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The Passenger Pigeon

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology.

Vol. I.

April, 1939

No. 4

SOME ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES ON DANE COUNTY

With this issue is presented the first edition of THE PASSENGER PIGEON in which the ornithology of a single county is featured. Although space does not permit a thorough presentation, it is believed that a short summary will be valuable in understanding the background and possibilities of a particular region. In future issues, other counties where sufficient work has been done, will be featured under the same plan. Since the first annual meeting of the society is being held this year at Madison on May 6-7, Dane county was chosen as the most appropriate for discussion at this time.

SOME HISTORICAL RECORDS.

Although actually recorded work on the ornithology of Dane county is not to be found until more recent times except in short newspaper items, it may be said that the study of the birds of this region began with the arrival of Thure Kumlien at Albion, Dane county, in 1844. As he had an unusually good background in this field through his studies and work in Europe, his observations from that time were thoroughly qualified and able. The last issue of this magazine carried some of his notes on the birds of this region for 1862 and many of his early records were published in Kumlien and Hollister's "The Birds of Wisconsin", published in 1903.

In 1873 Walter Howard Chase began his Journal of game killed on and near Lake Wingra at Madison, carrying through until 1896.

On or before 1887, a Natural History Society was active at the University of Wisconsin and in March of that same year, Frank A. Carr of Madison published the first issue of the "Western Naturalist," which continued until 1890. In August of 1890, Mr. Carr published the first issue of the "Wisconsin Naturalist", which continued until July, 1891, and carried many interesting ornithological notes.

After that date, Dane county workers co-operated as members of the Wisconsin Natural History Society and some records were carried in their publications, as well as in the

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Editor--W. E. Scott, Wisconsin Conservation Dep't., Annex,
20 N. Carroll St.

Wisconsin Arbor and Bird Day Annuals and in publications of national scope. Special recognition should be given to the work of Dr. Leon J. Cole of the University of Wisconsin, who is known as one of the instigators of bird banding in America, because of his initial work in that field in 1902. The work of Profs. George Wagner, Warner Taylor, and Aldo Leopold, as well as that of A. W. Schorger and John Main is also worthy of special recognition. At the present time, the interest in ornithology in Dane county is probably at its highest point with two active organizations located in Madison and a large number of interested co-operators. A history of these two bird clubs follows:

CLUBS: The Kumlien Club. by John S. Main.

The Kumlien Club of Madison, was formed April 16, 1935, by a small group of men representing both the university and the town. Its purposes were two-fold--to serve as a medium for the exchange of information about birds, and also to stimulate an interest in the scientific aspects of bird study. The club was named, as no doubt is obvious, after that pioneer Wisconsin ornithologist, Thure Kumlien. Charter members consisted of Aldo Leopold, A. W. Schorger, Leon Cole, John S. Main, Arthur Hawkins, Franklin Schmidt, Leonard Wing, Lowell Noland, Harry Anderson, John Gundlach, and King Adamson. Other active members who have since been added include the following: Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Hammerstrom, Philip Wright, William Elder, John Curtis, Walter Scott, N. R. Barger, E. E. Bussewitz, Irven Buss, Theo. Sperry and W. S. Feeney. A number of members have left to pursue their studies in a professional way, either in the field of game management or wildlife conservation. Open meetings are held once a month throughout the college year, the library of one of the university buildings having been made available for that purpose. In addition to these, closed meetings are occasionally held in the homes of club members. Research projects in the study of bird life are being undertaken, both by the club as a whole and by individual members. Written reports of progress made are read to the club from time to time, many of

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which have subsequently appeared in ornithological journals. Present officers of the club are: President, John S. Main; Secretary, Philip Wright; Chairman of the Project Committee, Harry Anderson.

The Madison Bird Club.

by N. R. Barger

The Madison Bird Club, organized in 1936, has promoted better bird protection and enjoyment around Madison. The present officers, now mentioned in the bulletin, has been almost the same from the start. In addition to the usual meetings, walks, and census trips, the club has placed bird books in the public library; sponsored newspaper articles, especially of winter feeding; and made studies of city part bird population. It has taken the initial step in organizing a state-wide society and is now conducting some projects on bird ecology. It has in its midst radio-speakers on bird subjects and bird banders. Members of the club have contributed interesting notes on the following birds in Dane county: Brewster's Warbler; Turkey Vulture; Bewick's Wren; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Whistling Swan; Arkansas Kingbird; Blue and Snow Geese; Ruddy Turnstone; Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, and Old Squaw Duck.

DANE COUNTY MANAGEMENT AREAS

by Aldo Leopold

The University Arboretum--This area (800 acres) has been managed for wildlife since 1932. By feeding and letting cover grow, quail have been increased from 100 to 200, pheasants from none to 300, all without predator-control. By digging ponds in marshes the migrant duck population has been considerably increased, and the number of shorebirds from 2 to 30. By erecting dead snags, flying squirrels and tree swallows have been induced to nest. Similar snags along the lakeshore are erected to attract kingfishers and ospreys. Woodcock, at least 30 pairs of which breed on the arboretum, have been induced to occupy small clearings in brushy marsh.

The Riley Game Co-operative--This area (2,000 acres) of going farms has been winter-fed since 1931. Cover is scarce, and is being supplied in the form of 20 plantations of Norway pine and red cedar, each from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 acres in size, planted and tended by the farmers. These plantations are not yet large enough to affect the bird population. The feeding alone, however, has raised the pheasant population from none to annual kill of 50 birds. Quail, for some unknown reason, have

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not increased. A remnant of 3 Ruffed Grouse persist in one woodlot. A former winter flock of Prairie Chickens disappeared in 1936.

