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WATERFOWL AT GREEN BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

PHOTO BY GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE



The PASSENGER PIGEON

A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

Published Quarterly By

**THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY
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SUMMER ISSUE
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SUMMER (APRIL-JUNE) 1953

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Application for entry as second-class matter is pending.

The Roche A Cri Camp-Out

By ALVIN M. PETERSON

Friendship in 1913

It was the year 1913 when we first set eyes on the quaint little inland village of Friendship, where I was about to take charge of the Friendship-Adams Public Schools and my wife to teach the fifth and sixth grades. Among my many tasks was the pleasant one of teaching a class in high-school botany.

Busy, enlightening, and full of fun and work and adventure as most of those early days were, I have been trying hard to recall a few of the birds and wild flowers encountered there forty years ago, not easy since I kept no records then.

First among the birds was the chewink or towhee, which I there saw for the first time and which seemed to say "sphinx" over and over. This, naturally, was its "chee-wink" cry which has given it the name chewink, and "chewink" rather than "towhee" it has remained to us to this day. In a way, wasn't that what it seemed to say we were to call it? However, since a good many of the bird-minded folks we meet call it towhee, because of the bird's other song, that of recent years is what we, too, are likely to call it when talking to others. That first meeting with the towhee took place near the south end of Friendship Mound.

Another bird I often saw near Friendship Mound was the brown thrasher—long a favorite, the common bird with the reddish-brown plumage, long tail, marvelous song, that feeds and nests on or near the ground but mounts to the top of a tall tree or pole when in the mood to sing. The bluebird, too, was around in a sparsely wooded area between Friendship and Adams, a block or two east of the road over which Highway 13 now runs, and the goldfinch and pileated woodpecker at the Adams County Fair Grounds.

Among the most vivid of memories is one of a sizable bevy of bobwhites seen along a dirt road west of Friendship, the birds coming single file through the weeds and grass, crossing the highway from east to west not too far distant, and hurrying on until lost to view, a glimpse that revealed a favorite way for bobwhites to travel, which I have since witnessed many times.

Among the wild flowers we remember are the arbutus and lovely moccasin flower, both found on marshy ground east of the village; the jack-in-the-pulpit along the south shore of the pond; and the bellwort, nodding trillium, downy rattlesnake orchid, and yellow lady's slipper, all found in the valley of the Little Roche a Cri—a favorite place to walk and dream and look for birds and wild flowers. This was the first natural beauty spot to make a deep impression on us; we had hoped to show it to those attending the camp-out but it is impassable at the present time.

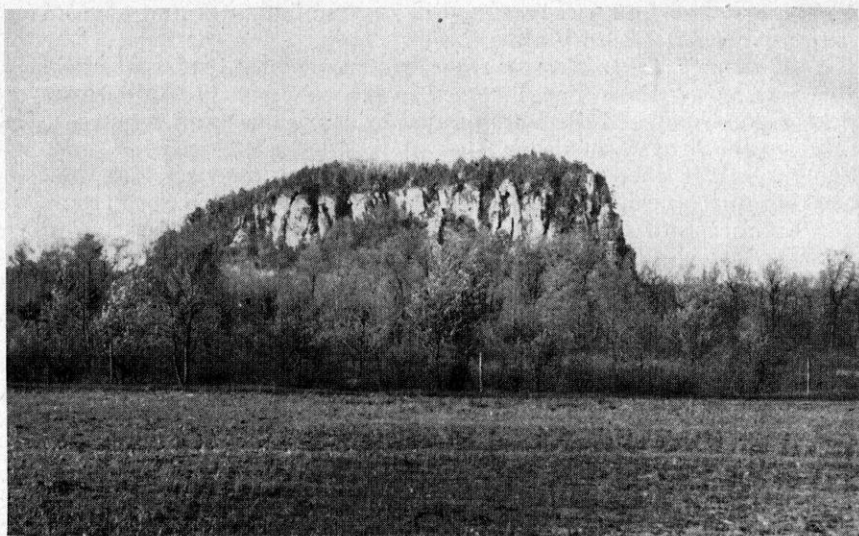
Friendship in 1938

Twenty-five years pass quickly by and become a memory, and now it is the middle of May, 1938. We are camped in an open woods near the

north end of Friendship Mound. Roche a Cri Mound or Rock is not far distant, though there is no Roche a Cri Roadside Park at yet. To get there we had crossed the old bed of Glacial Lake Wisconsin from west to east, a huge lake that covered about 1825 square miles and reached from the vicinity of Black River Falls to Friendship and a little beyond.

We noticed few birds that first evening, either at camp or about Friendship Mound, though we did see or hear the noisy crested fly-catcher, scarlet tanager, chipping sparrow and red-headed woodpecker.

Our tent was pitched on ground that sloped gently toward the south and was sparingly stocked with trees, oaks mainly. When setting up our temporary shelter we were not as careful as we should have been and placed it where there was a small hump, said hump being in the middle of our bed. Consequently, during the night, we found ourselves slipping or sliding first toward this corner of the tent and then that.



"ROCHE A CRI MOUND OR ROCK IS A MESA OF STRIKING BEAUTY AND GRANDEUR."

We didn't sleep well, largely because there was a whip-poor-will around that repeated its name a million or more times before morning. The "whip-poor-will" cry or song usually was repeated scores of times before there was a pause, and the bird moved from place to place between periods of music, so that now it was near the tent, now farther away. By and by we began to count the number of times the bird repeated its name before stopping to catch its breath, and the first time reached 109. The next time the number was 106, then 72, then 29, and then the amazing total of 239. One, two, three, four, there the song was again, continuing on to 158, 159 and at least 160. The next time the bird easily passed 200, keeping right on until it got to 300 (it was still going strong), did not falter when it reached 400, and kept on until the count stood at 448!

Where there were few birds to be seen that first evening, there were plenty around the next morning. The robin was busy singing its cheerful "cheer-up cheer," the nighthawk climbing and "peenting," and the chipping sparrow uttering its "fine sliding chant." Soon the following also got a place on our list: chickadee, crested flycatcher, crow, towhee, lark, field and vesper sparrows, bluebird, warbling vireo, brown thrasher, red-eyed vireo, kingbird, bluejay, barred owl, hairy woodpecker, phoebe, wood thrush and kingfisher. Later, in the valley of the Little Roche a Cri, we saw and heard the ovenbird and found the marsh marigold, skunk cabbage, bellwort, oakesia (sessile bellwort or merrybells), blood-root, hepatica, wood anemone, cranesbill, downy rattlesnake orchid and pipsissewa, the last two not in bloom.

We went fishing those wonderful May days in Carter Creek and within plain view of Roche a Cri Rock, caught a red-horse, weathered a hail storm; and listened to the charming song of the wood thrush at Necedah. Necedah, we decided, must be a pleasant place in which to live since it has wood thrushes singing along its streets.

Friendship in 1953

It is the year 1953 now, and the month is June, and we are camped at Roche a Cri Roadside Park for the third time. We were here in June, 1949, when on our way to the Grange Game Farm near Babcock, and heard a towhee with an unusual song, the effort starting out with the common "chee-wink" and ending with a trill or warble quite similar to some of the notes of the robin. There were several singing robins around but though we listened very carefully we could detect little difference between some of the notes of these birds and the towhee's effort. Along the road to Babcock, or at the park, we saw the whorled loosestrife, upright bindweed, pipsissewa, tawny hawkweed (devil's paintbrush), butterfly-weed, smooth white pentstemon, and lovely grass pink orchid.

CAMP-OUT THRILLS

Question: What gave you the biggest thrill at the Camp-out this year?

The answers: The many rare birds seen; the field trip with Mr. Robbins; the serenade put on by the cerulean warbler on Saturday morning; the nuthatch preening after the Saturday shower; the north-east area and voices of lark and clay-colored sparrows; breath-taking view of a singing dickcissel; remarkable lesser yellow-legs record; hearing and seeing birds that were peculiar to the area covered; the sandhill cranes and cormorants; the dawn chorus by the robin, wood pewee, phoebe, pine warbler, scarlet tanager and wood thrush at the park.

The wild yamroot and moonseed, both in full bloom; the cunning little flowers of the partridge berry; the sleepy catchfly, grass pink orchid, and tufted loosestrife.

And we were here on June 6 and 7, 1953, with the idea of going over some of the ground before the W.S.O. Camp-out. Tents pitched, an early lunch over, we looked up Sam Robbins at Adams and made a visit to southwest Adams County, stopping for the first time on the edge of a tamarack bog five miles south of Adams, where we got a good

look at a cerulean warbler and listened long to its song. It was perched on a dead limb straight above us, about as near as you'll ever get to one of these elusive birds of the tree-tops. The chestnut-sided warbler also was around, and along the highway we found interrupted, lady, ostrich and cinnamon fern, the lovely tufted loosestrife, nine bark and much besides. At the junction of Highways No. 13 and 135, a grasshopper sparrow alighted on a wire almost overhead and sang its shrill, wiry, insect-like song again and again. Along the Wisconsin River, we added the seven woodpeckers of the area—the yellow-bellied sapsucker, flicker, and pileated, red-bellied, red-headed, hairy and downy woodpeckers; listened to the wood thrush and ovenbird; heard the warbling, red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos; and got a brief glimpse of the blue-gray gnat-catcher. Farther on we saw several Brewer's blackbirds, found the nest of a pair, and watched the sanderling and semipalmated and upland plovers. Last but not least, we had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Bewick's wren found near the Robbins' home at Adams.

Birds and Flowers at the Rock

It is June 20, 1953, forty years after, and there are many tents besides ours pitched in the picnic area at Roche a Cri Roadside Park. The chief attraction of this park is Roche a Cri Rock, a mesa of striking beauty.

Imagine a line extending northeastward from Roche a Cri Roadside Park to Stevens Point, thence westward to Pittsville, City Point and Hatfield, south to Warrens and Tomah, southeastward to Devil's Lake, and back to Roche a Cri Park by way of Wisconsin Dells and Friendship, and you will get a pretty good idea of the size and borders of that ancient glacial lake known as Glacial Lake Wisconsin. An arm of this

THE MOST REASSURING CHORUS

The steady tap-tap-tap of hammers heard as tent pegs were being driven into the ground after the Bagers, Fristers, Peartrees, et al., arrived at Roche a Cri Roadside Park on Friday evening.

lake extended northwestward from Devil's Lake over the Reedsburg area towards Tomah. Now imagine a line drawn westward from a point near Wisconsin Rapids to Dexterville, City Point and Spaulding on the north, on to Warrens and Tomah on the west, thence southeastward to Camp Douglas, and back to Wisconsin Rapids by way of points a little west of Necedah and Nekoosa, and you also should get a general idea of the borders of the great central swamp of Wisconsin as it exists today and which plays a part in the birds to be seen in Adams County at the present time.

This is a region of large wastelands, where the soil is poor, marshy and of little agricultural use. It is a land of buttes and mesas, such as Castle Mound at Black River Falls, Mill Bluff east of Tomah, Petenwell Rock in Juneau County, Bruce Mound near Merrilan and Saddle Mound near Pray, where the Necedah and Central Wisconsin Conservation Areas—the latter east of Black River Falls—are located. While poor agriculturally, it is rich in its flora and fauna and hence of great interest to the botanist and ornithologist. Incidentally, it was here

that the great passenger pigeon nesting of 1871 took place, as described by A. W. Schorger in **Silent Wings**, pp. 26-38.

In this region there is much willow, birch, red cherry, jack pine, scrub oak, soft maple, aspen and alder, and also varying amounts of ash, white and red pine, cottonwood, burr and white oak, and choke and black cherry. Among the shrubs present are the Juneberry, blueberry, sweet fern, dewberry, blackberry, raspberry, meadowsweet, steeple bush, hazelnut and nine bark. Characteristic wild flowers are the moccasin flower, puccoon, downy phlox, Clintonia, star grass, dwarf ginseng, wild lupine, pipsissewa, wintergreen, arbutus, bearberry and partridge-berry.

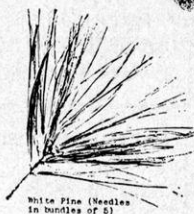
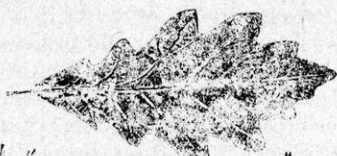
Areas like the picnic ground at Roche a Cri Park are characteristic of the region from Roche a Cri to Castle Mound. These areas are islands of higher ground in the ancient lake bed and you'll find them at Black River Falls, Camp Douglas, Rocky Arbor and many other places. You'll also find that they are well stocked with scrub oak, aspen and the various pines.

The area around the Roche a Cri Park picnic ground was perhaps more thoroughly surveyed during the camp-out than any other, mainly because it could be given attention at almost any time of the day or night, and the data was secured with little effort, as all the birds and flowers were found close to the camp-site. 27 species of birds were seen or heard here, including the yellow-throated vireo, black and yellow-billed cuckoos, red-bellied woodpecker, black and white warbler, pine

warbler, barred owl and whip-poor-will; and three sparrows a short distance beyond—the field, vesper and lark. The dawn chorus of birds at Roche a Cri was most pleasing. It began with the robins effort at 3:30 a. m. and soon included the songs of the wood pewee, phoebe, pine warbler, wood thrush and scarlet tanager.

