



# **The passenger pigeon. Volume 31, Number 3**

## **Fall 1969**

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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



# *The* **Passenger Pigeon**

Fall 1969

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 3

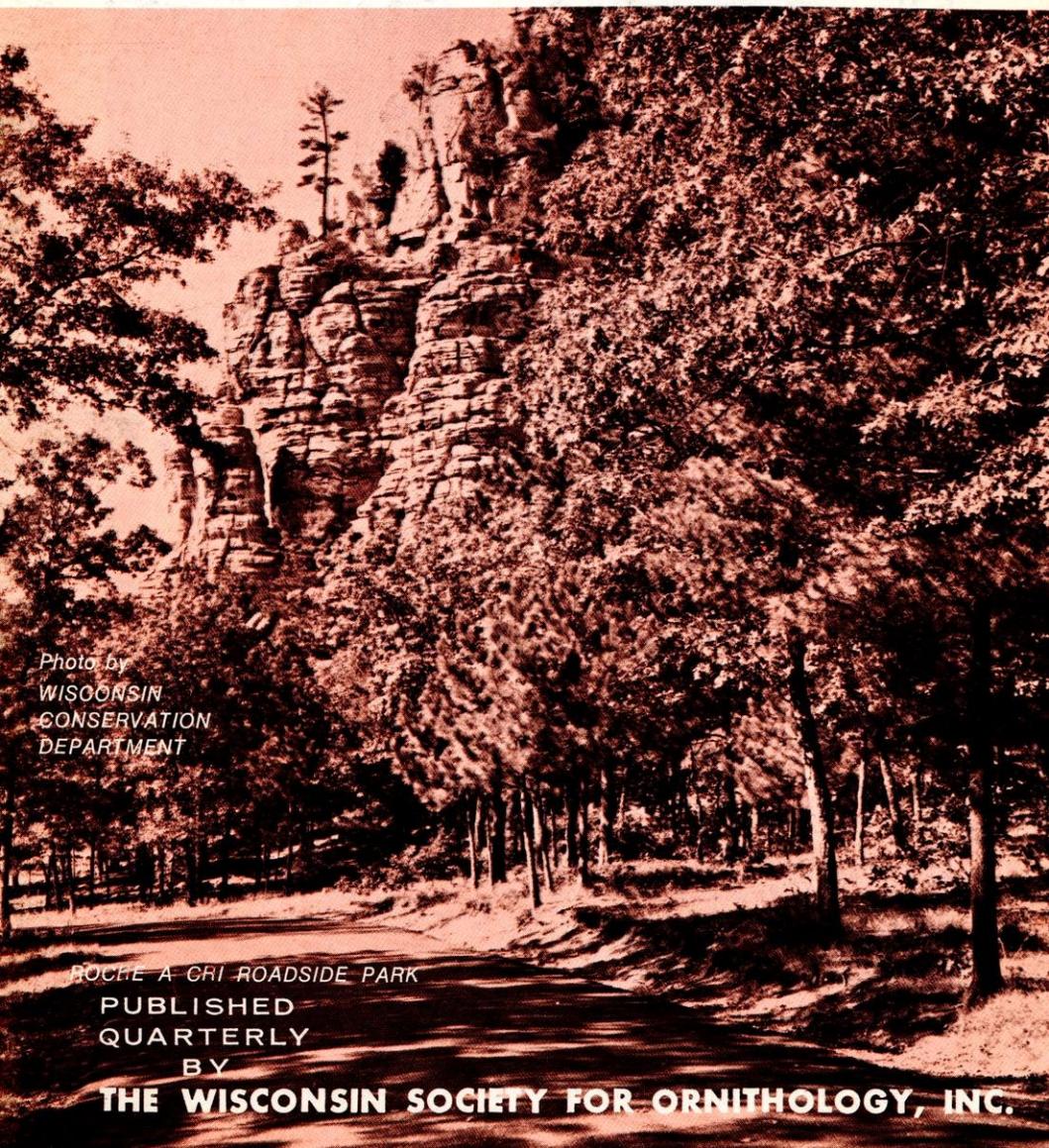


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SAM ROBBINS

## New Light on The LeConte's Sparrow

By SAM ROBBINS

The status of the LeConte's Sparrow in Wisconsin has been uncertain and bewildering for a long time. It was puzzling in the nineteenth century. Kumlien and Hollister (1903) spoke of its occasional occurrence in southeastern Wisconsin, but always strictly as a fall migrant. "The closest search has failed to produce a single specimen in spring, none having been noted before August." Even in fall, it was thought of as one of the rarest of Wisconsin sparrows.

Because the species is more numerous in the states immediately to the west of Wisconsin, it might be theorized that the LeConte's Sparrow moves toward through Minnesota and the Dakotas in the spring, with a few birds moving somewhat farther east for the return flight south. But J. N. Clark apparently failed to find the bird at all during his sixteen years of active field work in western Wisconsin during the late nineteenth century. Covering much of the same area during the 1940's, Buss and Mattison (1955) met with this species only twice: once in early October and once in early April. To them the LeConte's appeared to be one of the rarest of Wisconsin sparrows.

In 1927 Carl Richter made the significant discovery that this species was present in summer in Green Bay marshes in Oconto County, and established the first breeding record for the state. His fascinating story of this finding, and of repeated subsequent findings in Oconto and Marinette Counties in summer, appears as a companion article in this issue.

A second breakthrough occurred in 1959, when William Southern found several birds in the Crex Meadows marshes in Burnett County between June 23 and July 2. No actual nests were found. But Southern's description of the birds' behavior (1960 *Pass. Pigeon* 28-29), together with frequent observations in subsequent years by Southern, Norman Stone

and the author, have established this spot in northwestern Wisconsin as a second state area where this elusive species is to be found as a summer resident.

Aside from these two areas, however, the presence of the LeConte's Sparrow as a summer resident in the state was virtually unknown until 1968. Published summer records in **The Passenger Pigeon** for the eleven year period 1958-1968, summarized in Table I, show in addition to the Burnett County and the Oconto-Marinette Counties locations only: (1) a 1958 record from the Apostle Islands in Ashland County, (2) a 1963 report near Barronett in southern Barron County, and (3) birds heard east of New Richmond in St. Croix County in 1964 and 1966. Thus the range map appearing in Gromme's **Birds of Wisconsin** (1963) shows summer locations for this species only as a handful of small isolated dots.

Such a spotty pattern is puzzling indeed. This species occurs through much of Minnesota, and locally in parts of northern Michigan. In reporting this species from Burnett County in 1959, and trying to guess why the bird should be found in northwestern and northeastern Wisconsin without being found in areas in between, Southern suggested that either suitable habitat was lacking, or that the secretive habits of the bird had allowed him to go undetected (1960 **Pass. Pigeon** 29).

### 1968 and 1969 Observations

The writer's experience with this bird in 1968 and 1969 make it vividly clear that the "undetected" hypothesis was the more correct. A new breakthrough has come in our understanding of this species, thanks largely to the impetus of the new Breeding Bird Survey. It was on B.B.S. transect #12, in Lorain Township in northeast Polk County, that the song of the LeConte's was detected at two locations on June 15, 1968, by Prof. Steven Goddard and the writer. Three weeks later, on B.B.S. transect #16 in the Exeland area, six birds were recorded in five locations on July 7 by the writer: five were singing, the sixth was feeding in an open area within forty feet of the road. Four of the birds were in southern Sawyer County, with the other two in northwestern Rusk County. Transect #16, repeated on June 14, 1969 by the Rev. Donald Knecht and the writer, again produced six birds at four Sawyer and Rusk County locations. This was followed four weeks later with the detection of a singing bird on transect #38 in the extreme southeast corner of Jackson County on July 12, 1969 by the writer.

The significance of these observations lay not only in the addition of several widely scattered areas to the possible summer range of this species, but also in the expanded understanding of the birds' habitat preferences. The popular conception has been that the LeConte's Sparrow was restricted to the long grasses that grow in moist meadows—expansive and undisturbed. It was in such habitat that the Jackson County bird was heard. But none of these others were in moist areas; they were found in dry upland grass meadows, with no damp marshes anywhere in the vicinity.

Having learned to recognize the song of the LeConte's Sparrow in 1964, the writer had subsequently identified the bird as a May migrant in several succeeding years in Polk, St. Croix and Chippewa Counties;

the fact that most of these were in dry upland areas, however, had been interpreted as a temporary phenomenon evidenced in strictly migratory birds. Many species show up in migration in habitats where they would not be found as breeders. But with the habitat discoveries in 1968 fresh in mind, the writer set out in 1969 to pay more attention to open upland grass areas. Sure enough, singing birds were found in May in three areas close to his new home in Cadott in Chippewa County.



LeCONTE'S SPARROW

Two ten-day periods in June and July were spent in the environs of Merrill, and this afforded the opportunity to investigate more grass meadows in Lincoln, Langlade and Marathon Counties. The LeConte's was found in all the areas, and in Taylor and Price Counties, en route. A summary of the writer's summer records for this year is given in Table II: 41 birds in 28 locations in nine counties.

#### Reasons for Apparent Scarcity

Assuming that 1969 has been a reasonably typical year for the LeConte's Sparrow, and that the species has in all likelihood been present in summer in most of these locations for years, one naturally looks for reasons to explain the apparent scarcity of past years. Three reasons seem plausible.

The first concerns habitat. Until recently, the writer was in the habit of paying little attention to the extensive upland grassy fields. On spring and summer field trips, the tendency has been to concentrate more on woods, marshes and ponds and streams. After all, time is precious; there is little point in spending much of one's limited time on such usual species as Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, unless one is making special population studies. Of the 41 birds found in the summer of 1969, all but the Jackson County bird were found in the sort of "ordinary" upland grass areas that the writer had formerly largely ignored.

The preference of these LeConte's Sparrows seemed to be for large, relatively flat areas of undisturbed pasture, or timothy hay. The birds like long grass, devoid of trees and shrubs, with no buildings nearby. If the area has a very slight slope, the birds tend to favor the higher ground in preference to the lower. When Dr. Charles Kemper and the writer

sought to trap and band two of the LeConte's Sparrows that had shown up in a Chippewa County location in May, we noted a small depressed area within a large expanse of otherwise level grassland, and located the mist nets in the low spot, thinking the birds would have a preference

there. This proved to be a mistake. Although the birds were flushed several times, they flew consistently around the low spot, rather than into it or over it. This preference for the higher portions of nearly-level land proved during subsequent observations to be typical. Land that has a substantial slope, however, seems to be unacceptable to this species; all of the 1969 summer records were from areas that were level or nearly so, although frequent listening stops were also made in sloping areas.

A second factor contributing to the apparent rarity of this species concerns the song. The song is so soft, short, high-pitched and insect-like that it is easily overlooked. Roger Tory Peterson (1934) has referred to the song of the Henslow's Sparrow as "one of the poorest vocal efforts of any bird." The writer would agree, and nominate the LeConte's for runner-up honors. It lasts but a second, and seems to consist of two insect-like buzzes—the second somewhat more accented and drawn out. In the mind of the writer, the song might be rendered "chick-eeeeez"; it fits well the description in Peterson (1949), and those of Seton, Breckenridge and Farlay quoted by Lawrence H. Walkinshaw in the Bent Life History Series (1968). On two occasions, when within twenty feet of the songster, the writer was able to pick out three or four barely audible introductory "clicks" before the two buzzes, and this matches up more with the song description in Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer (1966), and with Walkinshaw's description in the Bent series (1968). In most instances these tiny introductory notes were inaudible; they might be comparable to the introductory sounds preceding the usual songs of the Bobwhite and the Whippoorwill, detectable only when the birds are at very close range.

The more audible two syllables themselves constitute what can at least be termed an inconspicuous song, with very limited carrying power. No attempt has been made to make an accurate measurement of the distance from which the song can be heard, but the writer is of the opinion that he could rarely hear a bird that was more than 150 feet away. A person whose ears cannot detect high-pitched sounds such as those of the Cedar Waxwing and Golden-crowned Kinglet might not be able to hear the LeConte's Sparrow at all. When Dr. Kemper was photographing one of the Cadott birds in May, he could see the bird at 50 feet and photograph the bird with its mouth open in song, but could not hear the song; upon approaching to within 20 feet, he could finally detect the song faintly. It is extremely possible that the writer has passed up the song of the LeConte's on various occasions, thinking he was hearing a fragment of a distant Savannah Sparrow song. But once the song is learned, and heard distinctly, it is unmistakable.

Not only is the song weak and inconspicuous, but it also tends to cease earlier in the morning than does most other bird song. One can visit a grass meadow before dawn and hear LeConte's Sparrows singing by 4:00 a. m., DST; one may still hear the song at 5:00, but most likely will hear nothing from this bird at 6:00. Another bird song period begins late in the day. The writer has visited a LeConte's field at 7:00 p. m. and heard nothing, but by 7:30 the singing will have started. There are exceptions. Three of the Merrill birds were heard as late at 7:30 a. m., and

the bird near Stanley was heard at 8:45 a. m. But the usual pattern is for these birds to sing mainly near dawn and dusk.

