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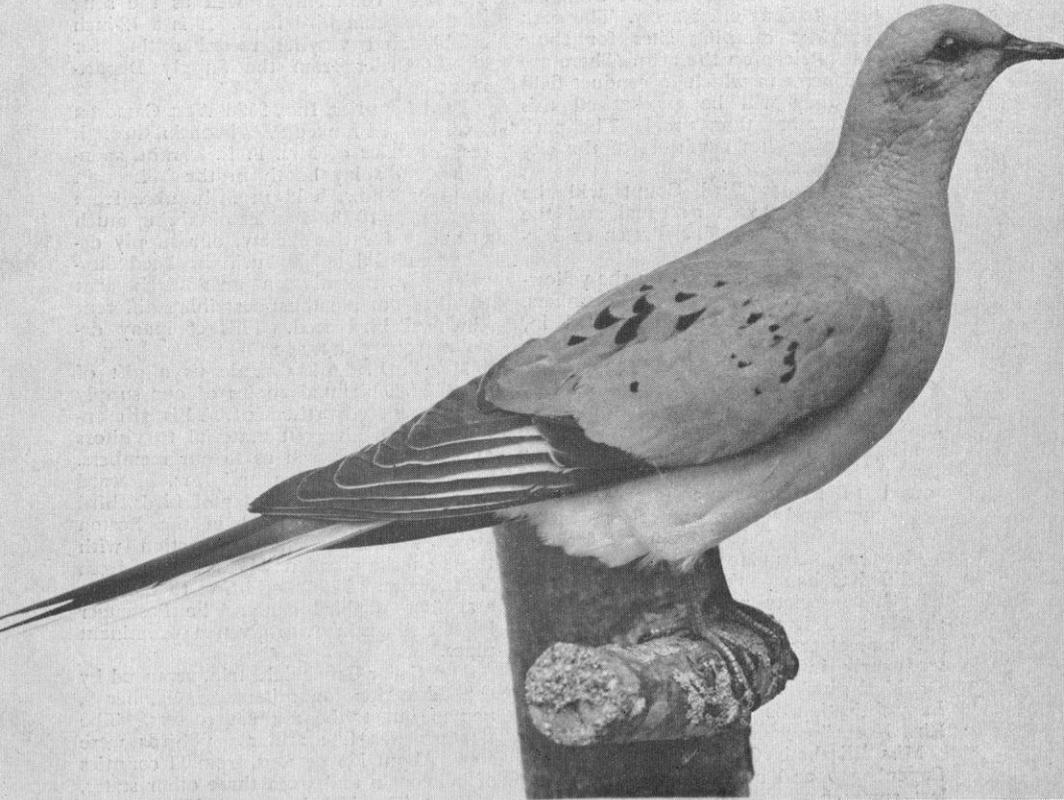
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*The*  
**PASSENGER PIGEON**

VOLUME XI *October, 1949* NUMBER 4



**PASSENGER PIGEON**

FOREST R. POE

**A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY**

*Published Quarterly By*

**THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, Inc.**

# NEWS . . .

To conclude our 10th anniversary celebration we have included in this issue an historical sketch of the Society and a splendid portrait of the passenger pigeon.

Mrs. Winnifred Smith, chairman of the 1950 convention committee, announces that we will meet at Point Beach State Forest, a wildlife area extending two miles on the shore of Lake Michigan, on May 5, 6, and 7. This forest and park has swampland, stream, evergreen and hardwood forest, beach, and highland—ideal for bird study. The banquet and all indoor sessions will be held in the large stone building on the lakeshore; while lodging facilities will be available from three to four miles away. The park itself provides camping sites for those who wish to sleep on the area. There are 1630 wild acres in which to conduct field trips, so they will be emphasized this year much more than usual. The park is located six miles northeast of the city of Two Rivers.

The Christmas Bird Count will be made this year again as usual and the results published in *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Recently, a questionnaire on the yellow-headed blackbird was sent to all members. If you have not returned it filled in, please do so immediately.

A number of members are cooperating with the Society Supply Department this year by selling locally our Christmas gift stationery, prints, and calendars.

Miss Ellen A. Hoffman, 877 Terry Place, Madison 5, Wisconsin, has volunteered to file valuable records, correspondence, and other properties of the Society. This is indeed fortunate for the Society as Miss Hoffman is especially qualified to handle this work. All officers who have society material of this kind should send it to Miss Hoffman.

A new state-wide bird club was organized early in 1949. The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union is the name, and its publication is called "South Dakota Bird Notes."

Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger visited Copenhagen and other points in Europe last summer.

Many members, when sending in their pink renewal blanks, have appended names of prospective members with the result that our enrollment has been increased. If you know of prospective members, please write their names on your renewal blank next time.

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Hammerstrom and family have returned to Wisconsin after living in Michigan for a number of years. They will continue to study the prairie chicken and other grouse. Before returning to Wisconsin, the Hammerstroms also visited Europe.

A new bird-song record has been released titled "A Mockingbird Sings." Imitations by the mockingbird of more than 30 other species are recorded with explanatory comment, as well as the song of the mockingbird itself. It is a 12-inch double-faced vinylite record selling for \$2.50. Order from the Supply Department.

Feed Supplies, Inc., 3328 West Cameron Avenue, Milwaukee 9, Wisconsin, through the initiative of Mrs. F. L. Larkin, sponsored a display booth in the Wisconsin Outdoor Show, held in Milwaukee from September 10-18. Besides obtaining much publicity for the Society, our supply department did a big business. Feed Supplies, Inc., recently sent an advertisement to all of our members describing different kinds of bird feed. This company deserves your patronage.

Mr. F. L. Larkin made us a gift of some 5,000 printed copies of our supply department advertisement. This gift enabled us to give out material to visitors at the booth as well as to our members.

Miss Donna Nelson and Mrs. Howard Higgins arranged a display of birds, bird feeders, and background in the Boston Store, Milwaukee, in conjunction with the Kenosha Garden Club exhibit, from September 22-24. In addition to the general idea of bird study, *The Passenger Pigeon Magazine* was given a prominent place.

The Cedar Grove field trip, arranged by the Education Committee for October 9, turned out to be a great success. The weather was fine and many birds were seen. About 125 persons, from 11 counties of Wisconsin and from three other states,

(Concluded on page 177)

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# THE ORIGIN OF THE COMMON NAMES OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

By H. W. SCHAARS

Is there a bird student who has not given thought at one time or another to the origin of the common name of a certain bird? Why is that Warbler called the Myrtle? Why the name Clark's Nutcracker? Why Sharp-shinned Hawk? Thus the list may grow indefinitely.

An attempt has been made to interpret the common names of our Wisconsin birds. The revised check-list prepared by a Committee of our Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was used. Also the birds on the hypothetical list were included; these have an asterisk placed after the name. The names are arranged according to the order of the A. O. U. Check-list (third edition), the A. O. U. number appearing in parenthesis.

Not every bird name has a satisfactory interpretation. The reader may know of a better explanation in the case of one or the other bird. Could we invite your correspondence in reference to such as you may question, stating your opinion in the matter? In that way we may succeed in preparing at a future date a revised list, a list that may prove to be far more satisfactory.

The author acknowledges gratefully the excellent assistance received from various sources. Particularly helpful were the various references offered by the editor of *THE PASSENGER PIGEON*, Mr. N. R. Barger. Also Mr. Lester Diedrich of the Milwaukee Public Museum staff co-operated beautifully.

## 1. (1) **Western Grebe**

The name Grebe is of unknown origin. This is a bird of Western North America. It is only casually found east as far as Wisconsin or even Quebec.

## 2. (2) **Holboell's Grebe**

Carl von Holboell, for whom the bird is named, was a Danish naturalist, who is known chiefly for his researches in the ornithology of Greenland.

## 3. (3) **Horned Grebe**

"Horned" refers to the prominent ruff or hood about the back of the head consisting of elongated feathers, about half buff or cinnamon, the remainder a brownish black.

## 4. (4) **Eared Grebe**

In summer adults have long, fan-shaped ear-tufts of fine feathers.

## 5. (6) **Pied-billed Grebe**

The bill of this bird is light colored with a conspicuous black band encircling it near the middle—"Pied-billed."

## 6. (7) **Common Loon**

The call of this bird, loud and not unmusical, has something peculiarly weird and uncanny about it—or shall we say loony? This Loon is more common than any other of the Loon species.

## 7. (10) **Pacific Loon**

This is a Loon of Western North America, breeding at Point Barrow, Alaska, and eastward. It winters south along the Pacific Coast to Mexico.

8. (11) **Red-throated Loon**

The front of the neck has a large triangular patch of rich chestnut.

9. (21) **Ancient Murrelet**

"Murrelet" is the diminutive of Murre. While the Murre measures 17 inches, the Murrelet is only 10¼ inches. "Ancient" refers to the curious feather arrangement on the sides and back of the head, the white plumes giving the bird a fancied resemblance to the snowy locks of old age. Natives on Commander Island in Bering Sea call it "Old Man."

10. (34) **Dovekie**

This word is the diminutive of Dove. The bird resembles a small dove; it is known as the Sea Dove. It measures only nine inches.

11. (36) **Pomarine Jaeger**

"Jaeger" is the German word for hunter. It is not an uncommon sight to see this bird give chase to a Tern which has just caught a fish; no matter how the unfortunate one might dart and dodge, the Jaeger follows every turn and finally succeeds in forcing the Tern to drop its prize, the Jaeger seizing the fish before it reaches the water again. This bird is also a great nest-robber; woe to the bird that leaves eggs or young exposed. The word "Pomarine" is derived from the Greek word **Pomarrhinos**; **poma**, lid and **rhinos**, nose. This bird has the nostrils somewhat roofed over by the horny plates forming the ridge of the bill.

12. (37) **Parasitic Jaeger**

This bird lives largely on what it can take by force from smaller birds; truly, a parasite among birds.

13. (39) **Ivory Gull**

"Ivory" indicates white. This beautiful snow-white Gull is at home in the Arctic Seas.

14. (40) **Atlantic Kittiwake**

The name "Kittiwake" is taken from the fancied resemblance between its cry and the syllables "kit-ti-wake." The "Atlantic" contrasts this species with the Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*).

15. (42) **Glaucous Gull**

"Glaucous" is the color of the bird's plumage; a dull or pale green color passing into the grayish blue.

16. (43) **Iceland Gull\***

Iceland is one of the Arctic regions, where this Gull has been found nesting.

17. (47) **Great Black-backed Gull**

This is a "Great" Gull, measuring 30 inches; the Herring only 24, by contrast. The mantle in summer is a deep dark slate with a purplish tinge which gives the bird a black appearance.

18. (51) **Herring Gull**

Not that this Gull feeds on live herring. Gulls rarely feed on live fish. Dead fish, garbage, and refuse on the water's surface are their chief food, serving well as scavengers. These Gulls find the harbors of commercial fishermen ideal. The return of the boats, possibly well laden with a rich catch of herring, is welcomed by the screaming cries of circling Gulls, eagerly awaiting the refuse of the cleaned fish to be thrown overboard.

**19. (54) Ring-billed Gull**

A ring of black crosses the greenish yellow bill near the tip, the black usually being deepest on the lower mandible.

**20. (58) Laughing Gull**

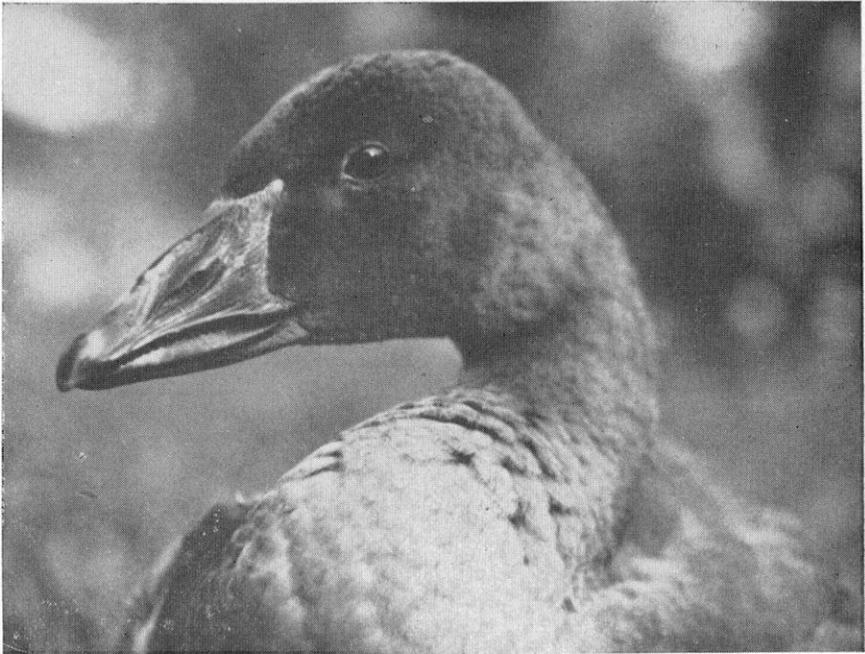
Forbush says, "The Laughing Gull is well named, for seemingly it laughs. No great stretch of the imagination is required to assume that its loud cries are those of real mirth."

**21. (59) Franklin's Gull**

This Gull is named for Sir John Franklin, an English Arctic explorer (1786-1847).

**22. (60) Bonaparte's Gull**

This Gull is named for the French naturalist, Charles Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino, who lived from 1803 to 1857.



IMMATURE BLUE GOOSE

EDWARD PRINS

**23. (62) Sabine Gull**

This species was first described by J. Sabine from specimens taken by his brother, Sir Edward Sabine, 1788-1883, a British physicist, soldier, and explorer. The Gulls were taken on one of a group of rocky islands off the coast of Greenland, while Sir Edward was a member of the Northwest Expedition in 1818. One of the islands in Melville Bay is named Sabine Island.

**24. (63) Gull-billed Tern\***

The name "Tern" is of Norse origin, the Danish name for the bird being *terne*. Linnaeus took the genus name from the Norse term and

called it **Sterna**. This Tern may be distinguished from its near allies by its short and comparatively stout bill, reminding one of the bill of a Gull.

**25. (64) Caspian Tern**

Arthur C. Bent writes: "It was christened Caspian Tern by Pallas, because it was first described from a specimen taken near the Caspian Sea. It is a cosmopolitan species of wide palaeartic and nearctic distribution."

**26. (69) Forster's Tern**

This Tern of the inland lakes is named for John Reinhold Forster, who wrote, among other articles, a valuable account of the birds of Hudson Bay, published in 1772.

**27. (70) Common Tern**

This name reminds us of the fact that this Tern is the most common in most areas, being distributed over the greater part of North America and Africa.

**28. (71) Arctic Tern**

This migration champion deserves the name "Arctic" for it nests as far north as land has been discovered.

**29. (74) Least Tern**

This is the most dainty of all the American sea-birds, measuring only 9 inches, while the Caspian, by way of contrast, is 20 to 23 inches.

**30. (77) Black Tern**

This Tern is so dark all over as to appear sooty, black in the distance.

**31. (78) White-winged Black Tern**

This Black Tern has dark silvery wings fading to white along the border of the forearm.

**32. (118) Water Turkey\***

In reference to this common name T. Gilbert Pearson has this to say, "The Water Turkey is no more a 'Turkey' than the Nighthawk is a 'Hawk,' yet this is the name by which the bird is almost universally known to the people of the Southern States where it is found. Of late years ornithologists have adopted the name." This American Darter haunts the shores of tree-fringed lakes and rivers, which fact accounts for the name "Water."

**33. (120) Double-crested Cormorant**

The name "Cormorant" has come apparently from the Old French **corp-marin**. The Latin form is **corvus marinus**, the sea raven. This large, voracious sea-bird is black in color and has on each side of the head a tuft of narrow, slender, black feathers, "Double-crested."

**34. (125) White Pelican**

The word "Pelican" is closely related to the Greek word meaning "to hew or shape with an ax or hatchet," from the appearance or action of the bill of the bird. The "White" contrasts this bird with its near relative, the Brown Pelican.

**35. (126) Brown Pelican**

The upper parts are dusky brown, the under parts grayish-brown striped with white on sides and flanks.

**36. (128) Man-O-War Bird**

A man-of-war is a vessel equipped for warfare. This bird is aquatic and well equipped for warfare.

**37. (129) American Merganser**

The word "Merganser" is a combination of the Latin *mergus*, a diving bird, and *anser*, a goose. The merganser is a bird of great diving powers. "American"—it is distributed generally throughout North America.

**38. (130) Red-breasted Merganser**

This bird has a white collar below the black throat. Beneath this collar is a broad cinnamon-brown band that must have looked reddish to the one who christened this bird.

**39. (131) Hooded Merganser**

On the head of this Merganser is a very long crest of pure white feathers tipped with black which can be erected so as to form a complete semi-circle, making the most conspicuous crest worn by any of our ducks.

**40. (132) Common Mallard**

Although the origin of the name is seemingly quite obscure, it is believed that the word is an adoption of the Old French *malart*, a wild drake. No one will doubt it is our most common duck.

**41. (133) Common Black Duck**

This duck is recognized by its general color of a rich dark brown, the lower back and rump being glossy black, but elsewhere the plumage is seldom darker than a clear brownish-black.

**42. (135) Gadwall**

The origin of this name is obscure.

**43. (136) European Widgeon**

The word "Widgeon" is of uncertain origin. This is an Old World species which occasionally appears in the western hemisphere. Normally it breeds in Norway and Sweden. In Lapland it is accounted the most abundant of all ducks.

**44. (137) Baldpate**

The forehead and crown are pure white giving the appearance of a bald pate (head).

**45. (139) Green-winged Teal**

The word "Teal" comes from the Middle English *tele*, the European bird. The speculum of this Teal is green and velvet black in about equal parts, margined in front with clear pale brown and behind with pure white.

