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Send all manuscripts and correspondence to the Editor. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Bird Reports Coordinator. Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 3–5 of the Spring 2000 issue (Vol. 62, No. 1) or contact the Editor. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

Positive Values for Some "Exotic" Plants?

"Exotic" organisms are plants and animals that are present in but not native to a certain area. Some of them are invasive and offer significant ecological danger, while others are not very invasive and remain in low numbers in the region. Many of you probably have heard of exotics and know a few of them. Most of us have come to equate the term "exotic species" with "harmful species." This may not necessarily be true, however. For example, buckthorn is a well-known invasive exotic that takes over our native woodlands and forests; but during this winter, at least, it also has helped certain birds maintain their numbers in Wisconsin. Unusually large numbers of American Robins and smaller groups of Eastern Bluebirds have turned up on many Christmas Bird Counts, perhaps mainly because of the availability of millions of buckthorn berries in combination with the relatively mild and snowless early parts of the winter. Is this a "good" aspect of this invasive exotic? As much as I hate to admit it, the robins and bluebirds seem to think so!

Wild-grown red pine (also called Norway pine) is a native in northern Wisconsin, but it is exotic when it is found in the central and southern parts of the state, where it is generally at or beyond the southern fringe of its natural range. Even in the north it could be considered exotic much of the time because it mostly grows there in evenly spaced rows in plantations, a very unnatural configuration. I will, just for the purposes of the following discussion, stretch the definition a bit and call them, when in plantations anywhere in Wisconsin, "exotic."

Most people (WDNR, many others) think that pine plantations are not very useful to wildlife and are essentially biological deserts, especially the many red pine stands planted during the 1940s. My Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas experience indicated otherwise, to my great surprise and pleasure. WSO Vice President Daryl Christensen and I did a lot of atlasing in Marquette, Waushara, and Green Lake Counties. At first, we pretty much ignored red pine plantations because of their reputation, but we soon decided they weren't deserts after all because they harbored some very interesting species south of their known and accepted breeding ranges.

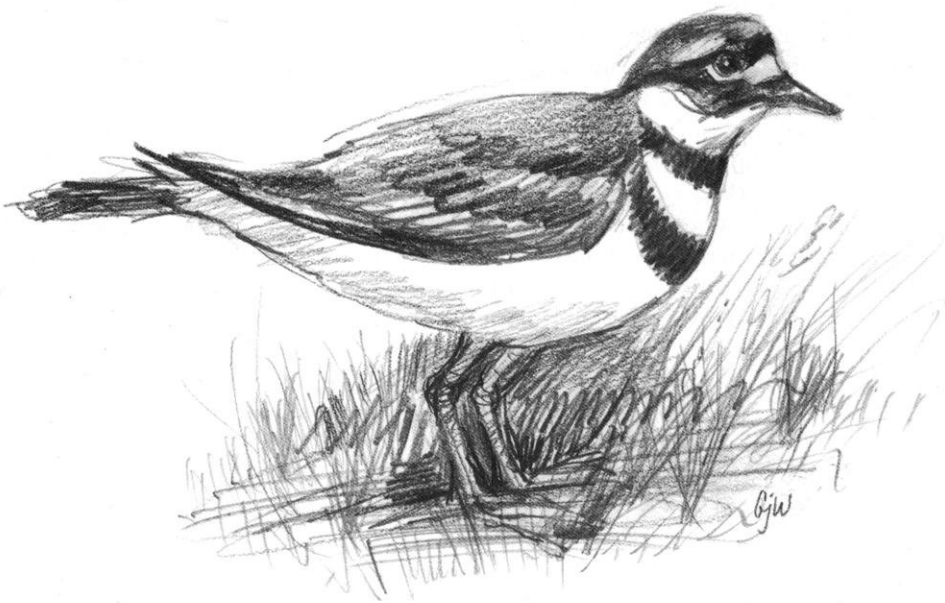
We found the southernmost breeding Common Ravens presently known in Wisconsin (at least seven pairs in Marquette and Waushara Counties together). An active Northern Goshawk nest was found in a red pine plantation. At least two Sharp-shinned Hawk pairs raised young in red pine plantations. Blue-headed Vireo (3), Yellow-rumped Warbler (2), Pine Warbler (3), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (4) pairs also were discovered feeding young in red pine stands. Almost all of the plantations used were quite extensive, between 40 and 200 contiguous acres, of which the ravens generally chose the largest.

Here are seven northern coniferous forest birds, many of which were not thought to nest this far south in Wisconsin. These, plus the other 20-25 "south-

ern'' species that I have over the years noted using these plantations for breeding or feeding or wintering, have changed my mind. I no longer feel comfortable calling this habitat a biological desert. Coupled with the fact that red pines are in no way invasive, I think that we ought not to expunge all these plantations, and that birders should check them out a little more frequently. We apparently have helped increase diversity by bringing a fairly extensive amount of northern coniferous habitat here to central Wisconsin. Whether natural or not, the birds seem to find and accept it.

Bill Brooks

President



Killdeer *by Gloria Welniak*

Some Thoughts on Five Years as Editor

It hardly seems possible that five years have elapsed since I signed on as editor of *The Passenger Pigeon* in 1998. I know that's not a terribly long time in the greater scheme of things, but a lot has happened in the world of Wisconsin birds, nonetheless. Looking back through the five-inch stack of issues that have come out under my watch, I find much in the way of change and advancement for WSO's members, and not a little in the way of loss. Just five years ago, for example:

- we all packed the *National Geographic* guide into the field, and David Sibley had yet to become a household name.
- the official state bird list climbed to 407 (it's now 419) with the addition of Eurasian Collared-Dove, a bird that's still rare but is now seen every year.
- most of us had a lot less experience with late fall hummingbirds, western and South American flycatchers, Pacific Loons, and winter gulls.
- Wisbirdn, the bustling e-mail communication conduit for birders around the state, was just getting under way.
- a statewide bird conservation plan was but a gleam in the eyes of a few far-seeing people; today, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative is a reality.
- we still enjoyed the company of such friends and mentors as Sam Robbins, Fran Hamerstrom, Ed Peartree, and Alex Kailing.
- nobody had heard of the West Nile virus.

The reason I'm waxing reminiscent is because I will soon be passing on the mantle of editor to Dreux Watermolen. As Chief of Science Information Services for the WDNR, Dreux will bring many strengths and new perspectives to the position. We're already working together on the next issue to ensure that the transition will be a smooth one. While in some regards it's hard to give up the reins, I look forward to seeing how the journal itself will continue to evolve under a new personality.

A great number of people contribute their volunteer labor to each issue, and I profoundly thank all of them for their help over the past five years. The efforts of the seasonal report editors, the various bird count compilers, the Records Committee reporter, and the art editor are simply remarkable, and the journal would not exist without them. Similarly, the many authors and artists who submit their work enrich the experience of Wisconsin birds for all who read these pages. It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you.

Tod Highsmith, Editor

Feather *by Jack Bartholmai*

Birding From a Greenhouse

by Harold G. Kruse

With advancing age and physical disabilities severely curtailing my lifelong hobby of nature study afield, major changes were in order. What to do—fade into the shadows of despair and regret, or adjust to the new reality and look for new, if more limited, ways of enjoying the beauty and wonder of the natural world? The former road leads nowhere, so I chose the latter.

One of the best ways to continue enjoying nature while disabled has been through the greenhouse constructed in 2001 to house our cactus and succulent collection. As I sit here writing on a cold wintry day, I am within fifteen feet of tropical jungle, Mexican desert, midwest herb garden, and Wisconsin snow drifts. Many pleasant hours can be spent observing and working with a variety of beautiful and interesting plants.

For birding, also, the greenhouse offers unique opportunities, through sound, if not through sight. The thin walls readily transmit sound from a distance, while the listener remains hidden from view.

In 75 years of observing birds, I have come to know the songs and call notes of most of our permanent and summer resident birds, a knowledge that now serves me well for birding by ear.

In May of 2002, as I sat in my favorite spot in the greenhouse, listening to the growing chorus of birds returning to their summer homes, the thought occurred to me that it might be of interest to compile a list of the birds I could hear from my seat. Such a list might also have some scientific value, since it allows a comparison with the species known to inhabit our farm half a century ago—see "The Birds of Hickory Hill" in *The Passenger Pigeon*, April 1948. The chief difference between the two counts was that in 1948 I was able to seek out the birds on foot, whereas in 2002, I had to let them come to me.

By the end of summer, the list totaled 53 species (Table 1), most of which I believe nested on or near our farm. More about this later.

If there were such an event as country music awards for birds, honors would go to the following:

For raucous rock and endless rap—The **Crow Family**. When not occupied in harassing hawks or owls, they engage

Figure 1. Harold Kruse at his listening post in his Hickory Hill Farm greenhouse, Loganville, WI. Photo by Gretchen Kruse.

in endless crow talk among themselves, especially when the young are learning to fly and fend for themselves. It would be fascinating indeed to be able to translate their varied vocalizations into English.

For solemn and weird music—The **Barred Owl**, whose banshee shrieks and *who cooks for who* seem designed to scare the wits out of the uninitiated birder or hiker in the deep woods. We have an old red rooster whose self-appointed duty is to awaken us in the morning, but this summer owl and rooster exchanged roles on several occasions, with rooster crowing at midnight and owl hooting in broad daylight.

For excellence in musical improvisation—The **Catbird**, who can sing for hours from his perch in the shrubbery surrounding our house, using both borrowed and invented notes and phrases. In the same category, but with less variety, is his cousin, the **Brown Thrasher**.

Table 1. Birds heard from the greenhouse by Harold Kruse at Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, WI, during the spring and summer of 2002.

Sandhill Crane
Northern Oriole
Green Heron
Pileated Woodpecker
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Northern Flicker
Barred Owl
Eastern Screech-Owl
House (English) Sparrow
Mourning Dove
Wild Turkey
Ring-necked Pheasant
Scarlet Tanager
American Crow
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Jay
Gray Catbird
European Starling
Brown Thrasher
Killdeer
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Brown-headed Cowbird
Tufted Titmouse
Chimney Swift
White-breasted Nuthatch
Barn Swallow
American Robin
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Eastern Bluebird
Northern Cardinal
Alder Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher
House Finch
House Wren
Indigo Bunting
American Goldfinch
Black-capped Chickadee
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellow Warbler
Warbling Vireo
Common Yellowthroat
Wood Thrush
American Redstart
Bobolink
Song Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Common Grackle

For energetic delivery—The **House Wren**, whose seemingly boundless pent up energy frequently erupts in a cascade of song. Our wrens were still singing in late summer when most other birds had fallen silent.

For persistence in song—The **Red-eyed Vireo**, who continues preaching all day from his perch in some tall tree, even through the stifling heat of July days.

For most welcome sound of spring—**The Bluebird**, whose gentle notes signal the official end of winter. Sharing this award are **Robin**, **Song Sparrow**, and **Red-winged Blackbird**.

For beauty of dress, as well as song—The **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Oriole**, and **Scarlet Tanager**, whose brilliant plumages perfectly complement their delightful music.

For sheer beauty of song—The **Wood Thrush**, whose flute-like notes coming from our woodlot in late afternoon never fail to inspire and uplift my spirits and erase whatever difficulties or irritations may have arisen to mar the day. My first Wood Thrush was heard singing in old-growth woodland, so it still evokes a picture of the forest primeval.

Consolation prizes—To the **Phoebe**, **Killdeer**, **Woodpeckers** and all the other one-noters and less talented musicians, whose call notes and simple song renditions tell me that all of the suitable niches in the natural community we call Hickory Hill Farm are still being filled by the appropriate bird life.

An onion award—To the **Starling**, whose attempts at music-making outside our bedroom window become laughable at times, but who serves as a good early warning system for the bird community. Whenever I hear a certain alarm call from the Starlings, I know without bothering to look up that a Cooper's Hawk is passing by.

Now, lest I be accused of unscientific imaginings, I need to inject a bit of science into these fanciful musings. To do so, I offer the following comparison between the birds present in 2002 and those present 55 years ago, when I first wrote about the birds of Hickory Hill.

Most conspicuous by their presence in 1948, and absence in 2002, are the swallows—Bank, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins. Plantings of willows and shrubbery to stabilize the badly eroding creek banks eliminated nesting sites for Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and the Kingfisher, while Purple Martins left for areas nearer to water. A growing Cliff Swallow colony ended because of English Sparrow predation, and collapse of the barn on which they were nesting. Barn Swallows continue to nest here.

Bobwhites, common in the 1940s but absent in recent years, offer an unanswered question: Is their absence due to predation, disease, bad winters, or some other reason? Food and shelter cannot be involved, since Hickory Hill and neighboring farms offer plenty of both necessities. Whip-poor-wills nested in a nearby savannah-like woodland in 1948, but left when the understory became too dense, limiting their insect-hunting evening flights.

Both species of meadowlarks; Upland Sandpiper; Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows; Dickcissel; and Bobolink—all present in the 1940s—are seldom seen today. This is due largely to changes in farming practices—a switch over from grass to pure alfalfa, more continuous corn and soybeans, and earlier and more frequent cutting of hay, giving grassland birds no chance to raise a successful brood. Conservation Reserve Land (CRP) and areas like the Badger Ordnance Works offer some relief for these birds, but their future remains uncertain.

On the plus side—i.e., birds present in 2002 but absent in 1948—we have the following:

Wild Turkey—Introduced from Missouri in mid-century, Wild Turkeys have adapted and multiplied rapidly and now roam the Wisconsin countryside in large flocks.

Sandhill Crane—The crane is one of the great conservation success stories. Seldom seen in the 1940s, Sandhills have now increased to the point where nearly every suitable wetland has a nesting pair or two. While they do not nest at Hickory Hill, birds from nearby wetlands visit us occasionally. Hopefully, we may see the day when wild Whooping Cranes again visit Sauk County.

House Finch—Not seen until recent years, the House Finch has invaded Wisconsin with a vengeance, and their melodious song has now become common in many areas.

Wood Thrush, vireos, and various wood-warblers—Scarce in 1948, many of these birds now nest at Hickory Hill due to better woodlot management and creek bank plantings. Warblers include American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat.

Admittedly, I may have missed a few of the summer residents that do not appear on my 2002 list, but I feel that almost all came within hearing distance at some time during the spring or summer.

Health and other circumstances permitting, we will be back at our outpost in the greenhouse when the birds return in 2003. Hopefully, all of our favorite songsters will be back to serenade us with their calls and melodies that make life in the country so enjoyable and worthwhile.

Harold Kruse
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White-breasted Nuthatch *by Gloria Welniak*

Short-eared Owl *by Cary Hunkel* (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

Variation in Detection of Short-eared Owls in Wisconsin and the Midwest

Combining data from formal grassland surveys and informal observations, we describe the detectability of Short-eared Owls in Wisconsin and the Midwest for both researchers and bird watchers. We found that Short-eared Owl detection varies greatly among grasslands and among years, and describe patterns of detection by time of day, weather, and season. We also offer observations on the relationship between numbers of Short-eared Owls, Snowy Owls, and Northern Harriers, and describe a variety of Short-eared Owl vocalizations and displays.

by Scott R. Swengel and Ann B. Swengel

Unlike many owl species that are strictly nocturnal, the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) has some crepuscular and even diurnal habits. This makes it possible to see Short-eared Owls more easily compared to other owl species, and to observe a wider range of the species' behavioral repertoire, besides flushing off a day roost or flying away in moonlight or headlights. While other owl species, such as the Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*), have a tendency toward boom-and-bust years in winter numbers, Short-eared Owls have a reputation for huge variation in numbers in both the winter and breeding season (Clark 1975, Johnsgard 1988, Robbins 1991, Holt and Leasure 1993, Houston 1997).

Here we report our observations (and non-observations) of Short-eared Owls in Wisconsin grasslands. We present this in the context of our extensive daytime surveys during the growing season at 150 grasslands in seven states (Swengel and Swengel 1999, 2000, and 2001). We also present data from surveys specifically designed to detect Short-eared Owls at three Wisconsin grasslands. These observations are especially meant to provide information on the variation in both detectability and abundance of Short-eared Owls on daily, seasonal, and annual scales.

Methods

Formal grassland surveys—One source of data for this paper comes

from the formal transect surveys we have conducted on foot at 150 grasslands in seven states (Table 1). Most of these sites were chosen because of their accessibility and importance for conserving rare prairie species. All sites could not be visited each year, but most were visited more than once both within and among years, except the Missouri sites, which were visited once per year. Never-tilled grassland of primarily native prairie flora predominated at most sites. In Wisconsin, we added other sites to the study, mostly after 1996, that were old agricultural fields that had reverted to permanent grassland cover dominated by nonnative flora.

The number of Wisconsin grasslands cited here is greater than the 26 study sites reported in Swengel and Swengel (2000). We did add a few new sites in recent years, but mostly this results from a difference in method of counting sites. For example, we counted Buena Vista as one site then, but as eight sites here, Grand River as one site then and two here, and Pine Island as one site then and two here. In this paper, we are defining sites in Wisconsin the same way we counted a site throughout the study region in previous publications: as each discrete area of permanent grassland cover, as completely bounded by forest, cultivation, intensive continuous farm grazing, and/or development.

We conducted unlimited-width transect surveys (as in Emlen 1971, 1984) along similar routes each year (Swengel and Swengel 1999), while walking at a slow pace (1.5–2 kilometers/hour) on parallel routes 5–10 meters apart. We counted adults of all observed butterflies and selected grassland bird species as listed in Swengel and Swengel (2000), including Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), detected by sight or sound ahead and to the sides, to the limit at which a species could be identified, possibly with binoculars after detection, and tracked. Birds that were identifiable as young-of-the-year were not included in survey totals, although they were recorded.

At each site, a new census unit was designated whenever the fixed route changed in vegetation type, degree of floristic degradation, or management. Routes maximized sampling per unit but crossed rather than followed ecotones and management boundaries to reduce edge effects. We tried to avoid double-counting an individual, either within or among units, during a survey, and noted as repeat observations any individuals that were re-detected. Individuals outside the survey unit were not counted in the survey totals, but were noted. We informally noted all Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers detected between arrival to and departure from the parking spot for a unit but that were outside the time span and unit boundaries of the formal survey.

For each unit, we recorded temperature, time spent surveying, wind speed, percent cloud cover, percent time the sun was shining, and route distance. Surveys occurred during a wide range of times of day (from 0616 hours to 1852 hours CST, all in broad daylight) and weather conditions, occasionally in intermittent or light rain. Data were kept separate by unit.

Informal grassland observations—The other source of data for this paper comes from our field notes while we were bird watching on foot and by car at three grasslands (Tessen 2000):

Table 1. Formal survey effort in grasslands and number of Short-eared Owl contacts (by adult or young-of-the-year).

State	Season	Years	Sites	Acreage	Kilometers	Adults	Young
Illinois	27 Jun–01 Sep	1991–97	6	7–600	72.56	0	0
Iowa	28 Jun–21 Aug	1991–97	8	5–320	30.25	0	0
Minnesota	18 Jun–20 Aug	1988–97	22	40–3000	385.99	0	0
Missouri							
Osage	20 Apr 1999, 14–20 Jun 1992–99	1992–99	1	1650	18.31	2[1]	0
Other sites	20–22 Apr 1999 14–24 Jun 1992–99 12 Jul 1994	1992–99	44	14–2500	345.07	0	0
North Dakota	16–17 Aug	1995–97	12	200–5000	42.61	0	0
South Dakota	15 Aug	1994	1	8600	2.82	1[2]	2
Wisconsin							
Buena Vista	5 Apr–15 Dec	1997–01	8	49–2586	494.77	88[3]	5
Other sites	23 Apr–13 Sep	1987–01	48	3–840	662.98	0	0
Total	**5 Apr–15 Dec**	**1987–2001**	**150**	**3–8600**	**2055.36**	**91**	**7**

[1] 1 individual in same general area, once on walk out and once on return, about 1600 and 1630 CST hr on 14 June 1999 at Osage Prairie, Vernon Co. (1 individual also observed near Bushwhacker Prairie in Vernon County, after survey completed, as we drove away from site at about 1630 hr CST on 14 June 1993).

[2] 1 adult with 2 fledglings flushed off ground in area grazed by bison, at about 1230 hr CST on 15 August 1994 at Ordway Prairie, McPherson Co.

[3] See Table 2.

Buena Vista Marsh (or Grassland; Portage County), Leola Marsh (Adams County), and Pine Island Wildlife Area (Columbia County). These observations evolved out of bird watching trips in fall and winter to Buena Vista and Leola, when we stayed until sunset or later to watch for Greater Prairie-Chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) flying to roost. At Buena Vista and Leola, these forays consisted primarily of driving around the sites, although we occasionally walked into areas a bit. At Pine Island, where roads provide only frontage to the habitat, we parked to make point observations with binoculars and scope. These informal observations occurred during a wider range of times of day than in the formal surveys, including before sunrise and after sunset, and in all months of the year. Analyzable data from this source started in January 2000, when we started observing Short-eared Owls regularly at Buena Vista. We also conducted formal surveys at each of these areas during the same years. We noted start and end observation times, weather conditions, and the time when we considered it too dark to observe birds without headlight beams. Analyzable data for Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) were collected during the 2000–2001 winter.

Data analysis—The only grassland in Wisconsin where we regularly recorded Short-eared Owls on formal surveys was at our set of study sites at Buena Vista. In addition to all the survey characteristics previously described, we also databased the records for Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier young-of-the-year detected within the timing and unit of the survey, and all individuals (both adults and young-of-the-year) of these species detected both outside the unit during the formal survey and within or outside the unit immediately before or after the survey.

To test for significant differences in the number of owls observed in different years (Table 2), we used Mann-Whitney U tests on the number of owls/survey time/survey unit, by year. We ran the tests using both the number of owl contacts according to the strict counting protocol (i.e., excluding young-of-the-year and including only individuals within the unit during the timed survey) and the total number of owls detected on that survey. We conducted Spearman rank correlations between the number of Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier detections, both limited to those strictly recorded according to the survey protocol and including all contacts. We did these correlations both by survey unit and by survey date (i.e., pooling all data for all units surveyed that day).

We also constructed another database for each Short-eared Owl "contact" (i.e., record or episode of observing an individual owl at a particular time and place) that we recorded in Wisconsin, whether on formal surveys or during informal observations. For these contacts, we recorded the start time, end time, and location (unit) of observation, weather characteristics, behavior upon first detection, first perching substrate (if any), any vocalizations, any wing clapping, number of conspecifics involved in the apparent social unit of the contact, whether or not the owl was distinguishable as young-of-the-year or not, whether the owl was observed only because we had been walking around in the grassland (i.e., it flushed out of the grass), and

Table 2. Kilometers (km) of surveying and detection of Short-eared Owls on formal grassland surveys at Buena Vista, by year. Within column, numbers with a different letter after them are significantly different (Mann-Whitney U tests of owls/hour of survey time/survey unit).

Year	Km	Adults	Young of Year	Adults Detected Outside Unit and/or before/after Survey	Total
1997	64.19	2 B	0	0	2 B
1998	63.20	0 B	0	0	0 B
1999	98.97	0 B	0	2	2 B
2000	135.20	57 A	5	25	87 A
2001	133.20	29 B	0	4	33 B
Total	**494.77**	**88**	**5**	**36**	**125**

whether it was only detectable because it was seen in the car headlights. We coded each contact by whether we judged it to be a new individual or a repeat observation during that same session. Weather data collected included cloud cover, temperature, wind speed, and precipitation.

Weather was databased as categories: cloud cover (from 0 for no clouds to 5 for totally cloudy); temperature (coded as −1 for −10 to 0°F, 0 for 0 to 10°F, and 1 for 10 to 20°F, up to 9 for 90 to 100°F); wind (from 0 for 0 wind, 1 for 0–5 miles/hr and 2 for 3–8 miles/hr, up to 15 for 35–40 miles/hr); and precipitation (0 for none, 1 for very light/intermittent, 2 for steady, and 3 for heavy).

Because we could not always keep owls in continuous view, we were conservative in counting the number of contacts. Sometimes, for example, an owl hovered, swooped to the ground, and then flew up again; or it flew out of sight and then back into view; or its perch site was not continuously visible to us because of obscuring topography. Even if our observation of a bird was not continuous but periodically we observed an individual in the same general locality while we were conducting one visit to that area, then we counted that as one continuous contact. We labelled birds as repeats if seen in the same general area during a different pass through the area during an observation session. However, we started over in counting contacts as new or repeats between days, and within a day between the daytime grassland survey session and the evening drive, because we did not feel confident we could identify individual birds and properly assign which were new or repeat.

Because we were interested in portraying detectability (i.e., behavior that allowed detection) rather than the actual number of owls present in an area, we included both new and repeat contacts in the analyses. For Short-eared Owl, 739 (77.0%) of 960 contacts were categorized as new. For Snowy Owl, 19 (63.3%) of 30 contacts were characterized as new.

We obtained timing of sunrise, sunset, and civil twilight (defined as the end time before sunrise and start time after sunset when it is too dark to conduct typical outdoor activities without artificial illumination) from the web site of the U.S. Naval Observatory (www.usno.navy.mil/), using the nearest available city (Wisconsin Rapids for Buena Vista, Plainfield for Leola, and Portage for Pine Island). For analysis

of owl detection, we used civil twilight rather than sunrise/sunset, because the former more accurately defines the typical limits for bird watchers to be able to see this species.

For each observation date from January 2000 to 1 January 2002, we computed the number of Short-eared Owl contacts recorded and the number of minutes of observation in the five 30-minute periods before and two 30-minute periods after evening civil twilight. We then converted these into observation rates of owl contacts per hour of observation. We excluded contacts flushed on surveys and seen only in headlights in order to portray spontaneous behavior (apparency) as accessible to typical bird watchers. For comparison, we also calculated the observation rate for the formal grassland surveys. Sunset preceded civil twilight by 28 to 37 minutes, depending on season. We did not do a comparable analysis relative to morning civil twilight because of our much smaller data set then.

We also identified when we thought it was too dark for bird watching, without foreknowledge of when the tables listed civil twilight to occur. For Buena Vista, our determination ranged from 14 minutes before to 10 minutes after official civil twilight (mean = 0.06 minutes before, N = 35 dates). For Pine Island, it ranged from 7 minutes before to 3 minutes after (mean = 0.7 minutes after, N = 3 dates). For Leola, we made no such determinations. The web site explains that weather conditions and lunar phase can affect when a certain level of darkness is reached.

We used the Spearman rank correlation to test for significant relationships between weather characteristics and number of daylight hours to nearest civil twilight for both Short-eared Owl and Snowy Owl contacts. We used the Mann-Whitney U test to look for significant differences in Short-eared Owl contacts among years in the formal grassland surveys, and for significant differences in observation rates between the formal grassland surveys and the 30- minute periods before and after civil twilight, and between consecutive pairs of those 30-minute periods.

