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The *Passenger* **PIGEON**



Vol 74, No. 1 • SPRING 2012

Journal of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology



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The Passenger Pigeon (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188. Periodicals Postage Paid at Hartland, WI and at additional mailing offices, including Lawrence, KS 66044. Subscription rates are \$25 domestic; \$30 foreign. Back issues may be obtained for \$8 each. "POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Passenger Pigeon*, Jesse Peterson, 7680 Payvery Trail, Middleton, WI 53562."

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Send all manuscripts and related correspondence to the Editors. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Bird Reports Coordinator (see inside back cover). Art work and questions about the art should be sent to the Assistant Editor for art (see left column). Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 131–132 of the Summer 2007 issue (Vol. 69, No. 2) or contact the Editors. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

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Cover Figure: According to science, this is Black-necked Stilts pair-bonding—for romantics, it's love. Photo by Michael J. Huebschen along Dike Road in Horicon National Wildlife Refuge on 11 May 2011.

Our New Website

As the realm of technology continues to change and improve, and forms of communication move forward along an evolutionary track, WSO is striving to find ways to keep up with the times. In this column I am hoping to draw your attention to some important changes to our website that have occurred in recent months. It can be found at wsobirds.org.

Deserving special credit for this transformation is Jesse Peterson (former WSO President and current Membership Chair), who worked with a talented former business associate to design and develop an exciting new layout for our website. Our current web administrator, Paul Jakoubek—who joined the Board in 2011—has used his time and talents to bring these changes to fruition, and through the assistance and input of our various committee chairs has continued to build the various pages of content. Paul is always the first to mention that our website is a work in progress that will continue to be improved and updated into the future. Any helpful comments, suggestions, or contributions of material should be sent to Paul as he continues to keep the site fresh and helpful to users.

As one of the Field Trips Committee co-chairs, I would encourage you to check out the pages that contain information about our various field trip offerings, along with maps to get you to the respective sites, and the opportunity to view photos from previous outings. Perhaps you'll be able to spot yourself among these images! Our intent is to provide timely reports about each field trip that takes place through the course of the year.

Worth mentioning in this column is the new opportunity available to current and future members—**one can now purchase or renew one's WSO membership online!** I would encourage you to check out this new option on the website, and consider how this annual procedure can help you save time and paper.

One of the exciting new projects that WSO is working to achieve is a series of short educational videos about birds. Offering his considerable talents to produce these informative videos is Steve Betchkal, and as I write this, he has completed the first installment and is working on the second. Steve is a long-time bird enthusiast and author who has worked in the television business for many years, and he brings a special mixture of knowledge and experience to this project. Although Steve has compiled a great number of his own video clips of birds in the field, he has put out a plea to the many talented bird photographers and videographers in our state who can supply him with great material that he can assemble into quality productions. If you would like to contribute your own photos and videos to this important project, please contact Steve at gonebirding88@hotmail.com, and upon use your work will be credited appropriately. Via our website, Paul Jakoubek plans to make all of the bird videos in this series available to teachers, nature centers, and any interested individuals free of

charge, and we expect that over time this will develop into a valuable resource. In conjunction with this important video project, Paul is working to expand our web offerings of great bird photos in the online gallery. We hope to maximize the use of your great photos by using contributed images for both purposes.

Many other features could have been mentioned here, but instead I would encourage all of our members to visit the website and click on the various menu pages. Check back **frequently** for changes and news updates. Take a moment to discover how beneficial our website and organization can be to the bird enthusiasts of Wisconsin!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas R. Schulz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left and another extending to the right.

President

eBird—The Future of Bird Reporting

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To paraphrase John F. Kennedy—And so, my fellow birders, ask not what Wisconsin *eBird* can do for you—ask what you can do for Wisconsin *eBird*.

As *eBird* has evolved over the last decade into an immensely powerful resource and database for birds both nationally and internationally, logging onto *eBird* to record your field observations has become for many of us as natural an activity as birding itself. Many birders wonder how they would bird without *eBird* if it were suddenly not there.

Since 2007, Wisconsin birders have even had their own portal for *eBird*—<http://ebird.org/content/wi>. This way, information can be tailored to what's of interest to birders here. The cost of that portal is currently primarily borne by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO), which has long appreciated *eBird's* importance. Five years ago, Tom Schultz posted an article on the WSO web site asking members: "Do you want to make an important contribution to ornithology? Do you want your bird observations to become a part of a HUGE database of bird sightings from all across the continent? Do you want an easy way to compile your personal

birding life lists and county bird totals? If you do, then please consider becoming a part of *eBird*."

Tom predicted that "in the very near future this will become an important part of the way that WSO compiles bird sightings from birders around the state for the quarterly seasonal reports." Now the president of WSO, Tom was absolutely correct—on both a global and local scale.

Globally, *eBird* reached a new milestone last May, gathering 3,067,344 bird observations over the course of the month. And here at home the use of *eBird* data contained within *The Passenger Pigeon* Field Notes have transitioned from totally paper-derived summary county checklists to primarily electronically-submitted daily *eBird* checklists. Today, the *eBird* database is the primary source of contributor data used in preparation of the quarterly seasonal field reports. Not only has the number of reports going to the seasonal editors increased considerably with *eBird*, but the data search and analysis tools *eBird* offers make it an invaluable resource when analyzing seasonal patterns among various species.

The very fact that you are able to use such a powerful birding tool for

free and with such ease should make you at least slightly curious as to how it came into being. So here is a little tour through modern birding history leading up to the development of *eBird*, along with an explanation of how you can ensure that Wisconsin's *eBird* portal survives.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

There are few things in nature that capture human curiosity with such intensity as the flying, often brightly-colored, songsters that accompany us here on Earth. We have always studied birds in one form or another, and that study continues to this day stronger than ever mostly through the activity we call "birding." Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1602) contains the first known use of that term, although broader usage did not occur for another 3½ centuries.

In North America, our interest in birds took a major evolutionary step away from Audubon-era gunners and professional egg collectors on Christmas Day in 1900 when ornithologist Frank Chapman launched a new holiday tradition to replace the "Christmas Side-Hunt." Twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were conducted that day, including one in North Freedom, Wisconsin, led by Alexander Wetmore, who would go on to become the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

That is now seen as the inception of live, in-the-field, optical bird identification. And how to recognize those birds in the field? That would be greatly aided by a best seller, Roger Tory Peterson's 1934 *Guide to the Birds*, which propelled the world into the

era of field recognition guides (and helped the push for higher quality field optics). Covering the Eastern United States and distilling identification techniques from the era's field experts and then offering them to the common man, the "Peterson System" initiated the flood of bird guides we enjoy today.

The success of *Guide to the Birds* by Peterson led to complementary identification efforts. Richard Pough's excellent and largely forgotten 1946 *Audubon Field Guide* went beyond recognition to offer expanded information on bird ecology and behavior. Then a book to attract youthful interests, the 1949 Golden Guide *Birds* from Western Publishing in Racine was the first exposure some of today's birders had to identification guides. Simple, with tantalizing color-coded range maps, *Birds* is surprisingly adequate in describing 112 common species, and helped in part to fuel the eco-awareness that would emerge in the 1960s and '70s. In 1966, *Birds* co-author Herbert S. Zim joined Chandler S. Robbins, a wildlife biologist with Wisconsin connections (brother to Sam Robbins), to publish a new high-quality advanced guide. Their effort in the memorable Golden Guide *Birds of North America*, probably began a secondary era of bird identification guides. Satisfying the increasing sophistication of legions of birding enthusiasts, *Birds of North America*, unlike Peterson's guide, covered all of North America. Arguably it was the national standard until National Geographic's 1983 *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, among whose illustrators was Wisconsin artist Tom Schultz.

As already mentioned, early optics lagged the bird guide evolution and

didn't really begin to meet the needs of birders until the 1970s. Binoculars were widely available by the 1920s but most were primitive. A modernization trend that has plateaued only in recent years (led by Zeiss and Leica, then Swarovski) had a huge impact. Birders were now using modern bins and scopes alongside concise guides such as *Birds of North America* to secure more difficult and more distant bird identifications.

Behind the scenes, the 1990s would see the internet displace phone-based birding hotlines that had been relied upon since the 1960s. In-depth bird family/group identification books also arrived to tackle gulls, shorebirds, and warblers. The American Birding Association's publication of articles tackling solutions to specific bird identification challenges also added to the proficiency of the best birders among the tens of millions estimated to populate the U.S. by the 1980s.

Then in 2000, about the time that state and national birding websites were proving invaluable, the modern definitive guide was released: David Sibley's *The Sibley Guide to Birds* sold 500,000 copies in two years. Sibley's guide, coupled with encyclopedic bird family/group books and an increasing number of on-line resources, meant that somewhere there was a resource available to solve the most difficult identification question.

The foundations had been laid for the growing band of birders to find and identify birds and then to be able to readily communicate their observations with the on-line birding community. With that growth and inter-connectivity came an urgent need for a way to adequately store and share the data being amassed. The

Cornell Lab of Ornithology had an answer: interactive electronic birding, *eBird*!

A real-time, online checklist program, *eBird* has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information. Dr. Stan Temple, Beers-Bascom professor emeritus in conservation at UW-Madison, says that, at root, the Wisconsin Checklist Project—the weekly submitting of bird checklists—was the inspiration for *eBird*. And so in 2002, Cornell and the National Audubon Society developed *eBird* to harness the capabilities of bird-checklist data-gathering on the computer. That's now being done on a global scale. Originally restricted to sightings from the Western Hemisphere, it was widened to include New Zealand in 2008 and in 2010 was expanded to cover the entire world.

PRESENT DAY FUNCTIONALITY OF EBIRD

Ebird's aim was to provide birders across the country with a way of storing their checklists and accessing others; as an added benefit, they would be able to see their data represented in graphs and maps. Each checklist would record the date, time of day, location, and kind and numbers of birds seen, as well as whether the observer was traveling or stationary. The entries would be then added to a larger database the Cornell Lab uses to track the migration, distribution, and abundance of bird species by region, as well as other features, including rare bird sightings.

And what a special combination it has become: the synergy of *eBird* and Wisconsin birders, backed up by the

state *eBird* team. Wisconsin is always either at or near the top of all states using *eBird* based on the number of people submitting checklists as a percentage of population size, but it also is often near the top of ALL states reporting regardless of population!

Under the stewardship of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, Tom Prestby, Nick Anich, Andy Paulios, Ryan Brady, and Owen Boyle monitor page content and can create and post articles of special interest to Wisconsin birders.

Reliance on *eBird* both by amateur birders and professional ornithologists has grown dramatically since 2004. As a near real-time information gathering and dissemination tool, nothing surpasses the data funneling through *eBird*. It likely exceeds the information gathered by Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys combined.

The power of *eBird* was illustrated in fall 2011 when numerous rarities popped up in Wisconsin and birders could access *eBird* mapping to locate not only the first state-record Inca Dove, but also the second state-record Broad-billed Hummingbird, as well as Vermillion Flycatcher, Western and Summer Tanagers, Eurasian Wigeon, Red Phalarope, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Spotted Towhee, Pacific Loon, and White-tailed Kite. Or you could follow the trickle of winter finches such as Red and White-winged Crossbills moving through Wisconsin.

Charting Yellow Rail reports for 2011 became intriguing because no sightings were substantiated in Wisconsin. Was the species overlooked, or did something on the wintering grounds impact its numbers here in Wisconsin? It was also absent at the

Yellow Rail stronghold of Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Birders would have been unaware of this parallel had *eBird* records not also been accessible from Michigan. But then why did Minnesota have Yellow Rails as shown using the same *eBird* tools?

Additionally, birders can maintain their own county checklists, their state life list, or their life ABA totals. A birder needing a Northern Saw-whet Owl for his or her yearly list can look for reports on *eBird* as to timing and exact locales to increase their odds of finding the bird. Observer checklists are all pooled so any type of list, graph, chart, map, seasonal trend, or yearly report can be generated almost instantly for casual interest or to aid in serious population studies.

For those using Wisconsin *eBird*, there are a number of bonus features over the general site:

- Portal to Flickr pool of rare bird photos;
- Statewide birding reports and rarity alerts, with mapping;
- Bird identification articles;
- State birding tips, including hotspots of the month;
- Unique Wisconsin stories, including birder profiles; and,
- ID quizzes.

So just why is using *eBird* data superior to using paper checklist methodology? Here are a few key reasons:

- The vast majority of *eBird* checklists are entered into the database the same day or the day after an observation was made. This decreases the likelihood of erroneous entries because the details are fresh in the

mind of the observer. *EBird* also allows each user to review individually submitted checklists in “real time,” which further aids accuracy. And unlike traditional paper data sheets, there is no copying of notes to a final summary paper list months after an observation was made.

- All submitted observations are treated to the same rigorous filters and, in some cases, further scrutinizing by a team of skilled Wisconsin *eBird* reviewers who evaluate “flagged” sightings. Flagged or special observations require the observer to enter additional details of their sighting. This requirement applies to all observers, eliminating the value judgment of “who” saw a particular unusual bird. The result is data, which meet a rigorous set of standards, are now being passed along to the seasonal field note compilers. Paper filers often omit these details, which either results in delays in the writing of the seasonal report because follow-up must be done on an individual basis or in the compiler simply excluding those sightings because the contributor failed to provide the necessary documentation.
- Electronic data entry eliminates errors that result from misinterpreted handwriting and confusion caused by checklists being submitted that use an outdated AOU taxonomic order.
- And an added bonus: *eBird* uses no paper—a more sound ecological choice than reams of paper records.
- Plus, *eBird* data are stored in a secure facility and archived daily, accessible to anyone via the *eBird* web site and other applications developed by the global biodiversity in-

formation community. For example, *eBird* data are part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), which integrates observational data on bird populations across the Western Hemisphere.

So how do we keep this happy union of Wisconsin birders and *eBird* strong? First, we can keep using it and enjoying all of its benefits. But just as we need to give back to nature by protecting habitat to serve the birds, we also need to give back to *eBird*.

Ebird takes money to operate. Part of its funding has come from the sale of portals for individual states. States that own portals include Wisconsin, Alaska, Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Vermont. That’s why the WSO Board voted unanimously in January 2011 to guarantee funding for the Wisconsin portal for the next five years. “This is how records will be compiled as we go forward,” one board member said in arguing that Wisconsin *eBird* is a sound investment in the future.

Going forward, the WSO Board plans to work with the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative’s (WBCI) Wisconsin *eBird* team to develop a rubric for content and help with writing articles and updating the *eBird* site. In addition to its superior data-gathering and record-keeping functions, the Board believes *eBird* has the potential to be a great recruiting tool for WSO, to host content not well suited for WSO’s newly revamped website, and generally to strengthen the organization, and advance its mission.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW TO SUPPORT EBIRD

When the Wisconsin eBird portal was initiated in 2007, funding came from the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) at a cost of \$1,000 a year. In May 2011, the cost for a new portal contract increased to \$1,500 annually, at which point WBCI and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources came to WSO to seek its assistance.

At its January 2011 meeting, the WSO Board voted unanimously to contract with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to support the Wisconsin *eBird* portal for five years. For 2011, WBCI and WSO each contributed \$500, while two WSO Board members each donated \$250 to reach the needed total.

Going forward, the WSO Board is asking its members to help underwrite support for the Wisconsin portal, but with a particular focus on eBird users.

It would seem only fair that individuals who benefit personally should feel inspired to offer periodic financial support to keep the program running, much as is done for public broadcasting. Even \$10 or \$20 a year coming from many of its users would provide considerable assistance toward maintaining the Wisconsin portal.

Contributions in any amount will go into a segregated fund to help maintain it. You can make a donation online at http://wsobirds.org/?page_id=2276 by going to (2) Special Funds and specifying an amount under ***Wisconsin eBird Portal***.

Or you can send a check made payable to WSO to Christine Reel, 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188. Indicate that the donation is for *eBird*.

For 2012, two WSO Board members have pledged to match funds raised from WSO members and others who use eBird up to a total of \$500.

Wisconsin Checklist Project: 1982–2010

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INTRODUCTION

In 1982 Stanley Temple published an article in the *Passenger Pigeon* that described a new Wisconsin Society for Ornithology research project (Temple 1982) that would use year-round birder observations to assess the status of Wisconsin's birds. Temple proposed a new citizen-science program to collect a large number of checklists from amateur ornithologists throughout Wisconsin. Checklists are simple records of the bird species detected in a particular location during a specific period of time. The idea behind the project was to find a way for the research community to capitalize on the kind of information that bird watchers routinely record. By keeping the demands on the participating birders to a minimum it was hoped that participation in the project could be maximized. Temple proposed that if a large number of checklists could be assembled, the percentage of checklists on which a species was recorded (i.e., frequency of occurrence) could be used as an index of relative abundance. In other words, bird species

that are reported on a high percentage of checklists are likely to be more abundant than species that are recorded on a low percentage of checklists. This article was the beginning of the Wisconsin Checklist Project. Twenty-nine years later, the checklist project has collected more than 100,000 checklists.

The checklist project was coordinated through the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the first 7 years. Temple and Temple (1984) showed that checklist records reflected seasonal changes in abundance of birds and Temple and Temple (1986a) reported that checklist records could be used to map geographic patterns of relative abundance. Temple and Temple (1986b) examined year-to-year changes in reporting rates on checklists for selected species which were known *a priori* to have undergone changes in abundance during 1982–86. Data from the first 5 years of the project were summarized in *Wisconsin Birds: a seasonal and geographical guide* (Temple and Cary 1987). This book, based on the results from more

then 22,000 checklists, included a page for each of 265 bird species that showed the relative abundance, range maps, and graphs of changes in seasonal abundance in northern and southern Wisconsin. This book was designed to show the value of data provided by citizen-scientists for both professional and amateur ornithologists. It was the hope of the authors that this publication would serve as a model for other states to develop similar projects. Temple and Cary (1990) compared annual reporting frequencies from the checklist project to population indices from the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the Christmas Bird Count, and migration counts from the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station and showed general agreement in population trends among the surveys.

In 1989, after successfully demonstrating that the value of checklists for providing important information about the biology of birds and the cost-effectiveness of utilizing citizen-scientists to collect these data, administration of the checklist project was transferred from UW-Wildlife Ecology to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Department's primary objective for the checklist project was to use the data for monitoring long-term changes in abundance of bird species. Rolley (1992) presented an analysis of changes in annual reporting frequencies during 1983–1991 for 265 species based on 45,100 checklists.

In 1997, the second edition of *Wisconsin Birds: a seasonal and geographical guide* was published (Temple et al. 1997). Using data from more than 65,000 checklists, the estimates of relative abundance, range maps, and

graphs of migration chronology were updated. A notable change to the second edition was the addition of graphs depicting 14-year changes in reporting rates during 1983–96. These graphs showed changes in the status of birds in Wisconsin. For example, reporting rates declined markedly during the 1980s and early 1990s for a number of species including American Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Henslow's Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark. In contrast, reporting rates for other species increased substantially during this period. Some of the species that showed an increasing trend in reporting frequencies were Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, White-throated Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal. Rolley (2004) published an update of the trend analyses.

Participation in the checklist project was highest during the first full year (1983) of the project when 238 cooperators submitted checklists (Table 1). Since then participation declined despite periodic efforts to recruit additional volunteers. By the mid-2000s, as long-term cooperators grew older, moved out of state, or lost interest in submitting checklists, the number of cooperators declined to less than 50.

The last decade also saw another important development, the launching of eBird in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National

Table 1. Number of Wisconsin Checklist Project cooperators, number of checklists submitted, and cumulative number of checklists submitted by year.

Year	Number of Cooperators	Number of Checklists	Cumulative Number of Checklists
pre1982	7	2,129	2,129
1982	19	370	2,499
1983	238	8,555	11,054
1984	170	6,039	17,093
1985	143	4,988	22,081
1986	129	5,181	27,262
1987	117	5,127	32,389
1988	114	4,767	37,156
1989	107	3,979	41,135
1990	121	4,235	45,370
1991	90	3,683	49,053
1992	80	3,301	52,354
1993	96	4,002	56,356
1994	104	4,234	60,590
1995	96	3,953	64,543
1996	93	3,851	68,394
1997	86	3,659	72,053
1998	83	3,508	75,561
1999	79	3,260	78,821
2000	69	2,899	81,720
2001	64	2,712	84,432
2002	66	2,650	87,082
2003	57	2,294	89,376
2004	55	2,030	91,406
2005	54	2,043	93,449
2006	45	2,012	95,461
2007	41	1,774	97,235
2008	39	1,651	98,886
2009	36	1,490	100,376
2010	31	1,334	101,710

Audubon Society. Inspired by the success of the Wisconsin Checklist Project (S. A. Temple personal communication), eBird is a web-based database with the goal of maximizing the value and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made annually by recreational and professional bird watchers across North America (eBird 2011). Because of the substantial decline in the number of checklist project cooperators in recent years along with the development of eBird, the DNR decided to discontinue data collection through the Wisconsin Check-

list Project at the end of December 2010. The purpose of this article is to summarize the enormous database generated by the checklist project, thank the many cooperators who contributed to the project and describe the long-term trends in reporting rates for the bird species tracked by the project.

CHECKLIST DATABASE

Checklist project participants were asked to maintain careful records of the bird species they detected each

week during their routine birding activities. Participants were provided with a packet of special forms on which they recorded their name, the date of the Sunday that began the week, the county in which they birded, whether they “actively” searched for birds during the week, and the bird species detected. The forms were computer readable “bubble forms” that could be optically scanned and the data transferred into computer files. Completed forms were returned to the DNR and upon receipt a new supply of forms was mailed to project cooperators. The University of Wisconsin’s Testing and Evaluation Services scanned the completed forms.

Originally the checklist forms listed 265 species that regularly occur in Wisconsin. House Finch was added to the form in 1991 and 30 less common species were added in 1997. Numerous rarer species that are occasionally seen in Wisconsin were not included on the form due to space limitations and because reporting rates would be so low as to preclude meaningful analyses.

Although the checklist project was started in 1982, a few cooperators submitted checklists for their birding activities in prior years. The earliest year for which data was submitted was 1934. A total of 2,129 checklists was submitted for years prior to 1982 (Table 1). The first full year of the project was 1983 and more than 8,500 checklists were submitted that year. The number of checklists submitted per year generally declined since the beginning of the project with an average of about 5,500 submitted during 1983–89, about 3,700 during the

1990s, and about 2,100 during the 2000s.

Checklists were submitted from all 72 counties in the state, but the geographic distribution of checklists is not even. Reflecting the human population distribution in the state, counties with the most number of checklists were Dane (7,565) and Milwaukee (8,285). Thirty-two counties had more than 1,000 checklists, 30 counties had 200–1000 checklists, and 10 counties had fewer than 200 checklists (Figure 1).

Checklists were submitted for all months of the year, but the monthly distribution of checklists varied with birding interest and activity. The fewest number of checklists were received for November (7,209). During the months of December–February the number of checklists averaged about 7,450. The number of checklists submitted increased during spring with more than 10,000 submitted for April and almost 11,000 received for May. Submissions gradually declined during summer and early fall with an average of about 8,300 checklists during June–October.

Over the 29 years since the checklist project began, approximately 50% of the weekly checklists were from active searching for birds and about 50% from more passive birding (e.g., observing backyard feeders). There has been a gradual shift over time in the intensity of birding activity with active searching reported on an average of 45% of checklists during 1983–89, compared to 54% during the 2000s. The increasing trend in active birding was associated with an increase in the mean number of species reported on weekly checklists; an average of 28 species was reported during 1983–89



Figure 1. Number of checklists submitted per county, 1934–2010.

compared to 33 species during 2000–2009. It is likely that as the number of cooperators declined over time there was a tendency for less active birders to drop out of the project.

CONTRIBUTORS

Checklist project volunteers were recruited primarily from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Over all years of the checklist project, a total of

444 cooperators submitted checklists. The number of checklists submitted per individual ranged from 1 to more than 1,800. Most cooperators submitted 50 or fewer checklists while relatively few submitted more than 500 checklists (Figure 2). Cooperators submitting 200 or more checklists are listed in Table 2 along with the number of checklist they submitted and the dates of their checklists. More than 100 cooperators submitted

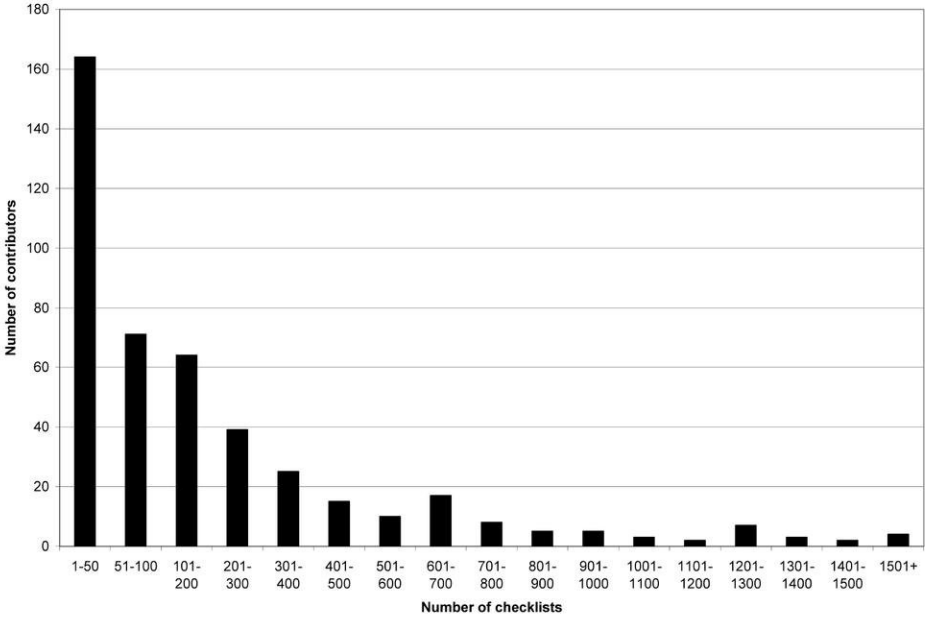


Figure 2. Frequency distribution of the number of checklists submitted by cooperators to the Wisconsin Checklist Project, 1982–2010.

checklists in only 1 year, while 84 co-operators submitted data in 10 or more years and 23 cooperators submitted data in 25 or more years. Five cooperators submitted checklists covering 40 or more years of birding: James Gorton (40), Harold Bauers (44), Elisabeth Fisher (44), Robert Adams (51), and Howie Young (52).

TRENDS IN REPORTING FREQUENCIES

Reporting frequencies during 1983–2010 of the original set of 265 species were examined for consistent linear (increasing or decreasing) and quadratic trends using regression analysis. The percentage of checklists on which a species was recorded was calculated for each species each year. Checklists from all counties in the

state and from all months of the year were pooled in these analyses. Quadratic trends in reporting frequencies were classified as u-shaped (decreasing during the late 1980s to mid 1990s and subsequently increasing) or inverted u-shaped (increasing during the late 1980s to mid 1990s and subsequently decreasing). Trends were classified as stable if regression significance levels were ≥ 0.05 . Trend analysis was limited to 1991–2010 for the House Finch and to 1997–2010 for the 30 species added to the checklist in 1997.

Significant linear declines ($P < 0.05$) in percent occurrence on checklists during 1983–2010 were noted for 59 species (Table 3). These were Snow Goose, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser,

Table 2. Contributors who submitted more than 200 checklists, number of checklists submitted, and range of dates (month/year) of checklists submitted.

Contributor	No. of Checklists	Dates of Checklists
Kay Kavanagh	1,893	1/83–12/10
Jim and Beth Frank	1,723	12/80–12/99
Judy Allen	1,589	1/83–12/10
Harold Bauers	1,568	1/56–11/99
Harry A. Auchter	1,455	1/83–8/08
Norma Riebert	1,419	2/83–12/10
Mr. & Mrs. L. Wm. Holmes	1,376	2/83–4/10
Mary Guell	1,363	5/84–12/10
Vincent A. Heig	1,321	4/83–12/10
Robbye Johnson	1,292	3/83–8/09
Elisabeth F. Fisher	1,282	9/56–12/99
Ty & Ida Baumann	1,268	2/83–12/10
Rita Reischel	1,250	2/93–11/03
Carol Jean Anderson	1,249	5/83–9/98
Susan Seefeld	1,236	12/77–8/98
Susan and Irvin Hankin	1,216	1/83–4/08
Shirley Kopitske	1,114	6/96–10/10
James W. Gorton	1,110	1/64–6/03
Jeannette & Ed Peartree	1,090	5/82–6/00
Patricia A. Parsons	1,054	1/83–11/03
Mark A. Tweedale	1,028	5/83–12/10
James S. Anderson	1,000	1/83–3/02
David L. Kinnamon	999	1/83–12/10
Betsy Bartelt	934	1/87–12/10
Wayne H. Palmer	926	4/87–12/10
Edith M. Leppla	907	1/83–9/00
Arlene Natzke	894	1/83–8/99
Jerry Smith	882	12/89–7/07
Donald Hagar	846	1/83–6/07
Mark & Sue Martin	834	1/83–6/01
Raymond Dischler	821	2/83–2/02
Bernice Popelka	790	5/93–12/10
Nils P. Dahlstrand	786	2/83–5/04
Adrian Freitag	775	2/83–12/99
Robert Green	760	3/83–9/05
Tom & Joanne Faber	741	7/84–1/05
Steve Konings	724	12/86–10/01
Cynthia Bayless	713	6/89–8/03
Sue Maki	708	5/97–12/10
Mrs. Jerome F. Saeman	693	1/83–8/97
Virginia Kriehn	684	3/83–11/96
Sharon K. Woelfel	670	9/96–12/10
Ralph F. Griffin	666	5/91–12/09
John F. Schaeffer	645	12/82–1/97
Geoffrey C. Yeomans	643	1/85–3/02
Nancy Davlantes	642	6/96–5/09
Frank Freese	638	4/82–8/96
Robert E. Dreis	637	3/90–12/05
Allen Swartz	623	1/94–3/07
Shirley Robinson	621	2/00–12/10
Harvey Halvorsen	620	5/85–12/10
Daniel F. Doeppers	618	6/92–1/10
Mary H. Ketzler	615	11/93–12/10
Robert Adams	614	4/49–12/99
Shirley J. Peterson	611	1/83–12/00

(Continued)

Table 2. *Continued.*

Contributor	No. of Checklists	Dates of Checklists
Mariette Nowak	609	10/93–12/10
Charlotte Yeomans	588	1/90–12/02
Marion Hill	580	2/83–8/01
Patricia Mary Noll	550	1/84–12/94
David & Margaret Brasser	538	1/83–12/10
Winnie Woodmansee	536	1/83–2/91
Dave Matheys	532	6/87–6/10
Allen W. Holzhuetter	529	2/83–5/91
Bruce Frisbie	523	2/83–10/99
Karen Etter Hale	508	1/83–12/92
Richard Mihalek	507	3/96–12/05
Daniel Freitag	500	2/83–12/10
Judy Haseleu	497	2/83–12/10
Leonard & Betty Flesch	491	11/82–6/01
Murray Berner	489	1/89–11/98
John Romano	445	3/97–11/10
Donald W. Woodman	445	1/83–5/92
Pepper Fuller	443	1/83–3/99
Paul Schumacher	436	3/94–7/02
James Hoeffler	424	2/83–11/95
Ron Hull	420	2/83–5/91
Cindy Schultz	419	7/72–12/83
Curt Wilda	418	1/83–2/86
Jean Ruhser	415	11/2–12/10
Erwin & Ada Karow	406	3/84–12/88
Eric Epstein	404	12/82–6/90
Laura & Steve LaValley	397	12/79–12/96
Dorothy K. Harmer	381	2/83–7/90
Mrs. Emily H. Earley	380	2/83–10/90
Roald S. Ager	376	2/83–2/91
Nellie M. Zubell	369	8/67–9/90
Albert Roy Jr.	366	2/83–1/90
Mrs. Leonard Goff	333	2/83–7/90
Thomas J. Ziebell	332	1/83–9/88
Barbara Duerksen	329	7/87–7/94
Maybelle Hardy	326	1/83–7/90
Ann Marsh-Meigs	326	9/04–12/10
Mosquito Hill Nature Center	324	10/04–12/10
Joe Jacyna	323	10/00–3/08
Fran Brown	319	1/83–12/89
Mr. Charles L. Gilmore	318	2/83–2/90
Daniel C. Carney	317	2/83–7/89
Greg Geller	317	6/83–5/90
Allan O. Gamache	313	2/90–5/00
Stuart Crane	310	2/00–2/06
Daryl Christensen	307	2/93–3/00
Joan Campbell	305	4/82–12/10
Joan Elias	304	4/92–1/99
Patricia & Jeffrey Henry	303	2/83–10/89
Mr. & Mrs. F. T. Ratliff	303	2/83–4/89
Carl G. Hayssen Jr.	302	2/83–12/88
Mrs. John M. Campbell	297	1/83–12/90
John Huppler	296	2/83–5/90
Jon Roti Roti	295	12/91–4/95
Jean Zachariasen	293	1/83–11/87
George S. Paterson	291	2/83–6/89
Clarence Grisham	279	11/93–5/99

Table 2. *Continued.*

Contributor	No. of Checklists	Dates of Checklists
Kim & Vicki Mello	279	2/83–3/91
Robert Domagalski	276	2/91–12/96
Robert H. Ulrich	275	4/83–8/89
Andrew W. Reimer	272	1/02–9/09
Sophie Zachariasen	272	2/83–10/87
Larry Riedinger	266	2/94–9/02
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sindelar	264	2/83–9/88
Carol Rudy	258	1/83–7/90
Paul Risch	257	12/84–2/89
Norma Rudesill	257	2/5–12/10
Hilary Ford	252	4/97–6/04
Bruce R. Bacon	250	4/83–6/93
Elaine Generotzy	246	8/84–2/90
Harold Koopmann	245	1/83–4/88
Mike Ebersold	244	3/83–10/85
Steve Klicko	240	2/83–3/88
Jane Appleyard	239	2/83–8/89
Stephen J. Kupcho	237	1/83–4/88
Barbara R. Olsen	237	2/83–6/90
Dan Belter	232	3/88–5/99
Kent D. Hall	230	8/97–11/02
Michael Plant	229	1/83–12/91
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Brakefield	220	1/83–12/93
Harry G. Croy	219	2/83–9/89
Paul W Bowman	214	8/89–7/96
Faye B. Miller	211	1/83–5/86
Judith W. Pavlovic	209	1/83–12/86
Arthur Edrop	208	1/91–12/94
Jean Pfantz	208	1/88–9/90
Leonard F. Risch	208	12/84–4/89
Thomas & Lois Butler	202	5/89–8/06
Nick Risch	202	3/85–2/88
Ellen Hansen	201	3/87–7/94

Northern Bobwhite, Gray Partridge, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Red-necked Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Black Tern, Common Tern, Rock Pigeon, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Snowy Owl, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed

Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Louisiana Waterthrush, Bay-breasted Warbler, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow. Among the species added to the checklist in 1997, linear declines were observed for

Table 3. Mean percentage of checklists on which species were reported and trend in reporting frequencies, 1983–2010. Trend^a: stbl = stable; regression equations with $P \geq 0.05$, incr = increasing; significant linear regressions with positive slopes, decr = decreasing; significant linear regressions with negative slopes, ushp = u-shaped; significant u-shaped quadratic trend, invu = inverted-u; significant inverted u-shaped quadratic trend. * = $0.05 > P \geq 0.01$; ** = $0.01 > P \geq 0.001$; and *** = $P < 0.001$.

