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Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Summer 1985

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# *The Passenger Pigeon*



Summer, 1985 — Volume 47, No. 2



**A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY**

*PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY*

**The Wisconsin Society For Ornithology, Inc.**

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Cover Photo: Red-eyed Vireo by Roy Lukes

**THE PASSENGER PIGEON**, (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Second-class postage paid at Hartland, WI and additional mailing offices. Membership and annual dues: Single \$8, Family \$10, Sustaining \$25, Life \$200, Patron \$750, Library \$6. Send Membership dues to membership chairman, Alex F. Kailing, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Send manuscripts to the editor, Charles A. Kemper, 733 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Back issues available at \$2 each from W.D. Brown, 225 W. Lakeside St., Madison, WI 53715.

**POSTMASTER** - Send Change of Address to WSO, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029.

## Horicon Marsh in Winter

By Kenneth I. Lange

Goose watching at Horicon Marsh, especially in the fall, has been popular for some time, and numerous people also visit the marsh in spring and summer. But who frequents the marsh in winter? Snowmobilers mainly (snowmobiling is prohibited in the federal part), hunters occasionally, and hikers, skiers, and snow-shoers rarely (the hiker most likely to be encountered is Gilbert Spittel of Horicon, a retired John Deere worker, who walks some 60 miles a week in the marsh in winter).

Winter can be brutal and even frightening, but like all seasons it has much interest and appeal. It has been 30 years, for example, since I first ventured into Horicon Marsh in winter, yet I still vividly recall that journey. The marsh was enveloped in fog; I had walked into an eerie and exhilarating world. Horicon Marsh in winter continues to attract me, and I continue to explore it on foot, sometimes alone, sometimes with one or more companions, recording my observations and thoughts. This paper is a compilation of these journeys.



Figure 1. Horicon Marsh in winter: the main ditch, looking north.

The marsh, by way of introduction, is a glacially carved hollow between Waupun and Horicon in southeastern Wisconsin. It extends some 14 miles from north to south and 3-4 miles from west to east, and is bordered by state highways 33 and 26 on the south and west, state highway 49 on the north, county highways on the northeast, and state highway 28 on the southeast. Nowadays the marsh is a mosaic of cattails and open water, with scattered islands, typically wooded, of approximately 1-15 acres, bordered by farmland and woodlots.

Horicon Marsh now is under human control, in that a variety of structures are used to maintain desired water levels and habitats. Included in the artificial environment are the main ditch, running through the middle of the marsh from north to south, and approximately a dozen lateral ditches feeding into it at right angles from the west and the east; these ditches were dug in the early 1900's for drainage.



**Figure 2. A person on foot in Horicon Marsh in winter is rare.**



**Figure 3. Horicon Marsh in winter: cattails and openings.**

The northern two-thirds of the marsh, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, is federally owned, and the southern third, Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area, is state property. My winter journeys have been in the Wildlife Area, north to and including the main dike, which runs across the marsh from west to east and is just north of the state-federal boundary, hence entirely in Dodge County.



**Figure 4. Horicon Marsh in winter: cattails and islands.**

I have visited the marsh in 16 of the last 30 winters (28 field trips): the winter of 1954-55 (twice), January 1956, January 1967, December 1969 (3 dates), the winter of 1970-71 (6 dates), the winter of 1971-72 (3 dates), the winter of 1972-73 (twice), the winter of 1973-74 (twice), December 1974, January 1976, January 1977, February 1978, February 1980, January 1981, January 1984, and January 1985. The actual dates range from 19 December to 17 February; 10 are in December, 13 in January, and 5 in February (two trips in early March are not included because of the appearance of migrants).

For each trip I recorded time, route, and weather. Total party hours was 182 for an average of 6.5 party hours per trip; the range was 3.5 to 10 (between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.) Total miles on foot was 254 for an average of approximately 9 miles per trip; the range was 4-14.

On these 28 field trips I found from 8-20 (average and median, 13) species of birds on a given date for an overall total of 48 species of birds (Table 1). They can be divided into several groups, e.g. marsh edge, marsh interior, throughout (edge and interior), and overhead.

Twenty-two species were found only or primarily at the marsh edge: two hawks, two doves, two woodpeckers, Horned Lark, Blue Jay and American Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling and House Sparrow, Common Grackle, Rusty Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and four finches.

**Table 1. The 48 species of birds noted in Horicon Marsh on 28 dates in 16 winters during the 30 year period, 31 December 1954 - 12 January 1985.**

Legend: 1 - December, 2 - January, 3 - February, e - Marsh edge, i - Marsh interior, t - throughout, o - overhead, \* - see text.

Great Blue Heron: 1 - i	American Crow: 1,2,3 - e, o
American Bittern: 1,2,3 - i	Black-capped Chickadee: 1,2,3 - t
Tundra Swan: 1 - i	White-breasted Nuthatch: 1,2,3 - e
Canada Goose: 1,2,3 - t	Brown Creeper: 1 - e
Mallard: 1 - i	Marsh Wren: 1,2,3 - i
Common Goldeneye: 1 - i	American Robin: 2,3 - e
Northern Goshawk: 2 - e	Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 - e
Red-tailed Hawk: 1,2,3 - e*	Northern Shrike: 1,2,3 - t
Rough-legged Hawk: 1,2,3 - t	Starling, 1,2,3 - e, o
Bald Eagle: 2 - o	House Sparrow: 1,2,3 - e
Northern Harrier: 1,2 - t	Red-winged Blackbird: 1,2,3 - t,o
American Kestrel: 3 - t	Rusty Blackbird: 2 - e
Ring-necked Pheasant: 1,2,3 - t	Common Grackle: 1,2,3, - e,o
Herring Gull: 1 - o	Brown-headed Cowbird: 2 - e
Rock Dove: 1,2,3 - e*	Northern Cardinal: 1,2,3 - e*
Mourning Dove: 1,2 - e*	Evening Grosbeak: 1,2 - e
Great Horned Owl: 2 - t	Purple Finch: 2 - e
Snowy Owl: 3 - i	Common Redpoll: 1,2,3 - t, o
Short-eared Owl: 1,2,3 - t	American Goldfinch: 1,2 - t,o
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 - e	Dark-eyed Junco: 1,2,3 - e*
Hairy Woodpecker: 1,2,3 - e*	American Tree Sparrow: 1,2,3 - t
Downy Woodpecker: 1,2,3 - t	Swamp Sparrow: 1,2 - i
Horned Lark: 1,2,3 - e,o	Song Sparrow: 1,2, - i
Blue Jay: 1,2,3 - e*	Snow Bunting: 1,2,3 - t,o

The hawks are the Goshawk, the only Accipiter on the list (an immature in January 1985), and the Red-tailed Hawk. Red-tails were found in 13 winters on 19 dates; they were always along the marsh border except for two birds by the main dike and the main ditch in December 1974.

Rock Doves are characteristic of farmsteads and villages adjoining the marsh; rarely they penetrate the marsh, e.g. six by cabins formerly located on Steamboat Island along the main ditch in January 1956. I found the Mourning Dove at the marsh edge in 2 winters and on a small island about a half-mile into the marsh in another winter.

My only record for the Red-bellied Woodpecker, a male, was in a woodlot with numerous dead elms at the marsh edge in January 1973. The Hairy Woodpecker was noted in 8 winters on 11 dates, always in wooded areas along the marsh edge except for one on an island approximately a half-mile into the marsh in February 1955.

Groups of a half-dozen or so Horned Larks sometimes frequent the marsh border, and occasionally this species flies over the marsh.

Single individuals or small groups of Blue Jays were found in 14 winters on 22 dates, only at the marsh edge except for one in wooded areas west of the main ditch in January 1972. Crows sometimes fly over the marsh, but otherwise they frequent only the marsh border, either singly or in small groups.

One or several White-breasted Nuthatches were noted in 11 winters on 17 dates, always in wooded areas bordering the marsh.

The Brown Creeper was found just once, the American Robin twice, and the Golden-crowned Kinglet once.

The Starling in 3 winters on 4 dates was noted singly and in small groups over the marsh in late afternoon and at dusk, apparently flying to roosts; otherwise this species was found only at farms and villages along the marsh edge. The House Sparrow, with one exception (a male singing in a large cottonwood at the eastern end of the main dike in January 1971), was confined to areas with buildings along the marsh periphery.

The Common Grackle was noted at the marsh edge from December into early February in 7 winters on as many dates; on 2 dates, one in December and one in February, this species was found by open water at the western end of Burnett Ditch. My two records for the Rusty Blackbird are from this same area, and my only record for the Brown-headed Cowbird, a group of ten (with a Common Grackle), is from the Rock River along the marsh edge.

With one possible exception (a bird chipping along the main ditch in January 1974; the identification is uncertain), all the Cardinal records, 12 dates in 8 winters, are from the marsh border.

The Dark-eyed Junco was found in 9 winters on 12 dates, usually in groups of less than a half-dozen. This species was restricted to the edge, except for one bird on an island about a half-mile into the marsh in December 1969.

The Evening Grosbeak and the Purple Finch were rare and restricted to the edge.

Nine species were found only in the marsh interior: Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Tundra Swan, Mallard and Common Goldeneye, Snowy Owl, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

Four of these species, namely Great Blue Heron, Tundra Swan, Mallard and Common Goldeneye, were found only in December in association with open water. Another, the Snowy Owl, was found only once (two birds) in February 1955.

The American Bittern may occasionally overwinter in the marsh. Two single birds on 7 February 1980, for example, appeared to be healthy; they definitely were capable of normal flight.

I found a Marsh Wren in 4 winters on 5 dates, namely, December 1969, December 1971 and January 1972, December 1974, and February 1980. It too, like the bittern, occasionally may overwinter.

The Swamp Sparrow was found on 3 dates in as many winters (twice in December and once in January) in cattails, cattails and sedges, and cattails with smartweed (*Polygonum*). The Song Sparrow was found once in December and once in January in the same winter in different cattail stands.

Fifteen species ranged over the marsh edge and interior: Canada Goose, five raptors, Ring-necked Pheasant, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped



Chickadee, Northern Shrike, Red-winged Blackbird, two finches, American Tree Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

The Canada Goose was found in 8 winters, mainly in December. According to federal and state personnel at Horicon Marsh, it would be rare for geese to overwinter within the marsh proper.

