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# *The* PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME XI

*July, 1949*

NUMBER 3



IMMATURE SCREECH OWL

GEORGE PRINS

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

*Published Quarterly By*

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, Inc.



## NEWS . . .

There will be a field trip for all Society members on October 9 at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, to watch the fall hawk migration. This grove and ridge in Sheboygan County, on Lake Michigan, 35 miles north of Milwaukee on highway 141, is the yearly scene of large hawk migrations; and this trip is being planned by the Education Committee. There will be plenty of hawk experts on hand to help you identify the hawks. Details will reach you later by special notice.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology will have a booth in the Wisconsin Outdoor Exhibit to be held in the Milwaukee Auditorium from September 10-18. This also has been arranged by the Education Committee, and details will be given later in this column.

The Green Bay Bird Club recently attended a meeting of the Ridges Sanctuary Society held at Bailey's Harbor. In connection with this meeting a tour was taken of the back ridges of the sanctuary where many interesting flowers and insects were seen besides the birds.

The new committee on education recently appointed by our president is as follows: Mrs. F. L. Larkin, chairman; and Alvin Throne, Walter Sylvester, Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Miss Merle Pickett, and Miss Ellen Hoffman, members.

All members are invited to look for the yellow-headed blackbird yet this summer as this is the subject of this year's study project. It will be written up in the same manner as the egret was for last year, after questionnaires have been sent to all members. Estimates of numbers found, where the colonies are located in the state, migration dates, nesting studies, food habits, et cetera are among the things desired.

Nesting records made this summer of birds in general will be written up in a special article this year as usual by Sam Robbins. As many of our members know, all nesting records within the state are being plotted on maps as they are made, together with the name of the observer, dates, and other pertinent information. In time, these maps will be very interesting to see, provided our observers do not grow weary in sending in this data.

News of the late convention, held in Madison, has been presented in detail in a longer article in this issue so will be omitted in these columns.

Plans are under way, even now, for our next year's convention. The officers will hold their first meeting at Two Rivers, on July 30, to look over the prospects. Many other items of business are on the agenda too; these will be reported on in our next issue.

Those members who cooperated in the new "Night Migration Study" project last spring, may continue the study during the fall migration. Since the shorebirds and warblers migrate early, migrants will be noted during most of the month of August, if not in July. Detailed instructions for this study were given in our last issue on page 64.

Business with the Society's supply department continues to be good. We now have accumulated enough capital so that fairly large stocks of all merchandise can be kept on hand for immediate delivery. We expect to have a circular ready this fall which will serve as a catalog; meanwhile, we welcome inquiries on any item used in the hobby, as it is our aim to carry them all.

The increases in dues, voted during our last convention, will take effect at once.

The following news report of the Society's first field trip has been prepared in a very interesting manner by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Scott: "The first special field trip get-together held by the Society at the 9,000-acre Sandhill Game Farm operated by Hazel and Wallace Grange near Babcock was declared a great success by all participants. Forty-five people from 12 different towns took part in the trip with one or more cars from Milwaukee, Madison, Waukesha, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Onalaska, Black River Falls, Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards, Portage and Babcock. Dr. John W. Hornbeck, a professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, joined the trip as a guest of Miss Arlisle Quimby of Sheboygan.

The Grange's saw to it that their game farm lived up to its name, producing what seemed to be a perfect "set up" on three cranes walking, flying and calling nearby

(Concluded on page 107)

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# *The Dovekie*

By DOROTHY M. MEAD

I think March 3, 1949 will always stand out in my mind as a real Red Letter day. Shortly after noon the doorbell rang. It was Joe Rice, an employee of the Tomah Ranger Station (Wisconsin Conservation Department), and he had brought a bird for identification. They had been unable to find anything like it in the books at the Ranger Station, he said, so remembering having read my weekly nature column a few years back, he thought perhaps I might know what it was. He drew the bird from his pocket and held it out for inspection. He had found it that morning on the ground on the snow under the wires while a telephone line right of way was being brushed. He thought possibly it might have been killed by striking the wires.

Actually I had never seen a bird of its kind before. It was very handsome, black and white, about the size of a starling, with feet set far back. In the back of my mind I felt I should know it from study, but all the black and white winter birds I could conjure up in memory had nothing in common with it. So I asked Joe if he would just leave the specimen with me and I would call the Ranger Station as soon as I could definitely identify it. He agreed readily, saying that they wouldn't want the bird back.

I took the bird to the bright, sunshiny kitchen and laid it on the table on a clean paper napkin. It was such a neat little thing I did not want to so much as mar a feather. Then I got out the bird-plates and, by alternately studying them and the specimen, I very soon made my identification. It was a dovekie, or little auk, one of the smallest of our wintering sea birds. Usually they migrate down the Atlantic coast, sometimes as far south as New Jersey. Often they are blown inland by storms and gales, which could be the only explanation for the finding of this specimen in Monroe County, Wisconsin.

Realizing with no little excitement the extremely rare privilege which had suddenly become mine, I inspected the dovekie very carefully. Its rather squat, plump body measured  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length (the size range is from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 inches). The thick, very soft feathers were pure white on the throat, sides of head, breast and underparts. The rest was a glossy black except for white touches on the wings. The underside of the wings, the lining, was a dusky-grayish. The tiny tail was exactly half-an-inch long! The bill was small and black, and the weak feet were webbed and had no hind toe.

Satisfied with my identification I called the Tomah Ranger Station and told the Ranger, E. Earl Koch, the name of the bird and something of its history. He thought it all most interesting but apparently failed to quite realize the great value of the specimen. When I suggested finding someone to take proper care of the bird Mr. Koch thought the idea very good if I wanted to carry it out. However, as taxidermists are scarce in this locality I said I knew of no one but felt that perhaps he might. It turned out that he didn't know of anyone either but promised to see what he could do.



I asked again where the dovekie was found. I wanted the exact location for the records which I already visioned myself as compiling. Ranger Koch explained that it was found one-half mile south of the Monroe-Jackson County line on highway 12, under the telephone line on the west side of the highway, in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, T. 19 N., R. 2 W., Town of Grant, Monroe County. Certainly that was exact enough for any record.

Not knowing what to do about the dovekie further I laid it on a table in an unused room at the back of the house, once a woodshed, where it was kept in ideal cold storage. While it was perfectly safe there I worried about it because I felt something should be done towards its preservation as quickly as possible. One member of the family, fearing spoilage, threatened to take the bird out and burn it! But I firmly refused to allow anyone to touch it. I explained that the dovekie was a rare find and would be properly taken care of as soon as I could see a way.

Quite by accident I came across a year-old membership renewal notice and other literature from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. I immediately felt that here must be someone to whom I could write for advice. So it came about that on Sunday, March 6, I wrote to Rev. Samuel D. Robbins of Mazomanie, field notes editor for *The Passenger Pigeon*. I told him of the finding of the dovekie and of its being brought to me for identification. I asked what he would suggest I do towards its preservation, as I knew of no expert taxidermists. The letter was posted immediately and then I commenced a wait for what seemed like ages, always keeping a watchful eye on the beautiful little dovekie reposing so peacefully in its cold room.

At 9 a. m. on March 9th, I received a Western Union telegram from Madison. It read: YOUR DOVEKIE SPECIMEN CONSTITUTES A VALUABLE RECORD. CONGRATULATIONS. WILL YOU EXPRESS IT COLLECT, FROZEN IF POSSIBLE, TO THE ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN. Signed: JOHN EMLÉN. After a considerable search I managed to find a suitable box and packed the specimen with the greatest of care. It was expressed to Madison directly after dinner, with the instructions to keep it in cold storage.

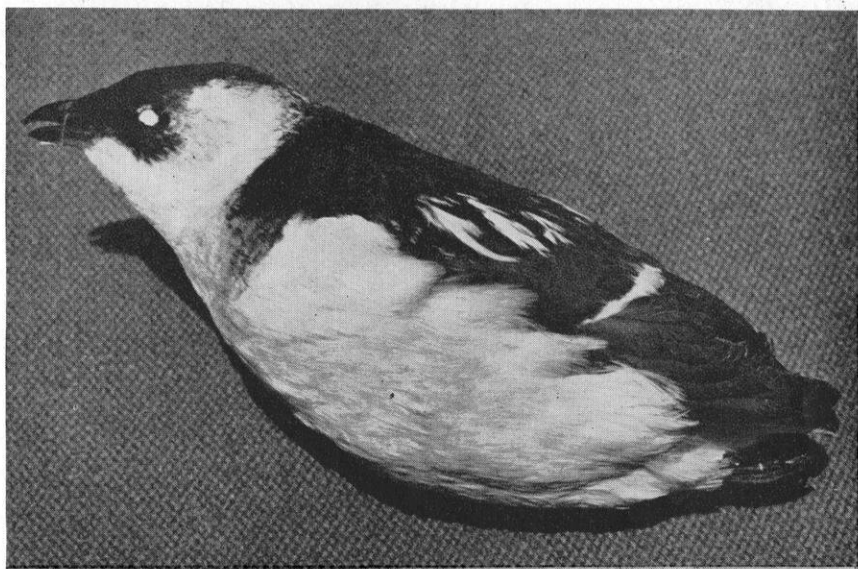
That same afternoon I received a letter from Mr. Robbins in which he explained that, upon receipt of my letter he had immediately gotten in touch with Dr. John Emlén by telephone and that undoubtedly I would be hearing from him very soon. He also told me that, so far as he knew, there was only one previous record of the dovekie in Wisconsin, and that specimen was picked up on the beach at Port Washington on January 11, 1908, and was now in the Milwaukee Public Museum.

As if the telegram, the shipping of the dovekie to Madison, and the letter filled with surprising details had not caused enough flurry for one day, the dorbell rang shortly after 5 p. m. and there stood Joe Rice. The Ranger had just remembered, he said, that he had promised to do something about the bird. So he (Joe) had been asked to stop by and pick it up on the way home. It was to be mounted and kept at the Tomah Ranger Station where anyone who wanted to might look at it.

Of course I explained that the specimen had been expressed to Madison just a few hours before. I also told him something of the

contents of the telegram and letter because, being the one who had found the bird in the first place and brought it in for identification, I knew he must be as vitally interested in it as I was. He seemed to be very pleased with the outcome, despite the fact that he had to leave empty-handed. There were no further conversations with Ranger Koch but I imagine he was equally well pleased, even though it meant the loss of a valuable specimen for his Station.

There was a lull of about ten days before any reports came in. Then, in a letter dated March 19, Mr. Robbins explained that he had had an opportunity to stop in at the zoology department of the University of Wisconsin and had seen the dovekie specimen. It had arrived in excellent condition and had been carefully and skillfully prepared. Two days later, March 21st, a letter came from John T. Emlen which also told of the fine condition of the dovekie specimen upon its arrival. "As you



DOVEKIE

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE STUART AND EDWARD PRINS

doubtless know," he wrote further, "this is a valuable record. The second for the State." But what interested me most in Mr. Emlen's letter was this brief bit: "The stomach of the bird was empty except for one piece of quartz. We are going to ask the geologists if they can give us any idea as to the place of origin of this stone."

To date (May 24) I have heard nothing further about the piece of quartz. Certainly it would help considerably in trying to piece together this lone dovekie's travels if it could be known just where he picked it up. But it is just these often unanswerable where's and how's and why's that make bird study the fascinating field that it is. During my years of nature study and writing I have had specimens of many types brought to me for identification. But none has ever given me the thrill I experienced when I held in my hands the soft little black and white dovekie from far-off Arctic regions.—Tomah, Wisconsin, May, 1949.

## DISTINGUISHED JANESVILLE VISITORS



SIXTEEN CANADA GEESE STOPPED IN JANESVILLE ON APRIL 26 WHILE ON THEIR WAY NORTH. ON THE SHORE AT EXTREME RIGHT IS MRS. R. L. TIFFANY WHO MADE THIS PICTURE POSSIBLE BY MANEUVERING THE GEESE INTO POSITION FOR THE GAZETTE PHOTOGRAPHER, A JOB WHICH REQUIRED A LOT OF PATIENCE. MR. TIFFANY SAYS IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS THAT CANADA GEESE HAVE LANDED IN THAT AREA. MR. R. W. BLISS, EDITOR OF THE JANESVILLE GAZETTE, SENT US THE PHOTOGRAPH.

## A PLEA FOR THE PENCIL

By MARGARET MORSE NICE

When Dr. Niko Tinbergen was visiting us in the fall of 1946, he told us that in the hostage camp to which the professors of Leyden University were sent, one of the projects had been a class in portraiture and almost all the men did well. "The Dutch seem to have special ability in drawing," he said.

Some months later I spoke of this to another Dutch biologist, Anton de Vos. "I do not believe that," he answered. "I think it is that they are taught that it is important." Well, thought I, if any one can draw, then I will. I had always longed to be able to sketch, but I thought one had to have a gift. My sisters had taken drawing lessons when we were children, but I had shown no aptitude in any skill.

In the "Living Wilderness" I came upon a review by Olaus Murie of Clayton Hoagland's "The Pleasures of Sketching Outdoors" (Viking Press); this I bought and followed its directions. I was becoming greatly interested in plants at this time and sketched flowers at the Indiana Dunes and trees in Jackson Park near our home. William Beecher of the Chicago Natural History Museum, biologist and artist, gave me



suggestions on technique and on books to get from the library, Arthur Guptil's "Drawing with Pen and Ink" (Reinhold) proving the most helpful. "You should draw birds," he said. This seemed to me too ambitious. "Copy from Peterson to learn proportions, then practice on the park birds." This I did, but the park birds and squirrels and rabbits were not too cooperative with a beginning art student.

In December, 1947, on my journey home from the Wilson Club meeting in Columbus, Ohio, I busied myself sketching trees. This was such fun that I jotted down some thoughts in my notebook, entitled "Sketches in Twenty Seconds."

"Select a tree in the middle distance, as those close by flit past in 5 to 7 seconds, while those further away may with good luck be seen for 20 to 30 seconds. Not that one can utilize all these precious moments, for first a tree must be seen, then chosen, and by this time several seconds have passed. I choose a tree with grace and individuality and preferably not too many branches; it should stand well out in the open. I decide as quickly as possible on my subject and desperately get down the main lines of the design; I try to fix its image in my mind, add further characters as the train quickly brings me past and shows me its other side and then it is gone forever. For a minute or two I continue working, adding small branches where I know they should go from my acquaintance with the species. Such rapid-fire work gives me a sample of outlines of trees in a locality; it teaches me much of their habits of growth, and will have comparative value for journeys in other regions."

This sketching from the train window was my chief interest and occupation on the trip three months later to the West Coast; and here I had mountains as well as trees. In between journeys, drawing leaves and flowers was a great aid in my hurried attempt at acquaintance with the new flora, while birds and deer posed different problems.

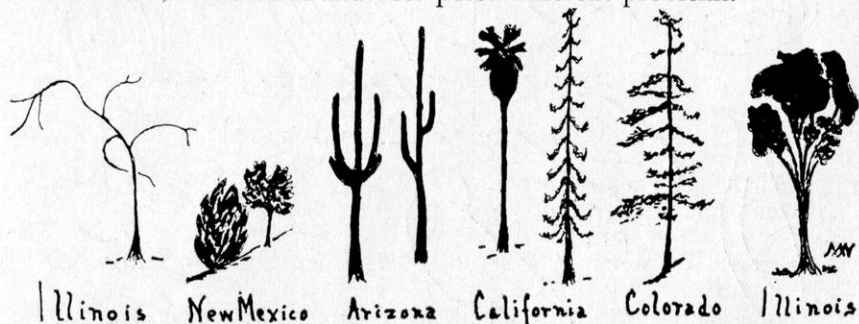
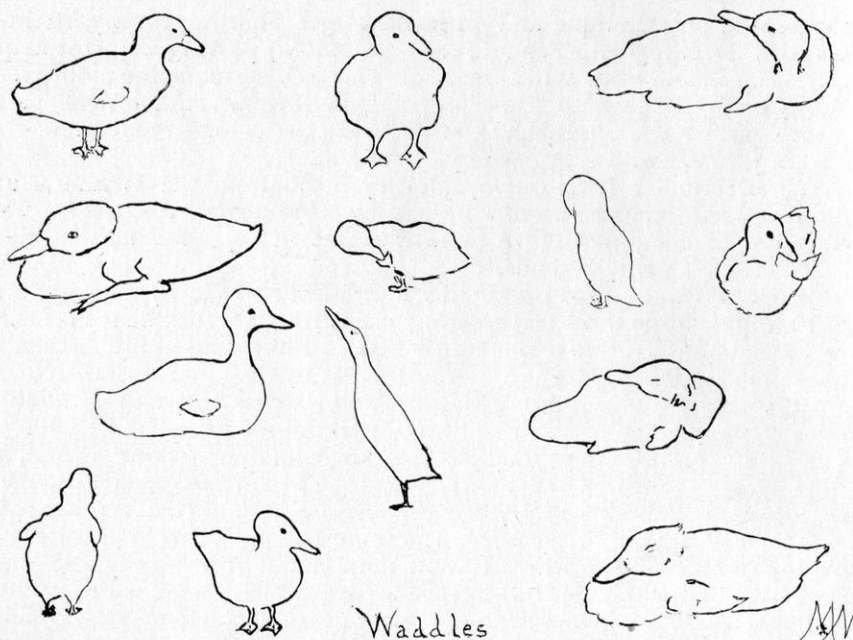


FIGURE 1. TREES FROM THE TRAIN WINDOW FROM ILLINOIS IN FEBRUARY TO ILLINOIS IN MAY.

