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IN THIS ISSUE

- The Great Blue Heron Colonies of Wisconsin.** In another of the series of Wisconsin "range and population" studies, Robert Williams offers a summary of all known Great Blue Heron rookeries in the state, past and present 51
- 1956 in Review.** The Associate Editors give a vivid review of one of Wisconsin's most outstanding ornithological years, when a record-breaking total of 297 species was seen 66
- Birds Observed at Resolute Bay, Cornwallis Island, Northwest Territories.** Summer bird life in the far north is described by Emil Urban 73
- The Green Lake Convention.** Helen Northup and Clara Hussong collaborate on a story of the 18th annual WSO convention, and minutes of the annual business meeting 76
- Why Bird Names Are Changed.** More information about the changing of common names in the forthcoming AOU checklist is given by one of the checklist authors, Alexander Wetmore 79
- Visible Migration.** Helmut Mueller and Daniel Berger alert Wisconsin bird-watchers to assist in a large hawk-counting project this fall 81
- Field Trip News.** Ed Peartree tells about the summer campout, and announces fall trips to the Little Eau Plaine area and Babcock .. 82
- The Winter Season.** A season that was characterized more by Mourning Doves and Meadowlarks than by Grosbeaks and Redpolls is described by the Associate Editors 84
- Other Features.** Elsewhere in this issue are "Dates to Remember," "By the Wayside" items, a list of present WSO officers, advertisements, and news items.

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The Great Blue Heron Colonies of Wisconsin . . .

By ROBERT J. WILLIAMS

During 1956, the membership of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology participated in a census of nesting colonies of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea h. herodias* Linn.) in Wisconsin. While studies on the European Heron have been conducted in a number of countries, this is as far as is known, a pioneer attempt at such a project in this country. Readers interested in the European surveys are referred to Nicholson's paper (1929), which, though old, is still the most comprehensive review. Some more recent papers are summarized by Lack (1954).

The primary sources of information for this paper were questionnaires mailed to WSO members, and letters sent to Conservation Department officials and other naturalists. Because the area of Wisconsin is over 56,000 square miles, it could not be expected that all of the state would be adequately covered by the number of observers available, especially some of the northern counties. The participators are to be congratulated for overcoming these difficulties; because of their efforts, several county counts can be considered essentially complete: notably Adams, Burnett, Dodge, Jefferson, and the industrial counties on Lake Michigan.



ONE OF 211 NESTS AT PALMYRA

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

No historical data comparable to those recorded in the "British Birds" census are available, but much information on the former condition of several colonies was collected. These unpublished reports have been supplemented by a review of the Wisconsin literature. The data obtained have been summarized in Table I. It is hoped that anyone noting shortcomings or errors in the reports of areas with which they are familiar will write to the editor of **The Passenger Pigeon**, as this information is only of value to users of the table when available to them.

Dr. J. T. Emlen and Dr. R. A. McCabe gave a great many suggestions on collecting and compiling the information in this article. The author wishes to thank them sincerely for their help and criticism.

Lack (1954) has demonstrated that the British Heron population has maintained itself at a relatively constant figure for many years. This is probably not true of Wisconsin, but the data are insufficient to test the applicability of this phenomenon. Since it does not appear practi-

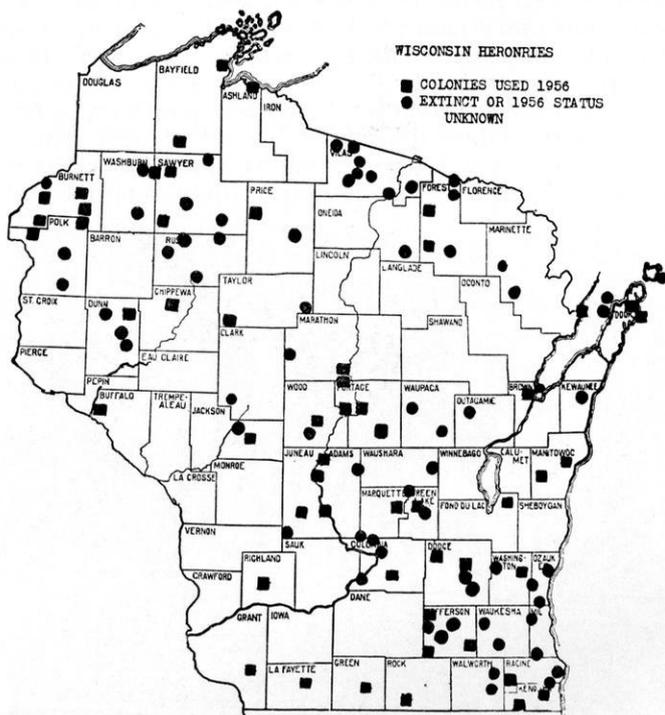


TABLE I

Key:

A number or question mark indicates known use in 1956.

"Unk." indicates that the 1956 status is unknown.

"Extinct" indicates that the colony was known to be abandoned in 1956.

No.	Location	Nests 1956	Description and History	Authority
ADAMS				
1	T20N R5E S28	40+	Petenwell Flowage. Dead trees about 1/4 mile offshore. Cormorants.	S. Robbins E. Roark R. Williams
2	T18N R4E S10, 15	40+	Creek entering Castle Rock flowage.	E. Roark R. Williams
3	T16N R5E S33	20-26	Listed as R4E in letter.	R. W. Hubbard
4	T20N R7E S25?	unk.	Carter Creek. Seen 1955; known 5-8 years.	R. Gilbert
ASHLAND				
1		?	"There is one near my home (Ashland P.O.) but I have not been able to locate it."	Doris E. Lippla
BARRON Report in Kumlien & Hollister (1905; p.34). Location not noted				
BAYFIELD				
1	T44N R8W S36	1	Lake Wilgro. Known "many years"	J. H. Jenkins
2	T49N R4W S5	8-10	Town of Bayview	A. E. Smith
BROWN				
1	T25N R21E	Extinct	Longtail Point. Black-Crowned Night Herons 1956. Great Blue Herons in past?	Ed Paulson H. E. Shine
2	T25N R20E S34	75	Suamico. Cottonwood, willow, aspen. Known since 1944.	Ed Paulson H. E. Shine
BUFFALO				
1	T23N R14W S23, 26	30	Tiffany public hunting grounds, "8,000 acres of sloughs, marshes, lakes and timbered ridges."	R. E. Dreis C. F. Hartman

BURNETT

1	T39N R18W S31	96	Crex Meadows, Phantom Lake flowage. Cormorants (20) Bl.-Cr. night heron (12). 1955; Herons (48), Cormorants (20), Bl.-Cr. Night Herons (1). 1954: 16; 1953: 11; 1952: known to exist.	Edwards and Sprunt N. R. Stone
2	T40N R15W S31	15+	Keizer L. HF Gronds, White pine on small island	N. R. Stone
3	T39N R15W S36	12+	Town of Sand Lake, in tamarack	N. R. Stone
4	T37N R18W S19	15+	Trade River	N. R. Stone
5	T40NR18W	unk.	Kohler peat marsh, near mouth of Clam River, Ash, elm, 1941 record	B. L. Dahlberg

CHIPPEWA

1	T32N R8W S36	100+	Town of Brian creek, black ash known 14 years	C. D. Kemper
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CLARK

1		unk.	Seen 1955 along Five-mile creek in Hewitt or Mentor township during aerial survey	G. Knudson
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COLUMBIA

1	T11N R10E S15	17	North shore of Mud L. abandoned by 16 July 1956. 1953: 22 nests, in Sec 14; 1952: 20 nests (nest count 30, March 1953)	R. Williams
2	T13N R9E S21	Extinct	Tamarack along Fox River. Cormorants past years, last use 1955	T. Deerwester J. Thompson
3	T13N R7E S11	Extinct?	Kilbourn swamp. 1931: 75; 1930: known to exist	O. J. Gromme
4	T13N R8E S?	Extinct	South 1/2 mi. East 3/4 mi. of Briggsville 1940: 15+	O. J. Gromme

5	T13N R9E	1	French Creek Public Hunting Grounds, remnants of second nest	T. Deerwester
6	T10N R6-7E	Extinct	Okee flowage. Trees cut after 1921. 1921, Cormorants. 1919: 14 heron, no cormorants	A. W. Schorger (1929)

DODGE

1	T13NR 13E S23	50	Brushwood Island & North shore of Fox Lake. Bl.-Cr. night heron, noted 1922 by Stoddard (1947) and by Kumlien & Hollister (1905).	L. Jahn E. R. Schmidt
2		"Small"	Horicon marsh National Wildlife Refuge	L. Jahn
3	T12N R16E S19	400	Four-mile island, Horicon Marsh Wildlife area. American Egret. Bl.-Cr. night heron until 1956. 1954: 1000 b. cr. night heron nests. 1940: herons present	L. Jahn H. A. Mathiak
4	T9-10N R16E	unk.	Along Rock River. 1937: 25+ nests, used "several years"	L. Jahn Dr. M. Rogers, via O. J. Gromme
5	T11N R16E S32	Extinct	Camp Island, Lake Sinissippi. 1924: only report - "Large"	O. J. Gromme R. Williams

DOOR

1	T32N R29E S33	?	Spider Island, known 40 years. 1932: 15; 1917: 35+	Mary G. Powers O. J. Gromme H. H. T. Jackson (1927)
2	T32N R28E S24	?	Mink River near Rowley Bay	Mary G. Powers
3	T30N R26E S10	Extinct	Hat Island, Cormorants in 1956, abandoned by herons 10 years	H. C. Wilson H. E. Shine
4	T33N R30E S9	unk.	Hog Island. 1932: 15-20	O. J. Gromme

5	T31N R27E S18	unk.	Big Strawberry Island, White Birch, 1912: 60 .	H.H.T. Jackson (1927)
6	S7	unk.	Little Strawberry Island, 1912(?): 4-5.	

DOUGLAS

(See Passenger Pigeon 3:30, (1941))

DUNN

1	T29N R12W Sec 20-21?	Extinct	Lake Tainter. 1917: "vast". Abandoned on decay of nesting trees	L. J. Johnson (1949) Buss and Mattison (1955)
2	T31N R13W	Extinct	Town of Sheridan. North fork of Hay River, Washburn Farm. Jackpine. 1934: destroyed.	L. J. Johnson (1949) Buss and Mattison (1955)
3		Extinct	Sinking Creek, North-Central Dunn County. Existed only 1944-45: 61 nests	Buss and Mattison (1955)
4		10+	Red Cedar River, between Hy. 64 and bridge between CTH "W" and CTH "M"	R. E. Dreis
5		Extinct	Elkmound Swamp. "Eliminated by woodcutters by 1942". known 1932	Buss and Mattison (1955)

FOND DU LAC

1		?	Mount Calvary	Rev. C. Henseler
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FOREST

1	T38N R12E S20	?	Nicolet National Forest	B. J. Bradle
2	T41N R14E S22	unk.	Brule River	B. J. Bradle

3	T40N R14E S26	unk.	Near Stevens Lake	B. J. Bradle
4	T36N R12E S5	?	Town of Crandon	B. J. Bradle
5	T36N R14E S19-20	unk.	Dawson Lake	B. J. Bradle

GRANT

1	T3N RLW S19	2	Southwest of Platteville. Used "several years."	Paul Bonin
2	T3N R6W S23?	21?	West of Nelson Dewey Park	David Cox

GREEN

1	T2N R8E S23	20	Used "number of years". Reduced to 3 nests by May, relocated within section	Ronald Johnson J. Kaspar
---	-------------	----	---	-----------------------------

GREEN LAKE

1	T17N R12E S28	17+	White River bottoms, on Sand Island. Willow. Related to 3 below?	N. E. Damaske
2	T17N R11E	Extinct	"West of Pine Bluff in a tamarack swamp" 1912: 2 nests	Lowe (1915)
3	T17N R12E S34?	unk.	"Junction of White and Fox Rivers -- in black ash" 1912: 3	Lowe (1915)
4		unk.	Haak's Ranch, 1912: 1	Lowe (1915)

JACKSON

1	T21N R1W S16	100?	Scrub oak, aspen, in Cranberry Bog	G. F. Hartman
	T21N R2W S4		Jack pine. Abandoned for above 1947(?).	