**46. (140) Blue-winged Teal**

The speculum of the Blue-wing is green, bordered in front by a white bar; the entire shoulder in front of the bar is light blue.

**47. (141) Cinnamon Teal**

The male is a small, cinnamon-red duck with blue patches on the front edges of the wings.

**48. (142) Shoveller**

The broad shovel-like beak of this duck gave rise to the name. The beak may look awkward and oversized, but it is a highly specialized instrument. It possesses comb-like teeth so well adapted for straining out the food particles, fish and vegetable matter, insects, snails and crustaceans.

**49. (143) American Pintail**

The adult male has the elongated, sharp, pin-like, middle tail feathers. "American" would contrast our Pintail from the one of South Africa.

**50. (143.1) Bahama Pintail**

Though one may surmise the reason for the name, there is very little published in reference to this species.

**51. (144) Wood Duck**

The nest of this richly and beautifully colored duck is always placed in the natural hollow of a tree, which may be living or dead, the entrance being 40 or 50 feet above ground at times; truly, a Wood Duck.

**52. (146) Redhead**

This duck has the head and neck a bright reddish-brown.

**53. (147) Canvas-back**

This duck is so named from the color of the back feathers, having the pattern of a canvas.

**54. (148) Greater Scaup Duck**

The word "Scaup" is an obsolete variation of the word **scalp**. **Scalp** in an English dialect is defined as a "projecting mass of rock, stone, sand, or mud, uncovered by the sea at low tide, disclosing beds of oysters and other shellfish." The Scaup Ducks feed largely on mollusks.

**55. (149) Lesser Scaup Duck**

While the average length of the Lesser is 15¾ inches, that of the Greater is 19 inches.

**56. (150) Ring-necked Duck**

The lower neck is encircled by a chestnut ring which is not readily noticeable. It may have been better named "Ring-billed," since the bill is crossed near the tip by a bluish-white band.

**57. (151) American Golden-eye**

The rich yellow color of the iris accounts for the name. "American" would distinguish this duck from its European relatives.

**58. (152) Barrow's Golden-eye\***

It is an English ornithologist of note whose name is immortalized in the common name of this duck—Sir John Barrow.

**59. (153) Buffle-head**

"Buffle-head" means "having a head like a buffalo." The feathers of the hind head and neck are thick, bushy, and elongated.

**60. (154) Old Squaw**

This duck is extremely noisy; the constant gabbling has undoubtedly earned for it the name "Old Squaw."

**61. (155) Harlequin Duck**

"Harlequin" is a "buffoon or clown." The duck is well named. It is fantastically colored, yet delightfully so, a thing of beauty with an elegant form and a graceful carriage, the loveliest of Sea Ducks.

**62. (160) American Eider\***

The word "Eider" was ultimately adopted from the Icelandic word meaning "eider duck." "American" contrasts this duck with its European and Northern relatives, whose bill processes extend upward and backward toward the eyes.

**63. (162) King Eider**

Could it be that the name "King" was added because the male has an immense square frontal process bulging high above the rest of the bill in allusion to the crown of a king?

64. (163) **American Scoter**

The word "Scoter" is of doubtful origin, perhaps a variant of the word "scout." "American" distinguishes this Scoter from its European relative, the two being very similar in description.

65. (164) **Velvet Scoter\***

Here is a Scoter with a velvety-black plumage.

66. (165) **White-winged Scoter**

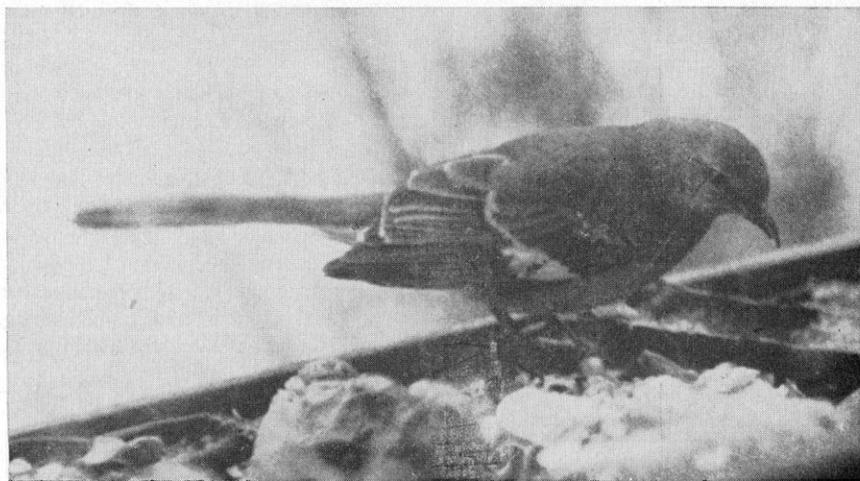
The white wing-bars of this Scoter readily distinguish it from the other members of the Scoter tribe.

67. (166) **Surf Scoter**

This is the most maritime of all Scoters.

68. (167) **Ruddy Duck**

A bright chestnut is the general color of this sprightly, comical little duck.



MOCKINGBIRD AT THE FOOD SHELF

EDWARD PRINS

69. (168) **Masked Duck**

The front of the head is black as though it may be wearing a mask.

70. (169) **Lesser Snow Goose**

The word "Goose" is from the Middle English *gos* or the German *gans*. The word "Snow" is appropriate since it is snow-white all over, except for the outer wing feathers which are black and the bill and feet which are dull red. It breeds beyond the Arctic Circle, a land associated with snow. The "Lesser" distinguishes it from the "Greater," being decidedly smaller in size.

71. (169.1) **Blue Goose**

We find the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts of this Goose bluish-gray to nearly white, the primaries of the wings slaty-blue to black, the secondaries mainly black, the coverts blue gray.

72. (171a) **White-fronted Goose**

This Goose has a clear white patch on the front of the face.

73. (172) **Canada Goose**

This best known member of the family breeds in northern United States and in Canada, chiefly in Canada.

74. (172a) **Lesser Canada Goose\***

This Goose is smaller, the Canada being 39 inches, the Lesser about 29.

75. (173a) **American Brant**

The derivation and original application of the word "Brant" is uncertain. Later etymologists suggested "brand," a fire, burning, perhaps in the sense of dusky black or sooty color, in reference to the dark head and neck of the bird. "American" reminds us of the European Brant.

76. (180) **Whistling Swan**

The word "Swan" is akin to a Sanskrit word meaning "sound." Roberts has this: "The name 'Whistling' would seem to imply that its notes were of such character, but published descriptions do not impute any such quality to its cries."

77. (181) **Trumpeter Swan**

"The notes are loud, resonant, and have been compared to the musical resonance of a French horn," to use Bent's description.

78. (183) **Roseate Spoonbill**

It is a bird with a curious spoon-shaped bill. The general plumage is pink, rose-colored, roseate; the wings and under parts have the color of a delicate rose-madder.

79. (186) **Eastern Glossy Ibis**

The word "Ibis" is adopted from the Greek word that referred to the Egyptian bird, the Sacred Ibis of Egypt, an object of veneration among the ancient Egyptians. The "Glossy" refers to the glossy green of back, wings, and tail.

80. (188) **Wood Ibis**

The nest of this Ibis is of sticks, placed high up in trees.

81. (190) **American Bittern**

The term "Bittern" is from the Middle English *bitoure*. *Toure* has the same root as *taurus*, the ox. Hence, also the genus name of *Botaurus*. This likely refers to the peculiar booming sounds the birds utter. "American," to distinguish it from the European species.

82. (191) **Least Bittern**

While the American has an average length of 29 inches, the "Least" is less than half that, 13 inches.

83. (194) **Great Blue Heron**

The word "Heron" is from the Middle English *heroun*. "Great" signifies that it is the largest of the heron tribe. "Blue" describes the general color of the plumage.

84. (196) **American Egret**

"Egret" is a variation of *aigrette*, a plume or tuft of feathers, gems, or the like. The feather aigrettes of commerce were the plumes of the Egret. It is distributed in both Americas, hence the name "American" is well placed.

85. (197) **Snowy Egret**

The plumage is pure white with only the bill and legs black.

**86. (200) Little Blue Heron**

The "Little" has a length of 24 inches, while the "Great" measures from 48 to 50 inches. The general plumage of the Little Blue is a dark slaty-blue.

**87. (201) Green Heron**

The entire top of the head is a dark lustrous green, the back and upper surface of wings and tail are green, and while the bill is brownish-black above, it is greenish-white below.

**88. (202) Black-crowned Night Heron**

These Herons feed mostly at night. The top of the head, the crown, is a dark bottle green, almost black.

**89. (203) Yellow-crowned Night Heron\***

The crown is white, generally washed with buffy.

**90. (204) Whooping Crane**

The notes are a whoop or trumpet-call. The windpipe is about 58 inches long, some 28 inches of which are coiled in the breast-bone. It is this remarkable arrangement that adds volume and strength to the whoop.

**91. (205) Little Brown Crane**

This Crane has a brownish-gray plumage. It greatly resembles the Sandhill, whose length is 44 inches; this Crane, being smaller, only 35 inches, is named "Little."

**92. (206) Sandhill Crane**

Although the Crane is a wader, it prefers upland pastures and plowed lands. The nest is placed on the ground, usually on some island or ridge of slightly higher ground where there is less danger of inundation, the "Sandhill" Crane.

**93. (208) King Rail**

The origin of the word "Rail" is unknown. Forbush uses the simile "thin as a rail" and adds, "An inch is ample space for a Rail to pass for it can compress the narrow body until it takes less room than that." The name "King" reminds us that this Rail is larger than any other of the Rail species.

**94. (212) Virginia Rail**

The writer found no clue giving the reason for the name "Virginia."

**95. (214) Sora**

Webster's New International Dictionary states, "Perhaps of North American Indian Origin."

**96. (215) Yellow Rail**

There is a general yellowness about this bird.

**97. (216) Black Rail\***

The upper parts of this little, six-inch Rail are black, barred with white.

**98. (218) Purple Gallinule**

"Gallinule" is the diminutive form of the Latin word *gallina*; thus "Gallinule" means "little hen." The head, neck, and underparts are a deep purplish-blue.

**99. (219) Florida Gallinule**

Why "Florida"? Just an idea. Since its distribution is throughout Temperate and Tropical America, from Canada to Brazil and Chile, Florida is about midway between.

**100. (221) Coot**

Could it be that its cuckoo-like call of "coo-coo-coo-coo" gave rise to the name "Coot"?

**101. (222) Red Phalarope**

"Phalarope" is from the New Latin **phalaropus**; **phalaris** is coot, **pous** is foot. Here, then, we have a bird with the foot of a coot, whose toes have lobed or scalloped webs. This Phalarope has the underparts entirely red, while the upperparts are mottled and striped with black and pale brown.

**102. (223) Northern Phalarope**

"Northern" tells us that the breeding distribution of this bird is in Arctic latitudes.

**103. (224) Wilson's Phalarope**

Named in honor of Alexander Wilson.

**104. (225) Avocet**

Alfred Newton in A DICTIONARY OF BIRDS says, "This word is considered to be derived from the Latin **avis**, the termination expressing a diminutive of a graceful or delicate kind."

**105. (226) Black-necked Stilt**

This is a bird with very long, slender, flesh-colored legs, whose back, shoulders, and wings are glossy black, continuing up back of the neck onto the crown.

**106. (228) Woodcock**

Its habitat is practically confined to wet woodlands and the thickets bordering streams.

**107. (230) Wilson's Snipe**

The word "Snipe" is of Scandinavian origin, the Middle English being **snype**. Here is another bird telling us that America had a great ornithologist in Alexander Wilson.

**108. (231) Dowitcher**

Roberts writes, "The name of this bird is derived from **Deutscher**, meaning a 'German Snipe.'"

**109. (233) Stilt Sandpiper**

The legs of this Sandpiper are very long for the size of the bird. When seen among the Semipalmated, the long legs raise the body conspicuously above the smaller relatives. The word "Sandpiper" would indicate a bird that runs along the sand and utters a piping note.

**110. (234) American Knot**

Webster states that the origin of the word "Knot" is unknown.

**111. (235) Purple Sandpiper**

Above this Sandpiper is very dark gray or bluish ash with purple or violet reflections; throat and breast are also bluish ash.

**112. (239) Pectoral Sandpiper**

"Pectoral" is from the Latin **pectoralis**, the breast. This bird has a thickly streaked breast.

**113. (240) White-rumped Sandpiper**

The rump and upper tail coverts of this bird are white.

**114. (241) Baird's Sandpiper**

Spencer Fullerton Baird (1828-1887), for whom this Sandpiper is named, was an American naturalist who served as secretary of the Smithsonian Institute for some time.

**115. (242) Least Sandpiper**

Here we have the smallest of our Sandpipers, six inches long, not heavier than an English Sparrow.

**116. (243) Red-backed Sandpiper**

The top of the head, the back, the wings and upper tail feathers of this bird are bright reddish-brown, or rusty.

**117. (246) Semi-palmated Sandpiper**

Only the anterior toes are joined part way down with a web.

**118. (247) Western Sandpiper**

This Sandpiper breeds in a narrow strip of territory along the north-western coast of Alaska.

**119. (248) Sanderling**

The Sanderling is a little bird of the sandy beaches whose very color matches so perfectly with the sand that it is almost invisible while squatted on the beach.

**120. (249) Marbled Godwit**

The shrieking coming from a flock of Godwits on the prairie is an incessant din of "god-wit, god-wit." "Marbled" refers to the mottled and dappled markings of the bird.

**121. (251) Hudsonian Godwit**

This bird breeds in the country about Hudson Bay.

**122. (254) Greater Yellow-legs**

A bird with such long, slender yellow legs may well be called "Yellow-legs."

**123. (255) Lesser Yellow-legs**

While the average length of the "Greater" is 13¼ inches, that of the "Lesser" is only 10¼ inches.

**124. (256) Solitary Sandpiper**

Most of the Sandpipers are seen in compact flocks; not so this species. It is essentially solitary in its habits.

**125. (258) Western Willet**

The most characteristic note is a long, musically whistled "pill-will-willet." This is a geographical variety, usually ranging west of the Mississippi, larger than its eastern relative.

**126 (261) Upland Plover**

The word "Plover" is from the Latin *plovarius*, belonging to rain. The connection with "rain" has been variously explained. This Plover has a preference for upland fields and hilly pastures.

**127. (262) Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

The throat, breast, and all underparts are plain buff, unmarked except by a few brownish spots on side and chest.

**128. (263) Spotted Sandpiper**

This is the only Sandpiper whose underparts are thickly marked with dark-brown or black spots on a nearly white ground color, the round spots resembling polka dots.

**129. (264) Long-billed Curlew**

In commenting upon the note of the Hudsonian Curlew Forbush writes, "In spring they have a soft, mournful call, 'curlew.'" Possibly the name is imitative of its call. "Long-billed" is appropriately named, for the bird has an extremely long, downward curving bill that is six to nine inches long.

**130. (265) Hudsonian Curlew**

"Hudsonian" refers to Hudson Bay. The breeding area of this bird is north and west of Hudson Bay.

**131. (266) Eskimo Curlew**

We may have to use the past tense in writing about this bird. It bred on the Barren Grounds of northern Mackenzie, an area that we associate with the Eskimo.

**132. (270) Black-bellied Plover**

The lower parts are mainly clear black, including the sides of the head above the eye.

**133. (272) American Golden Plover**

In spring the dark upperparts are flecked with golden yellow. This bird traverses about 8,000 miles of the Western Hemisphere in its migratory journey; thus the term "American" befits this great traveler.

**134. (273) Killdeer**

This plover gets its name from its loud and frequently repeated cry which somewhat resembles the words "kill-deer" or the syllables "kill-dee." Some have even claimed that this bird has killed deer by blinding the animal through constant pecking at the eyes.

**135. (274) Semi-palmated Plover**

"Palmated" refers to having the toes connected by an expanded membrane. "Semi-palmated" refers to the fact that they are joined only part way down.

**136. (277) Piping Plover**

The notes of this Plover resemble a plaintive piping whistle which is frequently heard.

**137. (278a) Cuban Snowy Plover**

The forehead, the line over the eye, the sides of the head, and the whole underparts are snowy white. This bird nests along the Gulf Coast, in Cuba, and in the Bahamas.

(Continued in next issue)



MRS. GATES MAKES FRIENDS WITH BROWN THRASHER

# Sac Prairie Autumn

By AUGUST DERLETH

**21 September:** A wood thrush called late this evening out of the woods near the Spring Slough, a late songster indeed, and surely the last of the thrushes, a lingering solitary, and, listening, I put down **The Last Thrush:**

His song comes muted, almost by stealth  
out of the darkening wood where once the wealth  
of songs rang loud and clear—the last bird  
of his kind saying the summer's final word.  
And to the man who stands upon the trestle there  
listening, listening for each note in evening air,  
the song comes like something lost,  
something retreating reluctantly before frost.  
And he thinks—around the bend just up ahead  
the restless clock soon will have led  
him to his own late summer, which will not linger long;  
and he listens, as if to hear again that last thrush song  
might grant him time beyond his span—  
in silence waits upon the bird, but the thrush talks to no man.

**24 September:** One of the local characters informed me in the post office this morning that he had had a sign of extremely cold weather in Canada. This had come to him, he said cogently, by way of migrating robins, a flock of which had come down near his home. "I noticed so many of them have white spots in their feathers, and the way I see it, that's a sign of cold weather up north where they came from." I was quite taken by this fantasy; he had come to this conclusion and quite manifestly, from his point-of-view, there was nothing to be gained by examining any other explanation of the phenomenon; so I offered none.

