

## **The passenger pigeon. Vol. 75, No. 3 Fall 2013**

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# The *Passenger* **PIGEON**



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

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*Front Cover: This beautifully colored Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed by David Freriks near Cedarburg in Ozaukee County on 31 October 2012.*

## **Once is Not Enough when It Comes to an Atlas**

**W**ere you one of the more than 1,600 volunteers who generated the nearly 162,000 records used to compile the first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas? If you answered “Yes,” then here are three even better questions:

- Can you believe that it's already been more than two decades since that project was launched?
- Are you ready to pitch in all over again?
- Can you even imagine how recent technological advancements such as eBird and changes in data-gathering protocols can make the next atlas even more valuable?

I sure hope so because the train already has left the station on what has been christened WBBA2. And even if you answered “No” to the first question, you will want to keep on reading to get an idea of what lies ahead and how you can play a role.

The first “scoping meeting” for a new atlas was convened by Noel Cutright and Bill Mueller of the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory on 25 September 2012, at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office at the Horicon Marsh. The current timetable envisions a 10-year project, with a budget approaching \$1 million, planning continuing through 2014 and field work launching in 2015, exactly 20 years after that work began on WBBA1. Most states, many Canadian provinces and several countries have completed, or are nearing completion, of a breeding bird atlas project. Several states have initiated a second atlas, and a few (e.g., Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota) have even been completed, at least through the data collection/entering phase. The typical interval between atlases has been 20 years.

Cutright, WSO historian and past president, chronicles the history of WBBA1:

In the early 1990s, sufficient interest, enthusiasm, and groundswell were attained to form a Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas Steering Committee, and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology agreed to spearhead the project. Following almost two years of planning, data collection for the WBBA began in the spring of 1995 and ended in the summer of 2000. Some 237 bird species were found, with 226 confirmed as breeding species. Extensive use of Atlas data continues to be made by many individuals, educators, researchers, scientists, agencies, and others for a wide variety of scientific, monitoring, planning, and assessment projects and publications.

Initial funding came from WSO, with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) being the largest and most critical funder over the entire 10 years of the project. Funding came from a variety of governmental agencies, businesses, foundations, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals. An impor-



tant source of funding was offering sponsorship of species; sponsors of 106 species contributed \$53,000. Culmination of the project was the atlas book published by WSO in 2006. WBBA data continue to be housed in the Cofrin Arboretum at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, which also served as the Atlas data center for the project. The web site for WBBA1 <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wbba/> remains active.

In a document prepared last September, Noel recounted the purposes of WBBA1:

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

At its third scoping meeting in late march 2013, a dozen members of the ad hoc steering committee produced a working mission statement for WBBA2:

- Build upon the field work accomplished between 1995 and 2001 assessing the distribution and abundance of bird species that breed in Wisconsin;
- Conduct five years of statewide field surveys utilizing volunteer and paid atlas participants starting in 2015;
- Compile findings into an updated Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin to be published no later than 2025; and
- Make Atlas information easily accessible in electronic and printed formats.

The committee also provided this elaboration: Recognizing the importance of high-quality scientific data on avian distribution and abundance for conservation and management purposes, WBBA2 will strive for a transparent process, a rigorous methodology, and accuracy of reporting and archiving data. This will require its organizers to:

- Utilize up-to-date online tools for reporting and cataloging data;
- Analyze data trends and recent distribution changes using appropriate methods;
- Develop strategies for accommodating the previous generation of field observers who may be uncomfortable with the latest data collection and analysis tools;
- Document the breeding distribution of Wisconsin's birds by surveying priority survey blocks as organized and delimited by the Atlas Steering Committee;

- Enumerate and describe the important habitats used by all breeding birds in Wisconsin;
- Provide new measures of abundance of breeding birds in Wisconsin;
- Enumerate and describe breeding locations that are used by uncommon or rare species, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as listed in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan;
- Assimilate data from WBCI and WDNR surveys for species that are difficult to survey, such as nightjars, owls, and secretive wetland birds; and
- Assess changes in distribution for breeding bird species since the first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas concluded.

For WBBA2, a number of changes seem likely.

- Leadership is likely to be shared between WSO and the WGLBBO, with the Observatory in the lead role and significant support anticipated from the WDNR, USF&WS, BLM, and USFWS. Through careful management of the first Atlas, WSO has retained and invested nearly \$30,000 that its Board of Directors has signaled its willingness to commit to managing the current Atlas web site and to launching WBBA2. The Society also has additional restricted funds from sales of the first Atlas book that could be used to support the new atlas effort.
- The WDNR committed \$25,000 a year over 10 years to WBBA1 but a second atlas may be a harder sell given economic/budgetary constraints. The scoping work for WBBA2 includes a survey of WDNR staff to assess how WDNR employees use the first Atlas.
- Bettie Harriman, former president of WSO, served as volunteer director of the first Atlas, but it seems likely that WBBA2 will require a paid director. Still to be resolved: Who makes the hiring decision and what sort of reporting and overall management structure is put in place?
- Expenses for the first atlas totaled more than \$371,000, but a budget of close to \$1 million is envisioned this time, based on recent experience in other states. Retiring WSO Treasurer Christine Reel has agreed to serve as treasurer for WBBA2.
- Major technological changes will be incorporated into methodology and analysis. For example, Noel points out, rather than using paper topographic maps and submitting all data for analysis on paper forms, mapping and data submittal will be electronic. Discussions are underway with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to develop an eBird atlas app for Wisconsin.
- A weak feature of the first round atlases was lack of any real means to quantify abundance; many second-round atlases are incorporating point counts that provide a more robust estimate of species populations statewide, Noel notes. Point count data can also be matched with land cover and forest inventory data to produce information on habitat preferences for those species detected through point count surveys.
- Finally, because data were collected within 10-square-mile blocks, locations for particular species were not sufficiently precise to allow optimal use.

With advancements in GPS technology, today it is possible to record precise locations of records for high conservation priority species.

The scoping group's current work is focusing on establishing timelines for hiring a part-time coordinator sometime in 2014, developing a budget, conducting a trial of eBird data entry software, along with establishing four subcommittees to run the Atlas project and recruiting members to staff them. They are:

1. **Science/Data Management:** Charged with establishing objectives for WBBA2 (what is to be expected of the data); examining lessons learned; WDNR needs; using WBCI research committee to examine what we learned in Atlas1; and eBird liaison. Current members include Ryan Brady, Nick Anich, Owen Boyle, Andy Paulios, Ben Zuckerberg, Scott Hull, Mike Mossman, Kim Grveles, and Rich Staffen.
2. **Funding and Development:** Charged with raising the money to do the

## HELP WANTED!

Do you want to help shape the new Atlas? Now is the time to "raise your hand." Contact William P. Mueller @ wp-mueller1947@gmail.com or 414-698-9108.




## The Value of an Atlas

"The data for Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 1 were collected 25 years ago; and, though many Massachusetts atlas volunteers have waited a long time to see the tangible fruit of their efforts, these records—far from being in any sense outdated—have set a baseline for measuring the consequences of a quarter-century of human progress. The value of this historic baseline increases with the passage of time. For someone like me, accustomed to assessing the state of global health through the lens of bird populations, pressing questions about the environmental consequences of 25 years of rapid change in the United States and Neotropics leap from at least a third of the maps in Atlas 1. What is happening to the exquisite American Kestrel, still apparently on the increase when Atlas 1 data were collected, but now declining alarmingly as a breeding bird? Is this decrease simply a consequence of reforestation of open habitats or the result of something less visible and more insidious?"—Chandler S. Robbins, *Research Wildlife Biologist, Biological Resources Division, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.*

work. Current members include Carl Schwartz, Sumner Matteson, Bettie Harriman, and Stan Temple.

3. **Operations:** Volunteer recruitment; handbook preparation; and internal communication. Current members include Tom Prestby, Tim Vargo, and Karen Etter Hale.
4. **Communications:** External publicity; website; Facebook; Twitter; and decisions on publication methods. Current members include Becca Setzer, Tom Schultz, and Andy Paulios.

So stay tuned for more information on WBBA2 in the months ahead. The second round of atlasing not only provides the opportunity to gain new knowledge—confirming new breeding species and documenting significant changes in distribution—but it can involve birders, students, landowners, and other interested citizens in a fascinating research project that increases awareness towards birds and their habitats, and best of all, gets people out into the field where they can enjoy themselves birding.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" and "S".

President



Upland Sandpiper in Buena Vista Grassland, summer of 2012, by Michael Huebschen.

## Changes in the Team

**A**s you have read issues of this journal, we trust that you have noticed that it takes a team of dedicated individuals to make each issue happen. Six of the team members are listed on the inside front cover of each issue.

As with any team, from time to time, someone leaves and a new member joins. Since the previous issue of *The Pigeon*, two members for the team decided it was time for them to move on to other aspects of their lives. First, Dennis Malueg, Art Editor, felt that he wished to devote more of his time to the actual making of photos of birds and other aspects of nature. We appreciate Dennis volunteering to serve as Art Editor, when the previous Art Editor, David Kuecherer, moved to Michigan and we thank him for the assistance he has given us in making the *Pigeon* complete with wonderful photography from various sources. We wish Dennis much pleasure with his continuing pursuit of that perfect shot of the natural world.

Kay Kavanagh has served as compiler of the Winter season for five years—as it happens **the** five years when ebird has really grown and expanded the number of records reported each season. The task of a field notes compiler has changed dramatically during the time Kay has served. Kay is a great supporter of ebird, filing hundreds of her own records using the new technology. But she will readily tell you that dealing with ebird to write the seasonal report requires a good deal of knowledge about computer software. Five years was enough to make her wish to turn the task over to someone with more computer expertise. Plus, as anyone who knows Kay realizes, she had rather be out birding, than writing about birds. We greatly appreciate Kay taking on the Winter season for these five years and hope every day now is filled with the birds she so enjoys. Thank you, Kay.

As is the WSO tradition, new members have come forward to take on these two tasks and join the team. The new Art Editor is Michael J. Huebschen. Michael lives in Oshkosh and is retired from UW-O. He has been interested in wildlife most of his life and photography almost that long. You can read more about Michael in the Summer 2013 issue (75:2) of *The Passenger Pigeon* at the end of his article (p. 153), with photos, about Dickcissels. Please read the message following this Editors' Desk from Michael. Welcome, Michael, and thank you for joining the team.

Taking on the job of Winter Field Notes Compiler will be Ted Keyel. Ted currently lives in Sun Prairie, but will be doing point-counting in the Agassiz Lowlands in north-central/western Minnesota this summer. Fall will find him in Duluth. Welcome, and thank you Ted for joining the *Passenger Pigeon* team to insure that the Winter season reports continue to appear.

Bettie and Neil Harriman, Editors

### A NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR FOR ART

In taking on the task of being the next in a long succession of art editors for the Passenger Pigeon, I knew that there would be a lot of learning involved.

The biggest first step in that process is getting vital communication information from potential contributing artists. For me, that translates into getting e-mail addresses from as many interested parties as possible. I have on file the names, and in many cases the addresses of many past art contributors to the Passenger Pigeon. E-mail addresses are fairly scarce, however.

I would very much like to receive all submissions as jpeg digital images in e-mail attachments. They would be stored in secure digital files until selected for submission to the editors for consideration in a given quarterly issue of the Passenger Pigeon. Not only will this save considerable time, but it will save the contributors and WSO a certain number of dollars in mailing costs every year—dollars that could be put to better use by all parties.

The vast majority of images chosen for the Passenger Pigeon will be printed in black & white on “fill pages” in between articles. While many folks in the readership might like more color images throughout each issue, the costs of doing so are very limiting. One image per issue will be selected as a color cover photo. As has been tradition in the past, I expect to refer to the editors, the work of a number of artists for consideration in each quarterly issue while doing my best to select the “best” of the images of the artists selected for each issue. I will do my best to strike a balance between recommending to the editors for each issue the best images available and, extending over the long run, opportunity to as many excellent contributors as possible. As in the past, the final selections will be made by the editors.

I would like to adhere to the following criteria for submitted work:

- Send jpeg digital images with resolution of 300 d.p.i. or greater of photos, drawings, paintings, sculptures, quilts or other artistic works featuring birds seen or photographed in Wisconsin. All photos of birds submitted must have been taken in Wisconsin.
- All images submitted must be material NOT previously published in the Passenger Pigeon.
- Please include with all images the bird species name and name of the artist. Date and location would also be useful, in the case of photographs. For those sending images of works other than photographs, feel free to include a title if one has been selected. Please DO NOT SEND the work of a friend or professional associate in the same e-mail with your own work.
- The most useful images are those cropped in “portrait” format, rather than “landscape” format. A crop of 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”.
- In the case of photos, please DO NOT SEND your only digital image, as they will not be returned. Send a jpeg copy of your original, even if the original was a jpeg image. In most cases the contributor will want to do

some cropping on the original photo image before sending. All unused or unusable digital images will be destroyed after a certain time period.

I am looking forward to hearing from many potential contributors in the near future.

Michael Huebschen  
Art Editor, *The Passenger Pigeon*  
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Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Juneau Lagoon in Milwaukee on 3 August 2012 by Nick Anich.





This Black Scoter (left) with a Redhead (right) was found on 9 September 2012 in Chequamegon Bay by Tim Oksiuta.

# The 2012 Wisconsin Christmas Bird Counts

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**T**he first four days of December were unusually warm with most parts of the state reaching temperatures in the 50s. The warmest day was 3 December. On that day Madison broke its all-time high for the entire month of December with a temperature of 65° F. Likewise, that same day, the cities of Green Bay, La Crosse, and Milwaukee broke the all-time high for that date with highs ranging from 62° to 65°. Warm temperatures remained until 8 December. On 8–9 December the first significant snow of the season arrived. Most affected were parts of west-central Wisconsin with snow depths of 10–14 inches. Much of this was mitigated by continued mild temperatures. The start of the count period found Wisconsin with at most modest amounts of snow and with most lakes and rivers in the southern two-thirds of the state open and often filled with waterfowl. The early counts were conducted in conditions that would be considered mild or warm. Winter did not really reach Wisconsin until the storm of 19–20 December. On those days a wet snow of 12 to 22 inches fell in the area of Grant County

northeast to Fond du Lac and Washington Counties. Due to warmer temperatures along Lake Michigan, counties along the lake received minor amounts of snow with most precipitation coming as rain. Along with this snow were northwest winds that peaked at 35 to 50 miles per hour. With deep snow and high winds, roads were nearly impossible to keep open. Fortunately only the Columbus Count was canceled due to these conditions.

This combination of mild weather in the early count period combined with more wintry conditions in the latter period was perhaps an ideal situation for finding large numbers of species and individuals. Water related birds were able to be found through the period, semi-hardy species were able to survive due to the early warmth and then at least hang on until the late counts, plus the later arrival of snow made land birds easier to locate. A great many records were thus broken. But it could have been better. Within this synopsis of the weather was a one day micro situation that put a damper on what might have been. As has often been mentioned,

the first available Saturday within the count period is the day most selected for counts. This year 35 counts were taken on the first available Saturday, which was 15 December. These 35 comprised 31% of the counts and, since many of these were among the largest in the state, they accounted for 36.6% of the total field party hours. Unfortunately there was a nearly all day light but steady rain on 15 December. This rain lessened the number of field hours and, of more importance, greatly reduced the number of land birds. Especially reduced were the numbers of raptors and woodpeckers. In 2011 and 2012 there were 31 counts that were conducted on the first available Saturday in both years. Both years the conditions were similar (mild with little snow) except, in 2012, there was rain. When one takes the number of individuals found on these 31 counts for the rainy day in 2012 and compares them to the dry day in 2011, there appears a stark contrast in numbers. Chart A shows this difference for 9 common land species. The 2012 decreases were likely due to the rain.

There were 160 species found on count days in 2012. This is record

high. The former record had been 156, which was set in 2006. In addition there were 2 count week birds. Those two were a Slaty-backed Gull at Superior and a Marsh Wren at Waukesha. The Slaty-backed had made only one previous appearance on the WSO counts, that being at Appleton in 2006. The Marsh Wren had been found 12 previous years and in 13 count circles. This was the first as a count week species. Four new count day species were added in 2012 bringing the total number found on count days over the history of the WSO CBCs to 236. When count week species are included, the total becomes 239. These new birds were a Ruby-throated Hummingbird coming to a feeder at Howards Grove in the Sheboygan Circle, two Rufous Hummingbirds coming to separate feeders in La Crosse (one of which was voted as *Selasphorus* species by the Records Committee), a Le Conte's Sparrow on the Hustisford Count, and a Summer Tanager coming to a feeder in the Riveredge Circle. The Le Conte's was not only a first for the CBCs, it was the first Wisconsin winter record. The previous record departure date had been 15 November. Other unusual finds

A. First Saturday Contrast in Bird Numbers, 2011 and 2012 (the 2011 numbers have been adjusted so as to account for differences in field party hours).

	Adjusted 2011 #s	2012 #s	Percentage of Change
Bald Eagle	737	366	-50%
Cooper's Hawk	124	83	-33%
Red-tailed Hawk	901	528	-41%
Red-bellied Woodpecker	924	570	-38%
Downy Woodpecker	1836	1296	-29%
Hairy Woodpecker	803	554	-31%
Black-capped Chickadee	9422	9063	-4%
Tufted Titmouse	226	160	-29%
White-breasted Nuthatch	1926	1464	-24%

were Blue-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Osprey, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Yellowthroat, Vesper Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole. Most of these were found due to the mildness of the season. At the other extreme, this was one of the largest winter finch irruptions in the history of the CBCs. A number of records were set. This was due to a hot dry summer in Canada and a consequent lack of winter food.

### **LOCATION AND DETAILS OF THE COUNTS**

The details of weather and participation for each count are reported in Table 1. For three years now there has been a core of 107 circles that have sent accounts each year. This level of consistency has hitherto been unknown. I would like to thank the compilers of each of these counts for their dedication. I know it is a difficult task to follow through with counts year after year. Of this core group, the Columbus Count was weathered out this year by the winter storm of 19-20 December. Added to this core group were 6 new counts. They are Amherst, Ellsworth, Fennimore, Monroe, Spring Valley, and Superior. Ellsworth is one of two new counts in Pierce County. Its center is near a former Ellsworth circle that existed from 1960 through 1979. The other Pierce County circle is Spring Valley. The count center is near the center of a Spring Valley circle that existed in 1998-1999. Another added count from the northwestern part of the state is Superior. The center of this circle is near the center of a Superior circle

that existed from 1963 through 1973. Superior (including Wisconsin Point) is a prime birding spot. It is great to have it back in the CBCs after an absence of 40 years. In the southwestern part of the state, Fennimore is a new count in virgin territory in Grant County. With this count, there are now four circles within or else reaching into Grant County. Grant has thus come from being one of the least covered counties in the state to one of the better covered. Monroe is a second circle now added to the southwest. This count had been reporting to the National Audubon but it was not until this year that I realized the circle was entirely within Green County (and not half shared with Illinois). A second Audubon Count newly added to the WSO is Amherst in Portage County. Amherst had not been used in past years due to serious overlaps with other circles. I extend a special thanks to Jan Hewitt for allowing her Waupaca center point to be moved east so as to squeeze Amherst onto the map. THANKS Jan!

The 112 counts of 2012 are record high. The record had been 107 in 2010. Also record setting were the 1,722 field birders (the old high was 1,638 in 2011), the 879 field parties (the old high was 814 in 2011), and the 4,729.5 field party hours (the old high was 4,637.5 in 2010). As usual Madison led the state with 87 species. Other counts with 70 or more were Montello (78), Appleton (76), Waterloo (76), Sauk City (72), and Oshkosh (70).

With mention of the National Audubon Society (NAS), it might also be noted that this has been an historic year of co-operation between the WSO and the NAS. For nearly 75 years

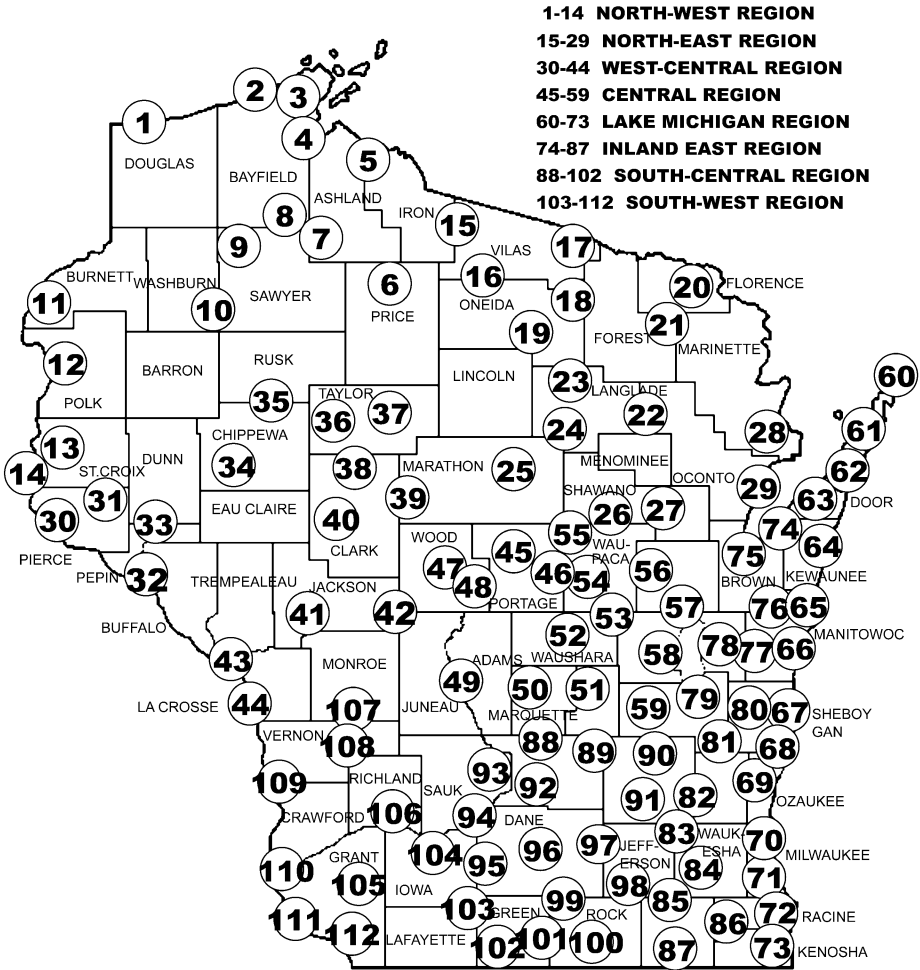


Figure 1. Map showing count circles for 2012 CBC.

the WSO and the NAS have operated as separate entities when it comes to the CBCs. This was due to the NAS charging a fee for birders to participate in counts. This year that fee was removed. Due to this change, the WSO has agreed to share its counts with the NAS. The result is that the NAS has more than doubled the number of counts from Wisconsin. Wisconsin has likely the greatest density of

reports for any state of similar size. The 112 counts going to NAS surpass the 109 sent last count year from the much larger state of Texas, though it needs some growing to match 127 from California.

It is with regret and much appreciation that I mention Dr. Charles Kemper is no longer the compiler for his four counts along the Chippewa River. Those four counts were Chippewa

Falls (started by Kemper in 1953, with Kemper as the sole observer that first year), Durand (started by Kemper in 1968), Holcombe (started by Kemper in 1968), and Nelson (started by Kemper in 1958). For decades at a time these four counts, stretched along the length of the Chippewa River, were a bright spot in an otherwise barren view of northwestern Wisconsin. It is with similar regret and appreciation that I mention this as the last year as compilers for Roy and Charlotte Lukes, who began the Sturgeon Bay Count in 1965 and the Brussels Count in 1996. Fortunately these counts have been handed to their niece, Wendy Lukes. Similarly, Dr. Kemper has found a new generation of compilers to continue his long-standing contributions.

The location of each count circle is shown in Figure 1. Count names can be matched with count numbers by looking at the alphabetical listing of counts in the first column of Table 1. Data from counts that include areas in other states show only the species and participation for the Wisconsin portion. For details on count compilers and count centers, visit the Appendix.

### SUMMARY OF SPECIES

Results from the 2012 counts are reported in Tables 2–10. Tables 2–9 show the more common species, while Table 10 shows the less common species (species seen on 22 or fewer counts). The common species have their counts divided into eight regions, each region having its own table. Table 9 includes the statewide number of individuals found for each

common species and compares that total with the average total (adjusted for party hours) over the past 10 years.

**Geese and Swans**—Canada Geese were found in normal numbers while Cackling Geese (480 over 16 counts) were second only to 829 over 27 counts in 2011. The Trumpeter Swan (465 over 19 counts) was record high in counts and second in individuals only to 484 in 2011. With the mild start to the count period, strong numbers of Tundra Swans (3,338 over 21 counts) were found. The number of individuals was 122% above the 10-year average.

**Ducks**—With a mild start to the period and with many lakes and rivers open, species in this grouping fared well. Even the long dwindling American Black Duck was 9% above its average. Of the more common species, the Lesser Scaup (2,253 over 29 counts) did best. The number of circles was record high (the old high being 22 in 2011), while the number of individuals was also record high (the old high being 1,209 in 1957). The number of individual was 345% above the 10-year average. This increase was due to 1,204 Lesser Scaup found on Lake Winnebago in the Fond du Lac count. This number was a record for a single circle, the old high being 1,010 in 1952 at Madison. The 14,015 Greater Scaup at New Franken were record for a single circle, the old high being 13,041 in 2000 at Milwaukee. Common Goldeneyes (15,454 over 49 counts) were second in individuals only to 16,770 in 1957. In 1957 Hales Corners set the single circle high for goldeneyes with 13,500. A Barrow's Goldeneye was documented from Superior. This was the first Barrow's since 2009. Due

Table 1. Details of the 2010–2011 Christmas Bird Counts.

Name of Count	Date	Sky	Snow Inches	Wind Dir.	Wind mph	Temp. °F		Observers			Party Hours	Owling Hours
						Low	High	Feeder	Field	Parties		
Amherst (46)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	2	SE	10–15	37	38	3	11	6	24.50	0.00
Antigo (24)	12/29	Cloudy-PCL	5	W	4–10	15	23	4	5	4	26.75	0.00
Appleton (57)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	0	ESE	5–12	37	41	11	35	22	95.50	2.00
Armstrong Creek (21)	12/19	Partly Cloudy	12	SW	0–3	15	25	6	5	4	21.50	0.00
Arpin (47)	12/22	Clear	7	NW-SW	2–10	5	19	1	8	4	24.00	5.00
Ashland (4)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	4	E	4–8	34	37	1	18	6	29.75	1.00
Baraboo (93)	12/27	Cloudy	12	N	5–15	15	30	22	22	12	82.50	5.25
Bayfield (3)	12/26	Cloudy-PCL	4	SW	1–7	6	16	6	10	5	35.00	0.00
Beloit (100)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	SE	0–5	39	45	5	23	11	40.00	1.50
Birchwood (10)	12/30	Cloudy	5	NE	0–5	17	21	7	6	3	11.00	1.00
Black River Falls (41)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	E	0–10	36	42	2	6	3	10.00	1.00
Blanchardville (103)	12/17	Cloudy	0	?	?	?	?	0	13	8	42.25	8.25
Bridgeport (110)	12/14	Clear	0	Calm	0–3	25	37	0	14	14	45.00	2.75
Brodhead (101)	12/18	Cloudy	0	S	0–5	30	34	0	8	6	33.75	4.00
Brussels (63)	12/16	Cloudy-Fog	0	SW	0–4	40	43	3	10	4	20.50	1.00
Burlington (86)	12/17	Cloudy-PCL	0	NW	0–10	30	39	1	7	4	31.75	5.75
Cable (8)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	1	SE	6–13	33	37	5	7	5	8.00	0.00
Caroline (26)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt. Rain	0	SE	1–5	36	40	4	6	4	32.00	2.00
Cassville (111)	12/30	Clear-PCL	6	W	0–5	3	21	1	4	4	20.00	1.00
Cedar Grove (68)	12/14	PCL-Clear	1	S-SE	3–7	25	45	0	15	6	45.25	3.00
Chippewa Falls (34)	12/21	Clear	14	NW	6–10	10	20	2	13	6	43.00	0.25
Clam Lake (7)	12/21	Cloudy	8	NW	0–15	12	22	1	10	6	41.50	2.75
Clyde (104)	12/28	Cloudy-Lt.Snow	10	N	0–5	24	28	0	12	4	32.00	0.00
Collins (77)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	0	NE	10–15	39	45	0	5	3	22.25	0.00
Cooksville (99)	1/1	Clear	9	NW	5–10	–4	14	1	11	6	44.00	2.50
Dundee (81)	12/29	Cloudy-Snow	16	N	0–5	24	28	2	11	7	28.00	2.00
Durand (33)	12/28	Cloudy-Lt.Snow	4.5	N	3–7	16	23	0	17	7	44.75	0.00
Ellsworth (30)	12/14	Clear-PCL	4	SE	5–10	13	37	0	14	4	18.75	0.00
Ephraim (61)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	0	SE	10–15	37	42	24	20	15	59.00	0.50
Fennimore (105)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	0	calm	0–5	30	42	2	9	9	35.50	0.50
Fifield (6)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	2	SE	5–10	34	36	21	10	5	28.50	0.00
Florence (20)	12/18	Cloudy	12	SW	3–7	26	32	13	5	4	28.00	0.50
Fond du Lac (79)	12/16	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	W	0–10	35	42	0	9	5	31.50	4.50
Fort Atkinson (98)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	Trace	SE	5–15	40	48	15	18	6	22.00	2.00
Fremont (53)	12/16	Cloudy	0	W	0–10	37	40	0	12	6	34.25	0.50
Friendship (49)	12/30	Clear	?	Calm	0	0	25	0	10	5	28.00	1.50

Gilman (36)	1/1	Partly Cloudy	5	S	5	–17	12	2	15	7	55.00	1.75
Grantsburg (11)	12/15	Cloudy	12	SE-SW	1–3	34	36	0	14	5	37.00	2.50
Green Bay (75)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	S	5–12	34	42	12	24	13	69.25	14.00
Green Lake (51)	12/31	Cloudy-PCL	10	W	5–10	14	24	1	14	8	37.75	2.50
Gurney (5)	12/16	Cloudy-Lt.Snow	2	?	0–5	33	35	1	14	8	29.50	0.00
Hales Corners (71)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	SE	10–20	41	43	2	28	13	39.50	4.50
Hartford (82)	12/28	Cloudy	12	NE	5	21	30	7	22	11	67.00	2.00
Hayward (9)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	1	SE	6–13	33	37	7	3	1	9.50	0.00
Herbster (2)	12/22	PCL-Cloudy	5	SW	4–12	10	28	10	12	5	27.50	0.00
Holcombe (35)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	5	SE	9–14	36	37	0	12	5	34.50	0.00
Horicon (90)	12/17	Cloudy	0	NW	5–10	29	32	1	6	6	38.75	0.00
Hudson (14)	1/1	Clear-Cloudy	7	S	0–8	–13	9	3	11	5	22.75	1.00
Hustisford (91)	12/23	Cloudy	12	N	0–5	12	23	1	12	8	46.50	1.00
Kenosha (73)	12/21	Partly Cloudy	1	NE	15–25	22	29	4	6	4	20.00	0.50
Kewaunee (64)	12/29	Cloudy	6	NE	3–8	24	29	0	8	5	32.00	5.50
Kickapoo Valley (107)	12/30	Clear	8	W	3–5	–4	21	2	21	11	55.50	1.50
La Crosse (44)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	Trace	SE	0–5	39	44	30	32	19	98.75	4.00
La Farge (108)	12/22	Clear-PCL	8	Calm	0	–6	24	3	4	4	20.50	0.75
Lake Geneva (87)	1/1	Clear	3	NW	0–13	2	16	14	23	10	44.00	6.50
Lakewood (22)	12/17	Clear-PCL	12	SW	1–6	15	32	5	3	2	15.00	0.00
Luck (12)	12/16	Cloudy	4.5	W	1–14	20	33	3	15	5	32.75	1.00
Madison (96)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	SE	0–18	37	46	4	<b>101</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>232.75</b>	18.50
Manitowish Waters (15)	12/22	PCL-Cloudy	5	Calm	0–3	1	28	8	9	4	26.00	1.00
Manitowoc (66)	12/16	Partly-Drizzle	0	WNW	0–5	42	42	1	5	3	22.00	0.00
Meadow Valley (42)	1/2	Partly Cloudy	10	SW	5–10	12	21	0	10	5	33.75	1.00
Medford (37)	12/29	Cloudy	3	W	0–13	16	21	7	17	7	50.50	0.00
Menchalville (76)	12/29	Cloudy-Snow	2	SW-W	2–8	11	28	3	11	7	48.00	0.00
Milwaukee (70)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	SE	5–15	40	43	4	65	22	110.50	1.50
Minocqua (16)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Snow	2	E	10–15	36	39	5	10	5	27.00	3.00
Montello (50)	12/14	Clear	1	E	5–7	20	43	14	14	7	45.00	5.50
Monroe (102)	12/16	?	0	?	5–10	27	33	1	5	4	17.00	0.00
Mount Horeb (95)	1/1	PCL-Clear	16	NW	0–10	5	19	18	50	24	101.00	4.50
Nelson (32)	1/5	Clear-PCL	5	Variable	0–12	2	31	0	22	9	55.75	0.00
New Franken (74)	12/16	Cloudy-Fog	0	SE	0–5	37	42	<b>46</b>	36	29	49.00	8.00
New Richmond (13)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	6	E	4–8	34	36	1	8	4	18.00	0.00
Norske (55)	12/18	Cloudy	0	NE	0–10	24	31	4	4	4	23.50	3.50
Oconomowoc (83)	12/27	Cloudy	3–12	NNE	5–15	23	29	3	20	10	61.00	1.50
Oshkosh (58)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	SE	8–13	41	43	11	12	8	44.00	0.00
Owen (38)	12/22	Cloudy	5	W	2–10	1	24	5	13	7	60.00	1.00
Palmyra (85)	12/29	Cloudy	6	NW	8–17	24	28	6	23	10	86.75	9.25
Pardeeville (88)	12/18	Cloudy-Snow	2	SE	0–15	23	31	11	18	9	54.75	4.50
Pensaukee (29)	12/14	Cloudy	3	S-E	3–15	26	36	2	2	2	15.00	1.00

(Continued)

Table 1. *Continued.*

Name of Count	Date	Sky	Snow Inches	Wind Dir.	Wind mph	Temp. °F		Observers		Parties	Party Hours	Owling Hours
						Low	High	Feeder	Field			
Peshtigo (28)	12/22	Clear-PCL	0	Calm	0	11	28	0	13	6	37.00	0.00
Phelps (17)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain/ Snow	1	E	15	34	39	2	9	5	28.00	1.00
Platteville (112)	12/14	Clear	0	E	6-13	28	42	0	2	1	9.25	1.50
Plymouth (80)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	1	SE	14-15	39	48	4	21	9	32.25	0.00
Poynette (92)	12/29	Cloudy	15	N-NW	10-20	23	24	16	27	11	62.75	1.50
Racine (72)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	S	9-21	42	44	4	19	11	51.00	5.25
Randolph (89)	12/19	Cloudy	3	SW	1-5	29	33	1	4	4	31.50	0.00
Retreat (109)	12/19	Cloudy	3	SW	0-5	29	32	0	4	4	25.00	0.00
Rhineland (19)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	1	SE	11-17	32	35	28	9	6	28.75	3.25
Richland Center (106)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	E	7-12	39	44	4	39	21	77.00	3.00
Riveredge (69)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	Trace	SE	11-15	35	43	32	58	24	165.00	<b>18.75</b>
Rosendale (59)	12/22	Clear-PCL	10	W	1-7	3	22	0	10	5	34.25	0.50
Sauk City (94)	12/22	Clear-PCL	13	S	0-8	0	27	2	32	15	97.00	4.50
Shawano (27)	12/15	Cloudy	0	E	10-15	35	42	20	11	5	24.50	0.50
Sheboygan (67)	12/22	Clear-PCL	3	W	2-10	11	25	9	25	10	41.00	1.50
Shiocton (56)	12/14	Partly Cloudy	1	NNW	0-1	22	38	2	16	7	41.25	0.50
Spencer (39)	12/16	Cloudy	2	NW	10	31	35	2	10	7	59.25	3.00
Spring Valley (31)	1/4	Clear	6	SW	5-8	15	32	3	16	4	19.25	0.00
Stevens Point (45)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	3	E-NE	5-15	33	38	4	39	8	53.00	5.75
Stockbridge (78)	12/16	Cloudy-Lt. Rain	0	?	?	39	43	3	10	5	21.00	2.00
Sturgeon Bay (62)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	2	SE	12-20	31	42	23	15	8	48.00	2.00
Summit Lake (23)	12/28	Cloudy-PCL	7	NE	4-14	13	27	0	7	4	27.75	2.75
Superior (1)	12/29	Partly Cloudy	?	Calm	0	14	20	0	16	5	45.00	2.00
Three Lakes (18)	12/16	Cloudy-Rain/Snow	?	W	0-5	33	37	1	5	3	21.00	0.00
Trempealeau (43)	12/16	Cloudy-PCL	1	W	5-10	29	35	5	17	8	47.00	0.00
Two Rivers (65)	12/28	Cloudy-Snow	2	NNE	0-10	24	27	0	14	8	33.75	0.00
Washington Island (60)	12/14	Partly Cloudy	0	N	5-10	29	33	14	9	4	12.00	2.00
Waterloo (97)	12/14	Clear	1	E	0-5	17	48	9	17	10	71.25	3.50
Waukesha (84)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	0	SE	5-15	38	45	3	26	13	56.25	3.50
Waupaca (54)	12/19	Cloudy	0	N	6-7	21	33	3	7	5	33.50	3.00
Wausau (25)	12/15	Cloudy-Lt.Rain	1	E	10-15	32	37	2	11	8	54.50	0.00
Wautoma (52)	12/31	Cloudy-PCL	10	W	7-18	-1	22	18	9	6	37.75	3.00
Willard (40)	12/30	Clear	8	S	15	1	23	3	11	5	43.25	1.00
Wisconsin Rapids (48)	12/15	Cloudy-Rain	0	SE-E	6-9	36	39	9	11	7	26.25	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>651</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>4,729.50</b>	<b>250.00</b>

**Bold lettering** within a count indicates the highest totals for the state.



to the Mississippi River being open and, for one of few times in CBC history having quantities of ducks, many of the less common species set records. Following is a lengthy litany of record numbers. Gadwalls (2,709 over 22 counts) were second in both counts and individuals only to 2,815 over 26 counts in 2001. The 1,500 at La Crosse were second for a single circle only to 2,273 at Madison in 2001. American Wigeons (1,095 over 11 counts) broke the record high of 591 individuals in 1998. The 1,000 birds at La Crosse broke the single circle high of 193 set by Madison in 1998 and were nearly double the previous statewide high. Northern Shovelers (1,908 over 12 counts) were found in numbers more than double the previous high of 901 in 1998. The 1,550 from Madison were a single circle high, the old being 650 at Madison in 2011. As with other ducks, this single circle number was larger than any previous statewide total. There have been 11 times when more than 200 Shovelers were counted in a single circle. All 11 instances came from Madison. This phenomenon of winter Northern Shovelers in Madison began in 1994. Previous to 1994 there had never been 200 such ducks found during a count year statewide. Northern Pintails (785 over 13 counts) were record setting in both counts and individuals. The closest match was 213 over 12 counts in 2001. The 750 at La Crosse was well above the previous single circle high of 127 at La Crosse in 2001. Green-winged Teal (162 over 8 counts) were record high in individuals. The previous high was 97 in 2001. The 77 at Montello and the 30 at La Crosse both exceeded the previous single

circle high of 28 in 2001 at Horicon. Canvasbacks (6,428 over 16 counts) were second in individuals only to 6,662 in 1998 and second in counts only to 17 in 2001. The 6,662 in 1998 and the 6,428 in 2012 were both exceptionally high. The only number approaching them was 4,595 in 1954. This high number was made possible by the find of 5,527 Canvasbacks on the Mississippi River off Crawford County on the Retreat count. An additional 422 were found at La Crosse. The Retreat total broke the old single circle high held by Bridgeport of 4,032 in 1998. Redheads (394 over 23 counts) were record high in circles, surpassing the former high of 18 in 2001. Ring-necked Ducks (244 over 17 counts) were second only to 340 over 18 counts in 2001. The 157 at La Crosse were second for a single circle only to 220 in 1952 at Lake Geneva. For the first time since 2000 there were no Harlequin Ducks. Long-tailed Ducks (1,735 over 11 counts) were record high in circles, the old high being 10 in 2006.

