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1939



25th

Anniversary 1964

The Passenger Pigeon

A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

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CONVENTION
EDITION

VOLUME 26
NUMBER 1

SPRING
1964

SILVER ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Appraising WSO's first
quarter-century:

Stories by

Arol C. Epple

Clara Hussong

Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.

Walter E. Scott

Howard Young

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Ornithological Progress in Wisconsin 1939-1963

By SAM ROBBINS

The original architects of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology envisioned "a state bird club that will unite all the ornithologists of the state, both professional and amateur, to cooperate with state and federal authorities in bringing about better enforcement of all existing laws . . . and to make new laws which protect bird life in Wisconsin—a club that will promote the study of birds of Wisconsin, especially in the field, and to bring together and permanently record all accurate and authentic data relative thereto, both past and present—especially on the distribution, relative abundance, seasonal occurrence, breeding, feeding, song and other habits." (1939 *Passenger Pigeon* 1).

This summary in no way attempts to describe fully the results of a quarter century of effort to realize this vision. Some progress has taken the form of cooperative research projects; some has resulted in various Society publications; some has resulted in conservation activities. These are being dealt with in other "silver anniversary" articles.

But the first WSO leaders reckoned rightly that all forms of ornithological progress must have as their basic foundation accurate data on the presence of Wisconsin birds. Which birds come to Wisconsin? During which seasons are they present? How much of the state belongs in their range? How numerous are they at different locations at different seasons? No ornithological progress is possible—be it scientific, literary, protective or educational—without an extensive collection of field notes.

Field Notes Permanently Recorded

From its inception, therefore, WSO set out to assemble field notes as extensively as possible. The beginnings were meager. Active field observers were few in number, and—with few exceptions—were clustered in city clubs located in Green Bay, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha and Madison. In examining the list of members WSO had after one year of its existence, one finds that 86% of the 210 resident members lived within the Madison-Racine-Green Bay triangle. Twenty years later, WSO had a resident membership of 817, with 265 (32%) living outside this triangle and residing in all but ten of Wisconsin's 72 counties. While large and significant areas within the state still receive imperfect coverage, marked gains will be apparent to all who read the seasonal field note summaries in *The Passenger Pigeon*.

For the first few years, field note correspondence was discarded after data for seasonal summaries had been extracted.* In 1946 a permanent

*It's a pleasure to report that custodian Walter E. Scott has saved many of the records for these first years and they will be made available for recording in the WSO permanent filing project.—Editor

filing system was devised to preserve all records—not just those that appeared in the published summaries. We now have a file card for each species in each county in which the species has been observed; and for each year that data are available, there are recorded spring arrival and departure dates, fall arrival and departure dates, summer and winter status, and the names of observers.

While the information in the files can answer certain questions dealing with where birds are seen and at what times of the year birds are present, certain other important questions remain unanswered. Are certain species increasing in number? Are some birds decreasing? What is the relative abundance of the different species of a given family? Do populations of particular species fluctuate greatly from year to year? What effect have unusual weather conditions in this state or in other states had on Wisconsin birds? The answers to these questions require a type of quantitative data that Wisconsin observers (along with observers nearly everywhere!) have been slow to assemble.

Quantitative Measurements of Birds

To date Wisconsin's most successful effort in quantitative measurement has been the Christmas Bird Count. The past 25 years have witnessed a tremendous growth in participation in this project in Wisconsin—so much so that in all likelihood the 68 counts taken in Wisconsin in 1963 represent the largest number of Christmas counts ever taken in one state. Some of the smaller eastern states, such as Maryland and New Jersey, undoubtedly cover a higher percentage of its area; but Wisconsin ranks close to the top in this cooperative effort to measure quantitative bird populations.

More difficult to measure are the summer breeding populations; but because so many more birds are involved, it is important that we learn how to measure them. To this end WSO inaugurated its Summer Bird Count project in 1961. Its method of measurement is not as precise as the Breeding Bird Census program carried on by **Audubon Field Notes** in recent years, but because the WSO program can cover an enormously larger sample area, it may well prove to be more productive of significant data. Participation in the Summer Bird Count is encouraging, considering its infancy, but it should be enormously larger if its full benefit is to accrue.

Still more difficult to measure are the migratory flights for all species. Federal and state wildlife agencies manage to do this quite well for game species. For passerines, the banders are best equipped to measure the size of migratory groups. The "Operation Recovery" program carried on at Cedar Grove is an outstanding example; yet the measurement here is of birds that pause in their migratory flights (and pause in the lower vegetation, rather than the tree-tops). Attempts to measure non-stop passerine migration have included the monitoring of nocturnal chips and the investigations at television towers and ceilometers. Yet those closest to these types of investigations are the first to admit that the data assembled so far as fragmentary, and that little is known about what valid conclusions can be drawn from these fragments.

Every observer can contribute something to this effort at quantitative analysis by noting and reporting species that seem to be more abundant

or more scarce than usual. Whenever a seasonal field note summarizer examines an observer's report, he is looking first for comments on species that are above or below average; and all too often he is disappointed to find no such comments. If one lone observer reports that Bluebirds are unusually scarce, it means little; but if twenty observers in widely separated areas comment on the scarcity of Bluebirds, this has real significance.

Some changes in the range and populations of birds are bound to appear over a 25-year period. One of the most striking changes that stands out when one re-reads the field notes from the first issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** concerns the Prairie Chicken. In 1939 and 1940 flocks of these species were reported from such southeastern counties as Walworth, Rock, Jefferson, Dane, Columbia, Dodge and Winnebago; in 1963 one's only chance to find this species is by visiting the Buena Vista and Leola Marshes in Portage and Adams counties. The writer has a vivid recollection of one late April morning in the mid-1950's when he accompanied the late S. Paul Jones on a visit to the Leola Marsh. The Prairie Chickens were booming, the American Bitterns were pumping, the Ruffed Grouse were drumming, the Common Snipes were winnowing, the Sandhill Cranes were trumpeting. The smile that came over Jones' face was one of the most blissful and contented I have ever seen, as he commented: "We used to hear this in Waukesha county—many years ago."

It is inevitable that the demands of an expanding human population will affect bird population in drastic ways. While the scope of this essay merely points out what changes have been taking place, the "conservation conscience" of WSO members will lead them into ever increasing efforts to preserve carefully chosen areas that will permit the sights and sounds of yesteryear to continue.

Perhaps the most effective way to gauge the change in bird distribution in the past 25 years is to compare the first edition of "Wisconsin Birds—a Preliminary Checklist with Migration Charts" (1942) with the most recently revised edition (1960). The committee preparing the 1942 edition attempted to describe as accurately as possible the status of each Wisconsin species as based on four chief sources: (1) published literature (most of which was pre-1920), (2) field notes published in **The Passenger Pigeon** during its first three years, (3) unpublished field observations of committee members, and (4) comments of the main field ornithologists of that time as they read the **Checklist** manuscript. As a result of field observations between 1942 and 1960, the revision committee found it necessary to make changes in status for over 60% of the species found in the state.

Additions to the State List

Twelve forms that had been included in the 1942 edition were deleted in 1960. Following the policy established in the fifth edition of the **A. O. U. Checklist** (1957) eliminating separate listing of subspecies, the 1960 revisers dropped the Red-legged Black Duck, Little Brown Crane, Prairie Horned Lark, Willow Thrush, Arctic Towhee and Gambel's Sparrow. The Chukar Partridge, Valley Quail and Reeves' Pheasant were dropped because they were introduced species that failed to establish themselves. Lack of documentary evidence (no specimen or photo-

graph) led to the deletion of the Pacific Loon, Great Black-backed Gull and Laughing Gull (since restored).

Coincidentally their places were taken by twelve species for which positive records were not known by the checklist committee in 1942. By 1960 there had come to light some 19th century records of the Common Eider, a 1916 specimen of the Long-tailed Jaeger and a 1935 skin of a European Goldfinch. A Brown Pelican was taken in 1943, a Varied Thrush was photographed in 1944, an Ivory Gull was collected in 1947, specimens of the Green-tailed Towhee and Bullock's Oriole were obtained in 1952, photographs of the Louisiana Heron and Yellow-crowned Night Heron were snapped in 1955, the Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers were given separate species status in 1957, and pictures of the Ruff were secured in 1959.

The state list has since swelled to 355, thanks to the recent discovery of a Groove-billed Ani specimen taken in 1913, and photographs of the Black-throated Sparrow (1959), Cattle Egret (1960), White-faced Ibis (1960), Ross' Goose (1960), Mute Swan (1963) and Laughing Gull (1963). The Brewster's Warbler was transferred from the hypothetical list to regular status when one was collected in 1961, but hybrids are not included in species totals.

The hypothetical list has also undergone drastic changes since 1942. Half of the 26 forms listed at that time were dropped when the policy of discontinued mention of subspecies was begun; five were dropped because of insufficient data (Water Turkey, Velvet Scoter, Mississippi Kite, Harlan's Hawk, Gull-billed Tern); and three were transferred to the regular list (Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Common Eider and Varied Thrush).

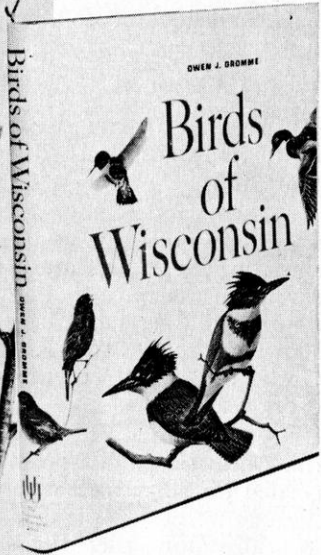
For each of the five species that have remained hypothetical (Barrow's Goldeneye, Prairie Falcon, Black Rail, Iceland Gull, Kirtland's Warbler), additional sight records have been reported. On the basis of careful sight records, well documented in writing, new species have been added to the hypothetical list with remarkable frequency:

1938 Little Gull	1950 Lazuli Bunting
1939 Great Black-backed Gull	1952 Iceland Gull
1943 Audubon's Warbler	1952 Wheatear
1943 Lawrence's Warbler	1954 Mountain Bluebird
1949 Baird's Sparrow	1957 Painted Bunting
1950 Roseate Tern	1961 Black Brant
1950 Vermillion Flycatcher	

Space does not permit comment on each species for which the 1942 definition of status now seems inadequate. Nor is there any certainty that the status of a majority of Wisconsin birds has actually changed materially in the past 25 years. It is probable that such species as the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Northern Waterthrush have nested regularly in northern Wisconsin for many years; but positive nesting evidence was not known when WSO was in its infancy. It seems likely that the Franklin's Gull has been invading the extreme western edge at fall plowing time since long before WSO was organized, but only in the past three years has this phenomenon come to light.

It is equally probable that some of the changes in description of status do in fact reflect population ups and downs, range extensions and

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shrinkings that have been taking place before our eyes. The range of the Spruce Grouse, as well as the Prairie Chicken, has decreased. The spread of the Red-bellied Woodpecker and Western Meadowlark have been well documented. The decrease in Bluebirds has been apparent to nearly everyone.

Changes in Status

Here is a brief listing of some species whose status we would describe in a significantly different way now than was done in the beginning years of WSO's history.

Loons and Grebes: It has been discovered that sizable flocks of Red-throated Loons can be found along certain parts of the Lake Michigan shoreline in spring and fall migration, making this species seem less rare than was once thought; that this species may also occur occasionally on inland waters has been demonstrated by observations on Petenwell Flowage, the St. Croix River, and Crex Meadows. No longer is the Eared Grebe of "casual" occurrence; one or more birds are reported nearly every year.

Cormorants, Herons and Ibises: Several former nesting colonies of the Double-crested Cormorant have disappeared, and the species is recorded now in considerably reduced numbers. The Common Egret has become well established as a nesting bird both at Horicon and at favored locations along the Mississippi River; but as nesting populations to the south of Wisconsin have decreased, the post-breeding invasions in late summer are less pronounced than they once were. The Snowy Egret occurs somewhat more frequently than it did 25 years ago, and is as apt to be recorded in May as in late summer. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, almost unknown in the state when WSO was organized, is now a regular breeder both in the Racine-Milwaukee area and along the Mississippi River. Enough Glossy Ibises have wandered to Wisconsin in late years to change the status from "accidental" to "very rare."

Waterfowl: In addition to the large flocks of Whistling Swans that invade the Fox River Valley area in spring, well known during WSO's first years, we have since learned that smaller flocks—still of considerable size—are to be found in spring in central and western portions of the state. Recent years have seen the re-establishment of the Canada Goose as a breeding species at several wildlife refuges. The large flocks of Red-heads and Canvasbacks that used to be common sights on Wisconsin's larger inland lakes have mostly disappeared. The Common and Surf Scoters, formerly thought to be seen only in fall migration, have now been found to occur rarely in late April and May.

Hawks: The Turkey Vulture has now become established as a breeder in a few areas, and as a visitor to nearly every county. The Swainson's Hawk, once considered of only casual occurrence in fall, is now reported somewhere in the state nearly every year—occasionally in spring as well as fall. Bald Eagles appear to be more numerous in winter now than they were 25 years ago; but this is due in part to the erection of new dams along the Wisconsin River and in part to more knowledge about concentrations along Mississippi River dams, and may well reflect only the holding of more birds in Wisconsin that used to winter farther south. The breeding range of eagles continues to shrink in northern Wisconsin,

as man continues to appropriate more water areas for recreational pursuits; and the production from known eagle nests is decreasing at an alarming rate. The Peregrine Falcon, already rare as a Wisconsin breeder when WSO was organized, has nearly ceased to be a Wisconsin breeder now.

Grouse, Rails: The encroachment of humans has caused a serious shrinking in habitat suitable for Prairie Chicken and Spruce Grouse, and—to a lesser extent—for the Sharp-tailed Grouse. The decline has been arrested in part by increased knowledge of the habitat requirements of these species, and by concerted effort to maintain suitable habitat, but the ultimate success in preserving these species remains to be seen. The past 25 years have seen the failure of an earlier attempt to restock the Baraboo Hills with Wild Turkeys, but also a renewed replanting effort in central Wisconsin that looks more promising. Various marshy areas where King Rails were formerly found have been drained, so this species must now be regarded as rare. In recent years there have been several instances of Virginia Rails lingering into the winter months, but we know of no successful wintering efforts to date.

Shorebirds: The Piping Plover has apparently completely disappeared from Lake Michigan as a breeding bird, and is seen there in migration only rarely; it has been determined, however, that this species occasionally nests along Lake Superior. No longer do we deem it correct to refer to the Lesser Yellowlegs as a "common summer resident"; it is rarely seen between late May and early July, and the birds commonly present during July are early fall migrants. The White-rumped Sandpiper is somewhat more numerous as a later spring migrant than was formerly supposed. A precise pattern concerning the presence of the two recognized species of Dowitchers has not yet emerged; but present data point to Long-billed migration periods in early May and from mid-September through October, and to Short-billed migration between mid-May and early June and again from early July through early September. Some overlap is probable, and it is likely that the Short-billed far outnumber the Long-billed. The Stilt Sandpiper is reported in much larger numbers now than it was during the infant years of the Society. The Western Sandpiper remains a rare migrant, but is now found as often in fall as in spring. The "casual" status formerly attributed to the Hudsonian Godwit now applies only to the fall migration; in spring it is found every year, and sometimes in numbers. The Sanderling has been found to be common along Lake Superior as well as Lake Michigan, and to wander as scattered individuals to most of the other major water areas in the state.

Gulls, Terns: During the 1950's there were sight records from Lake Michigan nearly every winter for the Glaucous, Iceland and Great Black-backed Gulls. Such reports have been less frequent during the past five years; but frequent reports from neighboring states suggest the likelihood that all three species are of more than casual occurrence along Lakes Michigan and Superior. Because of several careful observations in recent years, "very rare" seems a more appropriate designation for the Laughing Gull than "accidental." While the Franklin's Gull remains rare in most of the state, there is a tiny stretch of extreme western Wis-

consin where birds numbering 100 or more can be found following the farmers in their October plowing each year.

Cuckoos, Owls: Whereas the status of the two species of cuckoos was described in identical terminology in the 1942 "Checklist," some marked differences now appear: the Yellow-billed often outnumbers the Black-billed in some of the southern areas, but in the northern areas the Black-billed is found almost exclusively. A marked decrease in the number of Screech Owls has taken place in the last few years. The Hawk Owl remains a very rare species, but has recently been added to the list of species known to have bred in the state. The Short-eared Owl has also been established as a breeding species, although both it and the Long-eared Owl appear less common than formerly.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers: The Red-bellied Woodpecker's northward trend, already apparent 25 years ago, has progressed conspicuously ever since; not only has it spread over a large part of the state as at least an occasional visitor, but in Christmas bird counts in the southwestern portion it often outnumbers the Hairy, and sometimes even the Downy. The Red-headed, on the other hand, may well have decreased in numbers. The summer status of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is much better known now than it was a few years ago: it is found in small numbers in central and southwestern Wisconsin, and is fairly common in the northern counties (the 21 tallied in a 19-mile summer count in Ashland county in 1963 is typical). Recent summer bird counts also show the Crested Flycatcher to be decidedly more numerous than the Phoebe—quite the reverse of what was thought to be true twenty years ago. The Olive-sided Flycatcher is more prevalent as a breeder in the northern counties than was previously surmised.

Ravens, Titmice, Wrens: It now appears that the summer status of the Raven in the northern counties is better described by the term "fairly common" rather than "rare." It has now been determined that the Boreal Chickadee is decidedly more numerous in the northeast than the northwest, and that it belongs on the list of breeding species for the state. Further investigations from the northern counties show both the Red-breasted Nuthatch and the Winter Wren to be fairly numerous in summer. The status of the Bewick's Wren remains rare in those portions of southern and eastern Wisconsin that were best known in WSO's formative years, but more recent investigations into less well known areas of western and central Wisconsin have shown this species to be regular—but by no means common—in this region. Breeding records have been established for the Carolina Wren and Mockingbird, although both species continue rare, and are as apt to turn up in winter as at any other season.

Thrushes: Recent developments have shown the Robin to be especially susceptible to DDT spraying, and to have suffered stunning losses in heavily sprayed areas. The ability of this species to replenish its losses remains to be seen. Banders and night migrant chip-counters have proved that the Swainson's Thrush, rather than being merely "fairly common," is far and away our most common brown-backed thrush in migration, and in a few favorable areas it is also a breeder in the northern counties. The sharp, sudden decline of the Bluebird has been the

talk of ornithologists all over the eastern half of North America in the last five years. Much of the loss is attributed to the severity of winter weather in the southeastern states, and about that Wisconsin observers can do nothing. Some of the loss is blamed on the lack of suitable nesting sites, and Wisconsin birders are hard at work to alleviate this shortage by erecting suitable houses. In addition, WSO is sponsoring Bluebird Trails projects by youth groups in many counties.

Kinglets, Vireos: Positive breeding records for the Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were unknown when WSO was organized. The Golden-crowned has since been established as a breeding species, and appears to be widespread in suitable habitat throughout the northern counties. The Ruby-crowned, while much less common, is also found in the north each summer, and it is doubtless only a question of time until a nest is found. The known range for the Bell's Vireo has been expanded by the discovery of a colony in Trempealeau county, and by sporadic sightings as far north as St. Croix county. The Solitary Vireo has been found to be fairly common in summer in the northern areas.

Warblers: The summer range for most breeding species can be more carefully defined now than formerly. It now appears that only the Yellow and the Yellowthroat can be called widely distributed through all parts of the state. The summer distribution of the Ovenbird and Redstart is also statewide in scope, but severely limited in the southern tier of counties by a lack of suitable habitat. Several southern species (Prothonotary, Blue-winged, Cerulean, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky and Yellow-breasted Chat) have been found farther north and west than they had been known to occur 25 years ago. Among the species nesting in the more northern counties, the Mourning and Northern Waterthrush are now found in a few spots south and east of their presumed former range. Among species formerly thought to have nested only north of Wisconsin, observations strongly suggestive of breeding have been made recently for the Palm and Bay-breasted, and enough instances of the Tennessee have been recorded to make breeding seem logical. Late summer observations now indicate that the fall migration is usually under way soon after mid-July, decidedly earlier than was previously supposed. Winter records of the Myrtle have cropped up with increasing frequency in the last few years.

