

## The passenger pigeon. Vol. V, No. 2 July 1943

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, July 1943

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FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



# THE PASSENGER PIGEON

FOR VICTORY

TO ENCOURAGE STUDY OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

Vol. V

July, 1943

No. 2



"FLICKERS AT THE NEST"

—Photo by Staber W. Reese  
Wisconsin Conservation Department

## Bulletin of The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.

*Affiliated with The Wilson Ornithological Club*

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Entered as second-class matter Sept. 4, 1940, at the Post Office at Madison, Wis., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

DR. B. L. VON JARCHOW

*Racine, Wisconsin*

To those of our members whom I could not meet personally at our last convention I extend sincere greetings. That gathering has shown convincingly that in spite of difficulties we can do better each year.

I find myself on these pages in the company of two great conservationists, Aldo Leopold and W. J. P. Aberg. The latter as head of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission was instrumental in bringing about a measure whose implications I do hesitate to call the greatest step forward in the history of conservation in Wisconsin. Needless to add that it had the approval of Aldo Leopold.

The protection of predatory birds—unfortunately the Great Horned Owl was left out—solved a problem which in its practical aspects was a monstrous incongruity. Within the frame of this limited article I can not discuss this phase of the issue.



Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, President  
The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

The fact alone that the "Chicken Hawk" and the "Henhawk," the only two species known to the average hunter at least in name, were removed from an imaginary class of "harmful" or "useful" forms of life and demonstrated to be links in a pattern, complex and as yet not sufficiently understood, represented an advance in the conception of wildlife. The implications of the educational value can not be anticipated with too much optimism.

There is another progress in that measure. We are as nature lovers united in our love of birds—and all other forms of life. In our conscious attitudes we are predominantly governed by emotional complexes with which we are born and over which we exercise little control. The sight of a screaming Redtail in the blue spring sky adds as much to the fullness of life as a flower or a symphony. Was it asking too much that this all important emotional component be considered beyond the value of dollar and cent?

Another lesson is involved, as yet little appreciated. Out of the maze of observations, experiments and analyses has crystallized one axiom: Predators are essential to the vitality of the prey and its balance within the ecologic complex. The ability to reproduce in excess is truly astounding in all forms of life. The slowest propagating animal on earth, the African Elephant, having only one young every seven years, could populate the earth from one pair in 900 years to the exclusion of standing room. But a pair of wrens under ideal conditions would leave six billion descendants by the time it died from old age. Here predators not only act as a check, but eliminate in the average those individuals which either directly or due to extrinsic factors became "exposed."

The lesson of the European Stag is as yet little appreciated in this country. Measurements of height, weight, skull cavity and size of antlers of a better than average animal in the 16th century shows an excess of as much as 40% over the very best specimens collected in modern Europe. The degeneration of olfactory and auditory centers in the brain is especially marked. Lack of all predation, neutralizing of the effect of polygamy, selective shooting have been demonstrated to be the responsible cause. Schilling's studies on African big game in comparison to European animals show an amazing accentuation of some physiologic processes (Oxygen metabolism) and increased vitality in the former living under natural conditions with much predation. The gun at best is a poor means of regulating even numbers of a species. It undershoots, overshoots or is aimed wrongly. Its effect is diametrically centrifugal from the tendency of predation.

It would be absurd to eliminate control of predators under certain conditions but their unqualified destruction is a vicious process.

Wisconsin again has shown the way.



## SUMMER BIRDS OF NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

BY HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON

*Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.**(Concluded. Part 7)*

**Mniotilta varia. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.** During the last week of May, 1919, at Saint Croix Falls and Danbury, we found the black and white warbler the most abundant of the warblers. The species was moderately common, both at Namekagon Lake (May 30 to June 3) and in the timber southwest of Mellen (June 5 to 15). A few were seen by Jackson on Madeline Island (June 19 to 24). The only others noted in the Apostle Islands were individual birds on Presque Isle (July 15 and 16). Sheldon found them uncommon at Ogema, August 15 to 23. Specimens: Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5173 UW); Namekagon Lake (269,900 BS); Ogema (5174 UW).

**Vermivora chrysoptera. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.** Golden-winged warblers were common in the deciduous timber along the Saint Croix River at Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 25, 1919, when mated pairs were frequent and where Jackson saw one pair copulating on May 22. Jackson recorded one in the wooded bottomland at the north end of Upper Saint Croix Lake, 3 miles northeast of Solon Springs, August 1, 1919. Specimens: Saint Croix Falls (5175-5177 UW; 269,903-269,905, 270,077, and 270,079 BS).

**Vermivora peregrina. TENNESSEE WARBLER.** A few were noted in the timber at Saint Croix Falls, May 24 and 25, 1919, and they were seen even less plentifully at Danbury, May 27 to 30. We heard one singing amongst the foliage of dense bushes bordering a marsh on Outer Island, July 9, the only summer one recorded there. The species was not uncommon on Outer Island, September 7 to 16. Sheldon found it to be one of the commonest warblers at Ogema, August 15 to 23, where both young and adults were seen. Specimens: Danbury (5184 UW); Outer Island (271,343-271,344 BS); Saint Croix Falls (269,902 BS).

**Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla. NASHVILLE WARBLER.** The Nashville warbler is one of the most plentiful warblers in summer in most of the region covered by this report, where it seemed to be nesting most commonly in the tamarack-spruce bogs. A few were seen in the more open and damper timber along the river at Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 25, 1919. Only one was seen at Danbury by Sheldon (May 30), and a few mated pairs were found by Jackson, June 9 to 13, in a tamarack-spruce bog 8 miles southwest of Mellen. Sheldon and Poole reported this species to be the most abundant of the warblers at Orienta and Port Wing, June 3 to 15, where the birds seem to prefer a maple-aspen habitat. Their song could easily be distinguished from that of the other warblers by a short trill at the end, and the shyness and scarcity of females suggested they were brooding. At Herbster, June 16 to 25, they were found not as common as at Orienta and Port Wing, and were about equal in numbers to the magnolia warbler. A male collected near our camp on Outer Island July 10 was the only record of the species we procured for the Apostle Islands. At Solon Springs, July 28 to August 6, Sheldon frequently saw fully grown young in the hardwood timbered areas. Specimens: Danbury (5180 UW); Herbster (5182 UW; 270,072 BS); Mellen, 8 miles southwest (269,919 BS); Orienta (5181 UW, 270,068 and 270,070 BS); Outer Island (283,614 BS); Saint Croix Falls (5179 UW; 270,066 BS).

**Compothlypis americana pusilla. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.** The only record we made of parula warblers in the region were a male (270,080 BS), and a female (5185 UW) collected by Sheldon at Herbster, June 16, 1919.

**Dendroica aestiva aestiva. EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER.** Yellow warblers were moderately common in bushy open woods at Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 25, 1919, and a few were heard or seen at Danbury the last days of the month. The species was fairly common on Madeline

Island, June 20 and 21, and again July 4 to 24, where it inhabited especially the willows near La Pointe village and along the inland lake near Big Bay. A few were seen in July on Outer Island, and Sheldon collected one in flight along the beach there September 10. At Solon Springs yellow warblers were uncommon and found only among the willows along the headwaters of Saint Croix River. Specimens: Madeline Island (271,422 BS); Outer Island (271,353 BS); Saint Croix Falls (5188 UW).



Hemlock-birch woodland at Connors' Lake, Aug. 12, 1919.

**Dendroica magnolia. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.** I saw and heard several of these warblers in the forest about eight miles southwest of Mellen, June 6 to 8, 12 to 14, 1919, and collected one specimen as a record. The birds were apparently nesting. Their characteristic song suggested to me the syllables **twit-twit-twit-twit-ya-ye-hee'-a**. Sheldon and Poole found them to be a rather common warbler around Herbster, June 16 to 25. I heard a single male bird on two different occasions, June 20 and 21, in the heavy mixed woodlands, but particularly amongst

the spruces, on the south side of Madeline Island. At Outer Island individuals were seen July 5 and 7. The species was fairly common there, however, later, September 7 to 16, when the migrants had arrived. Specimens: Herbster (5192-5194 UW; 270,110 and 270,112 BS); Mellen, 8 miles southwest (269,906 BS); Outer Island (5195 UW; 271,420 BS).

**Dendroica tigrina. CAPE MAY WARBLER.** A female Cape May warbler, probably a migrant, was collected by Sheldon at Danbury, May 27, 1919. He collected a breeding female at Herbster, June 8. We saw an adult male and two young just able to fly at Big Bay, Madeline Island, July 21. A female was collected from the top of a tall pine tree on Outer Island, September 12. Specimens: Danbury (5186 UW); Herbster (270,075 BS); Madeline Island (271,425 BS); Outer Island (5187 UW).

**Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.** Two male black-throated blue warblers were collected by Sheldon at Herbster on June 16, 1919, and birds were heard a few times later. The species undoubtedly nests in the vicinity of Herbster. Jackson saw two birds there August 9, 1922, and one on August 11 in the timber just west of the town. Near Mercer, Jackson saw one bird at Tank Lake, August 24, 1919. Specimens: Herbster (5189 UW; 270,082 BS).

**Dendroica coronata coronata. MYRTLE WARBLER.** Jackson saw two Myrtle warblers in a hemlock-spruce woods at Namekagon Lake, May 31, 1919, and procured a female bird that was undoubtedly breeding, as its abdomen was worn bare and the skin thickened from sitting. Young birds about a week or ten days out of the nest were found plentifully in a sparse pine wood July 21 at Big Bay, Madeline Island, though we saw no adults there. An adult male was noted by Jackson in hemlock timber at Connors Lake August 8. Sheldon and Poole found myrtle warblers second only to western palm warblers in abundance on Outer Island, September 7 to 16. Specimens: Madeline Island (271,351 BS); Namekagon Lake (5190 UW).

**Dendroica virens virens. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.** The black-throated green warbler is well distributed in favorable environments over most of the northern part of the region, though seldom common. The writer saw and heard one in deciduous woodland at Long Lake, Washburn County, August 8, 1918. A few were noted in hemlock-spruce woods at Namekagon Lake, May 31 to June 2, 1919, and in the timber 8 miles southwest of Mellen, June 6 to 8, 11, and 14. Only two, in a small group of balsams, were noted at Orienta, June 13, and the species was uncommon at Herbster, June 16 to 25. It was the commonest of the nesting warblers on the Apostle Islands, where the singing males usually kept high in the conifers, while the young birds were in elms nearby. The species was not uncommon at Solon Springs and at Ogema where it was found among the elms and hemlocks. Specimens: Herbster (5210 UW; 270,103 BS); Madeline Island (5211 UW; 271,350 and 271,423 BS); Ogema (5213-5214 UW); Orienta (270,101 BS); Outer Island (271,419 BS); Solon Springs (5212 UW).

**Dendroica fusca. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.** At Saint Croix Falls May 21 to 25 we found blackburnian warblers abundant in the timber along the river. Although no nests were discovered birds were seen courting (May 24) and the environment is favorable for nesting. At Danbury a male was collected May 27. Several were seen and heard daily in the woods eight miles southwest of Mellen June 5 to 16. Only a few occurred among tall elms and poplars at Herbster (June 16 to 25). On Madeline Island we recorded the species June 19 to 21, and July 3 and 4, and on Outer Island, July 5 and 6. Specimens: Danbury (5208 UW); Herbster (270,086 BS); Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5204 UW); Saint Croix Falls (5205-5207 UW; 270,088 and 270,089 BS).

**Dendroica pensylvanica. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.** Several chestnut-sided warblers were noted near the border of timber and in less dense woodland at Saint Croix Falls, May 22 to 24. At Namekagon Lake, May 29 to June 4, 1919, and in the region 8 miles southwest of



Mellen, June 5 to 16, this species was probably the most abundant warbler. At the latter place an occupied nest hanging 15 feet above ground from the branches of a dead balsam tree was found June 14. Rather common in the cutover and brush lands on Madeline Island, June 19 to 24. Occasionally seen at Solon Springs July 28 to August 6, and one seen in an aspen thicket near Mercer August 23. Specimens: Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5199 UW; 269,912 BS); Namekagon Lake (5198 UW; 269,908 BS); Saint Croix Falls (5197 UW); Solon Springs (5200 UW).

***Dendroica castanea*. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.** A female bay-breasted warbler collected by Sheldon at Danbury, May 27, 1919, was the only one seen there. The bird was very fat and had probably just arrived as a migrant. Another female collected by Sheldon from the pines near the south shore of Outer Island, July 9, was the only other bird of this species seen. Specimens: Danbury (5201 UW); Outer Island (271,349 BS).

***Dendroica striata*. BLACKPOLL WARBLER.** Blackpoll warblers were nowhere common. Sheldon recorded one from Danbury, May 27, 1919, and two from Outer Island, September 14. Jackson saw one in the timber a mile west of Herberster, August 10, 1922. Specimens: Outer Island (5202 UW; 271,352 BS).

***Dendroica pinus pinus*. NORTHERN PINE WARBLER.** The pine warbler did not appear to be as plentiful as one might anticipate in much of the region. We several times heard birds of this species singing among the white pines at Saint Croix Falls, May 23 to 25, 1919, and found them to be common at Danbury, May 27 to 30. Jackson heard one in a grove of Norway pines at Connors Lake, August 6, and Sheldon recorded it from Outer Island, September 8. Specimens: Danbury (5216-5217 UW; 270,096 BS).

***Dendroica palmarum palmarum*. WESTERN PALM WARBLER.** The western palm warbler was observed only as a migrant on the Apostle Islands. On Outer Island, September 7 to 16, 1919, Sheldon and Poole found this species the most abundant of the warblers, and saw them everywhere over the lowland. The beach was a favorite feeding ground for them, to which they were attracted by the many insects, especially the ladybugs which came in a migration wave to the island September 9. A couple of these birds stayed with Poole and Sheldon in camp, attracted mainly by the great quantities of flies. They became so bold as actually to flit upon their work table, hop on to their hands, and to any place over their bodies that would offer a good position to snap up a fly. One hopped onto the stove in one instance but got off quickly and uninjured. Specimen: Madeline Island (5218 UW).

***Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus*. SOUTHERN OVEN-BIRD.** The oven-bird was a characteristic and often dominant species in the heavier deciduous forests and was noted at all localities visited, except Danbury, Connors Lake, and Ogema, where it probably also occurred. Specimens: Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5219 UW); Solon Springs (270,123 BS).

***Seiurus novaboracensis notabilis*. GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH.** One Grinnell's water-thrush was seen near Thaxter Lake, at Saint Croix Falls, May 24, 1919. Sheldon occasionally saw water-thrushes along a small stream in dense woodland near Ogema, August 15 to 23. Jackson located a young bird of this species barely able to fly, perched on a *Spiraea salicifolia* over the edge of a creek in an open though bushy bog at Mercer, August 26. This bird was continually uttering a single rather harsh and somewhat prolonged "chip." Effort was made to "squeak up" the parents but they appeared to take no interest whatever in either the "squeaker" or the youngster. On Outer Island Sheldon and Poole first noted water-thrushes September 11, and reported that they became increasingly common until September 16. Specimens: Ogema (5221 UW); Outer Island (5222 UW; 271,427 BS).

***Opornornis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER.** A female Connecticut warbler collected by Sheldon June 12, 1919, in a swampy place amongst willows and balsams along the Iron River near Orienta displayed a lack of breast feathers and a condition of the ovaries that indicated she was nesting. An adult male was caught by Poole in a mouse trap set in a

tamarack-spruce bog near Mercer, August 25. The bird was molting and was otherwise in too poor condition to save for a specimen. A female collected on Outer Island September 8 was the only bird of this species seen on the Apostle Islands. Specimens: Orienta (270,116 BS); Outer Island (5224 UW).

**Oporornis philadelphia. MOURNING WARBLER.** Jackson saw one mourning warbler in a dense thicket in a marsh near a slough below Thaxter Lake, at Saint Croix Falls, May 23, 1919, and Sheldon saw one at Danbury, May 27. In the wet, bushy places in the woods southwest of Mellen (June 5-16) Jackson found it to be a common warbler, and exceeded in numbers among the warblers there only by *Dendroica pensylvanica* and *Setophaga ruticilla*, if by any. Its song usually ran something like: *twit-twit-twit-twee-twa-le, twa-le*, rapidly repeated with quality about that of a house wren's song. Sometimes the last syllable (*twa-le*) is given as many as four times, and in fact this seems to be the characteristic part of this bird's song, which varies considerably. The birds were apparently nesting. The species was uncommon at Orienta and Herbster, and was not observed on the Apostle Islands. Specimens: Herbster (5228 UW; 270,119 BS); Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5227 UW; 269,917 BS); Orienta (270,117 BS).

**Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla. NORTHERN YELLOWTHROAT.** Several yellowthroats were seen by Jackson at Long Lake, Washburn County, August 4 to 8, 1918. At Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 25, 1919, we found them common in damp bushy woodland, and they were occasionally seen at Danbury, especially along the Saint Croix River, May 27 to 30. Only one bird was seen near Herbster, that one along the Cranberry River, June 16, although a few had been seen earlier in the month near Port Wing. Nearly full grown young were seen by Jackson at the headwaters of the Saint Croix River above Solon Springs, July 29. Yellowthroats were recorded from Madeline Island, Outer Island, and Presque Isle, during July, and one was seen on Outer Island, September 16. Specimens: Herbster (270,120 BS); Outer Island (271,429 BS); Port Wing (5232 UW); Saint Croix Falls (5231 UW; 269,919 BS).

**Wilsonia canadensis. CANADA WARBLER.** Canada warblers were noted by Jackson as moderately common at Namekagon Lake, May 29 to June 4, 1919, and in the region eight miles southwest of Mellen, June 5 to 16. Poole and Sheldon reported a few inhabiting the alders, willows, and other shrubs along the Iron River west of Orienta, June 7 to 13. The author located one male bird in full song on Madeline Island, June 20, and on Outer Island, July 5 to 11, found the species fairly common and apparently breeding. Both young and adults were occasionally seen by Sheldon at Ogema, August 13 to 23, but they may have been migrants. Specimens: Mellen, 8 miles southwest (269,916 BS); Namekagon Lake (5238 UW; 269,914 BS); Ogema (5240 UW); Orienta (5239 UW; 270,113 BS); Outer Island (271,430 BS).

**Setophaga ruticilla tricolora. WESTERN REDSTART.** Redstarts at Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 24, 1919, were the commonest of the warblers and were abundant in the timber along the river. The species was also plentiful at Namekagon Lake, Mellen, Orienta, Port Wing, Herbster, and on the Apostle Islands. At Outer Island a nest was located in a hard maple near our camp, and the female was seen repeatedly collecting food for the young which were hatched during our stay, July 5 to 11. We should have collected specimens of redstarts for positive identification, but neglected to do so. The name *tricolora* is used on the basis of H. C. Oberholser (Birds of Louisiana, Dept. of Conservation Louisiana, Bull. 28, 1938, p. 572) indicating that redstarts from Wisconsin were referable to this form.

**Passer domesticus domesticus. ENGLISH SPARROW.** It is indeed a relief to be able to find a place that the English sparrow has not reached. Such was Outer Island at the time of our visit, where diligent search failed to reveal a trace of this species. It was, of course, common everywhere else, particularly around buildings.

**Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.** Bobolinks are distributed in the region where meadow environment suitable for them prevails. A few



occurred in the meadows between Cable and Namekagon Lake (May 29 and June 4, 1919) and near Herbster, particularly in the vicinity of Bark Point (June 22). They were not uncommon on Madeline Island, but none was seen on Outer Island in July, and only one there in September, on the 8th. Sheldon found a flock of about 30 immature birds frequenting a meadow near Ogema, August 15 to 23. Specimen: Herbster (5470 UW).

**Sturnella magna magna. EASTERN MEADOWLARK.** Meadowlarks appear to be rather scarce in the region. Sheldon collected a male with enlarged testes at Orienta, June 12, 1919. Specimen: Orienta (5480 UW).

**Sturnella neglecta neglecta. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.** Although Bark Point, near Herbster, is some 15 miles east of where a specimen of the eastern meadowlark was collected near Orienta, a breeding male meadowlark collected there June 20, 1919 proves to be *neglecta*. It is the only western meadowlark we recorded for the region. Specimen: Herbster (269,983 BS).

**Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus. EASTERN RED-WINGED BLACK-BIRD.** The red-wing, as elsewhere in the state, favored cat-tail marshes, though in some places, as at Saint Croix Falls, May 24, 1919, it occurred in willows. Sheldon found a nest containing five fresh eggs at Port Wing, June 4, and another with five incubated eggs at Herbster June 22. A careful study of the red-wings of Wisconsin makes it clear that the breeding birds of the entire state are referable to *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*, although many of the specimens from northwestern Wisconsin, the region covered by this paper, are intermediate between the subspecies *arctolegus* and *phoeniceus*. As a migrant *arctolegus* should be expected to occur in Wisconsin. In view of the previous confusion regarding Wisconsin red-wings it seems opportune to tabulate records and measurements of several specimens. Measurements and critical comparisons have been made by Allen J. Duvall of our laboratory.

MEASUREMENTS OF WISCONSIN SPECIMENS OF *AGELAIUS PHOENICEUS PHOENICEUS*

Museum and No.	Collector	Sex: Age:	Locality	Date	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Height of bill at base
B.S.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
269,992	Sheldon, H. H.	♂	Orienta	June 7, 1919	122.0	86.5	22.7	11.5
271,364	"	"	Madeline Island	July 21, "	121.5	88.0	23.1	12.2
269,986	Jackson, H. H. T.	"	Mellen, 8 mi. S.W.	June 6, "	121.0	89.0	24.1	12.4
269,989	Sheldon, H. H.	"	Danbury, 7 mi. S.	May 30, "	122.0	91.5	21.6	-
U.W.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
5,279	Jackson, H. H. T.	"	Mellen, 8 mi. S.W.	June 9, "	121.0	90.5	21.2	11.0
5,476	"	"	Endeavor	May 10, 1918	122.0	91.0	21.0	11.0
5,427	"	"	"	" "	121.0	92.0	22.0	12.0
B.S.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
269,995	Sheldon, H. H.	♀	Port Wing	June 5, 1919	103.0	76.0	19.1	10.7
269,996	"	"	"	" 3, "	102.0	77.5	19.1	-
269,994	"	"	Orienta	" 9, "	102.5	77.0	17.8	10.2
269,991	"	"	Herbster	" 16, "	99.0	77.0	18.6	-
269,799	Jackson, H. H. T.	"	Endeavor	May 10, 1918	103.5	77.0	18.2	9.0
268,760	"	"	"	" "	99.5	74.0	17.8	9.9
272,737	"	"	Trampealeau	July 9, 1920	-	-	18.8	10.3
271,413	Sheldon, H. H.	im	Outer Island	Sep. 11, 1919	-	-	-	-
U.W.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
5,280	Sheldon, H. H.	♀	Port Wing	June 3, 1919	101.5	73.5	19.5	10.3
5,479	Jackson, H. H. T.	"	Endeavor	May 13, 1918	103.0	77.5	17.8	10.3
5,478	"	"	"	" 10, "	100.0	75.0	18.0	-

**Icterus galbula. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.** The Baltimore oriole was nowhere common in the region except at Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 25, 1919, where the elms and maples particularly attracted the species. Sheldon often heard Baltimore orioles at Danbury, and says further of them in his reports "heard and identified without uncertainty at Herbster, June 17." The writer saw two at Long Lake, August 9, 1918.

**Euphagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.** A few rusty blackbirds were occasionally seen by Sheldon and Poole on Outer Island, September 7 to 16, 1919. The birds preferred the marshy places along the slough at the south end of the island, where they waded in the shallow water sometimes up to their abdomens, and often ducked their heads beneath the water in search of food. Specimens: Outer Island (5481-

5483 UW; 271,408-271,410 BS).

**Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. BRONZED GRACKLE.** Never particularly plentiful except when they gathered in flocks late in summer, bronzed grackles were noted at all important localities visited except the region southwest of Mellen, Outer Island, and Connors Lake. At Long Lake, August 4 to 8, 1918, flocks of 8 to 15 were seen feeding on ripening oats and the birds were reported to do damage to peas in the field. At Mercer, August 23 to 28, 1919, grackles were common in flocks of 25 to 100 that frequently were seen to alight in fields of snocked grain, where they fed upon both grain left scattered on the ground and that in the shocks.

**Molothrus ater ater. EASTERN COWBIRD.** Cowbirds, apparently common almost everywhere in the region, were noted at every locality visited except Connors Lake and Mercer, and the species probably occurs there. Only one was seen on Outer Island, July 6, 1919, and one July 9. None were recorded from Outer Island in September. Specimens: Danbury (5475 UW; 269,987-269,988 BS); Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5473 UW; 269,883 BS); Namekagon Lake (269,881 BS); Saint Croix Falls (5474 UW; 269,884 BS).

**Piranga olivacea. SCARLET TANAGER.** One bird was heard at Long Lake, Washburn, County, August 7, 1918. They were common at Saint Croix Falls, where mated pairs were seen May 25, 1919. Jackson found the species comparatively common at Namekagon Lake, May 30 to June 4, and in the woods eight miles southwest of Mellen, June 5 to 16. A very few were noted at Danbury, Orienta, Herbster, and Connors Lake.

**Redymelas ludovicianus. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK.** Saint Croix Falls, May 21 to 25, 1919, was the only locality where we found rose-breasted grosbeaks really common. Here they occurred in the more open deciduous woods, and two nests that we did not examine closely were located in oaks. Jackson saw an adult male at Long Lake, August 8, 1918; a pair two miles south of Namekagon Lake, May 31, 1919; and one on Madeline Island June 19, and another June 21. Sheldon collected an immature male (5554 UW) on Outer Island, September 9, and reported that toward the middle of the month the species became fairly common there.

**Passerina cyanea. INDIGO BUNTING.** Several indigo buntings were seen at Long Lake, August 4, 6, and 8, 1918. Elsewhere the species was uncommon and was noted during the summer of 1919 only at Saint Croix Falls, Danbury, Herbster, and Solon Springs. At the last place Sheldon collected the only one seen there, a male (5555 UW) from the top of a dead pine.

**Carpodacus purpureus purpureus. EASTERN PURPLE FINCH.** Purple finches though never abundant were moderately common at most localities visited. A mated pair was courting at Saint Croix Falls, May 25, 1919. They were found regularly on all wooded islands that we visited of the Apostle Islands, but were more plentiful on Outer Island in September than they were previously in July. At Ogema, August 15 to 23, Sheldon found them common mostly in small flocks of young and adults. Specimens: Namekagon Lake (269,887 BS); Ogema (270,001 BS); Outer Island (5485 UW; 271,369 BS); Saint Croix Falls (5484 UW).

**Spinus pinus pinus. NORTHERN PINE SISKIN.** Pine siskins were frequently heard and seen at Outer Island, and also Madeline Island and Presque Isle, in July, 1919. Sheldon and Poole, however, found them much more plentiful in September on Outer Island. Siskins were not uncommon at Solon Springs, July 28 to August 6. At Mercer, August 23 to 28, they were feeding among the cones in the tops of the taller spruce trees in the village. Specimens: Outer Island (5502-5505 UW; 271,324 and 271,329 BS).

**Spinus tristis tristis. EASTERN GOLDFINCH.** The eastern goldfinch is one of the most generally distributed species over the region, and was recorded from all localities except Outer Island, where it probably occurs. Pairs were mating on Madeline Island, July 11, 1919.

***Lexia curvirostra pusilla*. NEWFOUNDLAND RED CROSSBILL.**

Crossbills of this species were recorded from several localities. Recent studies on specimens have shown, however, that it is impossible to identify the different subspecies in the field without specimens in hand. Fortunately, we collected sufficient specimens from the Apostle Islands to indicate what may be a close approximation to the proportion of the numbers of the three subspecies occurring there in July 1919. Since these subspecies are so gregarious with each other and display no marked differences of habits or ecological complexes during their wanderings, any observations on behavior or habits might as well apply to one subspecies as another. Accordingly, all observations made on the species as a whole are herewith included under the present subspecies, *pusilla*.

The first red crossbills encountered in the region were on Outer Island when on July 8, 1919, a small flock flew over our camp. During the next two days, several small flocks of them flew to the southern end of the island where they frequented the white pines. They were feeding largely on unripe blueberries. Upon collecting specimens we recognized there was a large form and a small one, with some specimens intermediate. By July 11 the flocks had disappeared. On July 20 and 21 we saw flocks of crossbills on Madeline Island, and specimens were collected on the latter date. On July 24 the author saw a flock of about 100 leaving Madeline Island in flight southward. Sheldon saw a flock of the smaller crossbills in the pines near Saint Croix Lake, at Solon Springs, August 8. At Connors Lake on August 11, Jackson saw a flock of some 15 birds; apparently of the larger subspecies, and at Mercer, August 23 to 28, frequently saw them in flight or among the pines and spruces in the ratio of about two large birds to one of the small. He also saw this species at Herbster, August 9 to 15, 1922.

Sheldon saw a flock of about 20 in flight at Ogema, August 23, 1919. In his report for Ogema, Sheldon says:

"A year ago this spring a flock of these birds was feeding on 'something' in the back yard of the town barber. They were so tame that he caught one by covering it with a basket. His wife caged it and they kept the bird for a year. It died this summer [1919] from sun stroke. The wife heard a shrill whistle and remembered she had hung the bird outside where the sun, finally reaching it, in time evidently caused its death, since it was found lifeless hanging head down from its perch. In describing the bird they told me of a 'freak bird, the bill being crossed,' etc. During its year in captivity it was fed a variety of food—canary seed, greens, bread and even fruit and relished with apparent satisfaction all material given it. It became very tame from the start and acted very much at home in its wire cage, which formerly housed a canary. It twittered and whistled its various notes (according to description given me) many times through the day, and one of its chief forms of activity was to circle the cage holding only by its bill while working its way along the wires by sheer power of its strong, hooked mandibles. From description I judged it to have been an adult male."

All identifications of red crossbills herewith presented have been made or verified by Dr. John W. Aldrich, of Biological Surveys, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In studying this group reference should be made to "A Monographic Study of the Red Crossbill" by Ludlow Griscom, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, vol. 41, no. 5, pp. 77-210, January 1937.

Specimens: (of *pusilla*): Madeline Island (5495-5496 UW; 271,404 BS); Outer Island (5490-5491, 5493 UW; 271,382-271,385, 271,391-271,394, and 271,397 BS).

***Lexia curvirostra neogaea*. EASTERN RED CROSSBILL.** The subspecies *neogaea* is the breeding bird of the upper Great Lakes region, including northern Wisconsin. Specimens referable to this form were collected from the wandering flocks of crossbills in the Apostle Islands as follows: Madeline Island (5497 UW); Outer Island (5489, 5492, and 5494 UW; 271,400 BS).

***Lexia curvirostra minor*. SITKA RED CROSSBILL.** Of nineteen red crossbills collected on Outer Island, July 8 to 10, 1919, three males collected July 9 were referable to the subspecies *minor*. Specimens: Outer



Island (5487-5488 UW; 271,386 BS).

***Loxia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.** I saw a flock of seven white-winged crossbills on Sand Island, July 23, 1919. Near Herbster, August 8 to 15, 1922, I frequently saw small flocks of white-winged crossbills, sometimes in company with red crossbills, but apparently more plentiful than the latter species in the vicinity at that time.

***Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. RED-EYED TOWHEE.** Towhees are regular inhabitants of many of the burned and cut-over lands of the region, but seemed to be common only at Long Lake, August 3 to 9, 1918, and Solon Springs, July 28 to August 6, 1919. Sheldon saw a few at Danbury May 27 to 30, 1919, and a single pair near Bark Bay, Herbster, on June 20. Jackson found them not uncommon near Herbster, August 10, 12, and 13, 1922, but 7 miles southwest of Mellen saw only one, June 10, 1919. Specimens: Danbury (270,046 BS); Herbster (5553 UW).

***Passerculus sandwichensis mediogriseus*. SOUTHEASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW.** The breeding savannah sparrow of northwestern Wisconsin, though not typical, is of the subspecies *mediogriseus*, which occurs in many of the meadows of suitable environment for it. One was seen and heard 8 miles southwest of Mellen, June 15, 1919, and it was not an uncommon breeder in the vicinity of Orienta, Port Wing, and Herbster. All specimens of savannah sparrows have been identified by John W. Aldrich of this laboratory, who has specialized on the group. Specimens: Herbster (270,035 BS); Orienta (270,036 BS); Port Wing (5281 UW); Solon Springs (270,037 BS).

***Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus*. HUDSON BAY SAVANNAH SPARROW.** This subspecies of savannah sparrow occurs only as a migrant in the region, and the only specimens collected were taken on Outer Island, September 8 to 10, 1919 (5510, 5512-5513 UW; 271,332 BS).

***Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*. LABRADOR SAVANNAH SPARROW.** Two migrant male Labrador savannah sparrows were procured on Outer Island, September 8 to 10, 1919 (5511 UW; 271,334 BS).

***Poocetes gramineus gramineus*. EASTERN VESPER SPARROW.** The vesper sparrow or grass finch is a common summer resident in suitable environment throughout most of the region covered by this report. In fact it was noted at all of the principal localities studied except Outer Island. Only one specimen was procured, that from Danbury (270,044 BS), and it proves to be the eastern bird. It seems probable, however, that the birds from the more northerly localities in the state, particularly from near Lake Superior, may represent the northern vesper sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus polius*. Vesper sparrows have undoubtedly increased in numbers in northern Wisconsin if they have not actually increased as new arrivals since the days when the region was heavily forested. The species is a dweller of the openings and prefers as a habitat such places as roadsides, cultivated fields, and open patches in brushlands and burns.

***Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.** A few juncos were evident at Namekagon Lake, May 27 to June 3, 1919, and they were more plentiful in the woods southwest of Mellen, June 5 to 16. Individual birds were observed on Madeline Island, June 21 and July 21, and on Presque Isle, July 15. Juncos were seen each day, August 7 to 13, at Connors Lake, and a pair and two well advanced fledglings were noted in hemlock-birch timber, August 8. Flocks were forming at Solon Springs, August 3 to 6, and at Mercer, August 24 to 28. At Ogema, Sheldon saw a few young and adults in a tamarack bog, August 15. Juncos were migrating on Outer Island, September 7 to 16, and on Madeline Island, September 21 to 24. Specimens: Mellen, 8 miles southwest (5537 UW); Outer Island (271,366 BS).

***Spizella passerina passerina*. EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.** One may expect the chipping sparrow most anywhere in the region where there is suitable habitat, and it is a particularly common species among the pines. It was found commonly at all localities. At Saint Croix Falls,

May 25, a nest that from ground view we thought to be that of a warbler proved to be a chipping sparrow's; it was located fully 40 feet above ground, at the end of a bough of a white pine, and contained three fresh eggs. Specimen: Outer Island (286,771 BS).

**Spizella pallida. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.** Clay-colored sparrows are local in distribution, and while generally rare over much of northwestern Wisconsin may be common in some areas of scrub jack-pine association of which it is a characteristic representative. The species was found only at Holcombe, Danbury, and Solon Springs, where it is a common nester. Specimens: Danbury (5532 UW); Solon Springs (5533-5534 UW; 270,039-270,040, 270,042 BS).

**Spizella pusilla pusilla. EASTERN FIELD SPARROW.** Recorded only from Holcombe, where Jackson found them not uncommon in cut-over lands (July 27 to August 1, 1918).

**Zonotrichia querula. HARRIS'S SPARROW.** Harris's sparrow was found only as a migrant on Outer Island. Sheldon in his field report says: "These handsome sparrows arrived at the island September 16. On this day I had considered my work about completed and went down to the mecca of the bird kingdom for the purpose of taking some photos. When I arrived at the flats my attention was at once attracted to these birds which, though much akin to the white-crowned at a distance, raised their crowns higher, dipped more in flight, and the large size was sufficient to identify them as the Harris's sparrow. I carefully estimated their numbers at about 200. A severe storm that preceded the clear and perfect day of September 16 may have been the cause of the sudden appearance of this large flock." Specimens: Outer Island (5514-5517 UW; 271,437, 271,440, 271,443, and 271,444 BS).

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.** A single specimen (5518 UW) of the white-crowned sparrow was taken by Sheldon on Outer Island, September 14, 1919.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli. GAMBEL'S SPARROW.** Sheldon collected four specimens (5519-5520 UW; 271,433-271,434 BS) of Gambel's sparrow on Outer Island, September 12 and 14, 1919.

**Zonotrichia albicollis. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.** In the wooded sections, particularly among the damp mixed deciduous-coniferous woods, the white-throated sparrow occurs throughout the region. Along the Iron River, near Orienta, June 9, 1919, Sheldon flushed a female from a nest containing two fresh eggs located on the ground at the base of a small balsam. Specimens: Danbury (270,025 BS); Mellen, 8 miles southwest (269,889 BS); Namekagon Lake (5522 UW); Orienta (5523 UW).

**Melospiza lincolni lincolni. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.** Lincoln's sparrow was noted only as a migrant on Outer Island, where it first appeared on September 10, 1919, and increased in numbers until September 16. Specimens: Outer Island (5544-5546 UW; 271,321-271,323 BS).

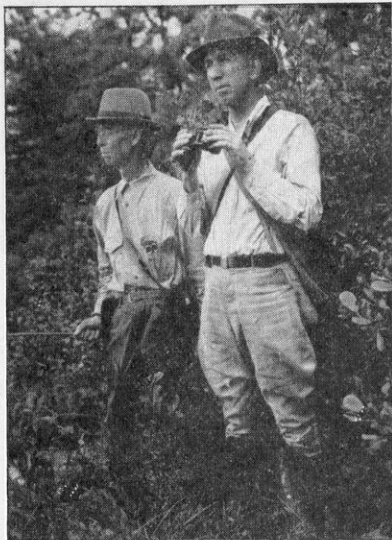
**Melospiza georgiana georgiana. EASTERN SWAMP SPARROW.** Of two specimens of swamp sparrow collected by Sheldon at Outer Island, September 13, 1919, one (5550 UW) is *Melospiza georgiana georgiana*. A single bird (that may have been a migrant) seen by Jackson at Connors Lake, August 8, was probably the eastern subspecies *georgiana*.

**Melospiza georgiana ericrypta. WESTERN SWAMP SPARROW.** The western swamp sparrow, never particularly common, was noted as a nesting bird at Saint Croix Falls, Port Wing, Herbster, Madeline Island, and all of the other islands of the Apostle group visited, and at Solon Springs. Sheldon reports that swamp sparrows became noticeably abundant on Outer Island about September 13, and were associated with other species of sparrows in the brush on the sand flats. Specimens: Herbster (5278 and 5548 UW; 270,031 BS); Outer Island (5549 and 5551 UW; 271,337-271,339 BS); Port Wing (5277 UW; 270,032 BS); Saint Croix Falls (270,028 BS). Specimens 270,031 BS collected at Herbster, June 22, 1919, and 271,338 BS collected at Outer Island, July 7, 1919, are not typical of *ericrypta* and really look like *georgiana*, but since the majority of breeding birds in northern Wisconsin are *ericrypta* these are considered as atypical examples of that race.



**Melospiza melodia beata. MISSISSIPPI SONG SPARROW.** The song sparrow was a common bird nesting in suitable environment at every locality visited. The breeding birds of the region are all referable to *beata*, but undoubtedly other subspecies occur during migration. Specimens: Madeline Island (5541 UW; 271,314-271,315 BS); Outer Island 5543 UW; 271,316 BS); Presque Isle (5542 UW).

**Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus. LAPLAND LONGSPUR.** Sheldon saw two Lapland longspurs feeding on the flats near the slough at the southwest end of Outer Island, September 14, 1919. He reported the two birds as very shy and wild.



Vernon Bailey (left) and H. H. T. Jackson, at Spring Pond, Big Levels Game Refuge, Virginia (by H. H. T. J., August, 1935).

Acknowledgments for cooperation and assistance in the field work have been made in the introductory paragraph to this paper. I further wish to acknowledge the splendid cooperation and help in making and verifying identifications, and taking measurements, and the professional advice received from Dr. John W. Aldrich and Allen J. Duvall of Biological Surveys, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and from Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, formerly of this laboratory and now with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The cooperation of Walter E. Scott, editor of the Passenger Pigeon, has been most cordial, willing, and helpful.

An account of this field work in northwestern Wisconsin would not be complete without publishing a letter I received from Francis S. Dayton, now a fellow member of our Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, shortly before I left Washington for the 1919 field work, which reads:

"New London, Wis., Mar. 24, 1919. Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson. Dear Sir. I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th inst. and will be glad to help you if I can. I think we all know that the northern and northwestern part of our state has

been neglected as to intensive work in ornithology. I went up in the last of May last year just for a peak in. We went to Cayuga, Ashland Co. and 3 or 4 miles north and 2 west in the wooded foothills of the higher Penokee Ridge and found an interesting bird layout. We found strong evidence of Canadian Fauna, (Birds) White-winged crossbills, Pine siskins, Brown creeper, Golden-crested wren, and half dozen warblers, Blackburnian, Parula, Black-th. green, etc., settling down to breed or in the case of the crossbills evidently breeding. Now I intended to go up this summer and spend a little time in June. Now what was last year may not be this year but my judgment would be it would be a good site to work over on the Bad River and west in that tractless wilderness. You could probably arrange to stay with a settler if you do not care to go into camp. They are used to taking in deer hunters. You can study the beavers first hand, they are so common as to be a nuisance. Hermit thrush, water-thrush, white-throat, snowbird nest commonly. I enjoyed your brochure you gave Carr on "The Bog in Sept." I took my scout boys to Summit Lake and we ran over that country and saw the big lakes. If you have one to spare sent it on please. I wonder if your

Bureau would furnish its publications to our Museum. We have no publication yet to exchange. But have the 5th or 6th largest museum in the State with general collections and they are being used to teach science in the School system of the city. Be prepared for mosquitoes and trout. Let me know about June 1 where you are located if any place near Mellen or Cayuga. Yours faithfully, Francis S. Dayton."

**Corrections.**—In the first installment of this paper (Passenger Pigeon, Vol. 3, No. 10, pp. 87-90, October, 1941) all of the University of Wisconsin Museum numbers were wrong, the error consisting of using a 3,900 series instead of 5,900 series. Numbers should, therefore, be changed as follows: Under cormorant, to 5970 UW; green-winged teal, to 5975 UW; blue-winged teal, to 5977 UW; red-breasted merganser, to 5971 and 5972 UW.

## EXTINCT AND ENDANGERED BIRDS OF THE UPPER GREAT LAKES REGION\*

BY A. W. SCHORGER

*Madison, Wisconsin*

The early French voyageurs called the Chippewa River **Bon Secours** (Good Succor) since in its valley game could be obtained without fail and in abundance. Subject to seasonal wanderings, the prairies and oak openings contained large herds of deer, elk, and bison. The black bear was common in all the wooded areas, while moose and caribou were to be found towards Lake Superior. Fur-bearing animals were abundant. Game-birds, though numerous, were seldom molested since the ball required to secure a sharp-tailed grouse could fell a deer as readily.

The advent of settlement initiated vast changes in the flora and fauna, and the end is not yet. The attitude towards conservation must be realistic. Agriculture is incompatible with great herds of elk and bison, and darkening flocks of pigeons. Whether a more satisfactory compromise than the present could have been reached by a premeditated plan is conjectural.

In the preservation of most species two factors loom large. The obvious one is a favorable habitat. The other, a population "reservoir" from which a species can draw recruits, is more often overlooked. The reservoirs no longer exist and the remnants live precariously.

Many attempts have been made by states and private individuals to restock the north central states with wild turkeys. All have been failures. Habitats suitable for restoration no longer exist. Hatchery stock, aside from a pronounced tendency to end up in a barnyard with domesticated turkeys, is seldom sufficiently hardy. Experience teaches that it is necessary to start with wild, trapped birds. The expense involved and the slender chances of success scarcely justify the effort.

Man by a single plowing permanently destroyed the virgin prairie. All the knowledge of prairie ecology acquired during the past century is insufficient to enable him to restore it should there be the will. With the destruction of the prairie, the prairie chicken was forced northward into what was formerly ultra-marginal territory. What with drainage and drought even this territory is being made distinctly less favorable through the growth of brush. Judicious burning and flooding appear to be essential if the prairie chicken is to be preserved. Whether the disease cycle is recent in the history of the species and whether it is becoming more or less severe in its effects are still unknown factors. The serious study that has been given to the prairie chicken should eventually bear fruit provided that "patient money" continues to be available.

The complete disappearance of breeding sandhill cranes would create

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This article is a partial reprint of a manuscript by A. W. Schorger, entitled "Extinct and Endangered Mammals and Birds of the Upper Great Lakes Region" published in the *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters*, pp. 23-44, Vol. 34, Madison, 1942, and reproduced here in this form through the kind permission of the author.

a deplorable gap in our fauna. Whoever has heard the sonorous cries of a flock of cranes circling high overhead will never forget the experience. The few cranes that remain are a tribute to the thoughtfulness of landowners. If left unmolested by man, especially the poacher, there is no doubt but that the sandhill crane would multiply satisfactorily. It is known that this bird requires large areas of grasslands and marshes with pools of water, but it will be a sad commentary on our civilization if we must resort to management.

The vast environmental changes produced by man have reduced many species to remnants. Conservation since its inception under the mantle of game laws has been a continual compromise with the hunter and the poacher. The zealous attempts of a few to preserve our residual fauna for future generations is being rewarded by the gradual development of a public conscience. When the great majority of the people realize that a spruce grouse has more aesthetic than culinary value, that a fisher in the wilderness is as deserving of preservation as a squirrel in the park, then the aims of conservation can be achieved.

**CANADA SPRUCE GROUSE** (*Canachites canadensis canadensis* Linn.). The spruce grouse is a bird of the coniferous forest. Its favorite haunt is a dense swamp of arbor vitae, spruce and tamarack. My first grouse was found near Lake Gogebic in a stand of hemlock bordering a swamp. On a mossy log, in this damp and gloomy place, strutted a handsome male. The notable decrease in numbers may be explained best, perhaps, through its common name "fool hen." Foolish it was not under primitive conditions or the species would not have survived. Man was simply another animal to be avoided by a few feet. Even today it has not learned the danger of the hurled stick or slipnoose on the end of a pole.

Its status is given succinctly by Dr. Roberts: "The Spruce Grouse is in Minnesota, as elsewhere, a disappearing bird." Kumlien and Hollister, writing of the bird in Wisconsin in 1903, state that it has been decreasing during the past twenty-five years, the rapid decline being difficult to explain.

The former abundance and range are based largely on general assumptions. Barrows states that it was once a common bird throughout the pine regions of Michigan and abundant in the Upper Peninsula. As to Wisconsin it is very doubtful if it followed the conifers as far south as Adams County. Hoy, in 1852, reported it as common about the headwaters of Wolf River and in the vicinity of Lake Superior. Writing in 1891, Kumlien stated that the spruce grouse is never found in southern and central Wisconsin, and according to his observations was "far more abundant" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan than in Wisconsin. In Minnesota about seventy years ago Trippe found it abundant from Carlton County westward to the Mississippi River.

During the past two decades the spruce grouse has become a rare bird. Breckenridge, while along the north shore of Lake Superior in May, 1928, failed to find it though he was informed that a few occurred inland. The species has a good chance of survival in the large swamps of northern Minnesota. Manweiler listed recently the gallinaceous birds of the "Big Bog" in the following order of abundance: sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, pinnated grouse.

In Wisconsin, Jackson failed to find it at Mamie Lake, Vilas County in 1917 and 1918 though he obtained reports of a bird killed in each of the years 1918 and 1919. W. E. Scott has collected data from wardens and others showing that during the past two years the spruce grouse has occurred in the following northern counties: Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Forest, Sawyer, Price, Oneida and Langlade. It would appear that less than 200 birds remain in the state but owing to the inaccessibility of the preferred habitat this figure may be wide of the mark.

This grouse, according to Van Tyne, is rare in Michigan south of the Straits of Mackinac, but there are recent records south to Ogemaw County.

**PRAIRIE CHICKEN** (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus* Reich). The prairies of Wisconsin once supported a large mixed population of prairie



chicken and sharp-tailed grouse. Under primeval conditions Minnesota appears to have had the latter species only. With the beginning of agriculture the prairie chicken increased greatly and pushed its range farther and farther north until it was overwhelmed by the same agency that had given it a "golden age."

The plow has destroyed its best habitat to the south, confining it to a northern belt that, if occupied at all under primitive conditions, would have been held most precariously. The bird now occupies a region far more suitable to the sharp-tailed grouse with which it is forced to compete.