JEFFERSON

1	T5N R14E S2	unk.	Bark River, East of Fort Atkinson	J. Thompson P. S. Kennedy
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2	T7N R15 E S24?	Extinct	Near Farmington	R. Buss
3	T5N R13E S20	150	Lake Koshkonong. Carcajou Shooting Club property	P. S. Kennedy
4	T5N R16E S5	211	North of Palmyra. Swamp hardwoods. 1955: 225, 1957: 166	T. Tutton R. Williams J. T. Emlen
5	T7N R13E S21	unk.	"Brick Street" rookery, south of Rock Lake. Tamarack. 1938: 25+, 1936: 100.	R. A. McCabe F. Hamerstrom Hawkins (1940)
6	T8N R13E S22-3	?	"Sizable"	P. S. Kennedy

JUNEAU

1	T14N R2E	unk.	River bottoms near Wonewoc. 1955: 12+	A. Sosinsky
2	T16N R3E S16, 21	?	Lemonwier River, southeast of New Lisbon. Large	Paul Lyon

KENOSHA

1	T1N R20E S25	17	1/4 mile from Lake Shangrila. Bl.-Cr. Night Heron, Little Green Heron, Great Horned Owl. Colony split 1956. 1955: 32, 1954: 130.	N. W. Roeder A. E. McVey
2	T2N R2E S12	20+	Bl.-Cr. Night Heron. 3-4 nests	J. A. Simpsen

KEWAUNEE

1	T25N R25E S20	unk.	1954: 30. Moved 1955 to new site within section.	F. Iwen
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LA CROSSE

Colony present but not located.

LAFAYETTE

1	T2N R4E S4	?	4 miles east of Darlington. Colony founded 1956. 1957: 15	Earle Reichling E. Rueff
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MANITOWOC

1	T19N R21E S24	6-10	4 miles south of Reedsville. Trees cut 1955-6, but colony active (Shine). Known 20 years (Ansorge). 100 nests (Hammond)	H. E. Shine Mrs. L. Ansorge R. W. Hammond
2		?	About 8 miles west of Two Rivers. 1880: "...largest rookery we have every visited was a short distance west of Two Rivers."	Mrs. W. Meyer Kumlien and Hollister(1905)
3		Extinct	"Eighteen miles from Manitowoc." Trees cut 1954.	M. N. Pickett

MARATHON

1	T26N R7E S19	51	Eau Pleine flowage. Drowned trees 100 yards from shore. Cormorants. 1949: 400.	D. L. Corbin
2	T26N R6E S13	167	Eau Pleine flowage. Partial relocation of above.	D. L. Corbin Knudson (1951)
3		unk.	Near Unity, in large swamp. 1936: occupied. 1932: 13. 1944: 60.	J. Stierle, via O. J. Gromme
4	T26N R6E S35	30+	Little Eau Pleine flowage. Cormorants	D. L. Corbin

MARINETTE

1	T32N R18E S1	unk.		B. J. Bradle
2		?	Green Island, mouth of Menominee River. "Increased more than 100 fold since 1936."	C. H. Richter
3	T35N R18E S11	unk.		B. J. Bradle

MARQUETTE

1	T16N R11E S18	11-19	Town of Mecan, where GTH"J" Crosses creek. Hardwood. Known 1948.	N. E. Danaske
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MILWAUKEE

1	T8N R21E S18-9	unk.	Town of Granville. 1923: 1, 1921: 13.	O. J. Gromme
2	T5N R21E S33-4	unk.	On CTH "U" just north of Racine Co. line.	J. A. Simpson
3		unk.	On Hy. 11. Known 10-15 years ago.	J. A. Simpson

ONEIDA

1	T35N R10E ?	unk.	Pelican Lake. Trees being cut 1946.	Larkin (1946)
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OUTAGAMIE

1		Extinct	Near old bed of Wolf River, 1882.	Gruntvig (1883)
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OZAUKEE

1		unk.	Cedarburg swamp, "about 20 years ago"	Mrs. R. B. Ellis
2	T9N R21E S36	unk.	1953: 3 nests(?)	H. Mueller D. Berger
3	T12N R22E S34	unk.		H. Mueller D. Berger

FOLK

1	T36N R19W S1	8	G. H. Hoffman Farm. Known 25 years.	Mrs. J. Riegel
2	T37N R15W S1	?	Source not recorded.	
3	T33N R16W S29, 32	Extinct	Probably destroyed by 1930.	O. J. Gromme
4		Extinct	Bone Lake. "Hundreds" of nests destroyed 1930.	O. J. Gromme

PORTAGE

1	T23N R8E S16	42	Sherman Island, near Plover (R. E. Garrison: 85 nests)	E. M. Becker
2	T23N R7E S16	70+	Some destruction by wind in 1956.	F. Hamerstrom
3	T22N R9E	?	Buena Vista Marsh	J. Simonis

PRICE

1	T38N R2W S6	10-12	South end of Long Lake. Used "many" years. Formerly 60 nests (unsigned WSO questionnaire)	R. Steuzer
2	T36N R3E S5	unk.	Near Jump River. Black ash. 1941: 30+	B. L. Dahlberg

RACINE

1	T2N R19E	?	Korcher's Woods, on Fox River	J. H. Simpson
2		unk.	Washington Park, Racine. Bl.-Cr. Night Heron only?	J. H. Simpson
3	T4N R20E	unk.	Wind Lake. 1945-6: 12+	H. Mueller Deusing (1939)

RICHLAND

1		1		H. W. Pier
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ROCK

1	T1N R11E	?	West Coon Creek	J. Mahlum
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RUSK

1	T36N R8W S1	unk.	Town of Murry, 3/4 mile north of Wiergor River, Hemlock, 1941: 40.	B. L. Dahlberg
2	T36N R9W S36	unk.	Town of Wilson, near small stream, Black ash. 1941: 20.	B. L. Dahlberg

3	T36N R4W S16	unk.	Swamp between Ladd & Deertail Creeks. Black ash, aspen, 1941: 11.	B. L. Dahlberg
4	T33N R7W S14	unk.	On small creek near Flambeau River. 1941: 17.	B. L. Dahlberg

SAWYER

1	T42N R7W S19	?	Spider Lake	G. A. Curran
2	T37N R9W S23	?	Thirty-three Creek, near Lake Chetac	G. A. Curran
3	T37N R4W S13	unk.	North fork of Flambeau River, Hemlock. 1941: 100+	B. L. Dahlberg
4	T42N R5W S5	unk.	East fork of Ghost Creek. Balsam, aspen, 1941: 11.	B. L. Dahlberg
5	T38N R7W S31	unk.	1/2 mile east of Wiergor Lake. Aspen, birch, 1941: existed	B. L. Dahlberg
6	T42N R9W S29	?	Tatogagic flowage. Nests not seen, but 50-60 herons flushed.	B. L. Dahlberg
7		unk.	1/4 mile east of Buck Lake. Elm. 1951: 1.	Zirrer (1951)

TAYLOR

1	T30N R4W S19	12+	About 1 mile from Otter Lake (Chippewa Co.) Shot up 1954.	C. D. Kemper
2	T30N R2E S25?	unk.	Nests in Tamarack. Location challenged (R. Williams)	Fred Luick, via E. Roark

VILAS

1	T40N R7E S5	unk.	See Kirkpatrick (1940). 1940: 75. 1942: existed. Another colony (1940: 138) not located by Kirkpatrick	L. E. Fraser
2	T44N R5E S27?	unk.	Town of Winchester. 1/2 mile from Marsh, 1951: 30	H. Meinel
3		Extinct	Preque Isle River. Used 1944-1951.	D. Vesely
4		Extinct	Thousand Island Lake. Known 1925	O. J. Gromme

5	T40N R11E ?	unk.	On Deerskin River, 7 miles from Eagle River. 1933: 200+	E. H. Drager, via O. J. Gromme
6	T40N R9E ?	unk.	On Wisconsin River, 8 miles west of Eagle River. 1933: 25-30	E. H. Drager, via O. J. Gromme
7	T43N R8E S36?	unk.	Between headwaters of Octanagon and Manitowish Rivers, 12 miles west of Land O'Lakes. 1933: 2-300 "conservative"	E. H. Drager, via O. J. Gromme
8	T41N R9E-	unk.	6 miles west of Conover. Known 1933.	E. H. Drager, via O. J. Gromme
9		unk.	"Near Sayner.....several hundred nests." Known 1933.	E. H. Drager, via O. J. Gromme
10	T42N R8E S3	unk.	Marsh near Jute Lake. Known 1938	W. N. MacBriar

WALWORTH

1	T4N R18E S14?	Extinct	Destroyed 4-5 years ago	W. Pulliam
2		unk.	Town of Lyons. Known 1941	Dr. Marck, via O. J. Gromme

WASHBURN

1	T42N R10W S13	unk.	In black ash. Related to Sawyer, no. 6? Known 1947	B. L. Dahlberg
2		unk.	Near Long Lake	Jackson (1947)

WASHINGTON

1	T11N R20E S16	?	Horned owls? (H. Mueller) 1934: 100+ (O. J. Gromme)	A. O. Schwengel
2	T12N R18E S22?	unk.	1935: 100+	O. J. Gromme

WAUKESHA

1		Extinct	Mukwanago Marsh. 1936: 7. Disappeared by 1938.	S. Paul Jones
2		Extinct	Swamp east of Oconomowoc. 1909: 2, Destroyed.	Cahn (1913)

WAUPACA

1		unk.	On Wolf River, 5 miles from New London. Shot up - 1950.	Benj. Hartquist
2	T23N R11E S2	unk.	West end of Myklebust Lake. Tamarack. 1953: 100?	P. Strand, via E. Roark

WAUSHARA

1	T19N R13E S35	unk.	Known 35 years. 1955: 68. Location challenged (N. E. Damaske)	W. H. Boose
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WOOD

1		unk.	2 miles northeast of Babcock. 1931: 200+	O. J. Gromme
2	T22N R4E S20	25	Related to above?	B. W. Hubbard

cable to collect complete data annually on a statewide basis, it is suggested that any further study be conducted on 2-3 county areas in which comprehensive data can be readily obtained each year. The author hopes that both periodical statewide censuses and yearly local surveys will be conducted, and that the WSO members will provide the assistance in these which has proved indispensable to the survey in 1956.

More detailed information about the heronries listed in these tables is on file in Dr. John T. Emlen's office. Anyone wishing to use this information should write to Dr. Emlen at the Department of Zoology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison 6



TYPICAL SCENE AT PALMYRA, ONE OF WISCONSIN'S LARGEST HERONRIES

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

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1956 In Review . . .

By MARTHA and ROY LOUND

As was suspected following the spectacular spring migration, 1956 broke all previous records for the number of bird species recorded during a single year in Wisconsin. The final tally showed a total of 297 species and one hybrid (Brewster's Warbler) compared to 286 species and one hybrid (Brewster's Warbler) recorded in 1955. More observers, providing for more thorough coverage of more areas, helped to run up the total, but it is quite certain that more rarities visited the state in 1956 than in other recent years.

Following are the birds appearing on only one of the 1955 and 1956 lists:

1955		1956
Louisiana Heron	Glossy Ibis	Black-backed Wdprk. (Arctic Three-toed)
European Widgeon	Swainson's Hawk	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Surf Scoter	Spruce Grouse	American Magpie
Black Scoter (American Scoter)	Yellow Rail	White-eyed Vireo
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Black Rail	Worm-eating Warbler
Parasitic Jaeger	Purple Gallinule	Kirtland's Warbler
Iceland Gull	Piping Plover	Summer Tanager
Mountain Bluebird	Whimbrel	Blue Grosbeak
Western Tanager	(Hudsonian Curlew)	European Goldfinch
	Glaucous Gull	Green-tailed Towhee
	Laughing Gull	

Although most of these birds are probably casual visitors in Wisconsin, there is good reason to believe that some of them are of annual occurrence but are usually missed because of their secretive habits or their restricted habitats and flyways. For instance, the Spruce Grouse is a permanent resident in some northern spruce swamps; the Yellow Rail (also, possibly the Black Rail) is a summer resident; and Surf Scoters, Black Scoters, Parasitic Jaegers and similar species no doubt annually migrate through the state, particularly along Lake Michigan. Another factor that must be considered is the gradual northward breeding range extension of some species. Common Egrets are now plentiful in favored areas, Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons are of regular occurrence, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons are now established breeders. Recent records of the Louisiana Heron and Glossy Ibis lead one to wonder if they too might become regular visitors or even breeders in future years. An increasing number of reports of other southern birds, such as the White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating, Prairie and Hooded Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak also point to a northward trend.