Between Roche a Cri Rock and the camp-site, a scarlet tanager with an unusual song held forth. It has been said that the song of the tanager sounds a bit like the robin's "cheer, cheer cheer-up." This is true, though the two songs also vary a good deal—so much that there usually is little likelihood of confusion. The tanager usually repeats six or seven times the word "cheer" or "cheer-ie"; the song is strongly slurred, or given an "r" sound, reminding one of its "chip-churr" or "chip-burr" call. While parts of the song of the tanager in question

COMMON ADAMS COUNTY TREES



ran true to form, there were other parts so much like the robin's music that it was hard to believe it was a tanager; finally we thought it wise to trace the music to its source, and the singer proved to be a tanager.

Besides the pines immediately about the camp-site there were several other kinds of trees worth mentioning: the canoe or paper birch, red, black, white and burr oaks, hop hornbeam, basswood, white ash, aspen and alder.

Especially well represented were the ferns, found mainly in the lowland area between the camp-site and Carter Creek: the common polypody, interrupted, brake, lady, maiden-hair, sensitive, royal or flowering, ostrich and bog ferns. Among the shrubs, the alternate-leaved and panicked dogwoods were present, as also were the inland Jersey tea, nine bark and sweet fern, the last in the greatest numbers.

The wild flowers also were exceptionally well represented, since some sixty kinds were noted—conspicuous plants like the blue lupine, hoary puccoon, whorled loosestrife, spreading dogbane and flowering spurge. Noteworthy because rare or not well known were the moccasin flower, blue toadflax (some lovely specimens present), upright bindweed, wild yamroot (in full bloom), moonseed, green dragon (including a large specimen adjacent to several jack-in-the-pulpits), partridge berry, pipissewa, shinleaf, Seneca snakeroot, downy rattlesnake orchid (this and three preceding not in bloom), horse gentian, swamp betony, sleepy catchfly and butterfly-weed.

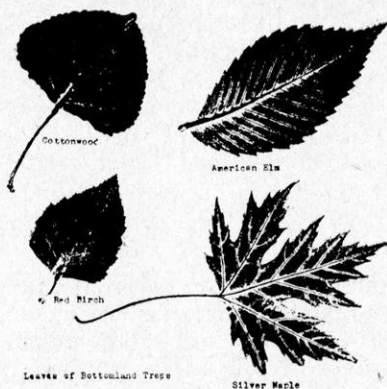
The South-west Area

This part of the camp-out program involved visting a wide variety of bird habitats. First, there was the marsh area five miles south of Adams (Area 1 on map), a region of elms, ash, soft maple, birch and underbrush, an area hard to negotiate on foot but very well suited to the needs of several species of birds. Second, the hayfields and meadows at the junction of Highways Nos. 13 and 135 (Area 2), where one might expect to see and hear the dickcissel, vesper sparrow, eastern and western meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrow and bobolink. Area 3 was a heavily wooded area long the east shore of the Wisconsin River—typical bottom-land where silver maple, American elm, ash, red birch and cottonwood predominate, and including higher ground on the east side of the road where black oak, white oak, basswood and other high-ground trees are found. The fourth type of habitat was a typical creek bottom where the phoebe, yellow-throated vireo and prothonotary warbler might be expected (Area 4). Nearby was Area 5—a nice stand of pine and oak on a bit of higher ground, quite similar to the picnic area at Roche a Cri Park.

MOMENTS WE'D NOT CARE TO LIVE OVER

The brief, sobering, frightening moments that marked the passage of that speeding truck on Saturday morning.

Two other areas should be mentioned. Above Castle Rock dam and dike along the Wisconsin River was Area 6—a typical flowage or lake area, where one might expect shore birds in season like the sanderling,



killdeer and semipalmated plover and water-loving species like the red-wing, grackle, kingfisher and Brewer's blackbird. Finally, there was Area 7—a lowland meadow with little standing water and extensive dry ground where much sedge, marsh grass and running swamp blackberry were found, and now and then a patch of cat-tails.

Three field trips were made to the south-west area: (1) a survey trip through the whole area on Saturday morning, led by Sam Robbins; (2) a Saturday afternoon study of Area 7 (Peterson); and (3) another survey trip

through the whole area on Sunday morning (Nelson).

The survey trips showed that the most conspicuously common birds in the region were the mourning dove, killdeer, kingbird, wood pewee, brown thrasher, robin, red-eyed and warbling vireos, catbird, red-wing, both meadowlarks, indigo bunting, goldfinch, vesper, field and song sparrows. Maps prepared from scouting expeditions in advance of the camp-out pinpointed the known locations of about twenty especially interesting or rare species in this region; most of these were found on the survey trips—ruffed grouse, upland plover, yellow-billed cuckoo, pileated and red-bellied woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsucker, cliff swallow, wood and willow thrushes, gnatcatcher, prothonotary, golden-winged, cerulean, chestnut-sided, and pine warblers, Louisiana water-thrush, Brewer's blackbird, and Henslow's sparrow. The only known residents that were "muffed" were the prairie chicken, black-billed cuckoo and grasshopper sparrow. Besides, a sparrow hawk—not known to be present—was observed along highway F, and a dead whip-poor-will was found along highway 13 on the return journey.

The Saturday afternoon trip to census the Area 7 sedge meadow was brought to an abrupt end by a particularly violent storm. This was to have been a two-hour detailed nesting survey. Nevertheless, the bobolink was found there in goodly numbers, as also was the upland plover which played a very effectual game of hide-and-seek with the ten birders trying hard to find a nest. Other birds found were the red-wing (3 pairs), field sparrow (1 pair), brown thrasher (1 pair), eastern meadowlark (1 pair), and some unidentified sparrows—perhaps Henslow's (2 pairs).

OBITUARY

Junior Whip-poor-will

Found dead beside Highway No. 13 on the return journey from the Southwest Area on Saturday morning, struck by a passing car apparently.

All told 80 species of birds were found in the southwest area. High-spots of the three surveys were the serenade put on by the cerulean warbler near the Wisconsin River shore on Saturday morning, the obliging little hummingbird, the ruffed grouse and chick seen by the Nelson

group on Sunday morning, and the baffling but most interesting game of hide-and-seek put on by the upland plover on Saturday afternoon—about as amazing a show as that put on by a killdeer when you get near its nest. Among the plants seen in this area that might be mentioned are these: tufted loosestrife, cinnamon fern, small forget-me-not, long-plumed purple avens (plentiful elsewhere in the state but not found in as dense colonies), painted cup, star grass, lance-leaved violet, swamp candles and marsh saxifrage.

The North-east Area

This is the area covered by Sam Robbins, et al., on Saturday afternoon and again early Sunday morning, the latter pilgrimage also including the north-west area. This north-east section is unlike the region seen on Saturday morning in some respects. While in the south-west area the Wisconsin River, in a few areas, figures prominently in the terrain, providing heavily wooded bottomlands, a few fairly good farms, and a few stands of second-growth timber; north-east Adams County shows clearly that it once was at the bottom of that ancient glacial lake. The land is much like most of that found westward as far as Black River Falls and could very well have been made a part of a large conservation area similar to the large ones found at Necedah and near Black River Falls. My own notes and those made by Mr. Robbins indicate that here there are good sized sandy areas overgrown with scrub oak, jack pine, brake fern, sweet fern and sedges with alternating areas of dry and wet ground. Here, in addition to the preceding plants, the partridge-berry, pipsissewa (Prince's pine), four-leaved loosestrife, lupine, puccoon, white spurge and a good many of the other plants already seen at Roche a Cri and the south-west area are found. Large, low meadows also are common here—these overgrown with sedges and marsh grass and dotted with willow, ideal places for the sandhill crane, prairie chicken and short-billed marsh wren. Here the veery is to be heard singing throughout the long, hot, early summer days. And lastly, there are areas in the extreme north-east corner of the county where the land is of some use for farming, and boasts stands of oak, elm and soft maple, broad hayfields, and hedgerows between fields and along the highway.

The Saturday afternoon trip into this area was somewhat disappointing. It was intended to be a census of clay-colored sparrow, Nashville warbler and alder flycatcher territory, with the possibility of glimpsing the sandhill crane. But the intense heat made the birds silent and inactive, and took its toll of the energy of the observers. A Nashville warbler was heard and several clay-colored sparrows were found in their nesting grounds (Area 8), but the search failed to disclose any nest. In Area 9 Brewer's blackbirds and dickcissels were seen displaying nesting behavior, but again no nest was found.

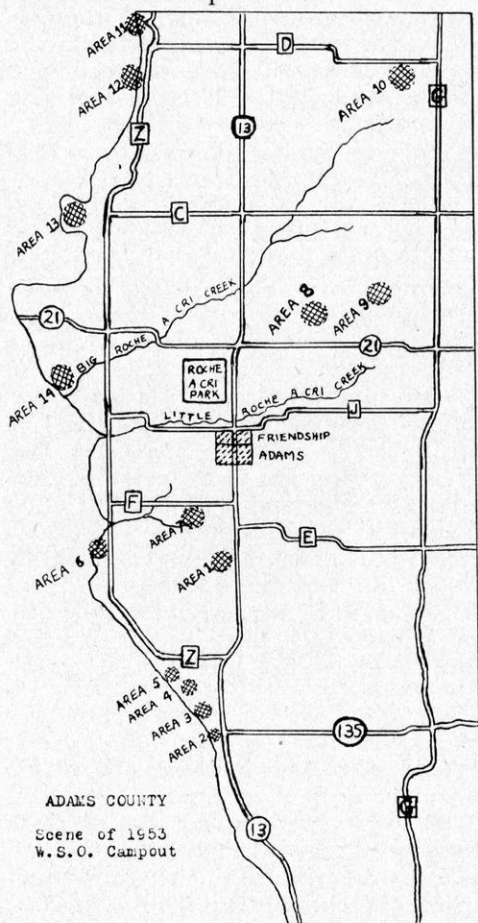
A heavy shower restored energy to birds and observers late in the afternoon, and a stop at a creek near Friendship produced some red-starts, a gnatcatcher, and a white-breasted nuthatch that delighted its audience as it preened its feathers after the rain.

Strangely enough, Saturday's total of 51 species was duplicated in this area the next morning, of which 32 were repeats from the previous

afternoon, and 19 other kinds, making 70 species listed in the north-east area during the camp-out. Of most interest on Sunday morning were the American bittern, prairie chicken, sandhill crane, and alder fly-catcher in Area 9; and in Area 10 the prairie horned lark, upland plover, and savannah sparrow—a bird common in much of Wisconsin but scarce in Adams County except in the extreme north-east farming region.

The North-west Area

The first trip to the north-west area was made by a group of bird watchers headed by Mr. Nelson on Saturday afternoon, the group visiting a cat-tail marsh in the extreme north-west corner of Adams County (Area 11). This is a region well suited to the red-winged blackbird, great blue and green herons, mallard and blue-winged teal. Here a long dike stretches out into a broad expanse of Wisconsin River backwaters, part of which is more or less overgrown with cat-tails but with larger and smaller areas of open water.



Sixteen species of birds were recorded, including the great blue heron (5), mallard (3) and a nest containing 8 eggs, blue-wing teal (15), black tern (2), tree swallow (2) and a nest, and the savannah sparrow. The blue-winged teal, red-winged blackbirds and song sparrows were most abundant here.

The next journey to this area was made by Mr. Robbins and more than a score of enthusiastic birders early on Sunday morning, stops being made at the Petenwell flowage near New Rome (Area 12), a cat-tail marsh and creek bottom near the Wisconsin River shore, and some swampy areas along the Wisconsin River on a small peninsula west of Monroe Center (Area 13). These Wisconsin River marshes are similar to many others found about the Badger State, mainly up and down our larger streams, at places where the current is gentle and there is considerable flooding of the adjoining lowlands, forming sloughs, bayous and shallows more or less overgrown by cat-tails—places loved by the red-wing, kingfisher, va-

rious wild ducks, black tern, great blue and green herons, and bitterns. These are flowages recently created by the erection of the Petenwell dam; we wonder what it may have been like previously, and whether botanical and ornithological features are in process of change.

Some birds of special interest were known to be present in this area, but were missed on this trip, partly because much of the early-morning activity was over and partly because there was insufficient time for thorough coverage. These included: pied-billed grebe, baldpate, pintail, green-winged teal, sora and shoveller.

Fifty-four species of birds were listed for this area on Sunday morning, including a species new to the area, the lesser yellow legs—a remarkable summer record. The following were of special interest: least bittern (1), cormorant (13), great blue heron (11), mallard (8), blue-winged teal (9), wood duck (1), red-tailed hawk (1), red-shouldered hawk (1), ring-billed gull (1), barred owl (1), Brewer's blackbird (1), rough-winged swallow, horned lark and golden-winged warbler.

One new plant, never before seen by the writer, got a place on the wild-flower list, the narrow-leaved hawksbeard, a member of the composite family, yellow in color, and similar to the vein-leaved hawkweed, king devil and Cynthia. Other plants of considerable interest noted were the pale spiked lobelia, butterfly-weed, prairie larkspur and grass pink orchid.

The final two field trips were made on Sunday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 o'clock. The first of these was to the Monroe Center Area 13 (Nelson) and gave the party a glimpse of various habitats—marshes, wooded areas, and fields and meadows that had to be skipped on the earlier pilgrimage. 39 species of birds were found in the region covered but none that had not already been listed. Seen along with the birds one expects to see on almost any field trip were the great blue heron, blue-winged teal, spotted sandpiper, black tern, short-billed marsh wren and Brewer's blackbird.