**26 September:** In the marshes late this afternoon I watched a conclave of hundreds of redwings and grackles blackening the willow trees along the brook. I observed particularly how the free flight of a pigeon hawk among them frightened them into three compact groups which wheeled and tacked out of the hawk's way, though the hawk was not at all interested in them. Only after he had gone did they resume their confabulation, punctuated frequently by the familiar and pleasant **conquerees**. Their noisy debate diminished only when the sun had gone down.

**13 October:** On the hills this afternoon purple finches, bluebirds, and killdeers sang steadily. The finches were apparently in migration. No other bird voices sounded.

**15 October:** I sat at the brook to read this afternoon. A strong wind blew out of the south, tearing the **conquerees**' from the black throats of the redwings, mingling with the cawing of crows, the cries of pheasant cocks, the quirring of quail. These cries were constant; an occasional song

sparrow still sang, but now with that broken melody so typical of autumn, as if it were too much effort to complete the pattern.

**16 October:** Sitting beside a bonfire at the brook tonight, enjoying the fragrance of leaves and smoke and listening to the rune of the brook in that place, I heard the wild, lonely crying of a solitary killdeer, and I thought that there was in its voice a quality of ineffable sadness.

**17 October:** A trio of blue-jays foraged busily in the thatch on the west gable roof this morning. I watched them with interest and saw one of the birds discover what appeared to be three acorns, quite probably cached there by squirrels. These the jay rapidly devoured, swallowing each whole. The three jays quartered the roof, assiduously hunting the thatch, before taking their leave.

**18 October:** In the marshes this chill evening I heard redwings' **conquerees**, the fluted calls of peepers, robin and myrtle warbler plaints, the song of white-throated sparrows, the plaintive notes of killdeers, a woodcock's whistling, the crowing of pheasant cocks, and a colloquy of jack-snipes not far from the brook's edge. Approximately thirty Canada geese flew south east of the embankment, and a short time thereafter fifty more birds flew in the same direction over the Lower Meadow.

**22 October:** Late tonight, rising from the desk, heard the honking of geese flying over. I stepped out on to the balcony and listened; the night air was richly fragrant—of frost-touched leaves, and the moon shone out of the east, just above the near trees. And just above the moon, caught darkly within its effulgence, the long file of geese went past, their voices coming distantly down; a second flock went by just overhead, invisible against the stars, honking steadily, as if to clear their celestial course. The geese honked dimly into the south and were gone at last.

**13 November:** I walked into the village at 7:15 this morning via the Upper Lane, well away from traffic, but it was a silent walk, with but the mimicry of starlings (making meadowlark songs and calls this morning), chickadees, and a few sparrow voices to break the autumnal stillness.

**16 November:** A migrating flock of kinglets foraged in the cedars today, nothing daunted by a drenching downpour.

**26 November:** Redwings still sang in the marshes this afternoon. Two small flocks of the birds flew along the meadows and brooks, pausing here and there in the trees that stood alone and in the thickets. Their **conquerees** was welcome, withal somewhat melancholy, and their flight suggested that they were moving about over this familiar area to bid it farewell against the winter coming.

**2 December:** Only the winter voices of the woods rose out of the marshes today—chickadees, juncos, woodpeckers, jays, a robin's plaint, starling mimicry, and the distant cawing of crows.

Sauk City, Wisconsin

# THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

By L. KUMLIEN and N. HOLLISTER

With Revisions by A. W. Schorger

(Continued from last issue)

The following inserts were inadvertently left out in the last installment of this series:

After Richardson's Owl.

[Three specimens taken in Sawyer County on December 12, 1930, December 26, 1933, and January 18, 1934, have been recorded by C. T. Black (*Auk* 52,1935:451). The bird killed December 26, 1933, actually taken in Washburn County, is now at the State Game Farm, Poynette.]  
After Saw-whet Owl.

[There are few data on the nesting of this owl. It was found breeding at Hayward in 1944 by F. Zirrer (*Pass. Pigeon* 6,1944:62-5). W. J. Mueller (*Auk* 53,1936:447) found a pair near Hartland, Waukesha County, June, 1936, that behaved as though nesting.]  
After Arctic Horned Owl.

[*B. v. subarcticus* Hoy becomes *wapacuthu* (Gmelin). (J. L. Peters, Check-List of Birds of the World, Vol. 4,1940:111). The subspecies *occidentalis* may occur in the state as it is resident on Isle Royale. (J. Van Tyne, Check List of the birds of Michigan, *Occ. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich.*, No. 379, June 16, 1938). The difficulties in distinguishing the various races have been pointed out by P. A. Taverner (*Auk* 59, 1942; 234-45).]

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## Snowy Owl (continued)

Frequently appears in southern Wisconsin as early as the middle of October, but more often from late November to mid-winter. Can hardly be considered as nocturnal, as it hunts over the marshes all day like a hawk. When these owls reach Lake Koshkonong during open winter they persistently hunt along the edge of the rushes for wounded ducks, and at times, apparently from choice, as other food is plenty, will catch fish. Does not occur in nearly as great numbers as formerly, and at the present time has developed a degree of sagacity equalled only by the sand-hill crane or golden eagle.

[Occurs periodically in winter in large numbers.]

## *Surnia ulula caparoch* (Mull.). American Hawk Owl.

A very rare winter visitant in southern Wisconsin; more frequent in the northern part, especially of late years. Recorded from Racine by Dr. Hoy and from the same place by Thure Kumlien, who received a specimen from there killed in the winter of 1869. Several were also taken about Lake Koshkonong at an early day. Mr. J. N. Clark has taken the hawk owl twice at Meridian, in April, 1885, and in December, 1900. In the winter of 1892 we received three specimens from Bayfield County. A specimen in the Milwaukee Public Museum is labeled "Fox Point, Milwaukee, Wis."

[J. N. Clark (*Wilson Bull.* 11, No. 24, 1899:6) states that he took a specimen in Dunn County on December 10, 1898. One was taken in Vilas

County on November 16, 1925. It is in the collection of C. D. Klotz (*Auk* 45,1928:213). A. J. Schoenebeck (*Birds of Oconto County, 1902:27*) mentions a specimen taken January 10, 1899, in the collection of Carl Schoenebeck. There is another in the Milwaukee Public Museum stated to have been taken in Milwaukee County in October, 1892 (*Pass. Pigeon* 2,1940:31). On January 2, 1944, one was observed by S. P. Jones and others (*Pass. Pigeon* 6,1944:52) at Horicon Marsh.]

**ORDER PSITTACI: PARROTS, MACAWS, PAROQUETS, ETC.**  
**FAMILY PSITTACIDAE: PARROTS AND PAROQUETS.**

**Conurus carolinensis (Linn.). Carolina Paroquet.**

Many years ago the paroquet occasionally wandered to southern Wisconsin. Dr. Hoy, in 1852, somewhat vaguely refers to it as "formerly common on the Mississippi River, within the state, latterly seldom met with." Thure Kumlien saw a considerable flock near Lake Koshkonong in 1844 or 1845. One specimen which he secured at this place at an early day was sent to John G. Bell, of New York. In the Kumlien collection is a fine specimen, taken in Waukesha County in 1844, which is probably the only Wisconsin specimen extant (1). Nelson, in 1876, refers to the taking of specimens in northeastern Illinois, by Robert Kennicott (probably in the fifties), and states that others were seen in the vicinity at an early day.

[The race inhabiting the Mississippi Valley was *Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus* (Gmelin). Nothing has been found to substantiate Hoy's statement that the Paroquet was formerly common in the state along the Mississippi River.]

**ORDER COCCYGES: CUCKOOS, ETC.**  
**FAMILY CUCULIDAE: CUCKOOS, ANIS, ETC.**

**Coccyzus americanus (Linn.). Yellow-billed Cuckoo.**

A regular summer resident from the southern tier of counties to at least beyond the middle of the state, and sparingly still farther north. Not nearly so common in most sections as the next, and rather irregularly distributed. In some districts it is even more common than the black-bill, this being especially true in parts of the extreme southern counties at least. It is a common occurrence to find young of different ages in the same nest, and even young nearly ready to fly and fresh eggs together. Appears to be more numerous than thirty-five years ago. A rather late arrival in spring—often not before the 20th of May—it departs for the south by the end of August. Often confounded with the next, which seems inexcusable.

**Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Wils.). Black-billed Cuckoo.**

A summer resident; rather hardier than the yellow-billed, arriving earlier and remaining later; more common than that species also and more regular in distribution. From data at our command this species seems to range much farther north than the preceding and not to be so closely restricted to certain localities and certain kinds of timber. We

1. Cook's "Birds of Michigan," 1893, makes the mis-statement that I have taken a specimen of the paroquet in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. This probably refers to one taken by my father many years before, as I have of course, never seen the bird in the state.—L. Kumlien.

have watched a pair of these birds, returning from day to day, eat and carry away the hairy caterpillars as fast as they left the web nest, in a small wild plum tree. We have found the eggs of one of the species of cuckoo, at least, in nests of the catbird, brown thrasher and rose-breasted grosbeak, but have never seen the young cared for by foster parents.

#### FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE: KINGFISHERS

##### *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.). **Belted Kingfisher.**

A common summer resident. Arrives in southern Wisconsin about the first of April, and remains until the ice forms. Mr. Wm. H. Bennets writes us of an individual which remained through the winter. An interesting bird, whose life history has been but slightly touched upon. A careful study of the habits and every day doings of the kingfisher has many surprises in store for the careful observer.

#### ORDER PICI: WOODPECKERS, ETC.

##### FAMILY PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS.

##### *Dryobates villosus* (Linn.). **Hairy Woodpecker.**

Resident, common, but not nearly as abundant as the downy woodpecker. Not particularly a bird of the pine timber, it breeds from the southern tier of counties northward in hardwood sections as well. Commoner in southern Wisconsin in winter.

##### *Dryobates villosus leucomelas* (Bodd.). **Northern Hairy Woodpecker.**

Dr. Hoy and Thure Kumlien took specimens of this variety in the early days in both Racine and Jefferson Counties. Up to 1875 it was a regular visitor in winter in the tamarack swamps in north Jefferson County. During the past ten or fifteen years not a specimen has been taken and hairy woodpeckers collected in winter and late fall in northern Wisconsin have all proved to be typical *villosus*. More information regarding its recent occurrence and distribution in Wisconsin is desirable. To be looked for in severe winters along our northern border, especially. The hoary whiteness is a more pronounced character even than the larger size.

[The Northern Hairy Woodpecker, *D. v. septentrionalis* (Nuttal), is rare. No recent specimens are known.]

##### *Dryobates pubescens medianus* (Swains.). **Downy Woodpecker.**

Resident. Common at all seasons, but more plenty in summer than in winter, in this respect the opposite of *villosus*. Fully as common as thirty years ago. Competent observers, as Grundtvig, in his "Birds of Shiocton," speak of this species nesting at heights of thirty feet or more. This is decidedly at variance with the habits of the bird in southern Wisconsin, where it is a common nesting species, the nest being rarely more than ten or twelve feet, often only four to six, and in one instance just twenty-six inches above the ground.

[Nelson's Downy Woodpecker, *D. p. nelsoni* Oberholser, should occur occasionally in winter in northern Wisconsin.]

##### *Picoides arcticus* (Swains.). **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker.**

Common in the pine regions of the state during late fall and winter. Before the growth of heavy tamarack was cut in the many swamps of portions of southern Wisconsin it was abundant in such localities as far

south as Fort Atkinson in winter. Rarely taken in other timber than pine or tamarack, and of late years it seldom visits southern Wisconsin. This species undoubtedly breeds in the northern part of the state, as there are several records of specimens taken during summer months. We have seen it at Merrill and near Wausau in June, and near Oconto (several specimens) in early August. Thirty to forty years ago it impressed one as being almost gregarious, such large numbers were found in a very small area of dead tamarack. These trees seem to contain insect larvae of which the birds are particularly fond.

[This woodpecker is confined largely to the northern part of the state and is local during the summer months. I found it quite common in the swamps near Teal Lake, Sawyer County, in June, 1947. It reaches southern Wisconsin but rarely now. C. S. Jung (*Auk* 45,1928:384) saw one in Waukesha County on March 25, 1928. R. A. McCabe (*Pass. Pigeon* 5,1943:3) found a dead female near the Sullivan Marsh, Jefferson County, on December 23, 1942. H. H. T. Jackson (*Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:11) found a nest with young near Mellen on June 12, 1919. On June 12, 1940, members of the staff of the Milwaukee Public Museum (*Pass. Pigeon* 2,1940:98) collected the adults, nest and contents in Price County.]

**Picoides americanus (Brehm.). American Three-toed Woodpecker.**

Rare winter visitant. Records of this woodpecker for Wisconsin are very few. From 1860 to 1870 several specimens, about a dozen all told, were taken by Thure and L. Kumlien in the large tamarack wood near Jefferson. Dr. H. V. Ogden and Dr. E. Copeland have taken two specimens in Iron County, a male and a female, taken, respectively, Sept. 30 and Sept. 25, 1898, and preserved in the collection of E. Copeland and H. Russel at Milwaukee; and it has been reported from the upper peninsula of Michigan by Mr. H. Nehrling. It is certainly a decidedly rare bird in central or southern Wisconsin at the present day, but doubtless occurs each winter in the extreme northern pine woods.

[A rare species but probably breeds in the state. Two were collected by H. H. T. Jackson (*Pass. Pigeon* 4,1943:11) at Connors Lake on August 9, 1919. One was observed in Vilas County by Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Miles (*Pass. Pigeon* 7,1945:96) on March 30, 1945.]

**Sphyrapicus varius (Linn.). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.**

Abundant migrant and regular summer resident. Arrives in southern Wisconsin from the last of March, through the month of April. In autumn the migration extends from September 15 to October 15. Summer resident from near the southern tier of counties northward, sparingly southward and more commonly farther north. Breeds in considerable numbers about Lake Koshkonong, always in "bottom land" timber, maple, elm and ash, usually, if not always, excavating a cavity in a green tree. Spring males show a great variation in the amount and distribution of the red, both on throat and head. Apparently has not decreased in numbers during the past thirty-five years.

[The breeding range of this species is receding northward. Within recent years it has nested as far south as the northern end of Sauk County.]

**Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola (Bangs.). Northern Pileated Woodpecker.**

With the disappearance of heavy timber this species has gradually been driven from sections where it was formerly common. Going back to

1870 and earlier, it was not at all an uncommon bird in Bark River woods in Jefferson County, where it bred regularly as late as 1872, and sparingly even later. No doubt the same thing is true of all the once heavily timbered sections of the state. One was shot in Jefferson County in 1877, in late fall, the last record for the section. One was seen in Walworth County in May, 1889. In the central and northern parts of the state it is still fairly common, especially in the heavily timbered hardwood districts. Probably resident wherever found, though individuals sometimes wander considerable distances out of their usual range. We received a specimen in October, 1898, which had been killed by a boy with a "sling-shot" in Lincoln Park, Chicago. Several years ago a specimen was taken alive in a room of the upper story of a house in Milwaukee. It had apparently crawled in at the open window. Two specimens have been picked up on the lake shore at Milwaukee, having no doubt become bewildered and perished in the lake. Generally known as "wood-cock," or "log-cock" by deer hunters and people living in the timber regions. Except in the entirely unsettled parts of the state has become exceedingly wild and wary.

[A distributional map has been prepared by George C. Becker (*Pass. Pigeon* 4,1943:29-34).]

### ***Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linn.). Red-headed Woodpecker.**

Very common summer resident and of late years to a considerable extent resident. Few birds have so modified their habits in the past forty years as this species. Twenty-five years ago it was a rare thing to find one in winter; at the present time that is a common occurrence. Perhaps more interesting are the curious nesting sites selected in order to conform to the changed surroundings. Instead of being restricted more or less to rather open groves of heavy timber it is now found almost everywhere, in the largest cities and on the widest prairies. Among some of the odd nesting sites we have noted are the following: Between two flat rails on an old style rail fence; the hub of a broken wagon wheel, leaning against a fence; the box of a grain drill left standing in a field; a hole excavated in the hollow cylinder of an ordinary pump; common in fence posts and telegraph poles. These were usually in prairie regions where there were few, if any, suitable trees. The red-head has to a marked degree the habit of the genus *Melanerpes* of hiding or hoarding food, acorns, corn, various nuts, etc., in cracks and crevices in the back of trees, along fences, etc., but it does not always utilize these hoards.

### ***Melanerpes carolinus* (Linn.). Red-bellied Woodpecker.**

Not a common species anywhere in Wisconsin. Our observation has been that it inhabits heavy bottom land timber, maple, ash, etc., in preference to oak. Probably nearly resident wherever it occurs in the state, as it certainly is in Jefferson, Dane and Rock Counties, it being, if anything, more common in suitable localities here in winter than in summer. Dr. Hoy noted that it remained all winter at Racine. Grundtvig found it in winter in Outagamie County in 1883, and Willard took specimens in Brown County in February and April. Mr. J. N. Clark has procured but four specimens in sixteen years collecting in Dunn County—one male was seen in November. The eggs have been taken several times in Jefferson County, where the nesting sites were always in large dead trees overhanging water, and generally at a considerable height, and very hard to

reach. Mr. W. E. Snyder records three specimens from Dodge County—in June, October, and November. We took a single specimen in Milwaukee County in May, 1882, but in no part of the state have we ever found it as plenty as along the bottom lands of Koshkonong Creek, Jefferson County.

