



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The passenger pigeon. Vol. I, No. 3 March 1939

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, March 1939

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/E7VMCRO5KPRJT9A>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

ANNUAL CONVENTION, MAY 6TH AND 7TH IN MADISON

The Passenger Pigeon

Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

Vol. I

March, 1939

No. 3

COLLECTING WITH THURE KUMLIEN IN 1862

By Angelia Kumlien Main, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin

Seventy-seven years ago, Thure Kumlien, pioneer Wisconsin ornithologist, wrote a letter to Professor H. Schlegel, University of Leiden, Holland, in reply to a request for specimens of Wisconsin birds. Professor Schlegel had asked for various particular specimens, and in his answer, Thure Kumlien outlined the species he was able to supply from the vicinity of Albion, Dane County, then his home. This list of birds, which he considered sufficiently common to collect on request, is now of special interest in comparison with present conditions. I quote the following from his letter dated February 15, 1862:

"The list you sent contains species that largely belong to some other parts, yet of those you mention, there is a possibility here to obtain about 20 to 25 kinds. Last year I got a Melanetta velvetina (White-winged Scoter) in a lake here, a rare instance, as the bird prefers salt water. This winter I obtained one Picoides hirsutus (American Three-toed Woodpecker), but the specimen was somewhat mutilated, the point of the bill being shot off. I have it mounted. Are not Vireo philadelphicus (Philadelphia Vireo)--I was the first that found this bird--, Lobipes wilsoni (Wilson Phalarope), Icterus xanthorrhynchus (Yellow-headed Blackbird), or Pelecanus erythrorhynchus (White Pelican) desirable? If so, I can get them. Below, I will give a list of birds that I am likely to obtain here, but I may possibly get many other kinds, going west and northwest."

At this point Thure Kumlien mentioned 202 birds which he could furnish. As this record should be of sufficient value, the entire list has been translated from the scientific terminology of that date by W. E. Scott, and is given here in common name only according to present classification groups. Scott found the Cliff Swallow

(Continued on next page)

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology
(Subscription price \$1.00 for twelve issues)

Temporary Officers of the Society (All of Madison)

President--N. R. Barger, 625 Mendota Court
Sec.-Treas.--Earl Mitchell, 311 Campbell Ave.
Directors--Mrs. Arthur Koehler, 109 Chestnut St.
--Mrs. R. A. Walker, 2222 Chamberlain Ave.
Reporter--Miss Ruth Koehler, 109 Chestnut St.
Editor--W. E. Scott, Wisconsin Conservation Dept., Annex,
20 N. Carroll St.

listed both as Hirundo fulva and lunifrons, and believes that possibly one of the listings should have been for the Rough-winged Swallow, which was not represented in the list. The record follows:

Horned Grebe	American Golden-eye
Pied-billed Grebe	Buffle-head
White Pelican	Ruddy Duck
Double-crested Cormorant	Hooded Merganser
Great Blue Heron	American Merganser
American Egret	Swallow-tailed Kite
Snowy Egret	Eastern Goshawk
Eastern Green Heron	Sharp-shinned Hawk
American Bittern	Cooper's Hawk
Eastern Least Bittern	Eastern Red-tailed Hawk
Whistling Swan	Broad-winged Hawk
Trumpeter Swan	Northern Bald Eagle
Common Canada Goose	Marsh Hawk
Common Mallard	Duck Hawk
Common Black Duck	Eastern Pigeon Hawk
Gadwall	Eastern Sparrow Hawk
Baldpate	Eastern Ruffed Grouse
American Pintail	Greater Prairie Chicken
Green-winged Teal	Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse
Blue-winged Teal	Eastern Bob-white
Shoveller	Sandhill Crane
Wood Duck	King Rail
Redhead	Florida Gallinule
Canvas-back	American Coot
Lesser Scaup Duck	Semipalmated Plover

(Continued on page 40)

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

By A. W. Schorger, (Continued from last issue)

