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The PASSENGER PIGEON

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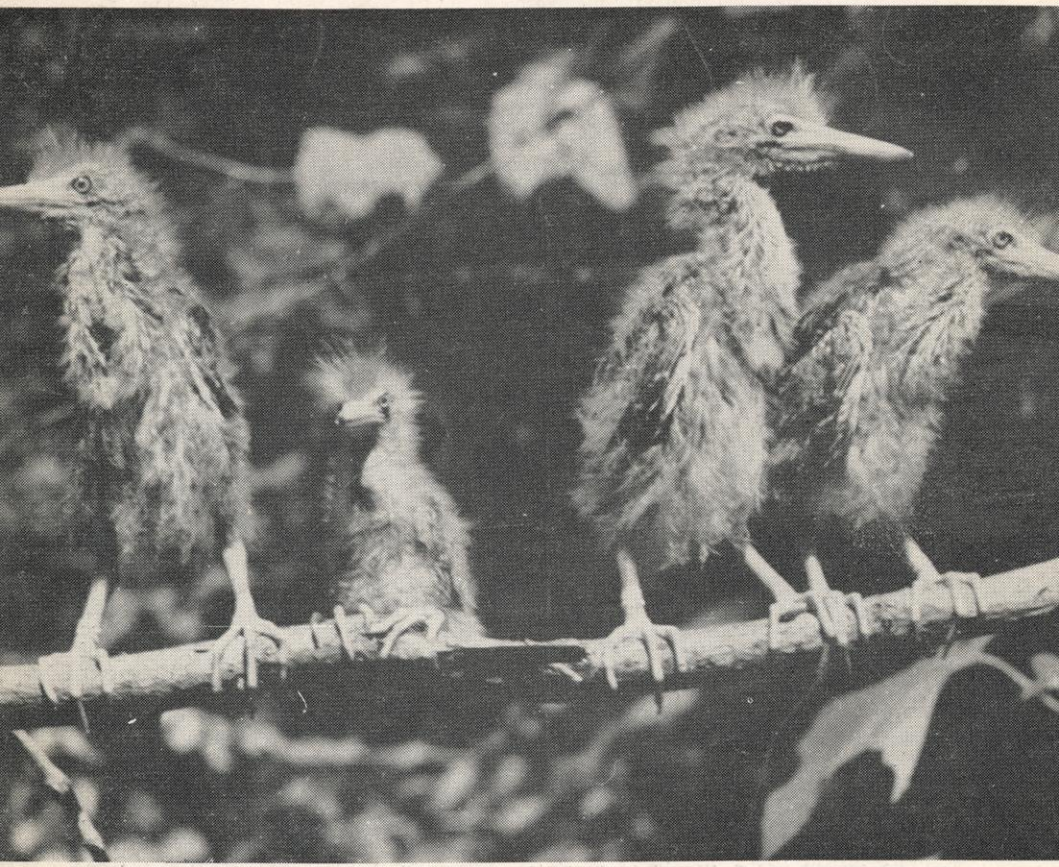

NESTLINGS—EASTERN GREEN HERON

PHOTO BY ROBERT A. McCABE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ARBORETUM

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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NEWS . . .

The cover picture of little green heron nestlings, a photograph difficult to obtain as one member of the group always wants to move, was taken by R. A. McCabe, Arboretum Biologist for the University of Wisconsin. The nestlings were banded.

The Green Bay Bird Club voted to purchase a deluxe volume of **The Birds of Wisconsin,** by O. J. Gromme, with each member of the local society to contribute two dollars toward the cause. As a diversion each member has to report to the meeting how he earned the two dollars.

Herbert L. Stoddard, honorary member of our society now stationed in Georgia, recently published a checklist of Georgia birds for the Georgia Ornithological Society. The quarterly publication of this society from which this news item was taken is called **The Oriole** and has been in existence nine years.

The Migrant, quarterly publication of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, points out that the starling has often been praised for its capacity to pick off various insect pests from the backs of cattle and sheep. In so doing, however, it develops a taste for blood and flesh thus becoming a pest directly, and also causes cattle to stampede. The article in question was contributed by Clarence Cottam of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A set of **The Auk** for 1943 has been recently donated to the society's library by Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlager.

The article in this issue discussing bird study by garden club members was contributed by Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison, Bird Chairman of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

The Jack-Pine Warbler, quarterly publication of the Michigan Audubon Society, has just published an article titled, "Studies of Habitats, Locations and Structural Materials of Nests of the Robin," by W. P. Nickell. From 1932 to 1943 Nickell studied 398 robin nests from all angles and aspects—quite a revelation.

New officers of the Green Bay Bird Club are: E. O. Paulson, president; Mrs. Myron Duquaim, vice president; and Mrs. C. Check, secretary-treasurer.

The society has a supply of reprints of Dr. Banner Bill Morgan's article on **Bird Mortality, A Detailed Resume of Many Known Bird Diseases,** at the price of ten cents each. They may be obtained from the editor of this magazine (address listed below).

Early this summer seven magpies escaped from the Madison zoo and were reported from various points around the city by enthusiastic observers. Dr. Schorger points out that this will render worthless state records of this species for many years to come.

Earl G. Wright is now taking movies of the Florida gallinule as part of his life-history study of the species. He has already completed a life-history series of the coot.

The last issue of **The Condor** contains a lengthy article titled, "The Nature of Heritable Wildness in Turkeys," by A. Starker Leopold, a son of Prof. Aldo Leopold, honorary member of our society. We understand that Starker Leopold has been recently commissioned to conduct a systematic game survey for Mexico, and while thus engaged will enjoy the enviable opportunity of visiting all parts of that country.

Bruce J. Brown writes in **The Audubon Bulletin** of Illinois that the mourning dove is the sole game bird that nests and breeds in every state in the Union.

A new regional bird club has been organized, **The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania,** with an annual publication called, **The Ruffed Grouse.** The publication is to be commended for presenting first of all a background of the geology, plant life, and recent changes in bird distribution in the region.

We are sorry to report that Earl T. Mitchell, active observer for the society and first secretary-treasurer, was wounded in France while on active duty. The wounds were minor, however, and Earl has been sent to England for recovery.

It is with deep regret also to announce that Elton E. Bussewitz has been killed while in action in France. Elton was one of the authors of the late check list of Wisconsin Birds and active field observer for the society.

H. L. Hollister, a relative of the co-author of **Birds of Wisconsin** and now living in New York, expects to take up residence in Wisconsin in the near future. We welcome Mr. Hollister.

Bird students who wish to contribute something to the knowledge of birds in Wisconsin should keep records of the departure dates of all birds in the autumn season, advises E. L. Loyster. When the migration charts were prepared in our little check-list, departure dates were the most difficult to secure, and were almost totally lacking for many species.

MEMBERSHIP FEE OF $1 INCLUDES 75 CENTS FOR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC. SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS: SUSTAINING $5; LIFE $25; PATRON $50 OR MORE. SEND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND DUES TO THE TREASURER, J. HARWOOD EVANS, 517 JACKSON DRIVE, OSHKOSH, WIS. SEND MANUSCRIPTS TO THE EDITOR, N. R. BARGER, 433 HILLCREST DRIVE, MADISON 5, WISCONSIN.

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER SEPT. 4, 1940, AT THE POST OFFICE OF MADISON, WISCONSIN, UNDER THE ACT OF MAR. 3, 1879.

WISCONSIN'S GREATEST
PIONEER ZOOLOGIST

Philo Romayne Hoy

By A. W. SCHORGER

The subject of this sketch, Philo Romayne Hoy, was born at Mansfield, Ohio, November 3, 1816. His parents were of revolutionary stock and he is reputed to have been the second white boy born in the community. In his youth, on account of the color of his hair, he was called Red-headed Woodpecker by his brothers. This name was in keeping with his subsequent great interest in birds. He graduated from Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1840 and came to Racine to practise his profession in 1846. It is of note that he began his ornithological observations at Racine the year of his arrival.

The scientific interests of Dr. Hoy covered an exceptionally broad field. By 1876 his collections contained 318 species of birds, eggs of 150 species, 35 mammals, 50 reptiles, 1300 beetles, 2000 moths, etc.[14] His published papers cover birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs, insects, and Indian antiquities. He was the first person to investigate the deep-water fauna of Lake Michigan.

There is nothing more stimulating than friendship with men of kindred interests. At Racine he had Rev. A. C. Barry. Hoy records that on May 5, 1852, he and Barry collected 47 warblers representing 16 species. The beginning of his friendship with Increase A. Lapham is told as follows: "My first acquaintance with Dr. Lapham was in 1846, when one morning there landed from the steamer Sultana a small man with a huge collecting box hanging at his side."

"He came from Milwaukee and intended returning on foot along the lake-shore in order to collect plants and shells, no easy journey, encumbered as he soon would be, with a well filled specimen box. He spoke lightly of the undertaking, saying he had performed similar feats before. . . . In after years we were often together, studying the mounds, quarries, forest trees, etc., near Racine, and my first impression of his energy, perseverance, enthusiasm, accuracy and extent of information were all deepened by our subsequent meetings."[15]

Botany and conchology then engaged the attention of Lapham. His statement that the various other branches of the natural history of Wisconsin, ornithology, mammalogy, ichthyology, herpetology, and entomology were "sealed books" led to Hoy's resolution to devote all of his spare time to their study.[16] A wide country practise was a great aid to his avocation. As would be expected, he was accused occasionally of wasting his time.

In July,* 1853, there came to Racine Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution.[17] With him was J. P. Kirtland of Cleveland who took the first specimen of the Kirtland's warbler. The first week was spent collecting near Racine. A garter snake, new to science, was named by Baird **Eutaenia radex** after Racine. Baird shot a Wilson's phalarope on July 15. This species nested "sparingly" at Racine at that time. The party, including the above gentlemen and Rev. Mr. Barry, spent sixteen days driving through the counties of Racine, Walworth, Rock, Dane, Jefferson, Waukesha, and Milwaukee. At Madison Lucius Fairchild stopped his mill at the outlet of Lake Mendota so that they could collect fish in the stream.

One evening while I was watching the late Professor E. T. Owen mount some butterflies, the conversation drifted to Dr. Hoy. He stated that when Hoy was shown a beautiful or rare butterfly, his interest was slight if it did not come from Wisconsin and reached the vanishing point if it was foreign. On the other hand it is recorded that when Philo Romayne Driver, a lad of seventeen, was making a trip to Scotland, he was asked to collect nests and eggs for him.[18] This request was fulfilled. The fact remains however that Hoy was interested mainly in the fauna about Racine. Baird considered his collection of birds the largest local one ever made. It was for this reason that he was visited by Dr. Christian L. Brehm of Germany, and by Henry Seebohm and R. F. Nichols of England.

