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THE PASSENGER PIGEON

FOR VICTORY

TO ENCOURAGE STUDY OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

VOL. V

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No. 1

A REVIEW OF WISCONSIN'S BIRD-LIFE IN 1942

BY SAMUEL D. ROBBINS, JR.

Madison Bird Club

Interesting as field notes may be as we read them through the year, they take on added significance when tied together over a longer period of time. This is an attempt to give an over-all picture of the bird life in Wisconsin in 1942: first, the effect of weather conditions on migration and nesting; second, a comment on the more unusual birds which visited the state last year; and finally, a few suggestions for 1943 are included which may be of some value to the reader.



Three American Knots photographed along the Lake Michigan shore at Milwaukee on September 23, 1940 by E. L. Loyster, who banded four of these birds at that time, and which were among the few banded in the United States that year.

Many will ask: "Was 1942 a good year for birds?" That is a difficult question to answer. In a period of war, ornithology, like everything else, suffers materially. The time and energy which we would normally spend on our hobby has had to be drastically curtailed. In addition, we are faced with a lack of adequate comparison with previous years. Certain isolated facts stand out, such as the unprecedented flight of Blue and Snow Geese in October; but what about the land bird migration in fall? In most areas, reports made very few remarks, indicating a normal or slightly subnormal migration; but in Madison the writer experienced a truly remarkable flight of warblers in late September and early October. This is only one of many problems: problems which can be solved only by more field work and more complete reports from all observers.

The year 1942 started off with a bang when a severe blizzard struck on Jan. 1, causing considerable mortality in bird life. Few of the unusual birds reported in the 1941 Christmas bird counts were reported in January. In northern Wisconsin, Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks ap-

peared in fair numbers; Crossbills in poor numbers; but Evening Grosbeaks were well represented. As usual, though, few of these finches reached the southern portion. An unusual number of Snowy Owls were reported during the winter of 1941-1942.

Mild weather brought an early spring migration. Many birds reached Wisconsin in the first week in March, and by the middle of the month large flocks of blackbirds were reported. Climaxing this early push was the almost unbelievable record of a Parula Warbler, found dead in Milwaukee March 18 by Marion Allen. For a month thereafter, the migration was rather uneventful, but the last half of April witnessed an unusually long spell of warm, dry weather. Many state migration dates were broken in late April and early May, climaxed with a good wave reaching the state on April 29. It is worth noting that some birds reached northern Wisconsin earlier than they had ever been recorded previously in the southern part. The Connecticut Warbler, for instance, was observed by Mitchell in Vilas County on May 1, breaking the state record by five days! Also on the wings of this warm spell came a few stragglers from the south which will be mentioned in detail later. Rain and cooler weather slowed down the migration from May 3-7, but a good wave resulted on May 8-9. For a week the birding continued good, but as may be expected, most of the migrants departed early for the north. The spring duck flight was rather poor. Pintails and Ring-necked Ducks showed some increase, but Mallards were down in numbers. Likewise the shorebird migration was only fair. For the most part, large numbers were lacking in the interior, and few reports were received of the more uncommon species.

From many different places throughout the state came reports of high water and correspondingly poor breeding seasons. To some extent this was remedied by continuing the breeding season later than usual, but on the whole, the breeding season cannot be termed a success. Few rare stragglers are apt to turn up during the summer months, but a notable exception was the Pomarine Jaeger in Madison in June.

Fall Migration

Egret reports during August and September were few. The land bird migration in the fall got under way early, but oddly enough, some of the summer residents and early migrants lingered longer than usual. In Madison, the writer witnessed the unusual paradox of seeing Mourning and Cerulean Warblers (both record-breaking late dates) in the same flock with early arriving Brown Creepers, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The last five days in September produced a record-breaking cold spell which took a heavy toll of swallows. But the birds lingered! As if in sheer defiance to the cold, a Black-poll Warbler was heard singing on Oct. 1, latest fall date on record. A Wilson's Warbler lingered in Polk County until Oct. 6, a Grey-cheeked Thrush in Milwaukee through Nov. 5, and a Prairie Marsh Wren in Horicon through Nov. 19.

Other aspects of the fall migration: the hawk flight along Lake Michigan and elsewhere was noticeably poorer than in recent years. Only one large flock was witnessed along Lake Michigan: that of 2000 Broad-wings on Oct. 4. As mentioned previously, a splendid flight of Snow and Blue Geese took place during October, reaching a phenomenal peak around Oct. 29. Sandpipers again were not numerous, and were generally lacking in rarities. The fall duck flight improved over the previous year, but came to an early close with the freezing of the lakes in late November and early December.

From then on, there was snow, cold, and more snow. Christmas bird counts showed a pitifully poor representation of nearly all species. The writer will long remember how he and Bussewitz strained their eyes in the oncoming twilight to find a Starling for the Watertown count! In view of the severe weather it is remarkable that a considerable number of unusual records were made, such as: Townsend's Solitaire (in Hudson for a week in December); Henslow's Sparrow (Horicon, Dec. 20); Shoveller (Milwaukee, Dec. 24); Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe,

and Brown Thrasher (Madison, Dec. 20); Myrtle Warbler (Madison, Dec. 11); and Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (Jefferson Co., Dec. 23).

Rare Records for 1942

Every year can be counted on to produce a few rarities, and 1942 was no exception. It is impossible to comment on all the notable species, but some of the rarer ones deserve special mention. A short hypothetical list of birds which seemed almost certainly identified, but which, for one reason or another, cannot be positively admitted to the regular list, is appended to those noted below.

Red-throated Loon: Reported from Green Bay during the WSO annual meeting, Apr. 12, by Zimmerman.

Eared Grebe: On Oct. 6 Wright found six of these birds at Gills Rock at the tip of Door County. Outside of an early record by Hoy, the only other known record for Wisconsin was in May 1941 (Schorger & Barger).

Turkey Vulture: Numerous records were obtained from all parts of the state between March and July. The increasing number of reports in this and other northern states seem to indicate a northward extension of this bird's range. Observers should be on the watch for more.

Golden Eagle: Recorded on three occasions: Feeney, Mitchell, and Thompson watched an immature at close range in Oneida Co. on Mar. 10; another was seen by Schaeffer in Milwaukee on Mar. 21; and a third was trapped, banded, and photographed in Sheboygan Co. Oct. 18.

Yellow Rail: This bird is reported nesting again from Oconto by Richter, this time on May 3. One bird was seen in Vilas Co. on July 25 by the Scotts.

Piping Plover: Zimmerman found this bird nesting in Door Co. on July 10. From the same area Jackson reported one individual on Aug. 31.

Western Willet: This unusual bird was found on three occasions during the spring. Jackson found six in Dane Co. Apr. 28; while four others were seen in Columbia Co. the same day (Scott, Buss, et al). One bird from a flock of three was accidentally killed in Waukesha Co. on June 10 (Aberg).

Knot: Most of the infrequent records for this rare shorebird come from Lake Michigan, and it was in Milwaukee that Mueller found one on Nov. 17.

Purple Sandpiper: A recently killed specimen was found on the shore of Lake Michigan near Racine by George Prins on Nov. 8. The only other known record of this species since 1852 is of a specimen taken in Door Co. in 1881.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Francis Jones and Robbins found one bird in Dane Co. on May 29.

Baird's Sandpiper: Three individuals were seen together with the White-rumped Sandpiper the same day.

Stilt Sandpiper: Kozlik found a flock of 12 in Jefferson Co. on Aug. 30. Four days later he and Bussewitz saw two at the same place.

Northern Phalarope: A single record was reported by Loyster: three birds at Horicon Marsh on Sept. 26.

Pomarine Jaeger: A recently killed bird found in Madison on July 2 by Curran was identified by Barger, Scott, and Loyster as an immature of this oceanic species. Subsequent determination by the U. S. National Museum confirmed the record. Although two of these birds were said to have been taken in 1879 by Thure Kumlien, this is the first available specimen.

Barn Owl: Three nests of this species were reported: in Baraboo (Goodenough), in Racine Co., and in Walworth Co. (Von Jarchow). Another was present at La Crosse in May (Hickey & Peterson).

Snowy Owl: An unusually heavy flight in the winter of 1941-1942 brought scores of birds to all except the southwestern part of the state. Several more have been reported in the fall of 1942.

