

The passenger pigeon. Vol. 55, No. 3 Fall 1993

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Fall 1993

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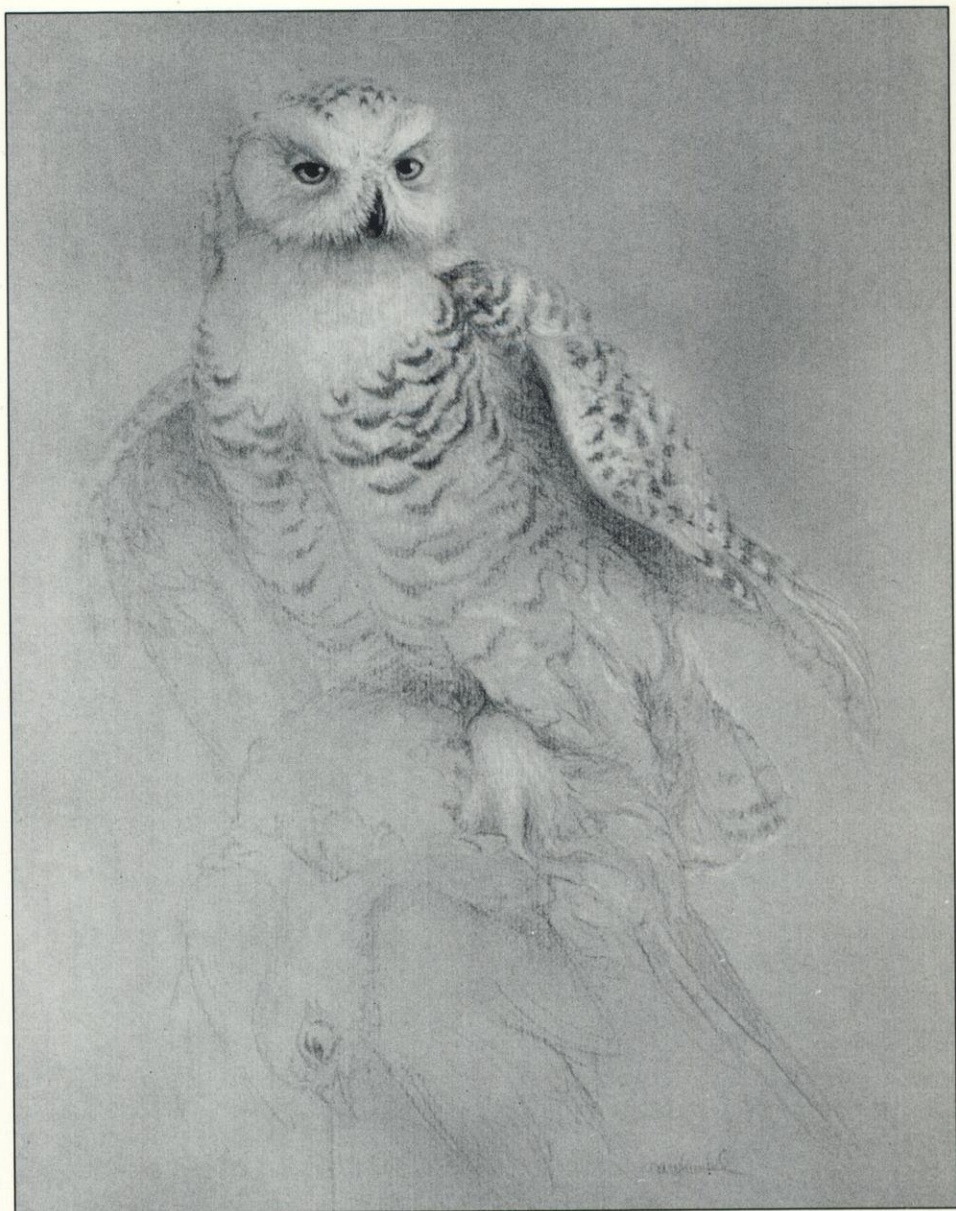


THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Vol. 55 No. 3

Fall 1993

JOURNAL OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY



T H E PASSENGER PIGEON

Vol. 55 No. 3
Fall 1993

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The *Passenger Pigeon* (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, W330 N8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Subscription rates are: Individual, \$12 per year; Family, \$15 per year; Sustaining, \$25 per year; Library, \$18 per year; Life (Single), \$300; Life (Couple), \$400; and Patron, \$750. Back issues may be obtained for \$5.00 each. Send back issue and change of address requests to Memberships, W330 N8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029.

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While birding recently in the Estes Park area of Colorado, I met an ardent birder from Connecticut. When she learned that I was from Wisconsin, she quickly expressed interest in our bird atlas project and when it would be completed. I suggested that it may be sometime before Wisconsin adds its bird atlas to those already completed, since it is not yet certain whether we will become involved in the project. The project is both labor and money intensive, and requires five years of study. There are very good arguments on both sides for either doing the study or not. Stan Temple supports the idea that this project is unnecessary, since his system of cataloging birds using the weekly submitted reports of birders from throughout the state more accurately establishes the bird populations that frequent Wisconsin than the rigid grid system used by the bird atlas. The grid system, however, has been the standard used by many states throughout the country. With the completion of the Michigan bird atlas, and the initiation of the project in Georgia, Wisconsin will be the only state east of the Mississippi River that will not be represented with its bird atlas. Perhaps the members that feel strongly either way about the Society's involvement in the bird atlas project should let the board know their feelings and why.

During the Convention in Oshkosh, two members approached me with concerns they have about the Society and how it could be improved. I hope that all members feel that their interests about the Society are important and will feel free to tell us about them. That doesn't mean that we can always make the changes they find important, however. This was the case when the board explored these two requests. The first person asked if the Society would consider a 1-800 HOT LINE for rare birds. The idea is certainly innovative, but would represent a substantial cost to the Society. At peak times when rare birds have been reported, the hot line is accessed up to 40 times/day. Since the 1-800 system is essentially a reverse charge for long distance phone calls it would challenge the financial resources of the Society. The hot line service that we currently use is provided through the generosity of Mary Donald, and offered to the Society and its members without cost or other commitment.

It was also suggested that the Society offer a student membership category to its membership alternatives. This certainly makes sense since most organizations profit from the use of such a category since it serves as an attraction to young members whose family may not be interested in joining. Alex volunteered that this category had been used in the past, but it wasn't used and so it was removed from the membership rolls. If others feel strongly about the use of this category, and its potential as a means of recruiting younger members, the board would certainly give it serious consideration. The board presently didn't consider it to be high on its list of things that need to be changed.

When to have the Annual Convention continues to attract interest and emo-

tion. May is obviously the optimal time for birds as they migrate through the various environs of Wisconsin, but is this the best time to hold the Convention? The answer depends as always on whom is asked. Although the Society members recommended at the 1991 Convention in LaCrosse that the Convention be held at another time, the reality of honoring that directive creates other concerns because academic institutions host the Convention and we must fit the Convention and our housing requests into their academic calendar. June and July are easy months to make such arrangements with the institutions, but would the members be attracted to Oshkosh or Beloit at this time? A possible alternative to this scheduling arrangement would be to separate the "business" part of the convention from the birding part has been suggested with the birding half of the convention offered in the spring, and then offer the paper sessions, workshops and banquet in the fall. There doesn't seem to be an easy way to resolve the problem if both optimal birding and "business" are to be featured together at the Convention. Anyone for a late January Convention and change the perspective completely?

Things missed always seem more important than those remembered, and it certainly is the case with my failure to recognize the organization and the success of the Oshkosh Convention in the last letter. Bettie Harriman and her Committee provided the Society with a weekend filled with excellent field trips, workshops, paper sessions and memories that will last a life time. A belated, but very sincere thanks is extended to all that made the 54th Convention such a resounding success.

It is hoped that the Society adds to the pleasure of the birding experience of its members. However, if this letter becomes any longer, I am afraid that the word "agony" would become an alternate description of the experience! Enjoy!



Charles Salyer
President

A Passenger Pigeon in my Mother-in-Law's Attic

The author describes finding a historical print of noted artist Louis Agassiz Fuertes and a vivid description of the demise of the Passenger Pigeon. A short discussion on species extinction is also presented.

by Thomas H. Nicholls

An attic of a 70 year-old house is always an interesting place to rummage through, especially if it is your mother-in-law's! Attics are a place where one saves everything that "might" have a future use or value.

I had been rummaging around in my mother-in-law's attic periodically for about 27 years before I found an amazing discovery. Back in a dark corner, there were several framed pictures that had been sitting there for years, facing a wall and gathering dust. While examining the pictures, I found a framed print of "The Passenger Pigeon" by celebrated naturalist, Louis Agassiz Fuertes (Fig. 1). On the back of the frame was pasted a fascinating story that must have been written in the early 1900s about the demise of the Passenger Pigeon. The print and story were distributed by the former Ithaca Gun Co., Ithaca, NY. I had never read this story before, but I found it to be extremely interesting and I would like to share it with you.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON (*Ectopistes migratorius*)

Peculiar interest attaches itself to the Passenger Pigeon, the most beautiful American member of the whole family of pigeons. For, if not already gone, it is on the very verge of extinction, and this although it existed only a few years ago in such countless numbers that its extermination was regarded as one of the utter impossibilities.

It had the unfortunate habit of living the entire year in enormous flocks, nesting where acorns, beechnuts and other mast were plentiful, exhausting the local supply. Then, when the myriad young could follow, they moved on to a second nesting-place, a third, and even a fourth, leaving the forest bare of food when they departed. Sometimes nesting areas were ten miles wide and forty or more long, in which every tree was more or less thickly covered with nests. A pair reared one young at a nesting.

They were not strictly migratory, being able to stand intense cold. They moved only to get food, which was of course needed in immense quantities to

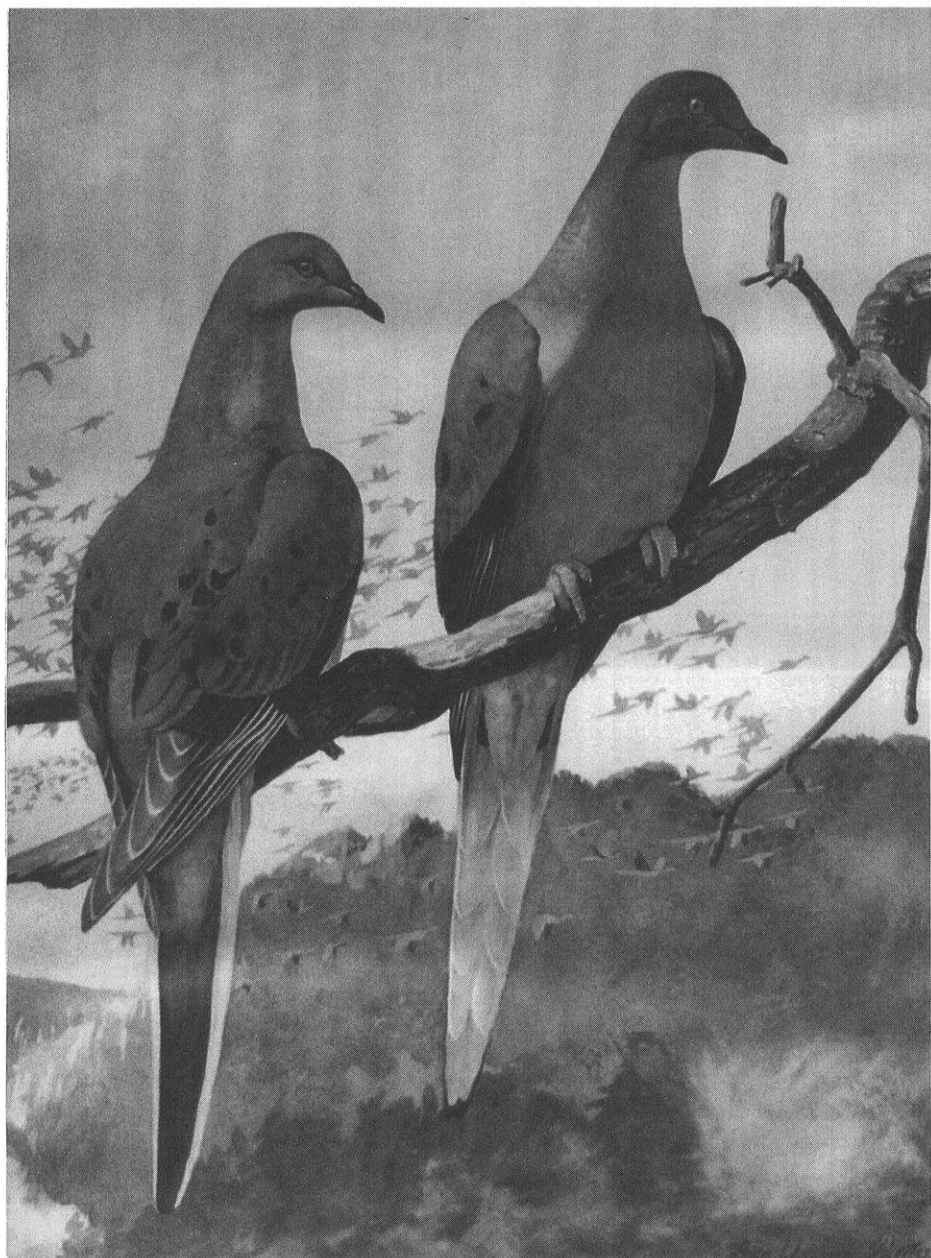


Figure 1. The Passenger Pigeon by *Louis Agassiz Fuertes*.

support such enormous numbers of vigorous and voracious birds. Flights a mile or more wide, sufficiently dense to visibly diminish the light would often consume an entire day in passing a given point, flying at about sixty miles an hour. The Passenger Pigeon did not go south of the United States, west of the Plains, nor vary far north into Canada. It was never found in any part of the world. Thus the current tale that they were drowned by millions in the Gulf of Mexico in migration is a tribute to the ignorance of its tellers, for there was no such migration, and the accounts from the mountains of the west refer to the Band-tailed Pigeon, another bird altogether.

What became of these unbelievable numbers of birds?

In an exhaustive study of records, and with much correspondence, Mr. W. B. Mershon, of Saginaw, Michigan, has presented in his recent book, *The Passenger Pigeon*, an array of facts that clearly disposes of the question.

It appears that from about 1865 to 1875 there was an army of about 500 men and their families, "pigeoners" by name and profession, who did nothing but follow this hoarde of birds from nesting to nesting, trapping and netting them, old and young, in such numbers that the figures leave no doubt as to the ultimate issue of the campaign. In the year 1874, from the single nesting about Shelby, Michigan, there were shipped 100 carloads daily for 30 days, making for that one nesting the astounding number of 309,000,000, which does not include large numbers consumed by their netters, their families and their pigs, all of which fattened on young pigeons. Discarding entirely the masses taken for trap-shooting, wasted by losses from heat, lack of cars or other causes, and considering only **recorded shipments**, taking the Shelby traffic as a normal one and allowing three nestings a year for the ten years of organized slaughter, we can thus account for the

killing of nine billion, two hundred and seventy million Passenger Pigeons. This is simple arithmetic, based on record, and no sentiment enters into the reckoning.

Up to ten years ago scattered records were not wanting, and there are a few perfectly established records as late as 1904. Since that time none have been taken or observed in such a manner as to leave no doubt as to their being the true Passenger Pigeon.

Two years ago a number of men became interested in trying to save this beautiful and typically American bird from the doom of utter extermination. A committee was formed, and it was decided to issue rewards, **not for dead Passenger Pigeons**, which would defeat their very object, but for **evidence of an undisturbed nesting**. There are now open, and have been for two years, rewards amounting to about \$3,000.00 for the person who shall report, **without disturbing them**, a nesting pair of Passenger Pigeons. An expert ornithologist will be sent to identify the birds, and if they prove to be as reported, the reward will be turned over to the finder. Full particulars may be learned from Dr. C. F. Hodge, Clake University, Worchester, Mass. So far over a thousand letters and claims have been made, but not a single pigeon has been found.

About 1884 a few live birds were brought from Michigan by Professor Whitman of Chicago, and for several years young were raised from these birds. The stock eventually petered out, however, until in 1910 only two birds were left. The oldest of these died in that year at the age of 26 years, and a female, the only surviving "Wild Pigeon" now known, still lives the Zoological Gardens at Cincinnati at the age of 19 years. A recent photograph of this interesting bird was used as a study in the accompanying painting.

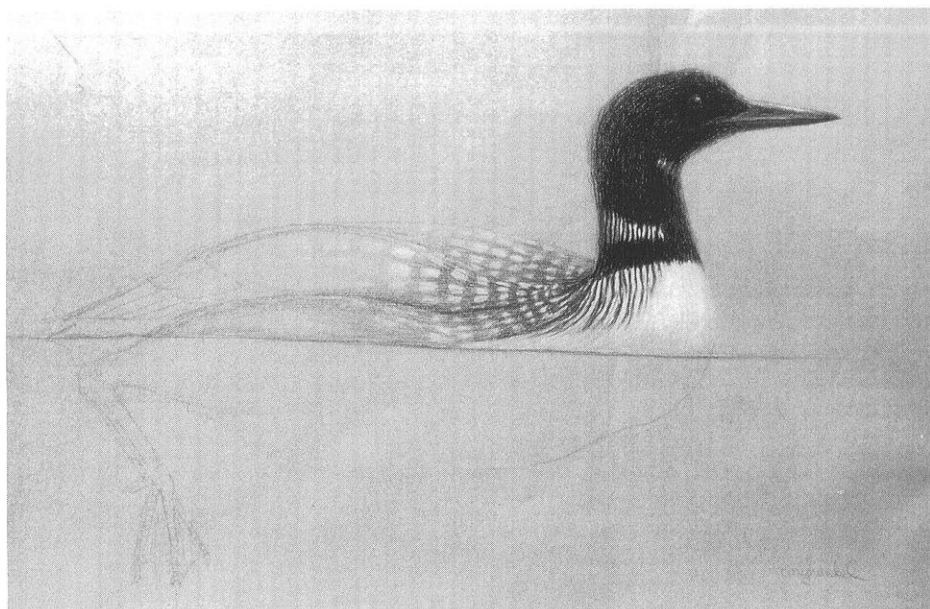
It has always been amazing to me

how a bird as numerous as the Passenger Pigeon could become extinct, but on the other hand, when one reads this story it might not be so surprising after all. There are many species, less numerous than was the Passenger Pigeon, that are holding on to a thin, weakening lifeline in their struggle for survival. Sometimes it does not take much to break that lifeline pushing a species toward extinction.

Almost all of the more recent extinctions have been caused by the human species and not by natural disasters or evolution. The faster humans extinguish other life forms, the more we imperil ourselves. Unless we

act decisively to protect ecosystems and biological diversity, we will all suffer the consequences sooner (for us) or later (for our children and theirs). Every time a species becomes threatened, endangered, or extinct we should ask ourselves, "which is next?" Let us hope it is not the human species as a result of our lack of concern for the other species that we share this planet with.

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"Common Loon" by Cary Hunkel

Spring Waterfowl Migration Observations on Impoundments at Commercial Cranberry Facilities

The spring waterfowl migration was observed at 2 commercial cranberry production facilities in south-central Wisconsin. Diving ducks were the most abundant. A diverse array of species stopped at each impoundment though only 1 of the impoundments held ducks for an extended period of time. This was probably due to the availability of food resources.

by Eric E. Jorgensen and Lyle E. Nauman

Commercial cranberries are extensively cultivated in Wisconsin. Cranberry growing is water intensive. Water is needed for over-winter protection of the cranberry plant, frost protection, harvest, and irrigation. Impounded water provides this resource at most facilities and impounded water may be a resource to migrating waterfowl. This research investigated the spring waterfowl migration which occurred on the impoundments associated with commercial cranberry production facilities. The diversity and abundance of migrating waterfowl are reported.

South-central Wisconsin contains extensive wetlands (Catenhusen 1950, Hamilton 1971). It would be expected that waterfowl would use this area for breeding and migration. Despite the presence of widespread habitat, south-

central Wisconsin has been recognized as a low quality waterfowl production area (Jahn and Hunt 1964, Baldasarre 1978). Baldasarre (1978) concluded that low invertebrate populations, limited by infertile soil and water, were responsible for the low density of breeding waterfowl in the south-central region. Jorgensen and Nauman (1992) observed a general shortage of display and pairing structures on impoundments associated with commercial cranberry production.

