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*The Passenger Pigeon*

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

Vol. II

March, 1940

No. 3

## SOME ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

In this issue we try to present some interesting ornithological records for Milwaukee County. While there are probably many omissions we have done our best to summarize data of an ornithological nature.

## SOME HISTORICAL RECORDS

The first scientist to appear in Milwaukee was Increase Lapham in 1836. Mr. Lapham's interests were widely varied and though his studies ranged from botany to meteorology, he seldom touched on bird study. In 1852 Lapham published "Fauna and Flora of Wisconsin" in Trans. of Wisconsin Agriculture Society, Vol. 2, pp. 337-419.

In 1851, Peter Engelmann arrived in Milwaukee and became Director of the new German-English Academy. That year he began collecting for a school museum. In 1857, Professor Engelmann helped to organize "Der Deutsche Naturhistorische Verein für Wisconsin" which sponsored the school museum and opened its collections to the public. This Natural History Society began scientific publication in 1866. The first publications were in German though later, in 1884, the publications were in English. A catalogue for the Society's museum of 1874 shows 324 birds' nests. In 1879 the Natural History Society of Wisconsin incorporated under the laws of the state.

In 1883 the Milwaukee Public Museum was organized under a new state law passed the previous year. The Natural History Society's collection was turned over to the new Board of Trustees and was placed on display in the Exposition Building (on the site now occupied by the Milwaukee Auditorium). At that time there were 780 mounted "specimens of zoology" and 340 birds' eggs in the collection. Thure Kumlien, famous pioneer ornithologist, who had been employed as a taxidermist by the Natural History Society in 1881 was retained by the Public Museum as conservator and

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

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Manuscript and field notes should be sent to the editor.

Treasurer: Karl W. Kahmann, Hayward, Wisconsin

Editor: W. E. Scott, Wisconsin Conservation Dept.

Annex, 20 N. Carroll St., Madison, Wisconsin

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attendant." In that capacity he did considerable collecting in Milwaukee until his death in 1888.

From 1887 to 1895 Carl Akeley, world famous taxidermist and African explorer, worked as a taxidermist in Milwaukee. Upon the death of Thure Kumlien in 1888, Akeley was appointed taxidermist for the Milwaukee Public Museum. In 1892 he resigned to start a taxidermist shop of his own. During the time he was employed by the Museum he did much collecting. A number of taxidermists followed Carl Akeley in the Museum's employ: Geo. B. Turner 1892-1899, Alexander Goethal 1893-1898, Paul Rhode 1898-1921, George Shrosbree 1899-1925, Chas Brandler 1902-1908, 1921-1924, and H. L. Stoddard 1910-1913, 1921-1924.

In the early days of the Natural History Society, Adolph Meinecke and Christian Preusser, two of the founders of the Society, were industrious collectors for the Society's Museum. With the rise of the Public Museum in 1883, many new contributors came on the scene. Dr. R. M. Strong, Herman Hirsch, Charles L. Mann, Clarence Allen, and Henry Nehrling contributed specimens to the Museum. Of this group only Dr. Strong and Henry Nehrling published data. From 1895 to 1900 we find another group of collectors contributing to the Museum collection. These men were: Dr. Chas. J. Lange, John Brandon, Dr. George P. Barth, and A. H. Kirchner. Dr. E. Copeland and Dr. H. V. Ogden did considerable collecting during this period. Their collection is now in the possession of Milwaukee Downer College.

Several of the former directors of the Milwaukee Public Museum were active ornithologists. Henry Nehrling, Museum director from 1891 to 1902, wrote "Native Birds of Song and Beauty," 1896. He was also a contributor to Chapman's Bird-Life. Henry L. Ward, Museum director from 1902 to 1920, did a number of interesting things in ornithology and faithfully reported his findings in various publications.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Between 1900 and 1924 less stress was placed upon the collection of bird skins and more time was given to observations of bird life. W. J. Bennetts, Gardiner P. Stickney, Alvin M. Peterson, I. N. Mitchell, and H. L. Stoddard were active in the city during this period. I. N. Mitchell was a professor in the Milwaukee Normal School and in that capacity did much to encourage the study of birds. Alvin M. Peterson was a successful bird photographer during the time he lived in West Allis. H. L. Stoddard as a Museum taxidermist took a leading part in the study of birds around Milwaukee.

We end our historical account with Stoddard and omit the ornithologists now active in Milwaukee County.

