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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



The Passenger Pigeon

Summer 1976

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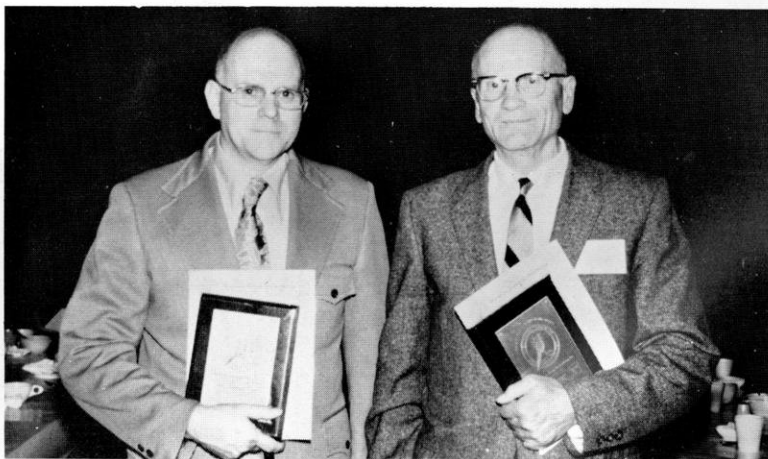
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Winners of Silver Passenger Pigeon for 1975



Vincent Bauldry (left) and Donald Kindschi (right)

THE BIRDS OF PIERCE AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

by

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and
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PART 2

Family Corvidae

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), is an accidental. One was observed at a feeder east of River Falls, on 2 January, 1976, by Huber Wheeler.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), is a common resident. They are most abundant during the spring between 15 April and 20 May. The peak fall migration is from 1 September and 1 October. The number of Blue Jays wintering in this area varies considerably between years.

Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*), is an accidental. Faanes found four Ravens in the wooded hills along the Mississippi River on 14 January, 1975.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), is an abundant resident. Definite migratory movements are observed during mid-March and mid-October.

Family Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), is an abundant resident. They are most common during the winter months.

Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*), is a rare winter visitor. There are two records, both from St. Croix County. Sam Robbins found one at a feeder near New Richmond, on 29 December, 1966, and Manley Olson found one near Hudson on 1 January, 1972.

Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), is a rare resident. They are most commonly observed along the Kinnickinnic, Mississippi, St. Croix and Willow Rivers.

Family Sittidae

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), is a common resident. They are commonly found in the deciduous forests and residential areas.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), is an uncommon, irregular winter visitor. They can be found from late August (earliest, 13 August, 1975) until early May (latest, 10 May, 1962; Robbins).

Family Certhiidae

Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), is a fairly common migrant and uncommon winter resident. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 20 March and have departed by 1 May. Fall migrants return about 10 September and most have departed by 1 December. They are occasionally observed during the winter months.

Family Troglodytidae

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 25 April, and reach peak abundance about 10 May. During the fall migration, they are most common during the first ten days of September, and have departed by 1 October.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), is an uncommon migrant and rare summer resident. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 20 April and remain until the third week of May. The first summer record was obtained on 11 June, 1975, when two were heard singing along Isabelle Creek in Pierce County. Fall migrants return in early September and have departed by 5 November. There are three winter records. One was observed on the Hudson Christmas Count on 1 January, 1968. Sam Robbins has found it in Pierce county on two occasions: 30 December, 1965, and 21 December, 1966.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), is a rare spring visitor. Sam Robbins has found it near Hudson on three occasions: 5-17 May, 1963; 13 May, 1964 and 7 May, 1965.

Carolina Wren (*Thyrothorus ludovicianus*), is a rare visitor. Sam Robbins found one near Roberts on 3 May, 1965, and Faanes found one near Maiden Rock in Pierce County, on 23 June, 1974.

Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*), is a fairly common migrant and nesting bird. It arrives about 1 May and remains until mid-October. Most nesting birds are observed in the prairie pothole region of St. Croix County.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*), is a common migrant and nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 5 May. During the summer, they nest throughout the area in sedge meadows. The peak fall migration occurs in mid-September, and they have departed by 20 October.

Family Mimidae

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), accidental. Marvin Granica found one near Woodville on 25 April, 1976.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), is an abundant migrant and common nesting bird. Goddard (1972) found it to be the most common breeding bird during his two year study of the lower Kinnickinnic River. They arrive about 5 May and remain until the first week of October.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 25 April, and they have departed by 1 October. One remained in Pierce County until 11 January, 1975.

Family Turdidae

American Robin (**Turdus migratorius**), is an abundant migrant and nesting bird. They are occasionally observed during the winter. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 10 March, and reach peak abundance about 15 April. The peak fall migration occurs about 15 September and they have departed by 1 November.

Wood Thrush (**Hylocichla mustelina**), is a fairly common nesting bird. They are most commonly observed in the wooded hills along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 8 May and reach peak abundance about 15 May. During the summer, they are very hard to detect, as they cease to sing after mid-July. Fall migrants have departed by 20 October.

Hermit Thrush (**Catharus guttata**), is a fairly common migrant. They begin to arrive about 15 April and reach peak abundance about 30 April. They have departed by 10 May. Fall migrants return about 20 September and have departed by 20 October.

Swainson's Thrush (**Catharus ustulatus**), is a very common migrant. In the spring, they begin to arrive during the first week of May. Peak abundance occurs about 15 May and they have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return as early as 15 August and they remain until the last week of September.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (**Catharus minimus**), is a fairly common migrant. The average date of spring arrival is 7 May. The peak abundance occurs about 20 May, and they have departed by 30 May. Fall migrants arrive about 1 September and have departed by 25 September.

Veery (**Catharus fuscescens**), is a very common migrant and rare nesting bird. It begins to arrive about 5 May and reaches peak abundance about 15 May. During the summer, they nest in the moist woodlands of north-eastern St. Croix County. Fall migrants begin to return about 15 August and they have departed by 25 September.

Eastern Bluebird (**Sialia sialis**), is a fairly common migrant and nesting bird. In recent years, it has been on the **American Birds** "Blue List" and on Ruth Hine's "Ten Most Wanted List". It has been felt their numbers have dropped considerably in most areas. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 25 March, and they remain in the area until the end of October.

Family Sylviidae

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (**Polioptila caerulea**), is an uncommon nesting bird. This area is at the extreme northern limit of their range. They arrive in the area about 5 May, and remain until late August. Gnatcatchers are usually found in the lowland forests along the Kinnickinnic, Mississippi and Willow Rivers.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (**Regulus satrapa**), is a common migrant and occasional winter resident. Fall migrants begin to arrive during the last week of September and most have departed by 15 December. Spring migrants return about 5 April and have departed by 10 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (**Regulus calendula**), is a common migrant. Spring migrants arrive about 10 April and remain into the third week of May. Fall migrants return in mid-September (earliest, 23 August, 1966; Robbins), reach peak abundance about 5 October and depart by 10 December.

Family Motacillidae

Water Pipit (**Anthus spinoletta**), is an uncommon migrant. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 1 May and remain until the third week of May. Fall migrants return about 15 September, and have departed by 25 October.

Family Bombycillidae

Bohemian Waxwing (**Bombycilla garrulus**), is an uncommon and irregular winter visitor. Other than birds observed during Christmas Count periods, there are only two other records: 10 November, 1961, in the St. Croix County by Sam Robbins, and two on 31 December, 1975 at Prescott by Faanes.

Cedar Waxwing (**Bombycilla cedrorum**), is a common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. They are occasionally found during the winter months. Spring migrants arrive about 15 April, and they remain in the area until mid-November in most years.

Family Laniidae

Northern Shrike (**Lanius excubitor**), is an uncommon winter resident. The first fall migrants begin to arrive about 25 October and they remain in the area until the end of March.

Loggerhead Shrike (**Lanius ludovicianus**), is a rare summer resident. Their numbers have dropped drastically in recent years. They are to be expected between 15 April and 20 September.

Family Sturnidae

European Starling (**Sturnus vulgaris**), is an abundant resident.

Family Vireonidae

Bell's Vireo (**Vireo bellii**), is a rare visitor. Sam Robbins has found it twice in St. Croix County: 13 May, 1964 and 3 July, 1963.

Yellow-throated Vireo (**Vireo flavifrons**), is a fairly common migrant and uncommon nesting bird. It arrives about 5 May and remains until the last week of September. Nesting birds are usually found in the lowland forests along the larger rivers.

Solitary Vireo (**Vireo solitarius**), is a fairly common migrant. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 5 May and they have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return about 25 August and remain in the area until the last week of September.

Red-eyed Vireo (**Vireo olivaceus**), is an abundant migrant and common nesting bird. The average date of spring arrival is 11 May. During the summer, they are found throughout the area in suitable habitat. During the fall, the peak abundance occurs about 15 September and they have departed by 5 October.

Philadelphia Vireo (**Vireo philadelphicus**), is a rare spring and uncommon fall migrant. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 10 May and have departed by 30 May. Fall migrants return about 5 September and have departed by 5 October.

Warbling Vireo (**Vireo gilvus**), is a common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. The average date of spring arrival is 8 May. During the nesting season, they are among the more common species to be found in and lowland forests of the area. During the fall, the peak abundance occurs about 8 September and they have departed by 25 September.

Family Parulidae

Black and White Warbler (**Mniotilta varia**), is a fairly common migrant. The average date of spring arrival is 2 May. The peak abundance occurs during the second week of May, and they have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return in late August, and the have departed by 5 October.

Prothonotary Warbler (**Protonotaria citrea**), is a rare summer resident. It arrives about 10 May and remains in the area through the first ten days of September. It nests in the wooded bottom lands along the Mississippi, Rush and Willow Rivers.

Worm-eating Warbler (**Helmitheros vermivorus**), is an accidental. Sam Robbins found one near Hudson on 18 May, 1962.

Golden-winged Warbler (**Vermivora chrysoptera**), is an uncommon migrant and rare summer resident. Though birds are present during the summer months, we have no direct evidence of nesting. It arrives about 8 May, and remains in the area through the third week of September.

Blue-winged Warbler (**Vermivora pinus**), is an uncommon nesting bird. The first migrants begin to arrive about 15 May. It remains in the area until mid-September. During the summer months, we have found it along the Willow River at Hudson, along Isabelle Creek near Esdaile and along the Mississippi River near Diamond Bluff.

Tennessee Warbler (**Vermivora peregrina**), is a very common migrant. It arrives during the first week of May (average, 4 May). The peak abundance occurs about 15 May, and they have departed by 1 June. Fall migrants return in early August, and have departed by 5 October (latest, 12 October, 1961: Robbins).

Orange-crowned Warbler (**Vermivora celata**), is an uncommon migrant. The first spring migrants begin to arrive about 1 May, and they have departed by 20 May. Fall migrants return in early September (average, 8 September), and they have departed by 15 October.

Nashville Warbler (**Vermivora ruficapilla**), is a common migrant and possible nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 5 May and most have departed by 30 May. Faanes has found them during the summer months in the Apple River Canyon, near Somerset. Fall migrants begin to arrive during the last week of August and they have departed by 5 October.