Baldasarre (1978) suggested that invertebrate food supplies held migratory waterfowl, particularly Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*), in this region during the spring migration. He found that leeches (Hirudinea) were abundant in impoundments used by this species. Dirschl (1969) and Bartonek and Murdy (1970) also cite

leeches as an important food item of diving ducks (Aythyini), particularly Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*). Linde (1969) and Reid et al. (1989) suggested that puddle ducks (Anatini) use during migration is related to water depth. They suggested that water depth should not exceed 0.25–0.457 meters.

STUDY SITES

Two commercial cranberry production facilities were selected as study areas. One facility was in Wood County and the second was in Juneau County. Impoundments at each site supported a diversity of vegetation (Jorgensen 1992). The impoundments were palustrine (Cowardin et al. 1979). Each impoundment was a shallow open water community (Egger and Reed 1987). Detailed descriptions can be found in Jorgensen (1992).

METHODS

The survey was conducted at least every third day between 30 March–27 April, 1991. Waterfowl were observed with 7×35 binoculars from a slow moving vehicle on dikes forming the margins of the impoundments. The dike road at Juneau County entirely encircled one impoundment and provided extensive visual access to a second, large, impoundment. The road at Wood County formed a margin along 50% of each of two impoundments and provided visibility of the entire water surface. Censuses were conducted primarily in the morning and evening. Waterfowl were easily observable and could be closely approached. A complete count was attempted. On some dates the numbers of rafted ducks were so great that estimates were

made. A census required 30–50 minutes to complete.

RESULTS

By the date of the first census open water had been present for about 1 week. Only the deepest water areas were open at Wood County on 30 March. Substantial areas of open water were available to waterfowl at Juneau County by 30 March. Peak Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) migration was underway or had passed by 30 March. Peak migration was temporally divided between 1 and 5 April for Ring-necked Duck, and 13 and 15 April for Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), Canvasback (*A. valisneria*), and Redhead (*A. americana*). American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) accompany the Scaup, Canvasbacks, and Redheads on migration (Bellrose 1976). Because of this behavior, "other" in Table 1 includes primarily Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Canvasback, Redhead and a few American Wigeon which were rafted at distances too great to be identified accurately with binoculars. It is possible that some Ring-necked Ducks were included in Table 1 as "other". However, Ring-necked Ducks typically formed their own rafts which were clearly identifiable. These observations are included in "Ring-necked Ducks" in Table 1. All Anatinae which are close enough to be identified to species are listed independently in Table 1.

There was a distinctly different pattern of use documented at the two facilities (Tables 1 and 2). Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Scaup, Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), and Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) were present at both facilities and exhibited a unique pattern of usage

Table 1. Observations of migrating ducks on the impoundments at Juneau County during 30 March–27 April, 1991.

Species	% of observed Anatinae	Peak number observed	Migration peak	Dates of substantial activity
Mallard	5.8	100	30 Mar	30 Mar-1 Apr
American Black Duck	0.1	2	30 Mar	30 Mar
Northern Shoveler	0.2	4	27 Apr	27 Apr
Blue-winged Teal	0.9	8	3 Apr	3 Apr-7 Apr
Wood Duck	0.2	2	—	—
Ruddy Duck	—	1	3 Apr	3 Apr
Common Merganser	3.9	26	5 Apr	30 Mar-15 Apr
Red-breasted Merganser	0.1	2	13 Apr	13 Apr
Common Goldeneye	0.4	9	3 Apr	1 Apr-3 Apr
Bufflehead	1.1	15	1 Apr	30 Mar-5 Apr
Ring-necked Duck	48.5	500	1 Apr	1 Apr-7 apr
Lesser Scaup	19.2	280	15 Apr	13 Apr-18 Apr
Canvasback	2.7	80	15 Apr	13 Apr-18 Apr
Redhead	0.5	20	15 Apr	13 Apr-18 Apr
American Wigeon	5.7	140	15 Apr	13 Apr-18 Apr
Other	19.9	300	13 Apr	13 Apr-18 Apr

across species. Each appeared in substantial numbers in Wood County for one day and then moved elsewhere. But in Juneau County, these species appeared in substantial numbers and stayed for an extended period of time.

Migratory activity at Juneau County included mostly aythyini and American Wigeon (Table 1). This activity was transient, lasting for about 1 week.

Migratory activity at Wood County included mostly anatini (Table 2). After 5 April, most of the activity was due to Mallards and Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) which appeared to be resident on the impoundments.

In addition to the waterfowl listed in the tables, other incidental sightings were made. At Wood County, three Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were present on 30 March. On the same date one was observed at Juneau County.

At Juneau County, notable migrants besides anatinae were also observed. On 30 March, six Tundra Swans (*Olar columbianus*), (2 adults and 4 juveniles), were observed as were Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Several hundred American Coots (*Fulica americana*) were first observed on 13 April.

Table 2. Observations of migrating ducks on the impoundments at Wood County during 30 March–27 April, 1991.

Mallard	22.9	16	10 Apr	30 Mar-27 Apr
Blue-winged Teal	34.9	30	5 Apr	5 Apr-27 Apr
Wood Duck	1.0	2	—	—
Common Merganser	5.4	23	1 Apr	1 Apr
Common Goldeneye	5.2	31	30 Mar	30 Mar
Bufflehead	2.7	7	1 Apr	1 Apr
Ring-necked Duck	14.2	22	13 Apr	30 Mar-13 Apr
Lesser Scaup	13.6	30	1 Apr	1 Apr

They were present through April. On 15 April a few Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) and one Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) were present. The Horned Grebes remained on the impoundment for a few days.

DISCUSSION

Impoundments used for commercial cranberry production can be important for migrating waterfowl. Aythyini were present in much greater numbers than anatini. Thus, as migratory habitat, these impoundments were best suited to Aythyini.

Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads and Scaup clearly preferred the habitat available at Juneau County. Understanding why these species preferred one impoundment over another will suggest what characteristics of habitat are important for migrating Aythyini.

The impoundment present at Juneau County was larger than the impoundment present at Wood County. Size may be a factor contributing to use by migratory anatinae. Large size would decrease the amount of disturbance. Disturbance by humans affects waterfowl habitat selection (Cronan 1957, Thornburg 1973, Reid et al. 1989). However, the observation that the species appeared at Wood County and then departed indicates that something other than size is involved. There was no boating observed. The only disturbances which were observed occurred on the shoreline. Such disturbances are not as intrusive to waterfowl as water activities. The waterfowl could be approached by car throughout the study period. Biota sampling conducted in conjunction with this project may help to shed light

on other factors which may contribute to the distribution of species observed in this research.

Fish trapping was conducted on these impoundments concurrent with waterfowl observation (Jorgensen 1992). There was a much greater diversity of fish available at Juneau County. Hundreds of yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) were trapped. At Wood County only a few central mudminnows (*Umbra limi*), and tadpole madtoms (*Noturus gyrinus*) were trapped early in the spring. Salyer and Lagler (1940) found yellow perch to be a preferred food item for Common Mergansers. It is likely that Common Mergansers were present at Juneau County due to yellow perch.

Submerged vegetation was sampled on these impoundments in 1990 (Jorgensen 1992). The vegetation present at Juneau County was more evenly distributed between taxons. Additionally, there were many types of substrate present in the impoundment. Sand, vegetated muck, and detritus substrates were present at Juneau County. Of 100 samples taken, 17% indicated a bare substrate. At Wood County, 80% of the samples taken included waterweed is evergreen submergent grew in extensive mats. The substrate at Wood County was almost completely vegetated. Only 2% of the samples indicated a bare substrate. However, the submerged plants found in all impoundments are known to provide excellent habitat for aquatic insects (Krull 1970).

Invertebrates were observed during fish trapping (Jorgensen 1992). Substantial numbers of leeches and aquatic insects were present in both impoundments. Dragonfly nymphs (*Stylurus* sp. (gomphidae), *Epitheca* sp.

(corduliidae), and libellulidae) were abundant. Substantial numbers of snails (gastropoda) and clams (bivalvia) were present in both impoundments.

Invertebrates are the primary food of Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Scaup (Martin et al. 1951, Bellrose 1976). Among the invertebrates, molluscs are of primary importance. Anderson (1959), Rogers and Korschgen (1966), and Thompson (1973) studied food habits of migrating Lesser Scaup at Keokuk, Iowa. Each found that molluscs comprised about 90% of the diet. Fingernail clams (Sphaeridae) were of particular importance (Thompson 1973). Therefore, differences of molluscs, between impoundments, may be expected to influence anatinae distribution.

Although not quantified, sizeable populations of aquatic insects and molluscs appeared to be present in both impoundments. Thus, it appeared that the amount of food available did not limit the distribution of migrant aythyini. Diversity, particularly of molluscs, or the presence of key mollusc species, appear to be the features which may influence aythyini distribution during migration.

The greater diversity of fish, vegetation and bottom types present at Juneau County probably supports a greater diversity of molluscs than the monotypic community of Wood County (Harman 1972, Salmon and Green 1983, Stern 1983, Lodge et al. 1987, Way et al. 1990). Cronan (1957), Mills et al. (1966), Gale (1969), and Thornburg (1973) have all linked aythyini distribution during migration to mollusc populations. Fingernail clams, found in conjunction with this research (Jorgensen 1992) are of particular importance. This research

suggests that diversity of molluscs, or dependence on key mollusc species, needs to be investigated as a mechanism affecting the migrational distribution of aythyini.

Our observations suggest that amount of food available is not the only factor affecting the presence and abundance of anatinae, particularly aythyini, distribution during migration. We believe that migrating aythyini and Common Mergansers are distributed according to either mollusc and fish diversity or to the distribution of other key prey species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank The Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association, The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student research fund for funding this research. Thanks to Dr. James Hardin for his helpful comments.

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"Night Heron" by Cary Hunkel



Figure 1. Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., with his wife, Ada Wechselberg Stoddard, and his mother, Helen Wallace Flint, in approximately 1917. *Photo courtesy of Herbert L. Stoddard, Jr.*

Herbert Stoddard's Wisconsin Years

by *Kenneth I. Lange*

Two famous ornithologists began their careers in Wisconsin in Sauk County and the Baraboo Bluffs. One was Alexander Wetmore (Lange 1989), and the other was Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr. (Figure 1). These men were friends later in life, but it is unlikely that they knew each other in their younger years, as Stoddard did not begin his career in Wisconsin until after Wetmore had left the state.

If Stoddard's name is unfamiliar to younger ornithologists, it is a reflection of the inevitable passage of time and our general unawareness of the past, certainly not of Stoddard's importance and influence. His notebooks and publications on Wisconsin (1910–1913, 1917, 1920–1922, 1921a, 1921b, 1921c, 1922a, 1922b, 1922–1923, 1923a, 1923b, 1923c, 1947, 1969) provide an invaluable insight into early 20th century birdlife in the Badger State, just as his Indiana Dunes notebooks (Brock 1986:3) do for that area. It was Stoddard who popularized Baxter's Hollow in the Baraboo Bluffs, and also the Ferry Bluff area, 5 miles below Sauk City on the Wisconsin River, as premier birding spots. He was

also a pioneer in bird banding, and helped alert bird students to the fall hawk migration along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Robbins (1991) credited Stoddard as the first person to envisage a publication on the birds of Wisconsin, and Gromme (Septon 1991) credited Stoddard with being one of three individuals who were most influential in his development, because of strong character, high integrity, and mental stimulation. Stoddard also introduced a number of new techniques in taxidermy.

Stoddard was born in Rockford, Illinois in 1889. Four years later the family moved to Florida and remained there until returning to Rockford in 1900. Just before he would have started high school, Stoddard left school and began working at the Herman Wagner farm in Sauk County's Prairie du Sac Township; the Stoddard family home was in the Prairie du Sac area (Mueller 1988:48). Except for brief trips to Rockford, Stoddard lived here for the next 5 years. "At fifteen years of age I began working as a farm laborer for fifteen dollars a month—and for about fifteen hours a day. I

was as much on my own as I have been in all my subsequent years" (Stoddard 1969:70).*

The farm was near the Baraboo Bluffs, and it was here, in Otter Creek in Baxter's Hollow, where Stoddard caught some "fair-sized" trout and set mink traps, baited with trout. He also trapped in the creek after it exited the Hollow. Generally he set the traps by lantern light after doing his evening chores. "Often, after I finished setting my traps, I sat alone on an elevated perch high on the bluff in the moonlight, listening to the drumming of the ruffed-grouse cocks and looking at the twinkling lights of the farms, spread out on the prairie below me like a map."

In the fall of 1906, Stoddard met Mrs. E. C. Wiswall of Madison, a taxidermist and the wife of a school superintendent. She told him of Edward D. Ochsner, a taxidermist, fur buyer, and beekeeper in Prairie du Sac, whom she thought might be willing to teach Stoddard. Stoddard had decided much earlier that he wanted to be a taxidermist, so this was a pivotal moment in his life. "After making an appointment with Ochsner, I borrowed a horse and buggy from the Wagners and drove to town to see him. To my great joy he told me he would teach me what he knew about taxidermy for twenty-five dollars, provided only that I would promise not to compete with him locally. He also showed me his collection of several hundred mounted birds and mammals and his workshop, crowded with mounted deer heads, hawks, and owls. My training was to start soon af-

ter the first of the year, when the farm work was not so heavy. Arthur Wagner was agreeable to the arrangement and loaned me the horse and buggy whenever I needed it." Summers he worked on the farm, and winters in the taxidermy shop. At first he merely skinned the hawks and owls that were sent to Ochsner for mounting, but soon he was also "setting up" specimens. During his second summer on the farm, he started a collection of mounted birds, working long hours at night in the corn-drying room over the Wagners' kitchen. When time permitted he studied any natural history books that he could borrow from Ochsner and a few other friends.

Ochsner became a life-long friend. Well versed in natural history and a local fixture, he was on good terms with the taxidermists at the Milwaukee Public Museum and a friend and hunting companion of the Ringlings of circus fame. As a young man of 17, Stoddard could not imagine a "more fascinating life" than Ochsner's.

Another friend of these years was Albert Gastrow, who lived on his parents' farm across the Wisconsin River from Prairie du Sac (MacQuarrie 1954). He was 8 years older than Stoddard, an amateur taxidermist (Figure 2), and an expert at trapping and hunting the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). As Stoddard later recalled, "All these creatures and many others were the subject of discussions by our natural history trio—Ochsner, Gastrow, and Stoddard. Birds of a feather were we."

Stoddard took particular note of the Horned Lark. "When I was plowing or harrowing, I delighted in listening to their songs high in the air and then watching them plummet to earth at the conclusion of their songs. In the early

*Unless indicated otherwise, quotations in this paper are from Stoddard's (1969) autobiography.



Figure 2. Albert Gastrow, Sr. (1881–1958) of West Point Township, Columbia County, Wisconsin, with his collection of personally mounted animals in 1913. He is holding an adult male Hooded Merganser. Photo courtesy of Albert Gastrow, Jr.

spring when we were preparing the fields for the first crops, we unwittingly destroyed large numbers of their nests, for they lay their first eggs very early. Later they would nest again in the cornfields, building their little root-lined nests at the base of young corn plants. Many of these nests were destroyed in cultivating the corn . . . Yet, in spite of the enormous number of nests, eggs, and young destroyed by agricultural operations, the larks remained among the most abundant birds on the prairie.” This species originally nested in native grassland, but readily switched to the expanding habitat of cultivated fields, pastureland, and fallow fields (Mossman and Lange 1982:101); by the early 1900s, as Stoddard noted, it was already abundant

and nesting in cornfields on the former Sauk Prairie.

On 23 April 1908, with Arthur Wagner, Stoddard caught the first Yellow Rail he had seen. “We found the bird in a plowed field. The beautiful little creature seemed to forget he had wings and darted about on foot. Finally we trapped him under Arthur’s hat, and before long he was a mount in my collection.”

Interesting discoveries were also made in Ochsner’s shop. “That the great horned owls moved southward in winter was proved by one locally collected bird that had a breastful of porcupine quills”; the porcupine [*Erethizon dorsatum*] in Wisconsin generally occurs farther north (Jackson 1961:272–273). “Once a brown peli-

can was brought in to be mounted. Whether it was of the western or the southern subspecies I do not know, for I was unable to locate the specimen in later years." "Many rarities other than birds arrived at the Ochsner shop in those years, among them the first specimens found in Wisconsin of the Alleghenian least weasel [*Mustela rixosa allegheniensis*] several of which passed through our hands before other collectors encountered them. One winter I skinned and mounted a locally collected Canada lynx [*Lynx canadensis*], which had been far south of its normal range."

But Stoddard was becoming restless. "The years on the farm and in the taxidermy shop were happy ones. Rural Wisconsin had much to teach a young naturalist. But . . . For some time it had been my ambition to work in a natural history museum. Ochsner's descriptions of the habitat displays in such institutions had convinced me that it was a museum career I craved. Ed encouraged me in this ambition, for he, too, had dreamed of such a career in his younger days." Stoddard's opportunity came in February 1910, when he and Ochsner went to Baraboo to visit the winter quarters of the Ringling Brothers Circus. On the second day of their visit, Ochsner introduced Stoddard to Alfred Ringling, who told them of the death the previous night of a gigantic bull hippo. It was eventually agreed that the specimen would be donated to the Milwaukee Public Museum, and that Stoddard would assist George Shrobbree, the museum's chief taxidermist, with the work of roughing out the skin and skeleton and arranging to have them shipped to Milwaukee. It took Shrobbree and Stoddard a week to complete the job;

Stoddard celebrated his twenty-first birthday in the middle of the week. "While we worked, I had dropped hints to Shrobbree about the possibility of joining his department at the museum. Shrobbree was receptive to the idea and promised to see what he could do for me."

Approximately a month later, at a starting salary of \$65 a month, Stoddard joined the staff of taxidermists at the Milwaukee Public Museum. In 1913 he would transfer to the Field Museum in Chicago, and then, after World War I, return to Milwaukee. These were his museum years, which spanned the period 1910–1924, except for service in the War, and which he would later call his "grand days" (MacQuarrie 1941).

Stoddard was pleased with his decision. "The museum was then, and is today, an outstanding institution [and] George Shrobbree was an incomparable teacher and from the outset trained me very carefully in museum work." Shrobbree received his early training in England, and later worked at Ward's Natural Science Establishment in Rochester, New York, where he, Carl Akeley, and most of the other leading museum taxidermists of the day began their careers.

Stoddard was especially taken with Akeley, the man who at the age of 21 mounted the great elephant Jumbo. "The stories of Akeley's life fired my imagination as have those of no other man, and I early decided to pattern my life after his as closely as possible. He was known as a prodigious worker who often worked right around the clock. I could not quite equal that record, but I did put in many fifteen-hour working days during my years in Milwaukee." One of Stoddard's greatest thrills was

a "never-to-be-forgotten two hours' visit with Carl Akeley" at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City in 1918, when Stoddard was on military leave; "Akeley told me that when I returned safely from foreign service he would be glad to employ me as an assistant. It was an offer I would have been honored to accept had I not long since decided to devote my life to working with birds. Akeley had long worked exclusively with mammals—and almost entirely with African mammals, at that." One need look no further for testimony to Stoddard's dedication and integrity.

Stoddard was the consummate naturalist. His social life was limited to attending meetings of the Wisconsin Natural History Society, and his little spare time was devoted to reading natural history books from the library.

Ochsner had arranged for Stoddard to live with the John Pete Wechselbergs in Milwaukee. Later Stoddard reflected that the family "must have been amused by their new boarder—a young man just turned [twenty-one] who cared nothing for city life but buried himself in books night after night. I had planned to move to a boarding house as soon as I found my way around Milwaukee, but I became so fond of the Wechselbergs, and they apparently of me, that I remained in their home until I left the city in 1913. I became especially fond of one particular member of the family, the daughter Ada. . . ." Stoddard and Ada Wechselberg were married in 1915. Ada Stoddard would bear one child, Herbert L., Jr., and precede her husband in death.

Under Shrosbree's guidance, Stoddard did nearly all of the bird work at the museum. At first he also worked

on small mammals and reptiles. Later he would develop a complex method of mounting the most lifelike reptiles of his day. He also pioneered the use of cork, which he carved to conform to the anatomy of the bird, and he was the first taxidermist to use balsa wood, because of its light weight (Gromme 1977:327; Figure 3). He painted glass eyes for his mounts, as he was never satisfied with commercially produced ones. Gromme (1977:327) was amazed when Stoddard "applied Prussian blue in the reverse side of the glass eye, and like magic produced the glowing red characteristic of the pupil of a Double-crested cormorant when viewed from a certain angle in certain light."

But it was field work that especially appealed to Stoddard. His first extended collecting trip for the museum was along the Mississippi River from Prescott south to LaCrosse in the summer of 1910.