"And now arose a roar, compared with which all previous noises ever heard, are but lullabys, and which caused more than one of the expectant and excited party to drop their guns, and seek shelter behind and beneath the nearest trees. The sound was condensed terror. Imagine a thousand threshing machines running under full headway, accompanied by as many steamboats groaning off steam, with an equal quota of R. R. trains passing through covered bridges--imagine these massed into a single flock, and you possibly have a faint conception of the terrific roar following the monstrous black cloud of pigeons as they passed in rapid flight in the gray light of morning, a few feet before our faces. So sudden and unexpected was the shock, that nearly the entire flock passed before a shot was fired. The unearthly roar continued, and as flock after flock, in almost endless line, succeeded each other, nearly on a level with the muzzle of our guns, the contents of a score of double barrels was poured into their dense midst. Hundreds, yes thousands, dropped into the open fields below. Not infrequently a hunter would discharge his piece and load and fire the third and fourth time into the same flock. The slaughter was terrible beyond any description. Our guns became so hot by rapid discharges, we were afraid to load them. Then while waiting for them to cool, lying on the damp leaves, we used, those of us who had them, pistols, while others threw clubs, seldom if ever, failing to bring down some of the passing flock. Ere the sun was up, the flying host had ceased. It continued scarcely an hour in all. Below, the scene was truly pitiable. Not less than 2,500 birds covered the ground. Many were only wounded, a wing broken or something of the kind, which disabled, without killing them. These were quickly caught and their necks broken. Four of the party were Chicago men who had come out to purchase or otherwise procure several thousand birds for that market. We quickly negotiated our interest to them at the rate of one cent per pigeon, and six hours later, we understand, the birds having been thoroughly plucked and packed in ice, were headed on a through freight to Chicago. Leaving the rest of the party, we drove off a few miles further into a high wooded ridge, where the nests were located. Every tree containing from one to four hundred nests. The young pigeons (squabs) were hardly able to fly, and could be caught easily, when once ousted from the nest. Here of course were hundreds of thousands of single birds (probably the females), which could be shot one or two at a time, as fast as the hunter could load and fire. We saw

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

more than a hundred trees that had fallen, by reason of the numbers of nests built upon its (their) branches. Many of the young pigeons were dead in their nests, the mothers probably having been killed, and her young starved."

"Thousands driven by hunger had managed to crawl or flop from the nest, and whose dead bodies lay thick upon the ground. Thousands of dead pigeons also were scattered around, having doubtless been wounded away from home, and flown to their young to die. It is estimated that not less than 100,000 hunters from all portions of the Union have visited the roost during this season. Probably as many as a thousand were there on the same day with us but scattered along through the woods twenty or twenty-five miles."

"Likewise attracted there were several tribes of Indians. We met numerous squads, the men and boys armed with bows and arrows, the squaws carrying long poles. When the nest was within reach the squaws punched the young pigeons from its home, and caught it as it fell. When too high to reach, the skillful archer generally at the first shot drove the large headed arrow plump to the center of the nest, and the young bird, shot first upward, then fell dead. We saw one young Indian shoot three pigeons on the wing, with his arrow, killing his bird on each occasion.."

"The old men and squaws were engaged in picking and drying pigeons. A full grown pigeon, when fully dried and smoked is about the size, shape and hardness of an old, last year's butternut..."

The expenditure of ammunition during the nesting was enormous. A single dealer in Sparta, Wisconsin, Mr. J. H. Baldwin, handled 16 tons of shot with the corresponding amount of powder. Translated into one ounce loads we have 512,000 rounds. It would seem accordingly that the number killed with firearms throughout the period of nesting must have equalled or exceeded the number caught by trapping.

THE FOOD CONSUMED

All the pigeons killed by General Harnden at the Kilbourn roost had their crops filled with wheat, oats and pigeon grass. At this period spring wheat was the chief crop raised by the farmers and their complaints of damage are frequent. Grain was sowed broadcast and then dragged. The birds would frequently alight on the newly sown field in such numbers that in a few minutes not a grain remained. Near Wautoma a farmer while dragging could not get his oxen forward until he had driven the cloud of pigeons away

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

with a pole. The difficulty did not end with sowing. The pigeons pulled up the grain even when the sprouts were an inch high. Many acres had to be replanted. One paper states: "It is of no use to resow the fields as long as these swift plunderers are around, though hundreds of thousands of them have been caught, and sent to market by the ton, no impression seems to be made on them in the way of diminishing their countless numbers."

A farmer near Prescott had seven acres of corn just planted, "scratched up" by the pigeons one morning before breakfast. An editor facetiously remarked that this farmer never knew corn to come up so quickly.

By and large the chief food of the pigeon in Wisconsin was the acorn. The Wood County Reporter speaking of the pigeons in Adams County states: "Hundreds of flocks may be seen every morning flying to the northwest to feed on the acorns of the oak forests in the western portion of the country, and returned to the vicinity of Brandon and were feeding on acorns and in the wheat stubble."

Regarding the nesting on Duncan Creek, at Bloomer, a writer (Chippewa Falls Democrat, June 1) speaks of "The pigeons who are flying about by the millions filling their crops with acorns, and playing sad havoc with the grain where sowed late." Elsewhere, however, he says: "Strange to say, the damage done by them to the crops so far has been trifling." He also speaks of passing through a magnificent stand of hardwoods, consisting chiefly of white oak, on the Bloomer Road, where the pigeons were very "thick."

The New Lisbon Argus of June 22 states that "the young pigeons have done a great deal of damage to the blueberry crop."