Finches, Sparrows: The movement of the Cardinal northward through the state, a subject of lively discussion when WSO was in its first years, has continued in a modest way through the intervening years—not so much as a pushing into new areas as through multiplication of numbers in the southwestern half of the state to the point where it is now one of the most common birds in that region. Evidence in the past few years has shown that the Purple Finch and Pine Siskin, while always showing a certain amount of dependable migration movement every year, are also prone at times to the same sort of spectacular irruptions that we associate with grosbeaks, redpolls and crossbills in winter. Greater attention to sparrows at Christmas Bird Count time has shown that scattered individual Savannahs, Vespers, Fields, Harris', White-crowns and Swamps may linger in December and January in the southern counties. The Oregon Junco, once considered accidental, is now regular in

small numbers in winter. The White-throated Sparrow, once thought to be scarce in summer, is now found commonly in many of the spruce bogs of the north.

It should not be assumed that WSO has been interested only in the sort of range and population discoveries that have been mentioned above. Through the cooperative research projects in which many members have participated, as well as through individual research projects, WSO has made contributions to life history studies of the Great Horned Owl, Raven, Cardinal, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, and several other species. Through the "By the Wayside" column, members have often reported on interesting and significant aspects of bird behavior. But vast unexplored areas for investigation are still present here. Perhaps in another 25 years, when someone is asked to summarize the main areas of ornithological progress in the years that now lie before us, he will be able to report that investigations have proceeded on a very broad front and carried us far beyond the "field note stage." Not only must we ask "what bird is that?"; we should also be asking "what is the bird doing?" and "why it is doing that?"

Roberts, Wisconsin



By the Wayside...

Whimbrels at Baileys Harbor. Fifteen of these birds were seen at the Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor, Door county, on June 1, 1963. A group of large, dark birds flew in with the gulls toward the shore. As they circled in front of us we could see their long, beautiful, down-curved bills. The bill seemed to go out a long way straight and then curve sharply downward. The backs were all brownish including the rump and tail. There was no wing stripe or other light mark. The side profile of decurved bill, all brown bird and feet out was wonderful to see. They landed down the beach and we were able to observe them from three different distances with glass (10x40) and scope (30x80). They seemed about two-thirds the size of Ring-billed Gulls. There was a head stripe and lighter eye stripe which was not too pronounced. They appeared more brownish and buff than in the books. We stopped at Murl Deusing's to tell him about them, but don't know if he found them or not. The wing linings were brownish.—Robert and Louise Erickson, Racine.

Richard Bernard, Wisconsin State College, Superior, also reports seeing three Whimbrels on June 20 at Superior. The birds there were also noted by several observers in Duluth at about the same time.

Hudsonian Godwit at Cedar Grove. On July 6, 1963, at about 3:00 p. m. (CDT) while we were on the Lake Michigan beach east of Cedar Grove, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, Berger saw a large shorebird flying south about two feet above the water and at a distance of 80 yards off shore. The most conspicuous markings noted by Berger were dark or black patches probably on the underside of the wings or on the sides of the breast. When Berger called attention to the bird, Mueller's instantaneous impression was that the bird was a gull. He realized almost immediately that it was a very large shorebird and noted that the wing was strikingly patterned in dark and white, reminding him of a Willet. No further details were noted. All observations were with the unaided eye.

The Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa Hoemastica*) is the only large shorebird with a dark underwing surface and a prominent white stripe on the upper surface of the wing.

The bird called several times. Berger characterized the call as rather low pitched and nasal. Mueller described the call as disyllabic, vaguely resembling the call of a gull or a crow, and he render it phonetically as "ha ha." The call reminded him strongly of that of a Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) which he has heard on W. W. H. Gunn's long-playing record, "A Day at Flores Morades" (Sounds of Nature Series, Vol. V, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Don Mills, Ontario). Wetmore, in R. T. Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*, 2nd ed., gives the call of the Hudsonian Godwit as "a low qua qua," which agrees nicely with our observation.

None of the recorded Hudsonian Godwit calls in "A Field Guide to Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America" (Kellog, P. P., A. A. Allen and R. T. Peterson) resembles the call which we heard, but several of the calls of the Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) were vaguely similar to that which we heard in the field.

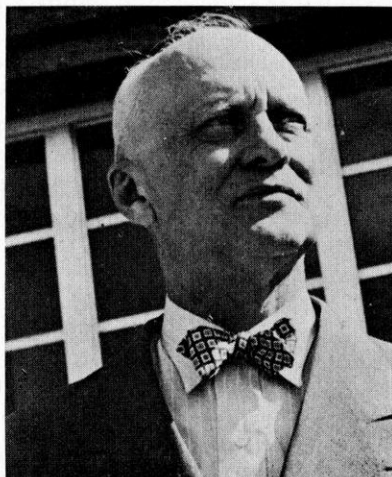
As far as we can recall, neither of us had seen a Hudsonian Godwit before.—Helmut C. Mueller and Daniel D. Berger, Cedar Grove.

This observation probably should be considered something less than 100% certain because of inadequate conditions of observations. Again, Richard Bernard reports having seen two Hudsonian Godwits at Wisconsin Point, Superior, on June 3. The birds were in spring plumage and the bill and wing stripes were noted.—Summer Seasonal Editors.

Dead Yellow Rail Found at Shiocton. In July of 1963, Darryl I. Bruegger of Route 1, Shiocton (Outagamie county), brought over to my house two dead birds which he had kept for some time in his freezer. One was the Purple Finch, which he had found dead near his home, and the other was a Yellow Rail. He had found the rail early in April, 1962, he said, while walking about on his farm. It had been several hours since he had taken the birds out of the freezer, and the rail was thawed enough so we could spread out wings and feet for positive identification. It was the first Yellow Rail I had ever seen, and I had to "get out the book" to make identification. Both birds were turned over to the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, along with notes on where they were found.—Clara Hussong, Green Bay.



The Harry Steenbock Gift



Dr. Harry Steenbock recently contributed \$1,000 to the WSO silver anniversary program committee with the understanding that the money would assist in paying the honorarium and expenses to bring Roger Tory Peterson to the meeting as guest lecturer after the banquet, and also that any remaining funds would be used for some more permanent Society project. It is the hope of the program committee that at least half of this money will become available for assignment by the board of directors. Consideration is being given to some development work in connection with the Honey Creek Natural Area presently owned and managed by WSO.

Dr. Steenbock is an eminent biochemist and professor emeritus from the University of Wisconsin, and both he and his wife have a deep and abiding interest in natural history and birds. In recent years he has assisted many worthwhile projects with generous contributions in addition to the assignment of royalties from his discoveries to the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. The discovery of an inexpensive method for artificial radiation of footstuffs to create vitamin D is perhaps the the best known.

In acknowledgement of his gift, which was the largest ever received by the Society, the board of directors elected Dr. Steenbock as a Life Member. A suitable presentation in recognition of this gift is planned in connection with the silver anniversary banquet, which both he and his wife have been invited to attend.—Walter E. Scott.



A P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a rich public heritage of 355 different kinds of birds, of inestimable economic value to the citizens of the state through the role they play as a recreational resource and in agricultural production, and

WHEREAS, birds also symbolize man's high goals of freedom and an ethical conscience which finds a place for all living things in the community, and

WHEREAS, birds gladden the hearts of men by their joyous songs, bright colors, and power of flight, bestowing an aesthetic quality to man's environment, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, incorporated under the state laws "to stimulate interest in and promote the scientific study of birds in Wisconsin toward a better understanding of their biology and the basis of their preservation and conservation," was organized in May, 1939, and is celebrating its Silver Anniversary this year after a quarter century of successful achievement, following the high examples set by such naturalists and scientists as John James Audubon and Wisconsin pioneers Ned Hollister, Thure Kumlien, Increase Lapham, Aldo Leopold and John Muir,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN W. REYNOLDS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim the month of May as

BIRD APPRECIATION TIME

and urge all citizens and guests of the state not only to enjoy our avifauna but to consider their future needs for suitable habitat so the sad story of the passenger pigeon's extinction need never be repeated.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this thirty-first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.



By the Governor:

Robert G. Zimmerman
Secretary of State

John W. Reynolds
GOVERNOR

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

By CLARA HUSSONG

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS, edited by Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. 1961, paperbound. \$1.75. A guide to 30 of Wisconsin's most favored locations for bird study, with maps of each area.

WISCONSIN BIRDS, A CHECKLIST WITH MIGRATION CHARTS, by N. R. Barger, Roy Lound, and Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. A 1960 edition, 32 page booklet with space for keeping a 10-year record. 35c, or 3 for \$1.00.

FIELD CARDS, pocket-size cards listing 287 species, 3c each, or 10 for 25c, 50 for \$1.00.

BIRDS OF WISCONSIN, by Kumlien and Hollister, the original (1903) work of Ludwig Kumlien and Ned Hollister, reprinted in 1951 with revisional notes by A. W. Schorger. Cloth \$2.00; paper \$1.25.

SILENT WINGS, A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, edited by Walter Scott, 1947, with articles by Aldo Leopold, H. H. T. Jackson, and A. W. Schorger. Originally \$1.00, now 25c.

SOME WISCONSIN NATURALISTS, by A. W. Schorger, 1946, 50 pages, paperbound. \$1.00. (Only a few copies remain).

All of these books and booklets may be purchased from the WSO Supply Dept., Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, Wisconsin. WSO members are entitled to a 10 percent discount on all orders. Books are sent postpaid. Make checks payable to WSO Supply Department.

Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts answers such questions for state birders as: Where and when shall I go to see the large concentrations of Whistling Swans on Wisconsin waters during their spring migration? How can I get such birds as the Clay-colored Sparrow, Kentucky Warbler, and the Bald Eagle on my state list? Where can I watch the spring dance of the Prairie Chickens? Am I allowed to visit Horicon Marsh so that I can look for some of the exotic and rare species discovered there in recent years? What has Door County to offer in the way of unusual birds?

Most of the 30 articles in the "Haunts" book have been published previously in **The Passenger Pigeon**, but now they are available in one handy volume for easy reference. Sam Robbins wrote the first article in the series, published in the magazine in 1953, and over the years contributed several more on areas with which he is familiar. He also saw to it that state birders contributed information on birding in their areas, and edited the final collection for this book.

Al Holz of Green Bay contributed the drawing for the cover of the book—a Wood Thrush singing from a tree on the bank of a river, no doubt his own northwoods cabin river, the North Branch of the Oconto River in Oconto county.

Included in the book are descriptions of such diversified bird study areas as the Petenwell Flowage, Adams county (noted for eagles in winter); Crex Meadows, Burnett county (Sandhill Cranes in spring); Goose Pond near Arlington, Columbia county (Willetts, Godwits, Phalaropes,

Stilt Sandpipers); and Cedarburg, Ozaukee county (Carolina Wren, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Sharp-tailed and Harris' Sparrow-.

One of the best sellers of WSO publications is its **Wisconsin Birds, a Checklist**. Those of us who birded during the days when we had no up-to-date list of state birds wonder how we ever got along without it. The first edition of this handy booklet was published in 1942 followed by a second edition in 1950.

The present (1960) edition lists 330 species which have been accepted as occurring in the state within recent years. Charts show the status of each bird (common, uncommon or rare; summer or winter resident, permanent, seasonal visitor, or accidental), and the periods of migration for the migratory species. The charts also indicate whether or not the bird is known to breed in the state.

There is space for keeping yearly records for a 10-year period, or a five-year period if the last dates as well as the arrival dates are listed for the migrators.

Many WSO members buy these booklets by the dozen and pass them out to Boy and Girl Scouts, bird-loving friends, or to neighborhood children who show an interest in birds. Local bird clubs might be interested in buying it in large quantities to sell to their members.

The **Field Card** carries a list of 287 species most likely to be encountered on a field trip. Rare and accidental species are omitted, but there is space on the back of the card to list them, and to add additional notes on sight records. A "rare" species, according to the card, is one which appears five times or less per year in a published record. The card also has spaces for such records as dates, hours, observers, locality, temperature, and so on, as required in submitting the Christmas bird count for publication.

The Birds of Wisconsin, by Ludwig Kumlien (1853-1902) and Ned Hollister (1876-1924) was originally published in 1903 in the "Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society." The two pioneer naturalists included 357 species in their book of Wisconsin birds.

Dr. A. W. Schorger's revisional notes (in brackets) bring the book up-to-date as of the time each portion originally was published in **The Passenger Pigeon** during the period from January 1948 (Vol. X, No. 1) through the Winter issue of 1951 (Vol. XIII, No. 4). In some cases no corrections, additions or deletions were necessary.

Old timers in WSO may be pleasantly surprised to find their names in Dr. Schorger's revisional notes. In updating this book he sometimes referred to the field notes as published in **The Passenger Pigeon** to substantiate or to question Kumlien and Hollister.

Dr. Schorger, of course, reported on the status, range, etc., of the various species as these facts were known and accepted in 1951. It is interesting to note that some of the species listed by Kumlien and Hollister which were dropped from the state list in subsequent years are returning to the state scene again. Others, like the Cardinal, listed by Kumlien and Hollister as rare and confined to the southern part of the state, have become much more common. As Dr. Schorger points out, the Cardinal is now found even in northern counties. He also includes in his revisional

notes, species not listed by Kumlien and Hollister which have been authenticated in more recent years.

The eight men whose biographies are included in Schorger's **Some Wisconsin Naturalists** are Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, Philo Romaine Hoy, Benjamin Franklin Goss, Aaron Ludwig Kumlien, Henry Nehrling, Ned Hollister, Franklin Hiram King and Thure Kumlien, father of Ludwig.

Schoolcraft roamed over much of Wisconsin when it was still part of the Territory of Michigan. He was a member of a geological expedition, and in his journals he reported on the bird life he encountered as well as on his findings in geology.

Hoy, a medical doctor who lived in Racine for a number of years, was said to have known more about Wisconsin birds than any other man of his day. Most famous of Wisconsin's oologists was Benjamin F. Goss, who came to Milwaukee from New Hampshire in 1841, and later lived in Pewaukee.

The Kumliens, father and son, made the name Lake Koshkonong, in Jefferson county, synonymous with birds. Both supplied the Milwaukee Public Museum with many of their mounted specimens. They also helped supply eastern ornithologists with mounted specimens, skins, and eggs.

Nehrling, born in Sheboygan county, later became custodian of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and was the author of numerous books and

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articles on birds and plants. Hollister, a native of Delavan, became a famous research worker for the U. S. Biological Survey. A native of Whitewater, King became a high school and college science teacher and was the author of numerous articles on the bird life of Wisconsin.

Silent Wings, as edited by Walter Scott, is perhaps the most beautiful publication of WSO. The frontispiece, in color, is a reproduction of a painting of the Passenger Pigeon by William Pope. There are numerous other pictures, as well as a map showing the nesting sites of this bird in the state.

The booklet was published on the occasion of the unveiling of a monument at Wyalusing State Park to this bird on May 11, 1947. The monument, a gift of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, was a memorial to the last Passenger Pigeon shot in Wisconsin near Babcock in September, 1899.

In the booklet are included Dr. A. W. Schorger's account of "The Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin and the Problems of its History"; "On a Monument to the Pigeon," by the late Aldo Leopold; "Attitude in Conservation," by Hartley H. T. Jackson; and "The Great Wisconsin Nesting of 1871," also by Schorger.

332 Beaupre Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin



An anniversary story

WSO and Conservation

By AROL C. EPPLÉ

"The purpose of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in and to promote the study of birds of Wisconsin . . ." stated the constitution of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology as written and approved by the founders in 1939. No direct or indirect reference to conservation is to be found anywhere in the original document although it is possible that in the minds of the founders "the study of birds" was broadly interpreted to include the meaning of conservation with all of its implications.

It is difficult to understand how it could have been otherwise with such names as Aberg, Anderson (Harry), Barger, Cole, Derleth, Deusing, Elder, Evans, Feeney, Grange, Grant (Cleveland), Grimmer, Gromme, Hamerstrom, Hopkins (Frank and Ralph), Jackson (H. H. T.), Jones (S. Paul), King (Frank), Jung, Leopold, Loyster, Mathiak, Main, Muckenhirn, Nelson (Chas.), Oberholser (Harry), Oehlenschlaeger, Pough, Robbins, Roberts (T. S.), Schorger, Scott, Smith (O. W.), Steele (Ray), Stoddard (Herbert), Terrell, Walker (Mrs. R. A.), Vallier, Von Jarchow, Wilson and Zimmerman (F. R.) and many other outstanding Wisconsin ornithologists, conservationists and naturalists as pioneers in the development of the Society.

Even before the constitution was ratified, the organization's interest in conservation was evidenced by the name given to the official publica-

tion. Bird names such as Lark, Flicker, Raven, Chickadee, Thrasher could have been selected, but the original membership chose for the name of the journal a bird that once flourished in Wisconsin and had become extinct. This publication, **The Passenger Pigeon**, was to become one of the finest ornithological journals published by a state society.

The feature article in each of the first three issues of the new publication was written by A. W. Schorger and entitled, "The Great Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting of 1871." This story, which had previously been published by the Linnean Society, vividly depicted the life and habits of his great bird and the reasons for its eventual extinction.

A Scientific Group

Over the years the Society held to its original purpose of being a scientific group rather than a vocal and militant organization for or against a particular wildlife cause. Notable exceptions have occurred and one of the first was an article written by Walter Scott and published in the July, 1941 issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**. The author was critical of two articles that appeared in separate newspapers condemning the Great Blue Heron for its fish eating propensities, especially during the nesting season when the young were being fed. The journalists involved had made serious misstatements concerning the contents of a scientific paper that had been published on this subject. Mr. Scott very ably set the record straight. Owen Gromme strongly supported the editor's position in the following issue (1941 **Passenger Pigeon** 72).

At the WSO convention held in Wausau in 1955, a paper was delivered by Mr. Scott entitled, "The Management of Predacious and Fish-Eating Birds in Wisconsin." This speech, which was subsequently published in **The Passenger Pigeon**, presented a rational approach to the solution of this vexing problem. At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Scott suggested that the Society should focus more of its attention on the problems of conservation. The following year the Society erased any doubt about its interest in conservation by amending the constitution to include concern for the "preservation" of birds.

As early as 1946, the membership of the Society was alerted to the harmful effects of DDT on bird life. A well documented article on this topic was written by Frank M. Kozlik and published in the October issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**. Eleven years later the problem was still an issue and of such concern that the autumn number of the 1957 "Pigeon" was largely devoted to this subject. Samuel Robbins, Dixie Larkin, Paul Springer and James Hale each contributed an article documenting the hazards of DDT, stating how the problem could be resolved without reducing the effectiveness of a spraying program. The following year Professor George Wallace contributed an article to the Society's publication which emphasized the need for control over spraying operations.

In 1954 WSO lent its support to the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund by starting a campaign to collect \$1,500 for the purchase of suitable chicken habitat in the Plainfield area. The solicitation was over-subscribed, and with the money two parcels of land totaling 60 acres were purchased. The two pieces of property are now managed by the Wisconsin Conservation Department for the specific purpose of preventing this

bird from becoming extinct. During the several years between 1954 and 1959, Don Thompson, Arthur Baker and Jerry Vogelsang wrote articles in **The Passenger Pigeon** concerning the Prairie Chicken problem. It was through their persistent effort that money was raised to purchase the sixty acres.

A second land purchase instigated in 1958 emphasized the Society's intention of doing more than talking about conservation. Over a period of several years approximately 125 acres of choice wildlife habitat was purchased in the Upper Honey Creek Valley of Sauk county. This area has been developed into a beautiful sanctuary for plant and animal life under the leadership of Harold and Carla Kruse. Hundreds of people visit this preserve each year to enjoy its natural beauty and to study the flora and fauna that abound in the area.

A forceful article by Owen Gromme concerning the management of the Horicon Marsh appears in the autumn issue of the 1957 volume of **The Passenger Pigeon**. Mr. Gromme was particularly critical of management practices that emphasized Canada Goose production to the exclusion of other waterfowl. Certain areas of the marsh were being drained so that corn could be raised to feed the geese. In so doing many prime duck and shorebird breeding and nesting sites were destroyed.

