

## **The passenger pigeon. Volume 44, No. 4 Winter 1982**

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Winter 1982

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# *The Passenger Pigeon*

Winter, 1982  
Volume 44, No. 4



**A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY**

*PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY*

**The Wisconsin Society For Ornithology, Inc.**

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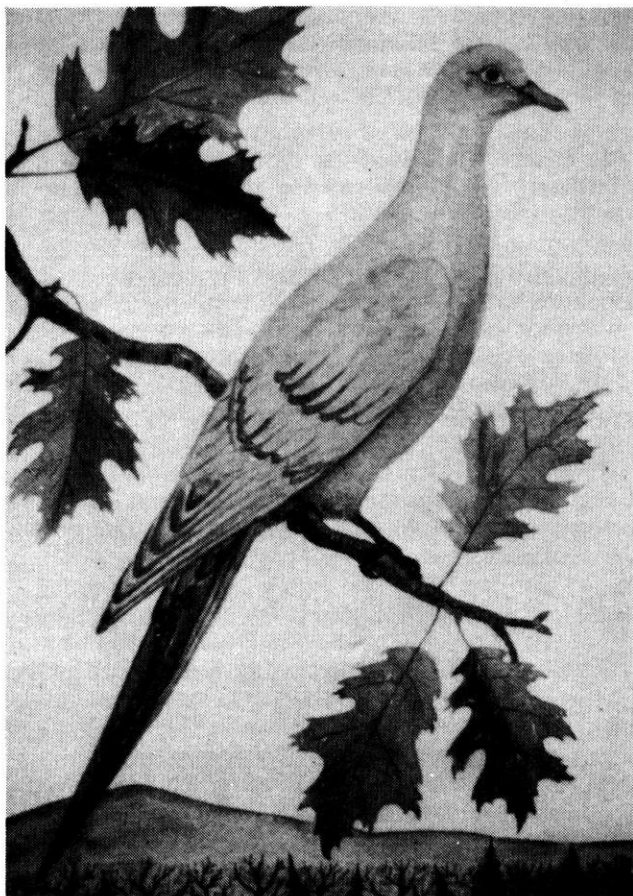
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Cover Photo: Collection of Ruth E. Cross. Oil painting of Passenger Pigeons painted by her uncle, a Michigan artist, Lewis Luman Cross in 1900. Even at that date, it had to be painted from memory, for by the turn of the century the million-membered flocks of Passenger Pigeons that once darkened the midwestern skies had been driven to the edge of extinction by hunters and other natural causes.

Fifteen years later they were extinct, the last pigeon dying at a Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

**THE PASSENGER PIGEON**, (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Second-class postage paid at Hartland, WI and additional mailing offices. Membership and annual dues: Single \$8, Family \$10, Sustaining \$25, Life \$200, Patron \$750, Library \$6. Send Membership dues to membership chairman, Alex F. Kailing, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Send manuscripts to the editor, Charles A. Kemper, 733 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Back issues available at \$2 each from W.D. Brown, 225 W. Lakeside St., Madison, WI 53715.

**POSTMASTER** - Send Change of Address to WSO, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029.



*Water color, by Phil Sander, 1962*

## **Empty Skies**

**By Phil Sander**

*"The pigeon was a biological storm. He was the lightning that played between two opposing potentials of intolerable intensity; the fat of the land and the oxygen of the air..."*

*Aldo Leopold*

*From A Sand County Almanac*

Researching the bibliography of the Passenger Pigeon, **Ectopistes migratorius**, it is inconceivable that a single species of bird that frequented Wisconsin skies, like a mighty undulating cloud, has now been extirpated.

The pigeon once migrated in the North American continent in such vast numbers that reliable observers reported, "From a given point and from horizon to horizon the dense wave after wave formed a canopy that would take approximately four hours to pass." Their flight defied comprehension, and their wide-spread phalanx partly blotted out the sky.



At the time of America's discovery, the Passenger Pigeon could have numbered three to five billion birds. The feathered tempest migrating through Kentucky in 1980 was observed by Alexander Wilson. He estimated the flight to contain 2,230,272,000 birds.

John James Audubon estimated a flight in 1812 to contain 1,150,136,000 birds. It is evident that this streamlined migratorius was the most abundant species of bird ever to populate America, probably adding up to nearly half of the total bird life in this country.

Wisconsin's ideal temperature, with its staple crops of acorns and beechnuts supplemented with other seeds and berries, attracted the massive flights each spring. Roughly a zone between 43° and 45° north latitude was their prime territory in Wisconsin, and eastward thru the forests of Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York. All had a similar biotic zone that was favorable for roosts and nesting colonies.

Starting in the 1850s, immense flocks of pigeons migrated into Wisconsin mainly thru the western two-thirds of the state. There also appeared the market hunters with their guns, nets and traps. In 1871, the oak and beech forests of central Wisconsin drew the largest community of birds known. This ideal site occurred in an area of some 850 square miles, or 544,000 acres.

Its shape was like a huge "L". The long arm of the "L" had an average width of six miles and ran from Black River Falls to Kilbourn (Wisconsin Dells), a distace of 75 miles. The short arm reached from Kilbourn toward Wisconsin Rapids for 50 miles, averaging eight miles in width. It was estimated by Dr. A.W. Schorger that the area may have contained as many as 136 million nesting pigeons.

At the rookery sites, trees were overburdened with a multitude of nests. Gregarious in habits, the bird existed well in crowded roosts and nesting colonies. When nesting, the female laid only one egg. The tom assisted the hen in the fourteen-day incubation period. Later both adults would feed the squab. Often they had a second hatching if the nesting was broken up by shooting or trapping.

Should one of the adult birds be killed by man or predator, the egg would be lost by chilling after the remaining bird left the nest for its feeding grounds. Likewise the squab would suffer and die from malnutrition. Adult birds often flew 50 miles or more in search of food. Overshooting and netting had a definite effect on the pigeons' annual reproduction.

The 1871 bumper crop of acorns attracted the greatest contingent of birds ever assembled to the west-central sites of Wisconsin. Here pigeons were slaughtered in thousands by the commercial hunters and local people. Railroads shipped freight-car loads of iced carcasses in barrels and other containers to the food markets in the big cities of the midwest and eastern states.

Prices paid by the pigeon trade varied, but were considered highly profitable. The price ranged from 35 cents to 40 cents a dozen at the nesting sites. Chicago markets paid 50 cents to 60 cents a dozen. Squabs in the metropolitan markets were 60 cents to 70 cents a dozen. Live birds, in the cities, brought \$1.00 to \$2.00 a dozen. The flesh was a very good economic food source. Parts of the viscera were used in the manufacture of patent medicines, and feathers were made into pillows and quilts.

Shooting started with the northern migration in March and April; then thru mid-summer at the roosts, squabs were preferred by the market trade, ending with the southern migration in August and September. This long season gave a continuous spring-fall harvest for the professional pigeoners.

Since there was no thought of conservation, there were no seasons or limits. No game laws were enacted until it was too late. By 1882 the last shipment of birds by railroad ended, as market hunting ceased to be profitable. This was an early sign that the bird was doomed.

The pigeon was an important source of food for the Indian people. They gathered only what their needs warranted. The Potawatomi name for the pigeon was O-ME-ME-OO or MEEME, and the Chippewas called it ME-ME. Their names mimicked the call-note or cooing of the bird. Other names used were Pigeon or Passage or Poor Man's Chicken. Early accounts simply called the bird Wild Pigeon.

In 1899, records show the last pigeon in Wisconsin was shot near Babcock. The last surviving pigeon in the United States, named Martha, died at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens, September 1914. Thus ended the fate of *Ectopistes migratorius* and it passed into oblivion.

There are a number of questions for researchers to analyze. Why did the species dwindle so abruptly? Could there have been other causes beside hunter depredation that resulted in the pigeons' demise? It is true that easy harvest and man's lust for financial gains contributed to the birds' extinction, exploiting a natural resource that seemed inexhaustible.

Yet there are other factors to examine from a biological view. The pigeon did show all the signs of old age, such as their build-up of countless numbers. As their numbers were reduced, they entered a stage in which they could not cope with the environment and diminishing range. Many other extinct forms of animal life in a similar way reached a point of no return just before their extinction. For example: dinosaurs and ice-age animals.

As the pigeons' range changed, they were crowded into smaller and smaller areas. The possibility of an unknown avian disease could have spread among the teeming birds. Disease would have had a disastrous effect on the large colonies. This was not known or recognized by early ornithologists. Today's example is the virus that attacks concentrations of wild geese, ducks and pheasants. The spread of a virus today is of concern to state and federal researchers.

The question of food could be considered. A shortage of mast necessary to feed the hordes of birds may have been another factor which led to their depletion. Acorn and beechnut crops are known to materialize at irregular intervals, three to five-year appearances. Large amounts of food were necessary to sustain both the adults and squabs in order to perpetuate the hungry flocks. The result - birds were weakened gradually by drastic widespread declines in their food sources.

Another comparison is mankind. What happened to the advanced cultures of the great Egyptian pyramids, the Mayan and Aztec people? Could their demise be the result of disease due to the large concentration of people or a nutrient-depleted diet?

Recalling a meeting in Madison in 1947, the writer had an opportunity to talk with Dr. A.W. Schorger, ornithologist and naturalist, about the

possibility of the bird's survival in today's environment; could it exist as its counterpart, the Mourning Dove?

He indicated that the wild pigeon could never be restored. Some creatures can not exist in numbers below a certain level. What happens is that they refuse to breed or else grow sterile. The birds were highly colonial; they lived, flew and nested en-masse.

Adding to their mortality rate was the lumberman who denuded their prime nesting range, followed by agriculture that cleared the habitat and natural foods along their migrating routes.

Of interest, a close cousin and best known of wild pigeons in North America is the Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura*. It is the only North American bird to nest in every state in the Union except Hawaii.

A virulent disease that takes a toll on doves is Trichomoniasis. A protozoan disease that is called frounce or canker disease. Trichomoniasis effects birds of the Columbidae family likes doves and pigeons.

This disease can drastically reduce a dove population because it can destroy nestlings as well as adults and juveniles. Some ornithologists believe trichomoniasis may have been a significant factor in the extermination of the Passenger Pigeon.

Overlooking the great Mississippi River at Wyalusing State Park, a lone Passenger Pigeon, graven in bronze, watches over the old ancestral flyway. It is a reminder of birds that once flew over Wisconsin. Their wing-beats were like the roar of an oncoming cyclone. Now the empty skies are silent.

The monument was erected in May, 1947 at the state park by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology as a tribute to a magnificent bird and the thoughtlessness of man.

Although the Passenger Pigeon has vanished, it has left its mark on the Wisconsin landscape and "Name Places" and has lent its fitting name to the Society's publication, titled "**The Passenger Pigeon.**"

In correspondence with Walter E. Scott, Madison, the following list of pigeon name places was compiled from Scott's scientific and historical library:

The **Wisconsin Gazetteer** of 1853 by John Warren Hunt lists "Pigeon" in the following names:

1. Pigeon Creek rises near Lancaster and enters Grant River in Beetown, Grant County (not far from Wyalusing Park).
2. Pigeon Creek is a small stream rising in Sheboygan County, uniting with Strong Creek in Farmington, Washington County.
3. Pigeon Grove is a post office in Columbia County.

From **Cyclopedia of Wisconsin (1906):**

4. Pigeon Falls, a Post Town of 150 people on Pigeon Creek in Trempealeau County, 8 miles S.W. of White Hall, the county seat.

**Index to Wisconsin Historical Collections:**

5. Pigeon River (Wis.) see Meemee River, a tributary to Lake Michigan - see Collections Vol. 3, p. 396, Vol. 11, P. 394 and Vol. 13, p. 423.

I.A. Lapham's 1844 Geographical and Topographical Description of Wisconsin:

6. Pigeon Creek enters the Milwaukee River in Town Nine (north).

From **Atlas of Wisconsin** (1974) only additions:

7. Pigeon Creek - Jackson Co. (S) and Pigeon Creek Flowage there too.
- Pigeon Creek - Jackson Co. (N)
- Pigeon Creek - Ozaukee Co. (S)
- Pigeon Creek - Rusk Co. (N)
- Pigeon Island - LaCrosse
- Pigeon Lake - Bayfield Co.
- Pigeon Lake - Manitowoc Co.
- Pigeon Lake - Waupaca Co.
- Pigeon River - Manitowoc (S)
- Pigeon River - North Branch - Shawano Co. (S)
- Pigeon River - South Branch - Waupaca Co. (N)
- Pigeon Run (Stream) - Crawford Co. (E)

**The Passenger Pigeon** - A.W. Schorger:

Memee River or Pigeon River, north of Sheboygan.

Village and Township of Memee in Manitowoc County.

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8026 Seventh Avenue  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

## **First Authentic Burrowing Owl Banded in State of Illinois**

**By Karl E. Bartel**

The Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a very rare vagrant throughout the state of Illinois. Since 1930 only nine true records have been recorded. All had been spring records except one. The spring records were recorded for the months of March, April and May.

Much to the delight of Midwestern birders, the state's ninth *A. cunicularia* appeared during the summer of 1980. From mid-June through September 24, the owl had been observed almost daily by birders.

The Burrowing Owl inhabited the dry slag-filled short-grass mowed fields under high-tension lines, which lay astride the Chicago sky-way. This area is the boundry line of Illinois and Indiana, at a point just north of Wolf Lake, Eggers Woods forest preserve. The adjoining cities being Chicago, Illinois and Hammond, Indiana. The owl was observed in both states.



The bird was invariably present among a loose pile of steel girders located under the power lines. On some occasion the owl would be found surrounding the above described territory, but restricted to an area of approximately 984 by 1968 feet, (300 by 600m.). Many photographs were taken by birders.

A field trip held on September 14th to Eggers woods, by the Chicago Ornithological Society, and later to the owl site enabled the group to view the owl. After the group left, I stayed to try and capture the owl for banding. After about 15 minutes the owl was captured and banded with band (no. 704-70975). The bird was not sexed, but I did find the bird in excellent health.

Fortunately the owl had not been collected, thus enabling it to return again with its kin, to the delight of future birders.

#### **Dates Burrowing Owls were recorded**

April 9, 1930 - Hamilton, Hancock Co. .... Specimen  
 May 6, 1950 - Chicago, Cook Co.  
 March 27, 1952 - Chicago, Cook Co. .... Specimen  
 March 27, 1953 - Chicago, Cook Co.  
 April 8-23, 1953 - Glen Ellyn, DuPage Co.  
 July 22, 1963 - Rockford, Winnebago Co., this record is not authentic, because Jim D. Weaver brought four young owls from central Nebraska, raised, banded and released them.  
 April 18-19, 1966 - Fairbury, Livingston Co.  
 April 18, 1975 - Springfield, Sangamon Co.  
 April 15, 1978 - Normal, McLean Co.  
 Sept. 14, 1980 - Chicago, Cook Co. .... Banded

2528 W. Collins St.  
 Blue Island, IL 60406

## **Interview with Sam Robbins - July 15, 1978 (Concluded)**

**By Charles A. Kemper, M.D.**

**Kemper:** When you get through with this job, what do you think your next project will be?

**Robbins:** One of the things that I want to do while I am working on this last draft, is to make a list of possible research projects that might be undertaken by somebody in the state. When I am working on, say, the Red-throated Loon, something will occur to me that we don't know about the Red-throated Loon. So I am going to write down a list of possible research projects and something that needs to be found out about that species. When I am done, I expect that I am going to have a list of maybe 100 to 200 possible research projects. I would like to circulate this list of projects, especially on college campuses among professors who are teaching ornithology, thinking that there may be a good number of students who are eager for research projects to undertake. Just as an example of this at one of the most recent Chippewa Wildlife Society meetings, I was sitting next to Bob Lewke and Bob is doing some teaching at the University at Eau Claire. He had heard me say this and he asked me if I could come up with a list of projects. I said, "Give me a sheet of paper," and in 15

minutes time I wrote down 25 projects that just occurred to me off the top of my head. He thanked me and said that this really gave him something to work on. Well, if Bob reacted this way, I think that there are a good many others teaching on other campuses that would react similarly to a much larger list of possible projects. I think there could very well be other people that would add significant things to a list of projects. This is one of the first things that I want to do. Then, perhaps one or more of those projects that goes on that list will hit me in the face and say, "Boy there's one. Don't pass that on to somebody else. Maybe you would like to tackle it yourself." Maybe then that will be the next thing that I will do. Then again, I have got another writing project that I am thinking about. Being a minister, as well as a naturalist, I have been doing some thinking about writing a little booklet of meditations, religious meditations, based upon my observations of nature. I don't know if I could find a publisher that would like to handle something like this, and I don't know really how wide a sale there might be, but the idea appeals to me. This could help other people see for themselves the things in nature that **lead to an understanding** and appreciation of God. It would make them better environmentalists, better stewards of the world we live in, and I think it could do a lot of good. Another idea that I have in mind: I have been writing a weekly column in 'The Country Today' for about 1½ years. I have saved all of these columns that I have written, and if I believe all of the fan mail I get, I think there might be a market if I should decide to put these things out in book form. I am not thinking very seriously about any of these other projects until I get the #1 done.

