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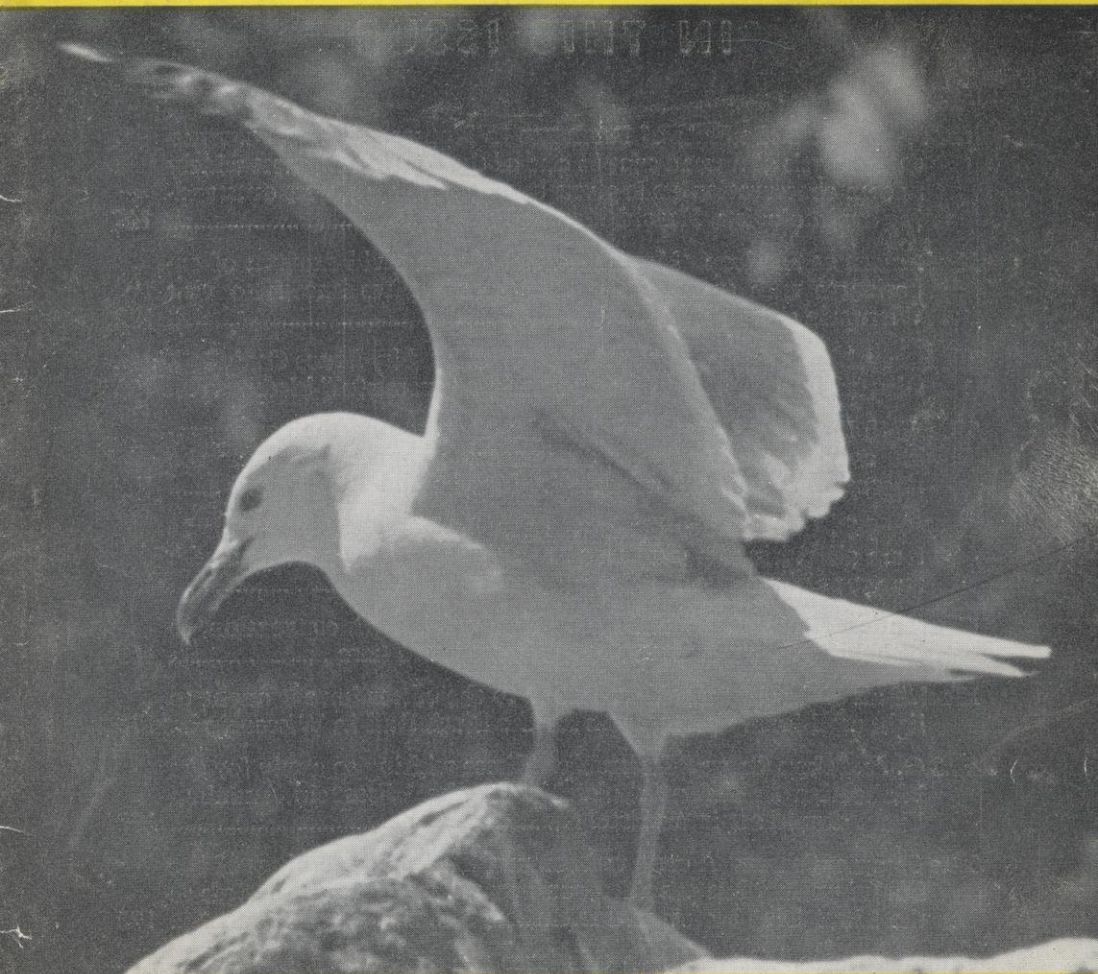
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**PASSENGER PIGEON**

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WINTER ISSUE  
VOL. XVIII NO. 4

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# **JACK MINER AND THE ROLE OF PREDATORS IN NATURE**

By **HAROLD MAYFIELD**

Few men in the history of conservation have captured the popular imagination like the late Jack Miner.

Millions remember him as the man who created a waterfowl refuge around a muddy pond. Even more remember him as the man who placed Scripture messages on the legs of migrating ducks and geese. To many of these people, his name is a symbol of conservation. To some of them, his views represent the highest authority on wildlife questions.

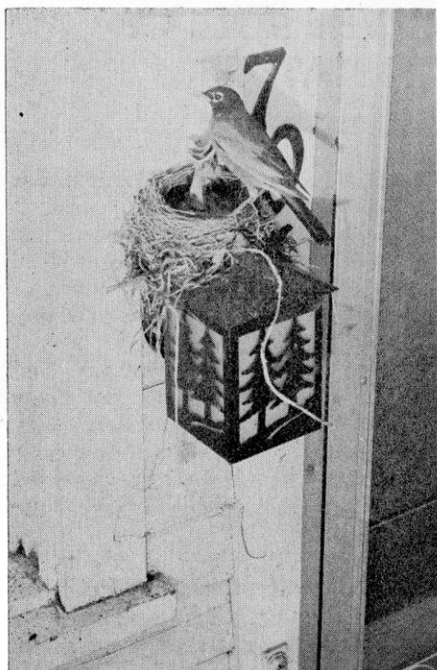
It is all the more credit to this remarkable man that he achieved fame against severe odds. What he did, he accomplished alone. For many years his activities were derided and opposed by his friends and neighbors. His mental isolation was deepened by the fact that he was a poor reader and thus was denied access to literature where he might have received encouragement and stimulation from other minds working on the same problems.

Yet, through energy, force of personality, and native shrewdness, he became the most distinguished citizen of Kingsville, Ontario. He captivated audiences across the continent with his fervor, his homespun manner, his rustic humor, and his stories humanizing the behavior of birds. In recognition of his contribution to conservation, in 1943 George VI conferred upon him the Order of the British Empire, and in 1947, three years after his death, the Canadian legislature set aside the week of his birthday, April 10, as National Wildlife Week.

It is perhaps not surprising that Jack Miner's views on nature are regarded with extreme respect by the three sons who carry on his work. The publicity emanating from the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation, written mostly by the eldest son, Manly, who served as his father's secretary for many years, repeats words of praise from admirers that will seem extravagant to many readers: "One of the fifteen great men of the world" (along with Shakespeare, Pasteur, Edison, Burbank and others); his banded geese "have done more good in spreading the Gospel than all the missionaries in Canada," "the greatest practical naturalist on the planet," "pioneer bird bander in America," "father of the conservation movement in North America."

Needless to say, biological scientists appraise Jack Miner's work somewhat more modestly.

They acknowledge with gratitude that he made thousands of people conscious of birds as living creatures and not just targets for gunning. They appreciate how much he did to dramatize and popularize the refuge idea (although California passed a law for the creation of refuges in 1870, the killing of all wildlife in Yellowstone Park was prohibited in 1894, and the first Federal Refuge was established by President Roosevelt in 1903). They recognize his work in the design of traps and in the banding of enormous numbers of ducks and geese, through which much has been added to our knowledge of the migration of waterfowl passing through the Lake Erie region (although Audubon banded the first migratory bird



SEEKING PROTECTION FROM CROWS?

PHOTO COURTESY "THE MAUSTON STAR"

ful student who would agree with Jack Miner that Robins build near people's houses to get protection from Crows, that Crows locate other birds' eggs by sense of smell, or that there are only 5% as many song birds today as there were in his youth.

Scientists, with exceptional unanimity, are agreed also that Jack Miner was mistaken in one of his cherished views, namely, that all creatures of prey should be pursued relentlessly and killed. It is particularly to be deplored that this idea, discredited by the careful research of ornithologists and mammalogists, should have become a major theme of the publicity issued in recent years from the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation. It is to be regretted also that this publicity should carry an undercurrent of ridicule for biological research. It was just incomprehensible to Jack Miner that informed men could dispute what was so plain to him. Yet the case against him has mounted, and his sons have become bitter about it.

I have examined 22 news releases and reprints from the Foundation and 14 of them are devoted wholly or in part to arguments for the destruction of predators. Presumably, the magic of Jack Miner's name gets this material an audience in newspapers and magazines, although it is nowhere backed up by evidence rigorous enough to be acceptable by scientific journals.

Let's examine Jack Miner's views on this particular subject in more detail. Here, as in other aspects of animal behavior, he imputed human feelings and motives to wild creatures and passed moral judgment on

in 1803, and banders were sufficiently numerous by 1909, the year Jack Miner placed his first band, that a special section was organized for them at that time in the American Ornithologists' Union.)

Biological scientists are not unmindful of the good work Jack Miner did. Looking back, they are pleased to note the emphasis he placed on the planting of trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Here his judgment was sound. But in other matters his judgment was not always so good. It is no reflection on his honesty nor keenness as an observer to say that his interpretations of what he saw should be regarded with the same caution one would accord the ideas of hunters, trappers, and other outdoorsmen who are unacquainted with the great body of accumulated knowledge in these fields. It would be difficult to find a care-

them. He divided a wildlife into the good and the bad. The list of "bad" creatures was long:

Sharp-shinned Hawks	Great Horned Owls ("cannibals")
Cooper's Hawks	English Sparrows ("flying rats")
Goshawks	Wolves
Marsh Hawks	Foxes
Screech Owls	Weasels
Crows ("black murderers")	Skunks
Grackles	Mice
Blue Jays	Snakes
Shrikes	House Cats

Jack Miner encouraged people to pursue and kill such forms of life for the good of the rest. For this purpose, he endorsed the use of gun and pole trap, which kills anything that alights on it. Hence, the Miner Refuge is not a sanctuary for all species; it is a baited trap for some.

To Jack Miner the whole problem was simple. It was just a matter of plain observation and common sense, to wit: (1) "Bad" creatures eat "good" creatures or their eggs; (2) if the "bad" creatures could be prevented from doing so, there would be more "good" creatures; (3) by killing the "bad" we increase the "good." After all, doesn't the farmer pull the weeds in his garden? For Jack Miner this viewpoint was not only sensible, but it also had Biblical sanction, for God gave man dominion over all other creatures.

If a person were to comment that all wild creatures flourished side by side before man interfered, Jack Miner got in his clinching argument as follows: Originally nature was in balance. Man has upset the balance in favor of the "bad" creatures. Therefore, man should tip the scales back.

To the man in the street, Jack Miner's viewpoint is unanswerable. To the farmer, with one eye on his chicken coop, it is self-evident. To

the hunter, particularly the pest hunter, it is welcome news—it not only offers more kinds of things to shoot but also adds moral virtue to the joys of hunting.

Indeed, this point of view would probably never be disputed as a result of casual observation. And at this point we should remind ourselves that something more than common sense was required to discover that the world is round or that the desk on which I am writing is composed in part of something as insubstantial as electrons.

Nature is never simple nor obvious. The relationship of predator to prey among wild creatures is far from the simple matter it seems to



ARE SHRIKES DETRIMENTAL TO NATURE?

PHOTO BY GEORGE PRINS

people who have not studied it scientifically. Little by little, many former "common sense" ideas have been upset—not by theory, not by speculation, not by casual observation, but by laborious, precise work in the field, using such scientific methods as the life-history study, statistical analysis of data, and the controlled experiment.

What have scientists concluded about predation?

1. **Predation is just one of many necessary controls that nature exercises over all species living in the wild.** If these controls did not exist, any species unchecked would soon overwhelm the earth. For example, one pair of Ruffed Grouse has the capability of multiplying to two billion birds in eleven years. Actually, when one control does not operate others tend to appear. That is, when one predator is eliminated, others come; if all predators are restrained, other factors begin to operate—starvation, disease, hatching failure, competition with other species, conflict within the same species, and so on. For reasons that are not at all obvious, most stocking of game has proved to be disappointingly expensive. When adults are released in an area already occupied by a resident population of the same species, the newcomers often have difficulty establishing themselves even without hunting, predation, or food shortage. The same is true of trout in streams. Moreover the great cycles of abundance and scarcity in many species have been shown to occur with or without predation.

2. **A major limiting factor on many populations is conflict within the species itself.** For example, the Robin and most other songbirds are territorial. That is, the male in nesting season fights to prevent other males of the same species from entering his selected area, and consequently the number of pairs that can nest in one neighborhood is limited. Any surplus is forced out into unsuitable or borderline areas, where their chances of living and nesting successfully are much reduced. Intolerance to crowding has been shown to be a limiting factor in many mammals also, including the muskrat.

