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The PASSENGER PIGEON

January
1948

VOLUME X
NUMBER 1



YOUNG CEDAR
WAXWING

PHOTO BY
GEORGE PRINS



A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

Published Quarterly By

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, Inc.

NEWS . . .

Notices of the 1948 annual convention have been sent to all members. Several nationally known speakers will appear on the program. The banquet speaker this year will be the well known and entertaining George M. Sutton. Few ornithologists have had the opportunity to travel as George Sutton has, and few have made such full use of their talents. Those of us who have read his books, which he illustrates himself, have been amazed at his versatility. Further, he has made many scientific contributions in the field of both birds and mammals. The dates again—April 2-4; and the place—Carroll College, Waukesha. The convention opens with a reception and movies, Friday evening at 7:30 and closes on Sunday after the field trips have been completed in the morning.

Another nationally known ornithologist and writer, J. J. Hickey, will speak. Many know Joe as the author of "A Guide to Bird Watching." Only recently Mr. Hickey joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, in the Department of Wildlife management. His wife, the well known Margaret Brooks, became nationally known as editor of the Audubon Magazine. She is still on this editorial board.

Also, John T. Emlen, Jr., professor of birds and mammals in the University of Wisconsin, likewise nationally known, will take part. To date, we have not heard which other Wisconsin ornithologists will appear on this program. But there will be more—Wisconsin is fortunate in having so many notable ones. Also, as usual, there will be several excellent movies.

The large 3c stamp, issued December 5, 1947, commemorating the Everglades National Park and the great white heron, was nicely written up by the editors of the Massachusetts bird magazine, "The Bulletin." They point out that this is the first U. S. postage stamp to give prominence to any native bird other than the American eagle. Through the efforts of the National Audubon Society, The Fish and Wildlife Service, and other cooperators, the white heron again is becoming established after being on the verge of extinc-

tion. Thus, not only is the Everglades park given recognition, but also the efforts of bird organizations.

Mr. A. W. Schorger has generously accepted our invitation to make annotations to our reprint of Kumlien and Hollister, "The Birds of Wisconsin." The first of this series begins with our present issue. We decided to reprint this book because of popular demand. We do not believe it will be a hinderance to our forthcoming new book, but rather, a help in stimulating interest.

Results of the May day bird counts will be published in **The Passenger Pigeon** this year as usual. Interest in this event has increased greatly in Wisconsin during late years. The best time, in most sections of the state is between May 15 and 20. One thing that the editors of our paper like about these May day counts is that some of the best discoveries of the year are made incidentally with them. Why not organize the people in your locality this year for a May day count in part of your county?

Dr. Leon J. Cole, Madison, honorary member of our society, passed away a few days ago. We shall have a story of his activities prepared for our next issue.

National Wildlife Restoration Week has been set for March 21-27 this year. Sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation, this program was first proclaimed by President Roosevelt in 1938, the year when the federation issued its first wildlife stamps. Wildlife restoration will be emphasized on the radio and in the newspapers during that week.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society have recently combined efforts with reference to bird field observations and records. Bird-banding records, collected by the federal service are made available to the Audubon Society, and field notes of the latter organization are utilized by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. John W. Aldrich, who succeeds Dr. Lincoln as head of bird banding, is editor of Audubon Field Notes. A brother of our Sam Robbins, Chandler S. Robbins is associate editor.

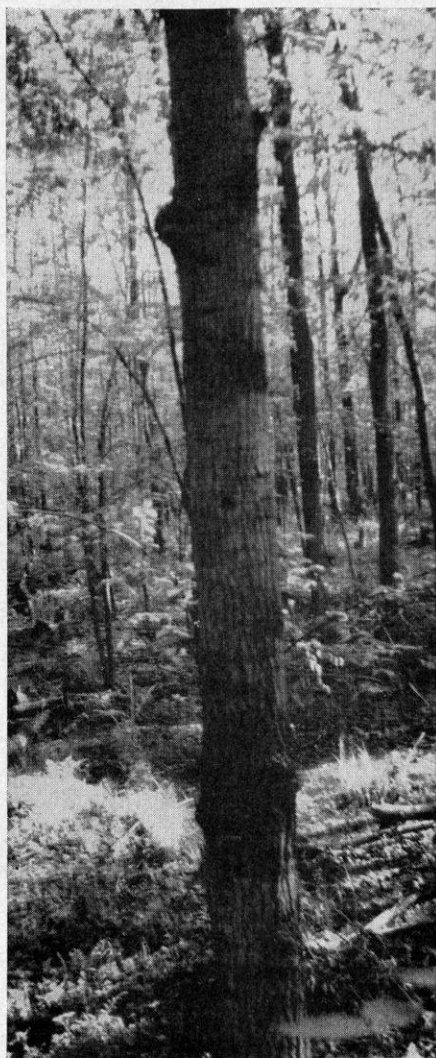
As most of our members know, **The Passenger Pigeon** has been sending out
(Concluded on page 29)

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Breeding Birds of Oconto County

By CARL H. RICHTER*



In the study of bird-life, the nesting season is the period when we may form our most intimate acquaintances. As we delve into their home lives, we gain an entirely different view of the habits even of our most common birds; in fact we learn that some species change their characteristics almost completely. As an example, consider the display that a mallard hen, otherwise wiley, will go through in defense of its young. The same may be said of the ruffed grouse, most of the hawks, the terns, and many others.

We who have a real interest in the lives of our birds know that even at this time of the year (late winter) it is not unseasonable to look for the homes of early breeders. We may find also that young are already being cared for by devoted parents.

Our earliest breeder here in Oconto County, as most elsewhere, is the great horned owl; and well incubated eggs have been found as early as the twenty-second of February, although the usual nesting time for this species is the latter part of February and the first week in March.

THE YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER HAD ITS COMPLIMENT OF FIVE EGGS IN THIS NEST TREE BY JUNE 1, 1947. TOWN OF LITTLE RIVER, OCONTO COUNTY. PHOTO BY CARL H. RICHTER.

*Address presented when the society held its convention in Green Bay. Carl Richter is probably the foremost oologist in the state, having checked the nesting of birds in the vicinity of Oconto for years. A glance at our field note sections will convince anyone that he is just as active today as ever. **The Passenger Pigeon** is currently launching a program designed to gather information about the breeding birds of Wisconsin. We emphasize this group of birds because it is the group that makes its home in our state. We hope that Richter's paper will serve to stimulate further interest.

The great horned owl is not extremely particular about its nesting site, for nests have been found in many varieties of trees such as pines, spruce, balsam, hemlock, tamarack, oak, elm, poplar, beech, maple and willows, although the evergreens that afford concealment are more often chosen. The old nests of hawks, crows, and squirrels are used, the parent owl usually adding only feathers plucked from her body. One nest, difficult to locate, was eventually found in the hollow—a natural cavity of a large elm in a dense swamp.

But it is not within the scope of this address to cover fully the nesting habits of every species that breeds in Oconto County, so we shall not go into detail.

The month of March finds an early breeder in the smaller class of birds. The Canada jay nests sparingly in the northern portion of Oconto County, for several nests have been discovered.

During the latter part of March and early April, large numbers of summer residents begin to arrive, and some of them take up nesting duties soon after. The woodcock and the prairie horned lark are among these. Other species found nesting during the month of April are the bald eagle (their nest may contain eggs from the first of the month), the barred owl, and accidentally the red- and white-winged crossbills; fol-

lowed by several species of hawks, namely, the red-tailed, red-shouldered and Cooper's. We may find the pileated woodpecker busy at its nesting tree at this time.

By the latter part of the month, nests of the great blue heron, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, long-eared owl, screech owl, kingfisher, migrant shrike, killdeer, robin, phoebe, and white-breasted nuthatch are under way.

The month of May can be considered the banner month, for a greater number of species will be found nesting at this time than in any other month of the nesting season. During this month we may find the nests of the loon, pied-billed grebe, black-crowned night heron, and green heron. Of the duck family, the mallard, black duck, pintail, wood duck, blue-winged teal, shoveller, and rarely the green-winged teal and ring-necked duck will have begun. Along the northern streams, the



THE AUTHOR AT NEST OF YELLOW RAIL, OCONTO COUNTY, MAY 27, 1929. TO SEE A YELLOW RAIL IN WISCONSIN IS DIFFICULT, NOT TO MENTION THE FINDING OF A NEST.

NEST AND EGG OF THE RED-EYED VIREO. LAKEWOOD, OCONTO COUNTY, JULY, 1946.
PHOTO BY HANS ZELL.



HEIGHT ABOVE THE GROUND ABOUT FIVE FEET. ALTHOUGH A RESIDENT OF CHICAGO, MR. ZELL FREQUENTLY RESORTS TO LAKEWOOD AND VICINITY.

hooded merganser and American merganser will have started. Of the nesting hawks, the sharp-shinned, broad-winged, marsh, and sparrow hawks should be noted. The prairie hen (chicken) and sharp-tailed grouse usually do not begin nesting until in May.

The marshes are now a din of bird-life; the majestic sandhill crane is attending its eggs, and the same is true of the rails. Here we may find the king rail, Virginia, sora, and in some years the yellow rail; also the Florida gallinule and the coot. Shorebirds, too, will have their complete clutches, that is the Wilson's snipe, upland plover, spotted sandpiper, and Wilson's phalarope.

Only within recent years have we added to the list of breeding terns for the county, this being the common tern; while the black tern may be considered abundant along our water courses. The mourning dove is now nesting. The hairy woodpecker has its set laid early in the month, while the downy and red-headed woodpeckers are later. The flicker is a common breeder during the month. In fact, we must add the red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds, bronzed grackle, Brewer's blackbird, chewink, willow and wood thrushes, brown thrasher, and several species of warblers to those which have completed their nests, or have full sets of eggs by the end of the month. June is the warbler month though, in the broader sense. Most of the sparrows are nesting during May, and of this family we have an interesting number of species and sub-species. If fortunate, we may find the nests of the Savannah, grasshopper, LeConte's, Henslow's, vesper, chipping, clay-colored, field, white-throated, swamp, and song sparrows.

Although there is generally a heavy concentration of breeding species during the first half of the month of June, many of the young mouths being fed are broods of May settings.

As was mentioned, June is the month to look for the nests of the various warblers. This family is fairly well represented, especially about the second growth in the northern part of the county. A day's field trip there, covering the various types of woodlands and swamps, may produce such interesting species as the black and white warbler, golden-winged, Nashville, parula, magnolia, Blackburnian, chestnut-sided, pine, mourning, Canada warbler, restart, yellow-throat, and perhaps we may be fortunate enough to find the nests of a few of the rarer species.

Though the three common wrens may be found nesting in May, the short-billed and prairie marsh wrens usually lay their eggs in June. Another species of wren, and one that is less common, is the winter wren, found in low, moist woods and swamps.

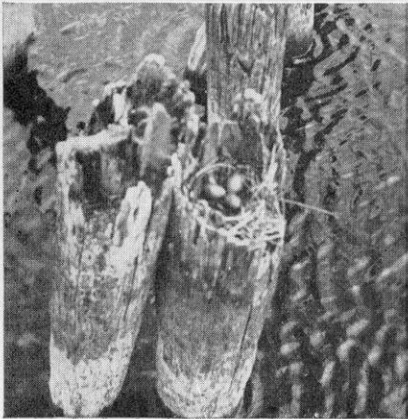
The vireos are also as a rule June nesters, as are the whip-poor-will, nighthawk, and ruby-throated hummingbird.

Toward the latter part of the month of June, second-settings of the smaller species are in order, and this extends into July when the late breeders have their first clutches. Both species of cuckoos frequently nest late. The indigo bunting prefers to delay; but when we find a species like the goldfinch, which spends much of the season with us, postponing nesting until July, we begin to wonder why. Young are often still to be found in the nests during the first week of September.

This account does not treat all of the birds to be found nesting in Oconto County, but an idea may be gained of the numbers of different species any ardent bird lover may find in and about his own county. However, I might add that we of the Green Bay area consider ourselves quite fortunate in that we are located on the southern fringe of the northern pine belt, where we have certain species not to be found as summer residents to the south.

We should all put forth every effort in our spare time to add something of interest and importance perhaps for the pages of the proposed work on "Birds of Wisconsin." And, now, as an added bit of stimulation for the host of bird students present, we have a species of which no mention is made in literature on Wisconsin birds, nesting with us. Not only has this bird been found (personally) to nest in Oconto County, but in two adjoining counties as well. What is it? Well, it is something for you ornithologists to "ferret out" on your own; and, perhaps in doing so, other discoveries may be made.

703 Main Street, Oconto.



NEST AND EGGS OF BONAPARTE'S GULL, AT MOUTH OF OCONTO RIVER, JULY 7, 1933. NEST IS LOCATED FOUR FEET ABOVE SURFACE OF WATER. PHOTO BY CARL RICHTER.

