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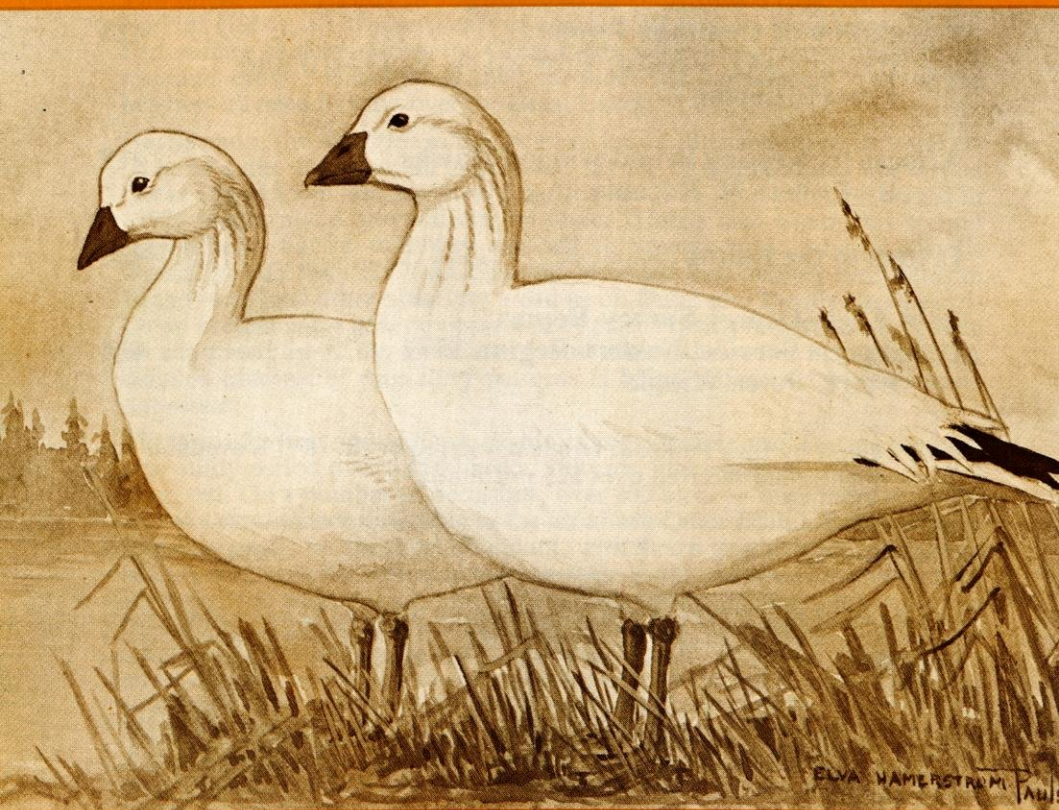
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The Passenger Pigeon

Summer 1978

Volume 40, No. 2



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Ross's Geese by Elva Paulson. Original watercolor (6"x8") is available for sale at highest bid received over \$25 unframed.

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Annotated List of Spring Birds Observed in the Apostle Islands, 1976 and 1977

By James T. Harris
and Michael John Jaeger

The Apostle Islands lie off the coast of Wisconsin in Lake Superior (see Figure 1). Twenty of the twenty-two islands form the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. They represent an unique biological resource, a rare combination of land, water, and solitude.

Only limited information has been published on the birds of the islands. Beals (1958, 1960, and 1967) has described the summer birds he found here. Beer and Dahlberg (1965) reported on the winter birds observed on one of the largest of the islands, Stockton.

The migration of birds in the Apostles has not been previously studied. Perkins (1964), after many years of commercial boating experience, identified narrow sections across the Great Lakes where the greatest numbers of migrants cross. He described the waters off the Apostles as "one of the heaviest traveled flyways over the Great Lakes."

Harris chose the Apostles as the location for an intensive study into the effects of Lake Superior on northward spring bird migration. He visited Outer Island from late April until early June 1976. For a similar period in 1977, Jaeger made observations on Outer. Harris also began this second season here, but in mid-May traveled to Stockton and later to Devil's Island. In late May 1977, an observer recorded bird activity on Michigan Island, and four other observers aided us on Outer and Devil's. In this article we present some general observations on the spring migration along with an annotated list of the species we found during the course of the study. A detailed analysis of migratory patterns is being prepared for publication elsewhere.

The Apostles host spring hawk flights of considerable size. During the two-year study period over 6,000 hawks, vultures, and eagles of 14 species were observed. On a number of occasions, over 200 birds — once more than 800 — were simultaneously visible in the air above Outer Island. Broad-winged Hawks were by far the most abundant, with Sharp-shinned also very common. Lake Superior acts as a wide obstacle to the northward movement of these birds of prey. Apparently the migrants follow the mainland shore out to the end of Bayfield Peninsula and then onto the islands. We saw the largest numbers at north Outer, stopping or turning about at the lake's edge, and at Sand Point at the opposite end of Outer, leaving the island southwest for the inner Apostles. Our observations were limited to hawks and other birds flying at low enough altitudes to be visible from the ground without aid of binoculars. But of all the hawks we detected on the north ends of Outer and Devil's Islands, only a small proportion set out across Superior. Our observations do not indicate how most hawks reach regions to the north.

Lake Superior also impedes northward passage of passerines. Like hawks, most passerines migrating by day turn about at the north edge of the Apostles. Passerines migrating by night cross the water in darkness. But

apparently those migrants finding themselves at day break a short way out over Lake Superior return to the northern islands. The passerines filter down the length of Outer to Sand Point and, concentrated in this narrow place, cross in great numbers to the inner islands. At the base of Sand Point we saw spectacular flights, with up to 1000 and even 3000 individuals passing in a half hour period.

A great variety of birds visit the Apostles, particularly Outer Island. During the two seasons, 201 species were identified. The highest one day count, of 111 species, came from Outer on May 28, 1976. It would be very difficult to find an equal variety as far north as Outer in a similarly small (8,000-acre) area.

Water birds of northern Wisconsin were less completely represented than were land birds. All **Falconiformes** — except Golden Eagle — normally appearing in the state were recorded. We found 25 species of warblers and 16 species of sparrows (the only regularly occurring Wisconsin sparrows missed were the Sharp-tailed and the Fox).

The Apostle Islands' position relative to the mainland and Lake Superior were further reflected in the presence of birds out of their normal habitat. On May 20, 1976, a Field Sparrow was foraging within a forest bordering Outer's bog. Once in 1976 and twice in 1977 single LeConte's Sparrows were resting at damp spots within forest, far from any marshlands. In 1977, a Long-billed Marsh Wren appeared on rock ledges between the forest and the lake on Stockton. The beaver clearings often attracted oddities.

We noted other birds out of range or at unusual dates. We saw Mockingbirds at Outer's south tip on six days between May 13 and 28 in 1976, and on 4 days between April 30 and June 2, 1977. A very late winter-plumaged Lapland Longspur remained on Sand Point from May 25 to 28, 1976. Near it, on May 27, a male Chestnut-collared Longspur in full breeding plumage was discovered. Northern species included five Gray Jays on Devil's Island, single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers twice on Outer, and a late Snowy Owl.

Noteworthy also during the study period were a Peregrine Falcon, an Iceland Gull, a Piping Plover, Whimbrel on four occasions, a Hudsonian Godwit, and a Knot.

Although records of arrivals, departures, and numbers of birds were made during both springs, this data was merely an incidental part of the field studies. The annotated list is therefore simply a summary of our field notes and undoubtedly expresses with varying precision the true status of the many species. We believe abundance and migratory periods are understated for those species less easily discovered. Field methods were distinctly different during the two years, and this difference affected the frequency with which some species were detected. For example, we believe the relative scarcity of Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wrens, and Northern Waterthrushes in 1977 was in part an artifact of our observation techniques.

We made no guesses about the breeding status of birds in the Apostles. Asterisks (*) mark those species definitely known to have nested in one or both years, because of the discovery of nests, of adults with young, or of individuals on specific territories for prolonged periods. Obviously, most