### CLUBS: City Club Bird Group by Mrs. Phelps Wyman

The Bird Group of the City Club was organized in the spring of 1926 by Mrs. Phelps Wyman. Field work is the outstanding feature in activities of the group and is carried on regularly during the migration season. Monthly luncheon meetings are held at the City Club. Observations of the month are reported and discussed at the meetings. All unusual records must be verified before being officially recorded. Each year a three-day field survey is made in mid-May by the club, the members working in small groups in different localities. The 1939 survey disclosed 172 species present in the Milwaukee area. A total of 180 species was reported for the year 1939. Longer field trips are made by the club to Door County, Lake Koshkonong, and other interesting areas. Many unusual birds have been reported by members of the club. The Prairie Warbler was found in Lake Park during 1933, 1934 and 1935; a Hooded Warbler in Kletzsch Park on May 8, 1933; a Mockingbird in the winter and spring of 1938; a Red-bellied Woodpecker in the winter of 1937-38; a nesting pair of Mourning Warblers in July, 1936. Other rare birds observed by club members have been the Knot, Tufted Titmouse, Evening Grosbeak, and Harris's Sparrow. The club is a member of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Its present officers are: Chairman, Mrs. Carl M. Schwendener, Vice-chairman, Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher, and Secretary, Mrs. A. O. Balsom.

Milwaukee Bird Club

by Murl Deusing

The Milwaukee Bird Club was organized in 1937. The purposes of the club are: "to stimulate an interest in birds and to promote the scientific study of bird life. To bring together bird students for the exchange of information. To promote the conservation of birds and wild life generally; and to support legislation favorable to wild life." Membership in the club is restricted to men. While the club does not carry out group field work, it does encourage individual effort by making as far as possible the reading of scientific papers by the members the main part of each monthly program. As group projects the club organized a bird photography exhibit of some of the finest bird prints of its members and made them available to other groups. During the past two years the club co-operated with the Milwaukee Public Museum in sponsoring the Early Morning Bird Hikes and supplied most of the bird guides for these hikes. For the 1939 Wisconsin State Fair the club built a special exhibit demonstrating the value of hawks and owls. During the Fair one of the members worked on the examination of about 1,000 pellets dropped by the Short-eared Owl. These pellets were gathered by club members in the open fields northwest of the city. The Bird Club now meets at 7:30 P. M. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Milwaukee State Teachers College. Its present officers are: Chairman, Clarence Jung; Vice-chairman, William Atwood; and Secretary, Carl Strelitzer.

## SOME INTERESTING PLACES FOR BIRD STUDY IN MILWAUKEE CO.

Despite the fact that a large part of Milwaukee County is metropolitan, it has many interesting places for bird study spots. Jacobus Park and Grant Park are popular with bird students. Both parks have a great deal of natural underbrush that has been undisturbed by "improvements." The Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Sparrow Hawk have been found nesting in Jacobus Park, and the Oven-bird and Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Grant Park. During migration Lake Park and Doctor's Park are excellent for warblers. Other county parks suitable for bird study are Kletzsch Park, Greenfield Park, and Whinnall Park. Juneau Park is a favorite for waterfowl; the Loon, Hooded Merganser, and Gadwall have been found in

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

the lagoon. Bradford Beach is a fine place for shore birds in the spring and autumn, and the Snowy Owl is occasionally found along the ice-covered shores in winter. The Municipal Airport on the lake front is a good place for Snow Buntings, Longspurs, Horned Larks and an occasional Pipit in the late fall and early spring. In the Milwaukee harbor thousands of ducks frequently remain over the winter. These flocks are principally made up of Scaup Ducks, Golden-eyes and American Mergansers. Herons are common along the Milwaukee River in the northern part of the county. Several colonies of Black-crowned Night Herons nest here in the summer, and the Egrets can be seen in August.

### SOME RARE BIRDS TAKEN IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

This list is taken from the Milwaukee Public Museum collection: Man-o'-war Bird taken in August 1880; Swallow-tailed Kite taken in May 1888; American Hawk Owl taken in October 1892; Glaucous Gull taken in January 1895; King Eider taken in November 1903; Starling (first state record) taken in February 1923; Atlantic Kittiwake taken in February 1938.

