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THE RED-TAILED HAWK IN WISCONSIN

RANGE AND POPULATION STUDY—1954

By GORDON ORIAN

As ornithologists we record the rarities we see in fairly complete detail, but often neglect to mention the common species. A future investigator studying, say robins, would, by consulting our records, be able to determine the arrival dates of the first robins of spring and the whereabouts of those individuals who remain to brave the rigors of a Wisconsin winter. He would find almost nothing recorded about the majority of the robin population, which is, of course, far more important.

In an effort to collect information about one of Wisconsin's conspicuous birds, a questionnaire was sent to WSO members asking for certain details of the distribution and abundance of the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) in the state. The following report is based upon those questionnaires returned by members, published records in *The Passenger Pigeon* and other ornithological journals, books, and personal communications.

Distribution and Migration

The red-tailed hawk has one of the widest distributions of any North American bird. It breeds from the limit of trees in Alaska, Yukon, Mackenzie, northern Manitoba, and northern Ontario, south to the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Jamaica, and Panama, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific (Bent, 1937). It retreats from the northern portions of its range in winter. All of Wisconsin falls well within the breeding range but the northern and central counties are without red-tails in the winter.

Historical records seem to indicate that the status of the red-tail in Wisconsin has not changed appreciably in the last fifty years or more. Kumlien and Hollister (1903) reported it to be "a common species, resident in southern Wisconsin, though much more numerous during spring and fall migrations. Nests in all sections of the state, even in quite thickly settled localities." That statement fits 1955 equally as well.

The distribution in neighboring states is similar to that in Wisconsin. In Minnesota the red-tail is "A summer resident, breeding throughout the state. Occasional in winter." (Roberts, 1936). Similarly in Michigan it is a "Fairly common transient. Summer resident, formerly abundant, now uncommon. A few winter in southern counties." (Wood, 1951).

Rather than being an occasional visitor to Wisconsin in the winter, however, the red-tail is the most common hawk in the southern counties at this season. Sixty-five have been seen during the last five Monroe Christmas Bird Counts and a similar abundance is recorded in Waukesha County (89 in 12 counts). As far north as Winnebago County the species is common throughout the colder months (Kaspar).

Due to the lack of observers in the central counties it is impossible to delimit the northern edge of the winter range in Wisconsin. What little evidence is available indicates that numbers drop sharply rather than decreasing gradually as one moves north. In spite of the winter abundance in Winnebago County, the bird has never been recorded in

the Christmas counts at Green Bay and only twice at Appleton in the last eleven years. The very approximate northern limit of the winter range is shown in Fig. 1.

In view of the marked decrease in the red-tail population in Michigan, it is natural to ask whether there has been a sharp decline in the Wisconsin population also. Since there have been no population studies of red-tails in Wisconsin until recent years, no definite figures are available for comparison. Two opposing factors are responsible for the present status; (1) the killing of the birds by men, and (2) the improvement of the habitat by agriculture.

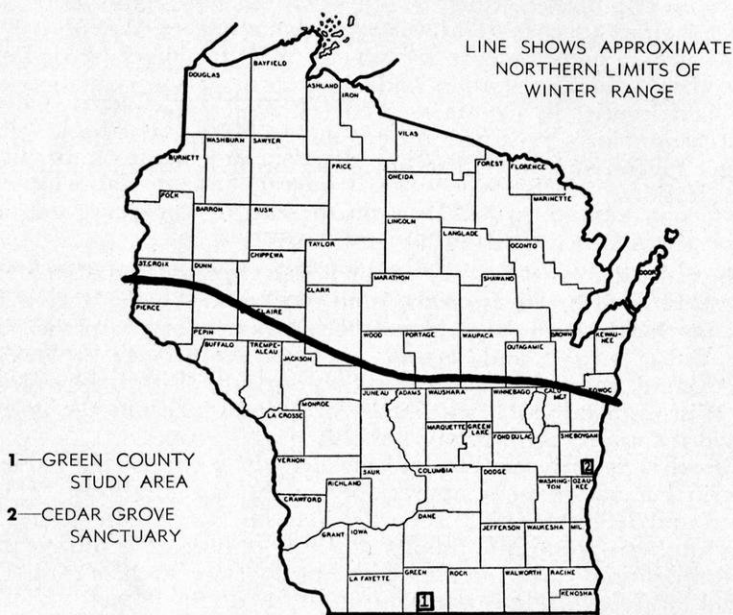


FIGURE 1

The red-tail is a bird of open country. The greatest numbers occur in regions of open fields with small patches of trees for nesting. Through the activities of man such habitat is more prevalent today than at any previous time. This potential increase has been countered by the shot gun so that any precise estimate of change in numbers is impossible. Fortunately, it can be stated, however, that no sharp decline, as reported in Michigan, has taken place in Wisconsin and the red-tail can still be classed as common for a hawk of its size.

In Green County the winter population consists chiefly of resident adults which remain in the general vicinity of their nest throughout the winter. Only a few juveniles were to be found on a study area of 90 square miles (Fig. 1). Winter recoveries of banded nestlings indicate that they migrate to the Gulf States for the winter (Orians).

In contrast, juveniles are more common in winter in many areas of the state, particularly near Milwaukee where they outnumber adults. This may be because juveniles tend to winter where there are no resident adults, and also, being less wary than adults, they move quite readily into the suburbs of the city to feed upon voles in the vacant lots.

When a species is resident in an area during the winter, close observation is necessary to determine when migrants arrive. In Green County it has been possible to detect a definite passage beginning in mid-February and continuing until the end of March, or into early April in cold springs (Orlans). By observing in the city of Oshkosh, where only migrants are likely to appear, Kaspar determined the passage period to be from the end of February until the end of April, many still moving with the large flights of broad-winged and sharp-shinned hawks during the third and fourth weeks of April, long after the Green County flight has ended.

Red-tails apparently make a rather leisurely flight across the state as few appear in the northern counties before March 20. Single individuals seen in Bayfield County February 19, 1943 and Forest County March 2, 1942 (Feeney) probably refer to early migrants rather than winter residents. No information is available on the end of the spring migration period in the north.

The autumn migration of red-tails is even more prolonged than the spring one. Birds are on the move from August to December. With the notable exception of the Lake Michigan flyway, no definite route is taken at this time. Rather, the entire state is crossed in a broad front so that movements are easily missed. Consequently the best available information comes from Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, where intensive observation has been carried out for many years (Fig. 1).

The first migrant juveniles appear as early as mid-August and by September the flight is well under way. Many birds can be expected during September but the largest numbers are seen in October and in November. The largest flight recorded in recent years took place on November 13, 1948 when several hundred, accompanied by similar numbers of red-shouldered and rough-legged hawks, were observed. Unfortunately, fewer observations have been made late in the fall at Cedar Grove, so that we know less about the November and December flights.

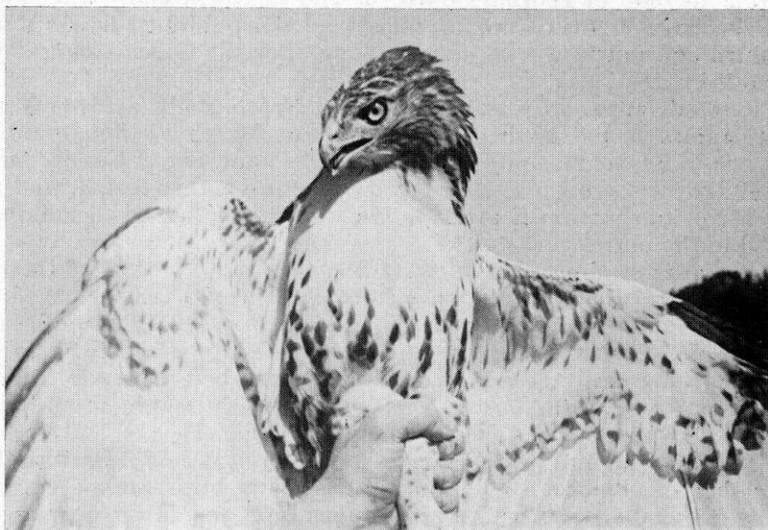
In 1946, however, Kruse noted one hundred in Sauk County between September 29 and October 12, a somewhat earlier peak. This represents an unusually large number of birds to be seen inland in the state. There is no evidence of a flight in Green County in December but some migrants have been noted at Cedar Grove during the first week of the month. Again records are few.

It is well known that hawk flights generally take place on clear days with moderate to strong westerly winds. Yet, we do not know why westerly winds are best; and few hawks are seen on many days with suitable weather of this type. It is likely that the direction of the wind is not the primary factor, if it is a factor at all, but rather the weather accompanying it, since some of the best raptor flights in Europe take place on east winds (Rudeback, 1950; Moreau, 1953). Strong easterlies often bring good weather in Europe but seldom do so in the United States.

Plumage Variation

The taxonomy of the red-tailed hawk has not been satisfactorily worked out in the light of most recent methods. However, the species is divided into a number of subspecies on the basis of plumage. Notable variation is also found within these subspecies.

Red-tails may be either largely white or almost completely black, with every possible intermediate. In Wisconsin most individuals have white underparts with a band of dark markings across the belly, brown back, and a rufous tail in the adult plumage. Immatures to the age of fifteen months lack the rufous tail but are otherwise similar to the adults.



ADULT RED-TAIL TRAPPED AT CEDAR GROVE

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Pale individuals, generally called Krider's hawks (*B. j. krideri*) are occasionally seen in Wisconsin during the spring and fall. Kumlien and Hollister (1903) report that "This western plains race of the red-tail is a regular fall and spring visitant in western Wisconsin, in small numbers," but in 1948 Schorger could find no unquestionable specimen. Cory (1909) mentions a specimen taken at Meridian, Dunn County, October 22, 1892, by J. N. Clark. Pale individuals were noted in Dane County in the spring of 1921, January 23, 1923, and October 14, 1925 (Taylor, 1926). Kaspar reports one in Winnebago County April 20, 1949, the only one in twelve years' observations there. The most recent record is one observed near Chippewa Falls May 16, 1954, by Barger, Kemper, and Lunde. Extremely white red-tails have been observed at Cedar Grove a number of times during the past twenty years. One was trapped, banded, and photographed there on September 16, 1952 (Berger).

Melanism is rare in the east but many black individuals with red tails are seen in the range of the western subspecies (*B. j. calurus*). *Buteo j. harlani*, of northwest Canada and southeast Alaska, is characteristically

dark with a mottled brown tail. There are therefore three potential sources of the melanistic red-tails observed in Wisconsin: (1) variants in the eastern population, (2) eastward movement of **calurus**, and (3) **harlani** migrating through the plains farther east than normal. If the bird observed has a red tail it is definitely not **harlani**. If it has a brown tail it may represent **harlani** or merely an immature bird of one of the other races. It is doubtful whether **harlani** can be satisfactorily identified in the field.

Kumlien and Hollister (1903) stated that dark individuals, which they called **calurus**, are "Of rare, but regular occurrence in Wisconsin in the late fall." Six or eight specimens were procured about Lake Koshkonong by Thure and Ludwig Kumlien. They also recorded a specimen from Delavan, October 19, 1901, and one taken at Meridian, October 23, 1893, by J. N. Clark. Individuals exhibiting varying degrees of melanism are seen frequently in Minnesota, particularly in the western portions of the state (Roberts, 1936). Wood (1951) does not mention melanistic individuals occurring in Michigan. From this it would appear that melanistic individuals seen in Wisconsin have arrived from the north or west and are not from the east.

In Green County, melanistic birds have been seen frequently between October and March. In the past three years eight black birds with red tails have been seen in the study area. One with a mottled tail was seen there March 28, 1953. In addition, five melanistic individuals have been seen within the county but outside the study area. One, observed in March 1954, appeared to be one of a pair and acted as though it intended to nest but it could not be found again (Orians). Black individuals are not known to nest in Wisconsin or neighboring states. One black bird with a red tail was seen in Adams County on December 20, 1954 (Robbins).

Nesting

Red-tails may either repair one of their old nests or build a new one. Often a pair of horned owls, by using the old nest, force the hawks into the latter alternative. In the southern counties residents may begin nest building as early as the last week of January (Orians), but more commonly not until late in February. Both sexes build the nest and complete it in a few days. Branches are, as a rule, broken from the trees and not picked up from the ground. A new nest can be recognized instantly by the fresh ends to its sticks.

The nest is almost always built where it commands a view of the surrounding country. Even in the heavily timbered northern counties a tall red oak standing in a rather open location or on the edge of a large timber is chosen (Kahmann). In the intensely agricultural south the birds must often, of necessity, nest in open locations, but even here the interiors of large wood lots are avoided. In Green County only seven nests were found where the adults had to fly through thick trees to reach them. Sixteen were on the edges of woods, 24 were in open, grazed wood lots, and 15 more in extremely open locations such as fencerow trees or scattered trees along pastured stream banks. One nest was located in a



RED-TAILED HAWK NEST IN TYPICAL
GREEN COUNTY HABITAT

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

lone elm with no other trees for at least one-half mile in any direction (Orians and Kuhlman).

In general, red-tails tend to build their nests on the highest suitable crotches. Therefore nest heights depend upon tree size and differ with locality. Kahmann estimates the average height of nests in Sawyer County to be about 40 feet. Measurements taken by Kuhlman and Orians on 63 nests in Green County gave an average height of 57.6 feet with a range from 30 to 79 feet. This corresponds closely to nest heights in Jefferson County (Kuhlman). It is certain that nests are built much lower in the sand counties where trees are smaller, but measurements have not been made.

The first eggs are laid in early March. Kruse found incubating birds in Sauk County on March 11, 1945 and March 10, 1946. In Green

County the first incubating birds were observed March 1, 1953 and March 13, 1954 (Orians). In the southern counties most eggs are laid before the end of the month.