***Colaptes auratus luteus* (Bangs.). Northern Flicker.**

A very common summer resident in all parts of the state. This is especially true of the older settled sections. Arrives in southern Wisconsin from the middle of March to the first week in April, according to the season, and though the greater portion have left for the south by the middle of October, a few are found a full month later. Less common in the heavy pine regions. In sections where suitable trees are scarce, this species will sometimes bore a hole in the gable end of a clapboard house and deposit its eggs on the first convenient cross timber between the board and plaster. One instance which came to our notice was where an opening was made in the loft of a barn, and the eggs simply deposited on some hay in one corner, several feet from the hole. An ant-eating, ground-feeding species, very different in habits from the rest of the woodpeckers. We have taken two specimens in southern Wisconsin, which show a slight tendency toward the red-shafted. One male in the Kumlien collection, Milton, Wis., May 10, 1892, has a very liberal sprinkling of scarlet in the usual black "moustache," besides some minor intermediate characters.

**ORDER MACROCHIRES: GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, ETC.  
FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDAE: GOATSUCKERS.**

***Antrostomus vociferus* (Wils.). Whip-poor-will.**

This bird was formerly a very common summer resident in all thickly wooded sections of the state, and is still locally common wherever there is thick underbrush, or in such places as have not been pastured or burned over. It usually arrives in southern Wisconsin from the first to the tenth of May, and leaves for the south early in September. Nearly all observers who have favored us with reports speak of its rapidly diminishing numbers, except in such sections as have been but slightly disturbed from a state of nature. Found the entire length of the state, but is generally more common in the hardwood districts than among the pines.

***Chordeiles virginianus* (Gmel.). Nighthawk.**

A common summer resident. The nighthawk is one of those species which have changed their habits to conform with the state of civilization. Thirty years ago a common breeder on any gravelly or sandy knoll or hill, often in cultivated fields and pastures, and even on the sandy shores of lakes. At the present time is as common in the towns as in the country, breeding on the flat roofs of buildings, even in the larger cities. The immense autumnal flights, formerly a regular feature of the fall migrations, are becoming less regular, and although still locally common, are a mere fraction of what they once were. Large numbers of these useful birds are yearly slaughtered by a certain class of "sportsmen" (?), for "practice." We are at a loss for words to express our supreme disgust at this abominable practice; still it is in perfect keeping with the average intelligence of many of this particular class, and we only hope that our

feeble protest will be read by some "prominent" person who considers it legitimate sport to kill and maim these exceedingly useful birds by the hundred. Not being "game birds" the game wardens are disposed to overlook this criminal practice, and thus the slaughter goes on from year to year.

***Chordeiles virginianus henryi* (Cass.). Western Nighthawk.**

On returning from a visit to the Douglass Bros., at Waukegan, Illinois, at the time that Messrs. Nelson, Rice and Douglass (1) had firmly established the presence of *C. v. henryi* at that place, I found three specimens in the Kumlien collection. One of these, sent to Dr. Coues, was pronounced typical *henryi*. Two specimens were later secured by Thure Kumlien in September, 1880. Since that time we have not taken a specimen, the nearest approach being a few intermediates. Probably found as an irregular migrant, especially in fall, throughout western and south-western Wisconsin, and possibly rarely as a breeding bird.—L. K.

[The occurrence of *henryi* is highly improbable. There is a greater possibility of finding *sennetti* than any other of the subspecies.]

**FAMILY MICROPODIDAE: SWIFTS**

***Chaetura pelagica* (Linn.). Chimney Swift.**

An abundant summer resident. The chimney "swallow" has been steadily increasing in numbers during the past fifty years. At the present time it nests almost entirely in chimneys, but in some sections still breeds in large hollow trees.

**FAMILY TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGBIRDS.**

***Trochilus colubris* (Linn.). Ruby-throated Hummingbird.**

The little ruby-throat is a common summer resident in all suitable localities throughout the state. It arrives early in May, sometimes before it really should attempt to brave our climate, and numbers often perish from the late frosts. Some are already migrating by the last of August, but many linger until well along toward the last of September.

**ORDER PASSERES: PERCHING BIRDS.**

**FAMILY TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHERS.**

***Muscivora forticata* (Gmel.). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.**

The only record of the occurrence of this bird in Wisconsin is that of the single adult male taken by L. Kumlien near Milton, Rock County, October 1, 1895. The bird was perched on a fence by the roadside, and was shot as it flew away. Although a cold, blustering day, it seemed entirely at ease and was in perfect condition, being very fat. The specimen is preserved at Milton.

[This specimen was previously recorded by L. Kumlien in *Nidiologist* 3, 1895:19.]

***Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linn.). Kingbird.**

This familiar bird is an abundant summer resident from the last of April until early in September. First arrivals of different years in southern Wisconsin have been from April 20 to May 2, and the latest seen from

1. Nelson, Birds of N. E. Illinois, p. 114.

August 26 to September 2. It nests from May 20 until late in June, often rearing two broods.

**Tyrannus verticalis** (Say.). **Arkansas Kingbird.**

An adult female of this species was shot near Albion, Dane County, June 11, 1877. It was apparently not breeding. The bird was perched on a fence by the roadside, and was shot under the impression that it was a great crested flycatcher, a species which the collector was anxious to secure. We are not aware of any other record of the capture of this bird in Wisconsin. The specimen is now preserved in the Museum of Milton College.

[No longer a rare species. There are the following breeding records: Madison, July 31, 1927 (G. E. French and W. E. Griffe, *Auk* 44,1927:566); Beloit, June 20, 1940 (O. J. Gromme, *Pass. Pigeon* 2,1940:90-1); Beloit, 1941 (S. P. Jones, *Pass. Pigeon* 3,1941:93); Arlington, Columbia County, July 6, 1942 (F. Kozlik and Irven Buss, *Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:83).]

**Myiarchus crinitus** (Linn.). **Crested Flycatcher.**

The crested flycatcher is not an uncommon summer resident and regular breeder in most parts of the State. Grundtvig found it nesting in Outagamie County, and Mr. Clark reports it as a regular summer resident, but not abundant, in Dunn County. In the southern part of the state, about Delavan and Milton, it is a rather common species, nesting in the heavy timber. It appears from the south the second week in May, and departs early in autumn.

**Sayornis phoebe** (Lath.). **Phoebe.**

Abundant summer resident. Adapting itself to the inroads of the summer visitors among its favorite breeding grounds, there is hardly a lake cottage which does not have its phoebe's nest under the veranda or eaves. The first of the flycatchers to arrive in the spring, we have noted it as early as March 19, and have found it abundant on March 30, though usually not so until the forepart of April. It remains with us until nearly October 1 (last dates, Delavan, September 20, 26, 30). Two broods are often reared, the nesting season commencing very early, and occupied nests are common up to July 1.

**Sayornis saya** (Bonap.). **Say's Phoebe.**

Accidental straggler. The only authentic record that gives this species a place in the list is that of Dr. Hoy, who took at least one specimen at Racine. The actual date of capture seems to have been lost, and as the Hoy collection is now entirely without data we are unable to find it. Aside from our personal knowledge, of at least the one specimen, the record is given by Nelson, Grundtvig and King, the latter noting that "Dr. Brewer states that one specimen was obtained by Dr. Hoy near Racine, and sent to Mr. Cassin for identification" (1).

[S. F. Baird, T. M. Brewer, and R. Ridgway (History of North American Birds: Land Birds, Vol. 2,1875:349) are authority for the statement that Hoy's specimen was examined by Cassin.]

**Contopus borealis** (Swains.). **Olive-sided Flycatcher.**

Rather a rare but regular migrant. More common during the latter part of May than in the autumn, when it appears sparingly for a short

1. F. H. King, "Economic Relations of Wis. Birds. Geol. of Wis., I, 1873-9, p. 560.

time from the last of August on. Breeds along Lake Michigan from Sheboygan northward, and doubtless in other sections of the state. Specimens have been taken at Lake Koshkonong as late as June 10, often to June 2 and 3. We think this species is more common than generally supposed. When one has learned where to look for it, it can always be found during the migrations. Will usually be found on the topmost dead branch of a tree higher than the surrounding ones, from which elevated perch it constantly darts out, frequently to great distances, after insects.

[Though this flycatcher is a fairly common summer resident in northern Wisconsin, there are but few records of nesting. Dr. Hoy informed Brewer that he found a nest in a maple at Racine but no date is given. (S. F. Baird, T. M. Brewer, and R. Ridgway, History of North American Birds: Land Birds, Vol. 2, 1875:355). A. J. Schoenebeck (Birds of Oconto County, 1902:30) found a nest with two eggs on June 17, 1899.]

#### **Contopus virens (Linn.). Wood Pewee.**

The most abundant and generally distributed of the flycatchers throughout the summer, nesting in almost every piece of woods. Arrives the last of April, or early in May, (April 28 to May 5) and remains until late in September (last dates September 13, 20, 27, 28). It often rears at least two broods, nesting commencing the first of June, and young unable to fly may still be found in August.

#### **Contopus richardsonii (Swains.). Western Wood Pewee.**

Rare, straggling summer resident. Several typical western wood pewees have been taken at Lake Koshkonong. One pair, with nest and eggs, were identified by Dr. Coues as unquestionably of this species. Not reported by other observers at any point in the state, and we can add nothing to the above bare facts. Doubtless careful watching will prove its presence rarely at other localities within our boundaries.

[A. C. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 179, 1942:287) states: "Dr. A. K. Fisher also has so identified a specimen taken on July 31, 1890, at Alden, Wis." All the records should be considered doubtful.]

#### **Empidonax flaviventris (Baird.). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.**

Not as rare in Wisconsin as early writers have made us believe, the yellow-bellied flycatcher is a regular migrant and rare summer resident. A rather late arrival in the spring it is usually not present until May 15 to 30. Thure Kumlien took a nest with four eggs in the Bark River woods, Jefferson County, June 7, 1860; and two nests at a later date in 1863 and 1864. A nest was found by L. Kumlien in a tamarack swamp near Albion, Wisconsin, June 25, 1891. This nest contained two young just hatched, and one egg. Mr. F. H. King obtained a specimen at Worcester, July 26, 1876, which would lead one to believe that it bred in that locality, as it probably does, rarely, in other parts of the state.

[Nesting in the state requires confirmation.]

#### **Empidonax virescens (Vieillot). Acadian Flycatcher.**

The Acadian Flycatcher was added to the state list by H. L. Stoddard (*Auk* 34, 1917:66) who found it breeding in Sauk County. It was found nesting in Grant County in 1924 by A. W. Schorger (*Auk* 44, 1927: 235-6). There are numerous sight records.]

**Empidonax traillii (Aud.). Traill's Flycatcher.**

As Mr. Wm. Brewster suggests, this form is probably an uncommon or perhaps accidental visitor of Wisconsin during migrations. A specimen taken at Delavan, August 1, 1897, has been identified by Mr. Brewster as typical **traillii**. Perhaps occurs as a regular summer resident in parts of southern and southwestern Wisconsin, but more specimens of the group will be necessary to satisfactorily determine its range and abundance.

**Empidonax traillii alnorum (Brewst.). Alder Flycatcher.**

A tolerably common summer resident. It arrives from the middle to the last of May, and is more conspicuous during late July and August in open, willow marshes, often far from timber. Mr. Brewster has kindly examined our small series of this group and pronounces the birds of late May and June typical **alnorum**, suggesting that this is no doubt the breeding form. He writes that "it is interesting to find typical examples of the two forms in the same locality." As noted under the last, more specimens of the **traillii** group will have to be examined before an accurate knowledge of their respective abundance in Wisconsin can be expected.

**[Empidonax trailli trailli (Aud.). Alder Flycatcher.**

The common name of the eastern form has been changed to Alder to avoid further confusion. **Empidonax t. brewsteri** (=alnorum) **Oberholser** is a bird of the far west and does not occur in the state.]

**Empidonax minimus (Baird.). Least Flycatcher.**

An abundant summer resident over the entire state, and like the pewee, is found nesting during early and mid-summer in all suitable localities. It sometimes arrives as early as April 12, but not commonly until the first of May (April 30 to May 5), and all leave us in September. A constant associate of the redstart and red-eyed vireo in thick second-growth oak woods, especially in the vicinity of water.

(Continued in next issue)

## THE SOCIETY'S FIRST TEN YEARS

By WALTER E. SCOTT\*

So that certain details regarding the first ten years of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology will not be forgotten or lost, the Board of Directors has requested that this historical "brief" be prepared to help commemorate its 10th Anniversary. It is my hope that most figures will be reasonably accurate and that those persons whose efforts have helped make the Society live and grow will be remembered. However, if someone is forgotten in this hurried summary, I hope the omission will be forgiven.

It seems that in the year 1938 there was a stir of greater ornithological interest in the state. Clubs in various towns were flourishing and there was talk in some of them about the need for a state-wide affiliation of groups or a state organization. On January 12 of that year, the writer spoke on winter birds to the Madison Bird Club and, in the ensuing discussion, this matter was considered. N. R. Barger was one of the group who felt that much more could be accomplished if Wisconsin bird

\*Walter E. Scott, president of the W. S. O., has been quite modest in appraising his own work for the society while singing the praises of others. In our opinion, he has been a great promoter, often accomplishing what seemed to others the impossible.—Editors.

students organized as was the case in certain other states. A series of more serious discussions on this subject during the fall brought the decision that one way to encourage it would be to publish a monthly bulletin to be sent to interested people so that through this medium an organization meeting could be called. The Madison Bird Club offered to underwrite the cost of such a venture for the first year, or until the formation of a state group, and requested W. E. Scott to act as editor.

In January, 1939, the first issue of this mimeographed publication was sent to all known bird students and ornithologists in the state, urging them to subscribe for one year at the cost of one dollar and guaranteeing them 12 monthly issues. The Passenger Pigeon was selected as the temporary name of the bulletin and the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology was chosen as the temporary name of the proposed organization. Acting until the Society could be formally organized were the regular officers of the Madison Bird Club—President, N. R. Barger; Secretary-Treasurer, Earl Mitchell; and Directors, Mrs. Arthur Koehler and Mrs. R. A. Walker. An editorial cited the need for "closer contact with each other in . . . mutual interest" and also a desire to "stimulate activity in a more thorough field study of Wisconsin's bird life." The first page article, "Plans for the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology" was, according to the original copy, composed by N. R. Barger.

The first issue was met with appreciation and favor generally, although there were some misgivings among ornithologists in the Milwaukee area as to the propriety of the procedure used in attempting to effect the organization. Some individuals with the greatest experience in the birth and death of similar clubs were skeptical as to the future possibilities of a group of this nature. However, the die was cast and the Madison Bird Club was determined to make good its promise to subscribers. As support throughout the state grew, a proposed constitution was circulated among the presidents of various bird clubs and an organization meeting was called in Madison on May 6-7, 1939. N. R. Barger and Earl Mitchell were elected president and secretary **pro tem**, while Walter E. Scott read the constitution. This was acted upon and approved with minor changes by a group of approximately 80 interested members. The meeting, which crowded the Kennedy Manor banquet tables so that elbows hardly could be moved, was considered fully successful. The new Society, with its name and bulletin title approved as proposed, started activities with \$58.17 in its treasury and 123 charter members.

Although support was forthcoming from all of the state's leading ornithologists, the first two years were especially difficult because the monthly mimeographed bulletin lacked effective qualities and many bird observers and potential students in the state had yet to learn of the Society and its avowed and useful purpose "to stimulate interest in and to promote the study of birds of Wisconsin especially in the field, and to bring together and permanently record accurate and authentic data relative thereto." Financial problems, even at a time when a complete mimeographed issue cost only about \$10 and later when an eight-page monthly printed publication was estimated at \$24, were of major concern. At the second meeting of the executive committee on December 4, 1939, held in the home of A. W. Schorger, President Barger announced that there was about \$15 left in the treasury—enough to finish out the year. The first index was printed only through profits from the sale of wildlife stamps (J. H. Evans himself selling \$72 worth) and half of the cost of cuts in early issues was contributed by the editor.

Rather than follow the history of the Society chronologically since its inception, it is felt desirable to deal with the most important subjects and projects under separate groupings. However, there are a few dates of importance which should be mentioned first: The Society affiliated with the Wisconsin Conservation League (now inactive) on November 8, 1940, and with the Wilson Ornithological Club on May 2, 1943. The Society was officially incorporated under Wisconsin statutes on April 8, 1942 with the signatures of three members: W. E. Scott, N. R. Barger and E. L. Loyster. This incorporation was approved and made official through action at the annual business meeting of April 11, when the elected officers signed the incorporation papers.

### Lifeblood of the Society

The lifeblood of the Society is to be found in the people who make up its membership. Their personal growth and development as friends together is the foundation of a successful organization and probably its major reason for being. This vital element has made the Society even more successful and promising than was ever hoped or dreamed. From its beginning such individuals as A. W. Schorger, Owen

Gromme, Murl Deusing, Leon J. Cole, Clarence Jung, T. S. Roberts, Wallace Grange, Alvin Throne, J. Harwood Evans, and S. Paul Jones lent their full support to the cause. Ornithologists at the Milwaukee Public Museum saw value in the new club to assist in the planned revision of Kumlien and Hollister's "Birds of Wisconsin" which had not been revised since 1903, or in some other type of state bird book. Schorger assisted by reading all of the copy of early issues for corrections; and, in January 1940, told the Kumlien Club that "there was now a new hope for Wisconsin ornithology after 25 years of discouragement." N. R. Barger and other members of the Madison Bird Club handled the mimeographing and distribution of early issues.

At the second annual meeting in 1940, the first move was made to honor those who had contributed most to Wisconsin ornithology in the selection of Herbert L. Stoddard and A. W. Schorger as honorary members. At the 1942 meeting this list was expanded to include Leon J. Cole, Aldo Leopold and Hartley H. T. Jackson. The name of George Wagner was added in 1943. It has been said by way of warning that as soon as the enthusiastic working officers of an organization such as this lose their interest, the group will suffer or die. Possibly the truth of this statement has not as yet been effectively tested because of the original 123 charter members the Society still retains 52 with three as present officers and many others on active working committees. However, nine of the original members who have died will make a difference in the Society's future. They are Miss Lydia Barnstein, Elton Bussewitz, Leon J. Cole, Sidney R. Hartwell, Aldo Leopold, John S. Main, Earl T. Mitchell, Thomas S. Roberts and O. Warren Smith.