### PUBLICATIONS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY ORNITHOLOGY

The following is a list of publications dealing with various phases of ornithology in Milwaukee, other than those of state-wide range:

- W. J. Bennetts--"Occurrence of the Mockingbird in Milwaukee" Bull. Wis. Natural History Soc., Vol. 1 (new series), 1900, p. 61.
- "Occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Milwaukee in the Winter of 1899-1900" Bull. Wis. Natural History Soc., Vol. 1 (new series), 1900, pp. 129-133.
- Murl Deusing--"Atlantic Kittiwake in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 55, 1938, p. 529.
- O. J. Gromme--"Effect of Extreme Cold on Ducks in Milwaukee Bay" Auk, 1936, p. 324.
- "Black Gyrfalcon in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 55, 1938, p. 273.
- Clarence Jung--"Evening Grosbeak in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 40, 1923, p. 130.
- "Winter Notes from Southeastern Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 45, 1928, p. 384.
- "European Goldfinch in Wisconsin" Auk, 1936, p. 87.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

- Ludwig Kumlien--"Observations on Bird Migration at Milwaukee" Auk, Vol. 5, 1888, p. 325.
- I. N. Mitchell--"A New Sparrow Record in Eastern Wisconsin" Bull. Wis. Natural History Soc., 1910, Vol. 8, p. 161.
- "Birds in a Milwaukee Garden" Bird-Lore, Vol. 13, 1911, p. 252.
- "Winter Robins in Wisconsin" Bird-Lore, Vol. 14, 1912, p. 165-6.
- "Tufted Titmouse in Wisconsin" Bird-Lore Vol. 15, 1913, p. 176.
- "Flocking of Purple Martins in Milwaukee" Bird-Lore, Vol. 16, 1914, p. 282.
- Walter J. Mueller--"Parasitic Jaeger in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 51, 1934, p. 233.
- "Use of Anesthetics in Bird Surgery" Auk, Vol. 51, 1934, p. 538.
- "Magpie in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 52, 1935, p. 90.
- Henry Nehrling--"Evening Grosbeak in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 17, 1900, p. 294.
- "Die Nordamerikanische Vogelwelt," 1891.
- "Native Birds of Song and Beauty," 2 vols. 1896.
- Elizabeth A. Oehlschlaeger--"Martin Quartet of 'The Hummocks,' Milwaukee" Bird-Lore, Vol. 34, 1932, p. 245.
- "Orthopedic Surgery on a White Pelican" Auk, Vol. 54, 1937, p. 520.
- M. E. Pinney and J. F. MacNaughton--"Some Early Bird Records of Wisconsin and Neighboring Territory to the West and North (1896-1900) and of Indiana (1876-1877)" Transactions of the Wis. Acad. of Sciences and Letters, Vol. 30.
- H. L. Stoddard--"Notes on the Diet of the Long-eared Owl Milwaukee Public Museum Year Book, Vol. 1, 1921, pp. 66-71.
- "Stuffing Birds" Milwaukee Public Museum Year Book, Vol. 2, 1922, pp. 182-185.
- "The European Starling in Milwaukee" Milwaukee Public Museum Year Book, Vol. 2, 1922, pp. 185-3.
- "Bird Banding in Milwaukee and Vicinity" Milwaukee Public Museum Yearbook, Vol. 3, 1923, pp. 117-123.
- "Local Bird Notes" Milwaukee Public Museum Yearbook, Vol. 3, 1923, pp. 123-130.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

H. L. Stoddard--"Notes on a Sparrow Roost and Arrival (cont'd) of Starling in Wisconsin" Auk, Vol. 40, 1923, p. 537.

--"Some Wisconsin Shorebird Records" Auk, Vol. 40, 1923, p. 319.

--"Bird Collections of the Milwaukee Public Museum" Wilson Bull. Vol. 33, 1921, p. 197.

R. M. Strong--"Notes from North Greenfield" Wilson Bull. Vol. 16, 1904, p. 59.

Henry L. Ward--"A Black Robin and Its Albinistic Tendencies" Auk, Vol. 25, 1908, p. 226.

--"King Eiders at Milwaukee" Bull. Wis. Natural History Soc. Vol. 5, 1907, p. 136.

--"A Rapid Melanistic and Subsequent Partial Albinistic Change in a Caged Robin" Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 6, 1908, pp. 43-47.

### SOME BIRD CENSUSES TAKEN IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Published in Bird-Lore

I. N. Mitchell	1906 to 1912
W. H. Cheever	1906 to 1911
F. W. Ells	1909 and 1911
Esther Tennyson	1910 to 1912
H. L. Stoddard	1922 to 1924

(Ed. note: This material was compiled by Murl Deusing, Milwaukee Public Museum.)

Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlager of Milwaukee will show colored bird movies with her lecture at the Madison West High School Auditorium on April 6 at 7:30 P. M. The movies were taken by Mrs. John Taylor of Whitefish Bay. Tickets at 25¢ for adults and 15¢ for children are available at Rennebohm Stores on State, Randall and Monroe streets in Madison.

Frances Hammerstrom, Plainfield, informs us that she has an available supply of reprints of a paper entitled "Food of Central Wisconsin Horned Owls" which will be sent free to anyone requesting a copy.

The leaflet enclosed with this issue was furnished by the author and the Bureau of Biological Survey. Murl Deusing kindly furnished the check-lists.



BIRD BANDERS' DEPARTMENT  
Harold C. Wilson, Editor  
Ephraim, Wisconsin

The editor of this department has now written every person granted a permit by the Conservation Commission. Responses have been slow. It may be that all of the banders are too modest to offer their experiences for publication. Writes H. W. Schaars, Milwaukee, "My experiences have been 'just ordinary' and feel there is nothing worthwhile to contribute for the public. Last fall was exceptionally good for White Throats, banded 64, also 31 Juncos, 5 Lincoln Sparrows. I have just a 'back yard' station, not too ideal to attract our feathered friends."

Douglas Wade, Beloit, now is a research worker on fur bearing animals for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and lives at Beavertown, Pa.

Dr. Rudolph F. Nunnemacher, Milwaukee, is now Asst. Prof. of Biology at Clarke University in Massachusetts. His mother, Mrs. Henry Nunnemacher, Milwaukee, writes her bird interest is centered in field work.

Lawrence A. Hautz, Milwaukee, also reports he is inactive as a bird bander.

Miss Dorothy Barnett, Milwaukee, who banded her first Harris Sparrow last Sept. 25th, is interested in knowing how many of these birds have been taken by Wisconsin banders. She mentions the fact that although Mr. K. Christofferson of Blaney Park, Mich., has banded 12,000 birds, he has taken only 3 Harris Sparrows. (I might add that I have banded only 7 Harris Sparrows, the last in 1936, with a total of 24,000 birds banded.)

Theodore M. Sperry, Madison, operates a banding station on the University of Wisconsin arboretum, a mile outside of the city limits, and away from much human influence. He seldom is troubled with English Sparrows but has plenty of other nuisances to report. He has trapped 1 green frog, 4 toads, 1 garter snake, 10 Ring-necked Pheasants, 3 opossums, 15 short-tailed shrews, 4 long-tailed (? Ed.) weasels, 8 thirteen-striped ground squirrels, 2 fox squirrels, 116 chipmunks, 15 gray squirrels, 13 gray gophers, 33 Baird white-footed mice, 28 northern white-footed mice, 24 meadow mice, 11 jumping mice and 5 cottontails.

## BY THE WAYSIDE

J. D. Vallier in company with Dr. Joseph R. Vallier belatedly reports an observation on seven American Egret 5 miles north of Port Washington on Sept. 1, 1939. He also states that Earl Loyster, ornithology supervisor of the state-wide Museum Project, also observed these birds during 1939 at Lake Maria, Fox Lake and Lake Cinissippi.

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Lawrence Johnson of Boyceville states that he did not note Starlings in that vicinity until 1937 when he observed a large flock during the winter. He noted their habit of cutting patterns in their flight at that time. He adds some observations of local Dunn County birds by stating that the Three-toed (Var. ? Ed.) Woodpecker has been seen there for five years with Nov. 20, 1939 as the latest date. Turkey Vultures are not uncommon and a mounted one is on exhibit at Boyceville. He observed a Bald Eagle there on Dec. 4, 1939 and an American Egret at Lake Menomin (?) during the summer (6 reported by other observers).

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Sister M. Martha re-checked Clifford Ehler's record of a Spruce Grouse in Door County and states that it was seen in the Town of Sevastopol,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Institute. She also reports that Mr. Anthony Burns noted this bird frequently in Door County 20 years ago and saw his last one in 1938. She collected a record of a large flock of these grouse seen by Mr. Edward Tipler of Whitefish Bay (Door Co.) on Nov. 26, 1939 in Iron County.

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Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom report that on Feb. 25th, they captured a cross between a Pinnated Grouse (*Tympanuchus cupido*) and a Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioetes phasianellus*) among cock pinnates at their banding station. The bird was presented alive to the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm at Poynette.