The promising Robert Kennicott, at the age of nineteen, was sent to Racine in March, 1854, to continue his studies under Dr. Hoy. Kennicott did the first zoological work of importance in the state of Illinois. The high esteem in which Hoy was held

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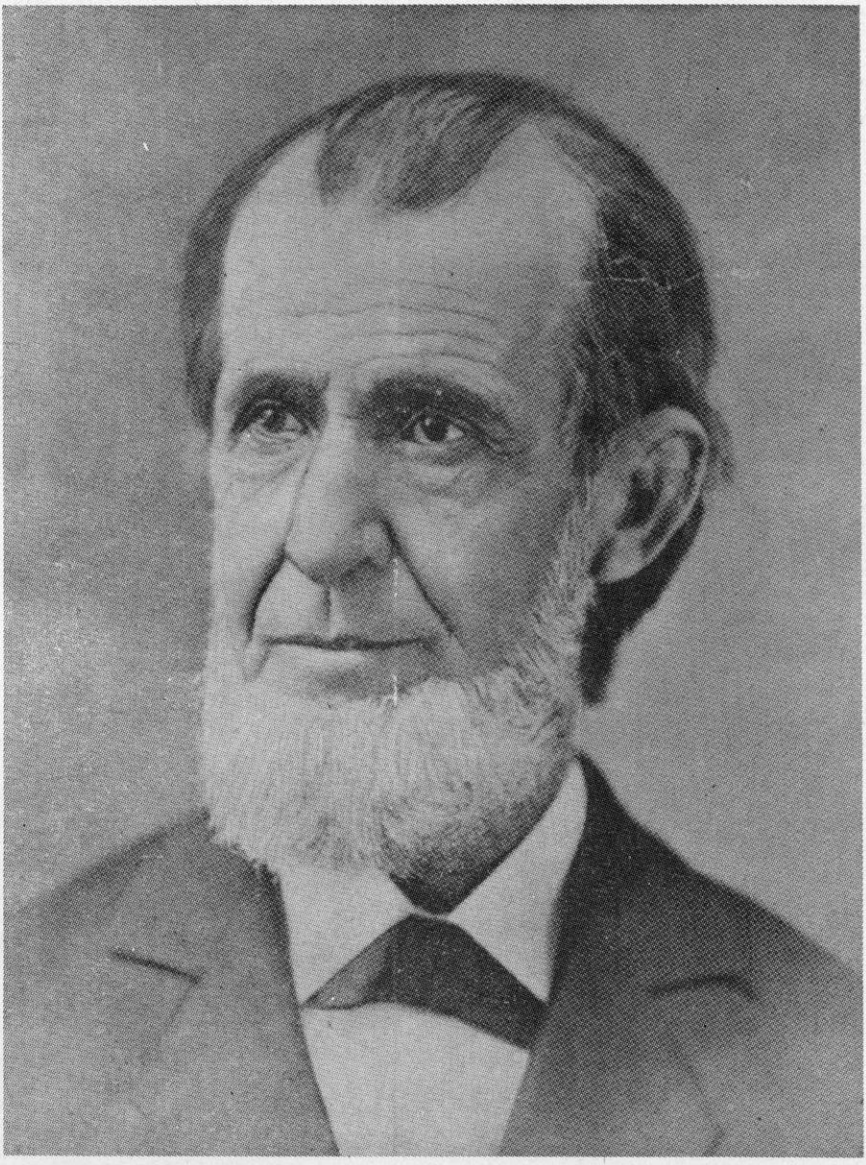
*Hoy states that Baird and Kirtland came to Racine on June 24. Baird's correspondence in the files of the Smithsonian Institution shows that he could not have arrived until the second week in July.



PHILO ROMAYNE HOY

is shown by the following: "Through Dr. Hoy's instructions Robert's knowledge of practical and field zoology was greatly advanced, as his subsequent correspondence with this gentleman shows. . . . Dr. Hoy's study of the birds had been so thorough and long-continued that the presence of any species, even to the smallest warbler, was known to him by its note. At intervals during this (1854) and the two following years, Robert spent much time at Racine, actively engaged in zoological studies."[19]

The far-sighted Lapham was busily engaged in 1859 in the attempt to obtain legislative authorization for a state natural history survey. Under date of February 16 he wrote to Robert Kennicott: "I have many doubts about **our** survey, but there is a small hope of success. It is useless to count our 'chickens' yet—but the plan is to give 'Bob' the Mammals, and Dr. H[oy] the Birds and let each work on their own account,

finishing those two classes first, but lose no opportunity in the meantime to secure facts and specimens in other departments for future use. We could then take up the other classes of animals in succession as time and means would allow. Perhaps it would be well to call in the aid of others occasionally. I would take full charge of the botany."[31] The bill called for a geological and agricultural survey in order to give the work a thoroughly utilitarian slant. Most unfortunately it did not pass. A survey at that time, when much of Wisconsin was still in a primitive condition, would have been of inestimable value.

In 1852 Hoy[1] described two species of birds, presumably new, and as happened so frequently during this period, they were found subsequently to be otherwise. His **Nyctale kirtlandi** was shown by Ridgway[20] to be the young of the saw-whet owl. Hoy's description was based on two specimens, one of which flew into an open shop in Racine in July, 1852.* The presence of a young bird at Racine in July is strong presumptive evidence that the species bred in the vicinity. His **Bubo subarcticus** was considered to be the Western great-horned owl.

His **Buteo bairdi**[2] was identified as Swainson's hawk. Cassin[21] in discussing the **Falconidae** stated that he had received two specimens of this hawk, one from Dr. Hoy and one from William Dudley, Secretary of the Wisconsin Natural History Association at Madison.

Dudley[22] came into possession of a crane shot on the Sugar River, Dane County, and thought that it was new to science. In 1854 he named it **Grus hoyanus** in honor of Dr. Hoy. It was found to be an immature whooping crane. Stimpson[23] shows a good colored plate of **Grus hoyanus.**

In 1853 appeared his valuable paper, **Notes on the Ornithology of Wisconsin,** an annotated list of 283 species, published by the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.[3] This paper with seven additional species, some of which are not valid, was printed the same year by the Wisconsin Agricultural Society.[4]

The collecting trip with Baird in 1853 appears to have carried the element of reciprocity. Hoy,[7] in the spring of 1854, spent about two months in western Missouri collecting for the Smithsonian Institution. While in St. Louis he noted in the window of a barber-ship a black-bellied fox squirrel such as was found at Racine. On inquiry he learned that it had been taken on the Wisconsin River. His narrative relates largely to birds of which there is a nominal list of 153 species. He also collected mammals, fish, reptiles, and insects.

Several minor ornithological papers were published between 1861 and 1885. The habits of the yellow-bellied sapsucker, the peculiarities of the hyoid organ, and the relation of this species and the downy woodpecker to agriculture were discussed.[5 6] A note[8] mentions the meeting of the rough-winged swallow, and the capture of a yellow-bellied flycatcher at Racine on June 11, a late date for a migrant. In May, 1869, he was elated over taking four nests of the Cooper's hawk. It would not be difficult to duplicate this feat in southern Wisconsin today, but it is evident that the species was not a common summer resident at Racine. A paper on the larger wild animals that have become extinct in Wisconsin deals largely with mammals but does contain some valuable information on the former status of the wild turkey.[11] In 1885 he published a note[13] stating that he had never found but two nests of the golden winged warbler. This is of interest in that it is a quite common summer resident in southwestern Wisconsin at the present time.

The former statuts of the Carolina paroquet is of special interest. Hoy, in 1853, made the indefinite statement: "Formerly Parakets were common on the Mississippi within this State, latterly they are seldom met with." Later (1882) he wrote: "Father Joliet . . . mentions that 'on the Wisconsin there are plenty of turkey cocks, parrots, quails, wild oxen, stags and wild goats.'" I have been unable to connect this statement with the Wisconsin River. Hennepin[32] in his version of Joliet's account, in discussing the lower Mississippi, says: ". . . plenty of Turkey-Cocks, Parrots, Quails, Wild-Bulls, Stags, and Wild-Goats." The parallelism is obvious. Marquette and Dablon in their writings on the expedition mention parrots only on the lower Mississippi. In fact Marquette mentions that no small game was seen on the Wisconsin. Not a single statement has been found in the literature regarding the occurrence of the paroquet in much travelled southwestern Wisconsin.

Two of Hoy's late papers are especially valuable in showing the great changes in bird life brought about by settlement. In 1874, before life zones were well defined, he pointed out that in the Racine region the northern species came farther south in

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*In the U. S. National Museum is specimen No. 12,814 labelled **Nyctale albifrons (i.e. kirtlandi),** male, Racine, Wis., July, 1859. This is possibly the date of receipt rather than capture since the specimen was one of several rare skins donated to the Smithsonian Institution by Dr. Hoy in 1859.

winter and the southern species farther north in summer than elsewhere on the Great Lakes.[10] Present Wisconsin ornithologists cannot fail to have a longing for the Hoyian days when they read the lists given below. The observations, with few exceptions, were made personally within 15 miles of Racine.

Winter Visitors	**Summer Visitors**
Great grey owl	Yellow-breasted chat
Hawk owl	Mockingbird
Arctic three-toed woodpecker	Carolina wren
American three-toed woodpecker	Summer tanager
Magpie	Carolina paroquet
Canada jay	Whooping crane
Evening grosbeak	Wood ibis
King eider	Royal tern
Black-throated loon	
Glaucous gull	

The paper, **Man's Influence on the Avifauna of Southeastern Wisconsin,** published in 1885, is perhaps Hoy's most interesting ornithological contribution.[12] He points out that for eight to ten years, beginning with the year 1845, Racine was an ornithological paradise. The strip of timber along the shore of Lake Michigan was virtually intact, while west of it was the high, rolling prairie. The land on which Racine is located projects two and one-half miles farther into the lake than Kenosha and six miles further than Milwaukee. Physical conditions served to route through Racine all the birds passing up and down the shore of the lake.

The former and present status of 26 species of birds are discussed. Hawks were only one-twentieth as plentiful as formerly while the swallow-tailed kite had disappeared altogether. It was not seen after 1856. Ravens were quite numerous but the crow was not seen until 1858. This seems strange since in an account of a side-hunt that took place in 1836, "Crows, Ravens, Owls, and Cranes" counted 30 points each.[24] It is doubtful that man had much influence on such species as the yellow-breasted chat, prothonotary warbler, Carolina wren, mockingbird, and cardinal. Evidently they were uncommon near Racine, but they cannot be considered rare in southern Wisconsin today. There is a periodic ebb and flow of species on the border of their range.

