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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



The Passenger Pigeon



Winter 1966

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 4

WINTER WONDERLAND
PHOTO BY NILES DAHLSTRAND

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BIOTELEMETRY

— a valuable tool in bird study

By THOMAS H. NICHOLLS and DWAIN W. WARNER

Introduction

"I fixed a silver thread to the leg of each, loose enough not to hurt the part, but so fastened that no exertions of theirs could remove it." So wrote J. J. Audubon who was probably the first person in the New World to mark birds in such a way that they could be recognized individually. We have come a long way since Audubon's day as can be evidenced by the tremendous amount of literature on methods concerned with the study of animal behavior.

Movement studies of birds have been based almost entirely on visual observation, on recapture of previously trapped and marked birds, and on appearance in study areas of species intermittently captured by various sampling methods. Data from these types of studies are the basis for a major part of current interpretations of: response to environmental change, home range, territory, migration, dispersal, and for much interpretation of population structure and even systematics, evolution and biogeography.

Several methods have been used to study bird activities. The aluminum leg band has been in use for years. Banding supplies information on two precise moments in the bird's life: when it is banded and when it is recaptured or found dead. The activities of a banded bird are virtually unknown from the time of banding until the bird is found again.

In order to acquire more information on the local movements of birds, color bands in different combinations have been used successfully to identify and observe individual birds with the aid of binoculars. Large plastic back tags have been used on such birds as hawks, eagles, and pheasants with some success. The use of dyes and paints have been used extensively in marking birds. Another popular technique has been to insert dyed feathers into the plumage of the bird. Such feathers are attached with household cement and tied with a thread to the shaft of an attached feather on the tail, wing, back, or head. A similar method, called imping, requires that an attached feather be cut off and a dyed feather joined at the cut end by an imping needle. Other methods have been used to mark individual birds, but all these methods have the major limitation of being unable to tell us where and what a bird is doing 24 hours a day. The need to know an animal's seasonal and annual movements and the physical as well as biological stimuli responsible for these movements has become paramount in many fields of science. A relatively new research tool has been developed which is helping to deter-

mine ecological requirements and physiological responses of wild animals in their natural habitats. This exciting and versatile tool is biotelemetry.

Uses of Biotelemetry

Biotelemetry is the instrumental technique for gaining and transmitting information from a living organism and its environment to a remote observer. One of the primary objectives of biotelemetry studies is to obtain information on the natural movements and behavior patterns of individual animals. Specifically, this could include the determination



JUST LIKE TUNING IN A RADIO STATION, A RECEIVER IS TUNED IN TO THE PROPER FREQUENCY TO DETECT THE SIGNALS FROM A BARRED OWL LOCATED IN A DENSE OAK WOODS. RECEIVER AT LEFT DETECTS SIGNALS FROM A 100-FOOT TOWER WHILE RECEIVER AT RIGHT DETECTS SIGNALS FROM A 70-FOOT TOWER. DEGREE BEARINGS OBTAINED FROM THE TWO TOWERS PERMIT THE OWL TO BE LOCATED ON A MAP BY TRIANGULATION. PHOTO BY NICHOLLS.

of home range, habitat use, activity periods, effects of weather on activity, daily and seasonal movement patterns, family relationships, and whether the species is territorial.

Radio devices are becoming increasingly useful in measuring such physiological processes as blood pressure, heart beat, respiration, and temperature. These devices are invaluable in medical research.

In this fantastic electronic age we look forward to using television cameras to monitor animals in their environment, for example, an owl nest or a fox den. Listening devices attached to animals or placed at nests or other centers of activity will tell us much about an animal by listening and recording the sounds it makes. Some workers have made use of a radio-controlled anesthetic device, so that an experimental animal could be anesthetized by radio and thus be recaptured at any time. These

devices, and new ones being developed, have tremendous possibilities of gaining continuous data from environments heretofore unavailable to the scientist.

Automatic Radio-Tracking System

A unique automatic radio-tracking system for monitoring animal movements is located on the Cedar Creek Natural History area in Anoka and Isanti counties in Minnesota. It is located about 30 miles north of Minneapolis and about the same distance west of St. Croix Falls,



SAW-WHET OWL CARRYING A 7-GRAM RADIO TRANSMITTER ON ITS BACK WITH AN 8-INCH TRAILING WHIP ANTENNA.

PHOTO BY ORRIN J. RONGSTAD

Wisconsin. The area consists of some 4,500 acres which are administered by the University of Minnesota. It has a wide range of habitats which make it ideal for tracking several different species of animals.

Cedar Creek's automatic radio-tracking system consists of two towers each with a rotating yagi antenna one-half mile apart. The antennas rotate every 45 seconds. Under ideal conditions this system has a potential of obtaining 1,920 locations per animal every 24 hours on up to 52 different animals. Each animal with a miniature radio transmitter is assigned a different radio frequency. Therefore, when the tower antennas point in the direction of an animal with a transmitter, they detect the radio frequency energy emitted from the transmitter. Degree bear-

ings obtained from the two towers permit animals to be located by triangulation. Radio signals received by the antennas are recorded on 16-mm film which moves through a shutterless camera at the rate of 100 feet per 24 hours. After standard photographic development, these data are read from the film using a microfilm reader. The data are transferred to machine punch cards and analyzed by a digital computer which calculates movement and location parameters and draws a map of movements for each individual animal. Animals which go beyond the range of the automatic radio-tracking system are found by mobile or portable receiving units which can be taken into the field.

The following animals have been tracked by use of miniature radio transmitters for varying periods of time: red fox, cottontail rabbit, white-tailed deer, raccoon, badger, Cooper's hawk, broad-winged hawk, great horned owl, barred owl, and saw-whet owl.

Some of the radio-equipped animals, particularly in the case of birds, fox, and deer, could easily find their way into Wisconsin. Readers of the **Passenger Pigeon** are requested to report any finds of wild animals wearing strange looking collars or harness-type affairs which might bear a transmitter to: University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota; or the Illinois Natural History Survey at Urbana, Illinois, which is also doing extensive work with biotelemetry.

Birds and Biotelemetry

Biotelemetry is quickly becoming a useful tool in bird study (Bellrose, et al., 1962; Graber, 1965; Marshall, 1963; Southern, 1965). In the spring of 1965 the senior author began a study of the owls of Cedar Creek using the automatic-tracking system. At this writing, radio transmitters have been placed on and carried successfully by the great horned, barred, and saw-whet owl. Over 1,000 days of data have been acquired from 16 individual owls.

The basic design (Cochran, et al., 1963) used successfully on great horned and barred owls consisted of a harness which holds the transmitter under the feathers just above the breast bone. The two loops of the harness served as antennas. The harness with the transmitter weighed 75 grams. The saw-whet owls carried without difficulty a seven gram transmitter on its back with an eight-inch trailing whip antenna.

Monitoring owl movements have provided valuable information on their natural movements and behavior patterns. Determinations have been made of home range, habitat use, activity periods, daily and seasonal movement patterns, feeding habits as well as other factors. The results of the owl study will be published at a later date. In addition to studying owl behavior, one of the objectives of the owl study was to test and refine basic radio-tracking techniques on birds.

Some migratory birds have been implicated as possible important vectors of animal and plant pathogens. For example, a bird bitten by a diseased mosquito in South America may become a flying reservoir for a pathogenic parasite. This same bird could become an important source of the pathogen when it arrives at its North American nesting area a few days or weeks later. Another example might include a flock of birds feeding in a wheat field of Mexico and picking up fungus spores on their feathers as they move about the field. A few days or weeks later some of

the same birds might land in a South Dakota wheat field carrying a new race of the wheat rust fungus to which the plants are not resistant. Under favorable environmental conditions a build up of the wheat rust fungus could lead to an epidemic with a resulting loss to the wheat crop.

There are many pathogens which birds could conceivably carry from one part of the world to another through their migratory journeys. Thus, we need to know more about where birds go, what they do, how they find their way, and what happens to them as they move around. This is especially true if we are to understand their role in the transmission and dissemination of animal and plant pathogens. Biotelemetry will be an essential and useful tool for understanding these problems. In addition, the use of miniature radio transmitters may help solve the great mystery of bird orientation and migration. As the use of telemetry on birds becomes tested and refined to insure its great capabilities without influencing the natural activities of birds, the day will come when a space satellite will monitor the movements of many migratory birds at one time.

Minnesota Museum of Natural History
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

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Interesting Experiences with a Tape Recorder

By JOHN SAETVEIT

Binoculars and a field guide are standard equipment to a bird watcher. However, much more of bird watching can be enjoyed if this equipment is supplemented by a portable tape recorder. A tape recorder will attract birds for close observation. With a recorder it is possible to bring some birds close enough to take pictures with just an ordinary camera.

This was the case at the end of May last year when Mr. Ed Prins, Bob Fiehweg, and I, were in north central Michigan searching for the Kirtland's Warbler.

One evening just at dusk, while traveling on a gravel road back to camp, a bird with ruby-red eyes flew up from the road just ahead of the car. We stopped to investigate and heard a Whip-poor-will in the woods where the eyes had disappeared. The calling continued and was quickly recorded. Ed suggested that it be replayed. Within seconds the bird glided over our heads. It came close and landed on an old stump in a grassy area below the road level. It called repeatedly and an additional recording of much better volume was made. By this time two birds had landed. I put the recorder on a log to play the call back again and Ed set up to take a flash picture when the bird returned to the stump after a period of flight. Within three to four minutes one just missed my head and landed on the ground within arm's reach. To the others it appeared as though the bird hovered and landed on my head.

The bird disregarded us all completely and began calling, accompanying the recorder from a new perch at the end of the log on which I was sitting. It continued calling alone for several minutes enabling me to get a better recording. We could even hear the bird draw in its breath preceding each "whip-poor-will." This sound was loud enough to be recorded also. By this time it had become so dark that one of the birds could not be seen through the camera view finder even though it was only four feet away. So there were no pictures taken.

The Kirkland's Warbler's Song

The next day, the usefulness of the tape recorder was again illustrated when we found the Kirtland's Warbler. The bird's call was recorded from a distance and played back. This caused it to come nearby and sing. When this new louder song was played, the warbler flew straight over the recorder and past it to a regularly used perch. With continued playing it repeatedly flew straight back again over the three of us and landed on its original perch. Each time on its way past the recorder it landed on the perch but would move about in a few minutes. By standing next to the favored perch while I played the recorder, Ed was able to get two to three feet from the distraught warbler.