The second of the late Sunday morning pilgrimages was made to a creek bottom and pine plantation, both near the confluence of the Wisconsin River and Big Roche a Cri Creek (Area 14). Leaders were Mrs. F. L. Larkin and S. Paul Jones. The first stop was at the creek bottom, where there also was a mixed stand of jack pine and black oak, the other to a plantation of red (Norway) and white pine. 31 species were listed, among them the cedar waxwing, black-billed cuckoo, red-eyed, warbling and yellow-throated vireos, black and white and pine warblers, northern yellow-throat, ovenbird and Brewer's blackbird. Because the early morning activity and song period had passed, such birds as the pileated woodpecker, tufted titmouse, gnatcatcher, cerulean warbler and Louisiana waterthrush were missed.

The Over-all Picture

Previous to the Roche a Cri field trips, Sam Robbins prepared a list of 120 species of birds known to be present as summer residents. During the camp-out a total of 109 species were found, 106 of these being on the Robbins list. Fourteen possibilities were missed: pied-billed grebe, black duck, baldpate, pintail, green-winged teal, shoveller, hooded merganser, Cooper's hawk, ring-necked pheasant, sora, great horned

owl, yellow-bellied sapsucker, tufted titmouse and long-billed marsh wren. However, three species not on the list were recorded, these being the least bittern, lesser yellow-legs and sparrow hawk.

Such variety in bird life during the summer cannot be duplicated in many parts of Wisconsin. The variety is made possible in part by the variety in habitat, and in part by the fact that Adams County seems to be part of a very small region where the breeding ranges of some northern and southern species overlap. The area is far enough north so that a few pairs of birds that normally breed farther north can be found; an occasional sapsucker, Nashville warbler or chestnut-sided warbler remains in summer; a few pairs of green-winged teal, baldpate, pintail and shoveler breed in Adams County; clay-colored sparrows are numerous in parts of the county, while they are very rarely found south of here in summer. On the other hand, the Wisconsin River attracts a few of the more southern species to parts of the county that must constitute part of the northern limit of the breeding ranges of such species as gnatcatcher, prothonotary and cerulean warblers, yellow-billed cuckoo and red-bellied woodpecker. To this can be added a few species that are common neither to the north nor to the south, but perhaps move in more from the southwest: Bewick's wren, Louisiana water-thrush, and lark sparrow. Because Adams County is located where these varied ranges overlap to a small degree, it is a particularly interesting area for bird study in summer.

And Finally

Special thanks, we feel, should go to Sam Robbins and Charles Nelson for the careful planning that made the camp-out a success. It takes time and effort to secure leaders, write letters, plan field trips, prepare maps and do all the other things that must be done to make a meeting or field trip profitable. Robbins and Nelson spared neither time nor effort in making all the preliminary arrangements, and besides gave freely and generously of their time to lead the various groups to the spots of greatest interest.

All who attended the camp-out must have come away with the feeling that they now know quite a bit about Adams County and what makes it of unusual interest and importance to the bird lover. What a variety of habitats is found there—vast stretches of open water above great dams, marshes and marshlands in numbers, pools and creek and river bottoms—some heavily wooded, wide meadows of sedge and marsh grass, fields of hay and grain, avenues and hedgerows of trees and shrubs, islands of pine and oak, countless nooks and corners and waste places and beauty spots, all the varied and interesting spots that are frequented by birds!

It has been said that catching fish is not all there is to fishing, meaning that the true fisherman is an outdoor person of varied interests who loves and observes the other things about him—the shimmering water, the birds and trees and wild flowers—and comes home happy and rested and refreshed whether he has a string of fish or not. Likewise, getting a list of birds is not all there is to ornithology, and, while the getting of a good list proves useful as an incentive and keeps the bird-watcher on his toes, the bird he sees is but part of a picture and sometimes much the smaller part. The bird must be viewed against its background, said background consisting of a stretch of water perhaps, the cat-tails of a

marsh, a rustic bridge, trees and shrubs, grass and wild flowers. What one sees, or what the picture is like, is largely determined by one's background, his training, interests, likes and dislikes and present mood. Specialize too much in the field of ornithology and you miss a lot; mix a little forestry, art and botany with your bird study, and you'll greatly add to your fun and knowledge. It also is true that a person often walks or sits as many risks as he runs, suggesting that in bird study one often sees and learns as much by sitting quietly in a favorable place as the one who is constantly on the move.

We made out a list of more than 20 things that gave us pleasure and satisfaction and made the camp-out a huge success so far as we were concerned. About half of these had to do with the birds—a rare one seen, an old friends met again, an unusual song, a nest—and about as many with the wild flowers—a new one added to our acquaintance, a rare one seen again, a lovely gem in full bloom. We sincerely hope that all who attended the camp-out did as well and went home with the feeling that the gathering was a wonderful thing and worth far more than it cost in time and effort and money.

The Camp-Out Attendance

The following attended the 1953 Camp-out at Roche a Cri Roadside Park on June 20 and 21: Harold G. Liebherr, Hildegard Liebherr and Mr. and Mrs. David Cox of Beloit; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higgins, Kenosha; Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Elaine Barger, Buddy Barger, Rudy Bere, Mae Chidister and son, C. Dennis Besadny, Helen Northup, Eleanor L. Peterson and Helen E. Schroeder, Madison; C. E. Nelson, Spencer Nelson and S. Paul Jones, Waukesha; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kassilke, Pewaukee; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Peartree, Oconomowoc; Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Kemper and children, Chippewa Falls; Sam Robbins, Adams; Howard Perschbacher, Chester Krawczyk, Green Bay; Dorothy Webster, Black River Falls; and Richard E. Weber and Lois Webster, Viroqua.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin C. Bromm, Dixie Larkin, Carl G. Hayssen, Jr., Jack Spears, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frister, Milwaukee; Mrs. Walter Rogers, Appleton; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schick, La Crosse; Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bolt, Adrienne Bolt and Carol Ann Bolt, Ann Arbor, Michigan; John Kraupa, Two Rivers; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin M. Peterson, Onalaska; and Edna Andrews, Roy Andrews, David Andrews, Bertha I. Pearson, Chloe E. Tilden, Olive E. Wells, Nora M. Englin, Adele F. Bugbee, Leigh F. Bugbee, Leigh F. Bugbee, Jr., and Jeanne Marquardt, Wausau.

Onalaska, Wisconsin

NEWS...

Over fifty persons attended the Cedar Grove hawk trip on September 27, and were rewarded with fine weather and a fairly good hawk flight. But the editor hangs his head in shame, because after promising to have advance announcement published in *The Passenger Pigeon*, his time-table went askew and as a result many members did not know about the trip until too late.

What club would like to invite the Society to its city for the 1955 convention? President Krawczyk would be glad to hear from any interested person or club.

The 1954 campout will be a trip to Door County on June 12 and 13. A feature of the trip (weather and sea conditions permitting) will be an expedition by boat to Sister and Hat Islands to observe the herring gull nesting colonies. Advance registration will be necessary for the boat trip. Watch for future announcements.

(more news on page 68)

1952 In Review . . .

By CARL L. STRELITZER

Without doubt the paramount feature of the 1952 ornithological year was the addition of two new species to the state list—**Bullock's oriole** and **green-tailed towhee**, both western species which have been recorded east of the Mississippi only a few times. The fall and early winter season was warm and dry; whether in some inexplicable way these weather factors had much to do with the wandering of these birds is a matter of conjecture.

Before the appearance of the newcomers, the year had had other eventful items for bird students. The glaucous gull was noted in January, and the early spring period provided views of the Holboell's and Western grebes, European widgeon, Carolina wren and red crossbill. Some of the better records were secured in May. Although the migration peak occurred well past the middle of the month, early May produced such species as red-throated loon, Swainson's hawk, white-eyed vireo, Brewster's warbler, evening grosbeak (late), Harris' and Gambel's sparrows.

A Bewick's wren was noted through the summer months and into September; other summer records included the Western kingbird, mockingbird, Bell's vireo, Brewster's and hooded warblers, and evening grosbeak. No heron flight of any consequence took place in late summer, but a very good fall flight of shorebirds was noted in some areas—including the Hudsonian curlew, willet, dowitcher, Bairds', Western and buff-breasted sandpipers.

A spectacular hawk flight was noted at Cedar Grove in mid-September, including several thousand broad-wings, and a Krider's hawk that was trapped, banded and photographed. A gyrfalcon was sighted in October, and interesting fall observations of eared grebes and Leconte's sparrows were made.

It was in late fall and early winter that the stragglers from the far west made their appearances: the previously mentioned Bullock's oriole and green-tailed towhee, and a Townsend's solitaire. The period included records of a few northern species—Arctic three-toed woodpecker, Bohemian waxwing, and a good redpoll flight with one hoary redpoll observation. Two other glaucous gulls and a black-backed gull were reported. The more southern species remaining in this season made Christmas bird-counting unusually exciting; among them were black-crowned night heron, killdeer, mockingbird, catbird, pipit, and several species of sparrows.

The Unusual Records

1952 was unusual in that a number of rarities were seen almost commonly. The total list of rare, casual and accidental species ran over fifty, so many already reported in seasonal summaries are not included here. Some of these are: red-throated loon (reported five times from Lake Michigan counties); scoters (listed several times in the eastern counties as well as inland); black-bellied plover (nine counties); Bewick's wren (present in five counties in spring, and probably nested in one); pipit

(noted in spring, autumn and winter); and Harris' sparrow (sighted in at least ten counties in migration). Other birds were notable for being seen "out of season." The rarer records:

Holboell's grebe: Manitowoc County, Apr. 10 (Myron Reichwaldt); Kewaunee County, Aug. 25 (Vince Batha et al). This species has been seen along Lake Michigan six years in a row.

Eared Grebe: Ozaukee County, Oct. 3 (S. Paul Jones-Mrs. F. L. Larkin), and Oct. 4 (Mr. and Mrs. Harold Liebherr). Rarely seen, especially in fall.

Western Grebe: Ozaukee County, Feb. 23 (Tom Soulen) and Nov. 14 (Mary Donald-Lisa Decker); Dodge County, May 17 (Harold Bauers).

Snowy Egret: Dodge County, Aug. 14 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin), Aug. 28 (Harold Bauers) and Sept. 9 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Barrow's Golden-eye: Milwaukee County, Dec. 7 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Krider's Hawk: Cedar Grove, Sept. 16 (Dan Berger); while extremely difficult to identify with certainty in the field, this bird was trapped, banded and photographed in color—an immature bird very light in color.

Swainson's Hawk: Dane County, May 14 (Mrs. R. A. Walker-P. D. Skaar); three trapped and banded early in September at Cedar Grove (Dan Berger).

Gyr Falcon: Reported from Milwaukee County on Oct. 10 (Lisa Decker, Mary Donald, Jane Paulsen and Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and on Oct. 17 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Golden Eagle: Dodge County, Oct. 25 (Mary Donald, Nila O'Hearn, Karl Priebe).

Hudsonian Curlew: Milwaukee, Oct. 5 (Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Frister).

Willet: Dane County, Sept. 7 (Alan Keitt). This is the only record for this species in 1952.

Western Sandpiper: Dane County, Aug. 24-30 (Bill Foster, N. R. Barger et al) and Oct. 9 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Milwaukee, Aug. 24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin) and Sept. 9 (Mary Donald et al).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Milwaukee, Aug. 27, one seen (Karl Priebe, Mary Donald, Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Glaucous Gull: One present in Kenosha off and on from Jan. 18 through May 4 (Richard Gordon et al); one in Milwaukee from Dec. 28 on (Mrs. A. P. Balsom et al); one in Kenosha on Dec. 31 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Great Black-backed Gull: One seen in Kenosha, Dec. 29 (Laurie Binford).

Saw-whet Owl: Dodge County, July 5 (Harold Bauers); Milwaukee, Oct. 8 (Mary Donald). Unusual records for a species more commonly seen in winter.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: Lincoln County, Nov. 16-17 (Warren Eager).

Western Kingbird: Racine, June 18 (Mary Whelan); Minocqua, Aug. 5 (Richard Gordon)—remarkably far north.

Mockingbird: Adams County, July 9 and Aug. 16 (Sam Robbins); Waupaca County, Dec. 11 (Mrs. Theo. Peterson).

Townsend's Solitaire: Dodge County, Dec. 6, one was collected (Alan Rusch).

White-eyed Vireo: Dane County, May 4 (P. D. Skaar, Andy Ragatz, Alan Keitt); Sheboygan County, May 15 (Myron Reichwaldt); Kenosha County, May 15 (Richard Gordon).

Bell's Vireo: Noted at Mazomanie on May 12 (N. R. Barger), May 18 (P. D. Skaar), and June 19 (Barger-Sam Robbins).

Brewster's Warbler: Seen at Mazomanie along with the Bell's Vireo—same dates, same observers.

Prairie Warbler: Racine, May 25 (Ed Prins, Richard Gordon et al).

Bullock's Oriole: Milwaukee, Nov. 7 (Mary Donald).

Green-tailed Towhee: Appleton, Dec. 27 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers).

Hoary Redpoll: Carefully observed in Oneida County, Dec. 13 (Richard Gordon).

Leconte's Sparrow: Dane County, Aug. 29 (P. D. Skaar) and Oct. 5 (N. R. Barger et al); Milwaukee, Oct. 2 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin) and Oct. 6 (Mary Donald); Sheboygan County, Nov. 1 (Gordon Orians).

Gambel's Sparrow: Dodge County, May 15, one trapped and banded (Alan Rusch-Harold Mathiak).

The Hypothetical List

Nearly every year, observations of some rarities present special difficulties. Observations are carefully made, and point strongly toward a definite identification; but if conditions of observation were imperfect for such identification, or if any important field mark was not noted, scrupulous care for strict accuracy in recording rare records requires their consideration as hypothetical records.