When it comes to the passenger pigeon, ruffed grouse, prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, wild turkey, and sand-hill crane he is on safer ground. Shooting and destruction of habitat by agriculture were important factors in their decline, or extermination. It is of interest that he never saw more than a dozen whooping cranes in all in the vicinity of Racine.

The former abundance of quail is mentioned and he cites as an example that in the fall and winter of 1849 and 1850, C. A. Orvis shipped two tons of these birds to New York. He states: "Since this enterprise they became greatly diminished and have never recovered from that attack." He remarks on the death of hundrds of quail during a severe winter but weather is not mentioned as a factor in the decline. A study of the quail during this period has shown that it was very plentiful through 1854 and that severe weather was the chief cause of their subsequent depletion.

The field sparrow and vesper sparrow increased with settlement. Three specimens of the golden-crowned sparrow were taken in the autumns of 1853 and 1854, and in the spring of 1856. Hoy thought that the species was not as rare as was supposed. Nevertheless no other specimens are known to have been taken in the state.

The first woodcock was found in the vicinity of Racine in the spring of 1849. Subsequently it became common. The woodcock was never a rare bird in Wisconsin but is one of those species that fluctuates greatly in number.

The night of May 11, 1888, a cold driving rain benumbed hundreds of migrating birds at Racine.[25] The keeper of the lighthouse sent Hoy 65 birds for identification. The majority of them were warblers, the black-throated blue predominating. The most interesting specimen was an "Eared Grebe."

Hoy's journals and unpublished notes have not been seen. Judging from the few extracts that have appeared,[26] they contain valuable information.* In March, 1852, he recorded a flock of ten pelicans flying north along the lake. The Canada goose at that time nested abundantly. In 1850 their eggs were gathered by the bushel in a marsh north of Racine.

The ornithological collection formed by Hoy was donated to the Racine Public Library by his daughter, Mrs. Henry R. Miller. At the time of his death it contained 930 specimens. Through the efforts of the Racine Garden Club, the sadly neglected

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*The journals, most of which are in the Milwaukee Public Museum, will be covered by Mrs. H. J. Anderson, of Racine, in a brochure in preparation.

collection was cleaned and most of the birds remounted, in 1939 and 1940, under the state W. P. A. museum project. It is now housed in the Court House. In the collection are specimens of the passenger pigeon, black-throated loon, and whooping crane.[27]

The smaller birds were mounted originally by Mrs. Hoy, a passenger pigeon being the first specimen. The renovation disclosed that an odd assortment of materials had been used as stuffing, old bills, advertisements, newspaper, and even pieces of leather and neckties. As late as 1886, Dr. Hoy mounted a "white crane" that had been shot in Nebraska.[28]

The work of Hoy in other branches of natural history is beyond the scope of this paper. It should be stated, however, that two specimens of a shrew taken at Racine were new to science. Baird[29] described it under the name **Sorex hoyi.** This shrew, rare in collections, was placed later in a new genus, **Microsorex.**

Hoy belonged to many scientific societies. On September 27, 1853, he and his friend Rev. A. C. Barry were elected Correspondents of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.[30] He was one of the members seeking incorporation of the Wisconsin Natural History Association, and a charter member and president of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. He belonged also to the Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, Buffalo, and New York academies of sciences. He served as one of the state fish commissioners. The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Wisconsin Academy took place in 1920. Hoy is one of the six distinguished academicians whose portraits appear on the medallion struck for the occasion.

Dr. Hoy was short in stature and brisk in manner. He was unusually kind and patient to anyone, child or adult, interested in his favorite subjects. His great love for natural history caused him to take every opportunity to further the cause of science. At his death in Racine on December 8, 1892, passed Wisconsin's greatest pioneer zoologist.

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A GROUND-NESTING BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

By R. A. McCABE

The black-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus erythrophthalmus Wilson) is listed by Anderson et al (1942:17) as uncommon in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum at Madison, Wisconsin. Yet 10 nests were found during the nesting seasons of 1943 and 1944 with no special effort to seek out the nest of this species. There were besides these nests many singing males throughout the likely cuckoo habitats. It appears then that the black-billed cuckoo may be, to use Anderson's relative abundance category, changed from an "uncommon" bird during the period 1936-1941 to "fairly common" at present.

One of the 1944 nests was peculiar in that it was built on the ground. While there is one ground nest of the black-billed cuckoo recorded in the literature (Forbush 1937:246), both Forbush and Roberts (1932:593) consider this as rare. I know of no other Wisconsin record.

This nest was found on the second of June in the Teal Pond Area, which is a five-acre plot in the Arboretum surrounding a half-acre artificial pond. The area is grown to willow, hazel, dogwood, aspen and elderberry. The cuckoo had built its nest at the base of a willow (see photo) and three feet from the woven wire fence that bounds the Teal Pond on the west side. It was impossible to see the nest without spreading the willow branches and nearby herbaceous vegetation, so that it was perfectly concealed. An accidental flush of the adult from the nest had betrayed its location.

The nest proper was about two inches thick, and the base was made up of dead twigs and weed stalks. Willow catkins thickly lined the nest, with an occasional blade of dry grass mixed in. The dimensions were 5½″ x 5″ across and eight-tenths inch deep.

At the time it was found (June 2) the nest contained three eggs. On June 6 and 8 there were four eggs, making a complete clutch. The June 10th check showed two young had hatched on the 9th, and two eggs remained. The two eggs were found broken in the nest on June 12 at 10:00 a. m., but the young were all right. At 3:00 in the afternoon on the same day the nest was again checked and the young were

missing. A search in the area surrounding the nest revealed no clues as to the cause of the nest break-up. On all previous checks the adults were either present or calling from an adjacent aspen thicket, but they were never heard or seen after the young were missing from the nest.

It is known that the cuckoos, like the hawks and owls, lay eggs after incubation has begun, which staggers the hatching dates and makes the nestlings of uneven size. In this case the last egg was laid on June 2 or 3 and the first two eggs were hatched on June 9, which would make the last bird a week younger than the first, had it hatched. It is also unusual that an egg should be deposited after the incubation period (14 days) was half over.

Unfortunately the nest was not successful, but it seems unlikely that the last young, if it had hatched, could have survived the rigorous competition of its nestmates.

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TEN YEARS OF MAY-DAY COUNTS AS CONDUCTED BY THE KUMLIEN CLUB

Summarized by N. R. BARGER

Last May, the Kumlien Club, Madison, completed ten years of annual May-day counts, beginning in 1935, and conducted on a partially county-wide basis. During the surveys 228 species were encountered of an all time county list of nearly 280. Of the 52 species missed about 23 are found here chiefly in winter or early spring and hence could not be expected and the remaining 29 species are quite rare.

Dates on which counts were conducted fell from May 12 to 21 with an average of May 16. The average number of observers annually was 11 and their combined lists totaled from 144 to 177 on a day. This high of 177 was accomplished May 14, 1939 and suggests that the middle of May is the peak of the migration in Dane County. The average number of species counted in all the years was 157.

Areas covered included quite regularly the urban area of Madison and immediate suburbs, the Wisconsin River where it borders Dane County and several spots enroute. Although some locations south of the city were included, areas east of Madison were irregularly covered, those southeast seldom, and the southwest area was generally neglected. Observers were attracted to the Sun Prairie area where yellow-headed blackbirds and shorebirds could be depended upon; to marshes near Madison for rails, ducks and miscellaneous birds; to Pine Bluff for grouse and upland plovers; and to the Mazomanie country for prairie chicken, pilcated woodpeckers, lark sparrows, warblers and the great array of Carolinian species which include the yellow-breasted chat, tufted titmouse, Kentucky warbler and others.

During these ten years dickcissels were checked but once, indicating that the bulk of the species arrives here well after the middle of May. The lone date on which they were found was May 17, 1942 when eight were counted.

Late records were made as follows: horned grebe, May 12; American golden-eye, May 14 and 20; bufflehead, May 14 and 17; American merganser, May 20; bald eagle, May 12 (2 years); osprey, May 12 and 20; yellow-bellied sapsucker, May 12 and 16; red-breasted nuthatch, May 15 and 21; brown creeper, May 12 and 14; hermit thrush, May 16; pine siskin, May 15 and 21; and Lapland lonspur, May 20 when flocks totaling 340 birds were seen.

Records of rareties or birds infrequently seen included such as: Holboell's grebe, twice; European widgeon, once; turkey vulture, twice; pigeon hawk, once; sandhill crane, once; piping plover, twice; golden plover, once; Henderson's dowitcher, once; stilt sandpiper, once; marbled godwit, once; sanderling, twice; Forster's tern, twice; Caspian tern, twice; long-eared owl, once; short-eared owl, once; Bewick's wren, twice; Bell's vireo, once; Brewster's warbler, twice; Grinnell's water-thrush, twice; lark sparrow, three times; clay-colored sparrow, three times; Harris's sparrow, once; and Gambel's sparrow, once.

Curiously enough the screech owl was never checked until the last year when "Pepper" Jackson located one before daybreak, and the broad-winged hawk showed up only on three occasions.

Wisconsin's Smallest Owl

By FRANCIS ZIRRER, Hayward

On the evening of January 26 I was standing in front of our dwelling listening to various queer noises and calls coming from the nearby bog. Among these there was one resembling the tinkling of a little bell. "Ting, ting, ting" it came, twenty or perhaps thirty times in succession, then a short pause and another string of "tings." It came so faintly, apparently, from such great distance that I was puzzled as to the identity of the caller, but thought it to be perhaps the mating call of some small fur-bearer.* After a few minutes the tinkling ceased and since it was not heard again I went in. Next evening and for several other nights the results were the same, with exception of February 2, when at 11 p. m. I heard it again. On these evenings the tinkling appeared to have been stationary, coming apparently from the same direction and the same distance.

On February 6, when the sound came nearer I began to realize that the caller must be a bird, for the call eminated from a new direction after each pause. No mammal, with the sole exception of the bat, could have covered the distance in such a short time. From then on the tinkling increased and was, with pauses of various lengths, heard as long as I cared to listen. If this goes on all night I am unable to say, but upon several occasions I heard it as late as 12 p. m. It was heard in every kind of weather, though it was much more lively on a nice, warm night than when it was stormy, snowy or wet. As to the bird's identity there were only two choices, namely, the saw-whet owl or the Richardson's owl. In the total absence of the saw-filing notes I thought at the time of the latter bird.

