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The *Passenger* **PIGEON**



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Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Bird Reports Coordinator (see inside back cover). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Assistant Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 131–132 of the Summer 2007 issue (Vol. 69, No. 2) or contact the Editors. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

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*Front Cover: Le Conte's Sparrow by
Dennis Malueg, the new Art Editor for
The Passenger Pigeon.*

Designing Our Future

As alluded to in my last statement, one important task that the board is facing is the need to examine the future of WSO. Our organization has been in existence for more than 70 years, and we have gone through considerable changes, but at the present time the world seems to be moving forward more quickly than ever. The power of technology and the internet are unleashing new possibilities, often causing us to revise or discard some of our former methods. Keeping pace with our rapidly changing world makes it prudent for WSO to re-examine its current purpose and direction, and assess whether its mission might need to be redefined.

One of the challenges we face as an organization is learning to change with the times. Certainly there are many different factors at play today that affect the populations of the birds we enjoy. There are also a lot more entities in existence (governmental or otherwise) that might offer the possibility of partnerships, or perhaps provide better alternatives to roles we have previously filled. Also changing rapidly or arriving in the scene are various technologies for data gathering or communication, and these will need to be considered for any potential application.

Recognizing that such an important process would take more time and extended focus than we could realistically provide at one of our regular quarterly meetings, the board decided to pull together a special sub-committee to explore the possibilities of how best to proceed with a strategic planning process. The members are Noel Cutright, Bettie Harriman, Randy Hoffman, Bill Mueller, Carl Schwartz, and me. We had our first meeting in late November to discuss what preliminary steps to take, and to set a rough timetable for a course of action. Our first step will likely involve conducting surveys of WSO members and birding non-members.

Sometime early next year we hope to convene a special focus group meeting—possibly with a guest facilitator—of a variety of individuals of various ages and backgrounds to offer opinions, as well as brainstorm the possibilities. One of the important steps will involve identifying our organization's strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats.

Some potential topics for discussion might include:

- Where is WSO headed?
- Might we wish to consider revising our overall mission?
- How might we best recruit and retain members?
- Should we cooperate or form partnerships with other organizations?
- Do we need to pursue additional youth and adult educational outreach?
- Might we consider more research opportunities?
- Would web site enhancements aid our organization?

As we proceed with efforts to explore and define an updated mission for the WSO, I would encourage any interested members to contact me with any questions, ideas, or suggestions: Home phone 920. 294. 3021, Cell 920. 960. 1796, or send E-mail to trschultz@centurytel.net.

Thomas R Schultz

President



American Coot by David Kuecherer

Changes in the Season

As you read *The Spring Season: 2010* in this issue you will note a few changes. The first change is the compiler of this season—Andrea Szymczak. Since Andrea assisted Marilyn Bontly in creating the Spring 2009 report this is not a total change, but it is Andrea's solo flight at being a seasonal compiler. These editors think she has done an excellent flight and ask you to welcome Andrea to the role of field note compiler.

The second change can be found within her report and it will appear in all four seasonal reports now. At Andrea's suggestion we intend to include the designation for when a species needs to have either the Short documentation Form or the Long Form included when you report that species. This is the same designation you will find on the WSO field card: one asterisk (*) for Short Form, double asterisks (**) for those needing the Long Form. We hope this will help you remember which species require additional information—or give you an additional place to check when you wonder about it.

The next change involves the sequence of the species in the report. It is the practice of WSO to follow the decisions of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) for the common and Latin names of the birds in North America as well as use the AOU taxonomic order for the species. When AOU makes changes, which they have been doing every year recently, we do our best to reflect those changes in *The Pigeon*, especially in the seasonal reports. So if you've been paying attention, you will note a few interesting changes in the sequence of the species this time—some species are not where you've grown accustomed to finding them, and one has a new common name. Because of a split into two species for what used to be just Whip-poor-will, ours is now the Eastern Whip-poor-will (the other is now the Mexican Whip-poor-will).

Due to all the changes that have occurred and are expected to continue, your editors have put together a listing of Wisconsin species with the most recent names and sequence as a help in our editing work. If any of you wish an electronic copy of our list (current for late 2010) please let Bettie know by email (bettie@new.rr.com) and she will send you a copy. No hard copy mailings, it's only available electronically.

Now, your editors would like to ask those of you who use computers to make a change. Since the ebird way for filing bird observations came upon the Wisconsin scene, the numbers of reports have increased dramatically and continue to do so. While the numbers vary a good bit based on the season, with Summer having the fewest, the numbers in 2009 ranged from about 250 to 450 reports per season. The Winter 2009 total was the highest with 453 reports containing more than 53,000 observations. Each of the field note compilers has to coordinate all those records—far more than they used to deal with when everything was sent in as paper reports. The computer records can be organized and com-

piled by the computer, but then hard (paper) copies must be incorporated. Hours of work!

We are requesting that if you use a computer, please try to learn how to send in your observations using ebird. It will make the work of your four seasonal compilers so much easier and faster. Of course, we still want and appreciate the records sent on paper from those of you without a computer. We in no way intend to suggest that your paper records are no longer of consequence, we still want them and they still matter. But if you email, you can learn to use ebird. Go to: <http://ebird.org/content/wi/> Please give it a try. Thank you.

We also would like to request that, if anyone has a question or concern about the contents of a seasonal report, please contact the compiler of that report for an answer. The name and contact information of each compiler can be found under the title of the report or on the inside cover of *The Passenger Pigeon*.

The last change we have to tell you about is certainly an important one. As probably all of you know, Jim Frank has been serving as chair of the WSO Records Committee for some time—about 20 years. As this column is being written in November 2010, Jim has found it necessary to resign from the Records Committee. We really, really appreciate the immense amount of work Jim has done over these 20 years for WSO and for his contributions to the scientific record of the birds that have visited our state. We wish Jim all the best.

Ryan Brady, a current member of the Records Committee, has stepped forward to become the new chair. Anytime there is a change in the chair of a committee, there is change within that committee, but we have every confidence that Ryan will serve WSO just as competently as Jim did. Please welcome Ryan as chair of the WSO Records Committee. You can find Ryan's contact information on the inside back cover of this Pigeon since as Records Committee chair, he is now serving on the WSO Board of Directors. The new member selected to join the 5 member committee is Tom Presby.

So with this Spring of 2011, there come quite some changes—some small, some large, but, we hope, all for the good of WSO.

Bettie and Neil Harriman, Editors

Red-necked Grebe Breeding in Waukesha County, Wisconsin

John Bielefeldt [submitted on behalf of the KMNHA]

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On 2 June 2009 we discovered a presumed pair of the state-endangered Red-necked Grebe at Beaver Dam Marsh in T5N R17E S6 in southwestern Waukesha Co. (J. Bielefeldt). Both birds—not “a bird” as said in Passenger Pigeon 72: 169 (2010)—were subsequently photographed (A. Moretti, R. Curtis) and seen on several midsummer dates (D. Gustafson) as late as 14 August (A. Szymczak). We found no evidence of nesting in 2009.

Birds re-appeared at Beaver Dam Marsh in 2010, when one adult with a chick was photographed on 19 June (Fig 1). One adult with chick was also seen on 22 June (Szymczak), and two adults with chick on 30 June (M. and D. Gross). On 20 August 2010, Curtis again photographed an adult with a chick (Fig. 2) that exhibited a similar size (vs. attendant adult) and the same hatchling plumage as the chick photographed on 19 June, 62 days earlier. The later chick and both accompanying adults were also seen 22 August–3 September (Moretti).

One of the 20 August photos (Fig. 3) showed the chick atop its parent’s back in a thermoregulatory behavior that persists, intermittently, 10–17

days post-hatch (Stout and Nuechterlein 1999). From this behavior, we estimate that the later chick hatched during the first 10 days of August and (from similar size) the earlier chick during the first 10 days of June. Stout and Nuechterlein (1999) also report:

- that the Red-necked Grebe is monogamous;
- that pairs “rarely” attempt a second nest if the first succeeds, although second clutches may begin while initial chicks remain dependent on parental care; and,
- that there is only one known North American record of a second successful brood following a first successful brood.

Two separate chicks of widely different hatch dates (about 55–60 days) were present at Beaver Dam Marsh in 2010. Perhaps two nesting pairs of grebes were present. In an alternative we cannot discount, the two temporally separate chicks may have resulted from a rare instance of successful double-brooding by a single pair of adults.

There is no precedent for nesting Red-necked Grebes in the southeastern most corner of the state. Kumlien



Figure 1. An adult Red-necked Grebe with young on 19 June 2010 at Beaver Dam Marsh in Waukesha County was photographed by Ralph Curtis.

and Hollister (1903) had no summer records at Lake Koshkonong or elsewhere in southeastern counties in the 1800s. Apart from a single bird at Beaver Dam Marsh in mid-May 1983, where undetected in a 3.3 hour search by boat on 15 June 1983 (Bielefeldt and M. Mossman), we know of no other sightings at the marsh during 68 years of near-annual visits, 1941–2008, by accomplished observers such as S. P. Jones, R. Adams, G. Orians, T. Soulen, C. E. Nelson, and many others.

Confirmed breeding records for this grebe in Wisconsin appear to be limited to 8 or 9 individual sites, historical or recent, in 8 counties: Burnett, Polk, and St. Croix Cos. in northwestern parts and Dane, Columbia, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago Cos. in south-central parts of the state (Robbins 1991, Brooks 2006). The five south-central nesting sites lie 80–110 km north or northwest of the new Waukesha Co. site.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Principal observers, as mentioned in text, agreed to submit this note under auspices of the Kettle Moraine Natural History Association (KMNHA), a private non-profit group that cooperates with WDNR in conserving the natural and cultural resources of the South Kettle Moraine. Opinions expressed or implied here are not necessarily those of KMNHA or WDNR.

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Figure 2. Adult Red-necked Grebe with “new” young was photographed on 20 August 2010 at Beaver Dam Marsh in Waukesha County by Ralph Curtis.



Figure 3. Adult Red-necked Grebe on 20 August with young chick on its back. Photo by Ralph Curtis. More bird photos by Ralph Curtis can be found at www.ralphcurtis.com.



Black-necked Stilt by Dennis Kuecherer

White-eyed Vireo Breeding in Ozaukee County

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On 5 June 2010 at 6:30 a.m., while we were conducting the first banding session, which is part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program (MAPS), at the Riveredge Nature Center in westcentral Ozaukee County, two adult White-eyed Vireos were captured (Fig. 1) in mist net #4. The MAPS Program was pioneered in 1989 to assess and monitor the vital rates and population dynamics of North American landbirds and inform bird conservation efforts. The Riveredge MAPS station is operated by husband/wife team of Al Sherkow and Deb Hartmann who are ably assisted by a large contingent of terrific volunteers. One of the birds had a fully developed brood patch (Fig. 2) and was sexed as a female. Brood patches can develop in female and male vireos, although the brood patch of males is partial. The second bird had no developed cloacal protru-

berance and was sexed as unknown but presumed to be the male. As males and females of White-eyed Vireos are monomorphic, sex is determined by the presence of physical breeding characteristics (brood patch or cloacal protruberance) or behavior based on subsequent field observations of the individual.

The presumed male was recaptured in net #9 (slightly north of net #4) at 7:20 a.m. and at 9:20 a.m.; both were caught together in net #5 (slightly west of net #4). No White-eyed Vireo vocalizations were heard other than during the banding process (Fig. 3).

During the second round of MAPS banding on 12 June, a White-eyed Vireo vocalized within the MAPS study area for about 10 minutes, but no vireos were captured. On 26 June at 6:00 a.m., the presumed male was recaptured in net #3 (slightly east of net #4). On 3 July at 5:50 a.m., the pre-



Figure 1. One of the pair of White-eyed Vireos being banded.

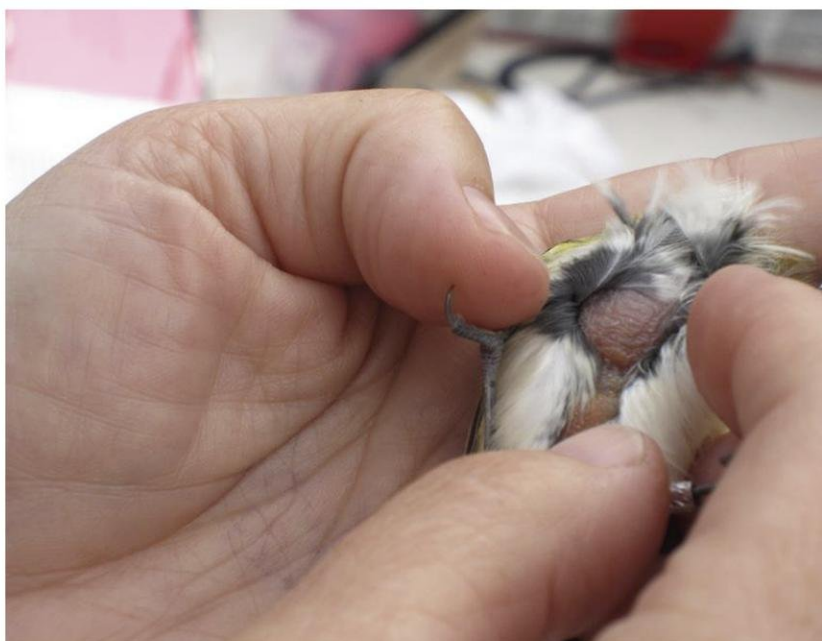


Figure 2. Brood patch on this White-eyed Vireo indicates breeding.



Figure 3. White-eyed Vireo complaining about all the banding process.



Figure 4. White-eyed Vireo ready for release.

sumed male was recaptured in net #1, the easternmost net of the 10 mist nets deployed. A singing bird was again heard on 17 July but no more captures were recorded through the last banding session on 31 July.

Data taken during the 7 encounters included no fat or body molt, a score for flight feather wear of 3 for the female and 4 for the presumed male, wing length for the female of 60 mm and either 58 or 59 mm for the presumed male, and a body mass of 13 g for the female and 11.2–11.9 g for the presumed male.

We believe this is the 4th confirmed nesting record for White-eyed Vireo in Wisconsin. The "Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin" White-eyed Vireo account references a Dane County nesting record from 1972 (pair observed + food carrying) and a Waukesha County record of a nest from 1988 (Cutright, et al. 2006). The 3rd record is from the Arena boat landing area in Iowa County by Aaron Holschbach who heard singing in August and September 2006 and then in 2007, singing on 5, 12, and 25 May, courtship by a pair on 17 June, singing on 23 June and 20 July, and finally one singing male feeding at least one immature (possibly as many as three immatures present) on 12 August (Holschbach 2007). The six years of atlasing during 1995–2000 turned up five Probable records from five counties (Iowa, Milwaukee, Pierce, Rock, and Waukesha).

A search of banding records from the United States Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory revealed 37 Wisconsin records for White-eyed Vireo from 13 licensed banders between 1962 and 2001. The list includes some of the premiere bird

banders from Wisconsin. Included on the list are UW-Madison Professor John Emlin who banded 12 between 1962 and 1970, Woodland Dunes Nature Center Director Bernie Brouchoud who banded 6 between 1966 and 1982 in Manitowoc County, and Beloit College Professor Marion Stocking who banded 5 between 1965 and 1974. Other noteworthy licensed banders who banded at least one White-eyed Vireo are Ed Peartree who banded two at WSO's Honey Creek property in Sauk County in 1988, Wally MacBriar who banded extensively in Milwaukee County, Charlie Kemper former editor of "The Passenger Pigeon," and by Mickey O'Connor through the banding permit of Riveredge Nature Center's first director, Andy Larsen.

Most birds in Wisconsin were banded in May (26 between 2–24 May, median = 16 May). Three individuals were banded in April (23–29) and four were banded in the fall (4 September–1 October). Three of these fall birds were aged as Hatching Year birds. Three birds were banded in early June (2, 4, and 5). One of the Honey Creek birds banded by Peartree was on 18 June. Sex was determined for only 4 of the 37 birds banded.

Banding at this MAPS location has taken place between 30 May and 8 August since 1999, and 2010 was the first year for any encounter with a White-eyed Vireo (Fig 4.). MAPS banding at Riveredge will resume in early June 2011, and everyone is wondering if there will be once again a buzz when a captured White-eyed Vireo is delivered to the banding table.

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Noel Cutright is Past-President of the WSO and currently serves on its Board as Historian. Noel is an Emeritus Scientist with We Energies, having retired in 2006. He founded the Riveredge Bird Club and is now working on starting the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve (recently ac-

quired by the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust) in northeastern Ozaukee County.

Al Sherkow has been an avocational bird bander since 1997. In 1999 Al and his wife Deb Hartmann initiated the MAPS banding project at Riveredge Nature Center. In addition to the MAPS banding, Al bands with the Riveredge Bird Club, at the UWM Field Station, at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee, and with the Milwaukee BIODiversity Monitoring and Education (BIOME) Project. Al enjoys learning from the bird banding community of Southeastern Wisconsin and teaching within the banding community by passing on his banding skills to the next generation of bird banders.

50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

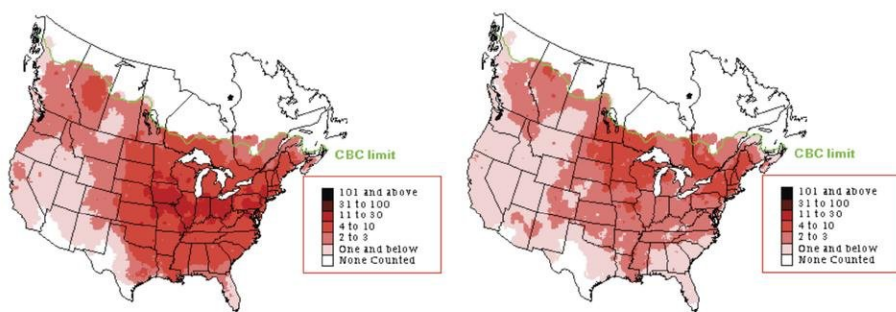
Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data have been used in many ways to discuss distribution and abundance of our winter season birds. Howard Young used 21 years (1939 through 1959) of CBC data (259 counts) from Wisconsin to examine the distribution and relative abundance of the Downy and Hairy Woodpecker. He found that the Hairy is less abundant in the eastern part of the state and more abundant in the southwestern part. The Downy Woodpecker also seemed to be more abundant in southwestern Wisconsin.

Howie also examined the comparative abundance of these species. As expected the Downy was reported more frequently than the Hairy in all parts of the state. In the eastern counties about three Downies were reported for every Hairy. In the southern and central counties, containing the heaviest densities of both species, about two Downies were reported for each Hairy. In northern counties the ratio was almost one to one.

It would be interesting for a WSO member to take a look at a CBC data set from recent years to see what distribution and abundance patterns can be determined for these two common woodpeckers. I'm sure the editors of *The Passenger Pigeon* would publish the results.

All of the issues of *The Passenger Pigeon* are currently available online from volume 1 (1939) through volume 69 (2007) at <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/EcoNatRes/EcoNatRes-idx?type=browse&scope=ECONATRES.PASSPIGEON>.

Maps below of CBC data for North America show distribution and abundance of Downy and Hairy Woodpecker.



Excerpt from Vol. 23 (1), 1961 by WSO Historian Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095. h. 262 .675. 2443, w. 262. 268. 3617, noel.cutright@we-energies.com.

Black-capped Chickadee

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My respect and admiration for the tiny Black-capped Chickadee grew by leaps and bounds, and absolutely soared the minute I held my first live, fighting-mad one in my hand. It was during the fall of 1958 and I was learning from Ed Peartree, highly respected master and veteran bird bander from Oconomowoc, the art and intricacies of handling wild songbirds and banding them, leading to my becoming a federally licensed bird bander.

Following several early morning sessions with Ed, the time finally arrived when he said, “Well, Roy, it’s time for you to remove your first bird from the mist net” (used to capture the birds). The bird turned out to be a Black-capped Chickadee, simple to handle, or so I thought! I can vividly remember the sly smirky smile that came across Ed’s face as I began to extract the thoroughly tangled little bird, clutching the several thin strands of nylon with every ounce of strength it possessed—surely Ed knew what an initiation in handling wild birds I was about to receive!

You can’t imagine the rapid-fire force with which that chickadee banged and pecked away at my finger tips with its sharp pointed beak as I

tried to remove it from the net. I wouldn’t dare repeat all I said to that feisty little spitfire of a bird before I finally held it in my hand, ready to attach a numbered aluminum band to one of its legs. Yes, it took plenty of practice to learn how to correctly handle the various bird species I captured during the 25 years I banded songbirds for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Grosbeaks numbered among the hardest of the biters, but I still maintain that the several hundred chickadees I banded over the years, ounce for ounce, had the most rebellious spunk and fight in them.

Chickadees are cavity-nesters and the first nest of a pair I came across in the late 1950s was only around a foot and a half above the ground in a very rotten stump. The several nests I located in the Ridges Sanctuary when I worked there were around six or seven feet above the ground, also in very punky decayed dead tree snags, usually either pine or cedar. They are also known to use abandoned old woodpecker cavities and occasionally bird houses.

Finally in June of 2006 one of our Eastern Bluebird K-style nest boxes along the west border of our field

had chickadees nesting in it. What amazed us was the large clutch of nine eggs that female laid there, and all eventually fledged very nicely.

Recently what may turn out to be a record-setting chickadee-nesting event began in one of our K-style bluebird boxes along Fairview Road near our home. By 11 April 2010 an Eastern Bluebird nest had been completed and by 25 April the nest held five warm eggs in the process of being incubated. Much to Charlotte's chagrin upon checking that nestbox on 2 May, a brand new bluebird nest had been built right over the five eggs.

By 15 May there were four bluebird eggs in the box and by the 30th of the month they had hatched. The four young birds fledged (left the box) by 16 June. Charlotte cleaned out the used nest on 20 June and the box remained empty until 3 July when House Wren twigs were beginning to fill it up. On 10 July Charlotte cleaned out the wren twigs again and by 17 July a neat layer of moss had been placed on the bottom of the box, a sure sign of the work of a Black-capped Chickadee. Naturally the moss was left in place.

Upon checking the box on 24 July it appeared as though the moss remained in the same condition. It was on 1 August that a neat nest cup in the green moss and five warm chickadee eggs were found in the box. During the short time Charlotte examined the nest the hen Chickadee scolded us non-stop from a nearby bush. In checking the progress in the nest on 7 August the eggs were still being incubated (Fig. 1) and a week later, 13 August, four of the five eggs

had hatched (Fig. 2). Those very tiny naked little babies weren't much bigger than large bumblebees, or so it appeared.

I started our photographic record by capturing digital images of the eggs. Their whitish shells were smooth, had little or no gloss, and were quite uniformly spotted and dotted with reddish-brown, more at the larger ends. Every three days I photographed the nest of young (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4) that, according to past state records, would very likely fledge around 16 days after hatching. We are estimating their fledging date will be around August 28. If they do successfully fledge, and we are very confident they will, this will be a new Wisconsin record for late Black-capped Chickadee nesting.

According to Sam Robbin's excellent book, *Wisconsin Birdlife*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press (1991), many years of observing the nesting of Black-capped Chickadees in the state shows that they have nests with eggs during the period of 2 May through 8 July. Even though chickadees generally are considered to be single-brooded, nests with eggs in late July and into early August indicate that a small number may have second broods. Their clutch size is usually seven, occasionally four to nine, and the eggs measure $\frac{7}{16}$ inch by $\frac{9}{16}$ inch.