Bluebird Trails Project Expanding

Dr. Charles Kemper's concern over TV tower bird kills is a very real challenge to ornithologists. His articles in **The Passenger Pigeon** of 1958 and 1959 document the seriousness of this hazard and point up the difficulties in developing a solution to the problem.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Romig of Green Bay became concerned about the reduction in the Bluebird population, and in 1959 began encouraging people to build nesting houses and place them in suitable habitat to attract these birds. Starting with 4-H groups in Brown county, the idea spread until two-thirds of the counties in Wisconsin were involved and the project gained national recognition. In 1962 WSO began to actively support the program and the Bluebird Trails project has continued to expand. The sight of Bluebird houses built to the specifications of the Romig's is now common in many rural areas of the state.

Without question, conservation activities and publications of note have been overlooked in this review. Of considerable interest to the writer are the many fine papers concerning the natural history of birds that have been published or delivered on the floor of the convention. These studies, too numerous to enumerate, are fundamental to the understanding of conservation and have played a tremendous role in educating the readers of this journal. Field trips, campouts and conventions have brought people of like minds together where free discussion around the luncheon table, the campfire, or in the convention hall lobby was possible. These associations may not have produced profound ideas, but the possibilities are great that they have helped in some measure to influence the thinking of a number of the members.

Of extreme scientific value are the field studies made by WSO members and reported in **The Passenger Pigeon** under such regular columns as the "Seasonal Reports," "Field Notes," "By the Wayside" and the

annual Christmas and summer bird counts. Documentation of past and present facts concerning wildlife provide students of conservation and research personnel with invaluable data.

The golden anniversary of WSO will be celebrated in 1989. The destiny of wildlife in America may well be determined by that time. The wise use of our natural resources in the face of an exploding population is as important to our survival as is the control of the hydrogen bomb, and far more significant than present efforts to place a man on the moon. The Society has a stake in the future and, along with other organizations interested in conservation and natural history, must make a concerted effort to find solutions to these problems. We must maintain our interest and continue to intensify our efforts in all phases of conservation. When the Society assembles for its golden anniversary at convention headquarters in Madison during the third weekend of May in the year 1989 the membership should be able to point with pride to fifty years of continuous effort to conserve and to use wisely the natural resources of Wisconsin, the nation and the world.

Wisconsin State College
Stevens Point, Wisconsin



An anniversary story

WSO's Cooperative Research Program

By HOWARD YOUNG

In 1939, when *The Passenger Pigeon* still was a mimeographed monthly, the editor sent out a "Range and Population Study Sheet" with the second issue in February, 1939, to collect information on the Canadian Pine Grosbeak, and these reports were summarized by him (anonymously) in the April, 1939, issue in an article titled, "Summary of Pine Grosbeak Records." There were 21 returns from the still unorganized group and this represented approximately 20% of the charter membership. While this first survey was very encouraging, a second one on the "Spread of the Starling in Wisconsin" (October 1939 article) reported that "the returns were not too encouraging." Among other points, the autumn of 1923 was established as the earliest known date for the state and the apparent time of the first invasion by this species.

This initiated the unique program of surveying the past and present status of individual state species which has become more or less a speciality of WSO. Here the subsequent growth of this program, its ups and downs and the dividends received, will be briefly reviewed.

The following year Murl Deusing (1940) reported on the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), giving information on nesting, winter residence, range and migration in Wisconsin. Interest in the project idea

apparently had developed rapidly, because he reported many cooperators. This paper was one of the few available to the Audubon Society when it sought historical information on the Bald Eagle in reference to its current nationwide study.

Young, Stollberg and Deusing (1941) collaborated as the invasion and spread of the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) was traced in the third cooperative study. This survey was aided greatly by about 125 records sent in by WSO members. Interest in this species has remained high; its Wisconsin status was studied again by Young (1946), and most recently by Hendrick (1962).

A fourth paper (Deusing, 1942) gave information on the range, populations and migration of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*). It is clear that a lot of credit is due Mr. Deusing for the time spent in getting this program off to a good start.

World War II resulted in a cessation of these projects for a 4-year period. Richard D. Taber (1947) prepared a carefully written paper on the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), a species whose erratic changes in population have been a puzzle for a long time. After the long layoff, interest in the projects seems to have ebbed, since only 38 cooperators were listed.

Research Committee Established

In 1948, WSO held its annual convention at Waukesha. There, at the suggestion of Dr. George Sutton, the guest speaker, it was decided to formally establish a research committee. Prof. J. T. Emlen, Jr., University of Wisconsin, was appointed as the first chairman. The program, which was already well under way, was thus given a more official status.

Frank King's (1949) article summarized the return of the Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) to Wisconsin, and the subsequent establishment of nesting colonies. Despite the conspicuousness of this species, and widespread public interest in it, he had to rely primarily on a questionnaire circulated among conservation department personnel to get his information.

The next project can only be described as a flat failure. Efforts to establish a network of "chip-listeners" for a night-migration study did not gain many cooperators and no publication was made.

Better results were obtained by Ellarson (1950) in a survey of the history, distribution and nesting of the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). In this interesting report he listed 63 WSO members as cooperators.

Good participation was also obtained by Petersen (1951). He had 85 responses to a questionnaire on the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*). This study covered the breeding and distribution of this species. Replies suggested that the population may have expanded somewhat in the northwestern part of the state.

The most extensive project was headed up by Lanyon (1953) who published a long two-part report on the status of Wisconsin's meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna* and *S. neglecta*). This paper presented detailed information on the ecology, history, distribution, wintering and migration of these intriguing "sister species." In his acknowledgement of help from other WSO members, Lanyon expressed his belief in the value of

these projects and pointed out that participation "... results in the publishing of personal records and observations which might otherwise remain unavailable and hence of little value to future generations."

James Zimmerman became research chairman in 1953 and worked particularly to interest members in participating in the nationwide migration study conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The next cooperative research paper was by Orians (1955) on the Red-tailed Hawk (**Buteo jamaicensis**). Food habits, plumage variations, winter range in Wisconsin, and the public attitude towards hawks were discussed. However, only 7 members sent in information!

During this year the research committee was headed by joint chairmen—Robert McCabe and Fred Wagner. In 1956 the chairmanship was taken over by Howard Young. At this time the research chairman was made a member of the board of directors, further emphasizing the WSO officer's support of the cooperative studies program.

Great Blue Heron Study

Great Blue Herons (**Ardea herodias**) were the topic of the next project (Williams, 1957). A particularly valuable aspect of this paper was the detailed chart showing the location and status of all rookeries reported. In addition to the intrinsic value of such information to local birders, this will serve as an excellent historical basis for any future studies.

In the same year, an attempt to get WSO members to spend a day, or part of a day, checking hawk migration was a distinct failure (Mueller, 1957). Also, a plan for a statewide check on the population of the Robin (**Turdus migratorius**), as a measure of the effect of pesticides, did not gain support from the membership.

In autumn of 1959 the Society got "back on the track" as Aumann and Emlen presented the results of their study of the Cliff Swallow (**Petrochelidon pyrrhonota**). The authors circulated a questionnaire to the rural mail carriers of the state, as well as to WSO members, and presented a map showing the location and size of many colonies.

Shifts in board membership brought Mrs. John McEwan in as research chairman in 1959, followed by Dr. Robert McCabe in 1960.

The next project was abandoned after an enclosed questionnaire and reminders in three straight issues of **The Passenger Pigeon** brought only four responses to a study planned on the Yellow-headed Blackbird. Perhaps there was lessened interest because this species had previously been considered (Ellarson, op. cit.). Also, at this time our journal was arriving very late and irregularly. With the publishing schedule improved, and with the **Badger Birder** as an additional information source, it should be easier to remind members of pending projects.

The recent study, aimed at gaining information about the distribution in Wisconsin and the population levels of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, is also a repeat, since this species was the topic of Petersen's (op. cit.) paper in 1951. Project leaders are Dr. and Mrs. F. N. Hamerstrom, who were appointed as co-chairman of the research committee in 1962. Cooperation was good, as reported in the last issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**.

At the present time the Hamerstoms are heading up the cooperative survey of owls in Wisconsin. This is a two-phase project on wintering owls and also on nesting owls.

It would appear from the results to date that WSO people cooperate well in those studies which ask for a check of records previously accumulated, but not in those which necessitate special new observations. This doubtless reflects the fact that birding is a part-time activity with a great majority of the members. It also indicates that many of them are reluctant to vary their usual pattern of observations to accommodate a request for particular information.

Negative Information Needed

Another major problem in all of these studies has been that members are reluctant to send in negative information. Yet, as President Holz recently pointed out in the **Badger Birder**, it is as important to have strong evidence as to the absence of a species in an area, or its absence of nesting, etc., as it is to get positive evidence about its presence. If a person has an interest in a particular project, he should not refrain from participating simply because he may only have negative information, or may only have partial records. On a statewide basis, everybody else is in the same situation, otherwise there would be no purpose at all in the projects.

As can be seen from the preceding, the idea of Society research projects has persisted, and has been given steady support by the WSO officers, although the enthusiasm of the members has varied. Twenty-five years has result in 14 completed surveys to date, and on an overall basis the program may be called a limited success. Nevertheless, as a result of this cooperative work, information has been accumulated on Wisconsin birds, which otherwise would be unavailable, and which is lacking for similar species in other states. The future success of the program will depend on the degree of support provided by WSO members.

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- Wisconsin State College
La Crosse, Wisconsin



The Groove-billed Ani in Wisconsin

By SAM ROBBINS

REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION
FROM "A FIELD GUIDE TO WEST-
ERN BIRDS" BY ROGER TORY PE-
TERSON, 1941 EDITION, HOUGH-
TON MIFFLIN COMPANY, BOSTON.

The story is fifty years late in unfolding, but it now appears that the Groove-billed Ani is deserving of a place on the official list of species known to have visited Wisconsin. On October 1, 1913, a specimen was collected near Diamond Bluff in Pierce county by Walter Gantenbein, and was later donated to the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota.

The writer examined this specimen at the museum on August 26, 1963, and found it still in excellent condition. The label bears the number 8478, Mr. Gantenbein's name, the correct date of collection in 1913, the designation that the bird is a female, but lists "Redwing, Minnesota" as the location where the bird was taken. The following explanatory note from Mr. Gantenbein explains why the bird was so listed.

"At that time (1913) the area two miles below Diamond Bluff, Wisconsin, was a large Mississippi River bottom marsh. My father, my brothers and I used to trap and hunt ducks in this marsh. I learned to mount birds and animals for myself as a hobby. I was hunting ducks on this day (October 12, 1913), and I saw a big black bird which looked like a freak blackbird. I always carried shells with #10 shot for taking birds for mounting. I shot this bird, and when I got home I looked it up in my bird book and found that it was a Groove-billed Ani.

"There was a lady from Redwing, Minnesota, about eight miles from Diamond Bluff, who used to come to our house and look at my collection. When she saw this Ani, she wanted me to let her take the bird and give it to the University of Minnesota with my name on it, and say it was taken at Redwing, Minnesota. So I let her have the Ani, and as far as I know, it is still at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. This is how the bird came to have a Minnesota label, but the Ani was actually taken on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River."

A Curious Happenstance

It is a curious, roundabout happenstance that brings this information to light at this time. Early in August, 1963, the **Saint Paul Pioneer Press** carried an article about the presence of some Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the Redwing area, but on the Wisconsin side of the river near Hager City. The writer investigated, and while failing to find the birds, was shown some excellent colored motion pictures of the bird by the man who reported them, Mr. Robert Garber of Prescott. When the conversation turned to areas in western Wisconsin that are favorable for birds, Mr. Garber described an outstanding marshy area near Diamond Bluff that has been productive for many years, and mentioned that his uncle had—many years ago—collected a Groove-billed Ani there. Although this uncle, Walter Gantenbein, had long since moved from the Diamond Bluff area, he was still active and made his home in Osceola.

This led to a visit to Osceola on August 24, and a most delightful visit with a keen and avid naturalist who in former years did considerable collecting of birds and mammals. Mr. Gantenbein has done a considerable amount of taxidermy work through the years, and many fine samples of his work are on display in his home. His journal has been kept carefully through the years, and lists the Groove-billed Ani mounted on October 12, 1913 after having been shot at Diamond Bluff.

The presence of the Groove-billed Ani in Wisconsin is one of those accidental occurrences that is not likely to be repeated. The northern limit of its normal range barely extends into the United States along the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The **A. O. U. Checklist** lists casual or accidental occurrences in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas, Okla-

homa, Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota. This Minnesota reference probably is to the bird that Gantenbein collected in Wisconsin, but Minnesota also has a recent record—one collected in Big Stone county in the western portion of the state on September 17, 1959 by Edward Berdan. Curiously, all casual or accidental records of this species appear to have come in September and October.

There is a strong possibility, however, that this species paid a second visit to Wisconsin in 1949. Late in October of that year Mr. Enoch Reindahl had a strange ornithological visitor for several days near his home in Stoughton in southern Dane county. The bird was described as similar to a Grackle—black with a long tail—but with a parrot-like bill. This record has never been published heretofore, because it was an incomplete sight observation with insufficient data to indicate which species of Ani it might have been. But since the Smooth-billed Ani has been recorded north of the Gulf Coast only at North Carolina and New Jersey, it seems more likely that the Stoughton bird would have been the Groove-billed Ani.

Roberts, Wisconsin



An anniversary story

Quarter-Century History of the Society

Early Beginnings

By WALTER E. SCOTT

The First Ten Years: 1939-1949

The Next Fifteen Years: 1949-1964

Early Beginnings

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was organized in 1939 because the climate was right and the environment favorable. There were active bird clubs at Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee and elsewhere. The Kumlien Club of Madison held regular meetings with participation by such members as Leon J. Cole, Aldo Leopold, John S. Main and A. W. Schorger. Leopold was conducting regular wildlife seminars at the University of Wisconsin's Department of Wildlife Management. Active field work by Milwaukee Public Museum men—Murl Deusing, Owen Gromme and Earl L. Loyster—was being done in cooperation with others from there, such as Clarence Jung and Alvin Throne. Wallace Grange was on the land at Babcock, Angie Kumlien Main at Fort Atkinson, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow at Racine, and Fred Hamerstrom on the Central Wisconsin Resettlement Project. Harold Wilson was busy banding gulls in Door county and the Green Bay Bird Club (Hussong, Krawczyk and Weber) was active. N. R. Barger, Elton Bussewitz, Earl T. Mitchell, Mrs. Arthur

Kochler and Mrs. R. A. Walker all were active in the Madison Bird Club. Others on the scene in Madison about this time included Harry Anderson, W. S. Feeney and F. R. Zimmerman.

Walter E. Scott, who formerly taught bird study and wildlife conservation at the Milwaukee Boy Scout Camp for almost a decade, joined the Wisconsin Conservation Department staff at Madison in July, 1936. He had studied ornithology at Kalamazoo College (Michigan) and was fresh from several field assignments as a conservation warden in various parts of Wisconsin. Before long he was showing slides and movies and giving talks on birds and wildlife conservation to both organization and radio audiences. He also attended Leopold's wildlife seminars and Kumlien Club meetings (subsequently becoming a member). His Conservation Department work brought contacts with bird banders, collectors and conservationists throughout the state, such as taxidermist Karl Kahmann at Hayward.

Events Leading to WSO's Birth

Calendar records give a running account of some events leading to the start of WSO. On Wednesday, December 8, 1937, Scott talked to the Madison Bird Club and showed movies of game birds and slides of grouse at the request of N. R. Barger. (This is one month earlier than date previously given in the reprinted article, "The First Ten Years," beginning, on page 30). It was here that the future first president of WSO and Scott first met, and after the program discussed (with Mrs. Kochler, Mrs. Walker and others) the need for a statewide ornithological group. It was to be more than a year before plans were ready for the venture. In February, 1938, the Madison Bird Club heard Albert Hochbaum speak, and Scott talked on "The Sandhill Crane in Wisconsin" to the Kumlien Club the following week. In June he discussed "Bird Conservation Problems" with the Milwaukee Museum Nature Club at the request of Murl Deusing, and the next month he met with S. A. Barrett, museum director. A meeting was held at the home of John S. Main in Madison the following week. In August there was a Resettlement Administration contact in central Wisconsin followed by a meeting with U. S. Biological Survey representatives the next month and a radio talk on "Stop the Starling."

New federal aid-in-wildlife funds were becoming available under the Pittman-Robertson bill and an upsurge of interest in wildlife was noticeable throughout the country. The Conservation Department started to look at land acquisition opportunities and Scott was placed in charge of coordinating this new program. In September there was a personal contact with Leopold, and in October Herbert Stoddard, Sr. spoke at Leopold's wildlife seminar. Kumlien Club meetings were held frequently and in November Angie Kumlien Main of Fort Atkinson was the speaker. Radio station WHA in Madison carried regular conservation broadcasts and Scott talked on "Winter Feeding" late in December. In a sense, Scott was a catalyst in this favorable situation.

The first issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** was distributed the following month, setting the stage for the organizational meeting on May 6, 1939. The Vol. I, No. 2 issue contained a questionnaire requesting information on the Canadian Pine Grosbeak with a deadline of April 7. Editor

Scott analyzed the reports in his unsigned article in the April, 1939 issue (Vol. I, No. 4, pp. 53-54). Due to lack of space, the fact that this first survey was very encouraging was deleted. Twenty-one replies were received from cooperators and these original records still are available. The editor also summarized the second study on "The Spread of the Starling in Wisconsin" (October, 1939), data on "Recent Southern Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Reports" (September, 1939) and the first bird note reporting as well as the Christmas Bird Census (January, 1940). Gertrude M. Cox (later Mrs. Scott) helped on this compilation work as well as typing the early issues. Mr. and Mrs. Barger gave encouraging assistance in the new venture, both in editorial and bird field note work.

Evidently Rev. Sam Robbins wasn't on the Wisconsin scene until late in 1939, but the state was enriched with his presence and his field note reports beginning in March and April of 1940. His report shows that he birded over 58 hours in the field during April (often with Jackson, Jones and Mitchell) and some interesting records were secured. Fortunately, many of the original field reports received in the 1940-41 period were saved by the editor and they now can be integrated into the state master list being prepared by Rev. Robbins. Some comparative checks after more than two decades also may be possible using fairly detailed records submitted by such groups as the Green Bay Bird Club.



The First Ten Years: 1939-1949

So that certain details regarding the first ten years of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology will not be forgotten or lost, the Board of Directors has requested that this historical "brief" be prepared to help commemorate its 10th Anniversary. It is my hope that most figures will be reasonably accurate and that those persons whose efforts have helped make the Society live and grow will be remembered. However, if someone is forgotten in this hurried summary, I hope the omission will be forgiven.

It seems that in the year 1938 there was a stir of greater ornithological interest in the state. Clubs in various towns were flourishing and there was talk in some of them about the need for a state-wide affiliation of groups or a state organization. On January 12* of that year, the writer spoke on winter birds to the Madison Bird Club and, in the ensuing discussion, this matter was considered. N. R. Barger was one of the group who felt that much more could be accomplished if Wisconsin bird stu-

"The First Ten Years" was originally published in **The Passenger Pigeon**, Vol. 11, No. 4, October, 1949. A footnote to the original article stated, "Walter E. Scott, president of the W. S. O., has been quite modest in appraising his own work for the society while singing the praises of others. In our opinion, he has been a great promoter, often accomplishing what seemed to others the impossible.—Editors."

*See correction of this date to December 8, 1937 on page 29.—Editor.

dents organized as was the case in certain other states. A series of more serious discussions on this subject during the fall brought the decision that one way to encourage it would be to publish a monthly bulletin to be sent to interested people so that through this medium an organization meeting could be called. The Madison Bird Club offered to underwrite the cost of such a venture for the first year, or until the formation of a state group, and requested W. E. Scott to act as editor.

In January, 1939, the first issue of this mimeographed publication was sent to all known bird students and ornithologists in the state, urging them to subscribe for one year at the cost of one dollar and guaranteeing them 12 monthly issues. The Passenger Pigeon was selected as the temporary name of the bulletin and the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology was chosen as the temporary name of the proposed organization. Acting until the Society could be formally organized were the regular officers of the Madison Bird Club—President, N. R. Barger; Secretary-Treasurer, Earl Mitchell; and Directors, Mrs. Arthur Koehler and Mrs. R. A. Walker. An editorial cited the need for “closer contact with each other in . . . mutual interest” and also a desire to “stimulate activity in a more thorough field study of Wisconsin’s bird life.” The first page article, “Plans for the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology” was, according to the original copy, composed by N. R. Barger.