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Mrs. Walter E. Rogers reports that by February 15th the Golden-eyes had already commenced their mating display on the Neenah waterfront. They still dominate all other ducks in numbers at this time. She cites Dr. Charles W. Rownsend's description of "The Courtship of

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Golden-eyes and Eider Ducks" which was published in the Auk, Vol. 27, April, 1910, pages 177-178 in describing the actions witnessed. One or more males swim back and forth around a female, with feathers on head erected, the head is often thrust toward the water and then suddenly he springs forward, elevating his breast, stretching his neck straight up, pointing the bill to zenith and emitting a harsh, rasping note. The head is then snapped back, touching the rump, and then jerked forward again to normal position. This performance is most interesting and worthy reason for a trip to this locality by other ornithologists in the future.

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Carl Richter reports the death on February 16 of his pet Great Horned Owl which he had taken as a downy young bird in April 1927, near Oconto. He had kept this bird in captivity for 13 years and its length of life certainly speaks well for his good care.

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Conservation Warden Willard Laesch reported on March 8th that the Hungarian Partridge were beginning to pair.

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A Ring-necked Duck banded near Georgetown, S. C. on Dec. 1, 1938 was taken during the 1939 open season on Thunder Lake, Oneida County, by Mr. Nick Green of Rhinelander.

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The Oshkosh Northwestern for February 5 states that sportsmen and other groups have been feeding about 1500 Pinnated Grouse in Winnebago County this past winter with various other species of game birds.

### PRINTING OF THE BULLETIN TO BE CONSIDERED

One of the important business items to be considered at the Second Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology will be the possibility of printing future issues of THE PASSENGER PIGEON. This of course is largely a monetary question as the desirability of such action is generally conceded. The election of new officers will be another major consideration.

## EARLY MORNING BIRD HIKES FOR THE PUBLIC

By Murl Deusing

The early morning bird hikes conducted by the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Milwaukee Bird Club cooperating, have had in the past three years an average attendance of 1300 people per year. There are three series of hikes operating during the year as follows: Six to seven spring hikes, four fall hikes, and one winter hike. We have had as many as 220 bird lovers attending hikes in a single morning; our average attendance for the 1939 spring hikes was 162 per morning.

There are several reasons for this fine attendance on our bird hikes. First, we hold our bird hikes on Sunday mornings at a time when almost everyone can attend. Our early hour, from 6:45 A. M. to 8:15 A. M., leaves everyone free to attend church later in the morning; as a matter of fact, we have several adult Bible classes coming to the bird hikes as a group. Secondly, we hold the hikes in county parks that are easily accessible to the public. These parks are quickly reached by street car and automobile. Thirdly, we do not set up an elaborate reservation system. We aim to conduct the trips, rain or shine, and to have enough bird guides available to handle any crowd.

This system of bird hikes has developed out of many years of experience. Formerly the bird hikes were conducted as a part of the botany field excursions operated on Saturdays. From the standpoint of bird study these field excursions were not always satisfactory since they brought the bird student out during the wrong time of the day and often forced him to the expense of traveling great distances (which was necessary to see new types of flora) when often no additions to the bird fauna could be found. In 1933 several troops of Girl Scouts requested help in bird study and the Museum arranged a series of early morning bird hikes for them in Jacobus County Park. These hikes were conducted before the regular Saturday field excursions. These hikes were repeated in 1934 and were so successful that the Museum decided to begin early morning bird hikes for the public. In 1935 the Museum conducted its first official early morning bird hikes in Jacobus Park. Six spring hikes brought an attendance of 152. During the same year four fall hikes and one winter hike were conducted. These brought the total attendance for the year to 216. In 1936 interest in the spring bird hikes increased bringing the total attendance for

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

early morning bird hikes up to 404 for the year.

During 1936 we learned of the great success of the early morning bird hikes conducted by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland Bird Club. The only difference between our methods and those of Cleveland were that Cleveland conducted its bird hikes on Sunday morning instead of Saturday, and they operated bird hikes in a number of parks simultaneously, whereas we confined ourselves to one park. In 1937 we boldly imitated the Cleveland plan. We changed to Sunday mornings, operated in three of our county parks, and supplied nine bird guides for the public. Three of these bird guides were Museum men, the remainder were of a group of young men who had become enthusiastic bird students during the Saturday morning hikes. The success of the plan was immediate, our attendance soaring to a total of 1,762. Since that time the early morning bird hikes have become a very important factor in bird study around Milwaukee. A number of promising young ornithologists in Milwaukee have gotten their start in bird study at these early morning bird hikes. The Milwaukee Bird Club, which now plays an important part in sponsoring the bird hikes, owes its origin to the enthusiasm aroused by the bird hikes.