Those charter members who are still with the Society after these first 10 years are: E. J. Abrahamson, Clearwater Lake; Miss Lois Almon, Eau Claire; R. J. Altpeter, Madison; Clarence Anthes, Waukesha; Mrs. A. A. Axley, Washburn; N. R. Barger, Madison; Mrs. N. R. Barger, Madison; H. E. Clark, Rock Falls; Miss C. E. DeBoos, Madison; August Derleth, Sauk City; Murl Deusing, Milwaukee; J. Harwood Evans, Oshkosh; Wallace Grange, Babcock; Owen Gromme, Milwaukee; Mrs. Frederick Hamerstrom, Jr., Plainfield; R. C. Hanson, Waupaca; Miss Ellen Hoffman, Madison; Frank Hopkins, Poynette; Ralph C. Hopkins, Horicon; Mrs. Fred L. Hook, Milwaukee; H. H. T. Jackson, Washington, D. C.; S. Paul Jones, Waukesha; Clarence S. Jung, Milwaukee; Karl W. Kahmann, Hayward; Mrs. Arthur Koehler, Los Angeles; Miss Karine Kjolseth, Oshkosh; Louis A. Laboda, New Lisbon; Mrs. H. A. Main, Ft. Atkinson; Harold A. Mathiak, Horicon; F. H. Meyrose, Waterford; Charles E. Nelson, Jr., Waukesha; Mrs. Kenneth Parker, Janesville; Miss Eleanore Peterson, Madison; Mrs. H. H. Reese, Madison; Carl H. Richter, Oconto; Walter E. Rogers, Appleton; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Appleton; A. W. Schorger, Madison; Miss Helen Schroeder, Madison; W. E. Scott, Madison; Mrs. W. E. Scott, Madison; Miss Josephine Sieker, Manitowoc; Theo. M. Sperry, Pittsburg, Kansas; Harold Stephanson, Dayton, Ohio; E. W. Strehlow, Milwaukee; Alvin Throne, Milwaukee; Carleton Toppe, Watertown; William Urban, Rothschild; Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison; Dr. Alfred Wallner, Van Nuys, Calif.; Harold R. Wolfe, Madison; and F. R. Zimmerman, Madison. To the above listed people must go much of the credit for the continued advancement and favorable growth of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in its early years. They also probably have reaped the greatest benefits in return.

The Society was guided during the first 10 years by the untiring work of 30 different officers and board members, which was a healthy condition resulting in a definite effort to spread the load of work, as well as the honors. However, because of the desirability of continuity in such positions as editor, treasurer, and secretary, certain individuals carried heavier loads of work for longer periods of time. The Board usually meets four or five times each year and several of these meetings have been held at the homes of J. Harwood Evans and Clarence Jung. As will be seen by the following tables of officers and directors which include the present staff, J. Harwood Evans served a total of 10 years; Walter E. Scott nine years; N. R. Barger eight years; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Clarence Jung, S. Paul Jones, Mrs. Walter E. Rogers and Dr. B. L. von Jarchow four years each; Harold Wilson, Gilbert Doane, Alfred S. Bradford, Murl Deusing, Rev. Howard Oriens, and Earl Wright three years each; and Alvin Throne, Owen Gromme and W. S. Feeney two years apiece.

#### List of Officers

1939—(Temporary)—N. R. Barger, president; Earl Mitchell, secretary-treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.

1939-40—(May-April, elected)—N. R. Barger, president; Alvin Throne, vice president; Murl Deusing, secretary; Karl Kahman, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.

- 1940-41—Alvin Throne, president; Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, vice president; Edward Prins, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1941-42—Murl Deusing, president; Mrs. Clara Hussong, vice president; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1942-43—Earl Wright, president; S. Paul Jones, vice president; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1943-44—Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, president; N. R. Barger, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, Barger (temporary), editor.
- 1944-45—Rev. H. L. Orians, president; E. L. Loyster, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1945-45—(Elected by mail)—Clarence Jung, president; Mrs. W. E. Rogers, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1946-47—Clarence Jung, president; Walter E. Scott, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1947-48—J. Harwood Evans, president; S. Paul Jones, vice president; Earl G. Wright, secretary; Harold Wilson, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1948-49—S. Paul Jones, president; Joseph J. Hickey, vice president; Mary Donald, secretary; Harold Wilson, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1949-50—Walter E. Scott, president; Mrs. Winnifred Smith, vice president; Mary Donald, secretary; Harold Wilson, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.

#### Additional Board Members

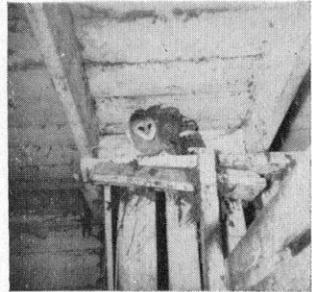
(Members at Large—two each year)

#### Members at Large—

- 1939—(Temporary)—Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. Arthur Koehler
- 1939-40—A. W. Schorger, Clarence Jung
- 1940-41—John S. Main, S. Paul Jones
- 1941-42—Owen Gromme, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow

#### Directors at Large—

- 1942-43—Owen J. Gromme, Murl Deusing
- 1943-44—Rev. Howard L. Orians, Earl G. Wright
- 1944-45—Mrs. Clara Hussong, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow
- 1945-45—Rev. Howard L. Orians, W. S. Feeney
- 1946-47—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, W. S. Feeney



MARILYN HAAS  
YOUNG BARN OWL

#### Directors Other Than Officers

- 1947-48—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, membership; Clarence Jung, endowment; Walter E. Scott, education and publicity; Gilbert Doane, library; Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.
- 1948-49—Chas. Nelson, Jr., membership; J. H. Evans, endowment; Walter E. Scott, education and publicity; Gilbert Doane, library; Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.
- 1949-50—Howard Young, membership; J. H. Evans, endowment; Mrs. F. L. Larkin, education and publicity; Gilbert Doane, library; Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.

In 1949-50 Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., was named Associate Editor.

Many other individuals not credited with titles as officers or members of the board served in important committee positions or as assistants to the editor for long periods of time. In this respect both Gilbert Doane and Attorney Alfred S. Bradford served several years in their capacities as librarian and legal counsel respectively before receiving board membership. Assistant editors of The Passenger Pigeon included F. R. Zimmerman in 1940-41, Mrs. Walter E. Scott in 1942-43 and Mrs. N. R. Barger in 1944-49. Throughout almost this entire period (except the earliest issues) Harold Wilson served as bird banding editor and N. R. Barger and Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., handled the important field note department. The difficult job of preparing indexes was accomplished for the first volume by Mrs. Scott, the next three volumes by Mrs.

Barger, and the following six volumes by Miss Ellen A. Hoffman who received assistance from Minnie E. Hoffman and Helen E. Schroeder on the last three. Miss Hoffman served for many years as assistant librarian and has recently been appointed custodian of the Society's records. Early membership committee chairmen, without benefit of officer status, were Mrs. Andrew Weber, Rev. Howard Orians and Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam. All of these individuals, including many others who served on local committees and on special Society project committees such as sanctuaries, education, research, conservation, constitution and incorporation revisions, endowment passenger pigeon monument, Aldo Leopold memorial, publicity, library, and publications, played a major role in the Society's development.

The geographic distribution of the Society's membership is an important subject and deserves serious consideration in that it shows the need for expansion and possibilities for growth of the Society which still must be accomplished. A survey of the Society's 568 members and subscribing institutions as of April 1, 1949, showed that 498 of these were in Wisconsin, and 70 located in 24 other states, provinces and foreign countries (10 or more in Illinois and Minnesota). Southeastern Wisconsin, lying south of Shawano county and east of Iowa county, had 419 members; while the entire northern portion of Wisconsin, beyond the south line of Marathon county, had only 56; and southwestern Wisconsin, within these boundaries, 23. Active interest in the study of birds still must be extended to these latter two portions of the state; as, witness the facts that no organized local clubs are active in those areas, and there are 16 counties without a single member. Surprisingly, four southeastern Wisconsin counties also had no membership in the Society at this time. County representation indicating local interest in bird study on this date was as follows for the first 10 counties: Milwaukee, 120; Dane, 71; Winnebago, 36; Outagamie, 35; Waukesha, 30; Racine, 24; Manitowoc and Rock, 17; and Brown, 11.

The Society's endowment fund, which now contains more than \$650 (face value) in government bonds, has grown steadily through the assistance of those members who were able to afford life and patron status. In April 1942, E. W. Strehlow, then of Green Bay, became the first life member, to be followed shortly by Walter Mueller, Milwaukee, and Ralph G. Klieforth of Oshkosh in July, 1943. Walter Mueller became the Society's first patron member in April, 1944, followed by Guy Nash of Wisconsin Rapids two years later. These are the only patron members at present. Other life members are: Donald R. Bierman, Milwaukee; Richard Bub, Milwaukee; Laurence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; Miss Isabelle Miller, Milwaukee; Miss Margarette E. Morse, Viroqua; Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher, Milwaukee; Mrs. Kenneth Parker, Janesville; Mrs. William Ryan, Fish Creek; Mrs. Erwin Spoo, Oshkosh; and Mrs. Andrew Weber, Green Bay. A memorial for the late Howard Clapp, who died in 1948, amounting to \$40, also was credited to the endowment fund. The future strength and permanence of the Society will depend upon a substantial increase, through wills and grants, in this security backlog which guarantees the Society's continued operations. Although the Society can "borrow" up to 25 per cent of the fund in cases of emergency need, it has never dipped into this resource to date.

### **The Society's Publications**

Probably the major contribution the Society has made to Wisconsin ornithology is the material published in *The Passenger Pigeon*. This amounted to 1,461 pages to, and including Volume XI, No. 3. Six complete indexes to the end of 1948, make the material in these bulletins available for quick reference. For the first three and one-half years the publication was issued monthly, and, in its printed form for two years, was probably the only printed monthly ornithological publication in the United States. In commenting on this, President Alvin Throne, in the December, 1940 issue, stated that "our monthly printed bulletin on ornithology . . . has received favorable comment throughout the country." Printing started in July 1940 with Volume II, No. 7, and the bulletin was put on a quarterly basis, with some reluctance, with the issue of October, 1942.

It is impossible to list all of the significant materials used in this publication but some deserve special comment. Early issues were dedicated largely to the re-publication of articles published elsewhere which were not easily available to bird students in the state. Frequently copies of valuable reprints were secured and mailed with the mimeographed bulletin. Later, as more copy was forthcoming from state ornithologists, the context of the bulletin improved. Distributional studies of certain birds,

which for a while were supervised by Murl Deusing, included the pine grosbeak, bald eagle, starling, purple martin, American egret, cardinal, yellow-headed blackbird and dickcissel, and were prepared through questionnaires on range and population. Probably most useful was the continuous preparation of field notes with special reference to Christmas census, May Day census and more recently annual state lists including even a survey of breeding birds. Although during the very first issues these summaries were organized by the editor, much credit for their continued high quality throughout most of these 10 years is due to N. R. Barger and Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., who successively served as editors of the field note department.

A perusal of articles indicates that many members have contributed their study reports to the benefit of fellow students throughout the state. Major contributions of significance include the series by H. H. T. Jackson, "Summer Birds of Northwestern Wisconsin" (which is available as a reprint), August Derleth's "Sac Prairie Notes," Carl H. Richter's "Breeding Birds of Oconto County" and A. W. Schorger's "Biographies of Eight Wisconsin Naturalists" (available as a reprint called "Some Wisconsin Naturalists"), as well as his present series reprinting "The Birds of Wisconsin" by L. Kumlén and N. Hollister, with revisions. Banquet addresses by George Miksch Sutton, "Ornithologists as Human Beings," and Herbert L. Stoddard's "Reminiscences of Wisconsin Birding" made interesting articles. Besides several complete files of The Passenger Pigeon maintained in Wisconsin reference libraries, such files are also to be found in the Library of Congress, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Museum of Natural History and Museum of Comparative Anatomy at Cambridge.

Other publications of the Society enhanced its status and the study work of its members. On April 12, 1942 at the annual meeting at Green Bay, the booklet "Wisconsin Birds—A Preliminary Checklist with Migration Charts" (32 pages) was placed on sale. A committee of N. R. Barger, Elton E. Bussewitz, Earl L. Loyster, Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. and Walter E. Scott had worked for many months both individually and collectively to prepare this bulletin. Of the 5,000 copies printed, at a cost of \$380, the entire issue is now exhausted and a fair profit was realized by the Society. Earl Loyster, who suggested the project and handled the sales of this booklet over a period of years, deserves special mention. On May 11, 1947 in connection with the unveiling of the Society's passenger pigeon monument at Wyalusing State Park, a 42-page booklet called "Silent Wings—A Memorial to the Passenger Pigeon," was released. The booklet, containing articles by Aldo Leopold, A. W. Schorger, and Hartley H. T. Jackson, as well as many illustrations, was edited by Walter E. Scott and printed in 4,000 copies to commemorate this occasion. The printing of this bulletin was a costly venture for a society without large reserve funds but to date it has realized a profit of over \$250 and approximately 1,000 copies remain for future sale. In October 1948, a card field checklist was issued in 5,000 copies by a committee consisting of N. R. Barger, Samuel D. Robbins, Jr., Walter E. Scott and Earl G. Wright, who had operated for the past year to organize this hand list of the state's more common birds. As of this date, the complete issue has been sold through the Society's Supply Department and an additional 5,000 copies have been printed.

### Ten Annual Meetings Held

Ten annual meetings which have taken on the nature of conventions have been an important source of education and inspiration to Wisconsin bird students. Traditionally, the vice presidents are in charge of these meetings and they deserve considerable credit for their efforts. To Murl Deusing, who carried this load for two Milwaukee meetings during the war, should go special mention. Because of war contingencies and otherwise, three of these meetings have been held respectively in Milwaukee and in Madison. Some of the outstanding features of these gatherings were the lectures of well-known ornithologists whose names appear in the list of meetings tabulated below. Many members of the Society contributed to these programs with papers, movies and exhibits. Attendance always has been very good with certain movie sessions receiving the greatest public participation. In 1942 about 350 people came to hear Arthur A. Allen's lecture, while in 1947 and 1949 in Madison, movie showings in the Memorial Union theater attracted as high as 700 people. Members frequently on the programs included Murl Deusing, A. W. Schorger, the late Aldo Leopold, Earl G. Wright, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, Rev. Howard L. Orians, Robert A. McCabe, and Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.

Special features of the conventions of 1943-48 were auctions of bird paintings, sketches, and other art objects. Proceeds of the last two auctions, which were made up solely of paintings by European artists, went to a relief program for ornithologists overseas supervised by Mrs. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr. The first of these realized about \$270 in "European value." The other three auctions, with the profit assigned to the Society's publication fund, were significant in supporting the program with approximate returns of \$223, \$307, and \$188 respectively. The abilities of Clarence Jung and Alfred Bradford as auctioneers and the generous donations of artist-members deserve mention. Over the years, exhibits of bird paintings by wildlife artists included work by Francis Lee Jaques, Owen J. Gromme, Earl G. Wright, Walter J. Breckenridge, Rex Brasher, E. W. Steffen, J. Albert Hochbaum, and George M. Sutton. In 1947 a special showing of books from the Thordarson library (including Audubon, Wilson and Gould elephant folios) was arranged by Librarian Gilbert H. Doane in addition to an exhibit of ornithological bookplates. Displays of bird photographs also have been featured with Dr. Howard J. Lee and Edward Prins showing excellent work. Since the 1947 meeting, the Society Supply Department has maintained a complete exhibit of books, prints and other materials which has augmented the program. Probably of most importance to the Society's future has been the spirit of comradeship which has been engendered by pre-convention receptions, in banquet programs, and on field trips in connection with meetings.

Highlight of the Society's conventions was the joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Club on April 21-24, 1949, a meeting which was characterized by the President of the Wilson Club as the largest ornithological gathering ever held in the country. Two members of the Society—Joseph J. Hickey and John T. Emlen, Jr.—did an exceptional job of handling arrangements for the Wisconsin and Wilson organizations respectively. The Society's registration book for this meeting carries names of historical importance with the signatures of Florence Page Jaques, Robert Cushman Murphy, Margaret M. Nice, J. Van Tyne, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., F. L. Jaques, Richard H. Pough, and S. Charles Kendeigh.

#### List of Annual Meetings

No.	Location	Dates	Registration (Guests incl.	Banquet Feature	Banquet Attendance
1.	Madison	May 6-7, '39	80	Murl Deusing, John S. Main, I. O. Buss	80
2.	Milwaukee	April 6, '40	150	Cleveland P. Grant	165
3.	Racine	April 5-6, '41	180	W. J. Breckenridge	148
4.	Green Bay	April 12-13, '42	300	Arthur A. Allen	226
5.	Milwaukee	May 1-2, '43	200	Cleveland P. Grant	200
6.	Milwaukee	April 22-23, '44	240	W. F. Kubichek	174
7.	Appleton	April 6-7, '46	195	W. J. Breckenridge	241
8.	Madison	May 9-11, '47	277	Herbert Stoddard	202
9.	Waukesha	April 2-4, '48	174	George M. Sutton	192
10.	Madison	April 21-24, '49	354	Olin Sewall Pettingill	250
11.	Two Rivers	May 5-7, '50	....	.....	....