We computed all statistics with ABstat 7.20 software (Anderson-Bell 1994). Significance was initially set as a two-tailed $P < 0.05$. Since significant results occurred overall at a frequency well above that expected due to spurious Type I statistical error, we did not lower the *P* value further, as many more Type II errors (biologically meaningful patterns lacking statistical significance) would then be created than Type I errors eliminated.

Results and Discussion

Formal grassland surveys—We rarely detected Short-eared Owls during formal surveys. Out of 94 sites outside of Wisconsin, only two produced Short-eared Owl records (Table 1). We obtained the most Short-eared Owl records at Buena Vista (Table 2), in seven of the eight study sites there (i.e., in all parts except the southeasternmost tract of public land). But detection varied greatly there among years, including none in 1998.

The concentration of records at Buena Vista may have been due to the scale and timing of our sampling there or because of habitat factors at the site—it was likely a combination of both. We conducted the most surveying at Buena Vista (469.97 kilometers),

and our five-year sampling period there may have coincided with an exceptional outbreak of the species, similar to the 1970 outbreak discussed in Robbins (1991). On the other hand, Buena Vista contains some of the largest grassland areas sampled by us in formal surveys (parts of Missouri, North Dakota, and South Dakota also contained large expanses of grassland). It remains fair to conclude that Buena Vista is an extraordinary site for Short-eared Owls, and we have yet to survey another site anywhere that approaches the level of owl detection recorded there.

Informal grassland observations—We observed far more Short-eared Owls at Buena Vista during informal observations, most in crepuscular lighting, than we did during formal surveys in the daytime (Figure 1). We also found Short-eared Owls during informal observations at Pine Island and Leola (Figure 2). Three of the contacts at Pine Island (all "new") occurred while we were walking around informally on 25 March 2001. By contrast, we found none at Pine Island during 88.87 kilometers of formal surveys (also on foot) on 34 dates there between 1993 and 2001, and none at Leola in 12.80 kilometers on 7 dates from 1997 to 2001.

Although it isn't possible to compare our informal observations from 2000–2001 to earlier years (because we didn't do as many such forays earlier, and didn't keep track of exactly where we went and when, relative to sunset), it is possible to conclude that we detected tremendously more Short-eared Owls during the informal surveys than during the formal surveys.

Detection relative to daily timing—Short-eared Owls were out in broad daylight more during spring than

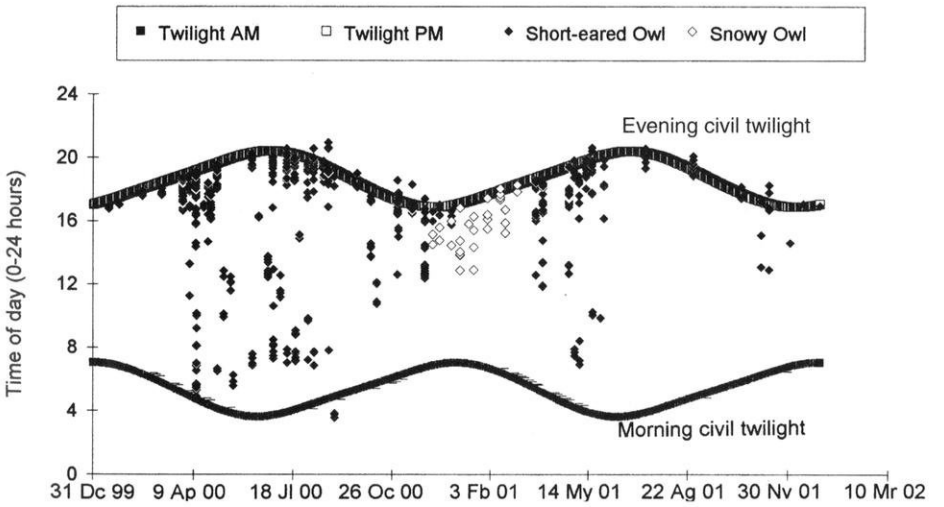

Figure 1. Date and time of day (hours CST) for all contacts for Short-eared Owl and Snowy Owl at Buena Vista (January 2000 through 1 January 2002) in relation to morning and evening civil twilight. For Short-eared Owl contacts, N = 755 from informal observations (598 "new"; the remainder repeat observations on the same day), plus 123 contacts from formal grassland surveys (Table 2). For Snowy Owl contacts, N = 19 new and 11 repeat.

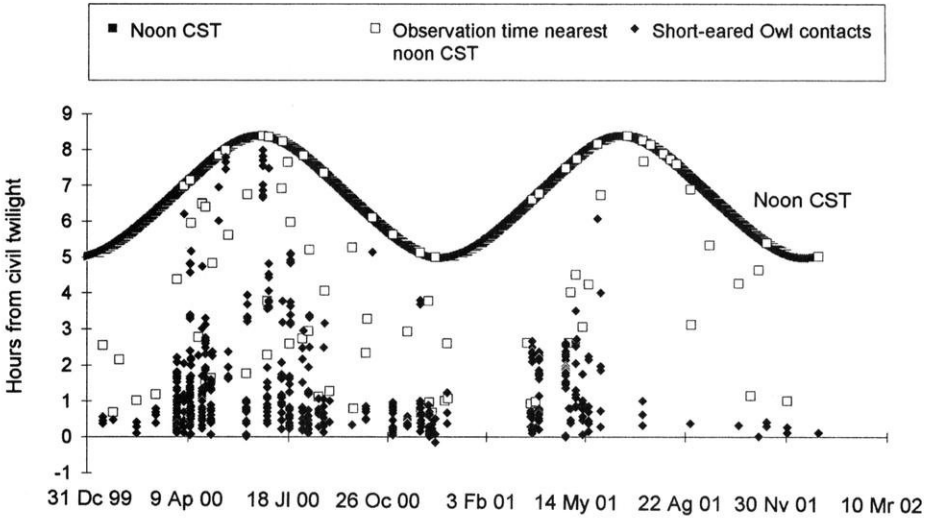

Figure 2. All contacts (N = 752) for Short-eared Owls at Buena Vista, Leola, and Pine Island, by number of daylight hours from nearest civil twilight (morning or evening), excluding contacts with individuals flushed during formal surveys (N = 123) or seen only in headlights (N = 80). Positive values are on the daylight side of the nearest civil twilight, and the few negative values are on the dark side of the nearest civil twilight. Both new and repeat contacts are included. (At Buena Vista, N = 675, 544 "new", on 72 dates, including 7 before 2000, out of 92 observation dates; before 2000, only dates on which detections occurred are counted since we didn't keep track of as much data on our observational effort then. At Leola, N = 26 contacts, 21 "new", on six dates in April 1999, 2000, and 2001, out of 25 observation dates, again for before 2000, counting only dates on which observations occurred. At Pine Island, N = 51 contacts, 19 'new", on 6 dates from 29 November 2000 to 25 March 2001 and 1 December 2001, out of 10 observation dates from 2000 onward.)

other seasons, and were out longer throughout the breeding season in 2000 than in 2001. These data are represented in Figure 2, where we graphed all Short-eared Owl detections at all Wisconsin sites relative to time before or after the nearest civil twilight (morning or evening), excluding only owls that were flushed during our formal surveys on foot (N = 101 "new" contacts and 27 "repeats") or were seen only in car headlights (N = 74, discussed below). We purposely included both new (N = 582) and repeat (N = 168) contacts in order to give a truer representation of the species' spontaneous behavior as detectable by bird watchers.

Based on all detections (except of individuals flushed on formal surveys), the highest rate of detection (birds/hour) occurred in the 30-minute period immediately preceding evening civil twilight, closely followed by the next earlier 30-minute period (Figure 3). A fairly consistent but lower rate of detection occurred from 1.0 to 1.5 hours before evening civil twilight and in the 30-minute period immediately following evening civil twilight (when owls were heard or, more often, seen in headlights). Even though detection was lower yet during the period 30–60 minutes after civil twilight, we nonetheless recorded a remarkable number of contacts during this period, especially considering how limited our ability is to detect owls at that time of

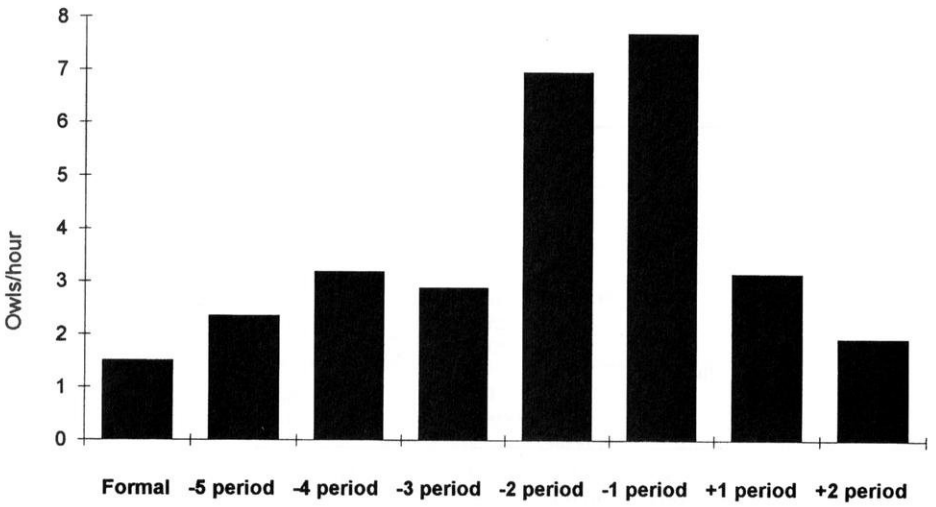

Figure 3. Short-eared Owl detections/hour from January 2000 to 1 January 2002 on formal surveys (during daytime, on foot, at Buena Vista only) and from informal observations. Data from informal observations are from the five 30-minute periods before and two 30-minute periods after civil twilight at Buena Vista, Leola, and Pine Island (see also Table 4 and Figure 4). Both new and repeat contacts are included. For consecutive pairs of 30-minute observation periods from the informal observations, statistically significant differences in rate of detection occurred at 60 minutes before civil twilight and at civil twilight, as well as between the formal surveys (in daytime) and the earliest three 30-minute periods (Mann-Whitney U test, one-tailed $P<0.01$, all others $P>0.1$).

day and how narrow our zone of detection is.

Rates of detection within the individual 30-minute periods varied considerably by season (Table 3, Figure 4). Detectability earlier before evening civil twilight occurred more in spring and early summer than in fall and winter, and for a longer period in 2000 than in 2001. We did not attempt to detect owls after civil twilight until June 2000, but once we did make such attempts, Short-eared Owls were detectable broadly from summer until early winter, if detected at all in any daily time period (i.e., excluding 3 January to 16 March 2001, when we found no Short-eared Owls at all).

We did not have any observation time at Leola when it was dark (as defined by civil twilight). We did at Pine Island (in the evening only), but had no owl detections there that began at or after civil twilight. At Buena Vista, we had observation time before civil twilight in the morning on two dates (12 April 2000 and 29 August 2000) and obtained five contacts then, all on the latter date and all observed because we saw them in the headlights (four were perched on roadside when first seen, the fifth flying across road).

In the evening, we had observation time at Buena Vista after civil twilight on 38 dates (eight of these during the 2000–2001 winter when we had no Short-eared Owl contacts at all). We detected 72 Short-eared Owls after civil twilight on 19 of these dates. Sixty-nine of these contacts occurred because we saw the owl in headlights (54 perched on or by roadside, six flying across or

Table 3. Ranges of dates for observations of owls from January 2000 to 1 January 2002 on formal grassland surveys (during daytime, on foot, at Buena Vista only) and in the five 30-minute periods before and two 30-minute periods after civil twilight (at Buena Vista, Leola, and Pine Island) during the informal surveys (see Figures 3 and 4).

	2000	2001 to 1 Jan 2002	Total Hours
Formal surveys[1]	5 Apr–28 Nov	28 Mar–2 Dec	106.54
Before evening civil twilight			
150–121 minutes	29 Mar–22 Aug	21 Mar–17 May	22.58
120–91 minutes	29 Mar–7 Aug	28 Mar–29 May	24.20
90–61 minutes	29 Mar–17 Aug, 25 Dec	28 Mar–11 May	25.38
60–31 minutes	16 Jan–25 Dec	20 Mar–10 Jul	30.23
30–1 minutes	16 Jan–25 Dec	20 Mar–1 Jan	29.02
After evening civil twilight			
0–29 minutes	11 Jul[2]–13 Dec	24 Apr–15 Dec	14.63
30–59 minutes	7 Aug[3]–28 Nov	17 May–11 Nov	7.25

[1] Observation dates were 5 April to November 2000 and 28 March 2001 to 1 January 2002.
[2] One previous observation date on 6 June 2000.
[3] First observation date.

near road, two landing, and seven in process of flushing up); two were detections by sound (a *yip*, described further below, by an unseen owl, and wing clapping by owl directly overhead); and one was seen in binoculars as it flew in the distance silhouetted against the sky at 1702 hours, with civil twilight at 1653 hours and our designation of "too dark" at 1656 hours. We also had six instances of recording Short-eared Owls seen only because of headlights, but two to three minutes before civil twilight, with similar behaviors (two flying, four perching on road).

We also recorded 21 contacts with Short-eared Owls where they perched on the road when it was light. One contact was in the morning, 2.95 hours after civil twilight on 2 August 2000. The rest were in the evening, from 1 August to 28 November 2000 and on 28 March and 14 October 2001, from 0.1 to 2.5 hours before civil twilight. In all instances of owls perching on the road or immediate roadside, whether in daylight or darkness, the roads were dirt (unpaved and usually ungraveled), with permanent untilled grassland cover (i.e., few shrubs or trees) on both sides of the road. In a few instances, there was a fence on one side of the road, but it was a fence with horizontal wires and no mesh.

Evidence of breeding—Contacts of Short-eared Owls less than one year old occurred from 27 June to 10 October 2000 (N = 15), and on 10 July 2001 (N = 1) and 1 January 2002 (N = 1) (Figure 5). Our only nest record occurred during an informal walk on 7 May 1997, when a pair of adults flushed off or near a nest with two eggs during midmorning in rainy weather.

Vocalizations and displays—We only detected (or first detected) some Short-eared Owls because of their vocalizations. In other instances, vocalizations made it possible for us to determine that more owls were present in an area than could be determined by sight alone.

Short-eared Owl contacts that included vocalizations occurred from 29

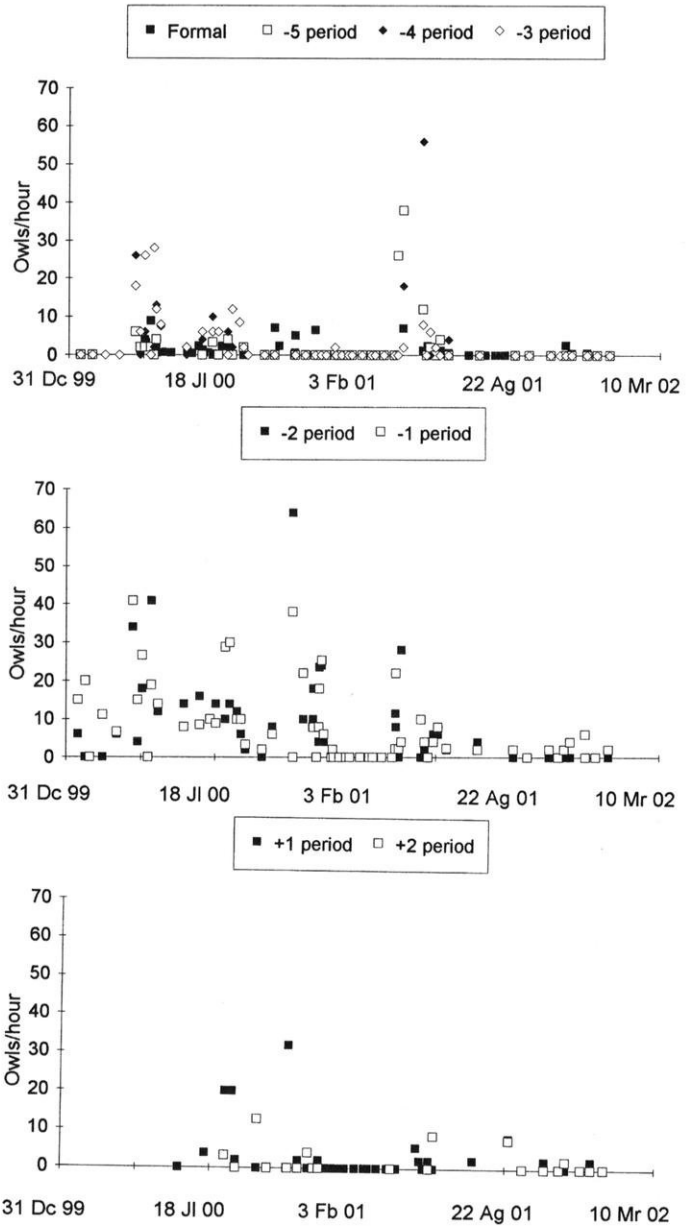

Figure 4. Short-eared Owl detections/hour by date from January 2000 to 1 January 2002 on formal surveys (during daytime, on foot, at Buena Vista only) and from informal observations. Data from informal observations are from the five 30-minute periods before and two 30-minute periods after civil twilight at Buena Vista, Leola, and Pine Island (see Table 4 and Figure 3). Both new and repeat contacts are included.

March to 7 December 2000 and 21 March to 11 May 2001, mostly in the evening crepuscular period but also during the day (Figure 6). This is consistent with Walk et al. (2000), who reported Short-eared Owl vocalizations around sunset and nocturnally, but not during their sunrise sampling period (they had no diurnal sampling periods); however, they had a shorter sea-

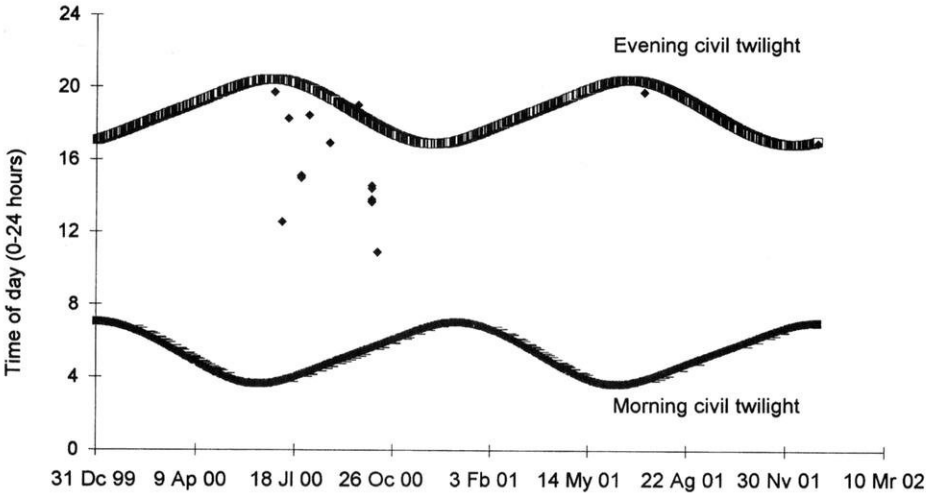

Figure 5. Date and time of day (hours CST) for each contact of Short-eared Owl young-of-the-year (N = 17) in relation to morning and evening civil twilight. All contacts occurred at Buena Vista.

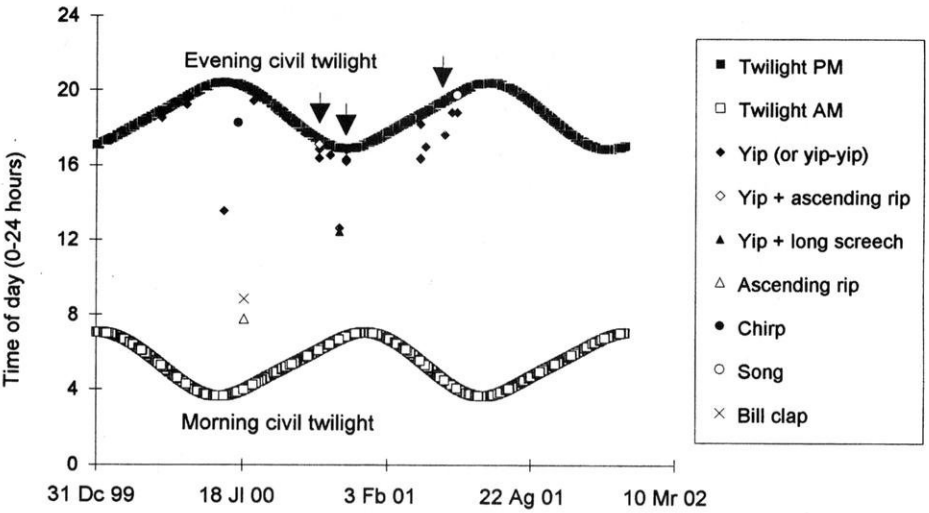

Figure 6. Date and time of day (hours CST) for each Short-eared Owl contact that included vocalization (N = 33 *yips*, plus one each for each of the remaining vocalization types) in relation to morning and evening civil twilight. Each arrow indicates a *yip* that can't be seen in the figure because it occurred at evening civil twilight. In several instances, multiple contacts that included *yip* vocalizations occurred at the same time, and so are represented by a single plot in the figure.

son of calling (only in March and not during April–July 1999). Fourteen of our contacts (five new, nine repeat) consisted of strictly auditory detection (i.e., we never saw the owl).

Most of the sounds we heard were variants of *yip* or *yi-ip*, a somewhat harsh or scratchy call (N = 33 contacts). This call is described as "*ke-ow*," with bark-like variants, in the literature, except as "*cheeaw*" in König et al. (1999). Once, the call was an ascending *rrrip* or *rrrunt*, another time the call was a combination of the two (*yip* and *runt*), and yet another time the *yip* was combined with a long screech. Either the *runt* or screech might fit the description "monotonous rasping squeal" in Clark (1975). Holt and Leasure (1993) described "*bark*," "*scream*," and "*whine*" as additional vocalizations by the species, which fit well with the various sounds we heard. König et al. (1999) described barking sounds as "*wow*" and "*jeff*." Once, we noted an individual bill clapping (or bill snapping) during an interaction between two Short-eared Owls when the other individual made an ascending *rip* call.

The one vocalization by a young-of-the-year was a repeated *chirp* that was short and reminiscent of the calls of gallinaceous birds. This juvenile flew up from behind and hovered over us before flying off and landing on the ground in full view. This call appears different from the food begging and contact calls described for nestlings in Clark (1975). However, Holt and Leasure (1993) cite DuBois (1923) as reporting an adult female giving a "*cuk*" call similar to a chicken (*Gallus domesticus*) when exposed to experimental nestlings. König et al. (1999) described a low "*gook*" contact call and an adult female food begging call (a drawn out screeching "*cheearp*"), which fledglings also do in a similar manner. The latter, especially, might correspond to the *chirp* we heard.

In one instance, we heard the song repeatedly (each song a rapid series of *boos* or *hoos*). This was called the courtship song in Clark (1975) or advertisement song in Johnsgard (1988).

Wing clapping occurred six times in three variants. Two individuals on 29 March 2000 at 0.3 hours before evening civil twilight and one individual on 4 May 2001 at 2.57 hours before evening civil twilight did single, silent claps with the wings touching underneath the bird as the bird made a dramatic descent. Three times the wing clapping involved rapid quivering, which made a sound similar to human hand clapping or avian bill rattling when the wings touched (on 11 May 2001 at 0.93 hours before and 0.1 hour after evening civil twilight, and on 17 May 2001 at 0.45 hours before evening civil twilight). Once, an individual did shallow wing clapping where the wings quivered rapidly but the wing tips did not touch (on 18 May 2001 at 6.32 hours after morning civil twilight).

Snowy Owls—Parmelee (1992) reports that the Snowy Owl is a nomadic species unpredictable in distribution during migration and winter, and our data reflect this. We recorded Snowy Owls in the 2000–2001 winter at Buena Vista (Figure 1), but not in the two winters before or in the winter following, including six observation dates between 19 January and 27 March 2002, and never at Leola or Pine Island. Our lack of Snowy Owl records in most winters is also consistent with Parmelee's (1992) observation that Snowy Owls are more regularly found during the

winter in the northern Great Plains west of Wisconsin.

We recorded Snowy Owls at Buena Vista in the one winter when we found no Short-eared Owls there. During the 2000–2001 winter, we first observed both Short-eared and Snowy Owls on 6, 13, and 25 December 2000, then only Snowy and no Short-eared Owls on seven dates from 3 January to 2 March 2001, then neither species on 16 March 2001, then only Short-eared Owls starting on 21 March 2001.

The 2000–2001 winter, when we recorded Snowy Owls but no Short-eared Owls, was colder than the ones before and the one after. Kinziger's (1997) analysis of Short-eared Owl winter roosting studies indicated that this species selects woody cover in colder winters and open (grassy) cover when it is less cold. Occasionally, we noted a Short-eared Owl perched in a lone tree, but overall the Short-eared Owls were in very open landscapes. We did not look in the wood lots and groves of both deciduous and evergreen trees that occur in and around Buena Vista, but we also did not note any evidence that Short-eared Owls were using them as roosting cover (i.e., flying to or from them), including in December 2000. Thus, our observations so far suggest that either Short-eared Owls are present and primarily in open grassland habitat at Buena Vista or are undetectable there at all. The presence of Snowy Owls during that one winter would be consistent with a climatic explanation for the lack of Short-eared Owls.

Weather—Several weather factors related significantly to how many daylight hours from the nearest civil twilight the owl contacts occurred (Table 4). Short-eared Owls were detectable more toward midday the cloudier it was. Likewise, the warmer it was the more out in daylight Short-eared Owls were. This may not relate directly to temperature, but rather to greater owl activity during daylight hours in the breeding season than in the fall and winter (see above). By contrast, Snowy Owls were more detectable in daylight hours when it was colder and windier.

For Short-eared Owls, there was no significant relationship between detectability and either precipitation or wind. However, 96.9% of Short-eared Owl contacts occurred when it was not precipitating. By contrast, only 53.3% of Snowy Owl contacts occurred when it was not precipitating and 46.7% when it was light/intermittent. However, we particularly avoided conducting observations during heavier precipitation in the winter, since this would be hazardous for driving much more so than in the other seasons. Thus, these observations suggest that Short-eared Owls are much more averse to activity (or being out in the open and being apparent) during precipitation than Snowy Owls are.

Snowy Owls also showed a significant positive correlation between higher wind and detection more in daylight. This species may be more inclined to be out in the open (i.e., hunting) during the day in more inclement weather. Snowy Owl contacts were fairly evenly distributed among the wind categories from none to 18–23 mph. The sample size is rather small for both number of contacts and variety of wind conditions these could occur under, and, again, we would especially avoid excessively windy days in winter because of the driving hazard from blowing snow.