^b Species added to checklist in 1997, regression analysis is for 1997–2010.

^c Species added to checklist in 1991, regression analysis is for 1991–2010.

Species	Mean % of Checklists	Trend ^a
Greater White-fronted Goose ^b	0.5	stbl
Snow Goose	1.7	decr***
Canada Goose	56.1	incr***
Mute Swan	3.2	invu***
Trumpeter Swan ^b	1.6	incr***
Tundra Swan	4.3	invu*
Wood Duck	20.2	incr*
Gadwall	4.2	invu***
American Wigeon	4.7	decr**
American Black Duck	8.8	invu*
Mallard	57.2	incr*
Blue-winged Teal	14.1	decr***
Northern Shoveler	6.4	invu***
Northern Pintail	2.7	decr**
Green-winged Teal	5.5	invu***
Canvasback	3.1	invu***
Redhead	4.8	invu*
Ring-necked Duck	6.9	invu***
Greater Scaup	4.1	stbl
Lesser Scaup	7.5	decr**
Surf Scoter	0.2	stbl
White-winged Scoter	0.3	ushp*
Black Scoter	0.2	incr***
Long-tailed Duck	0.8	decr***
Bufflehead	9.1	invu***
Common Goldeneye	8.9	decr*
Hooded Merganser	6.9	incr***
Common Merganser	8.3	incr**
Red-breasted Merganser	4.5	decr***
Ruddy Duck	5.4	invu**
Northern Bobwhite	2.0	decr**
Gray Partridge	1.0	decr***
Ring-necked Pheasant	17.2	incr**
Ruffed Grouse	13.4	decr*
Spruce Grouse ^b	0.1	incr*
Sharp-tailed Grouse	0.4	decr***
Greater Prairie-Chicken	0.6	decr***
Wild Turkey	20.1	incr***
Red-throated Loon	0.2	ushp*
Common Loon	6.5	stbl
Pied-billed Grebe	11.5	invu**
Horned Grebe	1.7	stbl
Red-necked Grebe	0.6	decr***
Eared Grebe ^b	0.2	decr*
Western Grebe ^b	0.1	stbl
Double-crested Cormorant	10.4	incr***
American White Pelican ^b	5.4	incr***
American Bittern	2.2	decr***
Least Bittern	0.5	decr**
Great Blue Heron	31.6	incr***

Table 3. *Continued.*

Species	Mean % of Checklists	Trend ^a
Great Egret	6.3	incr***
Snowy Egret ^b	0.8	invu**
Little Blue Heron ^b	0.1	stbl
Cattle Egret	0.4	invu**
Green Heron	11.6	stbl
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3.2	invu**
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	0.1	decr*
Turkey Vulture	21.4	incr***
Osprey	5.4	incr***
Bald Eagle	17.6	incr***
Northern Harrier	15.4	incr**
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8.2	incr***
Cooper's Hawk	13.1	incr***
Northern Goshawk	1.4	stbl
Red-shouldered Hawk	2.8	incr*
Broad-winged Hawk	5.3	decr*
Red-tailed Hawk	49.7	incr***
Rough-legged Hawk	7.4	invu***
Golden Eagle ^b	0.3	invu*
American Kestrel	39.6	decr***
Merlin	2.0	incr***
Peregrine Falcon	1.1	incr***
Yellow Rail ^b	0.2	decr*
King Rail ^b	0.1	stbl
Virginia Rail	1.1	stbl
Sora	3.9	stbl
Common Gallinule	1.1	invu*
American Coot	13.3	decr*
Sandhill Crane	27.8	incr***
Black-bellied Plover	0.9	stbl
American Golden-Plover	0.6	stbl
Semipalmated Plover	1.6	stbl
Piping Plover ^b	0.1	stbl
Killdeer	36.2	decr***
American Avocet ^b	0.1	stbl
Spotted Sandpiper	6.2	stbl
Solitary Sandpiper	3.0	stbl
Greater Yellowlegs	3.7	invu*
Willet	0.2	incr**
Lesser Yellowlegs	4.6	stbl
Upland Sandpiper	1.3	decr***
Whimbrel ^b	0.1	incr*
Hudsonian Godwit	0.1	stbl
Marbled Godwit	0.1	stbl
Ruddy Turnstone	0.5	decr**
Red Knot	0.1	stbl
Sanderling	0.8	stbl
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1.8	stbl
Western Sandpiper ^b	0.1	decr*
Least Sandpiper	2.6	stbl
White-rumped Sandpiper	0.3	invu***
Baird's Sandpiper	0.6	stbl
Pectoral Sandpiper	2.3	stbl
Dunlin	1.6	invu*
Silt Sandpiper	0.4	stbl

(Continued)

Table 3. *Continued.*

Species	Mean % of Checklists	Trend ^a
Buff-breasted Sandpiper ^b	0.2	stbl
Ruff ^b	0.0	stbl
Short-billed Dowitcher	1.1	decr*
Long-billed Dowitcher	0.3	stbl
Wilson's Snipe	5.9	decr***
American Woodcock	4.9	ushp***
Wilson's Phalarope	0.7	stbl
Red-necked Phalarope	0.1	stbl
Bonaparte's Gull	3.3	decr**
Little Gull ^b	0.1	stbl
Laughing Gull ^b	0.0	stbl
Franklin's Gull	0.2	stbl
Ring-billed Gull	34.7	incr***
Herring Gull	22.4	invu**
Thayer's Gull ^b	0.2	stbl
Iceland Gull ^b	0.1	stbl
Glaucous Gull	0.6	incr**
Greater Black-backed Gull ^b	1.0	incr**
Caspian Tern	3.5	incr***
Black Tern	4.0	decr***
Common Tern	2.5	decr***
Forster's Tern	3.0	invu*
Rock Pigeon	68.4	decr***
Mourning Dove	83.5	incr***
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1.8	stbl
Black-billed Cuckoo	3.5	decr*
Barn Owl	0.0	stbl
Eastern Screech-Owl	2.1	decr***
Great Horned Owl	12.9	incr*
Snowy Owl	0.7	decr*
Barred Owl	9.4	stbl
Great Grey Owl	0.1	stbl
Long-eared Owl	0.2	stbl
Short-eared Owl	0.5	invu**
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0.5	invu**
Common Nighthawk	9.0	decr***
Eastern Whip-poor-will	3.6	decr***
Chimney Swift	18.7	decr***
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21.0	incr***
Belted Kingfisher	20.8	decr*
Red-headed Woodpecker	10.5	decr***
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41.3	incr***
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8.9	incr***
Downy Woodpecker	70.7	incr***
Hairy Woodpecker	50.1	incr***
Black-backed Woodpecker ^b	0.2	stbl
Northern Flicker	37.7	decr*
Pileated Woodpecker	18.3	incr***
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0.8	stbl
Eastern Wood-Pewee	14.2	incr***
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1.1	incr***
Acadian Flycatcher	0.6	stbl
Alder Flycatcher	2.4	incr***
Willow Flycatcher	2.9	invu***
Least Flycatcher	6.3	incr***
Eastern Phoebe	21.5	incr***

Table 3. *Continued.*

Species	Mean % of Checklists	Trend ^a
Great Crested Flycatcher	14.2	incr**
Western Kingbird ^b	0.0	stbl
Eastern Kingbird	19.2	decr***
Loggerhead Shrike	0.4	stbl
Northern Shrike	3.8	stbl
White-eyed Vireo ^b	0.1	stbl
Bell's Vireo	0.3	incr**
Yellow-throated Vireo	4.5	incr***
Blue-headed Vireo	2.3	incr***
Warbling Vireo	8.3	incr***
Philadelphia Vireo	1.2	stbl
Red-eyed Vireo	14.4	incr***
Gray Jay	1.2	ushp**
Blue Jay	83.0	ushp*
American Crow	91.2	incr***
Common Raven	14.7	incr***
Horned Lark	18.1	decr***
Purple Martin	9.7	decr***
Tree Swallow	30.4	ushp*
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7.5	incr**
Bank Swallow	4.2	decr**
Cliff Swallow	8.0	stbl
Barn Swallow	27.5	decr***
Black-capped Chickadee	85.7	incr***
Boreal Chickadee	0.2	ushp**
Tufted Titmouse	7.5	incr***
Red-breasted Nuthatch	25.7	incr***
White-breasted Nuthatch	69.8	incr***
Brown Creeper	9.1	invu*
Carolina Wren ^b	0.4	incr*
House Wren	26.1	incr***
Winter Wren	3.8	incr**
Sedge Wren	5.1	incr***
Marsh Wren	3.8	invu*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6.1	incr***
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7.6	stbl
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8.2	stbl
Eastern Bluebird	30.2	incr***
Veery	5.5	stbl
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1.2	decr*
Swainson's Thrush	3.6	stbl
Hermit Thrush	7.0	incr***
Wood Thrush	7.5	invu**
American Robin	67.2	incr*
Gray Catbird	26.6	incr*
Northern Mockingbird	0.2	stbl
Brown Thrasher	14.3	decr***
European Starling	75.9	decr***
American Pipit	0.6	incr***
Bohemian Waxwing	0.6	ushp*
Cedar Waxwing	31.2	incr***
Lapland Longspur	1.3	invu*
Snow Bunting	3.8	stbl
Ovenbird	10.3	incr***
Worm-eating Warbler ^b	0.1	stbl

(Continued)

Table 3. *Continued.*

Species	Mean % of Checklists	Trend ^a
Louisiana Waterthrush	0.4	decr*
Northern Waterthrush	3.3	stbl
Golden-winged Warbler	2.3	invu*
Blue-winged Warbler	3.5	incr***
Black-and-white Warbler	5.9	incr**
Prothonotary Warbler	0.5	stbl
Tennessee Warbler	4.4	incr***
Orange-crowned Warbler	1.3	stbl
Nashville Warbler	5.8	incr***
Connecticut Warbler	0.6	stbl
Mourning Warbler	3.1	incr***
Kentucky Warbler	0.2	stbl
Common Yellowthroat	18.0	incr***
Hooded Warbler	0.3	stbl
American Redstart	9.8	incr***
Cape May Warbler	2.0	stbl
Cerulean Warbler	0.6	stbl
Northern Parula	2.0	incr***
Magnolia Warbler	4.6	stbl
Bay-breasted Warbler	1.7	decr*
Blackburnian Warbler	2.9	stbl
Yellow Warbler	11.8	incr**
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6.0	incr***
Blackpoll Warbler	1.9	stbl
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0.8	incr**
Palm Warbler	5.4	stbl
Pine Warbler	2.6	incr***
Yellow-rumped Warbler	13.7	incr**
Yellow-throated Warbler ^b	0.3	stbl
Prairie Warbler ^b	0.0	stbl
Black-throated Green Warbler	5.6	incr***
Canada Warbler	1.9	stbl
Wilson's Warbler	2.1	stbl
Yellow-breasted Chat	0.2	stbl
Eastern Towhee	10.6	ushp***
American Tree Sparrow	19.6	invu*
Chipping Sparrow	30.9	incr***
Clay-colored Sparrow	4.2	incr***
Field Sparrow	13.2	decr*
Vesper Sparrow	5.7	decr***
Lark Sparrow	0.3	stbl
Savannah Sparrow	11.1	invu***
Grasshopper Sparrow	1.8	stbl
Henslow's Sparrow	1.0	incr***
Le Conte's Sparrow	0.3	stbl
Nelson's Sparrow ^b	0.0	stbl
Fox Sparrow	6.4	incr**
Song Sparrow	43.4	incr**
Lincoln's Sparrow	2.0	incr***
Swamp Sparrow	9.5	stbl
White-throated Sparrow	18.6	incr***
Harris's Sparrow	0.5	stbl
White-crowned Sparrow	5.0	incr***
Dark-eyed Junco	45.7	incr***
Scarlet Tanager	7.4	incr***
Northern Cardinal	74.6	incr***

Table 3. *Continued.*

Species	Mean % of Checklists	Trend ^a
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	20.7	incr***
Indigo Bunting	16.7	incr***
Dickcissel	1.5	incr*
Bobolink	7.2	decr***
Red-winged Blackbird	53.3	stbl
Eastern Meadowlark	21.3	decr***
Western Meadowlark	4.0	decr***
Yellow-headed Blackbird	3.7	decr***
Rusty Blackbird	2.3	stbl
Brewer's Blackbird	4.9	decr***
Common Grackle	47.3	decr***
Brown-headed Cowbird	27.0	stbl
Orchard Oriole	1.8	incr***
Baltimore Oriole	19.8	incr***
Pine Grosbeak	1.3	stbl
Purple Finch	22.1	ushp**
House Finch ^c	55.2	invu***
Red Crossbill	0.7	decr*
White-winged Crossbill	0.7	stbl
Common Redpoll	4.6	stbl
Pine Siskin	13.4	stbl
American Goldfinch	78.6	incr***
Evening Grosbeak	6.8	decr***
House Sparrow	75.5	decr***

Eared Grebe, Yellow Rail, and Western Sandpiper.

Reporting frequencies increased significantly ($P < 0.05$) during 1983–2010 for 94 species. Species exhibiting highly significant ($P < 0.001$) increases were Canada Goose, Black Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-throated Vireo,

Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, and Ameri-

can Goldfinch. Significant increasing trends ($P < 0.05$) during 1997–2010 were noted for Trumpeter Swan, Spruce Grouse, American White Pelican, Whimbrel, Great Black-backed Gull, and Carolina Wren.

Thirty-two species had inverted u-shaped trends in reporting rates during 1983–2010 (increasing during the late 1980s to mid 1990s and subsequently decreasing). These were Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Rough-legged Hawk, Common Gallinule, Greater Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Herring Gull, Forster's Tern, Short-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Marsh Wren, Wood Thrush, Lapland Longspur, Golden-winged Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and House Finch. Inverted u-shaped trends during 1997–2010 were observed for Snowy Egret and Golden Eagle.

Significant u-shaped trends in reporting frequencies (decreasing during the late 1980s to mid 1990s and subsequently increasing) were observed for 10 species: White-winged Scoter, Red-throated Loon, American Woodcock, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, and Purple Finch.

Reporting frequencies were classified as stable during 1983–2010 for 71 species (linear or quadratic models did not explain a significant portion of the annual variation in reporting rates). However, several of these species did exhibit considerable an-

nual variation in reporting frequencies. This was particularly notable for irruptive winter finches. For example, reporting rates of Common Redpoll reached highs in 1990 (8.0%), 1992 (7.6%), 1996 (12.5%), 2004 (7.6%), and 2009 (12.8) but were as low as 2.3% in 1993, 2.2% in 2001, 0.7% in 2003, and 0.2 in 2010. Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin showed similar erratic fluctuations in reporting rates. Nineteen of the 30 species added to the checklist in 1997 had trends in reporting rates that were classified as stable.

Changes in cooperator activity may have affected species reporting frequencies. The increase in percentage of checklists from active birders as the number of cooperators decreased suggests that cooperators who were less active in searching for birds may have been more likely to discontinue contributing checklists. Additionally, changes in the geographic distribution of cooperators could alter the annual reporting rates for some species that have restricted distribution in the state. The potential confounding influence of cooperator activity should be kept in mind when interpreting trends in reporting rates.

Reporting rate trends from the Wisconsin Checklist Project was an important source of information about population status used in the development of the Wisconsin All-Bird Conservation Plan by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (Kretinger and Paulios 2007). In this way, observations by project cooperators have directly contributed to conservation of Wisconsin's bird species.

The success of the Wisconsin Checklist Project would not have been possible without the efforts of the 444

volunteers who contributed checklists. Their dedication to the birds of Wisconsin and this program to increase our knowledge about their status is greatly appreciated. I hope that the success of the checklist project will inspire former project cooperators and birders throughout Wisconsin to submit information about the birds they see to eBird: <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>. Continuing to gather information from citizen-scientists on what bird species occur where is important for understanding how birds in Wisconsin and throughout North America are responding to changing landscapes and climates.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful for the efforts of Stanley A. and Anita J. Temple and John R. Cary who originated the checklist project and maintained it during its first seven years. The manuscript benefited greatly from the reviews by Andrew T. Paulios, David W. Sample, and Stanley A. Temple. Funding for the Wisconsin Checklist Project came from the A. W. Schorger Fund of the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Beers-Bascom Professorship in Conservation which was held by Stanley Temple, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Fish and Wildlife Conservation Segregated Fund, the WDNR Endangered Resources Fund, and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-141-R. Gerald A. Bartelt, Brian J. Dhuey, John J. Huff, and Madell T. Jackson II assisted with project administration after its transfer to the WDNR.

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Black-necked Stilt *by Michael Huebschen*

Wisconsin May Counts—2011

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I would like to start this summary by thanking Jim Frank for the more than twenty years of May Count compiling that he did. Starting in 2011, Jim retired from his May Count duties and I agreed to take over. Being new to the May Count scene, I wanted to learn a little about the history and objectives of the count. According to the Passenger Pigeon archives, Wisconsin residents began conducting May Counts in 1935. As the name implies, May Counts are conducted during the month of May, preferably coinciding with the peak of migration and on a day with favorable weather conditions. The objective of the Wisconsin May Count is to record the number of species occurring within a single county over a 24-hour period. Some groups also record the number of in-

dividuals for each species, but this is not a requirement for the count. There are no restrictions regarding party size or number of observers, but generally more observers means better coverage of the county. And better coverage can mean a higher species list, which is important for those that view the May Count as a friendly competition.

Eight May Counts were conducted from 7–28 May 2011 (Table 1). Participation ranged from 33 observers in Waukesha to 2 observers in Kenosha. Weather conditions for most counts consisted of mild temperatures, moderate winds, and mostly cloudy skies. Winnebago detected the highest number of species (185), followed by Milwaukee/Ozaukee (165), and Oconto (154). A total of 223 species was re-

Table 1. The 2011 Wisconsin May Counts.

Count	Date	Time	Sky	Wind	Temp.	Observ.	Species
Winnebago	5/21	04:00–20:30	Cloudy	SE 5–10	53–69	32	185
Milwaukee/Ozaukee	5/21		Cloudy	SE 5–10	47–64	15	165
Oconto	5/24	01:45–21:30	Variable	NE 10–15	41–62	9	154
Sheboygan	5/22		Variable	0–15	56–70	19	139
Waupaca	5/28	05:00–20:30	Cloudy	NW 10–15	50–62	13	138
Burnett	5/23	04:00–21:12	Cloudy		51–74	4	135
Waukesha	5/7	05:00–17:30	Pt. Clo.	E 10	45–58	33	134
Kenosha	5/7	06:00–20:00	Variable	E NE 10–20	45–55	2	102

Table 2. Species observed by county for the 2011 Wisconsin May counts.

Species	Winne- bago	Mil- waukee /Ozaukee	Oconto	She- boygan	Wau- paca	Burnett	Wau- kesha	Ken- osha
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snow Goose		X		X				
Mute Swan	X	X			X		X	
Trumpeter Swan						X	X	
Tundra Swan								X
Wood Duck	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	X	X				X		
American Wigeon	X						X	
American Black Duck	X				X			
Mallard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue-winged Teal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X				X		
Green-winged Teal	X	X	X				X	
Canvasback	X							
Redhead	X							
Ring-necked Duck	X			X		X		
Greater Scaup		X	X					
Lesser Scaup	X	X						
Bufflehead	X			X			X	
Common Goldeneye					X			
Hooded Merganser	X		X	X		X	X	
Common Merganser							X	
Red-breasted Merganser		X						
Ruddy Duck	X			X				
Ring-necked Pheasant	X		X	X		X	X	X
Ruffed Grouse			X		X	X		
Sharp-tailed Grouse						X		
Wild Turkey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Bobwhite	X							
Red-throated Loon		X						
Common Loon		X	X		X	X		
Pied-billed Grebe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Horned Grebe		X						
Red-necked Grebe	X					X		
American White Pelican	X		X			X		
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X	X	X		X	
American Bittern	X		X			X		X
Least Bittern	X							
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Egret	X	X	X					X
Cattle Egret	X							
Green Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	X					X		
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Osprey	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Bald Eagle	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Northern Harrier	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X		X	X			X	X
Cooper's Hawk	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Northern Goshawk			X					
Red-shouldered Hawk			X		X			
Broad-winged Hawk		X	X		X		X	
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
American Kestrel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

(Continued)

Table 2. *Continued.*

Species	Winne- bago	Mil- waukee /Ozaukee	Oconto	She- boygan	Wau- paca	Burnett	Wau- kesha	Ken- osha
Peregrine Falcon	X	X		X				X
Virginia Rail	X					X		X
Sora	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Gallinule	X							
American Coot	X		X		X	X	X	X
Sandhill Crane	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-bellied Plover	X	X	X					
American Golden-Plover						X		
Semipalmated Plover	X	X					X	
Killdeer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solitary Sandpiper	X	X			X		X	
Greater Yellowlegs	X						X	X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X				X	X	
Upland Sandpiper		X						X
Ruddy Turnstone	X							
Semipalmated Sandpiper				X				
Least Sandpiper	X	X				X	X	
Pectoral Sandpiper	X							
Dunlin	X	X	X				X	
Wilson's Snipe	X	X	X		X	X		X
American Woodcock	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wilson's Phalarope	X					X		
Bonaparte's Gull	X	X						X
Ring-billed Gull	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Herring Gull	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Glaucous Gull		X						
Great Black-backed Gull	X	X						
Caspian Tern	X	X	X	X		X		X
Black Tern	X					X		
Common Tern	X	X				X		X
Forster's Tern	X	X			X			
Rock Pigeon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eurasian Collared-Dove		X						
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-billed Cuckoo	X	X	X		X	X		
Eastern Screech-Owl	X		X		X			X
Great Horned Owl	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Barred Owl	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Common Nighthawk	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Eastern Whip-poor-will			X		X	X		
Chimney Swift	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belted Kingfisher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	X		X		X	X		X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Northern Flicker		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pileated Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	X		X				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X		

(Continued)

Table 2. *Continued.*

Species	Winne- bago	Mil- waukee /Ozaukee	Oconto	She- boygan	Wau- paca	Burnett	Wau- kesha	Ken- osha
Acadian Flycatcher		X						
Alder Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X			
Willow Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X			
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Phoebe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
White-eyed Vireo		X						
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Blue-headed Vireo	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Philadelphia Vireo	X	X	X	X				
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Blue Jay	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
American Crow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Raven			X		X	X		
Horned Lark	X		X	X	X	X		X
Purple Martin	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Tree Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No. Rough-winged Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bank Swallow	X	X	X	X	X			X
Cliff Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tufted Titmouse	X						X	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X	X	X		X	
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown Creeper	X	X	X	X				X
House Wren	X	X	X	X			X	X
Winter Wren					X	X		
Sedge Wren	X		X		X	X		
Marsh Wren	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Golden-crowned Kinglet			X					X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X		X		X	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Veery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	X	X		X	X			
Swainson's Thrush	X	X	X	X		X		X
Hermit Thrush	X		X	X	X		X	
Wood Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Mockingbird		X						
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
European Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Pipit	X	X						
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue-winged Warbler	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Tennessee Warbler	X	X	X	X	X			
Orange-crowned Warbler	X			X			X	
Nashville Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Parula	X	X	X	X			X	

(Continued)

Table 2. *Continued.*

Species	Winne- bago	Mil- waukee /Ozaukee	Oconto	She- boygan	Wau- paca	Burnett	Wau- kesha	Ken- osha
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Magnolia Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cape May Warbler	X	X		X			X	
Black-throated Blue Warbler		X			X		X	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-throated Green Warbler	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Blackburnian Warbler	X	X	X	X			X	X
Pine Warbler	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Palm Warbler	X	X	X				X	X
Bay-breasted Warbler	X	X		X		X		
Blackpoll Warbler	X	X		X		X		
Cerulean Warbler	X			X			X	
Black-and-White Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Redstart	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Prothonotary Warbler			X					
Ovenbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Northern Waterthrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Connecticut Warbler	X	X	X			X	X	
Mourning Warbler	X	X	X	X	X			
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hooded Warbler				X			X	
Wilson's Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Canada Warbler	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Eastern Towhee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X		X		X	
Lark Sparrow						X		
Savannah Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grasshopper Sparrow	X	X		X			X	
Henslow's Sparrow	X						X	
LeConte's Sparrow						X		
Nelson's Sparrow						X		
Song Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X		X				
Swamp Sparrow	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
White-throated Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
White-crowned Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Dark-eyed Junco				X			X	
Scarlet Tanager	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Indigo Bunting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dickcissel					X			
Bobolink	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Western Meadowlark						X		
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X		X			X	X	X
Brewer's Blackbird	X	X	X		X	X		
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

(Continued)

Table 2. *Continued.*

Species	Winne- bago	Mil- waukee /Ozaukee	Oconto	She- boygan	Wau- paca	Burnett	Wau- kesha	Ken- osha
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X	X	X			
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purple Finch			X		X	X		
House Finch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pine Siskin	X	X	X	X	X		X	
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Evening Grosbeak			X					
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ported for the 2011 May Counts (Table 2). Sixty-five species were recorded on all counts, including Blue-winged Teal, American Kestrel, American Woodcock, Purple Martin, Eastern Bluebird, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. Thirty species were recorded on only one count, including Tundra Swan, Common Merganser, Northern Bobwhite, Cattle Egret, Northern Goshawk, Prothonotary Warbler, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel.

The **Winnebago** count recorded the highest number of species overall (185), and documented the most waterfowl (17), waterbird (11), shorebird (14), and warbler species (27) of any count (Table 2). This was the only count to record Canvasback, Red-head, Northern Bobwhite, Least Bittern, Cattle Egret, Common Gallinule, Ruddy Turnstone, and Pectoral Sandpiper. The **Milwaukee/Ozaukee** count recorded the second highest number of species overall (165), and documented the most gull (5), flycatcher (10), and vireo species (6). This was the only count to record Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Glaucous Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, and North-

ern Mockingbird. The **Oconto** count ranked third overall for total species and also recorded the highest number of raptor (11) and finch species (5). This was the only count to record Northern Goshawk, Prothonotary Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak.

The next four counts had similar species totals but notable differences in species composition. The **Sheboygan** count was the only count to record Semipalmated Sandpiper whereas the **Waupaca** count was the only count to record Common Goldeneye and Dickcissel (Table 2). The **Burnett** count recorded a high number of upland game bird (4), sparrow (12), and blackbird species (9) and was the only count to record Sharp-tailed Grouse, American Golden-Plover, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark. The **Waukesha** count recorded the highest number of sparrow species (13) and was the only count to record Common Merganser. The **Kenosha** count had the least number of observers (2) but still documented more than 100 species for the day, including one that was unique to the May Counts—Tundra Swan.

50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

One of the bird stories I always enjoy sharing during presentations is how the Northern Cardinal population has spread northward in Wisconsin. The lead article in this issue by Donald Hendrick who lived in Tomahawk examined the spread of the cardinal in the state using Christmas Bird Count data from 1945–1960 for 30 locations. During this period, CBCs were held within a 7-hour duration.

Hendrick concluded that the greatest concentration and northward distribution of the cardinal is along the major river valleys; that available evidence is insufficient to indicate a cyclic fluctuation, yet in some instance it does show a trend toward such a population cycle; and that the cardinal population seems to be quite well stabilized throughout that part of the state examined. No CBC data from areas north of St. Croix Falls, Wausau, Green Bay, and Two Rivers were used in this study.

Bill Southern describes what he believed to be the first nest of a Cerulean Warbler found in Wisconsin. He spent 15 hours observing the birds' behavior at the nest located 15 feet from the ground in a white oak at the Audubon camp near Sarona.

The Field Notes section, a staple of *The Passenger Pigeon* for decades, included some interesting summer observations from Sam Robbins. He noted finding a Western Kingbird nest at Hudson, having Bewick's Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Blue-winged and Cerulean Warblers at his new home in St. Croix County, finding an adult Little Blue Heron along the backwaters of the Chippewa River, and singing Tennessee Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets during a canoe trip down the Brule River in Douglas County in late June and wondered when nesting would be documented for these two species.

Excerpt from Vol. 23(4), 1961 by WSO Historian Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095. h. 262 .675. 2443, w. 262. 268. 3617, noel.cutright@we-energies.com.



Bufflehead Drake Portrait



Bufflehead Hen Portrait

First Modern Confirmed Nest Record for Bufflehead in Wisconsin

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ABSTRACT

The Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola) is a common migrant species in Wisconsin, but there exists only one documented nest record for the state. This paper describes the first confirmed nest record of this species in over 150 years, as well as providing background information on the species' nesting habits and distribution. It also summarizes two years of observations that were required to confirm nesting at Horicon Marsh and a series of investigations that were undertaken to try to confirm successful nesting.

INTRODUCTION

The Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) is a very common migrant waterfowl species in Wisconsin and is sighted each spring and fall throughout the region and on Horicon Marsh. Like many species of waterfowl that have a breeding range restricted primarily to Canada, these birds tend to depart southern Wisconsin by the third week of April (pers. obs). Therefore, sightings of northern nesting waterfowl in late April and May tend to become sparse as open water appears in northern counties and beyond.

It is not uncommon to observe sin-

gle birds, pairs, and small flocks of Buffleheads on Horicon Marsh during the spring migration. I first began to observe what I eventually suspected to be a nesting pair of Buffleheads on the Bachhuber Flowage, adjacent to the Horicon Marsh International Education Center on the southeast edge of Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area, beginning on 6 April 2009. This pair of ducks remained isolated from other migrants and was seen in courtship display as well as resting near one of the Wood Duck boxes erected in the impoundment. On Saturday, 25 April 2009, as I was walking the dike along the south end of this flowage on the way to Indermuehle Island, I sighted a female Bufflehead sitting in one of the Wood Duck boxes, located over open water, with a male on the water nearby. Her head was looking out of the entrance hole as I walked by. As far as I could tell, most all of the migrant Buffleheads had departed at least a week earlier, so this was a somewhat late sighting and my attention was drawn to the fact that this bird was perched at the entrance of a nest box.