We believe that many bird clubs in the state and even isolated bird students could do a public service for their community by conducting early morning bird hikes for the public. Such a movement throughout the state would do much to develop an interest in bird life, which is one of the purposes of our State Ornithological Society. For those who contemplate organizing a series of early morning bird hikes for the public we have helpful suggestions to offer.

Spring is the best time to begin a series of early morning bird hikes. During the autumn when the foliage is heavy and the birds are hard to identify, bird study is too difficult for the average beginner; and a series of bird hikes during that time may kill rather than develop interest. In Milwaukee we do not attempt to conduct the ordinary bird hikes in the fall but instead we take our groups down along the waterfront to observe the ducks that congregate there during the hunting season. A single winter bird hike is practical but a series of winter bird hikes will not have enough variation to sustain interest. For the same reason it is not well to begin too early in the spring. We have found that the best time to begin is about the second Sunday in April. We usually end our trips with the third Sunday in May. After

## EARLY MORNING BIRD HIKES

this time the foliage usually comes out so heavily that it is impossible to do much bird study with a large group.

Don't be afraid to start too early. We start our hikes at 6:45 A. M. This early hour is a good common denominator; it subtracts the sightseers and the curious, leaving only an interested group who really means business. The early hour not only brings out the best bird students but also presents the best opportunity to study birds. Birds even in public parks have not been "stirred up." They are busy feeding and the new arrivals from the night before are fatigued and easy to approach. Most birds are in song early in the morning. The early morning hours are without doubt the best for bird study. At the same time do not keep your group too long even if there are many interesting birds to see. You must keep your promise to get them back in time for church.

We try to keep the number in a group down to twenty-five or less for each guide available, though at times we have had to handle groups up to fifty in number. It is wise to schedule the hikes for rain or shine. Even in the pouring rain you will find that some of your group will come out if they can be sure that the guide will be there. On April 24, 1938, we had a pouring rain. The rain started to fall about an hour before the time the bird hikes were scheduled and continued for several hours after they ended, yet we had 30 people come out for the bird hikes.

Some bird students have objected to the early morning bird hike on the grounds that large numbers of people frighten away the birds. We have not found that to be true. Let's take our 1937 records for example, when we had an attendance of over seventeen hundred people on the hikes. We identified 117 different species of birds during that year while on the public bird hikes. One morning in May the bird guides in Lake Park identified 54 different species of birds in the hour and a half of the hike. At no time during that season did the groups report less than 19 different species of birds. We have found the nests of the Cardinal, Wood Thrush, Hairy Woodpecker, Starling, Crow, Flicker, Sparrow Hawk, and Pheasant while conducting these hikes. We have found that large wild areas and long hikes are not necessary for successful bird hikes. Jacobus County Park, completely

## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

surrounded by the city, has an area of about three city blocks, yet it is one of our most popular spots for early morning bird hikes. We identified a total of 83 different species of birds in this park in 1937 and at the same time had an average attendance of 53 people in the park for seven bird hikes.

In Wisconsin, today, there is a great opportunity for bird students and bird clubs to do something for the science they love. Public bird hikes will bring many enthusiastic people to our ranks especially of the younger ones. At the same time we find that people, with more leisure time on their hands than ever before, are eager to take up bird study as an outdoor hobby. All they need is an opportunity. It is up to the bird lovers of Wisconsin to give it to them.

## ROBIN POPULATIONS

Mr. J. Murray Speirs, 204 Vivarium, Wright and Healey Streets, Champaign, Illinois, requests assistance in a Robin population study this spring and summer. Anyone willing to help should contact him. Elton Bussewitz, Watertown, also is studying Robins with special attention to the singing and non-singing populations during migration as compared to nesting birds. He also would appreciate contact with possible co-operators.

The Hamerstroms have invited members of the Kumlien Club to their home at Plainfield on May 4 to observe the dance of the Pinnated Grouse in specially constructed blinds. They state that "observation is guaranteed" but are sorry they cannot accommodate more guests.

All bird banders in Wisconsin are urged to co-operate with Mr. H. O. Stevens, State College, Fargo, N. D., editor of "Inland Bird Banding News." This publication seems to be invaluable for all bird banders and the March issue contains questionnaire report which is aimed at additional co-operation between banders.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE APRIL 6th MEETING IN MILWAUKEE

## FEBRUARY FIELD NOTES

Material for this department should be sent to the editor at the end of each month.