The raptors that ranged over the marsh edge and interior were the Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Great Horned Owl and Short-eared Owl. The Kestrel and Great Horned Owl were each found on only one date, but the others were encountered more often. The Rough-legged Hawk was found in 13 winters on 22 dates, usually 1-3 birds; the marsh hawk was located in 4 winters on 5 dates (22 January was my latest date), 1-3 birds; and the Short-eared Owl was noted in 9 winters on 12 dates, usually 1-2 birds. Short-ears shelter in white pine groves and spruce plantations along the marsh edge, e.g. by Swan Road, and one was found in a wood duck box on an island near the marsh edge.

Pheasants were found in the middle of the marsh, along the main dike, the marsh edge, and by the DNR headquarters, usually 1-2 birds (up to 12). This species was noted eating apples, burdock seeds, and corn.

In contrast to the Hairy Woodpecker, the Downy Woodpecker occurs throughout the marsh, e.g. woodlots along the periphery, wooded islands, and trees along the main ditch. Both sexes penetrate the marsh, e.g. a pair on Steamboat Island in the middle of the marsh in January 1974. From 1-8, usually 3, were found in 13 winters on 21 dates.

Chickadees were noted singly and in groups of 2-9 (average, 3) in all 16 winters on 27 dates.

Shrikes were found in 9 winters on 12 dates; numbers varied from 1-5, usually 1-2. Impaled meadow voles sometimes announced the shrike's presence before the actual sighting of the species.

Red-wings may overwinter occasionally, although it is difficult to determine where a given flock flying over the marsh at dusk is going to roost. This species was located in 9 winters on 11 dates.

The Common Redpoll was noted on 5 dates in 3 winters, and the American Goldfinch on 6 dates in 5 winters.

The largest groups (e.g. several hundred) of Tree Sparrows were found in weedy fields and food patches at the marsh perimeter; typically only small groups or single birds were encountered in the marsh interior. This species was found in 15 winters on 21 dates.

Snow Buntings were found in 3 winters on 4 dates. A group of fifteen in cattails was startled into flight at dusk by a shrike on one occasion.

Finally, two species, the Bald Eagle (one record) and the Herring Gull (two records in two different Decembers), were noted flying over the marsh and apparently not using it in any direct way.

The winter marsh can be an exciting place. On most dates I encountered from 1-3 hawks, but on 21 December 1973 it was different: Mike Mossman, Terry Rich and I counted at least 4 Red-tails, at least 6, probably 9 or 10 Rough-legs, and 4 Harriers. All through the day there usually were at least several hawks in view at any given time, and at dusk 3 Short-eared Owls circled overhead. The high number of raptors reflected a high number of meadow voles; it was by far the most vole sign and the greatest number of

voles that I have seen in Horicon Marsh. Terry Rich and I returned 18 days later to find considerably less vole sign and correspondingly less raptor activity, although at least 10 hawks still were hunting over the marsh.

One of the dramatic changes in recent years in the marsh, as in so many areas, has been the pronounced increase in White-Tailed Deer numbers. Other mammals commonly encountered (tracks or actual sightings) are the Meadow Vole, Muskrat, Mink and Red Fox. Also found with some regularity are tracks and other sign of the Opossum, Long-tailed Shrew (species?), Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Otter, Weasel (species?), and, mainly, along the edge, Cottontail Rabbit, White-footed Mouse, Fox Squirrel, and Gray Squirrel.



**Figure 5. Horicon Marsh in winter: late afternoon shadows, with fox tracks.**

The marsh stirs many memories. One evening a Short-eared Owl with luminous orange eyes flew by, softly, so softly that it made me wonder what it would be like to be a vole, crouching in my burrow amid the cattails or shuffling through my runway in the snow to suddenly feel pin-pricks, sharp and piercing, and then, eternal darkness.

Horicon Marsh is a large bowl into which water and nutrients seep, and life responds; so can a human enter the marsh, and respond. One is exposed to patterns in snow, colors in ice, winds that benumb and winds that caress, creakings of cattails and sedges (and of clothes and boots), the raucous calls of jays and the gently tinkling notes of Tree Sparrows, deer bounding from cover and kicking up puffs of snow, cattails glowing warm brown in the late day, afterglow edging leaden skies.

But as I recall my winter journeys in Horicon Marsh, I'm especially reminded of that time when the land was haunted with fog. As Walt Whitman expressed it, we should follow these continual lessons of water, air, earth. One wonders then what it would be like to be reincarnated as fog, exploring new textures and odors, appearing, disappearing, then reappearing again, an eternal changeling in sensory journey over the land.

Devil's Lake State Park  
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# Status of the Red-necked Grebe on Rush Lake, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

By Bruce A. Eichhorst

On 1 December 1982, the Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) was added to Wisconsin's threatened species list. The Red-necked Grebe is considered a rare nester in Wisconsin, with Rush Lake, in Winnebago County, supporting the largest known breeding population (Mossman 1983). During the spring and summer of 1983, while conducting other research at Rush Lake, I was able to collect data which allowed me to estimate the Red-necked Grebe population nesting there.

## Study Area and Methods

Rush Lake can be classified as either a class IV or V wetland (Stewart and Kantrud 1971). The lake has an area of 1242 ha and a maximum depth of 150 cm. Over 70 percent of the lake is less than 90 cm deep.

Almost 100 percent of the lake basin is vegetated. Emergent vegetation consists of hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus* Muhl.) and two species of cattail (*Typha lotifolia* L and *T. angustifolia* L.). The predominant species of submergent vegetation are stonewort (*Chara* sp.) and sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus* L.), each of which occurs over approximately 50 percent of the open-water portion of the lake (Alger 1974). Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.), coontail (*Ceratophyllum* sp.), and common bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris* L.) are also present.

I systematically searched the lake in a johnboat for nests. The entire lake was never searched in a single day. Any Red-necked Grebe-built structure was considered a nest if it contained at least one egg. At each nest-site I recorded the type of emergent vegetation and the number of eggs. Eggs were numbered with a pencil to ensure long term identification. Each nest-site was marked by placing a metal rimmed tag, bearing the nest number, on a willow stake nearby.

I revisited nests on an irregular basis, with the number of revisits ranging from 0 to 9. I classified the fate of each nest as successful, unsuccessful, owl-killed or unknown. Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), will kill incubating Red-necked Grebes. The carcass is left on the nest and consumed over a period of several days until only the wings and some feathers remain. During one visit I found the fresh remains of a decapitated grebe lying belly up on a nest. Otto (1983) reported finding two decapitated Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) during a study of that species on Rush Lake. American Coot (*Fulica americana*) are also preyed upon at Rush Lake (Bett 1983).

I observed broods whenever possible and noted the number of young present.

## Results and Discussion

I located 138 nests from 17 May to 18 July. Of these, I determined that 46 were successful, 54 unsuccessful, and that 9 nests were predated by Great Horned Owls. I classified the other 29 nests as unknown fate.

I located 103 nests in hardstem bulrush, 22 nests in cattail, and 10 nests in mixed vegetation. Three nests were located in open water.

I feel that the overriding factor in selection of nest-sites was available substrate. Hardstem bulrush is subject to degradation by spring storms and therefore, few residual stands are available to the grebes in May (Bett 1983).

Nests built in May were usually located in areas with some sort of substrate available just below the water's surface. Some nests were found built adjacent to duck-hanging blinds. One nest was constructed on two pieces of wood floating on the water.

Water depth is most likely another important factor; however, I did not measure water depth at any nest-sites. Otto (1983) found that the water depth and emergent vegetation were the two overriding factors in the selection of nest-sites by Pied-billed Grebes on Rush Lake.

The first young Red-necked Grebe I observed was in a nest on 2 June. I took counts of the number of young in 21 broods from 17 June to 2 August (Table 1). The average number of young in one parent broods (2.0) was lower than for two parent broods (2.6). Monro (1941) in a study of Red-necked Grebes in British Columbia found an average of 1.5 young in one parent broods and 1.9 young in two parent broods.

**Table 1. Red-necked Grebe brood counts from 17 June to 2 August 1983.**

Date Brood Observed	Number Of Adults With Brood	Number Of Young In Brood
17 June	1	2
18 June	1	1
19 June	1	1
	2	2
24 June	1	2
5 July	1	3
9 July	2	3
	2	3
	2	4
	1	3
13 July	1	2
14 July	1	1
18 July	1	3
	1	3
25 July	2	2
	1	1
	2	1
	1	3
	1	1
8 August	2	3

I estimate that a minimum of 55 pair of Red-necked Grebes nested on Rush Lake in 1983. This number is derived by adding the 46 successful and the 9 owl-predatored nests. The 29 nests with unknown fates may represent some additional pairs, but how many is not known. Also, I probably missed some nests on the lake.

Red-necked Grebes are known to construct numerous nests (Speirs et. al. 1944 and Chamberlin 1977). Speirs et. al. (1944) observed one pair that constructed 7 nests, of which 5 contained eggs. Therefore any estimate of the Rush Lake population based on a limited number of nest counts may be unreliable.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources's Bureau of Endangered Resources has the responsibility of monitoring the Rush Lake population. It does not have the resources to make a yearly population estimate comparable to mine, therefore, a cost-effective and accurate method needs to be devised.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mike Mossman for his genuine interest in the Red-necked Grebe population on Rush Lake. David Strohmeier provided valuable comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript. Grammatical editing was done by Jean Patterson.

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# House Finch in Wisconsin: What Does the Future Hold?

By Noel J. Cutright

I will never forget when the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) first appeared in Ithaca, New York, in the early 1970s. Birders now had a new species to report at the weekly reading of the bird checklist at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. The first birds took up residence in evergreens and the ivy-covered walls at the city's water treatment plant. City workers in the plant became accustomed to people sitting in their cars and looking with binoculars toward the building. The population growth of the House Finch in Ithaca over the last decade has been paralleled in many locations throughout the Northeast and is now occurring in the Upper Midwest. What is the future of the House Finch in Wisconsin?

