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The Passenger Pigeon

Winter 1979
Volume 41, No. 4

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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Front Cover: What is this bird? Test your skill. Turn to page 188 for answer. Photo by Derek Washington.

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"Osprey platform, Oneida County", Milwaukee Journal photo by Sherman Gessert

Osprey Nesting Platforms in North Central Wisconsin

By

Ronald G. Eckstein, Phillip V. Vanderschaegen, and Fred L. Johnson

Since 1976, we have been removing insecure Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nests and replacing them with artificial platforms. Aerial surveys conducted by the Department of Natural Resources indicate that in north central Wisconsin five to ten percent of all Osprey nests on natural sites blow down each year. By erecting platforms to replace defective nest, we can eliminate this mortality factor and maintain Ospreys in desirable habitat. We have relocated Ospreys from nests near houses, roads, and heavily used lake shorelines to more desirable habitat away from heavy human activity by replacing these nests with platforms.

Our Osprey production data show that the birds nesting on various types of platforms and at other secure sites are, on the average, more successful and raise more young than birds nesting at natural sites. Table 1 shows Osprey productivity in relation to nest support. Birds nesting on power poles, artificial platforms, and stumps produced from 1.2 to 2.3 young per active nest during 1977, 1978, and 1979 while birds nesting on snags produced only 0.7 to 1.0 young per active territory. However, many other factors influence Osprey productivity, including distance from water, productivity and species composition of nearby fisheries, local pesticide and other contaminant levels, and human disturbances. It is necessary to consider all of these factors when analyzing Osprey nesting success.

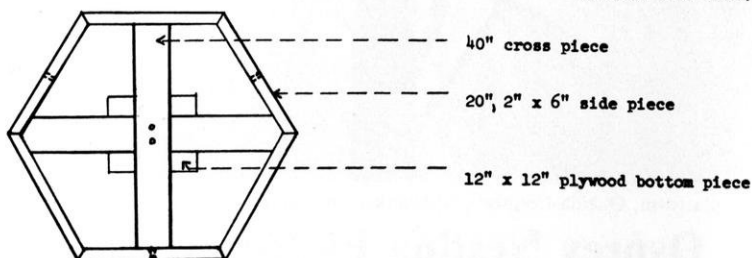
Platform Design and Construction

We have designed a platform which is sturdy, requires no maintenance, and provides a secure site to raise young. The following materials are needed to build one hexagonal platform:

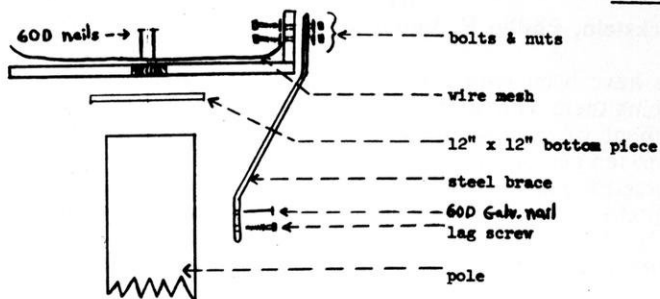
2" X 6" lumber	18 feet
40" X 40" heavy duty wire mesh	1 piece
12" X 12" plywood	1 piece
1/8" X 1" X 30" heavy duty steel braces	3
40D nails (Galvanized)	30
60D nails (Galvanized)	5
5" X 3/8" lag screws	3
3" X 1/2" bolts with washers and nuts	6
Pentachlorophenol and wood stain	

OSPREY PLATFORM

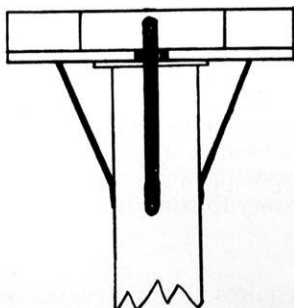
Top View
(without wire mesh)



Side View



Finished Platform



Design by Fred L. Johnson
Vince Wolniewicz

Figure 1

Table 1
Osprey Territories in North Central Wisconsin in 1977, 1978, and 1979^a

NEST SITES ^b	<u>Number Active</u>			<u>Percent Successful</u>			<u>Young Produced</u>			<u>Young Per Active Nest</u>		
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
Snags	53	45	42	60	42	62	54	30	46	1.0	0.7	0.9
Stumps in Water	3	4	3	100	100	100	6	7	7	2.0	1.8	2.3
Power Poles, Windmill, Fire Tower	12	13	14	83	69	79	18	17	22	1.5	1.3	1.6
Platforms	8	15	21	88	67	62	14	18	25	1.8	1.2	1.2
TOTAL	76	77	80	68	55	66	92	72	100	1.2	0.9	1.3

a. Includes Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Juneau and Adams Counties.

b. Active indicates at least one osprey attending a repaired nest.

Cuts are made 60° angle for the six sides of the platform (Fig. 1). Each side piece is 20 inches long. The main cross piece is 40 inches long. The other cross pieces are cut to fit. All nail holes are predrilled to prevent splitting. The wire mesh is nailed to the inside of the platform. The whole structure is treated with pentachlorophenol and stained as a camouflage measure.

The platforms are securely attached to the tops of supercanopy white or red pine trees or to wooden power poles. The platform must always be placed above the surrounding tree canopy as Ospreys will not tolerate nearby trees which are higher than their next site. The supercanopy pines are topped to at least a six-inch stem diameter. The platform is placed on the stem and secured by steel braces and lag screws. Branches located five to ten feet below the platform are removed, but the lower tree branches are left intact. We place nesting materials on the platforms to simulate a natural nest as Ospreys are attracted to abandoned nests. We then cut down the old nest tree to avoid having the Ospreys rebuild at the insecure site. All work is done during the late fall, winter, and early spring when Ospreys are on the wintering grounds. We estimate that the platforms will support a nest for at least ten years and probably much longer.

These nest platforms are readily used by Ospreys. As an example, one Osprey nest tree on an oxbow of the Wisconsin River, Oneida County, appeared ready to fall over. In the late summer of 1976, we placed a platform on a 25-foot wooden pole next to the old nest. We then cut down the rotten snag with the old nest on it. The platform nest was used by a pair of Ospreys and produced two young in 1977, 1978, and 1979.

In one case, a platform was used to lure a nesting pair of Ospreys off a powerline pole. Ospreys were suspected by the power company as a factor in power failures. During the winter of 1976 -1977, we put a nest platform on a large red pine about 300 yards from the power pole nest. A power company crew later knocked the old nest off the power pole and the remains of it were placed on the new platform. This new nest was readily accepted by the pair of Ospreys and they produced two, one, and two young in 1977, 1978, and 1979, respectively.

Another pair of Ospreys nested on the shoreline of a very heavily used lake in Oneida County and were continually disturbed by boaters. In the winter of 1978 - 1979, we cut down the old nest tree and erected a platform one quarter of a mile away near a secluded bog. The Ospreys returned in the spring of 1979 and raised three young.

In the late summer of 1978, Ospreys built a nest immediately adjacent to a county highway in the Northern Highland State Forest. During the winter of 1978 - 1979, we removed this nest and erected a platform 100 yards away and out of sight on the shoreline of a small lake. In 1979, three young Ospreys were raised on this platform.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501
August 1979

A Blue Jay Extricates an Emerging Cicada From Its Nymphal Skin In Wisconsin

Allen M. Young

The Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, feeds on a variety of fruits, nuts, and insects throughout its extensive geographical range in North America (Goodwin 1976). Common foods include acorns, berries, and large insects. Caterpillars, grasshoppers, and beetles comprise the major portion of insects eaten by Blue Jays (Goodwin 1976). Information about the dietary habits of Blue Jays comes primarily from analyses of stomach contents (Goodwin 1976). There is paucity of direct field observations on the capture of insects. The purpose of this note is to report an observation of a Blue Jay feeding on the body of a cicada, *Tibicen canicularis*, emerging from its nymphal skin.

On 28 July 1979 at 1030 hours, I saw a Blue Jay flying into a Hop Hornbeam tree (*Ostrya virginiana*) in a yard within the city limits of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As the bird alighted on a branch about 1.5 meters about the ground, about 3 meters from me, I saw that it was carrying a large brown irregular-shaped object and then flew away with the remaining portion in its beak. The fallen object was a completely empty but intact nymphal skin of a cicada. The skin was very soft and pliable, indicative that the cicada had only recently emerged from it. The Blue Jay had flown off with the fresh cicada eclosion. Judging from cicada activity in the area at this time, and comparing the nymphal skin with others in the cicada collections at the Milwaukee Public Museum, I concluded that the cicada in question was *Tibicen canicularis*.

Blue Jays search for food both on the ground and on branches (Goodwin 1976). An eclosing cicada usually hangs downward from a low perch following the appearance of the nymph above ground. During eclosion, the cicada is relatively immobile and it is probably not easily detected by predators such as birds. *Tibicen* cicada generally emerge in low densities and the emergence period may extend over several months in the summer and autumn (Moore 1966). The Blue Jay could have detected the emerging cicada on its perch and carried off both the partly eclosed insect and its nymphal skin. But sometimes an eclosing cicada falls or is jarred from its perch and lies on the ground, perhaps increasing its exposure to foraging birds. In either case, a partially eclosed cicada with its nymphal skin still attached is an irregular-shaped object and probably not the typical insect "Gestalt" of a foraging Blue Jay. Yet these birds have been known to pluck immobile pupae of tent caterpillars from their cocoons (Canadian Wildlife Service, 1973). Interestingly, the light brown nymphal skin is about the size and approximate shape of a large acorn. Possible the Blue Jay confused the insect for an acorn. But upon discovery that it was not an acorn, the Blue Jay quickly and carefully extricated the cicada and discarded the intact nymphal skin.

I thank Nathan Kraucunas for assistance with the literature on Blue Jay feeding habits.

Literature Cited

- Canadian Wildlife Service. 1973. Hinterland Who's Who Series. Blue Jay 4 pp.
Goodwin, D. 1976. Crows of the world. Ithaca, N.Y.: Comstock Publ Associates, 354 pp.
Moore, T.E. 1966. The cicadas of Michigan. Papers Mich. Acad. Sci., Arts, and Letters 51: 75-96
Invertebrate Div. Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

The New W.S.O. Records Committee

History

There has been a growing feeling among W.S.O. members that a committee for evaluating all exceptional Wisconsin sightings should be organized. About a year ago the W.S.O. board approved such a concept. Since then the formalization of this committee has proceeded. This has included the development of rules for evaluating all submitted sightings, an exceptional record documentation form (see sample copy), the committee name, and membership. After the original draft of the form was completed, it was presented to the W.S.O. membership in an autumn, 1978 issue of the *Badger Birder*. Thanks are expressed to those who took time to respond. The incorporation of some of their ideas, plus others, has produced the final product. It is this product that the remainder of the article details.

Specifics

Name: The W.S.O. Records Committee

Members (current): William Foster, Joseph Hickey, William Hilsenhoff, Sam Robbins, Daryl Tessen

A Perspective/Purpose:

What constitutes a valid bird record? For many years the scientific community accepted only those observations that could be substantiated by collected specimens. A report of a sighting of a rarity usually led to the query, "Where are the feathers?" With the advent of improved equipment for photographing and tape recording, and the restriction of collecting to a handful of trained scientists licensed by federal and state agencies, the criteria for "valid" records have been broadened to include thoroughly detailed pictures and tapes.

Now that a generation has grown up with expertly written field guides, powerful optical equipment, and precise sound recordings, the question is asked with increasing frequency: Can the concept of valid bird records be broadened to include sight and sound identification? With characteristic caution, more scientists are answering: Yes, under certain limited conditions.

For species that are found with reasonable frequency, listing by date and location by a competent observer is generally accepted as valid. For species listed as "rare," "casual," or "accidental" in **Wisconsin Birds - A Checklist With Migration Graphs** (1975: Barger, Lound, Robbins), the W.S.O. Field Note Department has deemed documentation essential. As of March 1, 1979, the W.S.O. Records Committee will consider all records of species that are new to the state, species which have been recorded in the state less than ten times, and such other records as may be referred by the Associate Editor. This includes photographs, tape recordings, raptor pellets, and nest structures, as well as written documentation. To each submitted record the committee will apply four criteria: (1) The bird must be seen and/or heard under conditions that make positive identification possible. (2) There must be written (preferably on the spot) documentation, so complete and accurate that a critic, reviewing the documentation fifty years later, could conclude that the description (a) fits the identified species perfectly, and (b) rules out conclusively all other possible species. (3) The bird must be seen and/or heard and documented by a second observer

viewing independently on a separate occasion. (4) There must exist a reasonable likelihood that the bird was not a recently released or escaped individual.

Although a record may be deemed "hypothetical" because it does not meet every requirement for a completely valid record, it is often well worth publishing. The observer can rightly feel that a "hypothetical" record is an important contribution to ornithology. Quite a few species, now fully substantiated as valid, first appeared in Wisconsin under "hypothetical" conditions.

When dealing with a species with which none of the committee members have had field experience, the committee will seek the counsel of at least one person who has the necessary expertise. The committee will strive for unanimous judgment whenever possible, accepting as valid only those records on which there is no more than one dissenting vote.

Neither this nor any other system of evaluating bird records can be assuredly free from error. Photographs have been misidentified. Specimens have been misidentified. Mistakes have been made in listing the place where a specimen was collected. As long as observers remain honest, faithfully reporting what they sincerely believe they have seen and heard, errors should be kept to a minimum.

Standards for Determination of the Status of Bird Sightings in Wisconsin

W.S.O. Valid List:

A species will be included on the valid list of Wisconsin birds when each of the following conditions is satisfied:

1. Its specific identity is free of doubt when determined from descriptive evidence.
2. This evidence depicting or describing the species consists of at least one of the following:
 - a. A photograph
 - b. A voice reproduction
 - c. A bird skin
 - d. A sufficiently detailed description of any photograph, voice reproduction, or bird skin, or
 - e. A written account of field observation independently sufficient to describe the species, supported by a similarly sufficient confirming description supplied by a different observer who reported the same bird or birds on a separate occasion in the same general time and place.
3. There appears to be a substantial probability that the presence of the species is not attributable to escape or release from captivity without the species thereafter having become established in Wisconsin in a wild state.

Comments on valid list:

1. Evidence of identification must be preserved to permit subsequent re-examination. A central premise for including a species on the valid list is that the evidence on which identity depends should be available somewhere at all times for anyone to examine. The re-examination of a published photograph or written description can sometimes root out earlier error.

2. Reliability of evidence would be assumed in the absence of circumstances suggesting the contrary. Possibilities for error exist in any of the kinds of evidence listed, yet in general the committee should accept as true what it is told: i.e., believe the photograph has not been doctored and the bird was in Wisconsin when observed. The most troublesome point involves acceptance of what someone reports having seen. Here a judgement must be made. The principal factors the committee must take into account are (a) the relative difficulty in separating characteristics that distinguish the bird from similar species; (b) the opportunity for study (including availability of illustrations and text in hand at the time of observation); and (c) the experience of the observer where observation of sophisticated or subtle differences may be critical.
3. Sight observations would suffice only when separate and independent sightings of the same bird were reported by different observers. The four examples that follow illustrate the application of the standard:
 - a. The bird is fully described by one or more observers who see the bird on the same occasion. This would make the hypothetical list but not the valid list.
 - b. Observations of the same bird or birds on two or more occasions by the same observer or group of observers. Again, the hypothetical list, since there has been no separate and independent corroboration by different observers.
 - c. Separate and independent observations on different occasions by different observers in the same general time and place. Assume, more particularly, that the first observer or group of observers reports the observation and returns later with others who observe the bird in the same place. Here, seeing the bird on a second occasion substantially enhances the probability of accurate description, particularly because new observers are involved. To be sure even here there is chance of error but undoubtedly books will have been consulted between times and thought given to what ought to be looked for when the bird is seen on the later occasion.
 - d. Separate and independent observations on different occasions by different observers in different areas or at widely spaced time intervals. Here assume that over three springs each observer reports separate sightings of the species at different times and places. Again, hypothetical since independent corroboration of the same bird or birds is lacking.

W.S.O. Hypothetical List

Hypothetical List. A species will be placed on the hypothetical list if the evidence of its presence consists of one or more written accounts of field observation independently sufficient to describe the species, but no account is supported by a similarly sufficient confirming description supplied by a different observer who reported the same bird or birds on a separate occasion in the same general time and place.

Comments on the hypothetical list.

1. Lack of separate and independent corroborating description by a different observer of the same bird is the key aspect of the

hypothetical list as proposed. That is, a species would be on the hypothetical list when: (a) its presence in the state rested solely on sight records; (b) its identity was free of doubt if the truth and accuracy of the observer's description are accepted; (c) the condition for inclusion on the valid list relating to escape or release from captivity are satisfied; and (d) there is no corroborating description of the same bird, as required by 2e of sight records for inclusion on the valid list.