Table 4. Spearman rank correlations of weather characteristics with increasing number of daylight hours from nearest civil twilight (see Figure 2) for Short-eared Owl and Snowy Owl contacts.

	Short-eared Owl			Snowy Owl		
	N	r	*P*	N	r	*P*
Cloud cover	746	+0.119	0.05	30	+0.043	NS
Precipitation	750	−0.011	NS	30	+0.046	NS
Temperature	724	+0.212	0.01	30	−0.448	0.05
Wind	638	−0.023	NS	30	+0.456	0.05

Our observations are consistent with Parmelee (1992), who reported that Snowy Owls hunt in all weather during the winter. By contrast, Short-eared Owl contacts were distinctly skewed toward light wind: 77% occurred within the range from none to 10–15 mph, and 99.1% occurred within the range up to 20–25 mph. Our observation periods for both formal surveys and informal observations, especially in seasons other than winter, occurred in a wider range of wind conditions.

Northern Harriers—We investigated relationships between Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl numbers because both species feed primarily on voles and because increased density of breeding pairs has been attributed to increased vole densities for both species (Robbins 1991). We did not quantify vole abundance during our study, and few bird watchers would have ready access to such information either. Instead, we would interpret a positive relationship in numbers of both these species as suggestive that vole abundance underlies it.

At Buena Vista, detection of Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers during the formal grassland surveys significantly and positively correlated. This was so under the narrowest conditions, where the data were compiled according to the strict survey protocol (detections only within unit and survey time, of owls not young-of-the-year): $r = +0.15952$ ($P<0.01$, N = 630 units) and $r = +0.42265$ ($P<0.01$, N = 75 dates; i.e., pooling all data for all units surveyed each day). The correlation became stronger when we counted all detections, including individuals within or outside the unit (i.e., an unlimited-width transect strip not bounded by the unit) and individuals detected in the short period we were at the unit before and after the timing of the formal survey: $r = +0.22201$ ($P<0.01$, N = 630 units) and $r = +0.53600$ ($P<0.01$, N = 75 dates). Evrard et al. (1991) reported a similar co-occurrence of both Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers during a vole outbreak in St. Croix County.

Although Clark's (1975) summary of interspecific interactions between Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls indicated a higher proportion of harrier aggression against the owls than we observed, his observations are certainly consistent with ours that Short-eared Owls reacted protectively against harriers. We recorded 29 incidents in which one to three Short-eared Owls and one to three Northern Harriers interacted with each other, for a total of 39 Short-eared Owls and 36 Northern Harriers (10 males, 23 females/juveniles, 3 unsexed) in interspecific behaviors. In 11 of these inci-

dents, the Short-eared Owl(s) were the aggressor, chasing the harrier(s). In 17 of the incidents, the Short-eared Owl(s) and Northern Harrier(s) were near enough to each other that the one species affected the location of the other species, but it wasn't apparent that one species was the aggressor. In one incident, a male harrier "attacked" a Short-eared Owl twice, but then the Short-eared Owl "scared off" the harrier. In all cases where one species was flying higher than the other—and assuming that the higher bird is in the position of greater power and control, per Clark (1975)—the Short-eared Owl(s) were higher than the harrier(s). The aggression between harriers and owls would seem attributable to their competing for the same prey base.

Acknowledgements

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Shoreline Characteristics of Urban Lakes as a Factor in Nuisance Canada Goose Problems

Increasing populations of Giant Canada Geese have resulted in goose/human problems at most North American cities with parks adjacent to lakes. A lakeside park in Winona, Minnesota, however, has no geese at all, despite a resident breeding population less than a kilometer away. In order to explain this absence, I analyzed human use patterns, footpath placement, and shoreline characteristics of selected Wisconsin and Minnesota urban parks. The lack of geese at Lake Winona was best explained by a 96.2% overlap between footpath distance from the water and a theoretical human-induced goose disturbance zone (± 10 meters) from the birds' preferred mean resting distance from the water, coupled with high human traffic on the path. Constant human disturbance within this narrow corridor along the water appears adequate to prevent colonization of Lake Winona.

by Philip C. Whitford

Giant Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis maxima*) are common in urban environments of eastern North America (Conover and Chaska 1985) and create conflicts with humans in parks where geese congregate. Goose droppings reduce park aesthetics, create a perception of potential health risks, and reduce water quality. Efforts have been made to reduce urban goose problems with chemicals that discourage feeding on grasses (Conover 1985), by modifying grasses present (Conover and Kania 1991), and by translocation or lethal removal of geese (Cooper and Keefe 1997). These methods have achieved limited success and/or evoked negative public response.

I lived adjacent to Lake Winona, Winona, Minnesota from 1986–1992 and

visited the large park that surrounds the lake daily. While geese nested on Boller Lake and also on an industrial park lagoon less than a kilometer from Lake Winona, there was no daily feeding or resting activity of this species in the park or on Lake Winona (Figure 1). Realizing that geese were a ubiquitous problem elsewhere in southeastern Minnesota (and had been since before 1980, when I gathered my dissertation study geese from Silver Lake at Rochester), I started wondering why geese had failed to colonize Lake Winona. One potential answer was the presence of a walking and biking path surrounding the lake. Yet other sites had such paths and still had problems. Clearly, the question to be answered was "What was it about Lake Winona and its park that discouraged geese from breeding or resting, and thus prevented them from achieving nuisance status there?" Two possible hypotheses that came to mind were: 1) the park failed to provide the daily needs of geese, or 2) human activity on the path, path placement, and human avoidance behavior by geese interacted in a manner that succeeded in reducing the attractiveness of the park for geese.

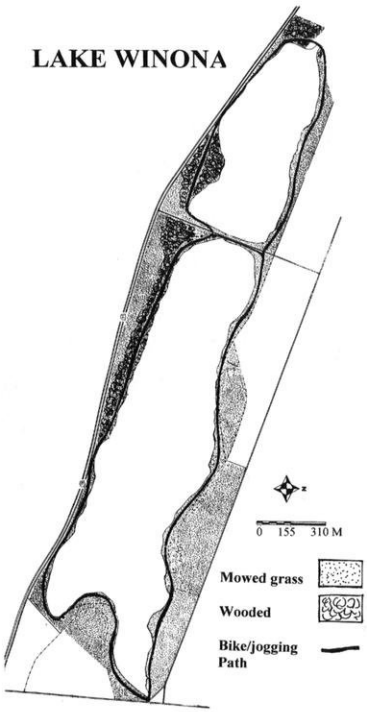

Figure 1. Lake Winona and associated bike/jogging path in park, Winona, Minnesota. Note the proximity of path to shoreline in all non-wooded areas, such that 96.2% of its length lies in the zone where human approach is likely to disturb geese resting at their preferred distance from water. The relatively smooth shoreline, lacking points that extend into the water and away from the path, leaves few sites for geese to rest without disturbance by human activities on the path. Based on original map by C. R. Fremling and R. G. Davis, Winona State University, MN, 1982.

The park certainly appeared to offer ample food and resting sites. Geese are grazers who prefer short-mown, well-fertilized grasses, so their needs are easily met in most parks (Conover 1985). Urban feeding sites of geese are characterized elsewhere (Conover and Kania 1991). Cursory inspection of stem density, color, length, and species at Lake Winona and other southeastern Minnesota sites that did have geese revealed no conspicuous gestalt differences in grasses present.

My dissertation research into giant Canada Goose behavior had made me aware that they spent 3 to 6 hours per day (more in winter) resting/sleeping on shore, but almost always near the water's edge in what I came to consider the preferred resting distance from water for the species (Whitford 1987). This knowledge led me to formulate my hypothesis that path placement might be a factor at Lake Winona. I speculated that heavy human foot traf-

fic on park paths that remained largely within this "preferred resting distance" zone would provide more or less constant disturbance and thus discourage colonization of the park by geese. If true, human use of correctly placed paths could provide a means to reduce urban goose problems without translocation, scare techniques, or costly chemicals.

Study Areas

Eleven parks/lakes/ponds were examined for presence of geese and characteristics of shorelines. In Wisconsin, the sites were Cochrane City Park in Cochrane; Trippe and Cravatz Lakes in Whitewater; and the following Milwaukee County Parks within the Milwaukee metropolitan area: Juneau, Jackson (Figure 2), Wilson (Figure 3), Washington, Dineen, Greenfield, and Lake Evinrude in the Milwaukee County Zoological Park. In Minnesota, the sites were Lake Winona in Winona and Silver Lake Park in Rochester.

Water surface area and depth information was gained from city records and park offices. All sites are bordered by large regions of mowed grass and are within incorporated areas leading to extremely restricted or no hunting options for goose removal. All sites, other than Lake Winona, had substantial resident goose populations and some visitor feeding of geese/ducks throughout the study. Lake Winona had two areas where locals feed resident Mallards.

Methods

All sites were visited two to three times in June–August 1992 and again in 1994 to determine path placement relative to water, estimates of resident geese present, habitat suitability, and hourly human usage. Lake Winona was revisited annually from 1991–2001 to check for presence of geese. At Lake Winona, Silver Lake, and Juneau Lagoon, the distance from the water to the center of the paved paths was measured to the nearest meter at 50-meter intervals around the shoreline circumference. On smaller bodies of water at other locations, I used 20-meter intervals to provide a larger data set to describe with greater detail both edge suitability and mean path-to-water distance. Mean distance from water edge to center of paved paths was calculated for each site in this manner. Note was made at each site of points of land extending into the water and/or islands where geese could rest with little chance of human disturbance.

At each path-to-water measurement site around all lakes/ponds, suitability of adjacent lands was recorded as well. Areas (greater than 0.5 hectares) of mowed grass adjacent to water were considered suitable for goose use for feeding, resting, and brood rearing. Lake margins of forest/shrub exceeding 50 meters in width, or dense stands of emergent vegetation more than 20 meters in width, as well as areas bordering heavily traveled four-lane highways, were considered unsuitable goose habitat. Percent shoreline suitable for resting/feeding was calculated by dividing the number of measurement sites with suitable adjacent lands by the total number of measurement sites per lake.

Human activity at locations other than Lake Winona was estimated to the nearest five people/hour based on four to six random one-hour observations per site made between 0700 and

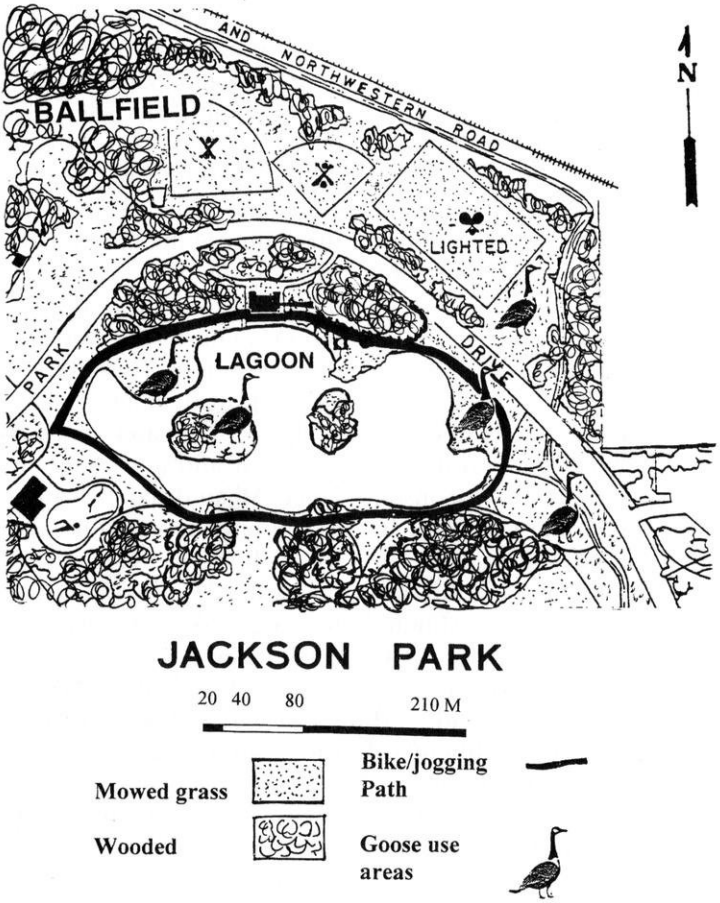

Figure 2. Lagoon and paths at Jackson Park, Milwaukee County Park System, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Unlike at Lake Winona, the bike/jogging path departs from the shoreline at several places, providing for geese areas free from most human disturbance along some 30.7% of the path's length. Geese use these areas extensively, contributing to conflicts with humans and contamination of the path and lagoon edges by goose feces. Map modified from original provided by Milwaukee County Park Commission.

1900 hours, June–August 1992 and 1994. Path use data at Lake Winona is based on published results of intense visual samplings, using 60 random half-hour observations per month, March–May 1990 (Swanson and Gilbertson 1990).

Since my hypothesis was that path placement relative to water was important in determining goose disturbance by humans, I attempted to determine 1) a mean resting distance from water for geese, and 2) a mean distance at which geese showed alert postures or avoidance behavior upon human approach. Mean resting distance was calculated at Silver Lake, Lake Evinrude, and Grant Park by measuring from piles of droppings deposited by individual sleeping geese to nearest water.

Figure 3. Lagoon and paths at Wilson Park, Milwaukee County Park System, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As at Jackson Park, the bike/jogging path is well removed from water's edge along 33.2% of the circumference of the lagoon, providing resting and feeding sites for geese that are adjacent to the water and free from disturbance. The presence of such disturbance-free resting sites may be an important factor in Canada Goose colonization of urban parks, at least across the Upper Midwest. Map modified from original provided by Milwaukee County Park Commission.

These measures were made in late autumn 1994, a period of the year when geese are neither nesting or rearing broods, because both of these behaviors strongly alter waterside resting patterns due to constraints of territoriality and gosling feeding demands. The distance at which geese became alert upon human approach was calculated by walking directly or tangentially to-

wards feeding groups of resident geese at Silver Lake and Grant Park. At the first sign of head raising, alert calls, or movement away from me, I stopped approach and visually marked the position of the responding geese before they left. Once the geese moved away, my late wife, Karen Whitford, measured my distance from that spot to the nearest meter using a 20-meter plastic tape. This process was repeated until all "novice groups" present at each site (geese not previously approached) had been tested. Only novice groups were used since I felt that repeated approaches by the same individual to the same geese might lead to habituation or excessive reactions, either of which would provide a skewed estimate of mean distance at which human approach caused disturbance to geese.

Prior to actually measuring the distances at which geese showed alert responses to human approach, I used 10 meters as an approximate disturbance distance in order to calculate the path placement/resting distance overlap with human disturbance distances. The 10-meter figure was chosen based on discussion with Minnesota DNR Waterfowl Manager, Rochester Area, Jack Heather. He stated that when fall migrants first arrived at Silver Lake, they avoided people who approached to within about 10 meters, but tolerated closer approach several weeks later (pers. com. 1991).

Since I was interested in defining a disturbance distance that would prevent geese from colonizing a previously unused site, it seemed prudent to use the rough estimate of 10 meters to calculate "percent overlap" between path distance to water and a hypothetical zone with the path at its center where geese could be expected to respond adversely to human presence. Percent overlap was calculated by determining what percentage of path-to-water measurements at each study site fell within ± 10 meters of the calculated mean resting distance from the water's edge; i.e., using a hypothetical mean resting distance of 9.7 meters, if 9 of 10 path-to-water measurements were 0–19.7 meters (9.7 ± 10 meters) then it was calculated as a 90% overlap. Statistics were prepared using minitab statistical package and an IBM 486 computer.

Results

Water surface area, mean depth of ponds/lakes, as well as percent suitable margin, mean path-to-water distances, percent overlap of paths/resting distance, and goose population for each site is summarized in Table 1. Lake Winona, while larger than all other water bodies studied, was similar in water depth and margin-habitat suitability. It differed in two major ways: absence of geese and the minuscule percentage of the entire foot path that was outside of the calculated overlap zone between the human disturbance distance and the preferred goose resting distance from water (3.8% for Lake Winona versus 22% for Dineen Park, the next lowest site, versus 90.3% for Silver Lake). Mean resting distance of geese from water was 12.7 meters (S.D. 3.3 meters, $N = 156$). Mean approach distance causing alert response/avoidance at Silver Lake and Grant Park was 9.7 meters (S.D. 4.7 meters, $N = 16$). High standard deviation may reflect varied experience with humans and/or differing age structure of groups, such as adults versus adults with fledged goslings. Human activity on the path at Lake Winona averaged 62.3 people per

Table 1. Characteristics of lakes/ponds in study, distance from paths to water where applicable, and percent of paths within a theoretical overlap zone in which human activity would intrude on preferred resting distances of geese from water.

	Lake/Pond Area (ha)	Mean Depth (m)	Margin Suitable	Footpath (km)	Path-Water Mean (m)	Path Outside Overlap Zone	Goose Population
Winona	127.0	1.6	57%	8.0	13.1	3.8%	none
Silver	14.1	1.8	85%	3.5	6.9	90.3%	350
Juneau	4.7	3.9	62%	2.1	28.1	78.1%	100
Wilson	2.9	1.8	89%	1.0	16.5	33.2%	150
Jackson	3.1	2.8	68%	1.0	11.3	30.7%	75
Washington	4.5	1.9	92%	0.6	11.7	41.6%	120
Greenfield	2.4	1.8	96%	1.0	10.2	34.7%	80
Dineen	0.9	1.9	90%	0.5	9.0	22.2%	70
Evinrude	2.0	1.7	44%	0.3*	18.8	41.0%	75
Cravatz	80.9	1.7	46%	NA*	NA*	NA*	200
Cochrane	0.4	1.3	100%	0.4	23.0	100 %	50

* Path at Lake Evinrude is limited to northeast one-third of shoreline, so percent overlap is based only on that portion of the lake bordered by the path. Cravatz Lake in Whitewater has no foot path surrounding it.

hour in May, 59.5 in April, and 28.7 in March 1990; of those, 26% were biking, 50% walking, 20% running, and 4% other (Swanson and Gilbertson 1990). I observed fewer than five people per hour on paths at Dineen, Washington, and Cochrane City Parks; fewer than 10 per hour at Greenfield, Jackson, and Wilson Parks; fewer than 20 per hour at Juneau and Silver Lake Parks; and more than 200 per hour at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Discussion

Clearly, something prevented colonization of the Lake Winona Park by geese, and this was in spite of local efforts by the Lake Winona Committee to encourage nesting of Giant Canada Geese there by introduction of large, round-bale "artificial" nesting islands in parts of the lake in the 1980s. Relative size of the ponds and lakes studied can be roughly estimated by comparing the lengths of the paths around them (0.5–8.0 kilometers). Yet size appeared to have little influence on determining presence or absence of geese. Mean water depths were roughly comparable for most sites, with 8 of the 11 sites (including Lake Winona) between 1.6 and 1.9 meters in average depth. Thus, differing water depth can not be used to explain the lack of geese at Lake Winona, since all other sites studied have resident populations. Further, geese are present locally less than a kilometer from the lake.

Lack of suitable habitat at Lake Winona did not appear a likely explanation for the lack of geese there, either. Ample mowed grass is present (57% of margin) of the same general species composition present at the other sites, though this is admittedly well below the 96% and 100% suitable margins found at Cochrane and Greenfield Park study sites, respectively. The remaining 43% of the Lake Winona margin either borders State Highway 14/61 or has more than 50 meters of second-growth trees with dense forbs

and shrubs, making it unattractive to geese. Still, I doubt this somewhat low percent suitability of lake margin compared to the other study sites can be used to explain goose absence, for this still leaves 4.7 kilometers of suitable habitat (more than 100 hectares) along the 8-kilometer path surrounding Lake Winona.

The soil around Lake Winona is derived of dredge spoils of a loose silt aggregate form. Following eutrophication problems at the lake in the 1970s, the City of Winona made efforts to reduce fertilizer runoff from storm sewers and shoreline areas, including reduced fertilization of the park's open areas. Thus, I would acknowledge that there is some chance that soil fertility surrounding the lake may be a factor that could potentially influence goose numbers, for it may, in theory, offer lower fertilizer concentrations than those preferred in grasses fed upon by geese.

Human traffic on the Lake Winona path is higher at all hours than at any other site studied except the Milwaukee Zoo. This level of human disturbance certainly has the potential to deter geese from developing the habit of resting there when the disturbance occurs at the preferred resting distance from water. Although the Milwaukee County Zoo had many more people, the greater distance from path to water there, the low overlap percentage, and the presence of only a partial path around Lake Evinrude prevented humans from strongly disturbing geese there on a regular basis. This gave geese the option of moving to areas where people could not approach and disturb them, an option not available at Lake Winona if they were to remain near the safety of water. The latter aspect—the safety that water offers to the geese—is probably most important to them during the flightless period of summer, when water offers the only real means to escape land-based predators.

Mean path-to-water distance at several parks was similar to Lake Winona's, roughly 10.2–13.1 meters. However, standard deviations for all such sites other than Lake Winona were greater than 10 meters, indicating that those paths varied widely in placement from the water's edge, thus indicating the presence of numerous points and shoreline areas where geese could rest without disturbance. At Lake Winona, standard deviation for path-to-water distance was 8.1 meters ($N=57$), indicating the path ran at a more or less constant distance from the water. Since the mean distance was 13.1 meters, the path here overlapped extensively with the preferred goose resting distance. Perhaps a better indication of this theoretically critical aspect of this relatively constant path-to-water distance was that only 3.8% of the path at Lake Winona was outside of the 12.7 meter ± 10 meter "overlap" zone calculated to represent the area where geese would be disturbed by human approach. In contrast, 22.2% to 90.3% of measurement sites at other parks studied were outside of the "overlap zone."

Islands and projecting points provide havens for resting geese. Silver Lake, recognized for its fall/winter goose problems, has both, with 90.3% of its path length outside of the overlap zone. In addition, much of the path there runs along the immediate water's edge, permitting geese to rest undisturbed at 12–13 meters from the water. In cool periods when low numbers of

humans were observed/hour, geese at Silver Lake were witnessed to selectively use the path as a sleeping site, presumably for the warm microclimate offered by the extensive thermal absorption and retention typical of asphalt (Whitford 1976). This, in turn, led to extreme loads of fecal matter on the paths and resulted in human avoidance of the paths; in essence, relinquishing the path to the geese. All goose-occupied sites other than Silver Lake that were studied also evidenced high percentages of the path outside overlap zones, commonly 30–40% or more. Such paths do little to disrupt colonization of the parks by geese even if human traffic levels/hour on them are high, as was seen at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

From this research it appears that the primary difference between Lake Winona (which still had no resident geese on 15 August 1999) and other study sites was twofold. First, high levels of human use of the walking path have existed since before the urban goose problem developed in Minnesota. This was fostered in the late 1970s by a city and local hospital based campaign to increase exercise on the part of Winona residents. This program culminated in the construction of the foot/bike/skate path, complete with exercise stations, completely around the margin of the lake. Second, it appears to be by chance alone that the path, when constructed, was placed at a relatively constant distance from the water. Luckily, it was at the correct distance to maximize the disturbance of geese by the high number of humans using the pathway. This constant placement was in large part made possible by the relatively smooth shoreline created by the dredge spoil deposition process that created the lake and park in its current form. If this conclusion is correct, creation and encouragement of extensive use of properly placed jogging/walking paths in new parks and business complexes has the potential to reduce colonization of such areas by urban geese and/or eliminate geese from established sites where they constitute a nuisance.

Author's note

Flooding of Lake Winona in the spring of 2000 created an isolated area of water and land away from the park paths and human disturbance at the east end of the lake. The first 10–12 "resident" geese appeared on the lake at this point in time. Local efforts to discourage feeding have been implemented in hopes of avoiding long term development of the goose population there. As a second comment, Milwaukee County has relatively recently permitted establishment of a roller skate, paddle boat, and sculling boat rental at Juneau Park Lagoon, with a concurrent increase in human use of the lake and paths and virtual elimination of the goose problem that had existed there, as witnessed on inspection 15 July 2002. Thus, there is clear evidence that increased human usage of parks with water bodies can and has turned the tables on some nuisance geese and allowed "nuisance humans" to reclaim them from the geese.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (Steenbock Awards Committee) and the Winona University Foundation and Capital University's Geist and Gerhold grant funds for

support of this project. Travel funds they provided made it possible to revisit sites and include several additional study sites that helped validate conclusion of this study.

I also wish to formally acknowledge all the enthusiasm, encouragement, companionship, and especially assistance with field work provided by my late wife, Karen Rae Whitford, on this and so many other research projects in the past 25 years. None of my life's work with Canada Geese would have been possible without her love, support, and dedication to me and the species. Nor would it have been half as much fun. I would be extremely remiss if I let her loss and her unseen contribution to the realm of waterfowl research go unrecognized or unacknowledged.

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The Spring Season: 2002

by Karl H. David

Wow! Most observers used nothing but superlatives to describe spring migration 2002 in Wisconsin. "This spring was really a treat," wrote Ron Hoffmann. "My personal variety was the best ever," added Jim Frank. "On top of that the numbers were crazy too." Besides six Black-throated Blue Warblers, he may have been referring to the now legendary tree in Ozaukee County's Virmond Park that held *three* Summer Tanagers at once on May 9. Karen Etter Hale echoed the sentiment. "This was the most extraordinary year for viewing neotropical migrants that I can recall," she wrote. Eight Baltimore Orioles fighting for access to her peanut feeder gives some clue as to what she was thinking, not to mention the four Orchard Orioles in her neighbor's yard or the ten Scarlet Tanagers counted in three hours. Did I mention that these events all happened on the same day?

And speaking of one-day wonders, consider what happened on May 6. At dawn, no Harris's Sparrows had yet been seen anywhere in the state. Throughout the day, e-mail after e-mail poured into the Wisconsin Bird Network announcing not "you've got mail," but "we've got Harris's Sparrows at our feeders, too!" Care to guess how many counties had recorded the bird by nightfall? Read the species accounts and be amazed.

You may have noticed that the examples given so far all refer to the later passerine migration. Other aspects of the migration elicited distinctly more mixed reviews. Philip Ashman, after noting that Lake Mendota (Dane County) froze over for the first time all winter in early March, pointed out that "the species that showed up during the mild February disappeared for several weeks waiting for conditions to improve before continuing their migration." The numbers bear him out: the spectacle of 225 Greater White-fronted Geese by February 28 in Columbia County was not repeated until March 13.

Shorebirding, as usual, was a hit-or-miss affair. There was a "Willet migration unmatched in Wisconsin birding history" (Bob Domagalski), with at least three encounters with flocks of 50 or more birds. Bill Hilsenhoff, on the other hand, felt that "the shorebird

migration was the worst I can remember."

