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The PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME IX

January, 1947

NUMBER 1



PASSENGER PIGEON MONUMENT ERECTED AT WYALUSING STATE PARK
FROM SCRATCHBOARD DRAWING BY HJALMAR A. SKULT

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, Inc.

NEWS . . .

With such headline speakers as Herbert L. Stoddard and Dr. H. H. T. Jackson on the convention program this year, attendance will be a "must."

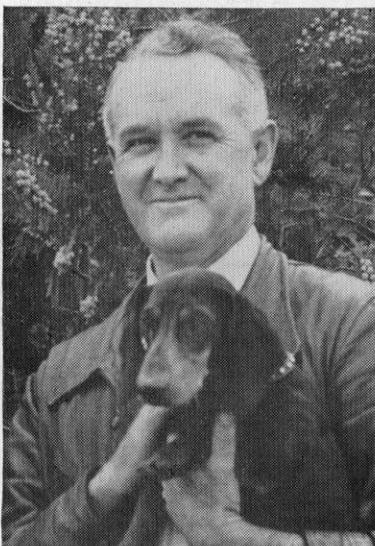
After spending many years in the wilds of northern Wisconsin, Francis Zirrer moved to Chicago recently—a place of contrast. He writes: "Here in the middle of the big city I do not see many birds. Still I found, toward the end of September last year, a dead but still warm specimen of ovenbird at the corner of South 26th Street and Lawndale; and one or two weeks later a brown creeper, clinging to an iron pole . . . very probably trying to find some food."

There is no place like Wyalusing State Park for birds. Its hilly wilderness area, its Nature trails, its river lowlands, and its scenery invite all who appreciate the wonders of the universe. To see the wood duck, to hear the melody of the Kentucky warbler from every shady wood, to wake up to the hooting of the barred owl, has to be done once only by the birdman and back to Wyalusing he will go. That is



DR. H. H. T. JACKSON

U. S. BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PHOTO



HERBERT L. STODDARD

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM PHOTO

why we are conducting bird field-trips in this park during the convention this year. The hours and places of meeting will appear in the printed program.

The society's board of directors met on April 6 to consider matters of business, especially with reference to the convention. A detailed report of this meeting will be printed later. One of the most important items of business was the delivery of the bronze plaque to Madison, as it is now on its way to Wyalusing.

The seventh annual dinner of the Green Bay Bird club was held January 12, 1947 at the Konop hotel, Stangelville. The main speaker was County Judge Archie McComb. Earl Wright showed several reels of colored motion pictures about local bird life.

Special attention will be given to nesting records this year by our field notes editor. Instead of including nesting records with the general notes, a special article for the year will be prepared. Observers are hereby asked to spend as much

(Continued on page 36)

MEMBERSHIP FEE OF \$1 INCLUDES 75 CENTS FOR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC. SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS: SUSTAINING \$5. LIFE \$50. PATRON \$100 OR MORE. SEND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND DUES TO THE TREASURER, J. HARWOOD EVANS, 517 JACKSON DRIVE, OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN. SEND MANUSCRIPTS TO THE EDITOR, N. R. BARGER, 4333 HILLCREST DRIVE, MADISON 5, WISCONSIN.

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER SEPT. 4, 1940, AT THE POST OFFICE OF MADISON, WISCONSIN, UNDER THE ACT OF MAR. 3, 1879.

CREATING NESTING SITES FOR BUSHNESTING BIRDS

By DR. B. L. von JARCHOW

Since the classic books of Baynes and Trafton appeared, numerous pamphlets, articles, and books have been published dealing with the subject of attracting birds by providing food and water, hanging up nestboxes, planting for food, and protecting them against their enemies. It is most surprising that none of these publications even mentions the possibility of attracting so-called "freenesting" birds, which make up the majority of all birds, by providing nesting sites for them. And yet, by judiciously observing certain requirements, one can as easily provide these birds with nesting opportunities as birds nesting in cavities. Experience shows that measures of this kind prove astonishingly successful. Experiments along these lines were carried on as early as the last twenty years of the last century by the pioneer in this field, the late Freiherr von Berlepsch.

Protection from enemies, and food, water, shelter, and ecologic requirements are factors which obviously influence birds in the selection of places for their nests. Beyond these demands sunlight is of great importance. Observation on over a hundred nests of orioles during winter showed a definite preference for southern exposure. Frequently obstruction of sunlight by buildings and trees in an otherwise acceptable position made the birds prefer a northern exposure of branches to which to attach their nests.

In this article the creation of proper conditions for ground-nesting birds, hawks, and waterfowl is not considered, and it deals only with treatment of shrubs and small trees so as to make them desirable nesting places for birds.

Years ago while walking over an old cow pasture in winter I was amazed at the great number of nests in bushes which, standing isolated and in full sun, were fed on by cattle for years. This pruning had produced very thick growth of rounded shape. It was difficult to even insert one's hand into the bush, and the branches formed a substantial foundation for the nests. A row of trees along a seaside pleasure walk had been cut at the height of 12 feet completely flat, so as to form a mat of closely interwoven branches and twigs. There were hundreds of nests in this layer. Similar observations can often be made where trees are cut to prevent their branches from rubbing against electric and telephone wires.

In selecting plants for proper pruning, so as to make them suitable for nests, many species may be found. The outstanding bushes however are the many species of hawthorn (*Crataegus*). Others lend themselves readily to this type of cutting: Crabapple (*Pyrus*), Tartarian and Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), privet (*Ligustrum*), maples (*Acer*) especially the boxelder, oaks (*Quercus*), the European beech (*Fagus*), and others. Among evergreens the different species of balsam are best.

In pruning a hawthorn a branch well exposed to the sun is selected, such as are growing on the southern side or on top of the bush. A place where the usual five to six branches issue is then freed from the other

twigs and cut to about a six to ten inch length (Fig. 1). This is best done in fall, but hawthorns can be cut at any time. If done in fall, the scars will be less visible by the time spring growth starts. Branchlets issue from buds within the whorl now more exposed to sun and provided with more nourishment; they form a thick and protective growth on which a nest can be substantially secured. The branches now quite intertwining may be cut again the following autumn and then allowed to grow long.

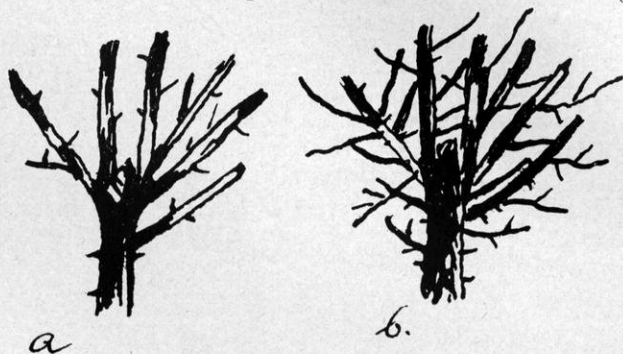


Fig. 1

Often these second year whorls are preferred because they provide less visibility of the nest built on them. Occasionally smaller species set their nests within the interlacing twigs, though most naturally select the top of the cut to place their nests. As suggested above, sunlight is absolutely necessary, especially in the hawthorns, to produce a thick growth, and pruning done on trees in the shade invariably fails. An added advantage for protection is given by the increase of the thorns and tiny branches which later die in the competition with stronger twigs but form for years a prickly and tough defense. It may be added that this type of pruning does not enhance the ornamental value of the bush and therefore it may

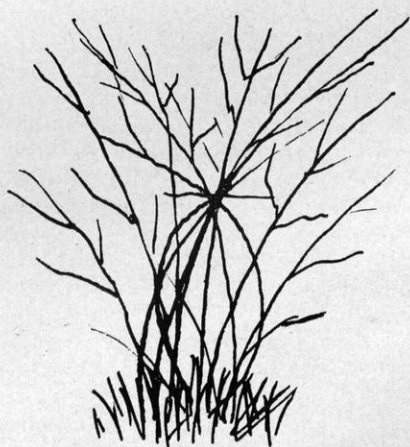


Fig 2.

be found advantageous to practice it either on bushes hidden from view, or confine one's trimming to larger premises. It is my impression that if pruning is done in the fall after the leaves are shed, the spring growth appears to be faster and more vigorous, the cut surfaces are healed and less visible, and the spring sap in its full amount becomes at once available to the reduced area. Hawthorns are difficult to transplant. If they live at all many branches usually die off and the recovery may be delayed for years, thus making the plant unfit for our use. Young bushes are easily transplanted and the hawthorn may be readily raised from seeds by

stratifying them. The young plants, after a slow start, are fairly rapid in growth. For quick and satisfactory results the honeysuckles may be tried. The success of this method may be seen in the fact that as many as three nests were built by different species in one bush during one summer.

Another way of providing a good foundation for nests consists of tying branches together. This may be done within one bush (Fig. 2), or using branches from three or four neighboring shrubs (Fig. 3). In the first instance about four to six twigs should be tied at a convenient level and the rest left in a natural position, so as to serve as a screen for the proposed location of the nest. It is best to use willow branches, vines, woodfibre, or hemp for securing the branches to a whorl. Wire may injure the twigs; hemp succumbs readily to moisture and therefore must be used with care. This method should be used in spring, as leaves, due to lack of sunlight, will not sprout; it may however be necessary to cut some of them out at the time the tying is done. Since the branches do not serve their purpose longer than a year they may be untied without

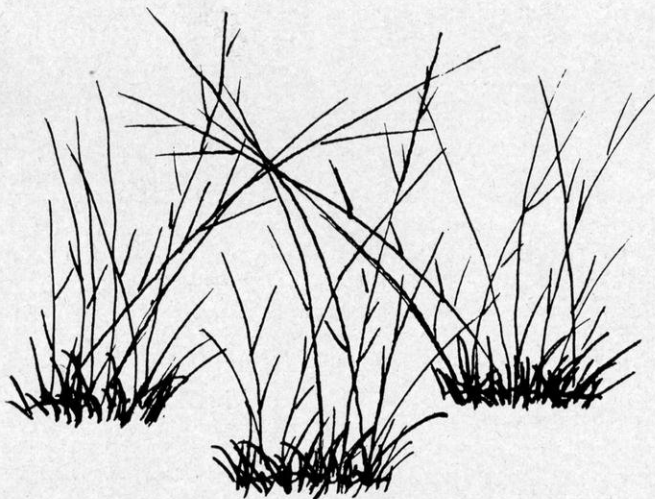


FIG 3.

any harm to the growth. When branches from different bushes are used they should not extend too far from the base, as they are insecure and easily shaken by winds. This strain usually distorts the whorl and renders it useless for its purpose and, if the nest is already built, may cause destruction of the brood. Nesting foundations of this type are very successful in small gardens and are readily accepted by robins, thrashers, catbirds, waxwings, cardinals, and grosbeaks. Almost any shrubs are useful for providing this kind of substratum for nests. Where in clearings, at the edge of woods or in stands of trees admitting some sunlight, treesaplings are growing close together, they also may be tied at a height of six to fifteen feet. Bluejays seem to be especially fond of this arrangement.