On the other hand, the LeConte's seems to prolong its song period later in the summer than do most birds. Notice on Table II how many of the birds were detected in late July and August. All of these were singing birds. One of the Cadott birds was still singing at dusk on August 23. The only other birds that were still in song that evening were the Black-capped Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Goldfinch and Indigo Bunting.

A third reason for the apparent rarity of the LeConte's lies in the secretive habits of the bird. The experiences described by Richter in the accompanying article are typical, and can be attested to by anyone who has done much searching for this elusive bird. Unlike most sparrows, which do much of their singing from a fairly conspicuous perch, the LeConte's does most of its singing from low perches hidden in tall grass.

If one tries to pursue a hidden bird, hoping that a flushed songster will fly a short distance and alight on a more open perch, the observer is generally doomed to disappointment. The bird may flush once, twice, or several times. But after flying off at grass-top level for a short or moderate distance, the bird will drop down into a grassy clump instead of landing atop a weed. And sooner or later the bird will refuse to flush in response to persistent human disturbance, and secrete itself without resorting to flight. Soon after being left alone, the bird may resume its singing.

On numerous occasions the writer attempted to attract singing LeConte's by making a squeaky "sh-psh-psh" sound that has often proved attractive to Black-capped Chickadees and other passernines. The response of the LeConte's in every instance was completely negative. Not once did a LeConte's Sparrow respond by flying or by making any other noticeable movement.

This is not to say that this species can never be found on a conspicuous perch. One of the Gilman birds was perched on a roadside fence post when the writer drove up and parked; it remained atop the post while a slow walking approach came within fifteen feet, with the bird in full song all the time. On the day when Dr. Kemper and the writer attempted to trap and photograph one of the Cadott birds, one of the birds eventually decided to perch at the tip of a weed, and continued to sing while Dr. Kemper moved to within fifteen feet. On these rare occasions when the bird can be viewed at close range, the LeConte's is seen to be one of the more handsome sparrows; the light orange color of the face and upper breast lends more of a touch of rich color than is usual in most other sparrows. But the fact that only three of the summer's 41 individuals showed themselves in this fashion indicates how much more frequently the species can be heard than seen.

#### Present Status

The status of the LeConte's Sparrow in Wisconsin has been consistently described as "rare", from the time of Kumlien and Hollister (1903) to recent work by Gromme (1963). It would be premature, if not downright erroneous, to infer that this status be changed on the basis

of the summer 1969 experiences. When Barger, Lound and Robbins prepared their **Wisconsin Birds: A Checklist With Migration Charts** (1960), they sought to describe the relative abundance of birds in seven categories: abundant, common, fairly common, uncommon, rare, very rare, and accidental. Then they took a family of birds at a time, and compared the abundance of each species with each other, finally reaching a consensus of which species deserved to be listed within each category. It was felt at that time that none of the Wisconsin sparrows belonged in the "accidental" or "very rare" classifications; the LeConte's belonged in the "rare" listing along with the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and the Oregon Junco; and the Lark and Harris' Sparrows merited the term "uncommon". If it should develop in future years that the experiences of the writer in 1969 can be duplicated, expanded, and confirmed by other observers, the "uncommon" classification might be preferred to "rare". However, it must be recognized that these summer records have so far been restricted to the northern and central counties (see map, figure 1), and that suitable grassland habitat is not plentiful in a region that is known much more for its woodlands than its meadows.

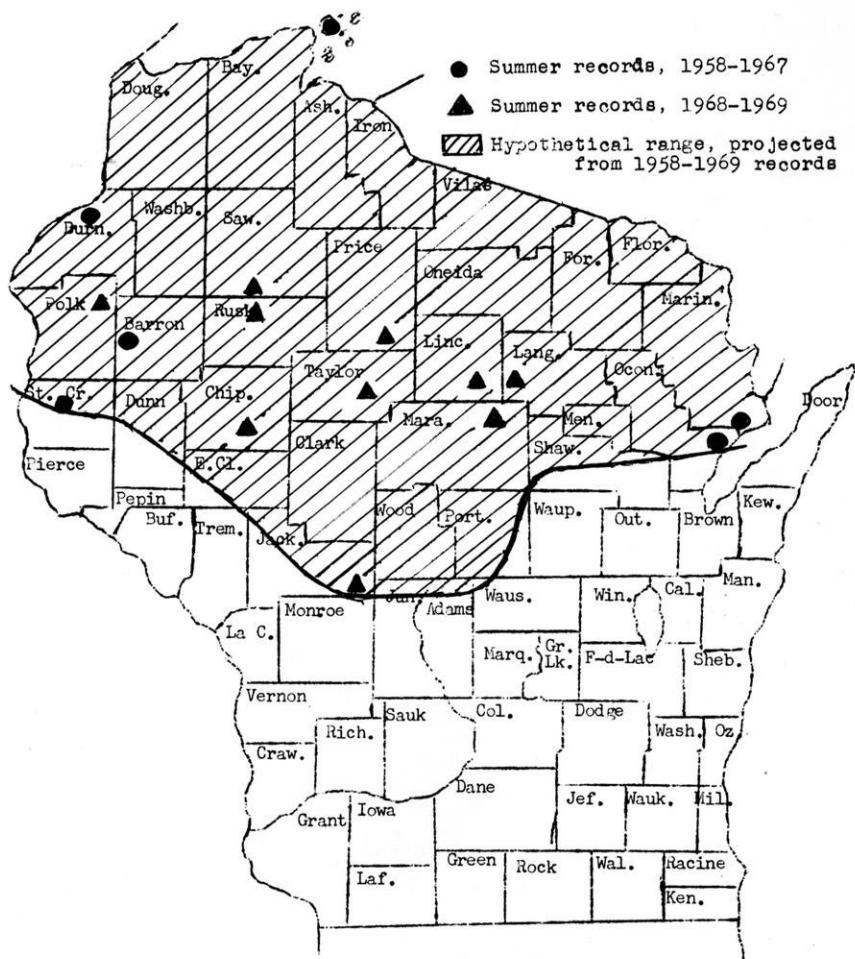
The 1969 observations serve to give much fuller meaning to the designation "rare summer resident north". For the most part, up until this year, that term has had to be interpreted, "rare summer resident in two little pockets of marsh land, one in the northwest and one in the northeast". It can now be speculated with reasonable confidence that this bird inhabits suitable habitat all across northern Wisconsin, and possibly some extensive areas of the central region as well. The shaded area in figure 1 portrays a hypothetical range for the LeConte's Sparrow in summer, which seems plausible because of the records of the past twelve years. Only time will tell how accurate this projected range may prove to be.

TABLE 1  
SUMMER RECORDS OF **LeCONTE'S SPARROWS**, 1968-1969\*

Year	Dates	County	Observers
1958	June 14	Ashland	Beals
1959	June 23-July 2	Burnett	Southern
1960	None		
1961	July 27	Burnett	Southern
1962	July-August	Burnett	Stone, Wisner, Robbins
1963	July 1	Barron	Robbins
	July 3	Burnette	Stone
1964	June 15-July 2	St. Croix	Robbins
1965	None		
1966	June 16	St. Croix	Robbins
	June 17	Marinette	Richter
	June 19	Oconto	Richter
	July 17	Burnett	Robbins
1967	June 18-August	Oconto	Richter
	Aug. 8	Burnett	Robbins
1968	June 15	Polk	Goddard, Robbins
	July 7	Sawyer	Robbins
	July 7	Rusk	Robbins

\* — published records from **The Passenger Pigeon**

# Figure 1



## HYPOTHETICAL SUMMER RANGE OF THE LeCONTE'S SPARROW

**TABLE II**  
**SUMMER 1969 RECORDS OF LeCONTE'S SPARROWS**

County	Twp.	Range	Sec.	Nearest Town	Dates	Number	
Chippewa	29N	7W	22	Cadott	June 8	1	
	"	29N	7W	27	Cadott	June 8-Aug. 23	3
	"	29N	7W	35	Cadott	June 8	2
	"	29N	5W	27	Stanley	July 9	1
Jackson	20N	1E	35	Mather	July 12	1	
Langlade	31N	9E	30	Antigo	June 27-July 2	2	
	"	32N	9E	3	Kempster	July 2	1
	"	32N	9E	32	Kempster	July 2	1
Lincoln	31N	6E	4	Merrill	July 28	1	
	"	31N	7E	35	Merrill	July 28	1
	"	31N	8E	11	Merrill	June 27	1
	"	31N	8E	23	Merrill	June 27	1
	"	31N	8E	25	Antigo	June 27-July 2	1
	"	31N	8E	28	Merrill	July 2	1
	"	31N	8E	34	Merrill	July 2	2
	"	32N	6E	23	Merrill	July 1-28	1
	"	32N	6E	24	Merrill	July 1	2
	"	32N	6E	25	Merrill	June 29-July 1	1
	"	33N	8E	35	Gleason	July 2	3
	"	33N	8E	36	Gleason	July 2	2
Marathon	30N	6E	4	Merrill	July 28	1	
Price	36N	2E	35	Prentice	Aug. 10	1	
Rusk	36N	7W	2	Exeland	June 14	2	
	"	35N	7W	22	Bruce	June 14	1
Sawyer	37N	7W	14	Exeland	June 14	1	
	"	37N	7W	22	Exeland	June 14	2
Taylor	31N	3W	19	Gilman	July 29	2	
	"	31N	1W	32	Medford	July 29	2

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Cadott, Wisconsin

# The LeConte's Sparrow in Northeastern Wisconsin

By CARL H. RICHTER

I will begin this account a year prior to the finding of the LeConte's Sparrow nesting in northeastern Wisconsin, as the cases are quite similar. The third week in June 1926, while searching for nests in the large marsh bordering on Green Bay in Oconto County, I came upon a nest containing seven eggs that were strange to me, but I knew they belonged to one of the rails. It required a number of approaches from various angles of the nest before I finally flushed the bird and had enough information so that, when I arrived home and read up on the rails, I was convinced I had found the nest and eggs of the Yellow Rail. The following day I again started a systematic search, and soon found another nest. But in this instance I probably would have overlooked the nest, had not two eggs been rolled out of the nest—by some means or varmint. On pushing back the dense cover of a tussock, I found the nest containing six eggs, a little on the "smelly" side. The nest had been deserted, and on blowing, I found the eggs were advanced in incubation and now were addled. With this experience and what I now know of the nesting of the Yellow Rail, I was lucky to find an "open nest" for a first; otherwise it might have been years before I might have found this rail nesting in our marshes.



LeCONTE'S SPARROW

area a short distance when, on parting a thick clump of grass, I found a nest of one of the sparrows. It contained five eggs which, according

I was anxious to get back out in the marshes the following year, 1927, to hunt up further nests of the Yellow Rail, but also discovered that it required a great deal of time and patience. So one day, after trudging through dense cover and wading in water for hours, I figured I needed a little rest and worked my way to a slight ridge in the marsh that I was familiar with—having hunted from this place in the fall. I had only left the wet

to my field notes, proved to be fresh and warm; but no bird was about, and no bird complained about my being near its nest. Moving away for some distance, and giving the bird time to return to its nest, I tried several times to approach from different directions. After many such attempts, I finally flushed the parent—some five or six feet beyond the nest—but it told me nothing.

I returned the next day and carefully slipped up to the nest; but although the eggs were warm, no bird was present. Again I tried the careful approach, and at perhaps the sixth or seventh try, the bird flushed and I secured her. On examining the bird, I was sure I had the LeConte's Sparrow. But I was anxious to get the bird home and check for sure. This I did, and added a new species to my list.

That fall and throughout 1928 I worked in a museum in Michigan and did not get to hunt nests in Wisconsin. But a two-week vacation in the summer of 1929 again found me in my favorite marshes. This time I was about two miles north of the areas where I had found the Yellow Rail and LeConte's Sparrow nesting in 1927 because of higher water levels. The water was so high in Green Bay that the former mentioned marshes were flooded to the extent that no rails (other than Sora and Virginia) were heard in the entire marsh. Nor did I hear the LeConte's Sparrow, with which I had by this time become acquainted—by call, song and habits. So in scouting around, I found this new area.

Here I discovered two more nests of the LeConte's while searching for nests of the Yellow Rail. I must add that the majority of nests of this sparrow were found while making those careful hunts for the rails. This last place, though not strictly a marsh, is fairly low land, and with the water level being as high as it was that year, was actually quite moist all year. In fact marsh birds nested in the area that normally do not do so. Besides the two LeConte's nests, and a couple of Yellow Rail nests, I found two nests of the King Rail, a nest of the American Bittern, and—near the west edge in some scattered willow brush—a nest of the Marsh Hawk. Song Sparrows were heard about the border, but no nests were found where the LeConte's nested.

I have rather run ahead of my story. I had mentioned that the sparrow nest found in 1927 was somewhat different, compared with the nest of the Savannah, Swamp and Song Sparrows. The eggs were rather small, with "penciled marking" about the larger end—like some types of Red-wings, Grackles and Baltimore Orioles. Also the nest was deeply cupped, more so than the usual Savannah Sparrow nest. Most LeConte's nests I have found are well made, deeply cupped, and smaller than Song, Savannah and Swamp Sparrow nests. I guess you have to be an egg and nest collector to sense these things.