Tropical Adventures

By BERNARD CHARTIER

When I first set out for over-seas action, I was embarked on the greatest adventure of my life, though at the time I did not fully realize this and, as the owl would say, didn't give a hoot!

Before long we were on our way. The going wasn't bad, for a while at least.

There wasn't much to see until after we'd gone through the Canal and headed out over the Pacific. But, while in Panama, I saw for the first time the man-o'-war birds. Large and graceful birds they are, with a terrific wing-spread. The purple martins were there, at the time spending their winter vacation. They seemed quite interested in our transport and appeared to follow us for a while.

Once out on the Pacific, many things attracted my attention, mainly the flying fish. The smallest ones looked like apple-cores floating through the air. The largest ones looked beautiful with their rich brown scales and fins. The trailing edges of the fins were of a sparkling glassy transparency that gave the illusion that the fins were being vibrated. These fish always sail in shimmering beauty and never fail to attract the eye, no matter how often one sees them. The medium-sized fish, however, are the best performers. They are capable of making right-angle turns simply by slapping the water sharply with one side of the tail. This they do without submerging the least bit. One thing that I've never failed to marvel at is the fact that even though they may leap, say two feet, out of the water, they are always well able to maintain that same height for many, many yards without showing the slightest variation. This I have observed when the waters were as smooth as glass. Of course, when the water is rough, the flying fish gives the appearance of actually gliding up and over some of the largest waves, this being due to optical illusion. In rough water it has always struck me funny to see a small fish, which has just taken off, suddenly discover itself over a yawning abyss. Invariably it will give a quick convulsive jerk as if to brace itself for the worse. Occasionally such conditions cause a fish to land on a ship, as one did on ours, only I didn't know about it until two days later so didn't get to see it at close range.

For many days a gannet followed the ship. Just before dark one night I noticed him trying to land on the bow, but a group of fellows scared him off. Again and again he came in for a landing, screaming angrily. Finally he was driven off into the darkness. One of the boys told me that on the previous night the bird had literally pushed its way through the crowd and successfully landed. Immediately one fellow had grabbed it, but a well-aimed peck forced him to drop it, whereupon the gannet flew, unmolested, back up on its perch. It really surprised me to know that a bird could be so brave. I'm certain this story is true, because I inquired of others about what had happened, and their stories coincided almost exactly with what I had heard the first time.

So far I have only described the ocean by daylight; at night it was strangely different.

At night the ocean was beautiful! A sort of mist seemed to envelope the stillness. All that one could see was the moon and a few stars. It was fun standing to the forward of the ship facing the wind, the sea, and the sky. This was "eternity"! I had often wondered what it was like and now I knew. It was as though time itself had stopped—as though I were floating in endless space, miles from nowhere, going nowhere.

This is as good an explanation as I can give of such an experience but it is still far inadequate as a description of what one feels at a moment like that. Those of you who have witnessed the ocean at night will have an idea of what I mean.

An awe-inspiring thing about the ocean itself is the phosphorescent glow which is so prevalent, but which can be seen only at night. Huge patches of water flare with light, then die away again. When a ship is making good speed, and the night is black, one can see untold beauty in the splashes of liquid fire that leap and swirl about in the churning foam. Dazzling colors of emeralds and diamonds appear and reappear against the deep velvet of the ocean! Huge fish, themselves covered with phosphorus, swing away from the ship like flaming meteors! This is really something to see!

After being on the high-seas for more than a month, we finally neared our destination. We were still about a hundred-fifty miles from New Guinea when two visitors from that island came aboard. Two lost and forlorn creatures, they were, who had sought each other's company in their bewilderment. No doubt they had been blown far out to sea by a storm but now, here they were, safely on the ship. One was a dove and the other a kingfisher.

The dove, which was about ten inches in length, was remarkable in its coloring. Its breast, flanks, belly, and under tail coverts were a bright crimson, while the head, neck, back, wings, and tail were a bright green. What was even more remarkable, the feathers had a metallic sheen to them!

The kingfisher was unusual in that he was so small, about six or seven inches at the most. His coloring was a slate blue above and a soft white below. His general appearance was the same as the belted kingfisher.

Both the dove and the kingfisher flew off when we neared the shore.

Upon landing on New Guinea, it was noticed that the "Fuzzies" (the natives) had their black hair tinged with a sort of reddish glow. This was done, as I later learned, by certain root juices or even with peroxide which was obtained either from the Australians or Americans, or both. I soon paid no further attention. After the camp area was set up, a few natives were hired to cut the tall jungle grasses. Some of them looked a little different from the others; they had slender bones thrust sidewise through their noses. Then the light dawned! In America the saying is—"It's Luckies two to one"; over here it's "**red-heads**" three to one! These men were **HEAD-HUNTERS**! So that's why they were eyeing me and smiling in such a friendly fashion! No wonder they stopped work when I walked by—I was passing in review! For a while I stayed pretty close to my pyramidal tent with my buddies. But details, such as K. P., called me forth, and I had to pass right through the group of natives to get to the kitchen. I didn't want to go around, because there was another bunch of head-hunting "Fuzzies" in the next area. Eventually I summoned up

enough courage to walk through the group. Immediately they all "took a five" (as I knew they would) and stood eyeing me. One of my buddies laughingly cried out—"Hey, Red! Turn around and take a good look!" I turned around and looked at all the eyes. Quickly the natives flashed big smiles and made motions above their heads with their hands. "They're complimenting you on your hair!" my friend shouted. My smile must have been quite a sickly one as I thought to myself—"Yes, and believe me, it's going to stay there!"

After the natives had finished working for us, they were sent back to their respective jungle homes, the head-hunters going the farthest, due to the fact that practically all of them live deep in the interior. This made me very happy!

I gradually lost my fear and, after a month or two, I ventured out into the forest. On one of my leisurely jaunts through the entanglements, I heard a bird that sounded strikingly similar to the Baltimore oriole. I whistled and coaxed him to me and wasn't too surprised to learn that he was obviously related to the oriole. His voice, build, and actions betrayed him. However, there wasn't a trace of color on him—nothing but jet black, certainly proof of the blackbird relationship. Scores of large white cockatoos flew noisily overhead, while numbers of gray magpies slipped silently by. The cockatoos were the thoughtful birds that woke us up two hours before time every morning. The spot they most naturally chose was within a hundred yards of our camp. Here they came to roost at night, accompanied by much screaming, fighting, and flapping of wings. The same sound effects took place in the morning. Some of the fellows yelled so loudly at the birds to "shut up!", that the rest of us had to shout at **them** to "shut up!" What a mad-house that was!

Perhaps one of the rarest birds I saw while over-seas was the great black cockatoo. This bird seemed very tame as he flew, without fear, over a baseball game. He sailed low over the diamond, not more than twenty feet, as if to get a better look. His mood was one of happiness; he was squawking and jabbering softly to himself as he flew by. Just a day or so later I found a dead one lying in the forest. A few feet from him lay a magpie. Judging from the bloody mess, it appeared that the cockatoo had been set upon by a band of magpies and had fought viciously for his life, killing one of them in his defense. I suspect that it was the same cockatoo that flew over the ball game some time previously.

When our outfit finally left New Guinea, we sailed for Morotai Island in the Dutch East Indies. It was while I was there that I got a young magpie for a pet. I built a traveling cage for him out of an ammunition crate. Not long after this bird reached maturity, our outfit was ordered to move out. No, not because of the magpie, but because of the enemy. We were to make a beach-head on the opposite side of the island; it was to be another major event. Over night we had moved out. By dawn the landing craft brought us up with a bump against the shore. The ramp was down! I was probably the only person who ever made a beach-head, wading through the water, holding a bird cage above his head rather than the customary rifle. Brows were lifted! When I got ashore, I put the cage down and waded back to get my rifle. Two generals and a colonel glared at me severely but nothing was said.

The Philippine landing was a little easier on me. It didn't take the Filipinos long to learn how interested I was in birds. They brought me a small, featherless parrot, a type of lory, which I raised successfully. Then I was fortunate to get a lesser white cockatoo a short while later. Crows killed the lory one day when it was out flying. They tried to do the same to the cockatoo, but he only flew circles around them.

One day a real strange thing happened. A wood swallow deliberately left a flock of other swallows and glided in a long, slow flight over to my tent upon which the cockatoo sat, then circled playfully about as if coaxing the parrot to fly. Away went the parrot after the swallow. The swallow allowed itself to be chased for a distance and then turned about and chased the parrot. They chased each other until both were far and high out of sight. Then back they came, chasing and dashing about in all directions, after which they separated, the swallow to his flock and the parrot or cockatoo to his perch on the tent. This was done repeatedly, and during all such games that I witnessed, I never heard one angry note sounded. On the contrary, the swallow twittered, and the cockatoo uttered every word he knew, both Filipino and American. After one such chase, my pet sat on the perch and sang to himself, his bright eyes sparkling with happiness. Many wild cockatoos flew over almost every day, but the little wood swallow never mistook them for my pet. Incidentally, my bird eventually went off every morning to the mountains with the wild parrots but always returned at noon, except one day when he was over six hours late. When he returned, there was a long cord tied to his leg through which he had chewed and made good his escape. After that I was afraid to give him so much freedom. I could go on and on telling you about this bird, but that's a story in itself.

An unusual bird that some Filipinos wanted to sell me for a pet was a kingfisher. They claimed it would learn to talk. They'll say anything to make a sale!

But the worst is yet to come. When the crows had killed the lory, I wanted very much to have another little parrot just exactly like it. I finally came across a Filipino who said he could get me one. After waiting three days he, and six other fellows, returned and told me that, unfortunately, they couldn't find one, but quickly added that they had gotten a bird for me and that I should come down on the beach to the market place to see it. This I did. It was an **eagle**! The biggest I had ever seen! It was easily four feet in length and the wingspread must have been more than double that! "Would I take it?" they asked and "Would fifty pesos be too much?" Of course, I didn't take it—too much is too much! The eagle, I mean. I wouldn't have taken it if they had given it to me.

As I recall my adventures over-seas, especially the many beautiful birds I had seen, I must admit, it was certainly worthwhile. But to see the robin again, and the martins, catbirds, and wrens—that was worthwhile, too. Yes, even the English sparrow was a welcome sight!

236 Oxford Avenue, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Received January, 1947.

The Birds of Wisconsin

By L. KUMLIEN and N. HOLLISTER

Introduction

The annotated list of the birds of Wisconsin published by Kumlien and Hollister in 1903 remains the principal reference work for students of Wisconsin ornithology. It has been long out of print. The officers of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology have decided to reprint this publication in order to make it generally available. The lapse of 45 years since the appearance of the original work renders it desirable to insert revisional notes to bring the list up to date. The added information has been held to a minimum in view of the comprehensive work on the birds of the state now in preparation by Owen J. Gromme of the Public Museum of Milwaukee.

In order to increase the service of the reprint, there has been inserted in brackets those species that have been taken in the state since 1903. The treatment of subspecies is brief since systematics is beyond the scope of the reprint. It has not been considered advisable to revise the scientific nomenclature in view of the new forthcoming edition of the A. O. U. Check-List.—A. W. Schorger.

THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

By L. KUMLIEN and N. HOLLISTER

Prefatory Note.—The publication of the present list had been contemplated for some time before the actual work on it was begun, about two years ago. For some years past we have been as active as time from other affairs would permit in looking up records, gathering material, and working out, as best we could, those innumerable, obscure and discouraging points, which constantly multiply before one, when an attempt is made to compile an accurate and strictly reliable local list in any branch of biology. Our foremost thought during this period has been to perfect the list whenever an opportunity has presented itself, or could be found.

The result of this work has been, not to enlarge the list of birds supposed to occur within the boundaries of our state, as might reasonably be expected, but actually to reduce the number by eight species! Starting in 1899, with a list of 365 species and sub-species that had been recorded from, or were supposed to have occurred at some time within the state, the number has fallen away from time to time, until now we recognize but 357 in all, that we believe are really entitled to a place, and are therefore embraced in the list proper of the present paper.

This does not necessarily imply that no new species have been added, but rather that many species heretofore considered as belonging to the Wisconsin avifauna are found to be wholly lacking in any authentic record to prove their claim to such a place.

We have made no attempt at descriptions of birds, nor have we gone to any length in discussing their habits. Our whole aim and object has

simply been to bring our knowledge of Wisconsin ornithology, as regards occurrence and abundance, up to date, and to present a carefully compiled list of all those species and sub-species which have positively been known to occur within the limits of the state at any time, with as exact, simple, reliable and accurate an account of such occurrence as possible.