The balsam lends itself to many treatments for our purpose. Where it grows in young and thick stands, so as to afford good screening from view, the upper natural circle of twigs may be cut to about eight to ten

inches and the middle "lead" removed completely. A thick whorl is formed readily if it is exposed to sun. The tree is only temporarily crippled and will outgrow the defect entirely. If only one of the branches is permitted to grow out, so as to form a "lead" trunk, and the whorl maintained on the side exposed to the sun, it will form a sheltered and desirable place for a nest from one to two years. The lower branches may be pinned down to the ground by wooden pegs and attract birds especially in early spring, when good shelter is not readily available. Where possible, grass and weeds should be allowed to grow under these trees. When I first tried this method on five balsams, carefully selected for location, shelter, grass and sunlight, all five were promptly taken by songbirds. Brown thrashers and song sparrows seem to be very fond of such offerings. A similar whorl may be cut from a discarded Christmas tree (Fig. 4); the needles are removed, but not the bark. It may be tied within a bush in an upright position, and in small gardens it is occasionally chosen by robins to build their nest on, though this substratum does not compare with the procedures mentioned above as far as the results are concerned. Where the shade is so marked as to preclude the formation of whorls, the cedars, especially the Chinese cedar, is preferable, though best results are obtained with the different species of yew, especially the Japanese. Thick growth of young balsam pruned in the different manners and intergrowing with frostgrape, woodbine, blackberry and roses—the latter do well only on the outside in full sun—prove irresistible to many species of birds. Unfortunately the very thickness of the growth and the shade provided by the constantly trimmed branches on the top of the plantation eliminate the ground cover. Where possible, small clearings cut into the stand should in a measure remedy the fault.

Vines, preferably the frostgrape, where growing densely, may be tied within themselves or used in combination with other bushes for foundation of nests. The canes growing in the shade are not provided with many leaves and their growth is thick, and for these reasons even shy birds do not suspect any artificial interference when tying is carefully done. Even when canes are cut in length of yards, after they have been completely severed, and tied into other vines in a fashion to form secure and substantial "platforms," results are satisfactory. The same type of cutting may be done with blackberries, currants, and roses closer to or on the ground. Small birds nesting on or near the ground rely to a great extent on living and dead plant growth to conceal their nests from enemies. The proper relation of sunlight and concealing growth, which in a way are opposites, must in all these methods be judiciously evaluated.

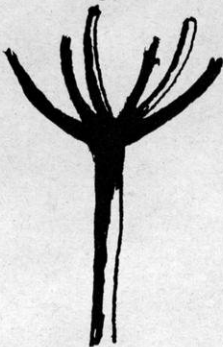


Fig. 4

Much can be done with certain trees to attract birds to use them as nesting places. Poplars, willows and elms may be permitted to grow for several years and then be "beheaded" by cutting the trunk at a height of about 15 feet. Especially the poplars form numerous V twigs along the trunk, which provide excellent foundations for nests. The number of such nests established along a quarter of a mile stretch of road ran into hundreds. A method which may be occasionally used where thinning of trees is

essential and where obvious crippling of the tree does not mar the landscape, consists of removing the trunk by cutting it at a height of six to ten feet leaving a bare, post-like tree standing. Within a short time a vigorous wreath of rapidly growing branches will issue from the circle of the cut and grow out. The resulting platform surrounded by more or less thick branches is a good site for a nest. Elms seem preferable. My experience is limited to two instances in which both elm trees were adopted by mourning doves to raise their young. This type of cutting, if performed at a much greater height within stands of trees, should be useful in attracting hawks, though I do not know if it has ever been tried, and personal experience is lacking.

Ingenuity will doubtlessly produce more procedures in this neglected field. I have confined myself solely to methods with which I have had personal experience or which I have seen in operation. Practical experience with the measures outlined above is gained with long observations, and will be a valuable guide to improve results which already are most satisfactory. I hope that readers of this article will try some of them for the benefit of the birds and their own enjoyment.

1611 Washington Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin.

Help Wanted!

CALLING ALL WOOD DUCK OBSERVERS!

In 1938 a study of the wood duck was commenced by the Illinois Natural History Survey. This study, nearing completion, includes life history, ecology, and management of the wood duck. It is desirable to broaden the scope of this investigation by obtaining information on the wood duck outside of Illinois. Arthur S. Hawkins, Biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, is co-author with Frank C. Bellrose of the wood duck publication now in preparation.

Mr. Hawkins would like such information as the following: Has the wood duck increased, decreased, or remained static since 1942 in your area? Define the area that you are reporting on. Do you believe the "one wood duck in bag" law has been responsible for a decrease in wood duck numbers in your territory? Does it nest in your locality? Do you believe there are enough nesting sites in your area? Please give dates of migration: Early arrivals, average, and late for spring; also fall departures. Please sign your letter with name and address and send to Arthur S. Hawkins, Care of Prof. Aldo Leopold, 424 University Farm Place, Madison 5, Wisconsin.



Orchard Orioles

AT 44° 18' NORTH, 87° 33' 42" WEST

By WINNIFRED SMITH

The orchard oriole (*Icterus spurius*) is listed as rare in Wisconsin. It reaches the northern limit of its nesting range in the southern part of the state; but few nesting records have been established as far north as the site where this study was made. The following observations were made during the period from May 26, 1946 to July 30, 1946, at Winghaven, our home, located on the shore of Lake Michigan in the township of Two Creeks, Manitowoc County. A total of six hours and 43 minutes was spent in actual timed observation during the nesting study. Frequent short notes covering the birds' activities were made while they remained on our grounds.

It is interesting to note that although the orchard oriole is considered a bird of more southerly latitudes, the pair under discussion chose a location that is noted for late springs and cool weather throughout the summer. Apple trees are rarely in blossom before the latter part of May. Summer temperatures seldom rise above 80 degrees. On June first, 1946, the thermometer registered as low as 36 degrees.

During 1946, 120 different species were observed on and/or from the twelve acres that compose our property. An ancient, unpruned apple orchard and an irregular pond, bordered by steep brush-covered banks, are the chief bird attractions. Wild, grass-grown fields and a dense cedar hedge provide shelter and nest sites, as well as feeding grounds.

The orchard orioles shared the orchard with eastern kingbirds, (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*), bluebirds (*Sialia sialis sialis*) and English sparrows (*Passer domesticus domesticus*). A pair of each one of these species had a nest within an area of several hundred square feet. The cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) population consisted of one color banded female and nine males.

Preliminary Activities

On May 26, I saw the author of an unfamiliar bird song that had been tantalizing me for several days. It was my first glimpse of an orchard oriole. He appeared to be sipping daintily from the apple blossoms, as though gathering nectar. This species did not nest in our orchard in 1945. Inquiries in the neighborhood failed to disclose any previous record of appearance.

When I saw the rare visitor, I recalled having read a recent newspaper column by Mrs. Ruth Thomas of North Little Rock, Arkansas, in which she told of treating the orchard orioles with a cup of sweetened water. I chose the stump of a large branch on one of the apple trees as the location of a cup of honey-water which had been trimmed with a

To Mrs. Margaret M. Nice I wish to express appreciation for her suggestions in the preparation of this material, and to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Hickey for their assistance and encouragement.

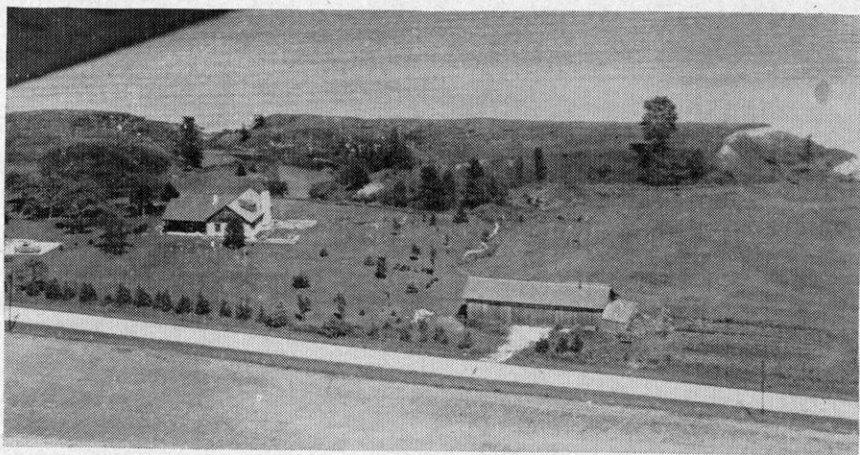
To N. R. Barger I wish to extend my thanks for providing the Wisconsin records of the orchard oriole.

gaudy red paper flower. Although I never saw the orchard orioles sip from my offering, they did choose that tree as a nest site.

On May 28, I identified the female. Later that day I saw her carrying some grass and hair to a bough of an apple tree other than the one in which the nest was finally located. At 3:30, May 29, I observed copulation; there was no courtship display prior to the act; it was followed by a low call—translated as “chuck-uk”—and a short song by the male. Copulation was again noted on June first, at 4 p. m. In this instance the male sang twice, flew a short distance to the cedar hedge, followed by the female, and coition took place.

The weather on May 31, and June first, was cold and bleak. The wind was northwest and the temperature fell to 36 degrees. The orchard orioles were very much in evidence, in spite of the weather. Hummingbirds, sparrows, meadowlarks, redwings and robins were also active. The swallows, martins and kingbirds were very quiet.

The territorial skirmishes of the orchard orioles were directed toward their relatives the Baltimore orioles (*Icterus galbula*). On several occa-



CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS THE ORCHARD ORIOLES SELECTED THIS COOL LAKESHORE PROPERTY FOR NESTING. THE NEST WAS BUILT IN THE ORCHARD AT THE EXTREME LEFT.

sions the male orchard oriole was seen pursuing the male Baltimore oriole. The red-winged blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), in turn, drove the orchard orioles from the area surrounding an old water-filled foundation. The rare appearance of a blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) caused alarm among the bird residents; the orchard orioles joined the red-wings and kingbirds in the chase. Orchard orioles at North Little Rock, Arkansas, assisted each other in driving off the blue-jays (Thomas—1946).

Song and Call Notes

The song of the orchard oriole was delightful. It was softer than the Baltimore oriole's song, but had some of its characteristics. The first two phrases were mellow whistles of two syllables. The song ended with

a hurried phrase, much like the goldfinch's "Pic-or-ee." My translation, in words, was "Peter-Peter—Which—cherr-ee, which-cherr-ee." The song was very infrequent. For several days at a time I would not hear it at all. On June 11, and June 17 he sang quite often. The sky on both of these days was overcast. It rained during the afternoon of the seventeenth. The recorded barometric pressure on these dates was 1009 millibars. Barometric pressures during the month of June, 1946, ranged between 1002.5 and 1024.5 millibars. In the above instances the reading of 1009 millibars indicated a change in weather. The wind shifted from southeast to northeast in the following twenty-four hours.

The note of greeting between the pair was a low "chuck-uk." This was given whenever they met. A soft "peent-peent," similar to the bobolink's note, seemed to be the male's note of distress or warning. When the female was disturbed she uttered a soft whistle that can be best described as "whew-whew."

Nest Building and Incubation

The female was seen carrying nesting material on June third, but I did not discover the nest until the morning of June seventh. It was constructed of blades of green grass and was located about twenty feet from the ground in the smallest of the old apple trees. These trees are very ancient and not safe to climb. The nest was placed near the end of a branch and it was impossible to look into it to check on the date the first egg was laid. The nest was quite deep, and very often I was unable to tell whether or not the female was on it.

On June eighth I observed her sitting on the nest, for the first time. Whenever she left she would give her low "chuck-uk" and the male would answer. He would stand guard, either in the nest tree or in the tree right next to it, while she flew to a spot several hundred feet south of the orchard. This was their regular routine, whenever I happened to see her leave the nest, during the entire incubation period.