Field collectors at the Milwaukee Public Museum did not have motorized transportation until 1923, when the museum bought a specially equipped Model T truck for field work. Until that time, Stoddard and his co-workers relied entirely upon trains and electric lines for transportation to the field. Once they were in the field, transportation was mainly by foot (Gromme 1977:328, Stoddard 1969:171).

For the Mississippi River trip, the field equipment was shipped ahead to Prescott, and Shrosbree and Stoddard followed by train; later they were joined by two entomologists. "Upon our arrival [in Prescott], we rented a wagon and started south, down the river road. A few miles from town we found some diversified country and stopped at a large farm to make ar-



Figure 3. Stoddard working on a balsa body for a heron at the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1920. Photo courtesy of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

rangements for camping and obtaining meals. We had brought along wall tents for sleeping and a large fly tent to protect the equipment and provide shelter while we skinned specimens."

Stoddard's usual collecting gear was a Parker 10-gauge shotgun, equipped with an auxiliary barrel; the barrel could be slipped into the breech of the shotgun, and was fired by the same pin that fired the regular shell (Gromme 1977:328).

In a leather bag he carried the auxiliary barrel, ammunition, and skinning kit. He also carried snacks, such as peanuts or raisins, and a few staples, but often the flesh of specimens would supply the bulk of his food in the field. Gromme (1977:329) recalled that the field menu one day consisted of young

Great Horned Owl and American Crow.

At all of the Mississippi River camps they found new animals to add to the collection. Species generally associated with the South had been appearing along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, and at Prescott "I was surprised to find one such 'southern mammal,' a gray fox [*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*] . . ." (Figure 4). "Among the southern birds we collected were an orchard oriole and, a short distance south, on the shores of Lake Pepin, a prothonotary warbler. We watched for the cardinal, the tufted titmouse, Bewick's wren, and the red-bellied woodpecker, but failed to encounter them." These species, especially the red-belly and the cardinal, have continued to extend their ranges northward.



Figure 4. Stoddard in 1910 holding a gray fox. Notice the climbing rope in the background. The locality is Prescott in Pierce County. *Photo courtesy of O. J. Gromme.*

Near Lake Pepin Stoddard was surprised to find Turkey Vultures "... as conspicuous in the air as they were in Florida. Many were attracted to our camp by the discarded bodies of birds and mammals, and we were thus able to add vulture skins to the collection." Until the late 1940s the Mississippi River between Maiden Rock and Fountain City was the only area in Wisconsin where this species could be found regularly in summer (Robbins 1991:199).

Bald Eagles were also present, "... attracted by the dead fish on the shores of the lake. More than once I was tempted by a fine bald eagle or other

raptor, perched high in a tree on the heavily timbered Minnesota side of the river." A determined field collector like Stoddard had to improvise. "Since there were no human habitations about, I would remove my clothes, and, tying my Parker and a small waterproof bag filled with shells onto a driftwood log, I would swim across the rapid river and stalk about naked until the mosquitoes drove me away ... My habit of pushing a buoyant chunk of driftwood ahead of me when swimming dangerous waters has more than once saved my life in the field."

Stoddard returned to Prescott in the

fall of 1910 to trap furbearers and collect migratory waterfowl.

I was happily proceeding about my work when suddenly I ran into difficulties. A gang of lawless fur trappers had invaded the region and begun working both the Minnesota and the Wisconsin sides of the river. Farmers were up in arms against them, for they were abusing the land, but, by design, they were situated exactly on the state line, and they moved to the other side of the line when peace officers of either state appeared to investigate them.

These outlaws resented my activities in the area and would spring my traps and hang them in the trees. They spotted my line of mouse traps set along the river. The location of each of the more than one hundred traps was marked by an inconspicuous fluff of cotton stuck on a nearby twig. The next time I ran the line, I found every trap destroyed. A 22-caliber bullet had been put through the middle of each one. Thereafter I had to use unmarked sets, which are very hard to keep up with when trap lines are so long and traps so numerous . . . I never got more than a glimpse of none of the trappers cutting across the hills, for they carefully avoided me, probably not liking the looks of the Parker. They knew that I was collecting specimens for the museum—everyone in the region knew it.

But in spite of the poachers' activities, Stoddard collected numerous skins of raccoons, skunks and "smaller creatures."

This trip was also noteworthy for Stoddard's encasement in ice.

I spent most of the daylight hours in rock blinds built on the ends of the wing dams that project far into the river, in locations where ducks habitually crossed on flights up and down the river. Many specimens fell to the shotgun. One time I brought down an American goldeneye

drake near the edge of the ice. While the ice was well over a foot thick near the shore, it feathered out where it came in contact with the swift current. This most desirable specimen fell on its back within twenty feet of the swirling waters, and how to retrieve it posed a problem. I cut a long willow pole and, leaving my shotgun on the shore, worked my way carefully, foot by foot, toward the duck. Just before I reached the bird, into the river I went, pole and all. I had a desperate time getting back onto the ice, for every time I tried to heave myself out, another chunk of the ice broke off. Finally, when my strength was nearly exhausted, I broke my way to a place where the ice was stronger and crawled out, soaked with water and numb from cold. But I had the goldeneye!

The temperature was about twelve below zero, and a strong wind was blowing. The worst was before me, for the farmhouse was nearly a mile away and high atop the plateau above the river. I made the last hundred [yards] to the house on all fours, my body clumsy and past all feeling. I doubt that I would have felt a hatpin stuck into my flesh. The farmer and his family heard my yells for help and assisted me into the house. I was literally encased in an armor of ice—only my knees and elbows had any flexibility. The family rolled me up in the rug on the living-room floor near the red-hot stove and thawed me out. In my haste to get to warmth, I had failed to remove the gamebag from my shoulders, and it held a solid block of ice weighing several pounds and encasing the goldeneye. Curiously I suffered no harm from the experience, not even a cold.

After this near catastrophe I borrowed an old rowboat and kept it on a point of land where the current neared the shore. Then I retrieved ducks that I shot upriver when they floated down to me.

Despite this unsettling experience,

Stoddard was at peace in this sparsely populated land, where virtually the only sounds were the calls of birds and other animals and the voices of wind and water. "My companions were flocks of goldeneyes, gorgeous American and red-breasted mergansers, old squaws, and other waterfowl flying up and down the river."

Stoddard's knowledge of the Prairie du Sac region now became useful. He especially wanted to collect a series of life-history groups of nesting raptors, since the museum had few such exhibits. Permission was given to journey to Prairie du Sac to collect the material; "By early April, 1911, I was again in the field, full of enthusiasm and fully equipped for the work ahead." His first headquarters was the Wagner farm.

I soon found several nests of red-tailed hawks within ten miles of the farm, on the north sides of the hills in the tallest oaks and aspens, usually seventy-five feet or more from the ground. A lot of strenuous climbing was necessary to obtain downy young at just the right stage of development. I was determined to obtain a typical family of adults and two downy young, and also an unhatched egg, if possible. I climbed to each of the nests at least twice a week. I had brought some climbing irons, which I had rebuilt with a set of removable spurs adapted to almost any type of bark. The irons were an added burden, however, and I soon discarded them and climbed barefoot. On these expeditions my spare frame was draped with gamebag, shotgun, assorted shells, a Graflex camera, and other items. I also had to carry the heavy tree sections containing the nests, carefully wrapped and secured, to a place where they could be reached with the farm wagon.

Soon the Wagner yard was full of nests, in their original tree crotches, of

red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, Cooper's hawks, long-eared owls, and other birds. There was also a section of oak tree in which I had found a family of young screech owls. In most cases one or both of the parent birds had been collected with their young.

Stoddard also had material ready for shipment at the Bert and Anna Laws place, which was located along the Wisconsin River in Dane County approximately 5 miles downriver from Sauk City. Stoddard had met Laws, a woodsman and a conservationist, in Ochsen's shop. In time the Laws farm would become a mecca for ornithologists, as more of Wisconsin's bird students became aware of the varied avifauna of the Wisconsin River valley. The roster would eventually include not only Stoddard and Ochsen, but also Gromme and Clarence S. Jung from Milwaukee, S. Paul Jones from Waukesha, and Aldo Leopold and A. W. Schorger from Madison.

It was Laws who told Stoddard of the peregrine falcons that had nested for over 25 years on Ferry Bluff or one of the other sandstone cliffs in Sauk County across the river from his farm (Stoddard 1910-1913, 1917, 1921a). "We located a pair on a ledge of Ferry Bluff. The aerie was about halfway down the cliff, overlooking both the river and the extensive swamp bottom lands at the junction of Honey Creek and the Wisconsin. I confess that I was terrified the first time I went over the towering cliff to the hawks' nesting ledge. But Bert [a person of exceptional strength] was handling the rope from above, and I really had little to fear. In time I came to enjoy climbing about on cliffs looking for museum specimens. On this occasion [20 May 1911] we collected the female, two

downy young, and one [addled] egg for the museum group." Later in the year Stoddard returned to Ferry Bluff with Laws and Henry L. Ward to collect the necessary plants, debris, and other material for the display.

Laws also told Stoddard of the pair of Golden Eagles that had nested on the bluffs across from his farm in the early 1900s. The single intact nest was located on Ferry Bluff on a sheltered ledge about 60 feet above the ground (Stoddard 1917:65). It was made largely of the limbs of red cedar [*Juniperus virginiana*], some of them over an inch and a half in diameter. "Owing to the durable quality of the limbs, the nest remained well preserved for at least twenty years; I visited it many times. According to Bert, the pair had been broken up by a nearby farmer, who had shot one of the birds. As nearly as I could judge, this bird was the one Ed Ochsner gave me in 1907 during my second winter in his shop." This is the only documented nesting of this species in Wisconsin (Robbins 1991:222).

Other interesting discoveries in the spring of 1911 were 2 Long-billed Curlews at Honey Creek ("could not get a shot"), a Northern Harrier nest with 5 eggs in the middle of a cattail marsh in the Merrimac area, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers throughout the Wisconsin River bottoms, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, apparently in the Ferry Bluff area ("Shot a bird that I have never seen here before"), and a Loggerhead Shrike nest with 4 young about 3 feet from the ground in a hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) in West Point Township, Columbia County (Stoddard 1910–1913, 1917:65–66).

Stoddard's notebook entry for 12

June 1911 consists of just 2 words—"Got hurt" (Stoddard 1910–1913). A field collector's job could be hazardous, especially when one worked alone, and on this occasion Stoddard suffered a severe knee injury. "I had climbed a tree and was chopping into a hollow containing a flying-squirrel [*Glaucomys volans*] family, when my ax glanced off the tree and struck my left leg just below the kneecap . . . By the time I arrived at the Wagner farm, my knee was so badly swollen and so painful that I could scarcely move it." A specialist told Stoddard that it would be a long struggle to save the leg. Eventually he got around again, but he wore a brace for the rest of his life. Gromme (1977:323) recalled Stoddard complaining about his "squeaky" knee brace when he didn't oil it in the morning, and kidding that he was going to "have the damn leg cut off."

In 1912 Stoddard did limited field work, and made several trips to the circus winter quarters in Baraboo to obtain specimens for the museum. An Asiatic elephant, zebras, antelopes, and hyenas were among the beasts he helped skin and skeletonize (Figure 5).

By early 1913 Stoddard was in Chicago, working at the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of the Field Museum of Natural History. The Harris Extension assembled natural history exhibits for the Chicago schools, and Stoddard was responsible for preparing small life-history groups of various animals to be circulated among the schools. He had taken the job with the understanding that he would do his own field studies and collections for the displays.

Soon after his arrival in Chicago, he was back in Wisconsin, "... in June, 1913, I found a large colony of little



Figure 5. From left to right, Edward D. Ochsner, George Shrosbree, and Stoddard skinning an Asiatic elephant at the winter quarters of the Ringling Brothers circus in Baraboo, Wisconsin, in 1912 (Stoddard 1969:107–108).

brown bats [*Myotis lucifugus*] under a wooden bridge at Lodi's Mill, just below the old dam across Otter Creek [near Ferry Bluff]. There were hundreds of bats among the old timbers supporting the bridge, including mothers with suckling young. Getting specimens proved a difficult job, for I had to work upside down under the bridge, and every team of horses that crossed the bridge brought down a shower of dirt from the surrounding beams. Several bats fell into the water, and since they could not take off from the water's surface, they began to swim for shore. Almost at once black bass and pickerel began feeding on them—not a bat reached shore. It was hard on the bats, but a joyous occasion for the fish. I managed to obtain about

forty specimens of the bats, which made interesting exhibits."

It was also on this trip, in June and July, that Stoddard found the Acadian Flycatcher and Louisiana Waterthrush nesting in Baxter's Hollow in the Baraboo Bluffs—both first records for Wisconsin (Stoddard 1910–1913, 1917:66, 1922a:78).

After the War, Stoddard returned to the Field Museum and was soon in the field again, "... making collecting trips [in 1919] to Prairie du Sac and Big Muskego Lake, in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, about an hour's train ride from Milwaukee. I stayed with Ed Ochsner when I was working in the Prairie du Sac region, and we covered the surrounding country in his Model 'T' Ford. Albert Gastrow and I

spent many strenuous days collecting on the Wisconsin River about Sauk and in the sand bluffs of Columbia County."

In 1920, Stoddard returned to the Milwaukee Public Museum. "The prospects were decidedly alluring . . . all bird work was turned over to me, and I was exempted from work on mammals, fish, and reptiles. I was free to engage in field collecting as I felt necessary, alone or with chosen companions, in any part of Wisconsin."

The life of a field collector could be strenuous, and Stoddard always exercised to keep in shape. A new skylight area at the museum proved to be useful in an unexpected way: "To keep in shape for climbing trees and cliffs, I hung a length of one-inch-thick rope from the top of the skylight, and several times a day I would climb up and down the rope, hand over hand." He generally walked to the museum in all kinds of weather, by-passing the street cars and always arriving at work on time (Gromme 1977:323).

The museum now had halls and display cases waiting to be filled, so the spring of 1921 was an especially busy time in the field. A Greater Prairie-Chicken booming ground was located in the sand country west of Prairie du Sac, and, with Ochsner's help, Stoddard collected a number of birds there. "Morning after morning we were out at daybreak, watching the chickens coming into the cooing ground, studying their behavior, collecting specimens, and taking notes."

It was in this area where Stoddard on 27–28 April shot 3 Smith's Longspurs of "20 or 30 probably noticed" amid Lapland Longspurs "by the thousands" (Stoddard 1920–1922, 1969:147); these are the state's only

known specimens of this species (Robbins 1991:572).

Stoddard had found Loggerhead Shrikes in this area in 1913, and now he found them again, "fully as abundant as 8 years before" (Stoddard 1920–1922). This species was first reported here in 1890 by Wiswall (1890), the person who in 1906 suggested to Stoddard that he get in touch with Ochsner; it was last found here in 1981 (K.I. Lange fields).

Stoddard noted the ecological distribution of the two meadowlarks: "On all the low lands and in rich farming sections the eastern variety only is found, while throughout the sandy wastes the western bird holds forth in legions. The line of demarkation between these two varieties of Meadowlark as between the rich and poor land is quite sharply defined in this region. Nearby, in Dane County, in a sandy loam region, both varieties were noticed in close proximity" (Stoddard 1922a:77).

Laws had informed Stoddard that a pair of peregrines was again frequenting the Ferry Bluff area; on 11 April they investigated and found a scrape with 3 eggs on a ledge on the northeast face of Ferry Bluff, about 30 feet from the top of the cliff. The birds circled about, calling "like a mallard hen but extremely harsh & grating. Remains of Domestic Pigeon, Meadow Lark, Red-wing Blackbirds noticed on this trip and a number of pellets picked up. Pellets are solid mass of bird feathers" (Stoddard 1920–1922). On 12 May the male swooped a number of times at the photographer, "the rush of his wings sounding like a miniature cyclone" (Stoddard 1920–1922). On 15 May, "Two newly hatched young (one unfortunately had been crushed in some

manner and probably spoiled for mounting), one addled egg and a beautiful male falcon were collected" (Stoddard 1921c:40; Figures 6 and 7).

One other peregrine eyrie was visited in the spring of 1921. "On May 31st . . . Mr. Albert Gastrow and the writer found another pair nesting in a great cliff, appropriately named Gibraltar Rock, near the town of Okee, in Columbia County, about seventeen miles as the crow flies from the Sauk County locations . . . The eyrie was about twenty-five feet from the top and a hundred from the bottom" (Stoddard 1921a:163–164). The female and the 3 young were collected. Stoddard preserved them in alcohol;

some 60 years later, Gregory A. Septon, the taxidermist at the museum, restored them for an exhibit in honor of Stoddard (Kuusinen 1986).

In the Wisconsin River bottoms, Stoddard found Bewick's Wrens and Tufted Titmice in the Prairie du Sac area (Stoddard 1921c:42, 1922a:78–79), and "many" gnatcatchers in the Ferry Bluff area (Stoddard 1920–1922).

The Prairie du Sac dam had been completed in 1915; its impoundment, Lake Wisconsin, was up to 20 and more feet deep. It flooded the river bottom timber, thus creating a forest of dead trees which extended for miles upriver from the dam. While the trees

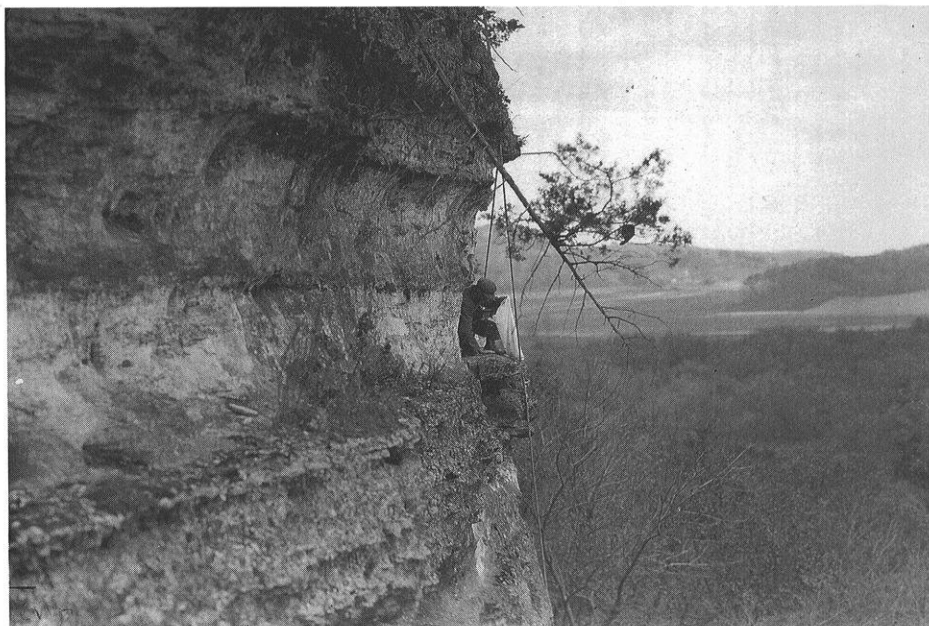


Figure 6. Peregrine Falcons nested at the Ferry Bluff cliffs from at least 1886 until 1940; apparently they abandoned this aerie because of the activities of egg collectors and increasing public use (Stoddard 1917:64, O. J. Gromme field notes, 7 June–7 July 1940, pp. 2547–2548). Stoddard collected here for the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1911 and (shown here) 1921. "A rope . . . had been used on our trips to the ledge . . . Our friend Bert [Laws], who weighs two hundred and forty pounds, could yank us up by main strength should the occasion arise" (Stoddard 1921c:40–41). *Photo courtesy of the Milwaukee Public Museum.*



Figure 7. The Milwaukee Public Museum's diorama of the peregrine eyrie at Ferry Bluff, from material collected by Stoddard. A downy young, an egg, and a dead Blue Jay are in the nest to the left of the upper bird. *Photo by the author, courtesy of the Milwaukee Public Museum.*

were still standing, the lake had a varied avifauna. "Here in summer King-bird nests are to be found over a half mile from shore, in crotches as low as two feet above the water, while Purple Martins and Tree Swallows share the hundreds of natural cavities and old woodpecker holes with Great Crested Flycatchers and even a few English Sparrows! Flickers, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers also nest here . . ." (Stoddard 1922a:68). "The area was rich in insect life and a good place for the birds to rear their young. Double-crested cormorants and great blue herons also began nesting (often sharing the same trees), for the area was extremely favorable to them also, owing to the richness of the aquatic life." On 10 April Stoddard saw up to

75 cormorants in the same tree: "From a great distance looked like bush full of blackberries!" (Stoddard 1920–1922). The cormorant-heron rookery was located between Merrimac and Okee. "It looked like a fine place to collect a unique group—an interesting assortment of birds nesting on a hydro electric-dam impoundment. Therefore, later in the season we returned to the area to collect cormorants and great blues, as well as hole-nesting birds. The group was finished and installed in the museum in the spring of 1924."

