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The Passenger Pigeon

Monthly Bulletin of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology

Vol. I.

February, 1939

No. 2

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871*

By A. W. Schorger, Madison, Wisconsin

(Continued from January Issue)

THE NUMBER OF BIRDS NESTING

The main nesting took place in the sandy, scrub oak region of central Wisconsin. Chief Pokagon states regarding the large Wisconsin nesting: "Every tree, some of them quite low and scrubby, had from one to fifty nests on each. Some of the nests overflow from the oaks to the hemlock and pine woods. When the pigeon hunters attack the breeding-places they sometimes cut the timber from thousands of acres." With specific reference to the nesting of 1871, he says: "I there counted as high as forty nests in scrub oaks not over twenty-five feet high; in many places I could pick the eggs out of the nests, being not over five or six feet from the ground." Quoting General Harnden on the Kilbourn roost: "The General says the country is poor, sandy, and scrubby. The pigeons have literally taken possession of the woods, and their nests are to be seen on every tree. On one tree he counted forty-six nests, and thinks there must have been at least a hundred on some of the larger ones." Kelly says: "The first belt of timber we came to shows signs of the game, and no sooner have we struck the solid forest than we come upon the deserted nests in great quantities, the birds having been driven back or killed. Every tree is full of the nests--often we counted thirty in a single tree..... Whatever induced the pigeons to stop here is more than I can comprehend. All the soil you find is bottomless drifts of white sand, capable only of producing little scrubby oaks and stunted pines, which appear to be better adapted to bearing pigeons' nests than foliage."

(Continued on page 21)

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

Temporary Officers of the Society (All of Madison)

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EARLY RESULTS ENCOURAGING

The Wisconsin Society of Ornithology and its bulletin are definitely on their way to success, if early results are to be taken as an indication of the interest of Wisconsin Ornithologists. The reaction in subscriptions and applications to help organize was better than we expected. Judging from contacts made by means of the first bulletin, our State should be well represented from its various localities, at the organization meeting.

An expression of appreciation is well in order for all those who had confidence in this small paper, and principles of organization, as directed by the temporary committee. No doubt other methods may have been used to organize, but the present one, as we anticipated, is making contacts with ornithologists we could not reach on short notice. We still have a number of weeks to locate more, and ample opportunity to clear the way for the first Annual Meeting when permanent officers will have been found, and a workable program established.

The very fact that the January notes have been sent from Racine, Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Washburn, Appleton and Waukesha regions, and that most of the counties are represented by at least one observer, indicates cooperation worthy of celebration. No doubt other local clubs will send in Club Histories or Annual Reports, as the Green Bay Club did for this issue.

The bulletin will carry definite study projects such as the one begun of the Pine Grosbeak, in order to be a source of information. Further expansion, and further cooperation on the part of members will assure even greater success.

HISTORY OF THE GREEN BAY BIRD CLUB

By Elmer Strehlow

During the winter of 1935-1936 Clara Hussong taught her first Nature Study class at the Green Bay Vocational School. The outgrowth of this class in the Spring of 1936 was the organization of the Green Bay Bird Club, under her direction.

The first meeting was held March 24, 1936, at that school. There were approximately fifty adults present. Clara Hussong acted as the chairman of the first meeting, and a very enthusiastic bird club was formed as a result of her encouragement. The aims of the club were to recognize and obtain knowledge about the birds in the vicinity of Green Bay, and to protect and conserve bird life. To guide the activities of the club, the following officers were elected: Clara Hussong, president; Mrs. Andrew Weber, Vice-president; and Chester Krawczyk, secretary.

Because of the enthusiasm during the Spring, three field trips were scheduled each month; while only two a month were taken during the Summer and Autumn, with but one each month in Winter. These field trips were taken to the city parks, cemeteries, swamps, meadows and woods in the vicinity of Green Bay. At each field trip, someone from the club acted as the leader, while another kept a written record of the birds seen. Also, on these field trips, plants, insects, and animals were studied.

During the 1936 season, some of the interesting places visited by the club, were Baird's Creek, Father Luby's Camp, Lily Lake, Nelson's summer home on the Fox River, the State Park at Fish Creek, Maribel Caves, and Pamperin Park.