On the morning of Tuesday, 28 April, I again saw a female Bufflehead in the same Wood Duck box sitting at

the entrance hole. It was at this time that I considered that perhaps she may be nesting in this particular box. Several Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) were swarming around the entrance of the nest box with the female duck hardly paying attention, which made me think that she had established this as her nest site and did not allow the competing Tree Swallows to come closer to the nest box.

I watched for further signs of nesting over the next few weeks, but due to a busy work schedule I had limited opportunity to observe activity at the nest box or check the nest box for its contents. I also noticed that the first few times I observed this bird the Bufflehead female readily showed her head at the nest box whenever I walked by or particularly when I drove past with the "Gator" to set up mist nets on Indermuhle Island.

Other observations of this bird in the nest box were reported as late as 8 May during the annual Horicon Marsh Bird Festival (Jeff Bahls, pers. comm.). This was the last sighting of this bird at the nest site in the spring of 2009. With no additional sightings, I came to believe that either she had abandoned the nesting effort or was now incubating eggs and had become more secretive.

I knew that Buffleheads nest primarily in the boreal forest of Canada and was not aware of any nest records for even the northern part of Wisconsin. So, when I returned to my office following the second observation of the bird in the nest box, I checked several references. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin (Cutright et al. 2006) contained no records of Buffleheads nesting in the state and no records were given in the species ac-

count and appendix VII (Previous Breeding Species Not Found Breeding During the Atlas). Checking further in Wisconsin Bird Life (Robbins 1991), I found there exists but one record of a nesting Bufflehead in the state. In his account on Buffleheads, Robbins states, "the sole record of nesting is credited to B. F. Goss, who once captured flightless young near Pewaukee, Waukesha County (Schorger 1946). No date was given, but Goss did most of his collecting between 1866 and 1883."

According to Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America (Bellrose 1976), the nesting range of the Bufflehead is noted as being restricted to the boreal forest of Canada with a nesting population in the northern Rockies (see Fig. 1). This is the most southerly extent of the known nesting range for this species, but here it tends to occur in areas of aspen and conifer forests near water, as is common across its range.

More recent distribution information on this species was found on the Cornell "All About Birds" website (www.allaboutbirds.org). The illustration (Fig. 2) provides a detailed range map of the species taken from this reference.

Finally, I checked the Birds of North America on-line reference (<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>), which stated the following regarding the nesting range of Buffleheads: "Predominantly boreal forest and aspen parkland of Canada and Alaska. Absent from high mountain areas. Highest densities recorded in central British Columbia (BC; Cariboo district); (Campbell et al. 1990), n. and central Alberta (Semenchuk 1992), nw. Saskatchewan, sw. Northwest Terri-

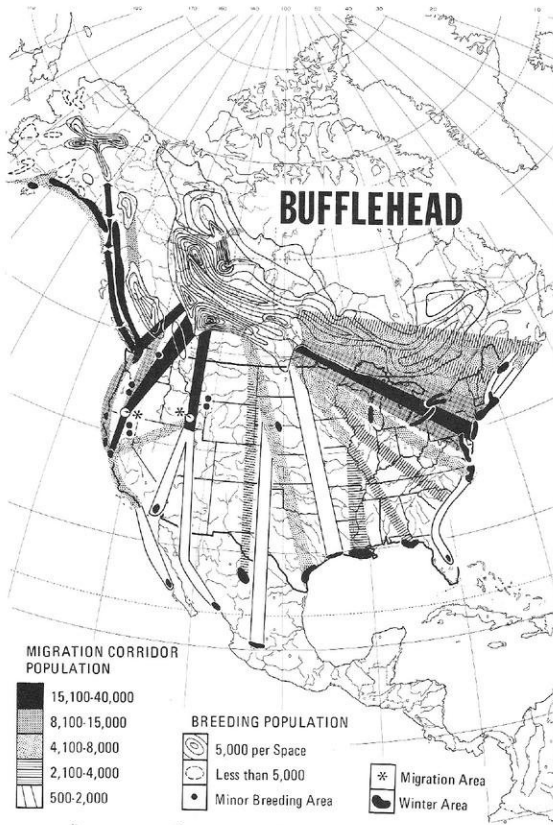


Figure 1. Nesting range map for Bufflehead from *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* by Bellrose (1976).

tories, and central Alaska (Bellrose 1976). Isolated breeding populations in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (Fig. 1; Lannoy and Sakaguchi 1979), with recent records in Minnesota (Mattsson 1986), South Dakota (Peskin and Rorah 1991), and Colorado (Ringelman and Kehmeier 1990). Density east of Manitoba is low (Cadman et al. 1987). Breeding in Québec has only been confirmed recently (Gauthier and Aubry 1993). Isolated breeding records in Vermont (Boyajiam 1971) and Massachusetts (D. Briggs in litt. to A. J. Erskine)."

While this species has been recorded in Minnesota, there exists no recent nest record for Wisconsin. Also, as a species that nests primarily in boreal forest and open parklands, it would be exceptional for this species to nest in an open cattail marsh in southern Wisconsin. As described in bna.com, "The Bufflehead, confined as a breeder to the boreal forest and aspen park-land of North America, is our smallest diving duck. Its small size has probably evolved with its habit of nesting in the holes of the Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), an abundant resource too small to accommo-

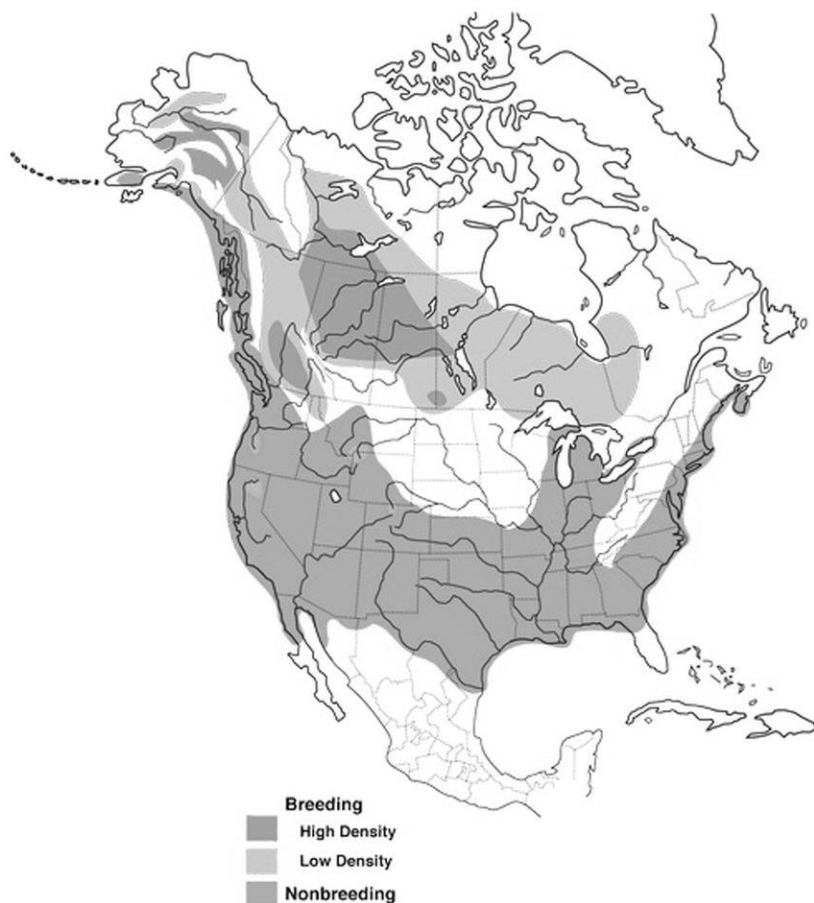


Figure 2. Detailed range map for Bufflehead found on the Cornell "All About Birds" website.

date other, larger cavity-nesting ducks. Bufflehead also nest in boxes, facilitating management of this species and studies of its reproductive biology."

"Almost exclusively monogamous, this is one of the few ducks that often keeps the same mate for several years. Females are also faithful to their natal and breeding areas, often reusing the same nest site year after year."

"An obligate cavity nester. Uses cavities excavated by Northern Flicker and, occasionally, Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*); avoids cav-

ities with broken tops. Nest boxes used readily (Gauthier 1988a)."

No further observations of the Bufflehead were noted throughout the remainder of spring or summer in 2009. I had no available time to open the nest box to check its contents, as it was located over open water and due to the fact that this was the first season conducting education programs from the new Education Center at Horicon Marsh, so I thought it would be relatively easy to determine nest success from eggshell fragments later in the season.

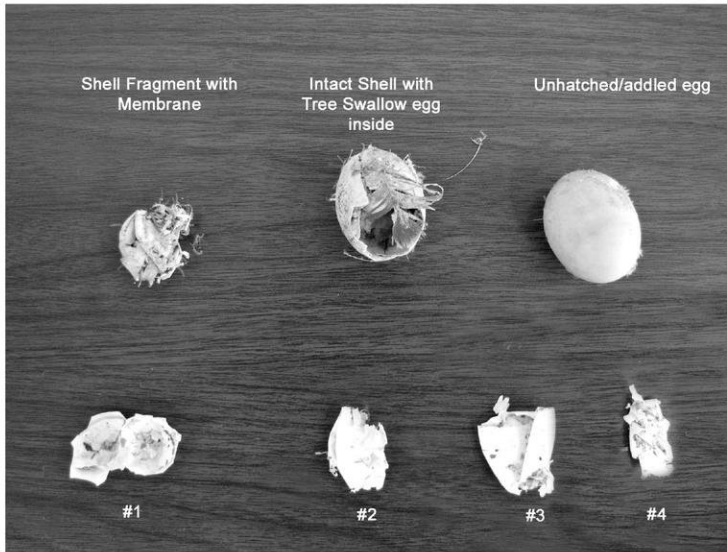


Figure 3. Contents of the nest box thought to have housed a Bufflehead nest removed on 20 October 2009.

On Tuesday, 20 October 2009, I asked DNR wildlife technician Jeff Bahls and assistant naturalist, Liz Herzmann, to check this particular Wood Duck box on the Bachhuber Impoundment by canoe. They removed from it all contents and nesting material for inspection. Inside were found wood chips placed in the box as nesting material and among these I identified the remains of what appeared to be 6 hatched eggs, as represented by egg membranes and shell fragments, and one unhatched egg.

The photo (Fig. 3) illustrates the content of the nest, which includes the following:

- #1) Egg shell fragment with membrane attached;
- #2) Egg membrane;
- #3) Egg membrane;
- #4) Partial or complete egg membrane;
- #5) A shell fragment with attached egg membrane;
- #6) An intact shell indicating a likely successful hatching. (This particular egg shell contained a Tree Swallow egg inside. The assumption is that the duck clutch hatched and Tree Swallows then occupied this box later in the season. A swallow egg was laid that fell into the duck egg shell and remained unhatched as it could not be incubated) and
- #7) An unhatched or addled egg.

Again, the Birds of North American reference (<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>) describes the nest contents of Bufflehead as, "No nest material is added. Eggs are laid on the bare bottom or on top of nesting material left by previous occupants. Cavities filled up with nesting material are not used. Down is added by the female gradually through egg laying. By the start of

incubation, enough down is present to cover the eggs, though not as much as in goldeneye nests. Down color is described as "pale grayish with a brownish cast and white indistinct lighter center (Palmer 1976: 441)."

As a result of the remains in the nest box, it appears that this was a successful nesting. No remains of hatchlings or identifiable adult feathers remained in the box and among the nest material were many shell fragments and several egg membranes from hatched eggs, plus an intact, unhatched egg. It appears that this nest included 6 successfully hatched eggs, which confirmed successful nesting, but it remained to be determined whether this was indeed a Bufflehead nest in a Wood Duck box at Horicon Marsh during the summer of 2009.

DISCUSSION

In an effort to confirm whether this was a successful Bufflehead nest, a series of steps was undertaken over the next 14 months. I assumed that as a diving duck, Bufflehead eggs would be readily distinguishable from a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). This was based on the obvious difference between Wood Duck eggs and egg shells and those of Hooded Mergansers' (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), which commonly occupy similar nest boxes. Wood Ducks produce eggs with white to creamy white shells while Hooded Mergansers are easily distinguished by their darker shell coloration (<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>).

I assumed that Bufflehead eggs would also be easy to distinguish from Wood Duck, but was surprised to learn that the average size, shape, and color

of the egg shell was very similar to Wood Duck.

Since the literature indicated difficulty in determining Bufflehead eggs from Wood Duck by size and color, I decided to check further. I contacted a number of museums to find a collection of waterfowl eggs and was directed to the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Los Angeles (WVZ). They maintain a collection of some 10,000 bird eggs and were the best source for confirmation. I contacted the director, Linnea Hall, by phone and inquired about how to proceed. I was advised to photograph the one unhatched egg with a ruler (Fig. 4) as reference to size and shape and email these pictures to her laboratory.

On 15 September, I received information on their determination and was told that on average Wood Duck and Bufflehead eggs are about the same size and color with the length and the width differing on average by only about two millimeters, meaning that they cannot be reliably distinguished.

Ms. Hall stated, "René Corado (WVZ Collections Manager) had a chance to look at your pictures and to measure some eggs in our collection to see if we could determine what kind of egg you had in your Wood Duck box."

"René measured ca. 5 eggs each from different sets of Wood Duck, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye (just to make sure). The Wood Duck eggs he measured were slightly broader and longer—but only by 2 mm or so. The Goldeneye eggs were definitely larger, as we expected."

"The color of the Bufflehead eggs and Wood Duck eggs in our collection



Figure 4. Unhatched egg from 2009, photographed with a ruler to show size and shape.

are both entirely similar, and are much lighter (more cream-colored) than the whole egg you photographed, probably because ours have been emptied of their contents and yours was unblown (and unwashed)."

"So, overall, although the WODU eggs we measured were slightly larger than the BUFF egg photo you sent, they are very close, and, the color of both is really close. And, we measured very few eggs overall. Thus, I think we cannot entirely rule-out that it might be a WODU egg, which means that also, we cannot entirely rule-out that it could be a BUFF egg. This, combined with your observation of the female in the box, still means that the female BUFF could have laid eggs in that box."

I was disappointed by the inconclusive results and felt a true regret that I was not able to find the time to check the nest box during the active nesting season. By this time I felt that I had

run into a dead end in my attempt to confirm a Bufflehead nest record.

I shared my experiences with a number of biologists over the course of the next month and while discussing this with Dick Hunt, retired waterfowl researcher for DNR at Horicon Marsh, it was suggested that I should consider having the unhatched egg tested for DNA sequencing.

I next contacted Emily Latch, assistant professor in the biology department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who was conducting DNA testing of American badgers (*Taxidea taxus*) in Wisconsin and also had conducted DNA testing of various deer of the southwestern U.S. for a mutual friend and big game biologist for Arizona Fish and Game Department. I was able to have the egg shell fragments and unhatched egg transported to the university and awaited test results.

Emily worked with a student, Brett Heim, to open the unhatched egg and

extract a blood sample. It required a few weeks to obtain results, and on 16 February 2011, I received word that this egg was from a Wood Duck. I was, of course, disappointed with these results as well and then asked how developed the embryo was that was extracted from this egg. In answer to this she wrote, "I am by no means an expert on egg development, but after briefly looking at photos of bird egg development, I would have to say that the embryo we found inside the unhatched egg was pretty far into development, at least 14 days, perhaps as many as 18 days.

Wood Ducks, like several other species of waterfowl, are known to make "dump nests." In an effort to increase their nest success, some ducks will deposit eggs in the active nests of other waterfowl species as an insurance policy against the potential loss of their own nest so that at least one of their young might survive the season. My conclusion was that this egg did not hatch as it was from a dump nest of another bird and laid sometime after incubation had been initiated, so it was still likely that the other hatched eggs could still have been from an active Bufflehead nest.

I therefore asked if it was possible to extract a viable DNA sample from one of the egg membranes to determine whether any of the other eggs were from a Bufflehead. This testing was also conducted by the university laboratory and following several attempts they were able to extract a DNA sample for sequencing. On 21 April 2011 I received the results, confirming that this too was from a Wood Duck.

I then decided that it wasn't worth the additional time or expense to continue further testing of any other egg

membranes and was left to conclude that I could only refer to this as a hypothetical nest record, or nesting attempt, by Bufflehead in Wisconsin based solely on my observations of a late-season female sitting in a Wood Duck box.

No observations of Bufflehead were made during 2010 by me or staff and no evidence of nesting by this species was found in that year. It was in the spring of 2011 and due to my unsuccessful attempts to confirm this nesting I resolved to write a paper about a possible nesting attempt during 2009 and was planning to focus on what I had learned about Bufflehead nesting habits, their life history, and nesting distribution as well as a summary of my various investigations and testing that was conducted.

Just as I had resigned myself to the inconclusive results from nearly two years of observations and investigations, I again observed a pair of Buffleheads resting on the Bachhuber Flowage during the spring of 2011. This was confirmed by Jeff Bahls and Liz Herzmann who also sighted a pair at this site and together we had several sightings of a lone female sitting on the water or flying across the flowage during late April and May. I was now determined to not make the same mistake again no matter how busy the spring season was.

During the latter part of May, Jeff mentioned that the first broods of Wood Ducks on his property were beginning to hatch, so I asked whether he could check the nest boxes for any possible sign of nest activity. On 7 June, he and Jennifer Wirth took a canoe onto the flowage and visited 5 different nest boxes in the area (Fig. 5). Rather than opening each nest

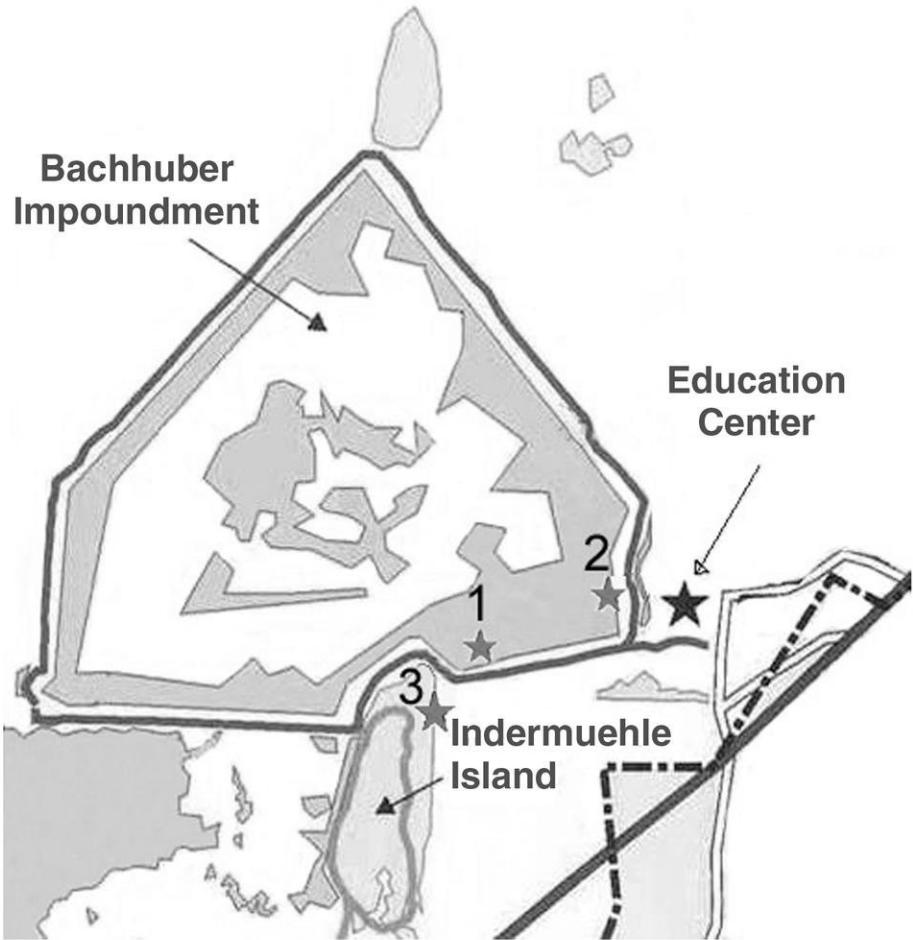


Figure 5. Map showing Wood Duck boxes used by Bufflehead in June 2011.

box during the active nesting period, Jeff took a small digital camera and held this through the entrance hole to take a picture looking down into the nest box to obtain an image of either eggs or an incubating female. This turned out to be a very effective technique with minimal disturbance.

When an image was taken of nest box number 2 (in Fig. 5), the picture made it difficult to determine the specific contents, particularly as the sun

reflected from the camera monitor. Therefore, it was decided to open this nest box. The contents were collected from a recently hatched nest and the results were absolutely astounding.

From this nest box Jeff and Jennifer collected one unhatched egg, shells, and membranes from 6 other hatched eggs and a dead chick of a Bufflehead (Fig. 6), which finally confirmed a successful nest record for this species in Wisconsin.



Figure 6. Egg and dead chick of a Bufflehead from nest box in June 2011.

However, this wasn't the end of the story. After photographing the remaining nest boxes and again finding it difficult to determine the results of the pictures in the strong sunlight, Jeff returned to the Education Center around noon. I had just finished photographing the egg and chick which had been collected and placed these specimens into a storage freezer. I was sitting down for lunch as Jeff sat by me going through his images for better viewing in the indoor lighting when he exclaimed that he was certain that he had a picture of a hen on the nest showing a white cheek patch.

I looked at the picture and also saw the white cheek patch, confirming that we had an incubating Bufflehead hen in a nest box. I then asked about the nest from which he collected the egg shells and chick and said that I thought this clutch had hatched and inquired why a hen was still in the nest box. To this Jeff replied that this was an entirely different nest box! As a result, we had confirmed not only the first successful nesting of Bufflehead

in the state, but had a second active nest in another box—nest box number 3.

Since this nest was still actively being incubated we waited to see the results. The following day I met with Jack Bartholmai, wildlife photographer from Beaver Dam, and told him about our recent find. Jack has been pursuing photographs of all of the birds and numerous mammals known to Dodge County over the years and asked about the possibility of photographing and documenting this nesting.

Special permission was given to Jack to allow him to set up a blind to keep watch on this nest box. Jack also opened the nest box to candle the eggs in order to determine the degree of embryo development and a possible hatch date. From his observations he concluded that the eggs were about four to six days from hatching and therefore set up his observation blind to keep watch on the nest.

Jack also rigged a remote camera into the nest box so that he could

watch nesting activity without further disturbing the site. Over the next several days Jack spent early mornings and afternoons keeping watch on this nest box with the hope of photographing the chicks as they jumped from the nest (see Photo Essay by Jack Bartholmai).

During a steady rain on 19 June, Jack was able to observe and photograph the young as they left the nest box around 9:20 a.m. and also captured images of the hen with her young before they swam off into dense cover, never to be seen again.

CONCLUSION

Following two years of observations and various attempts to confirm nesting of Buffleheads in Wisconsin we were able to substantiate this with much effort, a variety of trials, and the assistance of numerous people. Since the 1800s when Benjamin Goss wrote about collecting a brood of Buffleheads on Pewaukee Lake and leaving nothing further to confirm this, there has been no evidence or record of this species attempting to nest in Wisconsin. For a waterfowl species that nests primarily in the boreal forest of Canada, a nest record in a cattail marsh in southern Wisconsin is exceptional, not only for this state but likely for the continent.

Buffleheads are known to have strong nest site fidelity (<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>), so it was likely that the hen that appeared to attempt nesting in 2009 returned in 2011. No evidence was observed of a nesting attempt in 2010 and we will never know what occurred in that year. However, our observations in 2011 demonstrate

how difficult it is to observe nesting activity of this species.

All of the nest boxes are readily observed from the hiking trails and nest box number 2 is also easily observed from the Education Center as well. This nest box is located a distance of 15 meters from the dike and hiking trails and about than 25 meters from a floating deck which is regularly used by school classes for pond life studies. During the entire spring season of 2011 Liz Herzmann had used this deck for educational activities and never saw any sign of use of this nest box. While we did see a female Bufflehead sitting on the water, resting on a log near nest box # 3, and occasionally flying over the water, there was no sign of use of any of the nest boxes. This demonstrates how secretive these birds are in entering and leaving the nest box.

The literature states that, "both males and females first breed as 2 yr olds" (<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>), so it is likely that 2009 was a successful nesting of Buffleheads, either in nest box #1 or perhaps this bird moved to another nest box that season, and 2011 likely represented the hen returning to nest as well as one of its offspring. Whatever occurred in 2009, the result is that persistence paid off and we were able to confirm not only one, but two successful nests of Buffleheads on Horicon Marsh. Further observations will determine whether this species continues to nest on Horicon Marsh or not.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks to all those involved in this effort to confirm this nest record.

First of all, to Jeff Bahls for his effort to check the nest boxes and collect pictures and contents, as well as sharing his extensive knowledge of Wood Duck nesting habits. I also wish to thank Liz Herzmann and Jennifer Wirth for assisting Jeff in checking the nest boxes by canoe. My thanks also go to Jack Bartholmai for his diligence, perserverance, and photographic expertise and also for taking the time and effort to record his observations and experiences in capturing the photographs.

I also wish to thank Linnea Hall, director of the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology, and René Corado, WFVZ Collections Manager, for their efforts in examining the unhatched eggs from the 2009 nesting and also my sincere thanks to Emily Latch and her staff for conducting the DNA testing on the same clutch of eggs, even if we did not get the results we'd hoped for.

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Bill Volkert recently retired as the wildlife educator and naturalist for WDNR at Horicon Marsh where he worked for the past 27 years. In his personal time he enjoys discovering and learning about birds in a wide variety of habitats and in many places around the world. In his 40 years of birding he has sighted 1/4 of the world's birds.

Photo Essay—Activity at a Bufflehead Nest Site on the Horicon Marsh 2011

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Figure 1. A pair of Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*) was observed in the Bachhuber Impoundment in the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area by Bill Volkert, Wildlife Educator/Naturalist for the DNR on the Horicon Marsh in the spring of 2011. [For more detail see article in this issue by William (Bill) Volkert.]



Figure 2. Later in 2011, under the direction of Bill Volkert, Jeff Bahls and Jennifer Wirth checked box #3 in the wetland just south of the Bachhuber Impoundment. Using a small digital camera inserted through the box entrance, they documented a Bufflehead hen sitting on a nest in this box. The next day, 7 June, when the hen was off the nest, the box was opened by Jeff Bahls and nine eggs were counted.



Figure 3. The Bufflehead clutch in box #3 as it was seen after removing the covering of down and shavings.



Figure 4. A blind was set up about 30 feet from box #3 and subsequently a TV camera was placed to peer through a 1.5" hole in the back of the nestbox and then hardwired to a 12 volt TV monitor in the blind.



Figure 5. 12 volt TV monitor in the blind

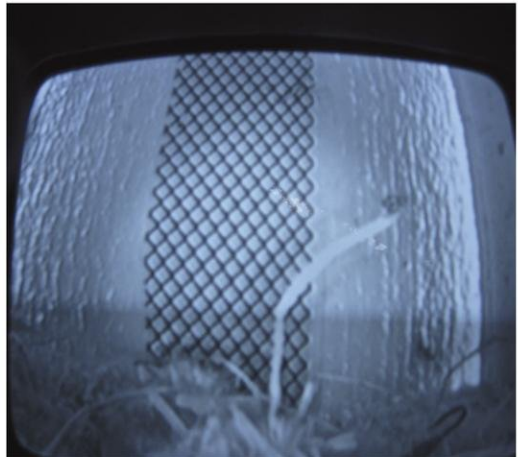


Figure 6. A digital image of the TV screen shows the inside of nestbox #3. The nesting material and mesh ladder to the nestbox entrance/exit can be seen. Digital video images of the activity within the box were also recorded with a "point and shoot" camera.



Figure 7. Using a small digital camera inserted through the nestbox entrance hole, I took a photo of the Bufflehead hen incubating her clutch of eggs. Note the hole behind her where the TV camera is placed. Between 7 and 16 June, the nest was intermittently monitored in the early a.m. and late in the day. The hen was usually on the nest in the morning and off on “recess” in the late afternoon and evening. She generally returned to incubate around 7:30 p.m.



Figure 8. On 16 June 2011 pipping was noted, involving three of the nine eggs. This usually indicates hatching of the clutch within 36 hours, so I no longer approached the nest for digital images through the entrance hole and only monitored from the TV screen within the blind.



Figure 9. A point and shoot camera and a piece of 1.25-inch diameter radiator hose were used (as seen above) to candle eggs in the field. Initial candling was done on 7 June 2011. It suggested development of approximately $23-24 \pm 2$ days. Wood Duck data on embryo development as determined by candling were used for the estimate. The days to hatching are similar (28–32 days) in both species (with extremes of 28–37 days).

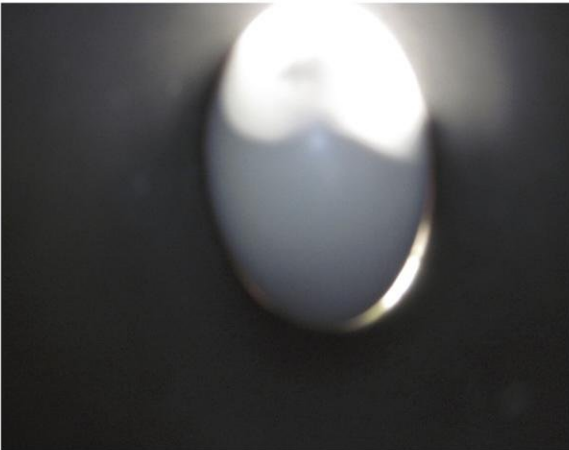


Figure 10. A candled egg on 16 June 2011 demonstrates the shadow of the head of the embryo near the pipping site in the air chamber.



Figure 11. On 18 June 2011 the hen was photographed at about 6:00 p.m. in one of her evening "recesses." This was the day before the ducklings jumped. The drake was not seen during the time of monitoring from 7 to 19 June.



Figures 12, 13, and 14. On the evenings of 17 and 18 June, before the ducklings left the box, the hen made numerous fly-bys and peeks into the box. These 3 (of eight) images, taken over a 1-second interval, demonstrate one of her peeks into the box, presumably checking on the welfare of the young.





Figure 15. The sun was seen rising over the impoundment on 19 June 2011, within view of the Horicon Marsh International Education Center. This was Father's Day, with the drake Bufflehead nowhere in sight; my 46th wedding anniversary with my wife nowhere in sight, but most importantly—it was JUMP DAY! The "Wood Duck" nest box on the right is Box #3 with the Bufflehead and ducklings in it.



Figure 16. The hen Bufflehead sat in the box entrance and surveyed the area from about 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., and then went back into the pandemonium of 9 ducklings playing "ring-around-the-Buffie." Soon the chicks settled down and all was calm in the box. Outside the box it was not calm—a pretty intense thunderstorm was underway with lightning striking close enough to have simultaneous thunder.



Figure 17. During the lull of activity within the box, I decided to photograph the raindrops dancing in the duckweed. The images became poorer and poorer in quality due to the fact that raindrops were splashing off the interior of the 8" lens hood and completely covering the lens with splattered raindrops. I pulled the camera into the blind and cleaned the lens. I was very fortunate to have noticed this disaster before the soon-to-occur "leaping event" got underway. Subsequent images were obtained with the camera lens within the blind rather than protruding into the elements.

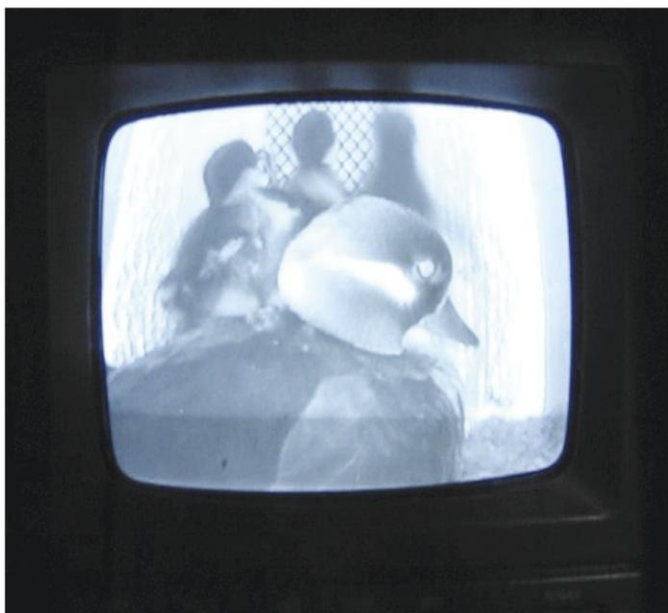


Figure 18. Around 9 a.m. the chicks woke up and were "climbing the walls." The hen made at least three climbs halfway up the mesh ladder to the box opening before finally going to the opening at 9:20 a.m. As the rain intensified, water started running down the inside walls of the blind. Just as the activity of the ducklings began to increase, the TV monitor shorted out, some expletives were muttered, and the "inside story" was over. This is one of the last images taken of the inside activity before the monitor shorted out.