On numerous nights I walked into the bog as far as I could follow an old logging road. Although the winter had been almost snowless, the last two days of February brought a considerable amount of snow and March was also quite snowy. Walking in the darkness was difficult and while attempting to come nearer to the caller I broke through the ice into many deep holes filled with mud and water, got thoroughly soaked and finally had to quit. Nothing would have been accomplished had the bird not changed its schedule a little. During the last days of February, with the days growing longer, the bird began its concert earlier, even a little before dark. I, too, started earlier but on the first two nights I did not accomplish much. A farmer, who owns one of the adjoining forties, was still in the bog working at his next winter's supply of fuel. Knowing these fellows and their readiness to kill something, I did not wish to betray the birds with my presence. But I did hear the bird! Starting somewhere low among the trees it came like an explosion, loud, clear and ringing; it carried the sound way up, high above the ground.

A few days later, however, the farmer apparently was through with his work and I was alone in the bog. Breaking through the dense undergrowth in the direction of the bird I came to another old logging road leading to a small clearing, and there I waited. The results of my observations on this and other nights were as follows:

At a certain time shortly before dark, but with light still reasonably good, the bird breaks the silence with a clear, loud, ringing, explosive "ting, ting, ting," thirty or perhaps forty times in succession, a trill that starts low among the trees and carries the bird with slanting flight well over the top of the tallest tree, eighty to ninety feet above the ground. This resembles so much the flight of the woodcock that, had the circumstances been different, I would have attributed it to the latter bird. While high above the ground the bird turns two or three circles, comes slantingly down, follows the old logging road at a height of about twenty feet and disappears out of sight. On account of the distance, dense growth of trees and approaching darkness, I was unable to see where the bird remains during the ensuing pause. Perhaps it sits somewhere because for a minute or so everything is quiet. Then the silence is broken and another string of calls follows. This time, however, the bird does not fly upward as it did the first time. The flight upward apparently is just the signal for the nightly concert.** Flying along the old road the bird comes in sight again. There, where

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*One is not always able to identify or place every call with absolute certainty, as most of the fur-bearing mammals are quite rare and one has not much opportunity to hear and study their calls. It is only recently that a slight increase in the numbers of the smaller fur-bearing predators is noticeable.

**If the bird does this later in the night again I am unable to tell for one has to be out of the bog before it is too dark, unless one cares to get lost and spend the night there.

the road enters the clearing, the bird pauses in its flight, maintains its position with fluttering wings and, "ting, ting, ting," it comes again, but this time so fast that it forms an almost continuous trill, a trill not heard earlier in the season. The bird quits calling, flies farther, another short pause follows and then the performance is repeated. Where the bird flutters sits another bird, very probably the female. Of course it is too dark to see every detail, but after two or three such serenades the female perhaps tires of so much attention; at any rate she flies away, with the male following and calling. Both birds disappear somewhere along that old logging road. For awhile all is quiet, then the same trill is heard in the distance, two to three hundred feet away. Some evenings before I left I had the satisfaction of hearing the birds return to the first place and perform, though it was too dark to see them.

According to my observations the beginning of the concert is always at the same place, very probably near where the birds stay in the daytime; but while at first, that is, in the beginning of the nuptial season and until the end of February, the tinkling is heard over a wide area of the bog. The birds limit their antics to a comparatively narrow area of a few acres during the last third of the season.

By March 15 the concert was over. Next day everything was quiet. There was no sign of the owls. I waited, but when no call came I went home where, except for brief intervals, I listened until 11 p. m. but without success.

During the first two weeks of March I was in the bog several times in the daytime but, not wanting to disturb the birds and still less to frighten them away, I did not investigate as to the whereabouts of their daily retreat or possible nesting site. Besides I was firmly convinced that they must be nesting somewhere within or near their courting area. After March 16, however, I was in the bog almost daily. I investigated and rapped every likely-appearing tree or stump, not just once but day after day and again and again, but contrary to my firm belief the owls were not there.

On May 2, after many futile attempts to locate the birds, I was about ready to quit searching when I remembered that on my way home, some distance from that old logging road, there is an old half-dead cedar with several cavities in it. The hope of finding the owls there was scant, however, for the tree is about one-fourth of a mile from the courting territory of the owls. Just the same I investigated. Looking up to the cavity, which is about 20 to 25 feet above the ground, I took the axe and rapped. I had barely touched the tree when in the opening above appeared a little round head! I was at the nesting site of the elusive little saw-whet owl.

The nesting tree, a tall partly hollow cedar with just a few green branches in the middle of the trunk which, at the nesting cavity is about a foot in diameter, reaches with its dead top way above the surrounding trees. Since it is the tallest tree for several hundred yards around it serves, especially in summer, as a watchtower for numerous birds such as bluejays, crows, ravens, various hawks, large owls and many others. The great pileated woodpecker is often seen clinging to it; flickers and various other woodpeckers chase one another in circles around its dead top above the nesting cavity without apparently disturbing the owls. The hole appears to be an old flicker hole of long ago before the surrounding trees grew tall enough to obstruct the view and shade the entrance. The tree like most cedars is slanting and the nesting cavity is on the lower side of the trunk. After several futile attempts to reach it I realized that I needed a ladder, so I postponed the climb for another time.

The next weeks I was quite busy, but on every second or third day, sometimes twice daily, I visited the place. I soon learned however, that the owl, once pounded out in the morning, would not come to the entrance if pounded in the afternoon again. Perhaps it was out hunting, but this I doubt, because it had at first come to the entrance also in the afternoon. That they hunt also in the daytime I had opportunity to observe on the very cloudy forenoons of May 18 and 19, following two very dark, wet and stormy nights. Both birds were out until noon. These were also the only instances when both adults were observed at the nesting cavity in the daytime. If they hunt when the day is clear and sunny I do not know.

On May 20 I finally found time to go there carrying a homemade ladder with me. Standing on the highest rung with the body bending backward and one arm around the trunk I tried to reach into the cavity. This I found impossible as the entrance was too small. Returning with a knife I cut enough wood from the entrance to force my hand through. This did not permit ready access to the nest below, but not wishing to cause the birds to desert, I tried to force my arm in as deep as possible. After wearing some skin off so that the blood came, I was able to touch something soft inside with the tips of my fingers. When I did this the soft object or objects inside moved and I heard a soft but rapid "chr-chr-chr-chr" from the cavity. At the same time I heard the parent owl, presumably the female, sitting on a branch about four feet away, utter a faint squeak. This resembled the sound produced when two branches rub against one another in the wind. To convince myself that my hearing

was right I touched the soft object inside again and again always with the same result; first the "chr-chr-chr-chr" from the cavity and then the peculiar squeak from the parent owl.

Next day while poking into the cavity with a little twig I heard the same "chr-chr-chr-chr" but louder and shriller. At the same time the old bird, sitting nearby, shot past my head brushing me with one of its wings. After another shrill chirp from inside the old bird flew past my head again, but this time without touching it. Since it was not my intention to frighten the bird unnecessarily I quit and went home.

A week later I revisited the nest and not only found the old bird at its old place, but on another branch, not more than eight feet away, sat three young owls huddled together. Though fully feathered they had a peculiarly mottled and ragged appearance. There was some down on the head and some protruding from under the wings. To watch their reactions I took a long thin branch and tried to touch them with it. Seeing this the old bird flew toward the young, sat on the same branch and tried, with its wings half lifted, to get hold of the thin end of my branch with its bill, at the same time uttering several hissing sounds, entirely different from the squeaky sound before. Simultaneously with the hiss a most surprising transformation in the shape of the young birds took place. Sitting there broad and chunky before, their bodies all of a sudden got long and thin; they resembled a wedge, thick and wide on the head, but gradually tapering to a point on the end of the body. In this position the birds almost vanished out of sight. Upon turning my attention to the cavity where there were still some young inside and then looking at the young on the branch, I momentarily actually had trouble seeing them, though they were still at the same place.

A week later, however, the cavity was empty and the birds were gone. A protracted search then and later, in daytime and at night, failed to either find the birds or hear a sound to indicate their whereabouts.

If the observations made here last winter and spring are typical of the species, the main points may be summarized as follows: 1) During the first two-thirds of the nuptial season the male sings over a wide area of the bog, but during the final third it limits its singing to an area of a few acres; 2) it does not nest anywhere near where it sings and performs; 3) it uses its nesting tree for breeding purposes only.

Late one evening about a month later we heard a strange call "chiu, chiu, chiu" close to one of our windows. Not only was it strange and new to me but also so distressing that I chased out thinking that at least a murder must have been committed among our wild neighbors. In doing so I frightened a little saw-whet owl from a branch next to the window. It flew to the nearby tamaracks where it began to call again. Its call was answered from various directions and for the next twenty to thirty minutes we listened to a most weird and distressing serenade in the nearby bog. It was too dark, however, to ascertain the cause, if any, of such unusual and rare noise.

At our former location, a cabin three miles from the nearest neighbor and surrounded with extensive woodlands which stretched for miles in every direction, these little owls visited us upon several occasions, mostly from the latter part of September until the first permanent snowfall, which usually takes place before the first half of November. On warm autumn nights when windows were left open we heard them calling, at times from several directions at once, indicating that several of them were around. With a light inside and window shades up, one of them would sit on a branch or a woodpile a few feet away, stare into the lighted window and call softly. Although they are usually quite tame and often permit a very close approach, they are alert and of very keen hearing. Sneaking through the rear door as noiselessly as possible I occasionally tried to approach them from the side or from the rear but found this impossible; the owl would let me come to a distance of three to four feet without showing alarm, but when I stretched my hand to get hold of it, it would glide away and disappear into the darkness. Whenever we knew of or suspected their presence nearby we would let the shades up and place the light facing the window, for we were sure that the owl would come, stare into the window and call its saw-filing notes.

Speaking of these notes, however, I must admit that I find no resemblance between these so-called saw-filing notes of this owl and the filing of a saw, which is always incomparably louder and shriller than any sound this owl ever utters. The "saw-filing" call of the owl is soft and cannot be heard far away. With windows closed one does not hear it unless all else is quiet and the owl is very near. I believe that in interpreting the call of this owl there must have been some misunderstanding somewhere in naming it. But when once accepted a bird name travels from book to book, as in the case of chickadee, towhee, and others. With a certain accent on each

syllable the little owl merely calls its man-given name: "saw-whet, saw-whet." According to my experience this particular call is heard only during the autumn months.

In winter they occasionally enter barns and other farm buildings staying there for days, even weeks. A farmer near Birchwood showed me the mummified body of one that had spent two weeks in his cowbarn but was found dead there later, probably starved. Another entered a neighbor's porch through a small opening above the screen door which, due to the swelling of wood, was ajar a few inches. It was released in the morning.

