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The Passenger Pigeon

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

Vol. I.

January 1909

No. 1

PLANS FOR THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

The Madison Bird Club has in mind a State Bird Club that will unite all the ornithologists of the state, both professional and amateur, to cooperate with State and Federal authorities in bringing about better enforcement of all existing laws, both State and Federal, and to make new laws which protect bird life in Wisconsin. A Club that will promote the study of Birds of Wisconsin, especially in the field, and to bring together and permanently record all accurate and authentic data relative thereto, both past and present, especially on the distribution, relative abundance, seasonal occurrence, breeding, feeding, song and other habits. A Club that will have a staff of officers composed of the best leaders in Wisconsin, preferably selected from various parts of the state.

Such a society would not interfere with existing societies within the state as it covers a different field. Accordingly it will draw many of its members from their ranks, as is the case in Madison; further, the Society will promote the establishment of local groups in several sections of the state where none at the present time exist.

As is the rule, only one meeting could be conducted a year; but the club would be held together by a monthly bulletin, that would publish all field notes received from members, which, in the opinion of the Editor and Executive Committee, are worthy of permanent record. In addition to the Field Note Department, the bulletin should contain announcements and news of the Society, and articles of a general character. We hope we will obtain articles for the latter department from ornithologists in the state who are doing creative or experimental work, so that the bulletin will become a source of information.

The Madison Bird Club is inviting the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology to Madison this Spring for the first Annual meeting. (Please turn to page 14)

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology
(Subscription price \$1.00 for twelve issues)

Temporary Officers of the Society (All of Madison)

President--N. P. Barger, 625 Mendota Court

Sec.-Treas.--Earl Mitchell, 311 Campbell Ave.

Directors--Mrs. Arthur Koehler, 109 Chestnut St.

Mrs. R. A. Walker, 2222 Chamberlain Ave.

Reporter--Miss Ruth Koehler, 109 Chestnut St.

Editor--W. E. Scott, Wisconsin Conservation Dept., Annex
20 N. Carroll St.

THE NEED FOR A SOCIETY IN WISCONSIN

For years Wisconsin ornithologists have realized the need for some type of organization which would bring them into closer contact with each other in their mutual interest and also stimulate activity in a more thorough field study of Wisconsin's bird life. Also for years, plans for the preparation of a detailed and accurate work on the birds of Wisconsin has been under consideration. However, in spite of the great mass of field study that has been done in the past, some records need additional evidence to strengthen their claim as a Wisconsin species; other conflicting species and subspecies must be studied in more detail, and whole regions of the State should be investigated more thoroughly for possible nesting and migration data.

With full realization of the difficulty of outlining such an important study, and with understanding of the difficulties involved in publishing this bulletin monthly, the Madison Bird Club has taken the initiative of laying the groundwork for a Spring organization meeting of interested parties. We will need full support in subscriptions to the bulletin, contributions of articles and field notes and in general interest. Especially, do we need reports from the northern part of the state.

The editor wishes to assure the readers that an attempt will be made to carry the most valuable material and original articles whenever possible. We shall also try to republish such early Wisconsin records as those of Hoy, Barry, Willard, Grundtvig, Thure Kumlein and others; also to carry transcripts of rare Wisconsin bird records, notes from back issues of the "Auk" and other sources. We feel that such a coupling of past and present records will give a better understanding of our subject, if not the final solution. This bulletin will be valuable for your files.

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

By A. W. Schorger, Madison, Wisconsin*

The nesting of the Passenger Pigeon at Petoskey, Michigan, in 1878, is assumed usually to have been the largest that ever occurred. Professor Roney, in his paper so often cited, states regarding the above: "Here, a few miles north, was a pigeon nesting of irregular dimensions, estimated by those best qualified to judge, to be forty miles in length, by three to ten in width, probably the largest nesting that has ever existed in the United States, covering something like 100,000 acres of land, and including not less than 150,000 acres within its limits." The nesting in Wisconsin in 1871 was so much larger that one hesitates to believe the evidence. This nesting had a minimum length of 75 miles and a width of 10 to 15 miles. A conservative estimate of the area is 850 square miles. It can be stated without hesitation that Wisconsin had the largest nesting that has ever been described.

For years I have been collecting information on the history of the Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin. The data in the formal literature were disappointingly meagre. Little progress was made until the thought occurred that any nesting or trapping of consequence should receive mention in the local papers. An examination of the files of the Wisconsin newspapers provided information that exceeded all expectations. It led to the discovery of the 1871 nesting and this paper will be limited to it.