Northern Parula Warbler (**Parula americana**), is an uncommon migrant. It arrives about 6 May, and has departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return in late August, and have departed by 20 September.

Yellow Warbler (**Dendroica petechia**), is a very common migrant and common nesting bird. Spring arrival occurs during the first week of May. During the summer, they are found throughout the area in marshes and alder thickets. In the fall, they are among the first warblers to depart. The peak abundance occurs in mid-August, and they have departed by 10 September.

Magnolia Warbler (**Dendroica magnolia**), is a common migrant. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 10 May, and they have departed by 25 May. The peak fall migration is from 25 August to 10 September, and they have departed by 5 October.

Cape May Warbler (**Dendroica tigrina**), is an uncommon migrant. The earliest date of arrival is 4 May. The average date of arrival is 10 May, and they have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return about 25 August, and they have departed by 20 September.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (**Dendroica caerulescens**), is a rare migrant in this part of Wisconsin. Spring migrants are to be expected between 10 May and 20 May. Fall migrants can be found between 5 and 30 September.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (**Dendroica coronata**), is by far the most abundant migrant warbler. The average date of arrival is 12 April. Sam Robbins found an early one on 24 March, 1963. The peak abundance occurs from 25 April to 5 May, and they have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants begin to return about 10 September. The peak abundance occurs between 20 September and 15 October, and they have departed by 30 October. There are two very late records: 3 December, 1961 in St. Croix County; Sam Robbins, and 30 November, 1975 at River Falls; Gregg Wheeler. Also, one wintered at the Carl Pemples home west of River Falls in St. Croix County during the winter of 1960-1961 (*Passenger Pigeon* 23: 104).

Black-Throated Green Warbler (**Dendroica virens**), is a fairly common migrant. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 1 May, and remain throughout the month of May. Fall migrants return in mid-August, and have departed by 5 October.

Cerulean Warbler (**Dendroica cerulea**), is an uncommon nesting bird. This area is at the northern limit of their breeding range. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 10 May. During the summer, this bird is most likely to be found along the deciduous forest bottomlands of the Mississippi, Rush and Willow Rivers. Fall records are too few to establish a departure date.

Blackburnian Warbler (**Dendroica fusca**), is an uncommon migrant. The average date of arrival is 8 May. They remain in the area as late as 1 June. Fall migrants return about 20 August, and have departed by 20 September.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (***Dendroica pennsylvanica***), is a common migrant and rare nesting bird. The average date of spring arrival is 8 May. The peak abundance occurs about 16 May, and most have departed by 30 May. During the summer, we have found them in the northeastern corner of St. Croix County near the Cylon Marsh Wildlife Area. Peter Tweet has recorded it twice on the Hudson Breeding Bird Survey Transect. Fall migrants arrive in mid-August, reach peak abundance during the second and third weeks of September, and they have departed by 5 October.

Bay-breasted Warbler (***Dendroica castanea***), is an uncommon spring and common fall migrant. The average date of spring arrival is 12 May, and they have departed by 30 May. Fall migrants return about 30 August, and they have departed by 25 September.

Blackpoll Warbler (***Dendroica striata***), is a common migrant. It arrives about 9 May, and reaches peak abundance between 20 May and 25 May. They have departed by 30 May. Fall migrants begin to arrive about 25 August, and they have departed by 25 September.

Pine Warbler (***Dendroica pinus***), is a rare migrant. Spring migrants arrive about 5 May, and have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return in early September (earliest, 20 August), and have departed by 25 September.

Palm Warbler (***Dendroica palmarum***), is the second most abundant migrant warbler in this area. The average date of spring arrival is 27 April. The peak abundance occurs about 10 May, and they have departed by 20 May. Fall migrants return about 5 September, and have departed by 10 October.

Ovenbird (***Seiurus aurocapillus***), is a common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. Goddard (1972) found it to be the most abundant warbler during his study of the nesting birds of the lower Kinnickinnic River. The average date of spring arrival is 7 May. The peak abundance occurs about 15 May. In fall, the peak abundance occurs about 10 September and they have departed by 1 October.

Northern Waterthrush (***Seiurus novaboracensis***), is a fairly common migrant and rare nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 1 May, and peak abundance occurs about 15 May. During this peak abundance, Faanes once found 47 Northern Waterthrushes during a short walk along Isabelle Creek near Bay City. They have been found along the Kinnickinnic River during the nesting season (Goddard, 1972). Fall migrants return about 25 August, and they have departed by 1 October.

Louisiana Waterthrush (***Seiurus motacilla***), is a rare nesting bird. Spring migrants arrive about 5 May, and they can be found in the area until mid-September. During the summer, it is usually found along the Rush and Kinnickinnic Rivers in Pierce County, and along the Willow River in St. Croix County.

Connecticut Warbler (***Oporornis agilis***), is an uncommon migrant. The average date of spring arrival is 15 May. They have departed by 30 May. Fall migrants return about 25 August, and have departed by 25 September.

Mourning Warbler (***Oporornis philadelphia***), is a fairly common migrant and rare nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 12 May, and most have departed by 1 June. During the summer, we have found it in the northwestern corner of St. Croix County. Fall migrants return about 25 August, and they have departed by 25 September.

Common Yellowthroat (***Geothlypis trichas***), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. The average date of spring arrival is 5 May. During the summer, they can be found throughout the area in marshes and alder thickets. The peak fall migration occurs during the second week of September, and they have departed by 5 October.

Yellow-breasted Chat (***Icteria virens***), is a rare visitor and possible nesting bird. Sam Robbins found it on five occasions in an area east of Hudson: 17 June, 1961; 18 May, 1962; 21 June, 1963; 16 May, 1964 and 30 June, 1964. All birds observed were singing males, thus the possibility existed that the late June birds were nesting.

Kentucky Warbler (***Oporornis formosus***), is an accidental spring visitor. Sam Robbins found one near Roberts on 28 May, 1963.

Hooded Warbler (***Wilsonia citrina***), is an accidental spring visitor. Sam Robbins found one at Hudson on 29 May, 1963.

Wilson's Warbler (***Wilsonia pusilla***), is a fairly common migrant. The average date of spring arrival is 10 May, and they have departed by 1 June. Fall migrants return about 20 August, and have departed by 20 September.

Canada Warbler (***Wilsonia canadensis***), is a fairly common migrant. It is one of the last warblers to arrive. The average date of spring arrival is 15 May, and they have departed by 30 May. The area near Twin Lakes near Roberts and the Apple River Canyon near Somerset are among the best places in the region to observe this warbler. Fall migrants return in mid-August and have departed by 10 September.

American Redstart (***Setophaga ruticilla***), is an abundant migrant and abundant nesting bird in the western edge of the counties. They are not nearly as common in the eastern portion of the counties. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 8 May, and reach peak abundance about 15 May. During the summer, they can be found throughout the lowland forests of the area, where they are among the most abundant nesting species. The peak fall migration occurs about 15 September, and they have departed by 10 October.

Family Ploceidae

House Sparrow (***Passer domesticus***), is an abundant resident.

Family Icteridae

Bobolink (***Dolichonyx oryzivorus***), is a fairly common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 4 May. During the summer, they are found throughout the area in suitable grassland habitat. The peak fall migration occurs in mid-August, and they have departed by 15 September.

Eastern Meadowlark (***Sturnella magna***), is a fairly common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. During the summer, they would have to be considered uncommon in the western portion of the area, and fairly common in the eastern portion. Spring migrants begin to arrive in mid-March, and peak abundance occurs during the second week of April. In fall, the peak abundance occurs in early September, and they have departed by mid-October.

Western Meadowlark (***Sturnella neglecta***), is an abundant migrant, abundant nesting bird and uncommon winter resident. The peak migrations occur in mid-April and late September. During the winter months, they are occasionally found in the grassland habitats of the area.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (***Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus***), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 15 April, and reach peak abundance about 30 April. During the summer, nesting birds are found throughout the prairie pothole region of St. Croix County. A census of nesting Yellow-heads, conducted during the summer of 1975, revealed over 1,000 nesting pairs in the pothole region. In the fall, they have departed by 15 September.

Red-winged Blackbird (***Agelaius phoeniceus***), is by far the most abundant nesting bird in this area. Spring migrants begin to arrive in early March, and the peak abundance occurs about 15 April. In the fall, peak abundance occurs in late September, when flocks totaling over 100,000 individuals can be found along the Mississippi River. The fall flight continues into November, when most have departed. Small flocks remain in the lowlands along the Mississippi throughout the winter months.

Orchard Oriole (***Icterus spurius***), is a rare summer resident. We are at the northern limit of their range in this area. Dates range from 15 May to 1 September. It might be expected to become more common in the future, as it is now being observed each summer as far north as Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Northern Oriole (***Icterus galbula***), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. Spring migrants begin to arrive about 5 May, and peak abundance occurs about 15 May. During the summer, they are found in all parts of the two-county area. The peak fall migration occurs in late August, and they have departed by 15 September.

Rusty Blackbird (***Euphagus carolinus***), is a fairly common migrant and rare winter resident. Spring migrants begin to arrive during the first ten days of March, and the peak abundance occurs about 10 April. They have departed by 30 April. Fall migrants return in late September, and most have departed by 30 November.

Brewer's Blackbird (***Euphagus cyanocephalus***), is a fairly common migrant. It arrives about 15 April and has departed by 20 May. Fall migrants return in mid-August, and they have departed by 20 September.

Common Grackle (***Quiscalus quiscula***), is an abundant migrant, abundant nesting bird and rare winter resident. The peak migratory flights occur from mid-March to 1 April, and from mid-September to mid-October. They are occasionally observed throughout the winter months.

Brown-headed Cowbird (***Molothrus ater***), is an abundant migrant and common nesting bird. Spring migrants arrive in the last week of March, and reach peak abundance about 20 April. After the nesting season, they are usually seen in small numbers after July, and they have departed by 1 November.

Family Thraupidae

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), is a fairly common migrant and uncommon nesting bird. Spring migrants arrive during the first week of May, and reach peak abundance about 15 May. The peak fall migration occurs in early September, and they have departed by 1 October.

Family Fringillidae

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), is a common resident. They are frequently observed at feeders during the winter.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. It arrives about 5 May and remains until the third week of September. Peak flights occur from 10 May to 20 May, and from 1 September to 15 September.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. The average date of spring arrival is 8 May. The peak abundance occurs between 15 May and 25 May. In the fall, peak abundance occurs between 1 September and 15 September, and they have departed by 1 October.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), is a fairly common, irregular nesting bird. It is one of the latest arriving birds in this area. The first migrants begin to arrive about 25 May. It nests in the prairie-grassland habitat. They are rarely observed after 1 August, and they have departed by 1 September.

