



# LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## **The passenger pigeon. Volume 38, Number 3 Fall 1976**

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Fall 1976

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/E7VMCRO5KPRJT9A>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



# *The Passenger Pigeon*



*Fall 1976*

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

# IN THIS ISSUE

Page

<b>Turkey Vultures in the Baraboo Hills.....</b>	<b>93</b>
By Michael Mossman	
<b>Preliminary Survey of Turkey Vultures .....</b>	<b>100</b>
By George J. Knutsen	
<b>Wisconsin Breeding Records of Unusual Waterfowl Species.....</b>	<b>106</b>
By David L. Strohmeyer	
<b>Letters to the Editor .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Field Notes.....</b>	<b>112</b>
By Fred Leshner	
<b>By the Wayside .....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Arctic Terns in Wisconsin .....</b>	<b>129</b>
By Thomas C. Erdman	
<b>Bird Study 85 Years Ago</b>	
Submitted by Walter E. Scott	
<b>An Oological Half Holiday .....</b>	<b>132</b>
By C.K.	
<b>Passenger Pigeon, (Ectopistes Migratorius) Nesting in Wisconsin.....</b>	<b>134</b>
By Charles F. Carr	
<b>Book Reviews .....</b>	<b>135</b>

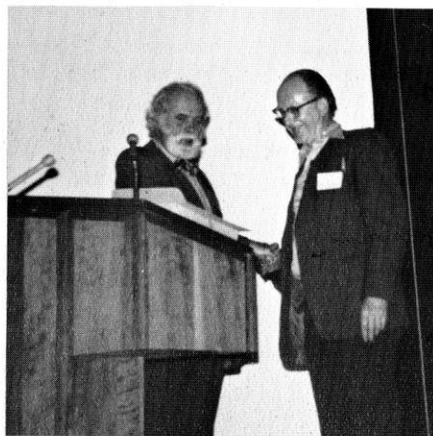
*Cover—Line Drawing by Charles Kemper from 35 mm slide by Ed Prins.*

**Volume 38, No. 3**

**Fall 1976**

**THE PASSENGER PIGEON**, official publication of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., is published quarterly at 16 Taylor St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Classes of membership and annual dues: Active \$6.00. Family \$8.00. Sustaining \$15.00 to \$74.00. Life \$100.00. Patron \$500.00. Library \$5.00. At least \$5.00 of each annual membership is set aside to cover subscriptions to the *Passenger Pigeon*. Send membership dues to the membership chairman, Cathryn Steuer, 38552 Genesee Lake Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Send change of address to the membership chairman. Manuscripts are invited. Send them to the editor, Charles A. Kemper, 733 Maple Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729. Back issues are available at one dollar per single issue. Send request to W.D. Brown, 225 W. Lakeside Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.

## Former and New President



Fred Hammerstrom (left) and Ed Prins (right)

# Turkey Vultures in the Baraboo Hills Sauk County, Wisconsin

by Michael Mossman

## Introduction

At least 60 Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) inhabit the Baraboo Hills area of Sauk County, Wisconsin, during the breeding season. I observed these birds mostly during 1973 and 1974, concentrating on behavior at a communal morning. This paper is concerned with the general activities, numbers, and nesting of these birds.

## Methods

Observations were made on weekends, vacations and evenings between March 1973 and July 1976. Nests were visited 31 times, usually for periods of 5-20 minutes. Two nestlings were banded on 2 Aug. 1973 by Daniel Berger. In 1974 I banded a brooding bird and incubating bird on 7 June, two nestlings on 2 Aug., and two adults caught in padded steel traps. On 2 Aug. 1975 two nestlings were banded. The six birds caught in 1974 were also marked with numbered, white patagial tags for the study of social behavior.

Population size was estimated by counting vultures as they entered the roosts in the evening, and sometimes as they departed in the morning. On 41 occasions, only one roost was watched, and on 10 evenings counts were made simultaneously at two or more roosts.

## Dates, Numbers, Roosts

Turkey Vultures arrive in numbers during the last half of March, and the last are seen in October (Table 1). Generally considered a southern bird, the Turkey Vulture has been known to winter in northern areas (Bagg & Parker 1953, Walkinshaw 1930). In Sauk County it has been observed occasionally during the winter months, and in March 1974 roosting birds withstood temperatures as low as  $-13^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The usual winter residence of the Baraboo vultures is not known, although a nestling banded in 1973 was found the following 8 March in San Sebastian, Honduras. It is quite possible that this bird was en route northward from South America.

Two permanent roosts are used throughout the season. These were first located in the spring of 1973. Both are on forested bluffsides, located 7km apart. 25-30 vultures use the East roost, perching 3-7m above ground on a dead white pine (*Pinus strobus*), the lower dead limbs of a live 23m-tall white pine, and the lower limbs of an open-grown butternut (*Juglans cinerea*). In the West roost, 20-60 birds perch in bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), red oak (*Quercus borealis*), and white oak (*Q. alba*), at heights of 3-15m.

Four temporary roosts of 6-14 birds have been observed, all on rocky wooded bluffs. These were used during April and May, possibly by transients.



Counting vultures as they enter the roosts in the evening is difficult. They often land singly or in small groups over a period of 3-4 hours, and may fly up inconspicuously after landing. However, on breezy evenings, especially with large cumulus clouds indicating the presence of air thermals, the birds congregate in flight near the roost before landing. At such times up to 60 vultures have been seen soaring in a single group.

The total number of birds using the two roosts is usually 50-65. Although this number may vary from day to day, regular seasonal variations are not evident. The area over which this population forages is unknown.

The number of vultures in Sauk County has undoubtedly increased over the past 25 years, according to reliable observers. A similar trend has been noted by observers in other parts of Wisconsin (Kemper, this issue). An increase in Turkey Vulture numbers in the Northeast states was documented and discussed several years ago by Bagg and Parker (1951). However, the species has inhabited our area for a long period of time, perhaps fluctuating with climatic changes. This is evidenced by Turkey Vulture bones exhumed from the Raddatz Rockshelter in the western Baraboo Hills, from two strata estimated to be 3000 and 4500 years old (Cleland, 1966).

#### **Daily Activities**

Most vultures depart from the West roost within an hour or two after sunrise, and fly .5km to a secluded, overgrown cow pasture. Here they perch in dead trees, exposed to the sun, until a few minutes to three hours later. As the wind picks up, birds leave to forage. On windy mornings birds do not stop at the perch.

At the morning perch, vultures engage in a few social encounters and a variety of maintenance activities such as preening, stretching, regurgitation of pellets, and spread-wing posturing (Mossman, 1974) (Fig. 1). Birds at the East roost use a patch of exposed quartzite talus, 10m from the roost, as a morning perch and as a pre-roost perch.

The remainder of the day is spent in flight, although vultures are sometimes seen perched on rock ledges and less often in trees during mid-day. "Buzzards" are well-known to many area farmers, as the birds readily feed on dead pigs, chickens and calves left in the fields. They have also been observed scavenging behind manure spreaders. Unlike crows, vultures are only rarely seen feeding on road-kills. During the four hours prior to sunset, vultures enter the roost, often soaring about within 2km of the roost for an hour or two before landing.

#### **Nesting**

Two nests were located, on blufftops rarely frequented by people, in the middle of oak woods. Both are in crevices between tumbled quartzite boulders, with rather circuitous entrances.

Nest I was discovered on 28 June 1973, in a crevice .5m x 1.5m x 1m, opening to the outside from above. Eggs were laid on the floor, which is flat and strewn with oak leaves. This is connected with three other chambers of somewhat smaller size in which nestlings were often found after the age of about 6 weeks. Two of these chambers opened to the outside. The nest is 20m from a temporary roost.

Nest II is in a crevice 2m x 1m x .7m high, with openings at either end. It was shown to me by Vernon Frame on 29 May 1974. Eggs were laid on a floor similar to that of Nest I.

Nest I produced two young each year, 1973-1975, and was abandoned shortly after the two eggs hatched in 1976. In Nest II, two eggs were hatched in 1974 and one egg in 1975, but the nest was abandoned both years.

As a precaution against nest abandonment, nests were visited infrequently early in the season. Consequently, dates of hatching and egg laying can only be estimated (Table 2). In all cases, eggs were certainly hatched between 25 May and 11 June. Records of the Turkey Vulture's incubation period range from 28-40 days (Bent, 1937; Coles, 1944). Egg-laying, then, probably occurs between 15 April and 15 May.

### **Behavior**

As might be expected of a species that typically nests in accessible places (caves, hollow logs, brush piles), adult and nestling vultures possess behavior patterns which evidently serve as protection against predators. This behavior is mainly bluff, and is of an entirely different nature in the young than in the adult.

Incubating and brooding adults faced away from the opening, with beak pointed downward, remaining still and silent even when handled (Fig. 2). The dark colored bird is thus easy to overlook. When taken from the nest to be banded, the adults were somewhat limp, with the head and neck hanging vertically, eyes open and mouth agape. An incubating bird (1974) and brooding bird (1975) did actually flee from Nest II when approached, and these nests were later abandoned.

Usually when an observer entered a nest chamber, the adult regurgitated up to about a cupful of partially digested carrion—"the vilest-smelling material I have ever been near" (Tyrell 1938). The bird remains still, with eyes open, opens the beak 40°, and the gray semiliquid oozes out. This behavior is much different from the regurgitation of a pellet, which usually involves head bobbing and gagging movements.

Vultures are known to regurgitate when disturbed at other times, especially when feeding. Here it may serve to lighten the bird for take-off. But load-lightening seems of little value to a bird staying on the nest. Instead, the odor might help deter intruders, in conjunction with the bird's "death feint". This was illustrated by the experience of one observer who, after visiting one of the Baraboo nests, insisted that the incubating vulture was "deader 'n a doornail ... Smelled like it'd been dead a couple days." He had even poked it with a stick to be sure. The question still stands, however, whether a predator would be equally susceptible to such behavior. Unfortunately, information regarding the turkey vulture's natural enemies is lacking.

Like the adults, nestlings regurgitate easily when disturbed. But in contrast, they are active and somewhat aggressive, employing a strategy of intimidation toward intruders.

When first disturbed, a nestling sometimes stomped its feet two or three times, producing a deep thudding sound which was audible outside the cave. Nestlings also made loud hissing sounds every time the nests were visited, from the age of about 4-8 days while still being brooded, until just before fledging at the age of nine or ten weeks. Each hiss lasts 3-5 seconds, increasing and then decreasing in volume. It is low pitched and throaty, sounding like wind among the rocks. When a bird is approached within 1-2m the hisses are loudest and rhythmic, separated by 1-3 seconds. At other times they may be separated by several seconds

or may be irregular. Birds 2-6 weeks old often hissed while standing with body axis horizontal and wings outstretched, as in fig. 3. The sound was relatively weak and sporadic in birds about a week old and was absent in nestlings estimated to be only a day or two old.

A third type of intimidating behavior often occurred when I approached within 1-2m of a nestling. This "scare jump" was first observed in birds about two weeks old, and follows a constant pattern:

The bird may or may not be hissing. The feathers are raised for one second, then relaxed as the bird lunges forward very quickly toward the intruder. Simultaneously, the head and neck are thrust up, the wings flapped once loudly, the rectrices spread and the mouth opened 10-30° (Fig. 4). It may or may not be accompanied by a quick, sharp hiss. The bird may move forward as much as 70cm or may retain its location. The jump is not repeated again immediately. Although a scare jump is directed toward the intruder, and is indeed surprising, I was never touched by a bird when it jumped. Even a stick held 20-30cm from the bird was not usually contacted.

Behavior patterns similar to those described above have been observed by Coles (1938), Kempton (1927), Tyrell (1938), and Work and Wool (1942).

### **Fledging**

Although nestlings may perch on rocks outside the nest cavity in late July, they were unable to fly when banded each year on 2 Aug. When we tried to catch the nestlings to band them, they regurgitated, hissed and scare-jumped, retreating to the least accessible corners of the nest chambers. When taken outside they behaved similarly to adults taken from the nest, although they sometimes nipped at our hands or tried to escape. Hissing began again when the birds were returned to the cave.

The first flight is made in mid August, and the fledglings are often seen perched in trees near the nest during the last half of August. In 1973, the first juveniles arrived at the communal morning perch sometime between 24 Aug. and 3 Sept., and in 1974 between 17 and 25 Aug.

On 15 Sept. 1973, 9 juveniles were seen at once at the morning perch, and one banded juvenile was absent. On 6 Sept. 1974, 8 juveniles were present, with two marked siblings absent. Turkey Vultures usually raise two young, sometimes one and rarely three (Bent, 1937), so we may assume at least five successful nestlings for each of these years. This does not include birds which may have been using the East roost.

### **Further Questions**

Since the Turkey Vulture's breeding status in Wisconsin is poorly understood, field observers should watch for young vultures from mid-August thru October (Birds seen late during this period might be migrant, however). The head of the juvenile develops traces of adult coloration during this time, but remains definitely gray. Since the red head of the adult can appear gray under poor light, the best distinguishing features of the juvenile are the black beak tip (white in the adult) and downy cap (this fades thru the fall).

Many other questions remain unanswered regarding this interesting bird: courtship behavior has been observed only rarely (Coles 1938, Loftin and Tyson 1965); spread-wing posturing, though studied a good deal in several bird species, has never been satisfactorily explained; also,

what functions does a communal roost serve, and how do birds of nearby roosts interact?; what factors have facilitated the apparent northward extension of the species' range? These are all problems worthy of further study.

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the help of Edward Burr, Jr. and Kenneth Lange. Financial assistance was provided during 1974 by a Steenbock Scholarship and a grant from the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund.

### Literature Cited

- Bagg, A.M. and H. Parker. 1951. The Turkey Vulture in New England and Eastern Canada up to 1950. **Auk** 68:315-333.
- Bagg, A.M. and H. Parker. 1953. Further information on the turkey vulture in New England and Eastern Canada. **Auk** 70:490-491.
- Bent, A.C. 1937. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey. Part 1. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167.
- Cleland, Charles. 1966. Re-analyses of faunal remains from the Raddatz Rockshelter, Sauk Co., Wis. pp. 98-109 in *The Prehistoric Animal Ecology and Ethnozoology of the Upper Great Lakes Region*. Anthr. Pap. 29, Mus. Anthr, Univ. Mich.
- Coles, Victor. 1938. Studies in the life history of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis* Wied.). Ph.D. Thesis. Cornell Univ. 511pp.
- Coles, Victor. 1944. Nesting of the Turkey Vulture in Ohio caves. **Auk** 61:219-228.
- Jackson, T.H. 1903. The Turkey Vulture and its young. **Bird Lore** 5:184-187.
- Kempton, Russell. 1927. Notes on the home life of the Turkey Vulture. **Wilson Bull.** 39:142-145.
- Loftin, H. and E. Tyson. 1965. Stylized behavior in the Turkey Vulture's courtship dance. **Wilson Bull.** 77:193.
- Mossman, Mike. 1974. Spread-wing posturing in the Turkey Vulture. **Pass. Pigeon** 36(4):117.
- Tyrell, W.B. 1938. Nesting of the Turkey Vulture. **Auk** 55:468-470.
- Walkinshaw, L. 1930. Turkey vulture wintering in Michigan. **Auk** 47:251.
- Work, T.H. and A. Wool. 1942. The nest life of the Turkey Vulture. **Condor** 44:149-159.

Michael Mossman  
P.O. Box E  
Baraboo, WI 53913





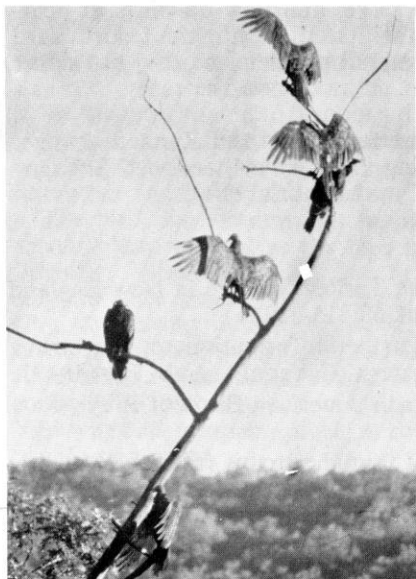


Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

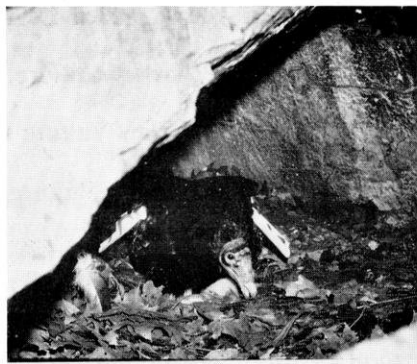


Fig. 2



Fig. 5

### Figures

1. Turkey Vultures at the morning perch. Four birds in spread-wing, or "Sunning" posture.
2. Incubating vulture, 22 May 1974.
3. Nestlings hissing, 7 July 1974.
4. Scare jump, 1 Aug. 1973.
5. Jackson (1903) noted an "appearance of great cunning" in young Turkey Vultures. (!) This bird was banded after a different chase through the nest chambers, 2 Aug. 1973.