**Partridge through Quail**—Compared to numbers from the snowless count of 2011, species in this grouping did well. The Wild Turkey (22,962 over 108 counts) was record high in both individuals and counts. The previous high for individuals was 18,825 in 2007. For the second consecutive year there was no Gray Partridge. Previously there had not been a miss since 1945 (when there were but 11 counts). Thanks to the Three Lakes Count there was a find of a single Spruce Grouse. Thanks to Gilman and Grantsburg there were finds of Sharp-tailed Grouse, which were absent in 2011. Thanks to Arpin there was a

Table 2. Number of each species in North-west Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Superior 1	Herb- ster 2	Bay- field 3	Ash- land 4	Gurney 5	Fi- field 6	Clam Lake 7	Cable 8	Hay- ward 9	Birch- wood 10	Grants- burg 11	Luck 12	New Richmond 13	Hudson 14	Region Totals
Canada Goose	121	0	0	70	0	126	2	30	22	11	111	336	1723	345	<b>2897</b>
American Black Duck	0	0	2	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	<b>56</b>
Mallard	0	1	25	149	1	0	0	1	0	13	0	4	62	251	<b>507</b>
Redhead	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Lesser Scaup	1	0	0	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Bufflehead	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Common Goldeneye	549	4	88	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	<b>754</b>
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	<b>11</b>
Common Merganser	7	0	0	40	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	333	<b>389</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	11	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>26</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	CW	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>72</b>	67	56	18	<b>225</b>
Ruffed Grouse	4	4	13	4	18	12	15	9	3	11	5	1	0	0	<b>99</b>
Wild Turkey	0	13	31	85	94	198	33	31	28	110	31	78	79	148	<b>959</b>
Bald Eagle	10	20	24	30	18	2	3	2	2	8	10	16	9	12	<b>166</b>
Northern Harrier	1	0	0	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	CW	2	0	<b>6</b>
Cooper's Hawk	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	<b>6</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	6	6	18	<b>39</b>
Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	<b>11</b>
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Ring-billed Gull	1	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>17</b>
Herring Gull	2243	141	162	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2598</b>
Rock Pigeon	1145	29	11	314	1	188	0	0	0	41	153	169	277	376	<b>2704</b>
Mourning Dove	26	41	69	88	20	122	1	1	26	5	65	66	46	2	<b>578</b>
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
Great Horned Owl	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	CW	3	<b>12</b>
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	0	<b>8</b>
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	<b>6</b>
Red-bel. Woodpecker	0	2	4	1	0	2	0	1	4	8	4	26	6	10	<b>68</b>
Downy Woodpecker	3	34	32	13	14	25	9	6	13	11	24	46	10	15	<b>255</b>
Hairy Woodpecker	1	13	12	8	8	16	7	8	6	8	10	19	3	6	<b>125</b>
Northern Flicker	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	3	9	13	5	1	5	2	4	2	9	1	8	4	2	<b>68</b>
American Kestrel	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	<b>8</b>
Northern Shrike	5	3	7	6	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	<b>31</b>
Blue Jay	6	159	113	40	35	25	14	35	16	62	85	100	45	31	<b>766</b>
American Crow	69	165	248	217	86	227	50	16	96	49	196	253	357	626	<b>2655</b>
Common Raven	16	49	33	12	71	19	57	5	8	9	6	4	0	0	<b>289</b>
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Black-cap. Chickadee	126	312	354	238	351	606	339	43	76	71	195	250	107	99	<b>3167</b>
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	<b>3</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	24	38	17	9	47	33	10	15	4	10	6	1	1	<b>221</b>
White-breast. Nuthatch	1	12	22	17	22	28	7	7	23	25	39	72	18	23	<b>316</b>
Brown Creeper	0	0	2	0	0	5	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	<b>13</b>
Golden-crown. Kinglet	0	3	0	0	0	3	<b>29</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>35</b>
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
American Robin	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	307	118	<b>440</b>
European Starling	44	80	134	486	116	34	0	0	70	20	66	136	219	107	<b>1512</b>
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	59	1	<b>70</b>
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	<b>50</b>
Snow Bunting	47	0	0	70	0	10	25	0	0	180	25	219	15	0	<b>591</b>
American Tree Sparrow	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	112	427	131	<b>828</b>
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Dark-eyed Junco	6	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	49	142	301	74	<b>583</b>
Northern Cardinal	8	3	6	11	1	4	0	2	8	0	16	41	34	21	<b>155</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Pine Grosbeak	20	52	66	0	46	76	64	16	21	6	6	41	0	0	<b>414</b>
Purple Finch	CW	0	0	0	0	24	0	7	3	0	0	0	5	0	<b>39</b>
House Finch	32	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	2	0	16	1	9	1	<b>78</b>
Red Crossbill	0	0	30	0	0	28	13	0	0	0	28	11	0	0	<b>110</b>
White-winged Crossbill	36	24	8	39	0	12	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>261</b>
Common Redpoll	200	25	171	253	64	238	145	14	56	113	561	146	124	120	<b>2230</b>
Hoary Redpoll	5	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	<b>15</b>
Pine Siskin	0	0	13	0	2	45	0	0	34	14	0	20	25	18	<b>171</b>
American Goldfinch	1	50	69	60	69	134	4	10	52	70	73	43	105	25	<b>765</b>
House Sparrow	26	23	18	30	25	0	0	0	13	9	260	257	32	132	<b>825</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>44</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 3. Number of each species in North-east Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Manit- owish Waters 15	Minoc- qua 16	Phelps 17	Three Lakes 18	Rhine- lander 19	Flor- ence 20	Arm- strong Creek 21	Lake- wood 22	Summit Lake 23	Antigo 24	Wausau 25	Caroline 26	Shawano 27	Pestigo 28	Pen- saucee 29	Region Totals
Canada Goose	0	22	0	0	57	0	0	10	0	0	4	7	67	396	1177	1740
American Black Duck	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	5	5	4	27
Mallard	22	17	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	126	73	463	17	291	1030
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	66	67
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	308	308
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	23
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	238	244
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	36
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	4	7	17
Ruffed Grouse	15	7	3	5	15	15	7	6	16	2	1	1	1	2	2	98
Wild Turkey	32	45	20	16	138	204	28	114	19	221	182	128	416	294	72	1929
Bald Eagle	9	8	5	1	16	15	5	7	3	2	2	3	27	19	8	130
Northern Harrier	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	CW	1	1	4
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	7
Red-tailed Hawk	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	7	5	10	25	5	61
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	0	0	0	3	6	1	0	4	1	7	5	23	1	53
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
Herring Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	37	39
Rock Pigeon	0	0	16	46	45	223	50	0	83	62	97	130	307	985	290	2334
Mourning Dove	23	53	11	14	224	224	56	60	16	141	71	102	341	965	116	2417
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Great Horned Owl	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	3	10
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	9
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	5	0	1	5	4	2	11	1	1	9	2	21	23	4	92
Downy Woodpecker	27	12	11	7	38	49	49	28	8	10	9	8	47	65	8	376
Hairy Woodpecker	25	9	5	4	29	37	23	13	6	6	7	4	25	26	3	222
Northern Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	4
Pileated Woodpecker	16	14	2	6	15	6	2	1	0	3	2	1	3	9	5	85
American Kestrel	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	4	5	1	17
Northern Shrike	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	3	3	3	2	3	1	24
Blue Jay	66	63	61	27	72	161	64	50	67	29	47	37	112	174	32	1062
American Crow	71	114	96	75	96	175	81	112	102	207	234	124	347	408	53	2295
Common Raven	10	24	22	8	21	79	51	41	4	7	1	2	7	16	3	296
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	14	6	25
Black-capped Chickadee	263	233	231	151	548	911	449	430	293	89	182	85	201	407	54	4527
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Red-breasted Nuthatch	53	33	42	29	35	151	61	49	24	5	13	7	17	27	6	552
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	30	9	8	47	68	45	41	15	8	17	7	31	39	9	403
Brown Creeper	2	1	0	2	5	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	7	0	2	26
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	3	4	1	6	1	6	0	0	0	10	0	0	31
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Robin	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	5	1	1	16
European Starling	15	0	0	44	115	99	65	7	400	169	85	286	443	2282	289	4299
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	3	14
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	14	0	0	0	44
Snow Bunting	0	0	0	37	12	0	100	10	20	1355	100	41	125	109	53	1962
American Tree Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	7	2	13	6	15	23	104	75	111	187	545
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dark-eyed Junco	1	8	0	0	39	1	1	9	0	14	42	115	194	297	45	766
Northern Cardinal	0	0	0	1	33	9	2	5	3	1	77	15	62	81	37	326
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Grosbeak	54	26	40	37	26	110	32	53	40	21	28	3	26	23	10	529
Purple Finch	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	59	3	6	94
House Finch	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	21	14	54	8	23	131
Red Crossbill	4	0	6	0	5	68	10	6	22	0	0	0	2	0	CW	123
White-winged Crossbill	73	9	133	101	3	336	25	72	67	31	0	5	6	0	0	861
Common Redpoll	216	137	99	81	147	360	122	373	87	801	144	24	5	402	149	3147
Hoary Redpoll	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Pine Siskin	5	22	0	24	111	2	0	211	23	155	164	31	478	279	68	1573
American Goldfinch	47	21	19	25	125	73	44	35	12	7	95	34	277	395	91	1300
House Sparrow	0	0	3	0	36	2	53	8	20	0	53	71	164	737	87	1234
Total Species	33	27	20	28	54	37	34	37	30	32	39	51	54	49	62	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 4. Number of each species in West-central Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Ells- worth 30	Spring Valley 31	Nelson 32	Durand 33	Chip- pewa Falls 34	Hol- combe 35	Gilman 36	Med- ford 37	Owen 38	Spencer 39	Will- ard 40	Black River Falls 41	Meadow Valley 42	Trem- peleau 43	La Crosse 44	Region Totals
Canada Goose	1010	58	0	120	1792	191	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2319	2783	8276
American Black Duck	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	20
Mallard	108	21	76	0	124	0	0	211	0	0	0	2	0	591	5708	6841
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	24
Common Goldeneye	0	0	321	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	247	668
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	48	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	71
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	17	3	39	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	69
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	0	5	21	7	5	2	7	0	2	0	0	49
Wild Turkey	263	158	249	345	100	202	143	447	99	286	376	0	1	65	72	2806
Bald Eagle	19	14	136	185	15	22	16	12	13	5	25	4	12	106	71	655
Northern Harrier	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	16
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	5	2	0	0	CW	1	13
Red-tailed Hawk	26	25	75	34	8	4	9	11	30	14	34	2	3	24	44	343
Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	5	9	2	0	7	14	4	4	26	1	0	0	0	73
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-billed Gull	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	141	143
Herring Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	58	59
Rock Pigeon	192	311	637	773	297	673	414	457	1281	759	1267	6	0	271	992	8330
Mourning Dove	55	11	169	231	316	88	107	274	644	482	536	16	50	135	367	3481
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Great Horned Owl	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	3	10
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	14
Belted Kingfisher	0	1	1	0	CW	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	5	13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	18	44	44	27	10	16	20	34	22	35	4	4	26	63	377
Downy Woodpecker	20	40	85	67	69	42	56	34	96	64	75	13	18	51	84	814
Hairy Woodpecker	2	8	19	15	24	12	9	24	35	20	29	6	11	16	24	254
Northern Flicker	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	16
Pileated Woodpecker	2	3	12	9	2	3	5	5	8	4	5	3	16	14	13	104
American Kestrel	4	2	3	3	0	1	2	2	7	27	4	1	0	2	11	69
Northern Shrike	1	2	3	12	4	6	9	12	14	12	6	1	11	2	1	96
Blue Jay	45	80	203	264	225	90	187	104	213	162	367	14	100	115	161	2330
American Crow	399	378	1194	1088	803	402	301	642	438	501	996	157	232	319	335	8185
Common Raven	0	0	1	1	2	5	55	16	3	8	15	0	40	0	0	146
Horned Lark	71	38	36	13	4	2	0	15	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	186
Black-capped Chickadee	83	101	528	329	542	490	783	827	828	568	564	52	106	152	552	6505
Tufted Titmouse	0	2	11	21	66	25	1	CW	0	0	11	4	0	16	28	185
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	1	2	2	21	6	34	15	13	20	30	8	9	5	2	168
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	33	104	64	79	76	73	70	104	84	89	26	18	77	139	1052
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	8	22	37
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	4	2	19	6	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	39
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
American Robin	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	8	278	296
European Starling	445	215	1132	441	420	493	262	295	3022	888	1016	13	4	435	1690	10,771
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	CW	1	0	0	0	18	50	74
Lapland Longspur	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Snow Bunting	21	0	7	122	76	214	63	710	1051	0	53	0	491	0	0	2808
American Tree Sparrow	86	45	884	476	150	248	61	25	73	61	90	45	183	193	473	3093
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Dark-eyed Junco	399	274	1718	1716	353	70	16	21	101	25	212	106	123	195	490	5819
Northern Cardinal	46	70	166	222	117	46	7	8	65	44	120	20	0	87	175	1193
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	201	208
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	21	2	0	0	0	0	24
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	26	4	36	211	7	24	10	0	0	0	0	318
Purple Finch	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	8	32	0	0	1	0	13	0	66
House Finch	126	22	34	126	28	1	1	9	8	26	68	0	0	16	61	526
Red Crossbill	0	0	0	0	17	0	72	77	0	4	30	0	1	0	0	201
White-winged Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	213	15	2	213	0	0	3	0	0	446
Common Redpoll	0	48	127	1235	24	892	859	467	902	705	782	0	146	CW	1	6188
Hoary Redpoll	0	1	0	0	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Pine Siskin	2	8	14	29	94	37	11	211	9	1	63	0	28	60	10	577
American Goldfinch	28	105	286	217	135	150	132	88	190	48	216	12	17	139	244	2007
House Sparrow	187	217	1180	1146	277	331	434	240	1115	1321	1484	0	0	174	2068	10,174
Total Species	33	34	47	41	46	35	42	45	43	43	39	27	30	53	65	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 5. Number of each species in Central Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Stevens Point 45	Amherst 46	Arpin 47	Wisc. Rapids 48	Friend- ship 49	Mont- ello 50	Green Lake 51	Wau- toma 52	Fremont 53	Wau- paca 54	Norske 55	Shi- octon 56	Apple- ton 57	Osh- kosh 58	Rosen- dale 59	Region Totals
Canada Goose	954	915	0	456	164	10,365	934	520	498	2484	3	70	8532	1327	6	<b>27,228</b>
American Black Duck	10	0	0	2	0	10	0	0	18	2	0	4	66	6	0	<b>118</b>
Mallard	747	76	0	240	26	958	331	119	531	90	2	9	3332	845	0	<b>7306</b>
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	<b>20</b>
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	15	3	0	<b>21</b>
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	235	10	0	<b>257</b>
Common Goldeneye	69	0	0	168	0	2	954	0	0	0	0	0	311	16	0	<b>1520</b>
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	2	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	0	5	2	0	<b>21</b>
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0	2	1	710	0	10	0	0	0	<b>456</b>	10	0	<b>1189</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	2	0	<b>5</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant	CW	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	5	0	0	2	0	1	12	<b>29</b>
Ruffed Grouse	CW	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Wild Turkey	421	181	328	136	293	148	603	259	222	299	103	280	288	180	87	<b>3828</b>
Bald Eagle	6	3	1	9	8	20	23	8	36	14	8	6	57	9	1	<b>209</b>
Northern Harrier	CW	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	16	0	0	2	0	4	2	<b>28</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	<b>9</b>
Cooper's Hawk	0	1	0	2	0	6	1	CW	1	1	0	3	13	10	2	<b>40</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	8	1	17	4	6	34	23	8	87	25	1	49	<b>87</b>	24	36	<b>410</b>
Rough-legged Hawk	3	0	14	CW	1	10	10	2	18	2	1	4	4	2	0	<b>71</b>
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	1200	0	0	2	0	0	7	4	0	<b>1213</b>
Ring-billed Gull	99	6	0	15	0	2744	104	0	2299	0	0	0	619	1282	0	<b>7168</b>
Herring Gull	2	8	0	40	0	12	140	0	557	1	1	0	<b>5837</b>	435	0	<b>7033</b>
Rock Pigeon	398	187	733	99	74	400	382	143	1012	1003	391	801	744	368	651	<b>7386</b>
Mourning Dove	280	21	445	49	86	398	374	368	895	104	80	469	628	495	545	<b>5237</b>
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	<b>7</b>
Great Horned Owl	1	0	0	CW	2	5	6	3	1	2	1	3	9	4	1	<b>38</b>
Barred Owl	6	0	1	0	0	5	2	1	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	<b>22</b>
Belted Kingfisher	CW	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	1	CW	1	2	0	<b>14</b>
Red-bel. Woodpecker	18	4	2	6	15	33	39	17	16	18	5	27	45	9	27	<b>281</b>
Downy Woodpecker	41	15	9	16	32	90	52	47	53	32	10	41	100	29	44	<b>611</b>
Hairy Woodpecker	18	7	2	15	12	40	21	20	23	19	9	23	38	13	9	<b>269</b>
Northern Flicker	CW	0	0	0	0	8	1	2	1	6	0	2	2	0	0	<b>22</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	3	3	3	5	7	13	4	6	3	6	6	4	2	0	0	<b>65</b>
American Kestrel	CW	0	8	2	1	3	5	1	<b>31</b>	10	3	22	22	10	7	<b>125</b>
Northern Shrike	0	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	2	5	4	CW	1	<b>23</b>
Blue Jay	89	57	84	57	306	250	161	178	120	95	79	100	98	87	100	<b>1861</b>
American Crow	406	311	310	169	111	502	447	631	375	507	503	372	505	342	292	<b>5783</b>
Common Raven	3	1	0	2	5	18	0	1	2	6	7	1	0	0	0	<b>46</b>
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	0	0	223	4	25	1	2	0	37	8	120	<b>420</b>
Black-cap. Chickadee	619	124	95	114	235	389	315	272	263	173	153	223	433	140	220	<b>3768</b>
Tufted Titmouse	2	0	0	2	9	20	10	7	0	1	2	0	2	2	0	<b>57</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	28	8	CW	11	11	28	9	14	11	16	7	5	24	10	1	<b>183</b>
White-br. Nuthatch	45	27	19	22	44	90	103	47	72	56	33	53	110	41	49	<b>811</b>
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	5	2	1	7	10	3	1	<b>35</b>
Golden-crown. Kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	3	CW	0	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	<b>10</b>
Eastern Bluebird	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
American Robin	2	0	0	0	0	3	25	4	0	CW	CW	1	11	6	1	<b>53</b>
European Starling	218	591	451	CW	5	472	242	12	1711	216	251	1261	2505	<b>4445</b>	1249	<b>13,629</b>
Cedar Waxwing	12	0	0	0	0	50	6	25	2	39	CW	0	103	55	0	<b>292</b>
Lapand Longspur	CW	0	CW	0	0	255	9	0	0	200	CW	0	10	0	0	<b>474</b>
Snow Bunting	130	0	270	25	1	6	1286	CW	600	0	15	131	180	8	295	<b>2947</b>
Am. Tree Sparrow	116	40	131	11	51	166	747	305	258	119	41	197	65	369	287	<b>2903</b>
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	2	2	<b>12</b>
Swamp Sparrow	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Dark-eyed Junco	294	488	82	55	455	685	1118	970	501	214	160	315	320	108	588	<b>6353</b>
Northern Cardinal	87	41	28	20	23	84	219	73	69	40	13	105	156	90	164	<b>1212</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	<b>6</b>
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Pine Grosbeak	33	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	CW	27	0	0	0	<b>88</b>
Purple Finch	6	0	1	0	0	16	25	12	0	0	CW	0	5	1	0	<b>66</b>
House Finch	54	0	0	CW	14	80	132	84	79	14	30	48	222	107	118	<b>982</b>
Red Crossbill	6	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	<b>28</b>
White-winged Crossbill	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	8	8	49	0	38	25	0	<b>137</b>
Common Redpoll	85	0	88	91	201	8	623	225	230	92	14	238	8	16	65	<b>1984</b>
Hoary Redpoll	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Pine Siskin	355	81	40	75	23	227	35	147	157	386	100	47	284	134	85	<b>2176</b>
American Goldfinch	195	91	76	72	63	243	165	335	151	160	90	184	244	139	118	<b>2326</b>
House Sparrow	322	74	141	47	66	124	438	88	881	207	75	614	840	246	1972	<b>6135</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>38</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 6. Number of each species in Lake Michigan Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Washington Island 60	Ephraim 61	Sturgeon Bay 62	Brussels 63	Kewau- nee 64	Two Rivers 65	Manit- owoc 66	Sheboy- gan 67	Cedar Grove 68	River- edge 69	Mil- waukee 70	Hales Corners 71	Racine 72	Kenosha 73	Region Totals
Canada Goose	79	1012	2082	395	4699	2913	877	3852	2918	2268	3593	2042	2664	587	<b>29,981</b>
American Black Duck	0	9	12	12	23	16	2	7	1	0	9	8	22	4	<b>125</b>
Mallard	172	525	727	111	188	2050	109	1806	75	272	1094	437	1895	156	<b>9617</b>
Redhead	93	19	19	10	3	32	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	<b>186</b>
Lesser Scaup	37	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	126	0	0	0	<b>166</b>
Bufflehead	141	71	126	140	10	11	10	25	70	20	205	73	60	50	<b>1012</b>
Common Goldeneye	110	70	27	3008	361	62	57	54	116	7	206	112	29	37	<b>4256</b>
Hooded Merganser	5	0	30	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	3	4	0	<b>48</b>
Common Merganser	24	129	263	220	96	27	0	27	5	7	3	7	0	3	<b>811</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	19	3	104	308	86	<b>607</b>	186	92	350	2	596	187	154	74	<b>2768</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	0	1	5	11	8	3	6	7	5	0	0	0	2	<b>67</b>
Ruffed Grouse	0	15	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>21</b>
Wild Turkey	4	158	261	261	437	278	19	168	93	806	120	0	1	0	<b>2606</b>
Bald Eagle	17	5	10	11	5	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	<b>55</b>
Northern Harrier	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	<b>16</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	CW	0	5	1	1	5	4	5	3	5	2	1	<b>35</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	8	11	11	5	8	13	32	35	13	9	15	11	<b>173</b>
Rough-legged Hawk	1	CW	15	8	10	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	<b>45</b>
American Coot	90	4	225	25	1	0	1	0	2	5	288	8	0	35	<b>684</b>
Ring-billed Gull	8	50	77	39	1	0	157	2544	1438	722	637	659	278	487	<b>7097</b>
Herring Gull	127	87	160	88	871	263	954	670	308	10	3087	114	260	216	<b>7215</b>
Rock Pigeon	0	10	160	301	492	233	403	389	<b>1578</b>	695	450	181	165	67	<b>5124</b>
Mourning Dove	92	47	137	255	277	348	223	298	284	325	199	54	278	15	<b>2832</b>
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	20	CW	5	9	3	<b>43</b>
Great Horned Owl	0	0	CW	11	0	2	1	5	3	<b>22</b>	1	5	3	1	<b>54</b>
Barred Owl	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	<b>8</b>	CW	0	1	0	<b>13</b>
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	CW	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	6	2	1	1	<b>17</b>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	8	26	9	12	14	3	16	33	50	17	9	11	9	<b>222</b>
Downy Woodpecker	21	30	43	23	32	17	19	32	65	148	53	34	24	14	<b>555</b>
Hairy Woodpecker	5	21	31	12	10	16	5	13	17	67	15	9	7	3	<b>231</b>
Northern Flicker	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	<b>13</b>	1	1	0	0	<b>19</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	2	12	10	3	1	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	<b>35</b>
American Kestrel	0	0	3	8	14	5	13	13	7	25	4	2	5	2	<b>101</b>
Northern Shrike	2	1	3	1	6	5	0	1	4	5	3	1	1	0	<b>33</b>
Blue Jay	47	43	79	39	54	27	24	29	50	101	5	8	17	4	<b>527</b>
American Crow	181	467	488	263	513	253	179	50	407	901	92	50	83	59	<b>3986</b>
Common Raven	7	8	14	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>39</b>
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	66	51	1	96	54	12	0	0	0	12	<b>292</b>
Black-capped Chickadee	222	322	445	95	110	158	91	143	498	914	302	169	173	41	<b>3683</b>
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	32	26	50	13	4	12	4	13	24	23	6	9	11	3	<b>231</b>
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	17	39	17	21	37	25	23	58	197	45	22	23	11	<b>545</b>
Brown Creeper	CW	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	14	2	1	2	0	<b>26</b>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	<b>7</b>
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	CW	1	4	0	<b>6</b>
American Robin	CW	8	CW	0	1	1	0	2	2	7	<b>535</b>	7	4	0	<b>567</b>
European Starling	130	208	973	889	753	2559	1582	103	2800	2877	2031	51	1251	42	<b>16,249</b>
Cedar Waxwing	0	37	55	0	0	10	176	64	90	151	184	82	250	0	<b>1099</b>
Lapland Longspur	0	40	0	0	0	107	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	4	<b>189</b>
Snow Bunting	CW	0	0	30	23	240	2	76	781	0	0	0	16	54	<b>1222</b>
American Tree Sparrow	CW	7	14	46	95	92	37	30	248	237	34	60	286	279	<b>1465</b>
Song Sparrow	0	0	CW	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	CW	2	0	<b>7</b>
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	1	0	<b>10</b>
Dark-eyed Junco	6	49	172	26	176	155	64	238	328	924	333	86	172	115	<b>2844</b>
Northern Cardinal	13	35	61	20	41	86	24	116	92	279	123	109	82	21	<b>1102</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	<b>5</b>
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Pine Grosbeak	44	90	88	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>257</b>
Purple Finch	1	3	27	6	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	1	0	2	<b>63</b>
House Finch	9	2	22	26	45	52	49	93	174	260	78	54	94	29	<b>987</b>
Red Crossbill	8	CW	15	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	<b>33</b>
White-winged Crossbill	130	70	1	1	10	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>244</b>
Common Redpoll	8	76	89	88	13	9	34	3	2	9	0	23	28	1	<b>383</b>
Hoary Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Pine Siskin	11	301	660	2	444	3	5	28	4	116	3	1	4	2	<b>1584</b>
American Goldfinch	75	101	471	106	135	139	74	212	183	659	153	68	116	26	<b>2518</b>
House Sparrow	14	CW	80	35	211	650	329	726	1789	989	583	184	283	83	<b>5956</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 7. Number of each species in Inland East Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	New Franken 74	Green Bay 75	Menchal- ville 76	Collins 77	Stock- bridge 78	Fond du Lac 79	Ply- mouth 80	Dun- dee 81	Hart- ford 82	Ocono- mowoc 83	Wauk- esha 84	Pal- myra 85	Bur- lington 86	Lake Geneva 87	Region Totals
Canada Goose	1504	7441	2	150	220	3351	593	120	411	3841	680	2372	1497	7065	29,247
American Black Duck	92	306	0	0	2	12	0	0	1	10	6	2	9	4	444
Mallard	514	5363	3	15	1	189	109	0	90	515	201	316	836	214	8366
Redhead	21	3	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4	69
Lesser Scaup	33	3	0	0	10	1204	0	0	0	1	4	5	131	229	1620
Bufflehead	27	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	8	10	0	74	400	553
Common Goldeneye	5670	31	0	0	347	17	0	0	30	22	1	4	36	483	6641
Hooded Merganser	6	8	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	37
Common Merganser	74	200	0	0	37	12	0	0	15	16	0	0	0	444	798
Red-breasted Merganser	260	457	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	736
Ring-necked Pheasant	26	0	6	1	3	5	14	40	11	3	5	1	35	6	156
Ruffed Grouse	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wild Turkey	303	221	197	21	57	79	185	545	446	306	274	202	35	102	2973
Bald Eagle	19	15	0	3	9	1	1	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	60
Northern Harrier	CW	1	1	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	7	0	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	3	0	1	12
Cooper's Hawk	2	10	0	0	1	4	1	4	7	7	3	1	0	4	44
Red-tailed Hawk	14	43	18	2	19	10	17	26	67	38	20	30	45	28	377
Rough-legged Hawk	CW	2	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	1	2	5	0	1	18
American Coot	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1252	1290	0	16	3773	6333
Ring-billed Gull	811	2216	0	0	170	6256	0	0	10	412	39	2	837	325	11,078
Herring Gull	257	3110	290	84	1260	1374	51	0	1	8	2	0	49	748	7234
Rock Pigeon	313	848	598	126	475	404	292	590	1141	741	204	195	278	314	6519
Mourning Dove	335	627	349	25	188	375	128	269	735	453	523	290	163	184	4644
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	8	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	9	9	3	2	40
Great Horned Owl	5	9	0	0	2	11	0	2	3	4	7	7	7	4	61
Barred Owl	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	0	CW	11
Belted Kingfisher	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	3	5	4	1	22
Red-bellied Woodpecker	32	28	17	3	12	22	13	19	46	32	8	37	18	30	317
Downy Woodpecker	99	58	31	11	32	33	25	42	91	64	22	51	23	59	641
Hairy Woodpecker	43	24	9	1	8	16	9	15	35	24	16	29	10	17	256
Northern Flicker	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	2	2	4	CW	3	23
Pileated Woodpecker	8	3	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	CW	20
American Kestrel	13	14	16	14	30	19	12	10	5	8	3	3	1	2	150
Northern Shrike	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	4	0	CW	2	2	0	15
Blue Jay	97	75	57	14	26	79	27	100	96	59	17	40	17	40	744
American Crow	361	235	309	48	93	286	318	694	1169	403	490	614	119	248	5387
Common Raven	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Horned Lark	0	4	12	0	0	4	5	176	809	61	0	126	0	61	1258
Black-capped Chickadee	258	192	116	31	61	151	91	192	472	294	280	305	128	186	2757
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	3	10	9	17	1	6	52
Red-breasted Nuthatch	37	13	2	0	2	4	1	4	8	4	9	8	0	3	95
White-breasted Nuthatch	91	118	17	11	23	55	17	34	120	68	35	72	33	53	747
Brown Creeper	1	2	0	0	9	2	0	0	1	3	CW	5	4	CW	27
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	15
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	8
American Robin	2	20	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	32	1	7	CW	6	71
European Starling	1861	850	2734	208	575	1964	321	1214	1037	525	1956	467	816	243	14,771
Cedar Waxwing	78	140	0	0	24	0	52	0	118	75	43	1	72	CW	603
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	18	6	18	0	0	0	0	43
Snow Bunting	319	4	257	0	673	35	0	60	929	53	CW	CW	2	379	2711
American Tree Sparrow	34	55	114	105	207	99	80	105	350	277	139	655	133	533	2886
Song Sparrow	5	1	4	1	0	0	0	1	7	11	2	7	13	0	52
Swamp Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3	1	15
Dark-eyed Junco	144	323	282	27	39	198	205	335	989	1049	178	778	82	686	5315
Northern Cardinal	126	95	103	8	38	90	49	116	311	264	123	244	83	153	1803
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	1	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	17	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	5	1	10	3	9	50
Pine Grosbeak	18	18	10	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
Purple Finch	19	3	11	0	0	2	0	2	7	0	0	16	4	4	68
House Finch	93	198	59	22	11	59	41	106	437	245	60	75	79	149	1634
Red Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	12	0	CW	14
White-winged Crossbill	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	37	1	0	0	CW	0	0	48
Common Redpoll	50	53	124	0	47	1	6	234	62	4	CW	1	0	27	609
Hoary Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	48	16	16	0	11	66	6	21	147	147	16	92	38	92	716
American Goldfinch	323	321	119	16	141	94	209	322	347	228	169	149	55	84	2577
House Sparrow	349	839	1203	113	487	269	213	816	1601	1304	139	433	239	565	8570
Total Species	69	63	37	29	49	62	38	39	50	60	57	68	61	61	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 8. Number of each species in South-central Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Pardee- ville 88	Ran- dolph 89	Horicon 90	Hustis- ford 91	Poy- nette 92	Bara- boo 93	Sauk City 94	Mt. Horeb 95	Mad- ison 96	Water- loo 97	Ft. Atkinson 98	Cooks- ville 99	Beloit 100	Brod- head 101	Monroe 102	Region Totals
Canada Goose	2558	3117	<b>23,335</b>	6993	1544	553	995	36	13,897	2036	508	872	821	252	206	<b>57,723</b>
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0	4	2	13	0	6	1	0	2	3	0	0	<b>31</b>
Mallard	100	10	1190	5	103	302	588	13	3132	533	24	509	1111	5	60	<b>7685</b>
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	0	0	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Lesser Scaup	0	14	0	0	2	1	5	0	124	6	0	0	0	0	0	<b>152</b>
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>758</b>	79	0	0	0	0	0	<b>837</b>
Common Goldeneye	1	0	0	0	0	84	49	0	524	302	0	3	51	0	0	<b>1014</b>
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	CW	1	0	<b>129</b>	7	0	0	0	0	0	<b>137</b>
Common Merganser	0	0	0	28	4	35	5	0	32	3	0	3	0	0	0	<b>110</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	0	3	28	28	3	14	13	4	27	2	2	5	2	0	<b>134</b>
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Wild Turkey	144	53	182	191	754	339	544	759	481	37	125	201	334	<b>1971</b>	31	<b>6146</b>
Bald Eagle	8	4	10	6	19	37	140	7	8	7	CW	3	2	1	4	<b>256</b>
Northern Harrier	1	1	<b>18</b>	4	0	0	1	2	3	11	1	0	6	3	6	<b>57</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	1	1	1	2	<b>5</b>	1	3	<b>5</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>20</b>
Cooper's Hawk	2	5	3	6	12	5	8	7	<b>17</b>	8	1	3	1	2	0	<b>80</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	31	31	33	54	76	61	82	45	69	63	22	40	20	22	12	<b>661</b>
Rough-legged Hawk	4	0	18	9	14	11	21	12	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	<b>95</b>
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>10,904</b>	3223	20	0	1	0	0	<b>14,148</b>
Ring-billed Gull	254	4	333	50	0	4	722	0	1352	1136	86	0	53	12	0	<b>4006</b>
Herring Gull	4	0	7	1	0	3	188	0	304	23	59	3	8	0	0	<b>600</b>
Rock Pigeon	337	562	580	754	267	443	1084	487	667	666	242	223	371	167	176	<b>7026</b>
Mourning Dove	407	325	263	747	833	723	851	336	537	246	56	179	150	65	59	<b>5777</b>
Eastern Screech-owl	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	<b>23</b>	1	1	4	1	3	0	<b>38</b>
Great Horned Owl	5	1	0	2	3	5	2	1	17	4	CW	8	2	4	0	<b>54</b>
Barred Owl	2	0	1	0	1	4	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	2	1	<b>18</b>
Belted Kingfisher	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	<b>11</b>	3	3	2	3	2	1	<b>35</b>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	42	15	16	34	59	78	96	74	<b>103</b>	45	30	25	20	23	13	<b>673</b>
Downy Woodpecker	68	31	27	67	109	139	124	121	<b>179</b>	85	71	57	34	35	7	<b>1154</b>
Hairy Woodpecker	25	10	3	15	42	37	30	50	<b>72</b>	33	19	10	3	16	1	<b>366</b>
Northern Flicker	3	1	0	1	4	10	6	3	8	10	0	2	1	2	0	<b>51</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	7	0	0	0	9	23	16	11	CW	1	0	0	0	4	0	<b>71</b>
American Kestrel	3	13	19	19	5	13	18	6	3	14	4	8	10	19	14	<b>168</b>
Northern Shrike	1	4	0	3	7	3	5	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	<b>30</b>
Blue Jay	179	57	64	98	264	276	311	208	142	138	26	70	20	40	41	<b>1934</b>
American Crow	701	158	182	313	1024	925	1113	694	636	489	161	222	114	227	247	<b>7206</b>
Common Raven	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Horned Lark	4	277	17	670	166	44	169	346	1	37	0	95	1	58	43	<b>1928</b>
Black-capped Chickadee	308	98	130	181	394	644	557	540	<b>1136</b>	363	212	198	135	128	40	<b>5064</b>
Tufted Titmouse	36	6	0	1	81	71	<b>88</b>	77	34	22	5	10	16	14	4	<b>465</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	0	2	1	14	27	6	3	21	7	15	3	1	6	4	<b>124</b>
White-breasted Nuthatch	106	35	44	44	101	<b>207</b>	116	151	188	122	57	38	26	43	25	<b>1303</b>
Brown Creeper	0	0	2	0	1	9	5	0	<b>65</b>	6	3	0	2	1	0	<b>94</b>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>12</b>
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	9	7	<b>60</b>	2	11	3	CW	3	5	21	0	<b>121</b>
American Robin	0	1	10	0	5	3	17	1	115	13	6	2	5	2	2	<b>182</b>
European Starling	1167	1004	1503	1776	695	1256	1860	742	4062	1682	756	1299	973	2744	524	<b>22,043</b>
Cedar Waxwing	20	35	0	4	29	15	8	115	<b>365</b>	83	0	8	0	174	1	<b>857</b>
Lapland Longspur	0	63	0	2	77	0	0	8	0	<b>416</b>	0	0	0	0	19	<b>585</b>
Snow Bunting	0	910	78	253	208	0	17	139	0	271	0	208	0	0	0	<b>2084</b>
American Tree Sparrow	599	244	323	762	600	761	542	327	687	466	127	114	251	451	89	<b>6343</b>
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	7	12	5	8	4	<b>38</b>	2	6	24	6	6	3	<b>121</b>
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	<b>16</b>	6	9	1	0	4	7	<b>50</b>
Dark-eyed Junco	780	394	209	1297	<b>2469</b>	1836	1978	1318	1027	519	151	482	436	430	155	<b>13,481</b>
Northern Cardinal	180	91	60	233	399	366	471	335	<b>507</b>	178	113	163	142	109	38	<b>3385</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	1	19	1	0	1	CW	449	340	0	1	92	0	0	<b>904</b>
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	12	9	0	0	0	<b>600</b>	64	0	3	0	1	120	<b>809</b>
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Purple Finch	14	0	0	CW	<b>74</b>	7	26	10	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	<b>143</b>
House Finch	238	85	165	241	485	433	334	267	<b>558</b>	283	87	258	51	175	1	<b>3661</b>
Red Crossbill	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>11</b>
White-winged Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Common Redpoll	282	27	0	106	18	23	0	7	0	102	0	55	0	0	0	<b>620</b>
Hoary Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Pine Siskin	318	0	0	67	247	305	342	61	<b>700</b>	73	198	20	34	73	24	<b>2462</b>
American Goldfinch	637	35	42	268	562	<b>663</b>	307	441	644	165	248	117	45	77	55	<b>4306</b>
House Sparrow	494	1035	988	<b>3285</b>	939	402	1568	435	1809	1443	253	881	292	623	266	<b>14,713</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>38</b>	

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Table 9. Number of each species in South-west Region found on 23 or more counts.

Species	Blanchard- ville 103	Clyde 104	Fenni- more 105	Rich- land Center 106	Kick- apoo Valley 107	La Farge 108	Retreat 109	Bridge- port 110	Cass- ville 111	Platte- ville 112	Region Totals	Number of Counts	No. of Individuals	Percent Change
Canada Goose	658	1	0	84	1	0	280	529	19	50	1622	93	158,714	-11%
American Black Duck	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	50	824	+9%
Mallard	74	25	0	27	0	0	735	1413	2	255	2531	87	43,883	+26%
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	394	+32%
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	264	0	0	264	29	2,253	+345%
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	CW	12	32	2,768	+31%
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	291	0	0	2	293	49	15,454	+32%
Hooded Merganser	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	27	282	+76%
Common Merganser	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	CW	10	47	3,622	-62%
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	3,574	+14%
Ring-necked Pheasant	12	3	0	2	6	0	3	0	13	0	39	66	736	0%
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	44	275	-3%
Wild Turkey	38	334	139	611	349	155	59	14	14	2	1715	108	22,962	+68%
Bald Eagle	14	12	7	54	17	18	38	178	45	3	386	103	1,917	+22%
Northern Harrier	2	1	1	3	0	0	3	3	1	0	14	49	146	-15%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	3	1	0	15	52	89	-14%
Cooper's Hawk	3	0	0	2	2	2	4	4	3	1	21	71	246	-18%
Red-tailed Hawk	61	30	27	48	42	21	42	71	18	6	366	100	2,430	-14%
Rough-legged Hawk	2	12	2	10	0	1	6	6	9	CW	48	72	414	-28%
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	6	0	150	226	27	22,604	+477%
Ring-billed Gull	10	0	0	61	0	0	68	69	0	22	230	55	29,743	+373%
Herring Gull	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	8	0	0	12	58	24,790	+7%
Rock Pigeon	270	284	27	678	747	295	462	412	202	28	3405	104	42,828	+12%
Mourning Dove	95	162	3	158	160	70	92	156	59	15	970	112	25,936	+12%
Eastern Screech Owl	7	0	0	2	1	0	0	8	1	4	23	42	156	-19%
Great Horned Owl	11	2	0	6	5	1	2	3	2	0	32	69	271	-32%
Barred Owl	0	1	1	5	2	0	1	2	1	2	15	55	110	0%
Belted Kingfisher	5	5	1	1	4	1	11	4	0	1	33	58	144	+18%
Red-bellied Woodpecker	74	47	3	45	54	14	34	103	42	13	429	108	2,459	-5%
Downy Woodpecker	111	39	12	77	55	12	45	77	54	8	490	112	4,896	-11%
Hairy Woodpecker	60	18	5	25	17	6	12	28	10	3	184	112	1,907	-12%
Northern Flicker	5	1	0	2	1	1	2	7	3	0	22	51	158	-37%
Pileated Woodpecker	5	9	1	6	11	3	8	25	7	2	77	88	525	+17%
American Kestrel	14	4	12	32	15	3	6	25	8	9	128	89	766	+11%
Northern Shrike	0	2	0	1	4	0	2	1	1	CW	11	87	263	-4%
Blue Jay	137	117	49	126	176	64	135	142	68	47	1061	112	10,285	-12%
American Crow	386	372	234	500	523	283	385	478	163	27	3351	112	38,848	-4%
Common Raven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	821	-7%
Horned Lark	7	94	11	11	129	21	98	7	326	4	708	60	4,818	+28%
Black-capped Chickadee	337	113	44	315	262	44	228	338	115	15	1811	112	31,282	+4%
Tufted Titmouse	15	13	5	51	19	10	52	54	22	3	244	58	1,011	+34%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	0	4	2	4	0	5	0	0	20	103	1,594	-14%
White-breasted Nuthatch	188	52	25	66	59	8	56	137	54	10	655	112	5,832	-4%
Brown Creeper	2	5	0	4	0	1	2	2	1	1	18	65	276	-13%
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	6	39	155	-27%
Eastern Bluebird	3	28	0	38	4	0	17	17	9	22	138	26	282	-38%
American Robin	5	0	4	7	0	0	6	29	3	3	57	65	1,682	-65%
European Starling	478	357	98	1319	522	131	1530	1095	178	515	6223	108	89,497	-5%
Cedar Waxwing	4	118	33	55	60	0	91	88	8	12	469	58	3,478	-45%
Lapland Longspur	310	24	0	0	31	0	0	0	75	CW	440	27	1,845	-22%
Snow Bunting	0	267	0	0	332	10	0	0	48	0	657	71	14,981	+41%
American Tree Sparrow	501	364	87	243	304	170	323	268	133	25	2418	99	20,481	+10%
Song Sparrow	5	4	26	5	0	0	2	2	8	3	55	44	250	-13%
Swamp Sparrow	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	25	93	+39%
Dark-eyed Junco	580	556	248	628	1071	632	651	572	435	42	5415	104	40,576	+2%
Northern Cardinal	173	143	42	199	203	81	246	140	164	12	1403	106	10,579	+8%
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	17	0	0	46	503	23	0	589	28	1,724	+39%
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	4	0	6	0	0	264	2	0	0	276	25	1,176	+116%
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	1655	+290%
Purple Finch	3	4	2	25	2	6	22	6	2	0	72	54	611	-56%
House Finch	67	158	0	57	40	23	9	108	92	5	559	92	8,558	-10%
Red Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	520	+676%
White-winged Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	42	2,018	+259%
Common Redpoll	0	84	0	0	10	90	1	0	6	0	191	92	15,352	+543%
Hoary Redpoll	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	22	35	+1959%
Pine Siskin	80	143	0	144	16	52	4	146	46	2	633	99	9,892	+246%
American Goldfinch	327	231	72	373	204	112	208	213	92	8	1840	112	17,639	-23%
House Sparrow	1022	218	205	539	819	239	920	1142	413	93	5610	102	53,417	+9%
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>				

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Table 10. Species found on 22 or fewer counts.