## Establishment in New York

House Finches became established for the first time in eastern North America from cage birds released near New York City about 1940 (Elliott and Arbib 1953). The species first nested at Babylon, Long Island in 1943. Elliott and Arbib estimated the population at 280 individuals by 1951. In 1953, House Finches were seen on four New York and one Connecticut Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) (Mundinger and Hope 1982).

## Population Growth in the Northeast

Bock and Lepthien (1976) using CBC data showed that the change in abundance of eastern House Finches from 1962 through 1971 was nearly tenfold. This overall increase was not continuous and is even more spectacular when population declines between 1966 and 1968 and again in 1971 are considered.

A common pattern of House Finch spread, which also was exhibited by the European Starling (*Sturnis vulgaris*) (Wing 1943), is that the breeding range catches up to the winter range after a lag of a few years. Some winter stragglers remain at feeding stations into late spring, and a few years later evidence of nesting appears. There are exceptions, such as Buffalo, New York, where suggestive evidence of nesting appeared the same year that House Finches first arrived in the area (Mundinger and Hope 1982).

Range expansion in the House Finch involves two related processes, diffusion and jump-dispersals (Mundinger and Hope 1982). Although some compass directions were favored more than others, House Finches gradually radiated out in all possible directions from its New York City core area. During the 1960s and 1970s, jump-dispersals likewise occurred in all possible directions with the smallest distance measured using CBC data being about 17 miles and the longest jump being 142 miles. Jump-dispersals establish satellite locales that often increase in size in successive years. These core and satellite areas eventually merge, resulting in an enlarged core area. Certain directions or routes do appear to be favored in this outward spread. Coast-lines, major river valleys, and areas where towns and cities are most prevalent appear to be important factors enhancing spread. Mundinger and Hope (1982) estimate that there has been a thousand-fold increase in area over a 30-year period.

## Eastern vs. Western Birds

Based on examination of specimens of the House Finch taken in the eastern states, Aldrich and Weske (1978) concluded that this population is descended from California stock but has differentiated from it in color and size

since liberation in the east. The change in size (smaller legs and feet) and color (relatively dark and grayish brown coloration in both sexes and dusky red coloration in males) took place rapidly. This rapid evolutionary change after introduction and spread into new environments parallels the case of the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) (Johnston and Selander 1964).

More recently, Aldrich (1982) examined a large series of specimens and found several significant differences between the eastern population and the parental California stock. These include shorter wings and tails in the eastern population, which may be correlated with a more moist climate; shorter legs and toes, which suggest an adaptation to a colder climate or to feeding from perches rather than on the ground; and increase in bill size, which may be an adaptation to greater size of food items. The new eastern population apparently depends heavily in winter on food provided at feeders where sunflower seeds are preferred.

Undoubtedly, these feeding stations also have been significant in the survival and rapid expansion of the eastern population. Sprenkle and Blem (1984) showed that the eastern race of the House Finch tolerates low winter temperatures very poorly. Foods high in lipid, including sunflower seed, are more efficiently used and cold tolerance is enhanced by these high-lipid foods. A larger bill size should permit a greater efficiency of handling the sunflowers, which are larger than the small weed seeds typically used by California House Finches (Aldrich 1982).

#### **Relationship with the House Sparrow**

Kricher (1983), using CBC information, found that House Finch numbers increased and House Sparrow numbers decreased in a highly correlative manner in the five northeastern states examined (NJ, PA, NY, CT, and MA). However, House Sparrows also are decreasing, although more slowly in four southern states (LA, SC, AR, and GA) that have not yet been invaded by the eastern House Finch. Thus, several independent factors may simultaneously be acting against House Sparrows; the House Finch may be one factor in the northeast.

#### **Spread into the Upper Midwest**

**Ohio** - The first record was 1972, with first breeding documented in 1977. In summer 1979, birds were reported in three locations with a maximum of 30 at one site. In fall 1980, 160 were banded in Loraine; 403 were banded at this location in fall 1981. By 1981, birds were regular in all sections of the state.

**Kentucky** - Flocks of up to 30 birds were reported at feeders in winter 1978. By winter 1980, birds were reported from five separate locations, with a maximum of 180 at a single site. By 1982, House Finches had reached the western part of the state, and in 1983 were continuing to increase throughout the state.

**Michigan** - Michigan's first House Finch was observed and subsequently banded in April 1976. Three singing males were banded in August 1976. By fall 1981, they were present in five counties and were present on six 1981 CBCs. By winter 1982, birds were present at 21 locations in nine counties, including Western Michigan, with a maximum of 20 individuals at one location. In winter 1983, 93 individuals were tallied on 11 CBCs.

**Indiana** - The first sighting occurred in March 1976. By fall 1981, birds were at four sites with a maximum of 14 at one location. In summer 1982, nesting occurred at four locations, and by winter 1983 the largest flocks numbered about 25. As noted in **American Birds**, the House Finch has nearly conquered the state.

**Illinois** - The first state record was in 1971. Only one or two birds were reported annually from 1975 through 1980. Birds were noted at two sites in spring 1981. Nesting first occurred in summer 1982 and birds reached Springfield. By winter 1983, a major push seemed imminent with 1-4 birds at six locations.

**Missouri** - Spring 1978 saw the first House Finch reported. The second record did not occur until winter 1982. First breeding occurred in summer 1983, and seven birds were present in St. Louis in fall 1983.

**Iowa** - The first, second, and third records (all males) were reported in summer 1982 from widely separated regions in the state. The first female was sighted in fall 1982. Three additional sightings were reported in 1983.

**Minnesota** - The first fully documented House Finch appeared in November 1980. The second and third records occurred in winter 1983, with two additional sightings made in spring 1984.

**Wisconsin** - The House Finch has not been officially added to the Wisconsin state list. Four hypothetical records exist with the first occurring in 1972. The second sighting was reported from Madison in February 1977. A male was photographed in Cedarburg (Ozaukee County) during its two-day visit in March 1983 (*Passenger Pigeon* 46: 46-48).

Western birds also are apparently moving eastward. There have been recent records from North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and eastern Kansas.

### Summary

It is only a matter of time before the House Finch becomes a permanent part of Wisconsin's avifauna. It will undoubtedly become a breeding species in the state and will help brighten our CBCs. It should be more numerous in the southern half of the state but could be a permanent resident wherever a dependable supply of sunflower seeds can be found throughout Wisconsin's harsh winters.

And how is the House Finch faring in Ithaca, New York, which is about the same latitude as Kenosha? Figure 1 shows the growth in the wintering population in Ithaca from 1973 through 1984 as measured by annual changes in the number of House Finches observed on Christmas Bird Counts. Numbers of House Sparrows also are plotted for a comparison.

So, study all the field marks in your field guides, and let us do an excellent job of documenting the spread and population change in the House Finch in Wisconsin. Let us keep an eye on House Sparrow populations to see if we can document a depressing effect of the House Finch on House Sparrow populations.

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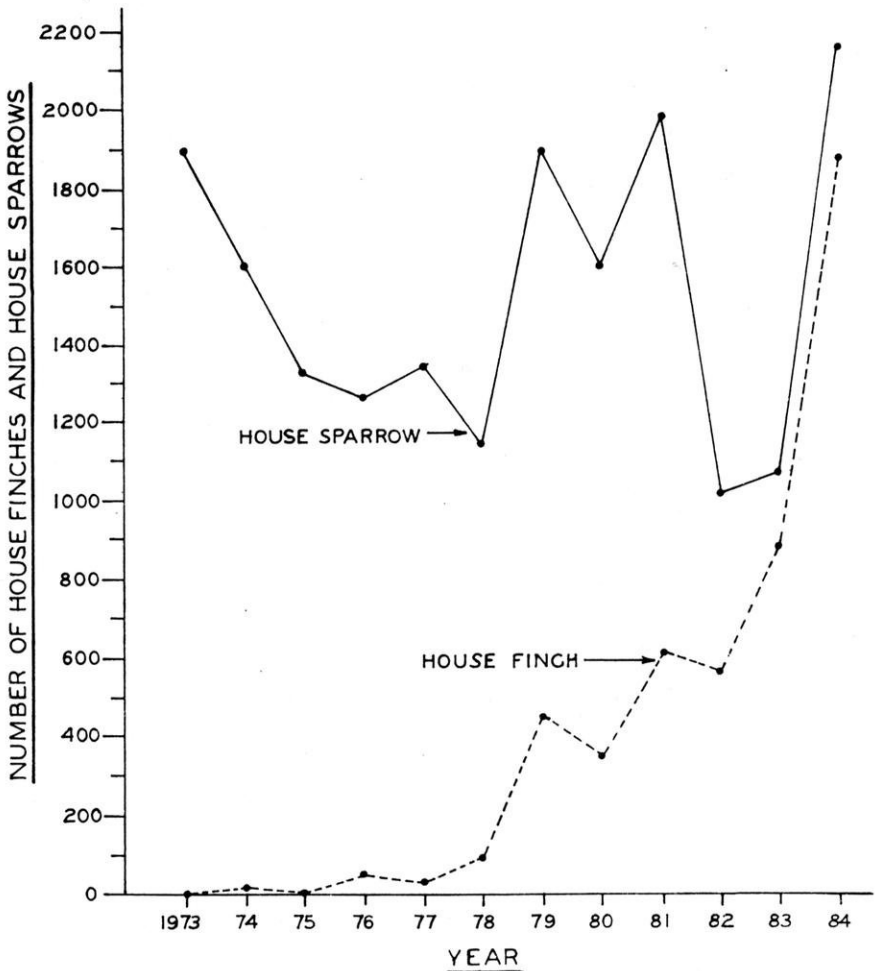
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3352 Knollwood  
West Bend, WI 53095

**Figure 1. Numbers of House Finches and House Sparrows observed on the Ithaca, New York Christmas Bird Count 1973-1984.**



## Rare Bird Alerts\*

Reprinted from *Birding*, April, 1984

*(\*This represents our most current list. There may be errors, omissions, and/or changes that we don't know about. If you have information that would make this a more complete and accurate list, please let us hear from you.)*

### ALASKA

Statewide (907) 274-9152

### ALABAMA

### ARIZONA

Tucson (602) 881-9464 (-WING)