A cold northeast wind, averaging about twenty-four miles per hour, on June 18, sent the temperature down to 48 degrees. Dark ragged clouds scudded across the sky. The male orchard oriole was very busy passing back and forth through the orchard. However, it was an uncomfortable day to be out-of-doors and I did not note whether he was carrying food to young. On June 20 it was calm, but still overcast. The male was seen carrying something away from the base of the nest tree. I have mentioned these instances because a young cowbird hatched from this nest and left it several days before the young orioles. As the cowbirds usually stay in the nest at least 10 days (Nice—1937), it is possible that this young bird hatched a few days earlier than its companions.

Nesting Study

June 23 dawned clear and warmer. The orchard orioles were carrying food to their young. Other activities kept me from making long observations of their progress. I tried to get a fairly complete record by watching for an hour or so at different times of the day.

My first observations were made on June 24, as follows:

1:50 p. m. Male feeds young.

1:53 Female approaches, is timid and does not feed.

- 2:00 Male feeds young, stays five seconds. Flies directly to nest, not as timid as female.
- 2:04 Female approaches, does not feed young.
- 2:05 Male feeds young, remains five seconds, utters low "chuck" at female.
- 2:06 Female feeds young, stays 30 seconds. No feces carried off, so far.
- 2:15 Male feeds young and appears to eat three feces, and carries away the fourth.
- 2:16 Male feeds young, apparently eats one feces, stays 15 seconds.
- 2:22 Male feeds young, then flies southward.
- 2:24 Male feeds, remains sixty seconds. Eats something, or is mouthing the food for the young.
- 2:30 Female feeds. Flies right off, then hops a bit on the tree. Finds green larvae. Mouths it for a few seconds, finally goes to nest. Flies up a few branches and continues search for larvae until out of my sight.
- 2:32 Male says "chuck-uk," comes to tree and feeds young, remains fifteen seconds. Then flies south.
- 2:37 Female sitting in nest tree preening herself. Has probably been nearby all the time.
- 2:40 Female goes to nest, hops off. Sits in tree and finds larvae but does not take it to nest. Continues to flit in branches of nest tree.
- 2:48 Male feeds young, stays just five seconds. "Chucks" as he feeds as though reprimanding female for her lack of cooperation.



WHERE THE NESTS WERE LOCATED

THE NEST TREE OF THE ORCHARD ORIOLE WAS THE ONE IN THE NEAR CENTER OF THE PICTURE. THE STUMP WITH THE WHEELS WAS THE SITE OF A BLUEBIRD'S NEST. IN THE TREE WHERE THE LITTLE LADDER IS STANDING A PAIR OF STARLINGS HAD A NEST IN A HOLLOW CAVITY. A PAIR OF KINGBIRDS HAD A NEST IN THE APPLE TREE TO THE EXTREME RIGHT.

- 2:50 Male feeds again coming from north. Stays just a few seconds. No feces taken after the past few feedings.

During the hour of observation the male made ten trips to feed. The female approached the nest tree six times, but fed the young twice only.

The female was always more timid and did not approach the nest as directly as the male. With orchard orioles under observation in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, the opposite was true. (Smith, 1945)

My observations on June 25 disclosed that the nesting pair of orchard orioles were not the only individuals of their species in the neighborhood. Observations from 1:05 to 2:10 (no watch with me).

1:05 Male feeds, stays just a few seconds. Utters usual "chuck-uk." Carries off feces, flies south and drops burden near edge of pond, about 300 feet away.

Female approaches with larvae in her bill. She does not go directly to nest. Hops around. Male approaches from east. Hops to branch just below nest. Has green larvae. Feeds young and leaves immediately. Hops to next tree. Looks me over. Goes to another tree, says "chuck-uk" and flies south. Male sings from tree west of nest tree, a few moments later. Then sings again. Wind shifted to southeast and there is a cold blast of air. Upper air clouds are moving from west. Wind shifts to west and for a moment it is warm again. Female oriole nowhere in sight.

Female approaches nest. Another bird flies to nest tree. **It is a first year male orchard oriole!!** He has the black throat patch. He must have been the one I heard singing. Female feeds young and flies south. The young male flew north to a tree several hundred feet away.

Male feeds young, leaves immediately. Flies to top branches of tree and says "chuck-uk." He seems to be more concerned with me than he was yesterday, although he always flies directly to nest while female hesitates at her approach. Male collecting food from trees to west of nest. A few minutes later he feeds, does not carry off feces.

Female flies in from south. Alights in big tree to east. They greet each other with soft "chuck-uks." Both feed at nest at same time. Male in his usual position on southwest side of nest, female at hers on northwest. Male leaves first. No feces taken.

Female feeds a few moments later then flies toward south.

In these sixty-five minutes the male fed the young five times, the female four times.

Whenever I watched this pair the male seemed to take the greater responsibility for the young. This was not the case at Winona Lake, Indiana. During an observation period of fifteen hours and seventeen minutes the female fed the young sixty-four times, the male only five times. (Thayer, 1906)

On the evening of June 25 I watched the nest from 7:04 until 7:44 to learn when the female settled down to brood the young for the night. I watched until it became so dark I could no longer distinguish whether it was male or female at the nest. The young were still being fed at regular intervals when I left. Feeding began at 4:35 a. m. and ended at 6:10 p. m. in the case of the orchard orioles reported by Edna R. Thayer (Thayer, 1906).

A period of early morning observation, on June 26, disclosed that **a third male orchard oriole was in the vicinity. This bird was in adult plumage.**

5:24 a. m. Female feeds young.

5:25 Male feeds, says "chuck-uk" as he approaches. Both adults were in tree at the same time.

5:27 Male feeds. Flies west. Perches on dead twig of nearby apple tree and wipes bill.

5:28 Both male and female feed young.

5:30 Male and female feed young. Male flies to northwest.

- 5:35 Male arrives in nearby tree and "chuck-uks" at me.
- 5:37 Male feeds young. Removes feces and carries them southeast about 200 feet.
- 5:48 Female feeds young, utters low "chuck-uk." English sparrows chirping loudly in nearby tree but seldom perch in orchard oriole nest tree.
- 5:51 Female feeds and leaves, flying down low, toward me.
- 5:54 Male flies to nest tree. Another oriole which **certainly looks like another adult male orchard oriole** flew into tree and **male gives chase** and follows stranger to crabapple tree 100 feet to north. Kingbird joined in the chase and pursued a redwing in its excitement. Male orchard oriole then returned to a spot about 100 feet south of nest tree and sang.
- 5:55 Male and female appear in nest tree. Female feeds. Male "chuck-uks" and looks things over.
- 6:00 Female feeds. Male still chasing his visitor. He has had to chase him twice in the past few minutes. It is another **adult male orchard oriole!!** Nesting male sings after each encounter. Never sings much otherwise. Weather is clear, but the foghorn, located at Point Beach State Forest, has started sounding. While visiting male was being chased he uttered a faint "peent-peent," similar to the bobolink's call note.
- 6:05 Female sitting in nest tree. She is singing a low "peter-peter." **The visiting male comes to the tree and investigates contents of nest.** Female does not chase him, but also sits on edge of nest, as though guarding it. The visitor is somewhat lighter colored than the resident male. Visitor and female fly to nearby tree. Male arrives to feed. Also flies to nearby tree and chases the intruder. Nesting male was busy singing while visitor was looking at the nest. Visitor still being chased through the orchard, he continually utters the low "peent" note.
- 6:16 Female is in nest tree giving her low call, a soft "whew-whew." Although she had a scrap of something in her bill she does not feed young.
- 6:18 Male arrives and feeds. Carries feces to northwest. Signals to female with usual note. She hops down, peers into nest and then flies off. She was in the tree for about eight minutes but did not feed young.
- 6:20 Female feeds. Visiting male flies to tree, then follows her when she flies to northwest.
- 6:22 Male feeds young—coming in from northeast. Carries off feces in same direction.

During this 58 minutes of observation both the male and the female fed the young eight times. The male continued to do his share of the feeding as well as chasing the intruder.

The orchard oriole is generally considered quite sociable and in places where it is abundant apparently tends to be colonial in its nesting habits. Thomas (1946:166) writes: "I have observed no defense of territorial boundaries . . . probably there is mutual respect of the nesting tree by neighbor-males, as I do not recall ever having seen one male in another's tree except when he has gone to assist the nest-owner in an attack upon a blue jay." The male of the pair that nested at Winghaven

was not characteristically sociable. Although he lived peaceably with his other neighbors he apparently would not tolerate a Baltimore oriole or another male of his own species.

The young orioles were heard for the first time on June 27th. By June 29th they could be heard for a considerable distance and they were holding their heads above the rim of the nest.

The rumble of thunder could be heard on the evening of June 29th while I watched to learn when the female would start brooding her young for the night. At 7:15 she approached the nest tree carrying food, but did not feed the nestlings. She remained in the tree but did not fly to the nest. The male sang once from a tree about fifty feet west of the nesting tree, which, I learned from later observation, was his roosting place. At 7:37 the female flew to the nest. The young uttered tired little "cheeps" as she snuggled them under her. This was the only time during my entire observation that I saw the female brood the young!! During a day's observation of orchard orioles reported by Thayer (1906) the young were brooded thirty-four minutes during the morning and twice in the afternoon for seven and eight minutes. The age of the young was not given.

The next morning I arose at 3:00 to learn at what time the female would fly off the nest. It was a foggy morning. Dew dripped from the trees. Overhead a kingbird sang his mating song. The purple martins (*Progne subis subis*) gurgled as they flew back and forth along the lake shore. Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*), song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia melodia*), bluebirds, bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryxivorus*), and mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) had all sung their first songs before the male orchard oriole added his voice at 3:45. At 3:57 the female flew off the nest, the male arrived, uttered the usual "chuck-uk" and fed the young.

When I approached the nest on the evening of June 30th, the young were chattering loudly. The female gave her low "whew-whew" signal and they all became quiet. The sounds that came from the nest puzzled me. One bird uttered a sharp "tsk-tsk" note while the others made a softer "chi-chi-chi" sound. The nestling with the "tsk" note seemed to be much more active than the others. He was seen sitting on the edge of the nest during the afternoon of June 30. As I did not know what to expect when I saw a young orchard oriole, I presumed that the young bird I saw, was one. The others remained at the bottom of their grassy cradle and just their heads could be seen occasionally. On this day I observed the female carrying feces from the nest, for the first time. It seemed to be quite a heavy load and she only carried it a few feet. Later in the day the male also dropped feces just a short distance from the nest. It became so foggy at 7:40 p. m. on the above date that I could no longer distinguish what was happening at the nest.

By nine o'clock on the morning of July first, the young bird with the "tsk" note had left the nest. It was sitting quietly on a perch in a nearby apple tree and I approached to within a few feet of it. Its back was grey, there were two very indistinct bars on its wings. The breast was lightly speckled with grey on a yellowish background. Its tail was faintly edged with white. There were a few tufts of down on its head. The bill and feet were dusky.

The young in the nest kept up their "chi-chi-chi" chatter incessantly except when a cautioning "whew" from the female would quiet them for a few seconds. The female fed the young bird that had left the nest while the male continued to look after those in the nest.