DANE COUNTY GAME REFUGES

At the present time, there are 9 game refuges and closed areas in Dane county, totaling 3,905 acres. All hunting and trapping as well as the carrying of firearms is prohibited in these posted areas. Waterfowl protection is afforded especially by the units which include all or a part of Lake Wingra, Lake Barney, and the Waubesa marsh. The following numbered list of refuges and their acreage is cited with the numbers corresponding to those on the Dane county map included with this issue: 1-Edenglen Game Refuge, 51 A; 2-Foxhall Wild Life Refuge, 320 A; 3-Harker Wild Life Refuge, 553 A; 4-Lowland Springs Game Refuge, 40 A; 5-Mendota State Hospital and Memorial Hospital Game Refuge, 538 A; 6-Montrose Game Refuge, 160 A; 7-University Bay Game Refuge, 600 A; 8-University of Wisconsin Arboretum Closed Area, 1,540 A; 9-Madison Fish Hatchery, 103 A.

PUBLICATIONS ON DANE COUNTY ORNITHOLOGY

The following is a list of publications dealing with various phases of ornithology in Dane county, other than those of statewide range:

Brown, Chas. E. Birds of the Campus.

Gahn, A. R. 1915. An Ecological Survey of the Wingra Springs Region. Bull. Wisconsin Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 13, pp 123-77.

Errington, P. L. 1934. Vulnerability of Bob-white Populations to Predation. Ecology, Vol. XV, No. 2, April, pp. 110-127.

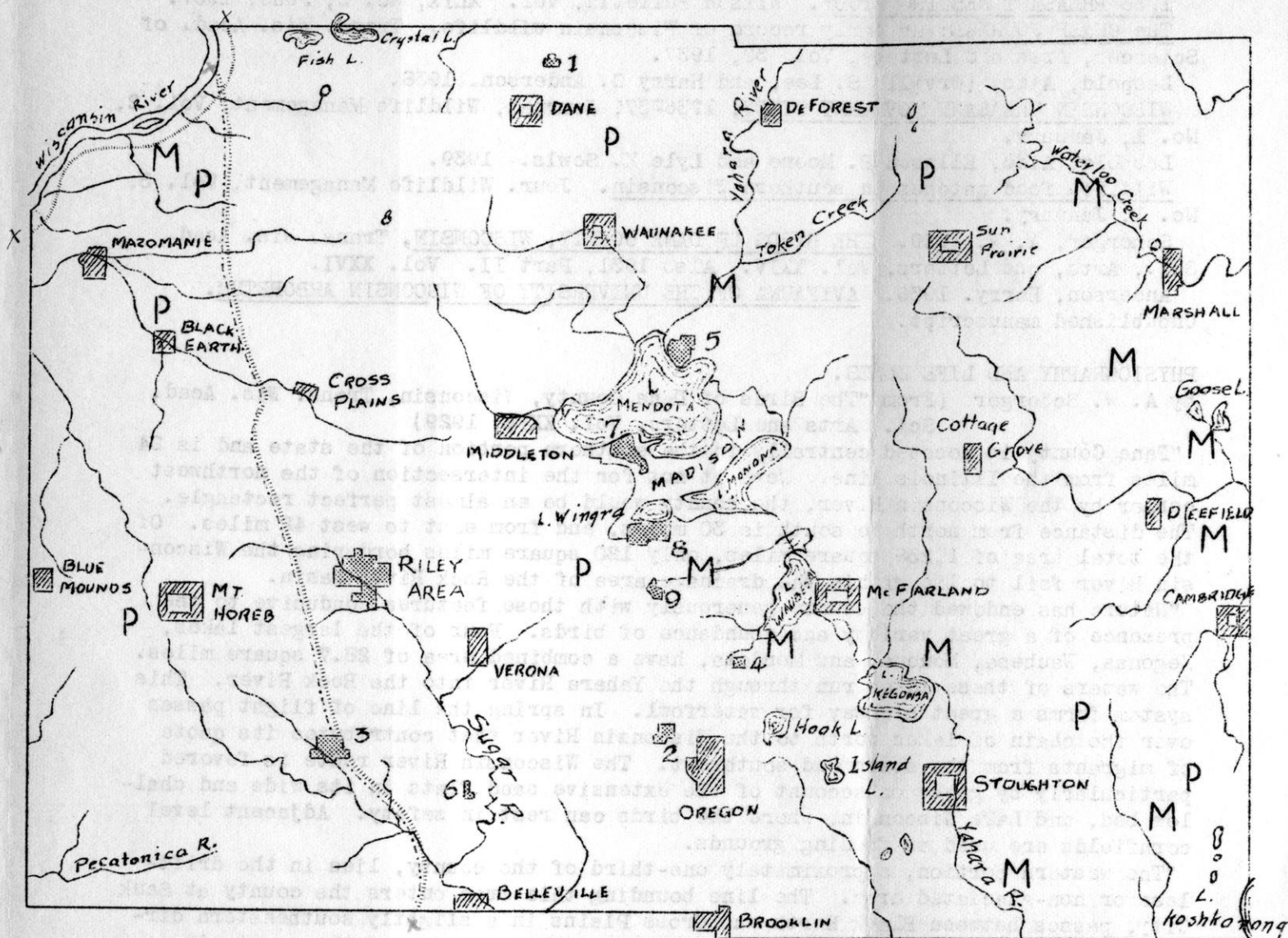
Errington, P. L. and Hammerstrom, F. N., Jr. 1936. The Northern Bob-white's Winter Territory. Res. Bull. 201, Iowa State College of Agriculture. References to other publications on Bobwhite and their predators are cited in bibliography with this publication.