It is difficult to estimate the population prior to settlement owing to the paucity of data. As early as 1842, prairie chickens were brought into Milwaukee by the sleighload and were considered as "common fare." A party of hunters at Kenosha, on September 12, 1843 had 515 "grouse" in a mixed bag of game. At Racine, in 1849, a single gun could obtain "sixty to ninety" daily. Prairie chickens continued abundant for three decades and during this period large numbers were killed for the market. The first sharp drop in numbers came in 1857. Since that date the species has gone through the well known cyclic fluctuations.

A census of the prairie chicken population of Wisconsin made in 1929, as reported by Leopold, totalled 54,850. The following year a detailed report on the species was prepared by Gross. During the past decade it has been the subject of continuous study and its present status leaves little room for optimism. It is a real question if the prairie chicken can be preserved as a game bird. Hamerstrom has shown clearly that the best habitat is being invaded rapidly by brush as a result of fire, drought and the activities of man.

The situation in Minnesota is identical with that in Wisconsin. Without the practice of conservation, "the days of the Prairie Chicken are numbered." In 1929 Gross wrote: "It is not only maintaining itself, but, unlike the nearly extinct Heath Hen, it is increasing its numbers." Today the heath hen is extinct and the prairie chicken shows a decline.

**WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* Vieillot).** This fine bird was once common in southern Wisconsin and in Iowa. The upper limit of its range may be defined by a line running southwest from Green Bay through Green Lake and Sauk Counties, thence due west along the Minnesota-Iowa boundary, through southwestern Minnesota and southeastern South Dakota.

In 1670, Allouez saw two turkeys in a tree at Lake Winneconne, Wisconsin. Dart found wild turkeys in Green Lake County in 1840; and according to Canfield, who came to Sauk County in 1842, turkeys occurred there formerly. An army officer stationed at Prairie du Chien in 1847 wrote that "turkeys and deer are plenty in the woods." The early reports of Hennepin and Carver of the presence of turkeys at Lake Pepin are open to doubt.

Opinions on the range west of the Mississippi vary widely. Coues, in 1874, stated that the northern limit could not be far from the Minnesota boundary. This is certainly true of its old range. The prairie was not a barrier. Anderson, who spent the winter of 1801-2 at the present site of Des Moines states: "The little islands of wood, scattered over the boundless plains, were swarming with wild turkeys." Owen, in 1852 reported briefly: "Only found on the south of the Upper Iowa." This would bring the range into extreme northeastern Iowa. Leopold records its presence in Worth and Mitchell Counties about 1860. It was formerly abundant in Woodbury and Cherokee Counties. He reports one killed in the latter county as late as April, 1897. Mr. N. E. France was born near what is now Livermore, Humboldt County, Iowa, in 1857. A few years ago he wrote to me that at that period game was abundant and his father did much hunting and trapping. During the severe winter of 1860, droves of elk and flocks of wild turkeys were forced southward, only a few of which ever returned.

It is difficult to prove that wild turkey occurred in Minnesota. Hatch mentions that it was reported as a resident of the extreme southwestern part of the state. Its presence there is highly probable in view of its

former abundance in the Missouri valley up to southeastern South Dakota. The most definite statement is that of Peter Pond who wintered on the Minnesota River in 1773-5. As to game he mentions that there are "sum turkeas." Being a New Englander, there is little likelihood of an error in identification. There must have been many advances and retreats on the northern border of the range of a species like the turkey; hence it is not improbable that there were many occasions on which it wandered into southern Minnesota.

Some idea of the former abundance of the turkey in Wisconsin may be gained from the following statement of Lockwood: "It was not an uncommon thing to see to a Fox Indian arrive at Prairie du Chien with a hand sled, loaded with twenty or thirty wild turkies for sale, as they were very plenty about Cassville."

The severe winter of 1842-3 nearly exterminated the turkey in Wisconsin. At about this time also settlement of the country became vigorous so that the species never recovered. According to Hoy the last time that a turkey was killed near Racine was in the fall of 1846. It survived longest in Grant County where one was shot in the fall of 1872.

The turkey disappeared more gradually from Iowa. It was seen last in Appanoose County in 1902, Davis County in 1905, and Lucas County in 1910. The latter date marks the extermination of the native stock in the Upper Mississippi Valley.

**Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida* Peters).** The sandhill crane, up to 1850, was a common breeding bird in the states bordering the Upper Great Lakes. It occurred in largest numbers on the wide prairies, though confined to the marshes mainly during the nesting period. While having a varied diet, seeds are the preferred food in spring and fall. The decline in numbers is due to a variety of causes. Wary and intolerant of civilization, its habitat became restricted. Only two eggs are laid and the nest appears to be highly susceptible to predation and to abandonment on disturbance. It is a desirable bird for the table and large numbers were killed for this purpose. Today it is sometimes called "northern turkey" in the prairie provinces of Canada. Even here, where it occurs in far greater numbers than in the Lake States, there is distinct pessimism as to its survival.

The sandhill crane still nests in a few isolated areas in Wood, Jackson, Adams, Oconto, Marquette, and Green Lake Counties, Wisconsin, and along the St. Croix River. Henika believes that the total breeding population of Wisconsin is limited to 25 pairs. Hamerstrom reports approximately 12 pairs occupying the breeding areas northwest of Necedah in Jackson, Monroe, Wood, and Juneau Counties. The flocks of migrants numbering 25 to 300 birds that alight on the resting grounds in autumn given an erroneous impression as to the actual breeding population.

The situation in Minnesota and Michigan is no more favorable. One or two pairs still nest in Norman and Pennington Counties, Minnesota. It is doubtful if the entire state has more than 10 pairs of breeding birds. Michigan has approximately 10 pairs nesting in the Seney marshes, Schoolcraft County, Upper Peninsula. In the lower peninsula a few pairs still nest in Washtenaw, Livingston, Ingham, Jackson, and Calhoun Counties. The state has possibly 20 breeding pairs.

The paper by Hamerstrom is one of the very few studies made of the present habitat of the sandhill crane with a view to its preservation. The size of the range of a pair of breeding birds is impressive. Reversion of the areas studied to game and forestry management would undoubtedly destroy a large part of the present breeding grounds through the growth of brush.

**Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius* Linn).** No American bird has left as dramatic an impression as the wild or passenger pigeon. The flocks numbered millions and the nestings covered many square miles of forest. Their numbers were so great that the belief existed that this was one bird that could not be exterminated. Yet when the end was in sight, it is astonishing how little comment was made on its disappearance during the decade 1890 to 1900.

The passenger pigeon lived largely on beechnuts and acorns. In the



Upper Great Lakes region a good beechnut crop occurred usually in the fall of odd years and thus provided abundant food for nesting during the spring of even years. The beech being confined in its range to Michigan and eastern Wisconsin, the nestings took place in these states in even years. The nestings in the remainder of Wisconsin and Minnesota depended upon the supply of acorns. In Minnesota the nestings were confined largely to the hardwood timber in the southeastern part of the state.

One of the largest nestings that has been described took place in central Wisconsin in 1871. It is estimated that the nesting area covered 850 square miles and contained 136,000,000 breeding birds. The last nestings of large size occurred in the same region in 1882.

It is a popular opinion that the end of the pigeon came suddenly as the result of a disease or a natural disaster such as drowning. This is far from the truth. Man alone was responsible for the extinction. Organized bands of trappers followed the pigeons from their wintering grounds in the South to the nestings in the North. Here the old birds were trapped and the squabs removed from the nests by tens of thousands to supply the gun clubs and city markets.

The data that has been assembled show a gradual and not a sharp decline. In 1885 there was a fairly large nesting in the southeastern corner of Langlade County, Wisconsin, and in 1887 an attempted nesting in Waushara County was broken up by indiscriminate shooting. In 1890, pigeons appeared at various places in Wisconsin, as many as "thousands" being reported. They arrived at Sparta in 1892 in sufficient numbers to raise the hope that there would be a nesting. The succeeding years produced reports of fewer and fewer birds up to 1899. In September of this year, the last "acceptable" pigeon for Wisconsin was killed near Babcock.

The extinction of the passenger pigeon must be accepted as one of the inevitable accompaniments of civilization. This was a bird the very existence of which depended upon huge numbers. Before this was understood the population had been reduced to a point below which the single egg laid could not maintain the race. Agriculture could tolerate but a fraction of the primitive numbers as cutting of the forests reduced the natural food supply. Wilson estimated that a flock of 2,230,272,000 birds seen by him would consume daily 17,424,000 bushels of mash. We have our agriculture but have lost a fine species.

## POND BIRD LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

BY GEORGE C. BECKER

*Port Edwards, Wisconsin*

Fortunately the amateur ornithologist in the armed services is spared the discomfort of measuring "miles from home." Where ships ply the waves, where shoes plod the dusty soil, where tents are pitched, new wonders in the form of feathered curiosities continually unfold themselves.

Favored indeed is the "Yank" who, torn from his beloved Wisconsin, suddenly finds that he has entered a birdland paradise. Instead of being awakened mornings by robins, and the bubbling meadowlark, his ears catch the sweet call of the peewee larks, and their more somber companions, the myna starlings. Listening closely one may hear the "doo-doo" of the pale blue-brown peaceful dove, whose trust in man brings the tiny bird into the sacred precincts of the bivouac. Throughout the day black kites may be seen circling against the blue, kestrels hovering over grass-covered fields or hawks swooping on some unknowing marsupial down below. Evenings the frogmouths and boobooks swish overhead, voicing calls to mindful of our Wisconsin owls; sounds so familiar, yet so different.

Although Australia harbors only a little over seven hundred species and subspecies, she makes up in numbers what she lacks in variety. A year's list compiled in any specific area seldom exceeds one hundred and

fifty species, but my personal experience leads me to believe that if total numbers of birds seen throughout the year were faithfully recorded, the figure would triple that which Wisconsin could yield. Naturally the temperate-tropical climate must be taken into consideration as well as the enormous virgin areas extending west of the eastern seaboard—areas as primitive as when first seen by Captain Cook many years ago.

The present article will deal with bird life observed during six weeks on a small pond situated in tropical Queensland five miles from the coast. An attempt will be made to show the richness of aquatic bird life in a restricted area. Although many more water species were seen elsewhere, these will not be included here.

At first sight the half acre pond is little different from a pasture watering-hole in central or southern Wisconsin. The vegetation in and surrounding the water is decidedly non-tropical in appearance. Pink water lilies and a type of duck weed float on the surface. On the eastern side, the pond is skirted by a heavy impenetrable undergrowth of briars and thorn trees. Over these rise a few giant eucalypts similar in appearance to our white elms. The west bank is heavily-grazed cattle pasture, cut, at a few feet from the water, by a frequently-travelled dirt road. The lagoon is no more than two feet deep and is entirely free of reeds. Since seasons are reversed "down under," the time considered fell in the late autumn and beginning winter.

Thirteen species of water birds were recorded over the six week period from mid-May to the end of June. They ranged in size from the jabiru (black-necked stork) larger than our great blue heron, to the tiny dotterel, scarcely as long as our sparrow. Interesting to note is that ten of the thirteen are large birds. With few exceptions all are resident and are found here throughout the year. Some are in the immediate vicinity at all times; others used the pond infrequently.

**JABIRU (Black-necked Stork).** *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. A single bird seen on two different occasions. This bird is the wariest of all species I have encountered. On both occasions it rose from the lagoon as soon as it became aware of my presence.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET.** *Egretta alba*. One to three birds seen daily. By contrast, this is the most fearless species of all. Several times I have approached within ten yards of a gorgeous old bird perched in an old gum. He opened his bill in defiance, assuming the attitude of unequivocal attack at slightest provocation. This species as well as the following were persecuted by plumage hunters and until recent years were very rare. The situation is similar to that experienced by our native American egret, which fortunately has reappeared in Wisconsin during recent years.

**LITTLE EGRET.** *Egretta garzetta*. Seen twice in groups of two. Undoubtedly pairs. The little egret is one of the shyest of the heron family and is found generally in inland swamps where he feeds on frogs and insects. The four birds seen were evidently enroute to more secluded waters.

**STRAW-NECKED IBIS.** *Threskiornis spinicollis*. Very common. Two to five birds feeding in the pastured areas daily. One bird was found dead at the edge of the lagoon under the trunk of a fallen tree. Cause of death unknown. This black and white ibis is very tolerant to visitors and several times I have deliberately walked no more than thirty feet from them. They feed along with cattle; and elsewhere, even in towns, it is not unusual to see a few feeding on lawns or perched on housetops like comic storks in a child's fairy book.

**AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS.** *Threskiornis molucca*. Only two birds appeared at the lagoon in the company of the spoonbills on June 27. The white ibis is as brilliantly candid as the egret and in size is slightly larger than its straw-necked cousin, the latter already measuring twenty-eight inches from tip to end. Oftimes along river beds I have found both ibises feeding side by side.

**ROYAL SPOONBILL.** *Platalea regia*. Eight birds of this species flew into the lagoon with two white ibises and a lone yellow-billed spoonbill. The spoonbills are adroit flyers but appear clumsy on land. They are

pure white but for black bills and feet, and at a distance can easily be confused with the white ibis.

**YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL.** *Platalea flavipes*. A singleton. The yellow-billed is slightly smaller than the royal but is the prettier bird of the two. It is similar in appearance to the plumed egret and possesses pale-yellow bill and legs. Shellfish and frogs are the mainstay menu for the spoonbills.

**WHITE-FACED HERON.** *Notophox novae-hollandiae*. A pigmy of our great blue, but doesn't possess the beautiful rufous markings on breast or neck. At least one bird was seen on the far edges of the pond at every observation.

**WHITE-NECKED HERON.** *Notophox pacifica*. The beautiful white-necked heron is as large as our great blue, but its variation in color is distinctive of the species. The neck, shoulder, and underparts are of a creamy white. The black wings and tail make a striking contrast. This bird is fond of flying, and I've seen it overhead as often as I've seen it wading in shallows. In my estimation it is the most graceful of all Australian herons. A lone bird was seen every day.

**GREY DUCK.** *Anas superciliosa*. The Australian counterpart of our black duck is fully aware of man's temptations in his regard. The bird is the favorite target of Australian waterfowlers. It is very quick on the takeoff and the eight birds (seen in two groups) scarcely made study material. The under wing feathers are exceedingly white, an excellent mark of identification when mixed species are in flight. Fifteen grey ducks settled on the lagoon one evening in late May as reported by an inhabitant of the neighborhood.

**BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL.** *Charadrius melanops*. The only shore bird observed in this locality. Generally a pair was seen daily and trip-lets twice. I don't know just what the function of bird number three was on those two occasions. Two stayed quite close to one another; whereas the "visitor" remained aloof. These tiny plover-like birds were the most inquisitive of all. Every time I'd approach the pond, they would come up to reconnoiter and if I stood perfectly still they'd approach within a dozen feet.

**SACRED KINGFISHER.** *Halcyon sanctus*. The iridescent plumage of this small kingfisher leaves an indelible impression on the memory. In flight there are flashes of silvery blue-green, russets, ebonies and white. The "sacred" was often seen at the lagoon but was found more frequently several hundred yards away, flitting after winged insects.

**FOREST KINGFISHER.** *Halcyon macleayi*. A pair of these birds were my most consistent kingfisher friends. I could always see one on a branch over the water and have seen him dive after unwary insects with all the skill of a flycatcher. This and the azure kingfisher (the latter not seen at this pond) are the only kingfishers that were found only over or near water—never having been seen in dry uplands where the giant kingfisher, Australia's famous "Laughing Jackass," and lesser species are found.

This family of birds is undergoing a complete change—from water, with which it is associated, to dry land. Of necessity, it had to be so, for even along the fertile coastal plains, water is scarce during most of the year. Here is a good example of birds adapting themselves to climatic and endemic changes.

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Rev. Howard L. Orians, 2401 S. Williams Street, Milwaukee, as the new chairman of the Society's Membership Committee, requests that all members send him names and addresses of any prospective members so that they can be contacted by the committee and sent sample copies of "The Passenger Pigeon."

The Editor has several urgent calls for certain back numbers of The Passenger Pigeon, and especially needs copies of Vol. IV, Old Series Nos. 7, 8 and 9, published in October, 1942. Members having any extra copies or who are willing to sell their back issues are requested to contact the Editor promptly.





## THE SPRING SEASON

The spring season was interesting this year again with some unusual species of birds. The floods which occurred at the beginning of the nesting season were very destructive locally. The duck migration and nesting, however, is thought to be improving in the state.