By 7:00 p. m. of July first, the bird that had left the nest was able to make short flights from one apple tree to another. The young in the nest could now be seen and as they were much yellower than the other young bird, I concluded that the bird that had left the nest was a young cowbird. As I watched, at intervals during the day, I noted that the female seemed to have the duty of caring for the youngster that had left the nest, while the male fed those that remained in the nest. In the evening the young cowbird was last seen perched in the male's roosting tree.

There was no evidence of the young cowbird on the morning of July second. During the evening period of watching I observed something new in the actions of the female. She had approached the nest tree, carrying food, but had not fed the nestlings due to her usual timidity at my presence. As the male flew to the nest he uttered an irritated "chuck-uk." The female responded in the same manner and fluttered her wings in the begging attitude of young demanding food. I observed the same action on two other occasions during the next day. Both times the male seemed to reproach her for being so cautious, while she responded with the begging performance.

My household duties kept me indoors during the early morning hours of July fourth. I could hear the male singing gaily out in the orchard; oftener than I had ever heard him during the previous busy weeks. When I went out to look at the nest at 11:45 a. m. it was empty!!

The Fledglings and Their Activities

The three youngsters were perched in one of the larger apple trees about forty feet from the nest tree. Their backs were olive and their breasts a soft, duckling yellow. Faint wing bars showed on their stubby wings. About three-quarters of an inch was all they could boast for a tail. Their feet were dusky pink, their eyes dark colored. No tufts of down showed on their heads, such as there had been on the young cowbird. I had found the mutilated little body of the cowbird the day before. There was nothing that could give me a clue to its fate. It had never been seen after its first evening out of the nest.

The youngsters, in the usual noisy oriole manner, uttered their continual "chi-chi-chi" notes. The male continued in his role of taking the greater share of the responsibility. He took over the care of two of the fledglings while the female cared for the other. On one occasion the female attempted to feed the pair, **but the male hurriedly chased her away from his charges.** This was the situation as long as the family stayed where I could watch it.

The group remained in the orchard for several days. On July 15 I saw the male feeding his two who were perched in the cedar hedge. The female was seen, with her charge, in the orchard. The male was still being followed by an almost full-grown youngster on July 26th, three weeks after fledging. A youngster was seen, alone, in the orchard on July 29th. He was still chattering his "chi-chi-chi," but it was lower pitched—almost a "chuck."

I was awakened on the morning of July 30 by a thrilling exhibition of song by the male. It was to be my last sound and sight of the orchard orioles that had nested in our orchard in 1946.

Summary

1. A study of the records of the orchard oriole, in Wisconsin, shows that few nesting records have been established as far north as 44°—18' north latitude.

2. A pair nested in an orchard located on the shore of Lake Michigan where the temperatures are low all during the summer.

3. Two other males, one adult and one immature, were seen in the vicinity while the young were in the nest. The female did not, apparently, object to their presence. The adult male visitor was driven from the area of the nest tree by the nesting male.

4. Copulation was observed on May 29 and June 1. No special courtship display was noted.

5. The female was seen carrying nesting material to sites other than the one finally chosen, on May 28 and June 3.

6. The completed nest was found on June 7. It was placed about twenty feet from the ground in a small apple tree.

7. The male Baltimore oriole was driven from the nesting area by the male orchard oriole.

8. The male orchard oriole sang more frequently when the sky was overcast.

9. The female did all the incubating.

10. Although frequent checks were made in addition to the actual timed observations, the female was only seen brooding the young in one instance. This was during the evening of June 29th when the young were at least six days old.

11. During three hours the male fed the young 23 times, the female 14 times. Feces were carried off or eaten by the male eight times and only once by the female.

12. The female was more timid and would not approach the nest quickly while being observed.

13. Three orchard orioles and one cowbird were fledged. The cowbird left the nest on July first, the orchard orioles on July fourth. The young cowbird was found dead on July third.

14. The male undertook the care of two fledglings while the female took care of one. The male chased the female when she attempted to feed the two in his charge.

15. The family remained in the vicinity until July 30 after which they were not seen again in 1946.

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Sac Prairie Winter

By AUGUST DERLETH

2 January: The cawing of crows had a delightfully fresh sound this morning. I heard it far down in the marshes, toward the Wisconsin Heights across the river, and again up northeast of town, though I saw few crows, and those few riding high over Sac Prairie and the hills, dark and distant on the overcast sky. But the air was moist, the temperature rising, the Wisconsin's musk lay along the river-bank, and the chickadees were crying **phe-be-be** from all quarters.

5 January: As I passed the french windows of the studio this morning, I observed a chickadee energetically devouring the suet fixed to the stump of a white cedar under the balcony. He took great gulps of the suet, chattering excitedly, and looking around him from time to time, as if to make sure he was not seen.

8 January: Looking out to the rectangle beyond the south entrance, where I had scattered cracked corn and bread crumbs, I saw eating there in complacent harmony, eight male cardinals, three female cardinals, seventeen slate-colored juncos, three chickadees, one blue jay, two goldfinches, one nuthatch, and approximately a dozen English sparrows.

9 January: An immature bald eagle soared and circled over the Wisconsin in the vicinity of the railroad bridges this afternoon, apparently foraging, and, catching sight of me, came indolently over and circled above me several times, certainly not afraid but surely curious, after which he made his way leisurely up-river into the hills, where, presumably he nests.

10 January: While I sat reading at the brook trestle this mild winter afternoon, I became aware of a colloquy of pileated woodpeckers—one bird far down the Lower Meadow, and another behind me in the region of the hills along the Mazomanie Road. One called, the other answered, but the bird to the south moved steadily up the meadow, so that in the space of half a dozen calls he had come up almost a mile, and now gave forth his high, challenging cry proudly from a nearby maple; and, since he showed no inclination to move therefrom, the other bird came down out of the hills and approached by equal stages, calling steadily. Their voices made a pleasant diversion from reading. I watched the near bird until both birds flew off to westward, one after the other, and disappeared into the dense woods near the Spring Slough, though I heard their voices for some time thereafter.

27 January: Among the bird-sounds heard in the marshes this afternoon was the persistent **perlu** or **quirt** of quail, rising from birds in a small flock which, subsequent to my invasion of the bottoms, I saw, flushing them along the railroad embankment: more than a dozen birds. There was also the constant **phe-be-be** of chickadees; sometimes it sounded, curiously, in just the initial syllable—a loud and ringing, but sometimes querulous **phe!** Nuthatches, too, were in good voice, as if to celebrate the mellowness of the afternoon, which was Spring-like with a south wind blowing, and even a barred owl hooted several times in the woods beyond the Spring Slough, though the woods were not dark, but sunny. However, the air was singularly fresh, fragrant, and stimulating, and no doubt the birds responded to it, for the air was filled very melodiously

with their voices, calling and singing; and there was no dearth of sound, so that the winter air was almost akin to that bird-joyous air of early spring.

30 January: Hugh reported hearing the first cardinal's **whatcheer** song this morning, though I had heard it yesterday in Menasha. But this morning, indeed, more than one cardinal sang.

4 February: The drumming of ruffed grouse rose out of the deep marshes or the hills beyond this morning; I could not determine its source. It was good to hear, and made me to reflect anew that grouse have manifestly been increasing in the Sac Prairie country over the last few years, since never before have I been aware of so much drumming in the woods. Indeed, it can be heard from any part of the village, and the birds, the old-timers will have one believe, make a habit of coming quite close to the village, though I have never caught sight of them close by save along the river near the railroad bridge, and that rarely, cover not being thick enough for them there. The morning was mild; the temperature thirty degrees above zero; doubtless the day's mildness stirred the bird to drumming.

5 February: A great many mergansers on the river this morning. In recent years these ducks have increased appreciably in numbers, so that the little groups of four and seven which were common a decade ago, have now grown to flocks of a score or more.

7 February: On the way into the marshes this afternoon, I heard a rolling note overhead and, looking up, saw a snow bunting fly out of the fields down toward the bottoms. The bird cried three times, its note low and not unmusical. Doubtless it was not alone in the fields, though I saw none of its companions.

10 February: The thin, reedy song of horned larks rose from the fields this morning at sunrise, as I walked into the village in the crisp air. It came from all sides, and birds flew up a little way and went down to earth again, so that I was almost persuaded to believe the larks part of a migratory flock, for they have been little in evidence heretofore this winter. Too snowy a winter they do not like, plainly, but open fields keep them well, no matter what the temperature.

16 February: Throughout the afternoon, while I sat at the brook trestle on this mild, though windy day, there rose from the rim of the Lower Meadow the persistent fluting whistle of either a redwing or a grackle, very familiar, and nostalgic of Spring. I could see no bird for the trees, yet the sound rose from time to time, quite alone—if a bird were present, migrant or winter resident, certainly it was unaccompanied, since no voice made answer in kind; but the sound was very pleasant and good to hear, quite as if it were indeed the first voice of coming Spring.

17 February: This morning the starlings made an exceptional todo of mimicry, particularly of meadow lark songs; but one of the birds made a commendable imitation of the bluebird's bubbling song—the first such attempt I have heard—and the reproduction was good enough to deceive any casual and uninformed listener.

18 February: Two **buteo** hawks flying high overhead, whickering and **kee-you'ing**, descended toward a small bonfire I had lit in the woods to circle just over the treetops, making a proud design on the heavens, up which low nimbus clouds moved to dim the sun and conceal the blue

sky. They were, as always, almost violently beautiful against the heavens, and made a striking design beyond the lacework of tree-limbs reaching sky-ward.

21 February: At the house tonight, as I was at writing a letter, the screech owls began to call, making their **keening** not far from the open studio windows, and the saw-whet owls, too, both mellow to the ear. They called one to another at all corners of the grounds, quite as if they were about assuring one another that they were still here. . . . The ducks across the road at Raschein's clamored, too. I observed that the sound of a flock of ducks begins with but a few voices, and then, with the chiming in of others, rises gradually into a rousing bedlam of sound, dying away very quickly thereafter, save for one or two exploratory quacks.

2 March: Coming away from gathering water-cress this afternoon—the day mild, with a light south wind blowing—quite suddenly, the winter seemed gone, the spring come, for in the brief drive across the prairie toward the house, I saw first, a lone robin flying along the road, then a trio of robins, then a flock of grackles, and finally a trio of mourning doves—so that I knew the birds had begun to come back; and at the last, reaching the house, I heard the first **conquerer** of redwings rising into the sunny day from the field south of the house.

Sauk City, Wisconsin.

The Student's Page

By MRS. N. R. BARGER

All of us know a few of the birds about us. We learn about them in school, from our parents, at our feeding trays, or just because they are a part of our surroundings. When once we become enthusiastic about wanting to know birds we ask, what is the best way to recognize birds? We discover, for instance, that there are 366 different kinds of birds that can be expected in Wisconsin sometime during the year, but we feel as though it would indeed be a great task to learn to know so many. It is not at all difficult to learn most of them if we take them one by one. Some of the rarer ones, it is true, may not be encountered for years or may be seen only once in a lifetime.

The best way to begin is to learn our permanent residents first, those that stay with us the year around. This should be done during the winter months or at least before the spring migration begins. Then we proceed to learn those which come to us during migration. Most of these are here only a very short time because they nest farther north. Of course, we cannot expect to learn to know every bird the first season. To know many birds well will take a number of years. I shall try to make some suggestions that may be of some help to you in becoming acquainted with more birds.

The most important equipment, I believe, is a good field guide for birds, as well as one or more of the many fine bird books with beautifully colored plates. Roger T. Peterson's "A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS," in which he emphasizes the appearance of birds at a distance and gives the outstanding mark of identification for each bird, is in my

opinion the finest guide, but there is also a newer one by Richard Pough, "AUDUBON BIRD GUIDE" which supplies excellent material on identification, song, habit, habitat, range, and nest of eastern land birds.

