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The

Fall 1981, Volume 43, No. 3

*Passenger
Pigeon*



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The Birds of Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties, Wisconsin

By Phillip V. Vanderschaegen

Introduction

This paper is the result of an effort to gather published reports and field observations of birds in Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties. This information is presented for the use of interested ornithologists, amateur and professional, for those interest in bird distribution in Wisconsin, and as an aid for those interested in environment impacts. Hopefully, this paper will encourage more field observations in this part of the State to help fill the gaps in our knowledge.

It is not the intent of this paper to be the definite word on the birds of this area. Avian status and distribution is constantly changing, from extreme examples such as extinction (Passenger Pigeon) and introduction (European Starling), to gradual declines (Eastern Bluebird) or increases (Evening Grosbeak). Bird populations should be continually monitored as birds are excellent indicators of environmental changes. There are also many species found in this area whose status is unknown.

Geology

The study area lies on the southern part of the Canadian Shield. Bedrock is comprised of precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks. Bedrock outcrops are uncommon. The surface geology is dominated by glacial landforms. The major area of all three counties consists of pitted outwash, the result of deposition of rocks and soil by glacial meltwater. End moraines are found in southwest Forest County, northern Vilas County, and the Enterprise area in Oneida County.

Soils

Sandy loams and loamy sands are the predominant soils in the three counties. Loamy sands and sands are found mainly in central Vilas and the western half of Oneida County. Silt loam is found in northeast Forest County and the Enterprise area of Oneida County. Extensive peat and acid sedge peat areas occur throughout the area and dominate Powell and Thunder Marsh areas (Geological and Natural History Survey 1968).

Topography

The topography of the study area tends to be level to gently rolling. Topographical relief is provided by ground and terminal moraines, eskers, kettles and one monadnock, McCaslin Mountain in southeast Forest County. Sandy outwash plains can be found in each county and are especially well developed in Vilas County. Sugar Bush Hill, between Crandon and Laona, is the highest point in the three counties (1,850 feet).

Lakes and Streams

The legacy of the last ice age is strongly felt in Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties. The abundance of lakes is one of the outstanding features of this area and contributes to its demand as a recreational area. The number of lakes and ponds is staggering; Forest County has 824, Oneida County has 1,129, and Vilas County has 1,326 (DNR files).

The study area is at the headwaters of three drainage systems with water flowing to the Mississippi River, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. The

Peshtigo, Pine, Popple, Wisconsin, and Wolf Rivers all start within these three counties.

Climate

The climate of the study area is continental and is largely determined by the movement of large air masses. Winters are usually long and cold, while summers are warm and pleasant. There is considerable temperature fluctuation from season to season and from year to year. Weather changes can be expected every few days in winter and spring. Spring and fall are often short with rapid transition from winter to summer and from summer to winter. The ground is usually snow covered from mid-November to the end of March. Average yearly precipitation is 30.77 inches and average snowfall is 55.6 inches. The average daily temperature is 41.6° F. This weather information was gathered at Rhinelander (Burley 1961).

Vegetation

The majority of the land in the study area is forested. In 1968, 85 percent of Forest and Oneida Counties was forest land and 80 percent of Vilas County was forested (DNR No Date). Cropland made up less than three percent of the land in 1968.

The plant communities which occur in the study area are discussed in detail in Curtis (1959). Upland forests include vast acreages of northern hardwood (largely maple) and aspen types. Pine types are scattered throughout the three counties and are most common in Vilas County.

Lowland sites are dominated by forests composed of Black Spruce, Balsam Fir, White Cedar, Tamarack, Ash and Red Maple. The predominant type is Black Spruce forest.

Nonforested areas include open bog, lesser acreages of alder, willow, sedge meadow and emergent aquatics. Areas associated with human developments form a small part of the area and include towns, highways, gravel pits and various rights-of-way.

Influence of Man

Much of the study area is undeveloped, especially northern Forest County. Major public forests, including the Nicolet National Forest, Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest and County Forests, have been set aside in the area. Large blocks of industrial forests are located in Oneida and Forest Counties.

Major population centers in the area include Rhinelander, Eagle River, Crandon, and the Minocqua-Woodruff (Lakeland) area. Extensive lakeshore development has occurred throughout the lake region and includes seasonal cabins, permanent homes, and resorts. Vilas and Oneida Counties have the fastest human population growth rate in the State.

Farming activities are localized in Forest County, largely in the Crandon and Armstrong Creek areas. In Oneida County, farms are found mainly in the Starks area and scattered around Rhinelander.

Methods

I have been observing the birds of these three counties since November 1972. Most of my effort was spent in Oneida County, followed by Forest, with much reduced field time spent in Vilas County. My own observations are not systematic but usually were made in conjunction with work and recreational activities. I also conducted censuses of State Scientific areas

and breeding bird surveys. Special effort was made to locate birds during the spring and summer with fewer observations in fall and winter.

I also searched the "Field Notes" section of the Passenger Pigeon issues since 1960. Special attention was directed at reports of less common species. Other literature was used in a nonsystematic way.

Four Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) are located within the three counties. a fifth survey lies mainly in Forest County but runs into Florence County. The results of these surveys were obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland. BBS results were used as indicators of relative abundance for those species that I felt were adequately sampled by this technique. Also, several species were found on this survey that were not previously known to me to occur here.

General Description of the Avifauna

I have been able to document 244 species of birds in the three counties. Of these, about 27 (11%) are permanent residents, 158 (66%) are summer residents, and 45 (19%) are regular migrants through the area. About 30 are rare to uncommon species which do not occur here regularly.

Forest dwelling species dominate the avifauna of this area and the boreal forest influence is strongly felt. Erskine (1977:20) lists 27 species in boreal Canadian spruce stands, of these 22 are known to breed in this area. Many boreal species such as Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Cape May Warbler are at or near the southern edge of their range in this area.

Few species of birds are at the northern edge of their range in this area; exceptions are Least Bittern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Dickcissel and Cardinal. All of these species I would consider rare here and are very likely outside their normal range. Distributions of more southern birds typically end in central Wisconsin near the "tension zone" (Curtis 1959).

The study area lies within the mixed hardwood-coniferous forest zone discussed by Temple, et al. (1979). Characteristics of the avian communities of these forests include: 1) a rich species diversity of summer birds and a low diversity in winter, and 2) a greater abundance of species than other major habitat types in North America.

The abundance of lakes in this three-county area contributes significantly to the avian diversity and abundance. Duck use on lakes is generally lower than southern more fertile lakes. However, six species of ducks commonly breed here. The influence of lakes is much greater for fish eating birds, Common Loon, Bald Eagle and Osprey. These three species are found here much more commonly than other areas of the state with the possible exception of the lake region in northwest Wisconsin.

Seventeen species of birds were found at an average of 10 or more stops on the five Breeding Bird Surveys. These are listed in Table 1. These birds are probably the most common breeding birds in this area.

Table 2 lists various families of birds and their relative abundance as sampled on BBS's. It is interesting to note that the birds found on these surveys are the same as those I have documented in this area with only one exception. Yellow-headed blackbirds, a species which to the best of my knowledge is only found in two places in this area, were not found on the BBS's.

	<u>Average No. of Stops</u>
Ovenbird	41.7
Red-eyed Vireo	40.3
American Robin	29.0
American Crow	20.0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	19.6
Chipping Sparrow	18.3
European Starling	17.4
Song Sparrow	15.0
Red-winged Blackbird	14.4
Blue Jay	13.8
White-throated Sparrow	12.9
Tree Swallow	12.4
Least Flycatcher	12.1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11.7
Veery	11.3
Cliff Swallow	11.0
Black-capped Chickadee	10.0

Table 1. Birds recorded on an average of 10 or more stops on BBS's in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties:

Acknowledgements

The following persons provided data and assisted with the preparation of the annotated list: James E. Baughman, Rev. S.D. Robbins, R.G. Eckstein, and the late Dr. Lois Almon. Dan Boone, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory provided copies of Breeding Bird Surveys.

Annotated List

Species are included in this list only if reported to me by qualified observers, seen by me, documented in published reports or if reported on a Breeding Bird Survey.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) - A fairly common summer resident nesting on many lakes in all counties. Lake development may be a threat to the future of these birds. An estimated 200 pairs nested in the three counties in 1979 (R. Eckstein, pers. comm.).

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) - Rare transient visitor, one report is dated September 29, 1973, on Trout Lake (Vilas County) by Mr. & Mrs. John Brakefield (Pass. Pigeon 36(3):121).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) - Very rare migrant through this area. I saw one on Black Lake in Oneida County on May 11, 1979.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) - A regular, uncommon migrant. It seems to be more common during spring migration.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) - The only known report of Western Grebes in the area was of five birds on Squirrel Lake (Oneida County) in October 1978 by Carl and Dorothy Frister (see Badger Birder No. 174, Oct-Nov. 1978).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) - A fairly common summer resident in marshes and weedy lakes. Rare winter resident on Wisconsin River.

WARBLERS

Ovenbird	41.7
Chestnut-sided	19.6
Nashville	9.2
Black-throated Green	8.8
Yellow-rumped	6.8
Common Yellowthroat	6.7
Mourning	5.3
Black and White	5.0
American Redstart	3.7
Blackburnian	2.7
Pine	2.7
Canada	2.6
Parula	1.9
Yellow	1.7
Golden-winged	0.9
Magnolia	0.5
Connecticut	0.3
Cape May	0.2
Northern Waterthrush	0.2
Palm	0.1
Black-throated Blue	0.1

VIREOS

Red-eyed	40.3
Solitary	1.3
Warbling	0.4
Yellow-throated	0.4

SWALLOWS

Tree	12.4
Cliff	11.0
Purple Martin	7.2
Barn	4.9
Bank	3.3
Rough-winged	0.6

SPARROWS

Chipping	18.3
Song	15.0
White-throated	12.9
Savannah	1.6
Swamp	1.0
Northern Junco	0.8
Clay-colored	0.6
Vesper	0.4
Lincoln's	0.2
Field	0.1
Grasshopper	0.1
LeConte's	0.02

THRUSHES

American Robin	29.1
Veery	11.3
Hermit Thrush	9.6
Wood Thrush	2.7
Eastern Bluebird	0.8
Swainson's Thrush	0.1

BLACKBIRDS

Red-winged	14.4
Brown-headed Cowbird	9.3
Common Grackle	5.5
Brewer's	3.3
Northern Oriole	3.3
Bobolink	2.6
Eastern Meadowlark	1.2
Western Meadowlark	0.3

FLYCATCHERS

Least	12.1
Great Crested	3.9
Eastern Pewee	3.6
Eastern Kingbird	1.9
Eastern Phoebe	1.2
Alder	0.6
Yellow-bellied	0.3
Olive-sided	0.2

Table 2: Relative abundance of various birds in Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties. Calculated from the results of Breeding Bird Surveys conducted from 1966 through 1979. Numbers are the average of stops where the species were heard or seen on a 50-stop transect.

Double-crested cormorant (**Phalacrocorax auritus**) - A very rare migrant; one was seen by R.G. Eckstein on Pelican Lake (Oneida County) on October 1, 1979, and one was seen on Lac Viueux Desert (Vilas County) on September 18, 1980, by J. Baughman.

Great Blue Heron (**Ardea herodias**) - Fairly common summer resident and migrant. Rookeries are known from each county.

Green Heron (**Butorides virescens**) - Uncommon summer resident, found throughout the area usually on streams. Nests have been found in Oneida County.

Cattle Egret (**Bubulcus ibis**) - Very rare migrant. One record at Crandon in Forest County by K. Reusch on May 17, 1977, and another was seen by Wm. Hoppe on Crescent Lake in Oneida County on September 24, 1981.

Great Egret (**Casmerodius albus**) - Very rare migrant. One was seen on the Rainbow Flowage, Oneida County with a large group of Great Blue Herons on August 31, 1979.

Black-crowned Night Heron (**Nycticorax nycticorax**) - There is only one report for this species that I know of. Sam Robbins reported one in Vilas County on June 25, 1965. This area is north of the normal range of this heron and it should be considered rare in this area.

