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WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

PHOTO BY
PAUL BLANCHARD



The PASSENGER PIGEON

A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

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IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Observations of Wood Duck Broods. Victor M. Hall of the Mississippi Refuge describes some of the hazards of raising a Wood Duck family	83
A Letter from John Cassin to Philo Romaine Hoy. A. W. Schorger relates some Wisconsin ornithological discussions from 1852	85
Spring Sex Ratios of Wisconsin Ducks, 1941-43, 1947. F. R. Zimmerman compiled the data	88
New Seasonal Editors. Introducing two very capable birdmen	92
By the Wayside. Barrow's Goldeneye and Sandhill Crane nest are among the highlights	95
The Winter Season. Howard Winkler's pre-retirement summary	98
Wisconsin Favorite Bird Haunts: The new Spring seasonal editor describes the Waukesha area	109
Elsewhere in this Issue. Convention News, Dates, Field Trips, Reviews, and other items.	



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Observations of Wood Duck Broods . . .

By VICTOR M. HALL

On both banks of the upper Mississippi River, railroad tracks parallel the river and the exterior boundaries of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge. These tracks are used by many fast trains of the Milwaukee and Burlington Railroads traveling between Minneapolis and Chicago and other points south. A segment of the nesting population of Wood Ducks habitually nests in the bluffs, ravines or flats on either side of the railroad tracks. In traveling from the nest site to refuge bottomland areas, the majority of the broods, other than those hatched along tributary streams, must cross either one or two sets of tracks. The top of the tracks is about five inches high and the bottom is usually even with the gravel bed, although in some places there is as much as one or two inches of space underneath the tracks. In the vicinity of the following observation, there was no space beneath either rail.

Crossing the Railroad Tracks

This incident occurred during the afternoon of May 19, 1961, about one mile north of Marquette, Iowa, on State Highway 13 where the highway is bounded on the west by tree-covered bluffs. One set of railroad tracks lies to the east side of the highway, while directly east of the tracks is the west navigation channel of the Mississippi River. Concealing cover of grass and weeds was present on both sides of the tracks and the highway.

The hen Wood Duck was first observed flying erratically across and along the highway near a car which had suddenly slowed down. Upon my approach, she landed east of the highway, walked a few feet to the edge of the cover, and then led a brood of 12 ducklings toward the railroad tracks. She then crossed the first rail and waited between the tracks. The ducklings gathered in a cluster and immediately began jumping to get over the rail. Several jumps were usually required to gain the top of the rail; one or two of the last ones appeared to jump at least ten or 12 times. As one or two ducklings at a time made it to the top, they would pause a moment before jumping down to the other side and then run to the hen. When 11 had crossed, the hen led them across to the other rail. The twelfth duckling finally made it and ran across to join the brood. Only about two minutes were taken to negotiate this first rail. No calling was heard at any time during the crossing.

The behavior of the female at the second rail changed considerably. As she crossed this rail, the ducklings immediately began jumping to follow her, as at first. When three had crossed, she recrossed the rail to the rest of the brood, and the three ducklings recrossed behind her. This crossing and recrossing by the hen was then repeated approximately 15 times. Each time this occurred, from one to three members of the brood would cross and recross with her. These were apparently the ones which could cross the rail with the least difficulty. The hen never waited more

than a few seconds after each crossing before recrossing to the main brood.

About ten to 15 minutes were consumed by this type of behavior by the hen. At length, some of the ducklings appeared to tire and did not jump as often. Finally the hen led the brood several feet south along the rail. She then crossed at a point where a bracket was bolted to the inside of the rail. Ten of the ducklings crossed rather quickly behind her with the aid of the bracket. They were apparently able to gain a foothold on the bracket and scramble over in two short jumps.

The female then led the ten ducklings off into concealing gross cover. The two remaining birds ran north a few feet from the bracket

and by frantic jumping, both got over the rail. As these last two were disappearing in the grass, a Broad-winged Hawk swooped down from the bluff and seized the last duckling. The hawk consumed his catch on a nearby telephone pole.

No more observations of these ducks were made. Subsequent movement of the brood to a suitable marsh area would require crossing the wide navigation channel or



WOOD DUCK NEST BOX ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER
PHOTO BY F. R. ZIMMERMAN

traveling about two miles up the shoreline to the Yellow River. quire crossing the wide navigation channel or traveling about two miles up the shoreline to the Yellow River.

A previous observation of a brood moving from bluffs to water was made about noon on June 25, 1960. A Wood Duck brood of undetermined size crossed the highway, led by the hen, directly in front of my car. This occurred about seven miles north of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, on Highway 35, and was also at a point where a steep bluff area adjoins the main river channel.

A railroad employee states that he has been Wood Duck broods crossing the tracks on several occasions and has observed ducklings go under the rails when possible. It seems certain that a great many broods cross the tracks on both sides of the river each year to reach the refuge. The frequency of train passage during daylight hours is about eight per day on the Milwaukee Road on the west side of the Mississippi River, and about 14 to 16 per day on the Burlington Road on the east side. The Milwaukee Road carries all freight trains, which may require anywhere from about one and one-half minutes to seven or eight minutes to pass a given point. On the Burlington, about eight of the daylight trains are passenger trains. These may pass a given point in as little as five to ten seconds, or up to 30 seconds.

In summary, it appears that Wood Duck broods which hatch some distance from the marsh areas of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge may be exposed to loss from several factors while en route to favorable habitat. Among the more important are highway traffic, trains, predation and separation. The relative importance of such losses and their relationship to population density is presently unknown. However, it seems certain that the frequency of automobiles and trains traversing the habitat crossed by Wood Duck broods moving from nesting areas to brood marshes must present a serious mortality factor not normally encountered by other species of ducks or by Wood Ducks in other locations.

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Box 62, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

A LETTER FROM JOHN CASSIN TO PHILO ROMAYNE HOY

By A. W. SCHORGER

The Library of Yale University has courteously permitted the publication of a letter written by John Cassin of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences to P. R. Hoy in 1852 regarding the exchange of ornithological specimens. Hoy appears to have opened the correspondence with Cassin. Unfortunately the Philadelphia Academy does not have Hoy's first letter. Cassin was not only devoted to the study of North American birds but had as well great interest in foreign birds. One result of his correspondence with Hoy was the publication by the latter of "Notes on the Ornithology of Wisconsin" in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences for 1853.

Philadelphia 4 Sept: 1852

Dear Sir:

I received your obliging and pleasant letter of the 28 May and should have immediately replied but that I had some hopes of having the pleasure of seeing you at the meeting of the American Association* at Cleveland.—I hope hereafter to continue correspondence with regularity and at short intervals.

You are situated in an astonishing ornithological region and you most assuredly have it in your power, to make most valuable and important observations. Many of the facts mentioned in your letter are entirely new to me and of course, devoted as I am to the study of birds they possess the most intense interest. It is quite surprising that the Turkey Buzzard is found with you, and the other southern species.

I have been, years ago, under the necessity of adopting, though very reluctantly, the opinion that all statements by Audubon are to be received with caution. I have seen the nest of *Sylvia americana* [Parula Warbler] and your description of one in your possession is to me of the highest

*American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Editor's Note: P. R. Hoy came to Racine to practice medicine in 1846, and took up the serious study of Wisconsin birds right away. In 30 years, he built up a collection of the skins of 318 species and the eggs of 150.

possible interest, as it agrees exactly with what I have seen myself. Yet Audubon represents the nest as built in the forks of a twig or something to that effect—nothing at all like it—

Nearly all the well known species of Warblers breed abundantly in the northern parts of Pennsylvania, and in fact a few of them in the immediate neighborhood of this city, such as the Prairie Warbler—the worm eating—the blue winged yellow—and others—The ches(t)nut sided Warbler breeds within one hundred miles of Philadelphia. Many species of Warblers are to be met with near this city in great profusion for a short time every spring and autumn—but many which you find abundant are very rare with us—I have seen only about half a dozen specimens of the Cape May Warbler in fifteen years shooting—and the Kentucky (formosa) and yellow throated (pensilis) scarcely more frequently. Your northern birds too, never visit us—I have seen occasionally a straggling *Plectrophanes lapponica* but very rarely but never heard of others mentioned by you.

For account of the Academy of Natural Sciences of this city I should much like to exchange with you for birds and especially for nests and eggs. We have on hand a very large collection of duplicates of american bird skins, and also of those of other countries. I will on the opposite page give a list of such as are mentioned in your letter which I am anxious to get specimens of, for the Academy.

And for the Journal or Proceedings of the Academy you could furnish very valuable notes on the species met with in your country, which would, in fact be important contributions to ornithology. I shall look for your list* in the Proc. of the Am. Assoc. with some anxiety as I much wish to see it.

Audubons octavo edition costs \$100. and can only be had from Victor Audubon 34 Library St. New York—I could however get you a copy here,—which has been used but is in good order—for considerably less—I propose to proceed with my publication† in the course of a few months—I will send it to you as published—I am under the necessity of suppressing the 1st No. (which was published) as I find that the plates do not give satisfaction, and especially now that I can obtain the services of much better lithographers & colorists. I will however send to you by mail a copy of every No. as published.

Have you Audubons Synopsis?—it contains descriptions of all the birds known to him, in 1 Vol. Octavo—if you have not got it, I will send it to you,—

A new edition of Wilson has just been published in 1 Vol. small octavo—it is a reprint of Brewers edition and contains additions including all Audubons species.—I am preparing at this time a synopsis of our birds, to include all the species of California & Texas to be completed in 1 Vol.—

I would like to obtain for the Academy the following:

*Not published here.

†John Cassin. 1853-56. *Illustrations of the Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America.* Philadelphia.

Ictinia plumbea [Mississippi Kite]
Sylvicola formosa [Kentucky Warbler] say 10 specimens. male & female
Sylvicola pensilis [Yellow-throated Warbler] specimens. male & female
Strix Tengmalmi [Boreal Owl]—several specimens
Cocco. vespertinus [Evening Grosbeak]—specimens
Plectrop. lapponica [Lapland Longspur] specimens
Tetrao phasianellus [Sharp-tailed Grouse] specimens
Tetrao albus [Willow Ptarmigan] specimens
Apternus arcticus [Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker] specimens
Parus hudsonicus [Boreal Chickadee] specimens
Larus Franklinii [Franklin's Gull] specimens young & old
 Cape May Warbler—several spec.
 Nashville Warbler—several spec.

and nests and eggs—or either alone—for which I will give the most ample exchange and shall be glad to have a list of species desired by you.

For my own publications your notes would be of the greatest possible value.

Please be assured that I have great pleasure in the opening of the present correspondence with you and hope that it will long continue.

Have the kindness to write at earliest convenience.

Very respectfully

John Cassin

P. R. Hoy M. D.

Racine

Wisconsin.

Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management
 University of Wisconsin
 Madison

NEWS . . .

In July, 1961, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service polled the managers of 190 western airports regarding the hazards birds represented at their fields. Of the 159 replies received, 69 indicated that birds were actual or potential hazards. Gulls were the most-named culprits, specified in 34 cases, with waterfowl "seasonally" a hazard in 18 others. Starlings, "blackbirds," various shorebirds and upland gamebirds, doves, pigeons, crows, and ravens were also nominated as dangerous to aircraft in two or more cases each. The Service is cooperating in efforts to solve the problem presented by bird flocks at, especially, the large airports which handle jet traffic.