Distribution of Nesting Areas

It was characteristic of the Passenger Pigeon to fly and nest en masse. A popular assumption is that the nestings were limited to a single or a few large areas; but this is far from the truth. Within its range the species nested over the entire area in single pairs, small groups, and colonies covering from a few hundred to thousands of acres. Frequently there were several nestings in the same region. In 1858, a beechnut year, there were three separate simultaneous nestings in Oconto County, Wisconsin, (Green Bay Advocate, June 8 and 10, 1858). There was one nesting 1.5 miles wide by 7 miles long on the Peshtigo river; a second on the Oconto river

*Reprinted from the October 1937 Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York, with the kind permission of their Board of Directors and of the author.

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reported as larger than the first; and a third, covering two square miles on the same stream. In certain favored sections the Pigeons nested annually in variable numbers, while in others nestings were erratic. Huge nesting areas were the exception. Wilson mentions one south of Danville, Kentucky, in 1810, that was 3 miles wide by 40 miles long. In 1843 (?) there was a nesting on the left bank of the Mississippi extending down the river from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, "the whole length of the roost being about forty-five miles."

The food supply was a natural control on the size of the nestings and their distribution. The breeding areas were usually in long lines. The reason for this offers a fertile field for speculation. Presumably this form facilitated arrival and departure from the nesting. The cruising range is stated to have been 50 to 100 miles daily. A simple mathematical calculation will show that a line does not afford the maximum accessible food area. Assuming a cruising range of 50 miles for a nesting covering 120 square miles, it is found that the radius of a circular nesting would be about 6.3 miles. The feeding area available 50 miles from this circle would be over twice that afforded on the sides of a parallelogram 40 miles long by 3 miles wide.

In order to illustrate the distribution of the nestings during the period under discussion, a few examples will be given. In certain years no large nestings appear to have occurred due to lack of mast.

1864

- Minnesota ---- Nesting at St. Charles.
- Wisconsin ---- Large nesting in the Kickapoo woods south of Leon.
- Michigan ---- Large nesting between South Haven and St. Joseph.

1865

- Canada ---- Large nesting at Angus Station, Georgian Bay, Ontario.
- Wisconsin ---- Nestings at Afton, Brandon and Appleton destroyed by snowstorm.
- Minnesota ---- Nesting in the Chatfield timber near Rochester.
- Michigan ---- Large nesting at Marquette, upper Peninsula.

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1866

- Pennsylvania --- Nestings in Potter County and at Wilcox, Elk County.
- Michigan ---- Nestings at Grand Haven on Lake Michigan; Forestville, Sanilac County; Town of Vassar, Tuscola County; and Van Buren County; where no nesting had occurred for fifteen years.
- Indiana ---- Large nesting at Martinsville, Morgan County.

1867

Nestings in Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin were broken up by shooting and deep snow.

1868

- Michigan ---- Large nesting at Manistee, Manistee County.
- Pennsylvania --- Nestings in Northwestern counties.

1869

- Wisconsin ---- Comparatively small nesting in the Richland timber, southeast of Monroe in Green County; a large nesting south of Sparta; and a nesting at Oakfield, Fond du Lac County, broken up by farmers.
- Michigan ---- Nesting at Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County. There were also nestings in Indiana and Canada.

1870

- Canada ---- Nesting at Goderich, Ontario.
- Pennsylvania --- Nestings in McKean and Potter counties reported to be the largest since 1830.
- Michigan ---- Nestings at Glen Haven and Cheboygan.

1871

- Wisconsin ---- Large nesting in south central portion of state.

1872

- New York ---- Nesting in the southern end of Ulster County.
- Michigan ---- Large nesting at South Haven, Van Buren County; and another at Glim Lake.
- Wisconsin ---- Nesting three miles long near Shawano, Shawano County; and a large nesting in Brussels Township, Door County.

1873

- Wisconsin ---- Small nesting in Springfield Township, Marquette County.
- Minnesota ---- Nesting four miles long northwest of Rochester in Olmsted County.

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One dealer has stated that he followed the main body through Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota and that there was no large nesting owing to the scarcity of mast; and that he later learned that there was a small nesting in the western part of Minnesota, a small one in New York and one in Michigan. Another dealer confirms this: "In 1873 we did baiting in Ohio and Wisconsin but located no nesting."