Least Bittern (**Ixobrychus exilis**) - Very rare, possible summer resident. One was reported by Sam Robbins in Vilas County, and I saw one on May 30, 1980, on the Wisconsin River Marshes (Oneida County). Breeding status unknown but may nest in Wisconsin River marshes.

American Bittern (**Botaurus lentiginosus**) - Fairly common summer resident. Found throughout the area along streams and in marshes.

Mute Swan (**Cygnus olor**) - A rare winter visitor. In recent winters, a small flock has wintered on the Manitowish River at Manitowish Waters (Vilas County).

Whistling Swan (**Olor columbianus**) - Uncommon migrant, regularly found in spring migration on Wisconsin River Marshes (Oneida County).

Canada Goose (**Branta canadensis**) - Common migrant throughout the area. Fall stopovers regularly in the Starks (Oneida County) vicinity on potato fields. Occasional summer sightings of adults in Forest County and nests at Powell Marsh, Vilas County.

Snow Goose (**Chen caerulescens**) - Uncommon migrant throughout the area.

Mallard (**Anas platyrhynchos**) - Fairly common summer resident and migrant. Probably the most common breeding duck.

Black Duck (**Anas rubripes**) - Uncommon resident and migrant. Does breed in the area.

Gadwall (**Anas strepera**) - Uncommon migrant.

Common Pintail (**Anas acuta**) - Uncommon migrant.

Green-winged Teal (**Anas crecca**) - Uncommon migrant throughout the area.

Blue-winged Teal (**Anas discors**) - Fairly common migrant, uncommon summer resident.

American Wigeon (**Anas americana**) - Uncommon migrant.

Northern Shoveler (**Anas clypeata**) - Rare to uncommon migrant.

Wood Duck (**Aix sponsa**) - Fairly common summer resident, probably second most common breeding duck.

Redhead (**Aythya americana**) - Uncommon migrant on larger lakes.

Ring-necked Duck (**Aythya collaris**) - Uncommon summer resident in all counties. Fairly common on some lakes.

Canvasback (**Aythya valisineria**) - Uncommon migrant on the larger lakes throughout the area.

Greater scaup (**Aythya marila**) - Greater and Lesser Scaup are fairly common migrants through the area especially on certain large lakes. The relative abundance of these two species in this area is not known.

Lesser Scaup (**Aythya affinis**) - See Greater Scaup.

Common Goldeneye (**Bucephala clangula**) - Uncommon migrant with some spending each winter on parts of the Wisconsin River (Oneida County) where the water stays open.

Bufflehead (**Bucephala albeola**) - Uncommon migrant.

White-winged Scoter (**Melanitta deglandi**) - Rare to uncommon migrant. I saw it on the Wisconsin River above Rhinelander in early October 1974, and Bill Reardon (USFS) saw three birds on Butternut Lake (Forest County) on November 23, 1980.

Ruddy Duck (**Oxyura jamaicensis**) - Uncommon migrant.

Hooded Merganser (**Lophodytes cucullatus**) - Uncommon migrant and summer resident. I have seen hens with broods on streams in Oneida and Forest Counties. Hooded Merganser broods were studied in Forest County by Kitchen and Hunt (1969). J. Baughman has also observed broods in Vilas County.

Common Merganser (**Mergus merganser**) - Uncommon migrant and rare summer resident. Jahn and Hunt (1964) state that Common Merganser broods were found on Mann Lake (Vilas County) during their study.

Red-breasted Merganser (**Mergus serrator**) - Uncommon migrant and rare summer resident. Appears to me to be less common in this area than Common Mergansers during migration. Jahn and Hunt (1964) found broods on Big Arbor Vitae Lake (Vilas County).

Turkey Vulture (**Cathartes aura**) - Uncommon transient visitor usually in summer, but also in spring and fall. There is no indication of regular sightings which would indicate any summer residents or breeders.

Northern Goshawk (**Accipiter gentilis**) - Uncommon permanent resident. Nests have been found in all three counties. These hawks are found during all seasons in low numbers. I assume that migrants also pass through, although no distinct movements have been seen by me.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (**Accipiter striatus**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area. May be more common than my observations indicate due to its forest dwelling habits.

Cooper's Hawk (**Accipiter cooperii**) - Uncommon summer resident and migrant.

Red-tailed Hawk (**Buteo jamaicensis**) - Uncommon summer resident. The extensive forests limit the amount of Red-tail habitat in this area.

Red-shouldered Hawk (**Buteo lineatus**) - Uncommon summer resident. I believe it nests here in low numbers.

Broad-winged Hawk (**Buteo platypterus**) - Common summer resident found in upland forests. The most common breeding raptor in the area.

Rough-legged Hawk (**Buteo lagopus**) - Fairly common migrant throughout the area.

Bald Eagle (**Haliaeetus leucocephalus**) - Fairly common breeding bird in the lake area. A few spend the winter in the area, especially along the Wisconsin River. Charles R. Sindelar (unpublished reports) provided the following information on number of nests:

	1978	1979	1980
Forest County	13	13	12
Oneida County	25	25	27
Vilas County	41	38	42

Northern Harrier (**Circus cyaneus**) - Uncommon summer resident, usually found in open bogs and marshes.

Osprey (**Pandion haliaetus**) - Uncommon summer resident, although it can almost be called fairly common in the lake areas of Oneida and Vilas Counties. The Rainbow Flowage is particularly known for its nesting ospreys. Ron Eckstein (DNR) provided the following information on known osprey nests:

	1978	1979	1980
Forest County	18	19	20
Oneida County	22	25	28
Vilas County	15	16	23

Peregrine Falcon (**Falco peregrinus**) - Rare migrant through this area. I have only seen one in the past eight years, on August 14, 1979, on the Rainbow Flowage (Oneida County). The flowage, at that time, was drawn down and hundreds of shorebirds were present.

Merlin (**Falco columbarius**) - The Merlin is usually a rare migrant through the area. All the records I know of (3) are spring. An unusual record is that of a nesting pair on the Rainbow Flowage in 1967 and 1968, reported by C. Sindelar (see Passenger Pigeon 31(1):212).

American Kestrel (**Falco sparverius**) - Fairly common summer resident, rarely present in winter.

Spruce Grouse (**Canachites canadensis**) - Uncommon to rare permanent resident. Found in spruce habitat in all three counties, but probably most common in eastern Oneida and Forest Counties.

Ruffed Grouse (**Bonasa umbellus**) - Common permanent resident throughout the area.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (**Pediacetes phasianellus**) - Uncommon permanent resident in Oneida and Vilas Counties. Has been absent from Forest County for at least ten years. Powell Marsh in Vilas County probably holds the most Sharp-tails in the area. They are also found on Thunder Marsh (Oneida County) and scattered on larger open bogs in Vilas and Oneida Counties.

Sandhill Crane (**Grus canadensis**) - Rare summer resident and uncommon migrant. The only known nesting is on Thunder Marsh near Rice Lake (Oneida County). A single pair was present in 1977, 1978, and 1979. Successful nesting was noted only in 1977.

Virginia Rail (**Rallus limicola**) - Probably a rare summer resident, status very poorly known. This rail probably nests on Powell Marsh (Vilas County). J. Baughman saw an immature there on July 4, 1978, and he reported hearing them during the summers of 1978 to 1980.

Sora Rail (**Porzana carolina**) - Uncommon summer resident. The most soras that I have seen are on wild rice lakes, where they are encountered when picking wild rice.

Yellow Rail (**Coturnicops noveboracensis**) - Yellow Rails have been reported by several observers, including S. Robbins, throughout the 1970's at Powell Marsh in Vilas County. It is probably a rare breeding bird there.

Common Gallinule (**Gallinula chloropus**) - There is one record for this species in this area, in Oneida County on August 1, 1979. The observers name was not given (Pass. Pigeon 42(3):109). This is far north of its normal range.

American Coot (**Fulica americana**) - Fairly common migrant, uncommon summer resident. Coots have been known to nest on the Wisconsin River marshes but not each year.

Semipalmated Plover (**Charadrius semipalmatus**) - Uncommon migrant, has been seen on the Rainbow Flowage (August 1979) during the flowage drawdown. Also seen on Powell Marsh by J. Baughman in 1979 and 1980.

Killdeer (**Charadrius vociferus**) - Common summer resident.

Lesser Golden Plover (**Pluvialis dominica**) - Uncommon migrant.

Black-bellied Plover (**Pluvialis squatarola**) - Migrant of rare or uncommon status. Seen on Rainbow Flowage (August 1979), Willow Flowage and on Rice Lake (Oneida County) May 28, 1980.

American Woodcock (**Philohela minor**) - Fairly common summer resident throughout the area. Arrives in the area about April 1 and departs about November 1.

Common Snipe (**Capella gallinago**) - Fairly common throughout the area where favorable marsh habitat is found.

Upland Sandpiper (**Bartramia longicauda**) - Uncommon summer resident. Reported on the Crandon BBS. I have searched for these birds during summers in Oneida County and have not been able to locate any, to date.

Spotted Sandpiper (**Actitis macularia**) - Fairly common summer resident on many lakes throughout the area.

Solitary Sandpiper (**Tringa solitaria**) - Uncommon migrant.

Willet (**Catoptrophorus semipalmatus**) - Very rare migrant, one was seen by myself and Jim Baughman on the Rainbow Flowage, Oneida County on August 11, 1979.

Greater Yellowlegs (**Tringa melanoleucus**) - Fairly common migrant.

Lesser Yellowlegs (**Tringa flavipes**) - Fairly common migrant.

Pectoral Sandpiper (**Calidris melanotos**) - Uncommon migrant.

White-rumped Sandpiper (**Calidris fuscicollis**) - Probably a rare or uncommon migrant. Reported in Vilas County on June 13, 1975, by S. Robbins (Pers. Comm.).

Baird's Sandpiper (**Calidris bairdii**) - Uncommon migrant.

Least Sandpiper (**Calidris minutilla**) - Uncommon migrant.

Dunlin (**Calidris alpina**) - Rare migrant. The only record of this species is one in Vilas County by Sam Robbins on June 13, 1975.

Short-billed dowitcher (**Limnodromus griseus**) - Dowitchers are uncommon migrants. Dowitchers (sp.) have been seen on the Rainbow Flowage.

Long-billed dowitcher (**Limnodromus scolopaceus**) - See short-billed dowitcher. Long-billed dowitchers were seen on the Rainbow Flowage on May 13, 1978.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (**Calidris pusilla**) - Probably a rare or uncommon migrant through this area. Reported in Vilas County on June 13, 1975, by S. Robbins (Pers. Comm.).

Buff-breasted sandpiper (**Tryngites subruficollis**) - Rare migrant. One report from Powell Marsh (Vilas County) of four birds during the summer of 1980 by Tryggeseth (Pass. Pigeon 31(2):249.).

Wilson's Phalarope (**Steganopus tricolor**) - Rare migrant. J. Baughman saw about a dozen birds each on Powell Marsh (Vilas County) on June 1, 1979, and on May 25, 1980.

Northern Phalarope (**Lobipes lobatus**) - Rare migrant, only seen once on the Rainbow Flowage by myself and Jim Baughman on August 11, 1979.

Glaucous Gull (**Larus hyperboreus**) - There is only one known report of this gull for this area. This report for Vilas County dated November 12, 1975, by L. Thomas (Pass. Pigeon 38(3):119) states, "Apparently driven into Vilas County by the same storm that sank the "E. Fitzgerald" in Lake Superior.

Herring Gull (**Larus argentatus**) - Uncommon migrant, on larger bodies of water.

Ring-billed Gull (**Larus delawarensis**) - Uncommon migrant.

Bonaparte's Gull (**Larus philadelphia**) - Very uncommon migrant.

Common Tern (**Sterna hirundo**) - Uncommon migrant.

Black Tern (**Chlidonias niger**) - Uncommon summer resident. Nests in all three counties on bog and marshy areas.

Rock Dove (**Columbia livia**) - Uncommon permanent resident found only in larger towns and some farm areas.

Mourning Dove (**Zenaida macroura**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (**Coccyzus americanus**) - Summer resident; status not known very well, probably a rare to uncommon resident. Has been reported on two breeding bird surveys.

Black-billed cuckoo (**Coccyzus erythrophthalmus**) - Uncommon summer resident, found scattered throughout the area.