Bird conservation takes ingenuity at times, and involves some unusual problems. Here is an example, from Jack VanCoeversing in the **Detroit Free Press**, quoted in the **Michigan Audubon Newsletter**, which might be of interest and value in Wisconsin: "At East Jordan, the Consumers Power Company finally found a way to keep Whistling Swans from injuring themselves by flying against their transmission lines. The company first wound its wires with reflective tape, then attached streamers to the wires. But neither failed (sic) to keep the waterfowl from hitting the wires as they flew from the lake to the marsh and river feeding grounds. Then the company installed cork blocks—about six inches square and eight to ten inches long—on the wire at intervals of eight to ten feet. Since the blocks were installed, no waterfowl have been lost."

SPRING SEX RATIOS OF WISCONSIN DUCKS, 1941-43, 1947

By F. R. ZIMMERMAN

Until quite recently, very little had appeared in the literature on waterfowl sex ratios. However, great progress has been made in waterfowl management during the past 20 years and sex ratios of ducks have not been overlooked. Biologists who have published data on this subject include Lincoln, McIlhenny, Hochbaum, Hawkins, Furnis, Low, and Erickson. A very recent publication, Bellrose, et al. summarizes the work that has been done on duck sex ratios through the years.

Sex ratios for 18 species of ducks for the spring migration periods of 1941-43 and 1947 in southeastern Wisconsin are presented in this article.

Area Covered and Methods Used

During the years 1941-43 this study was part of the Conservation Department's Pittman-Robertson Waterfowl Management Research Project 6-R.* B. W. Hubbard, District Game Manager now stationed at Babcock, in Wood County, was my assistant on this project.

The Wisconsin sex ratio figures were gathered in the counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson and Rock. Habitats covered included lakes and the many potholes, marshes and low areas that are inundated with water each spring. Observations were made on the following areas: Goose Pond, Poynette Mill Pond, and Lake Wisconsin in Columbia County; Lakes Barney, Bass, Crystal, Fish, Kegonsa, and Mendota in Dane County; Mud Lake in Dodge County; Lakes Koshkonong, Hope, Red Cedar, Ripley, and Rock in Jefferson County; and Lakes Koshkonong, Clear, and Grass in Rock County.

The methods used in making sex ratio counts were similar to those employed by Erickson wherein entire flocks of ducks were counted and then the two sexes tabulated separately. Many times it was possible to count a single species with no interference from another (Scaups and Ring-necks). The use of a 65 mm. Bausch and Lomb spotting scope mounted on a car window made the tabulation of large groups of Lesser Scaups, Ring-necked Ducks, and Baldpates easier. 9 x 35 and 8 x 30 Bausch and Lomb binoculars were also used extensively. The surveys were made during the following periods: 1941, March 28 through May 2; 1942, March 17 through May 1; 1943, April 3 through April 14 and 1947, March 28 through May 15.

Nineteen areas were checked at least once and many times twice each week during the migration period each year. The number of birds tabulated each spring from 1941-43 and 1947 for 18 species of ducks is presented in Table 1.

The average temperature during March 1941 was 25.4° F. This held back the migrating ducks and although representatives of most

*"Pittman-Robertson" refers to the program administered by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service whereby approved research, land acquisition, and management projects of the states are financed, in part, by funds obtained from the 11 per cent tax on sporting arms and ammunition. Editor.

species were present there was a scarcity in the numbers of each species even on unusually good water areas. A warm April brought in an influx of birds. Vegetation by the end of the month was advanced by at least ten days. During the 1941 spring migration period, 2,496 birds were tabulated. Of this number, 1,369 were males and 1,127 were females, giving a sex ratio of 121 males to 100 females.

March 1942 was the wettest in four years and the second wettest since 1923. The migration first appeared to be weak, and then advanced with a rush with the advent of warm weather in April. A total of 3,352 individual ducks were tabulated as to sex (1,890 males to 1,462 females) with a ratio of 129:100.

A cold spring retarded the 1943 migration. The month was 10.5° colder than March 1942 and the coldest since 1932. Precipitation was the greatest for any month since September 1942, yet it was the ninth driest April during the 53 years that climatological records have been kept. Cool weather retarded vegetation and the peak of the migration did not reach the state until about April 20. During our observations of the 1943 spring migration of waterfowl 2,635 birds were counted, of which 1,682 were males and 953 were females, giving a sex ratio of 176:100.

Temperatures for March 1947 averaged 1.8° below normal with the greatest deficiencies in the extreme southern part of the state. Precipitation averaged two-thirds of normal; very little rainfall fell in the northwest.

April was persistently cool. Only two or three days at the end of the month were spring-like. Precipitation was 155% of normal; it was the wettest April since 1929. Many southern sections of the state had over 5 inches of rain. Minor floods occurred in the western part of the state. The month was cool and precipitation was frequent.

May was the coldest since 1924. Only a few days were warmer than normal.

The snow that prevailed throughout southern Wisconsin well into March, plus the absence of warm nights, delayed the spring migration. The usual prolonged warm spell was lacking. Consequently the spring migration was late throughout the spring months. The spring duck flight was considered poor.

During our observations of the 1947 spring migration of waterfowl, 14,236 birds were counted of which 8,791 were males and 5,445 were females, giving a sex ratio of 161 males for every 100 females.

Summary and Discussion

The number of birds tabulated each spring from 1941 through 1943 and 1947 totaled 22,619 of which 13,732 were males and 8,887 were females. This is a total sex ratio for 18 species of ducks over a three year period of 155 males to 100 females. These data suggesting a preponderance of males in the spring are similar to those obtained by other workers. The disparity in numbers between males and females is more pronounced in the diving ducks than in the puddle duck group. There appears to be no single cause for this difference in sex ratios.

The often asked question as to whether or not this disparity is only apparent during migration is dispelled by Hochbaum who found that

Table 1—Spring Sex Ratios of Ducks

Species	1941		1942		1943		1947		Total		M./ 100 F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Mallard	152	139	156	140	61	48	399	347	768	674	114
Gadwall	0	0	1	1	9	7	70	60	80	68	118
Baldpate	154	141	154	147	102	79	1099	765	1509	1132	133
Pintail	131	105	90	80	73	55	315	254	609	494	123
Green-winged Teal	9	8	5	5	2	2	88	62	104	77	135
Blue-winged Teal	88	79	41	31	7	5	820	638	956	753	127
Shoveler	43	28	45	36	21	13	531	339	640	416	154
Wood Duck	0	0	1	1	0	0	32	29	33	30	110
Total Puddlers	577	500	493	441	275	209	3354	2494	4699	3644	
M./100 F.	115		112		132		134		129		
Redhead	63	48	105	97	228	82	790	441	1186	668	178
Ring-necked Duck	174	130	418	309	163	47	1013	566	1768	1052	168
Canvasback	19	12	210	155	10	5	319	149	558	321	174
Lesser Scaup	405	328	386	231	916	546	2592	1287	4299	2392	176
Goldeneye	55	42	92	65	20	8	180	66	347	181	192
Bufflehead	13	8	41	21	12	5	87	65	153	99	155
Ruddy Duck	1	0	8	14	3	8	93	53	105	75	140
Hooded Merganser	1	1	1	3	0	0	46	39	48	43	112
Common Merganser	61	58	66	90	9	19	152	73	288	240	120
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	70	36	46	24	165	112	281	172	164
Total Divers	792	627	1397	1021	1407	744	5437	2851	9033	5243	
M./100 F.	126		137		189		191		172		
Total Ducks	1369	1127	1890	1462	1682	953	8791	5445	13732	8887	
M./100 F.	121		129		176		161		155		

this sex ratio differential continued on the breeding grounds and is not offset by a later arrival of female birds.

The extent to which sex ratios are unbalanced has been exaggerated due to insufficient sampling of large geographic areas and reliance on untested methods of gathering data, according to Petrides. Limited trapping and banding operations indicate that traps may be more attractive to male than female ducks. Petrides believes that sight records are best in obtaining local sex ratios of waterfowl. This author further believes that sex ratio figures to date indicate a geographic variation probably due to differential sex migration and distribution.

On the other hand, information obtained by various workers seems to suggest that distorted sex ratios in favor of males may be the "normal" situation, brought about by a differential mortality of females due, for example, to a greater loss from drouth conditions (Cartwright), greater vulnerability to predators and fires during the incubation period (Mayr), greater susceptibility to disease following the nesting period (Erickson), and greater vulnerability to gun pressure due to delayed wing molt (Hochbaum). McIlhenny also found that a considerable percentage of males live longer than do the females. As Hochbaum pointed out, however, there is no single cause of mortality responsible for the lack of hens.

Johnsgard and Buss found that the sex ratios varied during any single period due to different habitat preferences and the amount of disturbance tolerance between paired and unpaired birds. A differential migratory behavior between ages, sexes, and paired vs. unpaired birds caused changes in the sex ratios as the migration period progressed.

Bellrose and his colleagues, in **Sex Ratios and Age Ratios in North American Ducks**, have done a monumental service for waterfowl researchers by compiling most of the work that has been done on this subject.

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Wisconsin Conservation Department
Madison, Wisconsin

NEW SEASONAL EDITORS

One of the most demanding tasks within W.S.O., and certainly one of the least heralded, is that of seasonal editor. It is the time-consuming task of the seasonal editor to compile, from field note reports, the "annual report" on bird activity during his or her (or, in some cases, "their") season. This material must be assembled in condition suitable for delivery to the printer, and for most seasons in most years, it makes a pretty good wad of paper!

W.S.O. has been fortunate through the years in having any number of careful and reliable seasonal editors. Two of them have recently "retired," and their resignations regretfully accepted. Wallace MacBriar, former Spring season editor, and Dr. Howard Winkler, who handled these chores for the Winter season, served W.S.O. expertly and devotedly. All of us should recognize and appreciate their contributions.

Associate Editor Sam Robbins has found replacements for MacBriar and Winkler, which is a difficult enough task, and he has found good ones.

New Spring Editor

Our new field notes editor for the Spring season is a young resident of Madison with 15 years experience with Wisconsin birds. Thomas K. Soulen, now finishing his doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin, has managed to glimpse the birdlife in most sections of the state. Here is Tom's accounts of the development of his interests in ornithology.

"I first became interested in birds largely through the friendship and influence of Vincent P. Batha, former physics professor at Carroll College. During my high school years in Waukesha, I visited numerous areas in both Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties, frequently alone, but sometimes in company with S. Paul Jones or other friends. During the summers of these years, Mr. Batha and I studied the birds at Boy Scout Camp Long Lake, in the Kettle Moraine area of eastern Fond du Lac County.

"My first real taste of migration—Cedar Grove style—didn't come, strangely enough, until after I had begun my work at the University in Madison, where I received my undergraduate degree in mathematics. Despite the distance of Cedar Grove from the campus, a favorable weather pattern during migration can still draw me to the Lake Michigan shore, hoping for a repeat of some of the spectacular visible migrations that have taken place there.

