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# The *Passenger* PIGEON

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The  
*Passenger*  
PIGEON

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**EDITORS**

Charles A. Heikkinen and  
Delia O. Unson  
608. 206. 0324 • 608. 235. 8914  
[passengerpigeon@wsobirds.org](mailto:passengerpigeon@wsobirds.org)

**PEER REVIEW EDITOR**

Vacant

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Amy Staffen  
608. 238. 0450  
[astaffen@tds.net](mailto:astaffen@tds.net)

**ASSISTANT EDITOR (Art)**

Todd Leech  
414. 324. 3328  
[leechtodd@yahoo.com](mailto:leechtodd@yahoo.com)

**FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Spring)**

Sunil Gopalan  
8901 Blackhawk Rd.  
Middleton, WI 53562  
608. 824. 9286  
[sgopalan@umich.edu](mailto:sgopalan@umich.edu)

**FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Summer)**

Darwin Tiede  
2809 Schaefer Circle  
Appleton, WI 54915  
920. 997. 9418  
[crepuscular@new.rr.com](mailto:crepuscular@new.rr.com)

**FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Autumn)**

Robert C. Domagalski  
P.O. Box 396  
St. Nazianz, WI 54232  
920. 881. 4002  
[rcd2@new.rr.com](mailto:rcd2@new.rr.com)

**FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Winter)**

Ted Keyel  
825 Pilgrim Tr.  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
715. 326. 0899  
[erkeyel@gmail.com](mailto:erkeyel@gmail.com)

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*Front Cover: For this month's cover photo, Greg Holtzman shared his beautiful shot of a perched Sharp-shinned Hawk taken in Dane County at the very end of February.*

## **The Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative at 15 Years**

**I**'m using this quarter's column to recognize an outstanding 15-year collaborative effort, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI). WBCI brought together different groups interested in bird conservation, hoping collective effort would increase overall results. It's been successful in many ways.

WBCI is currently engaged in a critical strategic planning effort, to see if it's still relevant, and to help focus its future. WBCI, as I write this column, is facing some serious challenges. Hopefully those challenges can be addressed so it can continue for another 15 years.

I'll highlight some of the outstanding accomplishments in WBCI's first 15 years, ending with some thoughts, concerns, and hopes about its future.

The Initiative is a voluntary partnership of more than 150 organizations around the state. Partners include bird clubs, hunting and fishing groups, government agencies, land trusts, nature centers, environmental groups, universities, and businesses. WBCI's original Vision Statement is worth sharing:

*"Wisconsin partners will deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation, including both game and nongame birds, by working together in voluntary, cooperative initiatives. We will coordinate bird-based projects to ensure effective management for all birds in Wisconsin. We will assess and manage birds and their habitats using the best available science and using ecological landscapes as the management units. Accordingly, we will work both within and outside of Wisconsin to ensure that bird conservation needs are met, and we will share knowledge widely to further bird-based recreational activities in Wisconsin."*

WBCI came into being in May 2001, when 65 initial organizations signed on as partners. We mark the formal start of WBCI, however, as the date of its first Coordinating Council meeting in March 2002. From the start, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funded a dedicated WBCI Coordinator position, hiring Andy Paulios to perform that role in the summer of 2002. This DNR funded coordinator position was a major asset to the partnership (I'll speak later about the recent loss of this funding).

In 2008, the Coordinating Council voted to reform itself into a Steering Committee, a mixture of permanent and at-large representatives and continues today. WSO is a permanent representative, along with the DNR, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wisconsin Audubon Council. There are currently five ad hoc members, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture, Raptor Education Group,



Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, Wisconsin County Forests Association, and Woodland Dunes Nature Center.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over its first 15 years, WBCI has accomplished some truly amazing things. Some of these are highlighted below.

**Addressing Issues:** WBCI has helped people understand risks to birds and how they can be reduced. We've published eight issue papers on cats, climate change, deer herbivory, window collisions, wind power, birding ethics, pesticides, and lead poisoning. WBCI also organized evaluations of special topics, such as urban gull management for communities on Lake Michigan.

**Important Bird Areas:** WBCI took the lead for identifying Wisconsin's Important Bird Areas (IBA), an international program. IBAs are areas that provide essential habitat to one or more species. Eighty-eight IBAs have been identified in Wisconsin. Information about the specific sites can be found on both the web and in a 240-page book. The refuges at Horicon Marsh and the Upper Mississippi River are well-known examples of Important Bird Areas.

**All Bird Plan:** The Wisconsin All Bird Plan gives WBCI partners, private landowners, and others information on how their local actions can best address regional bird conservation needs. The Plan was a major undertaking. It synthesizes the requirements and conservation issues of 116 priority bird species and provides recommendations for habitat protection, restoration, and management that will have the greatest impact on state bird populations. This information is readily available on the web.

**Bird Research:** WBCI partners helped develop a comprehensive statewide plan to address bird research and monitoring needs. The initial step was a "Survey of Surveys" to summarize the state of knowledge when WBCI formed. This was followed by a series of statewide monitoring meetings to identify information gaps and setting priorities to address those gaps. WBCI launched and coordinates citizen-science surveys for owls, nightjars, Red-shouldered Hawks, and secretive marsh birds. WBCI also assisted in creating a Birder Certification Program for Wisconsin, aided in establishing a Wisconsin eBird portal, helped create the Forest Bird Habitat Matrix, and helped establish the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Network.

**Bird-based Recreation:** WBCI was instrumental in developing the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. This is a set of birding guides for five regions of the state, along with regional bird checklists. The trail directs users to the state's best wildlife-watching sites and to local activities and attractions. The five guides were both printed and are available online. The sites were also marked with trail markers and informational signs.

**Reaching Out:** To deliver bird-conservation messages to Wisconsin residents, WBCI developed a communication plan to work closely with media and the pub-

lic around the state. WBCI's message was taken to many festivals and events around the state. WBCI has hosted annual meetings to help its members and the public understand birds and their conservation issues. Topics varied widely, including "Wisconsin Urban Bird Workshop", "Neotropical Migrants: Insuring Their Return", "Power of Partnerships", "Wisconsin Bird Education Summit", and "Making Our Private Lands Count for Birds".

**Education:** A variety of tasks was done to develop opportunities encouraging a greater awareness of birds and the habitats they require. WBCI surveyed teachers to identify how best to deliver bird education, and identified key bird education materials and programs. A Bird Monitoring Kit was developed to provide binoculars, field guides, and other materials to schools, nature centers, and education centers. WBCI has also played a vital role in implementing the Council on Environmental Education's Flying Wild Program to hundreds of educators.

This is just a sample of the accomplishments of WBCI since 2002, something all Wisconsin bird enthusiasts should be proud of. And we should be grateful to the many organizations and individuals that made it happen. Many steps were made towards achieving the bold Vision Statement WBCI started out with 15 years ago.

### THOUGHTS ON WBCI'S FUTURE

In July 2013, after about 11 years at the helm, the WBCI Coordinator took another job within the DNR. At that time, the DNR was funding the equivalent of two full-time positions to work with WBCI (in practice, one actual full-time and two half-time individuals). The future of the WBCI Coordinator position was put on hold while DNR conducted a multi-year internal restructuring review. In the meantime, the Steering Committee did what we could to keep WBCI moving forward. After more than three years, the DNR informed WBCI that they would no longer fund WBCI's Coordinator position.

The loss of a Coordinator was a blow to what WBCI has been able to recently do. The Coordinator was the face of WBCI, speaking to many groups about the Initiative, recruiting partners, keeping partners informed, and encouraging potential allies to undertake joint efforts. The time and energy a full-time coordinator could give has not been replaced, in part due to "waiting to see" whether the DNR would keep funding the position.

The Steering Committee has tried to pick up the slack, but the loss of capacity is obvious. I'm happy to note that WBCI put on three outstanding conferences during this time, each a substantial group effort. A few on-going WBCI efforts, such as the citizen-science targeted bird monitoring programs, have continued. But anything new requiring any amount of coordination or group efforts of partners has suffered. Many WBCI partners have come to depend on the coordinating activities previously provided by WBCI, which they don't have the resources to do on their own.

Earlier I mentioned that WBCI has started a strategic planning effort, trying to chart its future. I will encourage the other participants to recognize the consid-

erable benefits a dedicated coordinator can provide, and will encourage us to explore ways of replacing this lost function.

—Michael John Jaeger, President



Jeff Galligan captured this in-flight Black-legged Kittiwake in Brown County in mid-February.



Jeff Galligan found the Brown County Black-legged Kittiwake taking a break from flying in mid-February.

## **The Attack on Evidence**

**I**ncreasingly, through the efforts of projects such as the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas and Breeding Bird Surveys and of compilations of data such as eBird, information has become available that can be used to foster the welfare of avian, as well as other, species. This fostering comes under the heading of science. At the same time, we live in an era in which science is coming under increasing attack from ignorance, mental laziness and misplaced belief systems which have sought to suppress evidence that contradicts the truth. This is hardly historical news. This has happened many times in the past, an unfortunately common, atavistic mis-step in human evolution. In the paragraphs below we will discuss in part only how this has impacted the world of birds.

Global warming, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, has been declared null and void by the current Wisconsin legislature, not to mention the current President of the United States. Vital habitats, areas previously closed to protect wildlife from extirpation and necessary for their well-being, are being systematically opened to mining, drilling and even recreational exploitation. This has been aided by massive media attacks, including deliberate misinformation, on political hopefuls who seek to protect the planet. This, in turn, has been funded by wealthy interests vested in profit from the exploitation of natural resources. Sometimes it is influenced by political, and sometimes even religious, leaders who want to maintain narrowly-seen traditional ways of life.

What has happened to truth? Where is the valuation of evidence? Science has become regarded by many as “stuff” done by pointy-headed intellectuals and having no bearing on how we live our lives. We advance as a species by being open to introspection and how we can be misguided even by ourselves, and then making difficult changes based on what we have discovered. We learn by keeping our eyes, our hearts, and our minds open.

And what about compassion? Has regard for money replaced our concern for fostering the good health of all, including wildlife? Has blind tradition replaced thought? Has our fear of “otherness” replaced our capacity to love? Has our inaction been spurred by our disinclination to take the time and effort to learn and to work for change?

Change guided by evidence and compassion will always benefit wildlife and us as humans. Let us champion compassion and reliance on evidence to protect not only the planet and its diversity of awe-inspiring species but also ourselves.

—Chuck Heikkinen and Delia Unson



A low-flying adult Bald Eagle was caught in action by Vicki Sokolowski in Rusk County in early February.

# Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II: 2015–2017 Preliminary Results and a Plea for Your Help

*Ryan S. Brady and Nicholas M. Anich*

*2501 Golf Course Road  
Ashland, WI 54806*

**W**isconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II (WBBA II) is a five-year, statewide field project primarily aimed at documenting the distribution and abundance of Wisconsin's breeding birds. It replicates and improves upon the first WBBA conducted from 1995–2000 (Cutright et al. 2006, *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Waukesha), and thus will provide unprecedented comparisons of population change for Wisconsin birds, in addition to yielding critical information on nesting phenology, habitat associations, and current status for over 200 bird species.

As in the first atlas, the strength of WBBA II lies in its intensive coverage of more than 1,000 priority survey blocks spaced uniformly across the state. Observers visit each 3 × 3-mile block multiple times within a single year or across years to record bird species diversity, abundance, and breeding evidence, assigning the latter into Possible (e.g. singing male), Probable (e.g. courtship behavior) or Confirmed (e.g. a nest or adults feeding young) breeding categories. Data are entered, stored, and displayed in real time via a special

WBBA II portal to eBird, a popular online bird reporting system.

While designed and coordinated by staff at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with major partners at the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, survey data are primarily gathered by thousands of volunteer birdwatchers, making it one of the largest citizen science programs in state history.

2017 marked the third of five years of field data collection. Here we provide some preliminary results from the project's first three years and make a plea for all Wisconsin birdwatchers to participate in some way to ensure success of this important project.

## PRELIMINARY BIRD RESULTS

After three field seasons, observers have documented 4.9 million birds of 239 possibly breeding species, confirming 224 of those as breeders. For comparison, WBBA I tallied 237 species and confirmed 226 during its six field seasons running from 1995–2000.



Figure 1. An adult Mississippi Kite feeds a cicada to its recently fledged chick. The 2016 nesting in Rock County was the first ever documented for Wisconsin. Photo by Scott Weberpal.



Figure 4. White-winged Crossbill is the only species confirmed as breeding in more than two blocks during WBBA I which has not yet been confirmed during WBBA II. Photo by Stephen Brady.



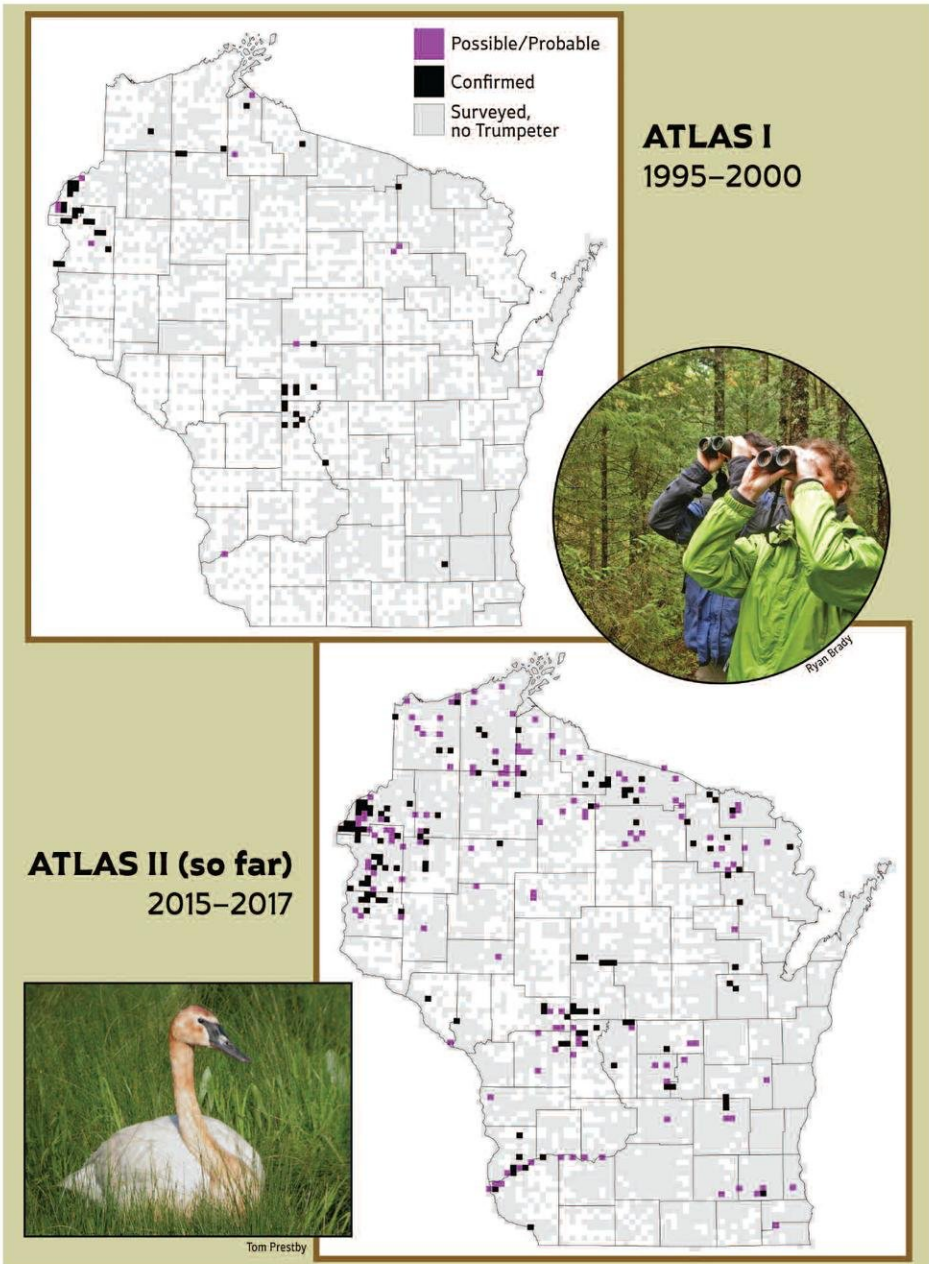


Figure 2. WBBA II already demonstrates a significant range increase for Trumpeter Swans beyond the central and northwestern lakes that formed their stronghold in WBBA I.



Thus far WBBA II has confirmed as breeding 12 species not confirmed during WBBA I. These include Canvasback, Bufflehead, Mississippi Kite, King Rail, Whooping Crane, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-eyed Vireo, Great Tit, Kirtland's Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and European Goldfinch.

Perhaps the project's best find to date came in 2016 with the discovery of a Mississippi Kite nest with young in Rock County, marking the first known breeding by this species in Wisconsin and one of its northernmost breeding records anywhere (Fig. 1).

Species confirmed in the most blocks include American Robin (1,915 blocks), Red-winged Blackbird (1,508), Canada Goose (1,287), Bald Eagle (1,280), Black-capped Chickadee (1,245), European Starling (1,237), Song Sparrow (1,217), Common Grackle (1,186), Chipping Sparrow (1,171), and Eastern Bluebird (1,134).

Some of the species showing the biggest apparent gains since WBBA I include Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Trumpeter Swan (Fig. 2), Orchard Oriole, Tufted Titmouse, Lark Sparrow, Canada Goose, Sandhill Crane, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Wild Turkey. Range expansions are already apparent among species such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, American White Pelican, and Merlin.

Declining species are more difficult to determine when comparing only three years of WBBA II data so far to six years of data gathered in WBBA I. However, apparent declines seem evident for Upland Sandpiper, Northern Bobwhite, Connecticut Warbler, Purple Martin, Gray Jay, and Common Nighthawk, to name a few. Unfortunately, many of these are also species of

high conservation priority, which show a mixed bag of trends thus far (Fig. 3).

We have yet to confirm in WBBA II 15 species that were confirmed as breeding during WBBA I. However, only one of the 15 was confirmed in more than two blocks in the first atlas—the White-winged Crossbill (Fig. 4). Unlike most species, crossbills are nomadic, each year moving across the continent in search of good spruce and pine cone crops, their primary food source. Breeding is most likely in northern conifer bogs on the heels of an irruption year, which has not yet occurred during the period of WBBA II. Maybe this will be the year?

The remaining 14 species confirmed in only one or two blocks during WBBA I but not confirmed yet in WBBA II are Northern Pintail, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow Rail, Barn Owl, Philadelphia Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Nelson's Sparrow, Lesser Scaup, Western Grebe, Snowy Egret, Great Black-backed Gull, Great Gray Owl, Western Kingbird, and Rusty Blackbird. Four other species considered as possibly or probably breeding in WBBA I but not WBBA II include Eared Grebe, Tennessee Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler.

However, compared to some of these rare breeders, WBBA II may be just as likely to score another first state breeding record, such as Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, Black-billed Magpie, Laughing Gull, Summer Tanager, or some other unexpected surprise. Time will tell.

#### EXTENT OF SURVEY EFFORT TO DATE

Over three years, an astounding 1,430 volunteers have submitted nearly

89,000 eBird checklists to WBBA II representing over 30,000 individual locations around the state. Whether viewing the survey effort by examining the distribution of those location points (Fig. 5) or by calculating the average number of hours surveyed within each priority block (Fig. 6), similar patterns emerge. In general, the southeast quarter of the state is well covered, which is to be expected. The good coverage across several northern tier counties is a pleasant surprise, and demonstrates the great value of a few highly dedicated atlasers there. North-central and western Wisconsin have the least amount of survey effort so far, and thus will require the most attention during the project's final two years. Overall, roughly 30% of priority blocks statewide have been completed, another 40% are well underway, and the remaining 30% have little or no progress to date.

Figure 7 reflects the number of species with at least Possible breeding in each county. While this number is affected by several factors such as county size, habitat diversity, and location within the state, it can also tell us a little about the survey effort so far. In this case, the pattern generally mimics that found in Figs. 5 and 6.

And lastly, just for fun, Table 1 lists the top atlaser (by number of species confirmed) in each county. While we give them all a big tip of the cap, these are just a few of the many dedicated atlasers out there.

### **A PLEA FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

Despite the big numbers, new species, and other impressive statistics, a great deal of work remains for the final two years of WBBA II. Success

won't be measured by many of these statistics but rather by complete survey coverage of all priority blocks statewide. With nearly two-thirds of these blocks still incomplete we have a long way to go, and we need your help.

You need not be an expert birder to participate—all skill levels are welcome. Never atlas before? It's not too late to get started as most blocks can be fully surveyed in 1–2 years. Not an eBirder? Now is a great time to join the millions of users worldwide, and you'll quickly discover how fun and useful it is. Already atlas-ing? Thank you! Please finish up your block and take another. Oh, the places we'd go if all Wisconsin birders focused their summer birding efforts in priority atlas blocks!

Still not convinced? Here are five more reasons to join WBBA II:

1. Atlas-ing is the best way to get a comprehensive look at the changes to Wisconsin's birdlife over the last 20 years. Which species are winning, losing, or holding steady? How do we prioritize increasingly scarce conservation dollars?
2. It's easy! See birds, report where and when you saw them, on your computer or through our Atlas-specific eBird app for smartphones.
3. Your bird sightings are tracked through eBird, so it's easy to pull up your life lists, county lists, target lists of birds you need, and observations you made on similar dates in previous years.
4. Data from WBBA II are freely available to researchers, land managers, planners, and other scientists. That's millions of birds from tens of thou-

# Have You Seen These Species?

## Atlas collects data on species of concern

Records of conservation-priority bird species are an important product of the atlas. Some of these species may be vanishing, while others are holding steady or increasing, but only a statewide effort will reveal these trends. If you have seen or heard these species in June and July, help us out by reporting them!

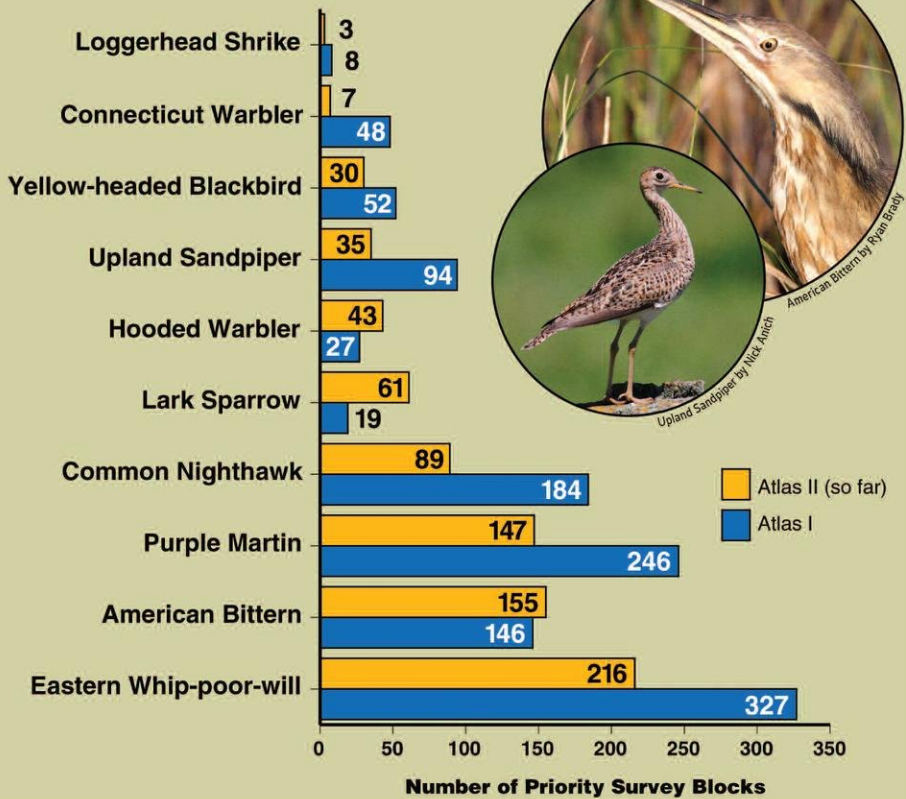


Figure 3. Records of conservation-priority bird species are an important product of WBBA II. This subset reveals a mixed bag of trends so far.

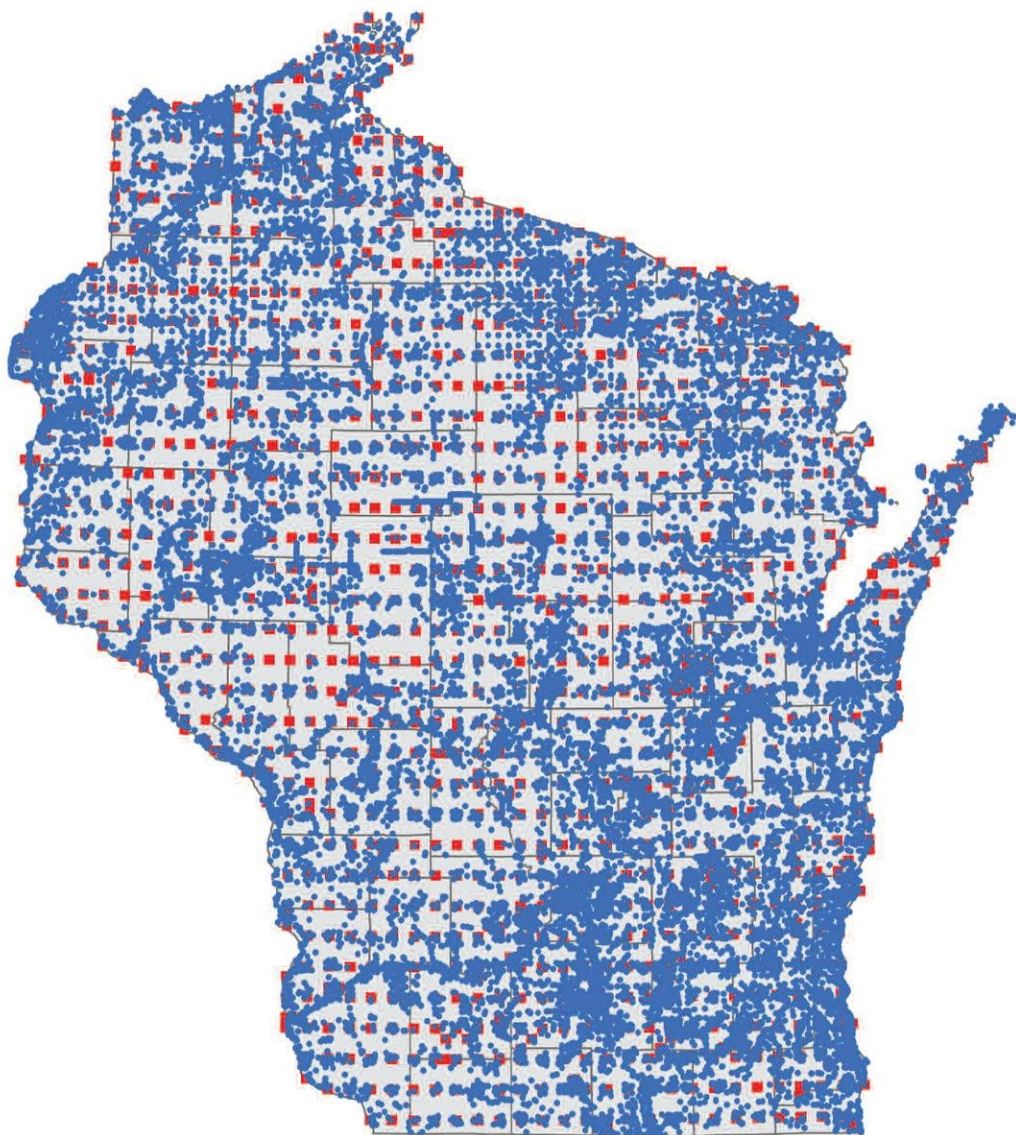


Figure 5. Observers have submitted nearly 89,000 checklists to WBBA II thus far at over 30,000 unique locations (blue dots). Red squares represent priority survey blocks.

Table 1. Top atlasers in each county by number of species confirmed as breeding. Kudos to these high flyers and all of our atlas volunteers!

County	Top AtLASer(s)	Confirmations	County	Top AtLASer(s)	Confirmations
Adams	Tom Reed	87	Marathon	Dan Belter	96
Ashland	Nick Anich	81	Marinette	Skye Haas	96
Barron	Matthew Berg	87	Marquette	Daryl Christensen	116
Bayfield	Ryan Brady	105	Menominee	Tom Prestby	81
Brown	Jack Swelstad	90	Milwaukee	Norma Zehner	58
Buffalo	Shane Patterson	69	Monroe	Eric Epstein	78
Burnett	James Hoefler	90	Oconto	Stephanie Beilke	73
Calumet	Mack & Becky Whitmore	52	Oneida	Shane Patterson	65
Chippewa	Allen Swartz	70	Outagamie	Michael O'Connell	76
Clark	Nick Walton	81	Ozaukee	John O'Donnell	82
Columbia	Mark & Sue Martin	93	Pepin	Shane Patterson	58
Crawford	Dennis Kirschbaum	101	Pierce	Dan Versaw	50
Dane	Charles Henrikson	76	Polk	Robin Maercklein	93
Dodge	Jack & Holly Bartholmai	91	Portage	Katie Kozak	73
Door	Melody Walsh	92	Price	Jim Krakowski	114
Douglas	Frank Nicoletti	139	Racine	Eric Howe	70
Dunn	Pam Campbell	111	Richland	Shane Patterson	78
Eau Claire	Anne Geraghty	74	Rock	Joshua Cullum	80
Florence	Kay Kavanagh	117	Rusk	Tony Del Valle	93
Fond du Lac	Jeff Baughman	93	Sauk	Aaron Holschbach	90
Forest	Mary Maertz	87	Sawyer	Frank Nicoletti	72
Grant	Dennis Kirschbaum	76	Shawano	Ellie Roark	71
Green	Quentin Yoerger	83	Sheboygan	Jim Frank	68
Green Lake	Thomas Schultz	99	St. Croix	Larry Persico	89
Iowa	John Kivikoski	83	Taylor	Mackenzie Goldthwait	73
Iron	Nick Anich	82	Trempealeau	Shane Patterson	66
Jackson	Randy Hoffman	110	Vernon	Paul Hayes	78
Jefferson	Aaron Stutz	92	Vilas	Robert Spahn	78
Juneau	Randy Hoffman	83	Walworth	Joe Jacyna	59
Kenosha	Jennifer Wenzel	47	Washburn	Matthew Berg	100
Kewaunee	Adam Sinkula	78	Washington	Tom Schaefer	72
La Crosse	Scott Puchalski	49	Waukesha	Andrea Szymczak	93
Lafayette	John Dadisman	63	Waupaca	Michael O'Connell	89
Langlade	Demetri Lafkas	74	Waushara	Mike Reese	56
Lincoln	David Edlund	74	Winnebago	Stuart Malcolm	81
Manitowoc	Robert Domagalski	105	Wood	Tom Reed/ Tom Prestby	83

sands of locations over a five-year period—a powerful dataset for furthering work to conserve birds.

5. When WBBA II volunteers were queried about their involvement in the project, 96% said atlasng was fun! We consistently hear from volunteers how rewarding atlasng is and how much they learn from its slower pace and focus on breeding behaviors.