### ARKANSAS

### CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles (213) 874-1318

Monterey (408) 899-3030

San Bernardino (714) 793-5599

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Denver (303) 759-1060

### CONNECTICUT

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### DELAWARE

Statewide (301) 652-1088

Statewide (215) 567-2473

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Districtwide (301) 652-1088

### FLORIDA

Statewide (305) 644-0190

### GEORGIA

Atlanta (404) 321-6079

### IDAHO

### ILLINOIS

Central Illinois (217) 785-1083

Chicago (312) 675-8466

### INDIANA

### IOWA

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### KANSAS

Statewide (316) 343-7061

### KENTUCKY

### LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge (504) 343-7773

New Orleans (504) 246-2473

(-BIRD)

### MAINE

Statewide (207) 781-2332

### MARYLAND

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Western Mass. (413) 569-6926

### MICHIGAN

Detroit/Windsor (313) 592-1811

### MINNESOTA

Statewide (612) 544-5016

Duluth (218) 525-5952

### MISSISSIPPI

### MISSOURI

Statewide (314) 449-7938

### MONTANA

### NEVADA

### NEBRASKA

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Mondays, Tuesdays, & Fridays  
from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.;

Saturdays & Sundays - 24 Hours

### NEW JERSEY

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Cape May (609) 884-2626

### NEW MEXICO

### NEW YORK

Albany (518) 377-9600

Buffalo (716) 896-1271

New York (212) 832-6523

Rochester (716) 461-9593

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### NORTH DAKOTA

Charlotte (703) 875-2525

### OHIO

Southwestern Ohio (513) 277-6446

Cleveland (216) 696-8186

and (216) 861-2447

Columbus (614) 221-9736 (-WREN)

Blendon Woods Metro Park:

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Toledo (419) 867-9765

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### OREGON

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Philadelphia (215) 567-2473  
and (301) 652-1088

**RHODE ISLAND**

Providence (401) 521-4252  
Thursdays & Fridays after 5:00  
and anytime during weekends.

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**TENNESSEE**

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Rio Grande Valley (512) 565-6773  
Texas Coast (713) 821-2846  
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**WASHINGTON**

Statewide (206) 624-2854

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**NOVA SCOTIA**

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Windsor/Detroit (313) 592-1811

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

**QUEBEC**

**SASKATCHEWAN**

**YUKON**

*Save the  
Wetlands  
for the  
Cranes*

**Mary and  
Charlie Nelson**



# Red-tailed Hawk

By Carol Rudy

On the morning of February 16, 1985, my husband, Martin and I were travelling west on State Highway 33 between Portage and Baraboo. About a mile east of the Baraboo River Bridge, I spotted a large white raptor sitting in a tree at the edge of the woods near the road.

Anticipating a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea sandiaca*), we stopped the car about 500 feet from the bird, but when I got my binoculars on the subject I was surprised to see that it was a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The hawk had its back toward us, so we could not see the breast, but the back was nearly all white with occasional dark brown feathers scattered throughout the plumage; the crown and back of the head were tawny brown, and the wingtips were dark, but the tail was the normal bright rufous red. The total effect was extremely beautiful. After studying the bird for several minutes, I tried to sketch my impression of the bird, but it then flew farther into the woods where we could still see it through the trees until we drove away.



W 3866 Hwy. H  
Chilton, WI 53014

## Bald Eagle - Osprey Nesting Season Report U.S. Forest Service - Eastern Region

1984

Breeding activities of bald eagles and ospreys on Eastern Region National Forests were monitored for the 22nd consecutive year. Aerial surveys to determine activity at nest sites were accomplished in April and May. All nests where breeding activity occurred were visited again close to fledging time in July to count the number of young eagles and ospreys.

### Bald Eagle Gains and Losses

Forty-five nests were discovered or otherwise added to the inventory in 1984. An equal number were removed. The total number of known eagle

nests now stands at 458. Thirteen breeding areas were removed from the records and 11 new breeding areas were added. A breeding area is an area of land that supports the known or inferred presence of a mated, territorial pair of birds. In 1984 there were 294 of these on National Forests of the Great Lakes States.

### Breeding Success

The early survey revealed that 218 breeding areas were occupied by adult eagles sitting on their nests. This was only four less than last year but numbers of successful nestings and numbers of young produced dropped off somewhat from last year's record high levels. Regional nest success was 64% and number of young per attempted nesting was 1.06. Two hundred and thirty-one young were fledged.

### Osprey

Osprey nests are more difficult to inventory than are eagle nests. This year's survey resulted in a net loss of 12 nests. Two hundred and forty-eight pairs were observed nesting. One hundred and twenty-five of these (50%) were successful. Production of young was .9 per active nest but 222 young were fledged.

Year 1984

BALD EAGLE NESTING STATUS  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

FOREST AND STATE	VERIFIED 1983	NESTS 1984	BREEDING AREAS OBSERVED	OCCUPIED NESTS	SUCCESSFUL NESTS	YOUNG PRODUCED
Ottawa	74	75	45	29	15	22
Hiawatha	12	11	12	5	2	4
Huron-Manistee	16	15	15	10	5	9
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>
Chequamegon	32	33	22	16	14	22
Nicolet	38	39	23	16	11	17
<b>WISCONSIN</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>
Superior	73	82	64	50	29	47
Chippewa	214	203	117	92	64	110
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>REGION TOTALS:</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>231</b>

BALD EAGLE NESTING TRENDS  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

YEAR	VERIFIED NESTS	TOTAL BREEDING AREAS	OCCUPIED NESTS		SUCCESSFUL NESTS		YOUNG		
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	Per Successful Nest	Per Occupied Nest
1964	156		64	50	36	56	51	1.4	.80
1965	204		113	63	62	55	88	1.4	.78
1966	265		113	57	46	40	67	1.7	.59
1967	304		110	53	42	38	63	1.5	.57
1968	323		119		66	55	98	1.9	.82
1969	344	166	129	78	72	56	109	1.5	.85
1970	294	189	124	66	64	52	107	1.7	.86
1971	327	188	128	68	77	56	115	1.5	.83
1972	356	238	167	70	97	58	155	1.6	.93
1973	382	264	171	65	99	58	163	1.6	.95
1974	381	257	170	66	89	52	119	1.3	.70
1975	398	285	176	62	117	67	192	1.6	1.09
1976	414	260	178	68	126	71	187	1.5	1.05
1977	421	265	197	75	138	70	212	1.5	1.08
1978	435	264	192	73	127	66	202	1.6	1.05
1979	432	269	188	70	132	70	222	1.7	1.18
1980	456	282	192	68	136	71	235	1.7	1.22
1981	458	277	202	73	140	69	223	1.6	1.10
1982	446	288	202	70	136	67	220	1.6	1.09
1983	459	296	222	75	148	67	257	1.7	1.16
1984	458	294	218	74	140	64	231	1.7	1.06

Year 1984

OSPREY NESTING STATUS

U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

FOREST AND STATE	VERIFIED 1983	NESTS 1984	BREEDING AREAS OBSERVED	OCCUPIED NESTS	SUCCESSFUL NESTS	YOUNG PRODUCED
Ottawa	17	13	12	11	4	5
Hiawatha	26	25	25	20	12	25
Huron-Manistee	0	-	-	-	-	-
MICHIGAN	43	38	37	31	16	30
Chequamegon	5	4	4	4	1	2
Nicolet	33	28	26	14	8	18
WISCONSIN	38	32	30	18	9	20
Superior	100	109	100	74	47	78
Chippewa	176	164	160	125	53	94
MINNESOTA	276	273	260	199	100	172
REGION TOTALS:	357	343	327	248	125	222



**FIND THIS  
BIRD  
ONLY IN  
RACINE**

**W.H. PUGH OIL CO., Racine, WI**

OSPREY NESTING TRENDS  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION

YEAR	VERIFIED NESTS	TERRITORIES OBSERVED	OCCUPIED NESTS		SUCCESSFUL NESTS		YOUNG		
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	Per Successful Nest	Per Occupied Nest
1965	79		37	59	10	27	11	1.1	.30
1966	94		28	45			5	1.3	
1967	137		43	61	12	28	23	1.9	.53
1968	152		73		21	29	27	1.3	.37
1969	183		72		28	39	55	2.0	.76
1970	157	93	84	90	42	50	74	1.8	.88
1971	140		66		34	52	55	1.6	.83
1972	205	130	111	85	59	53	97	1.6	.87
1973	226	154	127	82	21	38*	36	1.7	.65*
1974	252	140	140	100	73	52	118	1.6	.84
1975	238	157	115	73	59	51	102	1.7	.97
1976	249	154	117	76	70	60	120	1.7	1.03
1977	254	197	159	81	89	56	147	1.7	.92
1978	316	193	144	75	63	44	84	1.3	.58
1979	303	304	194	64	104	54	176	1.7	.91
1980	305	308	224	73	136	61	262	1.9	1.17
1981	307	314	220	70	112	51	192	1.7	.87
1982	320	294	217	70	141	65	229	1.6	1.06
1983	357	321	208	65	126	61	207	1.6	1.00
1984	343	327	248	76	125	50	222	1.8	.90

\* Chippewa NF incomplete data excluded from calculations.



# FIELD

# NOTES



## The Summer Season

June 1 - July 31, 1984

Tom Soulen

The summer offered little in the way of temperature extremes. Several observers expressed relief that conditions were not as hot as they had been last year. As might be expected, July was warmer than June. There were no extended stretches of either very hot or very cool weather; rather, most weeks had days of low temperatures in the 40's (and even the low 30's on July 7, with frost at Harrison) in some northern areas, as well as days in the high 80's or into the 90's. High rainfall amounts, especially in June, elicited quite a bit of comment. Some storms were severe, with hail, high winds, and occasional tornadoes. While early summer, even into July, saw heavy rain in many regions--3 inches per week was not uncommon, and 3-5 inches fell within a 24-hour period in several areas--rainfall became more spotty later in the season, and some parts of the state became dry. Earlier, however, farmers in many areas were delayed by fields that were too wet, and some commented that water levels were the highest they had been in 4-5 years.