To further help in deciding what bird it was you saw, it is always helpful to have, as mentioned above, one or several well illustrated bird books at home. If you do not own them, some may be available for reference at your public library.

We also have a state check list still available which was carefully prepared to indicate which birds can be seen in Wisconsin and approximately when they can be found. In some cities local bird clubs have prepared check lists of their own. These are always a great help in deciding the species, because it is not likely that you will find a bird which is not on the check list.

A binocular is, without doubt, another great aid to bird study; in fact, some people place it first on the list of equipment. However, since it is a very delicate and expensive piece of equipment you should be certain that your bird study merits the possession of a binocular. It must be used with great care, because knocking it against hard objects like fence posts while crossing fences, or bumping it against trees while pushing through woodsy tangles can very easily cause it to become out of alignment. Disalignment causes eyestrain and sometimes even renders the glasses useless. The October issue contains an article covering the subject of binoculars to which you may want to refer.

A binocular not only helps you to get a closer view of the bird, but being able to study a bird at closer range fires your enthusiasm to learn more. Seeing the gorgeous warblers flitting about in the tops of trees through a binocular means so much more than just knowing that there are busy warblers passing through our woodland borders. We never tire of the brilliant coat of the Blackburnian warbler, the Cape May warbler, or the parula, nor of studying the detail in coloration of the many sparrows that can seldom be noted with the naked eye.

When going out on a field trip it is wise to carry a small pocket note book for jotting down notes about the unidentified birds as well as for listing the birds you already know as you find them along the way. Some people keep detailed records of all their bird observations which sometimes become very valuable information in later years. For this a desk journal can be used. In it you can describe each field trip if you like to write, or you can make brief notes about individual birds concerning the date, where it was found, its song and other pertinent information. Whatever you undertake, however, should not be so elaborate that it will be tedious to keep up to date. I know one young man, now a junior in high school who finds time to keep a very detailed journal of all his observations, who is a very careful observer, and whose records are already valued among bird people.

Records are valuable to yourself especially because you can make interesting comparisons from year to year. For those who would like to make a game of it, yearly lists would be a great deal of fun. It can be fun too, to be on the watch for earlier and later records of migrating birds than have been made previously, although subsequent arrivals are actually of greater importance to ornithologists. They are more interested in the dates on which the heaviest migration took place and what factors influenced the migration.

It cannot be overemphasized that you must be absolutely positive about your identifications. A bird watcher's reputation as a reliable bird reporter is soon lost or at least questioned if too many unusual records are made. Snap judgment is out of the question with a bird observer. It is always better to be conservative and be valued as a reliable, dependable observer. Temptations are often strong to report an unusual record even though there may still be some question regarding it. If it cannot be verified by one or several more reliable observers, it would be best to withhold such a record. In his very interesting book "A GUIDE TO BIRD WATCHING" Mr. Joseph Hickey writes "Sometimes birds are misidentified because of tricky lighting effects that are ever present in nature." Therefore it must always be remembered to note all marks of identification and to observe the bird in question from as many angles as possible; to study it at length to get its size, form and coloring; to note its behavior, its song or call note if possible, and the type of surroundings or habitat.

Many birds are more easily recognized by their song or call notes and we know them by such names as whip-poor-will, chickadee, phoebe, jay, catbird, towhee (or chewink), chebec and others. In fact, some birds cannot be positively recognized in the field unless the song is heard as in the case of the eastern and western meadowlarks or of the four flycatchers, Acadian, alder, least and yellow-bellied. Again, we depend on the songs of the warblers to pick out individuals that we would otherwise miss because we cannot hope to look at each bird and thereby identify all the species that pass through during migration. In my estimation, the ear is quite as important as the eye in bird identification.

Birds are more often heard than seen. There are three general methods of interpreting bird songs: First, by means of word phrases. Second, by following a set of symbols to record and remember them. Third, by use of descriptive words such as explosive for the house wren, fife-like for the wood thrush, plaintive for the field sparrow, mewing for the catbird and many others.

The very best help in bird study is to get a veteran bird observer to accompany you on your field trips. You will find him or her very willing and happy to help you if you prove yourself worthy. By that I mean, being quiet and careful so as not to disturb the birds, being observant, and showing a keen interest.

While much knowledge will gradually be gained in the field it is important to peruse the bird books for information on the various families of birds, in what kind of habitat to expect them, their nesting habits, their range, their behavior, their comparative size and their general form. Many interesting stories have been recorded in such books as "BIRDS OF AMERICA" and "THE BOOK OF BIRDS" in addition to the usual data for birds.

To become a good bird observer, you should go out regularly, preferably with an interested companion. The best time is always in the early morning when the birds are most active and most apt to be singing. Daily records from a small area are of greater importance than big bird trips made here and there although I will admit that the big bird trips have greater appeal even for the most seasoned observer.

You will soon discover what areas are the favorite bird spots in your neighborhood. It is always best to cover your favorite area on foot

because it is then that you can hear the most bird songs, notice the slow movement of many birds and in general be more keenly alert to most bird life. You boys and girls of school age have the golden opportunity to make the most of bird study that many an adult envies because you have more free time now than you will ever have again in your lives. Make the most of it with one of the most enjoyable and exhilarating hobbies in nature!

Among you there are future ornithologists, I am sure, who may some day be famous. Why not get your start with published articles in our own little section of *THE PASSENGER PIGEON*. The following is part of a letter from John Helble, age 12, Appleton, that has given me a great deal of pleasure:

"I read your article in the fall issue of *THE PASSENGER PIGEON* on bird feeders. It is very interesting and I used some of the ideas for my bird feeders. I have two feeders of my own plus one that I made for our Junior Audubon Club at our school. They have all been successful. They are all in different places.

"At my bird feeders I have had: English sparrows, all winter; evening grosbeaks, February and March; purple finches, from November to March; chickadees and blue jays, all winter. We have also had the red-breasted nuthatch, the white-breasted nuthatch, the downy woodpecker and the golden-crowned kinglet.

"These birds were not the only ones that enjoyed themselves. My mother and I enjoyed ourselves immensely. We got so close to the birds that we could plainly see every marking. The birds were very brilliant, especially the purple finches and the evening grosbeaks."

THE 1946 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A total of 82 species, largest total since before the war, was recorded by 53 observers, who made twelve counts in ten areas. The counts were spread over a greater portion of the state than has been covered in recent years, but still left such significantly large areas uncovered that only a spotty picture of the Wisconsin bird population at Christmas-time is available. Nevertheless, certain trends stand out unmistakably.

Of special note is the unusual number of birds, preferring a warmer winter climate, that have lingered within our borders because of the unusually mild fall weather. Unusual among the lingering water birds are the loon, pied-billed grebe, gadwall, baldpate, green-winged teal, shoveller, redhead, canvas-back, ruddy duck, hooded merganser and Bonaparte's gull; among the land birds, the mourning dove, kingfisher, sapsucker, brown thrasher, hermit thrush, meadowlark, red-wing, rusty blackbird, bronzed grackle, white-throated, swamp and song sparrows are notable. Also noticeable is the presence of more northern finches than usual. Numbers of evening grosbeaks were not unusual, but redpolls and pine grosbeaks were especially numerous. Also notable were the old squaw in Milwaukee, and the white-winged scoter, goshawk, Cooper's hawk, bald eagle and Hudsonian chickadee in Madison. Owls were conspicuously absent.

Honors for the highest count go to Milwaukee, with 56 species.

	Green Bay	Horicon	Loganville	Madison	Madison	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Nashota	Oshkosh	Viroqua	Waukesha	Wood County
Numbers of Observers	8	1	1	2	12	18	4	1	1	1	7	2
Numbers Species	20	15	18	38	42	56	41	17	15	11	20	16
Loon				2								
Pied-billed Grebe				1								
Canada Goose						2						
Mallard				40	100	175	200					
Black Duck				40	80	44	100					
Gadwall						8	4					
Baldpate						1	1					
Pintail						2	3					
Green-winged Teal					3							
Shoveller						25	25					
Redhead				3		2						
Canvas-back				100		46	30					
Lesser Scaup Duck				300		310	1000					
American Golden-eye				300	19	270	50	25				1
Bufflehead				15		14	30					
Old-squaw						1	1					
White-winged Scoter				1								
Ruddy Duck				1		2						
Hooded Merganser						4	1					
American Merganser				10		3760	1000					4
Red-breasted Merganser						87	100					
Goshawk					1							
Cooper's Hawk					2							
Red-tailed Hawk			2	2	6	3		1			4	
Rough-legged Hawk		1		1	1						1	
Bald Eagle					3							
Sparrow Hawk						4	2					
Ruffed Grouse			4			1						1
Hungarian Partridge						36	11					
Bob-white			25		9							
Pheasant	9	10		50	50	33	45	1	1		2	
Coot				250	1	1	1					
Herring Gull	9			40		405	300	28			8	
Ring-billed Gull				1		52	50					
Bonaparte's Gull						27	23					
Rock Dove			50	10	5	79		7	2			
Mourning Dove					7	8						
Screech Owl		1	1			1						
Great Horned Owl		1	1									
Barred Owl					2							
Belted Kingfisher					1							

	Green Bay	Horicon	Loganville	Madison	Madison	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Nashota	Oshkosh	Viroqua	Waukesha	Wood County
Flicker	1			2		14					3	
Pileated												
Woodpecker	1											
Red-bellied												
Woodpecker			2	1	5					2		
Red-headed												
Woodpecker					1	1	1					
Yellow-bellied												
Sapsucker					1						1	
Hairy Woodpecker	3	2		3	7	7	3			2	1	
Downy												
Woodpecker	12	5	4	5	26	25	10	2	3	1	7	6
Northern Horned												
Lark						11	5					
Blue Jay	39		9	30	47	13	3		5	3	11	4
Crow	2	19	2	20	27	263	8	12	13	2	182	3
Black-capped												
Chickadee	37	8	25	25	60	66	21	7	20	10	7	20
Hudsonian Chickadee				1								
Tufted Titmouse					2							
White-breasted												
Nuthatch	12	2	7	15	22	10	3	1	4	2	5	9
Red-breasted												
Nuthatch	1					1	1					
Brown Creeper				3	2	2	2	1				
Brown Thrasher					1							
Robin					1	7	3		2		1	
Hermit Thrush						1						
Golden-crowned												
Kinglet				25	5	7	2	3				
Cedar Waxwing					6	16	20					
Northern Shrike					1	1						
Starling	173		5	10	50	406		15	67		81	3
English Sparrow	800	16	100	50	700	187		55	283		221	25
Eastern Meadowlark						2	3					
Red-wing		1			10							
Rusty Blackbird					4							
Bronzed Grackle									1			
Cardinal			6	8	26	21	12		3	3	3	1
Evening Grosbeak	10											7
Purple Finch				20	2	6						
Pine Grosbeak	85			2								9
Redpoll	593	75			91						62	3
Pine Siskin				2				1				
Goldfinch	38	1	40		38	6	1	32		1	6	75

	Green Bay	Horicon	Loganville	Madison	Madison	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Nashota	Oshkosh	Viroqua	Waukesha	Wood County
Slate-colored Junco	320	10	70	50	124	168	30	9	3	20	6	2
Tree Sparrow	31	127	3	12	161	312	53	41	43	3	157	
White-throated Sparrow						1	1					
Swamp Sparrow						1						
Song Sparrow						6	3		1			
Snow Bunting	17											

Green Bay. (City parks, cemetery, streets and surrounding country, 10% city, 5% marsh, 40% high woodland, 30% swamp woodland, 15% fields.) Dec. 22, 8 a. m. to 3:15 p. m. Partly cloudy, light south to south-west wind, temp. 20°-30°, one inch of snow on ground. Eight observers in two groups, total 14 hours, 18 miles. Total, 20 species, 2193 individuals.—Marion Bolzenthall, Bernard Chartier, Edwin Cleary, Clara Hus-song, R. P. Hussong, Chester Krawczyk, Elmer Strehlow, Alice Weber, (Members of Green Bay Bird Club).