The black oaks are the principal species in the sandy central basin of Wisconsin. Most abundant is the Hill Oak, (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*). It sometimes produces a large trunk but is usually a low tree that forms thickets and copses. The acorn is small and can be swallowed readily in comparison with those of the white and red oaks. Of significance for the nesting of pigeons is the fact that the acorns of the red and black oaks require two seasons to ripen, while those of the white and burr oaks require but one.

The favorite and most important food was the beechnut. It is an interesting fact that during this decade at least the beech had nuts only in the autumn of odd years and this seems to have held throughout its range. I have data on this point covering many years and have found but few ex-

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

ceptions. The distribution of the beech had a profound influence on the nestings. There are numerous minor exceptions, but it can be stated as a general law that in odd years there were heavy nestings in Wisconsin and Minnesota on account of the oak mast, while in even years the nestings were largely in Michigan and Pennsylvania, due to the abundance of beechnuts.

It is singular that Professor Roney does not call specific attention to this fact, but he merely states: For many years Passenger Pigeon nestings have been established in Michigan, and by a noticeable concurrence, only in even alternate years, as follows: 1868, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878." The reason is apparent from the following quotation from Merriam: "My notes show that the beechnut crop was good in the autumns of 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881, 1883,--always on the odd years--while on the alternate seasons it failed." A beechnut crop in the fall of the odd year meant abundant mast for nesting in the spring of the even year.

The beech in Wisconsin has a peculiar distribution. Its range can be defined roughly by a line drawn from the southeastern corner of the state to the southern end of Lake Winnebago, north along the eastern shore through Oconto Falls. Prior to the year discussed in this paper there were some large pigeon nestings in this area. It is obvious that a beech-oak association meant mast in nearly every year and for this reason it appears that there was scarcely ever a year in which a nesting of size did not occur in Wisconsin.

THE NUMBER OF EGGS OR SQUABS IN A NEST

Ornithologists have always been bothered greatly by the discrepancies in the literature regarding the number of eggs laid. The greater evidence is in favor of a single egg, though there are authentic cases apparently of two eggs. Not much reliance can be placed on the memory of old men. (I have interviewed and corresponded with many men familiar with the nestings in Central Wisconsin. As an extreme case I will cite the following excerpt from a letter received from a gentleman who lived adjacent to the last nesting: "They lay two eggs and soon as they hatch they lay two more in the nest with the young squabs and when the second pair hatch they push the first pair out of the nest, and lay two more eggs, and follow that procedure from April until November, hatching a pair every two weeks, and in a warmer climate every two weeks in every month except February.") In July 1934, I interviewed Mr. William Dunwoody,

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

then 78 years of age, of Monroe. I questioned him specifically as to the number of eggs in a nest. He replied that as he remembered, he used to get two squabs from a nest. The same reply was given by Sylvester Beveal who was raised in the "Richland Timber" near Monroe, a favorite nesting ground for pigeons. The presence of two eggs or squabs does not prove common parentage.

The male pigeons fed twice daily. They left the roost at daybreak, returning at 9:00 to 10:00 A. M. to relieve the females. The latter were gone until about 2:00 P. M., and on their reassuming charge of the nest, the males again departed to feed and return in the late afternoon. Kelly, who shot at the Kilbourn roost, states that the best time to hunt is in the morning and evening, and that at this season, the males were "much preferable" to the females. It seems that the males suffered, accordingly, to a much greater extent than the females from shooting and trapping.

Under normal conditions the sitting bird did not leave the nest until touched by its returning mate, and for this reason it may be argued that two females could not lay in the same nest. An important factor should not be overlooked. Trapping and shooting of the adults took place from the time of selection of the roost until it "broke." Every adult killed meant probably the desertion of a nest. As noted above the female was away for a four hour period and in case of the death of the male the nest would be unprotected during this time. If the female were netted, the nest was without doubt deserted. Where as high as 100 nests were found on a single tree, competition for nesting sites must have been keen. It is accordingly not at all improbable that a female that needed a nest would appropriate an unoccupied one and deposit a second egg.

The contemporaneous accounts of the 1871 nesting say nothing at all regarding the number of eggs, and little as to the squabs. The Fond du Lac correspondent writes as though there was but one squab in a nest: When the nest was within reach the squaws punched the young pigeon (s)-- (evidently this should be singular) from its home, and caught it as it fell. When too high to reach, the skillful archer generally at the first shot drove the large headed arrow plump to the center of the nest, and the young bird, shot first upward, then fell dead."

The writer on the Bloomer nesting says: "On every tree dozens of rude nests are visible, over the edges of which an occasional 'squab' peeps his inquisitive head."