"Visits to the home town of my wife, the former Marillyn Bryan of Antigo, have put me within hailing distance of a number of interesting areas in and near Wisconsin's remaining boreal forest. Several years ago I experienced with the use of Land Cover Maps in making a preliminary study of the summering birds of Langlade County, and was so pleased with the picture of the county's birdlife that I could glean in just a few days that I hope that I—and as many others as I can induce—will be able to carry out comparable surveys in a number of the lesser known areas of the state."

Harold Bauers Gets Winter Job

Harold A. Bauers, of Milwaukee, will be our new Winter season editor. Here, in his own words, is Harold's explanation of his past and present interests in birds and birding.

"I was born and 'raised' on the northwest side of Milwaukee and had all my schooling in this city. Most of my childhood summers were spent on a farm in Calumet County. Here in the farmyard the Martins chattered constantly around a large Martin house; Cliff Swallows swooped across the lawn going to and from their clay nests under the eaves of the granary; Barn Swallows darted through the open doors and windows in the barn to reach their nests on the rafters; Robins, Kingbirds, Orchard Orioles and Goldfinches were constant companions in the orchard, and all manner of wildlife roamed the nearby fields and woodlots. No doubt I acquired my first awareness and love of Nature here.

"By the time I reached high school, I was already something of a bird-watcher and kept notes and lists. At Washington High School it was my very good fortune to have as my science and biology instructor Mr. Karl F. Miller, who did much to encourage my interests. Inevitably a little of Mr. Miller's great fund of enthusiasm and sensitive appreciation of the wonders of Nature rubbed off on me as it did on all his pupils. A classmate and fellow member of the Nature Study Club at Washington High was Walter Scott, whom everyone in W.S.O. honors as one of its great leaders.

"Soon after leaving high school, hopes of continuing my education in forestry were shattered by a serious illness. In time I came to make my livelihood in industry and my interest in nature was developed as an avocation. Through the years, vacations spent in Dodge County or on camping trips through Wisconsin, Michigan, and to Colorado and Wyoming were largely bird-finding efforts. By 1942 my health had improved to a point where I was accepted for military service. Training in Kansas, Tennessee and Mississippi, two ocean crossings, and service in England and Europe gave me opportunity to catch an occasional glimpse of the birdlife of these areas.

"I first joined W.S.O. about 1946, on the invitation of Walter Scott, then membership chairman, and having thoroughly enjoyed the events and the companionship at as many conventions, field trips, and campouts as I have been able to attend.

"Something over five years ago, I went to work for the Milwaukee Public Museum, on its Maintenance and Security force. As a projectionist with this group I have a fine opportunity to see and hear most of the travel, nature, and educational presentations on the large lecture program of the Museum. While not a member of the scientific staff by any means, my interest in birds is well known and I am often asked to co-operate with the Bird and Mammal Department in such things as bird-guiding in the Museum's program of public bird hikes. At present, as much of my time as can be spared from my regular duties is devoted to assisting in the incorporation of **Passenger Pigeon** field-notes into the data on bird distribution, nesting, occurrence, etc., for the long awaited Museum publication, **Birds of Wisconsin**, by Owen Gromme.

"I still go bird-finding as often and in as many places as time will permit, but birding efforts are directed to three main channels:

A) Almost daily visits to a particular park area where the birds seen are counted and recorded on a chart.

B) Almost daily visits and searches at a television tower to pick up and record tower casualties. This is done in cooperation with Clarence Jung at Milwaukee, Herbert Stoddard in Georgia, and others. Records and occasional desirable specimens go into the Museum collections.

C) Maintenance, periodic visits, and record keeping on a string of about 50 bird houses (mostly for Bluebirds) in Dodge and Ozaukee counties."

We welcome Bauers and Soulen to our editorial family, and—speaking for all of W.S.O.—“thank you” for taking on your vital and valuable but tedious and time-consuming assignments.—The Editor.

A STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTORS

Since a number of you have raised questions about the lateness of **The Passenger Pigeon**, an explanation is in order.

An irregular publication schedule for the magazine has been one of the chief problems plaguing your Society throughout its 22-year history, and is due to the following reasons: 1) An occasional shortage of suitable manuscript material and photographs. Your editor welcomes manuscripts, photographs, and suggestions from W.S.O. members. 2) A need to economize and keep publication costs in line with annual income from membership dues. The present increase in dues should help to correct this situation. 3) The fact that our editors, however capable, have had to do this work in their spare time and without pay. Consequently, it has not always been possible to devote as much time to the magazine as is needed to keep the publication schedule up to date.

Attempts are being made to solve this problem. In the meantime, we hope you will bear with us and continue your active support of the Society. You are assured of receiving the four full issues of **The Passenger Pigeon** for each calendar year in which you are a paid-up member. You are also, of course, entitled to the other privileges of W.S.O. membership—participation in the annual convention and business meeting, the various campouts and field trips, the 10% discount allowed members on purchases of nature books and hobby items from the Supply Department, and support of the Society's projects promoting the study, enjoyment, and conservation of Wisconsin birds.—The W.S.O. Directors.

MORE NEWS . . .

Violators of federal regulations protecting waterfowl may expect stiffer treatment in court as a result of recent changes in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For instance, a Virginia market hunter was sentenced to one year in jail for trapping ducks. Fines up to \$2000 and jail terms of up to two years may be meted out to violators convicted of taking migratory birds with the intent to sell them.

More and more attention is being focused on the ecology and behavior of birds lumped under the broad term “blackbirds.” Vast winter roosts of a million or more birds are being mapped, food habits studies are being intensified, and repellent methods are undergoing testing. The depredations of true blackbirds on rice and other grains, and the dangers inherent in flocks of starlings on airport runways are basic issues underlying much of this interest and study.

By The Wayside . . .

Barrow's Goldeneye on Rock River. On February 8, 1961, I saw a Barrow's Goldeneye near the bridge at Newville, in Rock County, where Highway 59 crosses the Rock River. A male and female were together, but identification of the females in winter is very difficult. These two ducks were not with the 100 or more Common Goldeneyes but were near the shore a few rods from me. The crescent was very pronounced. The shape of the head was different from that of the Common Goldeneye, and there was not as much white on the side. I am quite sure of the identification but was alone.—Mrs. Melva Maxson, Milton.

King Eider in Port Washington Harbor. We saw this duck on December 11, 1960. Although the Port Washington harbor was full of other species of ducks, this bird remained by itself, within 100 feet of us. It was a diving duck, with legs back upon the body; the tail when used in diving was broad and short. General coloration was a rich brown, extending over the bird's belly. The breast and belly had a barred effect. The bird was large, almost two feet long. The ratio of width to length was high, giving the appearance of a small goose. The bill was dark, with a good slope to it. It extended well up into the head of the bird, about halfway to the eye. The bird had an eyebrow of light coloring over the eye, and a light spot where the cheek spot extended into the bill. When the wings were extended, a thin white line appeared in the middle of the wing, to about the base of the primaries. In our research on the subject, we were careful to compare the heads of both the Common and the King Eider, noting the difference in depth at the base.—Carl and Dorothy Frister, Milwaukee.

Communal Roost of Rough-legged Hawks. On January 15, 1961, we saw an interesting sight near Stoughton, Dane County. It was near dusk on a cloudy day. There were nine Rough-legged Hawks, two of them melanistic, six perched at the top of a tall spruce and the other three very near. Their white heads and necks stood out beautifully. I never knew before that they roosted together.—Mrs. Elizabeth Degner, Fort Atkinson.

Sandhill Crane Nest in Marquette County. On May 15, 1960, R. C. Hopkins, District Game Manager for the Wisconsin Conservation Department, stationed at Wautoma, found a Sandhill Crane nest with two eggs on the Germania Marsh Wildlife Area, Marquette County.

On May 18 I accompanied Hopkins, along with Lester Dundas, refuge manager for the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, on a visit to the nest. We found that one egg had hatched out. We took colored pictures of the nest and young. The old birds tried to lure us from the nest by feigning injury. After the pictures were taken we hid in a clump of willows to be sure that the old birds returned to the nest, which they did after about a half hour's wait.—F. R. Zimmerman, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison. (See photos on next page.)

Owls in a Sauk County Barn. With the exception of Barn Owls, one would not ordinarily expect to look for owls in a dairy barn. However, the owls at Hickory Hill Farm have apparently not read the book, and



SANDHILL
CRANE
NEST SITE
IN
MARQUETTE
COUNTY,
MAY, 1960

NEST
AND EGGS
OF
SANDHILL
CRANE
IN
CATTAILS



CHICK
AND EGG
OF
SANDHILL
CRANE

PHOTOS BY
R. C. HOPKINS AND
LESTER DUNDAS

the result has been several interesting incidents to help relieve the monotony of milking chores. One morning in March, 1959, we entered the barn and found a Barred Owl perched on the carrier track above the cattle. It had been a snowy winter, mice were hard to find, and the owl may have come into the barn in search of pigeons. I closed all doors and windows, ran for the camera, and was able to obtain several excellent pictures before we let the bird go. On February 14, 1961, at evening milking time, I found another unusual visitor. This time it was a Saw-whet Owl. Again, a rush for the cameras, and another interesting bird has been collected on film for our future enjoyment. Peterson describes the Saw-whet as an "absurdly tame little owl," a description which fits the bird perfectly. This one allowed us to approach repeatedly to within a few feet of it. In fact, it became so unconcerned about our presence that it would not even look at us when we tried to attract its attention for a good portrait. By next morning it had left, and we have not seen it since. We are now eagerly awaiting the next visitor to our barn; one of these years it may even be a Barn Owl.—Harold and Carla Kruse, Loganville.

Long-eared Owl Pole Trap Victim. Another rare bird I saw was the Long-eared Owl on February 6, 1961, caught in a pole trap. I have not seen one for several years. They are not common in Outagamie County and I have probably only seen eight or ten during my lifetime here. Incidentally, I think it might be well for our Society to look into the use of pole traps on game farms and shooting preserves. I do not know how widespread their use is becoming but through this section of the country there are quite a number. They are very lethal and trap a good deal more than the Great Horned Owls they were supposedly designed to catch.—Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers in Forest County. Three birds, two females and one male, were found in a spruce and tamarack swamp near Hiles, on January 1, 1961. We had an excellent view of them at about 20 feet as they were working on spruce and tamarack trees, and we probably could have watched them as long as we pleased. One female kept uttering its "crick, crick" note; the other two birds were silent. All field marks were noted—the solid black back, the ladder sides, and the male's yellow crown-patch. Many trees in the area were well scaled, indicating the birds had been there for some time. I am convinced that they are permanent residents there. On March 18, 1961, we did not find any birds but we did find freshly scaled trees. We also found a hole in a live tamarack tree that was not made by any other species of woodpecker, as it was strongly beveled at the lower edge and the bark had been stripped from around it. It was obviously a nesting hole.—Roy and Martha Lound, Madison.

A Frustrated Blue Jay in Brown County. Every morning before going to work I place several peanuts in the crotch of our apple tree for the Blue Jays. One morning a peanut rolled down and dropped in a puddle of water. The temperature dropped rapidly and soon the peanut was imbedded in ice. Later, Mrs. Cleary looked out the kitchen window and she was amused to see a Blue Jay pulling on the peanut. As he pulled, his legs kept slipping on the glazed ice. After several unsuccessful attempts he flew away.—Edwin D. Cleary, De Pere.



