



# **The passenger pigeon. Volume XV, Number 1 Spring 1953**

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# The PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME XV

*Spring Issue, 1953*

NUMBER 1



ADULT SCREECH OWL

GEORGE PRINS

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**New Editorial Staff.** A new editorial staff for **The Passenger Pigeon**, replacing N. R. Barger who is retiring, is introduced on page 3.

**Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts.** A series of articles describing some of the best birding areas in Wisconsin begins with this issue as a new feature. An introduction to the Mazomanie area begins on page 4.

**Mourning Dove Banding Study.** Harold Mathiak has made some significant studies on the nesting habits of the mourning dove; his summary starts on page 7.

**1952 Christmas Bird Count.** A record-breaking Christmas Bird Count was taken in Wisconsin last year. Turn to page 10 for Carl Strelitzer's summary.

**1953 Convention.** The story of the 1953 W. S. O. convention at Green Bay is written up by Clara Hussong. See page 21.

**How to Keep Field Notes.** One man's system of keeping bird observations on record by means of monthly sheets is described by the editor, starting on page 23.

**Country Calendar.** Observations on the wood duck and nighthawk will be found on page 28, in August Derleth's regular "Country Calendar."

**Feathered Observations.** Some of the food habits and climbing antics of the white-breasted nuthatch are analyzed and drawn by Marilu Madora. See page 30.

**Club Page.** Another new feature beginning with this issue is a page devoted to the activities of local bird clubs around the state. On page 34 in this issue Katharine Jones tells how the Wausau club got started. The editors hope that all local club leaders will see to it that we learn about the activities and accomplishments of your club, for future publication.

**By the Wayside.** The addition of the Bullock's oriole to the state list is told on page 39.

**Other Features.** Elsewhere in this issue: the summary of field notes for the autumn season, a helpful bibliography, the student page, and news items.

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Application for entry as second-class matter is pending.

## N. R. BARGER RETIRES AS EDITOR

This is the first issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** in nearly ten years which has not been edited by N. R. Barger. Barger took on the editor's job when the magazine's first editor, Walter E. Scott, was called into service in 1943. For nearly ten years Barger has edited a magazine of high quality, and maintained a standard that has placed **The Passenger Pigeon** in the ranks of the outstanding state ornithological journals. He declined re-nomination for the job this year, making necessary the election of a new editor at the annual meeting at Green Bay; but he is continuing to serve W. S. O. in other ways as much as ever.

Barger has been instrumental in the growth of the Society since the very beginning. He was one of a group of Madison ornithologists who first formed the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in 1939, and served as its first president. Besides serving as editor for nine and one-half years, he also was responsible for the start of the W. S. O. bookstore in 1947. This has now grown into such a big enterprise that it has been divided into three branches. In relinquishing the editor-ship, he continues to maintain the operation of the store, especially the part dealing with books and binoculars.

## *New Editorial Staff*

By N. R. BARGER

It is a pleasure to introduce members of the new editorial staff.

**Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.** (Sam) first observed birds in Wisconsin in 1939. Born in Belmont, Massachusetts, December 16, 1921, Sam came to Madison in 1939 to enter the University. This completed, he attended the Chicago Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1947. He now lives at Adams, where he serves as pastor of Congregational Churches at Adams and Friendship.

Sam is well known among ornithologists as a keen field observer. In his capacity as field notes editor for **The Passenger Pigeon** from 1946 to 1950, he became known as a congenial leader. We do not hesitate to predict that he will become a leader in his new capacity as Editor-in-Chief of **The Passenger Pigeon**.

No doubt he will be assisted in many ways by his wife, Shirley. Such assistance indeed will be very welcome and appreciated also by the Society as a whole. Shirley majored in psychology while attending the University of Wisconsin and graduated in 1946.

**C. Dennis Besadny**, the new Associate Editor who will be in charge of field notes, was born August 9, 1929, in Kewaunee, Wisconsin. "Buzz," who is still working toward his degree in wildlife management in the University of Wisconsin, is currently employed by the State Conservation Department.

Buzz, who has attended school for a number of years in Madison, now has settled here and is married. We understand, too, that his wife took zoology in the University and will be a big help in editing field notes.

**Alice Fosse**, the new circulation manager, was born in Cambridge, Wisconsin. Alice resides in Madison, however, where she has been active in bird study, especially, with the Audubon Society. By profession, she is a librarian in the University, and has definite ability in seeing to it that all members get their magazines.

**Mrs. F. L. Larkin** (Dixie) is not new to the staff but is the lone survivor after the recent elections. As "ad taker," she has no equal, so it is hoped that she will serve in this capacity for some time. Dixie's ornithological accomplishments are known to most members and they are many. She has been especially active in the field of preservation of wildlife, and currently has several major projects under way.

## WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

### MAZOMANIE

North and west of the village of Mazomanie in northwestern Dane County are extensive meadows and river bottomlands that have been a favorite haunt for ornithologists for many years. Because of sandy soil, and a series of creeks running through the area, there is considerable territory that has been left relatively free from human intervention. The woods along the south shore of the Wisconsin River attract a number of the more southern species for whom Wisconsin is on the northern fringe of their range. Red-bellied woodpeckers, tufted titmice and cardinals are permanent residents, and along with the pileated woodpecker, might be found along the river the year around.

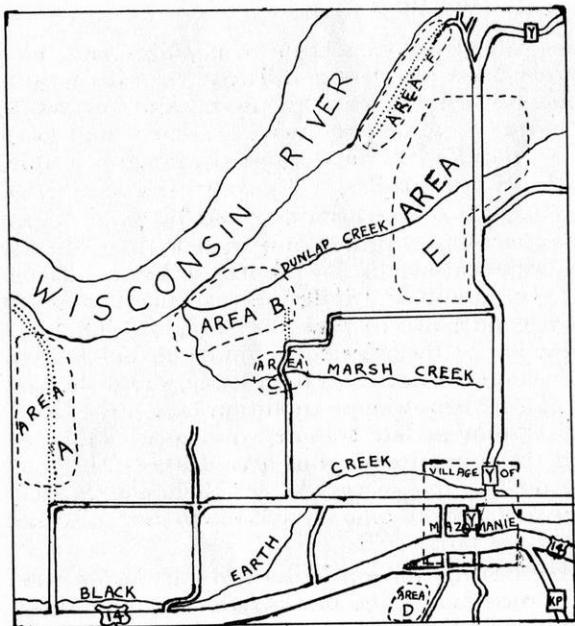
In winter a few other interesting birds may be found. Bald eagles are seen frequently along the river where it remains open, most often near "Area F," but they may be seen anywhere between this area and Sauk City. At night the calls of the barred and great-horned owls are numerous in any of the wooded areas, and may on occasion be joined by the call of a long-eared or a saw-whet owl. Northern shrikes and short-eared owls have been seen along the meadows of "Area A" and "Area E." Flickers, red-headed woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers occasionally winter in the woods.

In March and April the "Area E" meadow proves attractive to red-tailed, rough-legged and marsh hawks. By late April the meadows in "Area A" and "Area E" may have their summer populations of upland plovers, Brewer's blackbirds and Henslow's sparrows. During the May migration, the Mazomanie area has its share of land bird migrants. Observers have recorded the yellow-bellied, Acadian and olive-sided flycatchers, Philadelphia vireo, prairie and hooded warblers, and Harris's sparrow.

Mazomanie is best known, however, for the southern birds that spend the summer here on the northern limits of their range. Blue-gray gnatcatchers and blue-winged warblers are quite numerous in the bottomlands of "Area B" and "Area F." Along the woodland road in "Area F" one is as likely to find a yellow-breasted chat as at any other known location in Wisconsin. It is also along this road that reliable sight records of

the Brewster's warbler have been made on several occasions. If one can make one's way far enough into "Area B" to approach the place where Dunlap and Marsh Creeks empty into the Wisconsin River, one stands a good chance of seeing and hearing the prothonotary and Kentucky warblers. The cerulean warbler and Louisiana water-thrush are other possibilities. Late May or early June is perhaps the best time to search for these species.

Lark sparrows also breed in the Mazomanie area. They have been seen most frequently in "Area D," a sandy hillside one-half mile south of highway 14, but are sometimes found in the sandy area beside the gravel road that leads in toward "Area F." Along the hedgerows leading to "Area D," orchard orioles have sometimes been seen; and near the first farm beyond "Area D," Bewick's wrens have been noted.



AREA A—meadow  
Short-billed Marsh  
Wren  
LeConte's Sparrow  
Nelson's Sparrow

AREA B—wooded  
bottomland  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Red-bellied  
Woodpecker  
Tufted Titmouse  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Kentucky Warbler

AREA C—creek border  
Bell's Vireo

AREA D—sandy upland  
Bewick's Wren  
Orchard Oriole  
Lark Sparrow

AREA E—meadow  
Hawks  
Upland Plover  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Henslow's Sparrow  
White-crowned  
Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow

#### AREA F—wooded bottomland

Bald Eagle	Tufted Titmouse
Pileated Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler
	Yellow-breasted Chat

Another interesting species to be found in the Mazomanie region is the Bell's vireo, but it is difficult to predict where the birds may be found because rarely have they used the same area two consecutive years. In two different years they were present in "Area C"; one summer a nest was discovered in an alder thicket on the road that leads to the Mazo

Food Products Farm some 200 yards before the road joins highway 78; twice the birds have summered nearer Sauk City, close to the junction of highway 78 and county trunk "Y."

Another interesting ornithological find may be made in late September by walking through the grassy meadow in "Area A." There in the long grasses, and in one small area of cat-tails, one may encounter a LeConte's or a Nelson's sparrow. Short-billed marsh wrens frequent this meadow in fall, sometimes remaining until mid-October; other sparrows are attracted to the general area; bobolinks gather here in flocks until mid-September. But the LeConte's and Nelson's sparrows are the most unusual; as many as a dozen Nelson's sparrows have been seen here in one day, during the fourth week of September; and the LeConte's sparrow has been found in the little cat-tail area from the third week in September through the second week in October.

### Directions

To reach "Area A," proceed due west from the Mazomanie post office 3.6 miles, passing from black-top to a gravel road in transit, until the road makes a sharp left turn. Park near this corner, and start walking down the lane to the north. The lane soon crosses a creek and leads out onto a broad expanse of meadow. If one follows the lane for a mile, one comes eventually to the Wisconsin River.

To reach "Area B" and "Area C," proceed due west from the Mazomanie post office 1.5 miles, crossing a bridge and then taking the first right turn. After one mile this road winds down a hill and across Marsh Creek; this is "Area C." After another .3 mile the road makes a sharp right turn; this corner is a good place to park for "Area B." One can start on a lane in the direction of the wooded bottomland, but he will soon be left to his own devices, for there is no path leading into the best area. Because of the lack of a path, a swampy condition before the woodland is reached, dense vegetation in late summer, and avaricious mosquitos, it is recommended that one attempt this area only in May and June. The goal for "Area B" is the place where Marsh and Dunlap Creeks enter the Wisconsin River; if one stays close to one of these creeks, he can keep his bearings fairly well.

"Area D" is reached by starting west on highway 14 at the junction of county trunk "Y," and proceeding three blocks before making a left turn. Following this road .6 mile brings you to the sand area where the lark sparrow is most likely to be found.

For "Area E" and "Area F," take county trunk "Y" north out of the village of Mazomanie. After 1.5 miles one drives down a small hill and enters a broad expanse of meadow. This is "Area E." To find "Area F" continue north on this road until it makes a slight right turn; instead of turning, continue straight on a gravel road and bear left at each of the next two forks. You are then on a sandy road that enters the wooded bottomland and continues for 1.5 miles to where some power lines cross the Wisconsin River. This road can be driven at some seasons, but it is better to park just before entering the woodland; one sees more birds by walking along this road.

Samuel D. Robbins

# A MOURNING DOVE BANDING PROJECT\*

By HAROLD A. MATHIAK

This banding project resulted from a Fish and Wildlife Service memorandum requesting cooperative studies of the mourning dove in the northern states to supplement intensive dove studies under way in the South where doves are an important game bird. Banding of nestling doves was particularly desired.

Knowing little about the nesting habits of mourning doves, I arranged for notices in the Horicon Reporter and Mayville News offering a reward of 50 cents for each active dove nest reported to me. Nests reported through these notices were a great help in showing me where to find many additional nests. Many of the higher nests would not have



MOURNING DOVE NESTLING

PHOTO BY H. W. MOSSMAN

been examined but for the valuable assistance of Robert S. Dorney and Harold D. Hettrick. Extension and step ladders were carried on the car-top carrier most of the summer.

Since it was recommended that nestling doves be banded at 7-10 days of age, as many as three trips were necessary to some nests before the young were large enough to band. Practically the entire nesting study was accomplished during early mornings, late afternoons, or on weekends. At the height of activity in May, there were over twenty active nests at one time, which meant that some nests were scheduled to be checked

\*A report of the banding was given at the 1951 Wisconsin Society for Ornithology convention at Milwaukee. Two additional band returns have been received since then.

each day. A special band, size 3A, has been provided for mourning doves.