This same pattern was repeated with other Kirtland's Warblers with the same results, although some were a little less tame. The pattern of the bird flying over the recorder to a favored perch or one of dead branches about 6 to 8 feet high was rather constant. A recording of its own song or of another's caused the bird to be excited enough to appear very tame or fearless. It enabled us to get pictures of the male with the telephoto lens.

There is no magic about a tape recorder and anyone can get the same results. For the bird bander, a tape recorder could open up a new way for trapping birds that are otherwise difficult to catch. Birds could be caught by placing a mist net over the recorder in the pathway of the flying birds.

Racine, Wisconsin



THE 1966 CONVENTION

By NILS P. DAHLSTRAND

Three-hundred twenty-six members and guests registered at the 27th annual convention of the Society at Racine on May 20-22, 1966. The convention proceedings took place at Horlick High School.

It all started in a rousing manner with the Friday evening reception. As usual, old acquaintances were renewed and many new ones made. The slide program that was planned sputtered a bit, but it was not a great inconvenience. The German woodpecker motion picture was shown, however. The Book Store was again the center of interest for many members. This was especially true this year because of the combination of Chandler S. Robbins (banquet speaker) and advance copies of his newly published field guide, **Birds of North America**. His autograph was keenly sought during the convention.

Interesting Papers Presented

The paper session on Saturday morning, J. Allen Simpson, presiding, started about a half hour late. I guess the field trip participants were having too good a time and didn't return soon enough.

George Knudsen, naturalist, Wisconsin Conservation Department, gave the first paper and spoke on "A Look at Wisconsin Parks." He told of the interpretive programs that are being developed for park visitors.

Donald J. Hendrick, Tomahawk, told of "New Methods of Preparing Bird Skins." He explained how he uses a 10% formaldehyde solution and acetate tubes to preserve and hold specimens. This method can be just as effective in most cases as the more expensive freeze-drying process.

James C. Bartonek, University of Wisconsin, Madison, presented extremely interesting slides and 8-mm movies to illustrate his talk, "Underwater Movements of Diving Ducks." This paper was, in a way, a continuation and expansion of material he presented at the 1965 convention.

Following a short break, Martha Lound, Madison, narrated her excellent slides of "Mt. McKinley National Park." She delighted the audience with her commentary on the scenery, wild flowers, birds, and wildlife of the park.

The morning session concluded with Phil Saunders, Kenosha, explaining the unique features of Chiwaukee Prairie in Kenosha county. This 150-acre wet prairie near Lake Michigan is in danger of being destroyed by the advance of civilization. An appeal was made for funds to preserve it. At the time of the convention 68 acres had already been bought.

Following the luncheon, Ed Prins showed the shorebird slides that were omitted from the Friday evening activities. This was squeezed in before the regular afternoon session.

Dr. B. L. von Jarchow presided at this session and handled it with his usual dispatch.

"Wisconsin's Summer Bird Count," by Sam Robbins, Roberts, was a summary of past efforts by members of the Society and a suggestion to change portions of the count to a breeding bird survey. The survey would involve 66 road transects in the state.

Joseph J. Hickey, University of Wisconsin, Madison, spoke forcefully on "Decline of the Peregrine Falcon." He summarized the status



FIELD TRIPPERS AT WIND POINT.

PHOTOS BY NILS P. DAHLSTRAND

of the falcon in Europe and North America. Generally, the situation is poor in the eastern U. S.

Following Dr. Hickey, seven workshops for special interests were held. These were to be a repeat of the morning workshops in order to give members a chance to attend more than one workshop. However, the morning sessions were washed out because of lack of time. The workshops covered the following subjects: bird banding, binoculars, tape recordings, 35-mm slides, 8- and 16-mm movies, and telescope slides.

During the workshops Billy Logan and Elly Reed showed their color films on Wisconsin hawks and owls in the auditorium. These were narrated by Mary Donald.

Following the workshops, Dick Hunt, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Horicon, presented his paper, "Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl." This is a serious problem which federal and state agencies along with private industry are trying to solve.

The last paper of the convention was "Sandhill Cranes," by Robert Garber, Prescott. His motion pictures of thousands of these birds were taken near Kearney, Nebraska.

President Arol C. Epple presided at the Society's annual business meeting. Details of the meeting are enumerated on page 143. Highlights of the meeting included the unanimous election of J. J. Hickey, Madison, to honorary life member, and the election of the following officers for 1966-67: Frederick N. Hamerstrom, president; George Becker,



SILVER PASSENGER PIGEON AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO (L. TO R.) STANLEY POLACHECK, JUDGE J. ALLAN SIMPSON, HAROLD G. LIEBHERR, FRANCES HAMERSTROM, FREDERICK HAMERSTROM AND HAROLD A. BAUERS.

vice president; Mrs. David Cox, secretary; Mrs. Alfred O. Holz, treasurer; and Nils P. Dahlstrand, editor.

Following the banquet at which about 325 people partook of an excellent meal, Charles Nelson, toastmaster, led the group through an enjoyable evening.

Five Silver Passenger Pigeon Awards were presented. This award is presented to members for outstanding service to the Society. The citations read as follows:

JUDGE J. ALLAN SIMPSON, formerly county judge of Racine county for 26 years, served as Legal Counsel to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology for seven years, 1955-56 through 1961-62. His long experience in legal affairs and his steadfast and loyal attention to the business of the Society, not only during his years on the Board but in the ensuing years as well, have been a service of inestimable value. His interest in ornithology has become, since his retirement, an absorbing incentive to observe birds in many parts of the world. This has brought him an ever-widening acquaintance with ornithologists, bird habitats and the ways of birds around the world. These experiences he shares generously and with delight.

Judge Simpson was one of the organizers of the Hoy Bird Club of Racine and of the 1966 annual convention in this city.

Judge Simpson has participated in many WSO field trips and has been a stimulating supporter of the Society for many years. (Citation read by Clara Hussong).

STANLEY POLACHECK. The nominee for this Silver Passenger Pigeon Award has served your Society, in various capacities, for a number of years.

Officially, he served on the Board from 1954 to 1964 as chairman of the Endowments and Advertising Committee except for the year 1958 when he took time out to be president.

In the middle 1950's when our Society's financial structure was indeed shaky, it was this quiet gentleman who scoured the countryside to sell the necessary advertising to carry us over the financial rough spots.

He also gave unstintingly of his time to help to put over the Milwaukee convention of 1957, and his many connections and angles always seemed to help when help was urgently needed.

Therefore, at this time, we wish to present this award to Stanley Palacheck of Milwaukee. (Citation read by Carl Frister).



JOSEPH J. HICKEY

FRANCES and FREDERICK HAMERSTROM. For distinguished service to the Society through personal leadership, continuing research, field studies, and writing projects over the past 26 years. This husband-and-wife team has deservedly brought distinction to themselves, the State of Wisconsin, and The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

A lifetime of devoted hard work, which they generously shared with the Society has brought recognition in the fields of ornithology, mammology, ecology, conservation, and wildlife management. Over 25 scientific papers have been contributed by them, comprising the fruits of countless hours of field study, and many of these have appeared in *The Passenger Pigeon*. Both are charter members of WSO. Frances Hamerstrom has served as vice president and convention chairman in 1959 and as president in 1960. Both Fran and Fred have been directors and worked as chairmen of the Research Committee of WSO for the past six years. However, a list of their professional papers, their offices, and awards does not begin to encompass their accomplishments.

Their personal friendliness, hospitality, sense of humor, vitality, enthusiasm, diligence; their contempt for sophistry, their unstinting generosity, and their high standards of professional excellence have, over the years, impressed thousands of visitors at their Plainfield study area. Their influence on young biologists and students is immeasurable.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is proud to present this award, a small recognition of the excellence and devotion to the Society of two great intellects, great leaders, and great friends. (Citation read by Charles A. Kemper).

HAROLD G. LIEBHERR. Through your unselfish devotion to service, your generous giving of your time and your broad and diversified talents, and your willingness to stand up and fight for the purposes and principles of this organization, you have contributed in a large measure to the fine progress and statute of this Society.

For contributing many articles to **The Passenger Pigeon** from 1953-56, for serving as field trip chairman and chairman of education and publicity during the years of 1954 and 1955, for your work as a vice president and convention chairman in 1955, for your excellent leadership as president in 1956, for your acceptance of the duties of associate editor of **The Passenger Pigeon** in 1958, for your three years (1961-63) as editor of **The Badger Birder**, which you originated, and for your fine contribution as publicity chairman in 1962, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology herewith presents this award for distinguished service to the Society; and with it, the sincere appreciation of the entire membership, its officers, and directors. (Citation read by Alfred O. Holz).

To **HAROLD A. BAUERS** of Milwaukee, who has recently completed five years of devoted service on the editorial staff of **The Passenger Pigeon**, during which he has not only edited field notes for the winter season, but has also helped guide Wisconsin into prominence as one of the leading participants in the nationally famous Christmas Bird Count.

He has been a regular contributor to the Society's field note program for the past 15 years and an enthusiastic and loyal participant in various Society projects. His cautious, scientific attitude toward bird study has set an outstanding example for many an amateur ornithologist, and his lucid pen has brought to many a clearer understanding of bird life in Wisconsin. (Citation read by Sam Robbins).

Joseph J. Hickey Honored

Joseph J. Hickey, Madison, formally received the honorary life membership that was approved at the business meeting. This award is presented for outstanding contributions in the field of ornithology. His citation read:

JOSEPH J. HICKEY earned his B. A. in history from New York University in 1930, B. S. in biology from the same school in 1941, the M. S. in wildlife management from the University of Wisconsin in 1943, and the Ph. D. in zoology and wildlife management from the University of Michigan in 1949. He became full professor at the University of Wisconsin in June, 1958.

His research has dealt with the migratory behavior of Atlantic coast gulls; land use and soil conservation; population dynamics of birds; the migration of waterfowl; waterfowl hunting studies; and effects of insecticides on wildlife. In 1964 he traveled to Germany where he engaged in research on breeding densities in German forests.

He has published over 43 research papers and 28 reviews. His book, **A Guide to Bird Watching**, was first published in 1943 by the Oxford University Press and is currently available in paperback edition as a joint publication of Doubleday & Company and the American Museum of Natural History.

He was editor of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York from 1939-41; editor of the Journal of Wildlife Management from 1956-59; associate editor of the Proceedings of the XIIIth International Ornithological Congress in 1962; and is editing at the moment a publication for the Peregrine Falcon Conference.

He served on the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1945-48 and again in 1963 to the present; on the Conservation Committee of the Wilson Ornithological Society; on several committees of the Wildlife Society; as treasurer of the Nature Conservancy from 1950-56 and on its Council from 1963 to the present; on various committees of the Conference of Biology Editors; on the committee for the Ecological Society of America and as vice president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology from 1948-49 and its president from 1954-55.