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

The description of the 1882 nesting at Kilbourn is very specific on this point: "--in each nest is a 'squab' --a little yellow pigeon about as big as one's thumb, and three-fourths grown.--These birds have a rule which the pestiferous English sparrow might adopt with benefit to Milwaukee--one egg to a nest."

It is probable that two squabs were frequently found in one nest but one was without doubt an orphan. A description of a nesting in a beech forest in Pennsylvania mentions rows of nests on the limbs. Where there were several nests on the same branch, a hungry, orphaned bird, if able to do so, would naturally move into the nest of a squab being fed, and be adopted into the family. This takes place with tame pigeons. After the lapse of many years, the memory of an occasional pair of squabs, coupled with the powerful subconscious stimulant of two young for the tame pigeon and the mourning dove, leaves the firm conviction that the Passenger Pigeon laid two eggs.

WAS THERE A SECOND NESTING

It is frequently stated in the literature, chiefly if not solely on the authority of trappers, that the Passenger Pigeon nested two and three times in a season. I can find no reliable evidence whatsoever that there was a second nesting in Wisconsin in 1871.

The first specific reference to nests is in the Friend-ship Adams County Press for April 15. The incubation period was precisely 14 days. The young were fed for 14 to 16 days by the parents and then abandoned. At this stage the squabs were excessively fat and three to four additional days were required before they could fly well. It is important to keep these figures in mind as they fit remarkably the data for the great "roost." The parents were tied to the eggs and squabs for a period of 30 days. If the eggs were laid about April 15, there should have been a great flight of adults about May 15. We find this in the La Crosse Democrat for May 15: "Wild pigeons for the last few days have been flying over town in such myriads as to frequently darken the sun like a cloud. Their flight has been mostly from the northeast to the southwest, which leads us to believe that their nesting operations have been fooled with to such a degree as to cause them to desert their eggs, young and all. Hunters ought to have sense enough to go slow a little and give the old birds time to bring forth their young, or, they will desert this section of the country entirely, but we don't suppose the farmers would mourn."

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

On May 13, the pigeon hunters at Friendship reported that the old birds were repairing their nests and the indications were that they would stay in the section until a second brood was raised. On the same date the Kilbourn Mirror states: Next week will be time for squab hunting. Get ready your poles to knock them from the trees. They are better and fatter than the old birds."

As a rule the squabs were not gathered until they were about to be abandoned by the parents. The Plover paper of May 13 states that during the week several loads of young pigeons captured below Grand Rapids passed through the village. This might indicate that the squabs were more advanced than subsequent information shows, or that they were collected at a less mature stage than usual. There is excellent agreement as to the flight of the young pigeons. The Sparta Eagle of May 12 states that the young will be out in about a week, i. e. May 19. The Kilbourn Mirror of May 19 states that the squabs are beginning to fly and that the sport is about over. On the 26th it is stated that the pigeons have left for Minnesota.

Attention was called previously to the isolated nestings at Bloomer, Durand and Prescott. They were very small in comparison with the main roost, and I am of the opinion that these were second attempts at nesting due to failure of the first. The pigeon front at Kilbourn, and probably at many other places, had been driven back five miles by persecution and slaughter, with the likelihood that the harrassed birds went elsewhere.

Nine Mile Island is only a short distance above Durand. The roost is first mentioned on May 2 at which time it probably began forming. On June 8, approximately two weeks after the main roost dissolved, there appears this laconic item: "7,000,000 squabs to be had on Nine Mile Island." They were ready for the harvest.

The roost at Bloomer is not mentioned until June 3. A visitor to the roost on June 8 found "millions" of pigeons present. Since an occasional squab could be seen peeping over the edge of the nest, it appears that the squabs were nearly ready to fly and that this roost was in about the same state of development as that at Durand.

The nesting at Prescott "broke" later. Pigeons did not excite comment from their numbers until May 10. On June 21 it is stated: "The pigeons roosting on the island are gone --except a few of the latest squabs."

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

The earliest possible date that can be assigned to the departure of the old birds from the main roost is May 15. Allowing one day to get to Prescott, 3 days for building the nest and laying the egg, 14 days for incubation, 15 days for feeding the squab, and 3 days for the young to fly would require 36 days. This means that if the pigeons had filled the crops of the squabs in the big nesting for the last time on May 15, had proceeded at once to Prescott and reared a second brood in all diligence, this brood could have been on the wing by June 20. We doubt if the Passenger Pigeon had so great an urge to procreate, and if so the percentage possessing it was excessively small.

WHERE DID THE PIGEONS GO AFTER NESTING

I have taken much pains to attempt to trace the summer and fall movements of the pigeons but with meagre results. It was mentioned above that there was a great flight over La Crosse into Minnesota about the middle of May, and that the Kilbourn Mirror of May 26 stated that the pigeons had left for Minnesota. The Brandon Times of June 14 states that Tom Wilson was still near Kilbourn catching pigeons, and the week previous had over 1,000 live birds on hand. Probably only young birds were being caught.