The Year as a Whole

The winter of 1956 was not particularly cold, and the snow cover was generally below normal. November and December, 1955, however, were unusually cold, and there had been a heavy influx of winter finches. They remained in large numbers throughout the winter and well into spring. It was probably the greatest Redpoll year in the history of **The Passenger Pigeon**, and Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were also abundant. Heavy snowfalls and cold weather during March halted the early migration in all areas except the most southern counties. The first few days in April were mild and migration almost got back on schedule, but northerly winds with snow on the 6th and 7th brought another cold spell that did not break until early in May. Migration during this period was pushed behind schedule, particularly in the central and northern sections.

Heavy pushes of birds occurred on May 5-6, 11-12 and 21-22; then it tapered off to almost nothing by the end of the month. During the heavy pushes birds seemed to be everywhere, and observations were easy be-

cause bushes and trees were not leafed out yet and even tree-top warblers and vireos tended to remain close to the ground. Most of the rarities turned up during or immediately after the three separate waves.

The first half of June was unseasonably hot, so the last trickle of migrants moved on rapidly. The last half of June and all of July were much cooler. Heavy rains during both months caused considerable flooding of marshes and other low areas, and lowland nesters were affected. Severe windstorms over the central part of the state on July 1 and 15 caused much tree and crop damage.

Most observers seems to let down during the early summer months, probably at least partly due to the heat and mosquitoes. At any rate, few nesting records are reported. Outstanding finds were the Leconte's Sparrow nest in southern Marinette County by Carl Richter and the Saw-whet Owl nest in Taylor County by Conservation Department personnel. Several new colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from the northwestern part of the state.



THE MOCKINGBIRD WAS FOUND FIVE TIMES IN WISCONSIN IN 1956

PHOTO BY EDWARD PRINS

In spite of the retarded spring migration the southward movement of shorebirds commenced about on schedule. Several species of returning shorebirds were noted as early as July 4, and some species were quite common in suitable spots by the end of the month. In contrast, the late summer warbler migration was about two weeks later than in 1955, with no noticeable movement until the last half of August. August temperatures averaged near seasonal, but precipitation in most sections of the state was above normal. The resulting high water levels discouraged shore bird concentrations such as had been experienced the previous year in places like Horicon Marsh.

September temperatures averaged below normal at all weather stations, with frosts recorded in most counties on the 19th and 20th, and rainfall, also, was below average. October was mild, sunny and dry (one

of the warmest Octobers on record), and the warm spell lasted until the middle of November. Probably because of the protracted warm weather birds did not appear in waves but just trickled through. The last half of November was cold, and snow fell over the entire state near the end of the month, ranging from mere traces in some southern counties to from 10 to 32 inches in the north. December was milder, with less snow than usual, but the latter part of the month during the Christmas count period was mostly cloudy with considerable fog.

As a whole, the fall migration was average—quite a let-down from the tremendous spring spectacle. Most striking was the scarcity of winter finches that had been so plentiful the preceding year. The relatively mild December temperatures seemed to encourage late stragglers to remain later than usual, and a number of species that normally winter well south of Wisconsin were recorded on one or more Christmas counts. The best record was the collection of a Green-tailed Towhee in Madison on Dec. 23. Other good records included the Eared Grebe, Golden Eagle, Glaucous Gull, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird.

The Rarer Records

Bill Foster, in his summary of 1955 (**1956 Pass. Pigeon 51-57**), listed 250 species that appear to be sufficiently common to be found at least in some part of Wisconsin six or more times each year. 47 additional species were reliably reported in the state in 1956. The enumeration of each specific record for these species seems superfluous, for they have all been documented in the field notes published in the last four issues of **The Passenger Pigeon**. But it is valuable to compare the 1956 occurrence of these rarities with previous occurrences in other years.

Red-necked (Holboell's) Grebe: Seen on four occasions—three in spring, one in summer; this species has been recorded in Wisconsin yearly since 1950, but with only one to three reports per year.

Eared Grebe: Where there had been but ten records of this species in the previous ten years, 1956 produced the remarkable total of nine observations totaling 13 birds—including two summer and two late autumn records.

Western Grebe: Only once in the past ten years have birders failed to record this species; 1956 had but one report, where other recent years have had two to four.

White Pelican: Present in the state for the fourth consecutive year, and for the second straight year as a summer resident that could be viewed by many observers—and a long “summer” it was for the two birds that stayed on the Petenwell Flowage in Adams County nearly six months.

Snowy Egret: Unknown in the 20th century in the state until 1946, the five birds seen at Horicon in late summer of 1956 constituted the eighth record of the past ten years.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: There is every indication that this bird, of casual occurrence ten years ago, is becoming a regular yearly visitor in small numbers. In addition to breeding in Wisconsin for the second consecutive year, it has recently established itself as a breeding species in northern Illinois (one mile from the Wisconsin line), Minnesota (just across the Mississippi River from our state), and Iowa.

Glossy Ibis: The birds seen off and on at Horicon from mid-May until late August marked the first known visit to Wisconsin since 1879.

White-fronted Goose: No recent year has produced more than two records, and some years this species has been missed entirely; the one record for 1956 is about "par."

Harlequin Duck: The bird that spent the first three months of 1956 in the Port Washington harbor may have been the very same bird that spent the previous winter there; these are the only 20th century records of this species.

Swainson's Hawk: Another "once-a-year" bird: missed entirely some years, seen twice some years, seen once in 1956.

Golden Eagle: Records for recent years vary from none to five per year; the two for 1956 are about average.

Spruce Grouse: The one record for 1956 indicates the continued presence of a few birds in northern Wisconsin, but gives no hint as to population fluctuations.

Yellow Rail: Missed entirely in the previous five years, this bird was recorded in three areas in 1956. Does this indicate an increase in population, or an increase in sheer luck in finding a very secretive bird?

Black Rail: Wisconsin has no specimen, and but a handful of sight records from past years; one important feature of the Petersons' observation in La Crosse County in 1956 was that it was a spring record affording no possibility of confusion with dark immature rails of other species.

Purple Gallinule: The May birds in Milwaukee and Madison are thought to be the fourth and fifth state records.

Piping Plover: The two spring records for 1956 provide as many observations as Wisconsin has had in any recent year, with the sole exception of 1954 when four were obtained. Obviously this bird is not as common in the state as it once was, but is it really this rare?

Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew): Where the past ten years had produced but five records, three separate observations were made in May of 1956, including one flock of nine birds.

Knot: Until 1954 the only thing regular about this species in recent years has been its occurrence, in very small numbers, along the Milwaukee lake shore in fall; but in each of the past three years Knots have been found in four locations, with 1956 producing spring records from Milwaukee and Goose Pond, and fall records from Milwaukee and Ke-waunee Counties.

Marbled Godwit: The four May records for 1956 made the largest representation of any recent year, and brought to ten the number of separate observations in the past four years.

Hudsonian Godwit: The best year for this bird in recent ornithological history: eight spring and one fall records, totaling over 20 individuals.

Avocet: For the second straight year reported on two separate occasions; until 1955 there had been but three state records since the time of Kumlien and Hollister.

Glaucous Gull: Closer scrutiny of the Lake Michigan harbors in winter is disclosing this bird to be a visitor nearly every winter. Port Washington had a bird in both the early and late months of 1956.

Black-backed Gull: For the fifth consecutive year one was seen in

winter at Kenosha; but even here it is not often seen, and it has not been reported recently from any other section of the state.

Laughing Gull: The past ten years have produced a few sight records—many more than had come from previous years—but some have been in dark plumage in fall when positive identification is nearly impossible in the field; but 1956 produced the second July record of a molting adult in the past four years, on the very same sand bar on Castle Rock Lake in Adams County.

Barn Owl: The nesting birds in southern Ozaukee County were the only ones found this year.

Richardson's Owl: Recorded but one in recent years until 1954, the report from Washburn County on March 27 marked the third successive year that this species has been found in the state

Saw-whet Owl: Either 1956 was a phenomenal year, or this bird is decidedly more common than previous records indicate. In addition to the finding of a nest with four young in June, at least twelve other individuals were seen or heard in widely separated locations—this in contrast to the two to four individuals noted in a year's time heretofore.

Black-backed (Arctic) Three-toed Woodpecker: The fall reports from Oconto and Jackson Counties may represent a tiny fringe of a major flight experienced in the northeastern states. It seems that this bird should occur in the northern counties fairly regularly in winter, but recent observations fail to bear this out.

Western Kingbird: Three observations—two in spring migration, one a summer resident in Burnett County—triple the usual number of yearly records of recent times.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A second state record was established—the first in 1895—on May 12, 1956, when the Elmer Bastens watched a bird in Ozaukee County for 1¼ hours.

American Magpie: The first state record since 1951 turned up at Cedar Grove on April 3 and 4 following a series of tornadoes.

Brown-capped (Hudsonian) Chickadee: Birds seen in Forest County in April and in Florence and Oneida Counties in September suggest the likelihood that this bird is regular in parts of northeastern Wisconsin in all but the summer months.

Carolina Wren: Even counting Madison reports from various observers in July, September, October, November and December as only one bird, 1956 produced six records widely separated seasonally and geographically. That makes 24 observations in the past four years—a remarkable contrast to the previous five years when no reports were published!

Mockingbird: One or two are found nearly every year; but in 1956 there were two May records and three for November and December.

Townsend's Solitaire: The bird at Cedar Grove on March 31 was the seventh known state record.

White-eyed Vireo: After a three-year absence this bird again turned up in Wisconsin, in Milwaukee on June 3-4.

Worm-eating Warbler: The "once-a-year" pattern that has been maintained since 1950, with the exception of 1952, was continued by the May 12 record from Wyalusing Park.

Brewster's Warbler: To the nine records of this hybrid during the past ten years are added four 1956 birds, including one that spent its

second successive summer in Adams County.

Kirtland's Warbler: It was quite a thrill for many Green Bay Bird Club members to see this bird in Door County on May 20, for previous state records include but five sight observations.

Prairie Warbler: One or two spring migrants have been noted somewhere in the state nearly every year for the past ten years; that the bird continues to be rare is borne out by the fact that none were seen in the spring of 1956 in spite of one of the best warbler migrations on record. But one straggler in Barron County on Oct. 4 turned up.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Three of the past four years have produced five records per year; among the five for 1956 were May migration records as far north as Fond du Lac and Brown Counties, and a summer record in the Mazomanie area.

Hooded Warbler: One to four birds have been recorded almost annually for the past ten years; 1956 had but one bird.

Summer Tanager: The number of 20th century records for Wisconsin jumped from three to seven during the spring of 1956, with a dead male found in Manitowoc County, female seen in Adams County, and males recorded in Polk and Milwaukee Counties.

Blue Grosbeak: Once in a great while sight observations have been reported purporting to be this species, but sounding too much like Indigo Buntings to be thought authentic. In view of previous state records being limited to three early-day specimens (now lost), it is astonishing that this bird should make its reappearance in the state not as one individual straggler but as a flock of 30 or more birds—male and female—seen in Milwaukee on May 23 by the L. P. C. Smiths—who are familiar with the bird in its normal range.

European Goldfinch: A second state record was established when Stan Moulson found this bird in Ozaukee County on May 5 and photographed it the next day; he had become familiar with this species as a boy in England. One previous specimen was collected in 1935.