I will be anxious to examine the nest once the young have fledged. Materials used in lining the beautiful mossy nest may include wool, hair, fur, moss, feathers, insect cocoons, and cottony fibers. Several years ago in late May, I watched a chickadee gather big mouthfuls of white-tailed

deer hair, pulled from a dead carcass, which it was using to line its nest.

When I consider the tiny size of the chickadee eggs, the precious little naked bodies huddled together, and just 10 days later the amazingly fast development of the eye-opening and feathering of the nestlings, soon to be on the wing, the more respect I have for our great Creator.

Roy Lukes is considered "The Bird Man" in Door County, not only because he was the first manager and naturalist at The Ridges Sanctuary from 1964 to 1990, nor only because he has written about birds and nature weekly in papers in that area since 1968, plus written 5 books, but also because of his obvious love for birds and all of nature and his enthusiasm in sharing that love.



Figure 1. Black-capped Chickadee eggs in old bluebird box.



Figure 2. Four newly hatched Black-capped Chickadees in their bluebird box.



Figure 3. The 10-day old Black-capped Chickadees.



Figure 4. The young chickadees at 14 days of age.



Gray Jay by Dennis Kuecherer

Lessons From the Seasons: Spring 2010

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Lessons from the season are mostly about the nuances and understanding of our birds. This lesson and the next are about birders. As previously written on the birdnet and in the Badger Birder, questions regarding ethical birding surfaced in the spring of 2010, when a few “rare” birds lingered at a mudflat in Dane County. The written reminders, and occasional heated interchanges regarding birding ethics on the birdnet, keep most active birders aware of the issues. WSO has a code of ethics that all members should know. This lesson is not about the ethical outcomes of birding, but tries to delve into the root causes of the ethics concern.

Many times in our lives we need to take stock of situations and circumstances. Persons are not automatons. Most of us conduct introspections of our actions in a multitude of ways. While everyone is unique, the interaction of genetics, environment, and group dynamics can lead to what is considered normal, moral, or ethical behaviors. Much more needs to be understood about human interactions, birder to birder interactions, and especially birder to non-birder interactions. Absolute interpersonal understanding and birder correctness are impossible at this time, or

more likely ever, but some enlightenment may be gained by looking at ourselves through the eyes of others.

Before getting into the discussion, a few definitions are in order. These terms and their definitions are from many sources and are presented here not as a precise, universally accepted definition, but as a means for introspection. These words can be used in many different contexts by birders and non-birders with some carrying a derogatory tone.

Bird-watcher—A broad definition describing a person who gets enjoyment from bird-related activities. The term had its origins around 1900 when leisure time increased and one of the newfound activities involved searching out and observing birds. The term is usually dismissed by birders as being a person that watches feeders or especially anyone not regularly pursuing birds.

Birder—A person who actively seeks, counts, and observes birds in the field. The term has evolved from Shakespeare’s birding, which meant hunting game birds. Today’s birders usually dismiss the hunting aspect of birding. Also, a person whose major recreational activity outside of work is birding.

Twitcher—A European, primarily

English, term for a person who is normally a calm conscientious birder, but when a rare bird shows up acts in nervous anticipation of seeing the bird. Twitchers will act at a moment's notice and with little regard to expenses to find and list the rare bird. Many United States birders dislike this word and will supplant an adjective such as serious, top, or expert in front of birder to identify these persons.

Lister (Ticker)—A person whose main interest in birding is the compilation of a life list. The person bitten by the birding bug with adequate identification skills and having the most money and free time will have the largest list. Others with many fewer financial resources, oft times will focus on state, county, or year lists.

Lifer—A species that is new to a person—never seen before.

Tick—A new bird on a list. It could be a life bird or a bird seen before, but new to the list the birder is keeping. Examples could be a Wisconsin bird, a year bird, a county bird, a yard bird, etc.

Megatrick—Used exclusively by twitchers or their North American counterparts denoting a rare bird. The usual articulation of the word is with language and inflection connoting extreme personal joy.

Dip—Another term used by twitchers. It is the opposite of megatrick meaning despite the euphoric possibility of a megatrick, immediately leaving [on the search], or in some cases advanced planning, the bird was missed. They usually express this word in a negative context.

Scientist/Ornithologist—A person who makes a living studying and understanding birds. Many expert birders are ambivalent about them, because

they do not participate in “normal” birding activities. Conversely, they are looked upon with great respect when a species split results in another tick on a list.

There is nothing inherently wrong with any of the birder types, nor their passion for the birds. The important message of this lesson is to take an introspective look at how you personally conduct your birding activities. Also, look at how your activities may be viewed by others (birders and non-birders). A moral and ethical compass is whether or not you do the right thing even when no one is watching. The question everyone needs to ask; what is the right action for the situation?

For a bird feeder, most of the WSO code of ethics is not applicable. However, some is and with that said, ask how do I care for my feeding station? Does it operate as a vector for the transmission of disease?

For those who bird as a mechanism for family entertainment, does your teaching included stewardship? For those primarily involved in birding for the social aspect, does your social bantering affect the nesting success for the birds nesting near the trails? For those receiving therapeutic or altruistic values from birds, does your reverence for birds translate into conservation?

I offer just a small sample of the reasons for birding and the questions that may be asked. The purpose of conducting this introspection is to become a better birder no matter what your reason is for birding.

In the Summer Lesson I'll try to make sense of the competitive aspects of birding.

The Spring Season: 2010

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“Mother Hen,” Bettie Harriman, asked that I introduce myself to the readership. In 2009, I apprenticed for the role of Spring field note compiler under Marilyn Bontly. Our partnership was a blessing (and simply fun) that I missed this year as I completed the report. Best wishes to Marilyn. During the late 1990s I volunteered as a wildlife rehabilitator at the Wildlife in Need Center in Oconomowoc. To properly care for the myriad of birds that came to the center, I needed to learn something about the basics of bird identification. That was then, and now I am a (mostly) serious, dedicated bird-watcher interested in the Hooded Warbler population within the Southern Kettle Moraine SF. Specifically, I have recorded over a dozen of their song variations and demonstrated that they commonly remain on their summer territories late into September, unlike many other species. Future study will involve continued monitoring of the Hooded Warbler, as well as, the “northern” species that utilize the forest during the breeding season, such as the Black-throated Green Warbler and Blue-headed Vireo.

An undertaking such as this never occurs in isolation and there are sev-

eral individuals to directly thank for their periodic advice on how to evaluate and present the seasonal data. These accolades go out to Jim Frank, Bettie Harriman, and Christopher L. Wood. Any shortcomings in the seasonal compilation are my responsibility alone. [*Editors’ Note: Any questions from readers of this report should be addressed to Andrea directly, not other WSO Board members, using her contact information given above.*]

MUSINGS ON THE WEATHER

Four contributors, Karen Etter Hale (Jefferson County), Steve and Laura LaValley (Douglas County), Paul Risch (Taylor County), and Daryl Tessen (who it is probably best to simply say is “headquartered” in Outagamie County), are perennial commentators on the weather. Each observer noted that precipitation during the month of March was extremely limited. There was also agreement regarding the overall mild conditions, particularly in March and April. Those conditions had an impact on more than just birds; in fact, the entire chorus of nature responded to the warmer than normal weather. Contributors to the Wisconsin Butter-



flies website (visit wisconsinbutterflies.org to view their archives) noted the first Compton Tortoiseshell on 6 March, a full 10 days earlier than in 2009. The Mourning Cloak first appeared on 14 March, 12 days earlier than in 2008 and 3 days earlier than in 2009. March also produced reports of the first deer tick by Andrea Szymczak on 14 March in Waukesha County and the first mosquito biting Noel Cutright on 18 March in Ozaukee County.

Etter Hale made specific note of 1

and 15 April, when temperatures reached over 80 degrees. These days of significant warming initiated the growing season and resulted in foliage developing two to three weeks earlier than normal. On 27 April, Ryan Brady mentioned fresh green leaves north to Bayfield County. Likewise, Peter Fissel spoke with concern 28 April (on Wisbirdnet) about how leafed-out most of the trees were in Dane County and what that might mean for observing birds during the upcoming weekend field trips.

May ended up being the most unpredictable month, as summarized by Etter Hale: "May was all over the map, with four days in the 40s sandwiched between 70s early and 60s again mid-month. The month ended with 3 days hitting 90 degrees and another six days in the 80s. We had eight days with rain too." The first fallout occurred on the weeknight of 4–5 May, which in the experience of John Idzikowski, is the earliest big night in his memory. He provided (pers. comm.) a comparison of the 4–5 May event with that of the incredible fallout on 9 May, 2009: "There had been some strong southerly flows in the previous week helping migrants across and around the Gulf so the continuation of that pattern into the night of 4–5 May is not surprising in hindsight, but still early by 2–3 days compared to most years. I think that the light rain caused the birds to decrease altitude; what then happens is that their density increases and we see higher reflectivities. Birds continued in spite of the rain such that Green Bay reported 20 species as I expected and there were other reports of 10–20 species mornings. What happened on the 9 May (in 2009) was a similar swarm hit rain around 3 a.m. in a line from Milwaukee west 30 miles that was too heavy for many birds to continue so we had perhaps 50 miles or more worth of migrants forced down in the middle of the night concentrated along this line. There were reports of 20+ warblers in Green Bay the following morning indicating that many birds were through the fallout area before the surface low developed and rain began or birds were able to sustain flight through the edges of the system going around the rain. Note in the reports for the morn-

ing of 5 May that 20 species of warblers were noted in Green Bay, others had 10-teens." Tessen remarked that his "best" day was on 5 May at Bay Beach SP in Brown County where although he had 21 warbler species, the actual numbers of individuals were not good. Several days later, on 8 May a snowstorm hit the Brown County area, stalling migratory progress and affecting the swallow species in particular (see "Reports").

THE CASE OF THE MISSING MIGRANTS

Etter Hale bemoaned that late spring migration was the worst she had ever experienced and relatively devoid of flycatchers, thrushes, and warblers. Likewise, Tessen summarized the key flycatcher, sparrow, thrush, vireo, and warbler species as either poor or terrible. He commented that only the early to mid-May shorebird numbers were good. After the Spring reporting season was over, Andy Paulios posted "What a crappy spring for warblers . . ." to the Wisbirdnet. In his posting, he used eBird data to show how warbler species that migrate through (Bay-breasted and Cape May) were observed at significantly lower frequencies versus prior years. He postulated that the birds simply "overshot" the state to land directly on their breeding grounds. This does appear to be the case. In fact, not only did the aforementioned warbler species fail to show up, but migratory flycatcher (Yellow-bellied) and thrush (Gray-cheeked and Swainson's) species were absent as well (see "Reports"). Paulios indicated (pers. comm.) that he went on to check the



Figure 1. Anne Geraghty photographed the Little Blue Heron in Eau Claire County on 8 May 2010.



Figure 2. Rory Cameron found the same Little Blue Heron in Eau Claire County on 9 May 2010.

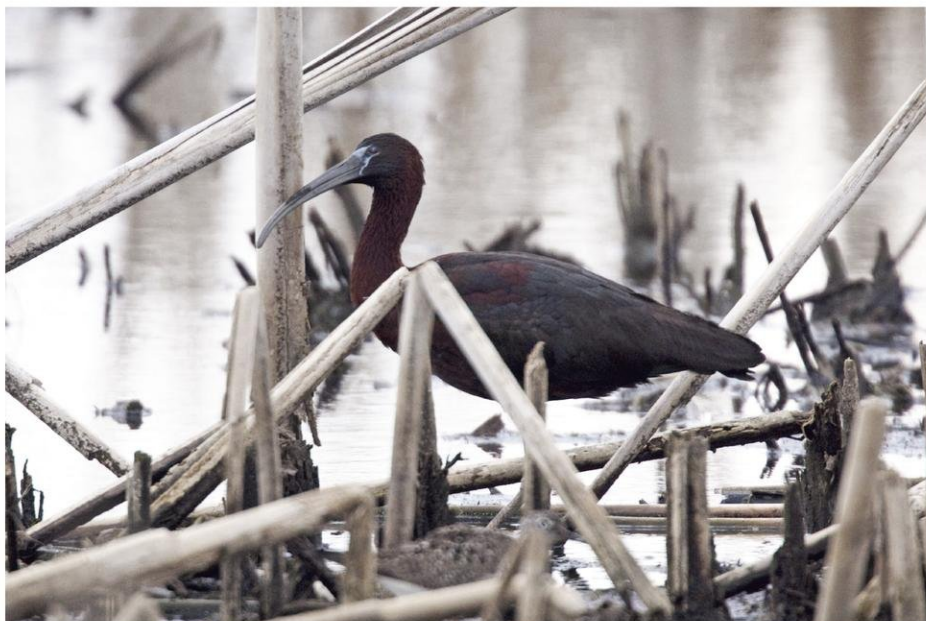


Figure 3. Glossy Ibis at Horicon Marsh, Dodge County by David Freriks on 14 May 2010.



Figure 4. Glossy Ibis at Horicon Marsh, Dodge County by Tom Prestby on 14 May 2010, when the sun was shining. What a difference the sun makes on this bird.

resident species, such as Baltimore Oriole and Great Crested Flycatcher, and found that their sighting frequencies were consistent with past history, backing up the theory that migrants literally passed many observers by.

NEW FEATURES OF THE REPORTS

My seasonal report takes a slightly new approach to old methods by incorporating four additional features into selected "Reports." First, it uses eBird data analysis tools (Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2010—View and Explore Data: Graphs and Maps) to compare the current season with recent prior years. Next, it acknowledges the extensive fieldwork of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Atlas of Breeding Birds of Wisconsin (Cutright et al. 2006) and highlights cases where a species' seasonal distribution compliments or differs from that work. Also, it pays special attention to many of the important species of concern, as identified through the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative—All Bird Conservation Plan document (edited by Kim Kreitingner and Andy Paulios, 2007–2010). Last, it takes a first step toward reinforcing the need to document important species by utilizing (*) or (**) after the species name in cases where a bird requires a Short Form or Long Form documentation. The asterisk(s) are a feature of the white paper tri-fold "WSO Wisconsin Birds—Field Checklist." Please be mindful of these species, as well as any early sightings during the Spring season. Bob Domagalski maintains a listing on the WSO website (www.wsobirds.org) of his Record Ar-

rival/Departure dates. Sightings that fall into record "territory" require elaboration, either within the eBird comment fields or as a separate companion page to paper reports submitted by individuals who do not use eBird. If this is not done, your contributions may not be included in the seasonal field notes.

DATA AND STATISTICS

This section should be entitled "How the Sausage Gets Made." The individual written species accounts are mainly the synthesis of over 200,000 eBird data points and more than 25 complete county summary reports submitted on paper to the Rare Birds Coordinator or electronically via the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology website. In addition, several May Day count forms, numerous Short and Long Forms for the observation of unusual species, sightings sent directly to the field note compiler, and rare supplemental reports taken from the Wisbirdnet combine to complete the picture. The process of culling and distilling the data, researching important aspects, and writing the species accounts requires nearly four months time to complete.

Currently, eBird is the largest source of contributors. A select listing of major eBird contributors, as well as other individuals, can be found immediately after the "Reports" section. While county coverage has improved over prior years due to the use of eBird, it is still severely lacking in Menominee and Rusk Counties.

Since 2001, the total number of species reported during the season has been in the range of 300 to 318.

This year will have to settle for above average, with the total number reported being 313. Included in that number were some fine observations of Gray Partridge, Little Blue Heron, both Ibises, Swainson's Hawk, Ruff, California Gull, Parasitic Jaeger, White-winged Dove, Western Kingbird, Townsend's Solitaire, Smith's Longspur, Blue Grosbeak, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

THE ACCOUNTS

The following species were not included in the accounts: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Red-tailed Hawk, Whooping Crane (reintroduced), Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, and other exotics, such as European Goldfinch, etc.

Symbols and Terms used: * = species which require a Short Form to be submitted to the WSO or entry of observational details directly into eBird comment field for review by the seasonal compiler; ** = species which require a Long Form and mandatory submission to and review by the WSO Records Committee; record cut-off date = a single threshold date chosen by Bob Domagalski to off-set the typical arrival dates from the earlier record-worthy dates (access Bob Domagalski's Record Arrival/Departure

listing on the WSO website—www.wsobirds.org. Using Greater White-fronted Goose as an example, you'll notice the 14 February 1998 date. This is the cut-off date that separates the "normal arrivals" from the earlier record dates); eBird abundance = the average number of birds reported on all checklists within a specified date, range, and region; eBird average count = average number of birds seen on checklists with a positive observation; eBird frequency = percentage of checklists reporting the species within a specified date, range, and region.

Abbreviations used: BOP = beginning of period, technically means on 1 March; MCGI = Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment; EOP = end of period, technically means on 31 May; MAS = Madison Audubon Society; m. obs. = multiple observers; NF = National Forest; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; pers. comm. = personal communication; RBC = Riveredge Bird Club; SANC = Schlitz Audubon Nature Center; SF = State Forest; SP = State Park; SNA = State Natural Area; SWA = State Wildlife Area; TTP = throughout the period; unk. obs. = unknown observer; WA = Wildlife Area; WBCI = Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; WSO = Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

REPORTS

(1 March–31 May 2010)

Greater White-fronted Goose—Observed 6 March in Dane, Green, Iowa, and Ozaukee Counties. Final observation at Nine Springs in Dane on 14 May by Witynski. Bowers Lake in Rock County hosted 740 birds 21 March (Prestby). Romano reported 390 birds from Lafayette County 19 March. A review of the



Figure 5. White-faced Ibis at Horicon Marsh, Dodge County on 1 May 2010 by Chris West.



Figure 6. Reeve in Dane County on 9 May 2010 by Chris West.



Figure 7. Franklin's Gull on 30 April 2010 in Bayfield County by Ryan Brady.



Figure 8. White-winged Dove with a Mourning Dove at the feeder of Steve Morse in Milwaukee County on 23 and 24 May 2010.

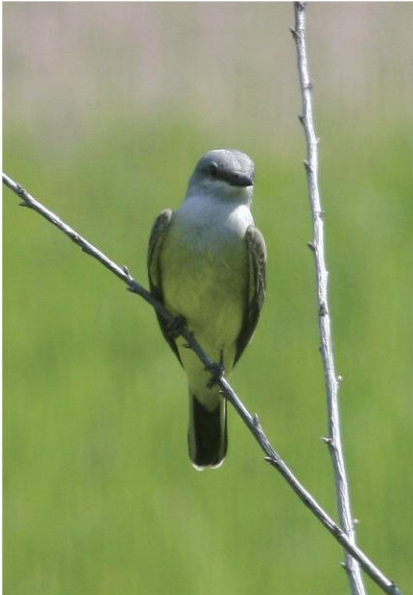


Figure 9. Western Kingbird visiting Ryan Brady's yard in Bayfield County on 24 May 2010.



Figure 10. Is this Western Kingbird singing or eating a bug while in Ryan Brady's yard on 24 May 2010?



Figure 11. Chris West photographed this Northern Mockingbird on 2 May 2010 at Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County.

2005–2009 seasonal reports showed that this was the only recent year the highest counts did not originate from Columbia County. Additional county reports came from Bayfield, Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Jefferson, La Crosse, Marathon, Outagamie, Racine, Sauk, Walworth, and Waukesha.

Snow Goose—Seen 6 March in Dane, Dodge, and Green Counties. Marquette County was the location of 371 individuals on 16 March (Whitrock). Prestby and Yoerger made the final report from Dane 18 May. Other reporting counties were Brown, Columbia, Grant, Lafayette, Outagamie, Portage, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, and Waukesha.

Ross's Goose*—The only report was of one bird seen by Prestby and Schilke in Rock County at Bowers Lake Road and County KK on

13 March. In 2009, this species had been reported from twelve counties.

Cackling Goose—First reported 5 March in Waukesha County by Gustafson. As might be expected, the next reports came from Dodge (6 March, Tessen) and Dane (7 March, Thiessen) Counties. A total of 100 were seen in Burnett County 1 April (Sando). Final reports came from Brady in Bayfield County 5 May (photodocumented on eBird website) and Ziebell in Winnebago County EOP. Seen in a total of 18 counties.

Trumpeter Swan—Reported from Burnett, Grant, Milwaukee, Polk, Sauk, St. Croix, and Vernon Counties during the first week of the period. High counts consisted of 85 birds 6 March in St. Croix (Persico) and 45 birds 18 March in Burnett (Haseleu). With the exception of Grant (Mertins, Romano), seen during



Figure 12. This Northern Mockingbird was found in Wood County by Chris West on 15 May 2010.

the last week of the period in counties consistent with atlas data.

Tundra Swan—Present in 6 counties during the first week of the period, north to Ashland (Anich, Oksiuta). Although lower than in 2009, the high count again came from Outagamie County with 2,200 seen 17 March by Tessen. Final reports, each of a single bird, came from Bayfield (23 May, Brady) and Taylor (30 May, Cameron) Counties.

Wood Duck—Seen during the first week of the period in Richland (Duerksen), Rock (Yoerger), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. High counts were produced in Trempealeau (62 birds on 30 April, Kavanaghs) and Winnebago (108 birds on 15 May, Ziebell) Counties.

Gadwall—Excluding the possible overwintering birds in Dane County (Schwarz), this species appeared during first week of the period in Buffalo, Columbia, Green, and Sauk Counties. Paulios reported 120 in Dane 28 March. Seen EOP in Burnett, Dodge, and Winnebago Counties.

American Wigeon—Two possibly overwintering birds were seen by Martin 2 March in Columbia County followed by Evanston 6 March in Dane County. Grant, Milwaukee, Racine, and Winnebago Counties were added 7 March. Romano saw 170 from the Lake Wisconsin Causeway in Columbia 30 March. Like the Gadwall,

reported EOP from Burnett, Dodge, and Winnebago Counties.

American Black Duck—A review of eBird data from the season shows no reports of American Black Duck/Mallard hybrids. In the future, observers may want to make an effort to look for and note their presence on their checklists. Reported BOP in Dane, Door, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. There were only six counties reporting numbers greater than 10: Bayfield, Brown, Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Racine. Reported EOP by the Brassers in Sheboygan County and by Anich and Spaeth in Bayfield. A species of special concern, eBird data from BOP-15 April show that frequency, abundance, and average count were all down compared to the 2008 and 2009 seasons. (For the definition of the eBird terms just used, see “The Accounts—Symbols and Terms.”)

Blue-winged Teal—Bakken’s Pond in Sauk County was the site of the first observation on 10 March and the high count of 217 on 6 April, both by A. Holschbach. Next dates were Burckhardt in Dodge County and Yoerger in Rock County, on 12 and 13 March, respectively.

Northern Shoveler—Reported from multiple locations in Dane County BOP (Schwarz) thru 6 March. On 7 March, additional sightings came from Grant (Stark) and Racine (Prestby) Counties. A total of 200 birds were reported by Martin 30 March in Columbia County and several observers 24 April in Dodge County. EOP in Dodge, Door, Manitowoc, and Winnebago Counties.

Northern Pintail—First seen by Pugh in Racine County 5 March and discovered at Lower Mud Lake in Dane County the next day (m. obs.). Killsnake SWA in Calumet County hosted 400 birds 22 March (Schroeder). The second highest total was 75 birds seen in Bayfield County 3 April (Anich and Spaeth). Last seen by Rickaby in Oconto County 16 May.

Green-winged Teal—Evanston had the first sighting 6 March in Dane County, followed by Yoerger the next day in Walworth County. Maximum counts were reported by Frank on 22 April (180, Dodge County) and Kollath on 4 April (150, Jefferson County). Consistent with the findings of the atlas project, found EOP in Ashland, Burnett, Dodge, Door, Douglas, and Winnebago Counties.