The cool temperatures at the end of May and into June were paralleled by quite a few late migrants in a number of locations. There were the usual straggling spring shorebird and passerine migrants; some lingered until the middle or even almost the end of June, by which time returning shorebirds were beginning to appear. There was little evidence of fall passerine migration before the end of July.

Overall, 250 species were reported during the season; 128 of them are included in the seasonal summary below. An additional 90 species common and widespread enough to be found in more than 25 counties are omitted from this report. The remaining 32 species, usually noted in 10-25 counties, are listed here, with the number of counties in which each was observed given in parentheses: Double-crested Cormorant (17), Least Bittern (21), Great Egret (17), Canada Goose (22), Green-winged Teal (14), American Black Duck (15), Redhead (11), Ring-necked Duck (10), Hooded Merganser (19), Ruddy Duck (11), Osprey (17), Bald Eagle (11), Sharp-shinned Hawk (13), Cooper's Hawk (12), Ring-necked Pheasant (24), Northern Bobwhite (11), Virginia Rail (20), Common Moorhen (14), American Coot (21), Upland Sandpiper (24), Common Snipe (24), American Woodcock (23), Bonaparte's Gull (11), Herring Gull (21), Caspian Tern (13), Common Tern (12), Forster's Tern (13), Screech Owl (10), Winter Wren (16), Blue-winged Warbler (16), Golden-winged Warbler (21), and Northern Parula (11).

Several rarities are worthy of note. Perhaps most unusual was a brightly colored male of the Audubon's form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler that spent a little over a day in mid-June near the home of Dan Minkelige in Kaukauna; his family was treated to excellent views of this rare visitor to Wisconsin. From La Crosse Co. came the state's third Least Tern record in as many summers, with a bird seen very well on June 14 by Fred Leshner. Finally, Charles Sontag increased the small number of acceptable Wisconsin records of the Laughing Gull with his observation of a bird in Manitowoc from June into early July.

As yet, relatively few observers comment on changes in abundance of even some species. With the scant information submitted, it can be reported that at least 3 individuals found each of the following to be present in lower than usual numbers: Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Pheasant, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Tern, both cuckoos, Red-eyed Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, Boblink, and both meadowlarks. Again, the American Goldfinch was identified as being more common than usual by 3 observers. Although it may have been partly--if not entirely--due to greater activity and/or greater numbers of observers, it seemed that some species of more southern distribution in the state were reported from more localities than usual this summer.

For the second year in a row, 71 observers submitted reports for the period, sustaining the highest level of coverage the state has received in summer in a number of years, perhaps ever. While some counties were the scene of more field work than usual, six were not mentioned by any contributors: Calumet, Juneau, Kenosha, Rusk, Sawyer and Wood. Again this year, several observers submitted extensive information on nests and breeding behavior of quite a variety of species. If they continue, and if others add this sometimes difficult but always interesting activity to their field work, there will be the possibility for an enormous increase in our knowledge of Wisconsin's summer resident birds.

Here are the details of the summer season:

**Common Loon:** Summered at Devil's Lake, Sauk Co., with as many as 3 individuals present (Lange, the Leglers, Swengel). Also present most of the summer in Monroe Co. (Epstein). Noted in 22 counties overall.

**Horned Grebe:** A single bird appeared July 5 in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Noted in St. Croix Co. throughout the period (Evrard; evidence of breeding), in Burnett Co. through June 27 (Hoefler, Peterson), in Columbia Co. July 30 (Mueller; 1 adult, 2 young), and in Winnebago Co. at least through July 14 (Mossman), with 113 birds and 45 eggs on June 11 (Ziebell) and 40 birds on June 28 (Idzikowski).

**Eared Grebe:** Two were seen in Winnebago Co. June 1-20 (Ziebell).

**American White Pelican:** One bird appeared again in Winnebago Co. July 13-24 (Anita Carpenter, Ziebell), and 4 individuals were reported in the Ashland-Bayfield area July 28-31 (fied Verch).

**Cattle Egret:** Reported from 3 counties: Brown throughout the period (Cleary, Columban), Dodge July 7 (Tessen) and Manitowoc June 8 (Sontag).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** Noted only in these 8 counties: Brown, Dodge, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, St. Croix and Winnebago

**Tundra Swan:** Very unusual were 3 birds in Burnett Co. June 25 (Hoefler).

**Mute Swan:** The only report outside the Ashland-Bayfield-Iron Co. area came from Brown Co. June 11-30 (Cleary, Columban).

**Snow Goose:** Single individuals were seen in Burnett Co. June 11 (Hoefler) and Winnebago Co. June 12 (Tessen).

- Northern Pintail:** Noted only in these counties: Ashland-Bayfield (Verch), Burnett June 15 (Peterson), Columbia July 14 (Tessen), Dodge (Jeff Baughman), and Outagamie June 15 (Anderson, Prickette).
- Northern Shoveler:** Reported from these counties: Barron, Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Dodge, Manitowoc, Racine, St. Croix and Winnebago.
- Gadwall:** There were observations in a few more counties than in recent summers: Ashland-Bayfield, Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Manitowic, Marquette, Milwaukee, Oconto and Winnebago.
- American Wigeon:** Noted in Ashland-Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Dodge, Douglas, Manitowoc and Marathon Counties.
- Canvasback:** Ashland (Leshner), Dodge (Mueller, Theissen), Monroe (Epstein) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties provided the only reports.
- Greater Scaup:** Recorded in Manitowoc Co. June 2 (Tessen) and Winnebago Co. June 11 (Ziebell).
- Lesser Scaup:** All 8 counties in which this species was noted are northern or eastern.
- Common Goldeneye:** There were no observations of this species this season.
- Bufflehead:** Reported early in June in the Ashland-Bayfield area (Verch) and until June 16 in Winnebago Co. (Ziebell).
- Common Merganser:** Recorded in only 3 counties: Forest June 3 and Vilas June 4 (Reardon) and Iron (Butterbrodt).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Reported from Ashland-Bayfield (Verch), Door (the Lukes) and Oneida (the Engbergs) Counties.
- Turkey Vulture:** A nest was located in Clark Co. July 31 (Don Follen, Mossman). Observed in 34 counties overall.
- Northern Goshawk:** Noted again in Milwaukee Co., on June 14 (Woodmansee). Other reports came from these counties: Burnett July 9 (Dempsey), Door (the Lukes), Forest July 8 (Reardon) and Shawano (2 nests found by Ron Ackley, fide Peterson).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** The northernmost of the 20 counties reporting were Forest (Reardon), Marinette (Lindberg), Shawano (Peterson, Tessen) and Taylor (Robbins).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** The southernmost of the 28 counties reporting were Dane (Soulen), Fond du Lac and Washington (Jeff Baughman), Monroe (Epstein), Sauk (Cederstrom) and Waukesha (Bielefeldt; at least 2 pair).
- Merlin:** Noted in these 3 counties: Jackson July 4 (Harmer), Iron (Butterbrodt) and Vilas (Green).
- Gray Partridge:** Observed in Brown, Dodge, Manitowoc, St. Croix, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth and Waupaca Counties.
- Spruce Grouse:** One male was observed in Vilas Co. July 14 (Hoffman).
- Greater Prairie Chicken:** Reported only from Burnett Co. (Hoefler)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Noted in Burnett Co. (many observers) and in Taylor Co. on June 26 (Robbins).
- Wild Turkey:** Only 2 reports, from Marinette Co. (Lindbert) and Jackson Co. (Harmer).
- Yellow Rail:** This species was found in Vilas Co. July 14 (Hoffman).
- King Rail:** Noted in these 3 counties: Columbia (the Leglers), Green Lake (Mossman) and Manitowoc (Mary Donald, Sundell).
- Sandhill Crane:** Recorded in 23 counties overall. Reported peaks included 30 in Burnett Co. July 20 (Hoefler), 41 in Green Lake Co. July 1 (T. Schultz), and 88 in Shawano Co. July 7 (Peterson).
- Black-bellied Plover:** One lingered in Monroe Co. until June 2 (Epstein).
- Semipalmated Plover:** Birds remained until June 9 in Douglas (Johnson) and Oconto (Mossman) Counties. The first fall migrants appeared less than 3 weeks later, in Manitowoc Co. June 28 (Sontag); no other arrivals were noted until July 9-11).
- Piping Plover:** It was reported that several birds were observed on Long Island, Ashland Co., on July 31 (fide Verch).