As mentioned previously, red-tails do not arrive in northern Wisconsin until the end of March, but they then begin to nest almost immediately. In Sawyer County eggs are laid in early April (Kahmann). In the extreme northeast breeding begins later. Richter (1948) reports from Oconto County that nesting begins in mid-April and that he found a pair still building on April 29, 1944, a date when bandable young can be found in many nests in the southern part of the state.

Little information is available on clutch size. Kahmann reports three to be the normal clutch in Sawyer County. In Green County either two or three eggs are laid but there are not enough records to establish a tendency to lay more eggs in the north.

Nesting success varies greatly from year to year. Forty-eight young were raised in 27 nests in Green County in 1953, compared with only 36 young in 33 nests in 1954. In 1953 there were only 3 nesting failures and 6 pairs were able to rear three young. In 1954 twelve nests failed completely and only one pair raised three young. Nestlings died while very young and it was generally the smallest one that died.

A census of the breeding population of a large hawk over an area of significant size is a difficult task which has seldom been attempted. In Wisconsin the Green County study area is the only place where this has been done. In 1954 there were 33 nesting pairs, 6 non-nesting pairs, and one unoccupied territory on the 90 square miles giving a density of one

pair per 2.22 square miles. The only figures available for comparison come from the foothills of the Sierras where Fitch (1946) found one pair per 320 acres (one-half square mile), a population over four times as dense.

In Wisconsin red-tails do not actively defend their nests. Many pairs remain out of sight during the visits of human intruders and most others merely circle above the trees screaming. None of the birds which dive at a climber come dangerously close. This does not seem to be true of red-tails in all parts of the country as there are many references in the literature to climbers actually being hit by a diving bird.

Food

Its large size and adaptability enable the red-tail to utilize a wide variety of prey. Significant differences in diet are found in various parts of the state. Obviously studies of the food of red-tails in other regions cannot be used to infer the diet here.

In Sawyer County snowshoe hare, red squirrel, various mice, groundhog, chipmunk, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, and occasionally ruffed grouse have been found beneath nests (Kahmann). Errington and Breckenridge (1938) visited many nests in south-central Wisconsin noting the following food items: thirteen-lined ground squirrel 50, *Microtus* 47, cottontail 21, chicken 19, arboreal squirrel 11, plus a long list of species of which but a few individuals were found. In Green County the remains of 38 pheasants, 18 rabbits, and 17 chickens, plus another long list of minor items, were found (Oriens and Kuhlman).

In time one would undoubtedly find at the nests the remains of all small and medium-sized mammals and birds found in the locality. In Green County, one of the state's best pheasant counties, that bird forms

the staple food, whereas in other areas of the state pheasants are seldom found in the nests. Rabbits and hares are of general importance over most of the range of the species. In the north, where the snowshoe hare replaces the cottontail, the red-tail readily utilizes that species and so extends its range north to the limit of trees in Canada.

Food remains in the nests offer a fairly accurate picture of the larger prey species but most small food items are swallowed whole and do not appear. In contrast to owls, hawks have powerful digestive juices which destroy bone, and therefore the pellet method of determining food, so useful with owls, cannot be utilized. It must be remembered, therefore, that the



YOUNG RED-TAILS IN THE NEST

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

importance of mice and voles is undoubtedly underestimated in the above account.

The rather alarming number of chickens taken deserves further attention. Both Errington and Orians have found that red-tails take chickens which are feeding on fields spread with manure by farmers. It is not known how many are obtained in this manner but manure on the feathers testifies that some are. This fact should be kept in mind when evaluating the relationship between red-tails and agriculture.

Relationship to Man

Through the questionnaire an effort has been made to evaluate the attitude of the public towards hawks in general and red-tailed hawks in particular. The results have been rather discouraging. Not one of the members reported that local residents were able to or cared to distinguish one species of hawk from another. All were unanimous in saying that hawks are shot whenever possible in their area. The attitude that the only good hawk is a dead hawk still prevails.

Wisconsin has a law protecting all species of hawks but it is clear that such a law is not effective until public opinion is behind it. Here is a challenge to everyone who professes to be genuinely interested in our wildlife and its welfare. This is not a plea for prosecutions but rather a plea for destroying the need for them. Wisconsin is frequently used as an example of a state with good protective legislation. It is hoped that soon she can also be used as an example of enlightened public opinion behind such legislation.

I wish to express my gratitude to the WSO Research Committee for affording me the opportunity to conduct this survey, and to the following WSO members who have cooperated by sending information to me: S. D. Robbins, Adams; N. R. Barger, Madison; J. L. Kaspar, Oshkosh; F. Kuhlman, Lake Mills; M. Reichwaldt, Kiel; K. W. Kahmann, Hayward; M. E. Morse, Viroqua.

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Oxford, England
January 29, 1955

The Door County Campout

By **BERNARD D. KAIMAN** and **CHARLES E. NELSON, JR.**

Catching and banding nestling herring gulls, looking into the nests of double-crested cormorants, hearing the screaming of the duck hawk near its aerie, stepping carefully to avoid walking on herring gull eggs, listening to the mellow trill of the pine warbler, watching a string of 18 baby American mergansers following their mother—these and many other spectacles captured the fancy of the ninety WSO members and friends who attended the camp-out at Door County, June 12 and 13, 1954.

Peninsula State Park provided beautiful headquarters for the camp-out. Quite a few "early birds" arrived Friday night and camped out in the park. Those not sleeping under cover had to scurry for shelter at about 3:00 Saturday morning when thunder-storms disturbed the quietude of the camp for 1½ hours. But in spite of an interrupted sleep, a large group was on hand for an early morning bird walk in and around the park. The redstarts' cheery songs accompanied us wherever we went, and here and there they were joined by other warblers: black and white, black-throated green, blackburnian, chestnut-sided and pine. The songs of the winter wren and the white-throated sparrows, and the presence of some pine siskins, delighted observers from southern Wisconsin who are accustomed to seeing these birds only in migration.



HERRING GULLS ON HAT ISLAND

PHOTO BY BERNARD KAIMAN

It was a bright sunny morning, and against the blue of the sky we saw many flashes of white wings at various lookouts at the park—herring and ring-billed gulls, and common and Caspian terns. Some of the greatest ornithological excitement was provided by the duck hawks and eagles that nest on the sides of the cliffs in the park. These are majestic birds; to watch them makes one breathe a bit more deeply. The eagle is a majestic percher—his huge black form framed by his snowy white head and tail, maintained in perfect stillness. The duck hawk is a majestic

flyer—his powerful, streamlined wings carrying him effortlessly back and forth along the cliffs at a fast clip, and capable of attaining speeds well in excess of 100 miles per hour in power dives.

The Boat Trips

The warm bright day and the perfectly calm water were ideal for the boat trips to Hat Island. The boat carried 31 persons to the island in the morning. As the people disembarked at the island, the gulls started to take off, and their white wings against the blue sky made a most beautiful picture. Flying among them were cormorants who were likewise startled and left their nests.

Everyone could see the tree nests of the cormorants easily, but the birds in the nests were not easily seen. However, some cormorants had built nests on or just above the ground, and in them the eggs and young birds were easily visible. Harold Wilson, in charge of the local camp-out arrangements, told us that in former years the cormorants nested mostly on the rocky ground of this and other nearby islands. But when local fishermen got the mistaken impression that the cormorants were eating too many of the fish the men wanted, many of the birds were killed. The few remaining birds began nesting in trees, and now there are nests both on the ground and in the trees.

There were many herring gull nests on the island, among the rocks and sparse vegetation. As we walked around, adult birds flew about and screamed defiance overhead, and we had to walk with caution to avoid stepping on eggs and young that easily escaped notice under foot. The gull eggs were huge, mottled with olive-gray, green or blue; a few nests contained two or three eggs of different colors. Young gulls just out of the nest clambered over the rocks or hid in crevices. Sometimes a birder was able to catch a young gull for a closer look.

The afternoon trip brought 32 more observers to the island. With little effort or help, Harold Wilson caught and banded 50 young gulls in the morning, and another 110 in the afternoon. Many more could have been caught had more time been taken, but we realized the importance of making the trips brief so as not to upset the nesting birds too long.

Ridges Sanctuary

While one part of the camp-out group visited Hat Island, other birders were treated to the exceptional flower and bird life of the Ridges Sanctuary. The sanctuary provides excellent habitat for nesting warblers, and many observers were pleased to find the parula



LADY SLIPPER—ONE OF THE SIGHTS
OF RIDGES SANCTUARY

PHOTO BY BERNARD KAIMAN

warbler among the tamaracks. Others of the more northern nesting warblers were the Nashville and mourning warblers, ovenbird and Grinnell's water-thrush. The observation of a Connecticut warbler was particularly interesting.

But if anyone thought he could be interested in birds and pay no heed to the wildflowers he sees, the experience at Ridges Sanctuary should have cured him. For here were lovely orchids galore, lady slippers, dwarf iris, and many other interesting wild flowers. These appealed to the camera fans as much as did the birds.

The Evening Entertainment

Another enjoyable part of the camp-out was the Saturday evening entertainment. The audience was comfortably seated in the rustic park shelter house, and the meeting got under way with an almost-serious paper on something or other about human visual perception of birds, or vision without birds. Jim Zimmerman ably read this pseudo-scientific masterpiece which kept many in the audience guessing; they didn't know whether to listen seriously, or laugh, until the end when Master of Ceremonies Bernard Kaiman broke loose with a bushel of carrots and gaily tossed them out to the audience.

The rest of the program followed in quick succession accompanied by volleys of laughter from the appreciative crowd. There was a tableau in which a little gentle fun was poked at a number of types of birders—



STRIKE UP THE BAND!

not one of which is found among WSO members, of course. The familiar character always crying for more powerful binoculars was portrayed by Jerry Vogelsang walking across the stage peering through enormous cardboard "binoculars"; Dorothy Frister and her armload of books reminded us of the person who occasionally comes out for field trips loaded down with numerous volumes; the one more interested in competition than in birds was portrayed by Audrey Kaiman with a long roll of bathroom paper labeled "The Long List."

Other features included a quiz program, the unfolding of the WSO emblem—resembling a battered veteran of many encounters with birders more than a real passenger pigeon; and the unfurling of the slogan for

the evening: "The Wisconsin Society Versus Ornithology." The finale brought out treasurer Carl Frister and his "Why-don't-you-pay-your-dues?" band—a "skilled" aggregation with Dorothy Frister playing the lead on the kazoo, Audrey Kaiman lending rhythmic accompaniment on the washboard, Bernard Kaiman strumming on the banjo, and Carl Frister beating out a hot rhythm on the wash-tub bass. They led the audience in singing, and closed the evening program on a happy note.

The Sand Dunes

Sunday morning there were no organized early morning hikes. However, most people were up and around, and covering more of the park in small groups. At 9:30 the group broke camp, and went to Cave Point on the Lake Michigan shore. Just south of there we tramped through the sand dunes—another very scenic part of Door County. After the trip through the dunes, the party broke up, and those from the southern part of the state continued on toward home.

Thus concluded the third annual WSO camp-out. It was well organized, with Chester Krawczyk and Harold Wilson handling many local details in excellent fashion. The program was interesting and fun for all. The field trips were well chosen to show off the most interesting ornithological features of the area. The evening fun provided a delightful sense of balance, and deepened human friendships within WSO.

The success of this conception of balancing the social and ornithological sides of the program is shown by the growing popularity and attendance of the camp-outs. Aside from the annual conventions, this was probably the largest gathering of WSO members and friends in the Society's history. Ninety persons were registered, as follows: Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Hussong, Mrs. Vic Reblitz, Mildred Van Vonderen, Eva Little, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Duquaine and Barbara, Grace and Erna Zapfe, Irene Kröstag, Chester Krawczyk, Mrs. Andrew Weber, Gordon Delsart, Carmella Blecha, and Paul Romig of Green Bay; Larry Miller, Roger Bray, Mr. & Mrs. N. R. Barger and Elaine and Buddy, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Lound, Helen Northup, Eleanor Peterson, Helen Schroeder, Jim Zimmerman, Ruby Bere, and Ellen Hoffman of Madison; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Frister, Emil Urban, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Millradt, Jerry Vogelsang, Harold Bauers, Ruth Tollofson, Inga Johnson, and Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Kaiman of Milwaukee; S. Paul Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Les Compton and Butch, and C. E. Nelson, Jr., of Waukesha; Richard Schroeder, Robert Wilda, Robert Trochlell, Mrs. John Schroeder, Lillian Marsh and Merle Pickett of Manitowoc, Olive Wells, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Andrews, Mr. & Mrs. David Bierbrauer, Dave Andrews, Bertha Pearson, Mrs. James Colby, Florence Hensey, and Dorothea Krause of Wausau; Mr. & Mrs. David Cox, David Stevens, Ruth Eastwood, and Hilda Miller of Beloit; Dorothy Hammel of Janesville; Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Defferding, and Mrs. A. E. Nowak of Appleton; Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Browning of Pewaukee; Jeannette Van Vonderen of Coleman; Mr. & Mrs. John Kraupa of Two Rivers; Edward Peartree of Oconomowoc; Myron Reichwaldt of Kiel; Mary Lu Dooley of Orfordville; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wilson, and Randall Evanson of Ephraim, J. Allan Simpson and Edward Prins of Racine; Mr. & Mrs. John Helmer of Evanston, Illinois; Karen Abramson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Bill Romig of Boulder, Colorado.