Distribution of Nesting Areas

In studying the nesting of 1871 I have attempted to get definite information on the following points:

- 1) The flight ways and movements northward.
- 2) The area covered and its outline.
- 3) An estimate of the number of birds nesting.
- 4) The number of birds killed by trappers and sportsmen.
- 5) The food consumed.
- 6) The number of eggs or squabs in the nest.
- 7) Was there a second nesting?
- 8) Where did the pigeons go after the nesting?

The Flight Ways and Movements Northward

The Pigeons appear to have migrated into Wisconsin over the western two-thirds of the state. The Mississippi and Rock River valleys, especially the latter, were two main funnels by which the birds poured into the nesting area. The main column passed through Beloit, Monroe, Janesville, Staughton, Madison, Jefferson, Watertown, Baraboo and Kilbourn. The Mississippi column passed over La Crosse swinging northeast to Black River Falls, Scarta and Tomah.

The Beloit Journal of March 16, mentions that pigeons were flying north in large numbers, while on the 23rd extensive preparations were being made for trapping in the vicinity. At the same time pigeon hunters were out in force at Monroe. The Janesville Gazette of March 9 states that pigeons are flying northward; on the 15th large flocks are mentioned, while on the 20th it is said: "Trapping pigeons is a profitable vocation to many of our farmers." On the 28th pigeons are mentioned at Lake Koshkonong so that the flight continued over a period of at least three weeks. On March 11, the Madison Democrat stated that "pigeons fly every morning in thousands."

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The Jefferson Banner of March 15 states that "pigeons were flying quite lively last week." On the same date the Watertown Republican informs us that "Myriads of wild pigeons...put in an appearance in this vicinity last week." They are mentioned at Columbus for March 8 and 29, and at Lodi on March 22. The Baraboo Republic states on March 8 that "large flocks of pigeons have been seen passing over the village for the last day or two." We now approach the concentration point. The editor of the Kilbourn Mirror was apparently not impressed by the early flights for pigeons are not mentioned until April 22. The day previous the entire village seems to have turned out for a pigeon hunt, and it was estimated that 2,000 were killed and 1,500 brought into town. Numbers finally made an impression for the May 6 issue reads: "...it seems unaccountable where they all come from..For the past three weeks they have been flying in countless flocks which no man could number. On Saturday, April 22, for about two hours before nightfall, they flew in one continuous flock from south to north, darkening the air and astonishing the people by the sound of their wings and could be seen for miles in extent. And they have still continued to come, although not in so great numbers."

Snowstorms caused an ebb and flow. There was one in Adams County as late as April 10, at which time the pigeons were reported to be nesting. At Columbus on March 8, the birds were flying southward. They appeared at Fond du Lac on March 11, and on April 8 we read: "The flocks without any end either way succeed each other in rapid succession." Pigeons appeared at Wautoma March 2, several days prior to mention of their presence in the southern part of the state. The Appleton Crescent on April 1, states: "Wild pigeons are hurrying northward." They were reported as far north as Shawano on April 6. There was no nesting in the northern part of the state so far as I have been able to determine. All the birds that made an early appearance in the Lake Winnebago region appear to have wheeled about eventually, to nest in Adams County.

In the region of the Mississippi Valley, pigeons appeared at La Crosse on March 7, and on March 9, they "darken the vernal atmosphere". By the 17th they were at Hudson. The flight does not appear to have extended inland to any great extent. The Viroqua Censor states on March 15th that wild pigeons have made their appearance

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though they are not very plentiful as yet. That the main western flight followed the river rather closely is supported by the statement of Leffingwell that "they annually flew up the Valley of the Mississippi following the river in its windings."

The southwestern portion of the state had no flight or during comment except at Platteville where on March 9 numerous flocks were stated to have appeared. Most of the papers do not mention them at all. Pigeons appeared at Mineral Point, March 15, but are not mentioned again. At Darlington, they are reported on March 15, but only in connection with a hunting accident. On the other hand, the flight of 1873 is noted.

Lack of editorial comment is not conclusive evidence of the absence of pigeons as will be observed from the papers within and on the edge of the nesting area. The Friendship Adams County Press does not comment until April 8 when "Clouds of pigeons fill the air" and damage to crops is feared. The editor of the Mauston Star is finally moved to mention pigeons on April 20 after receiving a "fine lot" for a pigeon pie. The new Lisbon Argus is more observing. On March 16 it states: "During the early part of this week immense flocks of wild pigeons were wending their way north, and they still continue to come." This is further proof that most of the pigeons came via Kilbourn and the Rock River valley. At Sparta, pigeons are not mentioned until April 11. On the 18th there are "immense numbers." The birds arrived at Black River Falls, March 11, and by April 8 there were thousands.

