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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



*The
Passenger
Pigeon*

Winter 1973

VOLUME 35, NO. 4



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Endangered Birds

By RUTH L. ^HMINE

Department of Natural Resources, Madison

A grayish-white bird streaked by and landed on the sand bar — a Piping Plover. A little bird that looked like a Semipalmated Plover fresh out of a cup of bleach . . .

This species is very uncommon now in Wisconsin, close to being endangered, but there on Cape Cod, 1,000 miles away, I saw my first one. The bird became real to me then, a great thrill heightened by the knowledge that we may be losing it here.

Somehow this experience symbolizes for me the constant excitement of the natural world and all its parts — and the significance of the effort to protect it.

Fortunately the effort to protect the natural world, and especially to focus attention on endangered species, has been gaining momentum over recent years. Over 1,000 vertebrate animals have been identified as being in trouble throughout the world, over 100 in the United States, and 15 in Wisconsin. Suddenly the problem came closer to home. When it was whales and tigers and giant pandas, that was one thing. But when it's eagles, lynx and lake chubs — that's another! They are **our** wild things, and **our** environment that may be suffering from an overdose of people and their technology.

Actually, of course, efforts to preserve and protect are not new — for example, refuse establishment, habitat management, flexible regulations for sport and commercial harvest, and the preservation of scientific areas. But now there's a new emphasis, a new urgency, brought about by the increasing number of animals that appear to be more sensitive to man's use and misuse of the land and water. Brought about also by the realization that the rate of change in the environment has been speeded up, and consequently the rate of loss is also speeded up.

The Wisconsin Legislature paid heed to this course of events and passed, in April 1972, the Endangered Species Law (Chapt. 275, Laws of 1971) which required that the Department of Natural Resources prepare a list of endangered species in Wisconsin, and offered complete protection both to the species so designated and to those on the U. S. list of native and foreign endangered species. A specially appointed DNR Committee drew up the list on the basis of knowledge readily available from personal contacts inside and outside the Department and from the published literature. **Passenger Pigeon** articles and records and contacts with WSO members who had carried out special surveys proved invaluable in this task. After public hearing the endangered list of 15 animals, including 3 birds, became the official Wisconsin list under terms of the law. It is reviewed annually and changes can be made as necessary.

Our Committee also drew up three supplementary lists — extirpated animals, uncommon or threatened plant communities, and animals whose status appears to be changing and which may or may not be holding their own at the present time. These lists serve several purposes: they provide a historical record, broaden the scope of the effort to include a

larger part of the biota, and they focus attention on species whose status is questionable **before** they become endangered.

The complete annotated lists have been published in a DNR booklet entitled "Endangered Animals in Wisconsin", which may be obtained free of charge from DNR, Box 450, Madison, Wis. 53701. Presented below, for your quick reference, is the information on endangered, changing status and extirpated birds, with an additional comment on what is going on now (as far as is known) to increase our knowledge of distribution and status in Wisconsin.

ENDANGERED (Species in trouble. Prospects for reproduction and survival within the state are in jeopardy. Without help they may become extirpated. They may be low in number (e.g. California Condor, to draw on an out-of-state example) or still abundant but not reproducing well (e.g. Brown Pelican).)

Double-crested Cormorant: Common migrants and breeders until the late 1950's. Have declined greatly in number since then due to habitat loss and deterioration. Four small breeding colonies now exist. Records of any nesting colonies are especially requested from field observers. Current survey underway by WSO researchers Sergei Postupalsky and Charles Sindelar.

Bald Eagle: Declined as result of insecticides, encroachment on nesting areas and illegal shooting. Now observed as migrants along Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and in scattered areas around state. Reproductive success abnormally low along shores of Lake Superior and practically nil on Lake Michigan. Reproducing fairly well along inland lake shores but declining slowly due to human disturbance. Aerial censuses were flown in 1973 for nest counts and productivity.

Osprey: Have suffered drastic decline in past, and now declining slowly, unable to maintain themselves at present reproductive rates. Aerial censuses were flown in 1973 for nest counts and productivity.

CHANGING STATUS (Species may or may not be holding their own at the present time, and are under special observation to identify factors causing decline or conditions that might help insure survival. Category includes animals which may now be low in number (e.g. Piping Plover), have decreased in the past (e.g. Upland Plover), or are presently declining (e.g. Cooper's Hawk).

Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Harrier: All are less numerous, and have experienced noticeable declines in certain parts of the state. Wisconsin hawk banders will be especially relied upon for substantial data on all hawks and owls.

Prairie Chicken: Declined until range in Wisconsin confined to the central sand plain area. Scattered grassland reserves have been purchased and habitat is being managed intensively for chickens. Increasing drainage and irrigation pose threats. Spring monitoring and study of population will be continued by UW-Stevens Point.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Declined drastically with now only scattered populations mainly in the northwest on special management areas, the farm

fringe or bogs. Caused by loss of open, brushy habitat from forest plantings and natural forest succession. There is need now to assemble currently known information on numbers of birds and existing habitat. Specific data from WSO members would be welcome, and anyone wishing to concentrate on this may write me for a 1948-1952 distribution map which can provide a basis for comparison.

Bobwhite: Experienced a steady decline, which has been correlated with destruction of shrubby hedgerow cover. A quail survey has been completed in 1973 and results will be in print soon. Specific information on quail comeback provided the basis for a limited season in six counties.

Wild Turkey: Restockings in the central area are not taking, but turkeys more recently stocked in the southwest are doing well and gradually expanding their range and numbers.

Yellow Rail: Not common, but have apparently decreased recently.

Piping Plover: Has apparently disappeared from Lake Michigan as a breeding bird, and its breeding status is in question on Lake Superior.

Upland Sandpiper: Threatened in recent years by drainage of wet prairies and over-pasturing. Special survey underway to pin down statewide occurrence. Observations desired from WSO members on exact locations of nesting Upland Sandpipers or colonies — or locations where birds or colonies previously nested but were not found in 1973.

Barn Owl: Consistently reported in southern part of the state, but records seem to have diminished in recent years.

Bewick's Wren: Never common, but apparently found less frequently now.

Migrant Shrike: Now very uncommon and decreasing. Eggs show pesticide residues.

EXTIRPATED (Species that have disappeared from the state).

Peregrine Falcon: The Appalachian Peregrine no longer breeds in Wisconsin, or east of the Mississippi. Chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides have led to widespread failures in Europe and North America. The Tundra Peregrine still passes through Wisconsin on migration. Both are endangered in the U. S.

Passenger Pigeon: An abundant migrant and summer resident until the late 1880's. Became extinct in 1899.

And now what?

The program of action as I see it consists of four steps: (1) Monitor as carefully as possible the status of those birds on the endangered and changing status lists; (2) Catalogue the occurrence of those whose status in Wisconsin is not adequately known; (3) Determine relative abundance and trends; and (4) Assess management needs and make recommendations to meet these needs. These steps are of course overlapping, but because of the state of our present knowledge of many nongame species, emphasis right now in our call for help from cooperators is directed toward the first two, for these provide the basis for all other considerations.

Our immediate goal, then, is to keep observations current . . . and coming! Short of hiring teams of experts to carry out sophisticated studies (which present funds simply do not allow), we must depend on a network of observers watching for and recording information, particularly on endangered and changing status species, and those of undetermined status singled out for special attention. The current lists were prepared from readily available information. We now want to broaden the data base. This will have to be a massive cooperative effort, involving state and federal guides, colleges and universities, and private groups, and we are making special appeals to all these agencies and groups.

Therefore this special appeal to WSO. The all-important task of monitoring status and cataloguing occurrence of Wisconsin birds is right within your purview, for it involves first and foremost **field observations** — continued deliberate efforts to observe and record: date, location (T. R. Sec), number, and nature of observation (nest and young, road-kill, etc.). It is also important to keep a record of times when a bird was **not** seen in places where it might be expected or has been seen in other years.

I am asking all cooperators to send in their records on endangered, and changing status species for the past year to me so that our Committee can put together an updated status picture. We have also been focusing attention this year on Bluebird and Bobolink observations — birds whose status in Wisconsin is undetermined.

Assessing status and broadening the base of input also involves identifying all available background information — past records, surveys or studies unreported as yet or published elsewhere. These, too, are valuable building blocks, and material sent in for inclusion in the “information storehouse” will be gratefully received.

Reports will be made available from time to time not only on the current status of individual species, but also on information needs and special projects being undertaken on certain species throughout the state — a sort of coordinator’s “Who’s Who”.

This is an exciting program, for it’s as big as all outdoors! And it will become increasingly important in our evaluation of environmental actions. Much is going on right now — a serious study has been made of uncommon and threatened plants and will be completed soon; an intensive survey of reptiles and amphibians is underway; a far-flung survey of all small mammals is about to be initiated; one worker is concentrating on clams and will contribute much to our understanding of the status and distribution of these vital members of the aquatic community; many WSO members are tackling surveys of particular species of birds . . .

But there is much to do. We need your eyes and ears too!

CORRECTION: On page 61, Vol. 35, No. 2, the photograph labeled Red-throated Loon and the adjacent section on the Red-throated Loon should be deleted. Also on page 18, Vol. 35, No. 1, the record for Red-throated Loon in Chippewa County, May 14-17 (S. Robbins) should be deleted. J. V. Remsen, Jr., of the Dept. of Zoology, University of California, was the first to call to my attention the size of the bill in the photograph is too large for a Red-throated Loon.

Sam Robbins and I have reviewed the original films of this bird and agree that it probably is a Common Loon. The fact that the bird was still in winter plumage on this late spring date was what misled us. — Charles A. Kemper

New Light on the Cape May Warbler

By SAM ROBBINS

On the morning of June 11, 1969 I paused along Douglas County Trunk "P", five miles north of Solon Springs, and had my attention drawn to a song that reminded me of the Cape May Warbler. This was intriguing because I had always thought of this bird as strictly a migrant through the state with but a handful of summer records. There was the memory of Martha and Roy Lound's published report of the probable breeding in Forest County in 1962 (1963 *Pass. Pigeon* 26), but there was nothing to indicate this was more than an isolated instance.

The bird sang persistently, but was difficult to spot for its perch was a black spruce that was partially concealed from my roadside position. But when the bird flew to a different tree I was able to follow it and confirm the identification. It was a brightly plumaged male — unmistakable! While the possibility of summer residency seemed high at that date, I saw no indication of possible nesting, and could not rule out the possibility of a lingering spring migrant. No opportunity to revisit the area presented itself in 1969, but I resolved to investigate more carefully in 1970.

A return visit was made on June 11, 1970, again in mid-morning. I hiked a mile-long stretch of "P" just south of the Brule River crossing, flanked on both sides by rich stands of white cedar and black spruce, and was amazed to find not one but eleven singing males. All were in the spruces. Some sang from the uppermost tip where they were clearly visible. Others sang from a more concealed perch, but all were within three or four feet of the tree-top. Near the center of this colony I caught a glimpse of one female which quickly disappeared in the upper foliage of one of the spruces. From a distance one gets the impression that the branches and needles on a black spruce are less thick than those of other evergreens; but on closer look one finds that needle-coverage is thick close to the tree trunk. The Cape Mays were adept at concealing themselves as they moved about in the high foliage. These birds were watched for over half an hour, and the trees were scanned with binoculars in hopes of finding some evidence of the nesting that now seemed virtually certain in a colony of that size. But no evidence was found.

The next visit was on June 15, 1971, at 6:30 p.m. when the amount of bird song was somewhat reduced from normal morning output. At least nine singing males were detected along the mile-long stretch of conifers, and again one female was sighted. The same secretive behavior was noted, but no specific nesting evidence could be found. Perhaps it might be more fruitful if a visit were planned for late June and early July, when parents might be more conspicuous if they were feeding young in the nest.

Consequently the next visit took place on June 27, 1972, around 10:00 a.m. Song in general was more subdued than on previous visits,

except for the ever-present Nashville. My first time through the area produced but one singing bird, but in returning I heard two more. The singing was infrequent, and I was able to see only one of the males. That was but a brief glimpse. In no case was I successful in latching onto a bird I could not follow, to determine if it was involved in nesting.

My yearly excursion brought me to this location again on June 27, 1973, at what I thought should be prime listening time: 5:00 - 5:30 a.m. Driving slowly and pausing frequently, I was surprised and disappointed to draw a blank. There was moderate song from Black-and-White, Nashville, Parula and Myrtle Warblers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets, but no sound from a Cape May. The agony of guessing that the colony had completely disappeared was short-lived, however, for one was heard during a brief stop there at 10:00 the next morning. The songster was too far back from the road to be seen.