One August afternoon at Jackson Park I had been throwing crumbs as usual to the grackles, pigeons and English sparrows, then drawing hastily until my subjects flew away. As I started home, I came upon some people trying to release a hand-raised meadowlark that did not wish to be deserted. I thought, "What a wonderful model for sketching—a really tame bird!" So I told them of my large cage at home and persuaded them to give him to me. He has proved a liberal education both for sketching and for studying his large variety of poses.



Waddles

FIGURE II. SIX-WEEKS-OLD HAND-RAISED PEKIN DUCKLING AT MRS. WINNIFRED SMITH'S, ON TWO CREEKS, WISCONSIN.

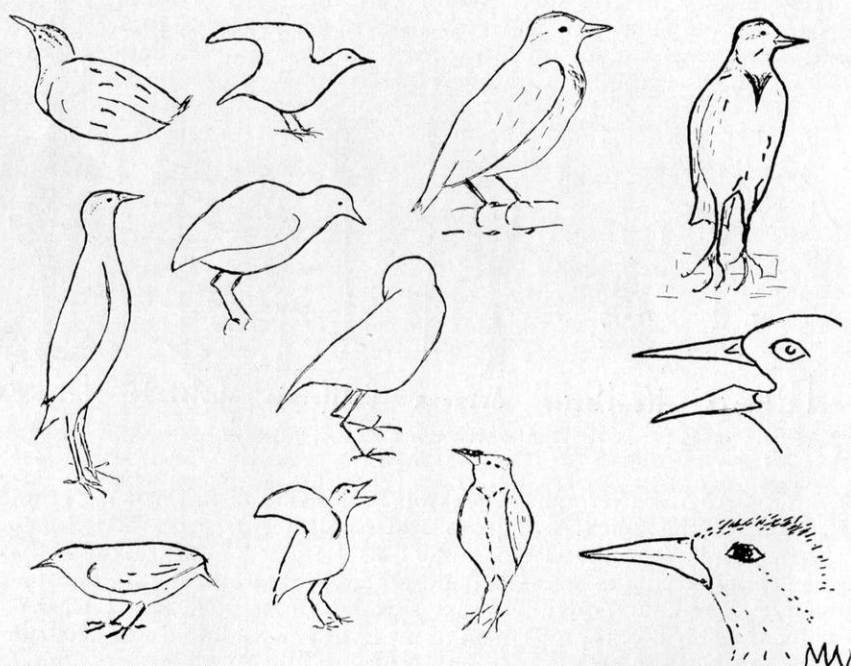


FIGURE III. HAND-RAISED MEADOWLARK; PICTURES ON LEFT, BEFORE POST-JUVENILE MOLT; SECOND FROM LEFT AT BOTTOM, BEGGING; MIDDLE ON RIGHT BY WM. J. BEECHER.

Visits to zoos are far more valuable to me than formerly. Figure IV shows a selection of sketches from three visits last fall to the Washington Zoo. The scale is confused, but there is one characteristic that all the creatures have in common—they stayed still.

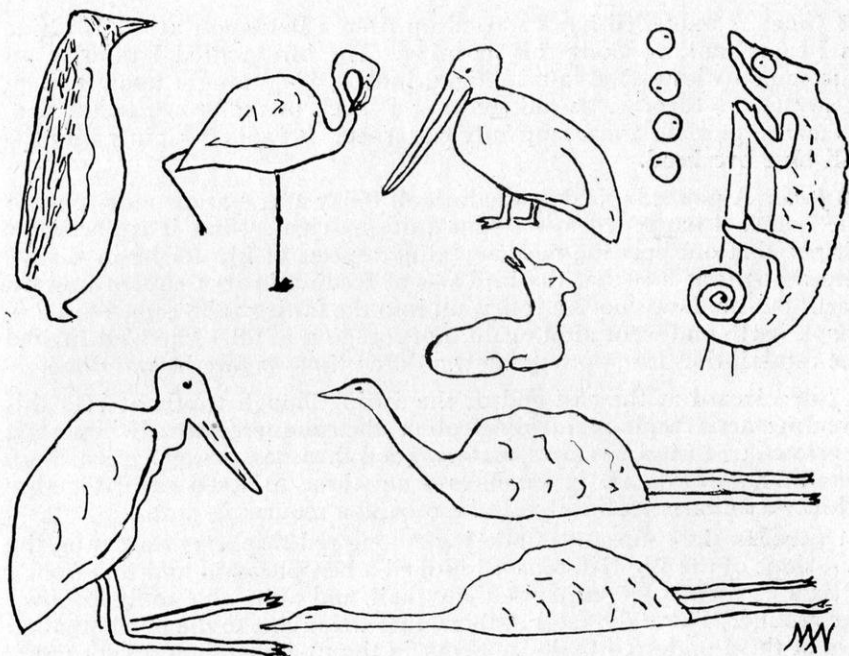


FIGURE IV. AT THE ZOO IN WASHINGTON. EMPEROR PENGUIN, JABIRU, RHEA, BABY GUANACO, CHAMELEON AND DIFFERENT POSITIONS OF THE PUPIL IN ITS EYE, BROWN PELICAN, FLAMINGO.

Sketching has taught me to see more clearly than before; it has made me more aware of the interest and wonder of the world. It has helped me to remember, for it gives a record, at times of pleasure and beauty, at other times of facts of scientific value. I regret that years ago I did not realize that I could draw after a fashion; it would have been of the greatest help in my studies of the song sparrow and other birds. My experience shows what a person without particular ability can do, and I earnestly urge my readers to take up their pencils and draw what interests them in the world around them.

5725 Harper Avenue  
Chicago 37, Illinois





# Sac Prairie Summer

By AUGUST DERLETH

**26 June:** A red-tailed hawk started up from a fence-post at the roadside as I came walking along this morning. The bird waited I thought an uncommonly long time to take flight; indeed, I was almost upon it when it swung up, turning, its tail showing a sheen of red-brown in the sun, its markings plain and beautifully patterned. It vaulted rapidly into the tall blue overhead.

**28 June:** A pewee bathed in the rainfall today at the grape vines west of the house. I happened to see him quite by chance—but it is always by chance that one sees the most revealing aspects of his neighbors' lives—and thought at first that the bird was at feeding in its frequent upward darts; but no, it was not so; it flew up into the falling rain, came back and shook itself, and went aloft again, not foraging at all. The bird invited the rainfall thus for approximately a dozen times before he was done.

**1 July:** Heard at the east end of the Spring Slough trestle at 7:45 this evening: *acris crepitans*, caroling robins, the *conqueror* of redwings, song sparrows, tree frogs, swamp sparrows, wood thrushes, pewees, green frogs, chewinks, catbirds, all in numbers—from three to seven each; together with two solitaires, a little green heron and a mourning dove.

**14 July:** In the course of wandering among red raspberry bushes on the east slope of the Big Hill today, I flushed a hen pheasant and four young pheasants slightly larger in size than quail, and quite able to fly low over the ground. They flew, most of them, into the ravine to the north, though two of them preferred to dodge about in the underbrush and kept themselves well hidden there despite the disturbance they caused whenever I neared one of them. I mounted to the hilltop presently and heard the hen clucking her brood together again.

**15 July:** While at my desk this evening, I heard a whippoorwill's song, coming clearly on the damp air out of the south, doubtless from the near edge of Bergen's Island. I stopped work and stood at the screen to listen, taking delight in this song, as always. The bird sang for perhaps five minutes, and then once again the night was given to katydids and crickets.

**30 July:** Awakened this morning by a violent fluttering in the fireplace chimney. Investigating, I found there a mature mourning dove which had somehow got down inside—quite possibly during last night's storm—and could not escape upward through the long chimney. I managed to reach her past the draft block and drew her into the room. She was not at all harmed, though now filled with trepidation. I took her outside and released her.

**1 August:** There was much todo of grackles about the house this morning. A large flock of the birds—the summer's first noticed here—held to the trees close to the house, black in the lindens and arbor vitae, making their not unpleasant music throughout the morning.

**7 August:** Perhaps one of the most typical sounds of any early morning in Sac Prairie from April 9th onward—the traditional first day of the birds—is the crying of purple martins from the heights at which they

circle and soar above the village. And what patterns they make on the heavens, seen among the arching branches! And how few, how very few of the villagers are ever aware of sound or sight of them!

**11 August:** While swimming in the Wisconsin this afternoon, I paused in midstream near the third pier from the east shore to watch young swallows—doubtless the last family of the year—being fed in their nests under the bridge. The birds were all barn swallows, and adult birds lined the girders under all the spans, occasionally flying out to feed and keeping up a constant rippling of sound, by no means unpleasant, suggesting conversation rather than song.

**16 August:** The grackles were once again in possession of the trees around the house this morning, vying with pewee and mourning dove song: so pleasant a sound especially in early morning that it is difficult to imagine people taking exception to it, withal its reminder that autumn would soon be upon us, and after that the season of complaint once more. I stood at the window listening to their incessant chatter—all talking at once, like a party of bridge players at Emmy Littel's or Annie Schorer's—and evidently all being understood, each in his own way.

**18 August:** From 6:45 to seven o'clock this evening, while I walked from the head of the railroad bridge to the Mid-Meadow trestle, I heard the songs and/or calls of a cardinal, goldfinches, crickets, katydids, marsh wrens, chimney swifts, cedar waxwings, solitary sandpipers, a least sandpiper, pewees, kingbirds, song sparrows, chewinks, a flicker, killdeer, a kingfisher, catbirds, a green frog, yellow warblers, swamp sparrows, mourning doves, a phoebe, a Baltimore oriole, a black mallard, night-hawks, brown cuckoos, and indigo buntings. In contrast to their scarcity earlier in the season, no less than a score of nighthawks foraged tonight over the Upper Meadow's lower extremity and the adjoining hills there. One or two birds were crying, spiralling up and skycoasting, though I observed in these cases there was customarily another bird on wing which was the object of the coaster's attention; the birds coasted at each other, not simply toward the hill, as in the nesting season.

**29 August:** Among birds calling this morning in the marshes, the chickadee was unusually prominent with the **phe-be-be** song so commonly associated with winter and early spring among many ornithologists. The song had a kind of strangeness rising among the songs of pewees, warblers, wood thrushes, and others more usually associated with summer, though it should not have been, for it can be heard in any month. Quite possibly it is less heard in the summer months because of the plethora of other calls and songs which diminish it and cause it to be lost.

**3 September:** In the village this evening I noticed how robins— a dozen of them—hopped cheerily about under the spray of water on Spellman's lawn, enjoying the water in the absence of rain. They flew in and out of the spray with manifest delight.

**10 September:** Purple Martins clung to the telegraph wires over the west channel railroad bridge this evening, plainly on the edge of their leave-taking. They were present in some numbers, almost a hundred of them; their very numbers made the signature of summer's end.

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The Society held its tenth anniversary meeting in the Memorial Union at Madison on April 21 to 24 jointly with the Wilson Ornithological Club under the sponsorship of the Kumlien Club. Total registration for both organizations was 354 for an attendance record which was described by Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. as "the largest of any ornithological convention held anywhere in recent years." The Society's registration book contains the signatures of 336 people including many authorities in this field from throughout the country and residents of several foreign nations. It was a very successful meeting featuring many scientific papers and several movie sessions. Co-chairmen for this program, Dr. John T. Emlen, Jr. for the Wilson Ornithological Club and Dr. Joseph J. Hickey for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, deserve commendation along with members of their efficient local committees.

### Program Highlights

Some program items of special interest to Wisconsin members are summarized here: In his banquet address, Dr. Pettingill named the 10 American ornithologists who, in his judgment, had been most influential in advancing the science of bird study in this country. Living ornithologists excepted, the list in alphabetical order included John James Audubon, Spencer Fullerton Baird, William Brewster, Frank M. Chapman, Elliott Coues, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Joseph Grinnell, Francis Hobart Herrick, Clinton Hart Merriam, and Robert Ridgway. Dr. Pettingill, president of the Wilson Club, declared that he believed present day ornithologists were continuing to advance the science through the efforts of outstanding men. He called bird study the most popular natural science hobby and urged more careful study of the habits and life histories of birds.

Rev. Samuel Robbins of Mazomanie, editor of the bird note department of the Society's publication, reported that eight very rare birds for Wisconsin were positively identified in the past decade. Three of these, the ivory gull, burrowing owl, and varied thrush, had not been previously credited to the state. The others included the brown pelican, purple sandpiper, pomarine jaeger, parasitic jaeger, and dovekie.

Dr. A. W. Schorger of Madison cited changes in the avifauna of Wisconsin during the last century, listing the white pelican, sandhill crane, long-billed curlew, trumpeter swan, whooping crane, swallow-tailed kite and other birds such as the passenger pigeon and wild turkey among those which have become rarer in Wisconsin or extinct in the last century. He reviewed historical evidence to show the reduction in numbers of prairie grouse and waterfowl and proof of the common nesting of Canada geese in the state in early days. Those birds which have increased in numbers or extended their range due possibly to changes in agriculture include the black duck, American egret, crow, Carolina wren, Bewick's wren, western meadowlark, cardinal and Brewer's blackbird. The English sparrow was introduced at Racine and Milwaukee in 1869 and the European starling reached Milwaukee by 1923.

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The Society is indebted to Walter and Trudi Scott for this summary.



About 1,000 hawks were captured in recent years at a banding station operated by the Milwaukee Public Museum near Cedar Grove in Sheboygan county, according to Lee Steven of that institution. Numbers on the leg bands were later reported on about 10% of the birds with two of the rare duck hawks turning up in Central America. The hawks concentrate in their movement down the western shore of Lake Michigan in the fall.

Winnifred Wahls Smith of Two Rivers reported with two other ornithologists on the relation of changes in barometric pressure to bird migration. They showed that waves of migrations seem to accompany a warm front in a low pressure area.

Robert A. McCabe, instructor in the wildlife management department at the university, presented a joint paper with Prof. Harold F. Deutsch of the department of chemistry reporting on their new "electrophoretic" method of studying the protein content of birds' eggs. Using a complicated electro-chemical apparatus, they have discovered that the albumen, or protein, in the egg of each species of bird has a characteristic pattern which can be photographed and analyzed. The proteins of species known to be related are very similar and it is their belief that this technique may be used to determine exactly where in the avian family tree certain questionable species belong. The yellow-breasted chat, which is sometimes listed with the tanagers and sometimes with the warblers, was cited as an example which might be resolved by this method. Considerable similarity was shown between the pintail, gadwall, mallard and shoveller ducks, indicating their close relationship. Dr. Pettingill described this study as "opening up whole new fields of ornithological research."

Dr. John T. Emlen, Jr., Dr. Joseph J. Hickey, and Allen W. Stokes appeared on a symposium panel, "Modern Approaches to the Study of Bird Populations." Prepared summary briefs on their papers are quoted as follows: **The Problems and Significance of Population Studies** (Emlen)—Populations are not mere assemblages of individuals but are distinct entities representing a level of organization above that of the individual. Like the individual organism they may be studied for their anatomy (structure and composition), their physiology (dynamics), or their ecology (responsiveness to environmental influences). Birds provide good subjects for the study of natural populations.

**Productivity versus Mortality in Bird Populations** (Hickey)—Tendencies to renest and to raise more than one brood are fundamentally associated with high adult mortality rates; large clutch size is only indirectly associated. All of these phenomena operate without reference to population density. Postponement of sexual maturity is similarly density independent and correlated with adult mortality; non-breeding may or may not be density dependent. Density dependent regulating mechanisms in bird populations must, by inference, be mortality factors.