**Nest Location:** Sites of 110 nests observed in Dodge County in the summer of 1950 are shown in Table 1. Willow led all other trees in frequency of use by nesting doves. Many of the nests were in the stump type of willow common to Dodge County. There was a very noticeable concentration of mourning dove nests near human activities. Rows of stump willows in the city limits of Horicon had many dove nests while no dove nests were found in several rows of similar willows a few miles away. Similarly, a small group of red cedars within Mayville was consistently used by nesting doves while a larger group of red cedars out in the country did not have a single dove nest. Some nests were built close to the ground despite numbers of children frequenting the nest vicinity. Although no attempt was made to obtain life history information beyond the banding work, it was noticed on many occasions that doves seemed very curious about man's activities. Often a dove sitting on a wire will twist and turn in order to better observe some person approaching or working nearby.

Table 1  
Mourning Dove Nest Location  
Dodge County 1950

Willow .....	42	White Pine .....	1
Spruce .....	26	White Cedar .....	1
Red Cedar .....	13	Apple .....	1
Box Elder .....	7	Hard Maple .....	1
Crataegus .....	3	Rain Gutters .....	5
Norway Pine .....	2		
Basswood .....	2		
Elm .....	2	TOTAL .....	110
Hardwoods .....	62 nests or 56%		
Conifers .....	43 nests or 39%		
Rain gutters .....	5 nests or 5%		

After checking a few dozen nests, it became rather easy to spot new nests, even though only a small portion of the adult was visible from below. At nearly every active dove nest visited, an adult dove would be found on the nest. There were a few exceptions, however, and also a few instances where a dove was sitting on a nest which had neither young nor eggs. Nests were located from 4-40 feet above the ground with an average height of 18 feet.

**Nesting Habits:** Most nests contained two eggs. No definite case of only one egg could be determined. Four nests with three eggs and one nest with four eggs were observed. None of the nests having more than two eggs fledged more than two young. Three young doves were seen on the ground near a nest which was too high to examine. Presumably the three young came from the high nest.

In seven nests eggs were laid a second time. One nest was found in which the second set of eggs was laid before the first young left the nest. Another oddity was a nest in which there was a dead young dove with the adult still on the nest. Nests of other species used by doves were the crow, grackle and robin. A nest of grasses built by grackles was fought for and won by a pair of doves. The doves did not add any twigs to this nest.

Considering the rather flimsy construction of most dove nests, a surprisingly large percentage of nests were successful. Some nests were too high to reach and in others the young were too large to catch, yet 109 nestlings were banded in 57 nests. Approximately 71 nests or 64% are believed to have fledged one or more young. Hatching dates ranged from May 5 to September 4, the peak of hatching being from May 18 to June 9. Latest date at which young were still in the nest was September 19. Two broods of robins had been raised in this nest earlier in the summer.

Two unusual cases of tolerance to human activities were observed. A *Crataegus* tree was chopped off before a dove nest was noticed. The cut tree was propped against a nearby tree and the nest was carried to completion. Another dove nest was built at the base of a branch of a large willow. This branch and other nearby branches were trimmed close to the trunk, leaving the nest in a very exposed position. The doves returned and two young were later banded.

**Feeding Concentrations:** Groups of doves fed at the two feed mills in Horicon during the early morning hours. As many as 25 doves gathered at an abandoned tennis court in Horicon where twelve doves were live-trapped. Two of the eleven adults had feet without nails, indicating frozen feet at some time in the past. During a period of a few weeks, a group of doves was seen feeding daily at a small pile of hops next to a garden in Milwaukee.

**Recoveries:** Four recoveries of banded birds have been received as follows. A nestling banded June 6, 1950, at Horicon was shot in Cass County, Texas, on September 25, 1950. A nestling banded June 22 at Horicon was shot 10 miles west of Miami, Florida, on October 13, 1950. A nestling banded at Horicon on June 26, 1950, was found dead in western Cuba about March 26, 1952. The bird was found dead near a nest containing a young mourning dove. Dr. Abelardo Moreno of the University of Havana contacted the finder of the banded bird, but found nothing to indicate that the bird had been nesting. This recovery is the first for Cuba of any dove banded in the northern United States (letter, Harold S. Peters, Fish and Wildlife Service).

On May 15, 1951, some school boys caught a young dove which I banded and released. It was shot in Georgia on November 3, 1951. Since the mourning dove is a game bird of much importance, it provides a good opportunity for city banders to obtain distant recoveries. Little equipment is needed and the nesting birds can be found close to home. About 30 doves would have to be banded annually in order to average one return per year. This is more fruitful than the large scale banding of migrant song birds from which few recoveries can be expected.

Horicon, Wisconsin

# 1952 *Christmas Counts . . .*

By CARL L. STRELITZER

More than 180 observers took part in 34 counts in 31 areas of the state to set a phenomenal record of 111 kinds of birds seen on the 1952 counts, the best in the history of the Society. Included in the total are such rarities as red-throated loon, Western grebe, surf scoter, glaucous gull, and white-winged crossbill.

Without doubt the mild weather of the autumn season enabled many species to linger beyond their normal migration dates, and the continuance of this weather and the scarcity of snow in many parts of the state permitted feeding which would otherwise have been impossible.

Waterfowl were plentiful, not only along Lake Michigan, but also at Madison and Lake Geneva. The concentration of Canada geese at Waupun and Horicon is especially noteworthy. Hawks were remarkably numerous, pheasants and European partridge quite widespread, and more than the usual quota of screech owls. The woodpecker list was almost complete, with only the three-toeds missing. This could probably be remedied by more counts from the far northern counties in the future.

Of special interest was the presence of the pigeon hawk at South Wayne; Hudsonian chickadee at Wausau; winter wren at Adams, Madison and Monroe; catbird at Waukesha; ruby-crowned kinglet at Appleton, South Wayne and Wisconsin Dells; pipit at Two Rivers; and white-crowned sparrow at Waupun. Golden-crowned kinglets were remarkably numerous. Evening grosbeaks were not plentiful, but pine grosbeaks showed up in five locations with the jackpot in Polk County. Redpolls were widely distributed, appearing on over half the tallies. Vesper sparrows on two counts, field sparrows on four, white-throated sparrows on four, and swamp sparrows on five, helped to give the near appearance of a May-day count. Individuals of a western race of junco, thought to be the Oregon junco, were recorded from Luck and Viroqua.

The only bird to appear on all counts was the black-capped chickadee.

## Details of Individual Counts

ADAMS—Dec. 22. Overcast; wind slight; temp. 32; five inches of snow. One observer. Total hours, 11; total miles, 89 (5 on foot, 84 in car). 30 species, 972 individuals.—Sam Robbins.

APPLETON—Dec. 26. Snow flurries; wind s. w. 14 mph.; temp. 20-26; five inches of crusted snow. Twelve observers in four parties. 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 80 (25 on foot, 55 by car). 23 species, 1044 individuals.—Mrs. Dale Vawter, Mrs. C. M. McEathron, Mrs. A. C. Berry, Miss Cora Harvey, Miss Ann McEathron, Mrs. Walter E. Roller, Mrs. W. C. Rehbein, Mrs. Fred Guenther, Mr. Charles Scribner, Jim Strieby, Jim McEathron, Mrs. Walter E. Rogers.

BALSAM LAKE—Dec. 28. Clear; wind 5 mph.; temp. 25; light snow on ground. One observer. Total hours, 4½; (distance not given). 10 species, 76 individuals.—Mrs. Henry Spencer.

BELOIT—Dec. 21. Overcast; no wind; temp. 33; no snow on ground. Six observers, one party. 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total miles, 52 (6 on foot, 46 by car). 21 species, 381 individuals.—David Cox, Herman Georgs, Harold G. Liebherr, Kenneth Meldrum, H. R. Williams, Dr. Carl Welty.

BELOIT—Jan. 1. Overcast; wind s. s. w. 10-15 mph.; temp. 35; running water open, ponds frozen over. Two observers in one party. Total party hours, 5½; total miles, 40. 17 species, 172 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. David Cox.

BIRNAMWOOD—Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. No weather data. Figures represent largest number seen at one time. One observer. 10 species, 80 individuals.—Mary H. Staege.

COOKSVILLE—Dec. 30. Cloudy; wind n. e. 0 to 5 mph.; temp. 25 to 30; one inch of new snow on ground. Three observers, one party. 7:00 a. m. to 2:00 p. m.; total miles, five miles on foot, 20 by car. 27 species, 646 individuals.—John Wilde, Lyle and Olga Porter.

FORT ATKINSON—Dec. 25. No weather data given. One observer. 7 species, 61 individuals.—Mrs. H. W. Degner.

GREEN BAY—Dec. 21. Cloudy; wind n. e. 5 to 7 mph.; temp. 29 to 34; four to five inches of snow on the ground. Eight observers in five parties. 8:00 a. m. to 3:45 p. m.; total miles 111½ (13½ on foot, 98 by car). 29 species, 2248 individuals.—Edwin D. Cleary, Ed Paulson, Ray Hussong, Clara Hussong, Chester Krawczyk, Mrs. Alvin Weber, Mrs. Paul Romig, Paul Romig.

HORICON—Dec. 23. Overcast and light snow. Four observers in one party. 8:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; Rock River from Hustisford to Horicon and the Horicon Marsh area. 29 species, 1773 individuals.—L. Jahn, A. Rusch, R. Hunt and H. Mathiak.

KENOSHA—Dec. 27. Clear; wind n. n. w., 6 mph; temp. 7 to 26; no snow. Six observers; total hours, 7½; total miles, 39 (35 by car, 4 on foot). 41 species, 837 individuals.—Laurie Binford, Mrs. Eva Fenner, Richard Gordon, Mrs. Mabel Higgins, Tom Kemper, Richard Macomber.

LAKE GENEVA—Dec. 25. Lake entirely free of ice, no other weather data given. Seven observers. Time and distance not given. 47 species, 1525 individuals.—Earl Anderson, Karl Bartel, Laurie Binford, Charles T. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Campbell, C. O. Palmquist.

LAKE GENEVA—Dec. 18. No weather data given. One observer. Time and distance not given. 11 species, 128 individuals.—Sarah Ruhl.

LUCK—Dec. 29. Cloudy with heavy snow falling about 3 p. m.; temp. 20-30; wind w.; six inches of snow on the ground. Two observers. Total miles, 24 (20 by car, 4 on foot). 11 species, 156 individuals including 2 unidentified hawks.—Mrs. Lester M. Pedersen, Miss Mildred M. Pedersen.

MADISON—Dec. 20. Cloudy; no wind; temp. 29; ground bare. Sixteen observers. 7:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Total distance not given. 61 species, 9592 individuals.—Mrs. Florence Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Miss Ruby Bere, Miss Alice Fosse, George Foster, Jr., John Kaspar, Mrs. James Lacey, Mrs. Philip E. Miles, Mrs. James Neis, Miss Helen Northup, A. W. Schorger, Palmer D. Skaar, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. H. M. Williams, Robert Williams.





	Adams	Appleton	Balsam Lake	Beloit	Birnamwood	Cooksville	Fort Atkinson	Green Bay	Horicon	Kenosha	Lake Geneva	Lake Geneva	Luck	Madison	Mattoon	Mazomanie	
European Partridge								4	4								
Bob-white						7										15	
Pheasant	9	2			1		1	40	7	3			45		2		
American Coot					1			1	150			1036					
Wilson's Snipe													3				
Glaucous Gull																	
Herring Gull	53				2		22	175	30			66		2			
Ring-billed Gull									1	12		30		3			
Bonaparte's Gull										3							
Rock Dove	4				45	14						68		5			
Mourning Dove					4		1	1							1		
Screech Owl							1	1	1			1					
Great Horned Owl	6	1													4		
Barred Owl	7	1							1								
Long-eared Owl				1				10				4					
Short-eared Owl								3	3	1							
Belted Kingfisher			2		1					1		3					
Flicker		1					2								2		
Pileated Woodpecker	3														3		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7		1								1		3		5		
Red-headed Woodpecker	1			1						5		3		7			
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker															1		
Hairy Woodpecker	5	4	2	6	1	2	2	8	1	3	2	2	3	7	2	2	
Downy Woodpecker	7	29	3	5	2	3	2	15	15	2	6	4	3	38	3	6	
No. Horned Lark																	
Prairie Horned Lark								100		26	2						
Canada Jay																	
Blue Jay	75	10	1	22	5	1	12	57	7	14	14		4	157	2	83	
Raven						1										2	
Crow	56	10		12	10		6	9	16	25	25			90		65	
Black-cap Chickadee	70	33	5	20	2	6	5	2	69	23	7	10	8	17	113	5	14
Hudsonian Chickadee																	
Tufted Titmouse	1																
White-br. Nuthatch	19	19	3	6	3	2	2	11	9	1	6	10	7	39	3	20	
Red-br. Nuthatch										1							
Brown Creeper	2	22	1	4	1	1		7	2	5	5	3		34		3	
Winter Wren	1													1			
Catbird																	

			Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Mishicot	Monroe	Oshkosh	Princeton	Racine	Ripon	Seneca	Sheboygan County	South Wayne	Two Rivers	Viroqua	Waukesha	Waupun	Wausau	Wisconsin Dells
European Partridge		11								4									
Bob-white	20	...	14	14															
Pheasant	70	x	1	24	50	18			7		4			1		9	121	2	
American Coot	2	...																7	...
Wilson's Snipe				2									1				1		
Glaucous Gull	1	...																	
Herring Gull	1477	x	3		7	165	607				3		1000		24				1
Ring-billed Gull	577	x													1				3
Bonaparte's Gull	78	x																	
Rock Dove		...				20	30	10			20			2					3
Mourning Dove	1	...			2				5						1	4		10	
Screech Owl	6	...		1					1			1			3				
Great Horned Owl		...		2											1				
Barred Owl		...							1							1			
Long-eared Owl	15	x																	
Short-eared Owl	2	...	3												9			1	
Belted Kingfisher	1	...	1				1												
Flicker	1	...				2						1			2				1
Pileated Woodpecker		...				1			1										2
Red-bel. Woodpecker		...		1						2		2		4					1
Red-headed Woodp'r		...	5		7				2					4					
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker		...																	
Hairy Woodpecker	10	x	1	3		4	1	2	2	1	6	1	3	19	1	7	3		
Downy Woodpecker	26	x	3	25	3	5	1	3	3	2	8	1	7	45	3	18	3		
No. Horned Lark		...								9									
Prairie Horned Lark		...			11						10			9					
Canada Jay		...																1	
Blue Jay	18	x	1	49	4	35	7	3	3	5	10	9	12	81	5	36	19		
Raven		...																	
Crow	1323	x		43	375	2	3	1	2	6	10		4	663	5		188		
Black-cap Chickadee	153	x	18	44	7	39	4	11	10	4	10	5	12	112	10	133	26		
Hudsonian Chickadee		...																2	
Tufted Titmouse		...		2					1		7		2						
White-br. Nuthatch	28	x	2	25	5	19		4	5	2	6		11	38	5	27	18		
Red-br. Nuthatch	4	...															2		
Brown Creeper	9	x		1		1				2			2		1	1	3		
Winter Wren		...		1															
Catbird		...												1					

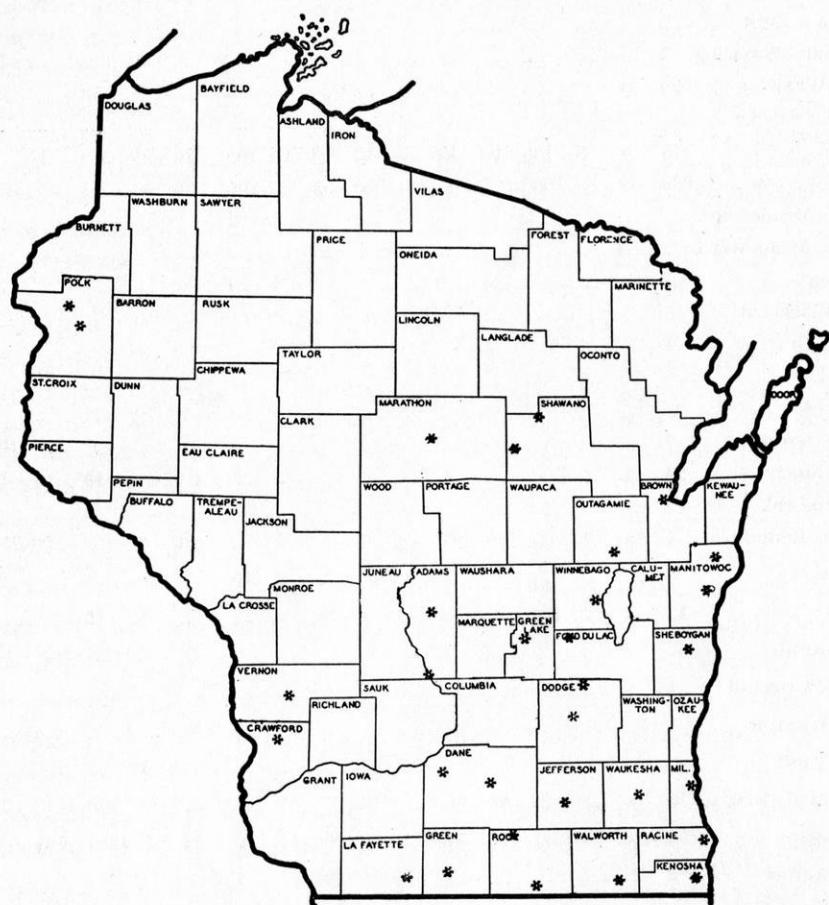
		Adams	Appleton	Balsam	Lake	Beloit	Birnamwood	Cooksville	Fort Atkinson	Green Bay	Horicon	Kenosha	Lake Geneva	Lake Geneva	Luck	Madison	Mattoon	Mazonianie
Robin	...	1	...	Balsam	Lake					24	...	3	1	...	...	12	...	...
Golden-cr. Kinglet	63	...	12	...	...	7	2	15	3	25	7	...	...	...	73	...	14	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Pipit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bohemian Waxwing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cedar Waxwing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Shrike	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Starling	1	25	...	3	5	25	26	305	31	126	7	1	9	210	3	60	...	...
House Sparrow	22	148	...	74	30	4	100	1383	614	193	15	42	100	700	8	300	...	...
Eastern Meadowlark	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Meadowlark	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-wing	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	304	...	1	...
Rusty Blackbird	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Bronzed Grackle	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cowbird	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cardinal	7	3	...	5	3	...	2	2	10	3	4	11	2	3	54	2	18	...
Evening Grosbeak	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...
Purple Finch	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	25	...	18	...
Pine Grosbeak	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Redpoll	247	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	21	160	17	7	...	...	3	...	6	...
Pine Siskin	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	1	17	...	...	50	...	20	...
Goldfinch	216	...	25	4	2	...	45	...	24	25	6	2	...	7	21	...	50	...
Red Crossbill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-w. Crossbill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vesper Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Oregon Junco	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Slate-colored Junco	88	49	5	13	4	...	20	...	63	20	61	7	6	...	200	2	35	...
Tree Sparrow	52	5	...	182	100	...	350	50	62	277	4	35	...	...	1075	...	150	...
Field Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
White-crowned Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
White-throated Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
Swamp Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	4	...	...	...
Song Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	3	...	...	...	13	...	3	...
Lapland Longspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Snow Bunting	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	1	...	...

	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Mishicot	Monroe	Oshkosh	Princeton	Racine	Ripon	Seneca	Sheboygan County	South Wayne	Two Rivers	Viroqua	Waukesha	Waupun	Wausau	Wisconsin Dells
Robin	17	x	...					1			6						
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23	x	...	15	7	2		6			10		2	15			5
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1
American Pipit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Bohemian Waxwing	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cedar Waxwing	20	x	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	
Northern Shrike	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Starling	549	x	9	196	100	15	74	12	8	26	100	20	95	587	19	38	109
House Sparrow	630	x	35	1500	300	200	131	200	53	49	200	80	50	761	200	400	542
Eastern Meadowlark	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	4	...	...	
Western Meadowlark	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Red-wing	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	29	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rusty Blackbird	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Bronzed Grackle	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cowbird	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cardinal	41	...	...	12	2	2	1	2	11	1	5	2	19	11	...	7	18
Evening Grosbeak	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105	...
Purple Finch	24	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	14	28	...
Pine Grosbeak	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Common Redpoll	4	x	1	...	5	83	...	...	...	1	...	9	9	...	200	732	...
Pine Siskin	6	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	...	...	6	...	...	
Goldfinch	18	x	...	32	...	16	...	1	15	...	20	...	5	42	...	...	12
Red Crossbill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
White-w. Crossbill	...	x	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Vesper Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Oregon Junco	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
Slate-colored Junco	116	x	...	27	10	65	...	12	10	2	150	...	35	218	12	22	253
Tree Sparrow	156	x	35	1742	17	75	14	5	80	55	150	14	6	1354	150	4	251
Field Sparrow	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
White-crowned Sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
White-throated Sp.	...	x	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	
Swamp Sparrow	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	
Song Sparrow	3	...	6	11	2	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	
Lapland Longspur	...	...	...	7	20	...	...	...	...	21	2	...	...	82	...	...	
Snow Bunting	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

MATTOON—Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. No weather data. Figures represent largest number seen at one time. One observer. 12 species, 79 individuals.—Mrs. W. B. Kramar.

MAZOMANIE—Dec. 24. Cloudy; wind w. 5-10 mph.; temp. 28 to 32; one inch snow on the ground, river open. Two observers. Total hours, 10; total miles, 55 (5 on foot, 50 by car). 41 species; 976 individuals.—N. R. Barger, Sam Robbins.

#### LOCATIONS OF 1952 CHRISTMAS CENSUSES



MILWAUKEE—Dec. 28. Partly cloudy; wind s. w. 15-20 mph.; temp. 18-29; no fresh snow, ground frozen. Twenty-one observers in five parties. 7:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. No total distance given. 66 species, 17,501 individuals including one unidentified blackbird.—Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Emil Urban, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mary Decker, Mary Donald, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frister, Dr. Anna Hehn, Rufin Jankowski, Allie Krueger, Mr.

and Mrs. Alvin Throne, Virginia Becker, John Hoogerheide, Jack Spears, Gordon Orians, Richard Gordon, Laurie Binford, Dan Berger, Kenneth Kuhn, George Treichel, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Paulsen.

**MILWAUKEE**—Jan. 1. No weather data given. 8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Total miles, 87 (2 on foot, 85 by car). Three observers. 40 species, number of individuals not given.—Tom Soulen, Charles Sontag, Peter Weber.

**MISHICOT**—Jan. 2. Very cloudy with some snow at noon; wind, slight from n. w.; temp. 30-40; ground practically bare. Three observers. 8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Distance not given. 17 species, 134 individuals.—Bernard Brouchoud, John Kraupa, Clyde Rau.

**MONROE**—Dec. 27. Clear; wind, n. w. 3-6 mph.; temp. 12-24; ground bare in exposed places, one inch crusted snow in sheltered areas. Eleven observers in two parties. Total party hours, 15 (8 on foot, 7 by car); Total party miles, 102 (12 on foot, 90 by car). 36 species, 3840 individuals.—Mrs. J. W. Barlow, Charlotte Churchill, Mrs. E. N. Churchill, Mrs. Victor Corson, E. O. Evans, Mrs. Fred Haldiman, Ralph Kofoed, Virginia Krauss, Gordon Orians, H. L. Orians, Helen Smith.

**OSHKOSH**—Dec. 29. Overcast; no wind; temp. 18-25. Five observers. 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; area covered, eastern Winnebago County from Neenah to Fond du Lac County line. Total miles, 110 (2 on foot, 108 by car). 26 species, 1356 individuals.—Lee Baxandall, J. H. Evans, Mrs. J. R. Kaspar, Jack Kaspar, Stanley Wellso.

**PRINCETON**—Dec. 27. Fair; no wind; temp. 4-15; 6-15 inches snow. Two observers. 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; area covered, western Green Lake County and eastern Marquette County centering around Princeton, with Shield Township in Marquette County especially heavily covered. Total miles, 121 (10 on foot, 111 by car). 25 species, 782 individuals.—Tom Hagene, Jack Kaspar.

**RACINE**—Dec. 30. Heavy overcast; wind 0-10 mph.; temp. 30-35. One observer. 7:45 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Total miles, 13 (9 on foot, 4 by bus). 19 species, 905 individuals.—Mary Elizabeth Whelan.

**RIPON**—Dec. 30. No weather data given. One observer. 12:30 p. m. to 4:30 p. m.; distance not given. 21 species, 292 individuals.—Paul Cors.

**SENECA**—Dec. 28. Clear; wind s. w. 4-12 mph.; temp. 12-23; six inches of snow on ground. One observer. Total hours, 9 (8 on foot, one by car); total miles, 42 (8 on foot, 34 by car). 19 species, 214 individuals.—Clarence Paulson.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**—Dec. 26. Cloudy; temp. 30; ground frozen, some old snow. One observer. 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 m. Distance covered, Kohler to Plymouth. 25 species, 201 individuals.—Mary Donald.

**SOUTH WAYNE**—Dec. 28. Cloudy; wind 5 mph.; temp. 22; ground frozen. Two observers. 11:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.; total distance not given, 3 miles on foot. 36 species, 785 individuals—Ethel Olson, Lola Welch.

**TWO RIVERS**—Dec. 23. Rain; calm; temp. 34; traces of snow on ground. Three observers. 8:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.; total distance 60 miles (56 by car, 4 on foot). 17 species, 1168 individuals.—John Kraupa, Donald Lintereur, Leroy Lintereur.

VIROQUA—Dec. 30. Cloudy; no wind; temp. 28; seven inches of snow on ground. One observer. Total hours, 5½; total miles, 8 on foot. 18 species, 379 individuals.—Margarette Morse.