Figure 19. The hen left the box at 9:19 a.m. during the downpour.



Figure 20. The hen landed in the water 10' or 15' from the box, shook the rainwater from her feathers, and then started calling to the young.



Figure 21. Two of nine chicks seen just before leaping at 9:20 a.m.



Figure 22. Bufflehead hen with 1 duckling.



Figure 23. Within five minutes of the hen's leaving the box, seven of the nine young had joined her on the water.



Figure 24. After an additional 15 minutes of waiting and calling, the last two ducklings joined the family. The Bufflehead family was last seen at 9:45 a.m. when it swam out of sight into the wetland vegetation south of the Bachhuber Impoundment. They were not seen during my numerous visits to the impoundment after 19 June. DNR employees had no sightings of this Bufflehead and ducklings through the fall of 2011.

Box #3 history 2011(assuming 30 days of incubations): 10 May—First egg laid; 18 May—Last egg laid; 16 June—Eggs pipping; 17 June—Last day of incubation, eggs hatched; 18 June—Full day of brooding; 19 June—Nine ducklings jump from the nest-box.

At least 15 trips were made to and from the blind for monitoring. I was in the blind at least 22 hours between 7 and 19 June with observation periods of between 15 minutes and 4.5 hours.

Spring in the Marsh

Michael J. Huebschen, Photographer

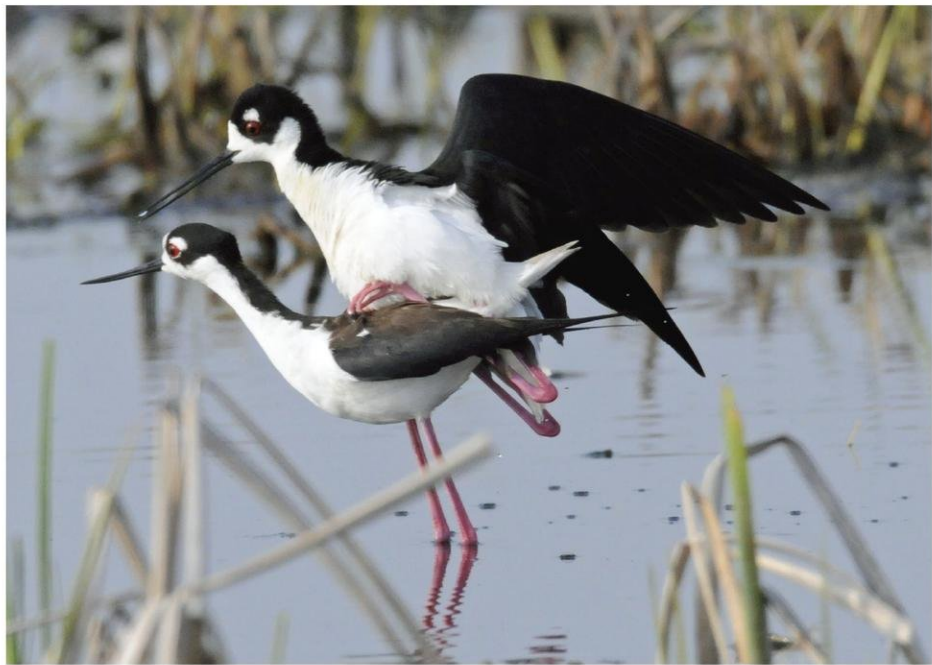
On 11 May 2011, Michael J. Huebschen was birding and taking photographs along Federal Dike Road in Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Dodge County, when he happened upon this pair of Black-necked Stilts. As we know a few pairs have nested in Horicon Marsh for several years now. If you remember your Atlas codes, copulation does not confirm nesting (only a probable code), but it certainly seems likely that 2011 added more Black-necked Stilts to the Wisconsin population of this species. The final two photos were “captured” on 13 May 2011 also along Federal Dike Road.



Figures 1 and 2.
Never hurts to
share a drink or
bit to eat while
courting.







Figures 3 through 7 reveal the agility, balance, and grace involved to begin a new generation of Black-necked Stilts.





Figure 8. A bit of bonding . . .

Figure 9. A bit of preening seems in order.





Figure 10. This photo from 13 May 2011 is a post-bathing wingflap.



Figure 11. Nothing like a tasty leech for lunch.



Red-headed Woodpecker by *Dennis Connell*

Lessons From the Seasons: Spring 2011

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Spring migration 2011—WOW! What a great year for migrating warblers, vireos, and tanagers, as well as many other species. Huge numbers of birds reported by many was reminiscent of the good old days. No leaves to obscure the birds and most of the migrants were at eye level or below. The usual May complaint of warbler neck was nearly absent from birders' vocabulary this year. Rarely-found spring migrants such as White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated and Prairie Warblers, Northern Mockingbird, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-breasted Chats were surprisingly easy to find. Even a megararity, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, with aid from our instant communication, was seen by dozens of birders.

Birder communication sources and social networks glowed with superlatives regarding the joy birders felt. During the late-April through most of May portion of the spring migration, comments such as: the best migration in years; warblers were dripping off the shrubs; as good as the good old days; they were easy to see; what a great migration; and the migration was outstanding, permeated the Net. Birders obviously loved being a birder in the spring of 2011.

The question posed in this lesson—was the best migration in years really good for the birds? The answer is probably somewhere between fair to poor all the way through disaster. Let's look at the effects this past spring's weather may have had on the birds themselves.

To be successful and productive parents, birds must be fit when they arrive on their breeding grounds. They need to be able to defend their territories, attract and court mates, build nests, and avoid predators. They also need to arrive on their breeding grounds in a timely fashion to have their reproductive activities coincide with annual insect hatches, flowering phenology, and fruit development, for example. Less fit individuals will have a much more difficult time meeting these reproductive requirements.

Fitness on the breeding grounds starts with fitness at the end of their time on the wintering grounds. American Redstart reproductive success was directly linked to winter habitat condition (Norris et. al 2004). This winter habitat needs to provide basic nourishment the individual needs to build fat reserves and protein mass prior to onset of migration. If they leave their

winter grounds in suboptimal condition, additional stressors during migration can lead to reduced productivity, simply surviving, or even death.

Migration habitat and food availability can take even a winter fit bird at migration onset and add additional fitness stressors. How successful migrating birds are at satisfying energy demands en route depends in large part on habitat quality (Moore et. al. 1995). Restoration of fat loads is critical to continue the next stage of the migration. Delays resulting in a need to remain at a stopover for days to replenish fat loads could be a make or break situation regarding the critical timing needed for arrival on the breeding territory. Furthermore, the degree of testicular development can be affected by food availability during migration stopovers (Bauchinger et. al 2009).

Limits to habitat quantity or quality can lead to food based competition. Concentration of migrants with similar dietary needs can also lead to increased competition. Migrants that stop when high numbers of competitors are present replenish energy reserves more slowly than migrants that stop under low density conditions (Moore and Yong 1991).

Weather can add another level of stress. Obviously, birders have known this fact for decades. Observations of flattened tanagers by the dozens on roadsides make most birders cringe. Less obvious is the effect of eliminating most desired foraging areas. Spring migrants along the Kickapoo River preferred red and white oaks (Wood and Pidgeon 2011). They tend to focus on the emerging leaves and flowers that hold pollen, nectar, and

the insects that also feed on the pollen and nectar. During extremely cold and wet weather nary a warbler or vireo is found on their preferred foraging niche. Furthermore, some species such as Cape May Warblers will set up and defend localized food sources (Sealy 1988) putting additional energy-tapping requirements on a bird.

In my nearly 40 years of birding, I have witnessed spring 2011-like conditions many times. My experiences have been in many habitats, but the most expressive conditions are apparent in floodplains. During weather-induced stressful migrations, warblers, vireos, tanagers, flycatchers, and others forage within a few feet of the ground. Especially conspicuous is foraging next to or over ephemeral ponds. Water does not fluctuate as dramatically as land, thus insect hatches appear more consistent providing some sustenance for the migrants. This food source may or may not provide the necessary fat resources leading to successful breeding. More research is necessary.

What we do know is that stopover habitat is very important for successful reproduction of our migrant birds. We also know habitat quality and diversity are important. WSO birders can help by attaining knowledge of the importance of stopover habitat and supporting programs focusing on this habitat. WDNR has a Wisconsin Stopover Initiative and information can be found at www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/. Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory grounds near Belgium have habitat management and educational programs on stopover habitat. They can be reached at www.wglbbo.org.

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Common Nighthawk at rest *by David Lund*



Singing Eastern Meadowlark *by Dennis Connell*

The Spring Season: 2011

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It could generally be said that Spring 2011 was colder, wetter, and windier than normal. But as is the case every year, despite conditions, the motivation for the birds to “get wherever they are going” drives some still to arrive early and others to alter their courses. This principle was demonstrated by early Dunlin, Broad-winged Hawk, Barn Swallow, Northern Parula, and Henslow’s Sparrow, as well as, vagrant Eared Grebes (incredible numbers), Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Bullock’s Oriole.

March began with many over-wintering waterfowl species and hardy passerines present in the southern tier of the state and it promptly saw the return of Turkey Vultures, Sandhill Cranes, and Killdeer. Mid-late month produced eagle migration in Bayfield County along with big snowstorms. Daryl Tessen reported birds desperate for food after 8” of snow on 23 March in Appleton. This weather event was followed by a return to January-like temperatures.

While April kicked off with the first reports of Yellow-rumped Warblers in the south, winter continued to hold its grip on the Northwoods. Ryan Brady noted that while Red-winged Blackbirds were establishing territories,

American Woodcock were displaying, and Ruffed Grouse were drumming, seasonal phenology was running way behind that of 2010 and he felt probably slightly later than the recent 10-year average. End of the first week in April saw the return of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, and Tree Swallows to Ashland County with Dark-eyed Juncos reaching peak numbers there around the 13th. On 10 April, Tessen reported that a brief warming period was followed by tornadic activity and then, another snowstorm! This weather pattern helped Appleton achieve its second highest amount of precipitation ever. It was this short warm-up that created an interesting period of relative bird “distributional equilibrium” between the northern and southern counties. The short-distance migrants had been allowed the chance to work into the Northwoods, while many of the neotropical migrants had not reached the southern border counties yet. By the end of April, Paul Risch still found many inches of snow remaining in Taylor and adjacent counties. In Jefferson County, Karen Etter Hale summed up April as a month with one third of the days producing rain, or high winds, or both.

May started strong in the southern counties, including a 23-warbler day on 1 May for Steve Lubahn in Milwaukee County. However, a day or two later, the weather changed for the worse and large concentrations of swallows were found swarming over water bodies in the southern counties. Then, bird watchers began sending messages to the Wisbirdnet asking: "where are the migrants?" Around that same time, Steve and Laura LaValley were noting a delayed leafout of willow and aspen trees in Douglas County. Saturday, 14 May was a special day for the southern counties. An extreme cool down resulted in many birds being quite literally "grounded," where observers could see large concentrations of birds at eye-level or below. Tom Schaefer referred to the birds in Washington County as "lawn ornaments" after strong north winds and the chilly temperatures had them foraging on the ground. Consistently warmer days finally arrived the second half of May in the Northwoods with Risch reporting a few 70 degree days, followed by the LaValleys who saw their first significant warbler movement on 22 May. Just as the faucet was turned on up north, Mike McDowell noted diminishing numbers at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County. His peak was 25 warbler species on 15 May and by 20 May his number had already dropped to 8. The eBird database reveals that reporting frequency and abundance was significantly higher for many warbler species vs. years 2007–2010. This may have been due to the delayed leafout, as well as cool weather concentrating migrants lower at more readily seen levels.

DATA AND STATISTICS

Data are primarily derived from eBird. EBird is, simply put, the best way to contribute observations. From a contributor's point of view, submission of data is easy. From a field note compiler's point of view, eBird uses rigorous data filters combined with personal review of exceptional observations by a team of Wisconsin bird experts. This provides a high level of "quality control" for the data. Other sources utilized include paper county reports (either hand-written or computer generated WSO forms), May Day Count forms, WSO Short and Long Forms, rare Wisbirdnet messages, and the occasional personal note sent to the compiler directly. If you are wondering why your special sighting of an asterisk bird (*) is not contained in the report, there's a good chance you said little or nothing about the observation either in eBird or on a paper form that was submitted. In the case of eBird, while its filters are excellent, they may not flag a (*) species in every situation, so it is important to understand the significance of your sighting (this goes for early arriving birds too) and document it by adding observational notes.

The species total for the season was 318, which is considerably above average. Interesting species, such as, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Swainson's Hawk, Curlew Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager, Great-tailed Grackle, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow all helped to bolster this total.



THE ACCOUNTS

The following species were **not** included: Canada Goose, Mallard, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Symbols and Terms used:

* = Species requiring a Short Form

to be submitted to WSO or details to be entered directly into the eBird database for review by the field note compiler.

** = Species requiring a Long Form to be submitted for consideration by the WSO Records Committee.

record cut-off date = a threshold date chosen by Bob Domagalski which distinguishes the normal arrival/departure dates from exceptional records (access the Early/Late Records list by visiting the WSO web-

page and looking under "Report Sightings").

eBird abundance = line graphs show the average number of birds reported on all checklists within a specified date, range, and region.

eBird average count = line graphs show the average number of birds seen on checklists with a positive observation.

eBird frequency = line graphs show percentage of checklists reporting the species within a specified date, range, and region.

atlas = The WSO Atlas of Breeding Birds of Wisconsin (Cutright et al. 2006) censused the counties of the entire state for breeding bird activity.

Abbreviations used:

BOP = beginning of period (1 March); EOP = end of period (31 May); FBMP = Forest Beach Migratory Preserve; m. obs. = multiple observers; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; PBC = Pheasant Branch Conservancy; SANC = Schlitz Audubon Nature Center; SF = State Forest; SNA = State Natural Area; SP = State Park; SWA = State Wildlife Area; TTP = throughout the period; unk. obs. = unknown observer; WA = Wildlife Area; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; WSO = Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

REPORTS

(1 MARCH–31 MAY 2011)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck**—Prior to this season, there were only six other records of this species in the state. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports" for details on this rarity seen in Chippewa County.

Greater White-fronted Goose—Observed during the first week of the period in Dane, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Rock, Sauk,

and Walworth Counties. They later showed up in a number of eastern counties including Florence, Manitowoc, Marinette, and Sheboygan. The Marinette location was also the site of the last seasonal observation 28–29 April (Kavanaghs, Swelstad). The high count was 540 reported by Thiessen in Dane 18 March.

Snow Goose—First reported 2 March from Des Plaines River in Kenosha County (m. obs.) and Manitowoc Impoundment in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Seen later during the first week of period in Dane and Dodge Counties. Thirty birds were seen during a WSO field trip 19 March in Columbia County. Final reports came 18 May in Dodge (Romano) and Manitowoc (Sontag), 21 May during the Milwaukee/Ozaukee County May Day count, and 22 May at the Sheboygan County May Day count (Triebensee).

Ross's Goose*—The first county reports which provided documentation are listed in chronological order: 4 March in Dane on Yahara River (Thiessen), 6 March in Dodge (Fissel), 10 March in Racine at Nicholson Wildlife Refuge (Gustafson), 14 March in Manitowoc at Collin's Marsh (Domagalski), 16 March in Waukesha (Gustafson), 17 March in Brown at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary (Schilke), 18 March in Columbia (Fissel), 31 March in Sheboygan (Frank), 2 April photographed in Wood County (Gold), 18 April photographed in Ashland at Maslowski Beach (m. obs.) and 12 May in Bayfield at Thompson's West End Park (Bruhnke). Observations of this species beyond early May are record-worthy and the Bayfield bird (Fig. 1), which lingered until 26 May (Brady), as well as, a bird in Manitowoc (18 May, Sontag) were officially accepted into the records, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." A written account by T. Wood of the 9 bird high count in Dane 19 March can be found in "By the Wayside."

Cackling Goose—Seen during the first week of the period in 7 counties, north to Winnebago (the Tricks). A maximum of 75 individuals was found 29 March in Columbia County along Harvey Road (m. obs.). Final reports came from Calumet County 23 April (Evanson), Florence County 25 April (Kavanaghs), and Marathon County 1 May (Hoeft).

Mute Swan—With the exception of reports from Ashland, Bayfield, and Marathon Counties, most birds were seen southeast of a line that could be drawn from Grant to Winnebago Counties. The largest gatherings of this

species occurred in Door County at Washington Island 17 April (41 birds, Siebel) and in Racine County 28 May at Tichigan SWA (21 birds, Winze).

Trumpeter Swan—Reported during the first week of period in Barron, Dane, Polk, Racine, Sauk, St. Croix, and Winnebago Counties. St. Croix was also the location of the season's high count, 95 birds, on 5 March (Persico).

Tundra Swan—BOP in Winnebago County (Bruce, Tessen). Next reported in Grant County at Potosi Landing 11 March (Peck). Richmond saw 1,000 birds 9-11 April in Langlade County. Other high totals were 700 in Vernon County 26 March (Jackson) and 600 in Winnebago 24 March (Ziebell). The final reports originated from Bayfield County (4 birds on 22 May, Anich) and Marinette County (1 bird on 26 May, Bridge).

Wood Duck—Possible over-wintering birds were present at or near BOP in eight counties, north to Winnebago. Seventy-four birds were seen 1 April in Racine County at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge (Howe).

Gadwall—Birds were present at or near BOP in Dane, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Rock, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. A. Holschbach discovered 143 at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County 18 March. EOP in the counties of Bayfield, Dodge, Outagamie, and Winnebago.

Eurasian Wigeon**—This exciting report 12-14 May from Bayfield County (Fig. 2) is detailed in "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports."

American Wigeon—Single-digit numbers of the species could be found end of the first week of the period in Dane, Kenosha, and Rock Counties. Counts ranging from 74-95 birds came from Bayfield County 13 April (Anich), Manitowoc County 22 April (Domagalski), and Sauk County 18 March (A. Holschbach). Observed during the last week of the period in Bayfield, Columbia, Dodge, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties.

American Black Duck—Found around the state at BOP, north to Ashland County (Anich). No high counts exceeded 23 birds other than Swelstad's report of 120 birds from Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Brown County 27 March.

American Black Duck × Mallard—Hybrids were reported from the following counties: Ashland (13 May, Krerowicz), Bayfield (30 May, Anich), Brown (3 March, Batterman), Dane (12 March, Prestby), and Portage (2 April and 7 May, Pendergast).

Blue-winged Teal—First reported in Dane County 12 March (m. obs.) followed by reports from Racine and Sauk Counties 17 March. On 23 April at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County 280 birds were counted (Herrmann).

Northern Shoveler—Present during the first week of period in seven southeastern counties. Counts of 115 and 110 were seen 2 April in Racine County (Willard) and 27 March in Dane County (Paulios), respectively. EOP in Ashland, Bayfield, Dodge, Door, Outagamie, Portage, St. Croix, and Winnebago Counties.

Northern Pintail—The first three days of the period produced reports from Dane, Jefferson, and Sauk Counties. Seen north to Bayfield County (Oksiuta) by 15 March. The high count was 130 birds in Portage County 11 April (Prestby). Pendergast and Schaufenbuel's EOP observation in Portage is interesting because it is not a county the species was detected in during the atlas.

Green-winged Teal—First seen by Schwarz 7 March in Dane County. Next discovered by Pugh in Racine County 11 March and the following day by new observers in Milwaukee and Rock Counties. Collin's Marsh in Manitowoc County was the site of the season's high count, 480 birds, on 12 April (Domagalski). The species was found during the last week of the period in four counties that did not report them during the atlas: Green Lake, Jefferson, Marquette, and Waukesha.

Canvasback—BOP in Dane, Door, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Racine Counties. Noteworthy tallies were of 1,100 in Winnebago County 22 April (Ziebell) and 1,000 in Vernon County 17 March (Jackson). Final county reports came from Trempealeau 13 May (m. obs.) and Ozaukee 21 May (Frank). Found TTP in Winnebago (Ziebell).

Redhead—BOP in eight counties, including Door, Manitowoc, and Winnebago. Belter counted 500 on Lake Wausau in Marathon County 10 April. EOP in six counties, three of which (Ashland, Bayfield, and Marathon) were not recorded during atlas work.

Ring-necked Duck—Seen in nine southern counties during the first week of period. High counts of 950 and 550 birds originated from Sauk County 21 March (A. Holschbach) and Dane County 17 March (Paulios), respectively. Seen in counties consistent with atlas work near EOP, with the exception of Betchkal's 23 May report from Dodge.

Greater Scaup—Each early reporting county, except for Dane and Winnebago, was located along Lake Michigan. Mueller's 3,500 birds in Milwaukee County 7 March and Domagalski's 1,700 birds at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County 16 March were the highest totals. Present EOP in Ashland, Bayfield, Manitowoc, and Ozaukee Counties.

Lesser Scaup—The first week of the period produced reports in counties southeast of a line from Vernon to Brown Counties. The highest concentrations of this species were found mid-late March, with a whopping 8,000 seen in Vernon County 26 March (Jackson). EOP in Ashland, Bayfield, Manitowoc, Marathon, and Winnebago Counties.

Scaup sp.—Paulios conservatively counted 3,000 birds at Riverside Park in Winnebago County 2 April. That day, in the same county, Tessen estimated 15,000+ ducks, consisting of 90% Scaup sp.

Harlequin Duck*—An over-wintering female was seen BOP through 23 April by many observers. Of the numerous observers, only Fissel, Schultz, Thiessen, and T. Wood provided observational details.

Surf Scoter—The seven county reports came from Bayfield 23 May (Anich, Oksiuta), Douglas 23 May (Tessen), Manitowoc 12 April–3 May (Domagalski, Tessen), Milwaukee 2–3 April (m. obs.), Oneida 12–19 April (Prestby), Racine 29 April (m.obs.), and Sheboygan 10 March–19 May. The Racine report was also the site of the 12 bird seasonal high count.

White-winged Scoter—The nine county reports consisted of sightings in Bayfield 13 May (Krerowicz), Kewaunee 10–14 March (Sinkula, Tessen), La Crosse 20 April (Jackson), Manitowoc 1–13 March (Sontag, Tessen), Marathon 5–17 May (Belter), Milwaukee at Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment 6 March (m. obs.) and South Shore Yacht Club 7–13 March (m. obs.), Ozaukee at Harrington Beach SP 13 March–12 April (m. obs.), Racine 14 March–13 May (m. obs.), and Sheboygan 13 March during

a WSO field trip. The season's highest number, 8 birds, was discovered in Ozaukee 31 March (Frank).

Black Scoter—Seven counties hosted the species, including Bayfield 22–23 May (m. obs.), Columbia 7 April (Prestby), Douglas 23 May (Tessen), Manitowoc 1–3 May (Domagalski, Sontag), Milwaukee 7 March–3 April (m. obs.), Ozaukee 23 April (Schaefer), and Racine 13 May on a County Big Day outing (m. obs.). Sontag observed 7 birds 1 May in Manitowoc.

Long-tailed Duck—The sole inland report came from Sauk County 25 April (A. Holschbach). Other than that, only reported from the Lake Michigan counties of Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan. Frank counted 105 birds on 31 March in Sheboygan County. A relatively late final report came from Kewaunee County 24 May (Sinkula).

Bufflehead—Found bobbing in the waters of Lake Michigan, as well as in seven southern inland counties during the first week of period. Reported 1 April from Allouez Bay in Douglas County (Svingen). Counts of 200–260 birds were found in Dane, Marathon, and Winnebago Counties during the 10–30 April time period. Reported EOP in Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

Common Goldeneye—Found BOP around the state, north to Ashland (Lewis) and Florence Counties (Kavanaghs). The highest counts of the season were 1,200 in Winnebago County 2 April (Paulios) and 825 in Manitowoc County 3 March (Sontag). Reports during the last week of the period originated in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Outagamie, Ozaukee, and Wau-paca Counties.

Barrow's Goldeneye**—One adult male (Fig. 3) was documented in Bayfield County 5–9 April by Anich, Brady, and Oksiuta. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports."

Hooded Merganser—BOP in Barron (Carlsen), Dane, Racine, and Waukesha Counties. Found in Lincoln County 12 March (Nemec). Lake Wausau in Marathon County was the site of the 100 bird high count 6 April (Belter).

Common Merganser—Present in eleven counties at or near BOP, north to Bayfield (Nemec) and Florence (12 birds, K. Kavanagh). On 31 March, 1,000 birds were observed on

Lake Onalaska in La Crosse County (Jackson). Counts of 550 birds came from Dane County 1 March (Paulios) and Vernon County 26 March (Jackson). Other than single birds reported in Dodge (DeBruine) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Counties, all end-of-season reports were from expected locations.

Red-breasted Merganser—TTP in Door, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties. Also present in Racine and Rock Counties during the first week of period. Field trip goes at the SANC in Milwaukee County 7 March tallied 1,000 birds.

Ruddy Duck—Small numbers were seen in Dane, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Rock, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties at or near BOP. Began to filter into the Northwoods 9 April when they were reported in Burnett and Polk Counties. Lake Maria in Green Lake County sheltered 950 birds 17 April (Grgic, Schroeder). EOP in Ashland, Dodge, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties.

Northern Bobwhite—Origin of these reported birds is always vexing (wild vs. released?). Single birds were found in Crawford County 12 April (Sandstrom), Waukesha County 24 April (Szymczak) and 30 May (Gustafson), and Winnebago County during May Day Count on the 21st.

Gray Partridge—The only report, of 2 birds, originated from Dane County 8 March (Batterman).

Ring-necked Pheasant—Seven bird totals came from both Dodge County 12 April (Schneider) and Polk County 8 May (Maercklein).

Ruffed Grouse—Breeding survey high counts of 15-16 birds were generated from the efforts of Brady in Ashland County 29 April and the Kavanaghs in Florence County 25 April. The far southeastern part of the state remained devoid of the species.

Spruce Grouse*—Anich and Prestby did extensive surveys for the species and documented their observations in Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Oneida, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties throughout the season. Anich's highest count, 8 birds, consisted of 5 collared and 3 uncollared individuals 28 March in Vilas County.

Sharp-tailed Grouse—Observations during the season included county reports from Bayfield 9–24 April (Oksiuta), Burnett 16

April–23 May (m. obs.), Douglas 6 April–24 May (LaValley, Tessen), Price 24 April (Krakowski), and Vilas 21 May (NLDC). The 7 birds tallied 6 April in Douglas were the most seen (LaValley).

Greater Prairie-Chicken—County high counts reported during the season were 20 birds at the Flaig Farm 12 April in Portage (Wilson) and 12 birds at Mead SWA 1 April in Marathon (Belter).

Wild Turkey—Found statewide, with groups of 60 or more reported from Dane, Langlade, and Rock Counties.

Red-throated Loon—Bob Domagalski's current record arrival cut-off date for this species is 12 March (for an explanation of what this means, see "The Accounts—Terms and Symbols used"). Single early county birds were seen beginning 7 March in Milwaukee (Frank), next on 10 March from Ozaukee (Mooney), and then, 12 March in Sheboygan (Grgic). Other county reports came from Manitowoc and Racine Counties, plus the final reports 22–23 May in Douglas (Tessen). The high count was 4 birds seen in Sheboygan County on both 31 March (Frank) and 12 April (Tessen).

Pacific Loon**—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports" for details about an individual reported 20 April–3 May on Lake Monona in Dane County (Fig. 4).

Common Loon—First reported 18 March in Waukesha County (Szymczak) and the following day in Kenosha County (Hoffmann). Then from 21–23 March the species showed up in four additional counties. Arrived in Florence County 6 April (Kavanaghs). A concentration of 92 birds was discovered 3 April on Lake Kegonsa in Dane County (Thiessen). Other than a report from Jefferson County 30 May (Stutz), the species was found in expected counties at end of period.

Pied-billed Grebe—Arrived in Fond du Lac, Racine, Rock, and Waukesha Counties during the first week of period. Lake Farm County Park in Dane County was the site of the highest count, 100 birds, 7 April (Schwarz) and 81 birds were reported on Little Muskego Lake in Waukesha 6 April (Gustafson).

Horned Grebe—Was seen in Dane, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties during the first week of the period. Made its way into Marathon County 10 April (Belter). Ziebell tallied 136 birds in Winnebago County 20 April

and Lake Monona in Dane hosted 130 birds on 21 April (Schilke). Of the other high counts from the season, all were less than half of those numbers. Last observed 21 May in Fond du Lac (Schultz) and Sauk Counties (m. obs.).

Red-necked Grebe—The first county report consisted of 3 birds seen 10 April in Portage (Schaufenbuel). Noted the following day in Barron County (Carlsen) and 12 April at the Schoeneberg Marsh in Columbia County (Otto) where there are past breeding records. The following day Anich found one bird in Bayfield County at the Ashland-Long Bridge, which also was the location of the second highest total of birds (16) discovered during the season (28 April, Brady). Two birds returned to Beaver Dam Marsh in Waukesha County (Szymczak) 21 April where nesting attempts occurred later in the year. On 23 April Belter counted 9 birds on Lake Wausau in Marathon County. The high count of the season was 19 migrating birds on 28 April in Douglas County (Richmond). The season was rounded out with new counties added 29 April in Green Lake on Lake Maria (Bontly), 5 May in Burnett (Haseleu), 7 May in Oneida (Prestby), and finally on the 21st during the May Day Count in Winnebago.

Eared Grebe*—A phenomenal year for the species (Figures 5 and 6), perhaps the result of drought in the western part of the country. Contributors heeded solicitations for documentation by providing written details or photographic evidence for eighteen counties. Surprisingly, despite the large number of birds seen during the season, there was only one record early arrival date. Weber reported an individual in Milwaukee County 1 April at the metro pier in Oak Creek. The flurry of reports began 21 April in Columbia County where Otto and Tessen found a bird at Schoeneberg Marsh. On 23 April Dane (5 birds; Long, E. Wood), Manitowoc (2 birds, m. obs.), and Winnebago Counties (Fissel) were added. Eagle Lake in Racine County hosted the high count, 10 birds, on 1 May (DeBoer; documented by Dixon and Wenzel). Details were supplied for the following additional counties: Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, Marathon, Ozaukee, Portage, Sauk, Washington, and Waukesha. Plus, the last two reports, from Iron County 22 May (Brandt) and Dunn County at Dummer's Pond 30 May (Polk).

Western Grebe*—Domagalski and Sontag were able to obtain excellent scope views 8 March at the Manitowoc Harbor in Manitowoc County while they observed an individual 300 ft away. On 12 May WSO Convention field trip

participants observed an individual at the Trempealeau NWR in its namesake county. Lastly, 3 birds were photo-documented (Fig. 7) on Spirit Lake in Burnett County 29 May (Java).

Double-crested Cormorant—BOP in Brown and Winnebago Counties. Next appeared in Columbia and Dodge Counties 19 March. High numbers of the species were noted after mid-April when Ziebell counted 1,650 in Winnebago 22 April and Tessen counted "thousands" in the same county 28 April. A total of 650 birds was reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County 17 April.

American White Pelican—BOP in Brown County. Seen 11 March in La Crosse County (Jackson) and the following day in Winnebago County (Gyllenhaal). Not surprisingly, the biggest totals were posted from the aforementioned counties of La Crosse and Brown, where 400 (31 March, Jackson) and 300 (27 April, Swelstad) birds were seen, respectively.

American Bittern—Reported 7 April from Taylor County (Risch) and 9 April in Waukesha County (Mertins). Over the next several days, four additional counties were added, including Ashland, where Anich heard a bird calling 12 April. Crex Meadows in Burnett County produced 15–20 bird totals 7–21 May (Anderson, Paulios). Twelve birds were counted 21 May on Winnebago County's May Day count and 10 birds found 11 May at Collin's Marsh in Manitowoc County (Domagalski).

Least Bittern—Reported in eleven counties. Hansen reported the first bird 1 May at Lake Park in Milwaukee County. Next seen in Dodge County at Horicon Marsh NWR 3 May (Schnieder) and 13 May at Wind Point in Racine County (m. obs.). All reports were of single birds during the season, except the 3 found 7 May at Horicon Marsh NWR (Goodman) and the 5 reported during the May Day count on the 21st in Winnebago County. This species is much less common in the northwestern part of the state, so a report from Burnett County 25 May (Tessen) was significant. The last previous Burnett spring season report was in 2009.

Great Blue Heron—BOP around the southern part of the state, north to Outagamie County (Kloepfing). Made first appearance in Bayfield County 5 April (Brady) and Florence County 9 April (Kavanagh). The highest rookery numbers came from St. Croix County (120 birds, Collins), Lake Wausau in Marathon County (100 birds, Belter), Nicholson Wildlife

Refuge in Racine County (42 birds, Howe), and from Rusk County (40 birds, Adair).