Ready to help out? Here's how:

1. Don't put your binoculars away on June 1! While many birders live for May, Wisconsin is blessed with an incredible diversity of breeding species that provide some great birding during the summer months.
2. Focus your summer birding in priority blocks that remain incomplete. You'll discover some great new places, new habitats, and maybe even some new birds, all while making a valuable contribution to the project.
3. Sign up to be the principal atlaser for an open priority block. You can make a big difference by completing one or more blocks.
4. Contribute incidental sightings. You don't have to be officially signed up as an atlaser to submit data via the Atlas eBird portal.
5. Learn more by visiting the WBBA II website where you can find out which blocks are open or email your local county coordinator for help getting up to speed.

6. Unable to help with field work? Provide much-needed financial support to hire specialized technicians by sponsoring a species, adopting a block, or otherwise donating to the project.

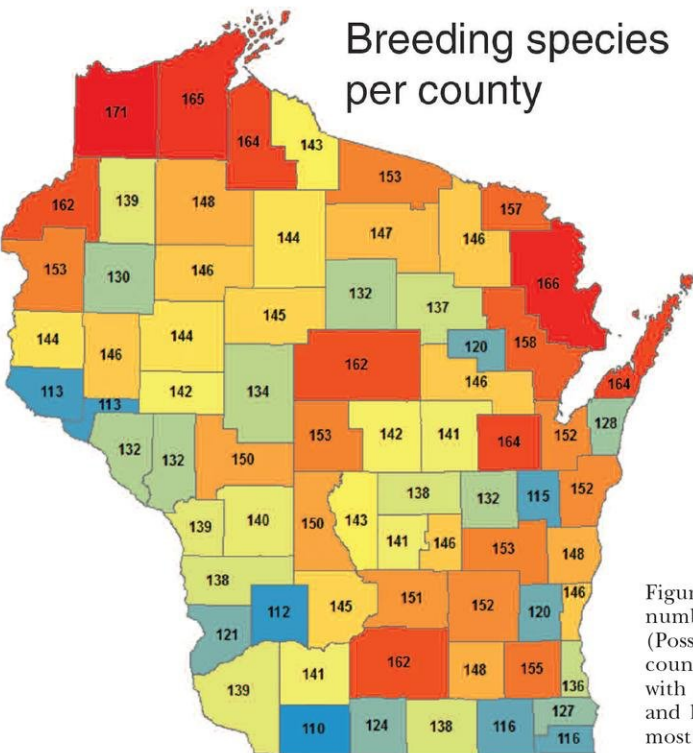
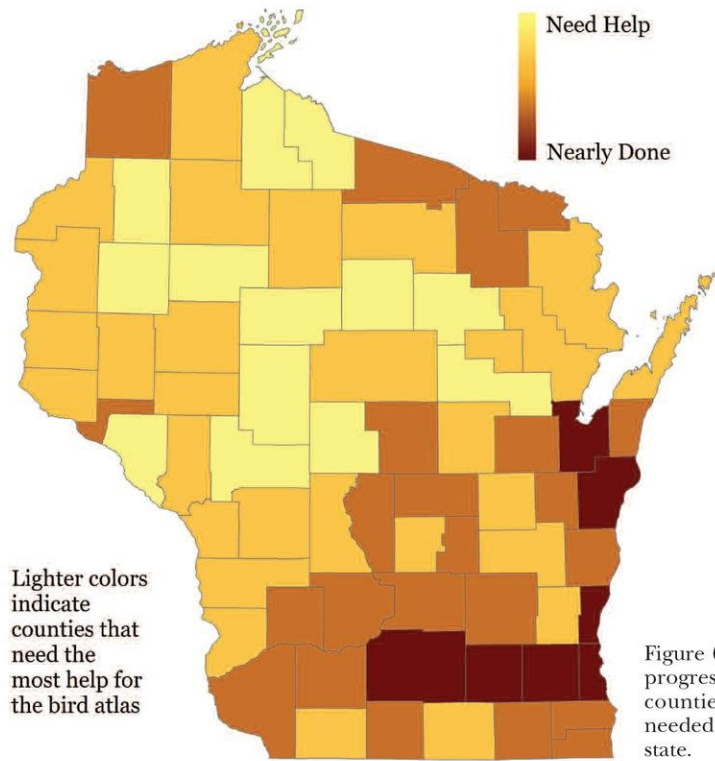
Habitat destruction, climate change, outdoor cats, window collisions, pesticides, and more—birds face greater threats today than ever. Yet the resources to mitigate them, reverse declines in threatened species, and keep common birds common are lagging. And the bulk of these resources are often steered toward Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Mallards, and other harvested species. But what of the meadowlarks and whip-poor-wills, hawks and hummingbirds, orioles and warblers, thrushes and sparrows? Who will ensure their populations thrive into the future to perform valuable ecological services and bring joy to our lives? As a birding community, if we care about preserving birds, OUR birds, we need to take action, and the atlas is one great way to do that.

So perhaps this is the perfect time to give your birding a greater purpose. Take the next step, contribute your sightings to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas at [www.wsobirds.org/atlas](http://www.wsobirds.org/atlas).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the many volunteers who have contributed thousands of hours and miles to the project thus far, as birders, local county coordinators, and project planners. We are also grateful to fellow members of the WBBA II planning team, and our eBird partners at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Thanks to Michelle Voss for preparing several figures.





## 50 Years Ago, in *The Passenger Pigeon*

excerpts from *Winter 1967, Volume 29, Number 4*

Nancy Nabak

A perching Saw-whet Owl appears on the front cover of this volume, taken by photographer Ed Prins. The back cover lists the officers of 1967: President, George Becker, Vice president, David Cox, Secretary, Mrs. David Cox, and Treasurer, Mrs. Alfred Holz. There are more than a dozen more positions and committee members listed, including the position of "Addressograph" held by Mrs. Earl R. Schmidt.

Helmut Mueller and Daniel Berger wrote a paper on "The Relative Abundance of Species Caught in Mist-Nets During Fall Migration at Cedar Grove." The paper's purpose: "Few quantitative data exist on the relative numbers of passerine and other small birds during migration. It is particularly difficult to obtain pertinent data on autumnal transients because birds are quite difficult to observe and identify during this season. This paper presents the results of one approach to the problem." Japanese mist-nets were set up at Cedar Grove in the fall seasons of 1958–1963. During each trapping season nets were left up day and night, other than severe weather days or other conditions where trapping was impossible. Nets were set up for a total of 371 full days, and 32,242 birds of 117 species were trapped and banded. An additional 3,342 birds were caught on days which the nets were functioning for only part of the day. The results: "We believe that the mist-netting techniques employed at Cedar Grove are an excellent method for sampling the transient populations of small to medium-sized passerines which occur with some frequency in brush or in the shrub understory of the forest." Six cautionary shortcomings were then discussed, but it was noted and documented that the advantages of mist-netting in censusing birds for the most part far out-weighed the disadvantages. The top 10 most commonly netted species in this study were: Swainson's Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Gray Catbird, American Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, Slate-colored Junco, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the Trail's Flycatcher.

Registration for the WSO annual convention in Green Bay was promoted with a fee of \$1.50 before May 12 and \$2.00 after. The banquet was an additional \$3.50.

A white-phase Gyr Falcon was spotted by Bernard F. Klugow of Brule on January 31, 1967. "I saw it—yes sir!—a Gyr Falcon . . . in Trempealeau County at about 10:45 a.m. This was on County Trunk E west of Pleasantville. . . . I noticed a small flock of pigeons flying towards a set of farm buildings and about 50 yards behind the pigeons was this white bird. The pigeons stopped at the barn, but this beautiful falcon went right on over the set of buildings heading north. I was out of the car when it went over the road about 40 feet above the ground and about 30 yards from me. The wings seemed to be pure white except for some dark tips (feather edges)."





Jim Stewart imaged the play of the wind in this Rough-legged Hawk's feathers in early February in Dane County.

# The Winter Season: 2016–2017

*Ted Keyel*

## WEATHER

Some birds continued late through the fall as in last year, but overall, December gave a proper start to the winter season, with temperatures below freezing and some nice snow accumulation. This was a nice change from last year's six inches of rain. In contrast, January warmed back up with more rain than snow. February was a mixture of the two, especially with a warm second half of the month ending with snow.

Daryl Tessen writes:

*"This winter started like it 'meant business' but moderated quickly. All three months averaged above normal °F, Jan +7°F and Feb +4°F). Precipitation due to the warmer temps changed from snow (25+ inches in Dec, 12+ inches in Jan, and 5+ inches in Feb) to rain. About 2–3 inches fell during the season with lots of fog and cloud cover. The sun was hard to 'tally' until mid Feb especially when temps easily hit the 50s and for several days 60s (almost 70°F)."*

## DISCUSSION

This winter, 180 species were reported in Wisconsin, which was lower than last year's 190, but higher than the previous four years (164, 167, 178, and 168). This year, nine of ten uncommon species we have been following were re-

ported: Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoter, Red-throated Loon, American White Pelican, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Carolina Wren, and Northern Mockingbird with only Barrow's Goldeneye missing.

This winter shared some highlights with last year, such as: multiple Eurasian Tree Sparrow and Slaty-backed Gull. Other highlights include: a King Eider continuing from the fall, a very obliging Black-legged Kittiwake, Laughing and California Gulls, a Gyrfalcon, Cattle Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron, and a Townsend's Warbler. This year was highlighted by high gull diversity, but it was low for many other species, especially finches and owls. Many migrant waterfowl started returning at the end of February rather than early March.

Daryl Tessen writes:

*"Overall the season seemed quieter than 'normal'. This was due to limited rarities, almost no winter finches and the warmer temps overall not concentrating birds as is usual in a typical winter. Spring migration commenced with the mild mid-Feb weather. Waterfowl, cranes, and blackbirds poured into the state. Other early March migrants also appeared; however, they undoubtedly regretted it with the snowstorm the last weekend in Feb."*



were 4,688 tics for the state (Please See Map), which was higher than last year's 4,589 tics and the previous year's 3,916. Total tics are another way to look at the birding coverage of the state, beyond just the heavily birded counties.

Species reports included Christmas Bird Count data, approved eBird reports, single and multi-county reports, photographs, selected Wisbirdn reports, and WSO form documentations. Please note that all contributions are very important, but due to space constraints only names cited in the report are listed at the end. Some rare species were reported, but **not documented to the WSO** and those reports are not included here. Please fill out a WSO documentation form (<https://wsobirds.org/rare-bird-documentation>) for state review species ([www.wsobirds.org/wso-review-list/](http://www.wsobirds.org/wso-review-list/)) or if it would be one of the top three record early or late entries (<https://wsobirds.org/images/pdfs/ArrivalDeparture2015Fall.pdf>). Information in this report regarding the CBCs included only those more uncommon species that were found on 22 or fewer counts. Count week CBC sightings were represented in parentheses while some CBC data may be included in reports following initial CBC data. The following abbreviations may be included in This report: BOP=beginning of period, EOP=end of period, TTP=throughout the period, m. obs=many observers, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, and CBC=Christmas Bird Count.

## REPORTS

(1 December 2016–28 February 2017)

Species marked with an “\*” are on the review list and need documenta-

tion, which is reviewed by the WSO Record Committee, to be valid records.

**Greater White-fronted Goose**—Three individuals on the Cooksville CBC, which was much lower than last year's 71 individuals. Reported from 30 counties with a high count of 826 birds on 17 February in Grant County (McKay).

**Snow Goose**—Seven individuals on the Kewaunee and Madison CBCs. Flocks found into December and many birds reported at the end of February. Reported from 27 counties with the seasonal high count of 81 on 7 December in Ozaukee County (W. Mueller).

**Ross's Goose**—Only a single individual was found during the count week of the Kewaunee CBC. Some reports throughout the season, with most birds in February. Reported from 16 counties which was double last year's eight counties. The maximum count of 12 was recorded in Dodge County on 24 February (Schrab).

**Cackling Goose**—A single individual on the Kewaunee CBC, which was substantially lower than last year's 90 individuals. Found in 23 counties, comparable to last year's 25. The high count of 37 birds occurred on 1 December in Columbia County (T. Keyel).

**Canada Goose**—Found in 66 counties, with a high count of 7,000 reported on 19 February from Jefferson County (Stutz). Other counties with counts greater than 1,000 include: Adams (R. Anderson), Brown (Prestby and Sinkula), Columbia (m. obs), Dane (m. obs), Dodge (m. obs), Fond du Lac (m. obs), Green Lake (Schultz), Jefferson (m. obs), Kenosha (m. obs), Kewaunee (R. Anderson, D & K. Sehloff, and Zenner), Manitowoc (Domagalski), Marquette (Jaksic), Milwaukee (Wanger), Outagamie (m. obs), Ozaukee (m. obs), Polk (Maercklein), Racine (Collinx), Rock (Cullum and Wilson), Sheboygan (m. obs), Walworth (Haas, Johnson and G & B Wood), Waukesha (Gustafson, T. Hahn and Stehno), and Winnebago (Malcolm).

**Mute Swan**—Eight individuals on four CBCs, which was lower than last year's 48 birds across nine CBCs. Reported from 14 counties with a maximum count of 12 on 9 January in Door (Walsh) and 25 December in Racine (Goldberg).

**Trumpeter Swan**—There were 764 individuals found on 15 CBCs. Reported from 44 counties, which was comparable to last year's 40 counties. The high count of 411 birds occurred on 20 December in St. Croix County (George).

**Tundra Swan**—This year, 1,883 individuals were found on 11 CBCs. Reported from 47 counties, which was higher than last year's 30 counties. The only report over 1,000 individuals was in Dodge County on 18 February (Tessen).

**Wood Duck**—The total 52 individuals on 19 CBCs was much higher than last year's 11 individuals. Reported from 24 counties with a high count of 19 in Vernon County on 24 December (Roth-Reynold).

**Gadwall**—A total of 114 individuals on 13 CBCs, which was much lower than last year's 714 individuals. Reported from 34 counties with a maximum count of 100 on 23 February in Dane County (Henrikson).

**American Wigeon**—This year, there were only two single birds on the Cookville and Racine CBCs, which was much lower than last year's 40 birds. However, overall there were reports from more counties. This year with 28 counties versus last year's 18 counties. The high count of 100 occurred on 22 February in Vernon County (Rueckheim).

**American Black Duck**—Reported from 46 counties which was comparable to last year's 43 counties. The maximum count of 110 was reported from 10 December in Brown County (Prestby).

**Mallard**—Reported from 63 counties with a maximum count of 3,000 birds on 11 December in Brown County (Belter). Other counties with counts over 1,000 include: Calumet (Sonneland), Columbia (T. Keyel), Grant (McKay), Marathon (Belter), and Sheboygan (m. obs).

**Blue-winged Teal**—Single reports from 9 December and 29 January in Manitowoc County (Sontag).

**Northern Shoveler**—There were 678 individuals on the Madison CBC, which was more birds than last year's 284, but those 284 were spread across four CBCs. Reported from 29 counties which was higher than last year's 20 counties.

The high count of 700 was reported on 3 December in Fond du Lac County (Stehno).

**Northern Pintail**—The total 51 individuals on eight CBCs was similar to last year. Reported from 35 counties which was higher than the last two years of 24 and nine counties. The maximum count of 781 occurred on 17 February in Grant County (McKay).

**Green-winged Teal**—A total of 10 individuals on three CBCs, which was lower than last year's 16 individuals on six CBCs. Reported from 31 counties, which was higher than last year's 16 counties. The high count of 108 was found on 26 February in Columbia County (Schilke).

**Canvasback**—A total of 88 individuals on nine CBCs, which was much lower than last year's 780 individuals across 14 CBCs. Reported from 28 counties with a maximum count of 1,100 in Grant County on 17 February (McKay).

**Redhead**—A total 172 individuals on 15 CBCs, which was much lower than last year's 782 individuals. Reported from 29 counties with a high count of 700 on 27 February in Brown County (Swelstad).

**Ring-necked Duck**—The total of 169 individuals on 10 CBCs was lower than last year's 230 birds on 15 CBCs. Reported from 34 counties with a maximum count of 250 birds shared between 26 February in Green County (Haycraft, Klubertanz and Yoerger) and 27 February in Sauk County (Kivikoski).

**Greater Scaup**—The total of 4,005 individuals on 14 CBCs was higher than last year's 2,418 individuals. Reported from 13 counties with a staggering high count of 9,500 birds on 27 February in Brown County (Prestby). Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties were the only other two with reports of over 1,000 (m. obs).

**Lesser Scaup**—A 127 individuals on 14 CBCs which was lower than last year's 610 across 20 CBCs. Reported from 32 counties with a high count of 1,000 on 22 February in Vernon County (Rueckheim).

**King Eider\***—One bird continuing from the fall season in Milwaukee County (m. obs).

**Harlequin Duck**—Single individuals from Appleton and Kewaunee CBCs. Reports from

seven counties, with only Outagamie (m. obs) and Winnebago (Malcolm) Counties being away from Lake Michigan.

**Surf Scoter**—Three individuals reported on the Kewaunee and Madison CBCs. Reported from nine counties, with a high count of 13 on 3 December in Kenosha County (Howe).

**White-winged Scoter**—Four individuals were found on two CBCs. Reported from nine counties with a high count of 30 in Milwaukee (L. Hahn).

**Black Scoter**—A single individual on the Milwaukee CBC. Only reported in seven counties, with a high count of 20 birds in Milwaukee on 2 December (Gustafson and Horn).

**Long-tailed Duck**—Only 17 individuals on eight CBCs, which was much lower than last year's 345 individuals across the same number of CBCs. Reported from 13 counties, with only Sheboygan (Tessen) and Door (Benson and Walsh) having reports of triple digits.

**Bufflehead**—A total of 592 individuals on 20 CBCs. Reported from 39 counties which was higher than last year's 32 counties. The high count of 200 in Winnebago County was shared between 1 December (R. Mueller) and 2 December (Malcolm).

**Common Goldeneye**—Reported from 55 counties which was higher than last year's 45 counties. The maximum count of 9,500 occurred on 27 February in Brown County (Prestby). Other counties with four digit counts include: Green Lake (Schultz), Milwaukee (m. obs), and Winnebago (m. obs).

**Hooded Merganser**—A total of 83 individuals on 15 CBCs. Reported from 46 counties, which was higher than last year's 35 counties. The high count of 100 was reported on 26 February in La Crosse County (Puchalski).

**Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser (hybrid)**—Only one individual in Winnebago County on 28 January (Malcolm and Ward).

**Common Merganser**—Reported from 55 counties, which was two higher than last year. The maximum count of 3,000 occurred on 1 January in Brown County (Tessen). Other counties

with counts of 1,000 or more include: Kewaunee (Zenner) and Winnebago (Malcolm and Tessen).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—A total of 1,865 individuals on 22 CBCs. Reported from 20 counties which was one fewer than last year. The high count of 5,690 on 3 December in Kenosha County (Howe). Other counties with four digit counts were: Milwaukee (Bontly), Ozaukee (Frank and W. Mueller), and Racine (Goldberg).

**Ruddy Duck**—The total of 65 individuals on seven CBCs was a little lower than last year's 80 individuals across 10 CBCs. Reported from 17 counties with an incredible high count of 377 birds from 25 February in Rock County (Yoerger).

**Northern Bobwhite**—There were 14 individuals on the Washington Island CBC, which was two fewer than last year.

**Gray Partridge**—Only two reports from Grant, one on 21 December of three birds (Dike) and the other from 19 February (Harman).

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—Reported from 45 counties, which was one fewer than last year. The high count of 43 was reported from 14 January in Columbia County (Persche).

**Ruffed Grouse**—Reported from 36 counties, which was two fewer than last year. The maximum count of ten occurred on 11 February in Price County (Fernandez).

**Spruce Grouse**—Only reported from Forest and Vilas Counties with a high count of three birds in each county (m. obs).

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—Only reported from Douglas and Burnett Counties, with a high count of eight birds on 5 February (Lally).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**—Two individuals on the Arpin CBC. Remarkably, reported from four counties: Adams (R. Anderson), Marathon (Backus, Belter and Hurlburt), Portage (m. obs), and Wood (Belter).

**Wild Turkey**—Reported from 71 counties, only missing Burnett County. The high count of 200 was reported on 11 January in Sauk County (A. Anderson).



Vicki Sokolowski was treated to this spectacular Blue Jay display in mid-January in Rusk County.





Jim Stewart memorialized this American Kestrel with its tail fully spread in late February in Dane County.



David Franzen shows the striking pattern on the back of this Brown Creeper in a photo taken in mid-February in Vilas County.



**Red-throated Loon**—A single bird on the Kewaunee CBC. Only reported from five counties with a high count of five birds on 1 December in Ozaukee County (Tessen).

**Common Loon**—One individual on the Madison CBC which was lower than last year's 14 across six CBCs. Reported from 12 counties with a maximum count of six on 6 December in Dane County (Hampton).

**Pied-billed Grebe**—Seven individuals on the Lake Geneva and Madison CBCs. Reported from 17 counties which was higher than last year's nine. The high count of eight occurred on 6 December in Dane County (Schwarz).

**Horned Grebe**—One individual was found on the Madison CBC. Reported from 14 counties which was less than half of last year. The maximum count of four birds was shared between Dane County on 6 December (Thiessen) and Walworth County on 10 December (Szymczak).

**Red-necked Grebe**—One individual found on the Herbster CBC.

**Eared Grebe**—A single individual found in Dane County in mid-December (m. obs).

**Western Grebe**—A single individual in Milwaukee County (m. obs) that was present for the count week of the Milwaukee CBC.

**Double-crested Cormorant**—34 individuals on six CBCs. Reported from 15 counties, with a high count of 45 birds on 27 February in Crawford County (Collins).

**American White Pelican**—Seven birds on the Green Bay CBC. Reported from five counties which was lower than last year's seven counties. The maximum count of 350 occurred on 27 February in Crawford County (Collins).

**Great Blue Heron**—Reported from 30 counties which was much higher than last year's 18 counties. The high count of six was reported on 28 February in La Crosse County (B. Gray).

**Cattle Egret**—A rare winter record with one bird continuing from the Fall in Horicon NWR in Dodge County (Pavletic, Stehno, and Watson). Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—Remarkably, there were single individuals on the Green Bay and Milwaukee CBCs.

**Turkey Vulture**—One bird on the Palmyra CBC, which was lower than last year's seven. A few birds stayed into December and many spring migrants arrived at the end of February. Reported from 17 counties, with a maximum count of 15 birds on 27 February in Walworth County (Ganfield).

**Bald Eagle**—Reported from 71 counties, missing only from Menominee County. The high count of 54 birds occurred on 9 December in Buffalo County (Peters).

**Northern Harrier**—Reported from 48 counties which was two fewer than last year. The maximum count of 32 was reported on 12 December in Milwaukee County (Hilt).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—Reported from 47 counties, with only Rock County having a count over two individuals on 1 January (Yoerger). The northernmost records come from Ashland County on 16 December (Anich) and Bayfield County on multiple days (Anich and Brady).

**Cooper's Hawk**—Reported from 58 counties which was five higher than last year. There were no reports higher than three birds.

**Northern Goshawk**—Single birds on four CBCs which was one-third of last year. There were no reports with two or more individuals.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—Seven individuals were reported on five CBCs. Reported from 21 counties with the following three counties sharing the high count of two birds: Grant (m. obs), Iowa (Holschbach), and Walworth (Nowak). The northernmost record occurred on 22 February in Dunn County (Koch).

**Red-tailed Hawk**—Reported from 62 counties, which was lower than last year's 66 but tied with the previous year. The maximum count of 18 birds was shared between Grant County on 21 December (Yoerger) and Sauk County on 31 December (A. & R. Staffen). There were multiple subspecies of Red-tailed Hawks reported this winter including: a single young Harlan's reported on 29 January (Grossmeyer) and reports of the

Western subspecies from Iowa County (Younger) and Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

**Rough-legged Hawk**—Reported from 66 counties which was three higher than last year. The high count of 14 birds occurred on 21 December in Grant County (Yoerger).

**Golden Eagle**—A total 30 individuals found on nine CBCs which was the same number of birds but three CBCs fewer than last year. Reported from 22 counties with a high count of nine birds on 18 February in Buffalo County (Wingert).

**Virginia Rail**—Only two reports and both were from 31 December, one of five birds in Columbia (Yoerger) and the other of two birds in Walworth (Howe and Wegner).

**American Coot**—A total of 3,540 individuals across 14 CBCs. Reported from 28 counties with a maximum count of 3,300 on 6 December in Jefferson County (Hale). The following counties also had four digit counts: Dane (Bailey, Schwarz, and Younger), Walworth (Szymczak), and Waukesha (Gustafson and Kinzer).

**Sandhill Crane**—There were 28 individuals on six CBCs. Large numbers were still being seen into December, with a high count of 4,500 on 8 December in Dane County (Paulios). Reported from 46 counties which was ten more than last year! The following counties also had counts over 1,000: (Dodge (Stehno and Tessen), Fond du Lac (Stehno), and Racine (Collinx).

**Killdeer**—Reported from 29 counties which was 11 more than last year. The maximum count of 15 birds occurred on 26 February in Vernon County (Jackson).

**Black-bellied Plover**—A single individual reported from two locations on 3 December in Ashland County (Oksiuta). Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Dunlin**—There were two reports from Manitowoc County (Brasser and Sontag).

**Wilson's Snipe**—Nine individuals were found on seven CBCs. Reported from 13 counties which was three more than last year. The high count of four birds occurred on 7 December in Dane County (Thiessen).

**Black-legged Kittiwake\***—A single, oblique individual was present in mid-December in Brown County (m. obs.) and stayed for the count week of the Green Bay CBC. Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Bonaparte's Gull**—Reported from five counties which was lower than last year's eight. The high count of 28 was reported on 10 December in Walworth County (Szymczak).

**Laughing Gull**—An unusual winter species, one bird was present in Winnebago during January (m. obs.) also found on the Appleton CBC. Initially it was identified as a Franklin's Gull, but photos revealed it to be a Laughing Gull. Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Ring-billed Gull**—Reported from 43 counties which was five fewer than last year. The maximum count of 6,000 birds was shared between 2 and 5 December in Eau Claire County (Polk). The 7 December count of 1,000 in Fond du Lac County was the only other county to reach four digits (Benson).

**California Gull\***—A species that seems to be reported more frequently in Wisconsin, one adult found on 16 January in Winnebago County (Malcolm). Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Herring Gull**—Reported from 37 counties with a maximum count of 3,500 on 22 February in Brown County (Prestby). Other counties at the four-digit mark include: Douglas (m. obs), Jefferson (m. obs), Milwaukee (m. obs), Racine (Howe, Frank, and Wegner), and Winnebago (m. obs).

**Thayer's Gull**—Six individuals on three CBCs. Reported from 13 counties with a shared high count of five in Milwaukee County (m. obs). Note that this was the last time Thayer's Gull will appear as a full species in the Winter Report. The American Ornithological Society's Committee on the Classification and Nomenclature of North and Middle American Birds voted to lump Thayer's Gull in with Iceland Gull. Initially considered conspecific with Herring Gull. Thayer's Gull was split out by a study done by Neil Smith in the 1960s. Follow-up studies by other researchers showed that the data produced by Smith had



Anne Geraghty imaged the awesome beauty of these Northern Pintails in Eau Claire County in late December.



This Greater White-fronted Goose looked up as Jym Mooney took this photo in late February in Milwaukee County.



This endearing shot of a Golden-crowned Kinglet was created by Kris Perlberg in late February in Dane County.



Early February in Dane County brought this Horned Lark to the lens of Jim Stewart.

been falsified (e.g., gull colonies he claimed were in one spot never actually existed).

**Iceland Gull**—Single birds reported from three CBCs. Reported from 12 counties with a three-way tie for the highest count of four birds between Milwaukee County (Mooney and Wanger), Outagamie (R. Mueller), and Winnebago (Malcolm). There was also a nominate subspecies (*L. g. glaucooides*) reported in Milwaukee County (Bontly, Mooney, and Wanger).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—There were five individuals on three CBCs. Reported from 13 counties, two fewer than last year, with a maximum count of four birds shared between Jefferson County (Thiessen) and Milwaukee County (Lubahn and W. Mueller).

**Slaty-backed Gull\***—A single adult reported in mid-February in Milwaukee County (m. obs), continuing the trend of winter Slaty-backed Gulls in Wisconsin. Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Glaucous Gull**—A total of 21 individuals reported from eight CBCs which was comparable to last year. Reported from 15 counties with a high count of 16 birds on 16 February in Manitowoc County (Sontag).

**Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull (Nelson's Gull, hybrid)**—A single individual reported from Milwaukee County on 21 December (Lubahn).

**Great Black-backed Gull**—There were 39 individuals on ten CBCs which was much higher than last year's 16 individuals across the same number of CBCs. Reported from 12 counties with a maximum count of 12 birds on 28 January and 10 February in Manitowoc County (Sontag).

**Great Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull (Great Lakes Gull, hybrid)**—Single individuals reported from the following counties: Milwaukee (m. obs.), Outagamie (Malcolm), Ozaukee (Hoag and Wood), and Winnebago (M. Gray).

**Rock Pigeon**—Reported from 70 counties, only missed in Menominee and Sawyer Counties. The maximum count of 1,000 occurred on 2 February in Douglas County (L. & J. Kraemer).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—A total 100 individuals on nine CBCs which was two more birds than last year. Reported from 15 counties with a high count of 26 from Grant County on 18 January (Haas).

**Mourning Dove**—Reported from all 72 counties with a maximum count of 150 birds shared between 21 January in Dane County (Younger) and 11 February in Dodge County (Pritchard).

**Eastern Screech-Owl**—Reported from 28 counties which was two more than last year. The high count of ten birds occurred on 28 January in Kenosha County (Dixon) and the northernmost report on 4 December in Dunn County (Hoyland).

**Great Horned Owl**—Reported from 53 counties with a high count of eight birds shared between 19 December in Green County (Gaban-ski and Stotz) and 1 January in Iowa County (Kivikoski).

**Snowy Owl**—There were five individuals on the Superior CBC. A lower year than the last few with reports from 28 counties and no counts above four individuals.

**Northern Hawk Owl\***—A single report on 17 February in Bayfield County (Brady). Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Barred Owl**—Reported from 50 counties with a high count of five birds on 28 February in Rock County (Cullum).

**Long-eared Owl**—A total of ten individuals on nine CBCs which was higher than last year's six birds on four CBCs. Reported from the following three counties: Grant (McKay and Monson), Milwaukee (m. obs) and Portage (Pendergast).

**Short-eared Owl**—A total of 11 individuals on eight CBCs which was higher than last year. Reported from 20 counties with a high count of 15 birds on 10 December in Calumet County (R. Anderson).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—A total of 16 individuals on 11 CBCs which was much lower than last year's 41 individuals. Reported from 19 counties with a maximum count of three birds

from Portage County on 19 February (Kozak and Zinda).

**Rufous Hummingbird\***—A hatch-year female continuing from the fall in Dane County (m. obs.).

**Belted Kingfisher**—Reported from 44 counties with a high count of four birds on 6 February in Grant County (Harman).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—A total of 23 individuals on 13 CBCs. Reported from eight counties which was much lower than last year's 27 counties. The high count of three birds occurred in Juneau County on 28 January (Dike).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—Reported from all but Menominee County, with a maximum count of 20 birds reported on 11 February in Grant County (Boehme, Fisher, and Meiborg).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—A total 12 individuals on seven CBCs which was ten birds fewer than last year. Reported from 15 counties with only one report of two birds on 7 February in Milwaukee County (Sieger).