A Year-Round Restaurant

By MRS. HENRY KOENIG

The bird-life which surrounds our home has been fascinating us for years, and as time goes on our circle of bird-friends is ever increasing. The best means of attracting the birds is through feeding them, and if the feeders are near the windows they offer an excellent opportunity for observing them. We enjoy feeding birds the year around; partly because the various seasons bring different visitors, but most of all because the permanent residents and some of the temporary ones bring their young to the feeders in the summer and furnish us with entertainment of the highest quality. Consequently we feed many more birds in summer than in winter.

We began this high adventure by putting up a window-sill feeder and fed a pair of cardinals, three chickadees, and a pair of nuthatches the first winter. The first summer the cardinals had three families of little ones and from time to time fed seven young in the feeder. A never-to-be-forgotten sight was one precious family of five cardinals in the feeder together. As the male cardinal invariably chases—or at least tries to chase—the young away as soon as they are able to care for themselves, we put up several more feeders where the offspring of the cardinals could come for a snack without always being discovered. The following summer the cardinals raised only two families with a total of four birds. In 1952 there were three families with a total of just four birds raised. The summer of 1953 was most unusual in that our cardinals nested five times. The first family however came to a tragic end when the birds were only a few days old. The total for that summer was eight birds raised, five males and three females.

But the cardinals are not the only birds of interest that come to the feeders. We have the merry little chickadees who are the jolliest, happiest appearing birds we know and of which there were eight last winter. During the past summer some of them have been with us continually. This year when one pair brought its young we counted a family of eight chickadees in the trees and shrubs and they seemed to be everywhere. It was heart-warming to see those merry little chickadees lined up along the perching rail of the feeder waiting to be fed. There was a constant fluttering of wings and twittering and squeaking which was a treat to hear. The little ones were most amusing when they went to the pool for their first bath. As the needs of our families of birds grew we increased the feeding facilities. We made some sparrow- and starling-proof suet feeders for the downy and hairy woodpeckers, the chickadees, nuthatches and the brown creepers. It didn't take the chickadees long to investigate and use these feeders but the other birds were a little slower in venturing on them. But once they started going to them they were there all the time, enjoying the privilege of eating undisturbed. We used to tie a chunk of suet to the tree or hang it in a mesh bag but there they had little opportunity to feed for the starlings and sparrows came in great numbers, devouring the food in a short time. After the arrival of the suet feeders

our little suet-eating friends could eat to their heart's content. This past summer we spent many happy moments watching these families at the feeders and had the good fortune to observe many interesting bits of bird behavior. One day the male downy was at the suet feeder from which he fed his little boy on a nearby branch. Suddenly the son flew to the same feeder on which his father was and began eating on the other side. Sometimes the father reached around the side, fed his son and then both went on eating. After this had gone on a while, little downy crept around the end of the feeder, clung to the same side on which his father was and waited to be fed.

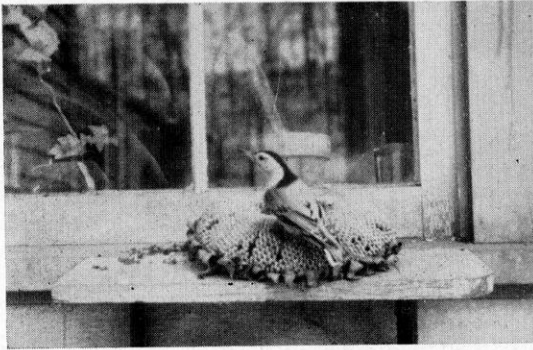
Sometime later we saw three young downy girls in the honeysuckle, perhaps playing tag. Finally two of them went to the same suet feeder and ate from opposite sides, while the third one went to another suet feeder nearby. The woodpeckers also go to the window-sill feeders for a special suet cake prepared for them. Both the downy and hairy like this food. On one occasion when the cake had been carried out by the squirrel the downy decided he'd have some pie crust instead and he seemed to enjoy that too.

Several years ago in early October, one of the downy males enlarged the hole of the wren house until it was large enough to admit him but he never occupied it. A year ago last fall we put out a log house hoping the chickadees, nuthatches or downy woodpeckers might find shelter in it during the long winter but it was not used. Last spring a pair of wrens who were apartment hunting, looked it over and decided to set up house-keeping. Then in November of last fall we discovered that a young male downy slept in this house every night. In December when the days were short he retired soon after 4:00 o'clock and was not seen again until about 8:00 the next morning.

Catbird Families

Another bird much loved by us is the catbird. We are always thrilled by his beautiful song and look forward to hearing his midnight serenade by the light of the full moon in May. The catbirds are annual customers at our feeding stations, first for themselves, then to carry food to their young, and finally the young come to the feeders. They eat pie crust and also suet mixed with peanut butter besides the suet cake—their favorite food. This past summer the catbirds returned to nest in the very same barberry from which we had removed the old nest. We believe three pairs of catbirds came for food because when they left the feeders with loaded bills they always flew in the same three different directions. Later we were blessed with many baby catbirds, there sometimes having been as many as three in the feeder at once. They became almost as tame as the chickadees and downies. The catbird's mewing always told us when to dash out to chase the squirrel, dog or cat which had wandered into the yard. One day four young blue jays were the cause for alarm.

The nuthatches have been with us without interruption and their young come to the feeders. One February afternoon there was a sick nuthatch in the window-sill feeder where it remained from 2:15 until 5:30, panting with its bill open. Then it disappeared; we never knew whether it recovered.



The robins have always been fed in the yard especially in early spring when food is scarce and again when it seemed almost impossible for them to satisfy the appetites of their hungry young. We still had snow in March of 1952, when we fed four early arrivals in the yard. A few days later a robin came to the feeder for the very first time. On

the evening of March 24th when making our nightly round of the feeders to refill them for the bird's breakfast, we were very much surprised to find a robin, fluffed up like a ball with its head under one wing, sound asleep in one of the window-sill feeders.

During the following month there wasn't a single rain or bit of moisture with the exception of a light snow on Easter Sunday. The robins were desperate for mud with which to plaster their nests. We saw a robin building high up in the willow, so we ran some water into the rose garden where the bird immediately came to carry load after load of mud to her nest. The robins didn't come to the feeders during the summer but in October one came for suet and pie crust and also to drink. When it grew cold and the robins were unable to find worms, we succeeded in getting a large number of them from a friend and put them out for the birds. In fall birds seem to require a great deal of water and for this reason we leave the bird bath out as long as possible. The latter part of November it was a touching sight to see the last robin of the season hereabouts stand at the frozen bird bath. In the spring of 1953 the robins returned to us on March 13th. They began going to the feeders in April and continued to do so all summer, also bringing their young to be fed. Sometimes there were two offspring in the window-sill feeder while a third stood on the glass roof, looking down and wondering how to get there too. Such a screeching and peeping; the one making the most noise seemed to receive the most food.

Another bird with which we have become acquainted is the white-throated sparrow. They stop off here on their migration every spring and fall and spend up to a month with us, coming to the feeders daily for seeds besides their characteristic scratching in the leaves. Their arrival is always heralded by the beautiful piping song or whistle.

About the middle of November 1951, a flock of evening grosbeaks came to the yard where we scattered sunflower seeds for them, trailing them toward the window-sill feeders. The following day three grosbeaks went into the largest feeder, consuming a vast amount of seed. It was more than a year later before we again saw the evening grosbeaks. We then fed them sunflower seeds in the yard and they were here until the middle of March.

A Young Cedar Waxwing

The cedar waxwings are interesting birds and at times have been here in great numbers. One February during a sleet storm a flock of them found shelter in our large pine. In September of the same year we found a very young waxwing in the grass. We had never before seen one so small, and identified it by its yellow-edged tail. We tried to feed the bird small bugs, but they were not to its liking for it shook its head vigorously. However, one of the parents came to feed the little waxwing. That night we put it into the lilac bush where it stayed and was fed for almost a week. Then one morning we noticed a second waxwing in the lilac and the following day both birds were gone. Last fall the pool and the garden spray attracted from 50 to 75 waxwings daily for a time. Every little puddle made by the spray was afflutter with bathers.

We always have many nestings of mourning doves in the yard. We discovered that they sometimes used the same nest at least twice with perhaps the addition of a stick or two. Mother love is ever present in our feathered friends as was demonstrated one cold, rainy day on the last of April. We noticed a baby mourning dove in the middle of the street just outside of our window. The mother took it under her wing in an effort to protect it from the downpour. My heart stood still as a car approached and the mother flew to the curb. The bird escaped unhurt, then fluttered to the curb where it again slipped under its mother's wing for warmth and protection.

The great joy and satisfaction experienced through daily feeding and observation of birds is deeper than mere words can portray. If only every child would be encouraged to cultivate an interest in nature for a wholesome, thrilling, lifetime hobby. The wonders of nature are all about us if we will only become aware of them. They are like an endless, fascinating story waiting to be read and enjoyed by all. A page of this wonderful story is turned each day and it is never too late to become interested.

215 Jackson Street
Sauk City, Wisconsin

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

LA CROSSE

A varied landscape and many kinds of birds are found in the heart of the Coulee Region. This is particularly so in and around La Crosse where three rivers (Mississippi, La Crosse, Black) meet. Within the La Crosse area are virtually impenetrable watery retreats; dry, rugged uplands; sand dunes; prairies; deep, rich woods; broad meadows; cliffs and rocky ledges.

Goose Island

Goose Island, Area A, containing several hundred acres of land, is located in the Mississippi River south of La Crosse. It is a level lowland area with typical lowland herbs, shrubs and trees. This is a good place to find ducks and other waterfowl. Here the Badger State Sportsmen's

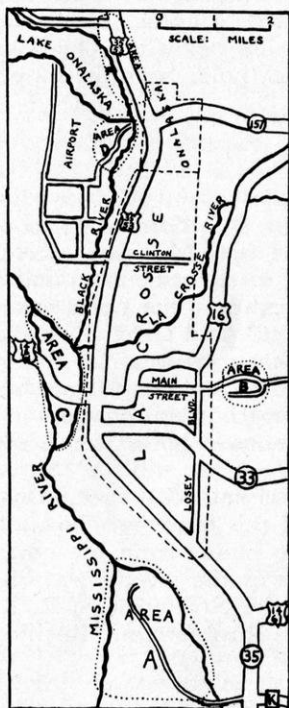
Club of La Crosse rears thousands of pheasants and mallards each year. Steps are now being taken to make the upper end of the island into a county park—to be left in a natural state and used for picnics, fishing and other outdoor recreation. This part of the island is attractive for the many species of warblers, vireos, sparrows and blackbirds that prefer lowland habitat.

To reach Goose Island, proceed southeast from La Crosse on highway 35. 1.7 miles south of the junction with highways 14 and 61, where Chipmunk Coulee Road (county truck "K") joins from the east, turn west on a gravel road that crosses a bridge and takes you to the island. Do not attempt this when the Mississippi River is at flood stage; the road is likely to be impassable.

Grandad Bluff

Grandad Bluff, Area B, adjoins La Crosse on the east, and is reached by a winding scenic drive that actually is a continuation of Main Street. Some slopes of the bluff are heavily wooded—particularly the north slope, where Hixon Forest is found. Nesting here are the wood pewee, red-eyed and warbling vireos, wood thrush, ruffed grouse; the pileated woodpecker is sometimes noted, and on occasion it invades the city. On the south slope, parts of which are more open—rocky or overgrown with tall grass—are found the indigo bunting, towhee, ruffed grouse, whip-poor-will, bank swallow, catbird and brown thrasher. A large quarry once was opened on the south slope, but this gash in the earth's crust is fast healing and providing habitat for numerous interesting plants and for a bank swallow colony.

The road to Grandad Bluff starts at the intersection of Main Street and Losey Boulevard at the east end of the city. From this intersection proceed east on the continuation of Main Street. As you climb, signs direct you to the parking area, picnic spots and a look-out.



Pettibone Park

Pettibone Park, Area C, includes all of Barron's Island in the Mississippi River, near the main bridges connecting Wisconsin and Minnesota. It is a lowland park; the chief trees are the swamp white oak, white ash, river birch, silver maple, American elm and cottonwood—some of considerable size. One part of the island is residential. The southeast area is underdeveloped, well stocked with trees and some underbrush. The north half of the island has been developed as a park boasting a picturesque arched bridge, lagoons, paved drives, bath-house, shelters, picnic

tables, etc. Pettibone Park attracts many warblers in migration. It is a favorite place for the pileated and red-bellied woodpeckers, and the blue-gray gnatcatcher. Many of the diving ducks can be seen here in migration, and it is a favored spot for herons—including the American egret.

Pettibone Park is reached by taking Highway 14-16-61 westward. The main entrance is a couple of blocks beyond the main Mississippi bridge, on the right, marked.

Upper French Island

One of the most interesting bird haunts in the La Crosse area is Upper French Island, Area D, between the La Crosse airport and the Black River, opposite Onalaska. Here there are level prairies, sand dunes overgrown with scrub oak, marsh areas stocked with red birch, springholes, swamps and lowlands covered with birch, silver maple, cottonwood, elm, ash and black locust. Some of the scrubby growth near the bottomland is "home" for several Bell's vireos—one of the few places in Wisconsin where this species can be found. Without doubt this is the La Crosse area's best place for warblers. The upland plover and prairie horned lark frequent the area near the airport. The large trees attract woodpeckers, and in season an occasional bald eagle.

Upper French Island is best approached by taking Highway 53-35 to Clinton Street. Turn west on Clinton, cross the Clinton Street Bridge across the Black River and turn right at the first corner and follow the signs to the La Crosse Airport. At the Airport terminal, turn right and drive east and north about a mile, over a rutted, winding fishermen's road, to the wooded sand-dune and marshy area just below the Onalaska Dam, the east end of Lock and Dam No. 7, which holds back the waters of the Black.