Canvasback—Martin saw two birds 2 March in Columbia County. Then, on 5 March, Betchkal and Pugh reported birds in Racine



Figure 13. Smith's Longspur in a field in Dane County on 30 April 2010 as photographed by Chris West.



Figure 14. Kirtland's Warbler seen in Wisconsin on 21 May 2010 by Chris West.



Figure 15. Painted Bunting at a feeder in Phelps, Vilas County on 23 May 2010 was recorded by David Franzen. Note the rump color.



Figure 16. Painted Bunting in Vilas County on 23 May 2010 by David Franzen.

County. This species numbers came back down to earth versus the 2009 high count (6,000) with 1,300 birds seen 22 March by Ziebell in Winnebago County. Other high counts were only in the range of 120–250 individuals and came from the counties of Columbia, Dane, La Crosse, Lafayette, Jefferson, and Vernon. EOP in Winnebago.

Redhead—Multiple holdovers from the winter season were present BOP in Dane (Schwarz), Door (Lukes), and Rock (Yoerger) Counties. More birds were reported on 2 March in Columbia County (Martin) and 3 March in Manitowoc (Tessen) and Milwaukee (T. Wilson) Counties. Found EOP in Dodge (Frank), Manitowoc (Domagalski, Sontag), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. As in 2009, the high count, 300 birds in Bayfield on 3 April (Anich and Spaeth), was relatively low when compared to seasonal reports in years 2005–2008.

Ring-necked Duck—Apparently the only observer looking for ducks BOP in Dane County was Schwarz, who had yet another first sighting on Lower Mud Lake. Also reported BOP in Winnebago County by Bruce and Ziebell. The third reporting county, Racine, wasn't added until 7 March. This handsome dabbling duck demonstrated good high counts of 700 (Svingen, Douglas County), 550 (Romano, Burnett County), and 492 (A. Holschbach, Sauk County).

Greater Scaup—BOP in the expected lakefront counties of Door, Manitowoc (where it was also seen EOP by Domagalski and Sontag), Milwaukee, and Sheboygan. Another late season observation came from Douglas County (26 May, Tessen). Numbers topped out at 2,000 in Manitowoc 13 March (A. & J. Holschbach).

Lesser Scaup—TTP in Manitowoc County (Sontag) and BOP in Milwaukee County (Goodman). High counts originated from Winnebago County on 29 March (3,000+ birds, Tessen) and La Crosse County on 5 April (2,000 birds, Jackson). Counts of over 300 birds also came from Door, Fond du Lac, and Jefferson Counties. EOP in Dodge (Frank) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties.

Scaup sp.—Schilke reported 5,500 in Brown County on East Lower Green Bay 4 April. While still remarkable, this number is lower than his count of 8,000 birds from the same location in 2009.

Harlequin Duck*—Sightings of four separate females came from 4 counties. BOP in Milwaukee County at Lakeshore SP (Squier, T.

Wilson). Wilson also made the last report from that location on 25 March. Another female was reported BOP by the Brassers in Sheboygan County, who monitored her until 2 April. This bird was enjoyed by many, including participants in a WSO fieldtrip 14 March. A third bird was observed BOP-13 March in Winnebago County (Tessen). The last female was seen on the relatively late date of 11 May in Rock County by Gerkhardt and relocated the next day by Klubertanz and Yoerger.

Surf Scoter—Reported from only 5 counties. Tessen reported the first two birds 24 March in Ozaukee County. The next report didn't come until 3 April in Manitowoc County (A. & J. Holschbach). After another lull, Bayfield County posted the dismal high count of 3 birds on 9 May (Anich). A review of the field notes from 2005–2009 revealed that in the years where a maximum number was indicated, this year had the lowest high count. The final two counties, Ashland and Trempealeau, were added on 15 May. Last observed 21 May in Ashland by Anich and Spaeth.

White-winged Scoter—Reported in 8 counties. An overwintering bird was present in Kewaunee County 3 March (Tessen), followed by sightings in Racine County 5 March (Betchkal) and in Manitowoc County 10 March (Sontag). Participants in the WSO fieldtrip 14 March claimed the high count of just 3 birds in Sheboygan County. Another check of past field note history shows that the 2008 and 2009 high counts were significantly greater than this season. Perhaps the most interesting observation came inland on 6 April at Rock Lake in Jefferson County (Etter Hale). Last seen 26 May in Douglas County by Tessen. The other two county reports came from Milwaukee and Ozaukee.

Black Scoter—Reported from 6 counties. Tessen posted the first observation date and the only count of more than one bird (2) 24 March in Manitowoc County. On 29 March, Petherick (Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County) and Frank (Virmond Park, Ozaukee County) saw other single birds. In this case, the less than awe-inspiring numbers are consistent with past years 2005–2009. This species was also found inland, by Paulios on 20 April, in Dane County. The other reporting counties were Bayfield and Douglas (where Anich saw the last bird 14 May).

Long-tailed Duck—BOP in Door County (Lukes). Gustafson contributed both the next report and highest count (500 birds) on 2 March from Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County. A relatively late last report also came

from that county on 15 May (Uttech). A terrific observation was made in Dane County at Picnic Point, where a female was first observed 11 April by E. Wood. This bird remained until 16 April (Stutz). Additionally reported from the lakeshore counties of Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan.

Bufflehead—Seen BOP in Door, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties, the species was next reported 6 March at Lower Mud Lake in Dane County (m. obs.). The final report, of two birds, came from Bontly in Door 22 May. The high count was 234 birds on 31 March by Buckardt in Milwaukee.

Common Goldeneye—Reported BOP along Lake Michigan in Door, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan, as well as, inland from Dane, Green Lake, Rock, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. While Tessen observed a congregation of 3,500 on 13 March in Winnebago, lesser numbers were reported by Schilke in Brown County 6 March (800) and Yoerger in Rock BOP (450). Last seen by Tessen in Douglas County 26 May.

Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser—Exciting reports of this hybrid came from two counties. T. Wilson saw one in Milwaukee County BOP thru 16 March and Svingen found another in Douglas County 2 April.

Barrow's Goldeneye**—Prestby and Schilke photo-documented a male along the Lake Wisconsin Causeway in Columbia County 13 March.

Hooded Merganser—BOP in Dane (Schwarz) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Sixty reported 14 April from Washburn County (Haseleu) and 53 were reported 27 March in Iron County (Brandt).

Common Merganser—overwintering birds were found in Buffalo, Dane, Door, Green Lake, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties. Prestby and Schilke saw 1,150 in Columbia County 13 March. Sontag saw 500+ in Manitowoc County 2 March. Found EOP in the expected counties of Bayfield (Anich, Spaeth) and Douglas (LaValleys).

Red-breasted Merganser—Only Door, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan Counties produced BOP reports. Paulios saw 250 birds 21 March in Milwaukee, while the team of Pugh and Wenzel saw 200 birds 7 March in Racine County. Multiple observations occurred at or near EOP in Burnett, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Waukesha Counties.

Ruddy Duck—Sightings came from Dane, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Rock Counties during the first week of the period. High counts occurred simultaneously on 24 April in Fond du Lac (335, m. obs.) and Green Lake (158, m. obs.) Counties. Frank reported this species EOP both at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County, where atlas work has confirmed breeding, and in Fond du Lac County.

Northern Bobwhite—Consistent with ongoing population declines, only reported from Dane, Kenosha, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties. The Winnebago report, near Rush Lake, falls slightly outside of the range indicated by the atlas.

Gray Partridge—The only report, of two birds, came from Rickaby in Brown County 4 March. Photos were uploaded to the eBird Flickr website.

Ruffed Grouse—Brady produced the high count, 20 birds, while performing a Red-shouldered Hawk survey 4 May in Ashland County. As expected, not reported from the very southeastern corner of the state (based on atlas data). However, sightings persist in the established southern limits of Crawford (Duerksen, Stark) and Washington (Cutright, Mueller) Counties.

Spruce Grouse*—A review of Spring seasonal reports from 2005–2009 reveals that this season produced the most sightings and that Ashland and Florence Counties were “new” spring locations for the species. The breakdown by county: Ashland (found near Clam Lake in Chequamegon NF, 31 March thru EOP, Anich), Florence (19 May thru 29 May, Kavanaghs), Forest (9 April thru 27 May, m. obs.), Sawyer (15 March by Anich), and Vilas (7 March thru 27 May, m. obs.). The high count was 6 birds tallied by the team of Anich and Peczynski 23 April in Forest. See “By the Wayside” for the observations of T. Wood in Vilas 19 April.

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Seen in Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Price, Taylor, and Vilas Counties. The LaValleys found 18 birds in Douglas 15 April. The “second place finish” was 13 birds seen in Burnett 22 April by Hoefler.

Greater Prairie-Chicken—First reported 5 March at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County by the RBC annual winter field-trip. The group saw 53 birds, which was the most during the season. The only other spot to observe this species was George W. Mead SWA in Marathon County, where birds were seen 27 March thru 17 April.

Red-throated Loon—There are currently only seven records before 12 March for this species. This spring, three observers added to those numbers. Sontag saw a bird 4 March in Manitowoc County followed the next day by Betchkal in Racine County. Yet a third report came from T. Wood 6 March in Ozaukee County; see “By the Wayside” for his account. Birdwatchers on a WBCI fieldtrip in Manitowoc 27 March witnessed the high count of 16 individuals. Last seen in Douglas County by Tessen on the relatively late date of 26 May. Other reports came from Door, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties.

Common Loon—Observed suddenly on 19 March in Dane (Jakoubek), Oneida (Richmond), and Taylor (Risch) Counties. Unlike the 2009 season, when temperatures kept the northern lakes frozen and concentrated birds in the southern half of the state, high counts were less spectacular. A direct comparison can be made with the high count of Paulios, who saw “only” 33 birds on Lake Monona in Dane 29 March, compared to his 152 birds from the same location in 2009. The only other totals in excess of 10 birds came from the counties of Columbia, Washburn, and Winnebago. The last southern report came 27 May from Frank while at the Lion’s Den Gorge in Ozaukee County.

Pied-billed Grebe—Reported during the first week of the period from Brown (Tessen), Crawford (Stark), and Dane (Schwarz) Counties. Based on data gleaned from eBird, their reporting frequency “spiked” the week of 1 April. The high counts were 38 seen 24 April at Horicon Marsh NWR in Fond du Lac County (m. obs.) and 29 seen 29 April on Big Muskego Lake in Waukesha County (Gustafson).

Horned Grebe—Mooney spotted the first one in Milwaukee County 6 March, followed by Prestby the next day in the same county (3 individuals). The third sighting came 14 March from Manitowoc County (Kavanaghs). Svingen saw 37 in Douglas County at Wisconsin Point 17 April and counts of 30 birds came from Schwarz in Dane County (1 April) and Tessen in Ozaukee County (24 March). Several May sightings occurred, the last one being 13 May by Gustafson in Milwaukee.

Red-necked Grebe—Seen in 12 counties. There are currently 7 records before 25 March, two of which reside in the winter reporting season. This spring, T. Wood made a significant observation (2 birds) 21 March in Ozaukee County. The Kavanaghs reported 5 April from Thunder Lake WA in Oneida County. Subsequent sightings came on 16 April in Washburn

County (Haseleu) and 17 April in Burnett County (Hoefler). There were 13 birds seen by Svingen 17 April at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County. EOP in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Other county reports came from Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, and Waukesha. Counties where observers specifically described potential nesting or breeding behavior were Burnett, Columbia, and Waukesha.

Eared Grebe*—Belter discovered a bird 10 April on Lake Wausau in Marathon County, which he monitored through 16 April. Next reported 2 May by Anich in Bayfield County. Gustafson saw a bird in mostly winter plumage at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County 4 May. The fourth county was Trempealeau, where Slager saw a bird in transitional plumage 9 May. Finally, the high count, 2 birds, were seen at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County 19 May (Schwarz) and 21 May (Betchkal).

Western Grebe*—Diehl saw a bird east of the pump house 16 May at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County, which was refound by Tessen 17 May.

Double-crested Cormorant—TTP in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Subsequent reports came from Milwaukee County 3 March (T. Wilson) and Brown County 6 March (Schilke). A Kenosha County May Day count 8 May generated 804 birds (Hoffmann, Sedloff). Anich counted 400 in Ashland County 11 May and Sinkula had 250 in Kewaunee County 28 April. EOP reports originated from Dodge, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, St. Croix, and Waukesha Counties.

American White Pelican—Earliest reports came from Burckhardt who saw 3 birds flying overhead in Fond du Lac County 12 March and Stark who also saw 3 in Crawford County 14 March. Vernon became the third county added on 18 March, when Jackson saw 45 on the Mississippi River. Persico saw 280 birds 17 April in St. Croix County. Present in Douglas County EOP, where the species is uncommon (LaValleys).

American Bittern—Dueling reports of single birds came from Schultz in Green Lake County and Howe in Walworth County 11 April. Kavanagh found a bird the next day up in Florence County. Prestby counted 13 individuals on a survey 20 May in Green Lake County and another 11 in Oconto County 27 May. Found in a total of 26 counties.

Least Bittern—First discovered 6 May by Howe at Honey Creek WA in Racine County.

Seen two days later in Dodge (Gustafson) and Sauk (Schilke) Counties. EOP in Dane, Dodge, and Winnebago Counties. No counts exceeded one bird. Reported from 15 counties.

Great Blue Heron—Found during the first week of the period in Green, Iowa, Rock, Sauk, and Walworth Counties. J. Holschbach noted the arrival of four at a rookery in Manitowoc County 17 March. Persico found 34 birds 22 May in St. Croix County. Counts of 21 birds came from rookeries in Chippewa, Polk, and Sauk Counties.

Great Egret—The only March reports were on the 27th from Schultz in Trempealeau County and on the 31st from Columbia (McDonald) and Winnebago (Bruce) Counties. eBird data demonstrate a gradual build up in the sightings until the first significant peak in eBird frequency was hit during the week of 22 April. This coincided with the high count of 24 birds 29 April in La Crosse County (Jackson). Another high count, 21 birds, came from Rickaby in Brown County 8 May. A rarity in Iron County, and the rest of the far northern counties, Anich's sighting of a single bird at the Gile Flowage 25 May was exceptional.

Snowy Egret—DeBoer reported one bird to the Wisbirdnet 16 April from Racine County, which was subsequently seen by several other observers who entered the sighting into eBird. Last seen by Gustafson 21 April.

Little Blue Heron*—An adult (Fig. 1) was observed at Truax Pond in Eau Claire County 8 May by the daughter and mother team of Barth and Polk (see "By the Wayside"); last reported there 12 May by Cameron (Fig. 2). Another sighting came from Lewis in Trempealeau County at the Trempealeau NWR 26 May. This bird was also in adult plumage, raising the possibility that both birds reported during the season were the same.

Cattle Egret—Three birds (also the high count) were reported by Prestby at Nine Springs in Dane County 15 April, where observations persisted until 18 April, when two more birds were seen in Iowa County (A. Holschbach, Prestby). New reports were not made until early May, when Brown (1st), Kenosha (8th), and Waukesha (4th) Counties hosted their first birds. Reported from 7 counties.

Green Heron—Bucci reported two birds from Waukesha County 12 April. Doverspike reported the next bird from Picnic Point in Dane County 14 April. There was a "long pause" until additional county reports came in on 23 April

(Dodge), 25 April (Winnebago), and 26 April (Milwaukee). A maximum of 5 birds was the most anyone managed to find (T. Wilson in Waukesha County 15 May and Prestby & Yoerger in Sauk County 18 May).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—A report 1 April from Millers Bay in Oshkosh, Winnebago County by Ziebell was the earliest. The next birds weren't reported until 15 April at Bay Beach SP in Brown County (Martinez, Petrashek) and 18 April at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County (T. Wilson). The only other county report for April was Dodge. Buckardt counted 34 at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge 30 May.

Glossy Ibis**—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records" for approved sightings from Dane and Dodge Counties (Figs. 3 and 4). The written accounts from Gustafson and T. Wood can be found in "By the Wayside."

White-faced Ibis**—Approved reports originated in Columbia, Dodge (Fig. 5), and Waukesha Counties this season, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records." The written accounts from Gustafson and T. Wood can be found in "By the Wayside."

Turkey Vulture—Found wafting along air currents above Dane (Boyle) and Waukesha (Bruhnke) Counties 8 March. Seen the following day in Grant County (unk. obs.). Rock and Sauk Counties were added on 12 March. Brady first noted its appearance in Bayfield County 1 April. Counts ranging from 42–45 birds came from Grant (Schilke), Jackson (Otto), and Waukesha (Howe) Counties.

Osprey—Richmond saw the first on the relatively early date of 17 March in Oneida County. Additional county reports came on 27 March from Brown and Racine, followed by Dane and Milwaukee on 31 March. Five or more birds were found in Adams, Burnett, Juneau, and Washburn Counties.

Bald Eagle—BOP in Buffalo, Burnett, Clark, Dane, Door, Douglas, Marathon, Polk, Sauk, Taylor, Vilas (J. Baughman), and Winnebago Counties. Betchkal saw 72 in Marathon 27 March at the George W. Mead SWA.

Northern Harrier—Present during the first week of the period in Manitowoc, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, and Winnebago Counties. A maximum of 10 birds was reported from Dodge County 5 April at Horicon Marsh NWR (Zeman,

Stark). A count of 8 came from Adams County 3 April (Yoerger) and Burnett County 22 April (Gustafson).

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Seen during the first week of the season in La Crosse, Milwaukee, Monroe, and Sauk Counties. Migratory counts on 1 May came from Douglas County at Wisconsin Point (20, Oksiuta) and Bayfield County at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (15, Anich). Interesting southern county reports at or near EOP came from Dane (McDowell, 27 May) and Columbia (Bucci, EOP).

Cooper's Hawk—Normally this species is excluded from the report because of its sedentary and year-round status. However, on 19 March, Bruhnke conducted a hawk watch at Lapham Peak SP in Waukesha County and counted 30 birds.

Northern Goshawk—Seen in the following counties: Bayfield, Burnett, Florence, Forest, Monroe, Oconto, and Vilas. As in 2009, a report came from Ozaukee County (26 March, Uttech). Last observed 25 May in Oconto by Smith. All reports were of single birds.

Red-shouldered Hawk—Reported during the first week of the season from Ozaukee (Frank, Maercklein), Polk (Collins), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. Bruhnke had a migratory total of 7 birds in Waukesha 15 March. Richmond counted a total of 5 birds while running her Red-shouldered Hawk survey route in Menominee County 20 April.

Broad-winged Hawk—Every year there are reports prior to 15 April of this species and historically, the WSO Records Committee has rejected many of them after review. This year, both the timing and scattered distribution of observations indicates that the species did, in fact, arrive early. Multiple birds were observed in both Trempealeau (Lewis, Slager) and Vernon (E. Wood, Schilke) Counties on 13 April. Reported the following day by Shillinglaw in Marquette County, Tessen in Outagamie County, and Howe in Walworth County. Found in 5 additional counties 15 April, including in Bayfield by Anich and Brady. On 1 May, Anich watched for 3 hours as 1,500 birds passed over the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Bayfield.

Swainson's Hawk**—Found and photographed 2 May by S. Wilson in Douglas County, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records."

Rough-legged Hawk—Reported 2 March from the following counties: Columbia (Martin), Ozaukee (Gustafson), Taylor (Risch), and Trempealeau (Romano). Four were seen 8 March at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County (David). The last reports came 12 May from the LaValleys in Douglas County, 18 May from C. and R. Lukes in Door County, and 22 May from Francken in Iron County.

Golden Eagle—Reported from Bayfield (Anich, Oksiuta), Dane (Evanson), Douglas (Cameron), Eau Claire (Ellis), Monroe (Epstein), and Oconto Counties. Anich recorded 2 birds in Bayfield 14 March. There are only 6 spring records beyond 9 May, the latest being 24 May. The 25 May report from Oconto (Kavanaghs, Smith) eclipses that date. There is now only one later record, which resides in the summer reporting season (17 June 2001, Waukesha, Bielefeldt).

American Kestrel—Reported from around the state, north to Ashland (Anich), Bayfield (Oksiuta), and Langlade (Richmond) Counties during the last week of the period. Oksiuta's high count of 9 birds came from Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County 11 April.

Merlin—Seen in a total of 26 counties, including TTP in Door County (Lukes). Two was the maximum number reported on 2 May in Bayfield County (Oksiuta) and 22 May in Door (Paulios). Late May southern county reports came on the 23rd from Manitowoc (Sontag), 26th from Dane (Graham), and 28th from Dodge (Burckhardt).

Peregrine Falcon—The following was taken from the "Wisconsin Falconwatch 2010 Nesting Season Report" (and reprinted with permission from Greg Septon of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program). This year in Wisconsin there was a known total of 82 young produced at 27 successful Peregrine Falcon nest sites. Eleven nests were located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, 4 along the [northeastern] Fox River, 2 along the Wisconsin River, 2 on the shores of Lake Superior, 6 along the Mississippi River (2 on cliffs), and 2 inland at Madison and Jefferson.

Yellow Rail*—The record cut off date (for an explanation of what this term means, see "The Accounts—Symbols and Terms") for this species is 19 April 1993, set by Diehl in Milwaukee County. This year, Howe will match that record date after eliciting a response from one individual while performing a nighttime survey in Walworth County. Next reported 29 April from Crex Meadows WA in Burnett County (2

birds, Paulios). On 1 May, Green Lake became the last county to report when the participants in a WSO fieldtrip heard the characteristic ticking for approximately five minutes. Found again at the same location 6 May by Prestby.

King Rail*—Documented in three counties. The first occurred 7 May at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County (Gustafson). The second appeared the following day in Columbia County at Mud Lake WA (Romano). He indicated that this bird was located during a MAS Big Day. The last report came during the May Day count in Winnebago County 15 May (Ziebell). This bird was heard calling near Rush Lake at sunrise.

Virginia Rail—An observation 19 March in Racine County would be the record early date for this species; however, supportive documentation was not submitted to the WSO Records Committee for review. The first two official reports came on 9 April from Portage (Dixon, Wenzel) and Walworth Counties (Howe). Reported the next day by Frank at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County. Horicon Marsh NWR was also the location of the second highest count, 10 birds, by Prestby 27 April. The high count, 29 birds, was tallied during the Winnebago County May Day count 15 May at the Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area (Ziebell).

Sora—First observed by Romano in Iowa County 10 April. Seen the following day in Fond du Lac County by Mueller. Additional reports came from Dane (Schwarz), Rock (Klubertanz), and Trempealeau (Slager) Counties 12 April. A staggering 92 birds were reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County 15 May, with the next highest total being 30, from Dodge County 13 May (Mueller).

Common Moorhen—Prestby reported the first on 18 April from Bakken's Pond in Sauk County. Two more birds were seen at Horicon Marsh NWR 24 April in Dodge County (Fitzgerald, Galick, Prestby). One had to wait until 5 May for the third county to report, Waukesha, when Mooney visited Vernon Marsh. Five birds were the most anyone saw at Horicon Marsh NWR from 15 May thru EOP. Counts of 2 or more birds came from the additional counties of Jefferson, Rock, Trempealeau, and Walworth. Seen in a total of 12 counties.

American Coot—Seen at or near BOP in Dane (Schwarz), Ozaukee (m. obs.), and Winnebago Counties (Bruce). Five birds reached Burnett County on 1 April (Sando). A. Holschbach reported the greatest concentra-

tion, 3,200 birds, at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County 11 April. Other good county totals came from Columbia (1,614 birds on 28 March, Buckardt), Dane (1,200 birds on 31 March, Paulios), and Jefferson (1,200 birds on 6 April, Etter Hale).