Species	Number of Counts	Number of Birds	Count and Number
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	1	Madison 1
Snow Goose	7	24	Green Bay 1, Kewaunee 2, Manitowoc 1, <b>New Franken 16</b> , Shawano 1, Sturgeon Bay 1, Waterloo 2, (Waukesha)
Cackling Goose	16	480	(Appleton), Burlington 1, Cedar Grove 2, Cooksville 9, Green Bay 7, Hales Corners 1, Horicon 2, (Kewaunee), La Crosse 1, <b>Madison 384</b> , Manitowoc 2, Milwaukee 2, Montello 4, Oshkosh 5, Pardeeville 4, Racine 6, Waterloo 48, Waukesha 2
Mute Swan	11	203	Appleton 1, Ashland 1, Brussels 4, Burlington 38, Ephraim 43, Fremont 3, Oconomowoc 4, Palmyra 2, (Sturgeon Bay), <b>Washington Island 101</b> , Wisconsin Rapids 5, Waukesha 1
Trumpeter Swan	19	465	Appleton 12, Ephraim 5, Green Lake 5, Gurney 32, <b>Hudson 234</b> , Kewaunee 3, La Crosse 32, Luck 26, Madison 5, Manitowish Waters 27, Montello 4, Nelson 46, New Richmond 4, Oconomowoc 4, Retreat 4, Shawano 13, Stevens Point 2, Waukesha 4, Waupaca 3
Tundra Swan	21	3338	Appleton 5, Ashland 89, Bridgeport 9, Brussels 64, Burlington 5, Ephraim 171, Green Bay 14, Green Lake 33, La Crosse 532, Madison 391, New Franken 352, Oshkosh 9, Palmyra 23, Pensaukee 351, Plattville 30, <b>Retreat 832</b> , Sauk City 1, Shawano 1, Sturgeon Bay 257, Trempealeau 60, Washington Island 109
Wood Duck	13	18	Appleton 1, Blanchardville 2, Fort Atkinson 1, Fremont 2, <b>La Crosse 3</b> , Medford 1, Oconomowoc 1, Oshkosh 1, Retreat 2, Rhinelander 1, Riveredge 1, Sheboygan 1, Trempealeau 1
Gadwall	22	2709	Appleton 18, Ashland 1, Bridgeport 2, Ephraim 6, Fort Atkinson 8, Green Lake 9, Hudson 12, <b>La Crosse 1500</b> , Lake Geneva 78, Madison 666, Milwaukee 44, Montello 173, New Franken 3, Oshkosh 1, Platteville 2, Poynette 21, Racine 2, Retreat 5, Sauk City 4, (Trempealeau), Washington Island 10, Waterloo 79, Waukesha 65
American Wigeon	11	1095	Brussels 2, Hales Corners 3, <b>La Crosse 1000</b> , (Lake Geneva), Madison 3, Montello 34, Oconomowoc 1, (Platteville), Retreat 20, Sauk City 2, Sturgeon Bay 26, (Washington Island), Waterloo 3, Waukesha 1
Blue-winged Teal	2	3	<b>Bridgeport 2</b> , Fond du Lac 1
Northern Shoveler	12	1908	Appleton 5, Burlington 2, Fond du Lac 3, Fort Atkinson 19, Green Bay 1, La Crosse 100, <b>Madison 1550</b> , Montello 144, Oshkosh 2, (Platteville), Retreat 8, Trempealeau 4, Waterloo 70
Northern Pintail	13	785	Appleton 1, Ashland 2, Bridgeport 6, Cedar Grove 1, <b>La Crosse 750</b> , Madison 1, Oshkosh 1, Palmyra 1, Platteville 3, Retreat 1, Trempealeau 2, Washington Island 15, Waterloo 1
Green-winged Teal	8	162	La Crosse 30, Madison 15, <b>Montello 77</b> , Palmyra 1, Platteville 13, Poynette 2, Sturgeon Bay 14, Trempealeau 9
Canvasback	16	6428	Appleton 3, Ashland 2, Burlington 34, Clam Lake 2, Fond du Lac 74, Fremont 1, La Crosse 422, Lake Geneva 74, Madison 97, Milwaukee 2, Montello 1, New Franken 1, Pensaukee 7, (Platteville), <b>Retreat 5527</b> , Sauk City 2, Waterloo 179
Ring-necked Duck	17	244	Appleton 4, Ashland 7, Brussels 2, Burlington 1, Fond du Lac 1, Green Lake 1, Hudson 1, <b>La Crosse 157</b> , Lake Geneva 12, Madison 15, Oshkosh 3, Owen 1, Palmyra 1, Poynette 6, Retreat 2, Sauk City 3, Waterloo 27
Greater Scaup	19	15,653	Appleton 3, Ashland 35, Brussels 40, Cedar Grove 16, (Ephraim), Fond du Lac 2, Green Lake 1, Hales Corners 6, Kewaunee 2, Madison 1, Milwaukee 1072, Montello 3, <b>New Franken 14,015</b> , Pensaukee 88, Racine 5, Rhinelander 1, Riveredge 117, Sturgeon Bay 13, Two Rivers 158, Washington Island 75
Surf Scoter	1	9	Milwaukee 9
White-winged Scoter	4	14	<b>Fond du Lac 5</b> , Madison 4, Milwaukee 4, Waterloo 1
Black Scoter	3	6	Hales Corners 1, <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , Racine 2
Long-tailed Duck	11	1735	Appleton 2, Baraboo 1, <b>Cedar Grove 1653</b> , (Hales Corners), Kewaunee 4, (Lake Geneva), Madison 5, Manitowoc 1, Milwaukee 3, Racine 1, Sheboygan 20, Two Rivers 5, Washington Island 40
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	1	(Lake Geneva), Superior 1
Ruddy Duck	13	160	Appleton 16, Baraboo 1, Beloit 1, <b>Burlington 137</b> , Fond du Lac 8, Fort Atkinson 3, Green Lake 5, Lake Geneva 7, Madison 48, Milwaukee 4, Oshkosh 11, Sturgeon Bay 4, (Washington Island), Waterloo 10
Northern Bobwhite	2	12	Bridgeport 4, <b>Grantsburg 8</b> , (Washington Island)
Spruce Grouse	1	1	Three Lakes 1
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	9	<b>Gilman 8</b> , Grantsburg 1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1	16	Arpin 16
Red-throated Loon	3	6	(Ephraim), <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , (Racine), Sturgeon Bay 1, Two Rivers 2
Common Loon	8	31	Brussels 1, Cedar Grove 1, Fond du Lac 1, <b>Madison 24</b> , Oshkosh 1, Rhinelander 1, Sheboygan 1, Waukesha 1
Pied-billed Grebe	6	19	Burlington 2, <b>Madison 9</b> , Montello 1, Oshkosh 1, Racine 1, (Stevens Point), (Sturgeon Bay), Waterloo 5
Horned Grebe	9	41	<b>Brussels 19</b> , Cedar Grove 3, Ephraim 1, Kenosha 1, Madison 12, Milwaukee 1, Two Rivers 1, Washington Island 2, Waterloo 1
Red-necked Grebe	1	2	Madison 2
Eared Grebe	1	1	Hales Corners 1
Double-crested Cormorant	8	357	Appleton 69, Fond du Lac 3, <b>Green Bay 276</b> , Manitowoc 1, Milwaukee 2, Oshkosh 4, Sheboygan 1, Sturgeon Bay 1
American White Pelican	2	11	<b>Green Bay 10</b> , Oshkosh 1
Great Blue Heron	20	31	(Appleton), Beloit 1, Brodhead 1, Burlington 2, Clyde 1, Hales Corners 1, Hartford 1, Hudson 1, (Lake Geneva), Madison 1, Manitowoc 1, Menchalville 1, <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , Oconomowoc 2, <b>Palmyra 3</b> , Pardeeville 1, Poynette 2, Racine 1, Sauk City 2, Shawano 1, (Sheboygan), Trempealeau 2, <b>Waukesha 3</b>
Turkey Vulture	4	22	Ephraim 4, Lake Geneva 1, New Franken 8, <b>Palmyra 9</b>
Osprey	1	2	Montello 2
Northern Goshawk	10	13	<b>Antigo 2</b> , <b>Armstrong Creek 2</b> , Ashland 1, Birchwood 1, (Florence), <b>New Franken 2</b> , Norske 1, Peshtigo 1, Shawano 1, Wausau 1, Wautoma 1
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	13	Brodhead 1, <b>Friendship 3</b> , Kenosha 1, Mount Horeb 1, Nelson 1, Norske 1, Poynette 2, Trempealeau 2, Wautoma 1
Golden Eagle	8	20	Durand 4, Grantsburg 1, Kickapoo Valley 1, Meadow Valley 3, Montello 1, Mount Horeb 1, <b>Nelson 8</b> , Norske 1
Virginia Rail	2	9	<b>Palmyra 7</b> , Poynette 2
Sandhill Crane	15	1121	Baraboo 227, Beloit 40, Burlington 11, Ephraim 11, Green Lake 1, <b>Horicon 515</b> , Hustisford 2, Madison 211, Montello 2, Oshkosh 1, Pardeeville 8, Richland Center 1, Riveredge 1, Sauk City 86, Waterloo 4, (Waukesha)
Killdeer	2	2	Cedar Grove 1, La Crosse 1

(Continued)

Table 10. (Continued).

Species	Number of Counts	Number of Birds	Count and Number
Wilson's Snipe	14	36	<b>Blanchardville 8</b> , Green Lake 1, Hudson 3, Kickapoo Valley 4, Madison 2, Montello 2, Mount Horeb 1, Palmyra 2, Poynette 2, Retreat 4, Riveredge 1, Sauk City 3, (Trempealeau), Waukesha 2, Wautoma 1
Bonaparte's Gull	1	2	(Lake Geneva), Sheboygan 2
Thayer's Gull	5	8	Appleton 1, Hales Corners 1, (Kewaunee), (Madison), <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , (Racine), Sheboygan 2, Superior 1
Iceland Gull	2	2	Hales Corners 1, Sauk City 1, (Superior)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	5	Kenosha 1, Lake Geneva 1, <b>Milwaukee 2</b> , (Racine), Sauk City 1
Slaty-backed Gull	0	0	(Superior)
Glaucous Gull	10	24	Ashland 2, Cedar Grove 3, (Kewaunee), Manitowoc 5, Menchalville 2, Milwaukee 1, New Franken 2, Oshkosh 1, Sheboygan 1, Superior 1, <b>Two Rivers 6</b>
Great Black-backed Gull	7	35	Appleton 2, Cedar Grove 2, <b>Manitowoc 12</b> , Menchalville 3, (Racine), Sheboygan 3, Sturgeon Bay 5, (Superior), Two Rivers 8
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	28	Bridgeport 3, Brodhead 4, Collins 3, <b>Richland Center 17</b> , Sheboygan 1
Snowy Owl	9	17	Ashland 2, Caroline 1, Hales Corners 2, Horicon 1, Milwaukee 1, New Franken 3, Pensaukee 2, Sheboygan 1, <b>Superior 4</b>
Northern Hawk Owl	1	1	Ephraim 1
Long-eared Owl	6	8	<b>Baraboo 2</b> , Blanchardville 1, Friendship 1, <b>Montello 2</b> , Stevens Point 1, Wautoma 1
Short-eared Owl	7	11	Appleton 2, Ashland 1, Beloit 1, Cedar Grove 2, (Madison), Palmyra 1, <b>Richland Center 3</b> , Stockbridge 1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	11	16	Baraboo 3, (Bayfield), Caroline 1, Fennimore 1, Green Lake 1, <b>Montello 4</b> , Norske 1, Poynette 1, Rhinelander 1, Stevens Point 1, Summit Lake 1, Wautoma 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1	Sheboygan 1
Rufous Hummingbird	1	2	La Crosse (1 Rufous and 1 <i>Selasphorus</i> )
Red-headed Woodpecker	19	45	Birchwood 2, Bridgeport 2, Cassville 2, Fennimore 1, Florence 2, Friendship 5, Lake Geneva 3, Monroe 2, Montello 3, Mount Horeb 1, <b>New Franken 10</b> , Oshkosh 2, Rhinelander 2, Riveredge 2, Sauk City 1, Spencer 1, Stevens Point 2, Trempealeau 1, (Washington Island), Willard 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	13	Baraboo 1, Blanchardville 1, Bridgeport 2, Clyde 1, Madison 1, Mount Horeb 1, <b>New Franken 3</b> , Poynette 2, Sauk City 1, (Sturgeon Bay)
Merlin	10	11	(Ashland), Hayward 1, Racine 1, <b>Nelson 2</b> , New Richmond 1, (Pensaukee), Peshtigo 1, Poynette 1, Sheboygan 1, Shiocton 1, Stevens Point 1, Superior 1
Peregrine Falcon	9	15	<b>Green Bay 5</b> , Manitowoc 1, Milwaukee 1, Oshkosh 1, Pardeeville 1, Poynette 1, Racine 3, Riveredge 1, (Sturgeon Bay), Washington Island 1
Gray Jay	5	22	<b>Armstrong Creek 16</b> , Cable 1, Clam Lake 3, Fifield 1, Rhinelander 1
Boreal Chickadee	3	5	Clam Lake 1, <b>Rhinelander 2</b> , <b>Three Lakes 2</b>
Carolina Wren	18	21	(Appleton), Baraboo 1, Blanchardville 1, Bridgeport 1, Brodhead 1, Cedar Grove 1, (Chippewa Falls), (Cooksville), Madison 1, <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , Mount Horeb 1, New Franken 1, Oconomowoc 2, Palmyra 1, Platteville 1, (Racine), Richland Center 1, Riveredge 1, (Sauk City), Sheboygan 1, Trempealeau 1, Two Rivers 1, Waterloo 1, (Waukesha)
Winter Wren	10	15	Appleton 1, (Baraboo), Bridgeport 1, <b>Brussels 3</b> , Cassville 1, Chippewa Falls 1, Clyde 2, (Ephraim), Green Bay 1, (Hales Corners), Madison 2, Mount Horeb 1, New Franken 2, (Waukesha)
Marsh Wren	0	0	(Waukesha)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2	Brodhead 1, Richland Center 1
Townsend's Solitaire	3	3	Appleton 1, (Baraboo), Ephraim 1, Hales Corners 1
Hermit Thrush	7	10	(Appleton), Baraboo 1, Burlington 1, <b>Madison 3</b> , Milwaukee 1, Mount Horeb 2, (Pensaukee), Sauk City 1, Waukesha 1, (Waupaca)
Varied Thrush	4	4	Blanchardville 1, Cable 1, Mount Horeb 1, Oconomowoc 1, (Rhinelander)
Brown Thrasher	2	2	Poynette 1, Riveredge 1
Bohemian Waxwing	15	469	(Appleton), Ashland 60, Bayfield 31, Grantsburg 2, Green Bay 1, Herbster 1, Lakewood 25, <b>Medford 226</b> , Milwaukee 1, Owen 9, Peshtigo 1, Rhinelander 12, Spencer 28, Stevens Point 20, Sturgeon Bay 30, Wausau 22
Common Yellowthroat	2	2	Burlington 1, Waterloo 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	12	49	Baraboo 1, <b>Bridgeport 14</b> , Burlington 12, Cassville 1, Cedar Grove 1, Hales Corners 6, (Lake Geneva), Milwaukee 7, Montello 1, Oconomowoc 2, Platteville 1, Poynette 1, Racine 2
Eastern Towhee	2	2	Bridgeport 1, Sauk City 1
Chipping Sparrow	3	4	Montello 1, <b>Mount Horeb 2</b> , Randolph 1
Field Sparrow	1	2	Durand 2
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	Hustisford 1
Savannah Sparrow	4	6	Hustisford 1, <b>Kenosha 3</b> , Palmyra 1, Randolph 1
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	1	Hustisford 1
Fox Sparrow	14	19	(Appleton), Baraboo 1, Blanchardville 1, Caroline 2, Clyde 1, Cooksville 1, Dundee 1, Lake Geneva 1, <b>Madison 3</b> , Milwaukee 1, Oconomowoc 1, Palmyra 1, Riveredge 2, Shawano 1, Waterloo 2
White-throated Sparrow	22	138	Appleton 1, Arpin 2, Bridgeport 1, Cassville 3, Chippewa Falls 1, Cooksville 1, (Fifield), Lake Geneva 5, Luck 2, <b>Madison 76</b> , Milwaukee 11, Montello 1, Mount Horeb 5, New Franken 19, (Palmyra), Pensaukee 1, Platteville 1, Plymouth 1, Racine 2, Retreat 1, Sauk City 1, Washington Island 1, Waukesha 1, Waupaca 1
Harris's Sparrow	1	1	Durand 1
White-crowned Sparrow	13	30	Baraboo 1, Blanchardville 1, Brodhead 3, Cassville 1, Hartford 1, Monroe 3, Mount Horeb 1, New Franken 3, Palmyra 1, Retreat 1, Riveredge 1, <b>Sauk City 12</b> , Waterloo 1
Summer Tanager	1	1	Riveredge 1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1	Riveredge 1
Eastern Meadowlark	2	3	<b>Kewaunee 2</b> , Peshtigo 1
Western Meadowlark	1	1	Retreat 1
Rusty Blackbird	5	67	Cedar Grove 4, Horicon 9, Lake Geneva 2, <b>Madison 51</b> , Medford 1
Brewer's Blackbird	6	31	Bridgeport 4, Clyde 2, Durand 1, Peshtigo 3, Stevens Point 1, <b>Waterloo 20</b>
Common Grackle	16	45	Bayfield 1, Bridgeport 1, Fennimore 1, Green Bay 1, Hayward 6, Hustisford 3, La Crosse 1, Lake Geneva 4, Luck 1, <b>Madison 10</b> , Montello 1, Nelson 2, Poynette 1, Rhinelander 7, Richland Center 2, Sauk City 3
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	Montello 1
Evening Grosbeak	15	361	Armstrong Creek 27, Bayfield 13, Cable 6, Clam Lake 4, Fifield 20, Florence 8, Gilman 16, Hayward 38, Herbster 15, Lakewood 47, Manitowish Waters 67, Medford 5, Poynette 1, <b>Rhinelander 72</b> , Summit Lake 22

Parentheses indicate species was seen within 3 days of the count but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

count of 16 Greater Prairie-Chickens. None had been reported in 2011.

**Loons through Herons**—This was another water related group that did well due to mild weather and open lakes. Red-throated Loons were found on count days at Milwaukee, Sturgeon Bay, and Two Rivers and during the count week at Ephraim and Racine. Common Loons (31 over 8 counts) were second only to 50 over 15 counts in 2001. Horned Grebes (41 over 9 counts) were second in circles only to 10 in 2011 and record high in individuals, the old high being 39 in 2011. The 19 Horned Grebes found at Brussels were second for a single circle only to 28 at Racine in 2006. The two Red-necked Grebes documented from Madison were the first time more than one individual had been found on a single count. This also marked the fifth count year in which such a grebe was noticed. Even rarer was an Eared Grebe documented from Milwaukee. The only other find of an Eared Grebe on a count day was in 2000 at Appleton. Double-crested Cormorants (357 over 8 counts) were second in individuals only to 1,030 in 2011. As is now annual, American White Pelicans were found at both Green Bay and Oshkosh.

**Vultures, Hawks, and Eagles**—The Turkey Vulture (22 over 4 counts) was second in individuals only to 24 in 2006. This vulture has now become an annual component of the CBCs. Except for 2005, it has been found each year starting with 1999. The two Ospreys documented from Montello mark the first time more than one bird has been found. This was the first find of an Osprey since Sturgeon Bay in 1999. After crossing the 2,000 threshold in 2011, the Bald Eagle fell

below that number this year with 1,917 individuals. The 103 counts on which they were reported was record high. Most hawk numbers were less than normal. Much of this might be attributed to the unproductive hawk weather on the first Saturday of the count period.

**Rails through Shorebirds**—As has happened each year starting with 2005, Virginia Rails were heard at both Palmyra and Poynette. Poynette has a history with this rail dating back to 1983. The 7 Virginia Rails at Palmyra were second for a single circle only to 11 at Poynette in 1995. With so much open water, the American Coot (22,604 over 27 counts) smashed all previous highs. The only years approaching this for individuals were 2011 (with 12,637) and 1998 (with 12,580). Although record high statewide, this year's single circle high of 3,773 at Lake Geneva was but the sixth highest in state records. The single circle record remains with Lake Geneva with 6,872 in 1998. As might be expected with mild conditions, Sandhill Cranes (1,121 over 15 counts) showed well. The number of circles finding this crane was record high, the old high being 14 in 2011. Two Purple Sandpipers were documented at Racine with a third individual documented at Milwaukee. This was but the fourth count year to show this shorebird. The other three were 1965 (1 at Racine), 2002 (1 at Sheboygan), and 2007 (1 at Racine). Single Killdeer were found at Cedar Grove and La Crosse.

**Gulls**—As to be expected in mild years, the two common gulls (the Ring-billed and the Herring) were found in high numbers. The Ring-billed (29,743 over 55 counts) was

373% above its 10-year average. The number of individuals was second only to 34,423 in 2001. The only other year approaching these numbers was 19,033 in 1998. The Herring Gull (24,790 over 58 counts) was 7% above its 10-year average. Over the history of the Christmas Counts, the Herring Gull has nearly always had a large number advantage over the Ring-billed. During the past 10 years the Herring has averaged 21,523 individuals per year, while the Ring-billed averaged 5,826. If one wanders further into the past, this discrepancy becomes greater. It is only in the mildest of Decembers that the more winter sensitive Ring-billed out-numbers the Herring. Such reversals have occurred three times. Those three were 1998 (19,033 Ring-billed to 10,904 Herring), 2001 (34,423 Ring-billed to 27,620 Herring), and 2012 (29,743 Ring-billed to 24,790 Herring). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were found at Sheboygan. This was but the second year with Bonaparte's since 2004. At one time the Bonaparte's was an annual gull with a record high of 2,719 in 1983. This regularity ended in 2000. The less common gulls were found in numbers similar to past years. A nice find was a Slaty-backed Gull that was photographed a day after the count day at Superior. The one other record of a Slaty-backed was a count day find at Appleton in 2006.

**Doves**—Both the Rock Pigeon (42,828 over 104 counts) and the Mourning Dove (25,936 over 112 counts) were 12% above their 10-year average. Rock Pigeons were record high, the old high being 38,983 in 2006. After a decline of 36% below its average in 2011, the Mourning Dove made a nice return. The only year bet-

ter for individuals was 33,117 in 2007. This was the second time the Mourning Dove was found in every circle. The other such year was 2010. The finding of this dove within every circle gives an indication as to how widespread it is within the state, even in winter. The Eurasian Collared-Dove (28 over 5 counts) dropped from its record high of 45 individuals in 2011. The number of circles reporting this dove was record high.

**Owls**—The common owls (Eastern Screech, Great Horned, and Barred) continued their trend of lower numbers. The worst was the Great Horned (32% below average) followed by the Screech (19% below average). Although distant from the invasion numbers of 2011 (32 over 16 counts), the Snowy Owl (17 over 9 counts) showed a second consecutive year of strong totals. A lone present Northern Hawk Owl was found on the Ephraim Count. This was the first find since 2009 and the seventh count year having this owl.

**Hummingbirds and Kingfishers**—Due to a mild November and early December record numbers of hummingbirds survived at feeders into late December. Some of them were found on counts. A record late Ruby-throated Hummingbird stayed at a feeder in Howards Grove within the Sheboygan Count. It was the first Ruby-throated found on a Wisconsin count. In La Crosse two record late Rufous Hummingbirds visited two different feeders. One was recognized as a Rufous by the records committee, the second could not be identified beyond *Selasphorus* species. These Rufous were the first ever for the counts. The only previous hummingbird was an Anna's at Racine in 1992. With open

water one would expect the Belted Kingfisher (144 over 58 counts) to have strong numbers. The total of individuals was second only to 153 in 2011. The number of circles was record high, the old high being 56 in 2002.

**Woodpeckers**—Due to poor birding weather on the first Saturday of the count period, nearly all woodpeckers suffered declines from their 10-year averages. The Red-bellied was 5% below average, the Downy 11% below average, the Hairy 12% below average, and the Northern Flicker 37% below average. For the first time since 2000, there was no Black-backed Woodpecker. The one woodpecker to escape a decline was the Pileated (525 over 88 counts), which was 17% above its 10-year average. The Pileated is the fastest expanding woodpecker in the state. These increased numbers in a down year are an indication of that expansion. The number of individuals was third only to 544 in both 2007 and 2010. The number of circles was record high, the old high being 82 in 2010.

**Falcons**—Perhaps due to the early mildness and thin snow cover, the American Kestrel (766 over 89 counts) was 11% above its average. The Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were found in numbers similar to the recent past.

**Shrikes through Ravens**—The Northern Shrike (263 over 87 counts) had numbers similar to the year before and within normal ranges. Gray Jays (22 over 5 counts) had the lowest total of individuals since 19 in 1980 and the lowest number of circles since 4 in 1982 (when only 85 counts taken). The Blue Jay was 12% below its 10-year average while both the

American Crow and Common Raven held normal numbers.

**Larks**—After being 52% below average in the snow free count of 2011, the Horned Lark (4,818 over 60 counts) rebounded with numbers 28% above the 10-year average. There is a rule of thumb that one is more likely to find Horned Larks when there is snow on the ground. This year there was a somewhat even divide between counts with snow and those with little if any. If one divides the total number of Horned Larks by the number of total party hours, one arrives at a statewide average of 1.019 Horned Larks per party hour. If one does the same for just those counts with little if any snow, the average per party hour falls to 0.174. If one does the same with just those counts with snow, the average per party hour increases to 2.098.

**Chickadees, Titmouse, Nuthatches, and Creepers**—The Black-capped Chickadee was found in normal numbers. Boreal Chickadees were found at Clam Lake, Rhinelander, and Three Lakes. Despite the drag of less than average numbers from the all-important first available Saturday (on which there was rain), the Tufted Titmouse (1,011 over 58 counts) was 34% above its 10-year average. In both circles and individuals, the Titmouse was record high. This marks the first year within the counts that better than 1,000 such birds were found.

**Wrens and Kinglets**—Along with continued increases for the Tufted Titmouse, there was a corresponding increase for Caroline Wrens. This spread was perhaps due to the mild winter of 2011–2012. In 2011 there were but 6 wrens over 2 counts. This year there were 21 spread over 18

counts. Winter Wrens had their second consecutive strong showing with 15 over 10 counts. A Marsh Wren was a count week bird at Waukesha and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were documented at Brodhead and Richland Center.

**Thrushes**—Despite a mild fall and early December, Eastern Bluebirds (282 over 26 counts) were 38% below average. The number of circles was the lowest since 13 in 2004. Solitary Townsend's Solitaires were reported on count days at Appleton, Ephraim, and Hales Corners and during the count week at Baraboo. For the full winter season, this was perhaps the best showing for the Varied Thrushes in history. For the Christmas Counts there were 4 over 4 counts, which match record highs set in 2005. American Robins (1,682 over 65 counts) were 65% below the 10-year average. There was a corresponding 45% decrease in Cedar Waxwings. These drops could be due to the record warmth of March 2012, which induced fruit bearing trees and shrubs to early bloom only to have their flowers lost to later frost. Subsequently there was little fruit, such as Buckthorn, for winter food.

**Catbirds through Waxwings**—Although a record high 160 species were found in 2012, there was no report of a Gray Catbird or Northern Mockingbird. For the second time since 2002, there was no American Pipit. Brown Thrashers were found at Poynette and Riveredge. Bohemian Waxwings have a haphazard pattern of appearance on Christmas counts. While very low in 2011, they were 14% above average in 2012. As mentioned with the American Robin, Cedar Waxwings were 45%

below average. This was likely due to a lack of a winter food.

**Longspurs and Snow Buntings**—As with Horned Larks, open field species such as Snow Buntings are more likely to be found when there is snow. In the nearly snowless count of 2011, Snow Buntings were 45% below their 10-year average. In 2012, when about half the circles showed snow, this bunting was 41% above its 10-year average. Using the same method applied earlier to Horned Larks, it might be of interest to contrast the number of Snow Buntings found on snow filled circles in 2012 to those of snow free circles. Using the Snow Bunting total for the entire state and dividing that by the total number of field hours, one finds that 3.168 Snow Buntings were found per field party hour. Then, using just Snow Bunting totals and field hours from circles with little snow, one finds this average drops to 1.481 birds per hour. Doing the same with just data from circles with snow, the Snow Bunting average expands to 5.318 per field party hour.

**Warblers**—The only warblers were the annual Yellow-rumped plus Common Yellowthroats documented from Burlington and Waterloo. This was the first showing of Yellowthroats since they were found at Brussels and Milwaukee in the warm count of 2001. The number of Yellow-rumped (49 over 12 counts) is surpassed only by 56 in 2011 and 53 in 2001. The 14 found at Bridgeport is but the fifth highest single circle total. That record belongs to Milwaukee with 25 in 2001 followed by 18 at Meadow Valley in 2011.

**Towhees through Buntings**—Eastern Towhees were found at Bridgeport and Sauk City. Though but a

handful of Towhees are found each year, they have been found every year starting with 1962, which now makes 51 consecutive years. Of the common sparrows, none was much variant from their 10-year averages. These sparrows are another group that is more noticed in counts with snow. Using the method used with the Horned Lark and Snow Bunting for comparing snow circle numbers with snow free circle numbers, the Dark-eyed Junco had a statewide average of 8.580 birds per field party hour. When only relatively snow free circles were considered, this average dropped to 5.408 juncos per hour. When only snow filled circles were considered, the average increased to 12.630 juncos per field hour. Most of the less common sparrows were found. Among them were Chipping Sparrow (4 over 3 counts), Field Sparrow (2 documented from Durand), Vesper Sparrow (1 documented from Hustisford), Savannah Sparrow (6 over 4 counts), and Harris's Sparrow (1 at Durand). Swamp Sparrows (93 over 25 counts) had a fine year. The number of circles was record high, the old high being 23 in 2003. The number of individuals was exceeded only by 118 in 2002 and 104 in 2001. The best find was a Le Conte's Sparrow documented by Scott Diehl at Hustisford. Not only a first for the counts, it was the first winter season record of a Le Conte's in Wisconsin. Another count first was a Summer Tanager at a feeder within the Riveredge Circle. Another nice find from Riveredge was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Indigo Bunting reported in 2011 was later rejected by the records committee. This leaves only the 1986 Indigo from

Stockbridge and the 2006 bird from Peshtigo remaining in the records.

**Blackbirds**—With little snow through much of the count, it was a good year for blackbirds. Of the more common species, the Red-winged Blackbird was 39% above its average while the Brown-headed Cowbird was 116% above average. It was not as good a year for meadowlarks with just 2 Eastern found at Kewaunee and 1 at Peshtigo. A Western Meadowlark was found at Retreat. A Baltimore Oriole was documented from Montello. This was the first count oriole since one in 2004 at Chippewa Falls.

**Finches**—Due to food failures in Canada, record numbers of winter finches invaded Wisconsin. But Wisconsin fared not much better than Canada in providing substance and, thus, even species such as the crossbills needed to resort to residential feeders for nourishment. The finch with the weakest showing was the Purple Finch (611 over 54 counts), which was 56% below its ever decreasing 10-year average. The number of such finches was the least since 606 in 1979, when there were but 76 counts statewide. The American Goldfinch (17,639 over 112 counts), perhaps already aware of the food shortage within the state, was found in numbers 23% below average. The number of individuals was the lowest since 16,939 in 2002. The Pine Grosbeak (1,655 over 46 counts) was 290% above average. The only years with higher numbers were 1977 (with 1,946), 1989 (with 2,863), 1997 (with 2,183), and 2007 (with 1,693). Despite this strong showing, few such grosbeaks ventured beyond the northern third of the state. Red and White-winged Crossbills were also nu-



merous but more evenly spread across the state. The Red Crossbill (520 over 32 counts) was 676% above its average. The number of circles finding this bird was record high, the old record having been 24 in 1984. The only years with a higher number of individuals were 1960 (with 759) and 1973 (with 617). In a like fashion, the White-winged Crossbill (2,018 over 42 counts) was 259% above its 10-year average. The only years with better numbers were 1989 (with 3,107 over 37 counts) and 2008 (with 3,063 over 46 counts). As nice as these grosbeak and crossbill numbers might be they were little match to the onslaught of redpolls. In 2012 there were 15,352 Common Redpolls found over 92 counts. Such numbers never occurred before. The historic high in individuals was 13,715 in 1965. Following that were 5 years with totals in the 8,000s, the highest being 8,830 in 1971 followed by 8,748 in 1969. The nearest approach to 92 circles with redpolls was 66 in both 2007 and 2011. Previous to 2012, the record high for Hoary Redpolls was 13 in 1965. The high in counts was 7 in 1999. In 2012 there were 44 Hoary Redpolls found over 23 counts. If better documentation had been provided, both numbers would have significantly increased. This year the Hoary was found as far south as Clyde (Iowa County), Dundee (Sheboygan County), Green Lake (Green Lake County), and Waterloo (Dane/Jefferson counties). In the past there had been but 5 finds of the Hoary in southern Wisconsin. Those five were Hales Corners (in 1968), Kenosha (in 1969), Madison (in 1965), Milwaukee (in 1977), and Sauk City (in 1965). The Pine Siskin (9,892 over 99

counts) was 246% above average. The only years with higher numbers were 1989 (with 15,001) and 1987 (with 10,407). Evening Grosbeak (361 over 15 counts) were 19% below their 10-year average.

**House Sparrow**—The House Sparrow (53,417 over 102 counts), after dropping 23% from its 10-year average in 2011, was 9% above that average in 2012. The number of individuals was the highest since 58,468 in 2003.

## Appendix

An alphabetical listing of the counts follows. This listing includes the location of the count center plus the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the compiler. For birders wanting to join a count, it is suggested they contact the count compiler. For those wanting to start a new count, they must first contact the state compiler whose address is located at the end of this article.

**Amherst** (46); Jct. of Hwys. A and B, Portage County; Karen Dostal, km-dostal@wi-net.com. **Antigo** (24); Jct. of 45 and 7th Ave, Antigo; Nancy Richmond, N3480 County Road S, Antigo, WI 54409; 715. 623. 6850; polarpas-tor@gmail.com. **Appleton** (57); Jct. Hwys. 47 and 125, Outagamie Co.; Darwin Tiede, 2809 Schaefer Circle, Appleton, WI 54915; 920. 997. 9418; ctiede@new.rr.com. **Armstrong Creek** (21); Jct. of Hwys. 8 and 101, Forest County; Kay Kavanagh, 712 Lakeview Ln., Niagara, WI 54151; 715. 589. 2299; kkav@uplogon.com. **Arpin** (47); 1/2 mi. N of Jct. Hwy. C and Oak Rd., Wood Co.; Dennis Seevers, 9370 Vermillion St., Milladore, WI 54454; 715.

652. 2197; rock-cut@solarus.net. **Ashland** (4); Jct. Hwy. 2 and Sanborn Ave., Ashland; Ryan Brady, 75355 Bourgo Road, Washburn, WI 54891; 715. 373. 0230; ryanbrady10@hotmail.com. **Baraboo** (93); Jct. City View Rd. and Hwy. A, Baraboo; Scott Swengel, 909 Birch St., Baraboo, WI 53913; 608. 356. 9543; aswengel@jvlnet.com. **Bayfield** (3); T 50 N, R 5 W, S-22; David A. Bratley; Box 518, Washburn, WI 54891; 715. 373. 2564; dabirder@juno.com. **Beloit** (100); Jct. Tracy and Eau Claire Rds., about two miles W of Rock Co. Airport; Brad Paulson, 15034 W. Carroll Rd., Brodhead, WI 53520; 608. 879. 2647; bradp@ruppseeds.com. **Birchwood** (10); MacRae Lake, Washburn County; Rick Pertile, 1818 Laurel Ave. West, Minneapolis, MN 55405; 612. 374. 3417; mugzy1960@msn.com. **Black River Falls** (41); Jct. Hwys. H and 54, Jackson Co.; Judy Allen, W12866 River Rd., Black River Falls, WI 54615; 608. 488. 4150; knothole@centurytel.net. **Blanchardville** (103); 2.5 miles SW of Blanchardville; David Willard, Bird Division, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605; 312. 665. 7731; dwillard@fieldmuseum.org. **Bridgeport** (110); Hwy. 18 bridge over Wisconsin R.; Dennis Kirschbaum, 1505 E. Parrish St., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821; 608. 326. 2718; kad9801@centurytel.net. **Brodhead** (101); Jct. of Golf Course Rd. and Sugar River Trail, Green Co.; Quentin Yoerger, 6831 N. Francis Dr., Evansville, WI 53536; 608. 882. 6078; harrierqman@gmail.com. **Brussels** (63); Jct. Hwy. 57 and Stevenson Pier Rd., Door Co.; Wendy Lukes, 4449 Ploor Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235; 920. 746. 7616; reutwrl@yahoo.com. **Burlington** (86); Jct. Hwy. A and

Crossway Rd., Racine Co.; Maureen Gross, S109 W27685 Maple Ave., Mukwonago, WI 53149; 262. 363. 4307; cygnusbuccinator@centurytel.net. **Cable** (8); Jct. Hwys. M and D, Bayfield Co.; Katie Connolly, Cable Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 416, Cable, WI 54821; 715. 798. 3890; Katie@cablemuseum.org. **Caroline** (26); two miles west of Caroline; Jan Hewitt, 1074 E. Paulson Rd., Iola, WI 54945; 715. 281. 2167. **Cassville** (111); Jct. Garden Prairie and Muskellunge Rds., Grant Co.; David Sikorski, 449 N. 39th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208; 414. 379. 9650; akela317@aol.com. **Cedar Grove** (68); Jct. Hwy. G and Palmer Rd., Sheboygan Co.; Tom Uttech, 4305 Hwy. O, Saukville, WI 53080; 262. 675. 6482; tuttech@wi.rr.com. **Chippewa Falls** (34); Jct. Hwys. 178 and S, Chippewa Co.; Bruce Steger, 19676 70th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 0209; blsteger@att.net. **Clam Lake** (7); 7 miles SE of Clam Lake; Keith Merkel, 11722 Robin Rd., Marshfield, WI 54449; 715. 384. 2383; kkemerkel@yahoo.com. **Clyde** (104); Jct. Hwy. ZZ and Weaver Rd., Iowa Co.; Steve Greb, 1714 Labrador Rd., Oregon, WI 53575; 608. 835. 5266; steven.greb@gmail.com. **Collins** (77); 3 miles W of St. Nazianz on Hwy. C; Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, P.O. Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241; 920. 793. 4007; nature@woodlanddunes.org. **Columbus** (canceled due to weather); Jct. Johnson and Jahnke Sts. (south of Columbus); Chris West, 20262 Jarvis Hollow, Richland Center, WI 53581; 608. 647. 6403; chris.w.birder@gmail.com. **Cooksville** (99); Cooksville, Rock Co.; David and Anna Marie Huset, 242 W. Church St., Evansville, WI 53536; 608. 882. 5648; huset@

att.net. **Dundee** (81); Hwy. DD, W of Auburn Lake, Fond du Lac Co.; Bill Volkert, W996 Birchwood Dr., Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 533. 8939; williamvolkert@hotmail.com. **Durand** (33); Jct. Hwys. 25 and DD 3 miles N of Durand, Dunn Co.; Bruce Steger, 19676 70th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 0209; just4birds@att.net. **Ellsworth** (30); 1/4 mile west of Jct. 430 Ave. and O, Pierce County; Joseph Merchak, 210 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022; 715. 425. 1169; jmerchak@invergroveheights.org. **Ephraim** (61); Hwy. A 3 miles S of Jct. with Hwy. 42, Door Co.; Karen Newbern, P.O. Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202; 920. 839. 2802; karen@ridgessanctuary.org. **Fennimore** (105); Jct. Hwy. 61 and 9th Street, Fennimore, Grant County; Chuck Horn, 3510 Wood Road, Fennimore, WI 53809; 608. 822. 6574; horncn@wildblue.net. **Fifield** (6); Fifield Post Office; Thomas Nicholls, W7283 Walnut St. P.O. Box 63, Fifield, WI 54524; 715. 762. 3076; nicho002@umn.edu. **Florence** (20); just NE of center of Section 19, Town of Commonwealth, Florence Co.; Kay Kavanagh, 712 Lakeview Ln., Niagara, WI 54151; 715. 589. 2299; kkav@uplogon.com. **Fond du Lac** (79); Jct. Tower and Cody Rds., Fond du Lac Co.; Jeff Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 960. 4732; jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us. **Fort Atkinson** (98); Jct. Hwy. K and Hackbarth Ave., Jefferson Co.; Richard Wanie, W5920 Lee Dr., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538; 920. 563. 6274; crwanie@att.net. **Fremont** (53); Jct. Hwys. I and HH 4 miles SW of Fremont; Larry Riedinger, PO Box 11, Caroline, WI 54928; 920. 205. 7491; riedingerl.aves@yahoo.com. **Friendship** (49); Jct. 16th Ave. and F, Adams

Co.; Jym Mooney, 2183 N 54th St., Mil., WI 53208; 414. 875. 6825; hopmoon@milwpc.com. **Gilman** (36); 1 mile W of Miller Dam, Taylor Co.; Ken Luepke, B-894 Eau Pleine Rd., Spencer, WI 54479; 715. 659. 3910; hawkowl1@frontier.com. **Grantsburg** (11); Jct. Hwys. 70 and 48 in Grantsburg; Dennis Allaman, 506 W. St. George Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840; 715. 463. 2365; allaman@usa.net. **Green Bay** (75); Jct. Allouez and S. Webster Aves.; John Jacobs, 2373 Libal St., Green Bay, WI 54301; 920. 432. 2438; Jacobs\_rs@yahoo.com. **Green Lake** (51); Jct. Hwy. J and Swamp Rd., Green Lake Co.; Thomas Schultz, N6104 Honeysuckle Lane, Green Lake, WI 54941; 920. 294. 3021; trschultz@centurytel.net. **Gurney** (5); Hwy. 169 in Gurney; Joan Elias, 11140 W. Edwards Rd., Saxon, WI 54559; 715. 893. 2358; jeelias@centurylink.net. **Hales Corners** (71); Jct. 27th St. and Rawson Ave., (Milwaukee Co. only); Mark Verhagen, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, WI 53123; 414. 425. 8550; mark.verhagen@ces.uwex.edu. **Hartford** (82); Jct. Hwys. 60 and 83 in Hartford; Thomas B. Schaefer, 3712 Kettle Moraine Rd., Hartford, WI 53027; 262. 825. 8210; schaefertrees@gmail.com. **Hayward** (9); boat landing at Phipps near Hwy. 63, Sawyer Co.; Katie Connolly, Cable Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 416, Cable, WI 54821; 715. 798. 3890; Katie@cablemuseum.org. **Herbster** (2) Hwy. 13, 1 mile W of Herbster; Barbara Moldenhauer, 86405 Bark River Rd., Herbster, WI 54844; 715. 774. 3700; boatnbird@msn.com. **Holcombe** (35); Chippewa-Rusk county line, 1 mile E of Hwy. 27; Bruce Steger, 19676 70th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 0209; blsteger@

att.net. **Horicon** (90); Jct. Main Ditch and Main Dike in Refuge; Jeff Bahls, 4686 Blackbird Rd, Beaver Dam, WI 53916; 920. 210. 4832; jbahls@wildblue.net. **Hudson** (14); Afton, MN; Joseph Merchak, 210 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022; 715. 425. 1169; jmerchak@baldwin-telecom.net. **Hustisford** (91); Jct. Hwys. CJ and M, just east of Clyman; Noel Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Rd., West Bend, WI 53095; 262. 675. 2443; noel.cutright@we-energies.com. **Kenosha** (73); Jct. Hwys. 158 and 104th Ave. (Kenosha Co. only); Valerie Mann, 9800 160th Ave., Bristol, WI 53104; 262. 857. 8008; naturalist@pringlenc.org. **Kewaunee** (64); Jct. Hwys. 42 and D, Kewaunee Co.; Paul Schilke; 920. 639. 6151; paulschilke@gmail.com. **Kickapoo Valley** (107); Jct. Hwys. T and 131, Monroe Co.; Eric Epstein, 22505 Kensington Rd., Norwalk, WI 54648; 608. 823. 7837; tickcity@centurytel.net. **La Crosse** (44); La Crosse Courthouse; Dan Jackson, S2256 CTH K, Chaseburg, WI 54621; 608. 483. 2271; DanJackson@LBWhite.com. **La Farge** (108); La Farge, Vernon County; Ben Johnston, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, S3661 Hwy 131, LaFarge, WI 54639; 608. 625. 2960; Ben.Johnston@Wisconsin.gov. **Lake Geneva** (87); Interlaken Lodge, Hwy. 50 (approx. 2 M east of Jct. with Hwy 67); Mariette Nowak, N9053 Sift Lake Dr., East Troy, WI 53120; 262. 642. 2352; mmnowak@wi.rr.com. **Lakewood** (22); Jct. Hwy T and FR 2117, Oconto County; Kay Kavanagh, 712 Lakeview Ln., Niagara, WI 54151; 715. 589. 2299; kkav@uplogon.com. **Luck** (12); Jct. 180 Ave. and 180 St., Polk County; Robin Maercklein, 1216 Tuggle Pkwy, Amery, WI 54001; 715. 483. 5278; robinmaercklein2@centurytel.net.