Common Screech Owl (**Otus asio**) - Status unknown, probably rare. One record was a bird found dead in Rhinelander March 14, 1979.

Great Horned Owl (**Bubo virginianus**) - Uncommon permanent resident, probably third most common breeding owl.

Snowy Owl (**Nyctea scandiaca**) - Irregular winter resident, probably most often found in the vicinity of Rhinelander but can be found in all counties.

Barred Owl (**Strix varia**) - Uncommon permanent resident, probably second most common breeding owl.

Great Gray Owl (**Strix nebulosa**) - Has been found in Forest County and checked out by Don Follen, Sr. (Pass. Pigeon 42(1):25-26). These late summer reports suggest possible nesting in this area.

Long-eared Owl (**Asio otus**) - Status unknown. One was road-killed in the vicinity of Pelican Lake, Oneida County.

Short-eared Owl (**Asio flammeus**) - Status unknown. Has been seen in early spring on Thunder Marsh, Oneida County and in Forest County (Pass. Pigeon 42(3):112).

Saw-whet Owl (**Aegolius acadicus**) - Fairly common in the spring and found throughout summer and fall. The secretive nature of this owl makes status determination in any season but spring difficult. Found throughout the area during the spring breeding season.

Whip-poor-will (**Caprimulgus vociferus**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area.

Common Nighthawk (**Chordeiles minor**) - Fairly common summer resident near towns and cities in all counties. Known to nest on a number of roofs in Rhineland.

Chimney Swift (**Chaetura pelagica**) - Uncommon summer resident in all counties.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (**Archilochus colubris**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area.

Belted Kingfisher (**Megaceryle alcyon**) - Fairly common to uncommon summer resident. Lack of nesting sites may be a limiting factor.

Common Flicker (**Colaptes auratus**) - Common summer resident.

Pileated Woodpecker (**Dryocopus pileatus**) - Fairly common permanent resident.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (**Melanerpes carolinus**) - Uncommon to rare this far north. I have reports from Oneida County and there are at least two published reports from Vilas County (Pass. Pigeon 27(2):85 and 41(2):86).

Red-headed Woodpecker (**Melanerpes erythrocephalus**) - Uncommon in all seasons. Nesting status unknown.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (**Sphyrapicus varius**) - Fairly common summer resident throughout the area.

Hairy Woodpecker (**Picoides villosus**) - Fairly common permanent resident.

Downy Woodpecker (**Picoides pubescens**) - Fairly common permanent resident.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (**Picoides arcticus**) - Rare permanent resident in spruce swamps. Seems to be more common in Forest and Oneida Counties but can also be found in Vilas County.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (**Picoides tridactylus**) - Thiel (1978. Pass. Pigeon 40(4):477-488) lists reports of this extremely rare woodpecker for each of the three counties. This woodpecker is apparently much rarer than the "Black-backed".

Eastern Kingbird (**Tyrannus tyrannus**) - Fairly common summer resident in areas of suitable habitat.

Great Crested Flycatcher (**Myiarchus crinitus**) - Fairly common summer resident throughout the area.

Eastern Phoebe (**Sayornis phoebe**) - Fairly common summer resident throughout the area.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (**Empidonax flaviventris**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area.

Alder Flycatcher (**Empidonax alnorum**) - Fairly common summer resident in some areas throughout the three counties. Common in areas where the habitat is suitable. Willow Flycatchers have not been documented in this area.

Least Flycatcher (**Empidonax minimus**) - Common summer resident throughout the area. This is the most abundant flycatcher in this area, being found in most deciduous forest stands.

Eastern Pewee (**Contopus virens**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (**Nuttallornis borealis**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area.

Horned Lark (**Eremophila alpestris**) - Fairly common migrant, uncommon summer resident. Larks occasionally are observed during winters, especially those with light snow cover of fields.

Tree Swallow (**Iridoprocne bicolor**) - Common summer resident. The most abundant swallow in the area.

Bank Swallow (**Riparia riparia**) - Uncommon summer resident, scattered throughout the area where suitable nest sites are located.

Rough-winged Swallow (**Stelgidopteryx ruficollis**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Barn Swallow (**Hirundo rustica**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Cliff Swallow (**Petrochelidon pyrrhonota**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Purple Martin (**Progne subis**) - Fairly common summer resident, usually near human habitations.

Gray Jay (**Perisoreus canadensis**) - Uncommon permanent resident in spruce swamps throughout the area.

Blue Jay (**Cyanocitta cristata**) - Common permanent resident throughout the area.

Black-billed Magpie (**Pica pica**) - This western corvid has to be called accidental in this area. There is one published report for Vilas County on November 23, 1969 (Pass. Pigeon 32(4):171), and Bruce Kohn saw one in Oneida County in December, 1972.

Northern Raven (**Corvus corax**) - Common permanent resident, known to nest in this area.

American Crow (**Corvus brachyrhynchos**) - Common summer resident. A few usually spend the winter in the area also.

Black-capped Chickadee (**Parus atricapillus**) - Common permanent resident.

Boreal Chickadee (**Parus hudsonicus**) - Uncommon permanent resident in all counties. Found in spruce swamps usually.

White-breasted Nuthatch (**Sitta carolinensis**) - Uncommon permanent resident.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (**Sitta canadensis**) - Uncommon permanent resident.

Brown Creeper (**Certhia familiaris**) - Uncommon summer resident, fairly common migrant and rare winter resident.

Northern House Wren (**Troglodytes aedon**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Winter Wren (**Troglodytes troglodytes**) - Uncommon summer resident. Regularly found in cedar and spruce swamps throughout the area.

Marsh Wren (**Cistothorus palustris**) - Uncommon to rare summer resident.

Sedge Wren (**Cistothorus platensis**) - Uncommon summer resident, however, is locally common in good habitat such as that at Thunder Marsh.

Gray Catbird (**Dumetella carolinensis**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Brown Thrasher (**Toxostoma rufum**) - Uncommon summer resident.

American Robin (**Turdus migratorius**) - Abundant summer resident.

Varied Thrush (**Ixoreus naevius**) - Very rare winter visitor. One recorded in Oneida County during January 1980 in Harshaw.

Wood Thrush (**Hylocichla mustelina**) - Uncommon summer resident. This thrush is apparently more abundant in Forest County and less common westward into Oneida and Vilas Counties.

Hermit Thrush (**Catharus guttatus**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Swainson's Thrush (**Catharus ustulatus**) - Rare summer resident, more common in migration.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (**Catharus minimus**) - Present only as a migrant.

Veery (**Catharus fuscescens**) - Common summer resident.

Eastern Bluebird (**Sialia sialis**) - Uncommon summer resident in all counties.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (**Poliophtila caerulea**) - Rare summer resident. The only known report was by Robert and Sue Spahn in Vilas County, July 6 to 15, 1977 (Pass. Pigeon 40(2):410).

Golden-crowned Kinglet (**Regulus satrapa**) - Rare summer and winter resident and fairly common migrant.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (**Regulus calendula**) - Uncommon summer resident and fairly common migrant. This species has been reported more on the BBS than the Golden-crowned.

Water Pipit (**Anthus spinoletta**) - Uncommon migrant, found on cultivated farm fields and sand flats on the Rainbow Flowage.

Bohemian Waxwing (**Bombycilla garrulus**) Occasional winter visitor. Most frequently seen in towns in mountain ash and crabapple trees.

Cedar Waxwing (**Bombycilla cedrorum**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Northern Shrike (**Lanius excubitor**) - Uncommon migrant, most often seen in early spring or late winter.

European Starling (**Sturnus vulgaris**) - Common permanent resident. Usually in towns or farm areas. I have also seen them nesting in Wood Duck boxes far from "civilization".

Yellow-throated Vireo (**Vireo flavifrons**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Solitary Vireo (**Vireo solitarius**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Red-eyed Vireo (**Vireo olivaceus**) - Abundant summer resident.

Philadelphia Vireo (**Vireo philadelphicus**) - Migrates through this area in unknown numbers.

Warbling Vireo (**Vireo gilvus**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Black and White Warbler (**Mniotilta varia**) - Uncommon summer resident, found throughout the area.

Golden-winged Warbler (**Vermivora chrysoptera**) - Uncommon summer resident, which can be locally more common. I have found nests of this species in Forest County.

Blue-winged Warbler (**Vermivora pinus**) - J. Baughman saw one in mid-May 1979 in Vilas County.

Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid) - One reported in Vilas County on May 14, 1978, by R. Green (Pass. Fig. 41(1):36.)

Tennessee Warbler (***Vermivora peregrina***) - Common migrant.

Orange-crowned Warbler (***Vermivora celata***) - Migrant, status unknown.

Nashville Warbler (***Vermivora ruficapilla***) - A common warbler of the wooded swamps throughout the area.

Northern Parula Warbler (***Parula americana***) - Uncommon summer resident, found in spruce swamps where *Usnea* lichen is abundant.

Yellow Warbler (***Dendroica petechia***) - Uncommon summer resident. Fairly common in the brushy parts of Thunder Marsh.

Magnolia Warbler (***Dendroica magnolia***) - rare to uncommon summer resident, fairly common migrant.

Cape May Warbler (***Dendroica tigrina***) - Rare summer resident, fairly common migrant.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (***Dendroica caerulescens***) - Uncommon summer resident, found most in northern Forest County and Eastern Vilas County.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (***Dendroica coronata***) - Fairly common summer resident in most conifer swamps. Abundant migrant.

Black-throated Green Warbler (***Dendroica virens***) - Fairly common summer resident.

Cerulean Warbler (***Dendroica cerulea***) - This warbler may be a rare summer resident. J. Baughman saw one in Vilas County on May 14, 1977.

Blackburnian Warbler (***Dendroica fusca***) - Uncommon summer resident, often found in mature hemlock stands.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (***Dendroica pensylvanica***) - Common summer resident throughout the area.

Bay-breasted Warbler (***Dendroica castanea***) - Uncommon migrant, possibly a rare summer resident. J. Baughman found a singing male in eastern Vilas County during the summers of 1979 and 1980.

Blackpoll Warbler (***Dendroica striata***) - Uncommon migrant.

Pine Warbler (***Dendroica pinus***) - Fairly common summer resident. More common in Oneida and Vilas Counties than in Forest County.

Kirtland's Warbler (***Dendroica kirtlandii***) - There is only one report for this area. On one day in May 1946, Dr. L. Almon saw a male for most of the day near her house south of Rhinelander.

Palm Warbler (***Dendroica palmarum***) - Rare summer resident and very common migrant with Yellow-rumped Warblers. This species is frequently reported at the spruce bog on Highway "A" just south of Three Lakes.

Ovenbird (***Seiurus aurocapillus***) - Abundant summer resident, found in almost all deciduous forests.

Northern Waterthrush (***Seiurus noveboracensis***) - Uncommon summer resident, found in wet spruce and cedar swamps. Can be found every year just off Highway 45 one-eighth mile south of Highway "C".

Connecticut Warbler (***Oporornis agilis***) - Uncommon summer resident. I have found it most frequently in spruce and tamarack stands; however, it was also found in jack pine stands in Vilas County by J. Baughman.

Mourning Warbler (***Oporornis philadelphia***) - Fairly common summer resident. Young aspen stands frequently harbor this species.

Common Yellowthroat (***Geothlypis trichas***) - Common summer resident.

Wilson's Warbler (**Wilsonia pusilla**) - Uncommon migrant.

Canada Warbler (**Wilsonia canadensis**) - Uncommon summer resident.

American Redstart (**Setophaga ruticilla**) - This species is not particularly common in this area. As usual, it is found around towns and farms; but because of the extensive forest areas, it is not found throughout the area.

House Sparrow (**Passer domesticus**) - This species is not particularly common in this area. As usual, it is found around towns and farms; but because of the extensive forest areas, it is not found throughout the area.

Bobolink (**Dolichonyx oryzivorus**) - Uncommon summer resident. Good Bobolink habitat is scarce over most of this area; southern Forest County probably has the most Bobolinks. They are also frequently found in the fields west of Pelican Lake in Oneida County.