**Kemper:** That sounds like you are going to have a busy next 10 or 15 years.

**Robbins:** One of the things that I have felt — and I think I have felt it 10 years ago just as much as I feel it now — is that if I were to retire tomorrow, and if I had 20 or 30 years to live after this, I think I could be busy, busy, busy every day of my life. I feel sometimes with bewilderment, sometimes with compassion for people that I see retiring who don't have things in mind that they really want to do. And people who live out their retirement years dragging from one day to the next, almost wishing that they could end life sooner because they don't know what to do with themselves. I have so many hobbies and so many things I would like to do that I'd never get them done if I were to start tomorrow.

**Kemper:** Wouldn't you say that it is becoming harder for a person to set aside something so he can retire when he'd like?

**Robbins:** In some ways I wish I could retire the way my father did. In the later years of his working life, Dad actually was holding down three jobs. He had his own private school. Secondly, he was in charge of two or three State of Massachusetts speech clinics. And thirdly, he was on the faculty of Emerson College there in Boston, training future speech therapists. When he got to be 65, he retired from the job of teaching at Emerson. When he got to be 70, he retired from the State Speech Clinic but he kept on with his own private school, teaching there until he was 75. Even after that, he was so interested in doing things that he applied to the National Science Foundation for a grant to carry on a research project in speech pathology. For a couple of years after 75 he was doing that. Dad was busy all the time, just as busy after he retired as he was before. Right now I am looking forward to retiring at about age 65 and it would take a great, great deal of something on the part of whatever church I am in to persuade me to stay any longer than that. At the same time, after age 65 I would hope to keep my hand in some kind of church work, maybe supplying a church from time to time or maybe simply working as a church layman. I don't think I ever want to reach a point where I am just not doing Christian work anymore.

**Kemper:** Sam, you have four children. None of your children have the same avid interest in birds as you do. I have noticed this about a lot of avid ornithologists and birders. How do you interpret that?

**Robbins:** All I can say is that I have not tried particularly to encourage this. I have

invited them to go with me on hikes or trips sometimes if they wanted to, but have not forced them if they were the least bit reluctant. I have felt that they have their own interests in other lines and the most natural thing is to pursue their own particular interests. One of my sons, our 2nd boy Dan, at first seemed to be much interested in birds, and wanted to go out with me every chance that he could. He would always take one of these little card check lists along with him and he was very pleased to be able to record things that he saw and heard. There came one day when I was going out fairly early in the morning when I was not going to be back in time before school started, so I declined to take Dan along that time. Dan was very upset, he wanted badly to go with me and it didn't seem to bother him that he'd miss a few hours of school. But it did bother me. So I went off without him and when I got back, I found that his card check list had been torn into 100 pieces and thrown in the waste basket. Never once since then has he gone out on a field trip with me. I never, never anticipated that he would react to this in that way. But I think, and I think Dan agrees with me, that what really interested him was not so much the birds themselves, as the idea of list keeping. The statistical part of the bird adventure was what appealed to him. They have their own interests and Shirley has her own interests. We simply each pursue our own interests in our own way, and I think we have had a pretty happy family life in that way.

**Kemper:** Well, your dad of course got you interested and he got Chan interested and he didn't force it on you either, I don't imagine.

**Robbins:** That's right, he didn't.

**Kemper:** You just fell naturally into it. I think that's the way it was with me. Nobody certainly in my house pushed me. In fact my mother had a horror of birds almost pathological. I think my interest was deep rooted and latent. I didn't get started until I came across a copy of the *Passenger Pigeon*. Really that is what ignited me and rekindled a latent interest. My youngsters have no interest in birds. My wife has a very casual interest. Maybe one of my grandsons or grandchildren will, I don't know. I notice that Barger's mother and dad are very active birders, while their children were not that interested in birds. Of course, maybe they are just a lot smarter than we are and find a lot more to life than birds.

**Robbins:** As I look back on it, I think that more often than not a 9 or 10-year-old youngster will get interested in an activity as a passing stage. He will get all wrapped up in it for a while, then outgrow it. My guess is that one of the reasons why I did not pass into and then out of this phase of ornithology, is because I think it was a natural feeling of appreciation. But more than that, I think it was a feeling of success. I developed rather quickly the feeling that I can identify birds. I know them when I see them. I know them when I hear them. The more you feel that you can do something well, the more apt you are to stay with it. These unusually keen ears I am blessed with have a lot to do with the enduring nature of my ornithological hobby.

**Kemper:** Your dad was a psychologist and maybe he knew how to reward your successes, reinforcing the interest you had.

**Robbins:** I don't recall him ever doing anything to try to reinforce anything like this. What I recollect is simply that I enjoyed going out so much that I looked forward to it from one time to the next. Particularly, when there was a chance to get acquainted with some new bird which was a very great attraction to me. I can well remember Washington's birthday in the year 1934. It was on a Sunday morning after a heavy snowfall and Dad had gone out snow shoeing. He got back just a few minutes before my mother and my brothers and I were leaving for Sunday school and church. He told us that he had seen a Long-eared Owl. Well immediately, my brothers and I wanted to forget about church and Sunday school and go see that owl. We begged and we begged and we begged, and my folks simply said nothing doing, you are going to go to church and Sunday school. Then after dinner if you want to go out and look at the owl, the owl will still be right there. Dad was very sure that that owl would still be in that very same spot that afternoon. We didn't believe him. After

church, Sunday School and dinner, we followed Dad's tracks into the woods and where the tracks ended, we found the owl -- on the same branch on the same tree where Dad assured us it would be.

**Kemper:** That must have made a deep impression on you, if you remember it after all these years.

**Robbins:** I have loads of vivid, satisfying memories like that. If we were in Massachusetts right now, I could take you to the exact spot in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge where I climbed a seven-foot iron fence four times to get a good look at one of the first Yellow-throated Warblers known to visit eastern Massachusetts.

**Kemper:** Why so much fence-climbing?

**Robbins:** The bird was singing in the trees near a corner of the cemetery. When I was looking from the outside, the bird was perched inside the cemetery. By the time I got inside, the bird would fly to a tree outside the burial ground. I would climb back out, and the singer would return to the trees within the cemetery. This spot, by the way, can't be more than 200 yards from the spot where my parents are now buried.

**Kemper:** I have very pleasant memories of having met your mother several times. She came to one of our Chippewa Wildlife Society banquets one year, didn't she.

**Robbins:** She did indeed, and you gave her special recognition as the person who traveled the greatest distance.

**Kemper:** And she attended on of the WSO banquets too?

**Robbins:** She attended the 1970 banquet at Fond du Lac when Chan was given an honorary life membership. Mother was thrilled. I have never known a person to take more pride in the accomplishments of her children than mother has. And I shall never forget the standing ovation she received when she was introduced at the banquet. WSO has been wonderful to all the Robbinses.



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# **New Bird Names New Checklist Order**

**By Charles A. Kemper, M.D.**

This is the 1980's — time of future shock. Its here again. The other shoe has dropped. the AOU and the ABA have come out with new bird names. If you remember, it was just yesterday that we had a name revision. Remember - the Long-billed Marsh Wren, the Short-billed Marsh Wren turned to Marsh and Sedge, Baltimore Oriole becoming Northern Oriole, Myrtle now Yellow-rumped Warbler, Slate-colored Junco to Dark-eyed Junco.

These changes are barely being digested when down has come a whole new revision of not just names, but an entire revolutionary change in sequence. While we realize that there is a great deal of study and research behind these changes, they sure disrupt bird students, bird watchers, publishers and, especially, editors. You realize we have to change our check lists, field notes, and in effect revise all our papers and texts. What a headache! There is no choice however. Somewhere down the line we are obliged to conform and it will probably be sometime later in the year we expect to be switching to the new official nomenclature.

Here is what the Wisconsin Checklist will look like and some of the reasons why. Note the name changes are more explainable than the sequence upheaval.

## **Order GAVIIFORMES**

### **Family GAVIIDAE**

Red-throated Loon. *Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan).

Common Loon. *Gavia immer* (Brunnich).

## **Order PODICIPEDIFORMES**

### **Family PODICIPEDIDAE**

Pied-billed Grebe. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linnaeus).

Horned Grebe. *Podiceps auritus* (Linnaeus).

Red-necked Grebe. *Podiceps grisegena* (Boddaert).

Eared Grebe. *Podiceps nigricollis* (Brehm).

Western Grebe. *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence).

## **Order PELECANIFORMES**

### **Suborder PELECANI**

### **Family PELECANIDAE**

American White Pelican. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin.

["American" added to distinguish from *P. onocrotalus*, the Middle Eastern White Pelican.]

## **Family PHALACROCORADIDAE**

Double-crested Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax auritus* (Lesson).

## **Order CICONIIFORMES**

### **Suborder ARDEAE**

### **Family ARDEIDAE**

### **Tribe BOTAURINI**

American Bittern. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Rackett).

Least Bittern. *Ixobrychus exilis* (Gmelin).

### **Tribe ARDEINI**

Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias* Linnaeus.

Great Egret. *Casmerodius albus* (Linnaeus).

Snowy Egret. *Egretta thula* (Molina).

Little Blue Heron. *Egretta caerulea* (Linnaeus). [Was *Florida caerulea*].

Cattle Egret. *Bubulcus ibis* Linnaeus).

Green-backed Heron. *Butorides striatus* (Linnaeus). [Name changed from Green Heron to conform with the African name for this species.]

#### **Tribe NYCTICORACINI**

Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax violaceus* (Linnaeus). [Night-heron hyphenated now. *Nycticorax violaceus* was *Nyctanassa* v.]

#### **Suborder TRESKIORNITHES**

#### **Family TRESKIORNITHIDAE**

#### **Subfamily THRESKIORNITHINAE**

Glossy Ibis. *Plegadis falcinellus* (Linnaeus).

White-faced Ibis. *Plegadis chihi* (Vieillot).

#### **Order ANSERIFORMES**

#### **Family ANATIDAE**

#### **Subfamily ANSERINAE**

#### **Tribe CYGNINI**

Tundra Swan. *Cygnus columbianus* (Ord.) [Was Whistling Swan, *Olor columbianus* which is now lumped with Bewick's Swan]

Trumpeter Swan. *Cygnus buccinator* Richardson. [Was *Olor b.*]

Mute Swan. *Cygnus olor* (Gmelin).

#### **Tribe ANSERINI**

Greater White-fronted Goose. *Anser albifrons* (Scopoli) ("Greater" added to distinguish from the Lesser White-fronted Goose, *Anser erythropus* of Europe which occasionally is seen in North America.)

Snow Goose. *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus).

Brant. *Branta bernicla* (Linnaeus) [This absorbs the Black Brant.]

Canada Goose. *Branta canadensis* (Linnaeus).

#### **Subfamily ANATINAE**

#### **Tribe CAIRININI**

Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa* (Linnaeus).

#### **Tribe ANATINI**

Green-winged Teal. *Anas crecca* Linnaeus.

American Black Duck. *Anas rubripes* Brewster ["American" added to separate from *Anas sparsa*, African Black Duck.]

Mallard. *Anas platyrhynchos* (Linnaeus). [Includes Mexican Duck, *Anas diazi*].

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* Linnaeus.

Northern Pintail. *Anas acuta* Linnaeus. ["Northern" added to separate from other Pintails in the world.]

Blue-winged Teal. *Anas discors* Linnaeus.

Cinnamon Teal. *Anas cyanoptera* Vieillot.

Northern Shoveler. *Anas clypeata* Linnaeus.

Gadwall. *Anas strepera* Linnaeus.

Eurasian Wigeon. *Anas penelope* Linnaeus.

American Wigeon. *Anas americana* Gmelin.

#### **Tribe AYTHYINI**

Canvasback. *Aythya valisineria* (Wilson).

Redhead. *Aythya americana* (Eyton).

Ring-necked Duck. *Aythya collaris* (Donovan).  
Greater Scaup. *Aythya marila* (Linnaeus).  
Lesser Scaup. *Aythya affinis* (Eyton).

**Tribe MERGINI**

Common Eider. *Somateria mollissima* (Linnaeus).  
Harlequin Duck. *Histrionicus histrionicus* (Linnaeus).  
Oldsquaw. *Clangula hyemalis* (Linnaeus).  
Black Scoter. *Melanitta nigra* (Linnaeus).  
Surf Scoter. *Melanitta perspicillata* (Linnaeus).  
White-winged Scoter. *Melanitta fusca* (Linnaeus).  
Common Goldeneye. *Bucephala clangula* (Linnaeus).  
Barrow's Goldeneye. *Bucephala islandica* (Gmelin).  
Bufflehead. *Bucephala albeola* (Linnaeus).  
Hooded Merganser. *Mergus culcullatus* (Linnaeus).  
Common Merganser. *Mergus merganser* Linnaeus.  
Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus serrator* Linnaeus.

**Tribe OXYURINI**

Ruddy Duck. *Oxyura jamaicensis* (Gmelin).  
Masked Duck. *Oxyura dominica* (Linnaeus).

**Order FALCONIFORMES**

**Suborder CATHARTAE**

**Superfamily CATHARTOIDEA**

**Family CATHARTIDAE**

Black Vulture. *Carogyps atratus* (Bechstein).  
Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura* (Linnaeus).

**Suborder ACCIPITRES**

**Superfamily ACCIPITROIDEA**

**Family ACCIPITRIDAE**

**Subfamily PANDIONINAE**

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus* (Linnaeus). [Here the family *Panioniidae* has been reduced to a subfamily *Pandioninae* in *Accipitridae*.]

**Subfamily ACCIPITRINAE**

American Swallow-tailed Kite. *Elanoides forficatus* (Linnaeus).  
["American" added to separate from African Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanus riocurii*].

Black-shouldered Kite. *Elanus caeruleus* (Desfontaines). [This was the White-tailed Kite *E. leucurus*].

Bald Eagle. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Linnaeus).

Northern Harrier. *Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. *Accipiter striatus* Vieillot.

Cooper's Hawk. *Accipiter cooperii* (Bonaparte).

Northern Goshawk. *Accipiter gentilis* (Linnaeus).

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis* (Gmelin).

Ferruginous Hawk. *Buteo regalis* (Gray).

Rough-legged Hawk. *Buteo lagopus* (Pontoppidan).

Golden Eagle. *Aquila chrysaetos* (Linnaeus).

**Suborder FALCONES**

**Family FALCONIDAE**

**Tribe FALCONINI**

American Kestrel. *Falco sparverius* Linnaeus.

Merlin. *Falco columbarius* Linnaeus.