Variety of Songs

Previous to the encounters with the Solon Springs summer colony, the songs of the Cape May had given me more identification difficulties than those of any other warbler. Three separate songs have been detected among the summering Cape Mays. They can best be described by reference to the excellent "Warblers" recording published by Dr. William W. H. Gunn and Dr. Donald J. Borror.

Song #1, heard most frequently at the Solon Springs site, is the song featured most on the Gunn-Borror record, and is probably most readily identified. The song resembles most closely a song of the Blackpoll, but is of shorter duration. To my ear the wavy effect of the song stems mainly from alternation in intensity rather than variation in pitch. This song is extremely high-pitched, has little carrying power, and would undoubtedly be missed entirely by persons whose ears are unable to pick up very high-pitched sounds.

Song #2 is a short oscillating song, nearly as high-pitched, but with the oscillating caused by variation in pitch rather than intensity. There is but one sample on the Gunn-Borror record, but this is the song I have heard most frequently in spring migration. It resembles a song of the Bay-breast so closely that I have sometimes felt unsure of positive identification without visual confirmation.

Song #3 is similar to Song #2, with a noticeable variation in pitch given in oscillating fashion. But in Song #3 the oscillations are given more slowly. This song is not included on the Gunn-Borror disc, but is remarkably similar to the second Black-and-White sample. Only one of the Solon Springs males uttered this song. My first thought was that the song was coming from a Black-and-White, but only when I saw a male Cape May giving the song was I convinced. On another occasion, I tracked down the author of what seemed like a virtual duplication of this song, and found a Black-and-White.

Additional Summer Records

Until the discovery of the Solon Springs colony in 1969, summer records for the state had been exceedingly scarce. Kumlien and Hollister made vague reference to birds seen in June in Kewaunee and Door Counties, and to a bird "reported near Ashland in July", but list no specific dates. In the A. J. Schoenbeck collection in Stevens Point there is a set of three eggs taken from a nest in the top of a small spruce in a cedar swamp in Oconto County on June 11, 1899. H. H. T. Jackson discovered a female with two young out of the nest on Madeline Island on July 21, 1919, and reported that Sheldon had collected a female in breeding condition in Bayfield County near Herbster earlier the same year on June 8. Between 1919 and 1969 there have been no published summer observations except that of Martha and Roy Lound in Forest County on June 26-28, 1962.

Having learned more of the song variations of this species, I have stopped frequently near other northern Wisconsin spruce bogs in search of additional birds. Many a listening stop has been made in habitat that appears suitable, without success. But on a few occasions singing males have been located as follows:

Date	County	Location
June 12, 1970	Ashland	C.T.H. GG, 8 mi. s. of Clam Lake
July 5, 1970	Ashland	C.T.H. GG, 8 mi. s. of Clam Lake
June 14, 1971	Ashland	C.T.H. GG, 8 mi. s. of Clam Lake
June 9, 1973	Ashland	C.T.H. GG, 8 mi. s. of Clam Lake
June 16, 1971	Douglas	Hwy. 53, 1 mi. n. of Gordon
June 22, 1970	Forest	Pine Lake, 1 mi. s. of Hiles
June 9, 1973	Iron	Hwy. 182, 1/2 mi. n. of Price County line
June 19, 1972	Price	Hwy. 102, 9 mi. e. of Ogema

In addition to these records, my mind was haunted by memories of several canoeing trips on the Brule River in eastern Douglas County between 1961 and 1965 when I had heard birds that did not sound quite right for Black-and-White Warblers and so had gone unrecorded. Could any of these have been Cape Mays? Riding in one of John Degerman's canoes, piloted expertly by Lawrence Burbe, my wife Shirley and I made the trip from Stone's Bridge to Winneboujou on June 28, 1973, and found singing Cape Mays at three locations.

Conclusions

Much more remains to be learned about Cape Mays in Wisconsin in summer, and could be learned by a longer and more intense study of the area north of Solon Springs. But there is every reason to believe that this species is a regular summer resident in small numbers in the northern spruce bogs, and presumably a regular breeder. The A.O.U. Checklist correctly lists northern Wisconsin as part of the summer range. Gromme's **Birds of Wisconsin** might well have a yellow strip across the northernmost counties on the range map for this bird. The **Wisconsin Birds** checklist might well revise the summer status from "very rare" to "rare."
Box 117, Cadott, Wis.

ARLIE WILLIAM SCHORGER — 1884 - 1972

Dr. A. W. Schorger died on May 26, 1972, after a fruitful life worthy of emulation. Because this statement about him must be brief, the following citation awarded to him a month before his death by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation is quoted:

“Foster son of Wisconsin for over 60 years — scientist, educator, author and ardent naturalist; Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin and the outstanding natural history historian in America; member of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission for six years; former Director of the National Audubon Society and President of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters which gave him Honorary Membership; Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union and winner of the Brewster Award for ornithological contributions; author of books on *The Passenger Pigeon* and *The Wild Turkey* as well as many articles on wildlife in early Wisconsin and the need for conservation of natural resources today.”

Besides this summary of his accomplishments, reference should be made to his honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Lawrence College and the University of Wisconsin and also of his book to be published posthumously by the U. W. Press: “Prairie, Marsh, and Grove — the Natural History of a Mid-western County.” He also was President of United Inventors, Inc. from 1931 to 1937, the author of a book on chemistry and of 270 scientific papers.

After retiring from active business in 1950, he joined the staff of the U. W. Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management in 1951, where he continued his research work. He refused a regular salary and was given a token salary of \$1,000 a year which he turned back annually to the University in grants to the library for natural history books. When the University gave him Emeritus status in 1955, he continued working as if no change had occurred.

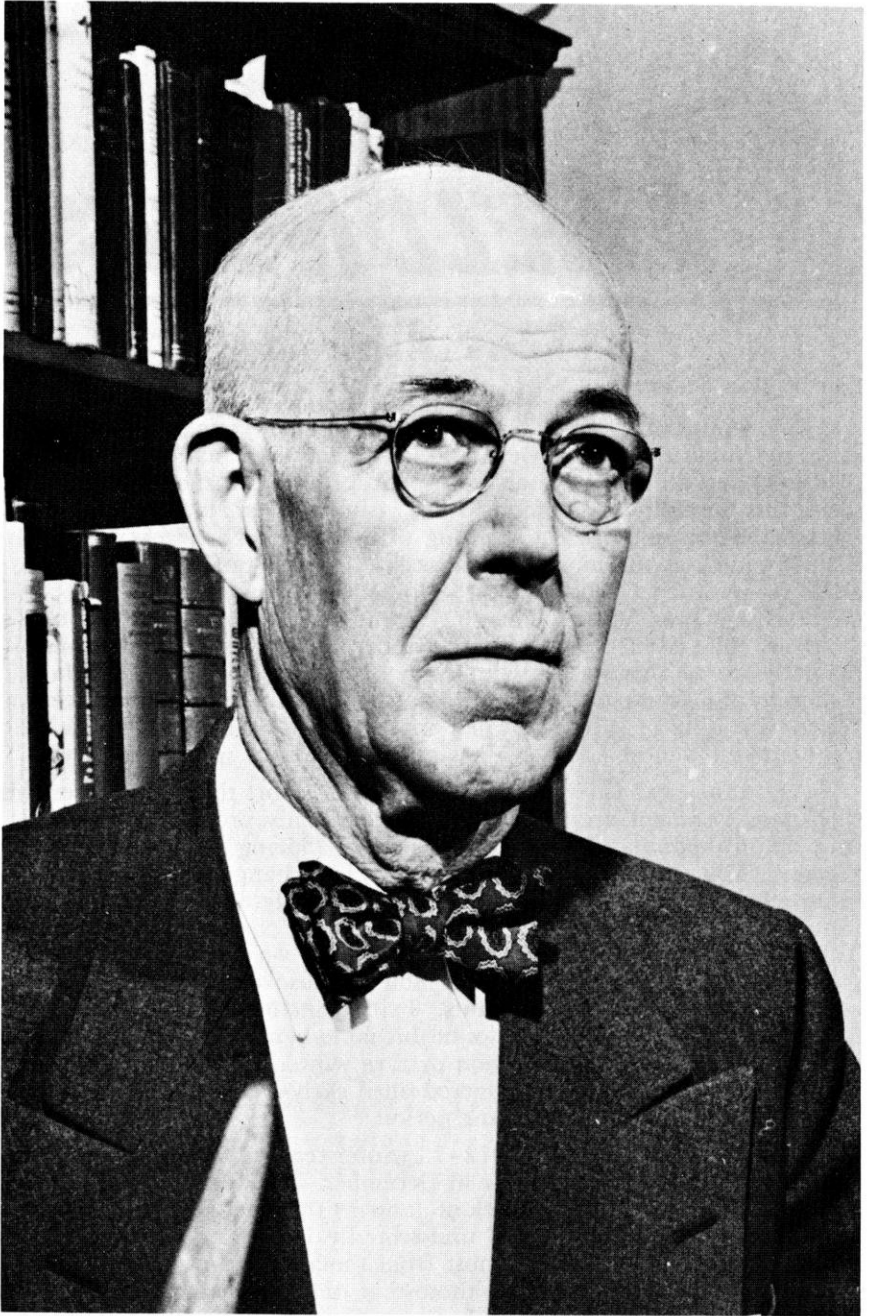
Dr. Schorger was a charter member of the WSO and one of our outstanding ornithologists. He was an honorary life member since 1941.

He was one of the most prolific authors publishing articles in the *TRANSACTIONS*, with more than a dozen on ornithological and natural history subjects equivalent in size and contents to a book on “Wisconsin Wildlife History.”

After his death an editorial in *The Capital Times* called Dr. Schorger a “Unique Man of Knowledge” and said “The passing of Bill Schorger leaves a void in this town and community.” It also leaves a void in the minds and hearts of his colleagues in WASAL. His place in their ranks will not be easily filled.

8/13/72

— Walter E. Scott



ARLIE WILLIAM SCHORGER

1884 - 1972



FIELD NOTES

By WILLIAM L. HILSENHOFF

The Winter Season

December 1972 - February 1973

The winter of 1972 - 1973 will probably best be remembered for the unprecedented invasion of Goshawks. This invasion blanketed the state (Table 1) and almost everyone who spent any time in the field was able to see this normally uncommon winter visitor. Several rarities also highlighted the season, with the sighting of a Clarke's Nutcracker (see "By the Wayside") as the most unusual record. Other rarities (Table 2) include the Horned Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gyrfalcon, Iceland Gull, Great Gray Owls, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, and Lincoln's Sparrow. The latter came to Maier's feeder in Buffalo and is Wisconsin's third record of this species wintering. It was accompanied at Maier's feeder by the Curve-billed Thrasher, which spent its second winter in Wisconsin. The 14 White-crowned Sparrows and a Harris' Sparrow that frequented a Kenosha feeder all winter were also a spectacular find.

Again this year I have emphasized in this report the period after the Christmas Counts, since these counts have already provided a clear picture of bird populations in late December (Spring issue of **Passenger Pigeon**). You will note, however, that several changes have been made in an effort to present information more concisely and eliminate irrelevant material. The familiar "Season Summary" has been replaced by Tables 1 and 2. Permanent residents and the very common wintering species are not included in either table because their winter status is best defined by the Christmas counts. Table 1 includes species reported in five or more counties, the counties in this table being grouped from north to south. Table 2 lists uncommon or rare winter residents, and also includes reports of species that lingered until early December but were not seen during the Christmas Count period.

The weather during the 1972 - 73 winter season was unusual. There was unseasonable cold and snow in December, followed by exceptionally warm weather after the first week of January that melted the snow cover in all but the far north. This undoubtedly influenced populations of half-hardy species, preventing most from remaining through the Christmas Count period, but allowing those that did to remain the rest of the winter.

Last winter's invasion of winter finches was not repeated this year. Redpolls were also absent, Pine Grosbeaks were definitely not as com-

Table 1. Birds seen in Wisconsin during January and February 1973.