Hoary Redpoll: Most recent records have come during big redpoll winters, when large flocks could be examined feeding at close range. It was during the first three months of 1956, near the end of a big redpoll flight, that birds of this species were identified on four occasions in Columbia and Adams County.

Green-tailed Towhee: A bird collected at Madison on Dec. 23 by Ellarson and McCabe established the second state record; previously one had been collected at Appleton in December of 1952.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Once every two years, on the average, reports of this species have come in; more thorough coverage of the proper habitat in fall might show it to be a yearly visitor. The only record for 1956 was a spring migrant.

NEWS . . .

The hawk migration project described by Helmut Mueller in this issue is deserving of your support. If you know of any ridges or other flyways used by migrating hawks in fall, we hope you will spend as much time as possible there on the target

weekends of Sept. 14-15 and Sept. 21-22. Even if you know of no definite flyway in your area, it would be helpful to pick out the most promising type of locale—hills, lake shore, bluffs, etc.—and give them a try. Late morning and early afternoon are the most likely hours; if the wind is from the north or west, it could be a very profitable experience.

W.S.O. now owns forty acres of very desirable Prairie Chicken land on the Buena Vista Marsh in s.w. Portage County. Word came to W.S.O. members late in May of a 40-acre tract that might be purchased, and because of prompt action of members, officers and friends of W.S.O., a \$100 down payment was made, an abstract of the property made, and the purchase completed. The purchase price was \$1200, leaving a balance in the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund that may be used for an additional purchase in the future. This is welcome news to the hundreds of persons who contributed to this fund; it marks a positive step forward in Prairie Chicken preservation. Watch for further news in a future issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**.

Membership Chairman Olive Compton is asking for volunteers who would be willing to make contacts for new members in their own areas. If you know someone who would be a good membership prospect, send the name to Mrs. Compton. Perhaps you will be thinking of friends to whom you'd like to give memberships as Christmas gifts. The job of making the Society grow is everyone's job.

The distinctive gifts, records, binoculars, cameras and bird feed offered by our advertisers are good for any season of the year. When you order any of these, for yourselves or as gifts for others, please mention **The Passenger Pigeon**.

(more news on page 80)

BIRDS OBSERVED AT RESOLUTE BAY, CORNWALLIS ISLAND, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

By **EMIL K. URBAN**

Between July 21, 1956, and August 24, 1956, I was fortunate to spend part of my time observing birds and mammals at Resolute Bay, Cornwallis Island, Northwest Territories, 74°41' north latitude and 94°54' west longitude. Cornwallis Island is in the southern extremity of the Queen Elizabeth Islands of the Arctic Archipelago, and lies on the northern edge of Barrow Strait west of Devon Island and east of Bathurst Island. Resolute Bay is a large bay on the southwestern coast of Cornwallis. The topography of this bay area of Cornwallis Island consisted of a broad, level plain, broken and interrupted by hills and gentle slopes along the coast. The hills did not exceed 900 feet in height. Calcareous sandstone and shale, argillaceous limestone, and dolomite stones, less than one foot in diameter, were common throughout the area. Hiking was difficult in this country because of sharp stones. My observations were made within a radius of fifteen miles from the main base camp.

Because of the extreme climatic and edaphic conditions little vegetation was present on the island. Vegetation in the uplands 300 or more feet above the coast was restricted to isolated patches. Grasses, mosses, lichens, and other plants were present in some numbers throughout the lowlands of the study area. Several fresh water lakes, none farther than one mile from the coast, and constituting a part of the general drainage system, were a major environment for birds. Vegetation along the marshier areas of the shore line was another major environment. The 500-year-old Eskimo ruins that were scattered throughout the southwest part of Cornwallis Island contained, because of the well fertilized soil, the best developed flora in the vicinity of Resolute Bay, and provided an excellent environment for birds. The upland areas characterized by islets of vegetation constituted a minor environment for Snow Buntings.

Birds and mammals were uncommon during the summer. The fact that the lemming, the major food of Arctic avian predators, was scarce

accounted for the low numbers of predatory birds observed. Also the fact that it was impossible for me to reach distant places, which might have contained different species of birds, accounted for the low numbers observed. No birds were collected. Following is a list of birds observed.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Several individuals were seen in the summer. On August 12, a pair with two young was swimming on a fresh water lake east of Resolute Bay. Red-throated Loons were seen on the fresh water lakes or flying overhead; seldom were they observed on oceanic waters.

Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*). On August 12, within two hours, 100 light-phased Fulmars were observed in Barrow Strait flying from east to west about two hundred yards offshore. It was noted that the birds were migrating in an east-west fashion in advance of heavy fog that was rolling in from the east. Later, on August 12, and on August 13, 50 or more Fulmars were seen in Resolute Bay.

Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*). On July 15, 50 individuals were seen east of Resolute Bay; on July 17, two were seen in Resolute Bay; and on July 22, two miles inland, one female was seen flying.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). This species inhabited both fresh water lakes and the near-by ocean. Numerous individuals with young were noted in the summer. On July 15, east of Resolute Bay, 15 adult males were recorded, and on July 28 a female and her four young were on Resolute Lake. On August 12, 15 females with ten young were seen on the southeast side of Resolute Bay. At this time a Parasitic Jaeger was noted chasing three immature eiders in flight.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*). On July 15, Kenneth I. Lange observed eight adult males in the Assistance Bay area.

Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*). A pair was seen on August 5 and 11 on the south facing slope of Cape Martyr. The comparatively tame birds were flushed from one of the Eskimo ruins. Although no nest or young was found, the reluctance of the birds to leave suggested that a nest was somewhere in the general area.

Purple Sandpiper (*Erolia maritima*). This species was seen uncommonly throughout the latter part of the summer. On July 29, one individual was noted on the southeast side of Resolute Bay. Although no nest was seen, the bird was reluctant to leave, perhaps indicating that its nest was in the area. On August 12, I returned to the same area and discovered two individuals. Again their behavior indicated that their nest was close by. The Purple Sandpipers seen seemed to prefer rocky areas along the ocean.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*). Several individuals were observed throughout the summer. In each case, the birds were at fresh water lakes or marshes. Although no nests were discovered, two young birds were captured by hand on July 28. During the middle of August small flocks of five or less were seen occasionally.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Jaegers were not especially abundant during the summer. This species was uncommon. On August 11, only one individual was observed; it was 100 yards inland from Allen Bay.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). This species was by far the most common jaeger observed. Single individuals or small flocks up to three in number were observed regularly. The Parasitic Jaeger hunted either 100 yards off-shore, along the coast, or near the fresh water lakes. On August 12, one individual was chasing in flight three immature Common Eiders; on August 16, one was chasing a Fulmar. Several individuals were chasing both Arctic Terns and Glaucous Gulls. At no time was an individual observed hunting lemmings. No nests were discovered.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). On July 15, Kenneth I. Lange observed one individual flying near the east side of Resolute Bay. Although several other individuals were suspected to be this species, none was definitely identified.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). This species was commonly noted throughout the summer. This bird generally was near the ocean and seldom was observed at fresh water lakes.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). This gull was common throughout the summer. Individuals were observed in both oceanic and fresh-water environments.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). On August 11, one adult was observed flying over Allen Bay one hundred yards offshore. This pigeon-like, all white gull with black legs was clearly identified; only this one individual was seen.

Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). Only one bird, an adult, was identified; it was seen on August 19 near Allen Bay.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). This tern and the Snow Bunting were probably the most common species throughout the summer. Although no nests were discovered, several nesting colonies were observed. This species inhabited both oceanic and fresh water environments. One large colony was discovered on a small island in Resolute Bay. On August 12, several adults were observed seemingly attacking a young Arctic Tern that was swimming on a fresh water pond. Several individuals were hunting along the Barrow coast, several miles from any nesting colony.

Brunnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*). On July 15, 100-130 birds in groups of 20 to 40 were noted east of Resolute Bay. On August 11, one male was observed about 20 yards offshore on the pack ice.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*). This species was observed several times in the summer. On July 15, two were seen east of Resolute Bay; on August 5, a flock of 15 was observed; and on August 11, six individuals were seen amidst the loose ice floating out of Allen Bay.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). On July 18, a nest with four young was discovered in a pile of oil drums. By the end of July, all young had left the nest. From then until August 20, several individuals at a time were noted. I frequently saw full grown young being fed by the parents. Snow Buntings were common wherever lush vegetation was present. One such place was the Eskimo ruins where, at times, 20 individuals were present. Between August 5 and 18, two live traps were set in the ruins in hopes of capturing lemmings. Three immature and two adult Snow Buntings, but no lemmings, were captured in the traps. By the end of August most of the buntings had departed.

Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

THE GREEN LAKE CONVENTION

By HELEN NORTHUP and CLARA HUSSONG

The beautiful grounds at Lawsonia, the American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, were still bright with daylight when WSO'ers arrived on the evening of May 3, 1957 for the 18th annual convention. An evening of films and slides had been planned, taken mostly by members of the Society. Ray Hussong, Mrs. Schmidt and Ed Peartree showed familiar scenes of WSO field trips and campouts, and many good bird shots. This was followed by the Conservation Department's film "Red 14." Coffee and doughnuts amidst the sound of many happy greetings of friends rounded out the evening.

Saturday Morning

Saturday morning, clear and very cold, found a few birders out scouting in advance for Sunday's field trips, with other staunch ones setting forth at 5:30 to explore the bird life on the grounds. Birds were few, but loons and grebes were a welcome sight, and a Baltimore Oriole shouted its jubilant greeting as if it had just arrived.

Dr. Robert A. McCabe was in charge of the Saturday morning program. After a welcome from the Rev. B. K. Anderson, director of the Assembly, Sam Robbins began the paper session with comments on "A Spectacular Spring Warbler Flight." He reported that the 1956 spring warbler flight was the most spectacular in his 25 years of bird study; he pointed out that warblers arrive in four consecutive groups during the migration and that it was the third and fourth groupings that were exceptionally heavy in 1956. He offered a number of theories to explain the unusual flight, but said he was inclined to believe that the birds may be just as abundant in other years, but the unusual weather conditions in 1956 forced the birds down where they could be seen, instead of flying over non-stop.

Robert J. Williams read a paper on his Great Blue Heron study in Wisconsin. His model had been the report of the British ornithologist Nicholson, endowed with date begun in 1300! He showed maps of Wisconsin counties which had been marked with the locations of rookeries reported to him. Some counties—Outagamie for one—had no rookeries reported. The largest colony he had located was one of 400 nests at Horicon Marsh.

Roy Lound told of the changes in the new AOU checklist, some of which affected the birds in our state. These changes have been incorporated into the newly revised pocket checklist just published for WSO, and will be used in **The Passenger Pigeon** from now on. The new pocket checklist has 288 species, an increase of about 35 over the old list, with approximately 30 changes being made in familiar Wisconsin birds. Many of these changes reflect the growing trend throughout ornithological circles to de-emphasize subspecies.

"Duck Banding on the Canadian Prairie" was the subject of an illustrated talk by A. G. Baldwin of the Conservation Department. His pictures showed some of the trapping methods, and he explained that the

purpose of banding young waterfowl on their natal grounds was to determine their distribution and the extent of hunting pressure on them.

Edward Prins, skilled nature photographer from Racine, climaxed the morning session with a series of superb slides entitled "Let's Take a Closer Look." Prins explained the methods he uses in getting closer to his subjects when taking pictures.

Saturday Afternoon

Walter Scott was chairman of the afternoon session, in which WSO members were privileged to meet Mrs. Jean de Lipkau of Martinez, California, the granddaughter of John Muir. Mrs. de Lipkau told of the many places from Scotland to California that had played a part in Muir's life, and showed many beautiful slides to illustrate these places.

The afternoon paper session was given over to reports on the current research projects in which WSO can participate, with Research Chairman Howard Young in charge. He sketched the history of the Society's cooperative research projects, of which 14 have been published in **The Passenger Pigeon**.

Prof. John Emlen reported on the current cooperative Cliff Swallow project which he is supervising, and urged members to report on all Cliff Swallow nest colonies found.