**NORTHWEST AREA**—Many of the following notes are included to give an indication of the migration in northern Wisconsin this year. Generally the season was somewhat late. Frank Zirrer observed that the thawing of a pond at his location was ten days later than in 1942.

**Loon:** Chippewa County, Apr. 16 (Toppe); Price County, Apr. 17 (Barger). **Horned Grebe:** Chippewa County, Apr. 24 (Toppe). **Pied-billed Grebe:** Sawyer County, Apr. 20 (Feeney). **Double-crested Cormorant:** Bayfield County, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Great Blue Heron:** Chippewa County, Mar. 26 (Toppe). **Green Heron:** Chippewa County, May 5 (Toppe). **American Bittern:** Price County, Apr. 17 (Barger); Sawyer County, Apr. 23 (Zirrer). **Whistling Swan:** Bayfield County, 100, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Canada Goose:** Chippewa County, Apr. 3 (Toppe); Rusk County, 43, Apr. 8 (Feeney).

**Mallard:** Vilas County, pair, Mar. 17 (Barger); Chippewa County, Mar. 29 (Toppe); Rusk County, 4, Mar. 31 (Berner); Sawyer County, Apr. 2, (Zirrer). **Black Duck:** Iron County, pair, Apr. 9 (Barger). **Gadwall:** Chippewa County, Apr. 9 (Toppe). **Baldpate:** Bayfield County, flock, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Green-winged Teal:** Bayfield County, 8, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Shoveller:** Bayfield County, 2, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Wood Duck:** Price County, 2, Apr. 15 (Berner and Feeney). **Red-head:** Bayfield County, 20, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Ring-necked:** Douglas County, Apr. 8 and Bayfield County, 30, Apr. 24 (Feeney). **Bufflehead:** Chippewa County, Apr. 9 (Toppe); Oneida County, Apr. 23 (Schmidt). **Old-squaw:** Chippewa County, Mar. 29 (Toppe); Bayfield County, 200, Apr. 22 (Feeney).

**Turkey Vulture:** Chippewa County, Apr. 9 (Toppe); Sawyer County, Apr. 20 (Schmidt), May 8 (Berner); Rusk County, May 28 (Feeney). **Goshawk:** Bayfield County, Mar. 13 (Feeney); Ashland County, Mar. 28 (Schmidt); Vilas County, Mar. 31 (Schmidt). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Rusk County, Mar. 31 (Feeney and Berner). **Cooper's Hawk:** Bayfield County, Apr. 22 (Feeney). **Red-tailed Hawk:** Rusk County, Mar. 23 (Feeney). **Broad-winged Hawk:** Bayfield County, Apr. 23 (Feeney). **American Rough-legged Hawk:** Chippewa County, Mar. 6 (Toppe); Bayfield County, Apr. 22 (Feeney). **Golden Eagle:** Rusk County, Mar. 29 (Feeney and Berner); Bayfield County, Apr. 22 (Feeney). **Marsh Hawk:** Bayfield County, Mar. 25 and Rusk County, Mar. 31 (Feeney). **Osprey:** Chippewa County, Apr. 16 (Toppe). **Duck Hawk:** Bayfield County, Apr. 21 (Feeney). **Sparrow Hawk:** Price County, Mar. 31 (Barger).

**Ruffed Grouse:** Rusk County, incubating fourteen eggs, May 21 (Berner). **Pinnated Grouse:** Rusk County, 2, Mar. 30 (Feeney). No others reported. **Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Forest County, Mar. 4 (Barger); Vilas County, 5, Mar. 17 (Feeney); Washburn County, 6 birds—2 males dancing, Apr. 9 (Schmidt). **Sora:** Chippewa County, Apr. 30 (Toppe). **Coot:** Bayfield County, Apr. 24 (Berner). **Killdeer:** Vilas County, Mar. 18 (Schmidt and Buss); Chippewa County, Mar. 25 (Toppe); incubating, May 4 (Berner). **Woodcock:** Rusk County, Mar. 31, probably here earlier (Feeney and Berner); Chippewa County, Apr. 2 (Toppe). **Wilson Snipe:** Bayfield County, many, Apr. 21 (Feeney). **Spotted Sandpiper:** Chippewa County, May 5 (Toppe). **Solitary Sandpiper:** Chippewa County, May 4 (Toppe). **Lesser Yellow-legs:** Burnett County, Apr. 11 (Feeney).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Bayfield County, Apr. 24 (Berner and Feeney). **Black Tern:** Chippewa County, May 5 (Toppe). **Mourning Dove:** Chippewa County, Apr. 5 (Toppe); Burnett County, Apr. 11 (Feeney). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** Sawyer County, May 28 (Zirrer). **Whip-poor-will:** Sawyer County, May 6 (Zirrer). **Nighthawk:** Chippewa County, May 5 (Toppe). **Chimney Swift:** Chippewa County, May 3 (Toppe). **Belted Kingfisher:** Rusk County, Mar. 31 (Feeney); Chippewa County, Apr. 4 (Toppe); Washburn County, Apr. 8 (Schmidt).

**Flicker:** Iron County, Apr. 6 (Barger); Douglas County, Apr. 9 (Feeney). **Pileated Woodpecker:** Seen rather frequently throughout the area. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Washburn County, Apr. 9 (Schmidt); Iron County, Apr. 12 (Barger); Price County, Apr. 14 (Feeney). **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker:** Rusk County, feeding on dead hemlock, Mar. 23 (Feeney and Berner); Douglas County, Apr. 15 (Schmidt). **Kingbird:** Chippewa County, May 10 (Toppe). **Crested Flycatcher:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe). **Phoebe:** Sawyer County, Apr. 6 (Feeney); Iron County, Apr. 8 (Barger); Douglas County, Apr. 8 (Berner); Washburn County, Apr. 8 (Schmidt). **Tree Swallow:** Douglas County, Apr. 9 (Feeney). **Barn Swallow:** Bayfield County, Apr. 23 (Berner). **Cliff Swallow:** Sawyer County, May 18 (Zirrer). **Purple Martin:** Douglas County, Apr. 8 (Feeney).

**Canada Jay:** Sparingly throughout the area. **Raven:** Rather common in deeryard territory. A nest was found in Bayfield County (Feeney). **Crow:** Rusk County, Mar. 2 (Feeney). **Black-capped Chickadee:** Perched on collar and pecked at neck while writing notes (Schmidt), Marinette County, Mar. 10. **Hudsonian Chickadee:** Forest County, several, Mar. 3 and Apr. 5 (Feeney); Marinette County, Mar. 5 (Feeney and Barger); Ashland County, Mar. 24 (Schmidt). **Brown Creeper:** Vilas County, Mar. 18 (Barger); Washburn County, Apr. 7 (Schmidt). **House Wren:** Chippewa County, May 5 (Toppe). **Winter Wren:** Vilas County, Apr. 4 (Barger). **Short-billed Marsh Wren:** Sawyer County, Apr. 19 (Schmidt). **Catbird:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe). **Brown Thrasher:** Chippewa County, May 3 (Toppe); Sawyer County, many, May 5 (Zirrer). **Robin:** Rusk County, Mar. 28 (Feeney and Dahlberg); Vilas County, Mar. 30 (Schmidt); Sawyer County, many, Mar. 31 (Berner); young in Rusk County, May 14 (Berner). **Hermit Thrush:** Iron County, Apr. 9 (Barger); Price County, Apr. 14 (Feeney). **Olive-backed Thrush:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe). **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe). **Willow Thrush:** Bayfield County, Apr. 21 (Feeney). **Bluebird:** Rusk County, Mar. 28 (Dahlberg); Chippewa County, Mar. 29 (Toppe); Price County, Mar. 30 (Barger).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Chippewa County, May 4 (Toppe). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Bayfield County, Apr. 7 (Feeney); Vilas County, Apr. 3 (Barger). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Washburn County, Apr. 7 (Schmidt); Iron County, Apr. 10 (Barger); Douglas County, Apr. 14 (Schmidt). **Bohemian Waxwing:** Rusk County, flock on Mar. 29 (Barger and Berner). **Migrant Shrike:** Rusk County, Mar. 29 (Berner and Feeney). **Blue-headed Vireo:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe). **Red-eyed Vireo:** Chippewa County, May 11 (Toppe). **Warbling Vireo:** Chippewa County, May 18 (Toppe).

**Black and White Warbler:** Chippewa County, May 3 (Toppe); Sawyer County, May 8 (Zirrer). **Orange-Crowned Warbler:** Chippewa County, May 3 (Toppe). **Nashville Warbler:** Sawyer County, very many, May 19 (Zirrer). **Parula Warbler:** Vilas County, May 15 (Schmidt). **Yellow Warbler:** Chippewa County, May 5 (Toppe). **Myrtle Warbler:** Chippewa County, Apr. 16 (Toppe); Price County, Apr. 17 (Barger); Oneida County, Apr. 21 (Schmidt). **Black-poll Warbler:** Sawyer County, many, May 19 (Zirrer). **Connecticut Warbler:** Vilas County, May 19 (Schmidt). **Mourning Warbler:** Chippewa County, May 19 (Toppe).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Chippewa County, Mar. 26 (Toppe); Rusk County, Mar. 28 (Feeney). **Red-winged Blackbird:** Vilas County, Mar. 17, said to have spent the winter at lumber camp (Barger); Chippewa County, Mar. 25 (Toppe); Rusk County, Mar. 30 (Feeney). **Baltimore Oriole:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe); Rusk County, May 9 (Ber-



ner). **Rusty Blackbird:** Chippewa County, Apr. 9 (Toppe). **Brewer's Blackbird:** Sawyer County, Apr. 21 (Feeney). **Bronzed Grackle:** Chippewa County, Mar. 30 (Toppe); Rusk County, Mar. 30 (Feeney); Iron County, Apr. 8 (Barger). **Cowbird:** Bayfield County, Apr. 21 (Berner).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Chippewa County, May 6 (Toppe). **Evening Grosbeak:** Rusk County, flock, Mar. 20, others, Mar. 29 (Barger); flock Mar. 31 (Feeney); Price County, flock, Apr. 17 (Barger); Oneida County, Apr. 28 (Schmidt). **Pine Grosbeak:** Vilas County, 10, Mar. 19 (Feeney). **Pine Siskin:** Douglas County, Apr. 14 (Schmidt). **Red Cross-bill:** Sawyer County, flock on Mar. 23, and Vilas County, flock on Apr. 1, calling and feeding on spruce (Barger). **Towhee:** Oneida County, May 6 (Schmidt); Sawyer County, May 7 (Zirrer); **Vesper Sparrow:** Chippewa County, Apr. 10 (Toppe). **Junco:** Sawyer County, many, Mar. 31 (Zirrer). **Chipping Sparrow:** Bayfield County, Apr. 21 (Feeney); Chippewa County, Apr. 23 (Toppe). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** Chippewa County, May 4 (Toppe); Sawyer County, many, May 19 (Zirrer). **Field Sparrow:** Chippewa County, Apr. 17 (Toppe). **White-crowned Sparrow:** Oneida County, May 16 (Schmidt). **White-throated Sparrow:** Oneida County, Apr. 22 (Schmidt); Bayfield County, Apr. 23 (Feeney). **Fox Sparrow:** Chippewa County, Mar. 31 (Toppe); Sawyer County, Apr. 6 (Zirrer); Iron County, Apr. 9 (Barger). **Lincoln Sparrow:** Sawyer County, one, May 7 (Zirrer). **Song Sparrow:** Chippewa County, Mar. 30 (Toppe); Rusk County, Mar. 30 (Feeney); Sawyer County, Apr. 5 (Zirrer); Iron County, Apr. 9 (Barger). **Snow Bunting:** Price County, Apr. 13 (Berner).—W. S. Feeney, Editor, Menasha Ave., Ladysmith.

**NORTHEAST AREA**—Winter lingered longer than usual in this area and the migration for the most part was slightly later than normal.

Notes were received from Clara Hussong, J. B. Kendall and E. G. Wright, totaling thirty-five species for the month of March. The following records are all from Brown County unless otherwise indicated.

The first arrivals were as follows: Great Blue Heron, Mar. 28; Whistling Swan, Mar. 29; Lesser Scaup, Mar. 29; American Merganser, Mar. 15, Kewaunee County; Killdeer, Mar. 24; Northern Horned Lark, Mar. 4; Meadowlark, Mar. 24; Red-winged Blackbird, Mar. 24; White-throated Sparrow, Mar. 30; Cowbird, Mar. 31; Song Sparrow, Mar. 24—J. B. Kendall.

American Golden-eye, Mar. 12; Mourning Dove, Mar. 26; Robin, Mar. 25; Bluebird, Mar. 25; Vesper Sparrow, Mar. 30—Clara Hussong.

Bronzed Grackle, Mar. 24, and Swamp Sparrow, Mar. 31—E. G. Wright.

First arrivals in April: Loon, Apr. 11; Canada Goose, Apr. 3; Blue-winged Teal, Apr. 11, Door County; Buffle-head, Apr. 11; Red-breasted Merganser, Apr. 11; Common Tern, Apr. 30, Door County; Caspian Tern, Apr. 30, Door County; Kingfisher, Apr. 26, Door County; Towhee, Apr. 26, Door County; Bonaparte's Gull, Apr. 30, Door County; Flicker, Apr. 4; Martin, Apr. 4; Hermit Thrush, Apr. 4—E. W. Strehlow.

Phoebe, Apr. 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Apr. 19.—E. G. Wright.

Ruddy Duck, Apr. 11; Wilson Snipe, Apr. 15; Tree Swallow, Apr. 8; House Wren, Apr. 23; Myrtle Warbler, Apr. 28; Baltimore Oriole, Apr. 25 (early); Horned Grebe, Apr. 30, Door County—J. B. Kendall.

Coot, Apr. 1; American Bittern, Apr. 25; Mallard, Apr. 4; Black Duck, Apr. 4; Duck Hawk, Apr. 25; Greater Yellow-legs, Apr. 25; Barn Swallow, Apr. 23.—Clara Hussong.

The month of May was rainy and cold in general with only a few warm sunny days. The foliage was retarded and it would have been ideal for warbler observation had the birds come through normally. They were late and did not come in large waves.

The Green Bay Bird Club made a field trip to Point Sauble on May 9 and recorded eighty-eight species, including the Pileated Woodpecker. Only a few species of warblers were seen and those in small numbers. There were about thirty observers in the field for the occasion.

The high bird count of the Green Bay Bird Club was taken on May 30—members going in small numbers to favorite areas, with a meeting in the later afternoon to compare notes. One-hundred and sixteen species

were recorded, and again the number of warblers was disappointing. The late warblers came through in small waves between May 25 and 28.—**Earl G. Wright, Editor, Neville Public Museum, Green Bay.**

Two pairs of Upland Plover (one with nest of four eggs) were seen in Outagamie County, May 22 and 23 by Harold Shine of the Conservation Department.

**SOUTHEAST AREA—March:** The arrival of birds was often two weeks late during March. Mourning Doves were reported for the 14th (Mueller), Bronzed Grackles for the 23rd (Doll), Woodcock on the 26th (Mueller), and American Bittern on the 31st (Orians). A number of birds were reported in large flocks for this month. Mueller saw five-hundred Killdeer on the lake front on the 14th. Deusing saw two-hundred Meadowlark in a single flock, and Jung reported a large flock of Song Sparrows. Large flocks of Robins and Juncos were reported generally. The only unusual early record for the month was an Olive-backed Thrush for the 30th (Mueller). The Long-eared Owl was reported nesting in Waukesha County, with young in the nest the last week of March (Johnson).

**April:** Arrivals again were generally late for the month. Horned Grebe were reported for the 3rd (Orians), Tree Swallows on the 10th (Throne), and Vesper Sparrows on the 11th (Doll). Chukar Partridges were reported by Melrose. A Snowy Owl was seen in this area on the 15th (Gromme), a late date for this winter visitor. Several nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were reported in Waukesha County (Johnson), a Sparrow Hawk was reported nesting in the cornice of the Milwaukee Public Museum (Dettman), and a Killdeer nest was found on the 24th (Orians).