Species	Counties																																									
	Bayfield	Sawyer	Price	Barron	Chippewa	Taylor	St. Croix	Langlade	Oconto	Shawano	Door	Wood	Portage	Outagamie	Brown	Buffalo	Trempealeau	Jackson	LaCrosse	Monroe	Vernon	Adams	Waushara	Winnebago	Fond du Lac	Manitowoc	Sheboygan	Ozaukee	Waukesha	Milwaukee	Racine	Kenosha	Sauk	Columbia	Dane	Green	Grant	Rock				
Canada Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	W	.	.	.	W	.	.	.	F28	.	.	F27	.	F21	.	.	.	.	F24	W	F23	.	.	.	F23		
Wood Duck	W	.	.	.	W	J13	J	J20	
Bufflehead	J	W	J	
Oldsquaw	
Hooded Merg.	J	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Common Merg.	.	.	.	W	W	W	.	.	.	W	.	.	.	W	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Goshawk	.	.	.	F3	W	.	W	W	J	W	J14	.	.	.	W	.	.	J28	J	.	.	W	W	W	W	J6	.	W	.	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Sharp-sh. Hawk	J29	F4	W	W	W	W	J6	.	W	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Cooper's Hawk	J5	F23	J	.	J22	.	.	F26	W	W	W	W	J13	F18		
Red-shld. Hawk	J29	J17	W	W	W	W	J4	.	.	F4	W	W	W	W	W	F18		
Bald Eagle	W	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	F22	.	.	.	F16	W	.	.	W	.	W	W	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	F4	W	W	W	J5	F18		
Sparrow Hawk	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	F22	.	W	W	.	.	.	W	.	W	.	.	.	W	F	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	F3	W	W		
Coot	W	W	.	.	.	W	.	W	.	.	.	W	J17	.	W	W	W	W	F3	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	F18		
Herring Gull	W	.	.	.	W	W	.	.	.	W	.	W	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Mourning Dove	W	.	.	F24	W	W	W	.	.	W	.	W	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	F20	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
B. Kingfisher	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	J10*	.	.	W	.	W	.	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	J3	.	J27	F11	F18	.	.	.	F18		
Y.-sh. Flicker	F16	.	.	.	W	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	J25	F20	.	.	.	F18		
Red-h. Woodp.	.	.	.	W	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	F10	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	.	.	W	W	F	W	W	F3	W	W	J8	F1	J21	.	F28	W	W		
Horned Lark	F	W	W	F3	F12	J10	W	.	W	F14	F25	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	.	.	J31	F	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Red-b. Nuthatch	W	.	.	W	F3	J10	W	.	W	W	F3	W	W	W	W	J14	.	W	W	W	W	.	.	W	W	W	W	F25	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Brown Creeper	J24	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	J7	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Robin	.	J10	F4	W	W	W	J14	.	.	.	F19	W	W	W	W	J8	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Bohemian Wax.	F	J21	P6	W	W	J19	.	.	W	J17	J20	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		
Cedar Waxwing	F13	F11	F14	F11	.	J18	J17	J20	.	W	W	W	P8	J7	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	F18		
North. Shrike	F10	W	W	J8	.	.	J7	J26	W	.	.	W	W	W	J13	J12	.	W	.	.	.	F25	W	W	W	W	W	W	J27	.	W	W	W	W	F18	W	W	W	W			
meadowlark	J16	J	F27	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Red-w. Blackb.	W	J18	.	W	W	W	W	W	
Com. Grackle	.	J27	.	J3	W	F23	W	W	W	W	F28	.	W	W	W	W	J5	.	W	W		
Br.-h. Cowbird	J7	W	W	W	W	.	J5	J9	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Eve. Grosbeak	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	.	F	W	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Pine Grosbeak	W	W	W	.	F	.	W	W	F15	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	.	J13	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Pine Siskin	W	W	W	.	.	W	W	W	W	J14	.	W	W	F20	F	W	.	.	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Red Crossbill	.	W	J	W	W	F27	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Oregon Junco	W	.	W	.	W	W	.	J14	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
White-thr. Sp.	F25	.	.	W	.	W	F11	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Song Sparrow	W	F22	.	.	W	.	W	W	.	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	F25	
Snow Bunting	F28	W	W	W	.	.	W	W	W	.	.	W	W	W	W	.	.	J21	W	F11	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	

W = Wintered J = January F = February * Seen in Dunn Co.

mon as last year, numbers of Purple Finches were way below normal, and most observers commented that numbers of Goldfinches were down. However, Pine Siskins were much in evidence, Evening Grosbeaks were numerous in all but the extreme south, and the Red Crossbills that began invading Wisconsin late last summer remained in many areas of the state.

In addition to the Goshawks, the other Accipiters were more common than usual, and Sparrow Hawks were quite numerous in the southern half of the state. There were also more late-winter reports of Red-shouldered Hawks. Only the Rough-legged Hawk was down in numbers, as determined from comments of many observers. This also was a poor year for Snowy, Long-eared, and Short-eared Owls (Table 2). The only species to appear in above normal numbers, other than those already mentioned, were the Northern Shrike and Bohemian Waxwing. Shrikes were found in all but the extreme southern counties and several observers commented on their unusual abundance. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in the northern and central counties as early as the Christmas Count period, but seemed to disappear from some areas in February.

The mild weather caused an early northward migration of several species. Migrating flocks of Canada Geese were seen beginning February 23 (Table 1). The Killdeer in Kenosha County on February 25 was probably a migrant, and observers in the southern counties commented on migrating Robins, Common Grackles, and Red-winged Blackbirds during the last few days in February. Because of the abnormally mild and open winter, Horned Larks wintered throughout most of the state, making detection of their normal mid-February migration difficult. A possible mid-February migration of Cedar Waxwings, however, is indicated by sightings reported in Table 1.

The winter of 1972 - 73 will be remembered by some for the rarities that they sighted, but most will remember it as the winter of the Goshawk invasion.

TABLE 2. SPECIES OBSERVED IN LESS THAN 4 COUNTIES. REPORTED ARE THE NUMBER OBSERVED, THE COUNTY, THE DATE OR PERIOD, AND THE OBSERVER.

Horned Grebe — 1 Waukesha F3 (Tessen) — third February record for Wisconsin
Pied-billed Grebe — 1 Dane J20 (Hilsenhoff), F7 (P. Ashman); 2 Winnebago wintered (Tessen)
Double-crested Cormorant — 1 Sheboygan D2 (Kuhn)
Black-crowned Night Heron — 1 Ozaukee J7 (Bintz)
Whistling Swan — 600 Buffalo D3 (Leshner)
Mute Swan — 1 Waukesha F3-18 (Tessen)
Snow and Blue Goose — 1 Brown wintered (Cleary & Columban); 2 Door wintered (Freitag)
Gadwall — 120 Dane wintered (Hilsenhoff); 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald, Iozikowski)
Pintail — 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald, Iozikowski); 1 Winnebago wintered (Tessen)
Green-winged Teal — 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald, Iozikowski)
American Wigeon : 1 Dane wintered (Hilsenhoff); 2 Milwaukee wintered (Donald).
Shoveler — 1 Brown wintered (Cleary, Columban); 11 Dane wintered (Hilsenhoff)

TABLE 2 — CONTINUED

- Redhead** — 2 Milwaukee wintered (Iozikowski); several Winnebago wintered (Tessen)
- Canvasback** — 4 Milwaukee J1-F3 (Iozikowski); 1 Winnebago J (Tessen)
- Greater Scaup Duck** — hundreds Milwaukee wintered (Iozikowski); Ozaukee J (Bintz)
- Lesser Scaup Duck** — 1 Dane J20 (Hilsenhoff), F7 (P. Ashman); 1 Vernon wintered (Rosso); 2-7 Winnebago and Outagamie wintered (Tessen); 1 Ozaukee J1-F11 (Bintz)
- Barrow's Goldeneye** — 1 Kenosha wintered (Hoffman)
- Red-breasted Merganser** — 1 Buffalo J12 (Krings); 2 Milwaukee wintered (Iozikowski)
- Golden Eagle** — 1 Buffalo F10 (Krings); 1 Juneau F3 (Tessen)
- Gyrfalcon** — 1 Barron D17, D25, J20 (Goff) — tenth record, see "By the Wayside"
- Marsh Hawk** — Dane wintered (Stricker); 1 Kenosha J28 (Erickson); 1 Ozaukee J1-F11 (Bintz)
- Pigeon Hawk** — 1 Columbia D31-J21 (Smith); 1 Langlade J5 (Pickering); 1 Juneau F3 (Tessen)
- Glaucous Gull** — 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald)
- Iceland Gull** — 1 Waukesha J31 (Donald, Balsom)
- Ring-billed Gull** — 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald)
- Killdeer** — 1 Kenosha F25 (Hamers); 1 LaCrosse wintered (Rosso)
- Common Snipe** — 1 LaCrosse wintered (Rosso); 2 Rock wintered (Ellis)
- Ringed Turtle Dove** — 3-7 Washington wintered (Schmidt); 2 Milwaukee wintered (Mrs. Heet Kempers)
- Great Gray Owl** — 1 (fresh highway kill) Oconto F23 (Jolin); 1 Vilas J12 (Bateman)
- Snowy Owl** — 1 Vilas F18 (Bradford); 1 Portage J21, F10 (Wilde); 1 Brown J9, J11 (Cleary, Columban)
- Long-eared Owl** — 5 Dane wintered (many observers); 3 Milwaukee wintered (Donald)
- Short-eared Owl** — 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald); 1 Rock wintered (Ellis)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** — 1 Buffalo F11 (Maier); 1 Dane J24 (T. Ashman); 1 Racine J7-F10 (Stoffel); 1 Outagamie wintered (Tessen)
- Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** — 1 Dane J26-F1 (Vogelsang); 1 Oconto F4 (Woodcock, Erdman)
- Clarke's Nutcracker** — 1 Manitowoc J13 (Tiede) — second winter record for Wisconsin; see "By the Wayside"
- Mockingbird** — 1 Manitowoc wintered (Hallisy); 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald)
- Catbird** — 1 Kenosha F26 (Erickson, Hoffman); 1 Milwaukee D3-F24 (Iozikowski)
- Brown Thrasher** — 1 Dane F23 (Vogelsang); 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald); 1 Ozaukee wintered (Liebher); 1 Waushara wintered (Chipman)
- Curve-billed Thrasher** — 1 Buffalo wintered (Maier)
- Varied Thrush** — 1 Jefferson F3 (Tessen)
- Townsend's Solitaire** — 1 Milwaukee F8-28 (Mrs. Raymond Swiderski and many others) — ninth state record
- Hermit Thrush** — 1 Milwaukee wintered (Donald)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet** — 1 Dane F28 (P. Ashman); 1 Milwaukee J31 (Donald); 1 Racine J13 (Tessen)
- Myrtle Warbler** — 1 Milwaukee J3 (Donald)
- Western Meadowlark** — singing Dane F2-3 (Vogelsang); Rock F25-28 (Ellis)
- Eastern Meadowlark** — singing Dane F3 (Vogelsang)
- Rusty Blackbird** — 3 Fond du Lac J27 (Parfitt)

TABLE 2 — CONTINUED

- Dickcissel** — 1 Buffalo D1 (Maier)
- Common Redpoll** — 2 Shawano F (Hafeman); 5 Brown J22, 1 Brown F22 (Cleary, Columban); 40 Fond du Lac F18 (Knuth)
- White-winged Crossbill** — 1 Dane J20 (P. Ashman); Milwaukee wintered (Donald); Price wintered (Vincent); 6 Rock F18 (Beloit recount)
- Rufous-sided Towhee** — Milwaukee wintered (Donald)
- Vesper Sparrow** — 3 Rock F18 (Livengood, Anderson)
- Chipping Sparrow** — 1 Milwaukee D15-J5 (Donald)
- Field Sparrow** — 1 Dane J10-14 (T. Ashmon); 3 Rock J7-F18 (Ellis)
- White-crowned Sparrow** — 14 Kenosha wintered in Mrs. Ralph Pias' yard (Erickson); 1 Fond du Lac J14 (Knuth)
- Harris' Sparrow** — 1 Kenosha wintered in Mrs. Pias' yard (Erickson)
- Fox Sparrow** — 1 Milwaukee J15-F10 (Iozikowski), F26 (Strehlow)
- Lincoln's Sparrow** — 1 Buffalo wintered (Maier and many others) — third record of a bird wintering in Wisconsin
- Swamp Sparrow** — 1 Brown F26-28 (Cleary, Columban); 1 Manitowoc wintered (Hallisy); 1 Milwaukee F3 (Iozikowski); 6 Rock F18 (Ellis)
- Lapland Longspur** — 7 Brown F26 (Wierzbicki); 30 Columbia F13 (Severson, Vogersang); 2 Kenosha wintered (Erickson); 75 - 100 Winnebago F15 (Greenman)