Charles Horner, U. S. Game Management agent at Oshkosh, enlarged on the nation-wide Mourning Dove banding project, and said that it was estimated by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service that 19 million doves were killed in 1955. It is believed that the first year mortality is 70%, and that the annual adult mortality is 55%. Thirty states now have an open season on Mourning Doves.

The final talk was given by Helmuth Mueller on the subject of his hawk study at Cedar Grove. He urged WSO members to enter into some intensive hawk-watching projects this fall, particularly on the target weekends of Sept. 14-15 and Sept. 21-22, in cooperation with other ornithologists throughout the eastern United States.

The annual business meeting followed, the minutes of which are appended below.

Saturday Evening

There was no banquet this year. An early dinner, attended by 250 persons, left time for tours of the Assembly grounds before the evening session at 8:30. Judge J. Allan Simpson assumed the role of master of ceremonies, interspersing an account of his recent ramblings in Mexico with presentations of past presidents and new officers. Tiny Phoebe Grant, daughter of Cleveland and Ruth Grant of Mineral Point, was honored on her second birthday with gifts and a birthday song from the assembled convention. She was heard to say fervently, as she walked away, "Oh boy!"

Ruth and Cleveland Grant were then introduced, and they showed two fascinating films: one about birds, the other—entitled "Timberline and Tundra"—in which we were treated to superb scenes of grizzlies, caribou and wild scenery in Alaska.

Sunday

Sunday's dawn found the doughty element again in the field, and the early risers were rewarded with glimpses of Sandhill Cranes in the Princeton area. Most of the crowd formed a long cavalcade that visited this area later in the morning, but saw no Sandhills.

A good many members went on to attend the Sunday afternoon dedication of the John Muir Memorial Park in Marquette County south of Montello. The unveiling of the John Muir Historic marker by Mrs. de Lipkau, and a talk on "Conservation Objectives" by Dr. Ira L. Baldwin, were the highlights of the dedication program. Some WSO members had the added thrill of finding a Marbled Godwit on the shores of another little lake near the old Muir homestead.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Green Lake

May 4, 1957

The annual business meeting was called to order at 4:12 p. m. by Mr. Liebherr, President. A quorum being present, the business began.

Since the minutes of the 1956 annual business meeting were published in the **Passenger Pigeon** (vol. 18, no. 2), the reading of the minutes was omitted.

The treasurer's report was read by Mr. Frister. The total assets of the Society were reported to be \$6256.83 as of April 30, 1957. It was placed on file as read.

The report of the Auditing Committee was read by Mr. Liebherr for Mr. Carl Haysen, chairman. It was placed on file.

Mr. Robbins reviewed the year as editor of the **Passenger Pigeon**. Four issues have been published during the year. He commended the committee on nomenclature, which has made decisions on changes in the names of Wisconsin birds, and declared that Mr. and Mrs. Lound as field note editors have done "an exceptionally fine job."

Mr. Lound reported heavy spring migration records, and called for more nesting records, more reports on trends, peaks and waves in the passage of birds in the state. He asks for reports from the various counties not now being covered.

Mr. Kruse, manager of the Supply Department, read his report.

Miss Pickett, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported 314 members paid up since January 1, 1957. Of these 25 were active new members, 8 were sustaining new members, and 3 were student new members, a total of 36 new members. There are approximately 650 members in the Society at this time.

The report of Mrs. Winnifred Mayer, Education Committee, was read by Miss Northup. Mrs. Mayer stated that she had not had time to accomplish the work of the committee, due to heavy teaching responsibilities.

Mrs. Clara Hussong, Publicity chairman, discussed her work during the year. She suggested that the chairman be someone situated near the convention city. Mr. Wallace MacBriar suggested sending publicity items to radio and TV stations in the state.

Dr. Kemper, Conservation chairman, told of the letters he had sent to the Conservation Commission on the subject of the Mourning Dove open season. He suggested other projects that the WSO could take up.

Mr. Howard Young, Research chairman, gave his report. He reviewed the work of the committee, mentioned the survey of Cliff Swallow colonies in Wisconsin which Professor Emlen will supervise, the hawk-watching project which Helmut Mueller will supervise, and the article on the history of the W.S.O. research studies done up to this time, which appeared in the **Passenger Pigeon** for the autumn of 1956.

Mr. Ed Peartree listed the field trips planned for summer and fall.

Judge Simpson, legal counsel, reviewed the history of the constitution. He moved that the Articles of Incorporation, as printed on pp. 167-168 of 1956 **Passenger Pigeon** 167-168 be approved and amended as outlined therein. Seconded by Mr. Frister and passed. He then moved that the by-laws, as published in the same issue of the **Passenger Pigeon**, be accepted as the by-laws of the Society. Seconded by Mr. Frister and passed.

Mr. Walter Scott, custodian, stated that he has taken over the publications received in exchange for the **Passenger Pigeon** and made tentative arrangements for them. Mr. Scott declared that the people who have worked hard to carry on the work of the Society deserve a hand. They got one.

Mr. Barger read the report of the Nominating Committee. It was as follows:

President: Carl P. Frister, Milwaukee
Vice-president: Stanley Polachek, Milwaukee
Secretary: Helen Northup, Madison
Treasurer: Daniel Thompson, Ripon
Editor: Samuel Robbins, Adams

Mrs. Olive Compton moved, seconded by Mr. Cox, that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. Passed.

Mr. Emlen announced the June meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club in Duluth, and issued a general invitation to WSO members.

Mr. Barger, former manager of the Supply Department, read a report of the financial record of the Supply Department from the years 1947-1955.

Mr. Emlen voted thanks to Helen Northup for the five-year index to the **Passenger Pigeon** recently published.

Mr. Gromme suggested that the WSO go on record as recommending the purchase of Wallace Grange's Sandhill Game Farm, and that the Conservation Commission be so advised. The conditions should be that the northern half of the property be set aside permanently as a Sandhill Crane refuge. Mr. Throne asked if the Conservation Department should receive it; Mr. Scott replied that the Conservation Commission feels it should not bind future commissions, but that it is considering the proposition. Dr. Kemper seconded the recommendation; passed.

Mr. Robbins offered the following resolution: "Whereas, the Mourning Dove is already experiencing very heavy mortality in Wisconsin, and whereas, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now only in the beginning stages of a large banding research project on this species which is likely to yield valuable information in the years to come, be it resolved that the WSO express its opposition to any proposal to create an open hunting season on the Mourning Dove in Wisconsin." Seconded by Walter Scott and passed. Mrs. "Dixie" Larkin urged members to express their views as individuals on the Mourning Dove open season. Judge Simpson pointed out that farmers and others are bound to shoot other ground birds while shooting the Mourning Dove. He urged that letters be sent to Commissioner MacArthur, Secretary of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Larkin pointed out that the D.D.T. used to destroy the Dutch Elm Disease is killing many birds. Mr. Scott felt that the right way to treat the elm disease without killing birds will be found. Judge Simpson moved this matter be referred to the incoming officers and board of directors. Passed.

The announcement was made that the 1958 convention will be held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, April 25-27, 1958.

After announcements about the convention were made by Mr. King, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Northup, Secretary

WHY BIRD NAMES ARE CHANGED

By ALEXANDER WETMORE

The widespread interest in the study and observation of birds has made an improvement in the application of common names not only desirable but necessary.

In the last edition of the "Check-List of Birds" of the American Ornithologists' Union, each subspecies was given a common name—as for example, Eastern Robin, Southern Robin, Northwestern Robin and Western Robin for the geographic races of this common bird. While the differences that separate these as subspecies are evident in series of study skins, in life they appear so nearly identical that where two of them may

be encountered together in migration, it is only rarely that they may be distinguished. While most observers have recognized this fact, there has been some confusion. Many present-day studies, aside from those in the systematic field, center on the species as a whole, so that the existing system of common names often has been cumbersome, and sometimes difficult to use.

In recognition of this, the fifth edition of the A.O.U. Check-List now in press lists a common name for each species as a whole, and uses only the scientific name for subspecies where these are separated. The term "Robin" therefore will apply to all of the geographic race, regardless of where they are found.

Application of this system has brought some changes in the scheme of names, but most of these are readily understood. In a number of instances where one group name is regularly used for several species—e.g. "crow"—the bird of widespread range is given the modifier "Common." We have thus "Common Crow" for the familiar *Corvus brachyrhynchos*; in Wisconsin this is not necessary, but it is required in areas where another crow, the Fish Crow or the Northwestern Crow, is also found. Sometimes such a distinction is required where a species ranges to the Old World, since our system should be understandable abroad now that bird-watching is an important international pastime. It is desirable thus to recognize our "American Egret" as the Common Egret since our bird is merely a geographical race of a species distributed throughout the warmer areas of the entire world.

The Baldpate becomes the American Widgeon, since it is only one of three species of widgeon (spelled wigeon in England!) found respectively in South America, North America and the Old World. The Kingbird becomes the Eastern Kingbird to separate it from the Western Kingbird and others. The American Pipit changes to Water Pipit since it is specifically the same as the bird of Europe. Our familiar Chewink bears the name of Rufous-sided Towhee, since now the entire group from coast to coast is called one species with many geographic races. And the Duck Hawk will be the Peregrine Falcon, since the latter ordinarily is the world-wide term. Reasons similar to those outlined above will explain other name changes in the Wisconsin list.

The Check-List has been completely rewritten for this new edition, in view of the great increase in our information since the last revision was published in 1931. It is hoped to have the book, which will include nearly 700 pages, off the press this fall.

Smithsonian Institute Washington, D. C.

MORE NEWS . . .

The devastation of song birds in areas that have been heavily sprayed for Dutch Elm Disease prevention in Wisconsin during the past two years has caused much alarm among bird-lovers, other conservationists and the general public. The matter was brought up at the Society's annual meeting in May, and referred to the Board of Directors for further consideration. A large share of a future issue of **The Pas-**

senger Pigeon will be devoted to this issue, with articles from various experts, to acquaint the public with the seriousness of the issue, and with recommendations about how effective spraying can be carried out without serious harmful effect on bird life. If you have first-hand information about the devastation that has been caused in the past, or of beneficial spraying practices, the editor would welcome a communication from you.

(more news on page 82)

A WSO COOPERATIVE PROJECT ... VISIBLE MIGRATION

By **HELMUT C. MUELLER** and **DANIEL D. BERGER**

The past ten years have seen a change in the interests of European birdwatchers. They have turned their attention from simple bird-listing to a study of visible migration, the observation of the actual passage of migrants through an area. Cooperative projects have been formed in Britain and the continent and much valuable information has been gleaned from the mountains of accumulated data. Much of the work conducted in Britain up until 1952 has been nicely summarized by Eric Simms in a book entitled **Bird Migrants** (Cleaver-Hume Press Ltd., London). Migratory routes have been plotted, weather and migration have been correlated, and birds formerly thought to be rare have been found to occur in fair numbers in passage.

This method of study is rapidly adding to our understanding of the phenomenon of migration, while bird-listing, as we generally pursue it, while continuing to make limited contributions to useful knowledge, is often of value mainly as an interesting sport.

The systematic watching of visible migration has begun on this continent and is slowly growing in popularity. For the past several autumns, many eastern bird watchers have been spending their weekends on Appalachian ridges, from Mt. Tom to Hawk Mountain, watching and counting migrating hawks, while other groups have been active on the flyways along Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Superior. Chandler S. Robbins, an editor of **Audubon Field Notes**, has been coordinating this project and he has invited Wisconsin ornithologists to join the endeavor. Since we cannot all spend the entire fall watching for migrants, two "target" weekends have been selected: September 14-15 and 21-22. We would like to have as many cooperators in as many locations as possible on these four dates. To fit in with the eastern project, we will concentrate our efforts on hawks, but we would also like to include observations on all species of birds.