On June 3, pigeons, probably from the Bloomer roost, were plentiful at Chippewa Falls and were reported as having been flying thickly for the past two weeks. At Hudson they were numerous on May 26, and were shot up to June 1.

By May 27, all pigeons had disappeared from the vicinity of Plover. They were abundant at Appleton, May 27, and professional trappers were busy at Kaukauna on June 1. On June 20 they were reported as plentiful in the Wisconsin River bottom at Boscobel, and on June 28 as quite plentiful in the groves around Lodi. The number, however, that remained in the southern part of the state seems to have been relatively small. The Superior Times of July 22 states: "Wild pigeons are reported to be quite numerous in the woods adjoining town."

There then follows a wide gap. On August 30 pigeons appeared in large numbers at Brandon and at the same time they were reported as plentiful at Columbus. They were present at Green Bay, Sept. 7, "in considerable numbers." At Oakfield, they were reported "plentiful" on Sept. 9; "plenty" at Oshkosh, on Sept. 13; and "quite numerous" at Sturgeon Bay, on Sept. 14. Pigeon Hunting was the principal excitement at Shawano, on Sept. 14, while at West Salem, Sept. 15, hunters were having "lively times" with them. Due

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

to a hunting accident we knew that pigeons were being hunted August 26, at Waukesha. At Whitewater there was considerable shooting the middle of September, the largest morning's score reported being 40. They were fairly plentiful at Racine August 26, but not in quantities satisfactory to the local hunters. At Kenosha on September 6 "millions of pigeons" were flying southward. The latter single reference to a large migration indicates that the fall flights were no means comparable to those of spring or that they dribbled southward.

The Sparta Eagle of May 12 states: "--those who are familiar with their habits and follow them constantly, assert, that the indications are that from here they will go to the Red River country and their destroyers are preparing to follow them thither." This seems like an extraordinary prediction in view of the vast flight over La Crosse into Minnesota that actually did take place a few days later; however, most of the birds appear to have gone to the head of Lake Superior rather than to the Red River. Mr. Alexander McDougall has written: "In 1871 when this town (Duluth) was first building, there were millions of them about here. In the Lake Superior region there are lots of berries but no beechnuts, except near Grand Island,---" In summer and early autumn there was little if any mast to be had anywhere, the birds being forced to live at this period almost entirely on berries and other fruits.

The Duluth Minnesotian for September 30, 1871, states: "Pigeon shooting is about over, though we see some fine bunches coming in occasionally."

At this time the greatest winter roosts were in Missouri, and southward to Texas. If the birds left for Minnesota in the great numbers reported, it is possible that they went southward west of the Mississippi.

The dramatic passing of so many millions is often cited as a cardinal example of man's greed and thoughtlessness. However, greatly the method of trapping the breeding birds is to be deplored, the extinction of the species was inevitable on economic grounds. Wilson estimated that the flock of 2,230,272,000 birds seen by him required 17,424,000 bushels of mast daily. Audubon, for a flock of 1,150,136,000, made a comparable estimate of 8,712,000 bushels. It is obvious that if the species had persisted in anything like its original numbers agriculture would have been impossible. The pigeon was voracious. Dr. T. S.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Roberts mentions recovering 17 acorns from the crop of one bird. Translate acorns into wheat for a few millions of birds and the loss becomes enormous. When the purse of the farmer is touched he takes matters into his own hands as we witness even today. Thich would have been preferable, our present day agriculture, or vast forests with their thousands upon thousands of flashing blue meteors is a matter of individual opinion.

(The End)

COLLECTING WITH THURE KUMLIEN IN 1862

(Continued from page 30)

Killdeer	Saw-whet Owl
American Golden Plover	Eastern Whip-poor-will
Ruddy Turnstone	Eastern Nighthawk
American Woodcock	Chimney Swift
Wilson's Snipe	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Long-billed Curlew	Eastern Belted Kingfisher
Upland Plover	Northern Flicker
Spotted Sandpiper	Northern Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Solitary Sandpiper	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Greater Yellow-legs	Red-headed Woodpecker
Lesser Yellow-legs	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
American Knot	Northern Hairy Woodpecker
Pectoral Sandpiper	Northern Downy Woodpecker
Baird's Sandpiper	Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker
Least Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird
Red-backed Sandpiper	Northern Crested Flycatcher
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Eastern Phoebe
Marbled Godwit	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Hudsonian Godwit	Alder Flycatcher
Sanderling	Least Flycatcher
Wilson's Phalarope	Eastern Wood Pewee
Herring Gull	Western Wood Pewee
Ring-billed Gull	Prairie Horned Lark
Bonaparte's Gull	Northern Horned Lark
Common Tern	Tree Swallow
Black Tern	Bank Swallow
Eastern Mourning Dove	Rough-winged Swallow (?)
Passenger Pigeon	Barn Swallow
Black-billed Cuckoo	Northern Cliff Swallow
Great Horned Owl	Purple Martin
Snowy Owl	Northern Blue Jay
Northern Barred Owl	Eastern Crow
Long-eared Owl	Black-capped Chickadee