Lake Onalaska Area

West of highways 35 and 53, between Onalaska and Midway, lies Lake Onalaska, the pool above Lock and Dam No. 7. Adjoining the pool on the northeast is a marshy stretch (part of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge), a small county park or scientific area, and a long narrow hillside—mostly state owned (Area E). The open water attracts many loons, grebes, ducks, cormorants, gulls and terns. By walking along an old railroad bed, you get an excellent view of a marsh that attracts the great blue heron, American egret, American and least bitterns, Florida gallinule, sora, king and Virginia rails. The dogwood and willow trees lining the railroad bed provide summer homes for many common blackbirds and other marsh species.

Either of the two waysides along highways 35 and 53 between Onalaska and Midway will afford a view of some of this territory. To walk out along the old railroad bed, park about two blocks from the north end of the old highway, still in use just north of the second wayside, descend the wooded hill to the west, and cross the Northwestern R. R. track. The old bed will be found between the Northwestern and Burlington Railroads, running north and northwest.

Alvin M. Peterson

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

APPLETON

The Fox River Valley, from the mouth of the river at Neenah on Lake Winnebago to Kaukauna, maintains an abundance of rich habitat for waterfowl—especially whistling swans; for shorebirds—particularly ruddy turnstones; and for many land birds. Appleton, in the very heart of the valley, has much to offer the seeking ornithologist within the city and for a radius of from six to ten miles up and down the banks of the Fox.

Area A

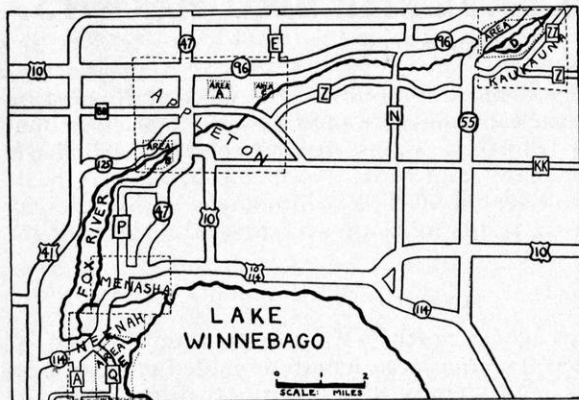
The City Park is two blocks north of College Avenue between N. Union and N. Drew Streets, two blocks in length, bounded on four sides by residences, and in the near vicinity of the business district and the Lawrence College Campus. In winter the walks between the snow-covered grounds are tempting, and to hear or see the chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, downy woodpecker or the thin-voiced brown-creeper in the trees brightens one's shopping day considerably. As spring advances and the snow disappears, the trees become full of interest. A treat is the early song of the purple finch and the cardinal and the nocturnal appearance of a family of screech owls. This area, so easily accessible, is popular with the young nature students and teachers.

Area B

Another in-the-city study area is Pierce Park, about five blocks square, including a small river front stretch called Lutz Park. To reach Pierce Park one goes south on Oneida Street from the College Avenue intersection, to Prospect Avenue, then west about eight blocks to one of the two entrances to Pierce Park. The roads extend through the park's wooded sections which attract many birds. In the northwest corner, the Jefferson School—a recent construction—adds to the beauty of the park and here the students have unusual surroundings in which to study. Paths lead across the railroad tracks to Lutz Park below and the river bank to the south, or the park may also be reached by taking Pierce Avenue south from Prospect Avenue to the river frontage. Here the winter ducks—the golden-eye, scaup, black duck, American merganser and an occasional hooded merganser—may be observed at close range. In spring dandelions cover the ground and a never-to-be-forgotten sight occurred one spring when countless goldfinches darted into and above the gold carpet. Killdeer and spotted sandpipers' nests have been watched by Junior Audubon students in this area.

Area C

Within the city limits, a real haven for birds is the Riverside Cemetery with its many deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. From the city park, going east on North Street about ten blocks to the river bank, one comes to large iron gates at the lower entrance to the cemetery. Up the hill to the broad flat tract, roads lead in all directions. Here in quiet beauty the first awakening of spring comes with the call of the



crow, killdeer, whistling swan and Canada goose. In the day-to-day procession almost all the songbirds found in the eastern part of Wisconsin may appear in the trees, on the ground or banks of the Fox.

The broad-winged hawk, red-tailed hawk, osprey, barred and great horned owls favor the oaks on the river bank from which to hunt.

Summer nesting birds find this territory much suited to the needs of young birds and a day afield is complete with the song of the wood thrush from the shadows of the ravine nearby where the nest has been found.

It was here that a spectacular scene could be watched from the car window in the spring of 1951: with a steady rain insects driven to the ground brought a flock of hooded warblers to feed; bay-breasted warblers filled a large old spruce; and in a ditch by the side of the road, thirty red crossbills fed on fallen cedar seeds and drank water from the uncrossed side of the bill.

Area D

By following highway 96 east to Kaukauna one comes to the Thousand Islands of the Fox—a region full of history, tragedy and courage of another day when the braves, plants and animals fought for existence. The Fox, still on its way to meet the northern waters, flows through strata of limestone to a depth of fifty feet with the waters spreading in varied channels. The banks, luxuriant with plant life, teem with birds during the spring and fall migrations and the summer nesting season. To reach the Islands, turn right at the intersection of 96 and Lawe Street and proceed across the bridge; at the foot of the bridge turn left on Oak Street to the Kaukauna High School. Across the street from the school on the walled bank of the river a close-up of many birds may be had on the flats below. By the middle or last of August the waters cease to rush and the rocks and limestone flats protrude with an abundance of food for migrating waders. From then until frost the flats are populated with sandpipers, yellow-legs, dowitchers, snipe, black-bellied and semipalmated plovers. The American pipit and pectoral sandpipers come early and stay late, providing an excellent opportunity to study the variations of the pectoral's plumages as the groups come and go.

The river flows to the east, but to reach the lower Islands one returns to highway 96 and goes south to county trunk Z, continuing on over the curved and hilly road to two lookout stations above the Island's rapids. From the car windows or the stone wall at the lookout a great expanse

can be covered with binoculars and many birds identified. Hordes of blackbirds swarm into the swamp beds in fall and, along the reeds, herons and egrets may be found until late. In winter, large numbers of mallards, black ducks, American golden-eyes, American mergansers and herring gulls congregate to feed in the bay. Here, late one fall, a pair of ospreys circled high screaming loudly at the age-old enemy, the bald eagle, as he too circled above them, hoping to snatch the late catch of fish.

Area E

Almost anywhere on the shores of Lake Winnebago habitats of interest can be found, but the area at the Neenah lake and river front is most favored by Appleton bird students. Here the water from the lake flows into the Fox River and in these waters an abundance of plant and animal food is obtainable for the waterfowl, which are usually near enough to the road to identify.

From Appleton highway 47 goes directly into Menasha where connection is made with highway 114 into Neenah. To reach the lake from the downtown intersection of Neenah a left turn onto Wisconsin Avenue leads to the lake front and onto the Shore Drive to the left which follows the shore line of the lake around to the river.

Here the winter concentration of ducks and gulls begins when the ice forms in the lake and the river remains open. The golden-eyes congregate in large numbers, and by early February begin their spectacular courtship. When the ice breaks up in the lake—usually in late March or early April—the masses of ducks and swans arrive; it is truly a sight to behold during the first three weeks of April. Loons and grebes are seen here—occasionally including the rare Holboell's.

Along the shore at the end of Wisconsin Avenue, and for some distance south, shore birds can be found in April and throughout May. The variety provides excitement any time during the shorebird migration, but the most remarkable feature is the tremendous concentration of ruddy turnstones—hundreds of them—that invade this area, usually between May 17 and 27.

A swamp region is to be found by taking the last road to the right from Wisconsin Avenue just before reaching the lake. Travelling south to the point where the road divides, the swamp is on the west side of the left fork. In this area the Florida gallinule, blue-winged teal, mallard, tree swallow, swamp sparrow, marsh wren, rails, yellow-headed blackbird, black tern and many others are to be found nesting.

Mrs. Walter E. Rogers

NEWS . . .

The Milwaukee Audubon Society will open an exhibit at Whitnall Park in Milwaukee from May 13 through June 12. All the many activities of the National Audubon Society will be on display: publications, educational materials, screen tours, Florida wildlife tours, Junior Audubon club materials, photography tours, the four camps, as well as some of the more valuable and artistic items sold by

the Society. Nothing will be for sale, however. Gertrude Erskine, Dixie Larkin and Dory Kummer are in charge, and invite you to combine a birding trip to Whitnall Park with a visit to see this exhibit.

By April 1 the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund had passed \$1500. We are glad to note that it is still growing, for the larger the fund, the more land we can purchase to insure continued good prairie chicken habitat in the future.

(more news on page 26)

Keep 'Em Booming . . .

By ARTHUR BAKER and JERRY VOGELSANG

It was an evening late in March. We were huddled around an ancient stove, not pot-bellied like the one known in our youth, but straight as the white oak sticks that burned within it. The pungent aroma of the burning wood showed friendly affinity to tobacco smoke as it drifted over the room. Only one voice could be heard.

"It's early, I know. But spring is early. We saw hens this morning, when I knew they shouldn't be in yet. So, if a hen enters the booming area, drop whatever you are doing and concentrate on her. We must have her band number if she is banded, as she may never come back. We will have many more chances on the bands of the cocks."

There was rapt attention to each word of explanation by Mrs. Hamerstrom, as she gave us directions about working the blinds in the morning. Some of the group, from varied walks of life, had come considerable distances to watch the prairie chickens boom, and to learn a little of what the congenial Dr. and Mrs. Hamerstrom had been doing in their 15 years of research for Wisconsin's Department of Conservation in the Plainfield area of central Wisconsin.

"It is hard to believe," Dr. Hamerstrom had told us that afternoon, "but we have a denser population of birds right here than in any place in the United States; in fact, in the world. Several states have more birds than Wisconsin, but not in such concentration."

"How large is the bird area here, Doctor Hamerstrom?" It was a genuine pleasure discussing chickens with the friendly scientist, and not only for the clear, concise answers to our questions. Listening to his soft, well-modulated voice, one felt he showed the valuable quality of real interest in the people with whom he talked, as well as in the birds he loved.

Drawing on his long research with the chickens, he continued. "The birds' range is about 60 square miles, just north and west of Plainfield. But this statement is misleading. They avoid over-grazed areas, plowed areas, or woods, like the plague. The very nature of the bird for nesting demands high grass on flat land."

"What is the birds' greatest danger today?"

"Complacency," he said. And then he told us how complacency is the cancer to good conservation.

The sportsman shows it when he says, "Fellows, why do we pour money into research when we can't even shoot the birds? Give me pheasant every time; better all around." The farmer shows it when he comes up with, "What is all the fuss about? Been around these parts nigh onto 52 years. They was here then, and they still are. Reckon they will be when you and I'm gone, pardner." Even some conservationists display a complacency when they staunchly affirm, "When we find an acre of land not being used directly for farm production, that's the place to plant trees." The hunter shows it by attacking the prairie in wave after wave of armed terror at the slightest legal opportunity.

It is hard to pin down the cause of complacency. Other educators

must share with us part of the blame, for these complacent people are the product of our schools. And perhaps some of it is caused by people who hear that the Plainfield area has the most dense prairie chicken population in the United States.

But a valid reason for complacency is non-existent. We saw maps of the 60 square miles of prairie chicken country; the results of exhaustive research. There has been a loss in this territory of 5000 acres of good chicken cover from 1951 to 1953. This loss was due to acres turned over to extensive grazing, plowing, and to a small extent, to weed and brush invasion. During the same period there was a gain in good bird environment of 1000 acres. Net loss—4000 acres in two years. There should be no complacency in the face of figures like that; with the stand of good prairie chicken cover disappearing at the rate of 4000 acres in two years!

"What will happen to these fine birds?" This question must have been in several minds as we crawled into sleeping bags upstairs in this old, pre-Civil War house. Here in the Plainfield area is a population of birds that, in a ten-year cycle, range from fifteen hundred to possibly five or six thousand birds. They are in serious danger.

Observing the Chickens

Dr. Hamerstrom's call came at 4 a. m. We greeted a brisk morning with good coffee, bacon, and eggs. Sunrise on this late March morning was 5:37. Final directions were received, equipment was gathered, and the big moment of the weekend was begun. The cars, balking at the cold of the morning, crept out to the highway.

We parked not more than 100 yards from the blind. Crossing the field, just as dawn was showing, we must have resembled prowling infantrymen loaded with cameras, binoculars, clip boards, paper, pencils, direction guide sheets, and a 20x Balscope for spotting and reading band numbers of birds far away in the booming ground.

Settled in the blind at 5:15, the first boom was heard just three minutes later. The birds were off to the west, about 50 yards, in short brush. By 5:33 fourteen cocks had worked their way slowly to the booming ground and had assumed their positions. Each cock has a sharply defined territory, which must be constantly protected from encroachment by the cocks in adjoining territories. The booming, then, is interrupted by constant fighting.

The booming itself is marked by an exciting exuberance, but seems to lack boastful, strutting vanity. Occasionally a cock jumps a foot in the air. More often, the booming starts with a slight lowering of the head, following by a drumming of feet on the prairie. This drumming starts quite rapidly and quickly reaches a crescendo, at which time the sound is a blur rather than having individual beats. This may last from a half-second to three and one-half seconds. Just as the drumming ends, the booming begins. The orange sacs, flecked with red on the anterior dorsal periphery, swell to great size, probably seventy millimeters in diameter, while the tail feathers point skyward as straight and stiff as arrows. The long tufts of feathers on the forward-stretched neck rise up and even point forward. The primaries of the wing are spread and held firmly against the body and legs. Then the dramatic three notes of the boom come bursting forth, resounding for two or three miles. "Gal-darn-

you" echoes, in deep resonant tones. These air sacs are not in the least responsible for the origin of voice, as was once thought, but do give the booming its distinctive tone.