**Studies of Population Turnover in Pheasants** (Stokes)—Data on sex and age composition of trapped and hunted populations provide the basis for an analysis of productivity and annual turnover in this species.

Murl Deusing's 90-minute movie, "Safari in Africa," received great commendation from all who saw it. Although it did not deal strictly with

birds, a great many were depicted in the film along with most every wild animal native to the area.

### Elections and Business Transacted

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology selected Two Rivers for its 1950 convention and elected Walter E. Scott, Madison, president and Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Two Rivers, vice-president. Re-elected officers include Miss Mary Donald, Milwaukee, secretary; Harold Wilson, Ephraim, treasurer; and N. R. Barger, Madison, editor. Three new members of the board include Howard Young, Madison; Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee; and Rev. Samuel Robbins, Mazomanie for a two-year term as directors. Re-elected for one-year terms as directors were J. Harwood Evans, Oshkosh; Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton; and Gilbert Doane, Madison. Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. of Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota was re-elected president of the Wilson Ornithological Club, which will meet at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia next year. Dr. John T. Emlen, Jr., associate professor of zoology at the University of Wisconsin, was named a member of their executive council. The Inland Bird Banding Association, which met in conjunction with these groups, elected Harold C. Wilson, Ephraim, president and Mrs. Winnifred Smith, Two Rivers, as treasurer.

Charles Nelson, Jr., Waukesha, chairman of the Society's membership committee, reported that as of April 15, 1949, the Society had 612 members as follows: 511 active, 28 library, 26 student, 29 sustaining, 4 honorary, 2 patron, and 12 life. Included in these totals were 113 people in arrears who had not paid their dues as of January 1, 1949. The committee had received 80 new members from 401 invitations sent out and 107 renewals in contacting 220 members in arrears. Expenses for their operation were cited as \$32.60.

The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$1,294.93 as of April 15, 1949 and expenditures during the past year of \$1,654.47 was read by Harold C. Wilson and accepted by the members.

Walter E. Scott reported for the education and publicity committee to the effect that up until April 21, \$164.25 had been received from 22 contributors for the Education Fund. This included substantial contributions from Mrs. W. H. Ryan and Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher as well as the Green Bay Bird Club. (As of June 10, this fund had received \$210.30 from 37 donors including also the Bird Group of the City Club of Milwaukee and word of recent action of the Kumlien Club of Madison to contribute \$25.00 was received.) The committee also reported that a gift of \$112.00 was received from Mr. Guido Rahr, president of The Rahr Foundation of Manitowoc, to cover the cost of distributing 400 copies of the Society's "Silent Wings" booklet (at cost) to libraries in the state. Arrangements for a get-together field trip at Wallace Grange's 9,000-acre game farm also were announced.

Scott reported that almost 1,500 copies of "Silent Wings" were still left of the original 4,000 printed. To date profits to the Society from sale of this publication total \$217.64. About 600 copies were sold during the past year, including the 400 distributed at cost price to state libraries.

Clarence Jung reported on the work of the special constitution committee and distributed copies of the constitution showing desired changes. He explained that it had been impossible to distribute these copies previous to the meeting and suggested that the members be asked to decide whether they desired to act on the recommendations regardless of that fact. The board reviewed and approved the changes which were later approved by the members in the general meeting. A copy of the revised constitution is carried in this issue and a statement of the important changes follows:

In a short meeting of the new Board of Directors, it was announced by Mr. Scott that re-elected Directors J. Harwood Evans, Alfred S. Bradford and Gilbert H. Doane would retain their committee chairmanship titles in charge of endowments and as legal counsel and librarian respectively, while Howard Young would be the new chairman of the membership committee and Mrs. F. L. Larkin chairman of the education and publicity committee. Rev. Samuel Robbins has been given the title of Associate Editor of **The Passenger Pigeon** upon the recommendation of Editor N. R. Barger. Committee members will be announced at a later date.

### Constitutional Changes

Of greatest importance to all members are certain of the changes in the constitution as related to membership dues. Because the cost of publishing **The Passenger Pigeon**,

which is sent to members quarterly, has risen so much that actual printing and mailing expenses exceed the price of active membership dues, it was decided necessary to increase this fee rather than reduce the size of the bulletin. Although the Board has not as yet decided upon the date when this change will become effective, it probably will be on January 1, 1950. Other important changes in the constitution are as follows:

1. Instead of "permanently record" bird records for the state, it now requires that they be "recorded in a permanent place."

2. Endowment Funds no longer are required to be kept in one of two designated banks in Milwaukee or Madison but can be kept "in such bank or banks as the directors may designate." Also, any withdrawals of the allowed 25% of this fund for emergencies are "to be considered a loan to be repaid as soon as possible."

3. Student members now may vote or hold office.

4. The limitation of ten on honorary memberships was clarified to include only "living members."

5. Dues were changed as follows:

Student—from \$1.00 to \$1.50

Active—from \$1.50 to \$2.00

Life—from \$50.00 to \$75.00

Libraries—from \$1.00 for a two-year period to \$1.50 for one year for Wisconsin libraries and \$2.00 for one year for all others.

6. An addition to election rules states that "Election shall be by majority vote of the members present."

7. Regarding annual meetings only 30 voting members are necessary to constitute a quorum instead of the previous 20% of the voting members.

8. Instead of only five Directors at Large, there now are six to be elected in the future for terms of two years each. The president is empowered to designate them as chairmen of standing committees if he so wishes. The Board is empowered to fill vacancies occurring in directorships until the next annual meeting. Only five members of the Board (instead of six) are necessary to constitute a quorum.

9. Amendments to the constitution may be recommended by the Board as well as by at least ten voting members.

A vote of thanks for their good services to the Society was given to retiring President Paul S. Jones, Vice-President Joseph J. Hickey, Membership Chairman Charles E. Nelson, Jr., and chairman of the committee for revision of the constitution, Clarence Jung. Special commendation was given to N. R. Barger for getting the Society's bulletin, **The Passenger Pigeon**, up to its publication date and for his continued efforts in operating the Society's Supply Department.

## NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 94)

on the early trip, with a fourth bird in the distance. The second morning trip also produced four birds with three flying and calling. Two "unexpected" American egrets favored the early trip as did a brood of ruffed grouse. The golden-winged warbler, clay-colored, Henslow's and Savannah sparrows, as well as a sharp-tailed grouse and both of the marsh wrens fulfilled all expectations with an adequate show supplemented by a total field list of 86 species. Nests found included those of the scarlet tanager, yellow-throated vireo, northern yellowthroat, red-winged blackbird, and that of a sparrow presumed to be Savan-

nah or grasshopper, which is still being checked.

The 5 a. m. trip turned out a greater attendance than expected, which swelled to a cavalcade of 10 cars seeing the area later in the morning. Wallace Grange explained some of his game farming methods, pointing out examples of various practices such as managed burning and cutting for wildlife production. The deer seen at this season attested to his ability as a practical game manager.

It is impossible here to detail enthusiasm and fun experienced on this picnic-field trip but there is no question but that the reception it received will result in a demand for more such outdoor educational ventures in the near future."





PHOTO COPY SERVICE

## WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB AND WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY GROUP PHOTOGRAPH APRIL 23, 1949 — MEMORIAL UNION — MADISON, WISCONSIN

### PEOPLE IN THE PHOTOGRAPH

(Listings all left to right. All without state named are Wisconsin residents.)

**Front row, seated:** Josephine M. Sieker (Manitowoc), Peggy Hickey (Madison), Mrs. F. L. Jaques (New York, N. Y.), Zell C. Lee (Sioux City, Iowa), Mrs. Edna Goldsmith (Wisconsin Rapids), Mrs. Ethel Olson (South Wayne), Mrs. Lola Welch (South Wayne), Mrs. H. A. Main (Fort Atkinson), Marjaretta J. Stahl (Kimberly, W. Va.), Bess Russell (Appleton), Cora E. Harvey (Appleton), Mrs. Charles E. Peterson (Madison, Minn.), Doris Huestis Speirs (Pickering, Ontario), Hazel L. Bradley (Jackson, Mich.), Leone Hoffman (Waukesha), Mrs. Herbert Carnes (Tenafly, N. Y.), Mrs. Rexford Krueger (Germantown), Margarette E. Morse (Viroqua), Ellen A. Hoffman (Madison), Eleanor L. Peterson (Madison), Mrs. Harvey I. Fisher (Urbana, Ill.), Mrs. S. Charles Kendeigh (Champaign, Ill.), Eloise Gerry (Madison), J. J. Hickey (Madison).

**Second row, seated** (First two standing): Alvin L. Throne (Milwaukee), O. J. Gromme (Milwaukee), Mrs. Charles Krause (Sun Prairie), Ethel F. Strong, (Chicago, Ill.), Eleanor R. Pettingill (Northfield, Minn.), Constance Nice (Chicago, Ill.) Mrs. A. L. Throne (Milwaukee), Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger (Milwaukee), Theodora L. Haman (Two Rivers), Margaret M. Nice (Chicago, Ill.), R. M. Strong (Chicago, Ill.), David E. Davis (Baltimore, Md.), O. S. Pettingill, Jr. (Northfield, Minn.), Harold Mayfield (Toledo, Ohio), Burt L. Monroe (Anchorage, Ky.), J. Van Tyne (Ann Arbor, Mich.), W. J. Breckenridge (Minneapolis, Minn.), Maurice Brooks (Morgantown, W. Va.), S. Paul Jones (Waukesha), Richard H. Pough (Pelham, N. Y.), S. Charles Kendeigh (Champaign, Ill.), Mrs. R. A. Walker (Madison), Mrs. Carl Frister (Milwaukee), Mrs. Roger Conant (Wauwatosa).

**Third row, seated on edge of stage:** Harold C. Wilson (Ephraim), Harold A. Mathiak (Horicon), Allen W. Stokes (Scudder, Ontario), Dwain W. Warner (Minneapolis, Minn.), J. H. Evans (Oshkosh), Charles G. Sibley (Lawrence, Kansas), Harvey I. Fisher (Urbana, Ill.), Lawrence I. Grinnell (Ithaca, N. Y.), Wallace Grange (Babcock), H. D. Roberts (Black River Falls), Harry N. Mitchell (Madison), F. L. Jaques (New York, N. Y.), Robert Adams (Waukesha), R. Allyn Moser (Omaha, Nebr.), Milton B. Trautman (Put-in-Bay, Ohio), Walter E. Rogers (Appleton), Fred T. Hall (Davenport, Iowa), J. Murray Speirs (Pickering, Ont.), Keith L. White (Eldorado), Gordon Orians (Milwaukee), W. W. H. Gunn (Toronto, Ontario), Aaron M. Bagg (Holyoke, Mass.), Bernard D. Kaiman (Milwaukee), George W. Treichell (Milwaukee), Helmut C. Mueller (Milwaukee), William J. Beecher (Chicago, Ill.), Clarence Anthes (Waukesha).

**Fourth row, seated:** John T. Emlen, Jr. (Madison), Peggy Muirhead (Chicago, Ill.), Agnes R. Kugel (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Mary F. Donald (Milwaukee), Ruth Spencer (Moline, Ill.), Iva Spangler (Fort Wayne, Ind.), Margaret Umbach (Fort Wayne, Ind.), Mrs. Charles E. Nelson, Jr. (Waukesha), Mrs. Louise Forsyth (Hanover, N. H.), Mrs. Milton B. Trautman (Put-in-Bay, Ohio), Edward M. Brigham, Jr. (Battle Creek, Mich.), Mrs. Edward M. Brigham, Jr. (Battle Creek, Mich.), Donna Nelson (Salem), Howard Higgins (Kenosha), Mrs. Howard Higgins (Kenosha), Winifred Smith (Two Rivers), Charles A. Stewart (New Albion, Iowa), Audrey Andrews (Milwaukee), Mary Edith Pinney (Milwaukee), Mrs. Andrew Weber (Green Bay), Miss Mildred Van Vonderer (Green Bay), Mrs. R. P. Hussong (Green Bay), Mrs. Myron Duquaine (Green Bay), Mrs. Walter E. Rogers (Appleton), Mrs. David Parmelee (Appleton), Nan Folger (Oxford, Ohio).

**Fifth row, standing:** Clarence S. Jung (Milwaukee), Robert A. McCabe (Madison), George A. Hall (Madison), Wendel Swanson (Rockford, Ill.), Norwood Hazard (Davenport, Iowa), Albert Wolfson (Evanston, Ill.), Dorothy Mierow (Minneapolis, Minn.), Theodora Melone (Minneapolis, Minn.), H. Lewis Batts, Jr. (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Haven H. Spencer (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Milton Mahlborg (Rockford, Ill.), E. W. Strehlow (Milwaukee), John H. Lyford, Jr. (Scarsdale, N. Y.), James M. Stauffer (Marshall, Minn.), Douglas A. Lancaster (Fargo, N. D.), Mark A. Hannas (Burlington), Albert R. Tenny (Toronto, Ohio), Clinton S. Banks (Steubenville, Ohio), Janet Hawksley (Warrensburg, Mo.), Oscar Hawksley (Warrensburg, Mo.), Seth H. Low (Laurel, Md.), David F. Parmelee (Appleton), J. H. Ennis (Mount Vernon, Iowa), Karl E. Bartel (Blue Island, Ill.), Chester G. Krawczyk (Green Bay), Myron J. Duquaine (Green Bay), Sam Robbins (Mazomanie), Mabel Slack (Louisville, Ky.), Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm (Louisville, Ky.), William M. Clay (Louisville, Ky.), Leonard C. Brecher (Louisville, Ky.), Mrs. W. J. Breckenridge (Minneapolis, Minn.), Frederick Greeley (Madison), H. F. Chapman (Sioux Falls, S. D.), Victor E. Shelford (Champaign, Ill.).

**Sixth row, standing:** J. Dan Webster (Jamestown, N. D.), Richard A. Bub (Milwaukee), Gerald A. Vogelsang (West Bend), Arnold Peterson (Madison), Brina Kessel (Madison), Ray Pierce (Fargo, N. D.), Daniel Q. Thompson (Madison), Ollie S. Owen (Ithaca, N. Y.), Harry W. Hann (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Wilbur C. Hann (Duluth, Minn.), Edward W. Peartree (Oconomowoc), C. P. Frister (Milwaukee), C. E. Nelson (Waukesha), Dana R. Struthers (Minneapolis, Minn.), Robert S. Ellarson (Madison), Don Thompson (Madison), George L. Wallace (East Lansing, Mich.), Robert A. Whiting (Jackson, Mich.), Stephen W. Simon (Richmond, Ind.), Lou Rogers (Northfield, Minn.), Ellsworth H. Helgesen (Madison), Robert H. Gensch (Kansas City, Mo.), C. A. Sooter (Kansas City, Mo.), Carl L. Strelitzer (Milwaukee), R. M. Edeburn (Huntington, W. Va.), R. T. Gammell (Kenmore, N. D.).

# California Notes

By GEORGE WAGNER

Some time ago I wrote a paper on some casual observations on birds in Palo Alto. For over two years now I have lived in Vallejo, and I think it may be interesting to make some comparisons between the two places. But first let me say something about this winter's robins.

I think I said before that the San Francisco Bay area is a winter home for robins. As summer residents they were unknown so far south until 1915, and are still uncommon in Palo Alto, and seemingly absent here. A great attraction for the winter robins are the bright red fruits of hawthorn, toyon and cotoneaster bushes, and of pepper trees, all of which produced an unusually abundant crop this year. Probably due both to this and the unusually severe winter farther north and in the uplands, robins have been more numerous than at any time since I came out here in 1943. In the winter there are always many robins around our place. But one day about two weeks ago, they really paid us a visit. Our back lawn, some thirty feet square, had fifteen to twenty robins on it for most of the day. More than that roosted in three small fruit trees in the back garden. About an equal number were lined up on the electric wires along the back of the lot. And the fruit bearing bushes, of which we have several were alive with them. All the neighboring lots, so far as I could see them, were similarly occupied. Of course there was constant movement, but the numbers remained fairly constant for six or seven hours.

By night the bushes, glowing with red fruit in the morning, looked pretty well stripped. The slug, earthworm, and insect population of the lawn must have been greatly reduced. It was interesting to note the marked difference in brightness of plumage between male and female. By next day, although we still have lots of robins, the big crowd had moved to the next block, and so they keep moving until the town is cleaned up, and it is time to migrate again. The phenomenon was not purely local, for a letter received a day or two later described a similar condition in Palo Alto.

