at least once during spring migration."

Sam Robbins, Dane County: "After some early arrivals in March and early April, the migration fizzled out in late April and all of May. I counted only 17 Yellow-rumped Warblers the entire season, so it wasn't just the Neotropical migrants that were affected."

Janine Polk, Dunn County: "The promise of an early spring and a correspondingly early migration seemed to be coming true at first, but gradually fizzled out as stretches of cooler weather slowed things down. Migration ended up being roughly on time or even a little late for some species, notably warblers. There was only one big

rush of warblers and other songbirds during a warm stretch the week of 10 May. A few usually abundant species, such as Yellow-rumped Warbler and White-throated Sparrow, were surprisingly scarce, while Eastern Bluebird was unexpectedly common."

Alan Gamache, Dunn County: "While warblers were a grand disappointment, shorebirds were a bonanza, including many species unusual to the area."

Dan Belter, Marathon County: "I think the early spring foliage and the different weather patterns for this spring are to blame for the poor migration in May. I feel that a lot of species flew over us and went right to their territories. Most songbirds that spend the summer here in Marathon County appeared to be on territory by mid-May."

Murray Berner, Portage County: "This is my tenth spring in Portage County, and I had new early arrival dates for 23 species, 14 of which were passerines. The average was 4.5 days early, with Red-breasted Merganser and Chipping Sparrow ahead by 13 days. By 17 May, a full complement of almost every summer resident species was on territory in every habitat. I determined then that there would be no passerine waves forthcoming and this was the case."

Jim Frank, Milwaukee, Dodge, and Sheboygan Counties: "A very quiet spring, but the shorebirds made up for it. A Big Day on the 20th of May was incredible. In 30 minutes [in the Horicon area] I had a list of 19 shorebird species. I finished out the day at 165 species, 23 of them shorebirds! I cannot recall such numbers and variety of shorebirds since a long weekend in 1975 on the way to the Door County WSO Convention."

A total of 61 counties was covered by 110 reports from 78 observers this season. Coverage was good statewide, but reports were missing from Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Pepin, Racine, Rusk, and Taylor Counties. Although it was considered a dismal one by many, the season did result in 305 species reported around the state, only 3 less than last year, with no hybrids. The many interesting species include: Eared Grebe (Green Lake, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan Counties); Western Grebe (Green Lake County); American White Pelican (15 counties); Snowy Egret (Kewaunee and Ashland Counties); Little Blue Heron (Dodge and Door Counties); Tricolored Heron (Brown County); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Dane, and Green Counties); Ross's Goose (Outagamie, Ashland, and Eau Claire Counties); Eurasian Wigeon (Calumet, Dunn, and Dodge Counties); Barrow's Goldeneye (Ozaukee County); Mississippi Kite (Ozaukee County); Spruce Grouse (Sawyer, Vilas, and Oneida Counties); Yellow Rail (Green Lake, Marquette, and Burnett Counties); King Rail (Dodge, Winnebago, Brown, Richland, and Ozaukee Counties); Piping Plover (Bayfield County); Red-necked Phalarope (Dodge, Dunn, and Ozaukee Counties); Parasitic Jaeger (Douglas County); Iceland Gull (Douglas, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties); Arctic Tern (Milwaukee County); Black-backed Woodpecker (Oneida County); Western Kingbird (Door, Ashland/Bayfield, Douglas, and Dunn Counties); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Door County); Loggerhead Shrike (St. Croix County); White-eyed Vireo (Milwaukee, Iowa, and Brown Counties); Bell's Vireo (Dunn, Iowa,

and Sauk Counties); Carolina Wren (Grant, Dane, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties); Varied Thrush (Polk County); Northern Mockingbird (Waukesha, Manitowoc, Crawford, Ozaukee, Douglas, and Vilas Counties); Yellow-throated Warbler (La Crosse, Brown, and Grant Counties); Kirtland's Warbler (Vilas County); Prairie Warbler (Manitowoc and St. Croix Counties); Yellow-breasted Chat (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Dunn, and Dane Counties); Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Manitowoc and Burnett Counties); Hoary Redpoll (Manitowoc, Wood, and Oconto Counties).

## REPORTS (1 MARCH–31 MAY 1998)

**Red-throated Loon.**—Observed on 7 March (Sontag and Tessen) for a new early date in Manitowoc County, where this bird was also seen by three other observers until 25 April. Putz and Johnson reported a high of 14 on 22 April in Douglas County, where the species was last observed on 24 May. Also observed in Sheboygan (Tessen) and Ozaukee Counties (Gustafson).

**Common Loon.**—Sightings from 34 counties scattered around the state; normal numbers observed along Lake Michigan. First reported by Evenson on 7 March in Dane County; 50 were observed by Williams (Marathon County) on 18 April. Reported to EOP in 9 northern counties; southernmost in Waupaca County (Hewitt). Observed in many counties during the last week of March and first week of April.

**Pied-billed Grebe.**—Reported by 48 observers in 38 counties in less than normal numbers. Found BOP in Dodge (Domagalski and Michael) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Ziebell found 42 in Winnebago County on 9 May, and Jim Baughman found 23 in Vilas County on 18 April. Found at EOP in the southern counties of Dane (Ashman, Hilsenhoff, Robbins), Dodge (Domagalski), and Walworth (Parsons).

**Horned Grebe.**—Seen around the state in mixed numbers in 29 counties, first on 20 March in Milwaukee County (Korducki) and last on 24 May by Diehl in Ozaukee County. Gamache found 80 in Dunn County on 24 April, and the LaValleys found 47 in Douglas County on 30

April. Found in at least 11 inland counties away from the more usual Lake Michigan or large river areas.

**Red-necked Grebe.**—First observed by T. Wood on 28 March in Manitowoc County and in 11 scattered counties thereafter. The usual Lake Maria birds (Green Lake County) were present 4 April (Schultz), with many observations continuing to EOP (Schultz). The Winnebago County birds of Rush Lake were reported 6 April (Tessen) until EOP (Ziebell). Ziebell reported 80 on Rush Lake on 9 May. Also found at EOP in Burnett County (Hoefler).

**Eared Grebe.**—Reports as follows: 10–11 April in Milwaukee County (Korducki); 17 May in Sheboygan County (Jeff Baughman and Tessen); and 21–28 May on Lake Maria (Peterson, Tessen, and Hall) in Green Lake County. All observations were of single birds.

**Western Grebe.**—A single observation of a pair on Lake Maria (Green Lake County) on 5 April by the Smiths, who watched the birds dancing and food exchanging at the southeast corner of the lake.

**American White Pelican.**—Reports in normal numbers (several small to large flocks) from 15 counties scattered throughout the state. Earliest 12 April in Brown County (Peterson and Regan); to EOP in Winnebago County (Ziebell), Brown County (Regan and Tessen) where nesting, Oconto County (Smiths), and Dodge County (Michael). Jeff Baughman reported 50 in Grant County on 2 May. Northern reports include 13 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch) on 15 May, and 11 in Douglas County (Johnson and Putz) on 25 April.

**Double-crested Cormorant.**—Reported from 25 counties throughout the state in normal numbers. BOP in Ashland County (Domagalski), Milwaukee County (Bontly), Ozaukee County (Uttech), and Winnebago County (Ziebell). Remained through the end of period in 13 counties. Reports of large flocks include 425 in Manitowoc County on 29 April (Sontag), 270 on 8 April in Marathon County (Belter), 150 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 2 May (Verch), and 142 on 9 May in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

**American Bittern.**—Reports from 20 counties in normal numbers, beginning 26 March in Milwaukee County (Diehl) to EOP in 12 counties, southernmost to Dodge. Belter and Ziebell reported 12 and 10, respectively, in Marathon and Winnebago Counties, on 9 May.

**Least Bittern.**—Reports from 9 counties: 9 May to EOP in Winnebago County (Ziebell); EOP in Oconto County (Smiths); 12 May and 28 May in Brown County (Regan and Belter); 2 May to EOP in Dodge County (Michael); 23 May in Waukesha County (Gustafson); 14–18 May in Ozaukee County (Frank); 17 May in Outagamie County (Jeff Baughman); 20 May in Shawano County (Peterson); and EOP in Fond du Lac County (Jeff Baughman). Ziebell found 4 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Great Blue Heron.**—Reported in normal numbers from 38 counties, beginning 1 March in Dane County (Hansen) and Milwaukee County (Korducki). Belter found 130 in Marathon County on 28 April, and Verch found 22 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 30 April. Remained throughout the period in 27 counties around the state.

**Great Egret.**—Reported in low numbers from 16 counties throughout the state. First observed 25 March in Winnebago County (Bruce); all others after 7 April. A high number of 6 was found by Evanson in Dodge County on 2 May. Found at the end of season in Dodge County (Jeff Baughman and Michael), Vilas County (northernmost report, R. Green), and Winnebago County (Ziebell).

**Snowy Egret.**—Several reports of single birds, with the earliest on 2 May in Kewaunee County (Tessen). A multiple report of a bird found by Brady on 12 May in Ashland County and found later by Verch. Brady's report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Little Blue Heron.**—Two reports of single birds; one adult on 3 May in Dodge County (Michael, documented with seasonal report), and one in Door County 26–27 March (Lukes) for a new early date. This report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Tricolored Heron.**—A report from Bay Beach in Brown County (Tessen) on 20 May was accepted by the WSO Records Committee. Two additional reports from the same location were submitted by Belter and Hall.

**Cattle Egret.**—First reported on the new early date of 1 April in Dane County (Burcar). Ashman found 4 in Dane County on 11 May. Six reports from Brown County ranged from 27 April (Regan) until season's end (Domagalski, Regan, Tessen). Other reports: 25 April (Jeff Baughman) and 17 and 25 May (Michael, Tessen) in Dodge County; 2 May (Tessen) in Kewau-

nee County; 14 May in Sheboygan County (Brassers); and 14 April–EOP in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Ziebell found 60 in Winnebago County on 25 May.

**Green Heron.**—Reported from 28 counties throughout the state. First reports on 10 April (Tessen) in Brown County and 14 April (Belter) in Marathon County. Found at EOP in the majority (22) of counties reporting, north to Ashland and Burnett counties. Diehl found 6 in Ozaukee County on 18 May.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron.**—First reported on 13 April in Manitowoc County (Sontag) and Winnebago County (Ziebell). Also reported in 12 other counties. The Smiths found 12 in Oconto County on 30 May, and Ziebell found 600(!) on 22 May in Winnebago County. Found through the end of the season in 5 counties, north to Door and Oconto Counties.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.**—Reported from 4 counties, including 5 birds in Milwaukee County, 6 May–EOP (Korducki, Bontly, Domagalski, Mueller, Tessen). Also reported 9 May in Ozaukee County (Frank), 16 May in Dane County (Burcar), and 23 May in Green County (Mueller).

**Turkey Vulture.**—First reported 15 March in Washington County by Diehl. Reported in 16 counties from 26 to 29 March, and found in 24 counties at EOP, south to Dane, Dodge, and Milwaukee. Jeff Baughman counted 30 in Fond du Lac County on 26 March, and Putz found 25 in Douglas County on 12 April. The Smiths found a pair nesting at EOP in an elevated deer stand for the second year in a row (Oconto County).

**Greater White-fronted Goose.**—Reports from 7 counties, starting on 1 March with 65 in Columbia County (Wood) and several reports from Dane County (Ashman, Burcar, Hale, Robbins, Wood). Tessen reported migration as being early and excellent. Other large reports were 134 in Columbia County on 5 March (Tessen), 31 in Dane County on 5 March (Ashman), and 30 in Green Lake County on 14 March (Lehman et al.). Last reported on 9 May (Belter) in Marathon County. Generally considered numerous this spring.

**Snow Goose.**—Reported in normal numbers, beginning 1 March in Columbia County (Robbins), Dodge County (Michael), Marathon County (Hall), and a blue phase bird in Sheboygan County (Domagalski). Found in 18 counties overall, with 4 blue phase individuals reported in

Clark County (Decker). Hall reported 25 in Marathon County on 7 March, and Tessen found 32 in Columbia County on 5 March. Last reported in Burnett County on 14 May (Hoefler).

**Ross's Goose.**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 4 March. Also 3 April in Ashland County (Brady, Verch), and 2 in Eau Claire County on 5 April (Polk). These three reports were accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Canada Goose.**—Reported at the beginning of the period in 43 of the 93 reports from throughout the state. Generally reported in normal numbers and throughout the period in 29 counties. March migration reports include 3,100 in Winnebago County (Ziebell) on 1 March; 3,000 in Outagamie County (Tessen) on 4 March; 1,005 in Columbia County (Worley) on 9 March; and 3,500 in Manitowoc County (Sontag) on 22 March. Additional April reports include 2,100 in Oconto County (Smiths) on 18 April, and 1,000 in Portage County (Berner) on 22 April. Numerous smaller flocks were reported throughout the state during this same time period.

**Mute Swan.**—Found in normal numbers throughout the season in Ashland (Verch), Dane (Ashman, Hilsenhoff, Robbins), Door (Lukes), Douglas (Johnson, LaValleys) and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. Also BOP in Marathon County (Belter, Ott). Parsons found 14 in Walworth County on 9 March. Additional reports from Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Sheboygan, and Washington Counties.

**Trumpeter Swan.**—Reported throughout the period by Hoefler in Burnett County, with 22 found on 24 May (Tessen). Reported from 9 counties, all in the north except for Dodge County on 22 May (Robbins). Found EOP in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch). Also found north to Douglas County on 2 May (Johnson and Putz), and Vilas County on 9 and 27 May (Reardon, Green).

**Tundra Swan.**—Reports from 31 counties in mostly normal numbers, beginning on 1 March in Brown (Regan), Columbia (Robbins), Dane (Burcar), Dodge (Michael), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Last reported on 17 May in Dodge County (Jeff Baughman). Large flocks of 350 to 2,000 were reported 21 March to 3 April by many observers, including 1,000 in Door County (Lukes); 1,490 in Portage County (Berner); and 2,000 in Outagamie County (Tessen).

**Wood Duck.**—Reports on 1 March from Dane (Ashman), Door (Stover), Portage (Berner), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Found at the end of season in all counties reporting, but in below normal numbers. The largest number reported was 23 on 25 April by Berner in Portage County.

**Gadwall.**—Reports TTP from Columbia (Tessen) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Reported elsewhere BOP in Walworth (Parsons), Milwaukee (Domagalski), and Dane (Ashman, Burcar, Hilsenhoff) Counties. Found at period's end in Brown (Regan), Burnett (Hoefer), Dodge (Michael), Kewaunee (Domagalski), and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties. In Portage County, Hall found 50 on 31 March, and Berner found 30 on 2 April.

**Eurasian Wigeon.**—Reports of 3 birds from 3 counties. First reported by Sontag on 3 April in Calumet County. Gamache reported a bird in Dunn County on 6 April. On 24 April, a male was reported by the Gortons in Dodge County; this bird was seen by many persons (Jeff Baughman, Domagalski, Korducki, Tessen, and Wood) and was last reported on 3 May (Michael). Reports of all three birds were accepted by WSO Records Committee.

**American Wigeon.**—Reports at the beginning of period in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Ozaukee, and Walworth Counties; most other reports beginning mid- to late March. Found at season's end in 8 counties, south to Dane, Dodge, Columbia, and Milwaukee. Hall reported 100 in Portage County on 31 March.

**American Black Duck.**—Reports of normal numbers throughout the period in 8 scattered counties, and from 5 additional counties at the beginning of the season. Large numbers reported were 35 in Ashland County on 11 March (Verch), and 72 in Douglas County on 27 March (Putz).

**Mallard.**—Reports TTP from across the state, but slightly later and in lower numbers in the northern counties. In Portage County, Berner reported 400 on 10 March and Hall reported 446 on 17 March. In Marathon County on 28 March, Belter found 500+, and in Manitowoc County Sontag found 450 on 22 March. Farther north, Putz reported 327 in Douglas County on 9 April.

**Blue-winged Teal.**—Reported TTP in Dodge County (Domagalski), otherwise most reports began the last week of March. Reported

from 34 counties and at EOP in 20 counties. Gamache reported 73 in Dunn County on 15 April, and Belter found 69 in Marathon County on 9 May. Generally found statewide in normal numbers.

**Northern Shoveler.**—Reported throughout the period in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Found in 10 additional counties at season's end north to Oconto and Douglas. Ashman reported 150 in Dane County on 6 April. The Lukes reported this species nesting in Door County.

**Northern Pintail.**—Reports from 26 counties in mostly normal numbers. Reported TTP in Outagamie (Tessen) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Also found at BOP in Dodge (Michael), Pierce (Carlsen), and Sheboygan (Jeff Baughman) Counties, and at EOP in Dodge and Burnett Counties. Belter reports 30+ in Marathon County on 8 April.

**Green-winged Teal.**—Reports at beginning of the period in Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Columbia (Tessen), Dane (Burcar), Dodge (Michael), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Reported at season's end in 13 counties. Largest numbers include 50+ seen on 8 April (Belter) in Marathon County, and 75 seen on 13 April (Putz) in Douglas County. Reported in 31 counties overall.

**Canvasback.**—Reports from 30 counties during the period. Found at BOP in 7 scattered counties. Reported TTP in Columbia County (Tessen) and EOP in Burnett County (Hoefer). Interesting was a 19 May bird in Crawford County (Steele) in the Mississippi River backwaters. Largest numbers found were 400 on 14 March in Green Lake County (Schultz), and 350 in Portage County (Berner) on 11 April.

**Redhead.**—Reported at BOP from 10 counties. TTP in 4 counties: Winnebago (Ziebell), Ozaukee (Uttech), Columbia (Tessen), and Dodge (Michael). Many initial reports were by 30 March. Ashman found 185 in Dane County on 20 March.

**Ring-necked Duck.**—BOP reports from 10 counties, but many reports during the last week of March. Found TTP in Dane, Dodge, and Columbia Counties; EOP in the northern counties. Several large flocks reported on 28 March, including 450 in Dunn County (Gamache) and 1,200 in Marathon County (Belter).

**Greater Scaup.**—Reports TTP from Manitowoc (Sontag), Door (Lukes), and Milwaukee Counties (Korducki). Found in an additional 3 counties at BOP: Douglas (Putz), Ozaukee (Domagalski), and Sheboygan (Brassers). High number in the coastal counties was 3,000 in Manitowoc County (Sontag) on 7 March. Inland high of 60 in Winnebago County (Ziebell) on 30 March.

**Lesser Scaup.**—Reported BOP in 11 counties, including TTP in 4 counties scattered around the state. Also reported EOP in Dunn County (Gamache) and Douglas County (Johnson). Reported in normal numbers in all counties except Barron (Goff), and from 31 counties throughout the state. Parsons found 180 in Walworth County on 18 March, and Verch counted 128 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 13 April.

**Harlequin Duck.**—Only one report from Silver Creek Park in Manitowoc County on 14 April (Sontag).

**Surf Scoter.**—First reported by Jeff Baughman on 1 March, who counted 25 in Manitowoc County. Reports from 5 other counties, including Dane, where last reported by Ashman, Hilsenhoff, Burcar, and Hansen on 8 May. Six were counted by Lehman on 15 March in Kenosha County. Also found in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

**White-winged Scoter.**—Reports from 5 counties between 7 March (Tessen) in Manitowoc County to 3 May (Putz) in Douglas County. Reported in Dane County from 2 April to 25 April (Ashman, Hilsenhoff). Also found in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

**Black Scoter.**—Reports from Manitowoc County (Sontag, Tessen) on 7 March through 18 April (Jeff Baughman), and from Ozaukee County between 26 March (Domagalski) to 17 April (Robbins). Also reported by Lehman in Kenosha County on 15 March. Sontag found 4 on 7 April in Manitowoc County.

**Oldsquaw.**—Found at BOP in Door, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties. Of the 15 reports, all were from lakeshore counties. Regan counted 700 in Door County on 30 April. Last reported (100s) from Death's Door and Pilot Island in Door County by J. Trick (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) on 11 May. Absent from Manitowoc County.

**Bufflehead.**—Reported in 34 counties total; at BOP in 12 counties and by the end of March

in 22 counties. TTP in Columbia (Tessen), Door (Lukes), and Manitowoc Counties (Sontag), and at EOP in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch). The Smiths counted 60 in Oconto County on 8 March, Parsons found 50 in Walworth County on 18 March, and Belter reported 175 in Marathon County on 31 March.

**Common Goldeneye.**—Present in normal numbers at BOP or first week of March in the majority of reports from 28 counties. Found TTP in Columbia, Door, Manitowoc, and Outagamie Counties. Sontag counted 445 in Manitowoc County on 12 March, and Tessen reported 500 in Outagamie County on 28 March.

**Barrow's Goldeneye.**—Two reports, the first from Virmond Park in Ozaukee County by Uttech from BOP until 4 May. Paul Lehman reported a female at Virmond Park on 12 March. Uttech's report accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.**—Reported by four (Domagalski, Harriman, Michael, and Volkert) in Dodge County on 10 May. Also found in Jefferson County on 17 May by Burcar. All reports were accepted as a state hypothetical species by the WSO Records Committee.

**Hooded Merganser.**—Reported 1 March in 6 counties, and by the end of March in most other reports. Reported at EOP in 15 counties. TTP in Dodge, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Portage Counties. Belter found 180 in Marathon County on 28 March.

**Common Merganser.**—Reports at BOP from 20 counties throughout the state. Found at EOP in 8 counties, the southernmost being Kewaunee (Regan). Found in lower numbers than previous years, with the largest report of 300+ from Belter on 28 March in Marathon County.

**Red-breasted Merganser.**—BOP in 10 counties scattered south to north in mostly normal numbers. Reported from 29 counties overall. Found EOP in Ashland/Bayfield, Door, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties. The Brassers counted 6,000 in Sheboygan County on 30 April.

**Ruddy Duck.**—Reports from 26 counties throughout the state. TTP in Dane, Dodge, and Milwaukee Counties. Found at BOP in 7 counties, and in 9 at EOP. Reported in mostly normal numbers. Jeff Baughman counted 500 in Dodge

County on 19 April. A late southern report came from Grant County on 17–19 May (Steele).

**Osprey.**—Reported first on 29 March by Berner in Portage County. Many reports from the first two weeks of April and to the end of period in 11 counties. Belter counted 12 in Marathon County on 9 May.

**Mississippi Kite.**—Cowart observed a bird flying north along the Lake Michigan shoreline at the Concordia University overlook from as close as 50 feet on 13 May. The report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee and was the first report since 19 September 1987.

**Bald Eagle.**—Found at the beginning of the period in 16 counties and at the end of season in 15 counties, southernmost to Dodge County (Michael). Tessen noted 24 in Waushara County on 17 March, and Verch counted 23 in Ashland County on 31 March.

**Northern Harrier.**—Reported BOP in 10 counties north to Ashland (Verch) and Douglas (Johnson). Many (11) reported 21–28 March. Reported at EOP from 23 counties throughout the state. Verch counted 9 in Ashland County on 29 March, Hall reported 8 in Portage County on 27 March, and Belter reported 8 in Marathon County on 8 April.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk.**—Found 1 March in 6 counties, north to Douglas (LaValleys). Many migration reports during first two weeks of April. Reported at EOP in 7 counties, mostly north, with the southernmost in Fond du Lac County (Jeff Baughman). Belter noted 3 in Marathon County on 17 April.

**Cooper's Hawk.**—Reports from 31 counties in normal numbers, and through the period in 14 counties. A high of 3 birds by 4 separate observers.

**Northern Goshawk.**—Found in 8 counties, south to Ozaukee (Cowart on 7 March, Uttech on 16 March). Reported TTP by the Lukes in Door County. Also reported in Douglas, Fond du Lac, Marathon, Oconto, Portage, and Sheboygan Counties.

**Red-shouldered Hawk.**—Reported in normal numbers from 17 counties throughout the state, north to Ashland and Burnett (Verch, Hoeffler) Counties. Reports from 1 March in Dane County (Ashman), and TTP by Diehl in Washington County. Found at the end of season in 6

additional counties. Berner counted 4 in Portage County on 14 April.

**Broad-winged Hawk.**—First reported 26 March in Pierce County (Carlsen), and 29 March by Jeff Baughman in Fond du Lac County. Reported throughout the state in 28 counties in normal numbers. Verch counted 18 in Ashland County on 5 April, and Ashman found 30 in Dane County on 17 April. Found to EOP in 13 counties, mostly northern.

**Red-tailed Hawk.**—Found in 24 counties statewide at BOP. Frank found 13 in Ozaukee County on 9 May. Reported in 29 counties at EOP. Reported TTP in 22 counties statewide.

**Rough-legged Hawk.**—Reported in 13 counties BOP, many in the northern half of the state. Tessen reported 28 in Outagamie County on 4 March. Reported at the end of period in Barron County by Goff.

**American Kestrel.**—Reported TTP from 22 counties north to Douglas (Johnson, Putz) and Ashland (Verch), and found in 36 counties overall. Verch reported 9 on April 16 in Ashland County. Found EOP in 28 counties statewide.

**Merlin.**—Reported TTP in Ashland and Douglas Counties. Found in 15 additional counties in normal numbers around the state. Last reported in the southern counties of Dane on 18 April (Ashman) and Milwaukee on 21 April (Bontly). No reports of more than 2 birds.

**Peregrine Falcon.**—Reported in normal numbers from 9 counties. BOP in Brown and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.). Reported EOP in Brown, Douglas, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties.

**Prairie Falcon.**—Reports from Johnson and Putz on 22 April in Douglas County were accepted by the WSO Records Committee as a state hypothetical species.

**Gray Partridge.**—Reported from the 4 counties of Dane, Door, Fond du Lac, and Ozaukee. Found TTP in Door (Lukes) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties. No reports of more than 2 birds.

**Ring-necked Pheasant.**—Reports from 22 counties throughout the state. TTP north to Burnett, Douglas, and Oconto Counties. Also reported from 13 other counties TTP scattered

around the state. Tessen found 10 in Dunn County on 23 May.

**Ruffed Grouse.**—Reported in generally normal numbers TTP in 14 of the 26 counties reporting. Found at season's end south to Dane County.

**Spruce Grouse.**—Reported from 3 counties, beginning 7 March in Sawyer County with Gregg finding 5 females and a male. On 11 April, near Conover in Vilas County, a male was seen by Hewitt, Peterson, Smiths, and Uttech. Lastly, O'Brien observed 3 in Oneida County at the Old 'A' bog.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse.**—Reports from 4 counties beginning 1 March. TTP in Burnett (Hoefler) and Douglas (LaValleys) Counties. Gregg found 16 in Price County on 22 March, and Putz counted 20 in Douglas County on 4 April. Verch reported the above normal number of 3 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 21 May.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken.**—Reports from Marathon, Portage, and Vernon Counties. Lesher counted 45 in Vernon County on 18 April. Hall found 101 in the usual Portage County areas on 15 March. Found TTP by Ott in Marathon County.

**Wild Turkey.**—Reported from 33 counties throughout. TTP in 18 counties in normal to above normal numbers. Found EOP south to Dane, Dodge, and Jefferson Counties. Hewitt counted 30 plus in Waupaca County, and Ashman found 20 in Dane County on 27 March.

**Northern Bobwhite.**—Reports from 7 counties, starting 14 April in the northern locale of Green Lake County (Schultz) to EOP. Ashman counted 3 in Dane County from 10 April to 31 May. Hall found them in Portage County from 23 April to 24 May. Reports from 23–29 May in Dodge County (var. obs.). Although usual in Richland County, Duerksen found them only on 25 April.