**Table 1**  
**Turkey Vulture Sightings, Sauk Co.-Extreme Dates**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Early Dates</b>	<b>No. Birds</b>	<b>Late Dates</b>	<b>No. Birds</b>	<b>Winter Dates</b>	<b>No. Birds</b>
1967	30 March	5	—	—		
1968	24 March	1	20 Oct.	1		
1969	23 March	?	10 Oct.	?		
1970	7 April	3	9 Oct.	?		
1971	28 March	?	15 Oct.	?		
1972	24 March	6	26 Oct.	?		
1973	19 March	1	21 Oct.	20		
	14 April	37				
1974	3 March	1	12 Oct.	37		
	24 March	4				
	13 April	17				
1975	22 March	1	22 Oct.	?	1 Jan.	1
	30 March	8				
1976	14 March	1			1 Jan.	2
	20 March	21			28 Jan.	2

**Observers:** Michael Mossman, Kenneth Lange, Forrest Hartman, Carla Kruse, Thomas Erwin and Thomas Ellenbecker, Ronald Rich, Philip Ashman.

**Table 2**  
**Nest Dates**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Nest I</b>		<b>Nest II</b>	
	<b>Eggs observed</b>	<b>Young first observed</b>	<b>Eggs observed</b>	<b>Young first observed</b>
1973	—	28 June	—	—
1974	22 May	7 June	7 June	12 June
1975	3 May	8 June	—	8 June
	31 May			
1976	8 May	31 May	—	—

# Preliminary Survey of Turkey Vultures in Wisconsin

By George J. Knudsen, DNR

May 14, 1976

## Purpose:

The author made this "preliminary study" to obtain an overview of the Turkey Vulture's, *Cathartes aura*, population status and recent history in Wisconsin. The reason: There was concern expressed by members of the Audubon Society Chapters in southeast Wisconsin that a proposed campground extension in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Recreational Forest would encroach closely enough on the known group roosting site to disturb, and perhaps chase the birds from this roost site. The concerned people and DNR personnel met on May 19, 1976 and discussed the matter. Our park planners and the Southeast District DNR personnel are presently considering certain development plan revisions. We sincerely hope the revised plan will be such that the Turkey Vulture's will continue to use the roost, or that if they **do** move that they will find another suitable roosting site in the large, forested, interlobate moraine. My own opinion is that they will not completely abandon this general area, since the area and environs has all the conditions they need for them to remain as a summer population.

The author acknowledges the excellent information he received from Thomas Erdman, Rev. Robbins, Mike Mossman and Ruth Hine.

## Introduction:

In the spring of 1976 I sent questionnaires to 21 individuals of my acquaintance to obtain information on Wisconsin Turkey Vulture population trends, general status, distribution, known roosting sites, known nesting sites and migration dates.

The individuals are: Thomas Erdman, Mike Mossman, Ken Lange, Roger Reif, Ronald Kurowski, Leroy Lintereur, Gary Jolin, Carl McIlquham, Donald Bublitz, Clifford Wiita, Roland Nesbit, Eugene Kohlmeier, Raymond Bandekow, Professors Joseph Hickey, Robert McCabe, Robert Ellarson and Timothy Moerland, Norval Barger, Dr. Charles Kemper, Reverend Samuel Robbins, Dr. James Zimmerman. There are, of course, many others who have information on these birds, but I felt the above contacts would suffice, at least for the initial population picture.

On the questionnaire I did not state my opinions, based on my subjective observations of these birds since 1935, in order to reduce any bias my opinions **may** have generated.

Sixteen questionnaires of the 21 sent out were returned. The responses varied from few comments to 3 quite lengthy letters.

## **Results**

### **Statewide Population Trend**

1. Ten of the 14 respondents felt that Turkey Vultures had increased noticeably to very significantly during the past 1-3 decades (depending upon how long each person had been observing the birds). Four respondents didn't answer this and one was uncertain of trend, statewide.

No one indicated a decrease in the population.

2. Reasons for the increase were given by only 6 respondents. The reasons were: more road killed animals, increase in dead deer, dead farm animals "dumped on fields, fish kills, more cash crops being planted south of Wisconsin with consequent lesser livestock production.

### **Area Population Trends**

1. Increasing populations over the past 1-3 decades were noted by respondents in Oconto, Marinette, Sauk (3 different people), Iowa, Clark, Jackson, Fond du Lac and Grant counties. A number of respondents mentioned seeing relatively few Turkey Vultures in their particular areas, therefore they felt they couldn't judge area trends.

2. No one indicated a decrease in their areas in general, however, Raymond Bandekow noted a drastic decline in what is believed to have been a roosting area on the Mississippi River. See under Group Roosts, below.

### **Known Group Roosts**

Seven people knew of no group roosts in their areas.

A group roosting site is known in the southern unit--Kettle Moraine State Recreational Forest.

Mike Mossman has located 4 permanent and semi-permanent group roosts in the Baraboo Range. (Average numbers of birds per roost: A-30, B-25, C-8, D-8. [See accompanying article in this issue.]

Raymond Bandekow noted an area near Cassville, Wisconsin where up until 1965, 50-75 turkey vultures had concentrated in a group of **dead** cottonwoods on the Mississippi River bottomlands. This indicates a possible **past** group roosting site. The vultures have left this area and Mr. Bandekow feels that much increased boating, fishing and hunting are the factors. He did not mention whether or not the dead cottonwoods had fallen, but this is a distinct possibility.

Tom Erdman knows of one group roosting site in Oconto county. He feels there **may** be others to the north.

The remaining respondents didn't answer this.

### **Known Nests**

Leroy Lintereur mentions a nest that was found in June, 1948, on a granite outcropping near Mountain, Wisconsin.

Tom Erdman found a nest in Oconto County in 1974.

Mike Mossman found 2 nests in the Baraboo Range. In one nest, 2 young were successfully raised each year, 1973, 1974, and 1975. The other nest was abandoned shortly after the eggs were hatched in both years, 1974 and 1975.

Erdman reported that Charles Sindelar found a nest ca. 1967 where he banded (young?) for 2 years.

Eight respondents had never found a Turkey Vulture nest.



### **First Spring Arrivals**

Marinette County--mid-April  
Sauk County--late March, mid-March (2 people)  
Iowa County--April, early April (2 people)  
Fond du Lac County--late February-early March  
Southern Wisconsin--end of March  
Lincoln-Langlade Counties--April  
Oconto County--First week in April

### **Spring Migration Peak**

Marinette County--April 20-May 10  
Sauk County--early April, highest counts from May to early July (Mossman). (2 people).  
Iowa, Clark and Jackson Counties--April  
Lincoln--Langlade Counties--April  
Fond du Lac County--March  
Southern Wisconsin--early April  
Grant County--late April

### **Summer Population**

Only 6 respondents answered this. Responses varied from rare, or uncommon, to fairly common (Erdman) to seen throughout the summer. Apparently no one felt the summer population was **substantial**, but this is a relative term.

### **Fall Departure Dates**

Sauk County--October, late October (2 people).  
Iowa, Clark and Jackson Counties--September-October  
Grant County--mid-November  
Southern Wisconsin--November  
Oconto County--First 10 days of October (Erdman)

### **General Comments from Questionnaire (and one phone call)**

For the last 8-9 years a pair of Turkey Vultures seen for up to a month at a time. T31N-R14E-S2 (Wolf River Township) in April and May. Conservation Warden Al Kwaliek (via a phone call) sees Turkey Vultures all summer long in Grant County--and up to 8 or 9 at a time. He knows of no nesting sites.

Mossman's highest count in the Baraboo Range was 60 Turkey Vultures. Norval Barger feels that the Lake Michigan shore may be an important spring (and possibly fall) flyway. Birders at Bahr Creek banding station, near Cedar Grove have many sight records according to Mr. Barger.

Erdman has seen "many birds at the 'mounds' along highway 54 near Black River Falls in summer."

Three respondents have noted Turkey Vultures on rare occasions during mid-winter.

Erdman---"I would estimate that at least 25 pair and possibly as many as 50 pair of Turkey Vultures use the area." (Oconto & Marinette Counties)

### **Information From Reverend Robbin's Letter**

Observers in the 19th century believed the bird to be decidedly uncommon, but probably regular along eastern and western edges of Wisconsin.

Kumlien and Hollister (1903) mentioned most sightings in July and August in Western Wisconsin and felt the birds might nest along the Mississippi River.

Grundtvig in 1883 suspected possible nesting in northeastern Wisconsin. Field note editors of **The Passenger Pigeon** throughout the 1940's felt the species was of sufficient rarity as to warrant publication of virtually every record they knew of.

First positive nesting record obtained July 20, 1947 when Carl Richter found a nest in Oconto County.

The first edition of **Wisconsin Birds--Preliminary Checklist With Migration Charts** (1942) described vulture's status as "irregular transient visitor; may breed in state". Occurrence sporadic between April 10 and November 15. In the 1960 revision of this work bird was referred to as "uncommon transient visitor; uncommon summer resident". The vulture was listed as occasional between February 28 and March 25, regular from March 25 to October 31, and occasional through November, with 2 January sightings. Essentially same status given by Gromme in **Birds of Wisconsin** (1963).

#### **Present Status (From Reverend Robbins)**

Numbers of Turkey Vultures appear to have increased significantly since 1950.

Four major areas of summer concentrations have developed: (1) Mississippi River bluffs on the Wisconsin side in Buffalo, Pepin and Pierce Counties; (2) Baraboo Bluffs in Sauk County; (3) Kettle Moraine region in Waukesha and adjacent counties; (4) the ridges in Oconto and Marinette Counties.

Spring and fall migrants have been reported from all parts of the state with increasing frequency.

Spring migration during period from March 25 and May 5, with April 5-15 peak.

Fall migration from September 10 through October with smattering of birds into November. 5 January records are known.

Reverend Robbins states that since the vulture's breeding range extends only barely into southern Canada, and Wisconsin therefore, is near its northern limits, a major disturbance near the edge of the nesting range could have a telling effect on the future range of the species.

He concludes..."Consequently I view with considerable alarm a proposal that would probably upset the Turkey Vulture roosting area on the Kettle Moraine Forest. In Wisconsin these birds have been very wary, concentrating only in areas that are relatively free of human intrusions. While I'm not expert in the total terrain of southeastern Wisconsin, I am at a loss to think of any alternate spot in that entire area of the state where those birds might relocate if driven from their present haunts. Since this species seems to be colonial in nature, and since there are so few other known colonies in the state, I surely wish that some alternate solution might be found to the camper space problem in the Kettle Moraine region".

#### **Knudsen Observations and Comments**

From 1936 to 1941 I observed only two Turkey Vultures in Jackson and Clark Counties (Bruce Mound and Saddle Mound). I recall seeing relatively small numbers during this same period in LaCrosse and Trempealeau Counties on my many field trips and fishing excursions to that area. I do not recall having seen them in the northern one-half of Wisconsin at that time.

From 1946 on, travelling much on my own, and for the now Department of Natural Resources, my observations leave no doubt in my mind that Turkey Vultures have increased very noticeably, especially along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers in the southwestern one-quarter of our state. From mid-April, well into May I recall having seen the greatest numbers along these rivers and over the Baraboo Range. After this, many remain in this general region, but they are reduced in numbers, many of them having apparently moved on.

I feel that the period from the late 1940's to the early 1960's was the period of greatest increase in numbers, again, especially during spring migrations.

On many occasions I've seen them circling overhead, or riding up-drafts almost continuously in the above mentioned areas, while I was indulged in everything from general field studies to rattlesnake den observations. I've often seen up to a dozen circling, or gliding over Wyalusing State Park (highest count 19 at once), and over the Baraboo Range in considerable numbers (highest count 13).

During mid-summer beaver-otter-black bear field research I've seen them over many central Wisconsin and northern Wisconsin counties, but never in large concentrations; from singles commonly, to 3 or 4 birds rarely.

I've never found a nest, but have never looked for one. In the early 1950's I did flush a turkey vulture from a large, vertical fissure in limestone-dolomite cliffs near the Mississippi River in Crawford County. This bird **may** have been searching for a nesting site.

### **Conclusions:**

It is apparent that the Turkey Vulture population has indeed increased during the past 2-3 decades, especially during migrations in spring and fall.

Summer populations (concentrations) are most dense in the relatively rugged terrain of the Southern Unit-Kettle Moraine Forest, Baraboo Range, certain segments of the Mississippi River bluff country and the ridge country of Oconto and Marinette Counties. The birds are uncommon to quite rare over much of the rest of the state, **but** other high bluffs and ranges should perhaps be watched for this species, especially in summer, e.g. Penokee Range, Blue Hills, Tim's Hill, Pearson Hill, etc.

Very few group roosts are presently known, however, since the many vultures in the Southern Unit-Kettle Moraine State Forest, Oconto and Marinette Counties and the Baraboo Range have group roosting areas it is only logical to assume that the other two known areas of Turkey Vulture concentration may have group roosts too. Perhaps no one has made an effort to find the roosting areas.

There are very few nesting records for Wisconsin but as with roosting areas it's doubtful that real efforts have been made to locate nests. In relation to this a Colorado researcher indicates that although the Turkey Vulture is relatively common over the entire state few nests have been found. It was concluded that perhaps most of the Colorado birds are nonbreeders. Is this the case in Wisconsin also?!

Since this species is a **very** valuable scavenger, and is one of the most beautiful birds in flight, it would seem that the Turkey Vulture is an excellent subject for someone to study in sufficient detail (in Wisconsin) for a Doctor's thesis!

At the May 19, 1976 meeting to present information on the Turkey Vultures' statewide status I was "put on the spot" and asked to estimate the number of Turkey Vulture's in Wisconsin (during the warm months). Therefore, on the basis of the number of birds counted at various roosting sites, the numbers of birds estimated in the "hot-spot" areas, and the widely-scattered statewide population I felt it is probable that 200-300 Turkey Vultures inhabit the state in summer. This is simply an **estimate**, and it **may** be conservative. This is a difficult figure to come up with!

### Additional Information

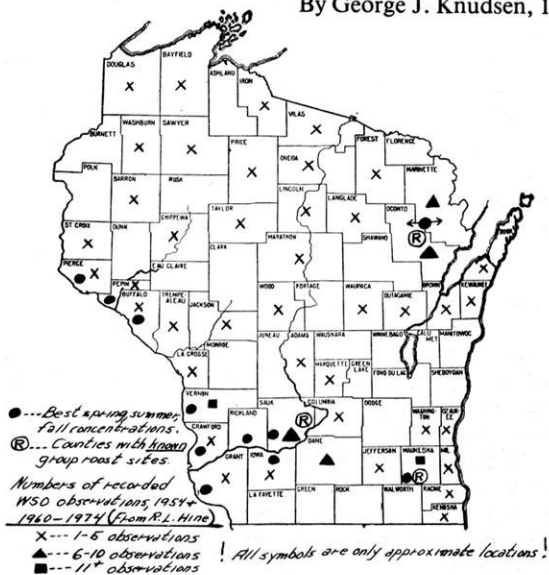
While carrying on my black bear live-trapping studies ca. 1960 I caught 2 turkey vultures in my bear traps, in Douglas and Bayfield counties. Both were **unhurt** since I had **spaced** and **smoothed** the trap jaws, and added rubber shock-absorbers to the rigs. To show their disdain, both birds regurgitated as I handled them and released them!