As usual, there were little verbal gems buried in some observers' seasonal summaries and species descriptions. Robbye Johnson perfectly captured the stop-and-start nature of the migration due to the constantly changing weather by describing it as "a strange game of leapfrog." Asked on the rare bird report form whether he heard any vocalizations from the two Smith's Longspurs he found in a Lapland Longspur flock in Outagamie County on March 16, Daryl Tessen responded: "Might have called, but in 500 Laplands?!" But my favorite this year comes from Murray Berner. How long do you have to see a bird to be sure of its identification? Distance, viewing conditions, etc. aside, it depends to a large extent on how familiar you are with the bird in question. I've stared pointblank at a potential life bird for five or ten minutes only to find myself still unable to decide what it was after consultation of field guides. On the other hand, if the bird is very familiar . . . Berner's paragraph describing the Yellow-throated Warbler he saw in Portage County on May 16 ends simply with this: "Observation approximately one second, or long enough for the brain to register the identification."

Weather And Birds

Since I have a hard time remembering what the weather was three days ago, let alone three months, I wish to thank Karen Etter Hale, Philip Ashman, Murray Berner, Alta Goff, and Jerry and Karen Smith for excellent summaries of the season's weather around the state.

March: it almost seemed like the month that winter finally began, with a monthly average temperature barely warmer than January's. Open water closed up again. The advance of Red-winged Blackbirds and the like through the state could be described as "guarded," and many of these early migrants were still shy of extreme northern Wisconsin at month's end. Jefferson and Dane Counties recorded eight inches of snow on March 2, and temperatures fell to −10° F or worse on March 4. March 8 had "everything" (Goff) in Barron County: rain, lightning, ice, sleet, and snow. The temperature finally reached 38° F there on March 18, the same day the Portage County river impoundments reopened. Stalled waterfowl began to reappear and move north. The temperature reached a relatively balmy 59° F on March 29 in Oconto County.

Broken into equal thirds, April could be described as cool, warm, and cool. It was also quite wet: 3.0 inches of rain and 7.5 inches of snow in Oconto County. Sustained south winds the second week brought up the first big batch of landbird migrants. The number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was particularly impressive. Temperatures soared well into the 80s mid-month. Then it cooled off again, with some snow in southern Wisconsin on April 21 and a big storm in the northern part of the state on April 27–28, with over a foot of heavy, wet snow.

John Idzikowski observed that strong and sustained early May winds from the southwest pushed several species much farther north and east than usual; as already noted, numbers of Harris's Sparrows, Summer Tanagers, and Orchard Orioles were phenomenal. Overall, he rated it as perhaps the best

spring in 30 years for southern overshoots. It turned cold and wet midmonth; there was much comment on the spectacle of swallows concentrated over bodies of water and treetop warblers feeding on the ground in response. Even people not "into" birds couldn't help but notice them; Karen Etter Hale reported that bookstores were running out of bird books! Radar stations around the state were reporting the heaviest night of migration on May 15/16. The next morning, this observer noted mainly that the White-throated Sparrow hordes had departed downtown Milwaukee, but Tom and Carol Sykes enjoyed a huge warbler fallout (23 species) at High Cliff State Park in Calumet County. Many parts of the state had record lows around May 20; wind and rain often made it seem even colder. Temperatures finally reached the 80s more or less for good near month's end, as a final flurry of Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings indicated that the migration was effectively over.

Rarities

The WSO Records Committee accepted reports for sightings this spring of Anhinga, White-faced Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Black Rail (first state record), Mew Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird (two separate sightings), Swainson's Warbler (second state record), Western Tanager, Smith's Longspur, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, and Painted Bunting. The Black Rail was seen and/or heard at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment (Milwaukee County) between May 4 and May 8 by perhaps half a dozen observers. Full details on all these sightings will be found in the species accounts.

Early Birds, Late Bird

With global warming, real or imagined, on everybody's mind, it's easy to succumb to the perception that each spring migration is getting earlier than the one before. By a couple of measures, however, 2002 was not as early as 2001. One is the number of the 36 regular warbler species with arrival dates before May 1. In 2001, these numbered an amazing 31; this year it was a more normal 20 (although 37 species were seen in all; see above!). Another is the number of record early arrival dates established. Excluding those species rare enough to warrant review by the Records Committee, there were seven of these in 2001 and six in 2002: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Warbling Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blackburnian Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler. There were, however, two near-misses this year. The Baird's Sandpiper date was in fact tied, and a potentially record-early Blue-winged Warbler was unfortunately only heard. See the species accounts for details.

Establishing record *late* departure dates within the spring season, with the artificial cutoff imposed by the calendar, is much more of a challenge, but it came fairly close to being done this year with the incidental mention of a Snow Bunting on one of the reports of the Painted Bunting in Iron County from May 19. It was not suggested that the two birds were actually seen together—now that would have been a picture indeed! And it was still a bit shy of the record, also set in Iron County, of May 24, 1993.

Reintroductions and Exotics

The explosion in Trumpeter Swan reports (see species accounts) is indicative of the success of the numerous reintroduction programs. Whether or not all of this is wise is controversial: see recent discussions in "The Changing Seasons" in *North American Birds* (56:2) and "Point/Counterpoint" in *Birding* (34:4). Daryl Tessen saw four of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge Whooping Cranes at Grassy Lake Wildlife Management Area (Columbia County) on May 6. It was the farthest they had been reported from the refuge, according to the manager, at that time. A Common Chaffinch spent ten minutes at Hilary Ford's Walworth County feeder on May 9; on the same day, Lowell Hall found a European Goldfinch in Milwaukee County.

Statistics

A total of 312 species was reported for spring 2002. The total, a very good one, could easily have been one more, but no one reported a Black-backed Woodpecker. In addition, hybrids reported were Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal and Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler. These are included in the species accounts.

I arbitrarily decided that a county received a "minimal" level of coverage if at least one report with at least two dozen species was received. By this criterion, 46 of Wisconsin's 72 counties received such coverage, with a total of 106 such reports. Dane County had the most (9), followed by Grant (8), Dodge and Milwaukee (6 each), and Ozaukee (5). Eighteen more counties had at least one bird reported. Perennially underachieving Iron County finally made this short list thanks to the Painted Bunting (what else awaits discovery up there?). This leaves eight counties with literally no coverage: Forest, Jackson, Lincoln, Menominee, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Waupaca. Ninety-two observers (or observer teams) submitted written reports. An additional 43 people are cited from reports gleaned mostly from the Wisconsin Bird Network, for a grand total of 135 contributors and cited observers.

The Accounts

Twenty-six widespread, common, and mostly sedentary species are not included in the species accounts for lack of any conceivably useful information received: Canada Goose, Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BOP = beginning of period; EOP = end of period; TTP = throughout the period; WBN = Wisconsin Bird Network; WSO = Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Reports (1 March–31 May 2002)

Red-throated Loon.—Unusually, one was already in Manitowoc County on March 1, with it (or, more likely, another) still there on May 24 (J. Holschbach). Ozaukee County had 3 on March 17 (Stutz). There were two sightings in Sheboygan County (A. Holschbach, the Bras-

sers). The last report came on May 27 from Douglas County (R. Johnson).

Common Loon.—Reported from 30 counties, beginning with a Dane County observation on March 21 (Highsmith) and an Ozaukee County arrival on March 27 (Uttech). Berner tallied 77 on April 12 in Portage County. Reported from only one Mississippi River county (La Crosse County, April 6, Lesher).

Pied-billed Grebe.—BOP in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Earliest other reports came on March 7 and 8 in Ozaukee (Uttech) and Dane (Burcar, Evanson) Counties. Reported from 42 counties altogether, with no discernible gaps in distribution.

Horned Grebe.—Reported from everywhere except southwestern Wisconsin, spanning the period from March 20 (Ozaukee County, Uttech) to May 26 (Door County, the Lukeses). R. Johnson had over 100 in Douglas County on April 27.

Red-necked Grebe.—Well represented by 15 counties, moving from Dane (Burcar), Columbia (Burcar), and Green Lake (Wood) Counties on April 7 to Douglas County (R. Johnson) by April 20. In Burnett County May 28 (Wood). Ziebell had 6 in Winnebago County on May 11.

Eared Grebe.—Spring 2001 had seemed remarkable, with reports from eight counties. This year there were 10! Polk specialized in this bird, with sightings in St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire Counties between April 28 and May 13, including 8 at once in Eau Claire County on May 2. Up to 4 birds were also seen in Dane County (Stutz et al., May 12). Sightings spanned the period April 13–May 21.

Western Grebe.—Absent last spring, this species made no less than four appearances in 2002. Howe reported the first on April 29 from Racine County. The next day Polk had 3(!) in Chippewa County; one of these birds stayed until May 14. A Portage County bird May 8–9 was well documented (Janz, Schaufenbuel). The parade ended in Burnett County on May 20 (Paulios).

American White Pelican.—Found in 17 counties, beginning April 7 in Brown County (Schilke). A bird making a Portage County appearance on April 14 may have been a county first (K. Hall). Largest concentration reported was 150 (Dodge County, Tessen) on May 6. Fourteen birds were in Vilas County on May 5 (Baughman). In contrast to the previous year, there were few reports from southwestern counties.

Double-crested Cormorant.—BOP in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Early migrant reports were from Kenosha County on March 11 (Hoffmann) and Milwaukee County on March 23 (Gustafson). High counts from around the state included 2,500 in Manitowoc County on May 13 (Sontag), 500 in Marathon County on May 1 (Belter), and 1,120 in Ashland County on May 9 (Verch).

Anhinga.— Bruce vividly recorded his amazement upon finding this species in Winnebago County on May 17 (see "By the Wayside"). Accepted by the WSO Records Committee for the tenth state record.

American Bittern.—Six initial reports from April 11 (Hoffmann, Kenosha County) to April 18, including birds as far north as Barron County April 13 (Carlsen) and Vilas County April 17 (Baughman). Twenty-five counties filed reports.

Least Bittern.—Only reported from eight counties, with Columbia, Portage, and Vilas Counties forming the western demarcation line. Earliest report came on May 4 from Columbia County (Burcar).

Great Blue Heron.—Only one case of overwintering reported, from Adams County (Carlson). Five reports on March 13 marked the first wave of returnees. Active observers in northern counties often had to wait until April; e.g., April 2 in Ashland County (Verch) and April 6 in Barron County (Goff).

Great Egret.—Earliest reports on March 29 in Dodge County (the Huebners) and April 1 in Iowa County (Burcar). Found in 24 counties statewide, but heavily weighted toward southeastern ones. The highest count was 212 in Winnebago County on May 11 (Ziebell).

Snowy Egret.—The first of five reports came from Ozaukee County on May 13 (Uttech). Also represented were Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Oconto Counties. More unusual was a Vernon County report on May 18–19 (Jackson).

Little Blue Heron.—Reported from the following counties: Ozaukee (April 17, Bontly), Milwaukee (May 28, Idzikowski), and Manitowoc (May 29, Sontag).

Cattle Egret.—Found in nine counties, all in the southeast except for Portage and La Crosse. The Portage County bird (May 2–3, K. Hall) was believed to be a county first (Figure 1). The La Crosse County find (April 16, Lesher) was preceded only by Boldt's Milwaukee County report on April 15. The high count was 22 in Fond du Lac County on May 11 (the Sykeses).

Green Heron.—Six or so April reports, beginning with Ozaukee County April 12 (Uttech) and including a bird all the way up in Douglas County (April 23, the LaValleys). Reported from 34 counties.

Black-crowned Night-Heron.—An individual successfully overwintering in Brown County was reported on March 5 and again on March 29 (Van Duyse). Birds returned to Winnebago and Milwaukee Counties respectively on April 10 and 15 (Ziebell, Bontly). Ziebell had 330 in Winnebago County on May 11. More far-flung individuals turned up in Portage (K. Hall) and Douglas (R. Johnson) Counties.

White-faced Ibis.—Polk carefully documented an individual she studied several times between May 5 and May 8 in Dunn County. The WSO Records Committee accepted it as the ninth state record.

Turkey Vulture.—Reported as BOP in Sauk County (A. Holschbach). Next found on March 8 in Kenosha (Hoffmann) and Walworth (Parsons) Counties. Like Great Blue Heron, took about a month to work its way through the state, not reaching Vilas County until April 10 (Verch) and Douglas County until April 13 (R. Johnson, who nonetheless had 21 that day). A. Holschbach counted 92 in Sauk County on April 10.

Greater White-fronted Goose.—Migration already well under way at BOP; e.g., a flock of 25 in Green County on March 1 (Zielinski). Sauk, Marathon, and Oconto Counties formed the western and northern boundaries of the 17 reporting counties, with the report of a single Marathon County bird on May 11 (Belter) being by far the latest. Otherwise, the migration appeared to end with 14 birds in Columbia County on April 16 (Tessen). Tessen also reported the largest concentration, 250 on March 13, also in Columbia County.

Snow Goose.—Very similar in distribution and timing to the preceding species, but with stray individuals in Douglas and Vilas Counties.

Figure 1. This breeding-plumaged Cattle Egret is believed to be a first record for Portage County. It was photographed on 2 May 2002 in the Buena Vista Grasslands by Michael F. Zurawski.

Tessen counted 90 in Columbia County on April 6. Hung on in Lafayette (Burcar) and Calumet (Tessen) Counties until May 1.

Ross's Goose.—Once again, it was anybody's guess as to how often this once-rare species was actually seen, with many reporters not bothering to submit a description. Reports with some documentation numbered about eight and represented seven counties. In order of appearance, these were: Walworth, Dane, Columbia, Manitowoc, Chippewa, Outagamie, and Shawano Counties. The dates spanned the period March 13 to May 2. Polk described a blue-morph Ross's Goose in Chippewa County on April 11. Some believe such occurrences to be the result of Snow Goose gene introgression. Interestingly, Polk also found a dark bird in Dunn County on the late date of May 27 that she believed might have been a Snow × Ross's Goose hybrid. See "By the Wayside" and also "The Changing Seasons" in *North American Birds* (56:2).

Mute Swan.—Reported from 13 counties, with Iowa, Columbia, and Winnebago Counties forming the northwestern demarcation line for all sightings except those in Marathon, Ashland and Douglas Counties.

Trumpeter Swan.—See introduction. The number of reporting counties doubled—from 9 to 18—over the previous spring. Separating "countable" from "uncountable" birds is probably impossible at this point: Polk noted that 3 birds in Dunn and Clark Counties had red neck bands, indicating they were from the Iowa restoration project. The first reports came on March 10 by Stutz in Dane County and by Tessen in Manitowoc County. M. Peterson had 7 in Shawano County on March 12. A pair was observed at an empty nest in Grant County on May 24 (Lesher).

Tundra Swan.—Timetable perhaps a bit behind the geese: only 6 on the first report March 2 (Dane County, Heikkinen and Unson), and no megaflocks reported until March 18 (3,000 in Outagamie County, Tessen). Unlike the geese, also reported from more western and northern counties. The vast majority of the birds were gone by mid–April; Carlsen's 1,100 on April 12 in Barron County was the last large flock reported. There appeared, however, to be another small pulse in May, with individuals or small groups in Milwaukee County May 10 (Boldt, David), in Brown County May 30 (Lehman), and in Ashland County May 31 (Verch).

Wood Duck.—BOP Dane (Ashman) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties. Next reports fell on March 12 (Kenosha County, Hoffmann; Columbia County, Burcar). Absent on very few reasonably comprehensive reports.

Gadwall.—BOP in Sauk, Dane, Columbia, and Winnebago Counties, with three more reports by March 10. Present everywhere.

American Wigeon.—BOP in Sauk, Dane, and Columbia Counties; March 10 Ozaukee County. Widespread.

American Black Duck.—Still in Milwaukee County on May 26 (Frank). At EOP in Winnebago (Ziebell) and a few northern counties. Reported from 27 counties. Howe had 40 in Racine County on April 1.

Blue-winged Teal.—The main push appeared to be March 28–30, with eight county arrivals within that span. The least likely "puddle" duck to overwinter: the earliest reports were from Walworth County on March 9 (Fitzgerald) and Dane County on March 18 (Ashman).

Cinnamon Teal.—A male was found on April 8 in Perrot State Park (Trempealeau County) by Hunter and subsequently reported/photographed by numerous delighted observers there through April 13. Reports accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal.—Lehman reported one from Mead Wildlife Management Area (Marathon County) on May 29.

Northern Shoveler.—BOP in Columbia and Dane Counties (Burcar, Ashman), with Winnebago County following on March 7 (Knispel). Ashman tallied 250 in Dane County on April 15.

Northern Pintail.—BOP in Sauk and Dane Counties (Burcar, Ashman). Missed more often than other dabbling ducks, but still reported from 27 counties.

Green-winged Teal.—BOP in Dane County (Ashman) only. Reports from Kenosha, Sauk, and Columbia Counties followed closely between March 2 and March 9 just ahead of the main wave. Reached Marathon and Portage Counties April 3 and April 7, respectively.

Canvasback.—Overwinterers in Dane, Ozaukee and Winnebago Counties; next report Jefferson County March 10 (Burcar). Reached

Marathon and Portage Counties on April 7. On March 25, Lesher estimated a huge flock of diving ducks on the Mississippi River (Vernon County) at 50,000, with about 75% of them this species, the rest Redheads and Lesser Scaup.

Redhead.—Arrival pattern indistinguishable from the preceding species. Tessen estimated 3,000 in an offshore flock on April 13 straddling the Manitowoc and Sheboygan County lines.

Ring-necked Duck.—BOP in Sauk, Dane, and Winnebago Counties; three more counties by mid-month. Belter counted 2,500 in Marathon County on April 12; other concentrations of over 1,000 were in Sauk and Portage Counties.

Greater Scaup.—Scattered reports throughout the state, but all the big numbers were on Lake Michigan, with the Manitowoc/Sheboygan County flock (see Redhead account) containing perhaps 35,000 of this species. Noticeably scarce after mid–May.

Lesser Scaup.—Reported BOP in Dane, Ozaukee and Winnebago Counties. Highest counts were inland; e.g., 2,200 in Portage County on April 11 (Berner) and 3,000 in Marathon County on April 12 (Belter). Still to be found in Milwaukee County at EOP (Gustafson).

Harlequin Duck.—Three to four overwintering birds in Milwaukee County remained as late as May 14 (Frank et al.). Uttech tracked an Ozaukee County individual from March 10 to May 6.

Surf Scoter.—Almost all of 75 or so birds were in Ozaukee County (March 1–May 11, Uttech et al.), with isolated individuals in Milwaukee (Idzikowski, Figure 2), Sheboygan (Stutz), and Manitowoc (Tessen) Counties.

White-winged Scoter..—The maximum count in Ozaukee County (birds reported March 1–April 30) was 35 on April 13 (Tessen). Also reported in Sheboygan (1, March 10, Tessen), Portage (2, May 8–9, Berner and K. Hall), and Douglas (4, May 11, R. Johnson) Counties.

Black Scoter.—Ozaukee County March 1–April 4, with a maximum tally of 30 on the final date (Tessen). Tessen also counted 19 in Manitowoc County on April 13. Appeared in Sheboygan and Douglas Counties as well. Mild surprises were lingerers in Oconto (2, May 25, the Smiths) and Milwaukee (1, May 29–31, Idzikowski et al.) Counties.

Long-tailed Duck.—On Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Door Counties, from BOP until May 11. High count 100 in Ozaukee County March 17 (Stutz). The sole Lake Superior report was of a single bird in Douglas County on May 6 (R. Johnson). Exceptional was a Buffalo County report on March 17–18 (Berner).

Bufflehead.—Seen everywhere, often well into May. Belter had 600 in Marathon County on April 12. Found in Manitowoc County on May 24 (Sontag) and Ashland County on May 28 (Verch).

Common Goldeneye.—Consistently decamped from southern counties well ahead of the preceding species, usually by mid–April. A few lingered in Winnebago County until May 15, where Ziebell had counted 1,050 on March 23. TTP in Douglas County; the LaValleys had 1,000 there on April 13.

Hooded Merganser.—BOP in Dane, Columbia, Portage, and Shawano Counties; widespread by mid-month. Belter counted 500 in Marathon County on April 12.

Common Merganser.—BOP in same counties as previous species, plus Richland County. The general impression was that this was the first merganser to depart more southern counties, May 17 in Winnebago County (Ziebell) being among the later dates. There were 400 in Marathon County on April 12 (Belter).

Red-breasted Merganser.—Infrequently reported in southwestern Wisconsin (Grant and Trempealeau Counties only). Lingered on the Michigan lakefront until May 25 (Racine County, Howe) and May 27 (Manitowoc County, Domagalski). Frank had 750 in Ozaukee County on May 2.

Ruddy Duck.—BOP in Dane (Ashman) and Winnebago (Bruce) Counties. Next report March 10 in Jefferson County (Burcar). Two large concentrations reported: 1,000 in Jefferson County on March 29 (Walton) and 800 in Winnebago County on April 12 (Ziebell). In northern Wisconsin, found only in Barron and Douglas Counties.

Osprey.—Reports from 31 counties (same as 2001) all around the state. Almost half the initial reports came during the middle third of April, with just one March report (Sauk County, March 30, Burcar). This was a week ahead of the next sighting, which came on April 6 in La Crosse County (Lesher).

Figure 2. A pair of Surf Scoters swimming among scaup was photographed on 7 March 2002 off North Point, Milwaukee County, by John Idzikowski.

Bald Eagle.—Also matched 2001 in number of reporting counties (35). Lesher censused a two-mile stretch of the Black River in La Crosse County on March 18 and came up with 300–400 eagles.

Northern Harrier.—At BOP in at least seven counties, Langlade being by far the northernmost (Schimmels). Also reported on March 3 from Dane (Heikkinen and Unson), Sauk (A. Holschbach), and Winnebago (Knispel) Counties. Overall, reports from 36 counties.

Northern Goshawk.—Reports from the species' normal northern range in Douglas, Ashland, and Langlade Counties, with nesting in the latter county (Schimmels). An additional report came from Manitowoc County on April 7 (J. Holschbach).

Red-shouldered Hawk.—Early reports were March 6, Oconto County (the Smiths) and March 11, Manitowoc County (J. Holschbach); at least seven other reports later in the month followed. In all, tallied in 16 counties, including only Washburn County (Haseleu, April 30) in northwestern Wisconsin. Relevant to concern expressed for the breeding status of this hawk in southeastern Wisconsin during the atlas project was a sighting of a heavily molting bird in Kenosha County on May 27 by David, who had seen one in the same area in June 1999 while atlasing.

Broad-winged Hawk.—As in 2001, a single March report, from Portage County on March 28 (Berner). The next sighting was on April 6 in Barron County (Goff). Most common in mid–April, as usual. Stutz had 12 in Dane County on April 20. Reported from 24 counties.

Swainson's Hawk.—The only report came from R. Johnson, who meticulously described one she picked out of a kettle of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks in Douglas County on April 14. Accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Ferruginous Hawk.—Wisconsin's fifteenth accepted record occurred when the light morph adult that had been overwintering in Duluth, Minnesota, was caught on camera drifting across the St. Louis River into Douglas County on April 24 (Nicoletti, fide Svingen).

Rough-legged Hawk.—Found in 27 counties throughout the state, most departing sometime in March. Ziebell counted 10 in Winnebago County on March 23. Departed there on May 11 and from Ozaukee County on May 12 (Uttech). One EOP report (Barron County, Goff).

Golden Eagle.—Four reports: K. Hall, Portage County, March 27 (two birds); R. Johnson, Douglas County, March 29; Tessen, Outagamie County, April 1; and K. Hall again, Portage County, April 11.

Merlin.—TTP in Douglas County (the La-Valleys). Seven other March reports, beginning March 4, Marathon County (Belter). In southern counties, last reported on May 11 in Ozaukee County (Uttech). At EOP in Ashland County (Verch). Appeared in 20 counties altogether.

Peregrine Falcon.—The Wisconsin Peregrine Society reported 19 nestings, producing 50 young, during the season. All Lake Michigan counties from Kenosha to Kewaunee Counties were represented, each by one site (except for Milwaukee County, which had six). All these nestings were on manmade structures. Along the Mississippi River, there were sites in Grant, Vernon, Buffalo (3), and Pierce Counties; three of these were cliff sites. In addition, birds were sighted in nine other counties.

Gray Partridge.—Only one report from March 14–21, Manitowoc County (J. Holschbach).

Ruffed Grouse.—Reports came from 23 counties, with Dane and Ozaukee Counties the southeasternmost.

Spruce Grouse.—Two reports, both from Vilas County: March 27 (Baughman) and April 13, when the Smiths encountered a displaying male.

Sharp-tailed Grouse.—Mark Peterson reported 20 birds from the isolated population in Wood County on April 10. In the northwestern stronghold, reports came from Burnett, Douglas, and Bayfield Counties. The LaValleys had 32 on April 29 in Douglas County, and Verch had 25 on May 3 in Bayfield County.

Greater Prairie-Chicken.—Marathon, Portage, and Adams County reports were received. The high count reported was 28 in Marathon County (Belter) on March 23.

Wild Turkey.—Two interesting behavioral observations were related on the WBN this spring. O'Keefe (Pierce County) described a hen in her feeder flock that "separated herself from the rest by superior intelligence." This bird would fly to the top of the feeder and proceed to "shimmy, shaking seeds from the reservoir into the troughs. From her rooftop perch, she feasted to her heart's content while the less mentally endowed birds below scratched through the snow for leftovers." Polk (Eau Claire County) reported on a "knockdown, drag-out fight" her daughter and schoolmates witnessed between a turkey and a deer. At first, it was three deer vs. one turkey, but two of the deer shortly fled, leaving a less uneven one-on-one contest. Though "the turkey's beak was almost no match for the deer's deadly hooves," in the end the turkey prevailed, routing the deer "ignominiously." O'Keefe again: "Birds continue to amaze me."

Northern Bobwhite.—Only Richland (Burcar, Duerksen), Kenosha (Hoffmann), and Door (the Lukeses) County reports, and only the Richland County reports could be considered unclouded (geographically speaking) by suspicion of the birds' origins.

Yellow Rail.—A migrant was discovered in Milwaukee County on May 6 (Lubahn) as a by-product of the Black Rail vigil there. Breeding territory birds (2 in each case) were heard *ticking* in Green Lake County on May 14 (Schultz) and in Marquette County on May 20 (M. Peterson).

Black Rail.—A bird first reported from the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment (Milwaukee County) on May 4 by Idzikowski drew immediate concerted attention, ultimately being seen and/or heard by half a dozen or more observers through May 8. After three "hypothetical" previous records of this elusive species, this report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee as the first official sighting in the state.

King Rail.—Three reports were received, but only one accompanied by any details: a bird identified by its calls on a Winnebago County rail run on May 11 (Ziebell).

Virginia Rail.—Early reports April 9 (Dane County, Hutcheson) and April 13 (Racine County, Fare). Ziebell counted 11 on his Winnebago County rail census on May 11. Reported from 22 counties.

Sora.—Some idea of how much more abundant this rail is than the preceding species can be inferred from the fact that it was reported from 35 counties; far more dramatic is Ziebell's total of 208(!) on the Winnebago County rail census May 11. The first reports came from Kenosha County on April 4 (Hoffmann) and Dane County on April 9 (Hutcheson).