W.S.O. "Of Possible Occurrence" List

A species will be listed as "of possible occurrence" in Wisconsin where records elsewhere suggest the likelihood of its occasional or casual occurrence in the state and either of the following conditions is satisfied:

1. There have been one or more reports of its presence in Wisconsin under conditions that leave its specific identity open to some doubt although the time, place and other circumstances suggest a substantial likelihood that the species had occurred and may possibly recur; or
2. There is less than a substantial probability that the species was present in Wisconsin in a wild state (see condition 3 under standards of inclusion on the valid list).

Comments on the possible occurrence list.

1. Solid reasons exist for alerting observers to possibilities that further careful attention will yield satisfactory evidence that a species whose presence has been suspected does in fact occur in the state on occasion.

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

Exceptional Record Documentation Form

1. **SPECIES** _____
2. **Date** _____ 3. **Time Bird Seen** _____ **to** _____
4. **Location** _____
5. **Narrative Account of Sighting** In your own words describe the actual event. Be certain to incorporate into your narrative a complete description of distinguishing features **that you observed** including shape, size, body markings--head, bill, eyes, legs, wings, tail, etc., behavior in flight, position and behavior when perched and other movements. Your description should include identification marks recorded in the field, not after consulting a bird book. (Remember this part, if approved by the W.S.O. Records Committee, usually will be published in the "By The Wayside" column of the **Passenger Pigeon**.)
6. **Voice Description (if heard)** _____

7. Habitat _____

8. Comparison with similar appearing species (include distinguishing points) _____

9. Distance _____

10. Optical Equipment _____

11. Weather (sky condition, wind, visibility) _____

12. Previous experience with species _____

13. Other members of observation party _____

14. Other observers known to have independently identified this bird

Name

Date

15. Books, illustrations, advice consulted _____

16. Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This form should be used with all rare and accidental (capitalized and unlisted) species on the seasonal report forms, plus sightings representing unusual arrival/departure dates.

Send to:
Daryl D. Tessen
Associate Editor
2 Pioneer Park Place
Elgin, Illinois 60120

In Memoriam

J. Allan Simpson (1889-1979)

by Walter E. Scott

Jefferson Allan Simpson, Sr. was a native son of Wisconsin, born at Shullsburg (Lafayette County) on November 25, 1889. He died at his home in Fort Meyers, Florida, July 6, 1979. In these 89 years, he accomplished much good in his career as an attorney and County Judge. His primary hobbies were centered out-of-doors in birding, fishing and hunting, while he was an expert in the handling and preparing of wild game for the table. He was a strong supporter of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, participating in its activities for about a quarter century.

In 1955 he accepted the position of Legal Counsel for WSO and served on the Board of Directors in that capacity for seven years. He also helped organize Racine's Hoy Bird Club (now the Hoy Nature Club) and was a life member and Co-chairman of their committee to host the 1966 WSO Convention there. At that gathering he was given one of the cherished WSO Silver Passenger Pigeon Awards in recognition of his service to the Society.



Judge Simpson participated in many WSO field trips and camp-outs. On one of these at LaCrosse he distinguished himself by falling into the Mississippi River while on a boat cruise, without getting his camera equipment wet. At the 18th annual convention in Green Lake (American Baptist Assembly) he acted as banquet toastmaster with finesse. Dr. Charles Kemper, Editor of the **Passenger Pigeon**, was pleased with and always remembers the Judge's comment as MC: "I introduce the speaker to some of the finest people in the world, members of WSO."

The record shows Simpson reporting a very late fall migration date in 1955 for the Henslow's sparrow (based on a fresh car kill in Racine), and also participating as one of the small group which

discovered the first nesting of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Wisconsin on June 27, 1955 in SW Racine County. The next May he was one of the observers who found two of these birds at the same nest site again. He was author of the **Passenger Pigeon** article entitled: "A Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nesting Record for Wisconsin." When WSO collected money for a "Prairie Chicken Survival Fund" to help buy land in Buena Vista Marsh, President John Emlen appointed Judge Simpson to the committee which handled the purchase arrangements.

J. Allan Simpson graduated from the U.W. Law School in 1913 (LLB) and served 26 of his 41 year legal career on the Bench as a Judge. In all this time as County Judge, no one challenged him for the position at elections. In the early 1940's he was President of the Wisconsin Board of County Judges and of the Racine County Bar Association. During his tenure, he handled about 1,500 cases placing children for adoption, and not a single one of these had to be taken from the foster parents at a later date. He was known as a person who "gets things done" and was "very just and fair." A veteran of World War I, he was a member of the American Legion and served as Director of Civil Defense for Racine County. At the time of World War II, he was appointed as local Civilian Defense Administrator. Rotary International presented him with their highest award for his unselfish public services.

Judge Simpson's wife Jessie, who had been one of his classmates at the University of Wisconsin, died in August 1953, and he retired less than three years later. Although they had enjoyed birding together on vacations in the Florida Everglades, it wasn't until his retirement years that he had time to make extensive bird field trips. His birding interest was international in scope and he met many famous ornithologists while he traveled overseas twice to East Africa and to South America. He visited Churchill on Hudson Bay for the nesting season, and toured Europe, Alaska and the South Pacific. Many springs were spent at Rockport, Texas, and at such times he often served as a tour guide and also went on trips into NE Mexico. In the citation Clara Hussong wrote about him in 1966, she stated that "these experiences he shares generously with delight."

Judge J. Allan Simpson is survived by his son, Jeff A. Simpson, of Naples, Florida. The memory of his jovial and friendly character will remain alive in the minds and hearts of many Wisconsin birders.

Leading a Birding Trip

By Kate Redmond and Noel J. Cutright

Increasing numbers of birding conferences and get-togethers are being offered by national and regional organizations. As a result, local bird clubs are finding themselves cast in the role of "host club" with local experts frequently asked to guide field trips to their favorite haunts. We have enjoyed some trips that were outstanding and have endured a few that were totally frustrating -- because of their planning and leadership. The following ideas may help field trips to be a pleasant experience for both the leaders and the troops. Though these suggestions are particularly applicable to car caravans, they should prove useful for all trips.

Pre-Trip

1. Check the areas to be visited several days before the trip to determine whether the "advertised" species are there. Note potential difficulties like ditches, fallen trees, massive mudholes or vigorous poison ivy when planning any foot travel. Exercise some restraint in planning the agenda for any one trip. In general, the fewer stops involved, the better (a birding corollary to Murphy's Law).
2. Reaffirm access permissions, dates and times with land owners if necessary. It is also good public relations to invite the owner to join the group.
3. If a variety of trips is offered, accurate descriptions posted at the registration desk will help visitors sign up for the "right" trip. Include the "promised" birds and possible rarities; the length of the trip in miles and hours, the need for spotting scopes, special footwear, lunches, insect repellents or admission fees; and some idea of the type of terrain. It is unsettling when one of your group stops during a hike over rugged ground and takes a heart pill. In some situations it is desirable to limit the number of participants or to split the group at the destination.
4. Once a departure time or location has been set, do not alter it unless absolutely necessary. Post any schedule changes promptly and prominently. Since not all conference attendees stay at the meeting headquarters or go to the session immediately preceeding the re-scheduled trip, have someone check the meeting place at the originally posted time to direct the uninformed.

Trip Day

1. Arrive at the assembly point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time with some prominent display for your followers to rally around. Identify yourself as leader and introduce any co-leaders or specialists present. Give route directions to all drivers; describe the location of the destination or first stop, and name some obvious or critical landmarks along the way. Xeroxed maps are invaluable; a flag on the antenna of the lead car and others whose drivers know the way helps in traffic).
2. The take-off point is the ideal spot to reduce the number of vehicles by car-pooling; however, this area must then be a suitable place to leave cars for several hours. Parking meters would be inappropriate

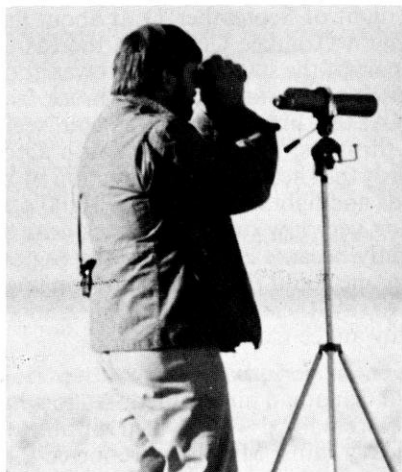
for most trips, and local merchants may be unwilling to have their parking lots monopolized by non-customers for hours, so ask first. A gathering field trip also should not block normal use of the meeting spot by non-birders.

3. Reward promptness - Leave on time ! ! !
4. If the route is complicated and involves traffic lights, pull over briefly at safe and strategic spots to round up any strays. Drive at a reasonable speed. Of more serious consequence than losing cars is the possibility of your followers causing an accident as they rush to keep up your pace.
5. At the destination, regroup briefly and give a quick orientation to the area. Describe terrain and length of walk if appropriate, the amount of time to be spent, bird possibilities and locations, whether a scope or tape recorder is desirable, and the ground rules. State if it is necessary to stay in a group, to close gates, to stay on paths and whether any especially jumpy species require silent stalking. It is also the leader's responsibility to make sure littering, trespassing and plant collecting does not occur. Future access to private lands may depend on how well a group follows instructions.
6. Special tactics must be employed on large group tours that use buses. First, announce that such a vehicle cannot stop and check every puddle and field on the way to the destination, but that if someone sees something great, speak up. Second, it may be best when checking certain areas close to the road to ask riders to stay on the bus until birds have been scanned by the leader. Passengers can then alight if prospects look good, though on many occasions all can see from inside the bus with some cooperation. Finally, encourage people to leave the bus quickly when announced. It might be tactful to suggest that those who are less interested could allow more avid birders to exit first and to encourage passengers to collect gear and put on jackets while seated. If "life" birds are flying over while the aisle is blocked, there will be mayhem.
7. Be decisive but open to suggestions. Communicate! On one field trip the group milled around, birded, and rebirded the area around the headquarters of a National Wildlife Refuge for 45 minutes with no clue as to future plans. Then the leader announced a half-mile car trip that would be followed by a one hour lunch break. Be sure to ask if there are any species of particular interest to group members. Remember, your "trash birds" are someone else's "most wanted".
8. Most groups include the whole spectrum of birders from very good amateurs or even professionals through beginners who need a field guide to identify a Cardinal (an exciting state, remember?). There is a great temptation for a leader to talk birds (and indulge in a little birding one-up-manship) with others who know birds. Resist. The leader is a teacher! Explain not only that it is a Cardinal but **why** it is, and do it in a way that will encourage more questions. Also encourage other natural history questions; some in the group may be more interested in goldenrods than goldfinches.

9. Be flexible; have alternatives ready. If the scores of birds that hung from every twig on the pre-trip visit departed with last night's frontal system or if the gate of the access road is unexpectedly locked, plans need changing. Be prepared to shorten the allotted time - how much time does it take 30 people to check 6 shorebirds and 12 ducks? It is a "judgment call", but knowledge of an alternate spot is wise.
10. Keep the trip moving. Allow sufficient time at each stop for everyone to see the birds, but do not run out of time enroute to that last "hotspot". If you are out of time, the last stop will undoubtedly contain the day's largest concentration of avifauna. (Kibbe's Law). Dallying at birdless spots encourages followers to wander, further delaying the schedule.
11. Whether in a building or in the bushes, allow for rest stops during the trip.
12. Unless birds are absolutely falling out of the trees, people appreciate ending the trip on time. After all, no one wants to miss breakfast, the banquet, or a paper session. Be able to give coherent directions back to home base to those who need them, and to further birding hotspots to the "fanatics" who request them.

Good Birding!!

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FIELD

NOTES



by John and Lisa Idzikowski

The Autumn Season

August 1 - November 30, 1978

As most observers of seasonal comings and goings of birds know, it is the fall season that is the longest, much longer than the official dates indicate. By early July, the return of various tundra nesters to the late summer foraging grounds is seen even in the very southern part of Wisconsin. Birds linger in these same areas often late into the winter season. This year was not that much different. The start of the period saw many hundreds of shorebirds well out of the observer's range of identification at Horicon Marsh. The eastern shoreline produced migrating gulls by the middle of July, just as every year. There was the characteristic cold weather of late November. Various lingerers tested their hardiness against the unpredictable November gales.

There were excellent examples of how the passage of fronts across the state affect the movements of birds. On the night of September 11 at about 9:00 p.m., a cold front stretched from northern Ozaukee County in the eastern portion of the state to the southwestern part of the state. This front was about to give southern Wisconsin, as well as much of the state, a needed break from warm humid weather of the past week. At this time, birds in the cold sector behind the front, vireos, warblers and thrushes, were heading south across the front into the warm sector. Those birds that headed in the direction of the Milwaukee Lake front hit very low clouds and light misty rain. By 10:00 p.m. hundreds of birds could be heard circling very low over the houses near the UW-Milwaukee campus as they apparently became confused by the fog and the dim city lights. After ten that evening one could find many birds on lawns and perched near street lights. Needless to say, there was a toll of migrants at the tall television towers in northern Milwaukee County.

The weather was warm over almost the entire period. Cooler weather arrived in October and on November 13, cold Canadian air invaded. August had a cool and wet start but temperatures remained very warm until early September. Then followed some very heavy rains; Minocqua reported 9 inches in one brief period during the last week of the month. The most notable bird movements followed the cooling trends of late August and early September when the cold fronts began to make their typical sweeps across our area. Charles Sontag of Manitowoc and Roger Sundell of Cedarburg provided warbler peak data for the 28th and 29th of August and September 7, 11, and 21. Bird movement reached a peak in Manitowoc on September

14 - 18. September 2 brought an excellent wave to the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County with well over 10 Cape May Warblers noted along with 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers, 7 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and 4 Connecticut Warblers. The Red-breasted Nuthatch reached southern Wisconsin in numbers on the 3rd of September.

Many observers were able in groups to have some excellent looks at some species that were only recorded in the state once or twice before. There were also numerous observations of rarities by single observers that boosted the list to a total of 296 species, up 20 from last year! The newly formed Records Committee reviewed various reports of accidental sightings, but found it necessary to pare the list only minimally. Good photos of some were provided. However, better contact with people who have more sophisticated photo equipment is needed as Noel Cutright and others have mentioned. Eighty-five observers reported a total of 296 species, not a fall record. Among the more outstanding highlights were: Arctic Loon, Western Grebe, White Pelican, Louisiana Heron, a **Plegadis** Ibis, all three Scoters, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Yellow Rail, Red Phalarope, American Avocet, Parasitic Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Barn Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Lark Bunting and Smith's Longspur.

Coverage this season was considerably less than last year. There were no reports from the extreme southwestern counties of Crawford, Richland, Iowa, Lafayette and Green nor from the northwestern counties of Washburn and Sawyer. In western Wisconsin, Pierce, Dunn, and Buffalo went unreported. The more populous eastern areas lost observers this season in Menominee, Waupaca and Calumet Counties. In the future this trend may worsen and only the popular areas nearer home will be studied.

The following is the species by species account of the season:

Common Loon: Present at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, St. Croix and Oneida Counties. An "unprecedented" 300 birds were present in LaCrosse County on November 11. Hoffman found 12 birds in Dane County on Nov. 2. They were last seen there on Nov. 29, late date for the state.

Red-throated Loon: first seen by Faanes in Douglas County on Oct. 9 followed by Sundell's sighting in Ozaukee County on Oct. 29. Tessen found one bird in Ozaukee County on Nov. 1 and 2 birds on the 4th.

Arctic Loon: Sundell reported this species from Ozaukee County on October 29. Tessen's 3 birds in the same county on Nov. 1 were described in the "Wayside" published in the fall issue.

Red-necked Grebe: Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix County (Faanes) and in Winnebago County (Ziebell); 23 birds were seen there on Rush Lake on Aug. 2nd and 6 were seen there on Sept. 2 by Gustafson.

Eared Grebe: Found on Rush Lake in Winnebago County by de Boor on Aug. 5 where this species summered.

Horned Grebe: First noted by Randy Hoffman, Columbia County, Sept. 20; most dates are from late October as were the 40 birds present in Ozaukee County, Oct. 28, Tessen. Last, Dane County, Nov. 20, Ashman.

Western Grebe: Robbins found one bird in Lake Superior off shore of Ashland, Nov. 3.

Pied-billed Grebe: Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 80 birds on Rush Lake in Winnebago County, Aug. 19. Haugen found 25 birds in Juneau County, Sept. 21 and Tessen found 40 birds in Shawano County on Oct. 9. Present at the end of the period in Juneau County.

White Pelican: Three reported, Adams County on Aug. 12, Kjos. Also, Door County, Oct. 24, Lukes and one, Oct. 27 in Sheboygan County, Berger. One bird was captured in LaCrosse County, possibly injured, and sent south on a boat, Leshner.

Double-crested Cormorant: Present at the beginning of the period in Marinette, Marathon, Brown, Marquette, Dodge and Burnett Counties. Gustafson reported 40 birds, Brown County, Sept. 2 and Evrard saw 55 birds, Burnett County, Sept. 19th. Last seen by Tessen, Ozaukee County, Nov. 26. Artificial nest poles have been successful for this species at Mead and Fish Lake Wildlife Areas as well as Green Bay.