The first issue was met with appreciation and favor generally, although there were some misgivings among ornithologists in the Milwaukee area as to the propriety of the procedure used in attempting to effect the organization. Some individuals with the greatest experience in the birth and death of similar clubs were skeptical as to the future possibilities of a group of this nature. However, the die was cast and the Madison Bird Club was determined to make good its promise to subscribers. As support throughout the state grew, a proposed constitution was circulated among the presidents of various bird clubs and an organization meeting was called in Madison on May 6-7, 1939. N. R. Barger and Earl Mitchell were elected president and secretary *pro tem*, while Walter E. Scott read the constitution. This was acted upon and approved with minor changes by a group of approximately 80 interested members. The meeting, which crowded the Kennedy Manor banquet tables so that elbows hardly could be moved, was considered fully successful. The new Society, with its name and bulletin title approved as proposed, started activities with \$58.17 in its treasury and 123 charter members.

Although support was forthcoming from all of the state’s leading ornithologists, the first two years were especially difficult because the monthly mimeographed bulletin lacked effective qualities and many bird observers and potential students in the state had yet to learn of the Society and its avowed and useful purpose “to stimulate interest in and to promote the study of birds of Wisconsin especially in the field, and to bring together and permanently record accurate and authentic data relative thereto.” Financial problems, even at a time when a complete mimeographed issue cost only about \$10 and later when an eight-page monthly printed publication was estimated at \$24, were of a major concern. At the second meeting of the executive committee on December 4, 1939, held in the home of A. W. Schorger, President Barger announced

that there was about \$15 left in the treasury—enough to finish out the year. The first index was printed only through profits from the sale of wildlife stamps (J. H. Evans himself selling \$72 worth) and half of the cost of cuts in early issues was contributed by the editor.

Rather than follow the history of the Society chronologically since its inception, it is felt desirable to deal with the most important subjects and projects under separate groupings. However, there are a few dates of importance which should be mentioned first: The Society affiliated with the Wisconsin Conservation League (now inactive) on November 8, 1940, and with the Wilson Ornithological Club on May 2, 1943. The Society was officially incorporated under Wisconsin statutes on April 8, 1942 with the signatures of three members: W. E. Scott, N. R. Barger and E. L. Loyster. This incorporation was approved and made official through action at the annual business meeting of April 11, when the elected officers signed the incorporation papers.

Lifeblood of the Society

The lifeblood of the Society is to be found in the people who make up its membership. Their personal growth and development as friends together is the foundation of a successful organization and probably its major reason for being. This vital element has made the Society even more successful and promising than was ever hoped or dreamed. From its beginning such individuals as A. W. Schorger, Owen Gromme, Murl Deusing, Leon J. Cole, Clarence Jung, T. S. Roberts, Wallace Grange, Alvin Throne, J. Harwood Evans, and S. Paul Jones lent their full support to the cause. Ornithologists at the Milwaukee Public Museum saw value in the new club to assist in the planned revision of Kumlien and Hollister's "Bird of Wisconsin" which had not been revised since 1903, or in some other type of state bird book. Schorger assisted by reading all the copy of early issues for corrections; and, in January 1940, told the Kumlien Club that "there was now a new hope for Wisconsin ornithology after 25 years of discouragement." N. R. Barger and other members of the Madison Bird Club handled the mimeographing and distribution of early issues.

At the second annual meeting in 1940, the first move was made to honor those who had contributed most to Wisconsin ornithology in the selection of Herbert L. Stoddard and A. W. Schorger as honorary members. At the 1942 meeting this list was expanded to include Leon J. Cole, Aldo Leopold and Hartley H. T. Jackson. The name of George Wagner was added in 1943. It has been said by way of warning that as soon as the enthusiastic working officers of an organization such as this lose their interest, the group will suffer or die. Possibly the truth of this statement has not as yet been effectively tested because of the original 123 charter members the Society still retains 52 with three as present officers and many others on active working committees. However, nine of the original members who have died will make a difference in the Society's future. They are Miss Lydia Barnstein, Elton Bussewitz, Leon J. Cole, Sidney R. Hartwell, Aldo Leopold, John S. Main, Earl T. Mitchell, Thomas S. Roberts and O. Warren Smith.

Those charter members who are still with the Society after these first 10 years are:

E. J. Abrahamson, Clearwater Lake	Louis A. Laboda, New Libson
Miss Lois Almon, Eau Claire	Mrs. H. A. Main, Ft. Atkinson
R. J. Altpeter, Madison	Harold A. Mathiak, Horicon
Clarence Anthes, Waukesha	F. H. Meyrose, Waterford
Mrs. A. A. Axley, Washburn	Charles E. Nelson, Jr., Waukesha
N. R. Barger, Madison	Mrs. Kenneth Parker, Janesville
Mrs. N. R. Barger, Madison	Miss Eleanore Peterson, Madison
H. E. Clark, Rock Falls	Mrs. H. H. Reese, Madison
Miss C. E. DeBoos, Madison	Carl H. Richter, Oconto
August Derleth, Sauk City	Walter E. Rogers, Appleton
Murl Deusing, Milwaukee	Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Appleton
J. Harwood Evans, Oshkosh	A. W. Schorger, Madison
Wallace Grange, Babcock	Miss Helen Schroeder, Madison
Owen Gromme, Milwaukee	W. E. Scott, Madison
Mrs. Frederick Hamerstrom, Jr., Plainfield	Mrs. W. E. Scott, Madison
R. C. Hanson, Waupaca	Miss Josephine Sieker, Manitowoc
Miss Ellen Hoffman, Madison	Theo. M. Sperry, Pittsburg, Kansas
Frank Hopkins, Poynette	Harold Stephanson, Dayton, Ohio
Ralph C. Hopkins, Horicon	E. W. Strehlow, Milwaukee
Mrs. Fred L. Hook, Milwaukee	Alvin Throne, Milwaukee
H. H. T. Jackson, Washington, D. C.	Carlton Toppe, Watertown
S. Paul Jones, Waukesha	William Urban, Rothschild
Clarence S. Jung, Milwaukee	Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison
Karl W. Kahmann, Hayward	Dr. Alfred Wallner, Van Nuys, Calif.
Mrs. Arthur Koehler, Los Angeles	Harold R. Wolfe, Madison
Miss Karine Kjolseth, Oshkosh	F. R. Zimmerman, Madison

To the above listed people must go much of the credit for the continued advancement and favorable growth of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in its early years. They also probably have reaped the greatest benefits in return.

The Society was guided during the first 10 years by the untiring work of 30 different officers and board members, which was a healthy condition resulting in a definite effort to spread the load of work, as well as the honors. However, because of the desirability of continuity in such positions as editor, treasurer, and secretary, certain individuals carried heavier loads of work for longer periods of time. The Board usually meets four or five times each year and several of these meetings have been held at the homes of J. Harwood Evans and Clarence Jung. As will be seen by the following tables of officers and directors which include the present staff, J. Harwood Evans served a total of 10 years; Walter E. Scott, nine years; N. R. Barger, eight years; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Clarence Jung, S. Paul Jones, Mrs. Walter E. Rogers and Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, four years each; Harold Wilson, Gilbert Doane, Alfred S. Bradford, Murl Deusing, Rev. Howard Orians, and Earl Wright, three years each; and Alvin Throne, Owen Gromme and W. S. Feeney, two years apiece.

List of Officers

- 1939—(Temporary)—N. R. Barger, president; Earl Mitchell, secretary-treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1939-40—(May-April, elected)—N. R. Barger, president; Alvin Throne, vice president; Murl Deusing, secretary; Karl Kahmann, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1940-41—Alvin Throne, president; Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, vice president; Edward Prins, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1941-42—Murl Deusing, president; Mrs. Clara Hussong, vice president; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1942-43—Earl Wright, president; S. Paul Jones, vice president; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, editor.
- 1943-44—Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, president; N. R. Barger, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; Walter E. Scott, N. R. Barger (temporary), editor.
- 1944-45—Rev. H. L. Orians, president; E. L. Loyster, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1945-46—(Elected by mail)—Clarence Jung, president; Mrs. W. E. Rogers, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1946-47—Clarence Jung, president; Walter E. Scott, vice president; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, secretary; J. Harwood Evans, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1947-48—J. Harwood Evans, president; S. Paul Jones, vice president; Earl G. Wright, secretary; Harold Wilson, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1948-49—S. Paul Jones, president; Joseph J. Hickey, vice president; Mary Donald, secretary; Harold Wilson, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.
- 1949-50—Walter E. Scott, president; Mrs. Winnifred Smith, vice president; Mary Donald, secretary; Harold Wilson, treasurer; N. R. Barger, editor.

Additional Board Members

(Members at Large—two each year)

Members at Large—

- 1939—(Temporary)—Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. Arthur Koehler
- 1939-40—A. W. Schorger, Clarence Jung
- 1940-41—John S. Main, S. Paul Jones
- 1941-42—Owen Gromme, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow

Directors at Large—

- 1942-43—Owen J. Gromme, Murl Deusing
- 1943-44—Rev. Howard L. Orians, Earl G. Wright
- 1944-45—Mrs. Clara Hussong, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow
- 1945-46—Rev. Howard L. Orians, W. S. Feeney
- 1946-47—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, W. S. Feeney

Directors Other Than Officers

- 1947-48—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, membership; Clarence Jung, endowment; Walter E. Scott, education and publicity; Gilbert Doane, library; Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.
- 1948-49—Chas. Nelson, Jr., membership; J. H. Evans, endowment; Walter E. Scott, education and publicity; Gilbert Doane, library; Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.
- 1949-50—Howard Young, membership; J. H. Evans, endowment; Mrs. F. L. Larkin, education and publicity; Gilbert Doane, library; Alfred S. Bradford, legal counsel.
- In 1949-50 Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., was named Associate Editor.

Many other individuals not credited with titles as officers or members of the board served in important committee positions or as assistants to the editor for long periods of time. In this respect both Gilbert Doane and Attorney Alfred S. Bradford served several years in their capacities as librarian and legal counsel respectively before receiving board membership. Assistant editors of The Passenger Pigeon included F. R. Zim-

merman in 1940-41, Mrs. Walter E. Scott in 1942-43 and Mrs. N. R. Barger in 1944-49. Throughout almost this entire period (except in the earliest issues) Harold Wilson served as bird banding editor and N. R. Barger and Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., handled the important field note department. The difficult job of preparing indexes was accomplished for the first volume by Mrs. Scott, the next three volumes by Mrs. Barger, and the following six volumes by Miss Ellen A. Hoffman who received assistance from Minnie E. Hoffman and Helen E. Schroeder on the last three. Miss Hoffman served for many years as assistant librarian and has recently been appointed custodian of the Society's records. Early membership committee chairmen, without benefit of officer status, were Mrs. Andrew Weber, Rev. Howard Orians and Dr. Paul C. Gatterdam. All of these individuals, including many others who served on local committees and on special Society project committees such as sanctuaries, education, and research, conservation, constitution and incorporation revisions, endowment passenger pigeon monument, Aldo Leopold memorial, publicity, library, and publications, played a major role in the Society's development.

The geographic distribution of the Society's membership is an important subject and deserves serious consideration in that it shows the need for expansion and possibilities for growth of the Society which still must be accomplished. A survey of the Society's 568 members and subscribing institutions as of April 1, 1949, showed that 498 of these were in Wisconsin, and 70 located in 24 other states, provinces and foreign countries (10 or more in Illinois and Minnesota). Southeastern Wisconsin, lying south of Shawano county and east of Iowa county, had 419 members; while the entire northern portion of Wisconsin, beyond the south line of Marathon county, had only 56; and southwestern Wisconsin, within these boundaries, 23. Active interest in the study of birds still must be extended to these latter two portions of the state; as, witness the facts that no organized local clubs are active in those areas, and there are 16 counties without a single member. Surprisingly, four southeastern Wisconsin counties also had no membership in the Society at this time. County representation indicating local interest in bird study on this date was as follows for the first 10 counties; Milwaukee, 120; Dane, 71; Winnebago, 36; Outagamie, 35; Waukesha, 30; Racine, 24; Manitowoc and Rock, 17; and Brown, 11.

The Society's endowment fund, which now contains more than \$650 (face value) in government bonds, has grown steadily through the assistance of those members who were able to afford life and patron status. In April 1942, E. W. Strehlow, then of Green Bay, became the first life member, to be followed shortly by Walter Mueller, Milwaukee, and Ralph G. Klieforth of Oshkosh in July, 1943. Walter Mueller became the Society's first patron member in April, 1944, followed by Guy Nash of Wisconsin Rapids two years later. These are the only patron members at present. Other life members are: Donald R. Bierman, Milwaukee; Richard Bub, Milwaukee; Laurence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; Miss Isabelle Miller, Milwaukee; Miss Margarette E. Morse, Viroqua; Mrs. H. J. Nunemacher, Milwaukee; Mrs. Kenneth Parker, Janesville; Mrs. William Ryan, Fish Creek; Mrs. Erwin Spoo, Oshkosh; and Mrs. Andrew Weber, Green Bay. A memorial for the late Howard Clapp, who died in 1948,

amounting to \$40, also was credited to the endowment fund. The future strength and permanence of the Society will depend upon a substantial increase, through wills and grants, in this security backlog which guarantees the Society's continued operations. Although the Society can "borrow" up to 25 per cent of the fund in cases of emergency need, it has never dipped into this resource to date.

The Society's Publications

Probably the major contribution the Society has made to Wisconsin ornithology is the material published in *The Passenger Pigeon*. This amounted to 1,461 pages to, and including Volume XI, No. 3. Six complete indexes to the end of 1948, make the material in these bulletins available for quick reference. For the first three and one-half years the publication was issued monthly, and, in its printed form for two years, was probably the only printed monthly ornithological publication in the United States. In commenting on this, President Alvin Throne, in the December, 1940 issue, stated that "our monthly printed bulletin on ornithology . . . has received favorable comment throughout the country." Printing started in July 1940 with Volume II, No. 7, and the bulletin was put on a quarterly basis, with some reluctance, with the issue of October, 1942.

It is impossible to list all the significant materials used in this publication but some deserve special comment. Early issues were dedicated largely to the re-publication of articles published elsewhere which were not easily available to bird students in the state. Frequently copies of valuable reprints were secured and mailed with the mimeographed bulletin. Later, as more copy was forthcoming from state ornithologists, the content of the bulletin improved. Distributional studies of certain birds, which for a while were supervised by Murl Deusing, included the pine grosbeak, bald eagle, starling, purple martin, American egret, cardinal, yellow-headed blackbird and dickcissel, and were prepared through questionnaires on range and population. Probably most useful was the continuous preparation of field notes with special references to Christmas census, May Day census and more recently annual state lists including even a survey of breeding birds. Although during the very first issues these summaries were organized by the editor, much credit for their continued high quality throughout most of these 10 years is due to N. R. Barger and Rev. Samuel Robbins, Jr., who successfully served as editors of the field note department.

A perusal of articles indicates that many members have contributed their study reports to the benefit of fellow students throughout the state. Major contributions of significance include the series by H. H. T. Jackson, "Summer Birds of Northwestern Wisconsin" (which is available as a reprint), August Derleth's "Sac Prairie Notes," Carl H. Richter's "Breeding Birds of Oconto County" and A. W. Schorger's "Biographies of Eight Wisconsin Naturalists" (available as a reprint called "Some Wisconsin Naturalists"), as well as his present series reprinting "The Birds of Wisconsin" by L. Kumlien and N. Hollister, with revisions. Banquet addresses by George Miksch Sutton, "Ornithologists as Human Beings," and Herbert L. Stoddard's "Reminiscences of Wisconsin Birding" made

interesting articles. Besides several complete files of The Passenger Pigeon maintained in Wisconsin reference libraries, such files are also to be found in the Library of Congress, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Museum of Natural History and Museum of Comparative Anatomy at Cambridge.

Other publications of the Society enhanced its status and the study work of its members. On April 12, 1942, at the annual meeting at Green Bay, the booklet "Wisconsin Birds—A Preliminary Checklist with Migration Charts" (32 pages) was placed on sale. A committee of N. R. Barger, Elton E. Bussewitz, Earl L. Loyster, Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. and Walter E. Scott had worked for many months both individually and collectively to prepare this bulletin. Of the 5,000 copies printed, at a cost of \$380, the entire issue is now exhausted and a fair profit was realized by the Society. Earl Loyster, who suggested the project and handled the sales of this booklet over a period of years, deserves special mention. On May 11, 1947, in connection with the unveiling of the Society's passenger pigeon monument at Wyalusing State Park, a 42-page booklet called "Silent Wings—A Memorial to the Passenger Pigeon," was released. The booklet, containing articles by Aldo Leopold, A. W. Schorger, and Hartley H. T. Jackson, as well as many illustrations, was edited by Walter E. Scott and printed in 4,000 copies to commemorate this occasion. The printing of this bulletin was a costly venture for a society without large reserve funds but to date it has realized a profit of over \$250 and approximately 1,000 copies remain for future sale. In October, 1948, a card field checklist was issued in 5,000 copies by a committee consisting of N. R. Barger, Samuel D. Robbins, Jr., Walter E. Scott and Earl G. Wright, who had operated for the past year to organize this hand list of the state's more common birds. As of this date, the complete issue has been sold through the Society's Supply Department and an additional 5,000 copies have been printed.

Ten Annual Meetings Held

Ten annual meetings which have taken on the nature of conventions have been an important source of education and inspiration to Wisconsin bird students. Traditionally, the vice presidents are in charge of these meetings and they deserve considerable credit for their efforts. To Murl Deusing, who carried this load for two Milwaukee meetings during the war, should go special mention. Because of war contingencies and otherwise, three of these meetings have been held respectively in Milwaukee and in Madison. Some of the outstanding features of these gatherings were the lectures of well-known ornithologists whose names appear in the list of meetings tabulated below. Many members of the Society contributed to these programs with papers, movies and exhibits. Attendance always has been very good with certain movie sessions receiving the greatest public participation. In 1942 about 350 people came to hear Arthur A. Allen's lecture, while in 1947 and 1949 in Madison, movie showings in the Memorial Union theater attracted as high as 700 people. Members frequently on the programs included Murl Deusing, A. W. Schorger, the late Aldo Leopold, Earl G. Wright, Dr. B. L. von

Jarchow, Rev. Howard L. Orians, Robert A. McCabe, and Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.

Special features of the conventions of 1943-48 were auctions of bird paintings, sketches, and other art objects. Proceeds of the last two auctions, which were made up solely of paintings by European artists, went to a relief program for ornithologists overseas supervised by Mrs. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr. The first of these realized about \$270 in "European value." The other three auctions, with the profit assigned to the Society's publication fund, were significant in supporting the program with approximate returns of \$223, \$307, and \$188 respectively. The abilities of Clarence Jung and Alfred Bradford as auctioneers and the generous donations by artist-members deserve mention. Over the years, exhibits of bird paintings by wildlife artists included work by Francis Lee Jaques, Owen J. Gromme, Earl G. Wright, Walter J. Breckenridge, Rex Brasher, E. W. Steffen, J. Albert Hochbaum, and George M. Sutton. In 1947 a special showing of books from the Thordarson library (including Audu-



NEWS . . .

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** was born in August, 1963. At that time the decision was made to do something special during 1964, especially with this issue.

First, we needed a new cover design to celebrate our silver anniversary year. (The last cover change was made back in 1953). Al Holz, WSO president and designer of the cover of **Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts**, WSO's attractive membership brochure, and the publication symbol that appears below, designed the new cover (and did a mighty fine job, too, don't you think?).

Then we needed some stories about the society and its activities over the past 25 years. We wanted to look back and appraise what we've done (and haven't done) in the fields of publications, research, conservation and bird study. We also wanted an historical account of the society's growth and activities.

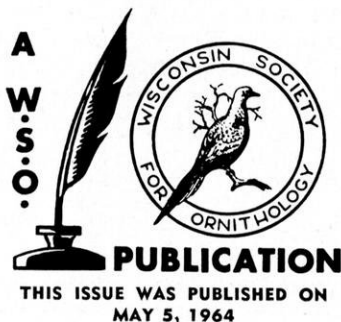
The authors of these anniversary stories know their subjects exceedingly well and have documented the various activities in an admirable manner. Special thanks are due Clara Hussong, Arol Epple, Sam Robbins, Water Scott and Howard Young.