Saw-whet Owl: Von Jarchow reported a bird killed by an automobile in Racine Co. in August. Farther north in Hayward, Zirrer studied one at close range on Feb. 19.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: A few were reported in the northern counties throughout the year (Feeney et al), but of especial interest was a female picked up dead near Sullivan Marsh, Jefferson Co., by McCabe on Dec. 23. This is one of the southernmost records we have.

Arkansas Kingbird: On May 12 a male was found in Columbia Co. near Arlington by Bussewitz, Kozlik, and Buss. A female appeared later and a subsequent nesting attempt was found to be unsuccessful in July. However, this constitutes the most northerly Wisconsin nesting site for this species.

Acadian Flycatcher: For the second consecutive year, Barger and Robbins recorded singing males at Wyalusing Park, Grant Co. in May. In addition, another was seen and heard in Madison by Robbins on May 12. Southern Wisconsin seems to be the northern limit of this bird's range.

Hoyt's Horned Lark: It is hard to say how regularly this subspecies visits the state, because positive identification by sight is out of the question. Its presence on the 1942 list is due to a specimen taken by Buss in Dunn Co. on Mar. 6.

Bewick's Wren: Two birds were reported from southern Wisconsin in late March and early April: one in Janesville by Miss Randall; the other in Madison by Robbins. In La Crosse Hickey found two birds in June.

Mockingbird: One individual reported: seen in Milwaukee by Throne on Nov. 15.

Townsend's Solitaire: Straying from the west for the second time in Wisconsin bird annals, one individual spent a week during December at Hudson. Miss Elsie Williams identified this bird by checking with museum specimens in St. Paul, and has furnished satisfactory details of identification. The only other state record was

- obtained in 1910 when Stoddard collected a specimen at Prairie du Sac.
- Bohemian Waxwing:** From Jacob Klein in Shawano comes a report of 9 birds on Feb. 15. A single bird in Madison on Jan. 27 (Robbins) may have been the same bird seen twice the previous month by Barger.
- Bell's Vireo:** In La Crosse Hickey found two nests of this bird. Very few nesting records for the state are available. An additional record was obtained by Schorger in Madison on May 17.
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Although there had been but three records of this bird in the last 30 years, two individuals were reliably reported for 1942; one in Milwaukee on Apr. 26 (Mueller); the other in Madison on May 5 (Mrs. Walker). As the normal range of this species extends into northern Illinois, it may be expected here more often.
- Sycamore Warbler:** This is another bird which regularly reaches northern Illinois but rarely Wisconsin. A singing male was found in Madison by Robbins on May 8, and seen subsequently by many other observers. This is the fourth known record for the state.
- Orchard Oriole:** This species might be reported more often if coverage in the southwestern part of the state were more complete. Four individuals were reported in May and June by Kozlik, Miss Morse, and Strehlow.
- Blue Grosbeak:** In addition to early reports by Kumlien and Hoy, various sight records of this western straggler have been made. Too often these records are backed by insufficient details, and have to be discarded. However, Earl Sugden has furnished the writer with an excellent account of the markings and song of an adult male seen first in Cazenovia on Mar. 26. He believes that a pair may have nested in that region.
- Red Crossbill:** Reported twice early in the year: in Wood Co. Jan. 7 (Mathiak & Allen); and in Rusk Co. Feb. 15 (Steven).
- White-winged Crossbill:** Only one definite report is at hand: that of 6 seen at Little Suamico on Feb. 26 (Mrs. Johnson).
- Leconte's Sparrow:** Although regularly reported from the northeast area, this bird is rarely seen in other parts of the state. Buss reported one from Dunn Co. on Apr. 3; while another was present in Columbia Co. Apr. 27-28 (Scott, Buss, et al.).
- Harris's Sparrow:** An unusual number of these birds were seen in the spring in all parts of the state. Several were banded.
- Gambel's Sparrow:** One of the very few state records of this western race of the White-crowned Sparrow was obtained by the Scotts when they trapped an immature bird in Madison four times between Oct. 10 and 14.

HYPOTHETICAL LIST

- Cackling Goose:** A bird which had been shot by a hunter in Waushara Co. on Dec. 4 was weighed and studied by Grimmer, and determined to be of this western race. In spite of the close study made of this bird, there remains a shadow of doubt because of the close similarity of the bird with the Hutchins and Canada Goose, because there is but one previous state record, and because the specimen is no longer available.
- Barrow's Golden-eye:** Paulson and Wright recorded this bird on several occasions between Mar. 1 and Apr. 15 in Brown Co. There is scarcely room for doubting these records, but the bird is included here because there is as yet no available specimen.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** On May 3 in Jefferson Co., Mr. and Mrs. Kozlik and Buss studied at length and under excellent conditions of observation a bird which seems to be of this race. Although the Sycamore Warbler, a subspecies of the Yellow-throated, occurs regularly in the Mississippi Valley, south of Wisconsin, the Yellow-throated remains nearer the South Atlantic seaboard. Nevertheless, all three observers noted with care the distinguishing marks, and after seeing the Sycamore in Madison, were even more convinced. Coming just at the close of the protracted warm spell, and during the period of the bird's normal migration, the presence of a Yellow-throated Warbler, though far out of its range, is far from impossible. But a subsequent effort to collect the bird failed, and in the absence of a previous state record, this bird must be relegated to the hypothetical list.
- Monana (?) Junco:** Some form of western Junco has been at the feeding station of Earl Sugden in Cazenovia during the winter of 1942-1943. The bird would have to be trapped or collected to establish its subspecific identity, and even then identification might be impossible if the specimen were not typical. It seems strange that more "western Juncos" are not reported in Wisconsin. Since several turn up in New England nearly every winter, it seems logical that even more should be found here. Although they are very difficult to distinguish, they are worth watching for, especially at feeding stations.

In reaching a grand total of the number of species and sub-species seen last year, one must be somewhat arbitrary. Should one include the Rock Dove? Some believe it is too domesticated; others think of them in the plane of other introduced species, such as the Starling, English Sparrow, and Pheasant. What about the Red-legged Black Duck? Many do not consider it as separate from the Common Black Duck, while many others do separate the two forms. The Chukar Partridge was seen in Wisconsin last year, but it is questionable whether these birds have taken hold sufficiently since their recent introduction to warrant a place on the state list. There is little doubt that both the Northern and Grinnell's Water-thrush occur regularly in both spring and fall, but who is going to dare to differentiate them in the field? The status of other subspecies, such as the Northern and Southern Bald Eagles, East-

ern and Canadian Ruffed Grouse, Canada and Hutchins' Goose, and others are still undetermined, and until they are, we must consider them as one. It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss all these problems; they have been mentioned only to show how much is included in the total. Although many will disagree, the writer has chosen not to count the Chukar Partridge and both the Northern and Grinnell's Waterthrush, but to include the Rock Dove and Red-legged Black Duck. Taking this into account, the total number of species and subspecies reported in Wisconsin in 1942 is placed at 270.

Perhaps we may reach a higher total in 1943. Some of last year's rarities will not be seen again for many years to come, but rest assured that others will take their places. Yet the secret of getting a higher total, and of getting a better picture of a year's field work, lies more in the increased use of what we already have. Far too many observers do not send in field notes to their editors; in fact, many do not even record the birds they see. A notebook and pencil are just as necessary in bird observation as are field glasses. Not only should one record the birds he identifies, but he should be prepared at all times to take detailed notes on birds he cannot identify. One of our most outstanding records in 1942, that of the Sycamore Warbler, was very nearly missed because of a lack of pencil and notebook.

Many enthusiasts feel that the birds they see and might report are so trivial that no one will be interested in them. Others think they have seen a rare bird, but feel that the "experts" would not believe them, and end by withholding something of real value. When in doubt, report it. That axiom goes for everything. A good field note report should include not only a list of species, dates and locations, but also a general interpretation of the season as a whole. Did the migrants come earlier than usual this year? Were warblers more numerous than last year? When did the big "waves" occur? Questions like these can be answered by the bird lover who just watches his own back yard. It is only when the opinions of many observers in many localities are brought together that an adequate picture of a year's birding can be obtained.

Many bird students, amateur and professional alike, get a real thrill out of keeping a list of the birds they see during a year. Although there is little scientific value connected with list keeping, the sport is vastly interesting. Some will not see 100; few will see as many as 200; it depends on the time one can spend on birds and the area one is able to cover. If a summary of 1943 should be made, it might incorporate a list of various observers and their totals.