**Madison** (96); State Capitol; Aaron Stutz, 125 Phillips Lane, Lake Mills, WI 53551; 920. 648. 3761; agstutz@sbcglobal.net. **Manitowish Waters** (15); Jct. Hwys. 51 and W, Vilas Co.; John Bates, 4245 Hwy. 47, Mercer, WI 54547; 715. 476. 2828; Manitowish@centurytel.net. **Manitowoc** (66); 2 mi. S of Newtonburg; Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, P.O. Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241; 920. 793. 4007; nature@woodlanddunes.org. **Meadow Valley** (42); Jct. Jackson, Juneau, and Wood cos.; Andy Paulios, 101 S. Webster St. Madison, WI 53707; 608. 264. 6137; andy.paulios@wi.gov. **Medford** (37); 2.5 miles NE of Whittlesey, Taylor Co.; Susanne Adams, W2272 Rustic Rd., Rib Lake, WI 54470; 715. 748. 5014; smadams@fs.fed.us. **Menchalville** (76); Menchalville; Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, P.O. Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241; 920. 793. 4007; nature@woodlanddunes.org. **Milwaukee** (70); Jct. Port Washington Rd. and Hampton Ave., Glendale; Andrea Szymczak, 822 Lemira Ave., Waukesha, WI 53188; 262. 370. 8403; harrierhawk1@hotmail.com. **Minoqua** (16); Jct. Hwys. 70 and 51 in Minocqua, Oneida County; Guy David, P.O. Box 462, Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538; 715. 588. 3694; bgdavid@wildblue.net. **Monroe** (102); tangent of Green County, Lafayette County, and the Illinois State Line; John Petterson; jskpate@tds.net. **Montello** (50); Harrisville, Marquette Co.; Daryl Christensen, N6053 County Y, Montello, WI 53949; 608. 296. 3068; daryl@darylchristensen.com. **Mount Horeb** (95); Jct. Hwys. 78 and Bus. 18/151, Mount Horeb; Kerry Beheler, 105 Oak Tree Dr., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572; 608. 437. 6938; kerry.beheler@

gmail.com. **Nelson** (32); 1 mile S of Jct. Hwys. I and D; Bruce Steger, 19676 70th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 0209; just4birds@att.net. **New Franken** (74); Jct. Hwys. P and SS, Brown County; Ed Houston, 2818 Sugarbush Ct., Green Bay, WI 54301; 920. 339. 3273; ezechouston@aol.com. **New Richmond** (13); 2 miles E of Boardman, St. Croix Co.; Joseph Merchak, 210 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022; 715. 425. 1169; jmerchak@baldwin-telecom.net. **Norske** (55); 1 mile E of Jct. Hwy P and Rustad Rd., Waupaca Co.; Jan Hewitt, 1074 E. Paulson Rd., Iola, WI 54945; 715. 445. 2489. **Oconomowoc** (83); Hwy 67, 2 miles N of Oconomowoc; Brad Webb, 321 N. Monroe St., Watertown, WI 53098; 920. 261. 0326; brad@theropod.org. **Oshkosh** (58); Jct. Hwys. 21 and 41 in Oshkosh; Thomas Ziebell, 1638 White Swan Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54901; 920. 235. 0326; cziebell@new.rr.com. **Owen** (38); Hwy. D 2.5 miles N of Hwy. 29, Clark Co.; Gayle Davis, N 1503 Putnam Dr., Owen, WI 54460; 715. 229. 2022; humnbrd@peoplepc.com. **Palmyra** (85); 0.5 miles N of Jct. Hwy 20 and Nelson Rd., Walworth Co.; Eric Howe, N9564 Nature Rd., Eagle, WI 53119; 262. 594. 5853; cbc@hoyaudubon.org. **Pardeeville** (88); north end of access road that comes from Monthey Rd. into the south side of French Creek Wildlife Area, Columbia Co.; Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, 203 Breezy Point Dr., Pardeeville, WI 53954; 608. 429. 4365; p.g6schwalbe@gmail.com. **Pensaukee** (29); Pensaukee; Thomas Erdman, 4094 Hwy. S, Rte. 2, Oconto, WI 54153; 920. 465. 2713; erdmant@uwgb.edu. **Peshtigo** (28); Harmony Corners, Marinette Co.; Barb Bereza, N3175 County RW,

Peshtigo, WI 54157; 715. 582. 0884; d0dobird2002@yahoo.com. **Phelps** (17); Jct. FR 2199 and FR 2533, 2 miles SW of Phelps; Bill Reardon, 1700 Open Acres Ln., Eagle River, WI 54521; 715. 479. 8055; breardon@nnex.net. **Platteville** (112); Cornelia on Ct. O, Grant Co.; Karl and Dorthy Legler, 429 Franklin St., Sauk City, WI 53583; 608. 643. 4926; karlndot@charter.net. **Plymouth** (80); Jct. Hwys. 23 and C, Sheboygan Co.; Robert Brigham, 851 Chaplin Ct., Plymouth, WI 53073; 920. 892. 7716; rbrigham@wi.rr.com. **Poynette** (92); Jct. Hwys. 51 and CS; Mark and Sue Martin, W7503 Kampen Rd., Arlington, WI 53911; 608. 333. 9645; goosep@chorus.net. **Racine** (72); Hwy. H 0.5 miles S of Hwy. K (Racine Co. only); Eric Howe, N9564 Nature Rd., Eagle, WI 53119; 262. 594. 5853; cbc@hoyaudubon.org. **Randolph** (89); Hwy. P midway between Cambria and Randolph, Columbia Co.; Jeff Bahls, 4686 Blackbird Rd, Beaver Dam, WI 53916; 920. 210. 4832; jbahls@wildblue.net. **Retreat** (109); Jct. of Gilman Rd. and Bishop Rd., Vernon County; Chris West, 20262 Jarvis Hollow Rd., Richland Center, WI 53581; 608. 475. 9016; chris.w.birder@gmail.com. **Rhineland** (19); Rhineland; Vanessa Haese-Lehman, 333 E. Rives St., Rhineland, WI 54501; 715. 369. 3708; markvanlehman@yahoo.com. **Richland Center** (106); Jct. Hwys. O and TB SE of Richland Center; Robert Hirschy, University of Wisconsin Center-Richland, 1200 Hwy. 14 West, Richland Center, WI 53581; 608. 647. 3042; hirschy2@yahoo.com. **Riveredge** (69); Jct. Hwy. 33 and Lakeland School Rd., Ozaukee Co.; Mary Hollebeck, c/o Riveredge Nature Center, P.O. Box 26, Newburg, WI

53060; 800. 287. 8098; mholleback@riveredge.us. **Rosendale** (59); 2.5 miles S of junc. of Hwys. 23 and 26, Fond du Lac Co.; Seth Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Rd., West Bend, WI 53095; 262. 365. 8716; stcutright31@gmail.com. **Sauk City** (94); 2.5 miles SE of Witwen, Sauk Co.; Karl and Dorothy Legler, 429 Franklin St., Sauk City, WI 53583; 608. 643. 4926; karlndot@chorus.net. **Shawano** (27); 3 miles N of Lunds, Shawano Co.; Tim Ewing, W5646 Lindsten Rd., Shiocton, WI 54170; 715. 758. 6999; nnc@navarino.org. **Sheboygan** (67); Jct. 10th St. and Erie Ave., Sheboygan; Scott Baughman, 3043 Rolling Meadows Dr., Sheboygan, WI 53083; 920. 980. 3191; sbaughman@aerometric.com. **Shiocton** (56); Jct. Hwys. M and 54, Outagamie Co.; Steven Petznick, Mosquito Hill Nature Center, N3880 Rogers Rd., New London, WI 54961; 920. 779. 6433; petznisj@co.outagamie.wi.us. **Spencer** (39); Jct. Hwys. F and 153, Marathon Co.; Ken Luepke, B-894 Eau Pleine Rd., Spencer, WI 54479; 715. 659. 3910; hawkowl1@frontier.com. **Spring Valley** (31); Jct. of 690 Ave. and 290 St., Pierce County; Joseph Merchak, 210 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022; 715. 425. 1169; jmerchak@invergroveheights.org. **Stevens Point** (45); Old Main Bldg., U.W.-Stevens Point; Nancy Stevenson, 1890 Red Pine Ln., Stevens Point, WI 54481; 715. 341. 0084; gypsysgma@yahoo.com. **Stockbridge** (78); intersection of County BB and Killsnake Rd., Calumet County; Terri Welisek, W4923 Golf Course Rd, Sherwood, WI 54169; 920. 989. 1969; terriw@new.rr.com. **Sturgeon Bay** (62); Jct. Hwys. 57 and P, Door Co.; Wendy Lukes, 4449 Ploor Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235; 920. 746. 7616;

reutwrl@yahoo.com. **Summit Lake** (23); Jct. of Fritzgerald Dam Rd. and T, Langlade Co.; Joel A. Flory, 3131 Pleasure Point Dr., Rhinlander, WI 54501; 715. 490. 3039; joelflory@frontiernet.net. **Superior** (1); Jct. Co. A and Dopp Rd, Superior; Nancy Raffetto, raffetto@wisc.edu. **Three Lakes** (18); 6 miles E of Three Lakes; Bill Reardon, 1700 Open Acres Ln., Eagle River, WI 54521; 715. 479. 8055; breardon@nnex.net. **Trempealeau** (43); Jct. Hwy. K and Fremont St., Trempealeau; Al Wernecke, 23787 Trail View Lane, Trempealeau, WI 54661; 608. 534. 6330; ajja701@triwest.net. **Two Rivers** (65); Mishicot; Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, P.O. Box 486, Two Rivers, WI 54241; 920. 793. 4007; nature@woodlanddunes.org. **Washington Island** (60); Washington Island; Ursula Petersen, 3112 Sunnyside St., Stoughton, WI 53589; 608. 873. 0294; buboarcto@gmail.com. **Waterloo** (97); Jct. of Hwys. O and B on Jefferson/Dane county line, 5 miles west of Lake Mills; Karen Etter Hale, 517 Tower St., Lake Mills, WI 53551; 920. 648. 8195; chimneyswift1@frontier.com. **Waukesha** (84); Jct. Hwy. D and Brookhill Rd., Waukesha Co.; Walter Hahn, 213 W. Newhall Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186; 262. 547. 1004. **Waupaca** (54); Jct. Casesy Rd. and Little Wolf River, Waupaca Co.; Jan Hewitt, 1074 E. Paulson Rd., Iola, WI 54945; 715. 445. 2489. **Wausau** (25); Jct. Grand Ave. and Thomas St., Wausau; Lynn Ott, 409 N. 11th St., Wausau, WI 54403 ; 715. 848. 1204; laott@frontier.com. **Wautoma** (52); Mount Morris, Waushara Co.; Chip Hutler, W6378 Cty. Rd. YY, Neshkoro, WI 54960; 920. 293. 4500; gonhawkn@centurytel.net. **Willard** (40); 1 mile E and 1.5 miles S

of Willard, Clark Co.; Janice Luepke, B-894 Eau Pleine Rd., Spencer, WI 54479; 715. 659. 3910; hawkowl1@frontier.com. **Wisconsin Rapids** (48);

Wisconsin Rapids Airport; Darwin Tiede, 2809 Schaefer Circle, Appleton, WI 54915; 920. 997. 9418; ctiede@new.rr.com.



Barred Owl taking a bath in Door County, from Charlotte and Roy Lukes.



Black-billed Magpie photographed by Jane Anderson.



# Using Motion Detection Cameras to Monitor Common Loon Nests in the Turtle Flambeau Flowage Scenic Waters Area, 2012

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Throughout 30+ years of Common Loon (Gavia immer) studies in northern Wisconsin researchers have observed nest failures due to a number of causes. Several attempts to identify and quantify causes of nest failure have provided some insights but also raised questions. With current advances in remote camera technology, we hoped to clarify some of these unknowns. In 2012, we selected the Turtle Flambeau Flowage as a study site and conducted a complete population survey. At 21 nests,*

*we placed digital infrared motion detection cameras. Mammalian predators, as expected, contributed to nest failures; however, water level fluctuations may be as important to loon nest success. We discuss the variables that affected Common Loon nest success. As previously reported, loons were tenacious at re-nesting after nest failures, which contributes to their ability to maintain stable populations. Also, we learned camera placement and monitoring techniques that will make this kind of research more successful in the future.*

## INTRODUCTION

Nesting Common Loons face many challenges in their attempts to raise young. Predation has been identified as a major cause of loon nest failure in many studies (Olson and Marshall 1952, McIntyre 1975, Sutcliffe 1979, Titus and Vandruff 1981, Yonge 1981, and McCann 2004). McIntyre (1975), Sutcliffe (1979) and McCann (2004) attributed the majority of nest losses to raccoons (*Procyon lotor*). McIntyre (1975) also identified skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) as predators of loon eggs. Olson and Marshall (1952) reported that potential mammalian nest predators would likely include mink (*Mustela vison*) and otter (*Lutra canadensis*). Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), gulls, and river otter were also included as nest predators by Borden and Rimmer (1998). Difficulty in identifying the species responsible for nest destruction from evidence left at destroyed nests has always plagued studies involving nesting birds.

Intensive productivity studies have been conducted throughout the breeding range of the Common Loon (McIntyre 1975, Metcalf 1979, Sutcliffe 1979, Titus and Vandruff 1981, Yonge 1981, LoonWatch 2010, and Mike Meyer, pers. comm.). Common causes of nest failure include predation, fluctuating water levels (Barr 1986, Fair 1979, Sutcliffe 1979, and Belant 1989), and human disturbance (Sawyer 1979, Titus and VanDruff 1981). In cases of predation, the actual predator species often goes unknown,

A study similar to ours was done in 2004 (McCann et al, 2004) and included our study area. At that time the trail camera technology was lim-

ited in its image storage capacity. To prevent the nesting loons from triggering cameras, McCann focused the camera behind the loon nest to catch approaching predators. This reduced the opportunity to capture aquatic or avian predators. We used modern technology to increase the likelihood of catching a predator on a nest and minimized having to make changes to the surrounding area that could affect predation and nest success. The opportunity for a Northland College internship and funding allowed us to do this loon nest study in 2012.

While loon populations in Wisconsin are slightly increasing (LoonWatch, unpublished data, 1980–2010, Daulton Dunn 1992) loons are at the southern limit of their range in Wisconsin (Cutright et al. 2006). Species are more sensitive to changes at the edge of their range than in the core breeding habitat area, thus loons in Wisconsin may be more vulnerable to perturbations such as loss of nesting habitat, or climate change.

## STUDY AREA

The Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA) has a large breeding population of Common Loons, making it an ideal study site. The TFSWA is a 5,798 hectare impoundment located in Iron County, Wisconsin (46°00'N, 90°10'W). The flowage was inundated in 1926. Its shoreline is predominantly upland with 2,575 ha of wetland adjoining the flowage basin. The flowage contains over 150 islands and has 290 km of shoreline. The mainland shoreline is less than 5% developed with the remaining 95% owned and managed in a natural state

by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as the TFSWA. The WDNR acquired the flowage in 1998 from the Chippewa Flambeau Improvement Company. Primary recreation uses in spring through summer include fishing, boating, camping, and wildlife watching.

The TFSWA supports many wildlife species that are potential predators on loon nests including: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), raccoon, river otter, coyote (*Canis latrans*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) skunk and mink (McIntyre, 1975, Olson and Marshall, 1952).

Annually the TFSWA has from 22 to 32 nesting loon pairs. Additional non-breeding loons frequent the area and often interact with nesting pairs. Between 1980 and 2012, a number of loon research projects have been conducted on the TFSWA (Belant 1989, Paruk 1999, Kenow 2009, and Meyer 2011). Belant (1989) identified and mapped loon territories and nest sites. The WDNR conducted annual loon surveys between 1980 and 1990 and then shifted to one survey every five years in coordination with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute statewide loon population survey (Bacon and Gower 1996 and WDNR unpublished data 2010). WDNR Science Services and US Geological Survey conducted loon research on toxicology (Meyers 2011), chick survival (radio telemetry) (Kenow 2000), productivity and migration (satellite and Geotag) on the flowage (Kenow 2000) from 1992 to present. Paruk (1999) conducted doctoral research on the flowage in 1996–1997. Finally, McCann (2004) used the flowage for 4 of

their 23 monitored active nests during their predation study.

## METHODS

Ten digital infrared trail cameras were placed on 21 loon nests (8 Moultrie M80 GameSpy Digital Cameras and 2 Reconyx 600 digital cameras). Using digital cameras, lithium ion batteries (8 AA per camera) and 16 GB SD cards (over 10,000 images each) allowed our study cameras to be pointed directly at loon nests for the entire 28 day incubation period. Camera placement at the nest site was based on topography and vegetation. Cameras were set to take 1 picture every 30 seconds, beginning when movement at the nest triggered the shutter. Date, time, temperature, and camera name were imprinted onto each image. Work was done from the water using a motorboat to avoid leaving a human scent trail on land which could influence predators.

Beginning on 2 May 2012 the study area was surveyed to locate territorial loons and nests. Historical records of nest sites were used to help locate new nests (Belant 1989, Paruk 1999). Once a nest was located, one person would pound the camera support stake into the ground, while the second recorded nest rim height above water, number of eggs, number of adult loons present, distance of camera from nest, GPS location of the nest, and loon time on and off the nest. The nest and eggs were photographed with a whiteboard showing territory name and date.

Three different kinds of camera disguises were used: PVC logs, bouquets, and overhead placement. PVC logs



Figure 1. Loon nest with PVC camera disguise.



Figure 2. Bouquet disguised camera.

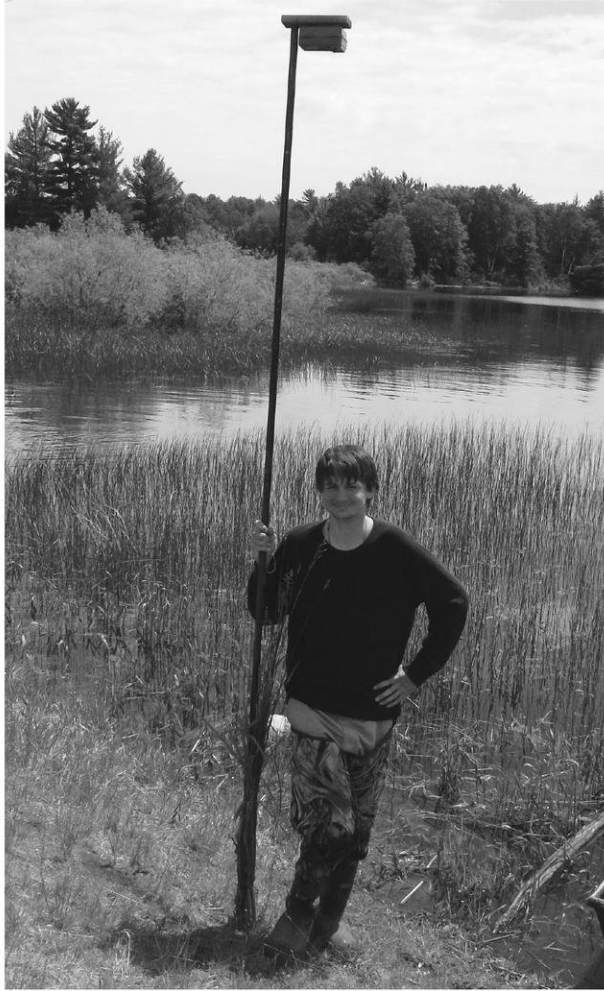


Figure 3. Overhead camera disguise.

were made from 4" diameter PVC pipe and were approximately 24" long. The PVC was spray painted brown and black to resemble birch logs and cameras were put into the PVC with a hole cut to provide access for the camera lens (Fig. 1).

For the bouquet disguise, the camera was attached to a  $2.4 \times 2.4$  cm ( $1'' \times 1''$ ) wooden board with wood screws. Native vegetation was tied

around the camera and board using wire and rubber bands (Fig. 2). Care was taken to keep vegetation from interfering with the lens or the motion sensor. The overhead camera was secured to a  $20 \times 7.5$  cm ( $8'' \times 3''$ ) board using a bolt. The board was then attached to a 3.3 m (10 ft) tall metal conduit or 1 cm ( $3/8''$ ) diameter rebar with the camera facing down. The pole was stabilized by attaching it

Table 1. List of Common Loon territories and outcomes. Type = Camera Camouflage type: PVC = PVC pipe; O = overhead; B= Bouquet. Reasons failed: washout; RI = research induced; U = unknown; NI = naturally induced; P = predator; HI = human induced campers. The dates are given m/dd/yyyy.

Territory	Nest Found	# Eggs	Camera Installed	Type	Fail Date	Reason Failed	Hatch Date	Chick Hatch
South Bonies	5/13/2012	2	5/13/2012	PVC	6/5/2012	Washout	NA	NA
North Bonies	5/21/2012	1	5/24/2012	B	NA	NA	6/18/2012	1
Chimney Stump	6/5/2012	1	6/6/2012	O	NA	NA	6/24/2012	1
Fishermans	5/13/2012		5/13/2012	PVC	5/13/2012	RI	NA	NA
Sieferts Slough	5/8/2012	2	5/11/2012	PVC	NA	NA	6/6/2012	1
Flag	5/8/2012	2	5/11/2012	PVC	5/16/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Springstead West	5/12/2012	1	5/13/2012	PVC	5/16/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Swimmers	5/13/2012	2	5/13/2012	PVC	5/23/2012	Mink	NA	NA
Long Island North	5/9/2012	2	5/11/2012	PVC	5/21/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Fourth Of July Slough	5/9/2012	2	5/11/2012	PVC	5/11/2012	RI	NA	NA
Heron Rookery	6/4/2012	2	6/4/2012	O	6/4/2012	Racoons	NA	NA
Beaver Flats	5/14/2012	2	5/16/2012	B	NA	NA	6/13/2012	2
Lake Ten	5/21/2012	2	5/22/2012	B	6/13/2012	U	NA	NA
Power Line	5/29/2012	2	5/30/2012	B	NA	NA	6/20/2012	2
Sturgeon Bay	5/11/2012	1	5/11/2012	PVC	6/7/2012	NA	Infertile	NA
North Turtle Channel	5/27/2012	2	5/28/2012	B	NA	NA	6/13/2012	2
Deadhorse Lake	5/20/2012	1	5/30/2012	B	5/30/2012	Racoons	NA	NA
Trude East	5/27/2012	2	5/31/2012	O	NA	NA	6/24/2012	2
Merkle	5/11/2012	1	5/11/2012	PVC	5/21/2012	NI	NA	NA
Long Island North R1	6/10/2012	2	6/13/2012	O	6/29/2012	U/predator	NA	NA
Trude West	5/10/2012	2	5/13/2012	PVC	5/17/2012	RI	NA	NA
Murrays	5/13/2012	2	NA	NA	5/18/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Fishermans R1	6/5/2012	2	NA	NA	6/13/2012	U/Predator	NA	NA
Teal Bay	6/13/2012	NA	NA	NA	7/26/2012	NA	U	1
Fawn Lake	5/25/2012	1	NA	NA	NA	U	U	1
Springstead East	5/10/2012	1	NA	NA	5/21/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Springstead East R1	6/2/2012		NA	NA	6/13/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Springstead West R1	6/3/2012		NA	NA	6/13/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Fourth Of July Slough R1	5/21/2012	2	NA	NA	6/2/2012	U	NA	NA
Otter Creek	U		NA	NA	5/14/2012	U	NA	NA
Rat	5/31/2012	1	NA	NA	6/13/2012	U/Predator	NA	NA
Sportsmans	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Pink Rock	5/29/2012	U	NA	NA	6/4/2012	U	NA	NA
Big Island Bridge	5/30/2012	1	NA	NA	6/4/2012	U	NA	NA
Trude West R1	6/4/2012	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	7/3/2012	2
Chimney Island	5/17/2012	1	NA	NA	5/27/2012	Washout	NA	NA
Grassy	U		NA	NA	NA	NA	U	1
Springstead East R2	6/30/2012	1	NA	NA	7/24/2012	I		
Norway Point	5/17/2012	2	NA	NA	5/27/2012	HI/Camping	NA	NA



Figure 4. Overhead view of nest.

to rebar pounded into the ground within a few cm of the nest (Figures 3 and 4). Vegetation around the nest was cut only when necessary and the camera was made as unobtrusive as possible.

Once a camera was placed at the nest, observers moved to a hidden location and observed the loons and nest. If the adult did not return and incubate within one hour, the camera was removed. This protocol was established to reduce the potential for loon nest abandonment after 3 possible research related abandonments occurred at the beginning of the study. Luckily all 3 pair re-nested and cam-

eras were not deployed at these re-nests. If a nest had only one egg when discovered (loons usually lay 1 or 2 eggs, normally at a 24 hour interval) placing the camera was delayed for several days to make sure that the loon pair had a complete clutch and was fully bonded to the nest. One camera recorded the female laying the second egg (Fig. 5).

After all cameras were deployed, additional loon nests were located and monitored by researchers using binoculars and spotting scope from a boat. When a camera nest failed or hatched, that camera would be re-deployed to another active nest. A new SD card



Figure 5. Loon with egg emerging from cloaca.

and batteries would be used at each nest. All nests with cameras were checked at least twice weekly to document loon incubation and nest outcome. Data were downloaded to a laptop computer and viewed to determine nest outcome and at some nests to read the bands on adult loons.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Nesting and Predation—*

A total of 39 Common Loon nests were monitored between 8 May and 24 July 2012. Cameras were placed at 21 nests. Typical camera set up time was 5 minutes or less and loons usually returned to their nest within 20 minutes of installation. Cameras recorded events at nests on a 24 hour basis. The 10 trail cameras produced a total of 26,095 images from the 21 nests. The remaining 18 nests were visually monitored to track nesting success. On the

camera monitored nests, 7 hatched (33%), 4 were washed out by wave action (19%), and 3 were destroyed by predators (14%) (Table 1).

Two of the predators were raccoons and the third was a mink (Figures 6 and 7). At 2 nests where suspected predations occurred the cameras did not capture predator images due to problems with camera placement or camera malfunction. Three nests were abandoned, possibly due to camera placement. At one nest the adult loon accidentally rolled its egg into the water (Figures 8 and 9) after one egg had been removed by an unknown predator the previous night. Another nest had infertile eggs.

On one nest an otter was recorded on the nest bowl. The nest was first located on 14 May with one egg. A camera was installed on 16 May with two eggs present. On 17 May the camera image shows an adult loon incubating





Figure 6. A raccoon predation at nest.

at 8:01 am CDT. At 8:13 am the bird is off the nest and the nest then remained unoccupied for 4 hours. While the reason for the 4 hour absence is not clear, it is fairly common for loons to leave the nest for extended periods of time early in incu-

bation (T. Daulton pers. comm.). An otter appeared at the nest bowl at 12:13 pm (Fig. 10), but did not eat the eggs. Seven minutes later (at 12:20), the camera recorded an adult loon back on the nest incubating. Both eggs hatched 13 June.



Figure 7. Mink predation at nest (tail and rear legs visible).



Figure 8. Loon defending nest from unknown predator (probably mink) which removed one of two eggs.

Of the 18 nests monitored by binocular/scope only, 5 hatched (28%), 5 were washed out (28%), 4 had unknown failures (22%), 2 were unknown predators (11%), 1 was infertile (5%), and 1 human recreation (camping too close to nest) caused failure (5%). The nest outcome of these nests without cameras is similar to nests with cameras, indicating our study activities had minimal impact on nesting outcome.

Combined, the 39 nests surveyed had 12 (31%) hatch, 9 (23%) washed out, 6 (15%) destroyed by predators, 2 (5%) infertile eggs, research induced failure at 3 (8%), and 1 (2%) failed due to human recreation. In addition, 1 nest (2%) was lost when the loon inadvertently rolled its own egg out of

the nest and unknown causes accounted for 5 (13%) failures.

McCann et al. (2004) identified 5 raccoon, 1 Common Raven, and 6 "unknown predators" as destroying active loon nests. The large number of his unknowns was in part due to low film volume which required that cameras be placed behind the nest rather than directly facing the nesting loon.

From remains at nests, Belant (1989) documented predation as the major cause of loon nest failure on the flowage during 1986-87, accounting for 64% of all nest loss. Mammals accounted for 54% of the predations followed by avian predators (43%).

Improvements in camera technology meant that our cameras could be focused directly on the nesting loons, providing a more accurate documen-

tation of predators. However, we also had “unknown” predators which occurred when the camera was not correctly aimed at the nest, when vegetation grew and obstructed the lens, and when an overhead camera was damaged by rain. All of these issues can be corrected.

Loons are long lived (over 20 years) (WDNR banding records). For this reason they do not need high annual productivity. However, several factors should be taken into account when evaluating annual and long term nesting success. Historically, Common Loon range included Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa. Wisconsin is currently the southern edge of the Common Loon breeding range in North America (Cutright et al. 2006). A decline in loon numbers would be most likely observed first at the edge of their range, thus placing Wisconsin in a critical location.

Predator populations have also changed since pre-European settlement. Northern populations of Common Loons did not evolve with raccoons. Raccoons probably followed land clearing and agriculture north and were stocked in northern Wisconsin in the 1940s when they were raised at the Poynette Game Farm and stocked by the Wisconsin Conservation Department (predecessor to WDNR). Raccoon predation on loon nests may also be linked to shoreline development. People inadvertently provide shelter and food for raccoons in the form of garbage, garden produce, bird feeding, and cover in out-buildings. In addition, the statewide Bald Eagle population has shown a remarkable increase in numbers of nesting pairs from 106 in 1973 to 1287 in 2011 (Eckstein 2012).

### ***Common Loon Productivity—***

Loon productivity in northern Wisconsin varies, with influences such as weather, predation, and black fly infestations (Weinandt et al 2012). In 2011, first nest attempts on lakes monitored in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Langlade, Price, and Iron Counties suffered greater than 50% loss due to nest abandonment caused by black flies. However, successful second nest attempts provided an adequate overall productivity (Meyers, pers. comm.).

In 2012 we had no nests abandoned due to black flies. Nest flooding and predation were the principle known causes of nest loss. Productivity at 39 nests in 2012 on the TFSWA included 12 hatched nests with 17 chicks. The mean chick productivity on the TFSWA from 1981–2010 was 12.8 chicks per year (WDNR files, Mercer). Even with high nest loss due to washout, 2012 productivity was above the recorded average. Average chicks hatched per pair were 0.43 in our study. Belant (1989) found 1.06 chicks hatched per pair on the TFSWA. Sutcliffe (1980) suggested that a loon population can be sustained or increased at average production of between 0.50 and 0.79 young hatched per pair. Thus, the 2012 TFSWA production was at slightly below sustainable levels.

### ***Water Levels—***

Washout accounted for 23% of nest losses in 2012, in part due to an unusual spring flowage refill schedule. The flowage water levels are controlled by the Turtle Flambeau Dam. Spring refill (1571.5 feet above sea level) is usually achieved by 20 April or within 2 weeks of ice-out as per the

Memorandum of Understanding between the dam managers (Xcel Energy Company) and WDNR. Average spring ice-out on the flowage is 22 April. After the annual (4 foot maximum) fall drawdown in 2011, a lack of snowpack in 2012 reduced the amount of water in the watershed. Also, in 2012 the flowage ice-out date was 30 March, which broke all previous records for early ice out. This meant that upstream impoundments, which also experienced early ice-out, reduced outflows early, thus making timely spring refill on the flowage difficult. Water level control at the dam did not complete flowage refill until shortly before 1 June. On 21 May, levels were 1571.38 and by 1 June the level was 1571.65. The first loon nest on the TFSWA was initiated on 8 May. As a result, most loons completed building their nests and began incubation before the flowage levels stabilized at refill (Fig 11). Because loon nests are built on land close to the water (within 22 cm, Belant 1989) they are vulnerable to flooding as water levels increase. The water level of the flowage increased by 20 cm (8.1") between 8 May and 1 July (Fig 11).

Previous research also found that the average height above water for loon nests on the flowage was 16 cm (6.2") (Belant, 1989). In 2012, average nest rim height above water at time of camera deployment (8 recorded nest sites) was 9.4 cm (3.69"). With nests so close to water level and a flowage water level increase of 20.3 cm (8.1") many nests were vulnerable to flooding, wave action, or boat wakes.

In 2012, loon nests on floating bogs had a 22% washout rate while loon

nests on solid ground had a 33% washout rate. It is likely that nests on floating bogs rose with the water level and were therefore less vulnerable to wave action. Belant had zero nest washouts in 1986 and four in 1987 (20% of nests). He attributed the 1987 washouts to a 12 cm (4.7") water level increase during a short period of time. He had no attempted re-nests for the flooded nests. Our cameras recorded wave action washing out nests as water levels rose, as well as loons adding nesting material to nests in an attempt to secure the site (Figures 12–14). Management practices for Common Loons on the flowage should include water level stabilization during the nesting season, approximately 1 May to 1 July. If refill of the flowage has not been achieved by 1 May or thereabouts, it would be advantageous to hold levels steady until after 1 July. Current climate change predictions for northern Wisconsin include lower winter snowpack, more frequent hot and dry summers, and more dramatic precipitation and storm events (Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts website 2012). This may make management of water levels more challenging and suggests that managers more carefully monitor water levels to insure continued loon nesting success.

### *Camera Disguise Design—*

Our first ten cameras were placed in PVC logs and three nest abandonments occurred. Based on this outcome, we changed to our bouquet and overhead designs. Our protocol required the loon to return and begin incubation within one hour or the camera would be removed. After use



Figure 9. Loon accidentally rolling egg into water.

of the protocol, no nest abandonments occurred. It is important to note that while the one hour limit was adopted, several of the loons from the

original 10 PVC installations did not return to the nest for over two hours and at least one of those nests hatched.



Figure 10. River Otter on a Common Loon nest.



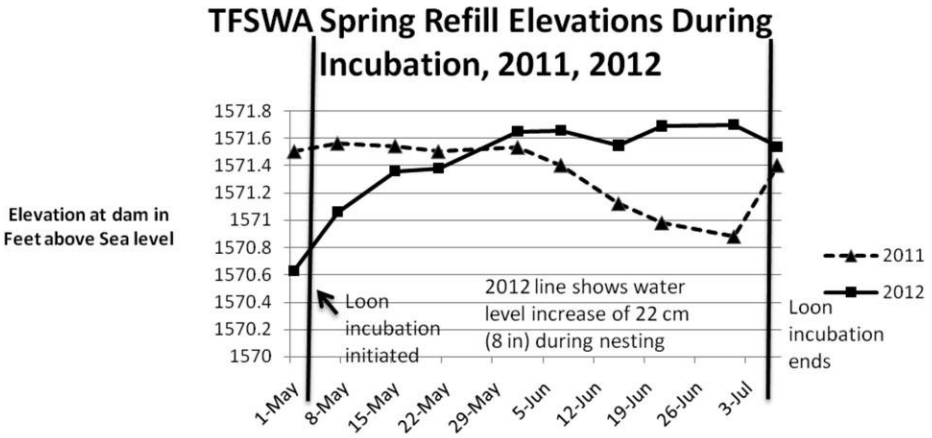


Figure 11. Water levels and nesting.

We identified a number of problems with camera placements. In several instances, insects building nests or spiders constructing webs in the casing of the camera or in front of the lens caused problems with the clarity of pictures. We suggest wrapping sticky fly paper around poles (barber pole fashion) 1 foot below the camera, and attaching a rag or sponge doused in insect repellent above and below the camera to reduce the impacts of spiders and insects.

When the growth of vegetation around the camera and the nest obscured the cameras' view of nests, it required us to return to the nest and flush the bird to trim vegetation. Vegetation trimming at these later dates did not cause nest abandonment, probably due to the ever-strengthening bond between birds and their nest as the season progresses.

On two occasions, the overhead disguise failed when rain entered the horizontal camera's case. The trail cameras are designed to be water resistant when used in a vertical position. We only used this method in 4

instances; however we feel that its advantages were substantial. The following reasons support these recommendations: 1) Loons returned in under 20 minutes to sites where we deployed an overhead camera; 2) vegetation removal or trimming was not required; 3) our recommendation for future camera installations would be a modified version of the overhead camera. A plastic roof installed between the camera and support board could eliminate rain damage. For example, a ½ gallon plastic milk jug could be cut lengthwise and mounted between the camera and support in such a way that the edges curl over the camera hinges; 4) loons are more likely to look at eye level than straight up, so perhaps are less likely to notice overhead features. The 8 ft pole version of overhead disguise is shown on Figure 3.

## CONCLUSIONS

Our data support previous observations of raccoon and mink as preda-

tors of loon nests. The evidence with regard to otter is less conclusive. While our single otter observation cannot vindicate otter as a potential nest predator it is worth noting that on this occasion, the otter did not eat or disturb the eggs. Otter presence at loon nests may actually reflect otters attempting to prey on adult loons. Olson and Marshall (1952) reported that potential mammalian predators would include otter and suggested that otter would eat loon eggs. Belant (1992) noted Common Loon aggression towards one otter. His loon splash dove and drove the otter out of the loon territory. The Vermont Common Loon Recovery Plan cited possible otter predation on nests in Vermont; however, that observation was based on presence of otter tracks or other circumstantial evidence at the nest site (Border and Rimmer 1978). River otter predation on a storm petrel colony in Alaska documented that river otters killed 289 petrels, and sea bird feathers were found in 193 otter scats collected at the petrel colony (Quinlan 1983). Quinlan made no mention of otter eating eggs. Our review of literature found few actual records of otter as an egg predator.

The improved technology and designs used in this study hold promise for further observations of nest predators with modest equipment and staffing requirements. Although the Common Loon population in Wisconsin is slightly increasing (LoonWatch unpublished data), there are future challenges such as increased loss of habitat due to development, changes in water levels and quality, or increases in predator populations. In states or provinces where loons are on the decline or in low numbers, preda-

tor studies may assist managers in protecting loon populations.

Stable water levels may be as important as other factors to loon nesting success based on our results. Management of water bodies with control structures should consider minimizing fluctuations during the loon nesting period. If water level fluctuation is unavoidable, use of artificial nesting platforms may be an effective option (Piper et al 2004).

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Figure 12. Loon nest inundated by rising water.



Figure 13. Loon adding nest material to combat rising water.

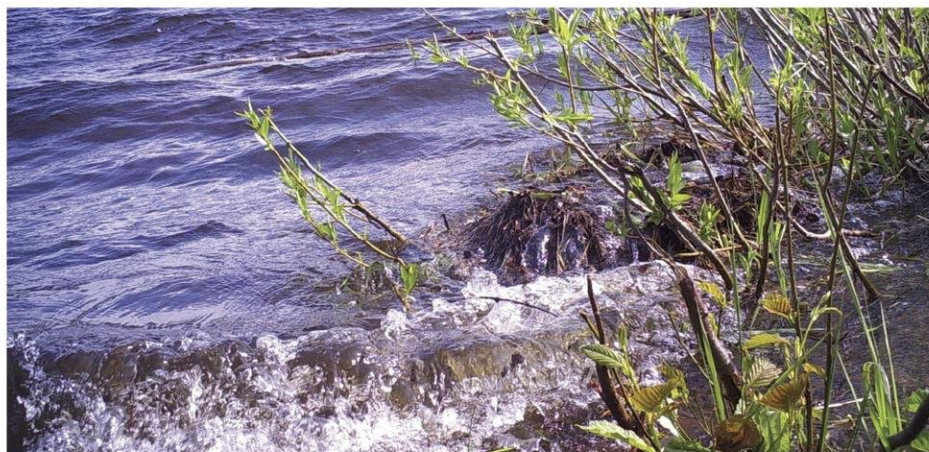


Figure 14. Wave washout from rising water.



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# Nesting of the Piping Plover in Door County, Wisconsin, in 2012

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**O**n 18 June 2012, a Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) nest with four eggs was found on a private beach along the Lake Michigan shoreline in far northern Door County, Wisconsin. This was the first recorded nest of the federally and state endangered Piping Plover in Door County since 1948, when adults and small young were found near Lilly Bay, just north of Sturgeon Bay on the Lake Michigan shore (Robbins 1949). The 1948 nesting in Door County represented the last known Wisconsin nest record on Lake Michigan prior to the discovery of a nest at Seagull Bar in Marinette County in 2001 (Matteson et al. 2007).

In recent years, the species has been

known to breed in Wisconsin only on Long Island in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Ashland County, where it began nesting again in 1998 following a 15 year absence (Matteson et al. 2007). Piping Plovers have nested at Long Island every year since 2005, with the only other recent Wisconsin nesting attempts at Seagull Bar in Marinette County in 2001 and 2008, neither of which were successful (J. Trick, unpub. data).

The Door County Piping Plover nest was first discovered by Mr. John Maguire of Fairfield, Iowa. Mr. Maguire then contacted Willard A. Hartman of Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, who subsequently contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay



Figure 1. Fenced enclosure in place over Door County Piping Plover nest. Note steep and narrow beach with high densities of zebra mussel shells. Door County, 20 June 2012. Photo by Joel Trick.

Field Office (GBFO). On 19 June, Mr. Hartman visited the site with writer and wildlife photographer Roy Lukes, who obtained and sent photos to GBFO, confirming the species identification.

The beach where the Door County nest was found is relatively steep and narrow, with large amounts of zebra mussel shells (*Dreissena polymorpha*), and limited cobble. The width of the beach from shore to tree line is approximately 30 meters, and the lateral extent of the beach is only a little more than 200 meters. Most nest territories used by Great Lakes Piping Plovers are longer and wider than this site (USFWS 2003).

On 20 June, GBFO biologists Joel Trick and Jill Utrup erected a small enclosure of wire fencing material over

the nest to protect it from predators (Fig. 1). Piping Plover nest enclosures have been used to enhance nest success for several decades in Michigan and have contributed to a significant and continuing increase in the population of the species (USFWS 2003). The female quickly accepted this structure and returned to incubating in less than one minute after installation.

For the next two weeks, the nest was monitored by a small group of Door County birders, including Mr. Hartman. Due to concerns for potential disturbance and out of respect for the privacy of nearby landowners, the existence of the nest was not publicized. The pair (Fig. 2) continued to share incubation duties through 1 July, after which date the male was not seen



Figure 2. Male (right) and female Piping Plovers at Door County nest site. The female was not banded; the male had been banded as a nestling but lost one of his color bands, so his natal area was never determined. Door County, 20 June 2012. Photo by Joel Trick.

again. Male Piping Plovers routinely remain with the chicks through fledging and usually to the beginning of migration (Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004). Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the male would have abandoned his mate and nest unless he had fallen victim to some accident or predator.

The female continued to incubate, with the first evidence of hatching observed early in the day on 2 July. Later that day, two chicks were seen by multiple observers, with a third chick reported by only one observer, the only report of more than two chicks. Although the female remained on the nest through the end of the day, the fourth egg never hatched. The female and two chicks were last seen together

on the afternoon of 4 July, just prior to a series of severe thunderstorms that moved through the area that evening. The chicks were not subsequently observed and were presumed to have perished during the night. The female was last observed calling for the chicks in the vicinity of the nest site on the morning of 5 July but was not seen again.

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*Joel Trick worked as a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay, Wisconsin Field Office for over 20 years prior to his retirement in 2012. His work duties included review of federal projects, migratory birds, and endangered species recovery, including Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, and Kirtland's Warbler. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.*

*Jill Utrup has been employed as a fish and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay, Wisconsin Field Office since 2008. Her work duties include review of federal projects, endangered species recovery (including the Piping*

*Plover), and evaluation of species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Prior to starting at the GBFO, she was biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia (Missouri) Field Office. She holds a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and an M.S. degree from Oklahoma State University.*

*Willard A. (Bill) Hartman is a graduate of Loyola University Maryland (BS Mathematics), a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a former member of the Actuarial Standards Board, a Past-President of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, and a former Director of the American Academy of Actuaries. Bill is a self-taught birder and is still learning. He is the founder of Doorco-birding, an internet based birding organization dedicated to the education of members on birding issues related to Door County, Wisconsin. He is one of the authors of "A Guide to The Birds of Door County" and he maintains the Door County Bird List.*

# The Upland Sandpiper Aesthetic

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If millions of years of evolution ever “intended” for the Upland Sandpiper to be an art object for the human intellect, I’m not aware of it. It seems that evolution plays no favorites. If the relative scarcity of the Upland Sandpiper ever imparted artistic properties to it, I know not of it. Yet that same scarcity seems to embody special value as assigned by us humans. I have never been much moved by the scarcity of diamonds or rubies. I have, however, thrilled many times over to those rare and uncommon encounters (and the recall of such) with the scarce jewels of our avifauna. I would wager that rare is the seasoned birder or conservationist who does not review his or her life list with special regard for the species that are least abundant, and hence least often observed.