It is also fitting, during our anniversary year, that we are able to add another species to the long list of birds that are

known to have visited Wisconsin. It took some fancy ornithological detective work by Sam Robbins to establish the presence of the Groove-billed Ani in Wisconsin in 1913. His story is on page 26.

LAST CALL

In the last issue, Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, WSO's research chairmen, reminded you that the winter owl survey reports were due. Well, they must have meant it, because now they say that this is absolutely the LAST CALL for reports of wintering owls. So, if you want your information to help round out this study, you better get it to the Hamerstroms at Plainfield. NOW!



bon, Wilson and Gould elephant folios) was arranged by Librarian Gilbert H. Doane in addition to an exhibit of ornithological bookplates. Displays of bird photographs also have been featured with Dr. Howard J. Lee and Edward Prins showing excellent work. Since the 1947 meeting, the Society Supply Department has maintained a complete exhibit of books, prints and other materials which has augmented the program. Probably of most importance to the Society's future has been the spirit of comradeship which has been engendered by pre-convention receptions, in banquet programs, and on field trips in connection with meetings.

Highlight of the Society's conventions was the joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Club on April 21-24, 1949, a meeting which was characterized by the President of the Wilson Club as the largest ornithological gathering ever held in the country. Two members of the Society—Joseph J. Hickey and John T. Emlen, Jr.—did an exceptional job of handling arrangements for the Wisconsin and Wilson organizations respectively. The Society's registration book for this meeting carries names of historical importance with the signatures of Florence Page Jaques, Robert Cushman Murphy, Margaret M. Nice, J. Van Tyne, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., F. L. Jaques, Richard H. Pough, and S. Charles Kendeigh.

List of Annual Meetings

No.	Location	Dates	Registration (Guests incl.)	Banquet Feature	Banquet Attendance
1.	Madison	May 6-7, '39	80	Murl Deusing, John S. Main, I. O. Buss	80
2.	Milwaukee	April 6, '40	150	Cleveland P. Grant	165
3.	Racine	April 5-6, '41	180	W. J. Breckenridge	148
4.	Green Bay	April 12-13, '42	300	Arthur A. Allen	226
5.	Milwaukee	May 1-2, '43	200	Cleveland P. Grant	200
6.	Milwaukee	April 22-23, '44	240	W. F. Kubichek	174
7.	Appleton	April 6-7, '46	195	W. J. Breckenridge	241
8.	Madison	May 9-11, '47	277	Herbert Stoddard	202
9.	Waukesha	April 2-4, '48	174	George M. Sutton	192
10.	Madison	April 21-24, '49	354	Olin Sewall Pettingill	250
11.	Two Rivers	May 5-7, '50

Projects Accomplished and Being Accomplished

Memorial Monument to the Passenger Pigeon: On May 11, 1947, the Society unveiled its memorial monument to the passenger pigeon at Wyalusing State Park, with talks by Hartley H. T. Jackson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, A. W. Schorger, Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger, and Conservation Commissioner W. J. P. Aberg. About 200 people attended this impressive ceremony. The Society gained well over 1,000 inches of publicity on the event in both state and national publications, and the monument—the second dedicated to a bird in this county—stands as a reminder of the need for good wildlife management in the years to come. The story of the monument goes back to April 6, 1941, when the Society favored this idea, and a committee consisting of Owen J. Gromme, Clarence Jung, Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger, Earl Wright and Phil Sander was appointed. Phil Sander did sketches and drawings of both

the plaque and monument. Owen Gromme engineered many of the details while Earl Wright modeled the plaque. Miss Oehlenschlaeger arranged the casting of the bronze plaque which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Taylor. The words on the plaque were prepared by A. W. Schorger, and Paul A. Lawrence, superintendent of Wyalusing State Park, contributed the work for erection of the foundation and monument. The committee selected the site on Sentinel Ridge in this park in May, 1942, after a field trip for that purpose. Forty members and friends of the Society donated to a fund to defray expenses for erection of the monument, which was also memorialized in the publication "Silent Wings" released on the same date.

Supply Department Activities: Although the Society had sold wild-life stamps and its own publications, as well as held auctions of pictures, it was not until April, 1947, that the Board of Directors approved a plan for a Society Supply Department. This service feature received much favorable comment at the 1947 meeting in Madison and has been a valuable asset to the organization and its membership since that time. Total profits (all of which go to the Society) amount to about \$800 as of this date, and, although most of this is now invested in merchandise, it is expected that this activity will help maintain the operating budget in future years. Along with many other responsibilities, including the editing of *The Passenger Pigeon*, N. R. Barger supervised the many details of this department since its inception. The Board is presently searching for someone who would be willing to assist the Society by relieving him of these additional duties.

Educational Committee Activities: In April, 1946, the educational committee (then known as library committee) under the chairmanship of Walter E. Scott, reported on a special questionnaire which had been sent to libraries, and revealed that many such institutions in the state did not have adequate literature on birds. Out of this grew a plan to establish an educational fund to supply such needs, and also to carry on educational work among our membership and especially among students. By June 10, 1949, 37 individuals and bird clubs had contributed over \$210 to this cause and additional donations are being received regularly. These moneys are kept separate and used by this committee, of which Mrs. F. L. Larkin is now chairman. Also in connection with work of this group, the Rahr Foundation in 1949 donated \$112 for the distribution of 400 copies of "Silent Wings" to all larger libraries in the state.

Probably the most popular ventures supported by this fund are the all-Society field trips. The first, to the Sandhill Game Farm at Babcock on June 5, 1949, was attended by about 50 enthusiasts who were fortunate enough to obtain close views of the sandhill cranes and 85 other species. The Cedar Grove hawk trip of October 9, 1949, attracted about 125 members and friends for a very successful day. Another large-scale project was the maintenance of a booth, arranged by Mrs. F. L. Larkin, and sponsored by Feed Supplies, Inc., at the Wisconsin Outdoor Exposition, September 10-18, 1949. Not only did the Society make many valuable contacts with people interested in birds, but the Supply Department received numerous orders. This operation was so successful that the

company has offered to repeat its sponsorship and the committee plans to hold it again next year. It is believed that this committee, through field trips and other functions, constitutes one of the Society's most important activities in fulfilling its constitutional plan to "encourage the study of Wisconsin birds."

Miscellaneous Projects: Sometimes members wonder what they are receiving for their membership fees besides the Society's bulletin, and whether or not the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology carries on projects worthy of their donations in the form of special contributions or grants through their wills. It is true that an organization operated entirely without paid officers cannot accomplish as much as one with a permanent office and a full-time secretary. Some day this Society may have these attributes but only because of the confidence members and friends have in the activities and projects already accomplished and the purposes for which the organization has stood in the past.

Since 1940, when O. J. Gromme announced that the Milwaukee Public Museum had authorized the publication of his new illustrated book on "Wisconsin Birds," the Society has endeavored to accumulate records which are needed to make this book complete. It has encouraged special study projects for species about which little is known in Wisconsin.

It keeps its members informed of bird activities within the state; of the newest equipment, books, and supplies of the hobby; and gives its members an opportunity to publish their studies. It has set up such services as a society library which is now housed in the University Library. It has wielded an influence upon state legislation when certain species of birds were unduly persecuted. It lends support to various federal bird-study projects in our state. Its membership served as a buttress, recently, when Mrs. F. L. Larkin, O. J. Gromme, and Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger recommended the purchase by the state of a famous hawk study area near Cedar Grove.

The Society's Business Affairs: The Society never has been rich in any sense of the word, but, at present, money in the endowment and education funds, together with inventory value of the Supply Department and publication stocks, approximate \$2,000. The operating budget, however, receives no benefit from special funds, but only the income from supply or publication sales. Basically, membership fees must carry the cost of *The Passenger Pigeon* and the general operating costs of the organization. Any expenditures beyond such income must be paid for by special revenues from registration fees, contributions, or sales profits.

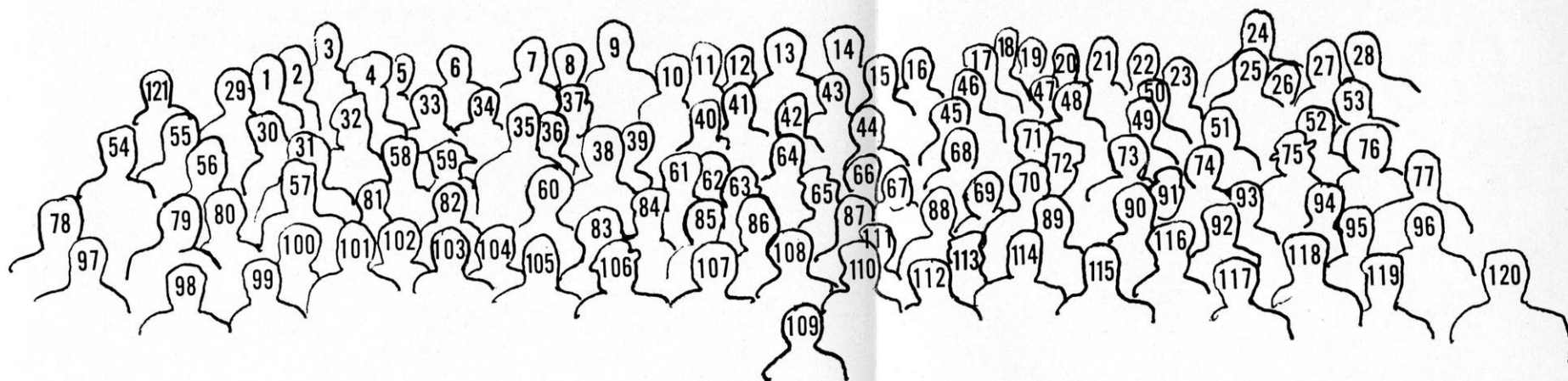
The Society's financial problems in the early years already have been mentioned. They are reflected in the "balances on hand" of less than \$100 for the first four annual meetings, 1939-42. During the war years of 1946-47 this balance rose to about \$800, but it has been receding to approximately \$500 for the past two years. The reason for this is the fact that for some time the cost of the Society's publication has exceeded the membership had risen to 225 in 1940, to approximately 400 in the next coming. However, it is expected that profit from the Society's Supply

(continued on page 43)

THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE

1. Earl G. Wright
2. Mrs. W. E. Hicks
3. J. Harwood Evans
4. Mrs. P. J. Steib
5. Mrs. W. J. Geiger
6. G. J. Brabender
7. S. Paul Jones
8. George W. Treichel
9. Charles E. Nelson
10. R. R. Adams
11. G. W. Longenecker
12. B. L. von Jarchow
13. A. W. Schorger
14. Gilbert H. Doane
15. George C. Becker
16. H. H. T. Jackson
17. Wes Seaquist
18. Harold C. Wilson
19. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr.
20. F. R. Zimmerman
21. Charles Kossack
22. Walter E. Scott
23. Helen Schroeder
24. N. R. Stone
25. Phil Sander
26. Eleanor Peterson
27. Don Q. Thompson
28. Russ Neugebauer
29. P. J. Steib
30. Murl Deusing
31. Howard F. Young
32. Mildred Deusing
33. A. G. Johnson
34. Mrs. H. L. Playman
35. E. Krause
36. Walter E. Rogers
37. Edna Peebles
38. Mrs. Arthur Koehler
39. Mrs. Walter E. Rogers
40. Edward Peartree
41. Wallace Grange
42. Harold Kruse
43. Harold A. Mathiak
44. Owen J. Gromme
45. L. J. Johnson
46. A. O. Schwengel
47. Eugene Roark
48. H. A. Steinke
49. Ralph N. Buckstaff
50. Otis Bersing
51. Marvin E. Vore
52. Mrs. Russ Neugebauer
53. Allen McVey
54. J. L. Kasper
55. K. Kaspar
56. Anna Hehn
57. Robert A. McCabe
58. A. G. Etter
59. Josephine Sieker
60. Mrs. L. C. Dietsch
61. Karine Kjolseth
62. Mrs. H. Clapp
63. Flora Garrett
64. H. Clapp
65. Mrs. M. W. Schneider
66. Merle Pickett
67. Helen Schaller
68. E. A. Clemans
69. Mrs. M. Cutler
70. Kenneth MacArthur
71. Charlotte Moody
72. Annie Boyce
73. Leone Schuessler
74. Mrs. D. Fogwell
75. Mrs. H. A. Main
76. Mrs. N. R. Stone
77. Clarence A. Anthes
78. Herbert L. Stoddard, Jr.
79. L. J. Cole
80. Mrs. A. P. Balsom
81. L. P. Steven
82. J. L. Diedrich
83. Mrs. B. J. Bradle
84. Mrs. R. A. Walker
85. B. J. Bradle
86. Mrs. A. L. Throne
87. Alvin L. Throne
88. Lillian Marsh
89. Paul W. Romig
90. M. J. Duquaine
91. Mrs. C. M. Schwendener
92. Howard Higgins
93. Mrs. C. R. Decker
94. E. W. Strehlow
95. Lydia Dettman
96. Warren Dettman
97. Clarence S. Jung
98. Mrs. F. L. (Dixie) Larkin
99. Mary Donald
100. Mrs. W. J. Whitmus
101. Karl F. Miller
102. Clyde B. Terrell
103. C. L. Strelitzer
104. Mildred Williams
105. N. R. Barger
106. Mrs. A. D. Phillips
107. Mrs. Ethel Olson
108. Clara Hussong
109. L. A. Johnson
110. Mrs. Lola Welch
111. Genevieve Mart
112. Mrs. S. Miller
113. Mrs. F. B. Garrett
114. Chester Krawczyk
115. Mildred Van Vonderen
116. Mrs. M. J. Duquaine
117. Mrs. G. Delsart
118. Mrs. Andrew Weber
119. Mrs. Howard Higgins
120. Ray P. Hussong
121. Arlisle Quimby (inside door)

First Group Photograph of Society Members—The 1947 Convention at Madison



Department will help to better this situation in future years. A healthy condition in the Society's growth is indicated by membership reports of various annual meetings. Starting with 123 charter members in 1939, membership had risen to 225 in 1940, to approximately 400 in the next four years, and 500 since 1945 when an all-time record of 575 was established. A 1949 report of Membership Chairman, Charles Nelson, Jr., indicated 612 members of which 113 were in arrears. It is believed that the organization can greatly expand its membership by extending its horizons into more parts of the state and through an amplified program of field trips and useful activities. The steady and regular growth during the first 10 years assures a firm foundation for such future expansion.

The constitution of the Society has not been changed in fundamentals since its approval by the charter members in May, 1939. Minor changes, however, in types of membership, fees, make-up of the Board of Directors, and in the Society's name were made. In 1942, life and patron memberships were added and the Society's name was changed to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, which suggestion had been made by R. J. Muckenhirn of Madison. The amended constitution was published in Volume IV, No. 4-6 of that year. In 1946 a change advanced the cost of life memberships to \$50 and patron to \$100, and a year later, active membership fees were increased to \$1.50 per year. Also, a Board of Directors, including five individuals, was approved (previously there were only two). In an effort to keep up with the added cost of printing and not reduce the value or effectiveness of the bulletin, active membership fees again were increased in 1949 to \$2, student membership to \$1.50 and life membership to \$75. Special fees for libraries also were revised upward. The Board of Directors was set at six members, and these were placed on two-year staggered terms so that only three would be elected each year. These changes were incorporated in an amended constitution published in the July, 1949, issue of the bulletin. The latest membership report, of April 15, 1949, for a total of 612 members, showed the following classifications: 511 active, 28 libraries, 26 student, 29 sustaining, 12 life, 2 patron and 4 honorary. The constitution limits honorary classification to "ten living members."

The Society's record of accomplishments in its first ten years is one of unselfish service of many individuals who have given freely of their time, money, or energies (and frequently all three) for the good of the organization and its purpose. This brief review has not adequately chronicled all such contributions of groups and individuals and this could not be done without much more space. It is such service that has made the Society successful to the degree that it has fulfilled its purpose. It is through the amplification of such support by more members and in a greater measure, that the Society will continue to grow and prosper in its extension of service to the people of the state of Wisconsin and the nation.



The Next Fifteen Years: 1949-1964

Twenty-five years is a long time in the life of birds—and man. Many things change, but the stability, growth and future potential of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. is an inspiration to behold. Organized on May 6, 1939, with 123 charter members, the fledgling had only \$58.17 in its treasury. Today the Society has almost 1,000 members and a net worth of approximately \$20,000! Most wonderful is the constancy and dedication of its members.

After the first ten years, it was found that 52 of the charter members still were active and only nine were known to have died. Today 33 charter members still are active (including three founders) and at least 25 are known to have died. After searching for these early members in connection with the silver anniversary celebration, more may be known as to what has happened to the other 64—many of whom also may be deceased. No doubt some still are interested in bird study as a hobby but have dropped their active membership for personal reasons.

Honorary, Patron and Life Members

Classification of WSO membership (plus subscriptions, totaling 1,018) is of interest at this time. In 1939 there were only two sustaining members (A. W. Schorger and W. E. Scott) and all the rest were in the active category. Today there are nine honorary, three patrons, 18 life, 78 sustaining, 865 active (including 156 "joint" husband-wife memberships) and 45 libraries. Of these, 108 members and libraries are located outside Wisconsin. Not otherwise counted are 37 exchanges with other bird magazines for **The Passenger Pigeon**. Thirty states and the District of Columbia are represented in the membership along with six foreign countries (including Canada). Some of the honorary, patron and life members are no longer active (or are dead) but their names still are on the records as follows:

Honorary: Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., A. W. Schorger, Leon J. Cole, Aldo Leopold, Hartley H. T. Jackson, George Wagner, Wallace Grange, Owen Gromme and Alexander Wetmore.

Patrons: Walter J. Mueller, Guy Nash and Chandler S. Robbins.

Life: Donald R. Bierman, Richard A. Bub, Magnus Swenson Harding, Laurence C. Hicks, Ralph G. Klieforth, Miss Isabelle Miller, Margarette E. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Nelson, Jr., Dr. Theodora Nelson, George P. Nevitt, Mrs. Mary Spier Ross, Allan J. Rusch, Mrs. Erwin Spoo, Harry Steenbock, E. W. Strehlow, William Strehlow and Mrs. Andrew Weber.

Charter Members

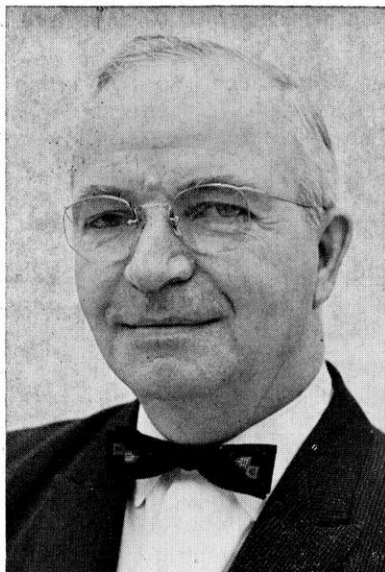
The 33 charter members still active are as follows: Clarence Anthes (Waukesha), Miss Lois Almon (Milwaukee), R. J. Altpeter (Madison), Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger (Madison), R. N. Buckstaff (Oshkosh), August Derleth (Sauk City), Murl Deusing (Milwaukee), J. Harwood Evans (Janesville), **Wallace Grange** (Pine River), **Owen Gromme** (Milwaukee), Miss Ellen Hoffman (Madison), Ralph C. Hopkins (Wautoma), Mrs. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr. (Plainfield), **H. H. T. Jackson** (Chevy Chase, Maryland), Clarence



MRS. R. A. WALKER

PHOTO BY WARNER MEDLIN STUDIOS

**FOUNDERS
OF THE
WISCONSIN
SOCIETY
FOR
ORNITHOLOGY**



NORVAL R. BARGER

PHOTO BY DEAN TVEDT



WALTER E. SCOTT

PHOTO BY OBMA STUDIO

Jung (Milwaukee), Harold Mathiak (Horicon), Charles E. Nelson, Jr. (Dousman), Miss Eleanor Peterson (Madison), Mrs. H. H. Reese (Madison), Carl H. Richter (Oconto), **A. W. Schorger** (Madison), Miss Helen Schroeder (Augusta), Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Scott (Madison), Miss Josephine Sieker (Manitowoc), Theodore Sperry (Pittsburg, Kansas), E. W. Strehlow (Milwaukee), Alvin Throne (Milwaukee), Rev. Carleton Toppe (Watertown), William Urban (Neenah), Mrs. R. A. Walker (Madison), and F. R. Zimmerman (Madison).

