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The PASSENGER PIGEON

LEAST BITTERN
ON NEST

BY PRINS BROTHERS

Winter Issue
1952

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 4

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

Published Quarterly By

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

NEWS . . .

Plans for the WSO convention of May 1-3 are nearly complete, says chairman Chester Krawczyk. Hotel Beaumont in the city of Green Bay, will be the headquarters. The reception of Friday evening will be high-lighted by a colored movie and lecture, and by special entertainment, and will begin informally at 7:30 p. m. The all-day program of Saturday will be high-lighted by the banquet speaker Murl Deusing, who will present his new film, "Exploring the Everglades." Field trips will be arranged for Sunday morning, and the participants will be divided into groups small enough so that efficient work can be done. Each team will have a designated leader. The Supply Department will feature many new items this year.

News Flash: We have just received word that the RKO colored movie "Water Birds" will be shown for the reception, Friday night, and that Messrs. R. A. McCabe, A. W. Schorger, and Wallace Grange will speak on Saturday. Walter Scott will be the toastmaster for the Saturday banquet.

The summer camp-out (two days) to be held in Adams County should result in the discovery of many new bird records for that area. If our camp-out of last summer can be used as a gauge, there will be a good attendance for this event. Come as early as you can! See **Calendar of Field Trips** (inside back page) for further details.

Do not forget May 17—the **May Day** selected for state-wide uniformity this year. Results of these May Day counts will be summarized and published in a different form this year as all will be taken on the same day.

The officers, at a recent meeting, decided to postpone the sale of the Society's library, pending the organization of an Audubon Camp in Wisconsin. Such a camp requires a library. The WSO library has a current value of more than $600.00.

Members will note that we now have a new advertiser in the back of the magazine, thanks to our new "ad taker," Mrs. F. L. Larkin. Next time you need a camera, supplies, or a film developed, please contact this patron. More than that, please patronize **all** of our advertisers, and tell them that you saw their ad in **The Passenger Pigeon.**

A proposed revision of our Articles of Incorporation is included in this issue. It was prepared by Al Bradford for consideration at our next convention.

The red-tailed hawk has been selected by your committee as the bird to be studied this year as part of our annual **Range and Population** series. A questionnaire will be sent out early in 1954, so it is hoped that all members will be on the look-out for this species this year. Ideas of what to study about this species will be found on page 161.

The new long playing bird song record, by Jerry and Norma Stillwell, is excellent. This record presents more than 135 distinctive songs and calls of 49 different species. Available from the Supply Department. $7.95. We pay postage.

The John Muir Club of Milwaukee tabulated 269 species of birds as being seen by its members during 1952. The 100 species, more or less, included in our state list, that were not observed are rare indeed.

The Aldo Leopold Memorial Medal is awarded annually by The Wildlife Society to an individual considered to have contributed most to the knowledge and conservation of wildlife in North America. Dr. Olaus J. Murie, president of the Wilderness Society, naturalist, author, and artist, was the second person to receive the reward, Carl D. Shoemaker, conservation director of the National Wildlife Federation, having received the first.

If you have not returned your meadowlark questionnaire, please fill it in and send to Wesley E. Lanyon, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, as soon as possible.

In a recently received communication, Herman F. Chapman of Sioux Falls, South Dakota writes: "The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union is compiling a list of

(Continued on page 166)

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FIRST WSO CAMPOUT
A HUGE SUCCESS

Wyalusing, 1952

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

After the heavy rain of the morning, mild but dreary weather continued to pour out of the northeast on Friday afternoon, June 20, 1952. Through the misty air, into which the highway faded half a mile fore and aft, was glimpsed a rare sight in Wisconsin: a mountain wreathed in clouds! But Blue Mound, its summit lost in the low, fluffy, moving forms that were to keep most of the weekend in perpetual gray, was a forgotten milestone when Wyalusing was at last in sight. Immediately there were, at the entrance, cheerful songs from half a dozen indomitable redstarts and the warm hospitality of Mr. Paul Lawrence, equally indefatigable park superintendent, to give the vastly comfortable sensation of returning home. Every need had been anticipated and provided for: Here was wood piled high for our bonfire, near the big shelter house carefully reserved for our use; back there were barracks with cots for those who lacked tents and sleeping bags; and yonder, near the cliff edge, was the camping ground, overlooking the flat patchwork of swamps and backwaters that stretched, far below, for miles before the bluish haze of the wooded Iowan Hills.

There remained a quarter hour for a brief reconnaisance of the now almost silent wooded bluffs before the perpetual twilight of the afternoon finally yielded to darkness—just time to count the astonishing number of woodchucks that live by the long, winding bluff road into the South Wilderness Area, and then to discern, far out in the dim distance, the last steam boat carefully picking its way upstream between islands and shoals, under the watchful piloting of Mark Twain. This was the peaceful, unchanging Mississippi, along whose banks and backwaters, next day, were found those Stoics who, young and old, continue the one tradition in which the ceaseless creep of time brings no pang of restlessness—seeking, with bamboo pole and hook and worm, catfish and, in the words of one youth in overalls and straw hat who shared a remote slough with a few cricket frogs, "just anything."

On Saturday morning, while those who had already made camp were off on the miles of woodland trails, the Kaimans, whose thorough planning and publicity work should not go unacknowledged, continued to prepare for the afternoon's activities and to welcome the newly arriving parties. Special recognition, for supplying such an enthusiastic delegation of no less than 13* of the 46 persons who assembled for the afternoon program, should be made to the Wausau Bird Club. Though long and tiresome, their journey was especially rewarding, for they were able to choose the beautiful Kickapoo route.

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*We regret that Miss Olive Wells was overlooked when the list of Wausau participants in the camp-out was reported (Passenger Pigeon XIV:79).

In the afternoon's discussion of bird songs, one had the opportunity to appreciate the difficulty in learning bird calls in a hurry, as well as the failings of the technical quality of the devices for recording and reproduction currently within economic reach. Not only are many bird songs rather high-pitched for such equipment, but they often are so variable that, in order to catch the full gamut of vocabulary, it will probably be necessary, eventually, to devote at least one whole record to each species.

On the field hike from Treasure Cave* to The Knob, the gratifyingly large number of campers was forced by the narrow upper cliff trail into a single-file procession whose ends were out of touch with each other; but we hope that everyone had a chance to see a few of the plants described below, or at least something of interest. The evening whippoorwill count demonstrated that, on a cool, misty evening in June, only barred owls, fireflies, WSO campers, and soldiers on bivouac are active. These night maneuvers of the Medical Corps gave us brief apprehension, but, by the time the Sunday census began, we had the park and its birds to ourselves. Surprisingly, even the famous river mosquitoes were nowhere to be felt. Though some songs were doubtless dampened by the clouds, there still were more than eough birds to count, in great variety, as the results below will show.

In closing, this brief report hastens to express sincere thanks to those who not only made the camp-out possible, but made it a success: To Mr. Harold Burgess for his evening talk explaining the value of wild-life conservation on the Upper Mississippi Refuge, of which he is district manager; to Mr. Bernard Kaiman, able master of ceremonies, and Mrs. Kaiman, for their contagiously enthusiastic assumption of the difficult task of organization; particularly to Mr. Paul Lawrence, superintendent of Wyalusing Park, for his generous devotion of time and effort in providing us with every facility and comfort; and, above all, to the campers themselves, in return for whose ready participation in all activities we hope the friendly atmosphere of sharing camping equipment and bird lore alike proved to be fair exchange.

The Vegetation of Wyalusing

On the highest parts of the bluffs are found islands of white and black oaks, drouth—and fire-resistant trees which cannot endure much shade. Only local dryness, doubtless aided by occasional fires set by lightning or Indians, has prevented them from being replaced long ago by maples and elms, whose seedlings tolerate forest darkness but succumb to drouth and fire. Since most of their rock strata are soft and weather away rapidly, these river bluffs form, in most places, very steep slopes rather than preciptious cliffs. The rich, deep limestone soils of these slopes, protected from warm winds and supplied with additional moisture by seepages in the rock, are clothed with a luxuriant forest of sugar maple, basswood, red oak, ash and elm which abuts below on the flood-plain forest and extends upward in the glens, draws and ravines onto the more sheltered saddlebacks of the ridges. Long Valley supports, in

*Please refer to map of area on page 146.

addition to this maple forest, a magnificient stand of giant black walnuts and, near its mouth, a few thorny, fern-leaved honey locusts. Occasionally, where the steep bluff slopes meet the floodplain, are found Kentucky coffee trees, whose leaves exceed a foot in length. These share with honey locusts the distinction of being our only trees whose leaves are twice-compound; they also are our only native legume trees (both bear huge flat pods). Like the river birch, they have probably spread northward with the aid of rivers; the few natural stations of these two southern trees in Wisconsin are all in or near large valleys.

The third type of vegetation occupies the permanently waterlogged land of the river floodplains, in whose endless maze of channels and backwaters and swamp islands one may quickly lose all sense of direction. In some ways this bottomland forest of giant elm and silver maple, black ash, river birch and hackberry is, in our region, the last true wilderness; save for an occasional fisherman, there is no direct evidence of human activity here—no roads, trails, habitations, trash, tree stumps nor landmarks of any kind. To the botanist, however, the place is depressing; instead of the multitude of herbs peculiar to the floodplain community,

PART OF THE GROUP THAT ATTENDED THE WSO CAMPOUT

FRONT ROW: L. TO R.—DIXIE LARKIN, MRS. ROLAND ADAMS, CLARA PEARTREE, MRS. HAROLD LIEBHERR, JIM ZIMMERMAN, HAROLD LIEBHERR, AUDREY KAIMAN.

STANDING: L. TO R.—BERNARD KAIMAN, HAROLD BURGESS, CARL HAYSSEN, MRS. CARL HAYSSEN, ROLAND ADAMS.

there are vast stretches of mud, barren save for an occasional hardy sedge and the extensive low patches of poison ivy that characteristically climbs to the tops of the river trees. For a second clue to the influence of civilization, one may turn to the trees, in whose branches and crotches are perched masses of debris at a height of eight to fifteen feet. But, notwithstanding the damming and prolonged flooding which have impoverished their flora, and doubtless also their fauna, the bottoms remain a fascinating and for the most part unexplored wonderland of bird life; for they still provide the four essentials: water; fish and insects, leafy treetops and live and dead trunks; and the solitude of isolation.

Of the three types of forest shown on the map, the floodplain could not be included on our very brief botanical exploration on Saturday. And since much of the oak wood flora has been replaced by bluegrass as the result of mowing and the use of the bluff for camping, only a patch of mayapple, tufts of fine white-flowered bedstraw, and a thicket of gray dogwood could be observed (near The Knob). (In the somewhat sandy oak forest on Firefly Point, one of the groups discovered a shinleaf, whose fragrant white flowers had not quite opened, and two orchids —the neat, white-netted rosettes of rattlesnake plantain and the large, flat, orbicular leaves of the rare Hooker's orchis.) So most of the vegetation observed was that of the rich sugar-maple forest, whose dense summer shade imposes severe restrictions on the variety of plants able to grow in it. Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn, which simply confine their above-ground activities to early spring, had not only finished ripening seed but had already displayed "autumn" coloration and gone dormant in early June. And flower buds were the only visible evidence of wild garlic, whose broad green leaves are not found except in April and May. Though many other herbs, like hepatica, bloodroot, wild ginger, trillium, baneberry and blue cohosh remain green till fall, they do bloom early, and they doubtless continue to make little more than enough food to balance that continually being used up, once the trees have reached full leaf. Because its blooming is concentrated in that supreme burst of spring glory for which it is renowned, the sugar maple forest has become a gloomy place by June; the few summer flowers—e. g., basswood, garlic and ginseng—have little color. Not till later will there be the brilliant blue and white and red of cohosh, baneberry, ginseng and jack-in-the-pulpit fruits to relieve the montony of somber green and brown. One feels the dismal barrenness of this sort of plant community most where it occupies an extensive area such as Blazed Dell. Most of the foliage is high in the forest roof; not only are the herbs too scarce to hide from view the soft carpet of decaying leaves, but what little brush can tolerate so much shade—an occasional ironwood, alternate dogwood or sapling maple—impedes neither view nor progress, in striking contrast to the endless tangled briers and thickets of the more sunny oak forest.