Two other sites visited in 1921 were a Black-crowned Night-Heron colony near Darlington and a Great Blue Heron colony near Fox Lake (Stoddard 1922a:71–72). For the night-her-

ons, it was necessary to take detailed color notes and a number of photographs; at the great blue colony, Stoddard had the "most strenuous tree-climbing experiences of my career, handling a Graflex camera day after day in the tops of very tall trees in which dozens of the huge nests were located."

Gromme had joined the museum, and in the spring of 1922 the two field men "... decided ... to obtain a flying group, or wedge, of Canada geese. A few of the geese usually wintered around Prairie du Sac and Sauk City, and in the spring they were joined by migrants ... The big birds fed primarily on the shocked corn and winter wheat on Sauk Prairie and rested by the thousands on the rotten ice and open water of Lake Wisconsin ... We decided that there was no better place to obtain the specimens than around Lake Wisconsin." But the geese generally remained beyond gun range, and Stoddard and Gromme "... took all sorts of chances in old boats in dangerous lake waters made doubly treacherous by floating ice ... We worked before daylight until after dark, day after day, and in all kinds of weather, refusing to admit that the elusive geese were smarter than we ... Of course, what we needed was live decoys, but none were to be had in the region, and in any case we would have hesitated to use them, for we were unsure about their legality under the state and federal collecting permits we held. Finally, we began obtaining specimens, one by one, under the most trying conditions. Over and over again we had to postpone our departure time ... We finally returned to the museum with our Canada geese and other specimens. It is a miracle that both of us

survived the expedition, considering the chances we took and the unreliable boats we used. But the completed specimens made all the trials worthwhile."

Stoddard's tenacity as a field collector was perhaps best illustrated by his experience of 28 August 1922; the locality was Lake Michigan off the mouth of Bar Creek near Cedar Grove in Ozaukee County:

... I happened to be collecting alone, camping at the mouth of the creek. Late in the afternoon I saw flocks of small shore birds, perhaps five hundred in all, in the water well out from shore. The birds would circle and fly a short distance and then settle on the water and swim about like ducks, feeding in an oil slick from some commercial fishing nest. In the field of my binoculars the scene was an animated one.

I identified the little birds as phalaropes. But were they northern [Red-necked] or red phalaropes—or both? For the observation to be of much scientific value it was necessary for me to get out among the birds and perhaps collect some specimens. I was well aware of the absence of records of phalaropes in numbers on the waters of the Great Lakes. But how was I to reach them? There were no unlocked boats for miles, and the water was too rough and cold for swimming. I was almost frantic, for I had to leave for home soon, and time was getting short.

Finally I could stand it no longer. Loading both barrels of the Parker with fine bird-shot shells, I strapped the gun between two pieces of driftwood and dived into the rough waters of Lake Michigan. I swam out until I was among the birds, pushing the driftwood before me. First I would be on top of a wave looking down on the swimming birds; then I would be plunged deep into a trough looking up at them. I unstrapped the shotgun and, draping my left arm over the driftwood to keep it with me,

tried desperately to swing the heavy gun to cover one of the swimming birds. But it was no use in that pitching water. I was rapidly becoming exhausted when finally a massed flock flew overhead and I managed to fire into them and drop a bird. I could see at a glance it was a northern phalarope. Since all the birds were marked alike, the identification was satisfactory. But it was a struggle to get gun and specimen back to shore, for I was unable to lash the gun to the driftwood again. With one of the bird's legs between my teeth, the gun, under water, in my left hand, and the driftwood under my arm, I battled it out and made the shore, about as exhausted as I have ever been in my life. But I had my specimen, and I even made it home on time, feeling pretty cocky, you may be sure.

That experience also solved some mysteries of the past. I now felt certain that other flocks of shore birds I had observed, barely discernible through binoculars far out in Lake Michigan from the Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana shores had been northern phalaropes. For years those observations, always made in late August or September, had mystified me. As far as I know, to this day we have no further information about the migrations of the phalaropes in the Lake Michigan region. It should prove a fertile field for investigation for some ornithologist with a good boat.

Bar Creek attracted Stoddard because of a hawk flight that he and Jung witnessed there on 25 September 1921. "For hours I called out names and numbers of birds, while Jung wrote down the data . . . that flight stands out especially because of the great numbers of sharp-shinned hawks . . . In all, we saw more than two thousand raptorial birds, belonging to eight species, passing at the approximate rate of five birds a minute for nine hours. It was a day of rich visual ex-

periences; there was also an incredibly large flight of monarch butterflies down the lake shore."

Jung and Stoddard had been banding birds in the Milwaukee area since 1920, and later they were joined by others, notably Gromme and S. Paul Jones, an army friend of Stoddard's. Together they devised a variety of traps and nets to catch adult birds. Soon the bird-banding group was making weekend camping trips to the mouth of Bar Creek, looking for nests, trapping sandpipers for banding, and collecting shorebirds. Noteworthy shorebird records from the mouth of Bar Creek included another Red-necked Phalarope collected about a month after Stoddard's immersion in Lake Michigan, a Red Phalarope on 8 October 1921, and a Stilt Sandpiper on 13 August 1921 (Stoddard 1923a).

The European Starling was spreading through the United States during these years, and Stoddard (1922b, 1923c) noted its arrival in Wisconsin, when on 17 February 1923 he picked up a dead individual under a House Sparrow roost in Milwaukee's Washington Park; this was the first definite state record of this species.

Unbeknownst to Stoddard, 1923 would be his last full year of museum work. On 28 May, in the museum's new Model T truck (Figure 8), Stoddard and Jung explored Chiwaukee Prairie, ". . . a bit of natural prairie on the Lake Michigan shore near the Wisconsin-Illinois line . . . [This] was virgin prairie with low spots, or shallow spring sloughs, with knolls between, on which short grass and a profusion of prairie flowers were growing. We encountered no fewer than five hundred black-bellied plovers, flocks of up to fifty ruddy turnstones, and consider-



Figure 8. The Milwaukee Public Museum's Model T truck at Friendship, Wisconsin, in 1924. A field trip of G. Shrobsree and Ernest Meinecke; E. Meinecke in the photo. *Courtesy of the Milwaukee Public Museum.*

able numbers of red-backed sandpipers. All were in their gorgeous spring plumage, and were feeding on the knolls where the ground was dry. The mellow calls of the plovers filled the air with sweet music. The last remnant of prairie was evidently a gathering spot for shore birds during spring migration."

Another thrill of that "red-letter" day for Stoddard and Jung at Chiwaukee Prairie was finding 2 nests of the Piping Plover. "Jung found one containing three eggs, and I found one containing four. Three or four pairs of the immaculate creatures had bred on a strip of gravel well back from the water's edge . . . At that time there were few plovers breeding at widely separated spots on the western shores

of Lake Michigan. In a careful investigation I had been unable to find more than half a dozen breeding places along the 150-mile shore line between the Indiana Dunes and Sheboygan, Wisconsin." Today there are none, and this species is on Wisconsin's endangered list. The last Wisconsin breeding record was in 1983.

Chiwaukee Prairie was already slated for real estate development when Stoddard and Jung were there, but today, thanks to The Nature Conservancy, 234 acres are preserved, with more hopefully to be protected in the future.

Stoddard made several trips in the spring of 1923 to another interesting region near Milwaukee, the Dousman-Golden Lake area:

The region was ecologically as diverse as any I visited in Wisconsin. There were extensive savannas and also several tamarack [*Larix laricina*] swamps . . . The higher areas separating the swamps were covered with oak and other deciduous trees. There were several lakes, some with steep shores where kingfishers and bank swallows nested and others bordered by extensive cattail marshes where swamp-loving species made their homes.

There were more species of gallinaceous game birds in the Dousman area than in any comparable spot I have seen in eastern North America. Prairie chickens were abundant on the savannas; there was a fine cooing ground in the center of one large savanna. Ruffed grouse were plentiful in the deciduous woodland patches of higher ground, and bobwhites thrived near cultivated areas and along the brushy borders of the woodlands . . . ring-necked pheasants and Hungarian partridges had been introduced to the region . . . and had become numerous and widespread.

Great horned owls nested in the tamarack swamps, which also sheltered long-eared and saw-whet owls during the winter.

Stoddard and Gromme had special collecting permits for obtaining specimens within the city limits of Milwaukee. "These permits were important to us, for Milwaukee Harbor was one of the best concentration points for many species of waterfowl. Here we obtained specimens of red-breasted and American mergansers, which we exhibited in a large flying group in the museum's new Bird Hall."

Education was not being stressed at the museum. Stoddard gathered Long-eared Owl pellets in winter under several roosting trees in a tamarack swamp near Milwaukee, analyzed them to reveal the owl's diet of rodents, and then helped prepare an exhibit to show

the economic value of the long-eared. Civic clubs requested illustrated talks on birds that Stoddard or Gromme had to fulfill, and the museum now had regularly scheduled public bird walks during the spring. Stoddard teamed with Huron H. Smith, the botany curator, on bird and botany walks, which were given on Saturday mornings and often attracted 30 to 40 people. But Stoddard's real interest was elsewhere: "I never fancied this sort of work very much, especially during bird-migration periods, when I wanted to be in the field collecting specimens."

Stoddard's interests were changing. "Up to this point in my career my work had been evenly balanced between museum work and field activity. But by now my main interest had shifted to field studies of birds [and] it had become evident that museum work would keep my indoors for long periods of time. I was a countryman by nature and could never be happy in a large city. I would have enjoyed collecting birds in virgin country, and had given much thought to the possibility of spending most of my time so engaged in South America. Marriage and family responsibilities made that idea impractical, but I could see no reason why I could not be a field naturalist, specializing in the study of bird life in the United States. However, I did little more than ponder these ideas during the period from 1920 to 1924. I had a rewarding job, my wife was happy in Milwaukee, and we were buying a home there."

The American Ornithologists Union had their 1922 annual meeting in Chicago; Stoddard was there, and ". . . we bird banders got together and founded the Inland Bird Banding Association [which stimulated] bird banding

throughout the Middle West." At the first meeting of this association, Stoddard heard about a proposed Northern Bobwhite study, "... an exciting new project taking form in the region around Thomasville, Georgia."

Billy Richardson, the photographer on many of Stoddard's expeditions (for example Ferry Bluff in 1921), had cautioned Stoddard about becoming too narrowly specialized, and Stoddard took this advice seriously. Stoddard also realized that the quail project would be a pioneering study in the relatively new field of wildlife management. Eventually he received a letter from E. W. Nelson, the head of the Biological Survey, inquiring about his interest in the project.

Stoddard pondered his decision:

I discussed the matter at length with my wife and with Shrosbree and other friends at the museum. I was somewhat concerned that my limited formal education might be a handicap in this new field. But I had learned that most problems could be solved by intense application, and I felt confident that I could make a contribution to the work. In truth, almost everything I had done so far in my life, from my boyhood activities in the Florida pinelands, had been good training for life-history investigations of birds. And it must be admitted that one of the attractions of the work was that it would be carried on far from great cities!

I was deeply involved in several uncompleted exhibits for the museum . . . Shrosbree, always interested in the advancement of his staff members, pointed out that Gromme could finish and install the groups in a creditable manner and assured me that in taking the position I would not be letting down the museum.

Stoddard left museum work in March 1924 at the age of 35. His new position resulted in the publication in

1931 of *The bobwhite quail: its habits, preservation and increase*, a book hailed as the "Bobwhite Bible" and a cornerstone of game management.

Stoddard's rich and varied career is testimony to a remarkable individual who overcame limited schooling with intelligence, tenacity, confidence, and integrity.

Stoddard could not explain his fascination with living creatures, although he does mention an "inborn curiosity." But can anyone explain all the factors and influences in their life?

So far as he knew, there had never been a naturalist in his father's family. His mother had painted landscapes as a girl and appreciated nature, but she was not absorbed by it as was her son. His father died when Stoddard was five weeks old, so in his early years his world was centered around his mother. There was a "close bond of love and respect" between mother and son, and she encouraged or at least tolerated Stoddard's interests. But his stepfather was also influential, if for no other reason than that it was "Dad Flint" who decided that the family should move to Florida and start an orange grove.

As a boy in Rockford, Stoddard devoured the taxidermy and natural history books in the public library, and he was much taken with a special collection of mounted animals in the new library. But, regarding his youth, one should look especially at his early years in Florida in the late 1800s, when as a "small wild creature" he roamed barefoot in the pinelands. Stoddard recognized the significance of those years: "As I look back on my early life in Florida, I am convinced that no schooling or advantages could have been more valuable to me. I firmly believe that all experiences become a part of a man.

Certainly my years in the southern pinelands—conditioned as they were by the forces of climate, hurricane, and fire, rooted in the soils laid down under the gulf such a short time before, geologically speaking—those years were invaluable to me in my later years as ornithologist, ecologist, and wildlife researcher and manager. This first phase of my life . . . was one of very rich memories.”

Certainly Stoddard was fortunate in knowing a number of individuals who encouraged and guided him at various stages in his development and career. He dedicated his autobiography to his wife and to “Mister Barber,” a government surveyor who had retired in Florida and gave Stoddard “endless patience and kindly interest.” One would like to know more of Mister Barber; I expect that he was very influential in Stoddard’s development. Ochsner and Shrosbree were especially important. Stoddard learned much from Shrosbree, who always supported him in his career moves. Ochsner’s influence was more encompassing. He was, of course, Stoddard’s first teacher and mentor. In a 1978 interview, Gromme exclaimed: “He was our Alma Mater!” (Mueller 1988:59). Stoddard recalled this period of his life in a letter he wrote to Ochsner in 1944 when his old friend was dying of cancer: “I often review in my mind the many fine times we had together years ago. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and just go over some of those collecting expeditions, in my mind, and every detail is as sharp as if it were only yesterday. I think of when I drove down from the Wagner farm behind ‘Old Florrie’ for my first taxidermy lessons, or of all the thrills I got when

working with you the following three years” (Mueller 1988:59). Ochsner also aided Stoddard in securing his initial museum employment by introducing him to the appropriate people. But the lives of Ochsner and Stoddard were also intertwined non-professionally, in that it was Ochsner who arranged for Stoddard to live with the Wechselbergs in Milwaukee, a favor which led, albeit unplanned, to Stoddard’s marriage.

Another influential person in Stoddard’s life who might not come to mind so quickly was his wife, Ada Wechselberg Stoddard. Without her support and understanding, I expect that Stoddard would have accomplished far less. Later he did come to more fully appreciate her sacrifices: “I sometimes feel guilty when I recall the days and weeks my wife was alone while I was on extended trips. Fortunately, though city born and bred, my wife always understood my need for those retreats from urban living and bore her lonely hours without complaint. It is likely that the life of a naturalist’s wife is not an easy one.”

I grew up in Milwaukee in the 1930s and 40s, and the museum was a significant part of my life. On Saturday mornings my mother would take me there for special programs for children presented by museum employees, and I often wandered, spell bound, through the museum halls, gazing at the natural history exhibits. I now know that some of them were prepared by Stoddard. Taxidermy was still much in vogue, and the Northwestern School of Taxidermy in Iowa was always tempting impressionable youngsters to send them money for correspondence courses. Somehow, perhaps because of another love—baseball—I resisted

their charms, but now, 50 years later, I reflect on this phase of my life with fondness and appreciation. Those museum collectors and taxidermists probably accomplished more than they realized. Certainly they led me in the course of writing this paper into a re-examination of the major factors in my life, of the influences, in addition to a supportive mother and open land in which to roam, that led to my own career as a professional naturalist.

Stoddard did field work in Wisconsin during a period that encompassed World War I and America's continuing industrial expansion. We have gained technologically, for example in transportation and communications, since a young man sat on a bluff at night after doing chores and watched the farm lights twinkling below, but there truly is no free lunch. The countryside is no longer so sparsely settled nor so quiet, and the Peregrine Falcons no longer stoop and call by Ferry Bluff and Gibraltar Rock.

Stoddard's writings often portray landscapes now altered or vanished. Of all his descriptions, I am especially haunted by the "high rolling prairie" in the southeastern corner of the state, with its panorama of flowers and the plaintive calls of hundreds of Black-bellied Plovers sounding along the shoreline. What, I wonder, was this area like in presettlement time?

Wild and natural areas in Wisconsin, in Florida, and elsewhere are irreplaceable. As they are impoverished, so is our collective spirit. The appropriate philosophy was expressed by Donald Culross Peattie (1941:156): we must protect what remains of our natural heritage with a patriot's reverence.

The last paragraph in Stoddard's autobiography might well serve as his ep-

itaph: "I have learned that without Nature man has nothing, and my greatest desire would be satisfied if I could know that my grandchildren, and their children after them, will develop a love, an understanding, and an appreciation of the natural world. They can find no greater satisfaction in life."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

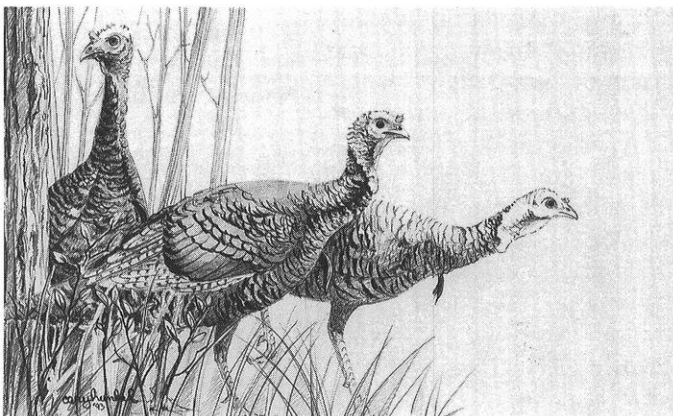
I consulted Stoddard's field notes at the Milwaukee Public Museum Library and the Archives and Manuscripts room of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison. In addition, Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. loaned me his copies of Stoddard's field notes for the 1920s. The late Walter E. Scott assisted with historic references. I fondly recall a winter day in 1978, when Erhart Mueller and I visited Owen J. and Anne Gromme in Briggsville; we chatted about Stoddard and Ochsner and looked at photographs, and admired Gromme's just finished artistic interpretation of Aldo Leopold's essay, "Marshland Elegy." Herbert L. Stoddard, Jr., of Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville, Georgia, kindly supplied information about his family and photos. For assistance with other historic photos, my thanks to Albert Gastrow, Jr. of Sauk City, and Gregory A. Septon, Neil T. Luebke, and Susan Otto of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Michael J. Mossman, wildlife researcher with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, edited the manuscript.

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"Turkey" by Cary Hunkel

The Winter Season: 1992-93

by *Kenneth I. Lange*

Meteorologists last fall were predicting a cold, snowy winter. Volcanoes had erupted in the Philippines and Alaska, and the El Nino then present was expected to run its course by the end of 1992. So their predictions made sense: volcanic eruptions emit material into the atmosphere which causes clouds to form and temperatures to drop, and the massive climatic upheaval called El Nino involves warm water moving from the western Pacific to the eastern. But then, defying the predictions, this El Nino remained in place longer than expected; it is, in fact, the longest El Nino in the last 50 years (*Science News* 23 January 1993 and 8 May 1993).

So what was the winter like? Generally overcast and relatively mild, with considerable rain and ice.

November's cloud cover extended into December; overcast skies, often with rain or snow, occurred on most days of the month. There was relatively little temperature change during much of the month, because of the cloudiness. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded on the 20th and the 23rd-25th. This marginal and dark weather con-

tinued into January, with sunny days in the latter half of the month. The late January average snow depth for the state was 8.1 inches, 1.6 inches below the 31-year average. Above normal temperatures in early February reduced the snow cover by the 5th, but more snow, up to a foot, fell on southern Wisconsin in the third week of the month. The period ended with above normal temperatures on the last 2 days, but only after some of the coldest weather of the season. Some contributors, for example Alta Goff in Barron County and Thomas Hunter in Trempealeau County, reported much snow still on the ground at the end of the period, and the Mississippi River, at least in Trempealeau County, was still frozen at the end of February.

This was the third consecutive winter which was relatively mild and open. Have these winters been causing some birds to linger and survive more readily? Certain species, for example Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird,

American Robin, and Northern Mockingbird, are possibilities. See the species accounts for details.