FIELD NOTES

By HOWARD A. WINKLER

Winter Season

December, 1960-February, 1961

The Winter Season of 1960-1961 in Wisconsin produced no Black-throated Sparrow as in 1959-60, no Gyrfalcon as in 1958-59, no Kittiwake as in 1957-58, no Green-tailed Towhee, Golden Eagle, or Glaucous Gull as in 1956-57, no Townsend's Solitaire as in 1955-56, nor the finds of the 1954-55 winter season, the Mountain Bluebird, European Little Gull, Iceland Gull and Richardson's Owl. It did produce a most exciting find in the Barrow's Goldeneye reported by Melva Maxson from Milton in Rock County on February 8, 1961. According to **The Birds of Wisconsin** by Kumlien and Hollister, as revised by Schorger, the Barrow's Goldeneye cannot be included on the state list, since there are no acceptable specimens. The specimens listed by E. W. Hasbrouck (*Auk* 61, 1944; 553-4) on closer examination have proved to be Common Goldeneyes. This sight record must therefore be considered as The Bird of the Winter Season. Nudging the Barrow's Goldeneye for top bird were the Harlequin Duck in Port Washington reported by the indefatigable Mary Donald on February 17; the King Eider reported by the Carl Fristers from Milwaukee on December 11, and the Pine Warbler at Lake Geneva by C. O. Palmquist which constituted the first winter record of this species for Wisconsin.

Great Variety in Reports

Reports from the various observers indicated quite a difference in their findings. Some of the reporters had excellent birding in respect to both species and individuals, whereas others noted a rather disappointing number of birds. The divergence of these reports was so bizarre that no particular trend could be established, nor could the "wherefores" be determined.

The season was not the coldest nor the warmest Wisconsin has had, but it ranked among the driest on record. Details on the weather culled from the U. S. Department of Commerce Weather Bureau at Madison follow. December was a cold, dry month, it being the second driest December on record, exceeded only by the December of 1898. The total precipitation for the entire month was only 0.25 inches. January followed the dry spell begun in December with the least snowfall for a January since 1933, the driest since 1903 and the third driest since 1869. The average temperature during January was 2.2 degrees below the normal. February had the least snowfall of any February on record, the

previous low having been 0.5 inches in 1902. The entire snowfall for the winter season was only 5.8 inches and this was the least recorded since the winter of 1901-1902. The temperatures averaged 6.4 degrees above normal and this was the warmest since 1904.

How Much Effect Does Weather Have?

Considering this data, one wonders if the weather can possibly play a really significant role in the winter bird population of Wisconsin. Last season, which was certainly in marked contrast to this, produced a total list of 121 species whereas this winter season produced 122. One might anticipate an earlier influx of spring migrants, but such a movement did not materialize. We might also postulate that more of the normal summer residents might have remained with us because of the warmer weather, but this was not the case either. There were no great numbers of real rarities, nor any large number of the truly accidental species. The most spectacular observations aside from the Barrow's Goldeneye and Pine Warbler were confined largely to the numbers of hawks, particularly Rough-legged, and the very marked increase in Snowy Owls. Winter finches were sporadic. In some places fantastic numbers were recorded; in other areas there was a real dearth. Small birds such as chickadees, nuthatches and the like exhibited the same wide variation in the state.

Of Wisconsin's 72 counties, 49 were represented in the season's overall coverage, which was one of the most complete in recent years. This in no wise implies that there was thorough coverage in each of the 49 counties, but at least some reports were received from each on the winter birds. As usual the southern portion of the state received the most intensive study, but there were more stirrings from the north, which bodes well for the future of Wisconsin ornithology.

The report of the Federal Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey, January 9-11, 1961, was made available. This indicated that the total waterfowl population of the state was up about 18,000 over the 1960 census figure. This increase was due largely to three species, Mallard, Common Goldeneye and Canada Goose, each being up about 7000. Scaup were about 8000 fewer than in 1960.

The Season's Records

Here are the season's records:

Red-throated Loon: Three were seen on the Milwaukee Christmas count on Dec. 26 (Mary Donald). (Dates and descriptions of the Christmas counts may be found in **The Passenger Pigeon**, Winter 1960.)

Horned Grebe: Seen on Dec. 2 in Dane County (Tom Soulen), on the Milwaukee Christmas count, and on Feb. 9 in Outagamie County (Daryl Tessen).

Great Blue Heron: Several reports from different areas indicating more wintering birds. Adams County (Sam Robbins and the R. B. Dryers), Jefferson County (Elizabeth Degner), Marinette County on Dec. 10 (Harold Lindberg), Portage County in mid-January (Roy Lukes), Rock County on Jan. 2 (Melva Maxson), St. Croix County on Jan. 2 (Sam Robbins), and in Waushara County (Tom Soulen).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Dec. 26 in Outagamie County (Tessen), on the Christmas count in Racine County (Ed Prins).

American Bittern: Dec. 23 in Milwaukee County (Prins).

Canada Goose: Reported from many counties: Brown, Dodge, Jefferson, Marathon, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha. The largest numbers were about 9000 in Dodge County (Richard Hunt), 4000 in Walworth County (Hunt), 350 in Green Bay (Harold Shine). Some early northward movement was noted in Waukesha County on Feb. 25 (John Bielefeldt).

Snow Goose: Rock County on Feb. 8 (Frances Glenn and Bernice Andrews).

Gadwall: Dane County on Feb. 25 (Wm. Hilsenhoff), wintered in Milwaukee County (Donald), on the Christmas count in Racine County (Prins).

Pintail: Dane County on Dec. 2 (Tom Soulen) and Feb. 9 (Tom Ashman), wintered in Milwaukee County (Mary Donald and Harold Bauers), Rock County on Jan. 24 (Melva Maxson).

Green-winged Teal: Seen by observers in Milwaukee County where it wintered.

American Widgeon: Dane County on Dec. 1 (Ashman) and on Dec. 14 (Soulen), wintered in Milwaukee County (Bauers), Rock County Dec. 28 (Maxson).

Shoveler: Dane County on Dec. 30 and Jan. 7 (Hilsenhoff), Racine and Milwaukee Counties on the Christmas counts; Rock County on Dec. 29 (Maxson).

Wood Duck: Dane County on Jan. 8 (Ashman), Christmas count in Walworth County.

Redhead: One wintered in Marathon County (Corbin), seen in Milwaukee County (Donald), Walworth County (Morgan), early migrants noted in Winnebago County on Feb. 26 (Tessen).

Ring-necked Duck: Dodge County on Feb. 27 (the R. B. Dryers), Rock County on Feb. 19 (John and Marion Stocking), Walworth County on Jan. 10 (Morgan).

Canvasback: Two wintered in Winnebago County (Tessen), 40 wintered in Milwaukee County (Mary Donald and Harold Bauers), noted in Rock County on Feb. 16 (Stocking), and on Christmas count in Walworth County (Morgan).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Melva Maxson recorded two birds on the Rock River, Milton, Rock County, on Feb. 8. See "By the Wayside."

Oldsquaw: Two unusual records from inland waters; Outagamie County on Jan. 14 (Alfred Bradford), Dane County from Feb. 4 (N. R. Barger) through Feb. 12 (Ashman).

Harlequin Duck: Female carefully observed at Port Washington on Feb. 17 (Mary Donald). This species has been seen infrequently at Port Washington during recent winters but has not been reported from elsewhere in the state for many years.

King Eider: Milwaukee County on Dec. 11 (the Carl Fristers). See "By the Wayside."

Ruddy Duck: 20 wintered at Port Washington (Harold Bauers); also seen in Dane, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Walworth Counties.

Hooded Merganser: Six seen at Lake Geneva on Jan. 2 (C. O. Palmquist), one at Racine on Dec. 31 (Prins), one at Wautoma on Jan. 2 (Mrs. Merwood Chipman), one in Winnebago County on Feb. 9 and 19

(Tessen), Dane County on Dec. 1 (Soulen), Walworth County on the Christmas census.

Goshawk: Only report for the season, in Milwaukee County on Dec. 12 (Donald).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dane County on Dec. 22 and Jan. 8 (Ashman), Pierce County on Jan. 2 (Robbins), Rock County on the Christmas count, Waukesha County on Dec. 22 (Ed Peartree), Waukesha County on Dec. 26 (Bob Adams), Buffalo County on Jan. 1 (C. A. Kemper).

Cooper's Hawk: Latest date in Rock County on Feb. 26 (John and Marion Stocking). Reported from Dane, Jefferson, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Polk, St. Croix, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties.

Red-tailed Hawk: Impressive numbers noted from the following areas: 57 at Waukesha, 51 at Madison, 33 at Beloit, 24 at Mazomanie, 22 at Oconomowoc, 16 at Milwaukee, 16 at Hales Corners, 15 at Lake Geneva, 11 at Milton, all on Christmas counts. Most of the other counties had good numbers.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Polk County on Dec. 21 on a bitter cold, sub-zero day (Robbins). Many reports from the southern counties in about the usual numbers.

Rough-legged Hawk: Reported from 20 counties scattered over the state: 30 at Fort Atkinson, 30 at Madison, 28 at Beloit, 12 at Waukesha.

Bald Eagle: The highest count on the wintering flock below Petenwell Dam in Adams County was 32 (N. R. Barger and others). The same observers counted 11 on the Mazomanie Christmas count on Jan. 2. According to a local newspaper clipping there were 20 birds wintering in Cassville in southwestern Wisconsin, and eight birds were counted near Prescott, Pierce County, on Feb. 18 (John Butler). Also seen in Brown, Dane, Eau Claire, Forest, Jefferson, Marathon, Outagamie, Portage, Rock, St. Croix, and Sauk Counties.

Marsh Hawk: Normally a few birds will be found wintering in southern Wisconsin, with none in other parts of the state. This winter the increase in numbers from southern Wisconsin was only a modest one, but the windespread reports from central and northern Wisconsin were startling. It was reported on 23 of the 47 Christmas counts with a total of 75 individuals. December reports from Polk County (Mrs. Lester Pedersen), Barron County (Eugene Butler), Lincoln County (Alan Rusch), Langlade County (R. L. Dana). January reports from Burnett County (N. R. Stone), St. Croix County (Robbins), and Marathon County (Tom Uttech).

Pigeon Hawk: Only report from Outagamie County on Dec. 26 (Tessen).

Bobwhite: Definitely down all over. This may be a reflection of the cyclic swing in population. Reported from Portage County (Roy Lukes) and Waukesha County (Soulen).

Gray Partridge: Also apparently declining according to reports received. Noted in Brown, Dodge, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock and Waukesha Counties.

Wild Turkey: Jan. 29 at Necedah in Juneau County (Ed Peartree).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Seen in Burnett County (Stone), Marathon County on Dec. 25 (Coates).

Woodcock: Marinette County on Dec. 10, a late migrant (Harold Lindberg).

Killdeer: Early migrant in Rock County on Feb. 28 (Maxson).

Common Snipe: Wintering birds on three Christmas counts; Manitowoc County (Mrs. Louis Ansorge), Mazomanie (N. R. Barger), and Lake Geneva (Palmquist).

Bonaparte's Gull: Milwaukee County on Dec. 5 (Donald).