I had become personally acquainted with Owen Gromme of the Milwaukee Public Museum during the mid-1920's, and on his urging I sent him lists of bird arrivals each year, and also some nesting records. In the mid-1930's Mr. Gromme asked me to collect several LeConte's for him. I waited until the second week of June, to be sure my birds were not migrants, then sent him several adults. He reported back that two

of the birds had brood patches and must be nesting. They surely were; I had sets of eggs. So Owen added the LeConte's Sparrow to the list of nesting birds for Wisconsin.

In 1942, while hunting for the nests of the Bobolink in an upland meadow, I was surprised to hear two LeConte's Sparrows. Searching carefully, I found both nests: the first found which were not in the Green Bay marshes. So I learned something more about their habits. This meadow was overgrown with rank grass and weed, not having been cut for several years, nor having been burned to remove the old growth. It appears that this bird, like the Henslow's Sparrow, prefers dense cover for its nesting.

I also recall two periods when we had what might be called an invasion of LeConte's into the vicinity. I believe it was in 1946 that I found at least a dozen nests within 80 acres of marsh land. Also there have been years when the birds have been totally absent. This year, 1969, I have not located any, either in the old haunts in Oconto County or in Marinette County.

The adults are very crafty. I have yet to find a nest that has been parasitized by the Cowbird. I believe the reason for this is that the adults do not go directly to the nest; they alight some distance from the nest and sneak under cover mouse-like to the nest. Having learned these habits, I have had considerable success in finding the nest of this secretive species.

Oconto, Wisconsin.



LEAST BITTERN  
ON NEST

By Ed Prins

# In Memoriam 1903-1969

## Fr. George Henseler

Reprinted from the PARISH BULLETIN of St. Joseph Church  
in Appleton, Wis., July, 1969.

### FR. GEORGE LEADS HIS FLOCK . . . into eternity

He was just an ordinary man. For the casual observer, Fr. George was a listener. But sometimes so quiet that you wondered whether he heard you. But deep inside was a compassionate man, a great priest and a fulfilled Capuchin.

Children flocked to him. They told stories to him. They played guessing games in the rectory office on Sunday afternoon, and he would smoke his pipe and guess along with them.

His relaxation was studying birds and he could be found in nearby fields at 5:00 a. m. catching and banding new varieties. And he enjoyed that famous crooked pipe. He shared his tobacco with the poor men who came to the side door to eat. He himself sometimes prepared their lunch.

Within the Friary walls his advice was wise. When he couldn't find an answer he said "try it and find out". He trusted his community and admired their accomplishments.

The youth came to him with financial problems and he found ways to educate them. He introduced a system of high school education that would not deprive any high school youth of a chance to study at Xavier.

Deep within his robust frame there must have been many deep concerns about his awesome position as pastor. Sometimes he talked about them. Most of the time he did not. As a leader of his flock he presumed a lot . . . he presumed that his parishioners would grasp his own deep love of the Church.

The "real monk", Father George is now preparing to celebrate his resurrection someday. His sole possessions remain behind: a Capuchin habit, his rosary, his sandals, his keys to the school and his wallet . . . empty.

Tomorrow on Monday we will bury a giant: a giant Capuchin, a giant priest, and a giant friend. He was just an ordinary man. So ordinary that anyone could approach him and learn from him.

# BOOK REVIEWS

John Hillaby, *A WALK THROUGH BRITAIN*. Boston. Houghton Mifflin. 1969. \$5.95.

Lots of people have walked the length of the British Isles, from Land's End, Cornwall, in the Southwest, to John O'Groats, Scotland, in the Northeast. Someone even did it pushing a baby carriage. But they stuck to the roads.

John Hillaby, a 50-year-old scientific writer, decided to walk the whole 1100 mile way on footpaths, cattle roads, and abandoned railroads, and he had a great time of it. Footpaths connecting one town and the next, going uphill and down dale, are one of the glories of England for the nature-lover and hiker. They go everywhere, though more and more modern farms are trying to eliminate or block them, so hikers' organizations have to push strenuously for the ancient rights of the man afoot.

Hillaby's account of his 55 day hike is a treat of vicarious adventure; he had his moments of peril and crisis, as when lost in the fog at Dartmoor. Hillaby took a tent, but slept indoors out of the rain when he could. He had his good and bad innings trying for food and lodging in strange towns. Breakfast is included in the price of one's room in Britain, but is extremely hard to come by if one hasn't lodged, especially on Sunday, as even the tourist soon learns.

As he writes of it, Hillaby makes the whole journey exciting, though only an Englishman, and a mighty hardy one at that, ought to try it afoot. One who has driven or who plans to drive through much the same country can read this day-by-day account with special relish, for Hillaby has a fine eye and ear, for the cliff, the wildflower, the birdsong and the local accent. He's skillful too at working in the geology and local history, stuff he "potted," as the British would say, from books after he got back. He pots so well that the narrative keeps going colorfully.

On the York moors he finds, "This is a place for the lonely. The kestrel hangs head down in the wind, tail outstretched like a fan, a solitary hunter calculated to turn on intruders, immediately. The helicopter becomes a fighting plane. The grouse have a communal life of their own, secretive, you know them only by the noise of their going, and as for the curlew and the plover their cry has all the sorrow in the world."

The hiking got pretty lonely and rugged through the Scottish highlands, and through that country, as through Dartmoor, one is glad to be sharing the trip from one's armchair. But the chance company of an itinerant bagpiper, the conversation of an evening at a local pub, the birds and the flowers generally make every part of the trip a genial one.

It was a good walk. It is an entrancing book.

David M. Stocking



# By the Wayside . . .

**First State Observation of Curlew Sandpiper:** While birding at the Green Bay "slough"—between the filtration and power plants—I noticed two shorebirds amongst the several hundred present that had relatively long, downward curved bills. They were between the "peeps" and dowitchers in size. When they turned the one was immediately recognizable as a Dunlin as it still had a partial spring plumage, including the black belly patch. The other bird however seemed slightly larger and lacked any indication of the Dunlin spring plumage. The birds, whenever they happened to feed close together, proceeded to chase each other. However I dismissed the entire proceeding as accidental and continued to scan the other shorebirds. However about fifteen minutes later my attention was drawn to the two birds when I happened to pick them up in flight with my scope. The Dunlin had the expected white at the edges of the rump. However the other bird appeared to have an entire white rump. I proceeded to watch the bird feeding among the "peeps" for fifteen minutes. During that time I noted that it had a bill that curved down its entire length, its grayish back and that it was a little larger than the Dunlin. During this observation period it took flight an additional two times; both times provided an excellent view of its white rump, to me the safest identification point, indicating that it was a Curlew Sandpiper.

The observation was made between 11:15-11:45 on Sep. 15 in partly cloudy skies. Both a 30x scope and 7x binoculars were used in the observation — Daryl Tessen, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Seasonal Editor's Note: Because this is the first state observation, with no accompanying photograph and/or specimen, this must be accepted as a hypothetical record, even though all identification points fit perfectly.

**Western Visitor in Madison:** On Nov. 21 there was a Townsend's Solitaire in the Arboretum. I located it three times during a period of less than an hour. Jim Zimmerman also saw it. The field marks were: thrush shape, but long-tailed and slender, all gray except for white eye ring (seen clearly against dark eye), narrow white outer tail markings (less obvious, for instance, than those of the junco), faint wing markings. Although I had never seen this bird before, I knew of its existence and suspected something and ran for a Western Peterson which fortunately was in the Arboretum office. This bird was very active, but remained around the red cedars for about an hour. I think it and I arrived simultaneously — Libby Sandburg, Madison, Wis.

**Rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper Appears in Fond du Lac:** On the morning of Sep. 10 I drove around the campus of the newly constructed Wisconsin State University-Fond du Lac. The grounds had been plowed and most of the area was covered with large puddles. Much of the grassy area was also flooded. Numerous shorebirds were present: Golden Plovers, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. In one of the puddles, about 15 feet from the roadway was a Sanderling

and Least Sandpiper. With them was a buffy colored sandpiper not quite as large as the Sanderling but standing taller. Its neck was long compared to the Sanderling's. Its back and crown were mottled with brown and the rest of the body including the face, neck, breast, belly and under-tail coverts were a delicate buffy color. A pale eye ring was evident. These characteristics and the yellow-orange legs were enough to convince me that it was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper — Rockne Knuth, Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Southern Visitor Makes Brief Appearance in Milwaukee:** The observation was made on a bright, sunny morning, Nov. 3, when, in passing a rear window, I caught a glimpse of bright color out of the corner of my eye. I slowly walked right to the window and observed the Summer Tanager in the branches of a tree which practically touched the house at this point.

The bird was no more than eight feet from me. It did not fly when it saw me, but remained calm, and sat still for possibly two or three minutes, giving me ample time to observe its size and coloration. After two or three minutes, it began feeding among the branches, very much in the manner of a Kingbird. It moved slowly about the tree for a short time, then flew off.

The close proximity of some House Sparrows gave a good size guide. It was larger than the sparrow. We can eliminate the Cardinal, since there was no crest or black face of the male, or brownish shading of the female. It was not a Scarlet Tanager, for it lacked the black wings and tail, and brilliant scarlet color. Next, the Pine Grosbeak can be eliminated because it lacked white wing-bars, over-all size, tail length and mandible shape.

Incredible as this late date may be, there is no other bird that could possibly fit the description — Don Bierman, Milwaukee, Wis.

## The POLLUTION of Air and Water

*has become the problem which must be solved  
if Americans are to enjoy wholesome and pro-  
ductive lives.*

*Mary and Charlie Nelson*

**Unusual Nesting Habitat:** While crossing the east end of the Atkinson Marsh area near the power plant in Green Bay on May 31, 1969, I noticed a group of Brewer's Blackbirds showing typical concern as if there were nests of young in the vicinity. The immediate area was covered with a layer of bark which I was later told was placed there to protect the fly ash fill from being blown away by the wind. There were practically no plants growing in the bark-filled area.

After searching for some time and not quite knowing what the nests might look like, I finally spotted a Brewer's Blackbird nest in the bark under a dried lamb's quarters plant which had blown into a depression. The nest was made of fine plant materials and looked similar to those found in other habitats. Three other Brewer's nests were then found within a few minutes.

A Killdeer also displayed a nesting reaction. I sat down and watched about 25 minutes without moving but could not locate the nest or young killdeers. Returning to the bark dump on June 6, three more Brewer's nests were found as well as a Killdeer nest with four eggs. Most of the blackbird nests were partially protected by pieces of overhanging bark. Three of the blackbird nests had eggs, two had young birds, and two were empty.

I did not return to the area for further checks because of a strong chemical taste and odor in my mouth which I suspected had been acquired while searching for the nests. The distasteful odor and taste condition persisted for several months indicating caution should be exercised by anyone visiting the area. — Harold A. Mathiak, Horicon, Wis.



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# Western Tanager in Grant County

By CLIFFORD J. DENNIS  
Wisconsin State University-Whitewater

On August 8, 1969, my wife, Maxine, and I were anchored beside an island in the Mississippi River making observations while on work supported by a WSU Regents research grant. This island is shown on the Corps of Engineers navigation chart number 116 at approximately mile 622.6 near Bagley in Grant County. The island is the elongate one just northeast of Hovie Island. It really is two islands, consisting of longer northern and shorter southern sections. We were anchored next to the southwestern shore of the southern island. The time of this observation was about 6:00 p. m. CDT in bright sunshine.

Maxine spotted the arriving bird which proved to be a male Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* (Wils.). He was under observation at distances varying from 10 to 20 yards for about 5 minutes before flying away. The bird was in the open on some dead trees over the water. Both the unaided eye and close-focusing 7 x 50 binoculars were employed. This brilliantly colored bird almost seemed to glow as seen against the leafy background. He appeared to be about 6 1/2 inches long. The black back, tail and wings and the yellow rump, belly, neck and head were very striking. The wing bars were evident. The red on the head was reduced, but Peterson (1947) states that males lose the red in the autumn. It would be difficult to confuse this bird with any other. Peterson and Chapman (1958) reported this species from Wisconsin. Kumlein and Hollister (1903, reprinted in 1951) reported a breeding pair in 1877 and 2 additional males, one each in 1878 and 1891, all in Jefferson County.

#### Literature Cited

Chapman, Frank M. 1958. *Handbook of birds of eastern North America*, Dover, New York, p. 495.

Kumlien, L. and N. Hollister. 1903, reprinted 1951. *The birds of Wisconsin*. Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Madison, p. 91.

Peterson, Roger T. 1947. *A field guide to the birds*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, pp. 198, 217.

Ed. Note: Other Wisconsin records

1. May 6, 1958, A male in Kenosha reported by Mrs. Howard Higgins, *The Passenger Pigeon*, 21, pp. 150, 169.
2. May 4, 1966, an adult male in Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk county, Kenneth Lange, Baraboo. *The Passenger Pigeon*, 29 (1) pp. 35, 50.
3. May 8, 1955, a male in Forest Hills Cemetery, Madison by Roy Lound, and on May 12, 1955 in same area by Mrs. Janet Ela. *The Passenger Pigeon*, 17 (4) pp. 160 and 18, (2) p. 57.