We saw seventeen birds in all. Fourteen were in sight of the blind at all times. Several worked in to ten feet of the blind. At this distance 8x40 binoculars set the birds in your lap, adding greatly to the thrill of going booming.

This late March morning was about two weeks early for much hen activity. No hens were sighted from the blind. The reports from the other blinds showed them present in small numbers. Observers reported a hen occasionally strolling majestically into the booming area. Her actions were marked by complete unconcern. She would stroll through the area, stop to pick up a blade of grass, and glide on as the frenzied activities of the cocks bid for her attention.

About 5:47 a. m. the birds showed a marked decrease in booming, and in 30 seconds there was complete stillness. The birds seemed frozen. After a few moments the birds began controlled activity, followed by another period of silence. These periods of controlled activity, followed by silence, continued until 6:02, when a male marsh hawk darted from the sky like a jet diving at one of the cocks. The cock barely succeeded in avoiding the swift plunge of the predator, who became immediately discouraged at his failure and flew away. So did the seventeen cocks. They made it back in ten minutes, however, to the bushes just west of the blind, and once more started slowly working into position in the booming area.

Mid-morning, Sunday, found us again huddled around the majestic stove, feeling good after our second breakfast. The stove gave off a pleasant and welcome warmth following the cold blinds. Even it was aiding the conservation of the prairie chicken. Its appetite for fuel made slow inroads on the surrounding woods, leaving welcome grass cover for our birds.

The Hamerstoms were hard to bid goodbye. They made one feel like wanting to settle in and help with the big job of preserving bird habitat; to be of some small help to the Hamerstoms, and Wisconsin's Department of Conservation, in "Keeping 'em Booming."

3218 West Highland Boulevard

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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NEWS . . .

Please note the new advertisement from the Helen Gunnis Music Shop in this issue. The bird song records mentioned here are excellent for old and young wishing to learn to identify birds by ear. We have noticed, too, that ornithologists are unusually appreciative of classical music. You can enlarge your record collection in this handy way by answering this advertisement.

When answering this and other advertisements, be sure to mention **The Passenger Pigeon**.

The June camp-outs get bigger and better each year. We hope you are already planning to attend this year's camp-out at La Crosse on June 18 and 19. Headquarters will be at the La Crosse County Park at Onalaska. Details will be found on page 47.

(more news on page 36)

MAY-DAY AT CEDAR GROVE

By TOM SOULEN

For several years Jack Kaspar, Frank Kuhlman, Stan Wellso and I have been hearing and reading fabulous tales about the migrations at Cedar Grove. All that we had heard, however—most of it from Gordon Orians—pertained to the fall. None of us had ever done a great deal of spring birding there. As a result, about February, 1954, we decided that it would be both fun and worthwhile to take a May-Day count in the Cedar Grove area. We had been disturbed about people who wander aimlessly over vastly too large an area to be covered adequately and then hand in the list obtained as a May-Day count, and felt it might be interesting to make a thorough coverage of a small area. The results were rewarding. The tally was 169, stacking up exceedingly well with any others, considering that there were just five of us, and also that we covered a total area of less than five square miles. In spite of this, however, the most interesting part of the day was not at all the list obtained, but the mass and character of the migration we witnessed.

Because of lack of information concerning the character of migration at Cedar Grove in spring, we had to speculate about many details and makes plans in the dark. For the week or two before, there was little accomplished academically in Madison so far as the five of us were concerned, and many nights were spent making plans with only a record player—some Wagner, Brahms and Beethoven—for company. But when May 15 rolled around, we felt that we were as ready as we could be. We took off from Madison close to supertime on that date, and arrived at Cedar Grove about nine. After sacking in, we found it very difficult to avoid listening to the sounds of migrants going over. Every once in a while the "ssps" of the warblers were punctuated by the plaintive notes of a semipalmated or black-bellied plover, or the sounds of a spotted sandpiper or a white-throated sparrow. Near midnight we discovered that still another migrant had arrived, and for the next few hours debated whether to keep largely outside the sleeping bags and comfortably cool or inside, too warm, but free from the invading mosquitoes.

After we had all amassed about one hour of sound sleep, we decided at 2:30 it was time to start. From then until seven we stayed in our sleeping bags on the ridge, first listening, then both watching and listening. It was soon evident from the increase in number of sounds that night migrants were beginning to descend. At it began to lighten in the east, we could make out the shapes of loons and ducks flying out over the lake. Flock after flock of blackbirds, bobolinks, swallows, and goldfinches came over. There was a constant stream of blue jays, with rarely less than fifteen visible at a time. Orioles, tanagers, and rose-breasted grosbeaks actually flew right by our faces in flocks. Warblers came by in small groups, some passing over, others lighting on some of the locusts on the ridge long enough for identification before passing on. The sounds were deafening. Thrushes were singing all over, as were least flycatchers and water-thrushes. Behind the ridge, where there was hardly damp ground, two short-billed marsh wrens were singing. Lincoln's sparrows were singing, providing us all with our first experience with the song of

this bird. Gordy had told us of the fantastic morning flights at Cedar Grove, and now at last we knew what he'd been talking about. Yet even he had to admit he'd never seen anything like this. And so by seven o'clock, without getting out of my sleeping bag, I had seen or heard 93 species of birds. Gordy and Frank, having stayed in their bags three minutes longer, totaled 95. When we reported our count to the Kumlien Club in Madison, and Gordy mentioned this sleeping bag story, the president—finding the account a little hard to believe—asked us if we were sure we had been awake. We assured her that most of us had been awake, and that had it not been for Frank's intermittent snoring, we might have totalled even more. At any rate, this early morning watch from the ridge was by far the highlight of the day.

Rather reluctantly, at seven, the other four took off for Port Washington to check the harbor and a ravine near there, and I stayed on the ridge. During the rest of the day we roamed to various spots along the lake, keeping someone always on the lake itself. Jack and Frank walked the beach from Lake Church to Bahr Creek in the morning, and Gordy and I took the eight miles from the creek to Terry Andrae in the afternoon. Between these hikes, at noon, we met in the grove to eat lunch. While there, we learned from two fellows who were taking a little count of their own farther north about a shore bird spot north of Terry Andrae a few miles. Altering our plans, we planned to meet at Terry Andrae at five and check it. We did, and as a result, our shore bird list was helped a great deal; we found at this one pond: nine black-bellied plover, 55 semi-palmated plover, one turnstone, six spotted and eight solitary sandpipers, 1 greater and 15 lesser yellow-legs, 40 least and ten semipalmated sandpipers, 75 red-backs, 4 dowitchers, 4 Wilson's phalaropes, and 2 Hudsonian godwits. And while we were looking over the shore birds, a beautiful American egret flew over. Feeling quite a bit boosted by this, we returned to the grove for a final tally and desperate attempts to hear a nighthawk, barred or horned owl, or one of the cuckoos, but with no new additions except one hermit thrush.

Thus a seventeen-hour day had produced, in addition to a large and very creditable list, a real thrill for all of us. We had seen a lot of really interesting things: red-throated loon, cormorant, green-winged teal, golden-eye, old-squaw, osprey, duck hawk, pigeon hawk, Hudsonian godwit, pipit, Philadelphia vireo, olive-sided flycatcher, and black-throated blue and Kentucky warblers. But the spectacular thing about the May-Day was not the number of species or the number of rarities, but the overall character of the migration. Numbers of individuals were fantastic. We counted over 2000 swallows, 1400 goldfinches, 700 cowbirds, 600 red-wings, 150 rose-breasted grosbeaks, 110 orioles, 52 tanagers, 14 Lincoln's sparrows, 500 bobolinks, 50 red-headed woodpeckers, 61 marsh hawks, and well over 2500 blue jays. (These numbers are all estimates, are in no case exaggerations, and in most cases are probably much too conservative.) Accompanying the flocks flying overhead were many birds almost next to the ground; I stood in one spot and watched in twenty minutes eight species of warblers, including a beautiful male black-throated blue, practically walk by me on the ground no more than fifteen feet away.

Strangest of all, we were amazed to note that at no time during the entire day was there any northward movement, either in the trees or in the air, except for the osprey, duck and pigeon hawks, a few strays, and all 2500 blue jays. This reverse, southward, migration certainly puzzled us, and still does. We can only wonder if it might occur there very often, and hope that we'll be able to spend enough time there in the future to find out.

405 Fallows, Tripp Hall
Madison 6, Wisconsin

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Elizabeth A. Oehlenschlaeger, affectionately known as "Nan" to her close friends, died on December 27, 1954 at Milwaukee. She was born in Denmark about 80 years ago and came to America with her parents, who settled near Oconomowoc when she was a young girl. A deep interest for all wildlife—equal to reverence—characterized her life. She remembered her father showing her the "Black Cock" of the Danish forest, and also the kingfisher that bit her when she reached into its nesting hole as a girl in Wisconsin. In 1954 she reported for the Directory of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters that she was "an undergraduate nurse with an intense interest in ornithology and emphasis on the birds of prey."

Miss Oehlenschlaeger was a member of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. As a member of the WSO Passenger Pigeon Memorial Committee she was instrumental in securing the contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Taylor of the bronze plaque for the monument and spoke at its dedication at Wyalusing State Park in 1947. She was one of three members who appeared before the Conservation Commission to secure the Cedar Grove Hawk Sanctuary, and did much to urge the establishment of a wildlife refuge on Horicon Marsh. She made liberal contributions of publications to the Society's library and published articles in **The Passenger Pigeon**.

Most of the time while Miss Oehlenschlaeger served as a nurse in the Louis R. Taylor home in Milwaukee (known as "The Hummocks"), it was a wildlife sanctuary and hospital. She had state and federal permits to care for sick or injured birds and made detailed reports on the well-being of each "patient." An article in **The Auk** (1937), "Orthopedic Surgery on a White Pelican," tells how this bird with one wing was cared for and lived with the family each summer for years. In winter it was kept at the Milwaukee Zoological Gardens. Over the years she handled hundreds of cases including such difficult problems as great horned owls, a baby black tern, nighthawk, sora, whistling swans and young black-crowned night herons. In the case of a screech owl burned in a fireplace, she fed it squab meat by hand for the first three weeks. Most of the birds she worked with were banded and released after recovering. The Milwaukee Public Museum and Humane Society were her principal source of "patients."

Of more than ten articles and notes published by Miss Oehlenschlaeger, the first, printed in **Bird Lore** (1932), was "Martin Quartet of 'The Hummocks.'" The last was "An Unplanned Nature Drama" in **The Passenger Pigeon** (1954). In 1951 she published a significant article on "Conservation of Birds of Prey" in the **Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin**. Most of her other writings detailed experiences with the salvaging of injured or young birds and some of her experiences in their feeding and handling were contributions to ornithological knowledge. Oxford University (England) is said to have given her honorable mention for her contribution to knowledge based on experiences in raising baby purple martins.



The picture with this article shows Miss Oehlenschlaeger with a barred owl which had recovered after being shot and badly injured. This bird was her constant companion for seven years in lectures she gave at schools in the Milwaukee area in the 1930's. In the 1940's she traveled as far as Chicago and Madison with her movie lecture on "The Rearing of Barn Owl Babies." She also promoted realistic bird art as a means of furthering public interest in birds. Even after she left "The Hummocks" in 1950 for an apartment in the city, she would not retire, but cared for an immature sparrow hawk as recently as 1954. In a letter at that time she said, "if one really loves the birds, one never gets enough of them!"

Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger endowed the practice of "kindness to animals" with a spirit of scientific inquiry based on patience, and understanding. She felt that education was the main solution to ignorance of wildlife values and she worked to dispel such ignorance. Her personality is characterized by the following quotation from her article in the **Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin**: "Vital enthusiasm, backed by scientific knowledge, and an abiding love for the entire animal world—but especially for the birds of prey—that is my plea."

Walter E. Scott

COME TO WAUSAU!

16TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 1955

By now you have received detailed information about the 16th annual W.S.O. convention, to be held at Wausau from Friday afternoon, April 29, to Sunday noon, May 1. The convention headquarters will be at St. Paul's Church Guild Hall (corner of Washington and Fifth Streets); all sessions for papers, the business meeting, banquet, and supply department headquarters will all be at this one location. The registration fee is \$1.00.

Here are several outstanding reasons why you should plan to be on hand:

Renew and Create Friendships. Bird-lovers cherish their friendships with one another. It is one of the best times to renew friendships with fellow ornithologists. Since the Wausau Bird Club is playing host to the convention for the first time, this is an especially good time to make new friendships.

The Paper Sessions. Three paper sessions will be held. On Friday afternoon, starting at 1:30, a series of papers will be given on "Recent Research on Bird Biology," featuring papers by Robert McCabe, Fred Wagner, Arnold Peterson, J. J. Hickey, and Owen Gromme. "Occurrence and Distribution of Wisconsin Birds" is the general theme for the Saturday morning paper session, and will include papers by C. Dennis Besadny, Don Thompson, Richard Bond, James Zimmerman, Tom Soulen and Frank Kuhlman. Included in the Saturday afternoon session on "Conservation of Wisconsin Bird Life" will be discussions by Dixie Larkin, Walter Scott, Fred and Fran Hamerstrom. In addition, the film "To Conserve Our Heritage" will be shown on Friday evening, followed by a reception given by the Wausau Bird Club.

Annual Banquet. Always one of the convention highlights is the Saturday evening banquet. This year's banquet speaker will be Douglas Pimlott of the Newfoundland Dept. of Natural Resources. An added feature will be the film "Bob-white Throughout the Year."

Field Trips. Field trips to the best bird areas in the Wausau area will be conducted early on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Because this will be a new area for most W.S.O. members, interest in this part of the convention program is likely to be keen.