#### Projects Accomplished and Being Accomplished

**Memorial Monument to the Passenger Pigeon:** On May 11, 1947, the Society unveiled its memorial monument to the passenger pigeon at Wyalusing State Park, with talks by Hartley H. T. Jackson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, A. W. Schorger, Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger, and Conservation Commissioner W. J. P. Aberg. About 200 people attended this impressive ceremony. The Society gained well over 1,000 inches of publicity on the event in both state and national publications, and the monument—the second dedicated to a bird in this country—stands as a reminder of the need for good wildlife management in the years to come. The story of the monument goes back to April 6, 1941, when the Society favored this idea, and a committee consisting of Owen J. Gromme, Clarence Jung, Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger, Earl Wright and Phil Sander was appointed. Phil Sander did sketches and drawings of both the plaque and monument. Owen Gromme engineered many of the details while Earl Wright modeled the plaque. Miss Oehlenschlaeger arranged the casting of the bronze plaque which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Taylor. The

words on the plaque were prepared by A. W. Schorger, and Paul A. Lawrence, superintendent of Wyalusing State Park, contributed the work for erection of the foundation and monument. The committee selected the site on Sentinel Ridge in this park in May, 1942, after a field trip for that purpose. Forty members and friends of the Society donated to a fund to defray expenses for erection of the monument, which was also memorialized in the publication "Silent Wings" released on the same date.

**Supply Department Activities:** Although the Society had sold wildlife stamps and its own publications, as well as held auctions of pictures, it was not until April, 1947, that the Board of Directors approved a plan for a Society Supply Department. This service feature received much favorable comment at the 1947 meeting in Madison and has been a valuable asset to the organization and its membership since that time. Total profits (all of which go to the Society) amount to about \$800 as of this date, and, although most of this is now invested in merchandise, it is expected that this activity will help maintain the operating budget in future years. Along with many other responsibilities, including the editing of *The Passenger Pigeon*, N. R. Barger supervised the many details of this department since its inception. The Board is presently searching for someone who would be willing to assist the Society by relieving him of these additional duties.

**Educational Committee Activities:** In April, 1946, the educational committee (then known as library committee) under the chairmanship of Walter E. Scott, reported on a special questionnaire which had been sent to libraries, and revealed that many such institutions in the state did not have adequate literature on birds. Out of this grew a plan to establish an educational fund to supply such needs, and also to carry on educational work among our membership and especially among students. By June 10, 1949, 37 individuals and bird clubs had contributed over \$210 to this cause and additional donations are being received regularly. These moneys are kept separate and used by this committee, of which Mrs. F. L. Larkin is now chairman. Also in connection with work of this group, the Rahr Foundation in 1949 donated \$112 for the distribution of 400 copies of "Silent Wings" to all larger libraries in the state.

Probably the most popular ventures supported by this fund are the all-Society field trips. The first, to the Sandhill Game Farm at Babcock on June 5, 1949, was attended by about 50 enthusiasts who were fortunate enough to obtain close views of the sandhill cranes and 85 other species. The Cedar Grove hawk trip of October 9, 1949, attracted about 125 members and friends for a very successful day. Another large-scale project was the maintenance of a booth, arranged by Mrs. F. L. Larkin, and sponsored by Feed Supplies, Inc., at the Wisconsin Outdoor Exposition, September 10-18, 1949. Not only did the Society make many valuable contacts with people interested in birds, but the Supply Department received numerous orders. This operation was so successful that the company has offered to repeat its sponsorship and the committee plans to hold it again next year. It is believed that this committee, through field trips and other functions, constitutes one of the Society's most important activities in fulfilling its constitutional plan to "encourage the study of Wisconsin birds."

**Miscellaneous Projects:** Sometimes members wonder what they are receiving for their membership fee besides the society's bulletin, and whether or not the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology carries on projects worthy of their donations in the form of special contributions or grants through their wills. It is true that an organization operated entirely without paid officers cannot accomplish as much as one with a permanent office and a full-time secretary. Some day this Society may have these attributes but only because of the confidence members and friends have in the activities and projects already accomplished and the purposes for which the organization has stood in the past.

Since 1940, when O. J. Gromme announced that the Milwaukee Public Museum had authorized the publication of his new illustrated book on "Wisconsin Birds," the Society has endeavored to accumulate records which are needed to make this book complete. It has encouraged special study projects for species about which little is known in Wisconsin.

It keeps its members informed of bird activities within the state; of the newest equipment, books, and supplies of the hobby; and gives its members an opportunity to publish their studies. It has set up such services as a society library which is now housed in the University Library. It has wielded an influence upon state legislation

when certain species of birds were unduly persecuted. It lends support to various federal bird-study projects in our state. Its membership served as a buttress, recently, when Mrs. F. L. Larkin, O. J. Gromme, and Miss Elizabeth Oehleenschlaeger recommended the purchase by the state of a famous hawk study area near Cedar Grove.

**The Society's Business Affairs:** The Society never has been rich in any sense of the word, but, at present, money in the endowment and education funds, together with inventory value of the Supply Department and publication stocks, approximate \$2,000. The operating budget, however, receives no benefit from special funds, but only the income from supply or publication sales. Basically, membership fees must carry the cost of The Passenger Pigeon and the general operating costs of the organization. Any expenditures beyond such income must be paid for by special revenues from registration fees, contributions, or sales profits.

The Society's financial problems in the early years already have been mentioned. They are reflected in the "balances on hand" of less than \$100 for the first four annual meetings, 1939-42. During the war years of 1946-47 this balance rose to about \$800, but it has been receding to approximately \$500 for the past two years. The reason for this is the fact that for some time the cost of the Society's publication has exceeded the membership fee, while special income from auctions was no longer forthcoming. However, it is expected that profit from the Society's Supply Department will help to better this situation in future years. A healthy condition in the Society's growth is indicated by membership reports of various annual meetings. Starting with 123 charter members in 1939, membership had risen to 225 in 1940, to approximately 400 in the next four years, and 500 since 1945 when an all-time record of 575 was established. A 1949 report of Membership Chairman, Charles Nelson, Jr., indicated 612 members of which 113 were in arrears. It is believed that the organization can greatly expand its membership by extending its horizons into more parts of the state and through an amplified program of field trips and useful activities. The steady and regular growth during the first 10 years assures a firm foundation for such future expansion.

The constitution of the Society has not been changed in fundamentals since its approval by the charter members in May 1939. Minor changes, however, in types of membership, fees, make-up of the Board of Directors, and in the Society's name were made. In 1942, life and patron memberships were added and the Society's name was changed to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, which suggestion had been made by R. J. Muckenhirn of Madison. The amended constitution was published in Volume IV, No. 4-6 of that year. In 1946 a change advanced the cost of life memberships to \$50 and patron to \$100, and a year later, active membership fees were increased to \$1.50 per year. Also, a Board of Directors, including five individuals, was approved (previously there were only two). In an effort to keep up with the added cost of printing and not reduce the value or effectiveness of the bulletin, active membership fees again were increased in 1949 to \$2, student membership to \$1.50 and life membership to \$75. Special fees for libraries also were revised upward. The Board of Directors was set at six members, and these were placed on two-year staggered terms so that only three would be elected each year. These changes were incorporated in an amended constitution published in the July, 1949, issue of the bulletin. The latest membership report, of April 15, 1949, for a total of 612 members, showed the following classifications: 511 active, 28 libraries, 26 student, 29 sustaining, 12 life, 2 patron, and 4 honorary. The constitution limits honorary classification to "ten living members."

The Society's record of accomplishments in its first ten years is one of unselfish service of many individuals who have given freely of their time, money, or energies (and frequently all three) for the good of the organization and its purpose. This brief review has not adequately chronicled all such contributions of groups and individuals and this could not be done without much more space. It is such service that has made the Society successful to the degree that it has fulfilled its purpose. It is through the amplification of such support by more members and in a greater measure, that the Society will continue to grow and prosper in its extension of service to the people of the state of Wisconsin and the nation.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**BIRDS—A Guide to the Most Familiar American Birds.** By Herbert S. Zim and Ira N. Gabrielson, New York, 1948: 4¼x6¼. 155 pp., 118 colored paintings, \$1.00.

This attractive little book is the latest addition to the growing collection of books catering to the beginner in bird study. It is admirably suited to the purpose intended.

After a brief discussion of the methods of bird study, the classification of birds, and a list of research projects of interest to the amateur, the authors discuss 112 of the more common species. The material given includes a large colored drawing of the species, a brief description, and a simplified map showing summer and winter ranges. The paintings are excellent and compare favorably with those in more expensive works. By using the pictures and descriptions, the beginner should have no trouble learning to identify the species treated. The range maps will be useful even to the more advanced student although they suffer the disadvantage of being so small as to over-simplify the actual distributions. Another disadvantage of the maps is that only the United States is included whereas the whole of North America would have been more desirable. Thus a student, forgetting about Canada, will be wrongly impressed by the apparently limited range of many species.

A table at the end of the book includes much additional information of value to the bird student. Here in compact form are brief comments on migration dates, nests (including materials used and location), egg sizes, and food.

As a low priced introduction to ornithology this book has much to recommend it.—George A. Hall.

**BIRDS NESTS—A Field Guide.** By Richard Headstrom. New York, 1949, 4x7½, 128 pp., 61 photos, \$2.75.

Most of us locate bird nests quite by accident—we flush the bird from the nest without really getting a good look at it, or we simply see the nest and no bird. We also find many nests in the fall after the leaves have fallen. In any event we are frequently at a loss to identify the species which built the nest. Mr. Headstrom of the Massachusetts Audubon Society has attempted to solve this problem in this unique new book. About 250 species of birds nesting east of the Rocky Mountains are covered.

The book is organized in the form of a simple key based on location and construction of the nest. The two main divisions are "Nests On or In the Ground," and "Nests above Ground." These, in turn, are divided into smaller groups. For example, "Nests On The Ground" are divided into, "In Fields and Pastures," "In The Woods," "In Marshes," and "On Rocks or Ledges." Each group is then further subdivided into smaller groups based on materials used in the nest and on the size. Each individual nest is well described and the breeding range of the bird is given.

The key is cross-referenced so that unusual nesting sites are included. As a test of the key the reviewer attempted to run down four nests with data taken from his notebook and succeeded in obtaining the correct identification of each. It is to be regretted that egg descriptions are not included since they are sometimes helpful in deciding doubtful cases.

Included in the book is a series of excellent photographs taken by many of our prominent bird photographers. These have been selected with care to illustrate typical nests.

This book should prove a valuable addition to any ornithological library.—George A. Hall.

**MAKING FRIENDS WITH BIRDS.** By Arthur F. Park. London, 1948: 7¼x10, 216 pp., 164 photos, \$6.00.

This is an attractive book about British birds. The author has pioneered in a new method of bird photography. Disdaining the use of blinds and scorning high powered lenses he has chosen to "make friends" with the birds, and, by use of patience and a knowledge of their habits, became able to approach them closely enough to use ordinary photographic equipment. The results of this method are truly remarkable. The American reader will be unfamiliar with most of the birds but he will enjoy the many excellent close-up photographs of them. I would rate Mr. Park as being near the top as a bird photographer.

The text describes fully his method of insinuating himself upon the birds and I have no doubt that anyone with patience could learn to use this technique. The bulk of the text is a rather informal discussion of the habits and behavior of a series of common British birds.

Full photographic data is given in the appendix for each picture.

Anyone interested in bird photography should read this book and anyone interested in birds will derive much enjoyment from it even though the birds themselves are unfamiliar.—George A. Hall.

**SPRING IN WASHINGTON.** By Louis J. Halle Jr. New York, 1947: 5¾x8½, 227 pp., many line drawings, \$3.75.

As winter sets in many ornithologists will be day dreaming about the next spring migration. One way to enjoy this winter dreaming is to read Mr. Halle's excellent book describing a migration in Washington, D. C. during a wartime spring.

Mr. Halle, who was employed by the State Department during the war, spent his week-ends birding in such places that could be reached by foot or by bicycle and has recorded here both his observations and his thoughts during an historic spring. Starting in early January he traces the arrival and departure of migrants as well as other phenological events of the spring season. Those who have read others of Mr. Halle's books know that he is an excellent writer whose works can be classed as real and lasting literature. Besides sharing vicariously in his experiences we learn a lot of useful information about birds and about the author since he does not hesitate to interject his personal philosophy. As a background for the whole book lie the historic events of the spring of 1945,

including V-E Day and the Roosevelt funeral (the chief effect of which on the author was to give him an extra day afield since the Government offices were closed).

The reader may want to keep his own field notes for 1945 at hand since it is fascinating to consider what another bird watcher was doing at the same time as we were enjoying a memorable experience. It is also of interest to compare a Wisconsin spring with that in Washington.

The book is admirably illustrated by line drawings by F. L. Jacques.

This book is heartily recommended to those who want a few hours of relaxation in delightful company.—George A. Hall.



AT CEDAR GROVE

## NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 142)

were there. Members brought their own lunches, but coffee and cookies were furnished by the John Muir Club of Milwaukee. Emphasis, of course, was on the hawk migration, but 93 species of birds were seen.

Those persons who find it difficult to take part in Christmas bird counts will be interested to read how Mrs. Andrew Weber of Green Bay does it.

She writes:

"A busy housewife has to plan for the day beforehand so that the family at home will be fed and taken care of. A kettle of chicken, vegetable, and noodle soup is O.K. at our house, with a pie to top off the meal.

"I got up early and my husband took me to 6:30 mass (it seems the counts usually are made on Sundays), after which I hurried home to change into warm clothes. We met in front of the museum at eight o'clock, divided our groups, and proceeded to our favorite spots. Our list

included the pileated woodpecker, evening grosbeak, and redpoll, as well as the more common species.

"At noon we reached a rocky ledge where we went down a ways to get out of the cold wind, and where there was a flat rock upon which we could make a fire. I had a kettle half full of chicken soup and my partner had sandwiches, fruit, and cookies. Our bowls of hot soup 'hit the spot,' we said, and no banquet ever tasted so good. At this time a large group of pine grosbeaks came down into the trees below our ledge, while others flew to the ground—85 in number. I had never before seen so many.

"After warming our feet, we were on our way again. Seven hours out in the cold is a long hike, but it leaves one so 'delightfully' tired. A friend from town saw us in the woods near the highway and wondered why we were out on such a cold day; and then, when she saw us again several hours later, she was still more puzzled."

# THE 1949 MAY DAY COUNTS

By S. D. ROBBINS

Eight May Day counts in six areas produced an exceptionally good total of 209 Species, far above last year's composite total of 185. One reason for the increase was the fact that this year's counts were more spread out over the migration period. 1949 counts covered a span of 21 days—from May 8 to 28; 1948 counts were restricted to a five day period—May 16-20. Another is the contrast in presence of real rarities. 1948 had no outstanding finds to compare with such birds as Western grebe, red-throated loon, yellow-crowned night heron, Swainson's hawk, prairie warbler and Nelson's sparrows. Details of these records will be found in the seasonal field notes and the "By the Wayside" column.

**Milwaukee:** May 21; 175 species. This is one of the highest totals for a single count in years, but still falls short of the 177 recorded in Madison in 1939. Eleven observers, divided into five groups, covered city parks and lake shore in Milwaukee, and adjoining portions of Racine, Waukesha, and Ozaukee Counties. Some observers were in the field from 3:30 a. m. till dusk; weather conditions were generally favorable. Notable records included red-throated loon, horned and Western grebes, snow goose, redhead, bufflehead, old-squaw, ruffed grouse, king rail, ruddy turnstone, white-rumped and Baird's sandpipers, Wilson phalarope, Forster's tern, yellow-bellied and olive-sided flycatchers, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, hermit thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, Philadelphia vireo, prothonotary, orange-crowned, prairie and Connecticut warblers, pine siskin and Nelson's sparrow.—John Muir Club.

**Madison:** May 15; 168 species. Seven parties touched the most representative areas in Dane County. Observers were in the field from 3:30 a. m. until after 7 p. m.; cloudy skies and intermittent showers hampered observations in the morning; clearing during the afternoon. Rarer finds included canvas-back, Swainson's hawk, dowitcher, Wilson's phalarope, Forster's tern, olive-sided flycatcher, brown creeper, ruby-crowned kinglet, prothonotary, blue-winged, black-throated blue and cerulean warblers, chat, Brewer's blackbird, pine siskin, junco, and Gambel's sparrow.—Kumlien Club.

**Milwaukee:** May 19; 148 species. Nineteen observers covered Milwaukee County parks and other outlying areas within a 25 mile radius of the city. Different groups were in the field from 5:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m., but only one party remained out all day. Weather was favorable in early morning, but from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. it was cold, rainy and windy; clearing again in late afternoon. Best finds included yellow-crowned night heron, snow goose, canvas-back, greater scaup, old-squaw, osprey, dowitcher, stilt sandpiper, Wilson's phalarope, Forster's tern, yellow-bellied flycatcher, brown creeper, winter wren, Philadelphia vireo, prothonotary, blue-winged, and orange-crowned warblers, junco, and purple finch.—Bird Group of Milwaukee City Club.

**Green Bay:** May 22; 122 species. Two parties worked around Green Bay and surrounding areas in Brown and Kewaunee Counties. They started at 5:30 a. m. and remained out until dark; weather was generally

cloudy, raw and windy. Participants reported some of the poorest birding they had experienced on May Day counts in years. They did find loon, ruddy duck, piping plover, Caspian tern, raven, brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet, prothonotary warbler, yellow-headed blackbird, orchard oriole, pine siskin and clay-colored sparrow.—Green Bay Bird Club.

**Cedar Grove:** May 8; 115 species. Several observers together covered portions of the shore of Lake Michigan from Port Washington to Cedar Grove. Favorable weather was encountered in the day, observations being made from 9:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. Highlights included pigeon hawk, red-backed sandpiper, Wilson's phalarope, Caspian tern, long-eared owl, red-breasted nuthatch, orchard oriole, Harris' and Gambel's sparrows.—John Muir Club.