OBSERVERS

Adams Co. — Steven Krings; Barron Co. — Alta Goff; Bayfield Co. — Albert Roy, Jr.; Brown Co. — Edwin Cleary, Bro. Columban, Thomas Erdman, M. M. Wierbicki; Buffalo Co. — Merton & Lorena Maier; Burnett Co. — N. R. Stone; Chippewa Co. — Sam Robbins; Columbia Co. — Mr. & Mrs. William Smith, Evelyn Werner; Dane Co. — Nancy Ashman, Philip Ashman, Thomas Ashman, N. R. Barger, Jerry Diebold, Bob Fiehweg, Bill Hilsenhoff, L. Stricker, Barbara Vogelsang; Dodge Co. — Harold Mathiak; Door Co. — Adrian Freitag; Fond du Lac Co. — Rockne Knuth, Bruce Parfitt; Grant Co. — Cavin Ruttman; Green Co. — Wayne Rhode; Jackson Co. — Dorothy Harmer; Kenosha Co. — Louise Erickson, Ron Hoffman, James Hamers; LaCrosse Co. — F. Z. Leshner, Jerome Rosso; Langlade Co. — B. Pickering; Manitowoc Co. — Marjorie Albrecht, Mrs. Louis Ansonge, Bernard Brouchoud, Donna Feest, R. J. Hallisy, Sr., Lylene Scholz, Darwin Tiede; Milwaukee Co. — Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Basten, Mary Donald, John Iozikowski, Mrs. C. W. Schneck, Mrs. Edith Sheridan, Amelia Simmons, Elmer Strehlow; Monroe Co. — Eleanor Hebard; Oconto Co. — John Woodcock; Outagamie Co. — Alfred Bradford, Daryl Tessen; Ozaukee Co. — Tom and Carol Bintz, Mrs. Jeanne Jarboe, Andrew Larsen, Mr. & Mrs. Liebherr; Portage Co. — J. Bickford, Jonathan Wilde; Price Co. — Maybelle Hardy, Alice Vincent; Racine Co. — Martha Stoffel; Rock Co. — Mr. & Mrs. John Brakefield, Thomas Ellis, Mrs. Joseph Mahlum, E. Stricker; St. Croix Co. — Goddard; Sauk Co. — Mrs. Henry Koenig; Sawyer Co. — Robert Fairfield; Shawano Co. — Mrs. Karl Hoffmann, Clesson Kling; Sheboygan Co. — Daniel Berger, H. Koopman, Eleanor Kuhn; Taylor Co. — Ruth Lender; Vernon Co. — Viratine Weber; Waukesha Co. — Edith Leppla; Waupaca Co. — Mrs. Irving Auld; Waushara Co. — Irma Chipman, Delbert Greenman; Winnebago Co. — Mrs. Edward Natzke, Clark Schultz; Wood Co. — Bernice Athorp.

Note — several observers made observations in more than one county, but are listed only under the county where they made the most observations.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO EXTREME ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES, VOL. XXXII, NO. 3:

- Page 117, for **Clarke's Nutcracker**, under Winter Status column, add 1/13/73 — Clarence Tiede
- Page 137, for **Lincoln's Sparrow**, under Winter Status column, add winter 1972-1973 — Merton and Lorena Maier

By the Wayside . . .

Gyr Falcon Sightings in Barron County

"We live in Hillsdale, but every other day during the winter we drive 6 miles to "40" acres of woodland we own where we intend to live. On Dec. 17, 1972, traveling Hwy. D to our land to fill the bird feeders, we briefly glimpsed a hawk flying swiftly across the road. We had only time enough to see that the bird was white and wings pointed. On Christmas Day, a very foggy day about 12:30 p.m., as we were filling the feeders on our "40" my daughter exclaimed "Look at that hawk!". She had seen it enough to note the black wingtips and that it definitely was a hawk. I saw it only briefly as it glided swiftly behind some trees, but the wings were definitely falcon-shaped, and the bird was the size of a crow. Then again, while riding around the back country roads with our son and his wife about 3 miles from our place we all saw a crow-sized bird, all white with black wingtips and pointed wings, glide over a field and land for a second in a tree. We had no time at all to get the glasses out before he took off, but we were all positive it was a Gyr falcon. This was on January 20, a clear day, about 2:00 in the afternoon."—Alta Goff, Hillsdale

* * * * *

A Clarke's Nutcracker at Point Beach State Park

"On the afternoon of January 13, 1973, I had the opportunity to observe a Clarke's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) in the Point Beach State Park. I had just finished eating dinner near one of the entrances to the park (about 2:00 in the afternoon), and decided to take a walk through a stand of pine trees bordering an open field near there. The sky was clear and the light conditions were very good, although the light was somewhat more subdued upon entering the stand of pines. Just after entering, a bird flushed from the ground which to the naked eye appeared gray, black, and white in color. I immediately thought that this might be a Gray Jay or a shrike (both of which I have seen in the past), but as soon as I got the bird in my binoculars (7 x 35), I knew that it was something that I had never seen before. Luckily, the bird landed only about 10-15 yards away, where I observed it from various angles as it hopped and flew from tree to tree. I observed the bird for a period of about five minutes, sometimes from even closer range than mentioned above, until it finally flew out of sight. One of the first things I noticed was the long, dark, pointed bill; and that the bird had a peculiar habit with respect to this. Every time the bird landed on a branch it moved its head back and forth and from side to side (a rather complicated motion, and hard to describe in words) with its bill against one side of the branch and then the other, etc. I couldn't discern as to whether the bird was pecking in the bark for food, or if it was just trying to wipe something off of its bill. The bird had a gray body which was lighter near

the face; and had black wings and tail, which both had patches of white in them also. When the bird flew from tree to tree the white patches in the wings (appearing in the region of the secondaries) and the black tail bordered with white on the sides were plainly visible. The bird uttered no notes during the time in which it was observed. I have no doubt that this was indeed a Clarke's Nutcracker. — Darwin Tiede

* * * * *

First Monk Parakeet Record for Wisconsin

On August 13, 1973, I confirmed the presence of a single Monk Parakeet, *Myiopsitta manochus*, at Elroy, Wisconsin. The parakeet had built a large stick nest on a house that was erected for Purple Martins, *Progne subis*, by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Grange, 204 West Elroy Street, Elroy, Wisconsin. The bird, which had been present since the middle of May 1973, is about the size of a Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*. It is more slender than a dove, but like the latter in that it has a long pointed tail. It is generally bright green with a mostly gray head and breast; the belly is lemon-yellow; the wings are blue-gray; and the tail is bluish-green. This species which is native to southern South America has recently become established in several states, especially the north-eastern United States. I was informed of this Wisconsin record by Mrs. William Garvin, 107 Division Street, Elroy, Wisconsin. I have a research grant from the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to monitor this species in the United States. Information on any additional records of this species in Wisconsin is requested. — William J. Neidermyer, Department of Wildlife Ecology, 226 Russell Laboratories, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

* * * * *

Screech Owl Injured by Robin

This spring my son John found a tiny Screech Owl beside the driveway of our office being "murdered" by a Robin. He brought the little thing home and put it in a box in our bathroom. The side of the face was pecked up a bit, and one eye was ruined. However, it learned to eat slices of liver and other food and soon was getting out of the box. John built a little stand for it which could be set out the back door and tied the owl to the door with a string. However, as the Robins gave it no peace, we fixed up a home for it in a dog crate such as we use in the back of the car. It was let free much of the time and, when flying, it usually crash landed because of the bad eye. One day it disappeared, and we thought it had probably gotten in trouble; but the next afternoon it was pecking at the window and eager for food. It kept learning to fly better and a week or so later disappeared for good. We always have Screech Owls in our yard all summer, but they have never been as noisy or seemed to be as numerous as this summer. So we hope that "Little One Eye" was adopted into the family and has been taken care of by the other owls. — Robert E. Tracy, R.R. 1, Janesville, Wis. 53545

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

May 19, 1973

The meeting was called to order by President Robert McCabe at 4:45 p.m. in the Winnebago Room of the Pioneer Inn, Oshkosh.

Minutes of 1972 annual meeting: Since these minutes have been published in the Spring 1973 issue of the **Passenger Pigeon** which has just been printed it was moved, seconded and passed that we dispense with the reading of these minutes.

The treasurer's report by Phyllis Holz showed a net worth of \$42,342.26. A detailed report was distributed to those present. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

The treasurer noted that 430 copies of a special edition of the **Birds of Prey of Wisconsin** were printed for a profit to the society of \$1,191.29. A note of thanks goes to Fred and Fran Hamerstrom for supervising the printing, publication and much of the distribution of this book. The book was a complete sellout.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Most committee reports were presented in writing to the president prior to the meeting so that they could be mimeographed and distributed to the members at the meeting. A copy of these reports is attached to the secretary's copy of these minutes and becomes a part of these minutes.

Research committee report: Fran Hamerstrom noted that the recipients of the Steenbock award were Mr. and Mrs. Josef (Shela) Schmutz.

Conservation committee report by Fred Baumgartner: Two programs have received a good deal of attention by this committee this year:

1. Aerial spraying.
2. Fish toxins being added to Wisconsin waters.

Special thanks are due Marguerite Baumgartner and George Becker for their research and work on these two programs.

Paul Romig reported for Blue Bird Trails committee: The state 4-H has purchased 1000 guides and Blue Bird Trails is now an active program in 4-H. There is even a group working in Oregon.

Passenger Pigeon report by Charles Kemper: Spring issue is printed and will be mailed soon. We have a new associate editor, Daryl Tessen.

The printer has informed the editor that it is cheaper for him to print extra copies of the **Pigeon** while making the initial run than to go back and make reprints of a specific article. Therefore, henceforth, if an author wants reprints of an article to be published he should notify the editor ahead of time and extra copies of the **Pigeon** will be run for 75 cents apiece.

It is the desire of the editor to publish a list of research projects being undertaken by the members or others so that information pertaining to these projects can be easily sent to the researcher.

Supply department report by Harold Kruse:

324 mail orders were filled in 1972

Income for 1972	\$4,924.88
Expenses: merchandise purchased	3,966.24
postage	154.24
office expense	81.05
refunds	7.92
Total	<u>\$4,209.45</u>
Net Profit	\$ 715.43

This is not including sale of **Birds of Prey** which netted \$1,191.29 as mentioned in the treasurer's report.

Field Notes report by Bob McCabe: Field Notes were under discussion by the board during the past year. A committee was formed to study this problem and Bill Hilsenhoff was appointed head of the committee.

Charles and Mary Nelson were commended by George Becker for their donation of land to the Nature Conservancy.

Old Business: Harold Mathiak suggested that the membership list be brought up to date and be republished. The board was asked to discuss this at a future board meeting.

New Business: Our president was asked to bring before the members a petition on dredging which is being circulated at the convention. Since this is not W.S.O. business the president said that everyone was free to sign or not to sign one of these petitions without any recommendation from the society.

Owen Gromme introduced one of the prime movers of the International Crane Foundation — Ron Sauvey.

George Becker brought up for discussion the assisting of the Eagle Valley project of saving of winter roosting areas for Bald Eagles. It was moved by Fred Baumgartner that the board of directors of W.S.O. consider a contribution to the Eagle Valley project for preservation of winter roosting areas for Bald Eagles near Cassville, the amount subject to other demands on the society's budget and urge us all as individual members to promote the project as they see fit. Motion seconded by George Becker.

It was the stated feeling of Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, Charles Sindelar, Sergej Postupalsky and other members present that although there is a very real and serious problem affecting Bald Eagles, the logical point of attack is not to spend money to secure wintering areas when this is not the critical problem.

Others spoke in favor of support for the project mainly because it has gotten the children involved.

When the question was called the motion passed.

Awards committee head Al Holz reported that the board has suggested that the society bestow upon Drs. Fred and Fran Hamerstrom an Honorary Life Membership award, to recognize them for high achievement in the field of ornithology. It was moved by Al Holz, seconded by Owen Gromme and unanimously passed that this honor be bestowed.

The nominating committee consisting of Al Holz, chairman, Fran Hamerstrom, Fred Baumgartner, Frank King and Sam Robbins, presented the following slate to nomination as officers for 1973-74:

President: Walter Gilles	Secretary: Carl Hayssen
President-Elect: Roy Loukes	Editor: Charles Kemper
Treasurer: Phyllis Holz	

Since there were no nominations from the floor, it was moved by Charles Nelson, seconded by Ed Peartree, that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the nominees presented. Motion carried.

Dr. Charles Kemper extended an invitation by the Chippewa Wildlife Society to W.S.O. to have their 1974 convention in Chippewa Falls.