**Yellow Rail.**—Reported from Green Lake and Marquette Counties, and north to Burnett County, where Tessen found one on 24 May. First reported in Green Lake County on 23 April, when Schultz saw 3, and on 24 April when Jeff Baughman reported 2. Peterson counted 5+ in Marquette County's Comstock Bog on 30 April. Tessen reports birds in Marquette County 1–17 May, with 5–10 birds on 17 May. Baughman counted 7 birds in Marquette County on 17 May.

**King Rail.**—First reported on 25 April in Dodge County (Domagalski, Mueller), where last reported by Diehl on 24 May. Ziebell found 2 in Winnebago County on 9 May, which were still present on 17 May (Jeff Baughman, Tessen). Tessen also reported one in Brown County on 2 May. In Richland County on 21 May, Peterson counted 2 birds. Uttech found a bird 10–16 May in Ozaukee County.

**Virginia Rail.**—First report 13 April by Regan in Brown County. Reports in below normal and normal numbers to the EOP in 11 counties north to Ashland, Burnett, Douglas, and Vilas. Ziebell counted 9 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Sora.**—First reported 2 April in Brown County by Regan, followed by 4 April in Winnebago County by Tessen. Reports from 31 counties overall; found in 17 counties at EOP, north to Ashland and Douglas. Frank found 21 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Common Moorhen.**—Reported first by Strelka on 18 April in Waukesha County. Reports from 6 counties; found at EOP in 5 counties north to Brown and Oconto. In normal numbers, with a high of 2 birds on 9 and 10 May in Winnebago and Oconto Counties, respectively (Ziebell, Smiths).

**American Coot.**—Reported at BOP in 7 counties in the southern half of the state, and TTP in 6 (south). Reports from 33 counties throughout the state and in 17 at EOP. Found in normal and below normal numbers, but with 600 by Ashman in Dane County on 30 March, and 2,000 by Parsons in Walworth County on 4 April.

**Sandhill Cranes.**—First reports BOP in 13 counties, north to Winnebago (Ziebell). Found in 41 counties statewide and at EOP in 27, with 11 TTP. Worley counted 210 in Green County on 7 March, and Belter found 88 in Marathon County on 9 May.

**Black-bellied Plover.**—First reported by Hansen in Columbia County on 28 April. Reports then ranged from 8 to 31 May in 15 counties. At EOP in Ashland and Dodge Counties (Verch, Michael). Westernmost report from Dunn County from 19–23 May (Gamache and many obs.). Frank counted 19 in Ozaukee County on 17 May.

**American Golden-Plover.**—Reported in 5 counties; first on 18 April by Jeff Baughman in Dodge County. Last reported in Dodge County

at EOP by Michael. Dodge County was the hot spot with 5 reports. Verch found one in Ashland County on 17 May. Three were found in Dunn County by Gamache on 19 May. Frank counted 8 in Ozaukee County on 18 May.

**Piping Plover.**—First reported 13 May in Bayfield County by both Verch and Brady, with 2 birds in the Whittlesey Creek area. Probably one of these same birds was seen by Dyhema on 20 May in the same area. On 24 May in Douglas County, Tessen found 1 bird. Matteson (WDNR) found the Bayfield County birds on Chequamegon Point during the last week of May. These birds were subsequently determined to have been hatched in Michigan in 1997 (Trick, USFWS). The first Wisconsin nesting since 1983 will be described in the summer report.

**Semipalmated Plover.**—First reported by Peterson in Shawano County on 5 May. Reported from 15 counties throughout the state in normal numbers. A large movement in Dane County on 18 and 19 May, with 40 by Ashman and 69 by Hansen, respectively. Found at EOP in 7 counties.

**Killdeer.**—Found TTP in Dane, Dodge, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Reports from 33 counties statewide and in most at EOP in normal numbers. Belter counted 40 in Marathon County on 9 May.

**American Avocet.**—Reports from 4 counties; first reported in both Dane (Fallow, fide Hansen) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties. Found in Ashland County on 13 May by Verch. Three were found in Milwaukee County by Tessen on 19 May and last on 20 May (Frank, Korducki).

**Greater Yellowlegs.**—First reported 1 April in Dane County by Robbins. Other reports in the first week of April include 4 April (Verch) in Ashland County and 6 April (Soulon) in St. Croix County. Reported in mostly normal to below normal numbers from 26 counties throughout the state. Diehl counted 12 on 3 May (Milwaukee County), and Verch found 12 in Ashland County on 12 May. Found at end of the period in Washington and Dodge Counties (Domagalski, Michael).

**Lesser Yellowlegs.**—First reports 27 March in Dane County (Ashman), and 28 March in Shawano County (Peterson). Reported from 30 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers, through EOP in 7 reports, south to Dane and Dodge Counties. Uttech found 44 in

Ozaukee County on 6 May, and Tessen reported 45 in Dodge County on 7 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper.**—Reported first on 24 April in Ozaukee County by Uttech, with another report on 29 April in Door County (Lukes). The first week of May saw reports from 14 counties. Reported from 21 locales throughout the state in normal numbers. Frank counted 6 in Ozaukee County on 20 May.

**Willet.**—First reported in Milwaukee County by Korducki on 1 May. Reports from only 6 counties in normal numbers, through 27 May in Dane County (Hansen). Found 2 May (Tessen) to 12 May (Regan) in Manitowoc County, where Sontag found 10 on 5 May. Reported 26 May in Vernon County by Lesher. Also reported from Clark (Decker, Polk) and Douglas (LaValleys) Counties.

**Spotted Sandpiper.**—Reported 25 April in Dane County (Evanson), with 3 other April reports (Ashland, Barron, and Dane Counties). Reports from 19 counties during the first two weeks of May. Verch counted 70 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 19 May. Found to EOP in 17 counties throughout the state.

**Upland Sandpiper.**—First reports on 19 April in Door (Lukes) and Kewaunee (K. Smith) Counties. Other April reports from Dane, Ozaukee, and Portage Counties. Reports in normal numbers from 16 counties throughout the state, through EOP in 10, north to Ashland (Verch) and Douglas (Johnson) Counties. Verch found 13 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 16 May.

**Whimbrel.**—First reported in Manitowoc County on 16 May (Tessen, Sontag). Other Manitowoc County reports include 5 seen by Regan on 20 May, and 13 counted by Sontag on 27 May. Also reported by Michael on 20 May in Dodge County, and by Regan who saw 7 birds in Kewaunee County on 26 May. Last reported by Tessen in Milwaukee County on 30 May.

**Hudsonian Godwit.**—Reported first in Dodge County by Jeff Baughman on 7 May (3 birds). Scattered reports from 10 counties in eastern half of state. Verch found them in Ashland County from 17–27 May, with 6 on 19 May. Ashman counted 29 in Dane County on 19 May and last on 29 May. Last reports 30 May in Oconto (Smiths), and 31 May in Brown County (Tessen, Domagalski). One western report from Chippewa County (Polk) on 21 May.

**Marbled Godwit.**—First reported by Hall in Dane County on 28 April. Verch reported them from 29 April to 21 May in Ashland County. Robbins found 4 in Dane County on 30 April. Additional reports by Hall were 19 May in Portage County with 21 birds, and 21 May in Taylor County with 14 birds. Also found 13 May in Douglas County by Johnson and Putz.

**Ruddy Turnstone.**—First reported in Winnebago County by Ziebell on 7 May, continued to EOP. Found in 7 counties from 16–17 May north to Douglas County (Putz, Johnson). Reported at EOP in 4 counties north to Ashland. Large flocks in Manitowoc County included 750 (Hall) on 27 May and 450 on 28 May (Sontag).

**Red Knot.**—Only 2 reports of single birds; on 24 May (Tessen) in Douglas County, and on 25 May to EOP in Ashland County (Verch).

**Sanderling.**—First reported on the new early date of 19 April in Douglas County (Putz), where found to 16 May. Also reported in Douglas County (LaValleys) from 8–10 May. All other reports after 15 May and one western report from Vernon County on 26 May (Lesher). Reported EOP in Ashland/Bayfield and Winnebago Counties. Nine reports on or after 24 May. Verch counted 60 individuals in Ashland County on 28 May.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.**—First reported 4 May in Marathon County (Ott), where considered below normal. Reported in mostly normal numbers, with first reports from 18 counties between 10–20 May throughout the state. Ashman counted 200 in Dane County on 29 May, and Hansen found 250 in Dane County on 30 May. Found at EOP in 9 scattered counties.

**Western Sandpiper.**—Tessen reported one in Douglas County on 24 May.

**Least Sandpiper.**—Reported first in Dodge County on 22 April (Michael). An additional April report by Tessen in Manitowoc County on 29 April. Reported from 20 counties in mostly normal numbers scattered throughout the state. Only reported in below normal numbers in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Hansen found 50 in Dane County on 18 May, and Ashman found 100 in Dane County on 20 May. Found at EOP in Ashland, Dane, Dodge, Dunn, Milwaukee, and Oconto Counties.

**White-rumped Sandpiper.**—First reported 7 May in Dodge County (Tessen), followed by reports on 11 May in Shawano County

(Peterson) and 12 May in Ashland County (Verch). Six reports 16–20 May scattered throughout the state. Reported EOP in Ashland, Brown, Dane, Dodge, and Ozaukee Counties. Gamache found 6 in Dunn County on 27 May, and Ashman reported 25 in Dane County on 29 May.

**Baird's Sandpiper.**—Reported first in Dane County on 11 May (Burcar), followed by 6 more reports throughout the state by 21 May. Gamache found 4 in Dunn County on 27 May. Reported at EOP in Ashland, Dodge, and Ozaukee Counties. Generally reported in normal but low numbers.

**Pectoral Sandpiper.**—Found first in Calumet County 11 April by Tessen, followed on the 13th by reports from Dodge (Robbins) and Dunn (Gamache) Counties. April reports from 6 other counties, all southern. Tessen counted 75 in Dodge County on 7 May, and Jeff Baughman found 65 in Dodge County on 18 May. Found to EOP in Ashland and Dodge Counties. Reports from 18 counties total statewide.

**Dunlin.**—Reports from 24 counties throughout the state in normal numbers. First report from Dodge County on 18 April (Michael), followed by 19 April in Ozaukee County (Uttech). Found at EOP in 9 counties scattered north to south. Ashman reports 45 in Dane County on 23 May, Hansen in Dane County with 90 on 25 May, and 200 in Dodge County on 27 May (Tessen).

**Stilt Sandpiper.**—Reports from 5 counties. First reported in Dodge County on 21 April (Michael), where last found on 20 May (Frank). Reported in Dane County 8–21 May (Ashman, Hansen). Found in Shawano County on 19 May (Peterson), and 20 May in Manitowoc County (Regan). Polk reported in Chippewa County from 13–22 May. Lastly, Tessen found 4 in Dodge County on 17 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher.**—Reported first in Dodge County on 8 May (Michael) and to EOP. First reports from 14 additional counties between 14–19 May. Found on 29 May in both Ashland and Dane Counties. Frank counted 42 in Ozaukee County on 17 May. On 20 May in Dane County, Hansen found 40 and Ashman 45 birds.

**Long-billed Dowitcher.**—Reports from 3 counties. First report on 16 May in Ozaukee County (Uttech), where reported in below normal numbers. Found by Jeff Baughman in Fond

du Lac County on 17 May. Reported in Dodge County on 20–27 May (Michael, Tessen).

**Common Snipe.**—First reported 5 March in Columbia County (Tessen). Other March reports include Marathon County on the 27th (Williams), Oconto County on the 28th (Smiths), Portage County (Berner) on the 28th, and in Dane County (Ashman) on the 29th. Reports from 28 counties overall. Found at EOP in 13 counties throughout the state. Tessen reported 50 in Outagamie County on 8 April, and K. Smith counted 14 in Kewaunee County on 19 April.

**American Woodcock.**—Reported TTP in Sheboygan (Jeff Baughman), Oconto (Smiths), and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties. Reports from 32 counties statewide in normal numbers. Reported at EOP in 16 counties. Belter found 14 in Marathon County on 28 March, and Frank counted 13 in Ozaukee County on 9 May.

**Wilson's Phalarope.**—Reports in normal numbers from 13 scattered counties, none in the western part of the state. First reported on 29 April in Brown County (Tessen). Tessen counted 7 in Brown County on 2 May. Found at EOP in Burnett, Dodge, and Oconto Counties.

**Red-necked Phalarope.**—Reports from 3 counties: Dodge, 20 May (Frank) and 21 May (3 birds, Peterson); Dunn, 31 May (Gamache); and Ozaukee, 31 May (Domagalski). The Dodge County birds were observed into the summer season.

**Parasitic Jaeger.**—Two reports from Douglas County: 11 May by Putz and 2 birds on 24 May by Tessen. Tessen's record accepted by WSO Records Committee.

**Franklin's Gull.**—Only 2 reports for the season: 2 April in Dane County (Burcar), and 17 May to 21 May in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch). Verch counted 3 on 20 May.

**Little Gull.**—A lone report by Putnam of an adult on 19 April (a new early arrival date by one day) at the County V ponds in northern Dane County was well documented.

**Bonaparte's Gull.**—First reported on 21 March in Green Lake County (Schultz). Reports from 25 counties throughout the state, including several western counties such as Dunn and Pierce. Found EOP in 6 counties, with an inland report from Marathon County (Ott). Largest flocks were of 600 in Dane County on 10

April (Ashman), and of 10,000 in Dodge County on 19 April by Tessen.

**Ring-billed Gull.**—Reported from throughout the state in 31 counties and TTP in 16, north to Ashland and Douglas Counties. Generally widespread and in large numbers: 1,432 on 19 April in Kewaunee County (K. Smith), and 24,000 in Winnebago County on 22 May (Ziebell).

**Herring Gull.**—Not as numerous as Ring-bills, but reported from 26 counties total and TTP in 12, again north to Ashland and Douglas Counties (LaValleys, Verch). Johnson counted 2,000 in Douglas County on an unspecified date, and Sontag found 504 in Manitowoc County on 1 April.

**Thayer's Gull.**—First reported by Putz in Douglas County on 1 March, then on 7 March in Manitowoc County (Tessen) and Sheboygan County (Jeff Baughman). Found in the other coastal counties of Kewaunee on 15 March (Regan), Ozaukee from 16–21 March (Uttech), and last in Milwaukee County on 14 May (Frank). J. O'Brien and others found 4 in Two Rivers (Manitowoc County) on 14 April.

**Iceland Gull.**—Reported first on 7 March in Douglas (Putz) and Sheboygan (Domagalski) Counties. All reports were from coastal counties: 10 April to last report on 17 May in Manitowoc County (Sontag), 2 in Douglas County on 7 May (Putz), and 2 in Milwaukee 11 March (Lehman).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull.**—First reported 1 March in LaCrosse County by Lesher, followed closely on 4 March in Dane County (Robbins). The Dane County bird in Middleton was also reported on 5 March (Burcar, Tessen), on 15 March (T. Wood), and was last seen on 24 March by Robbins. Also found 6 April to EOP in Ozaukee County (Uttech), on 29 April in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch), and in Douglas County (R. Brady). The reports in Dane, Douglas, and Ozaukee Counties were documented and accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Glaucous Gull.**—Reports from 11 counties and TTP in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Found at BOP in Brown, Door, Douglas, Kewaunee, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Sontag counted 21 in Manitowoc County on 20 March, and Putz found 30 in Douglas County on 25 March. Late May reports from the 26th in Ozaukee County (Uttech) and Milwaukee County (Gustafson).

**Greater Black-backed Gull.**—Reported widely from mostly coastal counties, but a 27 March report from Winnebago County (Bruce) was interesting. Found BOP in Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties. Reported EOP in Door (Lukes) and Sheboygan (Brassers) Counties. High numbers of 4 were counted in Manitowoc County (Tessen) on 7 March and in Sheboygan County (Tessen) on 6 April.

**Caspian Tern.**—First reported on 10 April in Milwaukee County (Korducki), and to EOP in 8 counties, north to Ashland/Bayfield and Douglas. Diehl found 40 in Milwaukee County on 24 May, and the Smiths found 40 in Oconto County on 30 May. However, Sontag counted 345 in the Manitowoc impoundment (Manitowoc County) on 25 April. Reports from 12 counties throughout the state.

**Common Tern.**—First reported in Door County (Lukes) on 22 April to EOP. Reports from 15 counties overall, all coastal but for 3 inland. Many reports in May to EOP in 8 other locales, north to Ashland and Douglas Counties. Reported below normal numbers in Ozaukee and Manitowoc Counties. Verch counted 220 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 19 May.

**Arctic Tern.**—The only report during the season was on 23 May by Korducki at the Milwaukee Coast Guard impoundment (Milwaukee County). This record was accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Forster's Tern.**—Found first on 13 April in Brown County (Regan), where found to season's end. This was followed closely on 15 April in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Numerous reports in May and to the EOP in 7 counties, northernmost to Oconto. Ziebell found 102 in Winnebago County on 9 May, and Regan found 110 in Brown County on 12 May.

**Black Tern.**—Found in 27 counties throughout the state, first in Walworth County on 21 April (Parsons). Found EOP in 13 counties, north to Ashland and Vilas (Verch, Jim Baughman). Verch counted 91 in Ashland County on 17 May, and Gamache found 76 in Dunn County on the same date.

**Rock Dove.**—Reported TTP in all counties reporting.

**Mourning Dove.**—Reported TTP in all counties reporting.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove.**—This species, which is expanding its range, has now found its way to Wisconsin. First heard by Cutright and Uttech on 19 May at West Bend in Washington County; visually confirmed on 26 May. Observed by many others until the season's end. Reports submitted by the Brassers, Cowart, Cutright, Domagalski, Frank, Korducki, Tessen, and Uttech were accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

**Black-billed Cuckoo.**—Reported first on 9 May in Dodge County (Michael) and by 20 May in 15 counties, including some northern. Reports from 24 counties by 29 May, and found EOP in 14 of the reporting counties. Reported in normal numbers, but highest number was 2 by Belter in Marathon County on 15 May.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo.**—First reported in Sauk County on 9 May (Peterson). Found by 20 May in 12 counties, not including northern. Of 18 reporting counties, found EOP in 7, north to Douglas. Bruce counted 7 in Winnebago County on 25 May.

**Eastern Screech-Owl.**—Reports from 6 counties, BOP in Dodge County (Michael), and TTP in Milwaukee (Diehl), Ozaukee (Uttech), and Washington (Diehl) Counties. Found 22 March in Dane County (Robbins), 22 March to 21 May in Winnebago County (Bruce), and on 2 May in Manitowoc County (Tessen). Diehl counted 10 in Milwaukee County on 5 May.

**Great Horned Owl.**—Reports from 27 counties throughout the state in normal numbers; TTP in 17 counties scattered throughout. Found in 20 counties at EOP around the state. Diehl counted 12 in Milwaukee County on 17 April.

**Snowy Owl.**—Reported from 7 counties at BOP, south to Milwaukee (Korducki) and Dodge (Michael) Counties. Last reports of 5 April in Outagamie County (Tessen), 25 March in Taylor County (Decker), 22 March in Milwaukee County (Korducki), 5 April in Winnebago County (Ziebell), 8 April in Ashland County (Verch), and last in Dodge County on 22 April (Michael). Reports from 10 counties during the season, including Clark, Marathon, Manitowoc, and Oconto.

**Barred Owl.**—Reported TTP from 16 counties throughout the state in normal numbers. Reported in below normal numbers in Oconto and Ozaukee Counties. Jeff Baughman

counted 3 in Grant County on 2 May, and Berner found 3 in Portage County on 22 May.

**Long-eared Owl.**—First reported by Uttech on 1 March in Ozaukee County until 17 March. Also reported 25 March in Milwaukee County (Diehl), 28 March (Gustafson) in Waukesha County, and lastly on 12 April in Brown County (Regan).

**Short-eared Owl.**—Reported 1 March in Door County (Luks), 24 March in Outagamie County (Tessen), 29 March in Shawano County (Peterson), 11 April in Milwaukee County (Domagalski), 7 May in Adams County (K. Hall), and last on 18 May by Bruce in Winnebago County.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl.**—Reported at BOP in Green Lake (until 1 May, Schultz), Marathon (Belter), Ozaukee (Uttech), and Washburn (Griesbach) Counties. Also reported first week of March in Price and southern Ashland (fide Gregg) Counties. Reports from 11 counties, all from the northern half of the state. Reported 24 May by Tessen and at EOP in Douglas County (LaValleys). Gregg recorded 7 birds during a survey route on 20 March in Iron and Ashland Counties.

**Common Nighthawk.**—First reported 18 April in Washburn County by Griesbach, and next on 2 May in Milwaukee County (Bontly). Most reports were after 10 May, in a total of 25 counties statewide. Reported in 21 counties at EOP throughout the state. Reflecting primary migration time, the Brassers counted 40 in Sheboygan County on 16 May.

**Whip-poor-will.**—First report on 18 April in Green Lake County (Schultz). Other April reports on 26 April in Dane County (Burcar, Evanson), and on 27 April in LaCrosse County (Lesher). Hall and Belter counted 4 in Portage and Marathon Counties, respectively, on 12 May. Found at EOP in 10 counties and reported from 21 throughout the state.

**Chimney Swift.**—Reported first on 12 April in Milwaukee County (Diehl), and then on 13 April in Ashland County (Verch). Many other reports before the end of April. Sontag found 33 in Manitowoc County on 13 May, and Duerksen counted 66 on 30 May in Richland County. Found in 27 counties at the season's end.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird.**—First found 2 May in Grant County (Jeff Baughman), followed closely on 5 May in Oconto County (Smiths) and Winnebago County (Ziebell). Hew-

itt counted 6 in Waupaca County on 31 May. Found in 18 counties EOP and 24 counties total.

**Belted Kingfisher.**—Reported as overwintering at a trout pond in Price County on 24 March (fide Gregg). Reported TTP in 7 other counties. Best number reported was 5 on 17 April in Waupaca County (Hewitt). Found in 26 counties at the end of season.

**Red-headed Woodpecker.**—Reports from 21 counties in mostly normal numbers. At BOP only in Dane County (Burcar), where seen until EOP (Ashman). Berner found 6 in Portage County on 16 May. Found at EOP in 12 counties, all in the northern part of state except Dane, Dodge, and Richland.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker.**—Found TTP in 21 counties, north to Barron, Burnett, Oconto, and Washburn. Also reported in Brown, Clark, Kewaunee, St. Croix, and Waukesha Counties during the period. Ziebell counted 5 in Winnebago County on 12 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.**—Reported first on 5 March in Milwaukee County (Zehner). Many April reports by multiple observers, including 2 reports on the 26th, 5 reports on the 28th, and one report each on the 29th and 30th. Reports from 33 counties overall, at EOP in 10, all northern. The Brassers found 10 in Sheboygan County on 10 April, and Ashman found 11 in Dane County on 13 April.

**Downy Woodpecker.**—Reported TTP in the majority of counties reporting from throughout the state. Belter counted 16 in Marathon County on 9 May.

**Hairy Woodpecker.**—Reported TTP in the majority of the 26 counties reporting. A high of 9 birds was counted by Berner in Portage County on 25 May.

**Black-backed Woodpecker.**—The only report of the season was a female, first seen and videotaped on 24 May in the downed trees at the south end of Old 'A' by the Smiths in Oneida County, where found many times. Later reported at same location on 31 May (Mueller, Schwartz).

**Northern Flicker.**—Reports from 7 counties TTP, in mostly normal numbers throughout the state. Found at EOP in 25 counties. Hall counted 14 in Portage County on 11 April, and K. Smith found 15 in Kewaunee County on 19 April.

**Pileated Woodpecker.**—Found on 1 March in Vilas County (Jim Baughman, Reardon), and TTP in 19 of the 27 counties reporting. Four birds were found in both Waupaca (Hewitt) and Fond du Lac (Jeff Baughman) Counties on unspecified dates.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher.**—First reported 12 May in Ozaukee County (Green). Three other reports before 20 May: 14 May in Burnett County (Hoefler), 15 May in Douglas County (Putz), and 17 May in Fond du Lac County (Jeff Baughman). Reports from 14 counties; below normal numbers in Portage and Washington Counties. Reported as late migrants at EOP in Milwaukee (Korducki) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties.

**Eastern Wood Pewee.**—First report on 23 April in Marathon County (Ott). All others after 9 May (including Ziebell in Winnebago County); from 26 counties to EOP. Belter counted 16 birds on 25 May in Marathon County, and Berner found 10 in Portage County on 30 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.**—Reported first in Manitowoc County on 13 May (Sontag). Reports from 9 counties total, and 5 counties at EOP, south to Milwaukee (Korducki). Reported in below normal numbers from Portage County (Berner). A high of 3 birds was found in Douglas County (R. Johnson) on 15 May and in Manitowoc County (Sontag) on 26 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher.**—Found first on 17 May in Dane (Burcar) and Jefferson (Domagalski) Counties. Reports from 8 counties overall, to EOP in 5 counties north to Portage (Berner), where it nested. Tessen counted 6 in Grant County on 27 May.

**Alder Flycatcher.**—Earliest report on 2 May in Door County (Lukes); all others after 15 May, with only 4 reports before the 20th. Reports from 25 counties (12 north), and in 19 counties at EOP. Berner found 15 in Portage County on 25 May.

**Willow Flycatcher.**—First report from Door County (Lukes) on 2 May, then next on 15 May in Dodge County (Michael). Reports from 21 counties by the end of May, and from 14 counties at EOP. Northernmost report was from Burnett County on 24 May (Tessen). Ashman counted 6 birds in Dane County on 30 May.

**Least Flycatcher.**—An early first report on 23 April in Portage County (Hall). Next reported on 2 May from Dodge and Jefferson Counties

(Michael, Domagalski). Found at EOP in 22 counties distributed throughout the state. Belter counted an impressive 41 in Marathon County on 9 May. Reported in below normal numbers in Ozaukee, Portage, and Washington Counties.

**Eastern Phoebe.**—First reported 26 March from 6 locations, north to Brown (Wierzbicki) and Portage (Berner) Counties. Reports from 36 counties throughout the state, and at EOP in 26 counties. Gamache found 8 in Dunn County on 3 April, and Berner found 10 in Portage County on 1 April.

**Great Crested Flycatcher.**—Reported first on 6 May in Green Lake (Schultz) and Washington (Diehl) Counties. Reported in normal numbers from 34 counties throughout the state. Found in 27 counties at EOP throughout the state. The Smiths found 8 in Oconto County on 17 May, and Ashman counted 9 in Dane County on 20 May.

**Western Kingbird.**—Reports from Door County on 17 May (Regan), from Ozaukee County on 19 May (Cutright), from Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 21 May (Verch), from Douglas County on 24 May (Tessen), and lastly from Dunn County on 29 May (Gamache).

**Eastern Kingbird.**—First reported in Grant County on 2 May (Jeff Baughman), followed on 3 May in Door County (Lukes). Majority of first reports occurred by 15 May. Reports from 33 counties and at EOP in 26 counties throughout the state. Belter counted 17 in Marathon County on 29 May.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.**—A lone bird was first reported by Regnery in the early morning on 18 May in Door County. Also seen that same day by Lukes and Tessen. Last reported in the same sheep pasture area at 5:10 P.M. on 19 May.