The ornithological highlight of the period was the number of western birds reported. The "flood of western birds," as Dennis Gustafson termed it, made him ask: "Am I lost on the west coast, or can this really happen in Wisconsin?" The tally was remarkable: Wisconsin's second Anna's Hummingbird (the first was at a feeder in Waukesha County in 1990; *Passenger Pigeon* 53(3):261, 268), the first Townsend's Solitaire since the winter of 1989–90, a total of 4 reports of the now regularly occurring Varied Thrush, a Western Tanager which spent the period at a feeder in Milwaukee County for Wisconsin's first winter record of this species, an individual of the spotted (western) race of the Rufous-sided Towhee, which spent the period at a feeder in Madison, a Golden-crowned Sparrow throughout the period at a feeder in Sheboygan County for Wisconsin's first winter record of this species, and a (Bullock's) Northern Oriole in Milwaukee County on 19–20 December.

What happened? As Gustafson asked, "Was there a late fall/early winter super storm? Is this normal, and we are just getting better coverage . . . or lucky?" Sam Robbins also pondered this western influx, and pointed out that a spotted towhee has now overwintered in Madison for 3 consecutive winters. But even if the last 3 winters were conducive to a spotted towhee overwintering in Wisconsin, this is, after all, a *western* bird. As Robbins also pointed out, Wisconsin ornithologists have been wondering about western birds since the first Varied Thrush appeared here in 1944. One might as-

sume that birds seemingly out-of-place were blown off course or that their guidance systems malfunctioned. But we can't be sure; perhaps such records are the result of normal dispersal and part of the overall behavior pattern of the species. As Gustafson speculated, we may be turning up more of these birds because of greater coverage than in past years.

In contrast to the last few winters, this winter was relatively quiet for gulls. Mark Korducki pointed out that the first weekend in February was mild and a number of gulls in the Milwaukee area moved northward—in most winters this does not occur until the beginning of March. Gustafson covered the Milwaukee lake front almost daily for the first time, and offered this observation: "My many gull reports reflect this increased activity. However, many of these reports were one time only and other reported birds I missed. It just shows how much movement takes place even in winter and locating birds reported by others is really a matter of luck, as well as persistence. An hour could be the difference."

There had been major flights of the Northern Goshawk in 1962, 1972 and 1982, so hopes were high for a big influx this winter. However, it did not materialize, although there were more reports than usual; after the Christmas Bird Counts, this raptor was noted in a total of 18 counties, south to Richland, Dane, and Kenosha Counties. As Molly Evans, in the Hawk Ridge Annual Report for 1992, expressed it, "Maybe next year, then again maybe not. It'll be interesting to see."

One of those goshawks came to a feeder in Washburn, Bayfield County, and fed on suet; a Rough-legged Hawk

did likewise. Do those folks have a special blend we all should know about?!

Another 12 species of diurnal raptors were noted: a Turkey Vulture on 20 February in Racine County; the 2 eagles; Northern Harrier in 9 counties after the Christmas Bird Counts; Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk, each in 20 counties after the Christmas Bird Counts; 2 buteos in addition to the Rough-legged Hawk (Hunter's report of yet another Buteo, a Broad-winged Hawk in Trempealeau County on 14 February, lacked documentation); and 4 falcons.

Eight species of owls were reported. The Snowy Owl was noted in 15 counties, but in lesser numbers than last winter's invasion. The Northern Hawk-Owl was again found in several northern counties, while the only record of the Great Gray Owl was a second-hand report for Bayfield County. Long-eared Owls were found in 3 southern counties, including a group of up to 12 which roosted in a spruce in Dane County throughout the period. The Short-eared Owl was noted in 4 southern and eastern counties.

The American Goldfinch was the only winter finch which was numerous throughout the state. In fact, after the Christmas Bird Counts, only 3 other species of winter finches were reported for southern Wisconsin: Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill (a single bird in Washington County on 28 February), and Pine Siskin (a few records).

Northern limits for the House Finch were the Ashland area and Polk, Price, Oconto, and Door Counties, slightly farther north than last winter.

Sparrows, after the Christmas Bird Counts, were represented by the American Tree Sparrow, a Vesper Sparrow in Columbia County, a Savan-

nah Sparrow in Columbia County and Dane County, Song Sparrow in 10 southern and eastern counties, Swamp Sparrow in 4 southern counties, White-throated Sparrow in 7 southern and central counties, the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Sheboygan County, and White-crowned Sparrow, a total of 3 in Racine County.

Lapland Longspurs, after the Christmas Bird Counts, were noted in 7 southern counties and Dunn County. The only large flocks (150–200) were found in Dane County on 16 January and Ozaukee County on 27 February. Snow Buntings were reported in 21 counties after the Christmas Bird Counts, with flocks of over 100 in Oconto, Marathon, Columbia, and Iowa Counties.

Blackbirds were relatively scarce. A total of 5 species was found after the Christmas Bird Counts; numbers ranged from 1–6.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was scattered throughout northern Wisconsin, but was generally scarce in the southern part of the state. Brown Creepers were found throughout the state, while Golden-crowned Kinglets, after the Christmas Bird Counts, were noted in 11 counties, north to Shawano and Door Counties.

Thrushes were represented by a total of 5 species. Their numbers ranged from just one, for example the Townsend's Solitaire in Sauk County, to flocks of 200+ American Robins in Dane County.

All 3 mimic thrushes were reported. A remarkable total of 3 Northern Mockingbird reports was received, the first winter records for this species since the winter of 1989–90. A Brown Thrasher was noted in Milwaukee

County on 16 January, and a Gray Catbird in Sauk County on 3 December.

Bohemian Waxwings were found in only 2 northern counties and Dane County. Cedar Waxwings were absent from the far north, except for a group of 3 in the Ashland area on 10 January. Their numbers, as usual, increased in late winter.

A few contributors reported normal numbers of the Northern Shrike, but generally this species was in relatively low numbers. After the Christmas Bird Counts, it was found in a total of 17 counties scattered throughout the state.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker ranged north to Polk, Barron, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties; last winter this species ranged farther north in northwestern Wisconsin. After the Christmas Bird Counts, the Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from 9 counties, north to Trempealeau, Taylor, and Shawano Counties, and the Northern Flicker from 12 counties, north to Trempealeau, Monroe, Sauk, and Oconto counties. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, after the Counts, were found in Iowa and Dane Counties.

Late fall migration was reported for the Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, and Sandhill Crane. Spring migration was reported for the following species: Canada Goose (?), 4 species of ducks, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk (?), Cooper's Hawk (?), Killdeer, Herring Gull (?), Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow (?), Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird (?), and Brown-headed Cowbird (?). See the species accounts for details.

In addition to migrants, there were these signs of spring: a Northern Car-

dinal singing on 24 January in Washington County, and House Finches singing by 27 January in Madison.

A total of 75 people contributed reports covering 57 counties. The counties with the most extensive coverage (10 or more contributors) were Dane, Milwaukee, Sauk, and Sheboygan. The following 15 counties, scattered throughout the state, were not covered: Adams, Burnett, Clark, Florence, Jackson, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, St. Croix, Sawyer, Washburn, and Wood.

The following common statewide species are not included in the species accounts: Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee.

These abbreviations are used in the species account: BOP—beginning of period, EOP—end of period, TTP—throughout the period, m. obs.—many observers, and CBC—Christmas Bird Count(s).

REPORTS (1 DECEMBER 1992–28 FEBRUARY 1993)

Common Loon.—One TTP in Milwaukee County (Gustafson; Korducki).

Pied-billed Grebe.—One in Waupaca County, 12 February (Tessen).

Horned Grebe.—DeBoer found this species in Milwaukee County, 17 January.

Red-necked Grebe.—Robbins found this species in Dane County, 4 December.

Eared Grebe.—One in Lake Monona, Dane County, 2 December (Hansen).

Double-crested Cormorant.—After the CBC, these records: Winnebago County, 2 immatures, TTP (Nussbaum); Brown County, 1–2, 8–24 January (Nussbaum; Tessen); and Ozaukee County, 4 January (Frank).

Great Blue Heron.—After the CBC, reports for 7 counties: Milwaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Dane, Iowa, and Sauk (m. obs.).

Tundra Swan.—Fall migration into December: most pronounced on the 19th and 20th, e.g. 1000+ on the 19th in Trempealeau County (Hunter), and 90 on the 20th in Oconto County (Smiths). One record after December—a single bird in Buffalo County, 30 January (Hunter).

Trumpeter Swan.—A group of 3–5 in Dane County through 31 December (Robbins). Burcar reported a group of 3 at Bakkens Pond, Sauk County, throughout January and February; these were birds with neck bands that had been noted in Chippewa County through at least 6 December (Polk).

Mute Swan.—Reported from 10 counties, apart from the CBC: Dane, Milwaukee, Washington, Winnebago, Shawano, Door, Portage, Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas (m. obs.).

Snow Goose.—Nussbaum and Ziebell reported one TTP in Winnebago County, and Schultz found a “blue” goose in Green Lake County, 17 January.

Canada Goose.—Hale saw 1000+ flying south over Jefferson County, 2 December. TTP in 16 counties, north to Polk County and the Ashland area (m. obs.); maximum number, 3000, 4 January, Walworth County (Parsons). This species peaked (811 birds) in Manitowoc County, 20 February (Sontag); including migrants?

Wood Duck.—After the CBC, these records: Dodge County, a female, 20 January—EOP (Domagalski); Winnebago County, a pair TTP (Nussbaum); and Portage County, a female TTP in a feeding areas in Whiting Park (Berners).

Green-winged Teal.—A female in Chippewa County, 6 January (Polk).

American Black Duck.—TTP in 18 counties scattered throughout the state (m. obs.).

Mallard.—TTP in 22 counties scattered throughout the state (m. obs.).

Northern Pintail.—TTP in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Winnebago, and Trempealeau Counties, and the Ashland area (m. obs.). Also Sauk County, 10 January (Burcar). Usually 1–2 birds.

Northern Shoveler.—TTP in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Winnebago, and Dane Counties (m. obs.); maximum 30, 6 February, Dane County (Tessen).

Gadwall.—TTP in Milwaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, and Dane Counties (m. obs.); maximum 160, 28 February, Dane County (Hilsenhoff)—including migrants? Also 22 February, 1, Crawford County (Dankert).

American Wigeon.—TTP in Dane and Sheboygan Counties, with January and February records for Winnebago, Outagamie, and Manitowoc Counties; 1–4 birds (m. obs.).

Canvasback.—After the CBC, these records: Racine County, TTP (Korducki), and Milwaukee County, 12–30 January (m. obs.).

Redhead.—After the CBC, these records: Milwaukee County, January (Gustafson), and Outagamie County, TTP (Nussbaum; Tessen).

Ring-necked Duck.—January and February records (1–2 birds) for Milwaukee, Dane, Winnebago, Waupaca, and Portage Counties (m. obs.).

Greater Scaup.—After the CBC, noted in Winnebago County and Lake Michigan (m. obs.), with birds migrating in Milwaukee County on 27 February (Korducki).

Lesser Scaup.—January and February records for Lake Michigan, and Walworth, Winnebago, Dane, and LaCrosse Counties (m. obs.).

Harlequin Duck.—An adult male in Milwaukee County, BOP-26 February (DeBoer; Burcar; Gustafson; Korducki); a female just below the dam in Menasha, Winnebago County, 6 December–21 January (Nussbaum; Peterson); and a male at 1000 Islands Environmental Cen-

ter, Outagamie County, 28 December–19 February (Nussbaum).

Oldsquaw.—TTP in Lake Michigan between Door and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Black Scoter.—Single birds in Sauk County, 3 December (Burcar), and Milwaukee County, 27–28 February (Gustafson; Korducki).

Surf Scoter.—A female in the Fox River near Kaukana, Outagamie County, 16 December (Nussbaum), and 2–3 in Milwaukee County, 27–28 February (Gustafson; Korducki).

White-winged Scoter.—Through 2 December in Dane County (Burcar), one in Saxon Harbor, Iron County, 1 February (Elias), and 1–3 in Milwaukee County, 7–28 February (m. obs.).

Common Goldeneye.—TTP in Lake Michigan, Kenosha to Door and Oconto Counties; Winnebago and Outagamie Counties; Wisconsin River, Iowa County to Portage County; Price County; Mississippi River, Polk County to Buffalo County; and Douglas County (m. obs.). Migrating in Milwaukee County, 27 February (Korducki).

Bufflehead.—TTP in Lake Michigan between Door and Racine Counties (m. obs.).

Hooded Merganser.—January and February records (usually 1–2 birds) for the following counties: Walworth, Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Winnebago, Outagamie, and Door (m. obs.).

Common Merganser.—TTP in Lake Michigan—Kenosha to Door and Oconto Counties; Wisconsin River in south-central Wisconsin; Price County; and the Mississippi River, Vernon County to Polk County (m. obs.). Also the Ashland area, 23 February–EOP (Verch); migrants?

Red-breasted Merganser.—January and February records for Lake Michigan—Kenosha County to Door County, also Winnebago County (m. obs.).

Ruddy Duck.—Milwaukee County in January (Gustafson), and Winnebago County through 20 February (Nussbaum).

Turkey Vulture.—One in Racine County, 20 February (Sunby).

Bald Eagle.—TTP in approximately 20 counties, north to Door County, Vilas County, and the Ashland area. January and February records for an additional 6 counties. Hunter reported a total of 79 on 30 January in Buffalo County.

Northern Harrier.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Kenosha, Walworth, Washington, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Winnebago, and Iowa (m. obs.). TTP in Dodge County (Domagalski). A probable migrant in Oconto County, 22 February (Smiths).

Sharp-shinned Hawk.—After the CBC, reported from 20 counties, north to Trempealeau, Taylor, Marathon, Waupaca, Outagamie, and Door Counties (m. obs.). A migrant (?) in Washington County, 27 February (Domagalski).

Cooper's Hawk.—After the CBC, reported from 20 counties, north to Taylor, Marathon, Oconto, Calumet, and Sheboygan Counties (m. obs.). Migrants (?) in Richland, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties, 25–26–27 February, respectively (Duerksen; Haseleu; Gustafson).

Northern Goshawk.—After the CBC, records for 18 counties; south to Richland, Dane, and Kenosha Counties (m. obs.), but the anticipated big flight did not materialize.

Red-shouldered Hawk.—TTP in Sauk County (Burcar), also a January record for Ozaukee County (Gustafson) and 12 February in Iowa County (Burcar).

Red-tailed Hawk.—Northward to Douglas County, TTP (LaValleys), Vilas County, 9 December, 1 (Reardon), Marathon County, TTP (Belter), and Door County, TTP (Dee).

Rough-legged Hawk.—Relatively low numbers. The usual February migration, mainly in the 4th week.

Golden Eagle.—After the CBC, these records: Grant County, 2 adults, 24 January (Leglers), and an immature, 7 February (Boldt); Sauk County, 6 February, an adult (Leglers); Monroe County, 20 December–EOP, maximum 3, 24

January (Epstein); and Buffalo County, an immature, 30 January (Hunter).

American Kestrel.—Northward and at least into January in the following counties: Barron, Taylor, Marathon, Oconto, and Door (m. obs.).

Merlin.—One in Marathon County, 5 February (Belter).

Peregrine Falcon.—January and February records for Milwaukee and Sheboygan Counties (m. obs.).

Gyr Falcon.—One in Harrington Beach State Park, Ozaukee County, 15 February (Gustafson).

Gray Partridge.—Iowa, Dane, Sauk, Columbia, and Outagamie Counties (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Pheasant.—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Taylor, Oconto, and Door (m. obs.).

Sharp-tailed Grouse.—TTP in Taylor County (Armbrust).

Wild Turkey.—Reported from 16 counties, north to Pierce, Monroe, Sauk, Green Lake, Calumet, Oconto, and Door Counties (m. obs.).

Northern Bobwhite.—Iowa, Richland, and Monroe Counties (m. obs.).

Virginia Rail.—8 December, an injured bird in Milwaukee County (Diehl).

American Coot.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Walworth, Racine, Milwaukee, Washington, Ozaukee, Winnebago, Dane, Eau Claire, and Chippewa (m. obs.); maximum 30, 6 February, Walworth County (Tessen).

Sandhill Crane.—Ashman saw a flock of 13 flying south over Mud Lake in McFarland, Dane County, 2 December.

Killdeer.—A probable migrant in Vernon County, 22 February (Dankert).

Common Snipe.—After the CBC, records for these counties, generally along spring-fed creeks: Washington, Dane, Iowa, and Crawford (m. obs.).

Mew Gull.—One in Racine County, 31 January–25 February (DeBoer), and at least 2 adults in Milwaukee County, 2–13 February (Gustafson; Boldt; Burcar; Korducki; Tessen; Wood).

Ring-billed Gull.—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to Sheboygan County (through 27 January in Manitowoc County); 22 January in Walworth County; 10 January in Green Lake County; 23 January in Winnebago County; TTP in Calumet County; and TTP in Douglas County, maximum 3, 10 December (m. obs.).

Herring Gull.—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to Door County; Winnebago and Calumet Counties; through 19 February in Outagamie County; 10 January in Green Lake County; 27 January (1) in Dane County; 2 January in Sauk County; 14 February in LaCrosse County; and TTP in Douglas County, maximum 1000, 2 January (m. obs.).

Thayer's Gull.—One in Douglas County, 2 January (Johnson); Sheboygan County, 24 January (Tessen); Ozaukee County, 4 January (Frank); at least 6 adults in Milwaukee County, 6 December–EOP (Gustafson; Korducki); and an adult in Kenosha County, 1 February (Schultz).

Iceland Gull.—29 January, 2 adults in the Superior landfill, Douglas County (Robbins), and 29 January–15 February, an adult in Milwaukee County (Gustafson; Cowart; Peterson).

Glaucous Gull.—Douglas County, TTP (m. obs.), maximum 10, 29 January (Robbins); Winnebago County, an immature, 24 January (Nussbaum); Manitowoc County, TTP, maximum 6 (Nussbaum; Sontag); Sheboygan County, 17–24 January (Burcar; Tessen); and Milwaukee County, 19 December–22 February, at least 2 (m. obs.).

Great Black-backed Gull.—At least 3 (5?) in Manitowoc County, TTP (Korducki; Nussbaum; Peterson; Sontag); Sheboygan County, 13 December–24 January (Brassers; Mueller); and Milwaukee County, at least 1 immature and 1 adult, 10 January–9 February (Wood; Gustafson; Tessen).

Rock Dove.—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Vilas, and Door (m. obs.).

Mourning Dove.—Northward to the following localities: Douglas County, 4 January, 1 (Johnson); Ashland area, TTP (Verch); Vilas County, TTP (Baughman); Forest County, 26 December (Reardon); and Door County (Dee; Lukes').

Eastern Screech-Owl.—After the CBC, reported from 12 counties, north to Price, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties (m. obs.).

Snowy Owl.—Noted in 15 counties, south to Columbia, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.), but in lesser numbers than last winter.

Northern Hawk-Owl.—One in Superior, Douglas County, 7 January–27 February (Johnson); one about 5 miles southeast of Phelps, Vilas County, 22 January–8 February (discovered by Reardon, documented by Baughman, Boldt, and Burcar); and one (2?) in Oneida County, 29 January–25 February (Baughman; Korducki; Petersen).

Long-eared Owl.—Trempealeau County, 11 January, 1 (Hunter); Dane County, TTP in 2 areas—a group of up to 12 which roosted in a spruce near Blue Mounds State Park (Irwin), and one in the Brooklyn Wildlife Area (Ashman); and Milwaukee County, 19 January, 1 (Diehl).

Short-eared Owl.—Kenosha County, 1 January–6 February, 2–3 (Gustafson; Tessen); Bong Recreation Area, Racine County (DeBoer); one in Manitowoc County, 17 January (Sontag); and 2 in the Brooklyn Wildlife Area, Dane County, 27 February (Ashman).

Northern Saw-whet Owl.—Dane County, one roosting in white cedars in the Madison School Forest, 27 January and 7 February (Ashman); Trempealeau County, 6 February, 1 (Hunter); and Polk County, a red cedar at the edge of a field, 16 February (Hudick).

Anna's Hummingbird.—DeBoer heard of a hummingbird coming to a feeder in Racine and on 17 December confirmed it as an Anna's; it was documented by Korducki and Boldt, and last seen on 4 January. This was Wisconsin's sec-

ond record; the first was at a feeder in Waukesha County in fall 1990.