Horicon. (From Mieske farm 1¼ miles NW, thence east across the marsh to the Rothenberger farm, thence SE to Marsh Headquarters, thence west and NW back to Mieske farm.) Dec. 23, 6:45 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Cloudy to clear, wind NW, 26 m.p.h.; temp. 26°. One observer. Total hours 10¼, total miles on foot 15. Total, 15 species; 279 individuals.—Harold A. Mathiak.

Loganville. Jan. 5. One observer. Total, 18 species; 356 individuals.—Harold Kruse.

Madison. (South and west shores of Lake Mendota; deciduous wood-land 35%, open fields 5%, lake 35%, residential 25%). Dec. 24; 6:30 a. m. to 2 p. m. Clear; temp. 20° to 34°; wind NW, 8 m.p.h.; trace of snow on ground; lake mostly open. Two observers together. Total hours, 8½; total miles, 6 afoot, 18 in car. Total, 38 species, 1451 individuals.—N. R. Barger, Sam Robbins.

Madison. (West and south of city.) Jan. 1; 7 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cloudy; temp. 0°, little wind, ground covered with snow; practically all water frozen. Twelve observers in four groups; two groups out all day. Total, 42 species; 1710 individuals.—Mr. & Mrs. N. R. Barger, Ellen Hoffman, Mrs. Arthur Koehler, George Koehler, R. A. McCabe, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Scott, Ruth Stillman, Allan Stokes, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Howard Young.

Milwaukee. (Currie, Estabrook, Greenfield, Jacobus, Juneau, Kin-nickinnic, Lake, and Whitnall Parks; sections of the Lake Michigan front, Cedarburg swamp, fields and woods on the north-west, west, and south-west borders of the city; fields 30%, river bottoms 15%, weeds 15%, lake shore 15%, feeding stations 15%, swamp 6%, coniferous plantings

4%). Dec. 28; dawn to dusk. Cloudy, with snow flurries in a. m.; wind NE 15-20 m.p.h.; temp. 25°-28°; ground bare; Lake Michigan open. 18 observers in 7 parties and at 5 feeding stations. Total hours 48 (39 afoot, 9 by car); total miles 197 (37 afoot, 160 by car). Total, 56 species; 6958 individuals.—Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Ray Cialdini, Elizabeth Decker, Mary Donald, Dr. Hehn, Bill Jackson, Mrs. W. F. Jackson, Barbara Larkin, Dixie Larkin, Helmuth Mueller, Kenneth Nielson, Mrs. H. J. Nunne-macher, Gordon Orians, H. L. Orians, Frank Shaffer, John Shaffer, Richard Sharp, George Treichel.

Milwaukee. (Lake Michigan Steel Plant Site, South Shore Park, Juneau Park, Jacobus Park, Bender Dump, Sand pits on Green Bay Road, Estabrook Park, Upper River Road, feeding tables of members of the group.) Dec. 29; 8:30 a. m. to 4 p. m. Heavy snow in a. m., clearing in p. m.; wind NE 30 m.p.h.; temp. 28°-18°; 8-10 inches snow on ground. 4 observers together. Total miles, 40 (5 afoot, 35 in car). Total, 41 species; 3162 individuals.—Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mary Donald, Dr. Anna Hehn, Mrs. F. L. Larkin.

Nashota. (Section of land on the east side of Lake Nagawicka; river bottoms 20%, wooded hills 30%, suburban area 25%; lake front 15%, marsh 10%). Dec. 26; 11:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Fair; wind NW, 15 m.p.h.; temp. 18°-24°; ground covered with light snow; lake partly open. One observer. Total hours 4½ (3½ afoot, 1 on ice skates); total miles 5 (4 afoot, 1 on ice skates). Total, 17 species; 241 individuals.—Gordon Orians.

Oshkosh. (Lake fronts and hardwoods 55%, conifers 25%, city streets 15%, marsh land 5%; area bounded on the north by 23rd St., on the south by Black Wolf Point, on the east by Lake Winnebago, and on the west by highway 41-45.) Dec. 25; 10:00 a. m. to 1 p. m.; 2:30 p. m. to 3:15 p. m. Cloudy; 2 inches of snow on ground; no wind; temp. 15°-17°. One observer. Total hours 3¾ (3 afoot, ¾ by car); total area covered, about 3 square miles. Total, 15 species; 451 individuals.—Jack Kaspar.

Viroqua. Dec. 25. One observer. Total, 11 species; 49 individuals.—Margarette E. Morse.

Waukesha. Parks and wooded areas in city; farm land north of city; SW along Fox river valley to Saylesville and into Mukwonago marsh; (open farm land 65%, city suburbs 10%, deciduous farm woodlands 15%, tamarack swamp 5%, marsh 5%.) Dec. 22; 7 a. m. to 5 p. m. Mostly cloudy; temp. 21°-32°; wind SW 8-12 m.p.h.; ground covered with 1 inch of snow; Fox river mostly frozen over. Seven observers together. Total hours, 10 (5¾ afoot, 4¼ in car); total miles, 51½ (8½ afoot, 43 in car). Total, 20 species; 769 individuals.—Robert Adams, Harlow Bielefeldt, E. R. Cuthbert, A. G. Johnson, S. Paul Jones, C. E. Nelson, Jr., James Selle.

Wood County. (Southeastern part of county.) Dec. 26; 8:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. Fair; temp. 0°-15°. Two observers together. Total hours, 4; total miles, 27 (7 afoot, 20 by car). Total, 16 species; 173 individuals.—John Christian, George Becker.

Bird Carving

By MRS. ARTHUR KOEHLER

For several years I have collected miniature birds made of glass, china, wood or brass. I tried to collect only those which were identifiable though a few slipped into my collection which no one could tell whether or not they were ducks, geese, or swans—just birds. It became more and more difficult to find a good reproduction so I decided to try to make my own. At first my efforts were very crude for I had had no experience in carving and I had no tools except a kitchen knife. I tried to use balsa but I soon found that was too weak. The bills and tails broke off too easily. Next I bought a carving tool with several different blades and began to use white pine.

I am not an artist so I search the bird books for a picture of the bird I want to carve. The picture must be one-half scale and the bill and tail must be pointed in about the same plane. If they are at an angle one or the other will be cross grained and will break off easily. Trying



to carve a singing prothonotary warbler with mandibles wide apart is a delicate job.

First I trace the outline onto tracing paper and from there to the wood being careful to place the bill and tail straight with the grain. The pine must be about as thick as the bird measures from back to breast or else the finished bird will not be nice and round. Next I saw out the outline with a jig saw. The outline must be followed very carefully for one can not get a good carving if the first outline is not right. Then I am

ready to whittle. It is not nearly as hard as you may think. It takes about one-half hour for the carving and about again as long for the sanding.

Then I set my bird up and wait for the family comments. If someone says "What is that supposed to be?" I know it is no good and throw it away. But if they say, for example, "That's a nice little meadowlark" I know it is worth finishing. The painting is the hardest part. I have tried several different kinds of paint but still am not satisfied. At present I am using Tempera with two coats of Matvar, a fine artist varnish. If anyone has a better suggestion I would be glad to hear about it.

It is surprising how much one can learn about the fine details of bird coloring in this work. Anyone can recognize a bluejay but few of us can tell exactly where the white and black or blue and gray begins and ends. I study several books for there is quite a difference in shading. Then I try to imitate the one which seems to me to be most like the real bird.

I have done between 60 and 70 species. Some are pretty crude, others are fair, none are expert but I have a lot of fun with them. I find they are very educational for my Scouts like to try to name them. So I recommend carving birds as a new hobby, a new phase of bird study.

109 Chestnut Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

Ruffed Grouse Battle. On October 6, 1946, during a field trip in Crawford County between Bridgeport and Prairie du Chien, Einar Hang, Norman Morey and I came upon two ruffed grouse fighting in the roadway, in broad daylight. We approached to within 25 feet of the birds. The fighting went on, with both birds stopping for a rest at intervals, and then the fighting would be renewed in earnest. The last two rounds of the fight were a surprise. One bird made a vicious attack and came down with a few feathers in its beak, and the other fell to the ground exhausted and apparently badly hurt. The bird finally raised its head but was not too steady for a few minutes. Finally the injured bird made a daring attack at the other, who sat there just observing his good punch. The injured bird made such an attack that the good bird took off into the adjoining woods. The other bird was finally seen making a slow retreat into the brush. The fight lasted for at least fifteen minutes.

Why do birds fight like this at a season when they are not mated? Have you ever witnessed such a fight? I would pay more to see that fight than I would to see Joe Louis.—Clarence Anthes, Waukesha.

Franklin's Gull in Milwaukee. At the steel mill property along Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, I found a Franklin's gull on September 25. The bird was in the immature plumage, with the dark mantle. It was observed at a distance of 150 feet with 8X30 binoculars. It flew back and forth several times in company with Bonaparte's gulls and the slightly larger size and different coloring could be compared directly in the field.—Gordon Orians, Milwaukee.

Feeding Habits of the Canada Jay. On November 25 and 26 a pair of Canada jays were watched for about one-half hour each day, feeding upon the "inwards" of a dressed out deer. Each time the birds came to

the "remains" they would eat a bit, and then fill their mouths and carry away portions to hide for future use. On one occasion one of the birds, after filling its mouth to the extent that particles could plainly be seen protruding from the sides of the bill, flew to a nearby white pine, in which was lodged a small broken-off branch of a white birch—the dry leaves still clinging to this branch. Even with its mouth filled to capacity, the bird managed to rip off a dry leaf from the branch, and with this also in its bill, flew away. I am wondering if the bird used the leaf as a cover for its larder which it had cached away.—Carl Richter, Oconto.

THE AUTUMN SEASON . . .

(All field notes for the period of December 1 to February 28 should be sent immediately to Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr., 190 North Grand Avenue, Neillsville, Wisconsin.)

On the whole, the autumn season was a favorable one for bird enthusiasts. The weather was warmer than usual, and dry enough to make conditions favorable for observation. Observers in Milwaukee report a good shorebird flight. Those with the determination to wrestle with the fall warblers and their enigmatic winter plumages were rewarded with a good flight; observers in southern Wisconsin found warblers in good numbers from late August until early October, with a peak coming during the period between September 25 and 28. The duck flight was again poor, reflecting the decline that is becoming increasingly evident throughout the whole flyway. The mild weather, however, occasioned the lingering of all types of birds; no less than eighteen state departure dates were broken, and two more were tied.

Red-throated Loon: One in Milwaukee, Nov. 2 (Gordon Orians).

Holboell's Grebe: Madison, Oct. 3 (Strelitzer).

Horned Grebe: Last seen in Madison on Nov. 29 (Paul Springer).