Ms. Ruth L. Hine recently supplied me with the following information:

Summer Turkey Vulture observations, compiled from Wisconsin Society of Ornithology records for 1954 and 1960-1974 (16 summers) showed that; 1 to 5 observations were recorded in **40** counties, scattered statewide; 6-10 observations were recorded in **4** counties; 11 or more observations were recorded in **2** counties. Of course, this varies with the number of interested observers in each county. A few west central counties and northern counties, had no recorded observations. Of interest was the fact that no observations were recorded for: Portage, Waushara, Winnebago, Calumet, Manitowoc, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Dodge, LaFayette, Green, Rock and Walworth counties, yet I have seen them at odd intervals over some of these counties, in summer, but usually only singles, soaring low over the land.

### Wisconsin Turkey Vulture Status WSO Records, & areas of greatest densities

By George J. Knudsen, 1976





## Wisconsin Breeding Records of Unusual Waterfowl Species

In the course of our research on Rush Lake, Winnebago County two of my graduate students (Charles Petrie and David Misterek) and I have obtained evidence of breeding by some waterfowl species so far unrecorded for the county. Rush Lake is a very unique wetland. Although it covers 3000 acres its average depth is less than three feet. The northern quarter is heavily grown to cattail and about one-third of the remainder is sparsely covered with hardstem bulrush with small "islands" of cattails along the west and northwest sides. The rest of the lake is densely filled with submergent vegetation. It appears that these conditions may be providing habitat for extension of breeding ranges or for persistent low-level use by species more commonly present before human encroachment. Perhaps too, this habitat simulates distant environments used by migrant species on their usual nesting areas.

The more abundant waterfowl species nesting on Rush Lake are those most common in the state as a whole; the Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*, and Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*. On Rush Lake the Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*, is the third most frequent nester and the Redhead, *Aythya americana*, is the fourth. Four other duck species nesting there are unusual for southern Wisconsin or for the entire state, and are the subject of this paper.

Gadwall, *Anas strepera*. On June 8, 1972, a nest of this species was found on the southeast shore of Rush Lake. The hen flushed and nine eggs were present at that time. Later checks of the nest showed the full clutch to be 11 eggs. Six of these hatched on July 5. The nest was located in brome grass, *Bromus inermis*, which was quite rank and offered good concealment. This is in keeping with the nest-site characteristics I have observed in northwest (Strohmeyer and Fredrickson, 1964) and which were reported for a Utah nesting study (Gates, 1962).

In subsequent years two or three pairs of Gadwall have been seen but no more nests have been located.

March et. al. (1973) indicate that the Gadwall makes only "trace" contributions to the state waterfowl breeding population, and is largely restricted to the northwest portion of the state. March's 1972 request for brood information indicates previous brood records only for Door, Dunn, Dodge and Brown counties. However, a recent record for St. Croix County exists in the Passenger Pigeon (Roberts and Roberts, 1965), and the Gadwall was reported by Kumlien et. al. (1951) as originally nesting in Rock County, too.

Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*. Two nests of this species were found in 1972. Both were located on mats formed by rootstalks of cattail floating on the lake. One nest was found on May 27 with a full clutch of 13 eggs, but was predated a few days later. The second nest was found on June 10 with five Ring-neck eggs, one Redhead egg, and two Ruddy Duck eggs. This nest received three more Redhead eggs, and one Ring-neck egg was displaced. By July 3 the Ruddy eggs had hatched, and the Ring-neck eggs and one Redhead egg were pipping. The hen, however, deserted the nest that day (Misterek, 1974). Later in the summer a brood of four Ring-neck ducklings was seen, so a third nest must have existed.

In 1973 one nest was found, in habitat conditions very similar to those of 1972. It contained seven eggs on May 26 but was deserted soon after. In 1974 little field work was done and no evidence of Ring-neck nesting was obtained. In 1975 two nests were found, one on a mat of cattail and the other in a small but thick clump of cattail. The first was found on May 29 with 13 ring-neck eggs, one Redhead egg and one Ruddy egg. The Ring-neck eggs hatched on June 2. The second nest held eight eggs on July 8 but was later deserted.

March et. al conclude that the Ring-neck comprises two percent of the state waterfowl breeding population. Brood records exist for 23 counties which are all in the northern part of the state except for Shawano, Juneau, Dodge and Dane. Jahn and Hunt (1964) state that this species once nested throughout Wisconsin. They suggest that human disturbance causes desertion of breeding habitat. This may explain the absence of Ring-necks in the more populated southern half of Wisconsin. Current records from Dodge and Dane Counties, and perhaps our own, are actually a biased indication of breeding geography because of the relatively greater amount of observation done there.

Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*. On July 4, 1972 a brood of six Canvasback was observed with a hen. No nest had been found but adults had been observed on the lake in the early summer months. March et. al. did not include this species as contributing at all to the breeding population. No recent brood information was indicated in March's 1972 survey, nor has any been reported in the **Passenger Pigeon**, but Jahn and Hunt report broods on Rush Lake for 1952 and 1953.

No further evidence of Canvasback nesting has been obtained by us but adults have been seen during the breeding season each year, and DNR personnel observed a brood of 11 on August 6, 1974 (DNR files).

Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*. Kumlien et. al. state that the Lesser Scaup once nested "to a limited extent" from southern Wisconsin northward. One specific recent record of the Lesser Scaup nesting in Wisconsin exists for Ozaukee County in 1952 (Jahn and Hunt, 1964). In addition, one was sighted on Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in 1952, and two broods observed on the Wisconsin River near Merrill between 1955 and 1959 (DNR records). When, in 1972, a pair of this species was observed loafing along the Rush Lake east shoreline we made special effort to watch it for an indication of nesting, but observed none. In 1972 a pair loafed again in the same area and, although no nest was found then either, a hen was seen on July 4 with a brood of just two ducklings. This brood was re-sighted on July 5 and July 8, and on July 13 a hen and one duckling were seen. Five days later a hen was seen in the same area but no ducklings accompanied her.

In 1973 and 1975 Lesser Scaup were again observed in low numbers throughout the breeding season. On May 25, 1976 a nest was located which at first was identified as that of a Ring-neck (on the basis of egg appearance). There were ten eggs at that time. On June 16 the hen flushed from this nest and flapped broodily across the water and onto a mud flat 20 feet from me. On June 17 she again flushed and remained quite nearby permitting positive identification. She was definitely a Lesser Scaup.

This nest, like those of Ring-neck Ducks, was located on the mat edge of a large cattail island (about 20 meters in diameter) and was at least 500 meters from the nearest shore. The nesting habitat of the Lesser Scaup in the state of Washington and the western Canadian provinces is often upland grasses as much as 500 meters from water, or it may be the short rush (*Juncus*) margins around a water body. But in the Delta Marsh region of Manitoba it is often "floating or semi-floating mats of vegetation..." (Bellrose, 1976) so the Rush Lake site is not unusual.

By June this nest had hatched, but the brood was never sighted.

David L. Strohmeyer  
Associate Professor of Biology  
Univ. of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

#### Literature Cited

- Bellrose, F. C. 1976. Ducks, Geese & Swans of North America. Wildlife Management Institute. 543 pp.
- Gates, J. M. 1962. Breeding Biology of the Gadwall in Northern Utah. Wis. Bull. 74: 43-68.
- Jahn, L. R. and R. A. Hunt 1964. Duck and Coot Ecology and Management in Wisconsin. Wisc. Cons. Dept., Tech. Bull. No. 33. 212 p.
- Kumlien, L. and N. Hollister 1951. The Birds of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. Madison, Wis. 122 p.
- March, J. R. 1972. Request for Information on Flightless Duck, Coot, and Gallinule broods in Wisconsin. Passenger Pigeon. 34(3): 135-136.
- March, J. R., G. F. Martz and R. A. Hunt 1973. Breeding Duck Populations and Habitat in Wisconsin. Wisc. Dept. of Nat. Res., Tech. Bull. No. 68, 37 p.
- Misterek, D. L. 1974. The Breeding Ecology of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) on Rush Lake, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. Unpubl. M. S. thesis, Univ. of Wisc. - Oshkosh. 82 p.
- Roberts, N. and H. Roberts 1965. Field Notes, Passenger Pigeon. 27(2): 82.
- Strohmeyer, D. L. and L. H. Fredrickson 1964. Gadwall Nesting in Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 34: 72-73.

*Help Save*

## HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

*Mary and Charlie Nelson*

# Letters to the Editor

August 19, 1976

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I thought the following incident might interest some of the Passenger Pigeon readers.

On 7-7-76 about 3:30 p.m. while driving of Plymouth, WI, I spotted about a dozen shorebirds in a relatively small watering pond used by a large dairy herd. Since it was immediately evident that there were several species present I stopped for a better look. Besides the common Killdeer, I was very interested in seeing a Lesser Yellowlegs as well, but even more excited in the presence of three Western Sandpipers. The following morning the three Western Sandpipers were still present as well as several Killdeers and a Solitary Sandpiper. These were also observed by my son Scott. Later that same morning Mr. & Mrs. John Brumer also observed the three Western Sandpipers. On July 15 the same pond produced a Pectoral Sandpiper. A short time later the pond dried completely.

R. C. Reif

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Was delighted to see that the summer of '75 was so spectacular. Was surprised to learn that my summer was so much more spectacular than I'd thought. Not only was I credited with species I didn't see during the period, but as well with a lifetime first Acadian Flycatcher. And from such exotic, far-away places as Jefferson & Columbia counties?! If an award for Least Peripatetic Bird Watcher should ever be instituted this kind of canard could completely destroy my top-ranking contender status. Seriously, all observations attributed to me, by name, for the season are incorrect - at least I never made them. Not having kept a copy of the report form submitted I'm not entirely sure I'm blameless but...

Now, where did Mr. Erdman really find the nesting Little Gull? Can hardly wait to see how I did last fall. If it's not too late could I have a flock of Lammergeyers? - any county.

Clark Shultz  
448 Jefferson St. apt. 204  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

[Ed. Note: Will the real Clark Shultz step forward?!]





Dear Editor,

After reading the article, **Incidence of Great Horned Owls Nesting in a Heron Rookery** by Richard M. Johnson that appeared in a recent issue of the **Passenger Pigeon** (Vol. 38(2):89), I offer the following observations:

July 5, 1973. An adult and two immature Great Horned Owls were observed in an Old Great Blue Heron nest in an active rookery located in the Beaver Creek portion of Chequamegon Waters flowage, Taylor County, Wisconsin.

June 18, 1975. An immature Great Horned Owl was observed in an old Great Blue Heron nest in an abandoned rookery in Black Brook Flowage, Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area, Burnett County, Wisconsin. The rookery was active the previous year (1974) and had contained 29 Great Blue Heron nests. For some unknown reason, it was abandoned in 1975.

Apparently Great Horned Owls do nest in heron rookeries with some frequency.

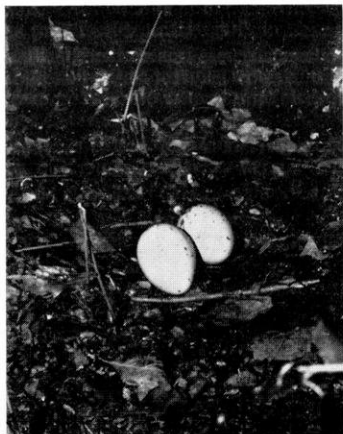
Jim Evrard  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
Box 337  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

June 17, 1976

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Enclosed are the two 5 x 7's from 1974. One is of the nest I found and the other is the dead female found next to the nest site. She had been shot and walked back to the nest. Both photo's were taken by John P. Jacobs, please give credit.

Tom Erdman



May 25, 1976

### **The Kestrel - A Duck Hawk?**

Without reviewing the literature I would like to pass on a new experience that I feel is worthy of mention. This happened at a pond just south of the town of Arpin in Central Wood County.

On May 12, 1976 I observed a male American Kestrel (**Falco sparverious**) going into a house placed for Wood Ducks (**Aix sponsa**). The box was in a large pine and leaned to the south about five degrees so that the box was right on the shoreline. The pond is owned by Herman Albrecht Jr. and is the same pond that I reported the White Pelicans in some time ago.

Mr. Albrecht appreciates his pond and has ducks and geese of wild and domestic origins. At this time he had just had a hatching of young Mallards (**Anas platyrhynchos**) two days prior. As I sat on the road and watched for the Kestrel to come back into view, Mr. Albrecht told me that the little falcons were indeed taking his mallard ducklings. He had lost three up to that point and some other predator took the others.

I was not fortunate enough to see an actual case of predation on the ducklings, but there is no doubt as to Mr. Albrecht's observations. The feet and wings were on the shore and in the water just below the nesting box. This may seem a bit circumstantial, but quite reasonable and logical. For ducklings one or two days old I am sure the Kestrel would have no problem taking them as I also feel they more than likely snatch up an occasional Killdeer chick or anything else.

On June 12, 1976 I banded two young females and one young male and found one young female dead in the box. All the young were ready to fledge, and the dead female had been dead only within the approximate last twenty four hours. There was considerable damage to the rump and back of the dead bird and it looked like a pecking death. On June 25 I saw no Kestrels in the area at all so I assume the other three made it into the air.

Don Follen Sr.

### **No Police Authority for Birds**

**by Dick Karbon**

Reprinted from the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*-July 24, 1976

A police officer's badge gives power over people, not birds.

Or at least that's what the Department of Natural Resources appears to have said, as a result of policemen recently having killed two Screech Owls because of alleged attacks on people.

"Local authorities are advised that such birds are protected by state and federal laws and that control measures for these and other birds can be used only after securing a permit," said the DNR.

"Those persons engaging in the destruction of protected species will be subject to an enforcement action."

# **FIELD**

# **NOTES**



By Fred Leshner

The Autumn Season, 1975

August 1 - November 30, 1975

Typically one can make the generalization about the autumn season that it was hot in August and cold by November. Further, one can point out that there were some especially hot days and cold days, some wet spells and some dry spells. But what were the highlights of weather, and how did they affect the birds, if at all? According to the **Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletins** for the period, a cold front finally broke the August above normal heat (in the 90's) on August 13, bringing with it at first scattered showers, then heavy rains during the period Aug. 18-31. Eau Claire had 9.2 inches for the week Aug. 18-24. Shorebird and duck migrations fit in nicely on a chart correlating their movements with the weather for August. Following the slow cold front of August 13, what had been a drip of shorebirds and ducks expanded to a small stream with, for example, at Fond du Lac the first wigeons, pintails, and ruddies on August 16, and a variety of shorebirds same date same place. In addition to the movement of ducks and shorebirds following the cold front of the 13th, two considerable movements of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers were noted on August 14 by Baptist in Burnett county and Soulen in Forest county.

The stream grew wider by August 22 with Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Wigeons in Dodge county, and continued on August 24 with Gadwalls and Redheads in Brown county. These correlations, of course, may reflect not only weather conditions as they affect birds, but as they affect birders, keeping them out of the field during heat waves. Other human activities such as vacations and the beginning of school could influence what birds are reported.

The first flood of birds, which for many birders means the first influx of warblers, occurred August 31 with 10 species of warblers, including the Black-throated Blue, being reported that day from Portage county. The arrival or discovery of these birds was preceded by low temperatures in all but the eastern edge of Wisconsin, and heavy rains in many parts of the state. The night of August 31—September 1, Bob Fiehwig heard large numbers of warblers, sparrows, tanagers, and Green Herons pass overhead at Racine.

By September 1-7, the weather had cooled throughout the United States, especially in Wisconsin, which also got more rain. Waves of warblers in various parts of the state came so close together that they constituted a single tidal wave of warblers and other passerines during the period of September 9-21.

The first frosts reached most of Wisconsin during the week September 22-28. A small flood of warblers, wrens, kinglets, vireos, thrushes and woodpeckers followed this frost until about October 5. During the period September 30—October 5, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows arrived in first large numbers.

Temperatures from about October 6 through November 9 were above normal, constituting a good, long "Indian Summer", Madison had a record high of 90°F on October 13. During this less dramatic weather period the ducks and geese peaked at places like Necedah on October 22, and at Horicon, where on October 26 there was a peak of 191,000 Canada Geese. Also during this period, the last, stray summer and migrant passerines disappeared, the White-throated and Fox Sparrows peaked, and the winter visitors such as Lapland Longspurs in Columbia county, Pine Grosbeaks in Portage county, and Snow Buntings in Fond du Lac county appeared.

A storm on November 9 brought two to four inches of snow to north and central Wisconsin and a generous 12 inches near Lake Superior. By November 12, a few Rusty Blackbirds and Grackles persisted in Dane and Fond du Lac counties and the first Snowy Owl was reported at Necedah.