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*), is an irregular winter visitor. When they are in the area, they are quite numerous. They usually arrive about 10 November and remain through the middle of April (latest, 13 May, 1962: Robbins).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), is a fairly common migrant and occasional winter resident. Like the Evening Grosbeak, they are rather irregular in occurrence. The major migration occurs from late September (earliest, 23 August, 1975 in Pierce County) to mid-November, and from late February to mid-April (latest, 18 May, 1967).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), is a rare winter visitor. It can be expected between the third week of November to mid-March. Buss found one in Pierce County on 23 April, 1942, and Peter Tweet found one in St. Croix County on 5 April, 1974.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*), is a very rare winter visitor. There are four records, all from St. Croix County. Sam Robbins found it between 22 December and 27 December, 1965, and 1 January to 4 April, 1966. One was observed on the Hudson Christmas Count on 1 January, 1974, and Faanes found one on 20 December, 1975.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*), is an irregular winter visitor. Some winters it is one of the most abundant winter birds, while in others it is virtually absent. It arrives about 1 November and remains until mid-April.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*), is an irregular migrant and rare winter resident. The average date of spring arrival is 10 April, and departure occurs about 15 May. Fall migrants can be found between 20 September and 1 December.

American Goldfinch (***Spinus tristis***), is an abundant resident. Peak migrations occur in mid-April and late October. The number of wintering Goldfinches reaches a peak about every three years.

Red Crossbill (***Loxia curvirostra***), is an irregular and uncommon winter visitor. They are not observed every year. They can be expected between 10 November and 10 April (latest, 23 May). However, they are possible at any time of the year.

White-winged Crossbill (***Loxia leucoptera***), is an irregular and very rare winter visitor. It can be expected from mid-November to mid-March.

Green-Tailed Towhee (***Chlorura chlorura***), is an accidental. One was observed at Prescott, on 10 May, 1964, by Robert Garber.

Rufous-sided Towhee (***Pipilo erythrophthalmus***), is a fairly common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. The average date of arrival is 28 April, with the peak abundance occurring during the second week of May. Peak fall populations occur during the second week of September and they have departed by 1 October.

Savannah Sparrow (***Passerculus sandwichensis***), is an abundant migrant and abundant nesting bird. The average date of spring arrival is 19 April, and the peak flight occurs about 1 May. In the fall, the peak abundance occurs in late September, and they have departed by 1 November.

Grasshopper Sparrow (***Ammodramus savannarum***), is a fairly common nesting bird. It is most commonly found in the grassland areas of central St. Croix County. Its faint song makes it quite hard to detect, hence it may be more common than we suspect. It arrives in the area during the last week of April (earliest, 20 April), and remains through the end of September.

Henslow's Sparrow (***Passerherbulus henslowii***), is an uncommon nesting bird of the grasslands. It arrives about 20 April and remains through the second week of September. This bird may also be more common than we suspect because of its behavior and very faint song.

Le Conte's Sparrow (***Ammospiza leconteii***), is a rare nesting bird. Sam Robbins has found it during the nesting season five miles east of New Richmond. We have found it at Pond 14 near Roberts, and in a marshy area near Boardman, in western St. Croix County. It arrives about 5 May and remains until the first week of October.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (***Ammospiza caudacuta***), is a very rare migrant. There are only two records: 19 May, 1964, in St. Croix County, by Sam Robbins and 8 May, 1974 in Pierce County, by Keith Dueholm.

Vesper Sparrow (***Poocetes gramineus***), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. It arrives about 5 April (earliest, 25 March, 1963) and remains until mid-October. The peak migrations occur between 20 April and 1 May, and from 25 September to mid-October.

Lark Sparrow (***Chondestes grammacus***), is presumably an uncommon summer resident. Kemper (1973) found them to be a rare nesting bird 75 miles to the east, and Robbins found them during June, 1975 at Grantsburg in Burnett County. We have no nesting records for this area. It arrives about 10 May (earliest, 4 April, 1974) and has departed by mid-September.

Northern Junco (**Junco hyemalis**), is an abundant migrant and fairly common winter resident. In spring, the peak migration occurs from mid-March through mid-April. In fall, the peak migration occurs between mid-October and mid-November.

American Tree Sparrow (**Spizella arborea**), is a common winter resident. It arrives about 15 October and remains through the third week of April. Peak flights occur in mid-November and mid-March.

Chipping Sparrow (**Spizella passerina**), is a common migrant and common nesting bird. It arrives about 20 April and reaches peak abundance during the first ten days of May. The peak fall migration occurs in mid-September and it has departed by 20 October.

Clay-colored Sparrow (**Spizella pallida**), is a fairly common migrant and uncommon nesting bird. It arrives in late April (earliest, 14 April) and remains through mid-October. The peak flights occur in mid-May and late September.

Field Sparrow (**Spizella pusilla**), is a common summer resident. During late spring and early summer, it appears to be one of the first birds to begin singing in the morning and one of the first to cease singing. It arrives in mid-April and remains through the last week of October.

Harris's Sparrow (**Zonotrichia querela**), is a rare spring and uncommon fall migrant. It arrives about 5 May and has departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return in late September and it remains through the month of October. The Baxter's of Hager City had an immature Harris' Sparrow at their feeder throughout the winter of 1973. Sam Robbins found one on 8 April, 1967, which may have been a wintering bird also.

White-crowned Sparrow (**Zonotrichia leucophrys**), is a fairly common migrant. Like the Harris' Sparrow, it is a bird of the edge. It arrives about 25 April (earliest, 2 April) and remains through the third week of May. Fall migrants return about 15 September and have departed by 20 October.

White-throated Sparrow (**Zonotrichia albicollis**), is an abundant migrant and rare winter resident. It arrives in mid-April and reaches peak abundance about 1 May. They have departed by 25 May. Fall migrants return in mid-September (earliest, 26 August) and have departed by 10 November. There are two winter records for this area.

Fox Sparrow (**Passerella iliaca**), is a common migrant and rare winter resident. It arrives during the last week of March and has departed by 25 April. Fall migrants return about 20 September and remain through mid-November. Robbins found one in Pierce County on 2 January, 1961, and one was observed on the Hudson Christmas Count on 1 January, 1974.

Lincoln's Sparrow (**Melospiza lincolni**), is an uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant. It arrives about 1 May and has departed by 20 May. Fall migrants return about 10 September and have departed by 10 October.

Swamp Sparrow (**Melospiza georgiana**), is a fairly common migrant and fairly common nesting bird. It arrives about 15 April (earliest, 30 March; Robbins) and reaches peak abundance about 1 May. The peak fall migration occurs during the last week of September and it has departed by 25 October. Manley Olson found one on the Hudson Christmas Count on 1 January, 1971.

Song Sparrow (**Melospiza melodia**), is an abundant migrant, common nesting bird and rare winter resident. It arrives between 25 March and 1 April. The peak abundance occurs about 20 April. The peak fall migration occurs in mid-October and it has departed by 15 November. We have three winter records for this area.

Lapland Longspur (**Calcarius lapponicus**), is a fairly common migrant. The major flight occurs from early March through mid-April. It has departed by 1 May. Fall migrants return in late September and have departed by 15 December.

Snow Bunting (**Plectrophenax nivalis**), is a common migrant and fairly common winter resident. It arrives in mid-October and can be found until the second week of April.

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Appendix - Bird Records from Dakota, Goodhue and Washington Counties, Minnesota, with one record of an extinct species in Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin.

Cattle Egret (**Bubulcus ibis**). One was observed along the Mississippi River near Red Wing, Minnesota by personnel of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, on 12 May, 1974.

White-faced Ibis (**Plegadis chihi**). One was observed in Goodhue County, Minnesota on 13 May, 1962.

Cinnamon Teal (**Anas cyanoptera**). Robert Janssen has two records: 16 April, 1963, in Washington County, Minnesota and 9 April, 1967, in Goodhue County.

Swallow-tailed Kite (**Elanoides forficatus**). One was observed in Goodhue County on 20 April, 1966.

Gyr Falcon (**Falco rusticolus**). One was observed near Marine-on St. Croix in Washington County on 29 December, 1973. **Loon** 46(3): 107.

Black Rail (**Laterallus jamaicensis**). One was observed in Goodhue County, on 12 May, 1971.

Whimbrel (**Numenius phaeopus**). Faanes photographed a flock of four along the Mississippi River in Goodhue County on 14 May, 1974.

Glaucous Gull (**Larus hyperboreus**). Robert Janssen has the following records: 14 December, 1963, 10 December, 1964 and 1 January, 1969, in Dakota County, and 18 April, 1964 in Goodhue County.

Thayer's Gull (**Larus thayeri**). Robert Janssen found one in Dakota County on 23 November, 1974.

Little Gull (**Larus minutus**). Green and Janssen (1975), mention the sighting of one on Lake Pepin, Goodhue County, on 25 March, 1972.

Sabine's Gull (**Xema sabini**). One was observed in Washington County on 1 October, 1944. The record is considered to be hypothetical.

Passenger Pigeon (**Ectopistes migratorius**). Is extinct. Schorger (1955), The Passenger Pigeon, It's Natural History and Extinction, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, mentions the following records from St. Croix County: 13 August, 1877, at Baldwin; 13 August, 1875 at Hammond, and 30 August, 1882, 12 September, and 28 September, 1887 at New Richmond.

Barn Owl (**Tyto alba**). One was observed in Dakota County on 10 July, 1968.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (**Muscivora forficata**). One was observed in Goodhue County, on 14 May, 1966.

Varied Thrush (**Ixoreus naevius**). Robert Janssen has two records, both from Dakota County: 9 January, 1966 and 9 December, 1967.

White-eyed Vireo (**Vireo griseus**). One was observed in Goodhue County, on 23 May, 1965. The record is considered hypothetical.

Summer Tanager (**Piranga rubra**). There are two records from Goodhue County: 14 May, 1926 and 8 June, 1952.

Black-headed Grosbeak (**Pheucticus melanocephalus**). There are four sight records: 27 May, 1970 and 11 May, 1974 in Washington County and mid-July to 9 August, 1967 and 19 April to 26 April, 1972 in Dakota County.

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FIELD **NOTES**



By Hal and Nancy Roberts

Summer Season, 1975

June 1 - July 31, 1975

The summer of 1975 must go into the record books as nothing short of spectacular. The number of rare and uncommon species seen this season is truly amazing. The weather was undistinguished with near normal temperatures and rainfall in June and July. There was no extended period of heat or cold, wet or dry, and there were only isolated storm areas of wind or hail.

Records fell in all directions. First documented nestings were big news. These were authenticated for Little Gull (first in U.S.), Cattle Egret and Snowy Egret. New late spring migrant dates were set for Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and Northern Phalarope. Fall record dates were broken for Sanderling and Dunlin. A phenomenal twenty species were recorded this year which went unobserved in 1974. Of these, ten were last seen in 1973: Little Blue Heron, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, King Rail, Yellow Rail, Willet, Northern Phalarope, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Mockingbird. Two species, Bewick's Wren and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, were last seen in 1972. Last seen four years ago were White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Piping Plover, Yellow-breasted Chat and Barn Owl. And finally, most remarkable were the four which had not been recorded in the last ten years or more: Harlequin Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Long-billed Curlew and Summer Tanager. In many cases these were not single isolated viewings; the birds were observed in a number of localities by several observers.