This list shows present addresses with 11 at Madison and six at Milwaukee. Names of honorary members are indicated by bold face.

We are fortunate at this time to have four excellent summaries of WSO history written by Mrs. Clara Hussong, Professor Arol C. Epple, Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. and Professor Howard Young on publications, conservation, ornithological progress and research activities. The basic document for the 1939-49 period, "The Society's First Ten Years," is reprinted in this issue and those years will be touched upon only to record new facts.

Officers

In a statewide organization of this type, with only volunteer non-paid officers and directors, special recognition is due to those people who serve unselfishly in official capacities. Also, the members themselves, through their relationships to other organizations and in their professional positions as well as hobbies, reflect the real strength and spirit of of the group. WSO has good reason to be proud of its record over these past 25 years, but it can be even more proud of the accomplishments of its members in many related fields of natural science and conservation.

The listing of officers on page 47 was arranged by positions, making it easily possible to see the years of service.

Besides the positions shown in the tables, new offices for research, conservation and field trips were created in 1956-57. Professor Howard Young served as the first research chairman for three years followed by Mrs. John McEwan in 1959-60, Professor R. A. McCabe the two years following and Dr. and Mrs. Frederick N. Hamerstrom, Jr. the last two years. Gerald A. Vogelsang started as the conservation chairman for the first year with Dr. Charles A. Kemper taking over for five years from 1957 to 1962 and Professor Arol C. Epple doing this job in the 1962-64 period. Edward W. Peartree has served as field trip chairman for the eight years since this activity was started.

Many others have lent a hand in numerous ways, and special recognition must be given to those who ran the Supply Department. From 1950 through 1955, N. R. Barger was in charge of this important project (which he started in 1947) with the assistance of J. L. Diedrich and Chester Krawczyk. In the 1955-56 term, Harold Kruse took charge and he has continued in this position for nine years. His annual catalog with a 10% discount for members of WSO has been a significant help in the educational field. He has had a number of helpers including Mrs. Harold G. Liebherr (three years), Edward Peartree (nine years), David Cox (nine years), Mrs. C. P. Frister (three years), and Roy J. Lukes (three years).

Starting with 1956-57 there was a separate education committee with Mrs. Winnifred Smith in charge, followed by Chester Krawczyk (two

Elected Officers

Year	Presidents	Vice-presidents	Secretaries	Treasurers	Editors of The Passenger Pigeon
1950-51	Charles E. Nelson, Jr.	John L. Diedrich	Miss Mary Donald	Carl P. Frister	N. R. Barger
1951-52	Harold C. Wilson	Mrs. William Fenner	Miss Helen Northup	Carl P. Frister	N. R. Barger
1952-53	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.	Chester Krawczyk	Miss Helen Northup	Carl P. Frister	N. R. Barger
1953-54	Chester Krawczyk	Robert A. McCabe	Miss Helen Northup	Carl P. Frister	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.
1954-55	Joseph J. Hickey	George Brabender	Miss Helen Northup	Carl P. Frister	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.
1955-56	John T. Emlen	Harold G. Liebherr	Miss Helen Northup	Carl P. Frister	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.
1956-57	Harold G. Liebherr	Frank H. King	Miss Helen Northup	Carl P. Frister	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.
1957-58	Carl P. Frister	Stanley Polacheck	Miss Helen Northup	Professor Daniel Q. Thompson	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.
1958-59	Stanley L. Polacheck	R. P. Hussong	Miss Helen Northup	Mrs. Alfred O. Holz	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.
1959-60	R. P. Hussong	Mrs. Frederick Hamerstrom	Miss Helen Northup	Mrs. Alfred O. Holz	Eugene M. Roark
1960-61	Mrs. Frederick Hamerstrom	Robert R. Adams	Mrs. N. R. Barger	Mrs. Alfred O. Holz	Eugene M. Roark
1961-62	Edward Peartree	Nils P. Dahlstrand	Mrs. N. R. Barger	Mrs. Alfred O. Holz	Eugene M. Roark
1962-63	Alfred O. Holz	Howard F. Young	Mrs. David J. Cox	Mrs. Alfred O. Holz	Nils P. Dahlstrand
1963-64	Alfred O. Holz	Howard F. Young	Mrs. David J. Cox	Mrs. Alfred O. Holz	Nils P. Dahlstrand

Appointed Officers

Year	Associate Editors	Membership Chairmen	Legal Counsels	Publicity Chairmen (Including Education 1951-56)	Endowment Chairmen (Including Advertising)
1950-51	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.	Frank H. King	Alfred S. Bradford	Mrs. F. L. Larkin	Mrs. A. P. Balsom
1951-52	Carl L. Strelitzer	Bernard D. Kaiman	Alfred S. Bradford	Thomas J. Stavrum	Mrs. A. P. Balsom
1952-53	Carl L. Strelitzer	Mrs. W. E. Rogers	Alfred S. Bradford	Charles E. Nelson, Jr.	Mrs. F. L. Larkin
1953-54	C. Dennis Besadny	Mrs. W. E. Rogers	Alfred S. Bradford	Charles E. Nelson, Jr.	Mrs. F. L. Larkin
1954-55	C. Dennis Besadny	Mrs. W. E. Rogers	G. William Foster	Harold G. Liebherr	Stanley L. Polacheck
1955-56	G. William Foster	Miss Merle N. Pickett	J. Allan Simpson	Gerald A. Vogelsang	Stanley L. Polacheck
1956-57	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lound	Miss Merle N. Pickett	J. Allan Simpson	Mrs. R. P. Hussong	Stanley L. Polacheck
1957-58	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lound	Mrs. L. E. Compton	J. Allan Simpson	Mrs. R. P. Hussong	Harold Bauers
1958-59	Harold G. Liebherr	Mrs. L. E. Compton	J. Allan Simpson	Mrs. R. P. Hussong	Harold Bauers
1959-60	Carl P. Frister	Mrs. Margaret (Crabb) Nickodem	J. Allan Simpson	Mrs. R. P. Hussong	Stanley L. Polacheck
1960-61	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.	Mrs. Margaret (Crabb) Nickodem	J. Allan Simpson	Mrs. R. P. Hussong	Stanley L. Polacheck
1961-62	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.	Mrs. Margaret (Crabb) Nickodem	J. Allan Simpson	Mrs. R. P. Hussong	Stanley L. Polacheck
1962-63	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.	Mrs. LeRoy Mattern	H. Lowell Hall	Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Liebherr	Stanley L. Polacheck
1963-64	Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.	Mrs. LeRoy Mattern	H. Lowell Hall	Dr. Charles A. Kemper	Stanley L. Polacheck

years), Clarence Jung in 1960-62 and Mrs. Clara Hussong the two years since then. In the three years, 1959-62, Alfred O. Holz handled public relations matters but this position was not continued after he became president. Also, the position of custodian was created in 1959-60 to care for Society archives and related matters, and Walter E. Scott has carried on this work the past five years. A file keeper position was found necessary at this same time and Mrs. John McEwan handled this the first two years, to be followed by Mrs. Arthur Gauerke from 1960 to the present. In that year, two associates to the research chairman were appointed, and for the 1960-62 period, Professors Daniel Q. Thompson and Howard Young assisted Professor McCabe on this project. It must be remembered that often the wives of members do much of the work for their husbands, and full recognition should be given to such individuals as Mrs. N. R. Barger and Mrs. Harold Kruse on the Supply Department and Mrs. Walter E. Scott as examples of "active assistants."

The Passenger Pigeon and Other Publications

Editing and distributing **The Passenger Pigeon** during the 15-year period called for considerable work which increased continually with



ALEXANDER WETMORE

PHOTO FROM SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION

larger membership. Mrs. N. R. Barger served as assistant editor from 1950 through 1953; Miss Alice Fosse was circulation manager from 1953 through 1956 followed by Mrs. H. M. Williams in 1956-57, Mrs. Eleanor B. Miles the next two years and Mrs. Raymond J. Roark for the five years since she started in 1959. An index for the 1949-51 period was prepared by Miss Ellen Hoffman and two additional cumulative indexes done by Miss Helen Northup were issued as separates covering the 1952-56 and 1957-61 periods. Miss Hoffman also was assistant librarian to WSO librarian Gilbert H. Doane from 1950 through 1954 when the Society's library project was dropped. Eugene Roark continued as managing editor in 1961-62 while a new editor took over.

One of the Society's most important programs is the collection of seasonal bird field notes. This requires much more effort with the increasing

volume of reports from the field. Reviewing and organizing these records calls for capable and dedicated assistants to **The Passenger Pigeon** editor. This new division of labor started in the 1959-60 year with the principal aim of speeding up the analysis, preparation and distribution of final reports. Those who worked on this during the past five years include: Wallace N. MacBriar, Jr. (two years), Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lound

(two years), Dr. Charles A. Kemper (five years), Dr. Howard A. Winkler (two years), Thomas Soulen (three years), Harold A. Bauers (three years), and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Roberts (two years).

Also, recognition should be given to all those who worked on special publications for the Society such as the field card, check list, bird haunts booklet and up-dated Kumlien and Hollister's **Birds of Wisconsin**. All of these publications brought considerable honor, credit and financial assistance to the Society, and it is unfortunate the full value of each cannot be listed at this time. However, a good example is **Silent Wings**, 4,000 copies of which were published in 1947 and eventually netted the Society about \$660.00 profit after sales and records were handled by W. E. Scott for almost 16 years. In 1942 Harold G. Liebherr accepted the position of editor for a newsletter which was named **The Badger Birder** and to date (March, 1964) has issued 19 copies of this invaluable aid of communication between officers and members. He and his wife were appointed publicity chairmen by the directors. Many individuals have collected, analyzed and reported on survey reports in cooperation with the research committee (detailed elsewhere).



HELEN NORTHUP

PHOTO BY JOHN KREISSLER

Special Projects

Among others who carried on special projects, Al Holz established a file on occupations of the membership to determine club affiliations and interests and also prepared a traveling side file for use by members and clubs. Mrs. Carl Frister worked on the prairie chicken survival fund drive in 1954-55 and on the Audubon Camp scholarship committee. Mabel Higgins started a "bluebird trail" on a highway west of Kenosha in 1952 which was successfully continued for several years. The Romigs of Green Bay have since expanded this program with cooperation from the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society and WSO and have received national recognition. Over 4,000 bluebird houses were erected with the assistance of 175 4-H Clubs and similar groups, stressing educational and study benefits. Frank King was chairman of the first committee established to consider the matter of land purchase in 1952 (with N. R. Barger and Walter Sylvester) and Harold Kruse has served as custodian of the Society's Honey Creek Natural Area ever since its purchase in 1960. Many members helped build fences and improve this property.

In 1953-54 Wallace Grange was chairman of the conservation committee which secured passage of resolutions supporting a Wisconsin Audubon Camp and the purchase of land in the Buena Vista Marsh

prairie chicken project. In the first of these big projects, Mrs. F. L. "Dixie" Larkin put life into the 330-acre property gift of Frances Elizabeth Andrews of Minneapolis by spearheading the collection of \$75,000 and much equipment for this National Audubon Society Camp which opened on Hunt Hill near Sarona, Washburn county, on June 26, 1955.



SAM ROBBINS

PHOTO BY BRUCE MONTGOMERY

committees led by Joseph J. Hickey, Gerald Vogelsang and Dr. Charles A. Kemper also did outstanding work.

If a "Mr. WSO Award" were to be considered, Sam Robbins would deserve serious thought as the recipient, for he has been a most helpful and useful member. His ability as an ornithologist will be evident to anyone who reads his summary of "Ornithological Progress in Wisconsin 1939-1963" beginning on page 3. This is highly recommended as a "must" for all students of Wisconsin birds. But Sam has done much more for WSO—often quietly and without recognition. He established a permanent field note file which one day will be invaluable. He headed committees which produced the state field card and checklist with migration charts—including revisions. He conceived the series on "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts" and wrote many of the descriptive reports. No one did more to collect records from the field, including the increasing number of Christmas censuses to 68 places from only 12, urging more summer breeding bird counts and night migration checks as well as regularly channeling the best Wisconsin records to **Audubon Field Notes**.

Meetings

Only those who have been in charge of a local WSO convention know how much work is required to make it a success. This year Rev. Howard Orians has been designated convention chairman by the WSO board of directors because the silver anniversary convention is an extra large assignment. He is ably assisted by Mrs. Martha Lound as vice-chairman. In other recent years this work has fallen to Dr. Charles A. Kemper (Chippewa Falls), Nils P. Dahlstrand (Rhineland), Bob Adams

(Waukesha) and Ray Hussong (Green Bay). Just one small project, such as supplying favors for the banquet table, often becomes a major contribution of artistic skill and "loving labor." In this tradition, Mrs. Andrew Weber made paraffin swans for everyone present at Green Bay, just as Clarence Anthes carved wooden passenger pigeons designed as pins for gifts at the first Waukesha Convention in 1948. Milkweed pod cattle egrets were favors at the latest Waukesha convention in 1961 as a contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffman.

A listing of available data on the last 15 annual conventions is as follows:

ANNUAL MEETINGS

(Continuation of List on Page 39)

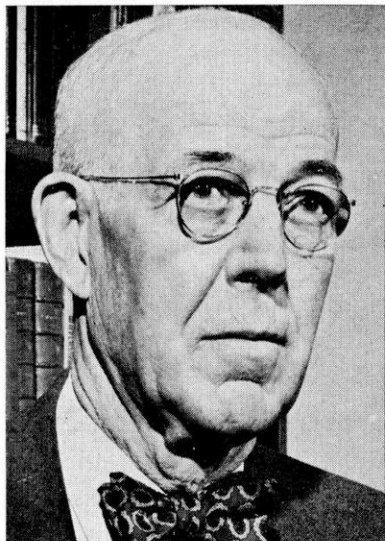
Meeting No.	Location	Dates	Registration (Guests Included)	Banquet Feature	Banquet Attendance
11	Two Rivers	May 5-7, 1950	184	Murl Deusing	250
12	Milwaukee	April 20-22, 1951	?	W. J. Breckenridge	?
13	Kenosha	May 2-4, 1952	?	Alexander Sprunt, Jr.	?
14	Green Bay	May 1-3, 1953	186	Murl Deusing	164
15	Madison	April 30-May 2, 1954	256	Cleve & Ruth Grant	228
16	Wausau	April 29-May 1, 1955	210	Douglas H. Pimlott	162
17	Beloit	May 4-6, 1956	169	Murl Deusing	185
18	Green Lake	May 3-5, 1957	?	Cleve & Ruth Grant	250
19	Milwaukee	April 25-27, 1958	200+	Murl Deusing	?
20	Green Bay	May 8-10, 1959	212	William Dyer	?
21	Adams	June 3-5, 1960	225	Charles W. Schwartz	210
22	Waukesha	May 19-21, 1961	289	Cleve & Ruth Grant	246
23	Rhineland	May 25-27, 1962	225	Murl Deusing	?
24	Chippewa Falls	May 24-26, 1963	280	Harold Mayfield	224
25	Madison	May 22-24, 1964		Roger Tory Peterson	

Membership Growth and Distribution

As will be seen from the four maps showing membership distribution, the Society's growth has been gradual—indicating a healthy, normal increase corresponding to the increasing tempo of activities. Actual in-state members included 117 when the organization was formed in May, 1939, and grew to 225 by the next April. After 10 years, in April, 1949, there was 568 members and at present (March, 1964) there are 967. The figure was adjusted slightly after maps were made and does not include library subscriptions. This is almost an eight-fold growth in the first quarter century and represents a phenomenal increase in so-called "family memberships."

A disappointing note is that the Society at present has no members in seven counties: Buffalo, Florence, Green, Green Lake, Monroe, Pepin and Richland. However, that is much better than 15 years ago when 20 counties were not represented! Surprisingly, at that time there also were no members in five of the seven counties still without WSO representation. It would seem that herein lies a challenge that the officers and membership committee should accept. It might be well to schedule some field trips to those counties to see what birds and birders are to be found.

As might be expected, membership is weak in the low population northern and western counties.



A. W. SCHORGER

PHOTO BY WISCONSIN
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

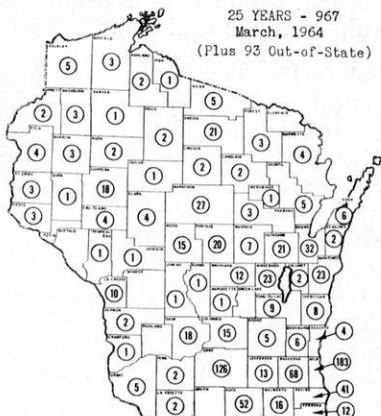
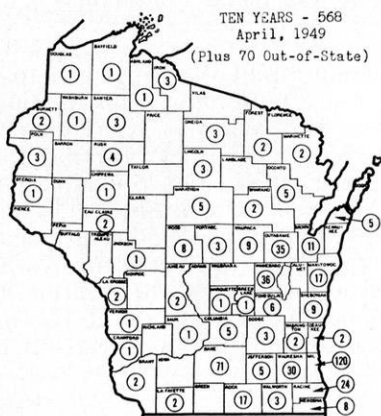
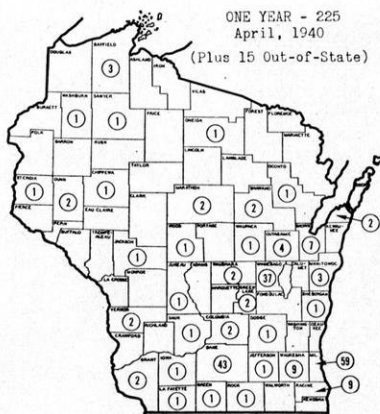
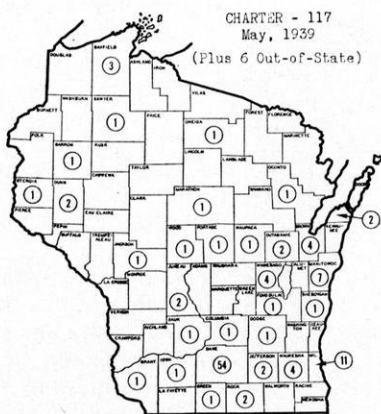
In discussing membership, it is interesting to refer to the status of Wisconsin ornithologists in the American Ornithologists' Union listing of 1960. Five WSO members are shown as Fellows: John T. Emlen, Jr., Joseph J. Hickey, A. W. Schorger, Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., and Alexander Wetmore. Five others have been honored by election as members: Irven O. Buss, Owen J. Gromme, F. N. Hamerstrom, Mrs. Margaret B. Hickey and Robert A. McCabe. Also in these national ornithological groups, Emlen has been president of the Wilson Ornithological Society (1956-58) and was second vice-president of the A.O.U. in 1960. Schorger served on the A.O.U. Council for three two-year terms, and McCabe was on the conservation committee of

the Wilson Club for two years and of the A.O.U. for four years. Hickey served as treasurer of the National Nature Conservancy for several years and Harold Wilson is a past-president of the Inland Bird Banding Association, of which Edward Peartree has been president several years and Dr. Charles A. Kemper vice-president.

People interested in birds come from all walks of life and their professional work or hobby interests often reflect credit upon WSO—even as WSO influences their actions at times. A good example is John S. Main, who was an insurance company executive and an eminent amateur ornithologist until his death in Madison in November, 1940. Besides helping to organize WSO as one of its charter members, he had been one of the founders and past-president of the Kumlien Ornithological Club. Aldo Leopold, in his tribute to Main in the **Wilson Bulletin** (March, 1941), states that he was not only an authority on birds and ornithological literature, but also an ardent conservationist. Leopold wrote: "Every farmer who nailed a Redtail to his barn door drove a thorn into John Main's social conscience. He was selfappointed custodian and trustee of every Sandhill Crane marsh and every duck hawk eyrie in the Madison region. Of such stuff, and of such only, can true conservation be built."

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTIES

(Library Memberships Not Included)



In similar fashion, it can be shown that many worthwhile conservation projects or organizations were started by ornithologists or bird students who couldn't stand idly by and watch the direct or indirect destruction of the wildlife they cherished. When the Citizen's Natural Resources Association was organized in 1951 for "militant action," Wallace Grange was its first president and Owen Gromme and Walter E.