Louisiana Heron: Cleary and Columban saw one bird, Brown County, Aug. 7 and Tessen saw perhaps same bird there Aug. 11

Great Blue Heron: The Leupkes reported a season high of 25 birds in Marathon County, Aug. 7. Cleary and Columban found 20 birds, Brown County, Aug. 12. Last seen by Faanes, St. Croix County, Nov. 11.

Little Blue Heron: Columban and Cleary found one bird, Brown County, Aug. 7. Tessen found one, Dodge County, Aug. 20. Most interesting were 10 white individuals in Brown County with a flock of Cattle Egrets on Sept. 17, Krings.

Cattle Egret: Present at the beginning of the period north to St. Croix County. Columban and Cleary found 26 birds in Brown County on Aug. 24; in Dodge County 40 were present on Aug. 27, Tessen; Drieslein found 100 nests at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County in early Oct., some with young; some had dead Black-crowned Night Heron chicks. Nine were still present, Door County, Oct. 27, Lukes. The last record for the season was Waukesha County, Nov. 16, Safir.

Common Goldeneye: Found by Weber, Vernon County, Aug. 1. Migrants reached the south-eastern counties by mid-Oct. Weber found 50 birds, Vernon County, Oct. 31. Reported from the end of the period, Marinette, Dane, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

Bufflehead: First noted, Ozaukee County, Oct. 7, Korotev. Most arrival dates statewide were Oct. 9 to 11. Korotev found 60 birds, Dane County, Nov. 12. Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Dane Counties.

Oldsquaw: Gustafson first noted this species, Oct. 22, Ozaukee County. Ron Hoffman counted 168 males and 22 females, Kenosha County, Nov. 22. Besides its usual Lake Michigan haunts this bird was also reported, Pepin County and Ashland County. Reported in below normal numbers, Milwaukee County at the end of period.

White-winged Scoter: Found in Ozaukee County, Oct. 10 by Faanes then, Milwaukee County, Oct. 16, Randy Hoffman. The Lukes found 2 birds, Door County, Oct. 29. Tessen found 9 birds, Ozaukee County, Nov. 4, and Randy Hoffman found this species, Pepin County, Nov. 24. Scoters overall were not as abundant on the large lakes this year as last

Black Scoter: Epstein first reported this bird, Milwaukee County, Oct. 27, although dark Scoters were seen in Ozaukee County, Oct. 21. On Oct. 29 de Boor found it in Ozaukee County where 4 were seen by Tessen on Nov. 4 and 3 were still present on the 18th. Also reported, Ashland County, Robbins, Nov. 3. Last found, Douglas County, Nov. 25, Randy Hoffman.

Surf Scoter: Three reports: 2 seen, Nov. 3, Ashland County, Robbins; 1, Ozaukee County, Nov. 11, Gustafson and 1 on the same date, Dane County, Korotev.

Ruddy Duck: Present Aug. 1, Dodge, Juneau and St. Croix Counties. Ziebell estimated 100 birds, Winnebago County, Oct. 14. Last reported, Nov. 27, Dane County, Ashman.

Hooded Merganser: Reported Aug. 1, Juneau, Barron and St. Croix Counties. A nice peak of 150 birds was reported, Juneau County, Haugen on Nov. 5 and Korotev found 48 birds, Dane County, Nov. 12. Last seen, Tessen, Milwaukee County, Nov. 26.

Common Merganser: Reported, Marinette County, Aug. 1, Lindberg. Evrard reported 25, Burnett County, Nov. 1. Most dates were Nov. Last dates were from the end of the period, Marinette, St. Croix and Brown Counties.

Red-breasted Merganser: Present Aug. 1, Oneida County. Cutright reported 65 birds, Ozaukee County, Oct. 3. Found in its usual place in numbers higher than in recent years at the end of the period, Milwaukee County.

Turkey Vulture: Found Aug. 1, Marinette, Barron, St. Croix, Marquette, Vernon, and Rock Counties. A peak date, Oct. 13, was reported, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, late date for season. 4 birds, Dane County, Sept. 12.

Goshawk: Found Aug. 1, Barron County, Goff and Douglas County, Aug. 20, Luepkes. Few birds reported overall with birds first appearing at Cedar Grove, Oct. 19. Present, end of the period, Brown County.

Great Egret: Present at the start of the period north to St. Croix and Burnett County. Tessen found 105 birds at Horicon Marsh on Aug. 4. Idzikowski and Gustafson found 135 birds there on Aug. 10; 52 were seen, LaCrosse County, Leshar, Aug. 28, date. Last date, Nov. 21, Leshar.

Snowy Egret: Brown County, Tessen 4 birds, Aug. 3; 5 birds, last date, Brown Co., Sept. 2, Gustafson and Hanbury. Randy Hoffman, found this species, Aug. 6, Dodge County.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Found at the beginning of the period north to Marinette and St. Croix Counties. Columban and Cleary found 20, Brown County, Aug. 28. Last noted by Tessen, Milwaukee, Nov. 18.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Found, Milwaukee County, de Boor, Aug. 6. Randy Hoffman saw another bird, Aug. 20, Columbia County.

Least Bittern: Present Aug. 1 north to St. Croix and Marinette Counties. No large numbers were reported. The latest date, Sept. 27, Dodge County, Hoffman.

American Bittern: Present at the start of the period throughout the state. Ziebell found 7 birds, Winnebago County, Aug. 23 and Drieslein found one late bird at Horicon, Nov. 13.

Plegadis Ibis: Drieslein flushed one bird in the Horicon Marsh, Dodge County, Nov. 12, see "By the Wayside," fall issue.

Mute Swan: Robbins found this bird, Ashland County, Nov. 3 and Korotev found it, Bayfield County, Nov. 24.

Whistling Swan: First noted by Carpenter, Winnebago County, Sept. 24. Peaks were 500 birds, Columban and Cleary, Brown County, Nov. 16, 300 birds, St. Croix County, Nov. 15, Faanes, 300 birds, Sheboygan County, Nov. 14, Berger. Last seen, Williamson, Marquette County, Nov. 25.

Canada Goose: Present at the beginning of the period in Rock, Brown, Burnett, Juneau, Marinette, Marquette, Barron and St. Croix Counties. Horicon Marsh continues to host fewer of these birds each year. A peak of 40,000 birds estimated, Sept. 14, Drieslein. Cleary and Columban saw 12,000 birds, Brown County, Sept. 28. Ziebell had 2,000 birds, Winnebago County, Oct. 14. Williamson found 3,000, Marquette County, Oct. 24. A peak of 6,000 birds was reported by Evrard, Burnett County, Oct. 27. Haugen reported 5,200, Juneau County, Oct. 28. It is evident that artificial dispersal efforts during migration at Horicon are causing birds to use satellite areas. Present at the end of the period north to St. Croix County. One Richardson's Goose, Columban and Cleary, Brown County, Oct. 12 - 15.

Greater White-fronted Goose: One bird, Brown County, Sept. 13 to 16. Randy Hoffman found one, Dodge County, Oct. 14.

Snow Goose: Seen at the beginning of the period in Brown County by Columban and Cleary. Most peaks were from early Oct. until early Nov. Noted, Burnett County, Evrard, Sept. 23. Drieslein found 400 birds, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County, Sept. 24; 100 birds, Leshar, LaCrosse County, Oct. 7. Redmond, 75 birds, Waukesha County, Nov. 22, the latest report.

Mallard: Evrard estimated 5,000 birds, Burnett County, Sept. 25 while the Leupkes reported 6,000 birds, Marathon County, Oct. 4. Skutek counted 5,000, Portage County, Oct. 27 and Haugen found the season's peak, 7,400 birds, Juneau County, Nov. 4. Present at the end of the period north to Marinette and St. Croix Counties.

Black Duck: Reported at the beginning of the period from Dodge County north to Burnett and Marinette Counties. A peak of 550 birds, Cleary and Columban, Brown County and 450 birds, Evrard, Burnett County. Present at the end of the period north to Marinette and St. Croix County.

Gadwall: Present Aug. 1, Dodge, St. Croix and Burnett Counties. Haugen reported 100 birds, Juneau County, Oct. 1, and Evrard reported 250 birds, Oct. 12, Burnett County. Ten birds in their usual end of the period haunts along the South Shore Breakwater, Milwaukee County, Gustafson, Nov. 24.

Pintail: Present at the start of the period, Milwaukee, Burnett, St. Croix, Barron and Dodge Counties. Haugen reported 750 birds, Juneau County, Oct. 30 while Evrard had 150 birds, Burnett County, Nov. 1. Last seen, Juneau County, Nov. 20.

Green-winged Teal: Present at the beginning of the period south to Horicon Marsh in Dodge County and north to Burnett County. Evrard reported a high of 250, Oct. 5, Burnett County and Haugen reported a peak of 250, Juneau County, Oct. 15. Last Noted, Nov. 25, Manitowic County, Sontag and Milwaukee County, Gustafson.

Blue-winged Teal: 120 birds, Ziebell, Aug. 2, Winnebago County. Haugen found 800 birds, Juneau County, Oct. 1. Evrard estimated 500 birds in Burnett County, Sept. 29. Last noted Oct. 31, Vernon County, Weber.

American Wigeon: Present at the start of the period in Dane and Burnett Counties. Ziebell found 1,000 birds, Winnebago County, Oct. 15 and Haugen reported 2,150 birds, Juneau County, Oct. 30. Faanes found 600 birds in St. Croix County, Oct. 1. Last noted, Randy Hoffman, Dane County, Nov. 29.

Northern Shoveler: Present Aug. 1, Burnett, Dodge and Marinette Counties. Burnett had 50 birds, Oct. 5, Evrard and 40 were at Dane County ponds, Nov. 11, Korotev. Korotev found the latest bird, Nov. 19, Milwaukee County.

Wood Duck: Present throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Evrard reported 375 birds, Sept. 15, Burnett County. Haugen reported 2,000 birds, Juneau County, Oct. 1. Present at the end of the period, Milwaukee and Brown Counties.

Redhead: Present Aug. 1, Milwaukee, Dodge and St. Croix Counties. Ziebell reported 100 birds, Winnebago County, Oct. 1 and Korotev reported 40 birds, Dane County, Nov. 12. Last noted, Dane County Nov. 29, Randy Hoffman.

Ring-necked Duck: Present Aug. 1, St. Croix and Barron Counties. A large peak of 4,175 birds were at Necedah, Juneau County, Nov. 1, Haugen. Evrard reported 700 birds, Burnett County, Nov. 3. Last noted, Nov. 24, Randy Hoffman, Pepin County.

Canvasback: Present Aug. 1, Milwaukee County. Haugen reported 250 birds, Juneau County, Oct. 30 with other peaks much lower (20's) during Oct. and Nov. Last noted Nov. 30, Dane County.

Greater Scaup: Present at the beginning of the period, Milwaukee County. Most reports indicated a lack of numbers with the earliest migrants reaching southern Wisconsin by early October. By the end of the period, flocks of several hundred were found in the usual places around Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties.

Lesser Scaup: Present Aug. 1, Milwaukee, Winnebago and St. Croix Counties. Haugen reported a peak 250, Juneau County, Nov. 1, and Ziebell found 300, Nov. 4. Present Nov. 30, Brown and St. Croix Counties.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Present at start of period, Barron, Marquette, and Ozaukee Counties. Redmond reported 15 birds, Ozaukee County, Sept. 17 and Berger reported season high, 810 birds, Sheboygan County, Cedar Grove, Oct. 6. Last noted, Portage County, Nov. 24, Skutek.

Cooper's Hawk: Eighteen reports: present at start of period, Marquette and Burnett Counties. Present at end of period, Marquette and Burnett Counties.

Red-tailed Hawk: Present widely at beginning of period. Cedar Grove reported peak of 52 birds, Sept. 24, Berger, Sheboygan County. No other such flight peaks were reported. At the end of the period found throughout the state.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Present Aug. 1, Barron, Outagamie, St. Croix, Ozaukee, and Brown Counties.

Broad-winged Hawk: Reported at start of period in Door, Price, Barron, Oneida, St. Croix and Iron Counties. Peak around the state Sept. 15-17, 200 birds, Cleary and Columban, Brown County, Sept. 15; 150 birds, Williamson, Marquette County Sept. 17; Ziebell, 200 birds, Winnebago County, Sept. 15. Over 600 birds, Thiessen, Dane County, Sept. 17. Last noted, Weber, Vernon County, Oct. 24.

Swainson's Hawk: Tessen found one bird soaring over Ozaukee County on Oct. 14 (see "By the Wayside", fall issue of Passenger Pigeon).

Rough-legged Hawk: First noted, Faanes, St. Croix County, Oct. 1 and Marathon County, Oct. 1, Leupkes and a season peak, 17 birds, Nov. 17, Marathon County, Leupkes. Reported widely at the end of the period.

Ferruginous Hawk: Faanes found one bird in St. Croix County on Sept. 24. (see "By the Wayside", fall issue).

Golden Eagle: Four reports: Sept. 27, Dodge County, Randy Hoffman; Sept. 28 to Oct. 5, Crex Meadows, Burnett County where Evrard describes this species as a "regular fall visitor"; Cedar Grove in Sheboygan County on Oct. 5, Berger; Oct. 6 in Ozaukee County, Hanbury; the last report, Cleary and Columban, Brown County, Oct. 16-19.

Bald Eagle: Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Oneida, Burnett, and Iron Counties. Five birds, Evrard, Burnett County, Oct. 25. 15, Haugen, Juneau County, Oct. 30. Present at the end of the period, Marquette, Burnett, St. Croix, Barron and Jackson Counties.

Northern Harrier: Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dodge County. The Luepkes found 9 birds, Marathon County, Aug. 21 and Berger reported a peak, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, 16 birds, Oct. 12. Reported, St. Croix and Marquette Counties at end of period.

Osprey: Reported Aug. 1, Burnett, Marathon, and Oneida Counties. Berger noted 15 birds, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, Sept. 15. Last reported, Winnebago County, Oct. 15. 29 reports altogether.

Peregrine Falcon: 13 reports. The first, Portage County, Sept. 10. Many W.S.O. observers saw one bird stoop at some shorebirds in Ozaukee County, Oct. 1; two others were seen on the same date in the same area. Tessen and the Idzikowskis. Tessen found one, Oct. 1, Walworth County. On Oct. 4 Berger reported 6, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County and 6 more on the 5th. Last seen, Milwaukee County, Hanbury, Oct. 21.

Merlin: Nine reports. The first, Randy Hoffman, Burnett County, Sept. 4; 14 birds, Oct. 12, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County and the last report, Portage County, Nov. 27.

American Kestrel: Throughout state at start of period. Hardy reported season high, 11 birds, Price County, early in period and the Luepkes found 17 birds, Marathon County, Aug. 13. Cedar Grove reported 17 birds, Sept. 24, for high. Present throughout state, Nov. 30.

Spruce Grouse: 2 sightings. Randy Hoffman found one bird at wayside where Hi 35 crosses the St. Croix River in Burnett County, Sept. 24. Vanderschaegen found 2 birds, Oneida County, Nov. 2.

Ruffed Grouse: Throughout, except southeast corner of state below Ozaukee County.

Greater Prairie Chicken: Evrard reported 21 birds, Burnett County, and the Luepkes reported 10 birds, Marathon County.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reported, Wood, Jackson, Taylor and Iron Counties. Evrard reported 27 birds, Burnett County.

Bobwhite: Rock, Chippewa, Dane, Vernon, Columbia, Milwaukee, Pepin, Monroe Counties. 16 birds reported, Shawano, and 60, Marquette County.

Ringed-necked Pheasant: No reports came from the southwestern counties. Reported west to Burnett County and north to Oneida and Marinette and south to Rock. Also Jackson and St. Croix Counties in the west.

Hungarian Partridge: Found mostly in the southeast portion of the state with numbers of 27, Ozaukee and 40, Brown County.

Turkey: Haugen reported this species Necedah, Juneau County.

Sandhill Crane: Found Aug. 1, Marquette, Marinette, Marathon, Dodge, Juneau, and Outagamie Counties. Brown reported large numbers Necedah, Juneau County, October and Haugen confirmed a peak 200 birds, there, Oct. 20. Evrard reported 300 birds, Burnett County, same date. Last reported, Marquette County, Nov. 19.

King Rail: Elusive species returned this fall. One bird, Whitnall Park, Milwaukee County, Aug. 7 to 30, Strehlow; another, Aug. 19, Randy Hoffman, Mud Lake, Columbia County and Tessen, Dane County, Sept. 1.

Virginia Rail: Present Aug. 1, Dane, St. Croix, and Marinette Counties. Randy Hoffman found 7 birds, Aug. 20, Columbia County and Thiessen reported 24, Dane County, Aug. 25. Last reported, Faanes, St. Croix County, Oct. 1.

Sora: Present widely throughout the state on Aug. 1. Randy Hoffman found 13 birds, Aug. 20, Columbia County and Thiessen reported 24, Dane County, Aug. 25. Last reported, Faanes, St. Croix County, Oct. 1.