**May:** The May migration was slowed by unseasonable weather. The Golden-winged Warbler was reported May 5th (Mueller), the White-crowned Sparrow, May 5th (Jensen), and the Ruddy Duck on the 6th (Mueller). A Philadelphia Vireo was seen in Plymouth, May 14 (Dietschs and Scotts); and a Pigeon Hawk in Milwaukee, May 5 (Robbins and Scott). Whip-poor-will were abundant in Milwaukee County during the migration which is unusual. Canada Warblers were quite common (Jung) and Scarlet Tanagers were reported common for Racine (von Jarchow). Among unusual records was an Orchard Oriole in Milwaukee County (Gromme), a Turkey Vulture in Racine County (von Jarchow), and a flock of Western Willets on the 7th (Orians). A number of nesting records were turned in on the Barn Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Red-winged Blackbird, Cardinal and Song Sparrow. The Killdeer and Red-tailed Hawks had young during the month.—**Murl Deusing, Editor, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee.**

**SOUTHWEST AREA—**The first big flight of waterfowl reached the area during the last week of March, which is normal. Of special interest will be the possible nesting of American Egrets in Horicon Marsh. Two individuals were seen there on May 4, 8 and 12; and four on May 30 (Mitchell). There was an excellent hawk migration the last week in April. During the migration wave of May 5 to 6, Mrs. Koehler recorded thirty-two species of birds in one larch in a two-hour period. In the same field of her glasses and at one time she saw concentrated, two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, two male Baltimore Orioles, one male Cardinal, one Blue Jay, one Nashville Warbler, and several Goldfinches. Much windy weather during the May 16th period brought the warblers to a low altitude, making observation excellent. A large number of Carolinian type birds appeared in the city of Madison this spring. Cedar Waxwings were not noted until May 29, except for six seen May 9 by Robbins. It is possible that this species migrated further south than usual last winter. Cuckoos of both species were thought to be scarce, but their numbers were filled later. An increase in Willow Thrushes was noted (Robbins).

**Early arrivals:** Bluebird (4), Prairie du Sac, Mar. 4 (Gastrow); in Madison, Mar. 14 (Archie Mossman). Killdeer, Madison, Mar. 14 (Brown); in Prairie du Sac, Mar. 15 (Kabat). Robin, Madison, Mar. 20 (Archie Mossman). Bronzed Grackle (2), Jefferson County, Mar. 21 (Buss). Cowbird, Madison, Mar. 22, (Dr. Mossman). Broad-winged

Hawk, Madison, Mar. 23 (Bussewitz). Purple Martin (1), Madison, Mar. 24 (James Hale). Migrant Shrike, Arlington, Mar. 29 (Bussewitz). Hooded Merganser (2), Horicon, Mar. 14 (Mitchell). Canada Goose, four large flocks feeding on stubble in alfalfa and buckwheat field at Mar. 21 (I. O. Buss). Shoveller (3), Baldpate (2), and Coot (2), Jefferson-Horicon, Mar. 14 (Mitchell). Great Blue Heron (4), Jefferson County, Mar. 21 (Buss). Wood Duck (1), Madison, Mar. 23 (Bussewitz). Bittern and Lesser Yellow-legs, Jefferson County, Mar. 30 (Zimmerman). Pintail (2), Horicon Marsh, Mar. 16 (Stoudt). Gadwall (2), Horicon, Mar. 26 (Stoudt). Tree Swallow (4) and Double-crested Cormorant, Horicon, Mar. 31 (Stoudt).

Oven-bird (1), Madison, Apr. 1 (earliest on record) observed at close range by Buss. Greater Yellow-legs (4), Horicon, Apr. 6 (Mitchell). Bonaparte's Gull (6), Madison, Apr. 10 (Doane). Yellow-headed Blackbird and Pectoral Sandpiper, Horicon, Apr. 13 (Scott). Cliff Swallow (2), Deerfield, Apr. 13 (earliest on record) Buss. Chimney Swift (1), Madison, Apr. 15 (next seen Apr. 26) Robbins. Upland Plover, Faville Grove, Apr. 17 (Buss); in Watertown, Apr. 18 (Bussewitz). Northern Yellow-throat (1), Madison, Apr. 24 (earliest on record) James Hale. Green Heron, Dane County, Apr. 25 (Robbins).

Howitcher (1), Jefferson County, May 1 (Robbins). Hummingbird (1), Dane County, May 3 (Robbins). Olive-sided Flycatcher, Dane County, May 6 (earliest on record) Robbins.

**Peak dates:** The Canada Goose reached a peak from Mar. 28 to Apr. 10 (Zimmerman and Mitchell). The Whistling Swan reached its peak the first ten days of April (Stoudt, Bussewitz, Scott and others). Early in May (3rd to 7th, Robbins) the Lincoln Sparrow reached a peak in Madison (Leopold). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was the most plentiful in Madison, Apr. 28 to May 4 (Robbins).

**Late departures:** Lapsland Longspur (50), Arlington, May 14 (Bussewitz, Hickey). Pine Siskin (10), Madison, May 9 (Mrs. Koehler). Purple Finch (6), Dane County, May 16 (Barger). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Dane County, May 16 (Mrs. Koehler). Golden-crowned Kinglet (1), Dane County, May 16 (latest on record) Buss. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (6), Dane County, May 16 (Kumlien census). Red-breasted Nuthatch (1), Dane County, May 6 (Robbins). Brown Creeper, Dane County, May 9 (Robbins). Hermit Thrush, Madison, May 17 (Mrs. Koehler). White-throated Sparrow, Madison, May 22 (Robbins). Snow Bunting, Dane County, Mar. 30 (Robbins). Rough-legged Hawk, Horicon, Apr. 21 (Mitchell). Olive-sided Flycatcher, Dane County, May 29 (Scott). Wilson Snipe, Horicon, May 8 (Mitchell). Baldpate (Schorger), Pintail (Robbins), Redhead Duck (2), Mrs. Koehler, Hooded Merganser (Barger), Red-breasted Merganser (Kumlien census) all in Dane County, May 16.

**Birds relatively rare:** Black-bellied Plover, Arlington, May 21 (Bussewitz). Upland Plover, Jefferson County, May 1 (Loyster). Blue Goose (9), Dane County, Mar. 21 (Mrs. Koehler); one in Dane County, Apr. 30 (Robbins); six in Horicon, Mar. 24 (Stoudt). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Dane County, May 16, 24, and 28 (Robbins). Philadelphia Vireo, Dane County, May 16 (Robbins). Osprey (1), Dane County, May 19 (Robbins). Bonaparte's Gull, Dane County, Apr. 30 (Robbins). Snow Goose (25), Horicon, Apr. 4 (Muchenhirn). Pigeon Hawk (1), Horicon, May 4 (Mitchell); in Prairie du Sac, Mar. 11 (early) by Gastrow. Evening Grosbeak (26), Wisconsin Rapids, Mar. 4 (Clarence Searls); two in Dane County, Apr. 8 (Mrs. Herbert Anderson and Mrs. C. E. Anderson).

**Birds of the Carolinian type:** Hooded Warbler (very rare), Madison, May 16 (Loyster). Blue-winged Warbler, Madison, May 6 to 7 (Robbins). Kentucky Warbler, Dane County, May 16 (Robbins and Barger). Brewster's Warbler (hybrid), Madison, May 16 (Mrs. Koehler and Robbins). Bewick's Wren, Madison, Apr. 7 (Bussewitz). Cerulean Warbler, Madison, May 16 (Loyster). Acadian Flycatcher, Madison, May 16 (Barger and Robbins). Orchard Oriole, Madison (in larch), May 8 (Mrs. Koehler); in Mazomanie area, May 7 (Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Scott).



Prothonotary Warbler, Madison, May 5 (Hickeys); May 16 (Loyster); May 30 to June 1 (Mrs. Koehler). Tufted Titmouse, Madison, Apr. 26 (Barger); in Sauk County, Mar. 18 and 24 (Leopold); and in the Mazomanie area, May 7 (Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Scott).

**Rarities:** Yellow Rail (1), Sauk County, May 2 (Hickey). Holboell's Grebe, Dane County, Apr. 3 (Scotts, Loyster and Mrs. Koehler). White Pelican, Madison, Apr. 10 (Dr. Sam Chase, reported by Schorger). Eared Grebe, Dane County, Apr. 8 (Zimmerman); in Madison area also on Apr. 8 (Scott and Loyster); in Dane County, Apr. 13 (Zimmerman). Sandhill Crane (2), over Madison, May 14 (Loyster); and two in Endeavor Marsh, Mar. 29 (Breezer-Reese).

In the northwestern part of Dane County, Apr. 14, Zimmerman photographed a flock of geese on the shore of a lake. This flock contained forty-two Hutchin's, forty-one Canada, one immature Blue, and one immature Snow. When the flock took flight in "V" formation, the Blue and Snow hung out of the "V".—N. R. Barger, Editor, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison.



**Brown Pelican Collected at Madison.** On the evening of July 31 Mrs. T. E. Coleman of Maple Bluff telephoned Mr. A. W. Schorger stating "that there was a Pelican sitting in a tree at the edge of the lake." Mr. Schorger immediately investigated and was quite astonished to find that the bird was a Brown Pelican. As he realized that there were no other published records of this bird having been found in Wisconsin before, he checked with the Madison Zoo and found that it was not an escaped bird. He then made arrangements to collect the specimen the next day under authority of his federal and state Scientist Permits.

The next evening Mrs. Coleman again saw the bird in the same tree which it evidently used as a night roost and she again called Mr. Schorger who had made a fruitless attempt to get near the bird during the day. The Pelican was collected and sent to the Milwaukee Public Museum for exhibit with other unusual Wisconsin specimens. According to Mr. Schorger, the bird weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces and Mr. Owen Gromme of the Milwaukee Museum determined that the bird was a female in its first post-nuptial moult which would produce the second winter plumage. After the bird was collected various reports were received to the effect that it had been seen on Lake Mendota throughout the previous week by fishermen.

Although it was at first believed that this was the first Brown Pelican ever collected in Wisconsin, a letter from Edward D. Ochsner of Prairie du Sac, published in the Wisconsin State Journal of August 6, claimed a prior record. Mr. Ochsner stated in part: "The first I know of was one shot by S. Fisher at the Black Hawk mill pond in Sauk County 37 years ago and mounted by myself. It can now be seen at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Herman Fuchs. It was one of two that he had seen." Mr. Schorger has since looked at this specimen and has reported that it is a Brown Pelican and should be considered the first state record.

A. C. Bent lists various records indicating the wandering nature of the Brown Pelican as it has been found as far east as Nova Scotia and as far west as Colorado and Wyoming. However, it seems from the records that there is only one other acceptable specimen record in all of the Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa area. According to DuMont (1934), there is a report and specimen in Iowa; Minnesota has no specimens according to Roberts; Illinois has a sight record according to Bent; and Michigan evidently has no authentic record according to Van Tyne (1938) as he does not list the bird although Barrows at an earlier date cited several reports and specimens for that state.—W. E. Scott, Madison.



**Black Terns "Dive Bomb" Photographer.** Dive bombing reached its perfection when I tried to photograph a nest of the Black Tern on Fowler lake, Oconomowoc. July 11, 1943, while fishing, I discovered the Black Tern's nest with three chocolate brown, mud colored eggs laid on a clump of mud at the water's edge. I returned Saturday, July 17, 1943 to photograph, saw young at the nest but on approaching with my camera the old birds dove directly at me, coming so close I could feel the wind from their wings. The attack was so fierce and so sustained that the only pictures I got were flight pictures.—**Mark H. Doll, Milwaukee.**

**Bird Group of the City Club Observed 180 Birds to July, 1943.** The combined list of the members of the Bird Group of the City Club of Milwaukee from January 1 to July 1 was 180 birds seen in the Milwaukee area. Included in the list was the Double-crested Cormorant, King Rail, Caspian Tern, and many Ruddy Ducks seen by Mrs. A. P. Balsom at Juneau Park on April 25. Old Squaws were reported by a group of members at Grant Park on May 19. All of the common shorebirds were seen, including the Wilson Phalarope, which was observed by Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher on May 19. The Long-eared Owl was reported as a winter resident by Mrs. Charles Decker, Jr. at Fox Point. Bohemian Waxwings and eight Bluebirds were seen on March 14 in Lake Park, a Tufted Titmouse on March 24 at Kern Park and the Red-bellied Woodpecker on April 4 in Grant Park by Mrs. Nunnemacher. The Florida Gallinule was found nesting by Mrs. Phelps Wyman in the "dump" at the foot of Day avenue in Whitefish Bay, while Mrs. William Simmons observed the Carolina Wren on March 31 and the Common Tern on April 19 at Lake Park. Mrs. M. Cutler saw the Cerulean Warbler at her home on May 11 and Mrs. Carl Schwendenner found the Prothonotary Warbler on May 2 at the Menomonee Parkway and also the Western Meadowlark in the southwestern part of the county on May 31. The Orchard Oriole reported by Mr. Owen Gromme was observed building its nest on June 9 by Mes. Schwendenner, Cutler and Balsom. The Group's list of Sparrows included the Clay-colored and Leconte as well as the Harris Sparrow, which was seen by Miss Susan Drake at Lake Park on May 27.—**Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee.**

**Orchard Oriole Nests in Dane County.** Early on the morning of June 5, we scared a mature male Orchard Oriole from our back lawn. I saw him again on June 12 and 14 and on the 15th, we saw the female in the garden. During this period he sang frequently from an elm tree across the road from our house and finally on June 23, we discovered the nest there. We calculated its height at 43 feet from the ground, almost at the top of the tree. Made of fine grass dexterously woven, it was fastened in the crotch of three or four terminal twigs and so well concealed by leaves that it could be seen from only three spots and with any clarity from only one. We saw both birds at the nest individually that day and when watching them, could see the birds peering at us through peekholes in the leaves with only the eye and a couple of feathers visible to the observer. On June 27 we watched him feed the young several times. Sides of the nest were thinly woven and we could see the movement through this screen, though we never saw the young above the sides of the nest. The female seemed more wary at this duty than he. In the early part of June, he sang almost constantly, usually from the tree where the nest was located, but occasionally from nearby apple trees. But from the time we saw him feeding the young until the nest was empty, his song was less frequent. Unfortunately, from June 29 to July 3 our observations were interrupted, and on July 4 when I looked at the nest, I was able to see directly through it and the young were gone.

We neither saw nor heard them again until July 10, when I saw a first-year male alight near the house, and sing. The song was recognizable but never a complete one as given by the mature bird. Trailing this bird, I saw him join another young male and a female. Finally they began to feed in tall weeds and the female came up with a large green worm. One male gave chase, and each time she stopped to work on her

"find," he alighted beside her, at which she took off again. This went on for four minutes over an area of about five acres, after which she disappeared into the trees in the valley still carrying the worm. In the afternoon, we saw another young male and a female. They were fully feathered and flew quite well.

The only other nesting record of Orchard Orioles in Dane County was in 1927, as reported in A. W. Schorger's "Birds of Dane County."—Mrs. Walter E. Scott, Madison.



Goshawk Nest in Bayfield County

**Goshawk Nesting in Wisconsin.** Found a Goshawk nest in Bayfield County, Wisconsin, in April 1943. The large crow-like nest which was built chiefly of dead aspen twigs, contained four blue-white eggs. The nest was in the crotch of an aspen tree about 25 feet above the ground.—W. S. Feeney, Ladysmith.

**Bird Notes from Overseas.** Burt Dahlberg reports from an "undivulged location": "I'm not disappointed in this station, for there are many new birds and plants to identify. The birds will be quite a chore for I have no book on tropical birds—but I'm sure I can locate something soon. We have a fine library here and they probably have something worthwhile on birds in them. You should see some of these ocean birds fly—they certainly know all the tricks of the game. I saw one small bird about the size of a sparrow hawk, only it had distinct gull characteristics—I don't know how far from land we were but it was a long way—I thought this bird would surely land on a yardarm and take a blow for himself. He didn't even look

our way, just sailed on. He went so low over the water that half the time he was down in the trough—never wetting a wingtip either."

From North Africa, J. R. Smith writes: "Here is one for you ornithologists—I saw a Brown Thrasher on shipboard about fifty miles at sea from our side. What he was doing there, I don't have the least idea. I have seen numerous other birds which I recognized as to family and genera, but not species." From the same location, F. H. King admits: "Have learned to go into a store and ask for 'un livre oiseau' now, instead of standing there flapping my arms when trying to get a book on birds. Can also get some information from the French library on our occasional trips to town."