3. **If the habitat is suitable and the numbers of wild creatures do not exceed the carrying capacity of it, each species has remarkable ability to withstand the hazards of existence.** Predators tend to eat whatever is easy to catch and to become scarce when food is hard to obtain. Therefore, excessive predation may be a symptom that the habitat is substandard for the species. That is what makes predators such a nuisance around game farms and other abnormal concentrations of wildlife; here they find a smorgasbord served up to them—creatures not dispersed as they would be normally, with some of them diseased, injured, or lacking in the alertness required for survival in the wild.

4. **The immediate consequences of predation may not be as bad as one might suppose.** Since most species of birds will try more than once in one season to rear a brood, the taking of eggs and young does not necessarily reduce the total number fledged; the result in many instances is delay rather than loss. Further, creatures of prey sometimes eat one another, and eat creatures that would otherwise compete with one another for food at a crucial time of the season. For example, Great Horned Owls eat Skunks, Crows, and Snakes; Goshawks eat Crows; Crows rob the nests of Blue Jays; Weasels eat young Bob-whites but they also eat the mice that compete with Bob-whites for grain in winter. In some parts of

the West where rodents are doing great damage, the Coyote is coming back into the good graces of the ranchers.

5. **The long-range consequences of predation may be good for the species.** Unless some factor operates to favor the more fit over the less fit, any species will deteriorate. Predation is such a factor. This is a hard thing for many people to understand, especially if they have seen a healthy bird killed by a hawk. Understanding it requires a little ability to think in statistical terms. For example, if a hunter kills a random sample of game, he has no effect on the quality of the stock for good or bad (actually, by selecting the biggest and finest for the kill, he may damage the stock). But when a hawk kills those easiest to catch, including many unfit, and this is repeated through endless generations, the reduction in the unfit takes place with the inexorability of compound interest.



"CANNIBAL"?

PHOTO BY CARL KINZEL

6. If we try to favor certain creatures by protecting them from all the dangers of existence in the wild state, we take on a formidable if not impossible task; and we may find that we are doing so at the expense of many other living things we value. If we become overprotective, we will find ourselves facing some difficult decisions. For example, among our game birds, the Ring-necked Pheasant has been known to eat the young of the Bob-white, and at artificially high levels of abundance may hold a threat to all other ground-nesting birds; among our songbirds, the House Wren sometimes pierces the eggs of other species nesting nearby; among waterfowl, I have seen a Whooper Swan attack and kill a Mallard duckling. Which of these should we curb for the protection of the others? In any case, there are few people with a genuine love of nature who want to see our fields and forests reduced to the condition of a game farm. Over-protected creatures tend to lose many of the qualities that give them their interest and charm in the wild.

Even this is not a complete account of the interesting role of the predator in nature. But perhaps it may suffice to show that no simple explanation is adequate to explain the complex relationships among living things. This discussion may help us understand why practical game-management men have concluded that under normal conditions predation is not a major factor in the life of most species. And it may help us understand experiments like the following:

In New York state there were complaints from pheasant hunters that foxes were numerous and endangering the pheasant population. So, two similar areas were set aside for study. In one, foxes were systematically destroyed (at considerable expense); in the other, foxes were left undisturbed. Finally, the hunter's kill of pheasants in the two areas were compared. There was no significant difference between them.

Indeed, nature is a never-ending puzzle. But as our understanding grows, we are coming to appreciate more fully that every wild creature has its place (even with man on the scene) and that, by attempting to alter the natural relationships among wild creatures, we are tampering with a complex mechanism, where our fumbling efforts may be harmful, not only to the best interests of wildlife but to our own as well.

River Road, Waterville, Ohio

(Reprinted from the Annual Bulletin, Spring 1955, of the Toledo Naturalists' Association, by permission of the author.)

## *Excitement at Horicon . . .*

By MARTHA LOUND

On July 21 Clara, Norval and Buddy Barger, Roy and I spent the day at Horicon Marsh. In the morning we took a boat trip to the heron and egret rookery on Four Mile Island so it was after lunch before we got to the old Marsh Road, where the excitement really began.

The Bargers and I got out at a spot where in previous years we had found numerous rails, while Roy drove on a bit in order to park the car. Within just a few minutes Norval caught a glimpse of a bird which he described as dark with a long decurved bill whose flight reminded him of a Cormorant. The Glossy Ibis was the only bird that any of us could think of that would fit this description, but its presence in the marsh didn't seem too probable even though it had been reported there in May.

We waited along the road hoping to catch another glimpse of the bird. Finally Clara, Buddy and I decided it was not likely that we would see it and walked on up the road. Before long Norval and Roy came along, saying they had again seen the bird and were positive that it was a Glossy Ibis. Clara and I were really kicking ourselves for having left, because if it should be an Eastern Glossy Ibis, it would be a new life bird for both of us.

But luck was with us! We hadn't driven more than a mile (just beyond the bridge across the main ditch) when Roy suddenly stopped the car and said "There's one." Sure enough! Feeding in the shallow water not more than 100 feet from us was a Glossy Ibis. We all care-

fully got out of the car on the far side of the Ibis and studied it through our binoculars and 30X Balscope. We moved within 75 feet of it and still it fed unconcernedly.

Its color in the sunlight was a rich chestnut bronze with iridescent green on the wings. At the base of the bill was a narrow area of dark colored bare skin. Its body appeared only slightly larger than that of a Green Heron. It stood in shallow water and kept probing for food with its long decurved bill.

Belatedly I remembered my camera and 135 mm lens. I got them from the car and took about 4 color slides of the Ibis. But 75 feet with a 135 mm lens for a bird the size of an Ibis is much too far to obtain anything but a mediocre record shot. One can tell it's an Ibis by looking at the projected slide, but that's just about all.



GLOSSY IBIS PHOTOGRAPHED AT HORICON MARSH, JULY 21, 1956

PHOTO BY MARTHA LOUND

After about 20 minutes the Ibis moved back out of sight behind some cat-tails. All of us were convinced that it was the Eastern Glossy Ibis which we had seen. Roy and I had seen the White-faced Glossy Ibis in Texas in April and felt sure that this was not the same species.

### Strook's Ditch

Strook's Ditch was our next stop and again we were immensely pleased by the quantity and variety of the birds spread out before us. Four Snowy Egrets, 30 or so American Egrets, one Yellow-crowned Night Heron, numerous shore birds, including the Semipalmated Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope, and hundreds of ducks—Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, Green and Blue-winged Teal and Redheads—were all there.

When we got home long after dark we all agreed it was a marvelous day and made a date for two weeks hence.

### Horicon Revisited—August 4

Dawn of August 4 again found us on our way to Horicon. This time we joined forces with Sam Robbins along the old Marsh Road. Glimpses were caught of the Ibis flying. In fact, we thought we caught sight of at least three different ones, but each one was farther away than we wished.

After awhile we decided to move on to Strook's Ditch. The same species of shore birds we had seen two weeks before were again present, and a Stilt Sandpiper was added to the list. But the water was higher than two weeks earlier and the number of shore birds there was not as large. Ducks, American and Snowy Egrets and one Little Blue Heron (half white and half blue) were seen. Suddenly Sam called our attention to a flock of birds flying about one half mile away. We all counted 12 birds and someone quipped "a flock of Glossy Ibises, no doubt, and if it is, it's a good thing Barger and Robbins are along or no one would believe us!" Just then Roy caught the flock in his Balscope as they landed and he assured us that they were indeed Glossy Ibises. We all took turns at the Balscope, and while some of the individuals were hidden behind rushes, all of us were able to identify the ones we could see. Considerable excitement was engendered when someone noticed some white feathers on the heads of a couple of individuals. Prolonged study convinced us that these white feathers were on the top of the head and on the neck rather than at the base of the bill.

Time out for lunch and then a return to our post. The birds were still present but it was a warm day and they weren't moving about much. One individual did fly almost over us but none landed near us. But we were satisfied! 12 Glossy Ibises isn't a bad day's birding in Wisconsin. 2520 Balden Street, Madison, Wisconsin

(Editor's note: Since the time of this observation and the writing of this article, Robert J. Newman of the Museum of Zoology at Louisiana State University has commented (1956 *Audubon Field Notes* 388) on a fact—not mentioned in most field guides—that the White Faced Ibis may be minus the white facial feathering at any season of the year. Mr. Newman suggests that Glossy Ibis records outside the normal breeding ranges of the Eastern and White-faced species might best be considered indeterminate. For the record, however, let it be stated that the two birds seen on May 14 by Dr. R. B. Dryer and Paul and Marilyn Imler (see 1956 *Pass. Pigeon* 120-1) and the one seen on July 21 by the Lounds and the Bargers were seen at close range and under excellent conditions, with no trace of white noted. Of the 12 birds seen on August 4, there were two that appeared to have a small lighter spot on the upper forehead while appearing dark around the base of the bill.)

## NEWS . . .

To present a slate of candidates for election of officers for the coming year, a nominating committee has been appointed with Mr. James B. Hale of Madison as

chairman. Any W.S.O. member has the privilege of passing on to the nominating committee any suggestions for officers. If you have suggestions, contact Mr. Hale at Wisconsin Conservation Department Headquarters, Nevin Fish Hatchery, Madison. (more news on page 170)

# Birdsmanship . . .

By BRUCE CAMPBELL<sup>2</sup>

Secretary, British Trust for Ornithology

(with acknowledgments to the Master Potter)

An interest in birds is to-day almost "de rigueur" in the more cultured parts of the United States, and the success of S. Potter's courses in Life-manship and Gamesmanship have led me to try to put together for the benefit of my fellow bird-watchers (hereafter: birdsmen) some hints which they may find of use when attempting to establish their dominance in the ornithological pecking order, in the field, in the meeting-room and (where we shall begin) in the hurly-burly of a social gathering.

## The Birdsmanship in Society

One of three questions is inevitably asked of the birdsmanship following the stock introduction by his hostess: "Oh, Mabel, I do want you to meet Mr. Er; he's a great authority on birds."

(a) "Oh, how interesting, do tell me, is this a good place for birds?"

Provided the questioner is not outstandingly pretty, and it is not desired to prolong the conversation for other reasons, the correct answer here is a flat "No place is bad for birds, you know." Unless Mabel is a real trier, there will be no come-back to this, and an escape can quickly be made.

(b) "Oh, how interesting, do tell me, do you know Roger Tory Peterson?" Answer: "Well, I saw him when I was in New York the other day." This is what C. E. Montague called paying the truth the homage of equivocation, since it does not stress the fact that you were in New York on a business trip, and while waiting in your hotel room for a salesman to take you out to the bright spots of the city, you saw the great ornithologist unaccountably sandwiched in between two soap operas presented by a local TV station.

From this it should be easy to lead on to an account of your own observations on birds which should play out time successfully.

(c) "Oh, how interesting, do let me tell you about my Robin!" This is superficially the easiest of the three to meet, since it initially requires from you only a listening role, but as the inevitable anecdote (the bird is sometimes a Starling, occasionally a House Sparrow, and it always does one of three things: taps on the window, builds two nests on top of each other, or seems really to recognize her) winds to its end, you realize that some fitting comment is needed.

By far the best is: "Most interesting; of course, there's something just like it in the Dutch literature." The beauty of this is that your

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<sup>1</sup>Reprinted from *Bird Notes*, the journal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, with the kind permission of the author.

<sup>2</sup>Translated from the original Olde English and adapted, with no obvious improvement, for a Wisconsin audience by J. J. Hickey at the annual dinner of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, May 5, 1956. Several colleagues contributed much appreciated advice, but their names are withheld lest cynical readers imply that the spoke from personal experience.

questioner probably does not know the specialized meaning of "literature," and will credit you with uncanny omniscience; in any case the chances are 25,000 to 1 that she has never seen the quarterly magazine **Bird-banding** which regularly abstracts Dutch papers about birds.

### The Birdsmen in the Field

But birdsmanship is not all social cut and thrust; sooner or later the birdsmen must come into the open and show his mettle, probably at a field outing of his local society. Here the preliminary build-up is of great importance, so we will consider first

(a) **Equipment:** It is essential that the successful birdsmen should be the **worst-dressed** man in the party. The remains of (preferably) an ancient hunting coat and fisherman's trousers form an admirable base, on which should be superimposed as many bits of leather as possible. The more unusual their location, e.g. the small of the back, the seat of the trousers, the more deadly their effect; and the whole should be topped by a skiing cap on which birds have paid numerous tributes (a couple of nights in a chicken-house should do the trick). The birdsmen should sport an enormous pair of boots liberally larded with a **revolting** preservative and brought to notice if necessary by some such comment: "Go anywhere in these, y'know; the gear they sell today is no good in brambles." An old Wodehousian gambit may also be used by experienced performers: "Useful for snakes."

