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The PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME XIV *Autumn Issue, 1952* NUMBER 3



NEST AND EGGS OF WHIPPOORWILL

GUY S. PECKHAM

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

Published Quarterly By

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

NEWS . . .

The 1953 convention will be held on May 1-3, in Green Bay, it was decided in our last board meeting. The convention will open with a reception on Friday evening, May 1, and close with a field trip on Sunday, unless members are later informed to the contrary. Reservation blanks and further news will be sent by the local committee in April.

Many WSO members have taken May Day Counts in their home areas in the past, and have selected the date that seemed to be the most promising. Beginning with this year, the Board of Directors is asking that all participants go out on the same date, for the sake of comparison, and has picked May 17 as the date. No changes, otherwise, in the rules.

Field trips will be sponsored by the Society for the benefit of the public and its members on several occasions this year (as last year). See the calendar of field trips on page 122.

Since our articles of incorporation require that the Secretary be the custodian of all Society property, the Board now requests that all members and officers, either turn over to this officer all property they have, or know of, during the next annual meeting, or furnish her with information where such items are kept. This inventory record will be kept up-to-date from now on. In addition, the Secretary will be furnished a portfolio of duties of all existing officers, as they have developed through the years. To this will be appended a list of "taboos", or experiments which have been found impractical in the past, and which the new officers may do well to avoid. All members are entitled to take part in the above.

Questionnaires on the two species of meadowlarks are included in this issue. Please detach, fill in, and return as directed. Cooperative studies such as this have proved very successful in the past, and the resulting articles have added much to the value of our magazine.

Miss Ethel Allis Nott, Reedsburg, died on August 10, 1952. She had been a

reporter on the birdlife for that area, and contributed a pen-and-ink drawing for the cover of our magazine.

Mrs. Angie Kumlien Main also passed away recently. We do not have the exact date at this time, but hope to publish a detailed account later.

Since the Society has made a profit on the sale of "Silent Wings", approval recently was secured to sell the remaining stock at a price of 25c each. This reduced price will enable many members to purchase quantities of them for use in furthering the cause of conservation. The articles on the extinction of the passenger pigeon by Aldo Leopold, A. W. Schorger, and H. H. T. Jackson point up the necessity of prompt action to save those species which are now on the decline. Order your supply from: W. E. Scott, 1721 Hickory Drive, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

Richard Gordon, Kenosha, reports that approximately 100 species of birds were observed on the Sunday field trip during the convention of last year. The list included the glaucous gull, Lapland long-spurs, old-squaws, and many species of song bird migrating northward along the lakeshore.

Harold G. Liebherr, Beloit, informs us that he and his wife have started a bird club in that city. They are organizing a complete telephone circuit to report migration waves and rarities to each other.

We recently received a subscription from Filial Biblioteki, Moscow.

We now have the following binoculars in the Supply Department:

7 x 35 (German)	\$ 84.00
8 x 30 (German)	72.00
6 x 30 (German)	66.00
7 x 35 (Japanese)	59.40
7 x 50 Zeiss	210.00
20 x 56 (German)	119.40

We also have several used 8 power binoculars, in working order, which we will sell for \$12.50 each. All binoculars are center-focus, with coated lenses, with cases, and have tax included in the price.

(continued on page 122)

THE PASSENGER PIGEON, official publication of The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., is published quarterly in Madison, Wisconsin. Classes of membership and annual dues: Active \$2.00 (Students under 18 years \$1.50). Sustaining \$5.00. Life \$75.00. Patron \$100.00 or more. At least \$1.75 of each annual membership is set aside to cover subscription to *The Passenger Pigeon*. Send membership dues to the treasurer, Carl P. Frister, 2956A North 38th Street, Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin. Send manuscripts to the editor, N. R. Barger, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

THE MATIN SONG OF THE EASTERN KINGBIRD

By WINNIFRED (SMITH) MAYER

The eastern kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is a common summer resident at Winghaven. While studying the literature concerning this species, as a preparatory background for my own observations, I found several references to a song which I had never heard. Miller (1892: 15) described the song as follows: ". . . A sweet though simple strain . . . (sung when) . . . it was so still that the flit of a wing was almost startling . . . It began with a low kingbird "Kr-r-r" (or rolling sound impossible to express by letters), . . . and it ended with a very sweet call of two notes, five tones apart . . . something like this: "Kr-r-r-r-r-ree-be! Kr-r-r r-r-ree-be!" Hausman (1925: 324-25) mentions Mrs. Miller's reference as the only other written record of this type of song of which he was aware. He, however, represented it with the syllables "kitter kitter kitter-kit tree weet, kitter kitter kitter-kit tree weet"; stating, "This song has been heard only in the morning twilight hours". For the purposes of record, Hausman called this song the **matin song**. Tyler (1942: 24) tells of hearing the song at three o'clock an hour before sunrise, and translates it as "i i i i i i ee tweea". He quotes a friend, who after hearing the song, remarked, "he is trying to pronounce the word explicit and making a miserable stuttering failure of it". Mr. Tyler also mentioned that the song is heard occasionally during the day, especially misty summer afternoons. Saunders (1935: 80-1) interprets the song as **dzi dzi dzi dzidzi dzi krit, dzi dzi dzi dzi dzidzi dze kreet**, etc., . . . and describes it as follows: "This song is long continued. It consists of a series of short, lower-pitched notes followed by a single high-pitched note, then another series, this followed by two high-pitched notes, then the first series again, and so on, alternating the two forms." These varied interpretations indicate that the matin song of the eastern kingbird is not easily translated into syllables of the English language.

My curiosity was aroused, and at the earliest opportunity, I set my alarm for three o'clock so that I might hear the kingbird's matins. The hesitant, stuttering phrases were uninspiring, and at the time, I was not impressed enough to arise at that hour for the express purpose of enjoying the song.

By the spring of 1949, I had gathered considerable data on the lives and habits of the Winghaven kingbirds. One female has been color banded and had returned for the third year. The progress of nesting and care of the young had been recorded. However, there were questions regarding the matin song which had not been answered to my satisfaction. To secure this information, I arose before dawn for forty-five mornings during the months of May, June, July and August, 1949, to record the occurrence and duration of the matin song.

The First Matin Song of the Year

The first kingbird arrived at Winghaven on May 3, 1949, during

a period of low barometric pressure and fresh southwesterly winds. Although the bird was seen occasionally, its presence was not conspicuous. On May 10th there were two kingbirds in the area, and by May 13th there were three birds.

Winghaven's eleven acres are ideal for kingbirds. The old orchard provides nest sites, the pond the desired water area, and the evergreens furnish excellent protection during the bleak wind-swept days. One pair of kingbirds claimed the territory at the far northeastern corner of the orchard. The third bird was trying desperately, against odds . . . as he was alone . . . to hold the area closer to the house. Although I set the alarm for three o'clock on several mornings, during the period from May third to twenty-third, I heard no matin song. On May 23rd, a fourth bird arrived on the scene. Our kingbird population was complete. The color banded female and her mate were tagged the "K reds;" the pair near the house, the "K ones." On the evening of May 23rd, the tumbling flight, characteristic of the kingbird, was observed for the first time that year. On the morning of the twenty-fourth of May the matin song was heard for the first time.

Description of Song

The pond area was neutral ground, and both pairs often roosted at night in the shelter of the trees on the hillside. However, both males had their own "singing" trees in their territory. The K one male sang from an ancient apple tree on the west side of the house while K red claimed a tree in the northeastern section of the orchard.

Early in the study I realized the value of making quick sketches of the birds to increase my powers of observation and provide a more interesting record than mere written notes: (Fig. 1) Very often the matin song was preceded by the characteristic tumbling and the accompanying flight song which begins with several fast "tiks" as the birds launch into space. Then, when the desired altitude is reached, there is a series of short climbs and dives accompanied by rapid notes that might be interpreted as "kitter kitter". Both K one and K red would indulge in these maneuvers and then fly back to their favorite singing trees and proceed with the strains of the matin song. Occasionally they would start singing without the preceding tumbling demonstration.

(Fig. 2) The song was usually delivered when it was so dark that the birds could not be seen. On July 26th, both males conveniently sang during the later morning hours and I was able to sketch them. I have interpreted the song in still another manner. The beginning stutter varies in duration. On July 30th, K one sang seven complete songs in one

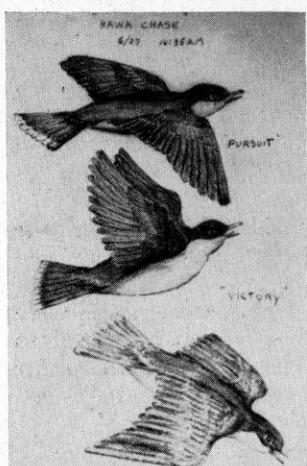


FIGURE 1

PRE-MATIN SONG FLIGHT (PRE-MATIN SONG FLIGHT
SIMILAR TO WHAT IS HERE DESIGNATED
AS HAWK CHASE)

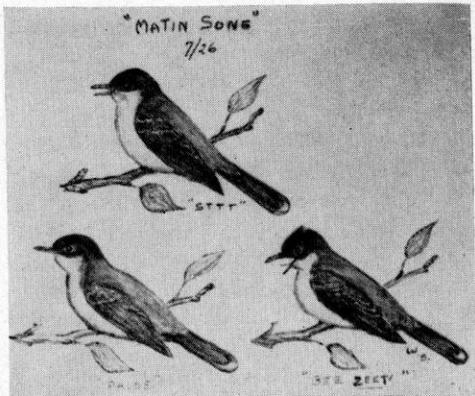


FIGURE 2

window on the west side of the house to hear K one, while K red could only be heard from the windows at the north or east. When the full early-morning chorus reached a crescendo, the kingbirds could scarcely be heard. Although the song has little real beauty of its own, it provides a pleasing rhythmic undertone for the more brilliant songsters, and I felt well rewarded for my efforts to hear it.