**Downy Woodpecker**—Reported from all but Menominee County with a maximum count of 28 birds reported on 21 December in Grant County (Yoerger).

**Hairy Woodpecker**—Reported from all 72 counties with a high count of 12 birds shared between 18 December in Marathon County (Merkel) and 15 January in La Crosse County (Puchalski).

**Black-backed Woodpecker**—Only a single report from 27 January in Vilas County (Martineau).

**Northern Flicker**—Reported from 37 counties which was five fewer than last year. The high count of four birds occurred on 1 January in Jefferson County (Moffat).

**Pileated Woodpecker**—Reported from 66 counties which was three fewer than last year. The maximum count of five birds was shared between 21 December in Grant County (Yoerger), 7 January in La Crosse County (Weiser), and 15 December in Oneida County (David).

**American Kestrel**—Reported from 52 counties which was comparable to last year. The high count of 15 birds was reported from 21 December in Grant County (Yoerger).

**Merlin**—A total 19 individuals on 12 CBCs which was slightly higher than last year. Reported from 35 counties with a maximum count of four birds on 19 December in Sheboygan County (Kaehler and Loke). There was a single report of the Prairie subspecies on 27 January in Sauk County (Smith and R. Staffen).

**Gyr Falcon\***—Only one report of a young female on 22 January in Douglas County (Svingen). Disappointing to only have this single, quick report after the last two years of being spoiled with overwintering birds. Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Peregrine Falcon**—A total of 11 individuals on seven CBCs which was identical to last year. Reported from 21 counties with no reports of more than two birds at once.

**Eastern Phoebe**—One individual on the Baraboo CBC and one early migrant on 17 February in Grant County (McKay).

**Northern Shrike**—Reported from 60 counties which was four more than last year. The high count of five birds occurred on 15 February in Sauk County (Holschbach).

**Gray Jay**—Only one individual on the Armstrong Creek CBC. Reported from the following counties: Iron (Bockhop), Forest (m. obs.), Langlade (Wood), and Vilas (R. Anderson).

**Blue Jay**—Reported from all 72 counties with a maximum count of 43 on 28 December in Dunn County.

**Black-billed Magpie**—A single report of the hard-to-find Douglas County bird on 27 December.

**American Crow**—Reported from all 72 counties with a high count of 300 birds on 25 January in Dane County (Schilke).

**Common Raven**—Reported from 43 counties which was the same as last year. The high count of 48 occurred on 28 January in Langlade County (Gompper).





Jim Edlhuber found this Long-eared Owl in Milwaukee County in mid-January.



This haunting shot of a Short-eared Owl was imaged by Greg Hottman in Rock County in late February.



Greg Hottman made this image of a pair of Great Horned Owls on New Year's Day in Dane County.



**Horned Lark**—Reported from 56 counties which was one higher than last year. The high count of 228 birds was reported on 19 December in Sheboygan County (Kaehler and Loke).

**Great Tit**—Introduced Species. Single individuals on the Fond du Lac and Sheboygan CBCs. Reported from four counties along south-central Lake Michigan.

**Black-capped Chickadee**—Reported from all 72 counties with a maximum count of 130 on 31 December in Portage County (Kozak and Zinda).

**Boreal Chickadee**—Only reported from Forest County this winter, with a high count of three birds on 6 February (Abel).

**Tufted Titmouse**—Reported from 48 counties which was five more than last year. The high count of 26 occurred on 17 February in Grant County (McKay) and the northernmost report was from Barron County (P. Johnson).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Reported from 64 counties which was two fewer than last year. The high count of 11 was shared between Marquette County (Weiss), Portage County (Kozak and Zinda) and Price (Myers).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—Reported from all 72 counties with a maximum count of 38 birds on 17 February in Grant County (McKay).

**Brown Creeper**—Reported from 44 counties which was much lower than last year's 54 counties. The high count of 11 birds occurred on 31 December in Iowa County (Holschbach).

**Carolina Wren**—A total of 13 individuals on eight CBCs which was a little higher than last year. Reported from 12 counties with only two counts of two birds, one in Dane County on 24 December (Plamann) and the other in Grant County on 5 January (McKay and Monson).

**Winter Wren**—A total of 19 individuals on 12 CBCs which was comparable to last year. Reported from 14 counties with no counts greater than two birds.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—One continuing bird from the fall in Door County (Larson and Walsh).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—Reported from 29 counties which was nine fewer than last year. The maximum count of 15 birds was reported in Walworth County on 14 January (Durr).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—One during the count week of the Waukesha. Only one report from 17 December in Waukesha County (Kinzer and Stehno).

**Eastern Bluebird**—A total of 247 individuals on 22 CBCs. Reported from 32 counties which was seven more than last year. The high count of 21 birds occurred on 25 January in Ozaukee County (Panetti).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—Multiple reports of single birds, with only one report of two birds on 27 December on the Baraboo CBC (Holschbach), all from Sauk County.

**Hermit Thrush**—A total of 13 individuals on nine CBCs which was higher than last year. Reported from 13 counties with a high count of three birds on 5 January in Grant County (McKay and Monson).

**American Robin**—Reported from 62 counties which was ten more than last year. The maximum count of 112 occurred on 22 February in Dane County (Holschbach).

**Varied Thrush**—An individual was present during the count week of the Bayfield CBC. Only reported from four counties, with the latest on 14 January in Winnebago County (Sherer).

**Gray Catbird**—One individual on Green Bay CBC. Reported from four counties, with an early spring migrant on 23 February in Racine County (Pugh).

**Brown Thrasher**—Single individuals on three CBCs. One overwintering bird in Manitowoc County (Summer) and some late fall migrants in four other counties.

**Northern Mockingbird**—Only one reported this winter, from Grant County (m. obs.).

**European Starling**—Reported from all but Sawyer County with a maximum count of 5,000 on 16 January in Outagamie County (DeWitt). Other counties with four digit counts include: Brown (Prestby), Dane (Docken), Douglas (m. obs.), Jefferson (P. Keyel, T. Keyel, and Stutz),

Kewaunee (Prestby), Manitowoc (Domagalski), Milwaukee (m. obs), and Waukesha (Frank).

**American Pipit**—Single individuals on the Brodhead and Richland CBCs. Reported from five counties, with the latest on 18 December in Richland (Holschbach) and an early spring bird from Waukesha County on 21 February (Stehno). Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Bohemian Waxwing**—A total of 85 individuals reported on five CBCs. Reported from 20 counties, with a high count of 325 on 31 January in Lincoln County (Milander).

**Cedar Waxwing**—Reported from 58 counties which was six more than last year. The maximum count of 322 occurred on 27 December in Columbia County (Holschbach).

**Lapland Longspur**—Reported from 39 counties which was nine more than last year. The high count of 750 birds was reported on 19 February in Portage County (Pendergast).

**Snow Bunting**—Reported from 61 counties which was similar to last year. The maximum count of 650 occurred on 17 December in Fond du Lac County (Schultz).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**: A continuing bird from the fall on 1 December in Door County (Walsh).

**Pine Warbler**: Only one report on 17 December in Dane County on the Madison CBC (Krieg).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—One bird found on Cassville CBC. Reported from only six counties with a high count of 11 birds on 30 January in Rock County (Rice).

**Townsend's Warbler\***—One bird found in Kewaunee County in early-mid December (m. obs.), would be the ninth accepted record for the state. Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Eastern Towhee**—One individual on the Manitowoc CBC and one in both Brown County (Nolan) and Dane County (Swift).

**American Tree Sparrow**—Reported from 67 counties missing only: Iron, Price, Rusk,

Sawyer and Washburn. The maximum count of 389 birds occurred on 19 December in Lafayette County (m. obs).

**Chipping Sparrow**—One bird on the Mount Horeb CBC and another continuing through 4 January in Dodge County (Schrab)

**Field Sparrow**—Four individuals found on three CBCs. Reported from only Grant County on 17 February (McKay) and Ozaukee County on 27 February (Kellermann).

**Savannah Sparrow**—Four individuals on three CBCs. Reported from six counties with a high count of three birds on 6 February in Ozaukee County (Howski).

**Song Sparrow**—Reported from 31 counties which was comparable to last year. The maximum count of 41 birds occurred on 28 February in Dane County (Miller).

**Swamp Sparrow**—A total of 11 individuals on eight CBCs which was quite a bit lower than last year's 37 individuals. Reported from 11 counties with a high count of 15 birds on 1 December in Kenosha County (Mateski and Mateski de Sanchez).

**White-throated Sparrow**—Reported from 30 counties which was one fewer than last year. The maximum count of 15 was reported on 12 January in Dane County (Schwarz).

**Harris's Sparrow**—One individual on the Cassville CBC. Reported from the following three counties: Fond du Lac (D. & K. Sehloff), Grant (Akers, McKay, and Monson), and Vernon (Spann).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—A total of 71 individuals on 14 CBCs which was substantially higher than last year's 21 birds. Reported from 12 counties with a high count of ten birds reported on 19 December in Lafayette County (m. obs).

**Dark-eyed Junco**—Reported from all but Price and Washburn Counties. The maximum count of 825 birds occurred on 21 December in Grant County (Yoerger). The Oregon subspecies was reported from 12 counties and Cassiar's form from Iowa County (Kivikoski), Milwaukee County (Lubahn, Meyer and Wanger), and Ozaukee (Lubahn and Wanger).



Jim Stewart spotted this Snow Bunting in Dane County in early February.



This stunning Red-tailed Hawk was pictured in flight by Stephen Fisher in Richland County in mid-January.



A Bohemian Waxwing leaned over to feed for this photograph by Michael Huebschen in late February in Door County."

**Summer Tanager**—Only one report submitted to the WSORC this winter, one bird which was also found count week on Madison CBC (Reetz). Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

**Northern Cardinal**—Reported from all but Price, Sawyer and Washburn Counties. The maximum count of 59 was reported on 17 January in La Crosse County (Wiegel).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—One individual on the LaCrosse CBC and an early spring migrant on 26 February in Grant County (Twellman).

**Red-winged Blackbird**—A total of 92 individuals on 19 CBCs. Reported from 51 counties which was much higher than last year's 34 counties and substantially higher than the previous year's 19 counties. The maximum count of 930 birds was reported on 22 February in Manitowoc County (Domagalski).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—One individual on the Monroe CBC. Reported from seven counties with a high count of five birds on 30 January in Iowa County (Rice).

**Western Meadowlark**—One bird during count week on Cedar Grove CBC. Reported from only Iowa County on 19 February (Kivikoski) and Ozaukee County (m. obs).

**Rusty Blackbird**—Single individuals on three CBCs. Reported from 20 counties with a maximum count of 22 birds on 20 February in Milwaukee County (Wanger).

**Brewer's Blackbird**—One bird on the Brodhead CBC. Only three other reports, the first on 6 December in Polk County (Hanson), the second on 24 December in Waukesha County (Szymczak) and the third of four birds on 20 February in Dodge County (Frank).

**Common Grackle**—A total of 110 birds on 17 CBCs which was substantially higher than last year's 33 individuals. Reported from 37 counties with a maximum count of 100 on 26 February in Dane County (Miller).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—Reported from 28 counties which was five more than last year. The high count of 100 occurred on 31 December in Walworth County (Bridge).

**Pine Grosbeak**—A total of 49 individuals on nine CBCs which was lower than last year's 70 birds on the same number of CBCs. Reported from seven counties with a maximum count of 15 individuals on 8 January in Bayfield County (Seeger).

**Purple Finch**—Reported from 59 counties which was comparable to last year. The high count of 44 was reported on 25 December in Florence County (B. & K. Kavanagh).

**House Finch**—Reported from 61 counties which was two fewer than last year. The maximum count of 63 occurred on 17 December in Dane County (Noeldner) which barely beat out a count of 62 in Rock County on the same day (Haycraft and Yoerger).

**Red Crossbill**—A total of 138 individuals on four CBCs which was almost 100 higher than last year's 48 birds. Only reported from six counties, with a high count of 16 birds on 4 December in Forest (Grossmeyer, Pendergast, and Sallmann).

**White-winged Crossbill**—A total of 172 individuals on the Clam Lake and Three Lakes CBCs which was markedly higher than last year's 12 birds. Only reported from six counties, with a single report high count of 63 birds on 23 December in Ashland County (Sharp).

**Common Redpoll**—A total of 915 individuals on 19 CBCs. Reported from 23 counties which was substantially lower than last year's 69 counties. The maximum count of 154 birds occurred on 23 December in Ashland County (Brady and Oksiuta).

**Hoary Redpoll**—Only a single report on 11 February in Oneida County (Swelstad and Van Dyse).

**Pine Siskin**—Reported from 33 counties which was half the number from last year. The high count of 75 birds on 22 January in Ashland County (Sharp).

**American Goldfinch**—Reported from all but Juneau County with a high count of 247 on 14 January in Columbia County (Persche).

**European Goldfinch**—Introduced species. Single individuals on the Palmyra and Racine CBCs. Reported from four counties in

southeastern part of the state with a high count of 25 birds on 25 February in Kenosha County (Lally).

**Evening Grosbeak**—A total of 224 individuals on six CBCs which was more than double last year. Reported from nine counties with a maximum count of 135 birds on 8 January in Florence County (Kavanagh).

**House Sparrow**—Reported from 66 counties which was four more than last year. The high count of 544 occurred on 21 December in Grant County (Yoerger).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow\***—Two individuals on the Kewaunee and Luck CBCs. A species that was becoming more and more common, with reports from four counties this winter. Please see WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–2017.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Michelle Abel, Dan Abel, Danny Akers, Rick Anderson, Alec Anderson, Nick Anich, Edward Antaramian, Jan Axelson, Mary Backus, Jeff Bahls, Mike Bailey, Jack & Holly Bartholomai, Jeff Baughman, Dani Baumann, Barry Baumann, Dan Belter, Donna Benson, Mark Benson, Mitch Bergeson, Peter Binstock, Brett Bockhop, Nick Boehme, Dale Bonk, Marilyn Bontly, Ryan Brady, Dave Brasser, Cynthia Bridge, Jeff Brinkman, Sandi Brunette-Hill, Dennis Casper, Jan Collins, Nancy Collinx, Joshua Cullum, Paddy Cunningham, Seth Cutright, Debbie Dederling, Don DeWitt, Kate Dike, Fred Dike, John Dixon, Robert Domagalski, Mike Duchek, Michael Durr, Marty Evanson, Wilmer Fernandez, Joseph Finney, Zoe Finney, Elista Fisher, Rita Flores Wiskowski, Kathy Foust, Jim Frank, Glenn Gabanski, Thomas Ganfield, Willson Gaul, David George, Drew Goldberg, Margaret Gompper, Jessica Gorzo, Michael Gray, B Gray, Bill

Grossmeyer, Dennis Gustafson, Carolyn Haas, Heidi Haas, Tim Hahn, Ed Hahn, Luke Hahn, Karen Etter Hale, Mary Hampton, Allen Hanson, Alex Harman, Ben Harste, Aaron Haycraft, Charles Henrikson, Justin Hill, Jessica Hilt, Ethan Hoag, Aaron Holschbach, Jim Holschbach, Patrick Horn, Greg Hottman, Eric Howe, Lorri Howski, Pamela Hoyland, Judith Huf, Myles Hurlburt, Dan Jackson, Carol Jaksic, Karen Johnson, Pam Johnson, Sue Kaehler, Eddie Kasper, Kay Kavanagh, Bob Kavanagh, Barbara Kellermann, Kenneth Kendzor, Ted Keyel, Peter Keyel, Paul Kinzer, John Kivikoski, Tom Klubertanz, Nina Koch, Mark Korducki, Katie Kozak, Larry & Jan Kraemer, Jean Krieg, Tom Lally, Richard Lamb, Kristy Larson, Kyle Lindemer, Lora Loke, Steve Lubahn, Joe Luedtke, John Mack, Robin Maercklein, Stuart Malcolm, Ben Marks, Nathan Martineau, Nancy Mateski, Donna Mateski de Sanchez, Kelly McKay, Andrew Meiborg, Jeremy Meyer, Ken Milender, Ron Miller, Shawn Miller, David Moffat, Jason Monson, Jym Mooney, William Mueller, Ross Mueller, Mike Myers, Jason Newton, Mariette Nowak, Michael O'Connell, Patrick Palines, Dan Panetti, Andy Paulios, Terry Pavletic, Mike Peczynski, Rob Pendergast, Kris Perlberg, Maia Persche, Patrick Peters, Robert Plamann, Janine Polk, Tom Prestby, Deb Pritchard, Scott Puchalski, Helen Pugh, Scott Reynolds, Ari Rice, John P Richardson, Ronald Rohde, Brian Rolek, Jay Roth-Reynolds, Kelly Rueckheim, Sarah Sabatke, Derek Sallmann, Ryan Sallmann, Jeanne Scherer, Paul Schilke, Daniel Schneider, David Schrab, Thomas Schultz, Wendy Schultz, Kyle Schumacher, Jim Schwarz, Wayne Seeger, Dave & Kerry Sehloff, Josh Seibel, Frank Sharkozy ,





A male Pileated Woodpecker struck a pose for Beverly Engstrom in this image made in late January in Oneida County.



Michael Huebschen caught this adult Bald Eagle carrying its prey in Juneau County in early February.





This stunning male Evening Grosbeak posed for David Franzen in Vilas County in early February.

Janice Sharp, Rebecca Sher, Ginnie Sherer, Akiko Shinya, Anton Sieger, Adam Sinkula, William Smith, Joan Sommer, Art Sonneland, Charles Sonntag, Hugh Spann, Richard Staffen, Amy Staffen, Nancy Stanford, Brad Steger, Spence Stehno, Ryan Steiner, Paula Stich, Douglas Stotz, Aaron Stutz, Sharon Summer, Peder Svingen, Jack Swelstad, Andrea Szymczak, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, Darwin Tiede, Joel Trick, Curtis Twellman, Donald

Van Dyse, Alexander Varga, Jim Veltman, Elaine Vokoun, Melody Walsh, Mike Wanger, Jen Waters, Jay Watson, Jasonn Weber, Garrett Wee, Kristin Wegner, Emily Weiser, Karen Weiss, Jennifer Wenzel, Gary Wiegel, David Willard, Patrea Wilson, Neil Wingert, Max Witynski, Thomas Wood, George & Bonnie Wood, Quentin Yoerger, Kenny Younger, Tom Zenner, Brad Zinda



This Chippewa County Snow Bunting was spotted on the ground in mid-December by David Lund.

# WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2016–17

*Quentin Yoerger*

*6831 N. Francis Dr  
Evansville, Wisconsin 53536  
608.449.5261  
harrierqman@gmail.com*

**T**he WSO Records Committee reviewed 32 records of 17 species for the Winter 2016–17 season, accepting 25 of them (78%). Highlight of the Winter season was the fifth state record of a Townsend’s Warbler that spent several days coming to a feeder in Kewaunee. American Woodcocks were found in multiple locations in good numbers by late February.

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

Table 1 provides a list of records accepted by the WSO Records Committee during the Winter 2016–17 season. Information on each record, such as species, location, observer(s), and date(s), is accompanied by the tally of votes made by the five-person committee. Records with one or fewer dissenting votes are accepted into the state records.

## RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

In the header for each record, voting tallies are shown in parentheses. Votes to accept are listed first. Two or more dissenting votes from the five-person

committee results in a Record Not Accepted.

### American Pipit—

Jefferson County, 8 February 2017 (3-2).

The report is of a bird identified by call only while watching “huge flock of longspurs and snow buntings”. “The distinctive call note is what lead to the bird’s identification. We both recognized the typical “pip it” call note given numerous times throughout the observation. It was usually given a few times, when it was heard. It was a sharp high-pitched call, with the first part of the note slightly higher than the second part. The calls of the Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were both lower pitched, mostly a rattle version. A few times other notes were heard, but they also were lower pitched, unlike the sharper, higher “pip it” of the pipit.”

The committee would like to have additional discussion comparing the bird call in question with the call of a Horned Lark. Horned Larks would be much more likely to be found in a large mixed flock of Buntings and Longspur than a Pipit would be.

Table 1. Winter 2016 records accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Species	Date	Observer	Location	County	Notes
American Pipit	2/21	Spencer Stehno	Intersection of Shearer Rd & Cnty Hwy LO	Waukesha	Early
American Woodcock	2/21	Daniel Carter	Willow Springs Division along Glacial Drumlin Trail	Waukesha	Early
American Woodcock	2/22	Daniel Carter	Willow Springs Division along Glacial Drumlin Trail	Waukesha	Early
American Woodcock	2/21	Spencer Stehno	Ottawa Lake Recreation Area	Waukesha	Early
American Woodcock	2/23	Dennis Gustafson	Ottawa Lake Recreation Area	Waukesha	Early
Black-bellied Plover	12/3	Tim Oksiuta	Prentice Park west side of Ashland	Ashland	Late
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/10	Thomas Wood	Green Bay at the Fox River mouth	Brown	
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/11	Dan Belter	Green Bay at the Fox River mouth	Brown	Photo
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/11	William Grossmeyer	Green Bay at the Fox River mouth	Brown	Photo
Black-legged Kittiwake	12/12	Daryl Tessen	Green Bay at the Fox River mouth	Brown	
California Gull	1/16	Stuart Malcolm	Little Lake Butte de Morts. Lakeshore Rd launch	Winnebago	Photo
Cattle Egret	12/3	Spencer Stehno	Cnty Z and Ledge Rd cow pasture	Dodge	Late
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1/5	Danny Akers	Bluff Rd.	Grant	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	12/17	Quentin Yoerger	Hanover Rd by Railroad crossing	Rock	Photo
Gyr Falcon	1/22	Peder Svingen	Superior Winter St	Douglas	
Laughing Gull	1/1	Stuart Malcolm	Little Lake Butte de Morts.	Winnebago	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/13	Mike Wagner	Northridge Lake	Milwaukee	Photo
Slaty-backed Gull	2/13	Thomas Wood	Northridge Lake	Milwaukee	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/14	Mark Korducki	Northridge Lake	Milwaukee	
Slaty-backed Gull	2/20	Dennis Gustafson	Northridge Lake	Milwaukee	
Summer Tanager	12/11	Matthew Reetz	Warner St Madison	Dane	Photo
Townsend's Warbler	12/11	Dan Belter	Henry St Kewaunee	Kewaunee	Photo
Townsend's Warbler	12/11	William Grossmeyer	Henry St Kewaunee	Kewaunee	Photo
Townsend's Warbler	12/12	Thomas Wood	Henry St Kewaunee	Kewaunee	
Northern Hawk-owl	2/17	Ryan Brady		Bayfield	Photo

**Ferruginous Hawk—**

Dane County, 6 February 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a bird feeding on a squirrel in a city street and described as a “Very large bird of prey. Long tail, very wide wingspan. Light tan tail, mottled colors with lots of white on underside and legs”. The observer also compared the big bird to a Red-tailed Hawk noting that “Tail was not dark orange enough. Not as big.”

The very brief report does not contain enough detail to identify the bird as a Ferruginous Hawk. Young Red-tailed Hawks don’t have the “dark orange” tail. Ferruginous Hawks will have long wings with white patches and a wide gap. The location in a city would also be very unusual for a Ferruginous Hawk.

**Franklin’s Gull—**

Winnebago County, 29 December 2016 (0-5).

The report is of a bird standing and sitting on the ice of Little Lake Butte des Morts. Described as “Smaller size than Laughing Gull, smaller bill (less hook), partial hood, dark back & wings, round head, etc.”

Pictures of the bird in question were obtained at a later date. Review of the pictures determined this bird to be an immature Laughing Gull.

**Jaeger species—**

Bayfield County, 30 December 2016 (0-5).

The report is of a distance bird flying over Chequamegon Bay. The bird was described as having a “Dark body with lighter rump and lighter underparts. Gull-like body shape. Vertical barring noted on underparts from base of bill to undertail. Denser/darker head color but no definitive or distinct neck collar.

Tail was dark with elongated central retrices. Wing span appeared longer, narrower than local gulls. Slightly lighter color on underwings (base of primaries or covert area).”

The committee would like to have more information about flight style and overall shape of the bird. Members of the committee noted there is not enough detail provided to eliminate juvenile gulls.

**Slaty-backed Gull—**

Milwaukee County, 19 February 2017 (3-2).

The report is of a gull seen in a mixed flock. “What distinguished it was size (Herring are slightly larger), spotted head and neck, dark gray / blackish back + wings, bright pink legs, white trailing edge to wings and when it took flight the string of pearls on the wings.”

The committee would like to see more detail in the report. Discussion of the shape /build and more details on the “string of pearls” would be appropriate. Hybrid gulls are also very common. Comparison to eliminate possible hybrids would be helpful in clinching the identification.

**Sprague’s Pipit—**

Chippewa/Eau Claire Counties, 13 February 2017 (0-5).

The report is of a “very brief look at the underside of the bird as it came up in front of the car. The whole underside was pale and unmarked except for some indistinct markings across the upper breast. The body was white while the flight feathers appeared very pale gray. The tail was partially spread and looked entirely whitish in the quick look I had—perhaps the white outer tail feathers were briefly concealing the darker feathers in the middle. The bird

gave a high-pitched call as it flushed". "It flew in several long undulations, alternating bursts of flapping with long gliding arcs during which the wings were held close to the body. It looked smaller and more compact than a Horned Lark, and was darker above than the light sandy brown of that species. The overall impression was dark brownish rather than gray. As the bird flew along I could see a bit of lighter feathering or edging contrasting with the brown on the back and wings, while the underside of the body was clear white, reflecting the snow. From the angle I was viewing I couldn't see the breast, but the vent area and belly were white, and there was no visible streaking on the flanks. The dark tail was closed while the bird was in flight and the white outer tail feathers were not visible. There were no white patches on the upper surface of the wings, ruling out Snow Bunting. As the bird went past the trees it called—I had

been instinctively waiting to hear a "tew," rattle, or other longspur-like noise, but heard instead a loud emphatic "SQUEEK squeek". "The little bird flew in bounding arcs about a quarter mile into the field, then abruptly dropped down to a bare strip of ground where I lost sight of it."

A very interesting report of a bird that would be a first state record. The committee feels that the very brief look and lack of a complete description of all field marks prevent acceptance of this record. The committee would like to see more information about the overall shape and posture, bill shape, uppertail coverts, facial pattern, and wingbars. Another issue is the timing of the sighting. As the observer noted the closest reports for Sprague's Pipit at that time of year are from Texas and Mississippi. The identification seems to rely heavily on the call notes. American Pipit can give varied call and alarm notes.



Jim Edlhuber in late January photographed this Harlequin Duck male swimming in Milwaukee County in late January.

## “By the Wayside”—Winter 2016–2017

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*Some of the species documented with reports this season as rare or uncommon include: Black-legged Kittiwake, California Gull, Eurasian Tree Sparrow and Slaty-backed Gull.  
Below are selected descriptions.*

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### **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *(Rissa tridactyla)*

#### **10 December, 2017, Fox River Mouth, Green Bay, Brown County—**

Size comparison with Bonaparte’s Gulls was possible, because toward the end of my observation, the bird swam among 4 Bonaparte’s Gulls. I judged the Kittiwake to be about 25% larger than the Bonaparte’s Gulls and with a longer, thicker black bill. The head was mainly white, but there was a black spot on the auriculars. Distinctive was the very broad, mottled black nuchal collar. The scapulars were plain gray, and at rest on the water, a thick black carpal bar was seen on the wing. Below this bar, the secondary coverts were plain gray. The tertials were white and the folded primaries were solid black with no apical spots. The underparts were a bright, clean white.

The bird was most striking in flight because the black leading edge of the wing joined a black bar on the secondary coverts, forming a distinct black “M” pattern. The tail was bright white with an unbroken, broad, black terminal band. What little was seen of the legs were solid black. It flew very close to my

position, landed on the water and caught a fish, and swam with some Bonaparte’s Gulls. When one Bonaparte’s Gull came too close, it poked it with its bill, which re-established its comfort space because the Bonaparte’s Gull moved farther away.

The bold, black “M” pattern on the upperwing is reminiscent of a juvenile Little Gull, but as has been mentioned, this bird was larger than the Bonaparte’s Gulls. It also had the distinct nuchal collar which is absent on Little Gull. The extremely unlikely Red-legged Kittiwake would have a much shorter bill and should have red, not black legs. Sabine’s Gull in flight can look quite similar, but lacks the black nuchal collar and dark secondary bar.

—Thomas Wood,  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

### **CALIFORNIA GULL** **(LARUS CALIFORNICUS)**

**16 January, Little Lake Butte de Morts, Winnebago County—**Whilst scanning the Gull flock on the ice I noticed a slightly smaller gull (compared to Herring Gulls) with a noticeably



darker grey mantle. Realizing that this was something different I then proceeded to study it at length. In direct comparison with Herring Gulls, this bird was slightly smaller similar to the way a Lesser Black-backed Gull is when directly next to Herring Gulls (but didn't appear as noticeably smaller as Ring-billed Gulls do in a flock of Herring Gulls) and the mantle colour was a darker grey (but nowhere near as dark as the slate grey in a Lesser Black-backed Gull). The wings were black with white primary tips and there was an obvious broad white tertial crescent. The legs were a greenish colour. The head and neck had some streaking and the eye was dark. The bill was fairly long, yellowish, and had a black mark towards the tip with a red spot behind that.

Similar Species: Herring Gull—ruled out by mantle colour, leg colour and bill pattern—direct comparison possible. Ring-billed Gull—ruled out by mantle colour and bill pattern. Lesser Black-backed Gull—ruled out by mantle colour.

—*Stuart Malcolm, Neenah, Wisconsin*

#### EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

**5 January 2017, Bluff Rd, Grant County**—Noted an Eurasian Tree Sparrow within a Dark-eyed Junco flock at a small creek crossing. House Sparrow-like bird, similarly sized. Bird was vocal, emitting similar, albeit huskier and clearer call notes. Noted a distinct rufous cap, bordered by large swath of white below it, with bold black cheek patch and black throat. Brown back with black streaking. Grayish below. Adult plumage.

Similar Species: House Sparrow

would be the immediate similar species, although eliminated by plumage characteristics, specifically the black cheek patch, rufous like cap, and less extensive black throat.

Vocalizations: Vocalizations (chatter), to my ear, sound much cleaner and refined when compared to House Sparrow. Calls are huskier, yet cleaner. I think of this species being more "elegant" sounding than House Sparrow.

Behavior: Responded with Dark-eyed Junco flock to pishing, behavior was limited other than various movement within available perches.

—*Danny Akers, Ankeny, Iowa*

#### SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*)

**14 February 2017, Northridge Lakes, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County**—A large, dark mantled gull stood out in the flock and I found it immediately upon arrival at the location. Dark gray mantle was lighter than nearby Lesser Black-backed Gull but significantly darker than Herring Gulls. Slightly larger than Herring Gull with a pot-bellied appearance. Head, neck, tail and underparts were all white. Head was streaked with brown which was most concentrated around the pale eye and gave the bird a fierce appearance. The legs were bright pink, brighter than Herring Gulls. The trailing edge of the wing was white and quite wide. This was evident in the outstretched wing and when folded at rest. White subterminal spots on the black primaries formed a string of pearls which was evident on both the upper and lower surface of the wings when outstretched. The head was slightly larger than a Herring Gull as was the bill.