Scott were in on drafting the constitution. The list of early officers and advisors included a half dozen WSO leaders such as Mrs. F. L. Larkin, W. J. P. Aberg, Karl W. Kahmann and Alvin Throne and the first membership list contained many bird students. Even today, Mrs. Harold Kruse is secretary of C.N.R.A. while Roy Gromme is president, Miss Bertha Pearson is vice-president and Mrs. Fred Hamerstrom is a councilor. Space does not permit a listing of all the details, but a similar situation



OWEN GROMME (LEFT) AND CLARENCE JUNG

could be shown in such groups as the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, Friends of the U. W. Arboretum and even the Wisconsin Phenological Society, of which James Zimmerman is president. Also, at the present time, Owen Gromme is president of Wetlands for Wildlife, Inc. and Paul Romig is vice-president of the

Wisconsin Council for Resource Development and Conservation, while Harold Kruse is a director.

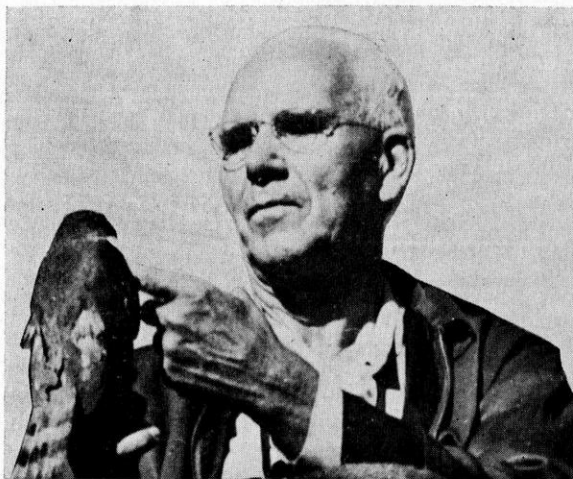
A further commentary on the relationship of WSO members to conservation is necessary because so many are professional conservationists who work full time in this field as biologists, managers, educators or administrators. Professor Robert J. Muckenhirn has been a member for 24 years and he is a pioneer in the state's soil conservation program. Other U. W. professors at Madison and Milwaukee include in this field Hickey, Ellarson, Emlen, McCabe and Throne—while Jacque Vallier is a charter member who has taught conservation regularly at Milwaukee's Washington High School and the Wisconsin Audubon Camp. In addition, Carl Welty at Beloit, Dan Thompson at Ripon, George Becker at Wisconsin State College-Stevens Point and Howard Young at La Crosse, all have played important roles.

About 10 Conservation Department employees have participated as leaders in WSO work, notably N. R. Barger, Mrs. Fred Hamerstrom, Frank King, Earl Loyster, Eugene Roark and Walter E. Scott, who has been Administrative Assistant to the Director since 1952. Significantly, the present editor of *The Passenger Pigeon* is an employee of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Milwaukee Public Museum curators such as Owen Gromme and his staff play an important leadership role as do also such lecturers as Murl Deusing, Cleveland Grant and Rev. Howard Orians. In recent years the latter two have been on the Audubon lecture series with effective conservation messages as well as interesting motion pictures. Of considerable importance is the fact that several Conservation

Commissioners have been good members of WSO, namely W. J. P. Aberg, Aldo Leopold and A. W. Schorger. It is not surprising that conservation has been the main theme of many programs and the reason for a number of resolutions or actions by the board of directors.

Field Trips and Campouts

The first special field trip for WSO was organized by the education committee when Walter E. Scott was its chairman—June 5, 1949, to Wal-



S. PAUL JONES WITH SHARP-SHINNED
HAWK AT CEDAR GROVE

PHOTO BY FRANK KING

lace Grange's Sandhill Game Farm. The 49 people who came had a memorable experience seeing and hearing several Sandhill Cranes. This was followed on October 9, 1949, by a trip to the Cedar Grove hawk study area which was enjoyed by 125 members and guests from 11 counties and three other states. Included in the 93 species seen were a Bald Eagle, seven Duck Hawks, 30 Pigeon Hawks, seven Osprey and 375 Sharp-shinned Hawks. On

this trip a fine picture of S. Paul Jones holding a recently trapped hawk was secured. Since these two most successful trips, the field trip and campout program has continued and expanded—rain or shine—into one of the most important and valuable of WSO functions.

When Mrs. F. L. "Dixie" Larkin took over the education committee work in 1950, she continued these trips as also did Thomas Stavrum. However, this program really flourished after 1952 with excellent leadership from Harold Liebherr, Charles Nelson, Jr., Bernard D. Kaiman, Carl Frister and Edward Peartree (and in most cases, their wives!). Some records on this program are as follows, with the number of birders for each occasion listed:

- Trip** May, 1963—Honey Creek (Sauk County)—90
- Campout** Fall, 1962—Honey Creek—61
- Trip** May, 1961—Honey Creek—85
- Campout** Fall, 1960—Kettle Moraine—71
- Trip** September, 1959—Cedar Grove—72
- Campout** Summer, 1958—Point Beach State Forest—42
- Trip** October, 1957—Sandhill Game Farm—58
- Trip** September, 1955—Cedar Grove—120
- Campout** June, 1954—Door County—90
- Trip** Spring, 1954—Buena Vista Marsh—50
- Campout** Summer, 1951—Roche-a-Cri—62

The above list does not by any means indicate the extensive nature of this activity, for groups visited such areas as Buena Vista Marsh and Cedar Grove practically every year. There were very productive trips to the Lake Michigan shore and the Mississippi River bottoms in Wyalusing State Park as well as to many other parks and wildlife areas. Interest in camping increased rapidly at this time and happily, WSO was ready to join birding and camping into a worthwhile and fruitful experience. Much credit must be given to the local tour leaders at these gatherings and to such specialists as Jim Zimmerman, mist netters (for bird banding) Edward Peartree and Dr. Charles Kemper, and Helmut Mueller and Daniel Berger at Cedar Grove.

Memorable Experiences

Frequently the most memorable experiences are those occurrences in the field which are unusual, unexpected or flavored with some difficulty. An example of this was the Society's 1950 convention at Point Beach State Forest (May 5-7) when Mrs. Winnifred Smith was in charge of the program. The story is that she prayed for a low barometric pressure in order to bring in a large flight of birds—and she almost ruined the whole meeting! The wind blew up to 102 mph at Green Bay and members had to hold onto each other on the field trips so they wouldn't fly over the cliff to the Lake Michigan beach. But the birds! Warblers everywhere, both on and near the ground—a total of approximately 180 different species seen! Toastmaster J. Harwood Evans properly labeled Mrs. Smith "Mrs. Low Pressure of 1950."

No doubt each person has some cherished memories, and more often than not it will be of some wildflowers, trees or "peculiar people" as well as birds. Refresh your memory with these reminders:

Wyalusing Campout in 1952 found rare southern warblers and vireos.

Campfire ceremony at the Door County Campout in 1954 included campfire music
(?).

Poor weather trip to Port Washington produced an Iceland Gull!

It rained at the 1958 Roche-a-Cri campout.

Seventy-two people enjoyed poor weather at Cedar Grove in September 1959.

Mist nets paid big dividends at Wyalusing State Park campout in 1959 and 86 species seen.

Three hundred people signed the Honey Creek Area register in 1961!

Fence building at Honey Creek project is fun—even though woodpeckers chew up the fence posts.

Breakfast in the Kettle Moraine State Forest during the 1961 convention was fun.

Boat-birding on Big Roche-a-Cri Creek on the way to Petenwell Flowage was fast (and a little dangerous) at the Adams convention in 1960!

WSO Accomplishments

When asked what they thought was the most valuable contribution WSO had made over the years to the cause of ornithology, most officers mentioned the collection and publication of many good ornithological records, conservation education efforts and greater awareness of birds by the general public. But most of them also rated very high the actual land acquisition and management efforts of WSO to preserve the prairie chicken in the Buena Vista Marsh in Portage county and the natural wild-

ness of the Honey Creek in Sauk county. These two projects, plus many smaller ones, deserve special mention.

The Society was a leader in the plan to buy lands for prairie chickens in Buena Vista Marsh to preserve and restore this area on a lease arrangement with the Wisconsin Conservation Department. The Hamerstroms had returned to Wisconsin in 1949 and early in 1952 WSO had its first special field trip to their "home grounds" at Plainfield. A "booming" field trip in early 1954 was successful with 50 birders in the field. On May 1, 1954, at the Madison convention, a resolution was passed to assess a \$2.00 per member "prairie chicken tax" with a goal of \$1,500 to purchase a parcel of habitat land on the Buena Vista Marsh. Jerry Vogelsang was chairman of the WSO



REV. HOWARD ORIANIS AND MRS. ALDO LEOPOLD

conservation committee and he effectively set forth to collect this amount. By November he reported \$1,134 and by the following summer he had collected \$1,704.53 of which \$1,627.08 was above expenses. Additional small gifts continued to come in even later, and the record shows contributions from approximately 290 individuals and organizations with about 12% from out-of-state!

The Wisconsin Conservation League bought the first parcel of land at Buena Vista and WSO was second with a 40-acre parcel picked up in 1957 for \$1,200. Vol. I, No. 1 of **The Prairie Chicken** was published by the "Prairie Chicken Foundation" of the Dane County Conservation League early in 1959. Later that year the Conservation Commission presented a certificate to WSO commending the organization for the purchase of 120 acres of land in the Buena Vista Prairie Chicken Management Area, and lease of this property to the Conservation Department.

This now has been extended to a 99-year lease. Most significant is the fact that two WSO members also purchased 40-acre parcels of land for the purpose at about the same time: Mrs. Dorothy (Kummer) Vallier and Clarence Jung.

There is a somewhat similar evolution in the realization of a WSO home sanctuary in the form of land which could be preserved and wisely managed. In Vol. 13, No. 4 (1951) of **The Passenger Pigeon**, N. R. Barger's article discussed the question: "Shall WSO Have a Bird Sanctuary?" He made a good and complete argument, and in a way this was an editorial by the editor with the conclusion: "We are confident that the funds needed to purchase and develop the property can be procured through endowments, and, to some extent, through donations. . . . We should

begin at once, realizing that this is a long-range project, and take it one phase at a time." The next year president Sam Robbins appointed a committee of Frank King, N. R. Barger and Walter Sylvester to follow through.

This plan was delayed by two other major promotional efforts—the prairie chicken land and the Wisconsin Audubon Camp. WSO gave \$125 from its education and publicity fund to the latter project and many members contributed individually. Late in 1956 editor Sam Robbins commented in **The Passenger Pigeon** on ambitious plans of the Florida and Michigan societies involving a headquarters for their activities and noted: "We look forward to the day when WSO can embark on some comparable venture."

In 1958, when Stanley Polacheck was president, Mrs. Clara Hussong wrote an article, "Land, Land, Land" (Vol. XX, No. 2) telling of the Board meeting on June 14 at which a committee headed by Dan Thompson was appointed to find "a natural wildlife community." Late that year Harold Kruse secured a two-year lease on the first parcel of Honey Creek property and he urged individual field trips for inspection of the area by members of a "trial basis." The first WSO group trip to the new location was scheduled for May 1960 but only 29 birders responded. Later that year Harold Kruse was designated as chairman of the Honey Creek fund raising project and purchase of the first 30 acres soon was completed with a goal of 85 acres. On May 28, 1961, a total of 85 members visited the Honey Creek sanctuary and they observed 85 species of birds including 15 kinds of warblers. In 1962, the fall campout at Honey Creek attracted 61 people, and 90 were on the May, 1963, field trip. WSO now owns 125 acres at this location and Stanley Polacheck has donated a fine bronze plaque commemorating the establishment and purpose of the project.

Other Worthwhile Activities

Over the last 15 years WSO carried on many worthwhile activities and made numerous contributions to the cause of conservation and public understanding of wildlife values. In the interest of brevity, some of these not already mentioned will be listed, more or less chronologically, from 1948 onward:

WSO and the Wilson Ornithological Club met jointly at Madison in 1949 and an historic group photograph was taken. Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., the banquet speaker, characterized the 354 registration as "the largest of any ornithological convention held anywhere in recent years."

Education committee surveys all Wisconsin libraries on ornithological literature and encourages more and better bird reference materials.

Kenosha Bird Club organized.

Booth maintained for several years at Wisconsin Outdoor Exhibit (Milwaukee Sentinel Show).

Joint meeting with the Inland Bird Banding Association in 1950 and on several occasions thereafter. Also, Illinois ornithologists cooperate and participate regularly in WSO activities.

Education fund of over \$200 collected.

New Wisconsin bird card checklist produced.

Audubon lecture series started at Madison—later expanded to Milwaukee, Appleton,

Beloit, Green Bay and Manitowoc.

Prizes awarded for 4-H bird posters and boy scout and girl scout bird photos.

Advertising secured for **The Passenger Pigeon** to augment finances.

John Muir Nature Club (Milwaukee) established.

Kumlien and Hollisters **Birds of Wisconsin** reprinted from articles in **The Passenger Pigeon** for WSO's first book.

Questionnaire sent to all members secures valuable biographical data.

Bird conservation committee with J. J. Hickey, chairman (Feeney, Grange, King, Jung and Loyster), brought in a strong report in 1950 (Vol. 12, No. 2) and secured WSO approval of resolutions urging reestablishment of the Argonne game refuge in Forest county (except for special deer harvest) and to oppose bills in Congress for valley authorities throughout the U. S.

Wausau Bird Club and Antigo Audubon Society formed.

National Audubon Society branch at Appleton organized.

WSO library discontinued and about 500 items given to Wilson Ornithological Society Library (Ann Arbor).

John Muir Club publishes its own news bulletin as also do clubs at Green Bay, Beloit, Madison and Milwaukee.

The Passenger Pigeon begins to feature important dates in "Outdoor Calendar."

Beloit's Ned Hollister Bird Club organized.

Resolution favors good management program for Horicon Marsh.

American Ornithologists' Union meets in Madison for first time (September, 1953) with A. W. Schorger as general chairman.

WSO sleeve emblems planned and purchased.

Wisconsin Audubon Camp opens June, 1955, and both Mrs. F. L. Larkin and the Wisconsin Utilities Association cited by the National Audubon Society for contributions. Walter W. Engelke (WSO member) first director and WSO contributes a camp scholarship for at least two years as also do other state bird clubs and Guido R. Rahr Foundation.

WSO participates in conservation workshop for youth leaders and teachers at Madison Vocational School.

WSO board of directors attends Conservation Commission hearing on prairie chicken while Robert McCabe reads their proposal.

Supply Department issues first annual catalog in 1956.

Many members supply Milwaukee Public Museum with bird records for Owen Gromme's **Birds of Wisconsin**.

Sister Island (Door county) saved for the gulls (after private sale by federal government) after long fight by Harold Wilson and Walter E. Scott for WSO and the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Gift of \$10.00 made to Montello Chamber of Commerce for Muir Lake Memorial Park.

Custodian position created and arrangements made for deposit of archives with the State Historical Society. Small ornithological journals exchanged for **The Passenger Pigeon** regularly deposited with the University of Wisconsin Memorial Library, and other exchange publications given to libraries at UW-Milwaukee and Wisconsin State College-Stevens Point. Some library material also presented to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp.

WSO protests Conservation Department questionnaire proposing a Mourning Dove open season.

Field checklist card and migration chart booklet are revised and up-dated.

Strong opposition expressed to bounties—especially on timber wolves and lynx, and state purchase of Sandhill game farm urged.

Concern expressed over DDT spraying to control dutch elm disease and this expanded considerably over the years with articles, convention symposium and Dixie Lar-

kin's "committee of one thousand." Editor Sam Robbins and Dr. Charles Kemper give strong arguments for more control.

Memorial to Wakelin McNeel consisting of a collection of field guides given to Camp Upham Woods.

Supply Department starts rental program on bird slides and records, and Al Holz makes up a set of slides for lectures (many others, such as Ray Hussong, also carried on such activities).

WSO gives Wisconsin Conservation Department hundreds of Kumlien and Hollister **Birds of Wisconsin** books and field checklist cards to use in teacher education programs, and a certificate of appreciation was received.

Board of directors oppose invasion of Bascom Woods on U. W. campus for buildings by signing a petition of personal opposition.

WSO leaders, such as Mrs. Clara Hussong and Dr. Kemper, write regular nature columns in their local newspapers. Mrs. Hussong also sends out many WSO publicity releases.

S. Paul Jones Bird Club formed at Oconomowoc with Edward Peartree as first president.

WSO supports Conservation Commission by opposition to bill for full slate of new members.

Bald Eagle in State Assembly cleaned up by WSO and returned to legislators.

Concern expressed over death of birds at TV towers, and studies made especially by Dr. Charles Kemper and Clarence Jung (as well as Herb Stoddard in Georgia).

Motions oppose open seasons on hawks, owls and Mourning Doves.

Roger Tory Peterson Bird Club formed at Manitowoc.

Oneida Wildlife Society (Rhineland) organized.

WSO conservation committee urges support of Outdoor Recreation Act Program.

Articles of Incorporation finally revised to include this statement: "The purpose of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in and promote the scientific study of birds in Wisconsin toward a better understanding of their biology and the basis of their preservation and conservation." The "principle office" of the Society was listed as the treasurer, Mrs. Alfred O. Holz in Green Bay, and the "registered agent" as Walter E. Scott in Madison.

Supply Department (Kruses) sell over \$3,000 in merchandise in one year—April 1960-April 1961.

Chippewa Wildlife Society organized in 1962.

"Operation Snowy Owl" receives good membership support with considerable survey and banding success by the leaders—Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, Dan Berger, and Helmut and Nancy Mueller.

Wisconsin bird banders ring 27,099 birds in 1962, with 7,668 at Cedar Grove and 3,758 by Harold Wilson (Door county).

Miss Margarette Morse of Viroqua cited by Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for contributing bird field notes to them for 40 years.

Green Bay Bird Club (three years older than WSO) changes its name to Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society and affiliates with the National Audubon Society.

The Badger Birder, mimeographed monthly newsletter fills an urgent need for current and timely news of activities.

Mobile trailer purchased for Supply Department furnishes vital storage space.

Owen Gromme receives Silver Acorn Award from C. N. R. A. for his bird book and conservation activities.

New WSO membership brochure issued with illustrations prepared by president Al Holz, who is given honorary membership in the Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, sponsor of a Brown County Nature Conference.

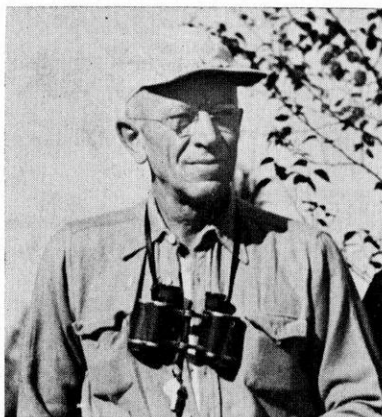
Books by WSO Members

Many important things still have been omitted in this listing. Several significant books were published by WSO members in the natural history field including some by Messrs. Buss, Derleth, Grange, Gromme, Jackson, Leopold, Schorger, Stoddard and Welty. There were some changes in the WSO constitution (especially as to changes in dues and officers) but these were overshadowed by the important changes in the

Articles of Incorporation. An interesting phase of field note recording, not adequately annotated, is the "annual list" which was an interesting contest for several years (1950-52). In 1951, a total of 282 different species was seen by the 192 "bird watchers" reporting, and the record for a single year was 259 by Mrs. F. L. Larkin in 1952. Individuals rating in the first three during these years (besides Dixie Larkin, who took first honors each year) were Miss Mary Donald, Karl Priebe, Sam Robbins and Emil K. Urban.

A Look to the Future

Each year new members must bring fresh life-giving enthusiasm and talents to WSO because of the loss of cherished members who have given their full measure of devotion and service. Starting with the death of



ALDO LEOPOLD

PHOTO COURTESY OF
ROBERT MC CABE

Aldo Leopold on April 21, 1948, the Society in the last 15 years suffered the loss of many good members including the following:

Leon J. Cole
Mrs. Howard Higgins
Ray Hussong
S. Paul Jones
Karl W. Kahmann
Chester Krawczyk
Mrs. Wilhelmina LaBudde
Angie Kumlien Main

Miss Elizabeth A. Oehlenschlaeger
Walter E. Rogers
Mrs. Walter E. Rogers
Miss Ruth Stillman
Walter Sylvester
Warner Taylor
George Wagner
George R. Wettengel
Earl Wright

It has been impossible to search for the names of all members recently deceased and the author begs forgiveness for any omissions.