Along the cliff trail, the greater diversity of topography and substrate, and lesser shade, are reflected in the addition of many plants to those of the sugar maple community which grow there. On rock and soil alike, other plants are immersed in unending drifts of prolific bulblet ferns and dripping jewelweeds, above which extend occasional shrubs like bladdernut. Set off strikingly against this June background of solid green are the brilliant clusters of red-berried elder, whose generally more northward distribution suggests that it may have persisted on these cool, north-facing bluffs since the time when southern Wisconsin had a cooler climate and a northern flora. From the unshaded upper rock outcrops, columbine, purple cliff brake and blue harebells reach out, while occasional fallen limestone chunks on the lower slopes support thick mats of walking ferns, the tips of whose long, awl-shaped leaves take root to form a tightly interwoven pattern over their entire surface. Throughout

the area, pale green tongues hanging from many small, deep pits carved by weather in the exposed limestone are all that remain in June of the plant that has contributed more than any other to the fame of Wyalusing Park—the amethystine shooting star. Here every shelf of rock that protrudes from the soil to interrupt the park's unusually extensive carpets of the more familiar woodland wildflowers offers its own glowing purple-pink jewels to the pale April sunshine. This shooting star, which somehow manages to root itself and eke out a living in these pockmarked rocks to which it is restricted, is found, in the Midwest to-day, only locally (1) along the river bluffs in southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin—part of an "island" that somehow escaped glaciation—and (2) on the cliffs at Hannibal, Missouri, for which there is some evidence that they, too, were spared the devastation wrought by the Pleistocene ice fields. Since the other known locations of the plant east of the Rockies and Black Hills (one of whose shooting stars it resembles more closely than it does our common prairie species) are all south of glaciated country in eastern Pennsylvania, eastern West Virginia and Kentucky, one is tempted to speculate that it once was more widespread, having reached Wisconsin before the Pleistocene or during one of the interglacial periods, and that it actually survived here in the famous unglaciated Driftless Area—a sort of Noah's Ark—during at least the last of the ice ages.[1] This plant's distribution would best be explained by the vagaries of chance, were it not for the fact that it is not the only plant whose range coincides with unglaciated areas. Whether it has simply been unable to spread beyond the few places from which the glaciers failed to remove it, or whether its distribution has, in fact, been determined by a greater complexity of historical and environmental factors than glaciation alone, may never be fully understood. That its history may forever be shrouded in mystery serves to heighten our application of this unusual and handsome plant.

The Birds of Wyalusing

At first we planned to make an intensive census of all birds occupying one or two representative areas. But, except for the maple forest in Blazed Dell, whose fauna is neither large nor very conspicuous, and the floodplain forest, which could have been censused only with the aid of several boats, there were no areas whose flora was uniform, owing to the sharp contrasts in topography on every hand; in order to correlate bird distribution and density with the flora, it would have been necessary to map the vegetation as carefully as we did the birds, in most cases. The course we followed, therefore, was to distribute our parties rather widely throughout the park, whose five square miles proved far too vast even to be cursorily traversed by our seemingly sizeable group in a single day, and to attempt to see what variety of bird life the visitor may expect to find here. When we were done, four large regions remained unsampled: the half square mile of trailless bluffs in the East Wilderness Area; approximately two square miles of floodplain forest; the slopes and

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[1]Fassett, N. C. 1944. **Dodecatheon** in Eastern North America. American Midland Naturalist, 31:455-486.

wooded ravines that flank the east and west sides of the South Wilderness Area; and the varied wooded area, with springs, caves and ravines, lying between Long Valley and Blazed Dell and east of Long Valley. Even so, nearly half of the park was touched upon in this survey. And, while the details of the abundance of each species in each type of habitat must be left for further investigation, our results are of considerable value. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of everyone, we were able to sample enough of Wyalusing's bird life so that not only its variety but even the relative abundance of each species in the park as a whole can probably be obtained, in a rough way, from our cross section—something which has not been attempted in any of our state parks before. The final column in the accompanying table at least presents an estimate of the relative **conspicuousness** of each species found here in June, after the migrants have passed northward.

To show the location of each bird would have required too large a map. Instead, the birds noted by each party of observers are summarized in the table, and only the course of the route followed by each party is indicated on the map. Where one of these routes passed through more than one major type of vegetation, the fact that all the individual birds had been mapped in the field made it possible to divide the trip into sections and to group the birds of each under the appropriate habitat in different columns of the table. Thus the party of ten persons (Mrs. Larkin's Group) appears four times in the table. Though, in a few places, the assignment of a bird to one or another column had to be done rather arbitrarily, the inevitable errors resulting from these doubtful cases still did not remove the birds very far from their actual location; the house wrens noted along the railroad, for instance, may have been in the adjacent riverbottom. The routes or parts of them which the columns in the table represent can be located on the map by first finding in which section (square mile) each lies (numerals I—V) and then visualizing a nearly straight line extending between each of the numbers in the order given. The Blazed Dell trip, for instance, followed down the ravine from point 33 to point 1 in section II, while the longest of the Long Valley journeys traversed a doubtful course: 22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29, in section III. Most routes followed established trails. It should be noted that some of the columns in the table represent trips which overlapped parts or the whole of others in the same region, such as Long Valley, which, therefore, was more thoroughly sampled than areas traversed by but one party. In comparing the relative numbers and variety of birds in different parts of the park, it should be remembered that the greater aggregate awareness of bird life in the larger parties was probably offset to some extent by the fact that single observers or small groups may have frightened away less of the shy species than did the greater disturbance that attends the passage of a larger number of persons. Whether or not the size of the party affects the efficiency of the sampling, it is certain that the more conspicuous birds must have been over-represented is these counts, since it was possible to detect them at a greater distance from the transect than the individuals of the shy and silent species, which were perceived only when they happened to be close by the route followed. When using the chart to choose a trip which will afford the best chance

to observe the desired species, one must therefore make allowance for the fact that more Acadian flycatchers, water thrushes, chickadees and cuckoos were actually present for each cardinal, redstart and pewee recorded, than the tally indicates.

Since Wyalusing is almost entirely wooded, the non-forest birds are very easily distinguished from the rest by their restricted distribution. Goldfinches are most abundant in the clearings near the south end, and field sparrows are restricted to them. Brush-inhabiting birds like catbirds, thrashers, towhees, yellow-throats, and even the strikingly abundant buntings and cardinals are found only near the shrubby tangles at the edges of woods, especially along the railroad tracks. The distribution of orioles, red-headed woodpeckers, robins and warbling vireos, and the scarcity of doves, kingbirds, yellow warblers, chipping and song sparrows, indicate plainly the strong preference these birds have for the few open spaces that interrupt the park's forest—upland clearings, roads, mowed lawns, and also the sloughs of the floodplain. The floodplain forest meets the bluebirds', house wrens' and tree swallows' double requirement of intermittent open spaces and abundant nest holes. No less than six species of woodpecker are continually at work throughout the park for the eventual benefit of the seven species here which require but cannot excavate their own holes. Among the remaining four of these birds, crested flycatchers, nuthatches and chickadees are abundant throughout all forest types, while the prothonotary warblers seem to be satisfied only when they find a hole overlooking the mirror surface of a quiet slough from which their intense beauty will be reflected for the visitor's benefit. The equally fussy waterthrushes are confined, by a predilection for a waterside nest site in dark forest, to the edges of sloughs and, especially, woodland streams like the one in Blazed Dell.

The study of the particular characteristic of the environment to which birds respond when choosing their home is still an uncharted field. Even within the dense upland forest itself, subtle differences govern the birds' distribution which appear to be independent of the species of trees present. Rose-breasted grosbeaks, for example, seem to be localized, especially near the forest border, for which the ubiquitous redstarts also show a preference. Perhaps the grosbeaks require more light than do the red-eyed vireos and wood thrushes that characterize the dimmest stands of sugar maple. Another contrast is seen in the association of Kentucky warblers at Wyalusing with patches of tangled woodland brush, while oven-birds are found only where the forest is nearly barren of herbs and low shrubs. Though dense shrubery is most often found under oaks, and the bar patches most often under sugar maples, both birds were found in both types of forest. One might surmise that the oven-bird, which requires no shrub for a nest site, may need, like the woodcock, to launch his special song-flights directly from ground that is unobstructed by plants. The fact that oven-birds seem to be most numerous on rather steep slopes encourages further speculation; it would appear to be easier to mount to the treetops from a territory on a slope than from the level forest floor. However, the nest site (which must influence the location of the male's territory) is chosen by the

Number in party	Floodplain Forest 1..II-III..1-2-3	2..III.....2-4 (by boat)	3..IV.....6-7-8-9	4..IV.....6-7-9	Long Valley (mostly maple) 5..III.....22-23-24-25-26	6..III.....22-23-24-25	7..III.22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29	Blated Dell (maple forest) 8..II.....33-1	Ravines and Slopes (maple forest 9..IV-V.....9-7-6	10..V.....15-12; 11-10-9	11..V.....14-13-12-10-9	Cliff Slopes (maple forest) 12..V.....16-17-18	13..IV-V...18-19-20	14..III-IV.20-21-22	Edge of Pines in Maple Forest 15..IV.....20-21-29-30-20	Oak Forest Near Cliff Edges 16..V.....13-14-15	Oak Forest (Camp Ground) 17..V	Forest Edges (Along Railroad) 18..II-III.1-2-3	19..III.....2-3-5-6	20..III.....25-2-3-5	Wooded Edges of Brushy Area 21..I-II...38-39-40-41-42-38	Brushy Area and Forest Edges 22..II.....36-37-34-35-36	Roadside and Grassy Lane 23..III.....31-32	Mowed Field, Barracks, Etc. 24..V.....(Incomplete Count)	Estimated Minimum Number of Adult Birds Noted by All Parties Lumped Together
	9	3	1	10	5	1	1	9	10	10	1	1	1	1	1,1,7	10	1	9	10	1,1	7	6	7	1	
Great Blue Heron		1																							1
Wood Duck	2	1,5Y																							2 pr.
Red-tailed Hawk														1						1					1
Red-shouldered Hawk				1																					1
Broad-winged Hawk													1												1
Ruffed Grouse									2			1,4Y													1 pr
Woodcock																					1				1
Mourning Dove																				1				1	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1		1							3	1		1												6 pr
Black-billed Cuckoo		1		1																					2 pr
Great Horned Owl									1																1
Barred Owl								1	1																2
Chimney Swift	2	3		1																		2	3		10
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	2		1		1		1						1								1	1			7
Belted Kingfisher		2																							2
Flicker	2	4		1	1	1	1	1											1	1	1	1			12
Pileated Woodpecker	1			1			2	1	1							1									5
Red-bellied Woodpecker				1	1	2	3			1				1											5
Red-headed Woodpecker	6+	x				2														1					12
Hairy Woodpecker										1											1	1			3
Downy Woodpecker		2,2Y	H	1,2Y	1	1	1	1Y		2,Y					1				1	1	1	1	1		10
Eastern Kingbird	2	N																		1					3
Crested Flycatcher		5		1	6	5	5	1		2								2	1	1	1	1			18
Phoebe			1																						1
Acadian Flycatcher			1	2,N			2	1			1				2,N										8
Alder Flycatcher										1															1
Least Flycatcher			1																						1
Wood Pewee		3			6	8,N	7,N	2	c	5					1,N	1	3				6	2	1		33
Tree Swallow	3+	YYY																							9
Rough-winged Swallow	2+			3+																					5

Blue Jay	1			c	3	6	2	3,Y	c					1		Y		1	x	1	1	3		18
Crow	x	4		2+	3	1	1													4				10
Black-cap Chickadee						1			1	1						1		1		1	1,Y	1		7 pr
Tufted Titmouse							1		1			2,2Y											1	3 pr
White-br. Nuthatch	1	1,N		c	4	6	2	1	c	c			1			c				1	4			21
House Wren	3	6,N	1	1	1	1														5				16 pr
Catbird	1			3									1					1		1	3	6	6	20 pr
Brown Thrasher														1				1				2		4 pr
Robin			1	5	2	2,N											1		1	1,N	8	5	1	1+ 24
Wood Thrush					3	3	8	4	2	2					1	1,H		1			2	1		21 pr
Veery																1								1
Bluebird		4																						4
Cedar Waxwing	1								1						Y	1,2Y						4		7
Starling		1																						1
Yellow-throated Vireo	1				1				4		1			1										8
Red-eyed Vireo					1	2	6	7	1	4	2		2		1	1	2				1			23
Warbling Vireo	1	2																1	1	1				5
Prothonotary Warbler	3	5,H	2	11,H																				19 pr
Blue-winged Warbler										1														1
Cerulean Warbler			1	3			2		2	1					1									9 pr
Oven-bird					6	8	6	6		1	5				2	2				2	4	3			35 pr
Louisiana Waterthrush	1		1	4,Y				2																6 pr
Kentucky Warbler			1		2	2	7	2	4,H	1	1	1			2		2							17 pr
Northern Yellowthroat	1																	1	4	1			1	7 pr
Redstart	4		4		5	6	13	3	c	c	1	2	3		8		5	4	1		2	1	6	3 40-60 pr
House Sparrow		x																1	2	1				1 pr
Red-wing	1	5		10																				15
Baltimore Oriole	5,Y	2	1,Y				1	1							2,N	1			x	1	4	4	6	1+ 26 pr
Bronzed Grackle	1	12																						12
Cowbird	1	2			1	2	2	1			2	2	1	1		1		4			4		1	22
Scarlet Tanager					4	3	3	2	1	1		1	1		2	1	2,Y				3	1	2,N	17 pr
Cardinal	1	3	1	x	6	4	5			x		3	1	2,Y	1	x		4	x	4	2	1	1	24 pr
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2				1	3	6	2	1	1			1				1,N				3	5		22 pr
Indigo Bunting					3	2	1	1					1,H		1	1		7	10,N	1	1		1	22 pr
Goldfinch	3	1			2	7	2									x		3	1		5	7	7	34
Red-eyed Towhee																		1				2	2	5 pr
Chipping Sparrow																						3		1 4 pr
Field Sparrow																					7	2	3	1 13 pr
Song Sparrow		1																		1				2 pr

female, according to Hann,[2] who could offer no explanation for the frequent location of the nest near an opening, though never close to the edge of the forest tract. Furthermore, the special prolonged vesper song, given mostly between 7:00 and 8:30 P. M. and especially in July, would seem to be only rarely accompanied by an ascending flight, for Hann's intensive observations throughout one summer yielded not one such performance. All that can be said, then, is that oven-birds require an extensive tract of dense woodland, with not too much shrubbery, and that within such a place they prefer either a slope or an open spot. To explore further the distribution of oven-birds, to say nothing of that of hummingbirds, crested flycatchers, pewees, jays, vireos, cerulean warblers, tanagers and other forest birds, would be a fascinating adventure at Wyalusing alone. With the information we have at present, we can only note the wide variation in abundance of different birds—such as the fact that yellow-throated vireos are spaced much farther apart in the forest than are red-eyed vireos, pewees, or even wood thrushes.