COLLECTING WITH THURE KUMLIEN IN 1862

White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Pine Warbler
Brown Creeper	Prairie Warbler
Eastern House Wren	Western Palm Warbler
Western House Wren	Oven-bird
Eastern Winter Wren	Water Thrush (var?)
Prairie Marsh Wren	Connecticut Warbler
Short-billed Marsh Wren	Northern Yellow-throat
Catbird	Yellow-breasted Chat
Brown Thrasher	Hooded Warbler
Eastern Robin	Wilson's Warbler
Wood Thrush	Canada Warbler
Olive-backed Thrush	American Redstart
Willow Thrush	Bobolink
Eastern Bluebird	Meadowlark (var.?)
Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Giant Red-winged Blackbird
American Pipit	Orchard Oriole
Bohemian Waxwing	Baltimore Oriole
Cedar Waxwing	Rusty Blackbird
Northern Shrike	Bronzed Grackle
Migrant Shrike	Scarlet Tanager
Yellow-throated Vireo	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue-headed Vireo	Indigo Bunting
Red-eyed Vireo	Dickcissel
Philadelphia Vireo	Common Redpoll
Eastern Warbling Vireo	Eastern Goldfinch
Black and White Warbler	Red Crossbill
Golden-winged Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee
Tennessee Warbler	Eastern Savannah Sparrow
Orange-crowned Warbler	Eastern Vesper Sparrow
Nashville Warbler	Eastern Lark Sparrow
Northern Parula Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
Eastern Yellow Warbler	Eastern Tree Sparrow
Magnolia Warbler	Eastern Chipping Sparrow
Cape May Warbler	Eastern Field Sparrow
Black-throated Blue Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Myrtle Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Black-throated Green Warbler	Eastern Fox Sparrow
Blackburnian Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Mississippi Song Sparrow
Bay-breasted Warbler	Lapland Longspur
Black-poll Warbler	Eastern Snow Bunting

It is interesting to note that eight species and two varieties in this record are not found on the present Dane County Bird List. The Passenger Pigeon is extinct and the
(Continued on page 45)

FEBRUARY FIELD RECORDS

Notes for this department are to be sent in at the close of each month. Only records of some significance are to be included, but accurate information regarding dates and observers should be given.

OCONTO AREA--During the last two weeks of February a pair of Glaucous Gulls have been seen on the Green Bay "ice-fields", and at the mouth of the Oconto River. Evening Grosbeaks are more common this winter than usual, and have been seen almost daily since Nov. 12, feeding on box elder and locust seeds.--C. H. Richter, reporter.

HAYWARD AREA--February was a real winter month up here. Among the birds observed were the Snow Bunting, Raven, Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers, Horned Lark, Chickadee, Crow, Starling and Ruffed Grouse.--Karl W. Kahmann, reporter.

PLAINFIELD AREA--There is a dearth of material for this region, but the following birds were noted: Four Red-headed Woodpeckers wintering. Only one flock of Juncos were seen to the end of the month, but large flocks of Snow Buntings, Redpolls and Horned Larks were here all winter. A juvenile Bald Eagle was trapped at New Tome by a farmer and released after being banded. The bird was very thin. Mrs. F. N. Hammerstrom, Jr., reporter.

GREEN BAY AREA--A total of 34 species were noted including the following: Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Am. Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Barn and Saw-whet Owls, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Brown Creeper, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpoll, Goldfinch, Juncos, and Snow Buntings. An unusual year for Evening Grosbeaks as flocks of 20 to 30 are common.--E. W. Strehlow, reporter.

APPLETON AREA--The most striking ornithological feature of this region during February is the heavy wintering of ducks. Golden-eyes feed on the Fox River daily, and apparently spend the night on open water in Lake Winnebago. On two evenings a minimum of 1000 ducks were seen at this point, but during the day they are scattered to various feeding grounds. Among them are a few Am. Mergansers. On the shallows of the Fox below Kaukauna, Black Ducks are present in some numbers, but we have not found the Mallards which were among the Blacks at Christmas. The Cardinals are seen daily,

FEBRUARY FIELD RECORDS

and a Kingfisher was observed on the banks of the Fox. This is the only time we have ever found it here in mid-winter. Crows are more abundant than in recent winters. Several Evening Grosbeaks were seen on one day only.--Walter E. Rogers, reporter.