The club holds one evening meeting each month at the school. Guest speakers, including: Bishop Hoyler, Ira Smith, Bert Claflin and Winfred Fonder have contributed interesting illustrated talks.

The club has donated \$20.00 to the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and has also taken in the annual bird-census, sponsored by the Audubon Societies.

During the 1937 season, the same officers were in charge, but only one field trip was taken each month. Some of the interesting places visited were the State Park at Fish Creek, in the Spring, and in the Autumn, Long Point Island, Ranch and Potato Lakes, and the Menominee Indian Reservation. Some of the speakers at the evening meetings were, Dr. E. S. Schmidt, who spoke on field glasses and binoculars; and J. B. Kendall, who

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spoke on Nature photography.

Along with the other work during 1937, the club erected four feeding stands for the winter feeding of the birds in Green Bay, and fed, at these stations, during the winter months. It showed a series of motion pictures on birds, flowers, and animals of Wisconsin, for the public; donated \$20.00 to the Ridges Sanctuary, for the preservation of Wisconsin Wildflowers at Door County, and \$20.00 to the Green Bay Wild Life Sanctuary. It took an active part in the annual bird census, and sponsored a free lecture on Conservation of Flowers in Wisconsin, by Albert Fuller, curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Museum. ..

During the 1938 season, J. B. Kendall was elected president, while the other officers remained the same. The outstanding events were a visit to the State Park in Door County, a wooded valley near Algoma, and a high Bird Day to the Wayside Swamp, at which 67 birds were seen. A trip to Whispering Pines, can also be classed as one of the outstanding of this season. Other places visited were a wooded area in the town of Scot, Maribel Caves, Bay Beech Wild Life Sanctuary, Baird's Creek, and the Barkhausen Preserve. The Club took a Christmas Bird census and 37 species were recorded.

PINNATED GROUSE REPORTED

Word from various parts of the State indicate that many flocks of Pinnated Grouse are feeding at special feeding stations set up by conservation groups. A. H. Pettigrew, of the Oconto County Recreational Bureau, reports that a flock of about 200 are feeding at a large station within the city of Oconto, and various other flocks have been seen feeding on corn cob spike feeders throughout the county. Conservation Warden William Field, of Beaver Dam, reports between 20 to 30 flocks of these birds in Dodge County, with the largest flock numbering about 20 birds.

MANY DUCKS IN WISCONSIN THIS WINTER

Many Ducks are wintering in the State this year as is shown by reporters of the various areas. About 5,000 are estimated as wintering in the Koshkonong region, and concentrations have been mentioned at Green Bay and Kaukauna. A special sanctuary for saving wounded ducks has been set up at Green Bay, with the assistance of the Conservation Department. Also, at the Poynette Game Farm, wounded birds, picked up at various places, have been cared for.

SHORE BIRDS AND THEIR ALLIES
(Reported as Collected in Wisconsin
by Scientific Collectors under Permit)

The following list of birds collected in Wisconsin during the past ten years is published with the kind permission of the Wisconsin Conservation Department. As records were not absolutely required during the earlier part of this period, complete collector's records for those years and previous years are only available in the Biological Survey's files at Washington. However, as this list should prove valuable to Wisconsin ornithologists, it is planned to carry records of this type, covering other bird groups in future issues. As most all of these specimens are now in museums or private collections, only those birds destroyed carry an asterisk before the name.