Common Moorhen.—Very poorly reported, with only four records (half as many as in 2001). Reporting counties were Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago. The earliest was on April 26 in Dodge County (Lesher), where Frank had 28 on May 19.

American Coot.—Noted at BOP in Kenosha, Ozaukee, and Dane Counties. First dated report came on March 12 (Rock County, Klubertanz). Reached Douglas County by mid–April. Flocks of about 2,000 were discovered in Walworth County on April 12 (Parsons) and in Marathon County on April 13 (Belter).

Sandhill Crane.—Already present in at least seven counties at BOP. Flocks of almost 200 birds were observed by Hale on March 12 and Parsons on March 13 in Jefferson and Walworth Counties, respectively. Reported from 43 counties—the same number as American Robin!

Black-bellied Plover.—Early individuals appeared in Racine County on April 28 (Fare) and in Kenosha County on May 4 (David). The last report came from Winnebago County on May 30 (Knispel). Reported in 16 counties; conspicuously absent from the southwest.

American Golden-Plover.—First observed in La Crosse County on April 16 (Lesher), with three more reports April 18/19. Final report from Columbia County on May 22 (A. Holschbach). All but two reports (La Crosse and Eau Claire) were from southeastern counties.

Semipalmated Plover.—Klubertanz reported the first in Dane County on April 18 (where Stutz counted 30 on May 26). Found in Barron County the next day (Carlsen). The remaining reports began on April 27 and ended with a Milwaukee County bird on May 30 (Frank). Found in 25 counties.

Piping Plover.—An April 29 Racine County bird (with leg bands) was a life bird for Howe. At two of the other three corners of the state were 2 birds in Marinette County from May 5 to EOP (the Smiths et al.) and a lone bird in Douglas County on May 11 (R. Johnson). The last observer added this poignant comment to her description: "Very familiar with this species as they used to nest here."

Killdeer.—One BOP designation, in Dane County (Ashman). One other report before the spate of five arrivals on March 8: a bird Burcar found in Iowa County on March 2. Douglas and Ashland County first-sightings of March 29 and April 4 indicate it took not quite a month to work its way through the state. Edged out even American Robin in number of reported counties (44 to 43).

American Avocet.—Another big year for this sought-after species. Birds began appearing on April 15 in Lafayette and Dane Counties (Burcar, Ashman). Eighteen were in Milwaukee by April 18 (Boldt et al.), but this was dwarfed by an estimated 50–100 birds in Green Lake County (Uttech) and 51 in Manitowoc County (Sontag), both on April 27. Last reports came on May 27 from Columbia and Manitowoc Counties. A total of nine counties hosted the bird, including Marathon (Figure 3) and Ashland Counties.

Greater Yellowlegs.—First sightings on April 1 (Outagamie County, Tessen) and April 2 (Racine County, Howe) stood for about a week as the only sightings. Triple digit counts were (barely) reached twice, as Tessen counted "100+" birds in each of Calumet and Outagamie Counties on May 1. Later reports included birds on May 17 and 18 in Dodge and Winnebago Counties (Frank, Knispel).

Lesser Yellowlegs.—Reports began April 10 (Green County, Burcar, and Washington County, Domagalski). A flock of 300 was estimated in Dodge County on May 14 (Tessen). Still in Winnebago County at EOP (Ziebell). Nosed out the preceding species, 37 to 36, in the number of reporting counties.

Solitary Sandpiper.—The Baumanns established Wisconsin's second-earliest record with a bird found on March 28 in Brown County (the record is March 23, 1988). The WSO Records Committee accepted this report. More usual were the next reports on April 13 from Jefferson and Washington Counties (Walton, Domagalski). In Winnebago County as late as May 28 (Bruce); in total, found in 32 counties statewide.

Willet.—See introduction. There was clearly a major movement of this species near the end of April: 8 birds in Crawford County on April 27 (Burcar) were merely a prelude to what transpired the following day, with submitted reports of 28 birds in Dane County (Stutz), 10–15 in Racine County (Fare), and 41 in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Possibly even greater numbers from Brown and Milwaukee Counties that day were not documented, though Gustafson later reported 53 from Milwaukee County on May 3. In all, 14 counties weighed in, with the earliest report coming on April 24 (Ozaukee County, Uttech) and the latest on May 29 (Ashland County, Verch).

Spotted Sandpiper.—Showed up mid–April in Dane (April 14, A. Holschbach), Milwaukee (April 16, Gustafson), and Ozaukee (April 17, Uttech) Counties.

Upland Sandpiper.—This declining species ("rare enough now to be noteworthy," wrote Polk about her Chippewa County sighting) showed up first in Ozaukee County on April 16 (Uttech) and in Milwaukee County on April 18 (2, K. Johnson). The final total was only 13 counties.

Figure 3. The spring of 2002 again saw large numbers of American Avocets migrating through Wisconsin. These three birds were photographed by Dan Belter at Everest County Park on Lake Wausau on 27 April.

Whimbrel.—This late lakefront migrant appeared simultaneously in Racine (Fare) and Milwaukee (Lubner) Counties on May 17, followed the next day by a total of 9 birds in Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties (the Baumanns). Manitowoc County hosted a flock of 17 on May 27–29 (Schilke, Walton).

Hudsonian Godwit.—Appearances (in order) in Milwaukee, Barron, Dodge, Portage, Chippewa, and Outagamie Counties from May 3 (Gustafson) to May 22 (M. Peterson) show the bird thinly but evenly distributed throughout the state. Maximum was 3 in Dodge County on May 19; one lingered there until May 29 (Tessen).

Marbled Godwit.—Two birds in Chippewa County on April 14 (Polk) just missed the state early arrival record (April 13, 1972). There was one other April sighting on the 28th in Racine County (Fare). The other reports, from seven additional counties, spanned the period May 3–May 22, with a maximum of 7 in Milwaukee County on May 3 (Gustafson et al.).

Ruddy Turnstone.—The first of 15 county reports came on May 4 in Racine County (Fare). Sontag counted 300 in Manitowoc County on May 27.

Red Knot.—As is its custom, appeared rather late, Sontag's Manitowoc County bird on May 18 being the first. However, R. Johnson already had 12 in Douglas County the next day, with Verch reaching the seasonal high of 18 in Ashland County on May 24. Hence, this may have been one of a very few, if not the only, lakefront species with higher counts along Lake Superior than Lake Michigan.

Sanderling.—Just one April report: Racine County, April 28 (Fare). Showed up in eight Great Lakes counties, as well as in Dane, Dodge, Winnebago, and Marathon Counties.

Semipalmated Sandpiper.—Seriously early was a Dane County individual on April 12 (Ashman, Stutz); this ties the third earliest arrival record. Not reported again until April 29 (Heikkinen and Unson), also in Dane County. Nineteen county reports included none from the southwestern part of the state. No large concentrations were reported.

Least Sandpiper.—Burcar helped herself to the third and fourth earliest records with birds in Green County on April 10 and in Dane County on April 11. One more normal April sighting ensued: Racine County, April 28 (Fare). Ashman estimated 100 in Dane County on May 14. The last of 24 county reports came on May 27 (Manitowoc County, Sontag).

White-rumped Sandpiper.—Earliest reports May 6 in Columbia County (Tessen) and May 7 in Dane County (Ashman). Twelve county reports, peaking at 20 or so in Marathon County on May 24 (Belter). One in Milwaukee County on May 31 (David).

Baird's Sandpiper.—A bird seen three times and carefully described between April 14 and April 20 in Chippewa County by Polk ties the all-time early arrival date (April 14, 1974). The same observer also noted 2 birds in Dunn County on April 23, all this preceding her first Least Sandpipers of the year! Appeared in nine counties total, scattered across the state. Ashman recorded 4 in Dane County on May 10.

Pectoral Sandpiper.—Eight county reports between April 11 and April 17, with the first on April 11 in Trempealeau, Columbia, and Sheboygan Counties (Tessen, Burcar, Frank). Stutz counted 150 in Dane County on April 23. Lingered in Ozaukee County until May 19 (Uttech). Appeared in a total of 23 counties.

Dunlin.—Recorded first by Ashman in Dane County on April 10. Still 130 in Manitowoc County as late as May 25 (Sontag). Among the other 21 county reports was one of 350 birds in Dodge County on May 20 (Frank).

Stilt Sandpiper.—Four in Columbia County, May 6 (Tessen); 1 in Dane County, May 7 (Ashman) and again May 10 (Evanson); 1 in Outagamie County, May 11 (Tessen); and 2 in Marathon County, May 24 (Belter).

Short-billed Dowitcher.—Found in Grant County on April 27 (Stutz et al.) and in Waukesha County on April 29 (Gustafson). Frank had a high of 28 in Ozaukee County on May 15. Widely reported.

Long-billed Dowitcher.—There were eight county reports, from Waukesha County on April 29 (Gustafson) to Douglas County on May 19 (R. Johnson).

Wilson's Snipe.—Reported at BOP in Dane County (Burcar), on March 4 in Iowa County (Burcar), and on March 12 in Kenosha County (Hoffmann). Found in 34 counties.

American Woodcock.—Not reported overwintering, with an initial report of March 10 in Kenosha County (Jacyna). Seven other March reports were filed. Found in 31 counties, a Milwaukee County report from April 24 being a bit out of the ordinary. Wildlife rehabilitator S. Diehl was called on to "rescue" an individual found in a parking lot in downtown Milwaukee. As he described it on the WBN, "It avoided capture by sheltering under the shrubs and when cornered, it flew out of the oasis onto the parking lot and went under a parked car, but when approached there flew back to the oasis as though magnetized. Once I saw that it was not injured, I stopped trying to catch it for fear it would run or fly out into traffic. It went back to probing the soil for (and finding) worms. When I commented on how amazing this little oasis of habitat was, the attendant said that the lot's owner had been trying to get the city to let him get rid of the trees and shrubs to squeeze in a few more parking spaces!"

Wilson's Phalarope.—A very good year, with reports from 18 counties (vs. 12 in 2001). Again, however, no reports from southwestern counties. Earliest were May 1 and May 2 individuals in Calumet and Winnebago Counties (Tessen, Knispel). High counts were 15 in Dane County on May 26 (Stutz) and 16 in Portage County on May 30 (Berner).

Red-necked Phalarope.—Returned after a complete absence in 2001, with reports from no less than five counties. Spotted in Dodge and Chippewa Counties on May 14 (Tessen, Polk). M. Peterson had 2 in Dane County on May 20 and another in Outagamie County on May 22. Finally came a Manitowoc County encounter on May 25 (Sontag).

Parasitic Jaeger.—R. Johnson gave a careful description of 3 light-morph adults coursing inshore on Lake Superior in Douglas County on May 14. This constitutes the seventh spring, and second earliest, Wisconsin record.

Laughing Gull.—An adult was at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee County, on May 11 (Boldt, Wood).

Franklin's Gull.—In order, showed up in La Crosse (April 1, Jackson), Manitowoc, Ozau-

kee, Chippewa, and Dodge (May 20, Frank) Counties.

Little Gull.—Three widely spaced sightings over a span of six days: the expected Manitowoc County on May 18 (Sontag); the very unexpected Chippewa County on May 19 (Polk); and, finally, Marinette County on May 23 (Wood). The last county is so lightly birded (or, at least, reported) that the logic of a sighting there can only be guessed at.

Bonaparte's Gull.—Back-to-back initial reports came from Walworth County on April 2 (Rohde), Dane County on April 3 (Ashman), and Dodge County on April 4 (Tessen). By April 23, Zehner had 1,000 in Milwaukee County. "Thousands" were in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties May 4 (Tessen), and Verch had the high count with 1,220 in Ashland and Bayfield Counties on May 11. Appeared throughout the state, and reported as late as May 27 in Milwaukee County (Gustafson).

Mew Gull.—A Racine County adult was found and photographed on March 30 by Illinois birders Hughes and Fields. It was subsequently seen by at least four Wisconsin observers through April 4. Accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Thayer's Gull.—Reported from five Lake Michigan counties; interior reports came from Columbia (March 23, Tessen) and Chippewa (May 12, Polk) Counties. There are only two June records for the state, so an individual lingering in Sheboygan County until at least May 30 (M. Peterson) is noteworthy.

Iceland Gull.—Robbins (*Wisconsin Birdlife*, 1991) classified this as a "rare" winter visitor and migrant, with "one to three nearly every winter since 1965" along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Keeping in mind a) the tremendous increase in active observers and b) the myriad difficulties of gull identification, specifically in the Iceland/Thayer's/Herring Gull complex, the explosion of more recent reports nonetheless remains remarkable. In addition to reports this year from four Lake Michigan and one Lake Superior counties, there were two inland reports: Winnebago County, April 2 (Nussbaum, Tessen), and Chippewa County, May 10 (Polk). Both descriptions suggested first-winter birds. Back on the lakefronts, the latest report came from Manitowoc County on May 19 (Sontag).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.—Is the perennial Dane County bird—reported this year in its usual location three times between March 12 (Burcar) and April 8 (Hilsenhoff)—still the same individual that first appeared in 1993? Gulls are certainly long-lived enough for this to be possible. Other reports came from Racine, Ozaukee, and Manitowoc Counties between March 20 and April 10.

Glaucous Gull.—Reported from eight counties, including landlocked Winnebago, La Crosse, and Buffalo Counties. Apparently the most loath to depart for Arctic climes was a Sheboygan County bird reported on May 18 by the Brassers.

Great Black-backed Gull.—Not reported on Lake Superior this year, but numbers along Lake Michigan keep growing: Tessen had 6 in Kewaunee County on March 16 and Sontag had 7 in Manitowoc County on March 24. They were reported TTP by the Brassers in Sheboygan County. There was an inland report from Winnebago County (April 20, Bruce).

Caspian Tern.—Returned very early, with reports on April 4 (Kenosha County, Hoffmann), April 6 (Dane County, Evanson), April 7 (Columbia County, Burcar), and April 10 (Racine County, Fare). Tessen counted 250 in Milwaukee County on May 4. Distribution heavily biased towards the eastern half of the state: 16 counties there, two Lake Superior counties, and Lafayette County (May 10, Burcar).

Common Tern.—Movement up Lake Michigan first detected on April 14 (Racine County, Fare) and April 15 (Kenosha County, Jacyna). Reached Door County by April 17 (the Lukeses). Scattered reports away from the Great Lakes. Largest numbers reported were 155 in Manitowoc County on May 20 (Sontag) and 156 in Ashland County on May 21 (Verch).

Forster's Tern.—Appeared April 10 in Racine (Horn) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties. Already in Portage County the next day (K. Hall). Showed up in all parts of the state, with 60 reported from Winnebago County on May 31 (Ziebell).

Black Tern.—Parson's Walworth County sighting of 4 birds on April 14 is the third earliest ever. Also relatively early was an individual in Washington County on April 25 (Domagalski). Twenty-three counties represented. Largest number about 20, counted in Marathon County on May 11 (Belter).

Eurasian Collared-Dove.—Continuing to lead a charmed life in a dangerous world of predators, disease, and exposure were the Oconto County pair first reported in May 2000 and an Ozaukee County as-yet-unmated individual present since July 2001 (the Smiths, Frank, respectively). Still a WSO Records Committee bird for now, and accepted as such.

Black-billed Cuckoo.—Burcar registered the first of 16 county reports on May 8 in Iowa County.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—Showed up on May 10 in Dane County (Stutz). Portage and Door Counties represented the northernmost of the 10 county reports.

Eastern Screech-Owl.—Reported from only nine counties: Richland, Dane, Waukesha, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Winnebago, Oconto, and Marathon.

Snowy Owl.—The number of reporting counties went down from 12 in 2001 to eight. The heaviest concentration appeared to be around Green Bay (Winnebago, Outagamie, Brown, and Manitowoc Counties). Reports were always of 1 or 2 birds. Two birds lingered into April: Winnebago County, April 5 (Ziebell), and Douglas County, April 8 (the LaValleys). One bird remained until May 3 in Ashland County (Verch).

Barred Owl.—Twenty-seven widely spread county reports, the five most southeasterly counties being, as usual, unrepresented.

Long-eared Owl.—Reports from Portage (Berner, K. Hall) and Douglas (R. Johnson) Counties, spanning the period March 27 to April 13.

Short-eared Owl.—The 2002 migration was far more muted than the previous year's, with no mention of any large concentrations in any of the reports (compare one 2001 report of 39+ birds!). Still, it was recorded in seven counties, beginning with a March 21 report from Racine County (Howe) and ending with a May 31 report from Adams County (Evanson).

Northern Saw-whet Owl.—All but one report (Douglas County, May 11, R. Johnson) came in March. The seven March reports spanned the period from March 6 (Dodge County, Gustafson) to March 29 (Rock County, Smallwood-Roberts), the last bird netted. The other represented counties were Richland, Marquette, Portage, Shawano, and Brown.

Common Nighthawk.—First sightings on May 6 in Sauk (A. Holschbach) and Milwaukee (Gustafson) Counties. Over 30 in Jefferson County on May 27 (Hale). Found in 30 counties.

Whip-poor-will.—First arrivals were in Dane County on April 15 (Martin), Richland County on April 16 (Burcar), and Ozaukee County on April 18 (Frank). Stutz heard 5 in Dane County on May 12. Reported from 17 counties.

Chimney Swift.—Twenty-four birds in Kenosha County on April 11 (Hoffmann) were almost a week ahead of the next squadron (Winnebago County, April 17, Bruce).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird.— The April 15, 1977 early arrival record was broken by an April 12 arrival in Dane County, reported by Marek. The Heidens reported yet another very early hummer on April 16 in Waukesha County. Both records were accepted by the WSO Records Committee. Otherwise, there were two more reports before month's end, with April 30 sightings in Ozaukee (Cowart) and Monroe (Lichter) Counties.

Belted Kingfisher.—Six BOP reports (Crawford, Iowa, Sauk, Columbia, Jefferson, and Portage Counties). March 2 and March 3 reports from Kenosha and Grant Counties undoubtedly represented overwinterers as well. Otherwise, reported on March 10 from Dane County (Burcar) and on March 12 from Rock County (Klubertanz). With at least three additional March reports, the species appeared to be far more solidly entrenched by the end of the month than in the previous year (five or so reports). Didn't reach Douglas County until mid–April (April 13 and April 19 arrival dates for the two active observers there).

Red-headed Woodpecker.—Two birds overwintered in Portage County (K. Hall). Three more March reports were received: March 10, Dane County (Burcar); March 22, Crawford County (Evanson); and March 31, Kenosha County (Hoffmann). Reports from 26 counties total. Poorly represented in more northern counties, and a strange gap in southeastern Wisconsin: no reports from Jefferson, Waukesha, Dodge, Washington, Sheboygan, or Manitowoc Counties, all of which had one or more active observers submitting reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Very interesting pattern. Report after report in much of the state gave an arrival date in the second week of April. The three observers active in Winnebago County, for example, gave dates of April 7, 7, and 9. At about the same time, birds were being reported as far apart as Milwaukee County on April 4, Door County on April 8, Richland County on April 10, and Douglas and Ashland Counties on April 13. In short, the rapidity with which the species covered the state was more typical of the pattern for a neotropical May migrant. The only report of a possibly overwintering bird came from Kenosha County on March 11 (Hoffmann). The report that began the "chain reaction" came on April 2 (Dane County, Ashman). The numbers were impressive too; David had 4 or 5 in downtown Milwaukee (Milwaukee County) alone.

Northern Flicker.—Overwintered in at least seven counties, as far north as Portage (K. Hall) and Oconto (Smiths). At least five other March dates were received. The three observers filing comprehensive reports from Douglas and Ashland Counties gave arrival dates in the April 11–13 range.

Pileated Woodpecker.—Continuing to monitor the southeastern border of its range in the state from last spring, we find only Ozaukee County reports (Frank, Uttech) coming from outside the resident range as given in 1991 in *Wisconsin Birdlife.*

Olive-sided Flycatcher.—An encouraging increase over 2001 in the number of reporting counties (18 vs. 10) for this mostly late neotropical migrant. Earliest were reports on May 6 (Evanson) and May 7 (Frank) from Dane and Milwaukee Counties respectively. Reports continued throughout the month, but multiple sightings were reserved for the final week: 4 in Sauk County on May 25 (A. Holschbach); 4 in Portage County on May 27 (Berner); and 2 in Racine County and 1 in Kenosha County on May 27 (David).

Eastern Wood-Pewee.—One April report: Dane County, April 30 (Heikkinen and Unson). May 1 in Portage County (Berner) was unusually early that far north. Most arrival dates were considerably later in May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—An excellent spring for this species, with reports from 18 counties, beginning on May 7 in Ozaukee County (Uttech).

Acadian Flycatcher.—Burcar found the earliest on May 9 in Grant County, where Tessen tallied 6 on May 15. Found in five more southern counties and in one county well beyond the breeding range given in *Wisconsin Birdlife,* with a Portage County report on May 24 (Berner). Berner also reported them there for the summer 2001 season, so the range may have been extended a good deal north in the last 10 years.

Alder Flycatcher.—Earliest reports were from Portage County on May 11 (K. Hall) and Dane County on May 12 (Heikkinen and Unson). Found in 18 counties, everywhere except in the southwestern part of the state.

Willow Flycatcher.—Five reports by May 9 indicate this species' timetable is considerably ahead of the Alder's. Not found beyond Trempealeau, Marathon, and Oconto Counties. First reported by the Brassers on May 4 in Sheboygan County. Reporting counties totaled 17.

Least Flycatcher.—Only two April reports (vs. nine in 2001). Birds were in Green Lake County on April 27 (Schultz) and in Dane County on April 28 (Stutz). Eight first arrivals May 1–6. Belter counted 65 in Marathon County on May 19.

Eastern Phoebe.—Earliest county report was on March 18 (Dane County, Edgerton); latest was on April 22 (Ashland County, Verch). The latter was no fluke, as first arrivals in Vilas and Douglas Counties were April 12 and 13. Clearly, this bird moves north slowly, at least this year.

Great Crested Flycatcher.—There were four widely spaced early reports before the main group beginning on May 4: Kenosha County, April 17 (Hoffmann); Dane County, April 24 (Burcar, Stutz); and Racine and Rock Counties, April 30 (Fare, Klubertanz).

Western Kingbird.—Returned after an absence in 2001 with no fewer than three reports. Tessen had one in Dane County on May 6. Lubahn found another in Milwaukee County on May 11. Fitzgerald reported the last in Walworth County on May 27.

Eastern Kingbird.—Very late, with no reports until May 3 (Door County, the Lukeses). Then, however, there were 11 county arrivals over the next three days.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.—As is so often the case with this bird, an individual turned up in Dreifus's Ozaukee County yard on April 14 just long enough for him and three family members, but no one else, to see it. Accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Loggerhead Shrike.—Though birds were located at two traditional breeding areas in Oconto County (April 5, the Smiths) and Ozaukee County (May 8, Uttech), there was no indication of possible breeding by EOP. The concerned reader will want to keep his or her fingers crossed while awaiting the summer report. Just one additional sighting came from Sauk County on May 25 (A. Holschbach).

Northern Shrike.—Found in 13 counties, south to Sauk and Dodge Counties. Three birds remained into early April, with final departures both on April 7 from Outagamie (Mosquito Hill Nature Center) and Vilas (Baughman) Counties.

White-eyed Vireo.—Overshooting migrants reached six southern counties, as far north as Sauk and Ozaukee. This happened between May 1 (Dane County, Hilsenhoff) and May 16 (Rock County, Klubertanz).

Bell's Vireo.—Reported from six southwestern counties, as far north as Eau Claire County (Polk, May 30). Polk described it as "getting rarer" at this northwestern frontier of its state range. Found first in Iowa County on May 8 (Burcar, M. Peterson).

Yellow-throated Vireo.—A bit like for Great Crested Flycatcher, there were a few early reports well before a string of first dates beginning on May 4. Lesher's initial April 26 Dodge County bird was followed by sightings in Green Lake County on April 27 (Schultz) and in Rock County on April 30 (Klubertanz). Found throughout the state.

Blue-headed Vireo.—Arrived quite early, with two April 19 reports representing only the fourth and fifth records before April 20. These were found by Lesher and Gustafson in La Crosse and Waukesha Counties, respectively. M. Peterson had another in Shawano County on April 20. "A bird that got away" in Milwaukee County on May 15 was a "Solitary" Vireo with no discernible yellow along the flanks (David). Unfortunately, the bird disappeared just after the observer realized what that might mean.

Warbling Vireo.—Fallow lowered the record early arrival date (April 19, 1957) with an April 17 individual in Dane County. Ashman's April 21 Dane County report may well have represented the same individual. In fact, two more Dane County observers gave later April dates. There was one more elsewhere in the state: April 27 in Sauk County (Heikkinen and Unson).

Philadelphia Vireo.—The vireo that's "just passing through" the state stopped to refuel in 18 counties, beginning on May 6 in Dane and Ozaukee Counties (Tessen, Uttech) and ending on May 29 in Manitowoc County (Sontag).

Red-eyed Vireo.—So you thought it was an early migrant year? This ubiquitous neotropical migrant wasn't reported until May 5, when it finally appeared in Ozaukee County (Uttech). There were so many May 6/7 dates, on the other hand, that your seasonal editor stopped keeping track after the first half dozen or so. Turning to Robbins' *Wisconsin Birdlife*, we find the statement that "most first sightings occur between the tenth and fifteenth [of May]." So maybe it was an early migrant year after all?

Gray Jay.—Reported four times, from Oconto, Oneida, Vilas, and Iron Counties.

Common Raven.—Reports this year from 14 northern counties, reaching as far south as Portage and Brown Counties.

Purple Martin.—First detected on April 11 in Trempealeau and Shawano Counties (Tessen, M. Peterson). There were seven more reporting counties by April 15.

Tree Swallow.—Many March 30/31 first reports, preceded by early sightings on March 20 in La Crosse County (Thometz) and March 24 in Waukesha County (Fitzgerald). Belter's best guess for a mass Marathon County assemblage on April 22 was 3,000. The WBN carried two interesting Tree Swallow anecdotes. Nooker encountered two fighting while she was checking boxes in Ozaukee County on April 29. They were oblivious to her approach, so she "picked them up, told them to behave, and sent them on their way." They did not resume their quarrel, at least so long as she was there. On May 10, Schwartz was out in a boat fishing in Milwaukee County when a waterlogged individual climbed out of the water onto an oar. He dried the bird off with a towel and enjoyed its company for about an hour before it finally flew off "as if nothing had happened."

Northern Rough-winged Swallow.—The previous record early arrival date (April 3, 1960) was lowered by over two weeks(!) with the appearance of a bird in Dane County on March 19 (D. Kearns). The sighting was accepted by the WSO Records Committee. It was April 10 before "for real" returnees were sighted in Ozaukee and Dane Counties (Uttech, Ashman). The LaValleys tallied 36 in Douglas County on April 18.