The Work Ahead.—Notwithstanding the vast amount of work which has been done in the state, the long period of years represented, and the pleasing results obtained, there are still many points on which the information obtainable is entirely inadequate. The ranges of many conspicuous species, as well as of rarer and more difficult sub-species, are but little known. Some of these, especially the latter, can only be worked out by the accumulation of series of specimens, migratory and breeding, from all parts of the state. Many sections, in fact, whole counties and groups of counties, have been but little worked. Some of these districts will doubtless well repay a careful observer, and furnish valuable material to throw new light on little known problems which now seem so hopelessly perplexing. That section of the state bordering upon the Mississippi River, the whole southwestern part, as well as the more northern counties, are but little known. It is not yet possible to say with certainty just what species may be found breeding in the extreme northern counties, and the western part of our area should furnish several western forms not in this list, as well as additional breeding records now hardly considered possible.

We regret that several combinations of circumstances, including, as greatest of all, the "lack of time," have obliged us to omit from the present paper several subjects of great interest which it was originally intended to include in it. These are the History of Wisconsin Ornithology, Physiography and Bibliography. Much work has already been done on these subjects, especially the latter, and it is hoped that they may at some future time be presented in another paper.

Records.—We have included in the main list only those species and sub-species which we ourselves are thoroughly satisfied have, at some time, occurred in the state, and which have records **entirely satisfactory to us**. Our determinations are founded either upon specimens which we have ourselves taken in the field, or have ourselves examined in collections of others, public or private, or upon records made by others whom we have been able to accept as strictly reliable and competent ornithologists. Doubtful species have, following the usual custom, been relegated to a "Hypothetical List," at the end of this paper.

Classification and Nomenclature.—We have followed the arrangement of higher groups and the sequence of species of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. In the matter of nomenclature, however, although following this recognized authority in the main, we have in some cases used names not yet acted upon by the Committee, and have used as full generic names a number of those as yet considered as of but sub-generic value in the Check List. In all but a few cases these changes have been already made in Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America, Parts I. and II. We have used only such as seem to us to be correct and likely soon to come into general use and to be recognized by the A. O. U. Committee in time.

Sources of Information.—The records, notes, and observations herein given are based principally upon our own collections and personal work in the field, covering a large part of the time for periods of thirty-five and fifteen years, respectively. In this time work has been done, more or less thorough, over a large portion of the State. While the greater part by far of the time has been spent in the southeastern counties of Jefferson, Rock, Dane, Milwaukee, Waukesha and Walworth, trips have been made, allowing of extended observations and collections, along the entire length of the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, the Michigan border, and to different points along the Mississippi River, as well as in a goodly number of the central counties. Added to this, and perhaps of even greater value, has been the use of the extended, accurate and perfectly authentic notes of the late Thure Kumlien, covering a period of constant residence in the state of nearly forty-five years, from 1844 to 1888, making, with the time spent by us in similar work, a total period of sixty years of constant observation, embracing nearly all parts of the state and especially complete for the southeastern portion. Besides the personal acquaintance of the late Dr. P. R. Hoy and Capt. B. F. Goss, we have had the benefit of many letters from these gentlemen to Thure and L. Kumlien for many years. These letters, in many cases, have been of great value in verifying records, and have furnished valuable notes. Mr. J. N. Clark, of Meridian, Dunn County, has contributed a list of the birds noted in that section of the state during over sixteen years of active and careful work, with copious notes on such species as we have especially inquired about. The collections of the Milwaukee Public Museum and of a number of private ornithologists have been carefully gone over.

The published lists of Wisconsin birds have been of great service. Especially worthy of mention in this connection are the following: "Notes on the Ornithology of Wisconsin," by P. R. Hoy, M. D., corrected and reprinted from the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in the Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, Volume II, 1852, pp. 341-364; "Ornithological Fauna of Wisconsin," by Rev. A. Constantine Barry, in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, January, 1854; "Economic Relations of Wisconsin Birds," by F. H. King, in the Geology of Wisconsin, Survey of 1873-1879, Vol. I, 1883, pp. 441-610; "On the Birds of Shiocton in Bovina, Outagamie County, Wisconsin, 1881-83," by F. L. Grundtvig (translated by Charles E. Faxon), in the Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, Vol. X, 1894-1895, pp. 73-158. It has also been found expedient constantly to consult Mr. E. W. Nelson's "Birds of Northeastern Illinois," Bulletin of the Essex Institute, Vol. VIII, pp. 90-155. Many valuable notes have also been found in minor lists, in Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's "History of North American Birds," and in the files of the Auk, Nidologist, Osprey, Wisconsin Naturalist, Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society, etc., etc.

Acknowledgments are due to many Wisconsin ornithologists for valuable help in the preparation of the list. To Messrs. J. N. Clark, H. Russel, H. L. Skavlem, Wm. J. Bennetts, S. R. Hartwell, H. H. T. Jackson, H. A. Winkenwerder, and Drs. H. V. Ogden and E. Copeland, who have furnished notes and suggestions, or allowed us to examine their collections; to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henry Miller for kindly making it possible for us to inspect the Hoy collection, now in their possession; to

Mr. Witmer Stone, of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, for various kindnesses; and especially to Mr. William Brewster, who has examined and determined many specimens for us; we wish to express our sincere thanks.

Delavan, Wis., March 7, 1903.

THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

ORDER PYGOPODES: DIVING BIRDS

FAMILY PODICIPIDAE: GREBES

Aechmophorus occidentalis (Lawr.). **Western Grebe.**

One specimen in the collection of L. Kumlien, killed with a pitchfork, from a bunch of six in an air-hole in the ice on Lake Koshkonong, January 4, 1878. Another specimen formerly in the collection of Thure Kumlien, now mounted and in the collection of the Oshkosh Normal School, was taken on Lake Koshkonong, October, 1881, (1) by F. Kumlien. The former does not appear to have been sexed, the latter is a female. We are positive we have seen others, but they are very rare in Wisconsin.

[Six were observed in Green Bay by Paul Hoffman on October 12, 1946, and eleven were seen at Two Rivers by Mrs. Winnifred Smith on November 26, 1946. (*Pass. Pigeon* 9,1947:36).]¹

Colymbus holboellii (Reinh.). **Holboell's Grebe.**

Holboell's grebe is found sparingly in March and early April on most of the larger inland lakes and rivers, as well as on Lake Michigan, and again from September, but more often from October, until the ice forms. Where there is open water, both on Lake Michigan and in the interior, many remain all winter. There is some obscurity in regard to the larger grebes in Wisconsin, and this without perpetuating the error of retaining *cristatus*. We are obliged to discard some of the early day records for the reason that the nomenclature has been so muddled that it cannot, with certainty, be unravelled. We have seen a young grebe, less than half grown, taken near the City of Green Bay, which is in all probability this species. There is no doubt that **some** large grebe nests, or did nest, rarely in Northern Wisconsin, and it seems not at all unlikely that it is *holboellii*.

[A calling bird in breeding plumage was found at Hope Lake, Jefferson County, May 19, 1937. (A. W. Schorger, *Auk* 56,1939:483). Found nesting at Fish Lake, Dane County, May 13, 1938, by S. Paul Jones (*Auk* 55,1938:666).]¹

Colymbus auritus (Linn.). **Horned Grebe.**

Still fairly common as a spring and autumn migrant. Not infrequently nests in the northern part of the state, as it formerly did even in the southern tier of counties. Young a few days old were procured at Lake Koshkonong during June, 1880. Few of our birds have suffered more from the depredations of the plume hunter, than has this species.

Colymbus nigricollis californicus (Heerm.). **American Eared Grebe.**

Very rare in Wisconsin. We have received two spring specimens from near Iron River, Bayfield County, but have never personally come

1. Not 1891, as labeled.

upon or taken one in Wisconsin. Mr. H. A. Winkenwerder, of Watertown, Wis., has sent us a wing of this species, which is said to have come from a bird shot at that place. We suspect the bird to be a rather rare migrant in the western part of the state, and possibly to breed in small numbers in the extreme northwestern portion. Mr. E. W. Nelson, in 1876, says of this species (1): "Not uncommon in winter upon Lake Michigan." This is certainly good authority, but entirely contrary to our observation.

[Five were killed on the Wisconsin River north of Prairie du Sac, April 30, 1909. (H. L. Stoddard, *Auk* 34,1917:63). There are the following recent sight records: one near Madison, May 3, 1941, by A. W. Schorger (*Pass. Pigeon* 3,1941:57); six in Door County, October 6, 1942, by Earl Wright (*ibid.* 5,1943:3); one in Dane County, April 8, 1943, by F. R. Zimmerman (*ibid.* 5,1943:47).]

Podilymbus podiceps (Linn.). **Pied-Billed Grebe.**

A common summer resident in all suitable localities. It arrives in southern Wisconsin early in April, if an average season, and remains until the ice forms, usually in November. Apparently has not decreased in numbers during the past forty years.

FAMILY GAVIIDAE: LOONS

Gavia imber (Gunn.). **Loon.**

This loon may be found on Wisconsin waters almost any month of the year, and during March and April is a common migrant on all inland lakes and streams. In autumn it is less common inland, but occurs plentifully on Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. A number remain all winter on Lake Michigan. It was formerly a common breeder on the small lakes from the southern tier of counties northward. Thirty years ago it bred on Lake Koshkonong and many other small lakes where it now occurs only during the migrations. A few nested at Delavan lake up to 1888, and possibly a straggling pair now and then for a few years later. Farther north, where the country is less thickly settled, many still breed. Extremely variable in size, there being a range of variation of from six to eight inches in length. There is no record of *G. adamsii*, but in 1860, Thure Kumlien received a spring loon which had a pale bill, nearly white at tip, gradually fading into a dull straw yellow, and nearly normal at the base. In no other respect, however, he states in his notes, did it differ from typical *imber*.

Gavia immer elasson (Bishop). **Lesser Loon.**

This supposedly smaller western bird, described by Bishop (*Auk* 38,1921:367), is stated to breed in Wisconsin. T. S. Roberts (Birds of Minnesota, Vol. 1, 1932:140) found that the measurements of the breeding birds of Minnesota agreed more with *immer* than *elasson*. J. Van Tyne (Check List of the Birds of Michigan, *Occ. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich.*, No. 379, June 16, 1938) lists only *elasson* for Michigan. Additional investigation is required to establish the true status of this subspecies.]

Gavia arctica (Linn.). **Black-throated Loon.**

This is certainly a very rare bird in Wisconsin, occurring only as a straggler in late fall or winter. We have access to but three unquestion-

1. "Birds of Northeastern Illinois"; Bulletin of the Essex Institute VIII, p. 150.

able records. One was shot on Rock River, near Janesville, late in the winter of 1860, and mounted for the owner, a gentleman from Rockford, Ill. This was an immature specimen, still showing many traces of the winter plumage. Another, taken at Racine, was preserved in the Hoy collection; and another, taken at Milwaukee, is also on record.

[This species must be removed from the list of Wisconsin birds since no specimen for the state is known. F. S. Hersey (*Auk* 34, 1917:283) was unable to find a single North American specimen of *Gavia arctica*. There is a possibility of the occurrence of the Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica pacifica*) but no specimens are known for Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois.]

***Gavia lumme* (Gunn.). Red-Throated Loon.**

"Very common winter resident upon Lake Michigan" (Nelson, 1877). "Not uncommon during winter" (Hoy, 1852). From my own observations I find this species a regular and common resident of Lake Michigan in winter. During the unusually severe winter of 1880-81, when Lake Michigan at Milwaukee was frozen nearly or quite across in places, large numbers of this species were seen off that city, and many were caught. They could be seen huddled together on the ice, some dead and others nearly famished. Such as survived until spring were uncommonly tardy in their northward migration, especially as the spring was unusually backward. The following June (1881) I saw a dozen or more on the rocks at the "Door" (the extreme northern end of Door County, between Lake Michigan and Green Bay), and coupling this with a quantity of second-hand information, made a record to the effect that they were breeding. Possibly they were, but with the mature judgment of later years I should have been much slower in considering the evidence conclusive. Many, if not all, of the birds were in full summer plumage, but I have since learned on more than one occasion, that the presence of birds in a given locality in summer is not evidence that they are nesting (L. K.). On the larger inland lakes and streams the red-throated loon is seldom seen in spring, but occurs sparingly during October and November, or until the ice forms. Specimens in full plumage are rarely taken in Wisconsin.

FAMILY ALCIDAE: AUKS, MURRES AND PUFFINS

***Synthliboramphus antiquus* (Gmel.). Ancient Murrelet.**

A single specimen of this series was shot in October, 1882, on Lake Koshkonong, by Rev. G. E. Gordon, of Milwaukee. Its occurrence there was, of course, purely accidental. As the opportunity occurs we will here correct one of the numerous errors in that most unfortunate bulletin, "The Birds of Michigan," by A. J. Cook, where other specimens of this species are accredited to Wisconsin as having been taken by us (1). This is an utterly unaccountable error. The bird taken by Mr. Gordon and noted in the *Auk* of January, 1884, by Mr. Geo. B. Sennett, is unquestionably the only Wisconsin record.