- Greater Yellowlegs:** A Manitowoc Co. report July 3 (Sontag) was followed by others from Chippewa (Polk) and Dodge (Tessen) Counties July 7.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** The latest spring departures noted were June 2 (Ozaukee Co., Tessen) and 3 (Marquette Co., Mossman). Returning migrants were observed in Dane Co. July 4 (Thiessen), Chippewa Co. July 6 (Polk), and Dodge (Tessen) and Sauk (Lange) Counties July 7, with a number of additional reports within the following week.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** One was still in Chippewa Co. June 5 (Polk). A July 1 bird in Dane Co. (Thiessen) was followed by arrivals in 3 additional counties within the following week.
- Willet:** A sole report was of a single bird in Manitowoc Co. July 9 (Sontag).
- Marbled Godwit:** One individual was in Manitowoc Co. July 9 (Sontag).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** June stragglers were noted in 4 counties, latest in Dane (June 18, Thiessen). There were no July reports except in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag).
- Red Knot:** The only report was of 2 birds in Manitowoc Co. June 7 (Mary Donald, Sundell).
- Sanderling:** Although most departures had occurred by June 8-9, 30 birds were still present June 13 in Manitowoc Co. (Tessen); the first fall arrivals were noted there, also, on July 15 (Broerman, Sontag).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** There were reports from 11 counties in June; the latest were LaCrosse June 14 (Leshner), Dane June 17 (Thiessen), Bayfield June 18 (Swengel) and Manitowoc June 28 (Sontag). The earliest returning birds observed were in Forest Co. July 4 (Mossman), Chippewa Co. July 6 (Polk), Dodge Co. July 7 (Tessen) and Manitowoc Co. July 8 (Sontag).
- Western Sandpiper:** A single bird was noted in Dodge Co. June 2 (Tessen).
- Least Sandpiper:** No June reports. The first fall migrants appeared in Dane Co. July 1 (Thiessen), Manitowoc Co. July 4 (Sontag), Chippewa Co. July 6 (Polk), and Dodge (Tessen) and Sauk (Lange) Counties July 7.
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** There were June reports from only 4 counties, the latest June 16 (Manitowoc, Sontag) and 17 (Dane, Thiessen). Birds had returned to Dodge Co. by July 22 (Tessen) and to Manitowoc Co. by July 29 (Sontag).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** This species was noted in Dane Co. June 6 (Thiessen) and July 25 (Asman), Dodge Co. June 9 and July 22 (Tessen), and Ozaukee Co. June 2 (Tessen).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** A straggler was in Dodge Co. June 9 (Tessen). Birds returned to Dane Co. by June 28 (Thiessen), over a week and a half before they were noted elsewhere.
- Dunlin:** Noted in 5 counties during June, the latest by almost a week on the 15th (Manitowoc, Sontag).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** The earliest returning migrants were recorded in Dodge Co. July 7 (Tessen), Dane Co. July 11 (Freese, Thiessen), and Columbia (Tessen) and Kewaunee (Broerman) Counties July 14. Further July reports came from 3 additional counties: Fond du Lac, LaCrosse and Manitowoc.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** One bird lingered in Dane Co. until June 6 (Thiessen). Birds in Manitowoc Co. July 5 (Sontag) and Dane Co. July 7 (Thiessen) preceded most other reports by one to two weeks.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** The only 2 reports were from Dodge Co. July 10 (Jeff Baughman) and Dane Co. July 11 (Swengel).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Birds were still present June 5 in Taylor Co. (Robbins), June 6 in Dane Co. (Thiessen), and June 7 in Marquette Co. (Mossman). The earliest returning birds were noted in Dane Co. June 28 (Thiessen). Two birds were in Marathon Co. June 22 (the Luepkes). There were July reports from 6 additional counties. Present throughout the period in Marinette Co. (Lindberg).
- Laughing Gull:** Sontag's report of a bird present in Manitowoc Co. through July 2 has been accepted by the Records Committee as one of Wisconsin's first valid reports of this species. It is possible but by no means certain that this individual was the same one seen there in May by a number of observers. See **By the Wayside**.
- Franklin's Gull:** Noted only in these counties: Kewaunee June 2 (Tessen), LaCrosse from June 14 on (Leshner), Manitowoc (many observers, seen last June 24 by Sontag), Milwaukee June 26-30 (Woodmansee, Mueller), Sheboygan June 9-10 (Brasser) and Waukesha July 14 (Woodmansee).

- Little Gull:** Reported throughout the period in Manitowoc Co. by many observers; Sontag noted a peak of 9 there July 3. Recorded also in Kewaunee Co. June 2 (Tessen).
- Common Tern:** Noted in only 12 counties this summer, compared to 17 and 19 in 1982 and 1983. Mossman located 31 active nests in Fond du Lac Co. July 14.
- Least Tern:** One appeared in Wisconsin for the third summer in a row, this time in LaCrosse Co. June 14 (Leshner). Accepted by the Records Committee. See **By the Wayside**.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Among the 35 counties in which this species was recorded were these northern ones: Ashland (Leshner), Bayfield (Mossman), Douglas (Johnson), Iron (Butterbrodt), Marathon (the Luepkes), Marinette (Lindberg) and Price (Hardy).
- Long-eared Owl:** Peterson reported that one was found with a broken wing in Shawano Co. July 11 by Dean Schoenike.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Although this species was noted in 34 counties overall, the only northern ones were Barron in the west (Goff) and Door (the Lukes) and Marinette (Lindberg) in the east.
- Black-backed Woodpecker:** Birds first reported as nesting in May at Stone's Bridge in Douglas Co. continued to be seen in June; unfortunately the old power pole in which they were nesting was cut down on or near July 9, before the young had fledged (Johnson). Also noted in Florence Co. July 4 (Mossman), Forest Co. July 9 (Reardon; adults and at least one young near nest), and Oneida Co. July 15 (Hoffman).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The latest southern observations were those in Sauk Co. June 7 and Columbia Co. June 9 (the Leglers). Further north but not in prime breeding range was an individual in Waupaca Co. June 11 (Tessen).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** There were late migrants in Manitowoc Co. June 7 (Sontag) and Milwaukee Co. June 11 (Woodmansee). A bird was calling in typical spruce-tamarack breeding habitat in Marquette Co. June 6, but it was not possible to determine whether it remained there as a resident (Mossman).
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Recorded in more than the usual number of counties: Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant and Lafayette (Jeff Baughman), Green Lake and Waushara (Mossman), Iowa (the Leglers), Manitowoc (Sontag), Monroe (Epstein), Ozaukee and Waukesha (Bielefeldt), and Sauk (many observers).
- Willow Flycatcher:** Noted in fewer northern counties than is sometimes the case. Most northern of the 29 total were Chippewa (Polk), Clark (the Luepkes), Door (the Lukes), Shawano (Peterson) and Taylor (Robbins).
- Gray Jay:** Observed in these northern counties: Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Price and Vilas.
- Common Raven:** This year the most southern of the 18 reporting counties were Eau Claire (Polk) and Waupaca (Tessen).
- Boreal Chickadee:** Noted in Forest Co. July 8 (T. Schultz), Oneida Co. June 21 (Swengel) and Jul 15 (Hoffman), and Vilas Co. July 12 (Jim Baughman).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Recorded in these counties: Chippewa, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Eau Claire, Grant, Green Lake, Iowa and Trempealeau.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** In addition to reports from 18 northern counties, there were these more southern observations: Dane Co. June 21 (Soulen), Manitowoc Co. through June 14 (Sontag), Milwaukee Co. through July 21 (Woodmansee), and Waukesha Co. June 22-July 9 (at least 2 birds, Bielefeldt).
- Brown Creeper:** Noted in Bayfield, Buffalo, Crawford, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Lincoln, Outagamie, Pierce, Richland, Sauk, Shawano, Vernon and Vilas Counties.
- Caolina Wren:** One was heard and seen June 15 along Dugway Road in Wylasing State Park, Grand Co. (Leshner).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** There were reports from these counties: Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Oneida, Price and Vilas.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** A bird that remained in Manitowoc Co. until June 14 was unusual (Sontag). Reported also from Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Iron and Vilas Counties.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The only non-southern county of the 21 in which this species was observed this year was Shawano (June 18-July 25, Peterson).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Lingered in Taylor Co. Until June 1 (Robbins).

**Swainson's Thrush:** A June 11 report from Milwaukee Co. (Woodmansee) was the latest in the southern part of the state. That considerable numbers of individuals of this species can sometimes migrate late is shown by the 15 found in Manitowoc Co. June 1 (Sontag).

**Hermit Thrush:** Again, Monroe Co. was the most southern of the 15 counties from which this species was reported (Epstein).

**Northern Mockingbird:** A banner year for these, with reports of a pair in June in Chippewa Co. (Kemper, fide Polk), another pair in Door Co. throughout the period, quite possibly nesting (the Lukes), Douglas Co. June 9 (Johnson) and Portage Co. June 30 (the Roberts).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A pair was present in Eau Claire Co. (Paul Blanchard fide Polk); noted also in Door Co. through July 28 (the Lukes) and in Shawano Co. June 18 (Peterson) through July 5 (Tessen), with 2 present June 27.

**White-eyed Vireo:** There were 3 reports: Dane Co. June 21 (Soulen), Green Co. June 14 (the Leglers) and Waukesha Co. June 13 (Broerman).

**Bell's Vireo:** There were June observations in Fond du Lac and Grant (Jeff Baughman), Green Lake (idzikowski), Green and Iowa (the Leglers) and Marquette and Trempeleau (Mossman) Counties. Swengel counted 6 in Governor Dodge State Park June 6.

**Solitary Vireo:** Two birds were found together in Waukesha Co. June 24 (Bielefeldt); there were also reports from 9 counties in the usual more northern range of this species.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Again this year birds were noted in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence and Vilas Counties, as well as in 34 more southern ones.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** One was still in Milwaukee Co. June 1 (Woodmansee).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Of 4 early June reports, those in Dane (Ashman) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties June 4 were the latest. Noted at the Wanoka Lake campground in Bayfield Co. July 30 (Bradley).

**Nashville Warbler:** Observed in early June in Marquette (Mossman), Sauk (the Leglers, Swengel) and Waupaca (Tessen) Counties; the other 20 reporting counties were more northern.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Lingered in Manitowoc Co. until June 1 (Sontag); also noted in 6 northern counties.

**Cape May Warbler:** Reported only from Ashland Co. June 4 (Leshner) and June 18-21 (Swengel), Douglas Co. until June 6 (Johnson), and Vilas Co. June 7 (Jim Baughman).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Noted only in Florence Co. July 4 (Mossman), Marinette Co. throughout the period (Lindberg) and Shawano Co. June 13 (Peterson).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** A June 17 bird in Milwaukee Co. was very late (Woodmansee); other reports came from more usual haunts in 14 northern counties.

**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** A male of this form was present and seen under excellent conditions June 12-13 in Kaukauna, Outagamie Co. (Don Minkebig and family). Accepted by the Records Committee. See **By the Wayside**.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Noted June 2 in Monroe Co. (Epstein), June 24 in Fond du Lac Co. (Jeff Baughman) and until July 11 in Sauk Co. (Swengel), as well as in 15 northern counties.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Still present June 1 in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag). Observed June 27 in Jackson Co. (R.N. Rosenfield, Bielefeldt) and until July 11 in Sauk Co. (Swengel). The remaining 10 counties providing reports were northern.

**Pine Warbler:** Noted in Monroe Co. June 11 (Epstein) and in 4 locations in Waukesha Co. June 22-26 (Bielefeldt), in addition to 11 northern counties.

**Palm Warbler:** Reported from Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Douglas (Johnson) and Oneida (T. Schultz) Counties.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Still present in Manitowoc Co. June 1 (Sontag).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Up to 3 were found in northern Chippewa Co. June 19-24 (Polk); present again in Oconto Co. (Mossman), and in 11 southern counties.