Now we come to the vital question of optical aids, and the birdsmen may have to show considerable skill if he is to take a trick here. Three usual situations present themselves.

(1) You have an old and battered pair, and your chief potential rival has a large, new pair of binoculars. Attack is the best defense in this situation, with the opening line: "Nice little toy you've got there; but can you **see** with them?" Then, for you have picked the moment carefully, you flick your ancient pair to your eyes and say: "Gosh, that juvenile foxed me for a second; I thought it was a female. Oh, sorry, didn't you get on to them in time?" Your rival, who is still unlimbering his pair, is thus caught at a disadvantage and not only feels that he is guilty of ostentation in the eyes of the rest of the party, but that he has probably wasted \$160.

Your advantage can be rammed home later in the day if he lags behind at any point, by suggesting that the weight of the glasses is holding him back.

(2) Reversed position to (1): You have the new pair, and your rival has an old pair. This needs greater aplomb to carry off, and the recommended line is to wave them about merrily, saying, "Well, there's my wife's winter coat, **and** our summer holiday, but I simply had to have them—one owes it to the birds, if you see what I mean." Carry on in this vein, prattling ingenuously about their illumination, and periodically offer to lend them to your rival just as he has focused on some object of interest. Under no circumstances should you ever admit that your wife forced you to give up cigarettes before she would consent to the purchase.

(3) You both have large pairs. There is nothing for it now but to go into a technical huddle, making much play, with exit-pupil diameters,

field of vision at 1,000 yards, etc. and await your chance to gain advantage in another opening altogether. If the illumination of the image is better in his glass than yours, say that you were raised on the **Old Peterson** [field guide] that put little identification premium on color, and that you consider any investment in better binocular illumination a sheer waste of money for **you**. If your glass has the better illumination of the two, point out that you find it highly necessary for identification during the hour before dawn, and imply that he obviously tends to be still abed at such hours and occasions when the most interesting birding takes place.

The same general rules guide the birdsman in dealing with telescopes. If he doesn't use one, he should say loftily, "After all, they're not much good for passerines," thus implying that he has only come on this particular wader-watching expedition as light recreation, and then, as soon as his rival has got ensconced with his telescope, stage a diversion some way off to look at a Grasshopper Sparrow.

But if he is a telescope man, then the utmost must be made of thumbsticks, straps and other gadgets, and the whole party must be held up while he converts himself into a sort of cocoon on the ground for at least a quarter of an hour. This is especially effective if the wind is cold and the rival is at all lightly clad.

(Note: Extra points may be gained by using the abbreviations "binos," "binocs" or "scope;" and by using slang for the names of manufacturers.)

(b) **Identification:** The first task of the birdsman in the field is to show his superior skill in bird recognition, and while his opportunities will to some extent depend on the co-operation of the birds themselves, it is possible to engineer certain favorable situations in advance.

The rival should be trapped early into offering to show the party a particular species, e.g. a Curlew Sandpiper. Then, when his attention is held elsewhere, remark casually but briskly: "There's your Curlew—with that pack of Turnstones. Oh, sorry, I'm afraid they're out of sight now." This is a development of the Binocular Play (1) already described, but note the use of "your" to convey that you have had to find this bird for him. If by any chance he doesn't know the birdsmannish omission of the "Sandpiper," he will be even further outplayed; in fact this species is the ideal birdsman's bird.

In the case of a not readily identifiable bird that stays put, the birdsman must combine patience and a sense of timing to an unusual degree, for, after a prolonged and silent inspection, he **must** be the first to ask, "Well, what do you think?" which gives him the chance of trapping an unwary diagnosis from his rival. Should this agree with his own private opinion, he jumps in with: "Of course, but the superciliary stripe (or absence of superciliary stripe) was a bit unexpected, wasn't it?"

If he disagrees, then he must use an enigmatic smile, directed to the most receptive member of the party, and make some more entries in his field note-book. This stalling enables him to come out on top whether his rival's identification is confirmed by others, in which case he must convey that he knew all the time but was just giving the rest a chance; or whether it isn't, which puts him at an obvious advantage, clinched by such moral remarks as "I never think it's safe to diagnose at this time of year unless one can see the wing-pattern." The phrase "at this time

of year" should be noted, as it indicates easy familiarity with all phases of the bird's plumage.

The true birdsman may at all times carry his Field Guide in a secret recess of his jacket. This is never examined in public, and the impression should always be left that he wore the book out years ago. In the **first edition** of course.

(c) **List-chasing:** The principles underlying previous advice also rule in this important aspect of field birdsmanship: find out your potential rival's line, and play the opposite for all you're worth.

Thus, if he is an acknowledged list-chaser, you must use the scientific gambit, "After all, it's only the common birds that really count, isn't it?" and continually hold up the party by calling their attention to Robins or Field Sparrows sitting in huddled attitudes on the vegetation. If after five minutes observation the Robin gives a perfunctory peck at its plumage, you murmur "Ah, an intention movement!" make profuse notes, and add, to the air in general, "I must write to Gromme about this." A slight hesitation before the Gromme should make it clear that, among your real associates, you would say "Owen." (In certain regions, substitution of other names here is quite permissible: Alden Miller in California, George Lowery in Louisiana, Josselyn Van Tyne in Michigan, Ludlow Griscom in Massachusetts, and Alexander Wetmore in the District of Columbia.)

On the other hand, if your rival is a serious ornithologist, you follow the line already suggested in Binocular Play (2), cry "I'm frankly pot-hunting today: leave the sparrows alone for once, old chap, and come and see some real birds! Allons! En avant!" By incessant remarks you should manage to scare away any of the commoner species at which he may wish to look, and if you can keep up your flow, and have the luck to see one or two scarce birds, you should manage to convince the party that your rival is an introverted spoil-sport living in an ivory tower.

(d) **Field Investigations:** The birdsman should not let himself in for any real field studies until he has worked his passage in Identifications and List-chasing. By then he should know what he is up to, and can take part in, for example, a fall census of migrating hawks with good prospects of enhancing his reputation in return for the minimum expenditure of energy. Indeed, his goal should be never to take his hands out of his pockets either to use his glasses (strung apparently purposefully round his neck) or to make notes. This will be more easily achieved, if the observers on either side of him are reasonably painstaking, by playing on their anxieties with such leads as "You got that Rough-legged, I hope? It was definitely off my line;" or "Red-tails coming over: 1, 2, 3, 4—oh, awfully sorry, I'm poaching: they're yours now."

(e) **Christmas Bird Counts:** Christmas counts taken by large groups offer special opportunities when individual parties have their own routes of coverage. Care should be taken to traverse the route of one's rival as often as possible on days before the Count. Surreptitiously, of course. One should ascertain the exact schedule one's rival hopes to follow on the Count itself, so that systematic invasion of his territory may then be carried out at the best hours, "staked-out" rarities properly recorded, and measures effectively taken (a) to scare the birds out of the country, or (b) to induce in them responses customarily accorded to Goshawks, weasels, and boys with firecrackers. Special attention to the best places on a

rival's route, given approximately 45 minutes before his expected arrival, will usually produce the desired results; although a dollar's worth of roofing nails scattered in his usual parking places will often have an equally disruptive effect. Subsequent reporting of Christmas rarities should, of course, be made with becoming modesty: "By the way, George, did you get that Hawk Owl down at the bridge?"

Points along these lines are practically guaranteed the birdsman who succeeds in getting himself appointed leader of a Clean-up Party which is assigned no particular route on the Christmas Count itself. The effects, however, are so devastating that this can only be worked once. It is usually safer to claim that one finished one's own route unexpectedly early and to imply that the rival understandably needed help in covering territory assigned to him.

### The Birdsman at Meetings

The greatest test of the birdsman comes when he takes part in an ornithological discussion. Silence and a billowing pipe between them make a useful build-up and literal smoke-screen, out of which, when the speaker makes any assertion not backed by a mass of evidence, should be jerked in a tone indicating apparent sympathy overridden by devotion to truth (admittedly not very easy) and with equal emphasis on each monosyllable: "Do we know that?"

This line, for which we are indebted to Mammalsman D. Chitty, is guaranteed to throw all but the toughest out of their stride at the first application, and may even bring their contribution to an early and humiliating end.

In the event of a convincing reply, however, the birdsman must make a quick decision. If he feels that his opponent really knows his subject, he can still sign off without losing face by saying: "Exactly, thanks very much, but I wasn't quite sure if everyone (inclusive-exclusive wave of the pipe-stem round the gathering) here knew of Blobsch's work on substratal stimuli." But if he decides a counterbluff is being attempted, then he should simply nod and try the line again at the next opportunity. If a third use of the gambit is successfully met, there is nothing for it but to have trouble with the pipe until interest is focused elsewhere.

Whenever a program of research reports is presented at a meeting, the astute birdsman will endeavor to obtain advance knowledge of the titles to be presented. A half hour's review of the abstracting section of **Bird-banding** can be counted upon to arm his memory with a few European references that the speaker is sure to have overlooked. Hungarian references are most effective when alternated with the Finnish. Speakers reporting distributional changes in one's region can always be put in place by a gentle query, "Don't you think these rather follow Dr. Keve's account of the dramatic invasion of Transdanubia by the Indian Ring-doves?" Accounts of nesting studies can be dismissed with a brief "Quite similar to what Grenquist found on the island of Helsingholm." When in doubt, it is usually safe to say, "I believe Desiderius Hegymeghy found the same thing in his **garten** on Rozadomb." If the emphasis is subtly but properly placed on **gar-ten**, everybody present will naturally understand that the paper just reported was quite old hat. Extra points may be scored by uttering **gar** with a guttural sound lasting 3 seconds.

Should the birdsman ever be trapped for prestige reasons into speaking himself, he must—short of actually mastering his subject—rely on two things: first, immediate acknowledgment of his indebtedness to the work of his most likely critics; and secondly, a rigid refusal to come to any conclusions whatever. The work should always be in progress, as indicated by such a parry and riposte to a questioner: "That's just what I'd like to know; perhaps by this time next year, if all goes well, we'll have some more data to help us."

In this way the adept birdsman may succeed in dining out for two or three years as the guest of ornithological societies up and down the country before equipping himself with a new, and perpetually unfinished, problem.

## BOOK REVIEW\*

### A DISTRIBUTIONAL CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF ILLINOIS.

By Harry R. Smith and Paul W. Parmalee. Springfield: Illinois State Museum, 1955. Pp. 62. Twenty-five cents.

Every actively interested bird observer in Wisconsin should have this booklet (which was jointly sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society and the Illinois State Museum). You can obtain it by sending a quarter to the Illinois State Museum at Springfield or to the W.S.O. Supply Department.

The volume will be useful, regardless of where you live in Wisconsin. Birds, like the rest of our fauna and flora, pay scant attention to the political lines which separate our states—and our knowledge of Wisconsin birds is often aided greatly by awareness of bird distribution in the states around us.

The Check List deals with a total of 384 species (91 of them regarded by the authors as now extinct or accidental in Illinois). Each species is discussed in terms of its seasonal distribution in northern (N), central (C), and southern (S) Illinois. The distributional statements do not include migration dates; rather, distribution is indicated by a terse conclusion of the probability that a bird can be found at a particular season and region. Here is a sample:

#### **Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*)

Fairly common Summer Resident in N. and C., being more numerous in the western half. Rare Winter Resident in N. and C. Uncommon to rare Winter Resident S.

These statements of probable future occurrence are based upon past observations. But no past observation is, as such, a guarantee that a species will be seen again in the same place: the most that can be said is that the probability of future occurrence varies with the number of recent observations. Persons who, like the present authors, undertake to indicate what birds may be expected in a state are confronted with a real problem in deciding upon a rule for excluding from the list birds that are most unlikely to appear. Generally, the rule has been to list a

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

species only when a specimen has been collected in the state at some time in the past. But, like most hard and fast rules, this often results in excluding birds far more likely to occur than some of those which are included under the rule.