Sandhill Crane—Everyone's favorite har-binger of spring was found first by Gustafson in Waukesha County 3 March. Reported the following day from Buffalo, Columbia, Dodge, and Ozaukee Counties. The species was added in six more counties 5 March. The Kavanaghs found their first bird in Florence County 16 March. Lower than the past couple of years, the 214 birds counted 15 May in Winnebago County was the maximum. Counts of between 155–165 birds came from Green Lake, Rock, and Waukesha Counties.

Black-bellied Plover—Made a sudden appearance 3 May in Bayfield (Anich), Dane (Schwarz), and Dodge (Reichhoff) Counties. Klubertanz counted the highest number, 9 birds, 23 May in Door County, which was the same day Yoeinger saw 6 birds in Dodge. Found EOP in Bayfield, Dodge, and Manitowoc Counties. Reported in a total of 13 counties.

American Golden-Plover—There are currently six record dates prior to April 6. Schwarz's report from Columbia County at the Harvey-Wangness Road Ponds on 5 April becomes the seventh. The next report, 5 birds, came from Sheboygan County 14 April (Schroeder). After another ridiculous time gap, Prestby reported a single bird from the aforementioned Columbia location 1 May. Slager saw 59 birds in Trempealeau County 13 May. Last reported from Bayfield County 19 May by Trick. Other sightings came from Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Racine Counties, which brought the number of reporting counties to 7.

Semipalmated Plover—Reported from Nine Springs in Dane County 29 April (Marschalek). Anich and Spaeth reported one the next day in Bayfield County and Prestby reported from Columbia County the day after that. Columbia was also the site of the high count, 19 birds, 6 May (Romano). Found in Bayfield, Dodge, Racine, and Manitowoc Counties EOP.

Piping Plover*—Sontag succeeded at photographing one he found in Manitowoc County at the Impoundment 28 April. Another bird was found 1 May (Mooney; see "By the Wayside") at Bradford Beach in Milwaukee County and later observed by others the same day. A third bird was seen in Sheboygan County 6 May

(Fairfield). The fourth sighting, and the most unexpected, occurred in Trempealeau County at the Schuh Road Pond 14 May. That bird was found by Lewis and later observed by Slager. All birds reported during the season were "one day wonders."

Killdeer—This other hallmark of spring was initially found 5 March in Grant (Stark) and Walworth (Howe) Counties. Added the next day in Brown, Dane, Green, Ozaukee, Rock, Vernon, and Winnebago Counties. Arrived in Vilas County 26 March (Peczynski). The greatest numbers were reported in the expected counties of Fond du Lac 15 May (47, May Day count), Dodge 30 May (22, Buckhardt), Columbia 18 May (20, Huf), and Dane 25 April (18, Jakoubek).

Black-necked Stilt**—The WSO Records Committee accepted 3 reports from Dodge County, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records."

American Avocet—Five birds were seen by Frank 1 May at the MCGI in Milwaukee County. Birds were refound at this location 9 May (Lubahn) and many other observers were able to view them. The second county report came from Kewaunee 6 May, when Sinkula observed the largest flock, 16 birds, at Marquette Park. First reported at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County by Gustafson and Tessen 7 May. Last noted at that location by Martin 16 May. Ziebell saw a bird at Millers Bay in Winnebago County 8 May that fed along the shore no more than 30 feet away from him. The fifth, and final county report, came from Bayfield 19 May (Oksiuta), where a single bird was seen until 23 May (Anich).

Spotted Sandpiper—Seen 14 April in Dane County (Fenske). Reported from Vernon County 16 April (Nolan), with Rock County added the next day (Klubertanz). Slager saw his first in Trempealeau County 24 April. Witynski counted 20 at Nine Springs in Dane 14 May. The "runner up" was Mueller on 8 May with 11 birds at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County.

Solitary Sandpiper—Reported 17 April from Columbia (A. Holschbach), Iowa (Marschalek, Matrisch), and La Crosse (Jackson) Counties. Landed in Ashland County 2 May (Anich). EOP reports of the species came from Bontly in Dodge County and C. and R. Lukes in Door County. The highest concentrations were 20 birds seen by Paulios in Dane County 5 May and 9 birds seen by Szymczak in Waukesha County the next day.

Greater Yellowlegs—The only March report this year came from Iowa County on the 28th (A. Holschbach). The second report came from Dodge County 3 April (Schroeder), followed the next day by sightings in Calumet (Betchkal), Columbia (Doverspike), Dane (Schwarz), and Kenosha (Willard) Counties. Seen in Bayfield County by the LaValleys 13 April. High counts came from Dane 2 May (45, Evanson) and 8 May (100, Jakoubek). Last reports by A. Holschbach in Dodge 23 May and Sontag in Manitowoc County EOP.

Willet—The 50 birds reported at the MCGI in Milwaukee County 23 April (Lubahn) were the earliest and the highest number encountered. Seen the next day in Columbia (Schilke) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties. One had to leap forward to 30 April to add the next reporting counties of Dane and La Crosse. Last reported from Bayfield County 23 May by Cameron. Other high totals consisted of the 33 birds reported by Sontag 3 May from Manitowoc and 30 in Kewaunee County the following day (likely the same birds; Sinkula). Other good totals came inland from Chippewa (19, Cameron) and Monroe (16, Epstein) Counties 1 May. Seen in a total of 23 counties.

Lesser Yellowlegs—March reports came from Dane County on the 27th (Martin), Columbia County (Romano) at Goose Pond on the 30th, and Winnebago County (Bruce) on the 31st. Reached Cameron in Chippewa County on 18 April. Finally arrived in Ashland (Oksiuta) and Bayfield (Anich) Counties 1 May. Tessen reported a stunning 1,200 birds in Columbia 6 May. Other county high counts were 350 from Dane 9 May (A. Holschbach) and 200 from Dodge County 7 May (Gustafson). Last reported by Burckhardt at Horicon Marsh NWR 29 May.

Lesser/Greater Yellowlegs—The only other sighting that adds dimension to the above species-specific reports was a bird seen by Bontly 30 March in Sheboygan County.

Upland Sandpiper—Reported from the Thousand's Rock Prairie in Dane County 14 April by Fissel. Seen the next day in Iowa County by Romano at the Thomson Memorial Prairie and the day after that in Outagamie County by Tessen. Kreitingner performed a survey at the Thomson Memorial Prairie 8 May and found 10 birds, which is higher than any totals reported in the field notes during the 2005-2009 seasons. E. Wood found 7 birds at Fort McCoy in Monroe County 2 May. Reported from 15 counties.

Whimbrel—The trio of Anich, Brady, and Oksiuta just missed a record when they found and photographed a bird in Bayfield County 14 May (the record cut-off date is 13 May). The next report came from Manitowoc County (m. obs.) 20 May. Gross reported a jaw-dropping 1,500 birds in Bailey's Harbor near the light-house and at Toff's Point in Door County 25 May. Timing was again everything when the RBC made a fateful decision to visit Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County 28 May and witnessed 185 birds. The sighting consisted of 4–5 flocks flying north, with 2 birds coming ashore for close viewing. Interestingly, Sontag had already reported 45 birds north of there in Manitowoc on 25 May.

Hudsonian Godwit—The timegap between the first and second sightings occurred in almost the exact manner as in 2009. A 2 May sighting by Stutz in Columbia County (in 2009, it was same day in Fond du Lac County) was followed by a report 12 May by Graham and Tessen in Dane County (in 2009 the second observation was 13 May). Frank had the high count, a mere 2 birds, in Dodge County 20 May. Seen in only 6 counties.

Marbled Godwit—Reported from 8 counties, the first being 2 May in Manitowoc (Sontag). Sinkula reported the next bird farther north in Kewaunee County 4 May. The RBC reported the highest number, 4 birds, 28 May while at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County. Seen EOP in Ashland County by Lowthian and in Manitowoc by Sontag.

Ruddy Turnstone—The record cut-off date for this species is 1 May (set by Cleary in 1959; there are also only four April records). This year, the Brassers in Sheboygan County found the first bird on that date, which they monitored until 26 May. Reported next from Dodge County (m. obs.) 6 May. The third county report came from Ziebell in Winnebago 9 May. Red River County Park in Kewaunee County hosted 12 birds 29 May (Schilke). Found EOP in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Seen in a total of 20 counties, 8 of which were away from the Great Lakes.

Red Knot—Had Tessen not made a report from Douglas County 26 May, this would have been the only season in recent history to go without an observation.

Sanderling—The LaValleys report from Douglas County 27 April stands out because it wasn't followed up by other sightings until 8 May in Dane (MAS Big Day) and Racine Counties (Hoy Audubon Society). Sontag reported

the most, 32 birds, 26 May in Manitowoc County. The next highest total was only 7 birds seen by the aforementioned Hoy Audubon members. Seen in 10 counties. eBird data show that while this is the second season in a row of lower reporting frequency, the average count this year was approximately 50% of the 2009 totals.

Semipalmated Sandpiper—Observed 4 May by Fenske in Dane County and Sontag in Manitowoc County. Added the following day in Dodge (Petherick) and Iowa (A. Holschbach) Counties. Schilke saw the highest number, 39 birds, in Dane 29 May, followed by Brady, with 35 birds, in Bayfield County 25 May. EOP in Bayfield (Anich, Spaeth), Dodge (Frank), Manitowoc (Domagalski, Sontag), and Sheboygan (Brassers) Counties.

Least Sandpiper—Prestby saw one bird 27 April in Dodge County at Horicon Marsh NWR. Reported 30 April by Brabant in Dane County and Gustafson in Waukesha County. Martin and Romano reported 100 from Columbia County 8 May. Romano also reported 82 in Lafayette County 12 May. Last seen by Buckardt 30 May in Dodge County.

White-rumped Sandpiper—Seen in Milwaukee County at the MCGI by Frank 1 May. Tessen reported one bird from Manitowoc County 5 May. Romano and Yoerger saw two birds the next day in Columbia County. The high count, 6 birds, came from Ozaukee County 23 May (Frank). Observed EOP in Bayfield, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties. Seen in a total of 11 counties.

Baird's Sandpiper—Tessen made 1 May reports from Dane and Dodge Counties. Seen in Columbia County 4 May by Prestby. Persico saw 5 birds in St. Croix County 22 May, which was the highest number from any observer. Persico also had the sole EOP report from the same county. Seen in 10 counties.

Pectoral Sandpiper—There are only four record dates prior to 19 March. A report of 3 birds from Schwarz on 15 March in Columbia County would become a record along with a 19 March (cut-off date) sighting in Lafayette County by Romano. The only other March report occurred on the 20th in Sauk County (McLeod). After a ridiculous time gap, Dane (also Schwarz) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties were added on 4 April. Tessen reported two high counts, 400 birds in Columbia and 200 birds in Dane both on 20 April. Dixon saw 127 birds 17 April in Kenosha County. Last reported

from Chippewa (Cameron) and Oconto (Smith) Counties 25 May.

Dunlin—The arrival dates for this species jumped all over the place. There are only four record dates prior to 6 April. This year, several reports dropped in before that cut-off date. The first, 2 April at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County, was submitted by Dixon and Wenzel. The next day, Graham reported 2 birds from Dane County. Coleman also reported from Dodge 4 April. The third county report came within the expected normal date range on 14 April from Columbia (Doverspike) and a fourth county, Calumet, was added the next day by Tessen. After another span of ten days, Stutz reported from Dane 25 April. Prestby reported 400 birds, also in Dane, 19 May. EOP in Adams, Bayfield, Dodge, and Manitowoc Counties.

Stilt Sandpiper—First reported 1 May in Columbia (Martin, Prestby) and Dane (Tessen) Counties. The Columbia report was also the high count of 3 birds. Reports continued from those locations until 11 May when Yoerger saw a bird in Waukesha County at Vernon Marsh. Last seen 25 May in Bayfield County by Anich and Brady. Reported in 6 counties.

Ruff**—Three documented reports spanning 8–17 May from Dane County (Fig. 6) were accepted by the WSO Records Committee, see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” The comments from T. Wood, who originally found the Reeve, can be found in “By the Wayside.”

Short-billed Dowitcher—Reported 1 May from Dane County (m. obs.). Heikkinen reported from Columbia County the following day. Added in Chippewa, Dodge, and Milwaukee Counties the day after that. Reached Bayfield County 16 May (Oksiuta). The high count was 120 birds tallied on a Big Day in Ozaukee County (Uttech). Lesser totals were found in Manitowoc County 15 May (29 birds, Sontag) and Burnett County 4 May (25 birds, Hoefler). Last reported 23 May in Dane (Evanston) and Dodge (Bontly) Counties. Found in 20 counties.

Long-billed Dowitcher—Scant reports were the story for this species. Stutz made the only April observation on the 30th in Dane County. Multiple observers continued to report from Dane (including the high count of 7 birds by Graham 1 May) until 3 May when Romano saw 5 birds, another high count, in Columbia County. Dodge County was added 14 May (Nolan). Gustafson reported from Waukesha County the next day. On 16 May, Bruce had

both the last sighting and final county report in Winnebago.

Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher—

This category also added some depth to the above entries. The team of Fitzgerald, Galick, Prestby, and Putnam observed 2 birds at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County 24 April. While the record cut-off date for Short-billed Dowitchers is 21 April, it is 25 April for the Long-billeds.

Wilson's Snipe—First seen 14 March by Risch in Taylor County. Next reported 20 March from Waukesha County (Szymczak). The third county report came from Dane 22 March. Reached Florence County 11 April when the Kavanaghs found 2 birds. Tessen saw 40 birds in Dodge County 8 May and Skutek counted 25 birds 4 April in Portage County.

American Woodcock—Howe flushed his first bird 8 March in Walworth County. Next reported in Dane County 10 March (Schilke) and the following day in Waukesha County by Gustafson. Haselau found her first bird 16 March in Washburn County and the LaValleys reported from Douglas County 21 March. High counts of 14 birds came from Mooney at Havenwoods in Milwaukee County, Howe in Racine County, and Uttech in Ozaukee County during a Big Day mentioned in prior species accounts.

Wilson's Phalarope—Reported 30 April from Burnett County by Hoefler and Paulios and in La Crosse County by Jackson. A flurry of additional sightings came from the following counties the next day: Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Door, Milwaukee, and Trempealeau. Tessen found 20 birds 6 May in Columbia and Gustafson found 16 birds in Dodge County 10 May.

Red-necked Phalarope—Goodman made the first report (two birds) on 2 May from the MCGI in Milwaukee County and indicated that while one bird was still in winter plumage, the other was in breeding plumage. Not reported again until 12 May when found in Dane County by Graham and Martin. The Kavanaghs observed a bird in Columbia County 14 May and the following day in Dodge County. The fifth reporting county was Wood, where a female in breeding plumage was seen by Prestby 23 May. The final report, of another female, came from Eau Claire County 25 May (Polk).

Black-legged Kittiwake**—This bird, a holdover from the winter season, was seen by many observers. However, the only officially submitted and accepted report came from

Gustafson. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records."

Bonaparte's Gull—Reported by Jackson in La Crosse County 18 March. Fare and Gustafson reported from Wind Point in Racine County 23 March and Tessen from Sheboygan County the next day. Other counties to report in March were Columbia, Dane, and Milwaukee. Ziebell counted 3,200 birds 9 May in Winnebago County and Bontly counted 1,000 birds 9 April in Milwaukee at SANC. Counts of 800 birds came from Tessen in Columbia 20 April, Schultz in Green Lake County the same day, and Domagalski in Manitowoc County 8 May.

Little Gull*—Accounts that offered details about the sighting came from Idzikowski in Milwaukee County 11 May (first summer bird), Sontag in Manitowoc County 23 May, and the Brassers in Sheboygan County 30 May.

Laughing Gull*—Pugh and Wenzel found one bird 19 May at the MCGI in Milwaukee County and posted the documentation photos on the eBird Flickr website. Sontag and Tessen provided the only written accounts of a bird seen during a WSO pre-convention tour the following day in Manitowoc County.

Franklin's Gull—Brady saw 3 birds 30 April in Bayfield County (Fig. 7) at the Ashland-Long Bridge. Prestby and Bucci saw 4 birds the following day in Dane County. The third county report came from Trempealeau on 5 May (Lewis, Slager), where they also had the high count, 10 birds, on 15 May. The only other county reports came from Douglas and Milwaukee.

California Gull**—The 11 March sighting by the "dynamic duo" of Dixon and Fare at the Des Plaines River in Kenosha County becomes the earliest of nine previous record dates. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records."

Thayer's Gull—BOP in Manitowoc (Sontag) and Milwaukee (Goodman) Counties, and inland in Waukesha (Frank) County. While mostly confined to counties along the Great Lakes, it was also found at the additional inland locations of Columbia (20 March, Prestby and Schilke) and Rock (7 March, Yoerger). Gustafson found 4 birds in Kenosha County 12 March. Seen in Douglas County 27 April (LaValleys). Last reported by Frank 23 May in Ozaukee County.

Iceland Gull*—BOP in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Next described by Vargo in

Milwaukee County at Lakeshore SP 3 March, it was last reported at that location 23 March by Kreitinger and Paulios. Svingen reported 2 birds 4 March at the Superior Landfill in Douglas County. Svingen had 3 bird high totals from that county 27 March and 3 April. Documentation also submitted for birds in Columbia (13 March, Prestby and Schilke), Kenosha (12 March, Gustafson; see "By the Wayside"), Ozaukee (23 March, Paulios; ties the 3 bird high count), Sheboygan (10 March, Brassers), and Waukesha (22 April, Frank) Counties. Last reported from Virmond Park in Ozaukee by Frank 27 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull*—The earliest report came from Frank in Ozaukee County 4 March, while Gustafson documented the high count, 10 birds, in Kenosha County 12 March. Inland reports originated from Columbia (Prestby, Schilke), Dane (Prestby, Schilke), Rock (Yoerger), and Waukesha (Szymczak).

Glaucous Gull—TTP in Douglas (LaValleys) and Waukesha Counties (Frank). BOP in Manitowoc (Sontag), Milwaukee (Goodman), and Sheboygan (Brassers) Counties. Svingen counted 32 birds 27 March in Allouez Bay in Douglas County. The next highest county total, 10 birds, came from Manitowoc (m. obs.) on the same day.

Great Black-backed Gull—BOP in Manitowoc (Sontag), Sheboygan (Brassers) and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. Also found inland in Winnebago County 20 March (Bruce). All other reports were along the Great Lakes. On 27 March (m. obs.) 22 birds were reported from Manitowoc. Last reported by T. Wilson in Milwaukee County from 18 May thru 28 May.

Caspian Tern—Kewaunee (Schilke) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties were the locations of the first reported birds on 5 April. Found the next day in Racine County by Pugh. Present in Waukesha County on 10 April (Gustafson). The 8 May Kenosha May Day count obtained a total in excess of 300 birds (Hoffmann, Sedloff). Additional high counts were 187 birds 21 April in Manitowoc (Sontag) and 185 birds 8 May in Racine (Howe).

Black Tern—Reported 1 May in Dodge County by Tessen. Seen 3 May at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County by Mertins and the following day in Columbia (Martin) and La Crosse (Jackson) Counties. Coincidentally, every high count was posted on 14 May. Prestby counted a stunning 800 birds at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge, Betchkal saw 450 in Trempealeau County, Paulios tallied 140 on Lake Waubesa in

Dane County, and Mertins found 100 in Waukesha. EOP in Burnett, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Waukesha, and Wood Counties. This species of special concern was reported from a promising total of 28 counties.

Common Tern—First seen by C. and R. Lukes in Door County 16 April. The next report came from Ziebell in Winnebago County 25 April. Seen in Douglas County by 4 May (LaValleys). Sontag counted a minimum of 1,200 birds in Manitowoc County 13 May. The next highest total, 260 birds, came from Svingen in Douglas 16 May at Interstate Island WMA. EOP in Bayfield, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties.

Forster's Tern—Gustafson found the first small group (3 birds) 10 April in Waukesha County. Next reported from Dane (Pfeiffer) and Winnebago (Bruce) Counties 12 April. McLeod found 350 on Lake Puckaway 29 May in Green Lake County while canoeing. Petherick counted 75 at Horicon Marsh NWR 5 May in Dodge County where it was also reported EOP (m. obs.).

Parasitic Jaeger*—There are currently ten spring records for this species. All but one record originates from Douglas County (Burnett County, 1978). Tessen spent three hours at Wisconsin Point in Douglas and observed 5 birds in breeding plumage 26 May.

Jaeger sp.*—T. Wood described an encounter he had with one bird 29 May in Douglas County, which can be read in "By the Wayside."

Eurasian Collared-Dove**—The 11 birds found by Stark in Crawford County 14 March were the first and the highest number. Also reported from it's the usual haunts of Columbia, Grant, and Iowa Counties. Mueller's report of a bird in Fond du Lac County 16 May was unusual; however, the species was documented nearby in Sheboygan County during the 2009 season.

White-winged Dove**—A single bird was observed and photographed 23 and 24 May in Milwaukee County by Morse (Fig. 8). See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records." This becomes the 10th record of the species in Wisconsin.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Found 1 May in Grant (m. obs.) County and during a WSO field trip in Green Lake County. Next reported 6 May from Racine (Howe), Rock (Klubertanz), and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. The

White River Marsh SWA in Green Lake sustained 9 birds 17 May (Schultz). Found north to Burnett and Oconto Counties.

Black-billed Cuckoo—Arrived in Dane (Prestby) and Walworth (Howe) Counties on 2 May. Reports of 4 birds came from multiple counties: Langlade (Richmond), Sauk (Bontly), Vernon (E. Wood), and Wood (Prestby). More widespread than the Yellow-billed, this species was found in all of the northern limit counties of the state including Bayfield, Door, and Florence.

Eastern Screech-Owl—Not a common species, it was found in a heartening total of 16 counties. The most northern of these were Burnett (Sando) and Oconto (Smith) Counties. Dixon and Wenzel heard 3 birds at the Burlington School Forest in Racine County 26 March.

Snowy Owl—Reported from these counties in the eastern portion of the state: Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Kewaunee, Langlade, Milwaukee, Rock, Washington, and Winnebago. The 2 birds in Kewaunee were the most reported (m. obs.). Last seen 20 April by Ziebell in Winnebago.

Long-eared Owl—TTP in Douglas County (LaValleys).

Short-eared Owl—Found during the period in Brown, Burnett, Calumet, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Portage, Racine, and Waukesha Counties. Kollath saw 4 birds on 5 March at Zeloski Marsh WA in Jefferson. The last report, 26 May, of one "harassing a harrier" came from Tessen in Burnett.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Reported from 12 counties, south to La Crosse (Jackson) and Sauk (Romano). The Kavanaghs counted 8 birds in Marinette County 1 April and 4 birds in Florence County 14 April.

Common Nighthawk—Stark saw the first in Crawford County 1 May. Schwarz found the next birds 2 May in Grant County and the following day in Dane County. The fourth county, Walworth, wasn't added until 8 May (Howe). While found 30 May in Door, Grant, Green Lake, Jackson, and Manitowoc Counties, there were no actual EOP reports. No high counts exceeded 10 birds.

Chuck-will's-widow**—Two reports were approved by the WSO Records Committee this year from Jackson County. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records." A portion of the observational ac-

count submitted by Otto can be found in "By the Wayside."