**Black-and-White Warbler:** Present in Fond du Lac Co. (Jeff Baughman, date not given), in Milwaukee Co. through June 26 (Frank, Woodmansee) and in Monroe Co. through June 30 (Epstein); also noted in Marquette Co. June 4 (Mossman) and in 19 more northern counties.

- Prothonotary Warbler:** Observed in Grant (Jeff Baughman, Peterson), Sauk (Tessen), and Buffalo, Crawford, Iowa, Pierce, Richland and Vernon (Mossman) Counties.
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Reported from Iowa Co. June 30 (Barger) and Sauk Co. through July 14 (Jeff Baughman, Sontag, Swengel, Tessen).
- Northern Waterthrush:** Noted in Milwaukee Co. June 2 (Woodmansee) and Sauk Co. through June 25 (Cederstrom, Swengel). There were reports from an additional 17 counties further north.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** A Shawano Co. report June 13 is unusual (Peterson). Recorded by a number of observers in Grant and Sauk Counties.
- Kentucky Warbler:** Noted in June in Buffalo and Crawford (Mossman), Grant (several observers), and Sauk (the Leglers, Mossman) Counties and on the Dane-Iowa Co. border (Swengel).
- Connecticut Warbler:** Still present in very early June in Door (the Lukes), Eau Claire (Polk), Fond du Lac (Tessen), Manitowoc (Sontag), Marquette (Mossman) and Milwaukee (Idzikowski) Counties. A July 1 bird in Green Lake Co. was unusual (T. Schultz). Other observations came from Douglas, Iron, Price, Taylor and Vilas Counties.
- Hooded Warbler:** There were reports from a number of observers of birds during the first half of June in Fond du Lac and Sauk Counties; 2 males were also noted in Waukesha Co. July 9 (Bielefeldt).
- Wilson's Warbler:** Birds lingered into early June in Ashland and Bayfield (Verch) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties.
- Canada Warbler:** Five were present in Manitowoc Co. June 1 (Sontag), and one lingered in Milwaukee Co. until June 17 (Woodmansee). Noted until July 11 in Sauk Co. (Swengel). Also reported from 7 northern counties.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Birds were recorded in at least 2 different locations in Dane Co. during the period June 12-July 2 (Barger, the Leglers, Swengel); also noted in Grant and Green Counties June 12 (Jeff Baughman).
- Northern Cardinal:** Of the 46 counties from which this species was reported, Marathon and Marinette were the most northern.
- Dickcissel:** Noted in Burnett (several observers), Marinette (Lindberg) and Shawano (Peterson) Counties, as well as 12 more southern ones.
- Lark Sparrow:** Three young were observed in Dunn Co. June 17 (Polk); reported also from Burnett (the Leglers), Eau Claire (Polk), Grant (Mossman, Peterson) and Sauk (many observers) Counties.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** The 20 counties in which this species was noted were all in the southeastern two-thirds of the state.
- LeConte's Sparrow:** A Marquette Co. observation on June 6 is unusual (Mossman). Many people reported this species in Burnett Co.; noted also in Ashland and Bayfield (Verch), Douglas (Johnson) and Vilas (Hoffman) Counties.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** There were only 2 reports: Burnett Co. June 11 (Polk; 10 birds) and Vilas Co. July 14 (Hoffman).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Present at the beginning of June in Milwaukee Co. (Idzikowski). Also noted in Ashland and Bayfield (Leshner, Verch), Taylor (Robbins) and Vilas (Jim Baughman, Mossman) Counties.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Of the 20 counties from which this species was reported, the most southern were Manitowoc (Sontag, through June 4), Marquette (Mossman, June 6) and Monroe (Epstein, June 24).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** Observed in 5 northern counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron and Vilas.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** A count in Winnebago Co. June 11 revealed 413 birds, 73 of them young (Ziebell).
- Orchard Oriole:** Noted in these counties, mostly in June: Chippewa and Eau Claire (Polk), Green Lake (female and brood of 4, Idzikowski), Iowa (the Leglers), LaCrosse (Leshner), Monroe (Epstein), Sauk (Jeff Baughman, the Leglers), Shawano (Peterson) and Trempealeau (Hunter, Mossman).
- Purple Finch:** Reported from Manitowoc Co. June 2 and Outagamie Co. July 24 (Tessen); the remaining 17 counties in which this species was observed were more northern.

**Red Crossbill:** Observed in only 2 counties: Bayfield (Swengel; 6 fledglings on June 20) and Vilas (Jim Baughman).

**Pine Siskin:** Birds were reported as late as June 11 in 5 counties in which they were not seen later; also noted in Dane Co. June 19 (Soulen) and LaCrosse Co. June 27-July 1 (Leshner). There were observations in 9 additional counties.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Noted in only 8 counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Oneida, Price, Shawano and Vilas.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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## By the Wayside...



### Laughing Gull at Manitowoc

This was surely the same bird that had been observed in the Manitowoc containment in May. This time, additional comparisons with the Franklin's Gull were possible. As I commented in the May sighting, the bill of the Laughing is larger (longer) and shaped more like the Ring-billed Gull than an enlarged Bonaparte's bill. The bill was dark red to the base. The bird in flight showed its characteristic dark mantle, the wings with only the trailing edge of the secondaries and adjacent primaries showing contrasting white. The underside of the wing was dark, especially the first several primaries. The tail and rump were unmarked. While standing on the containment shore, it seemed "isolated" from the Bonaparte's because of the increased individual distance. Aggressive displays toward the Bonaparte's were not observed, but were observed in the May sighting. The legs/feet as before were dark red.

Charles Sontag  
Manitowoc



## **A Least Tern for the Third Summer in a Row**

My son, Jon, age 22, called attention to a small tern as we observed a "flock" of terns and gulls on a sandbar. The flock was made up of about 30 Ring-billed Gulls, 3 first year Franklin's, 3 "immy" Bonaparte's, about 15 Common Terns, and 3 or 4 Black Terns. The small tern flew like a bat, was gray above--back and wings--and showed a black stripe toward the front of the outer primaries. When it landed it was obviously smaller than even the Black Terns nearby, and showed a prominent white forehead beneath which was a yellow bill. The crown, nape, and sides of the head were black to the level of the eyes. The legs were also yellow, perhaps a shade dingier. In flight the tail was broadly concave, not notched or forked. The tip of the bill was dark, and the breast and upper belly were white. I took 36 photos using 200ASA Kodacolor at 1/1000 and 1/500.

Fred Leshner  
LaCrosse

## **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler at Kaukauna**

On Tuesday evening (June 12) my wife and I noted a persistent bird call, but for some reason passed it off. However, when we woke up the next morning and heard it again (6:00 A.M.) we went outside to check it out. The bird was immediately identified as a Yellow-rumped Warbler (male--very distinct, brightly-colored markings).

1. Yellow rump
2. Yellow crown patch
3. Yellow on sides
4. White wing patches
5. Gray about the head
6. Black on breast
7. Yellow throat

The yellow throat produced a pause, and then we realized that this was an Audubon's Yellow-rumped. We considered the possibility of a hybrid, but there were no out of place field marks.

The bird visited a neighbor's thistle feeder at times that day (according to our neighbors) but stayed primarily in a row of pines bordering our yards, singing and making forays for insects. He became quiet by evening, less active, remaining in the pines. He could not be seen or heard the next day, nor anytime after.

Dan Minkebige  
Kaukauna

## **An Observation of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Adams County**

I observed an adult male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) hunting from a wire fence next to Highway 21 Strongs Prairie Township, Adams County Wisconsin (T18N, R4E, Sec. 11) on 7 June 1982 at 1950 hours. The bird was identified by its pearly gray plumage and its characteristic scissor-like tail (Peterson 1980) which was greater than its body length.

After 5 minutes, the bird flew south about 75m across Highway 21 to a 0.2 ha highway department sandpit used by the county for excavating sand. It hunted for about 5 minutes from small (about 1m in height) sand mounds within and around the sandpit. The scissor-tail then flew south towards an

Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*) perched on a sand mound outside of the sandpit. The kingbird uttered chase notes (Hausma 1925), and attacked the Scissor-tail when they were about 2m apart; physical contact lasted for several seconds. The 2 birds then separated and the kingbird returned to its perch on a sand mound. The scissor-tail then flew around the sandpit for another minute and flew south towards a cattail (*Typha spp.*) marsh when visual contact was lost. The tendency for Eastern Kingbirds to exhibit aggressive behavior toward another bird species is well-documented (Davis 1941; Graber et al. 1974).

Other Wisconsin records for the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher include Door County (Lukes 1979, Juneau County (Peterson 1975), and Rock County (Bent 1942, Mahlum 1981). Scissor-tails are no longer considered accidental in Illinois (Graber et al. 1974) and it is believed the species is extending its breeding range to the northeast (Graber and Graber 1965). Bent (1942) states that the species "has wandered widely...as far north as Hudson('s) Bay".

#### Literature Cited

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David A. Ross  
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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I would like to tell members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology how easy it has been to receive great satisfaction as a result of a small donation to Great Gray Owl research in Wisconsin, a subject of considerable interest to me. I have long maintained that my home state has a breeding population of this sometimes secretive bird, and it has pleased me to see Don Follen working so actively to determine its status.

Recently I sent a check to the WSO treasurer in support of the Don G. Follen, Sr. research fund. Imagine my delight when a short time later I received the following news from Don (exerpts from his letter of Feb. 19, 1985):

"Feb. 16, 1985 -- Go to mail box & ??? what's this? a check from Bob Nero for \$100.00. God bless you Bob -- thanks ever so much for all the correspondence, encouragement, data, your time and now \$.

"Feb. 18 -- Banks closed. Go to Medford Bird Club...and man shows me four photos of Great Gray Owl. Where did you get these and when? Oh, 6-8 days ago about 7-8 mi. NW of here. It's been at this guy's place daily...was I supposed to tell you? \*!\*\*\*! Wow -- close --head out early a.m.