If the tremendous autumn/spring journey of the Upland Sandpiper to and from the Argentine Pampas imparts artistic quality, it does not register on me. Yet, I am awe-struck by that revelation as documented by the dedicated men and women of science.

Combine the scarcity of the bird in

the summer Wisconsin prairie with its visual and audible characteristics and one might assign immense aesthetic value. I already have.

One might creep out onto the intellectual limb a smidge and even refer to the Upland Sandpiper as a work of art. Where is the art and who envisioned and created it? The “art” is a subjective value judgement assigned by observers such as me who see elegance of form, motion, and sound after the fact of evolutionary change over millions of years. We did not create the “art” but can certainly lay claim to recognizing it. Such was my good fortune on the afternoons of 14 June and 25 June 2012. On the 25th, I was blessed by at least four Upland Sandpipers that were busy in a partially grazed grassland on the Buena Vista Marsh.

If you are as yet unconvinced of their aesthetic value, try waiting during the appropriate season for one to perch on a fence post (Fig. 1), many of which surround some of the Buena Vista grasslands. You may be rewarded with the prelude of ascending series of chuckled call notes (to



Figure 1. Upland Sandpiper perched on a slim fence post at Buena Vista Grasslands, Portage County.



Figure 2. Getting ready to whistle . . .



Figure 3. . . . and then the whistle . . .





Figure 4. . . . and it goes on . . .



Figure 5. . . . and on . . .



Figure 6. Folding the wings.

my ear resembling frog song) followed in immediate series by the falsetto, descending “wolf-whistle” two-part refrain (Figs. 2–5) as the bird settles and gracefully folds its long (26” span), pointed wings (Fig. 6). If that be unconvincing, wait a while longer, and you might be rewarded by the bird taking wing and fluttering low over that grassland and settling on a favored feeding locale or nest site hidden on the ground in a clump of grasses. That ballet was repeated for me several times on the afternoon of 25 June. If still unpersuaded, try being near the metal fence post selected by an Upland Sandpiper as a late-afternoon perch (Figs. 7 and 8) with a southerly breeze humming over the landscape at 15–25 mph—this was my good fortune on 14 June 2012. Not only is it pleasant being there, but our celebrated “performer” will give its most extravagant performances, frequently holding wings out and up and flapping occasionally to retain balance on the minimal perch. Such did I thrill to on 14 June at the Buena Vista.

I seek not to minimize the “art” of the rest of the biota, but to celebrate a spectacular portion of that which touched me in June of 2012. (Prior to that time, I had experienced only fleeting, distant looks at Upland Sandpipers.) Would I compare the “art” of the Upland Sandpiper to that of a Turkey Vulture? Not in a linear parallel. Upon having observed the cruising and thermal drafting of the Turkey Vulture on many occasions, I choose to look beyond their head features that might register in the subjective perceptions of many of us as other

than elegant, and celebrate their airborne grace. Ever thought of their habit of dining on carrion as distasteful? Why not put that away and celebrate their being great recyclers with an important “functional ballet” in the biota?

As for the Upland Sandpiper, I have more or less secretly savored the name “Upland Plover” more intensely than the current common name rendering. As an indicator of evolutionary and taxonomic kinship, the current common name is, of course, a better choice. Yet, this aging observer still allows himself the phonetic luxury of repeating the old name quietly. Even the somewhat melodic genus name *Bartramia* (to which it is assigned as the lone species) is not enough to dissuade me from occasional flirtations with the internal whisperings of the name “Plover.”

I have always been fairly careful not to let slip the antiquated “Upland Plover” in the company of avian biologists and birders. Now that I have revealed my awful secret to a substantial readership, I hope that they will overlook my romantic variances from the best constructs that science has given us.

I am certain of this. I wish you all the vivid and intense observations of the Upland Sandpiper Ballet that I was graced by in the summer of 2012 at the Buena Vista Marsh as opportunity and good fortune may bring you that future communion. May observation of the avi-fauna and the rest of the biota bring you much adventure and wonder.

As for the uncommon and rare members of those biotic communities, reaffirm during your adventures that

their future survival and our own are closely and inseparably linked. To the extent that we can protect and enhance our environment (and theirs), be committed to that endlessly evolving challenge.

We would likely survive the disappearance of those long, pointed winged avian works of art on the

fence posts of the Buena Vista. We would also be much the more impoverished.

*Michael Hubeschen is the new Art Editor for The Passenger Pigeon. He has a lifelong interest in both wildlife and photography which he is fully enjoying in his retirement years.*



Figures 7 and 8. Settling onto a tiny post is a bit of a juggling act even for Upland Sandpipers.



## 50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

Harold Bauers started off the *Field Notes* section by stating, "COLD was the word of the winter of 1962–63." The state's climatologist noted that only January 1912 was colder. However, record cold temperatures did not deter 4 Virginia Rails from attempting to overwinter. Three individuals were found on 18 January (and later a 4<sup>th</sup>), feeding in a ditch in flowing water provided by an artesian well near the Bark River about a mile east of Fort Atkinson. The ditch was filled with water cress. By 10 February, the birds had survived temperatures near minus 30 degrees F. The rails were observed feeding, swimming, and sunning themselves beneath the overhanging snow-lined ditch.

However, during the following week one rail was found dead in the water, and no trace was found of the other three. Fowl play was suspect by Elizabeth Degner of Fort Atkinson. In another "By *The Wayside*" note, Alan Dunwiddie of Janesville noted that at one point one bird's bill became caught and he flipped over on its back in the water with its feet flailing the air. With some difficulty he turned himself right side up and then swam under the bank. The rails paid no attention to birders who could watch from about 20 feet.

*Excerpt from Vol. 25(3), 1963 by WSO Historian Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095. h. 262 .675. 2443, w. 262. 268. 3617, noel.cutright@we-energies.com.*



Pacific Loon artistically pictured by Sarah Sabatke on 24 November 2012 on Rock Dam Lake in Clark County.

# Lessons From the Seasons: Fall 2012

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This lesson, a departure from most, focuses on the fall migration patterns of an extinct species. Contained herein is a verbatim restatement of A. W. Schorger's article "*The migration of the Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin*," first published in the *Passenger Pigeon*, Vol. XIII, No. 4, Winter 1951, pp 144–146, [final paragraph which pertained to the winter season is omitted].

The lesson is all records are important. The summary developed by Schorger was not submitted by birders. They accreted over time by ordinary citizens tuned into natural events by simply reporting sightings to local newspapers. At the time of the earliest submissions, Passenger Pigeons were dirt common. If we only report what's rare today, we may not have the information to take the correct actions in the future if a common species heads the wrong direction.

Schorger wrote:

The fall migration took place with considerably greater regularity than in spring since it was not influenced by weather. In general, the southward movement began the latter part of August and the majority of the pigeons had passed by the middle of September. There was a large crop of acorns in the fall of 1881 and the pigeons re-

mained numerous through the first week of October.

**1843.** Milwaukee, September 5-8 (Marsh).

**1846.** Milwaukee, September 5-9.

**1848.** Milwaukee, September 5

**1852.** Port Washington, September 2.

**1853.** Beaver Dam, August 3; Appleton, August 27; Green Bay, August 30, September 20; La Crosse, September 13.

**1854.** Sheboygan, August 30; Platteville, September 15; Milwaukee, Mineral Point, September 20; Appleton, September 23.

**1855.** Sheboygan, August 11; Milwaukee, August 25; Green Bay, September 6.

**1856.** Plover, September 11; Milwaukee, Sept 17, October 15.

**1857.** Horicon, August 21; Watertown, August 27; Monroe, September 9; Janesville, September 10; Horicon, September 11; Jefferson, September 17; Waukesha, September 23; Madison, October 2.

**1858.** Janesville, September 11; LaCrosse, September 14; Superior, September 21.

**1859.** Weyauwega, August 3, 24; Milwaukee, Prescott, August 27;

Chilton, September 5; Viroqua, September 10; Superior, October 1.

**1860.** Poor migration. Hudson and Marquette County, the end of August.

**1861.** Oconto, August 29; Madison, September 7. "We have not had a good pigeon season, spring or fall, for a number of years."

**1862.** Oregon, September 10.

**1863.** La Crosse, September 11; Appleton, September 17; Dodgeville, September 24; La Crosse, October 12.

**1864.** Milwaukee, August 27, "for a few days"; Sheboygan, September 22.

**1865.** Osceola, August 19; Green Bay, September 7; Sturgeon Bay, about September 20.

**1866.** Shawano, August 9; Madison, August 29; Brooklyn, "the latter part of September."

**1867.** Sturgeon Bay, Thursday, September 26, "last week"; Oshkosh, October 8.

**1868.** Oshkosh, August 22; Black River Falls, September 12.

**1869.** Wautoma, August 25; Whitewater, September 6; Brandon, Kewaunee, September 8; Manitowoc, Shawano, September 9; Brandon, September 15; Madison, September 17; Wautoma, September 20, Shawano, September 23, Janesville, October 23.

**1870.** Sturgeon Bay, Madison, September 8, Wisconsin Dells, September 15; Durand, September 16, Sparta, September 20; Brodhead, September 29; Racine, October 10.

**1871** Waukesha, August 26; Brandon, August 30; Watertown, September 2; Milwaukee, Kenosha, September 3, Lodi, September 6; Green Bay, Appleton, September 7; Sturgeon Bay, Shawano, September 14; Beloit, September 16.

**1872.** The migration was mainly in August. Oshkosh, August 8; Win-

neconne, August 10; Fox Lake, August 16; Chilton, Racine, August 17; Black Earth, August 22; Manitowoc, Kenosha, Janesville, August 29; Eau Claire, Mineral Point, September 19; Platteville, September 26; Lancaster, October 1.

**1873.** Black River Falls, August 2; Oshkosh, August 20; Winneconne, August 23; Sturgeon Bay, September 11; Wisconsin Dells, September 13; Madison, September 17; Lancaster, September 25.

**1874.** Colby, August 8; New Richmond, September 2; Omro, September 3; Whitewater, September 8; Sharon, September 10; Viroqua, September 11; Oconto, Waukesha, September 12; Racine, September 17; Lake Geneva, September 19; Richland Center, September 24; Prairie du Chien, October 6.

**1875.** Unusual number in October, Hammond, August 13, Marinette, August 21; Baldwin, August 24; Green Bay, Kenosha, September 2; Fond du Lac, September 4; Beaver Dam, September 9; Peshtigo, Columbus, Lake Geneva, September 11; New London, September 15; Appleton, September 16; Oconomowoc, September 18; Brandon, Burlington, September 23; Wisconsin Dells, October 1; Columbus, October 2; Black Creek, October 3; Lancaster, October 7; Kewaunee, October 9; Algoma, October 14.

**1876.** Quite small migration. Oconto, August 12; Racine, September 9; Bailey's Harbor, September 10; Janesville, September 12; Boscobel, September 15; British Hollow, Grant County, September 18; Elroy, September 21; Racine, October 7; Darlington, October 13.

**1877.** Baldwin, August 13; Oconto County, August 15; Two Rivers, August



28 (none by September 18); Palmyra, Juneau, August 29; Randolph, August 31 (departed by September 7); Green Bay, September 1; Delavan, September 7; Marinette, Fond du Lac, September 8; Sturgeon Bay, September 14; Burnett, Eagleton, September 20; Oconomowoc, September 26; Fond du Lac, September 29; Palmyra, October 3.

**1878.** Racine, August 2; Black River Falls, August 28; Stevens Point, September 2; Lake Geneva, September 14; Burnett, September 18; River Falls, Sturgeon Bay, September 19; Monroe, September 26; Oconto, October 5; Ono, Pierce County, October 10; Madison, October 11, "great flocks."

**1879.** Juda, August 7: Two Rivers, August 26; Green Bay, September 4; Marinette, De Pere, September 6; Boscobel, September 7; Lake Geneva, September 12; Oconto, September 13; Fort Howard, Monroe, September 16; Ashland, Sheboygan, September 20; Boscobel, September 26, Rice Lake, Mineral Point, October 2; Oconto, Oshkosh, October 4; Racine, October 8; Monroe, October 16.

**1880.** Small migration. Oconto, August 14; Grantsburg, August 20; Plum City, September 2; Two Rivers, September 7; New Richmond, September 15; Viroqua, September 22; Deerfield, September 23, Arena, Ridgeway, September 24; Muscoda, October 10.

**1881.** Large Migration. West Bend, Racine, August 24; Sturgeon Bay, August 25, Superior, Marinette, Green Bay, August 27; Fort Howard, August 31; Shawano, September 9; Sheboygan, Waukesha, September 11; Wautoma, September 16; Westfield, September 24; Dodgeville, September 24; Dodgeville, September 28-29; Mineral Point, September 29; Westfield,

October 1; Chippewa Falls, October 5; Mineral Point, October 6; one of largest flights known; Richland Center, October 6.

**1882.** From this year on the fall migrations were very small. New Richmond, August 30; Manitowoc, August 31; Darlington, September 22; Bloomer, September 28; Darlington, October 13.

**1883.** New Richmond, September 12; Prairie du Chien, September 18; Reedsburg, October 3.

**1884.** Marinette, August 19; Sturgeon Bay, September 11, "about a week ago."

**1885.** New Lisbon, August 25-26, twenty dozen netted; Preston, September 3, Racine, September 11.

**1886.** Florence, August 21.

**1887.** New Richmond, September 28; Mineral Point, September 29; Darlington, September 30.

**1888.** Cassell Prairie, Sauk County, a flock of about 75 in October.

**1889.** No record.

**1890.** One collected in Oconto County, July 29, by A. J. Schoenebeck.

**1891.** Madison, September 2.

**1892-1894.** No records.

**1895.** Prairie du Chien, September 4, October 8; Manitowoc, September 12, 26, reported plentiful

**1896.** Delavan Lake, September 8, one shot by C. E. Golder and acquired by Ned Hollister.

**1897.** Several small flocks reported as seen near Oshkosh on August 14 (E. Hough, *Field and Stream* 49, Aug. 28, 1897:168; R. Deane, *Auk* 15, 1898:184).

**1898.** No record.

**1899.** One was shot at Babcock by Mr. Varney between September 9 and 15 (E. Hough, *Forest and Stream* 53, Sept. 23, 1899:248; A. W. Schorger,

Auk 55, 1938:531): small flocks reported along the Peshtigo River (Marinette Eagle Sept. 30, 1899, p. 1).

*Editors' comment: This is the first of quite a number of articles about the Passenger*

*Pigeon that you will be seeing in each of the issues of The Passenger Pigeon in 2014, as we commemorate the one-hundreth anniversary of the death of the very last Passenger Pigeon, Martha, on 1 September 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoo.*



White-tailed Kite found in Crex Meadow State Wildlife Area in Burnett County on 17 August by Jeff Fischer.

# The Fall Season: 2012

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**T**he summer was hot and dry. It was the warmest summer on record for Milwaukee. The 12 month period from October of 2011 to September of 2012 was the warmest 12 month period in the history of the lower 48 states. This heat was combined with drought that, for much of the summer, covered the state and much of the nation. In the period late July through early August two thirds of Wisconsin was in severe to extreme drought. The southern third of the state, from Columbia County south to the Illinois border, suffered the worst. On 25 July a rain of 2–3 inches fell across this southern area. Despite this, and other occasional rains, the state suffered with drought into the winter. By the end of October Lake Michigan was near a record low level. The record low was then set in December of the winter season. The lake in late October was 28 inches below its long term average. This, in turn, caused wide dry beaches to appear.

The first cool front of significance came the weekend of 8–9 September. On 18 September a strong wind blew across the state. The next morning there were freezing temperatures across the north. This wind, rather than blow new birds into the state, seemed to take away the last sizeable

numbers of warblers. If one examines the dates for the high count of the various common warblers, it will be noticed that the high for a good many was on 17 September, with few if any highs after that date. Over the period 12–14 October the heaviest rain of the fall fell, leaving 1–5 inches over the various parched parts of the state. The best rains, those of 3–5 inches, fell in eastern Wisconsin. As welcomed as this rain may have been, it was insufficient to end the drought. On 29–30 October Hurricane Sandy struck the coasts of New Jersey and New York. Remnants of this storm reached Wisconsin on 30 October, bringing northwest winds of 35–50 miles per hour and washing 10 foot waves against the shores of Lake Michigan. Due to the near record low water levels and the lack of east winds, little damage was done.

After a warm weekend on 10–11 November, a strong cold front with winds of 30 miles per hour rushed across the state on 11–12 November. This front brought the coldest temperatures to Wisconsin since early March. It also brought snow to parts of Wisconsin. This snow was the first since early March and created the end to one of the longer stretches of snow free weather in state history. Places in the



southeastern corner of Wisconsin did not receive their first snow until the latter half of December. Cities such as Burlington, Milwaukee, and Waukesha set all-time records for the length of time without snowfall. Mid-November settled down to frosty nights and sunny days with mild temperatures. Thanksgiving Day, 22 November, was sunny with temperatures in the 60s. The next day held freezing temperatures, snow, and strong north winds. It was in this time period that certain lakes in the southern two-thirds of the

state experienced their first ice. There was freezing and thawing going into December. The period 1–4 December was record warm with temperatures reaching the mid-60s. These above normal temperatures continued into the second week of December, setting the stage for wide open water and lots of waterfowl for the Christmas Bird Counts. After mid-December, the winter became wintry. The significant snowfalls after that time will, one hopes, replenish the water level this coming spring.

As is now the custom (with the advent of ebird) there were reports from all Wisconsin counties with the exception of Menominee. In the fall of 2010 there were 5 counties reporting 200 or more species to ebird. In 2011 that increased to 6. In 2012 the number of counties reporting 200 or more species to ebird nearly doubled to 11. Those 11 counties, in the order of how many species were found, were Dane (242), Manitowoc (230), Milwaukee (230), Portage (219), Ozaukee (215), Brown (213), Waukesha (211), Jefferson (210), Sheboygan (210), Racine (208), and Rock (200). In the northern reaches of the state, the high counts went to Bayfield (193) and Douglas (189) Counties. Last fall the number of counties reporting less than 50 species was 12. This year that number dwindled to 4. Those 4 were Menominee (0), Langlade (12), Shawano (45), and Pepin (48). On the negative side, there were no detailed reports from hawk watch spots. The last few falls Wisconsin was blessed with reports from Eagle Valley in Grant County, the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station in Sheboygan County, and Concordia and Forest Beach in Ozaukee County. Without the nearly daily input from these locations, it is difficult to gauge the ebb and flow of migration. One will also notice that the numbers for raptors have been greatly reduced from previous years. A total of 314 species were found. This compares well to 305 in 2010 and 309 in 2011. Among the better finds were Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Brant, Cinnamon Teal, White-tailed Kite, Pacific Loon, Eared Grebe, King Rail, Red Knot, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Sabine's Gull, Barn Owl, Northern Hawk Owl,

Boreal Owl, Green Violetear, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, Bewick's Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Hoary Redpoll.

## REPORTS

(1 AUGUST TO 30 NOVEMBER 2012)

**Species marked with “\*” need documentation that is sent to the WSO Records Committee.**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck\***—One bird (Fig. 1) was found in the period 15–17 August at Shoveler's Pond in Dane County with many birders reporting. Another Whistling-Duck (the same individual?) was reported from a pond off School Road in Sheboygan County in the period 24–26 August (Murkowski, Popp, and Schroeder). These are the 8th and 9th state records for this species and the 4th and 5th fall finds.

**Greater White-fronted Goose**—The counties reporting this species were Dane, Jefferson, Outagamie, Richland, Rock, Waukesha, and Winnebago. The first finds were on 29 September in Waukesha County (Szymczak) and Winnebago County (Ferry). These were followed by 7 October in Rock County (Boone). There were a number of late November reports with the last being 30 November in Outagamie County (Swelstad). The high count was 26 on 25 October in Richland County (Duerksen) followed by 7 on 14 October in Jefferson County (Schneider).

**Snow Goose**—The first finds were 8 September in Door County (Prestby and Schilke) followed by 16 September in Brown County (Rickaby). Snow Geese then continued to be found into the winter season. The high count was 41 on 23 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (by members of the WSO field trip) followed by 40 on 9 November in Milwaukee County (Huf).

**Ross's Goose**—The Ross's was reported from the counties of Ashland, Door, Jefferson, Juneau, and Waukesha. The first find was 12 September at the Necedah NWR in Juneau County (Senner) followed by 16 October in Ashland County (Anich and Oksiutz). There is only one fall arrival date earlier than 12 September. That date was 8 September 2010 in Milwaukee County (Huf).

kee County (Mooney and Petherick). The last fall sighting was 28 November in Door County (S. Peterson). All reports were of 1 or 2 individuals.

**Brant\***—One bird was shot on 2 November by Brandon Arndt on Lake Winnebago. It is not known in which county bordering Lake Winnebago the bird was shot, though the most likely would be Winnebago County. This is the first fall report of a Brant since 2004.

**Cackling Goose**—Reports of Cackling Geese were wide ranging with finds from 34 counties. The first find was 9 September at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (Sutton) followed by 11 September in Bayfield County (Oksiuta). Strong numbers of Cackling Geese continued to be found into the winter season with 384 counted on the Madison CBC on 15 December. The fall high count was 250 on 21 October in Dane County (Bergeson).

**Canada Goose**—The high count was 9,000 on 21 October at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Prestby) followed by 5,000 on 12 November in Clark County (Risch).

**Mute Swan**—The Mute was found in 16 counties with reports in the month of August from Ashland, Juneau, Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, and Wood. The high counts were 10–15 on various dates in Door County followed by 11–13 on various dates in Kenosha County.

**Trumpeter Swan**—The Trumpeter was reported from 33 counties, many of these being far distant from the early historic range in the northwestern corner of the state. The most often reported counties were Adams, Burnett, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Juneau, Marathon, and Polk. There were 14 counties reporting the Trumpeter in the month of August. Among these were such unlikely counties as Florence, Rusk, Trempealeau, and Vilas. The high counts all came from various locations in Polk County with the high of 76 coming on 28 October (Maercklein).

**Tundra Swan**—The first reports were 16 October in Marinette County (J. Campbell and Hurst), 17 October in Dodge County (Horn), and 19 October in Manitowoc County (Ristow). Due to the mild fall and early winter, large numbers of Tundra Swans remained into the winter. As is to be expected, the highest concentrations were along the Mississippi River in the southwestern corner of the state. The high counts of 1,500–3,000 came from Vernon County in the period 10–23 November. The high of 3,000 was

on 14 November (Paulios). Outside of this area, the high was 800 on 17 November in Brown County (Rickaby).

**Wood Duck**—The last fall date was 30 November in Grant County (Thiele). Due to the mild fall and early winter, Wood Ducks were found into winter in more locations and larger numbers than usual. The high count was 750 on 29 September in La Crosse County (Puchalski) followed by 350 on 10 August in Fond du Lac County (the Kavanaghs).

**Gadwall**—The only early season reports of this nesting species came from the Horicon Marsh in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. The high fall count was 350 on 26 October in Vernon County (Paulios). Due to the mild fall and early winter more Gadwalls than usual were reported into winter with 1,500 found on the Mississippi River at La Crosse on 15 December and 666 found the same date on Lake Monona in Dane County.

**American Wigeon**—The only early season report was from the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Tessen). Strong numbers of this species remained into winter with 1,000 found on the Mississippi River at La Crosse on 15 December. Only small numbers were reported for the fall. The high was 75 on 24 October in Door County (S. Peterson) followed by 50 on 26 October in Vernon County (Paulios).

**American Black Duck**—The only early season reports of this possible nester were from the counties of Ashland, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan. The high count of 100, as usual, came from Bay Beach in Brown County on 30 November (Swelstad). Outside of Bay Beach, the high was 40 on 27 November in Bayfield County (Anich).

**Mallard**—Counts of better than 1,000 birds were 1,500 on 29 August at Bay Beach in Brown County (Reed) and 1,800 on 19 November at Lake Koshkonong in Dane County (C. Bridge).

**Blue-winged Teal**—November reports were 1 November in Jefferson County (Schneider) and 8 November in Marathon County (Evanson). In the period 8–18 September numbers of Blue-winged ranged from 200–450 on the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County with the high of 450 coming on 13 September (G. David). Nearest to this were 400 on 12 September in Dane County (Axelson) and 400 on 23 September in Marinette County (J. Campbell).

**Cinnamon Teal\***—A Cinnamon Teal was shot on 22 September at the Nelson Dike in Buffalo County (C. McMurl). This becomes one of but 8 fall records for this teal.

**Northern Shoveler**—Early season reports came from the counties of Dodge, Portage, Sheboygan, and Winnebago. Due to the mild fall and early winter, large numbers remained into winter. There were 1,550 found 15 December on the Madison Christmas Bird Count. In the period 29 October to 10 November, there were consistent reports of 500 to 1,100 on Lake Koshkonong in Jefferson County with the high of 1,100 coming on 30 October (C. Bridge). There were also counts of 150 to 474 in the period 2–24 November at Stricker's Pond in Dane County.

**Northern Pintail**—Reported in the month of August from 8 counties with the first finds being 5 August in Rock County (Paulios) and 8 August in Dane County (Linemer). As with most ducks, numbers of Pintail remained into the winter season with an impressive total of 750 reported on 15 December on the Mississippi River at La Crosse. The high fall count was 193 on 17 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Svingen) followed by 70 on 2 November in Vernon County (Roth-Reynolds).

**Green-winged Teal**—Due to the mild fall, there were a number of reports from the end of the period with good numbers of Green-winged remaining into winter. The high count was 6,000 on 3 November at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Frank). The only historic fall counts with higher numbers were from the years when the Horicon Marsh staff conducted bird surveys of the Marsh. The only surveys with higher numbers were 27,000 (in 1988), 11,270 (in 1977), and 10,000 (in 1991). The nearest counts to the 6,000 this year were 150 on 7 October at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (Oksiuta) and 120 on 9 October at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagal-ski).

**Canvasback**—There were two August finds. The first was 10 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Wanger) followed by 30 August in Dane County (Sonzogni). These were followed by finds in Ashland County in the period 9–12 September (first reported by Oksiuta). Canvasbacks then continued to be found in strong numbers into winter with 5,527 reported on the Mississippi River in Crawford County on 19 December. There were only three fall counts of 1,000 or more Canvasbacks. As is to be expected, all were from along the Mississippi

River. Those three were 8,000 on 9 November in Buffalo County (Gyllenhaal), 6,090 on 10 November in Crawford County (various members of the Hoy Audubon Society), and 2,000 on 2 November in Vernon County (Paulios).

**Redhead**—Early season reports came from the counties of Ashland, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Oconto, Outagamie, and Winnebago. In the period 13–23 October there were consistent reports of 150–400 Redheads off Door County with the high of 400 on 21 October (Winger). The next high was 350 on 12–13 November in Ashland County (Anich).

**Ring-necked Duck**—The only early season report was from Burnett County (McInroy). The only other August reports of this nesting species were 13–27 August at the Necedah NWR in Juneau County (Senner) and 18 August in Rusk County (Stutz). Due to the mild fall and early winter, strong numbers continued into winter. The only fall counts of 1,000 plus were 2,850 on 10 November in Crawford County (various members of the Hoy Audubon Society) and 2,500 on 9 November in Buffalo County (Gyllenhaal).

**Greater Scaup**—Unlike the recent past, there were no August reports from Manitowoc County or any other county. The first find was 12 September in Ashland County (Anich) followed by numerous reports from members of the WSO field trip to Wisconsin Point in Douglas County in the period 20–23 September. Large numbers of Greater Scaup were not reported until the winter season. The fall high was 300 on 26 November in Ozaukee County (Frank) followed by 250 on 15 October in Manitowoc County (Ristow) and 250 on 13 November in Ashland County (Anich). The only years with lower fall numbers of Greater Scaup were 1978 and 1987 when the high was 200.

**Lesser Scaup**—August finds were 7 August in Douglas County (Willard), 10 August in Kewaunee County (Pendergast), and 14 August to 3 September in Dane County (Axelson). The first September sightings were 6 September in Brown County (Prestby) and 10 September in Ashland County (Anich). The high count was 600 on 23 October in Portage County (Janz) followed by 480 on 12 October in Portage County (Janz) and 400 on 2 November in Oconto County (Prestby).

**Harlequin Duck**—The sole report was of a single female along the Manitowoc City Lakefront by the Yacht Club. It was first found on 3 November by Prestby and Schilke and found

again the next day by a number of birders. By late afternoon on 4 November it was gone.

**Surf Scoter**—First reported by WSO Jaegerfest birders at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County in the period 21–24 September. This was followed by 1 October at Wind Point in Racine County (J. DeBoer), 7 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Mooney and Tessen), and 7 October at North Point in Sheboygan County (Benson, Fissel, and Heikkinen). Reported in fewer inland locations that the year before. The only such counties were Dane, Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Portage, and Waukesha. This scoter was observed at Middle Genesee Lake in Waukesha County from 13 October through 25 November (Szymczak). The only double digit counts were from Milwaukee County with the high being 25 on 14 November (Petherick).

**White-winged Scoter**—The first find was of a single bird on 21 September at the WSO Jaegerfest on Wisconsin Point in Douglas County. The next sighting was 7 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Mooney and Tessen) and 7 October at North Point in Sheboygan County (Benson). Inland counties reporting this scoter were Brown, Dane, Forest, Jefferson, La Crosse, Marathon, Oconto, Oneida, Portage, and Waukesha. The high count was 20 on 31 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Ward) followed by 18 on 20 November at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Wanger). A total of 13 were found on inland Pelican Lake in Oneida County on 9 November (Anich).

**Black Scoter**—The first find was in the period 9–15 September in Ashland County (Anich and Oksiuta) followed by 21–23 September at the WSO Jaegerfest at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County. The dates 9–15 September are record early. The record arrival date had been set just last year with a find in the period 15–27 September in Bayfield County (Anich). Inland counties reporting this scoter were Buffalo, Dane, Marathon, and Portage. The only counties with double digit Black Scoters were Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Sheboygan. In the period 31 October through 24 November there were nearly daily finds of 10–55 individuals in Milwaukee County. The high of 55 was set on 8 November (T. Schultz).

**Long-tailed Duck**—The first sighting was 7 October in Ozaukee County (Tessen) followed by 15 October in both Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties (Swelstad and Trick). Inland counties with Long-tailed were Adams, Brown,

Dane, Marathon, Portage, and Vernon. The high count, as is usual, was in Manitowoc County with 2,500 found on 29 November (W. Mueller). Nearest to this were 475 on 27 November in Door County (C. Bridge and Prestby).

**Bufflehead**—An unusually early report was of a bird on 25 August in Marathon County (Hurlburt). The first regular fall arrival was 7 October in Dunn County (P. Campbell and Geraghty) followed by 11 October in Dane County (Noeldner). On 12 October Bufflehead appeared in an additional 6 locations. The high count was 370 on 10 November in Crawford County (members of the Hoy Audubon Society) followed by 300 on 29 November in Milwaukee County (Vokoun).

**Common Goldeneye**—The first fall find was 26 August in Bayfield County (Oksiuta) followed by 30 August on Pelican Lake in Oneida County (G. David). The high count was 250 on 9 November in Buffalo County (Gyllenhaal) followed by 200 on 17 November in Oneida County (J. Davis). The bulk of Goldeneyes did not arrive until the winter season.

**Hooded Merganser**—This nesting species was reported in early August from 11 counties, which compares to 7 such counties the year before. The high count was 86 on 30 August on the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County (G. David) followed by 80 on 10 November in Iron County (Anich).

**Common Merganser**—This nesting species was reported in early August from the northern counties of Bayfield (J. Davis), Door (Overman), Douglas (the LaValleys and Willard), and Vilas (Spahn and Witynski). The high count was 75 on 17 November in Marathon County (Belter) followed by 70 on 21–22 September in Bayfield County (Brady) and 66 on 19 September in Ashland County (Brady).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—The first report was from Wind Point in Racine County (Hertz) with other finds continuing from that location into early September. Other early reports were 8 September in Door County (Prestby and Schilke) followed by 16 September in Oconto County (Prestby). Counts of 1,000+ individuals came from Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan Counties. The high count from Racine was 3,270 at Wind Point on 16 November (Howe); the high count from Ozaukee was 2,500 on 13 November (Tessen).



**Ruddy Duck**—This nesting species was reported in early August from the counties of Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Portage, and Winnebago. Reports of 1,000+ individuals came from the counties of Dane, Jefferson, and Portage. The high was 4,100 on 9 November at Lake Koshkonong in Jefferson County (Schneider). In the period 1–8 October on Lake Dubay in Portage County totals of 500–1,200 were found, with the high of 1,200 coming on 1 October (Barrickman and Pendergast). The 4,100 individuals at Lake Koshkonong are the highest fall total since 5,950 in early November 2001 at Lake Maria in Green Lake County (the Schwalbes).

**Northern Bobwhite**—Reported from the counties of Columbia, Kenosha, Ozaukee, and Rock with most of the reports likely being of released birds. The high count was 4 from the Richard Bong SRA. Any Bobwhite reported from Bong is almost certainly a released bird.

**Gray Partridge**—There were no fall reports. Over the last 12 years this Partridge has been found only 4 years. Over the previous 19 years, it had been missed only 3 years.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—Pheasants were reported from 31 counties. The only double digit counts were 12 on 13 October and 18 on 21 October with both totals coming from St. Croix County (Persico).

**Ruffed Grouse**—This grouse was reported from 28 counties, which compares to 25 the fall before. The only somewhat southern county was Sauk. The high count was 16 on 15 September in Douglas County (Sirvio) and 16 on 15 September in Wood County (Hayes). This is the highest fall count of grouse since 18 in 1998.

**Spruce Grouse**—A total of 4 reports were collected from 3 counties. Those counties were Ashland, Forest, and Vilas. All counts were of 1 or 2 individuals.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—The only sightings were of birds in Douglas County (the LaValleys and T. Wood).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**—The only reports came from the Buena Vista Grasslands of Portage County (Barrickman and Pendergast). All reports were of one bird.

**Wild Turkey**—The Wild Turkey can now be found in all parts of the state. The high count was 72 on 1 September in Portage County

(Janz) followed by 60 on 26 August in Marinette County (E. Stone).

**Red-throated Loon**—Reported from the Lake Michigan counties of Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan plus the Lake Superior counties of Ashland and Douglas. Inland reports came from the counties of Brown, Monroe, and Portage. The first find was 18–21 September in Douglas County (Tessen) followed by 7 October on Lake Dubay in Portage County (Pendergast). The only past arrival dates earlier than 18 September are 5 September 2004 in Douglas County (Paulios) and 16 September 2009 in Douglas County (Tessen). Most counts were of 1 or 2 individuals, with 3 to 6 found at various times in Racine County. The exception was the sighting of 12 on 4 November off Virmond Park in Ozaukee County (Stutz). Since the 1950s the only year with a greater number of Red-throated was 20 on 7 November 2010 in Ozaukee County (Ellis). Back in the 1950s, when Loon Bluff in Milwaukee was still open for birding, the finding of large numbers of Red-throated Loons was more common. The high counts from that time were: 30 (20 November 1952 by Dixie Larkin), 20 (3 November 1958 by Mary Donald), and 15 (3 October 1953 by Larkin). In 2012, Red-throated Loons continued to be found into the winter season.

**Pacific Loon\***—Before the late 1990s, the Pacific Loon was considered a rare species. Even today it needs documentation that goes before the Records Committee. Previous to 1997 there were only 8 valid fall records. Starting with the fall of 1997, this loon has been recorded every year. Also, nearly every fall, there are multiple finds. The best years were 2002 and 2011 when this loon was found in 5 different locations, with finds in 4 different locations in 2005 and 2010. The fall of 2012 continued this trend with 3 different birds reported from 3 counties. Those 3 reports were: 21–22 October in Ozaukee County (S. Cutright, Murkowski, and Setzer), 14 November in Ashland County (Brady), and 21–25 November (Fig. 2) in Clark County (first by Lund).

**Common Loon**—August finds beyond nesting counties were 19–26 August at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County (first by Domagalski), 25 August in Green Lake County (Pokorny), and 26 August at Picnic Point in Dane County (a number of birders). Due to the mild fall and early winter, strong numbers of loons were found into the winter period, including 24 on 15 December on the Madison CBC. The fall high was 95 on 13 October in Bayfield County

(Brady) followed by 90 on 29 September in Bayfield County (Brady) and 80 in Dane County on 19 November (La Puma).

**Pied-billed Grebe**—Due to the mild fall and early winter, a number of Pied-billed Grebes were found into the winter season. In the period 21–29 September on Pelican Lake in Oneida County there were reports of 220–250 such grebes. The high of 250 was on 29 September (Richmond). Nearest to this was a report of 110–218 in the period 20–22 September in Burnett County with the high of 218 on 20 September (Haseleu).

**Horned Grebe**—The first fall dates were 19 August through 17 September at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 24–31 August at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Claire and Ross Ristow). The first September find was 9 September in Douglas County (Svingen). Strong numbers of Horned Grebes then continued into winter. The fall high was 250 on 16 October in Ashland County (Anich and Brady) followed by 188 on 21 October in Ozaukee County (S. Cutright and Setzer).

**Red-necked Grebe**—Reported from 16 counties with the first find in the period 12–21 August in Vilas County (Van Pelt and E. Stone) followed by 20 August in Burnett County (Tessen). There were a number of reports from near the end of the period with Red-necked Grebes then remaining into winter. The high count was 5 on 21 September in Douglas County (Tessen) and 5 on 17 October in Bayfield County (Brady).

**Eared Grebe\***—This grebe was documented from Milwaukee and Sheboygan Counties. Most reports came from a bird found in the period 7–26 November off Bayview Park in Milwaukee County (first by Bontly and Wanger). Although not well documented after 26 November, this grebe remained until 15 December. The Sheboygan County find was for the period 25–27 November (first by Collison—Fig. 3).

**Western Grebe\***—Unlike the previous year when there were only 2 finds, this fall had 9 sightings from the following 7 counties: Bayfield, Douglas, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Marathon, Monroe, and Portage. The first of these was from the start of the season until 24 August at Lake Maria in Green Lake County (first by J. DeBoer) followed by 21 August in Douglas County (Tessen). The next reports were in the period of 19–24 September at Wisconsin Point, Douglas County (members of the

Jaegerfest field trip). The last bird was found on 24 November in Bayfield County (Brady). The high count was 3 during Jaegerfest. One bird was photographed on 7 October on Lake Du Bay (Fig. 4) in Portage County (Belter and Pendergast) that may have been a Clark's Grebe but was determined by the Records Committee as only *Aechmophorus* species.

**Double-crested Cormorant**—Due to the mild weather, numerous cormorants remained into winter. There were thousands reported off the Cat Island Causeway in Green Bay, Brown County with a high of 5,000 on 8 September (Prestby and Schilke). The nearest number to this was 1,340 on 15 September in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

**American White Pelican**—Found at or near the start of the season in 11 counties, mainly in the northeastern part of the state. Summering pelicans at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County were something new to the area. Pelicans were found along the Mississippi River in Trempealeau County as early as 5 August, with 500 or more found there on 6 August (West). As usual, some pelicans attempted overwintering at Green Bay in Brown County. The high count at Cat Island, Brown County was 400 on 9 September (Swelstad).

**American Bittern**—Reported from 21 counties with a high count of 5 on 24 August at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Koehn). The last October dates were 16 October in Manitowoc County (Knickelbine) and 17 October in Brown County (Swelstad). These were then surpassed by 10 November in Oconto County (W. Mueller).

**Least Bittern**—Reported from 8 counties with a high count of 4 on 5 August at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Stutz). The last find was on 31 August in Polk County (Maercklein).

**Great Blue Heron**—As usual numbers of Great Blue Herons survived into the winter season. The high count was 74 on 5 August in Columbia County (Ellis) followed by 50 on 3 August at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Pecquex) and 50 on 18 August at Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (W. Mueller).

**Great Egret**—Reported from 45 counties, which is an increase from 33 the year before. The last dates were 28 October in Jefferson County (Schneider) and 29 October in Walworth County (Howe) followed by 17 November in La Crosse County (Puchalski). The high count was 200 on 15 August in La Crosse

County (Stratton) followed by 150 on 18 August in Fond du Lac County (W. Mueller) and 150 in Marquette County on 15 August (Schiffman). It seems the high numbers of 300–450 from the year before at Horicon Marsh could not be found this year.

**Cattle Egret**—The only reports were 12 August in Manitowoc County (1 bird by Waterstreet), 6 September in Trempealeau County (6 birds by Sonzogni), 20–25 October in Door County (1 bird by S. Peterson and Schilke), and 31 October in Sheboygan County (1 bird by Murkowski).

**Green Heron**—The last dates were 13 October in Milwaukee County (O'Connor), 15 October in Dane County (Roth-Reynolds), and 19 October in Milwaukee County (Szymczak). The high count was 20 on 5 August in Waukesha County (Kingery) and 20 on 17 August in Winnebago County (Hayes).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—Reported from 14 counties, which is less than the 18 reported the year before. The last dates were 19 October in Dane County (Schwarz) and 24 October in Winnebago County (Ziebell). The only total of better than 11 individuals was 37 on 16 August off Van Patten Drive in Outagamie County (Malcolm).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron\***—There were two reports. One was over the period 1–7 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Kozioł). The second was over the period 1–7 August near the Juneau Lagoon in Milwaukee County (first by Anich). The Dodge County find was of 1 bird; the Milwaukee County find was of 2 birds.

**Turkey Vulture**—As is now the norm, numbers of Turkey Vultures remained into the winter season. The high counts were 170 on 29 September in Waukesha County (Szymczak), 180 on 7 October in Sauk County (Roth), and 201 on 11 September at Eric's Ridge in Monroe County (Eric Epstein). The 201 is the highest count of Turkey Vultures since 220 on 17 October 1987 in Sauk County by Ken Lange.

**Osprey**—The last dates were 24 October in Marathon County (Belter and Sabatke) and 25 October in Milwaukee County (B. Meyer). The high count was 9 on 8 August in Marathon County (Belter).

**White-tailed Kite\***—This kite was found in the period 17–21 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Fig. 5) with the initial sighting

by Jeff Fisher. This is the fourth state record and the second fall record. The previous fall find was 9 September 1989 in Burnett County (Pat Savage).

**Bald Eagle**—As is customary, the larger counts of eagles came from along the Mississippi River in the southwestern corner of the state, with these numbers beginning to show by late October. The only count of 100+ was 250 on 1 November in La Crosse County (Jackson and Puchalski). Nearest to this were 98 on 10 November in Crawford County (members of the Hoy Audubon Society). The only fall count higher than 250 eagles was 350 on 27 November 2003 in La Crosse County by Fred Leshner.

**Northern Harrier**—This harrier was found throughout the season. The only double digit total was 10 on 25 October at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (the Keagles).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—Found at or near the start of fall season in 13 nesting counties. This compares to 6 such counties the year before. Because there were few reports from hawk watch stations, it is not possible to know the peak migration period for this hawk. The high count was 75 on 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast) followed by 47 on 8 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Thiele).

**Cooper's Hawk**—Again, due to the lack of consistent reports from hawk watching locations, the high count was a minor 15 birds on 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast). There were other reports from Eagle Valley of 8 birds on various dates.