Eastern Meadowlark (**Sturnella magna**) - Due to lack of extensive open habitats, meadowlarks are not common in this area. Uncommon throughout the area.

Western Meadowlark (**Sturnella neglecta**) - Even less common than the Eastern Meadowlark.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (**Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus**) - This species has been found two places in Oneida County, the Wisconsin River marshes and at Rice Lake and on Big Rice Lake in Forest County.

Red-winged Blackbird (**Agelaius phoeniceus**) - A common summer resident throughout the area.

Northern Oriole (**Icterus galbula**) - Fairly common summer resident of spoty distribution in the area.

Rusty Blackbird (**Euphagus carolinus**) - A migrant through the area of unknown status.

Brewer's Blackbird (**Euphagus cyanocephalus**) - An uncommon summer resident that seems to be more abundant during migration.

Common Grackle (**Quiscalus quiscula**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Brown-headed Cowbird (**Molothrus ater**) - Common summer resident.

Scarlet Tanager (**Piranga olivacea**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Summer Tanager (**Piranga rubra**) - Accidental summer visitor. Only record is one on the 1976 McNaughton Breeding Bird Survey, Oneida County.

Cardinal (**Cardinalis cardinalis**) - Uncommon to rare visitor this far north. I have received various reports of cardinals in Oneida County but have never seen one myself.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (**Pheucticus ludovicianus**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Black-headed Grosbeak (**Pheucticus melanocephalus**) - One report of this species is known. In January of 1980, one was a regular visitor at a feeder at Lake Thompson in Oneida County.

Indigo Bunting (**Passerina cyanea**) - Fairly common summer resident.

Dickcissil (**Spiza americana**) - This could rarely be a summer resident, having been reported regularly from Langlade County. The only report that I know of was one on the 1973 Eagle River Breeding Bird Survey, Vilas County.

Evening Grosbeak (**Hesperiphona vespertina**) - These birds are now residents throughout the year in this area. Winter numbers fluctuate quite a bit and the summer status could best be called fairly common.

Purple Finch (**Carpodacus purpureus**) - Fairly common summer resident and winter visitor of varying status.

Pine Grosbeak (**Pinicola enucleator**) - Winter resident in varying numbers. Common Redpoll (**Carduella flammea**) - Winter visitor usually of uncommon status.

Pine Siskin (**Carduella pinus**) - Uncommon summer resident, winter visitor in varying numbers.

American Goldfinch (**Carduella tristis**) - Fairly common summer resident which often winters in varying numbers.

Red Crossbill (**Loxia curvirostra**) - Rare summer resident and uncommon winter visitor.

White-winged Crossbill (**Loxia leucoptera**) - Uncommon winter visitor but usually more common than Red Crossbills.

Rufous-sided Towhee (**Pipilo erythrophthalmus**) - Uncommon summer resident throughout the area probably more common in Vilas and Oneida Counties.

Savannah Sparrow (**Passerculus sandwichensis**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Grasshopper Sparrow (**Ammodramus savannarum**) - Rare summer resident, reported four years on the McNaughton Breeding Bird Survey between 1975 and 1979.

LeConte's Sparrow (**Ammodramus leconteii**) - Rare summer resident and migrant.

Henslow's Sparrow (**Ammodramus henslowii**) - Status unknown. Dr. Lois Almon reported this species on her land in Oneida County (No Date).

Vesper Sparrow (**Poocetes gramineus**) - Uncommon summer resident, probably less common in Forest County.

Northern Junco (**Junco hyemalis**) - Uncommon summer resident, common migrant and rare winter visitor.

American Tree Sparrow (**Spizella arborea**) - Only present in the area as a migrant, not known to winter or summer in this area.

Chipping Sparrow (**Spizella passerina**) - Common summer resident.

Clay-colored Sparrow (**Spizella pallida**) - Uncommon summer resident.

Field Sparrow (**Spizella pusilla**) - Rare to uncommon summer resident.

Harris' Sparrow (**Zonotrichia querula**) - Migrant of uncommon occurrence.

White-crowned Sparrow (**Zonotrichia leucophrys**) - Uncommon migrant.

White-throated Sparrow (**Zonotrichia albicollis**) - Common summer resident throughout the area.

Fox Sparrow (**Passerella iliaca**) - Uncommon migrant.

Lincoln's Sparrow (**Melospiza lincolni**) - Uncommon summer resident; however, in the proper bog habitat, it is locally common. For example, on June 10, 1980, I found six singing males around Gobbler Lake (Oneida County) on a Scientific Areas census.

Swamp Sparrow (**Melospiza georgiana**) - Uncommon summer resident which is locally more common in good habitat as on Thunder Marsh, Oneida County.

Song Sparrow (**Melospiza melodia**) - Common summer resident throughout the area.

Lapland Longspur (***Calcarius lapponicus***) - Uncommon migrant.
Snow Bunting (***Plectrophenax nivalis***) - Fairly common migrant which often spends the winter in farm areas.

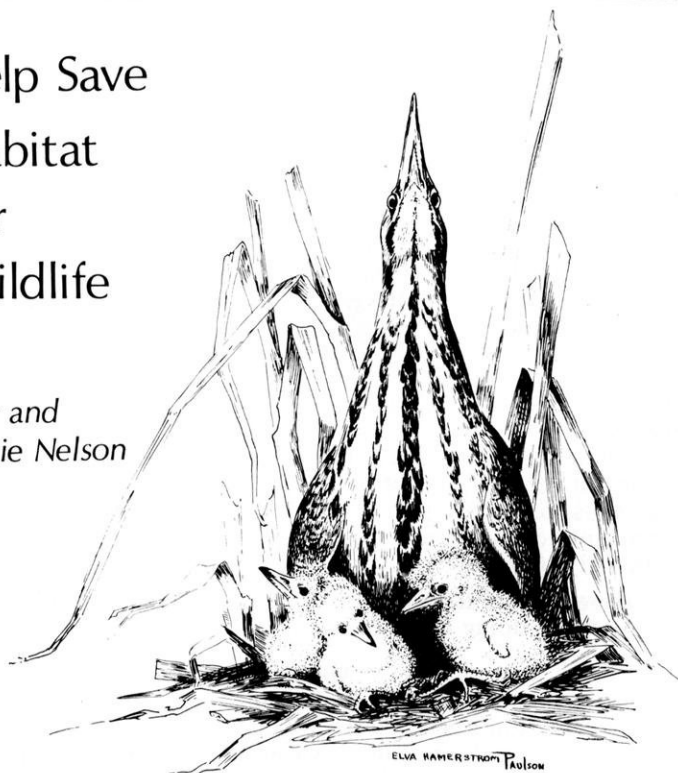
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The Birds of Putnam Park Scientific Study Area Number 134

By Robert E. Lewke and John McGovern

Introduction

Putnam Park, located in the heart of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was designated a state scientific study area (No. 134) in October 1976. Unlike many study areas, this one easily and with little travel time can be visited by a large number of professional and amateur naturalists. Paths have been established so that native flora and fauna can easily be observed. Fay (1976) published a pamphlet describing the flora of Putnam Park, but nothing has been published on the animal life. Since birds are a major animal of interest to most people, we believe this study will help people enjoy this interesting accessible example of Wisconsin nature.

Study Area

The following description of Putnam Park is taken from Read's (1976) description in the scientific and natural area report prepared for the state.

"Putnam Park consists of a 197-acre tract of natural, mostly-forested land extending in a long, curving, narrow strip (2½ miles long) through the city of Eau Claire, the University of Wisconsin campus and along the south bank of the Chippewa River. With varied topography, bedrock exposures, seepage springs, and a variety of soil types all in close proximity, Putnam Park possesses a diverse number of plant and animal habitats. Over 400 species of higher plants, including a few considered to be endangered or threatened, have been reported from the park. Inventories of birds (100 species), mammals (23 species), reptiles (6 species), amphibians (6 species), and stream fishes (5 species) have also been conducted. Of particular interest is the occurrence of bobcat (it was unfortunately shot near the park boundary), beaver, and skunk. The latter species occurs in an artificial sandy opening created for a ski-jump landing--now defunct--at the west end of the park. The major forest types in the park are northern dry-mesic woods on the steep Chippewa River valley slopes, and southern wet-mesic forest on the valley floor. Impressive Red and White Pine (reportedly virgin), Yellow Birch, Basswood, Sugar Maple, Red and White Oaks, are among the dominant tree species on the valley slope. In the lowland the important trees are River Birch, American Elm, Silver Maple, Hackberry, Red Maple and Paper Birch, with Tamarack and White Cedar found locally in the wettest portions in the east end of the park. Dutch Elm Disease has killed many elms in eastern lowland portions. A diverse number of herbaceous species and shrubs are present, and the spring ephemeral flora is especially striking."

Figure 1 shows the location of Putnam Park as well as the transects walked in the park while doing our bird counts.

Methods

Two transects of equal length (1.0 km), one each in the western and eastern segments of the study area, were established (see Fig. 1). The western transect began where the wooden fence protecting the cliff trail stopped and the transect ended after the trail reunited. The eastern transect located along

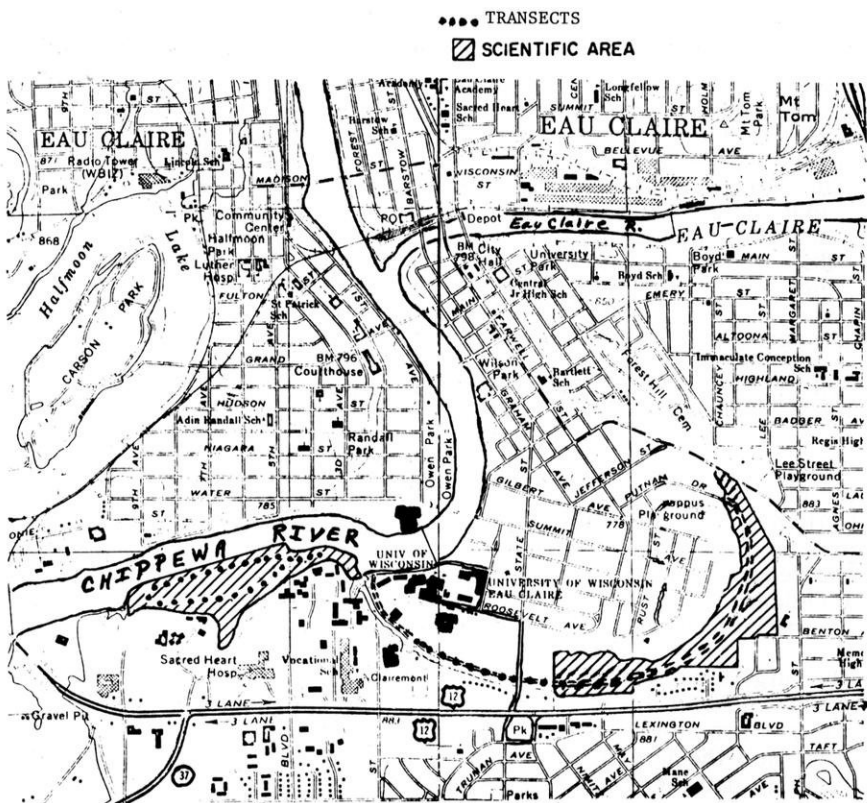
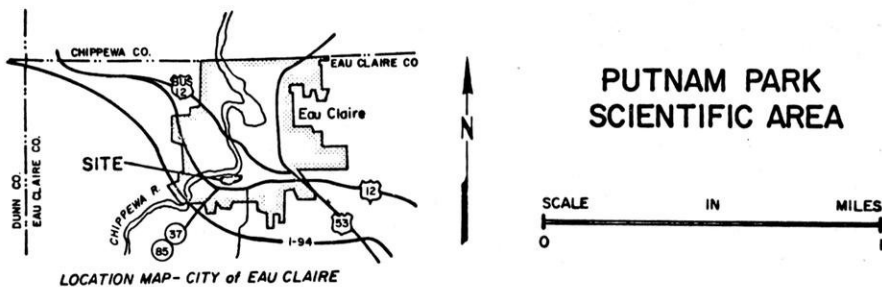


Figure 1. Putnam Park Scientific Study Area and Transects (modified from Red, 1976).