Peregrine Falcon. *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall.  
Gyr Falcon. *Falco rusticolus* Linnaeus.

**Order GALLIFORMES**  
**Superfamily PHASIANOIDEA**  
**Family PHASIANIDAE**  
**Subfamily PHASIANINAE**  
**Tribe PERDICINI**

Gray Partridge. *Perdix perdix* (Linnaeus)

**Tribe PHASIANINI**

Ring-necked Pheasant. *Phasianus colchicus* Linnaeus).

**Subfamily TETRAONINAE**

**Here the family of grouse (*Tetraonidae*) has been reduced to a subfamily**

Spruce Grouse. *Dendragapus canadensis* (Linnaeus).

Willow Ptarmigan. *Lagopus lagopus* (Linnaeus).

Ruffed Grouse. *Bonasa umbellus* (Linnaeus).

Greater Prairie-Chicken. *Tympanuchus cupido* (Linnaeus) [Note new hyphenation].

Sharp-tailed Grouse. *Tympanuchus phasianellus* (Linnaeus) Was *Pedioecetes p.*

**Subfamily MELEAGRIDINAE**

Here again the family has been reduced to a subfamily in *Phasianidae*.  
Wild Turkey. *Meleagris gallopavo* Linnaeus.

**Subfamily ODONTOPHORINAE**

Northern Bobwhite. *Colinus virginianus* (Linnaeus) ["Northern" instead of "Common" appropriate term to distinguish from Bobwhite species in central and South America.

**Order GRUIFORMES**

**Family RALLIDAE**

**Subfamily RALLINAE**

Yellow Rail. *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (Gmelin).

King Rail. *Rallus elegans* Audubon.

Virginia Rail. *Rallus limicola* Vieillot.

Sora. *Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus).

Common Moorhen. *Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus).

American Coot. *Fulica americana* (Linnaeus).

**Family GRUIDAE**

**Subfamily GRUINAE**

Sandhill Crane. *Grus canadensis* (Linnaeus).

Whooping Crane. *Grus americana* (Linnaeus).

**Family CHARADRIIDAE**

**Subfamily CHARADRIINAE**

Black-bellied Plover. *Pluvialis squatarola* (Linnaeus).

Lesser Golden-Plover. *Pluvialis dominica* (Muller). Was "American".  
Don't ask me why the new hyphen.

Snowy Plover. *Charadrius alexandrinus* Linnaeus.

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus* Bonaparte.

Piping Plover. *Charadrius melodus* Ord.

Killdeer. *Charadrius vociferus* Linnaeus.

Note that Ruddy Turnstone has been removed from *Charadriidae* to *Scolopacidae*.



**Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE**

Black-necked Stilt. *Himantopus mexicanus* (Muller).

Avocet. *Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin.

**Superfamily SCOLOPACOIDEA**

**Family SCOLOPACIDAE**

**Subfamily SCOLOPACINAE**

**Tribe TRINGINI**

Greater Yellowlegs. *Tringa melanoleuca* (Gmelin). Was *Totanus melanoleucus*.

Lesser Yellowlegs. *Tringa flavipes* (Gmelin). Was *Totanus f.*

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria* Wilson.

Willet. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* (Gmelin).

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe Numeniini**

Upland Sandpiper. *Bartramia longicauda* (Bechstein).

Eskimo Curlew. *Numenius borealis* (Forster).

Whimbrel. *Numenius phaeopus* (Linnaeus).

Long-billed Curlew. *Numenius americanus* Bechstein.

**Tribe LIMOSINI**

Hudsonian Godwit. *Limosa haemastica* (Linnaeus).

Marbled Godwit. *Limosa haemastica* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe ARENARIINI**

Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe CALIDRIDINI**

Red Knot. *Calidris canutus* (Linnaeus).

Sanderling. *Calidris alba* (Pallas).

Semipalmated Sandpiper. *Calidris pusilla* (Linnaeus).

Western Sandpiper. *Calidris mauri* (Cabanis).

Least Sandpiper. *Calidris minutilla* (Vieillot).

White-rumped Sandpiper. *Calidris fuscicollis* (Vieillot).

Baird's Sandpiper. *Calidris bairdii* (Coues).

Pectoral Sandpiper. *Calidris melanotos* (Vieillot).

Dunlin. *Calidris alpina* (Linnaeus).

Curlew Sandpiper. *Calidris ferruginea* (Pontoppidan).

Stilt Sandpiper. *Calidris himantopus* (Bonaparte).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot).

**Tribe LIMNODROMINI**

Short-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus griseus* (Gmelin).

Long-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus scolopaccus* (Say).

**Tribe GALLINAGONINI**

Common Snipe. *Gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe SCOLOPACINI**

American Woodcock. *Scolopax minor*. Gmelin. Was *Philahela m.*

**Subfamily PHALAROPODINAE**

(*Phalarope* family now reduced to subfamily.)

Wilson's Phalarope. *Phalaropus tricolor* (Vieillot). Was *Steganopus t.*

Red-necked Phalarope. *Phalaropus lobatus* (Linnaeus). Was Northern Phalarope. *Lobipes l.*

Red Phalarope. *Phalaropus fulicaria* (Linnaeus).

**Suborder LARI**  
**Family LARIDAE**  
**Subfamily STERCORARIINAE**

(Formerly Jaegers were considered separate family - now reduced here to subfamily.)

Pomarine Jaeger. *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temminck).

Parasitic Jaeger. *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus).

Long-tailed Jaeger. *Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieillot.

**Subfamily LARINAE**

Laughing Gull. *Larus atricilla* Linnaeus.

Franklin's Gull. *Larus pipixcan* Wagler.

Little Gull. *Larus minutus* Pallas.

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

Ring-billed Gull. *Larus delawarensis* (Ord).

Herring Gull. *Larus argentatus*. Pontoppidan.

Thayer's Gull. *Larus thayeri* Brooks.

Iceland Gull. *Larus glaucoideus* Meyer.

Glaucous Gull. *Larus hyperboreus*. Gunnerus.

Great Black-backed Gull. *Larus marinus* Linnaeus.

Black-legged Kittiwake. *Rissa tridactyla* (Linnaeus).

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

**Subfamily STERNINAE**

Caspian Tern. *Sterna caspia* Pallas.

Common Tern. *Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus.

Arctic Tern. *Sterna paradisaea* Pontoppidan.

Forster's Tern. *Sterna forsteri* Nuttall.

Least Tern. *Sterna antillarum* (Lesson). Formerly *S. albifrons*, now separated from Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons* of Europe.

Black Tern. *Chlidonias niger* (Linnaeus).

**Suborder ALCAE**

**Family ALCIDAE**

**Tribe ALLINI**

Dovekie. *Alle alle* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe SYNTHLIBORAMPHINI**

Ancient Murrelet. *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (Gmelin).

**Order COLUMBIFORMES**

**Suborder COLUMBAE**

**Family COLUMBIDAE**

Rock Dove. *Columba livia* Gmelin.

Mourning Dove. *Zenaida macroura* (Linnaeus).

Passenger Pigeon. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnaeus). Extinct.

Common Ground-Dove. *Columbina passerina* (Linnaeus). "Common" added to separate from many other Ground Doves. Hyphen is new.

**Order PSITTACIFORMES**

**Family PSITTACIDAE**

**Subfamily ARINAE**

Carolina Parakeet. *Conuropsis carolinensis* (Linnaeus). Extinct.

**Order CUCULIFORMES**

**Family CUCULIDAE**

**Subfamily CUCULINAE**

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

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

**Subfamily CROTOPHAGINAE**

Groove-billed Ani. *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Linnaeus.

**Order STRIGIFORMES**

**Family TYTONIDAE**

Common Barn-Owl. *Tyto alba* (Scopoli). "Common" added to separate from other Barn Owls. Again note new hyphen. This new list is high on hyphens.

**Family STRIGIDAE**

Eastern Screech-Owl. *Otus asio* (Linnaeus). New hyphen. "Eastern" Screech-Owl to distinguish from *Otus kennicottii*, now given full species status, the Western Screech-Owl of northwestern U.S.A.

Great Horned Owl. *Bubo virginianus* (Gmelin).

Snowy Owl. *Nyctea scandiaca* (Linnaeus).

Northern Hawk-Owl. *Surnia ulula*. "Northern" distinguishes this from other Hawk-Owls.

Burrowing Owl. *Athene cunicularia* (Molina).

Barred Owl. *Strix varia* Barton.

Great Gray Owl. *Strix nebulosa* Forster.

Long-eared Owl. *Asio otus* (Linnaeus). You contributors please don't confuse with *Otus asio* (Linnaeus).

Short-eared Owl. *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan).

Boreal Owl. *Aegolius funereus* (Linnaeus).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin). "Northern" added to separate from the Unspotted Saw-whet Owl of Central America.

**Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES**

**Family CAPRIMULCIDAE**

**Subfamily CHORDEILINAE**

Common Nighthawk. *Chordeiles minor* (Forster).

**Subfamily CAPRIMULGINAE**

Chuck-will's-widow. *Caprimulgus carolinensis* Gmelin.

Whip-poor-will. *Caprimulgus vociferus* Wilson.

**Order APODIFORMES**

**Family APODIDAE**

**Subfamily CHAETURINAE**

Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus).

**Family TROCHILIDAE**

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Archilochus colubris* (Linnaeus).

**Order CORACIIFORMES**

**Suborder ALCEDINES**

**Superfamily ALCEDINOIDEA**

**Family ALCEDINIDAE**

**Subfamily CERYLINAE**

Belted Kingfisher. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linnaeus). Previously *Megaceryle a.*

**Order PICIFORMES**

**Suborder PICI**

**Family PICIDAE**

**Subfamily PICINAE**

Red-headed Woodpecker. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linnaeus).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Melanerpes carolinus* (Linnaeus).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus varius* (Linnaeus).  
 Downy Woodpecker. *Picoides pubescens* (Linnaeus).  
 Hairy Woodpecker. *Picoides villosus* (Linnaeus).  
 Three-toed Woodpecker. *Picoides tridactylus* (Linnaeus). Formerly Northern Three-toed Woodpecker.  
 Black-backed Woodpecker. *Picoides arcticus* (Swainson). Formerly Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.  
 Northern Flicker. *Colaptes auratus* (Linnaeus). We've gone from "Yellow-shafted" to "Common" and now "Northern". This separates the Northern from the Flickers of Central and South America.  
 Pileated Woodpecker. *Dryocopus pileatus* (Linnaeus).

## **Order PASSERIFORMES**

### **Suborder TYRANNI**

#### **Superfamily TYRANNOIDEA**

#### **Family TYRANNIDAE**

##### **Subfamily FLUVICOLINAE**

Olive-sided Flycatcher. *Contopus borealis* (Swainson). Formerly *Nuttallornis b.*

Eastern Wood-Pewee. *Contopus virens* (Linnaeus). No longer Eastern Pewee.

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

Acadian Flycatcher. *Empidonax virescens* (Vieillot).

Alder Flycatcher. *Empidonax alnorum* Brewster.

Willow Flycatcher. *Empidonax traillii* Audubon.

Eastern Phoebe. *Sayornis phoebe* (Latham).

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

##### **Subfamily TYRANNINAE**

Great Crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus crinitus* (Linnaeus).

Western Kingbird. *Tyrannus verticalis* Say.

Eastern Kingbird. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. *Tyrannus forficatus* (Gmelin). Was *Muscivora f.*

### **Suborder PASSERES**

#### **Family ALAUDIDAE**

Horned Lark. *Eremophila alpestris* (Linnaeus).

#### **Family HIRUNDINIDAE**

##### **Subfamily HIRUNDININAE**

Purple Martin. *Progne subis* (Linnaeus).

Tree Swallow. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieillot). Changed from *Iridoprocne b.*

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Audubon).

Was *S. ruficollis* which now refers to the birds south of Honduras and referred to as Southern Rough-winged Swallows.

Bank Swallow. *Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus).

Cliff Swallow. *Hirundo pyrrhonota* Vieillot. Was *Petrochelidon p.*

Barn Swallow. *Hirundo rustica* Linnaeus.

### **Family CORVIDAE**

Gray Jay. *Perisoreus canadensis* (Linnaeus).

Blue Jay. *Cyanocitta cristata* (Linnaeus).

American Crow. *Corvus brachyrhynchos* Brehm.

Common Raven. *Corvus corax* Linnaeus.

### **Family PARIDAE**

Black-capped Chickadee. *Parus atricapillus*. Linnaeus.

Tufted Titmouse. *Parus bicolor* Linnaeus.



**Family SITTIDAE**  
**Subfamily SITTINAE**

Red-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta canadensis* Linnaeus.  
White-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta carolinensis* Latham.

**Family CERTHIIDAE**  
**Subfamily CERTHIINAE**

Brown Creeper. *Certhia americana* Bonaparte. Was *C. familiaris*. Thus it is split off from the Eurasian Holarctic northern hemisphere Brown Creeper.

**Family TROGLODYTIDAE**

Carolina Wren. *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (Latham).  
Bewick's Wren. *Thryomanes bewickii* (Audubon).  
House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot.  
Winter Wren. *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Linnaeus).  
Sedge Wren. *Cistothorus platensis* (Latham).  
Marsh Wren. *Cistothorus palustris* (Wilson).

**Family MUSCICAPIDAE**  
**Subfamily SYLVIINAE**

**Tribe SYLVIINI\***

\**Muscicapidae*, previously was considered an Old World family now includes thrushes, kinglets, and gnatcatchers. *Turdidae* (Thrushes) previously a family has been reduced to subfamily status *Turdinae* and put under this family. Likewise *Sylviidae* (Kinglets and Gnatcatchers) have been reduced to *Sylviinae* and put in this family.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. *Regulus satrapa* Lichtenstein.  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet. *Regulus calendula* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe POLIOPTILINI**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. *Polioptila caerulea* (Linnaeus).

**Subfamily TURDINAE**

Eastern Bluebird. *Sialia sialis* (Linnaeus).  
Mountain Bluebird. *Sialia currucoides* (Bechstein).  
Townsend's Solitaire. *Myadestes townsendi* (Audubon).  
Veery. *Catharus fuscescens* (Stephens).  
Gray-cheeked Thrush. *Catharus minimus* (Lafresnaye).  
Swainson's Thrush. *Catharus ustulatus* (Nuttall).  
Hermit Thrush. *Catharus guttatus* (Pallas).  
Wood Thrush. *Hylocichla mustelina* (Gmelin).  
American Robin. *Turdus migratorius* Linnaeus.  
Varied Thrush. *Ixoreus naevius* (Gmelin).

**Family MIMIDAE**

Gray Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis* (Linnaeus). "Gray" distinguishes from the Black Catbird of Yucatan.  
Northern Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos* (Linnaeus). "Northern" added to separate it from 13 other mockingbirds around the world.  
Brown Thrasher. *Toxostoma rufum* (Linnaeus).  
Curved-billed Thrasher. *Toxostoma curvirostre* (Swainson).

**Family MOTACILLIDAE**

Water Pipit. *Anthus spinoletta* (Linnaeus).

**Family BOMBYCILLIDAE**

Bohemian Waxwing. *Bombycilla garrulus*. (Linnaeus).  
Cedar Waxwing. *Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot.

**Family LANIIDAE**  
**Subfamily LANIINAE**

Northern Shrike. *Lanius excubitor*. Linnaeus.  
Loggerhead Shrike. *Lanius ludovicianus* Linnaeus.

**Family STURNIDAE**  
**Subfamily STURNINAE**

European Starling. *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus.

**Family VIREONIDAE**  
**Subfamily VIREONINAE**

White-eyed Vireo. *Vireo griseus* (Boddaert).  
Bell's Vireo. *Vireo bellii* Audubon.  
Gray Vireo. *Vireo vicinior* Coues.  
Solitary Vireo. *Vireo solitarius* (Wilson).  
Yellow-throated Vireo. *Vireo flavifrons* Vieillot.  
Warbling Vireo. *Vireo gilvus* (Vieillot).  
Philadelphia Vireo. *Vireo philadelphicus* (Cassin).  
Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus* (Linnaeus). Yellow-green Vireo now considered conspecific.