1. Where Mr. Cook obtained all these records, I am unable to say. Mr. Gordon's bird was sent to Milwaukee to be mounted; a friend called my attention to it, and as the taxidermist's chief interest in the bird was to get his pay for the mounting, I induced him to let me take it. I made a colored drawing and sent it to Prof. Ridgway. In the meantime the owner called for his bird and I had to give it up. My notice prepared for the *Auk* did not reach the editors until after the late Mr. Sennett's article. From this information Mr. Cook may have made his unfortunate blunder.—L. K.

[**Alle alle** (Linnaeus). **Dovekie**.

The Milwaukee Public Museum has a specimen picked up on the beach at Port Washington, January 11, 1908. (H. L. Ward, **Auk** 25,1908: 215; **Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc.** 6,1908:124).]

ORDER LONGIPENNES: LONG-WINGED SWIMMERS

FAMILY STERCORARIIDAE: SKUAS AND JAEGERS

Stercorarius pomarinus (Temm.). **Pomarine Jaeger**.

Rare winter visitor on Lake Michigan. Early in October, 1879, we saw three specimens of this jaeger on Green Bay. They were close about the boat while the fishermen were emptying their nets, and we had the opportunity of watching them for an hour or more. A week later we had a letter from Thure Kumlien, at Lake Koshkonong, informing us that he had secured one specimen from a group of three that had visited the lake. Another was secured later in the fall by a hunter and mounted for him. We have positively seen this bird on several occasions on Lake Michigan late in the fall. It is recorded by Nelson from Evanston and Chicago.

[The remains of a Pomarine Jaeger were found at Madison, July 2, 1942, by George Curran (**Pass. Pigeon** 4, 1942:47).

Stercorarius parasiticus (Linnaeus). **Parasitic Jaeger**.

An immature bird was obtained at Oconto, September 26, 1945, by Carl Richter (**Pass. Pigeon** 8, no. 1, Jan., 1946, back cover). Another was shot near Milwaukee, December 1, 1933. (W. J. Mueller, **Auk** 51,1934: 233). Both specimens are in the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Stercorarius longicaudus (Vieillot). **Long-tailed Jaeger**.

A specimen was taken in Walworth County in October, 1916, by F. T. A. Junkin. (F. M. Woodruff, **Auk** 35,1918:234).]

FAMILY LARIDAE: GULLS AND TERNS

Larus glaucus (Brunn). **Glaucous Gull**.

Rare winter visitant on Lake Michigan. Dr. Hoy obtained three specimens at Racine (I) and saw others during severe winters. In the Milwaukee Public Museum are three specimens procured at Milwaukee, January 8, 12 and 14, 1895. We are positive of having seen this species on several occasions during winter while engaged in Fish Commission work on Lake Michigan. One large specimen was caught on a herring-baited hook, but was washed overboard and lost. There is difficulty in discriminating between this species and the next, so it is impossible to say which occurs most frequently, but we are inclined to think that **leucopterus** is much more often seen.

[One was taken at Cedar Grove, May 18, 1930. (C. S. Jung, **Auk** 47,1930:551.) Three were seen near Oconto, March 2, 1939. (C. H. Richter, **Pass. Pigeon** 1, no. 4, April, 1939:58).]

Larus leucopterus (Faber). **Iceland Gull**.

A regular winter visitant on Lake Michigan, but by no means common, although occurring more frequently than **glaucus**. We know of no record for the interior.

[There is not a single Wisconsin specimen.]

Larus marinus (Linn). Great Black-Backed Gull.

We have seen this well-marked species on Lake Michigan, at the Milwaukee light house, mid-winter 1880-1, and on at least two occasions out on the lake. It is, however, rare. According to Nelson, not an uncommon winter resident upon Lake Michigan. Also recorded in Ridgway's List of Birds of Illinois (1874), on the authority of Dr. Velie, of Chicago. Given as common at Racine by Rev. A. Constantine Barry (1), but Dr. Hoy's list of 1852 does not include it, although his observations were made at about the same time and at the same place. Dr. Hoy admitted the species, however, at a later date. A specimen mounted for the Oshkosh Normal School was labeled "Lake Michigan."

[Rare migrant. There are no specimens for Minnesota and Michigan. Recent sight records are: one near Lake Mills, March 1, 1939 (Harty Anderson, *Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:61); two seen on Lake Superior, April 29, 1941 (Karl Kahmann, *ibid.* 3,1941:44). A. R. Cahn (*Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 11,1913:116) is somewhat ambiguous regarding the number observed in Waukesha County. I have been unable to locate a specimen taken in the state.]

Larus argentatus (Brunn). Herring Gull.

Very common on Lake Michigan at almost all seasons, and a common migrant on all suitable waters of the state. Nests commonly on different islands of Green Bay, and on the north shore of Lake Michigan. Immature birds, not breeding, may be found on any of the larger inland lakes during the summer. Remains throughout the winter wherever there is open water, and is especially frequent at this season about the larger harbors. Not nearly as numerous as formerly.

Larus delawarensis (Ord). Ring-Billed Gull.

A common migrant, spring and fall, but does not occur in such numbers as the preceding. It is commonly met late in November, and during mild winters still later, but the majority seem to move further south on the approach of severe weather. Large numbers pass up and down the Mississippi River in the spring and fall. Formerly bred on Spider and Strawberry Islands, Green Bay, from which localities we have eggs (L. K., 1879-81-82). In 1860 it bred as far south as Lake Koshkonong, as at least one instance was recorded by T. Kumlien—a nest of three eggs in a marsh among the black terns. Immature birds are found all summer at the fishing stations and larger harbors, as well as on the inland lakes and larger streams.

Larus atricilla (Linn). Laughing Gull.

The only known Wisconsin record for this species is that of Thure Kumlien, who shot a single specimen on Lake Koshkonong in July, 1860 (2). We find that Cook's "Birds of Michigan," 1893, says: "Very abundant on the Great Lakes; probably breeds in the northern peninsula (Gibbs' Birds of Michigan)." If this is correctly quoted it is surely a gross error. The same list, quoting Dr. A. K. Fisher, says: "Very rare north, if it occurs at all," and states that L. Kumlien says it is "fairly common" (3). Inasmuch as we seriously doubt that the bird ever visits Lake Michi-

1. Ornithological Fauna of Wis., Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. His. Jan. 1854.

2. B., B. and R., N. A. Birds, Vol. II, p. 257.

3. Very few have had the opportunity for observing the gulls on Lake Michigan that we have had, and we have never seen a specimen of *Larus atricilla* here.—L. K.

gan, except perhaps as an accidental straggler, the absurdity of the latter mis-quotation is apparent.

[There is no Wisconsin specimen. Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway state that Thure Kumlien shot a gull that he thought was this species.]
Larus franklinii (Sw. and Rich). **Franklin's Gull.**

Not common, but of regular occurrence in the eastern part of the state as a fall migrant, from September until the small lakes and rivers are closed by ice. There are but two records of its capture in Walworth County, but it is taken yearly on Lake Koshkonong in September and October. Near Rockdale, Dane County, it was noted in considerable numbers following the teams that were plowing on the prairie in May, 1870. This is the only appearance of the spring birds we have ever noted in eastern or central Wisconsin. Mr. J. N. Clark reports it in September, in Dunn County, and along the Mississippi it is not at all rare. On Lake Michigan it is less common than anywhere in the interior, and Dr. Hoy, in 1852, says: "Visits us only in severe winters. Rare." It is easy to see how the doctor came to make this statement, as the bird is not a lake gull or a winter resident, and the only birds he met at Racine were late stragglers, and he supposed them to occur at this season only. It seems remarkable that so few spring specimens are obtained in eastern Wisconsin. In fact, birds in breeding plumage are, except along the Mississippi, decidedly rare in the state.

[Fragments of a bird of this species were found on the shore of Lake Mendota, April 23, 1911, by F. L. Conover (*Auk* 29,1912:388). A male was collected on Lake Mendota, August 18, 1931, by A. W. Schorger (*Auk* 49,1932:220).]

Larus philadelphia (Ord.). **Bonaparte's Gull.**

The systematic slaughter of this beautiful gull for millinery purposes has so reduced its numbers that we can no longer claim it as our most abundant species. We are informed on good authority that for several seasons, in May, between 1880 and 1888, two men from Chicago regularly visited Lake Koshkonong to shoot this gull for its plumage. Report says "thousands" were killed, and that when the gulls left for more northern waters the plume hunters followed—how far we know not. These men reported that there were many others employed, and they visited such lakes as the gulls frequented in numbers each season. From about 1865 to 1875 it was a sight worth seeing when hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these birds commenced to flock together on Lake Koshkonong, and with one accord began their circling flight northward. These vast flocks passed directly over our house as they left the lake, and many a time have we watched them, rising higher and higher, and gradually fading from view. In the same locality at the present day very few are seen, either in spring or fall, although small flocks are of regular occurrence on any of the larger lakes. In 1880 a few were said to breed on Chambers' Island, Green Bay, and we saw on some small islands in Big Bay de Noquet, Michigan, a number of nests like pigeons' nests on the flat branches of low coniferous trees that without question had been used by these birds. Many full-plumaged birds were seen and numbers of young, but only one so young as to be still unable to fly. When this species was common, from 1865 to 1880, it generally put in an appearance in southern Wisconsin during the first week of April, remaining to or past the middle of May. Immature birds remained the entire summer.

The fall migration began sometimes as early as the middle of August and a few remained until the ice formed. A few remain until mid-winter, especially on Lake Michigan, but as a rule it is not a winter resident.

[Nested at Oconto in 1935. (C. H. Richter, *Oologist* 54, no. 1, 1937: 5-7).

***Pagophila alba* (Gunnerus). Ivory Gull.**

A specimen was taken near Oconto, March 8, 1947, by Carl Richter (Pass. Pigeon 9, no. 3, July 1947: back cover). It is in the Milwaukee Public Museum.¹

***Xema sabini* (Sab.). Sabine's Gull.**

A young male was shot on Delavan Lake, Walworth County, October 7, 1900, by Mr. H. P. Hare, and is now preserved in the collection of N. Hollister. This is probably the only authenticated Wisconsin specimen extant. Dr. Hoy reported it as having been seen by him at Racine in November, 1853. Mr. E. W. Nelson is also positive of having shot a specimen on the shore of Lake Michigan, near Chicago, the first of April, 1873, but the bird was blown out into the lake and lost. In April, 1897, we examined and identified two fresh wings of this species, brought to a taxidermist in Janesville to be prepared for a hat. This bird was killed on Rock River, near that city.

[Recorded by N. Hollister, *Auk* 18, 1901: 392.

***Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* (Linnaeus). Atlantic Kittiwake.**

The only specimen for the state was taken in the harbor at Milwaukee, February 4, 1938. (M. Deusing, *Auk* 55, 1938: 529). It is in the Milwaukee Public Museum. A. C. Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 113, 1921: 44) mentions the occurrence of this species at Racine, March 17, 1884. This is evidently the bird seen by Dr. P. R. Hoy as recorded by W. W. Cooke (*Div. Econom. Orn. Bull.* 2, 1888: 55).¹

***Sterna caspia* (Pall). Caspian Tern.**

Not common, except, perhaps, on northern Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Breeds, or did in 1879-80-81-84, and 1893, on different islands in Green Bay and on the north shore. Frequently found on Lake Michigan in winter. Visits irregularly the larger inland lakes. A large flock appeared on Lake Koshkonong, May 29, 1896, from which fine specimens were shot by L. K. Also noted on Lake Koshkonong a number of times during the summer. Not noted by Hoy in his list of 1852, and consequently not found in King's list of 1879, the latter being chiefly a compilation from Hoy.

***Sterna forsteri* (Nutt). Forster's Tern.**

A common migrant during the first two or three weeks of May, and again from September until the middle of October; and still later on Lake Michigan. Such birds as breed in the state often scatter after the nesting season, and both old and young are often found in August. Not nearly as numerous as formerly. Although the larger part are migratory a good many still nest within the state, principally in the small reedy lakes, even in the southern counties. In June, 1872, a large number, not less than two hundred pairs, nested at Lake Koshkonong. The nests were mostly roughly heaped up masses of the dead stems of the cane (*Phragmites phragmites*), placed close together, often a dozen or more in a cluster, and situated in the more open spaces among the year's growth of the cane. Plenty as were the nests and eggs, still we had the greatest

difficulty in getting even two or three positively identified sets, as the discovery was soon made that all were not **forsteri**, but many **hirundo**, and a few **paradisaea**. As the day was warm with bright sunshine the birds did not stay on their nests, but the entire colony was constantly hovering over us. It was only toward night, as a bird would settle on its nest and could be shot as it arose that we succeeded in identifying and procuring a few sets of **forsteri** and **hirundo**. A second visit to the colony a week later was of even more interest, for then the nestlings were out in force; but it was utterly impossible to distinguish them. As far as our observation goes **forsteri** prefers the small reedy, inland lakes for breeding purposes, while **hirundo** is more often found on the islands of Lake Michigan and Green Bay.