Wyalusing is, of course, of special interest because of the southern element in its fauna as well as in its flora. Among the 69 species listed in the chart, yellow-billed cuckoo, red-bellied woodpecker, Acadian flycatcher, cerulean warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, blue-winged warbler, prothonotary warbler, and, especially, tufted titmouse and Kentucky warbler, were among the more or less southern birds we had expected to find at Wyalusing. To the chart may be added three vultures which the group observed soaring over the Wisconsin River north of The Knob on Saturday afternoon, and the Carolina wren heard both days east of the camping area by Mrs. Larkin. Though we could not have hoped to find all of the species present in the park in so brief a survey of only part of its area, it was thought that at least a few chats and gnatcatchers, if not a Bewick's wren or white-eyed or Bell's vireo, would be discovered. Also, the occasional mockingbird, worm-eating warbler or egret that is reported during the spring migration here might sometimes be expected to stay for the summer. It is quite probable that the cool, misty weather discouraged singing by some birds—especially chats, which perform best on bright, hot days—and possibly to the extent that some of those species really present escaped notice as did the expected whippoorwills. But, to balance this deficiency of anticipated rarities, there were, as always when enthusiastic and competent bird students search a little-known area, a few surprises in the Sunday count. A nestful of young sapsuckers, found during the brief exploration by boat of the floodplain swamp by Burgess, Frister and Kaiman, established a breeding record unusual in this day for so far south. The singing male parula warbler observed at the forest edge by the crookneck of the road in the South Wilderness Area by Barger, Mrs. Walker, et al, and the singing yellow-bellied flycatcher found on the wooded slope below The Knob by members of Mrs. Larkin's group, were further highlights of the day. The likelihood of additional discoveries here of unusual or rare birds, and possible breed-

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[2]Hann, H. W. 1937. The Life History of the Oven-bird in Southern Michigan. Wilson Bulletin, 49(3):125-240.

ing records for some of them, will serve to lend excitement to the prospect of any future visit to this park.

At Wyalusing we have made a very good start in undertaking a program which heretofore was far too ambitious ever to be attempted—a survey of the relative abundance and distribution of the birds characteristic of each part of the state **during the breeding season.** It has been shown that, on the June camp-out, which we hope to make a regular feature of our field trip program, WSO members and friends can, at one and the same time, (1) learn much about Wisconsin and its flora and fauna, (2) have an enjoyable time, (3) make a contribution to knowledge of the summer birds of our state, and (4) write a chapter in our Baedecker of Wisconsin birds, which can, in turn, encourage others to find new interest in the outdoors. We may now look forward to the second camp-out being planned for June 20 and 21, 1953, at Roche a Cri Roadside Park, near Friendship, in Adams County.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN KOREA

By DON SMITH PRENTICE*

To the ornithologists in most parts of the world, Korea is an area of which little is known, but the last six years have seen a few of our bird men, serving with the armed forces stationed here. At the writing of this article I find myself one of those fortunate or unfortunate few (depending upon how one looks at it) to view the bird life in this part of the world. The following is an account of my observations on Korean birds and comparisons between birds here and in the United States.

Korea is very mountainous and is much like the foothill country of our Rocky Mountains. The flora is also characteristic of what one would find on the foothills of the Rockies consisting as it does of pines and scrub oak. The valleys are heavily farmed and very little cover can be found there to support bird life. Usually around a Korean tomb or palace the trees are left unmolested, and this forms a santuary for the birds and a very good place to observe them. The Koreans are dependent upon the brush and trees that grow on the mountain sides to supply them with fuel, building materials, and food. This has had a direct influence on the bird life as in many areas practically no cover exists. In Korea at the present time the carefree bird student is rather restricted because the army claims there are 30,000 land mines that have never been recovered. My travels in Korea cover the following areas: Inchon, the principal port on the western coast of Korea; Seoul, the capital of South Korea; and Chunchon, located in east central Korea. I was fortunate in securing several texts in Japan that have served as field guides here in Korea.

Upon arriving in Korea, I was surprised to note the close similarity that exists between our birds at home and the species found here. As it was winter when I arrived, **raptores** were the most noticeable. With-

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*A member of W. S. O. While birding near the front, Mr. Prentice was nearly picked off by a sniper.

out leaving Chunchon, I would record as many as twenty **raptores** a day during December, 1951 and January, 1952. The majority of them were Asiatic sparrow-hawks which are almost identical to our Cooper's hawk. A few Japanese sparrow-hawks were noted and they were on the average smaller, corresponding more to our sharp-shinned hawk. The sparrow-hawks surprised me with their boldness; the majority of them presented themselves as they pursued their prey in and around Korean homes completely ignoring the people present. Ussurian tree sparrows were their prey on every occasion. Two species of **raptores** that were seen from day to day were the Japanese kestrel and Asiatic merlin which corresponds to our sparrow hawk and pigeon hawk. I was fortunate on December 23, 1951, in collecting a Hodgson's saker falcon, which has been recorded in Korea only once. Other large **raptores** that were seen frequently during the winter months were the following: Siberian peregrine falcon, Japanese golden eagle, Siberian rough-legged hawk, and hen harrier, all of these closely resembling their counterparts in North America. The upland buzzard resembles our ferruginous rough-legged hawk, the Japanese buzzard reminds one of an immature red-tailed hawk and the eastern buzzard hawk could be mistaken for a broad-winged hawk. One **raptore,** to me seemed without a good counterpart in the United States and that is the black-eared kite, a very common bird in the Far East. This species is a scavenger, feeding in the streets of the cities and on the trash dumps. It takes the place here of our turkey vulture at least in the latter respect. One sees them right in the downtown districts of Seoul and Inchon. The short-eared owls that were present all winter helped to make me feel right at home. The only other owl I have seen up to the writing of this article is the feather-toed scops owl, a small owl like our screech owl, having extremely long ear tufts and blood-red eyes.

Four species of crows are present during all months of the year and are rather hard to tell apart; the only one that differs is the Daurian jackdaw, a striking black-and-white bird. The eastern rook, carrion crow, and Korean jungle crow look almost identical except under the closest study. All the crows here have the habit of soaring in the wind currents in high swirling flocks and then fold their wings to dive headlong into the forests much like a falcon. The bird that is most typical of Korea is the Korean magpie; again closely resembling our western species. This bird is found everywhere, in the cities and out in the tree-covered hills and farmed valleys during all months of the year.

As in most of the rest of the world our name **chickadee** is **tit** here and the tits are represented by seven species. The two most common where I am located are the Vladovostok great tit and the Korean marsh tit, the great tit having wing bars, a bluish green back, and a black stripe that extends from its upper breast to the tail. The marsh tit is much smaller, lacking wing bars, and has a black cap extending through the eye. During the winter months the tits are the most active and are never absent on a trip afield. On several occasions, I observed the Asiatic hawfinch but have never seen any of the species of grosbeaks

which they so closely resemble. On every trip afield one encounters the Ussurian goldfinch; the males seem to be singing a complete song during all months of the year. While following some goldfinches along a pine-clad ridgeline during early December, they led me to a flock of Pallas' rose-finches, which have only been recorded in Korea on one [?-Ed.] other occasion. The same day produced golden-crowned kinglets that made me feel at home.

The common name **sparrow** that we all are used to at home is changed to **bunting** in most cases in Korea. The majority of the buntings are to be found during the winter months and seem to have brighter colors then our sparrows; many with black heads or faces, and dashes of bright yellow. Many of the species I first identified, I found hanging in the public market in Seoul. I have recorded the following species; Korean meadow bunting, yellow-throated bunting, rustic bunting, grey bunting, and chestnut-colored bunting. Among **fringillids,** the brambling, a striking black, white, and orange colored bird, winters in Korea and passes on north to breed.

The bird that has held my principal interest this spring is the white-faced wagtail. This bird is common along all streams in Korea and most anyplace where there is water to forage in. The color pattern is a bold contrast of black and white; this, and its habit of wagging its tail constantly has given the bird its appropriate name. It has an undulating flight and seems to be very active at all hours of the day. We have several pairs that haunt the ruined buildings in our compound area. The fields abound with skylarks, starting in early spring, and one marvels at the heights they reach, singing as they ascend, then to spread wings and tail and fall like a tiny parachute, still singing until they close their wings and dive headlong to the ground. The birds must be identical to the well known skylark of England. Many pipits are seen throughout the spring but identification proves very difficult except over the sight of a gun.

Warblers Are Not Conspicuously Colored

During the spring migration there are warbler waves resembling those at home except they remind one of the fall migration as all the warblers wear the same greenish-gray plumage. The only species I have identified to date are Temminck's crowned willow warbler and the short-tailed bush-warbler. The flycatchers and chats wear the bright spring plumages here. Both the chats and flycatchers are very easy to observe as they invariably perch in an exposed place. Although I have only recorded several of each species, as the spring progresses I hope to add all the local varieties to my life list and notes. Only one wren is found in Korea and it is very similar to our **winter** and just as hard to observe. The best place to look for them is along rocky stream banks. One of the commonest summer residents is the eastern house swallow which nests under the eaves of the Korean homes. The first arrivals appear on or about April 15. These birds are welcomed by the Koreans and are never molested. In appearance the bird looks like our barn swallow.

Woodpeckers have been rather lacking from my notes undoubtedly caused by the lack of any sizeable timber. All of the woodpeckers here in Korea seem to have a counterpart in the United States. The great spotted woodpecker which I have seen if transplanted would be passed by as nothing more then a hairy woodpecker. The green woodpeckers are identical in looks and habits to our flickers except for a decided greenish tinge.

A tropical atmosphere is lent Korea during the summer by the large breeding population of herons and egrets. Both species breed in colonies numbering from five nests to many thousands. The great white egret seems to be the commoner of the two and can be seen in almost any rice paddy after the 15th of April. Jouy's grey heron is a light colored duplicate of our great blue heron. Although the Koreans will kill and eat most any bird, these species go unmolested, and every village has its large tree supporting a colony.

During the early spring a tremendous crane flight takes place along the western coast of Korea. During the height of the migration, countless thousands pass through on their way north to breed in the artic tundra of Siberia. In one day afield one can see the following: eastern common crane, hooded crane, Manchurian crane, and white-naped crane. During the summer the Japanese stork is abundant locally.

Eastern turtle doves can be found wherever there is a concentration of evergreens, and afford good shooting and meat to substitute for tiresome C-rations.

Shore birds are well represented but the migration follows the coast and I have recorded only the green sandpiper and little ringed plover. Ducks and geese are seen in all months of the year. The most spectacular parts of the migration are the great flights of teal. Flocks numbering 10,000 or more can be seen along the coastal marshes. Three species predominate, and they are the falcated teal, Eurasion teal, and the spectacled teal. The majority of the ducks resemble those of North America with the mandarin duck taking the place of our highly colored wood duck. The flights of geese are enormous with the bean goose the most numerous. North American species are represented by an abundance of white-fronted and snow geese. Two species of swan are present and they are the whooping swan and the eastern Bewick's swan.