**Loggerhead Shrike.**—All reports were of a nesting pair outside of Somerset in St. Croix County, starting on 14 April to season's end (Soulon). Also reported on 24 May (Peterson, Smiths), 25 May (Tessen), and 28 May (Hall). The birds successfully fledged young.

**Northern Shrike.**—Reports from 9 counties at BOP, south to Dodge (Michael). Reported from 15 counties, mostly northern, in normal numbers. Hewitt found 3 in Waupaca County on 13 March, and Verch found 3 in Ashland County on 9 April. Last reported on 15 April in Waupaca County (Hewitt).

**White-eyed Vireo.**—Reports from 3 counties: 8–9 May in Milwaukee County (Korducki, Gustafson), 21 May (Peterson) and 27 May (Tessen) in Iowa County, and 28 May in Brown County (Belter). Last reported 30 May with 2 birds at Governor Dodge State Park, Iowa County (Korducki).

**Bell's Vireo.**—First reported by Polk on 19 May in Dunn County. Also reports in Dunn County on 23–24 May (Smiths, Soulens). Also found in Iowa County on 21 May (Peterson) and 27 May (Tessen). Robbins found a bird in Sauk County on 25 May. No reports from Grant County until June.

**Yellow-throated Vireo.**—Reported first on 6 May in Fond du Lac County (Jeff Baughman), then on 9 May in Dunn (Gamache), Marathon (Belter), Milwaukee (Domagalski), and Ozaukee (Frank) Counties. Reports from 28 counties in mostly normal numbers. Found at EOP in 14 counties, all in the southern two-thirds of the state. Berner counted 7 in Portage County on 14 May, and Belter found 6 in Portage County on 29 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo.**—First reported on 26 April in Green Lake County (Smiths) near Lake Maria, then found on 2 May in Waukesha County (Gustafson). Reports from 22 counties overall, but only at EOP in Ashland (Verch), Douglas (Johnson), Vilas (Jim Baughman), and Washburn (Griesbach). Found in below normal numbers in 7 of the 9 counties where abundance was estimated. The Smiths counted 4 in Oconto County on 27 May.

**Warbling Vireo.**—Reports from 34 counties in normal numbers, beginning 2 May in Dane (Robbins) and Dodge (Michael) Counties. Reported EOP in 28 counties throughout the state. Belter counted 22 in Portage County on 9 May.

**Philadelphia Vireo.**—Reports from only 7 counties, all in the eastern half of the state with the northernmost report from Douglas County (Johnson). Reported in generally low numbers. First found on 13 May in Milwaukee County (Zehner), and yet on 30 May in Walworth County (Parsons). Korducki counted 2 in Milwaukee County on 16 May, as did Johnson in Douglas County.

**Red-eyed Vireo.**—Reports from 36 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers, beginning on 6 May in Door County (Lukes). Then reported 8–23 May in Dodge (Michael).

Good numbers were reported the last week of May, with 22 in Portage County (Berner) on 23 May, 20+ in Marathon County (Belter) on 25 May, and 31 in Oconto County (Smiths) on 27 May.

**Gray Jay.**—Reports TTP in Douglas County (Johnson, LaValleys), and throughout the state in normal numbers. Reported 24 May in Burnett County (Tessen), 15 April in Florence and Forest Counties (Reardon), 14 April and 24 May in Oneida County (O'Brien, Smiths), and BOP until 16 May in Vilas County (Jim Baughman).

**Blue Jay.**—Reports from 38 counties throughout the state, mostly TTP in normal numbers. Ziebell counted 44 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**American Crow.**—Reports from 45 counties throughout the state, mostly through the season in normal numbers. On 4 March, Belter reported 160 in Marathon County.

**Common Raven.**—Reports from 17 northern and central counties in normal numbers; TTP in 12 counties.

**Horned Lark.**—Reported TTP from 16 counties in normal numbers. Reports from 20 counties overall. Hall counted 50 in Portage County on 15 March, and Belter found 56 in Marathon County on 19 March.

**Purple Martin.**—Reports from 31 counties in mostly normal numbers, beginning 28 March in Green Lake County (Schultz). Reported 8 April in Door County (Lukes). Reported EOP in 20 counties throughout the state. Ziebell counted 60 in Winnebago County on 28 May.

**Tree Swallow.**—First noted 26 March in Outagamie County (Tessen), followed on 27 March in 8 counties north to Sheboygan. Reported from 39 counties in mostly normal numbers, and EOP in 36 counties. Large migration was noted with 250 on 15 April in Portage County (Berner), 350 on 17 April in Marathon County (Berner), and continuing with 250 on 19 April in Dane County (Ashman).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow.**—Reports from 33 counties in normal numbers, beginning 13 April in Portage County (Berner). This was followed on 14 April from Brown County (Tessen), Dane County (Hilsenhoff), and Shawano County (Peterson). Jeff Baughman

counted 60 in Grant County on 2 May. The Smiths found 23 in Oconto County on 17 May.

**Bank Swallow.**—Reports from 27 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers, beginning 19 April in Barron County (Goff). Reported from 20 counties EOP. On 9 May, Frank counted 60 in Ozaukee County; on 19 May, Belter found 30 in Marathon County.

**Cliff Swallow.**—Reported from 32 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers, beginning 13 and 14 April in Portage County (Berner, Hall). Found EOP in 25 counties statewide. Hall counted 400+ in Portage County on 12 May, and Berner found 1,000 in Portage County on 22 May.

**Barn Swallow.**—Reports from 41 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers, beginning 11 April in Milwaukee County (Mueller). Found EOP in 31 counties. On 9 May, Berner in Portage County found 90+, and Ziebell in Winnebago County counted 110.

**Black-capped Chickadee.**—Reported from 38 counties in normal numbers; TTP in 26 counties throughout the state. Belter counted 40+ in Marathon County on 4 March, Berner found 30 in Portage County on 20 April, and Frank counted 33 in Ozaukee County on 9 May.

**Boreal Chickadee.**—First reported in Vilas County on 29 March (Jim Baughman), on 14 April in Oneida County (O'Brien), and on 30 May in Vilas County (Jim and Jeff Baughman).

**Tufted Titmouse.**—Reports from 9 counties; TTP in Dane (Ashman) and north to Dunn (Gamache) Counties. Other northern reports are 11 April in Portage County (Hall), 7 May in St. Croix County (Soulen), and 23 May in Eau Claire County (Soulen, Smiths). Jeff Baughman counted 8 on 2 May in Grant County, and Gamache found 5 in Dunn County on 14 May.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.**—Reports from 33 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers. TTP in 11 counties, all northern, with the most southern being Dane County (Ashman). Belter counted 5 in Marathon County on 27 April, and Ziebell found 4 in Winnebago County on 28 March.

**White-breasted Nuthatch.**—Reports from 33 counties throughout the state in normal numbers; TTP in all but 8 reports. Gamache counted 10 in Dunn County on 10 April, and Parsons re-

ported the same number in Walworth County on 25 May.

**Brown Creeper.**—Reported TTP in Ashland/Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Portage, Vilas, and Washburn Counties. Reports in mostly normal numbers from 30 counties throughout the state. Berner found 6 in Portage County on 1 April, and Belter counted 5 in Marathon County on 4 April.

**Carolina Wren.**—Early March reports from Grant County (Stangl), and 1 March to 9 May in Dane County (Hall, Robbins, T. Wood, Soulen). In Milwaukee County, Korducki found a bird on 2 May. Tessen found a bird in Grant County on 27 May. The best birds were the Waupacca County pair first reported on 3 May (Hewitt, Peterson), observed attempting to nest on 18 May, and confirmed nesting on 31 May in a barn (5 eggs). The same pair nested a second time in June.

**House Wren.**—Reported from 36 counties throughout the state in normal numbers; at EOP in 29 counties. First reported on 10 April in Dane County (Robbins). On 9 May, Ziebell counted 28 in Winnebago County and Belter counted 62 in Marathon County.

**Winter Wren.**—First reported 26 March in Manitowoc (Sontag) and Winnebago (Tessen) Counties. Reports from 24 counties in normal numbers throughout the state. Found in 14 counties at EOP, south to Dodge (Michael). Berner counted 9 in Portage County on 14 April, and Tessen found 10+ in Douglas County on 24 May.

**Sedge Wren.**—Reports from 29 counties in mostly normal numbers, beginning 29 April in Green Lake County (Schultz) and 2 May in Burnett County (Hoefler). Remaining to EOP in 22 counties scattered throughout the state. On 9 May, Belter counted 48 in Marathon County and Ziebell found 88 in Winnebago County.

**Marsh Wren.**—Reports from 24 counties throughout the state in normal numbers, starting 10 April in Waukesha County (Strelka). Found to EOP in 15 counties. An additional 24 April report was from Walworth County (Parsons). An impressive 688 were counted by Ziebell on 9 May in Winnebago County.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet.**—Reported from 25 counties in mostly normal numbers throughout the state. Found at BOP in Ashland, Dane, Fond du Lac, Portage, Sheboygan, Vilas,

and Winnebago Counties. TTP in Ashland (Verch), Portage (Berner), and Vilas (Jim Baughman) Counties. High counts of 20 birds were reported from Milwaukee County on 26 March (Zehner), from Dane County on 6 April (Ashman), and from Marathon County on 8 April (Belter).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet.**—First reported on 22 March in Burnett County by Hoefer, with 7 other late March reports. Reported from 30 counties throughout the state. Found EOP in Douglas (LaValleys) and Vilas (Jim Baughman) Counties. Tessen counted 65+ in Columbia County on 4 April, and on 19 April Belter counted 40 in Marathon County.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.**—First reported 30 March in Ozaukee County (Cowart), which is a new early date. Reported from 26 counties in mostly normal numbers, and at EOP in 17 counties, north to Oconto. Jeff Baughman counted 28 in Grant County on 2 May, and Belter found 17 in Marathon County on 9 May.

**Eastern Bluebird.**—Reported at the beginning of period in Door (Lukes), Green Lake (Schultz), and Walworth (Parsons) Counties, where also found TTP. Reported from 35 counties throughout the state in normal numbers, except in Brown, Ozaukee, and Manitowoc Counties, where found in below normal numbers. Found at EOP in 25 counties scattered throughout the state. On 30 May in Walworth County, Parsons counted 54.

**Veery.**—First reported on 16 April in Washington County (Fabers), and on the 18th in Outagamie County (Jeff Baughman). Reports from 32 counties overall, and at EOP in 18 counties, south to Dodge (Michael). Berner counted 14 in Portage County on 25 May. Generally reported in normal numbers, except below normal in Manitowoc and Ozaukee Counties.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush.**—Reported in below normal numbers in 5 of the 12 counties reporting. First reported 2 May in Marathon County (Ott), then 6 May in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Last reported on 24 May in Portage County (Berner). No counts of more than one bird reported.

**Swainson's Thrush.**—Reports from only 19 counties, in below normal numbers from all but Sheboygan. Found at EOP in 5 counties, south to Manitowoc, Winnebago, and Brown. Sontag counted 4 in Manitowoc County on 20

May, and Zehner counted 8 in Milwaukee County 19 May.

**Hermit Thrush.**—Reported from 33 counties in mixed numbers, beginning 17 March in Dane County (Ashman). Followed on 26 March in Manitowoc (Sontag) and Winnebago (Bruce) Counties. Found EOP in 8 counties, south to Marathon (Ott). On 14 April, Belter counted 16 in Marathon County; on 16 April, Ziebell counted 20 in Winnebago County.

**Wood Thrush.**—Reports from 34 counties in mostly normal, but mixed, numbers, beginning on 24 April in Door County (Lukes) and 1 May in Milwaukee County (Korducki). Remained to EOP in 22 counties. Belter counted 12 in Marathon County on 19 May; Berner found 11 in Marathon County on 21 May.

**American Robin.**—Reported TTP from 19 counties, north to Ashland/Bayfield and Oconto. Migration seemed to peak the last week of April with some counts of 170–800 birds. Reports from 46 counties throughout the state in normal numbers.

**Varied Thrush.**—The only report was a female from the Pederson residence in Luck, Polk County, from 1–18 March.

**Gray Catbird.**—First reported on 14 April from Walworth County (Parsons) and 17 April in Door County (Lukes). Reported at EOP in all 29 counties reporting, mostly in normal numbers. Many first reports by the end of the first week of May. Putz counted 20 in Douglas County on 9 May, and Ashman counted 14 in Dane County on 18 May.

**Northern Mockingbird.**—Reports from 6 counties, first on 2 May in Waukesha County (Domagalski). Other reports: 9 and 18 May in Manitowoc County (Tessen, Sontag), 13 May in Crawford County (Kirschbaum), 19–31 May in Ozaukee County (Uttech), 24 May in Douglas County (Tessen), and 30–31 May in Vilas County (Baughmans). Jeff Baughman counted 2 on 30 May in Vilas County.

**Brown Thrasher.**—Reports from 36 counties in normal numbers, beginning 3 April in Dane County (Ashman) and 4 April in Door County (Lukes). Reported at EOP in 22 counties statewide. On 1 May, Belter counted 6 in Marathon County; on 5 May, K. Smith found 8 in Kewaunee County.

**European Starling.**—Reported throughout the season in 26 counties throughout the state.

**American Pipit.**—Reported from 10 scattered counties in the eastern half of the state. First reported by Ashman in Dane County on 25 March, and on 28 March in Ozaukee County (Gustafson). All other first dates in May. Reported on 30 May in Oconto County (Smiths), and Domagalski counted 11 in Washington County on 8 May.

**Bohemian Waxwing.**—Verch reported them present in Ashland/Bayfield Counties from BOP through 7 April, with 350+ on 1 March. Also reported on 1 March in Door County (Regan). Peterson counted 80 in Shawano County on 28 March, and Putz counted 200 in Douglas County on 2 April. Also reported from Clark, Marathon, and Price Counties.

**Cedar Waxwing.**—Reports TTP from 9 counties, concentrated in the central and east-central counties. Reports from 36 counties overall, and at EOP in 29 counties scattered throughout the state in mostly normal numbers. Counts of 40 birds were common: 11 April in Portage County (Berner), 20 April in Washington County (Diehl), and 29 May in Marathon County (Belter). Frank counted 140 on 9 May in Ozaukee County.

**Blue-winged Warbler.**—Reports from 25 counties throughout the state, beginning 5 May to EOP in Dane County (Ashman). Reports on 6 May from Portage, Fond du Lac, Washington, and Richland Counties. Found at EOP in 11 counties scattered around the state. On 2 May, Diehl counted 14 in Washington County; on 26 May, Gamache counted 11 in Dunn County.

**Golden-winged Warbler.**—First reported on 6 May in Washburn County (Griesbach), and then on 8 May in Washington County (Domagalski). Found in 24 counties scattered throughout the state, and at EOP in 9 counties, north to Douglas and Ashland. Belter and Gamache counted 5 in Marathon and Dunn Counties, on 17 May and 29 May, respectively.

**Tennessee Warbler.**—First reported on 5 May in Portage County (Berner), followed on 6 May in Dunn (Gamache), Richland (Duerksen), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Reported from 28 counties total; numbers below normal in 11 of the 13 counties where abundance was estimated. Were the 3 EOP reports late migrants (Ozaukee County) or potential breeders (Door,

Ashland/Bayfield Counties; a singing bird was tallied in an atlas block in northern Marinette County in late June)? Gamache counted 14 in Dunn County on 6 May; Tessen counted 25 in Brown County on 20 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler.**—A bird coming to the Brust feeder in Franklin (Milwaukee County) since winter survived from BOP to at least 17 April. The next report on 14 April by Tessen (Outagamie County) was, but for the overwintering bird, a new early record. Three late April reports from the 12 counties reporting. Last reported on 16 May in Milwaukee County (Korducki), with northernmost report from Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch). Reported in below normal numbers in 3 of the 4 counties where abundance was estimated.

**Nashville Warbler.**—Reports from 28 counties in mixed numbers from throughout the state, beginning 28 April in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Next reported 1 May in Marathon County (Belter). Reported at EOP in 9 counties, all northern. Berner counted 20 in Portage County (Dewey Marsh?); the Smiths found 14 in Oconto County on 30 May.

**Northern Parula.**—Reported from 16 counties overall, and below normal in numbers in 3 of 5 reports. First reported by Ashman in Dane County on 5 May. Reported at EOP in Ashland/Bayfield, Door, Douglas, and Vilas Counties. Ashman counted 3 in Dane County on 12 May, his last observation date.

**Yellow Warbler.**—Reports from 34 counties statewide, beginning 2 May in Manitowoc County (Tessen). Followed on 5 May in Dane, Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. Found EOP in 28 counties throughout the state. On 9 May, Belter in Marathon County and Ziebell in Winnebago County counted 33 and 30, respectively.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler.**—Common, reported from 33 counties around the state, more in below normal than in normal numbers, beginning on 6 May in both Milwaukee (Gustafson) and Washburn (Griesbach) Counties. Reports from 17 counties at EOP, south to Dane and Dodge. Berner counted 15 in Portage County on 17 May; the Smiths counted 13 in Oconto County on 27 May.

**Magnolia Warbler.**—Reports from 22 counties in mostly below normal numbers, beginning 8 May in Dodge County (Michael), then 9 May in Ozaukee County (Frank). Found at EOP

in 8 counties, south to Fond du Lac and Milwaukee Counties. Tessen counted 5 in Brown County on 20 May; on 26 May, Sontag counted 6 in Manitowoc County. Most migrants passed through between 12–20 May in low numbers.

**Cape May Warbler.**—Reported from 14 counties, with 4 of 6 reports indicating numbers below normal. First reported on 5 May in Door County (Lukes), and next on 8 May in Dodge County (Michael). Found at EOP in Door and Vilas (Mueller) Counties. Three were counted by Ashman in Dane County on 19 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler.**—Reported from only 10 counties in mixed numbers. At EOP in 3 counties: Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Door (Lukes), and Vilas (Jim Baughman). First found in Milwaukee County on 4 May (Cowart) and in Dane County on 5 May (Ashman). No sightings of more than one bird.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler.**—Reported statewide from 37 counties, in below normal numbers in 10 of 12 reports. First reports on 1 March in both Dane and Washington Counties (Ashman, Diehl). Also found on 2 March in Portage County (Hall), and 8 March in Dane County (Burcar). Reported EOP in 7 counties, south to Waupaca and Portage. Regan counted 300 in Brown County on 5 May, Ashman counted 80 in Dane County on the same date, and Ziebell found 60 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Black-throated Green Warbler.**—Reports from 26 counties, in below normal numbers in two-thirds of 12 reports. Reported 9 April in Sauk County (Soulon), a new early arrival record by one day; otherwise, 2 May was earliest date from 5 counties. At EOP in 10 counties, all northern except Fond du Lac (Jeff Baughman). A tardy report from Dane County on 28 May (Ashman). A high of 6 was found on 5 May in Dane County (Ashman) and 25 May in Marathon County (Belter).

**Blackburnian Warbler.**—Reports from 18 counties in below normal numbers, beginning 29 April in Dane County (Ashman). All other reports from 13 May and after. Found EOP in 7 counties, south to Jefferson (Hale). No sightings of more than one bird reported.

**Yellow-throated Warbler.**—Three county reports: a wintering bird in LaCrosse County at the Marking's home remained to spring, 1 March to 22 March (Lesher); 20 to 31 May in Brown County (Tessen, Peterson, Smiths, Domagalski); and 27 May by Tessen in Grant County, where usual.

**Pine Warbler.**—Reports from 26 counties in mostly normal numbers throughout the state. First reported 13 April in Dane (Ashman) and Winnebago (Bruce) Counties, followed on 14 April in Portage County (Berner). Found to EOP in 12 counties, all north-central to northern. Berner counted 7 in Portage County on 4 May; Jeff Baughman counted 6 in Fond du Lac County on 31 May.

**Kirtland's Warbler.**—One singing male reported in Vilas County. Found from 27 May (Reardon) to 30 May (Jeff and Jim Baughman) at the same location as the previous year.

**Prairie Warbler.**—Two reports: an apparent migrant in Manitowoc County on 29 May (Sontag), and 30 May at Willow River State Park, St. Croix County (Soulon), where this bird continued into the summer season.

**Palm Warbler.**—Reports from 24 counties; in below normal numbers from at least 9 reports. First on 19 April in Portage County (Hall); other late April reports from 9 scattered counties. A wave of numbers occurred on 5 May: 15 in Dane County (Ashman), 24 in Portage County (Berner), and 50 in Brown County (Regan). Reported at EOP in Douglas, Portage, and Vilas Counties.

**Bay-breasted Warbler.**—First reported 11 May in Dane County (Burcar), and 12 May in Washington County (Domagalski). Reported from 18 counties scattered throughout the state, in below normal numbers in 6 of 7 reports. Late reports on 29 May in Dane County (Ashman), and 30 May in Brown County (Regan). Only report over one was 2 in Walworth County on 16 May (Parsons).

**Blackpoll Warbler.**—Reports from 19 counties in mixed numbers, beginning 5 May in Green Lake County (Schultz) and 7 May in Milwaukee County (Frank). All other reports the second week of May or later. Late reports in Dane County on 29 and 31 May (Evanson, Ashman). A high of 3 birds reported 13 May in Walworth County (Parsons), 17 May in Dane County (Ashman), and 23 May in Milwaukee County (Frank).

**Cerulean Warbler.**—Reported from 12 counties, north to Marathon and Shawano (Belter, Peterson), in mostly normal numbers. First reported 12 May in Washington County (Domagalski). Found at EOP in 5 counties, none northern. Tessen counted 12 in Grant County on 27 May, where usual.

**Black-and-white Warbler.**—First reported 2 May in Dodge County (Michael) and from 29 counties throughout the state. Many first reports after 7 May. Reported at EOP in 14 counties, south to Washington. On 19 May, Berner counted 10 in Portage County; 8 were counted in Marathon County on 25 May (Belter) and in Oconto on 27 May (Smiths).

**American Redstart.**—Reported from 34 counties in mixed numbers, beginning 2 May in Door County (Lukes). Most migration occurred between 10–20 May. Found at EOP in 23 counties scattered around the state. On 15 May, Berner counted 17+ in Portage County and the Smiths found 20 in Oconto County.

**Prothonotary Warbler.**—Reported from 4 counties: 13 May (Robbins) to 23 May (Mueller) in Dane County; 21 May (Domagalski) to EOP (Domagalski, Michael) in Dodge County; 22 May (Berner) to EOP (Berner, Hall) in Portage County; and 27 May in Grant County (Tessen). Berner counted 2 on 30 May in Portage County, where not found for many years.

**Worm-eating Warbler.**—Two reports: 9 May in Manitowoc County (Tessen) at Kingfisher Farm, and 22 May in Sauk County (Peterson) at Hemlock Draw.

**Ovenbird.**—Reports from 37 counties in mostly normal numbers. First report on 2 May in Grant County (Jeff Baughman), then 3 May in Dane County (Ashman). There was much movement through the 10th and then the 15th and after. Reported EOP in 26 counties, south to Walworth. The Smiths counted 29 in Oconto County on 27 May, and Berner counted 48 in Portage County on 14 May.

**Northern Waterthrush.**—Reported from 26 counties in mixed numbers, beginning 16 April in Pierce County (Carlsen). Other reports on 27 April in Brown and Dane Counties (Regan, Ashman), and 30 April in Ozaukee County (Frank). Reported in 14 counties EOP, south to Washington. Jeff Baughman counted 9 in Fond du Lac County on 31 May.

**Louisiana Waterthrush.**—First reported 3 April by Peterson in Waushara County. Four other April reports. Reports from 10 counties; only northern reports on 20 May in Brown County (Tessen) and 23 May in Dunn County (Tessen). Last found on 27 May in Grant County (Tessen). Jeff Baughman counted 2 in Grant County on 2 May.

**Kentucky Warbler.**—Two reports: 21 May in Milwaukee County (Korducki), and 8 birds on 27 May in Grant County (Tessen) in their usual habitats.

**Connecticut Warbler.**—Reports from 11 counties in normal numbers, beginning 14 May in Dane County (Hansen). Found at EOP in 8 counties, including Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Douglas (Johnson), Vilas (Jim Baughman), and a southern bird in Winnebago (Ziebell). Ten first reports starting 24 May and after. Tessen counted 3 in Douglas County on 24 May.

**Mourning Warbler.**—Reported from 23 counties in mixed numbers, beginning 9 May in Dodge County (Michael). Many reports on the 15th and after. EOP in 15 counties, south to Milwaukee. Tessen counted 5 in Fond du Lac County on 17 May; Berner counted 7 in Portage County on 27 May.

**Common Yellowthroat.**—Reports from 10 counties the first week of May; the earliest on 1 May in Dane County (Ashman). Many birds apparently were on territory by the 24th, as good numbers were reported after the 25th. Found at EOP in 26 counties throughout the state in normal numbers. Belter counted 27 in Marathon County on 15 May; Berner found 45 in Portage County on 27 May.

**Hooded Warbler.**—First reported on 2 May in Manitowoc County (Tessen) and 6 other counties: Brown, Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan. Reported EOP in 3 counties, and no reports from Waukesha County. High counts of 2 were reported on 27 May in Grant County (Tessen) and at EOP in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties (Jeff Baughman).

**Wilson's Warbler.**—Reported in mixed numbers from 17 counties throughout the state, beginning 9 May in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Reports on 10 May in Door (Lukes) and Oconto (Smiths) Counties. Reported at EOP in Door and Ozaukee (Domagalski) Counties. In Dane County, Ashman counted 4 on 20 May; in Manitowoc County, Sontag counted 5 on 27 May.

**Canada Warbler.**—Reports from 19 counties, with below normal numbers in 5 of 7 reports. First reported on 9 May in Winnebago County (Ziebell), and to EOP in 5 counties, south to Fond du Lac. Ashman found 2 birds in Dane County on 20 May.

**Yellow-breasted Chat.**—First reported on 12 May in Milwaukee County (Bontly). Found on

16 May in Ozaukee County (Domagalski), and on 24 May in Dunn County (Meridean area) by Soulen. Reports of 2 singing males from the Brooklyn Wildlife Area in Dane County 21–31 May (Ashman, Tessen) and into June.

**Scarlet Tanager.**—Reported from 35 counties in mostly normal numbers, but rather late in many first reports. First found on 21 April in Portage County (Hall), and only 5 times in the first week of May. Many first reports occurred 9 May and after; EOP in 23 counties. Berner counted 15 in Portage County on 23 May; Belter counted 10 in Marathon County on 25 May.

**Eastern Towhee.**—Three March reports: on the 26th in Milwaukee County (Zehner), on the 28th in Dane County (Ashman), and on the 29th in Milwaukee County (Bontly). Reported from 35 counties overall in normal numbers. Reported at EOP in 23 counties throughout the state. On 9 May, Frank counted 9 in Ozaukee County, and Verch counted 9 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 21 May.

**American Tree Sparrow.**—Reported from 20 counties at BOP, and from 27 counties in mostly normal numbers throughout the state. Almost all reports say birds departed before 1 May. Later reports include: 3 May (Verch) in Ashland/Bayfield Counties, 27 May to EOP in Oconto County (Lowery), and to 2 June from the Townsend area in Oconto County (Lowery, fide Smiths).