With thanks to the many people who helped in the preparation of this summary, and with the plea to every reader to contribute more of their bird experiences, comes a sincere wish for good birding in 1943.

INDIAN BIRD MOUNDS IN WISCONSIN

BY CHARLES E. BROWN

Director, Wisconsin State Historical Museum

Of the very large number of prehistoric Indian mounds which archaeologists have located in Wisconsin a considerable portion are earthworks of the class known as effigy or emblematic mounds. These effigies, which the ancient redmen constructed with great labor on the banks of our lakes and streams, on hilltops and bluffs, are built to represent the wild animals, birds, fish and reptiles of this region and which they knew. Some of these have been identified as portraying the bear, panther, lynx, deer, buffalo, fox or wolf, and beaver. Others are figures of birds, the turtle and fish.

Among the most interesting of these mounds are the bird-shaped

effigies which occur in groups with round, oval and linear earthworks in many localities in southern and central Wisconsin. A count of these bird mounds made by the writer in 1941 shows the number of effigies of this form to have been about 150. The largest number of them found in any county was 38 in Dane County, 28 in Sauk County and 14 in Jefferson County. Good examples of bird mounds were at Milwaukee, Waukesha, Sheboygan, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, Lake Koshkonong, Horicon, Mayville, Lake Ripley, Merton, Madison, Devils Lake, Spring Green and Merrimac. Some of these are still in existence.

Early-day Scientists Interested

Dr. Increase A. Lapham, distinguished pioneer antiquarian of Wisconsin, was probably the first to locate and describe one of these bird-shaped mounds which he found in 1836 in a group of mounds located in a woodland on the present site of Lapham Park in Milwaukee. After that date he located 52 other bird mounds in mound groups scattered throughout southern Wisconsin from Milwaukee to the Mississippi River. This was during the years when he was engaged in an archeological survey sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts. These mounds are described and figured in his book, "The Antiquities of Wisconsin," published by the U. S. Smithsonian Institution, in 1855. In his undertaking Dr. Lapham had the cooperation of William H. Canfield of Baraboo, L. L. Sweet of Sheboygan, Dr. Philo R. Hoy of Racine, Prof. S. P. Lathrop of Beloit and Logan Crawford, pioneer antiquarians.

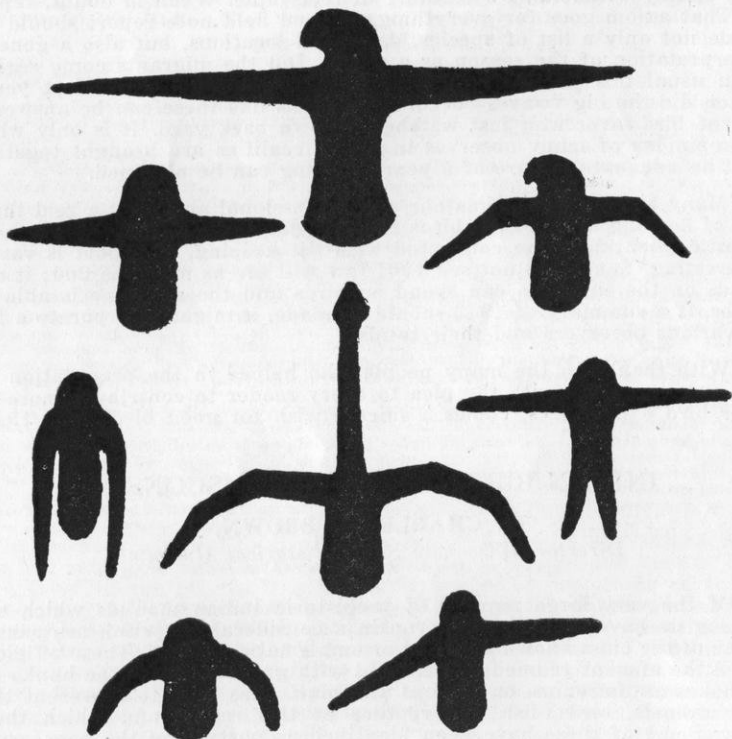


Diagram showing outlines of eight different bird effigy Indian mounds found in Wisconsin.

Other bird mounds were located by Richard C. Taylor, "while traveling in Wisconsin Territory with some scientific friends," in 1837. These he described and figured in the *American Journal of Science* in the following year. Two of these were bird mounds with a forked tail, and a bird with outstretched wings and a head provided with a beak. They were in a line of round and linear mounds east of Blue Mounds near the old Indian war trail leading from Milwaukee to the Mississippi River. Two other bird mounds he found near the Wisconsin River, near English Prairie. Dr. John Locke, the geologist, visited some of these mounds in 1840.

Bird mounds were found by Prof. Cyrus Thomas in mound groups which he surveyed at Prairie du Chien, near Eastman, at Hazens Corners and near Cassville. These he described and figured in the 12th annual report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1890-91. Among these were a bird with a forked tail and others with straight, curved and bent wings. Other bird effigies were located and described by Dr. Stephen D. Peet and Moses Strong, Jr., and by The Wisconsin Archeological Society in recent years.

Bird Mounds in Many Forms

The bird effigy mounds encountered by Wisconsin archeologists in their investigations are of a considerable variety of forms. Some have wings which taper to a point and are stretched out straight on either side of the body. Some have wings that are curved; others have wings that are bent near the body. Some have one straight and one lowered wing. A few have wings which extend back parallel to the body. Some have a rather short body, a long tapering neck with a pointed or diamond-shaped head and wings that are twice bent. These latter are the so-called "wild goose" type of bird mounds and were evidently intended to represent that bird. A small number of bird effigies have forked or divided tails. Some have a projection intended to represent a beak on one side of the head and most have rounded heads. Some have the tail end of the body expanded, a fan-tail. A few have bodies which taper from the body to the end of the tail.

The smallest of the bird effigies have a wingspread of from 35 to 40 feet and a body of about the same length. Some of the largest have a wingspread of from one hundred to several hundred feet. Their bodies are generally from 15 to 20 feet wide and from 1½ to 3 feet high.

Bird effigy mounds are generally found in groups or lines of mounds with round, oval and linear mounds. Other effigy mounds often occur in these groups. Solitary examples of bird mounds exist. Sometimes several bird mounds are found in a position which shows them to be flying side by side or in a diagonal line. In other cases three or more bird effigies are shown as flying one behind the other.

At Port Andrews on the lower Wisconsin River there was a line of ten bird mounds all headed in the same direction. In a mound group in Eagle Township, Richland County, there were four lines of bird effigies, from two to four in a line. These lines were headed in one direction and one in a direction at right angles to these. In at least one instance a number of birds are rather close together as if flying in a flock. This was in a mound group at Big Bend, Waukesha County. In some mound groups bird effigies of several distinct types occur.

Largest Bird Mound at Madison

The largest bird effigy in Wisconsin is in a group of effigy and other mounds preserved on the lawn of the State Insane Asylum at Mendota, at Madison. This huge bird has a wingspread of 624 feet, a body 100 feet in length and seven feet high. To the right and left of it and flying in the same direction are two other large bird mounds. Hundreds of tons of earth were used in their construction.

On a fairway slope of the Black Hawk Country Club, at Madison, is the finest example of a wild goose type effigy found in Wisconsin. It is of large size.

Many Wisconsin bird mounds have been destroyed but some fine examples of them are preserved and may be seen on Observatory Hill on the University of Wisconsin campus, in the University arboretum, in Henry Vilas and Burrows city parks, on the Edgewood Academy grounds, and in Forest Hill cemetery, at Madison, also in Devils Lake state park, and Nelson Dewey state park at Cassville.

The present conclusion of Wisconsin archeologists is that these bird and other effigy mounds were erected by Indians at a time estimated at 1000 to 1500 years ago. They probably represent the clan totems of these prehistoric effigy builders.

Being religious monuments constructed to commemorate their guardian spirits, important ceremonies must have accompanied their erection. In the investigation of some of these effigy mounds Indian burials, sometimes accompanied by pottery vessels and stone implements, have been found.

The Wisconsin Archeological Society requests the assistance of all citizens of the state in protecting and preserving these ancient monuments which are a precious educational heritage.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING AT MILWAUKEE

Here is a summary of highlights and details on the Society's Fifth Annual Meeting at Milwaukee to augment the enclosed program:

Local Committee: Murl Deusing (chairman), Milwaukee Public Museum, and Owen Gromme, Forest Poe, Clarence Jung, Alvin Throne, Rev. Howard L. Orians, Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher, Mrs. Phelps Wyman, Mrs. Carl W. Schwendener and Mrs. A. P. Balsom.