There were 50 observers who covered 62 of the 72 counties. Brown was the county with the greatest coverage with a total of eleven contributors. Next was Dodge county with 8 observers. Milwaukee and Oconto counties had 7 observers each. Counties which were missed were Buffalo, Calumet, Eau Claire, Kenosha, Lincoln, Marathon, Pepin, Polk, Richland and Vernon. Areas adjacent to each of these were represented so the statewide coverage was excellent.

The Peripatetic Bird Watcher Award was won by Craig Faanes with observations in twenty-three counties. Sam Robbins and Daryl Tessen were not far behind with 21 and 19 counties respectively.

It was an extremely interesting season for the observers, the compilers and we hope for the readers of the following seasonal summary:

Common Loon: Farthest south was the one in Brown county on June 7 (Daryl Tessen) and one in Portage county June 11 (Hal Roberts) both of which may have been late migrants. Summer birds were found in the northern tier of counties and in St. Croix (Craig Faanes), Taylor (John & Lois Fadness), Oconto (John Woodcock) and Door (Joel Trick, Chuck Kjos and Tom Erdman; Louise Erickson) counties.

Red-necked Grebe: Found on June 8 near Roberts, St. Croix county, where it has nested several times in recent years (Sam Robbins) and in a new locality in the county at Oakridge Lake (Faanes). Also found in Winnebago county with three at Rush Lake on June 22 (Philip Ashman) and two on July 11 (Tessen).

American White Pelican: Reported in Door county on June 12 (Kjos, Erdman & Trick).

Double-crested Cormorant: Nested in Burnett county at Crex Meadows with a maximum of 29 on July 25 and at Fish Lake Wildlife Area where there were 12 nests (Jim Evrard). Others were found in Marinette and Door (Erdman & Trick), Brown (Erdman & Trick, Brother Columban & Edwin Cleary, Craig & Ruth Faanes, Tessen), Manitowoc (Erdman), Marquette and Green Lake (Tessen) Dodge (Thomas Sanford) counties. An experiment substituting man-made platforms for the dead trees which are rapidly decreasing in number was started in the Mead Wildlife Area of Portage and Marathon counties. The platforms seem to be quite well accepted as nesting sites.

Great Blue Heron: Jim Evrard reported 184 nests in two rookeries in 1973, 143 nests in four rookeries in 1974 and 97 nests in three rookeries in 1975 in Crex Meadows, Burnett county.

Little Blue Heron: A bird in white plumage visited Oconto Marsh on July 13 (Tessen).

Great Egret (Common): Found along the western state border with 14 in Burnett county on June 19 (Evrard), Pierce (Faanes), 50 in Trempealeau county on July 11 (Faanes) and in Crawford county on June 18 (Robbins). Horicon Marsh had a population of about 70 according to Thomas Sanford and others were seen in Brown county (Columban & Cleary), Wood county (Don Follen), Green Lake and Washington counties (Tessen).

Cattle Egret: Noted by a number of observers in Oconto Marsh where six pairs and 14 young were banded in early July with an additional 10 young thought to be present (Erdman). First nesting record for the state.

Snowy Egret: A number of observations at Oconto Marsh where two pairs and five young from one nest were banded in early July. A second nest contained eggs at that time (Erdman). Again, first state nesting records.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: One was in LaCrosse on June 16 (Tessen); an immature in Oconto on July 20 (Erickson) and one in Waukesha on July 6 (Tom & Carol Bintz).

Least Bittern: Distant from the more expected south and central areas were those in Burnett county June 25 (Robbins), Vilas county June 13 (Robbins) and June 24 (Dennis Gustafson) and Barron county July 13 (Faanes).

Mute Swan: Four in a marsh just west of Ashland on June 16 may have been the same birds as on the Christmas count (William Hilsenhoff).

Whistling Swan: Found in Brown county on June 3 (Erdman & Trick), June 7 (Tessen) and two from June 5 to 12 when two birds were found shot in Atkinson Marsh (Columban & Cleary). Also one in Manitowoc county on July 22 (Erdman & Jim Steffen) and July 27 (John Woodcock).

Canada Goose: Reported in the following counties; Burnett, St. Croix, Taylor, Oconto, Brown, Trempealeau, Monroe, Juneau, Wood, Dodge, Dane, Waukesha and Milwaukee. Heaviest concentration reported was 300 in Brown county on July 24 (Columban & Cleary), nearly matched by 247 in Burnett county on July 22 (Evrard).

Gadwall: Found in Burnett, St. Croix, Oconto, Brown, Manitowoc, Dodge and Milwaukee counties with a maximum of 87 in Brown county on July 31 (Trick).

Common Pintail: Present in the usual locations in Burnett, St. Croix, Oconto, Door, Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, Dodge, Columbia and Dane counties. A total of 280 were reported in Dodge county on July 21 (Sanford).

American Wigeon: Horicon Marsh had an estimated 290 birds present on June 26 (Sanford). Elsewhere, a female with four young was observed in Burnett county on July 21 (Evrard), in St. Croix county on June 8 and 8 on June 8 in Brown county (Erdman & Trick).

Northern Shoveler: Southernmost and possible late migrants were the pair at Goose Pond, Columbia county, on June 10 (Tom Soulen), in Dane county (Hilsenhoff) and in Jefferson county June 8 (Clark Schultz). Elsewhere, birds were present in Burnett, St. Croix, Dunn, Brown and Winnebago counties.

Redhead: There was some evidence that birds may have extended their breeding range into Burnett county where a female was observed acting suspiciously on June 26 (Robbins & Norman Stone). Stone had not previously found breeding birds here. Also found in St. Croix, Brown, Dodge, Dane and Milwaukee counties.

Ring-necked Duck: Discovered only in St. Croix county (Faanes) and Burnett county (Evrard, Faanes, Rockne Knuth, Robbins) where Evrard counted 88 on July 15.

Canvasback: After being unreported in 1974, Canvasbacks appeared in an unusually large number of places this year. Three were in Burnett county on June 3 (Evrard), three in St. Croix county on July 11 (Faanes). In Brown county three males and a female were found on July 7 (Erdman & Trick) and six young were found July 8 (Tessen). Noted also in Dodge County (Faanes, Schultz).

Greater Scaup: Birds were located in Brown county on July 22 (Trick) and in Milwaukee throughout the period (Gustafson, Elmer & Lorna Basten, Eric Epstein, Erickson).

Lesser Scaup: Found in St. Croix county by Robbins and Faanes; all others were observed in the eastern part of the state: Oconto June 25 (Woodcock) and July 12 (Erdman & Trick), Brown where there were nine on July 22 (Erdman & Trick), three on June 14 (Columban & Cleary), Washington Island, Door county, on June 8 (Erickson) and Milwaukee county where there were up to six throughout the period (Gustafson, Don Hanbury, Tessen, Epstein, Erickson).

Common Goldeneye: Unreported last year; present in Door county on June 6 (Kjos, Erdman & Trick), Washington Island on June 7 and a female with nine young on Plum Island, Door county, on July 6 (Erickson). Also in Milwaukee June 16 to July 18 (Gustafson, Hanbury, Tessen, Erickson).

Harlequin Duck: A female was present at Jones Island, Milwaukee, and was seen during the period from June 10 to July 1 by Gustafson, Hanbury, Tessen, Epstein, Donald and Erickson.

Ruddy Duck: Found in St. Croix county (Robbins, Faanes), Oconto (Woodcock), Brown (Woodcock, Erdman & Trock, Tessen), Manitowoc (Erdman), seven young in Winnebago county (Tessen), Dodge county (Sanford, Craig & Ruth Faanes, Hanbury), Dane (Hilsenhoff), Columbia (Schultz) and Milwaukee (Basten, Epstein) counties.

Hooded Merganser: Present in north and central counties of Douglas, Burnett, Sawyer, Washburn, Barron, Langlade, Oconto, Chippewa, Pierce, LaCrosse, Wood, Outagamie. More surprising were the great many reports from Milwaukee throughout the period of up to six individuals (Gustafson, Tessen, Basten, Donald, Erickson).

Common Merganser: Five were in Iron county on July 26 (Mary Butterbrodt), two in Oneida county (Paul & Louise Engberg) and observed in Marinette county on June 1 (Erdman & Trick).

Red-breasted Merganser: Three counties hosted these: Vilas on June 25 (Faanes), Door on June 20 (Kjos, Erdman & Trick) and Washington Island, Door county, on June 29 (Erickson) and Waukesha county on June 27 (Bintzes).

Turkey Vulture: Farthest north were the birds in Pierce county where there were 20 on July 15 (Faanes).

Northern Goshawk: Found in many more locations than in recent years. It was spotted in Ashland county on June 27 (Robbins) and July 5 (Faanes), in Washburn county on June 15 (Faanes), Sawyer county June 27 (Robbins), Forest county June 20 (Gustafson) and June 26 (Faanes), Oneida in mid-June (Donald) and Oconto county on June 28 (Erdman & Trick).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Three observations: in Washburn county on June 15 (Faanes), Price county on June 14 (Robbins) and Washington Island, Door county, on July 27 (Erickson).

Cooper's Hawk: One in Forest county on July 22 (Tessen), Pierce county (Faanes), Juneau county on June 21 (Robbins) and Wood county (Follen).