Business Meeting. President J. J. Hickey will preside over the annual business meeting, which will include a review of the past year's activities, the clearing up of constitutional questions (see last issue, pp. 147-8), the choosing of a 1956 convention site, and the election of officers.

Boost Wausau and W.S.O. Members of the Wausau Bird Club are rolling out the red carpet. There is a new club, organized in 1951, and this is an ambitious venture for them; our attendance and interest will give them a big boost. W.S.O. is not a very old organization itself; the more you participate in Society activities, and invite your friends to participate, the more you strengthen W.S.O.

See you at Wausau!

COOPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY

A nation-wide cooperative migration study is now entering its third year, in an effort to understand the whole northward migration pattern of spring birds (see **Pass. Pigeon**, 1954, 16:20-22). Because the number of contributors in 1954 tripled over the 1953 national total, it is hoped that even more Wisconsin observers will participate this spring. Arrival, peak and departure dates are needed for the following species:

Canada Goose	Wood Thrush
Marsh Hawk	Bluebird (male)
Killdeer	Bluebird (female)
Wilson's Snipe	Red-eyed Vireo
Mourning Dove	Black & White Warbler
Nighthawk	Yellow Warbler
Chimney Swift	Myrtle Warbler
Hummingbird	Ovenbird
Flicker	Redstart
Eastern Kingbird	Red-wing
Crested Flycatcher	Baltimore Oriole
Phoebe	Scarlet Tanager
Wood Pewee	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Barn Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Purple Martin	Goldfinch
Crow	Slate-colored Junco
House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Catbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Brown Thrasher	White-throated Sparrow

Since this is really a migration study, rather than just a list of dates when birds are first seen, observers are asked to send in arrival dates only when the birds are believed to have arrived (or departed) on these dates. Data should be sent to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

BOOK REVIEWS*

THE PASSENGER PIGEON. IT'S NATURAL HISTORY AND EXTINCTION

By A. W. Schorger. Madison, Wisconsin; University of Wisconsin Press. 1955. Pp. xiii, 424. \$7.50.

A valuable, extremely well-documented book, the result of a vast amount of labor, involving searching through old Wisconsin newspapers whereby a bibliography of 2200 titles was accumulated. No adequate study of *Ectopistes migratorius* was ever made by an ornithologist. On the subject of behavior Dr. Schorger has had to piece together bits largely from accounts of captive birds.

A great population of this species arose in response to the abundance of mast in the hardwood forests. Beechnuts were the favorite food with acorns the next choice. "The size of the colony was adjusted to the food resources of the region," (p. 127) food being obtained usually within a radius of 50 miles. Beechnuts sprouted comparatively early in the spring and were then of little use to the pigeons; as to the acorns, it was chiefly those of Hill's oak that were still available in spring. The pigeons nested early— in mid April as a rule; no time was wasted: the one egg hatched

*All books available from the WSO Supply Department.

in 12½ days and 14 days later the large, fat squab was deserted by its parents, perhaps an example of speeded-up nesting cycle in response to perishability of food supply. Dr. Schorger doubts that more than one brood was raised in a season.

The nesting cycle was remarkably well-synchronized. Practically all the males hunted for nesting material at the same time till the forest floor was picked bare; during incubation the males left in a body at dawn for the feeding grounds to return all together at about 9:30, when the females all rushed off to return about 3:30, giving their mates a chance for an evening ceal, (pp. 114-115). "The abandonment of the young was a spectacular affair," the old birds leaving "the nesting city" in a great mass. The young fluttered to the ground in a day or two and "within three or four days could fly sufficiently well to escape capture," (p. 119).

The pitiless, wanton destruction at the nesting colonies and roosts makes sad reading. "The decline in the number of pigeons became precipitous from 1871 to 1880. The number killed during this decade was so great that the species was doomed," (p. 207). The last comparatively large nestings occurred in 1885, 1886 and 1887. "As the nestings became smaller, the competition for the squabs became all the keener," (p. 217). By 1886 only two large flocks remained, one in Pennsylvania, the other in Oklahoma. In 1889 their numbers had dwindled to a few thousands. They were relentlessly pursued in their last refuge in Oklahoma, whence several barrels of pigeons were sent to New York in November 1892, and "several hundred dozen pigeons" to Boston in December 1892 and January 1893.

The passenger pigeon, "the most impressive bird that man has known," a bird whose numbers may have reached three billion, was exterminated by the American people. Its fate was "a sober lesson to mankind." **But have we learned this lesson?**

Margaret M. Nice
Chicago, Illinois

SEA BIRDS. By James Fisher and R. M. Lockley. London: Collins, 1954. Pp. XVI, 320. \$3.50.

If Rachel Carson's **The Sea Around Us** quickened your interest in the life that teems in the salt waters of the earth, this book will delight you, especially if your interest runs to birds.

It is the story of the hundred-odd species of birds that earn their living, or some important part of it, from the waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. It describes that ocean home, its geology and geography; summarizes the evidence as to the evolutionary origins of the bird families which presently inhabit the Atlantic between the tropics and the arctic; and sets out a wealth of life-history information about the sea-birds themselves.

The authors are two of Britain's best known ornithologists and their life-history studies of the gannet and fulmar (Fisher) and the shearwaters and puffins (Lockley) are the established primary sources within those families. The volume draws heavily upon the detailed scientific findings of the authors and others. And the style employed manages the material in a fashion always readable and frequently stimulating. The text should be wholly digestible by any layman whose interests lean toward nature.

Sea-Birds may well prove a worthwhile addition to your own library. If you intend an Atlantic crossing by ship, it is an invaluable guide. If your present purpose is no more than to expand your knowledge from your armchair, **Sea-Birds** affords a pleasant and competent way to do just that.—G. W. Foster, Jr.

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by C. DENNIS BESADNY

Distraction Display In the Bobolink. Distraction display or "injury feigning," i.e., behavior by a parent bird which tends to divert an intruder from eggs or young, is apparently rare in the family **Icteridae** (blackbirds, orioles, meadowlarks, etc.). Grimes (1936. *Auk*, 53:478-480) mentions a case of the Eastern meadowlark, and F. V. Hebard (unpublished survey) states that O. S. Pettingill reported (in lit.) its occurrence in the bobolink. Hebard also states (personal communication) that he once observed a red-wing in apparent distraction display. However, I never saw this behavior during six years of intensive study of the red-wing.

On June 17, 1954, a friend and I observed an extended case of apparent distraction display by a female bobolink near Leland in Sauk County, Wisconsin. This incident occurred in mid-afternoon while walking in a pasture along a fence next to a hay-field. A male and a female bobolink suddenly flew up out of the hay. The male perched on the fence and displayed in the direction of the female as the latter alternately ran and flew along the ground in the pasture with slightly spread and shaking wings. We kept walking at a steady pace along the fence row and the female ran along ahead of us, now and then ducking into sedge clumps, for about 200 feet. Several times the male waited until we were a few feet away from him before he flew up ahead and landed on the fence near the female who kept moving rather steadily ahead of us. The male alternated between singing in flight and displaying as if toward the female while perched on the fence. His display while perched consisted mainly of a sudden deep bowing movement in which the fully-erected, buff-colored nape feathers were directed down toward the female. This bowing posture was held for some time even after the female had moved quite far ahead of the male. The significance of the male's display at this time was not clearly apparent, but it seemed to me that the display was directed toward the female rather than toward us. Both the male and the female eventually flew off in normal flight back behind us into the hayfield.—Robert W. Nero, Madison.

Crows Chase a Red Fox. On May 9, 1954, my son and I were fishing at a small pond on highway XI near Saylesville, Waukesha County, when we heard a commotion. Several crows were doing a lot of screaming and calling and there was a lot of activity. I looked across the way expecting to see a hawk in a bunch of oaks about 1200 feet away. Then I noticed the crows diving at something and looking again, I saw an animal running on the ground. At first I thought it was a cat. The animal started

down a fence row running at high speed with the crows after it. After the animal had gone a ways, I noticed that it was a large red fox. The crows took the fox across the open for a good quarter of a mile diving upon him all the way until he disappeared into some willow brush.—Mrs. L. E. Compton, Waukesha.

Yellow-Crowned Night Herons at Horicon Marsh. On October 2, 1954 my husband and I visited that section of Horicon Marsh which extends along highway 49 to see if the geese had come in. We found what appeared to us to be great numbers of them. We also saw pied-billed grebes, several great blue herons, four American egrets, mallards, pintails, shovelers, and coots. Another bird was observed which we had never seen before.

I referred at once to Peterson's guide and both my husband and I are positive it was a yellow-crowned night heron. Its breast was soft gray, wings were mottled with light gray, and the white crown showed up quite well. It flew low along the road where we had a very good chance to examine it carefully. We both noted the feet extending well beyond the tail in flight.

We drove back to the marsh on October 22 to see the geese which were concentrated there by the thousands. They were feeding near the fence line along the road. However, this was not our only thrill. Nearby were four adult yellow-crowned night herons. They flew along the roadside where we had time to carefully observe their coloring.—Mr. and Mrs. Glen Fisher, Oshkosh.

American Brant Seen in Jefferson County. On October 17, 1954, a bright clear blue October Sunday, a friend and I put a boat into the water at the Princess Point bridge between Palmyra and Whitewater in Jefferson County and went back into the Scuppernong marsh. The area was flooded this fall due to the excessive rains as were all other marsh areas around. It has been about 16 years since this happened in the fall. We are very familiar with this area as a birding spot and frequent it to watch the ducks, geese, and swans.

Back in the marsh I saw two Canada geese flying about 300 feet in the air to my right, and below them slightly and just a little behind them, an American brant. I got an underneath side view of it, seeing clearly the white belly, black neck, and head with the black coming down onto the chest leaving a very clear black and white portion. I could not see the neck spot, but neither was there anything like the throat patch of the Canadas. We estimated the bird was about four pounds or slightly larger than a mallard.—L. E. Compton, Waukesha.

Additional American Brant Records. On October 17, 1951, while I was checking waterfowl hunters at Horicon Marsh, an immature female American brant was handled in the field. The hunter gladly donated the rare bird to the zoology museum at the University of Wisconsin where the bird may now be found. This bird constitutes the first unquestionable specimen of the American brant in Wisconsin. In addition, a flock of seven American brant was observed by me on October 3, 1953 on Horicon Marsh while making flock counts of Canada geese. The flock flew directly overhead at approximately twenty yards and was viewed with 7 x 50 binoculars.—Laurence R. Jahn, Horicon.

MORE NEWS . . .

If you are interested in attending one of the five two-week sessions at the new Midwest Audubon Camp, now is the time to apply to the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y. We understand that advance registration has been heavy. A number of scholarships have been made available; the deadline for two offered by the Madison Audubon Society has already passed, but application may still be made for scholarships through the Guido Rahr fund by contacting Prof.

J. J. Hickey, 424 University Farm Place, Madison.

The date for the 1955 May-Day count is May 22. Every ornithologist is urged to get out in the field as much as possible that day. The area to be covered should be carefully chosen and delimited; it need not adhere strictly to the 15-mile diameter used in the Christmas count, but it should be confined to one county or to some other suitable geographic limitation. Send the results—including weather data—to the associate editor soon after the count. The results will be summarized in **The Passenger Pigeon**.



FIELD NOTES

THE AUTUMN SEASON

August-October, 1954

By C. DENNIS BESADNY

The fall migration began as usual with a trickling in of shorebirds in late July and early August. Early migrants found temperatures somewhat cooler than normal during the first two weeks in August, but these conditions changed when a warm period spread over the state on August 21. Many mudflats were exposed as a result of below normal precipitation and ornithologists in the field noticed a wide variety of species gathered in large numbers. One of the best shorebird areas this fall was Horicon Marsh. The large concentration of dowitchers and stilt sandpipers seen by several WSO members has probably not been duplicated in the history of modern Wisconsin birding. Other shorebird rarities observed in the state this fall included the piping plover, willet, knot, white-rumped, Baird's, and Western sandpipers, and Northern phalarope.

The warm period of August 21-25 found the peak of the nighthawk migration under way. Many swallows were also seen moving south during this same period. Warblers began moving into the state in late August but only in small numbers. Observers in the southwestern and northeastern parts of Wisconsin reported seeing more cuckoos than usual this fall.

September ushered in more sunshine and warm weather during the first week of the month but gave us an extremely heavy rainy period from the 9th to the 18th. The lush mudflats disappeared as did the majority of the shorebirds and only a few stragglers remained through the month. Marshes in the state had more water in them than at any time in recent

years, consequently more waterfowl were observed during mid-September than were seen a year ago.

Land bird migration was rather skimpy during the first two weeks in September, but began to pick up after the 13th. Migrations were noted in the Appleton area September 13-19. Mild weather from the 23rd on evidently delayed and spread out the migrants that usually leave the state before the end of September. As the month ended another cold front had descended upon us and large flights of songbirds were reported winging their way south. Large waves of birds were observed passing through the southeastern part of the state and along the Lake Michigan shoreline September 26-30. On September 28 a large migration was reported in central Wisconsin. Red-breasted nuthatches were found in more localities than usual this year and in large numbers.

A rainy period which had begun in September continued until October 10. Waterfowl which usually are found concentrated in small areas in the marshes at this time of year were found scattered about due to the high water. Sunny, dry weather with no storminess dominated the weather picture from October 17 through the 25th. Good warbler flights were reported for Waukesha County on October 2-3 and for northwestern Wisconsin on October 13-15. A large sparrow migration—tree, field, chipping, white-crowned, and white-throated—was observed in the Waupaca area October 17. Rarities during the month included Holboell's and Western grebes, yellow-crowned night heron, surf scoter, Northern phalarope, and Carolina wren.