He is a fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation of the American Ornithologist's Union and of the Linnaean Society of New York. (Citation read by George Becker).

Winners of the art and photography contests were announced. Martha Lound garnered first place in the photography contest, Fran Hamerstrom was first in the painting contest, and Mrs. Andrew Weber was first in the arts and crafts division.

The highlight of the evening was Chandler S. Robbins' narration of his film, "The Leeward Hawaiian Chain." He showed and described the variety of birdlife and some of the animals on these small islands.

The field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings were well planned, executed and attended. There were more than 35 different field trips



CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

(the first ones left at 5:00 a. m. each morning) on which a total of 165 species of birds were seen.

On Sunday morning more than 300 members and friends congregated at the Johnson Foundation's Wingspread to help dedicate a plaque and American chestnut trees in the memory of Dr. P. R. Hoy, an early Racine ornithologist. Dr. B. L. von Jarchow and Walter E. Scott spoke at the dedication.

The folks at Racine were most gracious hosts and are to be complimented for a fine convention.

814 Birch Street

Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501



Young people record their observations

Bluebird Trails

— a learning experience

By MRS. PAUL ROMIG

"Alas! I saw the wren. I wonder if that bird has a mate? I don't think there will be any eggs at all." The scientific observations of a 14-year-old may have greater significance than the highly technical report of the graduate biologist.

Six girls in their early teens, members of the Green Grove 4-H Club of Brown county, Wisconsin, trudged over the rolling hills checking a WSO project "Life Along The Bluebird Trail." Checks were made every other day during the nesting season. All observations were recorded in a 20-page masterpiece of youthful comments and records. The report is truly a gem. Just as a youngster has his curiosity aroused when looking at a bit of swamp water through a microscope these girls found many interesting, puzzling and enlightening adventures as they followed their Trail of 20 houses.

First, they constructed the houses according to the Bluebird Trails Guide and selected the locations themselves. They had reasons for relocation of some. "We set this house up near some old tree stumps because my father said Bluebirds used to usually nest in them. Sure enough I got the Bluebirds in this one." "At first we put my house in a wooded area, but nothing was in it. Then we moved it to an open area and then came the Bluebirds. It sure was fun watching them." Thus two of them reported their luck. Not so with the others. "When this bird house was first put up a large number of Tree Swallows were seen on the woodpile and the fence near the box. A few pieces (about 2 or 3) of dry grass were put in the house and it was then deserted. They didn't like either the size of the box (it was an experimental one considerably smaller) or else they did not like being near the barn animals and people."

Pity was aroused when nature revealed herself as being cruel at times, though she frequently had a good reason for it. "The birds in this house seemed to be doing fine. But about a week after, when I was checking for my own interest, I found 3 of the 5 birds hanging out of the side of the house dead. They were a horrible sight and a pitiful one." "The young birds died of starvation in this house and also lack of care. The mother bird was dead, she was on top of the young birds (they were just hatched). I know of no reason how and why she died. The male bird was flying around for 4 days and never was seen again."

Patience was tried because of the slowness of some of the nest building. "If you ask me I think this wren is slow, they had better get going if they want to finish." They become used to it in some instances, but

did they still wonder at the length of time, persistence and patience of a bird in finding just the right bit of dry grass or a special length of twig? And how far did those swallows have to go to find white feathers to line the cup of their nest?

They understood in a way that the habits of the birds were related to those of humans. "A bunch of touchy parents and trouble making kids is what this family turned out to be. The parents were forever bothering me when I would come to observe their children."

The beauty and peacefulness of early evening (or morning) along the Trail made quite an impression. "It was very peaceful and lovely all around." This was repeated at least ten times in different reports.

Their joy at finally seeing Bluebirds was indeed contagious. "At last I really saw a Bluebird."

The surprise (and doubt) when white eggs were discovered in a nest. "Pure white eggs! Will they turn out to be Bluebirds?" They did. There were three houses reported this year that contained white bluebird eggs. Two of them were miles apart.

The presence of snakes was questioned not on account of harm done to the eggs in the nest evidently, but because they didn't like snakes. The

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type of snakes in this area are harmless, but it takes just the right teacher to get that across to a youngster, especially some girls. A suggestion from our friends farther south and west—steel posts heavily greased and wrapped with barbed wire.

Beagle addicts or not, a bird's song took precedence during this adventure. "Wren was signing. Wren was singing again. I sure love the way he sings."

Usually Bluebirds are very friendly, but one of our girls discovered an aggressiveness, although it might have been labeled protectiveness. "And the children when they started to get older started to almost tumble out of the house. So, as they did tumble out at the next checking, I decided to see if they could fly. By the time I had all six birds in the air I also had 2 angry parents and 4 other relatives over my head trying to hit me. Screening my head with two hands and sitting in a crouched position I waited for the birds to cool off then made a break for it."

"What a Pretty Color. . ."

Each checking time seemed to turn up something new. Opportunities arose to profit from what we have learned concerning the battle against the screw worm. One young investigator evidently tried an innovation. "This Tree Swallow had 7 young, the reason we ended up with 4 young birds is because the green bottle fly laid eggs under the Tree Swallow's nest, the larvae hatched and started to kill the young birds, but thanks to the Bluebird Society people they made me realize what was killing the young birds and I saved the rest from the danger after cleaning out the nest and replacing it with a straw nest, the next day they looked healthy and full of pep."

Appreciation of color came uppermost at their first sight of a Bluebird. "My what a pretty color of blue." No mention was made of the Tree Swallow's color and yet they too are beautiful.

General remarks demonstrate keen observation:

Nest construction: "It amazed me how the wren can arrange twigs. I'm afraid I'm going to have to remove some twigs to see what is in the nest. The top of the nest was arranged more neatly." "This bird was a slow starter. The nest was sort of odd. It was actually made of straw sticks and it was the skinniest nest I had ever seen. It was a Tree Swallow's nest."

Rapidity of growth: "Six days, little black feathers; eight days, lots of feathers."

Change of color in eggs as they neared hatching: "Glossy, almost greenish blue and prettier every day, Bluebird eggs." "Tree Swallows are pinker and smaller than Bluebirds just as they are hatched." "Five young birds in a nest sure make it crowded."

True friendliness: "Mother on the nest. I stroked her gently."

Puzzle: "Why nest half torn apart (though family O. K.). Most families leave the nest whole."

Reason for leaving a sparrow's nest after destroying it 3 times: "I felt his stubbornness deserved him something and because I needed his nest for a demonstration I was giving."

One very definite opinion: "The house actually was an experimental one because it was built smaller in width. This was supposed to discourage the sparrows and wrens from renting the house, but I think that even the Bluebirds were disgusted with the crowded living conditions."

Pity, wonder, amazement, joy, surprise, doubt, patience, ability are just a few of the qualities that turned up in these observations along this Bluebird Trail.

The experience developed will undoubtedly help to influence their future just as a pebble dropped into a quiet pond starts ripples reaching to infinity.

201 West Whitney Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301



A CONCENTRATION OF OWLS

By BILL WEBER

A natural wooded area along the abandoned Chicago North Shore Railroad right-of-way three miles north of Racine always seemed to be a likely place for birds. For some reason, however, really exciting birds were never observed. Some very large deciduous trees provide excellent cover. A small pond of shallow water is found in the center. The total area amounts to about 20 acres and is relatively undisturbed.

John Saeveit and I visited the area at 10:00 p. m. on November 4, 1965, hoping to hear some owls. We took a seat beneath the spruce trees and waited. Within seconds a Screech Owl called and was answered by another from a different direction. When the Screech Owls' calling diminished, a new sound was apparent—a Saw-whet Owl was giving its rasping note nearby. After repeating this singular note several times, it gave a rapid series of whistling notes. This prompted the calling of at least two other Saw-whet Owls. I had never heard the Saw-whet call before and was not aware that they call at any time other than their breeding season.

We listened for about an hour before leaving. During this time a brief call of the Short-eared Owl was heard also. The next day we returned and found nine Long-eared Owls and a Short-eared Owl in the area. This was probably a concentration of migrants. The Long-eared and Short-eared Owls winter here regularly in fair numbers, but are seldom found in wintering habit until snow covers the ground late in November or December. To see such a variety of owls at one time is unusual here and to hear them call in the fall is even more unexpected.

Racine, Wisconsin

THE 1966 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p. m. by President Arol Epple with about 80 members present.

Minutes of the 1965 meeting, having been previously printed in the **Passenger Pigeon**, received no additions or corrections.

Complimenting the Convention Committee, President Epple commented on the excellent place and services provided. He then introduced Frank King, Circulation Manager, Mrs. Earl Schmidt, who reigns over the addressograph, and gave honorable mention to the absent Assistant Editors, Mrs. Arthur Gauerke, File-keeper, giving well-earned credit to those who work behind the scenes.

Members of the Board of Directors then gave their reports as follows:

Secretary: Hazel Cox. Attended all meetings of the Board, took down proceedings and sent copies of those minutes to each member of the Board preceding the next meeting; some other correspondence is involved but that is all.

Treasurer: Phyllis Holz. Total assets \$32,621.14; total liabilities, \$3,729.45. Although Mrs. Holz gave no hint of the hours of time and the painstaking work that made her detailed report possible, the Society at large should be aware of the value of her unstinted labors.

Membership Chairman: Bertha Mattern. There are now 926 memberships, 1112 members; in 1964 there were 708 members, in 1965, 828. Her work also entails receiving of dues, sending receipts and keeping her own and the addressograph files up to date. These duties she failed to mention specifically in her report.

Conservation Chairman: George Becker. The influence of the Society has been instrumental in the establishment of the egret rookery at 4-mile island, Horicon, as a Scientific Area from March 15 to September 1. Protective signs are also being erected by the Conservation Department at the Lake DuBay cormorant rookery.

The Bluebird Trails Project is flourishing under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Romig of Green Bay. A new and more comprehensive Guide has been printed and is now available. Two Steenbock Fund Scholarships have been awarded: David Snarski of Superior for a study of the birds of Douglas county and Charles Sindelar of Stevens Point for a nesting study of osprey and bald eagles. A \$100.00 donation to the Texas Prairie Chicken Foundation was acknowledged with a handsome certificate now on display here.

Publications Chairman: Alfred O. Holz has attended all the Board meetings and kept officers supplied with stationery and materials. Leaflets on important subjects to be used for appropriate free distribution are being processed. He modestly played down the amount of work that he has done on illustrations, plaques etc.