The authors of the Illinois check list have followed a policy of including all reports which appear to them to have a credible basis, letting the probability of future occurrence speak for itself from the facts presented. Thus, a species makes list solely on the basis of sight records where the circumstances strongly support the validity of the observations reported (but it is noted in each such case that no definitely validating specimen has been collected). Here is a striking illustration:

**Large-billed Tern** (*Phaetusa simplex*)

Accidental. First North American record: A bird was seen repeatedly over a period of several weeks at a sand spit at Calumet Lake, Cook Co., July and August 1949 (Campbell and others). It was first seen July 15 and observed last on August 28, 1949. The inclusion of this sight record of this river tern of northern and eastern South America is made in consideration of the distinctive field marks of the bird, the number of observations and the known competence of the reporting observers (Aud. Bul., No. 71, Sept. 1949).

Also, species reported by early workers in the state are included—but if there are no recent records of the same species, this is noted and a symbol is used to indicate that the bird must now be regarded as extinct or accidental in the state.

This liberal standard of inclusion will not satisfy those who insist that compilers of distribution lists must guarantee that every species on the list has in fact occurred in the state. An author can meet that kind of demand only by confining the list to species which he personally has collected in the state; otherwise the author must take some one else's word for it that a particular specimen was taken in the state. And regardless who collected the specimen, it is not always certain that the bird was wild, and not an escape.

But the best reason for rejecting the specimen rule in preparing a distribution list is that birds may occur in the state which have not previously been reported there. And as a matter of probability, it is far more likely that a species reported by a credible sight record will show up again than it is when the only report for the state consists of a specimen taken a century before. The point is that if the species has been believably reported only once in the history of the state, the probability of recurrence is pretty small, whether the past report was a sight record or a collected bird.

So, in the reviewer's judgment, the Illinois compilers are to be commended for helping lead us toward acceptance of standards better fitted to modern ornithological times. Many of the old reasons for excluding sight records from distributional lists have changed or disappeared. The best of field ornithology today is an exact science, and those who practice it are equipped with field guides and optical equipment which make it unnecessary in all but the most unusual circumstances to collect a bird in order to give it correct specific identification. It is well to re-

member, too, that even the old collectors did not always identify correctly the dead bird they had in their hands. Finally, we have reached the time with some of our rare species that it would be unthinkable to collect one of the few remaining individuals merely to validate its "presence" in a state at the moment of collection. (Imagine the answer that would be given today to anyone who suggests that a Whooping Crane be collected in order to justify including it on a distribution list!)

The Illinois compilers have taken the lead on another front, too. They have adopted the standardized common names that will be used in the forthcoming Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds. Some of the names will sound unfamiliar: Sedge Wren, instead of Short-billed Marsh Wren; Swainson's Thrush, instead of Olive-backed; Pileolated Warbler, instead of Wilson's; and there are others. But the old names used in the Peterson guides are included in parentheses wherever the new names are substantially different.

The objective sought by the name changes is to bring us to the day when everyone will call the same bird by the same name—and this is a laudable purpose in a world which seems more likely to survive by ironing out its differences than by accentuating them.

All told, the Illinois Check List—like a lot of good books—is worth much more than its modest price.—Bill Foster.

## THE 1956 MAY-DAY COUNT

By MARTHA and ROY LOUND

During the past few years the May-Day Count was made on a single date. This procedure was not entirely satisfactory because of varying migration patterns, weather conditions, and the inability of many observers to partake in a fixed-day count. In order to overcome these adverse factors to as large an extent as possible, the editors selected a nine-day period during which each individual or club could select the most convenient and productive date. The period selected was from Saturday, May 12, through Sunday, May 20. (See 1956 Pass. Pigeon 28).

Stretching the May-Day Count over nine days resulted in a record-breaking 242 species being reported, which far surpassed the 212 species found on May 15, 1955, and was considerably above the previous high count of 231 species reported on May 16, 1954. This was to be expected, however, because more observers reported their findings from more areas, and because the spring season was somewhat behind normal, which delayed and stretched out bird arrivals and departures. The cool weather and retarded foliage growth made observations easier than usual, as more birds were feeding on or near the ground.

Among the rarer and more unusual birds reported were the White Pelican, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Piping Plover, Western Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Mockingbird, Brewster's Warbler, Kirtland's Warbler, and Summer Tanager. There were a number of reports of both the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Others reported birds which normally would have passed through these areas at such late dates, such as the Golden Plover, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rusty Blackbird, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

Generally the May-Day Count was gratifying, but there is no question but what some species were missed, particularly birds like the Goshawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Canada Jay, and Hudsonian Chickadee which are present in some areas in the state. A more thorough coverage of the state, especially the northern counties, would undoubtedly add several birds to the list.

### Summary of the Counts

**MILWAUKEE AREA:** Members of the Milwaukee bird clubs made two counts as follows: May 13—170 species. 19 observers spent from 4:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. on a cold, cloudy, rainy day to produce this fine list. Highlights were the Piping Plover, Mockingbird, and Summer Tanager. Other good records: Osprey, King Rail, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Philadelphia Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Harris's Sparrow. Included in the list were 28 species of warblers.

May 20—153 species, including 12 species not recorded on the first count. Best finds were the Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe and Old Squaw (late records), Western Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, and Franklin's Gull. 27 species of warblers were recorded. Both counts reported by Mary Donald.

**GREEN BAY AREA:** 168 species. Members of the Green Bay Bird Club spent 12 hours afield on May 20 building up the largest list they have compiled in their 20-year history. The day was cool, with a sharp northwest wind. The trip covered the Green Bay shore in Brown, Kewaunee, and Door Counties to a point about 25 miles from Green Bay. The high spot was the finding of a Kirtland's Warbler at the Y.M.C.A. camp at Fairland, located on the Green Bay shore of Door County. Good records: American Golden-eye, Pigeon Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Prothonotary Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Rusty Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, Slate-colored Junco, Fox Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. The list included 30 species of warblers. Reported by Edwin Cleary and Clara Hussong.

**ADAMS AREA:** 145 species. On May 15, Dixie Larkin, S. Paul Jones, and Sam Robbins spent most of the day from 3:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. in the field. The day was cool and partly cloudy. Good records: White Pelican, American Egret, Sandhill Crane, Yellow Rail, Bonaparte's Gull, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Lapland Longspur. 7 more species were recorded than in the previous year when one observer spent fewer hours afield. 25 warbler species were recorded, 7 more than in 1955. Reported by Sam Robbins.

**MADISON AREA:** 145 species. Members of the Madison Audubon Society spent from 5:00 A. M. to 6:45 P. M. on May 13 compiling a list which fell disappointingly short of the 156 species reported on May 15, 1955. Weather conditions were favorable. Good records: American Egret, Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Franklin's Gull, Caspian Tern, Ruby-crowned Kinglet. 28 warblers were reported, including the Prothonotary, Pine, Kentucky, Connecticut, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Reported by Mrs. R. A. Walker.

**BELOIT AREA:** 129 species. The Ned Hollister Bird Club of Beloit spent from 5:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. on May 20 compiling this list which was much better than the 102 species found by the same group in 1955. 25 warblers were reported, including the Brewster's. Other good records: Baird's Sandpiper and Evening Grosbeak. Reported by Harold Liebherr.

**CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA:** 122 species. Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger and Dr. C. A. Kemper spent from 3:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. on May 20 obtaining this fine list which far exceeded the 100 species found by the same group on May 22, 1955. Good records: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Pine Siskin, and Henslow's Sparrow. 19 species of warblers were found. Reported by Dr. C. A. Kemper.

**WAUSAU AREA:** 121 species. The Wausau Bird Club spent May 20 compiling the best count in its history. Weather conditions were favorable. Good records: Rough-legged Hawk, Osprey, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Reported by Don Kozlovsky.

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY:** 119 species. Five observers walked around Yellowstone Lake on May 12 for this count which exceeded the 82 species recorded by the same group on May 14, 1955, when the same walk was taken. The day was partly cloudy and turned quite warm. 23 warbler species were found, including the Prothonotary. Another good record was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Reported by the N. R. Bargers and the Roy Lounds.

**LA CROSSE AREA:** 117 species. Four observers spent from 5:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. on May 12 in the La Crosse-Onalaska area. The day was warm and partly cloudy, with a brisk south wind. Outstanding was the close observation of a Black Rail (See 1956 Pass. Pigeon 116-117). Other good records: Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Bewick's Wren and Bell's Vireo. Reported by Alvin M. Peterson.

**BARRON COUNTY:** 116 species. John Butler, Eugene Butler and Bob Wiese were afield from 5:30 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. on May 20. The day was warm, with a slight wind and threats of rain. The list included 22 warbler species. Reported by Eugene Butler.

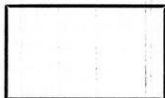
**APPLETON AREA:** Two counts were made. On May 15 the Appleton Audubon Society covered the Lake Winnebago shore area in Outagamie, Winnebago and Calumet Counties building up a list of 103 species. The weather was cool and cloudy, with some rain. Good records: Ruddy Turnstone, Marbled Godwit, Pipit, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Lapland Longspur. Reported by Mrs. Walter E. Rogers. On May 16 Luther H. Rogers covered the same area, coming up with 71 species including 17 species not recorded the previous day. His outstanding observation was a Piping Plover.

Among others who sent in revealing reports were: Gordon and Carol Bly from Bayfield County; Charles Yeomans, Al Gamroth and Gordon L. Paeske from Dodge County; Raymond Stefanski from Marinette County; Mrs. Lester M. Pedersen from Polk County; Richard E. Weber from Vernon County; and Ed Peartree from Waukesha County.

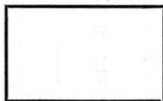
## *1957 W.S.O. Cooperative Project*

The W.S.O. project for 1957 is a state-wide survey of cliff swallow colonies. We need every member's cooperation if we are going to do a **really thorough job**. Please collect all the records you can from your notebooks, your friends and neighbors and your memories and return this form (reverse of this detachable page) to me **now**.

This is the first step and will give us a good start. But even more important, please plan to check all the old sites or suspected sites and look for more this spring. We will send a special card for reporting the 1957 colonies to all who check here:



Your 1957 survey should be made in May or June. We will send county maps of your county if you request them.



Please tear out and send this report sheet now to Professor John T. Emlen, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Please list here all (no matter how small) Wisconsin Cliff Swallow colonies known to you directly or indirectly—up through 1956. (Check on the reverse of this sheet if you can make a field check on these and possible other colonies in May-June, 1957.)

COUNTY	LOCATION	SITE	YEAR(S)	NO. NESTS
Dane	2 mi. N. of Deerfield, E. of Hy. 73—Bodeman	Barn	1952, 54-56	1200-1500

Have colonies "always" been present in this area?..... Increased?.....

Comments:.....  
 .....  
 .....

Have you ever noticed wing flutterings on the group by species other than Cliff Swallows (which regularly do it)? What species?.....

Comments:.....  
 .....

(Please look for this in all species this year.)

Name.....Address.....

Thank you.

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 Cut Here

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors voted on January 26, 1957, to have the following proposed revision of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws brought up for action at the Society's annual meeting this spring, and voted to recommend passage. This matter will be acted upon at the annual meeting to be held at Green Lake on Saturday, May 4, 1957.

The Articles of Organization are similar to those voted in 1955 (see 1954 Pass. Pigeon 147-8) and amended in 1956 (see 1955 Pass. Pigeon 158). The main purpose of the proposed revision is to spell out more clearly the distinction between the Articles of Organization (changes in which require advance notice) and the By-Laws (changes in which need not have advance notice). Changes to be noted below include: (1) the first actual publication of the By-Laws in recent years; (2) transfer of old Article III Section 3 (dealing with dropping membership) and old Article IV Section 2 (dealing with duties of officers) to the By-Laws; (3) addition of new Article II Section 2; (4) combining old Articles IV and VI into new Article IV; (5) spelling out more clearly the constitution of the Board of Directors in Article IV Section 2; and (6) changing from 30 days to 10 the amount of advance notice required for annual meetings and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation.

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Resolved, that the Articles of Incorporation of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., be amended and restated to read as follows:

**Article I. Name.** The name of said Corporation shall be The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., and the address of the registered agent of the corporation shall be Walter E. Scott, 1721 Hickory Drive, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.

**Article II. Purposes.** Section 1. The purpose of the society shall be to stimulate interest in and promote the study of birds in Wisconsin toward a better understanding of their biology and the basis of their preservation.

Section 2. The society shall be empowered to use all lawful methods to carry out the above purposes including, but in no way intending to restrict to, authority to accept gifts of money and both personal and real property, and to lease the same from others; to give, lease or sell its various assets; to join with others, both individual and corporate, including all government agencies; to set up trusts, create preserves, and otherwise act to further its general purposes.