Location: Afternoon meetings on Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2 will be held in the lecture hall of the Milwaukee Public Museum, Third floor, or if the group is large in the main lecture hall, Seventh St. entrance, Main floor. The annual dinner will be at the City Club located in the Riverside Theater Bldg. on Wisconsin avenue just west of the bridge.

Morning Bird Hike: On Sunday morning, May 2, one or more bird hikes are scheduled with cars furnished for out-of-town visitors. There will be plenty of guides on these trips.

Auction of Bird Pictures: One of the most interesting features of the meeting will be the auction of bird pictures by a professional auctioneer after the annual dinner at the City Club. Already a number of paintings, photographs, prints and even a wood carving have been donated for the exhibit and auction, the proceeds of which will go entirely to the Society for publication funds for The Passenger Pigeon. All material which is not sold will be returned to the donor and therefore all items contributed should be carefully marked with the owner's name. **Contributions for this auction should be sent to Mr. F. R. Poe, Milwaukee Public Museum, immediately or else delivered to him on Saturday afternoon, May 1, as he is chairman of this sub-committee.** If you would like a painting by Owen Gromme for your fireplace mantel or a bird print for your bedroom, be prepared to get in the fun at this auction.

Transportation: Although there are plenty of trains going into Milwaukee daily, it is recommended that members make every possible attempt to pool their gas and cars so that no spaces will be empty and everyone who wants to go will find a way. This is a job for the local bird clubs outside of Milwaukee and each city should have a clearing house for available car space. Society members living near such organized bird clubs should also make arrangements with their leaders for transportation if possible.

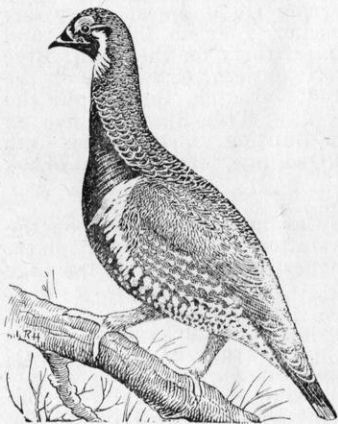
The Program: Feature presentation will again be Cleveland P. Grant with his recent color movies of song and game birds secured last summer. Other color and sound movies in the afternoon sessions are by Staber Reese of the Conservation Department and Olin S. Pettingill of Northfield College. Movies and slides will illustrate most other program items.



THE WINTER SEASON

NORTHWEST AREA—During the months of December, January, and February, the Northwest Area was very irregularly covered. As the notes show, the most time was spent in Rusk County. Several counties were not visited at all. If more time had been spent in the field and the area more evenly covered, many other observations would have been recorded. Because of irregular coverage, comparisons of localities cannot be drawn accurately from these notes.

Goldeneye: Sawyer County, 20 on Jan. 27 (Kahmann). **Goshawk:** Eau Claire County, Jan. 9; Rusk County, 1 adult, Jan. 21 and Feb. 5 (Feeney); Rusk County, 1 adult, Jan. 28 (Diane Feeney); Rusk County, Feb. 5 (Barger); Sawyer County, Feb. 26 (Zirrer). **Red-tailed Hawk:** Bayfield County, Feb. 19 (Feeney). **Rough-legged Hawk:** Sawyer County, a dark phase, Dec. 20-25 (Zirrer). **Golden Eagle:** Rusk County, two—one uncertain—Jan. 12 (Feeney); Rusk County, 1 immature and 3 unidentified, Jan. 21 (Feeney and Barger); Rusk County, 1 immature, Feb. 6 (Feeney, Dahlberg, Barger); Rusk County, 1 immature Feb. 15 (Feeney and Barger); Rusk County, adult, Feb. 26 (Feeney). **Bald Eagle:** Sawyer County, adult, Jan. 13 (Kahmann); Rusk County, 1 adult and 1 unidentified, Jan. 14, 1 adult on Jan. 21 (Feeney); Rusk County, 1 adult, Feb. 6 (Feeney and Barger); Jackson County, 2 uncertain Feb. 13 (Feeney); Rusk County, 1 adult, Feb. 16 (Feeney).



Canada Spruce Grouse were not recorded this winter as commonly as last year. Question: are they on their cyclic decline now along with Sharp-tailed Grouse and Prairie Chicken? (Drawing by Hesselgrave. Cut Courtesy Wis. Conservation Comm.)

Ruffed Grouse: All observers on the deer project, as well as several others, agree that Ruffed Grouse are plentiful. Generally, they appear to be more abundant than during the last two winters. **Willow Ptarmigan:** E. C. Hanson reported seeing two about Feb. 20 near Eagle River, Vilas County. **Sharp-tailed Grouse:** The Sharp-tailed Grouse is very scarce, at least in Rusk County.

Great Horned Owl: Rusk County, Feb. 7 and Feb. 23 calling (Feeney and Barger). **Pileated Woodpecker:** Frequent as usual throughout the deer yard territory. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** St. Croix County, female at feeding tray daily, Jan. 30 to Mar. 28 (Mrs. Owen). **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker:** Rusk County, female Feb. 16 (Bernier and Barger). Sawyer County, once near feeding table (Zirrer).

Horned Lark: Rusk County, subspecies uncertain, probably

Hoyt's. Feb. 20 (Feeney and Barger). Lincoln and Marathon County, several hundred over a twenty-mile area (Mrs. Holm). **Ravens:** Common. **Crow:** Eau Claire County, small flock, Jan. 22 (Feeney and Barger); Sawyer County, 2 Jan. 27 (Kahmann); Rusk County, 1, Feb. 22 and 1, Feb. 23 (Barger and others); Washburn County, Feb. 24 (Feeney, Barger and others).

Black-capped Chickadee: Sawyer County, Jan. 20 (Feeney and Barger). **White-breasted Nuthatch:** Rusk County, 3, Jan. 21 and Jan. 28 (Feeney); St. Croix County, 2, Dec. 21 (Mrs. Owen). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Rusk County, Jan. 1 and Jan. 6 (Feeney); Rusk County, 8 on Jan. 21 (Feeney and Barger); Rusk County, Jan. 27 (Feeney). **Brown Creeper:** St. Croix County, Dec. 1942 to Jan. 1943 (Mrs. Owen)

Robin: Chippewa County, a robin singing Feb. 17 (Toppe). **Townsend's Solitaire:** St. Croix County (Hudson) Jan. 7 for 3 days (Miss Elsie Williams). **Bohemian Waxwing:** Rusk County, 3 in hawthorne tree, Feb. 21 (Berners). St. Croix County, 12 to 15 on Feb. 14 (Mrs. Owen). **Cedar Waxwing:** Bayfield, frequent visitors (Mrs. Axley). **Northern Shrike:** Rusk County, Dec. 3 (Feeney); Rusk County, Feb. 23 (Feeney and Barger); Barron County, Feb. 24 (Feeney, Barger); Rusk County, Feb. 26 (Berner). **Starlings:** St. Croix County, flock of 9, Dec. 21 (Mrs. Owen); Rusk County, all winter; also elsewhere.

Cardinal: St. Croix County, 2 daily since Dec. 29 (Mrs. Owen). **Evening Grosbeaks:** Bayfield County, frequent visitors (Mrs. Axley); Rusk County, 15 on Feb. 21 (Feeney). **Pine Grosbeaks:** Sawyer County, flock of 12, Jan. 27 (Kahmann); Bayfield County, frequent visitors, one female present all winter (Mrs. Axley); Bayfield County, 2 feeding on Chokecherry and Honeysuckle on Feb. 19 (Feeney); Rusk County, 2 on Feb. 22 and 2 on Feb. 27. The first two were feeding on an elm tree and the second two were singing (Berner). **Redpolls:** Rusk County, Jan. 21 and Feb. 5 and Bayfield County, Feb. 19 (Feeney). Others not recorded. **Red Crossbill:** Forest County, flock, Feb. 18 (Loyster). **White-winged Crossbill:** Forest County, flock, Feb. 18 (Loyster).—W. S. Feeney, Editor, Menasha Avenue, Ladysmith.