Pheasants are an abundant game bird here, the local species being the Korean ring-necked pheasant. This bird is identical to our ringneck except its habits are different. It spends most of the day in the forests and thick cover right on the peaks of the mountains and ridges, descending into the rice paddies only to feed. It is not surprising to be scaling a cliff and have pheasants flush. The Koreans kill the pheasants during all seasons of the year but take only cock birds. Two small quail are flushed from the rice paddies and they are identified as Burmese button quail and Japanese quail.

For any members of our society or any bird enthusiast who may visit Japan or Korea I would suggest the following book to use as a guide to identify the birds he or she is seeing.

(Shipen Nikon Chorui Zusetsu) Newly Illustrated Birds of Japan, by Dr. Seinosiche Uchida; published in 1950, in Tokyo, by the Sogensha

Press. The text of this book is in Japanese but all the birds are illustrated in color and have an accompanying English as well as Latin name. This text can be used in Korea as well as in Japan. Additional books can be obtained by shopping in the used book stores in the Kanda district of Tokyo. There is one small field guide that is particularly good, but it too is in Japanese.*

Summing things up the bird student finds this part of the world lacking in any gaudy or spectacular bird life, the majority of the species being very much like our own. Only two birds seem exotic to me and they are the Tibetan hoopoe and broad-billed roller, both of which I hope to add to my life list before leaving here.

5216 East Drive
Rockford, Illinois
(Now in Korea)

BIRD PROTECTION IN THE UNITED STATES

By RICHARD H. POUGH**
Secretary, United States Section
International Committee for Bird Preservation

In the past twelve years the emphasis in the United States has shifted from simple bird protection to the more complex activities which we generally refer to as wildlife management. Today, all birds except a small group that is still classified as game, a few **Corvidae,** birds of prey, fisheaters, and a few troublesome exotics, enjoy complete legal protection under state and Federal laws that in many cases provide dual coverage. Recourse to these laws is, however, becoming less and less necessary. Public sentiment now protects most birds far better than could any law. The educational work done by bird protection groups over the past half-century has been so successful that today farmers largely ignore petty depredations by songbirds that once aroused their ire. The keeping of native birds as pets, or any use of wild bird plumage for millinery, is a thing of the past. Few persons are today licensed to collect bird skins except for museums and there is virtually no collecting of birds' eggs.

Today's bird conservation problems lie largely in the field of habitat preservation, where they tend to merge with the problems facing those who are interested in the conservation of other forms of wild plant and animal life. The high crop and lumber prices that have prevailed in the United States for almost a decade are leading to an ever-increasing intensity of land exploitation for economic ends. Facilitated by powerful new and ingenious machinery for working on the land, these pressures are tending to eliminate from large areas every last remaining example of certain of the rarer habitat types. Birds that require extensive, mature woodlands, relatively undisturbed grasslands or marshes, are the greatest

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*In America, **The Birds of Korea,** by Oliver L. Austin, Jr., published in 1948, is available and useful. It may be purchased from the society's supply department. Price, $4.00.

Reprinted from **Conservation in the Americas, a publication of the Pan American Union. Oct. 1951—Jan. 1952 issue.

sufferers. In many areas undisturbed nesting sites for such colonial species as terns and herons are also becoming scarce and are tending to limit the population of these species even where ample feeding grounds still exist.

Duck, and especially goose, concentrations in the refuges along the principal migration routes and wintering grounds, together with an increasing volume of complaints from farmers over serious crop depredations, would indicate that the reduction in waterfowl habitat in the United States has reached a stage where it, rather than hunting pressure, is the chief factor that is holding the continent's waterfowl population at its present level.

The cutting of the last remaining virgin swamp forests of the southern states, which is now in progress, seems likely to result in the ultimate extinction of the magnificient ivory-billed woodpecker (**Campephilus principalis**). A few still survive in the Apalachicola River delta of western Florida, but no plans have yet been made to preserve permanently this or any other sizable block of southern swamp forest, which might give the ivory-bill and the other unique wildlife of these swamps a chance for survival. The North American race of the exquisitely graceful swallow-tailed kite (**Elanoides forficatus majusculus**), another swamp or river bottom forest species, survives only in greatly reduced numbers in a small part of its once extensive range.

Not only are the remaining stands of virgin timber going fast, but second growth timber is being cut at such an early age that raptores, like the bald eagle (**Haliacetus leucocephalus**) and red-tailed hawk (**Buteo jamaicensis**), are in many areas encountering increasing difficulty in finding trees large enough to meet their nesting requirements. This factor and the tremendous expansion of winter resorts have in the past ten years drastically reduced the bald eagle population of the west coast of Florida—one of its old strongholds. Unfortunately, the bald eagle has not fared much better in Alaska, its other former stronghold at the opposite end of its range. Here ignorant prejudice and selfish local pressure have led to the placing of a two-dollar bounty on the bird, and the killing of 4,320 in the past year.*

The increasingly effective control that is being exercised over fire, which was formerly an important factor in creating and maintaining many typical North American environments, seems certain in time greatly to reduce species like the Kirtland warbler (**Dendroica kirtlandii**) that inhabit fire-induced brush lands and scrubby second growth, or species like the wild turkey (**Meleagris gallopavo**) that are most abundant in the open pine woodlands that fire produces in the southern states.

Birds like the prairie chicken (**Tympanuchus cupido**), that require at least patches of undisturbed, reasonably moist grassland, have been greatly reduced as utilization of these lands for growing grain approaches 100 per cent. Other species like the masked bob-white (**Colinus ridgwayi**), that now appears to have been extirpated from the United States, and the bizarre-appearing Mearns' quail (**Cyrtonyx montezumae**), that frequents the dryer, short-grass, semidesert plains of the West, have suffered

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*The bounty has now been removed and the bird is protected.—Ed.

from the almost universal overgrazing of these areas by sheep and cattle. This overgrazing is commonly so severe and has been of such long duration, that the whole plant community of many areas has been completely changed, the original sod of perennial grasses being replaced by herbs and annual grasses, or shrubs and small trees that take over now that fire is no longer a factor in holding them in check.

In the more humid areas of the United States, high land values are serving as an ever-increasing stimulus to the drainage of swamps, wet meadows and marshes. This is even beginning to include the tidal marshes of our seacoast, marshes that have already been seriously damaged as wildlife habitat by repeated ditching, in attempts—that have generally proved unsuccessful—to reduce the breeding of salt-marsh mosquitoes. In the Mississippi Valley river canalization, levee construction for flood control, and reservoir developments, are rapidly eliminating the remaining marshlands. Unfortunately, most artificial reservoirs are being so constructed and their water levels so managed that the new shore line seldom contains any appreciable areas of marsh that might compensate for those inundated by the reservoir. In the Far West, where the acreage of arid land far exceeds the supply of water required to render it useful, the pressure to exploit every drop of water for both power and irrigation is becoming so great that there seems little likelihood of preserving much marshland for waterfowl. Even the present government waterfowl refuges are threatened with the eventual loss of their water.

Conditions are also becoming less favorable than formerly for the birds that make their homes in agricultural country. The larger fields made necessary by the increased use of power equipment mean fewer fences, and modern herbicides are often used to keep even these free of growths in which birds could nest. These herbicides are also being used to eliminate field weeds, and this, together with the practice of plowing weed and crop residues under in the fall, is in some areas reducing the food supply for wintering bird populations. In many orchard areas and in regions where cotton is grown, birds now suffer seriously from the wholesale use of ever more poisonous insecticides which, even if they do not directly poison birds, leave little insect life for them to eat. Attempts to check the spread of an introduced disease of the elm, one of America's most popular village shadetrees, often lead to heavy spraying and consequent losses of songbirds.

No area in the United States is too remote or too seemingly worthless to be free from the danger that someone will try drilling to determine whether oil or natural gas underlies it. Two of our rarest North American species, the California condor (**Gymnogyps californianos**) and the whooping crane (**Grus americana**) have been threatened recently by such projects.

The California condor, with a total population that does not exceed 60 individuals, nests only in a few canyons in the dry, rocky and most inhospitable Sisquoc mountains of southern California. In order to safeguard them from probably fatal disturbance, it has been necessary for the government to withdraw some 10,000 acres of land from any entry for oil exploration purposes.

Our entire stock of whooping cranes, now reduced to 30 wild plus two semi-captive birds, winters in a small area in the Aransas wildlife refuge on the Texas coast. Here, unfortunately, private groups controlled the right to drill for oil. Conservationists have, however, succeeded in persuading the oil companies to confine their drilling activities to the half of the year when the birds make their annual trip north to their still-undiscovered breeding grounds.

The complete protection which all shore birds except the woodcock (**Philohela minor**) have enjoyed for many years has produced a fine recovery of all species save the Eskimo curlew (**Numenius borealis**). Occassional sight records indicate, however, that a few of these curlew still survive, and it is to be hoped that steps are being taken in Argentina to make sure that none are killed on their wintering grounds there.

The continent's waterfowl are now being managed in four units which we term flyways—the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific. Seasons and bag limits for each flyway are set in late August on the basis of breeding ground censuses. First, the population figures are correlated with the known hunting pressure in each flyway, as revealed by the sale of a stamp which every wildfowl shooter must purchase each year. However, as the shrinkage in available wintering grounds and the complaints of crop damage are more serious in some flyways that others, estimates of how large a post hunting season population each flyway can carry through until spring must also enter into the calculation of the harvest that is to be permitted.

The other game species subject to federal regulation are the pigeons and doves and the rail-gallinule group. In recent years the members of the first group have suffered from both overshooting and disease, and the seasons and bag limits on all are currently reduced in an effort to permit some recovery. The rails and gallinules probably continue to be as plentiful as the reduced acreage of suitable habitat will permit, and, because of their low popularity as game birds, seasons and bag limits on them remain liberal.

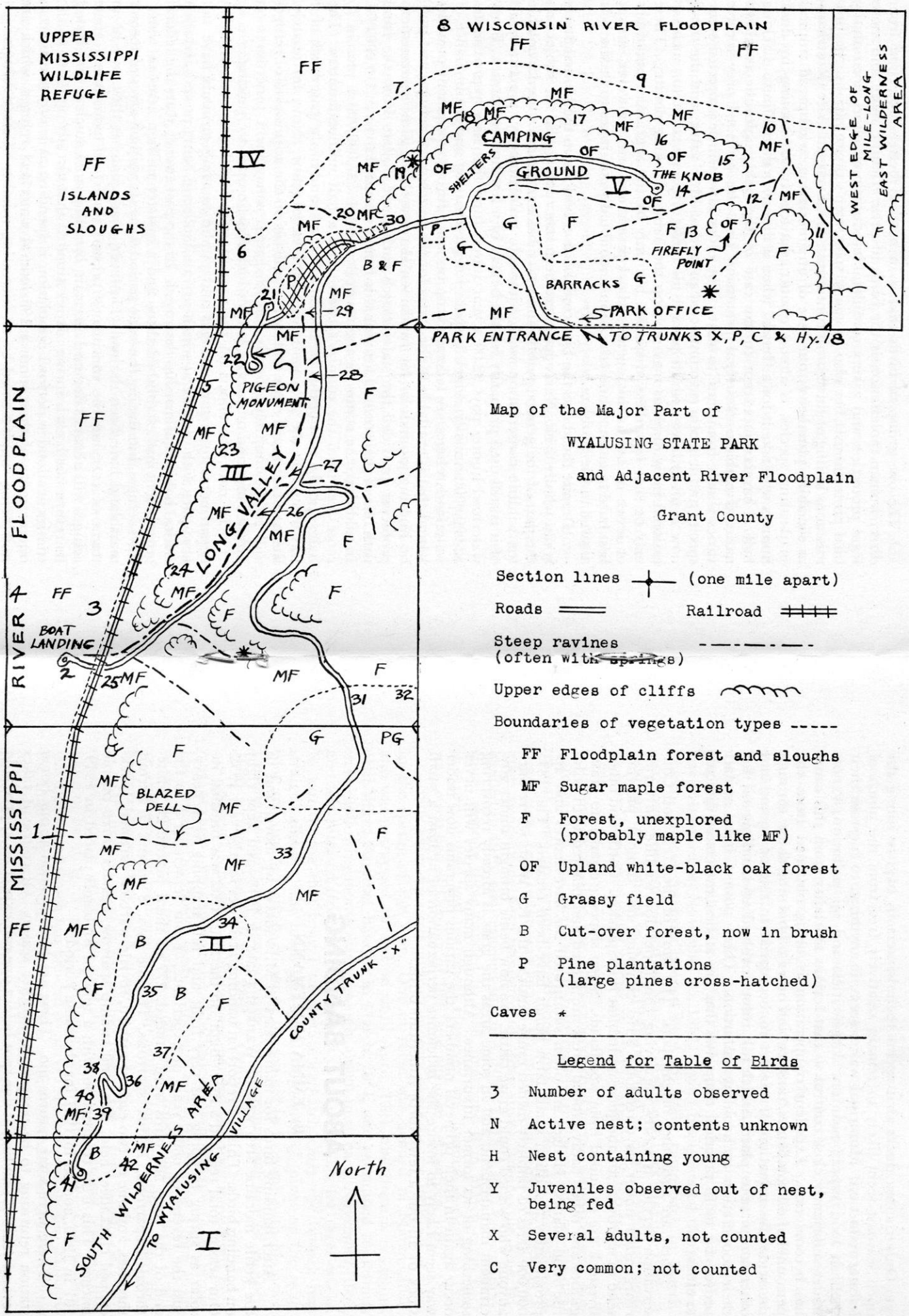
The hunting of the sedentary gallinaceous game bird is controlled by state laws, and is therefore different in each of the 48 states. In general, all species are at unsatisfactorily low levels from the hunters' point of view. The reasons vary, from lack of sufficient brood stock due to overhunting, to general habitat impairment and unknown natural mortality factors.