Time of Song

Allard (1930: 436-68) found that the kingbird started singing from fifteen to twenty minutes before Civil Twilight begins, and that the curve of the starting time of the song followed the Civil Twilight curve with remarkable regularity. (Civil Twilight begins and ends when the center of the sun's disk is 6 degrees below the true horizon). My own records show a similar consistency of pattern. The kingbird was always one of the first dawn singers, usually only preceeded by the first call of a killdeer or robin. On gloomy mornings the song would be somewhat behind the usual schedule.

In June, the average initiation of the song occurred at 3:07, and the average duration was 47 minutes. In July the average starting time was 3:30, ranging from 3:10 on July 3rd to 3:45 on July 30th. The duration averaged 38 minutes. During August the starting time averaged 4:20, duration about 20 minutes of early morning singing. At this time, however, the song was frequently heard during the day.

The song was heard with regularity all during the nesting season, after the young had fledged, and while the adults were molting. Other species of birds were quiet during the latter part of the season.

The females and young left the area in mid-August, while the two males stayed. The last matin song was heard on August 27th. On August 28th, only one male remained. He was last seen on September 10th, but there were no longer early morning songs after the rival male had left.

Summary

1. In 1949, notes on the matin song of the eastern kingbird were

minute. Sometimes the stutter lasted 7 seconds, and once he continued to sputter for 25 seconds. After the stutter there is a brief pause and then the last syllables are rendered with great emphasis, causing the bird to duck its head and open its bill wide.

The song does not have volume. If the lake was noisy, or if it was windy, I would have to walk out into the orchard to hear the birds. When I stayed indoors on calmer days it was necessary to listen at an open

kept for 45 mornings during May, June, July, and August, at Winghaven.

2. The song is often preceded by the characteristic kingbird tumbling.
3. The song begins 15 or 20 minutes before Civil Twilight and follows the same curve as the season advances.
4. The duration of the song is shorter as the season advances.
5. The song is often heard during the day in late July and August.
6. Kingbirds continue to sing the matin song long after other species stop singing morning songs.

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Winghaven
Two Rivers, Wisconsin

BIOGRAPHY OF A SHARPTAIL DANCING GROUND*

The charred stumps of the felled timber had ceased smoldering . . . logging roads wound among the obliterated slashings. The country lay open, devastated and bare, but the first weed growth was pushing up green shoots . . . the tiny beginning of immeasurable wealth to come.

The first sharptails appeared in the autumn. No one knew where they came from, but the deep woods around the burn had not proven an insurmountable barrier. From some other open country a flock came in, winging its way over the treetops and alighting on the burn.

The green shoots of smartweeds and ragweed had made good growth on the new ashes. By autumn, seeds were abundant and the sharptails stayed.

Just before sunrise on a frosty morning a group of sharptail cocks started gobbling and cooing near an oak stump; and the sounds increased in volume as though each cock, by his gobbling, were urging the others to gobble too.

*Reprinted from **SHARPTAILS INTO THE SHADOWS?**, by Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom and Oswald E. Mattson, **Wisconsin Wildlife No. 1**, Game Management Division, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison 2, Wisconsin, 1952.

Suddenly . . . within the twinkling of an eye . . . one cock spread his wings, blew up his lavender air sacs, and started to dance. For the first time since the white man inhabited Wisconsin a sharptail was dancing on this particular piece of ground. His feathered legs buzzing like a mechanical toy and his feet beating a rapid tattoo, he danced and cooed. So still was the morning that the sound of his cooing resounded far over the open plain. As the sun rose, more cocks took up the dance; and so, in the open plain by the oak stump, a dance ground was born.

No longer did a pileated woodpecker drum on the old oak tree, nor flying squirrels glide in its shade. A new era in the everchanging pattern of natural successions had begun and the sharptailed grouse were among the first to take advantage of it.

It was not till spring that the sharptails returned to dance on the spot by the oak stump. For sharptails, spring comes early. In February, weeks before the editor of the local paper was to print his news item about the first robin, the sharptail cocks gathered on the spot by the oak stump and fought their neighbors for possession of a part of it.

So far no hen had appeared; early mornings and evenings the cocks gathered and fought and danced and cooed until each had his own territory.

There was a vehemence to their cooing, not like the gentle-sounding dove. They danced as though possessed, and feathers lay upon the ground—torn out in fights—but still no hen had come.

It was on a morning in April that a new intensity came upon the dance ground. It was still so early that the tails of the dancing cocks gleamed like will-o'-wisps—white in the half light.

Demurely the first hen walked the dancing ground. If she were aware of the tumultuous dancing cocks around her, she concealed it admirably. She walked slowly, occasionally pausing to peck at a blade of grass or an herb leaf . . . perhaps the avian equivalent of a yawn.

Mornings and sometimes in the evenings the cocks came to dance and as May approached more and more often hens sought the dancing ground, and with each visit the fervor of the dancing cocks increased.

Gradually, one by one, an awareness seemed to come over the hens. They spread or flicked their wings in invitation as they walked amongst the dancing cocks. One and then others, each as she came to the point of readiness, was mounted.

The nests in which they laid their eggs were mostly within a half a mile of the dancing ground. And some of the young cocks, hatched from these first nests, would try their first dancing steps not four months later.

Year by year the dance ground gained in numbers. Each spring more cocks danced on the spot by the oak stump and more and more dancing grounds became established over the plain.

It got so that people who had settled near the big burn within the last year or two thought there had always been sharptails there and lots of them; for they had never seen it when the woods were deep—they had only heard tell of the big woods. Now pin cherry and

birches and aspen were growing up among the stumps and here and there pines were coming in.

Pin cherry, aspen, and birches gave winter budding. The new brushland offered the sharptails all they needed and they thrrove. Food was abundant. sweet fern, buds, catkins, berries, grasshoppers and other insects for the young birds. Heavy grass near the willows and aspen gave good nesting and rearing cover. Most of the plain was open with bare, grassy spots for loafing and dancing.

Abundance lasted for years and every spring on the dance ground by the oak stump the cocks fought and danced and mated and fought again until the spring was over. Perhaps each spring they kept it up as long as there was the slightest hope that a hen might come.

And then there were fewer sharptails; some dancing grounds disappeared entirely and others, that once resounded with the stamping feet of thirty cocks, now had but two or three.

A jack pine seedling grew by the old oak stump and cast its shadow over the dance ground in the late afternoons. Shadows are not for sharptails for they are birds of sunlight and brushland. The shadow was but a forerunner of what was to come.

A blueberry picker dropped a lighted match. He spat casually but missed the small flame flickering in a grass tuft. His friend said, "Let her go. The berries need a burning."

The picker looked up at the hot sun, three hours high, faced the dry south wind and kicked the dry ground with his boot.

"No," he said, stamping the small flame, "She might get a roaring; no telling how far she'd burn."

It was before the days of fire protection; thus with a few half idle words the future of the plain was settled for a generation to come. The plant succession was not to be turned back to open country once more. The forest was to grow and the doom of the dancing ground by the oak stump and of others like it was sealed. Four cocks danced there the next spring . . . one hen demurely trod the dance ground at sunrise two days running. She never came again though the four cocks fought and danced and hooted till the lupine buds showed blue and summer was on its way.

People noticed the difference. One said, "I saw ten deer in my rye field the other night and there's partridge out on the plain."

The plain? It was no longer a plain; it was a young forest. A new and different wealth had come. Young trees and deer and partridges were a part of the new order, and snowshoes where the sprouts were thickest.

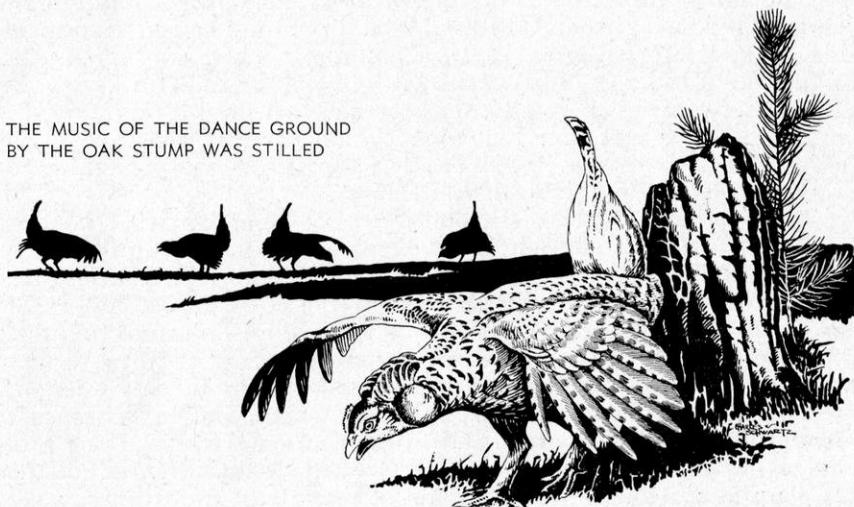
"Funny thing the way the sharptails went," said the berry picker. Some thought the foxes got them and some said it was "them white owls." The berry picker said he didn't know and changing the subject to more familiar ground he remarked, "The berries have been scarce for years now . . . seems like they need a burn or something to keep the crops a coming."

Blueberry crops and sharptails were both on their way out.

That spring one cock danced by the oak stump, picking a bare spot of sandy soil among the jackpines. He started early, long before the first robin was to arrive, and the sun lit up his purple air sacs and his feathery tracks left dancing patterns in the snow. He never fought, for there was no sparring partner. Later he kept the grass on the sandy soil stamped bare with his feet, dancing morning and night. No hen was to come, for the last hen was gone from the plain.

He danced till his rump feathers were worn down to their shafts from the movement of his tail as he danced, and then when the lupine buds were full to bursting and showed blue . . . he danced no more.

THE MUSIC OF THE DANCE GROUND
BY THE OAK STUMP WAS STILLED



OF WILDERNESS AND THE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

By FRANCES HAMERSTROM

Wisconsin is losing its sharptail range, not only on the farm fringes, but also in the wilder areas. The ancient dancing grounds are going.

To some, the loss of range is neither a clear nor a dramatic concept. To put it simply; the loss of range can extirpate a species more effectively than a plague. A plague tends to leave at least a few resistant individuals . . . loss of range can obliterate a population outright.