General cold and snow at intervals persisted to the end of the period, when a few Whistling Swans remained, as well as a Great Blue Heron on November 28 in Dane county, together with a Common Merganser and Common Loon, same date, same place.

As usual, the migration was over. First it was hot, and last it was cold. First there were not so many birds, then there were many, and finally, few. It sounds the same, but for details, see the seasonal summary.

### **Interesting Species and Families**

White Pelicans in north and central Wisconsin were among the interesting species noted this year. The Oconto area produced nesting Cattle and Snowy Egrets as well as a Little Blue Heron, all reported during the autumn season. Only a few scoters were reported, but the rarer Black and Surf Scoters were both recorded. Canada Geese peaked at 191,000 at Horicon, continuing to be a "problem" there. Canvasbacks peaked at 147,000 at LaCrosse, an encouraging sign and a sight to see. Not many reported the Greater Scaup, but those who did recorded either "thousands" or "hundreds". The hawk migration was only fair to poor, especially for Cooper's and Red-shouldered. Peregrine reports totaled 23, but few came from outside banding stations where hundreds of hours are logged. The Yellow Rail was seen at Milwaukee. Only one King Rail was seen, also at Milwaukee. Shorebird migration was good, though not spectacular. The Wimbrel was seen, as well as Willets. Red Knots were reported up in numbers, as well as Bairds, Western, Buff-breasted, Marbled, and Hudsonian Godwits.

Four unusual gulls and one alcid were reported: Glaucous, Black-backed, Laughing, and Little Gulls, and the fifth record for the Ancient Murrelet. Another fifth record was the Groove-billed Ani near Green Bay. The only exceptional owl reported was the Burrowing Owl. Only five Snowy and five Saw-whet Owls were reported, and both Long and Short-eared Owl reports were down. Of the flycatchers, four Western Kingbirds were seen, but there were only nine reports of the Alder and Willow Flycatchers. Are observers confused or uncertain about distinguishing these species by song? \* Titmice were reported only five times, but two Carolina Wrens were reported from Vilas county. Wood Thrushes were reported down from two locations, and Bluebird numbers were reported variously up and down. There were no reports of the Loggerhead Shrike, an ominous sign for the species. Southern warblers moved north, as the Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from Pierce county and the Hooded Warbler from Manitowoc. Where are the Dickcissels? Only three reports this autumn. The finch migration was only fair. Evening Grosbeaks were scattered in fair numbers, and the Purple Finch was perhaps a little more common, but Pine Grosbeaks were scarce. Red Crossbills, typically, were more common than White-winged, but neither was abundant. A Lark Bunting was reported from Milwaukee, as was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Grasshopper Sparrow reports were down to five, but this may only reflect the failure of the birds to put out their effort to "sing". Snow Buntings were common and widespread this autumn.

\*[Ed. Note: No doubt both are true. But there is little or no song at this season.]

### Seasonal Summary

**Common Loon:** Thirteen reports. Early north from Washington Island in Door Co., Price, Oneida, and Burnett counties. Late south: Nov. 27, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt), and Nov. 28, Dane county (Ashman).

**Red-throated Loon:** Five reports, including four from Ozaukee county. Earliest, Sept. 30 (Gustafson); Latest, Nov. 8 (Tessen). The other report was from Milwaukee, Oct. 28 (Epstein).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Four reports: North, Aug. 14, Crex Meadows (Baptist); Aug. 17. St. Croix county (Robbins), and Sept. 9 (Faanes). South, Nov. 5, Racine (Erickson).

**Horned Grebe:** Nine of twenty reports were in October. Earliest, Sept. 6, Ozaukee county, 3 seen by Tessen, and Sept. 28, Douglas county (Robbins). Latest, single birds reported in Fond du Lac county (Knuth) and Milwaukee county (Bastens) on Nov. 22.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Forty-six reports. Earliest, Washington Island in Door county, August 2 (Erickson). Peaks: 9-01, Brown county, 40 (Columban and Cleary); 9-09, Horicon Marsh, 200 (Sanford); 9-16, Crex Meadows, 75 (Faanes). Latest: Nov. 24, Brown county (Trick).

**White Pelican:** Three reports. Northwest, Nov. 2, 5, and 6, St. Croix county (Faanes and Norling). For amusing details of this encounter see "By the Wayside." Central, Oct. 20, Wood county, 2 (Follen). Northeast, Nov. 20, Green Bay, 1 (Erdman).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Fourteen reports. Numbers may be up. A rookery of 9 nests and 89 individuals were discovered in Trempealeau county in May, 1976 (Leshner and Smith). Early, Aug. 4, Marathon (Luepkes). Peaks: Sept. 6, Marathon, 100 (Luepkes); Sept. 27, Brown, 85 (Trick). Latest, Nov. 3, Burnett (Evrard).

**Great Blue Heron:** Ten sightings in November. Latest in the north: Nov. 16, Burnett (Norling). Latest in the south: Nov. 28, Dane (Ashman); Nov. 29, Winnebago (Parfitt).

**Green Heron:** Latest: Oct. 25, Brown (Cleary and Columban).

**Little Blue Heron:** Aug. 24, Oconto (Robbins). One immature bird.

**Cattle Egret:** Five reports, three from Oconto county. Aug. 3 and 26 (Tessen); Aug. 30, six were reported by Harold Lindberg. Three birds on Oct. 25 is the first record for Chippewa county. Late, Oct. 31, Medford (Fadness), and injured bird.

**Great Egret:** Twenty reports. Peaks: Aug. 4, Horicon Marsh, 80 (Sanford); Sept. 10, Madison, 33 (Ashman); Sept. 11, Jefferson, 50 (Stelier); Sept. 25, Pierce, 150 (Faanes). Departure, Oct. 17, Horicon (Sanford).

**Snowy Egret:** Aug. 3, Oconto (Tessen). Nested in Oconto Marsh!

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** Nine reports, six during August. Earliest, Aug. 12, Marathon county, 30 (Krings). Latest, Nov. 19, Horicon (Sanford).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** Aug. 4, Oshkosh (Knuth), and Aug. 18, Milwaukee (Epstein). Departure, Sept. 16, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Least Bittern:** Six reports, four in August. Latest report, Oct. 1, Brown county (Cleary and Columban).

**American Bittern:** Ten reports. Peak, Sept. 9, Horicon Marsh, 30 (Sanford). Departure, Nov. 19, Horicon Marsh (Sanford).

**Whistling Swan:** Nineteen reports. Earliest, Oct. 11, LaCrosse county, 1 (Butts). Peak, Nov. 16, Brown county, 230 (Trick). Latest, Nov. 30, Burnett county (Norling and Evrard). Present into December at LaCrosse (Leshner), and at Nelson (Kemper).

**Canada Goose:** August records may be summer residents. Earliest migrants, Sept. 10, Shawano (Hafeman), and Sept. 16, Burnett (Faanes). Peaks: Oct. 14, Necedah, 7400 (Strom); Oct. 24, Burnett, 4000 (Evrard); Oct. 27, Horicon Marsh, 191,000 (Sanford). Reported the last week in Nov. from St. Croix, Waukesha and Rock counties. Present into December at Horicon.

**White-fronted Goose:** Four reports. Sept. 27, Fond du Lac, 2 (Tessen) and Horicon Marsh, 2 (Fiehwig). Two present Oct. 3-9, Horicon Marsh (Sanford). Oct. 18, Douglas (Faanes).

**Snow Goose:** Numbers reported up at Crex Meadows and Horicon Marsh. Earliest, Sept. 16, Crex Meadows (Faanes), and Sept. 19, Horicon Marsh (Tessen). Peaks, Oct. 24, Crex Meadows, 1200 (Evrard), and Nov. 17, Horicon Marsh, 250 (Sanford). Latest, Nov. 19 Vilas (Thomas), and Nov. 23, Barron (Goff). One present into December at Racine (Erickson).

**Mallard:** 4300 present at the beginning of the period at LaCrosse (Butts), and numbers down at 7500 on Aug. 4, Horicon Marsh (Sanford). Peaks: Oct. 22, Necedah, 6900 (Strom), Oct. 24, Crex Meadows, 3000 (Faanes, Evrard, et. al.).

**Black Duck:** 50 present Aug. 1 at LaCrosse (Butts). Peaks: Oct. 25, Necedah, 400 (Strom); Sept. 9, Horicon Marsh, 330 (Sanford); Oct. 24, Crex Meadows, 250 (Evrard). Departures: Nov. 15, Necedah (Strom), and Nov. 21, Rock county, (Brakefields).

**Gadwall:** Arrival, Sept. 20, LaCrosse (Butts). Peaks: Oct. 22, Necedah, 30 (Strom); Oct. 17, Horicon Marsh, 300 (Sanford); Oct. 24, Crex Meadows, 50 (Evrard). Departures: Oct. 21, Horicon Marsh (Sanford); Nov. 5, Crex Meadows (Evrard); Nov. 15, Necedah (Strom); Nov. 27, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Pintail:** Arrival, Aug. 16, LaCrosse, 10 (Butts). Peaks: Oct. 22, Necedah, 400 (Strom); Oct. 21, Horicon Marsh, 1180, numbers down (Sanford); Oct. 14, Crex Meadows, 200 (Evrard). Departures: Nov. 19, Horicon Marsh (Sanford); Nov. 12, Crex Meadows (Evrard).

**Green-winged Teal:** Arrival, Aug. 21, Juneau county (Robbins). Peaks: Oct. 22, Necedah, 900 (Strom); Sept. 18, Horicon Marsh, 2180 (Sanford); Sept. 25, Crex Meadows, 275 (Faanes). Departure: Nov. 27, Milwaukee (Bastens).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Present at LaCrosse and Horicon. Peaks: Oct. 1, Necedah, 1700 (Strom); Sept. 18, Crex Meadows, 500 (Faanes). Very late departure, Nov. 6, St. Croix county (Faanes).

**American Wigeon:** Arrivals: Aug. 16, LaCrosse, 400 (Butts); Sept. 9, Necedah (Strom). Peaks: Sept. 19, Necedah, 3000, numbers down (Strom); Sept. 18, Horicon Marsh, 5920, numbers up (Sanford); Oct. 24, Crex Meadows, 150 (Faanes). Departures: Nov. 27, Waukesha (Bielefeldt and Stelier); Nov. 29, Racine (Erickson).

**Northern Shoveler:** Present at LaCrosse and Horicon Marsh. Peaks: Oct. 18, LaCrosse, 50 (Butts); Sept. 9, Horicon Marsh, 250 (Sanford). Departures: Nov. 11, Horicon Marsh (Sanford); Nov. 27, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Wood Duck:** Present at LaCrosse (Butts). Peak, Aug. 8-30, LaCrosse, 2200 (Butts); Departures: Oct. 8, Crex Meadows (Evrard); Nov. 6, Pierce county (Faanes); Nov. 12, Columbia county (Ashman).



**Redhead:** Present at Horicon Marsh, Aug. 4; numbers up at 3650. Arrivals, Sept. 27, LaCrosse, 100 (Butts), and Aug. 6, Milwaukee (Epstein). Departures: Oct. 21, Horicon Marsh (Sanford); Nov. 5, Crex Meadows (Evrard); Nov. 22, LaCrosse (Butts).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Arrivals: Sept. 27, LaCrosse, 150 (Butts); Oct. 17, Horicon Marsh (Sanford). Peak, Nov. 8, LaCrosse, 19,600 (Butts). Departure, Nov. 12, Crex Meadows (Evrard).

**Canvasback:** Arrivals: Sept. 27, LaCrosse, 50 (Butts); Oct. 21, Horicon Marsh, numbers up, (Sanford). Peak, Nov. 8, LaCrosse, 147,000 (Butts). Departures: Oct. 24, Crex Meadows (Evrard); Oct. 22, Necedah (Strom); Nov. 22, Horicon Marsh (Sanford); Nov. 25, Racine, 25 (Erickson). Still present end of period at LaCrosse.

**Greater Scaup:** Sept. 13 to Nov. 8, Ozaukee, "thousands" (Tessen). Nov. 30, Milwaukee, "hundreds" (Bastens).

**Lesser Scaup:** Arrival, Sept. 27, LaCrosse, 300 (Butts). Peak, Nov. 8, LaCrosse, 36,100 (Butts). Present into December at LaCrosse. Departures: Oct. 16, Crex Meadows (Evrard); Oct. 22, Necedah (Strom).

**Common Goldeneye:** Arrival, Oct. 25, LaCrosse (Butts). Peak, Nov. 22, LaCrosse 2500 (LaCrosse). Departures: Nov. 3, Vilas (Thomas); Nov. 12, Crex Meadows (Evrard);

**Bufflehead:** Arrivals: Oct. 11, LaCrosse (Butts); Nov. 2, Racine (Erickson). Peak, Nov. 5, LaCrosse, 2820 (Butts). Departures: Nov. 14, Burnett (Evrard); Nov. 21, LaCrosse (Butts); Nov. 25, St. Croix (Faanes).

**Old Squaw:** Arrivals: Oct. 26, Ozaukee, 6 (Tessen); Nov. 1 Racine (Erickson); Nov. 7, Milwaukee (Epstein); Nov. 23, Milwaukee, "hundreds" (Bastens).

**Harlequin Duck:** Reported Aug. 2 to Sept. 2 at Milwaukee by Epstein, and Elmer and Lorna Basten.

**White-winged Scoter:** Arrived early in greater than normal numbers, Aug. 12, Burnett county (Evrard). Usual arrival dates, Oct. 27, Milwaukee (Epstein); Nov. 8, Ozaukee county (Tessen); Nov. 9, Brown county (Trick).

**Surf Scoter:** Two reports: Nov. 8, Ozaukee county, 2 (Tessen); Nov. 15, Milwaukee, 2 (Tessen).

**Black Scoter:** Three reports: Oct. 24 to Nov. 7, Milwaukee, 14, number up? (Epstein); Nov. 8 to Nov. 15, Milwaukee, 4 (Tessen); Nov. 26, Ozaukee county, 1 (Tessen).

**Ruddy Duck:** Present at beginning of the period, but numbers down, Aug. 4, Horicon Marsh, 900 (Sanford). Early arrivals: Aug. 23, Milwaukee (Gustafson); Sept. 6, Waukesha (Bintz's). Peak date, Oct. 27, Brown county, 25,000 (Trick). Departures: Nov. 15, LaCrosse (Butts); Nov. 28, Horicon Marsh (Sanford), and Waukesha county (Bintz's).

**Hooded Merganser:** Present at beginning of the period at LaCrosse (Butts). Reported at Madison, Nov. 7 (Ashman). Departed from Necedah Nov. 14 (Strom), from Waukesha county Nov. 27 (Bielefeldt), and from St. Croix county Nov. 25 (Faanes).

**Common Merganser:** Arrived at LaCrosse Oct. 25 (Butts), Horicon Marsh Oct. 21 (Sanford), and Pierce county Nov. 13 (Faanes). Departed from Necedah by Nov. 21, but present into December at LaCrosse (Butts).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Departed from Washington Island in Door county Sept. 21 (Erickson). Arrived in Ozaukee county Oct. 11 (Tessen), and in Racine by Nov. 2 (Erickson). Peaked on Oct. 30 in Ozaukee county where Dennis Gustafson reported 200.

**Turkey Vulture:** Present at beginning of the period in Vernon county (Smith). Arrived at Cedar Grove Sept. 16 (Berger). Peaked in Vernon county (Smith) on Sept. 5 when there were 17, and on Oct. 5 when there were 14. Departed Vernon county Oct. 17 (Smith), Cedar Grove, Waukesha county Oct. 22 (Berger), Oct. 15 (Bintz's), and Barron county Oct. 26 (Goff).

**Northern Goshawk:** Thirteen reports. Early Sept. 9, Marathon county (Baldassarre and Kring), Sept. 14, Sauk county (Fiehwig), and Sept. 27, Cedar Grove (Berger). Last reports: Nov. 22, Wood county, 2 (Follen), and Nov. 23, Burnett county (Norling).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Arrivals: Sept. 5, LaCrosse (Smith), Sept. 3, Waukesha (Bielefeldt). Peaks throughout the state fell between Sept. 19 and 22. A total of 604 passed Cedar Grove on Sept. 21 and 22 (Berger), and 788 passed Little Suamico between Sept. 19 and 22 (Erdman). Last dates were Nov. 8 at LaCrosse (Smith), and Nov. 13 at Little Suamico (Erdman).