WAUKESHA—Dec. 27. Clear; wind n. 10 mph.; temp. 13-21; ground bare. 19 observers in four parties. 7:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; total party miles, 260 (27½ on foot, 232½ by car). 46 species, 4194 individuals.—Robert Adams, Fred Alyea, Vince Batha, Harlow Bielefeldt, Les Compton, Olive Compton, Rahn Cuthbert, Carl Feis, Emma Hoffman, Paul Hoffman, S. Paul Jones, Helen Kramer, C. E. Nelson, Mary Nelson, Charles Sontag, Tom Soulen, Mary Sydow, Peter Weber, T. G. Wilder.

WAUPUN—Dec. 29. Partly cloudy, snow flurries; wind s. 4 mph.; temp. 20-30; two inches of snow; most water frozen. Two observers working separately. 7:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Area covered, from Waupun around Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. Total party hours, 12 (4 on foot, 8 by car); total party miles, 50. 26 species, 3468 individuals.—Lloyd Gunther, Jerald Wilson.

WAUSAU—Dec. 28. Wind s. w. 10 mph.; temp. 10. 25 observers. 9:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; total distance not given. 22 species, 1456 individuals.—Wausau Bird Club.

WISCONSIN DELLS—Jan. 1. Cloudy; light wind; temp. 34; snow on ground. Six observers. 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; area covered, parts of Sauk and Juneau Counties. 31 species, 1515 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Cameron Gunderson, Helen Northup, Dave Skaar, Mrs. R. A. Walker.

## NEWS . . .

Since the annual meeting at Green Bay, May 1-3, the board of directors has filled the vice-president vacancy by electing Dr. Robert A. McCabe of Madison to the office. He will be in charge of making plans for the 1954 W. S. O. convention to be held in Madison.

President Krawczyk has assigned specific responsibilities to the directors-at-large as follows: Dennis Besadny, associate editor of **The Passenger Pigeon** in charge of field notes; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, membership chairman; Charles E. Nelson, Jr., education and publicity chairman; Mrs. F. L. Larkin, endowment chairman and advertising manager of **The Passenger Pigeon**; Gilbert Doane, librarian; and Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.

Field notes should now be sent to the new associate editor, C. Dennis Besadny, 452 West Doty Street, Madison 3. All field notes through July should be sent to him immediately. Observations for August, September and October will be due by November 10. Besadny has field note forms which he will be glad to send upon request.

The next W. S. O. field trip is scheduled for September 27 at Cedar Grove. Come as early as you can. Hawk flights are usually best in the morning, tapering off in the afternoon, even on good days. Signs will be in the roads leading into the area, and we will meet on the back of the ridge, as it is best for viewing the hawks. Unless you want to walk back to your car some distance, bring your lunch with you when you walk in to the ridge. **It is unlikely that further announcement will reach you before the trip, so make your plans to attend now.**

President Krawczyk is already looking ahead to 1955, and wondering what bird club might like to be host for the W. S. O. convention that year. If your club is interested in extending an invitation, please let Mr. Krawczyk know.

No "Outdoor Calendar" article appears in this issue because Jim Zimmerman is with a scientific party doing special research in Alaska. We look forward to a resumption of this series in a later issue.

(more news on page 27)

# *The 1953 Convention . . .*

By CLARA HUSSONG

The 1953 Wisconsin Society for Ornithology convention held in Green Bay, May 1-3, was attended by 186 members and guests of the Society. The Beaumont Hotel was convention headquarters, and Chester Krawczyk, Green Bay, was in charge of the program.

At the business session held Saturday afternoon, Krawczyk was elected president for the 1953-54 year; Miss Helen Northup, Madison, was re-elected secretary; and Carl Frister, Milwaukee, was re-elected treasurer. The vice-president will be named later by the board, it was decided at the meeting, presided over by President Sam Robbins of Adams. This slate of officers was presented by the Nominating Committee, headed by S. Paul Jones of Waukesha, and unanimously voted.

New directors-at-large included C. Dennis Besadny, Madison; Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee; and Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Appleton. Sam Robbins was named the new editor of **The Passenger Pigeon**. N. R. Barger, editor for the last ten years, was thanked for his services by the Society, as were also the other retiring officers.

An invitation from Madison to hold the next convention in that city was accepted. Committee reports were given, and the youngest life member of the Society, Billy Strehlow, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Strehlow of Milwaukee, was introduced.

The Society indicated its concern for the plight of the sharp-tailed grouse in Wisconsin by passing and sending to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission a resolution urging the Conservation Commission to make every effort to retain an adequate number of sharp-tailed grouse openings in central and northern Wisconsin and to reserve such openings against further reforestation efforts.

The convention opened Friday evening, May 1, with a reception given by members of the Green Bay Bird Club. Walt Disney's movie, "Water Birds," was shown during the reception.

President Robbins called the convention proper to order Saturday morning. Krawczyk introduced Dominic Olejniczak, mayor of Green Bay, who extended the city's welcome to the convention body. The response was given by Robbins who pointed out that along with collecting facts and scientific data, bird students receive spiritual benefits from their studies.

Saturday morning's program included a colored movie, "Wisconsin Nature-ally," by Carl L. Strelitzer, Milwaukee; a discussion of the status of the sandhill crane in Wisconsin by Wallace Grange of Babcock; a flannel board demonstration, "Birds in the Wheel of Life," given by Mrs. Larkin; "Books for the Ornithologist," by Mrs. R. P. Hussong of Green Bay; and a memorial to Earl Wright, Green Bay, past president of the W. S. O., who died in 1952. Part of Wright's movie, "Nature's Calendar in Color," was shown.

An illustrated talk by W. D. Barnard of St. Croix Falls, "The Un-Ruffled Grouse," opened the Saturday afternoon session. Dr. Robert A.

McCabe of Madison, with the help of slides, told of "The Hybridization of the Bob-White and Scaled Quail." New facts about the nest of the Baltimore oriole were told by Dr. A. W. Schorger of Madison; and Wesley E. Lanyon, also of Madison, gave a most interesting paper on "The Development of Behavior in a Hand-Raised Meadowlark and its Role in the Study of the Genus." A colored movie, "This is Wisconsin," shown by R. P. Hussong of Green Bay, closed the Saturday afternoon session of the convention.



SHOWN EXAMINING THE HAND-MOLDED SWAN FIGURE TABLE FAVOR, MADE BY MRS. ALICE WEBER OF GREEN BAY, ARE, FROM LEFT: MURL DEUSING, BANQUET SPEAKER; N. R. BARGER, RETIRING EDITOR OF "THE PASSENGER PIGEON"; SAM ROBBINS, NEW EDITOR AND RETIRING PRESIDENT; AND CHESTER KRAWCZYK, NEW PRESIDENT.

Walter Scott of Madison was master of ceremonies at the Saturday evening banquet which was attended by 164. He pointed out that of the 13 past presidents of W. S. O., eleven were present at this 14th annual meeting. Introduced by Scott, they were N. R. Barger, Alvin Throne, Murl Deusing, Dr. B. L. Von Jarchow, Clarence Jung, J. H. Evans, S. Paul Jones, Scott himself, Charles Nelson, Harold Wilson, and Robbins. Besides the late Earl Wright, the only absent past president was the Reverend Howard L. Orians.

The highlight of the convention was the superb movie, "Exploring the Everglades," shown by Murl Deusing following the banquet. Deusing contributed this part of the program without charge to the Society. Besides the floral centerpieces at the banquet tables, table favors were hand-

molded swans made by Mrs. Alice Weber of Green Bay, well-known artist and W. S. O. member. Mrs. Weber spent the entire 1952-53 winter in making the beautiful swan figures, which were complete with a "water base" made by her husband, Andy, and marsh grass and cat-tail settings.

Several Brown County 4-H clubs prepared educational conservation and bird study exhibits which were displayed throughout the convention. Another exhibit was that of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higgins of Kenosha, who had a display of bird houses and feeders, and other bird attractions.

Field trips were taken both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Saturday's trip was to the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, a project which several Green Bay W. S. O. members helped establish. A divided trip was taken Sunday morning, and a total of 83 species of birds was recorded. The week-end was cold, and somewhat rainy, and the record was as good as could be expected, considering the weather and the time of year.

332 East Beaupre Street  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

## HOW TO KEEP FIELD NOTES

By SAMUEL D. ROBBINS, JR.

How many interesting bird observations have been lost and forgotten because they were not properly recorded? How many sight records of rarities have lost most of their value because the binoculars and bird books were not supplemented by notebook and pencil? How much more might now be known about the distribution and migration of birds, and their effect upon human life, had every bird observer taken the pains to keep careful records of the birds he had seen in the last fifty years? The persistence of these unanswerable questions, together with occasional requests about my system of keeping field notes, prompt me to set down some thoughts about recording bird observations.

Nearly any method of keeping field notes is likely to be a mixture of the ideal and the expedient. To keep records complete in every way would require an enormous amount of time—much more than the average amateur can afford; it would entail the maintenance of a series of notebooks and files that might make anyone other than a trained book-keeper shudder. Nevertheless, one best arrives at a workable system by surveying the various types of data that have potential value.

### Types of Data

The most obvious feature of bird records is the listing of species. If the data is to be of use for later reference, after memory has dimmed, the listing should be complete; the common species should be listed along with the rarer ones. The listing should be done promptly—surely before the end of the day. When one allows bird lists to lapse for several days, the observations of the intervening days can become almost hopelessly confused, and the necessary guess-work does nothing to enhance the value of the records. Moreover, the records should include every day, whether or not a field trip is made. Not only can one catch departure dates and instances of unusual flocking of birds, but it also keeps one "in trim." The habit of recording ornithological data is like any other habit; constant practice is necessary to keep it up.

The ideal observation sheets will include the count of individual birds, as well as the listing of species. It has long been established practice in Christmas bird counts that the mere listing of species is inadequate; the careful counting of individuals is much to be preferred, and it has resulted in significant information about changing bird populations over a period of years. The same principle holds true for observations at any season of the year. Exact counts are best, of course; careful estimates are second best; reasonable guesses run a poor third. Even a reasonable guess is better than a check mark. By means of these figures, kept over a period of years, it is possible to gauge a year or a season when a particular species is unusually abundant or scarce. In some cases the definite peaks in the migration season can also be estimated.

Another factor that adds value to field notes is the recording of the length of time spent in observation each day. Or better still, the hours at which the observation period begin and end. This information throws light on the significance of the counts on individual species. Where the highest counts of some species coincide with an all-day trip with twelve hours afield, it is not necessarily suggestive of a peak in the bird's migration at all; but when the highest counts occur during relatively short hours of observation, more meaning may attach to the figures. Similarly it makes a difference at what time of day the period of observation comes. Early morning is naturally the time best suited for observing most birds, since that is their period of greatest song and activity. Observations made during the twilight hours in late summer and early fall can be very revealing, as considerable flocking can be observed at that time. When late morning or afternoon trips indicate considerable bird activity, this too is noteworthy. We are coming to appreciate more and more the value of watching and listening to night migration; were I to record the identifications I am able to make at night and fail to note also that these were made during the night, I might at some later date re-read these observations and give quite the wrong interpretation to them.

Weather factors are also to be included in the ideal ornithological data. Such a simple fact that a certain day was rainy or windy helps interpret the smaller number of birds seen on that day. A good beginning has been made in determining the effect of weather conditions on bird migration, but it is going to take huge batches of carefully-kept data to bring out much of the truth that is still hidden. Those studying weather and its effect on migration make large use of the general weather patterns depicted in continental meteorological charts. But the information in these charts must be supplemented by the data that the local observer supplies at the time he makes his observations, in order that the effect of weather on bird life may become better understood. Barometric readings, just previous to and during the period of observation are especially important; but temperature, sky condition, wind velocity and direction all have their place in the ideally kept ornithological records.

Bird notations should also include a description of the area covered in each field trip. The name of a town or a general area is something; but a more exact description of a location is of greater value. Certain types of bird observations can best be made by limiting one's coverage to one specific area, noting the daily changes; such an area should be shown on a local map. Most observers, however, spread out their observations

over several or many different areas. If one has several favorite areas within one's local region, one does well to designate each of them by map and name, making reference to them in his field notes. If one covers a number of different areas on a single trip, the really thorough method of keeping field notes suggests that a separate list be made for each area. In the W. S. O. files, field notes are filed according to species and county; that is why observers have been asked to record their observations according to county at least, and more specifically when possible. Descriptions of area covered should always be in terms that can be recognized by persons other than the notetaker. Someone fifty years from now may be making bird observations over the same territory, and profit by comparing notes.

One other important feature of well-kept bird records is a practice of keeping detailed written accounts of all outstanding records. The value of sight records of rarities has been a subject of dispute through most of the history of bird study in America.\* In recent years sight records have come into greater repute; but unless extreme care is taken to be accurate and thorough, it is possible that the reputation of sight records may fall again. The value of sight records of rarities can be enhanced by detailed accounts written as soon as possible after the observation, before extensive study in reference books can confuse the observer concerning the field marks actually seen. The summary should be so thorough that anyone who reads it could say, "Yes, that identification is correct!" Such a summary would include: date, time of day, location, habitat, conditions of observation, size, shape, field marks, activity, voice, flight pattern, etc.