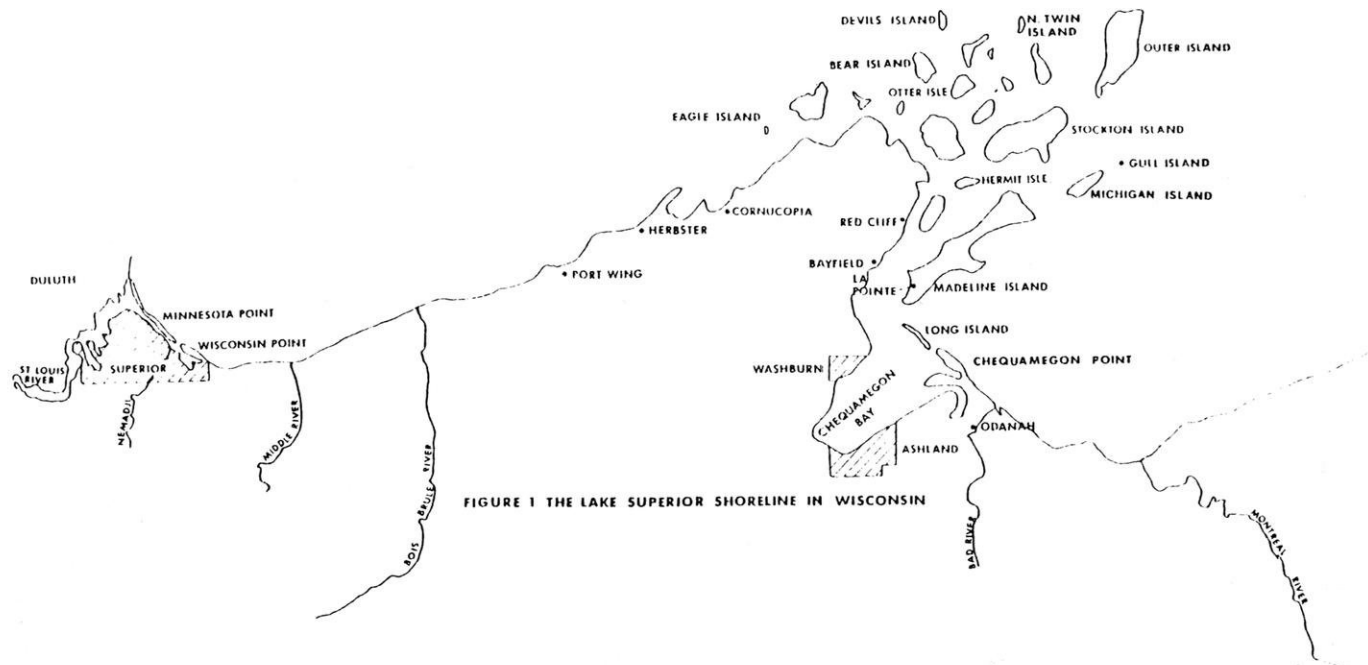


FIGURE 1 THE LAKE SUPERIOR SHORELINE IN WISCONSIN

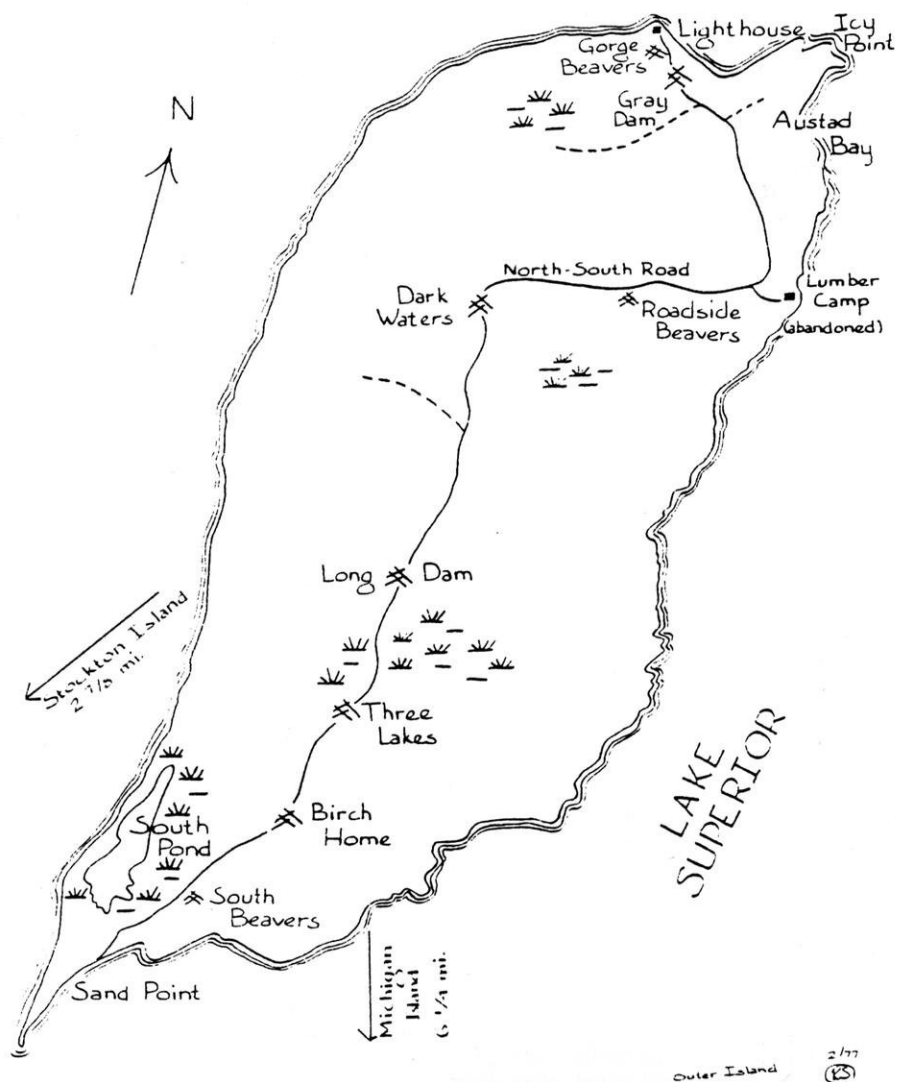


Figure 2. Outer Island.

species actually breeding have not been identified here.

Where two dates are given to indicate a bird's arrival or departure, the first refers to 1976 and the second, in parentheses, to 1977.

Relative abundances of the more common warblers are indicated by the totals for each species recorded on standardized counts that were run on 23 mornings between May 8 and June 3, 1976 on Outer. Each day Harris visited a set of 16 stations representing the variety of available habitats, and counted all birds seen or heard within a one-hectare area during a three-minute period. Totals include counts taken on different days at two sets of stations, one at each end of the island. The most common warblers during this period — followed in parentheses by the number of individuals tallied — were, in descending order: Yellow-rumped (123), Chestnut-sided (70), Black and White (68), American Redstart (67), Nashville (62), Ovenbird (62), Black-throated Green (59), Yellowthroat (38), Palm (34), and Magnolia (34).

The great majority of observations were taken on Outer Island, and place names here are located in Figure 2. Except for references to Presque Isle Bog, Beach, and Point — on southeast Stockton Island — all sightings away from Outer are specifically identified by island name.

1. *Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — present throughout period, with up to 6 observed at once. Nested on South Pond.
2. Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) — observed on lake daily until May 8 (May 10, 15, and 17); maximum of 8 on April 28, 1976.
3. Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) — scattered observations off the north shore of Outer and at South Pond until May 8 (May 4), with a high count of 4 on April 30, 1976; single birds twice sighted at interior beaver ponds; present throughout observations at bogs on Stockton and Michigan Islands; sighted on May 27, 1977 off Devil's Island.
4. Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) — 17 sightings between May 8 (April 29) and May 19 (June 2), high count of 17 on May 17, 1977; always on or near the lake.
5. Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) — present throughout period, in flight at lakeshore; high count of 6 on May 3, 1977.
6. Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — 1 at bog on Michigan Island, May 30, 1977.
7. Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) — 3 flying south from Outer's north end on May 15, 1976.
8. American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — observed May 7 (April 29), at bogs on Outer and Stockton Islands and at interior beaver ponds; high count of 3 on May 24, 1977.
9. Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — 6 sightings between April 27 (May 3) and June 2 (May 30, high count of 12 on April 27, 1977; in flight or on open lake.
10. Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) — 8 (1 snow, 7 blue phase) flying across Superior from Austad Bay on May 5, 1977.
11. *Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) — frequent on interior ponds throughout period, occasionally on open lake; high count of 24 on June 2, 1977.
12. *Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — frequent on interior ponds throughout period, occasionally on open lake; high count of 24 on June 2, 1977.
13. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) — 2 off Outer lighthouse pier, May 4, 1977.

14. Pintail (*Anas acuta*) — 2 in flight off north Devil's; May 29, 1977 and 1 on lake at south Outer, June 2, 1977.
15. *Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) — first noted May 1 (April 29), high count of 6 on May 9, 1976 and May 3, 1977; nest with 8 eggs discovered at Three Lakes on May 18, 1976.
16. Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) — first noted April 29 (April 29), generally in island interiors.
17. American Widgeon (*Anas americana*) — at south end of Outer, 1 on May 13 and 2 on May 14, 1976, and 4 on May 10, 1977.
18. Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) — one with Teal on Michigan Island bog, May 26, 1977.
19. Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) — first observed April 27 (April 29), in island interiors; high count of 10 on Michigan Island, May 28, 1977.
20. Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) — pair on April 26 and 1 on May 13, 1976, 11 on April 29, 1977; all on South Pond.
21. Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) — 1 in flight off south Outer on May 8, 1977.
22. Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) — 7 flew by Sand Point on May 13, 1976; pair on Stockton bog, May 21, 1977.
Scaup sp. — 4 on Stockton bog, May 15, 1977.
23. Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) — 1 female off north Outer on April 29, 1 female off Presque Isle Point, on May 15, 1977, 2 off south Devil's on May 27, 1977.
24. Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) — observed 14 times between April 26 (April 28) and May 23 (June 1), high count of 5 on May 16, 1977; sighted in lake, at South Pond and three times at interior beaver ponds.
25. Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) — single birds on May 9 and 11, 1977, 2 on May 7, 1976 and May 14, 1977; on interior wetlands.
26. Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) — present throughout period, high count of 9 on April 29, 1976.
27. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) — present throughout period, high count of 18 on May 5, 1977.
28. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) — 55 observed between April 29 (April 29) and May 29 (May 28), high count of 8 on May 28, 1976.
29. Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) — 1 immature plumage at Outer lighthouse on April 29, 1976.
30. Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — 1,230 observed between April 27 (April 29) and June 2 (June 2); high counts of 106 on April 30, 1976, 130 on May 1, 1977 and 146 on May 5, 1977.
31. Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — 37 observed between April 29 (April 29) and May 28 (May 12); maximum of 7 on April 29 and May 4, 1976.
32. Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — 151 counted between April 29 (April 29) and May 25 (June 2); high count of 19 on May 1, 1977.
33. Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) — single birds observed on May 8, 1976 and May 12 and 16, 1977.
34. Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — 4,804 counted between April 29 (April 29) and May 29 (June 3); high count of 830 over north end of Outer on May 9, 1976.
35. Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) — 48 observed between April 29 (April 29) and May 10 (May 29); high count of 13 on April 29, 1976.
36. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) — 9 noted between April 26 (April 29) and May 15 (May 26); maximum of 3 on April 30, 1977.
37. Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) — 57 counted between April 29 (April 29) and June 2 (May 29), with a high count of 9 on April 29, 1977.

38. Osprey (**Pandion haliaetus**) — 14 observed between April 30 (April 30) and May 11 (May 29); high counts of 2 on April 30 and May 25, 1977.
39. Peregrine Falcon (**Falco peregrinus**) — 1 immature female over Outer's north end on May 10, 1976.
40. Merlin (**Falco columbarius**) — 7 single birds observed, between April 29 (May 3) and May 13 (May 10).
41. *American Kestrel (**Falco sparverius**) — 106 observed between April 28 (April 28) and June 3 (May 13); in 1977, nested on west Michigan.
42. Sandhill Crane (**Grus canadensis**) — 1 flying south from north Outer, May 4, 1976; 1 at South Pond on May 6 and 7, 1976 and May 10 to 13, 1977; 2 flew from south Outer toward Stockton on April 29, 1977; 1 present at Presque Isle Bog throughout my visit to Stockton.
43. Sora (**Porzana carolina**) — 1 flushed from edge of South Pond on May 14, 1976.
44. Coot (**Fulica americana**) — 1 on South Pond on May 13 and 14, 1976; 1 at Stockton bog on May 14 and 16, 1977; 1 off Michigan Island on May 28, 1977.
45. Semipalmated Plover (**Charadrius semipalmatus**) — observed on 8 occasions, between May 26 (May 22) and June 3 (May 28), all on south Outer except for the high count of 5 at Presque Isle Beach on May 22, 1977.
46. Piping Plover (**Charadrius melodus**) — 1 flying along sand shore of south Outer, May 21, 1976.
47. *Killdeer (**Charadrius vociferus**) — present throughout period, observed on south Outer, Presque Isle Point, west Michigan, and occasionally north Outer.
48. Lesser Golden Plover (**Pluvialis dominica**) — at Sand Point on 6 occasions, between May 14 (May 12 only) and June 2; high count of 5 on May 14, 1976.
49. Black-bellied Plover (**Pluvialis squatarola**) — observed on 10 days between May 25 (May 15) and May 28 (June 2); high count of 5 on May 26, 1977.
50. Hudsonian Godwit (**Limosa haemastica**) — 1 on Sand Point May 26, 1977.
51. Whimbrel (**Numenius phaeopus**) — 7 over Sand Point on May 25, 1976; 3 at Presque Isle Beach, May 21, 1977; 1 on west Michigan beach on May 28 and June 2, 1977.
52. Greater Yellowlegs (**Tringa melanoleucus**) — observed between April 27 (April 29) and May 9, 28 (May 12); at south Outer and once at north Outer; high count of 4 on May 8, 1976.
53. Lesser Yellowlegs (**Tringa flavipes**) — observed between May 12 (May 1, 7) and May 25 (May 16), at south Outer, once at north Outer, and at Presque Isle Bog; maximum of 3 on May 25, 1976.
54. Solitary Sandpiper (**Tringa solitaria**) — 1 at north Outer May 11, 1976; 4 on South Pond on May 13 and 1 on May 14, 1976.
55. Willet (**Catoptrophorus semipalmatus**) — 1 at Presque Isle Bog on May 15, 1977.
56. *Spotted Sandpiper (**Actitis macularia**) — present May 8 (May 4, 10), along island shores and once at a beaver clearing.
57. Ruddy Turnstone (**Arenaria interpres**) — present between May 25 (May 20 and June 3 (June 2), with a maximum of 21 on May 28, 1977; at south Outer and west Michigan.
58. Wilson's Phalarope (**Steganopus tricolor**) — pair at Presque Isle Bog on May 14, 1977.
59. *Woodcock (**Philohela minor**) — present throughout period at clear areas and along interior roads.
60. Common Snipe (**Capella gallinago**) — observed from May 5 (April 29) until May 28 (May 31), with a maximum of 24, in flight at south Outer on May 1, 1977; heard winnowing at South Pond both years; otherwise at wet interior areas, all but once at beaver clearings, and once at the Michigan bog.
61. Long-billed Dowitcher (**Limnodromus scolopaceus**) — pair seen and heard at Presque Isle Bog on May 14, 1977.