- Coopers Hawk:** A poor migration. **None** from Cedar Grove (Berger). "Only none all season," Little Suamico (Erdman). Two at LaCrosse Sept. 21 (Smith). Other records: Sept. 9, Burnett, 1 (Evrard); Sept. 16, Crex Meadows (Faanes); Sept. 20, Oneida county, 1 (Tessen); Sept. 26, Rock county, (Brakefields); Oct. 8, Chippewa county (Robbins); Oct. 14, Dane county (Ashman); Oct. 23, Vernon county (Smith); Oct. 25, Portage county (Baldassarre and Krings). Additional reports: Aug. 6, Taylor county (Fadness); Aug. 6, Milwaukee county (Gustafson); Oct. 26, Crawford county (Robbins).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Present at the beginning of the period, Vernon county (Smith). Peak dates: Aug. 25, Little Suamico, 41 (Erdman), Aug. 26, Little Suamico, 46; Oct. 15, Vernon county, 33 (Smith), and Nov. 10, Vernon county, 20 (Smith).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Can only be called a poor migration. **None** from trapping stations in Vernon county (Smith), Cedar Grove (Berger), and Little Suamico (Erdman). Four reports: Aug. 24, Columbia county (Fiehwig); Sept. 5, Brown county (Cleary and Columban); Sept. 20, Oneida county (Tessen), and Oct. 2, Barron county (Goff).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Arrivals: Aug. 31, Marathon (Luepke's); Sept. 9, Vernon county (Smith). Peak dates throughout the state were close to those for the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Broad-winged Hawk peak dates were as follows: Sept. 21, Vernon county, 2539 (Smith); Sept. 21, Little Suamico, 13,084! (Erdman); Sept. 21, Winnebago county, 1150 (Tessen); Sept. 22, Cedar Grove, 1289 (Berger); Sept. 22, Little Suamico, 2,463 (Erdman); Sept. 22, Milwaukee, 23 (Strehlow); Sept. 22, Waukesha, 167 (Bielefeldt). One late date: Oct. 26, Portage county (Baldassarre and Krings).
- Swainson's Hawk:** Three reports: Aug. 6, Burnett county (Evrard); Sept. 27, Horicon Marsh (Tessen); Nov. 16, Dane county (Fiehwig).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Arrival dates: Oct. 10, Little Suamico (Erdman); Oct. 13, Cedar Grove (Berger); Oct. 28, Vernon county (Smith). Peak: 16 on Nov. 18 at Little Suamico (Erdman). Present into December in Vernon county (Smith).
- Golden Eagle:** Seen very early by Tessen on Aug. 16 in Outagamie county. Three reports from Burnett county: Oct. 12, Crex Meadows (Faanes); Nov. 16 (Norling); Oct. 27 to Nov. 12 (Evrard). Reported from Vernon county on Nov. 10 (Smith). Arrived at both Cedar Grove and Little Suamico on Oct. 15. Departed from both Cedar Grove and Little Suamico on Nov. 8.
- Bald Eagle:** Arrived in Vernon county on the Mississippi River on Sept. 7 (Smith). Reported from Marathon county on Aug. 24 (Baldassarre, Krings, Luepke's). Peaked in Vernon county Sept. 25 and 26 with 82 seen (Smith). Late date, Nov. 27, St. Croix county (Robbins).
- Northern Harrier:** Reported in August from LaCrosse, Aug. 19 (Butts) and Brown county Aug. 24 (Robbins). Peaks at Cedar Grove, 33 on Oct. 25 (Berger), and Crex Meadows, 16 on Oct. 12 (Faanes). Latest date Nov. 16, Rock county (Mahlum).
- Osprey:** Reported from Marathon county on Aug. 3 (Luepke's). Arrived Aug. 30 in LaCrosse county (Butts), and Sept. 3 at Cedar Grove (Berger). Peaks were Sept. 20 and 21, Vernon county (Smith), and Sept. 21 and 22, Cedar Grove (Berger). Latest date, Nov. 10, Cedar Grove (Berger).
- Gyr Falcon:** Two reports, both gray phase. Nov. 26, Wood county (Follen), and Nov. 27, Eau Claire county (Valen). Few details with each report.
- Peregrine Falcon:** Twenty three of this species were reported. Five from Vernon county between Sept. 27 and Oct. 9 (Smith). Ten from Cedar Grove between Sept. 11 and Oct. 11 (Berger). Five all season at Little Suamico (Erdman). Three other reports: Sept. 28, St. Croix county (Faanes), Oct. 5, Ozaukee county (Prins), Oct. 25, Outagamie county (Tessen).
- Merlin:** Eight reports. Earliest Sept. 1, Chippewa county (Robbins), and Sept. 9, Cedar Grove (Berger). Latest Oct. 25, Outagamie county (Tessen), and Oct. 26, Cedar Grove (Berger).
- Kestrel:** Peaks as follows: Sept. 1, Chippewa county, 15 (Robbins), Sept. 16, Crex Meadows, 75 (Faanes), Sept. 22, Vernon county 5 (Smith).
- Ruffed Grouse:** Reported from 27 counties.
- Prairie Chicken:** Two reports: Aug. 17, Marathon county, 7 (Luepke's), and Sept. 25, Burnett county, 2-stocked-(Evrard).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Three reports. Aug. 28, Burnett county, 6 (Evrard), Sept. 26 Price county, 2 (Hardy), and Oct. 12, Crex Meadows (Faanes).

**Bobwhite:** Six reports. Three from Rock county, one each from Waushara, St. Croix, and Vernon counties.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reported from 32 counties. Oct. 27, Sanford reported 200 at Horicon.

**Gray Partridge:** Nine reports from eight counties: Milwaukee, St. Croix, Walworth, Dodge (Horicon Marsh), Brown, Manitowoc, Waukesha, and Columbia.

**Sandhill Crane:** Reported from sixteen counties. Present in August in Juneau, Dodge, and Wood counties. Greatest number, 350 seen Oct. 19 in Burnett county by Wayne Norling. Latest report, Nov. 18, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**King Rail:** One report from Milwaukee.

**Virginia Rail:** Present in August in Marathon, Oconto, and Winnebago counties. Departure date of Sept. 27 was shared by Brown, Chippewa, and Fond du Lac counties. Late departure date was Nov. 28 at Racine (G. Prins).

**Sora Rail:** Nine counties reporting. Aug. 3, Brown county (Cleary and Brother Columban) was the earliest. Last seen Oct. 31 in Barron county by Alta Goff.

**Yellow Rail:** One report. Sept. 6, Milwaukee, 1 (Tessen and Donald).

**Common Gallinule:** Present in Fond du Lac, Brown, Oconto, and Manitowoc counties. Latest observation Sept. 30, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**American Coot:** "Peaks" were distributed over all four months of the period. Aug. 4, Horicon Marsh, 9700 (Sanford). Nov. 1, Waupaca, 10,000 (Tessen). Last seen Nov. 28, Horicon Marsh (Sanford).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Arrived Aug. 6, Marathon county (Luepke's) and Aug. 19, Washington Island in Door county (Erickson). Last seen Oct. 21 in Milwaukee by Gustafson.

**Killdeer:** Present into November throughout the state. 156 were seen Aug. 31 in Barron county by Craig Faanes.

**Lesser Golden Plover:** Fifteen reports. Earliest Aug. 4, St. Croix county (Faanes). Greatest number seen was 55 on Sept. 14 in Portage county (Luepke's). Late date was Nov. 4, Dane county (Ashman).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Twenty one reports. Earliest on Aug. 3, Brown county (Trick). Most arrivals recorded from Aug. 16 to 23. Peaks of 100 on Oct. 25 in Brown county (Columban and Cleary), and 105 on Oct. 27 in Brown county (Trick). Six November departure dates. Latest Nov. 21, Brown county (Trick).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Early arrivals in Milwaukee Aug. 2 (Epstein), and Aug. 15 (Gustafson). Eight reports in September. Last reported from Milwaukee on Oct. 8 by Epstein.

**American Woodcock:** Reported present at the beginning of the period from Barron and Walworth counties. Last reported from Marathon county on Nov. 15 by Ken and Janice Luepke.

**Common Snipe:** Reported as late as Nov. 15 from Dane, Walworth, and Fond du Lac counties.

**Whimbrel:** Reported Sept. 1 from Milwaukee by Epstein and Elmer and Lorna Basten.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Three reports. Latest Aug. 24, Walworth county (Tessen).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Three October reports: Oct. 2, Milwaukee (Bastens); Oct. 5, Winnebago (Stelier); Oct. 9, Barron (Goff).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Four October reports. Latest Oct. 25, Barron county (Trick).

**Willet:** Four reports, all in August. Earliest Aug. 2, Milwaukee (Epstein). Latest Aug. 24, Brown (Robbins).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Earliest and greatest number was 55 reported in St. Croix county on Aug. 7 by Faanes. Four November reports. Latest, Nov. 12, Columbia county (Ashman).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Latest report: Nov. 12, Columbia county (Ashman). Latest in the north, Nov. 8, Burnett county (Norling).

**Red Knot:** Fourteen reports. Early reports, Aug. 13, Brown county (Tessen), and Aug. 31, Douglas county (Trick). Last report, Sept. 19, Brown county (Trick).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Five November reports. Latest Nov. 9, Burnett county (Norling).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Six reports. Earliest, Aug. 8, Fond du Lac county (Knuth). Latest, Sept. 25, Rock county (Brakefield's).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Twenty one reports of this tricky to identify sandpiper, fifteen in August. Earliest, Aug. 3, Oconto county (Tessen). Greatest number, a high 55 seen on Aug. 8 in Brown county by Trick. Two reports on Oct. 1: Dane county (Ashman) and Milwaukee (Gustafson).

- Least Sandpiper:** Nineteen reports. Reported present Aug. 1 from five counties. A peak of 300 birds was seen Aug. 3 in Brown county by Trick. Last reported Oct. 17, Brown county (Trick).
- Dunlin:** Nineteen reports. Early south, Aug. 2, Milwaukee (Epstein). Nine October reports. Peak Oct. 27, Brown county, 185 (Trick). Latest Nov. 10, Brown county (Trick).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Thirteen of sixteen reports were from August. Peaks observed include 100 on Aug. 3, Oconto county (Tessen), and 180 on Aug. 17, Dodge county (Tessen). Last seen Sept. 29, Brown county (Trick).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Eight reports, all but one from the eastern side of the state. The exception was from St. Croix county on Aug. 29 (Faanes). Last seen Nov. 8 in Dodge county by Tessen.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Fifteen reports, all but three, from the east: Aug. 17-24, Marathon county (Luepke's); Aug. 21, Juneau county (Robbins); Aug. 30, Dane county (Tessen). Last seen Oct. 1, Milwaukee (Gustafson).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Present by Aug. 1 in eight counties: Brown, Door, Fond du Lac, Marathon, Marinette, Winnebago, Juneau, and St. Croix. Latest date, Nov. 8, Dodge county (Tessen).
- Western Sandpiper:** Four reports: Aug. 10, Washington Island in Door county, 3 (Erickson); Aug. 13, Brown county (Tessen); Aug. 16, Milwaukee (Gustafson); Aug. 25, Milwaukee (Epstein).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Four reports: Aug. 14, St. Croix county (Baptist); Aug. 21, 22, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt); Sept. 5 to 20, Milwaukee (Epstein); Sept. 6, Milwaukee (Tessen).
- Marbled Godwit:** Four reports nicely clustering between Aug. 23 and 27 from the northwest to the southeast. Aug. 23, Milwaukee (Gustafson), Brown county (Trick). Aug. 27, St. Croix county (Faanes), and Marinette county (Lindberg). Reported present Aug. 1 in St. Croix county (Faanes). Reported very late from Burnett county, Nov. 2-8 (Norling).
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Six reports from three counties: Brown, Dodge, and Juneau. Brown county, Aug. 16, 18, and 21 (Trick, Tessen); Dodge county Aug. 17, Sept. 27 (Tessen, Fiehwig); Juneau county Aug. 21 (Robbins).
- Sanderling:** Reported present Aug. 1 only from Milwaukee (Gustafson). Earliest arrival date Aug. 3, Brown county (Tessen). Three October dates and one November date; Nov. 6, Racine (Erickson).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Present Aug. 1 only in Brown county (Trick). All Reports in August. Peak of 18 birds on Aug. 25 in St. Croix county (Faanes). Latest dates: Aug. 26, Rock county (Brakefield's), and Aug. 29, St. Croix county (Faanes).
- Northern Phalarope:** Present Aug. 1 only at Milwaukee (Gustafson). Two other August reports. Five September reports. Latest Sept. 28, Green Lake county (Luepke's).
- Greater Black-backed Gull:** Oct. 12, Little Suamico Ornithological Station, Oconto county (Erdman). See "By the Wayside."
- Glaucous Gull:** Nov. 12, Vilas county, 2 (Thomas). Apparently driven into Vilas county by the same storm that sank the "E. Fitzgerald" in Lake Superior.
- Herring Gull:** Present in fourteen northern and eastern counties Aug. 1. Peak of 2000, Sept. 30, Brown county (Columban and Cleary). Departed inland from Marathon county Oct. 12 (Luepke's), and Portage county Nov. 30 (Luepke's). Reported into December from ten counties, mostly along Lake Michigan.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Present in seven counties Aug. 1, all from the east. Reported into December from seven eastern counties, plus from Dane, Vernon and St. Croix counties.
- Laughing Gull:** One report: Aug. 23, Milwaukee, 3 (Gustafson).
- Franklin's Gull:** Present Aug. 1 at Milwaukee (Epstein, Gustafson). Reported in October from Barron, Chippewa, and Douglas counties. Departed Milwaukee Oct. 24 (Epstein).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Present Aug. 1 in Brown, Milwaukee, and Racine counties. Peaks Nov. 17, Milwaukee, 100 (Bastens), and Nov. 19, Milwaukee, 350 (Epstein). Present into December in Milwaukee, Racine, and Winnebago counties.
- Little Gull:** Two reports, both from Milwaukee. Aug. 19 to Sept. 15 (Epstein), and Aug. 23 (Gustafson).
- Forster's Tern:** Present, Aug. 1 Milwaukee (Gustafson) seven reports. Earliest Aug. 15, Racine (Erickson). Latest Oct. 18, Milwaukee (Tessen).

**Common Tern:** Present, Aug. 1 in Door, Milwaukee, Racine and Winnebago counties. Nine reports, six in August, all eastern counties. Last report Oct. 24, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Caspian Tern:** Present Aug. 1 in Brown, Door, and Milwaukee counties. Last report east, Oct. 3, Milwaukee (Epstein); last report west, Sept. 30, LaCrosse (Leshner).

**Black Tern:** Present Aug. 1 in thirteen counties, all north. Last seen Sept. 30, Brown county (Columban and Cleary).

**Ancient Murrelet:** Nov. 12, Barron county (Faanes). See "By the Wayside."

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Reported from Washington Island in Door county as late as Sept. 1 (Erickson). Other reports were from the south. Last seen Oct. 10, Rock county (Brakefields).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Reports evenly distributed from late August through September. Last seen Oct. 2, Waukesha county (Bintz's).

**Groove-billed Ani:** Oct. 8, Green Bay (Erdman). See "By the Wayside."

**Common Screech Owl:** Eleven counties reporting, only two from the northwest, Barron and St. Croix counties.

**Great Horned Owl:** Reported during the period in twenty two counties throughout the state.

**Snowy Owl:** Five reports, all north or central. Earliest Nov. 12, Juneau county (Strom).

**Burrowing Owl:** Reported Nov. 8, Milwaukee (Bastens and Epstein). See "By the Wayside."

**Barred Owl:** Reported during the period in only sixteen counties throughout the state.

**Long-eared Owl:** Only three reports. Nested and present Aug. 1 in St. Croix county (Faanes). Present throughout the period in Burnett county (Norling). Observed Oct. 11 to Oct. 18 in Marathon county (Luepkes).

**Short-eared Owl:** Only five reports. Present Aug. 1, Racine (Erickson). Other reports all in November. Earliest Nov. 8, Waukesha (Bintz's). Latest Nov. 27, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**Saw-whet Owl:** All five reports in October and from the north. Earliest Oct. 5, Brown county (Columban and Cleary). Latest Oct. 28, Brown county (Wierzbicki). The other three reports from Barron, Douglas, and Waukesha counties.