Eastern Whip-poor-will—Howe heard his first bird 19 April in Walworth County, which is 7 days earlier than he did in 2009. Next reported from Iowa County 23 April (Hutnik) and all the way up in Florence County two days later (Kavanaghs). Higher than their totals in 2009, the Kavanaghs tallied 19 birds in Marinette County 20 May. Otto was close behind, with 18 birds on 24 May, in Jackson County. EOP reports from Adams, Florence, Oconto, and Walworth Counties.

Chimney Swift—Grover and Liss saw 4 birds in Brown County on the relatively early date of 9 April. A second report did not come until 15 April from Cowart in Milwaukee County and 18 April from Portage County (Pendergast). Dane, the fourth county, did not report until 20 April (A. Holschbach). Stutz found a roost of 175 birds in Jefferson County 8 May. Counts in excess of 55 birds also came from Grant, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Portage, and St. Croix Counties.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—There are only eight record arrival dates before 22 April. This season, single birds found by Jackson in La Crosse County 17 April and Petherick the following day in Milwaukee County would join those records. Strangely, many observers made notations regarding the "lateness" of their own personal observations of this species. The sentiment was not merely anecdotal. In fact, there were only two other April reports: the 23rd in Racine (Opem) and the 30th again in Milwaukee (Boyle). Seen by C. and R. Lukes in Door County 3 May and appeared up in the "northwoods" of Sawyer County 13 May (Gagliardi). In a posting on the Wisbirdnet, eBird team member Paulios demonstrated that as of 14 May, sightings were running only 30% of their "normal" frequency. S. Holschbach counted 12 birds in Sheboygan County 27 May.

Belted Kingfisher—Reported in 10 counties during the first week of the period north to Fish Creek in Door (Diehl). By the end of March, the Kavanaghs had already found 2 birds in Florence County.

Red-headed Woodpecker—Heikkinen made the first report from Iowa County 2 March. Also seen during the first week of the period in Buffalo, Portage, and Sawyer Counties. Brabant found the most, 15 birds, at Necedah NWR in Juneau County 18 April. E. Wood found 8 birds at Fort McCoy in Monroe

County 2 May. This species of special concern was represented in 43 counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Sad to say, but because this species is widespread, it is often "ignored" by the seasonal reports. However, in the extreme northwestern tip of the state it is more rare. This season, Brady had one bird, which appeared 2 May, visiting his feeders in Bayfield County. No other reports came from Ashland, Douglas, or Iron Counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Early season observations of possible over-wintering birds came from Martin in Dane County 3 March and Pendergast in Portage County 14 March. Sightings began to pick up toward the end of March with new reports starting 27–30 March in Richland, Sauk, and Wood Counties and in 10 additional counties on 31 March. Richmond counted 52 resident birds while performing a Red-Shouldered Hawk survey in Menominee County 28 April. Hagner counted 16 migratory birds at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County 4 April. Consistent with atlas findings, there were no southern EOP reports from outside previously established counties.

Black-backed Woodpecker*—Single birds were found in Vilas County 17 March (J. Baughman), Bayfield County 4 April (Brady), Douglas County 22 April (Gustafson) and 17 May (LaValleys), and Ashland County 26 April (Anich).

Northern Flicker—Found in Crawford, Dane, Lafayette, Ozaukee, Portage, Sheboygan, St. Croix, Walworth, Washington, and Winnebago Counties during the first week of the period. Huf reported 25 at SANC in Milwaukee County 12 April.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—The species was "missed" by many dedicated observers this season. In fact, at its peak (week of 22 May), eBird reporting frequency was approximately 20% lower versus 2009 and nearly 50% lower versus 2008. Strelka had the first observation 6 May in Milwaukee County. On 8 May, a second Milwaukee report came from Bontly and in Ozaukee County from Cutright. Schilke counted 5 birds in Jackson County 23 May. Reported in 30 counties, many of which were single occurrences. Late southern reports came from Milwaukee 30 May (Bontly) and EOP in Columbia (Martin) County.

Eastern Wood-Pewee—Reports began 1 May in Dane (Prestby) and Milwaukee (Goodman) Counties. Discovered north in Marinette County 18 May (Campbell). High counts were

18 birds 20 May in Green Lake County (Prestby), 14 birds 29 May in Iowa County (A. Holschbach), and 12 birds 20 May in Monroe County (E. Wood).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—This was another flycatcher that was not seen by a number of prolific observers. At its peak (week of 22 May), eBird reporting frequency was over 25% below 2009 levels and, like the Olive-sided Flycatcher, nearly 50% lower than in 2008. Reported in Milwaukee County 10 May (Campbell) and 14 May (Gustafson). The next county reports came on 15 May from Dodge (Rohde) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. The Kavanaghs counted 8 birds in Florence County at the Haley Creek SNA 30 May. Anich found 5 birds within the Chequamegon NF in Ashland County EOP. Other EOP observations came from the expected counties of Oconto and Vilas.

Acadian Flycatcher—E. Wood reported the first bird in Vernon County 13 May. Heard the next day in Grant (Betchkal), Sauk (unk. obs.), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. Totals ranging from 5–9 territorial birds were counted in historic breeding locations within Grant, Iowa, Sauk, and Waukesha Counties. A report from Door County 21 May (Bontly) was exceptional because the atlas shows no previous reports from that county or its neighbors.

Alder Flycatcher—Brown was the only reporting county beginning 10 May (Petrashek) until 16 May when Romano located his first bird in Sauk County and Diehl found his first in Washington County. Found the next day up in Burnett County (Hoeffler and Skutek). Cameron counted the most, 12 birds, in Taylor County 30 May at the Pershing WA.

Willow Flycatcher—Hoeft's bird on 4 May in Marathon County was the first and separated by much time from the second in Iowa County 13 May (Yoerger). Reported in 3 additional counties 14 May. Schoenwetter counted 15 in Dane County 24 May and Prestby tallied 13 during the course of a wetland survey in Oconto County 27 May. This species was not reported from the northernmost counties, such as Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, or Vilas.

Least Flycatcher—Unequivocal arrival date of 1 May, with observations in Columbia, Grant, Green Lake, Milwaukee, Monroe, Sauk, and Walworth Counties. Seen by the Kavanaghs the next day in Florence County. E. Wood counted the most, 35 birds, at Fort McCoy in Monroe County 20 May. The Kavanaghs pro-

duced another high count, 26 birds, in Oconto County 25 May.

Eastern Phoebe—The record cut-off date for this species is 11 March. Wenzel was simply a day late when she found a bird 12 March at Wind Point in Racine County. Domagalski was close behind, with a bird he found the next day in Manitowoc County. Additional sightings came from Dane and Rock Counties 16 March. Seen up in Oneida County at Pelican Lake by Richmond 19 March. Prestby and Yoerger counted 16 birds in Iowa County at Governor Dodge SP 18 May.

Great Crested Flycatcher—30 April provided a definitive arrival in Milwaukee (Korducki), Racine (Howe), and Trempealeau (m. obs.) Counties. Trempealeau was also the origin of the season high count, 22 birds, by Cameron 18 May. Reports of 15 birds or more also came from Door, Green Lake, Juneau, and Oconto Counties.

Western Kingbird**—Last reported during the 2004 Spring season, this species made up for lost time by appearing in three separate counties. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records." Accounts written by Brady (Figs. 9 and 10) and T. Wood can be found in "By the Wayside."

Eastern Kingbird—Three records for this species exist before 17 April. This year, a sighting by Pertile in Barron County, on 11 April, was reviewed and approved by the WSO Records Committee, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records." Next reported 27 April from Milwaukee County (Goodman). Slager found another bird 29 April in Trempealeau County. Hunter and Mooney counted 20 birds at Crex Meadows WA in Burnett County 22 May.

Loggerhead Shrike*—The only report of this state endangered species came from Persico 16 May in St. Croix County.

Northern Shrike—Reported in Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Door, Eau Claire, Green, Portage, and Waukesha Counties during the first week of the period. Reports of 2 birds came from Sando 6 March in Burnett and Evanson 26 March in Lincoln County. Last reported 8 April in Dane and Trempealeau Counties.

White-eyed Vireo*—First located at Wind Point in Racine County by Howard 24 April. This bird was viewed by numerous members of the Hoy Audubon Society after he alerted them it its presence. Heard and then seen by Bridge

in Jefferson County 2 May. The third observation came on 5 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (m. obs.). Seen and heard the next day farther south in the same county at Warnimont Park by Lubahn. Reports on 22 May consisted of two heard only birds by Martin in Dane County and at the Sugar River Bike Trail in Green County (m. obs.) where the bird was still found EOP (m. obs.).

Bell's Vireo*—Heard by Yoerger at Governor Dodge SP in Iowa County 13 May. Found the next day at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County by McDowell. Reported 16 May in Fond du Lac County by Mueller. Yoerger heard yet another bird in Jefferson County 23 May. Eight birds (yes, eight!) consisting of pairs were counted by the team of Jenkins, Lewis, Slager, and Webber at the Tamarack Creek SNA in Trempealeau County 25 May. The total number found there climbed to 9 birds 27 May. Evanson made an EOP report from Green County.

Yellow-throated Vireo—A bird reported 15 April in Calumet County would become the earliest arrival on record, however supportive documentation was not submitted to the WSO Records Committee for review. Szymczak's report from Waukesha County on 30 April was followed by sightings in Chippewa, Grant, Green Lake, Juneau, Polk, and Sauk Counties the next day. 20 May produced high counts in Monroe County (20 birds, E. Wood) and Green Lake County (12 birds, Prestby). Not reported from Bayfield, Douglas, or Vilas Counties.

Blue-headed Vireo—There are two record dates before 17 April for this species (11 April and 13 April). This season, the species arrived on breeding territories 14 April in Monroe (2 birds, E. Wood, Schilke) and Waukesha (2 birds total, each in a different location, Szymczak) Counties. The Kavanaghs also had a bird in Florence County on the cut-off date of 17 April. The fourth report, from Jackson County, was added 20 April by Prestby. Arrived in Bayfield County 27 April, which is the record earliest for the area by five days (Brady; pers. comm.). The participants in the Fond du Lac County May Day count 15 May tallied 11 birds.

Warbling Vireo—There are two record dates before 24 April for this species. An observation by Marschalek 17 April in Iowa County ties for the earliest arrival date. His observation was reviewed and accepted by the WSO Records Committee, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records." Next reported by the Kavanaghs from Grant County 28 April and by Prestby the following day in Dane County. Added in eight more counties before

the end of the month. Prestby counted 20 birds in Green Lake County 20 May. Smith tallied 19 birds 23 May in Oconto County.

Philadelphia Vireo—Reported in Winnebago County 6 May by Bruce and Tessen. Seen on 7 May in Dane (McDowell) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties. Last seen 30 May in Racine County by Kennedy. Found in a total of 16 counties with a decidedly eastern tendency. To understand this distribution better, one could take a ruler, draw a line, and connect Sauk, Portage, and Langlade Counties. Of the reporting counties, 14 would be east of that line, with only Eau Claire (Lind) and Iron (Brandt) Counties as the outliers to the west.

Red-eyed Vireo—First seen in Jackson County 30 April (m. obs.). Found on 1 May in Dane (Eisman) and Waukesha Counties (Szymczak). The first reports from Lake Michigan counties were 5 May in Milwaukee (Zehner) and Racine (Howe). Higher than their counts in 2009, 169 birds were tallied by the Kavanaghs 25 May in Oconto County. Prestby found 50 in Green Lake County 20 May.

Gray Jay—This species was reported from Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Oconto, and Vilas Counties. The high count, 4 birds, originated from Forest (Swelstad) and Iron (NLDC) Counties.

Common Raven—The most interesting report came from Ozaukee County 15 May at the Riveredge Nature Center (Bontly). Totals greater than 10 birds were found in the expected counties of Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Marathon, and Oconto. Southernmost EOP in Adams County (Bontly). Reported from 41 counties.

Horned Lark—BOP in 17 counties. Rickaby posted a count of 625 from Outagamie County 20 March. Persico saw 250 in St. Croix County 3 April.

Purple Martin—Before this year, there were only two records before 23 March. Hoffman saw a bird 16 March in Marquette County, which has been added to those records, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records" and "By the Wayside." The next birds were seen 3 and 4 April by Bucci in Dane County and Jackson in Vernon County, respectively. Reported up to Brown (Petrashkek) and Calumet (Tessen) Counties by 12 April. Jenkins counted 50 birds in Trempealeau County 30 April and Rohde counted 30 birds in Dodge County 30 May. Found north to Ashland (Anich) and Marinette (Prestby) Counties.

Tree Swallow—The first report (8 birds) came from Columbia County 14 March (Ellis). Paulios saw one in Dane County the next day, which was his personal early arrival date by over one week since he began his use of eBird in 2006 (per Wisbirdnet). Richmond reported 3 individuals all the way north to Oneida County 17 March. While 30 birds had already been reported in Vilas County 11 April by Peczynski, not detected in Ashland or Bayfield Counties until 14 April by Oksiuta. Mueller reported a massive accumulation of 2,500 birds during a weather event 8 May in Ozaukee County. Mueller wrote: "Swallows were in reverse migration after passage of a cold front with snow 100+ miles north of this location. These individuals were primarily along Lake Michigan shoreline and above the waters of the lake."

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—There is currently only one March record for the species and the cut-off date for a record is 2 April. The two birds seen by A. Holschbach 2 April in Iowa County would become records (See "By the Wayside"). Reported the next day in Racine County by the Hoy Audubon. Tessen reported a bird 5 April from Sheboygan County. On 8 May temperatures took a "nose-dive" and Prestby, Schilke, and Yoerger reported 1,000 birds at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County. The same day, Mueller counted 500 birds at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County during the aforementioned weather event.

Bank Swallow—There are currently only two record dates before the cut-off date of 6 April. A. Holschbach reported one bird in Sauk County on 6 April to match the cut-off date. Found next by Tyser 11 April in La Crosse, with Iowa County added the following day by A. Holschbach. Counts of 200 birds came 5 May from Fissel in Iowa County and 8 May in Ozaukee County (Mueller).

Cliff Swallow—Yet another record-making swallow. There are currently only two records before 8 April. A. Holschbach made two record-worthy reports from different counties: 2 April in Manitowoc and 6 April in Sauk. He also made the third county report 10 April in Iowa. It wasn't until 12 April that Ellis added birds in Dane County. Risch found 7 birds up in Taylor County by 20 April. Prestby, Schilke, and Yoerger had 400 birds in Sauk 8 May.

Barn Swallow—Detected in Dane (Evan-son) and Racine (Pugh) Counties on 2 April and in Dodge (Stark, Zeman) and Fond du Lac (Tessen) Counties 5 April. Arrived in Bayfield County 24 April (Anich and Spaeth). Mueller

reported a staggering 7,500 birds 8 May in Ozaukee County. On that same day, Prestby, Schilke, and Yoerger saw 600 birds in Sauk County. Another count of 600 birds came from Dodge 25 April (Fissel).

Boreal Chickadee—Reported from Ashland, Florence, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. The RBC had the high count, 4 birds, on a trip to Forest County 6 March.

Tufted Titmouse—Reported north to Adams, Brown, Chippewa, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, and Winnebago Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Found in 33 counties throughout the state during the first week of the period. Kavanaghs counted 22 birds in Florence County 7 May. Southern EOP in Milwaukee (A. Holschbach), Walworth, and Waukesha (both Szymczak) Counties.

Brown Creeper—Found in 17 counties throughout the state during the first week of the period. In Milwaukee County, only single birds were reported along the lakefront until 31 March when totals ranging from 2–9 birds were suddenly reported in five separate locations. Gold found 15 birds in Marathon County 18 April at the McMillan Marsh WA. Boyle counted 11 birds along the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee 12 April. Found only in expected northern counties at or near EOP.

Carolina Wren*—Reported from Dane, Grant, Iowa, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Rock, Sheboygan, and Waukesha Counties. The Sheboygan bird was seen and heard by the participants in a WSO fieldtrip 14 March. The only count of 2 birds, was also the last report, and came from Grant at Potosi Landing 29 May (Romano).

House Wren—Arrived in Eau Claire County 9 April (Lind). Next reported by Marschalek in Dane County and Klubertanz in Rock County 13 April. Not reported until 2 May in Ashland County (Anich). Schultz tallied 34 during a May Count in Fond du Lac County on the 15th.

Winter Wren—A few scattered reports occurred mid-March in Brown (Rickaby) and Dodge (Burckhardt, Rohde) Counties. The next sightings came 27 March from Dane (McDowell) and Washington (T. Wilson) Counties. eBird reporting frequency peaked week of 1 April. Brady counted 9 birds 18 April in Ashland County while surveying for Red-shouldered Hawks. The last southern report came

from Sauk County during a MAS field trip to Baxter's Hollow 30 May.

Sedge Wren—Initially discovered up in Door County by C. and R. Lukes 27 April. 1 May produced the first detection in Burnett (Hoefler), Green Lake (m. obs.), Walworth (Howe), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. While Ziebell found the most, 120 birds, 15 May in Winnebago, Prestby contributed totals of 35 birds in Fond du Lac County 15 May, 24 birds in Wood County 23 May, and 22 birds in Oconto County 27 May.

Marsh Wren—An isolated report on 22 April came from Frank in Dodge County at Horicon Marsh NWR. Not reported again until 30 April when it was found in Buffalo, Racine, Trempealeau, and Waukesha Counties. Ziebell recorded 520 birds 15 May from Winnebago County. The second highest count originated from (of course!) Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge on 23 May (Jakoubek). Domagalski reported 30+ birds in Manitowoc County 22 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Reported on 10 April from Dane (Mulkerin), Milwaukee (Boyle), and Walworth (Howe) Counties. Seen the following day in Racine and Rock Counties. Counts of 30 birds came from Jakoubek in Dane at Lake Farm County Park 6 May and Squier in Milwaukee at Lake Park 1 May. Reported north to Burnett, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Wood Counties.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Reported during the first week of the period from Brown (Rickaby), Forest (RBC), Racine (Pugh), Vilas (RBC), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. Reports began to ramp up during the third week of March, with numerous reports coming from locations where they had been previously undetected. Peak eBird abundance and frequency occurred week of 1 April. As evidence of this, on 31 March high counts were produced in Milwaukee County at two distinct locations: 96 birds at Doctor's Park (Buckardt) and 35 birds at Seminary Woods (Petherick). Southernmost EOP in Waukesha (Szymczak).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—Buckardt made the first two reports from Columbia County 28 March and Sauk County the following day. Found at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County by McDowell 31 March. Found north to Ashland (Anich) and Douglas (LaValleys) Counties on 2 April. Last reported by Anich 26 May in Forest County, Rickaby 27 May in Brown County, and EOP in Douglas (LaValleys). The high count of 33 birds came from St. Croix County 18 April.

Eastern Bluebird—Found in 10 counties during the first week of the period north to Brown (Rickaby). Uttech found 28 birds in Ozaukee County 22 April, Persico found 22 in St. Croix County 3 April, and Prestby and Yoerger found 20 in Iowa County at Governor Dodge SP 18 May.

Townsend's Solitaire*—Although not reported in 2009, this is a species that has historically lingered into the spring season. Hoffman found two birds 16 March at Observatory Hill SNA in Marquette County while conducting an official site visit for the Department of Natural Resources.

Veery—The Brassers had the first in Sheboygan County 30 April. Then, on 2 May, the species was added in Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, and Ozaukee Counties. By 23 May, Risch was reporting "dozens" in Taylor County and the Kavanaghs tallied 18 birds 25 May in Oconto County.

Gray-cheeked Thrush—The efforts of Hoy Audubon Society birders gave them claim to the only April report, on the 30th in Racine County. Not reported again until 5 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee County (m. obs.). The third sighting came from Dane County 7 May by Kreitinger. The discovery of 2 birds was the most anyone could muster (Betchkal in Racine 16 May). Not surprisingly, eBird reporting frequency and abundance were pitiful when compared to the 2008–2009 seasons. Last seen 27 May in Sauk County (Schroeder) and 29 May in Milwaukee (Szymczak) County. Reported from 15 counties.

Swinson's Thrush—Overshot the southern portion of the state and landed in Douglas County 28 April (LaValleys). Detected on 30 April in Racine (Dixon, Wenzel) and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. Dane County (Prestby) was added 1 May and St. Croix County (Persico) the next day. When compared to the fantastic totals of 2009, the high counts were much diminished. Paulios had 6 birds on the second day of the WSO convention, 23 May, in Door County and Schultz had 5 in Green Lake County 17 May. Last reported 27 May in Dane (Martin), Iron (Brandt), and Racine (Kennedy) Counties.

Hermit Thrush—Possible over-wintering birds were found during the first week of the period in Milwaukee (Szymczak), Walworth (Yoerger), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. An eBird review shows that species frequency and abundance were reaching their peaks after the second week in April. Accordingly, there

were migratory high counts (both in Milwaukee) of 15 birds at Lake Park on 22 April (Corbo) and 14 birds at SANC on 27 April (Bontly). All EOP reports came from expected northern counties.

Wood Thrush—The second thrush species to bypass the southern portion of the state and arrive in Douglas County, this time on 26 April (LaValleys). Found next “by ear” in Waukesha County 30 April (Szymczak) and in 9 additional counties the following day. Utech reported 12 birds during a Big Day in Ozaukee County 15 May and Szymczak reported 10 birds in Waukesha 9 May. Reported statewide, with the exception of the most north-central counties.

Varied Thrush—Seen previously during the winter reporting season, a bird in Plainfield, Waushara County, was seen by many and reported from 5 March thru 9 March.

Gray Catbird—Reports in 7 counties of probable over-wintering birds peppered the month of April, including a report of 4 birds on 8 April in Dane (Jakoubek). It is uncertain whether these birds were observed at a feeder. Analysis of eBird data shows a distinct first peak in frequency and abundance occurring week of 1 May. Numbers climbed until hitting the maximum peak week of 15 May. Coinciding with this was a count of 25 birds 20 May in Green Lake County from Prestby. Although this species was widespread, there were no reports from Vilas County.

Northern Mockingbird*—Fissel and A. Holschbach found a bird at Spring Green Preserve (Fig. 11) in Sauk County 14 April, where the species had successfully nested in 2009. Huf found another at SANC in Milwaukee County 16 April. The third reporting county was Sheboygan where the Brassers observed one 1 May and 25 May, see “By the Wayside.” Other county reports with supportive documentation came from Brown (Tessen), Dodge (Prestby, Viljamaa), Manitowoc (Trick), Ozaukee (Cutright, Tomter), Trempealeau (Slager), and Wood (West) (Fig. 12). In addition, two other Milwaukee observations came from Lake Park 15 May (m. obs.) and Washington Park 26 May (Vargo). The final report of the season on 29 May was of the continuing male at Spring Green Preserve.

Brown Thrasher—Reported from Rock County 1 April by Klubertanz and in Dane County 5 April by Mulkerin and Schoenwetter. Reported from 4 additional southern counties by 10 April. Achieved an eBird peak in reporting frequency and abundance week of 1 May, al-

though the high count, 18 birds, came from Burnett County 22 May (Hunter, Mooney).

American Pipit—Discovered on 20 March in Brown (Rickaby) and Columbia (m. obs.) Counties. The 50 bird high count occurred 3 May in Columbia (Schwarz), while the second highest county total, 17 birds, came from Monroe 13 May (Epstein). Last seen in Dane County by Thiessen 27 May. Reported from 23 counties.

Bohemian Waxwing—Found during the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Richmond reported a maximum of 250 birds in Oneida 12 March and 150 birds were seen 6 April in Ashland (Anich, Brady). Brady made the last observation 10 April in Bayfield.