Wheatear: There is every likelihood that correct identification of a bird of this species was made in Kenosha County, Oct. 26-28 (Richard Gordon). Previous records from Wisconsin and neighboring states are so scanty that specimens or clear pictures would be highly desirable for positive identification.

"Oregon" Junco: The presence of juncos other than the common slate-colored junco in Wisconsin is beyond dispute; a few have been reliably reported nearly every year recently, and along with them belong these 1952 records: Manitowoc County, Mar. 9 (David Block); Oconto County, Oct. 6 (Mary Staeger); and Polk County, Dec. 17 (Mrs. L. M. Pedersen-Mildred Pedersen). Because of recent subspecific re-classification of juncos, and the absence of sufficient recent Wisconsin specimens, we do not yet feel safe in placing these birds in the "positive identification" list. The Polk County bird was thought to resemble most closely the pink-sided junco.

The Seasonal Counts

An effort was made to conduct counts in each of the four seasons in 1952. The traditional May-day counts, taken this year in seven localities, revealed a total of 203 species. Through an oversight two counts were omitted from the write-up: the Green Bay Bird Club recorded 124 species on May 18; and the Bird Group of the Milwaukee City Club listed 137 species on May 15.

Breeding bird counts were taken in Manitowoc County by Myron Reichwaldt on June 29, and in Adams County by Sam Robbins on July 9. They turned up 64 and 113 species, respectively.

Three one-day fall tallies were received: Adams County, Sept. 5, taken by Mary Donald, Mrs. Nila O'Hearn, Karl Priebe and Sam Robbins—116 species; Brown County, Sept. 13, taken by William Fisk—26 species; Vernon County, Sept. 28, taken by Margarette Morse—39 species. Total for the three tallies was 125 species.

Most outstanding of the seasonal counts was the Christmas bird count. Although these counts have gone on for many years, more counts were taken this year—34—than in any previous year. The total of 111 species and subspecies was also a new record.

Annual Bird Lists

The two new species added to the state list made it possible for the total number of species and subspecies seen in the state in 1952 to eclipse the previous annual record. The combined 1952 total includes 281 species, three subspecies (Krider's hawk, prairie horned lark, Gambel's sparrow), and one hybrid (Brewster's warbler); the total of 285 forms eclipses the mark of 282 set in 1951. The following 1952 lists for the state were received:

Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee	259
Mary Donald, Milwaukee	255
Karl Priebe, Milwaukee	249
Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison	242
Sam Robbins, Adams	240
Alan Keitt, Madison	232
Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee	226
Mrs. Nila O'Hearn, Milwaukee	225
C. P. Fristers, Milwaukee	222
Tom Soulen, Waukesha	217
Mrs. Lisa Decker, Milwaukee	213
Mrs. Howard Higgins, Kenosha	200
Alan Rusch, Horicon	198
John Wilde, Evansville	197
Dr. Anna Hehn, Milwaukee	194
Edwin Cleary, De Pere	190
Harold Bauers, Milwaukee	187
Stanley Wellso, Oshkosh	181
Myron Reichwaldt, Kiel	176
Allie Krueger, Wood	164
M. O. Jones, Milwaukee	150
A. S. Bradford, Appleton	136
C. L. Strelitzer, Milwaukee	134
Arlene Cors, Portage	112
E. Taylor Judd, Phelps	99

State coverage was better than in 1951. More observers (219, of which 104 were regular) sent in records. One fault hindered the raising of some county totals. In trips where more than one county is covered, separate lists should be made for each, or some notation should be made beside each bird seen to give credit to the county.

These were:

Dodge143



the new editorship of Mr. Besadny, I trust your cooperation and understanding will continue to bear good ornithological fruit.

WINTER FIELD TRIP IN MILWAUKEE

By CHARLES E. NELSON

The 1953 winter field trip, scheduled by the W. S. O., was held on March 8 in Milwaukee, along the lakeshore and in the city and county parks. As we gathered, we were reminded of a similar trip a year ago, and its inclement weather—the ground was blanketed with a heavy fog. This year as the group assembled, it was cold, raw and snowy. What kind of a trip would this be? Some cheerful soul, who had been on last year's trip, reminded me that last year's fog had lifted late in the morning, that we had a fine day and had a good list of birds. While the weather continued to be raw all day, the snow did let up, and the sun began to shine around 11:00 o'clock. There were four to six inches of snow on the ground. As we walked through Whitnall Park, the snow from the trees would be dumped on us whenever we hit a branch, or whenever one of the long-eared owls would fly out.

We split up into four small groups, each with a leader, and took off to see what could be located. When we met at the South Shore Beach Park for lunch and compared notes, we found we had done very well. At day's end a total of 42 species had been recorded. Outstanding among the finds were the white-winged scoter, glaucous gull, and hoary redpoll—all rarely seen in Wisconsin anywhere, anytime. Other unusual birds were the mourning dove, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, common redpoll, pine siskin and snow bunting. Those living away from Lake Michigan find the ducks wintering in Milwaukee a treat; those seen on this trip included the mallard, black duck, baldpate, shoveller, redhead, canvas-back, greater scaup duck, American golden-eye, bufflehead, old-squaw, ruddy duck, hooded and American mergansers.

Thirty-three enthusiasts from southern Wisconsin braved the elements to attend this trip. Some came all the way from Madison, and we know they were not disappointed.

More News . . .

The Supply Department has the following binoculars and field glasses to offer: (All binoculars have center focus, individual eye adjustment, and coated lenses—we would not recommend any other kind.)

- 7 x 35 German, 16 oz., \$84.00
- 6 x 30 German, 15 oz., \$66.00
- 20 x 55 German, 27 oz., \$119.40
- 7 x 50 Zeiss, 29 oz., \$210.00
- 7 x 50 Hensoldt (German), 21 oz., \$192.00
- 7 x 35 Japanese, 20 oz., \$59.40
- 7 x 40 Japanese, \$63.00
- 7 x 50 Japanese, 38 oz., \$65.40

We also have the following **used** field glasses: (Both are 4 power and weigh 8 oz.).

- Stadium, with center bend, \$24.50
- Wollensak Rambler, \$10.00

All prices include tax, and all have

leather case and straps. We pay postage and send glasses on ten-day approval. Address: 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

Reservations are now being accepted for the April 24 and 25 trips to Plainfield to watch the prairie chicken courtship displays. The Frederick Hamerstoms have again invited W. S. O. members to use their blinds to watch one of nature's greatest spectacles, but because the facilities of the blinds are limited to 20 to 25 on each date, reservations must be made in advance. So that as many members as possible can observe the prairie chickens, those who have not had the opportunity in previous years will be given preference. Meeting time at the Hamerstoms will be 8:00 p. m. April 23 (for April 24), and 7:00 p. m. April 24 (for April 25). Make your reservation with C. E. Nelson, 124 Oxford Road, Waukesha.

(more news on page 74)

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

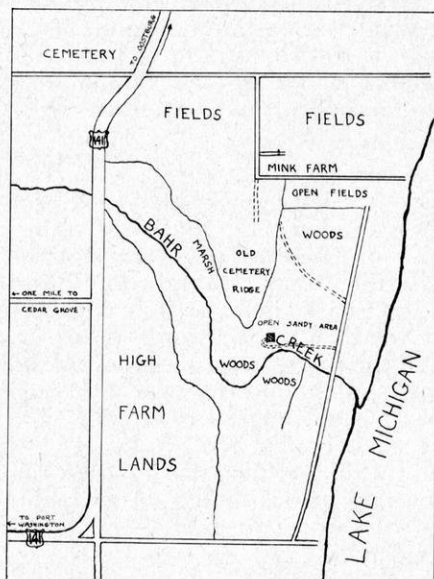
CEDAR GROVE

North and east of Post Washington, south of Oostburg and lying along the Lake Michigan shore, is a natural area which, because of its varied habitat, excellent cover, and plentiful food supply for birds and other game, was used as a favorite hunting ground for many years. A small stream, Bahr Creek, meanders its slow, crooked way through the area, and since it is only a short distance east of the village of Cedar Grove the place itself has long been called "Cedar Grove." A pointed ridge of land extends from the higher farming area out into the lower portion of the grove. There, over the ridge—probably for centuries for all we know—hawks, riding invisible updrafts or thermal and deflective air currents, are bottle-necked between the lake and the high ground. The Milwaukee Museum, aware of this situation, conducted a hawk banding station there for many years. At this writing, a small group of young men from the John Muir Club in Milwaukee, are carrying on this excellent scientific work. Finally, through the efforts of a few conservation-minded individuals, an area of thirty-six acres has been set aside as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Wisconsin Conservation Department so that all the people of Wisconsin may enjoy a "ringside seat" at one of nature's most spectacular performances.

By late August the hawks begin to move south, especially if the wind is north and westerly, since they seem to prefer a tailwind. A few hawks, depending on the weather, may be seen almost any day from August on through November, but usually the spectacular migrations appear on chilly days when the wind is strong from the north-west. It is best to

arrive early, bring a lunch, choose a seat on the ridge just back of the small, old private cemetery, relax—if you can—and watch the show.

Marsh hawks may announce the start of the performance; then the broad-wings, an occasional bald eagle, punctuated with accipiters and ospreys, ride the skyway. By the first week in October, the large buteos—red-tailed, red-shouldered and rough-legged—have joined the stream of migrants. The falcons—duck, pigeon and sparrow hawks—are sandwiched in till mid-October. By November, when the rough-legged hawks are at their peak, or even in late October, the scarce goshawk may be seen. Two western varieties,



the Swainson's and the Krider's hawks, have been trapped and banded. The turkey vulture and the rare golden eagle have been seen along the ridge. In fall, hawks may be seen in numbers from five to eight thousand on the best days. The spring migration is a mere trickle by comparison.

Other species of birds join the southward rush in the fall and many very late stragglers have been recorded—such as a tree swallow on November 27. Pine and evening grosbeaks and crossbills frequently visit the grove; redpolls, pine siskins, purple finches and goldfinches are commonly seen; even the hoary redpoll is possible. Thousands of finches pass through in November, many remaining all winter.

Beyond the narrow strip of lakeshore cottages is the sandy beach of Lake Michigan where uncommon shore and waterbirds are seen—sometimes in great numbers. Willets, godwits and curlews have been recorded in migration, and cormorants are frequently seen sitting on the posts put up for fishermen's nets. Swans, an occasional sandhill crane, geese, American and white-winged scoters, red-throated loons and Western grebes are seen. Caspian terns also fish in these waters both spring and fall. All species of ducks usually seen in Wisconsin are seen in season.

Along the creek, among the tangled roots, winter wrens arrive early in March, depart, return, and stay late in fall. Woodcock are frequently found along the creek, and black-crowned night herons are there all summer—sometimes as many as fifty.

American pipits, lapland longspurs and snow buntings migrate through the refuge both spring and fall, and often are seen along the fields north of the grove.

Owls are common in the area some years. Just north of the north woods are long lines of evergreens bordering the fields on the east. They have produced as many as fifty long-eared owls in winter. Short-eared owls are frequent, and an occasional barred or great horned owl is seen.

While birding in Cedar Grove is interesting in any season, the fall hawk migration is the most thrilling. Records of five to eight hundred hawks seen on one day in mid-November, or five to eight thousand during the September broad-wing flights, are well worth a trip to the refuge.

Directions

Cedar Grove Wildlife Sanctuary may be reached from U. S. Highway 141. It lies opposite Cedar Grove village on Highway 42 about twelve miles north of Port Washington and five miles south of Oostburg. At an old cemetery, on the west side of Highway 141, turn east on a gravel road to the first gravel road running south. Travel south on this road to a small milk farm on the left. Park there, or it is possible to remove the farmer's wire just before the road turns abruptly to the lake and drive into the refuge, just back of the ridge, to park. From the Port Washington side a gravel road runs straight off Highway 141 to the east where the highway makes a sharp right angle turn to the north. This short road extends to the lake, and the first road (private) to the left takes you across Bahr Creek and into the refuge. Park on the road, careful not to get too far out in the treacherous sand, and walk along the path that runs along the edge of the woods on the north from the barbed wire up to the back of the ridge.

Mrs. F. L. Larkin

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

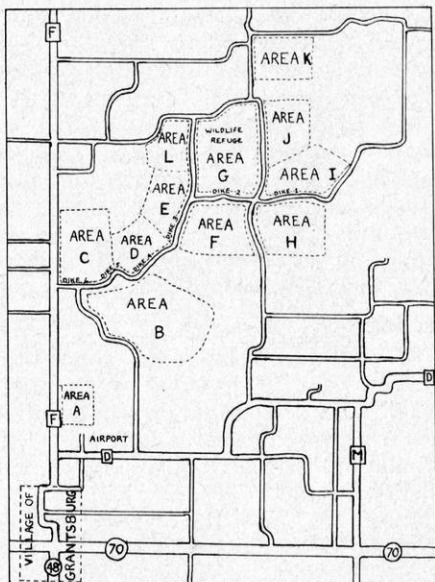
CREX MEADOWS

Northeast of the village of Grantsburg, in western Burnett County, lies a very extensive meadow-marsh area, intermixed with island areas of sandy, upland soils. Formerly a site of extensive drainage and marsh-farming operations, and then abandoned, it is now owned and being extensively developed by the Wisconsin Conservation Department, as a Pittmann-Robertson wildlife restoration area, favoring particularly waterfowl. This area of approximately 18,000 posted acres, contains many square miles of wild areas free of human habitation and intervention, and annually attracts many of the more timid bird species, as well as most all waterfowl and song-bird species during the migrations.