### Reasons for Keeping Field Notes

Such are the possibilities for keeping bird observation data. Separate files might be kept for different species, different areas, and different years. It could become such a time-consuming proposition that there might be little time left for observing birds in the first place! In devising one's system of preserving records, the purpose for keeping notes must be kept in mind. Four possible purposes are outlined here.

1. **Personal Information.** If one enjoys seeing birds in the field to begin with, one can enjoy them all over again in keeping their records and referring to them from time to time. Just thumbing through one's records brings back fond memories of one's most exciting ornithological experiences. As one continues the hobby of bird-watching over a period of years, one likes to compare year with year, season with season, month with month, big day with big day. Keeping records can bring greater satisfaction to the hobby of bird study.

2. **Cooperating with W. S. O.** Wisconsin field notes, carefully kept and sent quarterly to the associate editor of **The Passenger Pigeon**, contribute to knowledge about Wisconsin birds. Since 1946 bird observations turned over to W. S. O. have been preserved in a permanent file—already a significant storehouse of information, and one that will grow increasingly valuable each year. Contributing field notes to W. S. O.

\*See "The Sight Record" by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., published in *The Florida Naturalist*, reprinted in *The Passenger Pigeon*, Vol. XIII, No. 4, winter 1951, pp. 127-130.

does more than provide interesting reading in the seasonal summaries in **The Passenger Pigeon**; it helps build up a source of information about Wisconsin birds that will be useful for many future scientific projects.

3. **Cooperating with U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.** What W. S. O. is doing for the state of Wisconsin, the United States Fish and Wildlife Servie is doing for the nation as a whole. For many years these files have been building up; the information therein has been useful in the preparation of several bird books and many other ornithological studies. The files are constantly expanding as more and more contributors are being enlisted. Wisconsin participants are needed in this program, because through the years records from this state have been less plentiful than data from many other states.

SPECIES	SEASONS		YEAR
STATE OR TERRITORY	NEAREST TOWN		
ORGANIZATION OR OBSERVER	NUMBER OF TRIPS		AVERAGE HOURS
DATE FIRST SEEN	DATE MOST SEEN	DATE LAST SEEN	DATE MAXIMUM BREEDING
NUMBER FIRST SEEN	LARGEST NUMBER SEEN IN ONE DAY	NUMBER LAST SEEN	LARGEST NUMBER (PAIRS) BREEDING
			LARGEST NUMBER WINTERING

### U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Form

4. **Special Projects.** From time to time special research projects are undertaken which require the cooperation of many observers. Wherever there are observers who keep careful records, there is information that can be of value for these projects. Readers of **The Passenger Pigeon** are familiar with the studies made of the red-bellied woodpecker, yellow-headed blackbird, cardinal, dickcissel, and others, and know that such studies have been made possible only by the cooperation of many observers who have kept notes. The "Outdoor Calendar" series in **The Passenger Pigeon** has a number of projects going, for which many co-operating observers are needed. Whenever any new project requiring Wisconsin observations is undertaken, it is always those who have been keeping records who are in position to help.

### One Method of Keeping Field Notes

In order that his ornithological observations may be turned to some use toward these purposes, the writer has been using a system based largely on monthly observation sheets. At the start of each month, two or three sheets of paper are ruled in such a way that vertical columns are provided for each day. Horizontal spaces are provided for each species that is likely to be seen during the month, with space left at the end for unexpected species. At the end of a field trip the number of individuals of each species seen is recorded (actual count, or as careful an estimate or guess as possible) on the sheets. At the end of the day, the sheets

are again consulted, making any revisions made necessary by subsequent observations, adding the time spent in observation during the day, and a few words about area covered and the weather in the column for the day. When no field trip is taken, the sheets are still filled out at the end of the day, showing the numbers of birds seen during the day.

Some time after the month is completed, graph paper providing five squares to the inch is used to copy the monthly records in permanent form. Birds are listed in checklist order, and numbers for each day are copied into the appropriate squares, along with hours afield, area covered and weather conditions. When completed, the sheets are inserted in a looseleaf notebook, and are ready for reference.

Any real rarity gets the fuller treatment described previously. If notes are not taken in the field right during the observation, they are made immediately after returning home, and later the observation is written up in detail. These write-ups eventually go into a different section of the same notebook, and copies are often sent in with seasonal field note summaries.

Included in another section of the same notebook is a map of each local area which the writer often covers, giving a general name to each area; these names are mentioned on the monthly sheets to indicate the area covered.

The limitations of such a system are obvious. It does not allow for the exact location of certain interesting records. It does not permit giving a full description of weather conditions. It does not always reveal exact counts of individuals seen on every occasion. It does not provide opportunity to list separately birds seen in several different areas covered during a single day, although when interesting records are obtained in several Wisconsin counties they are noted on pocket check-lists for the W. S. O. files. It does not make possible any notation of birds in unusual habitat, or of birds engaged in unusual behavior. It eliminates separate records for sex.

Yet for the amount of time spent keeping records, quite a bit of information is preserved in this system. Normally the daily records require only one to five minutes a day, depending on whether or not a field trip is made. A few more minutes are required when a rare record must be written up in full. Making out the monthly sheets and copying the previous month's sheets may take one evening a month. The more time one has to spend on keeping bird records, the more complete the records can be. But because most of us are strict amateurs with little spare time to spend on preserving data, it is well to realize that a lot of information can be retained in a short space of time.

## MORE NEWS . . .

Endowment chairman Dixie Larkin told W. S. O. members during the Green Bay convention that their gifts to the endowment fund in response to the special appeal had totalled over \$225. By now it is even higher.

The revised articles of incorporation

were passed by the voting members at the W. S. O. convention at Green Bay, in the form in which they appeared in the last issue. At the next annual meeting, members will be asked to vote on a revised and simplified constitution in harmony with the articles; the legal counsel is working on this now, and it will be published in the magazine prior to the annual meeting.

(more news on page 32)

# *Country Calendar: Summer*

By AUGUST DERLETH

## i. Wood Ducks by Night

Sometimes, walking through the marshes, past sloughs and brooks and fingers of the Wisconsin River, in those nights of late summer or early autumn when most nocturnal voices are still—the whippoorwills waiting on that last brief period of song before migrating once more, the choir of the frogs virtually silent, and even the churring of crickets diminished to a subdued rune—I hear the wood ducks' quiet **cree-ee-ee** rising not so much like a sound out of the darkness, but as something fallen into the night, at an indeterminate distance, with something of the ventriloquial quality of a grouse's drumming so that the precise place of its origin is never quite certain.

It is a pleasant, intimate sound; perhaps its very intimacy is the most endearing aspect of it, for it is not exactly a melodic sound. It is all the more intimate at times of duck distress, in those nights after days during which hunters have scoured the bottomland, for then there is a constant medley of sounds—duck talk—which is nothing more or less than the summoning together once more of family or flock after the siege of the day. I have heard this on more than one occasion, heard it through, from its beginning to its end, and it never varies.

It begins with one solitary querying note, which falls into the darkness soon after sundown, and which sounds at intervals until answers can be heard, coming from various places in the bottoms. There follows a subdued interchange of query and answer, of call and response, and slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, the sounds draw nearer to the first voice of that evening, converging toward that focal point. But soon it is manifest that there is a soundless movement toward a gathering place, which, reached at last, is then the source of a subtly different kind of talk—the querulous notes are gone, and there is a sort of family chattering. Are they taking stock of the day, as it were, measuring their losses, discovering which of them has not survived the rapacity of the hunters? One might like to think so out of a kind of sentimentality to which nature-lovers are often prone, though there is nothing save the circumstances of the occasion to justify it.

Yet there can be no doubt that the ducks, having been scattered by the day's hunting, are gathering together again; one need not understand their language to know as much. That they should count their losses is as possible. Their possible range for scattering during the day is not small in the marshes south and east of Sac Prairie; they have all the reaches of a dozen sloughs, two brooks, and river inlets of an every-varying number, depending on the height of the Wisconsin, to conceal themselves in and about.

Hearing them so lends to the occasion something of participation in a neighbor's family life, a looking-in from outside, to be sure, but no less a taking part; it is one of those experiences which are offered to the

naturalist who is given to solitary walks over the land his feathered and furred neighbors inhabit.

## ii. Nighthawks

It seems but a few years ago, yet it is fully two decades, that I used to go out into the hills and look for nighthawks, which I invariably found sitting on their nests in open, stony ground on hilltops, or sitting on oak limbs—not athwart them, like most other birds, but crouched along them, blending into the contour of the oak as if they were an integral part of the gnarled trees; at that time, too, it was a common sight to go out of an evening and walk along the hills to watch nighthawks skycoasting by the score, particularly in that season of the year when mating was in progress, though skycoasting for the nighthawk is a continuing process, being carried on as part of its activities not necessarily limited to mating.

But in those two decades something seems to have happened to the nighthawks of Sac Prairie, for their number is sadly diminished, and where before there were a score or more, now there are scarcely more than a half a dozen. The nature of the hills has not changed in Sac Prairie; there is as much food for the nighthawks as ever; there is no diminution in the numbers of their cousins, the whippoorwills; but the nighthawks are no longer present in the numbers in which they were here but two decades ago.

Yet their ranks are not thinned. A score of years ago, I used to see migratory flights of five hundred or more birds at a time; last autumn I watched a flight that took hours to cross a long valley west of Sac Prairie, a flight of fully five thousand nighthawks, streaming down from the north. That they have found other quarters seems unquestionable. And some of those new quarters would seem to be no longer rural, but urban.

Increasingly in the past decade or more I have visited in cities from coast to coast and found no dearth of nighthawks skycoasting over the rooftops, and, at night, darting in and out among the streetlamps, foraging. Perhaps more than most birds once thought to be indigenous to open country, the nighthawk has adjusted itself to city life. The flat roofs have proved to be as good a place for their nests as hilltops; indeed, quite possibly the sun's warmth on tarred roofs is greater than on open hills, allowing the birds to leave their eggs for many hours at a time, secure in the awareness that the sun will keep them. Yet I feel still an alien note in the sound of their harsh *peent, peent* falling into the city canyons, as if I did not know that in comparatively little time after man vanished from the face of the earth, the lesser creatures would have taken it over as completely as once they occupied it, and the ghosts of the cities would be used as impartially as the trees, by animals and birds alike, as anyone watching a nighthawk or an English sparrow or a starling, a raccoon or a woodchuck or a skunk could know without instruction.

Why nighthawks should be inclined to urban dwelling over rural settings one cannot know. But I should be inclined to think that the hordes of insects attracted to the streetlights might be an element favoring city life for the nighthawks. Even in so small a settlement as Sac Prairie, the nighthawks invade the main street and course its length, visiting one lamp-post after another for its entire length, swooping down

to fly with open mouth among the insects around every globe, even as once they were about the bridges and over the sloughs of the Wisconsin's bottoms, taking toll of the insects dancing in the air above that water.

Nor is their inclination toward the urban in any sense a lessening of their essential nature; nighthawks are informed with wildness; perhaps they sense somehow that, for all his creations, man, too, is still wild, and they look upon his buildings as fully as much in their domain as the hills of their forebears.

Perversely, despite its alien character, I hear the **peent** of the nighthawk's call or the **zoom** of air booming through its wings, falling among the multiple voices of the city, with a keen pleasure, as if it were a tangible link to the country I left behind and to which I will return, once free of the city; and it comes as welcome to the ear in that setting as in the rural areas where first I heard its voice.

That the nighthawk's numbers have been lessened in the country, I regret; but at least, the bird has not passed from among us as so many birds have done before the spread of a dubious civilization; he has met and accepted the progress of man, and he will doubtless be here long after man has vanished from the face of the earth.

Sauk City, Wisconsin

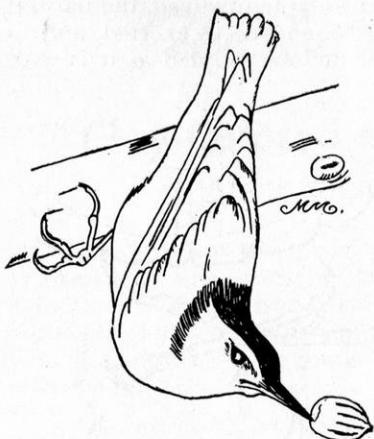
## FEATHERED OBSERVATIONS

By MARILU L. MADURA

Nuthatches are neat and thrifty birds. They have given me this impression of them from the many times that I have watched them at their daily labors. Their movements are always brisk as they scurry from tree trunk to the ground and back again to the tree trunk. In this action they firmly pound acorns (some shelled and some whole) into the wedges provided by the fissures of the rough bark of the jack pine and scrub of this life zone. Their neatness is greatly in evidence as they go about picking up the crumbs and discarding empty hulls and their thrifty nature causes them to do this thing in order to have food when snow covers the ground in the winter.