Similar Species: Dark gray mantle was darker than Herring and Thayer's but lighter than Lesser and especially Great Black-backed Gull. Bright pink legs. Western Gull would have a heavier, more bulbous bill and the head would be clean white. Pale eye with

dark markings around it.. The subterminal spots formed the diagnostic string of pearls which eliminates this species as well. White trailing edge of wing also a good mark for this species.

—Mark Korducki,  
*New Berlin, Wisconsin*



Adam Sinkula shows the pale plumage of a Glaucous Gull in this late-December photo taken in Kewaunee County.



Jennifer Ambrose captured this Merlin calling in late February in Milwaukee County.

# 2017 Annual Meeting

## Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

Potawatomi Carter Casino, Carter, WI  
Saturday, June 17, 2017 12:00 pm  
Call to Order: President Michael John  
Jaeger Introduction.

Jaeger thanked everyone for attending. Stated members have an important role in choosing WSO leadership.

Drawing: Owen Gromme book given to guest under 30.

Jaeger offered thanks to Margaret Brasser for her years of service to the convention

Janet Speth has reported she would like to hand the silent auction over to another volunteer next year.

Changes to officers and board members. Dani Baumann was introduced as new treasurer. Kristin Bowers was announced as new Communications Chair. Kim Kreitinger has taken over as Membership Chair. Jesse Peterson will remain on the board as a Member at Large.

Thanks to Marilyn Bontly for being a reader for the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Carl Schwartz moved to accept minutes from last meeting as revised and published. Christine Zimmerman second. Approved.

Three volunteers, Marilyn Bontly, Susan Haug and Barbara Schwartz volunteered to be readers for the minutes of the 2017 convention.

Dani Baumann presented treasurers report. Carl Schwartz commended both Mickey O'Connor and Baumann for the great amount of work they have

put into the job. Jaeger commented that we are a solvent organization and in good shape. The finances of the WSO are complicated because we handle money for a number of interconnected groups.

Report of Officers—See Annual Report: The largest activity has been the fundraising effort for the purchase of Dischler Addition to Honey Creek, which closed in early June and now is officially property of the WSO. Special thanks to Kim Kreitinger, Carl Schwartz, Peter McKeever and Tom Schultz who donated the prints from his painting *Final Days* of Passenger Pigeons to the fundraising effort.

UW Madison has a 15-month masters program in conservation biology. WSO was approached to allow interns to use Honey Creek for their fall conservation project. They will help to develop a conservation plan for the property.

Noel Cutright Atlasing Interns overseen by Andy Cassini—This is the second-year student interns have helped with the Annual Breeding Bird Atlas survey. Four students participated each year.

Reports of Committee Chairs—Badger Birder Editor, Schwartz encouraged more feedback and fresh thinking. Anyone interested in writing for the BB or with ideas should contact him. Advertising for bird events and news is encouraged.

Conservation Chair, Cassini discussed moving forward in conservation

and encouraged anyone interested in getting involved to contact him, President Jaeger or committee member, Mary Korkor.

President Jaeger thanked Development Chair, Mary Korkor for her work on the Honey Creek Addition. Korkor encouraged everyone to keep Sept. 30 on the calendar for the Honey Creek Donor Appreciation Event. More information to follow in the Badger Birder.

Education Co-Chair Ed Hahn is looking for high school/college age students interested in being involved with the young birders group.

Historian Nancy Nabak requested to record Jeff Baughman doing his Eastern Screech Owl call in front of the crowd for her archives, which he did to the amusement of the gathered crowd.

Nomination Co-Chair Nolan Pope presented slate of officers for nomination: Michael John Jaeger as President. Myles Hurlburt VP, Jennifer Wenzel Secretary and Dani Baumann treasurer. Carl Schwartz moved to accept the slate as presented, second by Nancy Nabak. Unanimously approved.

Changes to the WSO Membership Structure and Dues Levels: Jaeger presented the proposed changes as published in the Badger Birder. It has been 16 years since last dues change. Jaeger presented background and shared tables from asset tables as found in the treasurer's report. Majority of core operating budget comes from dues and donations. See Jaeger slides for details.

Proposed changes include simplifications: 1) New Single Household level 2) \$10 surcharge for paper copies of BB 3) New Conservation Advocate Class, which combines sustaining membership with an additional \$100 that will be

used for conservation. 4) Closing "Life" and "Patron" classes to new members.

Hoping to increase our membership income by \$14,000, which is needed to cover the programs that are planned in the coming years.

Households will receive one copy each of The Badger Birder and Passenger Pigeon and be treated as one unit

Comment from membership regarding the need to raise student membership. Move to increase the student level to \$25 by Ellen Lindgren. Seconded by Carl Schwartz. Approved.

Discussion of need for additional conservation funding. Korkor shared perspective of member of the conservation committee for the need for funding to make the committee more proactive instead of reactive.

Move to approve the changes to the membership structure as outlined in the Annual Meeting report, by Carl Schwartz, seconded by Marilyn Bontly. Approved

2 more Owen Gromme books handed out to members attending.

Zimmerman announced site for 2018 convention: Green Lake, WI. Weekend of May 19, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm

Submitted by Mary Korkor, for Jenny Wenzel

## WRITTEN FINANCIAL REPORT

### *Treasurer—Financial Report – Dani Bauman*

1. WSO's Policies (adopted April 2005) state that annual dues payments shall cover the cost of membership services—that is, all costs in providing *The Badger Birder*, *The Passenger Pigeon*, and other direct membership benefits, and the costs associated with maintaining

membership and soliciting renewals and new members. The breakdown of those costs during 2016 is as follows:

*Pigeon—*

Expenses for 2016 (4 issues; not including color printing) are ..\$20,817

*Birds—*

Expenses for 2016 (11 issues) ...\$6,382

Total publication costs .....\$27,199

Membership expenses

(including brochure).....\$2,920

**Total cost of membership**

**services.....\$30,119**

Membership dues received

(Life/Patron dues, because they go directly into the Endowment

Fund, are considered a

donation) .....\$32,243

Library subscriptions/

back issues.....\$549

**Total membership-related**

**income.....\$32,792**

Once again during 2016, costs associated with membership services were less than membership income. However, WSO's Board of Directors has recommended some changes in the expenses to be covered by dues, as well as proposed changes in membership levels and amounts. See the full discussion elsewhere.

2. Your generous support of WSO continues, and donations from members, friends, and supporting groups during 2016 amounted to nearly \$426,000. Of that astonishing amount, over \$270,000 supported the expansion of our Honey Creek property in Sauk County, and over \$135,000 supported the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II project. It is owing to your generosity that WSO is able to undertake amazing projects for the good of our birds. THANK YOU!

3. WSO has a long history of supporting individuals by administering grant funds to help finance ornithological research and other non-budget projects. These amounts do not appear in the financial summary below because they are financed for the most part by sources outside of WSO. Current non-budget projects include the following:

- Flying WILD/One Bird–Two Habitats. These long-standing projects, which have been merged into one financially, provide training in ornithology for educators and emphasize the importance of looking beyond birds' nesting ground needs in Wisconsin to their wintering ground needs to the south.
- Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund. SRSEF, which was established in 2000, is managed by its own board to provide support for education and habitat preservation to benefit shorebirds. An endowed fund, the earnings are to be used in a way that honors Sam Robbins's bird conservation legacy.
- Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. Again in 2016 WSO served as treasurer for WBCI's annual meeting.

4. Of the total assets as of 31 December 2016 (\$767,532—see **II. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December**), the amount available to cover general operating expenses is \$62,177; the remainder is restricted. All the amounts listed as received in **Restricted Revenue** in Part I, as well as for grants and other non-budget projects administered by WSO, must be reserved for their intended use.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. WSO Statement of Revenue and Expenses, 2013–2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Unrestricted Revenue*				
Birder Adv/Back Issues	674	270	180	458
Donations-Unrestricted	4,408	10,358	6,648	6,562
Wisconsin eBird Portal	2,001	201	476	1,020
Interest/Dividends	197	183	188	132
Membership Dues	32,243	29,915	29,535	28,610
Pigeon-Subscr/Back Issues	549	110	577	747
WSO Pubs/Bookstore	1,795	697	1,171	767
Miscellaneous**	1,034	983	2,812	1,639
<b>Total Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>42,901</b>	<b>42,717</b>	<b>41,587</b>	<b>39,935</b>

\* Unrestricted revenue includes some amounts that are actually restricted as to use (e.g., donations for Wisconsin eBird portal and color printing in the *Pigeon*). They are included here because if donations do not completely cover the costs, the Board of Directors is committed to covering them from general operating funds.

\*\* Miscellaneous unrestricted revenue during 2016:

- Hummingbird pamphlet, \$300
- Convention profits, \$649
- Field trips, \$85

	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Expenses (Unrestr Rev)</b>				
Administration	5,228	5,018	3,165	5,580
Awards	751	1,207	471	196
Birder	6,382	6,429	5,752	4,375
Communications	986	390	388	509
Conservation	200	100	100	165
Historian	0	247	307	0
Membership	2,332	2,374	1,844	1,409
Brochure	588	448	0	390
Pigeon	20,817	22,066	19,879	22,827
Color Printing	6,630	6,129	5,713	4,026
Schol/Grants	3,000	3,778	3,000	6,000
Website	375	2,787	565	667
WSO Pubs/Bookstore	2,133	813	273	245
Printing	0	536	572	413
Miscellaneous*	5,068	1,975	10,282	6,677
<b>Total Expenses (Unrestr Rev)</b>	<b>54,490</b>	<b>54,297</b>	<b>52,311</b>	<b>53,479</b>

\* Miscellaneous unrestricted expenses during 2016:

- Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, \$3,000
- Hummingbird pamphlet, \$1,398
- Woodland Dunes, \$500
- Project Oriole, \$79
- Field trips, \$85
- Bird Reports Coordinator, \$6



	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Restricted Revenue</b>				
Atlas II	142,430	106,335	9,798	20,021
Conservation Projects	634	2,121	25,421	0
Convention	15,198	14,901	20,304	19,227
Duck Stamps	937	966	941	985
Endowment-Donations	0	0	20	1
Interest/Div/Cap Gains	4,426	145	272	515
Life/Patron Memberships	4,800	4,150	3,725	2,800
Field Trips*	14,590	26,000	11,145	69,514
Honey Creek-Donations	8,571	11,069	7,054	27,766
Dischler Land Purchase	270,361	0	0	0
Mems/Bequests (unallocated)	0	0	9,270	40,692
Schol/Grants-Donations	0	0	30	261
Interest/Dividends	33	55	56	36
Youth Fund Dons	356	5,191	91	201
WSO Pubs-Haunts Sales	1,049	3,029	2,606	5,795
Miscellaneous**	404	155	277	781
<b>Total Restricted Revenue</b>	<b>463,789</b>	<b>174,117</b>	<b>91,010</b>	<b>188,595</b>

\* Field trip income during 2016:

- Costa Rica

\*\*Miscellaneous restricted revenue during 2016:

- Sales tax

	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Expenses (Restr Rev)</b>				
Atlas II	146,905	51,244	38,871	0
Conservation Projects	40,000	0	244	0
Convention	15,056	15,257	20,375	19,342
Duck Stamps	943	962	926	1,042
Field Trips*	29,590	11,000	28,291	52,259
Honey Creek	28,680	7,718	10,461	7,521
Dischler Land Purchase	155,842	0	0	0
Website Redesign	0	0	12,754	0
WSO Pubs-Haunts Sales	0	145	836	701
WGLBBO	0	0	5,000	5,000
Youth Fund	4,041	9,327	2,485	7,953
Miscellaneous**	336	222	248	268
<b>Total Expenses (Restr Rev)</b>	<b>421,393</b>	<b>95,875</b>	<b>120,491</b>	<b>94,086</b>

\* Field trip expenses during 2016:

- Costa Rica

\*\*Miscellaneous restricted expenses during 2016:

- Sales tax paid in 2016 for sales during 2015

II. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Cash	432,554	408,869	436,299	478,225
Inventory for Sale	12,928	18,542	24,882	29,006
Land*	171,663	31,895	31,895	31,895
Mutual Fund Investments	105,980	96,648	0	0
Assets Held by Another Org**	44,407	41,928	45,047	43,810
<b>Total</b>	<b>767,532</b>	<b>597,882</b>	<b>538,123</b>	<b>582,936</b>

- \* Land carried at cost:
- Prairie-chicken land, 60 acres in Portage County, \$1,491 (leased in 1962 to WDNR for 99 years)
  - Honey Creek property in Sauk County:
    - 264 acres purchased 1960–1973, \$20,791
    - 61 acres purchased 2016 (“Dischler”), \$149,381
  - Honey Creek nature center and outbuilding: Upon recommendation from our accounting firm, the buildings on the original Honey Creek property were fully depreciated in 2016; in prior years they were valued at \$8,928, and in 2016 they were valued at \$0
- \*\* Assets held by another organization:
- Important Bird Areas Fund, an endowed fund held by the Natural Resources Foundation since 2007, \$11,853
  - Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund, an endowed fund held by the Natural Resources Foundation since 2013, \$32,554

WRITTEN ANNUAL REPORTS OF  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*President—Michael John Jaeger*

The Honey Creek land acquisition took up a substantial part of my first year’s efforts as President. As of June 8, 2017, WSO is now the owner of an additional 104 acres of land in the Baraboo Hills, the “Gerhard and Roses Dischler Addition to the Honey Creek Preserve.” Kudos to the efforts of all, it really took the combined efforts of our volunteers and the generosity of our many donor.

Here’s a listing of my major activities since our last Convention:

- I’ve continued to work with the ad hoc Honey Creek teams to close out the fundraising campaign and to initiate planning of a Donor Event, have worked with WSO’s attorney on the property closing, and have assisted in the transition to new coordinators of

the Honey Creek birdathon/ban-dathon.

- I made three presentations to the Natural Resources Board, introducing WSO and providing comments on two proposed DNR property master plans, the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and the Horicon-Shaw Properties.
- I attended a public open house regarding DNR’s updating of the Prairie Chicken Management Plan.
- I attended, as the WSO representative, the quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Steering Committee and additional meetings an WBCI’s strategic planning effort.
- I worked with the planning committee and attended last fall’s WBCI annual meeting, “protecting Birds Through Action and Art”, held in Wausau. At that meeting, I hosted a member of the Natural Resources

Board at the Friday evening Birds in Art reception at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson museum. WSO also sponsored 11 UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources students to attend the conference.

- I made presentations on “Wisconsin’s Proud Conservation Heritage – What’s the Future.” to the Lakeland Audubon Society in Williams Bay, the Hoy Audubon Society in Racine, the Fond du Lac Audubon Society in Fond du Lac, the Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society in Milwaukee, and the Noel Cutright Bird Club in Newburg.
- I attended meetings of the Atlas II Steering Committee.
- I attended the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board Meetings as WSO representative and the 2017 Induction Ceremony.
- I helped the Convention Planning committee work on Convention details.
- I helped recruit replacements for WSO Board members, including Treasurer and Communications.
- I attended the annual fundraising event of the UW-Madison Student chapter of The Wildlife Society. donated on behalf of WSO a copy of Gromme’s Birds of Wisconsin for their raffle.
- I attended meetings of the UW-Madison Student Chapter and the UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society to introduce them to WSO.
- I attended meetings of the Department of Natural Resources Recreation Opportunity Analysis stake-

holders meeting to represent birding as a recreational use of state properties.

- I staffed a WSO Exhibit booth at three events:
  - 2016 North American Congress for Conservation Biology in Madison
  - Student Research Symposium at the Riveredge Nature Center
  - Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Milwaukee.
- I assisted in recruiting interns for the Cutright Atlas Intern Program and took part in the initial orientations.
- I drafted a variety of articles for the Badger Birder and President’s Statements for the Passenger Pigeon.

#### ***Vice President – Andy Cassini***

The focus of much of the work of VP was to establish speakers for the WSO Annual Convention. “Celebrating Citizen Science” will be the theme for this year’s convention in Carter, WI. In Ornithology, perhaps more than in any other scientific discipline, citizens make incredible contributions to our field. We simply would not have the wealth of information about birds if it were not for the efforts of non-professional birders around the world. This year, we will be celebrating these ornithological accomplishments in the state of Wisconsin. We will discuss past, present and future efforts with a special emphasis on the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey. We will also examine the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II and look for ways to get more people involved.

The speakers for this year’s convention will focus on a variety of topics re-

lated to Citizen Science, some in the Northwoods, some with a much wider distribution. Dr. Andy Cassini will lead off the presentations by discussing common threats to birds and the current efforts underway to combat these problems. Sam Schratz, Forest County Potawatomi Community Natural Resources Biologist-Wildlife, will provide insights to the incredible work being done on tribal lands in northern WI. These lands play a vital role in shaping the landscape of the area. Individuals from the Potawatomi Tribe will share the work being done and answer questions about where they want to go with their research programs. Dr. Eva Lewendowski, Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Coordinator will share the incredible work that is being done by citizen scientists across the state and will discuss ways for people to get more involved. The Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring (WCBM) Network is a collaboration of over 180 projects and organizations that monitor natural resources in Wisconsin. Partners monitor plants, animals, and habitats in order to better understand and protect them. The WCBM Network is the direct result of Wisconsin's strong, century-long tradition of groundbreaking citizen science work. Tom Prestby, WBBA2 Training and Support Coordinator and Nick Anich, WBBA2 Coordinator will complete the afternoon sessions by presenting preliminary data and future outlook for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. These two atlas-ing experts will share the importance of the atlas work and forecast the work that remains. The convention talks will culminate with the Keynote Address by Dr. Robert Howe, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Professor, who will speak about 30 years of the UWGB

Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey. It is the longest running volunteer bird survey in any national forest. Work on this project has involved over 600 volunteers, has produced a species list of 187 birds and has recorded over 650,000 birds.

### ***Secretary – Jennifer Wenzel***

My primary duty continues to be taking the minutes of WSO meetings and distributing minutes to board members. Each year I also prepare the WSO annual report by collating reports submitted by officers and committee chairs. Minutes and important WSO documents are being stored on a Google drive for board members and are also backed up onto a Go Daddy website.

### ***The Badger Birder, Carl Schwartz***

I have completed my third year as editor, working in tandem with my wife, Barbara Dembski, who does all the design and layout for *The Badger Birder*. We are pleased that we have been able to increase the informational content and higher page count for WSO's monthly newsletter, which publishes 11 issues a year (July/August is a combined issue).

The April 2017 issue reached a record high 28 pages with simultaneous publication of the convention registration and schedule package and Bob Domagalski's annual "Lists of Lists." The strength of our newsletter is founded on the contributions of many WSO members, and I continue to encourage more members of both our Board of Directors and our rank-and-file to send me ideas for topics we should be pursuing or offers to contribute articles themselves.

We now are delivering the newsletter

to more than 70% of our members via a MailChimp e-mail product that contains a members-only link to our web site at [wsobirds.org](http://wsobirds.org). The MailChimp e-mail incorporates highlights of that issue's content with links to the issue. We have attempted to use more photos and graphics, and *eBirder* readers get them in color without any additional cost to WSO. This has encouraged more members to switch to the *eBirder*, while new members are defaulted to the *eBirder* option.

We continue to feature Tom Schultz's regular field trip reports and Mark Korducki's monthly rare bird report, along with regular articles by Jim Knickelbine (*Call Notes*), Steve Petznick (*Keep Looking Up*), Diana Hierlmeier (*Bird of the Month*), Nancy Nabak (*Found in Our Archives*) and Kate Redmond (*Kate's Quotes*).

Dani Baumann, author of *Let's Go Birding*, is retiring from column writing as she assumes the role of WSO treasurer. If someone is interested in picking up where Dani leaves off in highlighting interesting birding hot spots in the state (or perhaps even nationally?) they should contact me.

WSO President Michael John Jaeger has become a regular contributor to *The Birder* on multiple topics, and Carrie Becker and Charlie Luthin continue to update our members on the progress of Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Advertising volume remains modest, as do our ad rates. The current rates took effect two years ago after the first increase in at least 14 years. These rates (**B&W/color**) are in effect for camera-ready ad copy:

1/10 of a page (business card size):

**\$25/\$35**

1/4 page (3.75 × 5"): **\$45/\$65**

1/2 page (7 × 5"): **\$85/\$115**

Full Page (7 × 10"): **\$160/\$200**

We offer a 10% discount for the second time an ad runs and for any subsequent insertions of the same ad.

I hope our members will consider using the *Birder* if their small business or birding-related festival or event needs to reach the state's core birding audience.

To allow visitors to our website to sample *The Birder*, issues from 2016 are available at <http://wsobirds.org/ebb-recent>

### ***WSO Bookstore – Darwin Tiede***

A special thank you to everyone who supported WSO by shopping at the WSO bookstore in 2016. We filled orders for 133 different customers during the year. An order received from the island of Guam took the 2016 long distance trophy! Thank you also to Tom Schultz for reviewing and providing an update to the taxonomic sequence on our field checklist card to bring it in line with the most recent AOU revisions.

Inventory items: The 75<sup>th</sup> WSO anniversary totes left over from the 2014 convention were used as membership promotional items and depleted from bookstore inventory. Seven dozen (84) scarlet tanager logo caps were added to inventory late in 2015 as a promotion for the second Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project (WBBA2). We sold 54 of these caps in 2016. Only about half a dozen of these caps remain in stock at the time of this writing (taking into account 2017 year-to-date and pre-convention sales).

Sales: Total traditional bookstore sales for 2016 were \$4,137 on 149 orders. These numbers were down from

2015 figures, primarily due to the surge in atlas book sales that was seen in 2015 (first year of the WBBA2 project). Although atlas book sales in 2016 were down from 2015, sales were still at close to twice the level seen during 2012–2014 (the years prior to the start of the second atlas project). 2016 convention sales exceeded \$500 which is higher than typical (\$300) and the result of a significant level of walk-in sales of caps and field checklists at the convention.

Please visit the bookstore at our WSO website to view available merchandise. In early 2017 we added two new items: an olive-colored cap and a stone-colored visor, both embroidered with the new WSO passenger pigeon logo. Drop me a note if you have any suggestions for improvement.

### ***Communications – Kristin Bowers***

The Communications Chair position recently changed hands, with Kristin Bowers replacing Erin Parker in January 2017. Kristin is working on learning her new position.

### ***Conservation – Andy Cassini***

The WSO Conservation Committee is attempting to develop a plan moving forward to have the greatest impact on birds in Wisconsin and beyond. We remain committed to the focus of our mission statement:

*“The Conservation Committee of the WSO addresses issues impacting the welfare and future of birds and bird habitat in Wisconsin through education, advocacy, and research.”*

Moving forward we have identified several main areas that have the great-

est negative impact on birds and which require considerable attention.

First, habitat destruction and degradation play a vital role in loss of bird diversity. These threats can range from direct and predictable losses of individuals or even populations if habitat is destroyed outright. For example, if a large forest stand is removed, the ecosystem can simply not support the species that are dependent on intact forest. As an example of such an issue, the committee is monitoring the development of a golf course in the Black River Forest area (adjacent to Kohler Andrae State Forest), that could significantly impact a mature Lake Michigan coastline forest and migratory stopover site. Habitats can also be heavily degraded, either by the presence of pollution such as Neonicotinoids or communication towers which may lead to bird strikes. A related topic to tower strikes that is paramount to address is window strikes. As a leading killer of birds, this issue simply needs more attention from all fronts. Invasive species are already having a significant impact on native birds and new threats are looming that require our attention. The establishment of non-native feral cats as a meso-predator requires greater attention. The arrival of newly established introduced species such as the European Goldfinch and the Great Tit deserve careful monitoring. Though not considered invasive now, the window for possible eradication or containment is quickly shrinking for these species. Finally, though currently Kudzu (invasive rapidly growing vine) is not in WI, changing climates make this a possibility. Careful monitoring for this species is critical, as its arrival could greatly alter native ecosystems. The committee is looking more carefully at the threats



of climate change within the state and the possible impacts on bird populations. The Conservation Committee is interested in supporting more WSO Research Projects on various topics, such as climate change, road mortality (e.g. Highway 49), and tower and window collisions.

The WSO Conservation Committee remains committed to exploring positive ways to reduce avian losses resulting from various threats. There is great conservation work being done around the state by numerous non-profit organizations, government agencies, nature centers, teachers, researchers and individuals. We are developing a plan to further unite these different entities to encourage thoughtful collaboration and a unified effort. We recognize that one of the most important drivers for bird conservation in our state is our WSO membership and other birders who work hard every day to ensure a better future for Wisconsin birds and other wildlife.

### ***Convention – Christine Zimmerman***

The planning for the 2016 Convention in Racine started in spring of 2015. Jenny Wenzel and the Hoy Audubon Society were our additional support in Racine helping plan all aspects of the Convention. The 2016 Convention was the 77th WSO Convention with 147 attendees. Our home base for a majority of the Convention was the Racine Architect Hotel and Conference Center.

The 2016 Racine Convention continued moving forward with the opportunity for WSO members to register online and use PayPal to pay for their registrations. This was very well received by our membership—89 online registrations using PayPal versus 58

paper registrations, an approximate 60/40 split.

We offered the All-Day field trips on Sunday and Monday, seeing how it would be without a holiday weekend, which included both bus and car caravans. There were 33 people on the bus trip and 76 on the car caravans. We moved the Birds and Beers to take place on Sunday Evening after the first All Day Trip, which was held at Reef Point Brew House in Racine, and was very well attended, especially since it is a drop-in event. Saturday morning field trips were around the Racine area, most being led by local Hoy Audubon Society members.

The Racine Convention continued the new tradition of a Member Appreciation Picnic. This was the first event of the Convention, happening on Friday afternoon. It was attended by almost 100 members and was held at Petrifying Springs County Park. The picnic was included with the Convention Registration Fee, including food and drinks to all that attended. We continued having the Awards Ceremony on Friday evening - where recipients knew they would be honored with an award and could invite family and friends to attend. The ceremony was well attended, filling the room with 115 people. A light reception followed the ceremonies with cake and coffee for all that attended.

Saturday was a fun filled day, including morning field trips around Racine and Kenosha area. All groups met back at Racine Architect Hotel and Conference Center for lunch and the WSO Annual Meeting. The afternoon sessions focused on the convention theme "Wisconsin's Birding Gateway". The presenters for the afternoon included local Wisconsin college students pro-

viding details on wind development on birds of prey and bird research. We also had the local Wisconsin DNR naturalist from Bong share the details of Bong becoming an Important Bird Area - highlighting the 100 Year Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty. Saturday evening began with a social hour that concluded the annual silent auction, followed by a banquet dinner, a presentation by Barbara Barzen of the Natural Resources Foundation on the Great Wisconsin Birdathon and the keynote talk by Dr. Stanley Temple, Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation at UW-Madison and Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation. He shared the importance and 100-year history of the Migratory Bird Treaty and its role in bird conservation and challenged us to work to see protections afforded by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 strengthened over the next two years.

Thanks to the donations and bids by WSO members, the 2016 silent auction raised \$2879. The proceeds were divided between Hoy Audubon Society and the WSO Conservation Fund. We were also able to fully pay for the convention out of proceeds from registrants, including an additional \$649.34 that could be transferred to WSO.

### ***Development – Mary Korkor***

What a difference a year makes! Last year the Development Committee was just getting organized and figuring out what our priorities would be and within weeks The Campaign for Honey Creek was in full swing!

The major goal of Development over the past year was to raise the funds needed for the purchase of 104 acres connected to The Harold and Carla

Kruse Honey Creek Nature Preserve. With the help of an outstanding and dedicated committee and the generosity of members of the WSO, the goal was achieved in record time. The addition, known as the Gerhard and Rose Dischler Addition to the Honey Creek Preserve, was purchased in two installments, the first last December and the second and final, earlier this month. The original goal of \$550,000 was exceeded by \$35,000! Thank you to all who contributed!

#### **Profile of donations:**

\$249,000 Knowles-Nelson  
Stewardship Grant  
\$50,000 Sauk County  
\$70,000 Estate and Foundation  
Gifts  
\$216,000 Contributions from WSO  
members and supporters

In September, a donor appreciation event will be held at Honey Creek. In addition to food, beverages, music and hikes, the committee will be unveiling the donor sign. Invitations will be sent to all donors and advertised in the Badger Birder.

In the coming months, the Development Committee will be turning its focus to increasing the funding for maintenance of Honey Creek, support of conservation initiatives and educational programs. Additional attention will be given to encouraging planned giving.

While it was the inaugural year for the Development Committee, it couldn't have come at a more opportune moment. I am so very grateful for all the hard work of fellow committee and board members and the incredible generosity of the community. Thank you!

## ***Education – Ed Hahn and Jim Knickelbine***

### **WSO Youth Grants**

One of the grants awarded last fall went to Kate Barker and Madeline Damon of Burlington who set up bird feeders at three different locations. They did observations researching what birds used the feeders, each being in a different environment. Maddie Ivkovich and Evelia Guerrero, also from Burlington, set up hummingbird feeders. They wanted to learn more about hummingbirds. They shared the experience with their classmates and others to create a greater awareness of the needs of these little birds. All four are members of a newly formed bird club at Burlington High School by Steffanie Nagan.

“Kindness for Killdeer” was submitted by Teri Eberhardy for her school in Mosinee. The school has had Killdeer nesting on their playground. Cones have marked part of the playground off limits. By studying Killdeer, the children gained an interest in them and a better understanding of the reason for protecting their nesting area.

This spring a youth grant was awarded to Callie Mikolajczyk and Sarah Ratelis of Kenosha. They host a summer enrichment program for middle school students. Students will learn to identify plants, insects, and birds on or near their school grounds. The students will learn to use eBird to record the information collected. They will use their grant to purchase BirdSleuth kits to teach the students how to ID birds.

A second grant was given to Katie and her daughter Aubrey from Ringle. Aubrey helps her mom fill the bird feeders in their yard. She liked

watching the birds including Robins. With the grant money they purchased books about Robins and other material to learn about Robins. Four-year-old Aubrey’s teacher will use these items to teach Aubrey’s class about our state bird.

The third grant we gave out was to Autumn Lambert, a science teacher at Florence High School. Autumn had attended the presentation we had made at the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers Convention. Autumn’s Environmental Science class had built and installed Bluebird boxes in 2016. They then began monitoring them and recording information. They will study the Bluebird boxes. Then they will design and build new houses. After installing them they will monitor both the old and new boxes. I look forward to hearing from them and find out if their new designs result in any increased use.

We are going to change the registration due dates for next year grants. The fall grant application will be due September 1, 2017. The spring grant will also be moved earlier to February 1<sup>st</sup>, the 15<sup>th</sup>, or to March 15. Please encourage the youth and teachers you know to submit an application in the future.

### **WSO Bird Monitoring Grants**

Due to a change in the discount we receive for the optics from Eagle Optics we have had to increase the cost of the kits. Previously organizations were paying \$990 toward a kit, with WSO paying approximately \$450–\$500 to cover additional cost. Currently, the cost to a group has gone up to \$1,800–\$2,000, with WSO still needing to pay \$450–\$500. I have had some inquiries since the increase, but have no groups ordering a kit. The WSO board is

reviewing this program to determine if we will continue to offer kits for purchase.

### **Urban Ecology Center**

Over the past few years WSO has been supporting the Urban Ecology Center by providing funds for their "I Spy Bird" program. We are again providing funding to support this program again this summer.