Dr. Kemper moved that the members pass a resolution to thank the Oshkosh Bird Club for a fine convention. Motion was seconded by Carroll McEathron and unanimously passed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl G. Hayssen

CGH:kam

COMMITTEE REPORTS — 1972-1973

May 8, 1973

MEMBERSHIP AND ADDRESSOGRAPH:

Total memberships	1137
Honorary Life	8
Patron	6
Life	23
Library	59
New members Jan. 1, 1973 to May 1	78
March - April Badger Birders mailed	1092

Statements are mailed Dec. 26 and dues are payable at that time. Prompt payment is appreciated. Address plates of members who have not paid will be removed on May 30. I wish to thank everyone who has sent address changes or helped in any way during the past year.

Norma Schmidt
Membership Chairman — Addressograph

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Thomas Erdman has essentially completed the Heron-Egret survey. He is waiting for the records of his last correspondents, but expects to be able to finish his report shortly.

A start has been made on the Upland Plover survey, but progress has been rather slow so far.

The major undertaking of the year has been the preparation and publication of "Birds of Prey of Wisconsin", written by Frances Hamerstrom and illustrated by our daughter Elva Paulson. The WSO has pointed to the need for such a publication for many years. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has published the material in a singularly handsome format, which was designed and edited by Ruth L. Hine; it is available free from the WDNR, Box 450, Madison 53701. A special edition with hard covers and hand-illuminated frontispiece was published by WSO but is already out of print.

Dated May 5, 1973
Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom
Co-Chairmen

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: April 25, 1973

The publications committee was represented by its chairman at all regular meetings of the Board of Directors with the exception of the meeting held in January, 1973.

Membership brochures were revised, up-dated, and distributed to other committees in quantities to meet their specific requirements.

Self-mailer type membership billing forms are working out satisfactorily and will be continued.

Membership cards (issued to new members only) are in the process of being re-designed and up-dated.

Badger Birder and regular stationery has been maintained in adequate supply. The new half-size letterheads and small envelopes are very popular; they afford a saving both in cost to the Society and conservation of the paper resource—both commendable.

The Publications Committee activities include the production and presentation of special awards. One each of the Society's two Special Award plaques were prepared for 1973 presentation.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred O. Holz, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT OF WSO EDUCATION CHAIRMAN: May 2, 1973

Although neither the number of requests for slides nor the number of letters askinf for information are up to last year's number, it was a busy and interesting year for your education chairman.

I have refiled all the slides, discarding the very worst, and have received a number of new and colorful slides, both of birds and habitats. We need still more. Some of my users reminded me that some of our old slides are getting dim and colorless, so again I am asking for more members who have some they would like to donate. In this way we can replace those which are getting old. Also, have had several requests for slides which would depict trees and shrubs which attract birds, so programs on that can be presented.

I would like to let the incoming president know that I won't be able to serve as education chairman next year. I plan to bring all the slides to the July board session and turn them over to the new education chairman. I've enjoyed my 10 years or so in the work, but am not in the best of health and can't continue.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara Hussong

ANNUAL REPORT OF WSO CHAIRMAN OF STEENBOCK AWARD: May 2, 1973

With the Drs. Hamerstrom approval, a \$100 Steenbock award was given to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schmidt of Wisconsin Rapids, in November, 1972. They plan to work with Fran Hamerstrom in a research on breeding harriers and kestrels in the relation of molt to hatching time. Both are students at Stevens Point, UW.

An award of \$50, but not a Steenbock award, was sent to Steve Brick of Madison, a high school student who plans to lead a group of classmates in field trips and discussion on ornithology. His plans were for autumn and early winter of 1972, and he could not wait for the Steenbock award. They needed the money for a week-end at a camp, which some of the boys could not afford without financial help. The money was taken out of the education budget.

We have not heard from Steve Brick since this was sent. Thomas Staupe of Superior, 1972 Steenbock awardee sent a letter of thanks but so far no report has been received on his research on ruffed grouse seasonal distribution and display activity.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara Hussong

PUBLICITY REPORT: 5-4-73

Due to other business commitments during the year I was able to attend only two of the four board meetings in Stevens Point. During the year two state-wide news releases were issued on WSO: one for the Christmas count and one for the Annual Convention. These releases were sent to all of the daily newspapers in the state.

I will be managing a private campgrounds for the summer, beginning with the opening of fishing season on May 12. Therefore, it will be necessary for Janiece and me to miss the first convention in twelve years. A sad situation. Best of luck to everyone.

Donald J. Hendrick
WSO Publicity

FIELD TRIPS:

As Field Trip Chairman, I attended all 4 meetings of the board at Stevens Point and the annual meeting in Door County.

I set up and conducted the Summer Campout at Black River Falls and the Fall Campout at our Honey Creek Natural area in conjunction with the dedication of our David J. Cox memorial shelter building there.

I also set up and participated in our annual walk up the valley at Honey Creek and regular trips to Necedah, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, and Cedar Grove in addition to participating in 2 work weekends at Honey Creek. These events drew 25 to over 100 people to take part.

As usual I handled recording sales for the supply department and folded and stapled 11,000 plus "Badger Birders" with help from my son Jay and late wife Claire. I also saw to delivery of the "Birder" to Norma Schmidt at Hartford for addressing and mailing.

Edward W. Peartree
Field Trip Chairman

COMMITTEE ON ADVERTISING AND ENDOWMENTS: May 7, 1973

Two past presidents continue to support the Pigeon with ads, Charlie (and Mary) Nelson and Bill Pugh. It is hoped that you will continue to buy gasoline at the W. Pugh gas stations while in the Racine area.

Invoices to advertisers have been mailed.

There are a number of points that require clarification in my mind at this time. Does the Society want more ads in the Passenger Pigeon? There seem to be two schools of thought in this matter: First, we would like more revenue second, advertising would take away much needed space for important papers to be discussed.

Regarding endowments: What endowment monies do we now have? What are proceeds used for? Who have been past contributors?

My report should probably only be the first part . . . the rest of it is questions I'd like to bring up at the next board meeting.

Ralph Koeller

BADGER BIRDER REPORT: May 16, 1973

Ten issues were distributed in 1972-73.

The editor wishes to thank all of the loyal contributors and hopes that more will send news of bird sightings in the coming year.

Thanks are due to Lowell Hall for having the mimeograph stencil typed for each issue.

Special thanks go to the S. Paul Jones Naturalist Association of Oconomowoc for their part in getting out the Birder, especially Jim Fuller for mimeographing, Ed Peartree for folding and stapling, Norma Schmidt for addressing and mailing.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Donald

"Verification of Unusual Birds on Wisconsin Christmas Counts"

By H. DAVID BOHLEN

I have taken the job of regional editor for the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts of Wisconsin and Illinois. There has been much concern about questionable and undocumented records as shown in the following quote from *American Birds*, April, 1973: "Next year, things will be much tougher . . . observers, compilers, and editors alike now look upon CBCs as demanding of the strictest accuracy standards. From now on compilers and count organizers must insist on reliability, on complete documentation of rarities, and a willingness to cast out records honestly . . . we want to be able, from now on, to defend their reliability."

I wish that every participant in Christmas Bird Counts could read Ludlow Griscom's paper entitled "Problems of Field Identification" published in the *Auk*, (Vol. 39, p. 31-34, 1922). Griscom lists the following necessary qualifications to make a competent field ornithologist: "(1) First and most important, the student should learn by heart the published information on the birds of his locality. (Wisconsin has many such publications.) (2) Next, commit the diagnostic characters of every species in the local list to memory. If possible, a museum should be visited and bird skins examined. (3) Next, get out in the field and learn to know the birds of your locality well. The length of time this will take is naturally a question of the amount of time available for field work, but ten years is a safe estimate. (4) Above all, the student should cultivate the scientific attitude of mind, and he should believe in his infallibility." I would like to quote one other sentence from Griscom: "One of the greatest advantages of field ornithology is that the more we know about it, the more we enjoy it, and the more we can benefit others."

Frankly, some of the counts I edited from Wisconsin last winter had very little documentation, and the necessary qualifications Griscom mentioned were in some instances obviously lacking. The editor of the "Middlewestern Prairie Region," Vernon Kleen, requires a verifying sheet for all unusual finds; we will adopt this for future Christmas Bird Counts. The form, shown in figure 1, is self-explanatory and many of you may have used it before. It can be completed by simply listing the number on a sheet of paper and writing in the information. Don't forget to document high individual counts and birds seen in count periods.

It is advisable to take notes on the spot when a rarity is observed, even before looking at a field guide. If possible, get photographs (if clear enough these could be published in *American Birds*) and if need be, return the following day with other observers to try to substantiate the observation.

There are a number of species that are listed practically every year without documentation. These are birds that are difficult to identify or birds that are considered to winter by some people who obviously do not realize the winter range of those particular species. The following birds are examples of these categories: Shoveler, Pigeon Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Brewer's Blackbird, Oregon Junco (must be described in detail — this species has been lumped in the Thirty-Second Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist, so we'll have to wait to see how it will be treated next year), and Chipping Sparrow.

Of course, I realize that each area has local conditions that might allow hardy individuals of certain species to remain for winter. These conditions should be included in your verification form.

The emphasis is now being put on these counts as scientific data. The compilers should treat the count form they send into the Christmas Bird Count editor as a scientific document for which they are responsible.

Illinois State Museum
Springfield, Illinois 62706

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above remarks apply also to verification of unusual bird sightings at any time of the year by anybody, beginner or expert. Science depends on evidence, not testimony. Seasonal editors and researchers will be much happier if reporters avail themselves of these procedures.)

(Figure 1)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DOCUMENTATION FORM

1. Species 2. Number
3. Location
4. Date 5. Time Bird Seen to
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (**describe in great detail** all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition to the diagnostic characteristics, but include **only what actually was seen in the field**):
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior:
9. Habitat — general:
specific:

High school and college students, or others, may apply for this scholarship. It may be used for attending an Audubon Camp, for attending summer school or other classes in any of the subjects mentioned above, or in undertaking a research project, which will be of benefit to a given community, to wildlife or other natural resources.

WSO is most interested in getting applications from teachers, and workers with such groups as Boy and Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, and similar groups. Students who are planning to make a career out of the study of some phase of the natural world will also be considered as award material. WSO members should alert persons of this type to the possibility of getting a scholarship from WSO.

Include the following information in the letter of application: Name and address; age; school affiliations or present job; tell how the award money will be spent and why you think your study or research will benefit others.

Applications should be sent to: Mrs. Clara Hussong
332 Beaupre Ave.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

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Selections by Robinson Jeffers

Recently a postage stamp commemorating Robinson Jeffers has been issued. Few Americans are familiar with this outstanding American genius. Someday perhaps he will be as well known as Longfellow, Poe or Whitman. The following selections are taken from "The Selected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers", published by Random House in 1937.

The frontispiece is not entirely a legitimate photograph, nor is it entirely a phony. It is a picture of my former patient, Caesar, an injured, shot Golden Eagle, who was nursed successfully back to health. The photograph was cut out and "montaged" on to a calendar photograph of a Montana scene. It only partly matches the following poems.

Rock and Hawk

Here is a symbol in which
Many high tragic thoughts
Watch their own eyes.

This gray rock, standing tall
On the headland, where the seawind
Lets no tree grow.

Earthquake — proved and signatred
By ages of storms: on its peak
A falcon has perched.

I think, here is your emblem
To hand in the future sky
Not the cross, nor the hive,

But this; bright power, dark peace;
Fierce consciousness joined with final
Disinterestedness;

Life with calm death; the falcon's
Realist eyes and act
Married to the massive

Mysticism of stone
Which failure cannot cast down
Nor success make proud.

The Beaks of Eagles

An eagle's nest on the head of an old redwood
on one of the precipice-footed ridges.

Above Ventana Creek, that jagged country which
nothing but a falling meteor will ever plow;
no horseman

Will ever ride there, no hunter cross this ridge but
the winged ones, no one will steal the eggs from
this fortress.

The she-eagle is old, her mate was shot long ago,
she is now mated with a son of hers.

When lightning blasted her nest she built it again
on the same tree in the splinters of the
thunderbolt.

The she-eagle is older than I; she was here when the
fires of eighty-five raged on these ridges.

She was lately fledged and dared not hunt ahead of
them but ate scorched meat. The world has
changed in her time.

Humanity has multiplied, but not here; men's hopes
and thoughts and customs have changed, their
powers are enlarged,

Their powers and their follies have become fantastic,

The unstable animal never has been changed so rapidly.
The motor and the plane and the great war have
gone over him,

And Lenin has lived, and Jehovah has died: while the
mother-eagle

Hunts her same hills, crying the same beautiful and
lonely cry and is never tired; dreams the
same dreams.