**Northern Goshawk**—The only early season report from a nesting county was Florence (the Kavanaghs). There were but two fall reports from the more southern reaches of the state. Those two were 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast) and 2–28 November at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County. All finds were of single birds.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—Reported from 29 counties, which compares to 24 the year before. As is normal, a number of Red-shouldered remained into the winter season. All reports were of 1 or 2 individuals, the exception being finds of 3 in Polk and Portage Counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk**—The last dates were 13 October in La Crosse County (Puchalski) and 15 October in St. Croix County (Maercklein). The only report of a sizable kettle was

1,000 hawks on 14 September at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Thiele). Nearest to this were 121 on 18 September in Rock County (Boone).

**Swainson's Hawk\***—There was one accepted report—a dying bird on 26 August at Ft. McCoy in Monroe County (Craig and Lourie Bartholomew—Fig. 6).

**Red-tailed Hawk**—Without consistent reports from hawk watching stations, the high count was 44 on 26 October in Sheboygan County (Heikkinen) followed by 35 on 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast).

**Rough-legged Hawk**—The first fall sighting was 7 October in Ozaukee County (Tessen) followed by 15 October in Oneida County (Housefield). Without consistent reports from hawk watching stations, the high count was 5 on 17 November from Buffalo County (Cameron) followed by 4 on 14 November at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Roberts).

**Golden Eagle**—Reported from the counties of Barron, Buffalo, Dane, Florence, Grant, Jefferson, and Monroe. The first find was 18 September in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) followed by 5 October in Monroe County (Epstein) and 23 October in Grant County (Thiele). All reports were of single birds. The single exception was a find of 12 on 17 November in Buffalo County (Cameron). These 12 are a single day record for the fall season. The record had been 4, which was set on 1 November 1996 in Oconto County (Jerry and Karen Smith).

**Yellow Rail\***—This rail was reported from Crex Meadows in Burnett County on 16 August (Budde).

**King Rail\***—This rail was found near the start of the season at the Navarino SWA in Shawano County (Mark Peterson). The only other find was of one bird on 15 September at the Rat River Marsh in Winnebago County (Tiede).

**Virginia Rail**—Reported from 20 counties, which compares to 17 the year before. The last dates were 29 October near Lulu Lake in Walworth County (Howe) and 16 November in Waukesha County (Gustafson). The high count was 8 on 5 August at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Longhenry).

**Sora**—Reported from 46 counties, which is a significant increase over 30 counties the year

before. The last dates were 23 October at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Reimer) and 24 October at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County (A. Holschbach). The high count was 75 on 17 September at the Mead SWA in Marathon County (Barrikman and Pendergast). This was followed by 35 on 22 September in Burnett County (Paulios) and 33 on 14 September in Buffalo County (Nienhaus). These are strong totals. The only historic counts of a higher number were 100 on 30 August 1998 in Marquette County (Christensen) and 100 on 27 September 2008 in Burnett County (Paulios).

**Common Gallinule**—Reported from 11 counties, which compares to 13 the year before. The only October find was in the period 2–12 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson). The only double digit counts came from the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County with the high being 15 on 5 August (Stutz).

**American Coot**—Found throughout the season with large numbers remaining into winter. Totals of 1,000+ were found in 13 counties, including all those along the Mississippi River in the southwestern corner of the state. The high count was 10,000 on 13 November in Buffalo County (Gyllenhaal) followed by 6,100 on 9 November at Rock Lake in Jefferson County (Etter Hale).

**Sandhill Crane**—Due to the mild fall and early winter, strong numbers of cranes were found into the winter season. The high count was 3,500 on 20 October at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Paulios) followed by 1,800 on 11 October at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (Gilbert).

**Whooping Crane**—This reintroduced species was reported from 17 counties, which is a significant increase over 10 the year before. The only reports from early in the season were from Adams County, the Necedah NWR in Juneau County, and the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County. The high count was 30 on 24 September at Necedah (Kaberle), which compares to a high of 16 at this same location the year before.

**Black-bellied Plover**—The first fall arrivals were found on 30–31 July of the summer season at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County. The first reports within the fall season were 10 August at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (the Kavanaghs) followed by 11 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Hahn and Weber). The last finds were 5 November in Adams County (Pendergast) and 10 November



Figure 1. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck found at Shoveler's Pond in Dane County and photographed by Chuck Heikkinen on 27 August 2012.



Figure 2. Pacific Loon on 22 November 2012 in Clark County on Rock Dam Lake, photographed by Dan Belter.



Figure 3. Eared Grebe photographed by Jacob Collison in Sheboygan on 25 November 2012.

at Wind Point in Racine County (Dixon, Goldberg, and Wenzel). The high count was 75 on 21 October at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Prestby) followed by 45 on 24 September at the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County (Prestby).

**American Golden-Plover**—The first fall arrival appeared on 21 July of the summer season at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties followed by another find on 28 July in Dane County. The first finds within the fall season were not until 15 August at Van Patten Drive in Outagamie County (Malcom) and at the Wind Lake Sod Farms in Racine County (Gustafson). The last dates were 27 October in Racine County (R. Flores), 28 October in Marathon County (Belter), and 3 November at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Frank, Ristow, Schroeder, and Tessen). In the period 21 September through 7 October numbers ranging from 130 to 210 were found at the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County (Prestby) with the high of 210 coming on 7 October. Nearest to this were 55 on 25 September at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (W. Mueller).

**Snowy Plover**\*—There was a report of a bird found on 1 September in Crawford County but it was not documented and sent before the Records Committee, thus it could not be used.

One bird was documented for 1 September in Crawford County (Alex Stark).

**Semipalmated Plover**—The bulk of fall arrivals began appearing in July of the summer season. The last dates were 12 October in Bayfield County (Brady) and 13 October along Van Patten Drive in Outagamie County (Malcolm). The high count was 34 on 22 August at the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County (Krakowski) followed by 15 on 19 August at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Coulter and Sommer).

**Killdeer**—The last dates were 24 November in Grant County (Thiele), 25 November in Manitowoc County (Murkowski), 26 November in Racine County (Fare), and 30 November in Brown County (Swelstad). The high count was 350 on 11 August in Winnebago County (Tessen) followed by 300 on 7 August at Sheepskin Marsh in Rock County (Heikkinen and Unson) and 300 on 23 October in Sheboygan County (Ristow).

**Black-necked Stilt**—The summer reports of Black-necked Stilts at Horicon Marsh continued into the fall season, with this bird reported

from both the Dodge and Fond du Lac County sides of Horicon Marsh. The last sighting in both counties was on 19 August (many observers). The high count was 13 on 5 August in Fond du Lac County (Stutz). This compares to a high of 7 in the Horicon Marsh the year before. The record fall high had been 10 set 5 August 2010 at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Prestby).

**American Avocet**—Fall arrivals began on 23 July of the summer season. There were 4 finds during the actual fall season. The earliest of these was of 1–4 birds on 16–17 August at Shoveler's Pond in Dane County. A good many birders were able to observe these Avocets. The next find was of 6 individuals on 27 August at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (Pendergast). Lone birds were found 19 October at the Manitowoc Impoundment in Manitowoc County and 27 October at Lake Park in Milwaukee County.

**Spotted Sandpiper**—The last October find was 30 October in Jefferson County (Etter Hale). This was followed by finds continuing through 7 November at the Manitowoc Impoundment in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Later than this was an individual found at the Manitowoc Impoundment on 21 November (Prestby and Schilke). There are but four state records with a date later than 21 November. The high count was 20 on 5 August at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (Kingery) followed by 11 on 9 August at a different location in Waukesha County (Wanger).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—There were numerous reports of fall arrivals during the summer season. October departure dates were 2 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson), 12 October in Racine County (J. DeBoer), 13–14 October in Vernon County (Duerksen and Roth-Reynolds), and 24 October in Dane County (Batterman). Totals of 60–98 individuals were counted in the period 5–10 August at Sheepskin Lake in Rock County with the high of 98 coming on 6 August (Boone). Nearest to this were 38 on 4 August in Walworth County (Fitzgerald). Historic totals higher than 98 were 100 on 2 August 1977 in Dane County and 140 on 15 August 1998 in Marathon County (Belter).

**Greater Yellowlegs**—The November departure dates were 1 November in Waukesha County (Szymczak), 3 November at the Horicon Marsh in both Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties (Frank, Ristow, and Schroeder), and 7 November in Jefferson County (Schneider). The

two totals with 100+ were 200 on 5 August in Rock County (Smallwood) and 150 on 1 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Pendergast).

**Willet**—The first fall migrant find was on 25 July in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Willets were found during the fall season in the counties of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Lafayette, Marathon, and Racine. This is an unusual number of finds, with nearly all of them from inland locations, and compares well with records only in Manitowoc and Marinette Counties the year before. September sightings were 2 September at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Cameron) and 16 September in Marathon County (Backus). The high count was 5 birds on 26 August at Yellowstone Lake SP in Lafayette County (Nechvatal) followed by 3 on 26 August in Columbia County (Senner).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**—The last October date was 28 October in Dane County (K. Kavanagh) and 28 October in Jefferson County (Schneider). The only November find was 3 November in the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Frank, Schroeder, and Tessen). In the period of 1–21 August there were numerous reports of 150–400 birds at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County with the high of 400 coming on 19 August (Coulter and Sommer). The nearest number to this was 200 on 5 August in Rock County (Smallwood).

**Upland Sandpiper**—There were 3 fall reports. Those three were 3 birds on 15 August in Brown County (Sinkula), one bird on 7 August in Jefferson County (Stutz), and one bird on 6 September in Brown County (Prestby and Swelstad).

**Whimbrel**—There were no fall arrival reports from the summer season. The only fall season finds were of one bird on 17 August at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (T. Wood) and one bird on 26 August at Hika Bay in Manitowoc County (Schilke).

**Hudsonian Godwit**—Compared to 8 reports the fall before, there were only 2 this year. Those two were 5 birds on 26 August at Sheepskin Lake in Rock County (Yoerger) and one bird on 26–27 August at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (DeRubeis and Pendergast).

**Marbled Godwit**—There were two fall reports both of single birds. The first was 18–19 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (first found by Budde) with the second on

20–22 September along the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Sinkula and Swelstad).

**Ruddy Turnstone**—The first fall arrival was on 30 July of the summer season at Harrington Beach in Ozaukee County (D. Baumann). The only fall season reports came from the counties of Adams, Dane, Douglas, Kewaunee, and Milwaukee. The only September sighting was 15 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Svingen and Vold). All reports were of single birds except for 2 on 26 August at Shoveler Sink in Dane County (Heikkinen and Schwarz).

**Red Knot**—The only report was of 2 birds on 23 August at Seagull Bar in Marinette County (J. Campbell).

**Sanderling**—The first fall migrants were found 19 July of the summer season in the counties of Iowa (A. Holschbach) and Ozaukee (M. Baumann) with Baumann reporting 17 individuals. November departure dates were 2 November in Oconto County (Prestby), 4 November at Samuel Meyers Park in Racine County (Goldberg), and 10 November at Wind Point in Racine County (Dixon and Wenzel). The high count was 78 on 21 September in Marinette County (J. Campbell) followed by 60 on 11 September along the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Sinkula and Swelstad).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**—The bulk of fall migrants arrived during the summer season. The last dates were 29 September in Brown County (Prestby), 29 September in Manitowoc County (Murkowski and Ristow), and 3 October in Dane County (Axelson). In the period 1–3 September there were reports of 80 to 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers along the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Swelstad). Nearest to this were 78 on 21 September in Marinette County (J. Campbell).

**Least Sandpiper**—The bulk of fall migrants arrived during the summer season. The last dates were 17 October at the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Swelstad), 20–21 October at Wind Point in Racine County (Mooney, Pugh, and Wenzel), and 24 October at Shoveler Sink in Dane County (Roth-Reynolds). The high count was 200 on 10 August at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (the Kavanaghs) and 200 on 16 August at the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—The first fall migrants arrived on 22 July of the summer season at Nine Springs in Dane County (Kauffman





Figure 4. *Aechmophorus* grebe, shown in this picture by Dan Belter, was found on Lake Du Bay in Portage County with a Western Grebe on 7 October 2012.



Figure 5. White-tailed Kite was found and photographed by Jeff Fischer in Crex Meadows, Burnett County on 17 August 2012.



Figure 10. Eurasian Collared-Dove found and photographed in Superior, Douglas County, on 8 October 2012 by Michael Sabyan. It is believed to be the first such dove reported from Douglas County.





Figure 6. This dying Swainson's Hawk was found and photographed by Craig and Lourie Bartholomew on 26 August at Ft. McCoy in Monroe County.



Figure 7. Red Phalarope seen from 2-9 November at Sinky Point on Lake Winnebago in Fond du Lac County was photographed by Terri Leasa on 2 November 2012.



Figure 8. Another Red Phalarope was present from 5–10 November at North Point on Lake Michigan in Sheboygan County. Photo by Joel Trick on 9 November 2012.

and Putnam) followed by 24 July at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Thiessen) and 24 July in Manitowoc County (Sontag). For the fall season reported from 11 counties, which is a decrease from 14 the fall before. The only October report was 21 October at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Petherick), while the only November report was 4 November at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Dallapiazza, Seibel, Tan, and Warneke). The high count was 6 on 2 and 4 September at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (Pendergast).

**Baird's Sandpiper**—The first fall Baird's arrived in July of the summer season. This sandpiper was reported for the fall season from 28 counties. The last dates were 7 October in Jefferson County (Schneider), 7 October in Oneida County (Prestby), and 20 October at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Persico). In the period 19 August through 4 September totals ranging from 20–50 were found regularly at the Horicon Marsh in both Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. Beyond these, the high was 16 on 11 September along the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Sinkula and Swelstad).

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—Fall migrants arrived in July of the summer season. The last dates were 28 October at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Petherick), 3–4 November at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (a number of birders), and 14–15 November at Wind Point in Racine County (Fare and Mooney). The high counts were 205–250 in the period 5–10 August at Sheepskin Lake in Rock County (with the high of 250 on 5 August by Paulios) followed by 200 on 16 August at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Tessen).

**Purple Sandpiper\***—One bird was documented on 8–10 November at North Point in Sheboygan County by a number of birders (first reported by Tessen).

**Dunlin**—Reported from 16 counties. The first find was 28 September in both Dane County (Axelson) and Manitowoc County (Sontag) followed by 7 October in Brown County (Rickaby) and 8 October in Sheboygan County (Schroeder). The last dates were 12 November in Sheboygan County (Ristow), 15 November in Ozaukee County (A. Holschbach), and 21 No-



Figure 9. Sabine's Gull photographed by Davor Grgic off Wisconsin Point, Douglas County, on 22 September 2012 during the WSO field trip.

vember in Racine County (Howe). The high count was 75 on 7 October in Brown County (Rickaby) followed by 28 on 27 October in another area of Brown County (Swelstad).

**Stilt Sandpiper**—The first fall arrivals came during the summer season. The Stilt was reported during the fall season from 23 counties. The last dates were 22 September at the Manitowoc Impoundment in Manitowoc County (Sontag), 26 September at the Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (the Ristows), 17 October at Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (T. Wood), and 24 October at Rose Lake in Jefferson County (Schneider). The high count was 75 on 27 August at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (Pendergast) followed by 28 at the same location on 31 August (Oksiuta).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**—The first fall arrival was on 28 July of the summer season at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County. Found in 16 counties during the fall season, which is a match for the number from the fall before. The last dates were 20–21 September in Burnett County (Haseleu and Persico) and 23 September in Marathon County (Backus). The high count was 67 on 24 August at the Horicon

Marsh in Dodge County (Sinkula and Trick) followed by 26 on 21 September at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Persico). The total of 67 is record high for the fall season. The old highs had been 57 set on 8 September 1980 in Dane County (Randy Hoffman) followed by 55 on 10 August 2001 in Racine County (Karl David).

**Short-billed Dowitcher**—There were numerous fall arrivals in July of the summer season. Reported for the fall season from 12 counties, which is short from the 14 counties the fall before. The last dates were 12 September from the Collins Marsh of Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and 20–23 September in Dunn County (Koch). The high count was 8 on 3 August from the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Swelsted).

**Long-billed Dowitcher**—There were numerous fall arrivals in July of the summer season. Reported for the fall season from 12 counties, which is an increase from 9 the fall before. The last dates were 24 October in Jefferson County (Schneider), 28 October at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Petherick), and 3 November from the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Ristow, Schroeder, and Tessen). The high count was 110 on 21 October





Figure 11. Barn Owl was brought in for rehabilitation at Ferryville in Crawford County - photo by Laura Johnson.



Figure 12. Northern Hawk Owl seen by many in Door County near Ephraim from 23 November into the Winter season. Photo by Joel Trick.



Figure 13. Boreal Owl captured, banded, and photographed at the Linwood Springs Research Banding Station in Portage County on 19 November 2012. This photo by Dennis Malueg.



Figure 14. Green Violetear documented on 13 September 2012 at the feeder of Mary Lou and Tom Nicholls at Fifield in Price County.

at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Prestby) followed by 50 on 27 September at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Frank).

**Wilson's Snipe**—This nesting species was found at or near the start of the season in the counties of Adams, Brown, Dane, Dodge, Outagamie, Waukesha, and Winnebago. The last dates were 29 November at the Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and 30 November at the Manitowoc Impoundment in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Numbers of this species were subsequently found into the winter season. The high count was 51 on 2 September at the Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 44 on 9 October at the same location (Domagalski) and 40 on 16 August along Van Patten Drive in Outagamie County (Malcolm).

**American Woodcock**—Reported from 27 counties with early season sightings from the counties of Dodge, Florence, and Outagamie. The last dates were 26 October in Dane County (McDowell), 27 October in Juneau County (Veltman), and 27 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson). The high count was 14 on 5 October in Florence County (Rickaby) followed by 9 on 20 October in Marinette County (Schneider).

**Wilson's Phalarope**—Reported from 8 counties with early season sightings coming from Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. The only find beyond the first week of September was of one bird on 22–23 September at the Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski and Schroeder). The only double digit count was of 12 birds on 16 August below the Hustisford dam in Dodge County (Bontly and Zehner).

**Red-necked Phalarope**—The first fall arrival appeared on 19 July of the summer season at Nine Springs in Dane County. This was followed by numerous July reports from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. This Phalarope was subsequently reported from 14 counties during the fall season, which compares to 10 the year before. The last September dates were 21–22 September in Douglas County (numerous birders from Jaegerfest) and 22–23 September in Brown County (Swelstad and Van Duyse). These were followed by a last find on 10 October in the Horicon Marsh of Fond du Lac County (Evanson). The only double digit counts were 12–13 in the period 18–22 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (members of Jaegerfest) and 11 on 23

August at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Frank).

**Red Phalarope\***—There were two reports, each of a single bird. Those two reports were 2–9 November at Stinky Point (Fig. 7) on Lake Winnebago in Fond du Lac County (many observers) and 5–10 November at North Point (Fig. 8) on Lake Michigan in Sheboygan County (many observers).

**Sabine's Gull\***—All reports came from Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Fig. 9). Most such reports came in the period 18–22 September from members of the WSO Jaegerfest field trip. Shortly before this, on 13 September, Brady and Oksiuta found a Sabine's at this same location. Although numerous birders saw Sabine's during Jaegerfest, only Tom Wood supplied documentation.

**Bonaparte's Gull**—The last dates were 24 November in Grant County (Thiele), 29 November in Ashland County (Anich), and 29 November in Kewaunee County (W. Mueller). The high count was 100 on 12 October in Bayfield County (Brady) followed by 95 on 22 October in Bayfield County (Brady). Outside of Bayfield County, the high was 50 on 13 September in Douglas County (Brady and Oksiuta).

**Franklin's Gull**—Reported from the counties of Crawford (West), Dane (Thiessen), Douglas (members of Jaegerfest), Grant (Thiele), Iowa (A. Holschbach), and Jefferson (Thiessen). Sightings from the months of October and November were 5 October in Dane County (Thiessen), 18 October in Grant County (Thiele), and 28 November in Jefferson County (Thiessen). All finds were of single birds except for 16 on 25 September in Crawford County (West) and 6 on 5 October in Dane County (Thiessen).

**Ring-billed Gull**—There were 7 counties with reports of 1,000+ Ring-billed Gulls. The highest totals came from Wisconsin Point in Douglas County during Jaegerfest with the highest estimates of 10,000 to 10,500 coming on 21–22 September. Outside of Wisconsin Point, the high counts were 6,000 on 13 November in Washington County (Schaefer) and 5,000 on 18 November in Jefferson County (Stutz). The estimate of 10,500 is the highest in the history of the fall reports. There have been 4 years with estimates of 10,000.

**Herring Gull**—The only counties with 1,000+ Herring Gulls were Douglas and Walworth. The high counts from Douglas came

during Jaegerfest with the highest estimate being 4,000 on 21 September (Pendergast). On 12 October at Lake Geneva in Walworth County there were an estimated 1,109 Herrings (Howe). Nearest to these were 900 on 27–30 November from Manitowoc County (Sontag).

**Thayer's Gull**—Reported from the counties of Ashland, Brown, Douglas, Jefferson, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan. The only one of these counties not associated with a Great Lake is Jefferson where an individual was documented on 23 and 28 November at the Johnson Creek Landfill (Stutz and Thiessen). The first find was on 26 September in Ashland County (Anich and Brady) followed by 12 October in Kewaunee County (Prestby). The only find of better than 1 or 2 individuals was 5 on 25 November in Douglas County (Bardon).

**Iceland Gull**—There were reports of single birds from the following 5 counties: Ashland (29 November, Anich), Douglas (29 November, Bardon), Jefferson (23 November, Stutz), Manitowoc (3 November, Prestby and Schilke), and Milwaukee (28 October, Wanger). The only inland find was at the Johnson Creek Landfill in Jefferson County.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—Reported for the fall season from 11 counties, which is record high. The old high for counties had been 8, which was set in 2011. First reported for the fall season on 7 August in Sheboygan County (Grgic) followed by 10 August in Kewaunee County (Pendergast). The next find was not until 4 September at North Point in Sheboygan County (T. Wood). Most reports were from Jaegerfest in Douglas County in the period 18–24 September. Findings of this gull continued into the winter season. The only reports of better than 1 or 2 birds were 3 on 9 October at the Wind Lake Sod Farms in Racine County (Howe) and 4 on 28 November at the Johnson Creek Landfill in Jefferson County (Thiessen).

**Glaucous Gull**—Reported from 11 counties, with all such counties associated with a Great Lake except for sightings in Dane County (Thiessen) and Winnebago County (Ziebell). The first fall find was on 23 September at Seagull Bar in Marinette County (Betchkal) not to be followed by another find until the period 3–7 November when the Glaucous was reported in the counties of Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan. The high count was 4 on 23 November in Manitowoc County (Verhaagh) and 4 on 30 November in Sheboygan County (T. Wood).

**Great Black-backed Gull**—Reported from 8 counties, which is an increase from 7 the year before. All 8 counties were connected with a Great Lake. The first fall finds were 26 September in Kewaunee County (Swelstad) followed by 1 October in Manitowoc County (Sontag). The high count was 6 on 13 November in Manitowoc County (Tessen).

**Caspian Tern**—October departure dates were 1 October in Ashland County (Anich and Brady), 1 October in Brown County (Prestby), and 20 October in Door County (Schilke). The high count was 110 on 8 August in Marinette County (J. Campbell) followed by 42 on 13 August in Manitowoc County (Waterstreet).

**Black Tern**—Reported from 17 counties, which is an increase over 13 from the fall before. The last dates were 1 September in Lafayette County (Nechvatal) and 5 September in Dane County (Batterman). In the period 5–10 August there were totals ranging from 56 to 75 at Sheepskin Lake in Jefferson County with the high of 75 coming on 5 and 7 August (Paulios and Stutz). The 5 September departure date is one of the earliest in fall history. The only years with earlier departures were 1986 (2 September) and 2001 (3 September).

**Common Tern**—Reported from 10 counties with reports at or near the start of the season in Ashland, Door, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties. The last dates were 17 October in Bayfield County (Brady), 28 October in Iowa and Sauk Counties (the same bird in both, A. Holschbach), and 28–29 October in Ashland County (Anich and Nemec). The high count was 35 on 3 September in Brown County (Prestby).

**Forster's Tern**—Reported from 18 counties, which are less than 22 from the year before. Early season finds were in the counties of Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Manitowoc, and Outagamie. The last dates were 17 October in Ashland County (Anich), 19 October in Sheboygan County (Schroeder), and 20–22 October in Green Lake County (Christensen). The high count was 26 on 16 September in Douglas County (Frank).

**Parasitic Jaeger**—First reported 13 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Brady and Oksiuta) followed by numerous reports from the WSO Jaegerfest at Wisconsin Point in the period 20–24 September. The 13 September find is the fourth earliest fall arrival date on record. The high count was 4 on 22



Figure 15.  
*Selasphorus*  
hummingbird  
seen in Port  
Washington,  
Ozaukee County,  
was photographed  
by Tom Hudson.



Figure 16. Another *Selasphorus*  
hummingbird was photographed by Roy  
Zimmerman in Hudson, St. Croix County,  
on 30 October 2012.



Figure 17. And yet  
another *Selasphorus*  
hummingbird pictured  
by Gerry Janz in Stevens  
Point, Portage County,  
on 17 November 2012.





Figure 18. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed by David Freriks in Ozaukee County on 31 October 2012.



Figure 20. Bewick's Wren was documented on 27 October 2012 in Eau Claire County by Ann Geraghty.

September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Tessen).

**Rock Pigeon**—The high count was 180 on 16 November in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 170 on 5 November in Dane County (Schwarz).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—Reported from the counties of Columbia, Crawford, Douglas (Fig. 10), Grant (2 locations), Iowa, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, and Rock. These 9 counties are up from 7 the year before. The high count was 5 on 4 August at Patch Grove in Grant County (Mooney).

**Mourning Dove**—The high count was 202 on 2 October in Racine County (J. DeBoer) followed by 200 on 11 August in Waukesha County (Kingery).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Reported from 23 counties, which compares well to just 15 the year before. October finds were 1 October in Door County (Wegner), 1 October in Manitowoc County (Sontag), 4 October in Milwaukee County (Wanger), and 18 October in Dane County (Schneider). The sole sighting of more than 1 individual was of 2 birds on 5 August in Sheboygan County (Barrientos).

**Black-billed Cuckoo**—Reported from 20 counties, which is a match for the number of counties the year before. The last dates were 27 September in Dane County (Schiffman), 29 September in Sauk County (Batterman), and 2 October in Ozaukee County (Frank). The only reports of 2 individuals were 18 August in Florence County (K. Kavanagh), 4 September in Florence County (K. Kavanagh), and 10 September in Bayfield County (Ouren).

**Eastern Screech-Owl**—Reported from 21 counties, which compares to 17 the year before. The most northern finds were in Dunn County (P. Campbell) and Pierce County (Ellis). The high count was 3 on 26 October in Dane County (K. Kavanagh) and 3 on 10 November in Iowa County (Howe and Wegner).

**Barn Owl\***—One bird (Fig. 11) was brought in for rehab at Ferryville in Crawford County (L. Johnson).

**Great Horned Owl**—Reported from 44 counties, which compares to 39 the year before. The high count was 5 on 18 November in Waushara County (Paulios).

**Snowy Owl**—Although not a good comparison to the record fall of 2011, which had 42 counties reporting Snowy Owls, the 12 counties finding them this fall was a strong showing. The first dates were 1 November in Sheboygan County (Schroeder) and 2 November in Manitowoc County (Sinkula and Sontag). The only find of 2 birds were on 5 and 10 November in Sheboygan County (S. Cutright, C. Schwartz, Setzer, and T. Wood).

**Northern Hawk Owl\***—One bird (Fig. 12) was found at the intersection of State Highway 57 and County Highway Q just east from Ephraim in Door County. This owl was first noticed by Jane Whitney on 23 November with a follow-up and identification made by Sue Peterson on 24 November. Well documented sightings continued into winter.

**Barred Owl**—Reported from 48 counties, which compares to 40 the year before. The high count was 4 on 1 September in Waushara County (Paulios).

**Long-eared Owl**—There were 3 reports, each of single birds. Those three were 29 October in Portage County (DuRubies), 4 November in Portage County (S. Cutright and Setzer), and 19 November in Barron County.

**Short-eared Owl**—Reported from 9 counties, which compares to 7 the fall before. Early finds were 9 August at the Powell Marsh in Vilas County (G. David and Z. Wilson) and 25 August at the 6th Avenue Marsh in Adams County (Pendergast). The next sighting was not until 16 October in Jefferson County (C. Bridge). The high count was 6 on 23 October in Jefferson County (Schneider).

**Boreal Owl\***—One bird was captured, banded, and photographed (Fig. 13) at the Linwood Springs Research Banding Station in Portage County on 19 November (Eugene Jacobs). This is only the seventh fall season with a report of a Boreal. The other six were 1962, 1978, 1995, 1996, 2000, and 2004.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—Reported from 13 counties, which is a large increase over 5 the fall before. Found at the start of the period in Douglas County (the LaValleys). Earliest finds beyond that were 28 August in Dunn County (Heagle) followed by 1 September in Vilas County (M. Anderson). This owl continued to be found into the winter season. The high count was 10 on 3 November at the Linwood Springs banding station in Portage County (Brad Zinda) followed by 8 on 20 October at



Figure 19. Loggerhead Shrike found and photographed by Chuck Heikkinen in Iowa County on 17 August 2012.

the Woodland Dunes banding station in Manitowoc County.

**Common Nighthawk**—Reported near the start of the season from the widely scattered counties of Bayfield, Calumet, Jefferson, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, and Sheboygan. October departure dates were 3 October in Milwaukee County (J. DeBoer), 3 October in Rock County (Cullum), 3 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson) and, then, a final 3 birds on 20 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson). The high count was 640 on 22 August in Bayfield County (Oksiuta) followed by 600 on 21 August in Bayfield County (Brady) and 550 on 27 August in Brown County (Rickaby).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will**—Reported from 16 counties, which is an increase from 10 the fall before. Early season reports came from the counties of Clark, Florence, Kenosha, and Marinette. The last dates were 14 September in Florence County (the Kavanaghs), 19 September in Milwaukee County (Horn), and 23 September in Dane County (Cederstrom). The high count was 4 on 25 August in St. Croix County (Persico).

**Chimney Swift**—The last dates were 16 October in Dane County (Paulios), 16 October in Milwaukee County (Frank and Wanger), 16 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson), and then capped off with a find on 17 October in Milwaukee County (Setzer). The high count was 1,896 on 29 August at Lake Geneva in Walworth County (Mariette Nowak). The nearest total to this was 600 on 10 August in Marathon County (Belter). The only historic fall number better than 1,896 was 2,000 on 28 September 1985 in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

**Green Violetear\***—One bird (Fig. 14) was well documented on 13 September at the feeder of Mary Lou and Tom Nicholls at Fifield in Price County. This becomes the sixth state record and the fifth fall record. Other fall seasons with Violetears were 1998, 2002, and 2005 (with two records).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**—The last dates within normal ranges were 6–7 October in Kenosha County (Dixon) and 12 October in Dane County (Cederstrom). These were followed by a documented Ruby-throated at a feeder in the period 1–30 November at Howard's Grove in Sheboygan County (Irmie and Terry Zerger). This Ruby-throated was still present as late as 23 December, which would be



Figure 21. Bohemian Waxwing (on right) and Cedar Waxwing (on left) pose beautifully for comparison purposes on 21 November 2012 in Grant Park in Milwaukee County for Jennifer Ambrose.

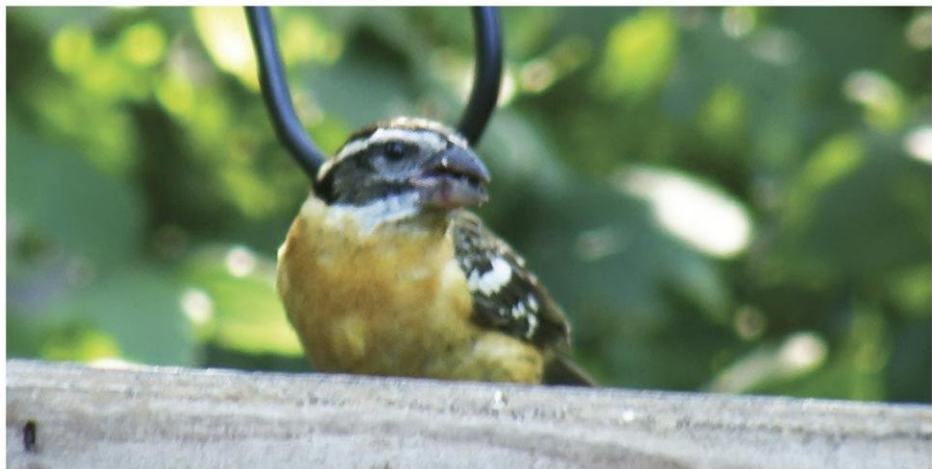


Figure 22. Black-headed Grosbeak as photographed on 25 September 2012 in Racine County by Sharon Kennedy.



record late. The record departure date had been 19 December 1980 in Door County (Roy and Charlotte Lukes). In the period 1–27 August, Judy Lund had 20 to 50 hummers daily at her feeder in Clark County. Following this were highs of 25 on 3 September in Crawford County (Sandstrom) and 25 on 9 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge and Stutz). The only historic count higher than this year's 50 was 91 on 15 September 1991 at Concordia College in Ozaukee County (William Cowart).

**Rufous Hummingbird\***—There were 2 reports for the Rufous Hummingbird plus an additional 5 for *Selasphorus* species. The two Rufous finds were 28 October into December at La Crosse in La Crosse County (Alexandra Wardwell) and 10 November into December at Rio in Columbia County (E. Lucke). The 5 *Selasphorus* finds were approximately 9–25 November at Port Washington (Fig. 15) in Ozaukee County (T. Hudson), 8–31 October at Hudson (Fig. 16) in St. Croix County (Sirvio and Zimmerman), about 11 October to 20 November at Stevens Point (Fig. 17) in Portage County (Janz), mid-October into December at Brookfield in Waukesha County (Bontly, J. Newton, and Strelka), and 3 November into December at La Crosse in La Crosse County (A. Wardwell and D. Jackson). Nearly every fall there are now multiple reports of Rufous. These 7 from 2012 are a record high for number of finds in a single season. Besides being record high in number, most of these Rufous were record setting in tardiness. Four of the above birds remained at feeders until late December.

**Belted Kingfisher**—The high count was 10 on 12 August in Burnett County (Dwight and Kevin Smith). As usual, numbers of this species remained into the winter season.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—Reported from 41 counties, which is a nice increase over the 30 from the previous fall. The high count was 17 on 31 August at the Necedah NWR in Juneau County (Sabatke) followed by 11 on 12 August in Sawyer County (Pertile) and 11 on 14 September in Grant County (Thiele).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—Other than for lightly birded Iron County, the Red-bellied was found in every county that borders Lake Superior and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The high count was 25 on 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast) followed by 11 on 30 September in Waukesha County (Kingery).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Numbers of Sapsuckers were found well into the winter season. The high count was 23 on 21 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Persico) followed by 20 on 23 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Huf) and 11 on 29 September at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County (Hagner).

**Downy Woodpecker**—The high count was 21 on 18 August in Ozaukee County (Jaeger) followed by 15 on 10 August in Adams County (Helland).

**Hairy Woodpecker**—The high count was 15 on 4 November in Milwaukee County (Vokoun) followed by 10 on 8 September in Sauk County (Deb. Jones). The only historic fall report of a number higher than 15 was 28 on 17 September 1990 in Marinette County (the La Valleys).

**Black-backed Woodpecker**—There was one fall find, that being a single bird on 12 October along Flannigan Road in Forest County (Robert Spahn).

**Northern Flicker**—The high count was 30 on 17 September in Douglas County (Tessen) followed by 25 on 4 September in Door County (S. Peterson).

**Pileated Woodpecker**—Reported from 59 counties. The high count was 6 on 12 August in Oconto County (Jerry Smith) followed by numerous reports of 5.

**American Kestrel**—The high count was 12 on 2 August in Portage County (Gilbert) followed by 10 on 12 September in Bayfield County (Ouren). Due to the lack of reports from hawk watching locations, these totals are minor compared to past years.

**Merlin**—This falcon was found early in the season in the counties of Adams, Ashland, Clark, Door, Douglas, Marathon, Portage, and Vilas. The reports from Adams, Clark, Marathon, and Portage are unusual in that the Merlin is not known to nest in these counties and the first few days of August are early for migration. Outside these counties, the first migrants were 6 August in Sauk County (A. Holschbach), 12 August in Jefferson County (Stutz), and 16 August in Outagamie County (Swelstad). Numbers of Merlin remained into the winter season. The high count was 9 on 14 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Schaefer) followed by 8 on 18 September at Forest Beach (W. Mueller). This is a drastic re-

duction from the year before when the high was 209. This reduction is due to few reports from hawk watching locations.

**Peregrine Falcon**—Reported from 36 counties, which compares to 28 the year before. The high count was 5 on 19 August in Fond du Lac County (Sommer) followed by 4 on 21 August in Dodge County (Prestby). These highs compare to a high of 50 the year before when there were reports from hawk watching locations.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**—There were no early season reports from any nesting county. The only nesting counties to make a report of any type were Bayfield, Burnett, Door, and Oneida. Early migrants were 7 August in Dane County (Herb), 7 August in Racine County (Kennedy), 8 August in Dane County (Heikkinen), and 10 August in Walworth County (Howe). The last dates were 14 September in Sauk County (McDonald), 16 September in Milwaukee County (Huf), and 16 September in Richland County (Duerksen). The high count was 3 on 25 August at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (S. Cutright, Hahn, and Setzer).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**—The last dates were 4 October at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Wanger) and 5 October at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly). The high count was 15 on 11 August at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Kauffman and McDowell) and 15 on 19 August at Perrot SP in Trempealeau County (C. Anderson).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**—The only early season report from a nesting county was from the Apostle Islands in Bayfield County (Josh Davis). The first migrant reports were 4 August in Outagamie County (Tessen) and 4–5 August in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 12 August in Kenosha County (Witynski). The last date was 21 September in Dane County (White) and 21 September in Vernon County (Roth-Reynolds). The high count was 4 on 17 August in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 3 on 21 August in Rock County (Cullum).

**Acadian Flycatcher**—Reported from 8 counties with early season finds in the counties of Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Iowa, and Ozaukee. The last dates were 10 September in Dane County (Schiffman) and 12 September in Dodge County (Batterman). The high count was 4 on 14 August in Waukesha County (Szymczak).

**Alder Flycatcher**—Early season reports from northern counties, where this flycatcher would be most expected, came only from Bayfield and Douglas Counties. Early season reports from more southern locations came from the counties of Green Lake, Kenosha, and Ozaukee. The only September find was 2 September in Dane County (Ellis). The high count was 3 on 5 August in Bayfield County (Brady).

**Willow Flycatcher**—The only northern report for this usually southern flycatcher was on 19 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Setzer). The last dates were 2 September in Dane County (Ellis) and 3–4 September at Token Creek in Dane County (Bill and Ed Saur). The high count was 8 on 18 August at the Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County (White) followed by 4 on 1 August in Dane County (Henrikson) and 4 on 2 August in Walworth County (Howe).

**Least Flycatcher**—October departure dates were 1 October at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Sommer) and 6 October in Washington County (Schramm). The high count was 6 on 19 August in Dodge County (Mertins) followed by 5 on 27 August in Bayfield County (Brady) and 5 on 15 September in Dane County (Henrikson).

**Eastern Phoebe**—The last dates were 26 October in Dane County (Henrikson), 26 October in Monroe County (Epstein), 1 November in Dane County (Kreitingner), and 16 November in Dane County (Batterman). The high count was 15 on 19 August in Trempealeau County (C. Anderson) followed by 12 in a number of locations.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**—The last dates were 21 September in Ozaukee County (Sommer), 22 September in Walworth County (Howe), and 25 September in Sauk County (Lanzendor). The high count was 8 on 6 September at Perrot SP in Trempealeau County (Sonzogni) followed by 6 on 18 August in Burnett County (Setzer) and 5 on 19 August in Door County (S. Peterson).

**Eastern Kingbird**—The last dates were 15 September in Ozaukee County (S. Cutright, Roessel, and Setzer), 22 September in Marathon County (Belter), and 25 September in Adams County (Pendergast). The high count was 50 on 10 August in Adams County (Ginny Helland) followed by 25 on 15 August in Dane County (B. Saur) and 25 on 18 August in Marathon County (Fisher).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher\***—Reported on 31 October and 1 November near Cedarburg in Ozaukee County (Fig. 18 and Cover) by numerous birders. This becomes the twelfth report of this flycatcher during the fall season.

**Loggerhead Shrike\***—There were two fall reports. The first was 4–11 August in St. Croix County (first by Pesico) followed by 17–20 August in Iowa County (Fig. 19), (many birders). There were two birds found at both locations.

**Northern Shrike**—The first finds were 15 October in Bayfield County (Brady) and 15 October in Oneida County (Housefield) followed by 17 October in Dane County (Paulios). The high count was 3 on 30 November in Door County (T. Wood).

**White-eyed Vireo**—Documented for 15 October from the Algoma Harbor in Kewaunee County (Joel Trick and Jack Swelstad).

**Bell's Vireo**—There were two documented reports. The first was 12 August from the Mazomanie Barrens in Dane County (Chuck Heikkinen). The second was 1 September from the Menomonee River Valley in Milwaukee County (William Mueller). Both were of heard only single birds.

**Yellow-throated Vireo**—The October finds were 1 October in Manitowoc County (Joel and Patti Trick), 1 October in Walworth County (Black), 4 October in Waukesha County (Szymczak), and 7 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell). The high count was 6 on 2 September in St. Croix County (Persico) followed by 4 in several locations.

**Blue-headed Vireo**—Although a nesting species over the northern fringe of counties, the only early season reports came from Douglas County (the LaValleys) and Florence County (K. Kavanagh). Likely early migrants were 9 August in Rock County (Cullum), 25 August in Sheboygan County (Popp), and 27 August in Clark County (Lund). The last dates were 20 October in Rock County (Cullum), 20 October in Ozaukee County (Swelstad, Tessen, and Trick), and 24 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell). The high count was 8 on 7 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell) followed by 5 on 4 September in Price County (Krakowski).

**Warbling Vireo**—The last date was 3 October in Milwaukee County (Vargo) preceded by 22 September in Douglas County (Seeger) and 22 September in Manitowoc County (Domagal-

ski). The high count was 16 on 28 August and 2 September in Dane County (B. and E. Saur). Nearest to these were 10 from a number of locations.

**Philadelphia Vireo**—The first fall find was 11 August in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) followed by 19 August in Milwaukee County (Mooney). The last date was 29 October at Kohler-Andrae SP in Sheboygan County (Szymczak) preceded by 13 October in Rock County (Boone). Beyond the 29 October find, there are but 3 historic November records of a later date. The high count was 10 on 8 September in Brown County (Tessen) followed by 7 on 12 September in Brown County (Ward).

**Red-eyed Vireo**—The last dates were 4 October in Ashland County (G. David), 7 October in Milwaukee County (Huf), and 10 October in La Crosse County (Puchalski). The high count was 25 on 2–3 September in Door County (S. Peterson) followed by 20 on 3 August in Manitowoc County (Domagalski).

**Gray Jay**—Reported from the northern counties of Douglas, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Price, and Vilas. The high count was 3 on 18 August in Forest County (Duchek) and 3 on 27 September in Vilas County (Deatsman).

**Blue Jay**—Aside from the hawk watching location of Eagle Valley in Grant County, there were no reports of better than 50 individuals. The high count was 350 on 16 October at Eagle Valley (Pendergast). Without reports of jay migrations from hawk spots, there is little chance of high Blue Jay numbers. With more hawk watch reports in 2011, the Blue Jay high was 987 (that from Eagle Valley on 11 October).