NORTHEAST AREA. December: Clara Hussong reports the following from Green Bay, Brown County: Herring Gull, almost every day but fewer than last year; Downy Woodpecker, four on the sixth and two on the twentieth; Northern Horned Lark, forty on the sixth; Blue Jay, few every day and twenty-four on the twentieth; Crow, one on the twenty-fifth; Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch, throughout the month; Starling, small flocks nearly every day; Tree Sparrow, five on the sixth and ten on the twenty-fifth; Snow Bunting, thirty on the sixth and fifty on the twenty-fifth; Great-horned Owl, one near Peshtigo brook marsh, Oconto County.

Mrs. Walter E. Rogers reports a male Cardinal in her yard on the twenty-fifth and at the window feeding station on the twenty-sixth. Flocks of fifteen to twenty-five Purple Finches in Ash trees in the City Park, Appleton, Outagamie County.

January: Mrs. Rogers sent in the following: The ducks on the river and lake from Kaukauna to the Neenah water front have been scattered. Few Mallards, Black Ducks and many Golden-eyes; some American Mergansers and several Herring Gulls were seen. A Hairy Woodpecker has fed at the feeding station and the Downy regularly. On the twenty-fifth a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets was observed in a barberry hedge. Starlings have been numerous and roosting in an old barn. On the seventeenth a flock of twenty Purple Finches were observed.

February: Mrs. Rogers continues: Ducks remained the same as in January, the Chickadees, absent all winter, found the feeding shelf on the seventh, and the Cardinal, reported in December, has been a regular feeder all month on trays in the neighborhood. Mrs. Robert Mitchell, a new member of the society, has seen both male and female in her yard in Appleton.

Mr. J. B. Kendall reports the following from Brown County: American Merganser, eight on the twenty-fourth; Herring Gull, twenty-eight

on the twenty-second, six on the twenty-fourth; Great Horned Owl, one on the twenty-third; Downy Woodpecker, one on the twenty-first; Northern Horned Lark, two on the twenty-eighth; Crow, two on the twenty-first; and Starling, small flocks near the end of the month.

A few members of the Green Bay Bird Club gathered at the Woodlawn Cemetery for their regular monthly meeting on Feb. 14 (the temperature being six degrees below zero). The only bird seen was a gray Screech Owl in a spruce tree. It was photographed by the undersigned.—**Earl G. Wright, Editor, Neville Public Museum, Green Bay.**

SOUTHEAST AREA. December: A large flock of Mallards with a few Black Ducks is wintering as usual in the Juneau Park Lagoon in Milwaukee. A Pintail was seen in the flock as late as Dec. 7 (Mueller). The usual wintering rafts of scaups were observed in the Milwaukee harbor. Golden-eyes, Buffle-heads, Old Squaw and American Mergansers were mixed with the flocks. Snowy Owls continue to be reported in the area and one male Marsh Hawk was noted (Oriens). Northern Shrikes were also reported. Wintering Robins were seen by several observers and a Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen on the twenty-fifth. The Redpoll was not reported until the thirtieth (Throne). An unusual find for the month was a Tufted Titmouse (Thorne).

January: Snowy Owls continue to be reported, one within the city limits of Milwaukee. A Sparrow Hawk took up winter quarters in the heart of business district in downtown Milwaukee and was seen a number of times. Among unusual wintering birds was reported a Brown Creeper (Bierman) and a Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow coming to a feeding tray (Oriens). On Jan. 28-29, a flock of five Bohemian Waxwings and one Cedar Waxwing was seen (Bierman).

February: Red-breasted and American Mergansers appeared in large numbers, and by the fifteenth, became the most common duck on the lakefront. Canada Geese were seen flying as early as the eighth. Some Canvasback ducks were noted on the fifteenth. Herring Gulls began their daily flights inland to feed during the month. Snowy Owls were still reported in the area and Red-shouldered Hawks were seen in mating flight as early as the ninth (Jung). Crows were migrating in good numbers by the end of the month. Among unusual finds for the month was another flock of Bohemian Waxwings (Mueller); the Killdeer on the fifth (Berg); and on the eighth (Mueller); and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the ninth (Jung).—**Murl Deusing, Editor, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee.**

SOUTHWEST AREA. The Snowy Owl appeared in the area at three places: Waupun (Muckenhirn); Horicon (Mrs. Burrows) and in Sauk County (Van Ness). Other winter visitors such as Purple Finches, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and Rough-legged Hawks were reported so generally that detailed locations would not be of interest. There remains the record of the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker by McCabe, but this is described elsewhere in this paper.

During the hunting season a Cackling Goose was shot by Dr. Schneiders. Dec. 4, 1942. This was in Waushara County, near Coloma. It weighed three pounds and measured twenty-four inches in length. According to Searles, who mailed this report, and who accompanied Dr. Schneiders, the bird was feeding alone but in the vicinity of Canada Geese.

A flock of Chukar Partridges was observed by Loyster in Dane County, Jan. 28. Another exotic species, the Hungarian Partridge was found by the same observer in many flocks in Dane County, Jan. 28. A single Bobwhite was seen in December in Horicon Marsh by Mitchell. This desirable species has been slow in establishing itself in this refuge.

It is interesting to note that both Mossman and Mrs. Rogers observed Golden-crowned Kinglets feeding in Japanese barberry bushes during bleak winter weather. Another item pertaining to feeding is described of a Rough-legged Hawk by Mitchell: "While watching a Rough-legged Hawk fly, it took a dive at pheasants at three different places missing every time." Since this species of hawk is more fond of mammals it is possible that this action was merely a diversion.

Spring Migration: Indications of the beginning of migration were noted as follows: Killdeer, Feb. 23 (Dane County) by Bussewitz, and Feb. 26 by several others. Bluebirds, Feb. 22 (Sauk County) by Cabat, and Feb. 25 (Dane County) by Mrs. Scott. A flock of geese flying over Madison, Feb. 19 by Mrs. Barger and another flock over Faville Grove, Feb. 22 by McCabe. Although Prairie Horned Larks were observed in January in several counties by several observers, the real movement over Madison was thought to be from Jan. 22 to Feb. 10 by Bussewitz, who was out daily this winter. Mitchell detected a Crow migration, Feb. 21, over the Horicon Marsh, and the first Mallard flight over the same area, Feb. 23.

The first Cardinal song of spring was noted Jan. 24 at Madison by Kozlik. A Red-wing was in full song at Horicon, Feb. 22 (Mitchell). The nesting of the Great Horned Owl was reported near Prairie du Sac, Feb. 6 (Gastrow).

Half-hardy species: The following species wintering mostly south of our latitude are of interest: Myrtle Warbler, Dec. 11 (Dane County) by Wallner; Black-crowned Night Heron, immature, from Jan. 22 to Feb. 19 at the Madison Fish Hatchery by Buss, Bussewitz and Kozlik; Robins, flocks of fifty in La Crosse all winter by Gatterdam; an occasional Robin in Madison wintering (Leopold and E. L. Wiswall); Cooper's Hawk, Feb. 6, Prairie du Sac (Gastrow); Red-headed Woodpecker, Jan. 1, Vernon County (Miss Morse) and another individual in Wau-shara County, Jan. 10 (Mitchell and Barger); this species of woodpecker appears to be very scarce this winter; Flickers, two, by Kozlik in Madison, Jan. 15; Song Sparrow, Dec. 22, Madison (Kozlik); Wilson Snipe, Dec. 19 to Jan. 26, Madison (Bussewitz); Ring-billed Gull, Feb. 21, Madison (Robbins); Rusty Blackbird, Madison all winter (Bussewitz); Meadowlark, Jefferson County, Jan. 22 (Kozlik); Red-shouldered Hawk, Jan. 21, Madison (Robbins), and Feb. 19, near Madison (Bussewitz); Kingfishers wintering near Madison by Loyster and Bussewitz; Gadwall, seven, Jan. 13, Madison (Bussewitz); Hooded Merganser, four, Dec. 14 to February, Madison (Kozlik); Green-winged Teal, Dec. 8, Madison (Bussewitz); Pintail, Baldpate and Scaup by Zimmerman, Bussewitz and Kozlik, and two additional Scaup by Loyster, all at Madison.