Publicity Chairman: Charles Kemper briefly told of his efforts in publicizing the work of the Society; he suggested keeping a file on individual members, many of whom have done and are doing outstanding work along conservation lines.

Education Chairman. Clara Hussong has been answering questions from inquirers, sending booklets and other information and providing bird slides for programs. Slides this year were sent to 11 different groups including bird clubs, scout, church and school groups, garden clubs and senior citizens. More slides are needed.

Field Trip Chairman: Edward Peartree whose sponsored trips have been reported in the **Badger Birder** announced a summer campout at Irvine Park, Chippewa Falls, June 18-19 and a fall campout at Terry Andrae Park near Sheboygan, September 10-11.

Research Chairman: Dr. F. N. Hamerstrom reports that during the past year their committee published the results of one of its studies in the Spring 1965 issue of the **Passenger Pigeon**, "A White-tailed Kite in Wisconsin," by Frances Hamerstrom. The Committee also assisted in another study, published in the Summer 1965 issue, "The Dickcissel Invasion of 1964 in Southern Wisconsin," by J. T. Emlen and John A. Wiens.

The most important part of the Owl Survey has been prepared by Charles Sindelar, Jr. for inclusion in the next issue. Surveys currently under way are: nesting status of ospreys and bald eagles (Sindelar), nesting status of night herons and cormorants (Anderson), and abundance of sandhill cranes (Hunt). Members of WSO are urged to help these surveys by sending the information which has been asked for in the **Badger Birder** and which will be described in more detail in the **Passenger Pigeon**.

Supply Department Manager: Harold Kruse reported income of \$5,784, expense of \$4,759. \$1,000.00 has been turned over to the treasurer during the year. A catalog is being worked up. 426 mail orders were filled and volunteers will be needed to pack up.

Honey Creek Area Manager: Harold Kruse said only that all was in order there and extended a hearty invitation to "Come out any time."

Editor: Nils Dahlstrand stated that four issues of the **Passenger Pigeon** were published during the year at a cost of \$2,371.51 to the Society. Expressing the hope that they might be able to publish each issue at the beginning of its season, he thanked members of the staff and contributors for their help saying "If it were not for their combined efforts, the **Passenger Pigeon** could not be published."

Editor of the Badger Birder: Mary Donald said only that 11 issues of the **Birder** had been sent out and thanked contributors and all others who had helped in any way.

Walter Scott thanked the officers for their work and asked for a "big hand" to show the appreciation of the members. This was enthusiastically given.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A \$100.00 donation to Nature Conservancy toward the Chiwaukee Prairie purchase was moved by Dr. George Becker, seconded and carried.

A Resolution to be sent to the Legislature requesting that the Great Horned Owl be placed on the protected list was approved after discussion and being amended to read: Sent to the Conservation Congress and to the Wisconsin Conservation Department. This action was praised by Owen Gromme.

The following Resolutions, presented by Conservation Chairman Dr. George Becker, were approved: The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. (1) strongly objects to the Wisconsin Conservation Department's Law Enforcement Long Range Goals (part of the 1980 goals, Law Enforcement Section, p. 122) which reads "Liberalize restrictions on taking of hawks and owls in certain cases (as when jeopardizing game during winter months)," and requests that the Wisconsin Conservation Department delete this item from its long-range goals.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. (2) requests that the Wisconsin Conservation Department re-evaluate on p. 122, the word "predators" in the title "Predators and Unprotected Animals." Its use in the title implies that all predators are on the unprotected list and are to be treated as unprotected animals. Such interpretation of the term "predators" does not conform with the Wisconsin Conservation Department regulations. (To be directed to Dir. L. P. Voight, W. E. Scott, E. Schneberger, W. Zelinske.) Walter Scott commented that he feels that the Department will be willing to comply with these requests.

Reverend S. J. Robbins extended an invitation to new members to participate in report making. He spoke of the new transect count project and said that maps for such counts were available.

President Epple asked for a motion of appreciation for Racine's gracious hospitality. This was enthusiastically made and approved.

Frank King stated that the bounty money to be used by the counties for conservation and educational purposes must be used by the last of June.

Mr. Holz announced that five Silver Pigeon Awards had been approved by the Board of Directors and would be given out at the banquet. He said that although we were allowed legally to have ten living Life Members, there are now only six and he moved that the name of Joseph J. Hickey be added to the list. This was unanimously approved.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers: President, Dr. Frederick N. Hamerstrom, Jr., Plainfield; Vice-president, Dr. George Becker, Stevens Point; Treasurer, Mrs. Alfred O. Holz, Green Bay; Secretary, Mrs. David J. Cox, Beloit; Editor, Mr. Nils Dahlstrand, Rhinelander. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion that the nominations be closed and the Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the above slate of officers was seconded and carried.

The meeting was then adjourned at 5:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. David J. Cox, Secretary

By the Wayside...

Mute Swan on Lake Winnebago. I have kept this bird separate from the rest as I still do not know if this is a wild bird or simply a tame one that has escaped. Despite my not knowing of anyone in the area that has had a tame bird within the past several years it shall remain a question mark until I observe it in flight. All field marks are present—orange bill, knob at end of bill, curved neck and large size so there is no doubt about the identification. It appeared on Lake Winnebago in Menasha on January 22 and has been present ever since (through mid-March). I hope this problem can be clarified this spring. If not, it would be best just to forget the bird!—Daryl Tessen, Appleton.

Golden Eagles at Horicon. On December 18, 1965, three were noted flying southeast over Horicon State Headquarters about 10:00 a. m. These birds were observed for about 15 minutes at $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile in good light with 9x35 binoculars. I feel quite sure they were all Golden Eagles. They stayed circling and chasing one another over the point at our office, acting almost like a courting party. About 4:00 p. m. a lone eagle was observed flying north over Horicon headed toward the Marsh. I do not know if it was one of the earlier group of three. The group of three had flown out of sight to the east after their play near the office. There had been two eagles on the refuge for several weeks this fall feeding on dead geese.—Dick Hunt, Horicon.

Spotted Sandpiper on the Cooksville Christmas Count. One small sandpiper was seen at the edge of an artificial fish pond kept open by springs. It was observed in good light at 60 yards with binoculars and a 20X scope. Although the plumage was not quite typical, we decided finally that it was a "Spotty" by observation of appearance and tipping action. Identification was assured by finally flushing the bird and observing its flight pattern and characteristics, and hearing its call.—Thomas Ashman, L. D. Eager, Jr., and John Wilde.

Purple Sandpiper at Wind Point, Racine County. This bird was observed in good light at up to 10 feet through 8.5x44 binoculars and without the aid of binoculars. It was not active, rather it appeared to be tired and resting. I observed the decurved bill with an orange base, yellow legs, slaty-purple back and neck, and the irregular striping on the sides of the belly. It was standing on a point of mostly limestone with small pools of water on it. I watched it for about ten minutes. It was later seen by many other observers.—Bill Weber, Racine.

Iceland Gull in Racine Harbor. February 10, 1966, I was looking over a pile of snow into Racine Harbor. Suddenly into my glasses flew an all white gull. The wingtips were all white and the mantle was white, not grayish. The color was a warm white over the whole bird. Seen first about 100 feet away, he then flew by about 50 feet away, slowly and gracefully, turning back and forth so his back was clearly visible. He was flying into the wind, so that his progress was somewhat slow. I watched him at least five minutes. He was smaller than an accompanying Her-

ring Gull, more slender and seemingly more graceful. I saw him again on March 9. Observations were made through a 40x80 scope.—Louise Erickson, Racine.

Gray-checked Thrush at Keshena on December 30. Seen by me and two others at close range for half an hour. Feeding at a bird station on soaked raisins and currants and that mush advocated by the books.—Father Reinhold Link, Keshena.

Ovenbirds as a Christmas Present. Roy and I could hardly believe our eyes when on Christmas Day, 1965, we looked out at our feeders and saw a little bird whose size and actions and streaked breast made it obvious that we were looking at an Ovenbird or waterthrush. Looking at it with binoculars, we noted the orange crown and white eye-ring of the Ovenbird. It was eating finely cracked corn. We saw it four or five more times during the day. On December 26 it was back about 7:30 a. m. We saw it six or eight times, sometimes for 10 minutes at a time. Our feeders are at the farthest point about 25 feet away from our back windows. Wild as this one sounds, there is absolutely no possibility of a mistake.—Martha and Roy Lound, Madison.

Yellowthroat on Kenosha Christmas Count. A snow cover of about 10 inches covered this area, but the ground was soft. The bird was flying in and out of hummocky grass and snow areas in the swamp. My attention was first attracted by its sharp note. The yellow throat was well contrasted against the white snow. As it turned I could see the olive back. At 25 feet I could clearly see the black face mask. For about 10 minutes I watched the bird and its characteristic tail bobbing and nervous movements in excellent light with 8.5x44 binoculars. The bird was observed later the same day by three more observers.—Bill Weber, Racine.

Yellowthroat on Madison Christmas Count. Norv Barger and Dave Willard were walking on a railroad track through a marsh when Norv heard the call of a Yellowthroat. They persisted until both of them saw the bird. The black face mask and yellow throat were noted.—Winter Seasonal Editor.

Identifying Long-eared and Short-eared Owls. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls are the same size, and are not easy to distinguish in flight. Unfortunately, Peterson's Field Guide gives the impression that the Short-eared Owl can be identified in flight by the black "thumb-print" on the underside of the wing, but the Long-eared Owl also has this mark. The Long-eared Owl has an affinity for roosting in dense plantations of red pine (Norway pine) that are 10 to 25 years old, and when in a plantation of mixed pines generally selects a red pine in which to roost. I have also found them in white cedar, Austrian pine, jack pine, and once in an alder thicket, but about 90% of my sightings have been in red pine. The Short-eared Owl, on the other hand, prefers the open country and frequently hunts at dusk or even during the day. The most common roosting sites include fence posts, large stones, the ground, trees in the open, and telephone poles. Both species exhibit communal tendencies in the winter; when one individual is found, several more are likely to be present. When a group of either species finds a suitable

area for winter hunting, it will often remain for several weeks.—Winter Seasonal Editor.



A Yellow Rail in Douglas County

By RICHARD F. BERNARD

The Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) is considered a rare summer resident and transient in Wisconsin (Barger, et. al., **Wisconsin Birds**, 1960). Few specimens have actually been taken in the state and relatively little information exists with regards to its nesting distribution in Wisconsin (Schorger, **The Birds of Wisconsin**, 1951: 30-31).