The introduced pheasant provides the best example of the latter. Following its original introduction, the species increased to high population levels which were maintained for a considerable period of years. Now, however, pheasant populations generally are declining from unknown causes. The country's increasing human population and the increased wealth and leisure which the average citizen now enjoys have been responsible for a sharp rise in the number of hunters in the past decade. This has further aggravated an already bad situation. To make matters still worse, more and more landowners in the thickly settled parts of the country are exercising their right to post their land against trespass by hunters, still further intensifying the pressure on the remaining unposted land.

The one group of birds that is in need of better protection from direct human molestation is the birds of prey. Despite more and more legal protection and a very considerable educational effort not only by bird protectionists but also by many sportsmen's organizations, the promiscuous killing of these birds continues. The Everglade kite (**Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus**), our race of an interesting, widespread tropical snail-eating species, is almost extinct, due chiefy to shooting by duck hunters who take it for a "hawk" when it flies near their blinds. Lacking federal protection except in the case of the bald eagle—the country's national emblem—the legal protection that the birds of prey receive varies widely from state to state. The older laws which protected some species and left others unprotected proved of little value, and the trend now is toward laws which protect all birds of prey except for such occasional individuals as may develop the habit of taking poultry. These may be shot regardless of species, but only by the aggrieved landowner or lessee or one of his agents. Hawk-protection laws, however, are at best hard to enforce, and education undoubtedly continues to be the best answer to the problem.

Despite the above, the bird conservation outlook in the United States is not wholly dark. Never has there been more interest in the subject on the part of the general public and never has more money been available for wildlife conservation work, although, unfortunately, practically all of it is still used primarily for the benefit of a few hunted species. Every waterfowl hunter pays $2.00 a year into a fund that now approximates $2,000,000 annually, which is spent for the creation and maintenance of waterfowl refuges. A federal excise tax on hunting equipment provides a fund that is available to the states for the purchase of refuges and public hunting grounds or for fundamental research on game management problems, provided the states match each three dollars from the fund with one of their own. Last year this fund amounted to over $10,000,000. In addition, the states themselves collect some $37,000,000 a year in license fees from the country's twelve and a half million hunters. The states spend a part of this for law enforcement, and in the past much of it was wasted on the propagation and release of game. Now, fortunately, the trend is toward more and more emphasis on the acquisition of refuges and public hunting grounds and on game management procedures on public lands and on private lands which remain open to hunting.

To date, the efforts on the part of state and federal conservation departments to acquire refuges and public hunting grounds have not kept pace with the rate at which private lands are being posted and such critical habitats as marshes destroyed. In the past twenty years the federal government has established three and a quarter million acres of waterfowl refuges, but during the same period some six million acres of former marshland have been drained. However, inadequate as they may be in terms of carrying the continent's present waterfowl population, these refuges will always safeguard a certain breeding stock nucleus and insure its return north each spring. It is estimated that already one fifth of the continent's total waterfowl population is spending at least some time in one or more of the country's 196 federal waterfowl refuges, which are now being supplemented by an increasing number of state refuges.



Map of the Major Part of

WYALUSING STATE PARK

and Adjacent River Floodplain

Grant County

Section lines ——+—— (one mile apart)

Roads ═══ Railroad ═╪═╪═

Steep ravines (often with ~~springs~~) - - — · — · —

Upper edges of cliffs ∩∩∩∩

Boundaries of vegetation types -----

- FF Floodplain forest and sloughs
- MF Sugar maple forest
- F Forest, unexplored (probably maple like MF)
- OF Upland white-black oak forest
- G Grassy field
- B Cut-over forest, now in brush
- P Pine plantations (large pines cross-hatched)

Caves *

Legend for Table of Birds

- 3 Number of adults observed
- N Active nest; contents unknown
- H Nest containing young
- Y Juveniles observed out of nest, being fed
- X Several adults, not counted
- C Very common; not counted

Only the sea ducks that spend their winters in bays or along the open seacoast seem likely to remain relatively free from the pinch of habitat reduction. Municipal wastes seem, if anything, to increase their shellfish food supply near our large cities, and oil pollution is now under sufficiently close control so that serious mortality from this cause has become rare. Excellent co-operation is being obtained from the personnel of oil companies, tankers, and other oil-burning ships, through the wide dissemination of posters to be placed in engine rooms and other conspicuous places which ask those involved in handling oil for their cooperation in avoiding pollution. These posters have in fact proved far more practical than laws that are at best extremely difficult to enforce.

There are also other bright spots. The work of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service is vastly improving conditions for wildlife on farms reorganized under its direction. Strip cropping and contour plowing tend to narrow fields and increase habitat interspersion. Cattle and other livestock are excluded from woodlands. Steep slopes are put into grass; gullies and other badly eroded areas are fenced and planted with wildlife food plants. Hedges are often substituted for bare fences and approximately a million small farm ponds have been created. The 184,000,000 acres of publicly owned range lands of the Far West, where once anyone who wished could graze cattle, are now being brought under government management, and in some areas the grass is already recovering something of its former luxuriance. Although many species will never occur again in their primeval numbers, the various programs now under way seem likely to insure the indefinite perpetuation of at least a small stock of all but a few North American birds.

ABOUT BANDING

By EMMA HOFFMANN

After banding birds for many years in Milwaukee, we moved out to the kettle moraine area west of Waukesha late in 1948—and kept right on banding birds. This is a report on banding activities for the year 1952. Our season total reached a new "high" in the fall. 1952 was unusual insofar as spring trapping was very light and fall trapping very heavy, just the reverse of many years of experience. From September 1 to the end of the year, 365 birds were banded, 277 of them juncos, 26 white-throated sparrows, 11 fox sparrows, 11 blue jays, 8 robins, 7 hermit thrushes, and one or two each of catbird, myrtle warbler, cardinal, black-capped chickadee, field, tree, and swamp sparrow, besides three purple finches. This is in comparison with a total of 81 bands placed in 1949, 101 in 1950, and 35 in 1951 for the same period.

There were some returns too. These are birds banded at our home station returning to be trapped in another season. Of course it takes several years of banding at one spot before one can expect an appreciable

number of returns, but we are beginning to build up some interesting data.

Among the migrants, the juncos have supplied the most returns, though the percentage is small. 786 have been banded here, five of these furnishing return records. One banded in March, 1950, came back in November of that year, and again in March, 1952, a span of two years. Another banded in November, 1950, returned on March 21st, 1951, and on March 21st, 1952, and again on November 11th, a span of two years. Still another banded in November, 1951, returned to be trapped six months later in May, 1952, and one banded in January, 1951, was re-trapped three months later in April and again in April, 1952. The other was re-trapped on November 25, 1952, having been banded the previous March. A song sparrow banded in April, 1951, came back in March, 1952, and a catbird banded on May 15, 1950, came back May 16, 1952. A field sparrow, banded in April, 1949, returned in April, 1950, and again in May, 1951. A brown thrasher banded in May, 1949, returned in May, 1950.

Some birds, like the black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, and blue jays, which trap readily and stay with us the year 'round show up at unexpected times and yet many are banded which never come back to the trap at all. We must assume that although death takes some, many have wandered to other areas. Among the blue jays banded in 1949, one returned in April, 1950, and it hasn't been trapped since. Among those banded in 1950, one banded in March came back in April of 1951 and not since. However, one banded in April of 1950 was re-trapped in October of 1951 and again in September, 1952.

Nine white-breasted nuthatches were banded since 1949, all of them in the spring of the year. One of these was banded in March, 1950, and was re-trapped off and on until April, 1951, and there is no record of it since. Another banded in March, 1951, and re-trapped four times in the following month was seemingly absent until early November, 1952, and was released from the trap almost every other day for three weeks. In fact during that time I watched a nuthatch enter the funnel, hop straight ahead to the food, pick up a choice morsel, pivot on the exact spot and march right back out of the funnel to fly away with his prize! I strongly suspect it was my repeater. Another nuthatch banded in April, 1952, returned the 13th and 23rd of October.

28 black-capped chickadees were banded since we moved out here, most of them in the spring, also. Chickadees repeat often with the proper bait, which is sunflower seeds. Although our records show a long string of dates marking repeats after a chickadee band number, there is still no evidence that ours is a permanent address for any of them. Only four have remained here for a full year.

Of course, the most interesting record for a bird bander is a "recovery," which is the term used for a banded bird found far from the place of banding. We have had two recoveries since 1949. One of these was a bluebird which was banded in May, 1948, and was shot in Alabama the following March. The other was a junco, banded in October, 1949, and found dead the following month in Missouri.

Route 4, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Country Calendar: Spring . . .

By AUGUST DERLETH

i. On Seeing

I once knew an enthusiastic young nature-lover who was in the habit of coming back from a tramp over long-familiar woods trails and announce the wonders of nature he had seen, a sequence of events all purportedly observed on one hike which would take any seasoned naturalist several years of hikes to witness. What a felicitous imagination he had, and how he reveled in it, and how he resented our natural dubeity about his exploits!

I used to wonder how long it would take him to realize that the best time for seeing natural pheonomena is not on hikes, but in those quiet periods of relaxation when the naturalist elects to sit down under a tree or on a hill in some likely spot and wait for nature to come to him. In no time at all he had exhausted all the possibilities of his imagination, and was left bereft of further events to report, so that he mellowed a little and took to hiking without the need for spreading his imagination and soon did actually begin to see things, one at a time, happily, and with some conviction.

The silent walker in the woods is indeed apt to see things, but a human being's concept of silence differs markedly from a wild creature's, for whom every snapped twig has a significance that may send him into hiding in a flash. The best of seeing is to be had in solitude and stillness. Many an evening I have sat statue-still on a railroad trestle and watched the beavers come to eat not twenty feet away, at a post from which the slightest movement on my part would send them instantly beneath the water's surface. Other animals and birds, considerably less shy than beavers, are as ready of access to the patient watcher.

I recall standing at one time on a railroad embankment watching the afterglow, when a scrambling up the bank caught my attention, and there, advancing toward me, was a mother skunk, followed single-file by three young skunks. It is a moot point whether I stood thereafter in a state of paralysis or in one of curiosity alone, but the skunks passed half a foot before me, virtually at my feet, with no more attention for me than for any cinder in the track-bed, and went on down the tracks to vanish into the growing dusk at last.

On an even more memorable occasion I chanced to be sitting almost directly under a pair of ruby-crowned kinglets in courtship, and for the better part of half an hour I watched the formal, stiff-winged dance of the cock for his hen, as he hopped from branch to branch, and bowed, and executed as patterned a dance as ever was designed for a ballroom. A similar entertainment is afforded me on the balcony rail of my studio quite often of spring mornings, while I lie still abed just after dawn, when a cock flicker performs his mating ritual along it, crying out defiantly, beating a kind of tattoo on the rail with his outthrust wings, and strutting the length of the rail, bowing and scraping, for the hen who is invisible nearby.

Many a hunter has experienced the sudden appearance of squirrels just when he has put by his gun and sat down to relax, and more than one of them have known the curiosity-impelled approach of his quarry at such times. The lack of movement, and in particular, of any sudden movement, inspires the wilderness with confidence, and the brash young nature-lover who pretended to see all manner of wonders on his bustling hikes betrayed himself to every genuine naturalist, who knew even while he listened to him in silence that he sees best in the wild who sits and waits.

ii. Animal Play

Wild creatures are as much given to play as human beings, but it is more rarely seen, except in periods of captivity. Anyone who has ever watched otters gambol and frolic, for instance, can testify to the playing instinct of animals. Far fewer naturalists, however, have ever witnessed just what otters do with balls of grass. I am not among them, but is it too much to wonder whether they pat and push and roll a ball of grass in the manner of cats? Perhaps not. In any case, I have more than once encountered evidence that such balls of grass, of appreciable size, have been found at or in the immediate vicinity of otter-slides; quite possibly the playful otters have put them together and do play a sort of ball game with them. Certainly any creature so playful could be excepted to widen its recreational horizons.