Mourning Doves, Red-winged Blackbirds, Marsh Hawks, Herring Gulls, Short-eared Owls, Sparrow Hawks and other summer birds spending the winter were reported in various places by several observers.—**N. R. Barger, Editor, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison.**

BIRD BANDING REPORTS FOR 1942

BY HAROLD C. WILSON

Ephraim, Wisconsin

The required annual bird banding reports to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission have been turned in slowly. To date only 37 of the 42 licensed banders have submitted their reports, of whom seven were inactive last year.

While more birds were banded than in previous years, fewer native birds were handled. Irvin O. Buss of Madison, Wisconsin, tagged 6450 Ring-necked Pheasants, and Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam of La Crosse placed another 500 bands on this introduced game bird, bringing the total for that species to over 7,000 more than we banded two years ago.

Other game birds were banded in goodly numbers, to bring their total to 7,498. Non-game birds totalled 4,436, or a grand total of 11,934 birds banded in Wisconsin during 1942.

Totals on Birds Banded

The following are the totals of the 126 species and 2 sub-species banded: American Bittern, 8; Mallard, 150; Black Duck, 25; Baldpate, 2; Pintail, 7; Green-winged Teal, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 86; Wood Duck,

20; Redhead, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 11; Lesser Scaup Duck, 5; Red-breasted Merganser, 1;

Sharp-shinned Hawk, 26; Cooper's Hawk, 25; Red-tailed Hawk, 11; Red-shouldered Hawk, 10; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 12; Duck Hawk, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 28; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Greater Prairie Chicken, 1; Bob-white, 72; Ring-necked Pheasant, 7,079; King Rail, 1; Virginia Rail, 1; American Coot, 25; Killdeer, 10; Upland Plover, 70; Spotted Sandpiper, 13;

Herring Gull, 42; Black Tern, 16; Mourning Dove, 44; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barn Owl, 3; Screech Owl, 5; Great Horned Owl, 5; Barred Owl, 1; Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 18; Flicker, 19; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Y. B. Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 13;

Kingbird, 21; Phoebe, 22; Least Flycatcher, 2; Wood pewee, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Tree Swallow, 4; Bank Swallow, 22; Barn Swallow, 72; Cliff Swallow, 26; Purple Martin, 8; Blue Jay, 269; Crow, 16; Black-capped Chickadee, 122; White-breasted Nuthatch, 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 3;

House Wren, 92; Winter Wren, 2; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 23; Catbird, 131; Brown Thrasher, 89; Robin, 282; Wood Thrush, 1; Hermit Thrush, 7; Olive-backed Thrush, 10; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 3; Veery, 2; Bluebird, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Northern Shrike, 1; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 109;

Red-eyed Vireo, 1; Philadelphia Vireo, 2; Golden-winged Warbler, 3; Nashville Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 5; Pine Warbler, 1; Western Palm Warbler, 6; Ovenbird, 10; Water Thrush, 1; Mourning Warbler, 1; Northern Yellowthroat, 2; American Redstart, 17; English Sparrow, 8;

Bobolink, 3; Meadowlark, 4; Yellow-headed Blackbird, 6; Red-wing, 43; Giant Red-wing, 4; Baltimore Oriole, 19; Brewer's Blackbird, 27; Bronzed Grackle, 303; Cowbird, 37; Scarlet Tanager, 4; Cardinal, 71; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 2; Evening Grosbeak, 20; Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 8; Red-eyed Towhee, 53;

Sparrows: Savannah, 4; Vesper, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 666; Tree, 14; Chipping, 21; Clay-colored, 2; Field, 9; Harris's, 3; White-crowned, 54; Gambel's, 1; White-throated, 922; Fox, 61; Lincoln's, 28; Swamp, 22; Song, 118, and Mississippi Song, 12.

Totals For Each Bird Bander

This report covers the work of the following banders: **Agnes E. Russell**, Westfield, 46 birds of 7 species; **Wm. I. DuMez**, Menomonee Falls, 225 birds of 21 species; **Norman S. Jennings**, Rio, 18 birds of 7 species; **Irven O. Buss**, Madison, 6,500 birds of 3 species; **Dr. B. L. Von Jarchow**, Racine, 68 birds of 10 species; **Paul Wm. Hoffman**, Wauwatosa, 236 birds of 20 species; **Dr. Paul Gatterdam**, La Crosse, 653 birds of 20 species; **Dr. Jack Kinsey**, Milwaukee, 412 birds of 29 species; **Edward Peartree**, Oconomowoc, 118 birds of 9 species; **Mr. and Mrs. Owen Gromme**, Milwaukee, 41 birds of 14 species; **Alvin Throne**, Milwaukee, 61 birds of 11 species; **Margaret Morse**, Viroqua, 15 birds of 9 species; **Mrs. Fred Hook**, So. Milwaukee, 24 birds of 10 species; **Melva Maxson**, Milton Junction, 323 birds of 33 species; **Carmen Beining**, Platteville, 170 birds of 14 species; **Lois Almon**, Madison, 17 birds of 7 species; **Robert Adams**, Waukesha, 124 birds of 20 species; **Donald S. Farner**, Madison, 25 birds of 9 species; **Earl Loyster**, 2 birds of 2 species; **Clarence Searles**, Wisconsin Rapids, 525 birds of 42 species; **Samuel A. Thorn**, Milwaukee, 928 birds of 33 species; **Edward Prins**, Racine, 119 birds of 22 species; **George Wagner**, Madison, 249 birds of 20 species; **Herman Schaars**, Milwaukee, 121 birds of 21 species; **Robley W. Hunt**, Necedah, 173 birds of 12 species; **John Catenhusen**, Madison, 186 birds of 7 species; **F. R. Zimmerman**, Madison, 32 birds of 10 species; **Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Scott**, Madison, 309 birds of 28 species; **Harold C. Wilson**, Ephraim, 143 birds of 26 species; **Walter J. Mueller**, Milwaukee, 71 birds of 13 species.

NEWS NOTES

Only two additional members of the Society, Frank M. Kozlik and Miss Elizabeth Reese (WAAC), are known to have entered Army service since our last report.

Additional accessions to the Society's library include the following items: from Earl G. Wright, **Audubon Bulletin** of the Illinois Audubon Society, seven complete years for 1925, 1929-34 and 1936 and 12 miscellaneous numbers; **The Wilson Bulletin**, nine complete years, 1925-33 and eight miscellaneous numbers; **Bird-Lore**, six complete years for 1921, 1924-28 and 14 miscellaneous issues; **The Auk**, 10 complete years for 1922-26, 1928-32 and 11 miscellaneous numbers. From Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger, two reprints and one booklet as follows: "Haunts and Breeding Habits of the Yellow Rail," by the Rev. P. B. Peabody, 1922, "Birds of Keweenaw Point," by Norman A. Wood, 1933, and "The Story of a Martin Colony," J. Warren Jacobs, 1903. From W. E. Scott, "Birds of the Bahama Islands," by Charles B. Cory, 1880.

E. C. Hanson of Racine recently has purchased an interest in the Twin Lake Game Farm of Lacombe, Alberta, Canada, where he is now located. The farm has government permits to capture and sell Sharp-tailed Grouse, Hungarian Partridge, and waterfowl.

News from Wisconsin's Bird Clubs. At the Annual Meeting of the Bird Group of the City Club of Milwaukee on February 22, the following officers were re-elected: chairman, Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher, vice-chairman, Mrs. Manuel Cutler, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Amos P. Balsom. . . . The new president of the Madison Bird Club is Mr. Frank Beyer of the Forest Products Laboratory and Miss Ethel Horton was re-elected secretary-treasurer at a meeting on March 3. The club on that date heard Earl Loyster discuss the subject "Shorebirds of Lake Michigan." . . . At the Madison Kumlien Club meeting of February 9, Aldo Leopold and Robert McCabe discussed "Hungarian Partridge and Flushing Rates of Grouse in the Cyclic Period," and at a recent meeting Dr. William H. Elder of the Illinois Natural History Survey reported his findings on Canada Geese, after banding, weighing and sexing over 1,000 individuals at the Horseshoe Lake Game Refuge. . . . At a meeting of the Green Bay Bird Club on February 14, the group voted to contribute five dollars to the publication fund of *The Passenger Pigeon* to be used for illustrating articles. The Society needs this type of support more than ever now and it is hoped that other local bird groups will follow this good example.

Miss Elizabeth A. Oehlenschlaeger presented her motion pictures and lecture entitled "The Rearing of Barn Owl Babies" at the Annual Chicagoland Bird-banding Conference on March 20.