**Family EMBERIZIDAE**  
**Subfamily PARULINAE**

Blue-winged Warbler. *Vermivora pinus* (Linnaeus).  
Golden-winged Warbler. *Vermivora chrysoptera* (Linnaeus).  
Tennessee Warbler. *Vermivora peregrina* (Wilson).  
Orange-crowned Warbler. *Vermivora celata* (Say).  
Nashville Warbler. *Vermivora ruficapilla* (Wilson).  
Northern Parula. *Parula americana* (Linnaeus).  
Yellow Warbler. *Dendroica petechia* (Linnaeus).  
Chestnut-sided Warbler. *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Linnaeus).  
Magnolia Warbler. *Dendroica magnolia* (Wilson).  
Cape May Warbler. *Dendroica tigrina* (Gmelin).  
Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Dendroica caerulescens* (Gmelin).  
Yellow-rumped Warbler. *Dendroica coronata* (Linnaeus).  
Black-throated Gray Warbler. *Dendroica nigrescens* (Townsend).  
Black-throated Green Warbler. *Dendroica virens* (Gmelin).  
Blackburnian Warbler. *Dendroica fusca* (Muller).  
Yellow-throated Warbler. *Dendroica dominica* (Linnaeus).  
Pine Warbler. *Dendroica pinus* (Wilson).  
Kirtland's Warbler. *Dendroica kirtlandii* (Baird).  
Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor* (Vieillot).  
Palm Warbler. *Dendroica palmarum* (Gmelin).  
Bay-breasted Warbler. *Dendroica castanea* (Wilson).  
Blackpoll Warbler. *Dendroica striata* (Forster).  
Cerulean Warbler. *Dendroica cerulea* (Wilson).  
Black-and-white Warbler. *Mniotilta varia* (Linnaeus).  
American Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus).  
Prothonotary Warbler. *Protonotaria citrea* (Boddaert).  
Worm-eating Warbler. *Helmitheros vermivorus* (Gmelin).  
Ovenbird. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Linnaeus).  
Northern Waterthrush. *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Gmelin).  
Louisiana Waterthrush. *Seiurus motacilla* (Vieillot).  
Kentucky Warbler. *Oporornis formosus* (Wilson).  
Connecticut Warbler. *Oporornis agilis* (Wilson).

Mourning Warbler. *Oporornis philadelphia* (Wilson).  
Common Yellowthroat. *Geothlypis trichas* (Linnaeus).  
Hooded Warbler. *Wilsonia citrina* (Boddaert).  
Wilson's Warbler. *Wilsonia pusilla* (Wilson).  
Canada Warbler. (*Wilsonia canadensis*) Linnaeus).  
Yellow-breasted Chat. *Icteria virens* (Linnaeus).

#### **Subfamily THRAUPINAE**

##### **Tribe THRAUPINI**

Summer Tanager. *Piranga rubra* (Linnaeus).  
Scarlet Tanager. *Piranga olivacea* (Gmelin).  
Western Tanager. *Piranga ludoviciana* (Wilson).

#### **Subfamily CARDINALINAE**

This group has been taken from the Fringillidae also.

Northern Cardinal. *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Linnaeus). "Northern" added to separate from other Cardinals.  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (Linnaeus).  
Black-headed Grosbeak. *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (Swainson).  
Blue Grosbeak. *Guiraca caerulea* (Linnaeus).  
Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea* (Linnaeus).  
Painted Bunting. *Passerina ciris* (Linnaeus).  
Dickcissel. *Spiza americana* (Gmelin).

#### **Subfamily EMBERIZINAE**

This group removed from *Fringillidae*.

Red-crested Cardinal. *Paroaria coronata* (Miller). One wonders what obscure criteria puts this cardinal in a different subfamily from Northern Cardinal. This South American bird was well photographed in Rice Lake, Wis. for a couple years in the 1970's. Probably was an escape.  
Green-tailed Towhee. *Pipilo chlorurus*. (Audubon).  
Rufous-sided Towhee. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Linnaeus).  
American Tree Sparrow. *Spizella arborea* (Wilson). "American" added to distinguish from Eurasian Tree Sparrow.  
Chipping Sparrow. *Spizella passerina* (Bechstein).  
Clay-colored Sparrow. *Spizella pallida* (Swainson).  
Field Sparrow. *Spizella pusilla* (Wilson).  
Vesper Sparrow. *Poocetes gramineus* (Gmelin).  
Lark Sparrow. *Chondestes grammacus* (Say).  
Black-throated Sparrow. *Amphispiza bilineata* (Cassin).  
Lark Bunting. *Calamospiza melanocorys* Stejneger).  
Savannah Sparrow. *Passerculus sandwichensis* (Gmelin).  
Baird's Sparrow. *Ammodramus bairdii* (Audubon).  
Grasshopper Sparrow. *Ammodramus savannarum* (Gmelin).  
Henslow's Sparrow. *Ammodramus henslowii* (Audubon).  
Le Conte's Sparrow. *Ammodramus leconteii* (Audubon).  
Sharp-tailed Sparrow. *Ammodramus caudacutus* (Gmelin). Formerly *Amospiza c.*  
Fox Sparrow. *Passerella iliaca* (Merrem).  
Song Sparrow. *Melospiza melodia* (Wilson).  
Lincoln's Sparrow. *Melospiza lincolni* (Audubon).  
Swamp Sparrow. *Melospiza georgiana* (Latham).  
White-throated Sparrow. *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gmelin).  
Golden-crowned Sparrow. *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (Gmelin).

White-crowned Sparrow. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (Forster).  
Harris' Sparrow. *Zonotrichia querula* (Nuttall).  
Dark-eyed Junco. *Junco hyemalis* (Linnaeus). Originally Slate-colored, changed recently to Northern, now Dark-eyed Junco. Includes the Gray-headed Junco.  
Lapland Longspur. *Calcarius lapponicus* (Linnaeus).  
Smith's Longspur. *Calcarius pictus* (Swainson).  
Snow Bunting. *Plectrophenax nivalis* (Linnaeus).

**Subfamily ICTERINAE**  
**Tribe DOLICHONYCHINI**

Bobolink. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Linnaeus).

**Tribe AGELAIINI**

Red-winged Blackbird. *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Linnaeus).  
Eastern Meadowlark. *Sturnella Magna* (Linnaeus).  
Western Meadowlark. *Sturnella neglecta* Audubon.  
Yellow-headed Blackbird. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonaparte).  
Rusty Blackbird. *Euphagus carolinus* (Muller).  
Brewer's Blackbird. *Euphagus cyanocephalus* (Wagler).  
Common Grackle. *Quiscalus quiscula* (Linnaeus).  
Brown-headed Cowbird. *Molothrus ater* (Boddaert).

**Tribe ICTERINI**

Orchard Oriole. *Icterus spurius* (Linnaeus).  
Northern Oriole. *Icterus galbula* (Linnaeus).

**Family FRINGILLIDAE**  
**Subfamily CARDUELINAE**

Pine Grosbeak. *Pinicola enucleator* (Linnaeus).  
Purple Finch. *Carpodacus purpureus* (Gmelin).  
House Finch. *Carpodacus mexicanus* (Muller).  
Red Crossbill. *Loxia curvirostra* Linnaeus.  
White-winged Crossbill. *Loxia leucoptera* Gmelin.  
Common Redpoll. *Carduelis flammea* (Linnaeus).  
Hoary Redpoll. *Carduelis hornemanni* (Holboll). Was formerly (Holboel).  
Pine Siskin. *Carduelis pinus* (Wilson).  
American Goldfinch. *Carduelis tristis* (Linnaeus).  
European Goldfinch. *Carduelis carduelis* (Linnaeus).  
Evening Grosbeak. *Coccothraustes vespertinus* (Cooper) Was *Hesperiphona* v.

**Family PASSERIDAE**

House Sparrow. *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus).  
Eurasian Tree Sparrow. *Passer montanus* (Linnaeus).

# **FIELD** **NOTES**



By Kenneth I. Lange

December 1, 1981 to February 28, 1982

## **The Winter Season**

The winter of 1982 now is history, but every time it comes to mind, especially the Siberian month of January, I find myself thinking of Loren Eiseley's essay, "The Winter of Man," and his phrase about living on the "steep edge of winter or early spring" for those of us in the temperate zone. Actually I feel somewhat timorous, having to remind you of last winter. Do you really want to recall those icy blasts? Venturing out in one of those storms for any length of time was foolhardy. Anyone who did so, such as yours truly, corroborated the judgment of stay-at-homes: that person had to be unbalanced.

It was the winter when bitter arctic air came howling out of Canada in a seemingly endless series of assaults of raging winds, cold and snow. It was the winter that brought the coldest day of the century (10 January 1982) to much of the Midwest. On that memorable Sunday, the wind chill factor was approximately -80°F. to -100°F (!) over Wisconsin. It was also the winter that shut down much of the South for several days with a snow and sleet storm, and brought a deep freeze to Florida.

Yet by one measure, the winter just past was not extraordinary. Most of this winter's fury was concentrated in the six-week period from early January to mid-February. When averaged over the entire period (December through February), the winter of 1982 would not stand out, because December and the latter half of February were relatively mild. Averaged this way, the recent consecutive winters of 1977, 1978 and 1979 were each colder than last winter. Of course, those three were all severe winters. The winters of 1977 and 1978 were the two coldest consecutive winters on record in the United States, and 1977, 1978 and 1979 were the three coldest consecutive winters on record.

But the single month of January 1982 was indeed very cold across the central and eastern United States, with the zero-degree line of minimum temperatures penetrating far into the South, the -20°F. line going south of Chicago and the Great Lakes, and the -40°F. line stretching between Montana and northern Minnesota.

Yet what made January 1982 really stand out was the combination of intense cold **and** heavy snowfall. In fact, this concurrence is unprecedented in the past century. Other Januarys in the Midwest have been colder, but they had much less precipitation. Edwin D. Cleary aptly summarized the winter,



January in particular: "will go down in history as one of the worse winters on account of the heavy snowfall and the extremely cold temperatures."

Although the winters of 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1982 were colder than usual, there are several reasons not to expect another Ice Age, as alarmists would have us believe: the winters of 1980 and 1981 were relatively mild; most of the springs and summers in these record cold-winter years have been warm; and while the higher latitudes across the United States (Europe also) were experiencing a cold 1982 winter, the lower latitudes (below 25°) were unusually warm. In fact, the outstanding feature of this past winter, according to Hurd Willett, emeritus professor of meteorology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was this warmth at the low latitudes. See *Science News*, Volume 121, Number 18, 1 May 1982, pages 298-301, for a summary of the 1982 winter.

A brief overall look at the 1982 winter in Wisconsin reveals a variable but relatively mild December, then a month of a half of weather that made us all wonder when it would end, followed by a generally milder period in the latter half of February.

Snow depths across the state averaged almost 6 inches by the end of December, approximately 13-1/2 inches by 15 January, 23 inches by 29 January (the second deepest covering of snow for late January in the past 20 years), slightly over 20 inches on 12 February, and 12-1/2 inches on 26 February. The snow depth for the entire winter averaged 10.77 inches, 3 inches more than the average for the last 20 years.

Frost depths averaged 9.47 inches, 2.26 inches less than the 1962-1981 average.

Comments from WSO contributors help put the winter in perspective. Listen to Janelle Humphrey of Barron, Barron County, and you can almost hear those cold winds again: "You wouldn't believe this, I can't myself! Jan. 10's storm has an official reading of a 100 below wind chill...Jan. 17 -Instant replay of last weekend...Jan. 24 - another weekend. 18 inches of snow - 50° below wind chill." But then, on 2 March, "Cardinal is singing his spring song. House Sparrows are carrying sticks - **Spring may be coming!**" Robbye Johnson in Superior, Douglas County, referred to the cold hitting "like a sledge hammer," and added, "January was cold until the 9th & 10th when we re-learned what cold means." From Montreal, Iron County, Mary E. Butterbrodt reported Lake Superior snowfalls totalling well over 100 inches by the end of January, with 2 feet still on the ground a month later. R. Martin Smith summarized January's weather in the Madison area as follows: "An omen of things to come occurred on 1/3 when thousands of Canada Geese were streaming south in front of a large storm system...The following day the winds began and it seemed like they didn't let up for 3-4 weeks. The weekends of 1/9-10 and 1/16-17 were absolutely brutal. Many **all time** record low temps were set over the midwest, but the winds were the most severe part...Birding was next to impossible. Overall, January ended up 8.8° colder than normal for Madison." Karen Etter Hale reported winds of over 20 mph on at least 6 days in January in the Lake Mills area, Jefferson County.

Freeze-up where the Fox River enters Lake Winnebago typically occurs in the first half of January. This year was no exception, but it differed from previous observed years (a 5 year record) in that after the initial freeze there

were no intermittent reopenings through February (Clark Schultz). And several contributors (Dennis Gustafson and William Mueller) commented on the virtual absence of waterfowl in Lake Michigan in the Milwaukee area from approximately mid-January until late February.

Perhaps we can also recall this winter by citing some of its effects on bird behavior, as they were submitted by WSO contributors. During the 9-10 January blizzard, "at least 4 chickadees took up residence in our outhouse. Between mad dashes to a feeder for sunflower seeds, they would sit together, out of the wind and driving snow, in a crack above the door, stuffing themselves in relative comfort." (Eric Epstein, Norwalk, Monroe County). Gray Partridge were present throughout the season in Brown County, typically near farm buildings, where farmers had left manure because they were unable to spread it in the fields (Cleary). A Red-tailed Hawk in the Lake Mills area, Jefferson County, was seen twice in the middle of town, including once in a backyard during the period, 28 January - 18 February (Hale), and in Sauk County near Baraboo, a Rough-legged Hawk sheltered in an open barn during one of those fierce storms in January (Lange).

According to Maybelle Hardy of Park Falls, Price County, a snow depth of up to 27 inches before the February thaw caused most hawks to move elsewhere. Smith in Dane County also commented on hawks, especially accipiters, being scarce. Eagle Valley Environmentalists 1982 Mid-winter Eagle Count revealed that the greatest concentration of eagles during the count period of 6-7 February was on the Mississippi River south of Wisconsin, presumably because of the severe weather (**Eagle**, Volume 11, Number 1, 1982).

One would expect the populations of cold-sensitive species to be reduced after such a winter. Some corroboration of this came from Humphrey in Barron County, who reported the disappearance of Cardinals from her feeders (a male on 17 January had a frozen foot) and found Starlings frozen to death on their roost on 17 January.

The Mourning Dove is a different story. This species in Dane County was easy to find all winter (Smith) and in Outagamie County James Anderson judged it to be in normal numbers. Their numbers on the Christmas Counts were 66% above the average of the last 5 years. Winter feeding very likely is causing many doves to linger, somehow successfully.

On a continental scale, the major flight last fall was that of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (**American Birds**, Volume 36, Number 2, page 149, 1982), but winter numbers in Wisconsin were about normal.

Certain species, for example American Robin and Blue Jay, were relatively scarce throughout the winter, and kinglets and the Cedar Waxwing were rare or absent after the end of December. But the Northern Shrike was in record numbers on the Christmas Counts and remained so, at least in some parts of the state, all winter.