Mourning Dove: Increasing numbers on many counts. Wausau had a flock of 100 wintering birds (Tom Uttech), and 23 of the 47 Christmas counts for the state totalled 957 doves in late December and early January, including flocks as far north as Hudson (Robbins), Chippewa Falls (Kemper), and Green Bay (Ed Cleary).

Barn Owl: If this species spent the entire winter in Wisconsin, it would be for the first time in recorded Wisconsin ornithological history. Three separate observations have been turned in for dates later than the previously known late departure record; Milwaukee on Dec. 23 (Prins), Lake Geneva late in December (Palmquist), Fort Atkinson area (where it bred last summer) as late as Jan. 10 (Degner).

Great Horned Owl: 15 observations from various scattered areas, about par for the winter season.

Snowy Owl: Perhaps one of the best seasons in many years. At least 93 different individuals were seen in the state this winter. Most of the birds were observed near the larger bodies of water, notably Green Bay, Lake Winnebago, Lake Mendota, and along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Long-eared Owl: A surprising number were reported from southern Wisconsin this winter: 23 were seen on the Hales Corners Christmas count, and 13 on the Milwaukee count; six were noted near Waukesha throughout the season (Bielefeldt); six were at Milton throughout the winter (Maxson) with the report of nesting activity on Feb. 27. Other reports were received from Dane County (the Lounds, Ashman, Hilsenhoff), Jefferson County (Degner), Milwaukee County (Donald and Bauers), Outagamie County (Bradford), Racine Christmas count, and Rock County (Stocking).

Short-eared Owl: Also apparently more numerous than usual. A group wintered in southern Ozaukee County (J. L. Diedrich) and another group of as many as 12 could be seen in late February and March in St. Croix County (Robbins). One wintered in Sauk County (Harold Kruse). Two wintered in Madison (Hilsenhoff). One was reported near Racine on Dec. 17 (Bielefeldt), and one in Manitowoc County on Dec. 28 (Archie Woodcock).

Saw-whet Owl: In Dane County during January (the Lounds), Sauk County on Feb. 14, photographed by Harold Kruse. See "By the Wayside."

Belted Kingfisher: Widely distributed around the state. Reports from Adams, Barron, Columbia, Dane, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Pierce, Portage, Rock, St. Croix, Vernon, Buffalo, Juneau and Waukesha Counties.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: A surprising number of reports. The 18 reported on the Lake Geneva Christmas count on Jan. 2 is probably an all-time high (Palmquist). These were seen in a tamarack swamp that had not been covered in other years. Perhaps more unusual were wintering birds as far north as St. Croix County on Dec. 21 (Robbins), near Apple-

ton on Dec. 21 (Tessen), and Pierce County on Dec. 30 (John Butler and Robbins). Some northward movement must have taken place during the warm spell in late February for as many as eight were seen at Appleton on Feb. 26 (Tessen), and one at Green Bay on Feb. 28 (Ben Palmer). Also noted in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Dodge, Iowa, Milwaukee, Polk, Racine, St. Croix, Waukesha, and Waupaca Counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One at Milwaukee on Dec. 26 (Donald), Outagamie County on Dec. 4 (Tessen), and on the Waukesha Christmas count.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Three of this species were seen on Jan. 1 in Forest County (the Roy Lounds). See "By the Wayside."

Horned Lark: Well distributed throughout the state all during the period.

Gray Jay: As usual reported from the northern counties. Ashland and Bayfield Counties (Dryer and Robbins), Forest County (the Lounds and Soulen), Langlade and Oneida Counties (Soulen), Polk County (Kemper and Robbins), Sawyer County (Robbins), and Vilas County (Nils Dahlstrand).

Raven: As expected from the northern counties, plus one reported in Buffalo County on Jan. 1 (Kemper).

Boreal Chickadee: Again, predominantly from the northern counties: 25 seen at Hiles in Forest County on Jan. 1 (Soulen, the Lounds), Langlade County on Dec. 30 (Soulen); two in southern Bayfield County on Feb. 10 (Robbins).

Tufted Titmouse: Good distribution, and noted as far north as Barron, Pierce and St. Croix Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Totals on this species were moderately lower than last year but it was seen in many counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Langlade, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Walworth and Waukesha.

Winter Wren: Late December reports from Milton (Maxson) and Fort Atkinson (Degner), one seen at Mazomanie on Jan. 1 (Barger).

Mockingbird: This bird is being seen with rather increasing frequency and should be searched for more intensively. Noted on Jan. 1 at Milwaukee (Bauers) and Appleton (Tessen), Dane County on Feb. 5 (Ashman).

Catbird: Melva Maxson banded one winter bird at Milton on Dec. 3. One was found dead in Racine on Dec. 31 (Prins).

Brown Thrasher: Seen in Dane County on Jan. 3 (the Henry Koenigs), Milwaukee County on Dec. 26 (Donald), Racine County on Dec. 31 (Prins).

Robin: Fairly well distributed and reported from as far north as Burnett and Ashland Counties.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Late date from Dane County on Dec. 14 (Soulen).

Bohemian Waxwing: Small flocks at Waupaca on Dec. 1 and Feb. 24 (Florence Peterson); small flocks at Stevens Point on Dec. 28 (Arol Epple); one near River Falls mixed in with a flock of Cedar Waxwings on Jan. 2 (Robbins); 30 at Rhinelander on Dec. 30 (Dahlstrand); 18 in Rusk County on Feb. 4 (Ken Parejko); small flock at Wausau Feb. 1-18 (the Spencer Dotys).

Cedar Waxwings: Well distributed throughout the state in small flocks. The largest concentrations were reported from along the Mississippi River and the St. Croix River (Kemper and Robbins).

Northern Shrike: About the average number of reports.

Myrtle Warbler: Although there have been reports of this species almost annually during Winter Seasons, this year for the first time this species is known to have survived the winter, and it did so in two widely separated localities. At least four were seen at Lake Geneva in a tamarack swamp (which also yielded the first Pine Warbler, below) on Jan. 2, and single birds were seen on Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 in the same area (Palmquist). One appeared sporadically at the home of the Carl Pemples in the southwest corner of St. Croix County along the banks of the St. Croix River. This bird was seen in mid-December and mid-January, and by mid-February had become a daily visitor.

Pine Warbler: One bird was seen on Jan. 2 in company with the Myrtle Warblers in the tamarack swamp at Lake Geneva (Palmquist). This constitutes the first known winter record for the state.

Blackbirds: The largest concentration of wintering blackbirds was discovered in Pierce County on Dec. 30 by Butler and Robbins. This group consisted of 1300 Redwinged and 50 Rusty Blackbirds and 15 Cowbirds. Madison has always had a sizeable roost during the winter but it was not as large this year as in the past: 530 Redwings, 150 Rusty Blackbirds and a few Grackles (Ashman and others). Howard Winkler noted 250 Redwings in Columbia County on Dec. 29, and 110 Redwings were counted at Beloit on Dec. 26 (David Cox). Migrating flocks of Redwings were noted in southern Wisconsin during the last week of February.

Brewer's Blackbird: One remained at Appleton until mid-January (Tessen); one in Columbia County on Dec. 29 (Barger).

Evening Grosbeak: Brown County on Feb. 16 (Cleary), Langlade County on Feb. 11 (Soulen), Marathon County on Dec. 30 (Doty), Marinette County on Jan. 9 (Lindberg), in Outagamie County on the Christmas county, Polk County on Dec. 21 (Robbins), in Sauk County on Dec. 20 (Kruse); also seen in Vilas, Washburn and Sawyer Counties.

Purple Finch: A most peculiar pattern, if the distribution could be considered as conforming to any pattern at all. Most often there are fair numbers reported from the southern counties and relatively few or none from other parts of the state. This year, however, there were relatively few in the southern part of the state, a few more than usual in the central part of the state, and many more than usual in the far northern part of the state. The Christmas count at Hiles in the northeast corner listed 584 individuals on Jan. 1 (the Lounds and Soulen); Rhinelander had 96 birds on Dec. 26 (Nils Dahlstrand). Several hundred reported in Sawyer, Ashland, and Bayfield Counties on Feb. 10 (Robbins).

Pine Grosbeak: Burnett County on Feb. 21 (Stone), on the Christmas count in Langlade and Marathon Counties, in Portage County on the Christmas count (Roy Lukes), Rock County on Jan. 2 and Feb. 15 (Maxson), all winter in Sawyer and Vilas Counties.

Common Redpoll: Fewer reports than expected. It was not a Redpoll year. Brown County on Dec. 17 (Cleary), Forest County on Jan. 1 (Soulen), Langlade County on Dec. 30 (Soulen), Oneida County on Dec.

3, on Christmas counts in Portage, Marathon and Walworth Counties and in Washburn County on Feb. 10 (Robbins).

Pine Siskin: A Siskin year in the north! A few scattered reports came in from southern Wisconsin as usual, including one flock of 60 birds wintering in Madison (Hilsenhoff). Observers in the northern counties were treated to a truly spectacular flight. Christmas count totals showed 1172 at Hiles in Forest County (Soulen and Lounds). Dahlstrand reported 169 at Boulder Junction in Vilas County on Dec. 31 and 131 at Rhinelander in Oneida County on Dec. 26. Lukes noted 100 at Kewaunee on Dec. 26. In Sawyer, Bayfield and Ashland Counties the Pine Siskin was the most common finch present. A flock could be found at virtually every stop where spruce trees were present and a very conservative estimate of the number seen in four hours of field work was 3000 birds (Sam Robbins).

American Goldfinch: Well distributed, but numbers markedly reduced from last year.

Red Crossbill: This was the one winter finch which invaded all parts of the state, in unusual numbers throughout the entire winter season. In Forest County the Hiles Christmas count noted 300. Vilas County had many throughout the season (Fred Babcock), and 125 were estimated in Sawyer, Bayfield and Ashland Counties on Feb. 10 (Robbins). The flocks were smaller in the central and southern sections of the state but the widespread presence of these small flocks is attested by the listing of this species on 18 of the state's 47 Christmas counts. Reported from Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Columbia, Dane, Forest, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Oneida, Outagamie, Rock, St. Croix, Sawyer, Shawano, Vilas, Walworth and Waukesha Counties.

White-winged Crossbill: One lone bird in Waukesha on Dec. 26 (Soulen). This constituted the only record from the southern half of the state. Small flocks were numerous throughout the northern forests during the winter months. The Roy Lounds and Tom Soulen counted 209 in Forest County on Jan. 1; Soulen added 45 more in Langlade County on Dec. 30; Nils Dahlstrand totaled 34 in Vilas County on Dec. 31; Sam Robbins had flocks totaling 100 or more in Sawyer, Ashland, and Bayfield Counties on Feb. 10.

Rufous-sided Towhee: One at Madison on Jan. 14 (Lound); one at Lake Geneva on Feb. 12 (Palmquist).

Vesper Sparrow: One at Beloit on Dec. 26 (David Cox).

Oregon Junco: One banded at Milton on Feb. 16 (Maxson). Also reported from Waukesha County (Emma Hoffman), Dane County (Soulen), St. Croix County (Robbins), and from Adams, Columbia, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Sauk, and Vilas Counties.

Field Sparrow: Six wintered in Waukesha County (John Bielefeldt), two in Waushara County (Mrs. Merwood Chipman), Rock County on Dec. 26 and Feb. 21 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

White-crowned Sparrow: Four wintering birds were banded at Milton during January (Maxson). Six were reported on the Beloit Christmas count on Dec. 26 and at least one survived the winter (Mahlum).