In his letter transmitting his article found elsewhere in this issue, George Becker says: "Australia is a most unusual experience for me. To date I have seen just over one hundred species. Am astonished by the abundance and variety of predatory birds. Several weeks ago I counted one hundred and forty Fork-tailed Kites in two flocks fifteen minutes apart. Eagle are far more common than all of our hawks put together. Songbirds are difficult to identify—especially the Honeyeaters which of course are entirely unfamiliar to an American. Have seen several small species of kangaroo in my wanderings. The tameness of both bird and animal life is a pleasure."

**American Egrets Nest at Horicon Marsh.** We began seeing American Egrets on the marsh shortly after the 1st of May, single birds at first and then later in the month in pairs. Since we continued to see the birds almost daily at their favorite feeding grounds and since Egrets some-

times nest in heron rookeries along with Great Blues and Black-crowns, we decided to investigate the heron rookery on Four-mile Island. On May 30 we found two pairs of Egrets nesting on the island. We were able to get close enough to the adult birds to see the plumes or aigrettes.

—**Earl T. Mitchell, Horicon;**

(Editor's Note: When Walter Pelzer of the Milwaukee Public Museum later checked these reported nests with Mitchell, only one nest containing downy young was found.)

**Spring Floods Affect Wildlife.** On May 31 the Wisconsin river in northern Sauk County began to rise. By June 2, the flood covered most of the bottom lands, reaching a crest on June 3-5, when it covered the entire bottom.

The ground-nesting birds and many bush-nesting birds lost their nests in the flood. Of two ruffed grouse nests I had under observation, one hatched immediately before the flood, and perhaps survived, while the other was flooded on the date of prospective hatching. All pheasant and duck broods and nests located on bottomlands must have been lost. It was noticeable that many marsh birds moved to the upland during the flood period, notably bobolinks, sora rails, and meadowlarks. I saw one brood of woodcock which had evidently moved to a sandhill by reason of the flood. Some ruffed grouse moved to the uplands, whereas others stayed in the flooded woods and even drummed from logs projecting above the water. It was notable that prothonotary warblers did not change location, but remained in the flooded woods singing. Many of their nests were doubtless lost. I think there is a good probability that many pheasants will renest, but it seems less likely that renesting will occur in ducks, woodcock, or grouse.

All deer were forced off the bottoms and were concentrated in upland woodlots. There was an unusual concentration of rabbits along the edges of the bottom. One skunk was waiting out the flood on top of a high stump. Moles and spermophiles on the Wisconsin bottoms are confined to those high places not ordinarily flooded.—**Professor Aldo Leopold, Univ. of Wis., Madison.**

**Orchard Orioles Nest in Milwaukee County.** On May 19 I investigated a vaguely familiar song which somehow brought to mind recollections of Georgia. The song came from an old apple orchard on the Mount Mary Campus. I found a fine male Orchard Oriole in full dress. Inasmuch as I could find no nesting record for the species in Milwaukee County, I offered my son a reward if he would turn up a nest. On June 7 he reported that he saw a greenish bird carrying something to a well-hidden nest in the slender upper branches of an apple tree. He assumed it to be the female because it gave the same "cheep" of alarm as that of the male with which, by that time, he had become familiar. Verification of his find justified his reward. The nest is built suspended in an upright crotch of the tree. Its bottom apparently does not rest in the base of the crotch. I expect later to obtain permission to remove the nest for further study of its construction. Because of the slenderness of the supporting branches we could not climb up to note when the eggs were laid or young hatched.—**O. J. Gromme, Milwaukee.**

This morning I was at Whitnall Park, Milwaukee, with Rev. Orians who was taking nesting pictures in the park. While he was in the blind, I walked off a short distance and sat down on the railings of a small bridge. While there I noticed a pair of strange birds going into a very small tree nearby. I thought the female looked somewhat like an oriole and when the male flew into the next tree and sang, I recognized him as an immature Orchard Oriole with his black throat. Though I doubted at first that the birds had a nest in the little tree, I was finally tempted to go and look and found the nest. It was about six and one-half feet above the ground and made of grasses. The female was sitting on the nest. I called Rev. Orians over and together we lifted his boy up to look in the nest. It contained five speckled eggs. Rev. Orians waited until he too saw both birds. This is the second record of Orchard Orioles nesting in Milwaukee County, the first involving an immature male. The first record was made about two weeks ago at the home of Owen Gromme.



The male at that nest is mature. I was out there on the 10th to see those birds and it was then that I became familiar with their song and nest, a factor which aided me in making my record today.—**Donald Bierman, Milwaukee.**

**An Early Nesting Date for the Cardinal.** On May 1, a Cardinal nesting containing two young Cardinals and an infertile Cardinal egg was observed on Lathrop street, Madison. The age of the young was estimated as one day. Since the incubation period is 12 days (**Forbush, p.110, Birds of Massachusetts and New England States**) the clutch was evidently completed on April 18. Search of available records failed to reveal any nesting records as early as this, the earliest being April 24, 1931 in Oconto, Wisconsin. (**The Passenger Pigeon, 1939, 1:128**). The earliest nesting record given by Roberts is May 1, 1925, "Steele County, Minnesota: . . . female incubating for 'about a week' (Roberts and Kilgore)." (Roberts, p. 335, Vol. 2, **The Birds of Minnesota**).—**Alfred Wallner, Madison.**

**Young Screech Owls Take a Bath.** On Monday, July 12, in the afternoon I was on the shore of Lake Mendota and noticed an adult and two young red phase Screech Owls taking a bath. They were in two to three feet of water and splashing continually while I watched them for over five minutes. The temperature that day was over 94 degrees. Although the young birds were still somewhat downy, they could fly very well.—**Tom Morris, Madison.**

**Great Blue Heron Fishes on the Wing.** On June 29, while birding on Lake Metonga, Forest County, I saw a Great Blue Heron land well off shore in the deep water, seize a fish and then fly to shore with it. This interesting method of fishing is used the least of the heron's usual feeding habits.—**Donald Bierman, Milwaukee.**

**Unnatural Bird Songs.** A Robin nesting on the State Office Building grounds has been heard singing a song similar to that of the Mourning Warbler the entire season. The source of the song was checked several times in search of the supposed warbler. In 1942, on the University Campus, a Nighthawk with an unusual call came to the attention of the Kumlén Club. It had been present there for two seasons. Finally Robbins and Buss collected it, but found it to be our usual species with an impediment.—**N. R. Barger, Madison.**

**Starlings Frustrate Sparrow Hawks in Nesting Attempt.** A pair of Sparrow Hawks were nesting for two years in a Berlepsch nest box which was fastened to a telephone post on the sanctuary for better protection against squirrels. This year, though they arrived on schedule, the Sparrow Hawks were very hesitant about starting to nest, possibly due to inclement weather. A pair of Starlings promptly took possession of the box, defending it courageously and without hesitation against the swoops of the falcons. One of them would sit in the entrance to the cavity and not budge from this advantageous position no matter how hard the hawks tried to frighten him or her. After seeing the hawks frustrated in their attempt to retake possession of their legal property for two weeks, I hung up another box on the adjoining telephone post which the hawks, admitting defeat, promptly occupied and which now contains eggs. It illustrates the unbelievable tenacity of the Starlings that, after two batches of eggs were thrown out of the first-mentioned nesting box, it holds today a third set of eggs, showing that probably three pairs or Starlings were involved. Another singular feature is that the Starlings, overcoming the inherent fear of predatory birds, were not frightened and acted much contrary to the dictates of usual bird instinct.—**Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, Racine.**

**Miscellaneous Notes of Interest.** In the latter part of April, Good-enough of Baraboo observed a Flicker driven out of the hollow in an elm tree by a Red-headed Woodpecker. He also observed during the first five days of May the following birds killed by cars on the road at the entrance to the Badger Ordnance Works: Long-billed Marsh Wren, Myrtle Warbler (?), Pine Warbler, House Wren and 5 Field Sparrows.

**Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam** of La Crosse states that he has discovered several nestings of Bluebirds completely destroyed by a grub which at-



taches itself to the leg of the young bird. He believes that this is a protocalliphora grub. Dr. Gatterdam also refers to an experience of last year when he found 14 dead Bluebirds in a shack used in connection with the raising of pheasants by the local sportsmen's group. The birds had entered through a ventilator in the roof and were unable to get out. He urged them to screen off the ventilator to prevent such catastrophes in the future.

## SOCIETY'S FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION SUCCESSFUL

The Fifth Annual Convention of The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, held at the Public Museum and City Club of Milwaukee on May 1 and 2, attracted an attendance of over 200 bird lovers and ornithologists and was considered a very successful meeting. A great amount of the credit for this success is due to program chairman Murl Deusing and his local committee.

After an address of welcome by Dr. Ira Edwards, Director of the Museum, the Saturday afternoon program featured papers and talks by Earl L. Loyster, W. S. Feeney, Kenneth MacArthur and Earl G. Wright. The business session followed immediately after this program.

### Dr. B. L. von Jarchow Elected President

At the business session the following officers were elected: President, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, Racine; Vice-president, N. R. Barger, Madison; Secretary, Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee; Treasurer, J. Harwood Evans, Oshkosh; Editor, W. E. Scott, Madison; Directors-at-large, Rev. Howard L. Orians of Milwaukee and Earl G. Wright of Green Bay.

Professor George Wagner of the University of Wisconsin was elected an honorary member of the Society.

The Society voted unanimously to affiliate with The Wilson Ornithological Club, following the recommendation of the Affiliations Committee as reported by its Chairman, Murl Deusing. This affiliation has now been consummated and the following articles of affiliation are published for the information of members:

### ARTICLES OF AFFILIATION

In order to promote an interchange of ideas, to interest more people in birds and in their study, to encourage cooperation in research, to further efficient conservation, to exchange facilities for publication, to hold joint meetings for increasing personal contacts of mutual benefit, the undersigned organizations without loss of individual entity or autonomy and without financial obligations of any sort and with practical unanimity among their members signify this 25th day of June, MCMXLIII, their affiliation to obtain the objectives above enumerated.

Organization: **Wilson Ornithological Club**

President—S. Charles Kendeigh

Secretary—Maurice Brooks

Organization: **Wisconsin Society for Ornithology**

President—B. L. von Jarchow

Secretary—Ivy N. Balsom (Mrs. A. P.)

Brief reports were also made by Chairmen of the Sanctuary, Library, Membership and Passenger Pigeon Monument Committees, as well as the Editor and Treasurer. The Treasurer's report is printed here for the information of members who were not present:

### Treasurer's Report, May 1, 1943

#### Printing Costs

#### Publication of The Passenger Pigeon

April, May, June, 1942.....	\$170.50
July, August, Sept. 1942.....	55.50
Oct., Nov., Dec. 1942.....	59.00

\$285.00

Cuts .....	20.23	
Total .....		\$305.23
Stationery, Bookplates, Subscription and Renewal blanks .....		22.50
Programs and menus (Green Bay meet- ing) .....		15.00
Mailing Costs .....		50.16
Miscellaneous Expenses .....		
Incorporation costs .....	6.50	
Binding two sets of Passenger Pigeon....	3.20	
Bank money orders .....	.75	
Total .....		10.45
Grand Total .....		\$403.34
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Dues .....		\$367.45
Back Issues sold .....		3.70
Interest on bank account .....		.98
Green Bay meeting balance .....		51.80
Donations for cuts, etc. ....		10.58
Grand Total .....		\$434.51
Balance to May 1, 1943 .....	\$ 31.17	
Balance at beginning of year, April 12, 1942....	97.71	
Total cash on hand .....		\$128.88

A special feature of the meeting was the first public showing of some of Owen Gromme's paintings to be used in the book "Birds of Wisconsin." Members viewed these paintings between sessions and unanimously proclaimed the work "very good" or "excellent." Cash offers for some of the original paintings were very generous.

#### Cleveland P. Grant's Pictures Featured at Dinner

Besides having an excellent meal at the Annual Dinner held at the City Club, a full house of members and visitors paid special tribute to the genius of Cleveland P. Grant with their discerning applause when watching his color movies "Adventures with Western Birds."

Possibly the most novel portion of the evening's program was the auction of bird paintings, photographs, and wood carvings donated by members and friends of the Society. Due to the excellent work of Auctioneer Evans Houtz, a total of over \$200 was realized for the Society's publication fund from this auction. Before he was through, Mr. Houtz had sold everything that had been donated, as well as a few additional items such as the floral decorations on the tables. An ivory miniature of ducks in flight by Frank Clark, which was donated by George Weinhausen, Jr., brought the highest price, immediately followed by Warren Dettman's wood carving of a male Wood Duck, and Owen Gromme's water color of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Groups of etchings by Walter J. Breckenridge and Earl G. Wright, donated by them, proved to be in considerable demand.

Toastmaster J. Harwood Evans did an excellent job of introducing the Pixie Bird to members of the Society, and as will be noted by the accompanying illustration, both were in fine fettle. To those who are not aware of the propensities of this "gremlin" of the ornithologists, the following quotation from the Milwaukee Journal of May 2 may be enlightening: "He's the cocky fellow that bird students and photographers never saw before but knew about for years—the binocular-eyed creature that pulls the cloud across the sun just before you are ready to snap the color picture, holds a branch back from your camera lens while you sight your game and then lets it snap back, chases away the birds you've found just as soon as you get your field glasses in focus. If you become



Reprint From The Milwaukee Journal

J. Harwood Evans (left), Society Treasurer, and Warren Dettman of the Milwaukee Public Museum staff look at the "Pixie Bird."

lost in the woods on a bird hunt, it's because the Pixie was leading you." Co-discoverers of this unusual bird were Warren Dettman and Walter Pelzer, taxidermists at the Public Museum, and Dettman was the manufacturer. And the auctioneer even sold the Pixie Bird!

#### Bird Hikes Feature Sunday Program

Early morning bird hikes were held at Jacobus Park, Lake Park and Estabrook Park in spite of a light rain which simply seemed to be more of a challenge to the bird students than a dampener. Although the weather reduced the "take," a number of good records for this day will be found elsewhere in the bird field notes.

The Sunday afternoon program in the Museum lecture hall featured colored motion pictures by Rev. Howard L. Orians, Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger, Staber W. Reese and Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., as well as illustrated talks by Dr. B. L. von Jarchow and Mrs. Walter A. Pierce. Papers were read by Earl T. Mitchell, Harold C. Wilson and N. R. Barger.

In general, the entire program was most successful and special thanks should be given to the Milwaukee Bird Club which sponsored the convention.

## NEWS NOTES

President B. L. von Jarchow has announced the following committee appointments and re-appointments for the present year: **Membership Committee:** Rev. Howard L. Orians, chairman, Mrs. Walter A. Pierce, Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Karl W. Kahmann, and Mrs. H. H. Reese. **Library Committee:** Gilbert H. Doane, chairman, Miss Ellen Hoffman, and A. W. Schorger. **Endowment Committee:** Clarence S. Jung, chairman, Owen J. Gromme, Ralph Buckstaff, Alfred S. Bradford, and A. W. Schorger. **Passenger Pigeon Memorial Committee:** Owen J. Gromme, chairman.

Additional members of the Society in the armed forces include the following: Clarence Anthes, Irven O. Buss, and John Schaeffer.

Several members of the Society who in the past have contributed many important bird records to Wisconsin ornithology have now moved out of the state, at least temporarily, and their absence will be reflected in future bird field records. Besides men in the armed forces, these include Elton Bussewitz, now at Washington, D. C., and Sam Robbins, in Chicago.

At their meetings shortly before the Society's annual meeting, the Kumlien Bird Club of Madison donated five dollars to the publication fund of **The Passenger Pigeon** and the Madison Bird Club contributed two dollars. This excellent support is reflected in the number of illustrations which can be used in the bulletin and is therefore greatly appreciated.

N. R. Barger was elected President and Robert McCabe, secretary-treasurer of the Kumlien Club at their meeting on May 4. On April 27 this group listened to a paper by A. W. Schorger entitled "The History of the Prairie Chicken in Wisconsin."

Additional accessions to the Society's library are: from **Mrs. W. E. Snyder** of Beaver Dam, her husband's original manuscript on "The Birds of Dodge County," and also five of his original record books containing field observations in that county and elsewhere for a period of over forty years; from **Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger**, approximately 50 numbers of **The Auk**, which are a most valuable addition; from **Prof. Aldo Leopold**, five reprints; from **W. E. Scott**, Angelia Kumlien Main's "Bird Companions," nine numbers of **Avicultural Magazine**, 24 numbers **Bird-Lore** and **Audubon Magazine**, 14 numbers of **Iowa Bird Life**, nine numbers **The Jack-Pine Warbler**, one issue **Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society** and one reprint.