On November 23, 1965, an immature Yellow Rail was turned in to me by Robert Romans for preservation as a specimen in the Wisconsin State University-Superior collection (SSU-520). The bird was extremely emaciated and appeared to be in partial molt. Since the bird represents the first specimen of this species from Douglas county and also serves as evidence of nesting in the county, all of the available information relative to its capture seemed important. Hence, I inquired into its background and was told the following amusing tale.

On the evening of August 6, 1965, Tony Ernst and other members of his family were sitting at home some three miles south of Superior when they heard a strange clicking sound coming from a small marsh located near their home. Thinking that the noise may have been produced by a lurking carnivore, the Ernst family called the sheriff's department and reported the incident. Soon after, the investigating officers in company with several members of the family set out, with a great deal of caution, towards the source of the noise. With lights flashing and guns drawn, the party soon reached the spot from which the noise was emanating and found a baby bird sitting in the grass. The embarrassed officers immediately departed (without comment) and the bird was picked up, carried to the house, and placed in a bird cage. There it was kept for some 3½ months on a diet of bread and milk and an occasional insect. Unfortunately, the bird died on November 21 and was given to Mr. Romans on November 23.

Department of Biology
Wisconsin State University
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Hawk Owl at Arpin, Wisconsin

By DON FOLLEN, SR.

December 18, 1965 started out to be a routine day, but suddenly it turned into one of great interest. I was on my way to Wisconsin Rapids at about 2:15 p. m. The area I was traveling through was the largest marshy lowland in the township of Arpin in Wood county. Arpin is about half way between Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids in the center of the state. I had gotten almost past this area when I noticed a raptorial bird in the top of a lone tree, on the border of the marsh. It was approximately 300 yards from the road, and since I was in a hurry, I almost didn't stop. I scoped the tree in which the bird was sitting. At this time the sun was in a very advantageous position, giving me almost perfect lighting conditions. The head and most of the body showed up in remarkable detail. I had never before seen a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*), but there was no question as to its identity. I recognized it from the many pictures I had seen of this species. I had watched the bird for about 5 minutes when it flew to the top of another tree which was only about 150 yards from the road. I noticed that the flight was not unlike that of a falcon, but very much unlike that of an owl. Now I could feel my excitement growing, and my desire to trap it was overwhelming. I drove to the nearest farmhouse, and called Dr. Frances Hamerstrom, and asked her if she would drive over to verify my identification in case I couldn't trap it. I then drove home and got two bal-chatri traps, mice, and my oldest son.

When I returned to where I had last seen the bird, I became a little nervous, as I could not see the bird. I had baited the traps, one with a house mouse, (*Mus musculus*) and the other with a deer mouse, (*Peromyscus* sp.). I was just about to accept defeat and face Fran without the evidence when my son yelled "There he is, Dad!" I had been searching all of the distant trees and highline poles, while the bird was only about 20 feet from the car sitting on a fence post. I must say I was relieved.

I slowly drove ahead and placed the traps on the road as I drove past the bird. I had only driven about 50 yards when I saw the bird fly to one of the traps. I swung the car around, and watched the bird through a 10x spotting scope. As soon as I could see that the bird was caught, I drove up to it, got out and grabbed the bird. This species has the most musical voice of any of the owls I have yet encountered. When I picked the bird up, I realized how close I had been to losing it. It had been very poorly caught. I then hastily put the bird into a nylon stocking which I find is very good for this purpose (to hold large strong birds unharmed,) and waited for Hamerstrom's Volkswagen to come into sight.

It was now 2:25, too late to make it to work on time, so I figured that I would just have to be late and take the consequences. The Hamerstrom's car came into view about 2:45. Soon we began the banding and

processing of the bird. It appears that there have been very few if any of this species banded in Wisconsin before. With Fran was Charles Sindelar, Jr., who was pleased that I had been fortunate enough to catch the bird. We found the bird to have many lice. Age and sex could not be determined. The bird was released where caught at 4:35.

I have observed a Hawk Owl, quite likely the same bird, in the same area on December 19, 1965 and again on January 14, 1966.

Arpin, Wisconsin 54410



book reviews

A THOUSAND AGES. By Nancy D. Sachse. The University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Madison, 1965. 150 pp., illustrated. \$2.95.

One of the best books to come out of Wisconsin this winter is **A Thousand Ages** written by Mrs. Nancy Davis Sachse of Madison. Mrs. Sachse, wife of Professor William Sachse of the University of Wisconsin history department, spent four years writing and researching this 150-page book.

A Thousand Ages is centered around the history of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. It is well documented and indexed. It is well written as evidenced by the several awards that the book has received since its release last November.

The Friends of the Arboretum provided the financial assistance for the publication of the book.

The first two chapters are especially interesting to Wisconsin people since it delves into the early geological history of the Madison area, the Indian life, and a history of the early whites in that area.

After tracing the history of the Arboretum project from its inception to the present time, the publication lists the plant and animal life found within the confines of the Arboretum. The appendix contains an interesting early history of Lake Wingra and its borders in the seventies written by L. B. Rowley, a Madison realtor.

Twenty-five pages of excellent photographs are contained within the book. A black-and-white cover, showing a scene in the Arboretum as photographed by Richard Srod of the Wisconsin State Journal, adds to the attractiveness of the publication.

A reading of this book sent us hurrying to the Arboretum for a most delightful nature walk.—Cedric A. Vig.

THE BIRDS OF COLORADO. By Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Niedrach. 1965. 2 vols. 1175 pp. 4to. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Col. \$35.

A most impressive work. These two large and heavy volumes present over 400 photographs in black-and-white besides 124 plates in full color, all of the paintings made especially for **Birds of Colorado**.

The authors, Alfred Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History and Robert Niedrach, Curator of Birds, have "shared field experiences in Colorado and far places of the world for more than forty years." Mr. Niedrach is especially adept at discovering the nests of the rare species breeding in the state. Dr. Bailey undertook the great task of writing the books.

Dr. Bailey's text is thorough, up-to-date and full of interest. In the Introduction he discusses geographic distribution of birds, migration and orientation; under hazards of migration he tells of the calamities at television towers; under pesticides he gives a clear statement of world-wide disasters resulting from the use of these poisons; under incubation, nesting success, and longevity he cites reliable information—not time-worn errors.

Under the section on "Colorado" we read of the geological record; of the history of ornithological work; of topography, of rivers and climate; of life zones and typical associations in the state and even of "Some common Colorado plants." "Days afield" is a vivid chapter. "As a result of varied topography and mild climate, Colorado is an ideal state for the enthusiastic naturalist, amateur or professional, to spend days, weeks or a lifetime." With its prairies and its noble mountains there are life and beauty at all times of the year. On a day during Christmas week and again in the third week of May, bird watchers from all over the state take counts of all the birds they can find; in 1963 the winter censuses totaled 119 species, the spring counts 221.

"The Annotated List" covers more than 800 pages. Of the 439 species credited to the state, 109 are permanent residents and 138 summer residents, making 247 species known to nest in Colorado. Here we find: a brief description, stressing recognition marks; range throughout the country; detailed account of status in Colorado and mention of same in neighboring states. For casual visitors a short discussion follows but the breeding species are treated in detail with personal experiences of the authors and of other observers.

A striking feature of the work is the wealth of photographs of scenery and birds; these were taken by 37 people. Some of the pictures are magnificent. The colored plates supplied by 23 artists show considerable variation in treatment. Those that appealed most to me as especially notable were Albert Hochbaum's 19 species of downy ducklings, Earle Poole's Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, Walter Breckenridge's series of sandpipers, and Roger Peterson's Avocets and Stilts. A most useful device on the back end sheet of volume II is a large clear map of the state with the counties and chief topographical features plainly shown.

In the final paragraph of the annotated list the authors point out fruitful regions in the state for further research, and warn that "because of the world-wide human population explosion . . . only through wise conservation practices will future generations be able to maintain some vestige of our wonderful wildlife heritage." The authors can be very proud of their faithful and imaginative work that has resulted in this admirable **Birds of Colorado**.—Margaret M. Nice.

WISCONSIN SIDEROADS TO SOMEWHERE. By Clay Schoenfeld. Dembar Educational Services, Box 1148, Madison, Wis., 1966. 246 pp. (paper) \$2.95.

A blurb on the inside front cover of this well-made, nicely printed paper back calls it "The First Wisconsin Outdoors Reader." Testimonials on the inside back cover indicate that the contents should be particularly informative and interesting reading. I started exploring the book with high expectations and it is with more than a little feeling of guilt or inadequacy that I must report considerable disappointment.

Some of the disappointment may come from my failure to appreciate the author's cute epithets, such as "John Q. Pheasant," "Sam Smallmouth," "Molly Cottontail," "Prince Bob" (bobwhite), or "Hun" for Hungarian partridge. Some comes from my failure to identify the reader for whom the author was writing. I suspect that most of the disappointment comes from the uneven quality of the writing. This comment arises because the book reads as if it were assembled from a collection of short writings, some designed as newspaper columns, some as feature stories in the popular hunting and fishing magazines. The Acknowledgements at the beginning of the book indicate that much of this supposition may be so.

The kind of writing that makes a good column does not necessarily make a good sub-chapter in a book. Any given section may or may not have any relationship to the section before or after and may be written in an entirely different style. The two, one-page sections on bird watchers and bird watching (separated by 13 pages of miscellany) do not truly convey the feeling which most bird watchers have toward their avocation, nor do they furnish enough information to encourage the novice to start the hobby.

Much of the book is about fishing and hunting, with broad comments on conservation efforts and how they affect the game-seeker. Perhaps the avid hunter or fisherman who enjoys reading will feel differently about this book than I did.—F. T. Ratliff.

THE IVORY BILLED WOODPECKER. By James T. Tanner. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1966. xii + 111 pp. with 20 plates. \$2.00.

THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL. By Robert Porter Allen. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1966. xviii + 142 pp. with 44 figures (plates and line drawings). \$2.00.

THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR. By Carl B. Koford. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1966. xii + 154 pp. with 31 plates. \$2.00.

The Dover birding library makes another major expansion with the publication of these out-of-print monographs, which were originally published by the National Audubon Society in 1942, 1942 and 1953, respectively. The Ivory Billed Woodpecker is probably extinct; the Roseate Spoonbill is recovering with valiant assistance; and the California Condor is in extreme danger of extinction. These reports, describing the life history and habitat requirements of the three species, make more understandable why this situation is so.—F. T. Ratliff.

BIRDS IN OUR LIVES. Edited by Alfred Stefferud and Arnold L. Nelson. Art work by Bob Hines. U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., 1966. 576 pp., 80 wash drawings, 372 photographs. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. \$9.00.