Without open country and brushland there can be no sharptails, for when their habitat is gone, the birds too disappear.

Wisconsin is losing a unique habitat; its barrens and plains all that is left of the original sharptail range are going. Quite apart from the loss of sharptailed grouse, the loss of barrens and plains is a matter for public concern, for, like sandhill crane marshes or pasque flower prairies, they are an indigenous native type. Of some of these lands, one can say, "**This too is wilderness.**" Others have been so manipulated by man that their wilderness flavor has become considerably watered.

When the first white man came to Wisconsin, the state had extensive areas of sharptail range. Through the oak openings and prairies of the southern part of the state these birds were known as "burr-oak grouse". There are no more burr-oak grouse now, for this part of their range has been taken over by intensive agriculture, and the crowing of the ring-necked pheasant has replaced the dancing of the prairie grouse.

There was original sharptail range in the central counties and in the North as well, especially on the sandy soils. Fires set by Indians and lightening caused the range to expand as new "plains" were created during dry years. During moist decades, when the plains did not burn and the forests grew again, the plains undoubtedly contracted.

The range contracted, but certain areas were resistant to forest growth. Frost, soil type and their vulnerability to fire helped keep them open. Here the forests grew slowly or not at all. These are barrens . . . unique, beautiful, and until recently, considered by most to be worthless wastes. As far as sharptails are concerned they are the "pure quill."

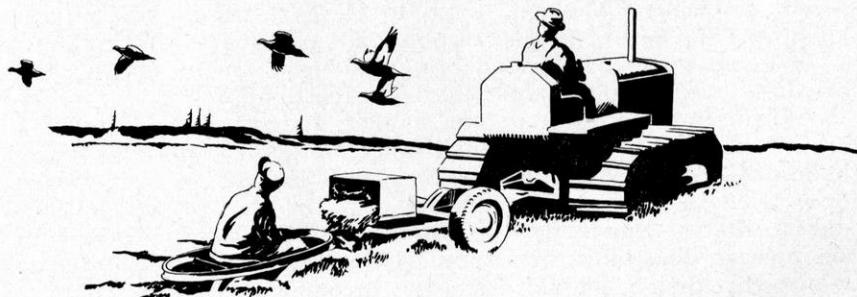
It is not the first time that appreciation has followed close upon the heels of near disaster . . . especially when it comes to something so recently prevalent, and dubbed "wastelands".

Even two decades ago, sharptails were so abundant that no one dreamed that there would not always be plenty of them. But, too much of Wisconsin lay open, devastated by spendthrift lumbering and burning. The year 1927 was an important date in the conservation history of Wisconsin. The realization had come that our forests must not continue to be depleted; the Forest Crop Law was passed and a great movement started to grow . . . a movement which today finds its expression in **Trees For Tomorrow**, and **Keep Wisconsin Green**, and in Wisconsin's splendid fire protection system, and in the enormous tree planting program—a movement which has been accelerated by the invention of the tree planting machine which can plant at the rate of two to three acres per hour.

Where tree planting machines have been, wilderness is gone. Where tree planting machines have succeeded, sharptails are doomed within five to eight years.

Every child knows it is good to plant trees. How many know that there are instances when tree planting can be destructive?

Twenty years ago Wisconsin was in a predicament; her forests had been depleted. Wisconsin is green now; her forests total 17,000,000



acres. But, as of 1952, Wisconsin is in a different predicament. The ancestral dancing grounds of the sharptailed grouse are threatened. We want not for forests . . . we are rich in developing forests. If we are not to lose the relics of our barrens and plains and with them the little that is left of our wildland sharptails, action must be taken swiftly.

Many ecologists, foresters, and game men have recognized the problem; public help in setting aside these relics of open wildland country is needed.*

Most of Wisconsin's barrens have already been planted. The rest could be planted to pulp **this spring**; if so, they never again can be wilderness.

Plainfield, Wisconsin

FEATHERED OBSERVATIONS

By MARILU L. MADURA

Hawks give me the same impression that a fierce tribe of ruthless hunters do. I liken them to the counterpart in some men who go hunting with the grim determination of bringing back their game. They (some men and some hawks) hunt with such a deadly relentless-ness, that their countenance subsequently molds itself into the characteristic features which the concentrated efforts of fury always produce in nature, viz: the frowning brows, the glittering, intense eyes with the gleam of menace in them, and the repacious mien over all. That hawks hunt with formidable efficiency, there is no doubt. Their very existence depends upon that! Apropos, the following poem, entitled "The Hunt" illustrates a point on this subject. It was written by my father while he was watching the maneuvers of a hunting hawk near Petenwell Rock.

I saw the hawk hover,
High over,
The bare Rock's stony head;
Then sail on, down lower,
Not slower,
O'er the green grassy mead
I saw the bold rover,
Fan clover,
As low passage he sped;
Then down he flew faster—
Disaster!
Another creature dead!

W. H. M. (1945)

Adventure With A Red-tailed Hawk

Some time ago I had an adventure with an eastern red-tailed hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*). I think it very interesting because of the unusual chain of events which took place in rapid succession to terminate the whole of the affair.

It was purely by chance that I discovered one day that an individual hawk had established a route which took him across my private sanctuary.

*Members can help by supporting legislation calculated to make it profitable for landowners to devote their lands to wild life purposes.—Ed.

I began to watch for his coming every day and I soon became aware of the remarkable fact that he made his rounds on a time schedule. I noticed with pleasure that he would arrive at a certain point on his route within a period of several minutes over a good number of days. It behooved me to take some sort of advantage of this lucky circumstance and when I found that my father had caught a number of mice which had been marauding his storage of peanuts, I deftly appropriated a dead rodent upon the instant.

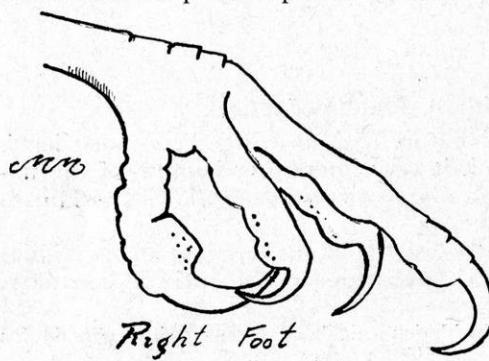
I prepared for my new enterprise by tying a length of fishline around the body of the mouse. Then I searched for a good place of concealment along the hawk's established route, where I found an ideal place in a dense clump of young and leafy shoots that had sprung up from a cut-over oak stump. It was evident at a glance that from this selected spot I could watch the arrival of my expected hawk-friend for a considerable distance over a wide expanse of weedy field. Thus satisfied, I placed the dead mouse in as natural a position as I could on a bare and sandy spot. Then I hid the attached cord among some grassy hassocks that grew in a direct line toward my refuge in which I sat down to await the coming of the hunting bird.

The waiting soon became monotonous and it seemed to me that the hawk would never come, although it actually was but a few minutes past his previous schedule. I guess that I am not a very patient individual and my fretting there in the oak bush that day almost caused me to miss seeing the approach of the bird altogether. As it was, I saw him only when he rose from the low course he was persuing on that occasion, and when he was almost within two hundred feet from my place of concealment. I was startled by the suddenness of his appearance and I think that I visibly shook the leaves of my blind, but the hawk came on, nevertheless, rising and dropping twice in that short distance, to rise finally just over my planted lure.

It was the moment, and I tugged desperately on the fishline! It came up and out of the concealing grass, very inopportunely displaying the trickery I had sought so hard to hide, but it must have moved the mouse in a very realistic manner, for I saw the hawk halt his flight on a half beat of his wings. Then he began a swift spiral downward, his pinions placed in a half-vertical position. Frantically, I

continued to pull on the string and I saw him follow the movement of the mouse. Then he plunged!

With all my senses alerted to their full capacities, I saw the hawk's right foot precede that of his left foot as he speared the moving mouse down to the ground. I had pulled the mouse between the occurring clumps of grass and the charge of



the bird was right through one such clump. Then, I think he had a sudden premonition of my proximity for he made a mighty effort to catapult himself from the scene, jerking the fishline from my loosened grasp as he did so.

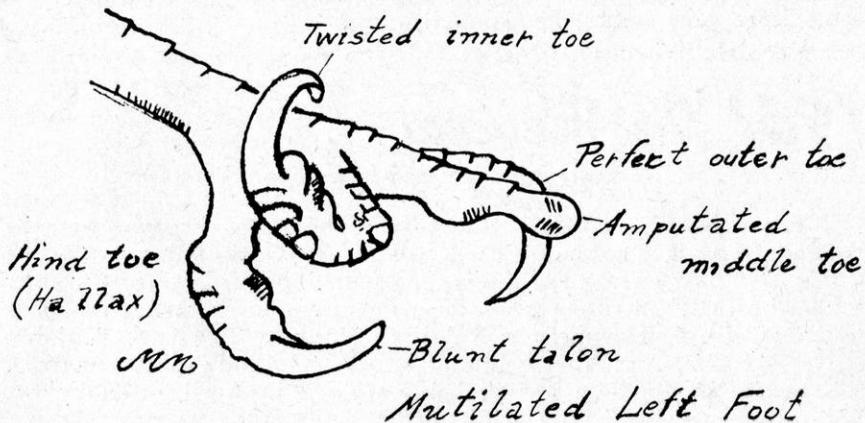
It was with a feeling of consternation that I saw with riveted gaze the long fishline, the captured mouse, and a few spears of dry grass in his talons trailing behind him. His flight was toward the Rock and I soon lost sight of him among the trees enroute.

Actually, I do not know what I would have done had the hawk not startled me with his quick action. The experiment had been spontaneous and I had no well-thought-out plan. Perhaps I would have liked to goad him into a second try at the mouse if I had managed to retain the control of the bait. At any rate, he had taken the initiative almost upon the instance of his approach and now left me slightly disappointed in our encounter.