Bank Swallow.—April 11 in Portage County (Berner) was a more reasonable early arrival date than for the previous species. Triple digits for this species were recorded in swallow flocks seen by the LaValleys in Douglas County on April 18 and by Frank in Milwaukee County on May 14.

Cliff Swallow.—Arrivals in the middle third of April in 10 counties, beginning with a bird spotted by Berner in Portage County on April 11. Berner also recorded the highest concentration there, with 1,000 birds on May 16.

Barn Swallow.—Tessen found one in Columbia County on the outlandishly early date of March 13, lowering the record arrival date (March 15, 1978) by two days. The next report came on the more understandable date of April 4 (Kenosha County, Hoffmann). Even that hardly heralded the arrival of the main wave, as only four more county arrivals were forthcoming by April 11.

Boreal Chickadee.—Almost missed for the season, until Wood and Baughman reported them in Oneida and Vilas Counties, respectively, on May 24 and May 25.

Tufted Titmouse.—The number of reporting counties, which has been steadily increasing for a number of years, leveled off at 20, the same as for 2001. Excepting reports from Barron (May 18, Carlsen) and Portage (May 24, Berner) Counties, the demarcation line ran through Pierce, Trempealeau, Monroe, Sauk, Columbia, Jefferson, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Found in 33 counties throughout the state, throughout the period. Any apparent gaps (upper Mississippi River Valley?) could be explained by underreportage.

Brown Creeper.—Probably the first migrant was Uttech's March 15 Ozaukee County individual. Designated BOP or as "arriving" on March 1 or March 2 in Kenosha, Jefferson, Dane, Winnebago, Portage, and Vilas Counties. Apparently then, unlike most other "half hardies," overwintering distribution is not correlated with latitude.

Carolina Wren.—Seen by Hale in Waukesha County for the second consecutive spring as a "yard bird" off and on between March 24 and May 6. Hilsenhoff reported a Dane County bird on May 7, and K. Johnson found one in Racine County on May 22.

House Wren.—Twelve county dates the middle third of April emphatically proclaimed the bird's arrival, a Kenosha County bird on April 11 (Hoffmann) leading the parade. No far northern counties were represented in this first pulse; it had reached Florence County, however, by April 21 (Burcar).

Winter Wren.—First detected at the end of March with reports from Portage County (Berner) on March 28, a netted bird in Rock County on March 30 (Smallwood-Roberts), and in Outagamie County on March 31 (Tessen). Reported from 25 counties throughout the state. As for the isolated breeding pockets south of the main range, birds were still in Grant County on May 18 (Tessen) and Sauk County on May 27 (Stutz). A. Holschbach had 10 individuals in Sauk County on April 22.

Sedge Wren.—As in 2001, found in more counties (31) than the next species (24). Also generally arrived earlier, with six April reports vs. three for Marsh Wren. The earliest of these came on April 20 in Dane (Stutz) and Marathon (Belter) Counties.

Marsh Wren.—Reported first from Dane County on April 20 by Evanson. Ziebell's Winnebago County rail census on May 11 also tallied 334 individuals of this species!

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—Already present in Ozaukee, Winnebago, Shawano, and Langlade Counties at BOP, an overwintering distribution bringing that of Brown Creeper (q.v.) to mind. Then unrecorded until March 27–31, when six reports came in, beginning oddly (or not so oddly?) with Ashland County on March 27 (Verch). The other five counties were all southern.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—The first of 10 county reports by April 10 came on April 3 from Walworth County (Fitzgerald). This initial wave pushed it as far north as Marathon and Shawano Counties. Head counts included 49 in Dane

County on April 11 (Hilsenhoff) and 29 in Washington County on April 27 (Evanson).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—Not especially early this year, with a "normal" arrival date of April 12 in Milwaukee (K. Johnson) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties. Seven more county reports through April 19 followed. Stutz counted 25 in Dane County on May 4. North of Marathon and Oconto Counties, recorded only from Washburn County (May 19, Haseleu).

Eastern Bluebird.—Monitored through the winter by Hoffmann, Burcar, and A. Holschbach in Kenosha, Dane, and Sauk Counties, respectively. Two birds in Walworth County on March 8 (Fitzgerald) could have been early migrants. Well-reported throughout the state. Belter had 14 in Marathon County on April 13.

Mountain Bluebird.—Sightings of apparent males in Polk County on May 16 (Virant) and in Manitowoc County on May 23 (Geiger) suggested the image of a single lost bird getting even more lost by moving east. Both reports were accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Townsend's Solitaire.—A. Holschbach made sure it would make the seasonal report by checking up on the overwintering population at Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County on March 2. He found 2 individuals. And, indeed, there were no other reports.

Veery.—First seen in Dane County on May 3 by Burcar, with five reports May 5/6, including Door County on May 6 (the Lukeses).

Gray-cheeked Thrush.—An interesting contrast with patterns in the northeastern states, where it generally lags considerably behind the next species (though Bicknell's Thrush is now a confounding factor), in Wisconsin, they seem to arrive together. This year, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were first detected in seven counties May 6–7, Swainson's Thrushes in six counties May 4–6. May 6 Gray-cheeked Thrush reports were in Dane (Ashman, Evanson) and Milwaukee (Frank, Gustafson) Counties. Registered in 23 counties, the best total in the last four years.

Swainson's Thrush.—See previous species. One May 4 report, from Ozaukee County (Tessen). With 32 reporting counties, also established a four-year (at least) high.

Hermit Thrush.—A hardy individual made it to at least BOP in Dane County (Ashman); one was reported in the same county on March 19 by another observer (Fahrenkrug). Rock and Ozaukee County birds on March 21 and 24 (Ramsden, Tessen) completed the logbook for March. At EOP in Ashland and Vilas Counties.

Wood Thrush.—This worried observer (expending some effort doing so) did not hear his first *ee-o-lay* of the year until May 27(!), so found it partial comfort that this severely declining species is still being found in a representative range of arrival dates and counties. Numbers, of course, are the key; this year 16 were reported twice, in Ozaukee County on May 11 (Frank) and in Marathon County on May 19 (Belter). April 27 (Grant County, Burcar) was the only April arrival date, and Douglas County (May 11, R. Johnson) was the only reporting northern tier county.

American Robin.—BOP or March 1 designations on reports from 14 counties, including Ashland County (Verch). Latest noticed arrival date (there is some room for error here) was March 28 (Douglas County, the LaValleys).

Varied Thrush.—This year's only reported feeder stakeout was in Vilas County, observed by Baughman on April 12.

Gray Catbird.—Bettie Harriman had an intriguing individual in Winnebago County that came to her feeder on March 2 after a snowstorm. She had last seen a catbird there on January 31—the date of the previous major snowstorm! Not surprisingly, the species was not reported again until April 26, when Fare and Heikkinen and Unson produced the first of six end-of–April reports in Racine and Dane Counties, respectively.

Northern Mockingbird.—Five reports: Richland County, April 24 (Duerksen); Milwaukee County, May 5–11 (Idzikowski, Korducki); Ozaukee County, May 7 (Uttech); Rock County, May 21 (Paulios); and Racine County, May 26 (David).

Brown Thrasher.—A dozen or so mid–April arrival dates, beginning with an April 10 report from Racine County (Fare). Present on most relatively thorough reports.

American Pipit.—No fewer than three reports on the WBN during February suggested something unusual might be happening, but the first spring report filed wasn't until March 23 (Ozaukee County, A. Holschbach). An April 3 report from Dane County (Ashman) was then the last until the main body, when eight county

arrivals were recorded between May 4 and May 11. David had 6 in Milwaukee County on May 10. Lingered in Ashland and Douglas Counties until May 19 (Verch, R. Johnson). Absent from the southwestern quarter of the state.

Bohemian Waxwing.—Reported from nine counties, reaching as far south as Waushara (March 6, Hutler) and Brown (April 2, the Baumanns) Counties. Last reported from Shawano County on April 11 (M. Peterson). By far the largest flock (250) appeared to be the one in Brown County.

Blue-winged Warbler.—Scrutiny of arrival dates for this and the following species indicates that Blue-winged Warbler arrives earlier in the south and later in the north. This is logical, of course, as this is the more southern species, but it's nice to see the data confirm it! This spring, Blue-winged Warblers were especially early. Unfortunately, a potentially record early bird in Walworth County on April 13 (Parsons) was only heard and so cannot safely be designated this species. Nonetheless, Dane (Ashman) and Portage (K. Hall) County birds on April 23 and 24 suggested the very early nature of the migration. It reached as far north as Barron, Marathon, Shawano, and Oconto Counties, with May 21 to May 27 arrival dates.

Golden-winged Warbler.—See previous species. Earliest report was on May 2, Dane County (Stutz); the same observer counted 35 there on May 12. Already in Marathon County by May 7 (Belter). Sample of northern county arrival dates: Douglas County, May 11 (R. Johnson); Ashland County, May 16 (Verch); Barron County, May 16 (Carlsen).

Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler.—There were two reports, both of "Brewster's" Warbler: Portage County on May 15 (Berner) and Door County on May 16–22 (S. Peterson).

Tennessee Warbler.—Arrived in Sauk County on April 23 (A. Holschbach), in Grant County on April 26 (Burcar, Domagalski), and in Door County on April 27 (the Lukeses). These were the only April reports; the Lukeses also had a late Door County individual on May 30. Common migrant; almost every thoroughly covered county had it.

Orange-crowned Warbler.—First recorded in Ozaukee County on April 16 (Gustafson), in Dane County on April 17 (Heikkinen and Unson), and in Washington County on April 19 (Domagalski). Showed up in 26 counties, with three reports as late as May 27/28 (Manitowoc, Door, and Florence Counties).

Nashville Warbler.—Before this year, there were four records before April 23. Spring 2002 added three more, with reports on April 19 (Dane County, Heikkinen and Unson) and April 22 (Sauk County, A. Holschbach; Portage County, K. Hall). The April 19 report is just one day off the record (April 18, 1972). There were at least five other April reports. Tessen had 10 in Milwaukee County on May 9.

Northern Parula.—As early as McDowell's Dane County sighting of April 15 seems, it only ties for fifth earliest arrival. Another bird was spotted in Racine County on April 17 (Howe), who also had a late individual there on May 20.

Yellow Warbler.—No unusually early individuals; the floodgates opened on April 20 with three county sightings (Dane, Evanson and Stutz; Washington, Domagalski; and Portage, K. Hall). Four additional April sightings, all from southern counties.

Chestnut-sided Warbler.—After six April reports in 2001, settled for a modest May 2 first state arrival date (Rock County, Klubertanz). At least five May 6 county arrival dates were given.

Magnolia Warbler.—Not recorded until May 4 (Dane County, Heikkinen and Unson), but then in eight counties over the next two days.

Cape May Warbler.—Seen first in Jefferson (Hale) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties on May 5, then in six more counties the next two days. This initial spurt carried it considerably farther north than that of the previous species, which only reached Portage County. Cape Mays were in Barron County on May 6 (Goff) and in Door County on May 7 (the Lukeses).

Black-throated Blue Warbler.—The only nonaccidental warbler in the taxonomic order between Blue-winged and Blackburnian to fail to be recorded in at least 20 counties, it nonetheless reached a relatively respectable number of 17, up three from the previous year. Again, the western half of the state was blank except for Douglas County, where it breeds. Earliest reports came from Dane County (Stutz) on May 4; Ozaukee County on May 5 (Uttech); and Door County, also on May 5 (the Lukeses). Several observers noted high numbers (see introduction); Berner had 4 in Portage County, his first ever multiple seasonal sightings there.

Yellow-rumped Warbler.—Overwintered in Kenosha (David) and Milwaukee (Gustafson) Counties. The first big wave of migrants appeared to hit around April 11/12, prefigured by scattered sightings on April 7 in Portage County (Berner) and on April 8 in Waukesha (Gustafson) and Marathon (Belter) Counties. A straggler was in Milwaukee County on May 28 (David).

Black-throated Green Warbler.—Simultaneous sightings on April 12 in Walworth (Parsons) and Milwaukee (Lubahn) Counties became the fourth earliest arrivals ever. They made perfect sense too, with an unbelievable nine more April arrivals. For Jim Baughman way up in Vilas County, who recorded it on May 2, the only warblers preceding it were Yellow-rumped, Pine, and Palm.

Blackburnian Warbler.—Schirmacher and Walton's Dane County find on April 18 lowered the record arrival date (April 25, 1987) by a full week (report accepted by the WSO Records Committee). The next date (May 1, Winnebago County, Tessen) was more normal. An interesting twist: I described this species as "poorly represented" in southwestern Wisconsin the previous spring. As if in response, reports poured in this year from Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties.

Yellow-throated Warbler.—Reported from five counties, most unusually from Door County on May 14 (the Shillinglaws) and from Portage County on May 16 (Berner). Dane County sightings (although with no evidence of breeding yet?) now seem annual, with reports on May 13 (Stutz) and May 14 (Heikkinen and Unson). Grant County birds weren't recorded until May 24 (Lesher). That leaves Sauk County, where the record early arrival date seems to get lowered on an annual basis. This year A. Holschbach found it in Baxter's Hollow on April 14, lowering the record set just last year by exactly a week. This report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee. Curiously, later visitors were unable to find any birds at this location again until near EOP (e.g., Gustafson, May 22).

Pine Warbler.—First turned up for Berner in Portage County on April 11, quickly followed by five more reports over the next four days, including an arrival in Vilas County on April 15 (Baughman). A "moderately" difficult migrant to find in much of the state, like Black-throated Blue Warbler, both birds seemed to be on more people's lists than usual. Reported from a healthy 23 counties spread throughout the state.

Prairie Warbler.—There was little opportunity to add this species to one's state list this spring, as birds reported May 4 in Milwaukee County (Boldt) and May 9 in Waukesha County (Marrari) did not appear to stick around.

Palm Warbler.—A ubiquitous, conspicuous migrant. Frank counted 105 in Ozaukee County on May 9, where Cowart had found the first individual on April 12. The LaValleys had one in Douglas County just three days later.

Bay-breasted Warbler.—Registered a relatively modest arrival date of May 5 in Portage County (K. Hall). A number of observers thought numbers were substantially up.

Blackpoll Warbler.—The first of a healthy 34 county reports was received on May 2 from Uttech in Ozaukee County. Just four more reports by May 9. The species takes its time; first arrival dates (even in adjacent counties) are spread out throughout the month, much like for Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Cerulean Warbler.—Sadly, seems to have been surpassed by Blue-winged Warbler as the most solidly entrenched "southern" warbler, with but 12 county reports (vs. 31 for Blue-winged). Arrived April 25 in Kenosha (Hoffmann) and Rock (Klubertanz) Counties, with one more report before month's end from Grant County (April 27, Burcar). Beyond the southern third of the state, only Berner could find one, in Portage County on May 29.

Black-and-white Warbler.—Lived up to its reputation as a fairly early migrant with four reports spanning the period April 14–17, with two on the first date in Sauk (A. Holschbach) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties.

American Redstart.—As with Red-eyed Vireo, abundance is no guarantee of early arrival. Left first calling cards in Portage County on May 1 (Berner) and in Dane County on May 5 (Ashman); then appeared simultaneously in six counties (no farther north than Sheboygan County) on May 6.

Prothonotary Warbler.—An excellent spring, with the bird found in 16 counties, including the extreme southeastern counties of Racine (May 5, Fare) and Kenosha (May 12, Jacyna). Found first, however, in Rock County on May 2 (Klubertanz). Reports from Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Outagamie Counties suggest that an isolated population around Lake Winnebago depicted in *Wisconsin Birdlife* may be persisting.

Worm-eating Warbler.—Lubahn and Gustafson established the second earliest arrival date ever with a Milwaukee County bird on April 16 (the record is April 3–11, 1976, also in Milwaukee County). This also brought the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment list very close to 300. Just two days later, Schirmacher established the third earliest date with a Dane County individual. That was it for April reports, but before season's end it had turned up in four more counties, including Brown County (the Baumanns) on May 15.

Swainson's Warbler.—A major highlight of the season was the discovery of only Wisconsin's second individual in Brown County on May 22. A couple familiar with the species from Texas approached the Baumanns to report they had just seen one (Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Green Bay). The bird was soon relocated and seen well by four different observers, for all of whom it was a life bird. The only previous record accepted by the WSO Records Committee consists of a specimen from Dane County (May 9, 1976).

Ovenbird.—Arrived early: the first two sightings became the fourth and fifth earliest arrival dates ever. K. Johnson had one in Milwaukee County on April 12, Hoffmann another in Kenosha County on April 15. There was, however, only one more sighting that month, in Dane County on April 20 (Stutz).

Northern Waterthrush.—A tight cluster of five county arrivals in three days: Racine, Ozaukee, Kenosha, Sauk, and Dane Counties on April 17–19. First place was a tie between Racine (Fare) and Ozaukee (Frank) Counties.

Louisiana Waterthrush.—The first of 11 county appearances was in Sauk County on April 11 (A. Holschbach). Easternmost counties hosting the bird were Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Manitowoc; northernmost were Portage, Marathon, and Shawano. A. Holschbach counted 8 in Sauk County on April 14.

Kentucky Warbler.—Found as expected in Grant and Sauk Counties, with Tessen counting 16–18 in the former county on May 15. First reports, however, were extralimital: May 8 for both Racine (Fare, Howe) and Outagamie (Dunsmore) Counties. The last bird may have stayed in the area a while: Love reported seeing one while golfing in Brown County on May 24!

Connecticut Warbler.—Arrived first in Milwaukee County on May 7 (Gustafson). Not reported again until May 16. Reporting counties totaled 11. Only one report of birds (3) on territory within the breeding range (Douglas County, May 28, Wood).

Mourning Warbler.—A 2001 report that established the first April arrival date ever was not received in time for inclusion in that seasonal report: April 30, 2001, Brown County (Paulios and Roberts). This year, the species almost did it again, with a surprise May 1 appearance in Ozaukee County (Uttech). The second report was a more modest May 6 (Dane County, Heikkinen and Unson). A common migrant later. Note: with the new record, all of Wisconsin's 36 regularly occurring warblers now have April arrival dates.

Common Yellowthroat.—Commonly considered the second-hardiest warbler after Yellow-rumped, but this doesn't translate into across-the-board early arrival dates, in spite of a reasonably extensive U.S. wintering range. Nonetheless, there were five April sightings, beginning with April 18 in Ozaukee County (Frank, Uttech) and April 19 in Waukesha County (Gustafson).

Hooded Warbler.—A Milwaukee County bird found by K. Johnson on April 19 would have been the earliest ever had it not been for an extraordinary event as far back as 1950, when no less than 4 birds were found over four counties from March 27 to April 8 (see *Wisconsin Birdlife*). All other reports came in May. Represented were eight southern counties plus Portage, Shawano, and Door.

Wilson's Warbler.—Six county arrivals on May 7 were preceded by isolated sightings in Washington County on May 3 (Domagalski) and Dane County on May 5 (Stutz). Waukesha County on May 29 (Gustafson) was on the late side.

Canada Warbler.—Often viewed as "the last warbler through," it nonetheless made five county appearances before May 10, beginning on May 5 in Walworth (Fitzgerald) and Racine (Fare) Counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat.—Compared to the next species, dropped off considerably from the previous spring, both in number of reporting counties (from eight to four) and in the number of individuals (nothing remotely approaching the 8 individuals seen in one day by Burcar in 2001!). This spring, 1 or 2 individuals were located in Ozaukee County on May 10 (N. Cutright), Green and Dane Counties on May 13 (both Burcar), and Winnebago County on May

29 (Bruce). Two birds were still to be found in Dane County on May 28 (Ashman).

Summer Tanager.—The talk of the season (see introduction). The first birds may have raised no eyebrows, although they did represent the third earliest sightings ever: April 28 both in Sauk County (Mossman) and in Green Lake County (Schultz). Appropriately enough, the latter bird was at WSO President Bill Brooks' feeder, while (intriguingly) the first bird was noted in the report as "already present at the feeder two weeks." But this was just the prelude. Reports began flying thick and fast, the culminating event being perhaps the simultaneous observation of 3 Summer Tanagers in one tree with 7 Scarlet Tanagers nearby for good measure (Ozaukee County, May 9, Frank et al.). The center of the activity was around May 10–15, with birds remaining in Door County until May 23 (the Lukeses), Milwaukee County until May 24 (Janowski), and Dane County until May 31 (Stutz). Ten counties were involved in the event, confined essentially to the southeast of a line from Door to Grant Counties. Not all birds were aged or sexed, but roughly 4 adult males, 5 second-year males, and 3 females could be inferred from the reports.

Scarlet Tanager.—The "normal" tanager appeared to have a normal migrational timetable, although, as mentioned above and in the introduction, numbers were satisfyingly high. An April 24 Kenosha County report (Hoffmann) was well ahead of the next one coming on May 2 in Dane County (A. Holschbach). Then came 10 county reports on May 4–6.

Western Tanager.—LeClair photographed a male on her front lawn in Price County on May 4, thus sparing that county from inclusion again in the list of counties submitting no reports. The report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Eastern Towhee.—Only one rather modest outlier, an April 7 bird in Walworth County (Fitzgerald); then no less than 11 counties in the five-day period April 10–14. This initial tide carried it as far as Shawano and Door Counties.

American Tree Sparrow.—May "winter chippies" were found in at least eight counties (what would this statistic look like without feeders?). Most noteworthy this year would probably be a departure date of May 7 from Milwaukee County (Gustafson). Gustafson also recorded the overall latest date as a byproduct of enjoying the Painted Bunting in Iron County (May 20). Feeders probably also account for the ability of the Smiths to record the season's high count, 57 on March 4, in Oconto County.

Chipping Sparrow.—One March report: Dane County on March 28 (K. Kearns). Reports followed on April 5 (2), April 7 (1), and April 11 (4).

Clay-colored Sparrow.—K. Hall found the first in Portage County on April 20; five more reports were received by month's end. Scarce to the southwest. The LaValleys had 53 in Douglas County on May 10.

Field Sparrow.—No overwintering, or even March reports. Earliest was a Rock County individual on April 4 (Klubertanz). At least 10 more counties had reported in by mid-month.

Vesper Sparrow.—Touched down in 10 counties in three days (April 9–11). Dane and Walworth Counties led the way with April 9 reports (Stutz, Burcar). It may be a declining species, but it was still found throughout the state.

Lark Sparrow.—Found as expected in Sauk (April 23, A. Holschbach) and Iowa (May 15, Tessen) Counties; an unexpected individual surprised Verch in Ashland County on May 17. This is not unprecedented, as a 1976 county record can be found in *Wisconsin Birdlife.*

Savannah Sparrow.—One grassland species that seems to be doing fine, with 38 county reports and an individual persisting in its singing at the edge of a housing development all spring in Kenosha County (David). The species was first sighted in that county on April 4 (Hoffmann).

Grasshopper Sparrow.—Early date of April 23 in Sauk County (A. Holschbach), and two May 1 reports in Dane and Iowa Counties (both Burcar).

Henslow's Sparrow.—Though rarer than the previous species, it generally arrives earlier, as this year's first date of April 12 in Dane County (Stutz, Walton) would attest. Additionally, Richland (Duerksen) and Ozaukee (Frank) County reports on April 16 and 18, respectively, predated the Grasshopper Sparrow arrival. Also recorded from slightly more counties (15 vs. 14); the distribution was practically identical, with no far northern counties represented in either case.

Le Conte's Sparrow.—Records were sparse, but still enough to follow the species's

course north to the breeding counties. Boldt first found one in Milwaukee County on May 6. At the southern edge of the summer range, Belter had 3 on May 11 in Marathon County, while Polk heard a singing male on May 23 in Dunn County. Finally, birds were found solidly on territory in Ashland, Oneida, and Vilas Counties May 21–25.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.—Almost made it through the state undetected, but Baughman located an individual on May 25 in Vilas County that stayed to EOP.

Fox Sparrow.—Observed overwintering only in Kenosha (Hoffmann) and Dane (Ashman) Counties. The first migrants appeared in Washington County on March 17 (Domagalski) and Portage County on March 19 (K. Hall). Many observers reported durations of a week or less at their feeders (e.g., McInroy gave a range of April 10–13 in Burnett County). Still, there were a number of early May departure dates, the May 3 Dane County date (Ashman) rivaling the very latest date of May 5 in Douglas County (the LaValleys).

Song Sparrow.—BOP in about eight counties, none very far north, with evidence of migration generally beginning after the first week of March. The two Douglas County reports gave arrival dates of April 13 and 20.

Lincoln's Sparrow.—Reports from Dane County (Ashman) on April 19 and Douglas County(!) on April 21 (R. Johnson) remained the only reports until the pace began to quicken around April 28. Reported from 30 counties statewide.

Swamp Sparrow.—BOP Dane, Iowa, and Sauk Counties. Winnebago (Bruce) and Waukesha (Gustafson) County reports on March 7 and 12 were likely also overwinterers or late season wanderers, as the next report was not until March 23 (Walton, Jefferson County).

White-throated Sparrow.—Three designations as BOP (Kenosha, Walworth, and Dane Counties) and a March 5 Ozaukee County report (Frank). Easier to discern when migration started than for the previous species, as report after report gave mid–April arrival dates, beginning, interestingly enough, with April 12 reports from as far north as Oconto (the Smiths) and Door (the Lukeses) Counties. A few were still being recorded in Racine (Howe) and Milwaukee (David) Counties into the last week of May.

Harris's Sparrow.—See introduction. Rivaled the Summer Tanager phenomenon as the event of the season, not because the bird is less expected, but because of the massive synchronicity of the event: while absolutely no birds had been reported as of May 5, May 6 reports were ultimately received from no fewer than 11 counties, from Grant in the southwest to Racine in the southeast to Door in the northeast to Adams in the northwest. Before very long, 14 more counties had been reached, including a northwestern cluster of Douglas, Ashland, and Iron Counties from May 10–20 that suggests a migrational "course correction" towards the species' considerably more northwestern breeding range. The event was as evanescent as it was massive: the last southern report was on May 14 in Dodge County. There were no more reports after May 20.

White-crowned Sparrow.—Reassuringly normal migration compared to the previous species. Tom Uttech had a bird at his feeder in Ozaukee County on March 7; his next sighting there was not until April 22, synchronizing perfectly with a Door County report from the Lukeses on the same day. Two more April dates were received before a plethora of early May county arrivals. Not much evidence of lingering; David had them for just a few days in Milwaukee County, as opposed to weeks for White-throated Sparrows.

Dark-eyed Junco.—At least nine May departure dates were noted for counties well south of its summer range; e.g., May 19 for Ozaukee (Frank) and Oconto (the Smiths) Counties and May 26 for Door County (the Lukeses).