Leopold, Aldo and Schorger, A. W. 1930. The Decline of Jack-Snipe in Southern Wisconsin. Wilson Bulletin, Sept. pp. 183-190.

Leopold, Aldo and Paulson, R. J. 1934. Helping Ourselves. (A popular account of the Riley Game Co-operative at Riley, Dane County, Wisconsin.) Field & Stream, August.

Leopold, Aldo. 1933. ABCs of Winter Feeding Birds. American Game, Sept.-Oct.

The Effect of the Winter of 1935-36 on Wisconsin Quail. American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 18, No. 3, May, 1937.



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X-X West Boundary Alleghanian Area of Transition Zone - East Boundary Carolinian Area, Upper Austral Zone

X-X East Boundary of Non-Glaciaded Area

M -- Important Marshes

P -- Original Prairie, 1882

(Numbers Correspond to Numbered List in Article)

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- 1936 PHEASANT NESTING STUDY. Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XLIX, No. 2, June, 1937.
The CHASE JOURNAL; an early record of Wisconsin wildlife. Trans. Wis. Acad. of Sciences, Arts and Letters, Vol. 30, 1937.
Leopold, Aldo, (Orville S. Lee, and Harry G. Anderson. 1938.
WISCONSIN PHEASANT MOVEMENT STUDY, 1936-'37; Journal, Wildlife Management, Vol. 2, No. 1, January.
Leopold, Aldo, Ellwood B. Moore and Lyle K. Sows. 1939.
Wildlife food patches in southern Wisconsin. Jour. Wildlife Management, Vol. 3, No. 1, January.
Schorger, A. W. 1929. THE BIRDS OF DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN, Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci., Arts, and Letters, Vol. XXIV. Also 1931, Part II. Vol. XXVI.
Anderson, Harry. 1936. AVIFAUNA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ARBORETUM.
Unpublished manuscript.

PHYSIOGRAPHY AND LIFE ZONES.

by A. W. Schorger (From "The Birds of Dane County, Wisconsin, Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci., Arts and Letters, Vol. XXIV, 1929)

"Dane County is located centrally in the southern portion of the state and is 24 miles from the Illinois line. Were it not for the intersection of the northwest corner by the Wisconsin River, the county would be an almost perfect rectangle. The distance from north to south is 30 miles, and from east to west 42 miles. Of the total area of 1,238 square miles, only 120 square miles bordering the Wisconsin River fail to lie within the drainage area of the Rock River basin.

"Nature has endowed the county generously with those features conducive to the presence of a great variety and abundance of birds. Four of the largest lakes, Kegonsa, Waubesa, Monona, and Mendota, have a combined area of 28.7 square miles. The waters of these lakes run through the Yahara River into the Rock River. This system forms a great highway for waterfowl. In spring the line of flight passes over the chain of lakes north to the Wisconsin River that contributes its quota of migrants from the south and southwest. The Wisconsin River route is favored particularly by geese on account of the extensive sand flats in its wide and shallow bed, and Lake Wisconsin, where the birds can rest in safety. Adjacent level cornfields are used as feeding grounds.

"The western portion, approximately one-third of the county, lies in the driftless or non-glaciated area. The line bounding this area enters the county at Sauk City, passes between Black Earth and Cross Plains in a slightly southeastern direction, and leaves the county near Belleville. This portion of the county is a succession of high hills and contains the most extensive tracts of woodland. The sandy wastes attract the Lark Sparrow and rarer birds. The rolling country of the central and eastern portion of the county contains most of the lakes and marshes.

"The county lies in the Alleghanian Area of the Transition Zone with the exception of a narrow strip bordering the Wisconsin River that is unquestionably in the Carolinian Area of the Upper Austral Zone. The division is based on the avifauna which, on account of its mobility always extends beyond the plants peculiar to a

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given zone. Of the trees characteristic of the Carolinian Area, sassafras, tulip tree, hackberry, sycamore, sweet gum, rose magnolia, red but, and persimmon, all are absent from or excessively rare in the county with the exception of the hackberry. There is a single sycamore growing naturally at the edge of the water at Colladay Point, Lake Kegonsa, but this may have originated from the seed of introduced trees.

"The following species of birds characteristic of the Carolinian Area breed in the Mazomanine region: Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cardinal, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Red-shouldered Hawk.

"Some of the trees common to the bottom lands are: River birch, white elm, silver maple, white ash, glaucous willow, prickly ash, bur oak, black oak, white oak, large-toothed aspen, red juniper and hoary alder."

SUMMARY OF PINE GROSBEAK RECORDS THUS FAR RECEIVED

A total of 113 Wisconsin records of the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) were collected from cooperators and published records to date. For this study we have used Prof. Leopold's state map, showing rough ecological divisions for "Game Areas". Where possible this same map will be used for all future studies.

In the areas described on this map, the greatest number of records, 74, came from the Southeast Area; while the Southwest Area had only 3. The Central Sand Area had but 2; the Transition Area, 17, and the Northern Forest Belt, 17. There must be some correlation between the small number of records in the Southwest Driftless area and the Central Sand area, and the ecological conditions, for Iowa's adjacent driftless area also lacks reports of the Pine Grosbeak.