Section 3. The society shall be empowered to set up an endowment to which all monies received from Life and Patron Memberships, together with any gifts, bequests or devises, specifically directed thereto, shall accrue, with only the interest or earnings from said fund being used, the specific purpose being to improve or increase the society's publications or to further the development of ornithological education in Wisconsin as determined by the Board of Directors. Such fund shall be invested as provided for Trust Funds under the Wisconsin Statutes as now provided or as they may be amended hereafter.

**Article III. Membership.** Section 1. Any person of good character who is interested in bird study may be nominated by a member in good standing and admitted to membership on receiving the approval of the Board of Directors. Such membership may be terminated as provided by the By-Laws.

Section 2. The society may, at any regular or special meeting, establish various classifications of membership, or change, eliminate or add to classifications already established and may prescribe the annual dues to be paid by the members in order for them to remain in good standing as members of the society.

**Article IV. Officers.** Section 1. The Officers of the society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, all of whom shall be elected for a term of one year at the annual meeting of the society and shall take office on the date of their election and hold the same until their successors are elected.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be the five above elected officers, who shall be known as the Constitutional Officers together with such other members, not less than five nor more than ten, who shall be elected to said Board by the Constitutional Officers, and who shall hold office at the will of the Constitutional Officers, as more fully determined by the By-Laws.

**Article V. Meetings.** Section 1. At least one meeting shall be held during each calendar year. Ten days notice shall be given all members of any meeting.

Section 2. At least thirty voting members of the society shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Article VI. Amendments.** The Articles may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, but only after such proposed amendments have been published in the regular publication of the society which publication shall have been in the mail, addressed to the members, at least ten days prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

## BY-LAWS

**Article I. Membership.** Section 1. The active membership shall be divided into the following classifications and their dues fixed as provided herein:

Active .....	\$ 2.00 annual dues
Student .....	1.50 annual dues
Husband and Wife .....	3.00 annual dues
Sustaining .....	5.00 annual dues
Life .....	75.00
Patron .....	100.00 or more
Honorary .....	Free

The Honorary Membership shall be given for outstanding service to the society, but no Honorary Member shall be elected except at the annual meeting of the society, and after due consideration by the Board of Directors, and not more than two at any one meeting.

Section 2. The dues shall be payable on January 1st for the ensuing year.

Section 3. Members under all of the above classifications shall have full voting powers.

Section 4. Any member may terminate his membership by notifying the secretary of such intention and his name shall thereupon be removed from the roll of members.

Section 5. Any member may be removed from membership who is delinquent in the payment of his dues for more than six months.

Section 6. Any member may be expelled for cause after an opportunity has been given the member for a hearing before the Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of said Board. Said member shall have a right to appeal to the annual meeting of the society, where a majority vote of such body may reinstate the member.

**Article II. Elections.** Section 1. At least sixty days prior to the annual meeting the President shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three nor more than six members, who shall make nominations for the Constitutional Officers of the society. Any member of the society shall have an opportunity to submit to the nominating committee the names of possible candidates for any of these elective offices.

Section 2. Additional nominations for the said Constitutional Officers may be made from the floor at the regular annual meeting.

Section 3. Elections shall be by ballot and voting by proxy shall not be allowed. Where unanimous consent is given by voice vote, the election by ballot may be waived.

**Article III. Duties of Officers.** Section 1. The principal duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors, and to have general supervision of the affairs of the corporation.

The principal duties of the Vice-President shall be to discharge the duties of the President in the event of the absence or disability, for any cause whatsoever, of the latter.

The principal duties of the Secretary shall be to countersign all deeds, leases and conveyances executed by the corporation, and to keep a record of the proceedings of the annual and special meetings and of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and to safely and systematically keep all books, papers, records and documents belonging to, or in any wise pertaining to, the business thereof.

The principal duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep and account for all monies, credits and properties of any kind and nature, of the corporation, which shall come into his hands, and to keep an accurate account of all the monies received and disbursed, and to render such accounts, statements and inventories of monies received and disbursed, and of monies and properties on hand, and generally of all matters pertaining to this office, as shall be required by the Board of Directors.

The principal duties of the Editor shall be to edit the various publications and bulletins of the society.

Section 2. The said officers shall perform such additional or different duties as shall from time to time be imposed or required by the Board of Directors or as may be prescribed from time to time by the By-Laws.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may provide for the appointment of an additional Vice-President and for such other officers as they may deem for the best interests of the Society, and shall prescribe their duties.

**Article IV. Board of Directors.** Section 1. The remaining members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Constitutional Officers promptly after such officers take office.

Section 2. The completed board shall consist of the Constitutional Officers, and the Chairmen of the following committees together with the Associate Editor and the Legal Counsel;

Membership

Endowments and Advertising

Education

Publicity

Conservation

Research, and

Supply Department Management.

Section 3. Vacancies on the Board of Directors and in any elective or appointive office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Each elective officer or director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the society unless removed as provided by the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 4. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of five members, at least two of whom shall be Constitutional Officers.

**Article V. Amendments.** The By-Laws may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

## CONVENTION NEWS

**Dates:** Friday-Sunday, May 3-5, 1957.

**Location:** The convention will be held at nationally-famous "Lawsonia"—the American Baptist Assembly Grounds—on the northwest shore of Green Lake, three miles west of the village of Green Lake. Some W.S.O. members have been clamoring for a convention at this lovely site for years.

**Field Trips:** Trips are being planned to a number of good nearby areas. A trip will be made to the new Marquette County Park just now being established at the site where John Muir lived when he first came to America. Dedication ceremonies will be held on Sunday, May 5, so that W.S.O. members may attend.

**Papers:** Convention Chairman Frank King asks that all W.S.O. members interested in presenting papers write to him by March 15, giving title, length of time desired, and visual aid equipment needed. His address: 646 Knickerbocker Street, Madison 5.

**Pictures:** Mr. King also wishes to hear from those who may have unusually good slides or movie shorts of Wisconsin birds, field trips or other activities, that could be shown at the Friday evening reception. Also he is looking for photo prints for wall display that may be shown during the convention.

**Business:** The annual business meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 4, with reports, election of officers, and action defining Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

**Further Announcement:** More details will be mailed to all W.S.O. members well in advance of the convention, giving details about the banquet, housing, meals, and a registration form.

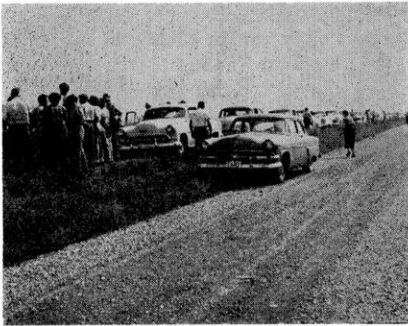
# FIELD TRIP NEWS

## Past Trips

**October 28 (Horicon).—** This trip was attended by 83 people from Beloit, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Janesville, Madison, Appleton, Neenah, Menash, Fort Atkinson, Waukesha, Oconomowoc, Wauwatosa and Beaver Dam. It was one of the largest groups ever to turn out for a W.S.O. field trip.

The trip was led by Dick Hunt of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, who showed us the marsh from all angles. The Federal Manager also met the group and gave a talk.

Large concentrations of waterfowl were seen, and with them a few late shorebirds: Black-bellied Plover, Dowitcher and Red-backed Sandpiper. A Bald Eagle was seen, and two White-tailed Deer.



SCENES FROM 1955 HORICON TRIP

PHOTOS BY CHARLES CONRAD

## Future Trips

**March 3 (Milwaukee).—**The annual late-winter trip to the Lake Michigan shore begins at 8:00 a. m. from the Smith Brothers Parking Lot at Port Washington. We have not heard if the Harlequin Duck that has been present the past two years is back this winter, but we do know that Milwaukee has a Glaucous Gull this winter.

**April 27-28 (Plainfield).—**The Fred Hamerstoms are again offering W.S.O. members a chance to watch the spectacular Prairie Chicken booming display, from blinds on the Buena Vista Marsh. Advance reservations must be made with Mr. Edward Peartree, 725 N. Lapham St., Oconomowoc. Observers should assemble at the Hamerstrom home at 7:00 p. m. the evening before the day of observation, for advance briefing.

## MORE NEWS . . .

Clarence Jung suggests that W.S.O. members do some checking on birds that are killed by flying into high television towers. In the fall of 1956, within a few miles of his home, he picked up or examined over 1000 birds of 39 species. Ob-

servers in other states have noted heavy bird mortality around airport ceilometers on foggy nights during migration. While it is regrettable that so much loss of bird life is occasioned by these obstacles, there is the opportunity for observers living nearby to make studies that can add to our knowledge of night migrations in Wisconsin in spring and fall.

Our congratulations to the Michigan Audubon Society. This group took a significant step forward last fall when they hired an Executive Director to give full time to promoting Audubon work in Michigan. Simultaneously a state headquarters building has been secured, to provide a center for Society activities and a headquarters for the Executive Director.

The Florida Audubon Society is contemplating a similar step forward. This Society recently received a \$5,000 donation to go toward employing an Audubon Teacher; by raising an added \$5,000 from other donors, this group hopes to hire a teacher and embark on an educational program that will be self-sustaining after two years.

We look forward to the day when W.S.O. can embark on some comparable venture. Three steps will bring that day closer: (1) a larger membership, nearer

1000 than the present 600; (2) a steadily growing endowment fund; and (3) one or more large bequests or other donations.

W.S.O. has lost a friend in the death of Gordon MacQuarrie, well known outdoors editor for *The Milwaukee Journal*. He occasionally attended some of the W.S.O. field trips, and often spoke favorably of the Society in his constant effort to stimulate interest in outdoor activities among his readers.

Have you a good pair of binoculars ready to meet the birds on their northward migration this spring? Note the R. H. Burton advertisement in this issue. They offer a free binocular guide.

If you plan to do some bird photography this spring, consult the Dark Room about cameras. And don't forget: "you saw it in *The Passenger Pigeon*."

(more news on page 185)

## BLACK RAIL SIGHT RECORDS

Since publication of the article "A Black Rail is Seen" by Mae and Alvin Peterson (1956 *Pass. Pigeon* 116-7), the editor has received two letters mentioning previous sight records of which we had no previous knowledge.

Mr. Howard L. Van Ness writes: "During the hunting season of 1931 or 1932, when Rails and Pheasants could be shot, I was hunting Pheasants at the west end of Chrislaw's Marsh, about 3½ miles west and north of Lodi. There had been a rather prolonged spell of rainy, chilly, weather, with marshes more flooded than usual. I had hardly entered the deep grasses of the marsh, finding them tangled and matted with the rain, and with water under foot, when I put up a rail—small, black, weak in flight. Within a few more steps I put up another, and then another—at least five or six birds in all; had I continued, I do not know how many more I may have found. I shot one at close range, but because the bird was badly torn and because I did not realize the rarity of the bird, I made no effort to preserve the skin. But when the bird was in my hand, it was intact enough for me to get a complete impression of it. I marveled at its small size—it seemed the size of an overgrown dumpy sparrow. The back was spotted with small light colored specks, as if I had literally caught a bird by trying to put salt on its tail but spilled salt over the back instead. The abdomen had very definite rail-like transverse stripes of what I remember as simply two different intensities of black coloring. The feet and legs were black."

Dr. Irven O. Buss calls attention to several sight records in the recent book by Helmer Mattison and himself: "A Half Century of Change in Bird Populations of the Lower Chippewa River" (pp. 274-275). These records, all from Dunn County, include: one near Elk Mound, Sept. 10, 1939 (H. B. Apel, J. Gisness, I. O. Buss); one near Dunnville, Oct. 5, 1939 (I. O. Buss); one near Dunnville, Oct. 6, 1939 (I. O. Buss, H. Mattison); two near Dunnville, Oct 5, 1941 (F. M. Kozlik, H. Mattison, I. O.

Buss); one near Dunnville, Oct. 17, 1941 (A. H. Buss). While no details of plumage are listed, Dr. Buss writes, "I'm very satisfied that our records were a reality, and that we had about as good conditions for studying them for as long as we cared to watch them as we could ask for, but they still must be recorded only as sight records and hypothetical for this reason."