**Chipping Sparrow.**—Reports from 38 counties in normal numbers, beginning 12 March in Dane County (Tessen). Two other March dates: 16th in Waupaca County (Hewitt), and 30th in Oconto, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties (Smiths, Uttech, Bruce). Reported EOP in 27 counties, with high numbers reported on 9 May: 51 in Marathon County (Belter), and 60 in Ozaukee and Portage (Frank, Berner) Counties.

**Clay-colored Sparrow.**—Reports from 26 counties in mixed numbers, beginning 30 April in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch). Fifteen reports between 9–15 May; to EOP in 18 counties, including northern counties. On 9 May, Belter counted 41 in Marathon County; on 20 May, Berner counted 45 in Portage County.

**Field Sparrow.**—First reported 4 March in Dane County (Ashman), and from 33 counties statewide in generally normal numbers. Reports from 27 counties at EOP throughout the state.

On 9 May, Belter and Frank, in Marathon and Ozaukee Counties, respectively, counted 18.

**Vesper Sparrow.**—Reported first in Dane County on 29 March (Burcar). Many other reports from early to mid-April, and from a total of 28 counties in mixed numbers. Reported at EOP from 19 counties, north to Ashland/Bayfield, Douglas, and Vilas. Berner counted 14 in Portage County on 18 April. In Washington County, Gamache found 8 on 29 April and Diehl counted 8 on 10 May.

**Lark Sparrow.**—Reports from 3 counties; first on 29 April in Dunn County (Gamache), where also found on 23 May (Tessen, Smiths) and to EOP (Gamache). Peterson found them in Sauk County on 30 April, and Worley reported them in Dane County on 5 May. Gamache counted 4 in Dunn County on 27 May.

**Savannah Sparrow.**—Reported from 36 counties in normal numbers, beginning 24 March in Waupaca County (Hewitt) and followed on 30 March in Milwaukee County (Bontly). Reports from 30 counties at EOP statewide. On 19 April, K. Smith counted 66 in Kewaunee County. On 9 May, Frank counted 73 in Ozaukee County and Ziebell found 420(!) in Winnebago County.

**Grasshopper Sparrow.**—Reports from 18 counties (none far north) in mixed numbers, beginning on 2 May in Milwaukee County (Kordecki) and scattered through the month. Found at EOP in 11 counties. Gamache counted 10 in Dunn County on 14 May; Berner counted 23 in Portage County on 20 May.

**Henslow's Sparrow.**—First reported on 23 April in Green Lake County (Schultz), and reported from 12 counties by season's end. Reported from 7 counties at EOP, north to Oconto (Mueller). Polk counted 10 in Dunn County on 19 May; Berner found 11 in Portage County on 20 May.

**LeConte's Sparrow.**—Reports from 9 counties, south to Green Lake and Marquette. First reported 25 April in Green Lake County (Baughman, Schultz). Found at EOP in Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Burnett (Hoefler), and Douglas (LaValleys) Counties. The Smiths found 3 in Oneida County on 24 May, Tessen counted 5 in Burnett County (at usual location) on 24–25 May, and Belter counted 7 in Marathon County on 9 May.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.**—Reports from 2 counties: 12 May in Manitowoc County at Point Beach State Park (Regan), and 25 May in Burnett County at the West Refuge Road location (Peterson, Tessen).

**Fox Sparrow.**—Reported from 32 counties in mixed numbers throughout the state, beginning 16 March in Green Lake County (Schultz). An additional 21 reports from 25–30 March, with continued movement through 7 April. Last reported 25 May by Johnson in Douglas County. Carlsen counted 20 in Pierce County on 30 March; Berner counted 16 in Portage County on 2 April.

**Song Sparrow.**—Reports from 45 counties in normal numbers, and TTP in 12 counties. Found at EOP in 35 counties throughout the state. On 9 May, Belter counted 90+ in Marathon County, and Ziebell counted 358 in Winnebago County.

**Lincoln's Sparrow.**—Reports from 16 counties scattered throughout the state, in below normal numbers in 7 of 9 counties reporting abundance. First seen on 27 April in Dane County (Ashman). Found at EOP in 4 counties: 3 northern and Portage County in the south. Missing in Oconto and Shawano Counties. Regan counted 5 in Brown County on 5 May.

**Swamp Sparrow.**—Found TTP in Dane County (Ashman), otherwise first reported 20 March in Milwaukee County (Korducki). Reported from 33 counties throughout the state in normal numbers, and to EOP in 27 counties. On 9 May, Belter counted 80+ in Marathon County; Ziebell found 176 in Winnebago County.

**White-throated Sparrow.**—Reported TTP in Dane County (Ashman); at BOP in Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, and Richland Counties. Reported from 38 counties total in mixed numbers; found at EOP in 11 counties, south to Waupaca. On 5 May, Hewitt counted 36 in Waupaca County, and Berner counted 85 in Portage County.

**Harris's Sparrow.**—The only report this spring was of a bird that came with White-crowned Sparrows to the Gieger's feeder on 5 May in Manitowoc County.

**White-crowned Sparrow.**—Reported from 24 counties in very mixed numbers, beginning 29 April in Waupaca County (Hewitt). Many early May reports, continuing until the last report on 23 May in Door County (Lukes). Three

21 May reports in Ashland/Bayfield, Milwaukee(!), and Oconto Counties. Schultz reported a pale-lored *gambelii* bird in Green Lake County on 12 May. Ashman counted 11 in Dane County on 11 May; Regan counted 30 in Manitowoc County on 12 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco.**—Reported from 28 counties BOP; TTP in Vilas County (Jim Baughman). Reports from 35 counties throughout the state in normal numbers. To EOP in only 2 counties: Vilas and Douglas (Johnson, LaValleys). Carlsen counted 100 in Pierce County on 8 March; Hall counted 150 in Portage County on 24 March.

**Lapland Longspur.**—Reports from 18 counties in normal numbers; at BOP in 5 mid-central counties, but south to Dodge (Michael). Last reported 15 and 16 May from Dodge (Michael) and Fond du Lac (Jeff Baughman) Counties, respectively. Hall counted 500 in Portage County on 24 March; Tessen counted 500 in Winnebago County on 6 April, and Tessen counted 800 in Dodge County on 25 April.

**Snow Bunting.**—Reported BOP in 8 scattered counties, and from 13 counties throughout the state in mostly normal numbers. Last reported 27 April in Oconto County (Smiths). Tessen counted 700 in Dodge County on 3 March, and Regan counted 500 in Door County on 27 March.

**Northern Cardinal.**—Reports from 32 counties statewide, north to Ashland/Bayfield, in mostly normal numbers, but above normal in Ashland, Waupaca, and Washburn Counties. Reported TTP in 22 counties scattered throughout the state. Berner counted 28 in Portage County on 22 March; Frank also counted 28 in Ozaukee County on 9 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**—Reports from 40 counties in mostly normal numbers, beginning 1 May in Portage County (Hall), followed 2 May in Dodge County (Michael). Most first reports were by mid-May. Reported at EOP in 27 counties, including northern. On 7 May, Berner found 15 in Portage County; on 15 May, Belter counted 19 in Marathon County.

**Indigo Bunting.**—Reported from 43 counties in normal numbers, beginning 5 May in Kewaunee County (K. Smith). Found 9 May in Dane, Dodge, Portage, Winnebago, and Walworth Counties. First reports from 25 counties between 11–17 May; reported at EOP in 30 counties. Berner counted 12 in Portage County on 17

May, Belter found 15 in Marathon County on 19 May, and Parsons had 12 in Walworth County on 25 May.

**Dickcissel.**—This late-appearing species was first reported 21 May in St. Croix County (Soulen), with reports from 6 other counties by the 30th. Reported at EOP only in Dodge, Green Lake, and Walworth Counties. No reports of more than one bird.

**Bobolink.**—First reported 4 May in Ozaukee County (Uttech), and in 34 counties in normal numbers. Found 5 May in Green Lake, Oconto, and Winnebago Counties, and at EOP in 28 counties. Berner counted 25 in Portage County on 20 May, and Belter counted 23 in Marathon County on 29 May.

**Red-winged Blackbird.**—Reports from 45 counties in normal numbers statewide; 20 counties TTP and 11 additional counties at EOP. Ashman had 3,000 in Dane County on 25 March; Ziebell counted 3,000 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Eastern Meadowlark.**—Reports from 38 counties in normal numbers; TTP in Dane, Door, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties. Other first reports 2 March to 23 May throughout the state. Reported at EOP in 26 counties, north to Ashland/Bayfield, Douglas, and Vilas. Ziebell counted 20 in Winnebago County on 17 April, and Frank counted 17 in Ozaukee County on 9 May.

**Western Meadowlark.**—First reported 23 March in Dane County (Robbins), with late March reports in 7 additional counties. Reports from 22 counties in mixed numbers scattered around the state. Found at EOP in 9 scattered counties, north to Ashland/Bayfield and Douglas (Verch, LaValleys). Berner counted 15 in Portage County on 21 April; K. Smith counted 8 in Kewaunee County on 5 May.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird.**—Reports from 22 counties in mostly normal numbers, beginning 6 April in Winnebago County (Tessen). Reported at EOP in 12 counties, north to Burnett and Douglas (Hoeftler, Johnson). On 19 April, Gamache counted 26 in Dunn County; on 9 May, Ziebell counted 460 in Winnebago County.

**Rusty Blackbird.**—Reports from 24 counties in normal numbers, beginning BOP in Dane and Dodge (Burcar, Michael). Last reported in Shawano County on 2 May (Peterson). On 8 April, Ziebell found 56 in Winnebago County,

and on 12 April, the Smiths counted 134 in Oconto County.

**Brewer's Blackbird.**—First reported on 4 March in Outagamie County and 17 March in Waushara County (Tessen). Two late March reports from Barron and Portage Counties (Goff, Berner). Reports from 23 counties around the state, and at EOP in 13 counties, south to Portage. Belter counted 30 in Marathon County on 17 April, and Berner found 65 in Portage County on 21 April.

**Common Grackle.**—Reports from 43 counties throughout the state; TTP in 17 counties, including several northern ones, in normal numbers. Reports from 12 additional counties at EOP. Ziebell counted 1,000 on 2 March in Winnebago County, and Belter counted 500+ on 28 March in Marathon County.

**Brown-headed Cowbird.**—Reports statewide from 37 counties in mostly normal numbers, including TTP from 3: Dodge (Michael), Winnebago (Ziebell), and Milwaukee (Gustafson). Found at EOP in 28 well-distributed reports. In Marathon County, Belter counted 250+ on 17 April; in Winnebago County, Ziebell counted 246 on 9 May.

**Orchard Oriole.**—First reported 16 April in Pierce County (Carlsen), and from 9 other counties in normal to above normal numbers, north to Dunn, Oconto, and St. Croix. Reported at EOP in 6 counties. Ashman counted 4 in Dane County on 14 May, Frank found 4 in Ozaukee County on 17 May, and Tessen counted 8+ in Dunn County on 23 May, where also reported by others.

**Baltimore Oriole.**—Reports from 35 counties in mostly normal numbers, beginning 30 April in Dane County (Hansen). Many reports from 5–20 May, and to EOP in 26 counties statewide. Belter counted 32 in Marathon County on 9 May; Regan found 31 in Kewaunee County on 13 May.

**Pine Grosbeak.**—Carrying over from the winter, found at BOP in 5 of the 6 counties reporting, south to Waupaca (Hewitt). Last seen in Door County on 5 March (Lukes), in Price County on 14 March (Hardy), and in Douglas County on 24 March (LaValleys). Last reported on 30 March in Ashland/Bayfield (Verch) and Vilas (Reardon) Counties. Hewitt counted 30+ in Waupaca County on 1 March.

**Purple Finch.**—Reports from 29 counties overall, in mixed numbers; TTP in only 7 counties, south to Fond du Lac. Found at EOP in 5 others, all north. Duerksen counted 14 in Richland County on 2 March, and Diehl counted 12 in Washington County on 15 March.

**House Finch.**—Of the 34 counties reporting, found TTP in 26 in normal numbers, north to Ashland/Bayfield and Douglas. Also found at EOP in Burnett and Kewaunee Counties. The Smiths counted 41 in Oconto County on 1 March, and Ziebell counted 44 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Red Crossbill.**—Reports this year from only 3 counties: 7 March (Putz) to 17 May (Johnson) in Douglas County, 18 April in Vilas County (Jim Baughman), and 9 May in Florence County (Strelka). Putz counted 20 in Douglas County on 7 March.

**White-winged Crossbill.**—Reported from 3 counties, with a southern report from Milwaukee County (Diehl) on 27 March. Found BOP to 15 March in Ashland/Bayfield Counties (Verch), and 29 March to 14 April in Vilas County (Jim Baughman, O'Brien).

**Common Redpoll.**—Many birds carrying over from the winter, with reports from 20 counties in normal to above normal numbers. Found at BOP in 13 counties, south to Dodge (Michael). Last reported 16 April in Oconto County and 24 April in Ashland/Bayfield Counties. The Smiths counted 118 in Oconto County on 1 March, and Verch counted 220 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 29 March.

**Hoary Redpoll.**—Reports from 3 counties: BOP to 7 March in Manitowoc County (Sontag, 2 birds), 14 March in Wood County (Lehman, Schultz, S. Baughman), and several different birds BOP to 15 March in Oconto County (Smiths).

**Pine Siskin.**—Reports from 24 counties in mostly normal numbers, TTP in Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Barron (Goff), and Door (Lukes). Found at BOP in 11 counties, south to Dane and Milwaukee, and to EOP in Douglas (LaValleys). In Dane County, Tessen counted 10 on 12 March and Ashman counted 25 on 13 March. Berner found 10 in Portage County on 12 April.

**American Goldfinch.**—Reported from 34 counties, in normal numbers throughout; TTP in 22 counties and at EOP in 6 more. The Smiths counted 91 in Oconto County on 8 March, and

Ziebell counted 80 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

**Evening Grosbeak.**—Reports from 16 counties in mostly normal numbers, south to Green Lake; BOP in Door and Marathon Counties. Found TTP in Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Douglas (Johnson), and Vilas (Jim Baughman) Counties. Reported at EOP in Oconto and Oneida Counties (Smiths, Mueller). Tessen counted 15+ in Douglas County on 24 May.

**House Sparrow.**—Reported TTP in 28 of the 36 county reports, and in normal numbers throughout the state. Ziebell counted 250 in Winnebago County on 9 May.

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## 50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

WSO's Supply Department has a rich and strong tradition, which continues today as the WSO Bookstore under the capable leadership of Don and Christine Reel. In 1948, N. R. Barger provided this important service to WSO members. In this issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*, the Supply Department was responsible for several items including:

- A notice that new checklist cards of Wisconsin birds are available at a cost of 75 cards for \$1.00.
- A notice that a letter was sent to members describing merchandise suitable for Christmas gifts.
- A listing of new items recently received by the Supply Department, including Peterson's "Birds Over America" for \$6. A review of the book by George A. Hall also appeared.
- A list of second-hand books that the Society wished to purchase to fill new orders now on file. Included were Chapman's "Handbook," Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota," and Saunders "A Guide to Bird Songs."

Today, the bookstore welcomes donations of second-hand books that can be sold to WSO members, usually at the annual convention. If you have any books that you no longer use and that are becoming dusty sitting on shelves or are stored away in boxes, please consider donating them to the WSO for re-sale. (Excerpts from Volume 10, No. 4, 1948)



Great Horned Owl *by David Kuecherer*

## “By the Wayside”

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*Rare species documentations include Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Ross’s Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Mississippi Kite, Prairie Falcon, Piping Plover, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Iceland Gull, Arctic Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Kirtland’s Warbler.*

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### **SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)**

**12 May 1998, west end of Fish Creek sloughs, Ashland County**—While scanning the wetland area at the slough with my spotting scope, a small, quick-moving, long-necked white bird flew into my field of view. When it landed, I immediately knew it was an egret. It was very small compared to nearby Great Blue Herons, slightly smaller than nearby Canada Geese, and not much larger (in body size) than nearby ducks. The bill was long and slender and all black. The lores were yellowish orange. The back of the neck and head were somewhat “shaggy,” but no breeding plumes were evident. The entire body, neck, and head were white. The moderately long legs were black, and when the bird walked around and flew, the yellowish “golden slippers” were easily seen. These colored feet were strongly contrasted with the dark legs. The bird shuffled around in shallow water, occasionally spearing at prey unsuccessfully. The identification was easy, and I observed the bird for about

half an hour.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, Wisconsin.*

### **LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)**

**26–27 March 1998, slough near Baileys Harbor Yacht Club, Baileys Harbor, Door County**—As I was driving a companion back to her residence, a small, dark blue heron, about half the size of a Great Blue Heron was seen. The definite “S” curve of the neck was observed as it flew right to left in front of our car about 50 ft in front of us. It landed in a sparse cattail marsh and I noticed, as it turned a bit, that there was a slight purple tinge to the neck feathers. I drove ahead a little so I could see its beak and I noticed it was lighter colored, kind of grayish in the center with a dark tip. It flew again and there was no white in any of the plumage. It appeared to be an adult. I have seen this species in Florida several times and was very surprised to see it near Baileys Harbor in March! We had had two or three days of strong southerly winds and unusually warm

weather.—*Charlotte Lukes, Egg Harbor, Wisconsin.*

#### TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*)

**20 May 1998, ponds at Bay Beach Sanctuary, Green Bay, Brown County**—Upon arriving at the Bay Beach Sanctuary as a result of a call from Ida Bauman, a quick check of the pond revealed the Tricolored Heron on the far bank. I went back to the car to get my scope. For the next 20 min I enjoyed a leisurely view of it as it moved slowly along the bank edge. It was a medium-sized heron with a distinct white belly and foreneck. The remainder of the body was a dark blue with a small amount of purple along the neck. No white plumes were noted on the back of the head. The legs were greenish and somewhat dark. Upon returning one to one and a half hours later, it had disappeared. This was a pattern that was to occur for the duration of the month.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin.*

#### BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

**10 May 1998, impoundment marsh at end of Palmatory Street, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County**—I was participating in the Horicon Marsh Bird Festival and was waiting for a birding group to arrive for a bird hike at 8:00 A.M. I was scanning the marsh below the hill from the observation platform in hopes of finding new arrivals for the spring and for the festival list. While scanning with my scope, I came upon a bird standing on an impoundment dike which got my attention at first sight.

My first thought when I saw this bird was that it was not a duck species at all

because of the upright posture, long pink legs, and long neck that did not fit any of the duck species that are found on the marsh. As I studied the bird more closely, the bright orange/pink, duck-shaped bill jumped out at me, and the first bird species that came to mind was a whistling-duck. By this time the duck began to walk up and down the dike and its very upright walk revealed more identification features. The bird was the size of Mallards, which were in the same area both in the water and on shore, but the body seemed more elongated and upright than that of a Mallard. Its head and neck formed a long sweeping curve, more like that of a small goose than a Mallard.

The head, neck, and breast were a pale gray/brown with no visible markings. The eye appeared large and black, but at the distance seen no eye ring was noticed. The area around the eye was darker than the rest of the face, which added to the look of having a large eye. The head and neck were uniform gray/brown in color, except for the top of the head and back of the neck, which were a little darker gray or black. The bird's back was a mixture of black and pale brown, while its tail and folded wings were black. When seen from the side, the bird had a very large, white wing patch that stood out as another major identification feature. The underparts of this bird were uniform pale gray/brown, with one exception; in the center of the belly area, about halfway down from the breast, was a black round or oval spot of about 3 in. There was also a darker area of feathers, not as prominent as the belly spot, on the underside of the rump. I had a great look at the bird in flight at approximately 75 yds. The upper wing

pattern was a vivid, contrasting black and white. The trailing inch or so of the edge of the wings from the body to wing tip were black, and increased in width to the wing tip. This black pattern was followed by an almost identical white wing stripe. The underside of the wings was completely black with no other markings noted. The upper tail was completely black and there was a richer brown color to the upper back of the bird in flight. In flight this bird was streamlined and held its neck in a slightly lower position than that of the rest of its body.

No vocalizations were heard during my observations, but because of the above characteristics, I believe that this bird was a juvenile Black-bellied Whistling-Duck that was in the process of molting into adult plumage.—*Larry A. Michael, Horicon, Wisconsin.*

**10 May 1998, dike near DNR Field Station, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County**—Upon learning of a bird from Larry Michael for which he wanted verification, we initially resighted the bird from the observation deck and then drove to the service road leading to the dike. We then observed the bird at about 200 yds, with excellent lighting from behind us. We watched the bird standing on the dike and then walked to the north a few steps as we took turns watching through Larry's scope.

The bird showed a very erect posture, typical of the whistling-ducks. Its neck was quite long, with rather long legs. The head appeared to have a bit of a peak above the nape, but lacking a crest, somewhat similar to the Ring-necked Duck. The forehead was sloped to the bill, and the tail was rather short and not prominent beyond the folded wings. This bird lacked the full adult

plumage, but did show some characteristics of an adult bird, including the pink to reddish bill and pink legs and feet. It appeared to be a young bird in transition, just acquiring the adult markings. It looked like a juvenile in all respects except for the reddish legs and bill. The face, neck, and breast were a grayish with light brown color. The entire belly also was a light brown with only a bit of black in the abdomen. On the lower breast there was one dark area coming in which appeared to be developing a black belly. Otherwise it lacked any distinctive coloration of the body plumage which would readily identify it as an adult Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.

As the bird began to turn and walk, it showed a distinct white patch on the folded wing; otherwise, the wing coverts were much the same color as the body. I looked briefly at the legs of the bird, not only to see its color, but to see if it was wearing a leg band. None was spotted and therefore I would assume that it probably was not an escaped, captive-reared bird. However, the peculiar thing about its appearance in Wisconsin this spring was the fact that we had been experiencing a spring season with predominantly north and northeasterly winds, which held back the songbird migration. It seems strange that, during a year when we had experienced no real migration waves and few south winds throughout late April and early May, that this southern species would have come so far north out of its range.—*Bill Volkert, Horicon, Wisconsin.*

**17 May 1998, Mud Lake in Jefferson County**—I was birding this area for waterfowl, marsh, and warbler species during a Big Day attempt for Jefferson

County. As I was walking to the end of a narrow tree-lined dike, I saw three large, Mallard-sized ducks with long necks and legs standing at the end of the dike. Several Mallards were in the area for comparison. At first glance, from about 75 yds, I noted the vivid pink/red bill, the large, dark eye with pronounced eye ring, and the long pink legs. I noted the black lower breast and belly, and reddish brown coloration of the crown, chest, and back. As I approached, a fishing boat came near and the three ducks took flight, showing the bold white and black wing pattern. The white was on the upper wing, with black on the trailing edge. The pink feet extended beyond the tail. The birds circled directly above me, then circled the small pond, apparently looking for another place to land. The presence of several boats on the pond appeared to disturb the birds, so they took off, flying south. I stayed in the area for another hour and they did not return in that time.—*Kay Burcar, Cross Plains, Wisconsin.*

#### **Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)**

**3 April 1998, west end of Fish Creek Sloughs, Ashland County**—During one of my daily trips to the sloughs, I located a small white goose feeding among a flock of Tundra Swans. On 2 April, I was birding some fields just west of the sloughs when I saw five Tundra Swans and a small white goose with black wing tips fly overhead. At this point, the only thing significant I noted was a rather stubby bill to the goose when it flew over me only about 75 ft in the air. Going with probability, I assumed it most likely was "just a Snow Goose." On the evening of 3 April at about 5 P.M., I returned to the

sloughs to look for the goose, suspecting it might be with the flock of swans feeding there. While scanning the swan flock, I saw a small, energetic white goose with black wing tips feeding in the shallow wetland water. The first thing I noted was a very rounded head, like that of the upper half of a ball. Having Ross's Goose on my mind, I looked at the bill, which was perfectly lit when the bird turned properly, and saw a very short, triangular orangy bill with a bluish tint to its base and no grinning patch. Then the goose entered the water and swam side by side with a drake Mallard. The Ross's Goose was slightly larger in body size than the Mallard, but not by much. Eventually, the goose flew off with some Tundra Swans. A few of the black primary feathers were missing, but I noted the wingspread of the goose was no more than half that of the swans. I did not note the leg color.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, Wisconsin.*

#### **EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)**

**3 April 1998, flooded field east of Hayton, Calumet County**—While on a trip to Madison (birding along the way), a single male individual was found in a flooded field adjacent to the South Branch of the Manitowoc River just east of Hayton. The bird was easily found with 8×42 binoculars, swimming with several puddle and diving ducks. Easy comparison with American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal was possible. The light rusty and rounded head, with a cream-colored forehead, quickly attracted attention. The pink breast was contrasted with the gray sides and back, which terminated with white in the rump area and back in the area of the tail. The bird was about the

size of the American Wigeon, but it gave the appearance of a "pink" head and breast and mostly gray for the remainder of the bird. We observed the bird for about 20 min from about 200–250 ft and then continued on our way.—Charles Sontag, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

**25 April 1998, pond at intersection of Hwy. 151 and Cty. B, near Beaver Dam, Dodge County**—I was with the WSO field trip group that had been birding several areas all morning, including White River Marsh, Lake Maria, and several wet spots on our way to the A&W ponds. Upon arriving and initially finding very little, two members of our group, Jim and Doris Gorton, decided to depart to look for an unusual duck they had seen the evening before at a little flooded area northeast of Beaver Dam. Because of their vantage point and the setting sun, they were unable to get good details on the bird at that time, but they suspected it was possibly a Eurasian Wigeon. Not long after the Gortons had left, they returned with the great news that their original assumption as to the identity of their duck was correct. They relocated the Eurasian Wigeon at the same pond they saw the bird the day before. Our caravan then departed for the spot.

Besides the target bird, there were a few other ducks on the pond, such as Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Northern Shoveler. There were no other American Wigeons present for comparison, but that was not necessary for a male Eurasian Wigeon. The first obvious feature of the bird was its rich chestnut head color (lacking any eye patch) and the grayish flanks and back. (The flanks and back/head colors are

opposite in the two species: gray flanks and chestnut head on Eurasian, and grayish head and chestnut flanks on the American Wigeon.) Based on these observations, we were observing an adult male Eurasian Wigeon. The bird was probably a first-year male because the crown was not a cream color, as most field guides show, but rather a lighter chestnut color, indicating a non-mature adult. Other field marks noted (in common with American Wigeon): black undertail coverts were bordered posteriorly with a vertical white mark, bill color was blue-gray with a black tip/nail. The birds took flight and the Eurasian Wigeon's wing color and pattern was also like American Wigeon.—Jeff Baughman, Adell, Wisconsin.

**26 April 1998, pond at intersection of Hwy. 151 and Cty. B, north of Beaver Dam, Dodge County**—The WSO hotline report had indicated this bird had been seen on 25 April, so I arrived early (6:30 A.M.) so as not to miss this unusual species. I soon located the wigeon near some Green-winged Teal in the flooded area at the southeast corner of this intersection.

I estimated the wigeon to be approximately 20% larger than the teal. The bill was bluish, with a black tip, and the head was reddish with a dark eye. When the bird positioned itself with the forehead facing me, I noted the cream color above the bill extending up the forehead. It seemed somewhat muted in comparison to the cream color I remember seeing on the few other observations of this bird that I have made.

The breast had a pinkish tint and the visible portion of the belly was white. Back and flanks were gray with a white

horizontal line separating them. The "stern" of the wigeon was black, with some white forward, separating the black from the gray flank.