A new bulletin, "Minnesota Waterfowl," by Dr. Gustav Swanson containing a number of waterfowl sketches by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, is being issued by the Minnesota Department of Conservation. Copies may be secured free by reserving them through their Bureau of Information, 18 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota.

The following note is from the **Illinois Audubon Bulletin** of June, 1943: "Members and guests of the Society who were present at the Chicago Academy of Sciences to hear the lecture 'Wild Wings' by Mr. Murl Deusing on Friday evening, April 23, were most enthusiastic in their response. We hope the Society may at some time have the privilege of again presenting Mr. Deusing to the bird-minded people of Chicago."

Mrs. Clough Gates of Superior is another one of Wisconsin's Good Samaritans for the birds. In a recent letter, she states, "Besides orphans, many crippled and helpless birds are brought to me during the year. I encourage the neighborhood children to look upon my plant room as a bird hospital."

In future issues of **The Passenger Pigeon** it is hoped that at least one excellent bird photograph or drawing by a member of the Society can be published on the cover page. Anyone having such photographs or drawings which they believe worthy of presentation should submit them to the Editor for consideration. In general, song and perching birds or non-game birds, not necessarily on the nest, are most desirable. A glossy print enlargement of the photograph or the negative will be acceptable.

A recent letter from Angelia Kumlien Main carries the following postscript full of good tidings: "I've spent the fall and winter writing



the life of 'Thure Kumlien,' Pioneer Naturalist of Wis. As 1943 marks the 100th anniversary of his coming to America, I'm planning on having a meeting at his old farm home this summer sometime and hope your society will help sponsor it. There is talk of making his old place a Co. park." Although the summer is largely gone, if this gathering has not as yet been held, we are sure the Society members will want to participate.

On May 23, the Indiana Audubon Society visited their future Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary near Connorsville, Indiana. The location evidently was donated to them by Mr. Finly Gray. This state now has followed Michigan in the establishment of such a sanctuary and Wisconsin should be next.

Recently Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam visited the large Cliff Swallow colony near Deerfield, which has been protected from damage and intrusion by sparrows by the local farmer, Mr. Bodeman, for many years. He mentions the problem of continuing this practice in the future, should Mr. Bodeman be unable to proceed with his good work, and states, "If a fund or other arrangement could be effected to continue the colony when Mr. Bodeman is no longer able to be active, I think it would be a great thing. I would be very glad to contribute up to one hundred dollars to this end." Dr. Gatterdam took numerous still photographs and movies of the colony and stated that the local farmer has an urgent need for .22 shells in unlimited numbers to keep the sparrows under control. Anyone able to spare such ammunition should send it direct to Mr. Bodeman at Deerfield.

Two new Life Members have been added recently and their excellent support of the Society and its Endowment Fund deserve special comment. They are Walter Mueller of Milwaukee and Ralph G. Klieforth of Oshkosh. Mueller, in fact, renewed his Sustaining membership and then requested that the money be used to keep up the memberships of five men in the armed forces who have not been able to continue their subscriptions while away from home.

According to a belated report, Fred Hamerstrom, Jr. is now in the navy. He was assistant editor of The Wilson Bulletin and had done considerable work on Prairie Chicken in Wisconsin.

Only 5,000 copies of a new book entitled "Waterfowl in Iowa" by Jack and Mary Musgrove have been printed. The book is 130 pages cloth bound, and has eight full pages of illustrations done by Maynard F. Reece. A copy can be secured for \$1.00 from the Iowa State Conservation Commission, 10th and Mulberry, Des Moines, Iowa.

George Wagner, our new Honorary Member, recently furnished the editor with a list of the various issues that make up a complete set of "By The Wayside" which in the past was published by the Wisconsin Audubon Society and edited by Mr. Wagner for a number of years. As some of our members may be trying to secure a complete set of this publication, this list will be turned over to our librarian, Mr. Doane, and can be secured from him.

The editor would appreciate information as to the present addresses of the following members who cannot be located: Oranda Bangsburg previously of Oshkosh; Lloyd H. Shinnars previously of Madison; and James W. Cunningham previously of Kansas City, Mo.

Professor S. H. Elwell of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, advises that he has a mounted Passenger Pigeon in perfect condition for sale. The bird is part of his father's estate located in Iowa.

The Bird Group of the City Club of Milwaukee held their Annual Field Census on May 18 to 20 and a combined total of 140 birds were seen according to their Secretary, Mrs. A. P. Balsom.

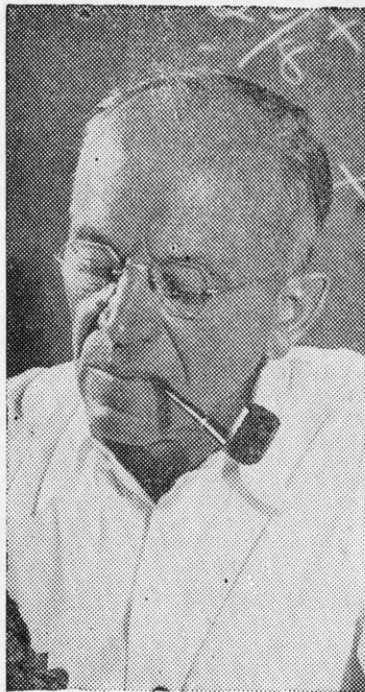
In order to allow more time in which to bring the membership list up to date its publication has been deferred to the next issue of this bulletin.

## LEOPOLD APPOINTED TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wisconsin's bird students recently were pleased to learn that Professor Aldo Leopold, an honorary member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, had been appointed to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission for a six-year term.

In a statement of his views on Wisconsin wildlife problems, written by Russell B. Pyre for the **Wisconsin State Journal**, Professor Leopold's ideas are explained on certain phases which will be particularly interesting to Wisconsin bird students:

"He yearns for restoration of a wilderness free from mechanization, parks, and gadgets that destroy cultural values. . . . He believes conservation, to be effective, must be practiced everywhere, by everybody. . . . He offers 'wildlife research' as a new sport, replacing some ancient concepts of sport, and favors the training of more amateurs and fewer professionals in research as an essential to a liberal education. . . . He does not believe in 'buying one kind of conservation at the expense of another.' . . . He believes in the restoration and retention of nature's balances and adherence, so far as possible, to nature's ways. . . . He maintains that conservation will be achieved 'when and only when the destructive use of land becomes unethical—punishable by social ostracism.' . . . He believes, for example, that predators are needed to maintain nature's balances and opposes indiscriminate killing of herons, kingfishers, crows, wolves, and other birds and animals that prey upon game. . . . 'We kill hawks and owls, imagining we thereby help the game, but we are destroying one resource while at the same time harming another,' he maintains."



Professor Aldo Leopold

According to Pyre, Leopold's views of Wisconsin's immediate problems may be summed up about as follows:

"**One:** We don't know enough yet about conservation to do the things we should. It needs a vast amount of research and it will take the combined efforts of the department and the university to learn as rapidly as we must.

"**Two:** Experience has taught throughout the history of conservation that natural methods are the best. When a problem offers two possible solutions, one artificial, one natural, the natural method usually is the more successful and often the cheaper. 'By that,' Leopold explained, 'I do not mean that we should discourage fish hatcheries or game farms, but we should rely upon them as little as we can.'



W. J. P. Aberg

"Three: We have had too narrow a concept of conservation. Wildlife is a good deal more than fish and game, and forestry is a good deal more than trees. There are many aspects of conservation, such as wild flowers, for instance, that are as much in need of action as trout or grouse.

"Four: Conservation must be accomplished through the farmer. We can do it only partially through government. State and federal bureaus and commissions are only the indirect instruments. They are the tools to bring conservation to the land owner. Through a bad misconception, federal and state commissions have interpreted themselves as direct agents. They can't do it. The job is too big. For conservation is cropping. If the department of agriculture undertook to do all the cropping in the United States, how far would it get? Obviously nowhere."

Another member of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission who is a sustaining member of the So-

ciety is W. J. P. Aberg of Madison. Mr. Aberg has been interested in bird study since his youth and only recently photographed the nest of the Loon while vacationing on the islands north of Detour, Michigan. His interest in birds was largely responsible for the establishment of Wisconsin's research projects on grouse, pheasants and waterfowl and he is without question one of the men most responsible for the present restoration of Horicon Marsh.

## AN OBSCURE WISCONSIN BIRD LIST

BY W. L. McATEE

*Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Ill.*

The following reference seems to have escaped general notice:

**Bruhin, Pastor Th. A., *Die Vogel von New Coeln im Staate Wisconsin*. Zoologische Garten, 16(11), October 1875, pp. 414-417.**

It is listed by Coues (*Birds of the Colorado Valley, 1878, Bibliographical Appendix, p. 711*) who states, however, that he had not seen the paper.

The author terms it a brief catalog of the birds seen during six years and presents it as an aid toward appraising changes that might occur due to man's alteration of the environment. He possibly did not foresee how absolute these changes would be, for New Coeln is now only an old name for a part of greater Milwaukee.

Bruhin's references to periods of time are not clearly related to the "six years" but probably should be understood as dating back from 1875. He notes great reduction in the number of ruffed grouse due to

farming operations and to hunting in a period of twenty years. Thirty years ago, he says, the bobolink was entirely unknown but since the land was cleared, there is hardly a field in which from one to several pairs do not breed. For some years the horned lark was very numerous, yet in the winter of 1874-75 one could travel for miles without seeing or hearing one. The probable cause was destruction of broods by heavy rains in 1874. Titmice (*Parus atricapillus*), formerly rare, were plentiful last winter, he notes, and he adds: "In the summer of 1874 I found several species of *Dendroica* not previously observed." The most interesting example of sporadic occurrence was that of the golden plover which was observed in great numbers, May 2, 1875 (after a snowstorm on May 1), at three different places in Milwaukee County, where previously it had been seen seldom or not at all.

The list of the birds of New Coeln includes 103 definite specific entries, besides 5 that are queried, plus *Helminthophagae*, *Dendroicae*, and *Sieuri* unidentified, and 6 groups of domesticated fowls. Twenty-one are indicated as permanent or winter residents, but several others could have been so marked with equal correctness. Among forms of special interest are those of northern distribution (*Nyctea nivea*, *Picoides arcticus*, *Pinicola canadensis*, *Plectrophanes nivalis*, and *Corvus americanus*). The last is the raven (*Rabe*) which he says is at home in northern Wisconsin, but only transient in Milwaukee County); of southern affinities (*Centurus carolinus*, and *Cyanospiza cyanea*); and on other grounds (*Ectopistes migratorius* and *Phalaropus hyperboreus*). He records *Carpodacus frontalis* in flocks in winter but this doubtless is a slip as he lists also *C. purpureus*.

Of considerable interest is his series of hawk names:

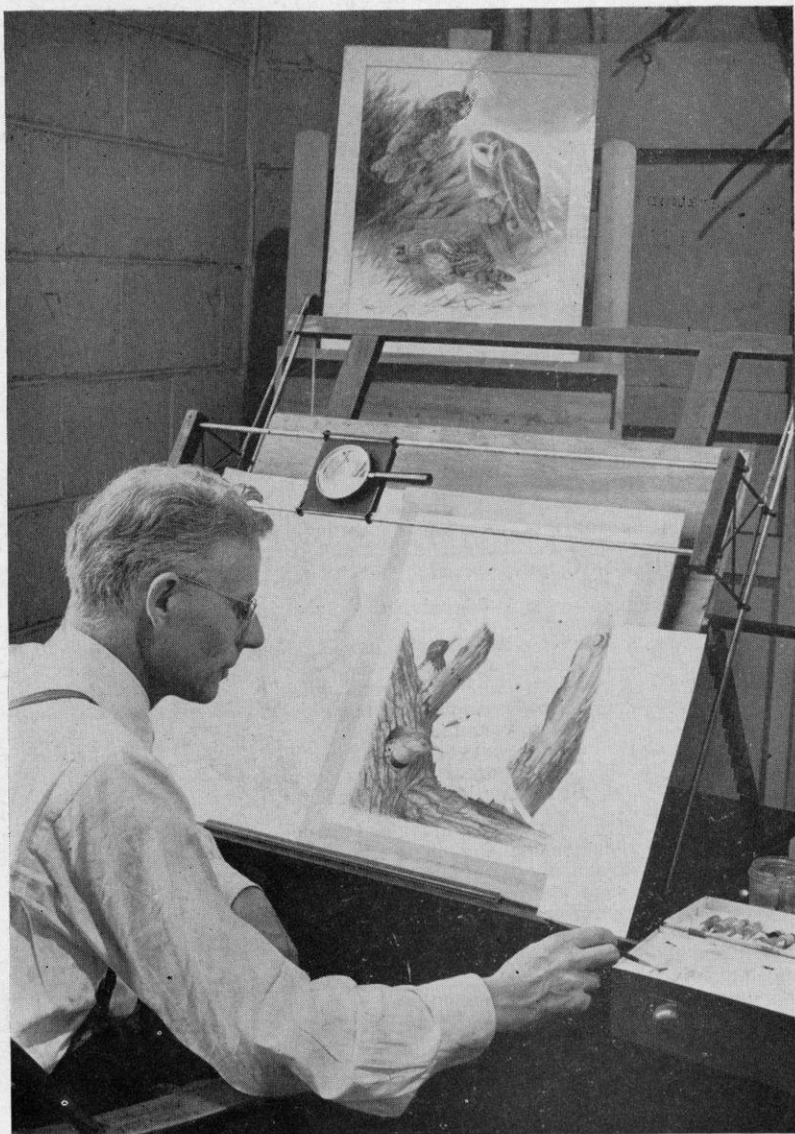
*Falco tinnunculo similis*  
*Falco polyagrus* Cass.  
*Falco rubroscapularis mihi*  
*Falco columbarius mihi*  
*Falco vernalis mihi*  
*Falco sparverius*, L.  
*Buteo borealis*  
*Haliaetus leucocephalus*

The "similis" in the first entry may be regarded as a remark in Latin to indicate the occurrence of a bird like the European *tinnunculus*. However, as he separately lists the species—*sparverius*—most like the kestrel or windhover, his meaning is in doubt. *Falco polyagrus*, now *F. mexicanus*, the prairie falcon, has been recorded from Minnesota and Illinois. It may have occurred but this author's record would not seem sufficient to establish the fact. Of the three names followed by "mihi" (customary label for a new species), the author says: "I name these three species not because I believe them to be new but only to set them apart as forms not yet sufficiently known." As the names are not accompanied by descriptive matter, they are *nomina nuda* and will cause no nomenclatorial difficulties. At a guess, they may represent, in order, the red-shouldered and pigeon hawks, and possibly one of the species of the genus *Accipiter*.

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(Editor's note: To assist general readers, the following scientific names in this article are transcribed: *Nyctea nivea*, Snowy Owl; *Picoides arcticus*, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker; *Pinicola canadensis*, Pine Grosbeak; *Plectrophanes nivalis*, Snow Bunting; *Corvus americanus*, Crow; *Centurus carolinus*, Red-bellied Woodpecker; *Cyanospiza cyanea*, Indigo Bunting; *Ectopistes migratorius*, Passenger Pigeon; *Phalaropus hyperboreus*, Northern Phalarope; *Carpodacus frontalis*, Crimson-fronted Finch (Southwestern); *C. purpureus*, Purple Finch; *Buteo borealis*, Red-tailed Hawk; and *Haliaetus leucocephalus*, Bald Eagle).





**Owen J. Gromme Working on Painting for "Birds of Wisconsin"**

A large proportion of the paintings by Owen J. Gromme for the Milwaukee Public Museum's book "Birds of Wisconsin" already have been completed. Although no definite publication date has been set, efforts are being made now to secure all possible contributions and subscriptions for the "Birds of Wisconsin Trust Fund" which is attempting to raise a fund of \$20,000 to underwrite the color work. Mr. Gromme recently made it clear that this attempt to obtain subscriptions and contributions is so that patrons may take advantage of the present favorable income tax deduction. The sooner this subsidy is secured, the larger the accrued interest will be, thereby allowing the ordinary edition to be sold at a lesser price. . . . Only 200 copies of the deluxe autographed and numbered edition will be sold at \$100 each and a number of subscriptions already have been taken. Anyone interested in purchasing this edition should contact Owen Gromme at the Milwaukee Public Museum promptly for a subscription agreement, in which a time payment clause is available if desired. The book will carry acknowledgments to patrons.