- Broad-winged Hawk:** Farthest south was one on June 19 in Jackson county (Robbins).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** One was located in Crex Meadows, Burnett county, on June 7 (Faanes) and in Price county on June 13 (Maybelle Hardy).
- Bald Eagle:** Reported present in Burnett, Oneida, Barron, Taylor, Pierce, Menominee, Oconto and Wood counties. A starving immature was found in Walworth county on June 29, nursed to health and released (Bintzes).
- Osprey:** Found in Burnett, Oneida, Barron, Wood, Juneau, Portage, Winnebago, Green Lake and Door counties.
- Merlin:** Found in Forest county on June 26 (Faanes) and July 22 (Tessen).
- Spruce Grouse:** Mary Donald's was the only one reported; in Oneida county on June 17.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Below normal numbers in Burnett county where two were seen on July 15 (Evrard). One was discovered in Taylor county (John & Lois Fadness).
- Sandhill Crane:** Found in the following counties: Burnett, Marinette, Oconto, Jackson, Wood, Juneau, Dodge, Jefferson and Waukesha.
- King Rail:** One was heard in Crex Meadows on June 25 (Robbins & Stone); various observations in Brown county (Erdman & Trick, Tessen) and Dodge county on June 7 (Gustafson).
- Yellow Rail:** Identified at Powell marsh, Vilas county, on June 13 (Robbins with Arol Epple, Mary Donald and Lisa Decker), one in Vilas county June 26 (Faanes) and in Winnebago county on July 15 (Tessen).
- Semipalmated Plover:** Last June date was June 13 in Columbia county (Ashman). Early fall arrivals were in Brown county on July 8 (Tessen).
- Piping Plover:** Birds were found and photographed in Manitowoc county on July 20 (Jim Steffen). This is the first summer record in the state since the destruction of their breeding area on Barker's Island, Superior, in 1971.
- Black-bellied Plover:** Spring migrants were present in Brown and Marinette counties with the latest to leave seen on June 25 in Brown county (Erdman & Trick). No fall migrants were recorded during the period.
- Marbled Godwit:** Faanes located one in St. Croix county on July 19, and in Dodge county on July 29. No other observations.
- Long-billed Curlew:** On July 6, one was discovered in Atkinson Marsh, Brown county. Tom Erdman made the observation and was able to photograph the bird. A first summer record in recent times.
- Upland Sandpiper:** Reported from all areas of the state with largest numbers being the 24 in Brown county on July 10 (Erdman & Trick) and 18 in Portage county on July 17 (Epstein).
- Greater Yellowlegs:** Late spring migrant was present in Brown county on June 7 (Tessen) which breaks the previous record of June 3, 1966. The earliest fall arrival was on July 6 in Brown county where 30 birds were present on July 29 (Erdman & Trick).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** A late migrant was in Brown county on June 7 (Tessen) and one was located in Vilas county on June 24 (Gustafson). Four fall birds were in Milwaukee on July 2 (Epstein). Largest concentration was in Horicon Marsh where 340 were present on July 21 (Sanford) and considered to be down from their usual numbers.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** One lingered in Milwaukee until June 10 (Basten); another record breaker. Fall birds were back in Langlade county on July 8 (Hilsenhoff).
- Willet:** After being missed in 1974, this bird was found in three areas; on July 18 in St. Croix county where it was seen and heard calling (Faanes), in Brown county on June 24 (Trick), June 26 when it was photographed (Erdman & Trick), and again on July 19 (Trick). Four were noted in Milwaukee on July 18 (Erickson) and noted there on July 31 (Donald).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** A good number of observations from counties along Lake Michigan with the largest number being 24 present in Milwaukee from June 7 to 9 (Epstein).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Occurred in the following counties; Oconto, Brown, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Dodge, Dane and Milwaukee. Sanford reported 41 in Horicon on July 21 which he considers below average.

Northern Phalarope: A late spring migrant lingered in Brown county until June 7 (Tessen); another record breaker. A bird in fall plumage appeared in Dodge county on July 29 in the company of Wilson's Phalaropes (Gustafson).

Common Snipe: Found in nearly all counties where there were observers with the exception of Milwaukee. In Waukesha county they were thought to be above normal in number (Bintz).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Found only in July in four counties; Brown (Erdman, Faanes, Tessen, Erickson), Outagamie (Tessen), Dodge (Gustafson, Hanbury, Faanes) and Milwaukee (Donald).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Also found only in July in four counties; Brown (Erdman, Faanes, Tessen, Erickson), Manitowoc (Erdman), Fond du Lac (Knuth) and Dodge (Gustafson, Hanbury, Faanes).

Dowitcher (sp.): On July 19 there were 131 individuals in Brown county (Erdman & Trick).

Red Knot: One was present in Brown county on July 21 (Trick). Also found in Milwaukee between June 7 and June 16 (Gustafson, Basten, Epstein, Donald).

Sanderling: Two spring migrants lingered in Manitowoc county until June 17 (Erickson); first fall arrivals were located in Oconto county on July 12 (Erdman & Trick), a day earlier than the previous record.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Spring migrants were still in Milwaukee on June 29 (Epstein). Early fall migrants arrived in Outagamie and Brown counties the same day, July 8 (Tessen). Largest concentration was 400 plus in Brown county on July 6 (Erdman).

Least Sandpiper: Migrants were out of the state before our season with the exception of one in Barron county on June 1 (Faanes). Birds had returned to Brown county by July 6 (Erdman & Trick) and Iron county July 7 (Butterbrodt). Largest number was found in Brown county on July 31 (Erdman & Trick) where they estimate 400 were present.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Spring birds were still found in Columbia county on June 18 (Ashman) while early fall arrivals were in St. Croix county on July 14 (Faanes).

Baird's Sandpiper: A straggler was in Brown county on June 21 (Erdman & Tessen). Fall birds were found in Outagamie county on July 8 (Tessen), Oconto county on July 12 (Erdman & Trick) and five in Brown county from July 17 to 24 (Tessen).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Late spring departure on June 7 in Brown county (Trick). Earliest fall arrival was July 8 also in Brown county (Tessen) and the most birds were seen in Brown county where there were 38 on July 20 (Trick).

Dunlin: Birds lingered in Milwaukee until June 19 (Donald, Epstein). Two were found there on June 29 (Epstein) and from June 30 to July 3 (Gustafson). The last two observations would be presumed to be fall migrants; however the previous record date was July 8, so these were early arrivals.

Stilt Sandpiper: Occurred in three areas; in Brown county where they first appeared on June 26 (Erdman & Trick) and 45 were present from July 17 to 24 (Tessen). St. Croix county on July 19 (Faanes) and in Dodge County on July 29 (Gustafson, Hanbury).

Ring-billed Gull: Present in the hundreds along Lake Michigan with a maximum of 1600 on June 29 in Brown county (Trick). The only observation elsewhere was in Douglas county on June 22 (Faanes).

Laughing Gull: An amazing number of this species which was formerly on the hypothetical list. In Brown county, Erdman first spotted the bird on June 8 and saw four on June 19. Brown county birds were also seen by Joel Trick. Tom Erdman and Jim Steffen saw different birds on July 17 and 22. In Milwaukee county there were almost daily observations between June 13 and July 29 (Gustafson, Donald, Hanbury, Erickson, Epstein, Tessen).

Bonaparte's Gull: Found along Lake Michigan in Marinette, Oconto, Brown, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Milwaukee and Racine counties. Three were noted in Iron county on July 26 (Butterbrodt).

Little Gull: As with the Laughing Gull, an amazing number of observations for a bird which had been seen in the state only seven times until 1969. It was first spotted in Brown county on June 7 (Columban & Cleary). A maximum of 13 birds was noted there on June 9 (Trick). Tom Erdman has documented nesting in Brown county in *By the Wayside*. The bird was also found in Oconto county on July 12 (Erdman & Trick), in Manitowoc county where 8 to 10 were noted on June 16 (Erdman & Steffen) and there were many observations in

- Milwaukee county extending from June 16 when Gustafson found two immature birds to July 15 (Gustafson, Hanbury, Epstein, Donald, Erickson).
- Forster's Tern:** Farthest from Lake Michigan were those in Dodge county on June 14 (Hanbury) where they occur regularly.
- Common Tern:** Twelve birds in Pierce county on June 13 were the second summer record for that county (Faanes). Elsewhere there were usual numbers in expected locations.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Farthest north were those in Iron county on July 7 (Butterbrodt) and Burnett county on June 26 (Robbins). Louise Erickson reported more than usual on Washington Island.
- Barn Owl:** Found during the summer in Manitowoc county (Bernie Brouchoud).
- Common Screech Owl:** Number in Rock county reported to be down (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).
- Barred Owl:** Reported in Ashland, Sawyer, Washburn, Oneida, Barron, St. Croix, Oconto, Pierce, Winnebago, Manitowoc, Wood, Door, Sauk and Grant counties.
- Long-eared Owl:** A single observation, in St. Croix county (Faanes).
- Short-eared Owl:** One was present in Vilas county on June 24 (Gustafson). On June 13, 20 were present, a normal population in Dodge county (Sanford).
- Saw-whet Owl:** Noted only in Forest county on July 22 (Tessen).
- Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** One was discovered in a spruce-fir forest in Vilas county on June 26 (Faanes). This is the first record since 1972.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** A male was found in Shawano county on June 20. It was observed there for three days, after which it was not seen (Mary Hafeman).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Found in northern counties of Ashland on June 28 (Robbins) and two on July 5 (Faanes), Forest on July 22 (Tessen), St. Croix county on June 8 (Robbins). In addition, it was located in Jackson county on June 9 (Mrs. Francis Harmer) in Brown county until June 4 (Melvin Wierzbicki) and two in Milwaukee on July 28 (Gustafson).
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Found on June 18 in LaCrosse (Robbins), a nest was located and three adults and two young were seen in Parfrey's Glen, Sauk county (Ashman), seven at Wyalusing, Grant county, on June 28 (Ashman), in Jefferson county on July 29 (Schultz) and five in Waukesha county on June 15 (John Bielefeldt).
- Alder and Willow Flycatchers:** In general, pretty neatly divided in the state with the Alder in the north and Willow in the south. Overlapping occurred in Barron, Chippewa, Oconto, Juneau, Manitowoc, Dane, Dodge, Waukesha and Milwaukee counties with both species being present.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Farthest south of the mid-summer observations was in Langlade county on June 26 (Woodcock).
- Boreal Chickadee:** Daryl Tessen found six in one group in Forest county on July 22. Other finds were in Sawyer county on June 25 (Faanes), and June 28 (Robbins), Forest county on June 20 (Gustafson) and in Oneida county in mid-June (Donald).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Farthest north location was St. Croix county (Faanes). Also reported in Sauk, Crawford, Grant, Dane and Rock counties.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Farthest south was one in Jackson county on June 20 (Robbins).
- Brown Creeper:** The bird was again found in Outagamie county in two locations, south of its usual summer range (Tessen). A late migrant dallied in Manitowoc until June 3 (Woodcock).
- Winter Wren:** Observed in most northern counties as far south as Shawano. Ashman found four singing on June 28 in Wyalusing Park, Grant county, in the same area that he found them in June 1974.
- Bewick's Wren:** The only report came from the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, near the manager's home on July 31 (Craig & Ruth Faanes).
- Carolina Wren:** A pair nested and brought off four young in Milwaukee (Donald). Found in Racine county at a feeder (Erickson).
- Northern Mockingbird:** A pair was present in Juneau county at Lyndon Station (Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thorne). A single bird was found in Walworth county on June 19 (Even Carnes).