Putnam Drive started at the wooden stairs going up to UWEC upper campus and continued east to a large white pine to the left of the road with a reflector strip on it. Part of this transect is located outside the designated scientific area but within Putnam Park. Transects were slowly walked between 6 and 9 a.m. approximately three times per month -- a total of 79 censuses. One census consisted of the observations recorded on both east and west transects combined. For the majority of censuses, both parts (east and west) were done the same morning. All birds seen or heard except those across the river were recorded. The two-year study was started in January 1978 and finished in December, 1979.

Results

The results of 79 censuses of Putnam Park have been given in Table 1. Species were arranged in the phylogenetic order used in most field guides: primitive species first, most advanced species last. For each month in which a species was observed, we listed two things: average number of individuals observed per census and the frequency of occurrence (percentage of censuses on which the species was observed). All values were rounded off to the nearest whole number. A "+" was used to designate average values less than 0.5, and a "*" was used to designate a sighting off the transect or at a time other than when an official census was being conducted. These sightings were included in the total number of species observed for each month.

The values of average numbers per census should be used only by measures of relative abundance, not as absolute measures of population size. Since two km were covered during each census, the number of birds per km can be calculated to make comparisons with data from other areas.

When conducting bird censuses, there are always factors which influence the results. Poor weather conditions nearly always reduce avian activity. Certain species are very secretive and thus not often seen even though they may be very common. Also, birds that call or sing often are more easily counted than those that do not. Consequently, for some species the relative abundance values given in Table 1 do not reflect the actual abundance of the species as well as they do for other species.

The largest number of species was observed during May (55) and the smallest number during December (16). This low value may have increased if one or two more censuses had been taken. Only five were conducted. October had the largest number of individuals per census (184), whereas February had the lowest total (48).

Residency status of each species also is given in Table 1. Disagreement over the status of several species is possible since some species have a winter or summer range boundary in mid Wisconsin. Also, the status values we have chosen are for the Eau Claire area and not just Putnam Park. Consequently, a species found regularly breeding around Chippewa Falls (8 miles from Eau Claire) was classified a summer resident even though it may be infrequently seen in Putnam Park. Of the 105 species observed, 20 are permanent residents, 46 are summer residents only, 10 are winter residents only, and 29 are migrants.

Table 1. Average Number of Birds per Count, Frequency of Occurrence (% of counts on which species was observed), and Residency Status of Bird Species in Putnam Park Scientific Study Area, 1977-1978. Average is given first and then the frequency.

SPECIES	S T A T U S	MONTH												Total
		J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jy	A	S	O	N	D	
Pied-billed Grebe	S				+:13									
Mallard	P	1:14		3:57	7:100	6:100	9:71	2:50	3:50	8:86	4:80	13:86	18:60	
Black Duck	M			+:14										
Blue-winged Teal	S									*:--				
Wood Duck	S				6:100	2:71	2:29				+:20			
Bufflehead	M											*:--		
Lesser Scaup	M											1:14		
Common Goldeneye	W	17:43	*:--										2:60	
Red-tailed Hawk	M				+:25							*:--		
Bald Eagle	M				*:--									
American Kestrel	S			+:14										
Ruffed Grouse	P				+:13									
Great Blue Heron	S				+:13									
Green Heron	S									+:14				
Killdeer	S			1:29	1:50	1:71	+:29	1:33	1:50	+:14	+:20			
Spotted Sandpiper	S					+:14	+:14	1:50	+:17	+:14	*:--			
Solitary Sandpiper	M					+:29								
Lesser Yellowlegs	M								+:17					
Common Snipe	S				+:13									
Herring Gull	M										+:20			
Ring-billed Gull	M					*:--						+:14		
Common Tern	M					*:--								
Rock Dove (Pigeon)	P	1:29		1:43	1:38	1:57	3:57	+:17		6:43	2:60	+:14	4:60	

Table 1. (Continued)

SPECIES	S T A T U S	MONTH											Total	
		J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jy	A	S	O	N		D
Mourning Dove	S				1:50	1:71	1:57	+:17	+:17	+:14				
Barred Owl	P	1:86	+:29	+:29	+:38				+:17	+:14		+:14	1:60	
Common Nighthawk	S						*:--	*:--						
Chimney Swift	S					2:29	2:57	1:17	1:50					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	S						+:14							
Belted Kingfisher	S					+:29	+:29	+:17	+:17	+:14				
Common Flicker	P	+:29			5:88	2:86	3:100	4:100	3:100	4:100	1:60	1:43		
Pileated Woodpecker	P	1:57	+:29	+:43	+:25	1:43	+:14	+:33	1:50	+:14		1:43	+:20	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	P		+:14	1:57	1:63	1:57	2:100	1:50	1:50	+:29	1:40			
Red-headed Woodpecker	P						+:14							
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	S				1:38									
Hairy Woodpecker	P	2:86	1:57	2:100	2:63	2:100	2:100	2:83	2:100	2:57	3:100	2:71	1:60	
Downy Woodpecker	P	6:100	6:100	6:100	5:100	3:100	4:86	2:100	3:83	2:71	4:100	3:100	3:80	
Great Crested Flycatcher	S				+:13	4:71	6:100	3:100	2:67	1:43				
Eastern Phoebe	S				+:25	+:29	*:--							
Eastern Wood Pewee	S					1:71	2:86	2:83	2:67					
Barn Swallow	S					*:--								
Tree Swallow	S				2:50	2:43	*:--	*:--	+:17					
Rough-winged Swallow	S				+:13	1:14	2:57	*:--						
Purple Martin	S							+:17	1:17					
Blue Jay	P	2:86	1:43	4:100	5:100	6:100	4:86	6:100	9:100	14:100	4:100	2:86	1:40	
Common Crow	P	6:100	8:100	12:100	13:100	10:100	12:100	6:100	10:100	11:100	15:100	8:100	11:100	
Black-capped Chickadee	P	10:86	13:100	14:100	7:100	3:86	5:100	12:100	18:100	9:100	14:80	10:100	5:80	
Tufted Titmouse	P				*:--									
White-breasted Nuthatch	P	3:100	5:86	6:100	3:88	3:86	3:100	3:83	4:100	5:100	4:80	5:100	2:80	

Table 1. (Continued)

SPECIES	S T A T U S	MONTH												Total
		J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jy	A	S	O	N	D	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	W		*:--	+:14	+:13						1:20	+:14		
Brown Creeper	W	4:100	3:86	5:100	1:38						2:80	7:100	3:80	
House Wren	S				+:13	1:57	2:100	1:83	1:33	+:14				
Winter Wren	M				+:13									
Catbird	S					2:57	3:100	2:100	6:100	4:100				
Brown Thrasher	S				+:25	2:71	1:43	1:50	+:17					
American Robin	S			1:29	4:75	7:100	11:100	5:83	5:100	7:100	10:100	+:14		
Swainson's Thrush	M									1:43				
Gray-checked Thrush	M									+:14				
Hermit Thrush	M										+:40			
Veery	S								+:17					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	S					1:29	1:14	+:17						
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	M				1:25									
Golden-crowned Kinglet	M										6:60			
Cedar Waxwing	P				1:13	2:14	2:29	1:33	+:17	1:29	+:20	1:43		
Starling	P			1:29	10:88	8:100	2:71	2:67	4:67	8:71	7:40	2:29		
Solitary Vireo	S					+:14								
Red-eyed Vireo	S					2:71	3:100	2:83	1:67	+:14				
Warbling Vireo	S				1:25	+:14								
Black and White Warbler	M								1:33	1:43				
Blue-winged Warbler	M					+:14	+:14							
Nashville Warbler	M					+:14				+:14				
Magnolia Warbler	M									*:--				
Tennessee Warbler	M					1:29								

Table 1. (Continued)

SPECIES	S T A T U S	MONTH												Total
		J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jy	A	S	O	N	D	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	M				4:50	1:14								
Blackburnian Warbler	M								+17					
Pine Warbler	S					*:--	*:--							
Palm Warbler	M				+13									
Ovenbird	S									2:29				
Yellowthroat	S					+29	+14	+17		+43				
Mourning Warbler	M									+14				
Wilson's Warbler	M								+17					
American Redstart	S								2:33	+14				
Black-throated Green Warbler	M									+14				
Miscellaneous Warblers	-								12:50	15:100	11:60			
House Sparrow	P				1:50	2:71	1:43	+33	+33			+14		
Eastern Meadowlark	S						+14							
Red-winged Blackbird	S			1:29	5:100	5:100	2:86	1:50			1:20	+14		
Common Grackle	S			3:29	8:88	8:100	17:100	5:67	1:33	2:43	5:100	10:14		
Brown-headed Cowbird	S				5:63	9:100	4:100	1:50						
Northern Oriole	S					5:86	2:86	1:67	1:100					
Scarlet Tanager	S									+14				
Cardinal	P		*:--	1:71	3:100	3:100	3:100	3:100	2:67	2:86	2:100	+14		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	S					1:86	3:86	1:100	2:83	1:43	1:40			
Evening Grosbeak	W	3:43												1:20
Pine Grosbeak	W	4:14												
Indigo Bunting	S					+29	1:43		+17					
Purple Finch	W		2:43	3:14	1:25					+14	+20			

Table 1. (Continued)

SPECIES	S T A T U S	MONTH												Total
		J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jy	A	S	O	N	D	
Common Redpoll	W	2:14	1:29											
Pine Siskin	W	5:43	7:29	10:29	7:38	2:29				3:14	13:40	9:43	21:40	
American Goldfinch	P	5:43	1:14	5:71	3:63	2:71	2:71	3:83	4:100	3:86	5:60	6:86	12:80	
White-winged Crossbill	W													*:--
Song Sparrow	S			+14	3:88	2:71	2:57	2:67	1:50	1:29	+20			
Dark-eyed Junco	W			+29	6:25					+14	17:80	6:71		
Chipping Sparrow	S				+13	+29	+29	+17						
Field Sparrow	S							+17						
White-throated Sparrow	M				+25	1:57				28:86	44:100			
Fox Sparrow	M										7:80	+14		
Total Species:		18	17	26	51	55	48	42	42	46	33	28	16	105
Avg. No. at Ind. per census:		73	48	80	124	119	124	77	104	141	184	87	85	-
No. of Censuses:		7	7	7	8	7	7	6	6	7	5	7	5	79 (2 yrs)

+ : less than 0.5 per census

* : recorded off transect or at times other than actual census

1 : P = Permanent Resident; S = Summer Resident; W = Winter Resident; M = Migrant (Residency as determined in Eau Claire area)

Discussion

Although Table 1 represents a comprehensive two-year study of Putnam Park, it does not list all species that have been observed there by reputable observers. Below is a list of species we did not see but have been reported in the park by Paul Blanchard. Blanchard has been photographing the birds of Putnam Park for the last 15 years.

Screech Owl (*Otus asio*), perm. res.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), perm. res.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), sum. res.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), sum. res., nested in Putnam Park in 1971 but has not been seen since then.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), sum. res.; reported nesting along bank of Chippewa River in western section of Putnam Park in summer of 1981.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), sum. res.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), sum. res.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), wint. res.

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), wint. res.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), migrant; not reported in park but observed by Lewke just outside of it.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), migrant.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*), migrant.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), migrant.

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), migrant.

With these species added to the species reported in Table 1, the total number of species for the study area is 118.

The group of birds least accurately reported in Table 1 is the warblers. Depending on weather conditions, time, and date, large numbers of these small insectivores can be seen. Therefore, the data we report for them should not be considered as reliable as, for instance, the data for Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), which are all common, easily identifiable species. We did group all unidentified warblers into a "miscellaneous warbler" category which does show peak warbler movement through the park in August, September and October. A similar peak occurs in May but does not appear in our data. This occurred for two reasons: first, spring warblers are more easily recognized thus less are listed as miscellaneous, and second, we probably missed any concentrated flights while we were censusing the park.

As mentioned earlier, each census consisted of a count on each of the two transects (west and east). The west transect is more of a floodplain and less "urbanized" than the east transect which borders the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and residential areas. McGovern (1978) compared the two transects in his one-year study and found 21 species exclusive to the western transect and eight exclusive to the eastern transect. Many of these were single sightings and thus may falsely represent uniqueness to one transect or the other. With a second year of data, we can more confidently list those species which occur more commonly on one or the other transect. The following list may be used to help birders find specific species in the park.