This observation was made from my vehicle using both 7×35 binoculars and a spotting scope. The bird was active and moved around the pond, but averaged about 50 yds from my position. I heard it call once, but other than noting it to be different from American Wigeon, I cannot recall what it sounded like.—Thomas C. Wood, Menominee Falls, Wisconsin.

#### MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

13 May 1998, from the bluff at the Concordia University campus, Ozaukee County—While observing birds moving north along the bluff at the Concordia University campus (few raptors, mostly passerines), I saw a raptor coming straight on from the south, just above tree line. Even at a distance of a few hundred yards and in direct head-on profile, the short outermost primary could be seen always curved up above the rest. Also, the head could be seen as being of a consistent, dark shade—no pattern. These features became much more obvious as the kite came to within a few hundred feet, still at about head height, and then banked lake-side, passing within 75 ft as it continued north. As it passed, the long, narrow wings beat a soft, rhythmic pattern, with the long tail flaring out toward the rear. The general uniform dark gray color of head, body, wings, and tail and the actual size of the bird were easily seen. A few wide, slightly brownish bars in the undertail indicated that this was probably an adult female. The bird

continued on its way until out of sight.—Bill Cowart, Glendale, Wisconsin.

#### PRAIRIE FALCON (*Falco mexicanus*)

22 April 1998, Wisconsin Point, Superior, Douglas County—Shaun Putz and I were looking for Elfin butterflies while birding in the sandy areas between stands of pine near the west end of Wisconsin Point, when we spotted a peregrine-sized falcon. The bird was soaring in circles over the pines at about twice the height of the trees, gaining altitude as it soared. As the bird circled over us perhaps five or six times with the sun high and to our left, we were able to get detailed looks at both its upper and lower sides. My first thought was Peregrine Falcon, as this bird had the distinctive shape of a large falcon, with proportionately long, pointed wings and broad-based tail. However, the color was wrong. The upper parts were uniformly pale tan. The underparts were paler. Flight feathers and tail were translucent tan, with fine barring on the tail. The subterminal tail band was slightly wider and darker than the others. The outermost primaries were heavily tipped in black. The breast had faint streaking. But the most striking feature was the dark color of the under-wing linings. They were not entirely black, but from the axillaries all the way to the outermost edges, they were dark overall and mottled with the darkest part of the axillaries. The bird had no facial "helmet," but a thick facial stripe was visible.

I have seen many Peregrine Falcons of various ages (often soaring over Hawk Ridge in Duluth), but have never seen one with this color pattern. I was a little bothered that the axillaries weren't entirely black. After returning

home, we found a good match, in Pete Dunne's *Hawks in Flight*, of a backlit immature Prairie Falcon, as this bird apparently was.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, Wisconsin.*

#### **PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melanotos*)**

**13 May 1998, Whittlesey Creek area, Bayfield County**—Since I knew from R. Brady that the birds were present in the morning, I worked my way to a spot where I could view the small sand islands at the mouth of the creek. Most were filled with gulls and terns, but on the nearest island to the shore were two Piping Plovers. Their color allowed them to be distinguished from similar-sized Semipalmated Plovers nearby. The Piping Plovers were a light brown color on dorsal portions and white underneath. The legs were orange-yellow, as was the bill (except for a black tip). Forehead was white and separated from the crown by a black stripe. Both birds had a complete dark breastband.

The birds moved about the sand area (5 ft wide by 12 ft long), occasionally pecking at something in the sand. At one point, they were startled when an eagle flew overhead, and got up and flew in a wide circle before coming back to the same area. Both gave a "peep"-type call as they flew. One bird was banded on the right leg, but I was unable to get band combinations though I was within 20 yds of the birds.—*Dick Verch, Ashland, Wisconsin.*

**20 May 1998, head of Chequamegon Bay near Whittlesey Creek area, Bayfield County**—I was at this favored area looking for shorebirds when I found a plover with a faint colored back, being gray/brown in color. The day was nearly completely clear, with scattered

cloud cover, providing excellent lighting in which to view the bird.

Undersides were completely clear, without streaking; white in color. Wings were light gray/brown in color also, with a narrow black wing band near the posterior margin of the wings. Wings were held partially above the tail, giving an unbalanced appearance. When feeding, it would tip its body, as if on a pivot. Legs and feet were yellow. The bill was short and was a yellowish black color, though yellowing wasn't very distinct. The dark band on the chest was singular, and very prominent to the white background of the undersides. Eyes were distinctly black. There was also a distinct black spot directly over the eyes, which helped to clinch this species identification. The head was rounded-looking, which is characteristic of most of the plovers. Majority of the head was white, except for the nape and forehead, which helped bring out the black directly above the eye. No eye lines were present. The Piping Plover was seen with other shorebirds, at a distance of about 120 ft, foraging among the semi-muddy banks of the bay. The presence of these other shorebirds helped aid in size comparison.—*Steve Dyhema, Northland College, Ashland/Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

**24 May 1998, first turnout area of Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—After having just watched two Parasitic Jaegers, I returned to where I had earlier discovered a Red Knot, but in its original place was a mixed flock of Dunlins and Sanderlings. While scoping them, I noticed a pale, small shorebird emerge from behind the gulls—a Piping Plover! The Plover remained in this area, even after the shorebirds had left,

occasionally feeding, oftentimes just standing. This was a small, pale plover, the color of the sand (at times it was hard to pick up), yellow legs, a single black breast band, with a yellow, black-tipped bill. After about a half hour, a family walked along this section of beach, flushing it. It could not be relocated.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin.*

#### PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

**24 May 1998, first turnout area of Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—After birding Stones' Bridge before and after dawn, I headed for Wisconsin Point. Arriving before 9:00 A.M., I stopped at the first turnout to scope the lake and the point to see what activity there might be.

On one of the scans, I picked up a ternlike, darkish bird coming my way. Its shape and action proclaimed it to be a jaeger, but what species? Suddenly, it veered and commenced harassing the Herring Gulls over the lake. Several times it came straight up from underneath them. Excellent views of the body, breast, primaries, and rectrices were had. Body color was a dark brown, breast was white, and the belly had a distinct breast band. The primaries had several distinct white "lines," with a white area on the under primaries. The tail feathers were of medium length and pointed. The cap was dark.

After a few minutes, the bird began harassing the gulls again and headed west. Suddenly, it banked and prepared to land on the lake. At that time, a bird resting on the water raised its wings—another jaeger! The two jaegers remained resting on the lake for

about 5–10 minutes, when both took flight. One headed west toward the harbor entrance and soon was lost from view. The other headed northwest and again harassed gulls before landing on the water. Both birds were similarly marked, being somewhat smaller than the Herring Gulls. They could not be relocated thereafter.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin.*

#### LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*)

**19 April 1998, County V ponds, east of Schumacher Road, Dane County**—On this afternoon we were watching a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at the ponds along County V in northern Dane County. Another small gull, with a black head, came flying toward this flock. A glimpse of a dark underwing suggested that this was not another Bonaparte's Gull and was perhaps a Little Gull. This bird landed among the Bonaparte's Gulls and was compared with them through a spotting scope.

The presumed Little Gull differed from the Bonaparte's in several features. The bird was about 20% smaller overall and had a shorter and finer, dark red beak. The black hood extended well down the back of the neck, unlike that of the Bonaparte's Gull, where the black ended just below the back of the head. The black hood of the Little Gull was only slightly higher at the back of the neck than it was at the throat. Otherwise, the Little Gull resembled the Bonaparte's Gull in having white underparts and tail, while the back and wings were gray.

After about 5 min, all the gulls took flight. The Bonaparte's Gulls flew off, with the white triangles on their wings showing prominently. The Little Gull

flew to an adjacent pond and circled over it for 20 min. At times, this bird flew within 50 m of us and offered good views of itself. Most striking was the dark, nearly black, color of the undersides of the wings. A white border ran along the trailing edge of each wing and included the tips of all the primaries and secondaries. The white borders were visible on both the top and bottom of the wings. Otherwise, the upper surface of the wings was gray. The only additional coloration we noted at close range was a few flecks of white on the top of the otherwise black head. The bird flew with ternlike grace and occasionally picked at the water surface without landing. Finally, this early record Little Gull flew off alone to the east, not to be seen again.—*Michael Putnam, Madison, Wisconsin.*

#### ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucopterus*)

**7 March 1998, on the rocks at North Point, Sheboygan County**—Brenda Bauer and I, while searching the lakefront for various gulls and ducks, found a first-year, whitish gull that was intermediate in size between a Herring and a Ring-billed Gull. The body of the gull was a monotone pale buff with mottling. The tail had the same even tone of pale mottling as the body, with no part of the tail being a darker shade than any other part of the tail. The forehead of the gull was extremely rounded, perhaps the most rounded head I've ever noticed on an Iceland Gull. This rounded head combined with the rather short, thin black bill, and gave the gull a mild appearance. The eye was dark and the legs flesh colored. The wings of the resting bird extended past the tail feathers. After 5 min of

observation we left, and the bird still remained.—*Bob Domagalski, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

**4 April 1998, North Point jetties, south of North Point, Sheboygan County**—After returning home from the Columbia County ponds field trip, we decided to take a quick drive past the lakefront to check for gulls, etc. We spotted a large, black-mantled gull on the jetty closest to North Point, so we stopped for a closer look. This bird was a Great Black-backed Gull. Then we noticed a mostly white gull close to shore on the jetty. We assumed it was a Glaucous Gull, because we often see them here. Then we noticed another mostly white gull on the same jetty, but further from shore. When we looked at the nearer gull more closely, we noticed that it was not as large as a Glaucous would be; it was the same size as the Herring Gull standing next to it and facing the same direction, which facilitated comparison. Looking at the more distant gull, we noted that it was the same size or slightly smaller than the dozen Herring Gulls near it, and much smaller than the Great Black-backed Gull that was standing with them. Looking at the bills of the two whitish gulls, we noted that the bills were all black and looked slimmer and slightly shorter than the bills of the Herring Gulls. Next, we looked at the wing extension; the wing tips extended 2–3 in beyond the tail, like the Herring Gulls and unlike what we would expect to see on a Glaucous Gull. The eyes of the two white gulls were dark. The body plumage of the two gulls was basically all white except for very light brown or gray speckles, which were mostly on the wings and tail. The legs were pink.

After 15 min, the closer gull flew to the end of the jetty and stood near the farther bird. The two Iceland Gulls occasionally walked a short distance on the jetty, but both of them stayed on the end of the jetty for the remainder of the time of our observation.—*David and Margaret Brasser, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.*

#### ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*)

**23 May 1998, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee County**—While birding in the Milwaukee Harbor and lamenting not being able to attend the WSO convention, I found among the few Common and Forster's Terns in the impoundment one bird that looked different. This bird appeared smaller due to its shorter legs and neck. I immediately checked the bill, which was dark red throughout the length, with no black tip. This bill was shorter and thicker through the base than the nearby Common Terns. The underparts were fairly dark gray, nearly as dark as the mantle. Between the gray neck and black cap was a contrasting white cheek patch. The tail did not extend beyond the wings as in Forster's Tern. After a few minutes, the bird took flight and flew directly overhead. I was able to view the pale gray upperwings, with translucent primaries and no black markings. Below, the trailing edges of the primaries were tipped with black. The all-red bill and short-necked appearance were very evident in flight. The bird circled overhead and then continued on to the north. It did not return and I could not relocate it.—*Mark Korducki, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

#### SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

**18 May 1998, open pasture on Clark Lake Road, Door County**—While walking our dog at about 6:30 A.M., I noted a flycatcher perched in our pasture with a long tail and determined it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The flycatcher was first observed from about 25 ft away. Most notable was the light gray coloration with the long, extended black tail at rest while perched. While watching it, the bird flew in typical flycatcher fashion, "hawking" insects. In flight, it showed a soft salmon color on its breast. The scissor tail was very evident in flight and would flair as the bird wheeled after a bug, revealing white outer tail feathers. The bird spent at least seven hours around the perimeter of a small two-acre pasture, perching on either fence lines or low exposed branches of perimeter trees. The bird remained in the area until 6:00 P.M. the next day and was not seen again.—*Richard Regnery, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.*

#### KIRTLAND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)

**30 May 1998, Vilas County**—Earlier in the week my brother Jim received a call that a Kirtland's Warbler had returned to the Jack Pine plantation where two birds were found last year during June and July.

While doing a May Day Count, we [Jeff, Jim, and Scott Baughman] arrived at this location at about 7:45 A.M. and found the bird singing its typical song. The song starts with two lower, introductory staccato notes, followed by a few higher-pitched "slurred whistled" notes, with the song ending quite

abruptly. We watched the bird sing for about 15 min, from between 50 yds to about 20 ft. The bird sang continuously the whole time.

From my vantage point I could clearly see the ventral surface and a little of the bird's left side. The following points were noted: 1) the throat, breast and belly were yellow, with white undertail coverts; 2) there was black streaking along the sides and faint black streaks across the upper breast, a feature often shown by first-year spring males (noted in the new Peterson Series warbler field guide); 3) the head was a dark blue-gray with narrow black lores (but not as wide and extensive as mature adult males), with white eye

crescents above and below the dark eye; and 4) the wing was fairly nondescript except for two faint white wing bars (again, not as noticeable as in a full adult).

I was unable to see the back of the bird, but Jim could from his position. The nape was again a dark blue-gray, with the upper back showing dark streaks. Also noted was that the bird seemed to hold its wing slightly drooped and would flick its tail occasionally, but not as persistently as birds I've seen in the past. Frequently, first-year spring males are often the ones found away from their normal haunts.—*Jeff Baughman, Adell, Wisconsin.*



Blue Jay *by Jack Bartholmai*

# Wisconsin Big Day Counts: 1998

by Jim Frank

The 16 Big Day Counts for 1998 dramatically dropped from 1996 and 1997 (31 counts each). Prior to this, 1995 had 14 counts, with 21–28 counts in the early 1990s. The reasons are unclear, but an inexplicably low number of spring migrants reported by numerous observers may have diminished the incentive to conduct the counts. This year 4 counts surpassed 170 species (as opposed to 7 counts in 1992, 3 counts in 1993, 1 count in 1994, 2 counts in 1995, 4 counts in 1996, and 2 counts in 1997). Among the excellent 1998 counts, the state's fifth 190+ list was received from Hoffman and Shea, who turned in a total of 193 species, including 29 warblers. The Baughman, Schultz, Baughman, Wood, and Tessen team turned in their usual fine Big Day of 182 species, which was boosted by 22 shorebirds and 4 grebes!

Though passerines were found in smaller numbers this year, the Big Days tallied shorebirds in record numbers. Four counts exceeded 20 species of shorebirds, and one count hit 23 species, which tied a record set in 1991.

The average date for 25 counts in 1992 was May 19; for 28 dates in 1993

it was May 14; for 21 dates in 1994 the average was May 18; in 1995, the 14 count average was May 20; in 1996 and 1997, 31 counts each averaged to May 18. This year, the average was again May 18.

Combining all of the Big Day Counts, a customary list of 259 species was recorded. In comparison, 1997 had 272 species, 1996 counts found 266 species, 1995 had only 239 species, 1994 counts had 252 species, 1993 had 256 species, and 1992 listed 262 species. The most noteworthy of numerous special sightings in 1998 included Red-throated Loon, Eared Grebe, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Surf Scoter, Rough-legged Hawk, Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Red Knot, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Great Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-

Table 1. Wisconsin Big Day Counts—1998

Species	Observers	Date	Area	Time	Temp	Wind	Sky	Miles Car	Miles Ft.
193	Hoffman, Shea	5/16/98	SC	0:00-20:30	64-78	NW 20	P.Cl.	373	1
182	Baughman, Wood, Baughman, Schultz, Tessen	5/17/98	SC	0:00-20:00	46-88	S 10	P.Cl.	483	2
172	Hoffman, Peterson	5/21/98	SW	0:30-21:00	52-72	NE 5	P.Cl.	400	1
171	Tessen	5/24/98	NW	3:30-21:30	33-66	NE 8	P.Cl.	190	2
165	Frank	5/20/98	SE	3:45-20:30	52-72	N 8	P.Cl.	342	2
156	Diehl, Frank	5/18/98	SE	4:05-20:55	70-91	SW15	P.Cl.	263	3
150	Tessen	5/27/98	SW	4:30-19:00	49-84	SW 8	P.Cl.	345	1
144	Frank	5/14/98	SE	3:40-18:20	54-78	W 10	Clear	290	2
142	Belter, Hall	5/19/98	NC	4:30-21:45	55-80	SW10	Clear	367	2
142	Diehl	5/24/98	SE	4:30-21:00	56-68	NE15	Rain	259	2
132	Frank	5/17/98	SE	5:30-14:30	55-82	S 8	Clear	170	2
127	Tessen	5/02/98	NE	6:30-20:00	51-61	NE10	Clo.	230	1
124	Korducki	5/16/98	SE	3:30-17:30	63-80	SW25	Clear	124	5
122	Brouchoud, Rudy	5/21/98	NE	3:30-21:00	42-65	E 10	P.Cl.	49	12
121	Woodcock, Erickson	5/20/98	NE	4:30-22:30	61-75	NW10	P.Cl.	205	3
119	Frank	5/09/98	SE	3:45-17:15	48-62	NE10	P.Cl.	185	3

breasted Chat, Lark Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird.

For those unfamiliar with the rules for WSO Big Day Counts:

- 1) Count must be taken between May 1-31.
- 2) Count must be taken within a 24 hour calendar day (midnight to midnight).
- 3) Count must be taken within the state boundaries, but it may cover as many parts of Wisconsin as birders can reach in the time limit.
- 4) All participants must be within direct conversational contact at all times during the birding and traveling periods. This excludes meal and rest stops if birding is not conducted during these times. This limits the number of parties involved to **ONE** and participants to that number safely and comfortably contained in one vehicle (1-6?).
- 5) Areas can be revisited during the day.
- 6) Counting individuals is **optional**.
- 7) The same areas may be covered on **different** Big Day Counts.

- 8) No fees are involved in conducting the counts.
- 9) An official Big Day Count Form (available from the associate editor, D. Tessen) should be filled out for each count. It is critical that all unusual species—whether they be late sightings or rare species—be completely documented. Capitalized species on the form may be documented on the back of the form. New additions to the form should be documented on the traditional WSO Exceptional Record Documentation Form with probable review by the Records Committee.
- 10) Having fun is mandatory. Keeping your sanity is optional.

Details of the 1998 Big Day Counts follow; italicized species were unique to the 1998 Big Day Counts; italicized groups were the largest number of that group seen on this year's counts. Sharpen your birding skills and try a Big Day Count next year. As is apparent from this year's accounts, some birders drive like crazy on their counts, others restrict themselves to a yard, a

nature center, or a county. They all are interesting.

### NORTHEASTERN REGION

**Tessen, 5/2/98, 127 species**—Starting at Collins Marsh, he continued on to Silver Lake Park, Cleveland, Fischer Creek Park, F Pond, Manitowoc, Two Rivers, Kewaunee, Lily Lake Park, Green Bay, Barkhausen Preserve, Sen-sila Wildlife Area, Shiocton, and Rat River. The best for the day included Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, American White Pelican, *Snowy Egret*, Cattle Egret, *White-fronted Goose*, Canvasback, *Surf Scoter*, Common Golden-eye, *Rough-legged Hawk*, Peregrine, King Rail, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Raven, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Lapland Longspur, *Rusty Blackbird*, Purple Finch, 2 loons, 2 grebes, 5 herons, 2 geese, 16 ducks, 8 hawks, 2 galliformes, 3 rails, 8 shorebirds, 5 gulls, 2 owls, 4 woodpeckers, 1 flycatcher, 4 thrushes, 0 vireos, 6 warblers, 9 sparrows, and 8 blackbirds.

**Brouchoud, Rudy, 5/21/98, 122 species**—On this Big Day restricted to the Woodland Dunes Nature Center, they found Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, 4 herons, 4 ducks, 6 hawks, 2 galliformes, 2 shorebirds, 4 woodpeckers, 9 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 4 thrushes, 5 vireos, 17 warblers, 10 sparrows, and 7 blackbirds.

**Woodcock, Erickson, 5/20/98, 121 species**—During their trip through Manitowoc Harbor, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Manitowoc Lincoln Park, Two Rivers Picnic Hills Park, Collins Marsh, Ken Euers Trail, Barkhausen

Refuge, Cathedral Pines, and Jones Springs, they saw American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Common Raven, Orchard Oriole, 4 herons, 6 ducks, 5 hawks, 12 shorebirds, 3 woodpeckers, 2 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 6 thrushes, 2 vireos, 12 warblers, 6 sparrows, and 9 blackbirds.

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION

**Belter, Hall, 5/19/98, 124 species**—This Big Day started at Mead Wildlife Area, and proceeded to Big Eau Pleine County Park, Nine-Mile County Forest, Lake Wausau, Stevens Point, Buena Vista Marsh, and Dewey Marsh Wildlife Area. Along the way, they saw Trumpeter Swan, Red-shouldered Hawk, Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Marbled Godwit*, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Le Conte's Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, 3 herons, 7 ducks, 9 hawks, 2 galliformes, 16 shorebirds, 1 gull, 2 owls, 7 woodpeckers, 5 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 5 thrushes, 3 vireos, 15 warblers, 10 sparrows, and 9 blackbirds.

### NORTHWESTERN REGION

**Tessen, 5/24/98, 171 species**—This Big Day included stops at Stone's Bridge, Brule River, Wisconsin Point, Gordon Wildlife Area, Solon Springs, Fish Lake Wildlife Area, and Crex Meadows. On his list were Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Trumpeter Swan, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, *Common Merganser*, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, *Red Knot*, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Common Snipe, *Parasitic Jaeger*, Great Black-backed Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied

Flycatcher, *Gray Jay*, Common Raven, *Northern Mockingbird*, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, *Dark-eyed Junco*, Purple Finch, and *Evening Grosbeak*, 2 loons, 2 grebes, 2 herons, 14 ducks, 6 hawks, 3 rails, 15 shorebirds, 4 gulls, 2 *cuckoos*, 3 owls, 6 woodpeckers, 9 *flycatchers*, 4 wrens, 6 thrushes, 4 vireos, 18 warblers, 13 *sparrows*, 8 blackbirds, and 4 *finches*.

#### SOUTHWESTERN REGION

*Hoffman, Peterson, 5/21/98, 172 species*—Birding Wyalusing State Park, Governor Dodge State Park, Lower Wisconsin River, Spring Green Preserve, County Road PF, Baxter's Hollow, Arlington Ponds, Lake Maria, AW Ponds, and Horicon NWR, they turned up numerous interesting birds. These included Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Common Goldeneye, King Rail, American Golden-Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, *Carolina Wren*, *White-eyed Vireo*, Bell's Vireo, *Yellow-throated Warbler*, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, 3 grebes, 5 herons, 2 swans, 2 *geese*, 13 ducks, 4 hawks, 2 galliformes, 3 rails, 21 shorebirds, 2 gulls, 2 *cuckoos*, 2 owls, 7 *woodpeckers*, 7 *flycatchers*, 4 wrens, 6 thrushes, 5 *vireos*, 21 warblers, 10 *sparrows*, and 10 *blackbirds*.

*Tessen, 5/27/98, 150 species*—This late Big Day covered Brooklyn Wildlife

Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Wyalusing State Park, AW Ponds, Horicon NWR, Lake Maria, and Rat River. The list of interesting sightings included Eared Grebe, Canvasback, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, 3 grebes, 5 herons, 9 ducks, 5 hawks, 3 galliformes, 3 rails, 16 shorebirds, 2 gulls, 2 *cuckoos*, 7 *woodpeckers*, 8 *flycatchers*, 4 wrens, 3 thrushes, 5 *vireos*, 15 warblers, 7 *sparrows*, and 10 *blackbirds*.

#### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

*Hoffman, Shea, 5/16/98, 193 species*—This excellent Big Day started at Mud Lake, with stops at Comstock Bog, Buena Vista Marsh, Cranmoor, Wood County Wildlife Area, Bear Bluff, Necedah NWR, Devil's Lake, County Road PF, Mazomanie Bottoms, Arlington Ponds, AW Ponds, and Horicon NWR. The long list of good birds included Red-necked Grebe, Tundra Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Snow Goose, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gray Partridge, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Piping Plover, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Eastern Screech-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, *Worm-eating Warbler*, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Pur-

ple Finch, 2 grebes, 5 herons, 3 swans, 2 geese, 10 ducks, 7 hawks, 6 *galliformes*, 4 rails, 20 shorebirds, 2 gulls, 2 terns, 2 cuckoos, 4 owls, 7 woodpeckers, 8 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 7 thrushes, 5 vireos, 29 warblers, 13 sparrows, and 10 blackbirds.

**Baughman, Baughman, Schultz, Tes-sen, and Wood, 5/19/98, 182 species**—On this impressive Big Day, they visited Rat River Marsh, White River Marsh, Snake Creek, Comstock Bog, Lake Maria, Horicon NWR, Kettle Moraine State Forest, Fond du Lac, Lake Puckaway, Grand River Marsh, AW Ponds, Horicon NWR, Sheboygan, Cleveland, Manitowoc Harbor, Two Rivers, and Atkinson Marsh. Their unusual sightings were Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Red-shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Gray Partridge, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Great Black-backed Gull, Olive-sided Flycatcher, American Pipit, Cerulean Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Purple Finch, 4 grebes, 5 herons, 2 swans, 12 ducks, 7 hawks, 4 galliformes, 4 rails, 22 shorebirds, 4 gulls, 2 cuckoos, 2 owls, 5 woodpeckers, 8 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 6 thrushes, 3 vireos, 23 warblers, 12 sparrows, and 8 blackbirds.

#### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

**Frank, 5/20/98, 165 species**—His day began at Cedarburg Bog, with subsequent stops at Blue Goose Road, Hawthorne Hills County Park, Waubedonia Park, Six-Mile Road, Jay Road, Harrington Beach State Park, Kletzsch Park, Milwaukee Coast Guard Im-

poundment, Ulao Parkway, Port Washington, Horicon NWR, AW Ponds, and Manitowoc Impoundment. Of interest were American White Pelican, Canvasback, American Golden-Plover, *American Avocet*, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Glaucous Gull, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Orchard Oriole, 4 herons, 15 ducks, 4 hawks, 2 galliformes, 1 rail, 23 shorebirds, 4 gulls, 2 owls, 4 woodpeckers, 8 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 6 thrushes, 4 vireos, 23 warblers, 9 sparrows, and 10 blackbirds.

**Diehl, Frank, 5/18/98, 156 species**—Starting at Cedarburg Bog, they moved on to Blue Goose Road, Hawthorne Hills Park, Waubedonia Park, Six-Mile Road, Jay Road, Belgium Pond, LL Pond, Harrington Beach State Park, Port Washington Harbor, Riveredge Nature Center, Ledge Park, Horicon NWR, AW Ponds, and the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment. Unusual birds included Peregrine Falcon, American Golden-Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Connecticut Warbler, Orchard Oriole, 6 herons, 14 ducks, 6 hawks, 2 galliformes, 16 shorebirds, 4 gulls, 2 cuckoos, 1 owl, 4 woodpeckers, 6 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 6 thrushes, 3 vireos, 21 warblers, 9 sparrows, and 10 blackbirds.