62. Knot (*Calidris canutus*) — 1 on Sand Point May 25 to 28, 1976.
63. Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — observed between May 21 (May 6, 14) and June (June 2), with a maximum of 3 on several days; at Sand Point and west Michigan.
64. Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusillus*) — on south Outer May 25 (May 26 only) to June 2, maximum 2 on May 28.
65. Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — observed between May 13 (May 21) and May 28 (May 22), with a high count of 6 on May 28, 1976; unidentified "peep" observed in 1977 on May 8, and between May 14 and June 2, with a high count of 18 on June 2; at south Outer, Presque Isle Beach and Bog, and at west Michigan.
66. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) — present May 13, 21 (May 12, 23) through June 2 (June 2), with a high count of 33 on May 25, 1976; at south Outer and west Michigan.
67. Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) — an immature on Outer's lighthouse pier on May 1, 1976.
68. *Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — present on all shores throughout period; in 1976, 4 nests at Sand Point, 2 with 3 eggs, 1 with 2 eggs, and 1 empty on May 25 and 26.
69. Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) — adult and immature-plumage birds present throughout observation periods at south Outer, Presque Isle Beach, and west Michigan; also seen at Devil's north Outer and northeast Stockton.
70. Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) — 22 at Sand Point on May 28, 1976.
71. Black Tern (*Chilidonias niger*) — 2 over Presque Isle Bog on May 16, 1977.
72. Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) — single birds flying by Outer lighthouse on April 29 and Austad Bay on May 3, 1976.
73. Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) — observed between May 13 (April 30) and June 3 (June 2), with a maximum of 4 on May 12, 1977; at south Outer, once at Presque Isle Bog, and at west Michigan.
74. Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) — 1 on south Devil's on May 30, 1977.
75. Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) — in 1976, heard at Outer light on April 28 and 29, and at Austad on May 3; heard at Austad on June 2, 1977.
76. Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) — 1 at Austad May 3, 1977; it attempted to cross the lake north, but gull attacks sent it back to the island for shelter.
77. Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) — heard at 7 locations on 3 islands between May 8 (May 9) and June 2 (May 28).
78. Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) — heard both east and west of Outer light on April 28 and to the west on April 29, 1976; heard by South Pond on May 7, both 1976 and 1977.
79. Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — heard under nearly full moon May 14, 1976 by South Pond.
80. Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) present May 26 (May 15, 20) on, with a high count of 6 on May 28, 1976; observed on 3 islands.
81. *Chimney Swift (*Chaetrua pelagica*) — first noted May 12 (May 5); in 1976, roosted May 14 on in engine house near Outer light, with a high count of 80 at dusk May 14.
82. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) — observed May 25 (May 19) on, on 3 islands.
83. Belted Kingfisher (*Megasceryle alcyon*) — present throughout period by lake, bogs, and beaver clearings; more often noted in early weeks.
84. Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) present throughout period; most common in late April and early May, with a high count of 75 on April 29, 1977.
85. *Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) — infrequently observed throughout period, at beaver clearings on Outer, near Presque Isle Bog and on west Michigan.
86. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — observed between May 14 (May 10) and May 28 (May 29), on south Outer and once on west Michigan; high count 2 on May 27, 1976.

87. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — present throughout period, more often noted in early weeks.
88. *Hairy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos villosus*) — present throughout period.
89. *Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) — present throughout period, much more common than the Hairy Woodpecker.
90. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) — 1 in pines at base of Sand Point on May 19, 1977; 1 at Gorge Beavers on May 21, 1977.
91. Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) — present May 15, 18 (May 12) on, high count of 18 on May 27, 1976; on 3 islands, most commonly south Outer.
92. Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — present in small numbers May 19 (May 16) on.
93. Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — present throughout period in 1976, more common in early weeks; in 1977, not noted until May 19.
94. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — present May 23 (May 27) on, high count of 4 on May 27, 1977.
95. Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) — present June 2 (May 27) on, high count of 5 on June 2, 1977; at south Outer and on Devil's.
96. Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — May 12 (May 9) on, peak numbers on May 13, 1976 at south Outer.
97. Eastern Pewee (*Contopus virens*) — present May 26 (May 23) on.
98. Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*) — observed between May 22 (May 22) and May 28 (May 29), with a high count of 2 on May 28, 1976; at bogs and beaver clearings.
99. Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) — lone birds noted in flight and on Sand Point until the end of May, high count of 2 on May 13, 1976.
100. *Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) — present throughout period, with a high count of 52 by Outer light on April 29, 1976; nested at beaver ponds in birches drowned by the dams.
101. *Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — May 9, 12 (May 12) on; small numbers nested near Outer light and at south Outer.
102. *Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) — April 28, May 7 (May 2, 9) on; nested at north and south Outer; also at Presque Isle Bog.
103. *Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) — May 5, 10 (May 9) on; in 1976, single pairs nested at Outer's light and in the fishermen's shack at south Outer.
104. *Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) — 1976, 1 or 2 noted by Outer light on April 28, 29 and 30; 15 there at dusk on May 8 and breeding colony present from then on, nesting on light and engine house; in 1977, first noted on April 30; also nested on Devil's light and on rock ledges on northeast Stockton's shore.
105. Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) — 1 noted on south Outer April 30, 1977; 1 at west Michigan, May 30, 1977.
106. Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) — up to 5 observed on north and south Devil's, between May 27 and June 3, 1977.
107. Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) — observed throughout period, primarily in migrating flocks; high count of 520 on south Outer on May 13, 1977.
108. Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) — present throughout period, less frequent at south Outer than elsewhere on Outer.
109. Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) — present throughout period.
110. *Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) — present throughout period, high counts of about 40 on May 3 and 28, 1977.
111. *White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) — bred at Gray Dam in 1976; single birds noted at 4 times between May 10 and June 3, on Outer and Devil's Islands.

112. *Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) — frequently observed throughout period, on all islands.
113. Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) — present throughout period, noted more in early weeks.
114. Northern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — in 1976, single birds at south Outer on May 13, and at Three Lakes on May 18; in 1977, on Michigan on May 24.
115. Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) — in 1976, present throughout period at scattered interior locations on Outer; not noted on Outer in 1977, but present throughout visits to Stockton and Devil's.
116. Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*) — 1 at Gray Dam May 30, 1976; 1 on May 26, 1977.
117. Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) — May 8, 12 (May 6, 10), at beaver clearings, bogs, and other open areas.
118. Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) — single birds noted May 13, 14, 18, and 21, 1976; 2 on May 27 and 28, 1976; in 1977, singles noted on April 30, May 19, 24, and 27, and June 2; all on south Outer.
119. Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — present May 15) on; common in clearings.
120. Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — May 8 (May 15) on.
121. *Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) — present throughout period.
122. Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — single birds noted 7 times between May 19 (May 23) and May 29 (May 27).
123. *Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttata*) — present throughout period, much commoner in late April and early May; high count of 50 on May 6, 1976.
124. Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulata*) — observed between May 22 (May 18) and June 3 (June 3).
125. Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minima*) — single birds noted between May 13 (May 14 only) and June 2.
126. Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) — first recorded May 13 (May 16), in interiors and at south Outer.
127. Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) — observed on 10 days between May 8 (May 9) and June 3 (May 28), high count of 4 on May 9, 1977; once on Devil's. all others on south Outer.
128. Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) — in 1976, frequently noted through May 13, less often through June 3; in 1977, not noted after May 6 except on Devil's.
129. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) — present throughout period, much less common after mid-May (in 1976, after May 14); maximum on May 13, 1976; 45 counted in interior of Outer on May 6, 1976.
130. Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) — observed between May 21 (April 30, May 5) and May 28 (May 16), with a maximum of 6 on May 14, 1977; on south-Outer and Presque Isle Beach.
131. Cedar Waxwing (*Bonbycilla cedrorum*) — present May 20 (May 13, 20) on, migrating in small flocks.
132. Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — present throughout period, high count of 183 on May 1, 1977.
133. Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — in 1976, 3 on May 13 and 1 on May 19; in 1977, singles on May 10 and 13; all on south Outer.
134. Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) — noted May 13 (May 11) through May 28 (May 23), maximum of 5 on May 25, 1976.
135. Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — present May 27 (May 19, 24) on; almost immediately after arrival became one of commonest interior birds.
136. Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) — 1 at Gray Dam May 29, 1976; 1 on south Devil's May 27, 1977.

137. Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — present May 8 (May 9) on.
138. Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — 1 at South Beavers on May 25, 1976.
139. Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — observed between May 19 (May 12) and May 24 (May 28); day totals never exceeded 2.
140. Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) — in 1976, 1 at north Outer May 9 and 4 at south Outer May 13; in 1977, 1 on south Outer May 12.
141. Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora rucicapilla*) — present May 9, 12 (May 8) on; frequented beaver clearings.
142. Northern Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*) — single birds noted on many days May 12 (May 10) on.
143. Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — present May 19 (May 23) on, maximum of 5 on May 27 and June 2; at South Pond and Presque Isle Bog.
144. Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) — present May 12, 15 (May 10) on.
145. Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — single birds noted on May 13, 15, 16, and 18, 1976 and on May 12, 1977; 2 found on May 22, 1976.
146. Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — present May 15 (May 14) on, in Outer's interior, on Presque Isle Point, and once on Devil's; high count of 8 on Outer on June 1, 1976.
147. Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — present April 28 (April 28) on; most abundant warbler until late May, with hundreds on south Outer on May 13, 1976; total of 123 noted on the 1976 morning counts.
148. Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — present May 9 (May 1, 8) on; maximum of 9 on May 29, 1976.
149. Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — present May 11 (May 10) on.
150. *Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) — present May 12 (May 10) on, particularly at beaver clearings; maximum of 8 on May 29, 1976.
151. Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) — 1 at Gorge Beavers on May 22, 1976; 1 on south Outer on May 19, 1977.
152. Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — present May 18, 23 (May 13, 27) on.
153. Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — observed May 5 (May 1) to May 28 (May 20); peak numbers on May 13, 1976; 89 counted on May 10, 1977.
154. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) — May 8, 12 (May 10) on, at many interior locations.
155. Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — in 1976, observed at many wet locations May 13 to 27; in 1977, only noted on May 30.
156. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) — heard at beaver clearings on Outer on May 22 and 29, 1976, and on Devil's on May 28, 1977.
157. Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — present May 28 (May 27) on, maximum of 4 on June 3, 1976.
158. Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — present May 13, 19 (May 17) on, primarily at bogs and beaver clearings; maximum of 9 on May 28, 1976.
159. Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — present May 13, 14, 22 (May 16) on, primarily at beaver clearings and bogs; high count of 11 on May 28, 1977.
160. Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — present May 20 (May 17) on, high count of 11 on June 3, 1976.
161. American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — May 14 (May 11) on; maximum of 17 on May 28, 1976.
162. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — 1 at Outer light on May 4, 1976.
163. Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — migrants present May 12 (May 16) through June 3 (May 28), noted primarily in flight; high count of 4 on May 26, 1976.

164. Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) — 2 on Presque Isle Bog on May 14, 1977.
165. Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) — 2 individuals noted in song on south Outer in 1976.
Meadowlark sp. — occasionally noted throughout period, at Outer light, south Outer, Presque Isle Bog, and once at a beaver clearing; day totals never exceeded 2.
166. Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) — 1977 only, at south Outer, Presque Isle Bog and Beach, and once on Devil's; noted on 6 occasions May 10 to 28, maximum of 3 males and 1 female on May 23.
167. *Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) — present throughout period, high count of 68 on May 12, 1977.
168. Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) — May 19 (May 10, 12) on, high count of 4 on May 27, 1977.
169. Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) — noted April 28 (April 29) to May 13 (May 11), at north and south Outer and beaver clearings; high count of 15 on April 29, 1976.
170. Common Grackle (*Zuisculus quiscula*) — present throughout period in open areas, high count of 90 on May 1, 1977.
171. Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) — common throughout period, high count of 504 on May 1, 1977.
172. Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) — small numbers present May 20 (May 11) on.
173. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — present May 13 (May 10) on, high count of 100 on May 13, 1977.
174. Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — noted between May 26 (May 11, 26) and May 28 (June 3), maximum of 2 on May 28, 1976 and May 27, 1977.
175. Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) — in 1976, common through mid-May, less frequent after; in 1977, uncommon throughout period.
176. *Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — present throughout period, with a high count of 24 on April 29, 1976; less common in late weeks; adult feeding fledgling on June 3, 1976.
177. Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) — single birds in flight over South Pond May 7 and 8, 1976.
178. Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) — single birds noted on April 30, May 4 and 6, 1976, at north and south Outer.
179. Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) — present throughout period, but common only during early weeks of 1976; high count of about 150 on May 13, 1976.
180. American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) — present May 14 (May 11) on.
181. Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — single birds on 8 days between May 12 (May 12) and June 3 (May 14).
182. Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — present in open areas in small numbers throughout period, maximum numbers at south Outer May 13, 1976.
183. Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) — 1 at Outer light May 17, 1976.
184. LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) — single birds on May 13 and 28, 1976, and May 1, 10, and 24, 1977; at South Pond, Sand Point, and three times at wet spots in forested interior.
185. Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) — 1 at Outer light on May 17, 1976.
186. Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*) — 1 at Outer light on May 14, 1976; at south Outer, 2 on May 19 and 1 on May 20, 1976.
187. Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) — 1 at Outer light on May 14, 1976.
188. Northern Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — frequently noted in forest and clearings until mid-May; 1 at south Outer on May 28, 1976.
189. American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) — present through May 12, 19 (May 6); in open areas.

190. *Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — present May 9, 12 (April 30) on in open areas; maximum numbers on May 13, 1976, when many flocks left Outer for Stockton.
191. Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) — present May 9, 13 (May 10) on, at south Outer, occasionally north Outer, and at Presque Isle Beach; maximum May 13, 1976.
192. Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) — 1 at south Outer on May 20, 1976.
193. Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — at south Outer, 6 on May 13 and 1 on May 20, 1976.
194. White-crowned Sparrow (*Aonotrichia leucophrys*) — present May 6 (May 8) through May 28 (May 24) in brushy areas; maximum May 13, 1976, when well over 100 were observed.
195. White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — present throughout period on all parts of the islands; common through mid-May, with maximum of over a thousand on May 13, 1976.
196. Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — observed between May 20 (May 10) and May 27 (May 25), maximum of 3 on May 20, 1976.
197. *Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — present throughout period; maximum of 8 on April 29, 1976; bred at bogs, scarce elsewhere in last weeks.
198. *Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — present throughout period, nesting in most clearings.
199. Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) lone male in breeding plumage on Sand Point May 27, 1976.
201. Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — observed between May 4 (April 28) and May 7 (May 10), maximum of 8 on April 29, 1977; at south Outer and twice at Outer light beach.

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FIELD

NOTES



by Hal and Nancy Roberts

The Summer Season

June 1 to July 31, 1977

A return to the normal characterized the 1977 summer season, both in weather and in birding. Following two summers of above normal temperatures and drought conditions, this season was much more usual. June was cool and rainy over much of the state with temperatures rising in July accompanied by drier conditions, although moisture was adequate. During July there were high winds on three occasions in the northern part of the state; a particularly devastating one on July 4, followed by lesser storms July 17 and 30. The early one must have taken a considerable toll on nesting birds in the affected area.

Although the season produced nothing like the rarities of the 1975 and 1976 summer seasons, there were enough to keep any birder enthusiastic. For example, there were the Arctic Loon, White Pelicans, Piping Plover nesting again at Superior, the Dane County Chuck-will's Widow and many more.

It is interesting to note that at least two observers reported increased populations of the following species: Canvasback, Gray Partridge, Greater Yellowlegs, both Cuckoos, Common Screech Owl, Robin, Cedar Waxwing and Northern Oriole. Decreases in numbers were noted by at least two observers of the following: Great Blue Heron, Least Bittern, Black-capped Chickadee, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Vesper Sparrow and Field Sparrow.

Fewer observers, 38, did a fine job of covering the state. Only sixteen counties were missed: Taylor, Lincoln, Dunn, Eau Claire, Portage, Adams, Waushara, Calumet, Sheboygan, Crawford, Richland, Washington, Grant, Lafayette, Green, Walworth and Racine.

Following are the season's highlights:

Seasonal Summary

Common Loon: Noted in fewer than normal numbers in Burnett County (Jim Evrard). Six adults summered in Monroe County and were present from June 9 to July 28 (Eric Epstein).

Red-throated Loon: Two were spotted in Douglas County (Craig & Ruth Faanes).

Arctic Loon: One at Wisconsin Point, Superior, on June 11 (Craig & Ruth Faanes). See **By the Wayside**.

Red-necked Grebe: A number of summer observations in St. Croix County where there were five nesting pairs (Faanes). A first nesting record for Polk County on June 20 (Faanes). Eight individuals were present in Winnebago County on June 2 (Tom Ziebell).

Eared Grebe: One summered on Oak Ridge Lake, St. Croix County, from June 3 to the end of the period (Faanes, Korotev). A bird in breeding plumage was observed at East Twin Lake, St. Croix County from June 3 to 6 (Faanes).

American White Pelican: Three were found in Lake Onalaska, La Crosse County, on July 24 at the same site as in previous years (Frederick Leshner). Eleven were located on the North Tomah Cranberry Co. flowage from July 18 to 30 (Epstein). Also recorded in Milwaukee Harbor on July 3 (Noel Cutright).

Double-crested Cormorant: Birds were reported in Douglas, Burnett, Marathon, Trempealeau, Brown, Marquette and Green Lake counties.

Cattle Egret: Present in Brown County from June 19 to July 10 with a maximum of 13 on June 29 (Edwin Cleary & Brother Columban). Two were in Oconto County on June 13 (Daryl Tessen) and one in Dodge county on June 11 (Robert Drieslein).

Great (Common) Egret: Observations were made in Burnett, Oconto, St. Croix, Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Waupaca, Outagamie, La Crosse, Marquette, Green Lake, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Vernon, Columbia and Dodge counties; more widespread than normal. The largest number reported away from a breeding rookery was 10 in Winnebago County on June 11 (Robert Drieslein).

Snowy Egret: Observed in Brown County on July 9 (Jim Frank) and July 30 (Robert Ake & Randy Korotev). One was present in Dodge County on June 11 (Drieslein).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Noted in Outagamie County on June 18 (James S. Anderson), two in La Crosse County on June 15 (Tessen), one on June 22, Chippewa County (Charles Kemper) and an immature on July 21 in Waukesha (Dennis Gustafson).

Least Bittern: Numbers were reported up in La Crosse (Leshner), absent in Barron County for the first time since 1970 (Faanes) and low in Marinette County (Lindberg).

Mute Swan: A flock of 15 was present in Chequamegon Bay between Ashland and the mouth of Fish Creek on June 15 (Korotev). One was on Rush Lake, Winnebago County, on June 2 (Ziebell).

Whistling Swan: Two were seen in Ashland County on June 11 (Faanes) and two in Iron County (Mary Butterbrodt). Noted in Oneida County on June 1 (P. Vanderschaeger) and on June 2, four were in Winnebago County (Ziebell).

Snow Goose: Found on June 11 in Ashland County (Faanes) and until June 7 in St. Croix County (Faanes).

Canada Goose: Numbers apparently normal in the usual locations.

Gadwall: Nests were located in St. Croix (Faanes) and Winnebago (Ziebell) counties. Edwin Cleary and Brother Columban observed 35 on July 26 in Brown County.

Pintail: Found during the period in Burnett, Polk, Chippewa, Door, Oconto, St. Croix, Brown, Marquette, Winnebago, Columbia, Dodge and Milwaukee counties.

American Wigeon: Ten were found on June 24 in Burnett County (Evrard); present but not nesting in St. Croix County (Faanes). Two were in Winnebago County on June 2 (Ziebell) and on July 9 (Jim Frank). Was observed to June 20 in Columbia County (Randy Hoffman) and noted in Milwaukee on June 17 (Gustafson).

Northern Shoveler: Reported in Douglas, Iron, Burnett, Oconto, two successful nestings in St. Croix (Faanes), Brown, Marquette, Columbia, Winnebago, Dane and Dodge counties.

Redhead: Three broods noted in St. Croix County (Faanes) and a maximum of 300 were present in Dodge County on June 28 (Drieslein).

Ring-necked Duck: A maximum of 28 were present on July 1 in Burnett County (Evrard).

Canvasback: Two were present in Burnett County from June 2 to 21 (Evrard). Present but no evidence of nesting in St. Croix County (Faanes). An adult male in faded plumage was present in La Crosse on July 24; a male was found in Kewaunee on July 7 (Tessen) and one remained in Dodge County from June 28 to July 28 (Drieslein).

Lesser Scaup: Two adult males and one female were observed in La Crosse from June 21 to 24 (Leshner). Other southerly observations were in Columbia County on June 20 (Hoffman), two in Winnebago County on June 26 (Ziebell) and in Milwaukee on June 28.

Bufflehead: Observed in Milwaukee from June 17 to the end of the period (Gustafson).

Ruddy Duck: Maximum number reported was 150 in Dodge County on June 28 (Drieslein) with 60 present in Winnebago County on June 26 (Ziebell).

Hooded Merganser: Found in north and central counties and in Milwaukee from June 17 to July 7 (Gustafson).

Common Merganser: On June 11, reported in Douglas County (Faanes), June 14 in Forest County (Korotev) and 16 present in Shawano on July 1 (Mary Hafeman).

Red-breasted Merganser: Six were present in Vilas County from July 6 to 15 (Robert & Sue Spahn), found in Oneida County from June 26 to July 10 with a maximum of nine on July 6 (Paul & Louise Engberg). Ten were located in Door County on June 25 (Louise Erickson) and also noted in Milwaukee on July 30 (Frank).

Turkey Vulture: Most northerly observation was Iron County where one was seen on June 22, two on July 6 (Butterbrodt). Other observations were farther south.

Northern Goshawk: Found in Oneida County on June 6 (Jim Baughman) and one in Oconto County on June 13 (Tessen).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Found on July 4 in Wood County (Epstein) and July 31 in Langlade County (Robert Ake & Korotev).

Cooper's Hawk: Eric Epstein observed a nest with four young in Monroe County on July 8. Three young had fledged and one was perched on the edge of the nest at that time. Others were seen in Barron and St. Croix counties (Faanes), Jackson County (Sam Robbins) and Dane County (Epstein).

Bald Eagle: Reported in Bayfield, Iron, Vilas, Burnett, Oneida, Polk and Barron counties. In Barron County three nests produced seven young (Faanes).

Osprey: Observed in Vilas, Burnett, Oneida, Forest, Sawyer, Polk, St. Croix, Marathon where five were found on July 3 (Ken & Janice Luepke), Outagamie, Kewaunee, Dane and Waukesha counties.

Merlin (Pigeon Hawk): One was recorded on July 12 in Price County (Maybelle Hardy).

Spruce Grouse: A male was discovered in the northeast corner on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation, Vilas County, on June 15 (Paul & Louise Engberg).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Found on June 21 in Douglas County (Robbins), two in Burnett County on July 13 (Evrard), on June 24 in Sawyer County (Robbins) and in Oneida County on June 13 (Vanderschaeger).

Yellow Rail: One was identified by voice on June 10 in Crex Meadows, Burnett County (Craig & Ruth Faanes).

Purple Gallinule: One present in Whitnall Park, Milwaukee, on June 15 and 16 was reported by Dennis Gustafson and Don Hanbury.

Semipalmated Plover: Spring migrants were present in St. Croix County on June 27 (Faanes) and early fall birds were in Dane County on July 19 (Korotev).