This big book is a factual story about birds and people. It tells of the positive values of birds—of the enjoyment and inspiration that birds give to millions of people. It tells also of problems, warnings, and hopes, too. The perspective is broad and the view is many-sided.

The authors—61 in all—have a wide range of backgrounds. Many are internationally known. Two Wisconsinites contributed chapters—Joseph J. Hickey, professor of wildlife management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Ernest Swift, conservation advisor to the National Wildlife Federation, Rice Lake.

Birds in Our Lives was written to give readers, in all walks of life, an opportunity to achieve a greater appreciation and a deeper insight into the impact of birds on our civilization. It brings into focus the economic, esthetic, scientific, and recreational values of the 850-odd species that comprise the bird resources of North America and Hawaii.

The book's 54 chapters are organized in nine sections: In Perspective (a panoramic view of birds), Literature and Art (influence of birds on literature, painting, folklore, stamps, coins, etc.), Sports and Recreation (outdoor recreation aspects of birds), In Nature's Scheme (misunderstood place in nature of hawks, owls, fish-eaters, carrion-feeders), Science and Husbandry (bird study, birds and our health, the poultry industry), The Hand of Man (pesticides, hunting, pollution, TV towers), For Better or Worse (bird problems at airports, bird damage to power and communication systems, etc.), Answers to Conflicts (problems of over-abundant species), and For Their Survival (laws and treaties, endangered species, refugees).

This book is a bargain at nine dollars. It should be on every member's book shelf.—Nils P. Dahlstrand.

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. A Guide to Field Identification. By Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun, and Herbert S. Zim. Illustrated by Arthur Singer. Golden Press, Inc., New York, 1966. 340 pp. (paper) \$2.95; (cloth) \$4.95.

A reading of the qualifications of the authors and illustrator, and a cursory glance through the book and its many features, leads quickly to the conclusion that the previously accepted standard field guides have a new, and very worthy, competitor. These features, briefly enumerated, are:

1. All birds of the U. S. and Canada are described, in the normally accepted A.O.U. sequence.
2. Every bird is illustrated in color.
3. The description of each bird is located on the page facing the colored drawing.

4. Clever maps show the winter range, breeding range and approximate location during the migratory season of almost every species described. These can be read at a glance after very little practice.
5. Sonagrams, which are graphical representations of bird song, are included for most species.

The entire design of the book, and the quality of printing, particularly the colored reproductions, are highly commendable. This book can be recommended to every birder without reservation. After examining both editions, and considering the kind of wear a field guide is subjected to, this reader believes that the hard cover version would be preferred if much field use is expected. Incidentally, Chandler Robbins is a brother to our own Rev. Sam Robbins, Associate Editor of **The Passenger Pigeon**.
—F. T. Ratliff.



FIELD NOTES

By WILLIAM L. HILSENHOFF

Winter Season

December 1-February 28, 1966

The 1965-66 winter season was highlighted by numerous rarities and by two very significant migrations. The first migration occurred around the first of the year when amateur ornithologists, afield throughout the state in record numbers for the Christmas Counts, suddenly moved indoors to await a warmer sun and the northward movement of spring migrants. But they waited too long. Those who continued their ornithological pursuits were witnesses to the second significant migration, an unusually early northward movement of Cedar Waxwings that commenced February 11 and apparently covered the entire state.

If one uses the number of species observed as the criterion, the 1965-66 winter season was easily the best ever recorded in Wisconsin. The Christmas Counts, with 708 observers finding 129 species on 85 counts broke every Christmas Count record by a wide margin. These 129 species and 6 others seen during the count period gave the winter season a tremendous boost toward a record total of 147 species. The unusual weather was probably largely responsible for the wide variety of birds that were discovered, but credit must also be given to numerous

observers for their diligent efforts, especially during the Christmas Count period.

Exceptionally mild Novembers often entice many birds to linger in the north, but November 1965 was near normal in both temperature and precipitation. It was December that was unusually mild, with mean temperatures for the month being 7-10° above normal in most areas of the state. It was one of the mildest Decembers on record, comparing to the mild Decembers in 1931, 1939, 1941, and 1959. Temperatures rose into the fifties over much of the state on the 11th-12th, 23rd-24th, and again on the 30th-31st. There was no unusually cold weather during the month, and many of the larger lakes in the southern part of the state remained open throughout December. Precipitation was well above normal in most areas, but fell mostly as rain, with the first general snow cover in the south arriving on the 19th-20th. This snow and the heavy snow in the south on Christmas Eve did not last long due to the very mild temperatures, and by the end of the month only the extreme northern counties had appreciable snow on the ground.

Many Species Linger

Because of the open water, Waterfowl remained through December in abnormally high numbers, especially in the southern part of the state. Waterfowl, herons, gulls, rails, and shorebirds, enticed to linger in Wisconsin by the mild weather and open water, produced many unusual late December records. These included Common Loons, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, an American Bittern, a Black-crowned Night Heron, Whistling Swans, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Harlequin Ducks, Surf Scoters, a Virginia Rail, several Killdeer, American Woodcocks, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Purple Sandpiper, and large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls. The mild weather and lack of snow cover also caused many terrestrial birds to linger. Some of the most significant observations were a Pigeon Hawk, Barn Owls, a Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, a Catbird, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warblers, an Ovenbird, two Yellowthroats, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbirds, a Dickcissel, a Savannah Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrows.

The mild weather of December continued through the fifth of January. Then temperatures turned gradually colder and were climaxed by a severe cold snap from the 27th through the 30th, when temperatures dropped to 20 to 40° below zero throughout the state, with daytime highs remaining below zero. In contrast to December, January was exceptionally cold, with temperatures across the state averaging 6-12° below normal. It was one of the coldest months of the century. Precipitation was normal, falling as rain or snow on the 2nd and as snow on the 12th. The entire state remained covered with a 5-12 inch blanket of snow during the last half of the month.

The severe cold, especially toward the end of January, apparently caused many of the lingering birds to leave or succumb. Of the rarities listed above, only the Green-winged Teal was known to have successfully wintered. The others were mostly gone after the first week in January, with only a few remaining until later in the month. This pattern was

true also of many other half-hardy species that normally winter south of Wisconsin. Marsh Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Belted Kingfishers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, White-throated Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and Swamp Sparrows seemed to disappear or decline drastically in numbers during January.

February was a month of contrasts, with some very cold days and some very mild days, the month as a whole being slightly above normal in temperature. Temperature extremes ranged from 40° below zero in the northwest on the 19th and 20th to the low fifties in the south on the 9th and 10th. Most significant was the unusually heavy rainfall on the 8th and 9th accompanied by very warm temperatures which melted the snow cover across the entire state and caused many streams to break open. The lost snow cover was replaced only in the extreme north, and along Lake Michigan, other parts of the state receiving only very light snow on the 17th and 18th of the month.

The mild spell in early February seemed to induce the migration of at least three species. As mentioned earlier, a very significant northward migration of Cedar Waxwings was under way February 11. The normal mid-February migration of Horned Larks was noted as early as February 10, and Common Megansers were moving north by mid-February. By the end of the month a northward movement of Canada Geese and Common Goldeneyes was also indicated.

Visitors from the North

To further highlight a very interesting winter, several species moved into the state from the north. Most conspicuous were the Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks, both of which last invaded the state in numbers four years ago. Common Redpolls were abundant everywhere, and Pine Grosbeaks, while more numerous in the north and central parts of the state, penetrated all the way to the southern border. Other species of finches occurred in normal or slightly below normal numbers. Goshawks were also very much in evidence, but numerous sightings throughout the state, but Snowy Owls and Long-eared Owls were much less common than the previous winter. Arctic rarities included the sighting (and banding) of a Hawk Owl for the second consecutive winter, several Hoary Redpolls, Glaucous Gulls, and an Iceland Gull. Last, but not least, were reports of two Varied Thrushes, a species that normally stays well to the west of Wisconsin.

It is unfortunate that for many winter birding is confined to the Christmas Count season. The tremendous effort at Christmas time gives an excellent picture of bird populations throughout the state at that time, but does not truly reflect populations of wintering birds. The picture in January and February is always clouded by a shortage of observations. Did Marsh Hawks leave the state in January and migrate back again in February? Did all the Swamp Sparrows and Fox Sparrows depart for warmer regions after the Christmas Count period. Did the Killdeer in Rock county on February 2 winter, or was it an early migrant? Are Sparrow Hawks moving north in February? These, and many similar questions, can be answered only by increasing the number of late winter

observations. Birding in late January and February is more enjoyable in many respects than in December. The days are longer, the sun is warmer, and some species such as the Purple Finch and Cardinal begin to break the winter silence with their song. If the Christmas Bird Count Army could be mustered again in January and February a more complete picture of the winter season could be reconstructed, adding significantly to our ornithological knowledge of the winter season in Wisconsin.

The Season Summary

Common Loon: Individuals were observed in Bayfield county December 21 (Bernard Klugow), Dane county December 26 (Steve Curtis), and Walworth county January 2 (C. O. Palmquist).

Horned Grebe: Present until December 17 in Waukesha county (John Bielefeldt), at Door county December 31 (Mark Madsen and John Saetveit), and two at Racine county January 2 (Ed Prins).

Pied-billed Grebe: Present until December 17 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt). Found in Bayfield county December 21 (Klugow), and in Milwaukee county and Walworth county January 2 (Mary Donald and Palmquist).

Great Blue Heron: A wintering bird was reported in Waukesha county January 18 (Don Beimborn) and January 20 (Bielefeldt). Four were present in Adams county December 22 (Curtis), and in the far north a bird was seen in Sawyer county December 23 (Klugow).

Black-crowned Night Heron: The only report was of a bird in Walworth county January 2 (Palmquist).

American Bittern: One individual was seen December 26 on the Waukesha Christmas Count.

Mute Swan: A bird seen at Menasha, Winnebago county from January 22 through the end of the period (Daryl Tessen) is only the third documented report from this state. See "By the Wayside."

Whistling Swan: Twenty-five were still to be found in Green Bay December 31 along the Marinette and Oconto counties shoreline, with the last seven being seen January 2 (Carl Richter).

Canada Goose: Reported this year on nine Christmas Counts, but many birds left the state during the end of December. There was a large movement out of Horicon December 26-27, but 1,000 birds were still present in January (Richard Hunt). Wintering birds at Racine included at least one Richardson's Goose (subspecies) that was well documented by Louise Erickson. Early migrants were noted in Juneau county February 26 (N. R. Bangers and the Roy Lounds).