**Frank, 5/14/98, 144 species**—He began his Big Day at Cedarburg Bog and made stops at Blue Goose Road, Hawthorne Hills Park, Waubedonia Park, Six-Mile Road, Jay Road, Harrington Beach State Park, Kletzsch Park, Estabrook Park, Shorewood Nature Preserve, the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Port Washington, Ulao

Parkway, and Horicon NWR. Of note were American White Pelican, Canvas-back, Hudsonian Godwit, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Lapland Long-spur, Orchard Oriole, 4 herons, 14 ducks, 5 hawks, 2 galliformes, 14 shorebirds, 5 gulls, 2 owls, 3 woodpeckers, 5 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 3 thrushes, 2 vireos, 17 warblers, 9 sparrows, and 10 blackbirds.

**Diehl, 5/24/98, 142 species**—Starting at Cedarburg Bog, he proceeded to Blue Goose Road, Hawthorne Hills Park, Waubedonia Park, Belgium Pond, Harrington Beach State Park, Port Washington, Ulaø Parkway, Stonecroft Pond, Lincoln Park, Estabrook Park, Lake Park, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Holy Hill area, Horicon NWR, and AW Ponds. Birds worth mentioning were Horned Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, American Golden-Plover, *Willet*, Glaucous Gull, Orchard Oriole, 3 herons, 15 ducks, 3 hawks, 3 galliformes, 14 shorebirds, 3 gulls, 1 owl, 4 woodpeckers, 6 flycatchers, 5 thrushes, 3 vireos, 16 warblers, 9 sparrows, and 10 blackbirds.

**Frank, 5/17/98, 132 species**—As before, he made stops at Cedarburg Bog, Blue Goose Road, Hawthorne Hills Park, Waubedonia Park, Six-Mile Road, Jay Road, Harrington Beach State Park, Kletzsch Park, Estabrook Park, Shorewood Nature Preserve, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Ulaø Parkway, and Port Washington. Of note were Gray Partridge, American Golden-Plover, Yellow-bellied Fly-

catcher, Hooded Warbler, Orchard Oriole, 0 herons, 12 ducks, 2 hawks, 3 galliformes, 2 rails, 14 shorebirds, 5 woodpeckers, 7 flycatchers, 4 wrens, 4 thrushes, 3 vireos, 16 warblers, 8 sparrows, and 9 blackbirds.

**Korducki, 5/16/98, 124 species**—This Big Day restricted to Milwaukee County turned up Horned Grebe, *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*, Peregrine Falcon, Common Snipe, Eastern Screech-Owl, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, 5 herons, 10 ducks, 3 hawks, 2 rails, 11 shorebirds, 2 gulls, 1 owl, 5 woodpeckers, 4 flycatchers, 1 wren, 3 thrushes, 3 vireos, 22 warblers, 9 sparrows, and 6 blackbirds.

**Frank, 5/9/98, 119 species**—This Big Day restricted to Ozaukee County was held in conjunction with the North American Migration Count. It involved birding at Cedarburg Bog, Hawthorne Hills County Park, Waubedonia Park, Six-Mile Road, Belgium Pond, LL Pond, Harrington Beach State Park, Riveredge Nature Center, Port Washington, Ulaø Parkway, and Virmond Park. Of interest were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Henslow's Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, 2 herons, 11 ducks, 6 hawks, 2 galliformes, 2 rails, 7 shorebirds, 4 gulls, 1 owl, 6 woodpeckers, 4 flycatchers, 3 wrens, 3 thrushes, 2 vireos, 11 warblers, 11 sparrows, and 8 blackbirds.

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# Wisconsin May Day Counts: 1998

by *Jim Frank*

The 15 May Counts in 1998 is the lowest number of counts during the past 10 years. Leading the way in participation were Winnebago County (30), Marathon County (23), and Ashland/Bayfield Counties (21). Only two counts exceeded 160 species with Ozaukee/Milwaukee Counties leading the way at 177 species, followed by Winnebago County at 163 species.

The 239 species this year is the lowest total of the past 10 years, as might be anticipated from the low participation. Previous totals ranged from 240 to 253 species. Of note was the addition of 9 species to the list of 277 now accumulated on May Counts over the past 10 years. These included a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Long-billed Dowitcher on the Ozaukee/Milwaukee count, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck on the Jefferson count, a Greater White-fronted Goose on the Marathon count, a Franklin's Gull on the Oconto count, a Western Kingbird on the Ashland/Bayfield count, a Whimbrel and Iceland Gull on the Manitowoc count, and a Kirtland's Warbler on the Vilas count. Other unexpected species (with the number of counts on which they

were found) included Boreal Chickadee (1), Hooded Warbler (2), Northern Mockingbird (3), Yellow-breasted Chat (1), Hudsonian Godwit (2), Marbled Godwit (2), Glaucous Gull (1), American Pipit (1), Dickcissel (1), and American White Pelicans (3).

To refresh everyone's memory, the WSO May Day Count Rules are as follows:

- 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 circle consisting of a predetermined diameter (10, 15, 20 miles??) **or a county**.
- 4) The number of parties and observers involved may vary.
- 5) Count areas may be revisited as often as desired during the count day, unless individuals are being tallied.
- 6) The counting of individuals is **optional**.
- 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.
- 8) There are no count fees.

9) Be sure to fill out an official May Count form. Completely document unusual species, whether they be late or rare. Send the completed form with documentation to the associate editor by June 10.

Please note the North American Migration Count is similar to the May Count but differs in that:

- 1) The Count is restricted to **the second Saturday in May**.
- 2) Individual **numbers** of each species are counted.

- 3) Party hours are counted.
- 4) The boundaries for the count are a county.
- 5) A separate form is filled out from the state North American Migration Count coordinator.

One count can qualify for both a May Count and a North American Migration Count if conducted within these added rules.

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Table 1. 1998 Wisconsin May Counts.

Count	Date	Time	Sky	Wind	Temp	Observ.	Party	Species
Ashland/Bayfield	5/21	04:00-16:00	Clear	NE20	48-70	21	6	159
Burnett	5/14	04:12-21:00	P.Cl.	S 25	60-94	6	4	131
Vilas	5/30	01:30-14:30	P.Cl.	NW 6	37-50	3	1	107
Marathon	5/09	04:00-18:00	P.Cl.	E 5	50-70	23	16	145
Portage	5/09	02:00-17:00	Clear	NE 5	52-69	17	7	116
Oconto	5/30	04:30-22:30	P.Cl.	SW10	40-67	5	3	158
Spring Valley	5/16	06:30-18:00	Clear	SW20	55-65	3	1	71
Winnebago	5/09	04:00-20:30	P.Cl.	NE15	48-66	30	16	163
Fond du Lac	?	03:00-15:30	Clear	W 25	60-82	11	5	154
Sheboygan	5/16	05:00-16:30	Clear	SW15	60-80	14	6	117
Oconomowoc	5/10	05:00-19:00	Clear	SW 5	59-70	9	4	111
Jefferson	5/17	05:30-19:30	Clear	?	?	3	1	107
Ozaukee/Milw.	5/16	03:00-18:00	Clear	SW25	63-80	13	11	177
Kenosha	5/09	05:00-20:00	Clear	NE15	48-68	1	1	124
Manitowoc	5/17	07:30-17:30	Clear	SW 8	57-61	7	?	141

Table 2. Species seen on 1998 Wisconsin May Counts.

Species	Ashland	Burnett	Vilas	Marathon	Portage	Oconto	Spring Valley	Winnebago	Fond du Lac	Sheboygan	Oconomowoc	Jefferson	Ozaukee/ Milwaukee	Kenosha	Manitowoc
Common Loon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pied-billed Grebe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Horned Grebe															
Red-necked Grebe															
American White Pelican	x				x										
Double-crested Cormorant	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
American Bittern	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Least Bittern															
Great Blue Heron	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Great Egret	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Snowy Egret															
Cattle Egret															
Green Heron	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-crowned Night-Heron															
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron															
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck												x			
Tundra Swan	x	x	x												
Trumpeter Swan	x														
Mute Swan	x														
Greater White-fronted Goose	x														
Snow Goose															
Canada Goose	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wood Duck	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Green-winged Teal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Table 2. *Continued*

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Table 2. *Continued*

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Table 3. Wisconsin May Count species totals by year.

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Common Loon	10	9	11	8	7	9	9	5	8	11
Pied-billed Grebe	12	13	19	14	17	17	20	13	16	15
Horned Grebe	1	5	6							
Red-necked Grebe	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	1
American White Pelican	3	3	3	1			1			
Double-crested Cormorant	10	11	17	14	14	14	12	12	8	11
American Bittern	8	10	13	11	10	16	17	13	15	16
Least Bittern	2	3	5	2	4	5	5	4	4	3
Great Blue Heron	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	21	22	22
Great Egret	4	5	9	5	7	11	10	7	10	11
Snowy Egret			1	1	1			1		
Cattle Egret	1	1	2	2	1	4	1		2	1
Green Heron	11	8	19	13	16	20	20	21	19	21
Black-crowned Night-Heron	6	2	5	6	7	7	6	7	8	8
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1									
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	1									
Tundra Swan		1	5	2	1		3		2	4
Trumpeter Swan	3	5	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	
Mute Swan	4	6	7	3	7	5	5	3	4	7
Greater White-fronted Goose	1									
Snow Goose		2	1	1	3				2	1
Canada Goose	14	17	23	19	20	23	22	20	21	19
Wood Duck	13	15	21	18	21	22	24	20	22	21
Green-winged Teal	8	10	12	9	10	13	13	10	11	10
American Black Duck	7	4	7	5	8	7	9	7	6	5
Mallard	14	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	21	22
Northern Pintail	3	3	7	3	4	7	7	6	5	
Blue-winged Teal	12	15	22	18	20	22	23	21	22	20
Northern Shoveler	8	10	15	10	11	14	14	14	14	10
Gadwall	6	5	10	7	6	8	8	4	7	9
American Wigeon	4	7	11	7	8	8	6	8	8	11
Canvasback	2	5	6	3	2	2	5	1	4	3
Redhead	6	7	10	6	4	6	7	5	5	9
Ring-necked Duck	4	11	17	8	11	10	10	7	8	9
Greater Scaup	3	6	8	2		6	6	1	2	1
Lesser Scaup	4	8	13	10	6	9	9	9	12	8
Oldsquaw	1	1	1			1				
Black Scoter		1								
Surf Scoter		1								
White-winged Scoter		1								
Common Goldeneye		5	6	3	2	3	5	1	3	5
Bufflehead	5	12	13	2	6	7	5	3	7	6
Hooded Merganser	9	12	12	9	9	9	9	7	7	8
Common Merganser	3	6	9	7	6	6	5	4	3	4
Red-breasted Merganser	6	7	10	5	7	7	4	2	5	5
Ruddy Duck	6	6	6	6	8	7	9	7	10	10
Turkey Vulture	14	14	17	14	14	16	19	15	11	16
Osprey	9	11	16	10	6	15	13	8	7	11
Bald Eagle	8	10	10	11	9	11	10	8	7	5
Northern Harrier	12	13	20	18	19	21	18	12	15	14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	10	16	8	10	14	17	7	9	10
Cooper's Hawk	9	7	16	8	12	11	9	7	9	12
Northern Goshawk	1	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	8	4	6	2	5	5	5	5

continued

Table 3. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Broad-winged Hawk	10	11	15	11	14	17	18	11	11	13
Red-tailed Hawk	14	16	21	17	22	22	24	21	20	21
Rough-legged Hawk	2	3	7	4	2	1	3	3	6	1
American Kestrel	14	13	19	19	18	24	24	22	21	21
Merlin	2	7	6	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	4	4	1	3	3		2	1	
Gray Partridge	1		1							
Ring-necked Pheasant	9	14	15	13	15	17	13	13	15	13
Spruce Grouse		1								
Ruffed Grouse	9	10	14	13	14	14	14	14	14	16
Greater Prairie-Chicken	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	4
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2
Wild Turkey	12	10	14	9	9	9	7	5	4	3
Northern Bobwhite	2	3	2	1	4	2	2	2	2	
Yellow Rail			2							
King Rail	2	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	2	2
Virginia Rail	10	8	12	8	12	10	8	5	7	8
Sora	12	13	18	14	17	18	23	15	20	15
Common Moorhen	2	3	6	3	5	6	4	4	4	4
American Coot	14	11	18	9	12	15	16	13	17	15
Sandhill Crane	11	14	21	14	19	22	23	18	18	18
Black-bellied Plover	5	2	4	3	5	3	4	1	4	5
American Golden-Plover	1	2	1	1	2		1			1
Semipalmated Plover	6	4	2	5	12	8	13	7	6	11
Killdeer	15	17	22	19	22	24	24	21	21	21
American Avocet			1							
Greater Yellowlegs	8	9	14	12	10	9	13	8	13	10
Lesser Yellowlegs	10	9	13	12	9	14	12	7	14	13
Solitary Sandpiper	9	10	12	6	12	13	10	10	13	9
Willet		2								
Spotted Sandpiper	12	12	19	18	19	21	21	18	18	19
Upland Sandpiper	7	7	6	3	5	6	6	6	6	8
Whimbrel	1									
Hudsonian Godwit	2	1								
Marbled Godwit	2	1								
Ruddy Turnstone	3	5	7	4	6	4	3	3	2	6
Red Knot		1								
Sanderling	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	3	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9	4	5	6	12	2	9	6	6	8
Least Sandpiper	9	8	8	11	14	14	16	9	12	13
White-rumped Sandpiper	3		3	4	3	1	2	3	2	
Baird's Sandpiper			1	2	4	2	2	1	1	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	4	4	5	2	7	3	6	4	9	7
Dunlin	7	6	7	11	11	7	9	9	4	8
Short-billed Dowitcher	4	4	6	6	6	5	8	6	5	6
Long-billed Dowitcher	1									
Common Snipe	12	12	16	15	17	19	18	15	19	17
American Woodcock	12	12	18	14	15	21	17	10	18	11
Wilson's Phalarope	1	2	2	3	6	5	4	6	10	4
Red-necked Phalarope			1							
Franklin's Gull	1								1	2
Little Gull		1	1	2					7	7
Bonaparte's Gull	7	6	11	8	10	10	8	7	7	7
Ring-billed Gull	14	9	16	14	16	19	17	19	14	14

continued

Table 3. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Herring Gull	11	10	12	13	15	16	9	7	9	10
Iceland Gull	1									
Glaucous Gull	1	2	1	1		1	1		1	
Great Black-backed Gull	2									
Caspian Tern	7	6	10	5	9	9	6	5	7	7
Common Tern	9	8	12	8	11	12	9	7	10	10
Forster's Tern	7	6	10	7	12	9	9	10	14	7
Black Tern	8	10	13	13	15	17	19	16	16	17
Rock Dove	15	16	23	19	21	24	23	22	21	22
Mourning Dove	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23
Black-billed Cuckoo	8		3	2	7	10	11	10	8	14
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2		2	1	2			3	3	6
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	3	6	3	8	6	3	3	5	5
Great Horned Owl	12	12	17	14	14	17	19	11	16	15
Snowy Owl	1									
Barred Owl	8	8	12	12	10	12	14	6	12	10
Great Gray Owl			1							
Long-eared Owl			1							
Short-eared Owl					1	1	1	2		
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1			1	1	2	1		1
Common Nighthawk	10	7	12	8	11	14	9	13	9	16
Whip-poor-will	10	7	12	9	8	13	7	8	8	12
Chimney Swift	15	14	19	19	21	22	22	20	20	22
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	14	14	14	16	18	16	15	13	14
Belted Kingfisher	14	14	20	16	17	21	23	17	18	21
Red-headed Woodpecker	8	11	13	12	16	21	20	17	19	21
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	13	20	15	16	18	19	16	17	20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	11	11	12	12	12	11	8	10	10
Downy Woodpecker	15	17	23	18	19	23	23	22	21	23
Hairy Woodpecker	14	15	20	17	22	23	22	19	21	21
Black-backed Woodpecker			1	2	1	1	1		1	
Northern Flicker	14	16	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	22
Pileated Woodpecker	7	6	12	10	10	9	11	9	10	9
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	3	3	3	5	5	4	4	9	3
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11	9	15	8	14	19	10	13	13	16
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4	1	7	3	5	3	3	1	1	3
Acadian Flycatcher	3	1	2							
Alder Flycatcher	2	1	2	6	6	5	2	2	1	8
Willow Flycatcher	6	1	3	7	5	2	2	5	5	9
Least Flycatcher	14	14	17	14	20	19	21	18	20	19
Eastern Phoebe	15	16	23	17	21	21	23	19	20	19
Great Crested Flycatcher	12	11	14	18	20	22	24	20	21	21
Western Kingbird	1									
Eastern Kingbird	15	14	23	18	20	23	23	22	21	21
Horned Lark	11	12	15	16	19	21	21	17	18	19
Purple Martin	14	13	16	14	19	20	23	19	19	21
Tree Swallow	15	16	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	21
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	14	12	19	18	17	21	24	17	20	21
Bank Swallow	10	9	16	16	17	19	20	16	14	16
Cliff Swallow	15	15	19	17	20	21	16	13	16	16
Barn Swallow	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	21	22
Gray Jay	2	2	2	2	1	2	1		1	1
Blue Jay	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23
American Crow	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23

continued

Table 3. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Northern Raven	4	7	9	10	9	8	8	8	5	8
Black-capped Chickadee	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23
Boreal Chickadee	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	2
Tufted Titmouse			1	1	1	2	2	2		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	10	21	9	17	14	12	7	15	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	16	22	18	21	24	24	22	21	23
Brown Creeper	7	10	13	9	6	10	8	6		13
House Wren	15	16	22	18	22	24	24	22	21	23
Winter Wren	9	6	13	10	11	12	10	7	5	9
Sedge Wren	11	8	14	11	14	16	17	13	16	10
Marsh Wren	8	7	11	12	17	15	16	11	14	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	4	10	6	5	10	3	4	6	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	14	20	10	14	16	15	7	14	15
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	12	11	13	12	15	14	15	14	14	15
Eastern Bluebird	14	17	22	18	22	23	24	21	22	21
Veery	12	13	19	17	19	18	18	15	20	17
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	8	12	8	5	9	8	7	10	4
Swainson's Thrush	7	14	18	12	14	17	14	13	14	11
Hermit Thrush	7	15	14	11	15	14	14	10	12	13
Wood Thrush	13	15	19	17	18	21	21	19	19	19
American Robin	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23
Gray Catbird	15	17	22	18	22	24	23	22	21	23
Northern Mockingbird	3		1							
Brown Thrasher	15	15	21	19	21	24	23	21	20	21
American Pipit	1	2	4							
Cedar Waxwing	14	10	12	14	15	15	16	14	13	15
Northern Shrike			1							
European Starling	14	17	23	18	22	24	23	22	22	23
White-eyed Vireo			1							
Blue-headed Vireo	8	10	12	10	15	13	9	6	9	9
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	5	9	14	15	18	13	14	12	16
Warbling Vireo	14	10	11	16	18	21	22	20	19	16
Philadelphia Vireo	3	2	4	5	7	7	4	8	6	7
Red-eyed Vireo	12	6	10	14	19	22	19	21	17	19
Blue-winged Warbler	9	5	9	8	15	11	11	12	13	10
Golden-winged Warbler	7	6	10	13	18	14	14	9	13	16
Tennessee Warbler	8	10	8	14	18	18	18	16	15	17
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	3	8	2	6	8	3	4	7	9
Nashville Warbler	11	16	15	15	18	19	20	16	18	18
Northern Parula	4	9	13	9	10	10	12	4	9	10
Yellow Warbler	15	17	20	19	22	24	24	20	21	22
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10	11	16	17	21	24	20	18	17	18
Magnolia Warbler	7	15	13	16	17	19	17	16	19	16
Cape May Warbler	4	8	15	11	16	16	14	12	10	13
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4	7	10	8	9	6	7	4	2	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	13	17	23	18	22	23	22	18	22	20
Black-throated Green Warbler	10	14	19	15	19	19	19	16	17	18
Blackburnian Warbler	8	11	14	15	20	19	19	14	16	13
Yellow-throated Warbler		1	1							
Pine Warbler	7	6	13	12	12	9	6	8	6	9
Kirtland's Warbler	1									
Palm Warbler	11	14	21	13	15	21	22	12	19	17
Bay-breasted Warbler	5	7	10	11	14	15	13	12	13	14
Blackpoll Warbler	7	7	10	10	13	11	9	14	10	11

continued

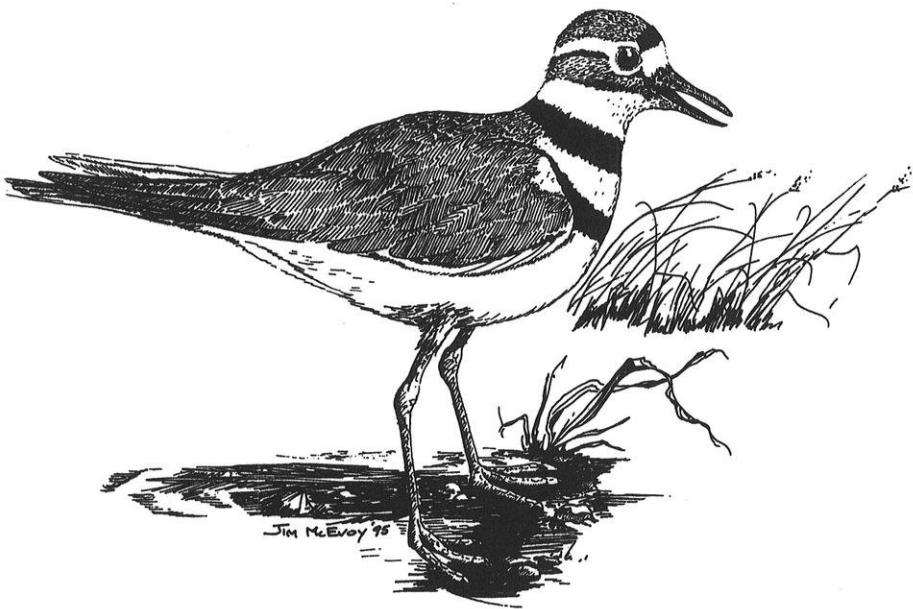
Table 3. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Cerulean Warbler	2	4	7	3	3	6	7	7	3	8
Black-and-white Warbler	13	17	21	18	21	19	19	16	20	21
American Redstart	13	15	18	18	20	22	21	18	19	20
Prothonotary Warbler	1		4	3	2	6	1		3	7
Worm-eating Warbler		1		1	1				1	
Ovenbird	15	17	21	18	21	23	22	19	20	21
Northern Waterthrush	11	13	18	13	18	20	19	11	16	12
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	1	4	3	3	1	2	3	4	5
Kentucky Warbler			3	1		1	3	1		
Connecticut Warbler	2	5	7	4	5	5	6	5	3	2
Mourning Warbler	6	6	9	8	11	14	8	11	8	11
Common Yellowthroat	15	16	17	17	21	22	24	20	21	22
Hooded Warbler	2	2	1							
Wilson's Warbler	4	12	12	10	14	12	14	10	15	12
Canada Warbler	5	10	10	11	13	15	14	13	7	9
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	2								
Summer Tanager			1							
Scarlet Tanager	12	4	12	14	19	23	17	17	16	17
Western Tanager		1								
Northern Cardinal	14	15	22	16	17	22	23	20	20	22
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	15	17	22	19	21	23	24	22	22	23
Indigo Bunting	14	10	19	17	19	19	20	20	18	19
Dickcissel	1		3							
Eastern Towhee	15	15	21	12	18	20	19	18	18	17
American Tree Sparrow	2	3	6	4	3	1	1	1	1	2
Chipping Sparrow	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	21
Clay-colored Sparrow	10	10	12	12	14	15	12	11	10	12
Field Sparrow	14	13	17	15	18	17	18	17	18	19
Vesper Sparrow	12	11	17	14	14	17	17	15	16	15
Savannah Sparrow	14	14	21	16	19	22	21	19	21	19
Grasshopper Sparrow	8	5	8	7	10	10	9	8	6	7
Henslow's Sparrow	3	4	5	2	3	1		1	3	4
Le Conte's Sparrow	3	6	3	3	3	4		4	4	2
Fox Sparrow		5	8	1	2	4	3	4	7	7
Song Sparrow	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	20	23
Lincoln's Sparrow	6	9	8	8	8	10	12	5	5	12
Swamp Sparrow	15	13	19	18	20	21	21	19	20	23
White-throated Sparrow	13	17	23	16	21	22	23	15	21	18
White-crowned Sparrow	10	13	20	14	14	16	21	13	19	15
Harris's Sparrow		3	3	3			2	2	5	
Dark-eyed Junco	6	4	12	4	6	9	5	3	6	7
Lapland Longspur			2	1	2	1	3	2	2	
Bobolink	15	14	21	18	19	21	22	20	19	19
Red-winged Blackbird	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23
Eastern Meadowlark	15	13	20	18	21	22	22	22	19	18
Western Meadowlark	6	3	9	8	10	11	15	11	16	12
Yellow-headed Blackbird	11	9	12	13	14	15	19	15	16	17
Rusty Blackbird		1	2	1	1			1		
Brewer's Blackbird	9	9	14	13	13	13	14	12	14	16
Common Grackle	15	16	23	19	22	24	24	22	21	23
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	21	23
Orchard Oriole	2	2	3	1	3	7	3	4	4	3
Baltimore Oriole	15	15	21	17	22	23	24	22	21	22
Purple Finch	8	10	17	12	17	17	17	13	13	9

continued

Table 3. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
House Finch	15	14	23	18	22	22	19	16	12	11
Red Crossbill		3	2	2	1	1		1	2	1
White-winged Crossbill		2	1							
Pine Siskin	5	6	17	5	11	11	10	6	18	4
American Goldfinch	8	17	23	19	22	24	24	22	22	23
Evening Grosbeak	3	5	9	5	7	6	7	3	4	4
House Sparrow	8	16	21	19	21	24	24	21	22	23
<b>Number of Counts</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>245</b>



Killdeer by Jim McEvoy  
(Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

# North American Migration Count 1998: Wisconsin

by *Jim Frank*

The sixth North American Migration Count took place on 9 May 1998 in numerous states and counties across the country. This count differs from Wisconsin's traditional May Counts in that it attempts to count the individual numbers of each species (as on Christmas Counts) and the number of party hours is reported (again as on Christmas Counts). It differs from Christmas Counts in that the count area is an entire county, not a 15-mile diameter circle. In addition, this count is taken on the same day across the country (the second Saturday in May) in order to, in essence, take a "snapshot" of the spring migration in North America. The premise is that numbers of birds will create useful comparative data for the future, something the mere "ticking" off species does not generate.

The count is held on the second Saturday of May, a time when some of the northern states have not reached their peak of migration, but still have early lingering migrants. The southern states may be past their peak, but late migrants may still be present in these areas. Because spring migration is so

dynamic, counts have to be held on the same day to avoid repetitive counting. Obviously nothing is foolproof; we all are aware of how far birds can fly in a day's time if they are "on the move."

Please note that WSO is still conducting May Counts as they always have, on any day in May your county wants to conduct one. It is possible for interested groups to do one count that can be turned in for both the North American Migration Count and the Wisconsin May Count by conducting the May Count on the second Saturday in May and by counting individual birds and party hours in the process. In examining the counts from the last 6 years, note should be made of improved coverage of northern counties in the state, with appropriate species increases. Coverage in the southern portion of the state has been inconsistent, this year again being an "off year." In evaluating the 1993 count, the early date of 8 May versus 14 May in 1994, 13 May in 1995, and 11 May in 1996 should be taken into consideration. That 5-day interval allows a significant wave or two of neotropical migrants to enter the state in many in-

stances. Party hours for 1994 and 1995 were roughly 10% higher than in 1993, allowing fairly reasonable comparison of many species not restricted to the northern counties. The 33% increase in number of counties submitting data in 1996 and the consequent increase in party-hours necessitate careful comparison of that year's data with other years. This year's very low party-hour totals and late migration make it difficult to compare it with other years, at least at the state level.