#### CLIFFORD DENNIS

Dr. Dennis, a new contributor to the *Passenger Pigeon*, is now Professor of Biology at WSU-Whitewater. Born in Payette, Idaho in August, 1925, he grew up and was educated in Platteville, Wisconsin. He has a BS degree in Zoology from Iowa State, a BA in Sociology from East Central State College, and an MS and PhD in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin. He also happens to be 6 foot 1 inch tall, 300 pounds, a former football coach, a World War II veteran, Lt., U.S. Navy, and father of eight children. He says his hobbies, are boating, wood carving, carpentry and eating (?). Quite a guy.



# FIELD NOTES

The Autumn Season

August 16-November 30, 1968

By DARRELL TESSEN

"Excellent, good and poor" are words all used in describing the migration for this fall. During the past three autumns there had been remarkable concurrence among reporters in the subpar migrations that occurred. This fall the unanimity is obviously lacking. There are several explanations for this wide variation but perhaps the best is to be found in the weather pattern for the 1968 fall period.

This fall the weather was normal throughout the entire period with mild, warmer than usual, temperatures prevailing especially during September and October. Likewise precipitation was generally normal, slightly above during September while somewhat below during October and November. In the northern counties only two light frosts occurred during August with the first permanent frost not occurring until mid-October. Snowfall varied throughout the state with the northern counties experiencing light snow in November with it not remaining until during the last third of the month. In the southern counties snowfall likewise occurred quite late — in late November — with no ground cover at the conclusion of the period. Northern lakes were expectantly frozen while southern lakes had open areas still remaining, predominantly in the larger lakes, by December.

The effect of the mild weather was to prolong the migration during the fall. This year the migration extended over an unusually long period, August 25-October 20. Major waves were expectantly few in number and all flights, large or small, were extremely difficult to identify. The major waves occurred on Sep. 18-20, Sep. 24-26 and Ovt. 18-20. Considerably smaller waves occurred on Aug. 25-26, Sep. 7-8, Sep. 13-14 with a slightly larger one on Sep. 28-Oct. 1. An extremely light migration occurred on Sep. 24 as noted by several observers in the northern and central parts of the state with it continuing into the next two days. Kemper reported a major television kill at Eau Claire on the night of Sep. 19-20 with 2,000 birds being killed. Of added interest is a modest kill of 145 birds on the night of Oct. 19-20. It consisted mainly of Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Myrtle, Nashville, Orange-crowned and Tennessee Warblers. This latter kill is of special significance as it is two weeks later than any previous kill.

Thus if birders were fortunate enough to be in the field during one of the infrequent waves, or patient enough, watching closely and carefully, an excellent variety of species were to be found. If however much of their observing occurred during the periods of leisurely movement, with a minimal amount of time spent in the field, a disappointing number of birds were to be noted. Also to be remembered is that the usual fall migration is of the leisure variety. This proved to be especially true this fall.

### Species Summary

**Herons:** The Great Blue has been reported as being less frequently seen for each of the past successive falls for several years. A similar situation prevailed this year. For the second consecutive fall there were a very limited number of Common Egret sightings. Whether this is due to its actually being lower in number or due to an absence of the normal late summer-early fall movement around the state from its nesting grounds is not apparent at present.

**Waterfowl:** Whistling Swans were down in numbers with a considerably poorer distribution throughout the state. The opposite picture was presented by the Canada Goose. A massive state-wide migration occurred between Sep. 25-29 with a record peak of 150,000 at Horicon Marsh. Several marshes in the state held larger numbers than in 1967 indicating an extremely good migration, well above last year's. A lead poisoning loss of about 1,000 Canadas occurred on Rush Lake. Again this year Biologist James March provided an extensive summary of the waterfowl migration in the state. His comments about the duck picture are most interesting and disturbing, to say the least.

"1968 should be considered as being one of the poorest duck flights on record. Almost all major species were down in numbers. The largest numbers of ducks were undoubtedly present in the state during the last week of September and the first two weeks of October (prior to October 12, the opening date of duck season), after which apparently no large influx of migrants entered Wisconsin in any one period except for scattered groups of divers and small mallards. As predicted, mallards were less abundant than in 1967. Canvasback and redheads were very scarce on their traditional migration stops with the possible exception of some of the Mississippi River pools. These two species appear to be at a critically low level throughout the Mississippi Flyway. Green-winged Teal probably were present in numbers equal to or above 1967 and could be the only bright spot in a very bleak fall flight. The blue-winged teal population may also have equalled 1967 at least from the standpoint of locally produced birds, but their early migrations make it difficult to measure this from year to year. Wood ducks were locally abundant in some of the river bottoms, especially the Chippewa River, but overall numbers were no better or below 1967.

No major flights of any diver species were reported. The diver migrations came in a straggling fashion. Concentrations of scaup (1000 or more birds) were reported only for Lake Winnebago, Green Bay, Lake

Michigan, the Mississippi River, Lake Superior plus perhaps one or two other inland lakes and the Wisconsin River flowages. Even Lake Michigan had no reported heavy scaup flight and the lake's flight of all divers seemed below normal. Ringnecks were absent or in low numbers on certain traditional concentration sites.

This year the low fall populations probably had a greater influence on duck distribution that did the condition of the habitat . . . My impression, after looking at the available information, is that . . . as a result of this fall's hunt, population levels in 1969 may be even leaner.

On the positive side, again this fall all three scoters were observed in the state. However the highlight of the waterfowl group has to be the appearance of the Common Eider on Crex Meadows and the Cinnamon Teal, a western species, in Milwaukee. Reportedly eiders have been observed occasionally in that area of the state and should be checked for more carefully.

**Hawks:** Generally a good migration reported this fall with several good flights for various species, i.e., Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged. Particularly noteworthy was the exceptionally good flight of Peregrine Falcons observed this fall. 450 hawks of various species had been banded by November 2 at Cedar Grove.

**Shorebirds:** A few areas were flooded out due to heavy summer rains but generally favorable conditions prevailed throughout the state. There were several sizable concentrations in the state, notably at Beaver Dam Lake and at Green Bay. In the latter case extremely large numbers that built up during late summer continued well into the fall. However the migration, at the best, was about average for the fall period. Outstanding were the observances of a Curlew Sandpiper, a Ruff and several Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

**Owls:** Notable by their absence were the Snowy and Long-eared Owls. The Saw-whet had an extremely good migration, especially along the eastern edge of the state.

**Chickadees, Nuthatches:** The Black-capped exhibited a 100 percent reversal from last fall with extremely large numbers observed throughout the state during the period. Banded individuals from past years were also reported to have reappeared this fall. The Boreal numbers observed represented a modest increase over those of 1967. A major flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred throughout the state. It was larger than the flight during the fall of 1965.

**Thrushes:** The opposite picture was presented this fall with fewer numbers of all species, excepting the Robin, observed state-wide. Bluebird numbers continued to remain low.

**Warblers:** An extremely poor migration this fall, even poorer than last year. Again this year many species were totally missed by observers with remarkable unanimity among observers in the scarcity of all species. The one exception was the Myrtle where many commented on an exceptionally good flight this fall. However one wonders how much of the

poor warbler flight was due to the unusually mild weather that persisted for much of the fall.

**Finches:** In contrast to the past several falls this one must be termed a "finch" year. During the period the entire state was inundated with large flocks of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. The Evening spread throughout the state primarily during October while the Pine spread state-wide during November. A similar situation occurred with the Common Redpolls as all sections of the state were reporting this species by mid-November. There even were several sightings of the rare Hoary Redpoll. However the opposite condition existed for the Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Red and White-winged Crossbills. While a major movement of Purple Finches occurred throughout the state during August and September they were almost nonexistent by late October. There was only a smattering of reports during November. Only a token migration of Pine Siskins occurred with single sightings predominating and no sizable numbers reported. The crossbill picture, both Red and White-winged, was even more bleak, with only three and two sightings, respectively, being reported. In summation, the fall movement of finches indicated an excellent winter for the Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and the Redpolls. Observations for the remaining finches—Purple, Pine Siskin and crossbills—would probably be pretty spotty during the winter months.

**Sparrows:** A pattern comparable to that of 1966 and 1967 existed this fall. There were varying comments about this group except for the Tree, Harris' and White-crowned. The number of Trees was lower while the Harris' and White-crowned again experienced extremely good flights.

### Interesting Species

This fall a remarkable total of 278 species were recorded during the period. This represents a sizable increase of some 18 species over 1967 and approximately 25 over the previous several years. As one would expect, with this large number of observed species, many outstanding birds were recorded. Most outstanding is the first state record of the Curlew Sandpiper at Green Bay; second state records of the Sabine's Gull at Madison and the Groove-billed Ani in Milwaukee; the appearance of the American Eider in northwestern Wisconsin; the first fall and fourth state record of a Ruff in Green Bay; the appearance of southern, the Summer Tanager and Cattle Egret, and western, the Cinnamon Teal, Black-billed Magpie and Townsend's Solitaire, visitors in the state; and the sighting of a jaeger, species unidentified, over Lake Superior. Also noteworthy are the following species: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White-fronted Goose, Surf and Common Scoters, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Spruce Grouse, King Rail, Willet, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Prairie Warbler and Hoary Redpoll.

### The Season Summary

**Common Loon:** Reports from seven central and southern counties this fall. Still present on Nov. 29 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt) and lingering into December in Dane county (Emlen).

**Red-throated Loon:** Three observations during the period: 2 on Sep. 27 in Racine county (Erickson, Kuehml); 1 on Oct. 24 in Milwaukee (Donald); 1 on Oct. 26 in Ozaukee county (Gustafson).

**Horned Grebe:** Observed in five counties, the earliest on Aug. 29 in Brown (Cleary, Paulson) and last on Nov. 26 in Dane (Emlen). The only numbers reported were four in Milwaukee on Oct. 25 (Basten).

**Eared Grebe:** None observed for the first fall in three years.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Five November departure dates, the latest being the 19th in Kenosha county (Hamers).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** For the fifth consecutive autumn there are almost no reports of this species. This year two reports were received: Sep. 26 in Douglas county (Bernard) and Nov. 9 and 19 in Kenosha county (Hamers).

**Great Blue Heron:** Only seven October dates. However there were late lingering birds observed in Barron county on Nov. 2 (Goff) and in Marquette county on Nov. 7-9 (Flaherty).

**Green Heron:** Five October dates, the latest being from Milwaukee on the 16th (Strehlow) and from Waukesha county on the 17th (Bratley).

**Common Egret:** Again this fall few observations with very few individuals noted. There were five reporting counties: Outagamie, Aug. 24-Sep. 14 (Tessen); Fond du Lac, Sep. 2-Oct. 16 (Knuths); Vernon, Sep. 27 (Weber); Dodge, Oct. 12 (Gustafson); and Waushara, Oct. 26 (Chipman).

**Cattle Egret:** One observed in Dodge county on Aug. 21 (Gustafson) and another observed in Sauk county in November (Kruse).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** Reported in October from Brown county, 5th (Cleary, Paulson); Fond du Lac where 15 were counted on the 13th (R. Knuth); last from Milwaukee on the 28th (Donald).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** The only individual observed this fall was an immature in the Milwaukee harbor on Aug. 20 (Gustafson).

**Least Bittern:** This fall yielded observations from four counties in contrast to the past several autumns. Reported from Waukesha, Aug. 23 (Gustafson); Marinette, Sep. 7 (Lindberg); Dane, Sep. 15 (Robbins); and Fond du Lac with single observations on Aug. 18, Sep. 12, 13 and 14 with four birds on the 13th (R. Knuth).

**American Bittern:** Only one October date in comparison to eight in 1967. However two birds were observed in Fond du Lac county on Nov. 16 (R. Knuth) which is late.

**Whistling Swan:** Only eight counties reporting this fall in comparison to 12 each of the past three years. Numbers were reported from Chippewa County where 400 were noted on Nov. 4 (Kemper), 200 on Nov. 15 in Burnett county (Caldwell) and 1,000 on the Mississippi River off from Buffalo county on Nov. 23 (Lesher). Still present the last week of November in Jefferson county (Sharpe) and early December sightings came from Fond du Lac (C. Knuth) and Big Green Lake (Hunt, March).

**Canada Goose:** Reported as present at the beginning of the period in Brown county (Cleary, Paulson). Next observed on Sep. 11 at Horicon Marsh. This was followed by a wave of Sep. 25 arrival dates. On this day and for the next four (Sep. 26-29) a massive state-wide migration occurred. Harold Lindberg counted 1,200 flying over in Marinette county on Sep. 27. At Horicon alone the numbers increased from 13,000 on Sep. 27 to 94,000 on Sep. 28. A record number of Canadas peaked on Oct. 12 at Horicon with 150,000 present on the Marsh and an additional 23,000 in the immediate vicinity. Other peak numbers include 12,000 at Necedah, 11,800 at Pine Island, 8,000 at Sheboygan Marsh, 7,600 at Eldorado, 5,000+ at Collins Marsh and 4,000 at Theresa (March). Departures from Horicon Marsh occurred on Oct. 19-20 and 24-27. Bielefeldt counted 5,550 flying over in one-half hour on Oct. 20 with an additional 800 noted later that day (Waukesha county). There were numerous reports of birds remaining into December. Large numbers were present at Horicon, with 25,000 also at Fox Lake and 3,500 at Rock Prairie (March).