Belted Kingfisher.—After the CBC, records for 15 counties, mainly along the major drainages in southern Wisconsin, but north to Pierce, Chippewa, Portage, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

Red-headed Woodpecker.—After the CBC, records for 9 counties: Dane, Grant, Richland, Monroe, LaCrosse, Trempealeau, Taylor, and Shawano (m. obs.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Northward to Polk, Barron, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties (m. obs.); not as far north in northwestern Wisconsin as last year.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Iowa County, 11 January (Burcar), and Dane County, one at a bird bath, 21 February (Cederstrom).

Black-backed Woodpecker.—Douglas County, 18 February (Semo), and an adult male in the Blackjack Springs area, Vilas County, 9 February (Boldt and Burcar).

Northern Flicker.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Trempealeau, Monroe, Iowa, Dane, Sauk, Columbia, Green Lake, Winnebago, Oconto, Washington, Ozaukee, and Racine (m. obs.).

Horned Lark.—TTP in Dale and Monroe Counties. Maximum numbers—migration most pronounced from approximately mid January to the end of February, generally earlier in extreme southern counties than farther north. Northernmost reports from Taylor and Marathon Counties (m. obs.).

Gray Jay.—Excluding the CBC, records for these counties: Taylor, Price, Oneida, Vilas, and Forest Counties (m. obs.).

Common Raven.—Southernmost records: Monroe County, 10 January, 1 (Epstein), and Portage County, 6–20 December, maximum 2 (Berner).

Boreal Chickadee.—Excluding the CBC, records for these counties: Oneida, Vilas, and Forest (m. obs.).

Tufted Titmouse.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Monroe, Richland, Grant, Iowa, Dane, and Columbia (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Generally scarce in southern Wisconsin, TTP in northern counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch.—Northward to these localities: Douglas County, TTP; the Ashland area, TTP; Vilas County, 9 February; Forest County, 26 December; and Door County, TTP (m. obs.).

Brown Creeper.—After the CBC, northernmost reports from Douglas County, 30 December–3 February; the Ashland area, TTP; Vilas County, 9 February; Oconto County, 24 January; and Door County, TTP (m. obs.).

Carolina Wren.—Reported from 6 counties: Racine, 2, TTP (Korducki); Milwaukee, BOP-25 December (Korducki); Dane, 1 at Picnic Point in Madison, 1 December (Ashman), and 1 at Lake Farm Park along the shoreline of Lake Waubesa, 5 December–23 January (Burcar); Iowa, 2 at the canoe landing near Arena, 1 December, with at least one still there on 29 December (Burcar); Outagamie, 16–17 December, 1 (Nussbaum); and Door, TTP, 3 at a feeder on Washington Island (Dec).

Winter Wren.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Washington, TTP (Domagalski); Ozaukee, 27 February, 1 (Gustafson); Manitowoc, Two Rivers Harbor, 23 January (Korducki); Calumet, 10–20 January, 1 (Rudy); Dane, University of Wisconsin Arboretum, TTP, 1 (m. obs.); Trempealeau, 27 December–3 January, 2 (Hunter), and Portage, through 3 January (Berner). The Portage County bird “might have made it had the extensive area of undercut banks on an island in the Wisc. River not been reflooded with the completion of repairs on a Consolidated Paper dam on 4 January” (Berner).

Marsh Wren.—One TTP in a tamarack swamp bordering the Oconomowoc River, Washington County (Domagalski).

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Sauk, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Washington, Green Lake, Winnebago, Manitowoc, Door, and Shawano (m. obs.).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—One in Manitowoc County through 9 December (Sontag), one in Dane County, 19–21 December (Robbins), and one in Outagamie County, 19 December–3 March (Mahn).

Eastern Bluebird.—After the CBC, records for 5 southern counties: Iowa, several localities in Sauk, Columbia (maximum 12, 9 January), Dane (maximum 5, 19 January), and Racine (maximum 7, 1 February).

Townsend's Solitaire.—One in Devil's Lake State Park, south face of the east bluff, Sauk County, 5 and 7 February (Svingen and Barton; Burcar, Boldt). The first winter record of this species in Wisconsin since the 1989–90 winter.

Hermit Thrush.—After the CBC, these records: Dane County, University of Wisconsin Arboretum, TTP, 1 or 2 (m. obs.), and Milwaukee County, 24 February, 1 (Diehl).

American Robin.—January and February records for 17 counties, mainly southern and eastern Wisconsin; northernmost reports from Douglas County, 20 January, 1 (Johnson); the Ashland area, TTP, maximum 7, 19 December (Verch); Portage County, 14 January, 1 (Berner); and Door County, TTP (Dec). Maximum numbers: 200+ in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison, Dane County (m. obs.), 60 in Washington County on 14 February (Domagalski), and 23 in Trempealeau County on 12 February (Hunter).

Varied Thrush.—A total of 4 males at feeders: one near Lake Mills in Jefferson County, 4–29 January, which repeatedly pounded a fallen crabapple on the ground, eating the small pieces (Hale); one in West Salem in LaCrosse County, December–EOP, feeding on whole corn although fruit, e.g. highbush cranberry, was available (Dankert; Burcar; Boldt); one near Park Falls in Price County (Hardy); and one in Marathon County, mid January–EOP (Belter).

Gray Catbird.—One at Bakkens Pond, Sauk County, 3 December, eating wild grapes (Burcar).

Northern Mockingbird.—One in Racine County, 19 December–22 January (DeBoer; Boldt; Gustafson; Tessen); one in Jefferson County at Pavlovic's feeder, 7 December–24

February (Leglers); and one near Stoughton in Dane County at a feeder, 20 January (Robbins).

Brown Thrasher.—After the CBC, this record: one in Milwaukee County, 16 January (Gustafson).

Bohemian Waxwing.—Excluding the CBC, these reports: Vilas County, 7–12 December, 2–3 (m. obs.); Douglas County, 18 January, 18 (Johnson); and Dane County, a flock of approximately 12 in Madison, 8 December (Robbins).

Cedar Waxwing.—Absent from the far north, except (Verch) for a group of 3 in the Ashland area, 10 January. High numbers (100+) only in Sauk County, where approximately 200 were noted on 30 January by Burcar and on 3 February by Lange.

Northern Shrike.—After the CBC, noted in 17 counties scattered throughout the state. Generally in relatively low numbers.

European Starling.—Northward to these localities, where TTP: Douglas County, the Ashland area, Vilas County, and Door County (m. obs.).

Nashville Warbler.—One at a feeder in Racine County, 11–12 December (DeBoer).

Yellow-rumped Warbler.—6 February, Sauk County (Leglers).

Ovenbird.—One in Grant Park, Milwaukee County, 17 January, feeding on (?) seeds in the snow at a feeding station (Korducki; Gustafson); Korducki commented that it “seemed to be in good health.”

Western Tanager.—First winter record for Wisconsin: one at a feeder in Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee County, 29 January–EOP (and into the spring); eating sunflower hearts, oil seeds, orange slices, and suet (Karon). Attracted to the yard initially by a crabapple tree. Documented by Karon, Boldt, Burcar, Frank, Gustafson, Johnson, Korducki, Peterson, Robbins, and Tesen. “In all of its interactions, it was a dominant bird—driving House Finches, House Sparrows, Juncos, and Cardinals off preferred feeding sites” (Frank).

Northern Cardinal.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Barron, Price, and Door (m. obs.).

Rufous-sided Towhee.—An individual of the spotted (western) race TTP at a feeder in Madison, Dane County, the third consecutive winter that a “spotted” towhee has overwintered in Madison (Robbins). Also an unspotted bird in Milwaukee County, 20 February (Zehmer).

American Tree Sparrow.—Northward to these localities: Barron County, TTP; the Ashland area, 12 December (Verch); Price County, 18–20 December (Hardy); and Door County, TTP (Lukes’).

Vesper Sparrow.—Columbia County, one foraging in roadside gravel, 14 January (Burcar).

Savannah Sparrow.—One in exposed roadside grass in Columbia County, 17 January, and in Dane County, 18 January (Burcar).

Song Sparrow.—After the CBC, records for 10 southern and eastern counties (m. obs.). Possible migrants in Crawford County, 22 February (Dankert), and Outagamie County, 28 February (Nussbaum).

Swamp Sparrow.—After the CBC, records for Milwaukee, Washington, Dane, and Sauk Counties (m. obs.).

White-throated Sparrow.—After the CBC, records for Walworth, Racine, Milwaukee, Jefferson, Dane, LaCrosse, and Brown Counties (m. obs.). Korducki reported a maximum of 17 on 15 January in Milwaukee County, and Ashman reported a maximum of 11 on 8 February at the Duck Pond on the western end of Lake Wingra in Madison, Dane County.

Golden-crowned Sparrow.—First winter record for Wisconsin: one at a feeder near Dundee, Sheboygan County, 26 November into the spring (Reif and others).

White-crowned Sparrow.—Racine County, 3 at a feeder TTP (DeBoer).

Dark-eyed Junco.—Northward to these localities: Barron County, TTP; the Ashland area, through 30 December; Price County, 1–19 De-

ember; Taylor County, TTP; and Door County, TTP (m. obs.).

Lapland Longspur.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Racine, Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Columbia, Dane, Sauk, and Dunn (m. obs.). Large flocks (150–220) in Dane County on 16 January (Burcar) and Ozaukee County on 27 February (Boldt).

Snow Bunting.—After the CBC, records for 21 counties scattered throughout the state (m. obs.). Flocks of over 100 in Oconto, Marathon, Columbia, and Iowa Counties (m. obs.).

Red-winged Blackbird.—TTP in Dane and Iowa Counties, 2 in Rock County on 6 February, and through 13 January in Outagamie County (m. obs.).

Eastern Meadowlark.—After the CBC, these reports: 2 in Dane County through 30 January (Burcar), and 1 in Oconto County, TTP (Smiths). Migrants (4) in Ozaukee County, 27 February (Boldt).

Meadowlark species.—One (Eastern?) in Racine County, 18 January (DeBoer), and a total of 6 in Dane County, 27 February (Hansen).

Rusty Blackbird.—One record after the CBC, a migrant (?) in Dane County, 23 February (Ashman).

Common Grackle.—After the CBC, these records: Dane County, TTP (?), and Outagamie County, TTP (m. obs.).

Brown-headed Cowbird.—After the CBC, these records: Milwaukee County, 11–14 February, 2 (Diehl); Sheboygan County, 24 January (Mueller and Schwartz); and Dane County, 6 January (Ashman). Migrants (?) in Milwaukee County on 22 February (Korducki) and Calumet County, EOP, 1 (Rudy).

Northern Oriole.—A “Bullock’s” Oriole on the Milwaukee CBC, 19 December, was noted on the following day by Gustafson.

Pine Grosbeak.—Only in northern counties: Douglas County, TTP (m. obs.); the Ashland area, TTP (Verch); Price County, 13 December–6 February (Hardy); Vilas County, 5 December

(Leglers) and 22 January (Reardon); and Forest County, 1 December (Peterson) and 15 January (Reardon). The maximum number was 15 in Douglas County (LaValleys).

Purple Finch.—Scattered throughout, with maximum numbers after the CBC of 3–32 (m. obs.).

House Finch.—Northern limits: the Ashland area and Polk, Price, Oconto, and Door Counties, slightly farther north than last winter (m. obs.).

Red Crossbill.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Douglas, TTP; Vilas, TTP; Oneida, 8 February; Forest, 24 January; and Portage, 7 February–EOP (m. obs.). Maximum number 14, 22 February, Douglas County (LaValleys).

White-winged Crossbill.—After the CBC, records for these counties: Douglas, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Shawano, Portage, Outagamie, and (a single bird on 28 February) Washington County (m. obs.). Maximum number 33, 14 February, Portage County (Bernier).

Common Redpoll.—After the CBC, records for Douglas, Taylor, Portage, and Door Counties (m. obs.).

Pine Siskin.—After the CBC, reported from Sheboygan and Dane Counties, otherwise confined to central and northern Wisconsin (m. obs.). Maximum number 50, Door County (Dec); generally in relatively low numbers.

American Goldfinch.—The only winter finch which was numerous throughout the state. Northward to these localities, where TTP: Douglas County, the Ashland area, Vilas County, and Door County (m. obs.).

Evening Grosbeak.—After the CBC, records for Douglas County, the Ashland area, Vilas County, Oneida County, Price County, Taylor County, and Shawano County (m. obs.). The largest flocks were in Price County (20; Hardy) and Shawano County (50 on 24 January; Peterson).

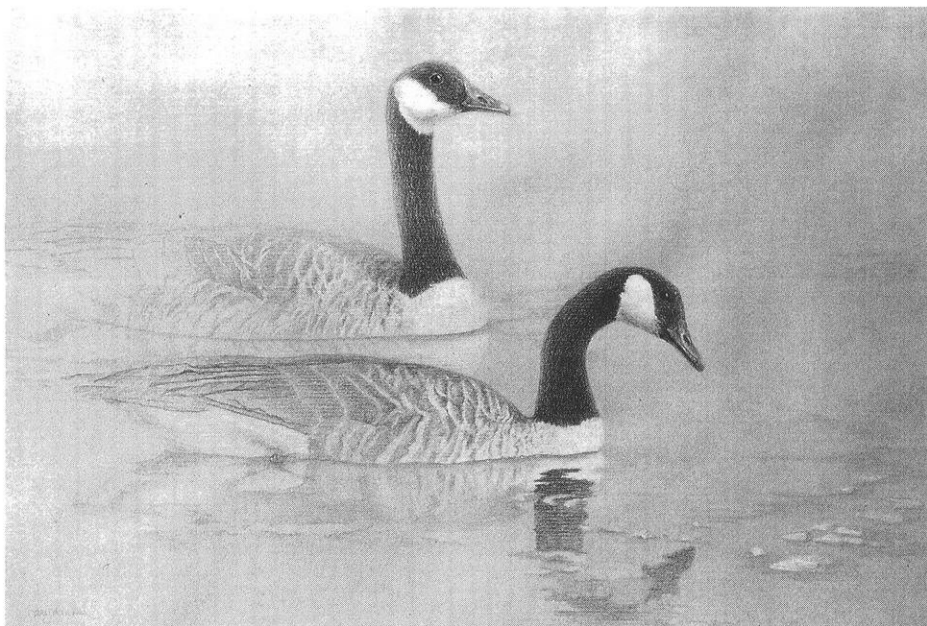
House Sparrow.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Vilas, and Door (m. obs.).

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Kenneth I. Lange
Devil's Lake State Park
Baraboo, WI 53913



"Spring Breakup" Canada Goose by Cary Hunkel

“By the Wayside”

Reports of Harlequin Duck, Gyrfalcon, Greater Prairie-Chicken × Sharp-tailed Grouse Hybrid, Mew Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Northern Hawk-Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Western Tanager and Golden-crowned Sparrow are featured. The killing of an adult Osprey by a Great Horned Owl is documented.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

6 December 1992, Winnebago Co., just below dam at Menasha—It was a small, dark duck, much smaller than the nearby Mallards. It was black above, very dark-brown below the wings and on the breast. It had a large white spot below the eye and behind the bill. There was also a smaller white spot behind the eye and towards the back of the head. There was a very small white spot just above the bill. This white spot and the one on the other side of the head were close together. The bill was dark and not large. No wing patches. The duck was feeding (diving) the entire viewing time.

This duck would open its wings halfway as if to flap its wings underwater as it dove.—Don Nussbaum, 1544 Ames St., Neenah, WI 54956.

This species was also documented by Kay Burcar.

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*)

15 February 1993, Ozaukee Co., near Harrington Beach State Park—I first noticed a hawk taking flight while being chased by two crows. The hawk was much larger than the crows, making me think at first of a Red-tailed Hawk. As I turned my full attention to this encounter, I quickly changed my opinion of the hawk's identity. First, the hawk flight was completely unlike a buteo. Rather than the labored flight I expected in escaping the crows, the flight was smooth, direct, and swift. The crows were easily outdistanced in seconds as the hawk climbed away. The wing strokes were very steady, not that fast, but powerful (as evidenced by the speed). Once clear of the crows, the hawk flew in a straight line west. As I continued watching it, I thought of a gull as its wings were swept back, narrower at the tips, and the steady flight with no glides. The base of the wings, however, were much wider than a

gull's wings. The idea that this was a falcon came as I noted the flight and wing shape. When the falcon was about a mile away, it finally banked and turned north, giving me another view of its falcon shape and style of turning (just leaned into the turn, not flapping until the turn was completed and it wanted to accelerate again.) My only problem with identification of this bird was its color, and that is why I was not thinking "Gyr Falcon" until I had eliminated all other possibilities. The entire body color was quite uniform light gray-brown (slightly more brown than gray), lighter on the undersides. No contrasting dark on head, wing markings, rump or tail, or "mustache" visible (if it had thin facial markings, it was not close enough to see). The closest color illustration I could find was the gray phase in Robbins "Birds of North America" where my bird was mostly the color of the primaries and tail in that illustration. The early morning light was giving many of the birds I saw a slightly pinkish cast. This may partly explain it.—*Dennis Gustafson, 15440 Linfield Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151.*

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

(*Tympanuchus cupido*) ×

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) HYBRID

22 April 1993, Marathon County, Mead Wildlife Area—At 6:30 A.M., Thomas Weber and I were participating in the annual Greater Prairie-Chicken census on Mead Wildlife Area. Concealed by a blind staked in the Honey Island Flowage marsh we were able to observe the spring mating ritual at relatively close range. While I was filming birds on the southern

fringe of the booming ground, Tom brought to my attention several birds to the north with inconsistent coloration. I immediately focused my concentration on those birds. Tom had initially noted purple air sacs on two of the birds and after watching closely for several minutes I confirmed his observation. I also recorded pointed tails as well as much less pronounced pinnae on those birds. In addition, the characteristic courtship display of the Sharp-tailed Grouse was evident. The birds exhibited cooing and dancing instead of the common booming behavior of the Greater Prairie-Chicken. After relating this experience to several other biologists I came to the conclusion that the two birds Tom and I had observed were Greater Prairie-Chicken × Sharp-tailed Grouse hybrids, probably from the same brood. We concluded the birds were cross-bred because they exhibited characteristics of both species. This leads to the conjecture that there is an overlap between Greater Prairie-Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse ranges at Mead Wildlife Area with some evidence of hybridization occurring.—*Anthony E. Geiger, Wildlife Technician, Mead Wildlife Area-Milladore, WI 54454.*

MEW GULL (*Larus canus*)

5–11 February 1993, Milwaukee Co., Juneau Park Lagoon and South Shore—After briefly scanning the flock of gulls on the ice at the Juneau Park Lagoon, I located the adult Mew Gull. The mantle was darker gray than the Ring-billed Gulls and this bird could be picked out from the rest of the flock. Overall size was smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls. Distinguishing field marks were: thin, unmarked straw colored bill, large

dark eye, rounded head, and large white spots on the outer primaries. As is typical for winter adults, the hood was streaked with brown but this bird had a fairly light hood.

On 11 February 1993, I located another adult Mew Gull at the South Shore Yacht Club. This bird could be located by its very dark hood which was much darker than any of the Ring-billed Gulls. This gull had a fairly pale mantle and was closer in size to the Ring-billed's. I know that these were two different Mew Gulls.—*Mark Kordecki, 4410 South 21 St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.*

13 February 1993, Milwaukee Co., Juneau Park Lagoon—Similar in appearance to, and among the Ring-billed Gulls resting on the ice at Juneau Park lagoon was a smaller, darker backed gull with black and white wingtips. It appeared 1–2" shorter than proximate Ring-billed Gulls, and the gray on the back and wings was noticeably darker. The legs and bill were yellow, and the eye was a light brown.

In comparison to the bill of the Ring-billed Gulls, the thinner bill was less angular with an unpronounced gonys, and the upper mandible sloped more gradually to the tip. Discoloration on both mandibles forward of the nostril suggested a ring but was indistinct and visible only at close range or through the spotting scope.

The head and underparts were mostly white with considerable gray streaking on the head, nape and sides of neck which did not reach the entirely white throat, but did extend partially across the breast. The lores were much darker than any other gull present.

This gull at first appeared timid and

did not defend itself against occasional harassment by Ring-billed Gulls, but flew and became aggressive when people arrived with handouts for the many Mallards, Black Ducks, and pigeons at the lagoon. While flying, the white tail was exposed and extensive white in the wingtips was strikingly apparent after watching many flying Ring-billed Gulls.