Lapland Longspur—Prestby reported 1,100 in Columbia County 24 April and Romano saw 250 in Dane County 1 May. Last sightings for the season came on 15 May in Dane (A. Holschbach, Schwarz) and Fond du Lac Counties (May Day count), as well as, on 17 May in Winnebago (Bruce) County. While reported from 25 counties, many of those were single occurrences.

Smith's Longspur**—There had previously been only eight spring records of this species. For details of the accepted report from Dane County 30 April (Fig. 13), see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.”

Snow Bunting—The final observations of the season came along this time-line: 28 March in Bayfield County (Oksiuta), 30 March in Calumet County (Trick), 1 April in Burnett County (Sando), and the next day in Manitowoc County (Sontag). The highest totals were reported from Grant County 15 March (231, Stark), Fond du Lac County 13 March (200, Burckhardt), and Green County 6 March (98, Yoerger). Reported from 29 counties, and like the Lapland Longspur, many of those were in the form of single occurrences.

Blue-winged Warbler—An observation 18 April in Waukesha County could claim the record early date for this species; however, supportive documentation was not submitted to the WSO Records Committee for review. The first official reports came from the geographically close counties of La Crosse (Jackson), Trempealeau (Slager), and Vernon (Jackson) on the decisive date of 29 April. Reported the following day in Monroe (Schilke, E. Wood) and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. The highest total, 39 birds, was produced by the Fond du

Lac County May Day count on the 15th. E. Wood tallied 35 resident birds in Monroe 20 May and other counts of 14 birds came from St. Croix (22 May, Persico) and Walworth (15 May, Howe) Counties. While reported from Marinette, Oconto, and Polk Counties during the season, the northernmost actual EOP observation was in St. Croix (Persico).

Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler—A “Brewster’s” hybrid has been reported in each of the past five seasons, and this one was no exception. A single bird was seen on the second day of the WSO convention (23 May) in Door County (m. obs.). In addition, a “Lawrence’s” hybrid was found by Schaefer on 3 May in Washington County at Pike Lake SP.

Golden-winged Warbler—There had been only one other record before 24 April for this species until Curnutt found and documented a bird in Ozaukee County 18 April. See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” Next reported 1 May by Matheson in Portage County (2 birds). Seen 3 May in Dane (McDowell), Door (Lukes), and Milwaukee (Snider) Counties. Brady saw one bird the following day in Ashland County. Fort McCoy in Monroe County was the location of 10 birds on 15 May (E. Wood) and Price County yielded a count of 9 birds for Evanson 28 May. No reports came from the southern half of the state during the last week of the period.

Tennessee Warbler—A report from Dane County 14 April could become the earliest arrival date on record. Unfortunately, no documentation was forwarded to the WSO Records Committee for review. The species made a multi-county arrival in Dane (Martin), La Crosse (Strassman), Racine (Dixon, Wenzel), and Trempealeau (Slager) 30 April. High counts of 35 birds were reported in Green Lake County 20 May (Prestby) and Milwaukee County at SANC 12 May (Bontly). The last reports came from O’Connor in Milwaukee 24 May, the Kavanaghs in Florence County 27 May, and Schultz in Green Lake 29 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler—Two relatively early reports came from Dane (Graham) and Milwaukee (Bontly) Counties 21 April. Added in Trempealeau (Slager) and Washington (Mueller) Counties 30 April. Diminutive high counts of 3 and 4 birds came from Ozaukee County 6 May (Sommer) and St. Croix County 9 May, respectively. Last seen 22 May in Door (Schultz) and Milwaukee (Yoerger) Counties.

Nashville Warbler—A bird was reported from Milwaukee County 16 April, however, no

documentation was submitted to the WSO Records Committee. There are currently no record dates before 18 April. The first official report was of 2 birds in Milwaukee at SANC 23 April (Bontly). Found by Corbo two days later at Lake Park in the same county. Then, the LaValleys welcomed their first bird on 26 April in Douglas County. Suddenly, on 29 April this species was reported from 8 additional counties. The Kavanaghs found 52 breeding birds 25 May in Oconto County and Strelka had a total of 18 migrants in Ozaukee County on her May Day Count (she estimated 6 miles walked and 50 miles driven to arrive at this total). No EOP reports came from unexpected counties.

Northern Parula—The distinctive song (“zeeeee-up!”) of this warbler was heard by half of the observers on 30 April when it appeared in Dane (McDowell, Nolan), Jefferson (Szymczak), Milwaukee (Bontly, Korducki), and Trempealeau (Slager) Counties. Reported from Ashland County 4 May by Anich. Paulios counted 10 birds 22 May in Door County and Uttech 9 birds 15 May during a Big Day in Ozaukee County. Interesting EOP in Milwaukee at SANC (A. Holschbach).

Yellow Warbler—A Taco John’s restaurant (no kidding!) in Rock County was the location of the first arriving bird 23 April (Fitzgerald, Galick, Putnam). Ellis discovered the next bird 25 April at Nine Springs in Dane County. Found in 8 additional counties by the end of April. Stutz counted 50 birds 8 May in Jefferson County and Rohde counted 39 birds in Dodge County at Horicon Marsh NWR 9 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler—Reported in Dane (McDowell), Fond du Lac (Butcher), and Trempealeau (m. obs.) Counties on 30 April. Barrientos found 7 migrants 14 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee County. Surveys for resident birds turned up 65 in Oconto (Kavanaghs) County 25 May and 50 in Monroe (E. Wood) County 20 May.

Magnolia Warbler—Petrashak found a bird in Brown County 1 May. The species was not seen again until 5 May when it arrived in the lakeshore counties of Door (Lukes), Milwaukee (m. obs.), Ozaukee (Bontly), and Racine (Kennedy). High counts came from Prestby 20 May in Green Lake County (12 birds) and Hagner at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee 15 May (11 birds). The final southern report was made 29 May in Milwaukee at SANC (Bontly, Szymczak).

Cape May Warbler—Seen in Brown County (Tessen, Trick) at Bay Beach SP and in

Milwaukee County at Lake Park (Casper) 5 May. Seen the next day in Oconto (Rickaby) and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. The highest number reported was 5 birds in Manitowoc County 15 May (Domagalski). In addition, 3 birds were reported from Oconto (Rickaby) and Ozaukee (Sommer) Counties. The sole EOP report came from the Kavanaghs in Florence County. Analysis of eBird data shows that reporting frequency was only 30% of the 2008 and 2009 seasons. Abundance and average count were also correspondingly lower.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—First reported from Lake Park in Milwaukee County 1 May (m. obs.). Seen the following day in Ozaukee County by Bontly and Sommer. The third county report came from Brown on 5 May (Baumanns, Tessen). The highest numbers were reported by the Fond du Lac County May Day count 15 May (4 birds), Howe in Racine County 6 May (3 birds), and Gustafson 12 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee (3 birds). The final southern report came from SANC in Milwaukee 29 May (Bontly). Found EOP in Door County by C. and R. Lukes.

Yellow-rumped Warbler—The earliest report, 2 birds, came from Veteran's Park in Milwaukee County 23 March (McCumber). Found by C. and R. Lukes in Door County two days later. Then, McDowell logged the only other report, from Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County from 28–31 March. Added in Ozaukee and Racine Counties 1 April. McDowell also found the greatest concentration of the species (150 birds) at Pheasant Branch Conservancy 11 April. Other high counts, of 100 birds, were reported 17 April in Manitowoc County (Domagalski), 18 April in Marathon County (Gold), and 5 May in Milwaukee (Frank). The last report from the southern portion of the state came on 22 May at a Lake Park warbler walk in Milwaukee (m. obs.).

Black-throated Green Warbler—One singing territorial bird was found in Waukesha County at Scuppernong Ski/Hiking Trails 18 April (Szymczak). A second individual was next detected at that location 28 April and the following day new reports came in from Dane (Schwarz), Racine (Kennedy), and Trempealeau (Lewis, Slager) Counties. Arrived in Florence County 2 May (Kavanaghs). Paulios saw a grand total of 50 birds in Door County 22 May. Found EOP within the Southern Kettle Moraine SF of Walworth and Waukesha Counties (Szymczak).

Blackburnian Warbler—Arrived 1 May in Dane (Eisman), Milwaukee (Zehner), and

Racine (Willard) Counties. Found the next day in Walworth County (T. Wilson). Prestby counted 20 birds in Green Lake County 20 May, while counts of 10 birds came from Ashland (Anich) and Door Counties (Paulios). EOP reports from Florence (Kavanaghs), Manitowoc (Schilke), and Vilas (Richmond) Counties, as well as, in Waukesha County where they sometimes linger into the summer season (Szymczak).

Yellow-throated Warbler*—Only reported in Grant County. There are currently four records for this species before 21 April. This year, arrival was early and Stark detected 6 singing males at Wyalusing SP while doing a comprehensive search on 17 April. Last reported by Yoerger 30 May.

Pine Warbler—Detected in Dane (Burnham) and Waukesha Counties (Szymczak) on the relatively early date of 10 April. Singing territorial birds were found the next day in two additional Waukesha locations (Szymczak). Consistent with an “early” season for this species, was its observation by Brady 17 April in Bayfield County, which established a new early record for the Chequamegon Bay area (pers. comm.). Rickaby surveyed the highest total (17 birds) 16 May in Oconto County. Another species found EOP within the Southern Kettle Moraine SF of Walworth (Howe, Szymczak) and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties.

Kirtland's Warbler**—The only approved report came from Trick in Adams County 10 May, see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” (Fig. 14)

Prairie Warbler*—A bird was heard only (with a sound recording obtained) by Szymczak from within a mature pine forest in Waukesha County 14 May thru EOP. A visual confirmation did not occur until the summer reporting season.

Palm Warbler—The cut-off date for record sightings is 10 April. Unfortunately, the two birds found by T. Wilson in Walworth County at Turtle Creek WA on 11 April will just have to settle for being early arrivals. Next reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County and Tessen in Calumet County 15 April. Found the next day in Trempealeau County (Lewis). Huf counted 150 birds around Lake Park in Milwaukee County 5 May. EOP in Ashland (Anich) and Oconto (Rickaby) Counties.

Bay-breasted Warbler—A review of eBird frequency and abundance demonstrates a poor

season for this species when compared with 2008 and 2009. In fact, reporting frequency this season never got above 2%. The average counts were also lower. Reports were made for three consecutive days beginning 5 May in Milwaukee County (Fojut), continuing with Green Lake (Schultz) and then Racine (Wenzel) Counties. Added in 3 new southern counties 8 May. High counts were underwhelming, with 4 being the most reported by Prestby in Green Lake. Last seen 29 May by C. and R. Lukes in Door County and during a MAS fieldtrip to Sauk County 30 May (McDowell).

Blackpoll Warbler—Reported from Trempealeau County by Jenkins 30 April and three days later in Fond du Lac County by Wiggins. More reports were made 5 May from Brown (Tessen, Trick), Dane (Graham, Romano), and Rock (Klubertanz) Counties. Huf counted 15 migrants 22 May in the fog at Lake Park in Milwaukee County. The final report was made 29 May from Point Beach SP in Manitowoc County (unk. obs.).

Cerulean Warbler—Arrival 1 May in Columbia (Fissel), Grant (m. obs.), and Green Lake (m. obs.) Counties. This state threatened species was reported from 21 counties, north to Dunn (17 May, Cameron and Schroeder) and Winnebago (15 May, Ziebell) Counties. Dunn and Winnebago are particularly significant because they are not listed as sites where found during the atlas surveys. A maximum of 15 birds was reported from their stronghold at Wyalusing SP in Grant 2 May (Stark, Zeman).

Black-and-white Warbler—Detected 30 April in Dane (m. obs.), Milwaukee (m. obs.), Monroe (m. obs.), Sheboygan (Brassers), Trempealeau (m. obs.), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. Reported from 6 additional counties the next day. Paulios counted 15 in Door County 22 May and Prestby counted 12 in Green Lake County 20 May. The last southern reports originated from Milwaukee at SANC (Bontly) and Sauk County (m. obs.) on 30 May.

American Redstart—There are four records prior to 23 April for this species. One of those is already held by C. and R. Lukes (12 April 1977), who made another early report this year from Door County 21 April. The only other April sighting came on the 30th from Bontly at her stomping grounds of SANC in Milwaukee County. Seen the following day in Burnett County by Hoefer and in Green Lake County during the WSO fieldtrip. Reports came from 9 additional counties by 5 May. Finally reached Florence County on 11 May (Kavanaghs). E.

Wood found 65 birds in Monroe County 20 May and Paulios found 60 birds in Door 22 May.

Prothonotary Warbler—Discovered at Lake Park in Milwaukee County by Corbo on the relatively early date of 22 April. The next reports came from Wyalusing SP in Grant County 1 May (m. obs.) and Tower Hill SP in Iowa County 4 May (A. Holschbach). Thirty birds were found 11 May while Paulios checked nest boxes at Avon Bottoms in Rock County. Basically, one could take a ruler and draw the limits for this species by connecting Ozaukee, Marquette, and Trempealeau Counties. All observations came from a total of 16 counties southwest of those confines. The Marquette observation (20 May, Prestby) appears significant because it is not a county that had reported breeding during the atlas survey.

Worm-eating Warbler*—A quieter year for the species versus 2009, when there were 7 reports. The only reports, both on 3 May, were from O'Connor in Milwaukee County and Gurtz in Dane County.

Ovenbird—A single bird was heard 28 April at Scuppernong Ski/Hiking Trails in Waukesha County (Szymczak) and by 30 April six birds were singing on territories. Other birds were found 29 April in Dane County (McDowell, Stutz) and on 30 April in Milwaukee (Korducki), Racine (Howe), and Trempealeau (Jenkins, Slager) Counties. By 4 May Brady already counted 16 birds in Ashland County. The Kavanaghs matched their 2009 high count of 132 birds exactly this year in Oconto County on 25 May.

Northern Waterthrush—Slager found a relatively early bird in Buffalo County 18 April. Perhaps not surprisingly, the next report came still further north from Burnett County (Hoefer) 24 April. Next reported in Green Lake (Schultz) and Rock (Paulios) Counties 27 April. Paulios also claimed the high count, 45 birds, from the same county 7 May. The last southern report came from Hagner at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County 22 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush—Graham reported the first from Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County 12 April. E. Wood and Schilke filed the next report on 14 April from the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in Vernon County. Found by Lewis and Slager in Trempealeau County the following day. To understand distribution of this species, one could take out that ruler again and draw a line connecting Ozaukee, Green Lake, and Burnett Counties. The 14

valid reporting counties would all be southwest of the line.

Northern/Louisiana Waterthrush—

There are two record dates before 14 April for the Northern Waterthrush and four record dates prior to 7 April for the Louisiana Waterthrush. A bird found in Waukesha County 4 April is in record territory regardless of species (Szymczak). See "By the Wayside."

Kentucky Warbler—The record cut-off date for this species is 1 May. One bird found at Wyalusing SP in Grant County by Schwarz, Witynski, and Yoerger matches that arrival date. O'Connor found the next bird in Milwaukee County 4 May. Seen in Vernon County 7 May by E. Wood and Schilke and on 8 May a male was seen by many at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County. Multi-bird reports came in the form of three birds at Wyalusing SP 11 May (Boyle) and two birds, seen by Duerksen, 15 May in Crawford County on private land. The only EOP report came from Walworth County at the John Muir Hiking/Biking Trails where a male has been present during the summer reporting season in 2008 and 2009 (Szymczak). Reported in 9 counties total, including an exceptional report by S. Baughman of a singing male near Fischer Creek State Conservation Area in Manitowoc County 25 May (perhaps this was the same bird reported earlier in Ozaukee?).

Connecticut Warbler—Usually one of the late-reporting species, Sinkula and Klubertanz reported the first on 3 May from Kewaunee and Rock Counties, respectively. Charlotte and Roy Lukes found one in Door County 5 May and the team of Hoffmann and Sedloff found yet another during their Kenosha County May Day count on the 8th. After another time gap, a fifth county report came from Waukesha 14 May and then, in Burnett, Dane, and Winnebago Counties the following day. High counts of 2 birds reported by Richmond in Door 22 May and Uttech in Ozaukee County 23 May. Last reported by T. Wood 30 May in Douglas County. Seen in only 14 counties.

Mourning Warbler—Boyle observed one at Seminary Woods in Milwaukee County 6 May. Reported next on 9 May in Dodge (Prestby), Milwaukee (unk. obs.), and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. E. Wood encountered 6 birds the following day in Monroe County. The Kavanaghs surveyed 13 breeding birds 25 May in Oconto County. An interesting EOP report in Milwaukee at SANC of 4 birds (A. Holschbach).

Common Yellowthroat—"Witchity, witchity, witchity"—this species announced its presence to Schultz on 29 April in Green Lake County and in 8 more counties the next day. The Kavanaghs heard their first bird 11 May in Florence County. High counts were 62 birds found 15 May during the Fond du Lac County May Day count, 36 birds in Burnett County at Crex Meadows WA (Jakoubek), 33 birds in Oconto County 25 May (Kavanaghs), and 31 birds in Racine County at the Honey Creek WA 6 May (Howe).

Hooded Warbler—Reported from an encouraging 19 counties. Szymczak saw and heard a male singing an alternate song in Jefferson County 18 April, which is her personal early date by well over one week. The species was not found again until 28 April in Waukesha County (Szymczak). Next detected by Barrientos in Milwaukee County 1 May and in Dane County by Stutz 2 May. The high count outside of the species' normal stronghold in the Northern and Southern Kettle Moraine SF occurred in Monroe County at Fort McCoy 20 May, when 3 birds were surveyed (Schilke).

Wilson's Warbler—Discovered 8 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee County by Huf and Mooney and at Cliffside Park in Racine County by Howe. Reported from two locations within Dane County the next day. Seen 16 May in Ashland (Oksiuta) and Douglas (Svingen) Counties. Huf reported 9 birds 22 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee and Sommer counted 8 birds at the Lion's Den in Ozaukee County 24 May. The only EOP report came from A. Holschbach at the SANC in Milwaukee.

Canada Warbler—The earliest reports came 8 May in Dane County (Noeldner) and Kenosha County during Hoffmann and Sedloff's May Day count. Next seen 12 May in Brown County (Rickaby), with additional sightings coming on 14 May from Iowa (A. Holschbach), Milwaukee (m. obs.), and Trempealeau (Lewis, Slager) Counties. Found up in Ashland County on 16 May (Oksiuta). Huf saw 5 birds 22 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee. The last report of a southern migrant came from Milwaukee at SANC 27 May (Zehner).

Yellow-breasted Chat*—First reported 22 May from Brooklyn WA in Dane County (m. obs.), where a maximum of 2 birds was still being seen EOP (Schwarz). The only other county report came from Jefferson at the Young Prairie SNA 29 May (Szymczak, T. Wilson). This singing male was also present EOP (Szymczak).

Eastern Towhee—First reported in Waukesha County 20 March by Bielefeldt. The next county reports came from Green (Yoerger) and Jefferson (Szymczak) on 27 March. E. Wood counted a total of 35 at Fort McCoy 20 May in Monroe County.

American Tree Sparrow—100 birds were seen by Jakoubek in Dane County at Nine Springs 12 March. Reports of birds lingering well into May came from: Ozaukee County 15 May (Petherick), Sheboygan County 20 May (Schroeder), and EOP in Douglas County (LaValleys). The Douglas report is particularly interesting because 31 May is the cut-off date for records of this species, with only two later records of birds remaining into early June.

Chipping Sparrow—Noted during the month of March in Racine County on the 26th (Howe) and in Dane County on the 30th (Liss). Additional county reports occurred on 1 April in Brown, Grant, Green Lake, Iowa, Langlade, and Oconto. The Kavanaghs heard 43 birds 25 May on their survey in Oconto.

Clay-colored Sparrow—Found 30 April at multiple locations from within these five counties: Dane, Grant, Milwaukee, Monroe, and Trempealeau. Reported by the LaValleys in Douglas County 2 May. The noteworthy counts were 26 in St. Croix County 15 May (Persico), and 20 bird totals in Burnett County (Hunter, Mooney) and Door County (Paulios), both on 22 May.

Field Sparrow—Reported during the month of March on the 27th from Green County (Yoerger), 30th from Waukesha County (Gustafson), and 31st from Racine (Fare) and Sauk (Batterman) Counties. Fort McCoy in Monroe County provided breeding territory for 65 birds on 20 May (E. Wood).

Vesper Sparrow—Romano made the first observation 30 March at Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County. Seen the following day in Iowa (A. Holschbach), Rock (Klubertanz), and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. Brady reported its presence in Bayfield County by 5 April, which is his personal county early date for the species. E. Wood found the greatest concentration, 50 birds, at Fort McCoy in Monroe County on 20 May. The next highest count was 10 birds seen in St. Croix County 15 May (Persico).

Lark Sparrow—Seen in a total of 17 counties. This species made a noticeable incursion into the eastern counties this season. Two birds were first reported from their perennial location at Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County

18 April (Prestby). Seen by Nowak 20 April at Bald Bluff SNA within the Southern Kettle Moraine SF in Walworth County. Reported in Ozaukee County by Cowart 30 April. This was only the second time in his 25 years of keeping a list that he has observed this species in that county; see "By the Wayside." Additional birds were noted in Jefferson and Milwaukee Counties. Last reported in Waushara (Paulios) and Waukesha (Moretti, Szymczak) Counties 30 May. The Waukesha observation was of a pair mating (gasp!) in the western portion of the county. Fieldwork done during the atlas did not show any breeding activity east of a line drawn through the center of Rock County.

Savannah Sparrow—Reported from Sauk County 31 March by Batterman and in the counties of Portage (Pendergast), Racine (Gustafson), and Wood (Gold) the next day. Counts of 40 birds were found 24 April in Portage (m. obs.) and 25 birds by Curnutt at the Mequon Nature Preserve in Ozaukee County 30 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow—A. Holschbach made the first observation (2 birds) 23 April at Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County. The next report came 26 April in the form of 9 birds at Fort McCoy in Monroe County (E. Wood), where the high count of 25 birds was later found 2 May. Noted in Rock County the following day (Yoerger). This species had a distinct distribution bias toward the western-central and southwestern counties as it entered the state. Other than a Waukesha County report 4 May (Gustafson), no reports came from east of a line connected by Rock and Green Lake Counties before 15 May. On the 15th, a bird was reported in Fond du Lac County (Schultz). The discovery of two birds in Florence County 27 May during a May Day count was unusual (Kavanaghs). Similar to 2009, this species of special concern was found in 31 counties.

Henslow's Sparrow—A state threatened species, it was reported in 23 counties. Observed significantly earlier than in 2009 (when the first sightings came 25 April), Romano found 6 birds 15 April in Dane County. Next reported in Iowa County 16 April (A. Holschbach) and in Grant County (Stark) the following day. After a short break, 2 birds were found at Cherokee Marsh in Dane 21 April (m. obs.). High counts of 10 birds were produced at the White River Marsh SWA in Green Lake County 20 May (Prestby) and in Pierce County 23 May (Persico).

Le Conte's Sparrow—The record cut-off date for this species is 17 April. This year, Rich-

mond heard the distinctive song of a bird at the Thunder Marsh WA in Oneida County on that day. Next reported 28 April in Burnett County by Hoefler. Then, on 29 and 30 April, birds were found in the Lake Michigan counties of Manitowoc (Sontag), Milwaukee (Lubahn), and Ozaukee (Frank). Prestby found 5 birds in Wood County 23 May. Another state species of special concern, this sparrow was seen in 12 counties.