Yellow Rail: Randy Hoffman found one, Dane County, Aug. 30 at Mazomanie Wildlife area (see "By the Wayside," Fall Issue).

Common Gallinule: Present Aug. 1, Brown, Dodge and Dane Counties. Korotev found 7 birds, Dane County, Aug. 10. Last reported, Dodge County, Sept. 27.

American Coot: Present at the start of period throughout state. The Luepkes estimated 3,000 birds, Marathon County, Oct. 1; Evrard estimated 4,500 birds in Burnett County, Oct. 5; 2,000 birds were in Winnebago County, Oct. 14. Robbins saw 8,000 in Taylor County, Oct. 25. Present at the end of the period in the southern counties north to Marquette. Zimmerman saw one Coot dive from the air directly underwater as it was stooped at by a Peregrine in Juneau County, at Necedah.

Shorebirds were easier to find this season as conditions were not as dry as last year. A few species were back to this report after an unfortunate absence.

Semipalmated Plover: Present Aug. 1 mostly in southeastern counties but one report from Marinette County. Tessen reported 25 birds, Aug. 4, Dodge County; other peaks much smaller with most peak dates before Oct. 1. Last reported, the Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee County, Oct. 29.

Piping Plover: Tessen found one, Aug. 24, Dodge County and there was still one there on Oct. 1-2, Randy Hoffman, Korotev and deBoor.

- Killdeer:** Cutright counted 107, Ozaukee County on Aug. 7 and Randy Hoffman found 60, Columbia County, Sept. 29. The Luepkes saw 175, Marathon County, Oct. 1. Most gone by early Nov. in spite of the warm weather for the early part of that month. Three birds, Milwaukee, Nov. 29, Gustafson.
- Lesser Golden Plover:** Donald reported 400 birds, Dodge County, Aug. 4. Cutright reported 136 birds, Ozaukee County, Sept. 16 and Tessen found 150, Dodge County, Sept. 24. In Walworth County, Sept. 30 Tessen saw 400 birds. Last seen, Milwaukee County, Nov. 5, Thiessen. Excellent season for this species.
- Black-bellied Plover:** Found, Dodge County, Aug. 4, Tessen. The season high was eight birds, Aug. 27, Dane County and eight birds, Milwaukee County, Nov. 4. Most dates were from Sept. and Oct. Last seen, Winnebago County, Carpenter, Nov. 9.
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Donald found one flying over Juneau Park, Milwaukee, Sept. 19. Randy Hoffman found one, Dodge County, Oct. 2 and Sontag found the last bird, Manitowoc County, Oct. 16.
- Whimbrel:** The Juneau Park Landfill in Milwaukee County continues to be the spot for this species as one bird remained, Sept. 13-26, Sundell, Idzikowski, Hanbury and Gustafson.
- Upland Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1, Door, Fond du Lac, Marquette and Ozaukee Counties. Cutright reported 3 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 7; Also reported from Waupaca, Columbia and LaCrosse County. Last seen, Columbia County, Sept. 15.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** Present at the start of the period throughout the state. Randy Hoffman reported a high of 22 birds from Columbia County, Aug. 20. Few dates were from Aug. Last seen, Nov. 5, Dodge County (3 birds).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Present Aug. 1 south to Dane County. Korotev found 195 birds, Dane County, Aug. 20 and Tessen found 150, Dodge County, Aug. 27. Last noted by Tessen, Dodge County, Nov. 5.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1, Barron County and in the southern counties. Korotev found 60 birds, Dane County, Aug. 1, but other season peaks were much lower. Albrecht found the last bird in Manitowoc County, Oct. 16.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1 south to Milwaukee County. Randy Hoffman found 6 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 20. Last noted by de Boer in Milwaukee County, Oct. 16.
- Willet:** Hanbury and Gustafson found one, Milwaukee County, Aug. 9 and Berger saw one, Sheboygan County, Sept. 5.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** Present Aug. 1, Milwaukee County. Johnson found 3, Sept. 14, Douglas County. Last seen, Milwaukee County, Oct. 14. Apparently low numbers this season.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Present at the beginning of the period in Dane and Croix County. Donald and Tessen saw 20 birds, Dodge County, Aug. 4. Last seen, Dane County, Tessen, Sept. 9.
- Northern Phalarope:** Ten reports. The first, Dane County Sept. 9, Tessen. Two, Dodge County, Oct. 9. Last seen by Randy Hoffman in Columbia County, Sept. 25. Also Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.
- Red Phalarope:** Ray Glassel, a very experienced Minnesota birder found this accidental migrant along Bradford Beach in Milwaukee County, Nov. 24. (see "By the Wayside," Fall Issue). Another bird was seen at the end of Nov. in northern Illinois after this bird disappeared from Milwaukee.
- Woodcock:** Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron County. Hardy found 75 birds, Price County, Oct. 11. Ron Hoffman found 5 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 19.
- Common Snipe:** Present throughout the state Aug. 1. Robbins found 40 birds, Clark County, Oct. 1. Cutright found 23 birds, Ozaukee County, Sept. 11. Last seen by Ron Hoffman, Kenosha County, Nov. 19.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Present Aug. 1 in Dane County. Randy Hoffman found 10 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 20. Last seen, Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties, Oct. 1, Hanbury and Gustafson.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Faanes found one bird, St. Croix County, Aug. 1. Korotev found 10 birds, Dane County, Oct. 8 and Tessen found 12 birds, Dodge County, Oct. 14. Last seen by de Boer in Dodge County, Oct. 28.
- Red Knot:** First noted, Randy Hoffman, Manitowoc County, Aug. 6. Then Hoffman found one in Columbia County on the 19th. Milwaukee County had one, Aug. 31, Gustafson, Erickson found one, Racine County, Sept. 17, and Sontag found the last bird, Sept. 28, Manitowoc County. More numbers than usual.

Sanderling: Present Aug. 1, Manitowoc and Milwaukee Counties, Johnson found 20 birds along Lake Superior, Sept. 14 and Cutright found 53, Ozaukee County, Sept. 20. Thiessen found the last bird, Nov. 5, Milwaukee County.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Present in five counties at start of period south to Dane. Tessen found 90 birds, Dodge County, Aug. 20, and Randy Hoffman found 24, Columbia County, Aug. 20. Last seen, Milwaukee County, Nov. 4 by de Boor. Korotev saw one bird in Dane County that was color tagged. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology reported that this bird was banded in North Dakota 560 miles west of Madison; it was last seen in North Dakota six days prior to its appearance in Madison.

Western Sandpiper: Randy Hoffman found one, Columbia County, Aug. 5. Cutright reported 3, Ozaukee County, Sept. 1. Also seen, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Dodge, and Dane Counties. Last seen, Dodge County, Oct. 1.

Least Sandpiper: Present Aug. 1, south to Manitowoc County. Randy Hoffman found 12 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 20 and Carpenter found 12, Winnebago County, Sept. 3. Last, Oct. 13, Ozaukee County, Cutright.

White-rumped Sandpiper: First seen, Columbia County, Randy Hoffman, Aug. 6 and last seen, Dodge County, Nov. 5, Tessen. Also seen in Manitowoc County and Ozaukee.

Baird's Sandpiper: Tessen found 4 birds, Dodge County, Aug. 4 and Thiessen found 5 birds, Dane County, Aug. 24. Idzikowski saw 5 birds along Lake Michigan, Sept. 20, Milwaukee County. Last seen, de Boor, Dodge County, Oct. 28. Together 20 reports of this species is much better than usual fall season.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Present Aug. 1 south to Dodge and Dane Counties. Korotev found 400 birds, Dane County, Aug. 16 and 135 still there, Sept. 9. Tessen found 100 birds, Dodge County, Aug. 27. Last seen, Nov. 6 in Dane County.

Dunlin: Reported Aug. 1, Marinette County. Tessen found 250, Dodge County, Oct. 14 and 180 yet, Nov. 5. Last seen trying to survive in Milwaukee County, Nov. 25.

Stilt Sandpiper: Present Aug. 1, Dane and Dodge Counties. Sundell found 34 birds, Milwaukee County, Aug. 29 and Korotev reported 21 birds, Dane County, Sept. 13. Korotev last saw this species Oct. 17, very late but not record date.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Randy Hoffman and de Boor reported this species, Columbia County, Aug. 6, 6 birds. Gustafson and Idzikowski found one, Dodge County, Aug. 10, and Foster found one, Dane County, Aug. 26. Sundell and de Boor found one, Milwaukee County, Sept. 16. Tessen found 3, Walworth County, Sept. 23 for the last date.

American Avocet: Tessen found one bird in Outagamie County on Aug. 16.

Parasitic Jaeger: On Sept. 4, Randy Hoffman saw one definite individual at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on Sept. 4 and de Boor found one dead bird in Milwaukee County on Sept. 16 (see "By the Wayside," Fall Issue). This species apparently migrates in small numbers through the Great Lakes and should be watched for in the latter part of the fall season.

Gulls were the story this season with 10 species recorded; the rarities listed below were cooperative enough to allow excellent looks by many observers. A Ross' Gull that appeared in Chicago in early December probably made its way through Wisconsin as an unprecedented summer record of this species came from Churchill due north of our area.

Glaucous Gull: Present at the beginning of the period, Manitowoc County (a second year bird, Gustafson and Idzikowski. Sontag reported this bird in Manitowoc until Sept. 22. Idzikowski saw one bird, Nov. 25 following a fishing boat off of Milwaukee County, age was uncertain due to the distance.

Herring Gull: As usual, present widely at the start of the period on both Great Lakes and in a few inland counties. Cutright counted 297 birds, Douglas County, Oct. 9. Present throughout the state at the end of the period.

Ring-billed Gull: Present Aug. 1 in its normal areas near the Lakes Superior and Michigan as well as inland, Oneida County. Redmond counted 1,213 birds in Ozaukee County, Sept. 20 and Ziebell found 100 birds in Winnebago County, Oct. 12. Ashman found 100, Columbia County, Nov. 15. Present at the end of the period north to Door County.

Unidentified gull (Herring and Ring-billed): Two large groups of birds of several hundred each were seen near the Lake Michigan shoreline in Ozaukee County on Oct. 1 as they rode the rising air of a mid-afternoon thermal forming a near perfect outline of the air's motion, Idzikowskis.

Laughing Gull: Randy Hoffman reported this species, Aug. 6, Manitowoc County and Parfitt found one adult, Milwaukee County, Aug. 11. Sundell reported one, Ozaukee County, Aug. 12 and Tessen found one, Milwaukee, Aug. 25 for the last date.

Franklin's Gull: Again this year reporters from western Wisconsin found this species totally absent, St. Croix Co., Faanes. It was first noted, Manitowoc County, Aug. 1 Tessen reported a peak, ten, Milwaukee, Aug. 25 and Thiessen found the latest bird, Oct. 29. Also reported, Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties, August and inland in Dodge.

Bonaparte's Gull: Present Aug. 1, Manitowoc, Door, Marinette and Milwaukee Counties. The Lukes reported over 500 birds, Door County on Aug. 2 and Redmond found 114 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 7.

Little Gull: This species can now be considered a regular fall migrant at South Shore, Milwaukee County where it seems to spend much of the fall feeding with many Bonaparte's Gulls. It was first noted, Manitowoc County, Aug. 6, Randy Hoffman, and then, Ozaukee County, Aug. 12. One bird still was present, Sheboygan County, Aug. 27 for the last record outside of Milwaukee County. Two birds were involved in these above mentioned records, an adult and an immature. In Milwaukee, some individuals have arrived as early as July 11, Idzikowski, in some years. This year it was not noted until the very end of July. Sundell reported a total of 6 birds present in the Coast Guard Impoundment, Sept. 16 (5 ad. and 1 imm.). Epstein still found 3 ad. and 1 imm. there, Oct. 22, and de Boer found the latest bird, Nov. 11.

Sabine's Gull: Randy Hoffman found this species, Dodge County, on Breezy Point Pond. This immature bird was subsequently seen by many observers until Oct. 12, Faanes. See "By the Wayside", Fall Issue.

Black-headed Gull: On Oct. 14 Tessen and Gustafson found this species among the many Bonaparte's Gulls present in the impoundment at the Coast Guard Station in Milwaukee. The bird was an adult in the winter plumage. It was viewed by many observers and was accepted as a documented record by the WSO Records Committee due to the many documentations by independent observers. Tessen last saw this bird on Nov. 18.

Forster's Tern: Present Aug. 1, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties. Ziebell reported 12 birds, Winnebago County, Aug. 2. Last reported, Oct. 22, Milwaukee by Epstein.

Common Tern: Reported Aug. 1, Manitowoc, Marinette, Door, Juneau, Marquette and Brown County, Aug. 8 while Hafeman found 50 birds, Shawano County, Sept. 9. Last reported, Milwaukee, Oct. 21.

Caspian Tern: Present at the beginning of the period, Kewaunee, Marinette and Door Counties. Lindberg reported 35 birds, Marinette County, Aug. 17 and Tessen found 90, Milwaukee, Aug. 25 and 2, Oct. 1.

Black Tern: Present Aug. 1 north to Barron and St. Croix Counties. Out of 11 reports the peak came from Brown County, Aug. 3 Columban and Cleary, 50 birds. Randy Hoffman saw 34 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 5. Ziebell found 45 birds, Winnebago County, Aug. 10. Last reported, Milwaukee, Sept. 11.

Mourning Dove: Present throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Redmond reported a peak 492 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 18. At the end of the period present north to St. Croix and Barron Counties.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Present Aug. 1, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Vernon and Door Counties (as far as the reports read). 11 reports, late August and September. Last reported by Hanbury, Milwaukee, Sept. 21.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Most of 15 reports, August with Aug. 1 dates as far north as Marinette County. Last seen, Dane County, Randy Hoffman, Oct. 3.

Barn Owl: One report, Trempeleau County, mid-November, 2 birds (fide Tessen).

Screech Owl: Reported north to Oneida and Barron Counties. Hafeman found 4 birds, Shawano County.

Snowy Owl: First noted, Oct. 24, Douglas County, Johnson, 2 birds. Two birds, Carpenter, Winnebago County, Nov. 18. Also noted in Dane, Marathon, Brown, Marquette and Lincoln Counties. Present Nov. 30 in Marquette County.

Barred Owl: Reported from the beginning of the period as far north as Oneida County. There were 21 reports.

Great Gray Owl: Don Follen found an apparent family group of this species in Douglas County on Aug. 28. Three immatures and 2 adults were present. The Leupkes also observed this group on Aug. 19 (see "By the Wayside" Fall Issue.)

Long-eared Owl: Reported Aug. 1, Marathon County, Leupkes, 8 birds, Nov. 5. Also Sheboygan and Dane Counties. Present Nov. 30, Milwaukee County.

Short-eared Owl: Present Aug. 1, Clark, Marathon, Dodge and Brown Counties. Three birds, Milwaukee County, Oct. 21. Present Nov. 30, Clark, Marathon and Dodge Counties.

Boreal Owl: One bird was trapped by Erdman in Oconto County, Oct. 28. (see Pass. Pigeon, vol. 41, no. 2, pp. 58-59).

Saw-whet Owl: First noted Sept. 21 in Price County by Hardy. Three birds heard calling in Manitowoc County at Woodland Dunes Nature Center on morning of Oct. 21, de Boor and Randy Hoffman. Also reported, Brown County, Wierzbiicki. At Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, Berger reported peak trapping of this species Oct. 26 when 20 birds were caught. Also present at the Cedarburg Bog, Ozaukee County, late October. Noted in Sheboygan County, Cedar Grove, Nov. 7, Berger.

Whippoorwill: Present Aug. 1, Price and Marquette Counties. Randy Hoffman found 4 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 20. Vanderschaegen still found this species, Oneida County, Sept. 20.

Common Nighthawk: Major flights between Aug. 27 and Sept. 7. The Lukes reported one such flight on the 28th of Aug. over Door County when they saw hundreds. Leshner reported a peak, Sept. 2, 200 birds, LaCrosse County and Berger reported 850, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan County, Sept. 2. Last reported, LaCrosse County, Oct. 10.

Chimney Swift: Columban and Cleary reported 160 birds, Brown County, Aug. 24. Robbins saw 100, Taylor County, Sept. 8 and Ziebell found 200, Winnebago County, Sept. 13. Last noted, Milwaukee County, Oct. 16, Woodmansee.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Present Aug. 1 as far south as Marquette County. The Engbergs reported 7 birds, Oneida County, Aug. 19. Most dates were from first half of September but Randy Hoffman found 6 in Dane County on Sept. 21. Last seen, Oct. 4, Brown County, Cleary and Columban.

Belted Kingfisher: Present throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Still present at end of period in St. Croix County.