The next episode happened in a different locale. Father and I were accompanying a neighbor and we were riding to the village. As we sped along the highway, I espied a hawk racing along to the left of the car. The hawk reached a large oak tree growing a short distance off from the road and perched himself on a bare limb near the top. I pointed him out and hazarded the guess that it was a red-tailed. The neighbor, an unrestrained fellow using very strong adjectives, informed us that he had seen that same hawk upon that same tree very frequently in the past. He indesputably claimed that it was a "chicken hawk". However, since the man's choice of words were such as to discourage further discussion of this sort, we fell into a forced silence.

The last episode happened on the last day that I had the opportunity to see the hawk on his scheduled run. I returned home rather late and found the aforementioned neighbor at our house. He had brought for me what he considered a rare gift—a bloody body of a hawk! I was immediately certain that it was an eastern red-tailed hawk from its distinct markings. I told the man that he had destroyed a very beneficial bird.

My statement made the man very morose and he left with that



mood. My father supplied me with the information that the man was laboring under superstitious oppressions. He had discovered what he interpreted as a hex sign at the oak tree along the highway where he had riddled the poor hawk with both barrels of a shotgun. The sign—a mouse hanging by the neck in a noose!

Taking the cue I went to the oak tree and found a bloated mouse dangling on a tangled length of fishline, which was unmistakably mine! Deducing from this, that it was the very same hawk who had made my acquaintance, I was made almost certain when he did not make an appearance again on the route. I found another clue to corroborate this surmise. It was the crippled toes of the slaughtered hawk's left foot. As shown in the accompanying sketch, it was not as effective as his right in grasping prey; therefore, he used his right foot with more proficiency. This I had detected in glimpse of his actions on my mouse lure.



What I would like to know is why he did not eat the mouse. Was it because the mouse was stiff and cold? Or did he lose it by snagging the line on the tree and would not recover it because he could not understand why the mouse remained suspended in the air? His mutilation also posed a mystery. Had he been caught in a steel trap or did some large prey inflict the damage?

Necedah, Wisconsin

1951 In Review . . .

By CARL L. STRELITZER

The ornithological find of the year 1951 in Wisconsin was the bona fide record of a **black-necked stilt** in the Horicon marsh (Dodge County) on May 18 (not previously reported). The bird was first seen by Richard Mihalek, a conservation department employee, and it was later seen by Felix A. Hartmeister, Ralph C. Hopkins, Lawrence R. Jahn, Arlyn F. Linde, Alan J. Rusch, and others. The only other record of this species in the state was probably secured in April, 1847, by Dr. Philo Romayne Hoy, in the vicinity of Racine.

Another highlight of 1951 was the first spring sight record of an adult **little blue heron**. This bird was seen near Oshkosh on April 29, by J. H. Evans, et al.

The list of casuals and accidentals includes some species that are becoming "regular": eared and western grebes, Hudsonian godwit, and mockingbird. Other finds not so regular were American scoter, western sandpiper, worm-eating warbler, hawk owl, and magpie.

The winter had been severe, with an abundance of snow and biting cold, but our normal winter visitants were not present in numbers although they were in species. Only three snowy owls were reported in central counties during the entire season.

Spring was a little late in arriving, so the February birds were mostly waterfowl that had wintered in open water (Jahn) and a few hawks (Soulent). March was relatively devoid of bird life, but April brought a large influx of spring migrants.

May was a beautiful month although the lack of "rising temperature-falling barometer" combinations seem to have delayed migrant waves (Mrs. Mayer). The first big warbler wave occurred on May 13 (Wilde) and the peak extended from the 17th to the 21st (Robbins). June and July were marked by frequent rainstorms, but a goodly number of reports indicated that a normal nesting season was had in the state.

Southward migration started from the northern part of the state by August 11 (Richter) and was well under way all over the state by the end of the month. September marked the initial movement of hawks and waterfowl and this migration carried through October. Shorebird observations were numerous and evening grosbeaks were already present.

Winter was with us by the end of November, but waterfowl, shorebirds, and hawks were still present in considerable force. The Christmas counts showed an appreciable number of birds, both in species and individuals, to be present in the state, with a pleasing count of **pine grosbeaks** especially noteworthy.

The rarer records:

Holboell's Grebe: Green Lake County, April 17,—"seen in good light at fifty yards" (Sam Robbins); Milwaukee County, April 20 (Sam Robbins); November 16 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Eared Grebe: Dane County, April 30,—"seen in bright daylight with a horned grebe nearby for comparison" (Sam Robbins).

Western Grebe: Milwaukee County, April 28, and another on November 10 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom); December 30 (John Muir Club). This species has been seen in both spring and fall during the last few years. Its future status may change.

White Pelican: Bayfield County; observed several times in the vicinity of Chèquamegon Bay by John M. Keener, biologist of the conservation department.

Little Blue Heron: Winnebago County, April 29 (Mr. and Mrs. J. Harwood Evans and Earl Smith). W. S. O. files show no other record for an adult of this species in spring.

White-fronted Goose: Jefferson County, March 13 (Paul Kennedy); Brown County, June 11, and again on August 4 (William J. Fisk).

American Scoter: Milwaukee County, April 20 and 21,—“markings at the base of the bill seen, and no white showed in the wing when the bird took flight” (Sam Robbins).

Ferruginous Rough-leg: Winnebago County, February 1 (Eunice V. Fisher); Oconto County, December 8 (Carl Richter). See **By the Wayside**, last issue.

Canada Spruce Grouse: Forest County, April 29 (Vernon De Mars); also reported from Ashland, Iron, Lincoln, and Oneida Counties by conservation department personnel with no dates given.

Willet: Reported twice in 1951 from Dane County—May 17 (N. R. Barger and H. A. Winkler); May 30 (Alan Keitt).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Dane County, July 8 (Sam Robbins).

Hudsonian Godwit: Columbia County, May 5—one seen near Poynette (Dr. John Emlen and Alan Keitt); Milwaukee County, May 16 (Mrs. Martin Paulsen).

Black-necked Stilt: Dodge County (Horicon Marsh), May 18 (Jahn et al.).

Northern Phalarope: Dane County, June 6, first observed by Sam Robbins and collected later on the same day by Robert Nero; Milwaukee County, September 8 (Emil Urban and Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

American Hawk Owl: Milwaukee County, February 28,—found in the conifers of Grant Park and observed for thirty-five minutes (Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.).

Canada Jay: Florence County, November 17 and 22, and Forest County, November 18 (Carl Richter).

Magpie: Milwaukee County—a small flock of five or six were present on the north side of the city during the second week of April. No reason was apparent for their presence. (Eldon Hunter et al.)

Bohemian Waxwing: Small flocks of these erratic wanderers were seen in Brown County on March 24 (Edwin D. Cleary), and in Milwaukee County on April 21 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Worm-eating Warbler: Milwaukee County, May 9 (Mrs. F. L. Larkin).

Nelson's Sparrow: Milwaukee County, August 12 (Mrs. A. P. Balsom).

Hypothetical List

In all probability these birds were reported in good faith, but because some small doubt exists for various reasons, these birds are placed on the hypothetical list. Notations were sent in with most observations, but only vague or indecisive conclusions could be reached. Four birds are on this list for 1951.

Gyrfalcon: Milwaukee County, November 28. This arctic visitor, sighted from a moving car, was seen flying along Lake Michigan. (Mary Donald). Uncertainty of species and observing conditions puts this bird on this list.

Western Sandpiper: Jefferson County, June 7. (Mary Donald). Opportunity for comparison was afforded by the presence of other shorebirds, however, no specimen was secured. Hence the placement on this list.

Iceland Gull: Kenosha County, April 21. (Richard Gordon). An eastern species which might appear in the state. Although it was recorded by an observer who has seen it in its normal range, the bird was not collected, and therefore appears in this category.

McCown's Longspur: Sheboygan County, November 10. (Mrs. F. Larkin and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frey). This species, a bird of the virgin prairie, was reported (possibly in numbers) in the company of Lapland longspurs, snow buntings, and pipits near Cedar Grove. No specimen or previous record is known for the state. The species disappeared from southwestern Minnesota, the closest known point of occurrence, in 1900. No specimen was obtained, so it is placed on this list.

Annual Bird Lists

A total of 282 different birds were observed in 1951 by 192 different bird-watchers. This was a slight drop from the 284 seen in 1950. The 1951 state list included 280 species and two subspecies (prairie horned lark and Gambel's sparrow).

The following persons sent in lists of birds seen in the state during 1951:

Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee	253
Miss Mary Donald, Milwaukee	250
Emil K. Urban, Milwaukee	241
Sam Robbins, Adams	239
Karl Priebe, Milwaukee	231
Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison	226
Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee	216
C. P. Frister, Milwaukee	215
Alan Keitt, Madison	215
Mrs. C. P. Frister	203
Edwin D. Cleary, De Pere	193
John Wilde, Madison	191
Alan J. Rusch, Horicon	184
Allie Kruger, Wood	173
Myron Reichwaldt, Kiel	164
Margarette E. Morse, Viroqua	150
Eunice V. Fisher, Oshkosh	147
Rev. George Henseler, Mt. Calvary	147
Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton	136
Carl L. Strelitzer, Milwaukee	134
William J. Fisk, Green Bay	126
Paul B. Cors, Ripon	114
Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer, Milwaukee	108
Mr. and Mrs. L. Heinsohn, St. Croix Falls	105
Arlene M. Cors, Portage	103
Fred I. Babcock, Land O' Lakes	102

Edward W. Peartree, Oconomowoc	99
Mrs. Floyd Traxler, Milton Junction	78
Mrs. Gordon Bly, Okee	59

In looking at the state as a whole, we see that there has been a slight retrogression in coverage in some areas. Nine counties drew a blank in 1951, thirty-three counties had more than fifty species reported, and of these, eighteen had more than one hundred. These eighteen counties and their totals were:

Milwaukee	245
Dane	236
Brown	206
Waukesha	188
Iowa	165
Fond du Lac	153
Outagamie	153
Green Lake	149
Grant	138
Manitowoc	135
Vernon	131
Columbia	129
Oconto	124
Kenosha	122
Winnebago	120
Eau Claire	113
Pierce	113
Sauk	109

Our hope is to get all valuable bird records into print. All observation's, no matter how fragmentary, help to round-out the annual statewide picture. Those members who hear of new bird students can help the cause by asking them to submit field notes.