SOUTHEASTERN AREA--E. W. Strehlow reports for the Green Bay Bird Club a total of 19 species seen, with special notes as follows: 4th, Red-headed Woodpecker (Strehlow); 10th, N. Horned Larks (Mrs. Hussong); 12th, Redpolls (Krawczyk); 15th, Red-winged Blackbird and 17th, Evening Grosbeaks (Kendall); 26th, Tufted Titmouse (Mrs. Weber); 27th, Lapland Longspur and Goldfinch (Krawczyk); 29th, Downy Woodpecker with one leg (Mrs. Weber).

Edward Prins reports for the Racine area special notes as follows: 10th, Field Sparrow (E. Prins); 15th, Meadowlarks (Zell); and 16th and 23rd, others; 18th, twelve or more Mourning Doves (E. Prins); 24th, Robin (Bohm) and on the 29th also (Dr. von Jarchow). The Red-tailed Hawk, Flicker, Brown Thrasher, and 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers have been seen regularly all month, while Purple Finches were seen at irregular intervals at the Prins feeder. Voelzke reports a pair of Mallards and a Scaup Duck were seen daily in a pond with some Mute Swans during the latter part of the month.

Barger reports for the Dane County Area as follows: 1st, Song Sparrow, Bald Eagle, a number of Golden-eyes, Pileated Woodpecker and Am. Merganser at Wisconsin River (Robbins and Mitchell); 9th, 87 Canada Geese over Madison Fish Hatchery going north (Oehmcke and Mau); 10th, Red-winged Blackbird at Vilas Park (Mitchell); 18th, Kingfisher at University Arboretum (Mitchell; John Main noted that the White-throated Sparrows were still here.

C. T. Black reports from Faville Grove (Jefferson Co.) that a Flicker was seen on the 3rd, Northern Shrike on the 6th and 12th, 2 Purple Finches on the 11th and Redpolls were found in Lake Mills. Irven Buss adds that Mourning Doves were also still around Faville Grove.

Mrs. Walter E. Rogers reports for the Appleton area as follows: "The Titmouse which came to my feeding tray on Nov. 20, did not return after Dec. 24. But on Feb. 17th, Mr. Rogers heard and saw one in the trees. The following day Mrs. Frank Harwood reported that the Titmouse was feeding from her tray, along with three male and one female Cardinals. These birds have been working up and down the river bank all through the balance of the month. An unusual number of Blue Jays in flocks of from 6 to 12 birds have been noted, also ten Juncos on the 1st and again on the 25th. A male Hooded



## THE PASSENGER PIGEON

with two male American Mergansers and several pairs of Golden-eyes. These were still to be found the last of the month. On the 15th, on a trip to Neenah water front, I noticed the mating among the Golden-eyes had commenced. They were still dominant in numbers, a few Black Ducks and a pair of Mallards made a new record for me in that locality. Most of these birds are to be found on the Thousand Island Refuge below Kaukauna. More female American Mergansers were noted than during the month before.

"The Chickadees have become so tame that they eat from the hands which hold sunflower seeds above the window tray. Another unusual observation this month was the ~~Brown Creeper~~ feeding at the suet bag. In the many years of feeding the birds, I have never had this bird as my guest."

Miscellaneous notes for this area are as follows: Irven Buss reports Mourning Doves still at Rio (Columbia Co.); Carl Leopold saw 2 Golden-eye on the 3rd on the Wisconsin River above Portage; Ralph Hopkins observed 2 Pinnated Grouse in the Town of Arlington (Columbia Co.) on the 29th; and Conservation Warden George Johnson saw about 50 of these birds 2 miles south of Camp Perry (Lake Wisconsin, Columbia Co.) on the 15th; Robert Palmer estimated 300 Canada Geese 6 miles east of Janesville in Rock County on the 28th; Zimmerman reported about 50 Horned Larks and 6 Canada Geese a few miles west of Delavan (Walworth Co.) on the 29th; Mrs. F. L. Hook reports that her feeding station during the month attracted 2 female and 1 male Cardinals and also Slate-colored Juncos, Chickadees, and Pheasants as well as other birds.

**SOUTHWESTERN AREA**--Mary E. Moore of Viroqua has had a pair of Cardinals at her feeding tray all winter along with Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and many more common species. Watson Hall of Highland reports 2 Meadowlarks near Montfort on the 14th and 2 Pileated Woodpeckers near Castle Rock on the 22nd. Zimmerman on the 29th, saw the Tufted Titmouse, Flicker and Cardinal one mile northwest of South Wayne on the 29th.