- Swainson's Thrush:** Late migrants were in Brown county on June 1 (Wierzbicki), two in Racine on June 2 (Erickson) and in Milwaukee on June 10 (Basten). Likely summer residents were the two in Bayfield county on June 23 (Gustafson).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Farthest north were the two reports from St. Croix county (Robbins, Faanes).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Found in Douglas, Ashland, Vilas, Forest, Sawyer, Price, Oneida, Taylor and Oconto counties.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** One in Iron county on July 7 (Butterbrodt, one in Sauk county on June 20 (Ashman) and from June 27 to July 19 in Waukesha county (Bintzes).
- Bell's Vireo:** Present in Trempealeau county on July 11 and 31 (Faanes), in Dane county on July 19 (Hilsenhoff) and in Milwaukee on June 2 (Epstein).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** A first for Barron county was found on July 5 (Faanes). Others were observed in St. Croix, Pierce, Trempealeau, Crawford, Grant and Rock counties and in Outagamie on July 27 (Faanes).
- Tennessee Warbler:** A fall migrant reached Outagamie county on July 21 (Tessen).
- Northern Parula Warbler:** Farthest south was the observation in Langlade county on June 27 (Woodcock) and the one in Milwaukee on July 15 (Basten).
- Cape May Warbler:** For the fourth consecutive year nesting birds were found in Douglas county north of Solon Springs on June 27 (Robbins). One was present in Ashland county on June 18 (Knuth), one there on July 5 (Faanes), in Sawyer county on June 28 when a pair was found near Teal Lake and singing males were at two other locations (Robbins) and in Price county on June 14 (Robbins).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Found in mid-June in Oneida county (Donald).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Farthest north was one in Oconto county on June 7 (Tessen).
- Palm Warbler:** One was in Vilas county on June 26 and in Iron county the same day (Faanes). Found in Oneida county June 21 (Gustafson) and mid-June (Donald). In Price county on June 25 (Faanes).
- Northern Waterthrush:** Found in Ashland, Marinette, Oconto, Door, Taylor, Langlade and Manitowoc counties.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Found in Sauk county by Ashman on June 20 and by Hilsenhoff on June 30. Ashman's find consisted of two birds carrying food at the WSO area.
- Kentucky Warbler:** Found only in Grant county; nine at Wyalusing on June 28 (Ashman) and on July 30 (Faanes).
- Connecticut Warbler:** Found in Bayfield county on June 26 and in Douglas county on June 27 where there were four on the Minong BBS transect as in past years, same date in Burnett county produced five on the Union Township BBS transect where its presence had not previously been discovered (Robbins). Also found in Forest county on July 22 (Tessen) and Milwaukee county on June 9 (Gustafson) and on unspecified date (Donald).
- Mourning Warbler:** Found in all northern counties as far south as Outagamie and Winnebago counties (Tessen). Late spring migrants were in Jefferson county on June 10 (Tom Soulen), Waukesha county on June 2 and 7 (Bielefeldt), Milwaukee on June 2 and 16 (Epstein) and Racine June 1, 2 and 3 (Erickson). Nesting was reported in Ozaukee county in beech-maple woods (Erickson) and mid-summer residents were present in Sauk county on June 30 (Hilsenhoff), Dane county on July 1 (Ashman) and Waukesha county on July 1 (Ashman) and Waukesha county on July 3 and 7 (Bielefeldt).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** After an absence from the records since 1971, this bird turned up in four locations. One was in Monroe county north of Kendall (Robbins); a male and female in Baxter's Hollow, Sauk county, on June 30 (Hilsenhoff); in Waukesha county on June 1 (Bielefeldt); and in Wyalusing Park on July 31 (Faanes).
- Hooded Warbler:** Found in the Kettle Moraine area of Waukesha county on June 24 (Bielefeldt). Also observed and photographed in Manitowoc county (Brouchoud). See **By the Wayside**.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Two spring migrants were in Milwaukee until June 2 (Epstein) and three were in Racine until June 2 (Erickson).
- Canada Warbler:** Found nesting in Manitowoc with Hooded Warbler.

Orchard Oriole: Two observations; in Crawford county on June 18 (Robbins) and in Trempealeau county on July 11 (Faanes).

Summer Tanager: One was present in the Jordan Park lagoon area, Milwaukee, on July 8 (Basten). This is the first summer report in at least 10 years.

Dickcissel: Appeared most frequently in reports from northern counties with numbers down or absent in southern counties. It was recorded in Bayfield, St. Croix, Barron, Oconto, Door, and Brown counties. Absent from Chippewa county and down in Milwaukee and Rock counties.

Purple Finch: Farthest south were the two in Outagamie county on July 30 (Tessen).

Red Crossbill: Far from the usual northern range were the one in Outagamie county on July 21 (Tessen) and at least one in the tall pines near Hamerstroms' home, Waushara county, on June 20 (Robbins).

White-winged Crossbill: A flock of five was discovered in Vilas county west of Woodruff on June 14 (Robbins, Donald). One was in Forest county on July 22 (Tessen).

LeConte's Sparrow: A possible spring migrant was in Waukesha county on June 5 (Bielefeldt). Found in Vilas county on June 25, and on June 7 one was singing east of Exeland, Rusk county, as in several recent years (Robbins).

Lark Sparrow: A single report; on June 26 in Burnett county west of Grantsburg (Robbins and Stone).

Northern Junco: A late date for Juneau county on June 21 (Robbins).

Lincoln's Sparrow: One in Barron county on June 1 may have been a migrant (Faanes). All other observations are mid-June or later: Douglas county on June 27 (Robbins), Iron county on July 7 (Butterbrodt), Sawyer county on June 28, a singing male north of Woodruff and an agitated pair west of Woodruff, Vilas county, on June 14, one in Price county same date (all Robbins). Also located in Langlade county on June 26 (Woodcock).

Contributors of Field Notes

Marjorie Albrecht, Philip Ashman, Elmer & Lorna Basten, John Bielefeldt, Tom & Carol Bintz, Brenie Brouchoud, Mary Butterbrodt, Even Carnes, Brother Columban, Edwin Cleary, Mary Donald, Thomas Ellis, Paul & Louise Engberg, Arol Epple, Eric Epstein, Tom Erdman, Louise Erickson, Jim Evrard, Craig & Ruth Faanes, John & Lois Fadness, Don Follen, Dennis Gustafson, Mary Hafemann, Don Hanbury, Maybelle Hardy, Mrs. Francis Harmer, Donald Haseleu, William Hilsenhoff, Chuck Kjos, Rockne Knuth, Harold Lindberg, Mrs. Joseph Mahlum, Hal Roberts, Sam Robbins, Thomas Sanford, Clark Schultz, Tom Soulen, Jim Steffen, Cathryn Steuer, Norman Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thorne, Joel Trick, Melvin Wierzbicki, John Woodcock.

Help Save

HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Mary and Charlie Nelson

Problem of Birds Flying into Picture Windows

Here are three discussions of this frequent distressing phenomenon and possible solutions for home owners. The following information is passed on by Charles Gilmore.

We have a similar problem on the second story of this office building, which is in a rural setting and has a glassed-in corridor connecting two portions of our building. We not only have reflections of trees, but we also have a direct view through from one side to the other. We have tried the oversized owl eyes recommended by the late Mr. Chamberlain, and we have also tried silhouettes of birds of prey. For the last 2 or 3 years we have had a life-sized plastic owl suspended outside the window, one on each side of the corridor. We still have between five and ten birds striking the window per year so we do not consider the problem entirely solved. I suspect that suspending a few plastic streamers in front of the window would be just as effective as buying a couple of owls.

I believe it is impossible to completely prevent window strikes, but you could probably reduce them by looking at your window from the outside, as the bird sees it, and experimenting with several techniques, such as use of curtains, window spray, lights, imitation eyes, or objects swinging in the wind, and see which of these provides the greatest reduction in reflection or the greatest distraction.

You have probably noticed that the most birds tend to strike the window during the migration seasons and especially during the early morning hours. The birds that nest and winter around your home are not so likely to strike the window--except when frightened from a bird feeder by a hawk. I feed a large number of birds in winter and find that the concentration of birds tends to attract Sharp-shinned Hawks. The hawks, in turn, cause some birds to panic and strike the window, but by having the feeder close to the window the force of the impact is so light that very few birds are injured.

If you are fortunate enough to find a good solution to your own problem, we would certainly appreciate hearing about it.

Chandler S. Robbins
Non-Game Project Leader
Migratory Bird and Habitat
Research Laboratory

For one reason or another, birds fly into picture windows. What they see is a matter of conjecture. Maybe it's the open space, maybe a reflection, maybe both, but it seems safe to say that what they don't see is the glass. In any event, collisions are rather commonplace, particularly where the picture window closely overlooks a feeding station. This is a natural setting where the window is built to look out of and the owner wants to watch birds.

Unwittingly, this arrangement also make a very good trap. The efficiency of the trap is increased manyfold if a tree or high shrub stands over the feeder, or bath. Some of my victims apparently are only stunned and recover sufficiently to fly after a few minutes retention in a shoebox. Others qualify for an autopsy. There is always something to be learned from a dead bird and an opportunity is lost when one is discarded without study.

Several ideas have been suggested or tried, to reduce picture window casualties. It seems that the successful ones require offset screening of one sort or another. They provide a buffer to soften the impact of a collision rather than prevent one. They are unsightly and they detract from the usefulness of the window.

The accompanying photograph shows a scheme of mine that I am experimenting with. The glass measures approximately 3 by 4 feet and when viewed from near the ground it beautifully mirrors the tops of the opposite trees and sky. A somewhat oversized pair of owl eyes are attached by scotch tape to the inside of the glass. Two discs of brilliant yellow cardboard, about two inches across, with one inch black cardboard discs glued at the centers, form the eyes. I put them up on January 10, 1959 and to date, April 15, there have been no known hits. Before the eyes were placed there were numerous collisions by Chickadees, Titmice, and Pine Warblers, and occasionally, unidentified feathers testified to other strikes. Most were knocked out and brought into the house for protection. Others were not so lucky. The largest of the known killed at my window was a Mourning Dove. Since the eyes have been in place I have seen two Pine Warblers and a Carolina Chickadee fly headlong toward the window and bank abruptly to avoid hitting it. Of course, there is no proof that there is any association of the spots with an owl. It is possible that only an obstruction is registered and that any equally conspicuous object of any form would serve as well. Also, one picture window and a few months are not nearly enough to prove anything, and because of this I am offering the idea now with the thought that others might care to try it and add their findings to mine. In that way, significant data can be accumulated in a comparatively short time. Until the idea is shown to be effective on a larger scale, there would be little point in trying it at windows that have no history of hits.

B.R. Chamberlain
Rt. 1, Box 30
Matthews, N.C.

Reprint from the *Chat*: 23 (1)

Picture windows are a problem to birds. The reflected plants confuse them and they think it is a continuation of the yard. It is necessary to alert the birds to the danger before they strike the window.

We recommend placing colorful decals (other than plants) on the window. They can be scattered about in an attractive manner. Some homeowners use the colorful stained glass objects that are so popular now. The latest device is to apply a silhouette of a falcon in flight. Songbirds will stay away from a predatory bird.

Andrew Bihun, Jr.
General Information
National Audobon Society

Letters to the Editor

June 1, 1976

Dear Charles:

On May 8, at 7:30 p.m., I glanced out at my feeding tray, some 15' distant, and saw a single bird, which at first I took for a Pine Siskin, as a small band of these were still frequenting the feeder. But in a moment I saw that it did not have the needle-sharp beak of a siskin, but a heavier, more conical bill like that of a Purple Finch. And the bird was larger than a siskin, with a longer and nearly un-notched tail. Its lack of facial pattern ruled out Purple Finch, and besides I already recognized the bird as a female House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), a bird with whom I am most familiar, from California and from my inlaws' feeder in Northern New Jersey, where it is regarded as a pest. I watched the bird carefully for five minutes before rummaging about for the cameras, which were, predictably, out of film. The bird did not return.