Nesting and Summer Records

Although no attempt was made to distinguish the Canadian and Eastern varieties of the Pine Grosbeak (*leucura* and *eschatus* respectively), Van Tyne's Michigan list indicates that while winter visitants may be either, the Eastern is most common there and would probably be the nesting birds. Neither Michigan (Van Tyne), or Minnesota (Roberts), have any definite nesting records, but both say that they probably breed in some northern localities.

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We have two definite nesting records for Wisconsin. One is reported in detail (eggs collected) when, according to Henry Nehrling (Vol. 2, "Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty"), A. J. Schoenebeck found a nest on May 5, 1890, near Boyd's Creek, 6 miles west of Sseequamegon Bay, Bayfield Co. The second record is furnished by Kay T. Rogers of Appleton, who saw the birds on July 3 and 4 and Sep't. 6-15 in 1938, near Little Fork Lake, Oneida Co. She writes, 'formerly nested near Four Mile Lake (Oneida), but moved to Little Fork, when intrusions became too frequent. Their nest is clearly visible from Little Fork, but it is back beyond an almost inaccessible swamp.' *Bald Eagle see PP 1(5): 78*

Of summer records, Louis Laboda collected a bird on Aug. 21, 1936, near New Lisbon (Juneau Co.); and two birds in the Milwaukee-Downer College museum collection were taken in Vilas and Iron Counties, Sep. 23 and Oct. 4, 1898 by an unknown party. Three unusual dates for the southeast will be doubted by some: July 17, 1907 (E. L. Hauerwas, Milwaukee, 1908 Arbor Day Annual); May 5, 1908 (E. L. Shutts, Whitewater, 1909 ADA); and June 3, 1938 (N. A. Meyer, West Allis).

Average Dates

Southeast area. Earliest arrival (Jung) at Madison, Nov. 2, 1918. Latest departure (Muller) at Madison, April 12, 1923. The 1911 Arbor Day Annual shows April 19, but no observer is listed. Of 20 arrival dates, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, the average is Dec. 8; of 27 winter dates, Jan. 1 to Mar. 1, the average is Jan. 30; and of 21 departure dates, Mar. 1 to May 1, the average is Mar. 24.

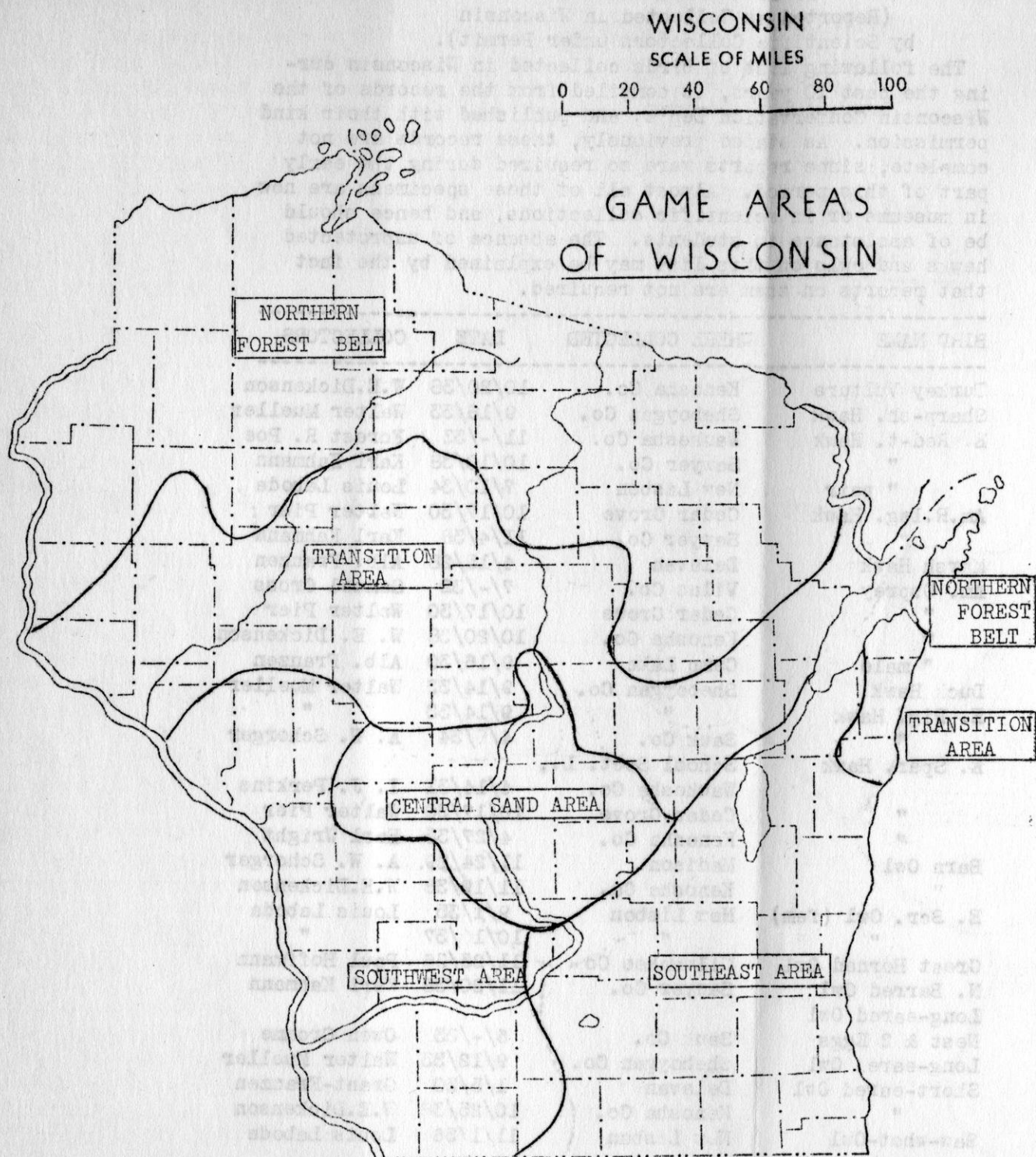
Southwest Area. Three dates: Feb. 20, April 12 and 21.