## W.S.O. AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

The W.S.O. Board of Directors has again voted to offer some deserving person a scholarship to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp this summer, when the camp will be in its third season of operation. The scholarship will be in the amount of \$95, to cover all expenses for a two-week camp period except transportation to and from the camp. It is given in memory of Mrs. Wilhemina LaBudde.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship must be at least eighteen years of age and a resident of Wisconsin. Applications will be judged by the W.S.O. Camp Scholarship Committee on the following basis: (1) proposed use of the natural history training received at the camp; (2) experience and interest in group leadership; (3) background and training in natural history; and (4) earnestness of interest to use this training.

Application blanks may be had by writing to one of the following committee members:

Mrs. Carl P. Frister  
2956A N. 38th St.  
Milwaukee 10, Wis.

Mrs. A. P. Balsom  
2209 E. Stratford Ct.  
Milwaukee 11, Wis.

Mrs. Harold Liebherr  
2150 W. Marne Ave.  
Milwaukee 9, Wis.

If you are interested, you must act immediately. Applications must be in the hands of the committee by April 2, 1957. Results will be made public and the winner will be notified by April 23, 1957.

## *By The Wayside . . .*

Edited by MARTHA and ROY LOUND

**Comparative Abundance of the Baltimore Oriole in Wisconsin and Michigan.** I was a passenger in a car driven from Grand Rapids to Ann Arbor, Michigan on November 22, 1956. It became apparent during the first few miles that nests of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) were less numerous than in southern Wisconsin. A count during the last 91 miles gave but 17 nests, i.e. one to 5.4 miles. Wisconsin counts ran much higher. One route from Madison to Delton, then west and north to the Juneau County line, a distance of 61 miles, showed 29 nests, or one to 2.1 miles. Another route, Madison to Pine Bluff, to Riley, and return, a distance of 28 miles, showed 24 nests, or one to 1.2 miles.

During a discussion of the subject with Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, he suggested that the lower count for Michigan might be due to spraying

with chemicals. Inquiry from the State Highway Department of Michigan revealed that there had been little spraying for the Dutch elm disease but that 2-4-D had been used extensively for killing weeds along the route; however, according to Dr. Van Tyne the spraying of elms was extensive in Washtenaw County. A count of the nests in unsprayed areas in Michigan would be of value in determining the effect of spraying. There were many more trees along the Michigan route, than along those in Wisconsin. The number of trees, in any case, is of little significance since the majority of nests will be found close to farm or other buildings. Elm and maples are preferred. The above counts do not show the number of breeding pairs of Baltimore Orioles for the season of 1956, and are of value only for relative abundance. Some of the nests were more than a year old. In winter it is difficult, especially on dark days, to determine if a nest is of the present season's construction or not.—A. W. Schorger, Madison.

**Longevity Records.** A Mallard banded on Lake Puckaway in 1932 was shot on the same lake in 1955.

A Mallard banded on Moon Lake, Wisconsin, in 1934 was shot in Arkansas in 1955.—Larry Jahn, Horicon.

**Laughing Gull Revisits Castle Rock Lake.** On the eastern shore of Castle Rock Lake in Adams County, near the north end of a drainage ditch, there is at some seasons of the year a small sand bar which appears to be more attractive than any other spot along the lake for water and shore birds to rest. On different occasions I have seen Caspian Terns, Piping, Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, Red-backed and Baird's Sandpipers, and several gulls resting on this bar. Three years ago I saw a Laughing Gull here. See 1953 Pass. Pigeon 172.

By changing only the date I could go far toward describing the observation of another Laughing Gull on this same sand bar on July 14 and 15, 1956. When I first saw this bird on July 14, I was struck by the same three markings that featured the 1953 bird: size, dark mantle, gray head. This time there were no other gulls present for comparison, but the bird was obviously smaller than a Ring-billed and larger than a Bonaparte's; because it was nearer the size of the Ring-billed, I thought it large for a Franklin's too. The mantle was a very dark uniform gray. The head markings showed the bird to be molting; the part below the bill was nearly white, the part above and behind the bill was still a dark gray. Except for dark bill and feet, the bird was otherwise white. I wanted to see the bird's wing and tail pattern in flight to be perfectly sure this was not a Franklin's Gull, but I was in such position that were I to flush the bird it would fly directly between me and the late afternoon sun. As I circled around to get better light the bird took off—in the wrong direction, of course. Try as I might, I could not satisfy myself beyond doubt that there was no white on the wing except along the back edge.

That meant a return visit the next day, and sure enough, at 1:30 there was the bird standing on the same sand bar. This time the bird flushed almost immediately, in good light, giving me perfect opportunity to note the pure white tail and the solid dark wings blending into black tips with no suggestion of white aside from the fringe on the back of

the wing. The next day I located a photographer with a telephoto lens, but two visits to the area on July 17 proved to be wasted effort. The bird could not be found.—Sam Robbins, Adams.

**Sandhill Cranes Feeding on Cutworms.** A flock of twenty-two Sandhill Cranes was reported feeding in a newly planted cornfield by a farmer in Marquette County. Upon investigation by Norbert Damaske of the Conservation Department, the birds were found to be eating cutworms. The corn had been planted where heavy sod had been, and the weather was favorable for the worms to thrive in numbers. Heavy infestations of worms were found in the hills that the birds had not touched.—Reported by N. R. Barger, Madison.

**A Parula Warbler Song.** While examining a large number of warblers (some perhaps migrants) in a spruce area southeast of Antigo on August 4, I heard a very strange and very interesting song. To describe it is difficult. I can say only that it consisted of five to seven buzzes, each of uniform pitch, the whole group resembling somewhat the pattern of a Black-throated Green, the quality that of a Black-throated Blue. A queer hybrid you might think—so did I. For twenty minutes the bird eluded me, but finally I was able to get a good look at it. I was quite surprised, in fact flabbergasted, to discover that the source of this strange song was a Parula Warbler. As I watched him jerk with each song, I heard him insert occasionally—at the end—the snapping note which sometimes accompanies its usual rising scale of buzzes. Had it not been for this and the fact that I could see the bird, I probably could never have run down the song with certainty. Such an experience poses an interesting question: how many species, warblers in particular, have songs such as this which people may never have heard nor identified? Are they typical of the species at a certain season, or could they perhaps be songs of individuals who might have picked them up from individuals of other species?—Tom Soulen, Waukesha.

**Heron Rookery Moves.** The first Black-crowned Night Herons of 1956 were seen on April 6 when much of Horicon Marsh was still covered with ice. When the large heron rookery on Four Mile Island was visited on May 18, no Black-crowned Night Herons were seen on or around the island although nesting should have been in full swing by this time.

Only a few Black-crowned Night Heron nests were found on the island later in the summer in contrast to 1955 when there were probably in excess of one thousand. On July 18, a canoe trip with Arlyn Linde into the federal portion of the marsh disclosed an unreported Black-crowned Night Heron rookery. The nests were built in the bases of dead willows, and nearly all nests were within one foot of the water. At least two hundred nests were seen, but movement among the tangled willows was so difficult that the extent of the rookery was not determined.

Although quite a few young were still in the nests, less than a dozen adults were seen during the hour spent in the rookery. This rookery was probably started by the herons which deserted Four Mile Island.—Harold A. Mathiak, Horicon.

**Nesting Record of a Mallard.** A female Mallard, banded and released on Horicon Marsh in 1951, appears to have nested in the same spot each year since then. A wild bird, it has survived the heavy hunting for at least five years.—Dick Hunt, Horicon.



# FIELD NOTES

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By MARTHA and ROY LOUND

## SUMMER SEASON

JUNE 1-AUGUST 15, 1956

Although there were a number of comparatively rare species reported during the summer period, four species—the White Pelican, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis and Leconte's Sparrow—appear to top the list.

Dixie Larkin, S. Paul Jones and Sam Robbins saw four White Pelicans on the Petenwell Flowage, Adams Co., on May 15, and two birds were seen there regularly thereafter throughout the period by many observers. There were no other reports of the White Pelican this year, but one bird spent the summer of 1955 near the Federal Dike Road on Horicon Marsh (See 1955 Pass. Pigeon 161).

A pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons again nested successfully in Racine Co. in the same patch of woods where a pair nested the preceding year (See 1955 Pass. Pigeon 152). And an adult was seen at Horicon on July 21. It is interesting to note that other records of this species were made just outside Wisconsin's boundaries: Brother Theodore found four pairs nesting in the Mississippi River bottoms just south of La Crosse, on the Minnesota side of the river, that raised sixteen young; and on June 2 Mrs. Fred Mezger saw two adults at Rockton, Illinois, just south of the Wisconsin line. Iowa also established its first breeding record of this species in 1956, just a year after Wisconsin's first breeding record was established.

The Glossy Ibis was first seen near the north end of Horicon Marsh on May 14 by Dr. Raymond B. Dryer and Paul and Marilyn Imler, and was reported in the 1956 Pass. Pigeon 120, 125, 128. At least two birds were again seen there on July 21 by the N. R. Bangers and the Roy Lounds; and on August 4 the same observers, accompanied by Sam Robbins, saw at least 12—possible as many as 16—birds. (See pp. 152-4). Several other observers reported seeing from one to three birds on various dates from July 30 to August 12.

The Leconte's Sparrow is sometimes seen during the fall migration, and occasionally in the spring; but the only known nesting records are those of Carl Richter who first found it nesting in Oconto Co. in 1927. On June 8-9, 1956, Mr. Richter, accompanied by the Roy Lounds, spent 1½ days searching for the Leconte's Sparrow and Yellow Rail in southern Marinette and northern Oconto Counties, and were successful in finding one Leconte's Sparrow which was seen at close range and heard singing.

That afternoon Mr. Richter returned to the same spot and located the nest which contained five fresh eggs. He again saw one bird, the only one he saw during the nesting season. Kumlien and Hollister's **Birds of Wisconsin** states that this species had been found only in the fall, that the closest search had failed to produce a single specimen in spring, that none had been seen before August, and that it is one of the most difficult birds imaginable to collect as it is never seen until flushed. Dr. A. W. Schorger notes in his revision of the book that the first state spring record was a bird collected at Milwaukee on April 27, 1879.

### The Breeding Season

The summer season was not nearly as spectacular as the tremendous spring period that preceded it. The first half of June was abnormally hot, so the last trickle of migrating birds moved on rapidly and was gone in a few days. Edward Paulson reported that the Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper migration reached its peak in the Green Bay area on June 1 (about two weeks later than usual), and he also noted that Lapland Longspurs were present in the same area until June 6. Scattered reports of migrating warblers during early June indicated that a few belated stragglers were still passing through.

Weather patterns undoubtedly play a very important part in the nesting success of many species. Wisconsin Audubon Camp staff members reported the nesting season in Washburn County about two weeks behind that of 1955; the lateness of the spring migration probably had much to do with this. Wet weather affects ground and marsh nesters especially, and both June and July were unusually wet. The latter part of June and all of July, however, were abnormally cool in contrast to the hot weather that prevailed during the first part of June. State biologists say that early lowland nestings were flooded out last spring, accounting for the poor Pheasant crop in the Madison area, and several Canada Goose nests were washed out by high water in Horicon Marsh; so it is reasonable to presume that other marsh dwellers were similarly affected. Notice also Dr. C. A. Kemper's report that at least two out of a brood of four Brewer's Blackbird nestlings died early in June, apparently from the unseasonal heat.

Severe windstorms struck the central part of the state on July 1 and 15. The first was virtually a tornado that swept from Tomah and Reedsburg eastward through Appleton, Green Bay and Door County, causing a great deal of tree damage in a wide belt through central Wisconsin. The second was accompanied by high winds and hail, cutting a very narrow path from Wisconsin Rapids south to the Madison area, and had a serious effect on crops within this belt. Such storms must take a considerable toll of nests, eggs and nestlings, although there are few facts available to support such a conclusion.

Nesting records are always interesting and informative. An excellent find was the Saw-whet Owl nest containing four young in Taylor County. Another good discovery was a Bell's Vireo nest in the University Arboretum at Madison—the first for that area. Norman Stone reported that the Yellow-headed Blackbird has increased its numbers greatly in Crex Meadows, with several colonies now in existence; Wisconsin Audu-

bon Camp staff members found this species breeding again at Shell Lake, and reported a new colony established at the fish hatchery at Spooner. Nesting birds found in Oconto and southern Marinette Counties by Carl Richter included the Hooded Merganser, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Water-thrush and Leconte's Sparrow. Several species of ducks, such as the Green-winged Teal and Redhead, that only a few years ago were considered to be rare summer residents, are being reported in increasing numbers from more areas.