And hears at night the rock-slides rattle and
thunder in the throats of these living
mountains.

It is good for man
To try all changes, progress and corruption,
powers, peace and anguish, not to go
down the dinosaur's way

Until all his capacities have been explored:
and it is good for him

To know that his needs and nature are no
more changed in fact in ten thousand
years than the beaks of eagles.

Letters to the Editor

Dr. Charles A. Kemper
733 Maple Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Southern District
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Route #4, Madison 53711
July 11, 1973

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Walter Scott has advised me of your interest in current bird research in Wisconsin, so I am happy to provide you with a summary of our Department's activities in this area. At the present time we have ten projects under way which are directly concerned with birds.

1. Experimental Ruffed Grouse management on the Stone Lake Area (Oneida County).
2. Ruffed Grouse distribution in young aspen stands.
3. Ruffed Grouse response to habitat management on the Sandhill Wildlife Area.
4. Characteristics of scattered wetlands in relation to duck production.
5. Distribution and abundance of Sandhill Cranes in Wisconsin.
6. Production and fate of waterfowl reared in Wisconsin.
7. Biology of Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks in southern Wisconsin.
8. Distribution, abundance and range quality of Bobwhite Quail in Wisconsin.
9. Pheasant population trends on the Waterloo Wildlife Area.
10. Woodcock banding and breeding biology in Wisconsin.

Our annual budget for these projects totals about \$108,000. The crane project is being done under contract by the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. All the others are being carried out by the 15-man staff of the DNR Wildlife Research Section.

In addition to the projects listed above, we are engaged in a number of other research activities related to birds. We have several studies of natural communities which concern all faunal aspects, including birds. We participate in regional bird-oriented research groups such as the Federal Accelerated Migratory Bird Research Program, the Midwest Pheasant Council, and the Mississippi Flyway Council. We provide financial support to the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. We are continuously attempting to assess the status of all bird species in the state as part of the Wisconsin Endangered Species Program. We regularly publish results of our research and make them available to the public.

I will be happy to provide any further information you may wish about our ornithological research program.

Very truly yours,
James B. Hale, Chief
Wildlife Research Section

JBH:jg

MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER? I read with interest the note by J. Bielefeldt, "A possible MacGillivray's Warbler in Waukesha County" (*Passenger Pigeon* 35:33). In my years of banding at Cedar Grove, I handled many Mourning Warblers that showed a partial eye-ring in spring. Most of these were females, but a few were males in what appeared to be full adult plumage. After some initial excitement about the possibilities of MacGillivray's Warblers, or hybrids, I soon became convinced that many Mourning Warblers show at least a trace of eye-ring. Lanyon and Bull (*Bird-Banding* 38: 187-194; 1967) have since published a key for identifying *Oporornis*, and I quote: "... the eye-ring is quite variable as a character in all ages and sexes of Mourning Warblers". Hailman (*Bird-Banding* 39: 316-317) was unable to find an eye-ring on skins of 70 adult male Mourning Warblers examined. I suspect this was due to the rarity of eye-rings in adult males and that traces of eye-rings are difficult to discern even in well-prepared skins, and a poor skin will not show a relative prominent although narrow eye-ring. I have seen traces of eye-rings on a few (of many) skins of adult male Warblers. I suspect, but I am unable to verify, that Mourning Warblers with eye-rings in spring are young birds.

Lanyon and Bull give characteristics for the identification of MacGillivray's Warbler. Unfortunately, most of these require the bird in the hand for measurements. Perhaps the only character of possible utility in the field is the presence of black lores (area between eye and bill) in the adult male MacGillivray's Warbler (see Lanyon and Bull). The Mourning and MacGillivray's Warblers hybridize (G.W. Cox, *Auk* 90: 190-191; 1973). Birds that appear to be hybrids may in fact be the result of introgression (see Short, *EBBA News* 34: 4-8). I would not be surprised if the two species are lumped into one in the near future, as was recently done with the Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers. There probably is no absolutely certain way to distinguish between MacGillivray's and Mourning Warblers in the field.

It should also be noted that female Mourning Warblers with eye-rings, particularly those individuals in which the ring is complete, or nearly so, will probably be misidentified as Connecticut Warblers by most bird-watchers (see Lanyon and Bull). The only consistent difference between Mourning and Connecticut Warblers is size.

In short, identification of Mourning, Connecticut, and MacGillivray's Warblers is considerably more difficult than depicted in the various field guides and any crucial identification should be checked with extreme care. I suspect that the bird reported by Bielefeldt was a Mourning Warbler, particularly since black lores were not noted .

Helmut C. Mueller
Department of Zoology
University of North Carolina
Chappel Hill, N. C. 27514

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDING FROM A TRACTOR SEAT, by Charles Flugum. Published by Trades Publishing Co., Albert Lea, Minn. 435 pp, price \$8.95.

Charles Flugum was born on a prairie farm near Thompson, Iowa in 1905. He has owned and operated a 240 acre farm in Freeborn County, southern Minnesota since 1930. This is a book of personal essays originally written as a monthly column for The Community Magazine. It is an appealing, unpretentious book that should touch responsive chords in all birders. There is something satisfying and wholesome in hearing an authentic dirt farmer tell of his personal experiences with birds and birders. He proves to be knowledgeable and entertaining. His is a refreshing approach to the joys of birds and bird watching—from the seat of a tractor. The book is very attractively illustrated by Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge.

— Charles Kemper



AUTUMN OF THE EAGLE, by George Laycock. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons. 239 pp. Price \$6.95.

This is an exceptional book. While much of the material covered is not new to knowledgeable birders, it is an excellent comprehensive summation of the natural history and plight of the Bald Eagle. There is an attractive portfolio of very fine, appropriate pictures and maps. The book is well referenced and presents an excellent bibliography and index.

What really makes this book outstanding is the writing style of the author.

Without being mawkishly sentimental, Mr. Laycock writes with an extremely effective and literate manner. He is a very professional journalist. He has thoroughly researched his subject, consulted many experts and specialists, and has produced a beautiful and significant work. AUTUMN OF THE EAGLE should appeal to the general public, as well as to the conservationist and natural history student.

— Charles Kemper



ADVENTURES IN BIRDING, CONFESSIONS OF A LISTER, by Jean Piatt. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Price, \$7.95.

This is a book that I have definitely mixed feelings about. I confess that I enjoyed it for the most part. The writer is a professional anatomist, a professor at the prestigious University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. An excellent literary and classical background is reflected by his writing style. One recognizes immediately an affable, energetic, unpretentious birder who would be a delightful companion anywhere. Furthermore he has the insight not to be overimpressed by the acrobatics of bird listing — even though it is his “bag.”

Nevertheless, despite the modesty of the author, a certain hard core of emphasis persists on the virtue of listing that never completely washes away. The book jacket says “the author and his wife are in a three-way tie with Roger Tory Peterson for fourteenth place among those eighty-eight gently competing birders who at present belong to the 600 club.” To me this creates a sort of artificial elitism. Shall we have black belt, green belt, white belt birders? Is it more virtuous to chase all over to see as many species as possible, than it is to make a detailed study of a limited area, or to study in depth a single species for example. There is nothing wrong with having fun listing, but the emphasis on competition and “one upmanship” is what turns me off. Far more important than simply listing the number of species one sees is the listing of how many individuals, how many adults, how many juveniles, males, females; what are they doing, how are they reacting to other species, to the weather, to their environment, etc.

— Charles Kemper



Letters to the Editor

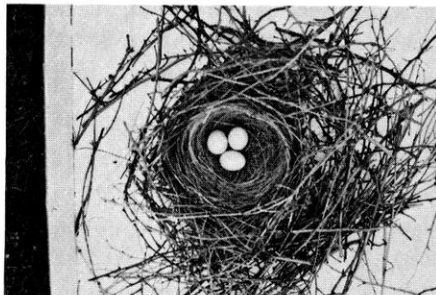
Dear Dr. Kemper:

Oct. 13, 1973

The Curve-billed Thrasher is still around and doing fine, in the Merton Maier yard in Buffalo City. She had another unsuccessful nesting season this summer, in spite of three faithful attempts. She began building her first nest of this season on April 24th in the same big blue spruce tree she used for two of her 1972 nests. The tree is located in the yard of our good neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Feuling. They have been most cooperative, and we are very grateful to them.

The nest was located 20 feet above ground and materials used were prickly barberry sticks and coarse rootlets for the base, with a neat cup lined with horsehair she pilfered from the supply which I provide for the Orioles! By May 8th she began incubating three eggs, and by May 28th she had abandoned them, so on May 29th we collected the nest and eggs to make room for her next nest. The following day she began constructing a new nest in the same spot, and appeared to begin incubating by June 11th, but, we did not get up to inspect nest No. 2, and by June 25th she had either been robbed, or had deserted this nest.

NESTS OF CURVE-BILLED THRASHER



Then, on July 16th and 17th we again observed her carrying many beak-loads of horsehair to the same nesting location, and by July 23rd was incubating again. But, by August 15th we were certain she had again abandoned, so on August 18th, we climbed up, expecting to find two nests; instead, to our surprise we found that she had constructed the nest cup No. 3 on top of nest cup No. 2! There were two eggs – intact, in the top nest cup. Evidently all of her eggs were infertile again this year.

Now she spends her time loafing and digging in our back yard, and comes to the feeders many times each day. We hope our “Curvi” can survive another Wisconsin winter so we can see what happens in 1974. Who knows – she may become a mother yet!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lorena Maier
Buffalo City, Wisconsin

Sirs: –

Aug. 21, 1973

Just yesterday I just happened to walk into a room in the local Public Library which, probably, could be called the “Wisconsin Room” or some such name because in it I found out that that is the room where the books, lawbooks, maps and magazines that are published in Wisconsin are kept, including the **Passenger Pigeon**. In fact, I did not even know that room was there until yesterday. It is in a place in the Public Library here which could, probably, be called “out of the way” of the general traffic of the Public Library patrons.

I would not be afraid to make a good bet that out of every 100 patrons that go to this Public Library, only one patron goes into this particular room where the **Passenger Pigeon** and other Wisconsin published magazines are kept.

The Public Librarian might answer that they keep all things about Wisconsin in one particular room. But why should the publishers of Wisconsin magazines be penalized that way? They keep many, many magazines on display right on the first floor where they get 100 percent public display. In this “Wisconsin Room”, or whatever it is called, our State of Wisconsin published magazines get about 1 percent of the public’s visibility up there on the second floor.

When something like this is happening here it is possible that it is happening in other Public Libraries throughout the state.

If that is so then just imagine the publicity that you are missing.

Now I do not travel much but whenever I do I could, with your permission, of course, walk into Public Libraries in other Wisconsin cities and check and suggest, perhaps, reprimand just a little bit very tactfully, the Public Libraries that do not give Wisconsin published magazines the same public displayance that other magazines enjoy.

There would, of course, be no charge for this service whatsoever. I like to help people.

Yours for Success,
Andrew Tyran

ED. NOTE: Be our guest.

Dear Editor:

October 23, 1973

We are enclosing a copy of our latest fall NEWSLETTER (1973, #14). We would appreciate any mention of this information in your next publication. We welcome new individual participants, also groups or clubs that can act as a Regional Center for our Program.

Thank you for giving this your attention.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Edith Edgerton
Nest-record Card Program

encl.

NEWSLETTER

No. 14 FALL 1973

As the accumulation of our nesting data has greatly increased over the past several years (we now have some 200,000 nest-record cards on file) we have been frequently asked if we could supply nesting records for certain areas, particularly for wildlife refuges and states. Until recently, we have not been able to comply with these requests because our original computer program was set up to retrieve data for species only. The problem of handling these data becomes more acute as the volume increases. However, we are now able to supply breeding data for geographical areas on a limited basis. Our current procedure is that all cards for species for which we have more than 1000 records are continually updated and stored on magnetic tapes. A list of these species is given below. We are now in a position to answer requests for data on these major species for particular areas at a fixed cost for the computer time, and an additional charge for the number of lines printed and on the number of cards punched. The computer time is independent of the number of records printed, although it decreases with the number of species searched. The charge for the print-out is directly related to the number of records. Recently, we supplied all the Michigan records of these major species to a researcher for a cost of \$26.00. This amount was roughly divided equally between computer time and print-out, a total of some 3,500 records.