### **Wisconsin Young Birders group**

WSO is very grateful to Ryan Treves for all he has done to organize the Wisconsin Young Birders Club. Through Ryan's leadership this group has provided opportunities for young birders to meet and bird watch with other young birders. There have even been field trips with a focus on the young birder. Thank you, Ryan!

WSO is looking for one or more persons who can take a leadership role with this group as Ryan's future plans will not allow him to continue in this position. Please contact us if you or someone you know is interested and able to help with this leadership position. Also, continue to encourage the youth you know to join in some of our activities. This WYBG has a Facebook page. Go to Facebook. Do a search for Wisconsin Young Birders Club. Their group has a black and white symbol, the image of a bird in black on top of the outline of Wisconsin, outlined with Wisconsin Young Birder Club. If you know any young birders encourage them to check out this Facebook page. Go on Facebook. Search for Wisconsin Young Birders Club. It is a closed group, so once they are on this site they should request to become a member. Once accepted they

can begin following the group and participating as well.

### **Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers Convention**

The WSST held their annual convention in Oconomowoc on March 16 and 17. Mary Korkor and Ed Hahn attended their convention setting up a booth in the vender hall. This provided opportunity to speak with over 100 teachers. Many others stopped to look at our display. On Thursday, they also had an opportunity to share information on WSO during a 50-minute session presenting to two dozen teachers. Several of these teachers later stopped at the booth to get more information, with one returning to turn in her youth grant application.

### **Wisconsin Youth Oriole Count**

We have continued to coordinate the Wisconsin Oriole Count for youth groups in 2016 and 2017. Several groups participated, including traditional schools, 4H groups, scouts, and homeschool families. Thanks to support from Eagle Optics, all groups which participated and submitted data were entered into a drawing and received from one to several pairs of binoculars. In 2016 WSO supported a variety of avian education activities for children and families at Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Two Rivers. These included the fall field trip program for first graders which included bird banding demonstrations, the annual Bird Breakfast and Migration Celebration, and a field trip by the Wisconsin Young Birders group.

WSO also consistently provided extensive avian information to the public via its various publications both in print and electronically (via the

website and Facebook page and email publications), with content provided by many of our Board members and other volunteers.

***Field Trips – Tom Schultz and Jeff Baughman***

We have continued with most of our regular field trips for the past year, which continue to be quite popular. In 2017 we added a few new ones, with three outings devoted to atlasng (set up by Tom Prestby). We also held a May 27 field trip that was collaborative with the Wisconsin Young Birders Association, which was arranged through their president, Ryan Treves. It was held at the White River Marsh State Wildlife Area. This was a wonderful event, and we hope to set up a similar field trip for next year.

Anyone interested in leading a WSO field trip to a local hotspot (especially to a site that is outside of our regular region) should contact us—we would be happy to work with you to set one up!

WSO sponsors a tropical birding tour in Costa Rica every couple of years, and plans are underway once again to set up a 2018 tour.

I guess you know this already, but as of January 2017 Jeff Baughman and I completed 30 years of service on the WSO board in this capacity!

***Historian – Nancy Nabak***

Old records, rare bird sightings and an assortment of documents continue to find their way to the WSO archives. Unfortunately, at times, this means we've lost another fellow birder and friend. These moments become bitter sweet as I realize I'm filing away someone's life passion. In some small way, I

hope to "reincarnate" them through a future "Found in the Archives" article.

We've uncovered lease agreements on WSO owned Prairie chicken land and have created duplications of the deeds for the state DNR office, so as to have current records in both places.

We hope to acquire all of Tom Soulen's WSO records (currently stored in Minnesota) in the near future, thanks to Carl Schwartz, Chuck Sontag, and Tom Erdman.

I'm honored to continue to write the "50 Years Ago" article for the Passenger Pigeon. Our history continues to spark curiosity and inspiration.

***Honey Creek – Levi Wood***

The big news about WSO's Honey Creek Nature Preserve is the successful fund-raising campaign that enabled WSO to purchase an additional 104 acres of land that abuts our existing land. Read our Development Chair report for more about this very successful fund-raising campaign. We made our initial payment last year and will make our final payment during June of 2017. The funds raised not only exceeded the agreed to sale price, but also provides some funds for management costs associated with the land.

When volunteers showed up this past April 15<sup>th</sup> to work on the trail and on the nature center, we found that someone had already gone up the trail with a chain saw to remove trees that had fallen across the trail. It turns out that Tim Vitense visited Honey Creek over the first weekend of April and headed up the trail with his chain saw to remove fallen trees. This made it much easier for the small crew working on the trail during our work party day. Our major task was to reroute the trail

where flood water had undercut the trail. With little option where to reroute the trail, we ended up cutting back quite a bit of prickly ash to move the trail away from the eroded stream bank.

While some of us were working on the trail, Dan Pickarts and his sons were replacing and repairing sections of the boardwalk. We still need a few additional sections of boardwalk, as the area of the trail before the first stream crossing is usually muddy all spring. After repairing some old boardwalk, Dan and his sons cleaned up the nature center and outhouses. Tim Vitense did a reroofing of the outhouses, similar to

his reroofing of the nature center last year. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Dan, his sons, and Tim for all their volunteer efforts.

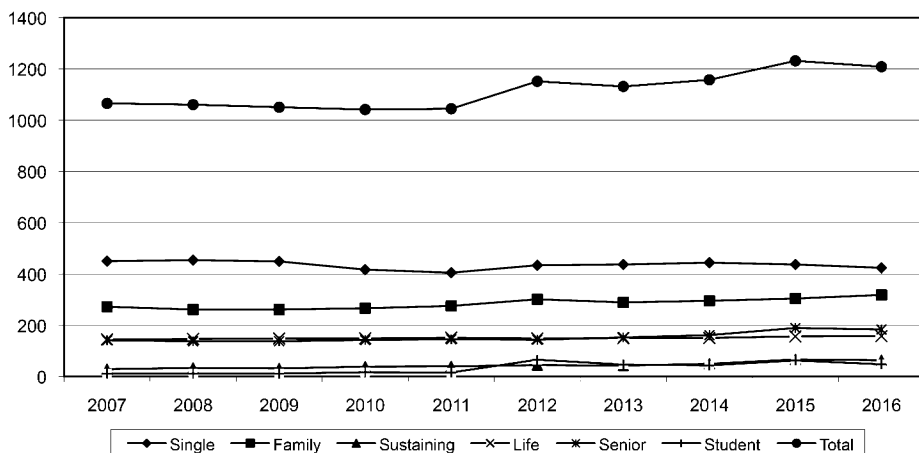
The annual Bandathon/Birdathon was held over the second weekend of May. Anna Pigeon, Professor of Ornithology at the University of Wisconsin with help from several of her graduate students banded birds on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. On Sunday, the annual trek up the trail counted about 90 species of birds. Funds raised from these efforts are now available for maintenance and management of our enlarged Honey Creek property.

*Membership – Kim Kreitinger*

Total Membership at 2016 Calendar Year End:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Single	450	454	449	417	405	434	437	444	437	424
Family	272	261	261	266	275	301	289	295	304	318
Sustaining	28	33	31	38	39	44	42	49	66	63
Life (1 of 4)	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
Life (2 of 4)	2	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	2
Life (3 of 4)	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Life-Couple (1 of 4)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
Life-Couple (2 of 4)	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Life-Couple (3 of 4)	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Life	134	136	135	135	138	135	132	132	136	136
Life-Couple	10	10	13	13	13	13	17	18	20	21
Patron	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	6	5	5
Senior	141	137	137	142	145	143	152	161	189	183
Student	11	11	11	16	15	65	46	43	62	47
Honorary Life	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
Board	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1065	1060	1050	1041	1044	1151	1131	1157	1232	1208
New Members	34	46	72	51	52	155	109	134	174	121

## 10-Year Membership Trends 2007–2016:



In 2016, overall membership declined slightly compared to 2015 but is still above the 10-year average. The renewal rate dipped slightly to 88% compared to 90% in recent years. Membership activities and accomplishments throughout the past year include:

- Continued oversight of printing and mailing of the paper Badger Birder
- Continued oversight of the mailing list for the e-Badger Birder, the electronic version of the WSO newsletter, to a growing number of subscribers
- Continued oversight of Passenger Pigeon mailing lists, print orders, and back issue inventory
- Monitored and managed the publication exchange program
  - 17 current exchange partners
- Managed the annual membership renewal activity via postal mail and e-mail
  - Three renewal notices as required
  - E-mail reminders to try to minimize postal mail efforts and costs

- Managed the new member “onboarding” activity including sending out “Welcome” packets to each new member
- Provided miscellaneous member support as required

### *Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee this year consisted of Levi Wood, Matt Hayes, and Nolan Pope. They are putting forward the following slate of WSO Officer candidates for the membership to approve at the 2017 Annual Meeting:

President – Michael John Jaeger  
 Vice President – Myles Hurlburt  
 Secretary – Jennifer Wenzel  
 Treasurer – Dani Baumann

### *The Passenger Pigeon – Chuck Heikkinen and Delia Unson*

After a year of several peer-reviewed articles being printed, we published only one during the past year. We are hoping that this will change as writers become more familiar with the process. Everyone who has experienced peer-re-



view has agreed that their work has benefitted.

We regret to announce that we are approaching a milestone after our winter 2017 issue. Our Assistant Editor for Art, Michael Huebschen, is retiring after five years of great work. He has successfully brought each issue’s photos into alignment with the season of the issue, and has submitted a superb collation of photos for each issue from which the final choices emerge. We hope that you as the readers have been pleased with the artistic changes we’ve made.

We are, of course, now looking for a replacement for him. We encourage anyone with an interest in taking on this role to contact us as soon as possible via email at [passengerpigeon@wso-birds.com](mailto:passengerpigeon@wso-birds.com).

**Records Committee – Quentin Yoerger**

The WSO Records Committee evaluated the following records by season:

Season	Reviewed	Accepted	Not Accepted
Winter 2015–16	45	38	7
Spring 2016	88	74	14
Summer 2016	42	37	5
Fall 2016	76	66	10
TOTAL	251		

\*Overall acceptance rate = 85.7%

Two species new to the state were found during this period; Tropical Kingbird and Painted Redstart. This brings the state list to 439 species.

Quentin Yoerger continued as the Committee Chair with Mark Korducki, Aaron Stutz, and Tom Prestby as the members of the Committee. Jerry DeBoer stepped down after eight years on

the committee. Ted Keyel has joined the committee to take Jerry’s place.

**Research Committee – Matt Hayes**

Papers submitted for peer-review to *The Passenger Pigeon* continue to trickle in, albeit slowly. Four manuscripts were peer-reviewed and three were accepted for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon*. The fourth paper was moved to the non-peer-reviewed section after discussions with the authors and agreement that it would more appropriately fit there. Special thanks to Chuck Heikkinen and Delia Unson, the fantastic editors of *The Passenger Pigeon*, and Amy Staffen, our essential copy editor that catches all the mistakes that I miss.

**Scholarships and Grants – Aaron Greene**

Six research awards, each of \$500, were given in the Spring of 2017. The research topics were:

- Breeding Study of the Purple Martin Colonies in South Central Wisconsin
- Breeding Phenology of Passerines in Wisconsin
- Study on Purple Martins to Develop a Set of Best Management Practices and to Learn How to Increase Their Population and Range in South Central Wisconsin
- Do Novel and Restored Habitats Differ in Their Influence on Breeding Bird Condition? [note: includes a study site in WSO’s Honey Creek Preserve]
- Analyzing Bird Population Data Collected at the Riveredge Nature Center
- An Urban Cooper’s Hawk Population and Nesting Study in the Metropolitan Milwaukee Area

# 2017 WSO Convention Awards

*Wendy Schultz*

*WSO Awards Chair*

The WSO Board of Directors was honored to receive a number of excellent nominations to be considered for the 2017 Passenger Pigeon Awards. From this pool of worthy individuals, seven distinguished people were chosen for their hard work on behalf of birds and were recognized at the 78<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Annual Convention which took place within the Nicolet National Forest at the Potawatomi Carter Casino and Hotel.

**The Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award** is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their local communities or in the state to promote the field of ornithology. This year **Nicholas Anich**, DNR conservation biologist and lead coordinator of the atlas was nominated as much for his role in making Wisconsin eBird a widely-adopted tool for the state's birders as for his work on

WBBA II, although the two are intertwined. He works tirelessly to educate



Figure 1. Nicholas Anich (right) receiving the 2017 Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award from Andy Paulios.

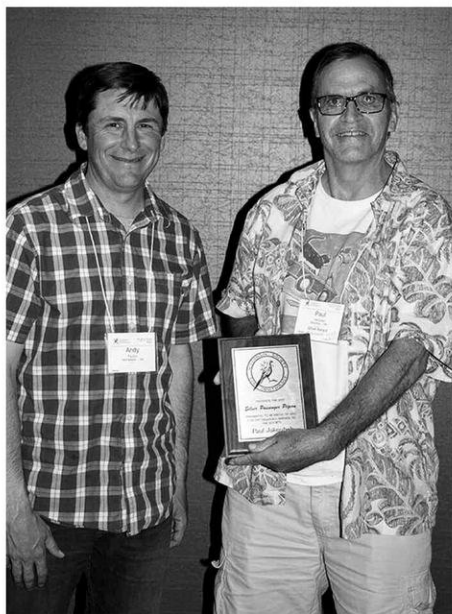


Figure 2. Paul Jakoubek receiving the 2017 Silver Passenger Pigeon Award from Andy Paulios.

birders about eBird protocols, writing and editing numerous articles for the Wisconsin eBird Portal and basically making eBird the valuable and trusted tool it has become for its users. Also noted in his nomination were the many things he and the WBBA II team have accomplished including: uploading data from Atlas 1 into eBird, organizing Atlas kickoff meetings, getting the first-ever eBird atlasing portal online, recruiting and training county coordinators, organizing events to get the birding and general public excited about the project, supervising paid atlasers, reviewing data for errors, and finally keeping an eye on the big picture to make sure the atlas is moving forward on schedule. Mr. Anich also was lauded for his scientific acumen and leadership with Kirtland's Warblers.

#### **The Silver Passenger Pigeon Award**

is presented for distinguished service to the WSO organization. This year's award goes to WSO web administrator **Paul Jakoubek**, who spearheaded the modernization and expansion of WSO's web site and has overseen the transition to online registration for its convention as well as statewide meetings like those for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and the Wisconsin

Breeding Bird Atlas. He devoted a major amount of time and energy to developing the WBBA II web site, hosted by WSO, its highly successful Sponsor-a-Species online initiative, events calendar, photo gallery, eBird interface and training materials. Not only is the website beautiful, it is functional and serves as a wonderful resource. Mr. Jakoubek is currently working on a new package of membership services software.

**The Golden Passenger Pigeon Award** was initiated in 1939 as "Honorary Life" for outstanding achievement in the science of ornithology and was renamed "Golden Passenger Pigeon" in 1978. It recognizes published research, major book efforts or other such work in ornithology and is limited to 15 living members at any time. It also conveys lifetime WSO membership upon the recipient. This year's award went to **Dr. Robert W. Howe** of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, who led the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey, the longest running volunteer bird monitoring program in our national forests. This annual survey concluded in 2016 after 30 years, and the U.S. Forest Service staff will continue with special surveys in the future. The Nicolet encompasses 1.6 million acres of mixed hardwood-conifer forests, lowland



Figure 3. Dr. Robert Howe receiving the 2017 Golden Passenger Pigeon Award from Andy Paulios.

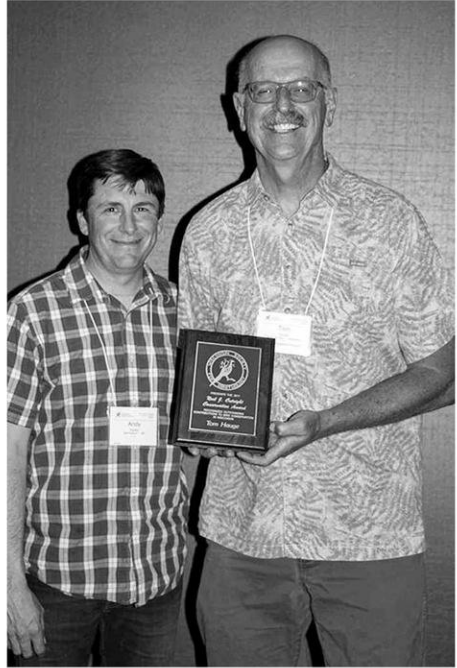


Figure 4. Tom Hauge, one of two recipients of the 2017 Noel J. Cutright Award, receiving his award from Andy Paulios.

swamps, glacial lakes and wetlands in northeast Wisconsin.

Mr. Howe was one of three editors of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*, published in 2006, at which time WSO honored him with its Silver Passenger Pigeon. He is founding director of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, and is a Barbara Hauxhurst Cofrin Professor of Natural Science. He has been a faculty member in UWGB's Department of Natural and Applied Sciences since 1984, where he has taught courses ranging from introductory environmental science to advanced graduate courses in biology and ecology. He was the keynote speaker at this year's convention banquet.

**The Noel J. Cutright Award** (formerly known as the Green Passenger Pi-

geon Award) is given to individuals, groups or organizations who work to protect birds or bird habitat or toward educating the public on bird conservation issues. This year WSO recognizes the outstanding contributions of **Tom Hauge** and **Karen Etter Hale**, both of whom played a pivotal role in establishing the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative in 2002. WBCI (Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative) is considered a national model for constituent engagement and has a shared vision of "keeping common birds common" and restoring imperiled bird populations. **Mr. Hauge** served as director of the Wisconsin DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management for 24 years. During that time, he oversaw WBCI's development and played a key leader-



Figure 5. Karen Etter Hale, the other recipient of the 2017 Noel J. Cutright Award, receiving her award from Andy Paulios.

ship role in moving Wisconsin into all-bird conservation, and was a leader during key species restoration projects for the Whooping Crane, Trumpeter Swan, Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse. He resigned October 2016. **Ms. Etter Hale**, winner of the Bronze Passenger Pigeon in 2004, has chaired WBCI since its inception. She currently serves as director of community relations for the Wisconsin Audubon Council and for many years was executive secretary of Madison Audubon and an active conservation lobbyist. She has been a member of the Bird City Wisconsin Steering Committee since the program was launched in 2009 and serves on the steering committee for the Great Wisconsin Birdathon and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Bird Protection Fund and is a member of the Chimney Swift Working Group.

**WSO Special Recognition Award** was created to recognize individuals who go above and beyond. This year the Board



Figure 6. Jeff Baughman (center) and Tom Schultz (right) receiving the 2017 the WSO Special Recognition Award from Andy Paulios.

of Directors chose to honor **Tom Schultz and Jeff Baughman** for their 30-year achievement as WSO Field Trip Co-Chairs, leading Wisconsin birders across this great state from 1987–2017 and still going strong. Since taking over from former Field Trips Chair, Ed Peartree, in January of 1987, Tom and Jeff have been responsible for what might be described as the “centerpiece” of WSO’s membership—the field trips. Besides the thrill of finding so many great birds for their loyal followers (of all levels of expertise) and in such variety of habitat, they have also created a network of friendships and camaraderie with numerous people in the greater birding community and well be-

yond the border of Wisconsin. They are truly the face of WSO as many birders have no other connection to the organization but for these two guys and the great outings they provide for the Society. Tom Schultz works as a professional bird artist and illustrator, Jeff Baughman works for the Campbell-sport School District as a high school mathematics teacher and IT specialist. Both of them are well known for their contributions to the organization and both are former presidents of WSO: Jeff from 2004–2006 and Tom from 2010–2012. We thank them wholeheartedly and look forward to their 2018 Field Trip Schedule which can be found on the website.



These Sandhill Cranes posed for Jim Edlhuber in early February in Waukesha County.



Vicki Sokolowski garnered this photo of a Ruffed Grouse in late January in Rusk County.



# 2016 Wisconsin Christmas Bird Count

*Carl Schroeder*

**T**here are a variety of reasons that the 1,547 field counters and 633 feeder watchers offer for why they love the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Many want to experience the joy of seeing delicate and colorful creatures set against the stark gray and white beauty of a northern winter. Some enjoy the physical challenge of struggling against the cold, wind and wet to find birds. There is the competitive set who search for the rare sighting to report proudly at the post-count gathering. Socializing with other bird lovers is certainly motivating to many people. Not least is the opportunity to contribute to a scientific activity that provides valuable information that aids scientists in their study of population trends and guides conservation efforts.

The expansion of southern species into Wisconsin, evidence of climate change, has been substantiated by CBC data. The resurgence of birds threatened in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is captured in the data gathered by Wisconsin's counters. Baraboo compilers Ann and Scott Swengel said recently, "We really appreciate the vast effort by Wisconsin birders put into gathering and publishing CBC data. The logistics of this boggles my mind. We've been inspired to look at possible patterns in the long-term Eastern Screech-Owl and Long-eared Owl declines across the state. Wonderfully enough, we've got a

complete statewide dataset from 1985 to 2015 for owling hours and count totals of the five main forest owl species. Thanks to everyone involved for such volunteer dedication and invaluable data."

Studies that have depended on CBC data include Sandhill Cranes, Gray Jays, Short-eared Owls, Red-tailed Hawks and Blue Jays. You may never know what future use can and will be made of data collected now. A representative list of scientific papers and books that used Wisconsin CBC data is in the bibliography at the end of this article, compiled by Scott Swengel.

This season 105 of 111 active CBCs were conducted. Three were cancelled due to blizzard conditions. Counts were made in Retreat, Platteville and Wisconsin Rapids but the data were not reported.

In general, typical winter conditions prevailed across the state with temperatures ranging from a low of -22 in Field to a high of 44 in Rosendale but most counts (84) were conducted in below freezing conditions. Most waters were frozen; only on three counts were ponds and lakes open and on only 16 were rivers and streams open. Conditions for observation were mostly good, 74 counts had no precipitation. However, there was one event that was very impactful, the blizzard of December 17. Fennimore, Brussels and Sturgeon Bay

counts were thwarted entirely and could not be rescheduled. Other counts were rescheduled but with fewer participants. Many counters soldiered on that day but the conditions suppressed both observers and bird numbers.

Test yourself on how well you know the distribution of winter birds. Before looking at Tables 1 and 2, ask yourself: what are the most widespread species and what are the most abundant species. You'll be surprised that the answers to these questions are quite different.

### **Ducks, Geese and Swans**

Typically, the highest counts of species are highlighted in this report. Which Count saw the most Bufflehead? For which species were historical high or low counts recorded? There is another way to view the data that provides a different and clearer perspective on the results. That is by looking at the number of a species seen compared to the amount of effort applied. For example, take the American Black Duck of which 372 were counted this season. That is not an all-time low count; fewer were seen in the 1940s and 1950s. However, there are about five times more people out looking today than there were 60 years ago. Instead, by examining the count per effort hour, we see that the 372 American Black Duck reported is the lowest number per effort hour in history. More people are looking but are finding fewer for their effort. This is an important difference. On individual counts, there may be local conditions that will swing the numbers year to year. Seen over the whole state though it may be indicative of a longer term and widespread trend

leading to question why there are fewer of this species than were once in Wisconsin?

Another example is the Mallard, which is commonly seen (85 of 105 counts). While apparently common, the number of Mallards per effort hour is quite low, 5.4, compared to counts of the last 60 years. There are only a handful of count years that are lower. On the other hand, Common Merganser and Greater Scaup are doing relatively well with recent counts per hour at historically above average levels.

Madison with its many lakes and stream had the highest diversity and numbers of ducks and geese. State high totals of Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Gadwall, Tundra Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback and Green-winged Teal were in Madison. Surprisingly the only two Surf Scoters anywhere in the state were in Madison, likewise the only Northern Shovelers with an astounding 678. Other hot spots were Lake Geneva (highest counts of Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck), Milwaukee (Redhead, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Mallard), Racine (Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, American Wigeon) and Cooksville (Pintail, American Wigeon, Greater White-fronted Goose). Only two Long-tails were seen this year, both in Racine, an unusual low count although in recent years aerial surveys have discovered thousands of them wintering far offshore on Lake Michigan. Green Bay saw 3,041 Common Merganser and 30 American Black Duck both state highs. Kickapoo Valley had 19 Wood Ducks and Kewaunee the most Snow Goose. Harlequin Duck was found in Appleton and Kewaunee and White-winged Scoter La Crosse. Kewaunee recorded

the only Cackling Goose. Finally, a shout out to Pensaukee where there were 482 Trumpeter Swans.

### **Galliformes**

Ruffed Grouse was seen on 36 counts with the most in Fifield (18). Poynette led in Ring-necked Pheasant (50), Washington Island in Northern Bobwhite (14) and Arpin as usual had the only Greater Prairie-Chicken. There were no Sharp-tailed Grouse found, not even in reliable Gilman. Wild Turkey is now one of the most abundant and widespread birds in Wisconsin ranking 10<sup>th</sup> in number of counts recording it (101) and 14<sup>th</sup> in total individuals.

### **Hawks and Falcons**

This year Rough-legged Hawks were very widespread, seen in 85 counts and in the highest number in Cedar Grove (24). If there is a hot-spot for raptors, it has to be Sauk City where there were the highest counts of Bald Eagle (123), Sharp-shinned Hawks (8), American Kestrel (25) and Red-shouldered Hawk (3). They also had the second highest total of Red-tailed Hawks after Mount Horeb's 91. Unlike during the mild 2015 CBC, only a lone Turkey Vulture was seen, in Palmyra. Golden Eagle held steady with last year's total of 30 with Nelson being the best place to find them (7).

### **Loons and Grebes**

In contrast to last year's impressive numbers of loons and grebes, this season was scanty. Statewide there was only one Common Loon (Madison), one Horned Grebe (Madison), one Red-throated Loon (Kewaunee), one Red-necked Grebe (Herbster) and seven

Pied-billed Grebe (four in Lake Geneva, three in Madison).

### **Rails and Cranes**

Virginia Rail like last year was only seen on two counts, Poynette (5) and Palmyra (2). Coots were back to normal level, 3,540, nearly half of them were at Lake Geneva. Sandhill Cranes of which there were over 13,000 in state in December 2015 were hard to find this time, 28 statewide and 20 of those in Sauk City.

### **Hérons, Pelican and Cormorant**

As in the past, Green Bay had the only American White Pelicans (7) and 24 or the 34 Double-crested Cormorants. Green Bay and Milwaukee split the two Black-crowned Night Heron. With so little open water it seems contradictory for the Great Blue Heron to have a record-setting season; 57 is the highest number even seen in Wisconsin CBC history beating the 2001 record of 50. Cooksville had the most with six.

### **Shorebirds**

Two years in a row now no one reported a Killdeer, the first time this has happened. Nine Wilson's Snipe were seen across seven counts with Blanchardville finding three.

### **Gulls**

The best sighting in this family was a count week Black-legged Kittiwake at the mouth of the Fox River in Green Bay. Counts with Lake Michigan footage naturally had the most gulls although nearby Appleton is also a gull haven. High counts were Great Black-

backed Gull (Kewaunee 12), Glaucous Gull (Appleton 6), Herring Gull (Milwaukee 2,217), Ring-billed Gull (Newberg 228), Lesser Black-backed Gull (Milwaukee 1, Racine 1). Thayer's Gull was recently lumped with Iceland Gull by the AOU so next year these species will be merged but in the last year of their independence three Thayer's were found in Superior and one Iceland Gull in each of Green Bay, Racine and Superior. What could top a Laughing Gull in Appleton; perhaps a Parasitic Jaeger in Bayfield.

### **Doves**

Eurasian Collared-Dove set the record in 2015 at 98 and now topped it again at 100. Poynette had over a third of them. Mourning Dove continues its 30-year rise. Madison led the way with 883.

### **Owls**

The five-year streak of Snowy Owl incursions into Wisconsin ended. Apparently, lemming populations were strong in Canada, or not. One hypothesis is that when food is scarce in the arctic, the Snowies have to move south to survive. An alternate possibility is that when lemmings are plentiful, Snowies raise large families and the younger ones move south to avoid competition for winter hunting grounds. Only five individuals were found, all of them in Superior.

Six other owl species were found in Wisconsin and only Poynette can claim the distinction of recording all of them. The most Barred Owl were seen in La Crosse (10), Great-Horned Owl in Blanchardville (20), Long-eared Owl in Cassville (2), Short-eared Owl in Oshkosh (3) and Northern Saw-whet Owl in

Baraboo (2). Eastern Screech-Owl numbers were way down last year followed by an even lower total of 77 this year. Over these past two years there is a 50–70% drop from the steady numbers of the 1980s to 2010s. Green Bay had a fifth of the state's total with 20.

### **Kingfisher**

As long as there is open water, running or still, there are always a few Belted Kingfisher hanging around into December. This year 41 counts had one or two kingfishers, most in Madison with eight.

### **Hummingbird**

Last year Newberg had an Anna's Hummingbird, this year one was seen in Milwaukee. There is something interesting going on with Anna's, a primarily west coast species that disperses in small numbers to the east while our local breeder Ruby-throated has been seen in Wisconsin in winter only once, in 1980. Most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds winter between southern Mexico and northern Panama. They are not adapted to cold weather. However, the Anna's is more cold-tolerant and migrates to lower elevations and sometimes to the east rather than travel south. See more at <http://www.hummingbirds.net/migration.html>.

### **Woodpeckers**

More woodpeckers were found on the Madison CBC than anywhere in the state. Madison had the highest counts of Hairy (108), Downy (303), Red-bellied (174) and Northern Flicker (14). This doesn't mean that Madison has the largest population of woodpeckers. Madison has double the number of

counters (106) and field hours (227) than the next closest areas, La Crosse (48/115) and Baraboo (42/100) which actually had more woodpeckers per field hour than Madison. The next most common species is Pileated Woodpecker which was seen on 81 counts led by La Crosse with 23. Sightings of Red-headed Woodpecker were very low, only 23 statewide, four in Kickapoo Valley. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (8) were also well below the long-term average. Black-backed Woodpecker went undetected.

### **Shrike**

Only 96 Northern Shrikes represents the low point of the last 30 years, continuing the sharp decline of the last two years. Medford claims the high count with seven.

### **Corvids**

Blue Jay was seen on all 105 counts, one of only six species with that distinction. They really turned out for Bridgeport with 340. Armstrong Creek had the single Gray Jay in the state. Gray Jays have been in decline as their habitat shrinks due to global warming. "gray jays are now suffering population declines and a shrinking range as global warming heats up the natural "refrigerator" that once kept their perishable food fresh" when breeding season starts in February (<https://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2011/Gray-Jays.aspx>).

Ravens on the other hand, which also breed in late winter, are doing fine perhaps because they have a more diverse diet. Gurney's 153 was the high count. American Crow are the fourth most observed species on CBCs and certainly common but that ranking is probably

inflated by the ease of finding them. Baraboo had 902.

### **Larks**

Horned Larks rebounded from a low count last year. This may not indicate a change in population but rather harsher weather forcing them to roadsides where they are more easily seen. Cedar Grove counted 466.

### **Chickadees and Nuthatches**

Madison had 1,206 Black-capped Chickadee of the 24,276 total. Baraboo found one tenth (108) of all the Tufted Titmouse (1,093) which is another record. There's no sign of the increase abating so expect another record next year. No Boreal Chickadees were reported. Apparently for the first time, Great Tit was observed on a CBC in Wisconsin, one in Fond du Lac and one in Sheboygan. The Fond du Lac bird is especially intriguing since it is well inland from the Lake Michigan coastline where most sightings occur.