Central Sand Area. In addition to Laboda's summer record, there is one Feb. 21st record.

Transition Area. Earliest arrival (Grundtvig) at Shiocton, Nov. 17, 1882. Latest departure (Sister Mary Martha) at Sturgeon Bay, Mar. 22, 1939. A report from Eau Claire of April 16, 1912 (A. D. A.) does not list observers. Of six arrival dates, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, the average is Dec. 15; of 5 winter dates, Jan. 1 to Mar. 1, the average is Jan. 14; and of 5 departure dates, Mar. 1 to May 1, the average is Mar. 20.

Northern Forest Belt. Earliest date (Kahmann) at Hayward, Nov. 11, 1938. Latest departure (Gromme) Price Co., April. Of 6 arrival dates, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, the average is Dec. 7. There are only two winter dates: January; two departure dates: Mar. 7 and one in April.

Additional records will be received for a future report. Cooperators are needed especially in the north and west.



Source: PROF. ALDO LEOPOLD, UNIV. OF WIS.

BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS

(Reported as Collected in Wisconsin
by Scientific Collectors under Permit).

The following list of birds collected in Wisconsin during the past 10 years, is compiled from the records of the Wisconsin Conservation Dep't. and published with their kind permission. As stated previously, these records are not complete, since reports were not required during the early part of this period. Almost all of these specimens are now in museums or in scientific collections, and hence should be of assistance to students. The absence of unprotected hawks and owls on this list may be explained by the fact that reports on them are not required.

BIRD NAME	WHERE COLLECTED	DATE	COLLECTORS
Turkey Vulture	Kenosha Co.	10/20/38	W.E.Dickenson
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Sheboygan Co.	9/18/33	Walter Mueller
E. Red-t. Hawk	Waukesha Co.	11/-/33	Forest R. Poe
"	Sawyer Co.	10/10/38	Karl Kahmann
" pair	New Lisbon	7/10/34	Louis Laboda
Am.R.leg. Hawk	Cedar Grove	10/17/30	Walter Pier
"	Sawyer Co.	11/4/38	Karl Kahmann
Marsh Hawk	Delavan	4/15/28	Alb. Franzen
Am. Osprey	Vilas Co.	7/-/32	Samuel Cross
"	Cedar Grove	10/17/30	Walter Pier
"	Kenosha Co.	10/20/38	W. E. Dickenson
" male	Camp Lake	9/16/30	Alb. Franzen
Duck Hawk	Sheboygan Co.	9/14/33	Walter Mueller
E. Pig. Hawk	"	9/14/33	"
"	Sauk Co.	4/8/34	A. W. Schorger
E. Spar. Hawk	School Sect. L.,		
"	Waukesha Co.	4/14/31	I. J. Perkins
"	Cedar Grove	10/17/30	Walter Pier
"	Kenosha Co.	4/27/35	Earl Wright
Barn Owl	Madison	11/24/29	A. W. Schorger
"	Kenosha Co.	11/19/38	W.E.Dickenson
E. Scr. Owl (fem)	New Lisbon	9/1/35	Louis Laboda
"	"	10/10/37	"
Great Horned Owl	Milwaukee Co.	11/23/36	Paul Hoffmann
N. Barred Owl	Sawyer Co.	11/20/38	Karl Kahmann
Long-eared Owl			
Nest & 2 Eggs	Sauk Co.	6/-/33	Owen Gromme
Long-eared Owl	Sheboygan Co.	9/12/33	Walter Mueller
Short-eared Owl	Delavan	1/5/30	Grant-Franzen
"	Kenosha Co.	10/25/38	W.E.Dickenson
Saw-whet-Owl	New Lisbon	11/1/36	Louis Laboda

GRUNDTVIG'S MUSEUM SPECIMENS

According to Charles Faxon's translation of F. L. Grundtvig's article 'On the Birds of Shiocton in Bovina, Cutagamie County, Wisconsin 1881-83' published in Vol. 10 of the Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters for the years 1894-1895, Grundtvig lived in the 'Striped House' on the Shioc river about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Shiocton from Oct. 1881 to Oct. 1883. His very complete study of birds of that region during those years is valuable.

As Grundtvig often mentioned the collecting of specimens, the editor contacted the University of Copenhagen, and was informed that the following 59 species, secured by Grundtvig, were to be found in the Museum of Zoology of that university. These specimen records should further elaborate the data already available.

Key: Initials indicate location where collected as: WDP-- West De Pere; DP--De Pere; S--Shiocton.