When noting species numbers, it should become fairly apparent that spring migration was lagging behind during the second week of May in Wisconsin in 1998. Many of the warblers, tanagers, orioles, grosbeaks, bobolinks, and flycatchers were recorded at only 10% to 20% of previous Migration Counts!

As a result of this year's late migration and diminished number of counts, species totals were low compared to previous years, and the total of all counts was only 201 species. Of note were 4 American White Pelicans and 13 Cattle Egrets in Winnebago County; 1 Goshawk, 1 Sharp-tailed Grouse, and 1 Great Gray Owl in Bayfield County; 1 Glaucous Gull and 1 Henslow's Sparrow in Ozaukee County; 7 Gray Jays and 2 Boreal Chickadees in Vilas County; and 1 Pine Grosbeak in Oneida County. It should be noted that one count each from 1994 (Waukesha), from 1995 (Dodge), from 1996 (Dodge), from 1997 (Marathon), and from 1998 (Florence) were separated from the main body of data for computation of individuals/hour because party hours were not submitted for these counts.

Hopefully, numbers of each species will be fascinating, making one want to

speculate as to the actual numbers we could document across the state (and country) with dramatically improved coverage. At a national level, somebody must have been looking at "our" May migrants in unexpected numbers on their Migration Counts because they certainly had not arrived here in Wisconsin yet. The best species total for the state was Winnebago County with 162 species.

The 1999 North American Migration Count is to be held 8 May 1999. Compilers of the 1998 North American Migration Counts are listed below. If you are interested in joining one of the counts, contact the compiler. If you want to initiate a count in a previously uncovered county, please contact Jim Frank, 4339 W. Laverna Ave., Mequon, Wisconsin 53092. Even if you count alone, the data is valuable since it is analyzed per party hour.

**Bayfield Co.**—Phyllis Johnson, P.O. Box 303, Cornucopia, WI 54827.

**Ashland Co.**—Dick Verch, 906 Ellis Ave., Ashland, WI 54806.

**Vilas Co.**—Bill Reardon, 2547 Hwy. 70E, Eagle River, WI 54521.

**Oneida Co.**—Rosemary Boxrucker, 4413 Highlander Rd., Rhinelander, WI 54501.

**Florence Co.**—Jean Strelka, 9418 N. Green Bay Rd., Apt.138, Brown Deer, WI 53209.

**Winnebago Co.**—Tom Ziebell, 1322 Ceape Rd., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

**Ozaukee Co.**—Jim Frank, 4339 W. Laverna Ave., Mequon, WI 53092.

**Milwaukee Co.**—Jim Frank, 4339 W. Laverna Ave., Mequon, WI 53092. Jim Frank  
4339 W. Laverna Ave.  
Mequon, WI 53092

**Kenosha Co.**—Ron Hoffman, Box 886, Kenosha, WI 53141.

Table 1. Numbers of individuals of each species observed on Migration Day Counts in Wisconsin, 1998.

Species	Bayfld.	Ash.	Vilas	Oneida	Flor.	Winne.	Ozaukee	Milw.	Kenosha
Common Loon	4		7	3		1	1		
Pied-billed Grebe			1		2	44	2		1
Horned Grebe	1								
Red-necked Grebe						22			
American White Pelican						4			
Double-crested Cormorant	20	2				189	10		6
American Bittern	1		8			13			2
Least Bittern						4			1
Great Blue Heron	15	3	2	1	2	43	2	1	11
Great Egret						1			1
Snowy Egret									
Cattle Egret						13			
Green Heron						17			3
Black-crowned Night-Heron						52	1		1
Tundra Swan	1								
Trumpeter Swan		4	2						
Mute Swan		2							
swan (sp.)									
Snow Goose									
Canada Goose	71	2	27	4	14	197	108	54	100
Wood Duck	25		4	2	14	57	1		4
Green-winged Teal			2		1	2	1		
American Black Duck	2				6	2			
Mallard	25	8	84	39	13	528	61	2	100
Northern Pintail			1			2			
Blue-winged Teal	12	13	6		2	42	30		6
Northern Shoveler	2					5	1		
Gadwall	2					2	2		
American Wigeon	17	4				2			
Canvasback						2			
Redhead							82		1
Ring-necked Duck			8			2			
Greater Scaup							7		20
Lesser Scaup	9	15	9			1	1		
scaup (sp.)							4		
Black Scoter									
Surf Scoter									
Common Goldeneye						1			
Bufflehead	25					3	9		5
Hooded Merganser	2		1			2			

continued

Table 1. *Continued*

Species	Bayfld.	Ash.	Vilas	Oneida	Flor.	Winne.	Ozaukee	Milw.	Kenosha
Common Merganser	20		4		3	8			23
Red-breasted Merganser	15					1	250		
merganser (sp.)									
Ruddy Duck	2					31	2		
Turkey Vulture	4		1		1	11			5
Osprey	2		4	6		2			1
Bald Eagle	10		10	4	1	1			
Northern Harrier	1		6			16	1		2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	1	1		1	4	1		1
Cooper's Hawk						7	3	1	
Northern Goshawk	1								
<i>Accipiter</i> (sp.)									
Red-shouldered Hawk									1
Broad-winged Hawk	4	1	2		1		1		2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1	3			1	77	13	5
Rough-legged Hawk	2						4		
American Kestrel	9						20	4	6
Merlin	2						1		
Peregrine Falcon									
hawk (sp.)									
Gray Partridge									
Ring-necked Pheasant							29	3	3
Spruce Grouse									
Ruffed Grouse	9	1	13		4	2			
Greater Prairie-Chicken									
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1								
Wild Turkey							9	3	1
Northern Bobwhite									1
Yellow Rail							2		
King Rail							11	2	2
Virginia Rail							39	21	1
Sora							2		
Common Moorhen							120	14	3
American Coot							161	7	
Sandhill Crane	1				5				
Black-bellied Plover									15
American Golden-Plover									
Semipalmated Plover									
Killdeer	24	1	7	1	3	147	18		7
Greater Yellowlegs	5		4			2			1
Lesser Yellowlegs	5		5			15	7		
Solitary Sandpiper	2					1	2		
Willet									
Spotted Sandpiper	6				2		3	1	2
Upland Sandpiper	2							1	1
Hudsonian Godwit									
Marbled Godwit									
Ruddy Turnstone							4		8
Sanderling	3								
Semipalmated Sandpiper									
Least Sandpiper									
White-rumped Sandpiper									
Pectoral Sandpiper							1		

continued

Table 1. *Continued*

Species	Bayfld.	Ash.	Vilas	Oneida	Flor.	Winne.	Ozaukee	Milw.	Kenosha
Dunlin		1							20
peep (sp.)									
Short-billed Dowitcher									
dowitcher (sp.)									
Common Snipe			9			3			
American Woodcock	2		4		1	8	13		
Red-necked Phalarope									
Wilson's Phalarope									
Franklin's Gull									
Little Gull									
Bonaparte's Gull	324					342	12		186
Ring-billed Gull	77	39				11551	175	2	1000
Herring Gull	294					278	325		1000
Glaucous Gull							1		
gull (sp.)									
Caspian Tern	34					1	5		27
Common Tern						6	3		100
Forster's Tern						134			3
<i>Sterna</i> (sp.)						40			100
Black Tern						14	1		12
Rock Dove	4		6		8	415	24		305
Mourning Dove	39	1	33	10	3	487	57	8	26
Black-billed Cuckoo									
Yellow-billed Cuckoo									
Eastern Screech-Owl						3			
Great Horned Owl	3		2			8	4		1
Snowy Owl									
Barred Owl	1						1		
Great Gray Owl	1								
Short-eared Owl									
Northern Saw-whet Owl									
Common Nighthawk									
Whip-poor-will	5					1	1		1
Chimney Swift							72	12	6
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2					1			100
Belted Kingfisher	14	1				3	12	6	4
Red-headed Woodpecker							14	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker							35	5	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8		7	4	2				2
Downy Woodpecker	19		5	8	2	74	9	1	2
Hairy Woodpecker	10		7	9	1	16	2		1
Northern Flicker	16		7	4	3	93	3		8
Pileated Woodpecker	1		4	1	2			1	
Olive-sided Flycatcher									
Eastern Wood-Pewee							1		1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher									
Acadian Flycatcher									
Alder Flycatcher	1								
Willow Flycatcher							1		
Least Flycatcher						1	8	3	
<i>Empidonax</i> (sp.)								1	
Eastern Phoebe	14	2	6	2	2	22	4		6
Great Crested Flycatcher							7	1	1
Eastern Kingbird	2		1		2	16	1	2	7

continued

Table 1. *Continued*

Species	Bayfld.	Ash.	Vilas	Oneida	Flor.	Winne.	Ozauk.	Milw.	Kenosha
Horned Lark						26	10		
Purple Martin			7			94	11		122
Tree Swallow	102	15	75	21	12	941	67	14	140
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1					13	16	3	18
Bank Swallow	4		1			535	60		5
Cliff Swallow	39	4	110	15		188	15		1
Barn Swallow	22	1	13	9	4	585	52	4	131
Gray Jay				7					
Blue Jay	105	2	28	11	23	344	31	9	17
American Crow	94	7	73	25	49	237	59	10	136
Common Raven	64	1	15	2	8				
Black-capped Chickadee	97	10	42	39	18	103	33	6	5
Boreal Chickadee				2					
Tufted Titmouse									
Red-breasted Nuthatch	24		20	3	3	1			
White-breasted Nuthatch	9		2		2	30	9	2	2
Brown Creeper	8		2		1	3			1
House Wren				1		190	15	2	1
Winter Wren	5	1	3		1	1	1		
Sedge Wren				8		104			
Marsh Wren				1		695	1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet				1	4				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		5		6	8	3	1	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher						45	9	3	1
Eastern Bluebird	6		4	1	2	33	1	1	3
Veery						2			2
Gray-cheeked Thrush						1			
Swainson's Thrush						1			1
Hermit Thrush	4		17		14	2			
Wood Thrush						5	2		2
American Robin	190	33	91	38	23	1350	91	10	100
Gray Catbird			1			25	9	12	2
Northern Mockingbird									
Brown Thrasher	3		7		1	30	1		2
American Pipit					14				23
Cedar Waxwing						57	140		3
Northern Shrike									
European Starling	56	2	24	4	38	1606	166		10
Blue-headed Vireo	6		2			1			
Yellow-throated Vireo							2		
Warbling Vireo							28	2	4
Philadelphia Vireo									
Red-eyed Vireo							4		
Blue-winged Warbler							1	4	1
Golden-winged Warbler									
Tennessee Warbler							2		
Orange-crowned Warbler									
Nashville Warbler	17		28		30	13	7		
Northern Parula			1						
Yellow Warbler			3	13		70	7	1	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler			2						1
Magnolia Warbler								1	2
Cape May Warbler									
Black-throated Blue Warbler	44	14	51		38	143	6	12	4
Yellow-rumped Warbler									

continued

Table 1. *Continued*

Species	Bayfld.	Ash.	Vilas	Oneida	Flor.	Winne.	Ozaukee	Milw.	Kenosha
Black-throated Green Warbler	5		5	1		6	3	2	2
Blackburnian Warbler					2				2
Pine Warbler	14		3						
Palm Warbler	2		7			58	1	3	2
Bay-breasted Warbler									1
Blackpoll Warbler									
Cerulean Warbler									
Black-and-white Warbler			2		2	6	3	2	2
American Redstart						3			3
Prothonotary Warbler									
Worm-eating Warbler									
Ovenbird	3		6	5		15	6		3
Northern Waterthrush		1	2			7	6		1
Louisiana Waterthrush									
Kentucky Warbler									
Connecticut Warbler									
Mourning Warbler									
Common Yellowthroat						26	9		7
Hooded Warbler									
Wilson's Warbler							1		
Canada Warbler							1		
Summer Tanager									
Scarlet Tanager						1			2
Northern Cardinal	4			2		148	28	11	12
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2		3	1	1	42	3		3
Indigo Bunting						4			2
Dickcissel									
Eastern Towhee			3		1	1	9	1	2
American Tree Sparrow	1								
Clay-colored Sparrow	1		1		5	4			
Chipping Sparrow	97	2	36	30	13	319	60		1
Field Sparrow					4	2	18		4
Vesper Sparrow	4		1		1	9	2		1
Savannah Sparrow	33	5	19			592	39		1
Grasshopper Sparrow							1		1
Henslow's Sparrow							1		
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	1							
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow									
Fox Sparrow									
Song Sparrow	53	5	36		5	696	73	7	11
Lincoln's Sparrow	1		19	3		2	1		
Swamp Sparrow	11	3	46			266	12		12
White-throated Sparrow	47	7	56	6	18	147	20	2	60
White-crowned Sparrow	46	1		2	1	37	6	1	
Harris's Sparrow									
Dark-eyed Junco		12							1
Lapland Longspur									
Snow Bunting									
Bobolink						59	10		7
Red-winged Blackbird	208	31	122	46	39	7177	336	29	100
Eastern Meadowlark	2	1			1	51	17		9
Western Meadowlark						1			
meadowlark (sp.)						2			
Yellow-headed Blackbird					1		498		3

continued

Table 1. *Continued*

Species	Bayfld.	Ash.	Vilas	Oneida	Flor.	Winne.	Ozauk.	Milw.	Kenosha
Rusty Blackbird				7	7	24	4		
Brewer's Blackbird	86								
Common Grackle	127	4	38	14	1	1237	76	22	100
Brown-headed Cowbird	101	16	20	9	8	604	20	14	88
blackbird (sp.)									100
Orchard Oriole							1		
Baltimore Oriole	4		1			68	5	7	2
Pine Grosbeak				1					
Purple Finch	45		44	6	7	2			1
House Finch	8				6	213	16		2
Red Crossbill					1				
White-winged Crossbill									
Common Redpoll									
Pine Siskin	35		2	9		3			
American Goldfinch	54		37	36	13	425	42	11	13
Evening Grosbeak	134		63	5					
House Sparrow	9					1334	63		100
SPECIES	114	41	97	47	67	163	119	40	121
INDIVIDUALS	3295	268	1541	476	521	37294	2987	288	4677
# Counties									
Parties	6	1	6	5	1	13	1	2	1
Observers	24	13	6	8	2	26	1	6	1
Total Hours	47		32	21		115	15	5	15
Hours—Foot	6	6	17	10		30	4	5	8
Hours—Car	36		15	8		85	11		4
Miles—Foot	5		10	12		20	4	2	4
Miles—Car	336		250	50		814	175		125
Individuals/Hour	70	45	48	23		324	199	58	312

Table 2. Migration Day Count totals for Wisconsin by year.

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Common Loon	16	52	56	55	32	9
Pied-billed Grebe	50	99	237	69	36	68
Horned Grebe		436	17			
Red-necked Grebe	22	16	6	3	10	22
American White Pelican	4	3	24	8		
Double-crested Cormorant	227	883	1117	377	219	587
American Bittern	24	46	44	29	35	33
Least Bittern	5	4	5	15	5	7
Great Blue Heron	80	192	415	283	261	195
Great Egret	2	7	95	73	8	92
Snowy Egret			2	1		
Cattle Egret	13	14	3	3		
Green Heron	20	20	41	33	80	61
Black-crowned Night-Heron	54	27	39	46	36	11
Tundra Swan	1	12	23	3		
Trumpeter Swan	6	7	4	1	2	4
Mute Swan	2	11	14	17	1	2
swan (sp.)		7				
Snow Goose		3		1	2	

continued

Table 2. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Canada Goose	577	660	1202	1924	906	436
Wood Duck	107	142	190	205	184	139
Green-winged Teal	6	217	145	36	36	12
American Black Duck	10	7	29	12	42	7
Mallard	860	1154	1777	1526	1981	942
Northern Pintail	3	48	7	4	30	12
Blue-winged Teal	111	544	663	421	342	396
Northern Shoveler	8	90	93	33	31	65
Gadwall	6	66	43	40	32	27
American Wigeon	23	73	44	34	7	20
Canvasback	2	8	21	1	8	2
Redhead	83	128	94	78	48	101
Ring-necked Duck	10	518	526	93	14	101
Greater Scaup	27	76	162	4	5	11
Lesser Scaup	35	134	128	223	22	46
scaup (sp.)	4	100	477	10	11	67
Black Scoter		3	2			
Surf Scoter		3				
Common Goldeneye	1	29	104	4	1	19
Bufflehead	42	139	261	13	10	39
Hooded Merganser	5	16	61	26	14	6
Common Merganser	58	38	159	22	23	9
Red-breasted Merganser	266	1576	696	10	25	202
merganser (sp.)			2	2		
Ruddy Duck	35	94	47	42	85	116
Turkey Vulture	22	31	114	34	29	33
Osprey	15	25	30	10	14	18
Bald Eagle	26	41	49	37	26	19
Northern Harrier	26	57	168	90	82	113
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14	16	32	11	7	8
Cooper's Hawk	11	24	24	13	10	14
Northern Goshawk	1	2	4	2	2	
<i>Accipiter</i> (sp.)			1	1		
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	1	2		
Broad-winged Hawk	12	45	41	27	14	29
Red-tailed Hawk	103	154	251	96	137	142
Rough-legged Hawk	6	2	6	1		
American Kestrel	39	78	175	104	88	121
Merlin	3	6	4		3	
Peregrine Falcon		1	3		2	
hawk (sp.)			4		2	4
Gray Partridge			3		2	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	35	57	59	66	77	120
Spruce Grouse		1	2		6	
Ruffed Grouse	29	111	74	64	36	11
Greater Prairie-Chicken		2	8	16	18	11
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	12	15	6	4	
Wild Turkey	13	32	56	10	19	4
Northern Bobwhite	1	5	7		9	3
Yellow Rail					2	7
King Rail	2	2	3	3	1	1
Virginia Rail	17	35	21	30	19	16
Sora	61	113	195	157	76	165
Common Moorhen	2	8	21	7	11	9

continued

Table 2. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
American Coot	137	873	1463	179	259	361
Sandhill Crane	174	358	509	432	532	347
Black-bellied Plover		208	52	4	97	
American Golden-Plover	15	116	79	20	68	1
Semipalmated Plover		5		6	13	1
Killdeer	208	372	451	494	622	516
Greater Yellowlegs	12	82	203	8	22	21
Lesser Yellowlegs	32	159	219	22	64	67
Solitary Sandpiper	5	141	69	5	13	13
Willet			20			
Spotted Sandpiper	14	47	77	90	55	34
Upland Sandpiper	4	2	9	3	14	5
Hudsonian Godwit			1		4	
Marbled Godwit					1	
Ruddy Turnstone	12	23	119	118	336	26
Sanderling	3	22	41	16	14	30
Semipalmated Sandpiper		3	4	16	27	
Least Sandpiper		86	36	49	74	18
White-rumped Sandpiper			1	1		
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	4	23	8	5	47
Dunlin	21	13	74	75	33	2
peep (sp.)			41		71	21
Short-billed Dowitcher		4	4	10	15	6
dowitcher (sp.)		1			2	9
Common Snipe	13	73	109	77	67	65
American Woodcock	32	83	58	40	34	50
Red-necked Phalarope			2			
Wilson's Phalarope			9		17	7
Franklin's Gull			1			
Little Gull				2		
Bonaparte's Gull	864		10824	280	316	1056
Ring-billed Gull	12849	15364	9187	6261	4310	4363
Herring Gull	1897	2532	1134	385	872	2817
Glaucous Gull	1		6			
gull (sp.)		1900	2010	2354	8425	2151
Caspian Tern	67	13	84		149	45
Common Tern	109	140	1407	398	586	102
Forster's Tern	137	103	100	157	119	127
<i>Sterna</i> (sp.)	140	1014	506	1223	13082	171
Black Tern	27	20	146	332	123	88
Rock Dove	762	1127	2245	1549	710	1664
Mourning Dove	664	1008	1566	1340	1050	1226
Black-billed Cuckoo				1	3	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo					1	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	2	7	2	5	
Great Horned Owl	18	11	61	26	19	14
Snowy Owl		1				
Barred Owl	2	15	24	20	8	8
Great Gray Owl	1		1			
Short-eared Owl				1		
Northern Saw-whet Owl				1	1	2
Common Nighthawk		4	4	10	14	52
Whip-poor-will	8	3	3	24	4	14
Chimney Swift	190	154	238	337	565	430

continued

Table 2. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	6	9	15	35	15
Belted Kingfisher	42	73	107	37	36	45
Red-headed Woodpecker	16	13	9	13	37	46
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	46	82	32	46	36
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	23	191	61	69	39	17
Downy Woodpecker	120	229	264	159	149	101
Hairy Woodpecker	46	78	109	95	71	39
Northern Flicker	134	196	399	447	287	233
Pileated Woodpecker	9	22	21	25	19	7
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1	2			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	11	13	6	26	8
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			2		1	2
Acadian Flycatcher			1		1	
Alder Flycatcher	1		2		8	1
Willow Flycatcher	1		1	2	5	2
Least Flycatcher	13	37	30	59	181	165
<i>Empidonax</i> (sp.)	7	7	33	9	8	15
Eastern Phoebe	53	153	149	103	126	92
Great Crested Flycatcher	11	9	14	56	158	96
Eastern Kingbird	31	22	53	96	241	192
Horned Lark	36	38	151	102	62	184
Purple Martin	234	127	107	179	269	341
Tree Swallow	1387	2513	4836	6822	3921	2129
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	51	112	351	579	385	97
Bank Swallow	605	408	142	457	566	629
Cliff Swallow	372	623	288	1313	1704	1138
Barn Swallow	821	1017	1715	2264	1768	1146
Gray Jay	7	1	9	8	8	
Blue Jay	570	568	906	798	751	919
American Crow	690	1409	1792	1544	1431	907
Common Raven	90	67	91	80	36	11
Black-capped Chickadee	353	823	987	820	628	568
Boreal Chickadee	2		3			
Tufted Titmouse					1	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	51	86	139	85	60	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	56	111	250	140	116	99
Brown Creeper	15	30	50	12	11	8
House Wren	209	187	59	277	384	278
Winter Wren	12	32	36	22	16	8
Sedge Wren	112	111	29	109	403	260
Marsh Wren	697	388	155	508	585	342
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	7	37	18	7	12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	25	183	432	45	46	67
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	58	58	30	61	59	54
Eastern Bluebird	51	102	135	94	152	100
Veery	4	21	136	40	50	22
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	12	65	9	8	16
Swainson's Thrush	2	34	196	44	43	30
Hermit Thrush	37	104	102	39	60	16
Wood Thrush	9	22	53	89	119	80
American Robin	1926	3235	3933	4210	3577	3050
Gray Catbird	49	45	101	275	550	368
Northern Mockingbird					1	
Brown Thrasher	44	98	152	115	138	132

continued

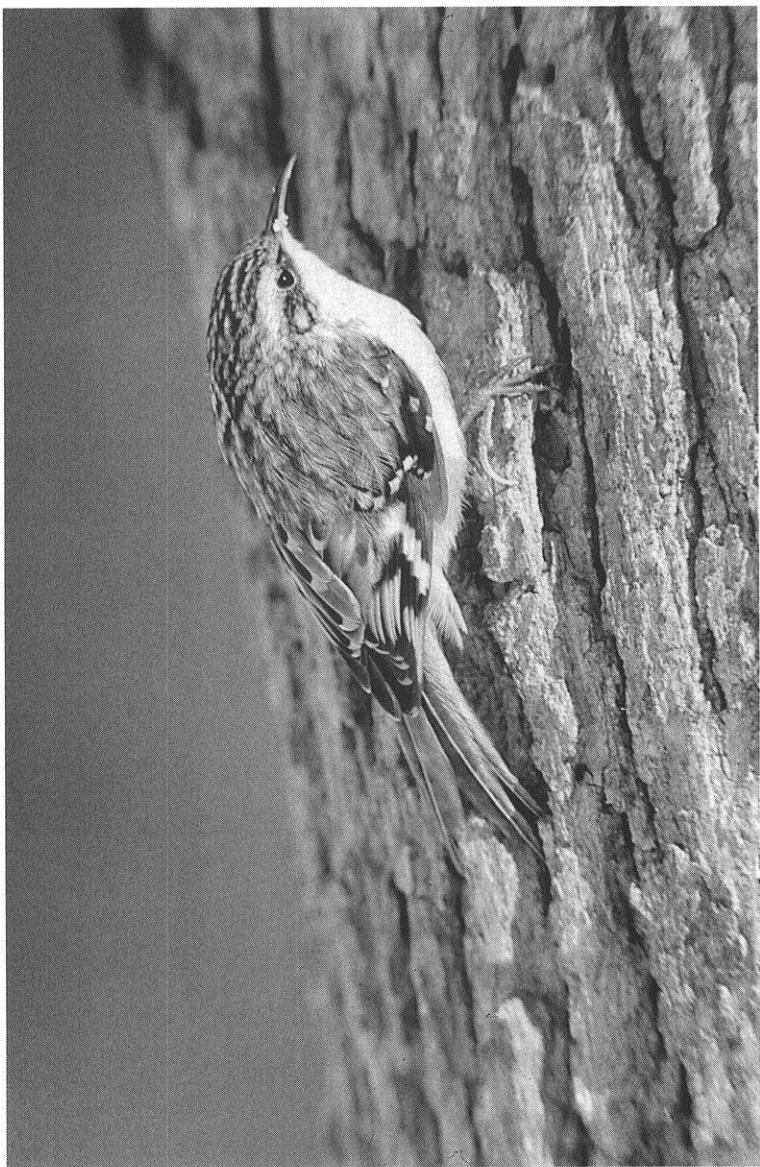
Table 2. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
American Pipit	37	35			3	10
Cedar Waxwing	200	41	35	96	148	101
Northern Shrike			1		1	
European Starling	1906	4029	4040	3795	3589	3403
Blue-headed Vireo	9	5	15	13	15	7
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	1	3	15	29	27
Warbling Vireo	34	5	4	83	134	94
Philadelphia Vireo		2	1	2	3	2
Red-eyed Vireo	4	2	1	17	84	13
Blue-winged Warbler	6	2	4	9	25	14
Golden-winged Warbler		2	2	37	81	46
Tennessee Warbler	2	5	2	52	127	42
Orange-crowned Warbler		4	4	1	7	11
Nashville Warbler	95	36	100	174	292	170
Northern Parula	1	3	46	10	27	7
Yellow Warbler	100	89	250	604	771	457
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	3	22	77	228	116
Magnolia Warbler	3	6	48	82	188	91
Cape May Warbler		5	25	75	89	87
Black-throated Blue Warbler		3	17	15	7	6
Yellow-rumped Warbler	312	1339	2364	977	1018	691
Black-throated Green Warbler	26	26	126	83	104	53
Blackburnian Warbler	4	4	29	46	74	38
Pine Warbler	17	18	18	16	34	26
Palm Warbler	73	219	698	270	185	155
Bay-breasted Warbler	1		2	12	89	25
Blackpoll Warbler		1	5	9	34	21
Cerulean Warbler		2	3	2	8	2
Black-and-white Warbler	17	50	264	117	115	134
American Redstart	6	44	49	142	237	122
Prothonotary Warbler		1	4	3	2	
Worm-eating Warbler		1	1	1	1	1
Ovenbird	38	102	396	738	611	509
Northern Waterthrush	17	55	166	37	38	52
Louisiana Waterthrush			1	1		
Kentucky Warbler			1			
Connecticut Warbler			5	6	4	
Mourning Warbler		1	1	5	7	1
Common Yellowthroat	42	42	78	309	626	472
Hooded Warbler					1	
Wilson's Warbler	1	3	7	3	31	9
Canada Warbler	1	12	6	18	25	5
Summer Tanager					1	
Scarlet Tanager	3	1	3	37	84	48
Northern Cardinal	205	330	425	330	355	305
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	55	65	168	418	604	295
Indigo Bunting	6	7	13	42	132	51
Dickcissel						
Eastern Towhee	17	38	88	76	115	83
American Tree Sparrow	1		39	36	19	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	11	133	34	149	61	105
Chipping Sparrow	558	1063	1211	1288	1306	696
Field Sparrow	28	103	143	95	76	80
Vesper Sparrow	18	27	29	36	37	28

continued

Table 2. *Continued*

Species	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Savannah Sparrow	689	676	639	828	892	1006
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	6	5	2	17	5
Henslow's Sparrow	1	6	6	8		
Le Conte's Sparrow	2	14	9	3	2	2
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			1			
Fox Sparrow		5	8	4	2	4
Song Sparrow	886	1176	2060	1782	1579	1579
Lincoln's Sparrow	26	18	17	12	15	7
Swamp Sparrow	350	442	593	751	264	486
White-throated Sparrow	363	1570	1025	295	253	264
White-crowned Sparrow	94	78	144	96	51	38
Harris's Sparrow				1		
Dark-eyed Junco	13	22	121	27	29	3
Lapland Longspur			40	205	300	30
Snow Bunting			4			
Bobolink	76	58	164	261	301	361
Red-winged Blackbird	8088	6787	15698	13282	10878	8762
Eastern Meadowlark	81	154	487	323	287	389
Western Meadowlark	1	3	5	15	12	29
meadowlark (sp.)	3	7	14		3	19
Yellow-headed Blackbird	501	705	571	420	601	742
Rusty Blackbird			9	2		
Brewer's Blackbird	128	227	433	253	395	201
Common Grackle	1621	2804	5223	3633	3150	3461
Brown-headed Cowbird	880	1703	2917	1245	1138	1009
blackbird (sp.)	100	36	1050	116	100	100
Orchard Oriole	1	1		3	1	15
Baltimore Oriole	87	32	78	227	474	350
Pine Grosbeak	1					
Purple Finch	105	188	240	155	132	30
House Finch	245	724	980	523	499	340
Red Crossbill		30		4	1	
White-winged Crossbill		70	12			
Common Redpoll		5	106			
Pine Siskin	49	146	261	296	62	5
American Goldfinch	631	?	1047	1784	1777	1295
Evening Grosbeak	202	100	219	121	120	
House Sparrow	1506	3065	2811	3014	3276	3978
SPECIES	201	223	244	226	229	222
INDIVIDUALS	51351	72024	113404	83165	87395	66071
# Counties	9	12	18	14	12	9
Parties	36	58	72	66	68	50
Observers	87	133	184	141	127	90
Total Hours	250	341	720	541	530	490
Hours—Foot	86	106	176	124.75		
Hours—Car	159	190	454	401.25		
Miles—Foot	57	68	138	92.5		
Miles—Car	1750	2144	5039	4634		
Individuals/Hour	203	166	153	128	136	135