Sterna hirundo (Linn). **Common Tern.**

Formerly, at least up to 1880, a very common migrant, at about the same dates as the preceding. More common on Lake Michigan than **forsteri**, and more abundant here than in the interior of the state, preferring the gravelly or sandy islands of the lake and Green Bay for nesting places, rather than the smaller inland lakes. Very greatly diminished in numbers during the last quarter of a century.

Sterna paradisaea (Brunn). **Arctic Tern.**

A somewhat irregular migrant, at times fairly common, and again quite the opposite. We have taken it nesting in Green Bay, 1879, and in June, 1891, procured a set of eggs—the parent shot on the nest—at Lake Koshkonong. These nesting records are, however, to be considered as exceptional. May 27, 1899, Mr. H. H. T. Jackson, of Milton, found a dead specimen of this species, partly devoured by some animal, on a muskrat house in a small lake half a mile from Milton. This bird proved to be a female and contained two nearly perfect eggs. Less common in the fall than in the spring, less often met inland in the fall than the two preceding, and not as abundant as either at any time or place in the state, this species was evidently entirely overlooked by Dr. Hoy, Rev. Mr. Barry and others, as it was for many years by Thure Kumlien. It arrives a little earlier in the spring than either **forsteri** or **hirundo**. It is readily distinguished from either of these by its smaller, redder bill and much darker underparts.

[This bird must be removed from the list as there is no specimen for the state.]

Sterna antillarum (Less.). **Least Tern.**

This species can be considered only as a very rare summer visitor from the south. In June, 1893, three full-plumaged birds were shot by L. Kumlien at Black Hawk Island, Lake Koshkonong, among a large colony of black terns. Another specimen is, or was, preserved in a store in Janesville, said to have been shot on Rock River near that city. There is also one Milwaukee record of which we are sure, but we are unable to find the date. Rev. A. Constantine Barry, in his list of 1854, says: "Not so common as the black tern and probably does not breed in the state." Not included in Hoy's list of 1852.

[An immature female was collected at Bar Creek, Sheboygan County, August 19, 1934. (C. S. Jung, *Auk* 52, 1935:87).]

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis (Gmel.). **Black Tern.**

A very common summer resident in all the inland ponds, sloughs, wet marshes and lakes, but seldom found on Lake Michigan, and proba-

bly only during migrations. Arrives in Wisconsin, of an average year, the first few days of May—dates of arrival for a number of years at Lake Koshkonong range from April 16 to May 11—and departs early, few being seen after the middle of September. When they arrive in the spring all are in the black, full breeding plumage; and all are in the white winter plumage before they leave; in fact, a great many begin to assume their winter plumage before they are through nesting. Not as plenty as formerly, still their numbers have not decreased anything like those of the common or Forster's Tern.

Hydrochelidon leucoptera (Meisn. and Schinz).

White-Winged Black Tern.

The only known instance of the occurrence of this species on the western continent is that of a breeding female shot by L. Kumlien in a large marsh near Black Hawk Island, Lake Koshkonong, July 5, 1873. The specimen was sent freshly skinned to Dr. Brewer and was presented by him to the National Museum. The partially denuded abdomen and well formed ova prove that it would have bred—whether with its own kind or with the common species we know not, as no others were seen at the time nor since, although days have been spent in the tern colonies for almost no other purpose than the vain hope of seeing more of them. The bird was quite noticeable among the enormous numbers of black terns—so much so that there is no special need for any one to sacrifice the life of any of the common species under the delusion that it may prove to be **leucoptera** when in hand.

[Recorded by T. M. Brewer, *Am. Nat.* 8, 1874:188.]

ORDER STEGANOPODES: TOTIPALMATE SWIMMERS

FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE: CORMORANTS

Phalacrocorax dilophus (Swain.). **Double-Crested Cormorant.**

Twenty-five to thirty years ago this was a common migrant in suitable waters throughout the state. It arrived as soon as the ice began to loosen in the small lakes, varying with the season from early in March until April, and remained until May first. Even when it was more common, comparatively few were noticed in the interior during the fall, although more plenty on the Mississippi River. Mr. J. N. Clark, writing from Dunn County, reports small flocks along the Chippewa River in spring, but considers them rare there. A few, we think, remain on Lake Michigan during mild winters. During the past five years the cormorant has been more plenty than for many years previous in Walworth County, and doubtless at other suitable places on the line of flight, both in the spring and in the fall. A few used to remain on Lake Koshkonong all summer, but we have never found them nesting, as they probably do in certain counties of the northern part of the state. Mr. Chas. F. Carr (1), now of New London, Wisconsin, is authority for the statement that "they breed about some of the larger, isolated lakes in the northern and central part of the state," and "feed at a considerable distance from the vicinity of their nesting haunts, and when leaving and returning fly at a great height."

[Nested at Lake Wisconsin in 1921. (H. L. Stoddard, *Wilson Bull.* 34, 1922:69).]

1. *Wis. Naturalist*, I-2, Sep. 1890.

FAMILY PELECANIDAE: PELICANS

***Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Gmel). American White Pelican.**

This once abundant species is now chiefly found along the Mississippi River during spring migrations. In past years we have observed great flocks of them on Lake Koshkonong in April, and often well into May, and we never tired of watching them swim up some bay, and forming a line across, slowly move toward the shore, nearly every bird with head and neck under water. When a fish was captured the head was raised until the bill was nearly vertical, and the fish, or as much of it as there was room for, swallowed. At these times they were anything but shy, and were, in fact, easily approached. During the past ten years we know of but one specimen having been taken on Lake Koshkonong, a juvenile, in July, 1892, and only one small flock seen. Two or three were killed on Duck Lake, Walworth County, about 1888, three seen on Delavan Lake June 6, 1895, and one specimen, a single female, was shot in the inlet of Delavan Lake, September 4, 1898, which is now in the collection of N. H. Mr. J. N. Clark reports but two instances of the occurrence of pelicans in Dunn County during many years' observations, these in 1891, and considers them very rare there. In 1883 we visited abandoned rookeries in the western part of the State, and we are reliably informed that a very few nested northeast of Merrill in 1884. Probably few, if any, nest in the state at the present time; in fact this is fast becoming one of our rarer birds. Did not seem to frequent Lake Michigan to any extent even when common inland.

[One or more migrants are seen almost annually.]

***Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis* (Linnaeus). Eastern Brown Pelican.**

A female was taken at Madison August 1, 1943. There is another specimen in a farm home at Black Hawk, Sauk County, shot about 1903. (A. W. Schorger, *Auk* 61, 1944:305).¹

FAMILY FREGATIDAE: MAN-O'-WAR BIRDS

***Fregata aquila* (Linn). Man-o'-War Bird.**

A single straggler of this species was shot in the Milwaukee river, at Humboldt, near the city of Milwaukee, in August, 1880. The bird was sitting on a rock projecting out of the shallow water, and was shot by a boy with a pistol. The specimen is now mounted in the Milwaukee Public Museum.

ORDER ANSERES: LAMELLIROSTRAL SWIMMERS

FAMILY ANATIDAE: DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS

***Merganser americanus* (Cass.). American Merganser.**

Common as a migrant, arriving in the spring as soon as there is any open water—in fact, a few remain all winter wherever it is not frozen, about spring fed creeks. Said to nest on the extreme northern end of Door County. We have seen them in this locality in summer and also at different places on the south shore of Lake Superior in July and August. Fully as common as thirty years ago.

[A few nest in northern Wisconsin. Among the recent breeding records are those by O. J. Gromme (*Yearbook Mil. Pub. Mus.* 1925, 1927:60) at Mamie Lake, and by C. Richter (*Pass. Pigeon* 2,1940:92; 3,1941:65) in Door County.]

Merganser serrator (Linn.). **Red-Breasted Merganser.**

Common during migrations, but not in as great numbers as the preceding. A regular breeder about Green Bay and Lake Superior. We have nesting records for Green Bay up to June, 1886. Our observation has been that it is much more common in the eastern than in the western part of the state, and is not as liable to remain all winter as is *M. americanus*.

Lophodytes cucullatus (Linn.). **Hooded Merganser.**

Very common, sometimes fairly abundant, in most sections of the state, although for some reason not apparent it does not frequent all sections alike. Where there is open water, as in Lake Michigan, and, in mild winters, portions of the larger inland lakes, it remains all winter. Breeds sparingly, in suitable localities, from the southern tier of counties northward. Unlike the last two this "fish duck" is most often of excellent flavor, and is considered by many local gunners as superior to the blue-bill, whistler, butterball, and many other sea ducks.

Anas boschas (Linn.). **Mallard.**

Still abundant as a migrant, and, in Southern Wisconsin, as a winter resident. Here large numbers remain on the prairies all winter, feeding in the corn fields and resorting to the open springs and spring runs at night. At the present time the mallard nests but sparingly in the localities where it was formerly a common breeder, still clinging, however, to any suitable locality when not too much disturbed in late spring.

Anas obscura (Gmel). **Black Duck.**

Typical *obscura* is rather rare in Wisconsin. A few are found during the spring migrations, and some nest each year throughout the interior of the state, where they are much more common than on Lake Michigan. We have shot young, not yet able to fly, in Green Bay in August, presumably of this race, and a limited number formerly nested in Horicon Marsh. About Delavan specimens are sometimes taken on the opening day of the ducking season, September 1, when it is still very hot and unlikely that any migration has commenced.

Anas obscura rubripes (Brewst). **Red-Legged Black Duck.**

This is the common form of the "black mallard" which is shot in Wisconsin during the fall flight and, in the southern counties, throughout the entire winter. Mr. Brewster has kindly examined five selected specimens, taken during winter and early spring at Delavan and about Milton, and pronounces four of them typical *rubripes* and one intermediate. Usually found in company with large flocks of mallards which frequent the prairie cornfields and open spring-holes during the winter.

[Brewster's *rubripes*, as long suspected and now well established, is not a valid subspecies. (T. M. Short, *Wilson Bull.* 55,1943:1-7).]

(Continued in next issue)

THE 1947 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By SAM ROBBINS

The combined efforts of 59 observers produced a total of 77 species in the annual Christmas bird count in Wisconsin last winter. Twelve counts were made, covering eleven localities: six in southern Wisconsin, and five in central Wisconsin. Bird counts from the northern part of the state are still lacking, leaving the total picture, particularly as it concerns the winter visitants from the north, somewhat incomplete.

Except in Milwaukee where there is always open water, lingering water birds were virtually absent. Nearly every count included some land bird that lingered beyond its usual departure date, however. The song sparrow was found in six places, robin and flicker in four, mourning dove, red-wing, and white-throated sparrow in three, as well as Wilson's snipe, kingfisher, winter wren, mockingbird, hermit thrush, meadow-lark, rusty blackbird, cowbird, and the savannah, field, white-crowned, fox and swamp sparrows.

Northern winter visitants were equally conspicuous—by their absence. Not a single pine or evening grosbeak, crossbill, siskin or redpoll was reported. The only northern visitants not always expected were Northern shrikes in Green Bay and Milwaukee, and the Hudsonian chickadee and Bohemian waxwings in Neillsville.