Only 971 Red-breasted Nuthatch were seen, 30% below the ten-year average. Superior found the most at 171. White-breasted Nuthatch was one of those few seen in every count, Madison recording 338.

### **Wrens**

Five of the state's Winter Wren were found in Mount Horeb. The 13 Carolina Wrens is right on the ten-year average (Cassville 4).

### **Flycatchers**

As last year, the only flycatcher found was an Eastern Phoebe, this time in Baraboo.

### **Kinglets**

The 86 Golden-crowned Kinglets represents a low point more than 50% down from the 10-year average. The lone and rare-in-winter Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen during count week in Waukesha.

### **Thrushes**

Eastern Bluebird (247) held steady and once again Sauk City found the most (62). La Crosse found one sixth (416) of the state's Robins. Baraboo didn't get Townsend's Solitaire on the count day but did record them during count week, as usual at Devil's Lake. Burlington was rewarded with the most Hermit Thrushes (4). Bayfield had a Varied Thrush during count week.

### **Mimids**

Madison found the only Gray Catbird and added one of three Brown Thrasher; the others were in Randolph and Stevens Point.

### **Waxwings**

As expected all five counts with Bohemian Waxwing were across the northernmost counties: Manitowish Waters (37), Ashland (23), Clam Lake (23), Bayfield (1) and Superior (1). Cedar Waxwings were plentiful with the most in Madison (537) followed by Baraboo (381), Milwaukee (297) and Manitowoc (293).

### **Longspurs and Bunting**

The high Arctic, tundra-breeding Snow Bunting remained, as in the previous two years at a historically low level, about 50% below the ten-year average. Fond du Lac's 749 was the highest

count. Lapland Longspur also remains in a three-year dip; Cedar Grove saw 182.

### **Warblers and Vireos**

A Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported from Cassville and in Madison a Pine Warbler was photographed. That Pine Warbler was only the fifth seen in Wisconsin CBC history.

### **Tanagers, Grosbeak and Cardinal**

A count week Summer Tanager was coming to a suet feeder in Madison on December 11. Northern Cardinal was everywhere except for seven north woods counts. La Crosse had 611 and the only Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

### **Sparrows and Towhee**

Twelve species of sparrows and towhees were seen this season, typical for Wisconsin. Refer to the table for details on high counts. The second most abundant bird in the state this year is Dark-eyed Junco behind only the Eurasian Starling. This is an astounding number of juncos, 64,641, that at first was unbelievable. First I checked the data for error; did a compiler put an extra couple of zeroes after their entry? Nope. Then, I looked at the pattern across all the counts. Unusually large numbers in many CBCs, not just a few. This is not data error. This is the most juncos ever seen nearly doubling the previous high in 2009 of 35,195. To quote Vince Lombardi, "What's going on out there?"

### **Blackbirds**

After a three-year absence, a Brewer's Blackbird was found in Brodhead. Only

three Rusty Blackbirds, a species in decline throughout the country, were found in Sheboygan, Lake Geneva and Gilman. Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were here in normal numbers and La Crosse (38) and Palmyra (121) had the most respectively. Fort Atkinson counted 88 of the 110 Common Grackles. Monroe recorded the only Eastern Meadowlarks and the one Western Meadowlark was spotted in Cedar Grove.

### Finches

Evening Grosbeak as usual were seen in small numbers in the north, the highest count coming from Armstrong Creek (109). Florence, Medford, Lake-wood, Phelps and Rhinelander also recorded them. Nearly half of the 49 Pine Grosbeaks were in Summit Lake. Of the 915 Common Redpoll 557 were in Clam Lake where the most White-winged Crossbills (147) were also seen. Nearby Three Lakes was the only other sighting. Red Crossbills were seen in four northern counts, especially in Manitowish Waters. Both Crossbills are at below average numbers in recent years and have been restricted to the far north. Purple Finches rebounded a bit, the total of 1,371 was the second highest in the last ten years (Summit Lake 136). Only 354 Pine Siskins marked the second lowest total in the past 15 years. Fifiield boosted the total with 77. American Goldfinch held at a steady level just below the 10-year average (Randolph 1,175). And for the third time, European Goldfinch was seen on a CBC, but uniquely in two locations. One was seen at a feeder in Racine and another in Palmyra. Lastly, for the first time ever Eurasian Tree

Sparrow has been recorded on a CBC when two were seen in the Beloit count.

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Table 1. 2016 Wisconsin CBC most frequently seen species by state region and individual count.”

Northwest Region - Most Frequently Seen Species																
	Region Total	Ash- land	Bay- field	Birch- wood	Cable	Clam Lake	Fifield	Grants- burg	Gurney	Hay- ward	Hudson/ Herb- ster	Afton WI only	New Luck	Rich mond	Rice Lake	Super- ior
Count Day Total Species		40	39	17	24	24	28	39	27	21	33	42	34	35	42	39
Count Week Total Species		5	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	8	0	2	2
Canada Goose	2,070	18			30			131		42		737	0	258	854	
Trumpeter Swan	337							29		16		229	0	22	41	
Wood Duck	1														1	
American Black Duck	22	18	1												2	1
Mallard	684	11	36					26		18		248	1	25	313	6
Bufflehead	1	1														
Common Goldeneye	428	20	105							1	9	60	30	1	6	196
Common Merganser	2,021	4	5						2		3	1,986			19	2
Red-breasted Merganser	17	6	10													1
Ring-necked Pheasant	77	1						35				16	13		12	
Ruffed Grouse	85	13	2		2	3	18	4	12		18				2	11
Wild Turkey	572	64	32	55	3	4	52	59	80		19	80	2		85	37
Great Blue Heron	0														0	
Northern Harrier	1													1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0									1		0			
Cooper's Hawk	2							1	0					1		
Bald Eagle	165	24	7	1	6	3	4	22	16	1	3	21	14	21	19	3
Red-tailed Hawk	37			1				3				9	14	6	3	1
Rough-legged Hawk	23	1		1			1	5	1			2	2	1	3	6
Ring-billed Gull	6		1									5				
Herring Gull	1,725	38	94						4		16	57				1,516
Rock Pigeon	2,015	179	18	29			75	139	24			30	55	143	363	960
Mourning Dove	421	77	81		2	9	36	13	12	7	21	28	47	20	43	25
Eastern Screech-Owl	0															
Great Horned Owl	3										1				1	1
Barred Owl	6							2			1		2		1	
Belted Kingfisher	5					1						2		1	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	93		1	1	1		2	12	1	3	3	18	29	6	15	1
Downy Woodpecker	367	16	17	1	11	8	29	36	16	5	43	27	101	7	43	7
Hairy Woodpecker	220	11	6		11	16	30	17	12	4	32	14	32	3	24	8

Northern Flicker	3				1						1	1			0	
Pileated Woodpecker	82	3	9		3	2	5	12	4	2	12	4	15	1	10	0
American Kestrel	0															
Northern Shrike	20	4	1	1		1	1	2	1				2		3	4
Blue Jay	601	17	19	2	17	10	49	87	35	17	55	29	132	41	77	14
American Crow	2,611	308	108	40	19	47	182	352	140	10	129	393	213	138	421	111
Common Raven	401	32	12	1	11	34	25	57	153	5	26		7		2	36
Horned Lark	26												5	21		
Black-capped Chickadee	2,996	216	171	13	51	209	513	218	153	37	365	162	324	53	343	168
Tufted Titmouse	7							1				1	1		4	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	313	9	16	1	12	12	19	2	12	5	41	1	8	1	3	171
White-breasted Nuthatch	388	12	17	3	12	11	49	42	7	6	48	17	75	6	75	8
Brown Creeper	3				2		1									
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7				3	3									1	
Eastern Bluebird	0															
American Robin	240	16	19			0	1		6		40	57	0	33	9	59
European Starling	2,869	217	275		6		299	707	299	10	39	109	216	16	645	31
Cedar Waxwing	87	9	1					4	0			19	1	6	29	18
Lapland Longspur	78		1					2					1	74		
Snow Bunting	604	0		45	4		10	70					373	2	100	
American Tree Sparrow	767	8	2				13	183				52	300	119	90	
Fox Sparrow	0															
Dark-eyed Junco	671	5	9	4	5	5	21	61	0	3	3	107	245	158	45	
White-throated Sparrow	1		1										0			
Song Sparrow	1							1								
Northern Cardinal	160	1	2			1	11	18	2		2	43	34	23	15	8
Red-winged Blackbird	1	1														
Common Grackle	5	1						2						2		
Brown-headed Cowbird	0															
House Finch	40											34	0	2	4	
Purple Finch	238	29	23		3	7	42	22	24	7	28	14	9	7	4	19
Common Redpoll	628	25	1			557			21	5	17		2			
Pine Siskin	102		0			9	77	12			2	1				1
American Goldfinch	1,437	136	135	1	28	124	247	105	115	33	80	39	141	9	194	50
House Sparrow	616	87	18					137	13		6	57	174	35	77	12

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

Northeast Region - Most Frequently Seen Species																
	Region Total	Arm- strong Creek	Antigo	Caroline	Flo- rence	Lake- wood	Mino- qua	Mani- towish Waters	Pesh- tigo	Phelps	Pen- saukee	Rhine- lander	Sum- mit Lake	Sha- wano	Three Lakes	Wau- sau
Count Day Total Species		28	29	33	28	32	21	25	36	17	53	30	27	44	24	31
Count Week Total Species		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	3
Canada Goose	872								47		104			721		0
Trumpeter Swan	518							3			482			33		
Wood Duck	0															
American Black Duck	50								6		22	3		7		12
Mallard	1,249			35					12		151	44		846		161
Bufflehead	0															
Common Goldeneye	2,600							0			2,600					
Common Merganser	85								1		84					
Red-breasted Merganser	20										20					
Ring-necked Pheasant	6			1		1					2			2		
Ruffed Grouse	33	5	2		4	2	2	7			1	2	2		3	3
Wild Turkey	1,614	82	86	178	243	148	41	76	107	41	67	16	14	396	5	114
Great Blue Heron	1													1		
Northern Harrier	2										1					1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1										1					
Cooper's Hawk	8		1								3			3		1
Bald Eagle	102	5	3	8	7	5	9	8	4	2	13	3	4	27	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk	51		2	7		1			6		11		1	7	2	14
Rough-legged Hawk	20		2	4		1			5		4			2	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	15										15					
Herring Gull	34										34					
Rock Pigeon	2,145	27	92	418	176	5	16		324		183	23	9	796		76
Mourning Dove	1,775	54	84	113	80	38	19	16	341		290	46	3	452	8	231
Eastern Screech-Owl	1			1							0					
Great Horned Owl	5			1							2	2				
Barred Owl	5			1					2		1			1		
Belted Kingfisher	2					1					1					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	131	3	6	8	9	11	15	3	24		12	5		25		10
Downy Woodpecker	348	22	8	7	37	34	35	16	23	13	25	30	11	54	5	28

Hairy Woodpecker	242	18	6	7	26	25	23	22	18	2	13	21	9	29	9	14
Northern Flicker	2										1			1		
Pileated Woodpecker	99	3	3	1	6	17	19	12	4		2	9	1	12	3	7
American Kestrel	5			1							1			2		1
Northern Shrike	4		1			1			1		0		1			
Blue Jay	627	28	9	60	63	32	58	50	85	2	16	12	9	115	5	83
American Crow	2,524	100	230	120	107	102	42	52	390	28	545	11	168	364	25	240
Common Raven	225	32	6	4	30	37	19	22	19	18	9	4	13	10	1	1
Horned Lark	52		7	13							3			29		
Black-capped Chickadee	3,368	368	72	40	457	340	281	251	111	281	82	332	274	197	131	151
Tufted Titmouse	2												1	1		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	231	18	12	1	32	29	35	40	2	7	1	14	10	7	21	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	445	35	14	4	48	37	46	34	17	12	27	36	15	85	4	31
Brown Creeper	11					0		1	1		2	2		5		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	18	2			1		2	1		7		3	2			
Eastern Bluebird	13										13					0
American Robin	106		10		1	3	1	3	43		4	7	2	7	1	24
European Starling	4,598	156	182	603	179	112			1,175	15	197	7	2	1,781	7	182
Cedar Waxwing	97				23		1		21		0			9	3	40
Lapland Longspur	0															
Snow Bunting	674	122	317	5		7			45		44	75	3	56		
American Tree Sparrow	1,503	1	8	815	4	2			83		324			234		32
Fox Sparrow	0															
Dark-eyed Junco	1,448		30	219	11	38	4		360	2	142		11	555	1	75
White-throated Sparrow	1						1									
Song Sparrow	0															
Northern Cardinal	250	5	12	9	4	11		1	76		31	4		75		22
Red-winged Blackbird	3	1									1			1		
Common Grackle	2					1		1			0					
Brown-headed Cowbird	0															
House Finch	177			6					38		17	4		48		64
Purple Finch	524	74	22	16	65	127		5	2	1	37	33	136	4	2	
Common Redpoll	244			120							11				113	
Pine Siskin	88	28			2	39					3	2	5	9		0
American Goldfinch	2,887	410	65	79	280	392	193	244	126	2	215	105	131	484	80	81
House Sparrow	547	28	4	21	3				153	14	107			209		8

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

West Central Region - Most Frequently Seen Species															
	Region Total	Black Fiver Falls	Chippewa Falls	Durand	Ells- worth	Gilman	Hol- combe	La Crosse	Medford	Nelson	Owen	Spencer	Spring Valley	Tremp- ealeau	Willard
Count Day Total Species		24	40	35	33	31	28	66	36	37	38	35	29	44	30
Count Week Total Species		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	0
Canada Goose	1,682		1,057	10	53			531	1	16			13	1	
Trumpeter Swan	71		4					3		64					
Wood Duck	1								1						
American Black Duck	0														
Mallard	945		154	29	16			316	245	74	1	2	23	85	
Bufflehead	5		3					2							
Common Goldeneye	549		222		250			22		37			216		
Common Merganser	44		14		1			3		26					
Red-breasted Merganser	1							1							
Ring-necked Pheasant	43	1	5	7		1					6	4	15	3	1
Ruffed Grouse	45	1		7	1	15	2		8		1	2		8	
Wild Turkey	1,804	17	118	71	117	148	67	220	167	132	448	70	21	54	154
Great Blue Heron	3			1				1					1		
Northern Harrier	1							1					0		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17			2	1	1		6	1	2		2	2		
Cooper's Hawk	19		1			1		10		2	1	2	2		
Bald Eagle	393	2	10	57	31	18	11	94	14	58	27	15	827	21	
Red-tailed Hawk	241	2	10	37	25	6	3	53	5	29	15	22	11	11	12
Rough-legged Hawk	67	1	10	11		7	8	6	1	1	7	3	32	7	
Ring-billed Gull	0														
Herring Gull	0														
Rock Pigeon	6,832	8	783	853	328	366	336	1,238	357	291	721	432	199	505	415
Mourning Dove	2,189	13	134	107	19	69	68	624	102	25	234	231	8248	307	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3							2					1		
Great Horned Owl	8							6		1			1		
Barred Owl	17	1				1		10				3	2		
Belted Kingfisher	6			1	1			4					0		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	476	7	25	36	19	9	12	133	17	64	31	34	17	50	22
Downy Woodpecker	931	18	61	69	20	45	36	192	33	114	90	75	28	85	65

Hairy Woodpecker	393	6	19	35	6	31	15	88	28	30	53	38	16	12	16
Northern Flicker	9							4			2		3		
Pileated Woodpecker	100		8	5	5	7	3	23	5	7	5	3	514	10	
American Kestrel	47		2	7	2			7	2		11	4	5	7	
Northern Shrike	32		3	6		3		1	7	1	5	2		4	
Blue Jay	2,094	64	174	270	101	107	103	222	22	194	271	194	82	115	175
American Crow	6,447	52	708	887	504	203	224	525	625	828	329	323	229	331	679
Common Raven	54		1			16	6		10		7			14	
Horned Lark	195		5	23	1		3	65		30	10	36	12	10	
Black-capped Chickadee	5,157	29	428	282	95	345	241	751	467	452	796	546	76	204	445
Tufted Titmouse	188	2	20	10	2		4	108		13	3		521		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	46	1	5			2	1	14	8		6	2	5	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	882	12	67	70	29	51	26	215	38	78	94	54	16	68	64
Brown Creeper	19			1				12	0				15		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3					1		2							
Eastern Bluebird	22							14		1			7		
American Robin	539		2	11		1	2	416	7	31	1	9	059		
European Starling	12,566		642	1,315	726	632	53	952	1,471	564	4,538	427	358	117	771
Cedar Waxwing	85		65					3	9				8		
Lapland Longspur	0														
Snow Bunting	711		221		42		74		25		188	154	7		
American Tree Sparrow	2,259	36	177	395	133	12	39	318	29	233	46	176	112	417	136
Fox Sparrow	1							1							
Dark-eyed Junco	6,939	326	395	623	272	29	38	1,650	28	1,147	156	289	247	1,466	273
White-throated Sparrow	2							1					1		
Song Sparrow	1												1		
Northern Cardinal	1,343	22	89	68	30	9	11	611	7	153	55	46	51	138	53
Red-winged Blackbird	38							38							
Common Grackle	2							1		1					
Brown-headed Cowbird	9							6				3			
House Finch	449	1	32	51	12		5	148	10	88	23	6	67	6	
Purple Finch	142	0	1	1	7			22	16	23	16	4	434	14	
Common Redpoll	1										1				
Pine Siskin	48							11	1		26			10	
American Goldfinch	2,424	12	171	89	59	433	153	257	188	346	192	185	131	74	134
House Sparrow	7,125	1	263	669	59	272	72	1,860	399	619	1,116	755	139	617	284

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

## Central Region - Most Frequently Seen Species

	Region Total	Am- herst	Apple- ton	Arpin	Fre- mont	Friend- ship	Green Lake	Mon- tello	Norske	Osh- kosh	Rosen- dale	Shioc- ton	Stevens Point	Wau- paca	Wau- toma	Wiscon- sin Rapids
Count Day Total Species		38	70	28	42	33	58	53	37	60	35	39	45	44	52	0
Count Week Total Species		0	12	3	0	0	4	1	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	3,964	2	1,753		2	381	285	1,128	6	4	134		36	144	89	
Trumpeter Swan	36		6				20						10			
Wood Duck	13		3		1			6		1						2
American Black Duck	46		19		9		5	2		8						3
Mallard	5,305	3	1,732		28	12	369	365	2	1,753	62	10	870	32	67	
Bufflehead	6		6				0			0						
Common Goldeneye	2,637		1,875				610			53			99			
Common Merganser	2,841		1,695			3	882	1		209	44		3			4
Red-breasted Merganser	3		3													
Ring-necked Pheasant	16		1	0			4	6	1	1				1		2
Ruffed Grouse	7					1							3			3
Wild Turkey	2,595	63	77	77	268	273	189	289	181	226	66	402	112	359	13	
Great Blue Heron	2				1		1									
Northern Harrier	16		0		2	1	2	4		1	3	1		1		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15	3	1				1	1	0	2		1	2	3		1
Cooper's Hawk	44		8		4	1	5	1	1	12	1	4	2	4		1
Bald Eagle	249	11	102	6	12	7	43	17	8	16	1	10	5	6		5
Red-tailed Hawk	296	13	66	12	17	12	22	38	11	24	23	22	16	16		4
Rough-legged Hawk	79		7	2	10	3	9	11	4	10	5	7	5	3		3
Ring-billed Gull	18		8				7			2	1					
Herring Gull	2,724		2,186				196			340	1			1		
Rock Pigeon	4,854	313	839	88	884	126	193	228	355	105	160	472	227	717	147	
Mourning Dove	3,310	234	533	45	396	71	145	294	226	442	74	322	273	238	17	
Eastern Screech-Owl	7						4		2	1						
Great Horned Owl	32	2	3	1		1	11	1	0	6		2	2	1		2
Barred Owl	19	2	3				3	5	1	1		1	1	1		1
Belted Kingfisher	8		1				1	2		1				1		2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	242	18	31	5	13	10	24	25	9	27	9	15	33	18		5



Downy Woodpecker	571	32	86	11	13	24	49	77	20	52	22	63	67	44	11
Hairy Woodpecker	247	22	27	7	5	13	16	39	13	28	5	24	30	14	4
Northern Flicker	14	2			2		0	2		1	1	1	1	3	1
Pileated Woodpecker	58	8	1	3	1	3	2	7	6	1		3	9	10	4
American Kestrel	82	1	22		9		7	4		8	21	6	2	1	1
Northern Shrike	14	1	1	0	1		3	2	1	0		1	1	1	2
Blue Jay	921	83	32	34	46	68	97	120	78	63	39	65	115	62	19
American Crow	5,335	259	587	142	667	319	384	372	625	415	214	259	495	470	127
Common Raven	65	5			2	17	3	12	9			10	5	2	
Horned Lark	200	47	4	31	33			13	16	11	18	21	6		
Black-capped Chickadee	2,399	180	209	83	79	229	284	213	111	106	89	142	483	132	59
Tufted Titmouse	60		1	1		3	11	34	2	2		1	1	1	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	127	12	13		3	4	21	15	6	1	1	4	28	13	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	603	37	73	8	15	52	51	73	19	76	21	40	91	28	19
Brown Creeper	16	2	3		1			1	1	3	1		1	2	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4									4					
Eastern Bluebird	1						1								
American Robin	461	28	93	2	3		26	2	31	178	23	6	9	44	16
European Starling	10,564	128	3,609	181	1,029	32	925	110	459	879	828	538	513	483	850
Cedar Waxwing	396	46	16	2	2	8	0	8		82	34	60	98	31	9
Lapland Longspur	31		0							28				3	
Snow Bunting	780	121	20	43	48				235	136		153	5		19
American Tree Sparrow	3,297	76	140	99	784	71	231	232	205	456	415	150	125	292	21
Fox Sparrow	6	1	1					1		1					2
Dark-eyed Junco	7,965	802	383	77	976	583	668	840	649	527	126	666	354	881	433
White-throated Sparrow	4		2							1			1		
Song Sparrow	9				1			1		2					5
Northern Cardinal	922	41	133	14	26	28	100	97	47	124	32	130	91	40	19
Red-winged Blackbird	2		1												1
Common Grackle	1				1										
Brown-headed Cowbird	26		20		4		0	1	1						
House Finch	988	7	245		61	32	83	85	2	168	44	191	35	32	3
Purple Finch	100	13	2				14	1	39	2	5	20	1		3
Common Redpoll	27			25				1						1	
Pine Siskin	17	7			2			1				5			2
American Goldfinch	1,619	166	221	70	81	35	101	104	169	98	39	260	190	78	7
House Sparrow	3,457	49	568	67	212	45	83	136	244	918	360	311	245	110	109

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

Lake Michigan Region - Most Frequently Seen Species															
	Region Total	Brussels	Cedar Grove	Ephraim	Hales Corner	Kenosha County	Ke- waunee	Mil- waukee	Mani- towoc		Newburg River- edge	She- boygan	Stur- geon Bay	Two Rivers	Wash- ington Island
Count Day Total Species		0	42	39	33	34	68	64	53	58	64	47	0	51	45
Count Week Total Species		0	3	0	15	0	3	15	2	2	3	2	0	0	4
Canada Goose	13,998		1,626	356	199	12	1,777	2,681	236	1,235	4,526	381		929	40
Trumpeter Swan	0														
Wood Duck	2							2							
American Black Duck	61						16	7	3	19	1			15	
Mallard	5,280		4	28	35	286	187	1,885	171	1,359	343	586		380	16
Bufflehead	235			2	0	12	12	110	3	16	50	15		1	14
Common Goldeneye	5,197		5	21	9	186	345	2,677	576	147	600	290		145	196
Common Merganser	845		52	5	0	35	85	85	216	79	180	85		22	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1,813		19	2	37	294	276	251	258	311	250	60		22	33
Ring-necked Pheasant	32		3				3				1	7		1	17
Ruffed Grouse	4			4											
Wild Turkey	1,128		72	94	23		101	77	156		318	119		113	55
Great Blue Heron	17				3	3		6	1	0	3	1			
Northern Harrier	17		3		0			3	3	1	6			1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15		1	1	0		2	3	1	1	5	0		1	
Cooper's Hawk	52		3		5		6	13	9	5	8	3			
Bald Eagle	31		2	2	0		4	5	3	1	1	2		9	2
Red-tailed Hawk	178		26	1	8	1	13	29	24	15	33	12		16	
Rough-legged Hawk	74		24	1			5	2	11	1	10	12		8	
Ring-billed Gull	716		61	7	32	118	3	182	8	44	228	28		2	3
Herring Gull	5,535		4	4	51	518	839	2,217	332	1,171	75	108		147	69
Rock Pigeon	4,193		734	4	21	20	686	1,028	652	2	316	434		296	
Mourning Dove	2,061		85	33	82	42	149	389	325	132	318	243		245	18
Eastern Screech-Owl	8					4		0	1	1	2				
Great Horned Owl	31		0		5			5	4	2	13	2			
Barred Owl	5			1			1				3				
Belted Kingfisher	9				1			5		1	0	1		1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	250		18	9	14	4	22	49	22	17	51	9		24	11

Downy Woodpecker	474	25	7	40	4	31	105	56	38	107	23	26	12
Hairy Woodpecker	171	7	10	3	2	17	43	18	7	39	7	14	4
Northern Flicker	14		1			1	1		2	8			1
Pileated Woodpecker	23		3			7				6	1	2	4
American Kestrel	58	6		0		11	5	11	2	4	7	12	
Northern Shrike	5					2				1		2	
Blue Jay	550	31	28	11	3	57	7	113	10	167	29	66	28
American Crow	2,487	216	71	19	18	485	192	424	96	314	174	389	89
Common Raven	27		12			3						5	7
Horned Lark	793	466				3		40	18	222	24	20	
Black-capped Chickadee	2,091	107	87	81	14	290	360	210	146	352	156	170	118
Tufted Titmouse	6			2		2	2						
Red-breasted Nuthatch	119	7	15	1	1	17	10	19	6	7	9	16	11
White-breasted Nuthatch	410	19	15	27	8	41	96	51	15	80	30	18	10
Brown Creeper	8								1	4		3	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	18					8	4		3	1			2
Eastern Bluebird	7						7						
American Robin	334	0		37	1	11	231	8	5	32	6	3	
European Starling	12,307	989	67	2,067	53	3,310	989	2,145	569	191	432	1,484	11
Cedar Waxwing	1,065	22		62		203	297	293	20	73	22	73	0
Lapland Longspur	297	182						26	39			50	
Snow Bunting	98	16				12		33	3	1	0	30	3
American Tree Sparrow	1,936	434	2	72	10	213	85	441	94	234	92	256	3
Fox Sparrow	18	4			1		1	3	1	7		1	
Dark-eyed Junco	3,954	690	79	140	12	316	329	752	133	725	337	428	13
White-throated Sparrow	32				1		8	2	1	19			1
Song Sparrow	24	6	2				2	9		4			1
Northern Cardinal	963	43	30	54	7	41	186	112	60	236	71	72	51
Red-winged Blackbird	2						0	1				1	0
Common Grackle	3							1					
Brown-headed Cowbird	1									1	1		
House Finch	773	17		100	2	68	183	68	66	148	79	41	1
Purple Finch	59	1	12			1	2	0		23		2	18
Common Redpoll	2									2			
Pine Siskin	73					47				1			25
American Goldfinch	1,480	43	89	104	4	171	224	184	87	244	172	88	70
House Sparrow	3,009	257	1	145	4	452	1,058	478	140	143	87	199	45

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

Inland East Region - Most Frequently Seen Species																
	Region Total	Burling- ton	Collins	Dundee	Fond du Lac	Green Bay	Hart- ford	Lake Geneva	Menchal- ville	New Franken-	Ocono- mowoc	Ply- mouth	Pal- myra	Stock- bridge	Wau- kesha	
Count Day Total Species		43	34	38	50	61	52	59	41	40	60	31	58	36	39	
Count Week Total Species		3	0	2	0	4	0	3	1	5	0	5	4	0	12	
Canada Goose	7,069	425		0	131	1,789	468	1,004	432	47	1,442	100	1,230	1	1,014	
Trumpeter Swan	10										10				0	
Wood Duck	3				1	1	1									
American Black Duck	49	5			2	30					10		2			
Mallard	4,048	996		17	235	1,229	172	84	12	6	1,068	29	151	49	50	
Bufflehead	193					1	2	185			5					
Common Goldeneye	1,075	11			1	160	81	563		80	179				0	
Common Merganser	3,457	14			141	3,041	1	239		8	13				0	
Red-breasted Merganser	7					2				4	1					
Ring-necked Pheasant	36	12	8	7			1	2	1	1	1		1	2	1	
Ruffed Grouse	0															
Wild Turkey	1,783	66	175	205	59	179	133	135	191	84	250	125	114	67	70	
Great Blue Heron	8					1	1	0			2		3	1	5	
Northern Harrier	7	2	1			0		0	1		2		1		0	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	0				1	1	1		0	1	0	2		0	
Cooper's Hawk	48	2	1	3	1	9	9	8	3	1	6	1	3	1	6	
Bald Eagle	87	2	4	2	9	27	6	8	3	11	11		3	1	2	
Red-tailed Hawk	289	15	20	19	14	42	54	15	23	6	35	4	27	15	16	
Rough-legged Hawk	57	7	7	2	4	14	2	1	5	2	2	0	5	6	3	
Ring-billed Gull	517	1		70	41	226	15	88			75			1	2	
Herring Gull	3,949	2	60		32	2,190	19	826	582	22	13		9	194		
Rock Pigeon	3,674	122	250	216	222	149	935	100	219	14	720	12	443	272	71	
Mourning Dove	2,003	91	112	101	190	256	296	197	144	278	112	47	126	53	156	
Eastern Screech-Owl	29			1	1	15	8						4			
Great Horned Owl	46	0		1	7	6	8	6	1		7		9	1	2	
Barred Owl	5				2			2					1			
Belted Kingfisher	10	3				1	2				1	1	2			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	321	13	15	17	14	29	47	45	12	48	33	7	34	7	23	