Common Flicker: Robbins reported peak, Taylor County, 50 birds, Sept. 25; other peaks were far lower. Present Nov. 30 in Marquette County.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported as far south as Dane and Ozaukee Counties. Hardy reported 4 birds, Price County and the Valliers reported 4, Florence County, late October.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Robbins found one bird in Vilas County for a rather northern report; also reported, Marinette County, Lindberg. No large numbers were submitted. In western Wisconsin reported north to St. Croix and Barron Counties. Present at end of period north to St. Croix County.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Present at the start of the period north to Barron County. Butterbrodt found one bird, Iron County, Oct. 29 which was the first she had seen there since 1966. Reported at end of period in Barron County and 4 other southern counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Present at the beginning of the period south to Marquette and Vernon Counties. The Engbergs found 5 birds, Oneida County, Aug. 3. Most migration dates were in September. Present at the end of the period in Kenosha and Ozaukee Counties.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: This northern species returned again to the fall season records with one bird present at Three Lakes Bog in Oneida County, Aug. 25, Gustafson, and one bird in Douglas County on Sept. 4, Randy Hoffman.

Eastern Kingbird: Reported at beginning of period north to Barron County. The Leupkes reported 8 birds, Marathon County, Aug. 6. Goff reported this species present, Barron County, Sept. 20.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher: Frank Freeze photographed one in Columbia County on Nov. 13-16 providing the only record of this species for Wisconsin that has been accepted as authentic. A letter from the W.S.O. Records Committee is included in "By the Wayside," Fall Issue.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Reported Aug. 1 north to Barron County. Hafeman reported 10 birds, Shawano County, Sept. 4. Last seen Sontag, Manitowoc County, Oct. 16.

Eastern Phoebe: Present Aug. 2. Korotev reported the last individual, Oct. 17, Dane County.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Ingold found this species, at Bong, Kenosha County, Aug. 13. Also on this date, Baxter's Hollow, Sauk County where it apparently summers, de Boor, Randy Hoffman. Idzikowski reported 7, Sept. 2, Cedarburg Bog after passage of a cold front, Ozaukee County. Randy Hoffman found last one, Columbia County, Sept. 15.

Acadian Flycatcher: Epstein reported this bird, Monroe County, Aug. 1. Korotev also found it, Grant County, Aug. 6 and Randy Hoffman and de Boor found 4 birds, Sauk County, Aug. 13.

Willow Flycatcher (song): Found at the beginning of the period north to St. Croix County. Thiessen reported it, Dane County, Sept. 16.

Least Flycatcher: Present at beginning of period south to Ozaukee County but mostly in northern counties. Noted, Sept. 24, Barron and Vernon Counties.

Traill's Flycatcher spp.: One bird, Marinette County, Sept. 16, Lindberg.

Eastern Wood Pewee: Williamson found 5 birds, Marquette County at beginning of period. Most dates September. Last noted, Goff, Barron County, Sept. 27.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First noted, Milwaukee County, Aug. 10, Idzikowski. Nearly all dates this year were in September. Last noted, Sept. 16 from Chippewa and Marinette Counties.

Horned Lark: Present at beginning of the period north to Barron County. Migration for this species was evident for early October. Forty birds, Ozaukee County, Oct. 3, Redmond. All other peaks came from later in the period although no large numbers were reported from any observer. Present Nov. 30 in counties north to Barron.

Tree Swallow: Columban and Cleary reported 1,000, Brown County, Aug. 11; Randy Hoffman estimated 4,000 over Columbia County, Sept. 25. Last seen, Manitowoc County, Nov. 5, Sontag.

Bank Swallow: Reported Aug. 1 north to Barron County. Ziebell reported 80, Winnebago County, Aug. 11, and Idzikowski found at least that many, probably more, in Milwaukee County at the start of the period. Last seen, Brown County, Sept. 27.

Rough-winged Swallow: Ten reports. Peak of 300, Brown County, Columban and Cleary, Aug. 3. Most northerly report, Barron County, at start of period. Leshner reported one bird, Oct. 15, LaCrosse County.

Barn Swallow: Most of the migrational peaks came in late August and early September. Columban and Cleary noted 300 birds, Brown County, Sept. 3 and Randy Hoffman found 130 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 20. Last seen by Faanes, Dodge County, Oct. 12.

Cliff Swallow: The Engbergs noted 30 birds, Oneida County, Aug. 8 and the Leupkes found 400, Marathon County, Aug. 13. Last noted in Brown County, Sept. 30, Cleary and Columban.

Purple Martin: Present north to Barron and Oneida Counties, Aug. 1. Leshner found 120 birds, LaCrosse County, Aug. 21. Last reported Knuth, Fond du Lac County, Sept. 21.

Gray Jay: Reported from the northern Counties south to Langlade. Hardy found 6 birds, Price County, Sept. 3.

Blue Jay: A season high of 26 birds, Price County, Hardy. Observers are asked to watch out for migrations of this species along the shore of Lake Michigan and along other bodies of water and migration routes. Some of the reports received may have been of this nature but no indication was given.

Northern Raven: Reported south as far as Monroe and Juneau Counties in the west and Oconto County in the east. Johnson reported a high, 21 birds, at end of period, Douglas County. Hardy found 15 birds, Price County, Oct. 22.

Common Crow: One large roost in Milwaukee County had nearly 10,000 birds present, Nov. 30, Idzikowski. The Leupkes found 400 birds, Marathon County during the period and Weber reported 200, Vernon County.

Black-capped Chickadee: Ron Hoffman counted 160 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 4.

Boreal Chickadee: Apparently small numbers of this species.

Tufted Titmouse: Reported, Vernon, Rock and Columbia Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reported Aug. 1 in Marinette and Door Counties. This bird reached southern Wisconsin by Sept. 3 when Idzikowski found 3, Milwaukee County. Tessen found 5 birds, Ozaukee County, Oct. 1. Present at the end of the period throughout the state.

Brown Creeper: Present Aug. 1 south to Ozaukee County. Most dates reported were from October. Present north to St. Croix County at the end of the period.

House Wren: Reported Aug. 1, Douglas County and Sauk County, Sept. 16, Randy Hoffman. Last seen, Dane County, Nov. 12 by Randy Hoffman.

Marsh Wren (Long billed): Reported Aug. 1 north to St. Croix County. Randy Hoffman found 12 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 26. and 8 birds, Dane County, Sept. 17. Ziebell found one bird, Winnebago County, Oct. 28.

Sedge Wren (Short billed Marsh): Present Aug. 1 north to St. Croix County. Anderson reported 10 birds, Aug. 4, Outagamie County. Thiessen reported 4 birds, Dane County, Sept. 16. Last seen, Milwaukee, Sept. 23 by Gustafson.

Mockingbird: One bird was present, Outagamie County, Aug. 10, Bowker.

- Gray Catbird:** Strehlow reported 30 birds, Milwaukee County, Aug. 30. Randy Hoffman also reported 30, Dane County, Sept. 21. Last seen, Manitowoc County, Oct. 21, de Boor.
- Brown Thrasher:** Reported Aug. 1 north to St. Croix County. Randy Hoffman found 8 birds, Dane County, Sept. 18. Last seen in Milwaukee, Nov. 3 and Kenosha County, Nov. 4.
- American Robin:** Strehlow reported 100 birds, Milwaukee, Oct. 18. 200 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 4.
- Varied Thrush:** Two reports **fide** Sam Robbins: late October one bird at the Catherine Hansen feeder in Withee, Clark County; Nov. 18 - 26 at the Donald McEathron feeder in Bruce, Rusk County.
- Wood Thrush:** Reported north to St. Croix County, Aug. 1. Last noted in Kenosha County, Nov. 4, Ron Hoffman.
- Hermit Thrush:** Reported from Marinette County, Aug. 1. Thiessen found 7 birds, Dane County, Oct. 7. Strehlow first noticed this species, Milwaukee County, Sept. 6 for a migrational arrival. Last seen, Columbia County, Oct. 28.
- Swainson's Thrush:** First noted by Wierzbicki in Brown County, Aug. 6, but most fall arrival dates were from mid to late August. Idzikowski had 12 birds, Ozaukee County, Sept. 3, after the passage of a cold front. Most migration dates were in September. Last seen, Oct. 19, Manitowoc County, Sontag.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** First noted, Robbin, Taylor County, Aug. 28. It had reached Milwaukee County, Aug. 30; last seen, Dodge County, Oct. 2.
- Veery:** At the beginning of the period present north to St. Croix County. Thiessen found 6 birds, Dane County, Sept. 4. Last noted, Price County Sept. 27, Hardy, and Eau Claire, Sept. 29, Kemper.
- Eastern Bluebird:** The news of this bird continues to be bad as more than 5 observers reported the low numbers in their area. Goff found this species, Barron County for most northern report and Lindberg found it in Marinette County; both reports, Aug. 1. Hardy found 12 birds, Jackson County, Sept. 19; Gustafson reported it from Waushara County, Oct. 7, 8 birds. Idzikowski found 9 birds, 2 weeks later, Waushara County. Last seen, Nov. 4, Brown County, Cleary and Columban.
- Townsend's Solitaire:** Faanes found one bird, Billing's Park, Superior, Oct. 9. See "By the Wayside" (Fall Issue)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reported as far north as St. Croix County on Aug. 1. Randy Hoffman found 4 birds, Dane County, Aug. 30. Last seen, de Boor, Dane County, Sept. 17.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reported, Oneida County on Aug. 25, Gustafson: it reached the southern counties, Aug. 30, de Boor, Dane County. Present at the end of their period in St. Croix and then south to Dane, Manitowoc and Milwaukee Counties.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Reported Aug. 1 in Marinette and Douglas County. Strehlow reported it, Milwaukee County, Aug. 30. On Oct. 6, 21 birds were seen, Johnson, Douglas County. Most reports were of individual birds. Ron Hoffman found this species, Kenosha County, Nov. 19, a late date.
- Water Pipit:** Tessen found this bird, Outagamie County, Sept. 16, the earliest date; he also found 25 birds, Dane County, Sept. 30 and 6 birds, Dodge County, Nov. 5, the latest date. A good flight of birds seen by many on Oct. 1 near Belgium in Ozaukee County.
- Bohemian Waxwing:** Randy Hoffman found this species, Columbia County, Nov. 11 and Sontag reported it, Milwaukee County, Nov. 26.
- Cedar Waxwing:** On Aug. 30 Strehlow found over 300 birds, Milwaukee, Whitnall Park and Idzikowski found several hundred, Cedarburg Bog, Ozaukee County, Sept. 3. Most peak dates came in September. Redmond found 210, Ozaukee County, Oct. 30. Present at the end of the period north to Barron County.
- Northern Shrike:** Reported by the Leupkes, Oct. 15, Wood and Portage Counties, and by Hardy, Price County. Most dates were in November; the 24 reports indicated a better than average fall. Present at the end of the period south to Milwaukee County.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Reported from St. Croix County at the beginning of the period by Faanes. Ingold found one bird, Ozaukee County, Aug. 22.
- Starling:** Peaks of 1,000 came from Marathon County, Luepkes, 8,000 from Brown County, Cleary and Columban and at least 50,000 are regulars at various roosts in Milwaukee, Idzikowski.
- Bell's Vireo:** Korotev saw one bird in Grant County, Aug. 6 and Randy Hoffman found one, Columbia County, Aug. 20.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Present Aug. 1 in Taylor and St. Croix Counties. Most dates were in September and no large numbers were reported. Thiessen saw this bird Oct. 7, a late date, Dane County.

Solitary Vireo: Faanes found this bird, St. Croix County, Aug. 21. Most birds were seen in October and it was last seen, Oct. 28, Columbia County, Randy Hoffman.

Red-eyed Vireo: Reported from the beginning of the period through northern Wisconsin to Oneida and Barron Counties. Kemper found 36 birds, Eau Claire County, Sept. 8. Last noted, Milwaukee County, Strehlow, Oct. 25.

Philadelphia Vireo: found Sept. 2, Adams County, Tessen and Oconto County, Korotev, Sept. 24, Columbia County, Randy Hoffman, Milwaukee County, Hanbury, and one, Oct. 3, Eau Claire County, Kemper.

Warbling Vireo: Present at beginning of period north to Barron County where Goff found the latest bird, Sept. 24.

Parulids: Thirty-one species were recorded this fall which is a very good number for the fall season. The reason appears to be the increased presence of southern species on summer territories in southern Wisconsin. More of these birds could be included in this report each year if observers would visit these summering areas in early August.

Black and white Warbler: Reported Aug. 1, Barron County. Most dates were from September and the latest date was Nov. 4, Kenosha County, Ron Hoffman.

Prothonotary Warbler: Seen by Randy Hoffman, Columbia County, Aug. 5.

Golden-winged Warbler: Reported Aug. 1, St. Croix and Barron Counties. Also reported, August and September, Dane, Sauk, Manitowoc, and Taylor Counties. Last reported, Eau Claire County, Sept. 21, Kemper.

Blue-winged Warbler: Reported Aug. 1, St. Croix County also during the period in Columbia, Dane and Vernon Counties. Ashman described one bird quite well, Dane County, Nov. 10.

Tennessee Warbler: First noted, de Boor, Racine County, Aug. 13. Randy Hoffman found 30, Dane County, Sept. 21; most peaks were from the beginning of September and southern arrival dates were from the last half of August. Last noted by Goff, Barron County, Oct. 26.

Orange-crowned Warbler: First seen in Columbia County, Randy Hoffman, Sept. 15. Most dates were in late September. Observers are asked to use great care in identifying this species as too many early dates are received. (Ed. Note: Also many late Orange-crowned Warblers are easily misreported as Tennessee Warblers.) Randy Hoffman still observed this species in Columbia County on Nov. 12.

Nashville Warbler: Thiessen reported 25 birds, Dane County, Sept. 16. Most southerly arrival dates were from late August and early September. Last seen by Dehmel, Ozaukee County, Oct. 29.

Northern Parula: Reported Aug. 1, Door County. Nearly all dates were in September with the latest on the 16th, Door, Dane Counties, and Sept. 21, Eau Claire, Kemper.

Yellow Warbler: Only 10 reports of this once common wetland species were received. At beginning of period it was reported north to St. Croix and Barron Counties. Last seen, Milwaukee County, Oct. 4, Strehlow reported 4 birds.

Magnolia Warbler: Tessen, Outagamie County, Aug. 23. Randy Hoffman reported 7 birds, Dane County, Sept. 21. Last seen, Kemper, 47 birds, Chippewa County; Dane County, Oct. 9, Korotev.

Cape May Warbler: First seen by Randy Hoffman, Dane County, Aug. 19, and an unbelievable 50 birds, Price County, Hardy, Sept. 26, possibly reflecting an increased abundance of this species due to its predation on the spruce bud worm in the coniferous forests in which it nests. Thiessen found it, Dane County, Oct. 14, for the late date.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Of nine reports earliest was Aug. 30, Dane County, Randy Hoffman, and latest was Price County, Oct. 10, Hardy.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The bulk of migrational arrival dates from the south came in mid-September. On Sept. 16 Hardy saw 200 birds, Price County and on Oct. 3 Randy Hoffman found 450 birds, Dane County. Peaks were not reported after Oct. 15. Tessen found latest bird, Milwaukee, Nov. 18.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Lindberg found this bird in Marinette County Aug. 1. Thiessen found 20, Sept. 16, Dane County. Nearly all late dates were in late September. Ron Hoffman found one bird Kenosha County, Nov. 4.

Cerulean Warbler: This is always an easy fall migrant to overlook. Present at the start of the period in St. Croix County. Randy Hoffman found 4 birds, Sauk County, Aug. 13. Also reported, Racine and Grant Counties. Last seen by Hanbury, Milwaukee, Aug. 30.