BIRD NAME	WHERE COLLECTED	DATE	COLLECTORS
Piping Plover	Dane Co.	Apr. 30, 1938	A. W. Schorger
Semipalmated Plover	Cedar Grove	Sept. 3, 1932	W. A. Weber
Killdeer	Kenosha Co.	Mar. 25, 1933	W. A. Weber
Am. Golden Plover	Babcock	May 15, 1932	W. A. Weber
7 Black-bellied Plover	Sheboygan Co.	May, 1930	Gromme-Perkins
1 " "	" "	Sept. 10, 1933	W. J. Mueller
" "	Kenosha Co.	June 4, 1933	W. A. Weber
" "	Waukesha Co.	May 30, 1934	S. P. Jones
Ruddy Turnstone	Dane Co.	May 18, 1930	John S. Main
" "	Oconomowoc	Oct. 1928	Forest R. Poe
" "	Kenosha Co.	Aug. 8, 1935	Earl G. Wright
" "	Madeline Islands	Aug. 27, 1934	A. W. Schorger
" "	Kenosha Co.	Aug. 8, 1935	Earl G. Wright
" "	Dane Co.	May 26, 1935	A. W. Schorger
Am. Woodcock	Cedar Grove	Oct. 17, 1930	Water P. Pier
2 Wilson Snipe	Oconomowoc	Sept. 1928	Forest R. Poe
1 " "	Golden Lake	Nov. 26, 1933	I. J. Perkins
2 Hudsonian Curlew	Ozaukee Co.	Sept. 1930	Gromme-Perkins
Upland Plover	Camp Lake	June 17, 1927	Earl G. Wright
" (3 eggs)	Milwaukee Co.	June 21, 1934	Owen Gromme
4 Spotted Sand. eggs	Cedar Grove	June 15, 1937	Warren Dettmann
*1 " "	Lake Monona	May 2, 1938	W. E. Scott
2 E. Solitary Sand.	Camp Lake	Aug. 6-24, 1932	W. A. Weber
1 " "	Dane Co.	July 4, 1935	John S. Main
" "	Beaver Dam	Oct. 3, 1937	Sterling Brackett
Western Willet	Cedar Grove	May 8, 1932	C. S. Jung
4 Greater Yellowlegs	Genesee Lake	May 1, 1932	I. J. Perkins
1 " "	Delavan, Wis.	Oct. 20, 1928	W. D. Hollister
*Lesser Yellowlegs	Delavan, Wis.	Oct. 20, 1928	W. D. Hollister

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2 Pectoral Sandpipers	Aug. 7-Sept. 3, '32	Camp Lake	W. A. Weber
1 "	Dane Co.	June 12, 1937	John S. Main
White-rumped Sand.	Delavan	Oct. 19, 1930	A. J. Franzen
"	Koshkonong Lake	May, 1928	John S. Main
"	-----	--- 1926	W. Taylor
"	Dane Co.	June 8, 1927	John S. Main
Baird's Sandpiper	Madison	Sept. 14, 1929	A. W. Schorger
"	Madeline Islands	Sept. 5, 1934	A. W. Schorger
"	Madeline Islands	Aug. 14, 1935	A. W. Schorger
"	Cedar Grove	Aug. 1932	C. S. Jung
4 Long-billed Dowitcher	Waukesha Co.	Oct. 1, 1932	I. J. Perkins
*1 "	Dane Co.	Oct. 8, 1930	John S. Main
"	Dane Co.	July 20, 1935	John S. Main
Stilt Sandpiper	Madison	Sept. 14, 1929	A. W. Schorger
Semipalmated Sand.	Koshkonong Lake	May, 1928	John S. Main
2 "	-----	-- 1926	W. Taylor
3 "	Cedar Grove	Sept. 3, 1932	W. A. Weber
1 "	Kenosha Co.	June 4, 1933	W. A. Weber
1 "	Lake Kegonsa	June 1, 1937	John S. Main
1 "	Dane Co.	June 8, 1937	John S. Main
2 Hudsonian Godwit	Bear Bluff	Apr. 21, 1931	I. J. Perkins
1 "	Fond du lac Co.	June 12, 1934	I. J. Perkins
1 "	Dane Co.	May 13, 1934	A. W. Schorger
Sanderling	Koshkonong Lake	May, 1928	John S. Main
"	Kenosha Co.	June 4, 1933	W. A. Weber
2 "	Kenosha Co.	June 6, 1935	Earl G. Wright
Red Phalarope	Dane Co.	Sept. 22, 1935	J. S. Main
2 Wilson Phalarope	Camp Lake	June 17, 1927	Earl G. Wright
1 "	Kenosha Co.	Sept. 12, 1933	W. A. Weber
Northern Phalarope	Dane Co.	May 18, 1930	John S. Main
"	Madison	May 24, 1930	A. W. Schorger
"	Dane Co.	May 22, 1934	A. W. Schorger