### The Early Fall Migration

Because of the lateness of the spring migration, it might have been expected that the southern movement of shorebirds, usually commencing in early July, could have been delayed. Actually the migration appears to have been about on schedule. Several returning shorebirds were noted as early as July 4, and some of them were relatively abundant in favored spots by the end of the month. Some heron species were quite numerous, no doubt due to their steady northward breeding range extension in conjunction with the normal northward movement after the nesting season. Up to August 15 no southward movement of warblers was noted, except for the barest trickle—a handful of Myrtle, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers—in central Wisconsin on August 6 and 14. Wisconsin Audubon Camp staff members observed that in contrast with 1955, when the warbler migration started during the first week in August, no noticeable movement took place in 1956 until after the middle of August.

Here are the highlights of the summer season:

**Loon:** Reported as summering in Bayfield, Ashland, Vilas and Marinette Counties. Doubtless this species is present in virtually all the northern counties, but observers are lacking.

**Red-throated Loon:** Seen twice on Lake Superior from the sandspit east of Superior, first seen with young on July 13, then a single bird seen on August 9 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff). Summer records of this species have been very scarce.

**Holboell's Grebe:** One individual was reported by Ed Peartree and Nellis Smith, at Horicon on July 28 and August 12, seen with 30X Bal-scope.

**Horned Grebe:** Summer records for this species are rare, but this year there are three: observed in Waukesha County on June 1 (Don Bierman) and on July 4 (the Carl Fristers); present all summer in Jefferson County (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith).

**Eared Grebe:** On August 5 Dick Wills saw one bird in summer plumage at Goose Pond, Columbia County; he conjectures that this may be the same bird that was still present there near the end of May. One was seen at Crex Meadows on July 12 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**White Pelican:** Two present on a small rocky island toward the north end of Petenwell Flowage, Adams County, throughout the period.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Active rookeries were present in Petenwell Flowage close to the summering White Pelicans (Sam Robbins), and on Hat and Green Islands in Lake Michigan (Carl Richter).

**American Egret:** Nesting colonies were reported from Long Lake (David Walker) and Horicon (many observers). Other early season re-

ports: Crex Meadows, June 5, July 3 and 11, August 15 (Norman Stone, et al.); Waukesha County on June 30 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith); Columbia County on July 15 (Eugene Roark). Late July and August reports were received from Adams, Dane and Fond du Lac Counties.

**Snowy Egret:** Four individuals were reported at Horicon on July 21 (the N. R. Bangers, the Roy Lounds); thereafter present in varying numbers, with a maximum of five on August 11 (Dick Wills).

**Little Blue Heron:** This was a Little Blue Heron year. On July 8 Ed Peartree and Nellis Smith saw an adult at the Pennsylvania St. Ponds in the n.w. corner of Waukesha County; the same observers saw one immature at the same place on July 28, two adults and eleven immatures on July 29, four immatures on August 12, and three immatures on August 15. At Dunn's Marsh near Madison, two were reported on July 29 (L. Wayne Brown, Sam Robbins), with the number increasing to ten by August 15 (Dick Wills). Many observers saw this species at Horicon Marsh between July 30 and August 14. Two were seen at the Wisconsin River bottoms on August 7 (Dick Wills).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** At least one pair again nested successfully in the Racine area (many observers). One mature bird was seen in Horicon Marsh on July 21 (the N. R. Bangers, the Roy Lounds).

**Glossy Ibis:** This straggler was first reported at Horicon Marsh during the summer season on July 21 (the N. R. Bangers, the Roy Lounds); one or more were seen there on July 29, 30, August 4 and 12 (many observers), with one flock of 12 noted on August 4. See pp. 152-4.

**Canada Goose:** Reported present all summer in Brown County (Ed Cleary) and Marinette County (Raymond Stefanski). Also reported from Crex Meadows on July 20 (Norman Stone).

**Gadwall:** Reported from Horicon on June 17 (the Roy Lounds), June 23 (Don Bierman), and July 28 (Dick Wills).

**Baldpate:** Present in Adams County through the period (Sam Robbins); seen at Horicon on June 23 (Don Bierman) and July 29 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith).

**Pintail:** Present entire period in Ashland (Charles Wiberg), Douglas and Burnett (Wis. Audubon Camp staff), and Dodge (many observers) Counties; seen in Adams County, August 14 (Sam Robbins).

**Green-winged Teal:** Present through the summer in Adams (Sam Robbins), Ashland (Charles Wiberg), Brown (Edwin Cleary), Dodge (many observers), and Marinette (Raymond Stefanski) Counties.

**Redhead:** This species is considered a rare summer resident, but there were several reports for the period. At least four spent the summer on Petenwell Flowage, Adams and Juneau Counties (Sam Robbins); present all season in Ashland County (Charles Wiberg); seen at Horicon occasionally through the summer (many observers); pair in Jefferson County on July 4 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith).

**Canvas-back:** One bird, which appeared unable to fly, spent the summer on Monona Bay in Madison (Dick Wills).

**Lesser Scaup:** David Walker reported one male on a pond north of Baraboo all summer; present all season on the Petenwell Flowage in Adams and Juneau Counties (Sam Robbins), and in Ashland (Charles Wiberg) and Marinette (Raymond Stefanski) Counties. Other scattered reports include: one male in Wood County, July 4 (the Roy Lounds);

one in Ozaukee County, July 7 (Dick Wills, Tom Soulen, et al.); five at Horicon, July 28 (Dick Wills).

**American Golden-eye:** One lone bird summered in Monona Bay, Madison; it could not fly but could dive (Dick Wills).

**Bufflehead:** Reported as present all season near Green Bay (Edwin Cleary).

**Ruddy Duck:** Widespread summer reports from Brown, Dodge, Jefferson, Juneau and Vernon Counties.

**Hooded Merganser:** Marathon County, July 4 (Mrs. Spencer Doty); female with ten young, Burnett County, July 10 (Norman Stone); one female at Milwaukee, July 31 (Dixie Larkin, Sam Robbins); present all season in Adams (Sam Robbins) and Ashland (Charles Wiberg) Counties.



A BANNER YEAR FOR DICKCISSELS, NEST AND EGGS  
PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR VALDERS, MANITOWOC COUNTY, AUGUST 3, 1956  
DON SWENSON

**American Merganser:** Reported as present all season in Ashland (Charles Wiberg) and Vilas (Fred Babcock) Counties; 11 young seen on Lake Superior near Port Wing, Bayfield County, on July 5 (the Roy Lounds).

**Turkey Vulture:** Reported from these counties: Brown on August 13 (Ed Paulson); four in Grant on June 2 (the Roy Lounds, et al.) and two there on August 5 (Sam Robbins); two in Vernon on August 5 (Sam Robbins); 12 in Waukesha on June 6, with others on July 4 and 15 (Nellis Smith, Ed Peartree), and a flock of nine on July 22 (Tom Soulen). Do they perhaps nest in the Kettle Moraine area of Waukesha County?

**Goshawk:** Two adults and at least two young were observed west of Port Wing, Bayfield County, on July 6 (Roy Lound). Their fierce, raucous calls attracted attention; by standing still and squeaking, the observer was able to attract them close enough to obtain a good look at them.

**Bald Eagle:** Reported as present all season from Adams, Ashland, Marinette and Vilas Counties. One or more reports were also received from Bayfield, Dane, Dodge and Sauk Counties.

**Osprey:** Present all season in Ashland, Marinette and Vilas Counties; also reported in Bayfield, Brown and Langlade Counties. An interesting

more southerly report was of a bird near Genoa, Vernon County, on August 5 (Sam Robbins).

**Duck Hawk:** Seen near the Wis. Audubon Camp, Washburn County, July 6 and 7 (Camp Staff).

**Prairie Chicken:** One lone bird was observed in southern Marinette County on June 9 (Carl Richter, the Roy Lounds); Richter believes it is the only remaining bird in that area. Several birds were still booming on the Leola Marsh in Adams County on June 12 (Sam Robbins).

**Sandhill Crane:** In Columbia County, two seen at Dates Mill Pond on July 24, and four in Lewiston Township on August 7 (David Walker); single bird seen at Crex Meadows on July 26 and August 14 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); present all summer in Adams County (Sam Robbins).

**King Rail:** Mary Donald saw one bird at a running bird fountain in her yard in Milwaukee on July 8, far from a marsh of likely habitat; noted at Crex Meadows on June 27, 28, and July 12 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); one at Madison, August 1 (Dick Wills).

**Virginia Rail:** Two adults and three downy immature birds were reported from Dane County on July 15 (Eugene Roark).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Spring migration of this species reached its peak on June 1 in Brown County (Ed Paulson). Fall migrants had appeared in Adams County by July 25 (Sam Robbins).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Two early fall reports: Adams County, August 8 (Sam Robbins); Superior, August 10 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Still migrating northward in the Green Bay area on June 1 (Ed Paulson); earliest fall migrants reported on July 4 from Jefferson and Waukesha Counties (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith).

**Greater Yellow-legs:** Last spring migrant seen in Chippewa County on June 3 (Dr. C. A. Kemper); fall migrants observed at Horicon on July 8 (the Carl Fristers).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last spring migrant reported from Vilas County on June 3 (Alfred Bradford); earliest fall migrant reported from Chippewa County on July 12 (Dr. C. A. Kemper).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** One in Washburn County, July 10 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Least Sandpiper:** Early fall migrant in Adams County on July 4 (the Roy Lounds, Sam Robbins).

**Dowitcher:** Six birds at Horicon on July 8 (the Carl Fristers), seen there frequently thereafter by many observers; observed at Superior on several occasions from July 11 on (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Superior, July 12 and August 9 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); Washburn County, August 11 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); Horicon, July 30 and August 4 (Sam Robbins, et al.).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Still present at Green Bay in good numbers on June 1 (Ed Paulson); earliest returning birds were reported from Vilas County on July 12 (Alfred Bradford).

**Sanderling:** Departed from Manitowoc County on June 4, and returned on August 2 (Jack Kraupa).

**Western Sandpiper:** One in Chippewa County on June 3 (Dr. C. A. Kemper); five at Superior on August 9 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Reported from Jefferson County on June 30 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith); numerous reports from Horicon on and



NESTING SITE OF BROWN CREEPER.  
NEST PLACED UNDER LOOSE BARK-  
ROLL IN CENTER.

PHOTO BY CARL RICHTER

Marinette County on August 11 (Carl Richter).

**Forster's Tern:** June and July dates from Horicon (many observers).

**Caspian Tern:** Oconto County, July 21 (Carl Richter); Horicon, July 28 (Dick Wills); Superior, August 9 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Barn Owl:** Nested again in an old silo east of Thiensville, southern Ozaukee County (many observers).

**Long-eared Owl:** Noted on four occasions near the Wis. Audubon Camp in Washburn County (Camp Staff).

**Saw-whet Owl:** A nest with four young was found in a Wood Duck box about June 10 in Taylor County (Robert Wendt—reported by N. R. Barger).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Nested right behind one of the Wis. Audubon Camp buildings, Washburn County (Camp Staff).

**Western Kingbird:** Seen on three occasions at Crex Meadows: July 11, 26, and August 15 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One seen at Wis. Audubon Camp on June 19 (Camp Staff).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** One seen and heard in Winnebago County, June 4 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); noted at its Wyalusing Park nesting grounds on June 2 (the Roy Lounds, et al.) and August 5 (Sam Robbins).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** One seen in Wyalusing Park on June 3 (the Carl Fristers, the Roy Lounds).

**Canada Jay:** Burnett County, June 27, and Douglas County, July 6 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); Vilas County, August 15 (Alfred Bradford); present all season in Marinette County (Raymond Stefanski).

after July 21, with 35 counted in one flock on August 4 (the N. B. Bargers, the Roy Lounds, Sam Robbins).

**Northern Phalarope:** Dr. C. A. Kemper trapped and banded a bird in fall plumage on August 9 in Chippewa County, and a pair was seen in the same place on August 12. On August 10 Dick Wills saw one bird catching flies in the middle of Lake Waubesa, Dane County.

**Laughing Gull:** One bird was seen sitting on a sand-bar and then flying over Castle Rock Lake in Adams County on July 14 and 15 (Sam Robbins). See "By the Wayside."