Milwaukee again supplied the highest count, with 57 species. The summary follows:

	Appleton	Green Bay	Horicon	Loganville	Madison	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Neillsville	Oshkosh	Shields Township	Viroqua	Waukesha
No. of Observers	8	7	1	1	7	23	4	1	2	2	1	8
No. of Species	23	22	15	18	32	57	42	20	14	12	14	22
Mallard	19	6			279	230	150					
Black Duck	28				301	80	35					
Gadwall					1							
Pintail						3						
Green-winged Teal						1						
Shoveller						20	20					
Canvas-back						18	8					
Greater Scaup Duck						2						
Lesser Scaup Duck					1	1500	30					
Am. Golden-eye	550				50	175	150					
Bufflehead						75	35					
Old-squaw						8	125					
Ruddy Duck						5						
Hooded Merganser						7	3					
Am. Merganser	25				5	300	50					19
Red-br. Merganser						85	30					
Goshawk						1						
Red-tailed Hawk				2	1	7	1			3		4
Red-shouldered Hawk						1						

	Appleton	Green Bay	Horicon	Loganville	Madison	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Neillsville	Oshkosh	Shields Township	Viroqua	Waukesha
Rough-legged Hawk			2						2			2
Marsh Hawk						3						1
Sparrow Hawk	1					4	1					
Ruffed Grouse				3				1				
Hungarian Partridge			6			15	38					23
Bob-white				12	20							
Pheasant		3	20		35	70	30	3	29			5
Coot					1	1	1					
Wilson's Snipe					3							
Herring Gull	29	11			3	335	1000		2			
Ring-billed Gull						75	10					
Bonaparte's Gull						25	8					
Rock Dove		5		60	40	130	75		11			
Mourning Dove		12				7	1			1		
Screech Owl			2			2						
Great Horned Owl				2		1		4				
Barred Owl								1				
Long-eared Owl						3	1					1
Belted Kingfisher					2			1				
Flicker					1	1						7
Red-bellied Woodpecker				3				1		2		
Red-headed Woodpecker											3	
Hairy W'dpecker	2	1		2	4	4	2	2		6	1	1
Downy												
Woodpecker	11	4	7	2	5	29	13	1		4	1	6
Blue Jay	17	14	6	10	35	13		29	3	2	8	6
Crow	2	5		2	25	179	75	8	13	1	3	753
Black-capped												
Chickadee	28	45	6	16	21	63	25	32	23	34	10	15
Hudsonian Chickadee								1				
Tufted Titmouse											1	
White-breasted												
Nuthatch	20	13	3	11	6	14	7	3	3	5	6	2
Red-breasted												
Nuthatch		1				1						
Brown Creeper	4	3	1			2						1
Winter Wren					1							
Mockingbird						1						
Robin		1			4	35	15		1			
Hermit Thrush						1						
Golden-crowned												
Kinglet	3	2	1			4	4		4			
Bohemian Waxwing								5				
Northern Shrike		2				2	2					
Starling	42	183		2	75	125	250	14	1		125	20
English Sparrow	275	383	18	100	300	150	500	110	180	12	30	127
Eastern Meadowlark												1

	Appleton	Green Bay	Horicon	Loganville	Madison	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Neillsville	Oshkosh	Shields Township	Viroqua	Waukesha
Red-wing			1		1	35						
Rusty Blackbird					3							
Cowbird							1					
Cardinal	5			4	20	19	15	4	2		5	
Purple Finch	3						3	1				
Goldfinch	3	23		4		12			1		2	39
Savannah Sparrow			1									
Junco	58	11		5	28	162	25				3	30
Tree Sparrow	2		21	2	14	145	5	1		9		151
Field Sparrow						1						
White-crowned Sparrow							2					
White-throated Sparrow	1		1			2	1					
Fox Sparrow						1	1					
Swamp Sparrow					2	3	2					
Song Sparrow	1	1			3	16	20				1	1
Snow Bunting		2000						1				

Appleton. (Alder, willow, hardwood, cedar and tamarack swamp 25%, river banks 25%, open fields 10%, city parks and streets 5%, ravine and cemetery 10%, lake fronts and hardwoods 25%). Dec. 21; 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 20° to 24°; wind SE, 1-5 m.p.h.; six inches snow; river open, lake partly frozen. Eight observers in two parties. Total hours 16 (11 on foot; 5 by car); total miles 50 (20 on foot, 30 by car). Total, 23 species, 1129 individuals.—Kenneth Dean, Doris Pickert, Mrs. H. L. Playman, Luther Rogers, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Rogers, John Walworth, Dexter Wolfe.

Green Bay. (City parks and cemeteries 15%, bay shore, river edge and marsh 40%, upland woods 35%, fields 10%). Dec. 28; 8 a. m. to 3 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 18° to 23°; gentle NW wind; 2-5 inches snow. Seven observers in four parties. Total miles 56 (17 on foot, 39 by car). Total, 22 species, 2729 individuals.—Edwin Cleary, Bob Feller, R. P. Hussong, Chester Krawczyk, E. O. Paulson, Elmer Strehlow, Mrs. Andrew Weber, members of the Green Bay Bird Club.

Horicon. (From Mieske farm east to Four Mile Island, thence south to Raddatz woods, thence west and north to Burnett Ditch, and south to Mieske farm). Dec. 22; 6:45 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 18° light south wind. One observer. Total hours 9¾, total miles 13. Total, 15 species, 96 individuals.—Harold Mathiak.

Loganville. (One square mile covered; deciduous woodland 40%, open fields and farmyards 60%). Dec. 28; 8:30 a. m. to noon. Clear; temp. 6° to 18°; light NW wind; six inches snow; creeks frozen. One observer. Total hours 3½. Total, 18 species, 242 individuals.—Harold Kruse.

Madison. (West and south of city.) Jan. 1; 7:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 25°; strong wind; snowing in p. m.; ground covered with snow; lakes frozen. Seven observers in four parties. Total, 32 species,

1290 individuals.—Mr. & Mrs. N. R. Barger, Leon Edmunds, Arnold Jackson, Jr., JoAnne Kirk, Mrs. Philip Miles, Mrs. R. A. Walker.

Milwaukee. (Area approximately same as in 1946. Bender Dump, Estabrook, Grant, Greenfield, Hoyt, Jacobus, Juneau, Kern, Kinnickinnic Parkway, Kletsche, Lake, McGovern, Washington, Menomonee Parkway, Root River Parkway Parks, Lake Michigan shore, Wind Lake; fields and woods on the northwest side; woods 30%, lake front 25%, fields 15%, river bottoms 15%, tamarack swamp 5%, feeding tables 10%). Dec. 27; dawn to dusk. Clear; temp. 25° to 35°; wind NW, 15-20 m.p.h.; ground bare; Lake Michigan open. 23 observers in 10 parties and six feeding tables. Total hours 38 (28 on foot, 10 by car); total miles 175 (43 on foot, 132 by car). Total, 57 species, 4209 individuals.—Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mrs. H. K. Cowen, Mrs. M. Cutler, Marie Daetz, Mrs. C. Decker, Mary Donald, Mrs. Arthur Erskine, C. Frister, Paul Hoffman, William Jackson, Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Mrs. L. Logeman, Helmuth Mueller, Gordon Orians, H. L. Orians, Mrs. Martin Paulsen, H. Schaars, Mrs. Carl Schwendener, Mrs. W. Simmons, Dr. Pearl Thompson, Sam Thorn, Alvin Throne, George Treichel.

Milwaukee. (Juneau, McGovern and Whitnal Parks, Estabrook, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Parkways, Bender Dump, sections of the lake front, several feeding stations, Upper River Road). Jan. 3; 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 25° to 30°; wind SE, 10-15 m.p.h.; 12 inches snow; Lake Michigan open. Four observers together. Total hours, eight. Total, 42 species, 2770 individuals.—Mary Donald, Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Gordon Orians, George Treichel.

Neillsville. (City and selected areas south and west of city; deciduous woodland 75%, open field 20%, residential 5%). Dec. 30; 5:45 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Overcast; temp. 28° to 32°; wind NE, 5 m.p.h.; six inches snow. One observer. Total hours 9 (3 on foot, 6 by car); total miles 102 (3 on foot, 99 by car). Total, 20 species, 223 individuals.—Sam Robbins.

Oshkosh. (Area bounded on the north by 23rd St., on the east by Lake Winnebago, on the south by Point Comfort, and on the west by highways 41-45; farm roads and adjoining fields 70%, lake front 20%, small coniferous grove 10%). Dec. 28; 11:50 a. m. to 1:10 p. m. and 2:15 p. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 23° to 29°; 3-7 inches snow. Two observers together. Total hours 3¾; total miles 20 (2 on foot, 18 by car). Total, 14 species, 275 individuals.—Jack and Kurt Kaspar.

Shields Township (Marquette County). (Tamarack swamp six miles west of the township, along county trunk J; mixed hardwoods 45%, dense tamarack swamp 55%). Dec. 29; 10:15 a. m. to 12:15 p. m. and 1:45 p. m. to 4:15 p. m. Partly cloudy; temp. 19° to 25°; wind SW in gusts up to 15 m.p.h.; 5-15 inches snow. Two observers together. Total hours 4½; total miles 4. Total, 12 species, 81 individuals.—Jack and Kurt Kaspar.

Viroqua. Dec. 21. One observer. Total hours, 2. Total, 14 species, 199 individuals.—Margarette E. Morse.

Waukesha. (Two wooded areas in city; farmland north of city; SW along Fox River valley to Mukwonago marsh, thence to Saylesville; open farm lands 38%, deciduous woodlands 36%, tamarack swamp 10%, grassy marsh 16%). Dec. 21; 7 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Clear; temp. 25° to 34°; wind SW 1-3 m.p.h.; 1-3 inches snow; river mostly open. Eight ob-

servers together. Total hours $9\frac{1}{2}$ (6 on foot, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in car); total miles $52\frac{1}{2}$ ($7\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 45 in car). Total, 22 species, 1215 individuals.—Robert Adams, Vincent Batha, Harlow Bielefeldt, E. R. Cuthbert, Walter Hahn, S. Paul Jones, Hal Lahey, Charles E. Nelson, Jr.



NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

questionnaires periodically to gather information on the range and population of certain birds. When the information has been gathered, a feature article is then prepared for publication. Our last species so treated was the dickcissel. This year, we propose the American egret. Questionnaires will be sent out next fall when the birds have left for the south, however, we announce this proposed study at this time so that observers can be on the lookout for them this year.

On October 12, 1947, Boy Scouts of the York-Adams area in Pennsylvania dedicat-

ed a memorial to the passenger pigeon in Hanover, Pennsylvania. Many persons took part in the program and a six-page pamphlet was prepared for the occasion. The memorial consists of a brick monument on which a plaque of the bird is attached and the following inscription: "In the interest of the preservation of wild life we here dedicate this memorial to the ill-fated passenger pigeon which from earliest pioneer days until the 1880's flocked to these pigeon hills. This migratory bird, now extinct, was once so plentiful its numbers darkened the skies."



ANOTHER PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

The Student's Page

By MRS. N. R. BARGER

Periodically members present ideas to The Passenger Pigeon which are of real interest to bird students. The following letter by Mrs. Earl Wright addressed to the Green Bay Bird Club suggests ideas for special bird study projects that could be used by other clubs or individuals.

Green Bay Bird Club

Dear Members,

As you know the club project for this year is to be a detailed study of the brown thrasher. It is desirous that each member take an active



PHOTO BY H. L. ORIAN

part in this program and make contributions from time to time concerning observations on this species.

The duty of compiling notes has fallen to me, and the cooperation of all the members who have an opportunity, ever so slight, to observe the habits of the brown thrasher will be greatly appreciated.

A tentative list of questions that need answering are listed below:

- 1—Date of earliest arrivals.
- 2—Nesting territory limits.
- 3—Number of singing perches.
- 4—What are the lowest and highest singing perches.
- 5—What is the earliest and latest time of day for singing.
- 6—Length of singing time at each perch.
- 7—Number of nests in a season.
- 8—Type of nesting site (tree, shrub, etc).
- 9—Height of nest from ground.
- 10—Nesting material.

- 11—Number of eggs and incubation period.
- 12—Are eggs of second set same color and markings as first set.
- 13—Number of days young remain in nest.
- 14—Do both parents share nesting duties equally?
- 15—Do males sing more before young are hatched or after?
- 16—Does male sing whispering song at edge of nest?
- 17—Do the birds approach nest in same manner each time?
- 18—Does the male's approach differ from that of the female?
- 19—Does the parent bird start second nest before the young are able to shift for themselves?
- 20—Try to determine the kind of food fed to young, (insects, fruit, caterpillars, etc.)

Any other observations not listed will be of value. Keep notes on this species, making special effort to record time of day observations were made.

Notes may be sent to me or brought to the regular meetings.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MARIE WRIGHT

Why not send in the results of your projects so that perhaps we could have a contest? If there is no bird club in your community you could carry out a little project of your own with your favorite bird, or with one that nests near enough to make observations convenient. Projects from individuals are equally welcome.

ON THE HABITS OF GULLS

Over a period of many months I served as an aircraft radio mechanic with the 3rd Air Force Staging Wing at Savannah, Georgia. Until the end of the war in Europe ever increasing numbers of heavy bombers passed through our mechanics' hands. The vast bare expanse of the air field was almost always crowded with airplanes, and the place was never free of the throb of their engines.

In the winter time, and seemingly only on the foggiest, coldest days some dozens of herring gulls would lurk around the farthest rank of planes. What brought them to our sterile field, I know not. Watch as I would I never saw them garner more than a scrap from some soldier's candy bar, but they were always in faithful attendance on such days, quite unafraid in the tremendous uproar, and a contrast in effortless, silent flight, to the monsters we tended. I doubt if many noticed them, but to me, they were a touch of nature, welcome in a world of metal.—Lawrence J. Johnson, Middlebury, Indiana (former resident of Wisconsin).

A New Statewide Bird Check List

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. Compiled and annotated by Irving E. Hampe and Haven Kolb. The Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore. 80 pp., 9 photographs, one map. 1947.