The only event I can recall, at all to be compared with this visitation, occurred many years ago, in late April or early May, when the Wisconsin campus fairly swarmed with warblers of many species, not only in the trees, but on the ground and on the steps of the buildings. I saw more warblers, at very close hand that day than one ordinarily gets to see in years. This phenomenon also was not local, for I received reports of a similar occurrence in other areas of the state.

Palo Alto and Vallejo are less than fifty miles apart, as the crow flies. Both lie close to the shore of San Francisco Bay, or in case of Vallejo San Pablo Bay, a mere extension of the other. Both have similar climates, Vallejo slightly colder in winter, a little more exposed to ocean fogs. One natural difference is that Palo Alto is fairly level, Vallejo is quite hilly. And there is a considerable man-made difference. Palo Alto has many large trees, and its gardens are rich in large bushes of many kinds, Vallejo's city landscape is much more open to the sun, has very few large trees. This probably has its effect on bird life. In Palo Alto the most

frequently seen bird at all seasons, and the tamest, is the California towhee; I have yet to see one in Vallejo. Sparrow hawks are very common in Palo Alto, perhaps due to the presence of many old live oaks, offering good nesting sites. They are rather rare around Vallejo. The western mockingbird, the California thrasher, are common in Palo Alto; I have seen none here. The Audubon warbler is constantly seen in Palo Alto during the winter; I have seen but few here. On the other hand gulls, especially California gulls, are a much more common sight overhead here. They are given to visit school grounds to pick up the leavings of children's lunches. Pitpits I have seen repeatedly here this winter; I never saw one in Palo Alto. Two interesting observations here recently have been a varied thrush, the only one I have ever seen; and the persistent presence of a killdeer in this block. Undoubtedly in years before the war this area we live in was nesting ground for killdeer and meadow larks. But for several years it has been fully occupied by residences. Yet this bird has been around for many days, and though flushed many times by passers-by, children and dogs, does not seem inclined to leave an area of a few hundred feet square.

During our recent cold spell we left a garden faucet dripping to keep the pipes from freezing. This resulted in a pool about a foot in diameter, which every morning had a rim of ice. The white-crowned sparrows soon discovered this, and had a grand time every morning bathing in it. How their little feet could stand it was a mystery to me. After it grew warmer and the water was turned off, the pool quickly disappeared. But for several mornings the sparrows returned, only to be disappointed.

About San Pablo Bay are large areas of marsh, partly drained, but with much open water. The heavily-traveled highway to San Rafael skirts one edge. During the colder season one can see thousands of water birds from the highway, mostly ducks. The marshes are closed to hunters, and the birds are quite tame, pintails, redheads, scaups, shovellers, ruddy ducks occur by hundreds. The western grebe, with its white throat and breast can be recognized from afar. Coots are present in the roadside ditches and on the road itself in great numbers.

Grinnell and Wythe's paper on the birds of the Bay Area (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 18; 1927) lists the American egret as rather uncommon. Today it can be seen in this area at almost any time, and in considerable numbers during the winter. One day I saw one stalking around calmly in a rainpool well within the built up area of Vallejo and within a hundred feet of a much travelled street. Just as I saw today a California gull walking down our street, searching the gutters for a Sunday breakfast. In the marshes I recently had the pleasure of seeing a snowy egret (or heron, if you choose), still a rare bird in this area, though reported to be fairly common further south.

May I end by saying that for a bird lover, a winter trip to central and southern California for the special purpose of bird study, would prove highly profitable, especially if he had his own car to cover territory.

Vallejo, California

February 6, 1949



# "BOREAS"—A RED-TAILED HAWK

By WINNIFRED SMITH

The privilege of having a permit\* for caring for sick and injured, and baby birds, carries with it responsibilities. Young avian orphans are demanding in their clamor for food; often the sick and injured birds do not survive and one is saddened by the inability to do more for them. However, the occasional successes and the pleasure of knowing the birds more intimately compensate for any inconveniences or worried moments.

"Boreas," a young red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), came into our lives for only two short weeks, but the experience will always remain an outstanding one in our memories.

The air was crisp and cool, on November thirteenth, the last day of the duck-hunting season. Fleecy herds of cumulus clouds were driving out of the northwest. It was a day for migrating hawks—not ducks.

Several hunters had parked their cars in the lane along the north end of Winghaven's acres. When I heard shots I reached for my binoculars. As there were no ducks flying I thought perhaps a stray flock of geese or even a wedge of swans might have attracted the hunters. One hunter shot again and then I saw the big, faltering shape of a *Buteo*. Another hawk was heading heavenward, up and up towards the clouds, but the first one was losing altitude and seemed to fall to earth behind the "barn."

I jammed into my coat and with the binoculars around my neck, hurried out to see if I could get a good look at the hawk. He (or perhaps she) was sitting in the middle of the road and flew up at my approach; his flight was slow and heavy and he soon alighted in a nearby field. As I walked toward him he spread his wings and opened his beak in a most menacing manner. I slowed my steps and began speaking to him. When I realized that he wasn't going to fly up this time, I started removing my coat. Much to my surprise I succeeded in getting the coat over his head—to my sorrow and discomfort, I failed to get it over his talons. He plunged all eight of them into my right hand, and hung on with a vise-like grip. I finally succeeded in prying them loose and I tucked the hawk, wrapped in my coat, under my arm, and with a bleeding hand and chattering teeth, headed homeward. When I met the hunters who had shot him, the hawk glared balefully at them while I told them in no uncertain terms what I thought about fellows who shot down a red-tailed hawk!

We called him "Boreas" and put him in a large wire cage that had been used for the ducks, down beside the pond.

His under-wing coverts were splotted with blood, but the wings did not seem to be broken. He appeared to be a young hawk, but did not exactly conform to the descriptions at hand. The tail was definitely rufous. The eyes were yellow, speckled with brown; the bill was horn colored and the cere a soft greenish shade.

Feeding him presented somewhat of a problem. He would not eat the bits of steak and sausage that I tried to give him. Although we set several trap lines the following day, only two mice were caught. These he accepted readily. A neat shot, by a Winghaven visitor, brought down a rabbit. That kept Boreas in food for four days. Then he had to go

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\*Both federal and state.

back to the scant diet of an occasional mouse. One soggy night when the snow was falling in big, wet flakes, we transferred the hawk to another cage where he had some shelter. This time I wore thick gloves!

Although I never got within reach of his talons again, the big fellow seemed gentle enough. We could walk in and out of his cage with nothing more serious than a glare from his expressive golden eyes and a ruffling of his feathers.

Another rabbit, a piece of beef and a few more mice kept our boarder



WATER COLOR PAINTING BY MRS. WINNIFRED SMITH WHICH WON A PLACE IN THE RURAL ART EXHIBIT IN SHEBOYGAN FALLS, AND LATER, IN MADISON.

in food for another week. He seemed much stronger and was able to fly up to the perch in his cage, but he never showed any restlessness.

The weather during these two weeks was cloudy and rainy. There hadn't been a single day similar to November 13th. During mid-morning of November 27th, the skies cleared, and again the cumulus herds were moving in from the northwest. The barometer was rising and the readings taken at 1:30 p. m. on the 13th and the 27th were exactly the same. Boreas was extremely restless. He banged against the side of his cage until he showed some signs of bleeding about the cere. We took some pictures of him in his cage and then opened the door. He stayed on his

perch. We reached in and carefully moved the perch outside and onto the roof of the coop. Oh, for a picture of that—but the film had been used up on the others. Slowly Boreas looked about him, shook himself and then took off across the neighboring fields. His flight was low, but speedy. Apparently he had completely recovered from his wounds.

As I had no bands on hand large enough to fit him, we will never know his fate. To us, every red-tailed hawk we see in the neighborhood will be "Boreas."

Winghaven, Route #1  
Two Rivers, Wisconsin  
January 4, 1949

## THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

By L. KUMLIEN and N. HOLLISTER

With Revisions by A. W. Schorger

(Continued from last issue)

Residents of the extreme southwestern counties claim that a few were found among the bluffs near the river as late as 1894, and it is highly probable that they were. Newspaper reports claim the capture of three at Boscobel in 1872. A few birds have been introduced and escaped from captivity of late years about Koshkonong, and it is not an impossibility that genuine "wild" turkeys may yet be taken in Wisconsin.

[The Wild Turkey once occurred south of a line running from Prairie du Chien to Green Bay. (A. W. Schorger, *Wilson Bull.* 54, 1942: 173-82). Attempts in reestablishment have failed.]

[*Phasianus colchicus torquatus* (Gmelin). **Ring-necked Pheasant.**

There were several attempts between 1895 and 1900 to establish the Ring-necked Pheasant in Wisconsin. (A. W. Schorger, *Pass. Pigeon* 9, 1947: 101). However, the present wide distribution of this species is due to the numerous plantings made between 1910 and 1930.]

### ORDER COLUMBAE: PIGEONS FAMILY COLUMBIDAE: PIGEONS

*Ectopistes migratorius* (Linn.). **Passenger Pigeon.**

The wild pigeon was an abundant migrant and summer resident in many parts of the state until the years 1879-83. From that time to the present day the bird has been one of our rarest species. Mr. J. M. Blackford, now residing at Delavan, states that the last large catch of the netters was in 1882. The following spring but one hundred and thirty-eight dozen were taken in the best pigeon grounds in the state, and this was practically the end. Small flocks, pairs and solitary individuals have been reported from various parts of the state nearly every year since this time, however, and it is highly probable that a very few still nest in isolated pairs within its limits. Mr. J. N. Clark furnishes the following data for the past fifteen years in Dunn County: May 2, 1886, a nest containing one egg; June, 1890, nest containing one young; April 20, 1897, 3 seen, 1 taken; April 26, 1897, 3 seen; April 27, 1897, 2 seen; May 5, 1898, 1 pair seen, last record. Several have been taken and more

seen about Milton during the same period of years. The last record of capture for Delavan was an immature male, single bird, taken at Delavan Lake, September 8, 1896. Mr. W. E. Snyder (1) reports but two records of the capture of pigeons at Beaver Dam in thirteen years.

[The last acceptable record is the bird shot at Babcock, September, 1899. (A. W. Schorger, *Auk* 55,1938:531).]

### ***Zenaidura macroura* (Linn.). Mourning Dove.**

Common summer resident. A few remain in southern Wisconsin through the winter, but the greater number arrive from the south about the first of April. In autumn the mourning dove is to some extent gregarious and the most of them move southward during October. One of the birds that is little affected by civilization and has so changed its habits that it is now a regular and common breeder in thickly settled parts of every village, and even the large cities, and when unmolested becomes very tame.

## **ORDER RAPTORES: BIRDS OF PREY FAMILY CATHARTIDAE: AMERICAN VULTURES**

### ***Cathartes aura* (Linn.). Turkey Vulture.**

Of regular occurrence along the Mississippi at least as far north as Pierce County. We have records also for Racine, Milwaukee, Two Rivers, De Pere, Beaver Dam, Delavan, Stevens Point, Iron River (Bayfield County), etc., besides more than a dozen for Lake Koshkonong. These records are principally in July and August, although it has been taken at Koshkonong as early as April 28 and as late as November 2. The specimens are mostly young of the year. Grundtvig reports the vulture from Outagamie County in 1882 and 1883, and thinks it breeds near Shiocton, where he noted it during April, May, August and September (2). The species undoubtedly breeds sparingly in the southwestern part of the state. The principal food of the "buzzard" at Lake Koshkonong seems to be dead fish. There is a general impression among many people in the north that this bird, as well as all others of the **Raptores**, is in some manner "destructive" and should be killed at sight. This opinion prevails among many who should know better. The safe plan to follow is that **all birds** should be protected. We are not believers in the so-called "injurious" species and hope to see the day when no distinction will be made as to the birds which shall be protected.

[This species, though occurring throughout the state, is not common except along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. The only breeding record is that of a nest with one young found in Oconto County on July 20, 1947, by C. H. Richter. (*Pass. Pigeon* 9,1947:134).]

## **FAMILY FALCONIDAE: FALCONS, HAWKS, EAGLES, ETC.**

### ***Elanoides forficatus* (Linn.). Swallow-Tailed Kite.**

Thure Kumlien found this species breeding near Fort Atkinson in the summer of 1854. Prior to this date it was noted at different times in Jefferson, Rock and Dane Counties. According to Dr. Hoy it nested

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1. Bulletin of Wis. Nat. His. Soc. II, 2, p. 110.

2. Trans. Wis. Acad. Sciences, Arts and Letters X, p. 107.



near Racine up to 1848, but abandoned the region about that time. He states that "they nested on tall elm trees about the 10th of June, and left us about the 1st of September" (1). Rev. Mr. Barry, also writing of the vicinity of Racine in 1854, says, "at one time quite numerous upon our prairies, and quite annoying to us in grouse shooting; now rarely met with in this vicinity." There is a specimen in the Milwaukee Public Museum, male, taken in Milwaukee County, May 15, 1888. Along the Mississippi River the swallow-tailed kite is more common and may still rarely breed. It is still a rare summer visitant in the east and central counties.

[One was shot at Glidden, Ashland County, July 26, 1901, by Richard Blome. (R. Deane, *Auk* 23, 1906:100). It is doubtful if it will again be found in the state.]

### ***Circus hudsonius* (Linn.). Marsh Hawk.**

One of the commonest hawks of Wisconsin, in marshy or prairie sections. A summer resident, though specimens are frequently taken in southern Wisconsin as late as well into December. Nests in all suitable localities from the southern tier of counties northward. The marsh hawk subsists largely on frogs, etc., but does not hesitate to attack any smaller bird that it can overtake, even molesting the poultry about the farms bordering large marshes or low prairies. About reedy lakes where duck shooting is carried on it systematically hunts along the border of the lake for crippled ducks. We have even known it to carry off a dead duck but a short distance from the hunter who had just shot it. Appears to be more plentiful than thirty years ago.

### ***Accipiter velox* (Wils.). Sharp-Shinned Hawk.**

Very common as a migrant during the latter part of April and first three weeks of May, and again during September and October. A few remain during mild winters in the southern part of the state. We have found it nesting at Milton in two instances, but the majority go farther north. We have nesting records from Stevens Point, Iron County, Two Rivers, Madison, Racine, and, in fact, from so many widely separated localities that it can without doubt be considered as breeding at suitable points throughout the state, in greater numbers in the central and northern parts. During migration, both spring and fall, it follows the flights of smaller birds, feeding almost exclusively on them, and must destroy great numbers.

### ***Accipiter cooperii* (Bonap.). Cooper's Hawk.**

Common summer resident, even in thickly settled parts of the state. Arrives in southern Wisconsin about the middle of April, and remains until the middle of October. Nests commonly in the black oak groves of "second growth" timber, but is in no wise restricted as to kind of tree. We have taken a set in a tamarack in a heavy swamp, and even in poplars. By far the most destructive hawk to poultry during the summer season. For daring, boldness and destructiveness it is only equalled by the goshawk in winter. Nests early in May, and frequently a second brood is reared. This hawk will at times nest in close proximity to a farm house, but with a great display of cunning will draw on some dis-

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1. Trans. Wis. State Agric. Society, 1852, p. 343.

tant poultry yard for supplies until the young are ready to leave the nest. This hawk is much more common than thirty years ago, at any rate locally. In rare instances noted during mild winters in southern Wisconsin.

***Accipiter atricapillus* (Wils.). American Goshawk.**

A regular winter resident, formerly even well into Illinois. At the present time the goshawk is becoming rarer, even in the central and northern parts of the state. Dr. Hoy, in 1852, speaks of it as occurring at all seasons, the adults only in winter. Our personal recollection is that it was the young birds which were so destructive to poultry thirty years ago, in winter. Barry writes of its abundance in the early fifties, mentioning that a friend shot twenty in one season. Thure Kumlien considered it a rare summer resident at an early day, but personally or from other observers we have no positive nesting records, although the species perhaps bred in the northern portions of the state. Mr. J. N. Clark finds it a regular winter visitant in Dunn County, some winters abundant, but growing less common. We have taken three adults at Milton during the past ten years. Lives almost exclusively on grouse, poultry, rabbits, etc., and is very destructive.

[The Eastern Goshawk nested in Rusk County in the years 1934-1936. (O. J. Gromme, *Auk* 52,1935:15; F. Zirrer, *Pass. Pigeon* 9,1947:79). C. H. Richter (*Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:116) found a nest with two young in Oconto County in 1934; and W. S. Feeney (*Pass. Pigeon* 5,1943:49) found a nest in Bayfield County, April, 1943.]