I sat at our eighteen-foot nature window one chilly afternoon and observed a large flock of chickadees accompanied by several white-breasted nuthatches as they all fed on our acorn-strewn yard for hours on end. My attention was concentrated on the quick scamperings of a nuthatch as he busily packed a large jack pine with his assorted treasure trove. The volume of his accumulation grew until I could easily detect a score of yellow (shelled) and many more of light brown (whole) nuts among the dark crevices of the bark. Everything was so neatly crammed and stored away with such efficiency that it presented a very tidy aspect—if one will view it thus. Then when the flock flew away, he flew away with them.

It made me wonder, watching the way in which the nuthatch ate some of what appeared to be choice meat and then store some of the other to the very last fragment, whether the taste of the individual nuts does not prompt this action. I presume that by oxidation, the acidity is somewhat reduced in the exposed acorns and perhaps this is the aim of



*Nut always perforated  
to facilitate the  
carrying.*

the birds in the storing away of the food in the first place. All acorns must be perforated before the nuthatch can carry them. He invariably makes the perforation at the base end, perhaps the softer part, and carries it at bill point.

I was about to give up and consider this observation as ended, when my eye caught the very familiar flash of bright blue and my darling Chipper (bluejay) sailed to the tightly packed pine tree on silent wings and sinistly reconnoitered the scene. Then he fell to work and meticulously extracted every piece that he could find in the bark, cramming some of the shelled fragments into his "pouch," but wantonly dropping the whole acorns upon the ground. Nor did he stop in his vandalism until he had

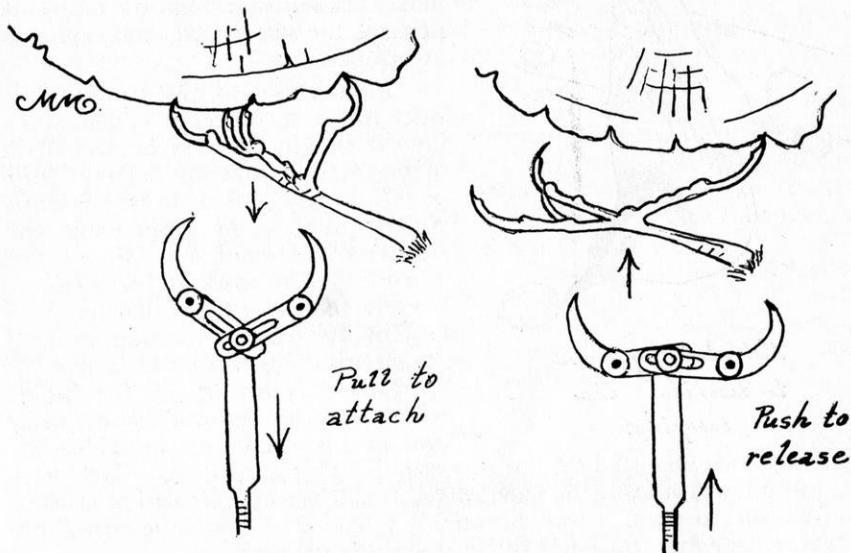
searched and exhausted the last tiny crumb. This was indeed a dark deed, for just a few feet away the wide ruts of the driveway were full of crushed and weathered mast. I was thoroughly ashamed of my "blue crow," but it was not the first time—nor the last!—in this respect.

In all the text books and bird guide I have perused, I invariably find that the song or call of the nuthatch is deciphered as **yank yank** or **ank ank**—always ending with an **ank**. In my own observation I find that the nuthatches in this habitat seem to belong to a different nationality. The chief word of their singular vocabulary is **nya**, pronounced best by a somewhat spoiled child in refusing an offering of some sort in a nasal and contemptuous voice. The sound always terminates in that of a long, drawn-out **ah** and this unit is repeated in an endless series so rapidly it constitutes a buzz or prolonged drone. If one can analyze this as any form of singing, however, one must have a lot in common with this particular family.

Last summer as I was painting the outside molding and window trim of my little cottage in the woods, my ears were assailed by the outpouring of a "slap-happy" little nuthatch. After about fifteen minutes of uninterrupted and very monotonous droning of **nya-nya-nya-nya-nya-nya**, I could think of nothing more discomforting to the sense of well-being. After a half hour of it, I was convinced that it was on a par with the most pernicious of diabolical torture—like the device of the incessant drops of water or the tintinnabulation of bells to a frenzied point of excess. The nasal intonation can prove very irritable after any prolonged time and this nuthatch evidently could keep it up indefinitely. If this is the method by which they gain sovereignty over their nesting grounds, he succeeded, and I retreated from his protected territory.

Nearly everyone who sees the nuthatch for the first time, marvels at his amazing up-side-down maneuvers. These maneuvers are not so very remarkable when viewed from a purely mechanical point. In a series of

sketches designed to illustrate the physical principle involved, the natural clutch of the bird is so devised as to grasp when pull is exerted, and to release when push is applied. This simple action, coupled as it is with



*Natural mechanism of claw*

the manipulation of needle-sharp talons that sink a holding grip on almost any substance found in the wild wood, makes it possible, and is responsible for the nuthatch's dexterity in running up or down, and above or below, with abandoned ease.

All birds have a wonderful sense of equilibrium.

Necedah, Wisconsin

## **MORE NEWS . . .**

One of the projects begun in Wisconsin by Jim Zimmerman through his "Outdoor Calendar" series in 1951 has blossomed into a cooperative project of nation-wide scope. In order to understand how rapidly certain species of birds move northward in their spring migration, and how far birds travel between one stop and another, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking observers all over North America east of the Rocky Mountains to keep track of arrival dates for the next five years of the following species: Canada goose, marsh hawk, killdeer, mourning dove, night-hawk, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, flicker, Eastern kingbird, phoebe, wood pewee, barn swallow, purple martin, crow, house wren, wood thrush,

black and white warbler, yellow warbler, myrtle warbler, redstart, red-wing, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, goldfinch, junco, chipping sparrow and white-throated sparrow. When you next send in your field notes, why not make a list of the spring arrival dates of the above species for 1953, and send them to J. H. Zimmerman, 2114 Van Hise Avenue, Madison 5.

Another field trip to watch the booming of the prairie chicken at Plainfield is being planned for April 24 and 25, 1954. Because of limited facilities, advance registration must be made for both dates. Preference will be given to those who have not been on this trip in 1952 or 1953. More details will be given in a later issue, but if you wish to make a reservation now, write to Charles E. Nelson, Jr., 124 Oxford Road, Waukesha.

# The Student's Page

## "Clay-Colored Sparrow Nests Found"

By MICHAEL G. BECKER\*

The clay-colored sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) can be found in eastern Wisconsin if one looks in the right places for them. Their favorite habitat is in brushy, overgrown fields. They are by no means brilliantly plumaged but present a buffy appearance, are clear breasted with a light stripe through the center of the crown and have a sharply outlined brown ear patch.

The finding of my first nest was quite unexpected. It was in July. The exact date I am sorry to say I do not know for I kept no exact record. I was hunting for field sparrow nests when I noticed a clay-colored sparrow excited by my presence; I then, believing a nest to be near, proceeded to locate it. After about five minutes of searching, I found it at the crotch of a small tree. Incubation had already begun. There were four eggs, blue, finely speckled with black at the end. The nest was about two inches in diameter, consisting of fine pieces of grass.

While sitting in the blind, hoping for a picture, I had the opportunity to observe them very closely. They seemed quite unaware of the camera, only three feet from the nest. They often hopped right under it.

The male sang repeatedly near the nest, announcing his special territory. The song is not much to talk about. Three to six buzzes on the same pitch was all it consisted of.

The young in this nest, I presume, were raised successfully, though I do not know for sure.

The second nest was identical with the first, except it was set in a small bush. The bush was no more than two feet high. Often, when coming upon the nest, the female would sit close, and I could get a very good view of her.

I had no time to observe the nest closely, but I believe the young also were raised successfully.

Thus ended my experience with the clay-colored sparrows. This particular field also abounded in field sparrows, goldfinches, indigo buntings, and cedar waxwings.

The exact location of the nesting sites is as follows: one block west of Menominee River Parkway Road on Capitol Drive and one block south from Capitol Drive. Next year I hope to make a detailed study of the nesting if they return.

3133 North 88 Street  
Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin

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\*Age 13.

# *Club Page*

## **THE BIRTH OF THE WAUSAU BIRD CLUB**

By KATHARINE COX JONES

The book, **A Guide to Bird Watching**, by Dr. Joseph J. Hickey, inspired my husband Vincent and me to join with Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Levi in promoting a bird club in Wausau in 1951. Vin and I were rank amateurs anxious to enjoy the advantages Dr. Hickey mentions in joining with other bird students. Since my husband is a historian, he was particularly drawn to the sentence, "The student can write a footnote to the science of bird study; his bird club can write even a chapter." The practical suggestions sprinkled through the book for chapters a club could write were sufficient to incite us to action.

W. S. O. member Herb Levi wanted the club not only for the scientific information it could gather about a neglected part of the state, but for the incentive it would provide for his students in zoology at the Wausau Extension Center of the University of Wisconsin. His wife Lorna especially hoped that families might come to know the pleasure of recreation together through the club, since there seem to be facets of bird study to appeal to every age and almost every taste.

When an organizing committee met, still other reasons for starting a club were given: making better use of local natural resources; giving a sense of purposeful activity for those who like the out-of-doors; discouraging the illegal shooting of hawks; and providing a clearing house for accurate bird information. With all of these reasons for proceeding, it really did not seem that any of us worked very hard, and our efforts were thoroughly rewarded. We hope that by setting down here some of our procedures and sources of help we may encourage others to do likewise.

### **Stimulating Interest**

The Levis and we moved to Wausau in the fall of 1949, and began to make plans for organizing a club in the fall of 1950. We knew that some clubs limit memberships to a certain number, and others are limited to those capable of making independent studies. We hoped that we could set up an organization open to everyone in the community, and still keep the informality characteristic of clubs of more limited scope.

Our first step was to propose the plan to the executive director of the Y. W. C. A., the society reporter on the **Wausau Daily Record-Herald**, and the director of the University Extension Center. All three gave enthusiastic support as individuals and as representatives of the three institutions. The Y. W. C. A. offered the club free use for a year of its building downtown and its lodge on Lake Wausau. The newspaper promised the sympathetic publicity vital to the growth and effectiveness of any organization, but particularly important to a bird club which is all too susceptible to damage from being ignored or ridiculed. The Univer-

sity Extension Center offered free use of its buildings and of all suitable materials in the zoology laboratory, including several pairs of binoculars.

Encouraged by this support, we wrote to the National Audubon Society and to W. S. O. for details on forming a local branch. There was no arrangement for affiliation with the state organization, but we received encouragement and the names of W. S. O. members in the Wausau area. The Audubon Society sent helpful suggestions, but the dues seemed to us too high for that community at that time to attract the students and family groups we particularly hoped would join.

In October and November we had contacted the community leaders and written letters. On December 28, 1950, Vin and I made our first and Wausau's first Christmas bird count. The **Wausau Daily Record-Herald** published a detailed account of where we went and what we saw, closing with a hint of the club-to-be. We received two letters and four phone calls as a result of the article, and realized from later comments that this informal publicity started the ball rolling in the right direction.

A bulletin to the Y. W. C. A. membership at the end of January carried a notice about the club, and a newspaper announcement appeared at the same time. Both asked that anyone interested contact us by card or phone. When a planning committee met in mid-February, we had thirty-four names. In order that the club could be fully organized in two meetings, the planning committee followed the article, "How to Organize an Audubon Society," by Ken Morrison, in **Audubon Magazine**, July-August, 1949, pp. 246-47.

### A Club is Born

March, we thought, would make a good time to start the club year, when spring migration brings enthusiasm to a peak, and when other clubs' activities begin to slacken. We picked dates for the first two meetings, and planned the first meeting. A student artist made posters announcing the first meeting; we sent postcards to the thirty-four people on our list; and sent letters to the presidents of other nature-related organizations in Wausau.

Perhaps our most important decision concerned dues, since it expressed part of the philosophy behind the club's founding. We set a low fee, with a special rate for students, and another special rate for families, regardless of their size. We picked a treasurer to act at the first meeting, and arranged for membership cards to be mimeographed.

On Thursday, March 8, 1951, the future Wausau Bird Club held its first meeting at the Wausau Extension Center. Exhibits were arranged in the laboratory, and Dr. Herbert Levi spoke on the status of current research on birds under the title, "A Man's-Eye View of Birds." Eighty people appeared, and we were astounded!

The first program was highly successful. Everyone was more appreciative than we had expected of the collection of bird skins Lorna Levi had made for the University Extension Center. Feverish note-taking went on around the table containing pamphlets and magazines, though little interest was shown in the tables of books. Many signed up to purchase a copy of Peterson's field guide. Laughter greeted the display of what to wear and what not to wear on a field trip, but proof of the

merit of this part of the program was the fact that everyone appeared suitably clothed on the first field trip.