Migrating birds often concentrate along ridges, lake shores, and river valleys. A good vantage point for the observation of visible migration probably exists somewhere near your home. If you know of none we will be glad to furnish information which may help you find one. The hours for observation will be from dawn to dusk, but data for any reasonable portion of the day will be of value. We will confine our attention to birds which are actually passing by overhead. They will be identified as accurately as possible, counted, and listed at half-hour intervals throughout the day. We hope that bird clubs or groups of individuals living in the same vicinity will consider sharing the vigil at an observation point, thus allowing maximum observation at minimum inconvenience to the individual. Certain concentrated flyways, such as along Lake Michigan, warrant closer attention, and groups from such cities as Milwaukee, Racine-Kenosha, and Green Bay can probably establish several observation points some miles apart. If enough cooperators can be aroused we should obtain a fairly good picture of migratory activity for

the entire state on these two weekends. There has been a dawn-to-dusk watch for migrants almost every day during September and October for the past four years at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station and this program will continue through this year. Thus incidental observations of visual migration for any day during the fall will be valuable and most welcome.

Further information, observation forms, and detailed instructions will be furnished gladly. We hope you will consider joining us in this study of bird migration.

Department of Zoology
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

MORE NEWS . . .

Information on breeding Wood Ducks is being sought by the Wisconsin Conservation Department, in order that more complete Wood Duck surveys may be conducted throughout the Mississippi Flyway. If you know of areas where Wood Ducks actually bred this summer, or areas where they were present and may very likely have nested, please send your information to Frank H. King, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Dept. of Wildlife Management, Madison.

Early in June Conservation Chairman Charles Kemper wrote to the Joint Finance Committee of the State Legislature in opposition to a bill that would restore bounties on certain wild animals. "We have no objection to shooting predators if in certain instances a local problem occurs to property or livestock, but to pay money for enjoying a sport which is of no general value is certainly not in the interest of the public. The Canada lynx and the timber wolf are animals which are close to extinction in Wisconsin; they definitely should be protected and not have a bounty on them."

(more news on page 94)

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Past Trips

June 22-23 (Spring Green). 34 persons gathered at historic Tower Hill State Park Friday evening and early Saturday, June 21-22, for the sixth annual summer campout. The weather was perfect, and the birds were cooperative. Much credit for the success of the field tours was due to S. Paul Jones who spent much time in advance scouting of the area before the campout. Dave Cox was also very instrumental in the success of the event.

Saturday morning featured a trip eastward along the south side of the Wisconsin River to Mazomanie and the Bert Laws river bottoms. The Bell's Vireo, which many wanted very much to see, put on a fine performance for all.

On Saturday afternoon we journeyed in the other direction, to the bridge at Lone Rock, where Lois Webster of Dodgeville and Carolyn Carpenter of Long Beach, California, showed us one of two Prothonotary Warbler nests found during the campout, and also the only Lark Sparrow found that weekend.

On Saturday evening a group went below the shot tower to listen for owls. What they heard was a Whip-poor-will calling from the rock face behind us; it sang 746 continuous "whips," drowning out all owls and brainwashing all present in the process.

Harold Kruse directed the group on a Sunday morning hike down Honey Creek Canyon in western Sauk County. The hiking was rugged, but fabulous both scenery-wise and bird-wise. Among the outstanding birds were a Carolina Wren, Ruffed Grouse, Gnatcatchers, and Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers. 15 persons remained to eat lunch at Leland Park and visit the nearby natural bridge, where a male Cardinal was seen framed in the arch of the bridge. The trip list totaled 85 species.—Ed Peartree

Future Trips

September 7-8 (Knowlton). This year's fall campout will be at DuBay Park on Lake DuBay, 12 miles northwest of Stevens Point. This area was chosen because it lies in the Little Eau Plaine area, some of which is due to be flooded if plans for a proposed new dam go through. The only way that the effects of newly constructed dams upon bird life can be accurately gauged is by studying affected areas before and after the dams are built. Trips will be taken into various parts of this area, led by the district game manager or the game warden from Mosinee, to study a bit of the ornithological features to be found at this time of year. It is to be hoped that further bird studies may be taken in this area before a dam is built, that may be compared with future studies after the dam is created and the topography changed. To reach DuBay Park, go west from Stevens Point on Highway 10 for six miles, turn north on C. T. H. "E" for seven miles. Members are requested to bring slides that may be shown at the Saturday evening session.

October 6 (Babcock). This Sunday trip will feature a tour of Wallace Grange's Sandhill Game Farm, to see the fall concentrations of Sandhill Cranes and waterfowl. The tour starts from Grange's home at 8:00 a. m. Babcock is in southern Wood County, ten miles west of Nekoosa, on Highway 80. To reach Grange's place, go west on Highway 80 from the village of Babcock. Just after crossing the bridge over the Yellow River, turn right on C. T. H. "X." A very short distance on this road brings one to the Grange home on the left.

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by MARTHA and ROY LOUND

An Adult Golden Eagle. On Nov. 10, 1956, some friends and I took off to hunt the Petenwell area. We went up along a trout stream that flows into the Petenwell from the east side near the upper end, in northern Adams County. We parted company and hunted separately for a while. On my way back to join my friends, I passed some power lines and crossed over several little hills. At the crest of one of the sharp hills I suddenly looked up and saw a huge bird soaring in circles, each circle coming closer to me, until it was directly above me perhaps 200 feet up. It stayed over me for quite some time, and I had a very good look at it. My first thought when I saw it approaching was that it was an immature Bald Eagle, but I soon ruled that out. It was dark below, with the wing linings dark; I could detect a little lightness at the base of the primaries,

but it was more of a yellowish color rather than the white of the immature Golden Eagle. I could see the golden color on the head and neck, and there was some white at the base of the tail, so I decided this was certainly a beautiful adult Golden Eagle.—L. E. Compton, Waukesha.

White-fronted Geese Sighted. On Oct. 6, 1956, my nephew, Duane Day from Oshkosh, his son Phil, and I were hunting at Rush Lake, six or seven miles from Ripon. It was a nice bright day, temperature in the 60's, and a strong west wind blowing. About 10:00 we left our blind to pick up our decoys when I noticed a flock of about 40 geese coming directly toward us from the west. At first their size and color suggested Blue Geese, but when they were directly over us we saw their speckled breasts and recognized them as White-fronted Geese. They were about 50 yards up as they passed over, and no binoculars were necessary to see them. Their call was entirely different, too, being more of a cackling sound than anything else.—L. E. Compton, Waukesha.



FIELD NOTES

By MARTHA and ROY LOUND

The Winter Season

December 1956-February 1957

The Green-tailed Towhee which Robert S. Ellarson and Robert A. McCabe collected in Madison on Dec. 23, 1956 rates top honors for the most unusual record of the winter season. Roger Tory Peterson in his **Field Guide to Western Birds** lists its winter range "from s. Calif., s. Ariz., and w. Tex. s. into Mexico." Dr. A. W. Schorger's 1951 revision of Kumlien and Hollister's **Birds of Wisconsin** does not list this species. The only prior published record is of a bird at Appleton, Dec. 14-29, 1952, reported by Mrs. Walter E. Rogers (see **1953 Pass. Pigeon 120, 121**). So the Madison bird is only the second known record for the state. Both birds ended up in state collections—the first in the Milwaukee Museum and the second in the U. W. Zoology Department.

Other good records for the season were: two Eared Grebes in Dane Co.; a Golden Eagle in Iowa Co.; a Glaucous Gull in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties; a Carolina Wren in Dane and Sauk Counties; and Mockingbirds in Dane, Oconto and Marinette Counties.

But probably the most outstanding phenomenon in the minds of most Wisconsin birders was the disappointing push of winter birds. This was especially noticeable because of the really good flight during the winter of 1955-56. Presumably there were as many observers in the field this year as last, so the startling reduction in numbers must have been due to a dearth of winter birds rather than a lack of observers. The fol-

lowing table presents a comparison of records between the winters of 1955-56 and 1956-57 for some of our usual winter species:

Species	Winter 1955-56	Winter 1956-57
Snowy Owl	9 records in 7 counties.	3 records in 3 counties.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Reported from all sections.	Reported on 5 Christmas counts, with only 2 other reports for the season.
Northern Shrike	Reported from almost all sections.	Numerous reports from 24 counties. Appears to be the one exception to the down-trend of winter birds.
Evening Grosbeak	Present in almost all areas, often in large numbers.	Only 5 reports from 5 counties.
Pine Grosbeak	Commoner than usual in northern and central sections; present but less numerous in southeast.	Reported from only 5 northern counties.
Redpolls	A really big Redpoll year.	Reported from only 3 counties.
Red Crossbill	Several reports from 4 counties.	Only one report from one county.
White-winged Crossbill	Widely distributed in northern two-thirds of state and also present in some southern counties. Observed in considerable numbers.	Only one report of one female bird.
Snow Bunting	Widely distributed over northern two-thirds of state and seen in considerable numbers. Also present in many southern counties.	Some widely scattered reports, mostly of small numbers.

Late Fall Migration

December was mostly mild with considerably less precipitation than usual. Monthly maximum temperatures ranged from near 40° over many northwestern counties to near 60° over the extreme southeast. Snow-cover by the end of December was one to three inches in the south, but it ranged up to eighteen inches over the central and northern areas. Fog occurred on several days, and there was much cloudiness. Green Bay received the least sunshine of any December since 1937, the sun being obscured 76% of the time. January, in contrast to December's mild temperatures, was cold. Many stations reported it to be the coldest January since 1936. Generally the month was very dry, with snowcover by the end of the month ranging from two to six inches over the south to about fifteen inches over the north.

Mild December temperatures, no doubt, encouraged the few stragglers remaining after the cold last half of November to stay on well into the winter. A number of species which normally winter well south of Wisconsin were recorded on one or more Christmas counts. These included some species of ducks, Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brewer's Blackbird, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow and Fox Sparrow. While most shallow inland lakes and streams were frozen over by the beginning of December, some southward migra-

tion of waterfowl was noted as late as Jan. 2 when about 200 Canvasbacks were still present on Lake Mendota, Dane Co.

Reports of wintering populations of half-hardy species such as the Mourning Dove, Robin, both Meadowlarks, most species of blackbirds and Song Sparrow were up appreciably. Furthermore, where wintering birds were formerly primarily reported from southern and central counties, this year scattered reports were received from counties as far north as Polk and Marinette. So, while the reports of our usual winter birds were way down, reports of birds which normally winter farther south were up. Lake Michigan, of course, is different from inland waters, as it remains open all winter regardless of weather conditions, and large rafts of waterfowl wintered there as usual.

Early Spring Migration

Temperatures and precipitation over the extreme northern counties of Wisconsin averaged near seasonal during February. Over other parts of the state it was mostly mild and dry. The mild weather caused the snow over central and southern Wisconsin to melt about two weeks earlier than usual, and the two to six inch snowcover present at the beginning of the month had mostly melted by the 25th. In the north, however, snow depth still ranged from three to nineteen inches at the end of the month. The weather was especially cold from the 16th to the 23rd, but southerly winds brought rapid warming and the highest temperatures for the month were recorded on the 24th and 25th.

The southerly winds on the 24th brought first spring migrants, with Canada Geese being reported from Adams and Waukesha Counties and a Killdeer and a Bluebird being noted in Dane Co. on that date. Other early migrants returning during the last few days of February included the Pintail, Bufflehead and Redwing Blackbird.

Here are the highlights of the winter season:

Common Loon: The only report was from J. G. Waddell who reported that it departed from Dane Co. on Dec. 1.

Red-throated Loon: Reported on Dec. 11 from Milwaukee (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and on Dec. 23 (Christmas bird count).

Horned Grebe: Dane Co., Dec. 1 (J. G. Waddell); Milwaukee, Dec. 11 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and Dec. 23 (Christmas count); Lake Geneva, 7 birds on Dec. 23 (Christmas count).

Eared Grebe: On Dec. 7 Dick Wills identified two birds on Lake Mendota, Madison, after studying them 10 minutes through a 30X Bal-scope. He especially noted the upturned bill with its characteristic position and shape in relation to the head, the lack of white on the throat and two white ear patches on the head.

Pied-billed Grebe: One bird wintered near Castle Rock Lake in Adams Co. and two wintered in Juneau Co. (Sam Robbins). Other reports: Dane Co., Dec. 16 (J. G. Waddell) and Feb. 26 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Waukesha Co., Jan. 1 (the L. E. Comptons).