Hairy Woodpecker	207	5	11	5	14	20	24	28	6	26	16	9	40	3	16
Northern Flicker	26	1	1		1	2	4	8	2	4		2	1		
Pileated Woodpecker	39			1	1	11	4	6	1	5	2	1	7		
American Kestrel	71	0	2	1	4	5	12	1	2	3	8	4	10	19	1
Northern Shrike	7	2		1		1	1			2			0		
Blue Jay	616	40	59	47	39	45	98	68	13	65	42	39	50	11	33
American Crow	4,540	158	406	466	129	310	384	579	612	107	607	157	464	161	368
Common Raven	2								1	1					
Horned Lark	765	156	31	153	99	7	5	76	99	0	49	5	8	77	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2,038	74	83	93	107	185	447	135	61	177	322	13	305	36	212
Tufted Titmouse	81			0	1	1	2	42		0	12		23		18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	57	1	2	2	4	10	6	10	1	13	3	3	2		4
White-breasted Nuthatch	717	30	25	41	26	60	133	105	25	53	94	6	104	15	43
Brown Creeper	6			1				1		1			3		3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	5					1						2		
Eastern Bluebird	2										2				
American Robin	175	30	2	1	21	34	1	1	7	0	9	0	19	50	2
European Starling	10,419	333	179	289	1,085	503	1,090	1,458	971	34	1,075	3	2,090	1,309	333
Cedar Waxwing	483		120	3	10	52	73		34	44	114	5		28	12
Lapland Longspur	261		15	26	30			4	8	1		0	175	2	
Snow Bunting	1,473		49	65	749	0			265	100	21			224	
American Tree Sparrow	3,594	369	453	660	88	90	295	383	462	74	264	114	152	190	192
Fox Sparrow	10	1		1		1		5			1		1		5
Dark-eyed Junco	7,219	570	701	745	167	220	998	887	824	267	589	203	820	228	433
White-throated Sparrow	9					1		6	1		1				
Song Sparrow	23	1	3					7	2		1		8	1	1
Northern Cardinal	1,375	92	63	50	45	165	192	188	56	103	178	31	192	20	112
Red-winged Blackbird	2							2							
Common Grackle	0														
Brown-headed Cowbird	151	3			1	15		7			4		121		
House Finch	1,044	20	54	64	55	194	165	89	38	113	113	47	62	30	132
Purple Finch	40			7			6	19				0	8		
Common Redpoll	0														
Pine Siskin	14		4			1		3		6					
American Goldfinch	1,536	68	157	164	31	240	131	136	52	210	112	48	154	33	152
House Sparrow	4,127	193	327	199	225	933	595	271	219	111	359	66	372	257	156

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

South Central Region - Most Frequently Seen Species																
	Region Total	Bara- boo	Brod- head	Beloit	Cooks- ville	Colum- bus	Fort Atkinson	Horicon NWR	Madison	Mount Horeb	Monroe	Poy- nette	Pardee- ville	Ran- dolph	Sauk City	Water- loo
Count Day Total Species		60	52	54	57	34	45	34	89	51	40	60	56	42	57	49
Count Week Total Species		1	6	0	1	0	1	1	5	2	0	0	2	0	1	2
Canada Goose	12,459	234	411	1,157	2,446		213		5,104	22	30	789	74	25	1,774	180
Trumpeter Swan	21								21							
Wood Duck	11	2			2				3				1			3
American Black Duck	22	0	0	2	4	1			10			3	1			1
Mallard	5,288	319	14	313	1,361	307	313		1,808	2	8	294	35	12	387	115
Bufflehead	152								151			1				
Common Goldeneye	1,548	46	1	69	217				1,142			45			28	
Common Merganser	1,133	15		16	72				567			139	13		299	12
Red-breasted Merganser	4								4							
Ring-necked Pheasant	121	1	15	3	1	2	3	8		7	6	50	6	8	3	8
Ruffed Grouse	3												3			
Wild Turkey	2,893	317	109	41	18	26	120	161	316	402	213	465	350	12	282	61
Great Blue Heron	19	2	1		6		0		6	1		1	2			
Northern Harrier	17		3		1		1		1			2	3		3	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	27	3		1	3		5	1	1	1		1	2	1	8	
Cooper's Hawk	82	9	1	3	6	5	6	1	21	8		4	4	3	7	4
Bald Eagle	374	37	8	9	11	4	12	1	52	10	5	62	28	1	123	11
Red-tailed Hawk	583	55	26	22	28	14	35	20	78	91	20	58	28	20	69	19
Rough-legged Hawk	83	8	8		1	4		6	15	6	4	5	3	6	12	5
Ring-billed Gull	159			5				81	60			1	0		12	
Herring Gull	581	6		77	37			1	422			1			36	1
Rock Pigeon	5,497	417	309	146	404	449	154	105	303	571	130	680	434	483	722	190
Mourning Dove	4,683	267	177	291	276	56	301	154	883	185	120	601	315	296	458	303
Eastern Screech-Owl	17	6		1					2			4		1	2	1
Great Horned Owl	67	9	1		7		5	2	13	11		6	1	1	9	2
Barred Owl	25	2	1	2					4	4	2	1	4		3	2
Belted Kingfisher	27	1	2		4	1			8	3		2	2	1	2	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	736	91	40	31	20	6	35	10	174	71	19	51	49	16	83	40
Downy Woodpecker	1,344	186	48	57	49	14	76	24	303	134	28	102	121	37	103	62

Hairy Woodpecker	486	67	12	12	16	3	38	5	108	52	5	78	35	9	29	17
Northern Flicker	47	4	0	2	1		4		14		5	6	1		8	2
Pileated Woodpecker	69	19							2	21		2	5	1	19	
American Kestrel	120	9	1	7	12	10	3	4	4	10	7	10	6	9	25	3
Northern Shrike	15	5	1	1					2	3		2	0		1	
Blue Jay	1,640	227	51	70	77	41	98	24	130	155	36	190	130	103	191	117
American Crow	7,331	1,307	288	291	245	188	454	170	570	902	93	890	412	357	782	382
Common Raven	3											2			1	
Horned Lark	2,520	33	359	125	28	40	450	348	220	32	218	1	54	169	18	425
Black-capped Chickadee	4,862	518	123	150	162	65	215	59	1,206	465	81	654	442	56	478	188
Tufted Titmouse	541	109	7	20	6	2	6		51	95	11	71	57	4	76	26
Red-breasted Nuthatch	61	10				2	4		11	4	2	9	13	1	4	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1,529	227	40	54	72	25	91	18	338	190	9	84	126	44	142	69
Brown Creeper	63	1		4	1		2	1	29	5		3			15	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	1	0			1	1		17	1				1		
Eastern Bluebird	125	3	6	5	5		14		9	11	2		8		62	
American Robin	570	21		30	23		12		213	35	1	83	1	6	144	1
European Starling	19,044	645	541	2,082	2,228	519	1,675	570	1,723	1,676	606	376	194	3,816	857	1536
Cedar Waxwing	1,111	381	20		17			37	537	41		44			26	8
Lapland Longspur	357		51	14	80			21	4	0	9			161		17
Snow Bunting	1,207		105	132	2	55	6	63	45	42	29		19	513		196
American Tree Sparrow	8,834	440	929	223	219	463	321	910	656	414	283	609	1,196	834	234	1103
Fox Sparrow	34	3	15	6	1			0	4	1	1		1			2
Dark-eyed Junco	24,000	1,636	2,666	881	432	1,140	1,043	586	1,273	1,462	1,140	1,272	4,688	2,200	1,341	2240
White-throated Sparrow	49	7	10	4	1		1		15	2	3		1	1	1	3
Song Sparrow	80	1	14	14	9	1			12	3	20	1			1	4
Northern Cardinal	3,046	313	165	159	94	25	232	50	605	231	92	207	264	102	297	210
Red-winged Blackbird	41		4			1	3		2	0				2	28	1
Common Grackle	94						88		4						2	
Brown-headed Cowbird	241		3	3	73		20	10	10	10	61		29	5	3	14
House Finch	1,937	105	82	109	147	26	100	53	618	82	29	60	131	49	191	155
Purple Finch	164	21	5		1		88			11		23	3		12	
Common Redpoll	8											7	1			
Pine Siskin	12	3					6	2	1							
American Goldfinch	3,765	430	55	44	83	27	156	30	569	239	35	342	230	1,175	210	140
House Sparrow	7,718	377	513	269	335	536	337	163	1,644	285	450	364	413	478	580	974

(Continued)



Table 1. (Continued)."

Southwest Region - Most Frequently Seen Species											
	Region Total	Bridgeport	Blanchard- ville	Casville	Clyde	Fennimore	Kickpoo Valley	La Farge	Platteville	Retreat	Richland Center
Count Day Total Species		61	55	54	54	0	40	39	0	0	54
Count Week Total Species		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
Canada Goose	37	19			1						17
Trumpeter Swan	0										
Wood Duck	21	1					19				1
American Black Duck	2	1	1								
Mallard	228	151	24	16	36						1
Bufflehead	0										
Common Goldeneye	7	4			3						
Common Merganser	0										
Red-breasted Merganser	0										
Ring-necked Pheasant	16		4	1	2		0	7			2
Ruffed Grouse	1							1			
Wild Turkey	1,154	143	110	31	188		259	342			81
Great Blue Heron	2		1		1						
Northern Harrier	7	1		2	1		1	1			1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14	2	2		5		1	2			2
Cooper's Hawk	27	6	3	2	5		2	2			7
Bald Eagle	282	66	24	70	35		25	29			33
Red-tailed Hawk	284	46	36	33	68		8	57			36
Rough-legged Hawk	80	21	10	8	13		3	5			20
Ring-billed Gull	0										
Herring Gull	2				2						
Rock Pigeon	2,750	646	125	192	421		672	307			387
Mourning Dove	943	221	209	17	102		165	39			190
Eastern Screech-Owl	18	4	9	5							
Great Horned Owl	34		20	4	2		3	3			2
Barred Owl	16	1	2	5	1		1	4			2
Belted Kingfisher	17	3	1		6		2	4			1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	382	107	51	37	68		19	35			65
Downy Woodpecker	426	81	49	39	94		30	39			94
Hairy Woodpecker	161	24	26	27	27		8	18			31

Northern Flicker	24	4	1	5	6	3	2	3
Pileated Woodpecker	57	12	2	4	17	10	7	5
American Kestrel	95	24	8	7	22	17	8	9
Northern Shrike	4				1	1	2	
Blue Jay	1,005	340	99	81	119	77	155	134
American Crow	2,544	315	432	126	607	314	431	319
Common Raven	0							
Horned Lark	1,060	135	417	140	35	102	32	199
Black-capped Chickadee	1,315	232	109	86	336	86	199	267
Tufted Titmouse	191	49	10	18	18	4	28	64
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	2	1		7	1	1	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	485	87	78	36	106	27	57	94
Brown Creeper	30	5	2	18	4			1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6		1	5				
Eastern Bluebird	77	12		30	22		4	9
American Robin	103	7	7	8	80	1		
European Starling	3,790	1,301	344	250	52	807	631	405
Cedar Waxwing	81	67	2	2	10			
Lapland Longspur	61	4	40	2				15
Snow Bunting	68	3	32	13	5	15		0
American Tree Sparrow	2,613	409	1,202	270	223	57	53	399
Fox Sparrow	7		4		1			2
Dark-eyed Junco	12,119	2,530	3,289	1,013	1,037	686	858	2,706
White-throated Sparrow	8	1	2	2	2			1
Song Sparrow	55	1	26	4	9			15
Northern Cardinal	1,092	215	171	104	118	83	139	262
Red-winged Blackbird	3	1			2			0
Common Grackle	3	1			1	1		0
Brown-headed Cowbird	56	1	42	13				
House Finch	322	88	17	51	72	28	20	46
Purple Finch	118	2	25	4	29	5	3	50
Common Redpoll	5					4		1
Pine Siskin	1							1
American Goldfinch	1,089	153	235	26	185	78	182	230
House Sparrow	4,343	1,455	526	532	54	390	420	966

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

Species Seen on 16 or Fewer Counts					
Species	Count Day Sightings	Count Week Sightings	Total Individuals	Count Day	Count Week
Tundra Swan	11	2	1,883	Appleton 5, Bayfield 19, Bridgeport 14, Cooksville 9, Green Lake 11, La Crosse 240, Madison 1499, Richland Center 8, Trempealeau 5, Washington Island 59, Waukesha 14	Hales Corners, Milwaukee
Mute Swan	4	3	8	Burlington 4, Hartford 1, Oconomowoc 2, Washington Island 1	Appleton, Hales Corners, Milwaukee
Snow Goose	2	1	7	Kewaunee 6, Madison 1	Superior
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	0	3	Cooksville 3,	
Cackling Goose	1	1	1	Kewaunee 1,	Brodhead
Ross's Goose	0	1	0		Kewaunee
Northern Shoveler	1	4	678	Madison 678	Brodhead, Hales Corners, Milwaukee, Trempealeau
Gadwall	13	4	114	Appleton 2, Cooksville 2, Fort Atkinson 9, Green Lake 14, Madison 62, Milwaukee 3, Oconomowoc 1, Oshkosh 2, Pardeeville 5, Palmyra 11, Sauk City 1, Two Rivers 1, Wautoma 1	Hales Corners, Kewaunee, Racine, Trempealeau
Northern Pintail	8	2	51	Cooksville 34, Fond du Lac 1, Hartford 2, Kewaunee 2, Oconomowoc 2, Poynette 6, Palmyra 2, Rice Lake 2	Appleton, Madison
American Wigeon	2	1	2	Cooksville 1, Racine 1	Hales Corners
Green-winged Teal	3	1	10	Appleton 1, Green Lake 1, Madison 8	Brodhead
Harlequin Duck	2	0	2	Appleton 1, Kewaunee 1,	
Ring-necked Duck	10	3	169	Appleton 19, Bridgeport 2, Green Bay 3, Green Lake 52, Kewaunee 10, Lake Geneva 18, Madison 61, Oconomowoc 1, Poynette 2, Herbster 1	Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Waukesha
Redhead	15	0	172	Appleton 1, Cooksville 1, Ephraim 2, Green Bay 3, Green Lake 18, Kenosha 2, Kewaunee 6, Lake Geneva 6, Madison 55, Milwaukee 57, Manitowoc 1, Oconomowoc 3, Pensaukee 8, Newburg 4, Washington Island 5	

Canvasback	9	2	88	Appleton 1, Bridgeport 2, Green Lake 15, La Crosse 7, Lake Geneva 3, Madison 56, Manitowoc 1, Oshkosh 1, Washington Island 2	Milwaukee, Waukesha
Greater Scaup	14	0	4,005	Appleton 4, Green Bay 3, Green Lake 3, Hales Corners 223, Kenosha 2, Kewaunee 564, Milwaukee 2994, Manitowoc 18, Pensaukee 28, Racine 2, Newburg 4, Sheboygan 91, Two Rivers 68, Washington Island 1	
Lesser Scaup	15	0	129	Appleton 7, Beloit 1, Fond du Lac 2, Green Bay 9, Green lake 6, Hartford 4, Kewaunee 1, La Crosse 2, Lake Geneva 2, Madison 76, Milwaukee 13, Plymouth 1, Poynette 1, Two Rivers 2, Hudson 2	
Black Scoter	1	0	1	Milwaukee 1	
Surf Scoter	2	1	3	Kewaunee 1, Madison 2	Appleton
White-winged Scoter	2	3	4	Kewaunee 1, La Crosse 3	Appleton, Ashland, Washington Island
Long-tailed Duck	8	2	17	Ashland 5, Chippewa Falls 1, Kewaunee 1, Milwaukee 1, Manitowoc 1, Oshkosh 1, Racine 6, Washington Island 1	Appleton, Madison
Hooded Merganser	16	6	89	Appleton 2, Baraboo 3, Beloit 4, Bridgeport 3, New Franken 5, Ephraim 2, Green Bay 3, Green Lake 5, Hartford 2, La Crosse 3, Lake Geneva 17, Madison 30, Oconomowoc 1, Washington Island 2, Wautoma 1, Hudson 6	Ashland, Hales Corners, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Rice  Lake, Waukesha
Ruddy Duck	7	0	65	Appleton 4, Kewaunee 1, Lake Geneva 39, Madison 16, Milwaukee 3, Oconomowoc 1, Racine 1	
Northern Bobwhite	1	1	14	Washington Island 14	Arpin
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1	0	2	Arpin 2,	
Red-throated Loon	1	0	1	Kewaunee 1,	
Common Loon	1	0	1	Madison 1	
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	7	Lake Geneva 4, Madison 3	Milwaukee
Horned Grebe	1	1	1	Madison 1	Hales Corners
Red-necked Grebe	1	0	1	Herbster 1	
Western Grebe	0	1	0		Milwaukee
Double-crested Cormorant	6	0	34	Appleton 4, Fond du Lac 2, Green Bay 24, Oshkosh 2, Racine 1, v 1	
American White Pelican	1	1	7	Green Bay 7	Appleton
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	0	2	Green Bay 1, Milwaukee 1	

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

Turkey Vulture	1	0	1	Palmyra 1	
Golden Eagle	9	0	30	Baraboo 3, Bridgeport 1, Cassville 2, Clyde 4, La Crosse 4, La Farge 5, Nelson 7, Richland Center 2, Waupaca 2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	2	7	Peshigo 1, Pardeeville 1, Richland Center 1, Sauk City 3	Palmyra, Trempealeau
Northern Goshawk	4	2	4	Clyde 1, Lakewood 1, Richland Center 1, Summit Lake 1	Rhineland, Herbster
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	1	Hudson	
Virginia Rail	2	0	7	Poynette 5, Palmyra 2	
American Coot	14	3	3,540	Beloit 2, Fond du Lac 1, Green Bay 15, Green Lake 300, Hartford 2, Kenosha 3, Kewaunee 1, Lake Geneva 1714, Madison 1431, Milwaukee 27, Oconomowoc 41, Oshkosh 1, Plymouth 1, Racine 1	Hales Corners, Waukesha, Waterloo
Sandhill Crane	6	2	28	Baraboo 1, Beloit 2, Fort Atkinson 2, Oconomowoc 1, Pardeeville 2, Sauk City 20	Lake Geneva, Washington Island
Wilson's Snipe	8	0	10	Bridgeport 1, Blanchardville 3, Fort Atkinson 1, Madison 1, Montello 1, Monroe 1, Palmyra 1, Hudson 1	
Glaucous Gull	8	1	21	Appleton 6, Kewaunee 3, Manitowoc 2, Oconomowoc 2, Oshkosh 1, Newburg 1, Sheboygan 2, Superior 4	Milwaukee
Great Black-backed Gull	10	1	39	Appleton 1, Kewaunee 12, Milwaukee 1, Manitowoc 5, Menchalville 2, Racine 3, Newburg 3, Sheboygan 3, Superior 1, Two Rivers 8	Oshkosh
Thayer's Gull	3	1	6	Kewaunee 1, Milwaukee 2, Superior 3	Appleton
Iceland Gull	3	2	3	Green Bay 1, Racine 1, Superior 1	Appleton, Milwaukee
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	1	5	Appleton 1, Milwaukee 2, Racine 2	Kewaunee
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	1	0		Green Bay
Parasitic Jaeger	1	0	1	Bayfield 1,	
Laughing Gull	1	0	1	Appleton 1,	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	9	0	100	Brodhead 15, Beloit 2, Bridgeport 24, Cooksville 2, Ellsworth 6, Fond du Lac 1, Poynette 34, Richland Center 14, Randolph 2	Kickapoo Valley, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Richland Center
Long-eared Owl	9	4	10	Baraboo 1, Blanchardville 1, Cassville 2, Fond du Lac 1, Mount Horeb 1, Montello 1, Plymouth 1, Poynette 1, Pardeeville 1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	11	1	16	Baraboo 4, Green Lake 2, Kewaunee 2, La Crosse 1, Madison 1, Mount Horeb 1, Montello 1, Poynette 1, Palmyra 1, Newburg 1, Washington Island 1	Pensaukee

Short-eared Owl	8	1	11	Bridgeport 1, Cedar Grove, 2, Cassville 1, Madison 1, Oshkosh 3, Poynette 1, Pardecville 1, Waterloo 1	Appleton
screech-owl sp.	1	0	2	Lake Geneva 2	
Snowy Owl	1	1	5	Superior 5	New Franken
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	0	23	Bridgeport 2, Blanchardville 1, Cassville 2, Ephraim 1, Kickapoo Valley 4, La Crosse 1, La Farge 3, Peshtigo 1, Palmyra 1, Richland Center 1, Rhinelander 2, Shiocton 1, Shawano 3	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	1	12	Baraboo 4, Brodhead 1, Cassville 1, Madison 3, Newburg 1, Sauk City 1, Stevens Point 1	Waterloo
Eastern Phoebe	1	0	1	Baraboo 1,	
Merlin	12	6	19	Appleton 1, Cedar Grove 5, Cassville 1, Friendship 1, Green Bay 1, Kewaunee 1, Madison 2, Milwaukee 2, Montello 1, Oshkosh 2, Owen 1, Sheboygan 1	Ashland, Chippewa Falls, Cooksville, Menchalville, Palmyra, Newburg
Peregrine Falcon	7	3	11	Green Bay 4, Kewaunee 1, La Crosse 1, Milwaukee 2, Poynette 1, Racine 1, Superior 1	Appleton, Manitowoc, Oshkosh
Anna's Hummingbird	0	1	0		Milwaukee
Gray Jay	1	0	1	Armstrong Creek 1,	
Great Tit	2	0	2	Fond du Lac 1, Sheboygan 1	
Winter Wren	12	0	19	Appleton 1, Brodhead 1, Bridgeport 1, Blanchardville 1, Cassville 1, Clyde 1, La Crosse 1, Madison 4, Mount Horeb 5, Milwaukee 1, Palmyra 1, Waukesha 1	
Carolina Wren	8	2	13	Bridgeport 1, Cassville 4, Green Lake 1, Hartford 1, La Crosse 1, Mount Horeb 1, Richland Center 1, Trempealeau 3	Palmyra, Sauk City
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1	0		Waukesha
Hermit Thrush	9	1	13	Brodhead 2, Beloit 1, Burlington 4, Blanchardville 1, Cassville 1, Madison 1, Milwaukee 1, Palmyra 1, Newburg 1	Waukesha
Varied Thrush	0	1	0		Bayfield
Townsend's Solitaire	1	0	2	Baraboo 2,	
Brown Thrasher	3	0	3	Madison 1, Randolph 1, Stevens Point 1	
Gray Catbird	1	1	1	Madison 1	Green Bay
American Pipit	2	2	2	Brodhead 1, Richland Center 1	Madison, Milwaukee

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)."

Bohemian Waxwing	5	1	85	Ashland 23, Bayfield 1, Clam Lake 23, Manitowish Waters 37, Superior 1	Montello
Pine Warbler	1	0	1	Madison 1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	1	Cassville 1	
Summer Tanager	0	1	0		Madison
Eastern Towhee	1	0	1	Manitowish Waters 1	
White-crowned Sparrow	14	0	71	Brodhead 1, Beloit 3, Blanchardville 11, Cooksville 6, Columbus 1, Lake Geneva 22, Madison 4, Monroe 14, Menchalville 1, Pardeeville 1, Newburg 1, Richland Center 2, Sauk City 1, Shawano 3	
Swamp Sparrow	8	0	11	Beloit 1, Blanchardville 1, Clyde 1, Madison 2, Poynette 2, Palmyra 1, Racine 1, Waukesha 2	
Field Sparrow	3	0	4	Baraboo 1, Bridgeport 2, Pardeeville 1	
Savannah Sparrow	3	1	4	Burlington 1, Blanchardville 1, Madison 2	Hales Corners
Chipping Sparrow	1	0	1	Mount Horeb 1	
Harris's Sparrow	1	0	1	Cassville 1	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	1	La Crosse 1	
Western/Eastern Meadowlark	2	2	3	Brodhead 2, Stockbridge 1	Madison, Richland Center
Eastern Meadowlark	1	1	1	Monroe 1	Waukesha
Western Meadowlark	0	1	0		Cedar Grove
Brewer's Blackbird	1	0	1	Brodhead 1	
Rusty Blackbird	3	0	3	Gilman 1, Lake Geneva 1, Sheboygan 1	
Pine Grosbeak	9	0	49	Armstrong Creek 3, Ashland 8, Bayfield 2, Cable 1, Florence 1, Gurney 2, Rice Lake 1, Summit Lake 22, Herbster 9	
Red Crossbill	4	0	138	Fifield 7, Grantsburg 2, Manitowish Waters 117, Three Lakes 12	
White-winged Crossbill	2	0	172	Clam Lake 147, Three Lakes 25	
Evening Grosbeak	6	1	224	Armstrong Creek 109, Florence 24, Lakewood 57, Medford 8, Phelps 14, Rhinelander 12	Luck
European Goldfinch	2	0	2	Palmyra 1, Racine 1	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2	1	2	Beloit 1, Kewaunee 1	Luck



Table 2. Most wide-spread species in the 2016 Wisconsin CBC.”

Most Abundant Species		Most Widespread Species	
Individuals Counted		Number of Counts Recorded	
European Starling	76,381	Downy Woodpecker	105
Dark-eyed Junco	64,641	Blue Jay	105
Canada Goose	42,428	American Crow	105
American Crow	33,794	Black-capped Chickadee	105
Rock Pigeon	32,001	White-breasted Nuthatch	105
House Sparrow	31,041	American Goldfinch	105
American Tree Sparrow	24,943	Hairy Woodpecker	104
Black-capped Chickadee	24,276	Mourning Dove	103
Mallard	22,829	Bald Eagle	102
Mourning Dove	17,513	Wild Turkey	101
American Goldfinch	16,350	Red-bellied Woodpecker	100
Herring Gull	14,493	European Starling	100
Common Goldeneye	13,981	Dark-eyed Junco	100
Wild Turkey	13,533	Northern Cardinal	98
Northern Cardinal	9,220	Rock Pigeon	97
Common Merganser	8,440	Red-breasted Nuthatch	94
Blue Jay	8,058	House Sparrow	94
House Finch	5,828	American Tree Sparrow	92
Snow Bunting	5,615	Red-tailed Hawk	90
Horned Lark	5,612	Rough-legged Hawk	85

	Top CBC	High Count	State Total	Counts Observed
Dark-eyed Junco	Pardeeville	4,688	64,641	99
American Tree Sparrow	Blanchardville	1,202	24,943	92
Song Sparrow	Blanchardville	26	194	35
White-throated Sparrow	Newberg	19	106	33
Fox Sparrow	Brodhead	15	81	32
White-crowned Sparrow	Lake Geneva	22	71	14
Swamp Sparrow	Madison	2	11	8
Field Sparrow	Bridgeport	2	4	2
Savannah Sparrow	Madison	2	4	3
Chipping Sparrow	Mt Horeb	1	1	1
Harris's Sparrow	Cassville	1	1	1
Eastern Towhee	Manitowish Waters	1	1	1

Table 3. 2016 Wisconsin CBC effort by individual count.

## Wisconsin Christmas Bird Count 2016

## Effort Data

Total Circles: 113

Counts Completed: 105

Counts Cancelled Due to Weather: Brussels, Sturgeon Bay, Fennimore

Count Data Not Reported: Retreat, Wisconsin Rapids, Platteville

Counts without Participation: Meadow Valley, Hustisford

Circle Name	Circle Code	Circle Number	Count Date	Field Counters	Max Field Parties	Field Hours	Field Miles	Feeder Counters	Feeder Hours	Night Hours	Night Miles
Amherst	WIAM	45	12/24/2016	17	7	32.9	296	7	16	0	0
Antigo	WIAN	24	12/17/2016	5	4	24.0	291	0	0	0	0
Appleton	WIAP	56	12/31/2016	29	18	57.0	273	7	43	5	10
Armstrong Creek	WIAC	21	12/31/2016	7	4	26.6	270	6	6	0	0
Arpin	WIAR	46	12/18/2016	8	4	24.0	226	3	3	2.5	0
Ashland	WIAS	4	12/19/2016	9	5	30.8	326	1	1	1	0
Baraboo	WIBA	92	12/27/2016	42	17	100.5	635	21	44	10.25	40
Bayfield	WIBF	3	12/20/2016	11	5	30.5	192	3	5	0	0
Beloit	WIBL	99	12/17/2016	15	9	27.5	287	7	12	0.5	0.5
Birchwood	WIBW		12/18/2016	6	4	11.3	187	0	0	0	0
Black River Falls	WIBK	41	12/19/2016	4	2	8.5	55	3	6	0.5	0.5
Blanchardville	WIBV	102	12/19/2016	13	5	32.8	230	0	0	6.7	41.3
Bridgeport	WIBR	108	12/16/2016	13	13	32.0	320	5	4	1.25	0
Brodhead	WIBH	100	12/15/2016	9	6	36.3	390	0	0	0.4	2
Brussels	WIBS	62									
Burlington	WIBU	85	12/19/2016	10	7	39.1	241	2	2	0.5	0
Cable	WICA	8	12/17/2016	6	4	4.5	13	7	9	0.75	0.5
Caroline	WICR	26	12/30/2016	4	4	30.0	450	2	5	2	0
Cassville	WICV	109	1/5/2017	8	5	34.4	284	0	0	2.25	2.5
Cedar Grove	WICE		12/19/2016	8	4	26.3	223	0	0	0.5	5
Chippewa Falls	WICF	34	12/21/2016	15	9	49.1	555	3	7.15	0	0
Clam Lake	WICL	7	12/23/2016	7	5	32.5	209	3	3.5	2.25	10
Clyde	WICY	103	12/28/2016	14	9	55.0	407	0	0	0	0
Collins	WICS	76	12/19/2016	9	6	30.8	384	4	8	0	0

Columbus	WICO		12/20/2016	8	4	23.8	308	0	0	0	0
Cooksville	WICK	98	1/1/2017	10	6	37.0	458	0	0	2	32
Dundee	WIDD	80	12/18/2016	8	6	32.5	440	2	2	1.5	0
Durand	WIDU	33	12/28/2016	24	9	45.9	475	0	0	0.12	1
Ellsworth	WIEL	30	1/2/2017	20	6	26.8	277	0	0	0	0
Ephraim	WIEP	60	12/17/2016	16	11	24.0	122	12	29.5	0	0
Fennimore	WIFE	104									
Fifield	WIFI	6	12/18/2016	6	4	24.0	262	21	21	0	0
Florence	WIFL	20	1/1/2017	7	4	24.0	283	12	12	0	0
Fond du Lac	WIFD	78	12/17/2016	7	3	20.4	213	0	0	1.25	0
Fort Atkinson	WIFA	97	12/17/2016	17	5	21.0	196	19	19	0	0
Fremont	WIFR	52	12/31/2016	9	6	33.0	347	1	4	2	4
Friendship	WIFS	48	1/2/2017	11	5	24.1	263	0	0	1.75	17
Gilman	WIGI	36	1/1/2017	12	6	42.3	425	0	0	3	35
Grantsburg	WIGR	11	12/17/2016	16	9	45.4	485	1	12.5	0.25	1
Green Bay	WIGB	74	12/17/2016	23	13	66.0	526	12	32.5	11	72.5
Green Lake	WIGL	50	12/31/2016	20	8	46.2	387	1	2	4.8	35
Gurney	WIGU	5	1/2/2017	11	5	21.5	174	7	9.5	0	0
Hales Corners	WIHC	70	12/17/2016	9	8	16.0	75	8	16	1	0
Hartford	WIHA	81	1/1/2017	16	11	66.5	499	6	8	3	1.3
Hayward	WIHW	9	12/17/2016	3	2	4.5	35	7	13.5	0	0
Herbster	WISS	2	12/28/2016	11	7	30.1	214	10	17	0	0
Holcombe	WIHL	35	12/14/2016	15	7	30.0	364	0	0	0	0
Horicon N.W.R.	WIHR	89	12/19/2016	13	8	33.7	370	0	0	0	0
Kenosha County	WIKC	72	12/21/2016	7	2	6.3	16	7	2.5	2	1.4
Kewaunee	WIKE	63	1/3/2017	10	6	31.4	502	3	5	3.66	40
Kickapoo Valley	WIKV	106	12/24/2016	13	8	23.0	281	4	4.75	2	0
La Crosse	WILC	43	12/17/2016	48	27	115.0	630	45	104	4	40
La Farge	WILF	107	12/31/2016	24	10	38.8	437	8	2.75	2.25	7
Lake Geneva	WILG	86	12/21/2016	18	11	46.0	299	10	43	0	0
Lakewood	WILW	22	12/30/2016	9	5	32.1	341	7	27	0	0
Luck	WILU	12	12/18/2016	15	7	35.7	358	6	18.5	1.92	19.3
Madison	WIMA	95	12/17/2016	106	47	227.7	730	14	34.5	3.15	11.35
Manitowish Waters	WIMW	15	12/21/2016	11	4	20.0	172	7	7	0	0
Manitowoc	WIMT	65	12/21/2016	12	8	42.3	386	5	8	0	0
Medford	WIMD	37	12/26/2016	13	6	40.5	383	8	31.5	0	0
Menchalville	WIMV	75	12/14/2016	7	5	28.3	389	0	0	0.5	0
Milwaukee	WIMI	69	12/17/2016	56	20	84.5	263	7	17	0.25	0.5

(Continued)

Table 3. (Continued).