Lapland Longspur.—Found in 17 counties, none northwestern and none north of a Marathon/Shawano/Oconto County line. Large flocks spilling over from the winter season included 700 in Shawano County on March 4 (Peterson); 500 in Dane County on March 6 (Ashman); and another 500 in Outagamie County on March 16, a flock that held a nice surprise for the observer, as the next species account will show. April flocks dwindled to below 250, and stragglers were reported until May 17 in Dodge (Frank) and Portage (K. Hall) Counties.

Smith's Longspur.—Wisconsin's eleventh record (accepted by the WSO Records Committee) was formed when Daryl Tessen picked 2 birds out of the Outagamie County Lapland Longspur flock mentioned for March 16 in the previous species account.

Snow Bunting.—Found in 15 counties, heavily biased toward Lake Michigan and with no southwestern counties among them. Flocks were of very modest size, with none in triple digits noted. Ostensibly final reports on April 11 from Green Lake County (Tessen) and on April 19 from Manitowoc County (J. Holschbach) were completely superseded with the incidental mention of a Snow Bunting sighting on one of the Iron County Painted Bunting reports (May 19, Bates).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—A good 11 county arrivals in April, the earliest being on April 25 in Outagamie County (Mosquito Hill Nature Center). Other more northerly counties represented in this batch were Barron, Portage, Door, and Oconto Counties.

Blue Grosbeak.—S. Cutright discovered an adult male calling in Ozaukee County on May 21. His report was accepted by the WSO Records Committee.

Lazuli Bunting.—S. Smith observed a "very tired, almost tame" male for over half an hour in Milwaukee County on April 26. The WSO Records Committee accepted it as only the state's fifth record, and the first since 1984.

Indigo Bunting.—Walton's Jefferson County bird on April 22 was early, and remained the only sighting until May 5 (Racine County, Fare). The map filled up quickly after that, with five county arrivals on May 6 alone.

Painted Bunting.—"What an absolutely marvelous record, putting an exclamation mark on probably the biggest May migrational overshoot ever recorded," wrote Idzikowksi about the individual (bonus: an adult male) first reported at the Skowlund's Iron County feeder on May 19 by Bates and subsequently seen by numerous observers on that and the following day. The WSO Records Committee accepted this as the ninth state record.

Dickcissel.—This observer's candidate for the consistently latest-arriving resident species. Found this season only in Dane County, beginning with 2 birds on May 23 (Feith) and ending with 10 on May 30 (M. Peterson).

Bobolink.—Sightings before May 1 in Kenosha County on April 20 (Hoffmann), Richland County on April 29 (Duerksen), and Portage County on April 30 (K. Hall). Found throughout the state.

Red-winged Blackbird.—BOP or March 1 in nine counties, as far north as Shawano County (M. Peterson). The Smiths noted their first female in Oconto County as late as April 5. Reached Vilas County March 31 and Douglas County April 2.

Eastern Meadowlark.—Burcar kept track of overwintering in Dane County. Next reports came on March 10 from Oconto County (the Smiths) and March 11 from Kenosha County (Hoffmann). The Smiths recorded 16 in Oconto County on May 5. Northern tier county arrival dates ran from April 5 to April 21.

Western Meadowlark.—Reported this year from 14 counties, the same as in 2001. However, was not reported any farther east than Walworth and Outagamie Counties. Good coverage in southwestern counties, where it was present at BOP (Iowa County, Burcar). Arrived in Portage County on March 27 (Berner) and in Douglas County on May 2 (the LaValleys).

Yellow-headed Blackbird.—Earliest reports April 4 (Kenosha County, Hoffmann) and April 14 (Fond du Lac County, Tessen). Reported from 21 counties. By far the highest count came from Ziebell in Winnebago County (234 on May 11; compare Sora and Marsh Wren accounts).

Rusty Blackbird.—If anything remained of the huge Dodge County blackbird flocks that obliterated Christmas Count records for numbers of individuals, there was little indication from the spring seasonal reports. Six Green County birds on March 2 (Zielinski) and a Walworth County report on March 8 (Fitzgerald) were about it for early March. Three March 13 county reports sounded like the beginning of the migration. Belter reported 40 in Marathon County April 23, and Uttech still had one in Ozaukee County May 11.

Brewer's Blackbird.—See previous account. Given this species' later migrational timetable, four reports March 7–13 could have represented overwinterers (Walworth, Jefferson, Ozaukee, and Fond du Lac Counties). Brown County birds on March 23 (the Baumanns) could easily have been migrants. No reports from southwestern, or even the heavily covered south central, counties (no reports from Dane, Columbia, or Sauk Counties!).

Common Grackle.—BOP in two counties (Dane and Dodge) and very early March in two more (Jefferson and Walworth). Multiple arrival

dates beginning March 8 would indicate the serious beginning of the migration. Eased into northern tier counties just before the end of the month (March 29–31).

Brown-headed Cowbird.—BOP in Iowa (Burcar) and Washington (Domagalski) Counties. Only seven more reports by March 15. Many northern counties remained cowbird-free until early or even mid-April; e.g., April 13 in Douglas County (R. Johnson, the LaValleys) and April 15 in Langlade County (Schimmels).

Orchard Oriole.—Another neotropical migrant reported in unusually high numbers (see introduction). Recorded first in Iowa County May 1 (Burcar); in Rock County May 2 (Klubertanz); and in Ozaukee County May 2, returning to the Panetti's feeder there for the seventh consecutive year. The northern boundary for the 14 reporting counties was formed by Trempealeau, Portage, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Baltimore Oriole.—First reports April 23 in Sauk (A. Holschbach) and April 24 in Milwaukee (David) Counties.

Pine Grosbeak.—Reported three times: March 1–10 in Langlade County (Schimmels); March 20 in Douglas County (the LaValleys); and April 12 in Door County (the Lukeses).

Purple Finch.—Unreported only from west-central Wisconsin, but this area was very thinly covered this season. Late southern reports included May 7 in Milwaukee County (Frank) and May 10 in Waukesha County (Gustafson).

Red Crossbill.—Larry Johnson had both crossbills this spring in Monroe County, reporting 3 of this species on March 8. Berner also had 3 April 3–21 in Portage County, and Baughman reported them from Vilas County March 12–May 27.

White-winged Crossbill.—Reported March 29 from Door County (the Lukeses) and May 23 from Monroe County (L. Johnson).

Common Redpoll.—Missed entirely last spring, this year it turned up in 13 counties, essentially north of a line from Brown to Burnett Counties, except for a report of a "small flock" in Racine County March 9 (DeBoer). Largest flock reported was 100+ in Brown County on March 29 (the Baumanns). April 14 was the last date given, simultaneously in Door, Burnett, and Douglas Counties.

Pine Siskin.—A bird that shows up whenever and wherever it wants to. Reports throughout the state throughout the season, with no discernible pattern. To wit: in Manitowoc County, J. Holschbach observed it from March 26 to April 21, while Sontag reported it on May 16 only. Few people specified numbers. Belter reported 14 in Marathon County on April 20, and Hale found 8 in Jefferson County on May 7.

Evening Grosbeak.—Reported from Douglas, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Marathon, Shawano, and Oconto Counties. In the purely speculative category, this observer bumped into a Racine County feeder watcher who said she had them for "one day only" sometime in May on their way back north. According to her, the flock arrived, cleaned out her feeder, and left.

Errata

Errors were inadvertently introduced into the accounts for Red-winged Blackbird and Eastern Meadowlark in Ken Lange's winter season 2001–02 report in the fall 2002 issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* (Vol. 64, No. 3, p. 183). Corrected versions follow:

Red-winged Blackbird.—TTP, or probably so, in these counties: Walworth, Dane, Winnebago, Marathon, and Door; maximum 40+ in Marathon County on 1 January (Belter). January records for Jefferson, Dodge, and La Crosse Counties. Migrants by at least 13 February in southeastern Wisconsin; 22 February in Dane County; and 24 February in Iowa, Sauk, and Oconto Counties. Also flocks of 60–80 by EOP in Racine and Walworth Counties (m. obs.).

Eastern Meadowlark.—After the CBCs, two reports: Door County, 25 January–EOP (Lukes), and Ozaukee County, 25 February (Uttech).

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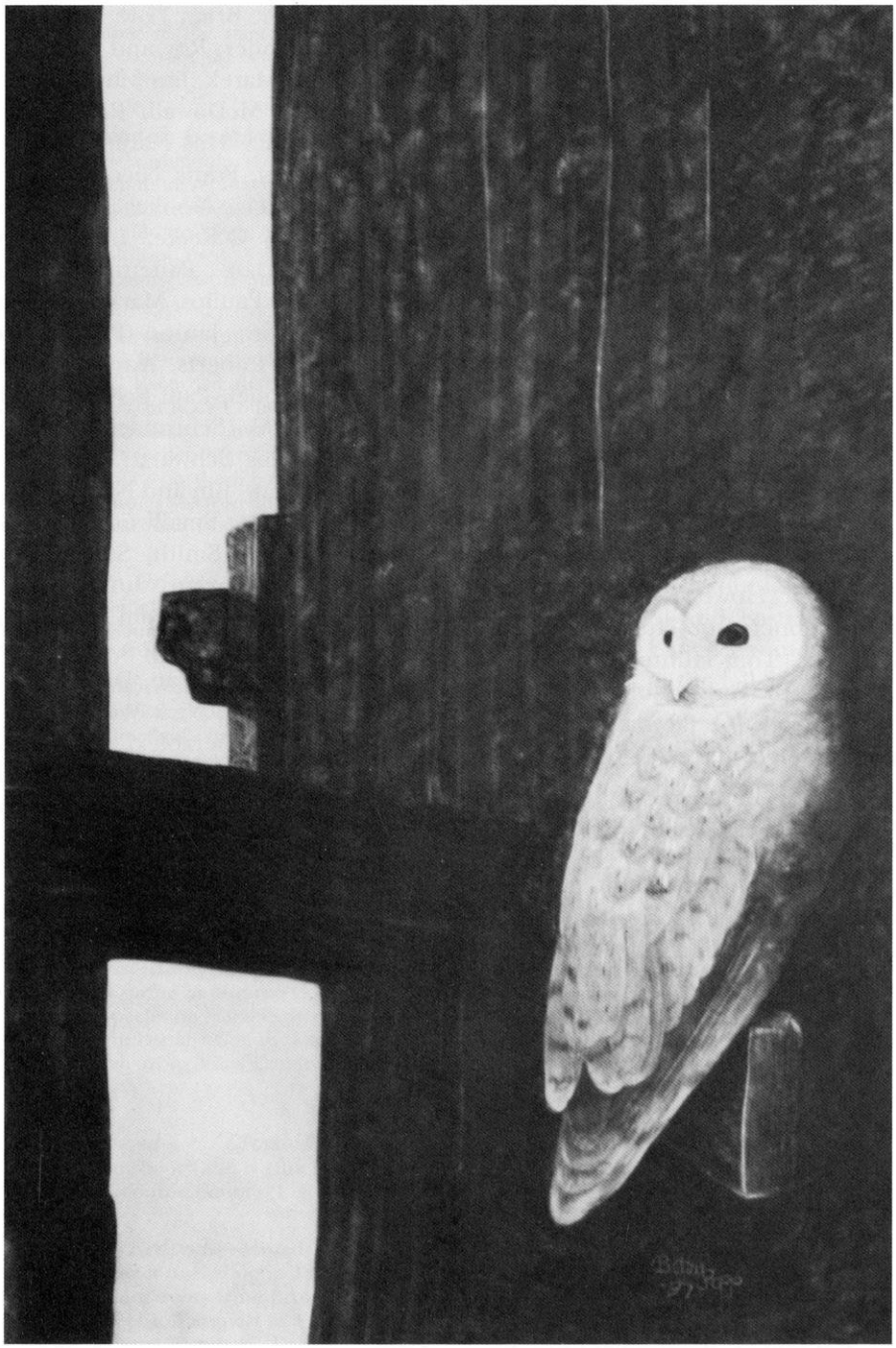


"Awaiting the Night" (Barn Owl) *by Betsy Popp*

"By the Wayside"

Rare species or unusual occurrences include Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Anhinga, Ross's Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Piping Plover, Iceland Gull, Western Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Swainson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Henslow's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

14 April 2002, Waunakee, Dane County—Two males in breeding plumage were seen in a pond off Hyslop Road, just west of Waunakee. Found it due to posting on Wisconsin Bird Net by Jesse Peterson. Saw ear patches through the scope almost glowing yellow in the sun despite our being about 100 yards away. The ear patches looked like yellow/gold rosettes pinned on the sides of their faces.—*Chuck Heikkinnen, Madison, WI.*

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

8 May 2002, Lake Du Bay, Portage County—In the scope at 30×, I noticed a striking, long-necked bird with a long beak and contrasting white throat and breast. It also had a dark cap, hind neck, wing, and back. The eye was surrounded mostly by dark, wider than on Clark's Grebe seen from behind. The bill was yellowish orange at the base, but dull greenish brown and horn-colored distally. When alert and active, the swanlike or snakelike neck was evident. It moved gracefully and rested with neck and head looped on the back and breast.—*Joe Schaufenbuel, Stevens Point, WI.*

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)

17 May 2002, Oshkosh, Winnebago County—"That can't be a cormorant!" was the first thing I said to myself as the soaring bird was heading south-southeast over Oshkosh. It looked like a flying plus sign with a noticeably fanned-out tail. I pulled off to the side of Ceape Avenue to use the binocs. The bird wasn't too high up, but it wasn't too low either, yet close enough to get the vitals: wings were straight, narrow, and two-toned in coloring; the long skinny head and neck were buff-colored, meeting abruptly at a black breast line; bill light-colored. It flapped

like a cormorant, circled a few times, then headed over Lake Winnebago.—*Paul Bruce, Oshkosh, WI.*

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

11 April 2002, Truax Field, Chippewa County, and 27 May 2002, Millar's Pond, Dunn County—Unusual were two *Chen*-type geese. The first was a blue-phased Ross's Goose at the Truax prairie "church field." This bird was so tiny (didn't appear much larger than the Ring-billed Gulls with which it was associating) that at first glance from a distance I mistook it for a duck. I drove closer and upon further study could see that it was a blue-phase Ross's somewhere between juvenile and adult plumage; most of the areas that are white on an adult blue Ross's (face, slash across folded wing, belly) were apparent but were infused with muddy gray/brown to varying degrees, with the exception of the tail/rear end area that was mostly white, and the long, pale-edged scapulars (tertials?). The bill was very short and stubby and was also partially infused with dark coloration. The emerging adult face/neck pattern was typical for blue Ross's Goose: dark feathering on the neck almost up to the head on the front and sides, and up the back of the head and over the crown, contrasting with the paler face and sides of the head where the adult feathering was coming in (whitest near bill). The bird had a small, rounded head; a short, thick neck; short, thin grayish-pink legs; and stood or walked around the plowed field with the gulls, feeding occasionally, until all the birds were flushed by a pesky eagle.

The other goose, at Millar's Pond on May 27 (late), was probably a hybrid blue Ross's/Snow. Its plumage was similar to a blue Ross's (still had a little juvenile "muddiness," but much less than the earlier bird), but its size and head and bill structure appeared closer to a Lesser Snow Goose, or somewhere in between. The bill had a medium/small grinning patch.—*Janine Polk, Eau Claire, WI.*

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

11 April 2002, Perrot State Park, Trempealeau County—Arriving at the pond where the Cinnamon Teal had been reported, I shortly discovered it on the south side, hanging with a female teal which it jealously guarded from male Blue-wingeds. This was a gorgeous male—an all cinnamon-colored bird—and was very distinct. When it flew, its wing pattern (blue patch) was similar to the Blue-winged. All three teal species were present in this pond—most enjoyable. Walked for quite some time, birded Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, then returned to admire it again before heading eastward.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

18 May 2002, Puchyan Marsh, Green Lake County—These birds were lifers and very memorable ones. The dike road into Puchyan Marsh was waterlogged and we eventually came to a puddle so large that being stranded in the middle of nowhere at 11 P.M. became a distinct possibility. Before risking an evening knee-deep in mud, we decided to have a listen to the marsh. After waiting 15 seconds we heard the *tick-tick-tick-tick(ing)* of a Yellow Rail. You could almost feel the sound on

your eardrums more than you could hear it—similar to the drumming of a Ruffed Grouse. The quality of the sound was similar to that made by hitting the keys on an old typewriter. After listening for a while longer we heard another, closer bird calling from another portion of the marsh. Beaming with our success, we stayed and listened to the Yellow Rails, Swamp Sparrows, and Sedge Wrens for several minutes and then suffered through 10 minutes of putting the car in drive and reverse so we could turn it around on the narrow dike road.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

4–8 May 2002, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee County—4 May: This morning at 7:30, I was walking the first mowed east-west row in the tall phragmites grass edge just north of the test plots in the southeast corner after having viewed feeding Soras in brilliant back light. As I was walking slowly west looking at sparrows, a rail (small head, short rounded wings, short trailing legs) flushed weakly from the right side of the path from a muddy wet spot about 15 feet away and flew 30 feet into the tallest grass. I had total sunlight without shadows on the bird's back as it flew; it was definitely smaller than a Sora and it was dark with no browns or whitish wing markings discernible. The overall impression was of a large, stubby sparrow with rounded wings.

5 May: Last evening about 10 individuals spent two hours trying to call in this bird with a tape consisting of both songs and the *growl* call. After a response by six Soras who showed some interest in the tape by silent approaches, Steve Lubahn heard one bird calling a soft *kick-ee-do* within 20 feet of the previous flush site. Altogether, we heard three *kickeedoos* and some partial variants of that phrase; there were other soft screeches and cries that were much softer, less forceful and higher-pitched than any Sora vocalizations I've heard.

8 May: It seems that our little black ghost is still here. This evening under a light fog and mist with a diminishing east wind, I played the Black Rail tape sparingly and got no response for 50 minutes. I then walked about 80 feet to the east. A bird ran from behind a tuft of grass as I approached and flew on quick wing beats 30 feet north into the tall grass stalks where I could see it just allow itself to crash to the ground through the phragmites and disappear. It was like a big, very dark sparrow with short rounded wings and trailing dark legs and feet; again, there was no white on the tail or crissum.—*John Idzikowski, Milwaukee, WI.*

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

29 April 2002, Wind Point, Racine County—Approaching the lake, I scanned the shoreline. "A plover," I thought, but this one lacked a mask, its back a soft sand color. Orange legs and a black-tipped orange bill. Then, as it scooted along the water's edge, leg bands appeared as it came up the shore to avoid the waves. Life-bird jitters struck. Slowly, I backed away to peer from beside the smaller buildings by the lake. Feeding along the exposed wet sand, the plover crouched down as the loud, raucous Caspian Terns passed overhead. The plover began to vocalize about once a minute. A soft *peee-lo*, it called. Through the scope, it looked like the bird was hiccoughing.

After 15 minutes, it began to preen, now calling more frequently, 3 to 4 feet from the water's edge.—*Eric Howe, Racine, WI.*

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)

26 April–19 May, 2002, Manitowoc Impoundment, Manitowoc County—Several individuals appeared in the Manitowoc area this winter and "early" spring. Most of them are/were first-year birds. Usually, they were found with the Herring Gulls and, like the Lesser Black-backed Gull, it was smaller. The head was rounder and the dark bill was smaller in proportion, not giving the typical "chisel-headed" appearance of the larger gulls. The light buffy color of its plumage did not include any markings in the primaries. The tail was light in appearance and without any real distinct markings. The feet were light pinkish-gray.—*Charles Sontag, Manitowoc, WI.*

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

27 May 2002, Walworth County—I noticed this bird at a distance because it had a similar shape to the Eastern Kingbird, but the colors weren't right. I then watched it swoop off the telephone line and catch a flying insect. As it landed, it spread its tail and I could clearly see the white stripes along the outside of the tail. It was yellow under the wings and had a light throat that then changed to a gray on the top of the neck and head. It had a small dark bill.—*Sean Fitzgerald, Burlington, WI.*

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

8 May 2002, Twin Valley Lake, Iowa County—I pished for the vireo on the horse trail. Instantly, it came out into the open, low bushes and gave its *dip dit ta dip, dip dit ta dip* call for about five minutes, all the time remaining in almost full view. This sighting is definitely the very best I've ever had of this species. I was only 10 yards away and at times took my binocs down and watched the vireo with my naked eye. I noted the small vireo-sized bird with black eye encircled by white, with yellow surrounding and leading down to the bill. A yellowish wash on the sides was noted, as was an olive-green back. There were two white wing bars.—*Kay Burcar, Cross Plains, WI.*

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)

7 May 2002, Madison, Dane County—Heard singing while I was golfing at Blackhawk. Song came from vicinity of State Office Building. It was loud and had six phrases that were identical and had a tootled quality. The song was repeated at about five-second intervals. I have heard it most often while watching golf on TV at southern courses.—*Bill Hilsenhoff, Middleton, WI.*

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

23 May 2002, Point Beach State Park, Manitowoc County—My eyes were attracted to this bird as it rose to a low branch, the blue showing so clearly that I wondered if it might be a low Cerulean Warbler. However, when I got the binocs on it, this bird had no black streaking on the flanks and no

wing bars, just a blue mantle and wings, and a slightly lighter blue, unstreaked breast that became even lighter as it neared the vent. The bird had the profile of a vireo, but slightly larger. I saw the Mountain Bluebird in Arizona a year ago in January on quite a few occasions and was amazed by the beauty of the bird, but never thought to see it here in Manitowoc County.—*Charlie Geiger, Manitowoc, WI.*

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*)

24 April 2002, Marshall Township, Richland County—I saw the bird fly from tree to tree in a roadside pasture from about 300 feet. It was a gray, thrasher-sized bird with white flashes on its wings and tail. When it perched, I could see it through bare branches. It had a gray head with dark eye stripe, gray back and tail, and a grayish white belly. There was no visible white on the wings and tail until it preened, when I could see a white wing patch.—*Barbara Duerksen, Richland Center, WI.*

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

22 May 2002, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Green Bay, Brown County—I was approached by an older couple coming off the Chipmunk Trail boardwalk into the parking lot. The husband said they had seen an unusual bird 15 minutes earlier and believed it to be a Swainson's Warbler, a species they were familiar with from Texas. Ida Baumann, Karen Smith, and I quickly proceeded to the area to check it out. Jan Hewitt joined us shortly thereafter. We spent approximately one hour in the area and each of us had the opportunity to see the bird for very brief periods as it continually walked along the ground skulking in and out of downed branches. The bird was actually quite frustrating at times. Someone would say, "There it is, walking behind that fallen branch heading right," and then nothing would appear on the other side, only to have it appear again five minutes later six feet over. Each person that saw the bird was able to give enough of the characteristics to identify the species as a Swainson's Warbler. It was a life bird for all four of us!—*Ty Baumann, Green Bay, WI.*

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)

14 May 2002, Madison, Dane County—A female was seen at Nine Springs. This bird was first found on 10 May by other observers and may have been seen after my sighting. The bird was tanager-sized with overall yellow-green plumage, a hint of red on the forehead, and a bit of rust color on the tail. The wings were the same color as the body. Generally, this bird was yellower than a typical female Scarlet Tanager. It was seen perched and flycatching in the late afternoon sun. While perched, the head had a crested look to it and the overall body plumage glowed with a hint of red; not sure if that was just the light conditions or the actual body color.—*Philip Ashman, Madison, WI.*

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

29–30 May 2002, Wyalusing State Park, Grant County—I usually do not report Henslow's Sparrows, but I cannot remember seeing this species before in this park. As I walked the park road listening for Whip-poor-wills and watch-

ing for the woodcock that lands in the adjacent field at dusk, I heard at least five Henslow's Sparrows calling. The next day as I walked south out of the walnut seed orchard, I saw and heard two more. I suspect if I had surveyed all the grassland in the park I would have found more. A welcome addition to the many great birds at Wyalusing!—*Thomas Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*)

20 May 2002, Powell, Iron County—I arrived at the yard at about 1:30 P.M.. Jan Hewitt was there and had just seen the bird. As I waited for the next three and a half hours, numerous Chipping Sparrows, finches, and other birds came and went from the feeders. The bird finally came just before 5:00 P.M. and fed on the ground for about the next 10 minutes. Although it was in the shade, the purple-colored head; red eye ring; green back; and red throat, breast, belly, and rump could be seen as it fed with the Chipping Sparrows, which were about the same size. When this bird flew to a nearby tree in the sunlight, it was as if someone had turned on a small, brightly lit Christmas tree. It stayed in this tree for a few minutes before flying off to a nearby park.—*Mark Peterson, Caroline, WI.*

Eastern Towhee *by Gloria Welniak*

WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2002

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 45 records of 26 species for the spring season, accepting 36 of them. Of note were new early spring record dates for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blackburnian Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler, with a second earliest date recorded for Solitary Sandpiper. Also accepted were Wisconsin's ninth Painted Bunting record, fifth Lazuli Bunting record, second Swainson's Warbler record, and the first state record of a Black Rail. The removal of the Black Rail from the hypothetical list and addition to the official state list brings the state list to 419 species.

Observers were notified of the committee's decisions by postcard in the instance of accepted records and by personal letter in the case of records not accepted.

Accepted

Anhinga—

#2002–018 Winnebago Co., 17 May 2002, Bruce.

Initially, attention was drawn to the bird by its soaring shape, with the tail fanned out. This shape is very similar to a soaring cormorant. To distinguish it from them, the observer relied on the "two-toned wing color," the "arrow-shaped head," light colored bill, and sharp demarcation between the buff colored head and neck from the black breast.

Observers are cautioned to remember that cormorants soar and have a very similar silhouette to an Anhinga. The slightly kinked-but-extended neck and the blunt beak tip of a cormorant should not be noted on an Anhinga, but distance and angle can create a problem in some cases. The tail is longer on an Anhinga, but a cormorant's tail appears longer than observers may expect it to be. The two-toned wing color of an Anhinga can be confused with a distant cormorant reflecting light at certain angles. In this instance, the buffy and black demarcation on the breast was a useful field mark. Immature cormorants can be lighter in color in the face and neck than the rest of the body, but the colors

shouldn't be sharply delineated, rather more diffusely blended.

White-faced Ibis—

#2002–020 Dunn Co., 5–8 May 2002, Polk.

A long-legged, long-necked wader with a body size smaller than that of nearby Mallards was seen. The long, gray decurved bill was apparent. The head, neck, and upper back were iridescent bronze-maroon in color, while the lower back was greener. A noticeable, unbroken white border surrounded the eye and the dark gray-pink facial skin. The legs were dark pink.

The pink facial skin, dark pink legs, and white facial skin border distinguish this species from the Glossy Ibis.

Cinnamon Teal—

#2002–021 Trempealeau Co., 9 April 2002, Lesher (photo); 11 April 2002, Tessen; 12 April 2002, Belter; 13 April 2002, Walton, Bauer (photo).

A Blue-winged Teal-sized duck was directly associated with several Blue-wings. This bird was entirely rusty red in color with a dark bill, red eye, and yellowish streaking on the tertial feathers.

Swainson's Hawk—

#2002–022 Douglas Co., 14 April 2002, Johnson.