Species with major amount of nesting data:

Mallard	3,500	Brown Thrasher	1,800
Blue-winged Teal	1,200	Robin	10,400
Wood Duck	1,000	Eastern Bluebird	13,000
Killdeer	1,000	House Sparrow	1,100
Herring Gull	1,000	Redwing Blackbird	11,500
Mourning Dove	9,500	Common Grackle	4,000
Eastern Phoebe	4,000	Brown-headed Cowbird	1,300
Barn Swallow	8,000	Cardinal	2,450
Tree Swallow	5,500	American Goldfinch	1,000
House Wren	3,500	Chipping Sparrow	1,400
Mocking Bird	2,100	Field Sparrow	1,400
Catbird	2,000	Song Sparrow	1,300

Other species, with less than a thousand records, are edited but not punched until a need for analysis arrives. One reason for this is that it is relatively more expensive to punch and store information for many small species than for a few large species. Second, it is possible to get information on small numbers of species to the researcher at reasonable speed either by punching the data, or when the species has less than 100 records, by xeroxing.

As we mentioned in an earlier NEWSLETTER (No. 11) we can supply duplicate computer decks with accompanying lists of codes to any individual wanting his own records if you will notify us when sending in your completed nest-record cards before they are filed in the whole data bank.

In a recent issue of *The Auk*, a list was given of other organizations which maintain their own nest-record schemes. A few of these groups are already cooperating with the North American Nest-record Card Program. However, for those who are not, we would appreciate borrowing these records for incorporating these data in our Program.

A good deal of information on breeding season and habitat is buried in egg collections. Since no data on nesting success can be obtained, we do not feel it is worth the expense of transferring these data at this time. Our main interest is records on which the exact contents are known for more than one visit.

We now have about 130 Regional Centers across the country, but still lack such a group in Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, and South Carolina. We would welcome the name of a person or group who could act in this capacity for us in these locations.

Your attention is called to an error that is frequently made when recording nesting information on the card for a species that has more than one nesting under observation. We request that a separate card be completed for each of these nests, even if the subsequent nestings were not successful.

A major change was made at the Laboratory of Ornithology in the spring. Dr. O. S. Pettingill, Jr., has retired as Director of the Laboratory, and Dr. Douglas A. Lancaster is now in that position.

As we approach the end of the nesting season, we request that all completed nest-record cards, either from individuals or Regional Centers, be returned to us as soon as convenient.

Thank you for your fine cooperation.

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Oct. 30, 1973

On June 21, 1973, while I was walking my banding traps, there were two Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula* (L.)) and an apparently healthy female House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus* (L.)) feeding on sunflower seeds that had fallen near the traps. The grackles had just arrived there and did not eat many seeds. Within about twenty seconds of the grackles' arrival, the one nearest the sparrow took two steps closer to the sparrow. It immediately jumped on the sparrow's back and, with its bill, seized the sparrow's neck. The grackle "chomped" several times on the bird's neck and jerked it back and forth about four times. In the process the grackle released its hold several times to get a better grip, but even by the time of the first release the sparrow's struggles were too weak to free it. Immediately after the sparrow stopped all struggling, the grackle began to pluck the feathers from the hind-crown and nape with violent pecking motions. Then the grackle picked up the sparrow and flew four feet closer to the base of a nearby shrub.

Meanwhile the other grackle flew off. Throughout most of the affair, it had been calling an excited, ringing chuck note similar to the grackle alarm call. This grackle had not in any way attempted to assist the other.

While the first grackle continued to feed on the sparrow, I ran for my camera and telephoto lens. When I returned, the grackle had the entire string of cervical vertebrae and musculature in its bill, and was two feet away from the sparrow. Before I could get a photo, the grackle flew off, leaving the rest of the sparrow behind.

Examination of the carcass revealed that the sparrow was a juvenile. The entire cranial cavity dorsal and posterior to the eye was missing, as was the neck. Only the skin of the jugulum held the head to the body. Enclosed is a photograph of the remains.

My observation is especially interesting after reading the letter by Jerry E. Gretzinger (*Passenger Pigeon*, Vol. 34:182). Gretzinger makes no mention of the size of the frogs but he indicates that the grackle's

lack of success was due to the size of the frog. Surprisingly the grackle he observed did not try to kill the frog before flying away with it. The grackle that I was watching wasted no time in killing its prey, and it had no problem in carrying it a full four feet. The frogs were probably larger than the sparrow and therefore were not so easy to get a grip on.

It would be interesting to see how great a role grackles play as predators.

Sincerely,
Bruce D. Parfitt
826 McKinley Street
Oshkosh, Wis. 54901

NORTH AMERICAN HAWK MIGRATION CONFERENCE
Syracuse, New York, April 19-21, 1974

Dr. Charles A. Kemper, Editor
Dear Dr. Kemper,

Sept. 6, 1973

Valuable research on hawk migration has been done by many individuals and organizations over the past 40 years, but little work has so far been done to correlate these studies. The purpose of the North American Hawk Migration Conference, therefore, is to gather under one roof hawkwatchers from all over eastern North America—from the edge of the Great Plains at longitude 95° east to the Atlantic coast, and from Manitoba to the Gulf of Mexico—to exchange observations on hawk migration, to set standards for record-keeping, and to agree on ways of sharing and collating information on a continuing basis.

The conference will be held at a Holiday Inn north of Syracuse, which is easily reached by interstate highways and is also served by trains, buses, and airlines. Registration will begin the evening of Thursday, April 18; the program will begin the next day and end late Sunday. Conferees who stay at the Holiday Inn can expect to pay about \$15-\$20 a night per room, plus \$3-\$6 a meal. The Onondaga Audubon Society has formed the host committee for the conference, and the host committee chairman, Dorothy W. Crumb, will be able to answer any questions you may have about transportation and accommodations. Her address is 3983 Gates Road North, Jamesville, N. Y. 13078.

The working list of subjects to be covered includes:

* The mechanics of bird-of-prey migration—what gets them started, what points them in the direction they take—and unanswered questions about this.

* Major weather patterns and their effects on migration (including a meteorologist's discussion of weather patterns) and more unanswered questions.

* Local weather conditions that are subject to rapid change, and local topography, and the effects of both on migration routes; unanswered questions here, too.

* Problems of bird-of-prey identification; if the weather is right, this may include a trip to nearby Derby Hill at the southeastern edge of Lake Ontario—a first-rate spring hawkwatch.

* The limits of sight: how far away can birds be seen with the naked eye, and how greatly is this range extended by binoculars and telescopes?

* The use of radar in counting and tracking birds of prey.

* Trapping and banding migrating birds of prey.

* Possibilities and techniques for discovering where the birds of prey are coming from; where are they breeding?

* Finding and opening new lookouts; proselytising and training new hawkwatchers.

* Developing new kinds of data on migration behavior by keeping records of more than the count of passing hawks.

* Setting standards for the record-keeping, and exchanging information regularly.

We do hope that you will attend the conference and that you will encourage other hawkwatchers to join us.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Arbib

P. S. We would appreciate publicity for this important conference.

A Check List of the Helminth Parasites of the Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata L.

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During a study of the incidence and intensity of helminth parasitism of the Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata* L., from Ohio, a check list of the helminth parasites reported from this host was prepared. The only record of an intensive study of the parasites of the Blue Jay is that of Boyd, et. al. (1956). The remaining records are largely limited to reports surveying bird parasites in general. Due to the scattered nature of the records in the literature, it is improbable that this check list is a complete one. In almost all cases, the binomial name of the parasite given is that used in the original citation.

Parasite	Record	Locality
Trematoda		
<i>Brachylecithum americanum</i>	Denton 1945	Georgia
<i>Brachylecithum stunkardi</i>	Denton and Byrd 1951	Texas, Virginia
<i>Collyriclum faba</i>	Hassell, in Farner and Morgan, 1944	Maryland
<i>Echinostoma revolutum</i>	Ellis 1963	Iowa
<i>Laterotrema</i> sp.	Ellis 1963	Iowa
<i>Leucochloridium actitis</i>	McIntosh 1932 Boyd, et. al. 1956	Michigan Massachusetts
<i>Lutztrema microstomum</i>	Denton and Byrd 1951 Boyd, et. al. 1956 Ellis 1963	Georgia, North Carolina, Texas Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont Iowa
<i>Lutztrema monenteron</i>	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
<i>Lyperosomum oswaldoi</i>	Denton and Byrd 1951	Texas
<i>Plagiorchis noblei</i>	Blankenspoor 1970	experimental infection
<i>Plagiorchis</i> sp.	Blankenspoor 1970	Iowa
<i>Posthodiplostomum minimum</i>	Campbell 1972	experimental infection
<i>Tanaisia zarudnyi</i>	Byrd and Denton 1950	Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia
<i>Zonorchis petiolatum</i>	Denton and Byrd 1951 Boyd, et. al. 1956	Texas Massachusetts

Cestoda		
<i>Culcitella</i> sp.	Boyd, et. al. 1956 Jones, In Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts Washington, D.C.
<i>Oligorchis</i> sp.	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
Nematoda		
<i>Acuaria anthuris</i>	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
<i>Acuaria</i> sp.	Williams 1929	Nebraska
<i>Capillaria contorta</i>	Boyd, et. al. 1956 Helmboldt, et. al. 1971	Massachusetts Connecticut
<i>Capillaria obsignata</i>	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
<i>Capillaria resecta</i>	Wakelin 1967	unknown locality
<i>Cheilospirura cyanocitta</i>	Boyd 1956 Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts Massachusetts
<i>Diplotriaena tricuspis</i>	Boyd, et. al. 1956 Anderson 1961	Massachusetts Ontario, Canada
<i>Diplotriaena</i> sp.	Boyd, et. al. 1956 Robinson, In Boyd, et. al. 1956	Ontario, Can- ada, Wisconsin Georgia
<i>Dispharynx nasuta</i>	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
<i>Microfilaria</i> sp.	Robinson 1954, 1955 Robinson 1961	Georgia Ohio
<i>Microtetrameres spiculata</i>	Boyd 1956 Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts Massachusetts
<i>Microtetrameres</i> sp.	Ellis 1971	Iowa
<i>Pseudaprocta</i> sp.	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
<i>Oxyspirura mansoni</i>	Saunders 1928	experimental infection
<i>Spiroptera</i> sp.	Boyd, et. al. 1956	Massachusetts
Acanthocephala		
<i>Plagiorhynchus formosus</i>	Jones, In Boyd, et. al. 1956	Washington, D.C.

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Help Save

HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Mary and Charlie Nelson

Across the Foot Bridge

By MARGUERITE BAUMGARTNER

Report of a Backyard Bird Bander

Over a period of some forty years I have operated a backyard bird banding station. Though the activities have been unpretentious, with annual totals averaging only 300 - 400 individuals of some 30 species, the overall returns have given me a deep respect for both birds and the agency which conducts the program.

Why do we band birds? Banders have different answers: curiosity, research, a love of wild animals, a desire to do something constructive with an outdoor bent. Basically there is the challenge, lurking in the background of any rational reason — there can always be something unexpected and exciting. Most of the time there isn't. But that's what makes the unexpected unexpected.

Bird banders employ many techniques, and as often as not find themselves with a full-time obsession.

The banding of thousands of nestlings of colonial birds such as gulls, herons, and cormorants, requires teamwork, and vigor and a strong stomach.

Mist-netting, catching birds on the wing as they migrate or travel from cover to food, is vastly productive but requires constant surveillance.

Raptors may be captured by a special roadside technique, with a challenge all its own.

Cannon netting, ejaculating a massive net over an area to which birds have been baited by grain, is now a standard tool of game bird research.

But for the rank and file of us, some 2000 in the United States, there are little wire cages of various sizes and shapes, with treadles or drop doors or funnel devices to catch what comes to a mixed diet of suet, seeds, and scraps.

My first efforts were in the weedy periphery of a local park in central New York State, to which I motorcycled daily the two miles from Gunshop Hill and the Lake Shore Drive, weather permitting or not. I was concerned primarily with Tree Sparrows and found, among other things, that they occupied a rather restricted feeding territory, returning each successive winter to the same area.

A cumbersome shelf out of a second story apartment window in Michigan yielded Tufted Titmice and a few Chickadees, and I was happy to get down to earth when we moved to our acreage in central Oklahoma.