Minoqua	WIMQ	16	12/15/2016	17	5	23.8	237	8	20	0	0
Monroe	WIMO	101	12/20/2016	6	4	21.0	199	0	0	0	0
Montello	WIML	49	12/16/2016	11	6	46.5	495	8	32	2	16
Mount Horeb	WIMH	94	1/1/2017	37	23	92.5	468	18	18	2.5	2
Nelson	WINE	32	1/4/2017	22	9	46.8	428	1	4	0	0
New Franken	WIDY	73	12/17/2016	41	26	15.7	163	28	93.08	1	3.25
New Richmond	WINR	13	12/17/2016	5	2	10.0	105	0	0	0	0
Newburg–Riveredge	WIRE	68	12/17/2016	22	8	48.4	203	32	51	2	13
Norske	WINO	54	12/28/2016	8	4	50.0	632	2	6	4	0
Oconomowoc	WIOC	82	12/29/2016	22	10	62.8	552	2	8	0	0
Oshkosh	WIOS	57	12/23/2016	8	6	21.5	208	7	45	2.5	35
Owen	WIOW	38	1/2/2017	15	7	50.5	566	5	19.25	0	0
Palmyra	WIPY	84	12/31/2016	15	9	62.4	376	6	11.5	15.3	0
Pardeeville	WIPP	87	12/15/2016	21	11	61.8	544	6	13	1.5	9
Pensaukee	WIPS	29	12/20/2016	5	3	24.5	319	1	5	1.5	0.5
Peshigo	WIPE	28	12/21/2016	8	3	21.5	295	2	12	0.5	1.5
Phelps	WIPH	17	12/14/2016	9	4	29.5	287	0	0	0	0
Platteville											
Plymouth	WIPL	79	12/17/2016	3	3	11.0	113	4	16	0	0
Poynette	WIPO	91	12/31/2016	35	12	62.7	551	13	52	1.5	25
Racine	WIRC	71	12/17/2016	9	5	28.1	118	9	10.25	0.25	0
Randolph	WIRN	88	12/21/2016	9	5	29.0	379	4	8.75	0	0
Retreat											
Rhineland											
Rhinelanders	WIRL	19	12/18/2016	5	4	15.0	85	24	47	1	0.5
Rice Lake	WIRK	10	12/29/2016	16	7	36.8	371	5	6.33	0.75	2.25
Richland Center	WIRI	105	12/18/2016	24	12	32.0	272	6	8	1	0
Rosendale	WIRD	58	12/26/2016	10	6	29.0	373	1	5	0.5	1
Sauk City	WISC	93	12/31/2016	25	14	84.2	566	0	0	6.25	21.6
Shawano	WISW	27	12/17/2016	10	10	24.0	296	24	144	1	1
Sheboygan	WISG	66	12/21/2016	15	9	36.2	220	5	19.5	0	0
Shiocton	WISI	55	12/16/2016	14	7	32.7	443	6	6	0	0
Spencer	WISN	39	12/18/2016	14	8	62.0	573	1	3	1.5	8.5

Spring Valley	WISV	31	12/31/2016	9	4	17.6	206	2	4	0	0
Stevens Point	WISP	44	12/31/2016	25	8	55.3	466	6	4	3	0
Stockbridge	WISE	77	12/26/2016	7	4	22.0	235	1	1	0.3	0
Sturgeon Bay	WISB	61									
Summit Lake	WISL	23	12/19/2016	15	7	22.3	219	0	0	0	0
Superior	WISR	1	12/31/2016	7	7	23.8	111	3	3	0	0
Three Lakes	WITL	18	12/15/2016	6	4	25.3	200	1	1	0	0
Trempealeau	WITP	42	12/18/2016	18	7	36.0	330	7	21	1.5	3.5
Two Rivers	WITR	64	12/23/2016	13	8	39.0	401	2	3	0	0
Washington Island	WIWA	59	12/17/2016	4	2	12.8	88	20	20	0	0
Waterloo	WIWL	96	12/19/2016	22	10	62.5	510	11	19	1.25	15
Waukesha	WIWK	83	12/18/2016	13	7	31.6	319	6	4	1	10
Waupaca	WIWP	53	12/21/2016	7	5	37.5	378	2	6	1.5	20
Wausau	WIWS	25	12/31/2016	16	8	47.0	514	6	21	0	0
Wautoma	WIWT	51	12/31/2016	4	4	17.5	370	1	6	1	30
Willard	WIWI	40	12/27/2016	10	6	48.5	455	3	8.5	1.5	15
Wisconsin Rapids	WIWR	47									
TOTAL				1547	808	3956.0	34359	633	1463.81	145.35	664.25

Table 4. 2016 Wisconsin individual count weather data.

Wisconsin Christmas Bird Count 2016 Weather Data													
Circle Name	Low Temp (F)	High Temp (F)	Wind Direction	Mini- mum Wind (mph)	Maxi- mum Wind (mph)	Mini- mum Snow (in)	Maxi- mum Snow (in)	Ice Cover Still Waters	Ice Cover Moving Waters	Morning Precipi- tation	Morning Sky	After- noon Precipitationi	After- noon Sky
Amherst	30	39	Southeast	0	4	2.0	8.0	Partly Open	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Antigo	13	16	North	3	10	8.0	16.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Appleton	27	30	West	5	15	2.0	6.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Armstrong Creek	17	28	Northwest	1	5	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Arpin	-16	-4	Northwest	5	12	12.0	13.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Ashland	8	28	Southwest	15	20	5.0	6.0	Partly Open	Partly Open	None	Partly Clear	None	Partly Clear
Baraboo	17	24	West	10	20	3.0	7.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Bayfield	29	39	Southwest	14	22	6.0	6.0	Partly Open	Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Beloit	12	15	Northeast	0	5	8.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Birchwood	17	34	West	16	33	0.0	3.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Black River Falls	-10	20	South	5	10	8.0	12.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Blanchardville	-19	15	Calm	0	10	8.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Bridgeport	26	36	Southwest	5	10	6.0	6.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Brodhead	-8	10	Unknown	5	8	0.0	3.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Burlington	-12	12	South	2	13	3.5	15.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Cable	2	6	Northwest	1	10	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Caroline	16	23	Northeast	5	20	5.0	8.0	Frozen	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Cassville	0	3	Northwest	9	23	0.0	2.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Cedar Grove	-3	19	West	8	17	7.0	10.0	Unknown	Open	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Chippewa Falls	28	36	South	8	15	4.0	6.0	Partly Open	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	None	Clear
Clam Lake	25	32	Southwest	0	10	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Clyde	23	38	Southwest	5	20	0.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Clear
Collins	-2	16	Southwest	12	25	6.0	9.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Clear
Columbus	21	25	Southwest	10	20	3.0	3.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Cooksville	19	34	South	5	10	0.0	2.0	Frozen	Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Dundee	-8	0	Northwest	5	10	10.0	12.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Durand	20	36	Southeast	5	8	2.0	6.0	Partly Open	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Ellsworth	28	31	West	12	12	2.0	4.0	Open	Open	Snow	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Ephraim	8	23	Northwest	10	19	8.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Fifield	-22	-5	Southwest	0	6	7.0	9.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Florence	15	22	Northwest	5	8	8.0	10.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Fond du Lac	12	21	Northwest	5	20	5.0	8.0	Frozen	Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Fort Atkinson	15	20	Northwest	0	5	8.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Partly Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Fremont	10	30	Southwest	10	20	10.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy

Friendship	28	34	Northwest	0	11	5.0	6.0	Partly Open	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Gilman	12	27	Calm	0	0	8.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Grantsburg	3	5	Northwest	8	14	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	None	Clear
Green Bay	10	23	West	12	18	6.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Green Lake	25	32	West	5	15	0.0	4.0	Open	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Gurney	23	32	East	0	5	7.5	13.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Hales Corners	12	28	Northwest	0	17	4.0	11.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Hartford	16	33	Northwest	10	15	2.0	6.0	Partly Open	Open	None	Clear	None	Partly Clear
Hayward	5	10	North	5	11	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Herbster	20	27	West	0	10	5.0	5.0	Partly Frozen	Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Holcombe	1	7	West	15	20	5.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Partly Clear	None	Clear
Horicon N.W.R.	-7	8	South	4	14	2.0	10.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Kenosha County	23	34	Southwest	18	23	8.0	10.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Clear
Kewaunee	33	36	West	0	10	0.0	4.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Rain	Foggy	None	Cloudy
Kickapoo Valley	25	31	Unknown	0	10	4.0	10.0	Partly Frozen	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
La Crosse	12	16	Northwest	6	18	6.0	11.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
La Farge	25	32	Southwest	3	10	2.0	8.0	Partly Frozen	Open	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Clear
Lake Geneva	20	30	Southwest	4	15	6.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Lakewood	14	23	Northwest	2	10	3.0	4.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Luck	-28	-6	Northwest	3	10	5.0	6.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Madison	7	17	Northwest	5	14	5.0	8.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Frozen	Rain, Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Manitowish Waters	19	32	Southwest	3	8	5.0	5.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Manitowoc	27	34	Southwest	5	10	2.0	4.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Medford	22	38	Southwest	20	45	4.0	8.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Partly Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Menchalville	7	9	West	18	25	4.0	6.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Milwaukee	13	21	Northwest	3	10	5.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Minoqua	-15	-2	West	5	20	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Monroe	19	27	Southwest	10	17	9.0	10.0	Frozen	Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Montello	7	15	East	5	10	5.0	7.0	Frozen	Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Mount Horeb	18	35	Southwest	1	6	2.0	5.0	Frozen	Open	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Nelson	1	2	Northwest	10	15	3.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
New Franken	12	23	North		28	12.0	18.0	Frozen	Unknown	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
New Richmond	1	5	North	10	12	7.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	None	Partly Clear
Newburg-Riveredge	15	22	Southwest	5	9	6.0	12.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Norske	18	36	Northwest	0	12	6.0	10.0	Frozen	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Oconomowoc	25	34	West	5	20	0.0	6.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	Snow	Cloudy
Oshkosh	25	34	South	4	17	4.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	Snow	Cloudy
Owen	23	31	East	8	18	0.0	3.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy

(Continued)

Table 4. (Continued).

Palmyra	31	33	West	8	15	0.0	6.0	Frozen	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Clear
Pardeeville	-3	8	West	0	17	3.0	6.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Pensaukee	19	38	Southwest	5	20	7.0	9.0	Partly Open	Partly Open	None	Partly Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Peshigo	21	35	Southwest	5	10	6.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Phelps	-2	2	Northwest	6	12	7.0	8.0	Partly Open	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Plymouth	18	20	Northwest	7	12	2.0	6.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Poynette	29	32	West	5	20	0.0	8.0	Frozen	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Clear
Racine	16	20	Northwest	5	10	10.0	12.0	Partly Open	Partly Frozen	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Randolph	18	32	South	4	15	9.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Unknown	None	Unknown
Rhinclander	-14	-2	Northwest	6	12	4.0	9.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Rice Lake	16	27	West	20	45	4.0	6.0	Frozen	Open	Snow	Partly Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Richland Center	-14	-3	Northwest	5	9	4.0	7.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Rosendale	33	44	Southwest	5	25	0.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Sauk City	18	32	West	8	25	0.0	4.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Foggy	None	Clear
Shawano	0	32	North	11	28	4.0	10.0	Frozen	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Sheboygan	26	35	Southwest	0	17	8.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Shiocton	8	15	Southwest	2	10	2.5	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Spencer	-25	-5	Northwest	5	5	9.0	12.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Spring Valley	14	19	Northwest	2	5	2.0	5.0	Open	Open	None	Cloudy	None	Clear
Stevens Point	21	27	West	5	15	10.0	14.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	None	Partly Clear
Stockbridge	37	43	Southwest	20	40	1.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Local Fog	None	Partly Cloudy
Summit Lake	-13	16	Southwest	8	17	6.0	8.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Partly Cloudy
Superior	14	19	Calm	0	0	2.0	6.0	Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Three Lakes	-12	6	West	3	9	4.0	8.0	Frozen	Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Trempealeau	-16	-6	Northwest	2	5	9.0	9.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Clear
Two Rivers	29	37	South	5	15	2.0	4.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	Rain, Snow	Cloudy
Washington Island	12	23	Northwest	11	34	9.8	9.8	Unknown	Unknown	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Waterloo	-10	10	West	5	20	8.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Clear	None	Partly Cloudy
Waukesha		15	Northwest	10	15	6.0	12.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Frozen	None	Clear	None	Clear
Waupaca	23	34	Southwest	5	10	6.0	12.0	Partly Frozen	Partly Frozen	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Wausau	26	28	Southwest	5	10	8.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	None	Cloudy	None	Cloudy
Wautoma	25	27	East	5	15	8.0	12.0	Frozen	Open	Snow	Cloudy	Snow	Cloudy
Willard	13	21	West	15	20	2.0	10.0	Frozen	Partly Open	Snow	Cloudy	None	Partly Clear



## About the Artists

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**Jennifer Ambrose** is an avid birder and the editor of Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society's newsletter *The Trumpeter*. She enjoys photographing birds, especially when they are caught in mating or territorial displays or taking baths. When she's not birding, she teaches composition and communication classes at Milwaukee area colleges.

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**Jim Edlhuber**, a lifelong native of Wisconsin, has been photographing wildlife for over 20 years. He considers himself an avid photographer and is always trying to capture nature and wildlife through his lens. He is in several photography clubs and has won numerous awards for his work. In recent years, Jim has focused mostly on birding photography and finds it to be the most challenging. Jim features some his photography work online through his blog, [windowntowildlife.com](http://windowntowildlife.com).

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**Beverly Engstrom** is a retired elementary school teacher who lives on the Wisconsin River in Oneida County on property that is protected through a conservation easement with Northwoods Land Trust. She enjoys many outdoor activities, especially nature photography.

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**Stephen Fisher** is a serious amateur photographer, enjoying both landscape

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

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

ever viewed was encountered while trout fishing a small stream surrounded by maple forest that had sparse understory prior to spring leaf emergence. On that misty morning, a huge timber wolf glided over a hill across the stream and came toward him to stream's edge. When a wolf moves slowly, it kind of glides effortlessly, and this big guy was more like a spirit than a real animal. A real magical moment. David does occasional slide programs for local groups.

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**Jeff Galligan** is 48 years old and lives in Middleton, Wisconsin. He is a retention program advisor and the coordinator of a mentoring program for students of color at Madison College and recently completed his doctorate in educational leadership. He enjoys wildlife photography (especially birds), reading, cooking, traveling, kayaking, and hiking.

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**Anne Geraghty** is a high school biology teacher in Eau Claire. She mainly birds in western and northern Wisconsin. She has participated in a variety of bird counts, led field trips for the Natural Resources Foundation, and is now enjoying collecting data for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. She also loves kayaking and capturing as many beautiful outdoor moments as she can with her camera.

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**Greg Hottman** is an amateur wildlife photographer from Oregon, Wisconsin. Greg started out taking pictures of birds, mostly warblers to help with identification. As a youngster in the 60's he can remember seeing flashes of red

going through the yard in his hometown of Cross Plains and running inside to the Encyclopedia Britannica to see what bird that might have been. He inherited that "those cows ain't gonna milk themselves" gene so he gets up early, gets most of his work done by 6am which frees him up for the rest of the day. Greg's favorite birds to photograph are owls. The neighborhood foxes are fun too.

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

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

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**Jym Mooney** has been an enthusiastic birder for almost 30 years. In 2012 he took up photography, initially as a means to document unusual sightings. He is grateful for the advice and suggestions of the many wildlife photogra-

phers he has had the pleasure to meet and talk with as he has birded across Milwaukee County and Wisconsin; in particular Jim Edlhuber, Brian Hansen, Paul Sparks, Jeremy Meyer, Rita Flores Wiskowski, Jennifer Ambrose, and Dave Freriks.

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**Kris Perlberg** is a birder and amateur photographer who grew up in the north woods of Wisconsin and now hails from Stoughton, Wisconsin. Although she had been feeding backyard birds for many years, birding became a passion after she noticed a small, lively, and strikingly beautiful orange-on-black bird along the Yahara River Trail in the spring of 2012. That American Redstart brought the realization that there are many birds that largely go unnoticed, that actively looking for them is a great pleasure, and that immersing oneself in nature is good for mind and soul. Now most of her spare time is spent hiking the state parks, natural areas and wild places of southern Wisconsin. This past year, she and her partner Annette traveled to Everglades National Park and Big Bend National Park and added many birds to their life lists. Plans are in the works for trips to the Texas gulf coast and southeast Arizona in 2018.

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**Kristie L Pinnow** is a native of northern Wisconsin and has always loved nature. She has enjoyed backyard birding since childhood, and over the years has added photography to that interest. She has recently discovered the beauty of warblers, and it has become a desire to photograph as many local species as she can. Along with birding and pho-

tography, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and baking.

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**Adam Sinkula** is an avid birder from Green Bay who grew up on a small family farm in Kewaunee. This allowed for time to explore the woods and river nearby where he fell in love with nature. He then attended UW-Stevens Point and got his degree in Wildlife and minor in Biology. He first picked up birding after college and quickly became addicted. He is currently the Kewaunee County Coordinator for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II as well as co-chairman (with Nancy Nabak) of the Big Bay Birdathon. He also takes pride in finding local birds in Kewaunee and Brown Counties.

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**Victoria Sokolowski** reports that her biggest love is photographing wildlife, especially birds and insects, which she finds fascinating and challenging. She tries to give the viewer insight into the personality of the animal she is photographing, and she loves interactions between animals. Her goal is to bring enjoyment and knowledge to those who don't have the privilege of living as close to wildlife as she does. She also owns a veterinary clinic so she works with clients and their pets all day. She considers herself very lucky to be able to live her dream vocation in such a wonderful area like Wisconsin.

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**Jim Stewart** is the son of an upstate New York salt miner and an elementary school teacher. He arrived in Wisconsin 36 years ago and fell in love with the

state's natural areas. For all of those many years he has felt, along with Jean Henri Fabre and Wisconsin's Aldo Leopold, that beauty and perception "grow at home as well as abroad." Now, with the luxury (and shortness) of time that comes with age he is able to play, camera in hand, in the natural areas that dot Dane and surrounding counties—jewels that provide sustenance to diverse wildlife. His interest is to use his photography as a means to better see

by asking, over and over, two questions posed by Rachel Carson in her remarkable book *The Sense of Wonder* (1956/1998): "For most of us, knowledge of our world comes largely through sight, yet we look about with such unseeing eyes that we are partially blind. One way to open your eyes to the unnoticed beauty is to ask yourself. What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"

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Jennifer Ambrose took this image of a Slaty-backed Gull in mid-February in Milwaukee County.

# Guidelines for Authors and Artists (revised)

## AUTHORS

*The Passenger Pigeon*, issued quarterly by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO), publishes articles on Wisconsin birds, on ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and on WSO activities and business. Anyone with a serious interest in Wisconsin birdlife—whether a professional ornithologist or an amateur birder—is encouraged to submit articles and observations to this journal. The Editors are happy to discuss ideas for articles with potential authors.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles to be considered for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon*. It should be noted that all research articles will be submitted for peer review. Articles not presenting research will go through the traditional editorial process. The editors will do as much as possible to see that work is published, including offering suggestions for improvement when pertinent.

General articles should be sent via email to [PassengerPigeon@WSOBirds.org](mailto:PassengerPigeon@WSOBirds.org) and research-based articles should be sent directly to the Peer Review Editor, Matt Hayes at [research@wsobirds.org](mailto:research@wsobirds.org). If necessary, articles may be sent by surface mail to: Passenger Pigeon, 5018 Odana Rd, Madison, WI 53711.

Following are specific guidelines for submission:

- Articles and art for each issue should be submitted by the following dates in order to be considered: spring—

December 1; summer—March 1; fall—April 15; winter—August 1.

- The text must be in Word format (.doc or .docx), either Word for Windows or Word for Mac.
- The manuscript should be double-spaced throughout (including figure and table captions) and use 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font style.
- The text must be on pages separate from figures and tables.
- On the title page, provide the article title, name, address, telephone number, and email address of all authors of the article.
- Include the acknowledgments, literature cited, and a brief biographical sketch of each author at the end of the manuscript.
- Research articles should generally follow standard scientific format, with separate sections for abstract, 5–7 key words, introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusions, and bibliography. Deviations from this format (e.g., combined results and discussion section) will be considered on an individual manuscript basis. Key words should be different from key terms present in the title.
- Please use metric measures (for example: millimeters, kilograms, microliters).

- The spelling of common and scientific bird names should follow the most recent edition of the Checklist of North American Birds (see <http://checklist.aou.org>), published by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), or the most recent updates to the checklist. Please include Genus and species (*italicized*) following the first time that the common name of a species is introduced in text.
- When appropriate, lists of species in tables or text should follow the most current AOU taxonomic sequence.
- Use capital letters for the full common names of birds (e.g., American Robin, Red-headed Woodpecker). Avoid use of four letter abbreviations often used to shorten the species name. For example, do not use RBWO for Red-bellied Woodpecker.

#### **Guidelines for submitting figures and tables:**

- Each figure and each table must be on a separate page.
- Captions for all figures should be sent as a separate text file, not embedded with the figure.
- Figures and table should be submitted in a way suitable for black-and-white reproduction.
- Tables are encouraged to be submitted as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. All tables for each manuscript may be included in the same Microsoft Excel Book with separate sheets comprising each table. Alternatively, tables can be created as 'typists' tables' in Microsoft Word. This involves creating a tabular version of your table in Microsoft Word without using the ac-

tual "Table" function in that program. Instead, use tabs to separate your columns and a carriage return to separate rows—do not add spaces to make columns line up.

#### **Guidelines for citing literature in text:**

Citations should be listed chronologically in parentheses:

- No comma between author(s) and date: (McGhee 1995)
- Use "and" between two authors: (Li and Aschenbrenner 2007)
- If more than two authors, use "et al.:" (Moreau et al. 2015)
- Personal communication or reference to unpublished data: Cite the person's initials and surname, institutional affiliation, followed by "pers. comm." or "unpub. data." Example: (E. Ramirez, University of Wisconsin-Madison, unpub. data).
- Works by the same author(s) in the same year are arranged alphabetically by article title and differentiated by letter (1998a, 1998b).

#### **Guidelines for formatting references in bibliography section**

References at end of document should be listed alphabetically by last name of first author, then in increasing chronological order. Follow the models below for citing books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.

#### **Sample References:**

Reller, A.W. 1972. Aspects of behavioral ecology of Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers. *American Midland Naturalist* 88(2): 270–290.

Bajema, R.A. and S.L. Lima. 2001. Landscape-level Analyses of Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) Abundance in Reclaimed Coal Mine Grasslands. *The American Midland Naturalist* 145(2): 288–298.

Curtis, J.T. 1959. *Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Gregg, L. 2006. Gray Jay. Pages 296–297 in N.J. Cutright, B.R. Harriman, and R.W. Howe (Eds.), *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*. Waukesha: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Estades, C.F. 1997. Habitat fragmentation, pine plantation forestry and the conservation of forest bird communities in central Chile. Master of Science Thesis, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kilvington, M., J. Rosier, R. Wilkinson and C. Freeman. 1998. Urban restoration: Social opportunities and constraints. Paper presented to the Symposium on Restoring the Health and Wealth of Ecosystems, Christchurch, New Zealand, September 28–30.

National Audubon Society. 2014. Christmas Bird Count Historical Results. [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/index.html) [accessed September 1, 2013].

Strickland, D. and H. Ouellet. 2011. Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*). In A. Poole (Ed.), *The Birds of North America Online*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/040> [accessed December 31, 2015].

## ARTISTS

All photos must be submitted as jpeg digital images in e-mail attachments to Michael Huebschen, the Assistant Editor for Art, at [mhuebschen4@gmail.com](mailto:mhuebschen4@gmail.com). They will be stored in secure digital files until recommended for a given quarterly issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Although we would prefer to print all images chosen for *The Passenger Pigeon* in color, many will be printed in black & white due to the prohibitive cost of printing everything in color. One image per issue will be selected as a color cover photo. Every effort will be made to use the best photos submitted by as many contributors as possible. Final selections will be made by the editors.

### Following are the criteria for submitted work:

1. Jpeg digital images of photos, drawings, paintings, sculptures, wood carvings, quilts or other artistic works featuring birds seen or photographed in Wisconsin should be sent as email attachments and should be in as large a size as possible, with resolution of at least 300 d.p.i. (1.2 megabytes for black-and-white and 1.5 megabytes for color). Lower resolution simply does not print well and pixel-dense images make the best candidates for printing since they often need to be cropped. All photos of birds submitted must have been taken in Wisconsin.
2. Please note: since the seasonal reports are for the year previous to the current issue, any photographs for a given issue should also be from the same period. For example, photo-

graphs for the Winter, 2015 issue should have been taken on or between December 1, 2014 and February 28, 2015; photographs for Spring, 2016 should have been taken on or between March 1, 2015 and May 31, 2015; and so on.

3. All images submitted must be material not previously published in *The Passenger Pigeon*.
4. All images must include the bird species name and name of the artist. Date and location are also necessary in the case of photographs. Images of works other than photographs should have a title if one has been selected.
5. The most useful images are those in "portrait" format, rather than "landscape" format. A cropped photo 4" horizontal by 5" vertical is ideal for consideration for a cover photo. The "fill page" images are also best done in portrait format and might run as large as 4.75" × 7". The editors may do some additional cropping of images for publication.
6. Since no images will be returned, the submission must be high-resolution copy of the original. In most cases contributors will have cropped the images for the best effect. Cropping the images too tightly should be avoided since the editors may choose to do more cropping. All unused or unusable digital images will be destroyed after a certain time period.
7. It is the policy of Wisconsin Society for Ornithology not to offer monetary compensation to contributing artists for use of their images in *The Passenger Pigeon*. The Society is grateful for those who have contributed limited use of their images for publication in *The Passenger Pigeon* in the past and to those who will do so in the future.
8. When images have been selected and approved for each quarterly issue, a short biography from each contributing artist will be requested. It is tradition to publish those in the "About the Artists" pages of each issue. As a result, the Editors request that contributors include a short biographical statement along with their artwork.



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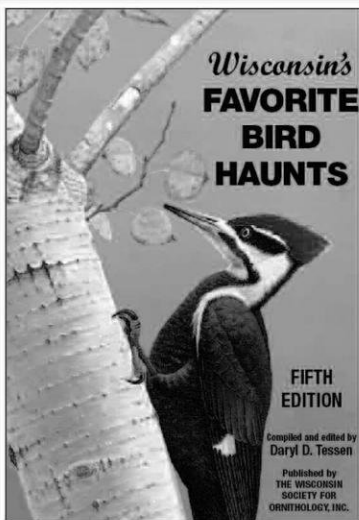
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This Hooded Merganser male rose from the water as Jim Edlhuber made this image in early February in Waukesha County.



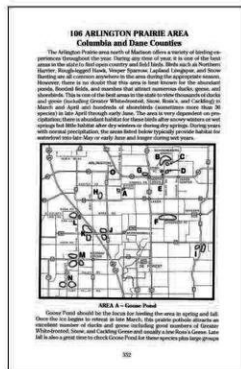
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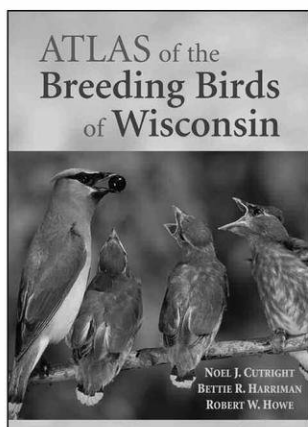


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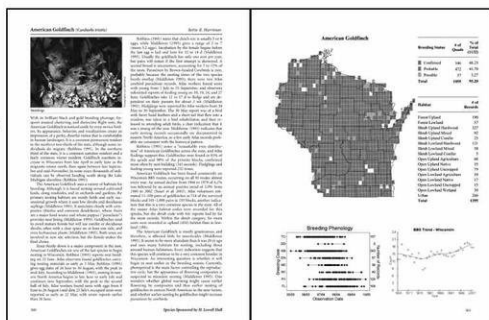
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**President** Michael John Jaeger, [president@wsobirds.org](mailto:president@wsobirds.org), 608-335-2546

**Vice President** Myles Hurlburt, [vicepresident@wsobirds.org](mailto:vicepresident@wsobirds.org), 715-574-1003

**Secretary** Jennifer Wenzel, [secretary@wsobirds.org](mailto:secretary@wsobirds.org), 262-488-8077

**Treasurer** Dani Baumann, [treasurer@wsobirds.org](mailto:treasurer@wsobirds.org), 262-617-1268

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2017–2018)

**Annual Convention** Christine Zimmerman, [convention@wsobirds.org](mailto:convention@wsobirds.org)

**Awards** Wendy Schultz, [awards@wsobirds.org](mailto:awards@wsobirds.org)

**Badger Birder** Carl Schwartz, [badgerbirder@wsobirds.org](mailto:badgerbirder@wsobirds.org)

**Bookstore** Darwin Tiede, 920-997-9418, [bookstore@wsobirds.org](mailto:bookstore@wsobirds.org)

**Communications** Kristin Bowers, [communications@wsobirds.org](mailto:communications@wsobirds.org)

**Conservation** Michael John Jaeger, Acting Chair, [president@wsobirds.org](mailto:president@wsobirds.org)

**Development** Mary Korkor, [development@wsobirds.org](mailto:development@wsobirds.org)

**Education** Jim Knickelbine, [education@wsobirds.org](mailto:education@wsobirds.org);

Ed Hahn, [youtheducation@wsobirds.org](mailto:youtheducation@wsobirds.org)

**Field Trips** Thomas R. Schultz, 920-960-1796 and Jeffrey L. Baughman, 920-960-4732; [fieldtrips@wsobirds.org](mailto:fieldtrips@wsobirds.org)

**Historian** Nancy J. Nabak, [historian@wsobirds.org](mailto:historian@wsobirds.org)

**Honey Creek** Levi Wood, [honeycreek@wsobirds.org](mailto:honeycreek@wsobirds.org)

**Membership** Kim Kreitingner, [membership@wsobirds.org](mailto:membership@wsobirds.org)

**Passenger Pigeon Editors** Charles A. Heikkinen and Delia O. Unson, [passengerpigeon@wsobirds.org](mailto:passengerpigeon@wsobirds.org), 608-206-0324 (Chuck); 608-235-8914 (Delia)

**Records** Quentin Yoerger, [records@wsobirds.org](mailto:records@wsobirds.org)

**Research** Vacant

**Scholarships and Grants** Aaron Greene; [grants@wsobirds.org](mailto:grants@wsobirds.org)

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