Not one reference was found to pigeons moving along Lake Michigan. The editor at Sturgeon Bay commented on April 6: "No pigeons have made their appearance here this spring." This statement is important for the reason that in a year when the pigeons nested in Michigan, part of them frequently followed the shores of Green Bay. From this point they entered Michigan by way of the Upper Peninsula or crossed Lake Michigan over the Manitou Islands.

The Area Covered and Its Outline

It is not possible to outline the nesting area with satisfactory accuracy. There are ample independent observations as to its length, however. John Juir quotes Chief Pokagon as follows: "I saw one nesting-place in Wisconsin one hundred miles long and from three to ten miles wide." Mershon quotes from a letter received from

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Mr. Henry T. Phillips, the Detroit game dealer: "In Wisconsin I have seen a continual nesting for 100 miles, with from one to possibly fifty nests on every oak scrub." In neither case is there any indication as to date or location. It is safe to assume that they refer to the 1871 nesting, since I have been unable to discover any other nesting since 1850 that approached it in magnitude. In a letter dated December 17, 1896 Pokagon, without reference to size, mentions visiting a nesting "north of Kilbourn City Wisconsin, about twenty-five years ago," making the date exactly 1871.

The local editors appear to have known little about the vast pigeon roost outside of their own bailiwick. The best information comes from visitors outside of the area. General Henry Harnden visited the section north of Kilbourn and spent several days on the breeding ground. He states that the roost commenced five miles from Kilbourn, was eight to ten miles wide, and extended as far north as Grand Rapids in Portage County, a distance of forty or forty-five miles. The editor of the Kilbourn Mirror, under date of April 22, states that the nesting begins about six miles from the village. According to travelers and farmers, the nesting was "three miles wide and fifty miles in extent north."

There is a good description of the roost by Hugh Kelley published in the Baraboo Republic for May 3. Abandoned nests were found, on leaving Kilbourn, as soon as his party struck timber. They went ten miles and pitched their tent where the pigeons were "thick as locusts." As a matter of fact, nearly all of the timbered portions of Adams County seem to have been occupied by pigeons to some extent. In the northern part of the county the nesting extended entirely across it, a distance of 25 miles. The editor at Friendship, April 15, states: "The pigeons are nesting three or four miles north of this place. The nesting ground extends for miles in the towns of Strong's Prairie, Monroe, Preston, Big Flats, and Leola. Flocks containing tens of thousands of the birds are continually flying over, while the woods are literally alive with them." This shows that the nesting extended to the top of Adams County, if not as far as Grand Rapids. Unfortunately, a paper from the latter town is not available. It is entirely probable that the nesting did extend nearly to Grand Rapids for the Plover Times of May 13 states: Several loads of young pigeons passed

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through our village this week. They were captured below Grand Rapids, where the pigeons have nested and hatched."