Since much of the area is easily accessible by good sand roads, and "drivable" dikes, birding enthusiasts find the area particularly attractive to family groups and tours, since so much wildlife can be seen first-hand from the comfort of the car window—especially the many shore and marsh species along the dikes and flowages.

In the spring during the migration the large meadow areas "A, F, H, and I" are particularly attractive to migrating hawks, when under choice wind conditions literally hundreds of marsh, red-tailed, and rough-legged hawks may be seen in an afternoon. With the opening of the flowages, areas "B, C, D, G, I, and K," the waterfowl appear in large numbers; inland sight records of the old-squaw and white-winged scoter have been made. Along with the waterfowl the duck hawk has been reported on more than one occasion. A few of the majestic whistling swan stop over each year and may generally be seen at close quarters from the car window. Sandhill cranes are reported each spring from the upper

reaches of areas "B, D, and I." Several American egrets were seen in areas "A and B" in the spring of 1953. The calls and occasional glimpses of the sora and Virginia rails can be expected from most marsh areas, especially the upper reaches of areas "A, D, F, H, and I." Countless warblers and sparrows can be seen, especially along the wooded sections of the dikes and sand roads. Among the rarer shore birds seen along the flowages, areas "B, C, D, G, I, and K," are the Wilson's phalarope and ruddy turnstone. Red-throated loons have been seen in areas "B, D, and I," in May and in 1953 remained into June and July. Waterfowl courtship fights and antics can be observed first-



hand on any part of the flowages, while on each stop Wilson's snipe can be heard "winnowing". Ruffed grouse drum in the wooded uplands, and in the open areas "E, H, J, and L" are located several sharp-tailed grouse dancing sites.

Crex Meadows during the summer season is better known as an area where waterfowl broods can be seen in numbers from the comfort of a car, along any of the dikes and flowages, areas "B, C, D, G, I and K." Early morning and late afternoon are the times to expect broods of the mallard, blue-winged teal, wood duck, black duck, pintail and the less common green-winged teal, ring-necked duck and coot. Summering lesser scaup ducks may be seen in areas "B and D," with brood records expected. Summering records of Canada, snow and blue geese have been recorded in areas "B and G." Broods of the pied-billed grebe are very common, with that of the horned grebe more rare. Cormorants have been summering in areas "B and C," and an occasional osprey or bald eagle is seen in the large area "B." Green herons nest in the upper reaches of area "C." Killdeer and spotted sandpipers nest along the dikes, while in the sedge-marsh areas marsh wrens, snipe, and the sora and Virginia rails nest in areas "A, F, H, and I." Yellow-headed and Brewer's blackbirds can be found in areas "A, B, and G." In the sandy open uplands of areas "E, J, and L," the upland plover and the sharp-tailed grouse can be found nesting. Broods of the ruffed grouse in the more wooded areas are common. The scarlet tanager, redstart, indigo bunting and towhee all nest here in suitable habitat, while the rarer mockingbird has been seen here in summer on several occasions.

In the fall most species seen in the spring again pass through the area in numbers. Waterfowl make use of the managed flowage areas, and large concentrations are expected in the future within area "G," currently being developed as a sanctuary. Again the fall migration of hawks under favorable wind conditions may be spectacular, while a few turkey vultures are generally seen in late fall in areas "A and H."

During the winter several interesting birds may be found. Besides the common permanent residents, the purple finch, pine grosbeak, pine siskin and white-winged crossbill are frequently seen in any of the wooded jackpine areas. The pileated woodpecker may be seen, while during the milder winters the red-headed woodpecker is fairly common. The Canada jay and raven are occasionally seen and heard, while the snowy owl is seen generally each winter in areas "A, F, and H." Barred and great-horned owls are fairly common in the more heavily wooded sections, and an occasional bald eagle may be seen throughout the winter.

Directions

The area is easily accessible north out of Grantsburg by roads leading in from County Trunk Highways "F" and "D." Dikes, roads, small lakes, and other land marks are marked with directional signs. To reach area "A" proceed north out of Grantsburg along County Trunk "F." The first road east off County Trunk "F," marked with a Dike Road sign, will take you to areas, "C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L."

East of Grantsburg on County Trunk "D," past the airport, the first road north takes you to the big Phantom Lake dike and Area "B."

Norman R. Stone

In Memoriam . . .

EARL G. WRIGHT

Earl Grover Wright, past president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (1942-43), died at Green Bay on April 5, 1952. He was born in Delavan, Wisconsin, December 12, 1899. An artist, etcher, sculptor and student of nature—especially of birds—he was also a leader of men and a teacher of youth. His formal education beyond high school was limited to night classes at Northwestern University. He was affiliated with the Chicago Academy of Sciences from 1927 until May, 1941, and served as their Curator of Exhibits for five years. He was Director of the Neville Public Museum at Green Bay from July 1, 1941, until his death.

Mr. Wright was a member of WSO since September, 1940, and was also a Director-at-Large in 1943-44 and Secretary in 1947-48. He drew the Society's passenger pigeon bookplate and modeled the plaque which was cast in bronze for the passenger pigeon monument at Wyalusing State Park. He showed his bird life history study movies of whistling swans, the Florida gallinule, American coot and other birds at several



PHOTO BY GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

Society annual meetings. His paintings and etchings of birds and mammals were exhibited at several Society meetings and at other exhibits. He illustrated two nature books including Alfred M. Bailey's *At Home with the Bird*. In 1948 he traveled in Alaska taking movies later arranged as the film, "Nature's Calendar," with which he gave many lectures.

His articles include the following: "Birds of Southern Louisiana" (Wilson Bul., 43:112, 1935 with Alfred M. Bailey); "A Diving Spotted Sandpiper" (Wilson Bul., 40:50, 1928); "The Western Gull in the Chicago Area" (Auk, 45:200, 1928 with Edwin Komarek); "Two Species of Birds New to Louisiana" (Auk, 48:123, 1931 with Alfred M. Bailey); "Marking Birds by Imping Feathers" (Jour. Wild Mgt., 3:238, 1939); "A Hummingbird Episode" (Chi. Nat., 1:88, 1940); "Mistaking the Hawk" (Pass. Pigeon, 7:127, 1945), and "Incidents in Least Bittern Family Life" (Pass. Pigeon, 8:124, 1946).

Mr. Wright was also a past president of the Green Bay Bird Club, Chairman of the William I. Lyon Bird Banding Council in 1940, member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Audubon Society from 1936 to 1940, and a charter member of the Kennicott Club of Chicago. His other membership affiliations included the Wilson Ornithological Club, Ameri-

can Association of Museums, and Chicago Ornithological Society. The Neville Public Museum's **Program of Activities** published a tribute to him (6:1, 1952) which states, "He was a man who was greatly gifted . . . he believed in spending his gifts generously, even lavishly, that his fellow men might be enriched and their lives strengthened in every way." He is survived by his wife and two sons.—W. E. Scott

WALTER E ROGERS

Walter E Rogers, a charter member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, died at Appleton on October 5, 1951. He was born in Greenview, Illinois, February 24, 1890. Since early in his youth he was interested in nature and he eventually specialized in botany. He graduated from James Millikin University in 1913, and this institution granted him the degree of Doctor of Science in 1939. In 1939 he became professor of biology at Lawrence College where he served in that position for 32 years. For many of these years he taught a course in ornithology with his wife assisting him in the field work. He also studied and taught at several other universities and colleges. He made many significant contributions to WSO by assisting his wife in her numerous positions as an officer and in helping to organize the Society's 1946 annual meeting at Appleton.

In 1935 Mr. Rogers published a book, **Tree Flowers of Forest, Park and Street**, which is noted for the artistic beauty of its illustrations. He also published some bird notes in the **Passenger Pigeon** and botanical papers in **Torreya** and in the **Proceedings** of the Iowa Academy of Sciences, of which he was a member. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, being made a "fellow" in 1930. He was also a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, Torrey Botanical Club, Botanical Society of America, and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences. His name was included in the 1949 edition of "American Men of Science."

If a professor can be judged by the amount of inspiration he imparts to his students, then Professor Rogers was eminently successful in his life's work. Fortunately, some of this inspiration and interest in nature was also imparted to other members of his family. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, and two sons.—W. E. Scott

More News . . .

The growing interest in Christmas bird counts is encouraging. We hope that even more counts will be made this year, giving better coverage of the state as a whole. We hope that more of the counts will measure up to the international standards established by **Audubon Field Notes**: a one-day count; at least seven hours afield; taken between the dates of December 25, 1953, and January 3, 1954; weather conditions and area covered reported in some detail; numbers of individuals counted or estimated as exactly as possible. **The Passenger Pigeon** has been glad to accept

counts that have not conformed to these standards, but endorses the standards as a means of making the counts more valuable.

Our apologies to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Koenig of Sauk City. They were responsible for the display of bird houses and feeders erroneously credited to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higgins in the write-up of the 1953 convention in our last issue.

Another field trip to the lake front in Milwaukee is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 1954. The write-up of last spring's trip on page 68 should whet your appetite for next spring. The trip starts from McKinley Beach at 8:00 a. m.

THE GREEN BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

By CLARA HUSSONG

The Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, which members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology visited during the 1953 spring convention in Green Bay, started out as most projects of that kind do—with forty acres and a dream. A tract of forty acres of marsh land owned by the city was scheduled to be drained, filled in, and made into a public golf course or some other public project. The land was only a block or two away from the bay waters, and separated from the bay by a public road. This was in 1935.

A group of outdoor-minded people had other dreams. Some of them had visited Jack Miner's bird sanctuary in Ontario, and wondered why we couldn't have one here. "Letters to the editor" and other publicity followed, and later that year an open meeting to discuss the project was called. About fifty people attended this meeting, discussing pro and con the dreams held by the originators of the sanctuary idea—geese and ducks nesting there, waterfowl and shorebirds pausing at the lagoons in migration, song birds using tree cover (still only a dream) as a resting spot during migration. Some of the pictures painted by the "dreamers" seemed so far beyond the expectation of most of the audience that they smiled hopefully, but skeptically.

Nevertheless the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Club was formed in 1937, its first president being Chester Cole—a Green Bay high school science teacher, and one of the most enthusiastic originators of the sanctuary idea. This club was entirely separate from the Green Bay Bird Club, although several members of the latter, including the writer, served on the former group's board of directors. In the same year, the forty acres—part of a 200-acre marsh area originally purchased by the city for park purposes—was turned over to the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Club "to see what they could do with that crazy idea of theirs of a bird sanctuary."

Club members started digging—literally and by hand. Donations of money were received from individuals, civic groups and industrial firms; the latter also donated machinery and manpower in some instances to further the work of developing the area, making a refuge out of what was formerly called "worthless land." The first lagoons were small; but they were enlarged when help came in the form of NYA appropriations, and later—from 1938 to 1941—when the work became a WPA project. During those three years the "city fathers" and the public were won over to the idea of a bird sanctuary, and the entire 200 acres were then designated as sanctuary land.

Plans for the sanctuary were drawn up by Marshall Simonds, Green Bay park superintendent and a member of the Green Bay Bird Club. His good judgment in choosing what was to be done, and directing the work, made the sanctuary what it is today. Trees and vegetation were chosen for their food and cover value; some spots were filled in, while others were left to attract marsh-inhabiting species. There are now three

miles of lagoons, a small public park area at the entrance, and 150 acres which are shut off from the public during the nesting season.

A small island has been cleared of brush, developed into a small hill and covered with gravel. Corn is strewn there daily during the winter months, and from 500 to 2000 ducks and as many as fifty Canada geese are fed there daily during the cold months. Open water in one pond is maintained throughout the winter by means of a pump in one of the buildings. On the coldest mornings the sanctuary custodian chops a hole in the ice near the island; the birds do the rest in keeping the spot open during the day.

In summer the willow thrush sings its quavering spiral in the swampy sections of the sanctuary. In the marsh one can find both marsh wrens, gallinules, soras, bitterns, and many other species. The Henslow's sparrow sits on marsh blades and hiccoughs its little notes, and scarlet tanagers and rose-breasted grosbeaks sing from the tips of aspen trees. Ducks and geese use the "refuge area" in the south end of the sanctuary for nesting. Nesting ducks include the mallard, black duck, pintail, blue-winged teal, and probably the shoveller. Mr. Simonds estimates that about fifty young Canada geese were raised from seven nesting pairs in 1953.

A Varied Habitat

The habitat of the sanctuary is varied enough to attract a wide variety of species in spring and fall migration. Green Bay Bird Club members make it a point to listen and look for birds along the eastern extremity of the grounds on "High Bird Day" in May; records of rarer rails and other shorebirds have often resulted. Several American egrets showed up in August in 1953. In 1950 a snowy egret with an injured wing remained here from September to early November; it was observed numerous times by Mr. and Mrs. Simonds, and was photographed by Mr. Hus-song. This is but one example of the rarities which can be expected in a place of this sort.

Sanctuary buildings include a pump house, custodian's quarters, and attached to the latter a glassed-in observation platform where visitors may watch the birds during cold or rainy weather. Small paper bags of shelled corn are on sale here, and the money obtained in this way is enough to pay for the cost of feed all through the year.

School classes and scout groups are often taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary on field trips, and visitors from other parts of the country are escorted there by proud Green Bay citizens. There are hundreds of visitors at the sanctuary each weekend; most of them know little about the southern part of the sanctuary that is used as a refuge, but they are attracted by the landscaped foregrounds and the shelter and viewing stands. Those of us who were "in" on the beginnings of the project and members of the now dissolved Wildlife Sanctuary Club remember how hard we worked to get support for the idea eighteen years ago. It was well worth the effort; our dreams are coming true.