FAVILLE GROVE AREA--During the month of February 30 species of birds, mostly winter residents, were seen. Four species of Hawks were observed periodically with the Rough-legged and Red-tailed most common. Some mild days it was not uncommon to find 5 or 6 of these birds. Marsh Hawks did not appear until the 13th, but thereafter from one to seven could be seen hunting the fields daily. An immature Cooper's Hawk wintered in a large tamarack swamp and was seen occasionally. Mourning Doves, usually not seen until spring migration, wintered with a farmer's pigeons. A flock of 15, including an albino, was seen in January and through February except for the albino. A flock of Common Redpolls inhabited the tamaracks throughout the month with the Goldfinches, Chickadees, and a few Golden-crowned Kinglets. On the 13th Cardinals started whistling, but to date I have only heard the males sing. Some of the other birds seen include the Prairie Horned Larks, White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Snow Bunting, Junco and Tree Sparrow.--Harry G. Anderson, reporter.

WAUKESHA AREA--This month proved much more undesirable for bird observation than January. However, Damsteegt reported Kinglets; Schwarting found the Cardinals still present; Anthes found a Brown Creeper and Batha and Rossman noted Lapland Longspurs on the first and last of the month respectively. Batha also recorded 7 Short-eared Owls, 2 Sparrow Hawks and a Mourning Dove, while Mr. and Mrs. Rossman noted 2 Red-shouldered Hawks on Feb. 26.--Vernon C. Rossman, reporter.

MILWAUKEE AREA--Mueller observed 8 species of ducks along the lakefront, including the Baldpate, Black, Buffle-head, Golden-eye, Mallard, Greater and Lesser Scaup and Shoveller. Both American and Red-breasted Mergansers were seen regularly and the Hooded Merganser once. Grome saw over 1000 American Mergansers at Port Washington early in the month. Schaeffer reported a Brown Creeper and Horned Larks on the 13th, while Mueller a Meadowlark and Horned Larks on the 26. Mathiak saw a Wood Duck on the Menominee River on the 21st and a Killdeer the same day. He also reports 9 and 22

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Short-eared Owls on two observations in the city. Other birds observed include the Cardinal, Goldfinches, Junco, Tree Sparrow and Ring-billed Gull.--Carl L. Strelitzer, reporter.

RACINE AREA--The spring movement of birds in this locality took place earlier than usual. Prins saw the Red-bellied Woodpecker several times. A flock of 25 American Coot were noticed about the middle of the month. Several Pintail Ducks and a Vesper Sparrow were noted. A few Rough-legged Hawks are still present and the Goshawks are increasing. The call of the Red-shouldered Hawk is heard frequently.--B. L. von Jarchow, reporter.

MADISON AREA--In spite of the colder weather, unusual records continue. A Canvasback and a Gadwall were reported by Jackson, Feb. 12 and 13, and by others later. Buss saw a Pied-billed Grebe at a spring of Lake Mendota on Feb. 23; a few Pintails were reported by Elder on Feb. 27; but the masses of the more southern ducks, such as Baldpate, were gone. The hawk and owl situation is not encouraging. Feeney and Sperry believe the Great Horned Owl to be absent from the Arboretum, and the Long-eared Owls have recently left. They report a Cooper's Hawk there on Feb. 5 and three Red-tailed Hawks on the 11th. There has been a "scattering" of Marsh Hawks throughout the county. The best "find" of the season was made in the Arboretum by Feeney, Feb. 18, when he saw a King Rail. He also saw a Mourning Dove on the 10th and 13th. Various reports show a Northern Shrike wintering there. Sperry noted Meadowlarks on the area Feb. 13, but they seem to be all over this winter. Feeney reported Lapland Longspurs for the first spring date there Feb. 13. A few Kingfishers and Red-headed Woodpeckers have lingered about the city, and on Feb. 23 a few Cowbirds were noted. Siskins were seen on Feb. 25, and Mr. Main found Redpolls on the 18th. Harder believes his record of a Ruffed Grouse (first for the Arboretum) to be undisputed because of past acquaintance with the bird. Several people of the Forest Products Laboratory witnessed an aerial display of a Bald Eagle (mature plumage) over their building on Feb. 24. Our thanks to Miss Sinclair, Miss Hoffman and others, for this report as we have but few city records of eagles.--N. R. Barger, reporter.

PINE GROSBREAK RECORDS. We have received hearty response to inquiries about this bird. If there are any reports yet standing out there is yet time to include them if mailed immediately.