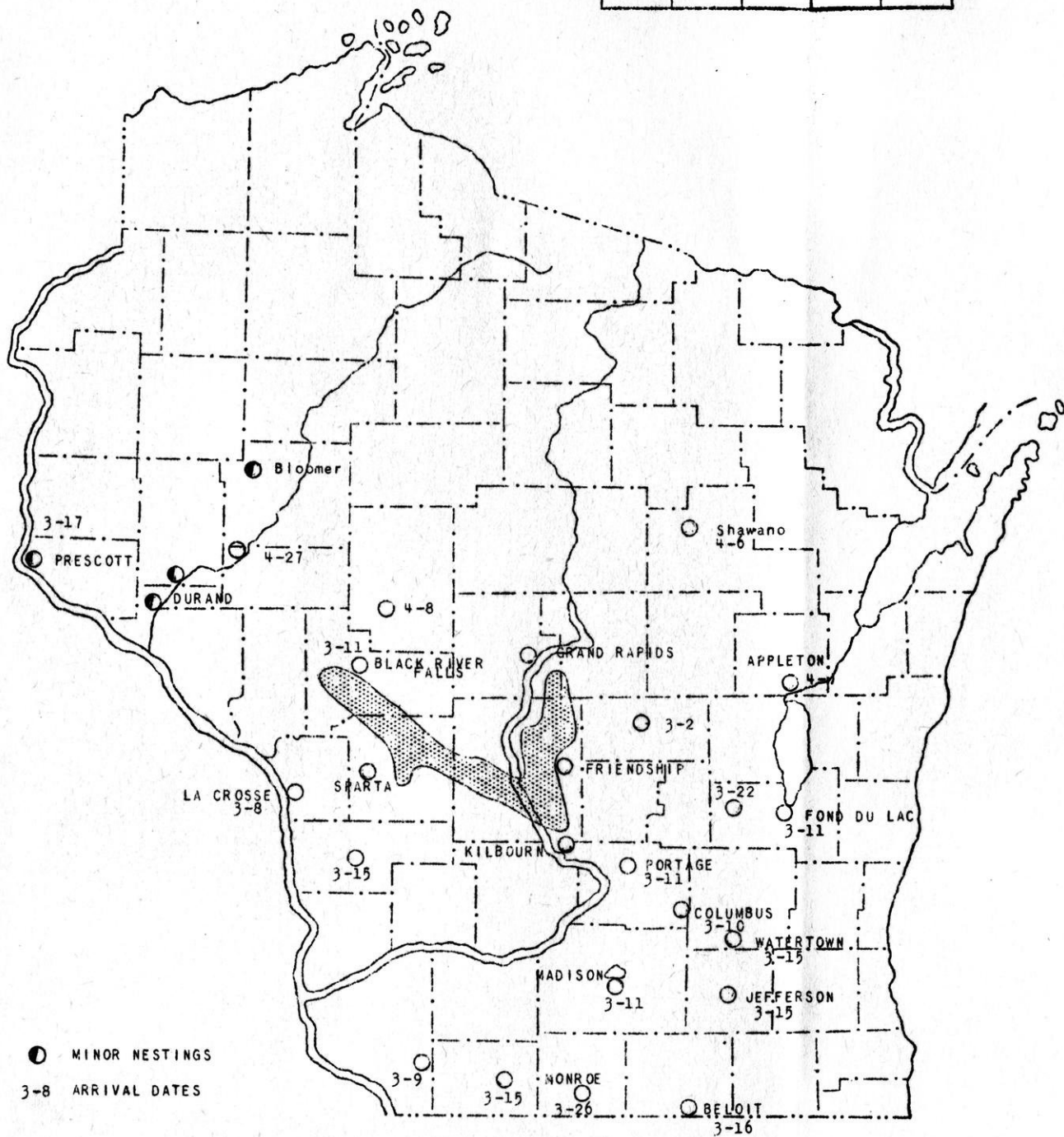
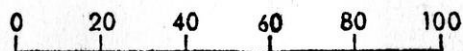
It would be conservative to take a length of 50 miles and an average width of 8 miles, or 400 square miles for the nesting east of the Wisconsin River. I have found no evidence that the nesting extended into Oaushara and Marquette County, though the northwestern corner of Marquette County, as well as Adams County, was considered favored nesting ground. The Waushara Argus, of Wautoma, on April 27 states: "These birds are very numerous in this part of the state. It is said that they are nesting west of Flyte's Mills in Adams County."

Mr. Hugh Kelly in the article above cited says: "This roost extends from Kilbourn to Black River Falls, and varies in width from ten to fifteen miles. Inside this tract as far as I have been, not a single tree has been slighted by the nest builders." He is not alone in this statement. There is a long article in the Fond du Lac Commonwealth of May 20, in which the writer states that his party "headed for the great pigeon roost, stretching from Kilbourn City on the Wisconsin River, for scores of miles beyond." The Portage Register of May 6 published a short article on the "Pigeon Trade." The information was obtained from agents of the American Merchants' Union Express, who should have been well informed of the extent of the nesting. It states: "Few persons have any adequate idea of the extent of the pigeon trade carried on at points on the La Crosse road west of here. The country from Kilbourn City to Sparta and as far north as Grand Rapids has been taken possession of by the pigeons, and converted into one grand roost, from which the birds radiate."