- Blackburnian Warbler:** Reported Aug. 13, Douglas County and Racine County. Nine birds seen by Randy Hoffman, Aug. 20, Columbia County. Last seen Oct. 3, Eau Claire, Kemper.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** This southerner was seen by Sundell in Cedarburg, Ozaukee County, Sept. 9. See "By the Wayside" (Fall Issue).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** At the beginning of the period it was reported only from Ozaukee County, then Douglas County on Aug. 13th. Randy Hoffman found 7 birds, Sept. 21, Dane County. Last reported, Columbia County, Sept. 24, Randy Hoffman.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Randy Hoffman found 11 birds, Columbia County, Aug. 19 and 21 birds, Dane County, Sept. 21. Most arrival dates were in early September. Last seen Oct. 5, Chippewa County, Kemper and Oct. 6, Manitowoc County, Sontag.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Randy Hoffman found this species in Columbia County, Aug. 20, 30, in Dane County, Sept. 21, and 6 in Columbia County, Sept. 24, the last date. Also found, Vernon County on this date, Weber. Kemper found one, Eau Claire on Oct. 5.
- Pine Warbler:** Reported, Barron County, Aug. 1. Thiessen found 4 birds, Dane County, Sept. 16. Found in Dane and Milwaukee Counties, Sept. 23.
- Palm Warbler:** Present Aug. 1, Barron County, Goff. Fall arrivals were at the end of August in the south. Randy Hoffman estimated 250 birds, Sept. 21, Dane County and 40, Columbia County, Sept. 29. Last seen, Gustafson, Milwaukee, Oct. 21.
- Ovenbird:** Most reported migration dates were from September and the latest of these, Sept. 30, Brown County, Cleary and Columban. One bird, Kenosha County, Nov. 4, Ron Hoffman. Kenosha and Racine County have produced many late dates of Warblers in past seasons.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Present at beginning of period, Ozaukee, Marquette and Barron Counties. No definite peaks reported. Seemed not as abundant as previous migrations. Most dates were in September. Ron Hoffman found 3 in Kenosha County on Nov. 4 for a very late date.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Faanes, St. Croix County, Aug. 1. Found, Racine County, Aug. 13, de Boer and Sauk County, Randy Hoffman.
- Connecticut Warbler:** Of 6 reports the first was Price County, Aug. 24, Hardy. Four birds were present at Cedarburg Bog, Sept. 3, Ozaukee County, one bird singing. Also Rock, Outagamie and Manitowoc Counties. Last seen Sept. 21, Dane County, Randy Hoffman and Chippewa County, Kemper.
- Mourning Warbler:** Reported Aug. 1 from Outagamie County. Most fall arrival dates were in late August, (the 20th onward). Last seen Milwaukee County, Sept. 24, Hanbury.
- Common Yellowthroat:** Thirty seen by Randy Hoffman, Dane County, Sept. 18. Ron Hoffman, Dane County, Sept. 18. Ron Hoffman found 20 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 4 for the latest date.
- Wilson's Warbler:** The first date was Aug. 20, Columbia County, Randy Hoffman. Last seen, Marinette County, Sept. 23, Lindberg.
- Canada Warbler:** Not reported until Aug. 19, Columbia County, Randy Hoffman. Other arrivals came in the following two weeks. Last noted, Dane County, Sept. 16, Thiessen.
- Redstart:** Reported Aug. 1 as far north as Marinette and St. Croix Counties. Korotev saw 10 birds, Dane County, Aug. 10 and Hanbury saw 15, Aug. 31 in Milwaukee County. Kemper, 21, Sept. 21, Chippewa County. Last reported, Oct. 7, Dane County, Thiessen.
- House Sparrow:** Present statewide. "Are numbers declining?" Kemper.
- Bobolink:** Present Aug. 1 north to Barron County. Redmond reported 10 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 18. Last seen, Milwaukee, Gustafson, Sept. 22.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Present west to St. Croix County, Aug. 1 and north to Barron County. Redmond reported 15 birds, Ozaukee County, Oct. 3 and Ron Hoffman found 26 still at Bong, Kenosha County, Nov. 4.
- Western Meadowlark:** Reported Aug. 1 from as far east as Brown County and north to Taylor. Redmond reported 12 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 7. Present at the end of the period, Marathon County.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reports from, Barron, Fond du Lac and Dane Counties, Winnebago and Cleary and Brown Counties.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** The Leupkes reported 2,000, Marathon County, Sept. 2. Cleary and Columban found 10,000, Brown County, Sept. 19. Most numbers were gone by Nov. 1. Present at end of the period north to Barron County.
- Orchard Oriole:** One, Randy Hoffman, Sauk County, Aug. 4.
- Northern Oriole:** Present at the beginning of the period north to Barron County. Most dates were in August. Last noted by Cleary and Columban, Brown County, Sept. 30.

- Brewer's Blackbird:** Present Aug. 1 in Sauk, Marinette, Marathon, Taylor, Marquette, and Barron Counties. Thiessen reported 30 birds, Dane County, Oct. 14. Last seen by the Leupkes, Marathon County and Goff, Barron County, Nov. 23.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Reported Aug. 1, Marinette, Dodge and Marquette Counties. Harmer reported 300, Jackson County, Oct. 7 and Oct. 9, 450 birds, Tessen, Dodge County. Most birds were gone by Nov. 15 but still present, Dodge County, at end of period.
- Common Grackle:** Ziebell reported 200, Winnebago County, Aug. 30. The Leupkes reported 500, Marathon County, Oct. 9. There were several other peaks in the hundreds, but not reported after Sept. 15. Present at the end of the period north to Barron County.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reported north to Barron County at the beginning of the period. Ziebell reported 30 birds, Winnebago County, Sept. 9. Fewer reports than normal were received and at least one reporter commented on low numbers of this species. Last noted by Knuth, Fond du Lac County, Oct. 30.
- Scarlet Tanager:** Present Aug. 1 north to Barron County. Most dates were from August. Last noted, Dane County, Thiessen, Oct. 30.
- Summer Tanager:** Tessen, one bird, Harrington Beach State Park, Ozaukee County, Oct. 14. See "By the Wayside" (Fall Issue).
- Cardinal:** Reported north to Barron County.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Present throughout the state at the start of the period. Most dates in September. Randy Hoffman reported 36 birds, Dane County, Sept. 21. Ron Hoffman found 3 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 4 during the unusually warm weather at this time.
- Indigo Bunting:** Present Aug. 1 throughout the state. Randy Hoffman found 46 birds, Dane County, Sept. 18. Robbins found a late bird, Sept. 25, Taylor County. Ron Hoffman found the last bird, Kenosha County, Nov. 4.
- Dickcissel:** Reported Aug. 1, Marquette County, Williamson and Rock County, Mahlum, Aug. 8.
- Evening Grosbeak:** Butterbrodt, Iron County, Aug. 1. Most dates were in November but it had reached the southern counties by late October. Hardy reported 100 birds, Price County, Nov. 12 and Cleary and Columban found 120 birds, Brown County, Nov. 7. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron and Marinette Counties. There were nearly as many reports as last fall when numbers were above normal during the start of the last winter finch invasion.
- Purple Finch:** Reported south to Brown County at the beginning of the season. Most arrival dates were in early September. Ron Hoffman's 75 birds in Kenosha County on Nov. 4 was the highest reported concentration. Present throughout the state at end of period.
- Pine Grosbeak:** Johnson found 2 birds, Douglas County, Oct. 29. Cleary and Columban found 15, Brown County, Nov. 1, where it remained until end of period. Also reported from Iron County, Nov. 30, Butterbrodt.
- Common Redpoll:** Typically absent after an invasion year. One report, Price County, Nov. 7, 2 birds, Hardy.
- Pine Siskin:** Tessen saw this species, Ozaukee County, Oct. 1 but not in the numbers of last year when dozens were seen on about the same arrival date. He reported 25 birds, Ozaukee County, Oct. 28. Gustafson found 30, Milwaukee, Nov. 3 and Sundell reported 40 Nov. 20, Ozaukee County. Present at end of period north to Iron County.
- American Goldfinch:** Redmond reported 55 Ozaukee County, Oct. 3 for an early peak concentration, Ron Hoffman, 80 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 4 and 32 on Nov. 19. Present throughout state at end of period.
- Red Crossbill:** Lindberg, Marinette County, Aug. 23 and Aug. 31; Faanes, Douglas County, Oct. 9. Gustafson, 12 birds, Milwaukee, Nov. 25, the last report.
- White-winged Crossbill:** Robbins saw this species in Ashland County on Nov. 2.
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** Present north to Barron County at the start of the period. Ron Hoffman found 2, Kenosha County, Nov. 4, for a late date.
- Lark Bunting:** Randy Hoffman found 2 birds in a fallow field, Columbia County, Sept. 29. See "By the Wayside," Fall Issue.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1 north to Barron County. Redmond found 33 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 7 and Randy Hoffman reported 28 from Columbia County, Sept. 24. Last seen, Columbia County, Nov. 1.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, St. Croix, Brown and Iron Counties. Cleary and Columban saw this bird, Brown County, Sept. 30 for a late report.

LeConte's Sparrow: Randy Hoffman was able to bring one into view along with 2 Sharp-tails at the Mazomanie Wildlife Area through "slow walking and constant pishing." The birds were present in the tall marsh grass on Sept. 23.

Henslow's Sparrow: Korotev reported this bird, Grant County, Aug. 6.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Randy Hoffman, 2 at the Mazomanie Wildlife Area, Sept. 23, and Korotev and de Boer found one in the weedy area of the Juneau Park Landfill area, Milwaukee.

Vesper Sparrow: Reported Aug. 1 north to Barron County. Randy Hoffman found 32 birds, Columbia County, Sept. 29. Other concentrations were much lower. Ron Hoffman found 1, Kenosha County, Nov. 4 for a late date.

Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored): Present Aug. 2, Iron County. This species reached southern Wisconsin in numbers the last week of September. Hardy reported 150, Price County, Oct. 15 and Ron Hoffman found "100's", Kenosha County, Nov. 4. Present throughout the state at the end of the period.

(Oregon race): Reported Oct. 10 until Nov. 11, Price, Rock, Manitowoc and Douglas Counties.

Tree Sparrow: Faanes found this bird, St. Croix County, Sept. 24 and it reached Dane County, Oct. 9, Thiessen. Goff saw 100 birds in Barron County, Nov. 2. Most arrival dates were from mid to late October. Present at the end of the period throughout the state.

Chipping Sparrow: Present Aug. 1 throughout the state. Lindberg found 20 birds, Marinette County, Oct. 11. Dates were evenly distributed throughout the period of its migration. Last noted, Rock County, Nov. 10, the Brakefields.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Reported in Marinette, St. Croix, Barron and Marquette Counties at the beginning of the period. This species is often overlooked in flocks of sparrows in weedy areas during migration. Last, Randy Hoffman, Oct. 3, Dane County.

Field Sparrow: Present Aug. 1 north to St. Croix, Barron and Marinette Counties. Most dates were from the first half of the period. Ron Hoffman still found this species, Kenosha County, Nov. 19.

Harris' Sparrow: Five reports were received this season, the first coming from Brumer, Sheboygan County, Sept. 27, then from Barron County, Oct. 4 - 21, Goff. Randy Hoffman found one, Dane County, Oct. 3 and Gustafson saw one, Milwaukee, Oct. 12. Ron Hoffman found one bird Kenosha County, Nov. 4.

White-crowned Sparrow: Reported Sept. 16, Milwaukee and Vernon Counties as arrival dates. No high concentrations were reported. Most observations were from the last week of September and throughout October. Last seen Oct. 30, Shawano County, Hafeman.

White-throated Sparrow: Present Aug. 1 south to its summering grounds at the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County. Large numbers had migrated to southern Wisconsin by the last week of September. Randy Hoffman reported 120 birds, Dane County, Oct. 3 and Ron Hoffman reported 300 birds, Kenosha County, Nov. 4.

Fox Sparrow: First noted, Sept. 25, Marquette County, Williamson. Most dates were from October. Randy Hoffman reported 30 birds, Columbia County, Oct. 27. Present at the end of the period in Marquette County.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Present Aug. 1 in Barron County. Reached southern Wisconsin by middle of September. A high of 6 birds, Randy Hoffman, Dane County, Oct. 3. Last seen, Ozaukee County, Redmond, Oct. 27.

Swamp Sparrow: Randy Hoffman found 80 birds Dane County on Oct. 3 and most of the peak dates were through by the end of the month. Last seen Nov. 30, Redmond, Ozaukee County.

Song Sparrow: Redmond reported 48 birds, Ozaukee County, Aug. 7. Strehlow found 20 birds, Milwaukee County, Oct. 1. Peak numbers were in October. Present at the end of the period, Brown County.

Lapland Longspur: Reported Sept. 29, Columbia County, and Sept. 30 in St. Croix and Clark Counties. Leshner found 50, Dodge County, Oct. 24. On Nov. 5, 65 were estimated, Tessen, Dodge County. Numbers were lower than last year. Most dates were in October.

Smith's Longspur: Randy Hoffman found 1 bird, Columbia County, Sept. 29. See "By the Wayside," Fall Issue.

Snow Bunting: Johnson first noted this species, Oct. 9, Douglas County. The Leupkes found 250 birds, Adams County, Oct. 29. Ziebell saw 300 in Winnebago County, Nov. 6 and the Leupkes estimated 400, Marathon County, Nov. 25. Dates were about equal from October and November. Present at the end of the period south to Dane County.

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Mary and Charlie Nelson

FIELD **NOTES**



by John Bielefeldt

The Winter Season

December 1, 1978-February 28, 1979

Complaining about the weather is always fine winter entertainment in Wisconsin but the idea of "bad weather" shouldn't be taken very seriously. Weather gets "good" or "bad" only in terms of our preoccupation with human purposes or even our own individual versions of those purposes; for many people, memories of long white winters like 1978-79 tend to sink into irritation and inconvenience. Our prejudices don't much matter, however, and weather has got to be taken--appreciated is maybe the right word--on its own natural terms. True, the winter of '78-79 did bring Wisconsin a great deal of snow but really not "too much." Often it was very cold but nearly "intolerable." For the birdwatcher, large parts of the countryside might have seemed lifeless but winter weather can't be blamed for a big fall migration of Blue Jays out of the state or for winter finches' failure to descend on Wisconsin in droves. Some observers found it a discouraging and disappointing season yet this summary can't be much concerned with bird-watchers' morale. It must at heart be about the birds themselves, whose problems with winter weather are a lot more consequential than ours. In this sense it was a remarkable season indeed. Midwinter consistently confronted Wisconsin birdlife with the most uncompromising combination of cold and snow that the state has seen or is likely to see again for many years.

Details of the weather are summarized later, but the snows of January and February ("midwinter," for short, in these pages) had some obvious effects on birds and birdwatching. Tree sparrows and juncos, usually two of the commonest winter birds in central and southern Wisconsin, became strikingly scarce as snow buried the seed supplies of fields, fencerows, and woodland edges. In Milwaukee County, Epstein watched a mixed flock of small birds along a brushy railroad right-of-way lose its "marginal" species: a Fox Sparrow was gone by January 5 (following the first big snowfall), a towhee and a Swamp Sparrow by the 12th (following the coldest night in 20 years), White-throats and a thrasher by late January when snow was three feet deep. Unless they find a feeder, most birds of species like these will die in most Wisconsin winters, but this year gave a particularly graphic example of the kind of weather patterns that help to set winter range limits for many ground-feeding birds.

For many species, however, even passing guesses about midwinter numbers were confounded by another effect of the snow: observers simply couldn't reach all the sites and habitats they would ordinarily check for wintering birds. For at least a month cross-country travel without snowshoes was next

to impossible in all of Wisconsin; skis and even snowmobiles floundered in the fluffy drifts. The effort that went into the sightings reported here was maybe not less than usual but it was mostly roadside and feeder work.

None of that effort was able to muster much in the way of rarities. Notes on the discovery of a Kittiwake in early December at Madison plus midwinter reports of at least one Merlin and a Gyrfalcon at midstate are presented in **By The Wayside**. Otherwise, four Varied Thrushes were about the most unusual birds the season would produce, once the Christmas counts were past.

No part of the U.S., Wisconsin included, saw any strong invasion of winter finches in 1978-79. This off-year in the every-other-year pattern of recent irruptions among seed-eating northerners was more or less predictable, but Wisconsin numbers were really not so low as the inevitable comparison with last year's deluge of winter finches might suggest. Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks were certainly few and crossbills were virtually lacking in the state, but Purple Finches were abundant, in December at least. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in northern Wisconsin and the 1978 Christmas count found many more of them than the 1976 count had. The really low grosbeak years of two or three decades back, before these birds came to be expected annually, have been largely forgotten. For instance, after adjustment for party-hours and the north-south distribution of counts, a rough comparison suggests that the 1978 Christmas count yielded 5 or 10 times as many Evening Grosbeaks as the 1959 census, when only eight counts recorded any at all.

Pine Siskins were perhaps the most interesting finches of the winter. Wisconsin's third highest Christmas count total (and this barely less than that of 1971) followed right on the heels of its greatest siskin total last year. A species that had recently exemplified the alternate year model of invasions seemed to break that pattern by appearing in strength for the second straight year. However, of the many other states that shared in the huge invasion, only Michigan and Minnesota showed anything approaching the Wisconsin re-invasion of 1977-79. Moreover, the distribution of siskins within Wisconsin this winter was not nearly so even as last winter; they re-appeared in numbers only in some eastern and southern counties. This local abundance might not rate much emphasis except that siskins also nested in southern Wisconsin (and in southern Michigan and Minnesota) for a second consecutive year. By late March, 1979 a pair was again building in precisely the same crotch of the same Madison tree used for nesting in April, 1978. This spindly white pine on the edge of an urban parking lot scarcely looks like an irresistibly promising nest site, and this nest was not an isolated case. A quick search of the neighborhood found one more nest and at least one further pair behaving as if nesting. The idea that these were the same flocks wintering in east-southeast Wisconsin in 1977-78 and 1978-79, then trying to breed there, sounds reasonable.

Breeding attempts beyond the usual range limits had indeed occurred in other parts of Wisconsin in spring 1978, and in many states as far south as Kansas and Kentucky, after the almost nationwide irruption of siskins in the preceding winter. Such extralimital nests are not infrequent in the wake of big southward flights, but local re-invasions and re-nestings in "off years" like 1979 seldom seem to be reported. It may be that urban and

residential areas provide some key habitat components for siskins amid the farmlands and deciduous woodlands of southern Wisconsin. The cities' ornamental conifers, their increasingly popular thistle seed feeders, and their abundant crop of dandelion seeds (a siskin favorite) might help to furnish a combination of nest sites and foods not available in quantity in rural landscapes. (It now looks as if this wintering and breeding group of siskins has faded out after two years; "returning" siskins were seen only sporadically in southern Wisconsin in the fall of 1979 and early winter of 1979-80. Apparently nests were unsuccessful and/or new recruits were not tied to the same range.)