Redpolls were widespread along the northern border of the United States by early November (**American Birds**, Volume 36, Number 2, pages 149-150, 1982). Although a few contributors reported them in normal numbers, most judged them to be in above normal numbers in Wisconsin this winter, the big increase coming in late January and February, with a number of birds lingering into spring. Hoary Redpolls were reported from throughout the state, but as Winter Editor I would feel much more comfortable with

records of these birds if the observer had noted all three of the following characters, not all of which are mentioned in field guides: a shorter and deeper, more conical bill, giving a "pushed-in" look to the face; pure white or pinkish rump with no trace of streaking; and pure white under tail coverts. See **American Birds**, 1978, Volume 32, Number 3, Pages 330, 404, for further discussion and photographs. Only two birds were so documented for the 1982 winter. Pale redpolls are not necessarily Hoary Redpolls, for redpolls vary greatly in size and color, and to compound the situation even more, Common Redpolls become paler by late winter from feather wear. R. Martin Smith of Madison saw a redpoll this winter with an unstreaked white rump, supposedly the main field mark of the Hoary Redpoll, but the overall coloration was too dark; Smith commented that he would never have dreamed of calling it a Hoary Redpoll, but some other observer might have done so.

It was also a good winter for the White-winged Crossbill, with most contributors, when so indicating, reporting it in above normal numbers. Although the Red Crossbill was in high numbers on the Christmas Counts, it was in normal numbers or absent in January and February.

Other winter finches were scarce or irregular after the end of December. The Pine Grosbeak staged a modest invasion, especially in northern Wisconsin, but in below normal numbers, and the Evening Grosbeak was very local. The Purple Finch and the Pine Siskin were mostly in normal or below normal numbers, with a mid to late February increase being noted in some areas. Only one contributor (Humphrey in Barron County) reported above normal numbers of the American Goldfinch; all others, when they so indicated, reported normal or below normal numbers, or they did not find any.

A Double-crested Cormorant remained all winter in the Bayside Power Plant area of Green Bay, Brown County (Cleary and Brother Columban), where it associated with Canada Geese and ducks (the same bird that stayed here all last winter?), and another overwintered at Portage (**American Birds**, Volume 36, Number 3, page 296, 1982).

One, possibly two Little Gulls on 19 December in Milwaukee County were apparently the first December records for this species in Wisconsin (Bill Cowart, Dennis Gustafson). A Thayer's Gull was again found in Milwaukee County, this time by Gustafson. See **By the Wayside** for details of both species.

It was a good winter for the Goshawk, perhaps heralding a big invasion next winter. There were several reports of the Great Gray Owl, and two Boreal Owl reports.

Maybelle Hardy thinks that the Pileated Woodpecker is increasing in the Park Falls area, Price County, and this species increased on the Christmas Counts for the fourth consecutive year. A relatively poor acorn crop last fall probably accounts for the Red-headed Woodpecker being the only woodpecker which was down in numbers on the Christmas Counts from the average of the last 5 years.

Fall migration was obvious in several species. There was a major Whistling Swan flight, for example, from 2-5 December. A spectacular Canada Goose flight on 3 January was reported by several contributors. Daryl Tessen for Dane County estimated approximately 20,000 all heading south, and Gyda Mahlum, in Rock County, referred to them as a "great stream". 650+

were noted in Jefferson County by Hale. Cranes apparently were migrating with the geese (Mahlum in Rock County).

Very few birds were found on the Ned Hollister Bird Club's annual rerun of the Christmas Count in Rock County, which was held on 21 February this year (Mahlum). But spring migration was underway by the end of February for the Canada Goose, certain ducks, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Gulls were absent from the Manitowoc lakeshore for part of January (Charles Sontag), and the Milwaukee harbor the first and second weeks of February with a mass movement into the Milwaukee harbor on 22 February (Coward). The Horned Lark was also numerous on this date, moving along Lake Michigan in Milwaukee County on a southwest wind (Coward).

Two other items, both dealing with disease. Salmonellosis, an intestinal bacterial infection, was reported from Shawano and Milwaukee area feeding stations in January. The disease is deadly. It is spread via feces from feeder to feeder, or the bird seed itself may be contaminated. Precautions include cleaning your feeders and baths regularly, removing all feces, removing spilled seed, scattering fresh snow under feeders, and painting or varnishing feeders to discourage salmonella growth in wood. People can get the disease, too, so wash your hands after you've handled or cleaned your feeder or bath (George Paulson, **Burlington Standard Press**, 24 February 1982.)

Since 1975, Madison, Wisconsin, has been the home of the National Wildlife Health Laboratory, the only facility of its kind in the nation. Through research and disease diagnosis, this lab has been especially active in fighting outbreaks of fowl cholera, waterfowl botulism, duck plague, and industrial and agricultural contamination affecting wildlife. This facility will be closed because of budget cutbacks by the Reagan administration, a sad commentary, in this Editor's judgment, on priorities and values.

A total of 60 people reported birds in a total of 56 counties, down from last winter, when 67 people contributed from 58 counties. An overall decline in time spent afield was an inevitable consequence of the severe weather. As Tessen commented: "Least amount of birding I've done in years during a winter. January was just too miserable to bird." These counties had coverage (the number in parentheses is the number of observers): Adams (1), Ashland (1), Barron (2), Bayfield (1), Brown (2), Buffalo (1), Burnett (4), Calumet (1), Chippewa (2), Clark (2), Columbia (3), Dane (7), Dodge (3), Douglas (4), Dunn (1), Eau Claire (1), Fond du Lac (1), Forest (1), Green (1), Iron (1), Jackson (1), Jefferson (1), Juneau (4), Kenosha (4), LaCrosse (1), Langlade (1), Manitowoc (1), Marathon (3), Marinette (1), Menominee (1), Milwaukee (6), Monroe (1), Oneida (3), Outagamie (5), Ozaukee (4), Pepin (1), Pierce (1), Polk (1), Portage (3), Price (1), Racine (3), Rock (3), Rusk (1), St. Croix (1), Sauk (3), Shawano (2), Taylor (2), Trempealeau (1), Vilas (2), Walworth (1), Washington (4), Waukesha (3), Waupaca (2), Waushara (2), Winnebago (3) and Wood (3).

Counties not covered, in alphabetical order: Crawford, Door, Florence, Grant, Green Lake, Iowa, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Lincoln, Marquette, Oconto, Richland, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Vernon and Washburn. The

southwestern corner of the state continues to receive little or no coverage in the winter.

Abbreviations used in the species accounts: BOP - beginning of period, EOP - end of period, m. obs. - many observers, t.s. throughout the season.

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Common Loon:** Until 2 Dec. in Dane Co. (Smith) and 4 Dec. in Sauk Co. (Lange).

**Horned Grebe:** One in Manitowoc Co., 15-16 Dec. (Sontag), and one on the Madison Christmas Count, 19 Dec.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Until 9 Dec. in Jefferson Co. (Hale), and on the Wausau, Peshtigo, and Newburg Christmas Counts.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** A single bird, apparently healthy, again remained all winter in the Bayside Power Plant area of Green Bay, Brown Co. (Cleary and Brother Columban); the same individual that was here all last winter? Another at Portage all winter (**American Birds**, Volume 36, Number 3, page 296, 1982).

**Great Blue Heron:** 27 Dec., 2 in Trempealeau Co., same location as last winter (Leshner), and on several Christmas Counts, but no later records.

**Mute Swan:** T.s. in Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland Cos., and one on the Oconomowoc Christmas Count, 27 Dec.

**Whistling Swan:** A major flight, 2-5 Dec. On 5 Christmas Counts and during the count period in a 6th area. An immature swan in the Baraboo River in Baraboo, Sauk Co., 31 Jan. - 21 Feb., apparently was a Whistler, although it was initially identified as a Trumpeter Swan (Putnam); these two species are best distinguished by voice.

**Canada Goose:** A big increase (75%) on the Christmas Counts above the average of the last 5 years. A major flight in southern Wisconsin on 3 Jan., when approximately 20,000 moved south, ahead of a large storm system. A few wintered in southern and eastern Wisconsin. Birds believed to be migrants were first noted on 23 Feb. in Columbia Co. (Lange).

**Snow Goose:** One in Winnebago Co. t.s. (Ziebell), and 25 on 30 Jan. in Eldorado Marsh, Fond du Lac Co. (Ziebell from Art Techlow III).

**Mallard:** T.s., Kenosha Co. to the Ashland area. Highest numbers in Winnebago Co. (maximum 600, Ziebell).

**American Black Duck:** T.s. over much of the state. Maximum numbers in Milwaukee (Frank), Manitowoc (Sontag) and Shawano (Peterson) Cos., 13-21 Feb.; early migrants?

**Gadwall:** on 8 Christmas Counts. T.s. in Milwaukee Co.? Definitely so in Dane Co. (Smith, Thiessen), with a high count of 345 on 20 Feb. (Thiessen). In Juneau Co., 13 Feb. (Ziebell).

**Common Pintail:** On 9 Christmas Counts. T.s., 1-2 birds, in the following counties. Milwaukee (Cowart, Woodmansee), Winnebago (Ziebell), Manitowoc (Sontag), and Brown (Cleary, Brother Columban).

**Green-winged Teal:** 19 Dec., 6 on the Madison Christmas Count, and 29 Dec., Milwaukee Co., number? (Cowart).

**Blue-winged Teal:** One in Dane Co., 5 Dec. (Thiessen), and one in Milwaukee Co., 20 Feb. (Woodmansee).

**American Wigeon:** 19 Dec., 6 on the Milwaukee Christmas Count. One from 5-13 Feb. and six on 20 Feb. in Milwaukee Co. (Peterson, Woodmansee); migrants? T.s. in Dane Co., the maximum number being 24 on 19 Dec. on the Madison Christmas Count.

**Northern Shoveler:** Wintering reported only for Dane Co., "normal numbers" (Smith, Thiessen). Two in Winnebago Co. until 27 Jan. (Ziebell).

**Wood Duck:** A total of 23 birds on 10 Christmas Counts. T.s. in Milwaukee Co., maximum 2 (Frank), with Woodmansee reporting 4, 20 Feb., and t.s. in Brown Co., maximum 2 (Cleary and Brother Columban).

**Redhead:** A total of 7 birds on 4 Christmas Counts. One t.s. in Dane Co. (Thiessen) and Brown Co. (Cleary and Brother Columban). 20 Feb. in Milwaukee Co. (Cowart); migrants?

**Ring-necked Duck:** A total of 10 birds on 4 Christmas Counts. 20 Feb. in Milwaukee Co. (Cowart); migrants(s)?



- Canvasback:** on 6 Christmas Counts, a total of 24 birds. Ten of these were on the Racine Christmas Count, 26 Dec. T.s. only in Racine Co. (DeBoer). 22 Feb. in Milwaukee Co. (Cowart); migrant(s)?
- Greater Scaup:** On 8 Christmas Counts, 2713 birds, with approximately 2600 of these on the Milwaukee and Hales Corners Counts. T.s. in Kenosha (Bishop), Milwaukee (Cowart, Mueller) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Cos.
- Lesser Scaup:** On 13 Christmas Counts, 171 birds, with wintering reported only for Milwaukee Co. (Cowart).
- Common Goldeneye:** T.s. in the following localities: Lake Michigan from Kenosha to Marinette Cos. (m. obs.), Dane Co. (Smith, Thiessen), Sauk Co. (Lange), Winnebago Co. (Tessen, Ziebell), Outagamie Co. (Tessen), Eau Claire Co. (Polk), and the Ashland area (Verch).
- Bufflehead:** A total of 147 birds on 13 Christmas Counts. T.s. only in Racine (DeBoer) and Milwaukee (Cowart) Cos. Peterson noted 10 in Milwaukee Co., 13 Feb.
- Old Squaw:** T.s. in Kenosha (Bishop), Milwaukee (Cowart), and Manitowoc (Sontag) Cos. Maximum numbers for the post-Christmas Count period: 50 in Kenosha Co., 800 in Milwaukee Co. (27 Feb.), 150 in Manitowoc Co. (15 Jan.)
- Harlequin Duck:** Only one record, a male in Lake Michigan just north of Bradford Beach, Milwaukee Co., 24 Jan. (Cowart).
- White-winged Scoter:** Three records: Shawano Co., 4 Dec., 2 (Peterson), Dane Co., 10 Dec., 6 (Hoffman), and Ozaukee Co., 22 Jan., an injured bird (Frank).
- Black (Common) Scoter:** Two records: one in female plumage in Manitowoc Co., BOP-5 Dec. (Sontag), and 5 at Racine on the Christmas Count, 26 Dec.
- Ruddy Duck:** December records only. Reported from 4 counties.
- Hooded Merganser:** Northernmost records were one on the Ashland Christmas Count, 19 Dec., and one in the Rhinelander area during the Christmas Count period. T.s. in Dane Co. (Thiessen). One in Eau Claire Co., 30 Jan. (Polk), Ozaukee Co., 13 Feb. (Peterson), and Racine Co., 28 Feb. (DeBoer).
- Common Merganser:** T.s. in the following localities: Lake Michigan northward to Manitowoc (Sontag), Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban) and Marinette (Lindberg) Cos., Dane Co. (Smith, Thiessen), Sauk Co. (Lange), Winnebago and Outagamie Cos. (Tessen), and Eau Claire and Chippewa Cos. (Polk).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** T.s. in Milwaukee (Frank) and Racine (DeBoer) Cos. In Ozaukee Co., 13 Feb. (Peterson). In two other counties (Manitowoc and Winnebago) into January.
- Turkey Vulture:** One at Plymouth, Sheboygan Co., during the Christmas Count Period.
- General comments on Accipiters:**  
As John Bielefeldt pointed out in this journal (1979, Volume 41, No. 4, pages 183-184), in reference to a paper by Mueller, Berger and Allez, these hawks are best identified by size and size-related characteristics, which can be tricky and difficult and learned only with considerable experience. As a start, contributors could indicate the size of the given *Accipiter* by relating it to a better known bird: was it approximately the size of a Mourning Dove or Blue Jay, or was it larger, the size of a Crow, or still larger, the size of a goose? Only one contributor, Mark Peterson, documented an *Accipiter*, an immature Goshawk.
- Northern Goshawk:** On 14 Christmas Counts, 17 birds, an increase of 69% above the average of the last 5 years. January and February records for 18 counties. Above average numbers reported for Sauk Co. (Lange) and the Ashland area (Verch).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** On 18 Christmas Counts, 29 birds, an increase of 33% above the average of the last 5 years. January and February records for 9 counties.
- Cooper's Hawk:** On 15 Christmas Counts, 20 birds, an increase of 33% above the average of the last 5 years. January and February records for 3 counties: Kenosha, an injured bird, 21 Jan. (Frank), Shawano, one on 13 Feb. (Tessen), Chippewa, t.s. (Polk).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** The Christmas Count total, 1071 birds, was 72% above the average of the last 5 years. Wintered northward to the following counties: Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban), Outagamie (Anderson and staff), Marathon (Bacon, Luepkes), and Barron (Humphrey). Numerous along the Interstate between the Portage-Baraboo exit and Milwaukee, 27 Feb.; some must have been migrants (Lange).