Please give the locations by county, rather than by town or village. If you make records of species that warrant special attention—more than they can receive in the seasonal tabulation, please write them in the proper style for the **By the Wayside** column. This column is set up for this purpose.

Country Calendar: Autumn

By AUGUST DERLETH

i. Awareness

I have written often of the failure of the man on the street to be aware of the ordinary beauty of the world around him, of earth and sky, but I think that there is an even greater awareness, which some of our Continental friends say is a state of being **simpatico** insofar as nature is concerned, an awareness that is almost psychic or primitively intuitive. Presumably, however, this awareness is related basically to a keener development of the senses.

There are men and women who can walk through the woods and never know any awareness of the multiple pungences of herbs crushed underfoot, who can pass without hearing the warning whistle of a chipmunk or see the dark eyes of that small creature looking at him in boundless curiosity, and who can be as deaf to the many songs and cries of the country as were they on another planet.

I have sat in my studio taking part in a conversation, and at the same time heard the twittering of hosts of birds far overhead, particularly in the migrating seasons. What they were I could not presume to say; I should guess that they were swallows. But, when I stopped the conversation and directed attention to them, I discovered almost invariably that the majority of my fellow-conversationists simply could not hear the birds. Was this the result of a lowered faculty on their part or a heightened sense on mine?

I knew a young man, too, who was a great nature-lover, but who, though he could be standing within a yard of a chorus of peepers, simply could not hear them. Cricket frogs, toads, green frogs, pond frogs, woods frogs, leopard frogs, bullfrogs—yes, but not peepers. Their pitch was beyond his range of hearing, which is certainly an uncommon accident. Presumably, the pitch of the nocturnal travelers twittering far overhead in the migrating season could also be beyond the range of a greater number of listeners.

But a man's awareness might be exactly the same as an animal's, rising from the same basis, however different it may be superficially. A man may sense the nearness of an animal, not perhaps as an animal does—by means of scent or hearing, but by a kind of intuition which in man takes the place of instinct in animals, at least in part, though the Indians who once roamed these Wisconsin woods were able to smell a rattlesnake close by, or indeed, many other kinds of snakes. They have a distinct musk, though the difference among them, while present, is very slight, only that of rattlesnakes, most adequately described as an odor of "oily cucumbers", is the most distinctive. At one time, moved by the spirit of inquiry which every true woodsman must own, I went around picking up various kinds of live snakes, much to their annoyance, with which I was qualified to sympathize after I had got bitten several times, but I was quite content to smell the rattlesnake at a respectable distance, or when it was safely sacked by one of the professional snake-catchers who used to roam the bluffs marking the upper edge of the Sauk Prairie.

But, truth to tell, I have been aware of the presence of snakes far more often by intuition than by any evidence of the senses, suddenly recognizing somewhere near, a snake which was duly discovered on search. On one occasion, too, while hunting mushrooms in May and passing through dense underbrush, with the noise and turmoil only a big animal can make in breaking passage, I was suddenly aware of being observed, with an intentness that seemed to come from all sides, and, pausing to look around me, I found myself the target of the curious interest of at least a score of chipmunks, all tremblingly poised for instant flight, should I move threateningly in any direction, but for the moment

no doubt awed and impressed by this sheer bulk as no human audience ever was. And thereafter, for a distance of at least three miles, there were literally hundreds of chipmunks observing me, and presently I grew aware not only of their scamperings, but also of their muted cries, as were they sending on ahead the word that an intruder was bearing down on their fellows. Some of them followed me for some distance, running fleetly along logs and vines and on the ground to new vantage points from which they could better view this alien in passage.

The sense of being observed is perhaps the commonest of all and is experienced by a great many people. I have felt it, sitting on a trestle under the watchful eyes—or ought I to say “over” the watchful eyes of beavers and muskrats and mink; I have known it high on a hilltop, drowsing, to wake and find myself being examined by a hovering hawk, and one memorable day, by a mature skunk standing within arm’s reach and not quite knowing what to make of this monstrosity stretched out in his domain; though, on the other hand, on one such day a bullsnake of appreciable size was able to come along and stretch himself out in the same sunlight less than a foot from me without the slightest cognizance from me; so there we both lay together, until, turning, I roused him to hissing, from which he presently desisted, as soon as he realized that I agreed with him that there was room for both of us on the hilltop.

The faculty of awareness, over and above the sensory development which is keener in some people than in others, is an intangible thing, incapable of any definition and certainly of any precise explanation. Of its existence, I have no doubt whatever; I can neither explain its presence in some people or its absence in the vast majority, who may go through life utterly confounded by evidence of it in others. It is a sort of being tuned in to the spirit of the wild, a kinship with nature over and above that companionable relationship with bird and tree and sky which, thankfully, an increasing number of people seem to have begun to know.

ii. The Lore of Owls

To a distressing majority of people our common owls still seem fraught with superstition, and are regarded with as much aversion as black cats as harbingers of evil and bad fortune. One might have thought that the advances in civilization—if only on a plane which is more lethal than most others—ought to have dispelled much of this superstition, but superstition dies harder than anything else, probably because so many people have nothing else in which to believe and cling tenaciously to the lore handed down by their forebears as were it part and parcel of their path to salvation or an integer of their physical and spiritual security on this planet.

The cry of an owl as an omen of death, the presence of an owl as an evil omen, the multiple beliefs and shadings of beliefs about the owl’s association with hexerei are too ludicrous for intelligent concern. But lately I have found increasing lore about the owl as an exceptionally stupid bird. As a friend of that bird, I find myself taking exception to

this, particularly since, having watched the owl at play, tumbling over the gables of my home, peering into the windows of my studios to watch me at work, I am disposed to be generous in my estimate of him.

I once observed an ancient barred owl, beset by crows in the marshes, while he sat miserably and mutely, apparently helpless on an oak limb, suddenly rise up at just the right moment, when a passing hawk had drawn off most of the crows, and kill one of his detractors and rout the other two, during which rout he prudently vanished into a hollow tree from which, doubtless, he had unwarily ventured into the late November afternoon. I have noticed, too, that long-eared "swamp" owls call from my woods-lot west of the house only in one season of the year—the hunting season; in no other time of the year is the long-eared "swamp" owl disposed to dispute possession of my woods with the screech and saw-whet owls and the occasional barn owl who come to live here for part of or all the year.

The most harmless of them all, the screech owl, has earned himself an unjustified reputation because of the tenacity and fierceness with which he protects his young, swooping out of trees to snatch many a hat from many a head whenever he fancies his offspring in danger—and, certainly, owls have a right to distrust mankind, having so often fallen victim to man's stupidity and superstitious fear.

The lore of owls, I am inclined to think, takes too little notice of such intelligence as the owl surely has; the bird merits a wider appreciation and some course in public instruction designed to teach mankind something more of his way of life.

Sauk City, Wisconsin

THE 1952 MAY DAY COUNTS

By CARL L. STRELITZER

Six May-day counts were made in the period between May 11 and May 25. The unusual weather conditions prevailing last spring were reflected in these counts, particularly with reference to the warblers. Few geese and ducks remained, but the shorebirds had an almost complete show of species. The list of thrushes, vireos, warblers, and blackbirds was essentially complete. Included on the list were such rarities as Bewick's wren, western grebe, orchard oriole, olive-sided flycatcher, and hooded warbler. Other species of interest were red-throated loon, cerulean warbler, barn owl, lark sparrow, Philadelphia vireo, and evening grosbeak, to mention a few.

Adams County: May 22, 131 species. An extremely good total for a one-man job. Cloudy with rain starting at 11 A. M. cutting short the count. Temp. 49°-59°; wind S E, 5-25 mph. Highlights include prairie chicken, sandhill crane, white-rumped sandpiper, pileated woodpecker, Bewick's wren, pipit, and lark sparrow.—Sam Robbins.

Appleton: May 15; 86 species. 6 A. M. to 4 P. M.; temp. 54°-60°; wind N W., 12 mph. A good list considering the handicap of the wind. Red-backed sandpiper was seen on the following day, increasing this total by one, but not affecting the cumulative total. Other good finds

were ruddy turnstone, all swallows, and rusty and yellow-headed blackbirds.—Appleton Audubon Society.

Milwaukee: May 18, 153 species. Partly cloudy; temp. 42-50; wind N E 4 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. This big list was secured by combing all types of habitat in the county. Western grebe, pigeon hawk, ruddy turnstone, barn owl, red throated loon, parula warbler, orchard oriole, and Henslow's sparrow were some of the rewards.—John Muir Club, Mary Donald reporting.

Ripon: May 25; 96 species. Ceresco Valley; 9 A. M. to 7 P. M.; 1 observer on foot. Area covered—about one-half sq. mi. Best finds were screech and barred owls, Philadelphia vireo, cerulean warbler, and Brewer's blackbird.—Paul B. Cors.

Sheboygan: May 25; 97 species. Several parts of Sheboygan County, but mostly Cedar Grove, were covered. Partly cloudy; temp. 65°; wind 10 mph. Interesting records included double-crested cormorant, olive-sided flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, and blue-gay gnatcatcher.—Harold Koopman and Myron Reichwaldt.

Wausau: May 11; 78 species. It is gratifying to get some material from a recently formed club; 20 observers operated within a five mile radius of the city. The most astonishing find was a hooded warbler, while four olive-sided flycatchers and eleven late evening grosbeaks created considerable interest.—Wausau Bird Club.

Outdoor Calendar . . .

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

Contest Department

It is a pleasure to report that our members not only take an interest in plants but show a considerable proficiency in the botanical field. In spite of the unforseen delay in publication, which unfortunately discriminated against those who did not happen to read the summer issue before the expiration date of this first contest, the response was good. We hope that even more persons may find an opportunity to participate in the contests which will follow. (See below.) The puzzle was to name either the shrub or the nest material shown in the photograph of the Acadian flycatcher's nest in the winter 1951 issue. (For the rules of the contest, see the summer 1952 issue, page 74.) Correct guesses, most of which named both the shrub (witch hazel, **Hamamelis virginiana**) and the nest material (staminate catkins or tassels of oak, **Quercus**), were made by the following persons: (The first two, being tied for first place, were each awarded a one-year's active membership in the W. S. O.): Miss Margurette Morse, Viroqua; Miss Marilu Madura, Necedah; Mr. Harold Liebherr, Beloit; Mrs. Margaret Bergseng and Miss Martha Gale, Madison; and Mr. Chandler Robbins, Laurel, Maryland.