**Black-billed Magpie\***—There was photo documentation of one bird on 14 October in Ashland County (Jane Anderson). This becomes the 8th fall find of a magpie. The last fall find was 26 August 2001 in Brown County by Daryl Christensen.

**American Crow**—The high count was 250 on 5 October in Monroe County (Epstein) followed by 225 on 1 September in Bayfield County (Brady).

**Common Raven**—Reported from 35 counties, which compares to 36 the year before. As usual there were reports as far south as the central sand counties of Adams, Jackson, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, and Waushara. There were also reports from the east-central counties of Brown and Manitowoc. The high count was 10

in the counties of Florence, Forest, Iron, and Marinette.

**Horned Lark**—This lark was present throughout the period. The high count was 600 on 6 October in St. Croix County (Persico) followed by 125 in the same county by Persico on 21 October. Nearest to these were 59 on 11 September at the Wind Lake Sod Farms in Racine County (Howe). The 600 larks reported on 6 October are record high for the fall season. The previous high had been 300 set in the years 1993, 2002, and 2007.

**Purple Martin**—The only September find was 4 September in Rock County (Boone). The nearest August reports to this were 26 August in Ozaukee County (Jaeger) and 28 August in Dane County (Paulios). The high count was 75 on 13 August at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (a number of birders) followed by 30 on 3 August in Jefferson County (Stutz).

**Tree Swallow**—The last October dates were 23 October in Manitowoc County (Reimer) and 24 October in Dane County (Schwarz). November finds were one bird on 8 November in Milwaukee County (Tessen) and one bird on 25 November at the Mazomanie Wildlife Area in Dane County (Schwarz). Counts of 1,000+ came from the counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, and Manitowoc with the high of 3,000 coming from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge County on 10 August (the Kavanaghs).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—The last dates were 20 September in La Crosse County (Stark), 22 September in Rock County (Boone), and 25 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge). The high count was 200 on 19 August at Perrot SP in Trempealeau County (C. Anderson) followed by 100 on 8–9 August in Waukesha County (Hahn and Wanger). The only historic fall numbers greater than the 200 of 19 August were 300 on 3 August 1978 in Brown County (Cleary) and 300 on 20 August 1980 in Dane County (Hoffman).

**Bank Swallow**—The last dates were 7 September in Jefferson County (Batterman) and 8 September in Brown County (Pierce and Swelstad). The high count was 100 on 14 August at Lake Mills in Jefferson County (Stutz) followed by 80 on 17 August in Waukesha County (Gustafson).

**Cliff Swallow**—The last September dates were 16 September in Dane County (Henrikson) and 22 September in Rock County

(Boone). Well beyond these was a find on 12 October at Nine Springs in Dane County (Henrikson and Nienhaus). The high count was 250 on 13 August in Marathon County (Hoeft) followed by 100 from a number of locations.

**Barn Swallow**—The last dates were 16 October in Grant County (Pendergast), 3–24 October at Nine Springs in Dane County (last by Batterman), and 26 October in Vernon County (Paulios). The high count was 700 on 19 August in Fond du Lac County (W. Mueller) followed by 400 on 15 August in Ozaukee County (Sommer).

**Black-capped Chickadee**—The high count was 75 on 10 August in Adams County (Helland) followed by 50 on 22 October in Milwaukee County (McCaw) and 50 on 17 November in Oneida County (J. Davis).

**Boreal Chickadee**—There were but 5 reports coming from a total of 4 counties. Those 4 counties were Florence (J. DeBoer), Forest (R. Spahn), Oneida (M. Lehman), and Vilas (R. Deatsman and J. Frank). The high count was 2 on 15 October at Shelp Lake in Forest County (Spahn).

**Tufted Titmouse**—Reported from 36 counties, which compares to 26 the year before. Some of the more unusual counties were Adams, Barron, Brown, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Pierce, Portage, and Rusk. The high count of 10 was found a number of times in Grant County (Jason Thiele) plus single reports of 10 from the counties of Crawford (Thiele), Rock (Cullum), and Sauk (Deb. Jones).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Early season finds in possible nesting counties in the south came from Manitowoc and Milwaukee. What were likely migrants began showing 11 August in Ozaukee County, 12 August in Columbia and La Crosse Counties, and 13 August in Racine County. The high count was 40 on 22 September at Wisconsin Point by various members of the WSO Jaegerfest fieldtrip. Nearest to this were 31 on 8 September in Vilas County (A. Holschbach) and 30 on 12 October in Forest County (Spahn).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—The high count of 15 was reached on the following dates and locations: 20 August in Dane County (Henrikson), 6 September in Dane County (Henrikson), and 9 November in Grant County (Thiele).



**Brown Creeper**—Although the Brown Creeper is a nesting species in scattered locations across the state, the only early season reports came from the counties of Florence (K. Kavanagh) and Marinette (Swelstad). As usual, numbers of this species remained into the winter season. The high count was 15 on 19 November in Dane County (La Puma) followed by 13 on 22 November in La Crosse County (Rownd).

**House Wren**—The last date was 21 October in Dane County (Evanson) preceded by 17 October in Jefferson County (Etter Hale) and 15 October in Washington County (Schaefer). The high count was 12 on 1 August in St. Nazianz in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 10 on 17 August at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (J. Jaeger).

**Winter Wren**—The only early season reports for this nesting species were from the counties of Florence (K. Kavanagh) and Marinette (Swelstad). As is expected, some of these wrens remained into the winter season. The high count was 7 on 7 October in Dane County (Edmonson) and 7 on 1 October in Milwaukee County (Frank).

**Sedge Wren**—Reported from 34 counties, which compares to 23 the year before. The only October reports were 3 October in Dane County (Schwarz) and 3 October in Iowa County (Nechvatal). The high count was 15 on 2 August in Jefferson County (Stutz) followed by 6 on 6 August in Portage County (Janz).

**Marsh Wren**—Reported from 36 counties, which compares to 22 the year before. The last dates were 28 October in Buffalo County (Nienhaus), 2 November in Dane County (McDowell), and 3–14 November at the Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (Gustafson). The high count was 18 on 17 September at the Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (Sutton) followed by 15 on 4 September at Vernon Marsh (Gustafson and Mertins) and 15 on 22 September at Potosi Landing in Grant County (Thiele).

**Carolina Wren**—Reported from 22 counties, which is a huge increase over 6 such counties the year before. These 22 counties are double the previous high for counties. The previous high of 11 was set in 2010 followed by 10 counties in 2004. This large increase of reporting counties is an indication of the spread of the Carolina Wren within the state. Among the more unusual locations was a wren that remained for much of the fall in Chippewa County. Other unusual finds were birds in

Oneida County (Haese-Lehman) and in Vilas County (Sharka). The high count was 3 on 19 September in Brown County (Prestby) and 3 in Grant County on 16 November (Thiele).

**Bewick's Wren\***—One bird (Fig. 20) was documented on 27 October in Eau Claire County (Ann Geraghty). This is the tenth fall find of this wren with only two finds coming at a later date.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—There were no reports from the far northern counties. Northern limits from west to east were the counties of Polk, Marathon, and Marinette. The last September find was 29 September in Sauk County (Batterman). This was followed by 10 October in Milwaukee County (McLure) and 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast). The high count was 9 on 18 August in Dane County (Thiessen) followed by 8 on 17 August in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and 8 on both 11 and 25 August in St. Croix County (Persico).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—Despite that this kinglet is a nesting species across the northern reaches of the state, the only early season report came from Forest County (Peczyński). Nearest to this was 11 August in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) and 12 August in Vilas County (Huset). The only other August county was Door on 28 August (S. Peterson). The first showing of migrants south of nesting counties was 8 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (numerous birders) followed by 9 September in Brown County (Prestby). In the period 1–10 October highs of 20–35 were found in Rock County (Cullum). The nearest high to this was 30 on 15 October in Dane County (La Puma) and 30 on 20 October in Dane County (Edmonson).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—This kinglet is an uncommon nester in the far northern parts of the state. The only August report from a nesting county was 10–11 August in Washburn County (Dwight and Kevin Smith). All other August finds were of migrants. The first of these were 12 August in Burnett County (Dwight and Kevin Smith) and 12 August in Marathon County (Murkowski). These were followed by 28 August in Rock County (Cullum) and 29 August in Brown County (Swelstad). The last dates were 24 November in Grant County (Thiele) and 25 November in La Crosse County (Stark). The high count was 21 on 15 October in Dane County (La Puma) followed by 20 from a number of locations.

**Eastern Bluebird**—Numbers of Bluebirds remained into the winter season. The high count was 57 on 22 September at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Persico) followed by 54 on 7 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Sommer).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—There were no fall reports from the regular Solitaire hangout at Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County. The only find was of 1 and 2 birds at Grant Park in Milwaukee County starting on 27 November and extending well into the winter season (many observers with the first find perhaps by Betsy Abert and Mike Wanger).

**Veery**—The last dates were 18 September in Rock County (Cullum), 21 September in Dane County (Witynski), and 21 September in Kewaunee County (Sinkula). The high count was 4 on 8 September in Forest County (Maertz) and 4 on 3 September in Walworth County (Howe).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**—The first migrant report was 23 August from the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Frank) followed by 28 August in Clark County (Lund). The last dates were 8 October in Door County (S. Peterson) and 11 October in Door County (Evanson). The high count was 8 on 23 September in Dane County (Edmonson) followed by 6 on 16 September in Milwaukee County (Setzer).

**Swainson's Thrush**—There were no early season reports from nesting counties. The Swainson's Thrush is one of the first fall migrants to be found south of its nesting area. This year the first such find was 31 July of the summer season in Waukesha County (Szymczak). Early migrants during the fall season were 5–7 August at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Zehner) and 11 August at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Sommer). The next finds were 18–19 August in an additional four counties. The last date was 12 October in Milwaukee County (Goodman) and 12 October in Waukesha County (Szymczak) proceeded by 11 October in Door County (Hester). The high count was 55 on 31 August in Bayfield County (Brady) followed by 43 on 5 September in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and 41 on 2 September in Dane County (Ellis).

**Hermit Thrush**—Although this is a nesting species over much of the northern third of the state, the only early season reports came from the counties of Bayfield, Florence, Forest, and Marinette. The first finds south of the nesting counties were 29–30 August in Dane County (Witynski) and 30 August in Outagamie County

(Maertz). The last date was 30 November in Dane County (Roth-Reynolds) and 30 November in Milwaukee County (Lubahn and Ristow). Small numbers of Hermits were then found into the winter season. The high count was 50 on 1 October in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 26 on 11 October in Door County (Evanson).

**Wood Thrush**—Reported from 23 counties, which compares to 19 from the fall before and 12 from the fall before that fall. The northernmost counties finding this thrush were Clark (Lund), Dunn (P. Campbell), and Marinette (Hurst and Swelstad). October dates were 3 October in Dane County (Herb) and 4–6 October in Waukesha (Szymczak). The high count was 4 on 27 August in Waukesha County (Hahn) and 4 on 3 September in Iowa County (Nechvatal).

**American Robin**—Counts of 1,000 or more were 1,000 on 2 October at High Cliff SP in Calumet County (Reimer), 1,500 on 16 October at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast), and 2,600 on 4 September in Milwaukee County (Winze).

**Varied Thrush**—There were three fall reports, which were but a prelude to numerous finds in the winter season. The first report was 1 November in Taylor County (Paul Risch) followed by 17–24 November at Delafield in Waukesha County (Dale Arenz) and 27–28 November in Bayfield County (first by Anich and Bratley).

**Gray Catbird**—November finds were 12 November in Marathon County (Hoeft), 12 November in Ozaukee County (Wanger), 13 November in Milwaukee County (Szymczak), 20 November in Door County (S. Peterson), and 23 November at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County (Huf). The high count was 33 on 9 September in Rock County (Yoerger) followed by 26 on 28 August in Dane County (E. Saur) and 26 on 16 September in Walworth County (Howe).

**Northern Mockingbird**—After two falls without a find, there were 3 reports this season. Those three were 30 August in Waukesha County (J. Weber), 11 September in Oneida County (Krakowski), and 15 September in Marathon County (Belter and Luepke).

**Brown Thrasher**—The last dates were 20 October in Kenosha County (Howe), 16–20 October in Milwaukee County (Sparks), and 3 November in Milwaukee County (D. Flores). The high count was 4 on 3 September in Waukesha

County (Gustafson) and 4 on 26 September in Milwaukee County (Linz).

**European Starling**—The high count was 2,000 on 23 November in Jefferson County (Stutz) followed by 1,500 on 27 August in Adams County (Pendergast) and 1,500 on 9 August in Portage County (Pendergast).

**American Pipit**—The first finds were 8 September in Brown County (Ristow and Schroeder), 11 September in Brown County (Sinkula and Swelstad), and 11 September in Portage County (Pendergast). In the period 14–15 September this pipit was found in 6 additional counties. The last date was 16 November in Racine County (Howe) and 16 November in Waukesha County (Gustafson) preceded by 10 November in Dane County (Kreitingner). The high count was 175 on 8 October in Outagamie County (Tiede) followed by 150 on 6 October in St. Croix County (Persico). Nearest to these were 57 on 31 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson).

**Bohemian Waxwing**—Reported from 25 counties with finds as far south as Dane, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee (Fig. 21), Ozaukee, and Portage Counties. This was a strong contrast to the previous fall when there was but one report from one county. The high count was 250 on 8 November in Door County (S. Peterson) and 250 on 12 November in Lincoln County (Nemec) followed by 150 on 25 November in Lincoln County (Rueckheim).

**Cedar Waxwing**—High numbers of waxwings are usually found at hawk watching locations. This year's high of 3,500 on 16 October came from Eagle Valley in Grant County (Pendergast). Nearest to this were 605 on 25 August in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and 500 on 12 October in Milwaukee County (J. Casper).

**Lapland Longspur**—The first dates were 11 September at Seagull Bar in Marinette County (J. Campbell and Hurst), 15 September in Vilas County (Frank), and 15–16 September in Douglas County (Frank). By far the high count was 2,300 on 6 October in St. Croix County (Persico). Nearest to this were 400 on 26 September in Portage County (Pendergast) and 380 on 24 September in Oneida County (Prestby). The 2,300 on 6 October is record high for the fall season. The high had been 2,000 set on 2 November 1952 in Milwaukee County by Dixie Larkin. The nearest historic high to this was 1,000 set in 1997 and 2002.

**Snow Bunting**—The first find was 21 September in Douglas County (Tessen). The next finds were not until 12 October in Sheboygan County (S. Cutright, Setzer, and T. Wood), 13 October in Bayfield County (Brady), and 13 October in Douglas County (Anich). The 21 September find is one of the earliest on record with only three reports at an earlier date. The high count was 250 on 28 November in Jefferson County (Thiessen) followed by 160 on 29 November in Rock County (Thiessen), and 150 on 24 November in Forest County (Maertz).

**Ovenbird**—October finds were 5 October at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly and Huf), 6 October at the feeder of Jana Viel in Milwaukee County (Viel), and 12 October in Ozaukee County (Curnutt). The high count was 7 on 16 September in Milwaukee County (O'Connor).

**Worm-eating Warbler\***—One bird was documented by Millicent Ficken on 15 August at Grafton in Ozaukee County. This becomes but the sixth fall record for this species and the fifth latest departure date.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**—There were two reports. Those two were 29 August at Volk Field in Juneau County (Senner) and 5 September at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County (Domagalski).

**Northern Waterthrush**—The only early season reports of this nesting species came from the counties of Kenosha, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee. The last dates were 12 October at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Frank), 12–19 October in Milwaukee County (Sparks), and 23 October in Milwaukee County (Vargo). The high count was 13 on 31 August at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly) and 13 on 25 August at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Sommer). The only historic count higher than these 13 were 26 on 30 September 2007 in Iowa County by Aaron Holschbach.

**Golden-winged Warbler**—Early season reports for this nesting warbler came from the counties of Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Forest, and Marinette. An unusual find was a Golden-winged on 4 August in Vernon County (Paul Hayes). The last date was 27 September at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell) preceded by 18 September in Dane County (Thiessen) and 18 September in Milwaukee County (Bontly and Wanger). The high count was 8 on 1 August in the Apostle Islands of Bayfield County (J. Davis) followed by 6 on 25 August in Sawyer County (Pertile).

**Blue-winged Warbler**—There were no reports from the far northern sections of the state. Among the more northern reports were Oconto County to the northeast (Jerry Smith) and Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, and St. Croix Counties to the northwest. The last September dates were 17 September in Milwaukee County (Bontly and Huf) and 22–23 September in Walworth County (Howe). Beyond these was the unusually late date of 25 October at St. Nazianz in Manitowoc County (Domagalski). The high count was 3 on a number of dates from 18 August to 2 September in St. Croix County (Persico).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—The only October departure date was 8 October at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Wanger). The high count was 25 on 17 September in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 18 on 25 August at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Huf) and 10 on 2 September in Waushara County (Paulios). The high of 25 on 17 September matches the fall record high of 25 set on 5 September 2010 in Dane County by Prestby.

**Prothonotary Warbler**—There were two reports. Those two were one bird on 26 August at Koshkonong Creek in Jefferson County (Thiessen) and two birds on 5 September at Brice Prairie in La Crosse County (Stratton).

**Tennessee Warbler**—The only early season report from a possible nesting county was Douglas County (Willard). An interesting early find were 2 birds in Clark County on 2–3 August (Judy Lund). Other early migrants were 9 August in Rock County (Cullum) and 10 August in Dane County (McDowell). The last date was 23 October in Rock County (Boone) proceeded by 20 October in Milwaukee County (Hagner). The high count was 75 on 1 September in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 70 from a number of locations.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—The first accepted fall find was 13 September in Polk County (Maercklein) followed by 16 September in Milwaukee County (Huf and Wanger). On 17 September Orange-crowned were reported from the counties of Dane, Douglas, Iowa, Marinette, Portage, and Rock. The last dates were 28 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell) and 31 October at the Manitowoc Impoundment in Manitowoc County (Sontag). The high count was 10 on 8 October in Milwaukee County (T. Wood) followed by 6 on 7 October in Dane County (McDowell).

**Nashville Warbler**—The last date was 19 October in Rock County (Boone) and 19 October in Trempealeau County (Clinton and Collin Nienhaus). The high count was 20 on 27 August in Bayfield County (Brady) followed by 15 on 22 September in Rock County (Cullum).

**Connecticut Warbler**—This nesting species was reported from 9 counties, which compares to 10 the year before. As with the year before, there were no early season reports from nesting counties. Actually, the only report from a nesting county was by the LaValleys in Douglas. The first migrant finds were 14 August in Milwaukee County (Mooney), 14 August from a different location in Milwaukee County (Vargo), and 20 August in Ozaukee County (Strelka). The last dates were 26 September in Dane County (Nolan) and 12 October in Barron County (Jerome). There are only three historic records later than the 12 October report. The high count was 2 birds on 17 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (T. Wood).

**Mourning Warbler**—Early season reports came from the counties of Bayfield, Clark, Douglas, Forest, and Milwaukee. The last dates were 16 September in Forest County (Maertz), 17 September in Dane County (Heikkinen), and 26 September in Dane County (Nolan). Other than 10 on 19 August in Portage County (Zinda), all reports were of 1 or 2 birds. In the history of the fall reports there was only one year with better than 10 individuals. That record high was 16 set on 2 September 1984 in Chippewa County by Charles Kemper.

**Kentucky Warbler**—There were 5 documented reports. This is a record high number of reports for the fall season. The record had been 3 set in 1972. The 5 records were 4 August at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Mooney), 19 August at Nelson Dewey SP in Grant County (Thiele), 20 August a Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Heikkinen), 15 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (D. Baumann, S. Cutright, Roesselet, and Setzer), and 17 September at North Point in Sheboygan County (Schroeder). The 17 September date is rather late, with only 6 state records beyond this date.

**Common Yellowthroat**—The last dates were 19 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson) and 20 October in Milwaukee County (Sparks). The high count was 30 on 13 September in Brown County (Sinkula) followed by 25 on 7 September in Dane County (Paulios) and 25 on 9 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge and Stutz).

**Hooded Warbler**—Reported from the counties of Dane, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Walworth, and Waukesha with no finds from early in the season. The last dates were 4 and 6 October from the Southern Kettle Moraine of Waukesha County (Szymczak) and 11 October at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County (T. Wood). The 11 October date has only two historic finds that are later. Those two are 20 October 1996 in Ozaukee County (T. Wood) and 8 November 2006 in Milwaukee County (Todd Wilson). The high count was 2 on 9 September in Sheboygan County (Popp).

**American Redstart**—The last October dates were 21 October in Kenosha County (Krerowicz) and 31 October in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Beyond these were two November reports those being 16 November in Manitowoc County (Sontag) and 20 November in Ozaukee County (Uttech). The only historic departure date later than these two records was 26 November 1966 in Milwaukee County by Dennis Gustafson. The high count was 30 on 3 September in Brown County (Rickaby) followed by 25 on 19 August in Douglas County (Stutz) and 25 on 8 September in Brown County (Rickaby).

**Capo May Warbler**—The only early season report from a nesting county was by Brady in Bayfield County. The first finds of migrants south of nesting counties were 8 August in Winnebago County (Ziebell), 13 August in Clark County (Lund) and 15 August in Milwaukee County (Little). October reports were 1 October in Racine County (J. DeBoer) and 15 October in Milwaukee County (Szymczak). These were followed by two November reports those being 3 November at Wind Point in Kenosha County (many birders) and 22 November in Buffalo County (Kieser). The 22 November find was rather late, there being only 3 fall and 3 winter records beyond. The high count was 7 on 27 August in Bayfield County (Brady) followed by 6 on 9 September in Rock County (Yoerger).

**Cerulean Warbler**—There were two reports. Those two were 3 birds on 4 August at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Mooney) and 1 bird on 6 August at "Dry Dog Ridge" in Iowa County (Schilke). The finding of 3 individuals is unusual. The record high for the fall season is four. That high was set twice. Those two were 4 August 2001 in Sauk County (A. Holschbach) and 13 August 1978 in Sauk County (Randy Hoffman).

**Northern Parula**—There were no early season reports of this nesting species. The first finds of migrants were 18 August in Dane County (Kauffman and Putnam), 18 August in Washington County (Wilson), and 21 August in Racine County (Kennedy and Pugh). October departure dates were 1 October in Manitowoc County (Domagalski), 4 October in Outagamie County (Petznick), 7 October in Dane County (Batterman), 8 October in Milwaukee County (Bontly, McCaw, and Zehner), and 19 October in Milwaukee County (Huf). Beyond these was a bird photographed on 10–11 November in Madison, Dane County (Joleen Griffin). The only state record of a later date is 25 November 1972 in Iowa County by Robert Ellarson. The high count was 6 on 12 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge) and 6 on 23 September in Ozaukee County (Szymczak).

**Magnolia Warbler**—There were no early season reports from nesting counties. The first notices of migrants were 10 August at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Hurlburt), 11 August in Kenosha County (Witynski), and 12 August in Oconto County (Jerry Smith). Beyond 11 October, the last dates were 15 October at Lake Kegonsa in Dane County (Henrikson and Nienhaus) and 21 October in Milwaukee County (Barry and Carol Moerke). The high count was 25 on 3 September at Bay Beach in Brown County (Rickaby) followed by 22 on 9 September in Dane County (Kauffman and Putnam), and 20 on 17 September in Rock County (Cullum).

**Bay-breasted Warbler**—The first fall date was 19 August in Dane County (Edmonson) and 19 August in St. Croix County (Persico) followed by 21 August in Douglas County (Tessen). October departure dates were 1 October in Rock County (Boone and Yoerger), 3 October in Milwaukee County (E. Anderson), and 3–4 October in Rock County (Cullum). The high count was 12 on 16 September in Dane County (McDowell) followed by 10 on 17 September in Rock County (Cullum).

**Blackburnian Warbler**—Reported at the start of the season in the nesting counties of Door (Overman) and Florence (K. Kavanagh). The first migrant finds were on 13 August in the counties of Milwaukee (Szymczak), Ozaukee (Dullea and Keaney) and Rock (Cullum). The last dates were 29 September in Grant County (Thiele) and 30 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge and Stutz). The high count was 15 on 17 September in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 8 on 16 August in Rock County (Cullum). The count of 15 on 17 September is

record high for the fall season. The high had been 12 set on 2 September 1985 in Langlade (Pickering) and on 10 August 1988 in Trempealeau County (Berner).

**Yellow Warbler**—The last dates were 16 September in Dane County (Paulios), 17 September in Dane County (Thiessen), and 18 September in Dane County (Thiessen). All three finds were from different locations. The high count was 19 on 7 August in Douglas County (Willard) followed by 12 on 20 August in Jackson County (Pendergast).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—The last dates were 11 October in Milwaukee County (Huf), 11 October in Racine County (Kennedy), and 16 October in Brown County (Swelstad). The high count was 16 on 9 September in Dane County (Kauffman and Putnam) followed by 10 on 25 August in Sawyer County (Pertile).

**Blackpoll Warbler**—The first date was 13 August at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly, Wanger, and Zehner) followed by 19 August in St. Croix County (Persico). The last date was 18 October in Racine County (Kennedy) proceeded by 17 October in the counties of Manitowoc (Domagalski) and Milwaukee (Huf and Wanger). The high count was 40 on 8 September at Bay Beach in Brown County (Rickaby) followed by 20 on 13 September in Outagamie County (Meunier) and 16 on 16 September in Oconto County (Prestby). The count of 40 on 8 September is one of the highest in the fall records. The only counts with a higher number are 50 on 9 September 2007 in Brown County (T. Schultz) and 80 on 31 August 1993 in Ashland County (T. Schultz).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**—Reported from 25 counties, which compares favorably to 12 the year before. There were no early season finds of this nesting species, with the first migrant sightings on 21 August in Brown County (Sinkula) and 23 August in Eau Claire County (Lind). The last October dates were 10 October in Rock County (Cullum), 17 October in Vilas County (Deatsman), and 27 October at Wind Point in Racine County (Howe). Well beyond these was a documented find on 22 November at Cornucopia in Bayfield County (Steve Denker). There are only two state records later than this 22 November date. The high count was 6 on 21 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Linz) and 6 on 22 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Sommer). The only totals in the history of the fall reports with better than 6 Black-throated Blues were 7 on 18 August 1996 in Shawano County (Mark

Peterson) and 7 on 11 September 2005 in Columbia County (Randy Hoffman).

**Palm Warbler**—There were early season finds in the nesting counties of Douglas and Vilas plus the possible nesting county of Portage (Gerry Janz). The first migrants were 19 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Setzer) and 21 August in Monroe County (Epstien). The last date was 15 November in Milwaukee County (Gustafson) proceeded by 9 November in the counties of Milwaukee (Grant Park, Wanger), Milwaukee (Veterans Park, Huf), and Ozaukee (Forest Beach, Frank). The high count was 65 on 23 September in Dane County (Jakoubek) and 65 on 29 September in Ozaukee County (Sommer) followed by 60 on 23 September in Ozaukee County (Sommer).

**Pine Warbler**—Early season reports came from the nesting counties of Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas. The first migrants were 14 August in Dane County (Ellis) and 16 August in Brown County (Matthew). The last October dates were 7 October in Marathon County (Sabatke), 7 October in Ozaukee County (Bontly and Sommer), and 10 October at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly, Huf, and Wanger). These were followed by a documented find on 23 November in Bayfield County (Christensen). The high count was 14 on 8 September in Vilas County (A. Holschbach) followed by 9 on 12 September in Milwaukee County (E. Anderson).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—Early season reports came from the nesting counties of Adams, Door, Douglas, Eau Claire, Oneida, Polk, and Vilas. The first find of migrants was 12 August at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 17 August in Racine County (Keyel). As usual numbers of Yellow-rumped remained into the winter season. The high count was 200 on 10 October in Bayfield County (Brady) followed by 125 on 29 September in Kenosha County (Witynski). Nearest to these were 80 on 30 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge and Stutz).

**Yellow-throated Warbler\***—There were two documented reports. The first was 4 August at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (Mooney) followed by 19 August at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Mooney). This is the ninth fall season in which this species has been reported.

**Prairie Warbler\***—There were two documented reports of this warbler. The first was of one bird on 18–20 October at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Gustafson and Petherick). The

second was of one bird on 9 November at Grant Park in Milwaukee County (Lubahn). Both these reports are nearly record late. The only find later is that of 4 November through 2 December 2006 in Milwaukee County (William Cowart and Betsy Abert). These become the 13th and 14th fall reports of the Prairie Warbler. This also becomes the first fall with more than one sighting.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**—Reported early in the season from the nesting counties of Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Florence, Forest, and Marinette. The first fall migrant was noticed on 17 August in Rock County (Cullum). On 18–19 August migrant Black-throated Greens were reported from the counties of Brown, Dane, Eau Claire, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and St. Croix. The last dates were 17 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell) and 18 October at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly, McCaw, and Wanger). The high count was 26 on 17 September in Rock County (Cullum) followed by 20 on 14 August at Eagle Valley in Grant County (Thiele). To find a fall count higher than 26, one must go back to 30 on 25 September 1977 in Marinette County by Harold Lindberg.

**Canada Warbler**—Early season reports from nesting counties were Clark (Lund), Douglas (the LaValleys), and Florence (K. Kavanagh). The first migrants showed on 12 August in Oconto County (Jerry Smith) and 12 August in Ozaukee County (Bontly). The next day migrants showed in Dane and Milwaukee counties. The last date was 27 September in Milwaukee County (Huf) preceded by 23 September in Dane County (Edmonson) and 23 September in Ozaukee County (Sommer). The high count was 4 on 15 August at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (McDowell).

**Wilson's Warbler**—The first fall dates were 12 August in Burnett County (Dwight and Kevin Smith) and 13 August in Milwaukee County (Szymczak). These were followed by 18 August at several locations in Dane County. The last September date was 23 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (Holton) followed by 1 October at Wind Point in Racine County (J. DeBoer) and 8 October at Hartford in Washington County (Schaefer). The high count was 6 on 8 September at Bay Beach in Brown County (Rickaby).

**Eastern Towhee**—The last date was 27 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (many observers) proceeded by 26 October in

Brown County (Swelstad). The high count was 50 on 10 August in Adams County (Helland) closely followed with 45 on 9 August in Adams County (Helland). Nearest to this were 17 on 16 September in Walworth County (Howe). The counts of 50 and 45 are more than double any past fall's total. The former high had been 22, set on 4 October 2010 at Eagle Valley in Grant County (McKay).

**American Tree Sparrow**—There were a number of September arrival dates. The earliest were 17–18 September in Douglas County (Tessen), 22 September at Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Swelstad), and 23 September in Marinette County (Bechkal). The high count was 80 on 15 November in Dane County (Schwarz) followed by 75 on 2 November in Marinette County (J. Campbell).

**Chipping Sparrow**—November dates were 2 November in Waukesha County (Mertins), 11 November in Jefferson County (Etter Hale), 19 November in Racine County (Howe), and 28 November in Jefferson County (Etter Hale). A small number of Chipping Sparrows were then found into the winter season. This sparrow has a tendency to cluster together into sizable flocks in the fall. The high counts were gatherings of 132 on 21 September and 140 on 24 September at St. Nazianz in Manitowoc County (Domagalski). Nearest to these were 50 on 18 August in Burnett County (Setzer). Numbers of 200+ have been found in the past. The fall record high is 300 on 29 August 1982 in Bayfield County (Maercklein) followed by 235 on 21 September 1989 in Walworth County (Parsons).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—The last dates were 10 October in Dane County (C. Martin) and 11 October in Iowa County (Pugh). The high count was 15 in the following counties: Marathon (22 September, Belter), Marathon (25 September, Wanger), Portage (2 August, Gilbert), and St. Croix (11 August, Persico).

**Field Sparrow**—November finds were 2 November in Waukesha County (Gustafson), 4 November in Grant County (Thiele), 17–18 November in Racine County (Willard), and 26 November in Racine County (Fare). The high count was 15 on 9 September in Waukesha County (numerous observers) and 15 on 27 September in Iowa County (Henderson and Schneider).

**Vesper Sparrow**—The last dates were 27 October in Dane County (Batterman) and 29 October in Sauk County (McDonald). The high count was 11 on 23 September in Marinette

County (Betchkal) followed by 8 on 11 August in St. Croix County (Persico).

**Lark Sparrow**—There were five reports, each of single birds. Those five were 20 August in Burnett County (Tessen), 4 September on the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Swelstad), 17 September in Douglas County (Tessen), 26 September at the Crooked Creek Preserve in Walworth County (Nowak), and 30 September at the Token Creek Conservancy in Dane County (Bucci).

**Savannah Sparrow**—The last dates were 7–29 November at the Evansville SWA in Rock County (Thiessen) and 30 November at the Lerner Conservation Park in Dane County (Thiessen). Some Savannahs continued to be found into the winter season. The high count was 70 on 3 October in Portage County (Ward) followed by 50 on 30 September in Iowa County (Nechvatal).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—There were fall finds in the counties of Dane, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Portage, and Rock. Early season finds came from Manitowoc County (Murkowski) and Portage County (Seiler). October dates were 2 October at the Evansville SWA in Rock County (Thiessen) and 12 October at the Juneau Lagoon in Milwaukee County (Wanger). All reports were of 1 or 2 birds.

**Henslow's Sparrow**—Reported from 10 counties, which compares to 8 the year before. Early season sightings came from Jefferson County (Stutz) and St. Croix County (Persico). The last date was 3 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Batterman). The high count was 5 on 2 August in Jefferson County (Stutz). The only historic fall total higher than 5 was 10 on 6 August 2011 in Green County (A. Anderson).

**Le Conte's Sparrow**—Reported from the counties of Bayfield, Dane, Jefferson, Ozaukee, Portage, and Rock. These 6 counties compare to 4 the year before. There were no August finds of this nesting species. The first notice came on 28 September at the Lerner Conservation Park in Dane County (Thiessen). Lerner Park and Pheasant Branch in Dane County then became the places to go for this bird, as there were numerous reports from these locations. A third popular spot was the Evansville SWA in Rock County. The last dates were 31 October at Lerner in Dane County (Thiessen) and 16 November at Evansville in Rock County (Thiessen). The 16 November date is record late. The record had been 15 November 1991 in

Dane County by Ellen Hansen. The nearest departure date to 15 November is 5 November 1955 in Iowa County by G. William Foster. A Le Conte's Sparrow was later found, documented, and accepted by the records committee for 23 December 2012 in Dodge County (Scott Diehl). The high count was 6 on 12 October at Lerner (Thiessen). These 6 are topped in historic numbers only by 20 on 2 October 1955 in Iowa County by Tom Soulen.

**Nelson's Sparrow**—Found in 9 counties, which compares favorably with but 2 the year before. These 9 counties are likely a record high for the fall season. As with some other uncommon sparrows, most reports came from the Lerner Conservation Park near Oregon in Dane County. The only August report was 16 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Budde). The next find was not until 14 September in Buffalo County (Nienhaus). The last date was 19 October at Lerner in Dane County (Thiessen). The high count was 5 on 17 September at Lake Park in Milwaukee (T. Wood) followed by 3 on 3 October at Lerner in Dane County (Krietinger).

**Fox Sparrow**—The first fall find was 21 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County by members of the WSO Jaegerfest trip. The next find was 22 September in Manitowoc County (Murkowski). By 23 September this sparrow was being found in an additional 6 counties with another 4 to follow the next day. As happens perhaps annually, numbers of Fox Sparrows remained into the winter season. The high count was 38 on 27 October at Pheasant Branch in Dane County (Batterman) followed by 25 on 21 October at Horicon Marsh in Dane County (Wilson).

**Song Sparrow**—This sparrow was found throughout the period and into the winter. The high count was 52 on 1 October in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 45 on 21 October in Jefferson County (Stutz).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—The only early season finds were in Douglas County (the LaValleys), Portage County (Janz), and Vilas County (G. David and Z. Wilson). The Portage County find is unusual for early August. The first finds safely beyond the nesting counties were 2 September at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski), 3 September at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Huf), and 6 September in Waukesha County (Renner). The last October date was 28 October in Buffalo County (Clinton Nienhaus) and 28 October in Dane County (a number of birders). These were fol-



lowed by a find on 18 November in Manitowoc County (Sontag). The high count was 15 on 27 September in Iowa County (Henderson and Schneider) followed by 12 on 28 September in Brown County (Sinkula).

**Swamp Sparrow**—This sparrow was found throughout the fall and then into the winter. The high count was 80 on 29 September at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Tessen) followed by 70 on 21 September at the Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Schilke).

**White-throated Sparrow**—Early reports of migrants beyond nesting areas were 20–28 August at Bay Beach in Brown County (Swelstad) and 31 August in Milwaukee County (Zehner). As usual, numbers of White-throated remained into winter. Large numbers of White-throated were reported by members of the WSO field trip to Wisconsin Point in Douglas County. The high estimate from this field trip was 1,000 on 21 September by the Kavanaghs followed by 600 that same day by Persico. Other high counts were 250 on 29 September in La Crosse County (Persico) and 150 on 22 September in Burnett County (Persico). The estimates of 1,000 and 600 are record high for the fall season. The high had been 525 on 10 October 1997 in Dane County by Philip Ashman.

**Harris's Sparrow**—Reported from 18 counties, which compares to 11 in 2011. The first date was 17 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Frank and Tessen), followed by 21 September in Bayfield County (Brady), and 21 September in Burnett County (Persico). The last October dates were 26 October in Iowa County (Nechvatal) and 27 October in Manitowoc County (Dullea and Kearney). These were followed by 24–30 November at Bear Bottoms in Florence County (K. Kavanagh). As usually happens, a small number of individuals were found into the winter season. The high count was 6 on 22 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (by a number of WSO birders on the Jaegerfest field trip) and 6 on 13 October in St. Croix County (Persico).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—The first fall dates were 8 September at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County (Domagalski), 9 September at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Schaefer), 16 September at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County (Frank), and 16 September in Marathon County (Murkowski). As usual, some White-crowned remained into the winter season. The high count was 25 on 27 September in

Price County (Krakowski) followed by 22 on 6 October in Ozaukee County (Sommer).

**Dark-eyed Junco**—The only August reports for this nesting species were 12 August at the White River Marsh in Green Lake County (T. Schultz), 18 August at the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County (Nemec), 19 August at Crex Meadows in Burnett County (Belter), and 30 August in Bayfield County (Brady). The Green Lake County find on 12 August is perhaps an unusually early migrant. The high count was 300 on 15 October at the Eagle Heights Gardens in Dane County (La Puma) followed by 150 from a number of locations.

**Summer Tanager**—There were three reports. Those three were 3 November at the Ross Mueller feeder in Appleton in Outagamie County, 8 November at Grant Park in Milwaukee County (Judith Huf and John McCaw), and 28 November at the feeder of Laura Kirchen in Ozaukee County. The Ozaukee bird remained well into the winter season.

**Scarlet Tanager**—The last September dates were 28 September in Racine County (Howe) and 29 September in Milwaukee County (Hagner). Beyond these was documentation for a bird on 27–28 October in Ashland County (Karen Miller) and 27 October in Milwaukee County (T. Wood). The high count was 5 on 25 August in Sawyer County (Pertile).

**Northern Cardinal**—Reported from all the counties that border Lake Superior and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with the exception of Iron County. The high count was 37 on 25 November in Milwaukee County (McCaw) followed by 32 on 12 November in La Crosse County (Wiegel).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—The last October dates were 16 October in Dane County (Kearney and White) and 17 October in Washburn County (Haseleu). Beyond these a grosbeak was coming to the Kavanagh feeder at Bear Bottoms in Florence County in the period 12–30 November. A grosbeak continued to be found in this area well into the winter season. The high count was 50 on 10 August in Adams County (Helland) followed by 42 on 14 September in Outagamie County (Maertz). The totals of 42 and 50 are rather high. The only fall report of a higher total is 115 on 2 September 1990 in Pepin County (Randy Hoffman).

**Black-headed Grosbeak\***—One bird was photographed on 25 September in Racine County by Sharon Kennedy (Fig. 22). This be-

comes the 19th state record and the 6th fall season record. The last fall find was 23 September 1987 in Waukesha County by Vernon Aune.

**Indigo Bunting**—The last dates were 16 October in Marinette County (J. Campbell and Hurst), 17 October in Brown County (Swelstad), and 20 October in Dane County (Evanston). The high count was 12 on 11 August in Dunn County (Butek) and 12 on 12 August at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (S. Cutright, D. Baumann, Setzer, and Sommer).

**Dickcissel**—After a summer in which this species was seen in all 72 counties, it was found in 19 counties for the fall season. This compares to 10 the fall before. The last dates were 12 September in Rock County (Cullum) and 15 September in Adams County (Pendergast). The high count was 31 on 15 August at the Lost Creek Wetland in Portage County (Pendergast) followed by 17 on 12 August at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski). The only fall with a higher number of Dickcissels was 1995 when 50 were found in Monroe County by Dennis Kuecherer.

**Bobolink**—The last dates were 12 October at the Cat Island Causeway in Brown County (Swelstad) and 20 October at the Lerner Conservation Park in Dane County (Gorzo and Prestby). The 20 October find is significantly late with just three state records beyond that date. The high count was 50 on 20 August in Sheboygan County (Dan and Samantha Scheiman) followed by 40 on 2 August in Portage County (Gilbert).

**Red-winged Blackbird**—The high count was 50,000 on 21 October at the Mead SWA in Marathon County (Belter and Hurlburt) followed by 10,000 on 16 August along Van Patten Drive in Outagamie County (Malcolm).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—The last dates were 27 October in Marathon County (Murkowski), 28 October in Dane County (K. Kavanagh), and 28 October in Jefferson County (Schneider). The high count was 26 on 1 October at Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 23 on 4 August at Collins Marsh (Domagalski) and 20 on 30 September in Iowa County (Nechvatal).

**Western Meadowlark**—Found in the counties of Ashland, Grant, Iowa, and Portage with the only early season find coming from Portage County (Pendergast). The last date was 16 October in Grant County (Pendergast). The

high count was 3 on 17 August in Iowa County (Heikkinen and Unson).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—Reported from 10 counties, which contrasts to 15 the year before. The vast majority of reports came from the Horicon Marsh of Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. Other than Horicon Marsh, early season reports came from the counties of Columbia, Outagamie, St. Croix, and Waukesha. The last dates were 12 September in Dodge County (Batterman), 17 September in Dane County (Schiffman), and 2 October in Waukesha County (Gustafson). By far the high count was 500 on 19 August at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Kennedy, Pugh, and Wegner). This total is nearly double the previous fall high of 256 set on 17 August 1991 at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County (Domagalski). There are no other years with better than 100 individuals.

**Rusty Blackbird**—The first dates were 8 September in Brown County (Ristow, Schroeder, and Tessen), 9 September in Polk County (Maercklein), and 10 September in Dane County (Axelson). The last dates were 24 November in Jefferson County (Stutz), 24 November in Rock County (Wanger), and 28 November in Rock County (Cullum). A number of Rusty Blackbirds then remained into the winter season. The high count was 550 on 21 October at Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Prestby) followed by 500 on 21 October at the Mead SWA in Marathon County (Belter and Hurlburt).

**Brewer's Blackbird**—Early season reports came from the counties of Adams, Marinette, Outagamie, and Portage. An interesting find outside of a nesting area was a single bird on 6 August at the Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County (Barrickman, Butek, Pendergast, and West). November finds were 4 November in Dodge County (Rohde), 14 November in Washington County (Murkowski), and 2–16 November in Rock County (Cullum). Small numbers of Brewer's were then found into the winter season. Outside of 80 on 27 September in Oneida County (G. David), the high count was 4,500 on 9 August at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (Rob Pendergast). The only fall count higher than this was 5,000 on 24 September 2010 in Pierce County (Robin Maercklein).