I have occasionally seen robins, in "hard times", picking about under bird feeders, and I've been told they were probably eating cracked corn. But now, in the best of weather, with abundant natural food, I have had a robin or robins coming regularly to my feeding tray for sunflower hearts (shelled sunflower seed) which I put out for the less adept seed crackers. Is this preference commonly known? Also from my observations here: Orioles, given a choice, will take apples over oranges. And, in general, the female orioles come in for the apples while the males choose the sugar water (different physiological needs?). Finally, House Sparrows have learned to eat (and hog) Ethiopian thistle seed (the non-domestic stuff I buy in bulk for the goldfinches, siskins, redpolls). No surprise, I suppose. A bird which will pick at any manner of discarded food or even chewing gum at a public park will eat ANYTHING.

Linda L. Safir
Lower Brookfield, WI

Geese in the Night

So free the
Starlit
Travelers
Calling to keep their patterns
Living in accord with the
Immaculate Law of Geese.

Sue Arnold



By the Wayside...

Great Gray Owl observed in Oneida county: On the evening of May 31st my daughter and her husband (Mr. & Mrs. James Albrecht) were fishing close to the shore of Snipe Lake, north of Eagle River. It was about 7:30, still bright daylight. As my daughter cast out her line and the bobber plunked into the water, she was shocked into immobility by the sweep of an enormous owl toward her. It came to within an estimated seven feet of her head before veering away and returning to a nearby tree. She was terrified, too, of those talons coming so close to her face and head.

For more than an hour they watched it as it flew from tree to tree and down to the ground to feed. Once it caught what looked to be a mouse with a white belly; they were so near to it that they heard the mouse squealing. My daughter said the owl watched them constantly for all of that time before finally flying into the woods and disappearing. They were surprised that it would stay so near to them.

This is how it was described to me when they returned to the cottage on the opposite shore where I waited for them: It was larger - taller - than their one-year old child; it had no ears, it had yellow eyes; its wingspread was as wide as my daughter could reach out from fingertips of one hand to fingertips of the other hand.

They heard its call several times and described it as sounding somewhat like a Screech Owl but different. It resembled the call of a hyena, my daughter said, and made her think of the eerie sounds one might associate with Halloween.

The color was rather more grayish than brown; no patches of white on the breast, but streaked with light and dark. It was seen so closely by them that they were sure of their description of it.

The shore of the lake is heavily wooded with coniferous and deciduous forest right down to the water's edge; there are no cottages in that particular area of the lake.

When I came home I checked my books and find that the only owl answering the description is the Great Gray. However, Owen Gromme in his **Birds of Wisconsin** indicated no sightings in Wisconsin in years. Edith M. Leppla, 3730 South Racine Avenue, New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.

Editor's Note: The above observation strictly belongs in the Spring Season but was received too late to be included there. The Great Gray Owl has been recorded in recent years but this is an unusual date.

Hooded Warbler in Manitowoc County: I first heard the Hooded Warbler on June 20th while doing a local breeding bird survey of the Woodland Dunes Area between Manitowoc and Two Rivers. When I first heard it

singing it was within fifty feet of our building but later on the 22nd it was singing near the parking lot, approximately 400 feet southeast of the building. I determined this to be the outer limits of its' territory. I made several attempts to get a glimpse of it but was not successful.

On July 7th I spotted the female acting very nervous near a raspberry patch only 40 feet east of our building. I went home to get my wife, Lyn, and son, Jeff, and returned to attempt to locate the male.

I erected three 40-foot long Japanese mist nets down the center of the trail leading directly east of the building in an attempt to capture either bird. A tape recorder was used (only briefly) with good results. The male responded in song immediately and very slowly began moving closer. Even-



tually he came to within 30 feet of all three of us and spent much time on perches in the open. A beautiful sight.

I saw both male and female in the late afternoon of July 9,10,11,12 and on July 13 I again attempted to net the birds without success. During this week Mrs. Lois Ansorge and Mrs. Ray Hallisey tried to locate the nest - a job which proved to be impossible (so far).

The search continued. On July 20th, Marjorie Albrecht from Kiel went out to see the Hooded Warbler only to bring back a report of seeing a very faded female Canada Warbler where the Hooded should have been. This confused everyone.

I again observed the birds on July 21 and 22. They always seemed very slow to move closer, not even appearing, sometimes, until we had been in the area for 15 to 20 minutes.

On Sunday, July 27th we led a field trip to see the birds. Of the 20 persons present only those who braved the mosquitoes longer were rewarded. Eight persons observed the male up close.

On Monday, July 28th, I added a short 20-foot mist net at a 45° angle from one of the 40-foot nets. This 20-footer extended north into a small brushy area where the female was observed many times to rise above and very quickly drop out of sight again only to repeat this action every few minutes.

The birds did not seem active as previously; however, on this day I observed the female carrying food. Between 7:30 and 10:00 a.m. the male sang repeatedly. I began closing the nets at about 10:30 but when I approached the small net I noticed a movement in it. Within an area of only two feet in diameter in the net was the male Hooded Warbler along with the female Canada Warbler and a juvenile Canada Warbler. The juvenile seemed to be out of the nest only about 4 or 5 days. It would be interesting to know which bird was netted first as the other two were probably attracted by it. I banded, photographed and released all three.

I again saw and heard for the last time the male on the 30th. Toward the last days of the first week in August the birds seemed to confine most of their activities to the area near the small net and in the area to the north. They had never been in this area before (about 50 to 75 feet north of all previously known singing perches). Perhaps the young had fledged and had moved into this area.

Kumlien and Hollister (1903) stated: "We have seen this species repeatedly at Two Rivers in July . . ."

In 1971 a female Hooded Warbler was netted and banded, also in the Two Rivers area at Woodland Dunes. This bird was captured at a spot where a male Hooded was heard repeatedly during the first week in June. Bernie Brouchoud, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, P.O. Box 126, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220.

Louisiana Heron - Second Wisconsin Documentation

On April 23, 1976, I was leading my ornithology class along Cty. Trunk Z, leading out of the Brice Prairie area north of La Crosse, when I observed a Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*). It was in the open, wading in water up to its abdomen, and was observed through 7 x 50 binoculars.

The white head plume was conspicuous, and the light feathers on the back were also noticeable. I went back to tell the students in the following car, but they had already identified it by use of Peterson's **Field Guide**.

Later on the 23rd, or on the 24th, it was seen and identified in the same general location by four other birders.

This apparently constitutes the 2nd record for the state; the first being Pierce's 1956 September record at Horicon.

Howard Young
Department of Biology
University of Wisconsin
La Crosse, 54601

Louisiana Herons also in Winnebago County

On May 15, the day of the Oshkosh Bird Club's May Day Count, I had the privilege of watching two Louisiana Herons along Winnebago County Highway M, 2.5 miles South of Waukau. (This is area B of Rush Lake in the new "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts").

I had stopped and with 7 by 35 binoculars looked at a little pond off Rush Creek about 300 feet from the road. On the other side of the pond I saw a strange small heron. I quickly set up my spotting scope and observed

the bird. The bird was small in size, had a dark body with creamy white under parts, and very distinctive creamy white head plumes. I checked my "Robbins" field guide and felt positive it was a Louisiana Heron. While I was watching the first bird the head of a second popped up out of the grass behind the first. The second bird soon walked out to the first and they both started wading in the pond. I watched both birds for 30 minutes and then left to finish my May Day Count area. I came back an hour later and could not spot them.

On May 17, Gladys Ziebell and I checked the same spot and found three Louisiana Herons sunning themselves on the bank of the pond. We watched them for 20 minutes. That evening Jack Kaspar, Bruce Parfitt and I went to see the birds, but with no luck.

At six the next morning May 18, Jack Kaspar, Bruce Parfitt and I went to see the birds, but again with no luck. That noon I saw one bird and watched it for 15 minutes. Bettie Harriman and Bob Jansen observed one bird that afternoon. They both had experience with Louisiana Herons in Texas and agreed that it was a Louisiana Heron.

At noon May 19, Bruce Parfitt and Kay Rill observed two birds and also agreed they were Louisiana Herons. Bruce sneaked within 75 to 100 feet of the birds and took some pictures, two of which were diagnostic. That afternoon Jack Kaspar and I observed two birds for 20 minutes. Jack verified that they were Louisiana Herons.

The birds were seen daily from May 17 through May 23. They were never seen earlier than 10:00 a.m. or later than 3:30 p.m. With this daily pattern it seems the birds were using the pond area for feeding and loafing. The birds were never sighted elsewhere in the area and there was no effort made to locate their roost site.

Thomas Ziebell
350 W. 17 Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
July 5, 1976

The First Documented Nesting of Little Gulls in USA:

The first successful nesting of Little Gulls, *Larus minutus*, for the United States was finally documented in Northeastern Wisconsin. Three nests were found on the west shore of lower Green Bay, Brown County. Another nest was discovered on a small river about two miles inland from Lake Michigan near the city of Two Rivers in Manitowoc County.

Little Gulls were first noted on lower Green Bay in 1972 when I found two pair attempting to nest in a large Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*, colony upon which I was conducting research. The extremely high water levels in 1972 compounded the effects of the normal seiche and wind driven surges common to the lower bay. The rapid and severe water level changes, as much as a foot in four to five hours, foiled at least two nesting attempts of the Little Gulls that summer. Continued high water, storms and the spring ice breakup completely destroyed this nesting site. In 1973 the Little Gulls and Forster's Terns moved three miles south to a large diked marsh at the lower end of Green Bay. Five Little Gulls were observed, but only one in adult plumage. This diked in area offered some protection from the wind driven surges but not the high water. The Little Gulls again attempted

to nest, but like most of the Forster's Terns they were washed out. No nests or young were observed. The Little Gulls returned again to this site in 1974. Although only three birds were observed it was obvious by early June that a nest was present. It was also learned at this time, that this portion of the marsh was scheduled to be filled with dredging spoils by the Army Corp of Engineers. Prompt action by the U.S. Department of Interior at Green Bay succeeded in obtaining a weeks delay and a rescheduling of the areas to be filled. This would have given the gull and tern colonies enough time to finish nesting. But then in early July a tremendous hail storm smashed the marsh. The area was flattened and thousands of birds, even some Canadian Geese, were killed. After the storm neither the nest nor the Little Gulls could be found.

Little hope was put forth for finding Little Gulls in spring of 1975. By early June I had already checked most of the tern colonies for Little Gulls and had not seen a bird. Then on June 6, Dr. H. Harris of the University of Wisconsin-Green bay, while mapping coastal vegetation, reported seeing a Little Gull in a small marsh twelve miles north of the area used in 1973 and 1974. I checked the area on June 9 and found three nests, each with three eggs. The first confirmed nesting of Little Gulls for Wisconsin and the United States had finally been documented after three years of frustration. A total of thirteen Little Gulls were observed; six of which were in adult plumage. On June 17 Jim Steffen, a fellow bird-bander from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, reported an adult Little Gull near the city of Two Rivers on Lake Michigan. After a short search on June 21, we located and photographed a single nest with two eggs. All of the Little Gull nests were found in Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger* colonies. Both colonies were kept under observation through the end of July.