**White-fronted Goose:** A single bird was observed in Green Lake county on Dec. 2 and 3 by March.

**Snow and Blue Geese:** Both species were observed in fifteen counties. The arrival date for the Snow was Sep. 29 (Winnebago county, Natzke) while for the Blue it was Sep. 26 (Fond du Lac county, R. Knuth). 500-600 Snows and Blues were counted on Lake Maria in Green Lake county on Dec. 2-5 (March).

**Mallard and Black Duck:** Peaks for the Mallard include 6,000 in the Mead area prior to the hunting season; 1,200 at Sandhill on Oct. 12; several thousand at both Horicon Marsh and Beaver Dam Lake; 800 Mallards and 600 Blacks were present in

late October and early November at Bay Beach Sanctuary. A total of 10,000 Mallards and Blacks were feeding in fields in Green Lake county from Nov. 25 to Dec. 13. Despite these figures both species were again down in numbers, fewer even than in 1967 (March).

**Gadwall:** Late November observations from Dane county, 27th (Emlen), and Milwaukee, 29th (Gustafson).

**Pintail:** Still present on Nov. 27 in Columbia (Dryer) and Dane counties (Emlen) and Nov. 29 in Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Green-winged Teal:** 2,500 birds were present in the Mead area before hunting season; several thousand at both Beaver Dam Lake and Horicon Marsh in October. According to James March, this species was the only bright spot in waterfowl migration this fall, as it was more abundant than in 1967. Mid-November departure dates came from Dane, 12th (Emlen); Milwaukee, 13th (Strehlow); and Waukesha, 18th (Bielefeldt) counties.

**Blue-winged Teal:** This species was present in numbers equal to those of 1967, at least so far as the locally produced birds were concerned (March). Major departures occurred on Sep. 24 and Oct. 3 at Horicon and statewide on Oct. 14. Exceptions were Oct. 24, Sauk county (Lange), Oct. 25, Brown county (Cleary, Paulson), and Oct. 30, Waukesha county (Bratley).

**Cinnamon Teal:** A male appeared in Milwaukee on Nov. 22, remaining through the 24th. It was subsequently photographed and observed by many (Donald, Gustafson, et. al.).

**American Widgeon:** 3,500 at Rush Lake in October. Several were present at the end of the period in Milwaukee (Donald, Gustafson) and Neenah-Menasha (Tessen).

**Shoveler:** Four November departure dates, the latest being the 29th, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Wood Duck:** 700 were in the Mead area in mid-October. Several hundred were reported in such areas as Princess Point, Vernon Marsh, Big Muskego and Bong Air Base in early October. At least 6 were still present in Winnebago county at the end of the period (Tessen).

**Redhead:** Reported as present at the beginning of the period in Dane county. Next from Fond du Lac county on Aug. 18 (C. Knuth) and St. Croix county on Sep. 1 (Robbins). No additional reports until October. Still present in December in Dane (Emlen, Robbins) and Winnebago (Tessen) counties. March commented on the extremely low numbers present in the state this fall and the seriousness of the situation.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 200+ were present in the Totogatic area Oct. 13-19. However there was an absence of reports this fall for the species.

**Canvasback:** Arrival dates come from Fond du Lac (Oct. 7, C. Knuth), and Columbia (Oct. 11, March) counties and Horicon Marsh and Lake Butte des Morts (Oct. 12). Peak numbers were noted by only two observers: March where 1,000 were reported on Lakes Poygan, Winneconne and Butte des Morts in November, and R. Knuth where another 1,000 were observed in Fond du Lac county on Nov. 15. March also commented on the extremely serious situation with this species as numbers are drastically down. Illustrating this is the fact that in 1967 10,000 birds were counted on Lakes Poygan, Winneconne and Buttes des Morts and several years before that 50,000+!

**Greater Scaup:** Inland reports from Chippewa (Nov. 2, Robbins) and Fond du Lac (Nov. 6, Knuths) counties. In the latter county individuals were still present in December.

**Lesser Scaup:** A Sep. 18 arrival date in Vernon county (Weber). Peaks included 10,000 on Lake Winnebago between Oct. 20-30 (March) and 1,500 in Chippewa county on Nov. 2 (Robbins). End of the period reports from Waukesha, Fond du Lac and Dane counties plus 150 still at Neenah-Menasha in early December (Tessen).

**Common Goldeneye:** First reported in the state in Green Bay on Oct. 26 (March).

**Bufflehead:** A Sep. 21 arrival date from Dodge county (Gustafson) was one month earlier than the next date of Oct. 22 in Dane county (Emlen). End of the period inland reports from Dane, Fond du Lac, Waukesha and Winnebago counties.

**Old Squaw:** November 2 arrival in Kenosha (Hamers).

**Common Eider:** One bird was shot in the Phantom Area of Crex Meadows on Nov. 10 by David Johnson (fide March). [Ed. note—This is preceded by only two other Wisconsin records.]

**White-winged Scoter:** These reports this fall: 2 shot on Nov. 2 in Chippewa county, subsequently given to Kemper; a female on Nov. 20-21 in Dane county (Emlen); one on Nov. 3 (Gustafson) and Nov. 25 (Donald) in Milwaukee.

**Surf Scoter:** An immature first observed on Oct. 30 in Milwaukee. Last reported on Nov. 6 when 2 were present (Gustafson). Two were present in Chippewa county from Nov. 29 (Robbins).

**Common Scoter:** Two reporting counties: Chippewa, one between Nov. 2-9 (Robbins); Milwaukee, between Oct. 30-Nov. 27 (Gustafson). This and preceding were photographed by Kemper.

**Ruddy Duck:** Sep. 1, St. Croix (Robbins) and Columbia (Ashmans) counties; Sep. 2, Fond du Lac county (Knuths). "Thousands" present in September in Fond du Lac (R. Knuth); 210 on Goose Pond, Columbia county, Sep. 27 (March); 1,000 on Lake Winnebago on Oct. 23 (March). Reported at the end of November in Fond du Lac and eleven in Winnebago county (Tessen).

**Hooded Merganser:** First reported on Sep. 1 in Bayfield county (Bratley); next on Oct. 24 in Dane county. Reported at the end of the period from Dane (Emlen, Robbins) and Winnebago (Tessen) counties.

**Common Merganser:** This fall there were three October arrival dates: the 25th, Vernon county (Weber), the 29th, Tichigan Marsh (March), and the 31st, Fond du Lac county (C. Knuth).

**Double-breasted Merganser:** A Sep. 21 sighting in Sheboygan county (Gustafson) was three weeks ahead of the next arrival date.

**Turkey Vulture:** Nine reporting counties this fall, the most in the past five years. Reported to be present at the beginning of the period in Waukesha county where varying numbers up to seven were noted during September (Bielefeldt, Bratley, Hoffmann). Last observed on Sep. 25. In Jefferson county it was also observed during all of September with numbers varying to ten (Compton). Single individuals were noted in Grant (Sep. 1, Gustafson), Vernon (Sep. 15, Weber), and Sawyer (Sep. 18, Nicholls) counties. Reports of two birds come from Pierce (Sep. 14, Olson) and Dodge (Oct. 5, Gustafson) counties and Cedar Grove (Oct. 12, Berger). The last bird was reported on Oct. 20 in Sauk county (Lange).

**Goshawk:** These reports this fall: Cedar Grove, 2 on Oct. 8 where Berger reported the flight to be poor this year; Milwaukee county, 3 on Oct. 11 (Donald); Marinette county, Nov. 18 (Lindberg); Dane county, Nov. 30 (Gustafson).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Observations occurred between Aug. 19 (Langlade County, Rudy) and Nov. 2 (Sheboygan county, Gustafson). Other reporting counties this fall included Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Fond du Lac, Iowa, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Rock and Sauk. Numbers observed this fall included ten on Oct. 5 in Sheboygan and five on Oct. 12 in Iowa counties. However two major flights were noted at Cedar Grove: 247 on Sep. 25 and 321 on Oct. 19 (Berger).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Eleven reporting counties this fall with no major flights noted. All observations occurred between Aug. 16 and Nov. 15.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Observations occurred between Aug. 17 (Oneida county, Gustafson) and Oct. 3 (Cedar Grove, Berger) with 13 counties reporting. Of particular interest are the major flights that occurred this fall: 130 on Sep. 13 in Milwaukee (Donald); 112 on Sep. 25 in Waukesha county (Bratley); 100 on Sep. 28 in Ozaukee county (Gustafson); 3,243 on Sep. 25 and 502 on Oct. 3 at Cedar Grove (Berger).

**Swainson's Hawk:** One individual was observed on Aug. 25 in Chippewa county (Robbins).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** A Sep. 25 arrival date in Manitowoc county (Albrecht) which was followed by the expected wave of October arrival dates throughout the state.

**Golden Eagle:** One was observed perched and flying in Waukesha county on Oct. 16 (Bratley). Another bird was captured and released by the Fish and Wildlife Department on Nov. 13 in LaCrosse county (Lesher).

**Bald Eagle:** Fifteen reporting counties this year, in comparison to 7, 9 and 14 in the past three falls. The only numbers reported came from Langlade county where a nest produced two young (Rudy); 2 on Nov. 3 in Forest county (Richter); 2a. and 1i. on Nov. 3 at Chex Meadows (Bernard); 4a. and 7i. on Nov. 16 in Juneau county (Gustafson).

**Marsh Hawk:** 43 at Cedar Grove on Oct. 19 (Berger).

**Osprey:** Seventeen reporting counties in comparison with nine in 1967 and eleven in 1966 but numbers continue to remain low. October 1 reports came from Manitowoc and Sauk counties; Oct. 5 from Dunn county; Oct. 7-8 from Walworth county. An exceptionally late bird was observed between Oct. 30-Nov. 9 in Marinette county (Flaherty).

**Peregrine Falcon:** An exceptionally good flight occurred this fall as indicated by the number of reports, eight as compared to 2, 3 and 3 in 1967, 1966 and 1965 respectively. Sep. 22, LaCrosse county (Lesher); 11 on Oct. 2, Cedar Grove (Berger); Oct. 7, Langlade county (Rudy); Oct. 12, Sheboygan county (Gustafson); Oct. 17, Kewaunee county (Snarski); Oct. 28, Fond du Lac county (C. Knuth); Oct. 31, Milwaukee (Donald). At Crex Meadows on Oct. 7 one was observed diving at a duck and on Oct. 8 it again was observed, this time making 10 passes at a Kingfisher (Dahlberg).

**Pigeon Hawk:** Observations between Aug. 26 (LaCrosse county, Lesher) and Nov. 2 (Sheboygan county, Gustafson). There were additional reports from Kenosha and Douglas counties. The only flight was again observed at Cedar Grove on Sep. 24, fifteen, and Oct. 20, fourteen (Berger).

**Sparrow Hawk:** 25 on Sep. 25 at Cedar Grove (Berger).

**Spruce Grouse:** An excellent description was provided by Gustafson of one bird observed in Forest county on Aug. 16.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Only report was from Rusk county on Oct. 6 (Robbins).

**Bobwhite:** These reporting counties this fall: Chippewa, Rock, Waukesha, Vernon and Outagamie. The report in the latter county is the first from there in some time (Bradford).

**Turkey:** Four were observed in Meadow Valley on Sep. 19 by Zager and Kohel.

**Sandhill Crane:** A poor fall which is in direct contrast to 1967. This fall only the following reports were received: 17 at Sandhill on Sep. 19 (Zager, Kohel); up to 37 during late September in Jefferson county (Compton); 2 in Juneau county on Nov. 16 (Gustafson).

**King Rail:** Only one report this fall: Aug. 19 in Dodge county (Bratley).

**Virginia Rail:** Six reports coming from Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Fond du Lac and Oct. 5 departures from Dodge and Waukesha counties.

**Sora:** Late September reports from Waukesha and Dane counties. Only one October date, that in Fond du Lac county on the 12th (R. Knuth).

**Common Gallinule:** Last in Dane county on Sep. 29 (Astmans); Brown county on Oct. 1 (Cleary, Paulson) and a late date from Fond du Lac county of Oct. 24 (R. Knuth).

**American Coot:** Present in December in Dane (Emlen, Ashmans), and Waukesha (Bielefeldt) counties. 1,500 were observed on Big Green Lake on Dec. 4 (Hunt, March).

**Semipalmented Plover:** Only numbers observed this fall were in Brown county on Aug. 24, 26 and Sep. 15 when 20, 25 and 30 were counted, respectively (Tessen). Last observed in the state in a northern county, Douglas, on Oct. 1 (Bernard).