***Buteo borealis* (Gmel.). Red-Tailed Hawk.**

A common species, resident in southern Wisconsin, though much more numerous during spring and fall migrations. Nests in all sections of the state, even in quite thickly settled localities. Commonly called "chicken hawk" or "hen hawk," but in no wise as destructive a bird as is generally supposed.

***Buteo borealis kriderii* (Hoopes.). Krider's Hawk.**

This western-plains race of the red-tail is a regular fall and spring visitant in western Wisconsin, in small numbers. Mr. J. N. Clark has kindly loaned us a very fine and typical specimen shot by himself at Meridian, Dunn County, October 22, 1892. He states that it is of regular occurrence there in spring and fall, though by no means common. Three specimens, all perfectly typical, have been taken at Lake Koshkonong during the past few years, one of which is preserved in the collection of the Oshkosh Normal School.

[No unquestionable specimen has been located. The Milwaukee Public Museum has a hawk shot at Prairie du Sac by E. D. Ochsner, October 19, 1933, that has symptoms of Kriderism.]

***Buteo borealis calurus* (Cass.). Western Red-Tail.**

Of rare, but regular occurrence in Wisconsin in the late fall. Six or eight specimens were procured about Lake Koshkonong by Thure and L. Kumlien; one specimen, taken in November, 1873, was pronounced by Prof. Baird as "extra dark" and perfectly typical. A single specimen was taken at Delavan, October 19, 1901. Mr. J. N. Clark has loaned us an extra fine female shot by himself at Meridian, Dunn County, October 25, 1893. This specimen is of solid dark color, with the exception of the

reddish-brown blotch across the breast, and has an exceptionally bright reddish tail, crossed by ten black bars and with a wide black terminal band. This specimen is probably very much like the one mentioned by Coues (1) as "chocolate-brown, with a great reddish blotch on the breast."

**Buteo lineatus (Gmel.). Red-Shouldered Hawk.**

In the early days this hawk was considered a common species by nearly all observers. At the present time it is certainly by no means a common bird in Wisconsin, and at any distance from Lake Michigan seems to be decidedly rare. Appears to nest irregularly at different places, most often at points not far from Lake Michigan. Mr. Clark has taken but one specimen in Dunn County, April 27, 1891, and considers it a very rare species there. Grundtvig failed to find it in Outagamie County, or Willard in Brown County. Mr. W. E. Snyder records but one capture from Dodge County (2). But few have been taken at Koshkonong since 1870, and we have but one specimen from Delavan.

**Buteo swainsoni (Bonap.). Swainson's Hawk.**

Although this hawk is very common to the northwest of us—in Minnesota and Dakota—it is not a common species in Wisconsin. Dr. Hoy apparently met only the young, which he called *vulgaris*, and later described as a distinct species, under the name of *B. bairdii*, a mounted specimen remaining so labeled in his collection to this day. Mr. J. N. Clark has procured but a single specimen, in December, 1896, in Dunn County. Grundtvig did not secure a specimen in Outagamie County, and Willard does not include it in his list of Brown County birds. King calls it a "summer resident," on what authority we do not know, as he apparently did not procure a specimen. Thure Kumlien procured perhaps a dozen specimens during his long period of collecting at Lake Koshkonong, and half as many more have been taken by L. Kumlien. Here it has been noted only during the autumnal migrations, in September and October. Probably occurs more frequently along the Mississippi River than in the eastern or central parts of the state.

**Buteo platypterus (Vieill.). Broad-Winged Hawk.**

In eastern Wisconsin rather a common spring migrant, and especially common in fall. By no means a common nesting species, but is a summer resident and breeds from the southern tier of counties northward. In Dunn County Mr. Clark considers it on the whole an uncommon species, but has seen and taken it a number of times. According to our observations, this is the hawk that "flocks" in the fall, oftentimes in great numbers. Occasionally several hundred may be seen at a time, often ten to twenty in one tree. These migrations seldom last but a day or two and are of irregular occurrence. Other authorities speak of these "hawk flocks" being made up of all the smaller species in general and the red-shouldered in particular, but our observation has been that the flocks are invariably of this species alone.

**Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis (Gmel.). American Rough-Legged Hawk.**

Very common migrant, and, unless the weather be too severe, a common winter resident in southern Wisconsin. An occasional specimen

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1. Key to N. A. Birds, Fourth Ed. p. 545.

2. Bull. Wis. Nat. His. Soc. II, 2, p. 110.

is found as late as the middle of April, but rarely later, although there are records of individuals remaining through the summer. In May, 1872, a pair of these hawks was found nesting in the eastern part of Dane County by L. Kumlien. The nest was placed in a low bur oak, about eight feet from the ground, and contained three eggs, well incubated. This set was sent to Dr. Brewer. The female had been wounded, the primaries of one wing sticking straight up, even when the bird was sitting. She could make but short flights and this is in all probability the cause of the pair remaining here to breed, and it must be considered as an exceptional record. Extremely variable in plumage.

#### ***Archibuteo ferrugineus* (Licht.). Ferruginous Rough-Leg.**

On November 10, 1893, a pair of these hawks was procured by L. Kumlien at Lake Koshkonong. They were flying low over the rushes a short distance from shore, and one was secured with each barrel. October, 1894, another was taken at the same locality and came into our possession. We are positive of having seen the species in the western part of the state, but the above are the only records of capture obtainable for Wisconsin. These birds are preserved in the Kumlien collection.

#### ***Aquila chrysaetos* (Linn.). Golden Eagle.**

Rather a rare bird in Wisconsin. Obtained principally from October to March, though there are several records for southern Wisconsin both earlier and later. During the past fifteen years we have handled about fifteen specimens taken at various localities throughout the state. Dr. Hoy records the nesting of this species in a large oak tree between Racine and Milwaukee in 1851, and had the egg in his collection some years ago. To us, however, the egg looked very similar to that of the bald eagle. This eagle is exceedingly variable in size. The Museum of Milton College contains perhaps the greatest extremes extant, one a gigantic female which fiercely attacked a man who was carrying a deer upon his back, in Chippewa County, the other, a male, less than thirty inches in length. During the winter the golden eagle resorts to any carcass of a dead horse or cow that has been left exposed and are then easily secured. We have the details of several instances where it has been suddenly surprised while feeding, and instead of retreating, as might be expected, has turned and fiercely attacked the intruder, sometimes with such vigor as to drive an unarmed man away.

IA rather common winter visitor. (A. W. Schorger, *Pass. Pigeon* 7, 1945:48-51).1

#### ***Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Linn.). Bald Eagle.**

The summer resorts about our lakes have gradually driven this species from its former nesting haunts. Bred about Lake Koshkonong twenty-five years ago; one nest at least, or the same tree, had then been occupied by the birds for over twenty years. In southern Wisconsin at the present day the eagle is mainly a spring and fall migrant about the inland lakes, but specimens are occasionally seen in mid-summer. Still nests, not rarely, in Vilas County and in many of the sparingly settled portions of the northern part of the state. The young birds move southward some time in advance of the adults. Not at all rare along the Mississippi, but seems to prefer to nest in the vicinity of inland lakes.



**[*Falco rusticolus obsoletus* (Gmelin.). American Gyrfalcon.**

The gyrfalcons have been overhauled periodically. W. E. C. Todd and H. Friedmann (**Wilson Bull.** 59,1947:139-50) conclude that except for the Bering Sea coast of Alaska there is in North America but the above single, highly variable subspecies. The following specimens have been taken in the state: a female at Beaver Dam on November 27, 1904 (W. E. Snyder, **Auk** 22,1905:413); one shot in Sauk County on October 22, 1916, is in the Milwaukee Public Museum (H. L. Stoddard, **Auk** 40,1923:325); and one taken at Milwaukee on December 26, 1936, is also in the Milwaukee Public Museum (O. J. Gromme, **Auk** 55,1938:273); another shot in Jefferson County on December 10, 1939, is preserved at the State Game Farm, Poynette (**Pass. Pigeon** 2,1940:13).]

***Falco peregrinus anatum* (Bonap.). Duck Hawk.**

Of regular occurrence during the migrations, both spring and fall, principally along the water courses. Was never very common in any part of the state that we can learn. Formerly bred at Racine, and has been known to remain at Lake Koshkonong through the summer. Mr. Clark has taken it in Dunn County, but considers it "rather uncommon." We have seen it in summer along the south shore of Lake Superior, where it appeared to be nesting on the rocky ledges. We have several times had this hawk swoop down and pick up a duck we had just shot before we could reach it. It frequently kills a duck too large and heavy to carry to the shore, and in this case secures a firm hold in the duck's back, and flying, drags it along on the surface of the water to the shore.

***Falco columbarius* (Linn.). Pigeon Hawk.**

A rather common migrant during the latter part of April, generally through May, and again during September and October. At the present time a rare summer resident in southern Wisconsin, but it not infrequently remains in the central and northern parts of the state. Dr. Hoy speaks of its nesting near Racine in 1852. Grundtvig called it abundant in Outagamie County in 1882-3. We have found it fairly plenty in several sections of the northern part of the state. Considering the large numbers seen, and even procured, it is remarkable that so few are in the full blue plumage. A perfect falcon in every sense of the word, with all the boldness, daring and dexterity of its larger relatives.

***Falco richardsonii* (Ridgw.). Richardson's Merlin.**

A migrant only in Wisconsin, and not noted by us except in autumn. We have two specimens from Stevens Point and have taken it several times during the past ten years at Lake Koshkonong. Does not arrive until some time after the pigeon hawk, which is probably accounted for by the fact that it breeds much farther from our lines than that species. Our latest fall record is November 29 (1896). Several specimens were taken by Thure Kumlien, but as he did not consider it specifically distinct from *columbarius* a reference to his notes is of little value in the present connection. A fine specimen in Mr. Skavlem's collection was shot near Janesville in the late fall of 1886. This species is usually readily distinguished from the preceding by its slightly larger size, its conspicuously banded tail—the latter crossed by six distinct ashy-white bands—the amount of ochraceous brown markings on primary coverts, and withal its much lighter color in any plumage. We often get specimens

however, which appear to be intermediate, or at any rate not typical of either, and hard to determine.

[No Wisconsin specimen has been located.]

**Falco sparverius (Linn.). American Sparrow Hawk.**

Common summer resident, especially in heavily wooded regions. Where the larger trees are cut away it is far less common during summer than formerly. So far as we are able to learn the sparrow hawk is found in all parts of the state, but more commonly in the heavily timbered hardwood districts.

**Pandion haliaetus carolinensis (Gmel.). American Osprey.**

Summer resident in all suitable localities in the state, but not common anywhere. Noted more frequently in autumn, September to November, on the larger lakes and rivers. More plenty in the Rock River Valley and thence eastward to Lake Michigan, than in the western part of the state, except along the Mississippi River. Summer resorts, with all the attendant features, have driven the fish hawks from many of the smaller lakes where they formerly bred. A specimen was found washed ashore on Lake Koshkonong, in June, 1898, with both feet firmly imbedded in the back of a very large carp; the fish had proved too large for the hawk, and he had weakened in the struggle and drowned.

**FAMILY STRIGIDAE: BARN OWLS**

**Strix pratensis (Bonap.). American Barn Owl.**

Although Wisconsin is rather far north for this species, specimens are occasionally taken, especially in the southern half. Dr. Hoy records it from Racine; one specimen was taken at Pine Lake in the forties; two or three have been taken in Jefferson County at an early day; and one specimen in the Whitewater Normal School was taken near that city in 1899. Mr. F. F. Pierson, of Janesville, mounted a specimen shot near that place in the winter of 1901-02. It is also noted from La Crosse and Ripon (1). The only authentic breeding record we have for the state is furnished us by Mr. H. H. T. Jackson, of Milton, who saw in Green County in April, 1899, a live female with three eggs, which had been taken from a hollow bur oak tree.

[This species remains uncommon as it is unable to cope with a severe winter. It bred at Madison in 1924 (A. W. Schorger, *Auk* 42,1925:131); Racine in 1941 and 1942 (Edward and George Prins, *Pass. Pigeon* 3,1941:66;4,1942:86); Walworth County in 1942 (B. L. Von Jarchow (*Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:86); near Merrimac, Sauk County, in 1942 (V. T. Goodenough, *Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:87); Milwaukee in 1942 (Elizabeth A. Oehlen-schlaeger, *Pass. Pigeon* 4,1942:102). It has been reported as far north as Green Bay (E. Strehlow, *Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:26).]

**Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea (Bonaparte). Western Burrowing Owl.**

Accidental east of the Mississippi River. One was taken in Porter County, Indiana, April 16, 1924, by Ashley Hine (*Auk* 41,1924:602). There are two records for Wisconsin. One was taken at Lake Mills, Jefferson County, April 9, 1939, by W. Elder (*Pass. Pigeon* 1,1939:62);

1. Cooke, Bird Migration in the Miss. Valley, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, 1888, p. 121.

and one at Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, October 8, 1941, by W. C. Pelzer (*Pass. Pigeon* 3,1941:91; *Auk* 59,1942:111).<sup>1</sup>

#### FAMILY BUBONIDAE: HORNED OWLS, ETC.

##### *Asio wilsonianus* (Less.). American Long-Eared Owl.

Formerly a very common resident. In such localities as furnish thick shelter, tangled underbrush and dense thickets, and undisturbed spots, it is yet quite common. More strictly nocturnal than the next. In southern Wisconsin almost invariably makes use of a last year's crow's nest, to which is added a lining of various materials, and in this part of the state two broods are often reared in a season.

##### *Asio accipitrinus* (Pall.). Short-Eared Owl.

More common, at least locally, than formerly. In prairie and marshy regions a very common fall migrant, to a less extent a winter resident, and not infrequently remains throughout the summer and breeds, even in the southern counties. The species has been known to nest at Delavan, Albion, Stoughton, Stevens Point, and more commonly (?) in the north and north-central parts of the state. Is commonly seen hunting over the marshes on cloudy days, and during the nesting season is frequently noted about at any time, often sailing high overhead like a hawk. Except, perhaps, during the nesting time, when it feeds the young largely on birds, it is very beneficial, existing almost entirely on mice, grasshoppers, etc. A nest found at Delavan, May 29, 1898, contained three young, of different sizes, and afforded a rather surprising lesson as to the destructiveness of this species to smaller birds during the breeding season. The young were probably ten to fourteen days old, and were literally resting on a mass of wing and tail feathers of the victims of their appetites. From this mass we picked out over six hundred feathers, and at the bottom of the nest the feathers were so mouldy and mixed with grass that no attempt was made to count or identify them. From those in a good state of preservation and reasonably fresh we positively identified the following varieties, all entirely unexpected, as we had always looked upon this species as pre-eminently a mouse and insect eater: *Icterus galbula*, *Galeoscoptes*, *Hylocichla*, *Toxostoma*, *Vireo*, *Cistothorus*, *Piranga erythromelas*, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, *Dolichonyx*, *Lanius*! (one nearly entire tail), *Seiurus aurocapillus*, *Dendroica aestiva*, *Geothlypis trichas*, *Setophaga ruticilla*, *Coccyzus*, *Regulus* (2 tails), *Porzana carolina*, *Porzana noveboracensis*, *Actitis macularia*, *Aegialitis vocifera*, *Spiza americana*, *Anthus vociferus* (at least two), *Sialia sialis*, *Zamelodia ludoviciana*, *Sturnella magna*, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, two species of small *Tyrannidae*, and among the large number of wing and tail feathers of warblers were *Dendroica maculosa*, *D. Blackburniae*, *D. caerulescens*, and *D. rara*, as well as others of this family, and several species of sparrows it was impossible to determine. No trace of a mammal was found either about the nest or in the pellets around it.

##### *Syrnium nebulosum* (Forst.). Barred Owl.

Resident, but of irregular distribution. Like a number of other birds, both residents and migrants, this owl prefers such localities as have not undergone much change from the wild state. Where the woods have been too much cut away and the larger trees removed, it is no

longer common. In the tracts that have not been disturbed, however, the barred owl is, perhaps, with the exception of *Megascops*, the commonest owl in Wisconsin. A common nesting species about Delavan, and northward in all suitable localities. We have never known this species to nest in other situations than the hollows of trees, with the exception of one nest placed on the top of a broken stub, only twelve feet high. In this case, however, it was reasonable to suspect that the nest had already been occupied before the tree had broken off.