The last chapter of Hartley H. T. Jackson's article, "Summer Birds of Northwestern Wisconsin," will be completed in the next issue of this bulletin.

The Bird Group of the City Club of Milwaukee recently subscribed for five copies of *The Passenger Pigeon* for distribution to Milwaukee libraries. This commendable plan should be followed by all local bird groups.

Fred and Frances Hamerstrom of the Edwin S. George Reserve in Michigan are again spending a month in Wisconsin this spring at Plainfield to study Prairie Chicken.

The April, 1943, issue of **The Auk** carried an obituary on John Smith Main prepared by A. W. Schorger. Mr. Main was one of the founders of the Wisconsin Society and very active in ornithological circles here.

Murl Deusing, in his capacity as editor of the bird notes from the southeast area, calls attention to the fact that many of the regular reporters of bird notes are now in the armed forces and because of this, area bird editors are urgently in need of help from all Society members, who should send their notes on birds at the end of each month without fail.

Members of the Wisconsin Academy (and possibly others) can secure back volumes of the Transactions, Vol. V to XIX, for 25c each by sending the cash to Mr. Teisberg, Academy Librarian at the University of Wisconsin Library. Important in Vol. VI is Willard's article on the "Migration and Distribution of North American Birds in Brown and Outagamie Counties," and in Vol. X, Grundtvig's "On the Birds of Shiocton in Bovina, Outagamie County, Wisconsin. 1881-83."

John Catenhusen recently secured a position on a government rubber plantation experiment and now can be contacted care of SHADA, Port Au Prince, Haiti.

Joseph J. Hickey of Madison began a series of 10 discussions on birds and bird calls on the Homemaker's Program over WHA on March 16. He is "on the air" every Tuesday at 10:30 a. m. and is using the bird calls recorded by Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University.

Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, has announced that a complete monograph on the Wild Turkey is in preparation for publication by January 1, 1944. Anyone having material of value on this bird should contact him.



Birds and mammals feeding on deer carcasses. During the winter we have noticed several species feeding on deer carcasses, including Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawk, Shrews, Porcupines, Mice, Dogs, Coyotes, Foxes, Skunks, Timber Wolves, and Bobcats. Other species which could be added to the list if observations were complete would be Canada Jays, Nuthatches, Turkey Vultures, Red Squirrels, Bear, Raccoons, Rabbits and others.—**W. S. Feeney, Ladysmith.**

Red-bellied Woodpecker Wins but to Lose. I have been glad to discover one bird which can make Mr. Blue Jay step aside at the feeding tray. That has been a female Red-bellied Woodpecker. However, the Blue Jay still comes out ahead for he takes the corn from the bark of the tree as fast as Mrs. Red-bellied Woodpecker places it there.—**Mrs. S:ella T. Owen, St. Croix Falls.**

Golden Eagles in Wisconsin. During the course of the winter, several Golden Eagles, adults and immatures, were seen at various places in Rusk County, not that they are necessarily more frequent in Rusk County than elsewhere but because this county was more widely and frequently cruised than any other area in the State. Some of the identifications of both adults and immatures were very certain, but others because of poor light or too great a distance were less positively identified though in all places mentioned the pattern of the bird or its markings indicated Golden Eagle rather than Bald.

On January 21, 1943, an immature Golden Eagle with a black terminal band on his tail hovered and circled close over the heads of Feeney and Barger two or three times, extending its pantalooned legs full length and finally stooped at a cottontail rabbit about a hundred yards distant. Small aspen trees obscured the view, but tracks, hair and blood indicated that the Eagle had struck the rabbit and apparently had carried it away.

On February 6, 1943, Feeney and Dahlberg flushed an immature Golden Eagle, an adult Bald Eagle, and 18 or more Ravens from the carcass of a starved fawn. As the eagles spiraled up together and overhead, we had a most unusual opportunity to compare the shapes of the

two birds side by side. The Golden Eagle's wings were wider, more reflexed, more upturned at the ends, with primary tips considerably spread apart. In general, it had the shape of a large buteo hawk. This particular Golden Eagle's back between the shoulders was nearly white. It was mottled ventrally and had a comparatively indistinct terminal band on the tail.—**W. S. Feeney, Ladysmith.**

Mockingbird Reported from Lynxville. The other day a patient from Lynxville, Wisconsin, twenty-five miles down the river (from La Crosse), told me that he had a pair of Mockingbirds in his yard most of last summer. This man's story should be rather reliable as he originally lived in the south and stated he knew definitely they were Mockingbirds. I am rather interested as I have never heard of this before.—**Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam, La Crosse.**

Red-breasted Nuthatch banded at Viroqua. During the earlier part of December and until December 20, a Red-breasted Nuthatch came to our feeding station and was caught and banded. Also, a female Red-bellied Woodpecker came frequently and stayed to feed during the last three days of December as well as earlier in the month.—**Margarette E. Morse, Viroqua.**

Bird Group of the City Club Observed 194 Birds in 1942. Covering only the Milwaukee area in the 1942 check-list of birds observed by members of the Bird Group of the City Club of Milwaukee, the 194 birds recorded are worthy of note. For this region, the Double-crested Cormorant record is outstanding but also important is the Western Meadowlark in the southwestern part of the county, the LeConte's Sparrow west of the city, Pine Grosbeak at Fox Point and Pine Siskins at Shorewood. The Wilson's Phalarope also was observed for a number of days in one of the city's outlying dumps.—**Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee.**

Some Rarer Birds Seen in Richland County. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was first observed in 1916 and has been rather common since. The Cardinal first appeared in 1916 and now also is common. My first observation of the Bewick's Wren was in 1930, while the Carolina Wren was found in 1928 and following years and the Clay-colored Sparrow in 1934 and afterward. The Prothonotary Warbler was recorded in 1919, Yellow-breasted Chat 1936, Mockingbird 1939, Blue Grosbeak 1942, Barn Owl 1911, Yellow-headed Blackbird 1920, White-winged Crossbill 1938, Evening Grosbeak 1917 and Bohemian Waxwing 1937. A Golden Eagle was killed by Alfred Templin of Lime Ridge, Sauk County, in 1931, and a Tufted Titmouse seen in 1941, disappeared on January 7, 1942 after a severe blizzard. The Carolina Wren nested in a large pin oak brush pile for several years but disappeared when the pile was burned. The Bewick's Wren is, no doubt, more common than is supposed. I was several years tracing its song to the source and those who depend on sight alone may never have seen it. All of these observations were made in the townships of Rockbridge and Henrietta, Richland County.—**Earl Sugden, Cazenovia.**

Robins in Price County in February. Here is something unusual for this time of the year: on February 21 about three miles west of Fifield, Mrs. Ruegger, Sam Ruegger and I saw five or six Robins at about 4 p. m. and the barber at Radisson also saw two or three at Radisson on the same day. None have been seen before or since (March 4) and if they did not get out of here, they must have frozen long before now. Also, our Sharp-tailed Grouse have disappeared in the past two years and are very scarce this winter. I believe this is the lowest population in Sharp-tails since they were established here.—**George Ruegger, Radisson.**

Passenger Pigeon Kill Record for 1900. Mr. John Storck, McFarland, has recently reported that when he was 10 years old, he watched his

father shoot a Passenger Pigeon from an oak tree on their farm six miles east of Madison. He insists that he is positive of the date as being the last days of March, 1900, because his father and several other men were at the time digging a basement for their barn. His father had often shot Passenger Pigeons before and make a special point of showing the bird to his son with the comment that "it may be the last one you will ever see." The family saved the tail feathers for 15 years and may still have them, although they haven't as yet been found. It has been reported that one of the men also present at the time the bird was killed is still living but this has not been authenticated.—**W. E. Scott, Madison.**

Killdeer observed in Large Flock. I recently saw something that I have never witnessed before. I never thought that Killdeer were considered a gregarious species, but on March 14 I saw a flock that ran up into the hundreds. The ground was just squirming with birds.—**Walter J. Mueller, Milwaukee.**

Remains of the Wild Turkey in Wisconsin. (From the *Wilson Bulletin*, March, 1943.) The Oshkosh Public Museum has a large collection of bird bones recovered from the Indian refuse pits on the eastern shore of Lake Winneconne, Winnebago county. The writer was instrumental in having these bones sent to Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for identification. Among the bones were 4 meta-carpals of the Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo sylvestris*. This is striking confirmation of the statement of Allouez (*Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 54, 1942, p. 175) that he found Wild Turkeys near Lake Winneconne in 1670. Thanks are due to Dr. Wetmore for working over the large collection of bones.—**A. W. Schorger, Madison.**

SOME BIRD BANDING RETURN RECORDS

Earl Loyster banded a Blue-winged Teal in the spring of 1940, on Lake Maria in Green Lake County, which was shot on Lake Erie at Monroe, Michigan, in the fall of 1942.