During the winter they also visit bird feeding places in the daytime. One visited our tray in February 1942. It made a pass at the chickadees but missed, and was driven away by bluejays and other birds. Another visited the feeding table of a neighbor who called me to identify it. In all these and other cases it had permitted a very close approach but, though sitting there apparently with closed eyes, it flew away immediately if an attempt was made to touch it. At our former dwelling it was seen sitting on the feeding table at night, but if it ever touched any food put there for other birds I am unable to say.

That they have enemies and sometimes encounter unusual ones the following incident would seem to indicate. Years ago, while investigating the den of a skunk that had killed and carried away several of my chickens, I found, among other items, also a dry, partly devoured body of this owl. The method employed by this clumsy predator in catching the owl, if it was caught by it, is open to conjecture. The neighborhood of the skunk's den, which was under a pile of old logs, was overrun with mice; so that it is possible that the owl, seeing something move, dived at it and was caught by the skunk. According to my previous notes and observations made last spring at the nest and elsewhere, other birds, even bluejays, molest them but rarely.

CALLS OF THE NIGHTHAWK

By J. H. H. ALEXANDER, Madison

Until recently I believed that the nighthawk's only call was the characteristic, far carrying and somewhat raucous "bzaip" it utters in flight—a call as easily identified and remembered as that of the killdeer.

During the past summer I was surprised to learn that the nighthawk has another distinctly different call. Working in my backyard garden I heard a peculiar sound coming from somewhere overhead. From high up in my big elm—the one that shades my garden, to its detriment—came a rythmic, evenly spaced "beep, beep, beep, beep, beep" that for all the world resembled the "busy signal" heard over the telephone. The tone quality was the same, the interval between "beeps" was the same, even the strength of the call coming from about thirty feet overhead was the same as the "busy signal" sounds when the telephone receiver is held close to the ear.

About half an hour later the "beep, beep, beep" call was repeated; this time nine equally spaced "beeps" in a row. Much neck craning in an effort to locate the source up in the leafy crown of the elm drew blank. Only when an annoyed robin, whose nest was in the same tree, paid special attention to a certain barklike hump on an upper limb did I discover the point of origin.

With field glasses I saw at once that it was a nighthawk perched lengthwise of the limb. Periodically during the afternoon the call was repeated, sometimes nine "beeps" in a row, sometimes ten, or as many as eleven or twelve. The calls were accompanied with a jerking, nodding motion of the head and a faint gasping sound between "beeps."

Toward evening the nighthawk modified its program and first uttered its loud and characteristic "bzaip" flight call, then followed with the other peculiarly different "beep" sequence. This became its habit at about half hour intervals until twilight when it took to the air, circled overhead in rapid strong flight, then disappeared.

Egret Nesting In Horicon Marsh. One American Egret appeared on the marsh May 5 of this year, two on May 11, and egrets were seen from time to time during the summer. On July 31, however, a nest was found containing two young about two-thirds grown. This is the second successive nesting, two nests being observed in the marsh last year.—Harold A. Mathiak, Horicon.

BOBWHITES BECOME SNOWED IN WHEN TEMPERATURE DROPS SUDDENLY

Common, but Beautiful Bird Pictures

By ANGIE KUMLIEN MAIN
Fort Atkinson

Last August I found hundreds of cardinal plants in full bloom in a thick woods along Koshkonong Creek as it neared Lake Koshkonong. The sight was one long to be remembered as hundreds of these tall plants with their smooth, dark green leaves stood there in shallow water, each topped by spikes of clear, pure, glowing, cardinal-red flowers. I was greatly moved by this brilliantly colored nature picture and remembered that we were on historic ground. Here, many years ago Chief Yellow Thunder and squaw, We-hun-ke, daughter of White Crow or Kaw-ray-kaw-saw-kaw, camped for the summer with other Winnebagos. Imagine the combination of the male ruby-throated hummingbird and this flower as the bird poises in midair before it seeking nectar or insects.

One time I had a red geranium in blossom in the window which was closed. Much to my surprise the hummingbird came again and again trying to get to the bright blossom. Another choice hummingbird memory was when both parents* and the two young all lit in a row on our clothes line.

The sight of the ruby-throat before the cardinal flower recalls a panorama of common but beautiful nature pictures that have given me joy throughout the years. I will describe some of them in a few words as I view them in my memory. They have brightened and enriched my life, as has all my nature-study, the expense of which has been negligible. I will divide these pictures according to habitat and give you first a glimpse of the marshes. I have always been fascinated by marshes, for they contain so many of nature's treasures in both bird and plant life; but on the other hand they are almost forbidden ground to me on account of the snake population that is hidden in their tall grasses. I am sorry to say that these creatures which slither along hold aught but a perfect horror and dread for me.

In the spring, before other marsh vegetation was showing, the red of the red osier dogwood and the greenish yellow of the willows made a charming bit of color in the landscape. On a marshy piece of land next to the Hillside cemetery, at Whitewater, the red-wings were having a gala day. These "old salts" were singing in chorus their rich and pleasant spring song which blended so well with the swishing of the water of the little nearby lake against its shores. To the left we could hear the "pump-er-lunk, pump-er-lunk" of the American bittern. Who would suspect that this coarse call was to charm or help attract the opposite sex? On our way back we saw this bittern at close range, and instead of flying or running he pointed his long bill skyward and stood there motionless, which made him resemble an old stump and camouflaged him completely. If we had not seen him take this position we never would have noticed him as his colors harmonized so well with his surroundings.

The bobolinks have furnished one of my red letter days in bird study which took place on a marsh near Stoughton. One day in June another nature lover and myself were crossing a marshy meadow near the edge of a tamarack swamp, where white ladyslippers grew abundantly. Nearby two male bobolinks were sitting on a tall cow parsnip singing their tinkling music. Presently one male flew high into the air, gave us a sample of his flight song, then descended to the ground. Locating the spot where he disappeared in the tall grass as about so many feet from the huge parsnip, we found his mate, grass nest, and five gray and brown streaked eggs. The plumage of the mother bird blended almost perfectly with the dried grasses of her nest, so no wonder it is almost impossible to find her. He had been cheering the long hours for her and by so doing had betrayed the precious home. Several tiny paths which had been made by the birds led to the nest like the spokes of a wheel to the hub. We were joyous at this discovery, but respecting the consternation of the owners, left the nest as we had found it.

During my childhood I lived not far from a tamarack swamp which held great charm and adventure for me. In the early days in Jefferson County, Grandfather

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*At least a pair, whether mated or not is unknown, since the male is believed to desert the family and leave all its care to the female.

Kumlien used to botanize there for then it was the home of many rare and beautiful orchids. When I was old enough to go there the swamp was pastured with the result that many of the earlier rare flowers were missing, but it was still a place of great attraction to me. I was always warned not to go near the bottomless lake where cows and even a horse had been sucked in from its miry shores. The story was that no one had ever touched bottom in trying to measure the depth of the water.

Not many years ago I again visited the swamp and found that most of the tamarack trees had died or had been cut away but enough remained so the interior was still a place of beauty. The bogs on the way in were still carpeted with beautiful ferns and violets and the pitcher plants with their blood-red flowers as beautiful as ever. The treacherous little lake made a beautiful picture with the surrounding ferns, the carpet of moss and the tamaracks with their feathery green foliage and purplish red new cones that looked like tiny roses. In graceful flight over the little lake four members of the swallow family were dipping and turning in search of their insect fare. The barn swallows with the deeply forked tails, the plain bank swallows, which were nesting in the old gravel pit, the pretty green-backed tree swallows with the clean white breasts, and their cousins, the purple martins flew swiftly and silently as they circled over the water and occasionally picked an insect from its surface.

The next series of pictures will deal with the newly hatched and will have as a background the dooryards, pastures, meadows and woodlands. The first picture isn't beautiful but interesting.

A few years ago a picnic party of us were eating our dinner under a large locust tree where we kept hearing a loud hissing noise that seemed to come from the tree. After investigating I discovered a flicker's nest in a hole in the trunk and very close to the ground. I put my hand in the hole and pulled out a baby flicker. I did this five times and each time a baby flicker clung to my finger. They feed by reguritation, so they grabbed my finger thinking it to be the bill of the parent. We all looked at their tightly rolled quills, then I put the large, awkward fledglings back into their nest none the worse for their peep into the world.

While visiting at the farm of some friends the host said to me, "Knowing that you liked birds, we caught some for you yesterday when we were haying and put them in the barn." After we reached the barn he said, "Now when I take the cloth off this bushel basket you tell me what they are." I think I can truly say that this was the warmest greeting I have ever had. Hisses and snarls of every degree of harshness greeted me from the bottom of the basket, nor did the bottom of the basket hold them long, for they jumped to the top where they savagely snapped at me. They were the young of the American bittern. In mowing the hayfields, the nest had been found containing three of the young birds. It was on the ground and was just a bit of rubbish put together and the egg shells were still around it. The most amazing feature of the young birds was that they were all of different sizes and ages. The smallest was the size of a newly hatched tame gosling, while his companion in the basket was three times as large and the one which escaped in the hayfield was still larger. If you ever meet them in your walks and rambles, I'm very sure you will remember them for they have a way of impressing their personality on one.

"Mother, come quickly, the killdeer eggs have hatched and the little killdeers are running all around in the cornfield." My guest and I left at once with the children to climb the hill in the cornfield to find the killdeer and their nest. Nothing of the nest remained except a slight depression in the ground and sixty or seventy small stones which the old birds had carried in for a lining. The four cream colored eggs with their black markings had been in the nest two weeks before when the field had been cultivated. The good man had turned his machine out to save the eggs. The weeds left a mark by which to locate the nest. What a fuss the old birds made as we approached, both of them feigning to be crippled. They ran in different directions for a short distance dragging their wings, then lay on one side while they rapidly moved their tails back and forth; at the same time making weird cries to distract our attention from their young. In spite of the parents' protests we found the young birds only a short distance away. They were scattered about and were very lively. They were only a day or two old and could run like lamplighters, and were as spry as crickets. As we walked toward home the mother killdeer flew up from the ground ahead of us with her wailing cry. I was happy that I could tell her that we had not harmed her young. In answer she seemed to cry "Yes you did, or dear, dear, dear."

One Sunday my husband and I ate our picnic dinner on the west bank of Koshkonong Creek opposite the site of the old stone mill in Busseyville. Here we enjoyed watching a pair of kingfishers as they flew back and forth, sending their noisy rattle far up the stream. A pair of black terns had their four young stationed on four fence posts in a row where they ate the food their parents brought them. The old birds coaxed them out over the water of the slough near us where they were taught

to skim the water for their dragon flies and other insects. They flew for only a few minutes before they returned to their posts to rest. If I got too near them, the old birds flew at me, almost touching my head and scolding me severely.