COLLECTING WITH THURE KUMLIEN IN 1862

(Continued from page 41)

Western Wood Pewee and Eastern House Wren are uncertain. The Snowy Egret was never common here and is now comparatively rare anywhere; the Trumpeter Swan also was never common here and is now very rare and actually numbered and carefully guarded; the Swallow-tailed Kite again was never common here, but occurred as a straggler. It is now quite rare in this northern part of its range. The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was once abundant in the southern Wisconsin tamarack swamps in winter, but since their removal the bird is unusual. However, it is recorded on the list of the Waukesha Bird Club. Both the Prairie and Hooded Warblers were always more or less uncommon stragglers in the state, with the latter most common along Lake Michigan. It is still possible that these southern birds may be recorded occasionally in southern Wisconsin. The American Knot once was somewhat common in the state, but due to some unknown reason, it is now at best a rare straggler.

Besides the above-mentioned birds, other species on Thure Kumlien's list that now are more or less rare in southern Wisconsin include the following: Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie Chicken, Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse, American Golden Plover, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's Phalarope, Sandhill Crane, White Pelican and Pileated Woodpeckers. However, probably as interesting is the absence from the list of such comparatively common birds as the Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks, American Osprey, Short-eared and Screech Owls, Hermit and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Mourning Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cardinal, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrows, Cowbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-crowned Night Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Loon and any Geese other than the Common Canada. There may have been various reasons for these omissions, and speculation on those reasons may be interesting.

The lack of published ornithological records for Wisconsin between the years 1850 and 1880 seemed to increase the value of this unpublished list prepared by Thure Kumlien in 1862. Although many of his records were incorporated in the list of the "Birds of Wisconsin" prepared by L. Kumlien and N. Hollister, in 1903, the publication of this new record should better define an early mile-post on Wisconsin's bird study work.

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION. Articles similar to the above are welcomed by the editor. Perhaps you know of some!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING--The First Annual Meeting (in this case the organization meeting) of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology will be held in Madison, May 6th and 7th. The official opening of the convention will probably be early Saturday afternoon, May 6th. The exact hour and the details will be presented in about two weeks. A banquet dinner is being arranged for Saturday evening, and several chief speakers are being engaged to present papers and movies, in addition to the business matters of organization.

NOTE--The Waterfowl booklet which was sent to subscribers with the February issue through the kindness of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, is being received very favorably throughout the state. The Conservation Department wishes to call attention to the fact that through an oversight the name of Fred R. Zimmerman was not mentioned in connection with the booklet. Mr. Zimmerman, they state, was responsible for preparing the copy which was an expansion of an article on Wisconsin Waterfowl written by him for the October, 1938, Conservation Bulletin. Mr. Zimmerman is now with the Biological Survey.

SHORE BIRDS AND THEIR ALLIES--Several records were omitted from the list of Shore Birds reported in the last issue as collected in Wisconsin in recent years. They are: Carl Richter, in Oconto County, 1938, 4 Killdeer Eggs, May 9; 4 Wilson Snipe Eggs on May 7; and 4 Wilson Phalarope Eggs on May 20. Louis Posekany, in Burnett County, 1938, one Yellow-legs (sp.?) on Aug. 17 and 1 Solitary Sandpiper on the same date.

NEW CLUB FORMED--Dr. B. L. von Jarchow of Racine reports that the Hoy Nature Club was founded at Racine this month. He states that so far the group has fourteen active members. Their proposed program will be regular meetings and field trips.

KUMLIEN CLUB ACTIVITIES--At a recent meeting of the Kumlien Club of Madison, A. W. Schorger read a paper on the early history of the Bobwhite in Wisconsin. His manuscript was largely prepared from notes taken from early newspapers of the state, and clearly showed the relation between their abundance and habitat and climatic conditions. Members of the Kumlien Club are selecting special projects for study this year. Harry G. Anderson is in charge of the projects.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON
RANGE AND POPULATION STUDY SHEET NO. 2
The Southern Bald Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*)

This bird, which largely moves south of Wisconsin in winter, and which once nested throughout the state, but now nests only in certain localities, should be an interesting subject. All co-operators should have some records of the Bald Eagle, so it is hoped that everyone will send in whatever notes they have so that a complete picture may be gained. Both nesting and winter records are needed. Any Eagle seen in winter should be determined definitely as a Bald Eagle, as Golden Eagles are very likely to occur in that season. Since the Northern Bald Eagle, *H. l. alascanus*, may be found in northern Wisconsin in winter, any such records should receive special mention.

REPORTS OF THE BALD EAGLE SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF
THE EDITOR NOT LATER THAN MAY 7. Address: W. E.
Scott, 20 North Carroll St., Madison, Wisconsin

.....
Reporters Name.....
Address.....

Locality	Date	Number	Observer's Name

Fill in this lower half and tear off. If more space is needed for remarks, or other records, use reverse side.