White-throated Sparrow: Three banded in Milton during January (Maxson); one wintering bird in Madison on Feb. 16 (Ashman); see also on Christmas counts in Pierce, Milwaukee, Racine and Manitowoc Counties.

Fox Sparrow: One banded at Milton during January (Maxson), one at Madison on Dec. 26 (Ashman), one at Lake Geneva on Jan. 2 (Palmquist), one near River Falls on Jan. 2 (Robbins).

Swamp Sparrow: Noted at Madison and Milwaukee, seen on the Racine Christmas count, two wintered in Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

Song Sparrow: Widespread wintering birds in the southern part of the state. Migrants appearing by Feb. 26 in Jefferson County (Degner) and Rock County (Maxson).

Lapland Longspur: Seen on eight different counts. Last date Feb. 20 in St. Croix County (Robbins).

Snow Bunting: Reported from 22 different areas in about the usual numbers. Still present on last day of period in Outagamie County (Tessen).

Comments from Observers

Eugene Butler from Barron County: "I did not see or hear a Redpoll all winter . . . believe this somewhat unusual. . . . An unusually high number of Red-headed Woodpeckers."

Bill Hilsenhoff from Dane County: "The open winter probably made many birds appear less common than usual because they were not attracted to feeders or roadsides."

Ed Cleary from Brown County: "On the whole I consider this to have been a very poor season for birds . . . in fact one of the worst in 15 years. Chickadees and Goldfinches are very scarce . . . in fact I have not seen either species for 1961. . . . Gray Partridges are particularly few and far between and in some places are practically wiped out. . . . This holds true for the Pheasant as well. None of the following have been seen: Pine Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin or Evening Grosbeak."

Tom Soulen on the season in general: "The abundance or lack of certain species was as remarkable as the weather. Hawks seemed unusually abundant. The winter finches seemed to be absent for the most part from southern Wisconsin and truly abundant in northern Wisconsin. . . . The cone crop overall was tremendous."

Fred Babcock from Land O' Lakes in Vilas County: "The most interesting thing about the bird life in Vilas County during January and February was the presence of great numbers of Red Crossbills. I have not seen any White-winged Crossbills. An unusually large number of Purple Finches which came early, for them. . . . Flocks of Siskins are coming in and there are many winter Goldfinches." (Contrast this item with the report from Green Bay.)

Kate Fuller from Park Falls, Price County: "The number of regular winter birds, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, Canada Jays, etc. are greatly reduced this winter. We wonder if this may be due to the very light snow cover. . . . Large flocks of Pine Siskins appearing quite regularly and more Pine Grosbeaks than I have ever seen around this area."

Harold and Carla Kruse from Loganville, Sauk County: "Finches virtually lacking this winter as well as having seen few other small birds. . . . The mild open winter has kept them away from the feeders and roadsides so it is difficult to say whether the small birds are actually

scarce or merely less concentrated than in other years. I suspect it is the latter."

Gertrude Pedersen from Luck, Polk County: "Bird have been real scarce around here most of the winter . . . possibly because we had no snow."

Martha and Roy Lound: "The mild fall and early winter held some species in northern Wisconsin later than usual. . . . That was why we found a Bald Eagle, several Blue Jays, and a White-breasted Nuthatch. . . . Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and both Crossbills (speaking of Forest County) were more plentiful than they have been for several years probably because of the abundant food supply. Conversely, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls and Snow Buntings were scarce or possibly entirely absent."

Mary Donald from Milwaukee County: "An anemic bird report for the winter season. Most of the small winter birds were very scarce . . . and everyone has been complaining about no birds at their feeders. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, Chickadees, and Juncos were simply missing or at best came occasionally. There were only a few Purple Finches and no grosbeaks or Siskins. Cardinals were down but there were more Mourning Doves than usual."

Alfred Bradford from Outagamie County: "This year's winter list contains the smallest number of birds I have ever seen during a winter season. . . . You will notice there are no Purple Finches, Evening or Pine Grosbeaks. There is one unusual bird for this vicinity and that is the Oldsquaw duck (female) seen on January 14, 1961 . . . the second time I have seen it inland, the other time ten years ago. White-breasted Nuthatches and Chickadees were very scarce in Appleton."

From Waukesha, Mrs. Earl Sauer and Mrs. Arthur Gauerke: "Hawks have been unusually plentiful around here this winter."

Harold Lindberg from Peshtigo, in Marinette County: "Have not seen a Pine Grosbeak all winter and this is the first time this has happened. Few Juncos and Goldfinches. . . ."

Mrs. Joseph Mahlum from Beloit in Rock County: "We have had the White-crowned Sparrow at our feeder since December 1. It is wonderful to have this special guest all the time. He really likes cracked corn in a bit of melted fat which I fix up in cakes to put on the table. . . . I notice that many species will taste it when it is within reach on a feeder."

The Season in Appleton

Daryl Tessen from Appleton, Outagamie County: "The period began very poorly and had everyone wondering where the birds were this winter . . . thus the fine showing on the Christmas count was surprising. Generally during January the birds appeared to be a little more abundant than in December, but February proved to be a complete reverse from December as it was an unusually good month. Highlighting this period was an abundance of hawks in numbers as well as species, the presence of several species of owls and the appearance of a migration of Cowbirds and Redwings on the last day of the period. . . . Tree Sparrows were unusually abundant whereas Song Sparrows were scarce.

Chickadees were much decreased in numbers from last year and finches were greatly decreased in numbers, whereas Redpolls, Pine Siskins and grosbeaks were completely absent from the area. Overall this was an average winter with certain species greatly decreased in number or totally absent."

Ed Peartree from Oconomowoc in Waukesha County: "More than usual in the hawk line . . . due to an open winter. Many Rough-legs, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks."

Mrs. Henry Koenig, Sauk County: "We surely didn't have any Purple Finches this year, but it was an unusual winter. . . . We had snow only once which covered the ground and had to be shoveled."

Tom Ashman from Dane County: "Most winter birds less common this year except Snowy Owls."

Elizabeth Degner from Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County: "Most birds have been conspicuously absent here. There were no wintering meadowlarks or Robins in spite of no snow. . . . Hawks were very plentiful especially the Rough-legs. No Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches or Redpolls could be found."

CLUB PAGE

Green Bay Bird Club Elects Officers, Plans Busy Season

Officers elected at the Green Bay Bird Club's annual banquet in January are: Miss Irene Krostag, president; Myron Duquaine, vice-president; Bernard Chartier, re-elected secretary-treasurer, and Edwin Cleary, bird report editor.

For its monthly field trips through the spring, summer and fall, the club has made ambitious plans to combine ecological studies with its bird watching. Members will visit some of their favorite bird haunts in the area, and will attempt to interpret these habitat types from an ecological viewpoint.

On June 24 The Ridges Wildflower Sanctuary in Door County will be studied. Mrs. R. P. Hussong will discuss the bog habitat on this field trip. Lake ecology will be the topic on July 15 when members visit Archibald Lake, near Lakewood in Oconto County. Miss Krostag will explain the peculiarities of this type of habitat.

The Three Falls of the Thunder River in Marinette County will be the site of the August 19 field trip. Al Holz will tell about the ecological features of sandy areas with their pine-oak-sweet fern vegetation. Mrs. Myron Duquaine will discuss marsh habitat on September 9 when members tour the Peshtigo Harbor Marsh, a Conservation Department Wildlife Area, near Peshtigo.

Bernard Chartier will discuss migration patterns on October 21, when members will study the waterfowl at Horicon Marsh. In November, a mature forest near New Franken, Brown County, will come under the club's inspection. Miss Florence VanderBloomen and Joe Bader will present the topic, "Forest Life," on this trip, on November 18. Interested birders are invited to join the club on any of these trips.

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

WAUKESHA

The interest of the Waukesha area to ornithologists lies not in any unique seasonal or breeding rarities; it is attractive rather because it is simply a representative piece of southeastern Wisconsin farmland, spotted with a number of small woodlots and more than a few upland deciduous woods of respectable size. The area has in addition a number of small creeks and the Fox River, which flows through the city of Waukesha as it travels from the northern to the southern boundary of the county. The Waukesha area has no large bodies of water, but it has a number of small ponds and a liberal sprinkling of marshland, since a fair portion of its land is low. With such amounts of these varied habitats, Waukesha offers as representative a cross-section of the birdlife of southern Wisconsin as may be found; only species which prefer to stick close to the Lake Michigan shore or those which are restricted to the southwestern corner of the state are not found here regularly, and even some of these show up more than occasionally.

Water and Marsh Birds

Despite the lack of large expanses of water near Waukesha, there are enough lowlands harboring the Fox River and the numerous creeks to provide ample gathering places for migrating waterfowl. Lower Phantom Lake (Area I) and Saylesville Pond (Area F) are the two principal bodies of water on which ducks congregate during late March and April. One may also see ducks during this period almost anywhere along the Fox River as it winds along near Highway "I" between Areas E and H. In years of high water the fields bordering the Fox are sometimes completely flooded, and the waterfowl population consequently seems unusually large. The focal point of the migratory waterfowl activity, however, is Area H, a vast expanse of marshland fed at least in part by the Fox River. Here one may see ducks and geese (Canada, Snow, and Blue) by the thousands, and some years swans may spend much of March and April here. In the fall Area H is not apt to be nearly as good. Saylesville Pond, however, may hold some ducks at least until the beginning of hunting season.

Marsh areas at the northwest end of Saylesville Pond (Area F) and in the center of Area B are suitable for typical marsh residents such as the Least and American Bittern, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Sora and Virginia Rail, and occasionally the King Rail. The Brewer's Blackbird has nested in the Saylesville Marsh. The pond near the center of Area B, right beside the road, is an exceptionally good place for viewing marsh life; in dry seasons the pond dries up considerably, and a fair number of shorebirds may gather. In such years also, rails are prone to leave the shelter of the bordering cattails, and one may frequently see them many feet out in the open. In Area G, Highway "XI" may have the right pond or mudflat conditions for transient waterfowl or shorebirds. Another area which is sometimes good for shorebirds, especially in the fall, is the western end of Area E, where the Fox River crosses Highway "H." Both north and south of the road one may find small flocks of "peeps" on islands in the river, although some

walking may be necessary. It is in this region where King Rails have most recently been found regularly, and from here south along the river one may in some years find Common Egrets and even Little Blue Herons in late summer and fall.

Birds of the Upland Deciduous Woods

Typical woodland areas are represented by the southern and northern ends of Area D, the eastern half of Area E, and the eastern end of Area F. In any of these places one may find regularly such things as the Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Yellow-billed Cuckoos are seen frequently where Highway "I" cuts through Area D, and here as well as on Highway "I" south of Area E the hooting of the Great Horned Owl is a common sound of the twilight and evening. Area E and the wooded part of Area F have also as regular residents the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Cerulean Warbler. The brush-dotted open area which constitutes the southern edge of Area E contains numerous Field Sparrows and one summer harbored a pair of nesting Clay-colored Sparrows.