The organizing committee met for a second time on March 16. A member had prepared a proposed constitution, but the committee agreed to postpone action upon it for several months, making at that time only the decisions necessary for getting the club under way.

We decided on four elected officers: a vice-president to be in charge of publicity and public relations; and a president, secretary and treasurer to carry their normal duties. We also decided on three appointive officers: a program chairman; a field trip chairman, to be responsible for the time, location, transportation, refreshments, and when feasible, alternative routes for small bird-watching groups, for all the club trips; and a data chairman, to establish worthy projects and collect data of local interest from members, and to disseminate such data as he deemed pertinent to national and state ornithological publications. The seven officers were to serve as an executive board.

At the second meeting of the total membership on March 28, 1951, officers were elected, and the club name was voted upon. After excellent movies obtained through the Wisconsin Conservation Department, refreshments were served, and the Wausau Bird Club was well on its way to writing its chapter in the history of Wisconsin ornithology.

The moral to my tale is threefold: every town should have a newspaper that will write up club activities sympathetically; every club of a general type should have a Lorna Levi to see that all ages and all abilities are included in the planning and leadership; and every bird club should have a Herb Levi to see that field trips and records are set up to contribute to scientific knowledge. Why don't you start a bird club?



## **Bibliography of Bird Pictures and Articles In the "National Geographic Magazine"**

Compiled by **EMIL F. FAITH**

The National Geographic Society, through the **National Geographic Magazine**, has over a period of years been giving its readers an excellent series of articles on the bird families—mostly North American bird families. Along with the articles in the magazine, it is publishing one of the most complete sets of bird pictures to be found.

This set could be of great value to anyone working in the field of bird study in schools, camps, scout groups, etc. Back issues may be obtained by addressing the National Geographic Society, Washington 6, D. C. Most back issues sell for 50c each. The earlier articles and pictures have been re-published in book form, entitled **The Book of Birds** Volumes I and II.

Titles of articles and picture groups published through April 1953 include the following:

1. June, 1913, Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard; and Birds May Bring You More Happiness Than the Wealth of the Indies.
2. March, 1914, Encouraging Birds Around the Home.
3. May, 1914, Birds of Town and Country.
4. August, 1915, American Game Birds.
5. June, 1920, Peru's Wealth—Producing Birds: Vast Riches in Guano Deposits of Cormorants, Pelicans, and Petrels Which Nest on Her Barren, Rainless Coast.
6. December, 1920, American Birds of Prey—A Review of Their Value.
7. January, 1928, Banding, the Telltale Method of Learning the Flight-Ways and Habits of Birds.
8. July, 1932, Seeking the Smallest Feathered Creatures; and Hummingbirds, Swifts, and Goatsuckers.
9. October, 1932, The Large Wading Birds; and Ibises, Herons, and Flamingos.
10. January, 1933, Crows, Magpies, and Jays.
11. April, 1933, Woodpeckers, Friends of Our Forests; and North American Woodpeckers.
12. July, 1933, The Eagle, King of Birds, and His Kin; and Eagles Hawks, and Vultures.
13. March, 1934, Birds That Cruise the Coast and Inland Waters; and Birds of Lake and Lagoon, Marsh and Seacoast.
14. May, 1934, Winged Denizens of Woodland, Stream, and Marsh; and Blithe Birds of Dooryard, Bush, and Brake.
15. July, 1934, Blackbirds and Orioles; and Birds in Glossy Black and Vivid Color.
16. October, 1934, Far-Flying Wild Fowl and Their Foes; and Wild Geese, Ducks, and Swans.
17. February, 1935, Shadowy Birds of the Night; and Silent-Winged Owls of North America.
18. April, 1935, The Tanagers and Finches; and Bird Beauties of the Tanager and Finch Families.
19. January, 1936, Birds of the Northern Seas; and Auks and Their Northland Neighbors.
20. April, 1936, Thrushes, Thrashers, and Swallows; and Some Songsters and Flyers of Wide Repute.
21. June, 1936, Parrots, Kingfishers, and Flycatchers; and Flycatchers and Other Friends in Feathers.
22. October, 1936, Game Birds of Prairie, Forest, and Tundra; and Hunted Birds of Field and Wild.
23. June, 1937, Hunting With a Microphone the Voices of Vanishing Birds.
24. July, 1937, Adventures With Birds of Prey.
25. August, 1937, The Shore Birds, Cranes and Rails; and Feathered Foragers of Swamp and Shore.
26. August, 1938, Birds of the High Seas; and Wings Over the Bounding Main.
27. December, 1938, Canaries and Other Cage-Bird Friends; and Bright-Hued Pets of Cage and Aviary.

28. March, 1939, Sparrows, Towhees, and Longspurs.
29. June, 1939, Stalking Birds With a Color Camera; and Color Close-Ups of Familiar Birds.
30. May, 1940, In Quest of the Golden Eagle.
31. June, 1942, Ambassadors of Good Will.
32. July, 1943, Birds on the Home Front.
33. November, 1943, Pelican Profiles.
34. June, 1944, Touring for Birds.
35. April, 1945, Photoflashing Western Owls.
36. June, 1945, Sights and Sounds of the Winged World.
37. October, 1945, The Fairy Wrens of Australia.
38. September, 1946, Birds of Timberline and Tundra.
39. December, 1946, Fairy Terns of the Atolls.
40. February, 1947, Blizzard of Birds; the Tortugas Terns.
41. May, 1947, Lundy, Treasure Island of Birds.
42. August, 1947, Hummingbirds in Action.
43. December, 1948, The Curlew's Secret.
44. January, 1949, Wildlife of Everglades National Park.
45. November, 1949, The Pink Birds of Texas.
46. February, 1950, Strange Courtship of Birds of Paradise.
47. May, 1950, Search for the Scarlet Ibis in Venezuela.
48. February, 1951, Sea Birds of Isla Raza, Baja California.
49. May, 1951, Flamingo's Last Stand on Andros Island.
50. June, 1951, The Bird's Year.
51. August, 1951, Freezing the Flight of Hummingbirds.
52. October, 1951, Duck Hunting With a Color Camera.
53. November, 1951, New Guinea's Paradise of Birds.
54. March, 1952, Finding An "Extinct" New Zealand Bird.
55. September, 1952, Nature's Clown, the Penguin.
56. January, 1953, Exotic Birds in Manhattan's Bowery.
57. February, 1953, Poorwill Sleeps Away the Winter.
58. April, 1953, New Guinea's Rare Birds and Stone Age Men.

Benjamin Franklin School  
Milwaukee

## *By the Wayside . . .*

Edited by C. DENNIS BESADNY

**Drained Millpond Attracts Shorebirds.** On August 24, Bill Foster directed our attention to a large mud-flat caused by the recent draining of a millpond. It held a great variety of shorebirds, seldom to be seen inland. Exploration on this day, and one or two days which followed, revealed rather large flights of Baird's sandpipers, stilt sandpipers, and dowitchers, in addition to the more common species. Small numbers of sanderlings and northern phalaropes, both rare inland (away from the larger lakes), were present. The best find of all was a western sandpiper on August 30, spotted by Bill Foster.—N. R. Barger, Madison.

**A Bullock's Oriole in Milwaukee in November.** On November 7, 1952, while on an early morning bird walk, I noticed a yellowish olive-colored bird about the size of a cardinal feeding with a group of English sparrows and juncos on a hillside near Lake Michigan. It sat on a branch long enough for me to see that it had a dark, pointed bill and two light wing bars. The bird then disappeared.

On November 11, at 7 a. m., I looked at my suet log and there was the same bird. Closer examination led me to believe that it was an oriole, but an unfamiliar one. It had a black throat patch and seemed to have a black mark on the side of the head, but was too yellow to be an orchard oriole. Again it disappeared.

Knowing that orioles eat bread in spring, I tied a roll in the tree over a feeding tray. The following morning Mr. Oriole was sitting on the bread. Further observation showed the black line running straight down from the bill unlike the throat patch of the orchard oriole, and the head and breast were a saffron yellow. One side of his face had a scar which, in some light, appeared to be black. I checked over the bird skins in the Milwaukee Museum and also various bird guides and felt that this bird was a Bullock's oriole. What was it doing in Wisconsin in November?

I was assured by the Milwaukee Museum staff that this was a valuable discovery. However, in order for this species to be put on the state list, it would have to be collected. With winter coming on, the bird would have little chance to survive. The bird was taken with a collecting permit and definitely identified as an immature male Bullock's oriole. It is now mounted and on display in the rare bird cage in the Milwaukee Museum.—Mary Donald, Milwaukee.

**Great Numbers Of Little Blue Herons In Wisconsin.** It appears that large numbers of immature little blue herons migrated into Wisconsin late during the past summer. Previously, records for this species have been few, and this applies to the state for the past fifty years. A roosting flock of well over two-hundred of this species was observed in Dodge County (near Hubbleton), on August 24, 1952, by several W. S. O. members. They were accompanied by lesser numbers of American egrets.—N. R. Barger, Madison.

**Killdeer Nests in Corn Field Treated with Herbicide.** The increased use of agricultural chemicals has caused considerable study of their relation to wildlife. Effects of insecticides on bird populations have been reported by several workers but observations of the effects of herbicides are less numerous. Due to the lack of adequate research on herbicidal applications opponents often vigorously condemn them as totally destructive to plant and related animal populations, while proponents just as vigorously defend the applications of herbicide as the only economically feasible method of controlling undesirable vegetation.

At the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison the use of chemical herbicides to replace all mechanical cultivation, other than seedbed preparation, in the establishment of supplemental food patches for wildlife was investigated. One application was of CIPC [chloro isopropyl-(3 chlorophenol) carbamate] at the rate of 4 pounds per acre immediately after the planting of corn and soybeans after which the area was not disturbed. This treatment temporarily controlled all

annual weeds except ragweed and the surface of the ground was relatively free of weeds for several weeks after spraying. On one of the plots receiving the treatment a killdeer established a nest and apparently brought off three young. When weed and crop stand counts were taken in the vicinity of the nest on June 23, 24, and 25, 1952, one adult characteristically feigned injury. The nest was observed to contain three eggs. The nest itself was little more than a slight depression, containing a few pebbles. It was located about six inches west of a row of corn, which was then six to nine inches high. One week later the nest was observed empty and it is concluded the eggs were hatched successfully.

The nesting of killdeer in corn, or any cultivated crop, under past agricultural practices in this region is rare. Two to three mechanical cultivations in corn during June and early July would destroy any attempted nesting. If the area should remain uncultivated the dense growth of annual weeds usually discourages nesting. However, with the proper use of pre-emergence herbicides the early growth of annual weeds is controlled, the need for mechanical cultivation often eliminated, and the nesting of birds which use relatively clear open areas for nesting sites is made possible.—Keith Hamilton, Madison.

**Western Kingbird at Minocqua.** On August 5 a bird of this species was identified near Minocqua, and it may have been present before that date. The bird was seen in a virgin pine forest which also produced blackburnian warblers, olive-sided flycatchers, red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers and pine warblers. Hardly the company usually kept by this species, but rarely has it ever been recorded so far north. At fairly close range, the gray back, yellow underparts and white sides of the tail were noted.—Richard Gordon, Kenosha.

**Sight Record of Wheatear.** In a manure pile in Kenosha County, October 26-28, in company with about 400 Lapland longspurs, 100 pipits, and two snow buntings, I saw a bird which I believe to have been a wheatear in winter plumage. It was studied in fairly good light both on ground and in flight. The bird was bluebird-like in flight, landed often, and was very rusty, especially on breast and throat. The back and wings were reddish-brown. The tail was white, with a black "T" at the end, especially noticeable on the ground. There was a black stripe from the eye to the bill, narrowly bordered with white. The bill was sharp.—Richard Gordon, Kenosha.

**High-flying Grouse in Central Wisconsin.** Grouse may at times be long distance flyers. On a flight from Beaver Dam to Park Falls last summer, we saw a lone prairie chicken or a sharp-tailed grouse flying south-east at an altitude of 1,400 feet. The plane followed the bird for six or seven miles. When last seen the grouse was continuing on a steady course and showed no signs of making a landing. Although grouse are known to move about some in the spring and fall, they were not believed to be long distance travelers in the summer. Prairie chickens, sharptails, and other cyclic species do spread into new areas at times of high populations.—Wardens Ken Beglin and Jim Robinson, Park Falls.

**Banded Woodcock from Louisiana.** A woodcock, banded in Louisiana on December 21, 1951, was shot by a hunter in Langlade County on October 10, 1952.—fide B. H. Popov, Woodruff.

**Green-winged Teal flies East.** During the week of October 5, 1952, at the Horicon Marsh, a green-winged teal was shot. The bird had been banded in March, 1951, at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, California. It is not often that such positive evidence of east-west migration is obtained.