The warm weather during late October delayed the departure of many land birds—some of the departure dates were the latest on record. Many species of warblers were observed in Wisconsin much later than usual and ornithologists tramping through the brush came up with many interesting species and departure dates.

Here are the highlights of the fall season:

RED-THROATED LOON: One was seen off Loon Bluff, Ozaukee County, Oct. 27 (N. O'Hearn—M. Decker).

HOLBOELL'S GREBE: This rare transient visitor was quite conspicuous at Cedar Grove during September and October; seen on Sept. 25, two on Sept. 26, Oct. 2, and four on Oct. 17 (Tom Soulen, et al). Observed in Brown County, Oct. 31 (Ed Paulson).

HORNED GREBE: First observed in Dane County, Oct. 3 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

WESTERN GREBE: Two reports of this casual visitor from Lake Michigan this fall; one near Virmond Park, Ozaukee County, Oct. 17 (M. Davidson—Mrs. F. L. Larkin—F. Riegel), two were seen from Loon Bluff, Oct. 27 (N. O'Hearn—M. Decker).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Fourteen were observed at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 19 (Tom Soulen), and 15 were seen Sept. 6 (Stanley Wellso); seen in Dane County, Aug. 22 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

AMERICAN EGRET: Fall reports from Brown, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Marquette, Rock, and Vernon Counties. Two were still at Horicon Marsh, Oct. 31 (Mrs. H. W. Degner)—a late date.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: First observed at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 1 (Mrs. R. A. Walker), seen again on Sept. 2 (Donald—O'Hearn—Porter—

Priebe—Wilde), and last seen on Sept. 19 (Mrs. R. A. Walker). One seen in Brown County, Aug. 30 (Ed Paulson).

GREEN HERON: Last seen in Jefferson County, Sept. 28 (Nils Dahlstrand).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Two in Waukesha County, Oct. 29 (the L. E. Comptons).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: For a bird recorded as "accidental" in Wisconsin we have had several reliable reports this fall (also see previous issue). One was observed on the Wolf River in Wau-paca County on Aug. 28 and again on Aug. 31 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers, et al); one was observed at Horicon Marsh on Sept. 2 (Donald—O'Hearn—Porter—Priebe—Wilde); one was observed at Horicon Marsh on Oct. 2 and four were seen on Oct. 22 (the Glen Fishers). See *By the Wayside*.

WHISTLING SWAN: Fall reports from Brown, Burnett, and Dane Counties.

CANADA GOOSE: Eight flying over Lake Winnebago, Aug. 21 (Stanley Wellso). One of the smaller races of this species was noted at Green Bay on Oct. 7 (Ed Paulson).

AMERICAN BRANT: One bird seen and compared with two Canada geese in Jefferson County on Oct. 17 (L. E. Compton). See "*By the Wayside*."

SNOW GOOSE: October reports from Brown, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Outagamie, Rock, and Vilas Counties.

BLUE GOOSE: First noted in the Cedar Grove area, Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen).

GADWALL: Several seen at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 6 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers—E. Brockschlager)—believed to be young of the year.

BALDPATE: Dodge County, Aug. 27 and Sept. 7 (Sam Robbins); Brown County, Aug. 28 (Ed Paulson); Dane County, Aug. 29 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Adams County, Sept. 2 (Sam Robbins).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Four were seen at Terry Andrae State Park and four at Cedar Grove, Oct. 17 (Tom Soulen, et al); 20 were seen in Ozaukee County, Oct. 26 (Mary Donald—Karl Priebe).

SURF SCOTER: Five of these rare birds were carefully observed in Ozaukee County, Oct. 26 (Mary Donald—Karl Priebe); seen the next day (M. Decker—Mrs. F. L. Larkin—F. Riegel).

RUDDY DUCK: Four were seen at Horicon, Aug. 6 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers—E. Brockschlager); in Dane County, Aug. 22 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

HOODED MERGANSER: Forest County, Aug. 23 (Al Bradford).

TURKEY VULTURE: One in Waukesha County, Aug. 22 (Tom Soulen); Vernon County, Sept. 18 (Margarette Morse); one at Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 and one Oct. 17 (Tom Soulen, et al); Burnett County, Oct. 2 (N. R. Stone); Lincoln County, Oct. 2 (the Spencer Dotys).

GOSHAWK: Two were caught and banded at Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 (Tom Soulen, et al).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Brown County, Sept. 27 (Ed Paulson); Vernon County, Oct. 2 (Margarette Morse—Lois Webster).

BALD EAGLE: Vilas County, Aug. 18 (Al Bradford); Horicon Marsh, Aug. 19 (C. A. Kemper). Other fall records from Adams, Brown, Burnett, Iowa, Lincoln, and Vernon Counties.

DUCK HAWK: Reports from Cedar Grove: two Sept. 25, three Sept. 26, 7 Oct. 2, and 6 Oct. 3 (Tom Soulen, et al); in the Milwaukee area between Sept. 21 and Oct. 16 (Mary Donald); last observed for the Kenosha area, Oct. 13 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

PIGEON HAWK: Cedar Grove reports: 15 Sept. 25, 20 Sept. 26, four Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen, et al). Other fall reports from Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Dodge, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Outagamie Counties.

SANDHILL CRANE: Last observed in the Adams area, Sept. 14 (Sam Robbins); over 400 seen in Green Lake County, Sept. 24 (N. Damaske)—quite early for so large a concentration; 50 in the Lake Geneva area, Oct. 5 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); a large flock between Briggsville and Endeavor, Oct. 10-16 (fide F. R. Zimmerman).

KING RAIL: First observed at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 28 (the A. C. Bromms); seen there again Sept. 2 (Donald—O'Hearn—Porter—Priebe—Wilde); Waukesha County, Oct. 10 (Ed Peartree).

PIPING PLOVER: Brown County, Aug. 30 (Ed Paulson); in Milwaukee between Sept. 21 and 28 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom—Mary Donald).

GOLDEN PLOVER: One at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 19 (S. Paul Jones—Tom Soulen—Peter Weber); again between Aug. 28 and Sept. 6 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); one in Adams County, Sept. 22 and one Sept. 28 (Sam Robbins); 40 at Cedar Grove, Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen); an injured bird found in Manitowoc County, Oct. 15 (Myron Reichwaldt).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Six at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 17: two in full spring plumage, one in fall plumage, and three intermediate (Tom Soulen, et al). Other fall reports from Brown, Dodge, Iowa, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Milwaukee, Aug. 25 (Sam Robbins), Sept. 2 (Mary Donald), Sept. 11 (the A. C. Bromms), Sept. 14 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin—Sam Robbins); Sheboygan County, Aug. 31 (Harold Koopmann) and Sept. 19 (Myron Reichwaldt).

WOODCOCK: One in songflight at Cedar Grove at 4:50 a. m., Sept. 26 (Tom Soulen, et al)—an unusual occurrence in fall.

WILSON'S SNIBE: 322 counted on a one and one-half mile trip across the federal dike at Horicon Marsh, Sept. 12 (L. R. Jahn).

WILLET: One carefully observed at North Point, Sheboygan County, Aug. 23 (Myron Reichwaldt).

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS: Horicon Marsh, Aug. 6 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers—E. Brockschlager); Chippewa County, Aug. 11 (C. A. Kemper); Adams County, Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins); Jefferson County, Aug. 15 (Gordon Paeske).

KNOT: In the Milwaukee area between Aug. 23 and 25 (Mary Donald—Sam Robbins); one in Sheboygan County, Aug. 31 (Harold Koopmann).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Arrived in Chippewa County, Aug. 1 (C. A. Kemper) and the same day in Dane County (Mrs. R. A. Walker); three at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 6 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers—E. Brockschlager); Jefferson County, Aug. 15 (Gordon Paeske); departed from Sheboygan County, Sept. 19 (Myron Reichwaldt); and from the Milwaukee area, Oct. 26 (Mary Donald).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Two near Petenwell Dam, Adams County, Aug. 13 (Sam Robbins).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Several reports: Manitowoc County, Aug. 16 (John Kraupa); Adams County, Aug. 21 (Sam Robbins); Horicon Marsh, Aug. 26 and four were seen on Sept. 6 (Tom Soulen); Bayfield County, Aug. 27 (David Bratley); four in Dane County, Sept. 11 (Tom Soulen); two in Milwaukee, Sept. 12 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin). Departed from Sheboygan County, Sept. 26 (Myron Reichwaldt).

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER: Twelve were present at Horicon Marsh, Oct. 31 (Mrs. H. W. Degner)—late.

DOWITCHER: This uncommon transient was counted in unusually large numbers at Horicon this fall. Arrived at the Marsh, Aug. 2, 43 were seen on Aug. 17, 52 on Aug. 19, 25 on Aug. 26, 31 on Sept. 6, and 16 on Sept. 7 (Jones—Robbins—Sontag—Soulen—Weber). Twelve were still at Horicon, Sept. 18 (Mrs. H. W. Degner). One was seen in Adams County, Aug. 21, one Aug. 23 and three on Sept. 3 (Sam Robbins); one in Milwaukee, Sept. 12-14 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin—Sam Robbins); in Dane County, Oct. 1 (Sam Robbins).

STILT SANDPIPER: An experience never to be forgotten by ornithologists in Wisconsin was the spectacular observance of a record number of stilt sandpipers at Horicon this fall. Six birds arrived on Aug. 17, 52 were counted Aug. 19, over 50 on Aug. 26, 21 Aug. 31, 31 Sept. 6, and 7 were still present Sept. 7 (Jones—Robbins—Sontag—Soulen—Walker—Weber). Other state reports included the Milwaukee area between Aug. 25 and Sept. 14 (Donald—Larkin—Robbins—Wilde); one at Castle Rock Lake, Aug. 23 (Sam Robbins); one at Oshkosh, Aug. 28 (Stanley Wellso); and three in Manitowoc County, Aug. 29 (Myron Reichwaldt).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: Carefully observed in Ozaukee County, Aug. 12 (Tom Soulen); one at North Point, Sheboygan County, Aug. 23 (Myron Reichwaldt).

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: Four in the Milwaukee area, Sept. 12-14 (Mary Donald—Mrs. F. L. Larkin—Sam Robbins); carefully observed at the Castle Rock Dam, Adams County, Oct. 9 (Ray Christensen).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Milwaukee, Aug. 28 (Mary Donald), again on Sept. 14 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin—Sam Robbins); one immature in Adams County, Aug. 23 (Sam Robbins).

MOURNING DOVE: A nest with two young in Beloit, Sept. 24 (the Harold Liebheers); a pair found nesting in De Pere in late September (Peter Van Noonan).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: One found dead in Manitowoc County, Oct. 15 (John Kraupa); departed from Vernon County, Oct. 16 (Margarette Morse); last seen in the Milwaukee area, Oct. 20 (M. Decker)—late.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Last two reports for the Milwaukee area, Oct. 4 (Mrs. Fred Hook) and Oct. 24 (Mary Donald).

BARN OWL: Found nesting in Ozaukee County, Aug. 2 (Mary Donald).

NIGHTHAWK: Peak of fall migrants in Adams County, Aug. 20-28 (Sam Robbins); departed from Milwaukee, Oct. 26 (Mary Donald).

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Over 100 still in Madison, Oct. 14 (Tom Soulen).

HUMMINGBIRD: Milwaukee area, Oct. 24 (M. Decker); Rock County, Oct. 30 (the Harold Liebherers)—very late dates.

PILEATED WOODPECKER: Fall reports from Adams, Brown, Dane, Lincoln, Oconto, Polk, Vernon, and Vilas Counties.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Observed in Adams County, Sept. 1 (Sam Robbins).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: Seen and heard in Adams County, Aug. 23 and 30 (Sam Robbins); migrating through Terry Andrae State Park, Aug. 31 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); Chippewa Falls, Sept. 3 (C. A. Kemper).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: One singing at Cedar Grove, Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Chippewa County, Sept. 6 (C. A. Kemper); Dane County, Sept. 6-9 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Kenosha, Sept. 8 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

TREE SWALLOW: Departed from Rock County, Oct. 14 (John Wilde).

BANK SWALLOW: One observed in the Madison area on Oct. 8 with 20 tree and 70 cliff swallows (Tom Soulen)—late.

PURPLE MARTIN: Two in Kenosha, Oct. 21 (Mrs. Howard Higgins)—latest date on record.

RAVEN: Six seen at Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 (WSO field trip); one seen in Madison, Oct. 8 (Tom Soulen)—unusual this far south.

TUFTED TITMOUSE: Two observed during the fall period in Vernon County (Margarette Morse); Dane County, Sept. 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker) and Oct. 1 (Sam Robbins); Adams County, Sept. 22-28 (Sam Robbins); Chippewa County, Oct. 11 (C. A. Kemper); four in Rock County, Oct. 21-30 (John Wilde).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: An usually large number of reports this fall. Observed in Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Polk, Rock, Sheboygan, Vernon, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties. A spectacular flight was observed at Cedar Grove on Oct. 17 when 323 passed through the area in 1½ hours (Tom Soulen, et al).

WINTER WREN: Arrived in the Green Bay area, Sept. 10 (Ed Paulson) and in the Adams area, Sept. 22 (Sam Robbins). Seen later in Manitowoc County, Oct. 2 (John Kraupa); Cedar Grove, Oct. 3 (Tom Soulen); Rock County, Oct. 6 (the Harold Liebherers); Dane County, Oct. 13 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee, Oct. 16-17 (Mary Donald—N. O'Hearn); Jefferson County, Oct. 17 (Mrs. H. W. Degner); in the Cedarburg area, Oct. 27 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin—F. Riegel).

BEWICK'S WREN: Two seen at Mazomanie, Sept. 11 (Alyea—Kuhlman—Sontag—Soulen—Weber); one in Adams County, Sept. 20-24 (Sam Robbins).