Western Grebe: Reported from Door County on Oct. 12 (Paul Hoffman); and from Two Rivers on Nov. 26 (Mrs. Smith). Details reported elsewhere in this issue.

Double-crested Cormorant: Migrating through Madison from Sept. 30 to Nov. 25 (Springer).

Great Blue Heron: Last seen at Horicon, Nov. 13 (Mathiak).

American Egret: The heavy flight of late summer continued well into September with individuals lingering near Portage until Sept. 30 (Robbins), and in Winnebago County until Oct. 5 (Loyster).

Green Heron: Reported from Sauk County on Oct. 17 (Kruse). Latest date on record.

Least Bittern: One found dead in Milwaukee, Oct. 2 (Mrs. Larkin). Latest date on record.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Last seen in Milwaukee, Nov. 7 (Gordon Orians).

Whistling Swan: Small numbers reported from Lake Koshkonong, Oct. 19 (Mrs. Nunnemacher); from Oconto, Nov. 1-3 (Carl Richter); and from Lake Winnebago, Nov. 3 (Evans) and Nov. 23 (Treichel).

Snow Goose: Large flocks reported from Dane, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Sauk and Winnebago Counties, all during the last two weeks of October (many observers).

Blue Goose: Good numbers noted with the flocks of snow geese in most reports.

Baldpate: Arrived in Milwaukee, Sept. 2 (Gordon Orians).

Blue-winged Teal: Last reported in Dane County, Oct. 21 (Springer).

Wood Duck: Last noted in Milwaukee, Oct. 20 (Mrs. Larkin et al).

Bufflehead: First, Winnebago County, Sept. 15 (Kaspar).

White-winged Scoter: Lake Wisconsin, Nov. 3 (Loyster).

Turkey Vulture: One in Milwaukee, Oct. 12 (Gordon Orians). Immature, Sauk County, Sept. 5 (Kruse).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only three birds seen in fall migration in Sauk County (Kruse).

Cooper's Hawk: 70 birds seen in Sauk County between Sept. 24 and Oct. 16 (Kruse).

Red-tailed Hawk: 100 counted in Sauk County between Sept. 29 and Oct. 12 (Kruse).

Broad-winged Hawk: Between Sept. 24 and 26, 180 birds were seen in Sauk County (Kruse).

Rough-legged Hawk: 20 birds noted, Oct. 16-18, in Sauk County (Kruse).

Golden Eagle: Wisconsin Rapids, Oct. 11 (Searles).

Bald Eagle: Migrating at Sauk City, Sept. 25 (Leopold), and at Mercer, Oct. 5-7 (Mrs. Sell).

Duck Hawk: One in Madison, Sept. 21 (Springer). Seen in Milwaukee on Oct. 19 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

Pigeon Hawk: Seen in Sauk County on Sept. 15 and Sept. 28 (Kruse), and in Portage County on Sept. 22 (Robbins).

Sandhill Crane: 14 seen in Marquette County, Sept. 15; 50 there on Sept. 28 (Tagatz).

Sora: Reported to be more numerous than usual in Winnebago County (Kaspar).

Florida Gallinule: Last reported in Milwaukee, Oct. 20 (Mrs. Larkin and Dr. Hehn). Latest date on record.

Semi-palmated Plover: The peak of the flight in Milwaukee was noted on Sept. 8 (Gordon Orians), with one lingering until Oct. 20 (Larkin-Hehn). Latest date on record.

Killdeer: Last seen in Milwaukee, Nov. 28 (Dr. Hehn).

Golden Plover: Reported in Milwaukee from Sept. 8 to Sept. 27 (many observers).

Black-bellied Plover: Lingered in Milwaukee until Oct. 26 (Gordon Orians).

Ruddy Turnstone: Good numbers reported from Milwaukee in mid-September, with individuals remaining through Oct. 19 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

Wilson's Snipe: Found to be scarce in Wood County (Searles). Last individual reported from Milwaukee on Nov. 29 (Gordon Orians).

Upland Plover: Milwaukee County, Oct. 6 (Mrs. Larkin). Latest date on record.

Solitary Sandpiper: Straggler seen in Racine on Nov. 24 (Edward Prins). Latest date on record.

Knot: Reported on five occasions in Milwaukee between Sept. 8 and Sept. 21 (several observers).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last report from Dane County, Oct. 9 (Springer).

Baird's Sandpiper: Noted several times in August and early September in Milwaukee. Not seen after Sept. 9 (several observers).

Red-backed Sandpiper: The only fall reports come from Milwaukee from Oct. 19 to Oct. 26 (Gordon Orians).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Only one fall report: from Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (H. C. Mueller).

Semi-palmated Sandpiper: Peak of fall flight noted in Milwaukee on Sept. 8; last seen on Sept. 28 (Gordon Orians).

Sanderling: Last reported from Milwaukee, Nov. 3 (Gordon Orians).

Northern Phalarope: One seen in Two Rivers, Sept. 11 (Mrs. Smith). Another was reported from Milwaukee on Sept. 1 (Mrs. Kelley).

Franklin's Gull: Milwaukee, Sept. 25 (Gordon Orians). Details reported elsewhere in this issue.

Forster's Tern: Seen in Milwaukee through September and October, lingering until Nov. 8 (Gordon Orians). Latest date on record.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last seen in Sauk County, Sept. 15 (Kruse).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Sauk County, Sept. 22 (Kruse).

Snowy Owl: One reported seen by a farmer in Jefferson County, Oct. 28 (fide Scott).

Long-eared Owl: Madison, Nov. 12 (McCabe); Jackson County, Nov. 26 (Zimmerman); Milwaukee, Nov. 30 (Gordon Orians).

Short-eared Owl: Only fall report: Milwaukee, Oct. 15 (Gordon Orians).

Nighthawk: Fall flight said to be poor in Sauk County (Kruse). Late peak noted in Milwaukee on Sept. 27 (Mrs. Schwendener). Last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 29 (Larkin-Hehn).

Chimney Swift: Last noted in Madison, Sept. 28 (Robbins).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Still in Mercer, Sept. 16 (Mrs. Sell). Last noted in Sauk County, Sept. 30 (Kruse).

Pileated Woodpecker: One in Shawano County, Oct. 9 (Mary Staeger).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: First known record for Winnebago County established by the arrival of a bird at the home of Robert Murray in Butte des Morts on Nov. 18 (Evans). Also noted in Barron on Nov. 10 (Mrs. Walsh).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Arrived in Neillsville, Sept. 19 (Robbins); last noted in Sauk County, Oct. 30 (Kruse).

Eastern Kingbird: Last seen, Neillsville, Sept. 15 (Robbins).

Crested Flycatcher: Last seen, Madison, Sept. 28 (Robbins).

Phoebe: One in Milwaukee, Nov. 17 (Treichel). Latest date on record.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One fall report: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al).

Least Flycatcher: Last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 6 (Larkin-Hehn).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al). Two Rivers, Sept. 12 (Mrs. Smith).

Tree Swallow: Last reported from Sauk County, Oct. 12 (Kruse).

Barn Swallow: Sauk County, Oct. 12 (Kruse). Latest date on record.

Cliff Swallow: Abundant in Sauk County, Sept. 2 (Kruse).

Purple Martin: Last reported from Oconto, Sept. 27 (Carl Richter).

Canada Jay: Three seen in the Rocky Arbor Roadside Park, near Wisconsin Dells, Nov. 6 (Neess, Nelson, Le Cren). Unusual so far south. Also noted in Florence County, Nov. 23 (Carl Richter).

Blue Jay: Migrating through Sauk County in large numbers, Sept. 25-28. More than 600 seen on Sept. 26 (Kruse).

Raven: Forest County, Nov. 3 (Carl Richter); 13 in Florence County, Nov. 23 (Carl Richter); Douglas County, Nov. 29 (Searles).

Tufted Titmouse: One in Madison, Sept. 23 (Robbins). Rarely seen in the city except in Winter. Also noted in St. Croix Falls on Nov. 24 (John Heinsohn).

Brown Creeper: First fall migrant noted in Madison, Sept. 12 (Robbins).

House Wren: Last seen in Shawano County (on Sept. 29 (Mary Staeger); in Madison, Oct. 11 (Springer).

Winter Wren: Arrived in Madison, Sept. 12 (Robbins). Left Loganville, Oct. 14 (Kruse).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Straggler reported from Milwaukee on Oct. 26 (G. Orians-Treichel). Latest date on record.

Catbird: Last seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 13 (Mrs. Balsom and Mrs. Paulsen).

Brown Thrasher: Straggler noted in Oshkosh, Nov. 28 (Mrs. Kaspar).

Robin: Last noted in Jackson County, Nov. 23 (Zimmerman).

Wood Thrush: Milwaukee, Sept. 30 (Mrs. Nunnemacher).

Hermit Thrush: Arrival in Shawano County noted on Sept. 27 (Mary Staeger).

Olive-backed Thrush: Unusually abundant in Madison, Sept. 11-17 (Robbins).

Bluebird: Most numerous from late September to mid-October both in Sauk County (Kruse) and in Two Rivers (Mrs. Smith).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One in Milwaukee, Oct. 14 (Gordon Orians). Ties state record.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Reported in migration from Sept. 17 in Madison (Robbins) until Oct. 28 in Fort Atkinson (Mrs. Main).

Pipit: Reported from Milwaukee, Sept. 28 (Gordon Orians); and from Madison, Oct. 7-19 (Springer).

Bohemian Waxwing: Neillsville, Nov. 19-22 (Robbins).

Cedar Waxwing: 200 noted in Sauk County, Sept. 29 (Kruse).

Northern Shrike: One in Clark County, Nov. 3 (Robbins).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Lingered in Madison until Oct. 12 (Rausch). Latest date on record.

Blue-headed Vireo: Noted in Madison from Sept. 10 (Robbins) until Oct. 7 (Springer).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last seen in Madison, Sept. 30 (Robbins).

Philadelphia Vireo: Seen in Milwaukee, Sept. 1-2 (several observers), and in Madison from Sept. 12 to Sept. 28 (Robbins).

Warbling Vireo: Remained in Milwaukee until Oct. 8 (Mrs. Balsom). Latest date on record.

Black and White Warbler: Madison, Oct. 7 (Springer).

Golden-winged Warbler: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Larkin-Hehn).

Blue-winged Warbler: One in Milwaukee, Sept. 4 (Mrs. Larkin).

Tennessee Warbler: Last seen in Madison, Oct. 19 (Springer). Latest date on record.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Reported from Madison and Milwaukee on at least ten occasions between Sept. 13 (Robbins) and Oct. 26 (Gordon Orians).

Nashville Warbler: First noted in Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al); last seen in Madison, Oct. 13 (Springer).

Parula Warbler: Last seen in Oshkosh, Oct. 2 (Kaspar), and in Milwaukee, Oct. 9 (Larkin-Hehn). Latest date on record.

Magnolia Warbler: Milwaukee, Oct. 19 (Gordon Orians).

Cape May Warbler: Single individuals reported from Mercer, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Sell); Madison, Sept. 13 (Robbins); and Milwaukee, Sept. 27 (Gordon Orians).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Noted in Milwaukee from Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al) to Oct. 8 (Mrs. Schwendener); also in Madison on three occasions in Sept. (Robbins); and in Oshkosh on Sept. 15 (Kaspar).