The Green Bay colony again fared poorly. Predation occurred to eggs and at least one nesting adult. High water on July 3-4 washed out another nest. No young were observed, however, the behavior of one pair of adults suggested the possibility of at least one young in the marsh. The type of habitat and the mobility of swimming young make observations almost impossible. The pair of birds at Two Rivers, which were nesting in a river marsh, did produce young. The hatching date was July 4. Once the young left the nest they were not observed again. However, behavior of the adults indicated that young were still in the marsh. The low number of young produced was discouraging, however, the observed increase in the number of Little Gull and the discovery of a second nesting area (Two Rivers) indicate that the population is increasing and that they will continue as part of the local fauna. It should also be noted that by the end of July eight more Little Gulls, two in the adult plumage, had joined the nesting pair in Two Rivers. Single Little Gulls were also observed in July at two other marshes on Green Bay. It is very probable that more colonies exist in the Green Bay marshes and along the shores of Lake Michigan. All Forster's and Black Tern colonies should be checked for the presence of Little Gulls.

Thomas C. Erdman
Richter Museum of Natural History
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
E.S. 307
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303

Wild Turkey in Winnebago County

At 7:00 a.m. on 18 May 1976, while John Kaspar, Tom Ziebell and myself were on our way to Waukau Marsh (junction of Rush Creek and County Trunk M), Winnebago County, we saw a turkey in the roadside ditch about a mile north of the marsh. Since no farm was in sight, and this portion of the road bordered a woods, we backed the car up for a better look.

The bird was unusually brave and was only 30-40 feet from the car. Due to the bird's size of nearly two and one half feet tall, and its distance from us, binoculars were almost useless. We did use them, however, to verify the fact that the tail had a rusty, not white, terminal band. We were then certain that we were looking at a Wild Turkey. After a minute or so, it sauntered off into the woods.

None of the dwellings near the site showed any signs of having recently raised poultry but Anita Carpenter (fide Katherine Rill) said that she knew of a man in the area who raised and released perhaps 25 Wild Turkeys.

None-the-less, I believe this to be the first report of a Wild Turkey in Winnebago County in recent times.

Bruce D. Parfitt
806 Scott St., Oshkosh, WI 54901

A Hybrid Common Flicker Wintering in Southeastern Wisconsin

The yellow-shafted race of the Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is a regular breeder in the state of Wisconsin. There is only one sight record for the red-shafted race in the state (Kemper 1973). Kumlien and Hollister reported taking two specimens in southern Wisconsin that showed characteristics of the red-shafted race (Schorger 1949).

On 14 February 1976 while trapping Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station, a hybrid Common Flicker was also trapped. The bird was caught in a four cell standby trap baited with small grain. The bird showed largely characteristics of the yellow race with hints of the red race. The mustache marks were completely black, the crown and nape were grey and the face was brown. The characteristics of the red race were evident only in the flight feathers. Primaries three through six were a light salmon color, with the rest of the remiges being yellow. Rectrices two through four on the right side and rectrices two and four on the left side were dark salmon; all of the others were yellow. It was not determined whether the bird was an adult or juvenile. The bird was banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band (963-76127) and released.

The bird was first seen on 24 January 1976. However, it may have been present as early as mid-December. The last sight record for the bird was 21 February 1976. On this date and the first date seen the bird was feeding at ground feeders supplied with small grain. James L. Ingold, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Publication No. 17, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station.

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Incidence of Great Horned Owls Nesting in a Heron Rookery

by

Richard M. Johnson
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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

There are two Great Blue Heron rookeries located in Dodge County, Wisconsin. One is located on Four Mile Island in Horicon Marsh, the other on Brushwood Island in Fox Lake. Until this year, the only predatory birds known to nest in the Four Mile Island rookery were; Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron. Only Great Blue Herons are known to nest on Brushwood Island.

On April 23, 1976, a Great Horned Owl nest was located on Four Mile Island. The nest which contained two nestlings, was located in a tree containing a Great Blue Heron nesting about four feet above the owl nest. The heron was apparently sitting on a clutch of eggs, but continuously threatened as the owl left or returned to the nest and would continue to threaten the owl for some time after it had entered the nest. The owl responded to the heron's aggressive behavior by flying directly at the heron when returning to her nest. At one point the owl actually hit the heron knocking her from her nest. Then for a period of time the owl would watch the heron and occasionally click her bill at the heron. One week after the discovery of this strange relationship the heron had abandoned her nest.

On May 10, the abandoned heron nest had been taken over by a Great Egret. The egret was in the process of building her nest. The owl was not as concerned about the egret as she had been about the heron. The egret offered no threat to the owl and paid virtually no attention to the owl nest. The adult owl never left the nest during the observation period, but I believe the egret would threaten the owl during those times when the owl was leaving or returning to her nest.

On April 28, 1976, a Great Horned Owl nest was discovered in a tree containing 9 Great Blue Heron nests at Brushwood Island. This nest had one nestling. In this case there were no Great Blue Heron nests within 10 feet of the owl nest. The herons would threaten the owl when she approached her nest. However, the threat display was short lived and did not continue once the owl had entered her nest. In this case the owl made no threatening moves towards the herons.

In the four years prior to 1976, no owls were observed nesting at either rookery. To my knowledge this is the first documented case of Great Horned Owls utilizing old heron nests within the boundaries of a rookery.



Observations of Mobbing Behavior in Tree Swallows

by James W. Keefer

Mobbing is a common behavioral mechanism used by many species of passerine birds to distract or repel potential predators, such as hawks and owls. This behavior is evident in a wide variety of taxonomic groups such that no taxonomic correlation can be successfully determined. Mobbing among birds most likely has arisen independently several times in the evolution of avian behavior (Altmann, 1956). In most instances mobbing reduces the frequency of predation, and would consequently represent a behavior that is highly selective. Mobbing is usually restricted to natural enemies or to stimuli resembling them. What actually causes a group of birds to mob remains to be specifically defined for many species. Altmann (1956) has shown that stuffed owls served as sufficient stimuli to initiate mobbing in species such as Wren Tits and Brewer Blackbirds. Miller (1952), experimenting with predator recognition, demonstrated that some birds began mobbing when only the vocalization of the predator was given. Mobbing can sometimes be initiated through the stimuli of mobbing birds of different species. Such was the case described by Ficken et. al. (1967) whereby a Chuckwill's Widow was first mobbed by Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and later attacked by warblers and Rufous-sided Towhees.

The effectiveness of mobbing varies greatly among species. Mobbing, in some instances, may be so vicious as to result in injury and subsequent death for the predator. Windsor and Emlen (1975), however, have described the efforts of mobbing Bank Swallows against an American Kestrel as being virtually ineffective in deterring the Kestrel from continuing its assaults. One of the more interesting phenomenon of mobbing behavior concerns mobbing directed toward non-predators. Numerous encounters of this type have been reported in the literature. Guillory and Leblanc (1975) described mobbing behavior in large numbers of Barn Swallows directed toward Snowy Egrets on three separate occasions. In this paper I will describe the mobbing behavior of Tree Swallows directed toward two species of herons, and will suggest a possible selection factor for such encounters.

On 1 August 1975 at 05:30 while canoeing on Mud Lake at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station near Saukville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, I observed approximately 500 Tree Swallows mobbing a Great Blue Heron. I estimated the birds to be 60-68 meters above the lake and adjoining marsh. The swallows maintained the speed and direction of the heron for 1-2 minutes, and although I did not see any swallow actually strike the heron, several came within one meter. The flock of Tree Swallows was arranged with a loose cluster of birds near the heron, gradually thinning outward. As the heron flew southeastward over land, the swallows ceased mobbing and dispersed. I did not witness the origin of mobbing, but I suspected that it began when the heron flew from a tree located on a nearby island in the marsh.

In the same general area on 18 June 1975 at 06:15, I noticed, perched in a dead tree bordering the marsh, a Green Heron being mobbed by four Tree Swallows. The swallows flew about the heron, but none ventured closer than two meters. This encounter lasted less than 3 minutes, and terminated when the heron flew westward toward a field.

The Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Green Heron are not known to prey upon swallows or their nestlings (Bent, 1926). I suggest, therefore, that Barn Swallows and Tree Swallows do not distinguish between potential predators and birds of large size when displaying mobbing behavior. This indiscriminate mobbing may be the result of natural selection favoring responses to rather generalized stimuli, such as overall size, shape, or other external characters, rather than specific responses to particular kinds of avian predators. Although energetically demanding when "mistakes" are made, such responses may provide a "margin of safety."

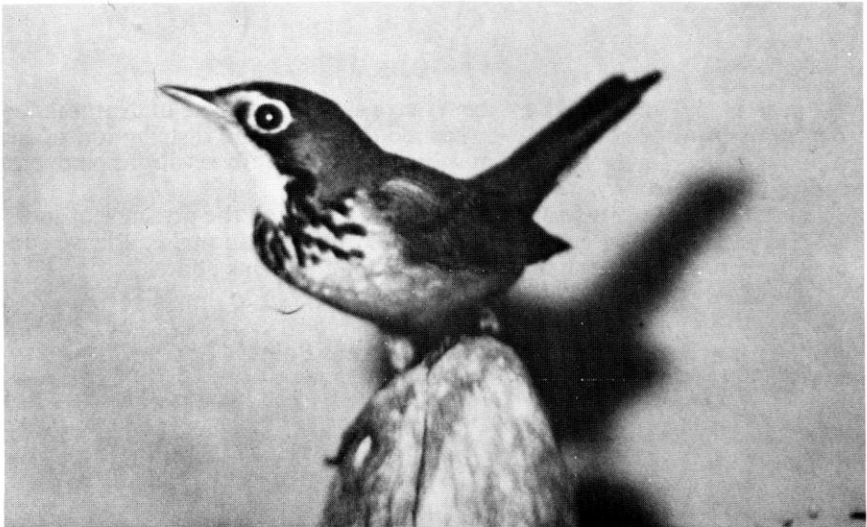
Acknowledgement

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Information Wanted

Peregrine Falcon

Researchers at Michigan Technological University are studying the history and current status of the Peregrine Falcon (**Falco peregrinus**) in the Apostle Islands area of northern Wisconsin. The results of this study will be used in planning reintroduction efforts along the south shore of Lake Superior. Anyone having **any** such information (sightings and/or nesting data) is asked to please contact:

Frank B. Isaacs, Graduate Student
Michigan Technological University
Houghton, Michigan 49931

Color-Marked Sharp-Shinned Hawks

In September, 1976 an experiment on initial orientation of banded Sharp-shinned Hawks will be conducted in connection with the raptor banding program at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, Minnesota. Reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks color-marked with leg streamers or patagial wing tags should include date, precise location of sighting, type and color of marker, direction of flight, time of day, and any other observations of interest. Reports should be sent to David L. Evans, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, 2928 Greysolon Rd., Duluth, MN 55812.

Loons

A 2-year study, sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is being conducted to determine the status and distribution of the common loon (**Gavia immer**) in Wisconsin. Any observations and past records of loon activity are needed.

Please indicate any information which you have on the presence of loons in Wisconsin lakes by completing the following questionnaire. Please continue to report future loon observations to the following address:

Gary Zimmer
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481

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