**Piping Plover:** Single observations occurred on Aug. 17 in Kenosha (Lichter) and on Sep. 7 in Racine (Bratley).

**Killdeer:** 90 were counted in Waukesha county on Aug. 23 by Bratley. Again this fall there were six November departure dates, coming from Chippewa, Outagamie, Kenosha, Waukesha, Milwaukee and on Nov. 15 in Fond du Lac (R. Knuth).

**Golden Plover:** Reported from fifteen counties this fall, which is twice as many as in 1967 and more than in each of the past five years. First observed on Aug. 16 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt) and Aug. 17 in Waupaca county (Rill). Most reports were of single birds or very small flocks. The only exception to this, and a major one, was of 300 observed north of Beaver Dam in Dodge county by Donald, Balsom, Priebe. Last noted at the end of October in Columbia, Douglas and Langlade counties.

**Black-bellied Plover:** An opposite situation existed with this plover, as only six counties were reporting, the fewest in four years. August observations were made in Racine, the 20th (Bratley) and in Manitowoc, the 29th (Kraupa). Then reported from Milwaukee, Fond du Lac and LaCrosse. The last bird observed in the state, interestingly, was in a northern county, Douglas, on Oct. 26 (Robbins).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Reported as present at the beginning of the period in Milwaukee where nine were also observed on Sep. 11 (Gustafson, Donald, Hoffmann); Aug. 18,

Kenosha (Hamers); 3 on Sep. 10, Fond du Lac (R. Knuth); and a late bird on Oct. 6 in Douglas county (Robbins).

**American Woodcock:** Last in Outagamie county on Oct. 27 (Bradford).

**Common Snipe:** November 3-5 departure dates from Milwaukee, Fond du Lac and Waukesha counties. Three were observed on Nov. 27 in LaCrosse county (Lesher).

**Upland Plover:** Three sightings of this early fall migrant this year: Aug. 22, Racine (Gustafson); Sep. 4, Rock county (Brakefield); Sep. 14, Fond du Lac county (R. Knuth).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** An Oct. 17 departure date from Dane county (Emlen).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** The majority of departures occurred between mid-September and the end of the month. The only exception was a single bird observed on Oct. 9 in Sauk county (Lange).

**Willet:** Two reports of this western shorebird this fall: one in Chippewa county on Aug. 24 (Robbins) and one in Milwaukee on Sep. 11-12 (Gustafson).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** A record state departure of Nov. 28 in Vernon county (Lesher).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Last on Oct. 27 in Fond du Lac county (Dryer).

**Knot:** Several individuals were present at the beginning of the period from Brown county, where they peaked at 10 on Aug. 24 (Tessen). In Milwaukee they first appeared on Aug. 20 when 4 were counted. They were seen intermittently thereafter until Sep. 12 when the last 2 were observed (Gustafson et. al.). One was present in Racine on Nov. 8 (Prins).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 50 were counted in Outagamie county on Aug. 26 (Tessen). Last on Oct. 19 in Racine (Gustafson).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Outagamie county, Aug. 26 (Tessen); Waukesha county, Sep. 16 (Hoffmann); Columbia county, Oct. 13 (Ashmans).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Observed in Brown, Columbia, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie and Waukesha counties. Ten were counted on Sep. 15 in Brown (Tessen). The only observation beyond mid-September was of two birds on Oct. 6 in Douglas (Robbins).

**Least Sandpiper:** The only October date comes from Douglas county, the 8th (Bernard).

**Curlew Sandpiper:** One individual, the first state record, was carefully studied on Sep. 15 in Brown county by Tessen. Read the details in "By the Wayside."

**Dunlin:** Observations extended between Aug. 28 and Nov. 8, the latter from Racine (Prins).

**Dowitcher:** It was present at the beginning of the period in Brown county where in early August a conservative 250 were present. 100 were counted on Sep. 15, mainly Short-bills (Tessen). Also observed in the following counties: Waupaca, Aug. 21 (Rill); Outagamie, Aug. 26 (Tessen); Douglas, Sep. 10-11 (Bernard); Columbia, Sep. 12-Oct. 13 with 12 present on Sep. 14 (Rusch, Robbins, Dryer, Ashmans). Birds identified as Short-bills were also observed in the following counties: Waukesha, Aug. 22-23 (Bielefeldt, Bratley); Milwaukee, Sep. 2 (Gustafson). Long-bills were identified in the following areas: Waukesha county, Sep. 23-Oct. 4 (Bratley); Vernon county, five on Sep. 28 (Lesher); Racine, two on Sep. 28 (Gustafson).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Four on Aug. 24, ten on Aug. 26 in Brown county (Tessen); two on Aug. 24 in Chippewa county (Robbins); Aug. 26, Outagamie county (Tessen); Sep. 2-10, Milwaukee (Gustafson, Donald, Hoffmann); Sep. 11, Douglas county (Bernard).

**Semipalmented Sandpiper:** The majority of departure dates occurred between Sep. 15-28. The only exception was Oct. 3 in Brown county (Cleary, Paulson).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** This rare shorebird was reported from St. Croix county where one was observed on Sep. 1 (Robbins); two between Sep. 2-5 in Douglas county (Bernard); one in Fond du Lac county on Sep. 10 (R. Knuth).

**Ruff:** The first fall report of this species, and only fourth state record occurred in Brown county when one was sighted by Erdman in mid-August.

**Sanderling:** Lake counties reporting this fall included Brown, Douglas, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Racine; numbers varied to fifteen. Inland reports included Fond du Lac county, Aug. 27, 12 on Sep. 10, Sep. 14 (R. Knuth); St. Croix county, Sep. 1 (Robbins); Outagamie county, Sep. 2 (Bradford) and 2 on Nov. 3 (Tessen).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** This early fall migrant was observed on Aug. 16 in Waupaca county (Rill); Aug. 17 in Waukesha county (Bratley); and Aug. 26 in Brown county (Tessen).

**Northern Phalarope:** For the first time in over five years there were no fall reports.

**Jaeger (sp.):** One adult bird, fitting the description of this group, was observed flying over Lake Superior off from Bayfield county on Sep. 10. It was pursuing a tern (Falk).

**Franklin's Gull:** Again this fall there was no major movement into the state. Observations included the following: Milwaukee, Aug. 20, Sep. 2 and 10 (Gustafson); Douglas county, five on Oct. 6 (Robbins); St. Croix county, 50 on Oct. 13 (Robbins); Fond du Lac county, two on Nov. 21 (R. Knuth).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Present at the beginning of the period in Kenosha county (Hamers). Observed in Brown county on Aug. 17 (Cleary, Paulson). Numbers observed during the period included 50 in both Brown (Aug. 26, Tessen) and Douglas (Oct. 6, Robbins) counties. 100 were counted on Oct. 21 in Sheboygan county (Hoffmann). Present at the end of the period in Kenosha, 100 in Milwaukee and 175 in Fond du Lac (Knuths).

**Sabine's Gull:** The second state record, the first being in 1900, occurred for this species this fall. Two birds were carefully studied on Lake Mendota in Dane county on Sep. 22. They were photographed and observed by several other people (Foster).

**Forster's Tern:** Again this fall few reports of this species. For the first time in four years there were no October observations, the latest report coming from Outagamie county on Sep. 28 (Tessen). This was two weeks later than all other observations this fall.

**Common Tern:** Interestingly only a few September observations but there were six October reports: Oct. 1, in both Douglas (Bernard) and Marinette (Lindberg) counties; Oct. 3, Fond du Lac county (C. Knuth); 2 on Oct. 12, Bayfield county (Bratley); Oct. 15, Price county (Hardy); Oct. 19, Brown county (Cleary, Paulson).

**Caspian Tern:** More common this fall than in 1966 and 1967 with ten reporting counties: Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Dodge, Douglas, LaCrosse, Marinette, Milwaukee, Outagamie and Waukesha. The bird observed in Chippewa county was found along a county highway on Sep. 25, dying the following day. It represented the first county record. All observations represented single birds or small groups. Exceptions were 35 on Aug. 24 with 12 last observed on Sep. 14 in Outagamie county on the Fox River (Tessen); 17 on Sep. 14 in LaCrosse (Lesher). Last observed on Oct. 15 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Black Tern:** A normal fall exodus with all departure dates around mid-September. Last, Sep. 18 in Fond du Lac county (R. Knuth).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** All departures occurred during September except for an Oct. 6 sighting in LaCrosse (Lesher).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** There were five departure dates during the last week of September, the latest being Sep. 29 in Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Groove-billed Ani:** One was accidentally shot by a young boy in Milwaukee and subsequently brought to the Milwaukee Museum for identification. The exact date of the shooting is not known. This represents only the second state record. During this fall there was a rash of records from several parts of the country, well out of its normal southern Texas range, including Michigan, Tennessee and the Southern Great Plains (Chandler Robbins).

**Barn Owl:** Missing for the first time in three years.

**Screech Owl:** Observed in Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Waukesha counties during the period.

**Snowy Owl:** According to current ideas, this year (1968 and the winter of 1969) was to be an off year for this species. Current evidence suggests a three year cycle with one excellent, then one average and then one very poor year (Tom Nicholls). The fall results substantiate this as there was only one observation, in November in Washington county (Meyer).

**Long-eared Owl:** No fall observations for the first time in four years.

**Short-eared Owl:** Oct. 21, Dane county (Orians); 2 on Oct. 23-26 in Kenosha county (Lichter); Oct. 31, Douglas county (Bernard); 6 on Oct. 27 with the last 4 observed on Nov. 3 in Milwaukee (Gustafson, Hall); Nov. 30, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Saw-whet Owl:** 2 on Oct. 13 in Brown county (Cleary, Paulson); Oct. 26 in Sheboygan county (Gustafson); Nov. 26 in Milwaukee (Donald). In addition to these the following reports of banded birds were received; 10 between Sep. 23 and Oct. 22 in Brown county by Wierzbicki; 53 banded by Nov. 2 at Cedar Grove with peak days on Oct. 20 and 21 of thirteen and nine respectively (Berger); 150 banded by Nov. 2 in Manitowoc county by Brouchoud.

**Whip-poor-will:** Very few reports this fall as indicated by a departure date this fall of Sep. 7 by Wierzbicki in Brown county.

**Nighthawk:** The only numbers mentioned this fall were of 90 observed in Dane county on Sep. 18 (Bielefeldt). The following October departure dates were noted this year; Oct. 4 in both Sauk county and Cedar Grove; Oct. 5 in LaCrosse; Oct. 7 in Milwaukee (Strehlow); and a late bird on Oct. 19 in Kenosha (Hamers).

**Chimney Swift:** Two weeks later than any other departure dates, and very late, is a Nov. 1 observation in Fond du Lac (R. Knuth).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Again a departure date two weeks later than any others this fall, and also very late, is that of Oct. 15 in Sauk county (Lange).

**Belted Kingfisher:** Late November dates from Dane and Fond du Lac counties with an individual present in December in Waukesha county (Bratley, Bielefeldt).

**Yellow-shafted Flicker:** December observations from Waukesha (Bratley); Vernon (Weber), and Outagamie (Tessen) counties.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** The northernmost observations come from Burnett (Caldwell) and Barron (Goff) counties.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** December reports from the following counties: Barron, Chippewa, Dane, Monroe, Outagamie, Rock, Vernon, Waukesha and Waushara.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** There were four Oct. 19 and two Oct. 20 departure dates plus Oct. 25, Vernon county (Weber) and Oct. 28, Price county (Hardy) dates.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** Two reports this fall; a male bird on Aug. 17 in Forest county (Gustafson); another bird on Oct. 26 in Iron county (Snarski).

**Eastern Kingbird:** One week later than all other departure dates were the two birds observed on Sep. 14 in Fond du Lac (R. Knuth) and a single bird observed on Sep. 15 in Rock county (Mahlum).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Last on Sep. 22 in Waukesha county (Bratley).

**Eastern Phoebe:** No less than thirteen departure dates between Oct. 5-20. In addition there were two Oct. 23 dates from Dane (Emlen) and Rock (Mahlum) counties.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Observed this fall on Aug. 23 in Milwaukee (Strehlow); Sep. 2 in Langlade county (Rudy); Sep. 6 in Dane county (Ashmans); Sep. 8 in Manitowoc (Albrecht); Sep. 15-21 in Waukesha county (Bratley); Sep. 4, 11, 14 in Chippewa county (Kemper).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 2 banded Sep. 15, 20 in Chippewa county (Kemper).

**Trail's Flycatcher:** Again this fall only four reporting counties; Vernon (Weber) and Dodge (Gustafson), Aug. 27; Chippewa (Robbins), Sep. 11; Brown (Cleary, Paulson), Sep. 16. Last on Sep. 17, Chippewa (Kemper).

**Least Flycatcher:** All departure dates occurred during September except in Marinette county, Oct. 13 (Lindberg) and in Manitowoc county, Oct. 15 (Albrecht).

**Eastern Wood Peewee:** There were four September 24 departure dates with the last bird observed on Sep. 28 in Outagamie county (Tessen).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Observed in the following counties until early September; Chippewa, Eau Claire, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Lincoln and Monroe. Last reported on Sep. 8 in Manitowoc (Scholz) and Sep. 9 in Rock county (Mahlum).