SPRUCE GROUSE FLOCK REPORTED

Conservation Warden Louis Oschesky of Three Lakes, reports that on Dec. 20, 1938, he observed a flock of 20 Canada Spruce Grouse in the town of Hiles, Forest County, directly adjacent to the north line of the big Agronne game refuge. Oschesky also reports that during the recent open season on Ruffed Grouse, in 1938, two Spruce Grouse were killed by accident; one of them 10 miles northeast of this flock in Forest County, and the other 12 miles northwest, in Oneida County. He is of the opinion that these birds are increasing with the cycle, and that there are more of them than is usually reported.

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871

For Friendship (Adams County Press, April 15) we read: "A gentleman informs us that he counted forty nests on one tree, and he don't think it was a very good day for nests, either."

The writer for the Fond du Lac Commonwealth (May 20) visited that portion of the Kilbourn nesting extending along the shore of the Wisconsin River. It is probable that some of his figures need revision, but it should be mentioned that here the trees were much larger than on the sandy plains. He states: "Leaving the rest of the party, we drove off a few miles further into a high wooded ridge, where the nests were located. Every tree contained from one to four hundred nests...We saw more than a hundred trees that had fallen, by reason of the number of nests built upon its branches."

I have found no estimate of the number of nests per tree at the western end of the nesting, but the Sparta Eagle (May 12) says: "Never in the history of the La Crosse Valley were such myriads of pigeons seen cutting the air in all directions, and making the whole valley resound with the noise of their constant fluttering. From early morn to dewy eve, the air is filled with flocks of the swift-flying birds, so numerous that no man can number them."

I have been so bold as to make an estimate of the number of nesting birds within the main area. It will be noted that the statements of various observers give from one nest per tree to as high as four hundred. Consideration must also be given to the fact that every acre within the area was not occupied by pigeons. There were marshes, swamps, and some farm lands. I have assumed that the area would average 25 trees per acre and that there was an average of five nests or ten birds per tree, giving 250 birds per acre. As mentioned above, the nesting area covered 850 square miles, or 544,000 acres. This gives a total of 136,000,000 nesting pigeons. While this number seems huge it is scarcely a tenth of the number of pigeons estimated by Wilson and Audubon to have been seen by them in a single flight. It nested in Wisconsin to such an extent in 1871, as though all the pigeons in the United States were there. We came eventually to speak of the northern and southern herds of bison. It would be equally proper at this period to speak of the Appalachian and Mississippi flocks of pigeons. This was not a beech-

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nut year and I have failed to discover that there was any extensive nesting elsewhere in the United States. The reason for the congestion in Wisconsin is not apparent.

THE NUMBER OF BIRDS KILLED BY TRAPPERS AND SPORTSMEN

I shall make an estimate of the number of birds killed, based on isolated figures. The slaughter by netting commenced as soon as the birds entered the Rock River Valley early in March. The Berlin Courant of May 11 states: "The trade that at present seems to be doing the most business is that of the pigeon catcher. Gentlemen of this 'profession' are doing a lively business a short distance from our village and in...many localities in this and surrounding counties." On April 24, Wm. H. and Charley Locken caught 600 pigeons in one throw of the net and on May 9 Charley Locken caught about 400. The number of birds trapped decreased steadily until by May 17, very few were being caught.

A Michigan trapper passed through Wautoma on April 21 with ninety dozen pigeons that were sold in Berlin at 50¢ a dozen. On May 4 the trappers were netting at Wautoma and sending the pigeons alive to market. The air was full of birds, morning and evening. Trapping was conducted from one end of the nesting to the other. The netting of the old birds meant the death of the squabs in the nest as we shall see later.

The La Crosse Leader of May 20 states that a man from Burnham's Valley has contracted to deliver 100000 pigeons to a La Crosse dealer. It is unlikely that this contract was fulfilled, since most of the birds had left the region before the end of May. The Black River Falls Banner of July 15, however, states that many pigeons were netted this season in the vicinity of Augusta, and that recently 100 dozen--1,200 birds--were caught in one haul.