Nelson's Sparrow*—It was “Groundhog Day” again this year, when the only reporting county was Burnett. This year the sole observation came from Tessen 26 May.

Fox Sparrow—Reported during the first week of the period in Brown (Rickaby), Dane (m.obs.), and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties. Reports continued from Dane until 11 March, when another was found in Milwaukee County (Bontly). Added in Crawford (Akers) and Waukesha (Szymczak) 14 March. Nineteen birds were the high count found 30 March in Chippewa County by Cameron. Other counts, of 12 birds, came from Dane 27 March (Thiessen) and Fond du Lac County 4 April (Schultz). Last reported 2 May from Brown (Rickaby).

Song Sparrow—Present in Dane, Grant, Green, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Rock, Walworth, and Washington Counties during the first week of the period. One hundred bird totals were reported at Nine Springs in Dane 12 March (Jakoubek) and again on 1 April (Marchalek). Uttech counted 82 in Ozaukee 30 April.

Lincoln's Sparrow—Gustafson found a singing male in Douglas County 22 April. The next reports were 28 and 29 April in Door (Lukes) and Milwaukee (Frank) Counties, respectively. Detected in Buffalo, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, and Washington Counties on 30 April. Eight birds were counted in Winnebago County 15 May (Ziebell) and 6 birds were found at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Ozaukee County 20 May (Schaefer). Found EOP in Vilas County (Richmond).

Swamp Sparrow—Reported in Sauk County 11 March (A. Holschbach) and Dodge County 12 March (Burckhardt). Next seen in Iowa (A. Holschbach) and Ozaukee (Strelka) Counties 18 March. Reports continued at a metered pace until increasing in frequency and abundance around week of 8 April. This may have coincided with the return of breeding males onto territories. Two eBird reports from the southern portion of the state during this time period actually specified that singing terri-

torial birds were being counted (4 April in Waukesha County, Szymczak; 5 April in Walworth County, Howe). Surveys done by Prestby produced healthy totals at White River Marsh SWA in Green Lake County of 60 birds on 6 May and Eldorado WA in Fond du Lac County of 45 birds on 15 May.

White-throated Sparrow—Present in Dane (M. Anderson), Milwaukee, (Hagner), and Monroe (Epstein) Counties during the first week of the period. The first up-tick in eBird reports began just prior to week of 15 April. Interestingly, all indicators of detection for this species, frequency, abundance, and average count were noticeably lower versus the 2008 and 2009 seasons. The high count was 200 birds at Lake Park in Milwaukee 25 April (Corbo). Fifty bird totals were reported in Dane (McDowell), Polk (Paulios), and Trempealeau (Slager) Counties.

Harris's Sparrow—Trempealeau County provided the first report 30 April (Slager). This bird, at the Trempealeau NWR, was seen until 14 May (Schrinner). A bird was reported in Waukesha County 6–8 May (Tyskiewicz). West found an adult male in Pepin County 7 May and the last report came from Niesl in Pierce County 10 May.

White-crowned Sparrow—Reports of this species began in earnest mid-late April. The highest totals were obtained in May: 70 birds on the 12th in Milwaukee County (Huf) and 55 birds on the 8th in Ozaukee County (Mueller). Like the White-throated Sparrow, the eBird frequency, abundance, and average counts were lower when compared to those from 2008 and 2009. Last reported by C. and R. Lukes in Door County 29 May.

Dark-eyed Junco—The “slate-colored” form was reported BOP from around the state, north to Door, Eau Claire, Manitowoc, Polk, and Winnebago Counties. Brady tallied 144 birds in Bayfield County at his home 4 April. Anich found 100 in Forest County 8 April. Photo-documentation was provided for a leucistic bird reported from under a thistle feeder 25–27 March in Pierce County (Roen).

Summer Tanager*—While sightings were not quite as “robust” as in 2009, the species was still reported in 9 counties. A female was found in Walworth County on the relatively early date of 30 April (Joneses). Another female was seen the same day in Racine County at Cliffside Park (Dixon, Wenzel). It was the first of several reports from Racine during the season, which ran the gamut of age and sex. In fact, Fare saw 2

birds (the only multiple bird report) at Wind Point 6 May, a first-year male with an adult male. The Baumanns discovered two females at Bay Beach SP in Brown County on the same day. A male was seen at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County 1 May (Marschalek). Milwaukee County was also the source of multiple reports that included both male and female birds 1–6 May. Two separate reports came from Jefferson County 8 May (Stutz) and 14 May (Szymczak). An adult male was found in Trempealeau County 12 May (Lewis). The last reports on 15 May were of the recurring bird at Pheasant Branch Conservancy (m. obs.), as well as, new reports from Fond du Lac (Schloffs) and Washington (Armstrong) Counties. On that day, Tessen reported a first-year male at Bay Beach SP, the site of earlier reports.

Scarlet Tanager—Reported 30 April in Dane (Fenske) and Milwaukee (Petherick) Counties. Seen the next day in the counties of Racine (Hoy Audubon), Vernon (E. Wood, Schilke), and Waukesha (multiple locations; Gustafson, Howe, Szymczak). The Kavanaghs found their first bird in Florence County 12 May. E. Wood obtained the high count for a single location 20 May at Fort McCoy in Monroe County (20 birds), while a county total of 28 birds was reported during the Fond du Lac May Day count 15 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—There had been only three records before 20 April. A report 14 April by Coghill from Outagamie County ties the record early date (set by Kemper in Chippewa County in 1953). See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” Mere mortals began reporting the species for three consecutive days beginning 24 April in Richland County (Forchione) and continuing in Milwaukee (Mooney) and Monroe (Epstein) Counties. The Kavanaghs had survey totals in Oconto County 25 May of 62 birds and in Florence County 11 May of 25 birds.

Blue Grosbeak**—Reports from Door County 3–6 May and Racine County 15 May were reviewed and accepted, see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” Read about the Racine bird in “By the Wayside.”

Indigo Bunting—Seen by Schwarz 29 April at Frautschi Point in Dane County. Reported the following day in Milwaukee (Bontly, Korducki), Trempealeau (R. Anderson), Vernon (Jackson), and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. Seen 1 May by C. and R. Lukes in Door County.

A survey by the Kavanaghs 25 May in Oconto County yielded 34 birds.

Painted Bunting**—Seen in the state for the fourth spring in a row. A bird photographed by Franzen (Figs. 15 and 16) in Vilas County 23–24 May was reviewed and accepted, see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” It becomes the 17th spring record.

Dickcissel—Reports began in Lafayette County 12 May (Romano) and persisted through EOP in Sheboygan County (Brassers). Martin observed 30 in southwestern Dane County 28 May, the same day Romano reached his maximum of 10 birds in Lafayette. Reported from 15 counties, north to Bayfield (Oksiuta).

Bobolink—Gustafson found a bird in Waukesha County 30 April. Additional observations were reported the next day from Green Lake (m. obs.), Polk (Maercklein), and Taylor (Risch) Counties. Reports of 30 birds or more came from the following counties: Dodge 15 May (Rohde), Portage 8 May (A. Holschbach), and Waukesha 14 May (Zuhlke).

Red-winged Blackbird—BOP in Grant (Blanchette) and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. The first week of the period saw an increase in eBird reporting with a frequency of almost 40% beginning week of 8 March. In addition, the data lines are steep, indicating rapid entry into the state over a short period of time. Oksiuta reported his first bird 18 March in Bayfield County. A. Holschbach counted 1,325 birds at the Arena Boat Landing in Iowa County on 12 April and Mueller found 1,000 in Fond du Lac County the day before.

Eastern Meadowlark—Reported during the first week of the period in Brown (Rickaby) and Ozaukee (Gustafson, Tessen) Counties. Gustafson found 4 birds 11 March in Waukesha County and by 24 March Richmond reported her first in Langlade County. Totals of 30 birds were obtained from Dane County at Thousand’s Rock Prairie (Schwarz) 25 May and Portage County at the Buena Vista Grasslands 11 April (Oksiuta).

Western Meadowlark—Tessen found the first 17 March in Outagamie County, followed by a report from the Kavanaghs 26 March in Florence County. Twelve birds in Bayfield County 29 May were the most found by anyone (Anich, Spaeth). A report from T. Wilson at the Turtle Valley WA in Walworth County 11 April was the only report from the far southeastern corner of the state. Reported in 21 counties.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Schilke heard the first at Sensiba WMA in Brown County 5 April. Sensiba WMA was also the location of the high count of 28 birds on 25 May (Rickaby). Next reported 6 April by Dixon in Racine County, with subsequent reports coming 10 April from Fond du Lac (Frank) and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties. Reported from 20 counties.

Rusty Blackbird—Seen lurking around Green (Evanston, Yoerger), Walworth (Yoerger), and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties during the first week of the period. The largest numbers seen were in La Crosse County 8 April (250, Jackson), Trempealeau County 13 April (175, Slager), and Walworth 28 March (125, Howe). Last reported from Portage County 29 May (Pendergast). This declining species of special concern was observed in 42 counties.

Brewer's Blackbird—Reported in Manitowoc County 11 March by Sontag and the following day in Dodge County at Horicon Marsh NWR by Burckhardt. Next seen 17 March by Epstein in Monroe County. Boyle counted 51 birds in Jefferson County 9 April and Gustafson and Paulios counted 45 at the Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County mid-April. EOP in Adams (Bontly) and St. Croix (Persico) Counties. Seen in 42 counties.

Common Grackle—Similar to the Red-winged Blackbird, eBird data for this species demonstrates a steep data line already reaching over 20% reporting frequency by 8 March. Consistent with this is a report of 15 birds from Howe in Walworth County 6 March. High counts of 513 and 450 birds were reported by Duerksen in Fond du Lac County 27 March and Mueller in Jefferson County 9 April, respectively.

Brown-headed Cowbird—Found in Green, Racine, Rock, and Walworth Counties during the first week of the period. Mueller found 300 in Jefferson County 9 April, which was the same day Romano counted 200 in Iowa County.

Orchard Oriole—Seen 1 May by Tessen in Marquette County and Trick in Manitowoc County. Reported in Grant (unk. obs.), Racine (Willard), and Walworth (T. Wilson) Counties the following day. There were three reports of 6–7 birds coming from Iowa (Betchkal), Monroe (Schilke), and Sauk (A. Holschbach) County. Reported from 35 counties around the state.

Baltimore Oriole—This was another species that overshot the southern portion of the state to arrive 26 April in Douglas County (LaValleys). On 30 April it made landfall in Buffalo, Dane, Dunn, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Trempealeau, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. Reported from Sawyer County 2 May by Gagliardi and Florence County by the Kavanaghs 8 May. The Kavanaghs obtained the two high counts of 53 birds in Oconto County 25 May and 21 birds at Bay Beach SP in Brown County 14 May.

Pine Grosbeak—The only report was made by C. and R. Lukes, which was from Door County 8 March–28 May.

Purple Finch—BOP in Buffalo, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Marathon, and Polk Counties. T. Wilson counted 35 birds in Waukesha County 13 March. Encountered EOP in Clark (Risch), Door (Lukes), Florence (Kavanaghs), Taylor (Risch), and Vilas (Richmond) Counties.

Red Crossbill—The only observations occurred 27 May in Florence County by the Kavanaghs at two separate locations. Their total number seen that day was 9.

White-winged Crossbill—Only reported from three counties. A report from Szymczak in Waukesha County 4 March was of a holdover from the winter reporting season. Also found by Maercklein in Polk County 12 March (2 birds) and Anich in Ashland County 10 May (5 birds).

Common Redpoll—The following is a run-down of the 6 reporting counties: Bayfield 6 March, report of 20 birds, which was the highest (Anich), Burnett 20 March, 6 birds (Sando), Dane 26 March, number unknown (Nolan), Door 2–5 March, number unknown (Lukes), Oconto 9 March, 2 birds (Rickaby), and Portage 14–21 March, 1–5 birds (Pendergast, Stroik).

Pine Siskin—BOP in Brown (Rickaby), Manitowoc (J. Holschbach), Oconto (Rickaby), and Vilas (J. Baughman) Counties. The RBC reported the most, 30 birds from Alvin in Forest County on 6 March. The last southern county reports came from Milwaukee 23 May (Frank) and Dane 25 May (Schwarz).

Evening Grosbeak—Reported in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Marinette, Oconto, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties. The RBC claimed the high count, 25 birds, in Forest 6 March and the second highest total, 11 birds, came from the NLDC birders in Iron 15 March.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow**—A male photographed in Juneau County 25 April (Buckardt) was reviewed and accepted, see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010, Accepted Records.” Last reported during the 2005 season, this becomes the sixth record of the species in the state.

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Wisconsin May Counts—2010

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The 8 May Counts in 2010 is an average level of participation of the past 10 years, but about half of what was normal 15 years ago. Leading the way in participation as usual was Winnebago with 26 participants, followed by Sheboygan with 17. Winnebago had the longest list at 182 species followed by Fond du Lac at 169 and Milwaukee/Ozaukee at 167.

The total species list of 234 com-

pares with an average of 244 over the previous 20 years, paling in comparison with the record high of four years ago, 261. The 22 year total for species increases to 298 with the addition of a Golden Eagle in Oconto County. In addition, Spruce Grouse and Cackling Goose appeared for only the 3rd year in the past 22 years and Long-billed Dowitcher for only the fourth time.

Table 1. The 2010 Wisconsin May Counts

Count	Date	Time	Sky	Wind	Temp.	Observ.	Species
Winnebago	5/15	04:10-20:30	Clear	E 5	39-62	26	182
Florence	5/27	04:00-20:00	Pt Clo	NW 5	43-80	6	136
Oconto	5/25	00:30-21:55	Pt Clo	SE 10	65-89	11	160
Oconomowoc	5/13		Cloudy	E	40-68	13	87
Fond du Lac	5/15	03:00-21:00	Pt Clo	SE 8	45-75	8	169
Sheboygan	5/15		Pt Clo.	?? 8	43-62	17	155
Milwaukee/Ozaukee	5/15	04:00-15:00	Pt Clo	W 8	50-65	15	167
Kenosha	5/08	05:00-18:00	Cloudy	W 15	39-54	2	106

Table 2. Species of note for Wisconsin May Count 2010.

Species	Count(s) recorded
Cackling Goose	Winnebago
Mute Swan	Fond du Lac
Trumpeter Swan	Oconto
American Wigeon	Winnebago
Canvasback	Winnebago
Long-tailed Duck	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Bufflehead	Winnebago, Fond du Lac
Common Goldeneye	Winnebago, Sheboygan
Red-breasted Merganser	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Spruce Grouse	Florence
Northern Bobwhite	Winnebago
Red-necked Grebe	Winnebago
Least Bittern	Winnebago, Oconto
Snowy Egret	Fond du Lac
Cattle Egret	Winnebago, Kenosha
Northern Goshawk	Oconto
Golden Eagle	Oconto
Merlin	Florence, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Yellow Rail	Oconto, Sheboygan
King Rail	Winnebago
Common Moorhen	Winnebago, Fond du Lac
Black-bellied Plover	Winnebago
Upland Sandpiper	Winnebago, Kenosha
Marbled Godwit	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Ruddy Turnstone	Sheboygan, Winnebago
Long-billed Dowitcher	Sheboygan
Wilson's Phalarope	Winnebago, Sheboygan
Franklin's Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Great Black-backed Gull	Sheboygan
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Whip-poor-will	Florence, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
White-eyed Vireo	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Philadelphia Vireo	Oconto, Kenosha, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Gray Jay	Florence
Common Raven	Milwaukee/Ozaukee, Florence, Oconto
Tufted Titmouse	Winnebago
Carolina Wren	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Northern Mockingbird	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
American Pipit	Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan
Orange-crowned Warbler	Sheboygan, Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Louisiana Waterthrush	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Connecticut Warbler	Winnebago, Kenosha, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Hooded Warbler	Sheboygan, Milwaukee/Ozaukee, Fond du Lac
American Tree Sparrow	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Grasshopper Sparrow	Sheboygan, Florence, Oconto, Fond du Lac
Henslow's Sparrow	Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan
Le Conte's Sparrow	Oconto
Fox Sparrow	Sheboygan
Dark-eyed Junco	Florence
Lapland Longspur	Fond du Lac
Western Meadowlark	Oconto
Rusty Blackbird	Sheboygan
Red Crossbill	Florence
Evening Grosbeak	Oconto, Florence

“By The Wayside”—Spring 2010

Some of the species documented as rare, uncommon, or just plain interesting this season included Spruce Grouse, Red-throated Loon, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Piping Plover, Ruff, Iceland Gull, Jaeger sp., Chuck-will's-widow, Western Kingbird, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, Waterthrush sp., Lark Sparrow, and Blue Grosbeak.

SPRUCE GROUSE (*Falci pennis canadensis*)

19 April 2010, Fire Lane Road, Vilas County—In previous years, I had about 80% success rate in finding Spruce Grouse on this road. This year it took eight visits to find only one!

I was driving about 25 mph and was 0.2 miles west of the usual location where they are seen. I saw something brown on the road, which had not been there the day previous, and my thought was that recent high winds must have blown some tree bark onto the road. I aligned my wheels to cross over it, but suddenly saw it was a grouse and slammed hard on the brakes, leaving ruts in the soft, sandy road. I exited the car, and resting calmly on the road, six feet in front of my bumper was a female Spruce Grouse. She was beautiful in the very early morning light with barring of browns, white, black, and rust throughout. She had a very short tail

and a short black bill. There were some black irregular markings on the face and a faint red supercilium, which I thought was only visible because I was so close. These plumage characteristics and the rounded head without a crest eliminated Ruffed Grouse. After about two minutes, this grouse, formerly motionless, suddenly rocketed to the south, perhaps to start a family.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*)

6 March 2010, Harrington Beach State Park, Ozaukee County—All three birds were seen while I was scouting from the picnic table just south of the point. I used a 20–60×, 80mm spotting scope. It was fairly calm on the lake, which was fortunate, because these birds were quite far out. The closest was about 200 yards away, and the most distant about 400 yards from

my position. The short necks eliminated grebes, and the thin upturned bill eliminated a Common Loon. White behind and above the eye eliminated a Pacific Loon. All three loons were in winter plumage with no color other than white on the throat and foreneck. The backs were gray, and if there were any spots or markings on the back they were not evident at this distance. The white on the sides of the neck made a straight but indistinct separation with the gray of the nape, further eliminating Pacific and Common Loon. The head was evenly curved, unlike the blocky head shape of the Common Loon. There was some white above the waterline visible on the sides of the birds, and what little was seen of the underparts was white.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

LITTLE BLUE HERON
(*Egretta caerulea*)

8 May 2010, Truax pond, Eau Claire County—At about 3 p.m. my daughter Jennifer and I were birding at the corner Truax pond northwest of Eau Claire. This is the pond southeast of the intersection of Kane and Wheaton Road across the road from Chippewa County. Just as I was pulling away, Jennifer said "What's that little heron?" I slammed on the brakes and backed up, expecting to see a Green Heron, but instead, emerging from the reeds was a small, dark heron with a long neck. When I saw the neck I knew we had something good, so I quickly grabbed the scope and stuck it on the window. Through the scope I could see the little heron's dark slate blue/gray body and reddish head and

neck, which was an adult Little Blue Heron. The bill was long and dagger-shaped, dark at the tip and paler at the base, and the legs were grayish. There was a patch of blue skin between the eye and the bill, and a few long, wispy plumes adorned the lower back and back of the head. The bird was actively hunting, but what it was finding I'm not sure (maybe frogs?), since this pond dries up regularly and probably has no fish.—*Janine Polk, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin.*

GLOSSY IBIS
(*Plegadis falcinellus*)
and
WHITE-FACED IBIS
(*Plegadis chihi*)

7, 8, and 10 May 2010, Hwy 49, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County—One to three Glossy Ibis were seen along Hwy 49 in Horicon Marsh. These chestnut and dark green ibises with the long down-curved bill had a thin bluish white line around the face, which was broken behind the eye. The face color within the lines was dark, as was the eye. The legs were dark, with only a suggestion of reddish color. Side by side comparison with a White-faced Ibis 10 May emphasized the differences. The White-faced had a continuous, thick white line around the face, which was red, like the eyes, and the legs were also much brighter red than the Glossy Ibis legs.—*Dennis Gustafson, Muskego, Wisconsin.*

9 May 2010, Hwy 49, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County—It was 1 p.m. and these ibises were in a ditch only 30 feet from my car. I used 10 × 42 binoculars for the observation initially, and as they gradually worked

their way further west I used a 20–60×, 80mm spotting scope. Contrary to my Sibley field guide, the White-faced Ibis was distinctly smaller than the two Glossy Ibises. This doesn't seem right, but I must report what I saw. The White-faced in comparison to the Glossy had red facial skin (rather than black) and it was completely surrounded by white. This white was thick and wrapped completely around the red eye. It also had brighter red legs. There was a rosy tint on a few of the dark scapulars toward the rear of the bird. The long, down-curved bill was grayer than the similarly shaped brownish bill of the Glossy Ibises. Like the Glossy Ibises, the White-faced Ibis had chestnut red colored underparts, head, and nape. It also had the glossy green patch below the shoulder area, and both species showed considerable dark purplish-green gloss on the folded wing, and other than the few aforementioned rosy tinted scapulars on the White-faced Ibis, I saw no major differences in the upperpart coloration of the two species.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

PIPING PLOVER
(*Charadrius melodius*)

1 May 2010, Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—This bird was seen along the north end of Bradford Beach in Milwaukee. The size and shape was very similar to a Semipalmated Plover. Light gray upperparts, clean white underneath. Complete thin black breast band. Black line on brow. Face light gray with a white line above the eye (large dark eye really stood out against the

pale face). Bright orange legs. Bill was short, thick, and all dark (birders who saw the bird later told me that they detected the bill lightening at the base).—*Jym Mooney, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

RUFF
(*Philomachus pugnax*)

8 May 2010, Schumacher Road north of Cuba Valley Road, Dane County—I had returned to this area to search once again (unsuccessfully) for the Smith's Longspur that had been reported on the WSO hotline. After the Lapland Longspurs departed, I decided to check the shorebirds on the west side of the road. I quickly found a female Ruff among several Lesser Yellowlegs about 35 yards from my car. I used a 20–60×, 80mm spotting scope for my observation.

This bird was slightly smaller than the Lesser Yellowlegs but was bulkier and appeared heavy chested. In comparison to the Lesser Yellowlegs, its bill was shorter and more stout with a slight downward curve. The scapulars were dark centered with thin pale brown edges. The tertials were strongly barred with dark brown. In contrast to the upperparts, the head was a uniform unmarked pale brown. The underparts were white with mottled brown patches on the breast and sides of neck. They were less extensive and less dense than I (with very limited experience with this species) have seen on other female Ruffs, and certainly less than the amount of markings shown in any of my field guides for adult birds. I surmised that perhaps this was a first spring female not yet in full adult plumage. The legs

were yellow, paler than the legs of nearby Yellowlegs. The bill was dark gray. I watched this bird for about a half-hour and showed it to another couple, but then a burst of rain and sleet came through, dispersing the birds and I could not relocate it.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

ICELAND GULL
(*Larus glaucooides*)

12 March 2010, Hwy N west of Hwy 45, Kenosha County—I saw two immature birds while searching fruitlessly among the thousands of gulls for the reported California Gull. They were recognized by their slightly smaller than Herring Gull size, pink legs, all dark bill, and uniform creamy white (almost buffy) body color. Only the Thayer's Gull could be confused with them, but these were far paler than any Thayer's Gull. Four Thayer's Gulls were also present, including one immature bird for comparison.—*Dennis Gustafson, Muskego, Wisconsin.*

JAEGER SP.
(*Stercorarius sp.*)

29 May 2010, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—While watching the beach for shorebirds I occasionally scanned the lake and was surprised to see a slender dark bird harassing the gulls in the air. With its twisting, arcing flight, small head, and narrow wings, I could tell it was a jaeger. Since it was at least 250–300 yards out, I could not get much detail with my 10×42 binoculars.