Snow Goose: This species was present in Dane county December 12 (Tom Ashman), and nearly 1,000 remained at Horicon until early December (Hunt). Two were seen by the Green Bay Bird Club December 28 on their Christmas Count.

Blue Goose: Remained in Dane county until December 12 (Ashman), Rock county until December 3 (Mrs. Mahlum), and at Horicon (about 1,000) until early December (Hunt). One was seen by the Green Bay Bird Club on their December 28 Christmas Count, and two spent the winter in Racine county (the George Ludwigs et al).

Mallard and Black Duck: Numerous reports of wintering birds throughout the state.

Gadwall: Found on 5 Christmas Counts and also in Vernon county December 29 (Fred Leshner). Five birds were still present in Waukesha county January 20 and probably wintered (Bielefeldt). At least 21 birds spent the winter in Dane county (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Pintail: Birds that probably wintered were seen in Racine county January 4 (Erickson) and in Winnebago county January 22 (Tessen). Birds were also seen in Dane county December 26 and Waukesha county December 24-25.

Green-winged Teal: Individuals were seen on Christmas Counts in Manitowoc county and Walworth county, but the only report of a wintering bird was from Waukesha county February 19 (Bielefeldt).

Blue-winged Teal: Four were seen on the Manitowoc Christmas Count. A late winter record (January 20-22) comes from Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

American Widgeon: This species wintered in Milwaukee county (Donald), Winnebago county (Tessen), and possibly in Racine county (Judge Simpson). It was also present in Dane and Waukesha counties at the time of the Christmas Counts.

Shoveler: Reported on Christmas Counts in Dane and Manitowoc counties; it was reported to have wintered only in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

Wood Duck: This species was reported on Christmas counts in Brown, Racine and Waukesha counties. At least one pair wintered in Racine county (Erickson).

Redhead: A pair seen in Winnebago county February 13, probably wintered (Tessen). Others were reported on Christmas Counts from Door, Dane, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Waukesha counties.

Ring-necked Duck: Observed in Outagamie and Winnebago counties through January (Tessen), and until January 12 in Racine county (Erickson). It was also found on Christmas Counts in Dodge, Dane, Manitowoc, and Waushara counties.

Canvasback: After being found on 8 Christmas Counts, the species was observed to have wintered in Racine (Erickson), Waukesha (Bielefeldt), Dane (Hilsenhoff), and Milwaukee (Donald) counties.

Greater Scaup Duck: Reports away from Lake Michigan were from Dane county (Madison Christmas Count), and Fond du Lac county (Carl Knuth).

Lesser Scaup Duck: Wintered in at least nine counties, both inland and on Lake Michigan. The northernmost reports came from Brown (Ed Cleary and Ed Paulson), Winnebago and Outagamie counties (Tessen).

Common Goldeneye: This species was very numerous this winter, being reported as wintering in almost every county. A report of hundreds in Price county on February 23 (Alice Vincent) suggested a northward movement of this species in late February.

Bufflehead: Seen on 12 Christmas Counts, and reported wintering as far north as Douglas county (Richard Bernard). Also noted to have wintered in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt) and Milwaukee county (Donald).

Oldsquaw: Reported on 9 Christmas Counts, all from Lake Michigan.

Harlequin Duck: A record winter for this rare species, with reports from four counties; December 18 Sheboygan county (Peter Dix), December 26 Manitowoc county (Bernard Brouchoud), January 2 Racine county (Fiehweg), and January 15 Ozaukee county (Tessen).

White-winged Scoter: Wintered in Waukesha county (Ed Peartree, et al). Eight were seen in Racine county January 2 (Erickson, et al), and one in Dane county January 1 (Hilsenhoff).

Surf Scoter: The only report came from Dane county December 18 (Bill Foster).

Ruddy Duck: This species wintered in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt) and Milwaukee county (Donald), and was present through February 13 in Winnebago county (Tessen). Also reported from Dane county December 26, and Racine county January 10.

Common Merganser: Seen on 24 Christmas Counts, and noted wintering as far north as Douglas county (Bernard). Ten were present in Winnebago county until

Hooded Merganser: No reports after the Christmas counts, when it was observed in Waukesha, Dane, Milwaukee, Brown, and Bayfield counties. mid-February, when numbers jumped to more than 100 (Tessen).

Red-breasted Merganser: After the 11 Christmas Count reports, it was found wintering only in Milwaukee county (Donald).

Goshawk: A good invasion of this species with individuals reported from throughout the state over the entire winter season. Recorded in at least 16 counties.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: There were 6 Christmas Count records, and 5 additional sightings in January, the farthest north being from Adams county (Hazel Kramer) January 30. The only report of a bird spending the entire winter was from Waukesha county (Mrs. Paul Hoffman).

Cooper's Hawk: After 14 reports on Christmas Counts, this species was seen through February 14 in Brown county (Cleary and Paulson), on February 17 in Door County (the R. G. Ellithorpes), on February 23 in Manitowoc county (John Kroupa), and on February 27 in Rock county (Ned Hollister Bird Club).

Red-tailed Hawk: Numerous reports from Dunn to Brown counties and south, but no reports of birds farther north.

Red-shouldered Hawk: After being found in several counties through December, the only report of a wintering bird came from Milwaukee (Elmer Strehlow). One in Waukesha county February 19 (Beimborn) was either a wintering bird or an early migrant.

Rough-legged Hawk: Occurred commonly throughout the southern half of the state, with no reports from north of Langlade and Oconto counties.

Golden Eagle: Three birds were observed over the Horicon Marsh on December 18 (Hunt). See "By the Wayside." A single bird was seen in Juneau county December 27 (Ed Collins).

Bald Eagle: In addition to the numerous reports of birds along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers in the southern and central portions of the state, several were seen in the northern counties of Douglas, Marathon, Marinette, Lincoln, Bayfield, and Ashland.

Marsh Hawk: After being found on 24 Christmas Counts, this species seemed to disappear from the state. There were no January reports, and only four February reports, birds being seen in Dane county February 5 and Wood county February 17 (Hilsenhoff), in Rock county February 22-23 (Mahlum), and in Lincoln county February 28 (Don Hendrick).

Pigeon Hawk: One returned to Antigo, Langlade county December 27 in the same area where one had wintered the year before (Lynn Schimmels).

Sparrow Hawk: This species apparently wintered south of a line from St. Croix and Dunn counties (Robbins) to Brown county (Paulson and Cleary), being most numerous farther south. Reported as wintering in 15 counties.

Ruffed Grouse: Reported from all areas of the state, except the extreme southeast.

Prairie Chicken: The only report was from Wood county (Don Follen).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Seen only in Burnett county (N. R. Stone).

Bobwhite: Seen on Christmas Counts in LaCrosse, Sauk, Wood, and Waushara counties.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Common throughout the agricultural counties.

Chukar Partridge: A single bird was carefully observed in Kenosha county on December 27 at distances as close as 10 feet (Erickson and Fiehweg). Remnants of introductions made more than 20 years ago apparently still exist in scattered areas of the state. The ability of the observers to approach the Kenosha county bird so closely suggests the possibility of an escaped bird from a zoo or game farm.

Gray Partridge: There were many observations, all restricted to an area in the southeast part of the state bordered by Lake Michigan, Kewaunee, Outagamie, Columbia, and Rock counties.

Turkey: The only report was of the 80 birds seen in Juneau county January 31 by members of the Society participating in a field trip to the Necedah area.

Virginia Rail: Reported from Dane county during the Christmas Count period (Curtis). Two birds were still present January 22, but could not be found thereafter (Hilsenhoff).

American Coot: At least 42 wintered in Dane county (Hilsenhoff). Wintering birds were also present in Rock county (Ned Hollister Bird Club), Waukesha county (Bielefeldt), Milwaukee county (Donald), and Brown county (Paulson and Cleary). Reports from Eau Claire county December 4 and February 10 (Robbins) suggest that this species also wintered in that county.

Killdeer: An unusual number of reports. Four were seen in Buffalo county January 2 (Kenneth Krumm), and individuals were sighted in Adams county December 22 (Curtis), Grant county December 26 (Ingram), Milwaukee county December 29 (Donald), and Rock county February 2 (Melva Maxson).

American Woodcock: Five were found by Richard Anderson while hunting rabbits during the Christmas Count period in Waushara county.

Common Snipe: Observed on six Christmas Counts, with the two seen in Sawyer county December 23 (Klugow) being exceptionally far north. Four wintering birds were present in Rock county February 5 (Maxson).

Spotted Sandpiper: The bird in Rock county January 1 (Ashman, L. D. Eager, Jr., and John Wilde) is an exceptional record. See "By the Wayside."

Purple Sandpiper: For the second consecutive winter a bird was seen in Racine county. It was found December 31 (Bill Weber) and subsequently seen by several observers. It remained until January 2 (Fiehweg). See "By the Wayside."

Glaucous Gull: Reports come from two Christmas Counts on the Lake Superior shore. One was seen in Bayfield county December 21 (Klugow), and three in Douglas county December 23 (Bernard).

Iceland Gull: This very rare species was closely observed in Racine county February 10 (Erickson). See "By the Wayside."

Herring Gull: Commonly found along the Great Lakes all winter, but most individuals left the inland lakes after they froze. One spent the winter in Dane county, while several wintered in the vicinity of Lake Winnebago (Hilsenhoff and R. Knuth).

Ring-billed Gull: A few remained with the Herring Gulls on Lake Michigan, but a report of a wintering bird in Fond du Lac county is the only inland report after the Christmas Count period (C. and R. Knuth).

Bonaparte's Gull: Large numbers remained in Racine county until early January, with 700 seen January 4, but by January 10 they were all gone (Erickson).

Mourning Dove: Numerous wintering flocks were found over the southern half of the state and as far north as St. Croix, Chippewa, Marathon, and Brown counties.

Barn Owl: Two were found in a silo in Racine county January 2 (Frank Michna), and one was found dead in a neighboring barn in February.

Screech Owl: Reports from only six counties, the northernmost being Pierce and Brown.

Great Horned Owl: Found throughout the state.

Snowy Owl: Only 12 reports this year, but these came from many parts of the state. This owl was observed in Douglas, Oconto, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Brown, Dane, Rock, and Kenosha counties.

Hawk Owl: A bird was trapped and banded in Wood county December 18, and subsequently was seen through January (Don Follen).

Barred Owl: Found throughout the state.

Long-eared Owl: Reports of wintering birds came from Rock (Maxson), Milwaukee (Strehlow), Dane (Ashman), Racine (Erickson), and Kenosha (Madsen) counties. There were no reports from the central or northern counties.