West Transect

Ducks

Shorebirds

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)Belted Kingfisher
(*Megaceryle alcyon*)Pileated Woodpecker
(*Dryocopus pileatus*)Red-Bellied Woodpecker
(*Centurus carolinus*)

Swallows

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
(*Polioptila melanura*)**East Transect (Putnam Drive)**Great Crested Flycatcher
(*Myiarchus crinitus*)Red-breasted Nuthatch
(*Sitta canadensis*)Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla
cedrorum*)Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)Purple Finch
(*Carpodacus purpureus*)Common Redpoll
(*Carduelis flammea*)Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)White-throated Sparrow
(*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

Water birds are drawn to the west transect because of its closeness to the Chippewa River. The swallows are also drawn to the water but also are attracted by the cliff habitat just before the west transect begins. The Barred Owl and Pileated Woodpecker prefer wet woodlands (Peterson, 1963) which the west transect represents. They are probably also avoiding the more urban eastern transect although both species were recorded on the eastern transect as well.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin were attracted to the large white pine trees along the eastern transect. The Yellowthroat and White-throated Sparrow were attracted to the small creek (Little Niagra) and surrounding shrubs which parallel the eastern transect.

The most abundant birds in the park are familiar to most people. In winter the Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), and Pine Siskin cannot be missed. In summer the Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Blue Jay, American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) replace the creeper and siskins but the crow, chickadee, downy, and nuthatch remain very common. All of these species have high frequency values (see Table 1), thus not only are many seen but one nearly always can see them when visiting the park.

During migrations the warblers are sporadically abundant and in fall the White-throated Sparrow is very abundant. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) can almost always be seen along the Chippewa River bordering the western section of the park.

Readers are referred to McGovern's (1978) study and Kemper's (1974) annotated checklist of the birds of Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties for a

description of exact arrival and departure dates for migrating species and ecological information for each species.

Summary

We have presented data which will be helpful to all who use Putnam Park Scientific Study Area. For the professional, the data presented in Table 1 can be used to compare the avian community of this area with that of others. This study can be used with subsequent studies of the same area to show population trends for each species.

For the occasional birders these data can show during what month specific species can be seen, how many of each species they will see, and, perhaps more important, what their chances of seeing the species is.

One hundred eighteen species of birds have been observed in Putnam Park Scientific Study Area.

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Breeding Bird Distributions Along the Bois Brule River

By Michael John Jaeger

Northern Wisconsin, while usually known for its abundance of lakes and bogs, has many beautiful and diverse river systems. One of these is the Bois Brule River, which flows northward into Lake Superior. The Bois Brule watershed is well known for its ecological diversity, particularly that of its birdlife. I had the opportunity to spend the month of June 1980 studying the birdlife of the river basin while preparing an ecological survey for a number of landowners, whose property borders the river's middle section. In this paper I identify the general habitat distributions of the breeding birds encountered during my studies.

The Bois Brule River is located in the eastern portion of Douglas County, Wisconsin. Although this river is only 44 miles in length between its headwaters near Solon Springs and its mouth at Lake Superior, it is a well-known and cherished natural resource. It has a colorful past history involving early explorers, trappers, traders, missionaries and loggers.

The Bois Brule is Wisconsin's most famous trout stream. The river supports an excellent trout fishery and people travel from throughout the midwest to try their luck. The recreational value of the river valley was recognized early, and its immediate watershed was set aside as a State Forest in 1906. Today the outer boundary of the Brule River State Forest encompasses all of the stream and about 52,000 gross acres within the boundary, with over 33,000 acres in actual State ownership.

In the early 1940's, the Wisconsin Academy undertook a detailed study of the Bois Brule watershed, including analyses of fishing, geology, hydrology, and vegetation. These reports indicated that in many ways the Brule and its surrounding watershed were unusual. The study area of this paper appeared to be particularly unusual, for in 1943, unlike much of the watershed, it still contained plant communities that were essentially as they had been described by the early government surveyors (Fassett 1944). According to Fassett, a "bog" of "dense cedars, tamaracks and alder swamps" in "nearly its original condition" remained along the river. Most of the uplands consisted of sandy barrens of scattered jack pine and scrub oak which Fassett had described as "just as it was a century ago." Much of the land within the current study area is still in this undisturbed, natural condition.

The diverse bird communities of the Bois Brule watershed have been referred to by a number of authors but no detailed studies have been undertaken. Bernard (1967) in his "Birds of Douglas County" mentioned it as a special feature of the county, particularly for the many species of warblers and the typically boreal species that could be found. Klugow (1976) called the area "the setting for some of the finest bird watching in the state." A number of rare or unusual birds have been noted, including the Cape May Warbler (Robbins 1973), the Connecticut Warbler (Robbins 1974) and the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (Bernard 1964, Korotev 1978, Thiel 1979). I prepared this paper in hopes of adding a few details to the available information on the birdlife of this remarkable area.

Study Area and Methods

The study area consists of approximately 5,700 acres of private lands located in 15 sections of T47N R10W, T46N R10W and T46N R11W of Douglas County. The area extends from about one-half mile southwest of the Stone's Bridge on County Highway S to about one mile north of the Winneboujou Bridge on County Highway B. The study area borders the river and extends to distances of up to one mile from it. It is not a continuous tract but is broken up by State Forest lands. The general boundary is shown on Map 1.

The delineation and composition of the major vegetation types were determined by Susan Brooke and Barbara Bedford. They prepared vegetation maps using aerial photographs, forestry reconnaissance maps and field surveys.

The distribution of the birds were determined primarily from direct sampling of representative areas. Point samples were taken within each vegetation type, with most sampling done in the early morning hours. Each sample lasted at least 15 minutes and over 100 such points were sampled between 3 June and 30 June 1980. Other incidental observations were also used in determining species distributions. Data on two species, the Bald Eagle and Osprey, were obtained from file records of the Brule River Ranger Station of the Brule River State Forest.

Vegetation Types

The study site is a complex biological system. We divided it into nine biologically meaningful vegetation associations or types. These nine vegetation types cover the majority of the land within the study area. It should be noted that while the definitions and exact boundaries of these are somewhat arbitrary, they were useful for the purposes of the ecological report to the landowners.

The vegetation types can be grouped into two categories: upland and lowland. The lowland types were located on lands where the water table was at or near the ground's surface, while the upland types were found on lands where the water table was well below the surface and had little direct effect on the vegetation present. The lowland types are the lowland conifers, cedar swamps, lowland hardwoods and alder thickets. The upland types are the pine forests, northern hardwoods, aspens, barrens and pine plantations.

A brief description of the dominant characteristics of each vegetation type follows:

Lowland conifers: This type is a mixture of conifer trees, dominated by Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), Tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*). Also found, but to a lesser extent, are White Spruce (*Picea glauca*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*).

Cedar Swamps: This type is usually located within or adjacent to the lowland conifers type. They are differentiated from the lowland conifers by the amount of White Cedar in the tree canopy. The cedar swamps have a canopy of more than 50 percent White Cedar.

Lowland hardwoods: This is another type that blends into the lowland conifers. The lowland hardwoods are distinguished by having broad-leaved tree species comprising more than 50 percent of the canopy. The dominant

broad-leaved tree is the Black Ash (**Fraxinus nigra**) with lesser amounts of Balsam Poplar (**Populus balsamifera**), Mountain Maple and Red Maple mixed in. Most of the trees of the lowland conifers type are found in small amounts.

Alder thickets: This treeless vegetation type is usually found immediately adjacent to the river. Its canopy is dominated by alder shrubs (**alnus rugosa**).

Pine forests: This type has Red Pine (**Pinus resinosa**) and White Pine (**Pinus strobus**), or a mixture of the two, comprising more than 50 percent of the tree cover. The pines in the study area are extremely large, often with greater than 20 inch DBH. Other trees mixed in with the big pines include trees characteristic of the lowland conifers, northern hardwoods and aspens vegetation types.

Northern hardwoods: This type is dominated by a mixture of White Birch, Red Maple, Red Oak (**Quercus rubra**), Trembling Aspen (**Populus tremuloides**) and Large-toothed Aspen (**Populus grandidentata**). Sometimes pines are mixed in but usually birch and oak dominate this type.

Aspens: This type is characterized by dense stands dominated by Trembling Aspen and Big-toothed Aspen. The trees in these stands are often even-aged and have resulted from logging activities.

Barrens: The barrens are characterized by two main tree species, the scrubby Hill's Oak (**Quercus ellipsoidal**) and the Jack Pine (**Pinus banksiana**). Two other species are usually present but are less common, the Burr Oak (**Quercus macrocarpa**) and the Red Pine. This type is actually a composite of types, ranging from dense stands of Hill's Oaks to dense stands of Jack Pines, through a variety of types in which the two tree species intermix. Also present are grassy and shrubby openings where the tree cover is greatly reduced.

Pine plantations: These are even-aged stands of Red and Jack Pine which have been planted on the sandy uplands for forestry purposes.

Birds

From my observations I constructed Table 1 which shows the general habitat distributions of birds in the study area. In addition to the vegetation types previously described, a category is included for those birds observed only along the river. This table does not represent a detailed analysis, nor does it imply that each species is found only in those vegetation types indicated, rather it represents those areas in which I saw each species in the course of this limited study.

One of the main purposes for this study was to identify areas that contained rare or unique species. I have included in Table 1 the relative status of each species in northern Wisconsin (from Barger *et al* 1960) and in Douglas County (from Bernard 1967). I also identified species which are considered endangered or threatened, either in Wisconsin or nationally.

Discussion

Ten of the bird species encountered during this study are considered endangered or rare in northern Wisconsin. In addition, two other species, while not actually observed during this study, have been noted in the Passenger Pigeon as occurring in this region. These species are the Black-

backed Three-toed Woodpecker and the Cape May Warbler. A few comments about each of these twelve species follows:

Green Heron: This species, while common in the southern part of the state, is considered rare in the north (Barger et al 1960). Two individuals were observed along the Little Brule River.

Bald Eagle and Osprey: Two nesting pairs of Ospreys and a nesting Bald Eagle pair were observed along this stretch of the Brule. Both species are on Wisconsin's Endangered Species List. The Bald Eagle is also on the Federal Threatened Species List, while the Osprey seems to be holding its own in the nation as a whole and is not considered either threatened or endangered nationally. These species are similar in many ways. They both feed on fish they catch in the Brule River, both need large tracts of land, both nest in tall trees that project above the surrounding vegetation and both have a long history of nesting along the Brule. These species will have a good future in the Brule region if their nesting habitats, stands of tall red and white pines, are preserved.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: This woodpecker was not observed in the present study, but a number of references in the literature strongly suggest that it is a resident in this area. Bernard (1967) considers it a rare permanent resident that nests locally in the county and Barger et al (1960) consider it a rare permanent resident in the northern part of the state.

In a review of the distribution of this species in Wisconsin, Thiel (1978) noted that the largest number of observations have come from Douglas County. He suggests that it might be more common than originally thought because its secretive behavior makes it difficult to gather data about its breeding activities. He goes on to note that the Brule River area has been a very active area for observations. Bernard (1964) found a nest in a White Cedar in the vicinity of Stone's Bridge, but no further details about the habitat were given. Korotev (1978) reports another nest near the Brule, within sight of Stone's Bridge. This nest was in a dead tamarack tree.

It appears that the lowland conifers community in this region is part of the nesting range of this rare species. This nesting range might also include parts of the cedar swamp community.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The presence of this flycatcher is of note. A few were observed in stands of lowland hardwoods. Barger et al (1960) consider it a rare summer resident in northern Wisconsin and Bernard (1967) considers it uncommon in Douglas County.

Editor's Note: This bird was seen and heard at the June, 1981 WSO summer camp-out in the Chequamegon National Forest in Taylor County.