On April 18, the Sparta Herald states: "There is said to be a pigeon roost on Silver Creek, from which large numbers are taken"; on April 25: "These birds are a prominent topic of conversation...in Sparta and Vicinity. They are nesting in immense numbers in the woods, extending from the Kickapoo far up into Jackson County, and covering a territory many miles in extent eastward. They can be reached by a drive of six to eight miles from Sparta, in a northeasterly direction." The Black River Falls Banner (April 29) extends the roost by announcing: "From J. B. Melrose, we learn that the timber land between this place and Big Creek is literally alive with pigeons from three to seven miles in extent in every direction." Whether the nest-

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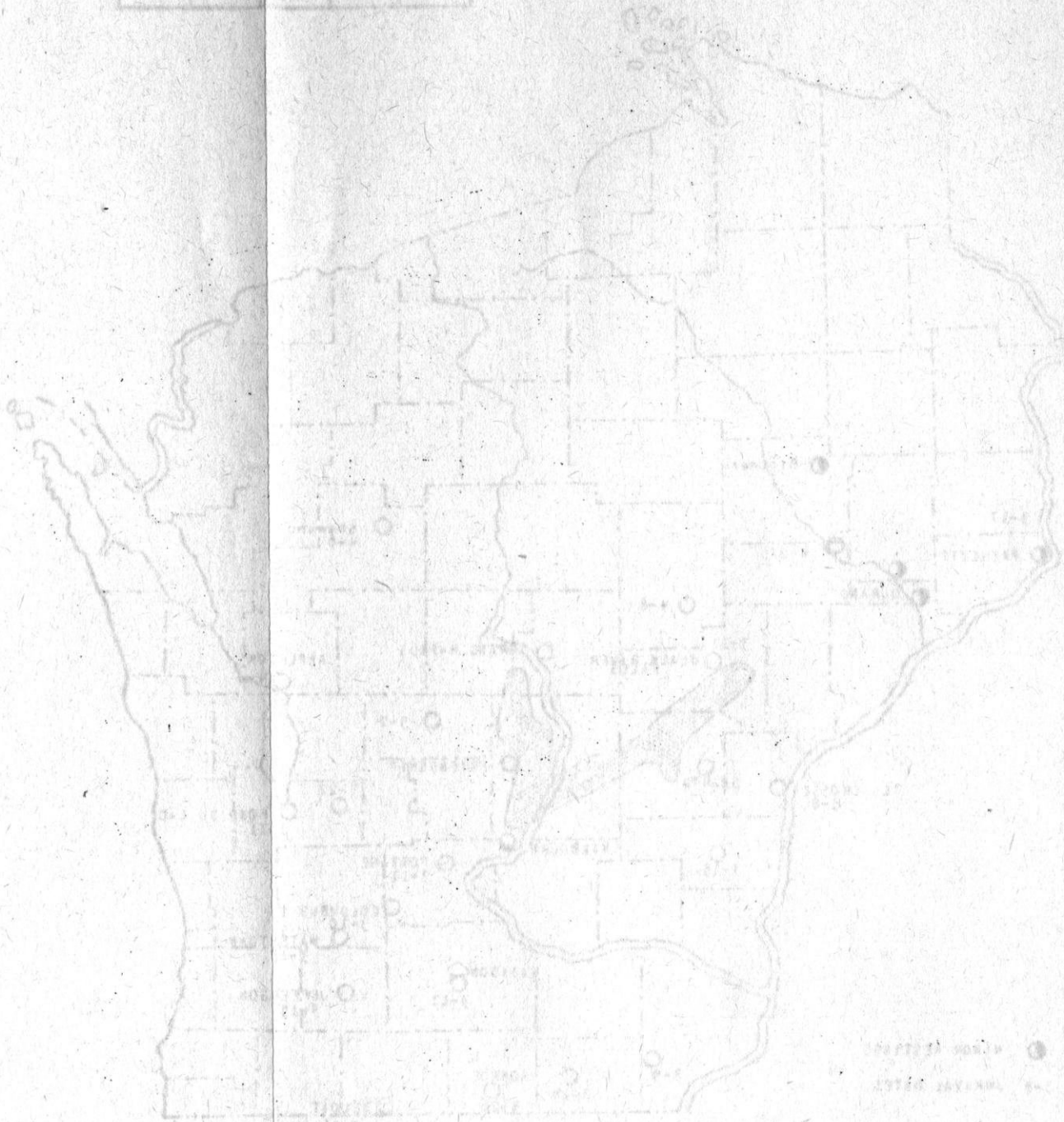
SCALE OF MILES



Situation and Extent of Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting of 1871