**Common Grackle**—The high count was 8,000 on 21 October at the Mead SWA in Marathon County (Belter and Hurlburt) and 8,000 on 19 October at the Theresa Marsh in

Washington County (W. Mueller) followed by 6,000 on 21 October at the Horicon Marsh in Fond du Lac County (Prestby). It might be noted how close the dates are for all three totals.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—This bird was found in 37 counties, which compares to 30 the year before. Of these 37 counties, 16 had but 1 or 2 sightings. Although perhaps generally thought to be abundant and widespread, most cowbirds are gone from the state by 1 August. This is especially true in the northern half of the state where one would be fortunate to find 1 or 2 individuals during the entire fall season. Counts of 100 plus were 150 on 29 September in Rock County (Cullum), 200 on 29 August in Trempealeau County (Stratton), 300 on 8 October in Dane County (Sedoff), and 500 on 19 August in Fond du Lac County (Stratton).

**Orchard Oriole**—Reported from 15 counties, which contrasts to 7 the year before. The most northern finds were in Brown, Manitowoc, and Monroe Counties. The last date was 17–26 August at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (last by Jaeger) proceeded by 19 August in Iowa County (C. Martin) and 19 August in Manitowoc County (Domagalski). The high count was 7 on 12 August at the Collins Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 5 on 8 August from another location in Manitowoc County (J. Holschbach). These 7 are surpassed in fall season high counts only by 9 on 12 September 2003 in St. Croix County by Persico.

**Baltimore Oriole**—The last September dates were 19 September in Racine County (Kennedy and Pugh) and 20 September in La Crosse County (Wiegel). Following this was a find on 27 October in Brown County (Swelstad). There were later several documented reports of orioles coming to feeders during the winter season. The high count was 15 on 8 August in Dane County (Henrikson) and 15 on 8 August in Manitowoc County (J. Holschbach) followed by 14 on 2 August in Crawford County (Sandstrom).

**Pine Grosbeak**—In the fall of 2011 there was just a single Pine Grosbeak found during the fall season. That was on 30 October in Bayfield County (Brady). The previous fall (the fall of 2010) Pine Grosbeaks were found in 8 counties. This fall the state was flooded with these grosbeaks with reports from 25 counties, most of these counties reporting multiple locations. This was likely one of the best Pine Grosbeak falls in the history of the seasonal reports. These large and widespread reports continued into

the winter season. Although numerous and widespread, this was such only in the northern half of the state. If one drew a line from west to east through the counties of Polk, Chippewa, Clark, Portage, Waupaca, Outagamie, and Brown, there would be no Pine Grosbeaks south of that line. The exceptions would be the Lake Michigan counties of Manitowoc and Milwaukee. Despite the size of the grosbeak irruption, they did not begin to arrive until November. The first find was on 2 November in Ashland County (DeWitt). Most reports were not until the last half of the month. The high count was 40 on 19 November in Door County (S. Peterson), 40 on 24 November in Lincoln County (Duchek), and 40 on 17 November in Portage County (Belter). The only historic fall with a higher count was 60 on 22 November 1957 from the Cedar Grove Banding Station in Sheboygan County.

**Purple Finch**—This nesting species was found near the start of the season in the counties of Bayfield, Clark, Douglas, Florence, Oconto, and Portage. The first finds of migrants were 8 August in Polk County (Maercklein) and 14 August in Monroe County (Epstein). The high count was 25 on 5 August in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) followed by 24 on 5 October in Clark County (Lund).

**House Finch**—Not found in the northern border counties of Florence, Forest, and Vilas. The high count was 200 on three dates from three different locations in Dane County (La Puma and McDowell). The only fall total higher than this was 300 on 23 September 1994 in Dane County (Philip Ashman).

**Red Crossbill**—Reported from 39 counties, which compares well to 9 the year before. As with the Pine Grosbeak, this seemed to be an irruption year for the Red Crossbill. There were no early season reports from possible nesting counties and the only July report was from 17 July in Oneida County (Gustafson). The first fall find was 6 August at the Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County (Butek, Pendergast, and West). On 11 August this crossbill was found in Ozaukee County, on 12 August in Milwaukee County, on 13 August in Iron and Washington Counties, on 14 August in Florence County, on 16 August in Sheboygan County, on 17 August in Bayfield and Sauk Counties, on 18 August in Adams, Dane, Forest, Jefferson, and Price Counties, on 19 August in Clark and Racine Counties. After this August rush, Red Crossbills became difficult to find in September and October but returned to a wide range of locations in November. Southern finds in Novem-

ber included the counties of Dane, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, and Milwaukee. The high count was 92 on 13 August at Forest Beach in Ozaukee County (Frank) followed by 80 on 26 August at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee County (Bontly and Zehner). The only year with a higher count than 92 was 200 on 18 November 1984 in Milwaukee County by William Mueller.

**White-winged Crossbill**—Reported from 28 counties, which compares to 16 the fall before. There were few finds before November. The first dates were 10 August in Douglas County (the LaValleys), 15 September in Oneida County (Gustafson), 17 October in Vilas County (Spahn), and 28 October in Marathon County (Belter). The high count was 100 on 7 November in Douglas County (the LaValleys) followed by 61 on 31 October in Ozaukee County (Schaefer).

**Common Redpoll**—This fall and winter had the greatest invasion of redpolls in the birding history of Wisconsin. For the fall season, redpolls were reported from 43 counties. This compares to 18 in 2011 and 9 in 2010. Redpolls were found as far south as the counties of Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Racine, Rock, and Vernon. The first find was 29 October in Ashland County (Anich and Brady) and 29 October in Brown County (Prestby). This was quickly followed by 30 October in Jefferson County (Paulios). The high count was 230 on 16 November at Grant Park in Milwaukee County (Lubahn) followed by 200 on 16 November at Will-o-Way Park in Milwaukee County (Linz) and 125 on 8 November in Florence County (Anich).

**Hoary Redpoll\***—Although the winter season had record numbers of Hoary Redpolls, the only fall finds were one bird on 25 November in Marathon County (Hoeft and Risch) and one bird on 27 November in Florence County (the Kavanaghs). This is only the eleventh fall season in which Hoary were found, the last such year being 2008 when 2 birds were documented on 28 November in Bayfield County (Brady).

**Pine Siskin**—There were few August finds with the only early season sightings coming from the counties of Clark (Lund) and Door (Vincent). The high count was 375 on 20 October at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County (Swelstad) followed by 247 on 20 October at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County (Sommer). There were no other reports of 100 or more individuals. Although 375 is one of the higher fall counts for siskins, it is minor compared to the

40,000 that were counted on 21 October 1969 as they flew past the Cedar Grove Banding Station in Sheboygan County.

**American Goldfinch**—The high count was 250 on 30 September in Jefferson County (C. Bridge and Stutz) followed by 220 on 21 September in Dane County (Evanson).

**European Goldfinch**—One bird was found at the feeder of Audrey Peterson on 20 October in Milwaukee County. Although this released species is not a countable bird, it likely now has nesting records within the state and might later become established.

**Evening Grosbeak**—Reported from 23 counties, which compares to 6 the fall before. Early season finds came from Florence County (K. Kavanagh) and Marinette County (A. Holschbach). There were reports as far south as the counties of Green, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Vernon, and Waukesha. The high count was 25 on 2 November in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) followed by 22 on 30 November in Florence County (K. Kavanagh) and 21 on 2 November in Ashland County (DeWitt).

**House Sparrow**—The high count was 280 on 16 November in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) followed by 130 on 12 September in Manitowoc County (Domagalski).

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Boreal Owl in Portage County on 19 November 2012  
was photographed by Dennis Malueg.

## “By The Wayside”—Fall 2012

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*Rare or uncommon species included in the Fall 2012 documentations are Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Black Scoter, Western Grebe, White-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawk, King Rail, Green Violetear, Blue-winged Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.*

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

**16 August 2012, Shoveler's Sink, Dane County**—This duck was larger than the many nearby Blue-winged Teal and about the size of a near-by Mallard. It was quickly picked out of the flock because it had a bright reddish-orange bill with a yellow spot at the tip. The face was plain gray and there was a thick, white, complete eyering. The forehead and crown were a dark rusty brown and this coloration extended downward on the nape. The throat was also plain gray, and the lower neck, breast, mantle, and back were a deep rufous. The flanks, belly, and most of the undertail were a solid black. There was a small amount of white at the distal portion of the undertail coverts. A thick, horizontal white to pale gray stripe separated the back from the sides. When the bird stood on the shoreline the pink legs were seen.—*Thomas Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

### **BLACK SCOTER** (*Melanitta americana*)

**9 September 2012, Chequamegon Bay, City of Ashland, Ashland County**—The bird was first found in a flock of Redheads. The all black body stood out from the other birds. The bird was similar in length to the Redheads, but sat lower in the water. The most distinguishing field mark was the orangish-yellow patch, approximately one inch long, on the upper bill near the forehead. The remainder of the bill was lighter than the black plumage. The bill itself appeared shorter than that of the adjacent Redheads. The eye was dark. Legs and spread wings were not observed. The tail was also black and raised, much like a Ruddy Duck.—*Tim Oksiuta, Ashland, Wisconsin.*

### **WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

**9 October 2012, Collins Marsh, Manitowoc County**—This is likely the same bird reported yesterday. Both I

and Joel Trick watched the bird with window mount spotting scopes. Mine was often set at 60X. At first the grebe was found sleeping in the middle of the pond. It was in with a group of Ruddy Ducks. Even when in a sleeping position (head resting on the back) one could clearly notice it was larger than the near-by Ruddies. When awake, it was actively feeding—diving under the surface. The neck was long and slender. The front of the neck and the throat were bright white while the top of the head, the back of the neck and back of the bird were a strong dark contrast to the throat and front of neck. The separation of the white front from the dark back of the neck was a clean, straight line. The eye was covered in dark, the dark cap of the grebe extending down over the eyes—thus eliminating the Clark's Grebe. The bill was rather long and pointed, with the end of the lower mandible at an upward slant. The bill had a banana color—not the yellow/orange of a Clark's.—*Bob Domagalski, St. Nazianz, Wisconsin.*

**28 October 2012, Lake Tomah, Monroe County**—Initially seen from citypark on east side of Lake Tomah. Even at a distance of several hundred meters the bird immediately stood out from a large raft of Ruddy Ducks because of its much larger size, shape, long snaky neck, and great contrast between the white (front of neck, cheek, throat) and dark (the blackish areas on back of neck, crown, face from just below the eye up—including areas in front of the eye—forehead, back, and sides to the waterline. The bill was very thin, long, sharply pointed, held more or less parallel to the water's surface, and a dull greenish-yellow color. I was able to get

closer and see plumage details better from a small public landing on the north side of the lake. The grebe made several dives and also flapped its wings and ruffled its feathers several times (at this time I could see whitish areas on the secondaries and inner primaries). Despite its large size, overall effect was of delicacy and elegance.—*Eric Epstein, Norwalk, Wisconsin.*

### WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*)

**18 August 2012, along Murphy Road at Crex Meadows, Burnett County**—This description is of the bird as perched at the top of a dead tree. It was a raptor with a dark tipped bill and yellow legs. In size it was intermediate between the American Kestrel and Red-tailed Hawk that I had been seeing before and after this observation. It was slightly smaller than a Northern Harrier. From the front, the kite was white from the tip of the tail to the head, including the entire head. Black edges to the front of both wings were evident. The tail was squared off, and the wing tips were pointed and extended just short of the tip of the tail. Once I moved to the north (200m away) to get a side view, I could see that the extent of the black on the wings was limited to the front of the wing, nearest the breast. The back of the wing was light gray in color—still noticeably darker than the white of the tail, belly, breast, and head. I never got a good look at the back of the bird. I saw the bird briefly in flight, during which it appeared very buoyant—even more so than the Northern Harriers seen earlier in the



day.—*Paul Budde, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

**SWAINSON'S HAWK**  
(*Buteo swainsoni*)

**26 August 2012, Big Sandy Lake, Ft. McCoy, Monroe County**—This bird's behavior was obviously abnormal. It surprised us during our evening walk around the lake when it flushed from a low perch in the brush, flew a few feet and crash-landed in the grass next to us. It rolled over on its back and was unable to right itself. Since I know Sue Broken, a wildlife rehabilitator near Chaseburg, I gathered the bird in my arms and walked it back to our car with the intent of taking it to her as soon as possible. On the way to the car I noticed the smell of putrefaction and began to look for a wound, which I found on the left side of its head behind the eye. As I tried to reposition the bird in my hands for the ride home, it sank its talons into my forearm. Because it was in such bad shape, and because we were unprepared to transport it safely, we decide to leave it at the lake. We placed it on a perch in the woods to fend for itself, fairly certain it wouldn't survive the night. I drove back to Big Sandy this evening and was saddened, but not surprised, to find it dead at the base of the tree. Obviously sick and/or injured. Mouth open. Appeared to be panting. Could only fly a few feet. Fairly calm when held, although it did attempt to defend itself with talons as I attempted to reposition it in my hands.—*Craig and Laurie Bartholomew, Sparta, Wisconsin.*

**KING RAIL**  
(*Rallus elegans*)

**15 September 2012, Rat River Marsh, Winnebago County**—The bird in question was in adult plumage. Only observed it walking—not in flight. More elongated neck than typical for Virginia Rail. Long pointed and slightly decurved bill. Face lacking the extensive dark gray typical of adult Virginia. Deep orange breast and neck—same color extending up cheek below eye. Whitish on throat. I did not make special note of bill or leg color. Most similar to this bird would be Virginia Rail, but this King Rail was about 2× that size. This 2× size estimate is based relative to Sora Rails seen at the same distance and location prior and after the King Rail observation.—*Darwin Tiede, Appleton, Wisconsin.*

**GREEN VIOLETEAR**  
(*Colibri thalassinus*)

**13 September 2012, feeder in Field, Price County**—It was a large hummingbird with a down-curved beak, green overall in good lighting closeup but dark looking while flying around in the flowers. It had definite blue-violet patches on side of face and a lighter blue patch on upper breast. The wings were quite dark in contrast to the rest of the body. The under tail coverts were lighter than rest of the tail.—*Tom and Mary Lou Nicholls, Field, Wisconsin.*

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER**  
(*Vermivora cyanoptera*)

**25 October 2012, Lake Oschwald, St. Nazianz, Manitowoc County**—

While I was pishing some chickadees in a brushy area, a colorful Blue-winged Warbler suddenly popped up only 20 feet from me. It stayed perched in a bare bush for over a minute, thus allowing me good looks. The bird was basically a bright yellow color. Starting at the bill, a thin black line extended back through the eye and then slightly beyond the eye. The underside of the bird was yellow, with the undertail area a pale yellow in contrast to the bright yellow of the rest of the underside. The back had a dusky gray/yellow tone. The wings were a slate gray in color with very noticeable double wingbars that were white in color. The tail was a slightly darker tone of slate. As the bird was for the most part facing me, I did not have good enough looks at the tail edges to see the white. I did not see the underside of the tail. I also did not see the bird in flight. No place on the bird was there any hint of streaking. I had great looks at the dark bill. It was thin and pointed as in a warbler—not thick as would be the case with a goldfinch or sparrow. This is a regular nesting species in the area and I have seen many of them. I am fully aware of the late date of this sighting. If accepted it would become the third latest fall departure date in state records.—*Bob Domagalski, St. Nazianz, Wisconsin.*

**PRAIRIE WARBLER**  
*(Setophaga discolor)*

**18 October 2012, Lake Park, Milwaukee County**—The bright yellow throat, breast, flanks, and belly first caught my eye. On closer examination over 10 minutes, this warbler was a little smaller than the adjacent Yellow-rumped Warblers. The crown was gray-green and the back and rump were bright green, with more gray-green wings and tail. A little white was seen at one point at the corners of the tail. The two wing bars were thin (not very predominant) and yellow. The distinct black stripes extended from a dark bar (projecting out from the shoulder towards the throat), along the sides of the breast and continued along the flanks. The area around the eye reminded me of a bull's-eye. The dark eye was surrounded by a lighter area (not an eye-ring), which was enclosed in a more gray, well defined auricular area. Below that was a yellow extension of the throat and finally the dark bar already mentioned. I thought I saw a hint of rusty streaks on the back, but the wind may have just been rustling the back feathers.—*Dennis Gustafson, Muskego, Wisconsin.*

# WSO Records Committee Report: Fall 2012

***Ryan Brady***

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**T**he WSO Records Committee reviewed 104 records of 44 species for the Fall 2012 season, accepting 87 of them (84%). Season highlights were many, including Wisconsin's 4<sup>th</sup> White-tailed Kite, 6<sup>th</sup> Green Violetear (depredated by a Sharp-shinned Hawk!), and 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. A Bewick's Wren was one of few seen in the past decade and third latest on record, and a Black-headed Grosbeak was documented for just the third time since 1997. An exceptional total of 7 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds was photographed during the season, with four of these lingering into the winter season. Western Grebes also made a good showing statewide. Boreal Owl and Northern Hawk Owl provided a welcome harbinger of a significant irruption of northern forest owls that materialized in the winter months to follow. Only the Black Scoter arrived record early, while a mild late fall contributed to the establishment of

record or near-record late dates for six warbler species, Philadelphia Vireo, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

## **ACCEPTED RECORDS**

Table 1 provides a list of records accepted by the WSO Records Committee during the Fall 2012 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.

Note that of seven *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, two were accepted as adult male Rufous Hummingbird and five as Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird. These five female/immature birds were not trapped and banded for identification purposes, and photos did not provide the details necessary to determine the exact species with certainty.

Table 1. List of rare bird records accepted by the WSO Records Committee during the Fall 2012 season.

Year	Rec.#	Species	Date	Observer	Location	County	Early?	Late?	Photo?	Other?	Tally
2012	083	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	8/7	A. Koziol	Ledge Rd, Horicon Marsh	Dodge			Yes		5-0
2012	088	Bewick's Wren	10/27	A. Geraghty	Eau Claire	Eau Claire		Yes			5-0
2012	089	Black Scoter	9/9	T. Oksiuta	Chequamegon Bay, Ashland	Ashland	Yes		Yes		5-0
2012	090	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/21	D. Katsma	Sheboygan Marsh	Sheboygan			Yes	Trapped	5-0
2012	091	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/15	J. Schwarz	Shoveler's Sink	Dane					5-0
2012	091	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/15	T. Keyel	Shoveler's Sink	Dane			Yes		5-0
2012	091	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/15	C. Heikkinen	Shoveler's Sink	Dane			Yes		5-0
2012	091	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/16	T. Wood	Shoveler's Sink	Dane					5-0
2012	091	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/16	D. Tessen	Shoveler's Sink	Dane					5-0
2012	092	Black-billed Magpie	10/14	J. Anderson	Odanah						
2012	093	Black-headed Grosbeak	9/25	S. Kennedy	North Bay	Racine			Yes		5-0
2012	096	Black-throated Blue Warbler	11/22	S. Denker	Cornucopia	Bayfield		Yes	Yes		5-0
2012	098	Blue-winged Warbler	10/25	B. Domagalski	Lake Oschwald St. Nazianz	Manitowoc		Yes			5-0
2012	101	Boreal Owl	11/18-19	G. Jacobs, D. Malueg	Linwood Springs, Stevens Point	Portage			Yes	Trapped	5-0
2012	102	Brant	11/2	B. Arndt	Lake Winnebago	Unknown			Yes	Shot	5-0
2012	104	Cinnamon Teal	9/22	C. McMurl	Nelson Dike, Upper Miss. River NWR	Buffalo			Yes	Shot	4-1
2012	105	Eared Grebe	11/7	T. Wood	Bay View Park	Milwaukee					5-0
2012	105	Eared Grebe	11/7	J. Ambrose	Bay View Park	Milwaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	105	Eared Grebe	11/8	C. Bridge	Bay View Park	Milwaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	105	Eared Grebe	11/8	D. Gustafson	Bay View Park	Milwaukee					5-0
2012	105	Eared Grebe	11/22	C. Herbert	Bay View Park	Milwaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	107	Eared Grebe	11/25	J. Collison	Sheboygan	Sheboygan			Yes		5-0
2012	109	Green Violetear	9/13	T. Nicholls	Fifield	Price			Yes		5-0
2012	110	Hooded Warbler	10/11	T. Wood	Doctor's Park	Milwaukee		Yes			4-1
2012	111	King Rail	9/15	D. Tiede	Rat River Marsh	Winnebago					5-0
2012	112	Loggerhead Shrike	8/17	C. Heikkinen	Cty Hwy D	Iowa			Yes		5-0
2012	113	Louisiana Waterthrush	9/5	B. Domagalski	Fisher Creek	Manitowoc		Yes			5-0
2012	114	Northern Hawk Owl	11/24	T. Kile	Ephraim/Sis. Bay	Door					5-0
2012	114	Northern Hawk Owl	11/24	S. Peterson	Ephraim/Sis. Bay	Door					5-0
2012	114	Northern Hawk Owl	11/25	J. Trick	Ephraim/Sis. Bay	Door			Yes		5-0
2012	114	Northern Hawk Owl	11/26	D. Tessen	Ephraim/Sis. Bay	Door					5-0
2012	114	Northern Hawk Owl	11/27	T. Wood	Ephraim/Sis. Bay	Door					5-0
2012	114	Northern Hawk Owl	11/27	M. Huebschen	Ephraim/Sis. Bay	Door			Yes		5-0
2012	115	Northern Parula	11/10-11	J. Griffin	Madison	Dane		Yes	Yes		5-0
2012	116	Pacific Loon	11/14	R. Brady	Chequamegon Bay, Ashland	Ashland			Yes		5-0
2012	117	Pacific Loon	11/21	J. Lund	Rock Dam Lake	Clark			Yes		5-0
2012	117	Pacific Loon	11/22	D. Belter	Rock Dam Lake	Clark			Yes		5-0
2012	119	Philadelphia Vireo	10/29	A. Szymczak	Kohler-Andrae State Park	Sheboygan		Yes	Yes		5-0
2012	120	Prairie Warbler	10/18	D. Gustafson	Lake Park	Milwaukee		Yes			5-0
2012	120	Prairie Warbler	10/20	C. Petherick	Lake Park	Milwaukee		Yes			4-1
2012	121	Prairie Warbler	11/9	S. Lubahn	Wil-o-way	Milwaukee		Yes	Yes		5-0
2012	122	Purple Sandpiper	11/8	D. Tessen	North Point	Sheboygan					5-0
2012	122	Purple Sandpiper	11/9	C. Bridge	North Point	Sheboygan			Yes		5-0
2012	123	Red Phalarope	11/4	C. Bridge	North Point	Sheboygan			Yes		5-0
2012	123	Red Phalarope	11/5	T. Wood	North Point	Sheboygan					5-0
2012	123	Red Phalarope	11/6	J. Trick	North Point	Sheboygan			Yes		5-0
2012	124	Red Phalarope	11/2	T. Leasa	Stinky Point, Lake Winnebago	Fond du Lac			Yes		5-0
2012	124	Red Phalarope	11/3	T. Wood	Stinky Point, Lake Winnebago	Fond du Lac					5-0
2012	126	Sabine's Gull	9/13	R. Brady	Wisconsin Point, Superior	Douglas			Yes		5-0

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued).

Year	Rec.#	Species	Date	Observer	Location	County	Early?	Late?	Photo?	Other?	Tally
2012	126	Sabine's Gull	9/22	T. Wood	Wisconsin Point, Superior	Douglas					5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/31	D. Panetti	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/31	C. Bridge	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/31	D. Freriks	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/31	J. Edlhuber	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/31	J. Strelka	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee					5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	11/1	T. Wood	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee					5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	11/1	D. Gustafson	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	11/1	M. Huebschen	Cty Hwy C	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	129	Swainson's Hawk	8/26	L.C. Bartholomew	Fort McCoy	Monroe			Yes	Dead	5-0
2012	130	Western Grebe	11/24	R. Brady	Chequamegon Bay, Washburn	Bayfield			Yes		5-0
2012	131	Western Grebe	10/8	S. Murkowski	Collins Marsh	Manitowoc			Yes		5-0
2012	131	Western Grebe	10/9	B. Domagalski	Collins Marsh	Manitowoc					5-0
2012	132	Western Grebe	11/18	N. Anich	Herbster	Bayfield			Yes		5-0
2012	134	Western Grebe	10/28	E. Epstein	Lake Tomah	Monroe					5-0
2012	135	Western Grebe	10/15	D. Belter	Radtke Point, Lake Wausau	Marathon					5-0
2012	136	Western Grebe	9/21	T. Wood	Wisconsin Point, Superior	Douglas					5-0
2012	137	<i>Aechmophorus</i> grebe sp.	10/22	S. Malcolm	Amsterdam Park	Sheboygan					5-0
2012	138	<i>Aechmophorus</i> grebe sp.	10/7	D. Belter	Lake Dubay	Portage			Yes		5-0
2012	140	White-tailed Kite	8/17	J. Fischer	Crex Meadows SWA	Burnett			Yes		5-0
2012	140	White-tailed Kite	8/18	P. Budde	Crex Meadows SWA	Burnett					5-0
2012	140	White-tailed Kite	8/19	D. Belter	Crex Meadows SWA	Burnett			Yes		5-0
2012	140	White-tailed Kite	08/20–21	D. Tessen	Crex Meadows SWA	Burnett					4-1
2012	141	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	8/1	N. Anich	Juneau Lagoon, Veterans Park	Milwaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	141	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	8/3	S. Lubahn	Juneau Lagoon, Veterans Park	Milwaukee			Yes		4-1
2012	141	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	8/5	J. Mooney	Juneau Lagoon, Veterans Park	Milwaukee			Yes		4-1
2012	141	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	8/7	D. Gustafson	Juneau Lagoon, Veterans Park	Milwaukee					5-0
2012	142	Yellow-throated Warbler	8/19	J. Mooney	Lake Park	Milwaukee					5-0
2012	143	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<11/1 - EOP (Nov 30)	T. Zerger, B. Setzer, S. Cutright	Howard's Grove	Sheboygan		Yes	Yes		5-0
2012	144	Rufous Hummingbird (Ad M)	10/28 - EOP	A. Wardwell, D. Jackson, S. Ewens	La Crosse	La Crosse			Yes		5-0
2012	145	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	11/3 - EOP	A. Wardwell, D. Jackson, S. Ewens	La Crosse	La Crosse			Yes		5-0
2012	146	Rufous Hummingbird (Ad M)	11/10 - EOP	E. Lucke	Rio	Columbia			Yes		5-0
2012	147	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	10/8–10/31	J. Hedin, R. Zimmerman, L. Sirvio	Hudson	St. Croix			Yes		5-0
2012	148	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	~10/11–11/20	G. Hamm, G. Janz, K. Hall	Stevens Point	Portage			Yes		5-0
2012	149	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	~11/9–~11/25	T. Hudson	Port Washington	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0
2012	150	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	~mid-Oct–EOP	J. Newton	Brookfield	Waukesha			Yes		5-0
2012	151	Barn Owl	11/10	L. Johnson	Ferryville	Crawford			Yes	Rehab	5-0
2012	152	Worm-eating Warbler	8/15	M. Ficken	Grafton	Ozaukee			Yes		5-0

## RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

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

### **Barrow's Goldeneye—**

#2012-087, Point Beach State Park, Manitowoc County, 23 November 2012 (0-5).

The observer described this bird as a mostly black and grey duck with solid black head lacking any white spots. The eye was yellow and the bill stubby and black. Common Goldeneye was eliminated because the head was black and the bird too dark. However, based on the description it's difficult to ascertain if this is a male or female, or even a goldeneye at all. No features consistent with Barrow's Goldeneye are described, including head shape, bill size/color, white crescent at front of face, black shoulder spur, and/or white "piano keys" on the back. The observer also had no previous experience with this species.

### **Black-headed Gull—**

#2012-094, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan County, 27 October 2012 (1-4).

This bird was described as slightly larger than a Bonaparte's with a bigger, reddish bill, grayish back and wings, white underparts, and black-grayish underwings. No additional details were provided. While this generic description is suggestive of Black-headed Gull, such a rare bird requires more attention to detail for confirmation by a records committee, especially when lacking any photographs

or field sketches. Was this an adult or juvenile bird? What part of the underwings were black-grayish? Was the mantle color different than that of a Bonaparte's? What about the primaries or the head pattern, as these were not mentioned? Was the bird structurally different than a Bonaparte's? Did the bird fly like any more familiar gull species? All of these features are critical to species determination and would allow elimination of species such as Bonaparte's Gull, a first-basic Ring-billed Gull, a Laughing Gull, or even a Caspian Tern.

### **Black-legged Kittiwake—**

#2012-095, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan County, 13 November 2012 (2-3).

This bird was described as somewhat larger than adjacent Bonaparte's, with a distinct black "M" pattern across the wings, a black half-collar, and black tail band. The bill was black, the back gray, and the tail and underparts white. The three dissenting committee votes all commented that the observer did not adequately eliminate a non-adult Bonaparte's Gull, which shows a black M pattern and dusky black neck collar of varying intensity. The slightly forked tail of the kittiwake was not described nor was the very striking black and white contrast pattern across the upperwing, due to the kittiwake's brighter white flight feathers. A more detailed description of field marks may have sealed the deal on this one.

### **Blue-winged Warbler—**

#2012-097, Bay Beach Sanctuary, Brown County, 11 November 2012 (late; 1-4).

The observer first noted the bird's

very bright yellow breast and belly with thin, warbler bill. The wings were grayish with "VERY faint wing bars, almost not discernible." The bird also had a triangular black eyeline behind the eye but this did not extend from the eye to the bill. The back was greenish-yellow.

Two features heavily challenge the identification as Blue-winged—the lack of any distinct wing bars and the black eyeline extending behind the eye but not in front of it. The observer made no comparisons to other suitable candidates such as Pine Warbler or even a bright Tennessee Warbler. As such, the committee had too much doubt of the bird's identity to accept this record.

**Bohemian Waxwing—**

#2012-099, Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County, 5 September 2012 (early; 0-5).

A brief description indicated a "narrow black mask, long grayish cinnamon crest, blackish gray tail with yellow trim, and white markings on grayish wings with red and yellow borders." When asked what species had been eliminated from consideration, the observer indicated "none," failing to mention why the bird in question was not a Cedar Waxwing. The original report also included no mention of the rusty undertail coverts or the bird's size. Given the very early date at a very southerly location, details eliminating the expected species were not sufficient.

**Boreal Owl—**

#2012-100, Chequamegon Bay, Bayfield County, 23 August 2012 (0-5).

The observer saw a small white ani-

mal go into a small cave along brownstone shoreline cliffs. It was growling and hissing with its feathers all puffed up, and had white feathers with small black dots on the head. It also showed large black stripes from above the yellow eyes to the back of the head. The description provided does not favor Boreal Owl, or any owl for that matter. Given the date, location, vocalizations, and plumage description, if this was even a bird, the most likely explanation is a nestling Turkey Vulture.

**Canada Warbler—**

#2012-103, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Manitowoc County, 20 November 2012 (late; 0-5).

First thought to be a Common Yellowthroat, this was "a yellow fronted warbler with gray/black streaking (necklace) on its chest and clearly distinguishable eye rings." No other details were provided, including the color of the upperparts, the color of the eye ring, presence/absence of wing bars, etc. The identification also appears to hinge entirely on the "necklace." Finally, the observer had no previous experience with this species. These factors collectively preclude adequate documentation of such a significantly late record.

**Eared Grebe—**

#2012-106, Fischer Lake, Aurora, Florence County, 9 October 2012 (2-3).

This grebe had thin, pointed upturned bill, very flat head with the back peak way to the back of the head, very steep almost vertical forehead, short rounded back, and dark cheek with white under the chin and behind the ear. The observer felt a Horned

Grebe would be longer and more streamlined in body with more rounded head, a cheek area featuring more white than on this bird, and lacking a thin bill with slight upturn in the lower mandible.

This documentation was well written and very intriguing but had some inconsistencies that left a few committee members confused about the bird's identity. Most importantly was the head shape—a flat head with peak in rear favors Horned over Eared. Coloration on the neck—a very helpful ID feature—was not described. The facial markings also were not adequately delineated, leaving some uncertainty as to the exact pattern, which is critical to separation from Horned. The bird also was not close enough to allow for conclusive assessment of bill tip color.

**Great Gray Owl—**

#2012-108, Redmound, Vernon County,  
20 October 2012 (1–4).

Seen in heavy woods on a ridge along the Mississippi River, this bird was described as a very large gray owl with very large round head and yellow/golden eyes. Thought to be at least 2 feet tall, it was said to look like a “giant upside-down drop of water because the head was so big and round.” Great Horned was eliminated because it had no ear tufts and was gray, not brown and white. Barred owl was eliminated because they are smaller, brown and white, and have black eyes.

A bird so far out of range without photographic support requires rock solid documentation for acceptance into the state records. A few more details on the white “bowtie,” the pattern of facial disks, bill size and color, etc. may have sealed this identification.

Moreover, the observer had never before seen this species. And while a Great Gray Owl irruption in the region brought some birds to Wisconsin in February and March, these birds showed no sign of movement in fall or early winter even north through Minnesota to the Canadian border.

**Pacific Loon—**

#2012-116, Chequamegon Bay at Ashland, Ashland County, 31  
October 2012 (2–3).

This loon was estimated to 1.5–1.7 miles offshore and difficult to view either through heat distorted air or behind choppy waves. It had a smaller head and body than an adjacent Common with cleanly demarcated neck line (white anterior, dark posterior). The bill was “too far to see clearly” and the rounded back of the head “seemed to have” a sleek cobra-like jiss. Head color was indeterminable, though it seemed mostly dark.

The distance and viewing conditions obviously created major challenges in identifying this bird. Though very likely a Red-throated or Pacific Loon, key features separating the two, such as bill size and shape, extent of black around the eye/face, head posture, back color, etc. could not be seen accurately. As such, some committee members felt this bird was best left unidentified.

**Pacific Loon—**

#2012-118, Wind Point, Racine County,  
25 November 2012 (2–3).

This was a small loon 300+ yards out with a clean white throat and breast and dark cap and rear of neck, the vertical line between them being cleanly demarcated. The back of the head was said to be softly rounded



and dark but grayer than the bird's back. The head was capped with black, extending over the eye. The bird's back was barred, not speckled, and the bill sharp and dagger-like but not as heavy as that of a Common Loon.

The report as written was very good, with nice comparisons to similar species. However, photos initially submitted as this Pacific Loon showed a Red-throated Loon. The observer later retracted the images, suggesting the pictures may not have been of the bird s/he was looking at. Further confounding the issue was a third observer who was also present and expressed some concern with the identification. These circumstances collectively caused some committee members to question whether the description truly reflected the field marks demonstrated by the bird in question.

#### **Red Phalarope—**

#2012-124, Lake Winnebago at Stinky Point, Fond du Lac County, 3 November 2012 (3–2).

This bird had gray wings and back with a black spot at the eyes and on the back of the neck. The bill was black and thicker than a Red-necked Phalarope. The rest of the face and underparts were white.

Although surely the Red Phalarope seen at this location by many, each documentation must stand on its own and adequately document what was seen for a third party to assess and confirm the identification. This report was limited to what was written above, leaving some committee members to comment that if others hadn't seen and documented the same bird, the

identification would be in doubt. The observer does not mention the even gray back, the pale spot at the base of the mandibles, or overall body size. Even a Bonaparte's Gull remains a possible identification based on the description provided.

#### **Ruff—**

#2012-125, 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Marsh, Adams County, 2 August 2012 (photos; 0–5).

Two birds were reported, said to be in proximity to Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs. The first bird had long orange/yellow legs like a yellowlegs but was plumper with distinct "dark red cap" and distinct white edges on the upper part of the folded-in wings, which gave a scaly feathered appearance. The chest was dark from bill to bottom of throat, then spotty dark to mid-breast. The bill was "slightly droopy." The second bird had a distinctly dark blotchy upper breast, dark wingtips, and broad vertical black-and-white longitudinal streaks, again with bright orange/yellow legs. Two other observers were present but did not submit documentation. A fourth observer photographed one of the birds after being alerted by the original observers.

Although intriguing, the descriptions did not seem to add up to a Ruff for either bird. The age of the birds (juvenile vs adult) was not mentioned, which is critical to shorebird identification in many cases, and could not be determined given the description of a scaly back (à la juvenile) yet a blotchy chest and red cap (à la adult). Some committee members thought that yellowlegs were not adequately eliminated based on what was written as these can be somewhat variable in

plumage. Similarly, adult Stilt Sandpiper was not discussed nor was the highly variable Pectoral Sandpiper, which can show blotchy chests, reddish caps, and a wide range of body sizes. The distinctive rump pattern of Ruff also was never seen or noted. Finally, the photos submitted appear to show a yellowlegs with a long slightly upturned bill, not a Ruff with relatively short droopy bill.

#### **Short-tailed Hawk—**

#2012-128, Cross Plains, Dane County,  
19 November 2012 (2–3).

This bird was seen at an estimated distance of 14 feet with  $7 \times 35$  binoculars as it perched 8 feet high in a roadside honeysuckle bush. It was a hawk of moderate size with full black for back and head coloring and dark black chest and belly all the way to the base of the tail. The legs and feet were yellow and the eyes black. The beak was described as white with a black hooked tip. The tail was extremely short relative to the body and alternately barred in black and charcoal grey with a wider dark terminal bar. It was thought to be the size of a small Peregrine Falcon but stockier, or roughly  $2/3$  the size of a Red-tailed Hawk. There was no white on the face.

Two committee members accepted this observation based on a thorough description and extensive comparison to similar species. Although obviously very rare, these members also cited the only other Midwestern record of this species, which occurred on the exact same date at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. However, three committee members re-

mained unconvinced that the details provided allowed for acceptance of such a regional mega-rarity, even though a first state record by a single observer without accompanying photographs would only put the bird on the Hypothetical list, not the official state list. These members cited a lack of flight observations to be critical and were heavily concerned that dark morphs of more expected species such as Rough-legged Hawk were eliminated by the observer largely if not entirely by body size, which can be very difficult to judge for lone perched birds regardless of how close the bird is. Also concerning was the observer's field references, which were limited to Peterson field guides and a general Smithsonian guide, and did not include any of the many guides specifically devoted to raptors or any internet sources. Thus these members were intrigued by the possibility but felt the evidence did not completely eliminate dark Rough-legged or Broad-winged Hawk, or even Zone-tailed Hawk sufficiently.

#### **Western Grebe—**

#2012-133, Little Lake Butte des  
Morts, Winnebago County,  
28 November 2012 (1–4).

*This bird was Accepted as an Aechmophorus grebe species.* The report well described a Western or Clark's Grebe but failed to provide any details on bill color, head plumage pattern, or other features necessary to eliminate the rarer Clark's Grebe. Even though Western is the more expected of the two, observers must provide confirmation of identification to species level.

**Clark's Grebe—**

#2012-139, Lake Dubay, Portage County, 7 October 2012 (photos; 0–5).

Two large grebes were seen by another observer and documented only to the genus level as *Aechmophorus* species (#2012-137). That observer initially identified the birds as Western Grebes but later reconsidered the possibility of Clark's for one of the birds based on external feedback from other birders who viewed images of the birds in question. That observer felt the images were not conclusive for either species and thus left the bird as *Aechmophorus* species.

The observer for this record (#2012-139) was contacted by the original observer to come view the birds. This observer did not commit to an identification of Clark's on site in the field or in subsequent discussions in electronic media but later documented the bird as such. The bird was described as having a gray mantle with white flanks, dark plumage on the hindneck that was very thin compared to the adjacent Western Grebe it was with, a head with much more white on it as the dark cap terminated before reaching the bird's eye, and a bright yellow bill the color of a "perfectly ripe banana."

While one bird in the photos clearly shows a Western Grebe, the other bird is very intriguing and ignited much discussion among Wisconsin birders as a good candidate for Clark's Grebe, which would constitute a first state record. Unfortunately, the distance and heat distortion over the water made the photo quality just poor enough to preclude infallible assessment of plumage features. The pictures seemingly indicate a much brighter yellow-orange bill (versus dull

olive-yellow in the adjacent Western), a relatively narrow black stripe on the rear of the neck (wider on Western), a pale gray body with contrasting white flanks (Western's average darker gray with evenly dark flanks), and a less extensive black cap that stops above the eye, leaving the eye more distinctly visible and the lores grayish white. But again, the exact features are difficult to be sure of, especially in light of the written description of the original observer who viewed the birds 40 minutes longer than the second observer and stated, "Both birds were the same and looked the same despite what others said when I posted the photos online, and both had what looked like was blackish coloring below and in front of the eye, but not a solid color."

The (barely) inconclusive photos, uncertainty of the original observer, and curiously retroactive identification by the second observer all raise some concern in accepting this bird as a first state record Clark's Grebe. Can we really be 100% sure of this identification based on the evidence at hand? This committee felt no, especially in light of the final confounding factor in this scenario, the known hybridization of Western and Clark's Grebes in areas of the west where the species' breeding ranges overlap. Although these hybrids are not common, they occur often enough to muddy the identification waters, much like that of Glossy and White-faced Ibis, for example. Given the lack of details demonstrated in the photos, the possibility of this bird being a hybrid also cannot be confidently eliminated as a plausible identification. As such, this may have been the "one that got away," leaving Clark's Grebe off the official state list . . . for now.

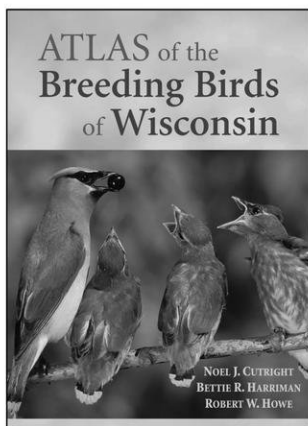
## About the Artists

Compiling of this particular issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* took place between Art Editors. There also was a high number of seasonal documentation photographs turned in to the Records Committee during the

fall season; therefore, some of the documentation photos, plus a few others submitted to the Editors, are being used in this issue. We'll be back to "art" photos in the Winter issue.



Sabine's Gull photographed by Davor Grgic on 22 September 2012 off Wisconsin Point, Douglas County.



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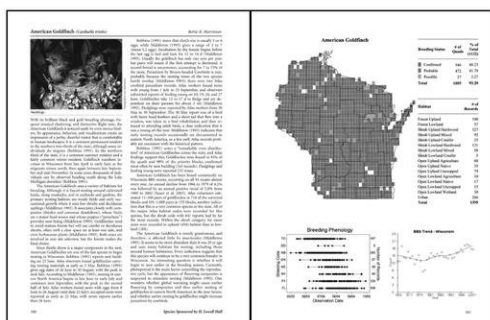
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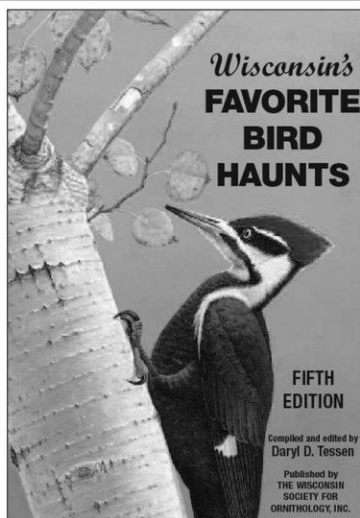
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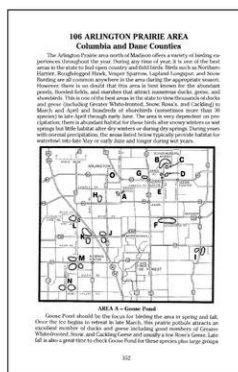
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