Great Blue Heron: Reported from these counties: Adams, 2 birds wintered (Sam Robbins); Barron, 1 seen on Meadow Creek, Dec. 26 & 29 (Eugene Butler); Brown, departed from area on Dec. 23 (Edwin Cleary); Jefferson, 1 wintered below the dam at Palmyra (Terry Tutton).

Black-crowned Night Heron: One bird on the Lake Geneva Christmas count, Dec. 23.

Whistling Swan: Left Chippewa Co., Dec. 5 (C. A. Kemper).

Canada Goose: First migration reports came from these counties: Adams, Feb. 24, flock of 20 (Sam Robbins); Waukesha, Feb. 24 (Mrs. Paul Hoffman & the L. E. Comptoms); Dane, Feb. 27 (Dick Wills).

Gadwall: One in Madison, Jan. 19 (Eugene Roark); a pair in Mud Lake, Dane Co., Feb. 28 (Dick Wills, Wm. Sheaffer); Milwaukee, Jan. 23 (S. Paul Jones).

American Widgeon (Baldpate): At least 3 birds wintered in Madison (Dick Wills); noted in Milwaukee, Dec. 11 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom). Also reported on these Christmas counts: Madison, 19 birds; Milwaukee, 1 bird; Sheboygan, 4 birds.

Pintail: Early spring reports from: Adams Co., 1 bird, Feb. 26 (Sam Robbins); Dane Co., 5 birds, Feb. 28 (Dick Wills, Wm. Sheaffer); La Crosse Co., 2 birds, Feb. 28 (Leo J. Egelberg). At least one wintering bird was reported from Milwaukee (many observers), and it was reported on the Evansville, Milwaukee and Watertown Christmas counts.

Shoveler: One pair wintered in Milwaukee (many observers); one bird reported on the Racine Christmas count, Dec. 29.

Wood Duck: One male wintered in Milwaukee (many observers); single birds on the Waukesha and Wausau Christmas counts.

Redhead: Reported from Outagamie Co. on Dec. 1 (Alfred Bradford) and Marinette Co. on Jan. 28, 29 & 31 (Wallace MacBriar, Jr.). Wintering birds were reported from Dane, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties by many observers.

Ring-necked Duck: Reported on these Christmas counts: Beloit, Lake Geneva, Madison and Milwaukee. Again reported from Dane Co., Jan. 2 (Dick Wills) and Milwaukee Co., Jan. 11 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Canvasback: Reported as wintering in Adams, Dane and Milwaukee Counties. As many as 200 late migrants were reported from Lake Mendota, Madison, on Jan. 2 (Dick Wills).

Greater & Lesser Scaup: One or both species reported from these counties: Burnett, Jan. 7, peak (N. R. Stone); Chippewa, Dec. 2, departure (C. A. Kemper); Dane, wintered (many observers); Marinette, from Jan. 31 to end of period in open stretches of Menominee River (Wallace MacBriar, Jr.); Milwaukee & Ozaukee, wintered (many observers); Waukesha, Feb. 3 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith).

Bufflehead: Wintered in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties (many observers); an early migrant in Madison, Feb. 27 (Dick Wills).

Oldsquaw: Wintered in counties bordering Lake Michigan.

White-winged Scoter: Reported as present during entire season from Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties (Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Harold Bauers, Mary Donald). Harold Bauers noted that from Feb. 23 to 28 he saw from 8 to 120 birds per day in Ozaukee Co.

Ruddy Duck: Reported as wintering in Dane Co., one female (Dick Wills); Milwaukee & Ozaukee Counties (many observers). Also reported on the Lake Geneva Christmas count.

Hooded Merganser: Wintering birds were reported from Dane, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties by several observers. Also reported on the Lake Geneva Christmas count, Dec. 23.

American Merganser: Wintering records from almost all counties from which reports were received.

Red-breasted Merganser: Reported as wintering in small numbers in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties (Harold Bauers); one female wintered in Madison (Dick Wills); 2 birds in Bayfield Co., Jan. 1 (David Bratley). Also reported on the Green Bay, Lake Geneva and Racine Christmas counts.

Goshawk: Only 4 reports: Adams Co., Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins); Forest Co., Jan. 7 (Roy Lound); Oconto Co., Feb. 3 (Carl Richter); Wood Co., Dec. 31 (Sam Robbins).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One bird seen in Adams Co. on Dec. 22 and Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins); reported from Milwaukee, Dec. 11 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom) and Jan. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mary Donald); one killed a House Sparrow at our feeding station in Madison, Dec. 25, and the other birds were so frightened that they did not reappear to resume feeding until about four hours later (the Roy Lounds).

Cooper's Hawk: Many more records than for the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Reported from almost all central and southern counties, with the most northerly reports coming from Nekoosa and Two Rivers.

Red-shouldered Hawk: One wintered near Petenwell Dam, Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); present all winter in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper). All other reports were from south and southeastern counties.

Rough-legged Hawk: Reported from all counties from which reports were received.

Golden Eagle: N. R. Barger reported that George Knudsen of the Conservation Department saw one bird in Iowa Co. on Dec. 12. (Also see "By the Wayside" for Les Compton's record of one in the Petenwell area on Nov. 10).

Marsh Hawk: Many reports from all southern counties. Most northerly records were from Adams Co., near Petenwell Dam on Jan. 1 (Dick Wills, Ray White) and near Briggsville on Jan. 22 (Sam Robbins).

Pigeon Hawk: The only record for the season was one submitted by N. R. Barger for Ralph Hopkins, Manitowoc Co., Dec. 19.

Sparrow Hawk: There were many reports from southern counties during the entire season. By Feb. 16 it was noted as far north as Oconto Co. (Carl Richter), and by Feb. 27 it was recorded in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper).

Prairie Chicken: 72 seen on the Bancroft Christmas count, Dec. 29. Highest count in North America for 1956 Christmas counts.

Coot: About 70 birds spent the winter in Madison (Dick Wills). Also wintered in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties (several observers).

Killdeer: A few early spring records: Dane Co., Feb. 24 (N. R. Barger); Waukesha Co., Feb. 25 (Mrs. L. E. Compton); Adams Co., Feb. 26 (Sam Robbins).

Common (Wilson's) Snipe: Two individuals and one group of 3 birds wintered in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); one bird reported from Dane Co., Dec. 1 (Eugene Roark); one bird noted in Waukesha Co., Jan. 27 (the L. E. Comptons). Reported on the Adams, Lake Geneva, Madison, Mazomanie, Monroe, South Wayne and Waukesha Christmas counts.

Glaucous Gull: A bird in first year plumage was reported from Milwaukee on Jan. 6 to 8 (Harold Bauers, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mary Donald); reported from the Port Washington harbor, Feb. 5 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Bonaparte's Gull: Reported from Milwaukee through Dec. 27 (Harold Bauers). Also reported on the Kenosha (1200) and Racine (1) Christmas counts.

Mourning Dove: Apparently wintered in larger than usual numbers throughout central and southern Wisconsin. A few wintered as far north as Chippewa Co., in the northwest (C. A. Kemper) and Brown Co., in the northeast (Edwin Cleary).

Snowy Owl: Only reports for the entire season were: Bancroft, Portage Co., Dec. 29 (the Fred Hamerstoms, Jerry Vogelsang, Sam Robbins); Price Co., Dec. 12 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Oconto Co., one shot by a rabbit hunter (Carl Richter).

Long-eared Owl: Fewer reports than usual. Noted during the season in Dane and Milwaukee Counties (many observers) and on the Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee, Racine and Waukesha Christmas counts.

Short-eared Owl: Reports from only four areas: one in Dane Co., Jan. 13 (Eugene Roark); one near Ashippun, Dodge Co., Jan. 13 (the L. E. Comptons); one in Ozaukee Co. on Feb. 16 and 23 (Harold Bauers); two birds on the Racine Christmas count, Dec. 29.

Saw-whet Owl: Two birds were present during most of the period in the U. W. Arboretum, Madison (many observers); one was reported near Peshtigo, Marinette Co., Feb. 20 (Carl Richter).

Belted Kingfisher: Northernmost reports were: Chippewa Co., departed on Dec. 16 (C. A. Kemper); Adams Co., wintered in 3 places (Sam Robbins). There were many reports from most southern counties.

Flicker: Only scattered records: 2 birds wintered near Luck, Polk Co. (Mrs. Lester Pedersen); present until Dec. 23, Brown Co. (Edwin Cleary); Columbia Co., Jan. 6 (Donald Cors); wintered in Milwaukee Co. (Mary Donald). Also on the Beloit, Evansville, Hartford, Jefferson, Mazomanie, Racine, South Wayne and Waukesha Christmas counts.

Pileated Woodpecker: Adams Co., entire season (Sam Robbins); Bayfield Co., one bird on Feb. 3 (David Bratley); Chippewa Co., down in numbers (C. A. Kemper); Polk Co., entire season (Mrs. Lester Pedersen); Washburn Co., Dec. 24 (Beatrice Bailey). Also reported on the Mazomanie, Nekoosa and Wisconsin Dells Christmas counts.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Many reports, extending as far north as Polk Co. in the northwest where Mrs. Lester Pedersen reported the species wintering and Brown Co. in the northeast where Edwin Cleary reported it present after Dec. 23.

Red-headed Woodpecker: More scarce than in some recent winters. Most of the reports were from the northwestern section of the state: Burnett Co., Jan. 21 (N. R. Stone); Chippewa Co., down in numbers (C. A. Kemper); Polk Co., present all season (Mrs. Lester Pedersen); Washburn Co., present after Dec. 16 (Beatrice Bailey). Also reported from Adams Co., Dec. 22 (Sam Robbins); Columbia Co., Jan. 5 (Donald Cors); Juneau Co., one wintering bird (Sam Robbins); and on the Beloit and South Wayne Christmas counts.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The only report for the entire season was of one bird recorded Dec. 30 on the Hartford Christmas count.

Gray (Canada) Jay: Forest Co., 3 birds observed at very close range, Jan. 7 (Roy Lound), and 1 bird seen and heard, Feb. 24 (Martin Lound).

Raven: Burnett Co., flock of about 100, Jan. 25 (N. R. Stone); Forest Co., Jan. 7 (Roy Lound); Iron Co., nest with 5 eggs found on Feb. 20 in -20° weather (Richard Gysendorfer); Marinette Co., present all season (Raymond Stefanski).

Brown-capped (Hudsonian) Chickadee: Four birds were found in one spot in Forest Co. on Jan. 7 (Roy Lound).

Tufted Titmouse: Continuing to spread its range northward: at the Audubon Camp, Washburn Co., Feb. 1 & 16 (Beatrice Bailey); 2 birds wintered near Luck, Polk Co. (Mrs. Lester Pedersen); present all season in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper); seen in Brown Co. on Jan. 18 and Feb. 17 (Edwin Cleary). Also reported from Dane, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Rock and Waukesha Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Very scarce this year. Reported on only 5 Christmas counts (Madison, Mazomanie, Milwaukee, Monroe and Red Cliff) as compared to 19 reports on the 1955 counts. Only other reports for the season were from Dane Co., Feb. 27, one bird (Wm. Hilsenhoff) and Milwaukee Co., Jan. 6 (the Carl Fristers, Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Brown Creeper: Wintered in counties south of a line between Chippewa Falls and Appleton.

Winter Wren: Outagamie Co., Dec. 1 & 2 (Alfred Bradford); Madison, Jan. 19 (Wm. Hilsenhoff). Also recorded on 2 Christmas counts—Madison, Dec. 22, and Monroe, Jan. 1.

Carolina Wren: One bird visited our feeding station at Madison daily during the entire period (the Roy Lounds); one bird was seen near Denzer, Sauk Co., Dec. 26 (the Harold Kruses, Ronald Rich).

Mockingbird: Only 3 scattered reports: Dane Co., Dec. 19, one bird seen in a cockspur thorn tree (the Walter Scotts); Marinette Co., Dec. 8, 15 & 16, feeding on sumac berries (Carl Richter); Oconto Co., Feb. 21, one bird seen in a bush in the city of Oconto (Carl Richter).