For my last two pictures I'm going to take you back to my early childhood and to my first stamping ground, the farm where I was born. This was near the north shore of Lake Koshkonong in the township of Sumner. My older brother who was near my own age and I played together a great deal. Our favorite places were the creek woods, the Indian mounds in our pasture, the woods near them and a little corner of virgin forest that was left next to the last piece of breaking. This breaking as we called this small patch of woods was left to save the maiden hair ferns and yellow lady slippers and a few rods of the original Indian trail and Army road. The original rail fence that Grandfather built was also left to keep the stock out.

This old lichen and moss covered fence was always a source of great pleasure for me, for in its corners the tangle of berry bushes and the hazel brush furnished nesting sites for the birds and cover for the rabbits, bobwhites, and prairie chickens.

One winter day my brother Charles, our dog and I were on our way down to the other end of the farm to see our Great Aunt Sophia Wallberg and were walking on the newly crusted snow. When we got near the old rail fence, we noticed that the dog which had run on ahead was barking and scratching the hard crust. When we caught up with him we could hear birds peeping under the snow. We dug down and liberated eleven bobwhites who had dived down into the soft snow the night before for warmth and protection. The weather grew colder toward morning and had frozen a crust over the snow and trapped the birds. They hadn't been imprisoned long so flew into the trees out of reach of the dog.

One spring this brother and I were searching in these woods for large yellow lady slippers and the delicate maiden hair ferns. While here we flushed a hen prairie chicken which was hovering her newly hatched chicks that were hardly dry. She gave her "run to cover" cry and then feigned the cripple act to attract our attention to herself while her chicks were hiding. The ground and the deep ruts in the old road were covered with last year's dried oak leaves which made it safe for the youngsters, for their mixed brownish, white and black plumage was hard to distinguish from the ground cover. They ran away, squatted and kept perfectly still. We went off some distance and hid behind a tree and waited until the mother called her family together again.

Here I am running on and on like Tennyson's brook. Just take to the byways and see these pictures for yourself.

SCOTT SENDS HONEYEATER TO MILWAUKEE MUSEUM

As reported in the last issue, Walter Scott has been hospitalized for some time in the South Pacific with a broken wrist, but he hasn't let this interfere with his usual hobby of bird observation, and reports he has seen about half of the 72 birds listed for his location. In fact, he became so enthusiastic that he constructed several make-shift bird traps in an effort to secure specimens for closer study. He reports that his bird trapping was largely unsuccessful except in one instance. As far as we can determine from his description, he set a drop door trap atop a five gallon can at the top of a 15-foot embankment down which some partridge-like birds were known to come to drink. Employing his infantry training, he camouflaged it well and awaited results. They were startling. A major, head surgeon at the hospital, became curious when he saw a corner of the gas can extending from the leaves and crawled up the bank to investigate. He reached out to touch the thing and—the contraption worked. Whereupon the astonished officer lost his footing, fell down the bank, and cracked a bone in his ankle. At last report, he was ruefully referring to the thing as a "booby trap" and resigning himself to a month's rest. About a week later a buddy who was showing off his prowess with the "kind of slingshot we used on Guadalcanal" surprised everyone by bringing down a small honeyeater from a treetop. Despite his lame hand, Scott and his buddy managed to skin it out and in lieu of arsenic powder, used G. I. foot powder as a preservative. Through the co-operation of the censor, it was sent air mail to the Milwaukee Museum and after relaxation by Dettman, Owen Gromme reported it had been made into a fine cabinet skin. Further tests will have to be made before the preservative powers of the foot powder can be fully determined!—**Mrs. W. E. Scott.**

THE SPRING SEASON . . .

(Field notes should be sent to the editor at the end of each of the four seasons. They should be turned in promptly and the A. O. U. order may be followed. Nesting data is especially desired and departure dates are needed for many species.)

The following is an annotated list of the more unusual observations of the season, containing both arrival dates and dates of nesting activities:

Red-throated loon: Milwaukee on the May-day count (Mrs. Wyman and Mrs. Balsom).

Great blue heron: Milwaukee, Mar. 25 (Mueller); Green Bay, Mar. 26 (Mrs. Hussong); Oconto County, Mar. 26 (Richter).

American egret: Horicon Marsh, one, May 5, two, May 11 (Mathiak). (See nesting report elsewhere in this issue.)

Bittern: Nest with four fresh eggs, Oconto County, May 21 (Richter).

Whistling swan: Twenty-two, Madison, Mar. 21 (S. Paul Jones); Green Bay, Mar. 27 (Mrs. Hussong); Bayfield County, Apr. 2 (Berner).

Canada goose: Several flocks, Dane County, Mar. 24-25 (Jackson); flock of two hundred last seen at Horicon May 10 (Mathiak).

Mallard: Seven, Rusk County, Apr. 13 (Feeney); two, Forest County, Apr. 17 (Bradle).

Black duck: Thirteen, Vilas County, Apr. 13 (Feeney); Vilas County, male with young, June 14 (Bradle).

Gadwall: Twenty-one, Green Bay, May 21 (club).

Pintail: Twelve, Dane County, Mar. 24-25 (Jackson); six, Hayward, May 18 (Kahmann).

Wood duck: Winnebago Lake, Apr. 2 (Mueller); two, Price County, Apr. 11 (Bradle); Vilas County, Apr. 11 (Berner); two, Forest County, Apr. 17 (Bradle); two, Rusk County, Apr. 18 (Feeney); two, Sawyer County, Apr. 20 (Berner).

Redhead duck: Vilas County, Apr. 19 (Berner); Milwaukee, May 14 (Mueller).

Ring-necked duck: Vilas County, Apr. 19 (Berner); one, Madison, May 21 (Kumlien Club).

Golden-eye: Milwaukee, May 14 (Mueller).

Buffle-head: At peak, Green Bay, Apr. 16 (Mrs. Hussong). Reported on May-day counts at Milwaukee and Green Bay by clubs.

Ruddy duck: Milwaukee, Apr. 2 (Mueller).

Hooded merganser: Two, Dane County, Feb. 26 (Jackson); two, Vilas County, Apr. 11 (Berner).

American merganser: Green Bay, Mar. 19 (Hussong); two, Bayfield County, Apr. 2 (Berner); Green Bay, May 21 (Club).

Turkey vulture: One, Madison, University Arboretum, Apr. 8, early (Mrs. Barger); one, Oshkosh (over cemetery appropriately), May 7 (Evans); one, Oconto County on both May 14 and 21 (Richter); one also by Mrs. A. Weber in Oconto County during May.

Goshawk: One, Green Bay, Apr. 13 (Mrs. Hussong); Bayfield County, Mar. 23 (Feeney); Rusk County, pair at nest with one egg, Apr. 12 (Feeney).

Cooper's hawk: Oconto County, May 11, nest with four fresh eggs (Richter).

Red-tailed hawk: Oconto County, building nest, Apr. 29; nest with two eggs, May 6 (Richter).

Red-shouldered hawk: Dane County, Apr. 16, sitting on nest (Schorger); Oconto County, Apr. 29, nest with three eggs (Richter).

Broad-winged hawk: Two, Dane County, Mar. 24-25 (Jackson); one on nest, Rusk County, June 16 (Berner); two fresh eggs, Oconto County, May 20 (Richter); three eggs heavily incubated, Oconto County, May 26 (Richter).

Golden eagle: One immature, Iron County, Mar. 28 (Feeney).

Bald eagle: Two nesting, Price County, Apr. 11 (Bradle); two at nest with young, Vilas County, Apr. 11 (Berner); one on nest, Vilas County, May 1 (Bradle).

Marsh hawk: One, Oconto County, Mar. 20 (Richter); nest with five eggs partly incubated, Oconto County, May 21 (Richter).

Osprey: Two building nests, Price County, Apr. 19 (Hartmeister).

Duck hawk: One, Dane County, Mar. 24-25 (Jackson).

Sparrow hawk: One carrying a mouse, Price County, Apr. 11 (Bradle); one eating a mouse, Vilas County, Apr. 11 (Berner).

Ruffed grouse: Fewer than usual seen this summer (Feeney).

Prairie chicken: Twelve booming, Dane County, Mar. 24-25 (Jackson); six fresh eggs, Oconto County, May 28 (Richter).

Sharp-tailed grouse: Oconto County, May 28 (Mrs. Hussong); ten, Iron County, Mar. 30 (Berner and Bradle); three, Sawyer County, Mar. 30 (Berner); two, Vilas County, May 1 (Bradle).

Sandhill crane: Seventy-five, Kekoskee, Apr. 8 (Frank Burkhardt); four, Marquette County, May 20 (Curran).

Semi-palmated plover: Barron County, May 27 (Berner).

Killdeer: Dane County, Mar. 6 (Mrs. Phillips); Green Bay, Mar. 24 (Mrs. Hussong).

Ruddy turnstone: Milwaukee (Club census); flock of twelve, Green Bay, May 30 (Paulson).

American woodcock: Two, Jefferson County, Apr. 1 (Deerwester); Oconto County, Apr. 7; flushed with two nestlings three to four days old, May 11 (Richter).

Wilson snipe: Winnowing at Horicon Marsh, Apr. 9 (Mathiak).

Upland plover: Oconto County and Green Bay, Apr. 24, later than usual (Mrs. Hussong).

Greater yellow-legs: Horicon Marsh, Apr. 7 (Mathiak).

Pectoral sandpiper: One, Dane County, Apr. 8 (Barger).

Red-backed sandpiper: Pair, Neenah, Apr. 18, very early (Mrs. Rogers).

Bonaparte's gull: Milwaukee, Apr. 16 (Mueller); also in Madison on same date (Loyster); Oconto County, Apr. 18 (Richter); forty-four in Green Bay, May 14 (Strehlow).

Caspian tern: Oconto County, Apr. 19 (Richter); flock of fifty-two, Door County, May 14 (Strehlow).

Black-billed cuckoo: Milwaukee, May 4, early (Mueller).

Barn owl: Milwaukee, May 14 (Mueller).

Whip-poor-will: Oconto County, Apr. 13, earliest record we have (Richter).

Nighthawk: One at nest with two eggs, Bayfield County, June 7 (Berner).

Hummingbird: Milwaukee, Apr. 30 (Thorn).

Flicker: Rusk County, Apr. 12 (Berner and Hartmeister).

Red-headed woodpecker: Forest County, Apr. 17 (Hartmeister).

Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Green Bay, Apr. 11 (Mrs. Hussong); Oneida County, Apr. 13 (Berner).

Arctic three-toed woodpecker: One, Iron County, Apr. 7 (Searles).

Kingbird: Rusk County, May 10 (Berner).

Phoebe: Vilas County, Apr. 13 (Berner).

Yellow-bellied flycatcher: Milwaukee, May 13 (Bierman).

Acadian flycatcher: One, Madison, May 21 (Kumlien Club).

Wood Pewee: Madison, Apr. 29 (Mrs. Phillips).

Prairie horned lark: Two, Sawyer County, Mar. 21 (Zirrer).

Tree swallow: Forest County, Apr. 13 (Berner and Bradle).

Purple martin: Horicon, Apr. 6 (Mathiak); Green Bay, Apr. 11 (Mrs. Hussong); Oconto County, Apr. 13 (Richter); Rusk County, Apr. 13 (Feeney); Forest County also Apr. 13 (Berner and Bradle).

Canada jay: Two, Forest County, Apr. 4 (Feeney); Vilas County, Apr. 19 (Berner); Florence County, Apr. 26 (Bradle).

Blue jay: Five fresh eggs, Oconto County, May 13 (Richter).

Raven: Two at nest with young, Rusk County, Apr. 12 (Feeney).

Crow: Two, Washburn County, Mar. 22 (Berner); Bayfield County, Mar. 23 (Hartmeister).

Tufted titmouse: Pair, Oconto (unusual), May 7 (Richter).

White-breasted nuthatch: Constructing nest, Oconto County, Apr. 29; eight nestlings just hatched, May 20 (Richter).

Brown creeper: Four, Washburn County, Mar. 22 (Berner and Bradle); three, Green Bay, May 14 (Strehlow).

House wren: Milwaukee, Apr. 18 (Mueller).

Winter wren: One in song, Oconto County, May 28 (Mrs. Hussong).

Bewick's wren: Two, Dane County, May 21 (Barger).

Mockingbird: One, Waukesha County, Apr. 2 (Schorger); one Milwaukee, May 24 (Orians); one, Horicon Marsh, May 12 (Jones and Mathiak); and one about three miles west on May 13 (Mathiak).

Robin: Green Bay, Mar. 21 (Mrs. Hussong); Oconto County, Mar. 23 (Richter); and Rusk County, Mar. 25 (Hartmeister).

Hermit thrush: Green Bay, Apr. 11 (Mrs. Hussong); Rusk County, Apr. 18 (Hartmeister); Sawyer County, Apr. 20 (Berner).

Olive-backed thrush: Milwaukee, Apr. 10, early (Mueller).

Gray-cheeked thrush: Milwaukee, Apr. 24, early (Mueller).

Willow thrush: Milwaukee, Apr. 18 (Mueller); nest and four heavily incubated eggs, Oconto County, June 5 (Richter).

Bluebird: Two, Oconto County, Mar. 20 (Richter).

Blue-gray gnatcatcher: Appleton, May 10 (Mrs. Rogers); St. Croix County, May 22 (Mrs. Owen).

Golden-crowned kinglet: Milwaukee, May 15, late (Bierman).

Starling: Five fresh eggs, Oconto County, May 9 (Richter).

Worm-eating warbler: One, Green Bay, May 13 (Mrs. Hussong); one, Lake Nehmabin, Apr. 6 (Deusing and Bierman).

Cape May warbler: Rusk County, May 10 (Berner).

Oven-bird: New nest with no eggs, Oconto County, May 26 (Richter).

Connecticut warbler: Milwaukee, May 14 (Bierman).

Bobolink: Three nests, with three eggs, one egg and one egg respectively, all fresh; Oconto County, May 28 (Richter).

Meadowlark: Oconto County, Apr. 5 (Richter); Rusk County, two, Apr. 8 (Berner).

Yellow-headed blackbird: Horicon, Apr. 30 (Mrs. Mathiak); several, Rusk County, May 7 (E. M. Dahlberg).

Red-wing: Many, Oconto, Mar. 22 (Richter); Rusk County, Apr. 10 (Berner).

Orchard oriole: Nest within two hundred feet of last year's nest, again an immature male; Milwaukee, May (Orians).

Baltimore oriole: Sawyer County, May 18 (Berner).

Brewer's blackbird: Vilas County, Apr. 19 (Berner).

Bronzed grackle: Madison, Mar. 21 (Mrs. Phillips); Oconto, Apr. 16 (Richter); Rusk County, Apr. 10 (Berner).

Cowbird: Milwaukee, Apr. 6 (Mueller); Oconto, Apr. 7 (Richter); two, Horicon, Mar. 21 (Mathiak).

Summer tanager: Rare in Wisconsin, seen in Milwaukee, Apr. 30, by Arthur and Mark Doll.

Dickcissel: One, Dane County, May 22 (Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Scott).

Pine siskin: Madison, May 21 (Kumlien Club).

Leconte's sparrow: Three pairs in old nesting grounds, Oconto County, May 21 (Richter).

Henslow's sparrow: Two nests with four and five eggs respectively, Oconto County, May 27 (Richter).

Lark sparrow: Two, Dane County, May 21 (Kumlien Club).

Slate-colored junco: Rusk County, Apr. 8 (Berner); flock, Rusk County, Apr. 12 (Feeney); three, Door County, May 14 (Strehlow).

Clay-colored sparrow: Horicon, May 4 (Mathiak); Green Bay, May 2 (Mrs. Hussong); four, Madison, May 15 (McCabe).

White-crowned sparrow: Rusk County, May 1 (Berner).

White-throated sparrow: Milwaukee, Apr. 7 (Mueller).

Lincoln's sparrow: Milwaukee, Apr. 24 (Mueller); Green Bay, May 12, banded by Mrs. Hussong.

Song sparrow: Green Bay, Mar. 26 (Mrs. Hussong); Oconto County, Mar. 24; and nest with four eggs, May 14 (Richter).

Lapland longspur: One female, Milwaukee, June 3, late (Gordon Orians).

Rescuing a Flicker from the Waves

By S. C. EHLERS, Madison

A year ago I didn't know a hoot owl from a sparrow . . . but that was before moving out to a cottage at Mendota Beach. . . .

To start at the beginning, my wife had pointed out that there was a nest of flickers high in a tree in the back of the cottage and also a nest of young robins in the first crotch of a tree on the south side of the cottage. It even got to be something of a habit each evening upon my arrival home to see how the young birds were faring. Finally on a Saturday night they had reached that point in life where the old folks disclaimed any further responsibility and both nests were emptied of their young.

Early Sunday morning a terrific gale came up, accompanied by rain. After the blow had subsided a bit I became curious to see how my young feathered friends

had fared. The robins were hopping around in the lea of a couple of big trees and seemed none the worse for their experience.

It wasn't until I wandered down to the lake front that I spotted one of the flickers. In some manner he had been blown out over the water some little distance from shore, and although he was flapping his wings in desperate effort to get back I could see he wasn't going to make it. Hopping into the scow I rowed to his aid as quickly as possible. Just as I arrived his head went down, tail come up and but for a quick grab there wouldn't have been any more to tell about this flicker.

I held him head down for a moment, draining as much water out of him as possible (at least I had read some place that that was customary in resuscitating anyone who had taken on too much water) and then, rowing to shore, hastened up to the cottage.

Having an electric stove, my wife turned on the oven; I wrapped the flicker in a wool rag, drying him the best I could, without any sign of life apparent in the flicker. After placing the bird in the oven (previously no bird had ever entered that oven without first being stuffed) and turning off the heat, I left him there for a few minutes until he was thoroughly warmed and signs of life came back. He was then wrapped in more rags and placed in a waste paper basket and within a couple of hours he had completely revived.

Realizing that after a near-drowning experience the flicker might be hungry I went out to my fish worm box, selected my most prized nightcrawler, and in my ignorance dangled it in front of the flicker. It wasn't until later that I realized I didn't have the proper technique for bird feeding.

After posing for a few color pictures the flicker hopped away . . . and while this is a rather simple story, somehow I have gotten a tremendous amount of satisfaction out of saving a life . . . the life of one of the hundreds of birds that added so greatly to our enjoyable summer stay at a cottage.

The May-Day Bird Count, 1944

Although more than forty observers took part in the May-day bird count, from May 13 to 22, only three areas of the state were represented, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Madison. One hundred and eighty-five species were accounted for, and, since Madison is strategically located, the largest species list was produced there.

In comparing these counts we find that the following twelve species were observed by all participants: killdeer, mourning dove, flicker, purple martin, house wren, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, yellow warbler, Eastern meadowlark, cowbird and goldfinch.

Eleven additional species were observed by all but one participant as follows: ring-necked pheasant, chimney swift, belted kingfisher, crested flycatcher, tree swallow, crow, olive-backed thrush, English sparrow, Baltimore oriole, bronzed grackle and song sparrow.

On the other hand species mentioned by but one list amounted to thirty-four of which the following are rare in Wisconsin: red-throated loon, ruddy turnstone, barn owl, Bewick's wren, and lark sparrow.

A number of late dates were secured as the following will attest: gadwall, baldpate, redhead, ring-necked duck, golden-eye, bufflehead, American merganser, osprey, yellow-bellied sapsucker, brown creeper, hermit thrush, blue-headed vireo, purple finch, siskin and junco.

In any summary of this kind negative information is often just as vital and interesting as the positive. Thus the following species should have been seen but were missed: migrant shrike, pileated woodpecker, long-eared and short-eared owls, all phalaropes, least sandpiper, black-bellied plover, golden plover and king rail.

Very few contributors included individual bird counts in their census lists, and, since the count this year does not represent the state as a whole, it has been decided to omit printing these lists in their entirety. Details of all good records included in these counts will be found in the season records of this issue, page 69. Next year circumstances may permit the printing of all lists in full as is done for the Christmas bird count.

GARDEN CLUBS and BIRD STUDY

By MRS. R. A. WALKER, Madison
Bird Chairman, Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

It is with deep satisfaction that bird lovers note the great increase in bird study on the part of garden clubs. Garden club conventions are almost sure to have one or more speakers on the subject of birds in the garden. Garden club literature is generous in the space devoted to birds. Each garden club roster is likely to have a "Bird Chairman." Recently the National Council of State Garden Clubs conducted a nation-wide contest of "best bird slogans." South Carolina won this contest with "Every Garden A Bird Sanctuary." All this is good and as it should be. A garden without the movement, color and music of birds would be a lifeless thing—if indeed it could exist at all without the watchful care of birds. The great Audubon painted most of his birds in a setting of beautiful flowers and plants. Each enhanced the beauty of the other.