**Baraboo:** May 15; 87 species. Two observers spent the day in the eastern section of the Baraboo hills, particularly Parfrey's Glen, Lost Lake, the lower narrows of the Baraboo River, and adjacent bottom land near the Wisconsin River. They were in the field from 3 to 3:30 a. m., and from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. Cloudy skies, intermittent showers and a cold wind were prevalent until mid-afternoon, and made for poor conditions of observation. Among the more interesting birds seen were ruffed grouse, upland plover, ruby-crowned kinglet and Philadelphia vireo.—Arlene and Paul Cors.

**Appleton:** May 18; 68 species. Two observers covered selected areas in and around Appleton, including a section of the north shore of Lake Winnebago. Again cloudy skies and brisk winds held down the count. Observers were afield from 8:30 a. m. until 5 p. m., finding redhead, ruddy turnstone, red-backed sandpiper, sanderling (rare away from Lake Michigan).—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Mrs. H. L. Playman.

**Appleton:** May 28; 59 species. A creditable list for so late a date. Weather conditions were favorable for three observers who spent five hours in the field in selected spots around the city. Still present on this day were magnolia, chestnut-sided, mourning and canada warblers.—Mrs. Fred Tessen, Mrs. Fred Guenther, Mrs. F. Blick.

## BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

**Summer Tanager Visits Milwaukee.** On an early morning walk in Lake Park on May 6, I happened on a summer tanager in one of the newly greened out trees. It was working on some of the maples and other trees, and when I first saw him, he had a mouth full of green worms. His movements were slow, he did not seem nervous, and I had plenty of opportunity to observe him from every angle. His coloring was a pinker red than the scarlet tanager, and his wings were also red except for a washing of what seemed to be black along the outer tips or edges of the wings. He made a throaty sound as he was feeding. I returned home and called some friends, with the result that numerous other people confirmed the identification later in the day.—Dr. Anna Hehn, Milwaukee.

**Robin Buries Cold Egg.** A robin built a nest near my home and laid one egg by April 15. As the next three days were snowy and cold, she deserted; but on the fourth day she returned and, after burying the

chilled egg with grass, she laid another egg. From then on she conducted herself in the usual robin fashion, but laid only three eggs. I had never seen this species bury an egg before.—Landon B. Thomas, Edgerton.

**Chipping Sparrow Accepts Substitute Nest.** On the night of July 4 a chipping sparrow's nest was dislodged from a pine tree during a storm. The next morning I found two tiny birds on the lawn under the tree. They seemed scarcely alive, and their nest was nowhere to be found so I put them in an old nest that was in my collection. This I placed on a lower branch of the tree, anchoring it securely with wrapping cord. Next morning the mother bird was sitting on the nest which she had definitely accepted as her own.—Mary H. Staeger, Birnamwood.

**Probable Baird's Sparrow Found in Ozaukee County.** On May 26 a few members of the Milwaukee City Club Bird Group and I were observing shore birds in a small pond in Ozaukee County, when we were attracted by a bird song we had never heard before. The bird was sitting on a nearby fence, and continued singing while we approached to within ten feet of him. The song started similarly to that of a Savannah sparrow, but ended in a prolonged warbling. At close range we were able to see the distinctive markings: a rather heavy necklace on a buffy breast, stripes on top of the head, strong buff color on head and nape; and finally when the bird flew, white webs of the outer tail feathers could be distinguished, though they were not prominent. When we looked in our field guides we decided without difficulty that we had seen a Baird's sparrow. Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee.

(Editor's note: Written accounts by Mrs. Balsom and Mrs. William Simmons, another observer of the bird, written immediately after the observation are on file. They were sent on to Washington for expert opinions by persons acquainted with the species in question. Their judgment is concurred in by the editors: that there is every likelihood of a correct observation, but that lack of sufficient detail about song and head markings, plus the fact that there is neither specimen nor previous sight record for the species in Wisconsin, make it advisable to consider the record hypothetical. The observers are to be commended, however, for the care they took in observing and reporting this remarkable find.)

**Red-headed Woodpecker Stores Acorns.** One October day several years ago I noticed a red-headed woodpecker making frequent trips to one of our wren houses in the back yard. After thrusting his beak in the entrance of the house he would fly away only to return and repeat the performance a few minutes later. A closer watch revealed that he was bringing acorns and dropping them one by one into the wren house. This procedure he followed for several days, and finally he disappeared. Next April I went to clean out the house, and as I removed the bottom board, a shower of acorns rolled out. The little house was tightly packed, and to make the cache secure, a piece of tree branch just the diameter of the entrance was driven tightly into the opening completely sealing it.—Ethel Allis Nott, Reedsburg.

**Birds Feed from the Hand.** Last May a male oriole that had just arrived from the south came right up and ate seven meal worms from my hand. I have also had two catbirds eat from my hand this summer, as well as a parent brown thrasher with one of its young. I have two mother

robins that will stand and wait for me to open my kitchen door, and come in a foot or two to get meal worms.—Mrs. Clough Gates, Superior.

**Chickadee Behavior in Nest-Building.** On May 14 I watched a pair of chickadees excavating a cavity in the top of a poplar stub. One bird kept digging for nearly three minutes, and then made seven trips carrying chips out. The mate made occasional trips to help out; then one bird resumed digging. The birds were never seen to toss chips out of the cavity. They carried chips out in their bills, flew across the road to a nearby cedar, and with a shake of the head expelled the chips and sawdust. In two cases there was considerable wiping of the bill before taking flight back to the cavity.—Carl Richter, Oconto.

**Brewster's Warbler Found in Eau Claire.** On May 31 I heard what I took to be a golden-winged warbler, and followed it as a matter of routine identification. What I found singing this song was a bird marked like a blue-winged warbler, except for white sides and belly. The presence of the white under-parts, and the song like the golden-wing made me realize this was a Brewster's warbler. The wing bars were definitely yellowish.—Lois Almon, Eau Claire.

**Rare Wren Breeds in Dunn County.** On the evening of July 25 we had a picnic on top of Elk Mound in Dunn County. In the observation tower on the hill were three young birds, prematurely out of the nest; the retrices were still mostly enclosed in sheaths, and the wing feathers were not completely grown. There was still some down showing on the head, and the lining of the mouth was still bright yellow. The birds which were feeding these young were wrens with a white line over the eye. I got the impression of a long tail, so I think they were Bewick's, but I did not see the white markings at the outside tips of the tail. The light was poor, and I could not return the next day, so there remains doubt about the identification. But whether Bewick's or Carolina, this may have been a northern nesting record.—Lois Almon, Eau Claire.

**Swainson's Hawk in Mazomanie.** On May 15, 1949, two carloads of observers, armed with books and field glasses, came upon a Swainson's hawk not far from the Mazomanie river bottoms. The hawk was sitting on a fence post, only about four feet high, and was not frightened by our approach. We managed to walk up to within 150 feet of him before he flew. Clearly displayed were the white on the face and throat, the brown upper breast band, the light coloration of the lower body; and as it leisurely took to the air, the light wing linings and dark wing tips were evident. Observers included Prof. and Mrs. Gilbert Doane, Prof. Sachse, Mrs. Philip Miles and daughter, Helen Northrup, and myself.—Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison.

(Editor's note: This is the fourth report of a Swainson's hawk received by the field note department in the last three years; all three of the others were very probably correct identifications, but conditions of observation were not sufficiently good to warrant a positive record. Conditions in this instance were ideal; careful observation and reporting combine to make this an outstanding record.)

**Marsh Hawk Attacks Duck.** The following observation was made on June 23, 1949 near the Yahara River inlet on Lake Mendota, Madison, Wisconsin: The day was cool and cloudy and a fairly strong wind from

the west kept the coots in the bays and the teal close in along the shores. At 2:30 p. m. our attention was drawn to a female marsh hawk (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*) hovering low over the water above a struggling object in a weedy area near the shore. This we soon recognized as a partly submerged duck. The duck raised its head above the water several times but each time quickly submerged again as the persistent hawk lowered its talons inches above it. In a minute, having reached open water, the duck burst forth, showing itself to be a blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*), and quickly outdistanced the hawk, which then turned back and drifted over the cattails.

May (1935. The Hawks of North America) writes that the marsh hawk "seldom attacks birds or mammals of any size unless they are wounded or sick." However, he includes a quotation from Audubon, who observed that "it will attack partridges, plovers, and even green-winged teal when urged by an excessive hunger." (Bold type mine).

Roberts (1936. The Birds of Minnesota) states that wild birds and chickens form a fourth of its diet, and though it is generally restricted to small ground species and young birds, it has been known to take a few game birds, domestic fowl, and even crippled ducks.

The flight power of a duck would normally prevent capture by a marsh hawk. As seen in this instance, though, a surprise attack in weedy or shallow water could prohibit escape through flight or diving. It is probably in situations like this that the marsh hawk takes an occasional healthy duck, if ever.—Robert Nero, Robert Weirkamp, Madison.

**Norway Rat Killed by Blue Jays.** Mrs. H. Mierendorf, 3037 South Wentworth Avenue, Milwaukee, was awakened early one morning by her two boys and a terrific noise out of doors. They all raced to the window in time to see a gathering of blue jays, some 12 or 15 in number, squawking, as only blue jays can, and viciously attacking a large rat. The rat seemed cornered; and, unable to defend itself against such an onslaught, soon gave up the ghost. Mrs. Mierendorf states that blue jays were nesting in the vicinity at the time, which probably explains the motive.—Mrs. F. L. Larkin.

**Screech Owl Capers.** One hot evening at dusk we heard a great commotion among the birds in our yard. Upon investigating, we found a screech owl in our apricot tree just above our window. We could watch his every move. As it grew darker, most birds went off to bed; but our little friend was just waking up. He flew softly, and oh, so swiftly, first to the oak, next to the crab apple, and then down across the green wet grass where the sprinkler had been going for an hour or two. He gently touched the grass with his wings and fluttered them slightly; then up into the thornapple tree he flew. From this perch, he swooped down again to the grass, repeating his performance, then across to the crab apple tree from which he began. We watched him repeat this little game until it was too dark to see him any more.

He visits us nightly, and as we sit quietly on our screened back porch, we watch him swoop down into the circle of light about the garage door, where he catches the insects that fly toward the light. One evening we found him sitting on his favorite limb, waiting for dusk; but he was not

alone. On either side of him was a fresh gray fluff of feathers—young “screeches.” They looked down at us with their wide innocent eyes, then began to bow politely to each other, occasionally stretching a soft wing or foot as they balanced unsteadily on the limb. Soon we left them there to catch their fill of insects, for fear our spying might drive our welcome guests away.—Mrs. F. L. Larkin.

## The Late Spring and Summer Season . . .

The month of May started out with a loud bang, ornithologically speaking. Abnormally hot weather, with temperatures often ranging into the “nineties,” began on May 2 and lasted a week. Milwaukee had a good wave on May 3; Mazomanie, Madison, and to a lesser extent Oshkosh, had one on May 4. More observation by other observers at the appropriate time would undoubtedly enlarge the picture to show a very good spring flight during that warm spell. The early May migrants came through in numbers, of course; most of the later migrants also put in an appearance during that time. After May 9 cooler weather moved over the state, and not until May 30 did really hot weather return. In the meantime more limited variations in weather produced less pronounced waves in Madison May 13-16, and May 25-27 (Jim Zimmerman); J. H. Evans reported decidedly poor birding in the Oshkosh area during the period. The reports of observers generally indicates that the bulk of the migration was over by about May 21, and that by May 28 nearly all migrants had moved on. With the exception of the habitually late black-polls, mourning and Connecticut warblers, scarcely a single migrant warbler was to be found in southern Wisconsin in June.

Again very little information about hawk flights is available. Mrs. Smith witnessed a good flight of sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks along the lake shore at Two Rivers, May 2 and 3, but there is no corroborative evidence from other stations. Evidently the great majority of the hawks—*buteos* especially—sneaked through while our backs were turned!

The spring flight of shorebirds was relatively good. Especially noticeable was the turnstone flight around Lake Winnebago, and the number of Wilson's phalaropes in the Milwaukee area.

The nesting birds throughout the state had to put up with a series of unusual weather conditions. All during the spring and most of June, the state experienced unusually dry weather. When rain finally came, it came with a vengeance, continuing with great frequency all through July. The evidence at hand indicates that this had an adverse effect on the resting activities of land birds in different areas; but this will be discussed more fully in the nesting summary to appear in the next issue, when, it is hoped, more information will be available.

The wet weather in July did upset the normal course of the fall shorebird migration considerably. The first fall migrant—a lesser yellow-legs in Oconto County on July 9 (Carl Richter)—arrived scarcely more than three weeks after the last spring migrant turnstones were reported. Areas near Lake Winnebago and Madison that are often good for shorebirds were spoiled by high water. But near Mazomanie the excessive rains drowned out acres of corn fields, and the resulting puddles and mud flats provided stopping places for dowitchers, white-rumps, Wilson's phal-

aropes, a marbled godwit, and many of the more common species. Quite possibly this was duplicated in other places, but we have heard of no other instance as yet.

Preliminary reports by the end of July indicated another good year for "white herons." Besides the greatly enlarged breeding colony at Horicon, flocks were noted at numerous other stations in July. For the second consecutive year, little blue herons and snowy egrets are appearing at several locations.

**Loon:** Late migrants remained until May 27 in Appleton (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and May 29 in Milwaukee (Mrs. F. L. Larkin), and June 5 at Cedar Grove (Gordon Orians).

**Red-throated Loon:** Continued to be reported in some numbers in the Milwaukee area; last seen there on May 29 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

**Holboell's Grebe:** One adult in full breeding plumage seen on Green Lake, July 16 (Sam Robbins).

**Horned Grebe:** The tail end of the heavy spring flight had individuals remaining in Sheboygan County on May 16 (Harold Koopman), in Milwaukee on May 21 (John Muir Club), and in Cedar Grove on June 5 (Gordon Orians).

**Eared Grebe:** One observed under favorable conditions on Crystal Lake, Dane County, May 2 (Sam Robbins).

**Western Grebe:** Dozens of these rare visitors from the west remained in the Milwaukee area well into May; last date was May 29 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Two were still in Oshkosh, May 13 (Jack Kaspar); and three near Sun Prairie, Dane County, May 15 (N. R. Barger et al.).

**American Egret:** Wisconsin may have the makings of a major nesting area for this species at Horicon. On June 27 four nests were found and at least 55 individuals seen, a tremendous increase in summer population over that of past years (Harold Mathiak). Other summer records come from Babcock where two were seen on June 19 (W. S. O. field trip); and from Wyalusing Park where one was seen on June 28 (Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger). Another good year for post-breeding wanderers was indicated by newspaper reports of 80 birds in the Prairie du Chien area in late July, by the presence of 30 birds on Lake Como since early July (Sarah Ruhl et al.), and by smaller groups in Ripon, Mazomanie, Milwaukee and Ozaukee County.

**Snowy Egret:** Three turned up in Milwaukee County, July 24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); two returned to the Wilmot Road marsh in Kenosha County for the third consecutive year, seen first on July 27 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); one was noted near Mazomanie, July 30 and 31 (Sam Robbins).

**Little Blue Heron:** The Kenosha County marsh had four birds on July 27 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); in Mazomanie two were seen on July 26, and four on July 30 (Sam Robbins).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** Two in Menomonee, Waukesha County, May 19 (Mr. and Mrs. Martin Paulsen). See back cover.

**Whistling Swan:** Five still in Oconto County, May 5 (Carl Richter); one straggler remained near Appleton until June 1 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

**Canada Goose:** Lingered unusually late in a number of localities: one in Burnett County, May 24 (Norman Stone); still in Ozaukee County, May 29 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); groups of two and six in Oconto County, June 3 and 4 (Carl Richter); five in Columbia County, June 6 (Harold Steinke); and one remained through the summer with tame geese at Mercer (Mrs. Herbert Sell).

**Snow Goose:** Few still in Sheboygan County, May 7, (Glen Popple); one at Osseo, Trempealeau County, May 15 (Mr. and Mrs. Harold Roberts); at least one was present in the Milwaukee area, May 16-24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

**Blue Goose:** Few in Sheboygan County, May 7 (Glen Popple); ten in Wood County, May 16 (Ben Hubbard); one remained in Milwaukee through May 29 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**Gadwall:** Last seen in Milwaukee, May 29 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); one in Iron County in mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Baldpate:** Late migrants in Madison on May 24 (M. Crandall), and in Ozaukee County on May 29 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); five males and one female were noted on Lake Poygan, Winnebago County, on June 27 (Frank King).

**Redhead:** Last seen in Appleton, May 18 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and in Milwaukee, May 21 (John Muir Club).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Nested in Waukesha County (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); 25 still on ponds near Milton, May 24 (Chester Skelly), and four were still in Madison, May 27 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

**Canvas-back:** Two males seen on Lake Poygan, Winnebago County, June 27 (Frank King); late migrants in Appleton on May 3 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), in Dane County on May 15 (N. R. Barger et al), and in Milwaukee on May 19 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

**Lesser Scaup Duck:** Still to be seen in Appleton until June 1 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers), and in Milwaukee until June 5 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**American Golden-eye:** Still in Appleton, June 2 (Bess Russell), and in Madison, June 8 (Paul Cors).

**Old-squaw:** Last seen in Milwaukee, May 21 (John Muir Club).

**Hooded Merganser:** One still in Dane County, May 15 (Bob Nero); other scattered records through June and July from Sheboygan, Vernon, Winnebago, Wood, Oconto, Iron and Vilas Counties.