332 East Beaupre Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin

A Vacation Birding Trip

By CARL AND DOROTHY FRISTER

This story has to do with two birders, who go camping and birding twelve months a year, and like the mailman who goes about his route on his day off, we went to look for birds on our days off. Sometimes, I wonder whether we camp to go birding, or bird to go camping. Nevertheless, we enjoy both activities immensely, and find that they complement each other admirably.

This year our decision was to split our vacation, taking one part in early July, and the remainder in September. We also decided to confine our activities to hunting birds and bird spots in the State of Wisconsin. Because most expeditions must have an objective, the one we set for ourselves, was to find a spruce grouse. To find this bird in Wisconsin, at any time, is extremely difficult; but to find it in the middle of summer, we found, was almost impossible.

Nevertheless, we took off in early July, our first objective being Horicon marsh. Upon reaching Horicon, our first stop was at state headquarters, located a short distance north and slightly east of the city. Our Society has several fine members working at headquarters, and they are always helpful in giving information on what is good to see at the marsh. From a vantage point near at hand, one can look out over the marsh, taking in the goose nesting project, see several species of ducks, an occasional yellow-headed blackbird and some of the herons, along with an American egret or two, from the colony that has established itself here in recent years.

This marsh is a filled lake, occupying a shallow basin formed by glaciation. The area of the lake was about fifty-one square miles, being several times larger than Lake Mendota in Madison. The history of this marsh has been long and troublesome. A dam was first built in 1842, forming a new lake, but subsequent court decisions did away with the dam. In 1914 an attempt was made to drain the marsh, but this was never fully realized. Of recent date, a new dam has been built, and the state and federal governments are trying to restore it to something of its original condition.

Leaving State headquarters, we skirted the east shore of Horicon, going north to the great dike that separates the federal area from that of the state. This dike is an ideal place from which to bird, and it can be traversed by car for several miles. This particular July day, we had several shore birds, including the lesser yellow-legs, and a black-bellied plover. The interesting birds to us, though, were the young of the coot, Florida gallinule and the ruddy duck. The young of these species were quite numerous.

Arriving back on shore, we again continued north along the east shore eventually criss-crossing the north end of the marsh. This area was quite productive, turning up several ducks, terns, shore birds and additional egrets.

With Horicon behind, the trip turned northeastward, skirting the north end of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Although we did not stop

this time, we have been coming here quite regularly, because large areas of this forest have been planted in conifers, and we have wondered if it will change the bird life. So far, no significant changes have been noted.

Point Beach State Forest was the camping spot for the night. This is the site of our 1950 convention, made famous by the spectacular wind storm and its resulting influx of unusual birds (see Passenger Pigeon, April 1950). The forest has several interesting features—among them the sand dunes, the long forested ridges and the bordering swampy regions. The forest cover consists of mixed hardwoods and evergreens.

Our stay in this park had to be shared with a group of field archers, literally thousands of them, who were having a national convention here. Archers were to be found lurking everywhere, and because we had no intentions of going to the happy hunting grounds, we confined our birding activities to the beach areas. A great deal of time was spent looking for a gull nesting area which the park attendant had mentioned. This was not found, but a great amount of time was spent tracking a bird with an unfamiliar song. After a great deal of maneuvering, to get the bird in good light, it disappeared, leaving us wondering. Many of the resident birds were seen, including two thrushes and six species of warblers.

In Quest of the Spruce Grouse

Our Monday log showed us heading north to Crandon, and the north-east part of the state. At Crandon a stop was made at conservation headquarters, to inquire about spruce grouse. We found two WSO members here, who were quite helpful in furnishing information on likely locations for these birds. They also warned that the birds were very thin, and finding one would be extremely difficult. Equipped with maps, having local areas marked, we continued north again, to find a campsite, for it was getting on to dusk. A stop was made at the Pine River camp, but a hard downpour coupled with foot long wet grass and myriads of monstrous mosquitoes discouraged our camping here; so the trip headed across country on forest roads for Franklin Lake. On the way a pleasant ten minute interlude was spent making way for a hen ruffed grouse and her brood crossing the forest road.

Franklin Lake was a nice campsite, set among evergreen trees at the edge of a beautifully clear lake. Foul weather hampered all efforts in finding the elusive spruce grouse. We went to bed with the wild call of a loon in our ears. What slumber music! Eating at this camp was an interesting tussle with the local red squirrels, who were quite adept at snitching food. One little robber even tried to make off with one of the knives. Besides the loon, the interesting birds found were the bald eagle, rough-legged and red-tailed hawks. Much workings of the pileated woodpecker were found in the camp area, but unfortunately the bird was not seen.

Because of time limitations, the hunt for the spruce grouse had to be terminated; camp had to broken for the next leg of the journey, which went west across the north end of the state to the town of Cornell and Brunet Island State Park situated at the confluence of the Fisher and Chippewa rivers in Chippewa County.

This park consists of several interconnected islands, with good forest cover and fine trails, but the campsite was perhaps a little too civilized. My activities here were somewhat cramped for the following forty-eight hours because a hornet lit on the top of my head and gave me "the business." The welt that developed on the top of my bald head appeared as if some thug had done a very thorough job with a gas pipe. Resident birds did not appear too numerous in this area, but we did spend an interesting time tracking down singing redstarts, until we thought we knew the songs.

Leaving Brunet Island behind, the next leg of the trip followed the Chippewa River for many miles, then across rough country for many miles, emerging at Onalaska on the Mississippi River. This is the home area of Alvin Peterson. Although the weather was again on the wet side, we managed to look over his sanctuary, and listen to bob-white calling all about. A recently acquired Bell's vireo nest was viewed, and information was given on a yellow-breasted chat that had nested in the nearby bottom-lands. This appears to be an interesting bird area for WSO members to explore sometime in the future, what with nearby Grandd Bluff and the wonderful Mississippi River valley for an incentive.

From here the trip continued down the east shore of the Mississippi, on through Prairie du Chien to Wyalusing Park, located on the bluff overlooking the mouth of the Wisconsin River, WSO birders who made the spring campout in 1952 will remember this park well. Here are to be found some of the southern species of birds, such as the tufted titmouse, Kentucky and prothonotary warblers. It is said that local people called prothonotary warblers "wild canaries" because they are so numerous in the river bottoms.

When we checked in at the park office, the attendant informed us that a certain bird was singing all through the night. That evening, after due investigation, it was found to be a wood pewee. Dorothy and I had an experience in this very same park, a few years back, getting up before dawn to track down a bird singing a four-phrase song about a quarter-mile away. It developed that this bird was also a pewee, mixing up his song in such fashion that it became very confusing.

The campsite in this park is excellent, with a beautiful vista over the river and bottom-lands. At night the lights of Prairie du Chien and the Iowa river cities form interesting patterns. Our particular camping area was blessed with a family of titmice, feeding about the tent throughout the day. Titmice are rather common in this part of the state, but to people who live in the southeast Wisconsin section, a titmouse is a very rare bird.

The September Trip

As a sequel to the July vacation, another trip followed in early September. It followed a triangular course, going up the shore of Lake Michigan into Door County, then southwestward to Devil's Lake, through Madison and back to Milwaukee.

The first stop was made in Manitowoc at the foot of Waldo Boulevard. This is an excellent spot, with water and marshy areas on both sides of the road. Several species of ducks were found, along with gulls

and terns. Working north along the lake from here, a stop was made whenever the opportunity afforded, but this was not a day for shore birds. The final stop, before heading inland to Sturgeon Bay, was at La Salle County Park. This was a new area, so it was explored thoroughly. The park was rather small in area with a good cover of trees and shrubs, with at least one heavily wooded ravine. At this particular time it was alive with warblers. Over the lake a Caspian tern was sighted.

Passing through Sturgeon Bay, our trip continued west for a few miles, ending in Potawatomi State Park, our camping spot for the night. This park is over a thousand acres in extent, and is heavily wooded in both hardwoods and evergreens. Because of the crowded camping conditions, we limited our stay to one night, but we did manage to take a look around the park, but from a bird angle, the results were negligible.

The next stop was about thirty-five miles north at Peninsula Park. This is the home area of Harold Wilson, former WSO president. We must confess that all was not birds here. Several pleasant hours were spent in fishing and looking over his nature camp. The park proper was teeming with warblers and other passerines. Although it was getting into the middle of September, we found pine warblers, red-breasted nuthatch, red-eyed vireo and phoebes feeding their young. Our particular campsite had a number of red-breasted nuthatches—more than we are used to seeing in Milwaukee at any season.

We had an amusing experience at our campsite. Each evening before dusk, the camp would be invaded by a group of skunks. These animals, with no concern for the human beings around, would go poking about under our tables and around the campfire looking for tidbits. It was quite a test of stamina, watching one of these animals approach within a foot of you; and you trying to remain calm and unperturbed, not knowing the animals' intentions. At one time we rustled a stick on the ground, hoping to scare the animals away, but this brought the skunk's danger signal up. So we left them strictly alone, living our stay out under an uneasy truce.

The forest cover of Peninsula Park is composed of mixed hardwoods and pine; the shore is lined with a limestone bluff. The nest of the duck hawk has been found on these bluffs. Gulls nest on the offshore islands, and have been banded for many years by Mr. Wilson.

Because a WSO board meeting beckoned at the end of the week in Madison, we set sail southwestward across the state, pitching our tent in Devil's Lake State Park. This is a lovely scenic park, but hardly a place for campers, what with the campsite lying alongside a railroad, with a crossing near at hand. It seemed as if most of the trains were run at night. Being awakened had some compensation, because the hooting of both the barred and horned owls was heard on occasion. As for other birdlife, it seemed to be rather thin on this particular occasion.

The end of the week brought us back home to Milwaukee, terminating two very interesting weeks. To say the least, we were a bit rueful at arriving back in civilization, but plans are under way for more of the same, come next year.

2956 North 38th Street
Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin

Country Calendar: Autumn

By AUGUST DERLETH

i. Killdeer at Night

The killdeer's, which is one of the first voices to be heard in the late winter days, is also one of the last to be silenced by autumn and the coming of winter. It is not alone because his voice is the more noticed when other birds have departed or grown silent, but because, beginning in late summer, and continuing well into autumn—in clement weather into December—the killdeer makes his nostalgic crying ring out by night, a sudden wild succession of **killdeer's** erupting in the darkness over the fields and pastures—not along the familiar strand of the Wisconsin, which he haunts by summer days, but in upland places.

The killdeer's is the one voice I am certain of hearing on mild autumn nights. Cricket and katydid may be still, owls may have grown into sullen silence, but every little while the killdeers fly up and course low over the fields, crying, as if suddenly disturbed at foraging or rest, with a sound akin to that made when the bird is flushed from its nest. They are partial to moonlit nights—harvest moon, hunter's moon, moon of falling leaves—on those nights when the sweet fragrance of fallen leaves or the pungence of leaf-fire smoke fills the air, adding their crying to the beauty of such nights.

I hear him scarcely at all in the spring in such places; then he is partial to the river bottoms, to the lowlands of creeks, swamps, sloughs, ponds, where he is heard from dawn into the early hours of the night. Sometimes of early summer his voice rises at midnight with the sudden starting forth of meadowlark song, or the threnody of a song sparrow, or a catbird's mew and mockery. By autumn he has taken possession of the fields by night, flying along the cattle trails, among the cornrows, past rows of shocks, among a gaggle of geese come down to spend the night feasting on corn, over the knolls and terraces of the land west of Sac Prairie, but seldom in that season at the river, save by day.

How much a part of the autumn night in the fields his voice has grown! I took him for granted until I was away from his domain for weeks, months—and how welcome his voice was when I returned! We are all prone to take even the greatest beauty of earth for granted out of a surfeit of it; we know it daily in season, it is a kind of wealth which is too seldom realized for its very tangibility, since it seems there for the asking, though overnight a catastrophe could wipe it out of being—a thought that troubles us not.

I used to go into the woods, the hills and marshes, at every available opportunity—and I suppose, in a sense, I still do—compelled not alone by the desire to do so, but by the conviction that I should ever regret a single possible hour not spent close to the earth. I never had occasion for such regret, in truth, because I always learned more and more effectively how to apportion my time to allow for many hours in the hills and the marshes. But increasingly, now, I am the more acutely aware of

the smallest aspects of natural beauty—and of these the killdeer's crying of autumn nights over the fields is but one.

ii. The Mutations of Song

Whenever I walk along the railroad embankment into the marshes south and east of Sac Prairie of autumn evenings, just before and after sundown, I am made aware of the infinite variations in the mutations of spring bird songs. There are a few which show no great variation, if any—redwing's **conqueree**, bluebird chortling, the lyricism of meadowlarks—but there are others which offer such a singular variety of songs that I am sometimes hard put to it to identify the songster immediately. Song sparrows, vesper sparrows, robins—these especially make of their autumnal songs a pale and much altered version, usually far shorter than earlier melodies, of their spring songs.

Though the great fountain of song that held the April and May night air is no more, there is yet a surprising amount of activity. On one late October night recently, between the hours of five and six o'clock, with sundown occurring shortly after five, I heard the songs and cries of crows, song sparrows, swamp sparrows, field sparrows, vesper sparrows, meadowlarks, killdeer, robins, bluebirds, a single pileated woodpecker, blue jays, chickadees, white-throated sparrows, redwings, grackles, screech owls, barred owls, horned owls, a kingfisher, chewinks, ducks, and juncos, over and above the voices of hylidae—peepers and cricket frogs—and an occasional green frog or two, to say nothing of crickets and a few last katydids.