The otter plays as a family; so does the skunk and the deer. I have seen both skunk and deer at play. And both at opposing ends of the same meadow, though at different times of the spring evening. I had taken a familiar path one evening to a meadow and had sat down on a little pile of hay at the edge of the meadow, where the woods came up to it, impelled at this place to set down in my notebook some lines of verse, when I saw the skunks come out into the meadow some distance above me, and, watching them—a mother and four young—I saw the young arrange themselves into a rough circle and do what can certainly be described as a dance. They performed by stepping out after one another in the circle, and reversing themselves, as were they chasing one another without any intention of catching up, and they kept this up for what seemed an interminable time, while their mother foraged about nearby.

The deer, however, did a much more formal dance. I saw them from the same vantage point, at the southeastern edge of the broad meadow. A buck came first onto the evening meadow from the west, as if to spy out the ground, so to speak, and then, returning, gave way to two does and four fawns. The buck, presumably, remained in the shadow of the woods; the does at its edge, grazing, while the four fawns boxed the compass and danced toward one another, two at a time—first the two from east and west advancing toward each other, sometimes pawing air; then the two from north and south. But occasionally they broke their pattern wildly, and scampered in wild abandon about the meadow in the immediate vicinity of their playing-ground. Yet in the end, they resumed a pattern similar to their first.

I never saw this but the once, but no similar occasion ever presented itself. I have come upon deer many times, but most often while walking,

and startled them away. Quite the most amusing play I ever witnessed I saw many years ago not in the woods at all but in the village, where a squirrel entertained himself for a good share of one afternoon by performing for a half dozen placid chickens, which sat watching in amazement the antics the squirrel went through for their benefit. He scampered and rolled, sat up and chattered, and tumbled before them. A casual passerby might have not noticed that his conduct differed at all from that of any squirrel in the nearby park; yet it was unmistakable, if only in the length of time he devoted to this entertainment.

Possibly, however, a rabbit once entertained both me and himself even more effectively. I was sitting one day on a railroad trestle reading, when I heard the frantic barking of a dog, and, looking up, saw a rabbit racing down along one side of the railroad embankment. The rabbit ran up the side of the embankment and crossed the tracks not far from where I sat; then down the other. and back in the other direction along the embankment, crossing over again and resuming his first course. He described this long lozenge of a trail some half dozen times, with the dog in hot, baying pursuit. Then, as he came across before me, he made a startling deviation; without leaving his path, he leaped to the bole of a fallen tree, ran a little way up it, and sat down to watch the fun as the dog ran around and around the old trail, which grew steadily colder, until at last, sadly befuddled, the dog gave up and went home, and the rabbit leaped down and went on his leisurely way.

Outdoor Calendar . . .

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

Spring Migration in 1952

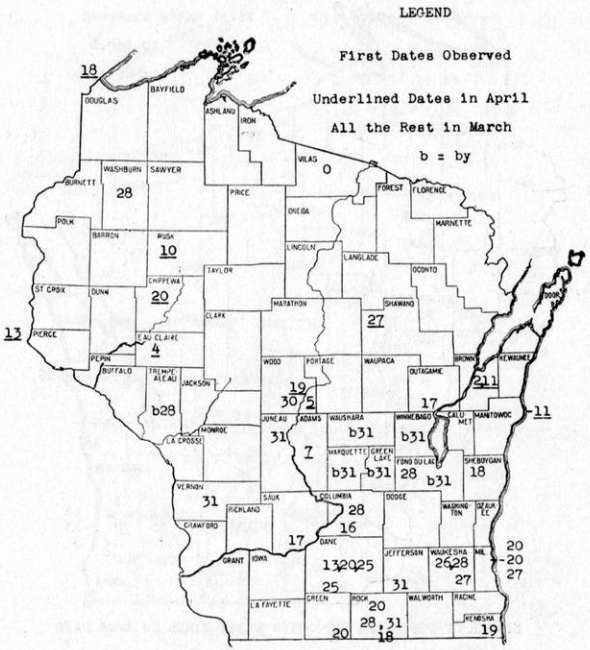
While a detailed report of the results of the spring, 1952 migration study will be left for later, the maps of just the first date of appearance are of such value (1) in indicating where additional cooperators are most needed in 1953, and (2) in showing how meaningful the kind of information submitted at present by a few persons to our field notes department may become when a larger number of these observations are collected and graphically portrayed on a map, that they should be presented now as a supplement to the spring, 1952 field notes which appeared in the last issue.

Though wintering mourning doves may have obscured somewhat the exact times of early northward movement of this species, two periods, March 17-20 and 25-28, as indicated by the map, must have been popular for the first arrivals from farther south. Since, in almost all cases, the birds were cooing when first detected, they probably had not spent the winter where they were observed.

Reports on geese, for which no map was made, suggest that most of the March and April flights are seen in the eastern half of Wisconsin, where there is abundant water and marshland (including some wintering areas), and that a heavy flight occurred between the region of Lake Winnebago and Green Bay on April 17-19.

Orioles exhibited a single, extremely sharp period of first arrivals, April 30-May 6, which, interestingly, is similar to the period April 29-May 7 within which the first orioles have appeared at Madison every year since 1935. On the basis of scattered reports obtained from other states, orioles were noticed as early as April 6 in southern Louisiana, and reached eastern Texas, southern Illinois and western Florida by April 19; but then they spread no further until the period of April 30-May 8, during which they reached all parts of their breeding range (north to

SPRING ARRIVALS OF MOURNING DOVES - 1952



NUMBER OF OBSERVERS REPORTING FIRST BIRDS ON EACH DATE

March

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1			1	2	2	1	5					2	1	2	6		1	9

April

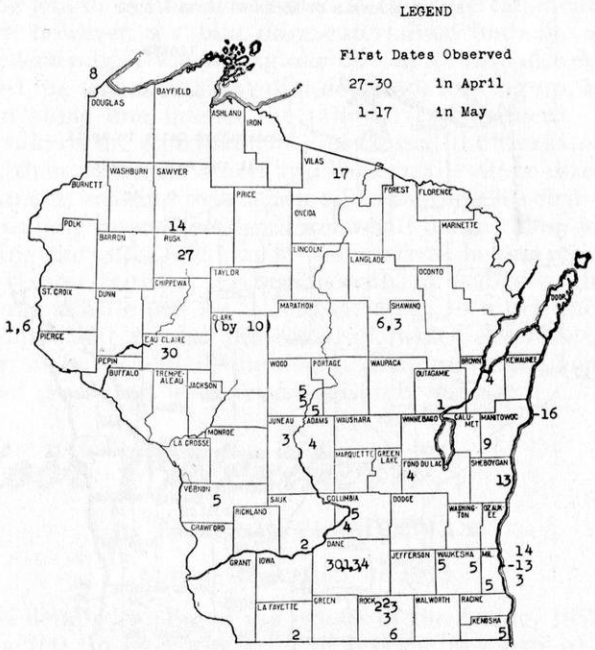
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	27
1			1	1		1			1	2		1					1	1	1	1

northern New York, Lake Nippissing, Ontario, and Duluth, Minnesota) except for a late spot in northern Michigan and northeastern Wisconsin, in which they appeared between May 16 and 19. Information on changes in numbers has not yet been compiled, but a heavy wave of orioles noticed at one point in northwestern Mississippi on May first is of interest in relation to the time of general arrival in Wisconsin.

Like those of orioles, the 1952 white-throats first appearances fell, in all but the northernmost parts of Wisconsin, definitely within a single week, namely April 20-27. The out-of-state reports received may have been too scattered for the drawing of safe conclusions, but they seem to indicate rather strikingly that there was, with few exceptions, no move-

ment of white-throats out of their regular winter range (which extends south to the Gulf from a line drawn through Massachusetts, southern Ohio, Missouri and Oklahoma) before April 19; and that during this period of April 19-28 white-throats scattered themselves, seemingly at random, each day, throughout the vast area extending north from this line into Ontario (as far as the region of Lakes Ontario, Nippissing and

SPRING ARRIVALS OF BALTIMORE ORIOLES - 1952



NUMBER OF OBSERVERS REPORTING FIRST BIRDS ON EACH DATE

(Sundays underlined)

April											May								
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1			2	3	4	6	5	9	3		1	1				2	2		1	1

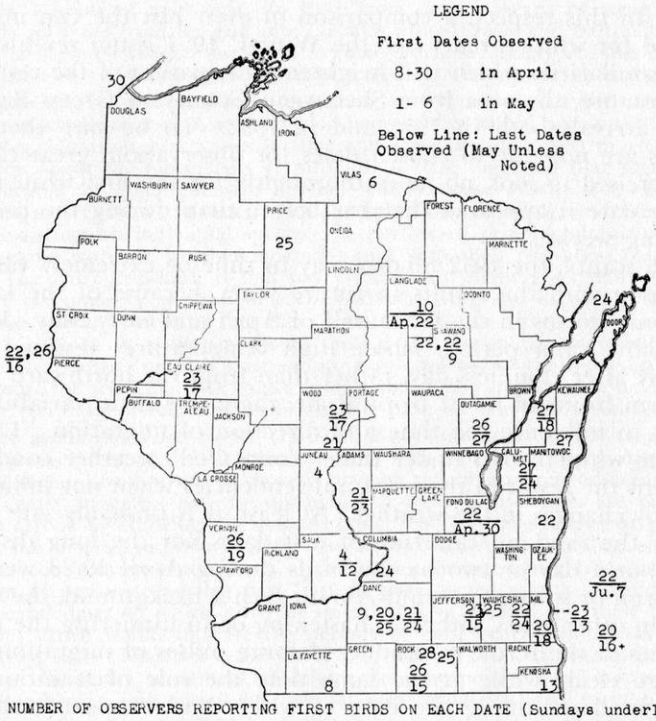
Superior) and North Dakota. Additional evidence in support of this idea that migration began with a very sudden movement northward over very long distances, as opposed to the concept of a gradual, step-by-step advance which one may obtain from maps of averaged yearly arrival dates in each state, consists of a reported decrease in numbers of white-throats on April 20-21 in southern Illinois and southwestern Arkansas, where wintering individuals were under frequent observation.

The exceptions consisted of a few early birds observed on April 18 at Detroit (where more arrived April 20); on April 17 north of Lake Superior at Port Arthur, Ontario (where many more appeared April 25); at Kenosha on April 13; and on April 8-10 in Allegan County (southwest Michigan) and three places in Wisconsin (see map). Possibly some of these were wintering birds. But the fact that the early Madison

white-throats appeared together with peak numbers in hermit thrushes, juncos, tree and fox sparrows, sapsuckers and flickers on April 9, and that this wave of migrants coincided with a cyclonic storm, suggests that the weather had, in some way, caused these white-throats to come far ahead of the main period of first arrivals of this species in late April.

Interestingly, early white-throats were reported from two of these stations (in Lafayette and Langlade Counties) in 1951 as well as in 1952.

SPRING ARRIVALS OF WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS - 1952



NUMBER OF OBSERVERS REPORTING FIRST BIRDS ON EACH DATE (Sundays underlined)

April																					May	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	4	6
1	1	1			1							3	3	7	4	2	3	4	3	1	1	2	1

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS REPORTING LAST BIRDS ON EACH DATE

April						May																June	
22	30	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	7	
1	1				1			1	1		2	2	2	2	1			1	1	3	1	1		

Do a few birds habitually spend the winter in these areas, or could it be possible that a given individual not only returns to the same summering and wintering grounds but also tends to follow the same route each year and has its own chosen time for migration, which in these cases is outstandingly early? In time, with a much larger number of reports year after year and from **every** county, it may be possible to choose between this hypothesis and another, namely that only the ends of the migratory flight are fixed in position, and that the time and route of

migration are predominantly, rather than only slightly, influenced by the year-to-year weather. Certainly the fact that most white-throats move considerably later than do the first arrivals discussed above—such as the waves noted at a number of stations in the first two weeks of May, 1952—and the fact that some are very late—such as those birds still present in Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky in the first 18 days of May, 1952—both clearly demonstrate a great variability in the time when individual birds are ready to migrate; but whether certain birds are consistently late (or early) every year remains to be seen. In this respect, a comparison of even just the two maps so far compiled for white-throats (see the Winter, 1951 issue) reveals some interesting similarities which will heighten anticipation of the results in 1953; for instance, the area from Sheboygan County to Green Bay witnessed late arrivals both in 1951 and in 1952. To be sure that such coincidences are not due to chosen dates for observation, great caution must be exercised to look no more thoroughly for the first white-throat on the same date it appeared the year before than during the previous and following weeks!