**Whip-poor-will:** Latest record Sept. 16, Crex Meadows (Faanes).

**Nighthawk:** Flocks noted Aug. 21, Racine (Erickson), Aug. 24, Manitowoc county (Albrecht), Sept. 1, Washington Island in Door county (Erickson), and Sept. 16, Milwaukee (Bastens). Last seen Oct. 30, Milwaukee (Bastens).

**Chimney Swift:** Last reported Oct. 3 from Racine (Erickson).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Peak of 10 seen Sept. 13 in Racine (Tessen). Last reported Oct. 3, Brown county (Columban and Cleary).

**Belted Kingfisher:** Young birds still in the nest Aug. 28, Price county (Hardy). Present into December in twenty two counties.

**Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker:** Fifty reports. Peaks from late August in Marathon, Milwaukee, and Wood counties. Peaks Sept. 7, Price county, 200 (Hardy), and Sept. 16, Crex Meadows, 200 (Faanes). Last seen Nov. 28, Dane county (Ashman).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Twenty three reports. A high of 9 was reported Nov. 25 from Pierce county (Faanes).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Late north, Nov. 24, Pierce county (Norling). Late south, Nov. 26, Racine county (Erickson).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Thirty five counties reporting, as far north as Burnett and Price counties. Reported as late as Oct. 14, Price county (Hardy).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Reported from twenty counties. Peak on Oct. 1, Milwaukee (Epstein). Latest, Oct. 28, Brown county (Columban and Cleary); Nov. 1, Vernon county (Weber).

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Reported from thirty eight counties, eighteen north of Highway 10, twenty south.

**Downy Woodpecker:** Reported from forty one counties, eighteen north of Highway 10, twenty three south.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** One report: Aug. 19, Oneida county on Thunder Lake west of Three Lakes, seen by Tessen.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Thirty six reports. Peaks in August on the 13th, St. Croix (Faanes); the 24th, Marathon (Luepkes); and the 26th, Marinette (Lindberg). Last reported Oct. 8, Manitowoc (Albrecht).

**Western Kingbird:** One report of 4 birds Aug. 16 to Sept. 1 from St. Croix county (Faanes).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Thirty reports. Latest Oct. 25, Brown county (Columban and Cleary).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Fourteen October reports. Latest Oct. 23, Dane county (Ashman); Oct. 25, Brown county, where Columban and Cleary report numbers down; Oct. 28, Manitowoc (Albrecht).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Eight reports. Departed Washington Island in Door county Aug. 31 (Erickson), and Price county Aug. 9 (Hardy). Departed Brown county Sept. 3 (Columban and Cleary), and Waukesha county Sept. 8 (Bintz's).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Present Aug. 1 in Waukesha county (Bielefeldt). Arrived Aug. 14 in Racine county (Erickson). Departed Jefferson county Sept. 22 (Stelier).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Five reports. Latest Oct. 12, Chippewa county (Robbins).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Only four reports. Present Waukesha county by Aug. 1 (Bielefeldt, Stelier), and Pierce county (Faanes). Reported Aug. 12, Marathon county (Baldassarre and Krings).

**Least Flycatcher:** Reported present Aug. 1 from fifteen locations. Arrived Aug. 11 in Racine county (Erickson). Reported late north Oct. 4, Marinette county (Lindberg), and late south, Sept. 26, Rock county (Brakefields).

**Eastern Pewee:** Reported present Aug. 1 from twenty two locations. Departed Washington Island in Door county Sept. 1 (Erickson), and Jefferson and Vernon counties Sept. 27 (Tessen, Weber). Last report Oct. 5, Racine (Erickson).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Six reports. Latest Sept. 22, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Tree Swallow:** The following peaks: Aug. 3, Oneida county, 400 (Engbergs); Sept. 1, St. Croix county, 3000 (Faanes), and Brown county, 3000 (Columban and Cleary); Sept. 18, Waukesha county, 1000 (Bielefeldt); Sept. 15, Pierce county, 5000 (Faanes); Sept. 21, Fond du Lac county, 1000 (Knuth). Late date, Oct. 27, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**Bank Swallow:** Last seen, Sept. 20, Brown county (Columban and Cleary).

**Rough-winged Swallow:** Last seen Sept. 25, Pierce county (Faanes).

**Barn Swallow:** Present Aug. 1 at twenty three locations. Reported very late, Oct. 29, from Waukesha county by Tom and Carol Bintz.

**Cliff Swallow:** Present Aug. 1 at ten locations. Departed latest from St. Croix county on Sept. 25 (Faanes).

**Purple Martin:** Peak of 500 on Aug. 13, Brown county (Tessen). Latest date seen, Sept. 16, Crex Meadows (Faanes).

**Gray Jay:** Present throughout the period in Vilas, Price and Fond du Lac counties. Reported Aug. 19, Oneida county (Tessen); Aug. 14, Forest county (Soulen).

**Blue Jay:** Ubiquitous. Peaks noted Aug. 18, Brown county, 70 (Columban and Cleary); Sept. 22, Waukesha county, 2100 (Bielefeldt); Nov. 30, Burnett county, 30 (Norling).

**Raven:** Reported from the northern tier of counties from northeast to northwest, but also from Wood county.

**Crow:** Fifty seven reports statewide.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Fifty one reports statewide. Listed as departing from Marathon county Nov. 22 (Luepkes), Clark county Nov. 23 (Luepkes), and Milwaukee Nov. 25 (Epstein).

**Boreal Chickadee:** Three reports. Aug. 14, Forest county, 5 (Soulen); Aug. 19, Oneida county (Tessen); Nov. 23, Burnett county (Norling).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Only five reports. Reported from St. Croix and Pierce counties by Faanes. Reported up in numbers in Vernon county (Weber). Last report Oct. 19, Rock county (Brakefields).

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Forty five reports statewide.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Forty one reports. Earliest south, Sept. 5, Milwaukee (Bastens). Latest south, Nov. 21, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Brown Creeper:** No reports in August. Reported in September from Barron, Eau Claire, and Waukesha counties. Peaks at Milwaukee on Oct. 7 (Bastens), and Oct. 9 (Epstein). Reported from Burnett county Nov. 26 (Norling).

**Northern House Wren:** Last seen Oct. 25, Buffalo county (Faanes).



- Winter Wren:** First report from the south Sept. 13, Winnebago county (Stelier). Last report north, Oct. 11, Ozaukee county (Tessen). Last report anywhere. Nov. 18, Milwaukee (Epstein).
- Carolina Wren:** Two reports. Nov. 2, Dane county (Ashman). Nov. 18, Vilas county (Arlo Meyer, fide Linda Thomas).
- Marsh Wren:** Reported in August from four locations. Last seen Oct. 9, Milwaukee (Epstein).
- Sedge Wren:** Two late reports: Oct. 8, Waukesha (Bielefeldt), and Oct. 11, Barron county (Faanes).
- Catbird:** Departed Barron county Sept. 30 (Goff). Departed most locations in October. Latest seen Oct. 11, Dane county (Ashman).
- Brown Thrasher:** Four October reports. The latest Oct. 26, Marathon county (Luepkes).
- Curve-billed Thrasher:** Still at Buffalo City at the Maiers' feeder Nov. 1 (Robbins). For the fate of this bird see "By the Wayside."
- American Robin:** A peak of 530 was seen at Racine Sept. 20 (Erickson). Reported from Fond du Lac, Marathon, and Taylor counties on Nov. 22, and from Milwaukee and Shawano counties Nov. 25. Last report Nov. 27, Rock county (Brakefields).
- Wood Thrush:** Faanes thought numbers way down in Pierce county, and Strehlow reported them absent from Whitnall Park in Milwaukee. Last reported Oct. 28, Sheboygan county (Kuhn).
- Hermit Thrush:** Latest departure Oct. 21, Dane county (Ashman). Three November reports from Milwaukee, and wintered at a feeder in Racine (Erickson).
- Swainson's Thrush:** Early reports: Aug. 13, Brown county (Wierzbicki), and Aug. 29, Milwaukee (Epstein). A peak of Aug. 30-31 in several counties, then again on Sept. 23 in Milwaukee when the Bastens observed 50. Late north Sept. 30, Iron county (Butterbrodt). Late south Oct. 23, Milwaukee (Bastens).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Earliest arrival Sept. 2, Brown county (Wierzbicki). Peaks from several counties Sept. 10, 11, 12 and October 1, 2. Last seen Nov. 13, Racine county (Erickson).
- Veery:** Early Aug. 15, Brown county (Wierzbicki). Late Oct. 3, Racine (Erickson).
- Eastern Bluebird:** Thought to be down in numbers in Brown and Waukesha counties, but up in Marathon county. Seven October reports distributed statewide. Latest, Nov. 11, Dane county (Ashman).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** One report, an immature bird Aug. 11 in Price county (Hardy).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** North, one report from Pierce county, no date (Faanes). Seen Aug. 30, Dane county (Tessen). Late report Nov. 18, Madison (Joseph Hickeys, Hilsenhoff).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Seen earliest in the south on Aug. 30, Dane county (Tessen). Peak numbers were reported Oct. 6, Vernon and Oct. 20, Marathon counties.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Reported Aug. 9 from Price county (Hardy). Arrivals south ranged between Sept. 14 and 22. Last seen Nov. 28, Winnebago county (Natzke).
- Water Pipit:** Twenty two reports of this uncommon migrant. Earliest Sept. 13, Milwaukee (Tessen, Epstein). Ten October reports. Last seen Nov. 22, Brown county (Trick).
- Bohemian Waxwing:** One report, Nov. 14, Price county (Vincent).
- Cedar Waxwing:** Present Aug. 1 at fifteen locations. Peaks reported Aug. 13 (Milwaukee), Sept. 29 (Rock county), Oct. 6 (Milwaukee), and Oct. 29 (Brown county). Latest report Nov. 25, Milwaukee (Epstein).
- Northern Shrike:** Thirteen reports. Earliest Oct. 15, Brown county (Wierzbicki). Eight November reports. Latest, Nov. 25, Winnebago county (Natzke).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Not reported!
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Present August 1 in six counties both north and south, though furthest south was Vernon county. Average departure date was Sept. 17. Latest date seen was from the north: Sept. 28, Pierce county (Faanes).
- Solitary Vireo:** First migrant was seen in Chippewa county on Sept. 1 by Sam Robbins. There were two departure dates on Oct. 18, one from Milwaukee and one from Brown county. A very late departure date was in Waukesha on Oct. 28 by Bielefeldt.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Of six departure dates in October the average was Oct. 4. The latest from Milwaukee's Whitnall Park on Oct. 10 was by Strehlow, and Chippewa Falls by Kemper.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Present Aug. 2 on Washington Island in Door county (Erickson). Of twenty one reports, thirteen were in September. Peaks Sept. 21 in Eau Claire (Kemper). Last seen Oct. 10, Milwaukee (Strehlow).

**Warbling Vireo:** Present Aug. 1 in six counties. Last seen on Sept. 23 in Barron county by Cleary and Brother Columban.

**Black and White Warbler:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Door (Washington Island), and Portage counties. Last seen Oct. 13, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Present August 1 in Pierce and St. Croix counties. Only other report Sept. 15, Milwaukee (Strehlow).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Last seen Sept. 24, Barron county (Goff).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Sept. 9, Milwaukee (Strehlow).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Early Aug. 12, Outagamie county (Tessen). Late Nov. 24, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Early Sept. 4, Milwaukee (Strehlow). Late Oct. 21, Barron county (Goff).

**Nashville Warbler:** Last seen Oct. 28, Vernon county (Weber).

**Parula Warbler:** Late date Oct. 11, Racine (Miller, fide Erickson).

**Yellow Warbler:** One October date, Oct. 2, Milwaukee (Strehlow).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Latest, Nov. 6, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Cape May Warbler:** Latest, Oct. 6, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Eight reports of this uncommon migrant. Latest Oct. 18, Milwaukee (Bastens).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Present August 1 in Barron and Marinette counties. Five November reports. Latest Nov. 30, Pierce county (Faanes).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Reported present August 1 only from Washington Island. Latest, Oct. 2, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Three reports. Latest Aug. 24, Washington Island, Door county (Erickson).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Latest, Oct. 9, Vernon county (Weber).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Latest, Oct. 24, Brown county (Wierzbicki).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Early date, Aug. 11, Racine (Erickson). Latest dates, Oct. 6, Milwaukee (Gustafson), and Oct. 10 Eau Claire (Kemper).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Early north, Aug. 9, Washington Island in Door county (Erickson). Early south, Aug. 29, Milwaukee (Epstein). Peak south, Sept. 14, Racine, 23 (Erickson). Last date, south, Oct. 6, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Pine Warbler:** Arrived north and central, Aug. 25, Barron and Juneau counties. Peaks Sept. 6, 7, Brown and Racine counties. Last seen Oct. 6, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Palm Warbler:** Migrated in large numbers during September, peak numbers passing Sept. 19-22. Last seen Oct. 26, Taylor county (Fadness).

**Ovenbird:** Reported present Aug. 1 from eight counties. Arrived Aug. 6, Milwaukee (Epstein). Peak Sept. 21, Milwaukee (Epstein), and last seen Oct. 10, Eau Claire (Kemper).

**Northern Waterthrush:** Present August 1 on Washington Island in Door county (Erickson). Last seen Oct. 9, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Reported present August 1 in Pierce county by Faanes. The only report!

**Connecticut Warbler:** Present August 1 in Price county and numbers up. Last seen Oct. 9 in Vernon county by Weber.

**Mourning Warbler:** Reported present August 1 from three counties including Chippewa. Last seen Sept. 21, Eau Claire (Kemper).

**Yellowthroat:** Ubiquitous. Last seen north, Oct. 28, Barron county (Faanes), and south, Oct. 29, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Hooded Warbler:** Nest discovered Sept. 1 at Woodland Dunes (Brouhard, Steffen). One male seen the same day.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Arrived Aug. 22, Adams county (Robbins). Departed last Oct. 10, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**Canada Warbler:** Present August 1 in Barron, Door, and Price counties. Early south, Aug. 18, Milwaukee (Epstein). Last seen Sept. 19, Waukesha (Bielefeldt), Sept. 21, Eau Claire (Kemper).

**American Redstart:** Tarried until Oct. 10 in two counties, Barron (Faanes) and Brown (Wierzbicki).

**Bobolink:** Reported present August 1 in thirteen counties. Peaks observed Aug. 23, Clark county, 100 + (Luepkes), and Aug. 25, Vernon county, 150 (Weber). Last seen Sept. 22, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Last seen Nov. 19, Manitowoc county (Albrecht).

**Western Meadowlark:** Last seen Nov. 24, Pierce county (Norling).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last seen Oct. 12, Brown county (Cleary and Columban).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Faanes reported 75,000 in Pierce county on Sept. 25, and 10,000 in Barron county on Sept. 28.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Departed Vilas county Aug. 16 (Thomas), and Jefferson county Oct. 10 (Burbach).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Present August 1 in Pierce county (Faanes). Peak of 5000 seen Oct. 12 at Crex Meadows by Faanes. Last seen Nov. 30, Rock county (Brakefields).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Last seen Nov. 8, Dodge county (Tessen).

**Common Grackle:** Present into December in eight counties.

**Cowbird:** Present into December in three counties.

**Scarlet Tanager:** Two November reports: Nov. 1, Racine county (Erickson), and Nov. 10, Milwaukee (Bastens).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Late report north Sept. 17, Iron county (Butterbrodt), south Oct. 17, Rock county (Brakefields).

**Indigo Bunting:** Last seen Oct. 6, Dane county (Ashman).

**Dickcissel:** Three reports. Present August 1 in Barron and St. Croix counties. Reported Aug. 21, Rock county (Mahlum).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Present only in Price county August 1. Present into December in fifteen counties.

**Purple Finch:** Present into December in nine counties.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Seven reports, mostly northwest and central. Earliest Oct. 27, Portage county (Baldassarre and Krings).

**Common Redpoll:** Earliest arrival Oct. 26, Brown county (Cleary and Columban).

**Pine Siskin:** Earliest Sept. 8, Racine county (Erickson). Peak number, 150 in Ozaukee county on Nov. 15 (Tessen).

**American Goldfinch:** Present into December in eighteen counties.

**Red Crossbill:** Fourteen reports. Earliest Aug. 1 Dane county (Barger). Present into December in Barron, Pierce, and Portage counties.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Three reports the latter half of November from Brown, Chippewa, and Pierce counties.