Catbird: Chippewa Co., Dec. 4 (C. A. Kemper); Polk Co., present until Jan. 19 (Mrs. Lester Pedersen). Also reported on the Antigo and Madison Christmas counts.

Brown Thrasher: Milwaukee on Dec. 23 and Jan. 6 & 8 (Harold Bauers, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mary Donald); Madison on Dec. 23 & 26 feeding on Virginia Creeper berries (the Roy Lounds).

Robin: Numerous winter observations as far northwest as Bayfield Co., Dec. 21 (David Bratley) and northeast as far as Marinette Co., Dec. 7 & 22 (Wallace MacBriar, Jr.).

Hermit Thrush: Madison, Dec. 22 (N. R. Barger).

Bluebird: Early migrants in Dane Co., Feb. 24 (N. R. Barger) and Adams Co., Feb. 26 (Sam Robbins). One bird seen on the South Wayne Christmas count.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Not as numerous as in some years. The only reports after the end of December were from widely scattered areas: Adams Co., wintered (Sam Robbins); Dane Co., wintered in the Picnic Point area, Madison (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Marinette Co., Jan. 20 (Raymond Stefanski); Milwaukee Co., wintered (Mary Donald).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Two birds were carefully identified by Tom Nicholls on the Madison Christmas count on Dec. 22. An unusual record.

Bohemian Waxwing: Beatrice Bailey sent the only report of this species from her home in Washburn Co.—Feb. 5 (1), Feb. 10 (10). Feb. 13 (6). She stated that they especially liked to feed on unharvested apples.

Cedar Waxwing: Unusually scarce this winter. Reported on these Christmas counts: La Crosse (12), Lake Geneva (2), Luck (6), Milwaukee (1), South Wayne (10). Reported as being present all season in only 2 counties: Milwaukee (Mary Donald); Polk (Mrs. Lester Pedersen).

Northern Shrike: Good flight for the third consecutive winter, with reports from 24 counties: Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Juneau, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marinette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Polk, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Washburn, Waukesha and Wood.

Meadowlarks: Larger than usual concentrations, with wintering birds reported from all southern counties and areas as far north as Oconto and Marinette Counties in the northeast and Chippewa and Polk Counties in the northwest.

Redwing Blackbird: An estimated 7,000 blackbirds, mostly Redwings, wintered at a roost near the Yahara River, Madison, with a large movement of migrants on Feb. 28 (Dick Wills). Other reports were from Brown Co. where they were seen until Dec. 23 (Edwin Cleary) and Waukesha Co. where early migrants were noted on Feb. 24 (Mrs. L. E. Compton, Mrs. F. L. Larkin) and Feb. 26 (S. Paul Jones).

Rusty Blackbird: Wintering birds were reported from Adams Co. (Sam Robbins) and Brown Co. (Edwin Cleary). One bird was at their feeder on Dec. 31 (the L. E. Comptons) and one bird was singing at Necedah on Feb. 14 (Sam Robbins). Also reported on the Jefferson and Madison Christmas counts.

Brewer's Blackbird: One bird reported from Chippewa Co., Dec. 22 (C. A. Kemper); two birds recorded on the Waukesha Christmas count, Dec. 30.

Grackle: Adams Co., one wintering bird (Sam Robbins); Bayfield Co., Dec. 21 and Feb. 22 (David Bratley); Brown Co., one wintering bird (Edwin Cleary); Columbia Co., Jan. 2 (Donald Cors); Dane Co., Dec. 22 (Eugene Roark) and Jan. 28 (Wm. Hilsenhoff); Waukesha Co., Feb. 28 (S. Paul Jones, Mrs. L. E. Compton). Also reported on the Beloit Christmas count, Dec. 29.

Cowbird: On Jan. 9 a flock of about 100 birds was seen feeding in a cornfield between Madison and Cambridge, Dane Co.; both males and females were present, with some individuals observed within 15 feet (Wm. Hilsenhoff). On Jan. 22 one female appeared at their feeder near Waukesha (the L. E. Comptons).

Evening Grosbeak: A very disappointing flight, with three reports from the northern tier of counties, one report from the central part of the state and one report from the southern area. Bayfield, 18 birds on Jan. 7 (David Bratley); Marinette, a flock on Feb. 5 (Mrs. Wm. Galbraith); Washburn, one female bird at the Audubon Camp on Feb. 14 (Vic Laveau); Neillsville, Clark Co., a pair at a feeder (Mrs. O. A. Zaeske); Madison, one female near a feeder on Dec. 22 (the Roy Lounds).

Pine Grosbeak: The only reports were from some northern counties: Barron, Feb. 26 (Eugene Butler); Bayfield, 12 birds on Feb. 13 (David Bratley); Burnett, Feb. 4 (N. R. Stone); Marinette, 18 birds on Jan. 7

and 1 bird on Feb. 24 (the Roy Lounds); Price, 5 birds on Dec. 12 (Wm. Hilsenhoff).

Common Redpoll: Redpolls were as scarce this season as they were plentiful during the winter of 1955-56. The only reports were: Ozaukee Co., Dec. 1, about 40 birds seen (Harold Bauers); Brown Co., rarely seen during the period (Edwin Cleary); Oconto Co., about 2 dozen birds spent the winter in a tamarack swamp near Oconto (Carl Richter).

Pine Siskin: Recorded on the Lake Geneva, Milwaukee and South Wayne Christmas counts. No other reports during the period, as the remarkable scarcity of the fall continued. Normally most birds of this species winter south of Wisconsin; but since the scarcity was general throughout the northern United States, it appears that most of these birds remained north of us this winter.

Goldfinch: Reported from all sections of the state. In Adams Co. Sam Robbins noted that they were numerous in December, scarcer during the next few weeks and numerous again late in February.

Red Crossbill: 9 birds, at least 2 of them adult males, were found feeding on spruce cones in a Madison cemetery, Dec. 22 (Mrs. R. A. Walker, J. G. Waddell).

White-winged Crossbill: Only one report for the entire season. One female bird was observed in a white cedar grove in the U. W. Arboretum, Madison, Dec. 22 (Roy Lound).

Towhee: Reported on the Racine Christmas count, Dec. 29, and from Columbia Co., Jan. 6 (Donald Cors).

Green-tailed Towhee: A bird of this species was collected on Dec. 23 near the University dump, Madison, by Robert McCabe and Robert El-larson and turned over to the University Zoology Department. It was so fat that its sex was not definitely determined, but it was thought to be a female.

Vesper Sparrow: Alfred Bradford reported a bird from Outagamie Co. on Dec. 3; Bill Foster heard and saw one near Madison on Dec. 22.

Oregon Junco: A number of good reports: One bird 6 miles west of Adams, Dec. 22 and Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins); one bird north of Wisconsin Dells, Dec. 24 (Sam Robbins); one bird near Castle Rock Dam, Adams Co., Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins, Dick Wills); 2 birds near Cactus Bluff, Sauk Co., Dec. 26 (Sam Robbins, et al.); 3 birds at a feeder near Waukesha during the season (the L. E. Comptons); one bird at Waukesha, Jan. 5 (S. Paul Jones); one bird wintered in Waukesha (Mrs. Paul Hoffman); one bird near Beloit, Jan. 8 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum); several birds of this species, along with a large number of Slate-colored Juncos, regularly visited our feeders in Madison during the entire period (the Roy Lounds).

Field Sparrow: One bird at Adams on Dec. 22 and Jan. 1 (Sam Robbins); also reported on the Seneca Christmas count.

White-throated Sparrow: Reports of wintering birds from these counties: Dane (the Roy Lounds, Dick Wills); Milwaukee (Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mary Donald); Waukesha, one bird present until Dec. 16 (Mrs. Paul Hoffman) and one bird present at a feeder until Jan. 2 (the L. E. Comptons). Also reported on the Racine Christmas count.

Fox Sparrow: One bird reported from Rock Co., Dec. 30 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum). An unusual winter record.

Swamp Sparrow: Reported on seven Christmas counts, all from southern areas except Green Bay. The only other reports came from: Dane Co., Jan. 20 (Eugene Roark) and Feb. 7 (N. R. Barger); Brown Co., 2 birds wintered (Edwin Cleary).

Song Sparrow: Relatively common as compared to most years, with reports from Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Rock and Waukesha Counties through the winter. It was reported on 16 of 37 Christmas counts, all from southern areas except Appleton and Green Bay.

Lapland Longspur: Fewer reports than usual: Brown Co., Dec. 23 (Christmas count); Columbia Co., Jan. 5 (Donald Cors); Milwaukee Co., Jan. 22 (Mary Donald); Walworth Co., Jan. 11 and Washington Co., Jan. 22 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Snow Bunting: While this species was reported on only 3 Christmas counts this season as compared to 9 reports in 1955, it seems to have been fairly well distributed throughout the state but in smaller numbers than in average years. Here are all of the reports that were received: Brown Co., Dec. 1 and thereafter (Edwin Cleary); Dane Co., 15 birds within the Madison city limits on Dec. 10 (Dick Wills); Marinette Co., a flock of about 50 birds, Jan. 5 (Martha Lound), Jan. 6 and Feb. 24 (Raymond Stefanski), about 50 birds on Jan. 20 (Wallace MacBriar, Jr.); Outagamie Co., Dec. 26 (Alfred Bradford); Polk Co., throughout season (Mrs. Lester Pedersen); Portage Co., 10 birds on Dec. 29 (Bancroft Christmas count); Walworth Co., Jan. 11 and Washington Co., Feb. 5 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Waukesha Co., 6 birds on Jan. 27 (the L. E. Comptons); Winnebago Co., Jan. 11 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1, 1957 (State-wide)—Field notes for June, July and half of August should be in the hands of the Associate Editor.

September 1, 1957 (State-wide)—Cliff Swallow nesting information should be sent to Prof. John Emlen.

September 7-8, 1957 (Knowlton)—W.S.O. fall campout, headquarters at DuBay Park.

September 8, 1957 (Green Bay)—Green Bay Bird Club trip to Barkhausen Game Preserve, leaving from Neville Public Museum.

September 14-15, 1957 (State-wide)—Target dates for nation-wide hawk-counting project.

September 21-22, 1957 (State-wide)—Target dates for nation-wide hawk-counting project.

October 6, 1957 (Babcock)—W.S.O. field trip to Sandhill Game Farm, meeting at Wallace Grange's headquarters at 8:00 a. m.

October 6, 1957 (Green Bay)—Green Bay Bird Club trip to Menominee Reservation, leaving from Neville Public Museum.

November 10, 1957 (Green Bay)—Green Bay Bird Club afternoon trip to Cole Woods.

November 30, 1957 (State-wide)—Field notes for August 16 through November should be sent to Dr. Harvey L. Gunderson, Minneapolis, for inclusion in "Audubon Field Notes."

December 1-10, 1957 (State-wide)—Field notes for August 16 through November should be sent to the Associate Editor.

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MORE NEWS . . .

Winner of the Wilhemina LaBudde scholarship this year was Mr. Duane Anderson of Bristol, Wisconsin. This scholarship, offered by W.S.O. to send a worthy person to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp this summer, was awarded to a man who teaches science at the McKinley Junior High School at Kenosha, who is caretaker and director of the 125-acre Kenosha County Conservation Demonstration Area, who is a director of the Kenosha County Junior Conservation Club, and who is on the Board of Directors for the Conservation Club of Kenosha County.

More Wisconsin observations are needed for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service's

"cooperative migration project" this fall. Arrival and departure migration dates for certain common species are being collected from all areas. Write to the editor for the proper reporting forms.

The new field check-list of Wisconsin birds just revised and re-published in time for the spring convention has been selling rapidly. They can be ordered from Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, Wis. The price is 50 for \$1.00, 10 for 25c, single copies 3c.

If you have not yet reported to Prof. John Emlen, Madison, about nesting Cliff Swallows in your area this summer, please do so right away. The success of these yearly "range and population studies" depends greatly upon wide cooperation from W.S.O. members.

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