They diminished in volume, numbers, and kind with the onset of darkness, until at the last only killdeer and song sparrows were left to sing, and cardinals and robins to make complaint of night and perhaps too my own intrusion upon their domain. On occasion, the song sparrows gave forth recognizable strains of May song, but in the main theirs was, like the robin's, a kind of caricature of the spring melody—a broken song, half-voiced, half-withheld, falling away to impatient sounds and silence. One could never mistake an autumn evening for one in spring, if all else were shut away but the voices of the birds, for there is never in even the mildest, most summerlike autumn, the full-throated song of a spring night.

Indeed, the songs of many birds in autumn fall upon the ear like a melody half remembered, something beyond total recall, as if the songsters themselves had forgotten what it was they sang so glibly but a few months ago—though the listener had not. Yet the mutations are never beyond the boundaries of the original song; they arise from within its frame, which is to say that though some birds never repeat their spring songs in autumn, they never sing a note not sung in spring, only a variant arrangement of the spring notes.

At last, in the deeper dark of night, there is no voice left; the darkness is still, but pregnant, as if at the next turning all the choir of the spring night were to burst forth anew. And, indeed, is it not true?—save that the next turning is a little farther away than a night in autumn.

Sauk City, Wisconsin

More News . . .

Bernard Kaiman is back in Wisconsin after a year in Florida. We are glad to learn that he is again working with the Education and Publicity Committee, assisting in planning field trips.

Field notes for August, September and October should now be in the hands of the Associate Editor. If your notes are not in, please send them right away.

The new cover design, and the artistic headings for some of our regular features, are the work of Alfred Holz, one of our new W. S. O. members at Green Bay.

BOOK REVIEWS *

BIRDS OF MEXICO.** By Emmet Reid Blake. Illustrated by Douglas E. Tibbetts. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953. Pp. xxix, 644. \$6.00.

Here is the first adequate Mexican field guide. It purports to describe, and outline the distribution of, the 967 species recorded from Mexico at the time of publication.

The task of compressing almost a thousand species into fewer than 700 pages imposes drastic economies upon author and illustrator alike. But with it all, the result is an attractive, readable and competent guide. Both in format and treatment, the volume closely resembles Ralph Hoffman's classic **Birds of the Pacific States**, buttressed with a considerable use of Peterson's "identification by elimination" methods.

Under each of the 89 families of Mexican birds is a key to the diagnostic characteristics of each species within the family. Then each species is treated separately in terms of (1) description of major plumages; (2) range and seasonal distribution in Mexico; (3) subspecies (merely scientific names and geographical distribution); and (4) "remarks," usually a line or two stressing diagnostic field marks coupled with an observation as to habitat or life history.

Within the severe space limitations imposed, the reviewer wishes that treatment of subspecies had been omitted altogether in favor of enlarging upon habitat and life history data, this especially because separate races are described merely by name and range.

Space restrictions have limited, too, the utility of Mr. Tibbetts' fine black and white illustrations. Some 329 species are illustrated in whole or part. Assuming a six-dollar guide could not have depicted all 967 species, there is an argument for enlarging the number of illustrations to cover each of the some 480 species found in Mexico and not shown in any of the standard Eastern and Western U. S. guides. As it is, the 329 species shown include almost as many familiar U. S. birds as they do other Mexican species not pictured in readily available works.

But these criticisms, if justified at all, are minor when weighed against the value of this much-needed volume.—G. William Foster

*These books can be purchased through the W. S. O. Supply Department. Write to Mr. N. R. Barger, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison 5.

** (The reviewer has never seen a Mexican bird in Mexico. But as one who has thumb-marked to destruction a number of Eastern and Western U. S. bird guides, he approaches Mr. Blake's work as one of the uninitiated seeking enlightenment. From this view, the **Birds of Mexico** is both an illuminating and handy volume to work with.)

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN WOOD WARBLERS.

By A. C. Bent. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1953. 734 pages, including 83 pages of photographs. Price \$4.50 (paper).

This is the nineteenth bulletin on the life histories of North American birds in the well-known series by A. C. Bent. No description is needed for those who have seen the previous issues, but for the new reader, suffice it to say that the book summarizes essentially all that is known about the warblers.

Most of the manuscript for this bulletin was written in 1945, so we expect that another number in the series will be forthcoming in the near future.—N. R. Barger.

THE 1953 MAY DAY COUNTS

By C. DENNIS BESADNY

On May 17 bird enthusiasts from all over the state took to the field for the annual May Day count. This was the date proposed by the WSO board of directors. In previous years observations were made throughout May. With one day set aside for the count, observers in all parts of Wisconsin were able to make simultaneous counts and pool their findings which have been helpful in the study of the progression of migration.

Weather on May 17 was not ideal for the count as the skies were overcast, temperatures below normal, and varying amounts of precipitation fell throughout the day in most parts of the state. However, this adverse weather did not dampen the spirits of the observers, for by the end of the day 230 species of birds had been seen. This was more than had been seen on May Day counts in the past five years: 1948 (185), 1949 (209), 1950 (214), 1951 (195), and 1952 (approx. 205).

Included in this admirable list were a number of rarities such as American egret, ruddy turnstone, white-rumped sandpiper, long-billed dowitcher, Hudsonian godwit, red-breasted nuthatch, Bewick's wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Philadelphia vireo, prothonotary, worm-eating, blue-winged and hooded warblers, yellow-breasted chat, and lark sparrow.

Madison: 182 species. Twelve parties, composed of thirty-six observers, spent a good portion of the day covering most of Dane county to bring in this record-breaking total. Among the rarities were Holboell's grebe, Canada goose, turkey vulture, sandhill crane, golden plover, white-rumped sandpiper, dowitcher, Hudsonian godwit, yellow-bellied flycatcher, Bewick's wren, prothonotary and cerulean warblers, yellow-breasted chat, Brewer's blackbird, lark sparrow and Lapland longspur.—Kumlien Club.

Milwaukee: 180 species. The John Muir Club and other Milwaukee observers traveled through parts of Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Dodge, and Milwaukee counties from 2 a. m. to 8:30 p. m. to obtain this excellent list of birds. The count for the regular Milwaukee area was 153 species. Highlights of the count included American egret, king rail, ruddy turnstone, white-rumped sandpiper, dowitcher, barn owl, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Philadelphia vireo, and yellow-breasted chat.—Mary Donald reporting.

Green Bay: 139 species. This list of species, seen while observers spent seven hours in the field, is larger than that obtained by the club for several years. Adverse weather cut down other species expected, especially the warblers. The more uncommon species observed were double-crested cormorant, prairie chicken, black-bellied plover, least and red-backed sandpipers, winter wren, blue-winged and hooded warblers, Brewer's blackbird, and the Lincoln's and Henslow's sparrows.—Green Bay Bird Club.

Adams County: 134 species. About eight hours were spent tramping through the wet underbrush of this central sand county to get this notable list. Included were such species as the wood duck, ruffed grouse, sandhill crane, pileated woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, Bewick's wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, prothonotary, cerulean, and bay-breasted warblers, and lark sparrow.—Sam Robbins.

Oshkosh: 124 species. Four observers covered an area within a fifteen mile radius of Oshkosh from 5 a. m. to 6 p. m. The best finds were black-bellied plover, white-rumped sandpiper, blue-gray gnatcatcher, pipit, prothonotary and orange-crowned warblers, and Lincoln's sparrow.—Kaspar, Beck, Baxandall, and Wellso.

Wausau: 100 species. Twenty-eight people spent 105 man-hours to obtain this list. A total of 2435 individual birds were seen. Best finds were pileated woodpecker, willow thrush, palm warbler, rusty blackbird, evening grosbeak, red crossbill, and lark sparrow.—Wausau Bird Club.

Jackson County: 91 species. Two people spent seven hours in the vicinity of Black River Falls. Sparrow hawk, sandhill cranes (5), Louisiana water-thrush, evening grosbeak and lark sparrow were among the species seen.—Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Roberts.

Appleton: 90 species. Thirteen people traveled in the Appleton, Neenah, Menasha area in cold rainy weather to bring home this list. Highlights were ruddy turnstones (150), red-backed sandpiper, bay-breasted and black-poll warblers, and yellow-headed and rusty blackbirds.—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, et al.

Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties: 82 species. The Oconomowoc and Estabrook Park areas were covered. Best finds were rough-legged hawk, European partridge, all of the common gulls and terns, Philadelphia vireo, and Lincoln's sparrow.—C. P. Fristers and E. W. Peartrees.

La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties: 82 species. Places visited were Grandad Bluff, Upper French Island and McGilvary Bottoms (La Crosse Co.), and Perrot State Park and Trempealeau Refuge (Trempealeau Co.). About thirteen hours were spent in the field and 75 miles of territory were covered. Most notable finds were pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, Bewick's wren, prothonotary warbler, and yellow-headed blackbird.—A. M. Petersons and H. Schicks.

Beloit: 76 species. 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. Fourteen observers covered an area within a seven and one-half mile radius of Beloit. There was rain throughout the day—wind se 12-15 mph—temp. about 60 degrees. The most astonishing find was a worm-eating warbler—a southern species that rarely straggles into the state. Other interesting species seen were bobwhite, red-breasted nuthatch, ruby-crowned kinglet, and Brewer's blackbird.—Beloit Bird Club, Harold Liebherr reporting.

Many other observers took counts on May 17 and their findings are grouped here with the more interesting species noted. These individual and group reports have helped fill in the migration picture.

Monroe Bird Club: 60 species. Great blue heron, least sandpiper, golden-crowned kinglet, and chestnut-sided warbler.—Charlotte Churchill reporting.

Vernon County: 70 species. American egret, duck hawk, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, prothonotary and blue-winged warblers.—Margarette Morse and Lois Webster.

Southern Sheboygan County: 68 species. European partridge, least sandpiper, alder flycatcher, migrant shrike, Western meadowlark and Cape May warbler.—Harold Koopmann and Myron Reichwaldt.

Waukesha County: 72 species. Sparrow hawk, red-backed sandpiper, all the swallows, blue-gray gnatcatcher, bay-breasted warbler, Northern water-thrush, Brewer's blackbird.—C. Nelson.

Other observers who contributed valuable information on the May Day counts were: J. H. Evans, Waushara County; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burgess, Prairie du Chien area; Mrs. Glen Fisher, Oshkosh; Mrs. H. Koenig, Sauk City; and Mary H. Staeger, Birnamwood.

A RESOLUTION

Meeting in Madison on September 12, 1953, the W. S. O. Board of Directors adopted unanimously (one member abstaining) the following resolution, dealing with the controversial opening of some national wildlife refuge lands to hunting. The resolution was presented by Wallace Grange, chairman of the W. S. O. Conservation Committee, and was supported by a majority of that committee. After considerable discussion, the board rejected a counter resolution by J. J. Hickey, also a member of the Conservation Committee, and favored the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States of America, by Treaty, with the Dominion of Canada and the Republic of Mexico, provided for the protection of migratory birds, and

Whereas, the provisions of these treaties, and of the "Migratory Bird Treaty Act" of 1916, the "Migratory Bird Conservation Act" of 1929, and subsequent amendments, have had the sole and definite purpose of

"- - - lessening the dangers threatening migratory game birds from drainage and other causes, by the acquisition of areas of land and of water to furnish **in perpetuity** reservations for the adequate protection of such birds - - -" and,

Whereas, the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin was acquired as a means of furthering the purposes of such Treaties, and of such enabling Acts thereunder, and

Whereas, further, more than 90% of the lands embraced by the National Wildlife Refuge at Horicon were acquired by moneys from the national Conservation Fund, the purpose of which was by law established as being to provide "**inviolable refuges,**" and

Whereas, under a law, the legal validity of which has not been tested, it is now proposed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wis-

consin Conservation Commission, acting in concert under written agreement, that:

1. Some of the "inviolable refuge" lands of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge will be opened to the hunting of Canada Geese, Snow Geese, Blue Geese, Ducks, Shorebirds, and Upland Birds, and
2. Convert the lands acquired under the professed purpose of providing "inviolable refuges" and "lessening the dangers - - in perpetuity" to non-Treaty purposes of a diametrically opposite, and destructive, nature **increasing** the dangers to waterfowl, and

Whereas, we object to any effort on the part of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to extend its jurisdiction, conferred upon it through the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaties, beyond the role of protecting migratory birds, and

Whereas, we specifically object to any extension of such Federal jurisdiction, under the guise of a Treaty, to local functions such as local hunting, which functions are solely within the sovereignty of the States, and

Whereas, we object to such extension, particularly, in the State of Wisconsin, and in disregard of its sovereign laws, and in particular in disregard of Wisconsin Statutes 59.57 providing a penalty for anyone convicted of hunting upon any Wildlife in the State of Wisconsin,

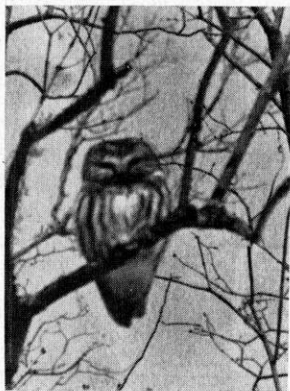
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the officers of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, that it is the sense of these officers:

1. That the opening of any part of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge to the hunting of migratory birds is contrary to public interest.
2. That the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service be requested to abandon its plans for such hunting of migratory birds upon the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge.
3. That the State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin be requested to refrain from cooperating in any manner in such proposed opening of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge to the shooting of migratory birds and that, on the contrary,
4. The said State Conservation Commission be requested to oppose such opening of the Refuge to the hunting of migratory birds, by every means at its command, and
5. That it is the sense of the officers of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology that a Resolution of like effect be prepared and presented to the Annual Meeting of the Society to be held in April, 1954, for the purpose of more effectively implementing this Resolution and
6. That meanwhile, all members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology are urged to oppose the opening of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge by individual effort.
7. That copies of this Resolution be submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, the Director and the State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin, and that the same be published in a forthcoming issue of the official publication **The Passenger Pigeon**.