Am. Pintail, o, S, 5/4/83	Myrtle Warbler, o, WDP, 4/7/82
B-w. Teal, o, S, 4/24/83	B-thro. Gr. Warbler, o, WDP, 5/15/83
Y-b. Flycatcher, o, S, 4/15/82	Blackb. Warbler, o, S, 5/15/83
L. Flycatcher, o, WDP, 5/9/82	C-sid. Warb. o, WDP, 5/31/83
(?) Horned Lark, o, S, 3/19/83	Bay-br. W. (sex?), S, 5/31/83
R-w. Swallow, o, S, 5/21/83	Black-poll W., o, WDP, 5/19/83
B-c. Chickadee, o, S, 3/17/82	N. Pine Warbler, o, S, 5/16/83
W-br. Nuthatch, o, DP, 10/4/82	W. Palm Warbler, o, WDP, 5/4/82
R-br. Nuthatch, o, WDP, 11/13/82	N. Yellowthroat, o, S, 5/20/82
(?) House Wren, o, WDP, 6/6/82	Wilson's Warbler, o, S, 5/14/82
E. Winter Wren, o, S, 4/26/83	Canada Warb., o, S, 5/20/82
S-b. Marsh Wren, o, S, 5/21/82	Bobolink, o, S, 5/30/83
E. G-cr. Kinglet, o, S, 4/11/83	Balt. Oriole, o, S, 5/12/83
E. R-cr. Kinglet, o, S, 4/18/83	Scarlet Tanager, o, S, 5/20/82
Am. Pipit, o, S, 10/17/83	Indigo Bunting, o, S, 5/31/83
Cedar Waxwing, o, WDP, 6/11/83	Redpoll (sp?), o, S, 6/16/82
Mig. Shrike, o, DP, 5/16/83	N. Pine Siskin, o, S, 3/26/83
Y-th. Vireo, o, WDP, 5/9/82	E. Goldfinch, o, WDP, 5/4/82
R-eyed Vireo, o, WDP, 5/24/82	E. Vesper Spar., o, S, 4/25/83
Phil. Vireo, o, S, 5/31/82	E. Lark Sparrow, o, WDP, 5/12/81*
E. Warb. Vireo, o, S, 5/20/82	Sl-col. Junco, o, S, 4/2/83
B & W Warbler, o, S, 5/15/83	E. Tree Sparrow, o, S, 4/9/82
Gol-w. Warbler, o, S, 5/16/83	E. Chip. Sparrow, o, WDP, 4/21/82
Tenn. Warbler, o, S, 5/24/83	W-th. Sparrow, o, S, 4/26/83
Or.-cr. Warbler, o, S, 5/5/82	E. Fox Sparrow, o, S, 4/26/83
Nash. Warbler, o, S, 5/5/82	Swamp Sparrow, o, S, 4/26/83
N. Par. Warbler, o, S, 5/5/82	Song Sparrow (sp?), o, WDP, 3/30/82
Magnol. Warb., o, WDP, 5/20/82	Lapland Longspur, o, WDP, 4/18/81*
C. May Warbler, o, WDP, 5/15/83	<u>E. Snow Bunt. (sex?), WDP, 3/16/83</u>
Bl.-thr. Blue W., o, S, 6/16/83	*These dates are uncertain.

MARCH FIELD RECORDS

Notes for this department are to be sent to the editor at the end of each month. Only records of some significance are to be included and accurate information regarding dates and observer's names should be given.

PLAINFIELD AREA.--Records of first arrivals are as follows: Mar. 24, Bluebirds, Robins, Killdeers and many Meadowlarks; Mar. 26, Phoebe and Mallard; Mar. 31, Great Blue Heron. The Pinnated Grouse was first heard booming on March 23.--Mrs. F. N. Hammerstrom, Jr., reporter.

OCONTO AREA.--The two Glaucous Gulls were observed at the mouth of the Oconto river until Mar. 2. No field trips have been made there since.--C. H. Richter, reporter.

MADISON AREA.--Migration during March proceeded about as usual except during the last week. Unusual high temperatures then brought in Purple Martins and Tree Swallows much ahead of time, Mar. 25 (Mrs. Koehler and Mrs. Walker). Ducks have dropped off considerably in numbers this year. Mr. Main finds particularly a shortage of Scaups, with possibly a slight gain in numbers of Redheads. If April does not bring in more duck reports, the situation will be serious. Mrs. Koehler and Mrs. Walker reported a pair of Ruddy Ducks, Mar. 13, about two weeks ahead of their usual arrival. An occasional Wood Duck has been seen in addition to two by Anderson on the 23rd. The following early first dates have been noted: Western Meadowlark, in song, Mar. 1, two weeks early (Mrs. Tuttrup); Broad-winged Hawk, Mar. 3 (very early), (Sperry); Bluebird, Mar. 4 (Mitchell); Killdeer, Mar. 4 (Sperry); Phoebe, Mar. 24 (Mitchell); Great Blue Heron, Mar. 19; Field Sparrow, Mar. 4 (Sperry); Fox Sparrow, Mar. 16 (Bussewitz); and Hermit Thrush, Mar. 26 (Sperry). Some interesting hawk and falcon records were made: Duck Hawk, Mar. 18 (Bussewitz), also Mar. 24 (Sperry); Pigeon Hawk, Mar. 25 (Buss); Sparrow Hawk, Mar. 15 (Sperry); Red-shouldered Hawk, Mar. 9 (Sperry); Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mar. 20 (Anderson); Bald Eagle, Mar. 21, in town (Sperry); Cooper's Hawk, Mar. 19 (Jones); and 4 Red-tailed Hawks, University, Mar. 30 (Mitchell). A flock of Snow Buntings were reported Mar. 4, and Bussewitz saw a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks at Devil's Lake, Mar. 13. Hopkins observed a Wilson Snipe on Mar. 23 in Madison. A rather large flock

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(55) of Canada Geese were seen by Mitchell on Lake Wingra, Mar. 23. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were in on Mar. 26, (Barger), but it is to be feared that they did not survive subsequent freezes. The most important record of the month was that of 5 Whistling Swans which stopped in University Bay about Mar. 27, and remained at least a week. Although a few records are at hand, most of our Madison people have seldom seen them here.--N. R. Barger, reporter.