Other than eye color, which my field guides describe as dark brown and which I observed as light brown, the field marks for this bird fit the description of a winter-plumaged Mew Gull.—*Thomas C. Wood, 8895 E N 91st St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.*

This species was also documented by Daryl Tessen, Dennis Gustafson, Brian Boldt and Kay Burcar.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*)

2 January 1993, Douglass Co., Wisconsin Point Landfill—Kay Burcar and I had just pulled in at the dump to watch gulls when one of the closest ones stretched, raising both wings. I noticed that they were all white underneath, silvery white at the tips with just a hint of pale gray showing through. The bird was smaller than both the Glaucous Gulls and Herring Gulls it was with. The mantle was slightly darker gray than the Herring Gulls'. This appearance did not change with position. The underparts and head were white with heavy dark streaking on the head. The bird had a smaller rounder head than the Herring Gulls and its yellowish bill was noticeably smaller and slimmer. Its eyes were dark. Herring Gulls' eyes were clearly yellow at this close range. At rest the primary tips were black with a white spot at the tip of each. The white spots

seemed larger than on Herring Gulls. The legs were flesh colored. After just a few minutes the gulls all left, flying off toward the lake.—*Robbye Johnson, 2602 N. 28th St., Superior, WI 54880.*

This species was also documented by Mark Peterson.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoides*)

29 January–1 February 1993, Milwaukee Co., Pieces of Eight Restaurant—While checking a large number

of Herring Gulls in the harbor, a gull in flight came into my field of view that had no black on its wing tips. It was not very close, but I could see that there was a small amount of gray near the tips of the primaries, surrounded by a whiter area. The mantle and remaining part of the wing were gray, about the same shade as nearby Herring Gull adults in flight (definitely not any darker). The flight was similar to Herring Gulls, with the overall size being slightly smaller. No details could be seen on eye, bill, or leg color, due to the distance. The key points were the larger amount of white on the wing tips, with no black, but gray instead, and smaller, slimmer shape. Three days later, I saw what appeared to be the same gull closer in to shore. It was again in flight and leg and eye color could not be determined. The bill was pale (yellow?) with no dark markings. The wings and mantle were perhaps one shade lighter than the adjacent Herring Gull adults, but very close in color. The body was a little smaller and slimmer than the Herring Gulls. The key point again was the wing tips. The wing tips were basically white with a thin gray stripe running almost at right angles across the tips of the primaries creating a white-gray-white striped ap-

pearance. The underwing seemed to show only a hint of gray (not seen clearly). I had seen numerous Glaucous Gulls ranging from blond, to all white, to adult this winter and all were much larger and heavier looking than this bird, as well as lacking gray on their wing tips. The closest possibility seems a Thayer's Gull, based on size and the gray primary marking.—*Dennis Gustafson, 15440 Linfield Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151.*

15 February 1993, Milwaukee Co., Juneau Lagoon—I stopped at the Juneau Lagoon and found a mixed flock of mostly Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls. There was also 1 other gull present that looked different from the others. It was about the same size as the nearby Herring Gulls. The overall color was a light tan, including the wings and tail. There were slightly darker, small spots that gave the bird a "checkered" look. The feet were pink. The bill was completely black, shorter and narrower than the nearby Herring Gulls. The bird did not fly while I was there.—*Mark Peterson, Box 53, Caroline, WI 54928.*

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*)

13 December 1992, Sheboygan Co., North Point—When this gull and the surrounding Herring Gulls were all facing the same direction, this gull was head and shoulders above the Herring Gulls.

Head, neck, underparts, and tail were snowy white, except for very faint streaks on top of the head. Mantle was sooty blackish. When wings were folded (and also when the bird was in

flight) we noted white spots at the very tips of the primaries.

Legs were pale pink. Bill was large and yellow, with a large bright red spot towards the tip of the lower mandible. The eye area looked dark from a distance; but looking through a 32-power scope we could see the iris was pale.—*David and Margaret Brasser, 813 Logan Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53083.*

24 December 1992, Sheboygan Co., North Point—This was an unmistakable, adult Great Black-backed Gull, better and clearer than any textbook illustration. The bird had a clear white unmarked head, dark black mantle, huge yellow bill with red mark at gonys, pink legs and feet (pale pink). The bird was 4 to 5 inches longer than nearby Herring Gulls and much heavier in build. We had morning light, but considering the low angle of the sun at this time of year, we were afforded an excellent view from our position along the shore, south and southwest of this bird. We watched for approximately 10–15 minutes before turning our attention to other, nearby gulls. When we looked back for another view, the Great Black-backed Gull had flown, and we did not relocate it.—*William P. Mueller, 1244 S. 45th St., Milwaukee, WI 53214.*

23 January 1993, Manitowoc Co., Two Rivers—While scanning the gulls at the mouth of the river, I located an immature Great Black-backed Gull resting on the breakwall. It towered over the nearby Herring Gulls and had a massive black bill. The mantle and wings were dark brown and contrasted sharply with the white head and underparts. This gull was soon joined by two other juveniles of the same spe-

cies. In flight the white rump and thick black tail band were apparent and the wing span was much greater than that of the Herring Gull.

As I continued to scan the breakwall, I observed two adult Great Black-backed Gulls. The upperparts of these birds was very dark charcoal gray, only slightly lighter than the black of the primaries. Again the bills were much heavier than the Herring Gulls and these birds stood a head taller than the surrounding gulls. Bill was yellow with a red spot, head, tail and underparts were white, and like the juveniles, the legs were pink. These five Great Black-backed Gulls were resting within 30 meters of each other.—*Mark Korducki, 4410 S. 21 St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.*

This species was also documented by Mark Peterson, Thomas C. Wood and Dennis Gustafson.

ADULT MALE OSPREY KILLED AT NEST BY GREAT HORNED OWL

18 May 1993, Oneida Co., Rainbow Flowage—While considerable literature exists relative to osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nests being preempted by nesting Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), little conclusive evidence of owl predation on adult nesting ospreys has been documented to date. The following observation was made while conducting a reproductive and sample collecting survey at the Rainbow Flowage osprey nest colony.

On approaching osprey nest platform On-#11, I observe the adult female circling wide and low about the nest without the characteristic distress peeping associated with the presence of eggs or young. Two days prior this bird was observed incubating during a survey flight. The nest was lined with

fresh material but contained no eggs. Approximately 8 feet from the pole base the adult male was found, his head missing, his breast and back deeply punctured in several places. Clenched in both feet were tufts of the mottled brown breast and down feathers of a Great Horned Owl. The owl had traveled approximately 800 feet

out into the flowage to reach the site where the kill was made.

I returned to the colony 9 July 1993, to survey and band, and observed two adult ospreys on the nest where the male was killed 8 weeks prior, suggesting that a new male was recruited to this site during the interval.—*Christian W. Cold, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Mead Wildlife Area, Milledore, WI 54454.*

NORTHERN HAWK-OWL (*Surnia ulula*)

24 January 1993, Vilas Co., Town of Phelps—Bird perched on subcanopy lateral branch of red pine approximately 200 feet off town road with its back to my view. Approximate size of an American Crow or Ruffed Grouse. First observed brownish back with prominent, light-colored spotting. Similar coloration and spotting on wings and back of the head. As bird moved its head around to look towards me I could see alternate lighter and darker triangular patch pattern on the side of the head. Triangular patches appeared longer than wide; wider near the neck and narrowing toward the top of the head.

Whitish, divergent "V" eyebrow line over the eyes. I waded through snow to within 50–60 feet of the bird and a side view. Easily noted yellow eyes and light, yellowish bill. Light spotting on forehead as well. Prominent "V" pattern of whitish (light) feathers over the eyes and down to bill. Posture rather horizontal on perch branch with brownish tail extending several inches beyond wing tips. Underside with narrow, brownish horizontal barring on breast, sides, stomach and flanks.

Bird seemed very indifferent to my



Figure 1. Remains of male Osprey killed by Great Horned Owl. Photo by Christian W. Cold.



Figure 2. Owl breast feathers in Osprey feet. Photo by Christian W. Cold.

approach to within 50 feet. Its only obvious movement was turning its head to occasionally look in my direction.—*James E. Baughman, 1831 River Pine Road, Eagle River, WI 54521.*

29 January 1993, Oneida Co., Pelican Lake—On my second search of the area, I observed the Northern Hawk-Owl perched on the tip of a dead spruce tree. The large rounded head was typical of an owl, but the tail was long and narrow. Strong black lines bordered the white facial disks and just behind these lines were white auricular patches. Underparts were heavily barred with dark brown and the tail had faint, broad bands. The back was also dark brown with irregular white spotting. Beak, eyes, and feet were yellow.

While perched, the head was in constant motion as it scanned for prey. At one point the owl did capture and consume a vole. It flew with powerful wing beats in a low, direct manner. The wings were quite pointed and well suited for the falcon-like flight.—*Mark Korducki, 4410 S. 21 St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.*

This species was also documented by Mark Peterson, Brian Boldt, Kay Burcar, Robbye Johnson and Bill Rear-don.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*)

18 December 1992, Racine Co.—In poor light, the head and throat appeared dark brown. The belly was dusky gray with faint streaks and the chest was dingy white. A spotlight was positioned next to the feeder to keep it from freezing and this illuminated the bird as it fed. In the light the head

and throat were a vibrant rose color. This color extended onto the sides of the face. Back was entirely green and shone iridescent in good light. During the 30 minutes I viewed the feeder, the Anna's Hummingbird fed twice before disappearing from sight.—*Mark Korducki, 4410 S. 21st St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.*

1 January 1993, Racine Co.—Did not appear to differ significantly in size and proportions from Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Though obviously no direct comparison was possible. Throat was reddish-pink, bright in full sunlight, otherwise pinkish-brown. Pink color extended back from bill onto cheeks, but was not solid. The left cheek especially seemed to have several white patches amid the pink. Back was green, and breast was gray-green. Most likely an immature male.—*Brian Boldt.*

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*)

19 December 1992–3 March 1993 Outagamie County—On 3 March 1993 the sun was shining brightly and the temperature was just above freezing. Several inches of new snow were on the ground. Using my car as a blind, I decided to take some slides of the constant stream of Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers coming to my suet feeder in a white ash tree near my driveway.

Soon a small bird appeared in the forsythia bush at the southwest corner of my house. With my 10×50 binoculars I was able to determine that the bird was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The bird appeared to be very small; smaller than a Black-capped Chickadee that

was in the same bush for a few moments; smaller than a Carolina Wren. The Kinglet had a small, thin, pointed bill, and a white eye ring. No eye stripe or any color was visible on top of its head. It had a dark gray or dusky underside, olive coloration on top of its head, back, and upper tail coverts. It also had two white wing bars on each wing, with a faint black bar under the lowest or outer white wing bar and white stripes on remiges, rectrices, dark wings and tail, and thin black legs and feet. The most notable part of the bird's appearance was its small size.

Constant motion was a notable characteristic of the bird; constantly hopping from twig to twig in the forsythia bush. Then it would fly up under the eaves on the west gable end of the house, hawking small insects out of the air. (The warm sun on the brown shingles on the gable end of the house was evidently stirring some winged insects into flying.) Several times the bird chased after one over the roof, fluttering and sometimes hovering, to catch them; sometimes perching on the edge of the roof or the gutter, then returning to the forsythia.

Between woodpeckers' visits at the suet, the Kinglet flew to the suet and pecked at and ate suet. When a woodpecker would return the small bird would return to the forsythia. This happened at least six times, and I was able to take several good telephoto pictures of the bird.

What appeared to be the same bird, although no particular identifying mark could be seen, was observed on 19 December 92 on the Christmas bird count. According to my WSO weekly checklist records, the bird was seen on the weeks of 3–10 Jan 93, 24–30 Jan, 7–13 Feb., 28 Feb.–6 Mar.

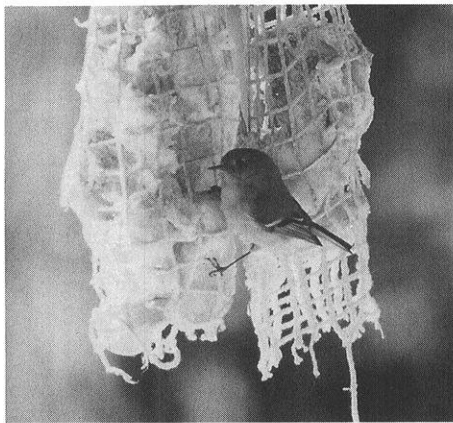


Figure 3. Ruby-crowned Kinglet on suet. Photo by Carlton Mahn.

In Samuel Robbins' book, (*Wisconsin Birdlife* pg. 430), the last paragraph states, "No Ruby-crown has been known to survive a Wisconsin winter." I wish the bird would have been banded or marked or had some distinguishing feature to make a positive statement that one bird had made it, at least until March third. The week of 7–13 Mar was a very cold and snowy week with night temperatures at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit and the bird has not been seen since.—*Carlton Mahn, 1140 Hillcrest Drive, Kaukauna, WI 54130.*

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*)

5 February 1993, Sauk Co., Devil's Lake State Park—Sue Barton and I found a silent Townsend's Solitaire near the intersection of the Balanced Rock Trail with the Devil's Loop Trail. It responded to a recording of the species song by flying towards us and perching on top of a red cedar. We viewed it for 2.5 minutes at eye level

from a distance of 40 feet. Its buffy wing patches flashed in flight but we could not detect the white outer tail feathers. It had a slim body shape with a relatively long tail that was balanced in proportion to the rest of the bird. We noted its distinct whitish eye ring, which was complete but appeared thickest posterior and superior to the eye. There was diffuse, dusky coloration in the lores; the rest of the head, the nape and back were gray. The lesser and median coverts were also gray, with a poorly defined buffy patch on the greater coverts (or primaries?). The tertials and secondaries were blackish with pale gray edging (could not see primaries well due to angle of view). Underparts were lighter gray than upper parts. The relatively small bill and legs were black.—*Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.*

7 February 1993, Sauk Co., Devil's Lake State Park—At our second stop on Devil's Doorway Trail, we heard some strange squeaks or whistles from the talus slopes below. Watching closely the area from where the sound came, a Townsend's Solitaire suddenly flew up from the pines and passed below us about 50 yards off. We had an excellent 10 second look at the top side.

Long dark grayish tail with very distinct white lateral edging. Upper parts of back and wings a gray color with a very noticeable buffy patch on the wings. Did not see well enough to notice an eye ring.—*Robert C. Domagalski.*

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*)

3 January 1993, Price Co., west of Park Falls—After watching through

the windows for awhile, the bird flew into a spruce tree close to the house. It hopped from limb to limb about 3 feet above the ground for a bit before it came down onto the ground where Mr. Rolnik had scattered bird seed (mainly sunflower seeds). There was no snow under the tree. The thrush did a lot of scratching among the needles and leaves under the tree, like it was looking for insects.

About the size of an American Robin, the breast is orange with a dark band across the front, orange stripe above the eyes and orange wing bars. The nape and back are a bluish gray. Under the tail the feathers were white. The bill is shaped very similar to the American Robin, and was dark in color.

No song was heard.—*Maybelle Hardy, N15210 Pine Creek Rd., Park Falls, WI 54552.*

29 January 1993, Jefferson Co., east of Lake Mills—After scanning the yard for over an hour, a bird that was robin-sized and shaped flew into a large crabapple tree that was laden with fruit. We immediately noticed the overall gray color, orange eyebrow, orange throat and orange breast separated by a black band, white belly, and gray wings full of orange. The bird didn't stay more than a minute in the tree before flying to the ground and moving out of view. We next found it searching the leaf litter beneath some mature spruces by tossing the leaves in the air. Moving around for a better view, we noted a dark gray cap, wide eyeline and eye, a black bill with a lighter lower mandible, a medium gray back and tail, an orange breast that was somewhat "mackereler" (like a mackerel sky) along the sides (the bird was

puffed up some as it was only 10°). The orange extended down the sides, but was lighter, so the sides looked mainly light gray, which also had a mackerel look to it. The wings were medium gray with diffuse orange wingbars, and orange throughout the entire wing in no discernable pattern. The undertail coverts and tail feathers were white, with dark longitudinal and cross-barring. When the bird flew, we could see white spots on the outer edges of the tail. At one point, this male Varied Thrush repeatedly pounded a crabapple (which was presumably frozen), that was on the ground, eating small pieces.—*Karen Etter Hale, 517 Tower St., Lake Mills, WI 53551.*

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

4 February 1993, Milwaukee Co., Whitefish Bay—The initial view was the usual tanager view—looking straight up 40 feet into the top of a tree. A cardinal/tanager-sized, yellowish bird chased a singing male Northern Cardinal from the top of a tree. A yellow lower breast and belly were evident as was a notched, medium length blackish tail. As it chased House Finches, we lost sight of it. In a few minutes, it was noted at the feeder in the backyard approximately 100 feet from us. The blackish wings were noted with 2 white wing bars. The head was yellowish, but dingier than the yellow breast. The upper back was dingier gray yet, compared to the head. The face was not visible as it fed. It flew into shrubbery, disappearing for 5 to 10 minutes. It next appeared on the lower roof area over the back porch in full sunlight. The tan to faint orange (?) beak was noted. It was heavy like a finch, but a

bit longer—typical of a tanager. The eye was dark in color. The olive-yellow to gray yellow face contrasting with the dingier back and brighter breast were noted again, as was the black tail and wings (with 2 wing bars). It then flew into a crabapple tree and fed on some of the fruit. In all of its interactions it was a dominant bird—driving House Finches, House Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Northern Cardinals off preferred feeding sites.—*James C. Frank, 4339 W. Laverna Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53092.*

14 February 1993, Milwaukee Co., Whitefish Bay—The bird was much larger than the finches, juncos and chickadees that were in the yard, but smaller and proportionately shorter than a robin. It looked about the size of a chunky Scarlet Tanager. The head, nape and underparts were a strong but not bright yellow. Rump and undertail coverts were bright yellow. The wings and tail were dark grayish brown. Two wing bars were present, the upper one wide and yellow, the lower much narrower and white. The yellowish flesh colored bill was heavier and shorter than an oriole's but much longer than a finch's bill. The back was greenish gray with subtle but clear dark streaks. We watched it feed on sunflower seeds (!) at and under a feeder and crabapples for about 15 minutes at 20 to 30 feet.—*Robbye Johnson, 2602 N. 28th St., Superior, WI 54480.*

This species was also documented by Brian Boldt, Mark Korducki, Kay Burcar, Sam Robbins, Dennis Gustafson, Daryl Tessen, and Mark Peterson.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

28 December 1992, Sheboygan Co., at a feeder—After watching the feeder for

over an hour, I noticed a large dark sparrow fly to the ground under the feeder. Before I could focus on the bird it immediately left the area, but about two minutes later it returned. This time I noted the solid golden crown between two dark stripes above the eye. From the side view the dark brown stripes above the eyes weren't as distinct but when the bird was viewed directly facing me the two stripes below the crown appeared almost black. I noted two black malar stripes reaching from the lower mandible to the upper breast. The brown rump was unstreaked, the back streaked, and there were two prominent white wing bars on the rust colored wings. The dark brown tail was long and the bird flicked it much like the behavior of a green-tailed towhee. The cheek and upper breast were unstreaked grayish brown, with the chin a lighter brown than the clear breast. The upper mandible of the bill was dusky brown while the lower mandible was flesh colored. The legs were bright flesh color. There was a very distinct white eye ring on the under side of the eye. The entire viewing time the bird fed on black oil sunflower seeds on the ground along with American Goldfinches, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Hairy Woodpecker.—*Kay Burcar, 5136 Enchanted Valley Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.*

10 January 1993, Sheboygan Co.— Overall size and shape like White-crowned Sparrow. Fairly bright golden-yellow crown stripe, squared, not pointed in front, and separated from culmen by black line which continued below crown and above eye back to nape. Sides of face and chin gray, distinctly separated from white

breast and brownish back. Back olive brown, finely streaked with darker brown, the streaking ending before the rump which was solid olive-brown. Breast dull white with chestnut color along flanks. The bird would appear out of some deciduous woods and perch in an area of dogwood with a few pines, then proceed to feeder where it would feed for anywhere between a few seconds and a few minutes, returning every 20–30 minutes.—*Brian Boldt.*

17 January 1993, Sheboygan Co.— The sparrow was larger and slightly heavier than most White-crowned Sparrows I have seen. The back was streaked with about 5 darker brown streaks, and the wings had distinct wing bars. The tail was slightly forked without other noticeable or unusual features. The gray of the belly and breast was mottled and often seemed to be brownish. The bird had a very distinct white throat patch that was lined on the side by darker gray feathers. The head had a very distinct thick crown stripe on the gray feathering on the face and auricle area that joined at the base of the bill. The eye ring was unusual in that it was more evident under the eye, than it was contrasting with the crown stripe where it appeared to be quite thin. The golden/yellow crown which filled the area between the crown stripes was visible only under optimal lighting. This was seen on only several occasions similar in fashion to the way the colouration of the throat in the Ruby-throated Hummingbird appears, and was equally spectacular.