**Tree Swallow:** Eight October departure dates, the latest coming from Rock, Oct. 17 (Maxson); LaCrosse, 3 on Oct. 18 (Lesher); and Waukesha, Oct. 19 (Bielefeldt) counties.

**Bank Swallow:** A record state departure date, nine days beyond the original record and 1½ months later than all other dates this fall, comes from LaCrosse, of a single bird observed on Oct. 18 (Lesher).

**Rough-winged Swallow:** The only September observation comes from Outagamie county, on the 3rd (Bradford).

**Barn Swallow:** Later than usual dates were from Marinette and Brown counties, both on Oct. 2 (Lindberg; Cleary, Paulson). An extremely late observation occurred on Oct. 12 in Ozaukee county (Gustafson).

**Cliff Swallow:** An Oct. 2 sighting in Marinette county (Lindberg) was three weeks later than all other dates this fall.

**Purple Martin:** Two late dates this fall: Sep. 29 in Dane county (Ashmans) and Oct. 2 in Fond du Lac (R. Knuth).

**Gray Jay:** An improvement over last year with more reports of more birds in the northern counties. Reported as present during the entire period in Price county (Hardy, Nicholls, Vincent). In Forest county there were observations intermittently during the entire period with 3 on Aug. 17 (Gustafsoon); 12+ on Sep. 28, and 12 on Oct. 20 with other sightings reported by Rill and Kraupa. In Langlade county they were first observed on Oct. 5 where they were reported as more numerous than normal for the duration of the period (Rudy). In addition there were several sightings in Douglas, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas counties (Klugow; Rusch; Gustafson and Rusch; Nicholls and Richter).

**Black-billed Magpie:** One of these western birds appeared in Milwaukee on Oct. 5 where it was observed by Schiller.

**Common Raven:** Reports from Bayfield, Chippewa, Douglas, Forest, Price, Oneida, Sawyer and Vilas counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** A complete reversal from last year's pattern. This fall many birds were noted throughout the state with many observers commenting on the large numbers present. Typical of the reports is that from Mrs. Carol Rudy in Langlade county, "up in numbers; many banded with large numbers of birds returning from several years ago (1966, etc.) that were not present last year."

**Boreal Chickadee:** Observed in the following counties this fall: Oneida, Aug. 17 (Gustafson); Forest, 3 on Aug. 16 (Gustafson), observed regularly beginning on Oct. 13 (Rill); Iron, with observations commencing on Oct. 5 and continuing intermittently for the duration of the period (Snarski). For the second straight year, there were no observations in Langlade county where in 1966 they were seen with a great deal of regularity (Rudy).

**Tufted Titmouse:** The first record for Langlade county occurred on Oct. 16 (Rudy).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** A major movement throughout the state this fall, comparable to that of the 1965 movement. Reported as present at the beginning of the period in Vernon and Price counties. August observations were made in Brown, Chippewa, Forest, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Outagamie and Rock counties. Maxson banded 49 during the period in Rock county. It was also observed in Bayfield, Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Manitowoc, Sauk, Sheboygan, Waukesha and Waushara counties. As is to be expected this year many of these counties had birds present in early December.

**Brown Creeper:** Two observations were two weeks earlier than all other dates. They were Aug. 27 in Brown county (Wierzbicki) and Aug. 31 in Price county (Vincent).

**House Wren:** Two early October departures and eight mid-October dates, the latest being the 19th in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Winter Wren:** There were 16 observations coming from Brown, Chippewa, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Waushara counties with all observations occurring between Aug. 17 (Forest county, Gustafson) and Nov. 16 (Dane county, Emlen).

**Carolina Wren:** For the second consecutive fall one individual was reported in the state. This year it was observed at a feeded in Door county on Oct. 29 (McCombe).

**Long-billed Marsh Wren:** Four October dates, the latest being the 19th in Chippewa county (Robbins).

**Short-billed Marsh Wren:** An extremely late observation on Nov. 10 in Kenosha county (Hamers).

**Mockingbird:** Observed in a yard in Madison on Sep. 1, 2 and 7 by Skuldt.

**Catbird:** There were three early October dates plus Oct. 17, Sauk county (Lange); Oct. 18, Dane county (Ashmans, Emlen); 2 on Oct. 19, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Brown Thrasher:** November observations were made in Milwaukee, the 1st (Gustafson) and in Dane county, the 23rd (Barger).

**Robin:** Large migrations were observed in Milwaukee on Oct. 7, 900 (Strehlow) and Oct. 19 (Donald).

**Varied Thrush:** One of these western visitors appeared at a feeder in Saukville on Oct. 25 where it remained until late November (Watts). This is the first fall record in three years.

**Wood Thrush:** Mid-October dates from Milwaukee, the 11th (Strehlow); Monroe county, the 12th (Hebard); Waushara county, the 14th (Chipman).

**Hermit Thrush:** Nov. 9, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Unusual was the one bird observed in late July and early August in Tessen's yard in Appleton. The next observation occurred in St. Croix county, on Aug. 22 (Robbins). There were numerous October reports, the latest on the 23rd, Waukesha county (Stewart). Greatest number since 1965.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Likewise one bird appeared in Tessen's yard for one day in late July in Appleton. The first observation for the fall period was Aug. 26 by Tessen. It probably was the same bird that had been noted earlier. Observations continued into October with four reports during that month, the latest in Milwaukee on the 18th (Donald).

**Veery:** Last in the state on Sep. 30 in Price county (Vincent).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Reports indicate that its numbers continue to remain low. The only substantial numbers reported were by Hebard, ranging between 7-25 during early October (Monroe county). It was last seen on Nov. 10 in Waushara county (Chipman).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** This western bird was observed in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison on Nov. 21 by Sandburg and Zimmerman. Read the details in "By the Wayside."

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Two reports: Aug. 25, Marinette county (Lindberg) which is beyond its normal range and Oct. 19, Monroe county (Hebard) which is very late.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First state observation was made by Bernard in Douglas county on Sep. 23. End of the period reports from Dane, Waukesha and Milwaukee counties. In the latter county eleven were still present.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First on Sep. 1, Outagamie county (Bradford); last on Nov. 26, Marinette county (Wierzbicki) which was two weeks later than all other reports this fall.

**Water Pipit:** Early arrivals this fall were noted in Fond du Lac on Sep. 11 (R. Knuth) and Marinette county on Sep. 14 (Lnidberg). Other September observations came from Milwaukee and Chippewa counties. 45 were observed in Columbia county (Goose Pond) on Oct. 11 by Erickson and 30 in Fond du Lac on Nov. 2 by R. Knuth. They were also observed in St. Croix county with the last in the state reported in Fond du Lac county on Nov. 21.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** The first reports in three years coming from LaCrosse where 2 were observed on Nov. 12 (Peterson) and in Milwaukee between Nov. 22-29 (Donald, Gustafson).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 236 counted in Milwaukee on Oct. 7 by Strehlow. There were few November observations.

**Northern Shrike:** A real movement into the state this fall with an unprecedented sixteen counties reporting! October reports come from Cedar Grove, an early observation during the first week (Walker); Douglas county, Oct. 25 (Bernard); Langlade county, Oct. 31 (Rudy). Then a wealth of November observations from Brown, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marinette, Ozaukee, Price, Rock, Waukesha, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The only report comes from Strehlow of one bird observed in Milwaukee on Sep. 23.

**Bell's Vireo:** The only observation was of two birds in LaCrosse county on Aug. 17 (Lesher).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** There were seven departure dates between Sep. 21-29. There was only one observation after that, on Oct. 8 in Manitowoc county (Scholz).

**Solitary Vireo:** All observations occurred between Aug. 16 (Forest county, Gustafson) and Oct. 21 (Sauk county, Lange).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Two weeks later than all other departures was that of a bird observed by Emlen on Nov. 1 in Madison. This is a late date.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Sep. 6, Milwaukee (Strehlow) to Oct. 11, Rock county (Brakefield) was the observation period this fall.

**Warbling Vireo:** A very late date this fall of Oct. 18 in LaCrosse by Lesher. This is a full month later than all other observations this year.

**Black & White Warbler:** Oct. 2, Sauk county (Lange); Oct. 4, Waushara county (Chipman); Oct. 5, Sheboygan county (Gustafson).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** There were four departure dates during the third week of September. Last observed on Sep. 24 in Vernon county (Weber).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** No reports this fall.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Observations occurred between Aug. 16, Forest county (Gustafson) and Oct. 21, Dane county (Ashmans).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** September reports: Sep. 6 in Milwaukee (Strehlow) and Sep. 15 in Appleton (Tessen). Also Sep. 19 and 22 in Eau Claire (Kemper). There were 14 reports between Oct. 14-24. Last observed on Oct. 30 in Dane county (Ashmans).

**Nashville Warbler:** The last report this fall was of a bird banded by Wierzbicki on Nov. 1 in Brown county. This is a very late date, this year being two weeks later than all others.

**Parula Warbler:** Aug. 25-Sep. 21 in Chippewa county (Robbins); Sep. 7 in Racine (Bratley); Sep. 15 in Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson); Sep. 23-28 in Sauk county (Lange); a late Oct. 6 in Sheboygan county (Bratley); and a very late Oct. 12 in Waushara county which is only two days shy of the state departure record (Chipman).

**Yellow Warbler:** This usually early fall migrant was reported by 13 different observers during August and early September. Additional reports came from Ashmans of Sep. 28 in Madison and from Hardy, a late date of Oct. 16 in Price county.

**Magnolia Warbler:** August dates from Forest county, the 17th (Gustafson); St. Croix, the 22nd (Robbins); and both Manitowoc (Albrecht) and Chippewa (Robbins) counties, the 25th. Last reported in Milwaukee on Oct. 17 by Strehlow.

**Cape May Warbler:** August observations in the following counties: Chippewa, Aug. 16-17 (Robbins); Outagamie, Aug. 28 (Tessen); Rock, Aug. 30 (Maxson). Last, in Dane county on Oct. 29 (Ashmans).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** These reports: Sep. 2, Madison (Bielefeldt); Sep. 4-12, Milwaukee (Donald); Sep. 14, Kenosha (Hamers); Oct. 8, Manitowoc county (Scholz).

**Myrtle Warbler:** First on Aug. 25 in Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson). Next on Sep. 2 in Douglas county (Bernard). There was a good movement through the state this fall, as noted by many observers. These reports in November: the 4th, Dane county (Emlen); the 18th, Sauk county (Lange); the 23rd, Milwaukee (Gustafson); the 24th, Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Most departures were noted on Oct. 5 and 6 with the last report coming from Dane county on Oct. 14 (Emlen).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Only one report this fall of a very late singing bird in Sauk county on Sep. 29 (Lange).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** October dates: the 1st, Sauk county (Lange); the 12th, Rock county (Brakefield).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Three October dates: Oct. 2 in Milwaukee (Strehlow, Donald); Oct. 5 in Waushara county (Chipman).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Observations occurred between Aug. 23 in Appleton (Tessen) and Oct. 6 in Sauk county (Lange).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** First reported on Aug. 25 in Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson). Last reported on Oct. 25, which is late, in Appleton (Tessen).

**Pine Warbler:** Last in Rock county on Sep. 24 (Maxson).

**Prairie Warbler:** The first report in three years comes from Mrs. Glen Fisher of a bird observed in Winnebago county on Sep. 30.

**Palm Warbler:** Reports fell between Aug. 17 (Oneida county, Gustafson) and Oct. 20 (Kenosha county, Hamers).

**Ovenbird:** Three weeks later than all other reports was an Oct. 25 observation in Sauk county (Lange).

**Northern Waterthrush:** An Oct. 19 departure date in Milwaukee from Gustafson.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Two reports: Sep. 24 in Sauk county (Lange); Sep. 28 in Kenosha (Hamers).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Only five sight reports and all during the early part of the period: Aug. 22, St. Croix county (Robbins); Sep. 23 (Brakefield) and Sep. 4 (Mahlum), Rock county; Sep. 7, Milwaukee (Donald); Sep. 8, Manitowoc county (Scholz). However 14 killed at TV tower, Eau Claire on Sep. 19-20 (Kemper).

**Mourning Warbler:** There were eight observations during the period, the last on Sep. 23 in Sauk county (Lange).

**Yellowthroat:** Three weeks later than all other departures was an Oct. 19 sighting in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt). Also 2 killed at WEAV TV tower, Eau Claire (Kemper) on Oct. 20.

**Wilson's Warbler:** The observation period this fall extended between Aug. 20, Brown county (Wierzbicki) and Oct. 2, Waukesha county (Hoffmann) and Milwaukee (Donald).

**Canada Warbler:** All reports came during August and early September except for a bird noted in Green Bay on Sep. 15 (Cleary, Paulson), and one killed at TV tower on Sep. 19-20 in Eau Claire (Kemper).

**Redstart:** Oct. 17, Sauk county (Lange).

**Bobolink:** Five observations early in the period with the last occurring on Sep. 21 in Sheboygan county by Gustafson.

**Meadowlark (sp.):** Noteworthy is a flock of 17 observed on the county line between Outagamie and Winnebago on Nov. 29 (Tessen).