The witch hazel's crooked twigs, once thought to possess supernatural powers and therefore highly prized as divining rods, are now better known as the source of the mild demulcent lotion distilled from them in the southeastern states. Because its slender, curly petals do not

appear along the branches until their leaves are falling, it is indisputably the latest plant to bloom, at least among Wisconsin's shrubs and trees. (Most of its relatives share this tendency toward winter flowering; the other species of witch hazel, in fact, actually bloom from January to March, such as **H. Vernalis**, which inhabits the Ozarks, and several in China and Japan.) The many clusters of half-inch flowers become conspicuous, forsythia-like, on the now leafless shrubs when, high above, the oak leaves become a blaze of gold and red-brown and finally fall, revealing, in silhouette, the last bands of myrtle warblers picking at midges and aphids against the limitless blue of the October sky, and, below, allowing the sunlight to transform each witch hazel into a haze of translucent pale yellow against the forest shadows among which these shrubs pass unnoticed all summer. The flowers manage to hang on, in shriveled condition, through the cold of winter; not until summer do the fruits develop. If not parasitized by gall insects, the strong woody walls develop tensions which eventually result in the explosive expulsion of the two shiny, hard, black seeds, which, on occasion, travel a distance of several yards.

Oak tassels, which fall so abundantly at the time when the May



migrants arrive and prepare forthwith to nest, would seem to be a logical choice of material for small forest birds, though it is perhaps remarkable that this Acadian flycatcher fashioned its nest **entirely** of oak catkins. The caption on the photograph refers to the nest as being under construction; possibly a lining of finer material was to be added. However, Mr. Robbins offers the comment that the nest looks completed or at least nearly so.

New Contest

In the accompanying photograph, some four species of plants can

be identified. For the most complete and accurate naming of the largest number of the plants shown, a one-year active membership (\$2.00) in the W. S. O. will be awarded. For each species, either genus or common name will do. The contest, which closes at midnight, March 10, 1953, is open to all members and non-members who submit, or have submitted, a list of summer-resident birds observed in 1952 (see page 73 of the last issue). In the case of two equally good entries, promptness will be considered; duplicate prizes will, however, be awarded if the two were postmarked on the same date. All correct guesses will be acknowledged, as usual. (Note: We should appreciate photographs or ideas suitable for future contests.)

2114 Van Hise Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin

By The Wayside . . .

By CARL L. STRELITZER

Flock of Turkey Vultures In Oconto County. As we approached the intersection of highways 32 and 64, we observed a large number of turkey vultures wheeling over the area. The number of birds was closely estimated and set at either twelve or fourteen. They were undoubtedly circling over some carrion that they had spotted. We didn't stop to look since there were four of us and we had a long trip ahead. This is the greatest concentration of this species that I have ever seen.—Mrs. Andrew Weber, Green Bay.

White-eyed Vireo Seen Near Mazomanie. On May 4, Andy Ragatz, Dave Skaar, and I found a singing white-eyed vireo in the Wisconsin River bottoms near Sauk City and Mazomanie. Mr. Skaar, a native of Indiana, who was familiar with the bird in that state, recognized the song, and we all chased down the bird and got a good look at it. As an added coincidence, Andy Ragatz and I heard the same song in Madison the following week (May 10), and found another white-eyed vireo, the second of my life.—Alan Keitt, Madison.

Noisy Diurnal Barred Owls. The morning of May 11 was cold, drizzly, and windy. Two miles outside of Waupaca, I was standing in a rather undisturbed area at about 9 A. M. All of a sudden I heard a barred owl hoot. Almost immediately two others answered. It seemed very strange to hear the call of this bird in broad daylight. I have heard them at many hours before, but never in the middle of the morning.—Tom Soulen, Waukesha.

Heavy Blue Jay Migration.—On the morning of September 23, I noted a flock of 40 birds flying over my house. At first they had the appearance of grackles, but when a slightly different flight pattern became noticeable I made for my binoculars and found to my surprise that the birds were blue jays. In a few minutes another flock of 85 past over. I was unable to keep up the observation that day, but the next morning I spent two hours in the field. In that time, flocks ranging

from 15 to 250 birds passed over going south, totaling over 750 birds. Another 250 were counted on September 26. It is a well-known fact that blue jays migrate, but this was my first experience with such spectacular evidence of it.—Sam Robbins, Adams.

Little Blue Herons In Outagamie County. On August 10, 1952, at the Black Slough in Outagamie County I saw three little blue herons in white plumage. I not only had an excellent opportunity to examine them with a powerful field glass as they flew, but one obligingly lit in a dead tree with three American egrets for company. They are the first little blues I have seen in the county. A subsequent trip to the swamp failed to disclose them although the egrets were still present as late as the 18th of September.—Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton.

Ruffed Grouse With Handicap. A ruffed grouse, having a twig almost three inches long imbedded in its neck, was shot this season while on the wing by Paul Murphy of Spooner. The tissue had grown around its almost completely, except that one end stuck out. Did the bird fly into it at some time when dashing through the trees, or did it swallow it?—N. R. Barger, Madison.

The Spring Season . . .

By CARL L. STRELITZER

Although many of the winter birds, notably the grosbeaks, made the early part of the season interesting, migration was slow in getting under way. Robins, meadowlarks, killdeer, and other migrants were seen at early dates, but the first real wave did not arrive until March 29-30 in Dane County, (John Wilde) and in Adams County March 30-31 (Sam Robbins). A snowstorm on the 22nd had sent waterfowl south for a week (Laurence Jahn). April brought fine weather, but it seems that the essentials were not all present for a large movement of birds. The northward trickle continued until May 4-5 when a minor wave was noted in Madison (Wilde). Observations of individuals and small groups continued through the month. The **Bewick's wren** was reported from five counties, and the **Carolina wren** from three. One evident phase of the migration was the rate of travel. In no less than fifteen cases, a species reported from Dane County was on Columbia County records the following day, and this was also reflected in lake-shore county reports. The spring records follow (with emphasis upon the season's first dates):

Loon: First seen along Lake Michigan, Brown County, March 28 (Edwin D. Cleary), and Manitowoc County, March 30 (Myron Reichwaldt); seen inland a little later—Waukesha County, April 1 (Ed Pearce), and present in Dane County April 3—May 1 (John Wilde).

Red-throated Loon: Ozaukee County, May 2—off Port Washington (Sam Robbins); Kenosha County, May 3—one seen flying near Salem, 20 miles inland, at close range. Small size, typical shape, and slow wing

beat noted (Sam Robbins, N. R. Barger, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Emil Urban).

Holboell's Grebe: Manitowoc County, April 10—one individual in breeding plumage at Wilkie's Lake (Myron Reichwaldt).

Horned Grebe: Dane County—first seen April 9 (Mrs. R. A. Walker), present April 15—May 6 (John Wilde); Manitowoc County, April 10 (Myron Reichwaldt); Burnett County, April 14 (N. R. Stone).

Pied-billed Grebe: Lafayette County, March 14 (Ethel Olson)—early.

Great Blue Heron: Lafayette County, April 2 (Ethel Olson—Lola Welch).

American Bittern: Lafayette County, April 15 (Ethel Olson); Columbia County, April 20 (Arlene Cors).

Least Bittern: Lafayette County, May 28 (Lola Welch).

Whistling Swan: Some early arrivals in Brown County, March 19 (Edwin D. Cleary); Manitowoc County, March 23 (Myron Reichwaldt); Waukesha County, March 28 (Tom Soulen); and seen throughout the state from then on; Oconto County—"seen farther inland than ever before due to high water levels" (Carl Richter); Winnebago County (Stanley Wellso); Adams County—"two flying over" (Sam Robbins; Burnett County,—"first time in years" (N. R. Stone); Sawyer County (Karl W. Kahmann); Milwaukee County,—"many seen on the upper Milwaukee River when they could not find open water elsewhere." (Mary Donald, Mrs. F. L. Larkin et al.)

Canada Goose: Lafayette County, March 5 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, March 12 (John Wilde); Dodge County,—"twelve to fifteen thousand present at the Horicon Marsh before the snowstorm of the 22nd" (Laurence Jahn).

Gadwall: Four reports of this uncommon duck were received—Dodge County, April 2 (Vinc Batha) and April 5 (Tom Soulen), both reports of a bird at the Horicon Marsh; Dane County, April 3 (John Wilde) and April 29 (Sam Robbins).

European Widgeon: Columbia County, April 20 (Howard Winkler)—another report of this casual visitor.

Baldpate: Lafayette County, March 14 (Lola Welch)—early; May 2, the Wisconsin Conservation Department reports than an individual of this species banded at Horicon in 1950 was recovered in Haiti in 1952.

Pintail: Lafayette County, March 14 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, April 3 (John Wilde).

Wood Duck: Lafayette County, March 13 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, March 30 (John Wilde); Columbia County, May 18 (Arlene Cors).

Redhead: Dane County, April 3 (John Wilde).

Ring-necked Duck: Dane County, April 3 (John Wilde); Manitowoc County, April 4 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Canvasback: Lafayette County, March 26 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, March 30 (John Wilde).

Greater Scaup Duck: One very good record from the middle of the state—Dane County, March 16 (Mrs. R. A. Walker); and others from the eastern part—Milwaukee County, April 8 (Harold Liebherr); Brown County, April 20 (Edwin D. Cleary).

Lesser Scaup Duck: Present in Milwaukee County throughout the season in the harbor (Carl L. Strelitzer); Lafayette County, March 14 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, March 30 (John Wilde); and Juneau County, April 9 (Sam Robbins).

Old Squaw: Burnett County, April 22 (N. R. Stone)—unusual here.