***Scotiaptex cinerea* (Gmel.). Great Gray Owl.**

Rare winter visitant. This great owl seldom reaches southern Wisconsin, especially of late years. Before the heavy timber was cut down specimens were sometimes known to reach even the southern tier of counties. Recorded by Dr. Hoy from Racine in 1848. Two specimens were sent Thure Kumlien from Bark River woods, Jefferson County, at about the same time. We have received two specimens from Iron River, taken in November, 1891. Deer hunters from the northern counties sometimes bring down specimens; probably half a dozen reached Thure Kumlien from this source during many years. If we could trust reports from hunters and residents in the Lake Superior region we would say that it is not rare in winter in that section, particularly during severe weather.

[The Great Gray Owl continues to be the rarest of our owls. No recent records are known.]

***Nyctala tengmalmi richardsoni* (Bonap.). Richardson's Owl.**

A very rare visitant in southern Wisconsin during winter. Probably occurs more frequently in the northern part of the state. Dr. Hoy records a single specimen taken at Racine, November 30, 1850. Thure Kumlien procured three or four specimens in Dane and Jefferson counties during nearly fifty years residence in these parts. L. Kumlien has taken two, one in Dane County, 1869, and one at Fort Atkinson, August, 1872. Mr. J. N. Clark, of Meridian, Dunn County, took one specimen February 24, 1893, at that place, capturing it in his hands from the side of a straw stack. One specimen (no record) is preserved in the Milwaukee Public Museum.

***Nyctala acadica* (Gmel.). Saw-Whet Owl.**

This little owl is most often found in Wisconsin in winter, but this is when food is scarce and it consequently comes about barns and dwellings, and is more frequently seen. It certainly used to breed in Jefferson County and Thure Kumlien took specimens in May, and at least once in August. For some reason it is not as common as formerly. Dr. Hoy, writing in 1852, considered it common at Racine, and it was known to breed there. Some of his specimens of *Nyctala kirtlandii* (= juv. *acadica*) were hatched near that place. Willard also claims it as a breeding bird for Brown County. Mr. Clark considers it rare in Dunn County. In the Copeland-Russel collection in Milwaukee are four specimens, three from Iron County, September and October, 1898, and March, 1899, and one from Waukesha County, November 19, 1897. During the winter of 1889-90 two specimens remained about the barns on the Kumlien homestead at Milton all winter. The larger of these, presumably the female, hunted a great deal during the day time, and became an expert sparrow catcher. Its mate did not seem nearly so expert, yet he did not go hungry as it was a common sight to see both owls feeding from the same sparrow.



These birds became very tame, so that one could almost put his hands upon them.

**Megascops asio (Linn.). Screech Owl.**

Common resident, more so apparently in settled portions of the state than away from civilization. Nests even in villages and towns of some size, wherever it finds hollows that will serve as nesting sites. Though naturally subsisting largely on mice it becomes a great sparrow catcher when living about towns and farm houses. One of our most beneficial birds, but, unfortunately, its usefulness is not universally recognized.

**Bubo virginianus (Gmel.). Great Horned Owl.**

Resident. With the disappearance of the heavy timber this owl has gradually become less and less common in the south and central parts of the state. In well wooded regions it is still locally common, and clings to such patches of timber as have escaped the general destruction. Usually more plenty in the hardwood timber of bottom lands along streams, or banks of lakes. Supposedly resident wherever found, but there appears to be some southward migration late in fall and during severe winters. Breeds as early as the middle of February. Wisconsin specimens are exceedingly variable in color, ranging from very dark birds to specimens so light as to almost pass for *pallescens*.

**Bubo virginianus arcticus (Swains.). Arctic Horned Owl.**

A rare winter visitant, at least in southern Wisconsin. Taken by Hoy at Racine and by Kumlien at Lake Koshkonong, both at an early date. A fine specimen, preserved in the Milwaukee Public Museum, was procured at Ashland, January, 1886. Mr. Witmer Stone has examined the type of Hoy's *subarcticus* from Racine and states that it is a typical *arcticus*. The *subarcticus* of most authors (but not of Hoy) is renamed by him *pallescens*. This form has been credited to Wisconsin, probably through error in mistaking Hoy's *subarcticus* as the same bird as the *subarcticus* of later authors. Intermediates are common in Wisconsin in winter, but Mr. Stone thinks they are more likely intermediates between *virginianus* and *arcticus* than between the former and *pallescens*. The western horned owl may, however, occasionally straggle to our southwestern borders.

**Nyctea nyctea (Linn.). Snowy Owl.**

Winter visitant, of irregular occurrence. Some winters the snowy owl is quite common, straggling to the very southern portion in some numbers, and again not a specimen is recorded. A bird of the prairie and large marshes rather than of the thick woods, and consequently found more often along Lake Michigan and the Lake Superior shores than in the interior. Rev. A. C. Barry, 1854, speaks of it as frequently remaining in Wisconsin in summer, which is very *doubtful* even of that day. Thure Kumlien knew of two such cases, but the birds each time proved to be "cripples," having been slightly wounded and unable to return with the breaking of spring. Perfectly sound specimens were secured, however, in April on several occasions, and one as late as May 5 (1847).

(Continued in next issue)



RUFFED GROUSE INCUBATING. TAKEN ON MAY 15 BY M. A. SCHMITZ. ALTHOUGH THE NEST AND EGGS WERE DESTROYED SUBSEQUENTLY BY A FOREST FIRE, SCHMITZ RUSHED IN, THROUGH FIRE, WIND, AND SMOKE, AND SAVED THE BIRDS' LIFE.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

(Corrected as amended at Annual Meeting of April 22, 1949)

**Article I. Name.** Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.

**Article II. Purposes.** Section 1. The purpose of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in and to promote the study of birds of Wisconsin, especially in the field, and to bring together and record in a permanent place accurate and authentic data relative thereto.

Section 2. The Society shall publish a bulletin under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Society and its officers and directors are empowered to accept endowments of property or money for the purpose of creating an endowment fund for furthering the purpose of ornithology in Wisconsin with only the interest of said fund to be used to improve or increase the Society's publication or to further the development of ornithological education in Wisconsin as determined by the directors. All moneys received from Life or Patron memberships are to be placed in this endowment fund and said fund is to be kept in such bank or banks as the directors may designate. The directors are empowered to use up to twenty-five per cent of these membership fees in case of emergency need. Such withdrawals are to be considered a loan to be repaid to the endowment fund as soon as possible.

**Article III. Membership.** Section 1. Membership in the Society shall be of six classes: Student, Active, Sustaining, Life, Patron and Honorary. All classes may or may not reside within the state of Wisconsin but only resident members shall be entitled to hold office. All members under the age of eighteen years will be automatically listed as student members.

Section 2. Any person of good character, who is interested in bird study, may be nominated by any member in good standing, and admitted to membership by approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Honorary membership is restricted to persons who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have accomplished outstanding achievements in the science of ornithology in Wisconsin. After recommendation by the Board of Directors, such persons may be elected to Honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting. Honorary membership shall be limited to a total of ten living members.

Section 4. Dues of Student members shall be \$1.50 for each calendar year. Active members \$2.00 and Sustaining members \$5.00. Any member upon payment of \$75.00 shall be entitled to Life membership, and shall be exempt from membership dues and any member upon payment of \$100.00 shall be entitled to Patron membership and shall be exempt from membership dues. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues. All annual dues for the ensuing year shall be payable on the first of January. No member in arrears shall be entitled to vote or hold office. The periodical of the Society shall be free to all members. Members in arrears shall be dropped from the membership roll at the end of three months, provided that they have been sent at least two notices of delinquency.

Section 5. There shall be a special membership fee for public or school libraries in the state of Wisconsin of \$1.50 for one year, for all other libraries \$2.00.

**Article IV. Officers.** Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor. The duties of each shall be those usually pertaining thereto.

Section 2. Nomination for officers shall be made by a nominating committee appointed by the President. Nominations may also be made from the floor by any member in good standing.

Section 3. Elections shall be held once each year by ballot at the annual meeting except that a rising vote of the membership will be acceptable if there are no nominations other than those recommended by the nominating committee. Election shall be by majority vote of the members present. The officers shall be distributed throughout the state as much as is practicable.

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

Section 2. The program committee, of which the Vice-President shall be chairman, and a local committee on arrangements for the annual meeting, shall be appointed by the President.

Section 3. At least thirty of the voting members of the Society shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Article VI. Accounts.** A committee of two members, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Society, shall be appointed annually by the President.

**Article VII. The Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the above named officers and six Directors at Large who shall be elected at the annual meeting and who shall be appointed by the President as chairmen of standing committees, such as: membership, endowment, education and publicity, library and legal counsel. These directors shall be elected for terms of two years each. These terms are to expire in alternating years. For the purpose of putting this into effect there shall be elected at the 1949 annual meeting three directors for a term of one year, and three directors for a term of two years. Thereafter, three directors are to be elected annually for two years and any vacancies occurring during the term of a directorship shall be filled by Board appointment until the following annual meeting. At that time a Director shall be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term. Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or at the request of the majority of the board.

**Article VIII. Parliamentary Manual.** Roberts' Rules of Order shall be accepted as the guide for parliamentary procedure at all business meetings.

**Article IX. Amendments.** This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds majority of voting members present. Copies of all proposed amendments shall be sent to all voting members one month prior to the annual meeting at which time they are to be considered. Proposed amendments may be recommended by the Board of Directors or by at least ten voting members and sent to the Board of Directors at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting.

## MRS. GEORGE WETTENGEL PASSES

Among the members who were sadly missed at the 1949 Annual Meeting was Mrs. George Wettengel. Regular in attendance at the meetings since becoming a member in 1942, she lacked no interest in the programs and enthusiasm for the field trips. The committee in charge of the 1946 convention held in Appleton will long remember the fine assistance given by both Mr. and Mrs. Wettengel.

Having always lived in Appleton, Mrs. Wettengel received her early education in the Appleton Public Schools and graduated from the Appleton Senior High School. Later she attended the State Teachers College and the University of Wisconsin, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Lawrence College with her daughter in 1934.

Mrs. Wettengel's deep interest in people and in nature made for warm and close friendships. It was many years ago when our friendship was formed over the feeding tray and bird bath in her own back yard.

Her interest in life extended far beyond her home as she traveled extensively through Europe and in South America.

In 1942, twenty acres of woodland were added to the Wettengel farm near Appleton. With the hope of making the tract into a permanent refuge, about a thousand coniferous trees were set out. The work had only begun for Mrs. Wettengel but she had the great satisfaction of seeing a large variety of birds take up residence on her place, including the wood duck. Mr. Wettengel plans to continue the work so happily begun and will make the refuge a living memorial to his wife.

Mrs. Wettengel's death came unexpectedly on June 19, 1948.—Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Appleton, Wisconsin.

## *The Student's Page*

By MRS. N. R. BARGER

Bird study as it is usually understood is the study of wild (free) birds in their native habitat. Occasionally, birds are kept in captivity for special study, or raised to maturity under conditions that are semi-wild, but these cases are exceptional. They are exceptional because permits, both state and federal, are needed to care for protected species; and they are unusual because few people know how to provide the proper diet, avoid diseases, and otherwise care for wild birds.

Susan Jung of Milwaukee, who is 11 years old, not only succeeded in rearing a bird to maturity, but also enjoyed its confidence and companionship, while observing its habits and progress in growth.

### CAWSER—A PET CROW

It was my birthday and I had wanted a pet for a present. The time was in early June. Dad and I were going driving.

We have a driveway about a block long that leads from the highway to our house. Near its end there are some logs. Between the logs and the driveway sat a young crow. Its feathers were half encased in transparent tubes and its eyes were the blue of a baby crow.

"Dad, can I catch him?" I asked.

"Sure you can," was the reply. But Daddy meant to correct my English more than to give consent. I hopped out of the car anyway and was after the crow. He jumped over a log. An instant later I stumbled over it and fell. My arms flew out and when I got up, a fierce looking baby crow was in them. I marched triumphantly back to the car with my prize.\*

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\*The crow is not protected by law.



Here I was with a crow so young it couldn't fly. He was very healthy though, and soon he would be hungry. What could we feed a baby crow? My father, luckily, knew a woman who could give me the necessary information. For those who are interested, the crow's diet was as follows: Table scraps (anything we could eat, it could eat); one egg a day; and a few drops of cod liver oil on bread. It was fed four times a day.

Cawser as he was later named (partly be "cawse" of the sound he made and partly be "cawse" I expected unusual things to happen with a crow around), was put on the porch in a special corner fenced off for him. Each day I would take him out for an airing. When I felt we knew each other a little, I would let him out of my arms and he would wander around me. It became more obvious that the day must come when I should realize how much Cawser liked me. And come it did. I was taking Cawser out for an airing. It was a peaceful day and I was lying on the grass while Cawser meandered around occasionally stopping to scratch in the lawn or perch on my leg. Suddenly an idea occurred to me. Why couldn't Cawser sit on my shoulder. I picked him up and put him there. Cawser took the whole procedure so calmly that I followed his example and didn't realize the full meaning of the event until I was discussing it with Daddy in the evening. Then it dawned on me. If a crow sits on your shoulder it's a sure sign he likes you. Cawser was tame. Not very tame, of course, but the first and probably the biggest step had been taken.

We band birds and we have a big bird trap that was vacant as it was the beginning of July which is not the time for bird banding. Some one had the bright idea that "wouldn't it be nice to keep Cawser there." And from then on, at six-thirty in the morning when Cawser clamored for breakfast, I went there to give it to him.

The summer progressed and one day Cawser decided to live up to his name. Cawser was ready for his noonday meal and I decided to take him to the house with me. Cawser was not allowed to go inside so I told my sister, Nancy, to take care of him. Suddenly I heard a shriek and ran outdoors. At that time a ladder leaned against our garage extending part way up to the roof. I got out doors in time to see the baby crow climbing up the ladder hopping from rung to rung. I was sure he would stop when he reached the top, but he continued up the slope of the roof and didn't stop until he reached the ridge. Then he perched himself comfortably and started to preen himself looking down upon us very beneficently. Mother had come out and, sizing up the situation, she telephoned Daddy who told her not to worry, he would be home in half an hour. Nancy and I sat under a tree where we could watch Cawser. Dad later told me that he had never seen more tragic expressions than the ones on our faces when he came home. Cawser was still sitting on the roof but Dad finally got him down and handed him to a much relieved mistress.

Cawser was getting tamer and one day he stayed out of his cage all day. That night he was put back into his cage to sleep. Cawser seemed to like this arrangement and I thought it ideal. I accordingly planned to do it the next day. All went well and Mother and Dad went off to a dinner party in a contented frame of mind. We kids ate our supper before I thought of putting Cawser to bed. I went out and called him, of course expecting an answering caw. None came. I called again. No answer.

At nine o'clock the phone rang at a certain party and a tremulous voice asked for Mrs. Jung. Into the telephone I poured my story. Cawser couldn't be in the apple orchard, I reasoned, because he'd never gone there before and all other places had been thoroughly searched. Mother assured me that Cawser would come back for breakfast. Sure enough she was right. But the cage was deserted after that and Cawser had his wing feathers clipped to prevent him from flying away, for he had begun to use his wings.

About this time Cawser was tamest and began to develop amusing and affectionate habits.

One day Cawser was playing on the lawn. Mother, some friends, and I were lying under a tree nearby. On the lawn lay a package of cigarettes. Cawser walked over to the cigarettes and pulled one out of the package. Evidently he liked the texture of the tobacco so he picked the cigarette up in his beak and walked around with it looking for all the world like a queer little man smoking.

Cawser never did learn to talk but he liked to "whisper" in my ear, putting his beak almost in my ear and making little cackling and singing noises that sounded almost human.

I once tried to teach Cawser to let me feed him off dolls' dishes. It was working moderately well. Cawser accepted food from the spoon and fork and would drink the diluted milk in the cup although it was clear Cawser wanted more food and less milk than I wanted to give him so he opened his mouth to tell me. As he did this, I picked up the cup and proceeded to pour the milk into him. The result surprised both of us. Before my eyes Cawser's head seemed to turn into a fountain from which gushed forth streams of diluted milk. Cawser recovered in a few seconds but it took me a couple of minutes to stop laughing. After that I never made Cawser eat off of dishes.

We had three ducks that summer. Cawser seemed to like the ducks but I cannot say that the feeling was mutual. For the crow was a tyrant. He seemed to think that he had a perfect right to splash around in the ducks' big basin of water as much as he wanted. The ducks never liked to be picked up and we would try to lure them to us with pieces of bread. Cawser would stand around and watch. Presently some one would throw out a piece that appealed to Cawser. He would hop in, get it and find a secluded spot in which to eat it.