**Western Meadowlark:** Last fall report on Nov. 10 in Vernon county (Weber).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Three reports: Sep. 7, Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson); Sep. 14, LaCrosse (Lesher); 2 on Sep. 21, Dodge county (Gustafson).

**Redwinged Blackbird:** Reported as present at the end of the period from Waukesha, Fond du Lac and Dane counties. In the latter county 200 were counted on Nov. 30 by Gustafson.

**Baltimore Oriole:** A normal departure date of Sep. 22 in Vernon county (Weber). However, a bird appeared at Mrs. Art Lunde's feeder in Chippewa Falls on Nov. 30.

**Rusty Blackbird:** First reported in Marinette county on Sep. 26 (Lindberg). Still present in Dane county at the end of the period (Emlen).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Last in Waupaca county on Sep. 28 (Rill).

**Common Grackle:** End of the period reports from Dane, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Outagamie, Waukesha, Waupacka, and Winnebago counties.

**Cowbird:** None observed after Oct. 26, Outagamie county (Tessen).

**Scarlet Tanager:** An Oct. 11 departure date from Manitowoc county (Albrecht).

**Summer Tanager:** The second fall record for this species occurred when a bird was carefully studied by Don Bierman in Milwaukee on Nov. 3. Read the details in "By the Wayside."

**Cardinal:** The northernmost reporting counties included Barron, during the entire period (Goff); Langlade, Oct. 18 (Rudy); Douglas, Nov. 17 (Bernard); Price, at a feeder during November (Vincent).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Oct. 20, Sauk county (Lange).

**Indigo Bunting:** Sep. 29, Chippewa county (Robbins).

**Dickcissel:** Only three reports of this early fall migrant: mid-August in Vernon (Morse) and Kenosha (Hamers) counties; Aug. 28, Rock county (Brakefield).

**Evening Grosbeak:** A major influx occurred this fall in the state. There were observations in 23 counties by 33 reporters making this the best fall for the species in over five years. In Langlade county birds were present during the summer with family groups observed during August. Its numbers increased during the fall with it being reported as common in November (Rudy). The only other August report came from Price county by Vincent (Aug. 28). September observations were reported in the following counties: Douglas, Sep. 5 (Bernard); Bayfield (Bratley) and Door (Wilson), Sep. 28. Then came a wave of October arrival dates throughout the entire state. These included Barron, Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oconto, Outagamie, Sauk, Sheboygan, Waushara. In addition November reports came from LaCrosse, Waukesha and Waupaca. 150 birds were noted on Oct. 12 in Sheboygan (Gustafson) and at the end of November in Burnett (Caldwell) counties. Lesser but good numbers were reported elsewhere in the state throughout October and November.

**Purple Finch:** A large influx into the state during August and September. There were reports from 23 counties by 22 reporters. However most birds were gone by mid-October. They were reported as present at the beginning of the period in Waushara (Chipman), Price (Vincent) and Langlade counties. In the latter county birds were reported as common during the summer with many present in September but, typical of the pattern this year, all were gone by mid-October (Rudy). August arrival dates included the following counties: Chippewa, the 15th (Robbins); Sauk, the 16th (Koenig);

St. Croix (Robbins) and Outagamie (Tessen), the 22nd; Brown, the 25th (Cleary, Paulson); Milwaukee, the 30th (Gustafson); and Kenosha, the 31st (Hamers). This was followed by a wave of September and early October observations. There was a scattering of reports during November with it only reported as present in Brown, Columbia, Dane, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie and Waukesha counties at the end of the period.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Its pattern this fall was typical of that of the Evening, with a major influx into the state easily surpassing the movement in 1965. This fall there were 17 reporting counties with a total of thirty observers. First state observations occurred in the following counties: Milwaukee, Oct. 16 (Decker, Donald); Brown, Oct. 24 (Wierzbicki); Bayfield, Oct. 26 (Bratley); Price and Vilas, Oct. 29 (Nicholls). This was followed by numerous November reports in Dane, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Forest, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waukesha and Waushara counties. Large numbers were noted during November at Cedar Grove (Berger) and Manitowoc county (Brouchoud).

**Hoary Redpoll:** Three were observed in a flock of Common Redpolls at Crex Meadows, Burnett county on Nov. 3 (Bernard). One was banded at Manitowoc by Brouchoud on Nov. 11.

**Common Redpoll:** Another major movement into the state with birds being observed in nineteen counties; there were 27 reporters. Especially noteworthy is the fall arrival date this year, that on Sep. 25 in Douglas county by Bernard. According to Robbins this species is almost never observed in the 48 adjacent states during September. None were then observed until the fourth week of October with reports coming from Bayfield, Dane, Kenosha, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Milwaukee, Vilas and Waukesha counties. This was followed with numerous November sightings. "Hundreds" were present in Manitowoc county during November (Brouchoud).

**Pine Siskin:** A direct contrast to the other finches. While there were reports from fourteen counties, by eighteen observers, the majority of reports were of one day sightings, indicating a poor and very spotty flight this fall. First noted on Aug. 17 in Forest county (Gustafson). Next observed in Langlade county in mid-September where it peaked on Sep. 30 and was gone by the end of October (Rudy). The only other September observation occurred on the 29th in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt). October sightings came from Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Eau Claire, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie and Sheboygan counties. The only numbers noted were in Dane county where they gradually increased during November to fifty. This was the only county reporting it present at the end of the period.

**Red Crossbill:** There were only three reports this fall: 5 on Sep. 28 in Forest county (Richter); 5 on Nov. 23 in Milwaukee (Gustafson), and during the period in Douglas county (Klugow).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Two reports: 2 on Nov. 22 in Milwaukee (Hanbury); 3 on Nov. 26 in Portage county (Baumgartner).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** A departure date of Oct. 29, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Most departures reported this fall occurred between Oct. 12-14. Gustafson observed twelve birds on Oct. 13 in Milwaukee county. The only observation after the 14th was a Nov. 1 sighting in Vernon county by Weber.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Only report was of birds present in mid-August in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Likewise the only report was of birds present in mid-August in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Oct. 26, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**State-colored Junco:** Four were observed in Forest county on Aug. 16-17 by Gustafson. Next reported from Waukesha (Hoffmann) and Kenosha (Hamers) counties on Sep. 14. A major flight occurred in the northern counties this fall. For example, Hardy reported a "tremendous migration" in Price county and Robbins observed 1,500 in Douglas county on Oct. 6. The southern part of the state did not experience such a movement.

**Oregon Junco:** These reports: Sep. 28 into December, Outagamie county (Tessen); Oct. 7, Monroe county (Hebard); Oct. 13 into December, Milwaukee (Gustafson, Donald); Oct. 21, Rock county (Brakefield); from the end of October into December, Ozaukee county (Watts); Nov. 17, Rock county (Maxson).

**Tree Sparrow:** First observed on Oct. 6 in Douglas county (Robbins) and Oct. 7 in Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson). The majority of arrivals occurred between Oct. 20-24.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Oct. 30, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** These reports this fall: 15-20 were observed on Aug. 23-24 in Price county (Vincent); Sep. 12, Barron county (Goff); Oct. 2, Vernon county (Weber); Oct. 5, Chippewa county (Robbins); Oct. 20, Dane county (Ashmans).

**Field Sparrow:** Last were two in Monroe county on Nov. 4 (Hebard).

**Harris's Sparrow:** For the third consecutive fall there was an excellent migration with 19 reports from 16 counties. First reported in Price county on Sep. 25 where seven were counted on Oct. 15 (Vincent). Hardy observed individuals in Price on Sep. 26. The only other September observation was made by Hamers in Kenosha, the 29th. Other observations were made in Barron, Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Price, Rock, St. Croix, Sheboygan and Waukesha counties. Last state report came from Vernon county of two birds on Nov. 1 (Weber).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Eighteen reporting counties with most observations covering one to four weeks, thus indicating a good migration. It was first observed on Sep. 20 in Barron county (Goff). Additional September sightings came from Chippewa, Douglas, Kenosha, Marinette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Price and Waukesha counties. Ten were observed on Sep. 27 in Price county (Vincent) and a total of 20 were observed during the period in Kenosha (Hamers). November sightings were reported in Dane, Marinette and Milwaukee counties. However a bird appeared at the feeder of Louis Schwalls in Shiocton in November and was still present well into December.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Present at the beginning of the period in Vernon (Morse) and Price (Vincent) counties. Additional August observations from Oneida, the 16th (Gustafson) and Waushara, the 30th (Chipman) counties. Single individuals were still present in December (Goff) and Manitowoc (Albrecht) counties; four were present in Appleton (Tessen, Bradford).

**Fox Sparrow:** Observations occurred between Sep. 15, Green Bay (Cleary, Paulson) and Nov. 25, Madison (Ashmans).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The observation period this fall was between Sep. 8, Barron (Goff) and Chippewa (Robbins) counties and Nov. 23, Milwaukee (Gustafson). The latter was provided with an excellent description. Six were counted on Sep. 28 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Swamp Sparrow:** A month later than all other reports were two individuals in Waukesha county on Nov. 28 (Bielefeldt).

**Lapland Longspur:** Numbers were down this fall in comparison to other years. It was first observed on Oct. 1 in Marinette county (Lindberg). The only other October observations were in Columbia (Ashmans) and St. Croix (Robbins) counties, the 13th. November observations from Brown, Manitowoc, Kenosha, and Fond du Lac where 50 were counted on Nov. 10 and Milwaukee with 150 seen on Nov. 23.

**Snow Bunting:** An excellent movement into the state this fall. First reported on Oct. 6 in Douglas county (Robbins). There were sixteen additional counties reporting including: Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Dodge, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Outagamie, Price, Sheboygan and Waukesha.

\* \* \* \* \*

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*Seasonal editor's note:* All people who sent in reports, including those whose reports were not published, are included in the above list. The reason is that all reports contribute to our knowledge about the season in the state. Therefore, it is felt, that everyone's contributions should be recognized.



## Letters To The Editor . . .

October 11, 1969

Dear Charles:

It is with mixed feelings that I tender my resignation as Associate Editor of the Passenger Pigeon. I think there have been but two years since 1946 when I have not been on the editorial staff. I have enjoyed every minute of it, and I will miss it greatly.

But my reason for resigning is to free myself in order to spend all my spare time completing Owen Gromme's **Birds of Wisconsin**. He and representatives of the Milwaukee Public Museum have asked me to complete the work on this long-awaited book.

With best wishes

Sam Robbins

*The PASSENGER PIGEON and the WSO owe an immeasurable debt to you, Sam, for all your years of service. We wish you all the best of luck and promise every support to you in your new venture.*

*We are fortunate to have the services of another excellent Wisconsin ornithologist to take over the exacting role of Associate Editor. Mr. Norval Barger of Madison, a former long time editor of The PASSENGER PIGEON, a charter member of WSO, an outstanding field ornithologist, and an unquestionable authority on Wisconsin birds has volunteered his services.*

ORNITHOLOGICAL BULLETIN  
THE RING  
Laboratory of Ornithology  
Sienkiewicza 21, WROCLAW  
Poland

Dear Editor,

The announcement below is self-explaining. I would be very much obliged if you could kindly publish it in the nearest issue of your magazine. The proposed Index should embrace as many ornithologists /professional and amateur/ as possible and therefore should be widely advertised. Similar letters are sent to many other ornithological magazines.

If your magazine is published in other language and you think this is necessary, please publish this announcement in your own language.

Yours faithfully  
Prof. Dr. W. Rydzewski

## THE RING's INDEX ORNITHOLOGORUM

The editor of the International Ornithological Bulletin THE RING proposes to publish an Index Ornithologorum embracing the professional and amateur ornithologists of the world.

All entries should be in English and should be accompanied by one International Postal Reply Coupon for further correspondence. Closing date for all entries is June 30, 1970, but earlier arrival of entries would be appreciated. Do not delay—send your entry to-day.

The address is: The Editor, THE RING, Laboratory of Ornithology, Sienkiewicza 21, Wrocław, Poland.

An entry /in English/ should contain the following information:

You are kindly requested to circulate this announcement among your colleagues—ornithologists. More copies of this announcement may be sent on request.

October 22, 1969

Dr. Charles A. Kemper  
733 Maple St.  
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Dr. Kemper,

The Summer, 1969, issue of "The Passenger Pigeon" contained an article on the Great Gray Owl by Mr. Labananskas, my wife, and myself, and also two photograph which we sent in. I was somewhat disappointed to find that we were nowhere given credit for the photographs, which did not accompany our article. Is "The Passenger Pigeon" interested in publishing photographs of sufficient quality when not accompanied by any text? If so, what is the policy toward assigning photo credit? I shall be pleased to hear from you concerning this.

Sincerely,  
Peter G. Connors

My apology. Those were great photographs of the Great Gray Owl. You certainly deserve credit. We will look forward to further pictures from you with or without attached stories. Hope that other photographers as well as artists will continue to contribute. We'll certainly not forget to credit fully.—EDITOR

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