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SCALE OF MILES



Station and Range of Wisconsin Forest for Forest of 1911

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ing extended as far as Augusta is not known satisfactorily. From Kilbourn to the known western extremity of the nesting is approximately 75 miles; if the nesting extended to Augusta the length was 100 miles, in agreement with the statements of Phillips and Chief Pokagon. There are other reasons for believing that the nesting extended to Augusta, though Mr. Alvin McKnight of this city informed me recently that they never nested there. Mershon has a letter from Mr. E. Osborn to H. T. Phillips in which Osborn states: "In 1871 we located a large body at Tomah, Wisconsin, and did some heavy shipping...We also shipped from Augusta, Wisconsin, express, \$13.50 per barrel. A nesting at Eau Claire, but we could not get to do much with them there." In another letter Osborn says of large catches by netting: "At Augusta, Wisconsin, in 1871, Charles Curtin, then of Indiana, over one hundred dozen; William W. Cone of Masonville, N. Y., Samuel Schook of Circleville, Ohio, and some other boys, 100 dozen and over."

At this period trapping was usually done close to the nesting. The evidence is not conclusive, however, that there was a nesting. The Adams County birds fed extensively to the eastward and there was much trapping by baiting in Waushara and Marquette Counties.

Taking the nesting west of the Wisconsin River as 75 miles long and averaging 6 miles wide, we have 450 square miles. Adding to this the 400 square miles in Adams County, we have a continuous "roost" of 850 square miles.

(Continued on page 13)

SOME GROUSE RECORDS

During the past grouse season Roy Hamblin, of Hayward, shot a Spruce Grouse by accident, believing it was a Ruffed Grouse. The bird was killed about 20 miles east of Hayward and is now mounted in the Conservation Department's Museum at Poynette. Hamblin located four more birds recently.

Unusual as Ruffed Grouse are in Jefferson County, one came to Hellenville and walked into the garage there. The bird was captured and sent to the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm at Poynette, where research in the feeding and possible propagation of native grouse is being carried on.

DECEMBER FIELD RECORDS

Field Notes of the month just completed will be recorded in this department in very much the same style as "The Season" in BIRD-LORE magazine. What we want is set forth on the first page of this issue. Needless to say reporters shall give the name of the observer in case of a rare bird. We have to have local reporters in the areas where there are many observers to compile their local area, which in turn will be sent to the editor. We have not made any effort at completeness in this issue, but the following two reports will show the form to follow:

Milwaukee Area.—A great deal of interest centered around the Duck situation at Milwaukee during December. Scott reported several pair of Baldpate, five pair of Shoveller, two pair of Pintail, Coot and a Loon as late as December 25. Previous to that on December 1, Hooded Mergansers and the Old Squaw were present. Even the Caspian Tern, Barnard's Gull, and the rarer Franklin's Gull were recorded on the same date. On December 3 the Sparrow Hawk was still present, and the seldom seen Saw-whet Owl was reported at the December meeting. Pelicans and Siskins were present, and Robins had local feeding until after Christmas.—C. L. Strelitzer, reporter.

Malison Area.—December, until Christmas, was very favorable for late water-fowl records. As late as December 26, about 3,000 ducks were estimated by J. S. Main as being present near Malison, representing about fifteen species. Such surprises as Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail and Blue-winged Teal were seen, and previous to that, on December 10, the Pied-billed Grebe was still here. Rather large flocks of Herring Gulls, Rusties and Red-rings remained about two weeks later than usual. One Bluebird was seen on December 10 and a Bronzed Grackle on the 26. Harry Anderson called our attention to an unusually large flock of about twelve Long-eared Owls concentrated in a small thicket in the University Arboretum. Apparently they were living upon the mice so numerous this year. Mr. Main found a flock of about ten Evening Grosbeaks in the Malison suburbs December 26. It is usually about three or four years that we have to wait between their visits here. Arnold Jackson, Jr. and Leland Haskins found a Short-eared Owl, and several Larland Longsours at Faville Grove, December 19. Several miles west of Malison, on December 29, they came upon a Ruffed Grouse, a bird seldom seen in Dane

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County as a rule, and a flock of Redpolls. The latter are of irregular occurrence here. They were also surprised to find twenty Mead wharls in the same area, some of which were calling. The Rough-legged Hawk has been here as usual one being found in December 10 by Barger while searching for Swamp Sparrows near the Yahara River. To see a few of these sparrows here every winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches were of regular occurrence during December, being found chiefly near coniferous trees. Robert Fairfield found 24 Pinnated Grouse about six miles north of Madison on December 12. Fairfield and Scott, while visiting a marsh near Lakeview on December 14, estimated about 5,000 ducks, mostly Blacks and Mallard. The ratio of Blacks to Mallards was about 1 to 6.—N. R. Barger, reporter.