Piping Plover: DNR biologist Fred Strand reported to Faanes having found a nest and a brood of four on June 11 at Wisconsin Point, Superior. An additional pair was found the same date at the Superior Sewage Treatment Plant; the male was "piping" (Craig & Ruth Faanes).

Lesser Golden Plover: The first summer record since 1974; one in Dodge County on July 29 (Gustafson).

Black-bellied Plover: Only one report; on June 2 in Columbia County (Randy Hoffman).

Ruddy Turnstone: Following a single observation during the period in 1976, this species was found in seven locations; In Douglas County on June 11 (Faanes), two on July 30 in Oconto County on June 2, three in Dane County on July 30 and 31 (Steve Thiessen) June 1 in Milwaukee (Gustafson) and seven on July 27 in Kenosha (Cutright).

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest fall arrivals reached Milwaukee on June 29 where they remained until the end of the period (Don Hanbury). Other early fall birds were in Milwaukee on July 4 (Frank).

Willet: Six were present in Manitowoc County on July 7 (Tessen).

- Greater Yellowlegs:** A possible straggler was the one found on June 5 at Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County (Hoffman). Fifteen early fall migrants reached Burnett County on July 1 (Evrard).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Early fall birds were present in Burnett County on June 21 (Robbins) and June 26 in Milwaukee (Hanbury). Largest concentration was the 120 in Columbia County on July 30 (Hoffman).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** On July 2, fall birds had reached Brown County (Korotev) and Dane County (Korotev). In Dane County, 70 were present on July 27 (Korotev).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** Latest spring migrants were seen in St. Croix County on June 26 (Faanes). A total of 61 were found on June 11 at Wisconsin Point, Superior (Faanes).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** The last spring migrant was found in Oneida County on June 1 (Vander-schaeger). Fall birds were present in Brown County on July 10 (Edwin Cleary & Brother Columban) and in Dodge County on July 29 (Gustafson).
- Least Sandpiper:** Late spring migrants were noted June 12 in Dane County (Thiessen). On July 19, 140 were found in Dane County (Korotev).
- Dunlin:** Ten were found in Columbia County on June 4 (Tessen), one in Dane County on June 5 (Korotev) and ten in Winnebago County on June 6 (Ziebell).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Two unusual June dates; June 11 in Douglas County (Faanes) and June 28 in Milwaukee (Gustafson). Three fall migrants reached Outagamie County on July 8 (Tessen) and 40 were present in Brown County on July 9 (Frank).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Fall birds arrived in St. Croix County on July 6 (Faanes) and 14 in Brown County on July 16 (Cleary & Columban).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Another unusual June date; present June 25 in Columbia County (Gustafson). Fall migrants had arrived July 9 in Brown County were 25 were seen (Frank), five in Dodge County (Tessen) same date.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Late spring birds were in St. Croix County on June 16 (Faanes). Two fall migrants had reached Kewaunee County on July 7 (Tessen). Largest concentration was 200 in Dane County on June 5 (Korotev).
- Sanderling:** Last spring birds were in Cornucopia, Bayfield County, on June 16 (Korotev). Early fall arrivals were in Oconto County on July 9 (Frank).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** June observations were made in Bayfield, Oconto, Juneau, Columbia and Dane counties. July birds were present in Burnett, Oconto, Marinette, St. Croix, Marathon, Brown, Winnebago, Columbia, Dodge and Dane counties.
- Northern Phalarope:** One observation; in Dodge county on June 25 (Gustafson).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Noted in Douglas County on June 11 (Faanes) and June 21 (Robbins). In Oconto County on July 12 (Tessen), Columbia County on June 12 (Hoffman), July 23 to 30 in Milwaukee (Frank) and July 27 in Kenosha (Cutright).
- Laughing Gull:** Two were observed in Kewaunee County on July 7 (Tessen) and one in Milwaukee Harbor on July 24 (Cutright).
- Ring-billed Gull:** 554 were counted in Door County on June 25 (Erickson). June observations in Douglas, St. Croix and La Crosse counties. Also noted through the period in counties bordering Lake Michigan.
- Franklin's Gull:** Noted in Manitowoc and Kewaunee on July 30 (Ake & Korotev).
- Little Gull:** Four were observed in Brown County on July 10 (Cleary & Columban). Two were located in Manitowoc County on July 7 and two there on July 30 (Ake & Korotev). One was seen in the southern Milwaukee harbor area on July 21; the bird was still present into August and was joined then by a second adult. (Gustafson).
- Forster's Tern:** June observations in Ashland, Oconto, Monroe, Winnebago, Monroe and Dane counties. Noted in July in Oconto, St. Croix, Marathon, Brown, Winnebago, Dodge and Milwaukee counties.
- Common Tern:** Largest concentration was 100 in Brown County on July 10 (Columban & Cleary).
- Caspian Tern:** Noted in Marathon, Door, Brown, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Winnebago, Manitowoc, Dodge and Milwaukee counties.

Barn Owl: The only report was of an adult at a nest in a silo on a farm near Muskego, Waukesha County, on July 23. Several young had already been taken from the nest and given to people who take care of wild animals and birds (Gustafson).

Short-eared Owl: On June 21 one was observed flying over Crex Meadows, Burnett County. It exhibited typical hunting behavior with lazy flapping and coasting back and forth (Robbins).

Saw-whet Owl: One was discovered in Douglas County on June 10 (Craig & Ruth Faanes) and in Burnett County on June 22 (Robbins).

Chuck-will's Widow: One was seen and heard at the MacLean farm, Dane County on June 4 and a number of other dates up to July 7 by many observers (Tessen, Doanld, Erickson, Decker, Korotev, Gustafson). The call was taped and was said to be unmistakable.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Northerly observations were the one on June 19 in St. Croix County (Korotev) and June 15 in Clark County (Robbins).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Viratine Weber reports numbers up in Vernon County.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: A nesting pair with young was discovered in Douglas County near Stone's Bridge on the Brule River. The birds were seen on June 17 by Randy Korotev and on June 21 by Sam Robbins.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The only observation came from Douglas County on June 17 (Korotev).

Alder Flycatcher: Counties reporting only Alders were Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Washburn, Sawyer, Oneida, Forest, Barron, Shawano, Door, Jackson, Winnebago, Juneau and Ozaukee.

Willow Flycatcher: Counties reporting only Willows were Pierce, Chippewa, Buffalo, La Crosse, Monroe, Marquette, Green Lake, Vernon, Columbia, Dane, and Jefferson.

Alder and Willow Flycatchers: Both species were present in the following counties: Burnett, Polk, Rusk where only Alders had previously been present (Robbins), St. Croix, Waupaca, Sheboygan, Waukesha and Milwaukee.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Spotted in Ashland County on June 12 (Faanes), Vilas County from July 6 to 15 (Spahn) and June 22 (Baughman), Clark County on June 5 (Ken & Janice Luepke), Door County on June 25 (Erickson) and in Milwaukee on June 4 (Hanbury).

Boreal Chickadee: Found in Oneida County on June 9 (Vanderschaeger) and in Sawyer County on June 18 (Faanes).

Tufted Titmouse: Found in two unusually far north counties; St. Croix and Pierce (Faanes).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Found in two unusually far south locations; Jackson County on June 14 (Robbins) and Waupaca County on July 5 (Tessen).

Brown Creeper: Two observations; on June 11 in Bayfield County (Faanes) and on June 21 in Douglas County (Robbins).

Winter Wren: Farthest south were the four on Washington Island on June 25 (Erickson).

Mockingbird: A real oddity was the observation in Iron County (Butterbrodt).

Hermit Thrush: The one singing east of Black River Falls, Jackson County, was the first Robbins had found south of Eau Claire County in summer.

Swainson's Thrush: The only observation was one in Forest County on June 14 (Korotev).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Found as far north as St. Croix County where numbers were reported to be up (Faanes). The only July observation was of one in Vilas County from July 6 to 15 (Spahn). June birds were seen in Ashland, Iron, Sawyer, Oneida, Forest and Shawano counties.

Cedar Waxwing: Nested in a La Crosse yard with four young on July 8 (Leshner).

Loggerhead Shrike: Found in two counties during the summer season; in St. Croix County, two were in ideal habitat near Oakridge Lake on June 22 (Robbins) and five were found on July 20 (Faanes.) Observations in Sauk County were on June 5 (Korotev) and July 9 (Tessen).

Bell's Vireo: One was discovered in St. Croix County on June 17 (Faanes), in Trempealeau County on June 4 (Faanes) and in Green Lake County (Korotev).

Prothonotary Warbler: Four observations; Pierce County on June 4 (Faanes), La Crosse where two were found on June 15 (Tessen), one in Dane County on June 12 (Thiessen), Jefferson County on June 4 (Frank).

Tennessee Warbler: Three were noted in Vilas County from July 6 to 15 (Spahn). Early fall arrivals were in Chippewa County on July 28 (Robbins) and in Milwaukee on July 23 (Cutright).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Two birds were present in Oneida County on July 15 (Engberg).

Nashville Warbler: Noticeably smaller numbers were noted in Washburn County on June 19 (Faanes). An unusual observation was one in Milwaukee on June 21 (Gustafson).

Northern Parula Warbler: Farthest south was the observation in Menominee County on June 24 (Robbins).

Cape-May Warbler: Reported in Douglas County on June 21 (Robbins), in Ashland County on June 12 (Faanes) and June 14 (Korotev). In Forest County six singing males were present in three locations on June 13 and 14 (Korotev).

Cerulean Warbler: St. Croix County was the farthest north location (Faanes).

Blackburnian Warbler: Unexpected were observations in Ozaukee County on June 14 and Milwaukee County on June 13 (Gustafson).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Eleven summer males were present in Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Blackpoll Warbler: One present in Winnebago County from July 4 to 7 was unusually late. There was no evidence of breeding (Clark Schultz).

Northern Waterthrush: Unusually far south was the report from Waupaca County on July 5 (Tessen).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Found in St. Croix and Pierce Counties (Faanes).

Kentucky Warbler: Observed in Dane County on June 11 (Hoffman) and in Ozaukee County on June 14 (Gustafson).

Connecticut Warbler: Late migrants were seen on June 11 in Juneau County (Leshner, Robbins) and in Milwaukee (Gustafson). In Vilas County from July 6 to 15 at least ten were present including one adult feeding two young (Spahn).

Mourning Warbler: Eight summer birds were present in Waukesha County from June 21 to 29 (Bielefeldt). Noted in Ozaukee County on June 21 (Gustafson).

Hooded Warbler: Three males and one female were seen in Lapham Peak State Park, Waukesha County on June dates (Bielefeldt, Donald, Gustafson, Hoffman, Safir). A female was found near Milwaukee Audubon Center on June 11 (Gustafson).

Canada Warbler: A singing male was present in Waukesha County on June 27 (Bielefeldt) and in Milwaukee County on June 13 (Gustafson).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Numbers were reported down in Marinette County (Harold Lindberg).

Orchard Oriole: Observed in seven locations; in St. Croix County (Faanes), Buffalo County on June 5 (Faanes), Trempealeau County on June 4 (Faanes), Monroe County on June 14 (Tessen), to June 20 in Columbia County (Hoffman), Waukesha County on June 15 (Bielefeldt) and Milwaukee County on June 11 (Gustafson).

Dickcissel: Noted to be up in Vernon County (Weber) but absent in Waukesha County (Bielefeldt).

Evening Grosbeak: Summer observations in Douglas, Bayfield, Iron, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Oconto counties.

Purple Finch: Noted in northern counties and as far south as Chippewa, Jackson, Shawano and Door counties.

Pine Siskin: Only one summer observation; in Douglas County on June 21 (Robbins).

Red Crossbill: Found in five locations; Douglas County on June 21 (Robbins), Ashland where there were four on June 12 (Faanes), Vilas County from July 6 to 15 (Spahn), July 22 and 26 in Chippewa County and June 14 in Jackson County (both Robbins).