Great Egret—Reported in March from Trempealeau (22nd, Romano) and La Crosse Counties (26th, Puchalski). Next seen 3 April in Dane County (McDowell, Thiessen). Added in four additional counties by the end of first week of April. Seventy birds were tallied in Buffalo County 9 May (Romano) and 85 birds in Winnebago County 21 May during a May Day count. A bird found 11 May in Oneida County (Prestby) was noteworthy, as well as an individual located all the way up in Bayfield County 24 April (Mackreth), which remained there until 1 May (Rundell).

Snowy Egret—Fissel described a bird seen at Nine Springs in Dane County 4 May.

Cattle Egret—Dixon found a bird 22 April in Racine County. Another bird was observed 3-13 May in Dodge County (Frank, Sinkula). Ziebell, who counted 8 birds 13 May in Winnebago County, also noted their presence EOP.

Green Heron—Found 6 April in Walworth County (Karow) and on 9 April in Milwaukee County (Boyle). Over the next week, new reports came from Dane, Douglas (LaValleys), Jefferson, Trempealeau, and Waukesha Counties. As usual, high counts were in the single digits.

Black-crowned Night-Heron—Boyle found 5 birds in the Juneau Lagoon 8 April in Milwaukee County. Next reported 16 April in Dane County (Jakoubek) and then 21 April from Winnebago County (Ziebell) where the season's high count, 60 individuals, was tallied 16 May. All reporting counties fit the distribution established by the atlas, except for Burnett, where a bird was seen on a 23 May count. Sightings from the northwest are uncommon.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*—Capobianco reported one adult at a pond in Dane County 28 April.

White-faced Ibis**—Reports from Dodge (Fig. 8), Dunn, and Waukesha Counties were accepted this year, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Read Polk's documentation in "By the Wayside" of the individual she and her daughter saw in Dunn.

Turkey Vulture—Seen in Dane, Jefferson, Marquette, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties during the first week of period. Ford observed their return to Door

County on 12 March, while migrants had progressed north to Florence County by 30 March (K. Kavanagh). Arrived in Ashland County 2 April (Oksiuta).

Osprey—Appearance noted on 2 April in La Crosse, Milwaukee, Portage, Rock, and Trempealeau Counties. The Portage observation was of two birds already building a nest. Southern reports during the last week of the period came from Ozaukee and Waukesha Counties.

Bald Eagle—Scattered reports around the state BOP, north to Douglas (LaValley) and Vilas Counties (Baughman). Puchalski counted 200 birds at Trempealeau NWR 2 April in Trempealeau County. Oksiuta counted at least 50 migrating over the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Bayfield County 15-16 March. Several interesting observations were made of individual birds outside of the established distribution norms at or near EOP. These county reports came from Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge (Schroeder), Zeloski Marsh in Jefferson (Kolath), Pike Lake in Washington (Schaefer), and at both Vernon Marsh and Big Muskego Lake in Waukesha (Gustafson).

Northern Harrier—Seen in nine counties during the first week of period, north to Portage (DeRubeis). Observed 12 March at Grex Meadows in Burnett County (Java). The team of Prestby, Schilke, and Yoerger tallied 14 birds in Adams County 20 March.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—Presence was scattered around the state BOP. While it is difficult to "tease out" the onset of migration for this species, reports of multiple birds began on 9 April when Brady noted 3 birds in Bayfield County. The following day, 3 birds were seen in Ozaukee County (m. obs.). A count maximum of 15 birds was reached 2 May in Manitowoc County (Domagalski) and 8 May in Bayfield (Brady). Mooney saw an individual 30 May at Havenwoods SF in Milwaukee County.

Cooper's Hawk—23 April represented the best migration day for the species, with a combined total of 12 birds tallied in Racine County from two locations (m. obs.) and 4 birds counted in Ozaukee County at FBMP (Schaefer).

Northern Goshawk—TTP in Door County (Lukes). Documented 16 March-19 May in Florence County (Kavanagh). Reported in Marathon County 20 March (Hoeft). A juvenile was seen on 30 March in Vilas County (Anich).

Only two reports were of multiple birds: 25 April in Ashland County when Brady saw one adult and one first-spring bird in juvenile plumage and EOP in Vilas when Baughman found one downy chick in a nest guarded by an agitated adult.

Red-shouldered Hawk—County reports during the first week of period came from La Crosse, Trempealeau, Waukesha, and Winnebago. Additional reports originated in Polk, Racine, Sheboygan, and Washington Counties by mid-March. Richmond's official survey route in Menominee County 18 April yielded 6 birds.

Broad-winged Hawk—Observations of this species prior to mid-April have historically been questioned. With this standard in mind, Fissel (10 April, Dane County) and Schaefer (11 April, Washington County) submitted their observations to the WSO, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Early season high counts (> 15 birds) occurred within the 24 April–8 May date range. Domagalski recorded 181 birds over Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County on 28 April and 45 birds were counted by Paulios in Waushara County 24 April.

Swainson's Hawk**—Two early May reports from Jefferson and Sauk Counties were approved. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Read "By the Wayside" for A. Holschbach's description of two birds found in Sauk.

Rough-legged Hawk—Was present early in the period in over a dozen counties, north to Door (Lukes) and Dunn (P. Campbell). Eleven birds were found around Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County 6 March (Oksiuta). The season high count, 14 birds, was tallied 20 March in Adams County at the Leola Marsh WA (m. obs.). The final observations of the season broke down along the following timeline: 15 May in Manitowoc County (Domagalski), 16 May in Adams (Yoerger), 18 May at Buena Vista in Portage (m. obs.), and 20 May in Douglas County (LaValley).

Golden Eagle—Reports came in from six counties. Epstein monitored an adult in Monroe County BOP–8 March. Jackson observed a first-year bird in La Crosse County 11 March. Birds were noted in Bayfield County 11 March–19 March (m. obs.), including the 4 individuals seen 15–16 March, which comprised the high count. A single bird was noted in Trempealeau County at the NWR 17 March–2 April (m. obs.) and Mueller saw an adult over the FBMP in

Ozaukee County 5 April. The final sighting came 15 May when Zellmer photographed an immature bird (Fig. 9) over the Sandhill SWA in Wood County.

American Kestrel—Found in many counties over the southern half of the state early to mid-March. By May, birds were found north to Bayfield, Florence, and Iron Counties. Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County again provided territories for the seasonal high count, 12 birds.

Merlin—23 April was the "magic day" for migration, when 6 birds were counted at FBMP in Ozaukee County (Schaefer) and 5 birds in Racine County at Cliffside Park (m. obs.). A couple of observations at or near EOP were interesting by atlas standards, including 1 bird in Adams County 25 May (Schaufenbuel) and actual EOP in Langlade (Richmond) and Winnebago Counties (Bruce).

Peregrine Falcon—Greg Septon writes an outstanding nesting season report for this species every year. Visit www.we-energies.com/environmental/peregrine_falcons.htm and look under "Nesting Reports" for his photographs and updates.

King Rail*—Reported from Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County 6–23 May (Fissel, Gustafson, Tessen). Gustafson's 6 March report was of two separate individuals heard. Kemp made an interesting report of a probable bird at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County 7 May.

Virginia Rail—Howe heard 2 birds on 8 April in Walworth County. Paulios heard 2 birds in Dane County 11 April, the same day that Abert found a deceased bird while walking the Grant Park golf course in Milwaukee County. Additional county reports occurred the following day in Manitowoc, Waukesha, and Winnebago. High counts of 13 birds were tallied in Dodge County 6 May (Gustafson) and Winnebago County 21 May.

Sora—Seen statewide over the course of the season. Gustafson observed a bird running through cattails 7 April in Waukesha County and Jakoubek found 2 birds at Nine Springs in Dane County 10 April. Over the next several days, birds showed up in Dodge, Vernon, and Winnebago Counties. Fewer than in 2010, 88 individuals were counted in Winnebago during the May Day count on 21 May. Lesser numbers, 18–20 birds, were found in Dane, Dodge, and Waukesha Counties.

Common Gallinule—Simultaneous arrival 4 May in Dane (Kreitingner) and Dodge Counties (Olson). The next observation, one bird perched up in a tree over a ravine, came from Mooney at Lake Park in Milwaukee County 11 May. Other reports during the season came from Columbia, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Outagamie, Portage, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. Not surprisingly, the 6 bird high count was reported from Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge.

American Coot—TTP in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Well distributed early in the season throughout the southeastern section of the state, the species eventually advanced to the northernmost counties. While not found in Burnett (Haseleu) or Trempealeau Counties (Epstein) during atlas work, the species was present the last week of the period this season. Just as in 2010, the highest concentrations were found at Bakken's Pond in Sauk County, with Holschbach reporting 2,600 birds on 8 April.

Sandhill Crane—Already present BOP in Dane, Jefferson, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Walworth, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. Returned to Taylor County 10 March (Risch) and continued to advance north, arriving in Florence and Bayfield Counties on 16 March and 2 April, respectively. High counts of 400 birds were seen in Waushara County 2–24 April (Mueller, Paulios) and 330 birds were counted 14 March in Waukesha (Szymczak).

Whooping Crane—All reports originated from within the triangular area comprised of Buffalo and Dunn Counties to the west and extending east to Marathon County and then south to Dane County.

Black-bellied Plover—Reported in seventeen counties. Found relatively early on 23 April in Kenosha County (Hoffmann). Next seen 29 April in Manitowoc County (Sontag) and the following day in La Crosse County (Puchalski). Not reported again until a Big Day 13 May in Racine County (m. obs.). Frank counted 11 birds 21 May at Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County. EOP in Ashland County (Brady).

American Golden-Plover—Only reported in six counties, beginning with Columbia (Tessen) and Kenosha (Hoffmann) on 21 and 23 April, respectively. Hoffmann's report was also the maximum number reported, 17 birds. Not seen again until 28 April by Domagalski in Manitowoc County. Additional high counts of 8 individuals occurred on 2 and 22 May in Dodge County (Romano, Schaefer). Last reported in

Douglas County 23 May (Tessen). Portage was the only other county to report during the season.

Semipalmated Plover—The sole April report came on the 24th from Dane County (Schwarz). One had to wait until 2 May when another sighting occurred in Manitowoc County (Grgic, Schroeder). Simultaneous arrival 4 May in Sheboygan and Waukesha Counties. Gustafson counted 15 birds on 26 May in Waukesha. Single digit numbers were still being reported as of 30 May in Bayfield and Dodge Counties.

Piping Plover*—The cut-off date for early arrival records is currently 25 April. Dixon and Wenzel submitted documentation for 3 birds observed 24 April at Meyer's Park in Racine County. There are only five observation dates that are earlier. Howe and Korducki (see "By the Wayside") reported an individual 3 May at North Beach in Racine. The only other observation (2 birds) came from Ashland County 17 May (J. Trick).

Killdeer—Seen near the beginning of period in Dane, Grant, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Sauk, and Waukesha Counties. Found in Taylor County 12 March (Risch), Florence County 21 March (Kavanaghs), Vilas County 28 March (Anich), and finally in Ashland and Bayfield Counties 5 April (Anich and Brady). Schaefer counted 46 in Washington County 23 March, while Domagalski (Manitowoc County) and Bahls (Door County) had totals of 24 birds on 12 April and 28 May, respectively.

Black-necked Stilt**—Except for one record date listed merely as "April 1847", all others are 15 April or later. T. Wood documented the early arrival of this species on 11 April at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County. Gustafson noted a total of 6 birds present by 23 May. (See cover photo and photo essay, "Spring in the Marsh") The only other county report came from Paulios in Columbia 16 April. (Note: The Records Committee decided not to review this species due to increasing frequency and ease of identification.)

American Avocet—On 24 April, single birds were seen and photographed in Racine (m. obs.) and Waukesha (Curtis) Counties. In addition, 20 birds were seen the same day in Washington County at Pike Lake SP (Schaefer). A single bird appeared the next day in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Other county observations came from Dodge, Door, Eau Claire, Kewaunee, Milwaukee, Portage (Fig. 10), and

Trempealeau, which was the location of the last bird seen 15 May (the Tricks).

Spotted Sandpiper—Hoffmann's bird 2 April in Kenosha County is on the arrival record cut-off date. Next seen in Dane County 10 April (Heikkinen) and in Jefferson County 14 April (Bridge). Nemec saw an individual 22 April in Lincoln County and the Kavanaghs noted one 26 April in Florence County. There were high counts totaling exactly 11 birds each in the four counties of Door, Manitowoc, Portage, and St. Croix, all within the date range of 6–28 May.

Solitary Sandpiper—10 April is the current arrival record cut-off date for this species, so a bird seen the next day at the Tomah Fairgrounds in Monroe County (Epstein) was "close, but no cigar!" His report was followed closely by a sighting in Dane County 13 April (Evanson), however no other sightings occurred until 24 April in Dodge County (Fissel). The largest gathering was 12 birds seen by Howe in Walworth County 3 May. Last found 28 May during the Waupaca County May Day count.

Greater Yellowlegs—Bridge reported seeing single birds from two separate locations 26 March in Jefferson County and Marschalek saw 1 bird on 31 March in Dane County. The species landed in Taylor County 13 April (Risch) and in Florence County 15 April (K. Kavanagh). High totals of 35 were reported in the geographically close counties of Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Vernon between 16 April–5 May. Last observed in Brown and Vilas Counties 24 May, and in Ashland County 29 May.

Willet—No question about the 23 April arrival date, when birds appeared in Columbia, Kenosha, Manitowoc, and Ozaukee Counties! Already present in Bayfield County by 28 April (Brady). Lubahn tallied 115 birds at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment in Milwaukee County 27 April. The observational duration for the species was fairly compact, with the last birds seen 14 May in Bayfield (Anich) and a straggler 29 May in Manitowoc County (Sontag). Observations were made in twenty-one counties.

Lesser Yellowlegs—An "outlier" was seen 19 March in Lafayette County (Yoerger). Not seen again until arrival in Jefferson County 28 March (Winter) and Green Lake County 2 April (Yoerger). Birds did not show up in Bayfield County until 1 May (Oksiuta). Lubahn's 108 birds in Racine County 6 May were the most anyone saw. The "runner up" was Schaufenbuel

in Portage County 5 May with 72 birds. Reported from Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Columbia, Portage, and Racine Counties during the last week of the period.

Upland Sandpiper—Reported statewide from fourteen counties. Arrived relatively early in Kenosha County 23 April (Hoffmann). Next reported along the Dane County line from Iowa County at the Thomson Memorial Prairie 29 April (Fissel) and the following day in Green Lake County (Tessen). Five bird high counts were reported from the aforementioned Thomson Prairie 6 May and from Fort McCoy in Monroe County 14 May (Cameron).

Whimbrel—The record cut-off date is 13 May. Dixon's observation of 8 birds 12 May in Racine County at Wind Point will join only two other earlier dates (8 May 1972 from Ozaukee County and 11 May 1985 from Milwaukee County). Next reported 23 May by T. Wood in Manitowoc County, where birds remained until 29 May, when Sontag saw the highest number of the season, 10 birds. Other county reports came from Harrington Beach SP (26 May, m. obs.) and FBMP (EOP, Cutright) in Ozaukee, Thompson's West End Park in Bayfield (30 May, m. obs.), and Ashland (30 May, Brady).

Hudsonian Godwit—The arrival record cut-off date is 26 April. Schneider found a bird in Columbia County 24 April. Next reported by Jackson in La Crosse County 29 April and by Romano 2 May in Dodge County. The season was rounded out by reports from Dunn (16 May, Polk), Jefferson (21 May–24 May, m. obs.) and Chippewa Counties (30 May, Cameron). No counts were of more than one individual.

Marbled Godwit—The first of three county reports came from Ashland 24 April (m. obs.). Next was Domagalski's report from Manitowoc County 2 May. That bird remained until 4 May (Sontag). The final observations came from Bayfield County at the Ashland-Long Bridge 23 May (Oksiuta) and Thompson's West End Park 30 May (m. obs.).

Ruddy Turnstone—Began in Sheboygan County 9 May (Grgic, Schroeder). The last report from that county came on the 27th. Next reported from Racine (m. obs.) and Manitowoc Counties 12 May (Sontag). Sontag also filed the last report of the season from Manitowoc on the 30th when he saw 4 birds. The fourth reporting counties were Ashland (Anich, Oksiuta), Columbia (Otto), and Winnebago (Ziebell) on 16 May. Tessen reported from Douglas County 22 May and Goodman from Dodge County the



Figure 1. Ross's Goose with Canada Geese at Thompson's West End Park, Washburn, Bayfield County, 26 May 2011 taken by Ryan Brady.

next day. The last county report, from Keewaunee, was also the location of the high count, 26 birds, on 26 May (Schilke). All other reports above were of 6 birds or fewer.

Sanderling—Although better than 2010, reported in only thirteen counties. First observed 1 May in Milwaukee County (Lubahn) and the following day in Ashland County (Anich, Brady). Schaefer counted 32 birds at

Harrington Beach SP in Ozaukee County 23 May and Hoffmann saw 19 in Kenosha County 12 May. Seen EOP at the FBMP in Ozaukee County (Cutright).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—Single birds were found in St. Croix (Persico) and Bayfield Counties (photographed, Rundell) 30 April. Next seen in Dane (Jakoubek) and Manitowoc Counties (Schroeder) 2 May. The largest num-



Figure 2. Eurasian Wigeon, head of Chequamegon Bay at Long Bridge, west of Ashland, Bayfield County, 12 May 2011 by Ryan Brady.

bers found were 20 and 30 birds, in Columbia (24 May, Schiffman) and Lafayette Counties (22 May, Romano), respectively. Present EOP in Ashland, Dodge, and Portage Counties.

Least Sandpiper—According to Bridge, 41 birds foraged around a flooded field in Jefferson County 16 April. Not reported again until 30 April when the species showed up in Dane, Grant, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties. Descended on Bayfield County 6 May (Anich, Prestby). Paulios counted the highest number, 90 birds, at Nine Springs in Dane 11 May. Found EOP in Ashland, Portage, and St. Croix Counties.

White-rumped Sandpiper—Reported from thirteen counties. Tessen reported the first in Outagamie County 10 May. A. Holschbach followed two days later in Sauk County. It wasn't until 21 May that new birds turned up in Calumet, Columbia, Dodge, and Jefferson Counties. All reports were of 1 or 2 birds, with the exception of 4 birds found in Dodge (27 May, Heikkinen) and 15 birds seen in Bayfield County (30 May, Anich). EOP in Ashland and Portage Counties.

Baird's Sandpiper—Reported from ten counties. Isolated reports began 8 May from Waukesha County (Mertins), the following day in Dane County (Batterman, Heikkinen), and the next day in Outagamie County (Tessen). After a "dry spell," a fourth county report came in 21 May from St. Croix (Persico), where the bird was also found EOP. Five birds were counted 24 May in Brown County (Swelstad, Trick).

Pectoral Sandpiper—Two birds were seen on the record arrival cut-off date 19 March in Lafayette County (Yoerger). A. Holschbach found 1 bird in Sauk County 2 April. Three days later he counted the highest total of the season, 66 birds, from the same location. The next highest count was 45 birds in Racine County 12 April (Gustafson). Seen 12 April in Eau Claire County (Betchkal) and 1 May in Bayfield County (Oksiuta). Still reported over the last couple days of the period from Columbia, Outagamie, and Portage Counties.

Dunlin—Schroeder's observation on 19 March at the Killsnake SWA in Calumet County sets the all time early record for this species, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." There were also two other counties that had reports around the record cut-off date of 6 April: 4 April in Sauk (A. Holschbach) and 6 April in Columbia (Bucci,

Tessen). The fourth county report came from Racine 12 April (Gustafson). Birds had shown up by 30 April in Chippewa County (Cameron) and reached Bayfield County 13 May (Anich). Bird totals of 200 were simultaneously found in Dodge (Schultz) and Jefferson Counties (m. obs.) 21 May. EOP in Ashland, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Portage, and Sheboygan Counties.

Curlew Sandpiper**—Prior to this year there were only seven spring records. Fissel and Thiessen documented a bird 27 May along Dike Road at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports" and "By the Wayside" for Fissel's documentation.

Stilt Sandpiper—Reports during the season were random and confined geographically to Columbia, Dane, Jefferson, and Lafayette Counties. The first report was from Dane County 5 May (Ellis, Graham), followed by new reports beginning with Jefferson 21 May (m. obs.), then Lafayette (Romano), and ending 23 May in Columbia (Prestby). Prestby's report was of the maximum number seen, 5 birds.

Short-billed Dowitcher—Arrived 29 April in Dodge County (Romano) and 1 May in Brown County (Tessen). Next seen in Racine County 3 May (Howe). High counts of 22 and 32 birds were reported from Portage (14 May, Schaufenbuel) and Sauk Counties (11 May, A. Holschbach), respectively. Final observations came from Dane County 22 May (Prestby) and Bayfield County 28 May (Nemec).

Long-billed Dowitcher—The first reports came from Paulios, who found 3 birds 29 April in Rock County at Avon Bottoms, and Frank, who counted the highest number seen (20 birds) during the season, 1 May in Ozaukee County. Then, after 14 May observations in Dane, St. Croix, and Washington Counties, sightings of this species ceased.

Dowitcher sp.—In a season with relatively few reports from this group, two observations add a bit more depth. Krowicz found 2 birds in Dodge County 28 April and Sontag saw 1 bird in Manitowoc County 24 May.

Wilson's Snipe—Over-wintering birds were present in a couple of locations in the Southern Kettle Moraine of Waukesha County (Szymczak). Willard found a bird 13 March in Racine County and Haseleu reported from Washburn County 21 March. By 12 April, 100 birds were seen in La Crosse County (Jackson).

American Woodcock—Seasonal reports began 4 March (Paulios) in Dane County and continued only in Dane locations until 10 March when Wiskowski counted 6 “peenting” birds at Bender Park in Milwaukee County. The next day, birds turned up in Walworth and Waukesha Counties. Richmond heard her first bird 17 March in Langlade County.

Wilson’s Phalarope—Two birds were found in Chippewa County 23 April (Cameron, Steger) and the next day in Dane County at Nine Springs (Schwarz) and Schumacher Road (C. Martin). Chippewa was the northernmost of the northwestern reporting counties. Additional April reports came from Dodge and Rock Counties. Early May saw more new reports in over ten counties, including north to Marinette (J. Campbell). The highest numbers were found by the Kavanaghs 4 May in Brown County (6 birds) and Tessen the following day in Calumet County (5 birds). Last reported in Brown 24 May (m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope—Reported in four counties. A relatively early bird was photographed in Dodge County by Yoerger and described by Fissel 8 May. Sightings of this bird persisted until 23 May (m. obs.). Next, Prestby photographed a bird (Fig. 11), an alternate plumaged female, 22 May in Dane County. A breeding plumaged female was seen 23 May in Brown County (the Tricks). The written documentation of this bird, by T. Wood 24 May, can be read in “By the Wayside.” The last bird of the season was seen in Eau Claire County 28 May (Cameron, Geraghty).

Bonaparte’s Gull—The first bird was seen 31 March along the Lake Wisconsin Causeway in Columbia County (Prestby, Schneider). Next reported from the South Metro Pier in Milwaukee County (m. obs.) 2 April and the following day in Dane County (Paulios). All of the first arriving birds of the season were observed only in the eastern part of the state until 12 April, when they showed up in Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Vernon Counties. Ten birds appeared the next day in Bayfield County (Brady), where a minimum of 1,500 birds was seen 5 May (Brady).

Laughing Gull*—A bird was seen and photographed by Hoy Audubon members 12 May at North Beach in Racine County. DeBruine picked up this life bird 28 May in Sheboygan County while running a Big Day. The third report came from Doctor’s Park in Milwaukee County 30 May (Herrmann).

Franklin’s Gull—Initial reports came from Columbia County (Marschalek) at Schoeneberg Marsh 17 April and at Harvey Road 20 April (Thiessen). Thiessen also made the second county report, from Dane, on 23 April. The next day, Romano observed 6 birds in Buffalo County. Also seen during the season in Douglas, Manitowoc, and Ozaukee Counties. Reported in Dunn (Polk) and Trempealeau (T. Wood) Counties EOP.

Ring-billed Gull—Huge concentrations were reported by Domagalski in Calumet County 10 April (2,500 birds), Gustafson in Waukesha County 29 March (2,000 birds), and Svingen in Douglas County 1 April (1,750 birds).

Herring Gull—Toward the end of May, all observations were along Lakes Michigan or Superior, with the exception of inland reports from Dane, Dodge, Sauk, Waushara, and Wood Counties. Large groups were reported 1 April from Allouez Bay in Douglas County by Svingen (6,250 birds) and 8 March from Milwaukee County by Mueller (5,000 birds).

Thayer’s Gull—Seen during the first week of period in Brown, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Additional inland reports were made from Jefferson (Stutz) and Waukesha Counties (Frank, Gustafson). Three bird high counts were reported in Jefferson (27 March, Stutz), Milwaukee (12 March, Gyllenhaal), and Racine County (8 March, Fare and Pugh). Sontag reported the last bird of the season 19 May in Manitowoc.

Thayer’s × Iceland Gull—Svingen found and photographed a presumed second-cycle bird preening at Allouez Bay in Douglas County 1 April.

Iceland Gull*—Sontag kicked off the reports with a first-year bird in Manitowoc County 3 March. He observed this individual through 2 April. Gyllenhaal found a second-cycle bird 12 March in Winnebago County. Another first year bird was reported in Racine County by Fare 4 April. Two days later, Thiessen saw another in Sheboygan County. Tessen reported a bird in the same county 12 April. The season concluded with observations by Frank in Ozaukee and Milwaukee County on 30 April and 2 May, respectively.

Lesser Black-backed Gull*—While found in seven counties along Lake Michigan waters, it also turned up inland at the following county locations: 12 March in Winnebago (Gyl-



Figure 3. Barrow's Goldeneye with Common Goldeneye in Chequamegon Bay at Short Bridge, west of Ashland, Bayfield County, 5 April 2011 by Ryan Brady.



Figure 4. Pacific Loon on Lake Monona in Madison, Dane County, on 27 April 2011 by Tom Prestby.



Figure 5. Eared Grebe from Federal Dike Road at Horicon NWR by Dave Freriks on 6 May 2011.



Figure 6. Two of the many Eared Grebes seen in Monana Bay, Dane County, taken on 27 April 2011 by Jesse Long.



Figure 7. Two Western Grebes at Spirit Lake in Burnett County on 29 May 2011, photographed by Kathy Java.

lenhaal), 4 April in Dane (Paulios), 14 April in Washington (Frank), and 27 April at Wind Lake Sod Farms in Racine (Gustafson). An additional noteworthy report originated from Bayfield County 12 May where a bird was found by Vanselow (documented by Anich and Brady (Fig. 12), see "By the Wayside"). The highest number (4 birds) was reported from Kenosha County at the Des Plaines River 14 March (Dixon).

Glaucous Gull—Seen during the first week of the period in Brown, Douglas, Manitowoc, and Winnebago Counties. This species was also reported inland in Calumet, Columbia, Dane, Racine, and Waukesha Counties. Svingen tallied 14 birds early April in Douglas. The final report of the season came from Cutright at the FBMP in Ozaukee County 30 May.

Great Black-backed Gull—Present during the first week of the period in six counties, including an inland report at Riverside Park in Winnebago (m. obs.). The only other inland report was made by Gustafson from Rose Lake SNA in Jefferson County 21 March. Nine individuals were reported by Svingen in Douglas County 2 April and the highest total, 14 birds, from Kewaunee County 6 March (Grgic, Schroeder). Last reported in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties by Heikkinen 27 May.

Caspian Tern—County reports came in on successive days beginning 4 April in Milwaukee (Gustafson) and continuing with Racine (Fare) and Sheboygan (Thiessen). This species came into the state with a distinct eastern tendency and did not appear west of Dane County until it was seen at Wyalusing SP in Grant County 30 April (m. obs.). High counts were 186 in Kenosha County 5 May (Hoffmann) and 171 in Ozaukee County 12 May (Frank).

Black Tern—Found 29 April in Green Lake County (m. obs.) and on 1 May in Dane County (Thiessen). Seen 4 May at Horicon Marsh NWR, in Dodge County (m. obs.), where the high count was only 224 birds this season (Buckardt). The next highest total, 160 birds, came from Winnebago County during the May Day count on the 21st. Totals of 50 birds were reported from Lake Waubesa in Dane (Bergeson) and Mead SWA in Marathon County (Belter).

Common Tern—Carpenter reported the first bird in Door County 12 April, followed by Petherick 17 April at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County. The next report came from the adjacent property, SANC in Milwaukee, 21 April (Bontly). Schaefer counted 3 birds at Lion's

Den in Ozaukee County two days later and on 25 April a bird was found in Bayfield County (Richmond). Big Day participants counted 800 birds in Racine County 13 May and Brady counted 320 birds in Bayfield 16 May. EOP in Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties.

Forster's Tern—Arrived in Grant (Allen) and Waukesha Counties (Mertins) 7 April and two days later in Dodge and Green Lake Counties. A single bird was present in Bayfield County by 25 April (Oksiuta). Totals ranging from 50–60 birds were reported from Green Lake, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties during the 23 April–5 May time period. Based on atlas data, a report from Grant County on 29 May was noteworthy (West).

Parasitic Jaeger*—The only report of the season, 1 bird, came from Douglas County 23 May (R. Johnson, Tessen).

Eurasian Collared-Dove*—Eight county reports were made along the following timeline: 7 March in Manitowoc (Domagalski, who last observed the species 25 May), 19 March in Columbia during a WSO field trip (m. obs.), 24 April in Waukesha at Beaver Dam Marsh (originally heard by Curtis; documented by Gross and Gustafson, see "By the Wayside"), 12 May in Lafayette (Yoerger), 15 May in La Crosse (m. obs.); only documented by Cameron, and finally, on 21 May in Dane (Thiessen) and Ozaukee (Frank). A report was filed from Crawford County, where the species has been reported historically; however no details were offered.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Arrived in Dane (Schiffman) and Iowa Counties (A. Holschbach) 11 May and reported the following day in Kenosha County (Hoffmann) and during the WSO field trips in Grant County. Wyalusing SP in Grant was the location of the high count, 6 birds, also on 12 May. The species was certainly delayed this season and only turned up as far north as Door County 28 May and Polk County the next day.

Black-billed Cuckoo—Schultz's observation of 4 birds on 3 May in Green Lake County was separated from the next report, in Dane County (Tyser), by 5 days. High counts ranged from 6–8 birds in Green Lake (24 May, Prestby), Iowa (10 May, Ellis), and Pierce Counties (28 May, Persico). Reached Rusk, Polk, and Vilas Counties 19–25 May and, unlike prior years, was not reported at all from Bayfield, Douglas, or Florence Counties.

Barn Owl**—Knickelbine's 26 May photo of a bird at Whitefish Dunes in Manitowoc County was submitted to the Records Committee and approved, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports."

Eastern Screech Owl—Reported in fourteen counties. Found north to Oconto (Smith) and Washburn Counties (Pertile). All reports were of single birds, except for the 2 birds counted at Honey Creek in Sauk County (Schaefer) and 3 birds counted in Grant County (Austin).

Snowy Owl—The two county reports came from Langlade 6 March (Richmond) and Burnett 26 March (Collins). Each was of a single bird.

Great Gray Owl*—Merritt photographed a bird that appeared to be in good physical condition in Washburn County 5 May.

Long-eared Owl—Single birds were found in Lafayette County 5 April (Oguchi) and in Ozaukee County 14 April (Mueller).

Short-eared Owl—Reported from Dane, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Monroe, Portage, Sauk, and Winnebago Counties. Three birds were seen in Manitowoc 11 April (Sontag). Winnebago reported through EOP (Bruce).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Reported from sixteen counties scattered around the state. Locations where 2 birds were counted: Florence County 3 April (Kavanaghs), Marathon County 18 April (Belter), and at Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County 10 March (Prestby, Schilke).

Common Nighthawk—Arrival was deferred until 10 May when they were seen in Dane (Schneider), Iowa (A. Holschbach, Ellis), and La Crosse (Jackson) Counties. The first numbers >10 were reported on 12 May from Trempealeau County by WSO convention goers. The next double-digit report came from Maercklein 20 May in Polk County. Fitzgerald counted 55 birds in Racine County 27 May. Birds were noted EOP in Barron (Carlsen), Door (Lukes), Douglas (LaValley), Marathon (Belter), St. Croix (Persico), and Walworth Counties (Howe). As of the close of the period there had been no sightings made in Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, or Vilas Counties.

Chuck-will's-widow**—Present at annual location in Jackson County by 6 May (West) and documented last on 29 May by Hoy

Audubon members. Only one individual was detected. (Note: The Records Committee decided not to review the species from this specific location due to its annual presence at this site.)