"Feb. 19 -- Stop at bank and drop Bob's check into box so have money to cover gas, fill up and head to Medford area.... We arrive and look all over for Great Gray Owl for an hour...no bird. Man says was in his apple tree all afternoon yesterday.. 20 feet from house. We drive around and try to catch two shrikes to no avail... We pull out to pick up traps and, there, as if out of the snowbank, sits the Great Gray Owl. Wow! We look at it for a couple of minutes debating what to try. I set the Verbaile trap with the mouse cage and we wait... bird 50 m away. Mouse moving well. Owl makes three sorties into field and strikes... seems to come up empty, then catches a mouse and swallows it. Microtus apparently abundant. Set out regular bal-chatri trap with another mouse to interest owl... 5 minutes more... no response. What to do? Ha, try your board and mouse trick... I take musky net, 2 x 2 foot board and walk out into field 20m, kneel down, put mouse on board... owl not paying attention, and it looks as if the sucker is going to fly off into the woods. Mouse won't stay on board and runs onto snow (so far about 30 seconds have elapsed), then the owl turns around and just like in your films, almost in one motion the bird is immediately on the way in to the mouse... what to do? This is my first time... will I muff it? I cannot believe the intensity in the bird's eyes as it is nearing the mouse... God, it's coming in fast... swish, a split second before it hits the mouse I flip the net and Bingo! It's in the net! Wisconsin's second captured and banded Great Gray Owl. Thank you...God, and Bob Nero."

Well, I hope you can see why I wanted to share some of the excitement and enthusiasm of Don's hasty but lively letter to me. I hope you can find room to include this in your next available space in the **Passenger Pigeon**. And I hope that others will send in contributions to help Don Follen carry out his good work.

Sincerely,  
Robert W. Nero  
546 Coventry Road  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3R 1B6

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Thank you for getting out the Sandhill Crane information in time for the 1985 Wisconsin Statewide Sandhill Crane Count of April 20, 1985.

We did, however, (I did) make a booboo in regards to the Minnesota work being done. I listed this work as being done at the University of Minnesota and it really has nothing to do with the work. The correct acknowledgement should be to St. Cloud State University at St. Cloud. I am enclosing a letter of explanation and correctiveness from Jeff Amatteo of St. Cloud State University.

Sincerely,  
Don G. Follen, Sr.  
Route 1, Box 96  
Arpin, Wisconsin 54410

Dear Don:

Thank you for the copy of your recent publication in **The Passenger Pigeon** concerning color-marked cranes in Wisconsin.

It was interesting to note your difficulty in determining the exact combination of the colored bands on the birds in Wood County. We chose not to use that type of a color-marking system because it seemed likely that it would be difficult to determine the combination from long distances or if the birds were standing in tall vegetation. We also hoped to receive reports from the general public, and thought that the bands might not be seen by the casual observer.

We appreciated the favorable mention of our study in your paper, but I must point out one error. This study is being done through St. Cloud State University, not the University of Minnesota. The university system in Minnesota differs from Wisconsin's, in that Minnesota's seven State Universities (including St. Cloud) have absolutely no connection to the University of Minnesota. It is somewhat disappointing that the University of Minnesota should receive credit for our work when in fact they have nothing to do with this study.

If you would be interested in reading more about crane migration, there have been several studies utilizing radio telemetry. I would suggest the following papers:

Anderson, R.K., D.K. Jansen, and T. Cogger. 1980. Fall and Spring migration route and behavior of Eastern Greater Sandhill Cranes: 1978-1979. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minn. June. 21 pp.

Crete, R.A., and J.E. Toepfer. 1978. Migration of radio-tagged Eastern Greater Sandhill Cranes. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minn. August. 44 pp.

Melvin, S.M., and S.A. Temple. 1980. Migration ecology and wintering grounds of Sandhill Cranes from the Interlake Region of Manitoba. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minn. December. 60 pp.

Thanks again and good luck with your future observations.

Sincerely,  
Jeff DiMatteo  
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St. Cloud State University  
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301  
Phone 612-255-2036

Dear Dr. Kemper

On January 26, 1985, I had an experience of a lifetime. My dad and I went up to Ellison Bay in northern Door County to do some cross-country skiing. We were coming out of a gift shop, talking with the owners. Suddenly, across the street in the tall pines, an Eastern Phoebe started singing. I said to the others, "Oh my God, I just heard a phoebe!" Then it just continued "fee-beeing", and my dad knew it was a phoebe too. Could it have been some chickadees playing tricks? No. Chickadees do call "fee-bee" but it is less emphasized, more jigglier. The Eastern Phoebe sang about every 10 seconds and delighted us all. Weather: Low - 5°, High 21°, Sunny. Fine weather for skiing but not for flycatching!

Kevin Glueckert  
206 Fremont St.  
Algoma, WI 54201

P.S. Roy Lukes saw a phoebe on Dec. 15 in Bailey's Harbor.

Dear Dr. Kemper:

In reference to your article "Rhynchogyroposis", Fall 1984, I have a case history in my banding files of a Chickadee I banded and several returns as a normal bird, then showed up with an apparent dislocation of the jaw, after which the bill grew long and distorted. Would that be of sufficient interest for publication? If so, I'll write it up for you. Another bird, a Blue Jay, I know hit a window, fractured the jaw, it healed out of alignment and always after that it grew longer and longer. It however was a captive bird.

I am extremely interested in bird diseases, and am presently accumulating data on all the dead birds I find (other than accident victims) to see why they die. I find some fascinating stuff, but wish I had your medical expertise. Do you know of any books on the subject that I can use for reference. I already have **Infectious and parasitic Diseases of Wild Birds** by Davis et. al. and Robert Stroud's **Diseases of Birds**. Otherwise I am just using my old college textbooks on Parasitology and microbiology. Of course I can only detect gross abnormalities, and the larger parasites such as worms, protozoans, yeasts, etc. When it comes to viruses and the smaller bacteria I am only guessing as to what is suggested by the pathology. Is there any way of getting laboratory analyses? Even so I suppose it would cost, and I would need to get a grant to pay for it.

Thanks for listening: any suggestions you have would be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Carol Rudy  
W3855 Hwy. H  
Chilton, WI 53014

Dear Dr. Kemper:

In early June, while on duty with the Ozaukee County Water Safety Patrol (Boat 51) we were called on to rescue an 18 foot boat stranded (lost power) in about 60 feet of water, 3-4 nautical miles Southeast of Port Washington Harbor Entrance. We found the boat and quickly had it in tow back toward Port Washington. We were still about 3 miles out, I was piloting the boat, and I noticed a small yellow bird, a female yellow warbler, sitting on our

boats bell, about 3 feet to my right (starboard). She just perched there and was watching me, not seeming a bit scared. She looked hungry and tired from her outing on Lake Michigan. I had a good feeling about the bird, and I realized that humans may not be the only things rescued that day by Boat 51. She seemed thankful for a place to rest, and get a free ride to land. She still looked hungry, so I looked for a bug of any type that I could give her. Soon a fly landed on the port side of the instrument panel, and with lightening quick reflexes I killed the fly with my bare hand. I took the remains and placed them on the panel about 1 foot from my female Yellow Warbler friend, who didn't mind at all. Didn't seem a bit scared that my hand was only one foot away from her. Well, she looked at the dead fly, then at me, then at the fly again, and repeated this about 5 times -- seeming to say to me "dead meat really isn't what I wanted for lunch". Then another fly flew past her head, and, quicker even than me, she snatched it from the air and gobbled it down. Then she looked back at me, and stared at me as if to say "that is the proper way to catch flies". Then she stared at the dead fly for about 30 seconds, and finally succumbed to its temptation. She climbed down the brace that holds the bell to the instrument panel, climbed up the panel, and ate the dead fly. Then she flew to a support cable on the bow of the boat and deposited the remains of a previous meal on the deck. Then she flew to the very tip of the bow and rode the rest of the way into Port Washington Harbor, enjoying the wind in her face. She flew off only after we were well in the harbor, and had stopped to bring the boat-in-tow up along side of 51 so we could hitch it there for the rest of the journey to the dock.

I have heard of birds using boats as perches when out on the ocean or a large lake, but I never experienced anything quite like this. I developed a fondness for that female yellow Warbler, and was happy that I, and the rescue boat 51 could be of service.

After I got on shore I consulted **A Field Guide to the Birds**, by Roger Tory Peterson, to confirm my identification.

This bird was small (3-4 inches at most), all yellow (except the tail seemed a little darker but had some yellow in it), and lacked any reddish streaks that Peterson shows to appear on the males' breast.

Daniel J. Lynch, WSO Member  
627 N. Milwaukee St.  
Port Washington, WI 53074

Dear Dr. Kemper:

You may wish to put this in the next Passenger Pigeon: I have 106 separate issues of the Passenger Pigeon (1944-85), some without front covers. For those wishing to complete sets of long runs, let me know your wants, no charge for Passenger Pigeon, only postage plus \$0.50 for shipping and handling.

Regards,  
Robert A. McCabe  
207 Russell Lab  
Wildlife Ecology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I am writing to inform you of our possession of a live Boreal Owl given us for rehabilitation purposes by the Pierce County Conservation Officer Thomas Bokelman. He has yet to respond to us on exactly where and from whom the owl has taken but has promised that information. I imagine that this may be of interest to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology as a positive sighting record.

The owl will be rehabilitated here and released when the snow depth begins to disappear in March.

Feel free to call with any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Jim Fitzpatrick, Director  
Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center  
12805 St. Croix Trail  
Hastings, Minnesota 55033  
612-437-4359

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I am writing to ask your help in obtaining material for a project I am working on. During the 1980 WSO Convention in Ashland, I lead two fieldtrips to Long Island in Lake Superior. These trips were highly successful and I know many people were photographing some of the shorebirds there. I would like to ask if any readers of the **Passenger Pigeon** who were on that trip would be willing to send me copies of any good photos (slides or prints) of the shorebirds we saw. I will gladly pay for copying costs and will give photographic credit if I use their photos. I am particularly interested in photos of the Piping Plover we encountered. Anyone interested can write to me at:

402 Blackhawk Avenue  
Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Roger Everhart  
402 Blackhawk Ave.  
Carpentersville, IL 60110

U.S. Postal Service  
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