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(Continued from page 11)

This was not all. There were several isolated nestings of which at least four are known. A nesting mentioned for Berlin appears to have been a temporary roost. I have been unable to obtain further information in the nesting at Eau Claire mentioned by Osborn. There was a nesting of considerable size north of Bloomer. The Chippewa Falls Herald under date of June 3 states: "Chippewa County, not to be outdone by any other place in the state, has a pigeon roost, where millions of them are nesting, just about four miles above Bloomer. Parties who have been up there describe the scene as very interesting." There was also a nesting on an island in the Mississippi below Prescott, June 21. The nesting at Durand was by nature better defined. The Durand Times of May 2 states: "There are millions of pigeons nesting on Nine Mile Island, in the Chippewa River three miles north of Durand, has an area of about 4 square miles. On May 8 an excursion party went by boat to the island from Durand. In three-quarters of an hour 12 hunters shot 215 pigeons that were recovered, in addition to many others that were not found. There is reason for supposing that these isolated nestings were second attempts and will be discussed later. (Concluded next issue)

NEWS

Mr. Fred Hammerstrom, Jr. is now located at Plainfield, Wisconsin, where he is banding Pinnated and Sharp-tailed Grouse, in his study of their habits and range. The returns on over 1,000 of these birds banded throughout the state last year were below expectations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The first Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology will be held at Madison this Spring. Detailed arrangements will be announced in subsequent issues.

Field notes or manuscripts intended for publication should be sent in the first of each month. Observations for the month of January will appear in the February issue. No manuscripts received after the seventh will be published, with the exception of this coming month when the deadline will be February 15th. Mail all material for publication to the editor. The February issue will be mailed to those who indicate their wish to join before the February copy is ready for mailing. It would be advisable to subscribe, therefore, before February 15. The Subscription price is tentatively set at \$1.00 per year. Send your order to the Secretary-Treasurer, Earl Mitchell, 311 Campbell Ave., Madison, Wisconsin. If these subscriptions are all in by February 15, we will be able to prepare a more useful and larger bulletin, next time. Such immediate response would also lead to a printed bulletin, in the near future, to take the place of these mimeographed copies.

PLANS FOR THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

(Continued from page 1.)

Thus it feels that no permanent constitution or other rules should be made until all who are interested have a chance to say their part. Since this meeting will probably be held late enough to promise visitors a worthwhile field trip around Madison, we suggest the following temporary set-up:

Our local staff of officers will serve as a temporary executive committee. We will publish the bulletin, beginning with this January number, until the Spring meeting. All who wish to join are requested to send one dollar (\$1.00) as a year's subscription to the bulletin, to the Secretary-Treasurer. THE MADISON BIRD CLUB WILL GUARANTEE THIS SUBSCRIPTION OR YOUR MONEY BACK. Then at the Spring meeting, when classification of membership is made, and dues set, everyone will be credited with his dollar, and the bulletin sent free to members. Several hundred of these January bulletins are being mailed to addresses we have secured. If you know of others, please mail their names and addresses, as numbers mean a great deal in producing a good bulletin.---Committee Chairman.

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RANGE AND POPULATION STUDY SHEET
 Canadian Pine Grosbeak
 (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*)

All Wisconsin Ornithologists may cooperate in this series of studies on various birds, one being selected for each month. (Reports of this first one are to be continued until March 31, at which time you are to mail your records, both past and present, to the editor). Although the special questions about individual cases will differ, the general plan to coordinate all State records to date, in a central place, will remain the same. Results of each month's work will always be published in the next month's bulletin. When we feel we have covered the subject fully enough we will print a map, showing the locations of the work and the observers taking part. In this way a general picture of the special problems on each bird will be gained, and the information available to our members through this means will stimulate further study.

REPORTS OF THE PINE GROSBEEK SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR NOT LATER THAN APRIL 7. Address, W. E. Scott, 20 N. Carroll St., Madison.

.....

Reporter's name.....
 Address.....

Locality	Date	Number	Observer's name

Fill in this lower half and tear off. If more space is needed for remarks, or other records, use reverse side.