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** Last seen Oct. 15, Vernon county (Weber).

**Lark Bunting:** Sept. 5, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Last seen Nov. 12, Racine county (Erickson).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Last seen Sept. 16, Crex Meadows (Faanes).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Two reports: Sept. 6, 7, Milwaukee county (Bastens); Sept. 20, Washington Island in Door county (Erickson).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Reported present August 1 in Barron, St. Croix, and Waukesha counties. Last seen Sept. 26, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Aug. 13, Crex Meadows (Baptist); Sept. 6, 7, Milwaukee (Bastens). Sept. 21, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Last seen Oct. 28, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**Northern (Slate colored) Junco:** Earliest Sept. 2, Brown county (Cleary, Columban), and Marinette county (Lindberg). Several peaks around Oct. 26, when Ken and Janice Luepke reported 1480 from Marathon county.

**Northern (Oregon) Junco:** Two reports: Oct. 6, Waukesha county (Bintzes); Oct. 25, Rock county (Brakefields).

**Tree Sparrow:** Arrived earliest Sept. 21, Washington Island in Door county (Erickson). Not reported in Portage, Dane, and Columbia counties until the first week in November.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Last seen Nov. 8, Waukesha county (Bielefeldt).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Reported present August 1 from four northwestern counties. Last seen Oct. 24, Waukesha county (Bintzes).

**Field Sparrow:** Last seen Nov. 8, Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**Harris Sparrow:** Early and late north, Sept. 23 to Oct. 20, Barron county (Goff).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Earliest Sept. 15, Barron county (Goff). Latest Oct. 28, Milwaukee (Epstein, Strehlow), and Waukesha (Bielefeldt).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Present August 1 on Washington Island in Door county (Erickson). Arrived Sept. 2, Milwaukee (Epstein). Present Nov. 30, Waukesha county (Stelier).

**Fox Sparrow:** Arrived Sept. 20, Barron county (Faanes). Departed Fond du Lac county Nov. 22 (Knuth). Present into December at a feeder in Price county (Chipman).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Present August 1 in Barron county (Goff). Arrivals range across the state during September. Last seen Nov. 6, Milwaukee (Gustafson).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Present August 1 in fourteen counties throughout the state. Late reports: Nov. 16, Burnett county (Norling), and Nov. 18, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Song Sparrow:** Three November reports: Nov. 8, Winnebago county (Stelier); Nov. 16, Burnett county (Norling); Nov. 25, Milwaukee (Epstein).

**Lapland Longspur:** Early Sept. 13, Milwaukee (Tessen); Sept. 28, Barron (Faanes), and Douglas (Robbins). Present into December in Brown and St. Croix counties.

**Snow Bunting:** Early north Oct. 10, Burnett county (Norling). Early south Oct. 27, Milwaukee, 20 (Bastens). Peaks fell middle to late November. Nov. 25, Rock county, 50 (Brakefields), and Shawano county, 200 (Hafemann).

#### Contributor's of Field Notes

Marjorie Albrecht, Philip Ashman, Guy Baldassarre, Thomas R. Baptist, N.R. Barger, Elmer and Lorna Basten, Dan Berger, John Bielefeldt, Tom and Carol Bintz, Mr. and Mrs. John Brakefield, Bernice Brouhard, Jeanine Burbach, Mary Butterbrodt, Ken Butts, Irma Chipman, Edwin Cleary, Brother Columban, Paul and Louise Engberg, Eric Epstein, Tom Erdman, Louise Erickson, James Evrard, Craig Faanes, John and Lois Fadness, Bob Fiehwig, Don Follen, Caroline Gertenbach, Alta Goff, Dennis Gustafson, Mary Hafeman, Maybelle Hardy, Mrs. Francis Harmer, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hickey, William Hilsenhoff, Ron Hoffman, Charles Kemper, Rockne Knuth, Steve Krings, Eleanor Kuhn, Fred Leshar, Harold Lindberg, Ken and Janice Luepke, Mrs. Joseph Mahlum, Arlo Meyer, Michael Miller, Mrs. Edward Natzke, Wayne Norling, Bruce Parfitt, Ed Prins, George Prins, Jean Reid, Sam Robbins, Thomas Sanford, Clark Schultz, William A. Smith, Art Sonneland, Tom Soulen, Cathyrn Stelier, Mardi Stoffel, Elmer Strehlow, Dennis Strom, Daryl Tessen, Linda Thomas, Joel Trick, Terry Valen, Alice Vincent, Viratine Weber, Melvin Wierzbicki.





## By the Wayside...

Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia*, Juneau landfill, as close as 20', observed for a total of about 90 minutes. Seen initially about 10:30 a.m., again in mid-afternoon with Mary Donald and the Bastens. 9 x 36 glasses. As I approached a jumble of old construction timbers north of the landfill building, a medium sized, long-legged brown bird flushed and perched on a mound of sand 30' from me. As it landed and turned to face me, I was quite amazed, realizing that I was confronting my first Burrowing Owl. The 2 large yellow eyes on the front of the large head immediately identified the bird as an owl. It seemed to be roughly Screech Owl size, perhaps a bit larger, with very long legs and a stubby tail (the end of which was several inches off the ground as the bird stood). Prominent white eyebrow over both eyes. Facial discs grayish, poorly defined. Top and back of head brown with small whitish flecks. Back and wings brown with white spotting. Tail very short, brownish, barred. No ear tufts. Upper breasts brownish with white blotches (Maybe vise versa), lower breasts, belly regions white with distinct brown barring. Legs, undertails coverts white, a little buff here and there mixed with the white. When the bird raised its head, a very conspicuous white collar (neck region - front) become visible. A dark line bisected this collar horizontally. The owl bobbed its head quite a bit when excited, emitted some odd clucking noise. Several shorts flights were observed (longest around 200'). Flight was fast, low to the ground, direct. The bird seemed to be in good health, strong flier, very alert. Nowhere near size of Short-eared Owl - barred not streaked underparts, no buff patch on upper wing, not buffy, much longer legs proportionately, different posture. Larger size, barring, long legs, habitat differentiate from Saw-Whet. Lack of tufts long legs, barring, habitat etc. from Screech Owl. Whitish bristles around sides of bill. If the bird did not desert the area on this day, I believe now that it may have taken refuge in one of several 12" diameter rusty pipes among several of the rubble piles. A large pile of timbers in the area of the fill adjacent to the new boat docks may have provided shelter as the weather turned miserable and stayed that way for several days. Eric Epstein, 4737 N. Wilshire Rd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta*, Juneau landfill 15', unobstructed view of 1 minute, 9 x glass.

Roughly the size of the Savannah Sparrows present all over the landfill of this time. What struck me first was the very different behavior. This creature behaved more like a rodent than a bird, scurrying about under a cover of 2"-3" high vegetation. My only clear view was of the head and upperback. The back was dark brown with sharp white streakings.

Typical, dark, sparrow bill. Crown was dark brown, unpatterned. Dark charcoal gray triangular ear patch. This patch was bordered on all 3 sides with a rich mustard yellow-orange, creating a very striking effect. The birds elusiveness then got the best of me and I failed in a prolonged attempt to relocate it. As this was my first experience with the species, I would not have judged this partial view as a complete enough description to pass on to you had I not found another Sharptail in the northwestern section of the fill (sparser vegetation) on 9/21. Behavior pattern was the same, the bird flying only when extremely hard pressed, and then only for a few yards. At times I was able to approach so close that I was unable to focus my binoculars. The bird was masterful in its ability to keep obstructing leaves, stems, rock rubble, trash and clods of earth between me and itself, but eventually I was rewarded with several clear views, noting features from all angles. Again, this bird had a beautiful head, solid dark crown, bright ochre bordered grayish ear patch. Again the back was dark with a few sharp white stripes. Breast and flanks was streaked, but not sharply. Upper breast dull buff yellow. No wingbars were noted. 'Sharp' tail was evident as the bird had to cross open areas between clumps of vegetation. (7 x 35 glasses used). Eric Epstein, 4737 N. Wilshire Rd., Milwaukee 53211

### **An Ancient Murrelet in Barron County**

On 12 November, 1975, an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), was found dead five miles west of Barron, Barron County, by Jerry Perkins, a fisheries biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It was originally identified as a Dovekie (*Alle alle*). The bird was brought to me for identification on 19 November, 1975.

This is the fourth specimen and fifth record of the Ancient Murrelet for Wisconsin. G.B. Sennett (*Auk* 1 (1): 98-100, 1884) described the first specimen, one shot by G.E. Gordon during October, 1882, in Jefferson County. On 9 December, 1940, H.L. VanNess identified one caught near his home in Columbia County (*Passenger Pigeon* 3(11): 102, 1941). The third record came from near Ladysmith in Rusk County, on 10 November, 1964. (*Passenger Pigeon* 27(4): 146-147, 1965). This bird was also originally identified as a Dovekie. The fourth record came from Lake Monona in Dane County, on 2 April, 1967 (*Passenger Pigeon* 30(2): 99, 1968).

The bird from Barron County has been deposited in the Museum of the Biology Department at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls.

Craig Faanes—Department of Biology

### **White Pelicans Observed Window Peeping; A Hack Dog**

"In talking to local residents, I found that the birds' behavior was weird! One bird climbed two flights of stairs (on outside of house), and peered through the window at the people inside. Another pelican walked across a highway and up to a dog kennel. It then stuck its beak inside the fence and started harassing the dog!"

Craig Faanes, Department of Biology  
University of Wisconsin, River Falls  
54022



Yellow Rail, **Coturnicops noveboracensis**. On Sept. 6, 1975 while Lisa Decker, Mary Donald and I were walking the Juneau landfill, a bird was observed flying for a short distance and then landing. The peculiar thing was that whenever it landed it invariably landed on its back or head. Also distinctive when it flew was the white wing patches and the buffy coloration on the breast. The bird was chased and finally flushed from amongst the weeds and grass. After several flushings, we were able to approach the bird very closely, at which time we were able to observe its small size, thick yellow bill, striped back and the buffy breast. The bird was observed for over 10 minutes, standing crouched and flying (and also its unique landing, which 90% of the time was on its back or head).

Daryl Tessen  
2 Pioneer Park Place  
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Hooded Warbler, **Wilsonia citrina**, at Woodland Dunes

The Hooded Warbler nest has been found! It is within 50 feet of our building and approximately 25-30 feet from the net that caught the male on July 28, 1975.

Five minutes after Jim Steffen and I found the nest (Sept. 1, 1975), we came upon another adult male Hooded Warbler in a different net! This bird was netted within 40 feet of where we netted a female in 1971.

Bernie Brouchard  
Woodland Dunes  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Townsend's Solitaire, **Myadestes townsendi**, immature. As we were eating breakfast, two birds landed on the roof of our bird feeder. One was a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, **Pheucticus ludovicianus**, but the other was a stranger to us. Slightly shorter than the grosbeak, white outer tail feathers, white eye ring, gray but very speckled with white, white splotches on wings, not wing bars just patches. Tail quite slender like a Towhee's, bill about the length of a Catbird's. Last spring I had seen a bird twice that I thought to be an adult Townsend's Solitaire. It was walking along the edge of the road. First thought was of a Catbird, then I noticed the white outer tail feathers and wing spots. It flew up into a clump of Hazelnut brush and was feeding like a flycatcher.

Maybelle Hardy  
Rt. 1 Box 263  
Pine Creek Rd.  
Park Falls, WI 54552

Groove-Billed Ani, **Crotophaga sulcirostris**, Wisconsin's fifth record. Found Oct. 8, 1975 by a student Amy Klenitz on her way to school. Bird was an adult female. Had 3 grams of partially digested grasshoppers in stomach. Found fresh-dead, a road kill. Bird was identified by Dr. Robert Cook and is now in the Richter Collection of U.W. - Green Bay Museum.

Tom Erdman  
Box 631  
Green Bay, WI 54301

Greater Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*, 1st year bird - Oct. 12, 1975. Observed at 13:54 at Little Suamico Ornithological Station by T. Erdman and John Jacobs. Wind was SE-10-15, with occasional rain, 52°. We were watching a movement of Herring Gulls, *Larus argentatus*, along the bay shore when a large mature gull appeared and began chasing an adult Herring Gull. We observed both with binoculars for about 45 seconds. The Black-backed Gull made three passes at the Herring Gull turning this time. We could not tell what the Herring Gull had, to incite the chase by the larger gull. All field marks were noted.

Tom Erdman  
Box 631  
Green Bay, WI 54301

## Arctic Terns in Wisconsin

by Thomas C. Erdman

Richter Collection of Natural History  
UW - Green Bay E.S. 307  
Green Bay, WI 54302

The occurrence of Arctic Terns, *Sterna paradisaea*, in Wisconsin has been a long-standing question for state ornithologists. It was once included on state lists, but subsequently dropped when no valid specimen could be found. It is an extremely difficult species to recognize in the field without a direct comparison of other members of the genus *Sterna*. Confusion between Arctic Terns, Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, and Forster's Terns, *Sterna forsteri*, appears to have been common and wide spread in the late 1800's.

Kumlien and Hollister reported Arctic Terns nesting on Green Bay in 1879 and at Lake Koshkonong in June 1871. They reportedly collected both eggs and adults. However A.W. Schorger in his 1951 revision of their "BIRDS of WISCONSIN" concluded that the species should be dropped from the list as no specimen could be found (1). W.B. Barrows in his "MICHIGAN BIRD LIFE" 1912, wrote that Arctic Terns had been reported in regions on both sides of Michigan and stated "there is no reason why it should not occur here in some numbers during migration" (2). He however refers to the dubious Kumlien and Hollister report as evidence for the species presence along Lake Michigan. Arctic Terns are not found on the current Michigan list compiled by Zimmerman and Van Tyne in 1959 (3). T.S. Roberts excluded Arctic Terns from his "BIRDS of MINNESOTA" in 1932 (4). Arctic Terns are circumpolar and nest across arctic and subarctic Canada. In interior Canada they nest as far south as the southern shores of James Bay in northern Ontario and Quebec provinces (5). It is widely accepted that the Arctic Terns make their dramatic migrations from the Arctic to the Antarctic by passage far off shore. F. Salomonsen, 1967, concluded that most Arctic Terns breeding in Greenland, eastern Canada, and northeastern United States migrated across the north Atlantic to western Europe before heading south to the coastal waters of west Africa and eventually across the Antarctic Ocean (6). For instance a nestling Arctic Tern banded on Devon Island, NWT., Canada on August 7, 1967 was recovered at Bourgneuf

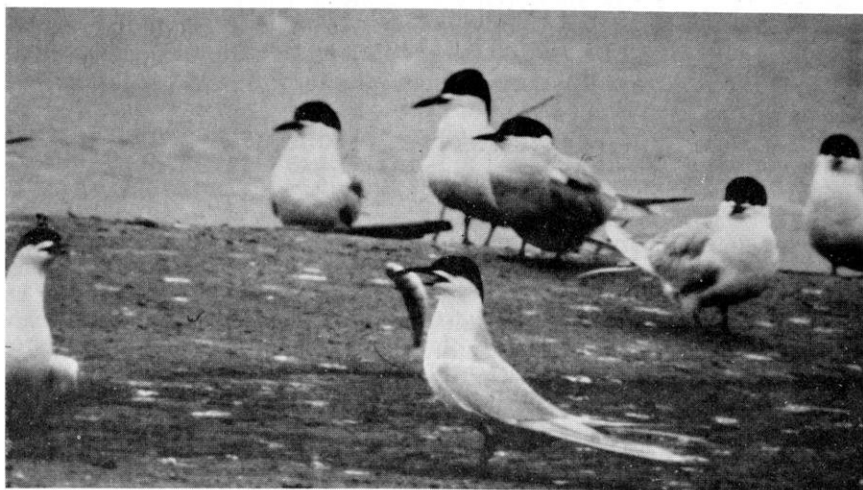
Bay, France on October 4 of the same year (7). Another banded July 23, 1928 was retaken at Natel, South Africa on Nov. 14, 1928 (5).