Nearly all the shipments were made on the St. Paul railroad. I was unsuccessful in my attempt to secure the shipping records for the year 1871. The data available are simply indicative of the decimation. The La Crosse Leader of May 13, states that during the past ten days, there were shipped from Lyndon Station to Boston and New York, 3,120 dozen pigeons on which the express charges were over \$800. The Portage Register of May 6 published some figures on the express shipments by the American Merchants' Union Express:

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Kilbourn	April 21 to May 3	255 Barrels
Greenfield	" 12 to April 28	108 "
New Lisbon	" 17 to April 29	71 "
Sparta	" 19 to April 29	75 "
Tomah	" 18 to April 28	103 "
Total		<u>612 Barrels</u>

S. S. McDuffie, the express agent, estimated that the total shipments would total to date 1,000 barrels. Since each barrel contained 25 dozen, or 300 pigeons, the total would be 300,000. These figures do not include the live pigeons shipped in considerable quantities nor those shot by hunters; nor do they include the birds shipped by fast freight.

On April 24 (Watertown Democrat), 11 tons of pigeons packed in barrels, arrived in Watertown from Minnesota Junction for transfer. On May 4, 195 barrels were received for trans-shipment to Chicago. The Milwaukee Sentinel of May 2 states that 100 to 200 barrels were being received daily over the La Crosse road.

The records show that express shipments began as early as April 12 and the season did not close until June. Shipment of 100 barrels per day over a period of 40 working days would give 4,000 barrels, or 1,200,000 pigeons. This figure would be conservative for the total number killed.

Phillips, writing to Mershon, states: "There were nearly six hundred names in the register book of pigeoners in Wisconsin. Nearly every one of the farmers and their wives and daughters, were pigeon catchers." I wrote Mer-shon as to the exact meaning of the "register book of pi-geoners" and he explained that 600 professional pigeon trappers were registered at the various hotels.

The Kilbourn City Mirror (May 6) gives a somewhat color-ful description of the pigeon trade: "Hardly a train arrives that does not bring hunters or trappers. Hotels are full, coopers are busy making barrels, and men, women and children are active in packing the birds or filling the barrels. They are shipped to all places on the rail-road, and to Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, being picked and packed in ice for the more distant points. On no express trains is it possible to take the large amount offered, and ar-rangements are made to forward them on the midnight train going east. From ten to thirty thousand birds are forward-ed daily, most of which have to be picked after the arri-val of the trains at night, in many instances the work of kicking and packing being continued all night. One man

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has paid over a thousand dollard to the express company in charges for forwarding. In about two weeks the pigeons will be over. Then look out for the squabs." Here is a stark confession that thousands upon thousands of adults were being slaughtered with the young still helpless in the nest.

Pigeons appeared in the Milwaukee market on March 20. The first quotation, 85 cents per dozen, was on April 27. The price declined to 45 cents per dozen for undressed and to 65 cents for dressed birds. Allowing for packing and transportation costs, and profits to the commission man and retailer, it is doubtful if the trapper or hunter received on the average more than 18 cents per dozen. H. T. Phillips states that he bought carloads in Wisconsin at 15 and 25 cents per dozen.

So much for trapping. While somewhat long, I cannot do better than give excerpts from the article in the Fond du Lac Commonwealth of May 20, to give a vivid description of the condition of the nesting ground. Bear in mind that this gentleman was a hunter and note the effect upon him.

Among the Pigeons

"Embarking on the 10 A. M. train, we found already on board, a party, like ourselves, headed for the great pigeon roost, stretching from Kilbourn City on the Wisconsin River, for scores of miles beyond. At Minnesota Junction, where we change cars and go westward, another party from Milwaukee, fully armed and equipped, joined us, and still again at Portage City, and so at different stations until, when we reached the Wisconsin at Kilbourn we numbered twenty-seven strong. Kilbourn City consists at present writing of innumerable coops of pigeons..."