Many garden enthusiasts are likewise in love with birds. Practically all the others are eager to know more about birds, if only given aid and encouragement. Bird enthusiasts can be of great service in assisting the garden lover to know how to identify birds and how to attract them to the garden.

Bird identification is a fascinating study and yet not difficult. A friend who knows birds, a pair of field glasses and a good bird guide such as Peterson's will quickly enable one to know at least the more probable visitors to the garden. Gardeners will want to keep a record of birds visiting the garden, noting their times of arrival and departure. It is well also to make a list of the more desirable birds and the most useful—such as the robin, the house wren, the flicker, and the hummingbird. Their foods, their habits, their families, their calls, their insect-destroying capacities are all a most interesting study.

The home gardener should be encouraged to make his garden a haven for birds. They are friendly, though shy creatures, and if given a bit of aid and encouragement will respond quickly and with enthusiasm. All the birds ask is that you guarantee them shelter, safety, food and water. All gardens provide some of these; many gardens provide all.

Trees and shrubs, if selected wisely will provide shelter and food as well as nesting facilities. Of these the trees are: birch, mountain ash, wild and choke cherries, hackberry, hawthorn, oak, flowering crab, prairie crab, sumac, mulberry and June-berry; the shrubs: dogwood, elderberry, snowberry, coralberry, winterberry, shadbush, barberry, buckthorn, honeysuckle and viburnums in variety. Garden magazines urge the planting of vines and ground cover. Those most relished by the birds are: bittersweet, Virginia creeper, wild grape, five-leaved ivy, trumpet vine, blackberry and raspberry. The hummingbird is very fond of the trumpet vine. For ground cover under trees and around shrubs, dewberry and wild strawberry are good.

Water is often provided by pools, but if a pool is lacking a bird bath will do nicely. These may be purchased in a variety of attractive designs or may be manufactured even at home.

During the late spring and summer birds can be counted upon to look after their own commissary department. Worms, insects, plants and seeds furnish them with food in abundance. But in the fall and winter assistance must be given to those hardy guests who elect to remain. Bird trays and feeders are easily provided. Bread crumbs, meat scraps, suet, grains, and seeds will be gratefully received. These are particularly appreciated after a heavy snowstorm has covered all available supply of natural food. A pan of warm water will also have many customers.

Garden clubs frequently devote one meeting a year to birds. There is always some well informed bird enthusiast who will be glad to talk, and perhaps, show movies or pictures of birds to be found in the garden. Literature on birds is often obtainable at the local library or from the state conservation department. Some clubs have a five-minute talk on a garden bird at each meeting.

The Missouri Garden Club recently sponsored the Bluebird Trail Movement and secured presidential endorsement. This encouraged the construction and erection of bluebird houses on the state's highway. Two or three houses to the mile are erected. Thousands of these houses have been placed during the last two years. Travellers report a most pleasant impression made by these beautiful birds by the roadside. This movement is now being sponsored by garden clubs throughout the nation and

will undoubtedly spread from coast to coast. This project has recently been started in Wisconsin and is making gratifying progress.

Garden lovers who add birds to their list of interests are certain to have better and more enjoyable gardens. Is it not also possible that bird lovers who give more thought to the beautiful flowers, plants and shrubbery with which birds are so closely associated will thereby get a greater joy out of their bird studies?

Boy Scouts and Bird Study

By FRED P. STROTHER, Milwaukee

If you find a boy at your elbow on a bird trip, treat him kindly. He is probably a Boy Scout, because nearly 5,000 of them in Wisconsin have had at least a little inoculation by the "bird bug."

There are 21,000 Scouts in the state at this moment, roaming over some of the finest bird lands and waters in the United States. The former figure represents the number of First Class Scouts, who have had a good chance of getting a taste of learning identification. Requirement eleven for their rank says, among several choices: "Be able to identify in the field six species of wild birds noting such characteristics as plumage, notes, tracks and habits." This is only a nibble, to be sure. It's a mighty important nibble, though, because hundreds of Scouts never lose interest in bird life, and it provides a wholesome hobby for them for many years.

There are two principal reasons, I think, for giving out bird study in small doses to younger Scouts. One is that the boys themselves need to be inspired rather than informed at first, and very little is needed to touch off the spark of inspiration. The other reason is that Scouts of lower rank often get their first instruction and inspiration from leaders who are beginners also, and cannot assimilate information too fast themselves.

The average type of bird hike most Tenderfoots and Second Class Scouts have at first is conducted by a leader who blunders through the brush with his gang, swatting mosquitoes and digging into his bird book trying to find out what that was that just flew into yonder bush. This is perhaps just as well, say the educators, because experts sometimes tend to "quote from scripture" so to speak, to the mystification of their pupils, instead of joining them in research.

It is at summer camp that delighted Scouts for the most part find counselors who are at least fair bird students. After a hike or two, the more inspired campers become real "getter-uppers" and the nature man has to be on the move early and late to keep up with his devotees. Wisconsin has sixteen excellent Scout camps, all located on lakes. It's a cold morning indeed when the bird counselor of each camp isn't dragged from his bed by excited Scouts because "It looks like a good morning for birds," and the average camp season is six weeks in duration. That spells lots of bird hikes.

The real importance of birdlore to the Scout Program becomes most evident to the boy approaching Eagle Rank. There it is, in black and white; marked "Required" along with eleven other badges. First Aid, Life Saving, Personal Health, Public Health, Cooking, Camping, Civics, Pathfinding, Safety, Pioneering and Athletics or Physical Development with Bird Study must make up the Eagle's skills in addition to nine other Merit Badges. The wise designer of the Scout advancement program must have known that no man is truly an outdoorsman who cannot call the birds by name when he sees them.

Many a Scout has found Bird Study a difficult hurdle to get over on the Eagle trail. The counselors assigned to the Merit Badge subject are usually the best in their communities, and most of them make these requirements a basis for a thorough course, in which they make field trips with the boy, making sure that he knows the habits, songs and other characteristics of each bird on his list. Very few boys pass the Bird Study Badge in less than a full year from the time they start to work on it. Let's take a look at the requirements:

1. Produce a list of forty species of wild birds which have been personally observed and positively identified in the field and tell how to differentiate each from those other species with which it might be confused.
2. Produce a list showing the greatest number of species that he has seen in the field in one week.
3. Produce a list derived from personal reading of:
   (a) Twenty species of birds particularly noted for their value to agriculture in the destruction of insects and weed seeds.
   (b) Ten birds of prey particularly useful in the destruction of rats and mice.

(c) Ten species of fish-eating birds, and tell why they are not inimical to man's interests.

4. Describe at least two bird boxes or a bird bath, and two feeding stations that have been constructed and erected by him.
5. From personal observation name and describe the birds he has seen in three different habitats (open fields, woodlands, farmland, marsh, etc.) and tell why all birds do not choose the same habitat. Make at least three visits to each type of countryside.

OR

Make a census of the bird life of a 25-acre tract by systematically covering the ground on three separate days and listing the species and number of individuals of each observed.

6. State what he did to protect birds from slaughter; and to promote the creation of bird preserves and sanctuaries.

There were 302 Wisconsin boys who received Bird Study Merit Badge last year. You may meet some of them on your own bird hikes this fall and winter. Perhaps like Paul Siple, who became one of the country's most eminent zoologists after the Merit Badge by that name stirred his imagination, some Wisconsin Scout will make history as a great naturalist.

These boys receiving Bird Study Merit Badges last year were distributed as follows: Beloit, 9; Green Bay, 24; Fond du Lac, 15; Kenosha, 12; La Crosse, 35; Manitowoc, 1; Wausau, 24; Madison, 24; Milwaukee, 55; Oshkosh, 8; Racine, 5; Sheboygan, 18; Janesville, 7; Eau Claire, 16; Waukesha, 18; Appleton, 31.

BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

Unusual Location of Grackle Nest. On June 26, while searching for nests in a Forest County cattail marsh, I found the nest of a bronzed grackle in the rushes. It was only a foot above the water and looked like an overgrown red-wing's nest. It contained three nearly grown young.—Don Bierman, Milwaukee.

Hot Water Attracts Mockingbird In Winter. A mockingbird was a daily visitor during the past winter at our residence. It came early in the morning for a drink as we kept the ice melted by means of hot water.—B. H. Paul, Madison.

Gadwall Nesting In Green Bay. About fifteen nests of the Gadwall were found this season at one place in the Green Bay harbor. Since this species has disappeared during the breeding season from much of its former range, this was a welcome sight.—Earl G. Wright, Green Bay.

CURRENT EXCHANGES . . .

The Audubon Bulletin. Charles O. Decker, 2001 North Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Quarterly. Illinois Audubon Society.

The Bulletin. C. Russell Mason, 155 Newbury St., Boston 16, Mass. Monthly. Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The Condor. Alden H. Miller, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Cal. Bi-monthly. A Magazine of Western Ornithology.

The Flicker. Arnold B. Erickson, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. Quarterly. Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

Indiana Audubon Year Book. Earl Brooks, Noblesville, Ind. Annually. Indiana Audubon Society, Inc.

Inland Bird Banding News. O. A. Stevens, State College Station, Fargo, N. D. Bi-monthly. Inland Bird Banding Association.

Iowa Bird Life. Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa. Quarterly. Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

The Jack-Pine Warbler. E. M. Brigham, Jr., Kingman Memorial Museum, Battle Creek, Mich. Quarterly, Michigan Audubon Society.

The Migrant. Albert F. Ganier, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville 5, Tenn. Quarterly. Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The Nebraska Bird Review. F. W. Haecker, 506 South 52nd St., Omaha 6, Neb. Semi-annually. Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

The Oriole. J. Fred Denton, 1314 Meigs St., Augusta, Ga. Quarterly. Georgia Ornithological Society.

The Ruffed Grouse. E. H. McClelland, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg 13, Pa. Annually. Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Purple Gallinules on the Horicon Marsh

On April 21, 1944, in company with Russell Neugebauer of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, while making an inspection and patrol of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, along the marsh road, we saw two unusually colored marsh birds. The birds were coot-like, but had bright carmine beaks with pale blue frontal plates. When flushed, the yellowish legs were apparent. Even though neither of us had previously seen the Purple Gallinule in life, we are positive of their identification.—**Watson E. Beed,** Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Waupun.

Cory considered this species as a straggler in Wisconsin, and Kumlien and Hollister state that Hoy procured a specimen at Racine. Another collected specimen believed to be authentic was one handled by Thure Kumlien, which had been secured near Janesville by someone. There are other less reliable records, but it is evident that the species is entitled to a place on our list.—**Mrs. W. E. Scott.**