This is the first state list for Maryland during the past fifty years. It lists all the species and gives relative abundance and seasonal status. The introduction discusses source material and methods used in preparing the manuscript. A bibliography and index is appended. Appears to be a valuable contribution to the science.—N. R. B

BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

Virginia Rail Catches Frog. Shortly before noon on October 18 I was setting up a duck blind in the marsh when I was aroused by a peculiar frog-like call in the rushes behind me. By the sound of the call, which was repeated again and again, I could tell that it was coming nearer. I had heard a similar call by a frog when caught by a snake, so turned and advanced cautiously. About twenty feet from where I stood a Virginia rail darted through some rushes to a partially submerged stump, carrying in its bill a small green frog. While the rail was busily engaged pecking at the frog, I managed to approach to within five or six feet of the busy bird. Then it noticed me and darted away—partly running, partly flying, and uttering several sharp alarm notes. On examination, the frog was found to be dead, but the skin was not punctured anywhere. I have found dead frogs scattered about the marsh, usually in fall, but had placed the blame upon the rusty blackbirds.—Carl Richter, Oconto.

Gull Chases Eagle. Scanning the sky for ducks on October 19, I noticed two objects flying far off, but in my direction. Even at a great distance, it seemed that the two would separate and then swiftly come together. It was some time before they approached near enough for identification—a herring gull and a bald eagle. All the while the gull continually swooped at the larger bird nor did it desist as the pair flew out of sight. Only at times did the eagle show that he was bothered by the thrusts, but this gull was the most persistent one of its kind I have ever witnessed.—Carl Richter, Oconto.

Hard Luck Robin. One robin near me built four different nests last summer. The first nest blew down, and the eggs were destroyed; incubation had begun. Then she built about 100 feet from the first site; here she hatched her young, but something happened to them, so she built across the street from her first nest. Again she hatched her brood, but a hard wind and rain storm destroyed them. Next she built, or started to build in a tree in the neighboring yard, but must have been discouraged this time, for she gave it up before completion.—Mrs. Melva Maxson, Milton.

Hudsonian Chickadees Resent Human Intrusion. When on a hike through a large stretch of woods in Forest County on November 21, I came upon a group of Hudsonian chickadees in a balsam thicket. First one of the birds began complaining; then two more joined it—all just a few feet from me. The scolding attracted a purple finch, more Hudsonians, and several black-capped chickadees. The black-caps evidently took me for granted, and, after giving their usual notes, departed. The Hudsonians, however, still remained and kept up their scolding. I was in their territory among the balsams and had no right to be there.—Carl Richter, Oconto.

Cedar Waxwing Caught Dozing. On October 17 I was able to approach and touch a cedar waxwing which was feeding on the ripe fruit of the common honeysuckle on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. I first walked slowly to within three feet of the bird and watched it from that distance for several minutes. It remained on one twig, moving back and forth on this as it fed. It ate seven red fruit in less than four minutes. The bird seemed unafraid, only raising its crest when a

white-throated sparrow flew to the same bush. The waxwing then raised and lowered its crest three or four times. At intervals the bird seemed to doze, raising its lower eye-lid more than half-way over its eye. After "resting a few seconds the bird would move about and pick another fruit or two. I carefully stepped closer until I was close enough to touch the bird's wing. It raised its neck as I approached, especially whenever I made some noise in the leaves on the ground. After stroking its wing until the bird seemed settled, I moved my fingers around to its breast. When I touched its breast it looked startled, stretching its neck and opening its eyes. It immediately flew away in apparently normal flight to perch in the top of a large elm about 150 feet from the bush.—R. Nero, Madison.

THE AUTUMN SEASON . . .

(All field notes for the period of December 1 to February 29 should be sent immediately to Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, 205 Hewett Street, Neillsville, Wisconsin.)

Consistently warm weather, devoid of severe cold snaps, provided observers with another good autumn season, in which no less than 238 species were reliably reported within the state. As would have been expected, the land bird migration was slow in getting under way, but cooler weather in the latter half of September sent most of the small song birds through the state quickly. Unusually warm weather in October caused many birds to remain later than usual, and again the record book came in for some drastic revisions; at least 13 late departure dates were broken, and three others tied. The shorebird flight was quite good, with some individuals lingering much later than had been noted heretofore. The breeding population of ducks in the state suffered heavily, because of the early hunting season and the unseasonably warm October record, which kept the local birds here and delayed the southward flight of the more northern migrants. The goose flight was fair, ten days to two weeks later than last year's flight. The hawk flight was generally disappointing, but early in November Barger noted a good flight over Madison, and Hans Zell reported 400-500 hawks going over Chicago on Nov. 6. Also consistent with the warm weather, more than the usual quota of birds remained through November, with the evident intention of spending the winter within the state's border.

Western Grebe: Seven birds were seen at Two Rivers, Nov. 18, almost the same date and place where 11 were seen a year ago (Mrs. Smith).

White Pelican: Four were seen on Lake Koshkonong, Sept. 16 (Dallman).

Great Blue Heron: Last report from Milwaukee, Nov. 28 (Gordon Orians).

American Egret: Scarce in Wisconsin this fall. One journeyed as far north as Mercer, however, on Sept. 1 (Jim Beer). Two were also noted in Pierce County, Sept. 9 (Jonas); and one in Horicon, Sept. 17 (Burrow).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Still in Milwaukee, Nov. 30 (Mrs. Larkin).

American Bittern: Milwaukee, Nov. 23 (Gordon Orians).

Least Bittern: Last noted in Kenosha, Sept. 23 (Mrs. Higgins).
Whistling Swan: Only one fall report: a flock in Oconto, Oct. 29 (Carl Richter).

Gadwall: Arrived in Milwaukee, Sept. 14 (Frister).

Baldpate: First noted in Milwaukee, Sept. 2 (Mrs. Balsom).

Blue-winged Teal: Last seen in Mercer, Oct. 28 (Mrs. Sell).

Wood Duck: Last recorded in Madison, Nov. 1 (Robbins).

Redhead: First seen in Milwaukee, Sept. 20 (Gordon Orians).

White-winged Scoter: Milwaukee, Nov. 16-19 (Larkin-Orians).

Ruddy Duck: First in Milwaukee, Sept. 7 (Larkin-Orians).

Turkey Vulture: No less than 23 birds of this species were seen feeding on dead fish in Crawford County, Sept. 10 (S. A. Apel). Single individuals were seen near Wausau, Sept. 1 (Beer), and in Milwaukee, Nov. 22 (Mary Donald); another was found caught in a fox trap in Dunn County, Oct. 3 (H. B. Apel).

Goshawk: One in Oneida County, Oct. 16 (Steven); one in Green Lake County, Oct. 18 (Steven).

American Rough-legged Hawk: Arrived in Sheboygan County, Oct. 4 (Hunter et al), and in Oshkosh, Oct. 5 (Kaspar).

Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk: This visitor from the west was sighted near Columbus, Nov. 12 (Mathiak).

Bald Eagle: Rhinelander, Oct. 14-17 (Steven); Waukesha County, Oct. 19 (Steven); Oconto, Oct. 19 (Carl Richter).

Osprey: Last, Milwaukee, Nov. 6 (Larkin-Orians).

Duck Hawk: One in Madison, Oct. 8 (Knudson); one seen in Sauk County, Nov. 9 (Leopold).

Pigeon Hawk: Waupaca, Oct. 3 (Mrs. Peterson); Milwaukee, Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians).

Canada Spruce Grouse: Noted at Three Lakes, Oneida County, Oct. 16 (Steven).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Noted in Florence County, Nov. 20 (Carl Richter), and in Juneau County, Nov. 22 (Becker).

Sandhill Crane: 250 were seen in Green Lake County, Oct. 7 (Trainer); many were reported from Adams County, Oct. 17 (G. C. Johnson); 25 were seen in Kenosha County, Oct. 19 (Hubbard).

Virginia Rail: Still in Oconto County, Oct. 18 (Carl Richter).

Florida Gallinule: Remained in Milwaukee through Oct. 21 (Mrs. Larkin). Latest date on record.

Semipalmated Plover: Noted in Oshkosh, Sept. 6 (Kaspar); lingered in Milwaukee through Nov. 8 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

Killdeer: Still in Oshkosh, Nov. 22 (Kaspar), and in Milwaukee, Nov. 23 (Mrs. Larkin).

Golden Plover: 14 noted in Sheboygan County, Oct. 11 (Gordon Orians); seen off and on in Milwaukee until Oct. 15 (several observers); one found in Dunn County, Oct. 19 (Buss).

Black-bellied Plover: Few in Milwaukee, last seen on Sept. 17 (Mrs. Larkin).

Ruddy Turnstone: Remained in Milwaukee until Oct. 8 (Gordon Orians).

Spotted Sandpiper: Last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 13 (Mrs. Paulsen).

Solitary Sandpiper: Last, Milwaukee, Oct. 20 (Mrs. Larkin).

Lesser Yellow-legs: Remained in Milwaukee through Nov. 9 (Larkin-Orians).

Knot: Present in Milwaukee from Sept. 10 to Oct. 5 (many observers).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Noted in Horicon from Sept. 25 to Oct. 25 (F. H. King), a straggler was still in Milwaukee, Nov. 22 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Several reports from Milwaukee; last seen there, Oct. 9 (Gordon Orians).

Baird's Sandpiper: At least seven reports from Milwaukee, through Oct. 2 (several observers).

Least Sandpiper: Five in Horicon, Sept. 25 (King); last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 6 (Gordon Orians).

Red-backed Sandpiper: One in Horicon, Sept. 20 (King); present in Milwaukee from Sept. 18 to Nov. 23 (several observers). Latest date on record.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Ten in Horicon, Sept. 22, with one still present Oct. 25 (King).

Stilt Sandpiper: One was carefully observed in Oshkosh, Sept. 10 (Kaspar).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Lingered in Milwaukee until Oct. 9 (Gordon Orians), and in Horicon until Oct. 20 (King).

Western Sandpiper: Oshkosh, Sept. 10 (Kaspar). Observed at distance of ten feet, and compared with two semi-palmated sandpipers in vicinity.

Marbled Godwit: One individual was found in Milwaukee, Sept. 7 (H. & G. Orians).

Sanderling: 50 seen in Manitowoc County, Sept. 21 (King), two in Sheboygan County, Oct. 4 (Gordon Orians); last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 18 (Mrs. Balsom). Not as plentiful as sometimes.

Northern Phalarope: Horicon, Sept. 25 (King); Oshkosh, Oct. 2 (Kaspar).

Pomarine (?) Jaeger: In Milwaukee a jaeger was seen at rather close range chasing Bonaparte's gulls on Nov. 19 and 20 by Gordon Orians and Helmuth Mueller. The large size, and presence of short, apparently blunt protruding tail feathers indicate the probability of this species; but the great variations in plumage of the different species of this family, particularly in fall, would seem to rule out positive identification of so rare a bird by any who are not thoroughly familiar with such birds in past experience.

Franklin's Gull: A number of individuals were present in Milwaukee from Sept. 28 to Oct. 31 (many observers), increasing the probability that this species may be a more frequent visitor in the state than was previously supposed. An individual is also reported from Madison, Oct. 26 (Schorger).

Forster's Tern: Milwaukee, Sept. 5 (Mrs. Larkin); Oshkosh, Sept. 15 (Evans).

Caspian Tern: Oshkosh, Sept. 15 (Evans); Milwaukee, Sept. 17-26 (Gordon Orians).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Still in Neillsville, Oct. 7 (Robbins).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last seen in Madison, Oct. 18 (Emlen). Latest date on record.

Snowy Owl: One in Sauk County, Nov. 20 (Mrs. E. M. Cox). Only report this fall.

Long-eared Owl: One in Dane County, Nov. 30 (Collias).

Short-eared Owl: Milwaukee, Oct. 5 to Nov. 9 (Mrs. Larkin); Madison, Nov. 30 (Lawrence).

Whip-poor-will: Last, Milwaukee, Sept. 3 (Mrs. Paulsen).

Nighthawk: Last reported from Milwaukee, Oct. 23 (Mrs. Larkin).

Chimney Swift: A single bird was seen in Pierce County, Oct. 5 (Robbins); a flock of 100 was still in Madison, Oct. 7 (Ryser).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last noted in Hudson, Oct. 1 (Mrs. Owen), and in Oshkosh, Oct. 2 (Kaspar).

Belted Kingfisher: One in Oshkosh, Nov. 26 (Kaspar).

Pileated Woodpecker: One in Waupaca County, Oct. 13 (Frank Seymour).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Rock County, Oct. 11 (Steven); Hudson, Nov. 29 (Mrs. Owen); Marquette County, Nov. 30 (Kaspar).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Arrived in Waupaca, Sept. 10 (Mrs. Peterson).

Kingbird: Last seen in Milwaukee, Sept. 17 (Mrs. Larkin).