I returned two hours later and with my 20–60×, 80mm spotting scope I re-

located the jaeger. Unfortunately, it was farther out, about 85–90% to the horizon, and spent most of the time resting on the water. When it did resume its chases, I could see it had an unmarked white belly and neck, indicating an adult. It had a well-defined black cap and all dark wings with the exception of a small amount of white on the primaries. This white was barely visible and eliminates Pomarine Jaeger, which would have a striking white flash on the wingtips. The key for species identification would be the shape of the retrices or the contrast of colors on the upperwing, neither of which was visible at this distance. The most likely species on the Great Lakes is Parasitic Jaeger, but I could not rule out Long-tailed Jaeger.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW
(*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

1 May 2010, Black River State Forest, Jackson County—I was up in the Black River SF to see what nightjars had arrived for the spring. I had been up in this same general area with Peter Fissel on 28 April and we had only heard a couple of [Eastern] Whip-poor-wills calling, but no Chuck-will's-widow. On this evening, Saturday 1 May, several Whip-poor-wills began calling at 8:40 p.m. Then at 8:55 p.m. a Chuck-will's-widow began to call from about 75 yards north of my location. I never saw this bird; I only heard multiple, repeated calls "chuck-WI-ulls WID-dow." I am not sure if the bird was calling from on the ground or from a tree. The calls came from the same location during the 15-minute period that I was listening. The bird

occasionally briefly paused from calling. The calls were loud and I suspect that they could have been heard from $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. The calls were given at a rate of approximately 22 calls per minute, which is close to the 25 calls per minute rate mentioned in the Birds of North American on-line website. I have been listening to the calls of this species in this same general area for the past three seasons.—*James Otto, Madison, Wisconsin.*

WESTERN KINGBIRD
(*Tyrannus verticalis*)

24 May 2010, Home in Washburn, Bayfield County—I looked outside my living room and saw this bird perched in a small dead crabapple tree in my front yard. It was slightly larger than the Eastern Bluebirds that often sit there, with a more slender build and longer, thicker bill. The back was a grayish, green color with darker gray wings. The head was paler gray with a darker eye line and paler gray malar and throat. The bill and legs were black. The pale grayish throat and upper breast transitioned quickly to a bright lemon yellow lower breast and belly. The tail was black with thin outer white edges. This is visible in photographs taken but was also especially obvious in flight, as the bird was flycatching regularly. This is the third bird I have seen in Bayfield County.—*Ryan Brady, Washburn, Wisconsin.*

30 May 2010, Hwy D between Phantom Lake Road and E. Refuge Road, Burnett County—I spotted this bird on a utility wire while driving east. It did not register as any bird I usually see on a utility wire, so I made a quick U-turn, which caused the bird to fly.

Fortunately, a tall dead tree was about 150 yards away and it perched on one of the upper limbs where it was plainly visible from my vehicle with my 20–60×, 80mm spotting scope. It had a gray face and crown and the throat was white. The entire belly, all the way through the undertail, was bright yellow. The back was olive colored and the wings were black. The tail was also black and squared at the tip. The white edges to the tail were very thin and not obvious, but knowing this to be a critical fieldmark, I zoomed to 60× and was able to see them. The square-shaped tail, white edges, and very faint black mask eliminated other Tyrant flycatchers with yellow underparts. I did not get a complete frontal look at this bird, but I could see gray on the edge of the breast. The pale crown, lack of any rufous coloration in the wings or tail, and no wing bars eliminated any Myiarchus flycatchers.

This bird may have come in with a weather front (it had just stopped raining). It squabbled with a flock of Starlings, flew north to the tree line, and over the next two days I stopped briefly several times while passing by and never saw it again.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.*

PURPLE MARTIN
(*Progne subis*)

16 March 2010, Hwy F south of Muir Park, Marquette County—While driving south along County Hwy F, I noticed a bird flying close to a martin house. The flight was a typical rapid flapping and short glide style. The bird was completely dark with long, pointed wings and a forked tail. Suspecting a martin, I slowed and backed

my vehicle to get a closer look. When I returned to the martin house the bird was perched on the south edge of the top. As perched, the bird appeared dark glossy bluish-purple all over. It was too narrow bodied and the wrong color to be a Starling. It displayed the characteristic swallow-head (broad and round) with a small bill.—*Randy Hoffman, Waunakee, Wisconsin.*

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW
(*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

2 April 2010, Tower Hill SP, Sauk County—These two swallows were seen flying along the Wisconsin River backwaters near the shot tower at the park. They were first identified by voice and then seen at close range as they started visiting the nest cavities in the rock face. Field marks observed included the brown head, back, and wings, with a brownish wash to breast on the otherwise whitish underparts.—*Aaron Holschbach, Iowa County, Wisconsin.*

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD
(*Mimus polyglottos*)

1 and 25 May 2010, North Point, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County—On 1 May, we found this bird in the backyard of a home on the bluff above North Point. It was in a tree near a Brown Thrasher. It was roughly the same size and shape as the thrasher, but it was mostly all gray (dark above, lighter below) with white wing patches and white outer tail feathers that flashed when it flew. The bill was much smaller than the thrasher's and more robin-like, but dark. The mockingbird flew from the tree to the lawn,

where it actively foraged for insects. On 25 May, we found probably the same bird in the same general area, but across the road and perched high in a tree overlooking the lakeshore. Sadly, it didn't sing while we observed it.—*Dave and Margaret Brasser, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.*

WATERTHRUSH SP.
(*Parkesia* sp.)

4 April 2010, Scuppernong Spring Nature Trail, Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Waukesha County—This bird was flushed downstream from the "Hotel Spring," which is a fast-moving portion of the outflow. I obtained only a brief view of the face and saw the shape of the beak, long whiteish supercilium, dark brown crown and auriculars, as well as a white undereye "crescent." I was unable to re-evaluate the exact color of the supercilium or its extent. The breast was marked with thin, defined, crisp brown streaks. The back, wings, and tail were a dark brown color. The undertail coverts appeared to have a "buffy" coloration. This feature was only observed after the bird flushed and was walking in leaf litter while doing a slow, methodical bob of its posterior. This action looked like a "hula-hoop" in slow motion. A pair of Song Sparrows was in the immediate area for comparison. No vocalizations were heard.—*Andrea Szymczak, Waukesha, Wisconsin.*

LARK SPARROW
(*Chondestes grammacus*)

30 April 2010, Concordia University, Ozaukee County—This bird was seen scratching up lunch in a

flowerbed being prepared along the top of the bluff (hawk watch site). The bold face pattern was immediately recognizable on this robust sparrow, as was the clean white underbelly. White was visible along the outside and trailing edge of the tail as it flew off toward the south end of the bluff. Interestingly, the only other sighting of this species at this location for me (in over 25 years of keeping track) was in 2009, when five individuals were observed (with four being photographed together in a small bare tree).—*William Cowart, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

BLUE GROSBEAK
(Passerina caerulea)

15 May 2010, Wadewitz Nature Camp, Racine County—Dave Willard and I were sorting through a mixed flock of migrants including various

warblers. The grosbeak landed quite conveniently about 20 feet above the trail on a 6-inch thick horizontal oak branch approximately 30 yards ahead of us. The area is deciduous forest bordering oak scrub, near open fields and a quarry. It remained perched upright in good light (sun behind us) for about 30 seconds. Indigo Bunting was eliminated because our bird had rufous wing bars, a large silvery bill, and larger size. The female of the following species was eliminated by the blue face, as well as by bill size, shape, and color: Scarlet Tanager, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Northern Cardinal. Dave has handled specimens in the Field Museum collection and seen this species on multiple occasions in the Chicago area. I had never seen a Blue Grosbeak before.—*Max Witynski, Madison, Wisconsin.*



Black-legged Kittiwake by Dennis Kuecherer

WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2010

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The WSO Records Committee reviewed 52 records of 24 species for the spring season, accepting 44 of them.

Observers were notified of the committee's decisions by postcard in the instance of accepted records and by personal letter in the case of records not accepted.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Glossy Ibis—

#2010-006 Dane Co., 30 April 2010, Thiessen; 1 May 2010, T. Wood.

#2010-007 Dodge Co., 3 May 2010, West (photo), Bahls (photo); 6–12 May 2010, Tessen; 7, 8, 10 May 2010, Gustafson; 9 May 2010, T. Wood; 28 May 2010, Mooney; ? May 2010, Barrientos (photo).

These chestnut and green-bodied birds had gray legs, a gray down-curved bill, gray facial skin, and a thin white border to this facial skin that did not extend behind the eyes.

White-faced Ibis—

#2010-008 Waukesha Co., 10 May 2010, Winze (photo).

#2010-010 Dane Co., 3 May 2010, Doyle (photo).

#2010-009 Dodge Co., 1–23 May, Tessen; 3 May 2010, West (photo), Bahls (photo); 9 May 2010, T. Wood; 10 May 2010, Gustafson; 28 May 2010, Mooney; ? May 2010, Barrientos (photo).

Slightly smaller than an American Bittern, this chestnut and glossy green-bodied bird had a long, down-curved gray bill. Also evident were bright red legs and a thick white border entirely surrounding the pinkish facial skin.

Swainson's Hawk—

#2010-033 Douglas Co., 2 May 2010, Wilson (photo).

This immature bird was captured at a banding station. Photos revealed the brown partial neck collar, buffy-white underwing coverts and the contrasting gray undersides of the flight feathers. A thinly banded tail was also evident.

Black-necked Stilt—

#2010-012 Dodge Co., 3 May 2010, West (photo); 7, 8, 10 May 2010, Gustafson; 9 May 2010, T. Wood.

These slender shorebirds were a contrast of black head, back of neck, wings, and back with a white throat, ventral neck, breast, and belly. The long legs were reddish-pink and the straight thin bill was black.

Ruff—

#2010-014 Dane Co., 8 May 2010, T. Wood; 9 May 2010, West (photo); 17 May 2010, Betchkal.

This slightly larger than Lesser Yellowlegs shorebird had a disproportionately larger body for its head, along with a slightly longer neck. In flight, a white rump was noted. The brown back had a scaly pattern. The head and foreneck were buffy, with slightly darker brown on the hindneck and crown. Leg color was not detectable.

Black-legged Kittiwake—

#2009-099 Ozaukee Co., 2, 9 March 2010, Gustafson.

The wintering bird in Port Washington harbor lingered until 9 March.

California Gull—

#2010-015 Kenosha Co., 11 March 2010, Dixon, Fare.

This gull was in between a Herring and Ring-billed Gull in size, with a slightly darker gray mantle, a yellow bill with a red and a black spot toward the tip, yellow-green legs, a dark eye with a red orbital ring. The head had a more rounded contour than the Herrings. The black primary tips of P9

and P10 had white windows, especially P10.

White-winged Dove—

#2010-016 Milwaukee Co., 23, 24 May 2010, Morse (photo).

The photo showed a heavy-bodied dove with a white edge to the folded wing. The red eye had a bluish orbital ring; the cheek had a black teardrop-shaped marking.

Chuck-will's-widow—

#2010-017 Jackson Co., 1 May 2010, Otto; 21 May 2010, T. Wood.

This 4 syllable song had a rising pattern to the notes from the “chuck” through the “wills” and up to the “wid” with emphasis on that third note. The last note, “dow,” dropped down in pitch and scale again. It was repeated almost without cessation. The syllables of this song are vocalized in a more drawn out pattern than an Eastern Whip-poor-will's song.

The May 1st record eclipses the previous early spring report for Wisconsin by 4 days.

Western Kingbird—

#2010-031 Bayfield Co., 24 May 2010, Brady (photo).

#2010-034 Burnett Co., 30 May 2010, T. Wood.

#2010-035 Kewaunee Co., 30 May 2010, Tessen.

These flycatchers had gray heads with a faint black area across the eyes, as well as white throats. A gray upper breast gave way to a light yellow lower breast. No wingbars were evident, the black, squared off tail had thin white outer edges.

Eastern Kingbird—

#2010-018 Barron Co., 11 April 2010,
Pertile.

This bird was slightly smaller than a robin with a white breast, slate-gray back, and tail with a white terminal band on the tail. It was hawking insects in a field.

[*Ed. Note: This becomes the third earliest date for an Eastern Kingbird observation, after 25 March 1939 in Waukesha County and 8 April 2001 in Racine County.*]

Warbling Vireo—

#2010-019 Iowa Co., 17 April 2010,
Marschalek.

This rambling song was described with the following words: "If-I-see-you,-I-will-seize-you,-then-I'll-squeeze-you,-till-you-squirt." The last note rises.

[*Ed. Note: This date ties the previous earliest record on 17 April 2002 from Dane County.*]

Smith's Longspur—

#2010-024 Dane Co., 30 April 2010,
West (photo).

This photographed female bird was feeding with Lapland Longspurs. It had a buffy breast and face, a streaked brown back, brown wings, and brown tail, a streaked crown, and white outer tail feathers. The side of the face had a dark stripe caudal to the eye that curved down around the auricular area. Pale white wingbars were noted as well. The bill shape was thinner than that expected on a Lapland Longspur.

(These birds were first found by Thiessen.)

Golden-winged Warbler—

#2010-021 Ozaukee Co., 18 April
2010, Curnutt.

This small gray warbler had a black

face patch, black chin, white borders to these black patches, a yellow cap, and yellow wing patches.

There is only one other record for Wisconsin before 24 April, that being 8 April 2006 in Dane Co.

Kirtland's Warbler—

#2010-022 Adams Co., May 2010, Trick
(photo).

Photos of banded birds were received for the 2010 breeding season. (Additional birds were reported present in Marinette Co.)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—

#2010-025 Outagamie Co., 14 April
2010, Coghill.

Overall, a brown, cowbird-sized bird, with 2 white wingbars. The superciliary line was buff colored, with a dark cheek patch below that. The breast was whitish with fine dark streaking that diminished to no streaking on the belly. The bill was decidedly heavy in proportion to the size of the head compared to the bill of a similarly marked Purple Finch.

[*Ed. Note: This record ties the previous earliest record on 14 April 1953 in Chippewa County.*]

Blue Grosbeak—

#2010-027 Racine Co., 15 May 2010,
Witynski.

#2010-028 Door Co., 3-6 May 2010,
McKee (photo).

The Door Co. bird had a blue head, upper breast, and rump, with a brown body, chestnut wing bars, and a heavy, gray bill.

The description of the Racine Co. bird suggested a similar plumage along with the cowbird/tanager size and heavy, conical gray bill.

Painted Bunting—

#2010-030 Vilas Co., 23,24 May 2010,
Franzen (photo).

An overall small greenish bird with a finch-like gray bill was evident in the photo.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow—

#2010-029 Juneau Co., 25 April 2010,
Buckardt (photo).

The photo revealed a bird similar to a male House Sparrow, differing in having a full rufous crown a small black chin area, and a black auricular patch.

There were a couple of spring records of this species in northwestern Illinois as well.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**Barrow's Goldeneye—**

#2010-013 Winnebago Co., 8 March
2010.

This was described as “a female.” It had a “slightly darker body,” a dark brown head that was “different’ in shape from the Common Goldeneye females; however, specifics were not supplied. The bill was yellow-orange and stubby.

Without more specific coloration information and what was “different” about the head shape, this bird’s identity is too simply based on a brown head and yellow bill. A small percentage of Common Goldeneyes have yellow bills, so it is important to compare the bill shape to Common Goldeneyes that are usually present for direct comparison.

Plegadis Ibis (sp.)—

#2010-011 Milwaukee Co., 18 March
2010.

A flock of 25–30 “nearly headless”

dark birds were seen in flight. The flight was continuous (no gliding). Seen from underneath, the silhouette was of birds with “long, thin bills” and trailing legs. Without seeing the decurved bills expected of ibis, this identification is not confirmed.

Ruff—

#2010-014 Dane Co., 9 May 2010.

A Lesser Yellowlegs-sized bird was reported with no indication of overall color. It had a scaly back and upper breast. It seemed “chunkier” than the yellowlegs. Bill color, leg color, rump pattern, and overall body color were not mentioned.

Veery—

#2010-020 Calumet Co., 11 April 2010.

This thrush was larger than a Fox Sparrow, and had “sandy-brown” or “tawny” upperparts, but white breast, belly, and undertail coverts. No spots were evident on the sides, but the view was from the side and behind the bird, so the breast and throat weren’t directly observable.

The observer indicated that a “distinct reddish rump” was anticipated on a Hermit Thrush, but the angle, lighting, and plumage of individual birds could alter these perceptions. The lack of caudal breast spotting was also presumed to eliminate a Hermit Thrush, but this isn’t an accurate assumption. Without information on the darkness of the upper breast spotting and color wash to the upper breast, a Hermit Thrush can’t be excluded from the identification possibilities.

Smith's Longspur—

#2010-024 Dane Co., 30 April, 1 May
2010.

The April 30th report indicated a

yellow-orange-breasted bird, similar in size to adjacent, but seemingly not associated Lapland Longspurs. The wing had a white shoulder patch and a fuzzy “black and white face pattern” was alluded to, but not specifically described. The bill was thicker than a pipit’s bill. Undoubtedly a male bird was being seen, but not completely/specifically described in that the black and white on the face wasn’t specifically located.

Viewed at unspecified “variable” distance in 20–30 mph windy conditions, the May 1st bird was described as about Lapland Longspur-sized, having a buffy breast, a brown, less streaked back, brown wings, and brown tail, a head paler than a Lapland Longspur with streaks, and white outer tail feathers. No mention was made of any white wingbars, nor of a thinner bill shape than a Lapland Longspur, nor the presence of any darker auricular markings expected on a longspur, nor diffuse streaking on the upper breast.

Without more plumage information, some indication of distance from the bird, and consideration of Vesper

Sparrows and American Pipits in the May 1st documentation, the identity of this bird is uncertain.

Western Tanager—

#2010-023 Washington Co., 10-11 May 2010 (photo).

The photo of a yellowish-breasted tanager with a rose-red head didn’t reveal the back and wings. The bill seemed abnormally large for a tanager, more in line with the shape of a Summer Tanager. The rose-red color again was more suggestive of a Summer Tanager than a Western Tanager, and the red did not limit itself to the face of the bird, it extended well down on to the upper breast. This all seemed to indicate a first year male Summer Tanager.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—

#2010-026 Marathon Co., 15 April 2010.

The limited description was of a bird larger than a Purple Finch with “white on the wings.” Without a more complete description, the identity is uncertain.



Downy Woodpecker and Summer Tanager sharing a suet feeder by Jack Bartholmai

About the Artists

Jack R. Bartholmai is an amateur wildlife photographer and wood sculptor living near Beaver Dam with his wife Holly. His work appears frequently in local newspapers, travel brochures, calendars, and bird publications. He gives numerous presentations on birds and his work. He is an active member of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club. Jack was the 2005 recipient of the WSO Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award.

Janet Flynn interprets nature in watercolor as a full time endeavor. She finds the beautiful Baraboo Hills to be both a classroom and a source of inspiration for her vibrant, unique watercolors. Her work has been juried into numerous national and international exhibitions including “Birds in Art” and is marketed at the International Crane Foundation gift shop.

David Kuecherer, retiring Art Editor for this publication, taught art at the high school level for 30 years and at UW-Oshkosh for several years. He currently combines his artistic talents

with his love of birdwatching to paint and photograph birds. His paintings have been exhibited in “Birds in Art” and other shows in Wisconsin. David will soon be moving with his wife Joyce to Michigan, and will be missed as a part of the Wisconsin birding community.

Major Dennis R. Kuecherer is retired from the US Army and from many years of doing field work for WDNR, the Department of the Interior, and the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. He has been an active birder most of his life, and enjoys drawing and photographing birds as well as counting them. He is an active birder in the Ozaukee and Milwaukee County area now that he lives in Mequon.

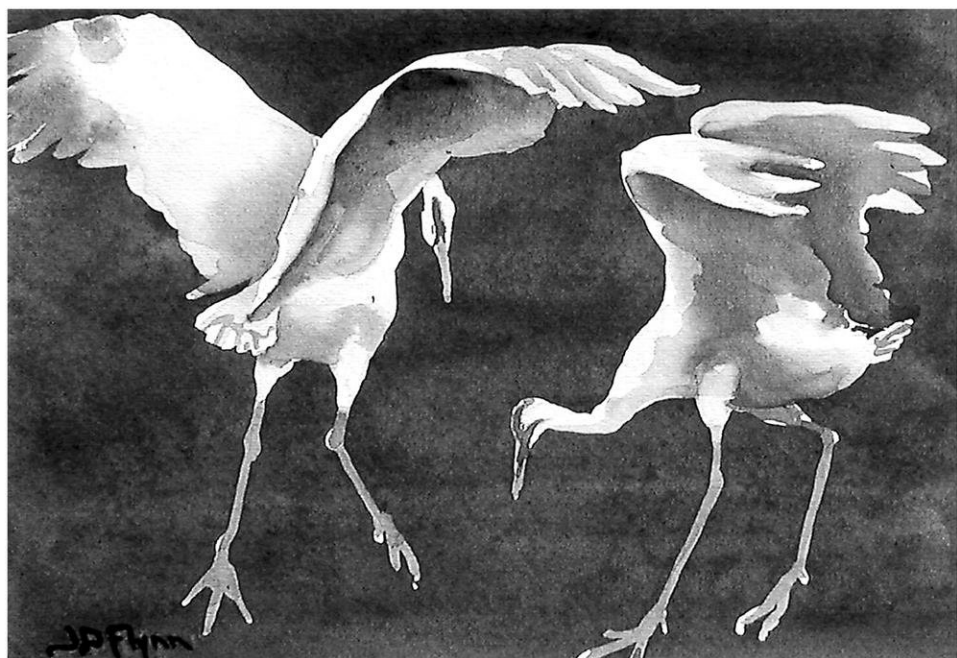
Dennis Malueg, new Art Editor for this publication, is a dedicated amateur bird and wildlife photographer who travels Wisconsin in search of his subjects. He also works from his own “studio”—his backyard, prairie, and forest in Waushara County.



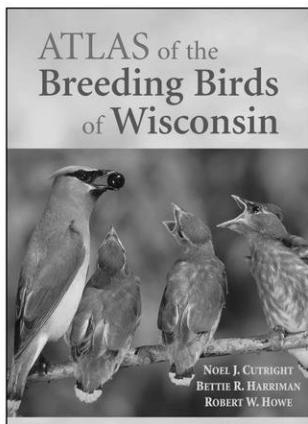
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on guard by David Kuecherer



Baby Canada Goose by David Kuecherer



Pair Bonding by Janet Flynn



Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin

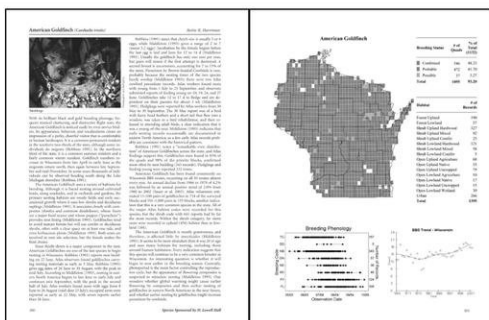
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