CAROLINA WREN: One in SW Adams County, Sept. 28 (Sam Robbins); one found at Virmond Park, Ozaukee County, Oct. 15 and another on Oct. 27 (Mary Donald).

BROWN THRASHER: Departed from Waukesha County, Oct. 14 (Mrs. Emma Hoffmann), and from the Milwaukee area, Oct. 23 (the A. C. Bromms).

ROBIN: An albino was spotted in Chippewa County, Sept. 23 (C. A. Kemper).

HERMIT THRUSH: Departed from Fond du Lac County, Oct. 22 (George Henseler), and from Milwaukee, Oct. 26 (the A. C. Bromms).

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: Very early fall migrant in Adams County, Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins); heavy flight of night migrants in Madison, Sept. 10-11 (Chandler and Sam Robbins et al); last observed on Oct. 6 in Fond du Lac County (George Henseler), Rock County (the Harold Liebherers), and Waukesha County (Mrs. Emma Hoffmann); departed from Winnebago County, Oct. 20 (Mrs. Glen Fisher)—late date.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: Arrived in Dane County, Sept. 4 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); last for Outagamie County, Oct. 10 (Al Bradford), and for Kenosha County, Oct. 13 (Mrs. Howard Higgins)—late.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: Waukesha County, Aug. 7 (the A. C. Bromms); departed from Adams County, Sept. 16 (Sam Robbins), and from Milwaukee, Sept. 20 (Mary Donald).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Arrived in Chippewa County, Sept. 6 (C. A. Kemper).

PIPIT: Six at Cedarburg, Sept. 10 (M. Decker); Milwaukee, Sept. 22 (Mary Donald); Cedar Grove: one Sept. 26, one Oct. 2, 6 Oct. 17 (Tom Soulen, et al); Adams County, Sept. 28-Oct. 5 (Sam Robbins); Iowa County, Oct. 1 (Gimmmler—Jones—Larkin—Robbins); Lincoln County, Oct. 18 (the Spencer Dotys); the Appleton area, Oct. 20 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: One in a flock of 20 cedar waxwings at Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 and one observed on Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen, et al)—very early arrivals.

CEDAR WAXWING: 300 migrating over Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 (Tom Soulen, et al)—early for such a large concentration.

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Arrived in Bayfield County, Oct. 9 (David Bratley)—early arrival; Milwaukee, Oct. 16 (Mary Donald); Chippewa County, Oct. 17 (C. A. Kemper); Brown County, Oct. 20 (Ed Paulson); Fond du Lac County, Oct. 24 (George Henseler); Outagamie County, Oct. 31 (Al Bradford).

MIGRANT SHRIKE: Dane County, Aug. 7 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Chippewa County, Aug. 13 (C. A. Kemper); Outagamie County, Sept. 7 (Al Bradford).

STARLING: A bird believed to be an albino starling was observed during the fall in Chippewa County (C. A. Kemper).

BELL'S VIREO: One seen at Merrilan, Jackson County, Aug. 6 (Chandler Robbins)—usually far north; Vernon County, Aug. 15 (Margarette Morse); at Mazomanie, Sept. 6 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Departed from Rock County, Oct. 13 (the Harold Liebherers)—late.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: Last for Vernon County, Oct. 11 (Margarette Morse).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: One seen in Chippewa County, Aug. 4 (C. A. Kemper)—early migrant; one in Bayfield County, Aug. 26 (David Bratley); Adams County: one Sept. 4, two Sept. 16, and two Sept. 24 (Sam Robbins); Cedar Grove: one Sept. 18 and one Sept. 25 (Tom Soulen)—late.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: Milwaukee, Oct. 16 (Mary Donald).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Last seen in Winnebago County, Oct. 2 (Mrs. Glen Fisher)—late.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Last for Adams County, Sept. 1 (Sam Robbins); Dane County, Sept. 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Last for the Milwaukee area, Oct. 16 (Mary Donald), Adams County, Oct. 17 (Sam Robbins), and Vernon County, Oct. 25 (Margarette Morse)—latest date on record.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Dane County, Sept. 11 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); arrived in the Adams area, Sept. 16 and departed Oct. 5 (Sam Robbins); first observed in Vernon County, Sept. 17 and last noted on Oct. 1 (Margarette Morse); one at Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 (WSO field trip). Observed during October in Bayfield, Chippewa, Dane, Iowa, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties.

YELLOW WARBLER: One was observed in Iowa County, Oct. 1 with all the markings, but slightly paler and greener (Gimmler—Jones—Larkin—Robbins). These markings and astonishing late date suggest the Alaskan subspecies.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Departed from Fond du Lac County, Oct. 14 (George Henseler).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: September reports from Adams, Milwaukee, and Ozaukee Counties. Migrants in the Waukesha area, Oct. 2-3 (Ed Peartree); a male found dead in Manitowoc County, Oct. 16 (John Kraupa).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Green Lake County, Aug. 27 (Sam Robbins); September reports from Adams, Chippewa, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Vernon Counties. Iowa County, Oct. 1 (Gimmler—Jones—Larkin—Robbins), Columbia County (R. B. Dryer), Dane County (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee, Oct. 3 (the A. C. Bromms); Fond du Lac County, Oct. 4 (George Henseler).

BLACK-POLL WARBLER: Marquette County, Aug. 27 (Sam Robbins); arrived in Dane County, Sept. 4 (Mrs. R. A. Walker) with its departure Oct. 1 (Sam Robbins et al); last noted in Jefferson County, Sept. 28 (Nils Dahlstrand), and Vernon County, Sept. 30 (Margarette Morse); stragglers in Adams and Iowa Counties, Oct. 1 (Gimmler—Jones—Larkin—Robbins); Waukesha County, Oct. 2-3 (Ed Peartree), and Fond du Lac County, Oct. 4 (George Henseler).

PINE WARBLER: Last seen in Chippewa County, Sept. 24 (C. A. Kemper).

OVENBIRD: Fond du Lac County, Oct. 11 (George Henseler).

GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH: Last in Iowa County, Oct. 1 (Gimmler—Jones—Larkin—Robbins).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Chippewa County, Sept. 8 (C. A. Kemper); Cedar Grove, Sept. 18-25, and one was banded on Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen, et al); departed on Sept. 29 from Dane County (Mrs. R. A. Walker) and Fond du Lac County (George Henseler).

MOURNING WARBLER: Waukesha County, Oct. 2-3 (Ed Peartree); Chippewa County, Oct. 8 (C. A. Kemper) and Madison, Oct. 9 (Thomas Ashman)—very late dates.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT: One still singing at Cedar Grove, Oct. 2 (Tom Soulen); departed from Vernon County, Oct. 3 (Margarette Morse).

HOODED WARBLER: Seen and heard singing in Adams County, Aug. 23 (Sam Robbins). Fall reports in Wisconsin are scanty.

CANADA WARBLER: Arrived in Adams County, Aug. 26 (Sam Robbins); last for Winnebago County, Sept. 22 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); stragglers in Waukesha County, Oct. 2-3 (Ed Peartree)—very late dates.

REDSTART: Cedar Grove, Oct. 17 (Charles Sontag); one in Vernon County, Oct. 31 (Margarette Morse)—late departure.

BOBOLINK: Still in the Milwaukee area, Oct. 17 (Mary Donald)—late date.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Young observed at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 6 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers—E. Brockschlager) and 25 still present on Sept. 7 (Sam Robbins); Brown County, Aug. 26 (Ed Paulson); Dane County, Aug. 27 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

COWBIRD: Four seen eating bittersweet berries in Waukesha County, Oct. 28-30 (the L. E. Comptons).

SCARLET TANAGER: Quite a few late reports: Fond du Lac County, Sept. 26 (George Henseler), and the same day in Ozaukee County (WSO field trip); Adams County, Sept. 29 (Sam Robbins); Waukesha County, Oct. 3 (Mrs. Emma Hoffmann); departed from Dane County, Oct. 4 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

INDIGO BUNTING: Oct. 1 in Dane County (Sam Robbins) and Fond du Lac County (George Henseler); one immature at the bird feeder in Waukesha, Oct. 4 (the L. E. Comptons).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Early arrivals in Milwaukee, Oct. 8 (Mary Donald), and in Polk County, Oct. 9 (Mrs. J. A. Riegel).

PURPLE FINCH: Adams County, Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins); Manitowoc County, Aug. 21 (John Kraupa); Milwaukee, Aug. 25 (Sam Robbins).

PINE SISKIN: Fall reports from Adams, Brown, Dane, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Vernon, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. It was estimated that 5000 pine siskins migrated through Cedar Grove, Oct. 15-17 (Tom Soulen et al).

GOLDFINCH: A nest with three eggs was found in Two Rivers, Aug. 20—three young left the nest, Sept. 15 (John Kraupa).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: A surprising number of October records: one observed in Fond du Lac County, Oct. 14 (George Henseler); three pair at the bird feeder in Waupaca, Oct. 30-31 (Florence Peterson); several in Vernon County, Oct. 31 (Margarette Morse).

LECONTE'S SPARROW: Adams County, Sept. 28 (Sam Robbins).

LARK SPARROW: A summer resident in Adams County—departed on Aug. 14 (Sam Robbins); in Dane County, Aug. 1 to Sept. 6 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: One in Milwaukee, Aug. 26 (the A.C. Bromms); Chippewa County, Sept. 3 (C. A. Kemper); Dane County, Sept. 7 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); last for Adams County, Sept. 22 (Sam Robbins).

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Three immatures at Virmond Park, Ozaukee County, Sept. 27 (F. Riegel—M. Decker); Bayfield County, Sept. 30

(David Bratley); an immature in Milwaukee in early October (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); one immature in Dane County, Oct. 1 (Gimmeler—Jones—Larkin—Robbins); three in Vernon County, Oct. 1 and two Oct. 2 (Margarette Morse); adult in Adams County, Oct. 5 (Sam Robbins).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Arrived in Chippewa County, Sept. 3 (C. A. Kemper); 110 were observed at Cedar Grove, Sept. 26 (WSO field trip); last in the Appleton area, Oct. 31 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Decidedly late in appearing: arrived in Brown County, Sept. 8 (Ed Paulson); Milwaukee, Sept. 20 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); and on Sept. 22 in Adams (Sam Robbins) and Madison (N. R. Barger).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: In Chippewa County, Sept. 13 (C. A. Kemper); Adams County, Sept. 16 (Sam Robbins); on Sept. 17 in Bayfield County (David Bratley) and the Milwaukee area (Mary Donald). October reports from Adams, Bayfield, Dane, Fond du Lac, Iowa, Milwaukee, Vernon, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Arrived in Winnebago County, Sept. 28 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); 25 in Rock County, Oct. 5 (John Wilde); 50 at Mazomanie, Oct. 23 (Tom Soulen).

SNOW BUNTING: October reports from Adams, Brown, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Vilas, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 26, 1955 (Beloit)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Carl W. Buchheister speaking on "Pastures of the Sea," at the Beloit College chapel at 8:15 p. m.

April 27, 1955 (Appleton)—Audubon Screen Tour, with Carl W. Buchheister speaking on "Wildlife Down East," at Morgan School auditorium at 7:30 p. m.

April 29-May 1, 1955 (Wausau)—W.S.O. Annual Convention.

May 1-10, 1955 (State-wide)—Field notes for February, March and April should be sent to the Associate Editor.

May 9, 1955 (Madison)—Wildlife Research Seminar, with James B. Hale speaking on "The Role of Chemicals in the Management of Game Range," at 424 University Farm Place (third floor) at 7:45 p. m.

May 22, 1955 (State-wide)—May-Day Count.

June 18-19, 1955 (La Crosse)—W.S.O. Camp-out.

June 26-July 9, 1955 (Spooner)—First session of Mid-west Audubon Camp.

July 10-23, 1955 (Spooner)—Second session of Mid-west Audubon Camp.

July 17, 1955 (Shawano County)—Joint meeting of Green Bay and Wausau Bird Clubs.

July 24-August 6, 1955 (Spooner)—Third session of Audubon Camp.

August 7-20, 1955 (Spooner)—Fourth session of Mid-west Audubon Camp.

August 21, 1955 (Green Bay)—Field trip to the Town of Scott and corn roast conducted by the Green Bay Bird Club.

August 21-September 3, 1955 (Spooner)—Final session of Mid-west Audubon Camp.

August 28, 1955 (Horicon)—W.S.O. field trip to see herons and shorebirds at Horicon Marsh.

September 25, 1955 (Cedar Grove)—W.S.O. field trip to observe hawks.

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WELCOME TO LA CROSSE!

4th Annual Camp-out

June 18-19, 1955

Preparations are well advanced for the fourth annual W.S.O. camp-out to be held in the La Crosse area on the weekend of June 18 and 19. Those attending will do their field work in three or four different groups—each equipped with local guides, experienced ornithologists and experienced botanists.

The camp-site and central meeting place is to be the La Crosse County Park at Onalaska. To reach the park, look for the junction of highways 53-35 and c.t.h. BD at Onalaska (South 2nd Ave. and Elm Street). Go one block east and 1½ blocks south to the high school grounds. The park adjoins the school grounds on the southeast. The first field trip will leave from here at 5:30 Saturday morning.

Various trips will take you to Upper French Island where the Bell's vireo may be found; to the McGilvray Bottoms north of New Amsterdam where the yellow-breasted chat resides; to lovely Perrot Park near Trempealeau; and to Grandad Bluff and other points of interest in and around La Crosse.

All people interested in birds are cordially invited to attend for as much of the two-day period as possible. Any questions may be directed to Mr. Alvin Peterson, Onalaska, or to Mr. Harold Liebherr, 1540 Jackson Street, Beloit.



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