Swainson's Thrush: A few Swainson's Thrushes were heard singing in the lowland conifers community, although I was not able to get a look at one to verify its identity. Bernard (1967) considers this thrush an uncommon summer resident in the county and Barger et al (1960) consider it a rare summer resident in the northern part of the state.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: This was heard singing in only one location. Bernard (1967) considers it a rare summer resident in the county while Barger et al (1960) consider it a very rare summer resident in the northern part of the state. The only sighting during this study occurred in a stand of lowland conifers near McDougal Springs in Section 29 of T46N R10W. This area is

very swampy, with many springs and channels of flowing water. Heavy shrub growth and many downed trees are present here. In addition, this area had cedar trees mixed in with the spruces and firs.

Cape May Warbler: Until recently the Cape May Warbler was considered primarily a migrant through the state. It is considered a very rare summer resident in northern Wisconsin. (Barger et al 1960) and was not considered a summer resident in Douglas County at all (Bernard 1967). A few scattered summer reports were made before 1919. A report of a probable nesting in Forest County was given by Lound and Lound (1963). More recently, Robbins (1973) has reported singing males in a few spruce bogs in Ashland, Forest, Iron and Price Counties.

Of more importance in Robbins's report was the finding of a small colony of Cape Mays in Douglas County along the Brule River. Most of these observations were out of the study area, occurring in a stand of spruce and oak along the river near the Highway P bridge, about five miles north of Solon Springs. In addition, however, Robbins made a canoe trip on the Brule River through the present study area and found three singing Cape Mays. I also heard on a couple of occasions songs which sounded like this warbler but could not locate them to verify. It appears that the spruce forests along the Brule comprise the major foothold of this species in the state.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: This warbler is considered a rare summer resident in both the county and the state (Bernard 1967, Barger et al 1960). I found the Black-throated Blue in only one location during this study, a stand dominated by White Birch, with a heavy growth of shrubs and scattered 10 to 15-foot tall conifers.

Connecticut Warbler: This species was found many times in the barrens community. In addition, a few were also observed in nearby pine plantations.

The summer status of the Connecticut Warbler is not certain, but it appears that this species is more common in northern Wisconsin today than was previously thought. It was considered rare in northern Wisconsin by Barger et al (1960), although Gromme (1963) called it an uncommon summer resident. Bernard (1967) thought it was apparently rare and local in Douglas County. Robbins (1974), however, has presented information that points to the conclusion that this species is a relatively common summer resident in certain areas. He found a large number of singing Connecticut Warblers in Douglas and Bayfield Counties in 1973 and 1974.

It appears from my observations that the sandy uplands near the Brule River support a sizable population of this warbler, and that it can be found in both the barrens community and in a certain age-class of pine plantations, as was reported by Robbins.

Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbill: Two other species of note in the lowland conifers community are the Evening Grosbeak and the Red Crossbill. The distribution, abundances and seasonal movements of these species vary from year to year, probably the result of unstable food supplies. Along with the other winter finches they exhibit an irregular pattern of irruptions.

Both species were observed in this study. A small flock of Crossbills was occasionally seen throughout the river valley near Cedar Island, mostly in the

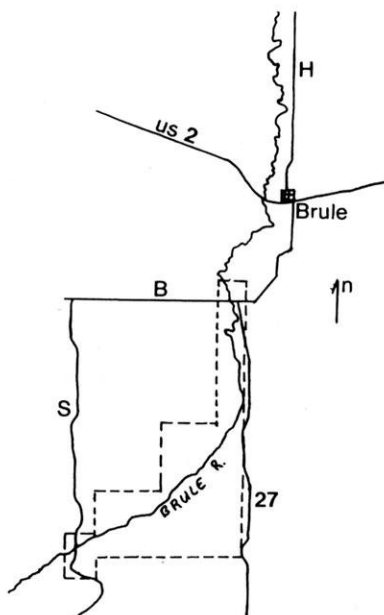
lowland conifers stands. Evening Grosbeaks were also seen in the lowland conifers in many locations along the river, but they were more often seen in pine plantations on the uplands.

Acknowledgements

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Map 1. General Location of the Study Area.

Species	Status: Douglas Co.	Status: N. Wisc.	River	Lowland Conifers	Cedar Swamps	Lowland Hardwoods	Alder Thickets	Pine Forests	Northern Hardwoods	Aspens	Barrens	Pine Plantations
Great Blue Heron	S	C	X									
Green Heron	R	R	X									
Mallard	C	C	X									
Hooded Merganser	LL	U	X									
Common Merganser	U	U	X									
Turkey Vulture	R	U										
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U			X							
Red-tailed Hawk	U	C									X	
Broad-winged Hawk	U	FC			X				X			
Bald Eagle	U	U ^{1/}						X				
Osprey	U	U ^{1/}						X				
Ruffed Grouse	I	C									X	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	U	FC									X	
Black-billed Cuckoo	LC	C		X		X				X	X	X
Barred Owl	U	FC						X				
Whip-poor-will	LC	FC						X	X		X	
Common Nighthawk	C	C									X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	FC										
Belted Kingfisher	C	FC	X									
Common Flicker	C	C						X				X
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U		X	X			X				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	FC			X					X		
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C		X				X				
Downy Woodpecker	C	C				X				X		
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	R	R		X								

Table 1. Breeding Bird Habitat Distributions

Symbols used in Table 1: A - Abundant; C - Common; FC - Fairly Common; I - Irregular; L - Local; LC - Locally Common, LL - Limited and Local; LU - Locally Uncommon; R - Rare; U - Uncommon; VR - Very Rare; 1/ - Endangered in the state; 2/ - Status poorly known.

Table 1. (Continued)

Species	Status: Douglas Co.	Status: N. Wisc.	River	Lowland Conifers	Cedar Swamps	Lowland Hardwoods	Alder Thickets	Pine Forests	Northern Hardwoods	Aspens	Barrens	Pine Plantations
Eastern Kingbird	C	C										X
Great Crested Flycatcher	C	FC		X		X	X	X		X	X	
Eastern Phoebe	U	C		X		X	X					
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	R				X						
Alder Flycatcher	C	FC					X					
Least Flycatcher	C	FC		X	X			X	X	X		
Eastern Wood Pewee	C	C							X	X	X	X
Olive-sided Flycatcher	LU	U		X		X	X					
Tree Swallow	C	C									X	X
Blue Jay	C	A		X		X		X		X	X	X
Common Raven	U	FC										
Common Crow	C	A		X	X	X		X				
Black-capped Chickadee	C	A		X	X	X		X		X	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	FC			X					X		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	FC		X	X	X		X		X		X
Brown Creeper	U	U			X	X						
House Wren	C	C										X
Winter Wren	LC	U		X	X	X		X				
Gray Catbird	C	C					X					
Brown Thrasher	C	C					X					X
American Robin	C	A		X		X		X		X	X	X
Wood Thrush	LU	U										
Swainson's Thrush	U	R		X				X				
Veery	C	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	FC		X	X	X						X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	R	VR		X								
Cedar Waxwing	C	C		X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Solitary Vireo	U	FC		X		X		X				
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C				X		X	X	X	X	
Warbling Vireo	U	C				X				X		

Table 1. (Continued)

Species	Status: Douglas Co.	Status: N. Wisc.	River	Lowland Conifers	Cedar Swamps	Lowland Hardwoods	Alder Thickets	Pine Forests	Northern Hardwoods	Aspens	Barrens	Pine Plantations
Common Yellowthroat	C	C				X	X			X	X	X
Canada Warbler	U	FC		X	X	X	X			X		
American Redstart	C	C						X		X	X	
Red-winged Blackbird	C	A				X	X					
Northern Oriole	C	C								X		
Common Grackle	C	C										
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C								X	X	X
Scarlet Tanager	C	FC						X			X	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C						X		X	X	X
Indigo Bunting	LC	C							X	X	X	X
Evening Grosbeak	LU	R		X	X							X
Purple Finch	C	FC		X								
American Goldfinch	C	C		X			X					
Red Crossbill	I	R,I		X								
Rufous-sided Towhee	LC	FC								X	X	X
Vesper Sparrow	C	C										X
Chipping Sparrow	C	C		X						X	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow	C	FC									X	X
Field Sparrow	R,L	C										X
White-throated Sparrow	C	C		X	X	X	X					
Swamp Sparrow	C	C					X					
Song Sparrow	C	C					X			X	X	X
Black-and-white Warbler	U	C		X		X		X	X	X		
Golden-winged Warbler	LU-R	FC					X			X		
Nashville Warbler	C	FC		X						X	X	X
Northern Parula	LC	FC		X	X	X		X	X			
Magnolia Warbler		U-R	FC			X	X	X				
Cape May Warbler		<u>2/</u>	VR			X						
Black-throated Blue Warbler	R	R							X			
Yellow-rumped Warbler	U	U			X			X				X
Black-throated Green Warbler	C	C		X	X	X		X	X			

Table 1. (Continued)

Species	Status: Douglas Co.	Status: N. Wisc.	River	Lowland Conifers	Cedar Swamps	Lowland Hardwoods	Alder Thickets	Pine Forests	Northern Hardwoods	Aspens	Barrens	Pine Plantations
Blackburnian Warbler	LC	FC		X	X	X		X				
Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	C						X	X	X	X	
Pine Warbler	C	FC						X				
Ovenbird	C	C		X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Northern Waterthrush	U	U		X	X							
Connecticut Warbler	3/	VR									X	X
Mourning Warbler	LC	FC		X		X	X			X	X	

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Comment by Sam Robbins: In content I find myself very much in agreement. I'm enclosing a copy of some birding I did in the same area between 1962 and 1966. I presume Mike's observations were land-based, while mine were all on canoe trips between Stone's Bridge and Winnebou-jou. So my observations would lack his upland investigations (sparrows, Connecticut Warbler, grouse, Whip-poor-will), and he would have had less experience with species directly associated with the water (swallows, Spotted Sandpiper, Herring Gull, some ducks).

About the only surprises I see in the species list are the absence of Wood and Hermit Thrushes. He does not even mention the Hermit as a Northern Wisconsin bird. I encountered it but rarely on the canoe trips; but in the upland areas I would think there might be quite a few. Woods would be lowland woods birds; and as you can see from my list, I encountered a few nearly every year.

I see a few surprises in the habitat preference lists, but these are probably due to the fact that most stands are not pure cedar, pure pine, etc. I'm surprised that Vesper and Field Sparrows are not listed under "pine forests", that Red Crossbill is not listed under "pine plantations", that White-breasted Nuthatch is listed under "cedar swamp", etc. But these are minor points. No two observers will come out with precisely the same listings of habitat preference.

All in all, I think it is a splendid article.

Sam Robbins

Wisconsin's Second Recorded Merlin Nest

By Charles Sindelar and Allen K. Jacobson

On 25 June, 1967, while investigating the Rainbow Reservoir in Oneida County, Wisconsin, for Ospreys (**Pandion haliaetus**) and Bald Eagles (**Haliaeetus leucocephalus**), we located Wisconsin's second recorded Merlin (**Falco columbarius**) nest. (The first had been found on one of the Apostle Islands just ten months previously (Passenger Pigeon 29: (1) 17-18).

We had approached a Bald Eagle nest, causing one of the adult eagles to circle the area in protest. Almost immediately a small noisy falcon appeared and began harrassing the eagle.

Although the aerial maneuvers were high overhead and mostly hidden by the dense forest canopy, it was immediately obvious that the small falcon was a Merlin.

The eagle soon drifted off, and the Merlin disappeared into the trees, about 200 yards from us. As we walked toward it we were soon greeted by both noisy adult falcons. After about 45 minutes of searching, we found the nest.

This Merlin nest was difficult to find because the adults defended a very large area (unlike some birds which merely defend the immediate area surrounding the nest).

The area surrounding the nest tree contained a few mature Red Pine (**Pinus resinosa**), several tamarack (**Larix americana**), and Black Spruce (**Picea mariana**).

The nest tree was several rods from the tip of a narrow wooded peninsula which extends into a marshy area on the shore of Rainbow Reservoir. The nest was about five feet below the top of a 25 foot Black Spruce, close to the trunk and about a foot in diameter.

On our first visit, 25 June, 1967, we saw both adult Merlins, and in the nest were two downy young and one egg (the young were very small and certainly less than one week old). We returned on 8 July, 1967, and banded (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg band) the two young and found that the egg had disappeared. On our third visit, 14 July, 1967, we were accompanied by Tom Erdman, who intended to capture proof of "our find" on film (see fig. 1). At this time the nest was empty and we were able to find only one of the two young, although both adults were still present and very defensive of the area.