The bill, although it was light in colour, did not give the same pinkish appearance as that of the White-crowned

Sparrow. The upper mandible was pinkish only at the middle and the base becoming light gray toward the tip. The lower mandible also appeared gray at the tip, but less pinkish at the base. The legs were light coloured, but again not as strongly pinkish as they are in the White-crowned Sparrow or Field Sparrow.

At times a Hairy Woodpecker shared the feeder platform. Each

seemed to tolerate the others presence as there was minimal interaction between the two birds, although they did maintain a "space of courtesy."—*Charles Sontag, 801 N. 4th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220.*

This species was also documented by Roger Reif, Robert Domagalski, Dennis Gustafson, James Frank and Daryl Tessen.

50 years ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

More than half of this issue is a paper by Walter Scott entitled "The Canada Spruce Grouse in Wisconsin." The following are taken from this paper: "The Spruce Grouse has since 1900 reduced its range in the state considerably, receding all along its southern border. Of course, it should be understood that even in the area shown as 'present range,' this bird now is found only in certain isolated localities." The accompanying range map showed its range in 1932–42 as portions of Bayfield, Sawyer, Ashland, Iron, Price, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Langlade, and Florence. The total state population was estimated by Scott as being between 516 and 820 birds. "This is a story of a rapid loss of range by a valuable native Wisconsin bird, due to a complexity of reasons. The common denominator in this destruction was man and probably the largest single factor was his hunting of these tame partridge, but lumbering fires and settlement in general accounted for the remainder. . . . The Spruce Grouse is a native of Wisconsin—a beautiful, interesting and friendly bird—it does no one any harm. One might as well be unconcerned about the loss of the Canada Jay in the State because they are of no economic value. All Wisconsin sportsmen should become acquainted with the Spruce Grouse in their state, considering it not a bird at which to aim, but one to look at while stalking deer in the north woods or trout fishing on the Brule." (Excerpts from Volume 5, 1943)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ARTISTS

Cary Hunkel has her Masters of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her work has been shown at "Birds in Art" in Wausau.

Eric E. Jorgensen is currently working on his Ph.D. in Wildlife at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX after completing his M.S. in Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1992. He is studying rodent and reptile communities in the Chihuahuan Desert of New Mexico.

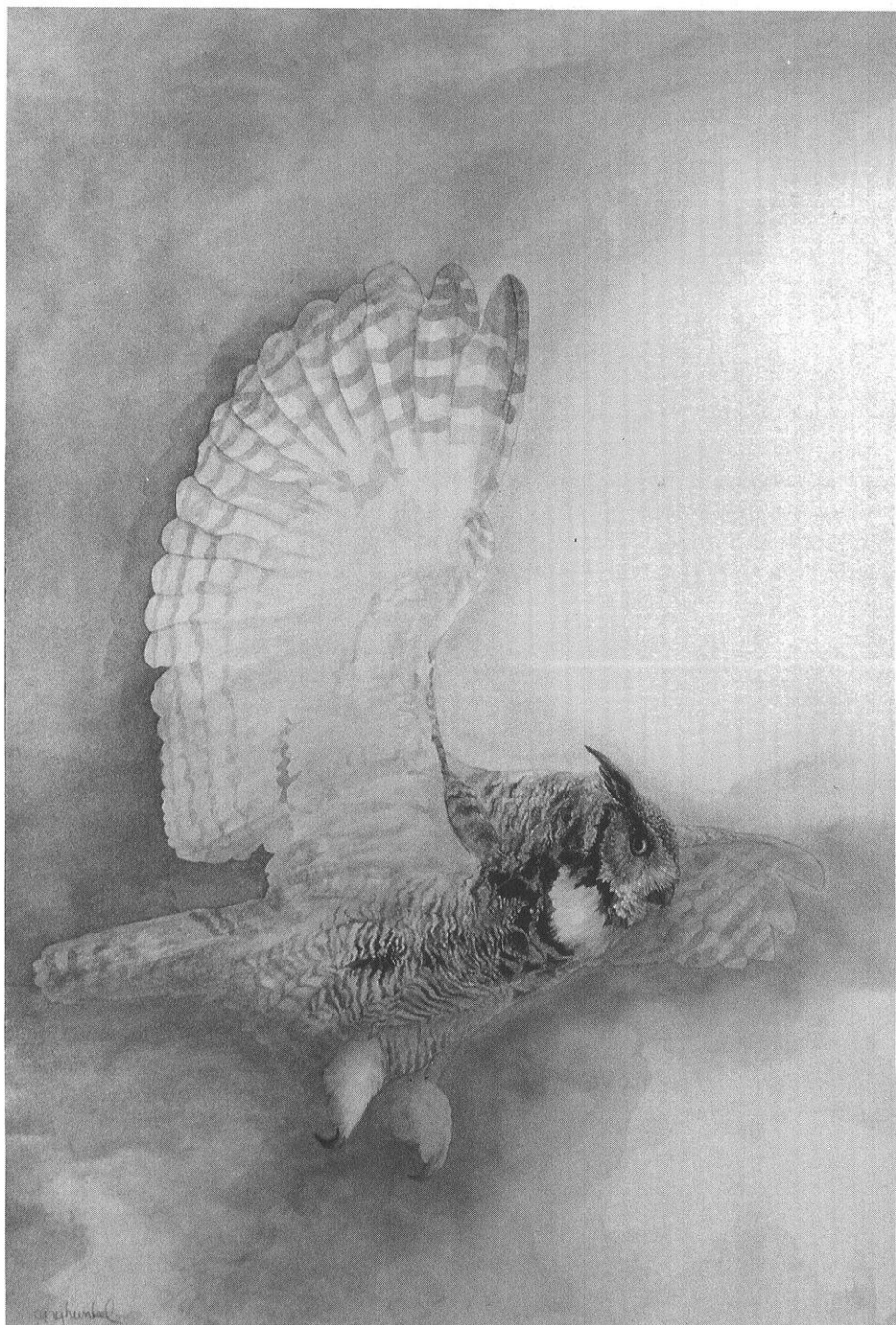
Kenneth I. Lange has been the Naturalist at Devil's Lake State Park since 1966. He has a master's degree from the University of Arizona. Ken has been a frequent contributor to WSO publications: as a field-note compiler and author of articles and the book, *Breeding Birds of the Baraboo Hills*. He formerly worked at the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. National Museum.

He is the 1993 recipient of WSO's Silver Passenger Pigeon award.

Lyle E. Nauman is a Professor at UW-Stevens Point and active in the field of Conservation Biology.

Thomas H. Nicholls is a Project Leader and Research Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station and an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. He is currently researching the importance of stopover habitats to migratory songbirds in northern Wisconsin as part of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program, Partners in Flight.

Charles Sontag is WSO's current President and Professor of Biological Sciences at UW-Manitowoc. He holds an MS and PhD from UW-Madison and is an active birder statewide.



"Homeward" by Cary Hunkel

NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING (MAY 22, 1993, OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN)

The 54th annual business meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was called to order at 1:33 P.M. in the Halsey Science Center of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh by President Allen Shea with approximately 110 people present. The convention was hosted by the Oshkosh Bird Club. Convention chairman was Bettie Hariman.

Minutes of the May 30, 1992 meeting held at Northland College were distributed at the door to the meeting room. On motion of Mary Donald, seconded by Randy Hoffman, the minutes were approved.

President Shea thanked Bettie Hariman and all the volunteers of the Oshkosh Bird Club and of the UW Oshkosh that have put on this excellent convention. He also gave thanks to all the board members and committee chairman of WSO for their service this past year.

Vice-president Charles Sontag reported that the Ned Holister Bird Club of the Beloit/Janesville area has offered to host the 1994 convention. On motion by Mary Donald, seconded by Daryl Tessen and duly passed, the offer was accepted. The convention will be held May 20-22 at Beloit College.

Ed Peartree said that some of the WSO members want the annual meeting, not in May but rather in April or

June to stay away from the peak migration time. President Shea said that there are many factors to be considered when choosing a date but mostly availability of time and help at the host school. There are many who prefer May dates because of the migration.

With the minutes handed out at the entrance to the meeting hall were reports of the treasurer's report and other officers and committee heads. A copy of these reports are filed with the original copy of these minutes and become an integral part thereof. Below are summaries of some of the reports or additional comments made at this meeting.

Treasurer Alex Kailing's report consisted of a statement of 1992 revenue and expenses and the balance sheet as of 1992 year end.

The balance sheet showed total assets of \$159,690. This breaks down as follows:

	1992	1993
Cash	\$ 638	\$ 2,871
Savings		
General	21,702	38,355
Endowment	13,306	10,082
Investments		
Endowment	20,000	25,002
Scholarship	14,578	0
Savings	0	6,000
Inventories		
Slides	3,165	3,105
Slides cash	2,603	2,265
Book Store	38,998	36,243
Cash	3,667	3,196
Equipment	675	675
Land and Buildings		
Prairie Chicken land	1,491	1,491
Honey Creek	21,476	21,476
Nature Center	8,929	8,929
Total	\$151,170	\$159,690

A copy of the complete treasurer's report is attached to the original copy of these minutes and becomes an integral part thereof.

Membership—Alex Kailing's membership report distributed showed total membership as of May 1, 1993 as 1259, down 33 from 1992. There were 237 non-renewals compared to 59 last year.

New membership brochures are available from the WSO bookstore.

Field trips—Tom Schultz said the popularity of the pre-convention trips have sparked interest in overnight field trips. They will try to have some during the coming year.

Associate editor—Daryl Tessen made a plea for reports on warbler and shorebird migration waves.

Education—Bill Volkert was not able to attend because he was in Siberia at Lake Baikal to plan a field trip to the area. Prior to leaving he made a mailing for WSO to about one hundred nature and bird clubs in Wisconsin regarding the pending Migratory Bird Day. This is an attempt to have May counts throughout the country all on the same day all using the same regulations.

Records committee—Jim Frank, who was not able to be present, heads this committee. His report was in the hand-out. Other members of the committee are Tom Schultz, Al Shea, Mark Peterson and Robbye Johnson.

	Records Reviewed	Records Accepted	Records Rejected
Winter '92	55	50	5
Spring '92	46	36	10
Summer '92	20	18	2
Fall '92	22	19	3
Totals	143	123	20

86% acceptance rate:

Committee members: Al Shea, Tom Schultz, Jim Frank, Mark Peterson, Robbye Johnson

Research—Bob Howe described in more detail the upcoming National Science Experiment sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Science Foundation. He also noted that a new tape recording of northern Wisconsin forest bird songs will be available at this summer's Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey scheduled for June 11–13.

My major accomplishment during 1992–93 was completion of an article entitled *Research Opportunities for Part-time Ornithologists*, published in the Summer issue of *Passenger Pigeon*. This article represents the philosophy that many excellent research opportunities are available for WSO members, many of whom already are major contributors.

I continue to serve on the advisory board for the *National Science Experiment*, an ambitious project sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and funded by the National Science Foundation. Three experimental studies have been developed: 1) a study of Rock Dove behavior aimed at participants from urban areas; 2) an experiment involving winter bird feeding; and 3) a study of tanager breeding in different-sized upland woodlots. I have been working with a group of WSO members in the Green Bay area on a trial test of the tanager project.

The full-scale program will be initiated during 1993–94. I will be attending a meeting in Ithaca next week to discuss details of the project, and will be helping WSO members and others to become involved in the experiments.

During February Noel Cutright and I represented WSO at a working group of *Partners in Flight*, a cooperative program (led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) aimed at promoting conservation and research of neotropical migratory birds. Sumner Matteson and Gerry Bartelt of the Wisconsin DNR are leading the formation of a Wisconsin working group tentatively scheduled to meet on August 25 or 26th.

During the coming year I plan to continue involvement with the *National Science Experiment*, the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey, and *Partners in Flight*. I plan to develop articles for the *Badger Birder* and *Passenger Pigeon* on at least the *National Science Experiment*. Eventually I hope to develop some kind of directory of ornithological research in Wisconsin, although that has been a long-standing goal that I have not yet been able to fulfill.

Robert W. Howe

Supply department—(Now called the WSO Bookstore) Retired Chuck Gilmore stood to receive a long round of applause for his sixteen years of devotion to the department. Chuck was thanked for the many books from his personal library that were donated to the supply department for resale.

November 1, 1992, Mark and Margie Amato took over as managers of the Supply Department. They were introduced to the members. Their complete report follows:

In the interval April, 1992–March,

1993, the WSO Bookstore sold \$10,040 in books and supplies. Of that amount, \$3,062.49 was WSO publications.

We plan to continue the same format—with mail-order business being the majority of the sales as a lot of time and effort are needed in this volunteer position.

We have two new retailers who have our WSO publications in stock: Wild Bird Marketplace in Appleton, and Chickadee Depot on Madison. We continue to send our WSO publications to many in-state and out-of-state nature organizations and resale outlets, as well as assisting the WSO membership with obtaining bird and other nature publications per their request.

Goals for 1993–1994:

1. Update the catalog, because some listings are now out-of-print.
2. Reduce our inventory of LP records. Cassettes will remain in stock. CDs will be available through special order.
3. Update the children's section; we hope to have bird and nature offerings from pre-school through high school.
4. Order checklists from Wisconsin and birding "hot spots" so the members of WSO may have them available for their next birding vacation.
5. Offer travel packages; i.e., guides, checklists, cassettes of various areas where birders may travel.

We plan to provide the quality service you are used to. To order, mail your request to 1516 West Fiesta Lane, Mequon, WI 53092, or telephone 414–241–5165.

Conservation—Noel Cutright reported that the Bird-a-thon/Band-a-

thon was successful again this year. Noel thanked the members for their support. \$2336 was raised.

Noel said that he will write periodic articles on conservation issues for the BIRDER.

Scholarships and grants—John Idzikowski's reported recipients of these as follows:

1993 Steenbock Awards (Independent research, often by amateurs) were won by Michael Grimm and Claudine Long.

1993 WSO Grants (Supervised or sponsored research by professionals and/or students) Mary Derr, Cheryl Dykstra, Jennifer Graetz, Monica Riegler, Margaret Robertson and Keith Warnke.

Passenger Pigeon editor—Stan Temple's report follows:

Volume 54 of *The Passenger Pigeon* featured the following items of note:

- 384 pages were published
- 37 articles were contributed by 65 different authors
- 40% of the pages were devoted to birding topics, 44% to research reports, 10% to people, and 6% to WSO business
- 44 pieces of artwork or photography were included

During 1992 the editorial staff consisted of Stanley A. Temple, Daryl D. Tessen, Cary Anrie Reich, Allen K. Shea, Thomas K. Soulen, Mark S. Peterson, and Kenneth I. Lange. I continue to be pleased with the relationship with our typesetter and printer. *The Passenger Pigeon* was once again produced within the allocated budget (\$17,500).

During 1992 a transition in Editors

occurred. Becky Isenring was elected to succeed me at the 1992 Annual Business Meeting, and we worked closely on 3 issues during 1992 to insure that she was fully prepared to assume sole responsibility for the journal. She assumed the position of Editor in January, 1993, and will be responsible for Volume 55. The transition period went smoothly for both Becky and me, and no major changes in the journal are anticipated.

As usual, please let me or Becky know of your opinions about *The Passenger Pigeon*. We are committed to maintaining our position as a top state bird journal.

WSO lands—A master plan for WSO's Honey Creek Natural Area has been developed by a committee headed by Steve Richter. Committee members were Steve Richter, Noel Cutright, Dick Appleyard, Harold Kruse, Gordon Cox, Ed Peartree, Judy Hasleu, Carlo Balistieri, Alex Kailing, and Barbara Kranich. A copy of this report was distributed and summarized by Noel Cutright. It was noted that the plan can be revised at any time with action by the Society. It was moved by Gordon Kratzat, seconded by Jerry Smith that the plan be adopted. Motion carried.

Nominating committee—Daryl Tessen presented the following slate of officers in nomination for 1993-94:

President	Charles Sontag
Vice president	Bettie Harriman
Secretary	Carl Hayssen
Treasurer	Alex Kailing
Editor	Becky Isenring

Bob Howe moved that the nomina-

tions be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the slate presented. The motion was seconded by Randy Hoffman and passed.

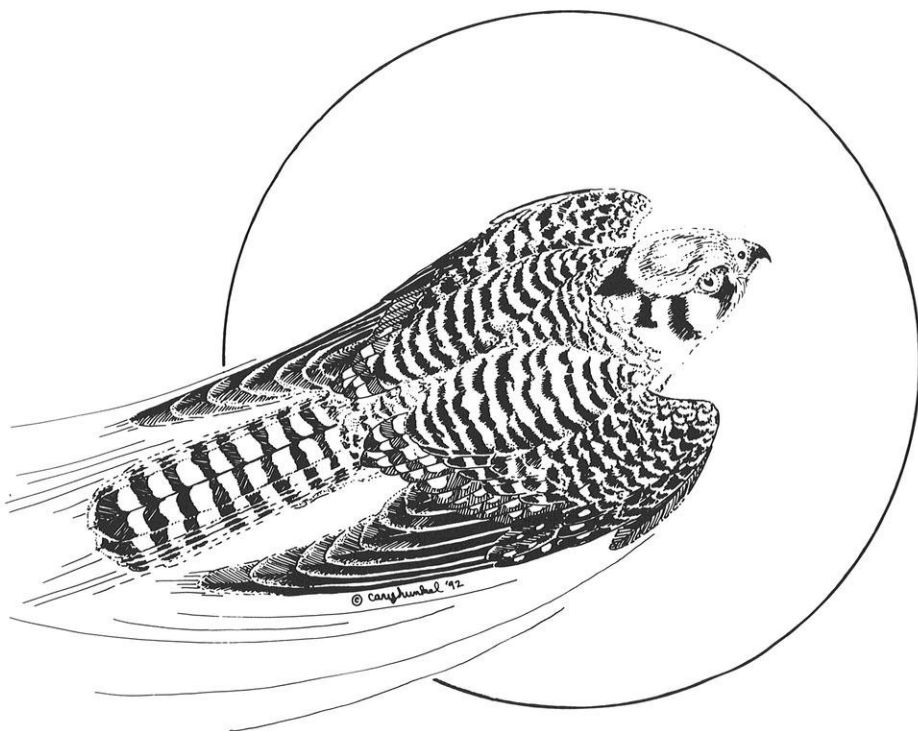
Newly elected president, Chuck Sontag took over. He gave warm and heartfelt thanks to Al Shea for the

work he has done during the past four years.

On motion by Daryl Tessen, seconded by Ike Eckstein and passed the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Carl G. Hayssen, jr. secretary.



"Kestrel" by Cary Hunkel



**Statement of Ownership,
Management and
Circulation**
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1A. Title of Publication THE PASSENGER PIGEON		1B. PUBLICATION NO. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%;">0</td> </tr> </table>		4	2	2	8	2	0	2. Date of Filing 10/1/93					
4	2	2	8	2	0										
3. Frequency of Issue QUARTERLY		3A. No. of Issues Published Annually 4		3B. Annual Subscription Price \$12 - \$18											
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State and ZIP + 4 Code) (Not printers) W330 N8275 W Shore Dr. Hartland, WI 53029-9732															
5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher (Not printer) W330 N8275 W Shore Dr. Hartland, WI 53029-9732															
6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (This item MUST NOT be blank) Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address) WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY, INC. W330 N8275 W Shore Dr. Hartland, WI 53029-9732 Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address) Rebecca S. Isenring 6869 Taylor Rd. Sauk City, WI 53583 Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address) NONE															
7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Full Name</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Complete Mailing Address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY, INC.</td> <td>W330 N8275 W Shore Dr. Hartland, WI 53029-9732</td> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>						Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY, INC.	W330 N8275 W Shore Dr. Hartland, WI 53029-9732						
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10. Extent and Nature of Circulation <i>(See instructions on reverse side)</i>		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date											
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)		1519		1391											
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		0		0											
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales															
2. Mail Subscription (Paid and/or requested)		1354		1287											
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)		1354		1287											
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies)		21		21											
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)		1375		1308											
F. Copies Not Distributed		144		83											
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing															
2. Return from News Agents		0		0											
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)		1519		1391											
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The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 "to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds." The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation, and publication.

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