WAUKESHA AREA.--First arrival dates for this region were as follows: Mar. 2nd, Giant Red-wing (Batha); 3rd, Rough-legged Hawk and Song Sparrow (Mr. and Mrs. Philip); 9th, Eastern Meadowlark (Anthes); 10th, Robin and Bluebird (Anthes); Killdeer and Bronzed Grackle (Philip and Rossman); 13th, Western Meadowlark (Batha); 17th, Cowbird (Schwartz); 19th, Rusty Blackbird (Anthes and Cuthbert); 21st, Fox Sparrow and Cowbird (Rossman); 24th, Fintail, Ring-necked Duck and Coot (Jones); Phoebe and Woodcock (Philip); 25th, Red-headed Woodpecker (Jones); Migrant Shrike, Shoveller, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, and Kingbird (Philip and Nelson); 26th Canvasback (Jones); Hooded Merganser (Anthes); 28th, Woodcock (Philip); 30th, Wilson Snipe (Philip). The Kingbird was definitely identified at close range. The temperature at the time was nearly eighty degrees, which may account for the early date. A Raven was observed in the presence of Crows, which it eclipsed in size, Mar. 19th by Batha. When flushed, its characteristic flight was noticed.--Verson C. Rossman, reporter.

RACINE AREA.--During the month of March migration has been peculiar in that many species arrived very early or else later than usual. Even the dates upon which the various species become regularly common, fluctuated. Possibly the weather did not play such an important part either as three Woodcock were seen one afternoon during a snowstorm, Mar. 15, the approximate early date of arrival. On Mar. 19, the Hoy Nature Club went on an excursion to Wind Lake tamaracks where two Bald Eagles, an adult and an immature, were seen flying north together. Many Marsh Hawks were seen and the number of adult males was unusual. At least two Goldfinches now starting their moult, and one Pine Siskin were seen. One Great Blue Heron was at the rookery and a nest of the Great Horned Owl was found with the Owl evidently incubating. An excellent opportunity was had to watch about sixty Canada Geese come into a field nearby. Between 7 and 10

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thousand Red-winged Blackbirds were recorded. Hawks seemed to be more numerous and ahead of schedule. One vulture, probably a Turkey Vulture, was seen going north one day and the next day going south over the same place. A few Goshawks have also been observed from time to time. Twelve Whistling Swans were reported by Dr. von Jarchow one morning. But one flock (25) of Snow Geese have been noted. Since the snowstorm of Mar. 15, ducks have come up the Root river for shelter, and have been noticed regularly even inside the city. In this group, the Hooded Merganser, Black Duck and Ring-necked Duck showed a decided increase over previous years. A Pipit has remained to feed upon cracked corn put out for the birds. Two Mockingbirds, a Towhee and a Red-breasted Nuthatch are still with us at feeding places. A Red-bellied Woodpecker, possibly two, were found here. One Tufted Titmouse has been reported. The Bluebirds arrived on March 4th this year, gradually increasing in numbers until they became more common than usual. Fox Sparrows are also at a high peak. Lapland Longspurs have been seen flying north all month. Between Mar. 9th, when they were in their drab winter plumage, and the end of March, the birds had practically completed their moult. The Western Meadowlark seems to be getting a stronger foothold here each year.--Edward Prins, reporter.

GREEN BAY AREA.--First arrivals for this region are recorded as follows: 11th, Duck Hawk (Kendall); 13th, Great Blue Heron (Paulson); 19th, Kingfisher (Chartier and Fellows); 20th, Sparrow Hawk (Cleary); 21st Cooper's Hawk (Cleary); Bronzed Grackle (Kendall); 22nd, Marsh Hawk (Chartier); Killdeer, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing (Mrs. Andrew Weber); Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Redwing; 24th, Song Sparrow; 25, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Rusty Blackbird (Cleary); Mourning Dove (Hussong and Cleary); 26th, Whistling Swan (Paulson); Coot, Cowbird (Kendall); Chipping Sparrow and Fox Sparrow. Cleary observed the Prairie Horned Lark and Northern Shrike on the 19th. The Lapland Longspur was seen on the 26th. Other birds noted during the month include the Canada Goose, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, American and Barrow's Golden-eyes, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Hooded Merganser, Goshawk, Franklin's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Redpoll and Snow Bunting.--E. W. Strehlow, reporter.