Birds of the Open Country

Most of the Waukesha area is open country, and one consequently finds here a number of field-frequenting species of birds. As in many parts of the state, soaring Red-tailed Hawks are a common sight. Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks can be found in many places, and in the winter they are either joined or replaced by Rough-legged Hawks. The open area most visited by birders of the Waukesha area has been Area G. On Highway "XI," which zigzags through this area, one may find Golden and Black-bellied Plovers in migration along with Upland Plovers and Water Pipits. But the area is perhaps most interesting during winter. Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, and Snow Buntings are apt to be here. Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls have been found, sometimes in flocks of several hundred. Short-eared Owls and Marsh Hawks will be found during some winters. Gray Partridge may be seen in this area, particularly on the western end, and are quite easily seen during the winter. Meadowlarks are fairly frequent winter residents.

Birds of Lowland and Brushy Areas

If one approaches Area H from the roads on its southeast side, one can reach the Soo Line railroad tracks which run along the edge of the area. In wintertime a walk along these tracks may be a profitable one, as they pass several small patches of tamarack which house regularly Yellow-shafted Flickers and have yielded Red-headed Woodpeckers, Robins, Tufted Titmice, Purple Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Red and White-winged Crossbills, and in one year, Myrtle Warblers.

Savannah Sparrows are abundant throughout the Waukesha area during the summer, and also common locally are Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows. Traill's Flycatchers may be found along any of the many creeks of the area; the most convenient places are in the center of Area D and the west end of Area E. A particularly good place to hear the winnowing of the Common Snipe is the center of Area D, in the month of April and again, less commonly, in the fall.

One of the most interesting spots near Waukesha is Area C. A small stream winds west from the road (Chinook Pass) through heavy brushy vegetation. A few small groups of tamarack are scattered at random through the area, which on its southern edge is bounded by upland woods. Here in small space is quite a variety of species. A quarter mile to the north the Loggerhead Shrike nested along the road for several years. In the woods to the south are Wood Thrushes, Yellow-throated Vireos, Ovenbirds, Cerulean and Blue-winged Warblers. Nests of the Veery and Green Heron have been found. There are Traill's Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings and many Goldfinches. The most interesting species of the area, however, is the Yellow-breasted Chat, which for three successive summers has been



a resident. Almost anytime between mid-May and mid-July one can, with patience, hear at least one male singing within earshot of the road.

Migration

In addition to strictly wooded areas, both sides of Saylesville Pond (Area F) may attract warblers and sparrows in some numbers during migration. The best place to look for migrating thrushes, flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and cuckoos, however, is Beck's Mill (Area A). This rather small, densely wooded area, which serves as a border to a branch of the Fox River, has yielded at one time or another just about every species of passerine which has ever been seen in the vicinity of Waukesha. The earliest spring arrivals are frequently found here. Many of the trees are low enough so that one may observe warblers with relative ease. The best part of the area is usually that west of Highway 164, from the point where the river crosses the highway north a few hundred yards to the driveway which goes west from the highway.

Directions

The stream in Area A is north of Waukesha on Highway 164, 0.3 mile north of Old Highway 30 (the overpass which is just north of a limestone quarry). Area B can be reached by traveling southeast out of downtown Waukesha on East Broadway (Highway "D") about two miles past the city limits and turning left at the first crossroad; the small marsh near the center of Area B will soon be apparent on the left. To reach the areas south and west of Waukesha, travel south out of downtown Waukesha on East Avenue (Highway "F"), following Highway "F" for two miles south from Sunset Drive (about at the southern edge of town) until Highway "I" is reached. One mile south of this intersection, "F" turns sharply to the east, and another blacktop road goes west. Follow the road to the west for one-fourth mile, then turn south on Chinook

Pass for about one-third mile. A small bridge over the creek which winds west through Area C will be evident, as will the scattered tamaracks which comprise some of the area's taller vegetation. To reach Areas D and E, travel west from the intersection of "F" and "I." A bridge over a small creek about one-half mile west of the intersection is the center of Area D. A little more than one mile west of here Highway "I" crosses Highway "XX." Area E begins with the first woods one sees to the north in driving west from the intersection of "I" and "XX." Where Highway "I" makes a sharp turn to the left, Highway "H" turns to the right, crossing the Fox River near the west end of Area E and continuing up a gradual slope to Highway "X." About two miles to the left on Highway "X," Woods Road turns to the right and cuts through the eastern side of Area F. A little further on "X," Highway "XI" goes to the left through Area G. Still further on "X," after descending a small hill, one reaches the bridge which goes over the outlet from Saylesville Pond, which is in the southern part of Area F. Near the bridge are roads leading to places where one may park on either side of the pond. The north side is generally the better place to park. Proceeding over the bridge on "X," one soon reaches the other road which goes through Area G. Turning left on this road takes one back to Highway "I," and the best vantage points from which to view the big marsh (Area H) are on "I" between this junction and the junction of "I" and "XI." Another good place from which to see a portion of the marsh can be reached by traveling on Highway 83 for 1.5 miles south of its intersection with Highway "I." At this point a road turns east which ends near one edge of the marsh. Area I can be reached by traveling on "I" west of Mukwonago. A little less than a mile south of "NN" is a road which leads to a network of roads between and around portions of Upper and Phantom Lakes.

—Tom Soulen.

This "Favorite Bird Haunts" article by the new Spring seasonal editor is one of 30 which appear in the W.S.O. book of the same name. Nine of the articles have not been printed before, but will be used in future issues. It is our hope that members will wish to obtain the book, which is for sale by the Supply Department for \$1.75.—The Editor.

MORE NEWS . . .

Copies of *Silent Wings*, 1947 W.S.O. publication devoted to the Passenger Pigeon, are still available from Walter Scott, 1721 Hickory Drive, Madison 5. The booklet contains 42 pages of text, by such men as Hartley H. T. Jackson, A. W. Schorger, and Aldo Leopold, plus several rare and unusual pictures of the vanished bird for which our journal is named. Copies will be mailed to members for their own use, or as gifts to others or to libraries and schools, for just 25 cents. Earl Godfrey, Curator of Ornithology at the National Museum of Canada, recently said this of *Silent Wings*: "It is a most outstanding

publication, packed with well organized and well documented information. Leopold's contribution is, I think, one of the finest pieces of writing in ornithological literature. I am delighted to have a copy for my own library."

Harold Kruse, bookstore manager, is wondering if there is a W.S.O. member who might have an old enclosed trailer that could be transported to Loganville for use as a "warehouse" for the Supply Department. Harold's stock has been stored for the most part in his parents' home, to their inconvenience, and he is looking for an inexpensive alternative. Any takers, or should be say "givers"?

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 25-27, 1962 (Rhineland)**—1962 W.S.O. Convention, in the new Rhineland district high school. Pictures and more information elsewhere in this issue.
- May 27, 1962 (Kenosha)**—Nature Conservancy field trip to Kenosha and Racine area prairies, possible acquisition projects. Meet at Kenosha County Court House, Kenosha, at 11:00 a. m., and bring a lunch.
- May 29-June 3, 1962 (Saron)**—Madison Audubon Society trip to Audubon Camp of Wisconsin.
- June 3, 1962 (Terry Andrae State Park, Sheboygan)**—Annual meeting of Wisconsin Nature Conservancy, with field trips at 11:00 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- June 11-15, 1962 (New York City)**—13th International Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, at the American Museum of Natural History.
- June 16-17, 1962 (Lake Du Bay, north of Stevens Point on Wisconsin River)**—W.S.O. 1962 Summer Campout, with trips to George W. Mead Wildlife Area.
- June 17-23, 1962 (Saron)**—First Session, Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, for Youth Camp Nature Counselors.
- June 17-23, 1962 (Ithaca, New York)**—13th International Ornithological Congress, Cornell University.
- June 24, 1962 (Bailey's Harbor, Door County)**—Green Bay Bird Club field trip to The Ridges Wildflower Sanctuary.
- June 24-July 7, 1962 (Saron)**—First regular Session, Audubon Camp of Wisconsin.
- July 15, 1962 (Lakewood, Oconto County)**—Green Bay Bird Club field trip to Archibald Lake.
- August 27-31, 1962 (Salt Lake City, Utah)**—Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, University of Utah.
- November 9-13, 1962 (Corpus Christi, Texas)**—58th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society, Robert Driscoll Hotel.

MORE NEWS . . .

Recent news releases from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service tell of a pelican that landed, exhausted, at Stead Air Force Base high on the Nevada desert, albino Shoveler, Mallard, and Osprey seen at western refuges, and the availability of descriptive leaflets and bird lists for the many federal refuges throughout the country. Lists of the latter may be obtained from the Service at the Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

W.S.O. was on radio this past fall, to an undetermined extent, after your Editor made a Conservation Department tape recording with President Ed Peartree. The

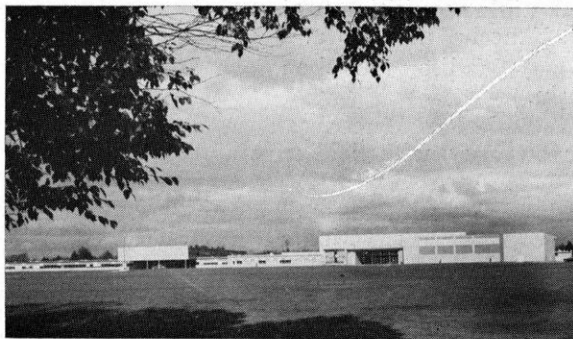
subject was "goose watching" and the locale was the Highway 49 roadside halfway across Horicon Marsh. "Goose music" accompanied the brief interview. Department tapes are sent to most Wisconsin radio stations, and are used on the "Wisconsin Outdoors" program.

Carrier pigeons are still used by two large Japanese newspapers for transporting film and messages within the crowded city of Tokyo. One paper use 250 of these trained messengers. In the past, pigeons carried news of fires, expeditions, and other happenings over distances as great as 225 miles. Modern communications techniques and equipment will probably replace the remaining birds soon, it is expected.

1962 CONVENTION NEWS

Rhineland Union High School—site of the 23rd annual W.S.O. convention—will be the center of activities of ornithological interest on May 25, 26 and 27. Paper sessions will be held in the spacious, plush-seated auditorium, meals will be served in the modern cafeteria, and the Book-

store will be ready to serve your ornithological tastes in the student commons adjacent to the main lobby.



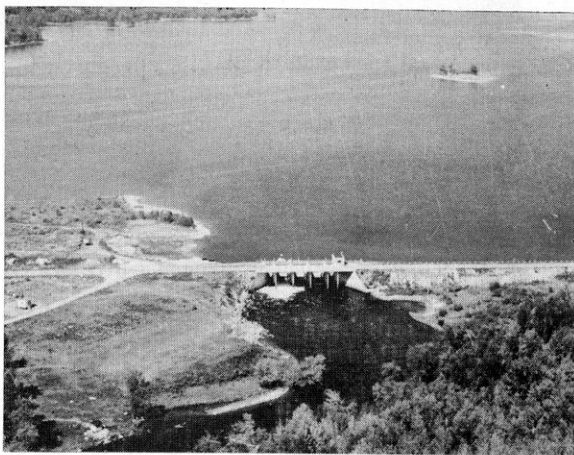
RHINELANDER UNION HIGH SCHOOL

PHOTO BY EHLKE STUDIO

“home” for many Ospreys that build their nests on dead trees in the flowage. During the peak of migration, which coincides with convention time, the sandy beaches are over-run with shorebirds. In addition you'll find a variety of warblers, thrushes and other small birds in the adjoining forests of Wisconsin's north-woods country.