Myrtle Warbler: Arrived in Madison, Sept. 11 (Hale). Peak in Milwaukee from Sept. 28 to Oct. 5, with the last one seen on Nov. 8 (Gordon Orians).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Last reported from Milwaukee, Oct. 17 (Gordon Orians).

Blackburnian Warbler: Last seen in Mercer, Sept. 15 (Mrs. Sell); in Milwaukee, Sept. 27 (Gordon Orians).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First noted in Milwaukee, Sept. 3 (Mrs. Balsom); last seen in Madison, Oct. 2 (Springer).

Black-poll Warbler: Although difficult to distinguish in fall, this species was reported in Madison on three occasions in September (Springer, Robbins), and in Milwaukee, Oct. 5 (Gordon Orians). The latter date is the latest date on record.

Pine Warbler: Last noted in Neillsville, Sept. 21 (Robbins); in Madison, Sept. 23 (Robbins); and in Milwaukee, Sept. 29 (Mrs. Nunnemacher).

Western Palm Warbler: Arrived in Sauk County, Sept. 10 (Kruse); last noted in Madison, Oct. 25 (Springer).

Ovenbird: Last seen in Madison, Oct. 17 (Springer).

Northern Water-thrush: First reported from Kenosha, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Higgins); last seen in Madison, Oct. 19 (Springer). Ties the latest date on record.

Louisiana Water-thrush: One seen in Milwaukee with several north-erns, Sept. 22 (Mrs. Balsom).

Connecticut Warbler: Milwaukee, Sept. 3 (Gordon Orians); Oshkosh, Sept. 24 (Kaspar); Madison, Sept. 17 and 28 (Robbins).

Mourning Warbler: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al); Madison, Sept. 19 (Scott).

Northern Yellow-throat: Last seen in Madison, Oct. 9 (Springer).

Wilson's Warbler: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al). Only fall report.

Canada Warbler: Last seen in Neillsville, Sept. 21 (Robbins).

Redstart: Last noted in Madison, Oct. 2 (Springer).

Rusty Blackbird: Arrived in Madison, Sept. 16 (Robbins); last noted in Sauk County, Nov. 4 (Kruse).

Scarlet Tanager: Milwaukee, Oct. 7 (Mrs. Balsom).

Evening Grosbeak: Arrived in Oconto County, Oct. 25 (Carl Richter); in Wood County, Oct. 28 (Searles).

Purple Finch: Large numbers seen in Iron County, Oct. 5 (Mrs. Sell), and in Jackson County, Nov. 27 (Zimmerman).

Pine Grosbeak: In Winnebago County, Nov. 18 (Robert Murray); numerous in Burnett County, Nov. 23 (Searles).

Redpoll: Reports of arrival in mid-October come from Rhinelander (Miss Almon), Oshkosh (Kaspar), and Milwaukee, (Gordon Orians).

Pine Siskin: First reported from Madison, Sept. 27 (Robbins), and from Shawano County, Oct. 1 (Mary Staeger).

White-winged Crossbill: One female of this rare species was seen in Coldwater Canyon, near Wisconsin Dells, on Nov. 6 (Neess, Nelson, LeCren).

Savannah Sparrow: Last noted in Madison, Oct. 15 (Rausch).

Vesper Sparrow: Last reported in Sauk County, Oct. 19 (Kruse).

Lark Sparrow: Straggler reported from Mercer, Sept. 27 (Mrs. Sell).

Slate-colored Junco: Fall arrival first noted in Milwaukee, Sept. 9 (Gordon Orians).

Tree Sparrow: Seen on Sept. 27 in Shawano County (Mary Staeger), and in Sauk County, (Kruse).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Neillsville, Sept. 21 and Oct. 8 (Robbins); Madison, Oct. 13 (Kaspar).

Harris's Sparrow: Mercer, Sept. 29-Oct. 7 (Mrs. Sell); Rhinelander, Oct. 7 (Miss Almon); Neillsville, Oct. 8 (Robbins).

White-crowned Sparrow: Seen in Milwaukee between Sept. 15 (Mrs. Paulsen) and Oct. 20 (Larkin-Hehn).

Gambel's Sparrow: An adult was trapped and banded in Oshkosh on Oct. 6 (Kaspar).

Fox Sparrow: Passed through Sauk County between Sept. 29 and Oct. 13 (Kruse).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Neillsville, Oct. 8 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Oct. 21 (Mrs. Balsom).

Lapland Longspur: Noted in Dane County, Nov. 9 (Schorger); in Winnebago County, Nov. 23 (Treichel); and in Milwaukee, Nov. 28 (Gordon Orians).

Snow Bunting: First reported in Forest and Florence Counties, Nov. 3 (Carl Richter). Also in Winnebago County, Nov. 23 (Treichel); and in Milwaukee, Nov. 24 (Mary Donald).

NOTICE

We still need many more contributors to the field note department, and we still need more complete reports from those who are already contributing. Therefore we are preparing special mimeographed forms for contributors to use in sending in their seasonal reports. These forms contain space for information about arrival, spring and departure dates in migration, as well as nesting data and winter records. They will be helpful and time-saving for contributors, as well as for the editor. Forms will be sent to anyone upon request; a penny post-card to the field note editor will bring you yours. Send your requests to Sam Robbins, 190 N. Grand Ave., Neillsville.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The following constitutional changes have been duly authorized and will be proposed during the coming convention:

Article VII. The Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the above named officers and (two) **five** directors at large who shall be elected at the annual meeting and **who shall automatically be considered chairmen of the following standing committees: membership, endowments, education and publicity, library, and legal counsel.** (Four) **Six** members of the board shall constitute a quorum. (Remainder of Article the same.)

Article III. **Membership.** Section 4. Dues of student (and active members) shall be one dollar for each calendar year, and **active members one dollar and fifty cents,** and sustaining members five dollars. (Remainder of section the same.)

New Members and Renewals

Bellin, Stuart A., 3720 North Second Street, Milwaukee 12
 Bignall, Mrs. Roy, 1728 North 38th Street, Milwaukee
 Bloodgood, Miss Margaret, 1207 Eleventh Street, Monroe
 Boettcher, Edward C., 3757 North 52nd Street, Milwaukee 10
 Brueckner, Miss Margaret E., 2529A North 15th Street, Milwaukee 6
 Cowen, Mrs. H. K., 2204 East Edgewood Avenue, Milwaukee 11
 Curran, George, 2507 Buckeye Road, Madison 4
 Hall, Mrs. Gladys A., 912 Douglas Avenue, Kalamazoo 52, Michigan
 Hansen, Randolph C., 603 Mill Street, Waupaca
 Hicks, Mrs. William, 736 Algoma Avenue, Oshkosh
 Homme, James, Route 1, Box 134, Stoughton
 Hubbard, Benjamin, 348 South First Street, Evansville
 Johnson, Mrs. Hilda, 133 John Street, Neenah
 Johnson, Miss F. S., 4470 North Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee 11
 Koepman, Miss Ella, 1808 East Olive, Milwaukee 11
 Lechmaier, Mrs. A. G., 9311 Wilson Drive, Milwaukee
 Library, Beloit Public, Beloit
 Lundberg, Mrs. C. F., 412 Ninth Street, Racine
 McCabe, R. A., 424 University Farm Place, Madison 5
 Miller, Miss Hilda E., 736 Ninth Street, Beloit

Pahle, Mathew H., 1013 East Lexington Boulevard, Milwaukee 11
 Runnung, M. H., 511 North 27th Street, Milwaukee 8
 Schwartz, Adolph, 614 New York Avenue, Manitowoc
 Silgman, Miss Olive, 3573 North 17th Street, Milwaukee 6
 Staeger, Stephen A., 626 Dick Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio
 Stone, Norman R., Box 75, Webster
 Thomas, Landon B., 1006 Blaine Street, Edgerton
 Vogenitz, Mrs. C., 3059 South Kinnikinnic Avenue, Milwaukee 7
 Wicks, Dr. Charles H., 2111 Rowley Avenue, Madison 5



THE BRONZE PLAQUE

*This supplements the list of November, 1945, and brings it up to date as of about March 17, 1947

THE WESTERN GREBE IN WISCONSIN

Small numbers of western grebes were seen in two places in Wisconsin last fall by two observers working independently.

On October 12, 1946, a flock of six were seen in Green Bay near Peninsula State Park by Paul Hoffman of Milwaukee. Since Mr. Hoffman had seen them in North Dakota during July, identification was easy.

On November 26, 1946, a flock of eleven stopped near the home of Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Two Rivers. They were accompanied by golden-eyes.

Although this species should be of casual occurrence within our borders there are but few instances recorded except during early days. Carl Richter reports four, north of the mouth of the Oconto River, September, 1924. Before the turn of the century, Ludwig Kumlien noted six in an airhole in the ice of Lake Koshkonong, January 4, 1878. A specimen, taken by Kumlien during October, 1881, from this same lake has been preserved, and Kumlien and Hollister state that they have seen others.

The western grebe breeds normally as far east as western Minnesota rarely, and Dr. Roberts cites two spring migration records for eastern Minnesota.

—N. R. Barger

NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

time as possible this year gathering data on our nesting birds so that more definite ranges can be worked out for the various species. Such notes may be turned in to the editor of field notes at the close of each quarter.

Have you sent in your reservation form, indicating how many banquet tickets you will need, and whether or not you will wish to reserve rooms for lodging during the convention?

The Kumlien Club was fortunate this year in securing two speakers from abroad. Mr. David C. Lack spoke on "Selection of Family Size in Birds," January 18; and Mr. Antoon de Vos presented part of his data on "Vanishing Birds of the World," March 18. The latter speaker based his remarks on personal experiences in many foreign countries.

An exhibit of magazines from the various state bird clubs will be made at the convention this year.

The "May Day" census will be made this year as usual. Please send your lists to the field notes editor. Rules will be very similar to those prevailing with the Christmas counts.

Owen J. Gromme recently made a trip to Alaska. To date we have not heard what birds he encountered!

This year, for the first time, the convention will have on exhibit, bird feeders, bird houses, bird books, novelty items pertaining to birds, and much free literature. It is our hope to inform the members of all late developments in the field, no matter what kind. All items on display may be purchased also, either at the moment, or by order. Since all profits from these sales will go into the society's treas-

ury, you are asked to postpone your purchases until you have come down to the meeting. Further, if you need something and do not know where to obtain it, we will try to find it for you.

Mrs. Gladys A. Hall, 912 Douglas Avenue, Kalamazoo 52, Michigan, has been banding cardinals and making a special study of them in her vicinity. Any banding information or other "findings" on this species will be welcome, she says.

The board of directors of our society has set the convention registration fee of this year at \$1.00.

One of the unique displays to be seen at the convention this year will be a flock of wooden birds in natural colors by Mrs. Arthur Koehler.

Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr., editor of our field notes, has prepared handy forms to be used by bird observers when sending in data. These forms are a great improvement over the simple letter method and will facilitate the work. Please note his description of this form at the close of The Autumn Season field notes in this issue.

The scratchboard drawing by Hjalmar A. Skuldt on the cover shows the Society's passenger pigeon monument essentially as it will be on Sunday, May 11, when it is unveiled with proper ceremony. The monument is set on the cliff edge of Sentinel Ridge in Wyalusing State Park, Grant County.

You will not want to miss Edgar M. Queeny's movie, "Arkansas Timber Toppers," which will be shown during the reception meeting, Friday evening, May 9. The book, presenting this same subject, was completely sold out before it was off the press, we understand; and that, in spite of the unusually high price of \$15.00 per volume.