**American Merganser:** Six in Sawyer County, May 27 (J. C. Corbin-Bernard Bradle).

**Turkey Vulture:** One in Madison, May 3-16 (Eugene Matel et al.); one at Wyalusing Park, May 28 (Carl Frister); eight in Waukesha County, June 2 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); three in Oconto County, June 6 (Bernard Bradle); two in Vernon County, June 24 (Harold Steinke); one in Milwaukee, July 27 (S. P. Jones-Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** One in Iron County in mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Swainson's Hawk:** One in Mazomanie, May 15 (Gilbert Doane-Mrs. R. A. Walker). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** One still in Outagamie County, May 2 (Frank King).

**Bald Eagle:** Single migrants at Two Rivers on May 2 (Mrs. Winnifred Smith), and at Oshkosh on May 4 (Jack Kaspar). Known to have bred near Tomahawk (Donna Nelson); other summer residents noted at Hollister (Frank Seymour), in Iron County (W. E. Scotts and Mrs. Herbert Sell), and in Vilas County (Fred Greeley).

**Osprey:** Late migrant in Ozaukee County, May 24 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom), and at Cedar Grove, June 4 (Gordon Orians).

**Duck Hawk:** One in Oshkosh, May 4 (Jack Kaspar); one chasing a wood duck in Polk County, May 11 (Norman Stone); one in Juneau County, May 15 (Keith White); one in Milwaukee, May 18 (Mary Donald-Mrs. F. L. Larkin); one in Manitowoc County, May 24 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom). Noted on nesting grounds at Peninusla Park, Door County, during the summer (Gordon Orians).

**Pigeon Hawk:** Noted in Milwaukee on May 3 and in Cedar Grove on May 8 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.). One in Door County in mid-July (Gordon Orians).

**Prairie Chicken:** An unusual location for this species was an island in Green Bay in Oconto County, where one was seen on July 9 (Carl Richter).

**Sandhill Crane:** Scattered reports in May and June from Juneau, Wood and Waushara Counties.

**King Rail:** Nested near Milwaukee (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Helmuth Mueller), and near Manitowoc (fide Merle Pickett). Also noted in Madison, May 4 (Sam Robbins), and May 26 (Carol Nieland).

**Sora:** One in Iron County in mid-July is unusually far north (W. E. Scotts). Also noted in Babcock, June 19 (W. S. O. field trip).

**Piping Plover:** Green Bay, May 26 (Ed Paulsen).

**Golden Plover:** In Dane County, 16 were seen on May 1 and 75 on May 4 (A. W. Schorger); others were noted in Milwaukee, May 2-16 (Gordon Orians); and 50 were found in New Glarus, May 4 (A. W. Schorger). One noted near Oshkosh in company with black-bellies, May 18-30 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

**Black-bellied Plover:** The only large flock reported in spring was from Oshkosh, where about 200 were present from May 16 to June 6 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Very good spring flight, particularly around Milwaukee and Lake Winnebago. Jack Kaspar counted the amazing total of 110 near Oshkosh, May 20. 13 were still to be seen on the remarkably late date of June 17 in Neenah (Kimberly Stewart).

**Upland Plover:** Thought to be noticeably absent around Madison (A. W. Schorger), but more plentiful than usual near Oshkosh (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

**Willet:** One in Milwaukee, May 3-6 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Numerous in the Milwaukee area from May 18 to 29; as many as 15 could be seen at one time (Gordon Orians et al.). Two near Madison, May 22 (N. R. Barger). First fall report from Mazomanie, July 29-30 (Sam Robbins).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Two in Dane County, May 19 (Sam Robbins); noted in Milwaukee, May 18-June 5 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

**Red-backed Sandpiper:** Good numbers in spring flight.

**Dowitcher:** Unusual numbers on Lake Winnebago: 50 near Oshkosh, May 18 (Mrs. Glen Fisher). Several other spring records from Madison, Milwaukee and Appleton. One early fall date: seen daily, July 24-27, at Mazomanie, with four on the last day (Sam Robbins).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** One carefully observed in Milwaukee on May 19 (Mrs. Decker-Mary Donald).

**Marbled Godwit:** One in Mazomanie, July 29 (Sam Robbins).

**Sanderling:** Noted near Appleton, May 6-26, where it is not often found (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Unusually numerous in spring. Noted in Milwaukee from May 3 to June 5, with as many as 15 on the peak day (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.). Others in Madison, May 15 (A. W. Schorger), and in Oconto County, June 5 (Carl Richter). In fall, one was noted in Milwaukee, July 14 (C. P. Frister-Mrs. F. L. Larkin), and two in Mazomanie, July 29 (Sam Robbins).

**Forster's Tern:** Nested at Horicon (Harold Mathiak). Also noted in Madison, May 15 (Kumlien Club), and in Milwaukee, May 5-24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

**Common Tern:** Nested in northern Fond du Lac County on Lake Winnebago (Jack Kaspar), and near Ripon (Paul Cors).

**Caspian Tern:** Cedar Grove, May 8 (Gordon Orians et al.); Door County, May 24 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Madison, July 1 (Alan Keitt-William Roark); and Oshkosh, July 27 (Jack Kaspar).

**Barn Owl:** Reedsburg, May 18 (Ethel Allis Nott).

**Long-eared Owl:** Still at Cedar Grove, May 8 (Gordon Orians et al.).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Noted in Sheboygan County, May 6 (Glen Popple).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Seen in Milton several times during the summer (Chester Skelly).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Devil's Lake, Sauk County, May 7 (Sam Robbins); Sauk City, May 8 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee, May 19-29 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom et al.); Madison, May 24 (George Hall) and May 27 (Alan Keitt); Oshkosh, May 29 (Jack Kaspar); Dane County, May 30 (George Hall); Cedar Grove, June 5 (Gordon Orians).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** One in Mazomanie, May 26 (Sam Robbins); one in Milwaukee, July 15 (C. P. Frister-Mrs. F. L. Larkin); noted also in Wyalusing Park where it undoubtedly breeds, in late June (N. R. Barger).

**Least Flycatcher:** One in Milwaukee, July 24, where it does not usually spend the summer (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**Wood Pewee:** Very early arrival in Milton, May 1 (Mrs. Melva Maxson).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First seen in Milwaukee, May 4 (Gordon Orians). Earliest date on record. Other May and early June dates come from Milwaukee, Cedar Grove, Madison, Mazomanie, Spring Green, and Eau Claire.

**Raven:** Noted in Door County, May 22 (Mrs. R. P. Hussong et al.); several also seen in Iron County in mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Madison, May 8 (Jim Zimmerman-Bob Nero); Wisconsin Dells, May 26 (Robert Brown); Milwaukee, June 26 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-C. P. Frister). Rarely seen in these locations.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Reported only in Cedar Grove, May 8 (Gordon Orians et al.), and in Milwaukee, May 8-24 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

**Brown Creeper:** Late stragglers remained in Madison until May 15 (George Knudsen); Milwaukee on May 21 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); and Green Bay on May 22 (Bird count). Also nested in Oconto County (Carl Richter), and seen regularly in Iron County in mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Winter Wren:** Still in Milwaukee, May 21 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); several pair nested in Oconto County (Carl Richter). One near Rhinelander, May 22 (Lois Almon).

**Bewick's Wren:** Nested in Madison (Jim Zimmerman). Also noted in Milwaukee, May 5 (Dr. Anna Hehn-Mrs. A. P. Balsom), and in Iowa County, May 14 (Gordon Orians et al.).

**Carolina Wren:** Single birds carefully observed in Madison on July 7 (Mrs. Philip Miles et al.), and in Milwaukee on July 8 (C. P. Frister).

**Mockingbird:** Found in Kiel, Manitowoc County, May 6 (Myron Reichwaldt), and in Madison, May 29 (Gilbert Doane).

**Hermit Thrush.** Unusual summer records at Sheboygan on June 16 (Fred Zimmerman et al.), and at Cedar Grove on July 4 (C. P. Frister).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Nested in Juneau County (John Krause) and in Milton (Mrs. Melva Maxson). Other interesting records from Oshkosh, May 11 (Jack Kaspar); Eau Claire, May 21 and 24 (Lois Almon); Vernon County, May 29 (Margarette Morse); Madison through June (Jim Zimmerman et al.); and Waukesha County, July 6 (S. P. Jones et al.).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Lingered in Green Bay till May 22 (Bird count), and in Door County till May 24 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Late departures noted on May 15 in Dane County (George Hall et al.), and in Sauk County (Paul and Arlene Cors); on May 17 in Appleton (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); and in Milwaukee, May 21 (John Muir Club).

**Pipit:** Noted in Milwaukee, May 2-17 (Gordon Orians et al.); Dane County, May 7-9 (Sam Robbins); flock in Oshkosh, May 21 (J. H. Evans).

**Migrant Shrike:** Reports more widespread than usual this summer.

**Bell's Vireo:** In Mazomanie, one first noted on May 23 remained and nested. Two others were found in the same region on June 1, but were not found thereafter (Sam Robbins).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Late departure still in Milton, June 1 (Chester Skelly).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Sauk County, May 15 (Paul and Arlene Cors); Green Bay, May 18 (Ed Cleary); Milwaukee, May 18 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and May 21 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Black River Falls, May 22 (Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Roberts); Oshkosh, May 29 (Jack Kaspar); Ozaukee County, May 29 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** In addition to the usual territory along the Mississippi and Wisconsin River bottoms, this species was found in a number of other localities: Milwaukee, May 3-21 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.); Madison, May 11 (M. Crandall); Oshkosh, May 11 (Jack Kaspar); Reedsburg, May 13 (Ethel Allis Nott); Green Bay, May 22 (Bird count); Viroqua, June 19 (Margarette Morse).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Noted in Vernon County from May 8 on (Margarette Morse); Milwaukee, May 3-29 (Mrs. Gimmler et al.); two in Madison on May 7 (Howard Young), and one on May 16 (Jim Zimmerman); two in Eau Claire, May 24 and 27, and one on May 31 (Lois Almon); present also along usual territories along Wisconsin and Mississippi River bottoms.

**Brewster's Warbler:** Eau Claire, May 31 (Lois Almon). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Several reports from Milwaukee, Plymouth, Madison, Viroqua, and Eau Claire during the first three weeks of May.

**Nashville Warbler:** One trapped and banded on the remarkably late date of June 12 (Mrs. Melva Maxson). A stray noted near Mazomanie, July 31 (Sam Robbins).

**Parula Warbler:** Two seen in Iron County in mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** In addition to birds regularly seen along Lake Michigan, individuals were seen in Oshkosh, May 5-7 (Jack Kaspar); one in Madison, May 15 (Joe Hickey); and one female in Eau Claire, May 17 (Lois Almon).

**Myrtle Warbler:** Nested near Eagle River (Lois Almon); several seen in Iron County, mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Seen and heard in Mazomanie on May 9 and 15, but not later (Sam Robbins et al.); present near Arena, Iowa County, from May 16 on (Sam Robbins); Devil's Lake, Sauk County, June 4 (Jim Zimmerman); present in Wyalusing Park in late June (N. R. Barger); Vernon County, June 29 (Margarette Morse); Waukesha County, July 6 (S. P. Jones et al.).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Two in Iron County, mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** One in Milton, June 22 (Mrs. Melva Maxson).

**Prairie Warbler:** One noted in Milwaukee, May 21 (C. P. Frister).

**Water-thrush:** Most of the water-thrush observations received are treated all together, since the distinction between Louisiana and the "Northern" forms is so difficult to make. We are reasonably certain, however, that birds in Wyalusing Park on June 29 (N. R. Barger) and at Devil's Lake, Sauk County, on June 4 (Jim Zimmerman) are both Louisiana. Representatives of the "Northern" form (probably Grinnell's) bred in Manitowoc County (Myron Reichwaldt).

**Kentucky Warbler:** One in Reedsburg, May 26-28 (Ethel Allis Nott); present in numbers in Wyalusing Park in late June (N. R. Barger).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Numerous reports from Milwaukee, Cedar Grove, Milton, Madison, Oshkosh and Green Bay; one in Madison on June 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker) is late.

**Mourning Warbler:** Nested in Kiel, Manitowoc County (Myron Reichwaldt), and in Cedar Grove (C. P. Frister).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Several were present in Mazomanie from May 9 on (Sam Robbins et al.); one was found in Madison on May 4 (George Knudsen); one in Milwaukee, May 4 (Gordon Orians et al.); and another was present in Madison from June 6 to July 15 (Jim Zimmerman).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Found in at least four locations in Rock County, five spots in Dane County, and three places in Winnebago County, indicating a continuing influx of this species, and a spreading out over new territory.

**Orchard Oriole:** Two in Port Washington, May 8 (Mary Donald et al.); one in Milwaukee, May 13 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Green Bay, May 22 (Bird count); one in Mazomanie, May 26 (Sam Robbins); one in Dane County, June 25 (N. R. Barger); one noted several times in mid-July in Arena, Iowa County (Sam Robbins); three pair spent the summer in Two Rivers (Mrs. Smith); found at several locations near Viroqua and Genoa in Vernon County from May 29 on (Margarette Morse); found at six locations near Eau Claire from May 20 on (Lois Almon).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Summer reports from Waukesha County, Mazomanie, Ripon, Hancock, Babcock, Eagle River and Iron County.

**Summer Tanager:** Milwaukee, May 6 (Dr. Anna Hehn et al.). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Dicksissel:** Present in good numbers in the southern portion of the state; found in Portage on June 19 (Mrs. Fred Tessen).

**Purple Finch:** Early fall arrival in Mazomanie, July 31 (N. R. Barger-Sam Robbins).

**Pine Siskin:** Still in Mazomanie, May 15 (George Hall et al.); Milwaukee, May 29 (Gordon Orians); Door County, May 22 (Mrs. R. P. Hussong et al.); found also in Iron County in mid-July (W. E. Scotts).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** One in Iowa County, May 2 (Sam Robbins).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Excellent view of one in Milwaukee, May 21 (Mary Donald-Gordon Orians).

**Lark Sparrow:** Present near Black River Falls from May 6 on, where it is increasing (H. D. Roberts); noted in Iowa County in May and June (Sam Robbins et al.); three in Dane County, June 4 (Bob Nero); two in Richland County, June 29 (Sam Robbins).

**Junco:** Late departures in Madison on May 15 (Kumlien Club), and in Milwaukee on May 18 (City Club); nested near Eagle River (Lois Almon).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Paused in migration in Milwaukee, May 2-5 (Gordon Orians et al.).

**Harris's Sparrow:** A surprising number of spring reports: Milwaukee, one on May 4 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and four on May 9 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Cedar Grove, one on May 8 (Gordon Orians et al.); Madison, one on May 4 (George Knudsen); Mazomanie, one on May 8 and two on May 9 (Sam Robbins); Viroqua, one on May 5 and five on May 7 (Margarette Morse); Oshkosh, one on May 4 (Mrs. Glen Fisher) and one on May 15 (Jack Kaspar); Birnamwood, May 14 (Mary Staeger); Mercer, May 6 (Mrs. Herbert Sell).

**Gambel's Sparrow:** Reliable records come from Oshkosh, May 3 (Kaspar); two at Cedar Grove, May 8 (Gordon Orians et al.); one in Dane County, May 15 (A. W. Schorger). The Oshkosh bird was banded.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Two late stragglers remained in Stevens Point well into June (Mrs. N. E. Hughes-Mrs. Steve Klimowitz). Seen in Door County, July 10 (Mrs. Andrew Weber).

**Lapland Longspur:** Lingered in Oshkosh until May 14 (Jack Kaspar).

# THE DORWARD PASSENGER PIGEON

By W. H. ATWOOD

About twenty years ago, I heard that W. J. Dorward of Dorward's Glenn, (Sauk County), Wisconsin had a beautiful male passenger pigeon which he wished to sell to some school or museum. At that time, he also had several other birds and mammals which he had taken in the neighborhood and mounted. After some correspondence, I bought two foxes, a raccoon, and the passenger pigeon.

About a year after I bought the specimens for the Teachers College, Mr. Dorward came to visit me, and it was during that visit that he told me that he took the passenger pigeon in the spring of 1872 "in the big bend of the Wisconsin River near Dorward's Glenn."

The pigeon is a beautiful male in full breeding plumage, and is believed by several, who are in a position to judge, to be one of the best mounts in existence. Some have said that it is the best.

Incidentally, when Mr. Dorward visited me, he explained that his name and that of the Glenn may be spelled either Dorward or Durward, but that he preferred Dorward.

The specimen is now in the bird collection at the Milwaukee State Teachers College.

The photograph which appears herewith (on the cover of this issue) was taken by Mr. Forest R. Poe for THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

Department of Biology, State Teachers College, Milwaukee

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## *Wisconsin's Second Record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron*

At about six o'clock on the morning of May 19, while walking toward a wooded swamp at the back of our sanctuary in the town of Menomonee, Waukesha County, we heard a loud "quak." Upon looking up, we saw a bluish gray bird flying over the trees. Then we heard another "quak," and saw a second bird on the limb of a tall tree. At first glance they resembled great blue herons, but were too small. Watching more closely, we were able to see the yellowish crown which extended out in a plume effect, for the light was just right. The eye patch also was very prominent, as was the distinctly reddish eye. Having seen many such birds in Florida during the past two winters, we knew we were looking at two yellow-crowned night herons.—Mr. and Mrs. Martin Paulsen, Sussex.

To our knowledge, there is but one previous record of the yellow-crowned night heron in Wisconsin. This is a sight record of a bird in Milwaukee on May 15 and 16, 1941 by Mrs. Phelps Wyman and Mrs. A. P. Balsom, and subsequently confirmed by O. J. Gromme. Normally it is a bird of the southern states whose breeding territory in the interior ranges only to Missouri and Tennessee. The above account is only part of a convincing account of a very careful observation.—Editor's note.

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