Phoebe: Remained in Milwaukee until Nov. 28 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

Least Flycatcher: Last, Milwaukee, Oct. 8 (Mary Donald).

Wood Pewee: Milwaukee, Oct. 7 (Mary Donald).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Only fall report: Milwaukee, Sept. 18 (Gordon Orians).

Tree Swallow: Late stragglers were noted in Milwaukee, Nov. 8 (Gordon Orians), and in Madison, Nov. 11 (Scotts). Latest date on record.

Bank Swallow: Remained in Two Rivers until Sept. 16 (Mrs. Smith).

Purple Martin: One in Sheboygan County, Oct. 4 (Gordon Orians et al).

Canada Jay: Mercer, Sept. 1 (Beer-Greeley) and Nov. 26 (Mrs. Sell); Florence County, Nov. 20 (Carl Richter); Forest County, Nov. 22 (Carl Richter); and Oneida County, Oct. 14-16 (Steven).

Northern Raven: There was a noticeable movement of this species into the forest regions of west central Wisconsin this fall, farther south than usual. First noted in northern Jackson County, Sept. 25 (Jess Scott); several were subsequently noted in Clark County (Clumpner-Robbins), in Jackson County (Mr. & Mrs. Roberts), and in Juneau County (William Hopkins).

Hudsonian Chickadee: Several in Forest County, Nov. 21 (Carl Richter).

Tufted Titmouse: Loganville, Nov. 15 (Kruse); Milwaukee, Nov. 27 (Mary Donald).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Noticeably scarce this fall. Individuals were seen in Appleton, Sept. 11 (Mrs. Rogers); Milwaukee, Sept. 28 (Gordon Orians); Three Lakes, Oct. 15 (Steven); and in Mercer throughout the fall.

House Wren: Last, Milwaukee, Oct. 17 (Mary Donald).

Winter Wren: First in Milwaukee, Sept. 7 (Mrs. Balsom); last in Milton, where one was banded on Nov. 18 (Mrs. Maxson).

Prairie Marsh Wren: Last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 21 (Larkin-Donald).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Balsom-Larkin).

Mockingbird: One seen in Madison, Nov. 15 (Mrs. Dinsday).

Catbird: Lingered in Appleton until Oct. 18 (Mrs. Tessen), and in Milwaukee until Oct. 25 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

Brown Thrasher: Still in Milwaukee, Nov. 13 (Mrs. Larkin).

Robin: Remained in Mercer until Nov. 28 (Mrs. Sell), and in numerous more southern locations throughout the period.

Wood Thrush: Last noted in Hudson, Oct. 1 (Mrs. Owen); Sheboygan, Oct. 4 (Hunter et al); Milwaukee, Oct. 5 (Steven).

Hermit Thrush: Present in Vilas County in late September (Charles Hetzler).

Olive-backed Thrush: Last in Neillsville, Nov. 9 (Robbins).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Present in Milwaukee from Sept. 2 to Oct. 15 (Mrs. Balsom). Latest date on record.

Willow Thrush: Last in Milwaukee, Sept. 25 (Gordon Orians).

Bluebird: Peak in Two Rivers, Oct. 16-21 (Mrs. Smith); last noted on Nov. 9 in Madison (McCabe) and Milwaukee (Mrs. Paulsen).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Neillsville, Sept. 4 (Robbins).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First in Neillsville, Sept. 15 (Robbins); last in Hudson, Nov. 13 (Mrs. Owen).

Pipit: Present in Milwaukee from Sept. 28 (Mrs. Balsom) to Nov. 15 (Gordon Orians). Also noted in Sheboygan County, Oct. 4 and 11 (Gordon Orians), and in Madison, Nov. 1 (Robbins).

Northern Shrike: Seen in St. Croix Falls, Nov. 3 and 30 (Heinsohn).

Migrant Shrike: Last noted in Hudson, Sept. 14 (Mrs. Owen).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last, Waupaca, Sept. 26 (Mrs. Peterson).

Blue-headed Vireo: Noted in Milwaukee from Sept. 3 (Mary Donald) to Oct. 6 (Gordon Orians).

Red-eyed Vireo: Remained in Milwaukee until Oct. 15 (Gordon Orians).

Philadelphia Vireo: Neillsville, Sept. 13-16 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Sept. 25 (Gordon Orians) to Oct. 8 (Balsom-Larkin).

Black and White Warbler: Lingered in Milwaukee until Oct. 20 (Mrs. Larkin).

Golden-winged Warbler: Still present in Neillsville, Sept. 15 (Robbins), and in Milwaukee, Sept. 17 (Mrs. Larkin).

Tennessee Warbler: Last noted on Oct. 7 in St. Croix Falls (Heinsohn) and Neillsville (Robbins).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Arrived early and stayed late in Milwaukee: first seen, Sept. 3 (Larkin-Donald); last seen, Oct. 26 (Gordon Orians). Ties latest date on record.

Nashville Warbler: Last in Milwaukee, Oct. 21 (Gordon Orians).

Parula Warbler: First, Milwaukee, Sept. 2 (Mrs. Larkin); last, Sheboygan County, Oct. 5 (Steven).

Magnolia Warbler: Remained in Appleton until Oct. 18 (Mrs. Tesen).

Cape May Warbler: Neillsville, Sept. 19 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Sept. 22 to Oct. 10 (Mrs. Larkin); Sheboygan County, Oct. 4 (Hunter et al) to Oct. 12 (Gordon Orians).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: In Neillsville, Sept. 13 to Oct. 7 (Robbins); in Milwaukee, Sept. 25 (Gordon Orians) to Oct. 16 (Mary Donald). Latest date on record.

Myrtle Warbler: First in Waupaca, Sept. 8 (Mrs. Peterson); last in Hudson, Nov. 29 (Mrs. Owen).

Blackburnian Warbler: Last noted in Vilas County, Sept. 24 (Miles), and in Milwaukee, Sept. 27 (Gordon Orians).

Black-poll Warbler: Reported from Oshkosh, Neillsville, Cedar Grove and Milwaukee; last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 5 (Mrs. Larkin). Ties latest date on record.

Pine Warbler: Last noted in Cedar Grove, Oct. 4 (Hunter-Orians); also reported from Neillsville and Milwaukee.

Prairie Warbler: A bird in adult plumage was carefully observed in Milwaukee on Oct. 8 (Larkin-Balsom). As far as we know, this is the first autumn record for this species in the state.

Western Palm Warbler: Arrived in Neillsville, Sept. 13 (Robbins); last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 21 (Larkin-Orians). Ties latest date on record.

Ovenbird: Left Mercer, Oct. 13 (Mrs. Sell).

Grinnell's Water-thrush: Last reported from Milwaukee, Oct. 14 (Steven).

Connecticut Warbler: One fall report: Milwaukee, Sept. 26 (Mrs. Balsoni).

Mourning Warbler: Migrating through Neillsville, Sept. 4-13 (Robbins).

Wilson's Warbler: Observed in some numbers in Neillsville, Sept. 4-15 (Robbins); present in Milwaukee, Sept. 4 (Mrs. Balsom) to Sept. 28 (Gordon Orians).

Canada Warbler: Neillsville, Sept. 19 (Robbins).

Redstart: Last, Milwaukee, Oct. 8 (Balsom-Larkin).

Bobolink: Left Two Rivers, Sept. 9 (Mrs. Smith).

Western Meadowlark: Singing birds still present in Two Rivers, Oct. 16 (Mrs. Smith), and in Kenosha, Oct. 17 (Mrs. Higgins).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A remarkably late departure: Horicon, Oct. 9 (Mathiak).

Rusty Blackbird: Flock of 30 still present in Madison, Nov. 23 (Schorger).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Last reported from Milwaukee, Oct. 20 (Mrs. Larkin). Latest date on record.

Indigo Bunting: Last, Neillsville, Sept. 29 (Robbins).

Evening Grosbeak: Very few reports. Ten in Mercer, Nov. 16 (Mrs. Sell); small flocks in Forest County, Nov. 23 and 30 (Carl Richter).

Purple Finch: Found to be common in Forest County, Nov. 22 (Carl Richter).

Pine Siskin: Neillsville, Sept. 15 (Robbins); Cedar Grove, Oct. 11-12 (Gordon Orians); Three Lakes, Oct. 16 (Steven); seen off and on throughout the fall in Mercer (Mrs. Sell).

Towhee: Lingered in Milwaukee until Nov. 9 (Mrs. Balsom), and in Birnamwood until Nov. 10 (Miss Staeger).

Savannah Sparrow: A straggler remained in Milwaukee until Nov. 19 (Gordon Orians).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Reported from Oshkosh, Oct. 21 (Kaspar). Late.

LeConte's Sparrow: Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Gordon Orians).

Nelson's Sparrow: One carefully observed in Milwaukee, Oct. 1 (Balsom-Larkin).

Vesper Sparrow: Still in Two Rivers, Nov. 6 (Mrs. Smith); remained in Dane County throughout November (Doane).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Mercer, Oct. 17 (Mrs. Sell).

Harris' Sparrow: Unlike last year, when this species hurried through the state in a few days, an individual was seen in Appleton regularly from Sept. 25 to Oct. 28 (Mrs. Tessen et al). Others were reported from Crawford County, Oct. 7 (Scotts); Neillsville, Oct. 7 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Balsom-Larkin) to Oct. 25 (Mrs. Paulsen); and one was banded in Two Rivers, Oct. 10 (Mrs. Smith). All were in immature plumage.

White-crowned Sparrow: Present in Milwaukee from Sept. 13 to Oct. 28 (Mrs. Balsom). Latest date on record.

White-throated Sparrow: Last seen in Mercer, Nov. 16 (Mrs. Sell); scattered individuals remained throughout the month at various more southern locations.

Fox Sparrow: Arrived in Neillsville, Sept. 19 (Robbins); still in Milton, Nov. 16 (Mrs. Maxson).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Neillsville, Oct. 7-15 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Sept. 22 (Mrs. Larkin) to Nov. 6 (Larkin-Orians). Latest date on record.

Song Sparrow: Last noted in Two Rivers, Nov. 12 (Mrs. Smith); remained to winter at several locations.

Lapland Longspur: Milwaukee, Sept. 25 (Mrs. Larkin) to Nov. 8 (Gordon Orians); Neillsville, Oct. 29 (Robbins); 200 near Monticello, Nov. 28 (fide Emlen).

Snow Bunting: An individual noted in Neillsville on Oct. 7 (Robbins) is the earliest fall arrival on record. Also noted in Madison, Nov. 1 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Nov. 4 (Gordon Orians) to Nov. 6 (Mrs. Larkin); Cable, Nov. 24 (Fred Jones).

State's Breeding Birds To Be Mapped

The editorial staff of *The Passenger Pigeon* has purchased a supply of work maps of Wisconsin, showing the outlines of the counties and their names. Beginning with 1948, we propose to place a small red dot on this map, in the proper location, for every nesting record received. Each species will have its own map.

Of all the classes of birds found in Wisconsin, we believe that those which make their homes here deserve to be emphasized the most. They are the summer residents of which we have from 200 to 250 species. To determine the current range and population in the state of each one, will become a fascinating project for the members of the society. Each year when the convention is held, a certain group of these maps will be selected for exhibition. The names of all observers will be appended below the maps with a cross-reference to show who the contributor was for a given locality, as well as to acknowledge credit. Also, the maps will be dated.

It will be interesting to see just how far north in the state our southern species breed, and conversely, how far south from the northern border our Canadian species nest. Right now it seems, from the material at hand, that from 80 to 90 species occupy regional breeding ranges in the state; whereas more than 100 species appear to nest throughout the entire state. Also, there are western species gradually working in, whose ranges and relative populations ought to be established.

Just how observers will operate to determine these facts is left to the individual. Obviously, care should be exercised not to, either do harm yourself to the birds' nests, or betray them to their enemies. Since the mere scent trail of a human being near a nest will draw predators there later, it would be satisfactory, for our purposes, to ascertain from a distance that nesting activities are in progress. Definite evidence must be secured for each record, however, before it will be plotted on the map. Definite evidence includes nest construction (with certain exceptions), the presence of eggs, and feeding of young until they are able to make sustained flights. Obviously, a young bird which is able to fly well could not be used. Also, there are times when nest construction itself cannot be taken for positive evidence, for the bird may not be mated. Although the presence of singing males is good corroborating evidence that the species is nesting, here again it would not be definite, for the bird may go unmated for the entire season.

Although nesting records will be made by bird students incidentally with other activities, it is a good idea to set aside at least one day in June which you call nest-census day. This is the day when you, either as an individual or with a club, will go out for the definite purpose of finding out which birds nest in a given place. Some students prefer to visit the same area each year on about the same date; others like to travel far from home for bird study; while many work their own locality. Any, or all, of these methods are good.

Nest records are to be submitted to the editor of our field notes department, together with other field observations, as heretofore.

—N. R. Barger