Eastern Whip-poor-will—Heard in the Southern Kettle Moraine in Waukesha County 29 April (Szymczak) and the following day in Milwaukee County (O'Connor). Next reported by Howe in Walworth County 1 May. Returned to Florence County 5 May (Kavanaghs). Five birds were heard at Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County 21 May (m. obs.).

Chimney Swift—A stray bird was reported 10 April by Yoerger in Lafayette County, but additional individuals weren't reported until 23 April in Kenosha (Hoffmann), Milwaukee (m. obs.), and Racine (Dixon, Wenzel) Counties. Several birds were noted in Chippewa County 5 May and arrived 9 May in Ashland County (Anich). Bridge counted 430 birds at the Seagull Bar in Marinette County 26 May and Jakoubek tallied 200 in La Crosse County 15 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Simultaneous arrival 30 April in Grant (m. obs.), Ozaukee (Frank), Racine (Opem), and Sauk Counties (m. obs.). Gagliardi counted 4 birds in Sawyer County by 7 May and K. Kavanagh reported her first 11 May in Florence County.

Belted Kingfisher—Present early period in the southernmost tier of counties. An interesting report of a possible over-wintering individual was made in Bayfield County at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center 11 March (m. obs.). The "regular" return of resident birds to the extreme Northwoods was noted 6 April in Ashland County (Anich) and 8 April in Florence County (K. Kavanagh).

Red-headed Woodpecker—Reported during the first week of period in Dunn, Grant, Iowa, Monroe, Portage, Trempealeau, and Washburn Counties. Migrating birds appeared to return early May, when several new eastern counties were added and reports came in from "migrant trap" locations. High counts of a half dozen birds were reported at Necedah NWR in Juneau County 30 April (Kennedy) and Trempealeau NWR in Trempealeau County 12 May (Jakoubek).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Noted as far north as Bayfield (Jackson) and Lincoln Counties (Nemec) early period. Reported in nearly every county with the exception of the adjoining counties of Iron and Vilas.



Figure 8. White-faced Ibis at Horicon NWF in Dodge County on 8 May 2011 when photographed by Michael Huebschen.



Figure 9. Golden Eagle flying over Sandhill SWA in Wood County on 15 May 2011 by Jon Zellmer.



Figure 10. American Avocet in Portage County near Rosholt on 29 April 2011 as photographed by Dan Belter.



Figure 11. Red-necked Phalarope in flooded field on Schumacher Road in Dane County on 22 May 2011 was photographed by Tom Prestby.



Figure 12. Lesser Black-backed Gull seen near Nevers Road, southwest of Washburn, Bayfield County, 13 May 2011 by Ryan Brady.



Figure 13. Black-billed Magpie along Pajala Road, west of Washburn, Bayfield County, 5 May 2011 by Ryan Brady.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—The only early season reports (certainly over-wintering birds) originated from Milwaukee County at Bender (Winter) and Riverside Park (Vargo). Observations began to trickle in by end of March and gained steam by early April with reports on the 3rd in St. Croix (Persico), 5th in Door (Kile), and the 7th from Florence County (Kavanagh). Richmond tallied 62 resident birds while running her hawk survey 18 April in Menominee County. High counts of migrating birds were reported 11 April in both Brown County (24 birds, Schilke) and Milwaukee (18 birds, Hagner). Not reported from any unexpected locations EOP.

Black-backed Woodpecker*—Reports came from these five counties: 12 April-10 May in Ashland (Anich, Prestby), 10 May in Bayfield (Brady), 2 March-21 May in Forest (Duchek, Swelstad), 30 April-1 May in Lincoln (Uttech), and 11 March-12 May in Vilas (m. obs.). Prestby reported 2 birds from Vilas on 13 April.

Northern Flicker—Probable over-wintering birds were found during the first week of the period in Crawford, Dane, Door, Green Lake, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties. P. Campbell reported one bird 15 March in Dunn County, but more extreme northern reports didn't occur until 2 April (Florence) and 8 April (Bayfield and Barron Counties). High counts of migrating birds were clustered around 10-12 April with 67 birds found in Manitowoc County (Domagalski), 65 birds in Calumet County (Tessen), and 50 birds in La Crosse County (Puchalski).

Pileated Woodpecker—Richmond counted 8 birds (!) while running her Red-shouldered hawk survey 18 April in Menominee County. Reported statewide, with the exception of Kenosha and Milwaukee Counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—Reports began 7 May in Milwaukee County (Snider) and the following day in St. Croix County (Persico). Kennedy reported 1 bird in Racine County 10 May. By the end of the period, birds were not only reported in Vilas (Baughman), where they are expected, but in Green (m. obs.), Milwaukee (three separate locations, m. obs.), and Racine Counties.

Eastern Wood-Pewee—Found 1 May in Kenosha (Rosenstiel) and Milwaukee Counties (Wiskowski). Over the next week, observations were registered in eight more counties. Anich did not report his first bird of the year until 21

May in Ashland County and Peczynski waited until the 27th to find a bird in Vilas County.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—First reported by S. Peterson in Door County and Belter in Marathon County 11 May. Seen the next day in Milwaukee (Boyle) and Ozaukee Counties (Frank). The 13th produced new sightings in Manitowoc, Racine, Sauk, and Trempealeau Counties. Anich counted 3 resident birds in Vilas County 25 May. Migrants were still progressing through over the final couple days of the period, as birds were seen in five southeastern counties, at multiple locations within those counties.

Acadian Flycatcher—Reported in Jefferson (Szymczak) and Waukesha (Gustafson) Counties 10 May. Found north to Portage County EOP, which is consistent with the findings of the atlas. High counts of 10-15 birds were made in traditional breeding areas in Grant, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties. Lubahn reported 2 birds EOP at Warnimont Park in Milwaukee County, which is unusual.

Alder Flycatcher—This species frequently leapfrogs over the southern portion of the state and arrives early in the Northwoods (this has occurred in three out of the previous five spring seasons). This year was no exception when a bird was reported in Ashland County 6 May (Durfée, Krerowicz). The next birds arrived in Dane, Rock, and Waukesha Counties 12 May. Totals of 10 resident birds were reached in Jefferson County 21 May during a Big Day (m. obs.), Marathon County 28 May (Belter), and St. Croix County EOP (Persico).

Willow Flycatcher—First reported in Sauk County (Hutnik) 4 May and two days later in Milwaukee County (Devereaux). New observations trickled in 8 May in Jefferson County (m. obs.) and 10 May in Dane County (Schilke). Fifteen resident birds were counted on a Madison Audubon Big Birding Day 21 May in Jefferson. Two reports, from Marathon and Polk Counties, were very interesting because they were not locations for confirmed breeding during the atlas. Belter counted 2 birds at Mead SWA in Marathon 25 May and Maercklein also counted 2 birds in Polk at Bridget Lake 29 May.

Least Flycatcher—Grant, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties filed their first reports 30 April and Dane, Ozaukee, and Walworth Counties did so the next day. The species arrived 7 May in Florence (K. Kavanagh), Oneida (Prestby), and Polk Counties (Maercklein). Belter counted 20 birds (perhaps a mix of resident

and migrant birds?) at Mead SWA 16 May in Marathon County.

Eastern Phoebe—Gustafson found the first bird in Waukesha County 14 March. Sightings occurred in Dane County (C. Martin) and Walworth County (Howe) 17 March. Reported in Florence County 6 April (K. Kavanagh) and the next day in Ashland County (Anich).

Great Crested Flycatcher—Appeared on 30 April in Ozaukee County (Strelka) and at two locations in Dane County (Ellis, Kreitinger). Milwaukee and Racine Counties were added the next day. Found 8 May in Florence County (Kavanaghs).

Eastern Kingbird—Another flycatcher species was detected 30 April, when Paulios found a bird at Lake Farm County Park in Dane County. Seen in Buffalo (Betchkal), Iowa, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Walworth Counties the following day. Reported north to Burnett County 7 May (Paulios) and Bayfield County 12 May (Oksiuta).

Loggerhead Shrike*—Schrock made the sole report, of a bird he observed 50 yards away in Taylor County 17 May.

Northern Shrike—Was widespread during the first week of period. During the period, the only counties to report 2 birds at any given time were Ashland, Buffalo, Calumet, Dane, Monroe, Pepin, and Waukesha. Otherwise, all reports were of single birds. Several interesting finds originated from Ashland County. Brady confirmed that a female he banded back in March 2006 was present on the same winter territory. As of this season, she would be the “oldest” known Northern Shrike, at least 6 years, 8 months old! Also, Brady found the last bird of the season, an immature, on 22 April, which is his latest date for the area. Bob Domagalski’s departure list shows that there are currently only two records of birds remaining beyond 24 April.

White-eyed Vireo*—Reported from Milwaukee County 1 May (Lubahn) at Sheridan Park, 3 May at Estabrook Park (Hunter), and 6 May at both SANC (Bontly, Huf, Zehner) and again at Sheridan (Korducki). Seen at the perennial Albany Wildlife Area in Green County 18–30 May (2 birds were first found by Heikkinen). A bird was found at Riveredge Nature Center on the May Day Count in Ozaukee County 21 May. Lastly, reported in Green Lake County at White River Marsh 24–30 May (initially found by Prestby).

Bell’s Vireo*—There is currently only one other record before 5 May. The bird Devereaux photographed at Hart Park in Milwaukee County 3 May is only preceded by a 1 May 1944 report. Multiple birds were found at Holland Sand Prairie SNA in La Crosse County during WSO convention field trips 15 May. One bird was found in Dunn County 17 May (Betchkal, Lind). A Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation trip to Mazomanie WA in Dane County yielded a bird 18 May. A bird returned for the third straight year to Cedar Lake SNA in Jefferson County 21 May (Bridge, Stutz). New reports from previously mentioned counties above occurred 24 May in both Dane at Badfish Creek WMA (Paulios) and in Dunn (P. Campbell). Romano found birds in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties 25–27 May. Two birds returned to Governor Dodge SP in Iowa County 27 May (Wilson). The last county to report was Grant 28 May when Hoy Audubon members visited Wyalusing SP.

Yellow-throated Vireo—Returning birds were reported 30 April at Wyalusing SP in Grant County (m. obs.) and in Jefferson County (Stutz). Reported from Dunn, St. Croix, and Trempealeau Counties 8 May. Reported statewide later in season.

Blue-headed Vireo—Arrived 27 April in Dane (Graham) and Waukesha Counties (Szymczak). New county reports came in on the 30th from Grant, Jefferson, and Milwaukee. Seen in Florence County 5 May (Kavanaghs). Tessen counted 6 migrants in Brown County 11 May and McDowell counted 3 at PBC in Dane 10 May. Migrants were still moving through at end of May, as evidenced by reports in Milwaukee County from three locations.

Warbling Vireo—Reported 30 April from two locations in Dane County, as well as in Dodge (Romano) and Sauk Counties (Marschalek). Seen 8 May in Florence (Kavanaghs), Polk (Maercklein), and St. Croix (Collins) Counties.

Philadelphia Vireo—Seen 7 May in Dane (m. obs.), Grant (Dryer), and Vernon (Duerksen) Counties. Next reported in Racine County 9 May (Howe). Arrived in Bayfield County 22 May (Anich). High counts at migrant traps included 5 birds in Racine 13 May (Gustafson) and 4 birds each in both Dane (15 May, Prestby) and Trempealeau Counties (13 May, Tessen). Migrants were still being reported at or very near EOP in seven southern counties.



Figure 14. Northern Mockingbird seen in Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County on 27 May 2011 by Paul Sparks.



Figure 15. Prairie Warbler at Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Dane County, on 30 April 2011 was photographed by Jenny Cooper.



Figure 16. Black-throated Gray Warbler at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Dane County on 1 May 2011 by Eric Wood.



Figure 17.
Summer
Tanager
photographed
by Dennis
Kuecherer at
the Ozaukee
County home of
Mark and Karen
Poull on 8 May
2011.



Figure 18. Western Tanager on W. Maple Hill Road, west of Washburn, Bayfield County, 14 May 2011 by Ryan Brady.



Figure 19. Female
Hoary Redpoll with
Common Redpoll
at Ryan Brady's
feeders on Bourgo
Road, Washburn,
Bayfield County, on
15 March 2011.

Red-eyed Vireo—Found on 1 May in Dane (Kreitinger) and Racine Counties (Dixon, Wenzel). Over the next seven days the species showed up in seven new counties, including Polk by 8 May (Maercklein). Arrived in Ashland County 11 May (Anich, Prestby).

Gray Jay—Seen in Ashland, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties. The high count was 3 birds in southern Ashland 3 May, which consisted of 2 adult birds feeding a newly fledged juvenile (Brady).

Blue Jay—Distributed statewide BOP. Migration of this species certainly caught the attention of many observers this year. Lubahn counted 400 at Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County 6 May where he continued to see large groups (80+ birds) through EOP. Single observation totals of 100–200 birds also occurred in Marathon, Ozaukee, Racine, and St. Croix Counties.

Black-billed Magpie**—See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports” and “By the Wayside” for documentation on the Bayfield County bird provided by Brady (Fig. 13).

Common Raven—The farthest south reports came from Dunn County TTP (P. Campbell), Manitowoc County 11 March (Domagalski), Outagamie County 2 April (Tessen), Columbia County 7 April (Dover-spoke), and Buffalo County 10 May (Romano). Based on atlas work, these counties reported no prior breeding activity.

Horned Lark—Found north to Barron, Burnett, Langlade, and Taylor Counties BOP. Tallies of 100–107 birds were reported in Langlade County 9 April (Richmond) and Manitowoc County 26 March (Domagalski).

Purple Martin—Simultaneous reports were made from Calumet (Reimer), Grant (Allen), and Winnebago (Khan) Counties 5 April. Found in Barron County 10 April (Carlsen) and then, in Burnett County 27 April (Java). High counts of 35–50 birds came from Dodge (Gustafson), Kenosha (Hoffmann), and Marathon Counties (Belter).

Tree Swallow—A. Holschbach’s bird, seen 7 March at Bakken’s Pond in Sauk County, will join only three other early March record arrival dates. The next counties to report were Columbia (Fissel) and Dane (Thiessen) 18 March. Progressed north to Taylor County 1 April (Risch), Barron County 3 April (Pertile), Florence

County 5 April (Kavanaghs), and finally, Bayfield County 9 April (m. obs.). On 2 May, 2,000 birds were counted over Devil’s Lake SP in Sauk (Heikkinen), while 800 were reported at Crex Meadows in Burnett County 7 May (Paulios).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—First spotted at Lake Delton in Sauk County (Cvetas) 6 April. A. Holschbach reported the next observation on 8 April in Iowa County. The new counties of Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, and Milwaukee were added the following day. Cameron counted 2 birds up in Chippewa County 22 April, while Swelstad (2 birds) and Kavanagh (15 birds) made their first reports, from Marinette and Florence Counties, on 2 May and 8 May, respectively. Anich reported his first bird 14 May in Bayfield County. Some 1,000 birds were counted 3 May at Devil’s Lake SP in Sauk (Thusius).

Bank Swallow—Showed up at adjacent properties Sheridan and Warnimont Park in Milwaukee County 10 April (m. obs.). Next seen at the Lion’s Den in Ozaukee County (Mueller) and Big Muskego Lake in Waukesha County 13 April (Gustafson). Reported 22 April in Marinette County (Pullen). Made its way up to St. Croix 14 May (Persico) and on to Bayfield County 18 May (Anich, Brady). Counts of 80 individuals came from the aforementioned Warnimont Park 13 May (Mueller) and Trempealeau County 26 May (Romano).

Cliff Swallow—Relatively early arrival on 10 April in Iowa (A. Holschbach, Prestby) and La Crosse Counties (Puchalski). Seen by Betchkal in Eau Claire County 12 April. By 27 April, 100 birds were counted over Lake Wausau in Marathon County (Belter) and the next day 1 bird showed up in Bayfield County (Brady). On 2 May, Belter’s Lake Wausau count reached 300 birds, which was the statewide high total for the season.

Barn Swallow—A bird described by Wilson 19 March at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County will become the 5th earliest arrival on record. Next reported 4 April in Lafayette, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. While it may seem strange to mention arrival 18 April in Monroe County (Epstein), this species demonstrated a real southeastern tendency to its arrival pattern this year. After Monroe, they slowly advanced north, arriving in Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties 22 April (both by Cameron) and Bayfield County 30 April (Oksita). A count of 2,000 birds was made on 2 May in Sauk County (Heikkinen).

Boreal Chickadee—Birds were present in Ashland, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties. The highest number seen was 4 birds 10 May in Ashland (Anich).

Tufted Titmouse—Reported to the north in Chippewa, Dunn, and Marathon Counties. Unique eastern reports originated from Racine County 13 March (Willard) and Manitowoc County 19 March (Schroeder). High counts of 7-14 birds were clustered geographically to the south/southwest in Dane, Grant, Rock, and Vernon Counties.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Widespread BOP. In addition to the northern counties where they are commonly seen at or near EOP, birds were present in Grant (West), Ozaukee (m. obs.), and Waukesha Counties (m. obs.).

Brown Creeper—While the majority of early season reports came from the southern portion of the state, birds were also noted in Marathon (Belter) and Marinette Counties (Swelstad). Counts of 10-11 migrants were reported 10-30 April in Dane (Fissel), Milwaukee (Wilson), and Ozaukee (Jaeger) Counties. No EOP reports came from counties that didn't already show activity during the atlas.

Carolina Wren*—The bird over-wintering along the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee County was reported until 5 April (Squier). J. Peterson located one 6 April in Dane County and other individuals were reported in the same county 12 April (Ellis, Marschalek). An over-wintering feeder bird finally departed 17 April in Marquette County (Shillinglaw). Prestby, Schilke, and Yoerger found one singing 21 May in Sauk County.

House Wren—A check of eBird frequency and abundance for the species demonstrates a delay in arrival that occurred 15-22 April, when observations are normally on the rise. However, by 1 May, the species was being seen in a manner consistent with data from prior years 2007-2010. Reported 10 April in Vernon County (Jackson) and at multiple locations within Dane County (m. obs.). New counties weren't added until 13 April, when birds arrived in Columbia, La Crosse, Ozaukee, Richland, and Sauk. K. Kavanagh found her first bird in Florence County 15 April.

Winter Wren—Early season reports spanned the month of March, but were confined to PBC in Dane County (McDowell) and three separate locations in Waukesha County (Szymczak). Then on 1 April, a bird was found

at Wehr Nature Center in Milwaukee County (that Szymczak gal again!) and the following day at both Estabrook Park in Milwaukee (Hagner, Wilson) and in St. Croix County (Persico). Seen in Florence County 11 April (Kavanagh) and by the next day, 6 birds were singing on territories in Ashland County (Anich).

Sedge Wren—Bontly's bird in Milwaukee County on 28 April was not followed by another report until 2 May in Waukesha County (Duchek). Additional new counties were added 7 May and included Burnett, Green, Iowa, St. Croix, and Vilas. An absolutely incredible 364 were tallied during the 21 May Day Count in Winnebago County.

Marsh Wren—Schroeder found a bird at Horicon Marsh NWR in Dodge County 17 April. Another report was not made until 27 April in Columbia County at Grassy Lake SWA (Prestby). Green Lake (m. obs.) and St. Croix Counties (Persico) were added 30 April. The 21 May Day Count in Winnebago County produced a huge total of 926 birds, which is significantly higher than their totals from 2010. Other than Burnett County, there were no other reports from the northwestern counties of the state.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Like the House Wren above, a comparison of eBird frequency and abundance for this species with prior years 2007-2010 reveals a "lag" in the typical arrival pattern for the species. Typically, between 15-22 April, abundance and reporting frequency are sustained; however, this season they were not. But all was well again by 1 May, when the species reached a normal reporting "peak." First reported by Frank at Lion's Den in Ozaukee County 10 April. Next seen in Fond du Lac County (Jaskula) 12 April and in Dane County the following day (Batterman). Species entry into the state was decidedly southwestern to northeastern, with birds finally showing up in the northwestern counties of Polk (Maercklein) and St. Croix (Persico) 7-8 May. Other than isolated observations of birds in Burnett and Douglas Counties, there were no other extreme northwestern reports of this species. Paulios counted 40 birds at PBC in Dane 1 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—County reports during the first week of period included Door (unk. obs.), Manitowoc (Domagalski), Milwaukee (Zehner), and three locations in Waukesha (Gustafson, Szymczak). High counts of 20-24 birds were reported in Milwaukee at Estabrook (9 April, Hagner) and Doctor's Parks (17 April, Petherick).



Figures 20 and 21. Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Cambria, Columbia County, on 22 April 2011 by Jack Bartholmai.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—Persico found 2 birds in St. Croix County 3 April. McDowell found the next bird in Dane County 5 April. This was followed by observations the following day at three new Dane locations, as well as, in Milwaukee (Szymczak) and Racine Counties (Kennedy). Found in Bayfield County 8 April (Brady) and Florence County 10 April (Kavanagh). Reported totals of 45–60 migrants came from Dane, Milwaukee, Sauk, and St. Croix Counties during the compact time period 29 April–2 May. Last reported by Huf at Esstabrook Park in Milwaukee 30 May.

Eastern Bluebird—Present in the southern part of the state early March. Appeared in Door (Lukes) and Eau Claire (Betchkal) Counties 17 March and in Marathon County 19 March (Hoeft). Found up in Florence County 6 April (K. Kavanagh).

Townsend's Solitaire*—A bird found at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus in Portage County during the winter season remained until at least 20 March (m. obs.). Reported 7 April–9 May in Door County (S. Peterson). This report joins only two other May record departure dates.

Veery—Observed on 30 April in Dane County at Lake Farm County Park (m. obs.) and within the Southern Kettle Moraine in both Waukesha and Walworth Counties (Szymczak). Reported the next day in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, and Sauk Counties. Did not arrive in the northwestern part of the state until 8 May in Burnett County (Paulios) and 10 May in Bayfield County (Anich).

Gray-cheeked Thrush—Migrants were reported in thirty-seven counties. The first bird was reported from Lion's Den in Ozaukee County 1 May (Frank). New sightings followed the next day in Manitowoc County (Sontag) and the day after that in Milwaukee County (Szymczak). Seen in Marathon County by Hoeft 6 May. High counts of 3 birds were found in Crawford (Zarwell), Ozaukee (Sommer), and Sauk (Prestby) Counties over the period 16–19 May. Final reports came from Tessen in Outagamie County 29 May, and from Dane (Witynski) and Milwaukee (Huf) Counties the next day.

Swainson's Thrush—An early yard bird was seen by Winter in Milwaukee County 16–17 April. Next reported 29 April in Door County (S. Peterson). The following day, birds appeared in Dane (McDowell), Grant (m. obs.), and St. Croix (Persico) Counties. Returned to

Polk County 6 May (Maercklein) and Bayfield County on the 14th (Anich). High totals of 8–10 birds were reported 14 May in Jefferson County (Stutz) and St. Croix (Persico). The final report of the season came from Milwaukee at Esstabrook Park (Hagner, Huf).

Hermit Thrush—Over-wintering birds were seen early March in Milwaukee (Popelka) and Waukesha Counties (Szymczak). Beginning 20 March through the end of the month (possible migrants) reports came from Kenosha County (Rosenstiel), Dane County (two locations; Axelson, McDowell), and at SANC in Milwaukee. Multiple birds arrived in Bayfield (Brady) and Florence (Kavanagh) Counties on 12 April. Migrant high counts of 17–24 birds were reported from Milwaukee (two locations; Hagner, unk. obs.) and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties 17–29 April. A bird was found lingering in Ozaukee County at Harrington Beach SP on 28 May (m. obs.).

Wood Thrush—First heard at Cook Arboretum in Rock County 28 April (Klubertanz, Yoerger). Moretti and Szymczak found a bird the next day in Waukesha County. 30 April produced reports from Walworth County (2 birds), as well as a new Waukesha location (both Szymczak). Cameron reported his first bird in Chippewa County 2 May and the Kavanaghs found their first bird 8 May in Florence County. High counts outside of the species' stronghold in the Southern Kettle Moraine originated from Grant (West) and Rock (Paulios) Counties (8 bird counts from each).

American Robin—Presence was noted BOP from Monroe and Trempealeau Counties in the west, and across the state east to Brown, Door, Manitowoc, and Outagamie Counties. Oksiuta reported an individual in Bayfield County 12 March. Puchalski counted 850 birds 17 April in La Crosse County. In addition, totals ranging from 350–450 birds were seen by Strelka in Ozaukee County 21 March and Persico in St. Croix County 3 April. Strelka's report specifically spoke to migration occurring, with a steady stream of small groups flying overhead.

Varied Thrush—A holdover from the winter season, a bird continued until 6 April on Washington Island in Door County (Engstrom). Zarnoth photographed a bird in Calumet County 9–10 April.

Gray Catbird—Probable over-wintering birds were reported during late March and mid-April in Dane, Grant, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties. New southern re-

ports began in earnest very late April. Birds returned to Chippewa County 2 May (Cameron), Burnett County 7 May (Paulios), and Ashland County (Krerowicz) the next day.

Northern Mockingbird*—Seen in nine counties. Returned to Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County 11 April (A. Holschbach). Belter found one 21 April at Lake Wausau in Marathon County (photographed by Backus), that he monitored until 1 May (see “By the Wayside”). Cutright reported a silent individual at FBMP in Ozaukee County 9 May. Seen the next day in Dane County (Graham). On 11 May, Etter Hale watched a bird visiting her friend’s feeder in Jefferson County. A Big Day on 13 May in Racine County produced a bird on the golf course near Wind Point (m. obs.). A bird appeared mid-May at Estabrook Park in Milwaukee County (Fig. 14), which was later seen during the May Day count on the 21st and continued through EOP (Mooney). On 16 May A. Holschbach observed another individual in Sauk along Swiss Valley Road. Kile documented a bird seen 18 May in Door County. Gustafson and Horn saw a bird in Waukesha County 22 May.

Brown Thrasher—Initial reports came from Dane County at several locations 6–8 April (Anderson, Evanson, Paulios). Next reported in Jefferson County (Szymczak) 9 April and the following day in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties. Arrived 13 April in Pierce County (Wieland) and 15 April in Florence County (K. Kavanagh). Not seen in Bayfield County until 7 May, when Anich found 2 birds.

American Pipit—March reports came on the 18th from Dane County (Schwarz), 21st from Sheboygan (Tessen), and the 24th from Ozaukee County (Frank). Prestby counted 40 birds 16 May in Columbia County. The last observations of the season came from Ozaukee (Frank) and Winnebago (Ziebell) Counties 21 May and in Douglas County 22 May (Tessen).

Bohemian Waxwing—Found in Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Clark, Douglas, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, and Marathon Counties. Brady counted 250 birds (the most seen) in Ashland County 13 April and also made the final report of the season on 6 May from the same location. Any observations made beyond 23 April are record-worthy. The only spring departure date later than Brady’s sighting is from 13 May 1977. See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports.” In addition, Svingen also photographed a bird in Douglas at Wisconsin Point 24 April.

Cedar Waxwing—A flock of 250 was present in La Crosse County 3 March. Later season high totals climbed to 390 birds tallied during the 21 May Day Count in Winnebago County and 600 birds at SANC in Milwaukee County 23 May (Zehner).

Lapland Longspur—Counts of greater than 1,000 birds originated in Racine County 11 March (Gustafson) and Clark and Taylor Counties 8–9 April (Risch). The final reports of the season came late May on the 17th in Green Lake County (Prestby), 19th in Dodge (Frank) and Winnebago (Bruce) Counties, and 21st in Fond du Lac County (Schultz).

Snow Bunting—Flocks numbering over 1,000 birds were reported in Sheboygan (30 March, Schroeder) and Taylor Counties (11 April, Risch). Last seen 24 April in Douglas County (LaValley), 28 April in Manitowoc County ((Sontag), and 3 May in Vilas County at Powell Marsh SWA (Krakowski).

Ovenbird—First discovered at Doctor’s Park in Milwaukee County 27 April (Schultz). Next reported in Manitowoc (J. Holschbach) and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties 30 April. Found the following day in Dane, Iowa, Ozaukee, Racine, and Walworth Counties. Lind saw a bird 3 May in Eau Claire County and the Kavanaghs found birds at two locations on 6 May in Florence County.

Worm-eating Warbler*—Naturalist Quintenz discovered a bird along the lower bluff at SANC in Milwaukee County 2 May, which was subsequently described by Bontly. Also reported by Mangin from her yard in Sauk County 14 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush—The first individual was found by Bridge in Grant County 9 April. Seen the next day in Dane (Graham, McDowell) and Waukesha (Szymczak) Counties. Birds were noted in Burnett (Paulios) and Polk (Maercklein) Counties 8 May. High totals of 3 birds were reported in Grant (West) and Sauk County (m. obs.).

Northern Waterthrush—Mooney’s observation at Lake Park 10 April is preceeded by only two other record early reports of birds on 9 April. See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports.” Other birds reported at both PBC in Dane County 12 April and Lion’s Den in Ozaukee County 13 April would also be classified as early arrival records; however, no written comments were made on either bird. While Sontag noted a bird 16 April

in Manitowoc and Richmond found one in Menominee County 18 April, birds did not arrive in Burnett (Paulios) and Ashland Counties (Anich, Prestby) until 8 and 10 May, respectively.

Golden-winged Warbler—Reported 1 May in the counties of Kenosha (Rosenstiel), Milwaukee (Lubahn, Wilson), and Ozaukee (m. obs.). Returned to Dunn (P. Campbell) and Marathon (Belter) Counties 9 May. Reached Florence County 16 May (K. Kavanagh) and Bayfield County on 20 May (multiple locations; m. obs.). Trying to tease out migratory high numbers can be problematic, but the 5 birds found by McDowell at PBC in Dane County 8 May certainly were migrants. The final southern reports of the season came from FBMP in Ozaukee 29 May and Estabrook Park in Milwaukee the next day (Huf).

Blue-winged Warbler—Hoy Audubon members found the first bird 27 April in Racine County at Colonial Park. Seen 30 April in Dane (Nolan), Grant (m. obs.), and Sauk (Marschalek) Counties. Reported in Milwaukee and Walworth Counties the following day. Next observed in Polk County (Maercklein) 8 May, which was also the northern limit for the species. Other county limits as one moves east across the state were Marathon (Belter), Oconto (Smith), Marinette (J. Campbell), and Door (m. obs.).

Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler—The “Brewster’s” hybrid has been reported in each of the prior six seasons. This year it was noted 6 May at PBC in Dane County (Schneider) and Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County (Lubahn). The only other observation came from T. Wood in Waukesha County 9 May. See “By the Wayside” for his written account.

Black-and-white Warbler—Several reports before the cut-off date of 12 April were made from Dane, La Crosse, and Wood Counties. While none of these observations were on the decisive early arrival record date of 4 April, no comments were made in the eBird reports. A bird seen at PBC in Dane (m. obs.) 15 April was the only report until 25 April, when Mueller discovered one at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County. Domagalski found the next one in Manitowoc County two days later. The march northward continued in St. Croix County 30 April (Persico), Sawyer County 1 May (Gagliardi), and Ashland County 6 May (Duffee, Krerowicz). Howe counted 22 migrating birds in Racine County 14 May and Frank counted 14 in Milwaukee County 24 May. A cou-

ple of lingering migrants were noted in Milwaukee and Ozaukee near EOP.

Prothonotary Warbler—McDowell photographed a bird at PBC in Dane County 24 April. Seen in Grant County 30 April (m. obs.) and in Milwaukee County the next day (Lubahn). West tallied 36 individuals at Wyalusing SP in Grant 29 May. Not found north or east of Portage County.

Tennessee Warbler—Graham reported the first on 29 April in Dane County. Grant (m. obs.), Sauk (Marschalek), and Vernon (Roth-Reynolds) Counties were added the next day. Hoeft reported a bird in Marathon County 1 May and Haseleu did the same from Burnett County 5 May. On 14 May, high counts of 100 and 40 birds each were made in Dane (Kreitingner) and Jefferson (Stutz) Counties respectively. Found EOP in Milwaukee (Bontly, Zehner) and St. Croix (Persico) Counties.

Orange-crowned Warbler—The initial early report in Dane County 15 April (Henrikson, McDowell) was not followed by new county reports until 27 April, when Milwaukee (Vargo), Washington (Schaefer), and Waukesha (Szymczak) were added. April ended with an observation in St. Croix County (Persico). Noted in Bayfield County 2 May (Brady). High counts ranging from 16–20 birds were reported by O’Connor in Milwaukee 11 May and Tessen in Outagamie County 15 May. End of May reports were made on the 27th in Manitowoc County (Heikkinen) and 29th in Ashland County (Buckardt).