MARCH FIELD RECORDS

MILWAUKEE AREA.--Early and unusual observations for this region include the following: Mar. 3rd, Killdeer and Sparrow Hawk (Strelitzer); 9th, Common and Red-throated Loons (Mathiak); 14th, Bronzed Grackle (Schwartz); and on the 24th over 9000 Lapland Longspurs in 53 flocks were counted by Mathiak. In the field notes for February, Mathiak's record of Short-eared Owls in the city was listed. This record should have shown the 9 first observed on Mar. 8th, and the 22 birds later. Deusing collected over 500 pellets from these birds and others picked up another 300. They will be dessected and exhibited at a future meeting of the Milwaukee Bird Club.--Carl L. Strelitzer, reporter.

FAVILLE GROVE AREA (Lake Mills)--The following notes were taken on this area during the first 10 days of the month. On March 1st a Great Black-backed Gull was observed in good light and on a clear day. It was much larger than the Herring and Ring-billed Gulls and carried the distinctive black and white markings. Arrival dates of other birds were: Canada Goose, 4th; Killdeer, E. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, and Lapland Longspur, the 3rd and Flicker on the 8th. This latter bird may have been one of those that wintered on the area. A census on the 11th showed 60 Hungarian Partridge but as they were already paired, the figure may not be so accurate. Only 2 Pinnated Grouse are on or near their usual booming grounds here, but it is expected more will show up later.--Harry Anderson, reporter.

STATE-WIDE NOTES.--Kendall (Green Bay) found the Great Blue Heron in Marinette County on the 21st and the Western Meadowlark in Kewaunee County on the 21st. Stevens (Milwaukee), reported a Golden Eagle at Lake Koshkonong. Fairfield of Madison, observed two Golden-eyes on a stream at Verona, on the 23rd. Conservation Warden Willard Laesch reported 10,000 Canada Geese in Jefferson County on Red Cedar Lake, Mar. 22.

PASSENGER PIGEONS PURCHASED--The Wisconsin Conservation Department recently purchased a pair of Passenger Pigeons which were collected from the roost at Grand Haven, Michigan, in 1980. The birds are still in good condition and will be exhibited at the department's museum, State Experimental Game and Fur Farm, Poynette.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING--A detailed program of the Annual Meeting is inserted in this copy of The Passenger Pigeon.

BALD EAGLE PROJECT--As announced in last issue, records of the Bald Eagle in Wisconsin are to be in the hands of the editor by May 7th. Better still, bring them with you to the Convention May 6th and 7th.

NEW CLUB FORMED--S. Paul Jones, of Waukesha, has announced the final organization of the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club in the Waukesha region. This club has been forming for several years, having had a secretary during that time. At present a constitution is being drawn up. Mr. Goss, for whom the club was named, was a noted oologist, and contributed a large collection of eggs to the Milwaukee Public Museum. His brother, N. S. Goss, was the author of the History of the Birds of Kansas, and also a noted ornithologist. Benjamin Goss made his home in Waukesha for many years.

WOOD DUCK RECORD--Frank Hopkins, of the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm at Poynette was the proud father of a Wood Duck which was hand raised and banded and released by him on Mar. 21, 1931. A recent report from the Biological Survey shows that the bird lived $7\frac{1}{2}$ years before it was killed in the Fall of 1938, on Avery Island, La., by E. A. McKenny. This is an extraordinary record, especially because the bird was reared by hand.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN NOTES REQUESTED--Arthur S. Hawkins of the Illinois Natural History Survey is continuing his work in Wisconsin, especially in a study of the Pinnated Grouse in southern Wisconsin. He is attempting to discern the connection between the Northern Prairie Chicken, being studied by Mr. and Mrs. Hammerstrom, and the Illinois Prairie Chicken, being studied by the Natural History Survey. In this regard, Hawkins would appreciate Prairie Chicken records of observations, nesting, or booming for southern Wisconsin in recent years. Address: c/o Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural History Bldg., Urbana, Illinois.

RARE STRAGGLER TAKEN IN WISCONSIN--William Elder, of the University of Wisconsin Zoology Department, collected a Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) at Faville Grove, Lake Mills, Jefferson County, on April 9th. This is the most easterly record we can find of the bird. There is a breeding record in 1923, for Nevada, Story County, Iowa, which is the central part of that state, (DuMont).

THE PASSENGER PIGEON
RANGE AND POPULATION STUDY SHEET NO. 3

Starling

(Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris)

The Starling was introduced in America as early as 1872, but did not become established until 1890 and 1891, when about 100 birds succeeded in New York's Central Park. They moved westward, crossing the Allegheny Mountains in 1916 and came into the middle western states shortly thereafter. Van Tyne records the first birds in Michigan in 1824; DuMont records a single bird in south-central Iowa in 1922, with no more until 1928; Roberts lists two birds seen in southeastern Minnesota in the spring of 1929; Schorger records a flock of 40 at Lake Monona on Mar. 18, 1928.

In this study, an attempt will be made to secure the first Wisconsin records, data on movement through the state, present population density, seasonal shifts of large flocks and nesting records.

REPORTS ON THE STARLING SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR NOT LATER THAN JUNE 7. Address: W. E. Scott, 20 N. Carroll St., Madison, Wisconsin.

Reporter's Name.....

Address.....

First record of Starling in my locality: _____ birds
in _____ county, near _____
on _____.

Second record: _____ birds in _____
county, near _____ on _____

At present the Starling is abundant() common()
fairly common() scarce() in my locality.

Average date the birds begin to nest in my locality:

Is there any indication of seasonal fluctuation in
numbers of birds in your locality? _____

If so, give dates of arrival and departure _____

Record on the other side of sheet any large flocks of
100 or more birds, giving dates, localities, observers,
and numbers. Return entire sheet to the editor.