Turkey Vulture: As in past seasons, this bird was noted in several locations in the state. Oconto County, April 14 (Frank Irving); Waukesha County, April 20 (Tom Soulen); Kenosha County, May 3 (Carl L. Strelitzer)—see **By the Wayside**, last issue; St. Croix County, May 22 (James F. Wildner).

Goshawk: Adams County, April 7 (Sam Robbins); Oconto County, April 19—nest; and three eggs—also two adults in another locality about seven miles from the nesting pair (Carl Richter); Brown County, March 25 (Edwin D. Cleary); Waukesha County, May 9 (Carl L. Strelitzer).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dane County, April 27 (John Wilde).

Cooper's Hawk: Dane County, March 16 (John Wilde).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Dane County, March 1 (John Wilde); Oconto County, April 20—nest with one egg (Carl Richter).

Marsh Hawk: Dane County, March 1 (John Wilde); Lafayette County, March 12 (Ethel Olson); Columbia County, March 16 (Arlene Cors).

Osprey: Lafayette County, March 13 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Ruffed Grouse: Columbia County, April 20, in the Baraboo bluffs (Arlene Cors). An albino in Langlade County, early spring, reported by F. D. Irving.

Sandhill Crane: Observations indicate that these birds are increasing and are being seen outside of their former range in the state. Jefferson County, March 27—one bird (Leonard Brosig); Green Lake County, March 28—twelve birds (Dan Trainor); Wood County, March 29 (Clarence Searles); Burnett County, May 10 (N. R. Stone).

King Rail: Lafayette County, April 27 (Ethel Olson).

Coot: Lafayette County, March 12 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Killdeer: Lafayette County, March 8 (Lola Welch); Adams County, March 12 (Sam Robbins); Dane County, March 11 (N. R. Barger).

Golden Plover: This uncommon transient was reported from two localities—Dane County, April 9 and again on the 20th and the 26th (Mrs. R. A. Walker); Kenosha County, May 29 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Woodcock: Dane County, March 20—at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum (Carroll Besadny). Hen and three young (central Wisconsin), May 1, by Ben Hubbard.

Wilson's Snipe: Lafayette County, April 6 (Ethel Olson).

Spotted Sandpiper: Lafayette County, April 27 (Ethel Olson).

Greater Yellow-legs: Lafayette County, April 11 (Ethel Olson).

Lesser Yellow-legs: Columbia County, April 20 (Arlene Cors).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Dane County, April 27 (John Wilde)—April 29,—“many were seen” (Sam Robbins).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Columbia County, May 10,—“one among a large flock of least and pectoral sandpipers at Goose Lake” (Alan Keitt).

Wilson's Phalarope: Columbia County, May 3 (Howard Winkler); Dane County, May 20 (John Wilde).

Black Tern: Lafayette County, April 27 (Ethel Olson; Columbia County, May 11 (Arlene Cors); Dane County, May 11 (John Wilde).

Mourning Dove: Manitowoc County, March 18 (Myron Reichwaldt); Lafayette County, March 20 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Dane County, March 25 (John Wilde); Columbia County, March 28 (Arlene Cors); La Crosse County, nest with one egg on April 26 (Alvin Peterson).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Lafayette County, June 1 (Lola Welch).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Dane County, May 23 (John Wilde).

Barred Owl: Dane County, seen at various times from the start of the year (John Wilde). First noted in other places as follows: Lafayette County, March 14 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Columbia County, April 19 (Arlene Cors); Adams County, May 3 (Sam Robbins).

Great Horned Owl: Oconto County,—“nest with two downy young on March 24. These same young were three-fourths grown by April 21” (Carl Richter).

Whip-poor-will: Dane County (Blue Mounds), April 28 (Sam Robbins); Lafayette County, May 4 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Nighthawk: Lafayette County, April 20 (Lola Welch), April 23 (Ethel Olson); Columbia County, May 17, (Arlene Cors).

Chimney Swift: Columbia County, April 19 (Arlene Cors)—very early.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Shawano County, May 10 (Mary Staeger)—early.

Belted Kingfisher: Lafayette County, March 26 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, April 15 (John Wilde); Columbia County, April 20 (Arlene Cors).

Pileated Woodpecker: Noted through the season in Lafayette County (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch)—unusual in the southern part of the state—and in Vilas County (Fred I. Babcock). Also seen in Oconto County, March 1 (Carl Richter); Dane County, April 17 (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Present all winter and spring in Columbia County (Arlene Cors)—unusual in central Wisconsin; Lafayette County, March 1 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Monroe County, March 28 (Sam Robbins).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Lafayette County, April 11 (Ethel Olson).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Dane County, April 3 (John Wilde); Lafayette County, April 4 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Kingbird: Lafayette County, April 25 (Ethel Olson); not in Columbia County until May 18 (Arlene Cors).

Crested Flycatcher: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Dane County, May 4 (John Wilde); Fond du Lac County, May 13 (Paul B. Cors).

Phoebe: Manitowoc County, March 30 (Myron Reichwaldt); Brown County, March 30 (Edwin D. Cleary).

Acadian Flycatcher: Dane County, one seen at Picnic Point on Lake Mendota, May 23 (John Wilde).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Only three reports of this uncommon transient in spring received to date. Dane County, May 11 (John Wilde); Winnebago County, May 24, two singing birds (Stanley Wellso); Waukesha County, May 19 (Tom Soulen).

Tree Swallow: Manitowoc County, April 19 (Myron Reichwaldt); La Crosse County, a nest was found on April 25 (Alvin Peterson).

Rough-winged Swallow: Manitowoc County, April 18 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Barn Swallow: Lafayette County, April 23 (Ethel Olson); Manitowoc County, April 26 (Myron Reichwaldt); April 27, Columbia County (Arlene Cors) and Dane County (John Wilde).

Purple Martin: Winnebago County, March 31 (Sam Robbins); Dane County, April 9 (N. R. Barger), and Lafayette County, April 9 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Raven: Brown County, February 14—not previously reported (Edwin D. Cleary); Bayfield County, five eating deer food pellets in spring—date not given (George Curran); Ashland County, May 31, one along highway 13 (Carl L. Strelitzer).

Hudsonian Chickadee: This winter visitant was still present at a feeder at Clearwater Lake, Oneida County, on March 31 (S. D. Fell).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: One present at a feeder daily from November 25, 1951 to March 25 (Elizabeth H. Schwendener), Milwaukee County.

Tufted Titmouse: Not too many reports of this somewhat rare species are recorded; resident in Lafayette County (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Monroe County, March 28 (Sam Robbins).

House Wren: First seen on the same day, April 25, in different areas—Dane County (John Wilde), and Fond du Lac County (Paul B. Cors).

Winter Wren: Seen a little later than usual in several localities—Oconto County, April 6 (Carl Richter); Manitowoc County, April 9 (Myron Reichwaldt); Winnebago County, April 18 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Bewick's Wren: This rare summer bird may be becoming less rare. La Crosse County, April 10 (Alvin Peterson); Dane County, April 29 (Alan Keitt); Adams County, April 29—"probably present earlier, and still around on June 6; probable breeders" (Sam Robbins); Vernon County, May 25 (Margarette E. Morse); Waushara County, May 31—"One singing at Coloma" (Sam Robbins).

Carolina Wren: Another rarity seen at points across the southern half of the state. Dane County, April 10 (Alan Keitt); Waukesha County, April 20 (Vinc Batha, S. Paul Jones, Tom Soulen); Vernon County, April 23 (Margarette E. Morse).

Prairie Marsh Wren: Lafayette County, April 27 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Brown County, April 20 (Ed Paulson).

Catbird: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Dane County, May 8 (John Wilde); Columbia County, May 9 (Arlene Cors).

Brown Thrasher: Columbia County, April 20—early for this part of the state. (Arlene Cors); La Crosse County, a nest on May 11 (Alvin Peterson).

Robin: Lafayette County, March 12 (Ethel Olson); Waupaca County; March 17 (Sam Robbins); Burnett County, March 31 (N. R. Stone).

Hermit Thrush: Fond du Lac County, April 10 (Paul B. Cors); Winnebago County, April 9 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Olive-backed Thrush: A scarcity of early reports on this and the following species. Winnebago County, April 9 (Mrs. Glen Fisher)—early; Kenosha County, April 20 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Gray-checked Thrush: Brown County, April 20 (Edwin D. Cleary).

Willow Thrush: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Kenosha County, May 6 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Bluebird: Lafayette County, March 14 (Ethel Olson); Kenosha County, March 16 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Trempealeau County, March 28 (Sam Robbins).

Pipit: This irregular visitor was spotted in Columbia County near Parderville on April 20 (Howard Winkler).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: This uncommon summer resident was seen in Dane County on April 26 (Alan Keitt), and in Lafayette County May 6 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

White-eyed Vireo: Seen twice in Dane County in May—see **By the Wayside**; Kenosha County, May 15—one bird seen, no details given (Richard Gordon).

Philadelphia Vireo: Kenosha County, May 15—a total of ten of this species seen during the remainder of the month (Richard Gordon); Dane County, May 23 (John Wilde); Fond du Lac County, May 25 (Paul Cors); Manitowoc County, May 25 (Harold Koopman).

Red-eyed Vireo: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Fond du Lac County, May 5 (Paul B. Cors).

Warbling Vireo: Dane County, May 1 (John Wilde); Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson); Adams County, May 4 (Sam Robbins); Winnebago County, May 7 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Kenosha County, May 7 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Columbia County, May 14 (Arlene Cors).

Black and White Warbler: Seen early in Kenosha County, April 26 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); latest arrival date in his records—May 8 (John Wilde), Dane County.

Golden-winged Warbler: First noted in Washington County, May 2 (Sam Robbins); Waukesha County, May 5 (Tom Soulen); Waupaca County, May 11 (Soulen); Shawano County, May 17 (Mary Staegge); Dane County, May 18 (Soulen); Adams County, May 22 (Robbins); Columbia County, May 25 (Arlene Cors).