**Sandhill Cranes Nesting in Numbers.** At a seminar meeting of the University of Wisconsin Department of Wildlife Management on November 17, 1952, Stanley DeBoer, recently appointed supervisor of the Central Wisconsin Conservation Area, stated that he estimated fourteen pairs of sandhill cranes nested on the CWCA Black River Falls unit (Jackson County), and thirty pairs nested on the Meadow Valley unit (Juneau and Monroe Counties) during the summer of 1952.—Walter E. Scott, Madison.



# FIELD NOTES

## THE AUTUMN SEASON

By CARL L. STRELITZER

September was considerably above average in temperature, and this month gave a preview of things to come. Ducks were numerous in the central part of the state (Laurence Jahn). The shorebird count was still high, particularly at Marshall in Dane County where nineteen species were still present (Alan Keitt). The hawk flight at Cedar Grove was spectacular on September 19 and 20; over 5000 broad-wings and 150 hawks of other species passed overhead on the first day, with more thousands migrating the next day (Dixie Larkin and Paul Jones).

A community roost in Kenosha County harbored nine or more species numbering into the thousands as late as the end of October (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Most species of ducks left northwestern Wisconsin in mid-November (N. R. Stone) while the late November dates for many sparrows hinted that they would linger longer if they continued to get a break in the weather.

Chickadees were unusually numerous around Ripon all through the fall (Paul Cors) and golden-crowned kinglets were very common in Polk County (L. Heinsohn).

The interesting records:

**Red-throated Loon:** Dane County, November 10 and 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee County, four on November 14 (Mary Donald and Mary Decker), and 30 on November 20 (Dixie Larkin).

**Eared Grebe:** One seen at Port Washington on October 3 (Dixie Larkin and Paul Jones).

**Western Grebe:** This rare visitor was seen in Ozaukee County on November 14 (Mary Donald and Mary Decker).

**American Egret:** Numerous reports of this bird were received from south and central counties but the one unusual sighting—the first since 1948 in the area—was Buffalo County, September 1 (N. R. Stone).

**Snowy Egret:** Jefferson County, September 9, one seen in the company of seventeen little blue herons which offered good comparison (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

**Little Blue Heron:** Jefferson County, September 14 (Alan Keitt); Dodge County, September 22 (Sam Robbins).

**Whistling Swan:** First seen on October 3 in Brown County (Mary Staeger) and Columbia County—"a flock of 25 flew over" (Arlene Cors); then reported on October 28 from Dane County (Mrs. R. A. Walker) and Kenosha County (Mrs. Howard Higgins); a late flock of nine was seen in Manitowoc County, November 3 (John Kraupa).

**Green-winged Teal:** Dodge County, October 5—a bird killed at Horicon Marsh had been banded in California during March, 1951 (L. R. Jahn); present in Dane County until November 2 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

**Wood Duck:** Last seen in Burnett County on November 12 (N. R. Stone). Very late.

**Old Squaw:** A male in winter plumage in Vernon County, November 20 (C. F. Smith). Unusual away from large bodies of water.

**White-winged Scoter:** Milwaukee County, October 5 and intermittently until November 28 (Mary Donald **et al**); Dane County, November 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

**Surf Scoter:** Sheboygan County, November 2—six individuals of this rare species were seen in Lake Michigan off Terry Andrae State Park (Gordon Orians).

**American Scoter:** Milwaukee County, November 3 (Mary Donald); Kenosha County, November 9 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

**Hooded Merganser:** Last seen in Brown County on November 16 (William Fisk).

**Turkey Vulture:** Juneau County, September 16 (Eugene Roark).

**Goshawk:** Cedar Grove, October 5 (Alan Keitt **et al**).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** First noted in Manitowoc County on October 17 (Myron Reichwaldt); Lafayette County, October 23 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Dane County, November 1 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Rock County, November 10 (John Wilde).

**Golden Eagle:** This rare western visitor was seen in the Horicon Marsh area on October 25 (Mary Donald, Karl Priebe, Nila O'Hearn).

**Gyrfalcon:** The white phase of this casual species was noted twice in Milwaukee: October 10 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Lisa Decker, Mary Donald and Jane Paulsen), and October 17 (Mrs. Balsom).

**Duck Hawk:** Two at Cedar Grove, September 19 (Paul Jones and Dixie Larkin); one in Adams County, September 29 (Sam Robbins).

**Pigeon Hawk:** Winnebago County, September 14 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); thirteen at Cedar Grove, September 19 (Paul Jones and Dixie Larkin); seen on October 5 in Dane County (Mrs. R. A. Walker) and Rock County (John Wilde).

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reported from Polk County, October 4 (L. Heinsohn).

**Sandhill Crane:** The Marquette-Green Lake County area had an estimated peak of 1400 birds on October 15; birds were last seen on November 15 (Norbert Damaske).

**Golden Plover:** Seen in Adams County on seven occasions between September 1 and October 2 (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee, September 18 through November 2 (Dixie Larkin, Jack Spears *et al*); Manitowoc County, September 30 (John Kraupa); Winnebago County, flock of 50 seen on November 1 (Frank King).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Much more commonly seen this year than in the past several. Winnebago County, October 1 (Frank King); Sheboygan County, October 2 (Gordon Orians); Manitowoc County, October 4 (Myron Reichwaldt); Winnebago County, October 11 (Jim Beck and Stanley Wellso); Kenosha County, October 26 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Dane County, October 28 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee County, November 15 (Tom Soulen)—late.

**Woodcock:** Langlade County, October 10—a bird which had been shot by a hunter had been banded in Louisiana on December 21, 1951 (B. H. Popov); Waupaca County, October 21—“one sat and slept in front of a parked car” (Mrs. Theo. Peterson).

**Hudsonian Curlew:** This rare visitor was first discovered in Milwaukee on October 5 (Carl Frister) and seen by others until October 15.

**Willet:** Dane County, September 7—this rare western species showed the wing and tail pattern plainly as it flew across the road at Marshall (Alan Keitt).

**Knot:** Milwaukee County, September 2-22 (Tom Soulen *et al*); Brown County, October 19 (Ed Paulson).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Dane County, September 6 (N. R. Barger, Helen Northup, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Strelitzer) and September 7 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); last seen in Adams County on September 24 (Sam Robbins).

**Dowitcher:** Marshall, September 6 (N. R. Barger, Helen Northup, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Strelitzer).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Marshall, September 15 (Sam Robbins).

**Western Sandpiper:** Seen at Milwaukee on September 9 (Mary Donald *et al*), and in Dane County on October 9 (Mrs. R. A. Walker). Rarely seen in Wisconsin.

**Sanderling:** Flock of 20 noted in Adams County, September 2 to 17; one at Marshall, September 15 (Sam Robbins). Rare away from Lake Michigan.

**Northern Phalarope:** Milwaukee County, September 9 (Nila O'Hearn, Karl Priebe, Dixie Larkin).

**Caspian Tern:** Dane County, September 13, two birds (Mrs. R. A. Walker and Alan Keitt)—uncommon inland; Sheboygan County, October 5 (Alan Keitt)—last.

**Saw-whet Owl:** Milwaukee County, October 8—found dead (Mary Donald and Lisa Decker).

**Whip-poor-will:** Milwaukee County, October 1, found stunned in a garage—recovered and flew away (Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bromm Jr.)—late.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Wood County, September 22 (Dennis Conway); Rock County, September 29 (John Wilde); Walworth County, October 2 (Sarah Ruhl)—last dates.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Polk County, October 4 (L. Heinsohn); Oconto County, November 16 (Alfred Bradford)—uncommon; Dane County, November 22 at Mazomanie, November 23 at Pine Bluff (Eugene Roark)—rarer in southern Wisconsin.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Rock County, November 21, three pairs in a woodlot (Melva Maxson); Polk County, November 21 (L. Heinsohn)—less common north.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Brown County, October 20 “the latest I have ever seen it here” (Mrs. Paul Romig).

**Phoebe:** Oconto County, September 29 (Mary H. Staeger); Waukesha County, October 23 (Tom Soulen)—last dates.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Milwaukee County, November 5 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom)—a very late date for this species.

**Tree Swallow:** Brown County, until October 3 (Edwin D. Cleary); Milwaukee County, until October 11 (Mary Donald).

**Blue Jay:** Adams County, many migrating September 23 to September 26 (Sam Robbins).

**Crow:** Marathon County—an albino was present during October (C. O. Crocker).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Rock County, October 7 (Melva Maxson)—rare.

**Bewick's Wren:** A bird present in Adams through the summer remained until September 13 (Sam Robbins).

**Carolina Wren:** Dane County, November 23—“two at Pine Bluff were observed at close range for several minutes; all field marks were noted and the song was heard” (Eugene Roark).

**Hermit Thrush:** Green Lake County, October 26 (Harold Bauers)—last.

**Bluebird:** Brown County, October 20 (Edwin Cleary)—last for the county.

**Pipit:** This irregular transient was seen in a wide-spread area from north-east to south-central Wisconsin: Door County, September 9; Kenosha County, October 26; Waukesha County, November 2 (all by Mrs. Howard Higgins); Winnebago County, September 23 to November 1 (Jim Beck and Stanley Wellso); Dane County, September 15 (Sam Robbins) to November 2 (Mrs. R. A. Walker and Alan Keitt); Adams County, September 16 to October 2 (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee, October 3 to November 2 (Dixie Larkin et al.).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Green Lake County, October 5 (Tom Soulen).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Milwaukee, November 5 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom)—late.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Adams County, September 24 (Sam Robbins).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Rock County, November 15—one banded at this late date (Melva Maxson).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Winnebago County, November 1, “size, long tail, yellow breast and the eyestripe all seen” (James Fiedler, Robert Guenther and Stanley Wellso)—a very late date for this uncommon warbler.

**Bullock's Oriole:** A straggler from the south-west was first noted in Milwaukee on November 7 (Mary Donald), and was subsequently collected and added to the collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum. This is the first state record for this species. See "By the Wayside" column.

**Redpoll:** A start on an exceptional redpoll year. First noted in Milwaukee on October 18 (Dixie Larkin), followed by a flood of reports in November: 30 in Lincoln County on November 2 (J. W. Peroutky); noted on November 7 in Brown County, (Edwin Cleary) and Adams County (Sam Robbins); Manitowoc County, November 12 (Myron Reichwaldt); Rock County, November 18 (Melva Maxson); Waukesha County, November 30 (Tom Soulen); Polk County, large flock late in November (Mrs. J. H. Spencer).

**Pine Siskin:** Numerous reports. Milwaukee, September 24, one an albino (Karl Priebe and Mary Donald); Rock County, October 12 (John Wilde); Winnebago County, October 29, dead bird identified as of this species by Junior High School teacher Mr. Hershberger (Stanley Wellso); Dane County, October 31 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Fond du Lac County, October 31 to November 2 (Paul Cors); 150 in Milwaukee County, November 20 (Dixie Larkin); Waukesha County, November 30 (Tom Soulen).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** One near Mazomanie, October 5 (N. R. Barger and Bill Foster); Milwaukee, October 6 (Mary Donald); Sheboygan County, November 1 (Gordon Orians)—rare.

**Lark Sparrow:** Last seen in Adams County on September 16 (Sam Robbins).

**Oregon Junco:** Oconto County, October 6—a bird identified as this species was seen near Mattoon (Mary Staeger).

**Harris's Sparrow:** Widespread in the eastern half of the state: Adams County, September 16 (Sam Robbins); Oconto County, September 20 (Mary Staeger); Dane County, September 20 (Alan Keitt) and October 31 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee, September 29 (Mrs. A. C. Bromm), four on October 2 (Dixie Larkin), seen until October 17 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Green Lake County, October 5 (Tom Soulen); Rock County, October 21 (Melva Maxson).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Outagamie County, peak on September 25 (Appleton Bird Club).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Outagamie County, peak on September 25 (Appleton Bird Club); Green Lake County, last seen on October 12 (Harold Bauers); Rock County, November 19 (Melva Maxson).

**Fox Sparrow:** Waukesha County, November 7—"a bird uttering song fragments" (Tom Soulen); Rock County, November 21 (Melva Maxson); Lafayette County, November 24 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Dodge County, November 29 (Stanley Wellso).

**Lapland Longspur:** Thousands seen near Milwaukee on November 2 (Jack Spears and Dixie Larkin).

**Snow Bunting:** Sawyer County, October 20, a single bird (Karl Kahmann); 500 seen near Milwaukee on November 4 (Dixie Larkin and Dick Gordon); first seen near Oshkosh on November 10 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 27, 1953**—All-day field trip to Cedar Grove

**November 1-10, 1953**—Field notes for August, September and October should be sent to the Associate Editor

**December 25, 1953-January 3, 1954**—Dates for taking Christmas bird counts

**February 1-10, 1954**—Field notes for November, December and January should be sent to the Associate Editor

**April 24 and 25, 1954**—Field trip to watch the prairie chicken booming at Plainfield

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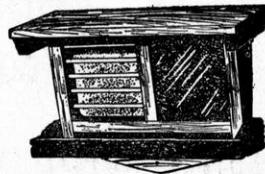
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