Having made all needed preparations the night previous, we were early called to arms by the wholesome voice of Mr. F. H., before referred to, and ere long, were rolling at a break neck pace through the dark headed for the roost 10 miles beyond. The idea was to get an opportunity to rake the immense flocks of pigeons as they left the roost for the fields and feeding places throughout the State. The indescribable cooing roar produced by uncounted millions of pigeons, as arousing from their slumbers they saluted each other and made up their foraging parties for the day, arose from every side, creating an almost bewildering effect on the senses, as it was echoed and re-echoed back by the mighty rocks and ledges of the

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Wisconsin bank. As the first streakings of daylight began to break over the eastern horizon, small scouting parties of the monstrous army of birds to follow, every now and then darted like night spirits past our heads. Soon the skirmish line, or perhaps more correctly pigeon bummers, who belong to no regular organization, swept past in small and irregular bodies. Our guide now told us to get into position as quick as possible as the large flocks would follow in rapid succession. We quickly ranged ourselves along the crest of a hill overlooking a cleared valley through which the birds would fly on their outward passage. It was yet a long way from being light, and as the various members of our party scrambled through the thickets and brambles, to gain advantageous locations pointed out by our leader, various expressions fell from their lips which we feel rejoiced it is not our duty to record." (Concluded next issue)

JANUARY FIELD RECORDS

Waukesha Area.--Following a precedent of several years standing, a number of our bird enthusiasts visited a tamarack swamp, where the following more unusual birds were seen: Several Marsh Hawks, Red-tailed Hawk, a Short-eared Owl, Brown Creeper, and 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets.--(Cuthbert, Damsteegt, Anthes, and Rossman). On Jan. 2, a return trip was made by Cuthbert, Schwarting and Rossman, when 40 Siskins were observed. On the 2nd, Philip saw a Kingfisher. This bird has been here most of the winter. On the 8th, Batha discovered 12 Doves in a field near the city. They were observed for about a week afterward at the same place. Schwarting reported 2 Purple Finches and three Cardinals. The latter are unusual in Waukesha. Last Summer, Cardinals nested here for the first time to our knowledge. Philip reported a Cooper's Hawk on the 6th. Three Mallard flew into the Industrial School yards following a storm. The birds were herded into one of the buildings and cared for by Philip. It was learned that these ducks had been pets of a Johnson Creek farmer. On the night of the storm the birds lost their way back from a watering hole and flew thirty-five miles to Waukesha. The farmer called for the birds and returned them to Johnson's Creek. Northern and Prairie Horned Larks were observed by Philip and Rossman feeding together. A Meadowlark was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert. Athes observed a Robin feeding on apples left on a tree.--V. C. Rossman.

JANUARY FIELD RECORDS

Field records should be sent to the Editor at the close of each month. For example, notes of February Observations are next to be sent in, and will be published in the March issue. In order to have your February notes to the Editor on time, please send them by reutnr mail, as soon as you receive this issue.

MILWAUKEE AREA--Almost 40 birds were observed in the area during the month. Walter Mueller saw the Sparrow and Pigeon Hawks on Jan. 1, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk later in the month. Jung reported a Meadowlark on the 1st and Deusing saw 7 of them later. On the Museum hike of Jan. 8, twenty-two species were recorded; including the Cardinal, Black Duck, Bufflehead, Golden-eye, Mallard, Old Squaw, Pintail, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Ring-billed Gull, and American, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers. Mueller found a Pine Grosbeak and a Ruffed Grouse at the Cedarburg swamp; Schaeffer saw a Brown Creeper; and Jones of Waukesha a Red-tailed Hawk. Ammon, of the Biological Survey, attended the January meeting of the Milwaukee Bird Club and reported Redpolls and a Pileated Woodpecker near Shiocton.--C. L. Strelitzer, reporter. (Birds reported by the Prins brothers of Racine at this meeting are in the area report by that name)

Green Bay Area--A total of 29 species were recorded on the January list of the Green Bay Bird Club. This list included the Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Pinnated Grouse, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Goldfinch and Snow Bunting. Bernard Chartier and Bob Fellows had the highest count, listing 22 species. They were also responsible for the 3 unusual birds of the month.--Elmer Strehlow, reporter.