The Trees for Tomorrow Conservation Camp at Eagle River will be the site of the Sunday morning field trip. Here you will walk along the well-marked trail in the Demonstration Forest; you'll see a “widow maker;” and listen to the wind in the trees as you scan the balsam,

spruce, maple and pine for early morning migrants. And to top off your birding morning you'll place your feet under the table and enjoy a Lumberjack breakfast prepared by Musky Joe, the camp's talented cook.



RAINBOW DAM AND FLOWAGE

PHOTO BY WISCONSIN VALLEY IMPROVEMENT CO.





TREES
FOR TOMORROW
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
CAMP,
EAGLE RIVER

PHOTO BY
TREES FOR
TOMORROW

BOOK REVIEWS*

WALDEN WEST. By August Derleth. Illustrated with woodcuts by Grisha Dotzenko. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1961. 262 pp. \$4.95.

Much of the "nature" in this new August Derleth book is human nature, described with penetrating insight and gentle kindness. In these passages parade before us the townspeople of Sac Prairie, their lives drab or colorful, their beginnings cursed or auspicious, and their endings violent or peaceful. They constitute quite an assemblage, some ordinary, others extraordinary, but all quite fascinating. Their stories are told with honesty and compassion.

Between the passages of this "Who's Who" of Sac Prairie, Derleth takes his readers on strolls over the trestle and into the marsh, to Ferry Bluff or the Spring Slough. His jaunts are in the nature of pilgrimages, to places loved in youth and now revisited over and over with devotion and sometimes nostalgia. Derleth describes with keen perception and genuine affection, the sights, sounds, and smells experienced on his outings—the choir of frogs, the sky dance of Woodcock, the flocking of Martins in September. Readers who have enjoyed Derleth's very personal manner of writing, in his many novels and columns, or in **The Passenger Pigeon**, will find this book delightful. Sac Prairie of course, is Derleth's literary combination of Sauk City, where he lives, and Prairie du Sac. Many W.S.O. members know the area, and have visited some of the birding spots described by the author.—The Editor.

PENGUIN SUMMER. By Eleanor Rice Pettingill. Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York, 1961. 194 pp. \$5.00.

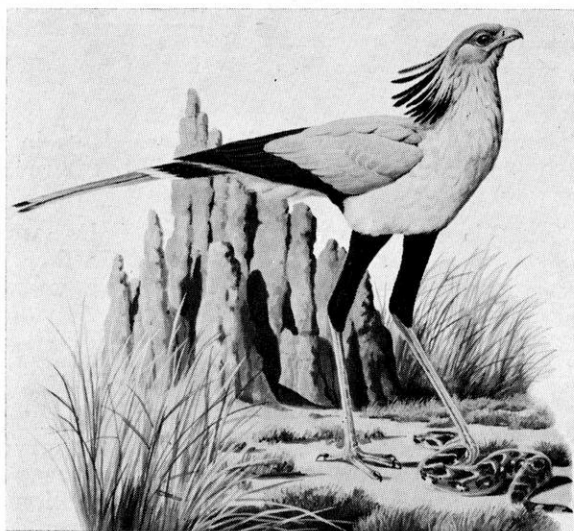
A delightfully different kind of adventure in ornithology, Eleanor Rice Pettingill's book, telling of a summer spent photographing penguins and other birds of the Falkland Islands for Disney, is of interest

*Available from the W.S.O. Supply Department.

to amateur and professional ornithologists alike. You can share with her vicariously the cold discomforts of the bleak windswept Falkland landscape as well as the lonely but interesting lives of the hospitable people with whom the Pettingills spent many of their days. At the same time, you may enjoy her wamly humorous accounts of "bird watching" in a tussock bog or the antics of a colony of raucous Rockhopper Penguins. The birds of these islands are illustrated with more than 50 excellent photographs.—Carla O. Kruse.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD. By Oliver L. Austin, Jr. Illustrated by Arthur Singer. Golden Press, New York, 1961. 316 pp. \$14.95.

Perhaps the most spectacular bird book to come along in some time, **Birds of the World** is likely to be a booming commercial success. Certainly it is beautiful, readable, and comprehensive. The author, ornithologist for the Florida State Museum, has produced a text which is



AFRICAN SECRETARY BIRD
FROM A PAINTING BY ARTHUR SINGER
FOR "BIRDS OF THE WORLD"

delightful to read through or to dabble in, and which may be readily understood by the untrained but interested layman. The illustrator, little known as a painter of birds prior to this publication, has contributed some 300 plates illustrating more than 700 species. These are of generally excellent quality, and have been so judged by more competent critics than this one. There are a few which are mislabeled, these critics say, but for the most part these errors, unfortunate as they cer-

tainly are, will not detract greatly from the enjoyment and information most of us may get from such a book. Perhaps the next edition will include corrections; certainly most of the mistakes could have been caught prior to publication by a more thorough job of editing. As a survey of all the world's birds, as a source of general reference, as a gift, and as a decorative addition to any home or library, **Birds of the World** would be hard to surpass.—The Editor.



FIELD TRIP NEWS

PETENWELL EAGLE TRIP

On January 28, some 20 members of the S. Paul Jones Bird Club of Oconomowoc, as well as W.S.O. members from Beloit, Janesville, Madison, Milwaukee and Randolph, gathered at Petenwell Dam on the Wisconsin River to view the concentration of Bald Eagles. Lunch was eaten in the powerhouse and the afternoon was spent visiting various spots in the area which were familiar to Walt Wellmann, W.S.O. member and vice-president of the Oconomowoc group. Two flocks of Turkeys were seen on the Necedah Wildlife Refuge. Ruffed Grouse, Great Blue Heron, Pileated Woodpecker and Pine Grosbeak were among the other highlights. Because of the great interest shown in this trip, it will be a regular scheduled W.S.O. trip in 1963.

MILWAUKEE LAKE FRONT TRIP

March 4, 1962, dawned as a cold, blustery, and snowy day, with a wind of 30-35 m.p.h. blowing from the east. Yet 34 people braved the drifts, wind, and generally rugged weather to join this trip. Members came from Racine, Cottage Grove, Sussex, Hartford, Milwaukee, Delafield, Oconomowoc and Madison. The latter community accounted for one third of those present. The birding was generally poor, with only 19 species recorded. Among these were one Long-eared Owl, two Oldsquaw and one White-winged Scoter.

1962 SUMMER CAMPOUT

The Portage County park on Lake Du Bay, north of Stevens Point, will be the site for the Summer Campout on June 16 and 17. Present plans call for field trips into the nearby George W. Mead Wildlife Area, led by the Hamerstoms. The park is easily reached from Highway 34. There will be some campers on the scene by Friday evening, judging from other campouts.

1962 FALL CAMPOUT

The Fall Campout on September 8-9 will be held at Leland, in the park on the millpond. Trips to various locations in the Baraboo Bluffs, the Honey Creek Nature Preserve, and the Leopold Memorial tract will be scheduled, with Harold Kruse as leader. Warblers and other small birds should be at the peak of their migration, and fall color should be making its first appearances in the hills.

MORE NEWS . . .

Clara Hussong, probably W.S.O.'s busiest writer, is at it again. She had an item in the spring issue of **Wisconsin Tales** and

Trails about the annual stopover of Whistling Swans on Green Bay and Lake Winnebago, and she has been asked to write a section on nature hikes for a new edition of **The Book of Knowledge**. All this in addition to her newspaper column and W.S.O. publicity efforts!

BIRDS CROSS THE IRON CURTAIN

A pair of feathered "ambassadors" have launched their own Visitors' Exchange program between the United States and Russia, the Department of the Interior has announced.

A long-legged bird, known as the Common Crane of Europe and Asia, visited the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near Roswell, New Mexico, on March 10, 1961. Two and a half months later, a Lesser Sandhill Crane, banded at the Bitter Lake Refuge January 29, 1960, was reported on a "State" visit at Krasneno, Russia. Krasneno is about 1,100 miles west of Nome, Alaska, and about 5,500 air miles from Bitter Lake.

Actually, migratory birds apparently have been carrying out their own brand of "diplomacy" between the two countries for a long time. Banding returns of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife indicate that in 1939, a Russian-banded bird was recovered in California. Since then, over 100 American-banded birds have been recovered in Russia and over 75 Russian-banded birds have been taken in Alaska and other states.

The majority of birds banded by the Russian Bird Ringing Bureau and subsequently recovered in the United States has been the Lesser Snow Geese. Many of the American bands recovered in Russia also have come from this same species.

In 1960, 47 Lesser Snow Geese were banded by the Russians on Wrangel Island, off the Arctic coast of Siberia. Six of these were recovered in the United States during the following hunting season. In 1961, the Russians increased this program, banding 1,200 Lesser Snow Geese at Wrangel Island. Seventy of these were recovered in Alaska and other States during the next hunting season.

The observation of the Common Crane of Europe and Asia on the Bitter Lake Refuge last year was the fifth record for this species in North America. The previous records, all in Alaska or Canada, indicate that Common Cranes occasionally cross the Bering Sea to follow a North American migration route.

Departures and arrivals of Lesser Sandhill Cranes crossing the Bering Strait have been observed for several years. The recovery in Russia of an American-banded Lesser Sandhill Crane confirms the use of an Asian route by some of the birds.—U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Release.

MORE NEWS . . .

For ten days in April, there were 46 Whooping Cranes alive in the world. A chick, injured when it hatched at the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans, died after surgery was attempted. The young bird apparently suffered a slipped tendon, which was diagnosed by veterinarians in

St. Louis. The chick's death cut the population to 45, including 38 wild ones.

A Madison dentist, Dr. James H. Griffin, bagged a Canada Goose at Horicon last fall which had been banded on February 4, 1941, at Horseshoe Lake, Illinois. When last heard from, Dr. Griffin was debating whether to make goose soup or give the tough old-timer to one of his enemies!

PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOR GULLS

Predators now and then get to specializing on a game species with unhappy consequences. The answer, says the Remington Research Bureau, is usually best found in habitat improvement to make the prey more secure and less available to its hungry foe. At times this approach is not possible and the alternative is to deal directly with the predator. But this, too, has limitations. Control is expensive and the results temporary, as well as offensive to many people.

In the Great Salt Lake Valley, where gulls took to feeding on eggs in duck nests, all of these limitations were evident. There were no apparent means for adding to the security of nesting ducks; control of the adult gulls appeared both a hopeless and objectionable task, and breaking up the nests of gulls is of limited value since the birds just move off and renest elsewhere.

Now it appears that reduction of gull numbers may be within reach. The Utah Wildlife Research Unit found this year that spraying gull nests with fuel oil and gasoline reduced hatching by nearly 90 per cent. Not knowing that the eggs are duds, mama gull continues to incubate and renesting doesn't occur. The birth control procedure on gulls is expected to help ducks to increase their families.—*News Letter*, Remington Arms Company.



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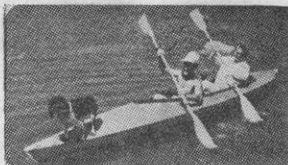
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