Clarence H. Schoenike banded an immature Brown Thrasher, Sept. 9, 1936, in Oconomowoc and the bird was found dead in the same city on May 27, 1942, establishing the age of this bird at about 5½ years.

Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam banded a Mourning Dove on Aug. 18, 1941, at La Crosse and received a report on Mar. 3, 1943, that the bird had been shot or killed recently at Jalisco, Mexico.

The recent Vol. 34, 1942 issue of the *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters* contained two articles of importance to bird students, as follows: "Birds of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum," by Harry G. Anderson, William S. Feeney, Theodore M. Sperry, and John Catenhusen, and "Extinct and Endangered Mammals and Birds of the Upper Great Lakes Region," by A. W. Schorger. Copies may be purchased by contacting the Academy librarian, care of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison.

Because there are less than 1,000 copies of "Wisconsin Birds—A Preliminary Check-list with Migration Charts" still available, the Committee has decided that no more copies will be sold to members at the price of 10 for one dollar. In the future, the special price to members will be 20¢ per copy and to non-members 25¢ per copy. If you do not already have a sufficient supply for your needs, it would be well to secure them immediately by contacting Earl L. Loyster, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison.

BE SURE TO ATTEND THIS ANNUAL MEETING FOR
EDUCATION, RELAXATION AND ASSOCIATION.

PROFESSOR GEORGE WAGNER

Professor George Wagner was born at New Ulm, Minnesota, on February 4, 1873. After completing his secondary education, he attended the University of Michigan in the School of Pharmacy, received a certificate in 1893, was instructor in botany and pharmacology at Northwestern University for two years, then went to the University of Kansas as an instructor in pharmacy. In 1899 he became an Associate Professor and took his Bachelor of Arts degree. During these years his interest in zoology grew and he finally decided to return to Michigan and make zoology his life's work. Returning to Ann Arbor as instructor in zoology, he remained there until 1903, at which time he was granted the degree of Master of Arts. He came to the University of Wisconsin in 1903 as an instructor and rose to the rank of a full Professor by 1931.

Professor Wagner will retire this June after 40 years of teaching various subjects in vertebrate zoology at the university. His courses in comparative anatomy, evolution, history of zoology in proseminary, and general zoology are classics and the course on the vertebrates gave much on bird anatomy and physiology. His intense interest in Wisconsin birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish is well known. He has gathered probably one of the best collections of molluscs to be seen anywhere.

Professor Wagner's ornithological activities center around his work and interest in banding birds. From 1925 to the present, he and his students have banded some 30,000 individual birds. Some of the more numerous of the species that have been banded follow: White-throated Sparrow, 4,900; Slate-colored Junco, 2,500; Chimney Swift, 2,300; Blue Jay, 800; Bob-white Quail, 750; Bronzed Grackle, 600; and Robin, 300.

Last month an interesting bird banding return was brought to Professor Wagner's attention. In May of 1930 Henry Bunting banded an adult Blue Jay at 2020 Chadbourne Avenue. This bird was found dead on February 16, 1943 at 110 N. Allen Street in Madison less than three blocks from where it was banded. As the bird was an adult when banded, it was 14 years old at its death. Another Blue Jay was banded as an adult on May 4, 1929 and was recovered on October 16, 1938 which would make the bird at least nine years of age at death. There have been returns on Chimney Swifts from Minnesota, Missouri, and Michigan. Swifts have been retaken the following year in the same chimney in which they were banded.

Professor Wagner has taken a keen interest in the bird skin collection at the university which now numbers some 1,000 individuals most of which are Wisconsin specimens. He personally has catalogued these skins and I am informed that there are a number of skins yet to be deposited in the collection from Dr. H. H. T. Jackson who collected these birds while studying in the state.

Professor Wagner began teaching a course in ornithology at the University of Wisconsin in 1903 and many of his earlier students have since risen to prominence in the field of ornithology, while many still



Professor George Wagner

pursue the study of birds as a hobby. Among them are Charles Vorhies, now an economic zoologist at the University of Arizona, Alvin R. Cahn, who wrote the "Birds of Waukesha County," Harold Wilson, Dr. H. H. T. Jackson, Wallace Grange, the late Franklin Schmidt, who was studying the Pinnated and Sharp-Tailed Grouse when he met his untimely death, Harry G. Anderson, Donald Farner, John Gundlach, now teaching biology at Neenah, David Frey, with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the writer of this short biographical sketch has also had the privilege of studying and banding birds under Professor Wagner.

A keen student of Wisconsin's fauna, Prof. Wagner was an inspiration to his many students in bird work and his interest in conservation is undying. Taking copious notes and a stickler for keeping bird data, Prof. Wagner always stressed the point that it was easy to band a bird but keeping records up to date was another thing.

Prof. Wagner is a member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Zoological Society, the Kansas Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma, and Phi Beta Kappa. He has been president of the local University of Wisconsin chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Because of Prof. Wagner's retirement and his important contribution to ornithological work, this summary of his accomplishments was prepared at the request of the Editor for the information of Wisconsin bird students.—F. R. Zimmerman, Madison.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Editors of **Field and Stream** again showed a miserable lack of intelligence when they carried in their April, 1943 issue an article by Ray P. Holland entitled "Look Out, Owl!" and a subtitle, "There is plenty of fast sport in shooting hawks, and when you knock down one of these feathered dive-bombers you are doing a real job for conservation."

And so to this—at a time when ammunition is scarce even for shooting legitimate game which can be used for food—at a time when the mouse cycle is at its peak, eating the farmers' war-effort crops—and at a time when the enlightened public is beginning to learn that most all hawks and owls are more valuable to us than detrimental!

Yes, Mr. Holland admits that some hawks and owls are not as bad as others, but when he recommends the killing of Sparrow Hawks because they occasionally eat a song bird, it seems the ornithologists and bird lovers should be the ones to make the accusation rather than a hunter or "sportsman"!

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The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology at the annual business meeting on May 1 in Milwaukee will decide whether or not we should affiliate our organization with the Wilson Ornithological Club. This decision will be somewhat determined by the report of our Affiliations Committee, but the matter is up to all members present at the meeting for decision.

As a member of this committee, the Editor would like to make several comments. There seem to be only two reasons why we should not affiliate with the WOC: 1. We may suffer some loss of our individual entity. 2. We would gain nothing by such affiliation. These are arguments used by those who oppose the affiliation.

These contentions hardly seem tenable inasmuch as the WOC itself is affiliated with the larger organization, The American Ornithologist's Union, without losing any of its individuality and many organizations already affiliated with the WOC, such as the Inland Bird Banding Association, Virginia, Georgia and Iowa Ornithological Societies, have not been so affected by such action. Certainly the WOC has no intention or desire to dictate our policies or "take over" our Society.

As to the benefits which may be derived from such affiliation, various possibilities might be mentioned. Most important of these is the fact that our members who are looking for a "wider horizon" in their bird study work may thereby be encouraged to secure the **Wilson Bulletin** of the WOC, go to their annual meetings, contact their members in other states and thereby become a better bird student. Surely such action would improve the status of these members in our Society. Already over 80 of our members also belong to the WOC and if anything, they have become more active than before. Affiliation would also encourage a freer exchange of publications between our organizations, more frequent and detailed reviews of our articles in their internationally distributed bulletin, and more contact and co-operation between the officers of both organizations.

Affiliations of this sort are largely a matter of spirit and indicate a feeling of comradeship. They do not necessarily have to have "advantages" tacked onto them to make them worthwhile. It is the Editor's personal feeling that our Society should go on record unanimously in favor of affiliation with the Wilson Ornithological Club.

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Annual meetings of the Society are a lot of work for someone and members should realize this when they plan to be present. So here's a recommendation: get out your last issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* and fill in the slip to go with the picture you are donating for the auction. Return the reservation card for the annual dinner the same day you receive it. Call up your friends and make your car arrangements now and when it's all over, give Murl Deusing and the Milwaukee committee a hand for the wonderful meeting!