Cawser chose a lilac bush as his permanent perch. He managed to scratch most of the bark off the bush when he sharpened his claws.

My crow ate one egg a day. His greatest delight was eating egg yolks. He would have taken egg yolks in preference to any other food on earth.

Cawser flew pretty well now. He would perch near the top of one of the tall trees near our house. It was quite hard to persuade him to come down—

"Cawser, come down," I would call.

"Caw," he answered.

"Down, come down!"

"Caw."

"Cawser, come down." I sounded angry now.

"Caw."

Obviously this didn't work, so I took a pleading attitude—

"Come on down, Caws," I wheedled.

"Caw."

"Please come down."

About this time Cawser would finally give in and descend to my shoulder.

Autumn had come with its bright colors and migrating birds. And to every ten year old, autumn means school. Cawser and I still loved each other but an indefinable something was growing between us. He flew higher and farther now. Then came Hallowe'en. I asked my teacher if I might bring Cawser to school as a part of my costume. The answer remained negative even after I assured my teacher that Cawser didn't peck.

Hallowe'en dawned brisk and clear. I went out to feed my bird. He wasn't around but that was not too unusual. He would always come back to the food. It was untouched when I came home for lunch. Several days passed before I could be convinced that Cawser had really departed. He had answered the call of the wild.

## BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

**Brown Thrasher Takes Unique Bath.** On May 1 I watched a brown thrasher take a bath by slithering along the dripping wet leaves of the mulberry hedge. This occurred shortly after a shower, and though there was plenty of water in several nearby bird-baths, the thrasher seemed to enjoy this form of bathing immensely. He repeated the act several times, each time selecting a fresh branch dripping with water.—Landon B. Thomas, Edgerton.

**White-fronted Goose in Sauk County.** An immature white-fronted goose was seen across a slough from Ferry Bluff, near Sauk City, on April 16 by Mr. Charles E. Nelson and myself. The bird was moving about on a point of land, eating grass, and was watched with 9X and 10X binoculars for twenty minutes from two positions, about 100 yards from the bird. The bill was dull; upper parts brownish-gray, darker than the under parts which were more gray; under tail coverts white; feet and legs yellowish.—S. Paul Jones, Waukesha.

**Brown Creeper Fears Downy Woodpecker.** On April 30 I had opportunity to watch a pair of brown creepers building their nest. I was sitting on the trunk of a fallen tree only fifty feet from the nesting tree, but the creepers paid no attention to me in the least. One of the birds scaled bark from trees within a few yards of where I sat, while the mate worked trees for larvae or insects, also within only feet of me. When a downy woodpecker alighted on a dead yellow birch sapling about 35 feet from the nesting tree, the creepers ceased working, even moving away so that I lost sight of them. Even though my presence did not disturb the creepers, they evidently did not wish to reveal the location of their nest to the woodpecker. After 15 minutes, in which time I did not see or hear either of the creepers, I decided to drive the woodpecker from the vicinity. It seemed only a minute or two before the creepers then returned and resumed their work.—Carl H. Richter, Oconto.

**Prairie Warbler Visits Madison.** The striking yellow of this bird attracted my attention near the old tent colony by the shore of Lake Mendota in Madison on April 25. The bird came within 25 feet of me, and remained in excellent view while hopping among nearby bushes for more than five minutes. The yellow of the underparts was not confined to the throat and breast, but was uniform on the entire underparts; heavy black streaks were noticeable on the flanks, absent from the rest of the underparts; heavy black marks through the eye and across the lower part of the cheek were noted on an otherwise yellow face; top of head and back olive-green; the tail was wagged occasionally, and on several occasions white feathers in the tail were noticeable. (Notes taken on the spot, with bird in view).—Sam Robbins, Mazomanie.

**Redbreasted Nuthatch Eats from the Hand.** A female red-breasted nuthatch appeared at my feeding tray on November 20, 1948. After that it was seen at least once a day until April 26 of this year. During its stay, the bird became friendly enough to take nut-meats from my hands, and also from the hands of ten year old twin boys and their four year old brother.—Bess Russell, Appleton.

**Hoary Redpolls Appear in Southern Wisconsin.** On a trip to Cedar Grove in southern Sheboygan County on February 13, we came upon a flock of redpolls. In the flock were three that were noticeably light in coloration. Subsequent observation showed them to be hoary redpolls. The lighter coloration and white, unstreaked rumps were visible to Mary Donald, Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Bernard Kaiman, Audrey Andrews, Helmuth Mueller and myself.—Gordon Orians, Milwaukee.

**Junco Subspecies Collected in Madison.** Six juncos were taken at our banding station last winter, and sent to Alden H. Miller in California for expert subspecific identification. Five of the specimens, taken between Jan. 10 and Mar. 18, were determined as "junco hyemalis cismontanus" or Cassiar junco," a subspecies of our common form. The sixth, taken on Mar. 27, proved to be a hybrid between "cismontanus" and "junco oregonus montanus".—Peggy Hickey, Madison.

**Carolina Wren Found in Fond du Lac.** Five of us were returning home from the W. S. O. convention and Horicon field trip, Apr. 24, stopping whenever we saw a bird, when at one stop between Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac, Mrs. Winifred MacVicar—exchange teacher from London, England—spotted a wren. We watched the bird for half an hour, with our glasses and without them. We repeatedly checked for its marks of identification. There was no mistaking its size, its rufous red color, its white stripe over the eye. We checked its tail marking carefully to make sure there was no white spot at either corner. There was no striping on the back. We were elated at knowing that Mrs. McVicar had found a Carolina wren for us.—Merle N. Pickett and Lillian Marsh, Manitowoc.

**Another Varied Thrush Visits Wisconsin.** A varied thrush appeared at our feeding station in Osceola early in December, and all during the winter I saw him several times a day. His back was like a robin's; and he had a light rusty eye stripe, a light rusty breast with a dark band across it, and rusty wing bars. I have seen him chase both a cardinal and a blue jay. He ate with the rest of the birds, but otherwise seemed to be by himself. The first time I saw him in December, the blue jays were as much surprised as I. They stopped and looked at him. When warm weather came, we saw him between 5:30 and 7:00 a. m. and seldom at any other time.



After snow came again in mid-April, the thrush was here several times during the day. The last time I saw him was on April 21. On that day I left for a two week visit, and when I came back I saw him no more.—Mrs. O. T. Simmons, Osceola.

**Robin Accepts Cowbird Egg.** On May 23, 1949, in Madison, Wisconsin, I flushed a robin from its nest, which contained two robin eggs and one cowbird egg. On May 25 the nest contained two young robins and the cowbird egg, and the same contents were found when it was visited on May 27. By May 29 the two young robins had disappeared, and there was no sign of the adults about the nest, however, the cowbird egg was still present. This was opened, and found to contain an embryo in an advanced stage of development. Hodges (Auk 1949:94) observed a pair of robins raising a young cowbird in their nest, but prior to this, Friedmann (The Cowbirds, 1929, p. 260) lists only one other case (1879) of a robin accepting a cowbird egg.—Howard Young, Madison.

**Baltimore Oriole and Young Cowbird.** Friedmann (The Cowbirds, 1929) considers the oriole (*Icterus galbula*) "an uncommon victim" of the cowbird. On June 25, 1949, my wife and I watched a female oriole attempting to feed a fledgling cowbird in the middle of a road in the University Arboretum. The oriole offered what looked like an earthworm to the cowbird, but the young bird rejected the worm, or was unable properly to seize it, so repeatedly dropped it. The oriole, in turn, repeatedly picked it up and presented it. During this performance a chipmunk carried three young across the road. On one trip it ran between the two birds, then stopped and made a sudden dash at the cowbird. Though both birds separated at the onset of the chipmunk, the oriole immediately thereafter resumed feeding the cowbird. When we approached, the oriole became alarmed and scolded as long as we remained in the vicinity.—R. W. Nero, Madison.

**Escape Behavior of a Kingfisher.** On June 20, 1949, at 6 p. m., an adult male red-wing chased a kingfisher from the edge of a marsh on Lake Wingra, Madison, Wisconsin, pursuing it out over the lake for about 200 feet in a rapid, winding flight which lasted a minute. Four times when the red-wing neared him, the kingfisher hit the surface of the water in a shallow dive, causing a splash of water which made the red-wing veer off. After the red-wing left him, the kingfisher ceased diving and flew up into trees along the edge of the lake. In a duplication of this performance on June 28, in the same vicinity, a sudden stop made by a kingfisher when he struck the water caused a pursuing red-wing to overshoot him, thus enabling the kingfisher to turn and fly off in another direction. This ended the chase.—R. W. Nero, Madison.

**The Woodcock Ruse.** The evening of the 18th of May I was fishing the South Oconto north of the Menominee Indian Reservation. About seven o'clock it was threatening to rain so I cut back through the brush toward home. The country I walked through was covered with a sparse growth of small poplars. Suddenly a woodcock rose at my feet, and fluttered away as though she were injured, going only two or three yards before she collapsed in the grass. The performance was so perfect it fooled me for the moment and I wondered what was the matter with the bird. Then glancing at my feet I saw two small chicks evidently only a few hours out of the nest feebly trying to hide. I carefully looked for others but saw none. One of the chicks squatted. The other continued to try to

get away but had rough going in the grass. The mother uttered no cry of alarm and did not rise until I virtually stepped on her. I have seen many exhibitions by other birds under similar circumstances but never one more convincing. I am sure had there been a fox or other predator in the vicinity he would have been led away by her apparent helplessness.—Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton.

## The Late Winter and Early Spring Season . . .

The only severe cold snap of the winter was in progress at the start of February. Thereafter temperature and snowfall were near normal through February—temperatures sometimes rising above freezing during sunny afternoons late in the month, in southern Wisconsin, but with nights always cold enough to prevent more than a little trickle of ducks and red-wings in migration. Warm weather on March 4 and 5 brought numbers of early migrants to southern and eastern Wisconsin, but the main push of early birds did not come until March 19 and 20. Thereafter until mid-April weather was rather favorable for migration, but devoid of abnormal features that would interrupt the normal pattern of bird movements through the state. Cold and snowy weather came on April 15, with some adverse effect on birds already present, and delaying the arrival of others for the next ten days. Joint field trips of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Wilson Ornithological Club both profited and suffered from this. The cool weather retarded the goose flight at Horicon so that 5,000 were present on April 24; it delayed the arrival of land birds that might otherwise have been present in Madison and Mazomanie. More favorable weather conditions began to spread over the state late in the afternoon of the 24th, bringing a wave to southern Wisconsin on the 25th, and fairly good migration throughout the state for the rest of the month.

The waterfowl flight was better than average. Horned grebes arrived early, were seen in more localities than usual, and were seen in unusual numbers in Madison and Milwaukee; Western grebes were noted on Lake Michigan in numbers not known in Wisconsin in years; the swan flight was strong and widespread; the goose flight was heavy in the Horicon and Lake Wisconsin areas; scaup were numerous in northern Wisconsin (Bernard Bradle); and ruddy ducks were to be seen by the hundreds on Lake Winnebago in mid-April (Mrs. Rogers, J. H. Evans). Some observers thought baldpates were reduced in numbers, but evidence is lacking that would show if that was widespread or just a local condition.

No sizable hawk flights were reported for March or April. In Oshkosh Jack Kaspar counted only about 40 broad-wings where usually the spring flight has numbered several hundred. There is insufficient evidence to indicate the extent of the flight at Cedar Grove, usually the best hawk observation point in the state. No flight of any consequence was noted along the Wisconsin river in the Sauk City-Mazomanie area.

Arrival dates of land birds ran true to form in general, with only a very few early stragglers, such as the Prairie marsh wrens in Milwaukee and Horicon, and clay-colored and Henslow's sparrows in Madison. The season's highlights follow:

**Loon:** Unusually early arrival throughout southern and eastern Wisconsin: Green Bay, Mar. 20 (Ed Paulson); Madison, Mar. 24 (M. Crandall); South Wayne, Mar. 25 (Lola Welch, Ethel Olson); Hustisford, Mar. 26 (Sam Robbins); Two Rivers, Mar. 27 (Mrs. W. Smith); Oconomowoc, Mar. 27 (Ed Peartree); Racine County, Mar. 29 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Gordon Orians). Not usually seen in Wisconsin until early April.

**Red-throated Loon:** Two in Milwaukee, Feb. 20 (Dr. Hehn-Mrs. A. P. Balsom); one in Milwaukee, Apr. 4 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Mary Donald); one at Cedar Grove, Apr. 10 (Bernard Kaiman et al).

**Horned Grebe:** Arrival noted in Madison, Mar. 23 (Paul Cors). Earliest date on record.

**Eared Grebe:** Wind Lake, Racine County, Apr. 3-4 (Mary Donald-Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**Western Grebe:** Present in Milwaukee from Apr. 2 to 27 in "invasion" proportions. As many as 10-12 could often be seen at once (Gordon Orians et al).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** One in Green Bay, Feb. 21 (Ed Cleary); may have been the same one seen previously on Dec. 19. Early arrival in Milwaukee, Mar. 24 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**American Bittern:** First seen in Milwaukee, Mar. 25 (Gordon Orians).

**Whistling Swan:** Unusually numerous and widespread. Reports were received from Milwaukee, Waukesha, Dane, Columbia, Dodge, Sheboygan, Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie, Portage, Manitowoc, Brown, Oconto, Wood, St. Croix and Bayfield Counties. A peak of 5,000 was estimated at Green Bay, Apr. 7.

**Canada Goose:** Early arrivals noted at Wind Lake, Racine County, Feb. 18 (F. Meyrose); Milwaukee, Feb. 24 (Gordon Orians); and Madison, Feb. 25 (George Knudsen).

**White-fronted Goose:** Sauk County, Apr. 16 (Jones-Nelson). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Snow Goose:** Scattered reports of a few in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Milwaukee and Oconto Counties, all between Apr. 3 and 26.

**Blue Goose:** Seen at Milwaukee, Horicon, Lake Wisconsin, Two Rivers and Oconto, all in small numbers. One in Ozaukee County, Mar. 17 (Gordon Orians) is early.

**Gadwall:** First seen near Madison, Feb. 25 (Richard Hunt).

**Pintail:** Twelve wintering birds found near Madison, Feb. 3 (Amundsen). Early migrants noted in Milton, Feb. 19 (Chester Skelly); Mukwanago, Waukesha County, Feb. 20 (Gordon Orians et al); and Madison, Feb. 25 (Richard Hunt).

**Ring-necked Duck:** First, Milton, Mar. 5 (Chester Skelly).

**Canvas-back:** Arrived in Madison, Mar. 5 (Richard Hunt).

**Oldsquaw:** Female collected in Dane County, where it is decidedly rare, Mar. 25 (Richard Hunt); three in Washburn, Bayfield County, Apr. 26 (Mrs. A. A. Axley).

**White-winged Scoter:** Milwaukee, Feb. 20 (Dr. Hehn-Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Cedar Grove, Apr. 24 (Gordon Orians).

**Ruddy Duck:** Appeared early in Milton, Mar. 5 (Chester Skelly). Peak of the heavy flight on Lake Winnebago, Apr. 15-18 (J. H. Evans).

**Hooded Merganser:** Early bird in Madison, Mar. 1 (Leon Edmunds).

**Turkey Vulture:** One in Jefferson County, Apr. 2 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); one in Sauk County, Apr. 16 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); one at Couderay, Sawyer County, Apr. 18 (George Ruegger); three at St. Croix Falls, Apr. 19 (L. Heinsohn).

**Goshawk:** One at Cedar Grove, Feb. 5 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Gordon Orians); Green Bay, Mar. 20 (Bird Club).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** One in Madison, Feb. 6 (LeRoy Lintereur).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Madison, Mar. 20 (George Knudsen). Earliest date on record.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Widespread reports indicate this species to have been more numerous than usual in late winter.

**Bald Eagle:** A surprising number of migrants reported: eight seen during the spring at Eau Claire, the first on Mar. 24 (Lois Almon); Hudson, Mar. 24 and Apr. 3 (Mrs. H. P. Owen); Burnett County, Apr. 2 (Norman Stone); Green Bay, Apr. 5 (Myron Duquaine); Jackson County, Apr. 8 (Harold Roberts); Vernon County, Apr. 10 (Margarette Morse); Washburn, Apr. 10 (Mrs. A. A. Axley); Solon Springs, Apr. 13-14 (Jim Hale); Devil's Lake, Sauk County, Apr. 14 (Herb Weinbreune); and Oshkosh, Apr. 20 (Jack Kaspar).