Nashville Warbler—A bird found 13 April at the Lion’s Den in Ozaukee County would become the definitive record early arrival for this species; however, documentation would have to be forwarded to the Records Committee for review. The “official” first observation was on 27 April at PBC in Dane (Stutz). Next seen 29 April at two additional Dane locations, as well as at SANC in Milwaukee County (Bontly, Huf) and in Waukesha County (Szymczak). April ended with seven more new county reports. Arrived 1 May in Florence County (Kavanagh). Tessen counted over 100 birds in Outagamie County 10 May. Last southern observation in Milwaukee at Doctor’s Park (Petherick) and Lake Park (Korducki, Prestby).

Connecticut Warbler—Reported 10 May in Polk (Maercklein) and Waukesha (Mertins) Counties. Reports of 2 individuals came from Marquette and Sauk Counties 19–22 May. EOP

in Douglas County (LaValley). Seen in nineteen counties.

Mourning Warbler—Single male and female birds were detected at PBC in Dane County 7 May (m. obs.). Discovered 10–11 May in Door (S. Peterson), Iowa, Marathon (Belter), Milwaukee, Outagamie, and Vernon Counties. Wasn't found in Ashland County until 24 May (Nemec). Migrant high counts of 5 individuals were noted at Warnimont Park in Milwaukee (23 May, Lubahn) and Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County (19 May, Prestby).

Kentucky Warbler—Returned to Wyalusing SP in Grant County 6 May (m. obs.). Thereafter, the species was found exclusively in the southern tier of counties, including Dane, Dodge, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, and Walworth Counties. Found EOP in Dane, Grant, and Walworth.

Common Yellowthroat—Bridge reported the lead off migrant 29 April in Rock County at Avon Bottoms. Her report was followed by observations in seven more southern counties the next day. Northwoods detection began 6 May in Chippewa (Cameron) and Barron (Carlsen) Counties, followed by a sighting in Ashland County 15 May (Krerowicz). The May Day Count on the 21st in Winnebago County produced 137 birds.

Hooded Warbler—Arrival in Dane (Herb), Milwaukee (Lubahn), and Walworth (Wilson) Counties 1 May. Reported in fifteen counties, north to Brown (EOP; the Tricks) and Sheboygan (12 May; Boyle, Epstein). Totals of 6 or more birds were reported from multiple locations (as usual!) within the Southern Kettle Moraine of Jefferson, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties.

American Redstart—Reported from Dane, Grant, Green, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Sauk, and Vernon Counties 30 April. Arrival in Eau Claire (m. obs.) and Sawyer (Gagliardi) Counties 7 May. Seen up in Bayfield County 13 May (Anich). Fallout counts of 40–70 migrants were made from Buffalo, Dane, and Trempealeau Counties during a narrow 13–14 May time window.

Kirtland's Warbler**—First reported by J. Trick on the early date of 13 May in their breeding stronghold of Adams County. Schneider took photos of a male found in Marinette County 29 May, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports."

Cape May Warbler—Reported from multiple locations within Dane and Milwaukee Counties 1 May. Seen the following day in Manitowoc and Sauk Counties. Paulios discovered a bird in Burnett County 8 May. Anich and Prestby were astonished at the 35 birds they found within a spruce stand in Sawyer County 11 May. End of May reports of birds still moving through came on the 27th at the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County (Cutright) and the 28th in Brown, Outagamie, and Manitowoc Counties.

Cerulean Warbler—Several birds already graced Wyalusing SP in Grant County on 30 April (m. obs.) and by 12 May, Tessen counted 20 birds there. Noted during the season in twenty-two counties, with a report from Lincoln County 15 May (Nemec) being the most interesting (not noted during atlas surveys).

Northern Parula—J. Peterson's 5 April bird at PBC in Dane County (also documented by McDowell) is only preceeded by an 18 March 1942 report! See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Reported 29 April in Racine County (Pugh) and 1 May in Door (Ford) and Milwaukee Counties (Lubahn). Seen in Ashland County 6 May (Duffee, Krerowicz) and in Vilas County 8 May (Baughman, Krakowski). High counts of 13–15 birds were tallied in Milwaukee 15 May (Wilson) and Ozaukee County 4 May (m. obs.). Migrants were still found EOP in Manitowoc (Schaefer, Szymczak) and Milwaukee (Lubahn) Counties.

Northern Parula × Yellow-throated Warbler—A probable "Sutton's" Warbler was found and photographed by Swelstad 16 May in Brown County.

Magnolia Warbler—Arrived 1 May, with county observations in Dane (Liss), Manitowoc (Domagalski), Milwaukee (two locations; m. obs.), and Racine (Dixon, Wenzel). Found north to Polk (Maercklein) and St. Croix (Persico) Counties 8 May. Counts of 30–37 migrants occurred 16–22 May in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Counties. EOP in Milwaukee at Lake Park (Huf) and SANC (Bontly, Zehner). EBird frequency and abundance were higher this season vs. prior data years 2007–2010.

Bay-breasted Warbler—Reports began 3 May in Dane County (Liss) and continued the following day in Dodge County (m. obs.), and the day after that, in Milwaukee County (Zehner). Cameron and Lind found a bird in Eau Claire County 10 May and the next day J. Campbell reported one in Marinette County.

Seen in Florence (Strelka) and Bayfield Counties (Nemec) on 15 and 22 May, respectively. Sommer counted at least 50 individuals, male and female, at Riveredge Nature Center 16 May. The species was still present in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties at or near EOP. eBird reporting frequency and abundance dwarfed data from prior years 2007–2010.

Blackburnian Warbler—Arrived 30 April at PBC in Dane County (m. obs.) and in Dodge County (Romano). Seen the next day in three more counties. Discovered at Putnam Park in Eau Claire County 7 May (m. obs.) and the following day in Florence County (two locations; Kavanaghs). High numbers totaling 15–20 birds were found in Calumet (21 May, Tessen), Racine (14 May; Willard, Witynski), and Trempealeau Counties (13 May, West). Lingering migrant was detected EOP in Winnebago (Bruce).

Yellow Warbler—A very early bird seen up in St. Croix County 17 April (Collins) is only preceded by a 16 April 1898 report. Next found by Clausen in Dane County 18–24 April. Not reported again until 27 April in Waukesha County (Szymczak) and at a new location in Dane (Henrikson). Hoeft observed her first on 1 May in Marathon County and returning birds showed up in Burnett and Marinette Counties 5 May. A healthy total of 168 birds was counted during the May Day Count on the 21st in Winnebago County and 50–bird counts were reported in Jefferson (7 May, Stutz) and La Crosse (15 May, Jakoubek) Counties.

Chestnut-sided Warbler—Decisive arrival on 1 May in Dane, Door, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Counties. Gagliardi saw her first bird 7 May in Sawyer County. Tallies of 30–40 migrants were reported at PBC in Dane (Ellis) and Riveredge Nature Center in Ozaukee (Sommer).

Blackpoll Warbler—SANC naturalist Quintenz observed the first of the season in Milwaukee County 29 April. Seen the following day in Dane (m. obs.) and Sauk (McDonald) Counties. Found in Florence County 9 May (Kavanaghs) and two days later in Sawyer County (Anich, Prestby). Totals of 20 birds each were reported in Jefferson (15 May, Stutz), Ozaukee (16 May, Sommer), and Washington (24 May, Schaefer) Counties. Birds were still being observed at or near EOP in Door, Milwaukee, Racine, and St. Croix Counties. Reporting frequency and abundance was significantly higher vs. eBird data years 2007–2010.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—Visitors to PBC in Dane County 30 April were treated to views of the first glorious male of the season (m. obs.). Two birds were seen the next day at Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County (Lubahn). Hoeft found an individual up in Marathon County 4 May. Reported by Anich and Prestby in Ashland County 10 May. The high counts, of 3 migrant birds, were tallied at Fischer Creek in Manitowoc County 16 May and Sheridan Park in Milwaukee 18 May (Winter, Wiskowski). Migrants were still detected 28 May in Waupaca County on the May Day count and 30 May in Milwaukee (Wilson).

Palm Warbler—Vargo saw a rather early individual 11 April in Milwaukee County and A. Holschbach noted one the next day in Sauk County at Bakken's Pond. New county reports did not occur until 16 April, when birds were found in Milwaukee and Trempealeau Counties. The fifth county to report was Racine on the 21st. Appeared up in Florence and Outagamie Counties on the 25th. Not seen in Ashland County until 3 May (m. obs.). Counts in the range of 50–65 birds were reported in Dane, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Waukesha Counties during the period 1–16 May. EOP in Douglas (LaValley) and Florence (Richmond) Counties.

Pine Warbler—Reported in the following counties 10 April: Brown (Schilke), Dane (C. Martin), Iowa (A. Holschbach, Prestby), and Waukesha (Szymczak). While an individual had reached Vilas County two days later (Prestby), returning birds were not reported in Bayfield County until 8 May. A count of 5 migrants was reported from Sheridan Park in Milwaukee County 1 May (Lubahn).

Yellow-rumped Warbler—No March reports. Found 1 April in Dunn County (P. Campbell) and the next day in La Crosse County (Jackson). Reported in Dane, Iowa, St. Croix, and Waukesha Counties 3 April. By the end of the first week of April, birds were found in seven new counties. Arrived in Bayfield County 8 April (Brady). A staggering 1,000 birds were counted at PBC in Dane 23 April (McDowell). The last migrants were detected at hotspots in Milwaukee County 27 May (Huf, Petherick).

Yellow-throated Warbler*—Reported from four counties. Initially reported at its stronghold in Grant County 30 April (m. obs.). A bird was then found 6 May at Doctor's Park in Ozaukee County (Frank) and the following day within the Southern Kettle Moraine in Waukesha County (Bielefeldt). Lastly, Tessen described a bird seen 21 May in Calumet County.

Prairie Warbler*—An observation at PBC in Dane County 30 April (Fig. 15) becomes one of six other early record arrivals for the species (m. obs.). Next reported in Milwaukee County (Lubahn) 2 May. A bird returned to the Southern Kettle Moraine for the second year on 7 May in Waukesha County (Szymczak) and remained through EOP. Another Dane individual was seen 15 May at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Evanson). A final county report came from Ozaukee at FBMP 19 May (Cutright).

Black-throated Gray Warbler**—Prior to this season there were scant records of this rare warbler in the state. This season it was reported from both Lake Farm County Park and PBC in Dane County (Fig. 16), as well as, in Waukesha County. All reports were approved, see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports.”

Black-throated Green Warbler—The first migrant was reported by Mueller at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County 25 April. Next seen two days later at PBC in Dane County (Graham, McDowell) and on territory in Waukesha County (Szymczak). The march northward continued 30 April when birds were found in Lincoln (Nemec) and Oneida (Prestby) Counties. High counts of 30 birds were counted in Racine, Sauk, and Trempealeau Counties 2-14 May. Migrants were still being detected 30 May in Milwaukee County at both Lake Park (Korducki, Prestby) and SANC (Zehner) and in Ozaukee at Harrington Beach SP (Frank).

Canada Warbler—Bucci and Schiffman reported an individual from Mazomanie WA in Dane County on the record arrival cut-off date of 1 May. Found the next day at PBC in Dane (A. Holschbach) and at two locations in Milwaukee County (both Winter). Subsequent observations did not occur until 7 May when Kenosha, Sauk, and Waukesha Counties were added. While Maercklein reported a bird in Polk County 10 May, the species was not seen in Bayfield and Florence Counties until the 21st and 22nd, respectively. Hagner counted 19 migrants in Milwaukee 22 May. EOP in Milwaukee at Estabrook Park (Gustafson) and SANC (Zehner). Reporting frequency and abundance was considerably higher vs. prior eBird data years 2007–2010.

Wilson’s Warbler—Huf discovered the first of the year at Lake Park in Milwaukee County 3 May. Seen the next day in Dodge (m. obs.), Green Lake (Schultz), and Manitowoc (J. Trick) Counties. Gagliardi found her first 7 May

in Sawyer County and Brady saw his first on 9 May in Bayfield County. Migrant totals in the range of 16-18 birds were reported from Milwaukee, Racine, and Trempealeau Counties during the period of 13–22 May. EOP in Douglas, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, and St. Croix Counties. Like the Canada Warbler, eBird frequency and abundance were much higher vs. prior years 2007–2010.

Yellow-breasted Chat*—The record cut-off date is 1 May for this species, and that was the same day participants in a Riveredge Bird Club trip in Ozaukee County saw a bird along the Port Washington bike path. Next seen 3 May in Sheboygan County (Schroeder). Trapp found one at Starkweather Creek woods in Dane County 10 May (also seen by Graham). Another individual was reported from Dane at Brooklyn WA on 24 May (Thiessen) and last reported there 30 May by Riveredge Bird Club members. Last reported in Door County on 28 May (Lukes).

Eastern Towhee—Howe submitted the only March county reports from both Kenosha on the 19th, and Racine on the 25th. Next reported 2 April in Dane, Lafayette, and Milwaukee Counties. K. Kavanagh found her first bird 13 April in Florence County. Birds weren’t noted in Bayfield County until 8 May.

American Tree Sparrow—Early season high counts were of 55–60 birds in Marathon and Sauk Counties. The final report of the season was a relatively late on 29 May in Door County (Kile).

Chipping Sparrow—March reports occurred from the 16th–28th in Waukesha County (m. obs.), on the 21st in Manitowoc County (Tessen), and on the 31st in Dane County (Upper). During the first two days of April, eight more counties registered observations. Appeared in Dunn (P. Campbell) and Eau Claire (Betchkal) Counties 12 April and in Bayfield County 24 April (Brady). Many of the high counts for the season were clustered around the beginning of May.

Clay-colored Sparrow—Fissel observed 2 birds on 23 April in Winnebago County. Dane County reports began the next day, while Grant County reported 27 April. Individuals were reported north to Barron (Huset) and Marathon (Belter) Counties 30 April, and ultimately, in Bayfield County 1 May (Oksiuta). The LaValley’s counted 48 birds in Douglas County 13 May.

Field Sparrow—Seen on 29 and 30 March in Columbia (Dischler) and Kenosha (Evanson) Counties, respectively. Next reported 2 April from Dane, Grant, Jefferson, and Lafayette Counties. Persico found 5 birds on 10 April in St. Croix County, Belter detected his first 18 April in Marathon County, and the Kavanaghs finally reported from Florence County 3 May.

Vesper Sparrow—The record cut-off date is 14 March 1987. Romano matched that date by finding a bird on the 14th in Sauk County. The next reports were not made until 2 April from Vernon (Roth-Reynolds) and Waushara (Mueller) Counties. Schaufenbuel counted 17 birds in Portage County 14 April.

Lark Sparrow—Wilson found 1 bird in Walworth County 24 April at a location where birds were first discovered in 2010. This was also the most eastern report for the species. Reported the next day at the Spring Green Preserve in Sauk County (A. Holschbach). The highest number counted was 6 birds in Dunn County 16 May (Schroeder). Reported in seventeen counties.

Savannah Sparrow—The record cut-off date is 17 March 1992. Frank's discovery of 1 bird on the 17th at the Mequon Nature Preserve in Ozaukee County equals that effort. The only other March county reports came on the 24th in Outagamie (Swelstad), the 27th in Sheboygan (Grgic), and 31st in Waukesha (Gustafson). Richmond found 2 birds up in Oneida County 16 April. A stunning 684 were tallied during the May Day Count on the 21st in Winnebago County.

Grasshopper Sparrow—Individuals were seen on the 24th and 25th April in Portage (Pendergast) and Sauk (A. Holschbach) Counties, respectively. Numbers of birds in the 10–24 range were reported in Burnett, Sauk, and Trempealeau Counties. The northern county limits for the species this year were Burnett, Door, and Marathon.

Henslow's Sparrow—The arrival record cut-off date is 11 April 1954. The team of Flores and Flores-Wiskowski found, photographed, and submitted documentation to the WSO for an individual seen in Milwaukee County 10 April. See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Next found in Richland County 6 May (Duerksen) and the following day in Dodge, Rock, and St. Croix Counties. St. Croix was also the location of the season's high count of 10 birds 28 May (Persico). Consistent with atlas findings, found

north to Marathon (Belter), St. Croix (Paulios), and Shawano (Ewing) Counties.

Le Conte's Sparrow—Paulios noted one present up in Burnett County 7 May. Reported in eight counties during the season. End of season reports came from the counties of Marquette (Prestby), Vilas (Stone), and Wood (m. obs.), which were previously identified for some level of breeding activity during the atlas.

Nelson's Sparrow*—The only report was made during the May Day count in Burnett County on the 23rd.

Fox Sparrow—Reported at or near BOP in Dane (m. obs.), Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties (both Szymczak). By mid-March, the species was added in Jefferson and Walworth Counties. Found in Florence County 6 April (Kavanaghs) and in Bayfield County the next day (Brady). Prestby and E. Wood counted 25 birds in Dane 10 April. The final reports of the season were made 22 May by K. Kavanagh in Florence, 24 May in Door County (Toneys), and Tessen from his yard in Outagamie County 29 May. Tessen's observation ties the record departure date of 29 May 1982.

Song Sparrow—Present at or near BOP in a number of southern counties, where birds continued until 15 March when a "new" county, Monroe, was added (Epstein). His report was followed by other initial county reports 18 March in Brown, Marathon, and Pepin Counties. Arrived north in Bayfield and Florence Counties end of the first week April. Marschalek counted 200 at Picnic Point in Dane County 6 April. Another interesting number was Domagalski's count of 108 birds at Collin's Marsh in Manitowoc County 26 March. He noted roadside groups of pure Song Sparrows, similar to the behavior of Dark-eyed Juncos and American Tree Sparrows in the winter.

Lincoln's Sparrow—Mertins saw 2 birds at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County 21 April. Next reported 29 April in Dane County (Graham) and 30 April in Iowa, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Walworth Counties. Marschalek tallied 10 in Dane on 8 May and Cutright counted 5 birds at FBMP in Ozaukee 20 May. The final southern bird was reported at Lake Park in Milwaukee 30 May (Korducki, Prestby).

Swamp Sparrow—Over-wintering birds were reported at or near BOP in Dane (Fissel, Schilke) and Waukesha Counties (Szymczak). Reports did not begin in earnest until 7 April, when Lafayette and Walworth Counties were

added. Appeared up in Florence County 13 April (Kavanaghs) and in Douglas County 28 April (Richmond). Bontly counted 30 migrating individuals at SANC in Milwaukee County 27 April.

White-throated Sparrow—Over-wintering birds were found first week of period in Dane, Grant, Green, Milwaukee, Rock, and Waukesha Counties. Reported at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Brown County 26 March (Swelstad). The northward march continued 11 April in Marathon County (Wilson) and 13 April in Langlade (Richmond) and Oneida Counties (Karnosky). Reached Vilas County 16 April (Peczynski). McDowell counted 100 birds at PBC in Dane 30 April. Other high counts were also clustered around his date. The final southern migrant report was made from Milwaukee 28 May.

Harris's Sparrow—Reported in nine counties beginning with Manitowoc 1 May (Sontag). High totals of 2 birds were found in both Bayfield (12-18 May, Brady) and St. Croix Counties (7 May, Persico). Other county reports originated in Ashland, Buffalo, Burnett, Kenosha, La Crosse and Sawyer (final report 22 May, Pertile).

White-crowned Sparrow—Over-wintering birds were observed in Dane (7 March, Kreiting) and Milwaukee Counties (20 March, Holton). A probable returning bird was noted 8 April in Waukesha (Szymczak), with additional locations in Dane and Milwaukee reporting 10 April. Reached Bayfield County 1 May (Brady). Huf counted 80 individuals at Lake Park in Milwaukee 10 May. Other high counts were clustered in the 10-14 May date range. Birds were still being reported 28-30 May in six counties.

Dark-eyed Junco—Found north to Brown, Chippewa, Door, Douglas, and Polk Counties at or near BOP. The highest official migrant counts ranged from 155-310 birds and were observed during the 6-17 April date range. Unofficially, 13 April saw huge numbers concentrated in Ashland County when "juncos lined the roads for 20 miles. Every tenth of a mile or so another flock would swirl up from the roadside" (Vanselow). No unusual southern reports were made during the last week of period.

Summer Tanager*—Seen in fifteen counties! The season "kicked off" 30 April with the observation of a 1st year male at the NWR in Trempealeau County (Paulson). The following day, Rittenhouse discovered a 1st year male at Devil's Lake SP in Sauk County (also seen by

Schwarz). Domagalski saw a 1st year male at Fischer Creek 2 May in Manitowoc County. Then, the Kavanaghs found a 1st year male 5 May in Oneida County. On 8 May, a 1st year male was seen at PBC in Dane County (m. obs.), Haag snapped shots of a 1st year male in St. Croix County, and participants in an Ozaukee Washington Land Trust field trip in Ozaukee County saw one at Bratt Woods. Wolk had a 1st year male at his feeder 9-10 May in Walworth County. Edlhuber photographed a bird at Vernon Marsh in Waukesha County 11 May. Reports also began in Milwaukee County 11 May when Gustafson found a female at Lake Park. Other Milwaukee reports came from Sheridan and Warnimont Parks 12-13 May (Lubahn, Mueller) and SANC 15-23 May (m. obs.). Boyle found a 1st year male in Fond du Lac County 11 May. Anich visited an Ashland County feeder that had been hosting a bird 15 May (this allowed him to obtain a tanager "slam" for the day!). Another was found in Vernon County 22 May (Wolfe). Lendobeja took photos of a Racine County bird seen 23-24 May. Finally, a female was photographed 25 May in Door County (Lukes) and remained through EOP. [Fig. 17 is representative of the observations.]

Scarlet Tanager—Reported 30 April from Grant (m. obs.), Trempealeau (unk. obs.), and Waukesha Counties (Wilson). Seen the next day in Dane, Iowa, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties. Belter and Risch observed individuals 10 May in Marathon and Taylor Counties, respectively.

Western Tanager*—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports" for the birds documented in Bayfield (Fig. 18), Douglas, and Taylor Counties. Read Brady's comments on the Bayfield bird in "By the Wayside."

Northern Cardinal—Not reported in Iron or Price Counties.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—The first of spring was reported in Rock County 24 April (Boone). Next found two days later in Dane (Schwarz) and Waukesha Counties (Gross). Seen 1 May in Bayfield (Oksiuta) and Florence Counties (Kavanaghs).

Blue Grosbeak**—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports" for the accepted 2 May Milwaukee (Hahn, Howard) and 18 May Outagamie County (Tessen) observations.

Indigo Bunting—Jefferson County was the location of the first report 29 April (Bridge).

Over the next two days, observations were made in six more counties. There appeared to be a western tendency to the arrival pattern. Before 7 May, the most northeastern county report was from Ozaukee (if you can call Ozaukee northeastern!). Arrived in Florence County 10 May (Kavanagh).

Painted Bunting**—Seen in the state for the fifth spring in a row. For details on the bird photographed in Dane County 2 May (Schmikla), see “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports.”

Dickcissel—Reports began 10 May in Trempealeau County (Goode) and continued over the next four days in Door (M. Martin), Jefferson (Stutz), Lafayette, and Rock Counties (both Yoerger). The next new county to report was Green on 27 May. The season was rounded out by county reports from Dane, Iowa, Sauk, Waukesha, and Waupaca.

Bobolink—Found in Portage County 29 April (Schaufenbuel) and the next day in Green Lake (m. obs.) and Walworth Counties (Howe). Schaufenbuel also reported the high count of 45 birds in Portage 18 May. The other high counts, of 20 birds each, were submitted from Bayfield (22 May, Oksiuta) and Waukesha Counties (12 May, Mertins).

Red-winged Blackbird—The northernmost reports during first week of period came from Brown (J. Trick) and Calumet Counties (Domagalski). The northward incursion continued 15 March in Eau Claire County (Lind), 17 March in Barron County (Carlsen), and 18 March in Bayfield County (Oksiuta). Paulios tallied 1,500 birds in Dane County 8 March and 11 April.

Eastern Meadowlark—Allen found 2 birds 7 March in Lafayette County. Next seen on 11 March by Gustafson in Waukesha County. Discovered 13 March in Calumet, Dodge, and Kenosha Counties. Carlsen reported a bird in Barron County 17 March, Risch in Taylor County 21 March, and Collins did so on 25 March in Burnett County at Crex Meadows.

Western Meadowlark—Already present in Portage County on 18 March (Evanson) and two days later in Adams County (m. obs.). Maximum of 9 birds was counted 18 May at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage. Reported in sixteen counties, but none were in the extreme southeastern part of the state.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Dixon’s sighting in Racine County 5 April was the first. Observed the next day in Columbia County (Christenson). Over the next several days, reports came in from Dodge, Jefferson, La Crosse, and Waukesha Counties. Anich’s report of 2 males in Ashland County 21 April was exceptional. Ziebell tallied 80 birds in Winnebago County 28 May.

Rusty Blackbird—Reporting counties during the first week of period were Dane, Racine, Rock, and Waukesha. The Lulu Lake Preserve in Walworth County was a March “hotspot” for the species with Howe observing 27–50 birds between the date range 13–28 March. Risch reported an accumulation of 400 birds in Taylor County 13 April. Last reported at Havenwoods SF in Milwaukee County 30 May (Mooney).

Brewer’s Blackbird—Seen in Dane (Schwarz) and Racine Counties (Winter) 7 March. Not reported again until 17 March in Outagamie County (Tessen) and the next day when 20 birds were observed by Domagalski in Manitowoc County. Arrived in Florence County 15 April (K. Kavanagh). Schaufenbuel tallied 185 birds at Buena Vista Grasslands in Portage County 18 April.

Common Grackle—Found early period in over a half dozen southern counties. Noted in Door County 13 March (Kile, Swagel), Clark County 16 March (Risch), and Vilas County 18 March (Baughman). Not reported in Ashland until 28 March (Anich). Counts of 500 birds were noted in La Crosse County on 10 and 24 April (Puchalski).

Great-tailed Grackle**—See “WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports” for details about a bird found 13–14 April in Calumet County.

Brown-headed Cowbird—Present in Lafayette (Romano) and at multiple locations in Waukesha County (m. obs.) during first week of period. Birds were reported 20 March in Monroe County (m. obs.) and 26 March in Taylor County (Risch). Found up in Bayfield (Oksiuta) and Burnett Counties (Haseleu) by 7 April. Prestby counted a flock of 450 in Sauk County 10 April.

Orchard Oriole—Graham counted 3 birds at Picnic Point in Dane County 30 April. Reported in Crawford, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Trempealeau Counties the next day. The species was reported north to these counties: Dunn, Langlade (Richmond), Oconto, Pierce,

St. Croix, Taylor (Risch), and Trempealeau. Multiple observers counted 15+ totals in Trempealeau 13 May during the WSO Convention.

Bullock's Oriole**—A single male was reported in Sheboygan County 7-16 May, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Prior to this season there were only four other reports.

Baltimore Oriole—A record early bird was photographed in Adams County 10 April by Walker, see "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports." Normal reports began 29 April at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee County (Frank, Wilson). Added in the counties of Crawford, Dane, Grant, Green, Monroe, Racine, Sauk, and Vernon the next day. Observed north to Dunn, Pepin, and Sawyer by 1 May.

Pine Grosbeak—Reported in these five counties during the month of March: Ashland (6th, Brady), Bayfield (12th, Oksiuta), Door (1st–26th, Maring), Douglas (1st–10th, LaValleys), and Vilas (4th–15th, Baughman).

Purple Finch—Reported in twelve counties during the first week of period, north to Marathon. Observations were made in Ashland, Bayfield, and Florence Counties 8-14 March. Interesting southern reports occurred 27 May in Ozaukee (m. obs.) and EOP in Winnebago County (Bruce).

Red Crossbill—Found in Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, and Oneida Counties, as well as TTP in Vilas County (Baughman). Vilas was also the location of the maximum number seen, 36 birds, on 15 April (Prestby).

White-winged Crossbill—Domagalski's report of 2 birds on 8 March in Manitowoc County was the only standout of the season. Also found during the period in five other more traditional Northwoods counties. Baughman tallied the most, 30 birds, in Vilas County 21 May.

Common Redpoll—Sighted in eighteen counties, south to Milwaukee (6 March, Prestby), Racine (6-18 March; Petherick, Wenzel), and Waukesha (9 March, Bridge). Brady counted 225 birds in Ashland County 19 March. Last reported in Ashland and Bayfield Counties 23–29 April (both Brady).

Hoary Redpoll**—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Re-

ports" for Brady's observations (Fig. 19) that spanned 14 March–2 April in Bayfield County.

Pine Siskin—Fairly widespread at or near BOP. Counts of 40–50 birds were reported from Ashland, Marathon, Marquette, and Sawyer Counties during the 9 March–1 May time period. Still present in Milwaukee (Zehner) and Ozaukee (Uttech) Counties 26–27 May.

European Goldfinch—A maximum of 4 birds was reported from Racine County on 14 April by the Hoy Audubon.

Evening Grosbeak—Reported from the expected counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Florence, Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Marinette, Oconto, Sawyer, and Vilas. Swelstad counted 48 in Forest on 6 March.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow**—See "WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011, Accepted Reports" for the approved observations that spanned 21–23 April in Columbia County (Figures 20 and 21).

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Jerry DeBoer, Zachary DeBruine, Alyssa DeRubeis, Glenn DesJardin, Joseph Devereaux, Scott Diehl, Raymond Dischler, John Dixon, Robert Domagalski, Brian Doverspike, Jerry Dryer, Mike Duchek, Barbara Duerksen, Alia Durfee, Jim Edlhuber, Nelson Eisman, Jesse Ellis, Robert Engel, Lee Engstrom, Eric Epstein, Joshua Erdman, Laura Erickson, Marty Evan-son, Tim Ewing, Rick Fare, John Feith, Tim Fenske, Peter Fissel, Sean Fitzgerald, David Flores, Rita Flores Wiskowski, Jay Florian, Glenn Forchione, Hilary Ford, Janet Fountain, Matthew Fraker, James Frank, Rick Gabriel, Cathy Gagliardi, Ryan Gallagher, Anne Geragthy, Malcolm Gold, Regan Golden-McNerney, D. Gomez-Ibanez, Wanda Goode, Mike Goodman, Peter Gorman, Dan Graham, Davor Grgic, Maureen Gross, Serena Grover, Dennis Gustafson, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Paul Haag, Kari Hagenow, Charles Hagner, Tim Hahn, Karen Etter Hale, Brian Hansen, Lori Han-son, Judy Haseleu, Chuck Heikkinen, Ginny Helland, Rebecca Herb, Kelly Herrmann, Patty Hess, Elizabeth Hill, Joyce Hoeft, Ronald Hoffmann, Aaron Holschbach, Jim Holschbach, William Holton, Patrick Horn, Carol Howard, Eric Howe, Michael Huebschen, Judith Huf, Hv Hughes, Paul Hunter, Greg Huset, Brad Hutnik, Dan Jackson, Jen Jaeger, Paul Jakoubek, Gerry Janz, Rebecca Jarvis, Jeanette Jaskula, Kathy Java, Larry Johnson, Karen Johnson, Robbye Johnson, Brian Karnosky, Amy Marie Karow, Bob Kavanagh, Kay Kavanagh, Amy Kearns, Matt Kemp, Sharon Kennedy, Peter Keyel, Memuna Khan, Tom and Lucy Kile, Mark Klein, Michael Kloepping, Tom Klubertanz, Karl and Lucy Klug, J. Knickelbine, Nolan Kollath, Mark Korducki, A. Koziol, Jim Krakowski, Kim Kreitinger, Sam Krerowicz, Dennis Kuecherer, Roberta Laffey, Steve and Laura LaValley, Mike Lendobeja, Will Lewis, Jana Lind, Kyle Lindemer, Josh Liss, Jess Long, Ilona Loser, Dennis Lubach, Steven Lubahn, Roy and Charlotte Lukes, Robin Maercklein, Susan Mackreth, Stuart Malcolm, Gretchen Maring, Daniel Marschalek, Chester Martin, Max Martin, Joshua Martinez, Gary Masemore, Dale Matheson, William Mattrisch, Colleen Matula, M. McDonald, Mike McDowell, Chuck McGill, Bob McInroy, John McLeod, Matt Mendenhall, Anna Merritt, Tom Mertins, Lisa Mettel, Scott Meyer, Jym Mooney, Anne Moretti, Mike Mossman, William Mueller, Vickie Mulkerin, NLDC Birders, Keith Nemec, Peter Nichols, Maryanne Niesen, Paul Noeldner, Aaron Nolan, Susan Nowicki, Michelle O'Connor, John O'Donnell, Yushi Oguchi, Tim Oksiuta, Chris Olson, Cathy Olyphant, Gayly Opem, Mitchell Ost, Jim Otto, Andy Paulios, Matt Paulson, Jim Peck, Jim Pecquex, Mike Peczynski, Rob Pendergast, Larry Persico, Rick Pertile, Glenna Peters, Jesse Peterson, Sue Peterson, Chris Petherick, Martin Pfeiffer, Janine Polk, Bernice Popelka, Amanda Prange, Tom Prestby, Scott Puchalski, Helen Pugh, Gail and Lee Pullen, Don Quintenz, Mark Rasmussen, Joey Reichhoff, Andrew Reimer, Norma Renner, Nancy Richmond, Cheryl Richter, Ryan Rickaby, Paul J. Risch, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Mary Roenneburg, Ronald Rohde, John Romano, Stan Rosenstiel, Jennifer Roth, Jay Roth-Reynolds, Wayne Rundell, Mike Sandstrom, Tom Schaefer, Joseph Schaufenbuel, Darrell Schiff-

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Toneys, Jeff Trapp, Rob Traxler, Joel Trick, Patti Trick, Bob Triebensee, Rob Tyser, Kim Upper, Ken Uslabar, Tom Uttech, Donald Van Duyse, Harold Vanselow, Tim Vargo, Jim Veltman, Elaine Vokoun, R. Walker, C Warneke, Jasonn Weber, Jennifer Wenzel, Chris West, Tessa Whitemarsh, Karl Whitrock, Gary Wiegel, Andrea Wieland, Peg Wienke, David Willard, Todd Wilson, Marilyn Winter, John Winze, Ryan Wipperfurth, Max Witynski, Sharon Woelfel, Kevin Wolfe, Matt Wolk, Eric Wood, Thomas C. Wood, Quentin Yoerger, Judy Zarnoth, Ric Zarwell, Jonathan Zellmer, Norma Zehner, Libby Zeman, Tom Ziebell, Vince Zimmerman, Will Zimmerman, Jeff Zuhlke.