- Red-shouldered Hawk:** 30 Jan., one in Milwaukee Co. (Mueller) and one in Cedarburg Bog, Ozaukee Co. (Coward, Gustafson). Birds on 22 Feb. in Columbia Co. (Tessen) and Juneau Co. (Ziebell) could have been migrants.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Apparently Wisconsin's first January record was one on the Woodland Dunes N.E. Christmas Count, 3 Jan.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** 417 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 76% increase above the average of the last 5 years. Numbers decreased during the next 6 weeks, but increased again in the latter half of February as migrants moved through the state. Northernmost records were from Marinette Co., t.s. (Lindberg), Langlade Co., until 9 Jan. (Pickering), Marathon Co., t.s. (Bacon), and Burnett Co., t.s. (Hoefer). High counts were 10 in Burnett Co. (Kooiker) and Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Dodge Co. (Thompson).
- Golden Eagle:** On 6 Christmas Counts, 7 birds, a high number. Epstein reported 17 separate sightings of 2+ birds, immature and adult, in southern Monroe Co. between 14 Dec. - 21 Feb. An immature in Wood Co. on 7 Feb. (Follen, Tim Bendickson, Tim Stecker) and 27 Feb. (Tessen).
- Bald Eagle:** 216 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 47% increase above the average of the last 5 years, but with the cold weather this species became scarce in Wisconsin until the end of February. T.s. in the following counties: Eau Claire (Polk), Barron (Humphrey) and Burnett (Hoefer).
- Northern Harrier:** 50 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 49% increase above the 1976-1980 average. T.s. in the Bong Recreation Area, Kenosha Co. (Lange from Ripp), Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Dodge Co. (Thompson), and ? Burnett Co. (Kooiker). One in Marathon Co., 9 Feb. (Bacon). Migrants by 27 Feb. in Juneau and Wood Cos. (Tessen).
- Osprey:** One in Brown Co., 10 Feb., as in 1981 (Cleary and Brother Columban).
- Gyr Falcon:** There are approximately 40 gyrfalcon records for Wisconsin, from the end of September into April. Robbins added another this winter, a gray phase bird in Taylor Co., 27 Dec. Also one at Superior, Douglas Co., 12 Feb., undocumented (Polk).
- Merlin:** William A. Smith noted one in Sauk Co., 13 Dec. (Lange from Smith). Also one at Stevens Point, Portage Co., during the Christmas Count period.
- American Kestrel:** 549 birds on the Christmas Counts for a big increase, 104% above the 1976-1980 average. No geographic pattern to the population status after the end of December: noted in above normal, normal and below normal numbers. Wintered northward to Marinette Co. (Lindberg), Shawano Co., 1 (Peterson), Marathon Co., maximum 3 on 27 Dec. (Luepkes), probably Taylor Co., 1 (Robbins), and Eau Claire Co., 1 (Polk). Apparently a few migrants by mid-February.
- Spruce Grouse:** Two along the Burnett-Polk Co. line, 20 Dec. (Fuller).
- Greater Prairie Chicken:** T.s. in the Mead Wildlife Area, Marathon, Wood and Portage Cos. (Bacon), and also Burnett Co. (Kooiker). One in Taylor Co., 27 Dec. (Robbins). Maximum counts were 48 on 7 Feb. in Marathon Co. (Luepkes) and 45 on 19 Feb. in Portage Co. (Peterson).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Burnett Co., t.s. maximum 5 on 8 Dec. (Hoefer, Kooiker). Rusk Co., 30 Dec. (Robbins). Also on two Douglas Co. Christmas Counts.
- Common Bobwhite:** The highest number on Christmas Counts since 1966, probably a consequence of two successive mild winters. At least a few survived the winter, through February anyway, in Sauk Co. (Lange). Also t.s. in Eau Claire Co. (Polk).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Wintered northward to the following counties: Douglas, maximum 6 on 20 Jan. (Robbye Johnson), Burnett, maximum 3 on 30 Jan. (Hoefer, Kooiker), Barron (Humphrey), Chippewa, 1 (Polk), Outagamie, above normal numbers (Anderson), and Brown, maximum 45, 18 Feb. (Cleary and Brother Columban).
- Gray Partridge:** Deep snow restricted the movements of this species, which was reported t.s. in the following counties: Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban), apparently Shawano (Peterson, Tessen), Outagamie and Winnebago (Tessen), Fond du Lac (Knuth), and apparently Ozaukee (Coward, Peterson).
- Wild Turkey:** Released in 2 different places in the Baraboo Hills, Sauk Co., by the DNR this winter (Feb. and March). Brown Co., t.s. maximum 14 (Cleary and Brother Columban). Also noted in Juneau Co.

**Sandhill Crane:** Apparently cranes were migrating with Canada Geese through southern Wisconsin on 3 Jan. (Mahlum for Rock Co.). Two remained all winter in Brown Co. (Cleary and Brother Columban).

**American Coot:** 245 birds on 11 Christmas Counts, but the only report of wintering came from Dane Co., where a maximum of 200+ was noted on 14 Feb. (Smith).

**Killdeer:** Sauk Co., 27 Dec., 4 on the Baraboo Christmas Count in the same area where 4 were found a year ago on the 1980 count. Found on 5 other Christmas Counts and in one other area during the count period. All were in southern Wisconsin except for the Manitowoc area. No later records.

**American Woodcock:** Two at Kenosha on the Christmas Count, 2 Jan.

**Common Snipe:** 25 birds on 12 Christmas Counts, all in Southern Wisconsin except Ashland. No later records.

**Dunlin:** Milwaukee Co. until 2 Dec. (Gustafson).

NOTE: The account for this species in **Passenger Pigeon**, 1981, Volume 43, No. 4, page 153, should be deleted and changed to read as follows: One in Milwaukee Co. until 13 Dec. (Idzikowski).

**Glaucous Gull:** One on the Ashland Christmas Count, 19 Dec., an undocumented individual in Racine Co., 3 Jan. — EOP (DeBoer), and 2-3 in Milwaukee Co., 1 Jan. - 22 Feb. (Coward, Gustafson).

**Herring Gull:** T.s. only in Racine (DeBoer) and Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban) Cos. Absent from other areas by the end of December or at least for part of January. Maximum counts: Dane Co., 300+, 15 Dec. (Smith), Winnebago Co., 300, 5 Dec. (Ziebell), Manitowoc Co., 300, 21 Dec. (Sontag), and Brown Co., 100, 17 Dec. (Cleary and Brother Columban). A mass movement of gulls into the Milwaukee harbor, 22 Feb.

**Thayer's Gull:** Last winter Robert A. and Roger H. Sundell discovered one at the South Shore Yacht Club in Milwaukee Co. on 5 Jan., with Herring Gulls (**Passenger Pigeon**, 1981, Volume 43, No. 4, pp. 153, 161-162). This winter, on 22 Jan., Dennis Gustafson found one there, with Herring Gulls. See **By the Wayside**.

**Ring-billed Gull:** T.s. only in Racine Co. (DeBoer). Absent from other areas by the end of December or early January, with a mass movement of gulls into the Milwaukee harbor on 22 February. Maximum count: 70 in Manitowoc Co., 31 Dec. (Sontag).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 448 on the Milwaukee Christmas Count, 19 Dec., until 20 Dec. in Racine Co., and one on the Kenosha Christmas Count, 2 Jan.

**Little Gull:** At least one, possibly two along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Milwaukee Co. on the Milwaukee Christmas Count, 19 Dec. (Coward, Gustafson), apparently the first December records for this species in Wisconsin. Cowart's sighting was of a bird in company with 20-30 Bonaparte's Gulls. See **By the Wayside**.

**Mourning Dove:** 8635 birds on the Christmas Counts for an increase of 66% above the average of the last 5 years. Wintered northward to Marinette (Lindberg), Langlade (Pickering) and Marathon (Luepkes) Cos., and the Ashland area (Verch). Winter feeding very likely is causing many doves to linger, somehow successfully. A feeder arrival in LaCrosse Co., 27 Feb. (Leshner), apparently an early migrant.

**Common Screech Owl:** 83 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 57% increase above the 1976-1980 average. Northernmost reports from Barron Co., t.s. (Humphrey), Clark Co., 27 Jan. (Luepkes), Marathon Co., one until 28 Jan. (Luepkes), Waupaca Co., 22 Dec., 1 (Tessen), Outagamie Co., t.s. (Tessen), and Brown Co., t.s. (Cleary) and Brother Columban).

**Snowy Owl:** Again an increase in the number of birds on the Christmas Counts, 20 this time vs. 17 last year. Scattered throughout the northern half of the state and eastern Wisconsin, with birds still in the following localities at the EOP: Ashland area (Verch), Taylor Co., (Robbins), Clark Co. (Luepkes), Langlade Co. (Pickering), and Brown Co. (Cleary and Brother Columban). One in Milwaukee Co. until at least 16 Feb. (Gustafson). Maximum counts were at least 13 in Clark Co. and at least 5 in Taylor Co., 27 Feb. (Luepkes), and 6 in Brown Co., 14 Feb. (Cleary and Brother Columban).

**Great Gray Owl:** One on a fence post along Marathon Co. Hwy. K, 1 mile north of Wausau, 1 Dec. (Geiger), and one in Marathon Co., 2-½ miles southeast of Dorchester, 2 Dec. (Robbins). One found in an emaciated condition in Taylor Co. died in captivity on 7 Dec. after a vain attempt by Don Follen, Sr., and Roger Krogstad, a veterinarian, to nurse it

back to health (**Marshfield News-Herald**, 8 Dec. 1981). One in Taylor Co., 17 Jan. (Robbins). Another was found dead in an emaciated condition in Burnett Co., 11 Feb. (Kooiker).

**Long-eared Owl:** In Marathon Co., BOP-5 Dec. 1 (Luepkes), and a total of 33 birds on 8 Christmas Counts in the southern half of the state except for Medford in Taylor Co. Post-Christmas Count records: Outagamie Co. until 2 Jan. (Tessen), Winnebago Co. until 9 Jan., maximum 4 on 8 Jan. (Ziebell), Dane Co. through Jan. and Feb. (Hoffman), Waukesha Co., 16 Jan. (Frank), and an injured bird in Milwaukee Co., 13 Jan. (Frank).

**Short-eared Owl:** T.s. only in Dane Co., maximum 3, 28 Feb. (Hoffman), and Milwaukee Co., maximum 5 (Coward), with 4 at the Milwaukee Airport (Layton Avenue), 1 Feb. (Gustafson). At least 8 in Dec. and Feb., no Jan. records, Bong recreation Area in Kenosha Co. (Lange from Ripp), and 2 in Racine Co., 24 Feb. (DeBoer). Records for one other county, Marathon, until 12 Jan. (Luepkes).

**Boreal Owl:** Two records: one observed on a windowsill from inside her home by Mrs. Roy A. Johnson, Maple, Cloverland Township, Douglas Co., 26 Feb., and one trapped and banded in Wood Co. in Feb. (Robbins). Less than 30 previous records for Wisconsin.

**Saw-whet Owl:** For Dane Co., one on 2 Dec., one on the Madison Christmas Count, one in another locality and 3 calling on 28 Feb. for a total of 6 records for the winter (Hoffman). Other records, arranged chronologically: Barron Co., BOP (Humphrey), 2 on the Plymouth Christmas Count, Sheboygan Co., 19 Dec., one in Sauk Co., 28 Dec. (Lange), one in Oshkosh, Winnebago Co., 13 Jan. (Ziebell from Dave Krueger), one in Outagamie Co., 15 Jan. (Anderson), and Wood Co., 5-7 Feb. (Luepkes).

**Belted Kingfisher:** 74 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 17% increase above the 1976-1980 average, statewide but mostly in southern Wisconsin. Only 4 records after the first week of January: t.s. in Dane Co., 1 (Thiessen), until 29 Jan. in Shawano Co., 1 (Peterson), 5 Feb. in Milwaukee Co., 1 (Peterson), 13 Feb. in Juneau Co. (Ziebell).

**Common Flicker:** 120 birds on the Christmas Counts (only one in northern Wisconsin) for a 21% increase above the 1976-1980 average. Northernmost reports after 10 January: Brown Co., where one stayed all winter, visiting a feeder daily (Cleary and Brother Columban), Outagamie Co., t.s., above normal numbers (Anderson and staff), Waupaca Co., a male and a female, 1 Jan.-14 Feb. (Marinac-Sanders), Marathon Co., t.s., 1 (Luepkes), Burnett Co., t.s., maximum 2, 22 Feb. (Hoefer).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Increased on the Christmas Counts for the 4th consecutive year.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** A 29% increase on the Christmas Counts above the average of the last 5 years, but the northern range limit remained the same: Burnett, Rusk, Taylor, Shawano, Marinette, and Door Cos.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** A relatively poor acorn crop in the fall of 1981 probably accounts for this species being the only woodpecker which was down in numbers on the Christmas Counts from the average of the last 5 years. Most numerous in the southwestern part of the state, with secondary numbers in south-central Wisconsin. Wintering reported only for Sauk Co. (Lange), Eau Claire and Chippewa Cos. (Polk).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** A total of 8 birds on 6 Christmas Counts in the southern third of the state. One in Kenosha Co. until 12 Jan. (Bishop) the only post-Christmas Count record.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** One in Sheboygan Co. on the Plymouth Christmas Count, 19 Dec. For northern Wisconsin, 3 reports: Forest Co., 12 Feb. (Reardon), Vilas Co., a female on 18 Dec. and a male on 20 Dec. in the same general area in a conifer swamp (Baughman), and Burnett Co., a male in jack pines, 14 Feb. (Weber).

**Horned Lark:** A whopping 151% increase on the Christmas Counts above the average of the last 5 years: 1273 birds, all in southern and central Wisconsin except for 3 northeastern localities. Migration underway in southern Wisconsin by 12 Feb., in the northern part of the state by 18-20 Feb. T.s. in eastern Wisconsin from Racine (DeBoer) to Fond du Lac (Knuth) Cos., and also Monroe (Epstein), Eau Claire (Polk) and Burnett (Hoefer) Cos.

**Gray Jay:** Christmas Counts and reports from the following counties: Douglas, Burnett, Sawyer, Price, Vilas, Oneida and Forest.

**Mexican Jay:** One at feeders in the Menomonee Falls area of Waukesha Co., 11 Dec.-8 Jan. (m. obs.); apparently an escape rather than a vagrant.

**Black-billed Magpie:** One at a Douglas Co. feeder in Jan. (**American Birds**, Volume 36, Number 3, page 297, 1982).

- Northern Raven:** 456 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 25% decrease below the 1976-1980 average. Southernmost reports from the following counties: Eau Claire, t.s. (Polk), Monroe, 22 Dec., 1 (Epstein), Juneau Co., 13 Feb. (Ziebell), Shawano, 16 Dec. - 14 Jan., maximum 10 on 1 Jan. (Peterson), and Door Co., the Ephraim Christmas Count.
- American Crow:** 200 in Wood Co., 25 Feb. (Bacon) and a maximum count of 36, 27 Feb. in Jefferson Co. (Hale), must have included migrants.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** 15,440 birds on the Christmas Counts for a big (54%) increase above the average of the last 5 years.
- Boreal Chickadee:** Christmas Counts and reports from Douglas, Price, Vilas, Oneida and Forest Cos.
- Tufted Titmouse:** Northernmost reports on the Christmas Counts were from Chippewa, Richland, Columbia and Fond du Lac Cos. January and February reports from Walworth Co. (Tessen), Rock Co. (Mahlum), Dane Co. (Cederstrom, Thiessen), and Eau Claire Co. (Polk).
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** Approximately 3000 birds on the Christmas Counts for an increase of 21% above the average of the last 5 years.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Approximately 500 birds on the Christmas Counts, an average number for the past 5 years: throughout the state, with the lowest numbers in northwestern, west-central, and central Wisconsin. Well distributed throughout the state in January and February, with more birds in southern Wisconsin than last winter.
- Brown Creeper:** 205 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 14% decrease below the 1976-1980 average: relatively uncommon in northern Wisconsin. The only reports from northern localities after 11 January were the Ashland area (Verch), Vilas Co., 20 Feb. (Baughman), and Marinette Co., 4 Feb. (Lindberg).
- Winter Wren:** One on the Kickapoo Valley Christmas Count and one during the count period in the Mt. Horeb area.
- Gray Catbird:** One in Eau Claire Co. until 11 Dec. (Polk), one at Ephraim, Door Co., during the Christmas Count period, and one at a feeder in Dane Co., 26 Dec. (**American Birds**, Volume 36, Number 3, page 297, 1982).
- Brown Thrasher:** 3 records after December: one in Estabrook Park, Milwaukee Co., until 9 Jan. (Gustafson), Ashland area until 10 Jan. (Verch), and Doris Leppla reported one coming to a feeder in Bayfield Co. (**Badger Bird**, Feb. 1982, Number 206.)
- American Robin:** A big decrease (71%) on the Christmas Counts below the 1976-1980 average. Wintered northward to Brown Co. (4 birds in 2 different areas; Cleary and Brother Columban), Marinette Co. (Lindberg), and ? Burnett Co. (Hoeftler, Kooiker). First spring arrivals: 24-28 Feb. in Walworth (Tessen), Rock (Mahlum), Sauk (Lange), and Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban) Cos. Also Burnett Co.?
- Varied Thrush:** About the same number of reports as last winter. One on a Manitowoc Co. Christmas Count, 20 Dec., one on the Black River Falls Christmas Count, 30 Dec., one in Dane Co., 23-27 Dec. (Hoffman), one at a feeder in Altoona, Eau Claire Co., from approximately 25 Dec. EOP (Polk), an adult male at a feeder in Waupaca Co., 12 Feb. until at least late Feb. (Tessen), and one at a feeder in Millston, Monroe Co. (**Badger Bird**).
- Hermit Thrush:** One on the Milwaukee Christmas Count, 19 Dec., and two on the Mt. Horeb Christmas Count, 27 Dec.
- Eastern Bluebird:** On two Christmas Counts, Corneilla and Beetown in Grant Co. A spring migrant in Dunlap Hollow, Dane Co., 25 Feb. (Lange from Dennis Lenzendorf).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** High numbers until approximately the end of December, e.g. 20% above the 1977-1980 average on the Christmas Counts, then scarce. Only one record after 14 January - Eau Claire Co., where Polk found this species t.s.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One in LaCrosse Co., 7 Dec. (Leshner), and 6 birds on 6 Christmas Counts in the southern third of Wisconsin except for Arpin in Wood Co. No later records.
- Bohemian Waxwing:** Again a good invasion, southward to LaCrosse Co., 16 Dec., 1 (Leshner), the Kickapoo Valley Christmas Count, a Waushara Co. Christmas Count, Brown Co., 26 Jan. - 7 Feb. (Cleary and Brother Columban), and Manitowoc Co. BOP - 3 Jan. (Sontag). High numbers were 70-80, 20 Dec. Manitowoc Co. (Sontag), and 153, 7 Feb., Brown Co. (Cleary and Brother Columban).