A year before WSO was organized, Aldo Leopold's "Conservation Esthetic" was published in *Bird Lore* (March-April, 1938). He there defined the problems of outdoor recreation with a vision which makes this article worthy of reprinting again today. It is particularly significant to those who enjoy the out-of-doors because they understand and appreciate its delicate ecological balance. It still is a warning to us that the days ahead will be filled with many battles for preservation of small wildlife communities—if not for the entire community we call "Wisconsin!" Our hopes lies in such avenues as conservation education and new and more

stringent regulations for people to follow—or less people. But mushrooming populations may dispell that hope, and ornithologists may have the sad duty of recording the progressive degrees of natural habitat and wildlife extirpation.

Still there is a greater and brighter future possible. European countries have shown the way toward a wonderful public consciousness for nature and wildlife preservation. Maybe, if we try, WSO can help our country grow in stature so there will be a place for wild birds as well as people. Maybe the people eventually shall embrace Leopold's concept of a Conservation Esthetic with a strong ethical foundation: **"Recreational development is a job, not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind."** This is a challenge for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in the next quarter century—even as it was in the last. If we face this issue squarely with constructive effort, our group can grow five-fold in half that number of decades!

1721 Hickory Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

BOOK REVIEWS

THE MIGRATIONS OF BIRDS. By Jean Dorst. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 1963. xix + 476 pp. \$6.75.

Men have been fascinated by seasonal migrations of birds for centuries, yet even today there is much that remains unknown about bird migration and orientation. **The Migrations of Birds** is a complete and up-to-date account of what is known about this amazing phenomenon. It is an authoritative work by one of the world's most eminent ornithologists, Dr. Jean Dorst, who is curator of the Division of Mammals and Birds at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

Field observation and banding are the principal methods of studying migration. Dr. Dorst discusses both on a worldwide scale with a fine breakdown of bird banding activity and methods, country by country. His basic belief is that migrations must be considered within the framework of ecology, as every group of birds migrates independently and in a manner often different from that of other groups, even of the same species. He points out that migrations are complex and involve many different elements which cannot be reduced to a rigid formula.

More than 130 drawings, including migration maps, illustrate the text. History, methods, physiology, orientation and modes of bird migration along with many interesting factual accounts of the migratory habits of birds worldwide are included. Other subjects treated are: the hibernation of birds, bird invasions, and the origin and evolution of migrations. An extensive bibliography is also included. It is a valuable reference work.

For people with a general interest in bird, this book is worth reading. For those who do research on bird migration and orientation, this book is well worth purchasing.—Thomas H. Nicholls.



FIELD NOTES

By NANCY and HAL ROBERTS

Summer Season

June 1-August 15, 1963

The weather during the summer of 1963 was in direct contrast to the previous year. While in 1962 there were no 90-degree temperatures in any but the most southern parts of the state, there were extended periods of 90 degrees and above during much of the summer of 1963. In addition, the rainfall was much below normal. Nearly half the counties were designated "disaster areas" by the Department of Agriculture at one time or another during the summer. This dryness may have had some adverse effect on waterfowl populations. Louise Erickson estimated waterfowl down about 50% in Racine county, Harold Lindberg reports the number of ducks fewer in Marinette county, and Carl Pospichal noted a shrinking of the heron and cormorant colonies in the Necedah Wildlife Refuge.

Good Habitat for Shorebirds

The lowered water levels seem to have made for good habitat for shorebirds. Many of the more unusual birds seen during the summer fall in this group. Marsh birds seem to have fared equally well, with Daryl Tessen reporting good numbers on Common Gallinules, Short-billed Marsh Wrens and Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Appleton area. Writing about the Horicon Marsh area, Tom Soulen says, "Particularly on the road along the federal dike, there were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of shorebirds August 12. Our scope, unfortunately, was not functioning so we had to let many pass unidentified. Of those we did look at, the only species we identified were Killdeer (30), Common Snipe (6), Spotted (4), Solitary (10), Greater (13) and Lesser Yellowlegs (40), Pectoral (20), and Least (15) Sandpipers. The numbers were estimates of what we identified; presumably something near these relative proportions were among the unidentified birds."

There were several unusual records among the gulls and terns. Little Gulls and Laughing Gulls were noted in the Racine area. In addition, Tom Soulen reports that Ring-billed Gulls summered in the University Bay area at Madison for the first time to his knowledge.

Sam Robbins' Western Kingbird came back to the Hudson area after a year's absence. Sam says there was no evidence of nesting this year.

Most observers who commented on Bluebird populations noted that there were very few this past summer. Only Donald Hendricks in Lincoln county noted that they were "holding their own."

Following is the summary of the more unusual records and dates for the summer season.

Common Loon: Reported from Door and Outagamie in addition to northern counties.

Horned Grebe: Reported only from Outagamie county on August 13 (Daryl Tessen).

Double-crested Cormorant: Only reports came from Douglas county on June 7 (Richard Bernard) and the Necedah Wildlife Refuge where the heron and cormorant colonies were reported to be shrinking (Carl Pospichal, manager).

Common Egret: Reported present in Pierce county (Sam Robbins), Dodge county (William Hilsenhoff), Dane county (Tom Ashman) and Rock county (Melva Maxson).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: At least five birds present along the Mississippi river in Pierce county in late June and through July (Robbins). Three adults in Kenosha county from June 22 on (John Bielefeldt), another three adults in Washington county in late June (Mary Donald). One adult seen at Horicon Marsh on July 19 (N. R. Barger and Robbins). One adult and 3 immature in Washington Park, Racine county on July 31 (Bob Fiehweg).

Whistling Swan: One seen in Bayfield county from June 11 to June 24 (Janet Kozlowski).

Canada Goose: Nine birds noted in Bayfield county June 4-9 (Kozlowski). Reported also in Burnett county where it was noted that the breeding population increased (N. R. Stone), Lincoln county (Donald Hendrick) and Marinette county (Harold Lindberg).

Blue Goose: One seen in Burnett county on July 3 (Stone).

Pintail: One brood raised in St. Croix county (Robbins).

Green-winged Teal: Reported from Bayfield, Burnett, Marinette, Winnebago, Columbia and Waukesha counties.

American Widgeon: Reported in Douglas (Bernard), Columbia (Hilsenhoff), Dane (Ashman) and Racine counties.

Wood Duck: Lindberg reports fewer birds in Marinette county. Other reports indicate good numbers: "common" in Bayfield county (Kozlowski), "another tremendous summer for this species judging from the numbers of young and adults seen" in Outagamie county (Tessen).

Redhead: Only report came from Columbia county (Hilsenhoff).

Ring-necked Duck: Present in Douglas county (Bernard), Burnett county (Stone), three broods raised in St. Croix county (Robbins), Douglas county (Robbins), Columbia county (Hilsenhoff) and Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

Lesser Scaup: Reported in Douglas (Bernard), Vilas (Weber), Burnett (Stone), Outagamie (Tessen) and Manitowoc (John Kraupa).

Common Goldeneye: One bird seen in Outagamie county on June 1 (Tessen).

Bufflehead: One present in Dane county on June 2 (Ashman).

White-winged Scoter: One bird at Manitowoc on July 7 (Kraupa).

Ruddy Duck: Ten birds summered in St. Croix county, no broods raised (Robbins); five in Outagamie county, one male in Winnebago county (Tessen). Also seen in Columbia county (Hilsenhoff), Dane county (Ashman), Waukesha county (Bielefeldt), Dodge county (Tom Soulen).

Hooded Merganser: Reported from Bayfield, Vilas, Burnett, St. Croix, Door, Outagamie and Racine counties.

Common Merganser: Only report came from Bayfield where birds were present until June 12 (Kozlowski).

Red-breasted Merganser: Seen in Douglas county on June 7 (Bernard) and in Door county on June 29 and August 14 (Louise Erickson).

Turkey Vulture: Thirteen were seen in Marinette county on July 17 and on August 18, the roosting place of twelve birds was noted (Carl Richter). Other reports from Vernon (Earl and Viratine Weber) and Waukesha (Bielefeldt) counties.

Goshawk: One in Ashland county on July 1 (Robbins).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Reported in Ashland county July 1 and Douglas county July 2 (Robbins).

Cooper's Hawk: Reported in Bayfield county (Kozlowski) and Outagamie county (Alfred Bradford, Tessen).

Red-shouldered Hawk: A number of reports scattered throughout the state, including one from Polk county on August 20 (Ray Glassel).

Broad-winged Hawk: A number of reports from northern counties; an immature bird in Waukesha county on June 17 (Mrs. Paul Hoffman) and a report from Dane county (Ashman).

Rough-legged Hawk: One in Outagamie county on June 11 (Tessen).

Bald Eagle: Birds were present in Forest county (Bernard), Vilas county (Bill Weber, Bradford, Mrs. John Brakefield), two in Sawyer county (Walter Scott).

Osprey: Reported from Douglas county (Bernard), two in Bayfield county (Kozlowski), three in Vilas county (Weber, Brakefield), Douglas and Washburn counties (Robbins), Lincoln county (Hendrick), one present in Sheboygan county until June 1 (Helmut Mueller).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Four seen in Vilas county July 19 (Weber). Seen in Burnett county on July 3 (Stone).

Bobwhite: Reports from Burnett county (Stone) and St. Croix county (Robbins).

Sandhill Crane: On June 11, a pair and one young at Crex Meadows (Stone).

King Rail: Present in Burnett county on July 3 (Stone), Fond du Lac county on July 30 (Harold Koopman) and Dodge county on July 31 (Hilsenhoff).

Common Gallinule: One in Door county (Erickson); unusually numerous in Winnebago county (Tessen) and unusually common at Horicon Marsh (Soulen).

Semipalmated Plover: Spring migrants were last seen on June 8 in Sheboygan county (Mueller) and Racine county. Early fall migrants noted on July 21 in Racine. Robbins reports two birds seen in Dauglas county and one in Bayfield county on July 2.

Piping Plover: One at Port Wing, Bayfield county, on July 1 (Robbins). A nest with four eggs at Superior on June 21 (Dennis Meyer).

Black-bellied Plover: Last spring birds seen in Sheboygan county on June 7 (Mueller). Earliest fall arrivals in Racine county on August 7.

Ruddy Turnstone: Seen in Bayfield county until June 6 (Kozlowski) and in Racine until June 8 (Erickson). Earliest fall returnees in Racine on July 27.

Whimbrel: Flock of 15 on Washington Island, Door county, on June 1 (Robert and Louise Erickson), three at Superior on June 20 (Bernard).

Solitary Sandpiper: First fall migrant in Dane county on July 7 (Hilsenhoff).

Willet: Two birds at Wind Point, Racine county, on July 27 (Weber).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest fall arrival on July 3 in Burnett county (Stone).

Lesser Yellowlegs: An early fall migrant recorded in Douglas county on July 2 (Robbins). Fall birds present on July 8 in Dane county (Hilsenhoff) and Oconto county (Richter).

Knot: One at Wind Point, Racine county, feeding with Sanderlings on August 11 (Weber). One at Cedar Grove on June 5 (Mueller).

Pectoral Sandpiper: In Dane county until June 2 (Ashman). Earliest fall arrival on July 7 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

Baird's Sandpiper: A fall migrant in St. Croix county on July 25 (Robbins); arrived in Outagamie county on August 15 (Tessen).

Least Sandpiper: Spring migrants until June 3 at Cedar Grove (Mueller); fall returnees in Dane county on July 7 (Hilsenhoff).

Dunlin: Last seen on June 7 in Douglas (Bernard) and Bayfield (Kozlowski) counties and on June 8 in Sheboygan county (Mueller). A report from Racine shows birds arrived there June 8 and remained until June 24 (Erickson).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Arrived in Racine county on July 8. Also seen in Waukesha county on July 9 (Bielefeldt), Columbia county on July 23 (Hilsenhoff), Racine county July 27, Dodge county on August 9 (Ashman), a flock of 45 birds at Horicon Marsh on August 3 (Bargers and Lounds), Marinette county (Lindberg) and Outagamie county (Tessen).

Stilt Sandpiper: First fall migrant in St. Croix county on July 3 (Robbins).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Late spring migrants on June 7 at Superior (Bernard); first fall returnees on July 8 in Racine county (Erickson).

Western Sandpiper: A bird seen in breeding plumage in company with Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlins in St. Croix county on June 3 (Robbins).

Hudsonian Godwit: A probable sighting at Cedar Grove on July 6. See "By the Wayside." Also at Superior on June 3 (Bernard).

Sanderling: Last spring migrant on June 8 in Sheboygan county (Mueller); first fall returnees on July 18 in Sheboygan county (Koopman). One at Horicon Marsh on July 19 (Barger and Robbins) is unusual away from lakeshore.

Wilson's Phalarope: A nest located in Oconto county on June 9 (Richter). Also reported in Dane county on June 5 (Ashman), Burnett county on July 3 (Stone), Racine county on July 9 (Erickson), Outagamie county on August 13 (Tessen) and Winnebago county on August 14 (Tessen).

Bonaparte's Gull: Reported on June 7 in Superior (Bernard) and Bayfield (Kozlowski), Winnebago county on June 13 (Tessen), eleven in Racine on June 25 (Erickson). Fall migrants in Manitowoc on July 25 (Kraupa).

Laughing Gull: A "semi-mature" bird seen in Racine county on June 6 and a mature bird on June 8 (Erickson and Ed Prins).

Little Gull: Seen in Racine county on June 5 (Erickson and Dorothea Kuehn).

Forster's Tern: One in Winnebago county on June 19 (Hilsenhoff), Racine county on June 25 (Erickson), Horicon Marsh on July 19 (Barger and Robbins) and Winnebago county on August 14 (Tessen).

Caspian Tern: Seen in Racine on June 22 and Door county on June 30 (Erickson); in Sheboygan county on July 21 (Koopman) and Outagamie county on August 11 (Tessen).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Present in St. Croix county (Robbins); in unusually large numbers in Grant county on June 8 (Bargers and Lounds) and in more than usual numbers in several locations.

Hawk Owl: Two near the nesting area on June 27 and subsequently (Roy Johnson). One seen west of Brule, about ten miles west of the nesting area on August 1 (Bernard Klugow).

Long-eared Owl: Present in Dane county on June 4 (Ashman), Waukesha county (Bielefeldt), and adult and immature in Rock county on June 27 (Maxson).

Short-eared Owl: One at Superior on July 24 (Bernard).

Saw-whet Owl: On June 27 a bird was heard in Green Lake county (Robbins).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Three reports; Superior on July 13 (Bernard), Douglas county on June 7 and July 4 (Klugow) and a pair in Door county on July 18 to 20 (Ed Paulson).

Western Kingbird: One on June 7 at Hudson where a pair bred in 1961. No evidence of nesting this year (Robbins).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Last seen in Dane county on June 1 (Hilsenhoff). Reported present during the summer season in Bayfield (Kozlowski) and single birds heard singing in Ashland county on July 1 and Douglas county on July 2 (Robbins).

Acadian Flycatcher: On June 21 and July 5, one singing at Hudson, a first county record (Robbins).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Reported in Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Door counties.

Boreal Chickadee: Two in Price county on June 20 (Hilsenhoff).

Tufted Titmouse: One report north of usual range: St. Croix county on June 21 (Robbins).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: In Douglas county from June 7 to August 1 (Bernard), Bayfield county (Kozlowski), Vilas county on July 26 (Weber), St. Croix county on June 21 (Robbins), Door county on June 29 and July 24 (Erickson), Outagamie county on June 12 (Tessen), Price county (Hilsenhoff), Dane county (Ashman) and Rock county June 18 to August 19 (Maxson).

Brown Creeper: One report from Lincoln county (Hendrick).

Winter Wren: In Ashland and Douglas counties on July 1 and 2 (Robbins), a nest in Marinette county on June 22 (Lindberg), in Door county on June 29 and eight on July 9 (Erickson) and one in Green Lake county on June 24 and 27 (Robbins).

Bewick's Wren: One in Adams county on June 29 and one in St. Croix county on July 5 (Robbins).

Hermit Thrush: In Douglas county from July 13 to 18 (Bernard) and 18 in Vilas county on July 26 (Weber).

Swainson's Thrush: A number of reports from northern counties, and a record of a bird banded at Cedar Grove on June 3 (Mueller).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: One report of a late migrant banded at Cedar Grove on June 4 (Mueller).

Bluebird: Most observers note a decrease in numbers from the previous year; scarce in Brown county (Richter) and in St. Croix county (Robbins), very few in Outagamie county (Tessen), in Sheboygan (Koopman) and Rock (Mrs. John Mahlum) counties.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two in Adams county on July 26 and one in St. Croix county on July 31 (Robbins). Only other report is from Dane county (Ashman).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One in St. Croix county on June 10 and two in Douglas county on July 2 (Robbins).

White-eyed Vireo: One in Dane county on June 4 (Ashman).

Bell's Vireo: One in St. Croix county on July 3 (Robbins), one pair in the University Arboretum in Madison (Hilsenhoff) and Dane county on June 4 (Ashman).

Philadelphia Vireo: Two in Bayfield from July 30 to August 15 (Kozlowski).

Worm-eating Warbler: One heard singing at Wyalusing Park, Grant county, on June 8 (Bargers and Lounds).

Blue-winged Warbler: Present in Vernon county (Margarette Morse, Webers) and Dane county (Hilsenhoff, Ashman). Also reported in St. Croix county on July 5 and Pierce county on August 7 (Robbins) and Fond du Lac county on July 28 (Weber).

Tennessee Warbler: One singing in St. Croix county on July 8 (Robbins). First fall migrant banded at Chippewa Falls on July 27 (Dr. Charles Kemper).

Parula Warbler: Numerous in Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland counties on July 1 and 2 (Robbins).

Cape May Warbler: One in Door county on July 25 (John Sartveit).

Black-throated Green Warbler: A number of reports from northern counties and one from Rock county on June 4 (Maxson) and Racine county on June 27 (Erickson).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Most southerly report came from Waukesha county on June 29 (Bielefeldt).

Bay-breasted Warbler: An early fall migrant in Bayfield county on August 13 (Kozlowski).

Blackpoll Warbler: A late migrant in Dane county June 1 (Hilsenhoff).

Pine Warbler: Arrived in Bayfield on June 29 (Kozlowski) and numerous in Douglas county on July 1 and 2 (Robbins).

Kentucky Warbler: Fairly common in Grant county on June 8 (Bargers and Lounds). Also seen in Dane county on June 1 (Hilsenhoff) and June 4 (Ashman).

Connecticut Warbler: Four in Douglas county on July 2 (Robbins and Klugow).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One in St. Croix county on June 21 (Robbins), one in Dane county on June 4 (Ashman) and from June 28 to August 10 (Hilsenhoff). One banded at Beloit on June 4 (Marion Stocking).

Hooded Warbler: Reported in Dane county on June 2 and 15 (Hilsenhoff) and on June 4 (Ashman).

Wilson's Warbler: One in Rock county on June 12 and 25 (Maxson).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A male noted on Buena Vista marsh, Portage county, on June 18 (Fran Hamerstrom and Gary Page) was the first record for the area.

Orchard Oriole: One in St. Croix county on June 21 (Robbins).

Dickcissel: Most northerly report came from Burnett county on June 18 (Stone).

Evening Grosbeak: A report on August 1 in Douglas county (Bernard).

Pine Grosbeak: A "large flock" was noted on July 25 in Vilas county (Howard Young). According to Robbins, this is only the second modern summer record for Wisconsin.

Pine Siskin: Four in Outagamie county until June 13 (Tessen). Small flocks noted in Bayfield county on July 1 and in Douglas county on July 2 (Robbins). Arrived in Bayfield county on July 20 (Kozlowski).

Red Crossbill: In Door county, eight were seen on July 22 and two on August 15 (Erickson).

White-winged Crossbill: Two in Douglas county on July 2 (Robbins).

Le Conte's Sparrow: One on July 1 in Barron county (Robbins) and one on July 3 in Burnett county (Stone).

Lark Sparrow: Two in Adams county on June 29 and one in Dane county on June 4 (Ashman).

Lincoln's Sparrow: One banded at Cedar Grove on June 3 (Mueller).

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