White-winged Crossbill: Found in Douglas County on June 21 and Burnett County on June 22 (Robbins). Two were seen in Manitowoc County on July 26 (Marjorie Albrecht).

LeConte's Sparrow: Found in six northern counties; Douglas, Ashland, Burnett, Sawyer, Polk and St. Croix.

Lark Sparrow: Two were present in Burnett County for the third consecutive year (Robbins). Also found in Polk County on June 22 (Robbins), five in St. Croix County on July 18 (Faanes), Trempealeau County on June 4 (Faanes), Jackson County on June 14 (Robbins), Monroe County on June 23 (Epstein) and in Rock County (Mahlum).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Present in northern counties and in Waukesha County on June 4 (Gustafson).

White-throated Sparrow: Nine nesting pairs were located in Barron County (Faanes). Nine individuals were spotted in Waupaca County on July 5 (Tessen).

1977 OBSERVERS

Robert Ake, Marjorie Albrecht, James S. Anderson, Jim Baughman, John Bielefeldt, Mary Butterbrodt, Edwin Cleary, Brother Columban, Ron Crete, Noel Cutright, Robert Drieslein, Paul & Louise Engberg, Eric Epstein, Louise Erickson, Jim Evrard, Craig & Ruth Faanes, Jim Frank, Dennis Gustafson, Don Hanbury, Mary Hafeman, Maybelle Hardy, Randy Hoffman, Charles Kemper, Randy Korotev, Frederick Leshner, Harold Lindberg, Ken & Janice Luepke, Gyda Mahlum, Sam Robbins, Clark Schultz, Robert & Sue Spahn, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, John Toepfer, P. Vanderschaefer, Viratine Weber, Melvin Wierzbicki, Thomas Ziebell, Gary Zimmer.



By the Wayside...

Third Wisconsin Record of the Arctic Loon

After completing the Chaffey Breeding Bird Survey transect in western Douglas County on June 11, 1977, we birded the Superior lakefront. We were pleased to find a pair of Piping Plovers on territory at the Superior sewage treatment plant. A fine assortment of late migrant shorebirds, including Semipalmated Plovers were also present. After leaving the treatment plant, we went to the now famous Wisconsin Point, with hopes of finding more shorebirds.

On the Point, we found unusually large numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Turning our attention to a flock of Double-crested Cormorants on the lake, we found a lone Red-throated Loon about 30 feet off shore. Looking further out on the lake, we found a small, dark loon swimming with Cormorants and some Herring Gulls.

The following notes and description were taken as we watched the bird: Small loon, smaller than a Common Loon and smaller than the Herring Gulls. White breast and stomach (stomach was observed when it rolled on its back to scratch). Dark black throat patch, with a distinct border between the patch and white on upper breast.

The straight, thin bill was dark colored. Head, crown and nape were dark gray. A small amount of black striping was noted on the side of the breast below and to the side of the throat. The bird did not possess bands on the throat as does the Common Loon.

The back was a darker black, much darker than the nearby Red-throated Loon. We noted small white patching on the dark back, much different than spotting on a Common Loon. The loon was observed swimming near some Cormorants. This bird was smaller on the water and did not have a hooked bill as do Cormorants.

These observations were made from 11:20 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. Sky was partly cloudy, with a northeast wind making small waves on the lake. Observations were made with a 15-60X spotting scope.

We used Robbins, **Birds of North America** while observing the bird, then consulted Godfrey's **Birds of Canada** when we got home. Attempts at photographing the bird failed, as it was about 100 yards from shore.

This represents the third "modern" record of the Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) from Wisconsin, the most recent being a bird observed on Phantom Lake at Crex Meadows on September 23, 1975 by Dr. Al Grewe.

Even though this record must be considered hypothetical due to a lack of a photograph or specimen, we are convinced this was an Arctic Loon. We were able to directly compare this bird with Wisconsin's other two loon species, and had Cormorants and Herring Gulls nearby for direct size comparison.

Birders near large water, especially Lake Superior, should be watchful for Arctics in the future. Until June 20, 1976, when one showed up on a lake in Minneapolis, all of Minnesota's Arctic Loon records (7) have been from Lake Superior near Duluth.

Craig and Ruth Faanes
River Falls, WI

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

Species: Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker; one pair with unknown number of young.

Place: Douglas County, Stone's Bridge, County Highway S and B. Brule River. Nest in a dead broken tamarack approximately 10 meters off west side of road, across from power line pole in parking lot and about three to four meters north. Nest hole on west side of tree.

Date & time: June 16, 1977, approximately 12:00 noon.

Observers: Randy Korotev and Betty Lobos

Over a period of a half-hour both parents were observed to enter the nest hole with food (female three times, male two times). During the twenty minutes I stood near the base of the tree (approximately three meters away) attempting to photograph the parents, I could hear a constant fluttery chatter from the hole in the tree. I could not tell how the young birds made the chattering noise, but it sounded most like a very rapid clattering of mandibles.

I observed a male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at this same location in late February of this year. The description of these two birds is the same as given in the winter report except the female lacked the yellow cap. The birds are quite tame and seemed oblivious to my presence.

Randy Korotev
4541 Crescent Road
Madison, WI 53711

A Ross' Goose at Schoeneberg Marsh

Species: Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Number: 1

Location: Schoeneberg marsh, Columbia County. Twice the specimen was seen from Harvey Road at the point where the road makes a 90 degree turn east. Once the specimen was observed from Highway 22 on the far west portion of the marsh.

Dates Seen: March 24, 25 and 26, 1978

Description from Field Observations: The specimen was a small white goose. The plumage was all white, except as follows. The bill was mostly blackish with some rosy coloring showing through the top of the upper mandible. A blackish line came from the bill to the eye. There was a faint light grayish line from the back of the head down the back of the neck to the shoulders. There were two lines of faint light grayish making a curved line around the upper mantle (one on each side). The primaries were black and the secondaries were light gray. The secondaries would show through while the bird was at rest. The legs were a dirty rosy color.

Voice: Never heard voice.

Behavior: Only once in the observation period was the specimen seen in proximity of Snow Geese. Mostly it was alone. The only behavior seen was flying, sleeping and feeding. During its stay the marsh was frozen. This bird fed mostly along the grassy edges where it would pull at the bases of the grasses.

Habitat: Schoeneberg marsh is a shallow fresh water marsh surrounded by grasses and sedges.

Identification: The only way to make this difficult identification is to compare this young Ross' Goose with Snow Geese of similar age.

- A. The specimen was approximately nine months old. This is accounted for by the color of the secondaries. The juvenile wing feathers of both species are not molted until the birds are about one year old. This occurs during the post nuptial molt. The approximate age of nine months is accounted for by looking at the average hatching dates of late June to July 10 for both species.
- B. The bill, on the one occasion when the specimen was near the Snow Geese, appeared shorter. The bill was mostly blackish with some rosy showing through the top of upper mandible. No grinning patch could be made out. In all young Snow Geese observed, at equal or even greater distances, a grinning patch was seen. Though the bills of the snow geese varied from dusky brown to orange scarlet, a grinning patch was detected.

- C. The head and back plumage of the specimen was white except for the areas on the back of the neck, the upper mantle, and the eye line. In young Snow Geese this area of plumage is basically the same, except the dark areas are more brownish and usually more extensive.
- D. The juvenile flight feathers of the specimen were entirely white except the primaries and the secondaries. The primaries were black and the secondaries were light grayish. The juvenile flight feathers on the Snow Goose are black primaries with the greater covert and the secondaries gray. In the Ross' Goose the scapulars, most of the covert area and the innermost secondaries (tertials) are replaced in early spring, whereas Snow Geese have a darkish cast on the wing covert and the back into summer.
- E. Size. The only time a size comparison was possible was on March 24. On that day the specimen was in close proximity to an adult white phase Snow Goose. Though both species can show much variation in size and overlap is possible, the differences were as follows:
1. Head height while standing at rest appeared to be about 4 inches shorter.
 2. The height of the back was about 1½ inches shorter.
 3. Tip of tail to tip of bill while standing at rest was about 3 inches shorter.
 4. The width of the body was about an inch or so narrower.
- F. Wingspan. The specimen and the Snow Goose took flight together. The wingspan was approximately 8 inches shorter.
- G. Wingbeats. The wingbeats were substantially more rapid. This is a characteristic of Ross' Goose flight.
- H. Flight Course. The specimen flew out of the marsh on a zig-zag back and forth course. The Snow Goose flew in a straight line, although on other occasions the specimen flew a straight course.
- I. Flight feathers in flight, except for the primaries, appeared white. While observing many young Snow Geese in flight, gray areas on the wings were readily noticed.

Distance: Closest 400 feet (estimate).

Optical Equipment: 7 x 15 x 35 Jason binoculars and a 48x Bushnell spotting scope.

Light: On March 24 there were high broken clouds with the sun just peeking though and unlimited visibility. The next two days were not as good with lower and darker clouds. Fortunately the two species comparison and the finer plumage were obtained on March 24. This was also the day of closest observation.

Previous Experience with Species: None with this species. Snow Geese have been observed for many years, but not with as much detail as this year's birds were subjected to.

Sources: *Birds of North America* by Robbins, et al.; *A Field Guide to Western Birds* by Peterson; *Audubon Water Bird Guide* by Pough, *Life Histories of North American Waterfowl Part 2* by Bent; *Ducks, Geese and*

Swans of North America by Kortright; and **Handbook of North American Birds Vol. 2** by Palmer.

Photography: It was not attempted because the distance was great and the light conditions were not good enough.

Origin of the Species: The specimen was most likely an easterly wanderer from the Ross' Goose population in the Central Flyway System. Historically, the Ross' Goose has used the central flyway, in small numbers though. In the past twenty years the numbers have increased significantly, enough that perhaps six percent of the Ross' Goose population use the central flyway.

Remarks: After the sighting was made many hours of research followed. Through this research I discovered that a viable and increasing flock of Ross' Geese uses the central flyway system. This fact came as a surprise to me. I am sure that a majority of the birders are in the same boat. That is, not realizing so many Ross' Geese are found east of the Rockies. With this I would like to make a couple of points.

First, the possibility of a Ross' Goose in Wisconsin is much greater than previously assumed. It might pay to give every flock of Snow Geese an extra close look.

The second and most important point is the identification of a Ross' Goose is very difficult. The first point that is noticed is the size difference. This is the least reliable field mark. Snow Geese can range from 25 to 33 inches and Ross' Geese can range from 21 to 26 inches. There is overlap. All small geese should be carefully checked out, but never use size as a sole identification criterion. I would like to suggest that anyone making a Ross's Goose identification in the future adhere to two basics: First, the bird must be reasonably close, 500-800 feet depending on scope power and light conditions. Secondly, the specimen should be in the company of Snow Geese. This is the most crucial part for comparison of wing length and wing beats.

Randy Hoffman
Waunakee, WI

A SUGGESTION FOR FIELD NOTES CONTRIBUTORS

Many of us who are primarily weekend birders find ourselves at something of a loss when it comes to filling out the "first seen", "last seen", and "most seen" sections of the report forms. We realize that because our field trips are sporadic, it is impossible to know how long the birds we are seeing have been there, and whether there are more or fewer than a few days ago. Our editors certainly welcome all reports, however sketchy, but it occurs to me that some of us can do them a greater service and provide more valuable qualitative data, particularly during migration periods, by "working" a convenient area regularly. Select a reasonably productive spot, one which seasonally produces a fair variety of, say, shorebirds or warblers, very near your home (your own yard perhaps), or near your job, or on a regularly traveled route. During migration, try to visit your spot daily for a half hour or so before work, or during your lunch period, or after work, and record species and numbers. It is best to make your visits the same time of day each time. Do not despair if you do not turn up a wide variety of birds or any

unusual birds. The data you are collecting is valid and useful. It is probable that your first sighting of a new arrival will pretty much coincide with its appearance at your more favored birding areas ten miles away. Of course you can still do your weekly birding jaunts, however far you like to go, to see the greatest variety of birds, but meanwhile you are giving intensive coverage to a small area with only a small amount of time and effort. If even only a few of us were to do this for a week or two during peak movement times, WSO would get a marked increase in valuable data.