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by C. DENNIS BESADNY

Snow Buntings in Vilas County. On October 16, 1952, I drove west of Land O' Lakes for eighteen miles on County Trunk B. All along the highway there were numbers of snow buntings. They appeared in groups which varied in number from two or three individuals to one flock of over a hundred. I estimated that I saw a total of more than five hundred birds on that trip. A week later I drove the same route and did not see a single snow bunting.—Fred I. Babcock, Land O' Lakes.



SAW WHET OWL

PHOTO BY MARY H. STAEGE

swiftly and silently, it disappeared through an open window.—Mary H. Staege, Birnamwood.

Oregon Juncos Seen at Feeding Stations. In the winter months the usual woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees come to the feeding shelf. During the past few years juncos have been regular visitors at our window feeding tray. On December 13, 1952, a junco caught my attention. As it hopped about the feeding tray, I could easily see the grayish-black head, rust-colored back, and conspicuously pink sides. The pink sides were definitely separated from the dark head. Much to my surprise, this was an Oregon junco.

On January 4, 1953, I banded this junco. It continued to come to the shelf to feed almost daily throughout the early spring months. This junco was last seen on April 5, 1953.—Margaret E. Morse, Viroqua.

On February 8, 1953, an Oregon junco was positively identified at our feeding station. It was seen daily for sixteen days and then left.—Howard A. Winkler, Pardeeville.

A Bittern Nestling Hangs On. While making waterfowl brood counts in the Mississippi River bottoms north of Prairie du Chien on July 2, 1953, I came upon a pair of least bitterns in a flooded meadow. As I drew closer with my canoe, I noticed a least bittern nestling clinging to a handful of dead weeds on top of some marsh milkweed approximately one-half inch above the water level. Knowing that the water level was

supposed to come up several more inches, the nest of dried material was built up about six inches higher and the nestling set in. I hoped that this young one would survive the high water stage. It was impossible to check this nest later. In my experience I have found the least bittern to be both a rare and shy bird.—Harold H. Burgess, Prairie du Chien.

"European" Teal. On May 2, 1953 I found a teal which lacked both the horizontal white back stripe of the European teal and the vertical white breast stripe of the green-winged teal. It was found in a small pond about one mile north of Norway Grove, Dane County. That afternoon the observation was verified by Bill Foster, Alan Keitt, and Andy Ragatz. Opportunity for comparison with nearby green-winged teals of typical plumage was excellent. The only other difference that could be noted was a slightly more pronounced margining between the green and brown areas of the head. Although this difference is not mentioned in the plumage descriptions which I have seen, the illustrations in Kortwright's **Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America** show a more pronounced margining in the European teal. Since the European and green-winged teals are capable of interbreeding and occupy relatively contiguous areas in northwest America, it seems most likely that this individual was a hybrid. This is not to say that this bird was necessarily the first generation offspring of a mating between the two species, but simply that it is a manifestation of the gene flow between two species which are not geographically or reproductively isolated. The possibility that it was a rare mutant cannot be excluded either. In view of the scarcity of differentiating characters, a decision between these two hypotheses might, in fact, have been impossible even with the specimen in hand. The fact that such a plumage has not been reported before (that I know of) is not critical evidence for either point of view. The bird was capable of flight and was apparently not paired. It could not be found the following day.—P. D. Skaar, Madison.



FIELD NOTES

THE WINTER SEASON

By CARL L. STRELITZER

The unseasonably mild weather of the autumn season continues to give Wisconsin one of its most pleasant winters, and probably one of its most exciting—ornithologically speaking. Temperatures averaged five degrees above normal, and snowfall was almost negligible except in the northern part of the state.

For the second consecutive season, a new bird was added to the state list. The newcomer was the green-tailed towhee, a straggler from the far southwest that found its way to Appleton in December. This would seem to be part of a truly remarkable eastern invasion of western species commented upon by Ludlow Griscom in **Audubon Field Notes** (Vol. 7, No. 3; p. 200). Other straggler green-tailed towhees were reported from Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Massachusetts.

Overshadowed by the new state record were such casuals and rarities as Barrow's golden-eye, surf scoter, iceland gull, barn owl, Hudsonian chickadee, mockingbird, Townsend's solitaire, hoary redpoll and white-winged crossbill. The number of half-hardy species remaining to winter in Wisconsin was phenomenal, making for a record-breaking Christmas bird count.

Among irregular winter visitants, snowy owls were few; only one Bohemian waxwing record was made; redpolls were very common; grosbeaks and crossbills were present, but not in large numbers.

The more unusual records:

Red-throated Loon: Milwaukee County, Dec. 28—three individuals seen on a Christmas count (John Muir Club).

Horned Grebe: Two at Lake Geneva as late as Dec. 25 (C. O. Palmquist et al).

Pied-billed Grebe: Nine were still to be seen at Lake Geneva on Dec. 25 (C. O. Palmquist et al). One in Dane County on Feb. 7 (Mrs. R. A. Walker) is a remarkable winter record.

Great Blue Heron: Last seen in Milwaukee, Dec. 7 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Black-crowned Night Heron: One immature bird wintered in Kenosha County (Richard Gordon et al). Rare in winter.

Barrow's Golden-eye: Milwaukee, Dec. 7—"White crescent was seen and there was more black on the wings than on the nearby American golden-eyes." (Mrs. Howard Higgins). Wisconsin has few records of this rarity.

White-winged Scoter: Four at Racine, Dec. 30 (Mary Elizabeth Whelan). Rare in winter.

Surf Scoter: Dane County, Dec. 20—this rare bird was seen near Madison on a Christmas count taken by the Madison Audubon Society.

Goshawk: Milwaukee County, Jan. 25 (S. Paul Jones and Richard Gordon); Brown County, Feb. 12 (Ed Paulson) and Feb. 13 (Edwin Cleary).

Marsh Hawk: Seen on several Christmas counts.

Pigeon Hawk: Lafayette County, Dec. 28, seen on Christmas count (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Brown County, Jan. 28 (Edwin Cleary). Very rare in winter.

King Rail: Manitowoc County, Dec. 14, a crippled individual was caught and later died (John Kraupa).

Killdeer: Manitowoc County, two on Dec. 31 and one on Jan. 25 (John Kraupa); one wintering in Kenosha County (Richard Gordon). Unusual in winter.

Glaucous Gull: One in Kenosha on Dec. 31 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); one seen in Milwaukee off and on after Dec. 28 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom et al).

Iceland Gull: This northern gull is seen frequently in winter in the Chicago region, but Wisconsin has no known specimen, and but a handful of sight records. A sight record of a bird in first winter plumage was made in Kenosha on Jan. 2 (Richard Gordon).

Great Black-backed Gull: Kenosha, Dec. 29 (Laurie Binford).

Barn Owl: Sauk County, Dec. 14 (Arlene Cors). Rare.

Snowy Owl: Dodge County, Dec. 6 (Sam Robbins); Marshland, Buffalo County, Dec. 21 (Richard Gordon); Burnett County, Jan. 4 (N. R. Stone); Clark County, Jan. 14 (R. J. Kuemmin); Brown County, Feb. 12 (Ed Paulson). Only these few reports of this irregular winter visitant were received.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Wintering birds noted at Beloit on Dec. 9 (Mrs. Harold Liebherr), and on nine Christmas counts in southern Wisconsin as far north as Princeton (Jack Kaspar) and Adams (Sam Robbins).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Although seldom recorded in winter, one was observed near Mazomanie on a Dec. 24 Christmas count (N. R. Barger and Sam Robbins).

Canada Jay: Marathon County, Dec. 28, one seen on the Wausau Bird Club Christmas count.

Raven: Shawano County, Jan. 2, several seen singly or in groups up to four (Mary H. Staeger).

Black-capped Chickadee: This was the only species to be recorded on all the 34 Christmas counts.

Hudsonian Chickadee: Marathon County, Dec. 28, seen on the Wausau Bird Club Christmas count.

Tufted Titmouse: The occurrence of one in Manitowoc County on Feb. 18 (Mrs. Louis Ansorge and Mrs. Lorraine Elfner) is outstanding. Also noted in Rock County on Feb. 8 (Harold Liebherr et al); and found on Christmas counts at South Wayne, Monroe, Seneca, Viroqua and Adams.

Winter Wren: The presence of one of these is unusual enough; this year three were recorded on Christmas counts, at Adams, Madison and Monroe.

Mockingbird: A straggler from the south was discovered in Waupaca County on Dec. 11 (Mrs. Theo. J. Peterson).

Catbird: Found on the Waukesha Christmas count on Dec. 27 (B. F. Goss Bird Club); another was seen at Tomah on Jan. 17 and 20 (Rev. and Mrs. Kilburn Holt).

Bluebird: One found at Cedar Grove on Jan. 24 (Richard Gordon).

Townsend's Solitaire: Here is another visitor from the far west, apparently a part of the remarkable eastern invasion that was experienced in several parts of eastern and central United States. One was sighted in Dodge County near Waupun on Dec. 6; the bird was collected and is now in the University of Wisconsin collection (Alan Rusch). Previous state records of this species are scanty.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Winter records of this species are noteworthy. Recorded on three Christmas counts: six at South Wayne on Dec. 28 (Lola Welch and Ethel Olson); one at Wisconsin Dells on Jan. 1 (N. R. Barger et al); eight at Appleton on Dec. 26 (Appleton Bird Club).

Pipit: One at Two Rivers on Dec. 23 (John Kraupa, Donald and Leroy Lintereur). Astonishing winter record.

Bohemian Waxwing: The only record is from Milwaukee, from Dec. 28 (City Club and John Muir Club Christmas counts) to Dec. 30 (S. Paul Jones, Tom Soulen et al).

Cardinal: More than the usual number of records from northern Wisconsin. The following observations were reported: Burnett County, Dec. 25 and Jan. 10 (Hollis Barrett); Bayfield County, Dec. 30 and Jan. 10 (David Bratley); Shawano County, Jan. 23 (Mary H. Stage).

Evening Grosbeak: Present in widely scattered localities, but not in large numbers.

Pine Grosbeak: Besides those reported on Christmas counts in Balsam Lake, Wausau, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Kenosha, the following records were received: Bayfield County, Dec. 6-12 (David Bratley); Milwaukee, Dec. 7 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin and Richard Gordon); and Vilas County—"mostly in pairs during December and January" (Fred Babcock).

Hoary Redpoll: One at Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, on Dec. 13—"ten minute close range study with 80 redpolls; appeared smaller, noticeable white rump in flight, base color very white, streaking dark but very fine" (Richard Gordon).

Redpoll: Reports of this bird were too numerous to mention individually. It was a peak redpoll year.

Red Crossbill: Lake Tomahawk, Oneida County, Dec. 13 (Richard Gordon); Marathon County, Dec. 28 (Wausau Bird Club).

White-winged Crossbill: Milwaukee County, Jan. 1—"two definite wing bars, crossed mandibles, and some yellow in the plumage identified this bird as an immature male of this species." (Charlie Sontag and Tom Soulen); flock seen in Juneau County, about Dec. 25 (Les Neustadter).

Green-tailed Towhee: The first bird of this species ever known to visit Wisconsin was discovered in Appleton on Dec. 27, captured, and taken to the Milwaukee Public Museum (Mrs. Walter E. Rogers). A more complete story on this record will be forthcoming in a future issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**.

Vesper Sparrow: Seen on Christmas counts in Dane and Lafayette Counties. Rarely seen here in winter.

Oregon Junco: A bird thought to be this species was first noted on Dec. 13, then trapped and banded on Jan. 4 (Margarette Morse); another western junco was seen at Milwaukee on Jan. 14 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Emil Urban, Jack Spears, John Hoogerheide).

Field Sparrow: Two were seen at Beloit on Dec. 9 (Mrs. Harold Liebherr); also recorded on Christmas counts in Dane, Lafayette, Milwaukee and Racine Counties. A surprising number of winter records.

White-crowned Sparrow: One found on the Christmas count near Waupun on Dec. 29 (Lloyd Gunther and Jerald Wilson). Rarely seen in winter.

Fox Sparrow: Manitowoc County, Dec. 20 (John Kraupa). Unusual in winter.

Swamp Sparrow: Six wintered in Kenosha County (Richard Gordon); noted also on Christmas counts in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Madison and Monroe.

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December 25, 1953-January 3, 1954—Dates for taking Christmas bird counts; send counts to the Associate Editor as soon thereafter as possible.

February 1-10, 1954—Field notes for November, December and January should be sent to the Associate Editor.

March 7, 1954—Field trip at Milwaukee; meet at McKinley Beach at 8:00 a. m.

April 24 and 25, 1954—Field trips to watch prairie chicken at Plainfield.

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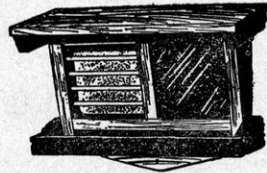
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