Other northern invaders--Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, and Northern Shrikes--were notably common in parts of central Wisconsin. Rough-legs do of course respond to the periodic highs in vole (meadow mouse) numbers by concentrating in areas where this staple of their winter diet has become abundant. The winter of '78-79 had witnessed a vole peak at midstate, the second (and probably higher) year of an unusual two-year peak and according to Hamerstrom's data (*Auk* 96:370-374, 1979) the central counties' biggest vole population since 1974. The hawk's abundance in Taylor, Clark, and Marathon counties had partly subsided by mid January, said local observers, but not before regional Christmas counts (see Table 1) had recorded high December numbers of Rough-legs and other vole predators. A snow cover is supposed to give these tunnelling mice some protection against predatory birds; however, snow depths of 6-11 inches--depths prevailing at midstate from mid November through December--were apparently not enough to disband an obvious cluster of predators. During a big outbreak, the sheer density of vole populations (and perhaps some behavioral patterns associated with high density) may bring enough prey to the snow's surface to sustain many hawks. Declining numbers of Rough-legs in January could be attributed to an even deeper snow cover of 12-25 inches but several other factors might also be at work. Nevertheless, some Rough-legs were present in central counties throughout the whole winter; the point is that deep snow will not entirely mask the effects of high vole populations on Rough-legs.

Table 1 suggests some other interesting points if treated with caution. The state as a whole is a more or less artificial political unit. The table instead divides Wisconsin into six regions that have a rough geographic validity in terms of latitude, topography, land use, and vegetation. Only well-established Christmas counts taken in most or all of the 1974-78 years are included, and inconsistent or dubious data from some counts in some years are excluded. The southeast region, with 16-21 counts and 900-1400 party-hours per year, probably produces fairly reliable data. Other regions, however, average only 5-9 counts and 100-200 party-hours each year. Weather and several more factors also introduce uncertainties and imprecision. Major year-to-year or region-to-region differences in hawk or shrike counts do probably demonstrate real differences in abundance in late December, but small changes in the figures are not necessarily meaningful. Statewide averages in the table, for what they're worth, are equally weighted means of the figures for these six regions of approximately equal size.

**Table 1 — Hawks and Shrikes Per 10 Party-Hours, Wisconsin
Christmas Counts, 1974-1978**

Rough-legged Hawk	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Northwest	6.2	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.3
Northeast	3.1	0.2	zero	0.3	1.6
East-central	1.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.4
West-central	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.9
Southwest	5.3	1.2	0.4	3.1	1.9
Southeast	0.6	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.4
Statewide Average	3.0	0.8	0.3	1.1	1.1
Red-Tailed Hawk					
Northwest	zero	0.1	0.1	zero	0.1
Northeast	0.2	0.1	0.3	zero	0.5
East-central	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.1
West-central	2.8	1.2	2.0	2.7	2.3
Southwest	6.2	4.5	5.3	6.2	4.9
Southeast	1.8	2.7	1.8	2.0	2.3
Statewide Average	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.9
American Kestrel					
Northwest	zero	zero	zero	0.1	zero
Northeast	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	zero
East-central	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4
West-central	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Southwest	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.6	1.2
Southeast	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
Statewide Average	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Northern Shrike					
Northwest	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.4
Northeast	1.3	0.9	0.1	0.3	1.0
East-central	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.4
West-central	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2
Southwest	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4
Southeast	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6
Statewide Average	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.8
Average regional snow depths, count day	2-5" (except 10" NE)	0-4" (except 12" NW)	2-5"	3-7"	6-11"

With such warnings in mind, notice that Rough-leg counts vary widely from year to year within a region and between regions, presumably in accord with the availability of prey. "Invasions" have not been state-wide phenomena during these five years, but all regions agree that 1976 showed the lowest Rough-leg counts. Their mid to late winter distribution in that 1976-77 season was also the most restricted of any in this period.

Red-tail counts sometimes seem to rise in the same year as Rough-leg counts in concert, perhaps, with local vole populations (see northeast 1978, east-central 1974 and 1978, southeast 1975) but Red-tail counts did not fall in the

low Rough-leg year of 1976. Peterson (*DNR Tech. Bull.* No. 111, 1979) found that breeding Red-tails were year-round residents on a study area in southeastern Wisconsin. High Christmas counts in the south might thus involve migrants stopping to winter in greater than normal numbers as well as local birds; permanently resident Red-tails (with varied diets) might sustain southern counts in other years. Upstate counts of Red-tails, however, could sometimes include a share of local breeders that stayed the winter beyond their usual range in greater than average proportions instead of migrating.

Except for occasional "highs", Red-tail populations in early winter in Wisconsin have been by and large stable over the the last five years. Kestrel numbers in December seem to have shown even less change in individual regions or in the state as a whole, although a more appropriate calculation excluding far northern counts does suggest somewhat higher numbers in 1974. (It should not, of course, be inferred from Table 1 that big conspicuous birds like Red-tails or Rough-legs are commoner in real numbers than smaller less noticeable birds like Kestrels or shrikes.)

Three of the past five years have featured record-breaking totals of shrikes on Wisconsin Christmas counts, with 1978 the greatest year yet. The statewide averages in Table 1, where raw totals are adjusted for party-hours of counting effort tend toward the same conclusion--a series of consistently high counts for the shrike, supposedly an "irregular" or "irruptive" species. Regional figures are not so consistent. Higher and lower counts, and disparate annual contributions to strong statewide totals, seem to have occurred in the north and south. Several regions have nonetheless had runs of high shrike counts and the "invasions" of 1976 and 1978 were almost statewide affairs. This data does not show any pronounced cyclic variation in Northern Shrikes' visits to Wisconsin.

The Weather

The 1978-79 winter again began in a way that's been typical of the past two years. The first major snowfalls--5 to 10 inches in the northwest half of the state on November 17 and 2 to 4 inches in the southeast half on November 26 and 27--laid the base for a snow cover that would persist without a break into mid March. Daytime highs in the teens, with nighttime temperatures near zero in the south and well below zero in the north, particularly November 29-30 and December 6-10, came very close to freezing the last patches of open water in the big inland lakes of the south. A two-week respite from that kind of cold saved some open water and some diving ducks for downstate Christmas counts, but milder temperatures were not mild enough to melt away the statewide snow cover. Cold nights after occasional days in the low to mid 30's, plus freezing drizzle over the lower half of Wisconsin on December 19-20, put a hard crust on the remaining 2-7 inches of snow.

Christmas Eve introduced three nights of zero or sub-zero cold throughout the state, the final freeze of all inland lakes on the 26th, and seven straight days of snow, with flurries building to a small storm in the north on December 28 and a major storm in the south on December 31. Accumulated depths in the wake of the storms were 12-20 inches. After the snow, on New Year's Day, temperatures fell steadily to overnight lows of -10 to -30°F

statewide (mostly -20 to -25°, with -38° at Glidden in Ashland County.) Highs on January 2 and the next few days did not reach zero. At the end of the holiday week, the pattern that would dominate six midwinter weeks of Wisconsin's weather had been set: deep and ever deepening snow on the ground, and unyielding cold. "Moderate" temperatures came to mean anything in double digits on the positive side--11° at Madison on January 7, for example. Sub-zero readings, often of 10 to 25 below, were nightly standards for two weeks, and counties near the Illinois border had their lowest temperatures in 20 years--as much as 28 below--on the nights of January 10-11 and 15-16.

Somewhat warmer days in the latter half of January brought more and more snow. Heavy falls in south-southeastern counties at mid month and over most of the state on the 19th and 23rd left total depths at 15-20 inches in the far northwest, about 25 inches in a broad region at midstate, and a record-breaking 30-36 inches in Milwaukee, Madison, and other southern areas. The average cover of 26 inches for the state was the greatest since that calculation began in 1961.

Frigid weather returned throughout the first 10 days of February; drops to 10-20 or 20-30 below zero at night again became familiar in the south and north, respectively. The severe contraction of open water with January's cold spell lasted about six weeks, until late February. Ice-free stretches of rivers in southeastern Wisconsin were at the practical midwinter minimum, near spills and springs, for the third consecutive year. Both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior were virtually frozen tight. New snowfalls on February 12 and 18 tended to even out accumulated depths among the state's regions but raised the average depth to 28 inches.

Temperatures finally got above freezing, for the first time since December, on February 20-21. On the 22nd, a midday high in the 30's held through the night as strong southerly winds were accompanied by fog, drizzle, or local thunderstorms over the greater share of the state. Southern counties hit 40° on February 23 and again on the 28th. There were some scattered attempts at migration on these days (and even at mid month, when a major warm front moved as close as southwestern Iowa.) Much settling and melting of snow did occur in this last week of February but a complete cover a foot or more deep still remained at the close of the winter reporting period.

The winter was surely harsh but it was not barren or desolate. There were birds to see, some in an abundance that milder winters can't always match. Species not yet mentioned--goldfinches, for instance--were unusually common. Many observers did a very welcome job by providing January and early February dates and counts of Cedar Waxwings in a winter when they (and Robins) were common in many counties. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were probably no more numerous than in most winters but they were seen more frequently than usual around bird feeders, where Mourning Doves were a popular prey item according to several reports (be sure to see the species accounts, however, and their cautions on identifying these hawks.)

Because Hilsenhoff has already summarized Christmas count and count period observations (*Passenger Pigeon* 41:1-15, 1979), only those December

records of particular interest are included here, and contributors should **not** list Christmas count sightings on their winter report forms.

Fifty contributors (those listed at the end of the seasonal summary) in 31 counties sent full reports on January-February observations. They and other reporters (whose full names are given in the text) provided incidental observations from 14 more counties. These efforts are again about the same as those of the last three years. The least attention, as usual, fell on northern counties (Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Polk, Sawyer, Rusk, Lincoln, and Florence) and a rather large group of west-southwestern counties (Dunn, Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Monroe, Crawford, Richland, Iowa, Grant, LaFayette, and Green).

Seasonal Summary

Pied-billed Grebe and Great Blue Heron: No midwinter reports for the second straight year despite a surprising number of Great Blues on the Christmas counts.

Whistling Swan: One wintered Brown Co. (Cleary, Columban).

Mute Swan: Birds regularly listed from Ashland/Bayfield Cos. in recent years, although probably present, went unreported this season. Hilsenhoff has suggested that downstate observers might expect to see more Mutes, perhaps the most likely swan in midwinter.

Canada Goose: Winter-long birds were noted only from Horicon (Drieslein) and from Brown (Cleary, Columban) and LaCrosse (1-Lesher) Cos. Birds Feb. 20 Rock Co. (Mahlum) and Feb. 25 Dane Co. (3-Shea) may well have been put into the air by milder weather in that last week of the month.

Snow Goose: One or two apparently wintered in Brown Co. (Cleary, Columban).

Ducks: The few commonest species aside, ducks tend to be reported from the same counties by the same diligent observers every winter--dabblers in the south, divers mainly from Lake Michigan. A briefer format for summarizing wintering ducks' occurrences is probably in order; only species, sightings, or counts of special interest will be detailed.

American Black Duck: The seven reporters who gave peak midwinter counts for both species totalled about 2,300 Mallards and 618 Black Ducks, but the ratio is 400 to 18 (in LaCrosse, Dane, Waukesha, and Winnebago Cos.) when the big flocks in Brown Co. are excluded. Wintering Black Ducks in Door Co. (Lukes, Schroeder) were at the edge of the usual range; two on Jan. 3 Bayfield Co. (Robbye Johnson) were very far north.

Gadwall: Three reports of what were definitely midwinter birds in Washington (1), Waukesha (1), and Dane (173) Cos. made the Gadwall the most numerous and most widespread of a group of several dabblers that winter in small numbers. Midwinter reports for other species totalled **2 Common Pintails, 4 American Wigeon, 65 Shovelers**, (all in Dane Co.) and **1 Wood Duck**. Hilsenhoff has already pointed to a possible increase of Gadwalls on Wisconsin Christmas counts. These relatively few birds cannot describe a trend but there is evidence of growing Gadwall numbers elsewhere in eastern North America.

Lesser Scaup: A small cluster of Feb. 24-25 reports from Rock (Brakefields), Dane (Thiessen), and Washington (Tessen) Cos. suggests that a few scaup moved north with Goldeneyes during these springlike days.

White-winged Scoter: Two in Milwaukee Co. Feb. 19-20 (Epstein, Donald) and present in Manitowoc Co. Feb. 18 (Sontag).

Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk: *American Birds* (33:236-240, 1979) recently asked for a feature article on the problems of identifying these hawks from Helmut Mueller, Dan Berger, and George Allez, whose expertise of course comes largely from their work at Wisconsin's Cedar Grove banding station over the last 25 years. Here are their conclusions, with boldface emphases added: "We think that many birdwatchers would be able to identify the three species of *Accipiter* by watching a few hundred correctly identified Sharp-shinneds, Cooper's and Goshawks and by paying close attention to size and flight behavior...the best way to identify *Accipiters* is by size and size-related characteristics; a skill that can be acquired *only with considerable experience*...The (Peterson) system of field marks and identification by elimination simply does not work with hawks, falcons, and eagles...We urge extreme care in the identification of *Accipiters*, and other diurnal raptors."

It seems clear that very few Wisconsin observers have had the opportunity to develop that kind of skill with Sharp-shinneds and Cooper's, let alone Goshawks, when "correctly identified" birds are the crucial limit on practical experience. There is a wealth of convincing

detail in the article by Mueller et al., and anybody expecting to see and report any of these three species should be ready to document sightings in the context of that article. None of this season's total of 30 midwinter reports from 19 counties supplies such information, and all these birds must go down as unidentified *Accipiters*.

Red-tailed Hawk: Numbers at the northern edge of the winter range might have been higher in December (see the introduction) but some persisted through January and February in the north-central counties of Clark and Marathon. Also overwintered, as usual, in Brown Co. on the east and in Barron Co. on the west, where seen a bit farther north, in Burnett Co., from Feb. 9 onward.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Single midwinter birds reported from Milwaukee Co. Feb. 6 (Epstein) and Waukesha Co. Jan. 20 (Bielefeldt). Also seen in December in Rock Co. (1--Brakefields), where not listed on local Christmas counts.

Rough-legged Hawk: Most midstate observers had their highest counts in December (before and after local Christmas counts) with fewer birds in mid to late winter, and Lukes saw none in Door Co. after Jan. 2, but some Rough-legs stayed the whole season as far north as Burnett (Evrard), Barron (Goff), Taylor (Robbins), Marathon (Luepkes), and Marinette (Lindberg) Cos.

Golden Eagle: One Juneau Co. Feb. 4 (Tessen).

Bald Eagle: In the ice-bound seasons of both 1976-77 and 1977-78, Evrard saw only one midwinter bird in Burnett Co.; in this equally frigid winter of 1978-79 he found none after Dec. 8. This year's midwinter limits along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers were not apparent from available reports (one Vilas Co. Feb. 26 was perhaps a migrant--Baughman) but single birds did winter below the Peshtigo dam in Marinette Co. (Lindberg) and at a trout hatchery in Langlade Co., where owners are compensated for losses from this and the two eagles said to have spent the past two winters (Schimmels).

Northern Harrier: Wintered at Horicon (Drieslein). In mid to late winter also seen Jan. 10 and 29 Rock Co. (Mahlum), Feb. 4 Milwaukee Co. (Woodmansee), Feb. 23 Manitowoc Co. (Sontag), and Feb. 25 Calumet Co. (Rudy).

Gyr Falcon: Tessen describes a Jan. 1 sighting from Waupaca Co., in *By The Wayside*.

Merlin: Wood Co. Jan. 27 (Gary Stout) in *By The Wayside*.

American Kestrel: Three reports from north-central counties on Feb. 25-28 might involve early migrants in the mild weather of the time, but only one in Langlade Co. (Pickering) would have passed north of a line of overwintering birds in Barron (Goff), Marathon (max. 4 on Feb. 11--Luepkes), and Brown (Wierzbicki, Cleary, Columban) Cos.

Common Bobwhite: Midwinter reports from Rock, Marquette, and Waukesha Cos.

Gray Partridge: Listed in midwinter from 9 counties south and east of Marinette (max. 8 birds), Brown, Calumet, Marquette, and Rock.

American Coot: Wintering birds reported in Dane (max. 11--Thiessen, Shea, Erickson) and Waukesha (max. 5--Bielefeldt) Cos., and possibly in Ozaukee and/or Milwaukee Cos.

Common Snipe: Again only two midwinter reports--one Jan. 10 Waukesha Co. (Safir) and one Feb. 23 Dane Co. (Shea).

Dunlin: Two birds stayed until Dec. 2 in Milwaukee Co. (Idzikowski, Epstein).