**Pigeon Hawk:** Milwaukee, Mar. 21 (John Muir Club); Dane County, Mar. 20 (Bob Nero) and Apr. 3 (A. W. Schorger); Hudson, Mar. 26 (Mrs. H. H. Owen; Lyndon Station, Juneau County, Apr. 19 (George Knudsen); Waukesha County, Apr. 23 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Oshkosh, Apr. 30 (Jack Kaspar).

**Canada Spruce Grouse:** Seven seen in Forest County during February and March (Bernard Bradle).

**Ruffed Grouse:** Six in the Cedarburg swamp area, Ozaukee County, Feb. 12 (Helmuth Mueller et al). Rare in that portion of the state.

**Prairie Chicken:** One heard booming near Mazomanie, Apr. 5 (Sam Robbins). Few left in this area, where once they were numerous.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Near Rhinelander, Mar. 20 (Lois Almon).

**Hungarian Partridge:** Two February trips in northern Ozaukee and southern Sheboygan Counties tallied 131 and 159 birds, indicating that the species is doing well in that area (Gordon Orians et al). It was also found in a new location southwest of Madison, Mar. 5 (Bob Nero).

**Sandhill Crane:** Two in Wood County, Apr. 4 (Hubbard et al); two seen over Madison, Apr. 27 (Joe Hickey).

**King Rail:** Milwaukee, Apr. 30 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**Florida Gallinule:** Arrived in Kenosha, Apr. 20 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

**Killdeer:** A remarkably early date was noted for this bird near Madison, Feb. 12 (George Knudsen); another early date in Milwaukee, Feb. 25 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Waukesha County, Feb. 6 (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson); Milton, Feb. 19 (Chester Skelly).

**Glaucous Gull:** The Milwaukee bird seen in January was last seen Feb. 24 (Helmuth Mueller et al).

**Herring Gull:** An unusually large inland concentration conservatively estimated at 800 was seen on Hustisford Lake, Dodge County, Mar. 26 (Sam Robbins).

**Franklin's Gull:** One in Racine County, Apr. 20 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom et al).



**Bonaparte's Gull:** Seen very early in Milwaukee, Mar. 19 (Helmuth Mueller). Lake Winnebago arrival noted by Apr. 5 (Jack Kaspar). One in Madison, Apr. 26 (George Hall).

**Forster's Tern:** Two seen in Madison, Apr. 24 (Eugene Roark et al); noted in Milwaukee, Apr. 25 (Gordon Orians).

**Caspian Tern:** Cedar Grove, Apr. 19 (Helmuth Mueller-Gordon Orians). 32 had appeared in Pensaukee, Oconto County, by Apr. 24 (Carl Richter).

**Black Tern:** First, Milton, Apr. 28 (Chester Skelly).

**Dovekie:** Monroe County, Mar. 3 (fide Dorothy Mead). Second record for Wisconsin; see article elsewhere in this issue.

**Long-eared Owl:** Cedar Grove, Mar. 17 (Mary Donald et al); Two Rivers, Mar. 27 (Mrs. W. Smith); present in Milwaukee throughout the period.

**Short-eared Owl:** First noted on Feb. 20 in Waukesha County (S. P. Jones-C. E. Nelson) and in Columbia County (Eugene Roark-Alan Keitt); seen subsequently in Milton, Milwaukee and Oconto.

**Nighthawk:** Early arrival near Oshkosh, Apr. 25 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

**Kingfisher:** Birds seen in Dane County on Feb. 12 (A. W. Schorger) and Feb. 20 (Ladwig).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Wintered at South Wayne (Mrs. Ethel Olson-Mrs. Lola Welch); seen also in Eau Claire, Feb. 26 (Lois Almon); Milwaukee, Mar. 21 (Mrs. W. Simmons); Milton, Apr. 2 (Chester Skelly); Oshkosh, Apr. 2, J. H. Evans).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Normally this species does not arrive generally in the state until late April and early May; this year so many birds spent the winter and then spread out as warm weather arrived, that by late March birds were generally distributed in many areas of the state.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Arrived in Oconomowoc, Apr. 27 (Ed Peartree).

**Crested Flycatcher:** First, Milwaukee, Apr. 28 (Mary Donald).

**Least Flycatcher:** Early arrival in Milwaukee, Apr. 26 (Mrs. H. J. Nunnemacher).

**Hoyt's Horned Lark:** One collected, Feb. 20 (A. W. Schorger).

**Tree Swallow:** Curiously the earliest arrivals were reported from the central and more northern parts of the state: Trempeleau County, Mar. 29 (Harold Roberts); Oconto County, Apr. 1 (Carl Richter).

**Purple Martin:** Early bird in Milwaukee, Mar. 19 (George Treichel).

**Canada Jay:** Present for a few days during February at Merrill (J. W. Peroutky).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Appeared at Manson Lake, Oneida County, in February (Ray & Leone Schmutzler); one in Dane County, Feb. 26 (A. W. Schorger); one in South Wayne, Apr. 13 (Ethel Olson-Lola Welch); present in Appleton until Apr. 26 (Bess Russell); one in Eau Claire, Apr. 28 (Lois Almon).

**Winter Wren:** Arrived early in Milwaukee, Mar. 21 (Gordon Orians).

**Carolina Wren:** Fond du Lac, Apr. 24 (Merle Pickett et al). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Bewick's Wren:** Four or more different birds were to be seen in different parts of Madison from Mar. 29 on (many observers); one was present in Oconomowoc, Apr. 8-14 (Ed Peartree); one in Reedsburg, Apr. 27 (Ethel A. Nott).

**Prairie Marsh Wren:** Remarkably early birds seen in Milwaukee, Apr. 10 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom), and in Horicon, Apr. 24 (Harold Mathiak). Both earlier than the previous early state record.

**Mockingbird:** A bird was present in the town of Butler, Waukesha County, Apr. 18-22, seen first by William Ethier, and subsequently by C. E. Nelson.

**Catbird:** Early arrival in Milwaukee, Apr. 20 (George Treichel).

**Brown Thrasher:** The wintering bird at Kenosha remained through Feb. 28 (Mrs. Schaeffer).

**Varied Thrush:** One at Osceola through the winter until Apr. 21 (Mrs. O. T. Simmons). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Olive-backed Thrush:** A very early date for central Wisconsin is furnished by a bird in Appleton, Apr. 26 (Mrs. W. E. Rogers); arrival in Milwaukee noted on Apr. 25 (Gordon Orians).

**Willow Thrush:** Also noted early in Appleton (Mrs. W. E. Rogers) and Milwaukee (Gordon Orians), both on Apr. 28.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Scarce in late winter; apparently the only place where the species spent the entire winter was in Madison.

**Pipit:** Ozaukee County, Apr. 27 (Mrs. Balsom et al).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** The only report for the season was of a small flock in Mazomanie, Feb. 15-18 (Sam Robbins).

**Northern Shrike:** Madison, Feb. 1 (Bob Nero); Milwaukee, Feb. 26 (Kruger); Mazomanie, Mar. 5 (Sam Robbins); Ojibwa, Sawyer County, Apr. 2 (Jim Hale).

**Migrant Shrike:** More reports than usual; seen in late March and April in Milton, Madison, Mazomanie, Columbia County, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Appleton, Black River Falls, Eau Claire and Hudson.

**Warbling Vireo:** Madison, Apr. 26 (Leon Edmunds). Earliest date on record.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** One seen in the Mazomanie river bottoms on the Society field trip, Apr. 24 (S. P. Jones, C. P. Frister et al); one week earlier than the previous early state record.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Few reports: Burnett County, Apr. 22 (Norman Stone et al); Madison, Apr. 26 (Phil Mallow, N. R. Barger et al); Milwaukee, Apr. 26 (John Muir Club).

**Nashville Warbler:** Early birds were found on Apr. 26 in Madison (Leon Edmunds) and Milwaukee (John Muir Club).

**Yellow Warbler:** Arrival generally early throughout southern Wisconsin: Apr. 25 in Lake Mills (Lawrence Jahn); Apr. 26 in Milwaukee (Mrs. W. Simmons); Apr. 27 in Madison (Howard Young-Eugene Roark); Apr. 28 in Mazomanie (Sam Robbins) and Eau Claire (Lois Almon); Apr. 30 in Oshkosh (J. H. Evans).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Milwaukee, Apr. 22 (Kruger).

**Cape May Warbler:** Milwaukee, Apr. 30 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin-Mary Donald). Ties state record.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** An early straggler in Two Rivers, Apr. 30 (Mrs. W. Smith), ties the state record.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Early birds noted on Apr. 26 in Milton (Mrs. Melva Maxson) and Milwaukee (Dr. Anna Hehn).

**Prairie Warbler:** Madison, Apr. 25 (Sam Robbins). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Ovenbird:** Arrivals noted on Apr. 27 in Milwaukee (Mrs. F. L. Larkin); on Apr. 28 in Waukesha (S. P. Jones); on Apr. 29 in Viroqua (Margarette Morse); and on Apr. 30 in Milton (Mrs. Melva Maxson).

**Northern Yellow-throat:** First in Black River Falls, Apr. 27 (Harold Roberts).

**Redstart:** One seen in South Wayne, Apr. 29 (Ethel Olson-Lola Welch).

**Western Meadowlark:** Dane County, Feb. 12 (A. W. Schorger). Increasing in Oconto County (Carl Richter).

**Red-wing:** In addition to winter records previously reported, four were seen in Milton, Feb. 13 (Chester Skelly); several present in Racine County throughout February (Meyrose).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Twelve seen in Ladysmith, Apr. 7 (Jim Hale). Arrived in Eau Claire, Apr. 20 (Lois Almon), and in Mazomanie, Apr. 22 (Sam Robbins).

**Cardinal:** Appeared in Merrill in late winter for the first time in many years (J. W. Peroutky).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Milwaukee, Apr. 26 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); Nelson Dewey Park, Grant County, Apr. 29 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Black River Falls, Apr. 30 (Harold Roberts).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Fairly good representation, but flocks were small. Present during February in Merrill (J. W. Peroutky); Oconto, Feb. 5 (Carl Richter); nine in St. Croix Falls, Feb. 11 (Mrs. Morrow); Cedar Grove, Feb. 13 (Gordon Orians et al); Milwaukee, Feb. 13 to Apr. 3 (Mrs. Balsom et al); 30 in Plymouth, Mar. 20 (Harold Koopman); 17 in Black River Falls, Mar. 26 (Harold Roberts); present in Washburn until Apr. 23 (Mrs. Fletcher); twelve in Tomah, Apr. 27 (Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Speirs); present throughout the period at Superior (Mrs. Clough Gates).

**Pine Grosbeak:** Four remained in Superior until Mar. 12 (Mrs. Clough Gates); one in Merrill, Apr. 13 (J. W. Peroutky) is the latest spring date on record.

**Hoary Redpoll:** Cedar Grove, Feb. 13 (Mary Donald et al). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Redpoll:** Became more numerous in February and March, noted in Dane, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Outagamie, St. Croix and Bayfield Counties. Last large flock was one of 200 in Kiel, Mar. 28 (Myron Reichwaldt). Last seen in Washburn, Apr. 3 (Roy Scyzmanski), and in Hammond, Apr. 4 (N. R. Peabody).

**Pine Siskin:** A few scattered reports from Kenosha, Sauk City, Cedar Grove, Kiel and Eau Claire.

**Red Crossbill:** Eight in Black River Falls, Feb. 19 (George Knudsen).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Two in Rhinelander, Mar. 20 (Lois Almon).

**Towhee:** Wintering bird remained in Kenosha County until Mar. 13 (Mrs. Howard Higgins). Early arrivals seen in Milwaukee, Mar. 21 (Mary Donald); Madison, Mar. 27 (George Hall et al); and Oshkosh, Mar. 30 (Jack Kaspar).

**Savannah Sparrow:** First in Milwaukee, Mar. 21 (John Muir Club).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Early straggler in Madison, Apr. 3 (George Hall).

**Lark Sparrow:** Noted in Nelson Dewey Park, Grant County, Apr. 28 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

**Junco:** Western subspecies "cismontanus" collected in Madison on several occasions (Joe and Margaret Hickey). See "By the Wayside" column.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Arrived on Mar. 29 in South Wayne (Lola Welch-Ethel Olson), and in Milwaukee (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** A remarkably early straggler was closely observed and heard singing in Madison, Mar. 29 (Mrs. R. A. Walker). Seen also in Milwaukee, Apr. 26 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** One bird survived the winter in Milwaukee. First migrants seen on Apr. 26 in Milwaukee (Mrs. H. Kroeltz) and in Eau Claire (Lois Almon).

**Fox Sparrow:** Remained late in the northern half of the state; last seen in Eau Claire on Apr. 26 (Lois Almon), and in Superior on Apr. 27 (Mrs. Clough Gates).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Milwaukee, Apr. 26 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al).

**Lapland Longspur:** Hundreds flying north over Mazomanie, Mar. 5 (Sam Robbins); flock estimated at 150 in Evansville, Apr. 10 (Karl Priebe); flocks present near Oshkosh from Feb. 23 to Apr. 20, where other species of longspurs may have been seen last spring, but this year the birds were more wary, and the few that could be seen well proved to be Lapland (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

## Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Officers, 1949

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**HOW TO KNOW THE BIRDS.** By Roger Tory Peterson. New York, 1949: 4¾ x 7½, 144 pp., over 200 illustrations, \$2.00.

The beginner in bird study frequently becomes lost in the wide variety of bird species included in our usual bird guides, many of which he will never see in his own locality. Roger Peterson, having admirably provided for the experienced student with his latest Field Guide, has now supplied a much needed introductory book to the study of birds. Simplicity is the keynote in this book although the identification of the approximately 200 species listed can easily be learned from this work.

After a brief introduction about birds Peterson gives us ten pages treating with the characteristics in shape, size, markings, and habits which enable the field ornithologist to make rapid identifications. The bulk of the text then is made up of short descriptions of a selected variety of the more common species. Each species is illustrated with a line drawing showing the diagnostic field marks. From the text and figures most of the species can be readily identified. However many of the warblers and sparrows are figured only as heads and I daresay this may be misleading to some people.

The last thirty pages of the book will be of interest to advanced students as well as beginners. About 15 pages are devoted to a discussion of the kinds of birds to be found in various habitats. A condensed treatment of ecological distribution is to be found in no other book and even the advanced student can profit by reading this. The final 12 pages show the silhouettes of the more common birds. This is an extension of the interesting feature that was included in the latest edition of the Field Guide. Beginners will learn a lot from this and the more experienced student can get quite a lot of enjoyment by quizzing himself on these silhouettes.

The beginner who reads this book with his Field Guide also available will be well on his way to being able to identify birds in the field.

This book is also available in a thirty-five cent edition which lacks the colored plates.—George A. Hall.

**FIELDBOOK OF NATURAL HISTORY.** By E. Laurence Palmer. New York, 1949: 6¼ x 9¼, 633 pp., 2,000 illustrations, \$7.00, leatheroid binding; \$5.00, cloth.

The bird watcher who ignores the other manifestations of nature not only misses a lot of fun but also fails to give himself an integrated picture of the out-of-doors. Most of us develop at least a passing interest in flowers, mammals, reptiles, etc., as a result of our time spent afield, but for most of us the cost of building an adequate library on these topics is prohibitive. Professor Palmer, who teaches Nature Study at Cornell University, has solved a part of this problem for us in the present book. In one volume is given a concentrated treatment of a wide variety of topics. The subjects included are astronomy, mineralogy, botany, including algae, fungi, mosses, liverworts, and ferns, as well as flowering plants and trees, and zoology, including mollusks, insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Insects, birds, and flowering plants are not treated completely but one is surprised to find such a large number of species included. On the other hand reptiles, amphibians, and some others are treated fairly completely. Included also are discussions of domestic plants and animals which are of general interest but are omitted from most books.

Each page consists of three columns, each devoted to a single species (or a few closely allied ones) including an illustration. In terse sentences Professor Palmer includes a tremendous amount of information in the approximately 150 words devoted to each species.

In a work of this kind the specialist will obviously be able to find errors in his own field but except for a few oversimplifications these are few. No one will be able to become an expert in a given field by a study of this book, but it will provide a gold mine of information for the person with a casual interest in these topics.—George A. Hall.

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