**CENTRAL SAND AREA**--Frédéric and Frances Hamerstrom report for the Plainfield area, Blue Jays billing on the 21st; "spongy, yellow air sacs" on a Pinnated Grouse cock bird on the 23rd; booming of the Pinnated Grouse on the 25th for first time this season; 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers and a Mourning Dove seen during month.

## FEBRUARY FIELD NOTES

TRANSITION AREA--Louis Schartner reports for the Door County Junior Bird Club as follows: "An Evening Grosbeak was seen on the 3rd by Sylvester Frea and also a Northern Shrike which was caught by him and Marvin Gerondale. This bird had a very large dark reddish growth on its right eye and it is doubtful whether or not it could see. A Hairy Woodpecker was seen on the 6th by Bobby Leist. Mrs. Stuabs of Forestville has a Catbird spending the winter months in her barn. A Screech Owl was seen on the 17th by Clyde Weber as well as a small flock of Goldfinches and a Northern Horned Lark by Francis Ehlers. A flock of about 25 Snow Buntings was seen in Forestville by Mrs. Jenny Schumacker during the months of January and February. A pair of Cedar Waxwings were seen on the 22nd by Leonard Brauer. The first Robin of the year was seen by Harry Hartel on this date. A Meadowlark was heard singing in William Schartner's orchard on the 23rd and reported by Doris."

NORTHERN FOREST BELT--Carl Richter reports for Oconto that Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks began making their appearance when the fields became bare but again disappeared when more snow came in the third week of the month. Two Evening Grosbeaks (rarer this year than last) were seen on the 17th. About two dozen Starlings have used his feeding station during the month. Elmer Strehlow reports that Miss Erna Heisel of Pound (Marinette Co.) has seen a flock of about 50 Evening Grosbeaks every morning since the 4th when they feed until noon and then leave the feeding place. Mr. Harold Stam of Mellen (Ashland Co.) reports that several hundred Great Black-backed Gulls have been frequently seen on the Superior shore during the month.

Jane Tuttrup of Madison has recently completed two interesting bulletins for the WPA, entitled "Bird Watching in Town and Villages" Bull. 1) and "Bird Watching in Farming Country" Bull. 2). These are available free from the Recreational Division, WPA, 149 E. Wilson, Madison, Wis.

John Main read an excellent paper on "Injury Feigning of Nesting Birds" at the February Kumlien Bird Club meeting and Frances Hamerstrom and Carl Leopold presented a discussion with slides on "Life History Studies of the Black-capped Chickadee" at the March meeting.

## NEWS NOTES

The Second Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology will be held at Milwaukee on Saturday, April 6th and all members and other interested parties are invited to attend. The meeting will open in the afternoon at the third floor lecture room of the Milwaukee Public Museum. A banquet dinner will be featured with Cleveland P. Grant and his colored movies as the principal speaker during the evening session. Programs are already in the hands of all members and others known to be interested. Return reservation cards should be returned promptly to assist the committee of arrangements.

Owen Gromme has made several definite steps forward in his work on "The Birds of Wisconsin." Inquiry cards have been sent to all known bird students and prepared forms for reporting migration, banding and oological records are being made available to co-operators. Mr. Gromme is most anxious to secure information as to the location of Wisconsin bird and egg collections where record data is available. If you have any such information or desire forms upon which to report your records, contact Mr. Gromme at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Articles planned for forthcoming issues of THE PASSENGER PIGEON include Dr. H. H. T. Jackson's "Some Interesting Wisconsin Bird Records;" Carl Strelitzer's "Biography of Dr. P. R. Hoy--Wisconsin Ornithologist;" William Elder's "Some Bird Observations in Langlade County;" Edward Prins' "Some Notes on the Rarer Birds of Racine County;" Elton Bussewitz's "Bird Records from Jefferson County;" W. S. Feeney's "Nesting Habits of Wisconsin Hawks and Owls;" Irven O. Buss' "Some Observations on the Birds of Dunn County;" E. W. Strehlow's "How My Bird Records Grew;" Mrs. Clara Hussong's "Some Unusual Sparrow Records;" J. B. Kendall's "Some Notes on Bluebirds;" and Elizabeth A. Oehlenschlaeger's "Banding Great Horned Owl Nestlings." Other special articles on banding are also planned and contributions from all Wisconsin bird students are solicited.

Bryant noted at the February Kumlien Club meeting that White-throated Sparrows were observed feeding on shelled acorns left by squirrels and Red-headed Woodpeckers.