— Linda Safir

Again in 1978, the Kirtland's warbler nesting areas will be closed and posted against public entry during the nesting season. As an endangered species, we feel the Kirtland's needs this added protection to help insure nesting success. Guided tours to the warbler nesting areas will be available from both Grayling and Mio, Michigan, at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. daily, starting May 15. The Mio tour will be conducted through July 24, but will not operate on Wednesdays. The Grayling tour will operate seven days a week, but will terminate on July 8. If any large groups plan to visit the area, we would like to know well in advance so that we may accomodate them. The Kirtland's is more readily viewed by small groups, and we prefer these over large ones. Special accomodations will not be made for persons intent on photographing the bird, nor will the use of tape recorders be allowed. It should be noted that best opportunities for viewing the bird on these tours have occurred prior to July in past years. Tour participants must provide their own binoculars. Pre-season, prior to April 23, tour information may be obtained by writing or calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Animal Damage Control, c/o Michigan Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division, Fifth Floor, Lewis Cass Building, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Michigan 48909, telephone 517-348-6371, or the U.S. Forest Service, District Ranger, Huron National Forest, Mio, Michigan 48647, telephone 517-826-3717.

Help Save

HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Mary and Charlie Nelson

RESPONSE TO DROUGHT BY A BREEDING POPULATION OF COMMON LOONS

By James O. Evrard,
Edward A. Lombard and Kris H. Larsen

Breeding waterfowl and associated water birds on the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in northwestern Wisconsin have been censused by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel since 1957. No attempt was made to estimate the total population or density of the various birds species until 1976, when work-study student Ed Lombard surveyed the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) as part of a cooperative program between the DNR and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Drought reduced wetland water levels substantially in 1976, but too late to affect the Loon population. Continued below normal precipitation reduced water acreage to only 35 percent of normal by September of 1977. To assess the impact of the drought upon the Loon breeding population, student intern Kris Larsen from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls repeated Lombard's survey in 1977.

The Crex Meadows Wildlife Area is located north of the Village of Grantsburg in western Burnett County. The wildlife management area is a restored prairie wetland complex that has been described in detail by Vogl (1964) and Zicus (1974). Crex Meadows contains 26,000 acres of water which could be considered suitable Loon habitat. Water areas were surveyed during the months of June, July, and August from truck and canoe by observing loons with 7x35 binoculars and recording the observations on a project map.

In 1976, an estimated 29 Loons were present on 9 wetlands. The Loon population consisted of 7 pairs with broods totaling 11 young plus 4 single adult birds. Wetlands occupied by Loons were as small as 17 acres and as large as 800 acres. The density of breeding pairs was one pair per 194 acres with a production of 1 young Loon per 124 acres.

In 1977, suitable Loon habitat was much reduced by the drought and only 15 Loons were recorded. Production was drastically reduced with only 2 pair and 1 brood of 2 young observed. A flock of 5 adult birds was consistently seen on the largest remaining wetland.

The loss of water acreage and depth caused extensive winter fish mortality, reducing the Loon's food supply. The drought-limited habitat probably increased territorial strife between breeding pairs and increased nest and brood loss due to increased vulnerability to predators.

It appears that the Loons reacted to drought-reduced water acreage and depth by moving away from Crex Meadows to more attractive habitat and by spending the summer on the wildlife area as flocked, non-breeding birds. The same response to drought by ducks has been reported previously (Lynch 1949).

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Vogl, R.J. 1964. Vegetational history of Crex Meadows, a prairie savanna in northwestern Wisconsin. American Midland Naturalist 72 (1): 157-175.
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Attacks by Nesting Broad-winged Hawks

By ROBERT N. ROSENFELD

On July 3, 1976, in central Lincoln County, Wisconsin, an adult Broad-winged Hawk (**Buteo platypterus**) flew at and struck me, cutting my eye, as I climbed to within one meter of its nest in a trembling aspen (**Populus tremuloides**). The blow blurred my vision and I descended the tree and left the nesting area.

I returned one half-hour later and re-climbed the tree to within one meter of the nest, and, again, a Broad-wing, presumably the same hawk, struck my left shoulder. The hawk continued flight passes at me as I reached the nest; while I banded three nestlings (approximately three weeks old); checked for prey remains; and took pictures. However, no further physical contact was made. This was my fifth visit over a one month period to this nesting site.

From June 8-9, 1977, seven meters from an active (two nestlings present, approximately three weeks old) Broad-winged Hawk nest, I constructed and placed a blind (a triangular shaped wood frame top from which brown burlap was hung) in a trembling aspen, just one kilometer south of the 1976 hawk-attack site. On June 18, 1977, after 14 total hours of observation from three previous days, the tending female Broad-wing struck and cut through one top corner of the blind on three successive flights. Repeated close flights had occurred on the previous two days of observation but no contact had been made.

The relatively close (one kilometer) proximity of the nesting sites to one another might lead to the conclusion that the attacks were from the same hawk, but both nesting sites were occupied at the same time during the 1976 and 1977 summers by Broad-winged Hawks.

The pattern of attacks on me and the blind were similar in that the strikes were made after vocal protest was given by the hawks while perched, and the hawks always perched before another attack flight occurred. In both nesting sites it was apparent that the adult hawks became "bolder" (closer flight passes at me) as the length of visit and number of my visits increased.

I visited 18 active (eggs or young present) Broad-winged Hawk nests in Wisconsin during the summers of 1976 and 1977. I found that, in general, when most nesting adult Broad-winged Hawks were disturbed by my presence, they frequently emitted alarm calls and changed perches.

Burns (1911, Wilson Bull. 23(3,4):215) is the only source that contains accounts of Broad-winged Hawks attacking people. I believe that this is the first reported case of a North American raptor striking an inanimate object such as a blind.

I would like to thank Ellis and Alice Sholund for allowing me access to their land. Also, I would like to thank Kenneth Sheeks, Vincent Heig and Colleen Rosenfield for their helpful suggestions in the preparation of this note.

Route 7
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452

Letters to The Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I must take issue with the belief stated by Noel J. Cutright in his letter in the Winter 1977 **Passenger Pigeon** that "most amateur and professional ornithologists feel that photography is the preferable alternative (to collecting) in documenting a bird rarity." I will not presume to speak for the amateur, not being one, but as a professional ornithologist I will state that if Cutright is correct, the science of ornithology is in far more serious trouble than any of us realizes!

Let us not lose sight of the fact that ornithology is a science, the branch of biological science that deals with birds. It follows that an ornithologist is a scientist, and an amateur ornithologist is one who makes contributions to the science of ornithology without getting paid to do so. Some amateur ornithologists have made contributions to the science that are of great importance; many are also collectors. It also follows that a person who does not study birds or their biology in a scientific way is **not** an ornithologist, no matter how interested in birds or how knowledgeable about them he may be. The term "amateur ornithologist" has become bastardized to include all who engage in the sport or pastime of bird watching, who do not contribute to the science of ornithology in any way. In fact, many hinder the science by their denial of the scientist's need to collect birds in efforts to advance the science. Calling a bird watcher (or birder) an amateur ornithologist is like calling me an amateur astronomer because I can recognize the big dipper or calling a fisherman an amateur ichthyologist. I suspect that what Mr. Cutright had in mind was that most bird watchers and a few amateur and professional ornithologists would prefer a photograph to a specimen in documenting a bird rarity.

Let us grant that there are some professional and amateur ornithologists who prefer not to collect birds and some who may be opposed to scientific collecting. These few, however, are aware of the importance of collections made by others and are heavy users of museums collections and the data included on specimen labels. On the other hand, let us grant that not all ornithologists who recognize the need for collecting are eager to kill every bird, rare or otherwise, that they know about.

There may be a few ornithologists who trample on the rights or feelings of bird watchers by being over-zealous or blatant in their collecting activity. I would advocate denial of the collecting permit to persons who cannot accommodate to a set of ethical standards. I believe there is a much larger body of bird watchers who would trample on the legal right and scientific need of the ornithologist to collect birds in efforts to advance the science. I would advocate that they find some other hobby.

The real point raised by Cutright's letter is whether a photograph will substitute for a specimen in documenting the occurrence of a rare (or, for that matter, any) bird. The answer to that question has to be — sometimes. It depends on the bird and on the photograph. As a scientist, I would in every instance prefer the specimen because it will provide much more information than merely a specific identification. As a realist, I know that a photograph will have to suffice in some instances. The choice is the observer's; if he is willing to trust to poor light, bad angle, and distortion of the critical identifying marks, I am willing to do without the certain knowledge that some bird strayed from its normal range. But quit sending those lousy photographs to museums, staffed by collectors, for identification or verification and expecting the

scientist-recipient to jump for joy at this advance of "knowledge." In recent months I have examined several photographs, as part of my professional duty to colleagues and the public, that I have not been able to identify with the resources of a great museum collection and excellent library at my fingertips. There definitely are occasions on which a photograph will not do, and a poor photograph can easily lead to a misidentification.

In spite of all the above, I support and applaud Cutright's suggestion that a list of photographers be compiled so that a documentation of some kind can be attempted. Until state and federal permit-granting officials revert to letting ornithologists do their jobs in a scientific manner, collecting when necessary, photographs may be all we can get. But let's not pretend that a photograph of a bird can replace a specimen as an object of scientific study. I would like also to see a list of collectors compiled, for those who want to try to provide a more definitive documentation.

For those who may not know my professional affiliation or status, I will state that I am employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ornithologist and work in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560. Please note, however, that this is a personal, not an official letter, and that the views expressed are my own.

Sincerely,
Richard C. Banks
3201 Circle Hill Road
Alexandria, VA 22305

Dear Dr. Kemper,

I wish to correct an error that has occurred in the last two issues of the **Passenger Pigeon** (Vol. 39, No. 4 and Vol. 40, No. 1). My name was repeatedly misspelled as "Koroter" in the "Field Notes" and "By the Wayside" when, in fact, I spell it with a V and not an R on the end. This is the most prevalent of many misspellings my family must endure, so I nearly always print my name in capital letters to minimize the confusion. The name is an Americanization of Korotevitchka, if that's any easier to remember.

Also, it was regrettably not I, but some other lucky birder who observed the American Avocets in Dunn County on May 19, 1977.

Sincerely,
Randy Korotev
1525 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Editor: Sorry, Randy. We had the correct spelling the first time but our associate informed us that the r ending was correct. We must have spent hours changing from the original correct to the incorrect spelling. Hope you don't get as paranoid as we are becoming. Keep your data coming. We'll never get it wrong again.

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I would like to make a suggestion concerning the WSO membership list which I believe might make it more useful, and at the same time keep it current. The most recent list I have is the January 17, 1976 edition — I have used it on numerous occasions to locate birders in a certain part of the state (when moving to a new area, or organizing bird counts in unfamiliar areas).

In order to keep the membership lists (those in the possession of the members) current, I would suggest following the format which has been adopted for extreme arrival and departure data. Namely, publish a current membership listing in an issue of

the **Passenger Pigeon** — then provide periodic updating of the list in future issues of the magazine. Thus, anyone keeping record of the changes published, will have a current membership listing in his possession.

In this respect, I am willing to prepare the list for publication. To make the information most useful, I think the entire membership list should be listed alphabetically by name with their address. Following this would be a second listing which groups members by city. For this there would be a list of names only — reference would have to be made back to the first list for addresses. In fact, I have already organized the Jan. 17, 1976, listing in this manner for my own personal use.