Blue-winged Warbler: Lafayette County, May 5 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, May 4—earliest arrival date for the observer's record (John Wilde); Fond du Lac County, May 24 (Paul B. Cors).

Brewster's Warbler: This hybrid of the two preceding species was observed by members of the B. F. Goss Bird Club of Waukesha in the Mazomanie river bottoms in Dane County on May 18.

Tennessee Warbler: Dane County, May 4 (N. R. Barger); Lafayette County, May 5 (Ethel Olson); Fond du Lac County, May 5 (Paul B. Cors).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The earliest record received was from Dane County, April 26 (John Wilde); Kenosha County, May 23 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Fond du Lac County, May 25 (Paul B. Cors).

Nashville Warbler: Dane County, May 1 (John Wilde); Kenosha County, May 6 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Yellow Warbler: Early in Lafayette County, April 20 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Fond du Lac County, April 28 (Paul B. Cors); May 1, Dane County (John Wilde) and Milwaukee County (Mrs. Annette Shaffer).

Magnolia Warbler: Earliest in two counties—May 6, Kenosha county (Mrs. Howard Higgins) and Lafayette County (Ethel Olson).

Cape May Warbler: Dane County, May 3 (John Wilde); Kenosha County, May 5 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Myrtle Warbler: Dane County, March 30 (John Wilde); Fond du Lac County, April 4 (Rev. George Henseler); Lafayette County, April 16 (Ethel Olson); Milwaukee County, April 19 (Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer).

Pine Warbler: Brown County, April 27 (Edwin D. Cleary).

Prairie Warbler: One of these casual visitors was seen at Wind Point in Kenosha County on May 25 (Ed Prins, Richard Gordon, et al.).

Palm Warbler: Dane County, April 26 (John Wilde).

Grinnell's Water Thrush: Dane County, May 1 (John Wilde); Kenosha County, May 6 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Louisiana Water Thrush: Lafayette County, May 6 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Milwaukee County, May 24 (Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer); Fond du Lac County, May 25 (Paul B. Cors).

Northern Yellowthroat: Lafayette County, May 4 (Ethel Olson); Kenosha County, May 5 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Dane County, May 6 (John Wilde).

Wilson's Warbler: Very few records this year—Dane County, May 18 (John Wilde); Lafayette County, May 20 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Kenosha County, May 21 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Sheboygan County, May 25 (Harold Koopman and Myron Reichwaldt).

Canada Warbler: About the same situation as the preceding species. Kenosha County, May 10 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Winnebago County, May 23 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Adams County, May 22 (Sam Robbins); May 25, Fond du Lac County (Paul B. Cors), and Sheboygan County (Harold Koopman and Myron Reichwaldt).

Redstart: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson); Kenosha County, May 5, (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Dane County, May 6 (John Wilde).

Eastern Meadowlark: One very early record—February 6—(not previously reported) in Lafayette County (Ethel Olson); Kenosha County, March 9 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Milwaukee County, March 16 (Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer); Waupaca County, March 17 (Sam Robbins); Columbia County, March 30 (Arlene Cors).

Western Meadowlark: Columbia County, April 6 (Arlene Cors).

Red-winged Blackbird: Lafayette County, March 9 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Dane County, March 12 (John Wilde); Shawano County, April 1 (Mary Staege); Milwaukee County, nest completed but no eggs, May 10 (Carl L. Strelitzer).

Baltimore Oriole: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson); Dane County, May 4 (John Wilde); May 5, Columbia County (Arlene Cors) and Kenosha County (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Brewer's Blackbird: Racine County, April 14 (Mary E. Whelan); Manitowoc County, April 16 (Myron Reichwaldt); Dane County, April 29 (Sam Robbins); Oconto County, April 19—"It appeared on this date that the entire colony was back on its old breeding grounds and pairs were already complaining when one entered their respective territories" (Carl Richter).

Bronzed Grackle: Lafayette County, March 12 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Milwaukee County, March 19 (Carl L. Strelitzer).

Scarlet Tanager: Kenosha County, May 4 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lafayette County, May 2 (Ethel Olson); Kenosha County, May 6 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Dane County, May 8 (John Wilde); Columbia County, May 9 (Arlene Cors).

Dickcissel: One early report from Manitowoc County, April 18 (John Kraupa); Dane County, May 20 (John Wilde); Kenosha County, May 23 (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Evening Grosbeak: One of the highlights of the 1952 spring season was the presence of this species in many localities until late in May. Columbia County, March 15-30 at Pardeeville (Howard Winkler); Outagamie County, March 17-20 at Shiocton (Sam Robbins); Adams County, seen irregularly in February and March (absent until April 11) and then regularly seen around Friendship until May 2 (Sam Robbins); Eau Claire County, 50 seen on April 26 (Tom Soulen); Shawano County, still present on April 17 (Mary Stage); Waukesha County, seen from May 6 to 9 (Tom Soulen); Polk County, last seen on May 11 (Mrs. O. J. Simmons).

Purple Finch: Manitowoc County, March 8 (Dave Block).

Pine Grosbeak: Oconto County, March 1, several (Carl Richter); Adams County, last seen March 4 (Sam Robbins).

Pine Siskin: Present in Dane County from January 31 to April 14, (Alan Keitt), and seen May 11 (John Wilde).

Red Crossbill: Dane County, seen at the J. J. Hickey feeding tray (John Wilde).

Towhee: Lafayette County, April 16 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch).

Savannah Sparrow: Seen in Sheboygan County, April 16 (Harold Koopman); Lafayette County, April 19 (Ethel Olson).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Lafayette County, April 27 (Ethel Olson).

Henslow's Sparrow: One was seen in Oconto County on April 28; on April 29, in numbers (Carl Richter); in Adams County it was seen on May 22 (Sam Robbins).

Vesper Sparrow: Manitowoc County, March 31 (Myron Reichwaldt).

Lark Sparrow: This western species was sighted in two locations on April 27—Adams County, Roche-a-Cri State Park (Ed Peartree), and Dane County (Mrs. R. A. Walker).

Chipping Sparrow: Brown County, April 1 (Edwin D. Cleary); Dane County, April 16 (John Wilde); Kenosha County, April 19 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); Columbia County, April 20 (Arlene Cors).

Field Sparrow: Seen as early as March 30 in Dane County (John Wilde); Brown County, March 31 (Edwin D. Cleary).

Harris's Sparrow: This uncommon transient was recorded at four widely separated points—La Crosse County, May 5 (Alvin Peterson); Polk County, May 13 and 16 (Mrs. O. J. Simmons); Kenosha County, May 14 and 22 (Richard Gordon); Sheboygan County, May 18 (Arelisle Quimby).

White-throated Sparrow: Brown County, April 27 (Edwin D. Cleary); Kenosha County, April 15 (Mrs. Howard Higgins); present in Dane County until May 24 (John Wilde).

Gambel's Sparrow: This variety of the white-crowned sparrow was seen under good conditions at the Horicon Marsh headquarters in Dodge County on May 15 (Alan Rusch).

Fox Sparrow: Lafayette County, March 29 (Ethel Olson); March 30, Columbia County, (Arlene Cors) and Dane County (John Wilde).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Winnebago County, May 15 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Swamp Sparrow: Dane County, April 8 (John Wilde); Winnebago County, April 21 (Mrs. Glen Fisher).

Song Sparrow: Lafayette County, March 14 (Ethel Olson and Lola Welch); Brown County, March 25 (Edwin D. Cleary).

Lapland Longspur: This irregular bird was noted all over the state. Columbia County, March 28 (Howard A. Winkler); Vernon County, April 5, when 400 was probably a conservative estimate (Margarette E. Morse); Fond du Lac County, March 31 (Sam Robbins); Winnebago County, departed April 18 (Mrs. Glen Fisher); Milwaukee County, April 19 (Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strelitzer); Brown County, May 5, a large flock (Paul Romig).

WSO FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Thus far, the following field trips to be conducted for the benefit of WSO members and friends, have been arranged by Director Charley Nelson:

March 8, 1953—Milwaukee (Sunday). Meet at McKinley Beach Parking Area, Milwaukee Lake Front, at 8 a. m. Bring your lunch and dress warmly. A tour will be made of the Lake Front and Parks of Milwaukee, with particular emphasis on seeing ducks and gulls, although all birds will be observed in park areas.

June 21-22, 1953—Adams County (Saturday and Sunday). Following last year's precedent, a survey of nesting species will be conducted in an area that shows special promise. Headquarters will be the 259 acre Roche a Cri Roadside Park, located a short distance north of Friendship on highway 13, where camping facilities (tents or trailers) are available. Although many parties will be organized and sent out to work specific areas (including the Wisconsin River bottoms), conducted trips will leave the park entrance at the following hours, at least: 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. on Saturday, and 6 a. m. and 1 p. m. on Sunday.

September 27, 1953—Cedar Grove State Refuge (Sunday). Continuous observation of the hawk migration from the hilltop during the morning at least. Conducted trips in the vicinity during the afternoon for all species of birds. The 32 acre refuge is located east of the village of Cedar Grove (near the shore of Lake Michigan and north of Bahr Creek). Follow road markers from Cedar Grove. Bring your lunch.

NEWS . . .

(continued from page 90)

Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Appleton, is now Membership Chairman. The former chairman had to resign because of other obligations.

The Supply Department has a number of picture collections made up for school use. There are 40-50 pictures of birds in color, and of various sizes, designed for student scrap books or study projects. Price 25c per package.

Audrey and Bernard Kaiman are enjoying Florida's birdlife. Bernard, our

former membership chairman, is attending school in Miami.

Mrs. Winifred Mayer, Two Rivers, is still working on her article on the kingbird. If there are any questionnaires not yet returned, please send them at once. Also, anyone who knows of information on the kingbird in Wisconsin, will do the Society a favor by contacting Mrs. Mayer immediately.

When redecorating the house, or when making a gift, think of the Society's Supply Department for pictures (large or small), and for note paper, stationery, and picture post cards. Most of these units sell for one dollar.

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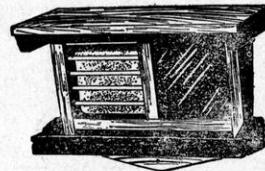
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