**Cedar Waxwing:** A big decrease (76%) on the Christmas Counts below the average of the last 5 years. T.s. only in Dane (Smith, Thiessen), Eau Claire (Polk) and Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban) Cos. Typically this species increases noticeably in late February, but this winter only Lange reported migrants (20 Feb. in Sauk Co.).

**Northern Shrike:** 193 birds on the Christmas counts for a big increase (60%) above the 1976-1980 average. This was the record number and this species remained in record numbers all winter, at least in some parts of the state, e.g. Clark and Taylor Cos. (Robbins) and Sauk Co. (Lange). January and February reports from 22 counties scattered throughout the state.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** One in the Oshkosh area during the Christmas Count period, and two on the Sauk City Christmas Count, 26 Dec., with one of these continuing to frequent a feeder in Prairie du Sac, Sauk Co., until approximately 15 Jan. (Lange).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Two on the Fort Atkinson Christmas Count, 3 Jan., and one, apparently a first fall and winter male, at a feeder in Baraboo, Sauk Co., through 4 Jan. (Lange).

**Meadowlarks:** Both species continue to be scarce in winter in Wisconsin. A Western Meadowlark was found dead in Shawano Co., 30 Dec. (Peterson), and a meadowlark sp. (probably Eastern) was noted in Taylor Co., BOP-6 Dec. (Robbins).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** One on the Horicon Christmas Count, 19 Dec., and one on the Lake Geneva Christmas Count, 2 Jan.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** A 24% decrease below the 1976-1980 average on the Christmas Counts, with 3 areas (LaCrosse, Madison and Horicon) having 90% of the birds. The only report of wintering was from Thiessen for Dane Co., normal numbers. Tessen reported flocks of 15-20 birds migrating on 23 Feb. in several southern counties.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 205 birds were found on 11 Christmas Counts throughout the state, but mainly in southern Wisconsin. Two records after December: one in Monroe Co., 3 Dec.-EOP (Epstein) and one in Washington Co. until approximately mid-January (Haseleu).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Found on the LaCrosse, Arpin and Appleton Christmas Counts. Only one record after December, a bird in Shawano Co., 6 Feb. (Peterson).

**Common Grackle:** 223 birds on the Christmas Counts for a big decrease (54%) below the 1976-1980 average, throughout the state but more numerous southward. T.s. in the following counties: Brown, 1 (Cleary and Brother Columban), Shawano, apparently a few (Peterson), Taylor (Robbins), Winnebago, maximum 3 (Ziebell), Dane, maximum 6 (Thiessen), Jefferson, maximum 30+, 27 Jan. (Hale), Washington, 1? (Haseleu), and apparently Milwaukee (Coward). Two at a feeder in Sauk Co., 19 Feb. (Lange), probably were migrants. Returning to Dodge Co. in the last week of Feb. (Lange).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 206 birds on 12 Christmas Counts, throughout the state but mainly southern Wisconsin. Only one record after December, two birds at a feeder in Milwaukee Co., 10-16 Jan. (Mueller). Single birds in Eau Claire Co., 15 Feb. (Polk), Washington Co., 19 Feb. (Haseleu), and Walworth Co., 27 Feb. (Tessen) - migrants?

**Northern Cardinal:** Wintered northward to the following counties: Marinette (Lindberg), Shawano (Peterson), Marathon, 1 (Luepkes), Taylor (Robbins), and Barron (Humphrey).

**Evening Grosbeak:** A 48% increase above the 1976-1980 average on the Christmas Counts (10,083 birds), but then becoming local or irregular. Maximum numbers, when reported, typically in late December or early January.

**Purple Finch:** The Christmas Count total, 1191 birds, was near the 1976-1980 average. Most contributors reported them in normal or below normal numbers for January and February. Maximum numbers in January? An increase in southern Wisconsin in late Feb.

**Pine Grosbeak:** 464 birds on the Christmas Counts for a big (42%) decrease below the 1976-1980 average: highest numbers in the northwestern part of the state, scarce or absent in west-central, central, south-central, and southwestern Wisconsin. Southernmost reports from the following counties: Sauk, 24 Jan., 1 (Lange), Dane 7 Feb., 2 (Thiessen), Waukesha, 6 Feb., 7 (Woodmansee), and Ozaukee, 1 Feb. (Coward) and 18 Feb. (Frank). Maximum numbers in most areas in January.

**Hoary Redpoll and Common Redpoll:** Numerous reports of the Hoary Redpoll but only two were fully documented, one at a feeder in Madison with Common Redpolls, 7-12 Feb. (Smith), and at least one with a flock of about 100 Common Redpolls in Whitnall Park,



Milwaukee Co., 13 Feb. (Gustafson). Refer to the introductory remarks for a fuller discussion of the Hoary Redpoll. The Common Redpoll was abundant: 8178 birds on the Christmas Counts for a whopping (193%) increase above the 1976-1980 average, and numerous January and February reports. The big increase took place in late January and February, with the number of birds lingering into spring. High counts were 500 in Price Co., 14 Feb. (Hardy), 300 in Barron Co., 17 Jan. (Humphrey), 300 in Winnebago Co., 27 Jan. (Ziebell), and 140 in Dane Co., 6 Feb. (Thiessen).

**Pine Siskin:** Contributors reported this species in above average, average and below average numbers, and absent with no evident geographic pattern. 1817 birds on the Christmas Counts for a 42 % drop below the 1976-1980 average. Maximum numbers typically were in February.

**American Goldfinch:** Only Humphrey for Barron Co. reported above normal numbers. Otherwise this species was judged to be in normal or below normal numbers, or it was absent. On the Christmas Counts approximately 7000 birds, about average for the last 5 years, T.s. northward to the following counties: Burnett (Kooiker), Barron (Humphrey), Price (Hardy), Taylor (Robbins), probably Marathon (Luekpes), Langlade (Pickering), Marinette (Lindbert), and Brown (Cleary and Brother Columban).

**Red Crossbill:** High numbers on the Christmas Count (50% above the average of the last 5 years), but in normal numbers or absent in January and February. After December, reported from 9 southern counties plus Price Co., 24-27 Jan. (Hardy), and the Ashland area, t.s. (Verch). The maximum number, after the Christmas Counts, was 8 in Price Co., 24-27 Jan. (Hardy).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Again a good season for this species: 28% above the average of the last 5 years on the Christmas Counts, and in relatively high numbers in January and February. The maximum count was 200 in Sauk Co., 14 Jan. (Lange). After December, reported in 15 counties extending from the Ashland area, t.s. (Verch), to Milwaukee Co., t.s. (Cowart).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** Noted on the Sauk City, Madison and Manitowoc Christmas Counts. 3 records after December: an adult male at a feeder in Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk Co., 6 Jan. (Lange), one in Brown Co., 4-7 Jan. (Cleary and Brother Columban), and an adult male at a feeder in Rhinelander, Oneida Co., approximately 14 Feb.-5 March (Kozel).

**Savannah Sparrow:** One on the Appleton Christmas Count, 19 Dec.

**Vesper Sparrow:** One on a Manitowoc Co. Christmas Count, 19 Dec.

**Chipping Sparrow:** One at a feeder in Marinette Co., 10-16 Dec. (Lindberg), and on 2 Christmas Counts, Wautoma, 30 Dec., 1, and Lake Geneva, 2 Jan., 2.

**Field Sparrow:** Iron Co., BOP (Butterbrodt). Found on Christmas Counts in Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Jefferson and Columbia Cos.

**Harris' Sparrow:** An immature with a flock of tree sparrows in Cadiz Springs State park, Green Co., 6 Dec. (Peterson).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Sauk City (26 Dec.) and Kenosha (2 Jan.) Christmas Counts, and one in Racine Co., 15 Jan.-EOP (DeBoer).

NOTE: Last winter's account was inadvertently eliminated. In the winter of 1980-1981, one was noted in Brown Co. until 27 Dec. (Cleary and Brother Columban), a total of 6 was found on the Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Christmas Counts, and one was located in Rock Co., 15 Feb. (Ned Hollister Bird Club).

**White-throated Sparrow:** 33 birds on 9 Christmas Counts in eastern and southern Wisconsin. 3 records of wintering or suspected wintering: for the second consecutive year, one was found t.s. by Smith at his feeder in Madison, Dane Co.; Racine Co., 10 Jan.-EOP, maximum 3 (DeBoer); and one in Whitnall Park, Milwaukee Co., 13 Feb. (Gustafson).

**Fox Sparrow:** On 4 Christmas Counts in southern Wisconsin. Only one later record, a bird in Outagamie Co. until 2 Jan. (Tessen).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Thiessen found one in Dane Co. until 5 Dec., and Sontag found one in Manitowoc Co. until 19 Dec.

**Song Sparrow:** T.s. in Kenosha Co., maximum 2 (Bishop), Racine Co., 10 Jan.-EOP, 1 (DeBoer), Rock Co., 9 Jan.-EOP (Mahlum), and Dane Co., 16 Jan. (Cederstrom). The 3 in Walworth Co. that Tessen found on 27 Feb. might have been migrants.

**Lapland Longspur:** The only large flock reported was the group of 200 birds on the Mt. Horeb Christmas Count. After the counts (214 birds on 6 counts), this species was noted only in 3 areas: Columbia Co., 3 Jan., 15 (Tessen), Ozaukee Co., 13 Feb. (Peterson), and Outagamie Co., 13 Feb., 2 (Tessen).

**Snow Bunting:** Numerous and widespread this winter. 75% above the average of the last 5 years on the Christmas Counts, and flocks of 50-500 reported for 14 widespread counties in January and February.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

James Anderson, with Larry Prickette and Mary Goodwin, Bruce Bacon for the DNR Crew, Mead Wildlife Area, Jim Baughman, Homer C. Bishop, Mary E. Butterbrodt, David Cederstrom, Dick Cleek, Edwin D. Cleary and Brother Columban, Bill Cowart, Jerry DeBoer, Eric Epstein, Don Follen, Sr., Jim Frank, Pepper Fuller, Anthony E. Geiger, Marty Glaser, Dennis Gustafson, Karen Etter Hale, Maybelle Hardy, Judy Haseleu, James Hoefler, Randy Hoffman, Janelle Humphrey, Robbye Johnson, Mrs. Roy Johnson, Rockne Knuth, Paul Kooiker, Harry Kozel, Kenneth I. Lange, Fred Leshar, Harold Lindberg, Ralph B. Locke, Ken & Jan Luepke, Gyda Mahlum, Pat Marinac-Sanders, William Mueller, Janine Polk, Mark Peterson, Bernard Pickering, Michael S. Putnam, Mary Jean Raile, Bill Reardon, Norma Reed, Michael Ripp, Sam Robbins, Clark Schultz, R. Martin Smith, Charles Sontag, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, Dottie Thompson, Dick Verch, Lowell W. Weber, Melvin Wierzbicki, Winnie Woodmansee, Thomas Ziebell.

## *Save the Wetlands for the Cranes*

**Mary and  
Charlie Nelson**



# By the Wayside...



**Thayer's Gull at South Shore Yacht Club, South Milwaukee**  
January 22, 1982, 11:00 to 11:10 a.m.

While checking over a flock of Herring Gulls sitting on the ice just beyond the duck feeding area of South Shore Yacht Club in Milwaukee, my attention was drawn to one gull which had an immaculately white head, in contrast to the brownish streaking on the necks of almost all the Herring Gulls. The eyes looked dark also, so I quickly focused in on the bird with my scope, moving up to 40X magnification. The eyes indeed were dark brown or blackish (hard to say which, without sunshine), in vivid contrast to the many adjacent Herring Gulls with their yellow iris. Having just re-read an article on Thayer's Gulls in *American Birds* recently, I began checking the diagnostic field marks. This bird was an adult with a gray mantle about the same as a Herring Gull, a much whiter head which appeared not as flat as a Herring Gull. The bill was slightly shorter and paler than any of the other adult Herring Gulls present (40 close in). The wing tips appeared close to the blackish color of the Herring Gulls (this varies between individuals), and may have had a little more white towards the tips. When standing, the legs were noticeably darker than the Herring Gulls (close to salmon pink). The bird was observed almost constantly during a 10 minute period, while comparisons were made and all colors were rechecked at different angles to eliminate the possibility of faulty lighting or angle. Unfortunately, the bird remained sitting or standing the entire time and did not take flight until several people came to feed the ducks and chased away most of the flock of gulls, including my bird, while they blocked my view. My wing descriptions were based on two occasions when the gull extended one wing while perched. A winter storm watch was in effect later that day and the bird (or the flock) could not be relocated.

Voice Description (if heard): Not heard.

Habitat: Lakefront

Comparison with similar appearing species (include distinguishing points): All comparisons with size of adjacent adult herring gull, although the head was not as flat in appearance and the bill was slightly smaller and paler. No

noticeable difference in mantle color or wing tip color (maybe more white?). Lets noticeably darker and eyes were strikingly dark brown, almost blackish. Head immaculate white, unlike streaking in virtually all herring gulls.

Distance: As closed as 75 feet.

Optical Equipment: Scope 20X-40X

Weather (sky condition, wind, visibility): Cloudy, windy (did not record exact velocity, but probably 15-20 mph.) (strong weather front was approaching), no precipitation.

Previous experience with species: One sighting of another adult on a Christmas count off the coast of Maine (1970) (hypothetical record -Milwaukee, 1979).

Other members of observation party: None.

Other observers known to have independently identified this bird: None.

Books, Illustrations, Advice consulted: **Peterson's new Eastern Field Guide**, both **Audubon's Field Guides (for photographs)**, and article in **American Birds**, Dec. 1975, p. 1059-1066.

Dennis K. Gustafson  
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### Little Gull

December 19, 1982 (CBC), 3:00 p.m. at Milwaukee, Lake Michigan Shore

An adult was observed in with a group of 20-30 Bonaparte's Gulls approximately 150 yards off shore. As a majority of the birds flew up, the smaller size and very distinctly black underwings were noted. (3:00 p.m.)