Racine Area.--January records show a larger number of Cardinals than in other years, as well as a rather unusual number of Song Sparrows, Robins and Doves. There were two Mockingbirds seen at the Horlick Dam and at "Cedar Bend" several times during the month. There were occasional records of the Hermit Thrush, and one of the Towhee. Open water behind the breakwater in Racine har-

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bor, and on both sides of the city, offered opportunity for the gathering of thousands of ducks, mergansers and gulls. Great numbers of Rough-legged Hawks invaded the county in the second week of January, 40 being counted during a 30 mile trip on Jan 15. Besides these, comes a report of the Prins brothers, a January record of the King Rail and Killdeer. They also list the Red-breasted Nuthatch.--Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, reporter.

Washburn Area.--The Pine and Evening Grosbeaks appear after each big snow storm and the Bohemian Waxwings have also been seen this winter.--Mrs. A. A. Axley, reporter.

Madison Area.--The records of Feeney and Sperry for the University Arboretum furnish the most comprehensive part of our report. About 160 ducks are wintering on the area, mostly Mallard, but a few Black Ducks. A census of Game Birds taken on the 27th, showed about 200 Pheasants and 100 Bobwhites. Their notes include the Kingfisher, Northern Shrike, about 20 Long-eared Owls, several Rusties, the Song Sparrow, Robin and Wilson Snipe. Their unusual records are a Short-eared Owl on the 27th and a Ring-billed Gull on the 10th. Sperry reports 2 Blue-winged Teal on the 7th and a female Shoveller on the 10th. On Jan. 17th Prairie Horned Larks began to appear, but no Lapland Longspurs were found. Jackson reported a Kingfisher at Burrow's spring on the 28th and a flock of Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds with a few Grackles on the 1st at Mud Lake. Art Oehmke observed 4 Kingfishers around the Madison Fish Hatchery ponds throughout the month. A good winter record for the city was a Flicker reported by George Koehler in town, Jan 27th. A flock of Geese flying over Madison on Jan. 11 was reported by R. A. Walker and others. No doubt our best news is a wintering Mockingbird at the food tray of Dr. Lindsay. This bird feeds there regularly on suet and soft seeds. They also report a Robin. While searching the shoreline of Lake Mendota, Jan. 1st, Barger found a flock of about 11 Evening Grosbeaks feeding on Sumac. The next day these birds were observed by Jones and Mitchell, feeding on Box Elder. A few Purple Finches were there and a Dove was seen. On Jan. 7th, Bussewitz and Barger found 6 species of ducks including the Gadwall and Baldpate, still at Lake Waubesa. A Rough-legged Hawk and a Herring Gull were seen in the same locality. Altpeter, Bussewitz and Barger worked the

(Continued next page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several people have inquired whether they are taken in as members of the State Club when they pay their dollar subscription. The answer is yes, they are regarded as members. More detailed requirements than these for memberships and their classification, will be decided at the first Annual Meeting.

Lists of names and addresses of bird students in certain parts of Wisconsin have been received from subscribers. This cooperation is appreciated, as there is no other way of locating all the active observers in all sections of the State. It is hoped that the members will regard it a duty, as well as pleasure, to send in lists of names and addresses of all they know. Promptness in this regard will enable us to inform all of the date of the Annual Meeting, to be held in Madison this Spring.

We shall not send the March issue to non-subscribers. There are a number who have indicated their desire for all copies, but have forgotten to send in their name. Please bear this notice in mind.

News Note: Owen J. Gromme of the Milwaukee Public Museum has been preparing to revise the original work of Kumlein and Hollister, on the "Birds of Wisconsin" for a number of years. He is still active in this work of revision, and would especially appreciate at this time any records of the Canada Spruce Grouse in the State.

The Kumlein Club is now taking a population census on 27 species of birds, principally Raptores.

Murl Deusing's picture of a "Young Herring Gull Just Hatched" was judged the best picture at a photographic exhibit held by the Milwaukee Bird Club at their February meeting.

(January Notes, continued from p. 27)

Wisconsin River bottoms on Jan. 8th, finding only 2 Bald Eagles where from 6 to 8 are usually seen in January. Ducks were much scarcer than usual, but 2 Snipe, a Dove and several Bobwhite were found. As expected, both Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were numerous. Only one Pilested Woodpecker was seen, and that one at Tower Grove Park, where also a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a large flock of Pine Siskins were noted.--N. R. Barger, reporter.