“By the Wayside”—Spring 2011

Highlights of the written documentation provided these comments for uncommon and interesting species seen this season; such as Ross’s Goose, White-faced Ibis, Swainson’s Hawk, Piping Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-billed Magpie, Northern Mockingbird, “Brewster’s” Warbler, and Western Tanager.

ROSS’S GOOSE *(Chen rossii)*

19 March 2011, Hwy 138 West of Stoughton (2 birds) and County Hwy DM (7 birds), Dane County—These birds were all white, except for the bare parts, and except for the wingtips, which were black. They seemed similar in size to nearby Mallards and much smaller than the Greater White-fronted Geese that were at both locations. There were many sizes of Canada Geese and a small group seemed as small as the Ross’s Geese. Those might have been Cackling Geese. The Ross’s Geese had nicely rounded heads, short stubby triangular bills that were largely pink but had some discoloration at the base. Unlike a Snow Goose, there was no “grin” patch visible on the bill. The legs were pink and there was no dark streaking on the plumage, indicating that all these birds were adults.—
Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.

WHITE-FACED IBIS *(Plegadis chihi)*

8 and 9 May 2011, Eagle Crest subdivision, east of Hwy H and north of Hwy EE, Dunn County—First appeared through binoculars as an all dark medium-sized wading bird; through my scope I could see the dark maroon-colored head, neck, and body, glossy greenish on wings, long decurved bill, pink legs, and prominent white border around the eye and facial skin. I wasn’t close enough to make out the color of the eye or facial skin. The bird spent most of its time walking along and feeding in a flooded spot in a field, sometimes stopping to rest and preen. The next afternoon the ibis was working a fencerow in a flooded cornfield a little west of where it had been the day before. A Glossy Ibis was ruled out by pink legs and rather broad white border around the eye and facial skin.—

Janine Polk and Jennifer Barth, Eau Claire, WI.

SWAINSON'S HAWK
(*Buteo swainsoni*)

3 May 2011, Near intersection of Peck and Mercer Roads, Sauk County—These two hawks were seen circling over the marsh and fields in southwestern Sauk County while I was using 10× binoculars, but one was also watched through a spotting scope at 30×. The first hawk was a light adult. This hawk was about the same size as two Red-tailed Hawks that were flying nearby, but the wing shape was quite different; these were more narrow looking and had a much more pointed look to the wingtips. The underside of this bird was bright white as were the underwing coverts, while the primaries, secondaries, and tail were contrastingly dark. Also very obvious was the dark breast band and white throat. The upperparts were dark brown and some fine bands were noticed on the tail. After watching this individual for a minute I took a closer look at a second bird that was circling nearby and noticed that it was identical in size and shape to the first bird except it's coloration was much duller. The second bird had some darker markings on the light underwing coverts and underparts. Also, the dark breast band was not complete, but the tail pattern was nearly the same as the light adult. Based on these features I believe the second bird was a light juvenile. Wing shape and white underwing coverts eliminated Red-tailed, Broad-winged, and Red-shouldered Hawks. The light belly and white wing linings eliminated the possibility of a

Rough-legged Hawk. Although very unexpected in Wisconsin, a White-tailed Hawk was eliminated by the darker tail with fine banding.—*Aaron Holschbach, Arena, WI.*

PIPING PLOVER
(*Charadrius melodus*)

3 May 2011, North Beach, Racine County—A small ringed plover was on the beach near two Killdeer. It was at least a third smaller than the Killdeer. It was much whiter overall too, with the back being a sandy tan color. There was a single ring around the neck unlike the double band of its larger cousin. The legs were bright orange and there were no bands. The bill was very stubby and was also orange with a dark tip. A single dark stripe ran across the forehead. Orange legs and bill eliminate Snowy Plover, which is a similar whitish tan color. Semipalmated Sandpiper has the same size and markings but this species is dark brown, not a pale sandy color. The bird was quite tame and I was able to view it within 30 feet.—*Mark Korducki, New Berlin, WI.*

CURLEW SANDPIPER
(*Calidris ferruginea*)

27 May 2011, Dike Road, Horicon Marsh NWR, Dodge County—Medium-small shorebird, bright rufous-red on head, upper back, and upper breast, mottling with white on lower breast, and becoming mostly white on lower belly and undertail, red on upper back mottled with black, rest of back and wings mottled brownish/blackish; bill rather long, thin, slightly downcurved, and black

(like a Dunlin), dark legs, medium long. Somewhat larger and taller than Dunlin (which it was seen actively feeding near), rufous on back confined to scapular area, head mostly red, no black area on belly; too small, slim, and bill too long and thin for Red Knot; too long-legged and long-billed for Sanderling (and red extending too far down breast); bill too short and down-curved for either Dowitcher (and red was too bright rufous, not orangey, and confined to head, upper back, and upper breast area); much too red for Stilt Sandpiper; too large, tall, and long-billed for Red-necked Stilt; structure, bill and leg color, etc, wrong for Ruff.—*Peter Fissel, Madison, WI.*

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE
(*Phalaropus lobatus*)

24 May 2011, Chet Pieschek Conservancy, Brown County—I located the bird directly out from my car window on a pond about 75 yards away. This phalarope had a thin, sharply pointed black bill. The throat was white and the sides of the neck and nape were red. The breast and fore-neck were black. The crown and face were black with a white spot over the eye. There was black mottling on the sides of the breast and flanks, and the dark gray back had golden longitudinal streaks. This individual was not as bright and distinctly marked as other breeding plumaged birds I've seen, so I judged it to be near the end of its molt to breeding plumage. Unlike the other shorebirds, it did not walk on the mudflats, so leg color could not be discerned as it foraged on the

water.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
(*Larus fuscus*)

12 May 2011, Nevers Road just east of Ondossagon Road and west of Hwy 13, southwest of Washburn, Bayfield County—Herring Gull size but more slender and longer-winged with dark gray back—darker than Herring Gull but lighter than Great Black-backed Gull. Legs straw yellow. Head and bill as in Herring. Not fully mature, with dark on tip of bill and retained immature feathers in the upper wing coverts and some remiges (see photo in The Spring Season). Black wingtips with only a small white spot in outermost primary. Tail white. Combo of size, back color, and leg color eliminates Great Black-backed, Slaty-backed, Herring, and Black-tailed. —*Ryan Brady, Washburn, WI.*

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE
(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

25 April 2011, Beaver Dam Lake in western Waukesha County—Upon hearing the distinctive cooing calls, I moved closer and a large, heavy pale dove flew across the road and landed on a telephone pole (later moved to wire). The black nape crescent was quickly noted, then the white-edged square tail, dusky undertail coverts, dark primaries, and red eyes were all studied. The bird gave a persistent 3 noted *coo* call, with the last *coo* note lower-pitched and shorter in length. A second bird was briefly heard in the distance.—*Dennis Gustafson, Muskego, WI.*

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE
(*Pica hudsonia*)

5 May 2011, Pajala Road north of Wanabo Road, west of Washburn, Bayfield County—Nearly crow-sized body with much longer tail. Heavy/stout black bill with black head, face, back, and upper breast (forming a bib). White belly and scapulars but dark leggings and undertail coverts. Tail as long as the body. Both wings and tail were black but showed iridescent blue-green at certain light/angles. In flight the bird showed large white wing patches throughout the outer half of the wing and a somewhat wedge-shaped tail. It would be hard to mess this one up! Not an albino crow and black bill eliminates Yellow-billed Magpie.—*Ryan Brady, Washburn, WI.*

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD
(*Mimus polyglottos*)

21 April 2011, Radtke Point Park on Lake Wausau, Marathon County—I first saw this bird as I was entering the park and getting ready to park my car, when it flushed off the side of the road and flew into a brushy area next to the road. In flight, my first reaction and split second thought was that it was a shrike, but I soon realized it was a Robin-sized bird, grayish overall with light gray on the upper body (including the folded wings), and a washed out gray-white on the underbody. It had two whitish wing bars. The tail was black in color with white along the edges. Eye color was yellow on a gray face. The bill was thin and long, but not very long for a thrasher. The legs were dark gray in color. The bird took flight again and flew back out to the

edge of the road. In flight I easily saw the large white wing patches on broad wings, and the white outer tail feathers. This bird was present from 21 April until last seen on 1 May.—*Dan Belter, Weston, WI.*

**BLUE-WINGED × GOLDEN-WINGED
WARBLER (BREWSTER'S HYBRID)**

(*Vermivora cyanoptera*
× *Vermivora chrysoptera*)

9 May 2011, Neighborhood in Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County—I spotted a small bird flying out from a treetop, no doubt catching insects. It had a yellow cap and white under parts and my first impression was of a Golden-winged Warbler. It was getting darker outside, but I kept on it with 10 × 42 binoculars and saw it had the thin black eye-line of a Blue-winged Warbler. The throat was white and it had two thin white wing bars on gray wings, not a large yellow patch as in a Golden-winged Warbler. Based on the Sibley guide my observation most closely resembled the "backcross adult male," differing only in wing bar coloration (white on the observed bird, yellow in the Sibley). Since lighting had diminished, I could have been mistaken on that color. I viewed the bird for about four minutes before it flew into a more wooded area and could not be re-located.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

WESTERN TANAGER
(*Piranga ludoviciana*)

14 May 2011 Rural home, south of County C, west of Church Corner Road, Washburn, Bayfield County—This was a small tanager, similar in

size, or perhaps slightly smaller, than the Baltimore Oriole with which it associated. The head, underparts, and rump/lower back were bright yellow and unmarked, with the exception of a light reddish-orange wash on the anterior portion of the face/head. The bill was moderately long and heavy with a pale horn color. The back and

wings were black with a broad yellow upper wing bar (median coverts) and broad white lower wing bar (greater coverts). The tail was black. Overall, the pale gray feather edgings on the back and reduced red on the head suggest an individual closer to non-breeding plumage.—*Ryan Brady, Washburn, WI.*



Juvenile Green Herons by Tom Wright



Juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron *by Tom Wright*

WSO Records Committee Report: Spring 2011

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The WSO Records Committee reviewed 64 records of 30 species for the Spring 2011 season, accepting 57 of them (89%). Most notable were three different Black-throated Gray Warblers (only four previous records), Great-tailed Grackle (3rd state record), Bullock's Oriole (5th), two Eurasian Tree Sparrows (6th), Black-bellied Whistling Duck (7th), and Curlew Sandpiper (9th). Other highlights included three Western Tanagers, Pacific Loon, Painted Bunting, Eurasian Wigeon, Barn Owl, and Black-billed Magpie. Record or near-record arrival dates were established for Baltimore Oriole, Broad-winged Hawk, Dunlin, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Parula, and Northern Waterthrush. Bohemian Waxwing and Ross's Goose departed on record or near-record late dates. All observers who submitted documentations were notified of the committee's decisions by e-mail.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Black-bellied Whistling Duck—
#2010–005 Chippewa Co., 23–29 April

2011, J. McCrady, R. Cameron (photos), A. Geraghty (photos), G. Krogman (photos), J. Polk, B. Steger.

This striking duck was seen and photographed by many observers over the course of its week-long stay. However, formal documentation was submitted only by Cameron. Photos leave no doubt as to the bird's identification, clearly showing its red bill, gray face, pale eye-ring, rufous back, neck, and upper breast, black belly and vent, and lighter wings. The committee looked carefully at the possibility of this being a captive escapee. But based on photos and communications with supporting observers (e.g. Polk and Steger) the hallux was intact, there were no leg bands, the bird flew normally (i.e. was not pinioned or clipped), showed no signs of excessive feather wear, was not tame, and fit the time frame for an expected "overshoot" of the breeding grounds during spring migration. As such, there was no evidence to support domestic origin or counter the increasing pattern of vagrancy in this species.

Ross's Goose—

#2011-030 Bayfield Co., 26 May 2011,
R. Brady (photos).

#2011-031 Manitowoc Co., 18 May
2011, C. Sontag (photos).

The Manitowoc bird was seen through the winter and spring, often in direct comparison to adjacent Snow and Canada Geese. The Bayfield bird was seen by many observers over several weeks. Descriptions and photographs of these late individuals show very small body size, rounded head, small stubby bill with blue-ish tint at base, straight vertical border at base of bill, and no black grin patch as in Snow Goose. Neither bird showed any signs of injury or hybridization with Snow Goose.

Eurasian Wigeon—

#2011-019 Bayfield Co., 12 May 2011,
T. Prestby (photos), N.
Anich (photos), R. Brady
(photos), T. Oksiuta (pho-
tos).

This adult male was seen and photographed in the company of American Wigeon by multiple observers over multiple days. It showed the orange-rufous head and face with buff-yellowish forecrown as well as a gray back and flanks contrasting a diffuse rufous bib. There was no hint of gray or green on the head and no brown/orange tones in the back or rump, suggesting it was not a hybrid. When seen walking on mudflats, a hal-lux could be seen on both legs/feet, suggesting it was not an escaped bird once held in captivity.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2010-003 Bayfield Co., 5 April 2011,
R. Brady (photos), N.

Anich (photos), T. Oksiuta
(photos).

This adult male was seen by multiple observers and photographed well, at close range and in direct comparison to nearby Common Goldeneyes. Key field marks noted were the white crescent between the bill and the eye, black shoulder spur, and squarish white spots within the black back. The head profile was flat-crowned with a steep forehead and stubbier bill than Common. There was no sign of any hybridization with Common Golden-eye.

Pacific Loon—

#2011-027 Dane Co., 20 April-3 May
2011, P. Fissel, T. Prestby
(photos), J. Schwarz (pho-
tos), D. Gomez-Ibanez
(photos).

This individual was seen by many (but written documentation submitted only by one!) over its lengthy stay on Lake Monona. Photos and the excellent written description reveal a winter-plumaged loon with small straight bill, small rounded head, dark gray crown extending down over the eye, distinct and straight border of dark and light on neck, and thin dark "chinstrap." There was no white visible on the flanks above the waterline. All nearby Common Loons were in breeding plumage and were larger with heavier black bills, etc.

White-faced Ibis—

#2011-040 Dunn Co., 8-9 May 2011,
J. Polk.

#2011-041 Dodge Co., 8-23 May
2011, P. Fissel, M. Hueb-
schen (photos), A. Koziol
(photos), D. Gustafson, T.
Wood.

#2011-042 Waukesha Co., 29 April 2011, D. Gustafson.

All three birds were medium-sized waders with dark green and chestnut iridescent body plumage, long neck, and long, decurved, pale gray bill. Each differed from Glossy Ibis in having reddish facial skin, white border completely surrounding the eye and face, and bright reddish-pink legs. The Horicon bird was seen well enough to note the reddish eye as well.

Broad-winged Hawk—

#2011-013 Dane Co., 10 April 2011, P. Fissel.

#2011-014 Washington Co., 11 April 2011, T. Schaefer.

These birds were described as small, crow-sized buteos. The Washington bird made a piercing “pee” whistle that was clear and not “shrieky” or raspy like other raptors. The Dane bird showed unmarked undersides, pointed wings, noticeable dark outline on underwing, and a wide black subterminal band on the tail with narrower dark band anterior to that. It lacked the multiple narrow dark bands, reddish underparts, or crescent-shaped windows on the wings as in Red-shouldered Hawk. This species typically arrives “en masse” to the state in mid-April but this spring saw unusually warm weather, owing to good warm fronts and southerly winds, which brought them to the western Great Lakes nearly a week before average.

Swainson’s Hawk—

#2011-033 Jefferson Co., 1 May 2011, M. Korducki.

#2011-034 Sauk Co., 3 May 2011, A. Holschbach.

The Jefferson bird was a long-winged buteo with a distinct dihedral. It displayed the classic two-toned underwing pattern with dark flight feathers and lighter underwing coverts, and was uniform dark brown above including the tail. The view was not good enough to see the rufous-brown bib. The Sauk sighting consisted of two birds, an adult and a juvenile light morph. Both were similar size to Red-tail but had narrower, more pointed wings. The adult was as in the Jefferson bird above but the dark breast band and white throat were well seen. The juvenile bird showed darker markings on light underwing coverts and an incomplete bib/breast band. Both birds had finely banded dark tails.

Dunlin—

#2011-017 Calumet Co., 19 March 2011, C. Schroeder.

This early individual was seen only 20 feet away for 20 minutes. It was chunky with short black legs and had a long black bill about 1.5× the length of the head that slightly decurved toward the tip. Upperparts and upper breast were light-gray and brown while the belly and undertail were white, indicating this individual was still in winter plumage.

Curlew Sandpiper—

#2011-016 Dodge Co., 27 May 2011, S. Thiessen, P. Fissel.

This breeding-plumaged male was very well described by both observers, with excellent level of detail and outstanding comparison to similar species. Overall it was described as near the size of a Dunlin but longer-legged and standing more upright. It had a rusty head, neck, throat, and

upper breast, with the rust extending onto the mid- and lower breast but mixing there with some white. The bill was similar in size and shape to nearby Dunlin and the legs were dark. The rump coloration was not seen well enough to determine if white. Sanderling was eliminated by longer legs, longer downcurved bill, and rust-red extending far down breast to belly. Red Knot was eliminated by slighter, more elegant structure and longer downcurved bill. Dunlin was eliminated by the red head, rufous restricted to scapulars, and no black area on the belly.

Barn Owl—

#2011-002 Manitowoc Co., 26 May 2011, J. Knickelbine (photo).

This bird was found injured on the side of the highway near Woodland Dunes Nature Center, photographed, and then brought to rehab. Photos show the white heart-shaped face, dark eyes, white breast, and tawny upperparts. Its fate was unknown at the time of this writing.

Black-billed Magpie—

#2011-006 Bayfield Co., 5 May 2011, R. Brady (photos).

This bird was seen and photographed by multiple observers over several days as it fed on earthworms and bird seed in a rural backyard. Photos show a robust bird with black head, back, and upper breast “bib,” white belly, black vent, white scapulars, black wings with greenish-blue sheen, very long black tail, and white wing patches in flight. Black bill and bare parts eliminate Yellow-billed Magpie.

Bohemian Waxwing—

#2011-012 Ashland Co., 6 May 2011, R. Brady.

The preceding winter was a big one for this species and many lingered well into spring. This flock of 95+ birds was seen for 15+ minutes less than 20 yards away. The larger gray bodies, rusty undertail coverts, more colorful wing markings, and calls not as high-pitched as Cedars were all noted. Five of the 6 latest spring departures for this species come from Ashland County, on Lake Superior’s south shore, and only one (13 May 1977, R. Verch) is later than this one.

Northern Waterthrush—

#2011-026 Milwaukee Co., 10 April 2011, J. Mooney.

Another early arrival in early April, this was a warbler with unmarked brown upperparts, thin yellowish supercilium, yellowish wash throughout underparts, and streaked throat that walked along a stream in a ravine while constantly bobbing its rear end. Louisiana Waterthrush was eliminated because the supercilium was not broad and white nor the throat streaked.

Kirtland’s Warbler—

#2011-024 Marinette Co., 29 May 2011, D. Schneider (photo).

This male sang once and was seen at close range in a large stand of 2-6 foot tall jack pines. An excellent photo shows the blue-gray upperparts, yellow underparts, black side streaking, yellow throat, long black bill, black lores, and broken white eyering.

Northern Parula—

#2011-025 Dane Co., 5 April 2011, J. Peterson.

A male was well described in having blue-gray wings and head with green upper back, two white wings bars (upper bar wider), a broken white eye-ring, yellow throat, dark band across upper breast, and white undertail and belly. This bird was one of several species to arrive early during the unusually warm conditions of early April.

Black-throated Gray Warbler—

#2011-007 Dane Co., 21 May 2011, V. Mulkerin.

#2011-008 Dane Co., 1 May 2011, E. Wood (photos), J. Peterson.

#2011-009 Waukesha Co., 22 May 2011, M. Korducki.

All three of these birds were carefully and very well-described males with good elimination of similar species such as Black-and-white and Blackpoll Warblers. Key field marks included the stout bill, black crown, black throat, reduced flank streaking, solid gray back, dark legs, broad white supercilium, and yellow spot on lores. The May 1 bird in Dane was seen by many observers (though only formally documented by two of them!) and very well photographed by E. Wood.

Henslow's Sparrow—

#2011-022 Milwaukee Co., 10 April 2011, D. Flores, R. Wiskowski (photos).

Photos show a classic adult with rufous-edged wings (tertials), mixed black and rufous back with white scaling, an olive-green head, white eye-ring, fine/narrow breast streaking, dark throat stripes and crown stripes,

and large-head appearance. This is the 5th earliest on record.

Western Tanager—

#2011-037 Bayfield Co., 14-15 May 2011, R. Brady (photos), N. Anich (photos), T. Oksita (photos).

#2011-038 Douglas Co., 6 May 2011, A. Merrit (photos).

#2011-039 Taylor Co., 5 May 2011, L. Hanson (photos).

All three birds were adult males visiting feeders. Photos of each demonstrates the red head, yellow underparts and rump, black back, wings, and tail, yellow upper wing bar, white lower wing bar, and pale bill.

Blue Grosbeak—

#2011-010 Milwaukee Co., 2 May 2011, C. Howard, T. Hahn.

#2011-011 Outagamie Co., 18 May 2011, D. Tessen.

Both birds were larger than Indigo Bunting with larger gray bill and rusty wingbars. The Milwaukee bird was a first-spring male, i.e. splotchy blue/brown, coming to a feeder. The Outagamie bird was a singing male whose song was described as "warbles that rose and fell."

Painted Bunting—

#2011-029 Dane Co., 2 May 2011, S. Schmikla (photo).

The photo shows an obvious adult male with blue head, reddish underparts, and green back/wings in a flowering tree in the observer's front yard. It was observed for 6 minutes and not seen again, which seems to be the norm for this species in the state!

Great-tailed Grackle—

#2011-021 Calumet Co., 13-14 April

2011, A. Reimer (photos, video), D. Tessen.

This male was described as a larger version of Common Grackle with dark body, long, fan-shaped tail, flat crown and yellow eyes. Its call was reminiscent of Common Grackle but deeper and more mechanical sounding. The photos were supportive but not conclusive on their own merit.

Bullock's Oriole—

#2011-015 Sheboygan Co., 7-16 May 2011, D. Lubach, B. Triebensee (photos).

Photos reveal an adult male with orange cheek and supercilium, black eye-stripe, large white wing patches, and black terminal band across width of tail. The bird visited feeders over its week-plus length of stay. There were no signs of any hybridization with Baltimore Oriole.

Baltimore Oriole—

#2011-001 Adams Co., 10 April 2011, R. Walker (photo).

Photos revealed an obvious male of this species at a feeder. Its early arrival coincided with 70 degree weather, southerly winds, and an influx of other migrants earlier than average.

Hoary Redpoll—

#2011-023 Bayfield Co., 1 March to 2 April 2011, R. Brady (photos).

One to four individuals were present at backyard feeders through the dates above, with 4 on 20 March as determined by maximum number of each sex in view simultaneously. All had frosty mantles (backs), limited dark streaking on flanks, all white undertail coverts, whitish rumps, and slight bills. The birds were seen and

photographed in direct comparison to many Common Redpolls and included two males (red/pink on breast) and two females. See <http://www.pbase.com/rbrady/hoaryfeb11> for images.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow—

#2011-018 Columbia Co., 21-23 April 2011, S. Woelfel (photos), J. Bartholmai (photos), D. Tessen.

Two individuals visited a feeder together and were well photographed. They were described, and photos confirm, as being smaller than House Sparrows with less black on throat/breast and having a rufous crown, black ear patch (auricular), whitish collar, and buff sides.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2011-004 Racine Co., 29 April 2011.

This bird was observed for only 15 seconds before it took flight. Seen with 1 male and 3 female Common Goldeneyes, it was described as a male having an "elongated" white patch on the face compared to the round patch of the Common. It was also said to have a different head shape but the observer couldn't recall the differences. Overall, there are too many details lacking to confirm the identification as the term "elongated" does not fit the typical "crescent" shape of Barrow's and the observer fails to describe head shape, the black shoulder spur, bill size/shape, head color, or black back with white squarish spots. As such this could've been a hybrid or Common Goldeneye.

Pacific Loon—

#2011-028 Washington Co., 18 April 2011.

This bird was described as smaller than nearby Common Loons with thin straight bill held horizontal to the water surface. It had dark and light tones, dark flanks to waterline, dark nape and head at least to the eye. Head was not blocky as in Common and whiter throat was clearly demarcated from dark back of neck. The committee was again intrigued by this report but thought it fell just short of confirming the identification. There was no mention of overall body shape, the details on plumage tones and patterns are rather vague, no mention of gray tones on back or body, neck description not specific enough, and overall just enough missing to leave the identification in doubt. Also concerning was the observer's use of the word "probable" when initially reporting this bird, which seemed to indicate his/her own uncertainty in the identification.

White-faced Ibis—

#2011-041 Dodge Co., 8 May 2011.

This bird was seen only in flight at 200 yards and was described as all dark with a downcurved ibis-like bill. The observer "caught sight of red legs narrowing ID to White-faced Ibis." While very possibly, and even likely, the same White-faced Ibis seen by other observers near this location this same day, separation from the similar Glossy Ibis cannot be made solely on distant observation of leg color on a flying bird. Color of facial skin and color/pattern of the pale border around the face are critical to conclusive identification for this species

group and these features were not seen during this observation.

Say's Phoebe—

#2011-032 Crawford Co., 9 April 2011.

This report was very brief, mentioning a "large phoebe with dark underside (buff/tan) and faint wing bars." Nearby Eastern Phoebes were described as smaller with whiter undersides and bobbing their tails. While very possibly a correct identification, especially given the lengthy observation period of nearly one hour, the report is too brief to confirm it. There's no mention of the Say's black tail, "dark underside" seems to contradict a buffy/tan underside, and details on color patterns and body/tail shape are lacking. This is a very rare bird in Wisconsin and as such more information is needed to clinch this identification.

Western Kingbird—

#2011-036 Burnett Co., 25 May 2011.

This report very briefly indicated a bird with "gray head, back; black tail and darkish wings, gray throat and breast; belly yellow." Although the identification is perhaps correct, without mention of bill size/shape, more details on head/throat pattern, or presence/absence of white in the tail, other yellow kingbirds such as Cassin's, Tropical, and Couch's are not eliminated.

Varied Thrush—

#2011-035 Portage Co., 29 April 2011.

The observer saw a bird with bright orange patch on the throat, orange markings on side of head, no white around the eye, and a speckled breast "not orange like a robin." The call was said to match that of the Varied

Thrush but was not described. Unfortunately, this description is incomplete and not consistent with Varied Thrush, which has a yellow-orange breast with dark gray or blue-gray breast band and is not speckled. There was no mention of the bird's size and shape or the orange wing bars one would expect on a Varied Thrush. Without more detail, it is unclear what type of bird the observer actually saw.

Golden-crowned Sparrow—

#2011-020 Polk Co., 14 May 2011.

This was described as a first-year bird not yet in adult plumage. It was large and brown with dirty gray breast and light brown streaking on the sides. The throat was “reminiscent of White-throated Sparrow,” lighter than

the breast with faint whiskers. The face was pale with a hint of an eyeline. The crown was outlined by a dark stripe on the sides and was dirty yellowish. It had a plain gray rump and was seen with mainly Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows under a feeder for 3 minutes. The committee was very intrigued by this report but some felt the evidence presented was not conclusive for such a significant rarity in the state. The possibility of a lightly-marked White-throated was not entirely eliminated and there were no comparisons to White-crowned or female House Sparrow. More details on and perhaps a sketch of the head (face, throat, crown, etc.) may have clinched the identification for the committee.

About the Artists

Dennis Connell from Nekoosa, Wisconsin, is an avid nature photographer. For the past 13 years he's been photographing wildlife and nature. Dennis enjoys digitally capturing wildlife doing what it is they do in their daily lives: feeding, nesting, courting, caring for the young, hunting, or whatever it is they need to do to preserve their species. His goal is to produce sharp clear images of the subject for himself and others to enjoy. You can see more images at: www.freewebs.com/dcimages

Michael J. Huebschen, age 63, has been an amateur wildlife photographer for about 45 years. He is retired from UW-Oshkosh and lives in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with his wife Cynthia. They enjoy travel, wildlife observations, hiking, canoeing, and fishing

Bob Larson, who lives in Kaukauna, is an advanced amateur photographer who concentrates his photography in the Fox Valley area. All nature centers and Haunts areas are fair game. Out-

agamic, Winnebago, Calumet, Brown, and Waushara Counties get the most attention. He switched to digital just before it became affordable and has been learning ever since.

Dave Lund is an amateur photographer who lives near Eau Claire. Following his retirement as a Mathematics Professor at UW-Eau Claire in 2000, he and his wife Judy now include birding and photography as part of all of their travels. Although many of his pictures are taken in Wisconsin, wintering in the southern US has provided many additional opportunities birding photography experiences. He has recently begun making presentations on birds and birding.

Tom Wright is an amateur photographer who resides in Wales, Wisconsin, with his wife and two sons. When not focused on his family and work in IT/Engineering, much of his free time is spent outdoors photographing nature, especially wildflowers and birds.



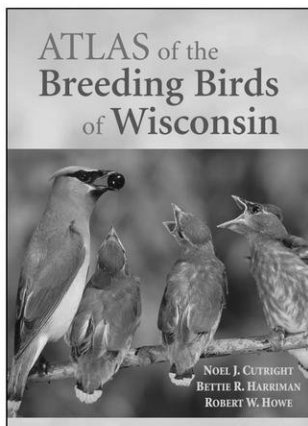
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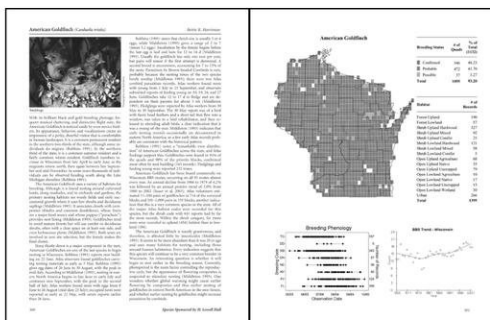
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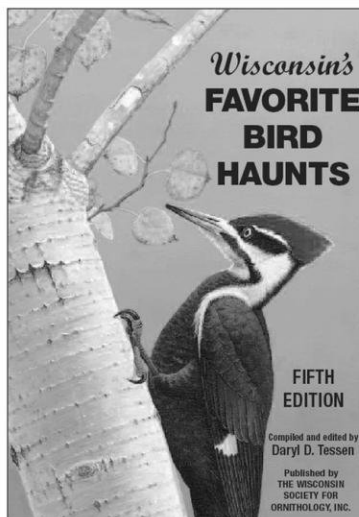
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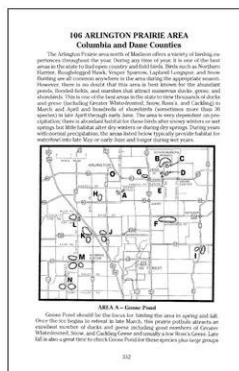
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