John Idzikowski spotted this (probably same) bird in the morning, same spot; however, one spotted at the sewerage plant effluence by Dennis Gustafson at noon was probably a different individual.

Voice Description (if heard): Not heard.

Habitat: Lake Michigan.

Comparison with similar appearing species (include distinguishing points): Smaller than Bonaparte's, black underwing linings.

Distance: 150 yards.

Optical equipment: 15-60X scope

Weather (sky condition, wind, visibility): full sun at my back.

Previous experience with species: Extensive (in Milwaukee area).

Other members of observation party: None.

Other observers known to have independently identified this bird: Probably John Idzikowski, Dennis Gustafson (?).

William Cowart  
4034 N. 45 St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53216

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Laura Erickson's letter about sightings records (Fall, 1982) underscores a feeling I have had more and more frequently about the WSO Records Committee. I have felt (and I have heard this same feeling expressed by other reputable birders) a similar degree of frustration over the lack of communication after sight records have been sent in by observers - a frustration which, in my case, began after seeing and documenting undoubtedly the same "yellow-billed loon" as Laura saw in November, 1979 in Madison.

Bird identification has become an increasingly complicated subject, so much so that I fear unusual sightings by some of the more "casual, but serious" birders may soon be ignored because of their inability to stay current with the identification literature or their lack of desire to bird on a more or less "professional" basis. This would be most unfortunate and seems to me to be like throwing the baby out with the water. I think that publication of probable sightings, reasonably documented by birders of good repute, has some merit, especially if the documentation is lacking in only one or two details. Comments by the Committee about such deficiencies would educate us all, while at the same time giving perhaps a more complete picture of rare bird distribution.

Sincerely,  
R. Martin Smith  
1118 Tomahawk Trail  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I am writing in reference to a phone call I made to you in which I reported seeing two Male Blue Grosbeaks. This sighting took place at about 10:00 a.m. on May 10th or 11th. The birds were slightly smaller than the Evening Grosbeaks and had a deep dull blue color with tan wing bars.

These birds were observed apparently feeding on sunflower seeds beneath a post birdfeeder which is located about fifteen feet from a rear window, south side of our home. At the time, the sky was overcast and the temperature was 60° to 65° F.

We live about six miles south of the Eau Claire city limits in Brunswick Township. My husband and I have seen Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Redpolls, etc. at our birdfeeder with some regularity since last fall.

Beginning last year (1981) we began to see Yellow-headed Blackbirds around the ponds within two or three miles of our home. Whether they were migrating or resting, I don't know.

Please contact me if you need additional information. (834-6307).

Mrs. John G. Larson  
Rt. 4, Box 207  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Following are some notes concerning something I've never before observed, and I've spent my share of time observing and studying nature. I thought you might want to put this "story" in the **Passenger Pigeon**.

On Monday, November 8, 1982 at 7:15 a.m., I was nearing the State Capitol building on the State Street side of Capitol Square. By chance, I looked up at the clear blue sky just before I entered the Capitol, and I saw what appeared to be a long, hazy plume of smoke at an altitude I estimated to be at least 1,500 feet. Straining my eyes, I soon saw the plume was made up of **birds**! It was one **continuous** band of birds, varying from 50 to 100 yards in width, and tightening up, then thinning out laterally. I watched the band for at least 2 minutes and it was **unbroken**! I walked through the Capitol, which took about 1 1/2 minutes, and emerged on the King Street side of the Capitol. Here I looked up for at least another minute watching the birds before the band ended with just a few stragglers. The birds were flying straight south.

The fact that I did not see the **front** end of the band, and the fact that it was a solid "line" for at least 4 1/2 minutes certainly indicates it was two to three miles in length!

The individuals in the flock were mere specks, hence I could not positively identify them. I could, at times, determine speed of the birds wingbeats, as "flickers" of motion. The "flickers" seemed too slow for blackbirds or grackles, being more the speed and steadiness of the flapping of crows! But, crows at that elevation and in that concentration? I'd estimate a minimum of one hundred thousand birds!

I've seen the "bouncing" flights of migrating redwings and grackles. Those flocks were often very large, but at low altitudes. The steadiness of the wingbeats, the speed of the individual flaps, and the fact that I could at least see individual birds as specks at that high an altitude indicates the birds were, after all, crows. But, I'll not bet money on this.

One thing that might help identify the birds in that huge flock is another person's sighting of it at a lower altitude, so please read on!

The fact that the birds were so high and so well organized into a band indicates they did not just take to the air in the areas immediately north of Madison. It was very early when I saw the birds, so to gain that altitude and be so well organized, they must have taken to the air at daybreak or before. Therefore, when this flock was on the ground resting and feeding, that "staging area" must have been a fairly long distance north of Madison. The simple question then is: Did anyone reading this note see these birds in the air before or after I did on the morning of November 8, or see or hear of them on the ground on the evening of November 7, 1982? If so, please let me know. In addition, if anyone has any comments on this, or similar observations in years past, I would like to hear from them.

I asked Professor Robert McCabe and Joseph Hickey if they had ever seen a similar event, and also if they could venture a guess on the identify of these birds. They were as puzzled as I was, especially since they hadn't seen this particular mass of birds. They suggested I write this note for the Passenger Pigeon as a general interest item, and to solicit help in identifying this flock.

Why, oh why did I not carry my binoculars that day?!

George J. Knudsen, DNR  
Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707



# BOOK REVIEW

**The Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes of the World**, by Paul A. Johnsgard, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and London. Publication date 11/2/81. Price \$45.00, 493 pp.

This comprehensive work on the shorebirds of the world deals with the classification, identification, breeding biology, ecology, evolution and contemporary problems of conservation. 165 species accounts are given, well supplemented with distribution maps, live drawings, numerous black and white photographs, and sixty color plates.

Each species account gives vernacular names in English, German, French and Spanish. Weights, measurements are presented along with descriptions of range of species and subspecies. There are detailed descriptions of plumage, age and sex criteria, field marks, calls. Habitat, foods, social behavior, reproduction are dealt with, status and relationships and a reference list that includes nearly five hundred sources are given.

The author who is best known for his **Ducks, Geese and Swans of the World** states that shorebirds, for most of his life, occupied only a peripheral part of his world. He states that in the fall of 1977, as he was finishing the draft of his waterfowl work, he decided to deal with shorebirds as a companion volume to that work. This represented quite a challenge. The last worldwide approach to shorebirds was in 1888 in a monograph by Henry Seebohm published in London.

This book represents largely a compendium of research done mainly by others. But it puts in one volume a tremendous amount of information.

It is a beautiful volume and would grace the shelf of any birdwatcher, field and museum ornithologist. As a person who has always been especially "hooked" on shorebirds, I find this a handsome and informative book. It is well organized and readable.

As one might expect with such an ambitious work, there are some problems. It is most unfortunate that the most recent, the 6th edition of the AOU check list, diverges considerably from the author's sequence, taxonomy and nomenclature. Hence, we now have presumably one authoritative reference which is bound to influence students for some time to come, and the authoritative reference, the brand new AOU check list in frequent disagreement.

Noted below are some examples:

Scientific Name	Johnsgard Name	AOU Name
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Eurasian Lapwing	Northern Lapwing
<i>Peurialis squatarola</i>	Gray Plover	Black-bellied Plover
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Sand Plover	Snowy Plover
<i>Charadrius wilsonius</i>	Thick Billed Plover	Wilson's Plover
according to Johnsgard		
<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>		
according to AOU		
<i>C. hiaticula</i>	Ringed Plover	Common Ringed Plover
<i>C. morinellus</i>	Dotterel	Eurasian Dotterel

If you are not confused by the above, look at the Oystercatchers, genus *Haematopus*.

Johnsgard - *Haematopus ostralegus palliatus* - Atlantic Oystercatcher

AOU - *Haematopus palliatus* - American Oystercatcher

Johnsgard - *H.o. bachmani* - American Black Oystercatcher

AOU Version - *Haematopus bachmani* - American Black Oystercatcher

Johnsgard - *H. himantopus Mexicanus* - Northern Black-necked Stilt

AOU - *Himantopus Mexicanus* - Black-necked Stilt

Johnsgard - *Tringa incanus* - Wandering Tattler

AOU - *Heteroscelus incanus* - Wandering Tattler

Johnsgard - *Tringa brevipes* - Siberian Tattler

AOU - *Heteroscelus brevipes* - Gray-tailed Tattler

Johnsgard - *Tringa hypoleucos* - Eurasian Sandpiper

AOU - *Actitis hypoleucos* - Common Sandpiper

Johnsgard - *Tringa macularia* - Spotted Sandpiper

AOU - *Actitis macularia* - Spotted Sandpiper

Johnsgard - *N. madagascariensis* - Eastern Curlew

AOU - *Numenius madagascariensis* - Far Eastern Curlew

Johnsgard - Curlew

AOU - *N. arquata* - Eurasian Curlew

Johnsgard - *N. americana* - Long-billed Curlew

AOU - *Numenius americanus* - Long-billed Curlew

Johnsgard - *C. tenuirostris* - Eastern Knot

AOU - *Calidris tenuirostris* - Great Knot

Johnsgard - *C. ruficollis* - Rufous-necked Sandpiper

AOU - *C. ruficollis* - Rufous-necked Stint

Johnsgard - *Micropalama himantopus* - Stilt Sandpiper

AOU - *C. himantopus* - Stilt Sandpiper

Johnsgard - *Calidris pygmeus* - Spoonbill Sandpiper

AOU - *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* - Spoonbill Sandpiper

Johnsgard - *Phalaropus lobatus* - Northern Phalarope

AOU - *Phalaropus lobatus* - Red-necked Phalarope

Johnsgard - *P. fulicarius* - Red Phalarope

AOU - *P. fulicaria* - Red Phalarope

These differences are bound to cause consternation and confusion for editors of ornithological journals and certainly to students. Unfortunately, the current state of knowledge is limited, and changing. No doubt future taxonomical changes are inevitable. Let us hope that ornithological names will never become as confused as botanical names.

Not found in ordinary field guides are the excellent illustrations of downy young of many species. The color photographs are generally of fine quality.

No mention is made of the Wisconsin Piping Plover found at Superior in recent years in the range description or on the breeding distribution map on page 178.

Near the end of the book is a section titled "Head Profile Identification

Guide". Figure 67 showing "Heads of *Calidris* species" gives me a little trouble with E and F, Semipalmated and Least Sandpiper. I believe these may be labeled backwards. Bills, fig. 68., 3, and 4, shows more accurately the bills of these two pages.

The final section of the book covers derivations of generic and specific names.

There is an excellent bibliography, in which the AOU check list is not included, and an index of birds by vernacular and scientific names.

Charles A. Kemper, M.D.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF W.S.O. GRANTS

Funds are short for environmental problems and education in these days. Many graduate students need help. But so do other people with good ideas; they also need money for independent projects.

Ornithology has never been limited to professionals. Let's keep it that way! W.S.O. wants to encourage both -- so offers two kinds of grants.

### GRANTS AVAILABLE

#### **The Steenbock Award** (not for graduate programs)

A \$200 award is offered annually in May. Even beginners (of any age) may apply. Graduate students and professionals in ornithology, etc. may **not** apply except for "personal projects" that have **not** been authorized by their supervisors. Nobody needs to recommend you! (The Committee will follow up if need be.)

#### **The W.S.O. Scholarship**

A \$200 to \$400 scholarship will be awarded in May. **Anyone may apply.** The scholarship might be awarded to further an officially recognized project. Give names and addresses of two references if applying for an officially recognized project, such as a graduate or D.N.R. program.

#### **The Rules**

To apply, give your name, address, phone number, and occupation. Type, on a single sheet, what you want to do and how you want to do it.

Write by April 1, 1983 to:  
Ms. Frances Hamerstrom  
Chmm. Scholarship Comm.  
Rt. 1, Box 448  
Plainfield, WI 54966

## **Birding Workshops**

Fred Leshner of UW-LaCrosse will offer five successive Sunday noon through Friday noon birding workshops this summer. Specific dates are May 29 - June 3, June 5-10, June 12-17, June 19-24, June 26 - July 1. Headquarters will be the University of Wisconsin Pigeon Lake Field Station near Drummond in Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

In addition to birding near Pigeon Lake, sorties will be made to Ashland, Crex Meadows, Solon Springs, and Wisconsin Point at Superior. Target species range from the Common Loon and Spruce Grouse through the Prairie Chicken, Black-backed Three-Toed Woodpecker and Olive-sided Flycatcher to the Connecticut Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Mr. Leshner has been an officer in both the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, is currently a member of the WSO Records' Committee, is a licensed bird bander, and is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse.

The cost of each workshop is \$225 per person or \$425 for couples (includes food and lodging). Registration deadline is one week prior to the starting date.

For more details, write to Fred Leshner at 590 Winona St., LaCrosse, WI 54601, or phone 608-783-1149 evenings. This is a non-credit workshop offered through UW-LaCrosse Extended Education.

## **Piping Plover... How Many Are Left?**

No one knows. There may be 1500 birds on the Atlantic coast but fewer than 100 on the Great Lakes. The prairie populations and coastal wintering areas have never been censused.

Piping Plovers are a shorebird species threatened throughout their North American range. Increased development of their specialized, unvegetated beach habitat may cause more populations to disappear, unnoticed.

In an effort to determine the current status and distribution of Piping Plovers, the World Wildlife Fund (Canada), Delta Waterfowl Research Station and Manitoba Department of Natural Resources are soliciting help in locating birds on breeding, migration or wintering areas. Please support this project by reporting past or present sightings of Piping Plovers (include date, location, number of birds and color bands, if any). Send information to:

Susan Haig  
Delta Waterfowl Research Station  
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 3A1  
Canada

## **Passenger Pigeon History**

**By Karl E. Bartel**

Some history of Passenger Pigeon's in Blue Island, Ill. From published book of John Henry Volp. **"The First Hundred Years" 1835-1935".**

Thomas Courtney, the first white man known to have settled in the "Blue Island" in the summer of 1834.

Standing alone in the wilderness, this crude cabin had but a single room, no windows, only one opening, a makeshift fireplace at one end, and an earthen floor.

The "Island" was name "Blue Island" by the Indians that painted their faces "blue", and the thousands of blue iris that covered the island.

The island was covered with oak trees and used by "wild pigeons" (Passenger Pigeons) to roost in.

Wild Pigeons were here by the millions in the 1850's and up to the late 1860's. Flocks so numerous that they would obscure the sun was not infrequent and the beating of their wings would make a sound like the rushing winds of a tornado. Large branches were broken off trees where a flock would settle.

The Chicago Democate, April 1855, saw "A flock of wild pigeons over six miles long passed over Chicago today."

The Chicago American, dated Sept. 17, 1857, has this article: "A few days ago our town was swarming with wild pigeons, the horizon in almost every direction was black with them."

Today not one of the millions of these beautiful birds exists, all have fallen prey to that greatest of all killers - man.

2528 W. Collins St.  
Blue Island, Illinois 60406

## **Seeking Volunteers**

The Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas is seeking volunteers for a five-year study (1983-1987) of the distribution of Michigan's breeding birds. Wisconsin birders planning to visit Michigan during the breeding season are asked to participate. The project is co-sponsored by Michigan Audubon Society, Detroit Audubon Society, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. For more information write the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas, Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 North Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

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1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION <b>PASSENGER PIGEON</b>	A. PUBLICATION NO.		2. DATE OF FILING <b>09/28/82</b>
	0 0 3 1 2 7 0 3		
3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE <b>Quarterly</b>	A. NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY <b>4</b>		B. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE <b>\$6.00 - \$8.00</b>

4. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, City, County, State and ZIP Code) (Not printers)

**W330 N8275 W. Shore Dr. Waukesha Co. Hartland, WI 53029**

5. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHERS (Not printers)

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B. PAID CIRCULATION 1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	<b>1080</b>	<b>1025</b>
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