On 23 July, 1967, we again checked the nest. This time we were accompanied by Dr. Frances Hamerstrom, Frank Renn, Wayman Walker II, and John Hart. We were unable to find the young, but both adults were present and defensive, and it seems likely that at least one of the young was alive and nearby.

On 6 August, 1967, we returned to the nest area, and after remaining for about two hours, we left without sighting a falcon.

We found no food remains in the nest or in the area on any of our five visits.

We don't believe that they nested here the previous season, as we walked through this same area during June of 1966 to reach the eagle nest, and we were unaware of their presence.



Figure 1: Young Merlin that had just recently left the nest, July 14, 1968, Oneida County, Wisconsin -- Photo by Tom Erdman.

On 13 May, 1968, Don Follen, Sr. and Sindelar returned to the area. When we were about one-quarter mile away from the 1967 nest location, we were greeted by both noisy adult falcons. At this early date, not wanting to chance causing the adults to desert their nest, we did not go closer to see if they were using the same nest as they had in 1967.

I intended to return at a later date to check for nest success but was unable to make the second check.

We returned to the area a number of times during the 1969 breeding season and saw an adult male Merlin on one occasion. It did not protest our presence or in any way indicate that it had a nest nearby, and it soon disappeared. On none of our checks in 1969 did we see the adult female.

We searched the area extensively during the 1970 breeding season, and Sindelar visited the area almost every breeding season between 1970 and 1978 and saw no Merlins.

Some of these observations were made while doing a survey of Ospreys in Wisconsin which was partially funded by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Their significant assistance is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

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Allen K. Jacobson, 112 King Rd., Pikeville, Kentucky 41501

Summer Saw-whet in Adams County

By Don G. Follen, Sr.

On July 18, 1981, I received a call from Mrs. Edwin Hoffman of Rural Nekoosa saying they had found a little owl and would I come to take care of it as it had an injured wing. Since I was working on banding Osprey at the time and the only nest we had left was only two miles away from the Hoffmans; it was right on target and convenient to check on the owl. The story goes that Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Eberius of Wisconsin Rapids had been coming to visit with the Hoffmans and turned around in a driveway to take another look at some deer in a field. While turning around they saw this 'thing' hanging on the barbed wire and flipping about. Upon checking they found an immature plummaged Saw-whet Owl, (*Aegolius acadicus*) hanging on the fence. They removed the young owl and took it to Mrs. Eberius' Sister-in-law, hence Mrs. Hoffman.

The young owl was caught by the front of the wing midway along the humerus bone and that section of the wing that constitutes the secondaries. The skin and feathers had been twisted off completely for one inch and the humerus was exposed completely. Apparently there is little circulation needed for the distal end of the wings as there was very little blood present and one would tend to think that in an excited state of physiological emotion that the little owl would have bled to death in little time. The bird has since been sent to the Northwoods Animal Hospital in Minoqua for treatment.

The author is presently assembling all known breeding and summer records for the Saw-whet Owl in Wisconsin as the official records for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and Adams County is not on the list. The above mentioned bird therefore constitutes the first summer record for the Saw-whet Owl in Adams County and a hypothetical but probable breeding record. The area in which the owl was found is primarily a scrub red oak and mixed jack pine area similar to that in Juneau County where we found a nest of four young on June 24, 1977. This is in the town of Rome on County Trunk D three miles east of County Trunk Z and southeast of Nekoosa about ten miles, which in reality is just across the Wisconsin River by a mile or two from the above mentioned Juneau County record of 1977.

LITERATURE CITED:

Passenger Pigeon 39:271, Don G. Follen Sr.

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Seventh State Record For Groove-billed Ani

James F. and Amy K. Steffen

An adult Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) was found dead by Mrs. Lorraine Hoffman under a spruce tree at her home in Two Rivers on

November 18, 1979. Subsequently, Mrs. Hoffman's son reported a possible sighting of a second ani in a wooded area near her home. However, that sighting could not be verified.

The bird was believed to have died from starvation or freezing temperatures. It was very thin and had no fat deposits. The stomach contained some remains of berries and grapes. The specimen was given to the Richter Natural History Collection at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (catalogue No. UWGB 1800-R).

Erdman and Cook (1975) listed 5 state records for the Groove-billed Ani including the last recorded specimen which was at Green Bay in 1975. However, a previous unpublished record was omitted from their paper. A male Groove-billed Ani was collected by Robert Ellarson on October 7, 1973 in Iowa Co. It is now in the University of Wisconsin Zoological collection at Madison (catalogue No. UWZA 20266). Therefore, the bird reported here represents the 7th state record and the first record for Manitowoc County. This November 18 specimen is also the latest record for the state. The previous others being in October.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Tom Erdman, UWGB, for information about the previously omitted record and Dr. Bob Ruff for assistance in obtaining data on the UW zoological Museum specimen.

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920 A. N. 16th St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220

(Editors Note: As this goes to press, there has been another Groove-billed Ani report. This one was found dead alongside a town road in western Marathon County on October 23, 1981 by Jim Bragg of Abbotsford. More details will appear in a later issue of the Pass. Fig.)

A Second Record of the Burrowing Owl on the Buena Vista Marsh

By Jonathan Wilde and Jack Oar

On September 5, 1981, in the early afternoon, the following people saw a Burrowing Owl in the Town of North Grant, Section 26 SE/SE, Portage County, Wisconsin: Michael Gratson, Dennis Kent, Bob Harshbarger, Jonathan Wilde, Jack Oar, and Connie Oar.

Harshbarger, Wilde and both Oars are familiar with this species out West. Visibility was excellent and the owl sat on a survey marker 20 feet away. The owl was on the Buena Vista Meadow Scientific Area. Pellets and whitewash near three burrows suggested that it had been there for at least several days.

The owl was far from shy. It permitted itself to be chased around without leaving the neighborhood, but attempts to herd it to a balchatri, baited with mice, failed.

This is the second record of a Burrowing Owl in the Buena Vista Marsh. The first was seen by Frank B. Renn and Frances Hamerstrom on 19 May, 1967, and reported by Renn (see Passenger Pigeon 30:27, 1968). The earlier sighting was only about four miles east in the Town of Buena Vista, Section 33 NE/SE.

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Nesting of the Common Loon in Manitowoc County

By James F. Steffen and Amy Kienitz Steffen

Much recent attention has been given to the status of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in Wisconsin. Several surveys of breeding area and productivity have been compiled for the state (Cholwek, 1978, Kohel, 1972). The west shore of Lake Michigan is frequented by the Common Loon during spring migration and nonbreeders are of irregular occurrence throughout the summer. However, no recent breeding records exist for the counties south of Oconto County along the Lake Michigan shoreline (Cholwek, 1978).

On June 21, 1981 while leading a birding field trip in southern Manitowoc County along the shore of Lake Michigan our group observed a pair of Common Loons at the mouth of Point Creek in Centerville township. Closer observation indicated the presence of two additional loons which proved to be immature birds approximately three quarters grown. They were in pale gray plumage while the other two birds were in adult plumage. One of the adults was very dark with the white throat markings very indistinct. The immature birds swam between the two adults and at our approach swam further out into the lake.

Conversations with area residents indicated that a loon family (more than two birds) has been present for at least five years. Thus far no nests have been observed. It is believed that the nest site is probably in a backwater of Point Creek. The land along the creek is privately owned and is being maintained in it's natural state. Therefore, the integrity of the nest site seems secure for the near future.

LITERATURE CITED

- Cholwek, Gary. 1979 1978 Wisconsin Project Loon Watch Report. Sigward Olson Institute of Environment Studies. Northland College, Ashland, WI. 31 pp.
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Some Notes on Breeding Sharp-shinned Hawks in Manitowoc County

By James F. Steffen

I have been banding hawks and owls at what is now Woodland Dunes Nature Center since 1972. During this time, the Sharp-shinned Hawk has always comprised the largest part of the fall migration. It is not uncommon for these small hawks to start moving through Manitowoc in mid-August. However, in July, 1974, while preparing the banding station for the coming season, I spotted an adult male Sharp-shinned Hawk being chased by blackbirds as it carried food into the woods. This was late in July, and made me suspect that the hawks had nested. However, a search of the area where the bird had flown into the woods did not reveal any juvenile birds or a nest.

On July 31, 1977, while working on the north end of the Woodland Dunes property, I came across two juvenile Sharp-shins, fully fledged, but still with down on their heads. I was first attracted to the birds by their high-pitched call notes. After I watched the juveniles for a time, I observed an adult Sharp-shin fly in, carrying food. The young birds then mobbed the adult for the food. There were only two young observed over a several day period, and both appeared to be females. I later found the nest, which was 15-20 feet up a White Spruce tree within a small plantation of Red Pine. The nest was a bulky structure (about 14" in diameter) comprised of nearly 100% fine tamarack twigs. It was over a hiking trail which had been traveled by several people earlier in the season without the birds being detected.

In 1978, an early search of the same area did not reveal the presence of Sharp-shins. The old nest was not fixed up nor were birds seen. On July 12, an adult bird was observed carrying food into a nearby area.

A search of this site revealed a new nest, about 35-40 feet up in a White Cedar. This nest was approximately 150-175 feet away from the old nest. When I climbed this tree for banding purposes, the two young left the nest and were able to fly quite well. This nest was composed of fine cedar twigs and measured approximately 10" x 18".

A search of the area in 1979 did not indicate the presence of any Sharp-shins. However, in the early spring of 1979, while cleaning screech owl nest boxes in the Sharp-shin nesting territory, I found the remains of an immature female Sharp-shin in one of the boxes. I suspect that this was one of the nestlings from 1978 and that it had been killed by a Screech Owl.

On May 12, 1980, a search of the area indicated the presence of Sharp-shins. The birds became excited near the 1978 nest site. An examination indicated that the birds had fixed up the nest and were probably near laying. On June 20, four eggs were found in the nest. A newly moulted immature primary was also found beneath the nest at this time, indicating that one of the parent birds was a second year bird. On July 2, three young (3-5 days old) were observed. The fourth egg or young was not found. I revisited on July 10 found the nest empty. It was believed that Horned Owls had predated the nest, as no claw marks were seen on the tree nor was the nest upset as would have been the case had raccoons been responsible. In 1981, no Sharp-shins were observed in the area.

Over the years that this nesting area was under observation, note was taken on feeding and hunting behavior. Prey remains both at the nest and around

the butcher block (perch where adults pluck prey before bringing it to the nest) revealed that the birds were eating songbirds, primarily thrushes (sp.) and sparrows (sp.). Other items of prey included chickadees, house wrens, towhees and blue jays.

To determine the size of the hunting territory the adults were using, I climbed the tallest tree in the nest area to observe the adults bringing back food. These observations indicated that the female hunted relatively close to the nest (approx. ½ mile) in a marshy area to the north, while the male hunted much farther away to the south and west. Observations from the south end of the Woodland Dunes property indicated that the male hunted as much as 1-3/4 miles or more away from the nest. These observations of hunting distances and habitat partitioning compare with the findings of other researchers (Craighead and Craighead, 1956, Newton, 1979).

Although this is not a nesting record for Manitowoc County (Kumlein and Holister, 1903), nesting is certainly an uncommon occurrence. Therefore I feel these observations are noteworthy for the County.

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Newton, I. 1979. Population Ecology of Raptors. Buteo Books, Vermilion, S.D. 399 pp.

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To apply, write by April 1, 1982 to:

Ms. Frances Hamerstrom
Route 1, Box 448
Plainfield, WI 54966

CALL FOR PAPERS

Those interested in presenting a paper at the 1982 W.S.O. convention should contact Howard Young, Dept. Biology, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, LaCrosse, WI 54601.

The Fall Season for 1980 has been delayed for reasons beyond the Editor's control, and hopefully will appear in the forthcoming winter issue.

CORRECTION:

Janine Polk did not see a Black-throated Blue Warbler on May 26, 1980 in Grant County, as reported in Volume 43, No. 1, Spring, 1981 Field Notes.

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