Brown Creeper *by Jack Bartholmai*

## WSO Records Committee Report—Spring 1998

Fifty-four documentations were reviewed by the WSO Records Committee for the spring of 1998, with an additional look at four records from the fall and winter seasons of the previous year. These accounts covered the identification of 26 species. Fifty-three records were accepted. Of particular note were the first and second state records for Wisconsin of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, the first Wisconsin record of a Eurasian Collared-Dove, and the third accepted record of a Glaucous-winged Gull from the fall of 1997. Observers were notified of the committee decisions by postcard in the case of accepted records and by personal letter in the case of records not accepted.

### ACCEPTED

#### *Snowy Egret*—

#98-020 *Ashland Co.*, 12 May 1998,  
Brady.

A small white heron, smaller than nearby Great Blue Herons, was noted. The back of the neck was "shaggy," the bill slender and entirely black. The legs were also black, the feet yellow.

#### *Little Blue Heron*—

#98-021 *Door Co.*, 26–27 1998, C. Lukes.

This small dark blue heron was described as half the size of a Great Blue Heron. The neck feathers had a tinge of purple to them. The gray bill ended in a black tip. No white was seen anywhere on the bird.

#### *Tricolored Heron*—

#98-022 *Brown Co.*, 20 May 1998, Tessen.

This small heron was also noted to be dark blue with a hint of purple on the neck. The legs were dark, somewhat greenish. The distinguishing feature was white on the ventral neck and belly.

#### *Trumpeter Swan*—

#98-023 *Douglas Co.*, 2 May 1998, R. Johnson.

These two swans were white with black bills, but too distant to distinguish them from Tundra Swans. The neck was postured straight and the bill lacked the knob of the Mute Swan. The identification was based on hearing a loud "car horn"-like call.

***Ross's Goose*—**

#98-024 *Outagamie Co.*, 4 March 1998,  
Tessen.

#98-025 *Ashland Co.*, 3 April 1998,  
Brady.

#98-026 *Eau Claire Co.*, 5 April 1998,  
Polk.

These single birds from Outagamie and Ashland Counties, along with the two individuals from Eau Claire County, were described as white geese, as small as adjacent Mallards, with black wing tips. The tops of the heads were more rounded than those of the larger Canada Geese. The bills were stubby and pink, lacking the so-called dark "grin patch" of a Snow Goose.

***Barrow's Goldeneye*—**

#98-003 *Ozaukee Co.*, (no date) 1998,  
Uttech.

The dark head of this goldeneye drake had a steeply rising forehead and a white crescent on its cheek. The black of the back was more extensive than on a Common Goldeneye, with black "fingers" projecting down the sides of the breast. This black enclosed white spots on the sides of the back.

***Black-bellied Whistling-Duck*—**

#98-027 *Dodge Co.*, 10 May 1998, Michael, Volkert, Domagalski, Harriman.

#98-028 *Jefferson Co.*, 17 May 1998, Burcar.

The initial impressions by some observers dwelled on the long pink legs, long neck, and upright posture of this standing bird. In essence, it did not look like a typical duck; however, the pink-orange, duck-shaped bill suggested it was in fact a duck. The overall size was similar to a nearby Mallard. The head, neck, and breast were pale gray-tan, only broken by a small black

patch in the middle of the lower breast. The top of the head and back of the neck were a darker gray. The back feathering was a mixture of black and pale brown, the tail and wings were black, but there was a large white patch on the side of the folded wing. In flight, the head was held below the line of the body. A striking black trailing edge and medial white stripe on the wing were also apparent. The Dodge Co. bird fits a subadult plumage. The three individuals reported in Jefferson Co. exhibited the chestnut breast, back, and crown of adult birds, along with the black belly. These are the first and second records for the state of Wisconsin. (Of note are additional reports of this species under consideration by records committees in Iowa from the spring of 1998 and in Nova Scotia from the summer of 1998.)

Reported photographs of the Dodge Co. bird have not surfaced. Since a single group of observers was involved in the observation as opposed to independent identifications being made of the bird, it is customary to add this type of sighting to a state's hypothetical list, rather than the so-called "official state list."

***Eurasian Wigeon*—**

#98-029 *Calumet Co.*, 3 April 1998, Sonntag.

#98-030 *Dunn Co.*, 6 April 1998, Gamache.

#98-031 *Dodge Co.*, 24, 25 April 1998, Gorton.

#98-031 *Dodge Co.*, 25 April 1998, J. Baughman, Korducki, Wood, Tessen, Domagalski.

Though they appeared to be the same size and shape as an American Wigeon, these birds stood out because of their orange-red heads. The fore-

head of the Dodge Co. bird was a lighter chestnut color than the face, rather than the anticipated cream color of an adult Eurasian Wigeon or the white of an American Wigeon. This individual is considered to have been a first-year male. In addition, the flanks were gray instead of pink-brown. As also noted in the American Wigeon, the backs were gray, the breasts salmon-pink, the caudal flanks had white crescents in front of the black tails, and the bills were light blue-gray. It is interesting that the only two reports of Eurasian Wigeons from the spring of 1997 were also from Calumet County and Dunn County.

**Mississippi Kite—**

#98-032 Ozaukee Co., 13 May 1998, Co-wart.

This raptor flew by the Concordia hawk watch site. The wings were long and narrow with a soft flapping pattern. The tail was longer relative to the body, the shape flaring out toward the end. As the bird approached, the head-on profile revealed a shorter, slightly upturned, outermost primary feather. The bird was uniformly dark gray throughout the head, body, and wings. The underside of the tail exhibited several wide, faint brownish bars suggestive of an adult female.

**Prairie Falcon—**

#98-033 Douglas Co., 22 April 1998, R. Johnson, Putz.

Initially thought to be a Peregrine Falcon due to the size and shape, the tentative identification was changed by the pale tan color to the upperparts of the bird. The underparts were lighter in contrast, and the underside of the tail finely barred with the subterminal band the largest. The breast was faintly

streaked and the tips of the outer primaries were black. The most striking contrast was the dark underwing linings. The head did not exhibit the "helmet" of the Peregrine Falcon, but instead showed only a thick facial or malar stripe.

This sighting is a collaborative identification maintaining this species on the state's hypothetical list. A photograph, specimen, or independent identifications are still needed to place Prairie Falcon on the "official list."

**Parasitic Jaeger—**

#98-035 Douglas Co., 24 May 1998, Tesssen.

This jaeger had a dark brown body, a white breast and belly, with a dark brown upper breast band, not the mottled band of a Pomarine Jaeger, nor the lack of a band as in a Long-tailed Jaeger. The upperside of the primaries had several white lines evident, and the underside of the primaries had a white patch evident. The central rectrices were "medium" length and pointed, not rounded as in a Pomarine Jaeger. Also reported was a dark cap. This Parasitic Jaeger flew out onto the lake and landed near another jaeger. Although the second bird had the general appearance of this first bird, it was too distant to be certain of the species identification.

**Iceland Gull—**

#98-036 Sheboygan Co., 7 March 1998, Domagalski.

#98-051 Sheboygan Co., 4 April 1998, Brasser, Brasser.

#98-037 Douglas Co., 4 April 1998, R. Johnson.

#98-038 Manitowoc Co., 12 April 1998, Sontag.

The March Sheboygan Co. bird was a first-year bird, intermediate in size between a Herring and Ring-billed Gull, uniformly pale buff in color. There was no contrasting dark terminal tail band as expected in a Thayer's Gull. The bill was relatively small and black. The wing tips extended noticeably beyond the tail tip. The April Sheboygan Co. observation was of two first-year birds, but these were basically white in color except for some faint gray-tan mottling. The bills of these two birds were again small and all-black.

The Douglas Co. bird was in plumage similar to the two whitish Sheboygan Co. individuals. The small, all-black bill again suggested a first-winter bird.

The Manitowoc Co. bird was closer to a Herring Gull in size, and was a very light tawny-gray color overall. The bill was dark at the tip, more light-gray than flesh-colored on the proximal two-thirds, suggesting a second-winter individual.

#### ***Lesser Black-backed Gull*—**

#98-040 Dane Co., 5 March 1998, Tessen; 15 March 1998, Wood.  
#98-041 Ozaukee Co., 6 April 1998, Uttech.  
#98-042 Bayfield Co., 29 April 1998, Brady (photo).

These adult birds had a dark gray, but not a black, mantle; this is in contrast to the black primary tips. Overall the size was slightly smaller than that of the Herring Gulls present, and much larger than the Ring-billed Gulls. The yellow bill was not bulky and had a red spot near the tip of the lower mandible. The legs were yellow-green, except in the case of the March 15th Dane Co. bird. In overcast lighting, the

legs of this bird took on a pinkish cast, a color seen in rare instances in Lesser Black-backs. Alternatively, the lighting could have created this impression.

#### ***Arctic Tern*—**

#98-043 Milwaukee Co., 23 May 1998, Korducki.

This tern was viewed in comparison to Common and Forster's Terns. It was shorter legged and necked. The shorter, thicker bill was red throughout, suggestive of an Arctic; however, Common Terns occasionally lack the black tip to the bill. The underparts seemed similarly gray as the upperparts, with a contrasting white cheek. In flight, the upperwings lacked the dark primary tips of a Common Tern. The underwings had minimal black primary tips, contrasting with the more extensive black under-primary tips of the Common Tern. The only inconsistent trait was that the tail did not extend beyond the wingtips.

#### ***Eurasian Collared-Dove*—**

#98-044 Ozaukee Co., ? May 1998, Cutright; 19, 26 May 1998, Uttech; 26 May 1998, Cowart; 26, 30 May 1998, Tessen; 27, 31 May 1998, Korducki; 30 May 1998; Brasser, Brasser; 30, 31 May 1998, Domagalski; 31 May 1998, Frank.

This dove was described as intermediate in build between a Mourning Dove and a Rock Dove. It was not as bulky as a Rock Dove, but not as streamlined as a Mourning Dove. The tail was relatively longer than the body, like a Mourning Dove, but the tail was squared-off at the tip like a Rock Dove. The overall color was a pale sandy tone, lighter than the color of a Mourning Dove; it was broken only by

a black crescent on the nape of the neck that was bordered by a thin white line. Red eyes and dark pink legs were also observed. In flight, the primaries were darker brown than the rest of the body and wings. Also evident were white patches occupying the distal third of the outermost rectrices. The underside of the tail was white distally, but black on the proximal half. The call was a three note "coo-coooooo-coo." The notes were all on the same pitch, but the second note was noticeably drawn out relative to the first and last notes, somewhat like the cadence of a California Quail's call. A different flight call was reported by a couple of observers; something akin to a three note catbird-like "cay-cay-cay." This is Wisconsin's first record for this species.

The numerous independent observations and identifications of this bird allow it to be "officially" added to the state list as the 407th such species.

#### ***Western Kingbird***

#98-045 *Bayfield Co.*, 21 May 1998,  
Brady.

This flycatcher/kingbird-like bird was proportioned much like an Eastern Kingbird. The head, neck and upper breast were ashy gray, the lower breast bright yellow, and the undertail coverts white. The wings were very dark in color, but not as dark black as the tail. The very outermost edge of the tail was white. The bill was black, as was a faint eye line.

#### ***Scissor-tailed Flycatcher***

#98-046 *Door Co.*, 18 May 1998, Regnery, Tessen.

Described as a light gray bird with black wings and a long, black tail, this individual was seen perched and flying out to catch nearby insects. The long,

forked shape of the tail and the pink-orange underwing area were apparent. This is the second consecutive spring report of this species from Door County.

#### ***Yellow-throated Warbler***

#98-047 *Brown Co.*, 20 May 1998,  
Tessen.

This warbler was gray-backed with white wing bars and a white breast. The eye was masked by a black line that trailed down the side of the face into streaking on the side of the breast. The black face patch was bordered by white above and behind the eye. Most striking was the bright yellow throat.

#### ***Kirtland's Warbler***

#98-048 *Vilas Co.*, 30 May 1998, Jim Baughman, Jeff Baughman.

This warbler was observed singing in a grove of young jack pines. The head, back, and wings were blue-gray. The back was accented by black streaks, the face by a black eye patch. The breast, throat, and belly were yellow, with black streaks along the sides of the breast, and very faint black streaks across the upper breast, suggesting a first-year male. The undertail coverts were white. A partial white eye ring was also reported. This is the second consecutive year with a report of Kirtland's Warbler from this area in Vilas Co.

#### **ACCEPTED**

#### **(FALL AND WINTER 1997 REPORTS)**

#### ***Iceland Gull***

#97-090 *Douglas Co.*, 15, 22, 27 December 1997, Svingen.

These first-year individuals were seen in comparison to Glaucous and Thayer's Gulls. Overall, the plumage was pale with the folded wing tips the

same color as the coverts, not darker as in Thayer's Gull. The primaries were noted to extend well beyond the tail tip. In flight, the primaries appeared paler than the mantle, though there were subterminal tan markings. No dark "secondary bar" was evident as in Thayer's Gull. The bill was dark, smaller than a Herring Gull bill, with a hint of pink on the proximal lower mandible. The iris was dark, the legs pink.

***Great Black-backed Gull***—

#97-091 *Douglas Co.*, 22, 24 December 1997, Svingen.

The two individuals on the 22nd and one on the 24th were obviously larger than adjacent Herring Gulls. The dark brown checkered back pattern, whitish head, and massive black bill were noted. The dark brown terminal tail band contrasted with the whitish rump.

***Glaucous-winged Gull***—

#97-092 *Douglas Co.*, 13 December 1997, Svingen.

This second-year individual was reported several times from 26 November through 22 December in both Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin. This bird was the same size as adjacent Herring Gulls, noticeably smaller than the Glaucous Gulls. In spite of the similarity in size to the Herring Gulls, the body appeared much stockier and the wings broader. The wing tip extension beyond the tail was minimal, more like a Glaucous Gull. Overall, the plumage was a rather uniform, pale gray-brown, without noticeable markings. There was some contrast between the whitish upper tail coverts and the gray-brown tail when observed in flight. The bill was dark

throughout, with a hint of pink at the base of the lower mandible. It was similar in size to a Herring Gull's bill, but a bit thicker at the gony. The legs were pink. The primaries were similar in color to the rest of the plumage when folded, a "cold" gray-brown, but in flight appeared paler than the rest of the bird. In-flight photos were also submitted with this report. This is Wisconsin's third accepted record in as many winters.

***Western Tanager***—

#97-089 *Dane Co.*, 3 October 1997, Heikkinen.

This adult male exhibited a yellow body and back, black wings, and a yellow wing bar. The head and throat were red.

**NOT ACCEPTED**

***Prairie Falcon***—

#98-033 *Portage Co.*, 21 April 1998.

This bird was described as a Cooper's Hawk-sized falcon, rather uniformly sandy in color across the back, wings, and tail. It was viewed flying away, barely off the ground after passing the observer from behind at a distance of about 10 feet! No observation of the facial pattern nor of the axilla was possible under these circumstances. Although a falcon of this light color is unlikely to be anything but a Prairie Falcon, the limited look at this rarity leaves the identification incomplete.

***White-tailed Ptarmigan***—

#97-088 *Monroe Co.*, 29 November 1998.

This individual was described as slightly larger than a grouse, but smaller than a pheasant. The tail was

"triangular, pointed." The plumage was approximately half brown and half white. The white was noted on the lower body and wings, the brown on the upper body. Although the plumage is suggestive of a ptarmigan, the size and tail shape are not consistent with this species. The size was indicated to be at least as large as a Ruffed Grouse, not noticeably smaller as a ptarmigan would be. In addition, the tail was noted to be pointed, which is more indicative of a pheasant or Sharp-tailed Grouse. The identification is uncertain, but perhaps a more consistent fit to this description would be a partial albino Sharp-tailed Grouse.

#### *Iceland Gull*—

#98-039 Ozaukee Co., no date 1998.

A report of a number of different Iceland Gulls of various ages and plumages was received. Light gray mantles were reported, along with a size similar to a Thayer's Gull. Light eyes and a small, yellow bill were mentioned as well. The upperside primary tips were described as gray with no qualification of darkness. Although it is highly likely Iceland Gulls were seen, the attempt to lump the descriptions of a number of sightings left the reports sketchy.

#### *Longspur (sp.)*—

#98-049 Winnebago Co., 13 May 1998.

In flight, apparently rather high in the air, a "tiny speck" was seen flying in circles as it headed north. Although the observer identified it as a longspur, no specific color patterns or vocalizations were evident other than a "T-pattern" in the underside of the tail. Given the apparent distance and lack of specific color patterns, it is difficult to draw any conclusions about the identity of this bird.

#### *European Goldfinch*—

#98-050 Walworth Co., 12 April 1998.

This bird was seen at a thistle feeder about 30 yards from the observer. It was slightly larger than the American Goldfinches, but had a red face, white rump, and white in the tail feathers. A black cap came down to the neck. The chest and back were beige with a strong yellow wing bar. The beak was heavier than that of an American Goldfinch. Although the identification is not in question in this instance, the origin of the bird is. This species is on occasion kept as a caged bird. Without a known breeding population in the Midwest, it seems most plausible that this would be a captive/escaped individual.

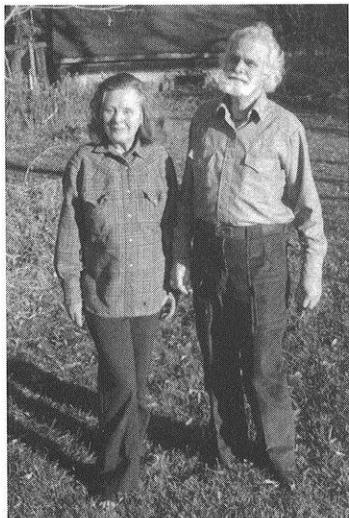
Jim Frank

WSO Records Committee, Chair



Short-eared Owl by Cary Hunkel  
(Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

## Frances Hamerstrom 1907–1998



Frances Hamerstrom—pioneer wildlife biologist, longtime member and past president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology—died following a long illness near her Plainfield, Wisconsin, home in August 1998 at the age of 90. She and Frederick (or Hammy), her late husband and co-researcher of almost 60 years, were internationally recognized biologists who were both mentored by renowned University of Wisconsin ecologist and philosopher, Aldo Leopold. Frances was the only woman to receive a graduate degree under Leopold's supervision, and only the second woman employed as a wildlife professional in Wisconsin.

Fran and Dr. Frederick Hamerstrom were perhaps best known as biologists whose collective work on the Greater Prairie-Chicken spanned several decades. Their efforts probably prevented this bird from local extinction in central Wisconsin through their novel solution of using a landscape technique of scattered grassland reserves to curtail the further loss of chicken habitat. Highlights of this successful preservation effort can be found in “The Prairie Chicken in Wisconsin” (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Technical Bulletin, No. 64, 1973). For this progressive management approach, they received in 1970 the prestigious National Wildlife Federation Award for Distinguished Service to Conservation.

Fran Hamerstrom, formerly Frances Flint, was born into a privileged childhood near Boston, Massachusetts. After dropping out of high school and flunking out of an eastern college, Fran received her B.S. degree from Iowa State in 1935 under famed biologist Paul Errington. In Iowa, she and Hammy studied

pheasant breeding biology, the winter ecology of the Northern Bobwhite, and raptor food habits. In this latter vein, their paper "The Great Horned Owl and its prey in north-central United States," co-authored with Dr. Errington, won The Wildlife Society's first Terrestrial Publication Award in 1940. In that same year, Fran obtained an M.S. degree in wildlife management under Professor Leopold. For her outstanding contributions in wildlife research, Fran was awarded an honorary doctorate of science from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1961. The Hamerstroms were both adjunct professors of wildlife biology at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Fran was especially well-known for innovative techniques in her extensive field studies with birds of prey, and in particular with the Northern Harrier and the American Kestrel. Indeed, she was one of the first raptor biologists in the world to run cross-generation studies involving individually-marked breeding adults. Although her initial objective for such study was focused on the question of whether harriers mate for life (they don't), her subsequent longstanding studies encompassed a wide range of factors related to kestrel and harrier populations, including the shortage of natural cavities as nesting sites for kestrels, and the influence of population fluctuations of the harriers' main prey, the meadow vole. By providing nest boxes, she was able to increase kestrel populations. She also discovered that vole abundance determined the harriers' mating system. This latter discovery, presented in her co-authored article "Effect of voles in mating systems in a central Wisconsin population of harriers," won the Edwards Prize for best paper of 1985 in the Wilson Bulletin. More of her fascinating insights and overall work on this raptor were published in her book "Harrier, hawk of the marshes, the hawk that is ruled by a mouse" (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1986).

Fran and Hammy's pre-Civil War house, near Portage County's Buena Vista Marsh, served as a headquarters for more than 7,000 field assistants and birders hosted by the Hamerstroms over the years. Although the house had few amenities, it did have a resident population of feral house mice and free-flying "captive" Great Horned Owls. This setting was always flavored by Fran's infectious zest for life, quick wit, abject candor, and marked skills as a raconteur. Indeed, a colleague once remarked that evenings at the Hamerstroms' usually resulted in some of the most enlightening and colorful dinner conversations imaginable. Fran maintained this enriching discourse through her final summers of life, as her last apprentices assisted her with her nearly 30-year study of kestrels. Above all, in Fran's mind and in Hammy's, too, I believe, was an unstinting refusal to tolerate second-rate science, and Fran was ever quick to correct students and even other professional colleagues when she felt the need to maintain scientific rigor.

In total, Fran authored or co-authored over 100 technical articles and books, including several popular children's books, such as "Walk when the moon is full" (Crossing Press, 1975). She made innumerable local, national, and international appearances, and, along with her husband, received many honors, including both the Silver and the Golden Passenger Pigeon Awards from the WSO, the President's Award from the Raptor Research Foundation, and induction into

the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, located in the Schmeeckle Reserve at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Noteworthy as these accomplishments are, it would, however, be difficult to measure the tremendous ornithological role that Fran and Hammy played because of their selfless, inspirational, and dedicated efforts on behalf of avian wildlife, and the exemplary support they provided to so many ornithologists, young and old, practicing or aspiring. Fran will be sorely missed and remembered fondly by the many, many assistants, artists, biologists, readers, and friends that she touched. She left our world a better place for her efforts and truly was one of Wisconsin's treasured natural resources.

She is survived by a son, Alan, of Arnold, Maryland; a daughter, Elva, a well-known wildlife artist, of Roseburg, Oregon; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Society of *Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus*, Ltd., Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188-1188, or to the Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Fund, Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 14377 117th St. South, Hastings, MN 55033.

(Photograph of Frances and Frederick Hamerstrom was taken at their home in 1980 by Sumner Matteson.)

Robert N. Rosenfield  
Department of Biology  
University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point, WI 54481



Common Redpoll *by Jack Bartholmai*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ARTISTS

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**James S. Anderson** has directed the operation of Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London for nearly two and one half decades. Birds and habitat preservation play essential roles in his environmental teachings. When away from his 430-acre office and "The Hill," Jim enjoys birding, hiking, nature photography, canoeing and other outdoor endeavors.

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**Bruce R. Bacon** is a WDNR Wildlife Biologist working in Iron and Ashland counties. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Management from UW Stevens Point.

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**Jack R. Bartholmai** is an amateur wildlife photographer and wood sculptor. His current focus is photographing the birds of Dodge County, his stomping grounds since 1972. His photos appear frequently in local newspapers, travel brochures, calendars, and maps.

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**David Curson** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison. His research is on Brown-headed Cowbird brood parasitism in New Mexico.

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**James O. Evrard** is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wildlife research biologist, with areas of interest including pine barrens, wetlands, and waterfowl. He obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Ecology from the UW-Madison.

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**Jim Frank** has been one of WSO's most active contributors to Seasonal Field Notes. He now assists WSO by compiling and summarizing the annual May Day Counts, Big Day Counts and Migration Day Counts and is the Records Committee Chair. He is a veterinarian in Milwaukee with an interest in avian medicine.

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