**Franklin's Gull:** One at Superior, August 9 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); one near Madison, August 13 (Dick Wills); two at Horicon, August 14 (Harold Bauers).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** First returning birds seen at Superior on August 9 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff), and in

**Raven:** Reported from Ashland, Bayfield, Marinette, Shawano and Vilas Counties.

**Brown Creeper:** Carl Richter reported at least 15 nesting pairs within a few miles of Oconto; other reports from Ashland, Columbia and Vilas Counties.

**Winter Wren:** Present in Oconto County (Carl Richter); seen and heard in Bayfield County, July 5 (the Roy Lounds); one heard singing a song over 12 seconds long near Antigo, August 4 (Tom Soulen).

**Bewick's Wren:** At least four singing males present in and near Adams early in June, but none were noted after the song period ended (Sam Robbins); present at Onalaska throughout the season (the Alvin Petersons).

**Carolina Wren:** One seen at Madison on July 15 (Tom Ashman); pair seen and heard scolding one mile north of the village of Wyalusing on August 5 (Sam Robbins).

**Hermit Thrush:** Four young left the nest the week of July 4 in Vilas County (Fred Babcock).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reported from Adams, Dane, Grant, Oconto and Waukesha Counties.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A mature male bird was seen near Port Wing, Bayfield County, on July 5 (Roy Lound).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** William Roark reported a bird from the Wisconsin River bottoms, Dane County, on June 23—a remarkable summer record.

**White-eyed Vireo:** A singing bird in Milwaukee, June 3-4 (Mary Donald, Lisa Decker).

**Bell's Vireo:** A nest of this species was first found in the University Arboretum, Madison, on June 20 (Tom Soulen); later one egg and one young were seen in the nest; the nest was abandoned by July 21 (Dick Wills). Brother Theodore found three pairs nesting near the golf course in La Crosse. Sam Robbins saw four adults at the upper end of French Island, La Crosse, on August 6; it appeared to be two nesting pairs, but no nests were found.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Several were seen and heard in a mixed pine, balsam and spruce grove near Lake Superior, Bayfield County, on July 5 (the Roy Lounds).

**Black and White Warbler:** Reported from these counties: Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Grant, Jackson, Monroe, Shawano, Sheboygan and Vilas.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Present in Wyalusing Park on June 2, but not as plentiful as in early June of 1955 (the Roy Lounds); Mazomanie, June 3 and 10 (Eugene Roark); one singing at La Crosse, August 6 (Sam Robbins).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** A singing male was found in Waukesha County on June 21, possibly that county's first summer record (Tom Soulen, Pete Weber); Cedar Grove, July 7 (Dick Wills, Tom Soulen, et al.); seen in Jackson and Monroe Counties on August 6 (Sam Robbins).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Seen and heard singing at Beaver Brook, Washburn County, on June 23 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff)—unusually far north; singing male in Waukesha County, June 21—may be county's first summer record (Tom Soulen, Pete Weber); Cedar Grove, July 7

(Dick Wills, Tom Soulen, et al.); Madison, June 1-August 1 (Dick Wills); Mazomanie, June 3 and 10 (Eugene Roark); common in Wyalusing Park, June 2 (the Roy Lounds).

**Brewster's Warbler:** Singing male spent much of the summer four miles west of Friendship, Adams County, at the same spot where one summered in 1955; it was last heard singing on June 23, and last seen on July 27 (Sam Robbins).

**Nashville Warbler:** Present all summer in Adams (Sam Robbins) and Ashland (Charles Wiberg) Counties; observed in Bayfield County on July 5 (the Roy Lounds) and July 29 (David Bratley); one seen in Jackson County, August 6 (Sam Robbins).

**Parula Warbler:** Common in the Port Wing Area, July 5-6 (the Roy Lounds); noted near Antigo on August 4 (Tom Soulen).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Only one report: seen and heard near Port Wing on July 5 (the Roy Lounds).

**Myrtle Warbler:** Reported from Ashland, Bayfield and Vilas Counties during July; single individuals were noted in Monroe County on August 6, and in Adams County on August 14 (Sam Robbins), but it is not known whether these may have summered or were early migrants.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** A late migrant was seen in Madison on June 2 (Dick Wills); one seen and heard in Chippewa County on June 17 (Dr. C. A. Kemper); Bayfield County, July 5 (the Roy Lounds); Vilas County, July 25 (Alfred Bradford).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Two singing males and one female at the Wis. Audubon Camp, July 2-9 (Camp Staff); singing males in three locations in Adams County during June (Sam Robbins); Wyalusing Park, June 2 (the Roy Lounds) and July 1 (Dick Wills); Waukesha County, July 4 (Ed Peartree, Nellis Smith); at least two found on the W.S.O. campout in Fond du Lac County, June 16-17 (Eugene Roark).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Late straggler, a singing male, in Adams County on June 16 (Sam Robbins); present in the Port Wing area on June 5 (the Roy Lounds).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Summer records in Ashland, Bayfield, Chippewa, Marinette and Vilas Counties; an early fall migrant was noted in Adams County on August 14 (Sam Robbins).

**Northern Water-thrush:** Mary Staeger reported that one bird came to her bird bath near Birnamwood, Shawano County, July 24-25; Carl Richter found it nesting in Oconto County.

**Louisiana Water-thrush:** Reported as present all season in Adams (Sam Robbins) and Brown (Edwin Cleary) Counties; seen in Grant County on June 2 (the Roy Lounds) and August 5 (Sam Robbins).

**Kentucky Warbler:** One heard singing at Madison on June 19 (Sam Robbins).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Departed from Green Bay on June 2 (Ed Paulson); one seen and heard singing near Gordon, Douglas County, on July 6 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff).

**Mourning Warbler:** Late migrants in Milwaukee on June 5 (Mary Donald) and Green Bay on June 6 (Ed Paulson); two seen in Bayfield County on July 29 (David Bratley); one observed feeding young in Ashland County on July 29 (Charles Wiberg).

**Wilson's Warbler:** Last seen at Green Bay on June 6 (Ed Paulson).

**Canada Warbler:** Spring migrant at Green Bay on June 6 (Ed Paulson); fall migrant in Jackson County on August 6 (Sam Robbins).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Several colonies were found in Crex Meadows this year, one with an estimated minimum of 150 breeding pairs; Norman Stone found nests very common on June 5, but the birds had departed by July 8. A new colony was established at Spooner (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); and recently established colonies at Shell Lake in Washburn County (Wis. Audubon Camp staff) and in Adams County (Sam Robbins) were again active. Other reports were received from Dodge, Juneau and Waukesha Counties.

**Orchard Oriole:** Male seen near Gordon, Douglas County, July 6 (Wis. Audubon Camp staff); first year male near Onalaska, July 8 (the Roy Lounds); two immatures near Ferryville, Crawford County, August 5 (Sam Robbins).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Dr. C. A. Kemper found two nests in Chippewa County: in one nest the first egg hatched on June 5, and by June 8 all four were hatched. On June 13, after three scorching days, a dead nestling was found a few feet from the nest, one was dead in the nest, and a third was quite ill from the heat. Also reported from Adams, Ashland, Brown, Dane, Dodge, La Crosse, Oconto, Outagamie, Trempealeau and Vilas Counties.

**Dickcissel:** While not seen at all in 1955 in the region of the Wis. Audubon Camp, this bird was fairly common during 1956, seen almost daily through August 5; other areas where this species has rarely (if ever) been seen previously include Marathon (Mrs. Spencer Doty) and Manitowoc (Mrs. Elmer Swenson) Counties; other reports were received from Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, La Crosse, Rock, Shawano, Trempealeau, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago Counties. It is doubtful if any previous Dickcissel invasion ever blanketed so much of the state; this was definitely a Dickcissel year!

**Evening Grosbeak:** Rarely do we receive summer reports of this species, but this year we have two: Mary Staeger saw them in her yard near Birnamwood, Shawano County, on July 20 and August 6. David Bratley saw a pair fly over his home in Washburn on August 13.

**Leconte's Sparrow:** On the morning of June 9 Carl Richter found one individual in southern Marinette County, then located the nest that same afternoon.

**Slate-colored Junco:** Charles Wiberg reported this species as a summer resident in Ashland County; Fred Babcock observed a family with three young at his food box late in July, at Land O' Lakes, Vilas County.

**Lark Sparrow:** This species was seen in at least nine different locations in Adams County during the spring and summer, last noted on August 6 (Sam Robbins); the only other reports were from Dane County on June 10 (Eugene Roark) and La Crosse County on August 6 (Sam Robbins).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Reports of summering birds came from Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Langlade and Sheboygan Counties.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Summer reports from Ashland, Bayfield, Langlade, Lincoln and Vilas Counties.

**Lapland Longspur:** A late departure record on June 6 from Brown County (Ed Paulson).

## MORE NEWS . . .

Most of you will find a renewal notice included with this issue, since nearly all W.S.O. memberships are on a calendar year basis. We cannot send you the next issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** if your membership is allowed to lapse, so the best time to take care of your renewal is right off—today.

In filling out your renewal blank, why not give some consideration to your class

of membership? The “husband and wife” membership has proven quite popular; by sending in \$3.00 instead of \$2.00, both husband and wife may be enrolled as members and enjoy voting privileges, with one copy of **The Passenger Pigeon** serving for both.

Every year there are a few who step up to the sustaining membership classification. Perhaps you would like to do that this year.

(more news on page 186)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 1-10, 1957 (State-wide)**—Field notes for December, January and February should be sent to the Associate Editor.

**March 3, 1957 (Port Washington)**—W.S.O. field trip to Lake Michigan shore, meeting at Smith Brothers Parking Lot at 8:00 a. m.

**March 8, 1957 (Madison)**—Audubon Screen Tour, with Laurel Reynolds speaking on “Western Discovery,” at West High School Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

**March 31, 1957 (State-wide)**—Field notes for December through March should be sent to Dr. Harvey L. Gunderson, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, for inclusion in “Audubon Field Notes.”

**April 22, 1957 (Madison)**—Audubon Screen Tour, with G. Harrison Orians speaking on “Great Smoky Skyland,” at West High School Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

**April 24, 1957 (Manitowoc)**—Audubon Screen Tour, with G. Harrison Orians speaking on “Great Smoky Skyland,” at Washington J. H. S. Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

**April 26, 1957 (Milwaukee)**—Audubon Screen Tour, with G. Harrison Orians speaking on “Great Smoky Skyland,” at the Shorewood High Auditorium at 8:00 p. m.

**April 27-28, 1957 (Plainfield)**—W.S.O. field trip to watch Prairie Chicken booming. Advance registration with Edward Peartree necessary.

**May 3-5 (Green Lake)**—W.S.O. annual convention, at American Baptist Assembly Grounds, with annual business meeting on the afternoon of May 4.

**May 11-19, 1957 (State-wide)**—May-day count period; counts should be made on one day during period, with results sent immediately to the Associate Editor.

**May 18, 1957 (Manitowoc)**—16th annual “Bird Breakfast,” just north of Lincoln Park.

**May 31, 1957 (State-wide)**—Field notes for April and May should be sent to Dr. Harvey L. Gunderson, Minneapolis, for inclusion in “Audubon Field Notes.”

**June 1-10, 1957 (State-wide)**—Field notes for March, April and May should be sent to the Associate Editor.

**June 22-23, 1957 (Spring Green)**—W.S.O. summer camp-out at Tower Hill State Park.

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## MORE NEWS . . .

Publication of Owen Gromme's forthcoming "Birds of Wisconsin" received a setback in December when fire destroyed all 22 engravings of Gromme's original bird paintings for the book. Two of the original plates were also lost, and two others damaged. Gromme is now working on these plates, in addition to preparing the text for the book.

The Supply Department has been enjoying brisk business, especially among W.S.O. members since the 10% discount for members on purchases of \$1.00 or more was announced (see 1956 Pass. Pigeon 119). If you do not have a Supply Department catalog, send your request for

one to Mr. Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville.

Mallards dyed green and pink are to be released at Urbana, Illinois, for the Illinois State Natural History Survey Division, Urbana. These color-dyed ducks are part of an experiment to determine the effect, if any, of exposure to additional light intensities on the date of migration. If extra light stimulates migration, some of these birds may be found in Wisconsin prior to the normal migration dates. Observation reports should be sent to the Illinois address above, or to Wisconsin Conservation Department personnel.

Be on the watch for nesting Mourning Doves this spring, in order that the banding project begun last year may expand. See 1956 Pass. Pigeon 77-78.

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