Though scanty, the 1952 reports may in time be extremely valuable for comparison with the results in future years, because of the lack of strong cyclonic storms in the latter half of April and early May. In this long, unusually calm period, whose high temperatures resulted from isolation, day after cloudless day, rather than from the northward movement of warm fronts of moist tropical air, there was little variability in the weather to influence the time and direction of migration. The behavior of the white-throats under these "controlled" weather conditions may represent the result of their natural tendencies when not influenced very much by changes in the weather. At least, it is probably safe to say that neither the random scattering of first dates nor the long distances covered in but a day or two by the birds during April 19-28 were the result of storms or strong tail-winds. With such a background, the effects of weather in other years, either in hastening or in hindering the northward progress of the birds, to produce definite pulses of migration, may become more clear; while at the same time the role of tradition and inheritance in determining the date at which birds appear each year at each station may become less difficult to separate from the influence of the weather, after several seasons can be compared.

The 1953 Migration Study

It is felt that this mapping of migration of individual species has successfully demonstrated its usefulness in investigating certain aspects of migration heretofore unexplored. This year, though requests for data on migration are being sent in Wisconsin to only those persons who have submitted reports to this department in the past, it is hoped that many additional members will be able to contribute something to this growing project, now that a larger number of the commonest birds have been added to the list of species whose migration is to be followed, as outlined in the explanatory questionnaire being sent in 1953 to observers in over 32 states and Canada, which reads:

COOPERATIVE STUDY OF BIRD MIGRATION AND WEATHER—SPRING, 1953

We wish to thank sincerely those who have contributed observations to this program so far. On the basis of what has been learned, thanks to their efforts, the study has developed along the following lines:

Many persons keep chronological notes on the birds they see, especially their first dates for each species in spring. Never have all these dates been put together on one map for a given year. In spring, 1951, the arrival dates of white-throated sparrows, reported by some 30 members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, seemed to show that these birds had moved north in a series of major pulses, 7-10 days apart, and that since they appeared to make jumps of at least 300 miles at a time, one state was too small for a study of migration. In 1952, from data gathered by some 30 additional observers scattered from the gulf into Canada, white-throats and Baltimore orioles both seemed to move by sudden leaps and to come down, seemingly at random during each such period of several days, over a large irregular area of several states.

Migration is a quantitative phenomenon, and it must be studied as such. The recent lunar-telescopic counts, so promising because they afford a quantitative method of measuring migration as it varies in time and place, should reveal much important information about the movements of birds. It is here suggested that such data can be supplemented by comprehensive daytime observations, which have two advantages: They are not restricted to times when the full moon is visible; and they make it possible to distinguish individual species, the northward progress of each of which may be compared with the weather separately and with their migration patterns in other years. The chief drawback is that few persons can follow a set daily route afield to measure the quantity of birds of each species arriving and departing throughout the migration season. Only the first date is noticed readily by the majority of those interested in birds. It is here proposed that, if just these first dates could be reported from 20-50 localities in each state or province, and by **all** the members of each local bird group, the resulting data would be of a sufficiently quantitative nature so that the mere arrival dates of migrants could actually have considerable meaning.

Two assumptions are made: (1) That the simultaneous arrival of a species at 20 or 30 stations in one or several states coincides with a peak in the quantity of individual birds of this or of other species moving through this area or one adjacent; and (2) that "freak" early stragglers may be distinguished from birds which are part of a more general arrival by studying the mapped data. There is no evidence at present to contradict the first assumption. As for the second, the large number of reports from each club or from each portion of a state, when arranged in a frequency distribution (number of persons reporting first bird **vs.** days of the month), would show one or more peaks (dates on which a maximum number of persons saw their first oriole, for example) which would indicate the periods of most general influx, as distinct from early stragglers. The latter could be of use, too: If the first assumption is correct, a period of maximum movement of orioles past one point should not only produce a general influx in one region but should also bring scattered early birds to points further on. It is also assumed that differences in the amount of time spent afield by observers will not seriously distort the picture, **providing** enough persons participate and report their **own** individual observations rather than the combined results of independent observations by several persons. (That is, only if two persons see their first oriole while together on the same field trip should this bird be reported as one rather than as two first dates of oriole for that locality.) For a late peak of first dates reported by the less active observers in a locality should represent an increase in abundance of the species in question, and so should be just as good in index of a general influx of birds as was the first peak in the histogram of first dates from that area. Thus, to some extent, not only the first wave but even late waves of a migrant could be traced on the map from arrival dates **alone.** At any rate, much can be learned from mapping all the observers' first dates for a single year, for several species common in eastern North America. The study should be continued for at least five years, so that a comparison of the maps for several years whose weather patterns differ can be used to investigate what conditions induce or permit movement, and what conditions tend to bring the birds down.

The species chosen should be abundant every year, easily noticed and observed and readily identified by the maximum number of persons. Since no bird meets all these requirements in all parts of the study area (from the Rockies to the east coast),

it will be necessary to suggest a rather long list. The observer is to report each June, on a postcard bearing his name and address (including county), his first sight date (and/or first date of call or song) and number of birds on that date, for as many species as he can (a report should be sent even if only one species was observed). At first, it was thought best to consider only birds that winter south of the States. However, many of these, such as most flycatchers and shore-birds, do not satisfy very well the criteria outlined above. Furthermore, most of the species that winter so far south arrive all together in May in the northern states and Canada. Therefore, an additional group of birds that winter in part of the study area is included to insure that the arrival dates of the species studied in the north will be well distributed through April as well as May, so that weather effects may be observed throughout the study area in both months.

Group 1: First dates desired wherever wintering individuals will not be confused with spring migrants (when in doubt, report anyway; the wintering range is easily determined by mapping first dates):

CROW, KILLDEER, RED-WING, CANADA GOOSE*, JUNCO, MOURNING DOVE, PHOEBE, FLICKER, MARSH HAWK, MYRTLE WARBLER, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW*, CHIPPING SPARROW, HOUSE WREN, and GOLDFINCH.

Group 2: First dates desired at all points throughout eastern North America:

PURPLE MARTIN, BARN SWALLOW, CHIMNEY SWIFT, WOOD THRUSH, BLACK and WHITE WARBLER, YELLOW WARBLER, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, KINGBIRD, REDSTART, NIGHT HAWK, HUMMINGBIRD, WOOD PEWEE, and INDIGO BUNTING.

(Some, like myrtle warbler and white-throat, will be selected for fall study.)

To succeed, we need these first dates from those who observe but one or two species on the list, those from whose area many others also report, and those who do not observe birds beyond their own yard, just as much as from those who are active in the field every day or who are the sole representative in a large area. Can we reach our goal of several reports from every county in Wisconsin, and from all the members of each club, in 1953?

Other Projects in Progress in 1953

No new projects will be initiated by this department in 1953. But, on the other hand, none of those begun (see the Summer, 1952 issue, Vol. XIV (2):69-74) should be lost track of. The enthusiastic and splendid participation in the fall, 1952 lunar bird study by many members and clubs was most gratifying, and when the results of this ambitious nation-wide study have all been compiled, and the Wisconsin results reported, we may wish to make further observations to pursue some aspect of

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*White-throats and geese are being studied in more detail; for these, in addition to arrival dates in the north, dates at any station of increases or decreases in numbers, or of main flights, or dates of departure of last birds, or a daily count, will be much appreciated where such information can be easily secured in the course of routine field work. (Of course, such data will be very useful in the case of any of the other species too.)

The importance of obtaining enough observers cannot be overemphasized. To establish an adequately intensive county-by-county network of cooperators may require several years, even with a good start in 1953. This ambitious program is too large to be handled by one group alone. So we solicit your 1953 observations, and also invite you to join us in this program by bringing this to the attention of the local clubs and and observers in your state (we can furnish more of these forms) or supplying their addresses to us; or, further, by becoming a regional organizer who collects reports from his state or area and, in return, is welcome to pursue and publish on any aspect of the study that interests him, utilizing either the local or the over-all results. Suggestions will always be welcome.

this fascinating method of observing migration at night. On different nights and at different stations, our counts varied widely in the number of birds seen per hour: those who happened to observe no birds can be reminded that their watches were at least as valuable as the reports of those who had the good fortune to observe a heavy flight of from three to five birds per minute crossing the moon's disc.

The study of the cardinal's song has brought some interesting results. Several of the Madison songs seem to be shared, with little variation, by birds in Grant, Sauk and Vernon Counties, and at least one song by cardinals in Eau Claire and Polk Counties. On the other hand, additional types or combinations are heard in some of these areas. Since no new questionnaires will be sent out in 1953, members are here reminded that the study must be continued for several years at each station, and at many additional stations, before the results can be reported on here. The same policy applies to the compiling of the time of calling and the distribution of Wisconsin's frogs and toads. Already some new county records have been added to their known distribution by the reports received in 1952. A few trips now, and in May and June, whose sole aim is to listen for and try to identify their calls when they are in full chorus, will prove to be an adventure that adds much to one's knowledge and enjoyment of amphibians.

One of the most important items is the list of summer-resident birds, which we must receive from everybody in 1953 if we are ever to compile a guide to Wisconsin's bird life. The 1952 lists received, all very good, have given us a fine start and precedent. Also, since no one has studied the dates of termination of song in different parts of the state, we can make a valuable contribution in this field, by reporting the last date of song for any of those species observed in the summer, as explained in earlier issues. Finally, a reminder that we have four tallies now, in June and in September as well as a Christmas and May-Day count.

2114 Van Hise Avenue
Madison 5, Wisconsin

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

At the annual meeting of the members of The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, which meeting was duly convened pursuant to the Articles and By-laws of said corporation, the following resolution was duly adopted:

RESOLVED: That the Articles of Organization of said corporation be amended to read as follows:

AMENDED ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

Article I. Name. Section 1.. This organization shall be known as the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. and its principal office shall be at Madison, Wisconsin.

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.

Section 2. 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 endow-

ment fund and said fund is to be kept in such bank or banks as the directors may designate. The directors are empowered to use temporarily up to twenty-five per cent of said funds for the general purposes of the Society but such withdrawals are to be replaced as soon as possible.

Article III. Membership. Section 1. Any person of good character who is interested in bird study may be nominated by any member in good standing and admitted to membership on receiving the approval of the Board of Directors.

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

Section 3. Members in arrears in the annual dues shall be dropped from the membership roll upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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

Section 2. The principal duties of the president shall be to preside at all meetings of the board of directors and to have a general supervision of the affairs of the corporation.

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

The principal duties of the secretary shall be to countersign all deeds, leases and conveyances executed by the corporation, affix the seal of the corporation thereto, and to such other papers as shall be required or directed to be sealed, and to keep a record of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and to safely and systematically keep all books, papers, records and documents belonging to the corporation or in any wise pertaining to the business thereof.

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

The principal duties of the editor shall be to edit the various publications and bulletins of the Society.

Whenever the Society shall so order, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

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

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

Section 3. Nominations 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.

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 of any meeting.

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

Article VI. Board of Directors. Section 1. The number and constitution of the Board of Directors and the terms upon which they shall hold office shall be prescribed by the members of the Society at the annual meeting, but the number shall not be less than three.

Section 2. Fifty per cent of the Board of Directors shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Board.

Section 3. Vacancies on the Board of Directors and in any elective or appointive office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors; elected officer or director to hold office until the next annual meeting of the society.

Article VII. Amendments. Section 1. These Articles may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

RANGE AND POPULATION STUDY FOR 1953

The red-tailed hawk has been selected by your committee as the bird to be studied this year. Since this species is widely distributed throughout the state all members will have opportunity to observe it in their areas. Now is the time to examine your observations of past years and to be on the look-out this year (during the next twelve months) for information on the winter status, time of initiation of spring migrations, peak of spring migration, initiation and peak of nesting, habitat selected for the nesting site, food remains in the vicinity of the nest, apparent relationship to other predators particularly the great horned owl, initiation and peak of fall migrations and weather conditions during migration dates. Questionnaire will be sent to members later but now is the time to begin your observations.

By The Wayside . . .

Edited by CARL L. STRELITZER

Wisconsin Mourning Dove Found in Cuba. A mourning dove which had been banded as a nestling at the Horicon Marsh on June 26, 1950 was recovered in western Cuba on March 26, 1952. The Cuban who sent the band to Washington had found the bird already dead next to a nest containing a young dove. Most birds return to a place near the point where they were hatched to set up their own housekeeping activities, and by March any Wisconsin-bound doves would be on their way north. If this Wisconsin-raised bird did actually nest in Cuba, it would be an unusual record.—Harold Mathiak, Horicon.

Prothonotaries On the Mississippi. Although quite rare elsewhere in northern United States, prothonotary warblers are common enough in the Prairie du Chien District of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge. A commercial fisherman recently was heard to call them "wild canaries".

During the 1952 Wisconsin Ornithological Society campout at Wyalusing State Park, a canoe party was able to observe more than twenty of these golden-headed warblers in the refuge bottoms below the park. This party was surprised to find three prothonotary nestlings in a snag cavity as they had supposed the prothonotary to be a limb-nesting species as are the other warblers. They were further chagrined to learn that apparently all other W. S. O. members knew the prothonotary was a cavity-nesting species.