Short-eared Owl: Found on 5 Christmas Counts, but reported wintering only in St. Croix (Robbins) and Racine (Prins and Weber) counties.

Saw-whet Owl: Only three reports this winter: December 5-7 in Adams county (Hazel Kramer), Waushara county in late December (Irma Chipman), and in Rock county February 27 (Ned Hollister Bird Club).

Belted Kingfisher: Found on 12 Christmas Counts, but reports of wintering birds came only from Rock (Mahlum), Waukesha (Bielefeldt), and Vernon (Viratine Weber) counties.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: After observations on 10 Christmas Counts, wintering birds were reported from Milwaukee (Donald), Rock (Ned Hollister Bird Club), Outagamie (Tessen), and Racine (Erickson and Warren Haushe) counties.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reports from all areas of the state except the extreme south-east.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Numerous observations south of a line from St. Croix to Brown counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Wintered in exceptionally high numbers throughout the central and southern part of the state, with wintering individuals being reported as far north as Washburn county (Beatrice Bailey).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Found in only five counties. Seen in Barron county January 2 and Brown county December 26 on Christmas Counts. Other observations came from Outagamie county December 22 and January 20 (Tessen), Fond du Lac county January 8 (R. Knuth), and Racine county December 5 (Saetveit).

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Found in the north in Douglas county December 22 (Klugow). One seen in Milwaukee county January 9 (Marion Strimple) and another in late February (Mrs. Kersting). Two birds spent the winter in Beloit (Rock county), being first seen December 28 (Mrs. Hubert Klinkenberg) and subsequently by several other observers.

Horned Lark: The mild and open December induced many individuals to spend the winter in the southern half of the state. Wintering birds were reported as far north as Wood county (Follen) and Outagamie county where Bradford reported them to be "fairly numerous." A northward migration was evident in mid-February with birds arriving in St. Croix county February 10 (Robbins), Lincoln county February 14 (Hendrick), and Burnett county February 17 (Stone).

Gray Jay: Confined to the far north, the southernmost reports coming from Polk county (Mrs. Sam Jensen) and Langlade county (Soulen).

Blue Jay: Abundant throughout the entire state.

Raven: Many reports from the northern counties, and seen as far south as Wood county (Vesper Christmas Count).

Common Crow: Abundant throughout the southern half of the state, with some wintering in the far north in Burnett and Douglas counties.

Boreal Chickadee: Found on 5 Christmas Counts in Langlade, Forest, Price, and Oneida counties. Also found in Bayfield counties February 17 (Hilsenhoff).

Tufted Titmouse: Reports came from most of the southern counties, the northernmost reports being from Adams county (Kramer) and St. Croix county (Robbins).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Found throughout the state all winter, but not very common.

Brown Creeper: Several were reported from northern counties through December, and one bird wintered in Price county (Vincent). Wintering birds were reported from many of the southern counties.

Winter Wren: Found in late December in Manitowoc (Brouchoud) and Columbia (Charles Gilmore) counties, and on December 30 in Pierce county (Robbins). An individual that apparently wintered was found in Sheboygan county February 10 (Kathlyn Heidel).

Carolina Wren: One remained in Osceola, Polk county until January 13 (Walter Gantenbein).

Mockingbird: One stayed in Dane county through December 5 (the George Knudsens), and another remained at Horicon, Dodge county until January 1 (Hunt).

Catbird: An individual remained in Green Bay through December 26 (the Paul Romigs).

Brown Thrasher: Reported from six areas during the Christmas Count period, the report from Wausau on December 25 being exceptionally far north. One bird in Waushara county (Chipman).

Robin: Wintered in most of the counties south of LaCrosse (Young), and Brown counties (Paulson, Cleary).

Varied Thrush: There were two well documented reports of this species. One bird was present from January 11 through February 1 at Redgranite, Waushara county (the Walter Hannemans) and another from December 25 through February 20 at Altoona, Eau Claire county (C. H. Blom). There was also a delayed report of one that was present in Door county on Washington Island from late October 1964 through late March 1965 (Tom Jessen).

Gray-checked Thrush: One was seen by three observers on the Keshena Christmas Count, Menominee county December 30, an exceptional record indeed! See "By the Wayside."

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Although reported from 20 Christmas Count areas, including some in the northern part of the state, wintering birds were found only as far north as Brown county (Paulson, Cleary).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Found in Outagamie county January 1-11 (Tessen).

Bohemian Waxwing: Seen in Marinette county January 19 (Harold Lindberg). Ten were seen in Marathon county January 25 (Joan Williams) and 20 in Brown county February 18 (Cleary). There was not a significant invasion of this species this year.

Cedar Waxwing: Found throughout the state in small numbers through December, but seen only in LaCrosse, Vernon, and Winnebago counties in late January and early February. Beginning February 11 a tremendous influx of these birds was noted by many observers, especially in the southern half of the state. Reports of this influx were as follows: February 11 Rock county (Maxson), Manitowoc county (Reichwaldt), St. Croix county (Robbins), and Fond du Lac county (C. Knuth); February 12 Milwaukee county (Strehlow), and Racine county (Prins); February 18 Dane county (Hilsenhoff), and Brown county (Cleary); February 19 Sheboygan county (Harold Koopman), and Outagamie county (Alfred Bradford); and February 20 Jefferson county (Emil Stock) and Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

Northern Shrike: Small numbers all winter throughout the entire state.

Orange-crowned Warbler: One hardy individual lingered in Dane county until December 3 (Ashman).

Myrtle Warbler: Two reports. One was found in Grant county December 26 (Ingram), and one in Fond du Lac county January 4-6 (C. Knuth).

Ovenbird: An exceptional winter record in Dane county December 25-26 (the Roy Lounds). See "By the Wayside."

Yellowthroat: There were two well documented reports, both on Christmas Counts. One was seen December 26 in Dane county (N. R. Barger, Dave Willard), and the other in Kenosha county December 27 (Weber). See "By the Wayside."

Meadowlarks: There were many reports of wintering meadowlarks (both species) throughout the southern half of the state. One Western Meadowlark wintered in St. Croix county (Robbins).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A bird was seen on the Oshkosh Christmas Count December 30 (Paulson, Cleary).

Red-winged Blackbird: Several reports of wintering birds south of a line from Pierce county (Robbins) to Brown county (Paulson, Cleary).

Rusty Blackbird: After the Christmas Counts, reported from Dane county January 1 (Ashman), and Rock county February 3 (Maxson). This species wintered in Brown county (Paulson, Cleary).

Brewer's Blackbird: One was seen during the Christmas Count period on Washington Island, Door county (Madsen, Saetveit), and 26 were found on the Horicon Christmas Count December 21 (Harold Mathiak).

Common Grackle: Wintered in several southern counties as far north as Outagamie county (Bradford, Tessen).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Wintered in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt, Beimborn), Milwaukee county (Donald), Fond du Lac county (R. Knuth), and Dane county (Ashman). Found on 9 Christmas Counts, and until January 8 in Sheboygan county (Heidel).

Cardinal: Found throughout the southern two-thirds of the state, the most northern reports being from Washburn (Bailey) and Lincoln (Hendrick) counties.

Dickcissel: One was trapped and banded in Waukesha county January 1 (Beimborn). An exceptional record!

Evening Grosbeak: More numerous than last year, with small flocks seen throughout the state by many observers.

Purple Finch: Although this species was found wintering throughout the state, many observers commented that numbers were much lower than normal.

Pine Grosbeak: There was an excellent invasion of this species, an invasion that reached much farther south than in most years. Reports came from Rock, Kenosha, Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Dane counties, as well as from many counties in the central and northern part of the state.

Hoary Redpoll: This rare species was seen on 5 Christmas Counts, but was not reported thereafter.

Common Redpoll: An exceptional invasion of this species was recorded throughout the state, the birds remaining all winter.

Pine Siskin: There were reports of wintering birds throughout the state, but the species was not numerous.

American Goldfinch: Reported from throughout the state, but most numerous in the southern half.

Red Crossbill: There were no reports after the Christmas Count period. There were eight reports of this species in December, all from the northwestern counties (Douglas, St. Croix, Eau Claire, Chippewa, Pierce, and Jackson).

White-winged Crossbill: This species was found during the Christmas Count period in 15 areas, but there were only three reports after that period. It was found January 9 in Kenosha county (Madsen), February 10 in Eau Claire county (Robbins), and throughout January in Douglas county (Klugow).

Rufous-sided Towhee: One bird wintered in Washington county (Mrs. Milton Schuettes).

Savannah Sparrow: One was found on the Beloit Christmas Count, and another was seen in Milwaukee county January 16 (Donald).

State-colored Junco: There were reports of wintering birds throughout the southern half of the state, with reports from northern counties only through the Christmas Count period, except for a bird that wintered at Sarona, Washburn county (Bailey).

Oregon Junco: Reported wintering from most of the southern counties, and as far north as St. Croix county (Robbins). On the basis of the 1965 Christmas Counts, it appears that about one junco in 300 was this species.

Tree Sparrow: Most numerous in the southern part of the state, with reports of wintering birds as far north as Marinette county (Richter) and Marathon county (Williams). Seen in Langlade county February 25 (Soulen).

Field Sparrow: Seen on Christmas Counts in Waukesha and Rock counties, with two still present in Rock county January 18 (Maxson).

Harris's Sparrow: There was an undocumented report of this species in Rock county February 27 where it was seen by members of the Ned Hollister Bird Club.

White-crowned Sparrow: Found during the Christmas Count period at Milton and Milwaukee. The only later report was from Racine county where a bird visited a feeder January 16-20 (Dr. von Jarchow).

White-throated Sparrow: There were only 3 reports after the Christmas Count period. A bird was seen until January 27 in Rock county (Mrs. John Brakefield), and one remained in Outagamie county until its death February 24 (Tessen). The most unusual record comes from Vilas county where a bird remained until January 11 (Fred Babcock).

Fox Sparrow: Seen on Christmas Counts in Barron, Brown, Door, and Walworth counties, but not reported in January or February.

Swamp Sparrow: Found on 7 Christmas Counts in the southern half of the state, but seen thereafter only in Racine county January 18 (Dr. von Jarchow).

Song Sparrow: Wintering birds were reported from many of the southern counties and as far north as Sheboygan (Heidel) and Outagamie counties (Bradford and Tessen). One was seen in St. Croix county January 4 (Robbins).

Lapland Longspur: After being reported on six Christmas Counts as far north as Pierce and Wood counties, it was found only in Winnebago county February 12 (Tessen) and Brown county where it wintered (Paulson, Cleary).

Snow Bunting: Found throughout the state, but most commonly in the northern counties.



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