"White-winged" Gulls: The four **Glaucous Gulls** on Madison's Christmas count had been present since at least Dec. 4, when they and Herrings provided side-by-side comparisons (including bill size) with one **Iceland Gull** (Randy Hoffman).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Hoffman's flock of Madison gulls on Dec. 4 also produced one Kittiwake--see *By The Wayside*--last seen Dec. 17.

Mourning Dove: Three straight years with midwinter snow cover unbroken by any thaws, and especially the deep southern Wisconsin snows this winter and last, seem likely to starve great numbers of a ground-feeding bird like the dove. Bird feeders and barnyards or breeding-season successes (probably both) are apparently quite able, however, to sustain or replenish the early winter population. The Christmas count total in 1978 again hit the 6,000-bird level of record counts in the mid 70's. Doves spent the season at their usual northern limits in Door (Lukes), Shawano (Hafeman), Marinette (45--Lindberg), Langlade (Pickering, Schimmels), Clark (Robbins), and Barron (Goff) Cos.

Common Screech Owl: Post-Christmas count reports from Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Rock, Dane, Dodge, Marquette, Brown, Wood, Clark, Marathon, LaCrosse, and Barron Cos.

Snowy Owl: Although the 70's didn't see a big Wisconsin invasion, 1978-79 was a moderately good year for Snowies in central and north-central parts of the state. Christmas counts total-

ed 13, better than the 4 last year but nearly identical to 1970 and 1974-76 counts. Later reports came this winter from Douglas (at least 1), Price (1), Oneida (at least 1), Langlade (1), Marathon (at least 8), Clark (at least 6), Taylor (1), Wood (1), Brown (9), Outagamie (1), Winnebago (up to 5), Calumet (1), and Milwaukee (1) Cos. Also, Horicon had one Dec. 4 but none on its Christmas count.

Long-eared Owl: Unreported anywhere in the state after December. It is easy to make too much of an "absence." The Christmas count total was about normal and deep snow made it very difficult to visit potential roosts.

Short-eared Owl: The vole outbreak in central counties "should" have produced more sightings of Short-ears, which can respond as dramatically as Rough-legged Hawks to this food source, but midwinter reports came only from Milwaukee Co. Jan. 25 (Epstein), Waupaca Co. Jan. 1 (Tessen), and Brown Co. (Cleary, Columban), where it may have overwintered. The state's Christmas count total was mediocre and only Rice Lake's two birds were in or near the region of vole abundance.

It's easily supposed that this winter's early, deep, and persistent snow cover buried nearly all roost sites for the ground-roosting Short-ear and drove most of them out of Wisconsin; the same theory could be applied to the harrier. For the owl, at least, this is shaky theory: they will sometimes roost in conifers and sightings depend in very large part on observer effort invested in searching owls.

Saw-whet Owl: A banded bird was found dead in Waukesha Co. Feb. 6 (Norma Schmidt). Its history is not yet available.

Belted Kingfisher: Wintered in Waukesha Co. (at least 3--Bielefeldt, Haseleau) and well into northern Wisconsin at a trout hatchery in Langlade Co. (1--Schimmels). Also seen Feb. 25 Vernon Co. (1--Weber).

Common Flicker: Midwinter reports only from Racine (Bishop, Kratzat), Waukesha (Safir), Ozaukee (Donald), Calumet (Becky & Mack Whitmore), Outagamie (Anderson), and Waushara and Juneau (Tessen) Cos.

Pileated Woodpecker: Although record numbers were tallied on Christmas counts, no later reports beyond normal range were received.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: The northernmost fringes of the usual winter range are probably well defined by midwinter sightings in Polk, Barron, and Taylor Cos. on the west and Marinette and Door Cos. on the east.

Red-headed Woodpecker: On the basis of birds per party-hour, Red-heads in 1978 registered their poorest Christmas count total since a mere 35 were seen in 1967. The only counties reporting midwinter birds were Milwaukee (1--Mrs. Thomas Bontly), Marquette (2--Williamson), Calumet (2--Rudy), and possibly Waupaca (Tessen) and Wood (Tiede). This scarcity--for the second winter in a row in some areas--can probably be attributed to widespread failure of the acorn crop. Illinois researchers have demonstrated that acorns are a major component in the winter diet, and that acorn supplies and counts of Red-heads in one study site were correlated.

Horned Lark: Contributors in such mid and upstate counties as Door, Marinette, Taylor, Wood, Clark, and Burnett saw larks only as Feb. 18-28 arrivals in the typical end-of-winter migration. In other midstate and some southern counties, larks were thought to have overwintered but dated observations were available only for "peak" counts, probably involving migrants, in that same late February period. An exceedingly snowy winter like 1978-79 might well minimize larks' midwinter numbers in Wisconsin, and there is direct assurance that they were present between Jan. 10 and Feb. 4 from only eight counties: Rock, Waukesha, Dodge, Columbia, Manitowoc, Calumet, Brown, and Langlade.

Gray Jay: Midwinter reports from Price (Hardy), Oneida (Paulson, Vanderschaegen) and Vilas (Baughman) Cos. are well within customary range; one Taylor Co. Feb. 27 (Luepkes) is nearer the edge of it.

Blue Jay: Contributors in at least 12 eastern counties, from Rock and Milwaukee to Langlade and Marinette, agreed that jays were less common than usual. Reports from western counties were inconclusive but the statewide total on Christmas counts was 25-35% below those of the past three years.

Northern Raven: Reports as far south as Door, Langlade, and Taylor Cos. are typical in midwinter.

Boreal Chickadee: Reported in midwinter only from Price Co. by Hardy.

Tufted Titmouse: Midwinter reports in Waukesha, Rock, Dane and Vernon Cos.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Christmas counts hint that they were rather common in north-northeastern counties (Oneida, Shawano, Door) but the statewide tally--with a statewide distribution that continued into midwinter--was approximately normal.

- Brown Thrasher:** Wintered in Dane (Erickson) and Waukesha (Vern Aune) Cos. Seen Jan. 5-12 but not later in Milwaukee Co. (Epstein).
- American Robin:** If 166 birds at Milwaukee are set aside, the 1978 Christmas count total is no higher than those of the past several years. Most eastern counties north to Brown (max. 3), Shawano, Door (2), and Marinette (max. 8) reported overwintering birds, as did LaCrosse Co. (10-20 birds) in the west. See also Cedar Waxwing.
- Varied Thrush:** The Christmas count bird in Door Co., first seen Dec. 13, stayed into March (Lukes). Individuals also wintered in Clark (Charles Kemper) and Waukesha (Safir) Cos., and one was seen in much of February in Milwaukee Co. (Donald, Tessen).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Milwaukee Co., (2 on Jan. 12--Epstein) and Door Co. (1 on Feb. 11--Schroeder) provided the only midwinter reports.
- Bohemian Waxwing:** Five observers studied seven within a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Brown Co. Jan. 29 (Ty & Ida Bauman et al.).
- Cedar Waxwing:** Christmas counts in the 1975-77 years each totalled 300-500 birds; the 1978 count leaped to almost 1,400. The midwinter distribution of waxwings paralleled that of robins (and presumably that of heavy crops of wild fruits) in eastern Wisconsin, where dated observations of waxwings in January or earliest February came from Marinette (max. 77 on Jan. 27), Door (seen Jan. 13), and Brown (max. 70 on Jan. 29) counties in the northeast, and from Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Waukesha (max. 40) counties in the southeast.
- In central and western parts of the state, January birds were reported only from Rock, Dane, and LaCrosse Cos.; they were seen Feb. 26 in both Jackson and Wood Cos. but these could be the "migrants" that often appear in late winter. This east-west contrast in waxwing abundance might or might not be real. Seven Christmas counts in the St. Croix/Chippewa/Trempealeau Co. area failed to find any at all, but midwinter coverage in much of western Wisconsin was scant.
- Northern Shrike:** The introduction discusses December numbers. Later reports from approximately 24 counties imply a statewide distribution (e.g., Racine, Forest, and Barron Cos.) in midwinter too.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The Christmas count bird in Door Co. was last seen Jan. 2 (Lukes).
- Meadowlark spp:** One wintered in Brown Co. (Cleary, Columban) and Thiessen saw single birds Jan. 14 in Dane Co. and Feb. 25 in Sauk Co. One in Marathon Co. Dec. 31 (Luepkes) had not appeared on local Christmas counts.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** One Feb. 14 Vilas Co. (Baughman) was far north of other midwinter reports in five or six southern counties.
- Common Grackle:** Midwinter reports from only seven counties, all south and east of Brown, Outagamie, and Dane.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Wintered in Racine (max. 7--Kratz) and Dane (Thiessen) Cos.; seen Jan. 10 Waukesha Co. (Donald). No other midwinter reports.
- Northern Cardinal:** Reported midwinter limits were Barron, Taylor, and Marinette Cos. Three harsh winters in succession may be taking a progressive toll at the very northern edge of the range. Christmas counts of cardinals in Door and Shawano Counties, for instance, have been halved since 1976 despite stable feeder coverage and more hours of field effort.
- Evening Grosbeak:** Midwinter reports were confined to an area north and east of Barron, Juneau, Outagamie, and Brown Cos., roughly the same region where substantial numbers had been recorded on the Christmas counts. Several observers found local flocks dwindling or (at the fringes of range) disappearing after December.
- Purple Finch:** Five years of surprisingly consistent Christmas count totals, none varying by more than 200 birds from the 1973-77 average of 1,100, were suddenly topped in 1978 by a record-setting total of almost 2,000 Purple Finches. Counts in the far northwest had few or none but otherwise they were rather evenly distributed through the state, with no obvious regional concentrations in terms of birds per party-hour. In contrast, at least nine contributors rated them less-than-usually common, and "peak" January or February counts of 3-18 at bird feeders in such scattered counties as LaCrosse, Jackson, Marquette, and Marinette might seem to bear out those impressions. (Midwinter reports did, however, encompass much of the state.) If there really was a post-Christmas count exodus of Wisconsin's Purple Finches, an "*en masse*" appearance in Tennessee in mid January is the only available clue to where they might have gone.
- Pine Grosbeak:** The 1978 Christmas counts yielded the lowest total since 1973 and only these additional reports, including other December sightings, were received: present Price (Hardy) and Iron (Butterbrodt) Cos., seen Dec. 23 Oneida and Feb. 9 Forest Cos. (Vanderschaegen), seen Dec. 11 Vilas Co. (Baughman), seen Feb. 28 Douglas Co. (1--Luepkes), and present Dec. 26-Feb. 8 Langlade Co. (max. 3--Pickering).

Common Redpoll: In raw numbers the Christmas counts had the fewest since 1970, and in birds per party-hour, 1978 probably showed the lowest count since 1967. Midwinter reports were restricted to Juneau (4--Tiede), Winnebago (max. 20--Carpenter, Ziebell), Brown (Cleary, Columban), Door (2--Lukes), Shawano (10--Hafeman), Langlade (Pickering), Oneida and Forest (Vanderschaegen), Price (Hardy), Vilas (Baughman), Iron (max. 30--Butterbrodt), and Douglas (3--Luepkes). Nearly all these sightings were sporadic, most a day or two.

Pine Siskin: Flocks of as many as 40 birds cropped up in Wood, Langlade, Marinette, Oneida, and Vilas Cos. in the very last days of February. Otherwise, "a few" wintering in Iron Co. and one bird briefly present in Barron Co. were the only midwinter reports outside the eastern and southern re-appearances described in the introduction: Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha (max. 50), Rock, Dane (max. 24), Manitowoc, Winnebago (max. 8), Outagamie, Brown (max. 60), and Door ("common") Cos.

American Goldfish: Near-record numbers were seen on Christmas counts and contributors called them unusually common in counties as widely separated as Dane, Door, and Barron. Vilas, Oneida, and probably other northern counties had midwinter sightings.

Rufous-sided Towhee: One until Jan. 5 Milwaukee Co. (Epstein).

American Tree Sparrow: A very few birds made it into mid January (three, Langlade Co.--Pickering) or mid-February (two, Brown Co.--Wierzbicki; Door Co.--Lukes) at midstate, exceptional scarcity of tree sparrows was one of the most widely-noted features of this exceptionally snowy winter. The 1978 Christmas count total, in birds per party-hour, was the lowest in at least 14 years. Meanwhile, there were "major invasions" in Tennessee (with rare appearances in Mississippi and Louisiana) and in eastern Nebraska southward to eastern Texas.

White-crowned Sparrow: Again present at a Kenosha Co. feeder, where seen Feb. 24 by Tessen.

White-throated Sparrow: Wintered LaCrosse (1--Leshner) and Dane (Erickson) Cos. Seen Jan. 12 Milwaukee Co. (Epstein).

Swamp Sparrow: One Jan. 5 Milwaukee Co. but not later (Epstein); no other midwinter reports.

Song Sparrow: Midwinter reports came only from Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, Dane, Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Racine Cos.

Lapland Longspur: Seen in midwinter in Dane (Erickson, Thiessen), Columbia (20 on Feb. 4--Tessen), Jackson (Harmer), Winnebago and Outagamie (Tessen), Door (1 on Jan. 1--Lukes), and Burnett (Evrard) Cos.

Snow Bunting: The Christmas count total, with the help of a statewide snow cover, was high but not exceptionally so. Midwinter sightings from almost all reporting counties included counts of 100-300 in Columbia, Marquette, Brown, Marinette, Burnett, and Marathon Cos. Jan. 17-Feb. 11 during the weeks of deepest snow, plus 700 at Horicon on Jan. 24. These maxima are less than those in 1977-78, when snow was also deep and persistent, roadsides were important habitat, and buntings--as in 1978-79--were highly conspicuous. On that basis it seems likely that buntings really were abundant, not only conspicuous, in Wisconsin last year--at least in comparison to this year.

The extent of late February migration in the presence of a continuing snow cover is unresolved. Schroeder points out that even a minor thaw exposes a good deal of extra roadside gravels and might draw more local birds into view; warmer weather also tends to get more observers afield.

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By the Wayside...



Black-legged Kittiwake at Madison

On December 4, 1978 I stopped at Olin Park on the southeast side of Lake Monona to look over a large number of gulls....I found an adult Black-legged Kittiwake: smaller than a Ring-billed Gull, straight yellow bill, white head with a grayish nape, gray mantle with all-black wing tips (at rest), and most important black legs. Distance 250 ft., 48x scope, high clouds, unlimited visibility.

Randy Hoffman, Waunakee

Merlin Near Portage

A Merlin was seen on January 27, 1979 in Biron (near Wisconsin Rapids) at 11 a.m. Size: slightly larger than a Blue Jay. Color: slate on back, streaked breast, tail banded, markings about head clearly seen. Conditions: seen in tree next to feeder, about 10 feet from window. Long pointed wings seen as bird departed.

Gary Stout

Gyr Falcon in Waupaca County

Late in the p.m. we were returning toward Readfield. Approaching a small pine woods I noticed a large hawk approaching from the east, flying fairly low....immediately noted by both of us was its aforementioned large size; long, bent and pointed wings and slender tail. The color was light grayish. Observation was for one minute as its distinct flight--slow beats but fairly rapid movement--took it out of sight into the westerly part of the woods at treetop level....About 3:45 p.m., 10x binoculars, January 1, 1979, Waupaca Co.

Mrs. Fred Tessen, Daryl Tessen

Front cover picture is female House Sparrow.

Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey

If you like to walk beaches at any time of the year and have some ability to identify birds, you are invited to join the Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey (GLBBS). Begun in 1977, the survey monitors bird mortality on the Great Lakes using information collected by volunteers on monthly beach walks. GLBBS is compiling long-term records on natural bird mortality and its seasonal and geographic patterns, to help us assess the significance of bird die-offs and learn more about the effects of pollutants on birds. It also documents the occurrence of uncommon species like jaegers and eiders.

Participants walk a one or two mile stretch of beach of their own choice and count, identify and record on the forms provided, all dead or dying birds encountered. Last year 58 volunteers took part, covering 1.3% of the Great Lakes shoreline and finding 1209 beached birds of at least 85 species. Results from the survey are published in an annual report sent to all beach walkers. GLBBS hopes to expand its coverage this winter, especially on the upper lakes and the St. Clair River, Detroit River and St. Marys River. Participation on both the U.S. and Ontario shores is sought. **Special Note:** Counts of live waterbirds are also being conducted at some sites to help in the survey's examination of the effects of winter shipping and ice conditions on bird numbers and distribution. Volunteers are particularly needed to make counts at urban harbors even though they may lack beaches suitable for survey walks. If you are interested in taking part, write to:

Anne Lambert
Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey
c/o Long Point Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 160
Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1MO
Canada

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The symposium on "Estimating Populations of Terrestrial Birds" will be held October 26-31, 1980, at Asilomar, near Monterey, California. The invited papers, given by authors from the United States, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, will cover a wide range of subjects. The principal topics will be the problems, methods, and analyses of bird censusing. There will be a variety of field trips during and after the Symposium to explore methods of censusing and habitats of coastal and interior California. The Asilomar conference grounds are located in a State Park on Monterey Bay and provides an attractive and stimulating setting. For further information write the Symposium organizers: Dr. C. John Ralph and Dr. J. Michael Scott, Bird Census Symposium, P.O. Box 43, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii 96718.

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