This Red-tail-sized buteo was longer-winged than associated Red-tails. In striking contrast to the Red-tails, the breast and underwing linings were white, but the flight feathers were completely dark. The tail was gray, the head dark.

Ferruginous Hawk—

#2002–055 Douglas Co., 24 April 2002, Nicoletti (photo).

This hawk was seen and photographed passing across the Minnesota border into Wisconsin. This relatively long-winged buteo had a clean white breast, dark brownish leg feathering, and a pale reddish tail. The underwings were white with small black carpal patches and black outer primaries.

This is only the third spring record for Wisconsin out of 15 reports.

Black Rail—

#2002–023 Milwaukee Co., 4–8 May 2002, Idzikowski; 5 May 2002, Korducki, Tessen; 6 May 2002, Gustafson.

Three different observers on three different dates reported brief sightings of this individual at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment. The bird was described as either a very small, dark rail, at least a third smaller than Soras seen on these occasions, or one observer likened it to a very dark, short-tailed, stubby-winged sparrow. All reported it as charcoal gray to black in color, with a short, thin bill; short rounded wings; and in flight it had dangling legs. One observer felt there was a contrasting color to the back, a dark color, but not the black of the rest of the bird. In addition to the brief flight and running visualizations of the bird, a number of auditory encounters were reported. The *kee-kee-doo* was described as softer than other rails' vocalizations, with the first two notes higher in pitch and the last note lower and trailing off at the end.

There have been three previous hypothetical records for the state. Despite the failed efforts to record the vocalizations and to photograph this

bird, these reports are accepted as the first Wisconsin record of a Black Rail based on multiple, separate reports.

Solitary Sandpiper—

#2002–033 Brown Co., 28 March 2002, Baumann.

This shorebird was seen in flight and described as dark, slender-bodied, and slender-winged. The dark back and scapulars had small, pale spotting. The rump was dark with white barring. The belly was white. Also reported were green-gray legs and a white eye ring.

This is Wisconsin's second earliest spring record.

Mew Gull—

#2002–026 Racine Co., 31 March 2002, Fare; 4 April 2002, Tessen.

This bird was seen standing with Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. It stood out from the similarly sized Ring-bills because of its slightly smaller size and slightly darker gray mantle. The entirely yellow bill, yellow legs, and dark eye were also noted. The white tertial crescent was larger on the Mew Gull in comparison to the Ring-bills. The primary mirrors were larger on the Mew Gull.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—

#2001–039 Ozaukee Co., 2, 17, 19 May 2002, Frank.

This dove was slightly larger and bulkier than the associated Mourning Doves. The tail was wider and squared at the end. Its overall color was light beige-gray with a black crescent on the nape and primaries darker in color than the general plumage. The undertail was black proximally with dark gray undertail coverts.

This is the same bird and location reported since summer of 2001.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—

#2002–034 Dane Co., 12 April 2002, Marek.

#2002–035 Waukesha Co., 16 April 2002, Heiden.

These hummingbirds had metallic green backs and crowns in contrast to white underparts. The throat gorgets were bright red. They were hovering among scilla, trillium, hepatica, and bloodroot.

The April 12 date eclipses the old earliest spring record for Wisconsin by three days.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—

#2002–028 Ozaukee Co., 14 April 2002, Dreifuss.

This white-gray bird exhibited pinkish under the wings. The tail was at least six inches long. It was observed chasing insects.

This is Wisconsin's earliest spring record by three days.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow —

#2002–032 Jefferson Co., 19 March 2002, Kearns.

This small, brown swallow had a buffy throat and light underside. The wings and tail were felt to be broader than expected for a Bank Swallow.

This surpasses Wisconsin's previous earliest spring date by two weeks.

Mountain Bluebird—

#2002–030 Polk Co., 16 May 2002, Virant.

#2002–031 Manitowoc Co., 23 May 2002, Geiger.

This bluebird was entirely blue, with the blue of the breast being a bit lighter than the rest of the bird. In Polk

County, the initial assumption of Indigo Bunting was changed when the beak was noted to be longer and more slender than the small, conical beak of a bunting. In addition, the bird was larger than a bunting and the blue was a brighter shade than the blue of an Indigo Bunting. The Manitowoc County bird was also noted to have a white belly and to lack any wing bars.

Blue-winged Warbler—
#2002–036 Dane Co., 25 April 2002, Karlson.

The warbler was bright yellow through the head and underparts, but had a black line through the eye, bluish gray wings, and white wing bars.

This was one of a number of unusually early spring reports for this species in 2002.

Blackburnian Warbler—
#2002–037 Dane Co., 18 April 2002, Schirmacher, Walton.

Attention was drawn to this bird by its ascending trill song. The face of this warbler was bright orange with black striping through the auriculars. A white breast and wing patch were also noted.

This broke Wisconsin's previous early spring date by a week.

Yellow-throated Warbler—
#2002–054 Sauk Co., 14 April 2002, Holschbach.

This warbler was gray-backed, gray-crowned, and white-breasted. There were white wing bars and black streaks on the sides of the breast. The side of the face had a downward-pointed black patch and the throat was yellow. The bill was relatively long for a warbler.

This is the earliest spring date for Wisconsin.

Swainson's Warbler—
#2002–055 Brown Co., 22 May 2002, T. Baumann.

This warbler was observed skulking in and out from under fallen branches. A relatively long beak was evident as was a brown crown. It also had a dark eye line and an olive green back, wings, and tail. The underparts of the bird were light gray.

This is Wisconsin's second record, the only previous record being a museum specimen from 1976.

Western Tanager—
#2002–038 Price Co., 4 May 2002, Le Clair (photo).

A sparrow-sized bird was seen on the lawn. It was yellow with black wings and tail. Of the two wing bars, the upper was yellow, the lower was white. The front half of the head was red extending down onto the throat. The back half of the head was red. The beak was more elongated than that of the finches.

Blue Grosbeak—
#2002–040 Ozaukee Co., 21 May 2002, S. Cutright.

This entirely blue bird was bigger than an Indigo Bunting, with a relatively large head and thicker bill. The brown wing bars were also noted.

Lazuli Bunting—
#2002–041 Milwaukee Co., 26 April 2002, Smith.

This small bird had a blue head and throat, black mask, a rusty orange breast, white belly, and two wing bars, the upper bar larger than the lower.

This is the fifth record for Wisconsin and the earliest spring date. The last sighting was in 1984.

Painted Bunting—

#2002–042 Iron Co., 19 May 2001, Bates, Belter; 20 May 2002, Peterson, Gustafson, Hewitt.

This small bird had a purple-blue head, red underparts, a yellow-green upper back, rosy rump, red eye ring, brown wings, and brown tail. The bill was finch-shaped.

This is Wisconsin's ninth record, the last one occurring in 1985.

Smith's Longspur—

#2002–043 Outagamie Co., 16 March 2002, Tessen.

In a flock of hundreds of Lapland Longspurs, two individuals were noticed to have very buffy breasts and belly. Faint streaks were seen on the belly. The bill was light and a pale eye ring was also reported. The upper area on the wing was whitish.

This sighting furnishes Wisconsin with its eleventh record.

Not Accepted

Brown Pelican—

#2002–017 Bayfield Co., 11 May 2002.

A flock of seven birds was observed in flight over Lake Superior. The initial presumption of cranes was proven incorrect as the observers could discern larger beaks tipped an at angle. No indication was made about the presence or absence of trailing legs. The lighting was admitted to be very poor and the best description possible of coloration was that they appeared very dark. Without a better look at these birds, it isn't safe to say that they were Brown Pelicans.

Anhinga—

#2002–019 Washington Co., 5 May 2002.

These three birds were described as having a wingspread similar to a Great Blue Heron, but they had the silhouette of a cormorant. They were specifically felt to be much larger than expected for a cormorant. When these bird flushed, their necks were noted to be extended forward. When the birds got some distance away, the tops of the wings were noted to be silvery or whitish, but this wasn't apparent at closer range. Otherwise, they were described as entirely black. Although the bill was described as sharp, no color was discernible. The birds perched in distant trees with wings extended; the observer assumed them to be drying their wings. All of these observations were without any binoculars or scope.

An inconsistency in this description is that the size of the bird is that of a Great Blue Heron and the presumption that the Anhinga is so decidedly larger then a cormorant. In addition, at a distance, light can reflect off black wings and give them the appearance of being light in color, so there is some uncertainty about relying on that field mark in this circumstance.

With the unaided eye, it would probably be difficult to detect the difference between a pointed bill and the blunter-tipped cormorant bill. There isn't enough convincing evidence to exclude Double-crested Cormorants from consideration. Although the reported size may suggest Great Blue Herons, the overall black plumage should eliminate this species.

Black Rail—

#2002–024 Dodge Co., 10 May 2002.

This report was of a call heard for several minutes at around 5:30 P.M. in Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. The call was described as *kee-kee-derr* and was felt to match a tape heard later. The birder did not have experience with this species before.

No comparisons were made to other calls that might be similar. Some of the Virginia Rail's repertoire could be of a similar number of notes and sounds, though not as consistent as this call may have been. Heard-only records are always difficult to interpret in these circumstances because putting sounds into words always seems to vary from one person to the next. Just as it is difficult to accept a visual report that "looks like the picture in the book," auditory reports "sounding like the tape" are also difficult to accept without an actual tape of the encounter. This is likely to have been another Black Rail, however.

Whooping Crane—
#2002–025 Columbia Co., 6 May 2002.

A large white crane with black wing tips, dark legs, a red crown, and dark color around the eyes was reported to land next to three others of the same appearance. This group of four was close to a flock of 15 smaller Sandhill Cranes.

These four birds are believed to be the "released" birds from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. With that presumption, although the identification is correct, the birds are not considered "wild."

Vermilion Flycatcher—
#2002–027 Brown Co., 28 May 2002.

This report did not indicate the relative size or shape of the bird. It was indicated to have a reddish-orange breast, head, and "lower wing spots." The back was black as were the eyes. The tail was described as having a "slight scissor tail."

The red "lower wing spots" were difficult to explain, as was the "slight scissor tail." Neither seem consistent with a Vermilion Flycatcher, but the overall color seems to suggest this species. Also missing in the description is the black nape and eye line. Although a male of this species would seem difficult to confuse with other species, the lack of a few field marks and the addition of a couple of inexplicable traits make positive identification of this bird difficult.

Rock Wren—
#2002–029 Waukesha Co., 13, 14 April 2002.

This bird was grayish brown above and buff underneath. Also noted were faint streaks on the throat and a "checkered" pattern on the back. The dark bill was "long," slender, and somewhat curved. The tail had a white band at the tip. The bird was observed for two days in extremely tight proximity to a rock wall and rock outcropping.

Unfortunately, size was not clearly indicated, only a reference to the bird being more slender than a Hermit Thrush. The presence or lack of an eye line or superciliary line was not specifically addressed. The tail tip color of white is inconsistent with the expected buff tips of a Rock Wren.

There is a strong possibility that this was, in fact, a Rock Wren, but without more comparisons to similar species and with the variation in color of the

tail tip, there is enough doubt to preclude acceptance.

Blue-winged Warbler—
#2002–044 Dane Co., 13 April 2002.

This individual was identified solely by its song; described as "*biz buzz*" by the observer. Although the bird was likely to be a Blue-winged, without a visual report, it is possible to be dealing with a Golden-winged or hybrid individual as there is considerable overlap in the songs of these two species. Given that this was reviewed as the potential earliest spring date for the species, more proof of the identification was desirable.

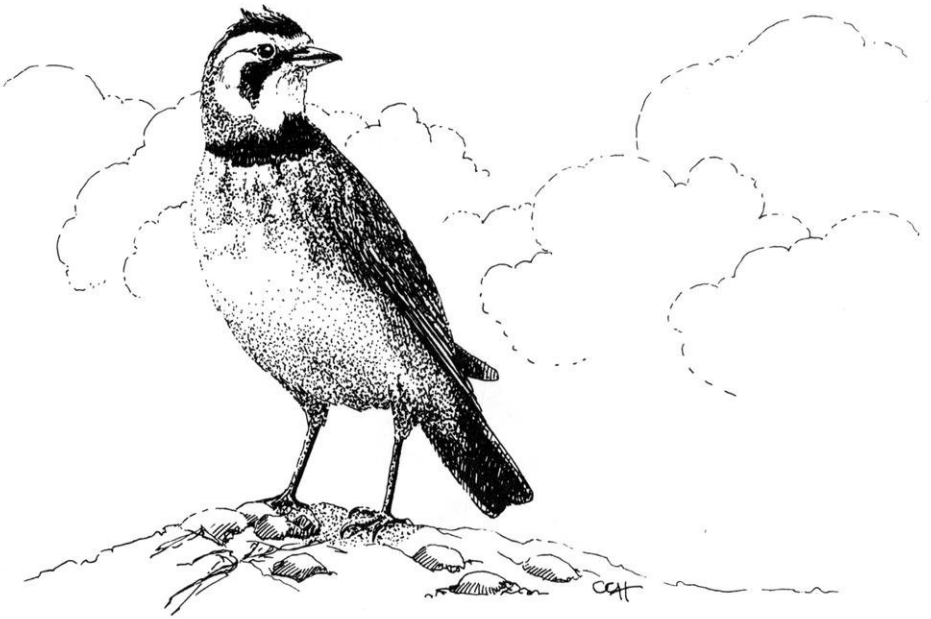
Blue Grosbeak—
#2002–039 Ozaukee Co., 16 May 2002.

A brown House Sparrow-sized bird with a "bigger bill" was reported. The bird was seen from the front, so wing bars weren't seen well. The crown was a darker color than the rest of the bird. A "long, sweet" song was heard.

In all probability, this was probably correctly identified, but without a better look at the plumage, the description doesn't eliminate a House Finch from consideration.

Jim Frank
WSO Records Committee chair

Black-capped Chickadee *by Gloria Welniak*



Horned Lark *by Cary Hunkel* (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

Harold A. Bauers 1910–2003

Harold A. Bauers, a longtime member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, passed away in January of 2003 at age 92. He served WSO in numerous ways, and was awarded the Silver Passenger Pigeon Award in 1966 for service to the society.

Harold was born on August 5, 1910 in Milwaukee. He became interested in birds early in youth, and was president of the Nature Club in Washington High School. After service in the 94th Infantry Division in World War II, he returned to Milwaukee, where he worked for the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Harold introduced many people to the wonder of birds through his efforts as volunteer naturalist at Schlitz Audubon Center, and at Wehr Nature Center for more than 20 years. At these and other locations in the Milwaukee County parks, he guided observers on many morning bird hikes. An accomplished bird-bander, he demonstrated banding to countless groups at Wehr and other locations. He was an avid photographer and member of the Seven Arts Society at Whitnall

Park, and made nature films that were shown to wide acclaim at the Milwaukee Public Museum and on Milwaukee television stations.

Harold participated in the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) from its inception, running the Princeton BBS route in Marquette and Green Lake Counties from 1966 through 1990—25 years without missing a single survey. He also was a leading participant on the Milwaukee, Hales Corners, and Hartford Christmas Bird Counts.

A skilled naturalist, Harold will be remembered especially for his kindness and patience. For beginning birders, he was a man who listened and took the time to answer endless questions. He opened the door to nature for hundreds of people, and helped to foster a love for the natural world in all who met him in the field. He is fondly remembered, and already missed.

William P. Mueller
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50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

The lead article by Jim Zimmerman was on WSO's first summer camp out, which was a huge success with 46 persons attending, including 13 from the Wausau Bird Club. The article includes a full-page map, a photo of some of the participants, almost three pages on the vegetation of Wyalusing, four pages on the birds of Wyalusing, and a two-page table detailing the number of birds seen and their location in the park. The most abundant species and the estimated minimum number of pairs seen were American Redstart (40–60); Ovenbird (35); American Goldfinch (34); Eastern Wood-Pewee (33); Baltimore Oriole (26); American Robin and Northern Cardinal (24); Red-eyed Vireo (23); and Brown-headed Cowbird, Indigo Bunting, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (22).

Zimmerman noted that "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 (6), Red-bellied Woodpecker (5), Acadian Flycatcher (8), Cerulean Warbler (9), Louisiana Waterthrush (6), Blue-winged Warbler (1), Prothonotary Warbler (19), and, especially, Tufted Titmouse (3) and Kentucky Warbler (17), were among the more or less southern birds we had expected to find at Wyalusing." The group was disappointed in not finding Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bewick's Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Northern Mockingbird, and Worm-eating Warbler.

(Excerpts from Vol. 14, No. 4, 1952)

George Charles Becker 1917–2002

Toward the end of his life, Charles Darwin surprisingly said that if he had his life to live over, he would devote more time to the humanities. Our noted Wisconsin scientist George C. Becker did study the humanities, and later switched to natural history. One of his famous students, Mike Dombeck, former head of the U.S. Forest Service, told me that George said he went into science without having his mind cluttered along the way with education on that subject. That droll comment tells us a lot about George Becker. He had a streak of mischief we all appreciated, and was always optimistic and ever youthful.

Born and schooled in Milwaukee, and reared by German immigrant parents, he was steeped in classical music (talented as a violinist) and fluent in both English and German. After receiving a bachelor's degree in languages with a minor in music at the Milwaukee State Teachers College (now UW-Milwaukee), he earned master's degrees in German philology and science (zoology and botany) at UW-Madison. In later years he would receive a Ph.D. in ichthyology from Madison.

In 1941, George married Sylvia Klenk, quite talented and scholarly in her own right, and entered the U.S. Army that same year to serve in the South Pacific. He rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and supervised radio stations in New Guinea, Australia, and the Philippines. He told me that while in the Philippines, he was influenced by the famous wildlife artist, Richard Philip Grossenheider.

After receiving several decorations and his discharge, George taught high school in Port Edward, Clintonville, and later in Madison. A dramatic change in his interests occurred about this time, and after he began teaching in the Biology Department at the UW-Stevens Point, in 1957, his house was crammed with long-nose dace growing in bubbling aquariums, bottles of pickled and labeled fishes, and, of course, a piano. With much help from his family, he collected many thousands of fishes, carefully preserved them with appropriate scientific data, and classified them all. Today this huge collection of fishes is known as the *George C. Becker Ichthyology Collection*, and the specimens in it have been used to write numerous articles and two huge books about Wisconsin fishes.

It was in 1965 that I met George, when I applied at UW-Stevens Point for a position to teach taxonomic mammalogy. He showed me his fine fish collection, kept in his own dark basement, the jars wrapped carefully in rags to further cut down light to protect the specimens from bleaching. Dr. Frank Cross, an ichthyologist at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, told me he had met Becker, they examined some fishes, and Cross was amazed at how well Becker knew them. Once I brought George a collection of fishes from northwest Wisconsin, and warned him that there were possibly two or even three different species of minnows. "Seven," was what he instantly replied.

He was an outstanding teacher, and inspired numerous students to go into graduate and professional work. He was chosen as the outstanding teacher on campus in 1962.

A graduate from the school and times of Aldo Leopold, George became a protagonist for the environment and made his mark in Wisconsin and across America. After Rachel Carson had alerted the nation with her book *Silent Spring*, and Joseph Hickey and D. W. Anderson had shown the impact of DDT on raptor populations, the members of Wisconsin's Citizens Natural Resources Association (George was President of CNRA from 1972 to 1974)—including Becker, Frederick Baumgartner, Hickey, Hugh Iltis, Lorre Otto, Fred Ott, Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, Leoni Vrtilk, William Reeder and others—participated in that famous pioneer group that eventually got DDT outlawed throughout the nation. George made a few enemies in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources when he passionately attacked carp poisoning methods (e.g., in one publication he called it "insanity"), and he especially detested a most devastating poison called antimycin. Today the Department no longer uses that poison, and there has been a transformation in some ecological practices.

Like former Senator Gaylord Nelson, George was a strong proponent for human population control, and also believed that we should depend more on solar and wind energy. He "put his money where his mouth was" by constructing a crude solar energy collector for his home at great personal expense. It was the

first in central Wisconsin, where such devices are commonplace today, and may have been the first in the state.

A great believer in natural resources for recreation, his favorite sport was fly fishing for trout, but he also fished for smelt in northern Wisconsin, northern pike in Canada, and sea fishes in the Gulf of Mexico. At various times, he developed interests in nudism, stamp collecting, chamber music (playing in his family's string quartet), bird watching, and collecting signed wildlife prints.

In 1968, he became Curator of Fishes in the new Museum of Natural History at UW-Stevens Point. George received the first award (1989) given by the *Society of the Sigma Xi* for research at UW–Stevens Point. He recently was honored by the CNRA for his conservation efforts.

Three papers in the *Passenger Pigeon* (1968, 1972) and an *Illustrated Key to the Minnows of Wisconsin* (1970), published in the Department of Biology, may be included with the 14 publications cited in his *opus magnum,* the *Fishes of Wisconsin* (Univ. Wisconsin Press, 1983), a richly illustrated book exceeding 1,000 pages. *Fishes of Wisconsin* took years of effort to prepare, and was based on 20 years of field work. The book received favorable reviews by such ichthyologists as Clark Hubbs.

In 1965, Becker served as Vice President for Sciences in the prestigious Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. In 1967–1968, he was President of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, for to George birds and fishes all belonged to the same realm. This was evident in his only publication in ornithology, in the *Passenger Pigeon* (1971), about the pugnose shiner and the Dodo! He and the editor knew, of course, a shiner is a fish, but the parallel was drawn between the fish and bird, which were both destined for human-caused extinction. George also served as Vice President of WSO in 1966–1967, served several years on the Board, and chaired its Conservation Committee in 1964–1966. In 1979, he became a Professor Emeritus in Biology at UW-Stevens Point.

Last autumn, George asked me to send him my Christmas letter early, including my annual poems (I regularly exchanged letters with his late wife Sylvia, who penned Christmas letters since 1948). Sorry, but I was too late:

George Becker's inspired work on fishes 1,000 years will stand,
He was wise, could see afar, pointed out some better ways.
Students carry on his work, to secure nature in our land.
Ecology they teach instead, each day some way to reach ahead
So we will care and all may share Wisconsin's golden days.

Charles A. Long
Department of Biology
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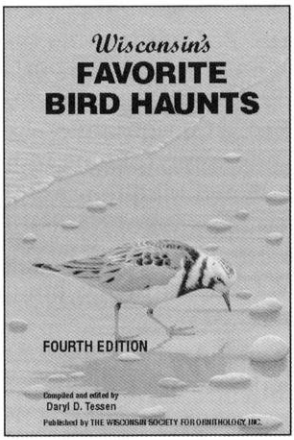
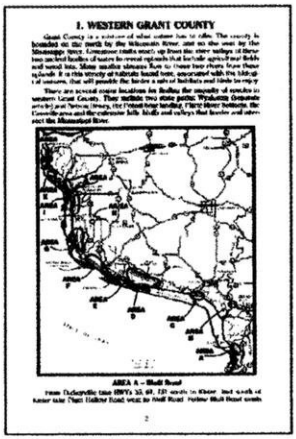


Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts,

Fourth Edition (2000)

Compiled and edited by Daryl Tessen with contributions from birders throughout the state. Features artwork by Thomas Schultz, David Kuecherer, Rockne Knuth, Judith Huf and Jeannie Perry.

- Covers all 72 counties
- Contains 135 favorite haunts detailing more than 1,000 areas
- Includes detailed directions as well as a map for each location
- Features some 45 bird illustrations, 15 of them in color
- Includes a list of 400 valid Wisconsin state species and 15 hypothetical species (current as of January 2000)



This book, designed for durability and functionality, is printed on heavy coated paper and has a spiral binding so it lies flat when open.
6" by 9". 544 pages.

Contact WSO Bookstore for price and ordering information.
262-692-6085 or jsommer2@wi.rr.com

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Jack R. Bartholmai is an amateur wildlife photographer and wood sculptor. His current focus is photographing the birds of Dodge County, his stomping grounds since 1972. His photos appear frequently in local newspapers, travel brochures, calendars, and maps.

William S. Brooks is Professor of Biology at Ripon College, specializing in ornithology and ecology. He was involved with WBBA atlasing in Marquette, Waushara, and Green Lake Counties for six years, and wrote the grebe species accounts for the atlas book. He continues to be active in a 10-year wetland restoration project on Rush Lake, Winnebago County, the largest prairie pothole east of the Mississippi and the center of Red-necked Grebe distribution in the state.

Karl H. David is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. A serious birder since the early 1980s, he is a past president of the Cayuga Bird Club in Ithaca, New York. He also plays the piano and sings with the Choral Arts Society of Racine.

Jim Frank has been one of WSO's most active contributors to Seasonal Field Notes. He now assists WSO by compiling and summarizing the annual May Day Counts and Migration Day Counts, and is the Records Committee Chair. He is a veterinarian in Milwaukee with an interest in avian medicine.

R. Tod Highsmith is a freelance environmental sciences writer and is editor of *The Passenger Pigeon*. He received a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he studied the vocal behavior of wood-warblers.

Cary Hunkel has her Master of Fine Arts degree from UW-Madison. Her avian images have appeared in Madison Audubon Society and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publications, as well as in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's Birds in Art.

Harold G. Kruse grew up in the Baraboo Hills and has been a central figure in efforts to preserve the unique ecological features of the area. He has been actively involved with The Nature Conservancy and WSO in preservation efforts, including the creation of Honey Creek State Natural Area. He is author of *Natural Areas in the Baraboo Hills.*

Charles A. Long is Emeritus Professor of Biology at UW-Stevens Point. He studies the mammals and birds of Wisconsin, and founded the Museum of Natural History at UW-Stevens Point in 1968.

William P. Mueller is a graduate student at UW-Milwaukee, where his studies focus on avian biogeography, especially of the Red-headed Woodpecker. He conducted the Vehicle-caused Bird Mortality Project, with 90 cooperators statewide, during 1999.

Betsy Popp is a wildlife artist in Townsend, Wisconsin, who works in a variety of media, including oils, watercolor, and oil pastels. When not painting, she enjoys photography, taxidermy, and wood carving.

Ann B. Swengel is vice president of the North American Butterfly Association. She and her husband, Scott, have studied owls together in Wisconsin since 1986, and are partners in ongoing research on grassland birds and butterflies.

Scott R. Swengel has studied and published on owls, butterflies, and grassland birds with his wife, Ann, for more than a decade. His chief research interests are bird social behaviors and land management techniques that promote grassland bird conservation.

Gloria Welniak has a Masters of Fine Arts degree from UW-Madison and has taught arts and crafts in schools and museums for 30 years. She is a longtime birder and enjoys sketching her backyards birds from life.

Philip Whitford is a professor of biology at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, though he still views Wisconsin as home. A frequent contributor to *The Passenger Pigeon* and other ornithological publications, he received a Ph.D. in zoology from UW-Milwaukee, where he studied vocal and visual communication and other social behavior of Giant Canada Geese.

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THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 "to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds." The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation, and publication.

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