Since the campout. the undersigned has paid more attention to this warbler. On July 2nd he noticed a male prothonotary feeding an immature cowbird in the Sioux Slough area north of Prairie du Chien, and later in the day observed a male prothonotary pursuing a kingbird which, in turn, was chasing an immature cowbird. After the kingbird desisted, the warbler flew to the cowbird offering it food.

Again on July 5th, a male prothonotary warbler was observed perched with an immature cowbird in the Sunfish Lakes area (Mississippi sloughs north of Prairie du Chien).

Evidently the prothonotary warblers' nests are heavily parasitized by cowbirds in this area with, usually, only the cowbird living to maturity. This is not always the case, however, for sometimes the over-ambitious cowbird outdoes itself, as was demonstrated during the July high water in the Mississippi bottoms off Harpers Ferry, Iowa. As I straightened a boundary sign, an immature cowbird popped out of a hole in a nearby snag and fluttered to the water. A quick retrieve by a soft-mouth springer brought the nestling to me and I placed it on a small mound above the water level. Two prothonotary nestlings showed their heads from their front door but they didn't jump. The next morning the cowbird had disappeared. The parent birds, however, were present and busily filling their own nestlings' mouths that extended out from the snag cavity.—Harold H. Burgess, Refuge Manager, Prairie du Chien District.

Red Crossbills in Juneau County. On January 25, I observed a flock of about thirty red crossbills feeding among the jack pine tops. Repeated observations of this species were made on February 21 and 22. As we have never seen them here before, this was a rare occurance.—Marilu L. Madura, Necedah.

The Summer Season . . .

By CARL L. STRELITZER

As usual, the nesting of many species started before the "nesting season" of June, July, and August, and migration began before the end of the period. Weather was close to ideal throughout the period and nesting reports of more than one-hundred and twenty species were received.

Observations of a number of rare and casual birds were made throughout the period. These included yellow-bellied sapsucker, Arkansas kingbird, olive-sided flycatcher, Bewick's wren, Bell's vireo, Brewster's warbler, hooded warbler, and evening grosbeak. Some of these reports are indicative, but not conclusive evidence of these birds nesting in the state.

The shorebird migration was underway in August and many individuals of a dozen or more species were seen on the mud-flats of a half-drained millpond at Marshall in Dane County by August 24 (Bill Foster, N. R. Barger, et al.). Small land birds arrived earlier than expected; warblers were on the move by August 16 (Sam Robbins); and the early morning air of August 29 was filled with the calls of migrating birds (Margarette E. Morse).

The more interesting records follow:

American Egret: First noted in Dane County, July 16 (Harry Thorne); next in Brown County, Aug. 1 (Ed Paulsen); Vernon County, Aug. 5 (Margarette E. Morse); Rock County, Aug. 8 (Melva Maxson); Kenosha County, Aug. 13 (Sam Robbins); Green County, Aug. 16 (Don Thompson); Lafayette County, Aug. 23 (Lester Tiews).

Little Blue Heron: Noted early in Kenosha County, July 17 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Waukesha County, Aug. 12 (Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club members); Dodge County, Aug. 24—"More than 200 were seen in a flock," (N. R. Barger et al.).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Five were present at Greenfield Park, Milwaukee County, Aug. 8-23. All immatures (Carl L. Strelitzer).

Canada Goose: This species was found nesting in the wild in at least four counties—Brown, Dodge, Juneau, and Wood. Eggs, or young were reported to the Conservation Department (Laurence Jahn).

Gadwall: Last observed at Goose Lake, Columbia County, June 2 (P. D. Skaar).

Green-winged Teal: Dodge County, June 22—a pair was seen on the Horicon Marsh (Stanley Wellso).

Ring-necked Duck: Burnett County, June 17—a female with thirteen young was seen (N. R. Stone); also believed to be breeding at Beaver Dam marsh in Waukesha County (Tom Soulen).

Hooded Merganser: Two widely separated reports—Forest County, a pair with five young (John Keener); Waukesha County, a female with eight young (observer not named).

Turkey Vulture: No nests of this scavenger were reported, although the species was seen during the summer—Grant County, June 7 (P. D. Skaar); Polk County, June 16 (N. R. Stone); Oconto County, July 27 (William J. Fisk).

Sandhill Crane: Jackson, Juneau, and Monroe Counties. See "By the Wayside."

King Rail: Dodge County, July 6—a pair with two immatures was observed in the Horicon Marsh (Stanley Wellso); present in Kenosha County from July 14 to Aug. 10 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Florida Gallinule: Waukesha County, July 22—two family groups were seen (Tom Soulen); Outagamie County, Aug. 20—a pair was noted with black, fuzzy young at this late date (Mrs. Walter E. Rogers).

Golden Plover: Dane County, Aug. 29, one bird—a fairly early fall arrival for this species (P. D. Skaar).

Black-bellied Plover: Fond du Lac County, June 1—a flock of thirteen (Stanley Wellso).

Greater Yellow-legs: Outagamie County, July 30—four birds (Mrs. Walter E. Rogers); Adams County, Aug. 16 (Sam Robbins).

Knot: Milwaukee County, Aug. 9. This is the earliest fall date for this species, which has been at this location each year since 1946 (Marlyn Davidson and Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Dowitcher: Dane County, Aug. 24-30—eighteen individuals were present at the Marshall mud-flats (Bill Foster and N. R. Barger) and one was seen on Aug. 31 (P. D. Skaar); Waukesha County, Aug. 12 (Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club members).

Stilt Sandpiper: Dane County, Aug. 31—a flock of ten of these rare transients was observed at Marshall (P. D. Skaar).

Western Sandpiper: Seen in the state for the fifth consecutive year, mostly at different sites; Dane County, Aug. 24-30—at Marshall (Bill Foster and N. R. Barger).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Milwaukee County, Aug. 27—one more sight record of this casual visitor (Mary Donald, Mrs. F. L. Larkin and Karl Priebe).

Sanderling: A flock in Outagamie County, July 30 (Mrs. Walter E. Rogers); Milwaukee County, Aug. 3 (John Muir Club members); Dane County, Aug. 24-30—at Marshall (N. R. Barger, Bill Foster et al.). Unusual inland.

Northern Phalarope: Dane County, Aug. 21—on Lake Mendota (Alan Keitt), Aug. 24-30—at Marshall (N. R. Barger, Bill Foster et al.).

Caspian Tern: Outagamie County, late summer—45 to 50 individuals—"The largest flock ever seen here" (Mrs. Walter E. Rogers).

Mourning Dove: See "By the Wayside."

Nighthawk: Seen in large flocks on Aug. 28 at widely separated points—Milwaukee County (Mrs. A. C. Bromm), and Waupaca County (Mrs. Theo. J. Peterson).

Pileated Woodpecker: Columbia County—present along the Wisconsin River all summer in the Baraboo Bluffs (Arlene Cors).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Noted in two practically adjacent areas—Adams County, July 9—"male and female seen. May have been present all summer but not observed until this date." (Sam Robbins); Columbia County—"present all summer" (Arlene Cors).

Arkansas Kingbird: Racine County, June 18. Observed at close range and tail markings noted (Mary E. Whelan).

Acadian Flycatcher: Wyalusing State Park, Grant County, June 7 (P. D. Skaar).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Adams County, June 7 (Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Frister, Charles Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer).

Tree Swallow: Flocking in Columbia County, Aug. 3 (Arlene Cors); big migration wave in Waupaca County, Aug. 24 (Mrs. Theo. J. Peterson).

Purple Martin: Flocking on July 25, earlier than the last two years, in Waukesha County (Oconomowoc) and departed on Aug. 12—later than last year (T. E. Stone); Brown County, Aug. 20 and 21—"great waves all day" (Mrs. Andrew Weber); left Waupaca County Aug. 28 (Mrs. Theo. J. Peterson); Milwaukee County—"Flocking all through August, last seen on the 30th (Carl L. Strelitzer).

Bewick's Wren: Adams County—"present all summer, probable breeders, last seen Aug. 17" (Sam Robbins).

Carolina Wren: Dane County, July 2 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

Mockingbird: Adams County—seen on July 9 and again on Aug. 16 (Sam Robbins).

Robin: Waupaca County—"a brood left the nest on Aug. 21" (Mrs. Theo. J. Peterson).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One seen in Sheboygan County, near Kiel, on June 29 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Bell's Vireo: Dane County, June 19—present where this species had been observed in May (N. R. Barger and Sam Robbins).

Philadelphia Vireo: This uncommon transient was noted in Adams County on Aug. 24 (Sam Robbins).

Brewster's Warbler: Dane County, June 19; this rare hybrid was still present in the same area where it had been seen in May (N. R. Barger and Sam Robbins).

Magnolia Warbler: Migrating flocks were seen in Richland County, Aug. 5 (Margarette E. Morse), and Aug. 12 in Rock County (Melva Maxson).

Cerulean Warbler: Adams County, June 7 (Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Frister, Charles Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer); Dane County, June 19 (N. R. Barger and Sam Robbins); Green Lake County, June 23-25 (Sam Robbins)—uncommon summer resident.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Waukesha County (Oconomowoc), a nest was found on July 24 in hazel-brush; two young left the nest July 29. As far as W. S. O. records go, this is a first for the county (Mrs. Paul W. Hoffmann).

Palm Warbler: Richland County, Aug. 22 (Margarette E. Morse); Manitowoc County, Aug. 31 (John Kraupa).

Ovenbird: Many seen in Rock County, Aug. 14 (Melva Maxson).

Kentucky Warbler: Grant County, June 22—one of this uncommon summer species was observed at Wyalusing State Park (Alvin M. Peterson).

Northern Yellow-throat: A number of birds of this species were seen moving through Rock County on Aug. 1 (Melva Maxson).

Hooded Warbler: Dane County, seen only in early June (P. D. Skaar), July 6 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

Bobolink: Observed in flocks in Milwaukee County from Aug. 17-24 (Mrs. A. C. Bromm).

Baltimore Oriole: Last seen Aug. 19 in Waupaca County, (Mrs. Theo. J. Peterson).

Dickcissel: Adams County, June 28 (Sam Robbins); Columbia County, "present all summer from June on" (Arlene Cors); Winnebago County, "at least four pairs nested in one hayfield during the summer" (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Evening Grosbeak: Polk County, Apr. 29 (not previously reported), —"thousands during the winter and am certain they are nesting in the locality" (W. D. Barnard); Door County, June 19, six birds—possible nesters; were observed at Peninsula State Park (Lyle Dye).

Purple Finch: Sheboygan County, June 29—adults feeding a young bird already out of the nest near Kiel (Myron Reichwaldt).

Savannah Sparrow: Winnebago County, three pairs in different localities observed feeding young (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Leconte's Sparrow: Dane County, Aug. 29—two birds seen (P. D. Skaar).

Henslow's Sparrow: Vernon County, July 6 (Margarette E. Morse).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Milwaukee County—two nests of this uncommon summer bird were found in July along the Menominee River Parkway (Michael Becker).

Song Sparrow: In Winnebago County none were found nesting in areas where nests formerly had been found (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

WSO FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Thus far, the following field trips to be conducted for the benefit of WSO members and friends, have been arranged by Director Charley Nelson:

June 21-22, 1953—Adams County (Saturday and Sunday). Following last year's precedent, a survey of nesting species will be conducted in an area that shows special promise. Headquarters will be the 259 acre Roche a Cri Roadside Park, located a short distance north of Friendship on highway 13, where camping facilities (tents or trailers) are available. Although many parties will be organized and sent out to work specific areas (including the Wisconsin River bottoms), conducted trips will leave the park entrance at the following hours, at least: 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. on Saturday, and 6 a. m. and 1 p. m. on Sunday.

September 27, 1953—Cedar Grove State Refuge (Sunday). Continuous observation of the hawk migration from the hilltop during the morning at least. Conducted trips in the vicinity during the afternoon for all species of birds. The 32 acre refuge is located east of the village of Cedar Grove (near the shore of Lake Michigan and north of Bahr Creek). Follow road markers from Cedar Grove. Bring your lunch.

NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 126)

birds of the state. We need all of the help we can get. We notice from your publication **The Passenger Pigeon** that a lot of Badgers are observers. If any of them have records of observations made while traveling through this state, we would like to have copies. Please send any and all records of South Dakota observations to: Herman F. Chapman, 504 Security Bank Bldg., Sioux Falls, South Dakota."

It is good news indeed to many members who also are interested in mammals to hear that Seton's "Lives of Our Game Animals," eight volumes, is once more available. The new edition is $50.00 per set and may be purchased from the Supply Department.

A common complaint regarding reprints of Audubon's paintings is that they are not accurately reproduced in our current books and publications. A new set of color plates, therefore, have recently been manufactured for a new edition of William Vogt's volume. This exquisite work will sell for $8.95; again, available from the Supply Department.

The new bird call (whistle) may be purchased from the Supply Department. Price $1.00.