In order to make this current for publication, all I would need is a current membership listing from the membership chairman. This could be accomplished by running off a set of addresses as is done for each mailing of the **Birder** or **Pigeon** and sending it to me. After this listing is published in the **Pigeon** (or separately), the membership chairman would have to periodically submit any additions, deletions, or address changes for inclusion in the **Pigeon** as is now done for arrival and departure records.

If you think this would be a worthwhile venture, I would be happy to prepare the rough draft upon receipt of a current listing. Looking forward to hearing from you in this report.

Sincerely,
Dar Tiede
1428 21st Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 421-2191

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I have enclosed a documentation of my sighting of a Summer Tanager.

Bird documentation form

1. Species: Summer Tanager — Male.
2. Number; One seen.
3. Location: Plymouth, Wisconsin. Huson Park.
4. Date: May 17, 1978.
5. Time: 11:00 to 11:15 A.M.
6. Description: The bird was the size of an Cardinal. The color was all red. The shape of the bill was elongated as a Robin. The color of the bill was not noticed, but for sure it was not black. The shape of the head is similar to that of the Scarlet Tanager. The feet coloration was grayish. Note: The color red was not as bright as the Scarlet Tanager. It was more the color of a Cardinal.
7. Voice: None heard — Not familiar with it.
8. Behavior: The bird was sitting about five to eight feet above the river on a tree limb. It then leaps or flies off and darts up or down after a bug. It then returns to the same tree limb or branch. It behaves like a flycatcher or warbler. Note that some of the time the bird will go to the other side of the river. It will sit on a limb about the same height as before. It then will do the same darting over the river as before.
9. Habitat: The area consists of maples, elms, basswoods, willows, and cherry trees, and also some ashes. Maple seems to be the dominant tree. There is also an abundance of these trees (maple, elm, basswood, willows, ash and cherry)

in the shrub or new growth stage. There is a river that flows east to west. On the North side of the river there is little vegetation due to a parking lot and playground. The South side of the river has a path that follows it. There is also a fifty to sixty-five degree incline which starts at the south edge of the path. There is also a bridge that is used to enter the park from the North.

10. Similar species that are eliminated: The Cardinal was eliminated because the bird had no crest or black in face as the Cardinal would have. Plus it didn't act like a Cardinal. The Scarlet Tanager was eliminated because the bird was all red. Also the bill was not a Cardinal bill.
11. Distance: The bird was about 10 to 15 feet away. The distance was measured by guess.
12. Glass: Thorobred 7x50 lightweight.
13. Light: It was sunny. The bird was in the West. So the conditions were excellent.
14. Experience: This was my first sighting of a Summer Tanager. I am quite familiar with the Cardinal and Scarlet Tanager. The day before sighting I was able to see a Scarlet Tanager at Mr. Brummer's banding site.
15. Other Observers: None.
16. Did others agree with identification: _____
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
None. Although Mr. H. Koopmann has mentioned a sighting of the female Summer Tanager to me a couple of weeks later.
18. Books used: Robbins, Brunn, and Zim. **BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**. The book did little to influence the description. But it did help to identify the bird.

Robert L. Brigham
414 Western Ave.
Plymouth, WI

Dear Dr. Kemper:

On May 31, 1978 Todd Eisele and I observed what we believed to be a white ibis (**Eudocimus albus**) at the cormorant-heron rookery in the Mead Wildlife Area. The rookery is situated in dead trees in the center of a large flowage.

We were on the dike south of the rookery when we noticed a large, white bird approximately 150 yards away in the rookery. The first thing I noticed was the long, decurved bill which immediately brought to mind an ibis. Closer inspection revealed a dark lining on the wing tip which contrasted with the white body. The face and bill appeared to be reddish colored. The bird was preening while perched on a limb fifteen to twenty feet above the water. The dark wing tips were clearly seen when the bird flew from its perch to another fifty yards away. Its size approximated that of the black-crowned night herons which were also present in the rookery.

We observed the bird with a 22x60 spotting scope and 6-12x32 binoculars for twenty minutes (9:00 - 9:20 a.m.). The morning skies were clear.

From the drawings and descriptions in **Birds of North America** by Robbins, Brunn and Zim, which we had with us at the time of the sighting, we concluded that it could only be a white ibis.

Sincerely,
James Hoefler
Todd Eisele

BALD EAGLE-OSPREY SURVEY REPORT U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION 1977

By H. Peter Wingle

This report summarizes the 1977 bald eagle and osprey nesting surveys on and near National Forests in the Lakes States. Nest surveys are normally conducted with an airplane and consist of four separate flights. Eagle nests are observed in early April to determine nest occupancy and again in late June or early July to determine nesting success. Osprey nests are checked in May and late July.

Two hundred and sixty-five eagle territories were observed to determine occupancy. Adult eagles were present at 197 (74%) of these at the time of the first airplane flight. Numbers of territories, successful nests and young birds raised to fledging state are all the highest recorded since the beginning of the survey.

Osprey nesting data are less reliable but here also we observed more active nests, more successful nests and more young produced than in any other year of the survey.

H. Peter Wingle, Director
Recreation, Range, Wildlife
and Landscape Management

**FIND THIS BIRD
ONLY IN
RACINE**



**W.H. PUGH OIL CO.
Racine, Wisconsin**

OSPREY NESTING TRENDS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

| YEAR | VERIFIED NESTS | | PAIR TERRITORIES CHECKED | ACTIVE NESTS | | SUCCESSFUL NESTS | | YOUNG | | |
|------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----|---------------------|-----|-------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | NESTS | CHECKED | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | Per Nest | Per Active Nest |
| 1965 | 79 | 63 | | 37 | 59 | 10 | 27 | 11 | 1.1 | .30 |
| 1966 | 94 | 62 | | 28 | 45 | -- | -- | 5 | 1.3 | -- |
| 1967 | 137 | 70 | | 43 | 61 | 12 | 28 | 23 | 1.9 | .53 |
| 1968 | 152 | 113 | | 73 | 65 | 21 | 29 | 27 | 1.3 | .37 |
| 1969 | 183 | 142 | | 72 | 51 | 28 | 39 | 55 | 2.0 | .76 |
| 1970 | 157 | 118 | 93 | 84 | 71 | 42 | 50 | 74 | 1.8 | .88 |
| 1971 | 140 | 100 | | 66 | 66 | 34 | 52 | 55 | 1.6 | .83 |
| 1972 | 205 | 170 | 130 | 111 | 65 | 59 | 53 | 97 | 1.6 | .87 |
| 1973 | 226 | 181 | 154 | 127 | 70 | 21 | 38* | 36 | 1.7 | .65* |
| 1974 | 252 | 208 | 140 | 140 | 67 | 73 | 52 | 118 | 1.6 | .84 |
| 1975 | 238 | 176 | 157 | 115 | 65 | 59 | 51 | 102 | 1.7 | .97 |
| 1976 | 249 | 173 | 154 | 117 | 68 | 70 | 60 | 120 | 1.7 | 1.03 |
| 1977 | 254 | 234 | 197 | 159 | 68 | 89 | 57 | 147 | 1.7 | .92 |

* Chippewa NF incomplete data excluded from calculations.

BALD EAGLE NESTING TRENDS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

| YEAR | VERIFIED NESTS | PAIR TERRITORIES CHECKED | CHECKED | ACTIVE NESTS | | SUCCESSFUL NESTS | | YOUNG | | |
|------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------|----|---------------------|----|-------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | Per Nest | Per Active Nest |
| 1964 | 156 | 129 | | 64 | 50 | 36 | 56 | 51 | 1.4 | .80 |
| 1965 | 204 | 179 | | 113 | 63 | 62 | 55 | 88 | 1.4 | .78 |
| 1966 | 265 | 200 | | 113 | 57 | 46 | 40 | 67 | 1.7 | .59 |
| 1967 | 304 | 209 | | 110 | 53 | 42 | 38 | 63 | 1.5 | .57 |
| 1968 | 323 | 268 | | 119 | 44 | 66 | 55 | 98 | 1.9 | .82 |
| 1969 | 344 | 284 | 166 | 129 | 45 | 72 | 56 | 109 | 1.5 | .85 |
| 1970 | 294 | 258 | 189 | 124 | 48 | 64 | 52 | 107 | 1.7 | .86 |
| 1971 | 327 | 271 | 188 | 128 | 51 | 77 | 56 | 115 | 1.5 | .83 |
| 1972 | 356 | 345 | 238 | 167 | 48 | 97 | 58 | 155 | 1.6 | .93 |
| 1973 | 382 | 351 | 264 | 171 | 49 | 99 | 58 | 163 | 1.6 | .95 |
| 1974 | 381 | 355 | 257 | 170 | 48 | 89 | 52 | 119 | 1.3 | .70 |
| 1975 | 398 | 401 | 285 | 176 | 44 | 117 | 67 | 192 | 1.6 | 1.09 |
| 1976 | 414 | 421 | 260 | 178 | 42 | 126 | 71 | 187 | 1.5 | 1.05 |
| 1977 | 421 | 447 | 265 | 197 | 43 | 138 | 70 | 212 | 1.5 | 1.08 |

OSPREY NESTING STATUS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

Year 1977

| FOREST AND STATE | VERIFIED <u>1976</u> | NESTS <u>1977</u> | NESTS CHECKED | PAIR TERRITORIES CHECKED | ACTIVE NESTS | SUCCESSFUL NESTS | YOUNG PRODUCED |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| OTTAWA | 12 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 8 | 12 |
| HIAWATHA | 26 | 23 | 29 | 21 | 16 | 8 | 13 |
| HURON-MANISTEE | | | | | | | |
| MICHIGAN | 38 | 38 | 44 | 35 | 29 | 16 | 25 |
| CHEQUAMEGON | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| NICOLET | 32 | 27 | 38 | 35 | 19 | 17 | 29 |
| WISCONSIN | 35 | 31 | 42 | 39 | 20 | 18 | 32 |
| SUPERIOR | 38 | 39 | 39 | 36 | 23 | 18 | 24 |
| CHIPPEWA | 138 | 146 | 109 | 87 | 87 | 37 | 66 |
| MINNESOTA | 176 | 185 | 148 | 123 | 110 | 55 | 90 |
| REGION 9 TOTALS | 249 | 254 | 234 | 197 | 159 | 89 | 147 |

BALD EAGLE NESTING STATUS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

Year 1977

| FOREST AND STATE | VERIFIED <u>1976</u> | NESTS <u>1977</u> | NEST LOCATIONS CHECKED | PAIR TERRITORIES OBSERVED | OCCUPIED NESTS | SUCCESSFUL NESTS | YOUNG PRODUCED |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ottawa | 76 | 76 | 75 | 42 | 31 | 22 | 36 |
| Hiawatha | 19 | 16 | 29 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Huron-Manistee | 19 | 16 | 21 | 12 | 11 | 5 | 8 |
| MICHIGAN | 114 | 108 | 125 | 70 | 48 | 29 | 47 |
| CHEQUAMEGON | 21 | 22 | 23 | 16 | 15 | 11 | 17 |
| NICOLET | 30 | 32 | 33 | 22 | 18 | 12 | 19 |
| WISCONSIN | 51 | 54 | 56 | 38 | 33 | 23 | 36 |
| SUPERIOR | 73 | 65 | 73 | 52 | 39 | 29 | 43 |
| CHIPPEWA | 176 | 194 | 193 | 105 | 77 | 57 | 86 |
| MINNESOTA | 249 | 259 | 266 | 157 | 116 | 86 | 129 |
| REGION 9 TOTALS | 414 | 421 | 447 | 265 | 197 | 138 | 212 |



Acadian Flycatcher by Rockne Knuth.

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