Here for eighteen years we entertained flocks of Harris' Sparrows in our 16-acre "back yard". These large and beautiful, black-hooded sparrows, which migrate from their nesting grounds in far northern Canada, are largely restricted to the Southern Plains in winter. And so, for what it may have been worth, I found myself with the reputation of having

banded, and recovered a subsequent year, more winter Harris' Sparrows than anyone else in the country. The study yielded some answers:

For those who wonder how long birds live, I can quote what are probably good average life expectancy figures for small birds. Of some 1700 Harris' Sparrows banded during these 18 years:

- 121 returned a second winter (Return - 1)
- 64 returned a third winter (Return - 2)
- 19 returned a fourth winter (Return - 3)
- 9 returned a fifth winter (Return - 4)
- 6 returned a sixth winter (Return - 5)
- 7 returned a seventh winter (Return - 6)

Four of these old-timers were at least a year old when banded (in adult plumage) and must therefore have been near eight years old when last seen the following spring.

From the voluminous files of the Bird Banding office, at the Patuxent Refuge out of Washington, D.C., I ferreted a small handful of comparable records. Of the thousands of Harris' Sparrows banded, most of them during migration, there were 13 Return - -6 birds, including my own seven. There were three Return 7 (age up to eight years when last seen in spring). There was a single Return - 8, holding the all-time longevity record to date at eight and one-half years.

So what else do we learn from banding?

The few direct recoveries of banded birds give some idea of their rate of travel.

I learned that Harris' Sparrows dawdle southward at an average of only 12 - 13 miles a day, tarrying for weeks in favorable areas, but they may rush northward in the spring at 65 miles a day.

I found that one of my birds, banded during the fall migration, spent the winter in central Texas. It was "found dead" by a small boy at Christmas time. Another flew into a blacksmith shop the following May, in the far northwesternmost corner of Saskatchewan.

Though it fills only a few short lines, the information is somehow worth the 18 years of record sheets, frosted fingers, suppers burned while last birds were checked out at the end of a banding day.

At our backyard station here on the Little Plover, the accent has been shifted to chickadees and jays, with a sprinkling of northern finches, Evening Grosbeaks and out-of-season warblers.

Though the suet and sunflower seed and mixed grains which I use as bait are not designed for the hordes of warblers that drift past, there are a few each year that sample my fare - and the little door shuts behind them. Most surprising have been the two that appeared on our porch in a Thanksgiving snowstorm, one in 1971, one in 1972. Both proved to be Cape May Warblers, a species relatively rare and almost unidentifiable in its drab fall plumage.

There have been exciting interchanges with other banders. Evening Grosbeaks are notoriously unpredictable wanderers. Birds banded here have been recovered at Wisconsin Rapids, Lac du Flambeau, Shawano County, Minnesota, Michigan, and Indiana. During the winter of 1970 we entertained a bird banded in late April of 1969 at Raleigh, North Carolina.

Purple Finches from Illinois and southern Wisconsin showed up simultaneously at two local stations last spring.

A Redpoll banded on County Trunk P five miles west of the Wisconsin River was found dead in a roadside ditch five miles east of the city on Highway 10.

One year I banded a fledgling Song Sparrow straight from its home in the tall grass beyond the footbridge. Two years later it showed up in one of my traps, and I learned that young birds do sometimes return to the place of their beginnings.

Two Purple Martins, banded as nestlings, were recaptured two and three years later in the same bird box. One was found paired with the same mate three successive seasons, something of a record among small land birds.

There have been numerous Blue Jay recoveries, partly because they are conspicuous, partly, alas, because men shoot them. Most of my recovery records have been found locally. But some are wanderers.

Most astonishing have been the east-west records. In January of 1967 a junco appeared in my trap which had been banded at Two Rivers, Wisconsin, due east of Stevens Point.

Two of my birds, banded in midwinter, have been trapped in May at Whitefish Point, Michigan. Blue Jay #763-31877 was a bird which spent two winters in the Little Plover River area, and was retrapped several times.

Chickadee #115-27676 was banded here in late January of 1970, retrapped on April 8, and mist-netted a month later at the tip of this northeasternmost peninsula of Michigan, at the jumping off place to the Canadian north woods.

One of the Michigan banders, Mr. Neil T. Kelley, has graciously sent me a copy of Ontario Bird Banding (March 1971), which describes the banding operation at Whitefish Point. Each year since 1966, from mid-April through mid-May, volunteers have manned the station during the peak of the migration. Large numbers of mist nets of two sizes of mesh are set on a 24-hour-a-day basis whenever man-power is available.

Though the program originated as a study of hawk migration, other species have also been trapped and recorded, with most interesting results.

During the five-year period covered by the report, 3,523 birds of 74 species were banded at Whitefish Point. One returned a second spring, a Gray Jay.

There were 16 recovery records representing interchanges with other stations.

Nine birds banded at Whitefish Point were recovered elsewhere. All were hawks or owls. Of these, three were recovered in Wisconsin:

Sharp-shinned Hawk at the Cedar Grove banding station on Lake Michigan;

Long-eared Owl at Onaslaska;

Goshawk, two miles east of Stevens Point.

Seven birds banded elsewhere were recaptured at Whitefish Point:

Four were hawks, one a Herring Gull. Two were passerines (small land birds). Four of these had been banded in Wisconsin:

Two Sharp-shinned Hawks banded at Cedar Grove;

One Chickadee banded on the Little Plover River, southeast of Stevens Point;

One Blue Jay banded on the Little Plover River, southeast of Stevens Point.

That seven of the sixteen interchanges were Wisconsin records is evidence of a strong east-west migration trend.

That three of the seven should have been Stevens Point area records is remarkable.

That the only two small land birds should have come from a single small backyard station is astounding.

Four Jaegers on Lake Onalaska

By FRED LESHER

On September 11, 1973, together with Doug Becker of La Crosse, I saw one, probably two Parasitic Jaegers north of Red Oak Ridge in the pool above Lock and Dam 7 on the Mississippi, near Onalaska, Wisconsin.

When first seen it was a slim, pointed wing silhouette against the sky, flying with deep, strong wingbeats, floppy but fast. It pursued two ducks which were on the water. They flew off, and the jaeger hit the water with a splash well behind the ducks, paused on the water, then flew on. Distance was about 300 yards. Binoculars used were eight and seven power.

To this point I had suspected a Peregrine Falcon, but the fact he hit the water, not really pursuing the duck, puzzled me.

As we maneuvered the boat to get under the bird we got close enough to see it was a dark brown bird flashing white patches in the primaries. However, because of rough water we were not able to keep up with the bird, which soon disappeared against the tree line to the east.

As we proceeded hopefully in the direction the bird was last seen, we observed it resting on the water. We got to within 20 yards before it flew, passing about 10 yards over the boat. As it rested on the water we observed a light blue bill with a hooked tip. As it flew over, we noted the large indefinite triangle of white in the primaries, several rows of checks or bars on the underwing coverts of the secondaries, transverse dark barring against a light background on the breast, and a short, wedge-shaped tail without central feathers protruding. The bird flew west, circled briefly with a second bird of the same color and size, then disappeared in the west.

I would judge the bird to have been about the size of a Ring-tailed Gull. I believe it was an immature because of the barred appearance.

On September 20, 21, 22 and 23, four jaegers were observed on Lake Onalaska at the same place where the two were seen on September 11. A total of sixteen observers saw an adult Parasitic Jaeger together with an immature of that species. Some dispute arose over the identification of the other two dark, immature birds. Some believed that these birds were also Parasitic Jaegers, largely on the basis of size similarity with the adult Parasitic Jaeger. However, there is an overlap in body length between the Parasitic and Pomarine; therefore a size similarity does not eliminate the possibility of a Pomarine Jaeger. Together with Sam Robbins, this observer saw that one of two immature birds seen together on September 23 was larger than the other, more heavily checked on flanks and breast, showed more white in the primaries, and had a larger bill than the other. It is possible this bird was an immature Pomarine.

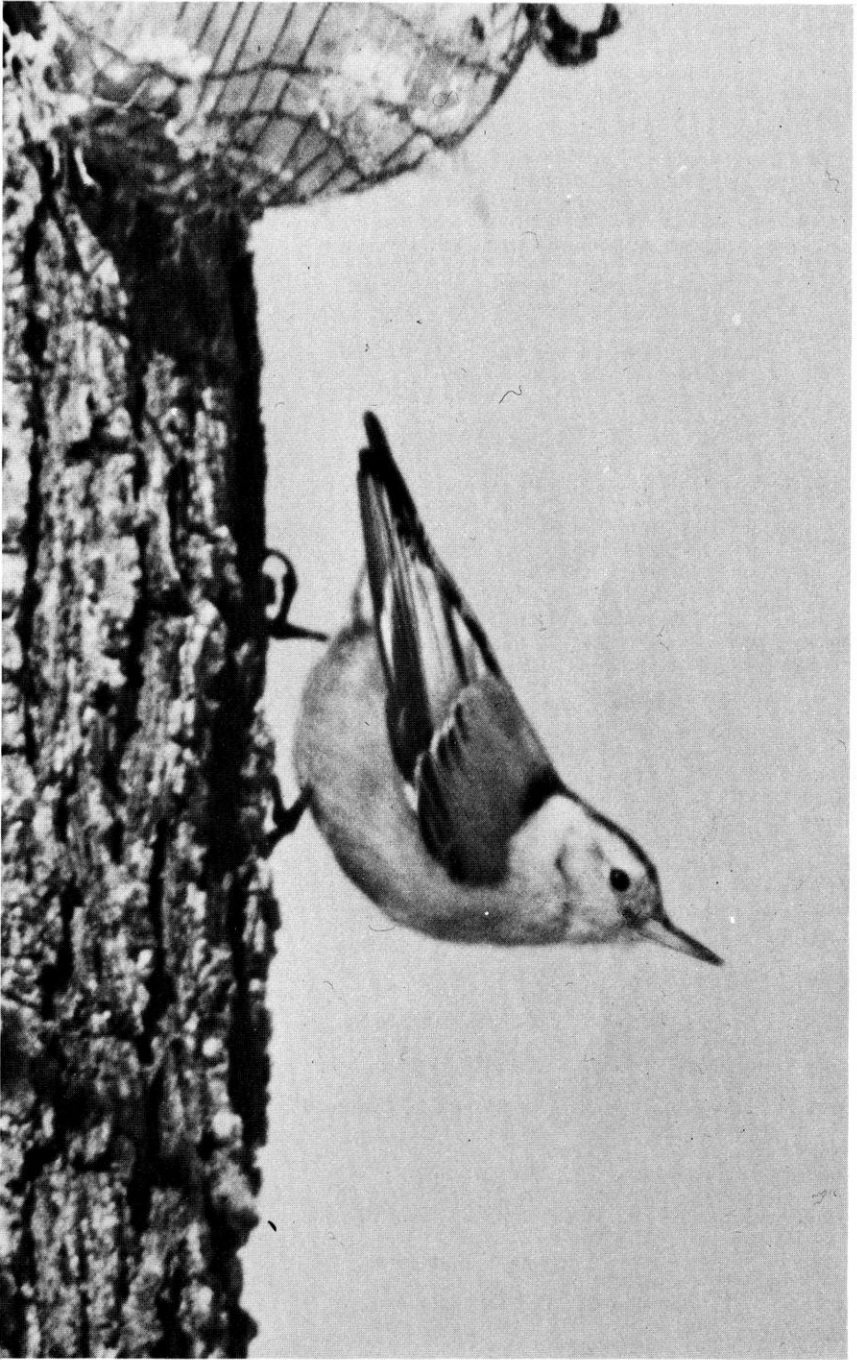
There was a marked difference in the behavior of the two brown jaegers. They were most often discovered resting on the water. The adult Parasitic and the immature Parasitic were most often seen in flight, and displayed remarkable powers of flight, as they could encircle the lake (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in diameter) in about 10 minutes. The two birds in question, when flushed, would fly low over the water for 300 or 400 yards, then land. (They appeared to grow more wary after 3 consecutive days of pursuit by boat loads of birders.)

The dark birds, when observed from directly beneath, were seen to have "nubbins" of two central tail feathers, definitely rounded, extending about the diameter of a quarter beyond the lateral tail feathers. Their wings, to me, were broader through the secondaries than those of the adult Parasitic, and their flight more ponderous.

In the largest of the dark brown birds, the white wing patch was confined to a definite triangular area in the primaries, visible from above and below. The smaller of the dark brown birds looked all dark from above, and showed little white in the primaries from below.

The birds were seen by observers from the Avifaunal Club (Twin Cities area), by Howard Young (ornithologist at UW-La Crosse), Sam Robbins, and Charles Kemper, who took telephoto pictures, both movies and stills. Perhaps his pictures and some that I took will shed light on the identity of the mysterious dark visitors.

ED. NOTE: The stills were not satisfactory. The movies show three definite Parasitic Jaegers and one possible Pomarine immature.



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