Several times in past years I have observed terns on Green Bay, both in migration and occasionally during the summer which I felt could be Arctic Terns. However the problems of positive identification precluded any reporting of these birds. Both Common and Forster's Terns nest on Green Bay. Although most of the colonies are generally only one species we do have a few stray Commons nesting in with the Forster's. Another problem is the non-breeding subadults which hang about the colonies. These individuals are seldom in perfect plumage and are sometimes quite confusing. The documentation of Arctic Terns at Duluth, Minnesota in late May 1973 by Janet Green surprised many people - but not me (8). Last winter in correspondence with Sam Robbins I learned that Wisconsin still did not have a specimen or photograph of an Arctic Tern and therefore was not on the state list. I then decided that a thorough search of my slides and photographs accumulated over the past fifteen years of work on Green Bay was in order to determine if some proof could be found.

Much to my surprise I found that proof! On the morning of April 25, 1965 I was attempting to photograph a flock of terns at the mouth of the Fox River at Green Bay. Most of the terns were Forster's which were already engaged in courtship feeding, an initial stage of pair bonding. However because of the intermittent rain and strong north winds, activity was inhibited. Most of the flock of fifty to sixty birds sat quietly preening and resting. The poor conditions also resulted in the slides being underexposed (dark) and of poor quality. They were never projected or carefully scrutinized. Only two were kept of the dozen or so taken. Now careful examination of the two slides revealed at least two probable Arctic Terns. The birds were darker and somewhat squat in appearance. A conspicuous white eye line contrasted with the grey of the underparts. The bill was shorter and very dark in comparison to the Forster's. The tarsi were also darker and shorter. The bill of the Arctic Tern becomes black or blackish in the winter while the bills of the Common and Forster's Terns do not. (9, 5). These birds apparently had not yet acquired the dark blood red bills typical of breeding adults.

Chandler Robbins suggested the slides be sent to Dr. George E. Watson, curator, Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian Institution, for expert persual. Dr. Watson was kind enough to examine the slides and in a letter of April 15, 1976 indicated that the squat dark terns were probably Arctic Terns and that we had "a very good case for suggesting that Arctic Terns be included in the avifauna of Wisconsin".

This spring on Green Bay two Arctic Terns were observed on May 8th. The birds were part of a flock of one hundred and fifty plus Common Terns. I counted over six hundred terns on Green Bay and Jim Steffen reported over twenty-five hundred sitting on the breakwater at Manitowac on Lake Michigan. These birds were all migrants. The total population of Common Terns nesting on all of Green Bay is less than four hundred pair of which one hundred and thirty-five are in Wisconsin waters. Arctic Terns should be watched for in the large flocks of terns which pass through the state in spring. Mixed colonies of Common and Arctic Terns have been reported in the James Bay area so a few Arctic Terns may be expected to follow the Common Terns in migration.



**Forster's and Arctic Terns** - Mouth of Fox River, Green Bay, Brown County. April 25, 1965 by T.C. Erdman.

### References

1. Kumlien, L., N. Hollister. 1951. **The Birds of Wisconsin** A.W. Schorger revision, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Madison, Wisconsin. 9.
2. Barrows, W.B., 1912. **Michigan Bird Life**. Michigan Agricultural College. 62-63.
3. Zimmerman, D.A. and J. Van Tyne. 1959. **A Distributional Checklist of the Birds of Michigan**. Univ. Michigan Museum Zoological, Occas. Papers No. 608
4. Roberts, T.S. 1955. **The Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States**. The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
5. Godfrey, W.E. 1966. **The Birds of Canada**. National Museum of Canada Bull. No. 203 (Biol. Ser. 73) 190-191
6. Salomonsen, F. 1967. Migratory Movements of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*, Pontoppidan) in the Southern Ocean. Det. Kgl. Danske Vid. Selsk., Biol. Medd., 24, 1.
7. Recent Banding Recoveries of Ontario Birds. 1971. Ontario Bird Banding (2) 1971. 34-43
8. American Birds. Vol. 27, No. 4, August 1973. 776
9. Hollom, P.A.D. 1962. **The Popular Handbook of British Birds**. H.F. and G. Witherby, Great Britain. 280-284

## Bird Study 85 Years Ago

Submitted by Walter E. Scott

Reprinted from the *Wisconsin Naturalist*, August 19, 1890, p. 178

### An Oological Half Holiday

by C.K.

(full name unknown--not Charles Kemper)

Having been informed by a young friend, of a colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, located in a marsh on the edge of the Yahara river, I made arrangements to go out with him this spring.

We set June 5th as the day, and four P.M., as the hour for starting. The weather was cold and cloudy, threatening a storm, but as both were enthusiasts we determined to start.

We procured a boat, and at the appointed hour left office cares behind and proceeded up the river. As we went along we stopped very often to investigate some nest of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, or the Red-winged Black-bird, but found nothing there. After going about two miles, and while talking of various birds, we drifted into a rambling discussion of the Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), and I was remarking that I should like to find a set of their eggs, as I had no good set from Wisconsin, when we spied one of the subjects of our conversation in a small tree on the bank of the river; after watching her a moment she flew into an old dead tree, that had blown into the river; and there I saw her nest. We were soon on the spot, and collected a fine set of four eggs. The nest was made of roots, fibers and grasses, all interwoven, and was about three feet above the water, on the trunk of the fallen tree.

The eggs are beauties, being of a light cream color, boldly spotted and blotched with dark reddish-brown, the marks being thicker near the larger end. A little farther along we entered the marsh. We had entered it when we found a nest of the Least Bitten (*Botaurus exilis*)<sup>1</sup> containing four eggs.

This was a very interesting nest, being made of coarse reed stalks placed in the reeds just above the surface of the water, and some of the reeds being woven into a slight canopy over the top. The eggs are of a very light green, or bluish white color, elliptical in shape, and form a very interesting addition to a cabinet. We also took a set of two eggs of the same kind.

Almost by the side of the Bittens' nest was a nest of the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) containing four eggs. The nest was nearly a foot deep, outside measurement, and five inches in diameter, made of dried grass, and slung between some tall reeds.

The eggs are of a light green color, thickly spotted with fruit brown. They are rather more elongated than the eggs of the Red-wing. We also took another set of three Yellow-heads, and came across dozens of nests containing young birds.

Our next find was a nest and four eggs of the Red-winged Black-bird (*Agelaius Phoeniceus*). These of course, need no description. We found innumerable nests, but contented ourselves with two sets of four eggs each.

1. Now *Ixobrychus exilis*

Going a little farther, I spied a nest of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*).<sup>2</sup> We took of this species four sets, as follows: one of five, two of seven, one of eight. The nests were large platforms made of reeds, and situated as a general thing just above the surface of the water, though we found one nest fully three feet above the surface, in the tall reeds.

By this time it was raining considerable, but we were not to be turned back. We were having "a streak of luck," and determined to make the most of it. It was getting dark, too, but we were so excited that we could see nests fully as well as though it was light—better in fact, as we saw many nests at a short distance in which we could count the eggs, and determine the species, that faded into nothingness when we arrived at the spot. And whenever we saw a little moss hanging from a barren reed in the water, we were sure it was some rare bird, and that we were just on the eve of discovering its home, and adding its treasures to our own.

A little farther along, and up flew a Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*),<sup>3</sup> and looking down to where I had placed my oar (we were poling the boat), I found I had almost planted it in the midst of seven as pretty eggs as one could wish to see. They are of a light cream or buff color, spotted with lilac and reddish brown—the spots being thickest at the largest end. The nest was a lot of grass and reeds, placed on a grassy bog, just above the water.

Our next nest was a Coots' (*Fulica americana*). This was merely a heap of decaying vegetation, slightly hollowed, and contained two eggs, of a clay color, thickly spotted with minute dark specks. This was evidently an incomplete set, but "all was fish that came to our net" that night.

A little farther, and we had four eggs of the Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*)<sup>4</sup> before us. The nest was almost identical with that of the Coot. The eggs look about as much like lumps of dirt as anything else, while broken egg shells, told the tale of young Grebes not far off. The latter we soon captured or at least two of them. They were queer little chaps, with their gray and black streaked down, and the orange or red streak on their head, swimming around in the marsh as though they were old hands at the business. We carried them in the boat for awhile—but they crawled under our feet so often that we despaired of getting them home alive, or even in shape to mount, and so carefully deposited them in their native element—the water, once more.

Our last find was a set of four Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*).<sup>5</sup> We had examined scores of their large globular nests, made of plaited reeds and grasses, and had almost despaired of finding any eggs, but here at last were four of the little chocolate colored beauties, reposing in a soft bed of "cat-tail" down, with which the interior of the nest was lined.

By this time it was too dark to even imagine that you could see a nest, and we reluctantly turned our faces homeward.

We arrived at our starting point about 10 P.M. tired, hungry and wet, but well pleased with our trip. Sixty-nine eggs, comprising fourteen sets and representing eight species, was a very good afternoon's work for two young students in the oological department of Nature's grand school, college and university combined.

2. Now Common Gallinule, *Gallinula chloropus*

3. Now *Rollus limicola*

4. Now *Podiceps auritus*

5. Now Marsh Wren, *Telmatodytes palustris*



## **Passenger Pigeon, (Ectopistes Migratorius) Nesting in Wisconsin**

**Submitted by Walter E. Scott**

Reprinted from the *Wisconsin Naturalist*, August 19, 1890

The last great flight in Wisconsin, of this rapidly disappearing bird, which our memory recalls, was in the spring of 1878. The writer was in the northern part of the state in April, and for three days flocks of pigeons were flying continually. And every one who could secure a gun was out shooting. In the spring of '79 there was also considerable numbers, but by no means as numerous as the spring before. Since then a flock of pigeons has been very rarely observed.

In the southwestern portion of Waupaca county along the Wolf river is a vast tract of low land covered by a forest of swamp oak, ash, elm, etc. The tract contains many marshes and sloughs. This section during a wet season is mostly covered with water and is inaccessible.

In this section there are now straggling pairs of pigeons nesting. But they seem to have forsaken their former habits, of many pairs nesting in a single tree, for I have not discovered but a single nest in a tree. In the fore part of June, 1885, I visited the locality in the hope of securing a few specimens of eggs, but the nests contained a single young bird, I should judge from a few days up to about two weeks of age. These nests were from twenty-five to about forty feet from the ground, in oak trees, and composed of small twigs, loosely placed together in the style of a platform.

The nests which I visited contained only one young bird, not any of them two.

In April this year (1890), there was a large flock alighted, seemingly to rest, near this city, and a few days later a flock of about twenty was observed flying over the city headed northward.

We predict that it will not be many years before the Passenger Pigeon will be classed among the extremely rare birds of this country, and later, follow the Great Auk and other nearly extinct animals which were, not many years ago, abundant in North America.

Charles F. Carr, Editor

**FIND THIS BIRD  
ONLY IN  
RACINE**



**W.H. PUGH OIL CO.  
Racine, Wisconsin**

# Book Reviews

**The Birds of Manitoba**, Ernest E. Thompson (Ernest Thompson Seton). Smithsonian Institution, 1891. Reprinted in 1975 by Premium Ventures, Ltd., 235 Garry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1H2. Introduction by Robert W. Nero. 188 pp. \$5.00 postpaid, available only from publisher, and in very limited supply.

This drab-looking little paper-bound book (no photographs or illustrations) is actually full of delights. It pulls together available records and accounts of the avifauna of the Province in that era (when the "Wild Pigeon" or Passenger Pigeon was still "tolerably common"), a period in ornithology when "collecting" by gun was still the major method of identification and study. Not only is the book of historical interest, particularly to Manitobans who will note vast changes in land use and bird populations in eighty-five years, but it is full of useful information, particularly on the raptors and prairie songsters with which Seton became so well acquainted. Known not only as a superb naturalist, but as a writer of popular nature stories, Seton included herein many first-hand observations and impressions, anecdotes of great charm and style. For those of us who have learned to "identify" a good many of our birds from field guides and recordings, it is humbling and instructive to read the accounts of one who came to "know" the birds, one by one, though his unflagging curiosity and intimate associations.

Linda L. Safir

**A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of British and European Birds.** -- Colin Harrison. 1975. Demeter Press, Boston. 432 pp., 64 colored plates and scattered line drawings. \$12.50. This book is useful to all serious birdwatchers, primarily because of its excellent descriptions of nestlings and their mouth patterns. The colored plates of eggs are beautifully reproduced and the paintings by Philip Burton have extraordinary charm.

The "keys" to identification of nests, eggs and young birds are not keys at all; they are just lists. I detected a few minor errors; on page 42 we learn, quite correctly, that the eyes of owlets are closed at first, but Plate 14 shows the eyes of a hatchling Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*, open. Also the statement on page 107 that young Hen Harriers, *Circus cyaneus*, accompany their parents is incorrect.

There are many well known techniques for reducing the danger of breaking up nestlings. Unfortunately the author resorts to frequent admonition instead of teaching the reader how to visit a nest.

It behooves me to point out that **two** Harrisons have just published books on nests and eggs. This review is of Colin Harrison's on European birds. Hal H. Harrison's book is about the birds we know in Wisconsin. If your pocketbook is fat enough, buy both.

Frances Hamerstrom

**"215" The Bird House**, by Henry and Edna Koenig. Edited and Published by John A. Jaeschke, Wisconsin Audubon Council, Inc., Kramer Printers, Madison, Wis. 1975. 221 pp.

Well-known and respected statewide for their unwavering dedication to the care of sick, injured, and orphaned birds, the Koenigs of Sauk City, having been urged often to do so, have written an account of their experiences and methods. Since 1960, well over five hundred birds have been brought to the "Bird House," many by people who have had to drive great distances to reach this haven of concern and competence. Readers of the **Passenger Pigeon** will remember Edna's reports from the "Bird House" and delightful accounts of Robbie the Robin, and will welcome this diary-format book, complete with photographs, formulas, success data, feeder-trap designs, and other useful information.

Though unabashedly sentimental in tone, and occasionally unscientific in observation, this book will receive wide appreciation because it is, in its essence, not so much a book about how to care for injured birds as a statement about why, for the Koenigs, life is worth preserving.

Linda L. Safir

**Prairie Primer** by Stan Nichols and Lynn Entine. Illustrated by Victoria Nuzzo. A beginners guide to understanding this unique ecological system. Published by University of Wisconsin—Extension. It is available to residents from your county extension agent for \$ .50 + postage and reference to its serial number, G2736. Out-of-stater's should write: Agricultural Bulletin Building, 1535 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706.

All persons interested in the Natural World should have a basic knowledge of prairie, what it is and why. This booklet is an excellent place to start. The text gives a condensed description of what pre-white man conditions probably were. Interwoven are the main reasons for why there is, or actually was such a vast series of similar plant communities.

A brief botany lesson on plant parts will help those who have previously had none. This is followed by descriptions and excellent illustrations of 50 of the more prominent grasses and forbs found in our Wisconsin prairie remanents.

This leads to what I feel is the nicest quality of the booklet. That is, how to find prairie remanents, and how to recognize them when you do. Discovering small patches of native prairie, rarer than most birds, is very thrilling when you have the knowledge to recognize what you are seeing. This booklet will provide the beginner with a "feel" for what prairie is. It will also be a welcome addition to the more advanced students library. Always remember that prairie is a complex community and other references should be sought. The bibliography, although sketchy is a good place to start from. It will lead to bigger and better things.

Jonathan Wilde

**NEW!**

**Revised edition of Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts**

**Covers 90 of Wisconsin's outstanding bird territories**

**With detailed maps for each area**

**Describes birds present seasonally plus possible rarities for each area**

**Authored by local state experts**



**ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY**



Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts revised edition at \$4.95 per copy (\$4.45 for Wisconsin Society for Ornithology members) plus 50 cents for postage. Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_. No C.O.D.'s please.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
W.S.O. Supply Department  
Harold Kruse  
Hickory Hill Farm  
Loganville, Wis. 53943

## W.S.O. OFFICERS & COMMITTEES — 1975-1976

**President:** Ed Prins,\*

1238 Indiana St., Racine 53405 (414—632-9048)

**Vice President:** Daryl Tessen,

2 Pioneer Pl., Elgin, Ill. 60120 (312—695-2464)

**Convention Chairman:** Vincent A. Heig,

Biology Dept., U. of Wis. - Stevens Point 54481  
(715—592-4239)

**Secretary:** Carl G. Hayssen, Jr.,\*

6855 No. Hy. 83, Hartland 53029 (414—966-2839)

**Treasurer:** Mrs. Alfred O. Holz,\*

125 Kolb St., Green Bay 54301 (414—435-8933)

**Membership:** Cathryn Steuer,\*

38552 Genesee Lake Rd. Oconomowoc 53066  
(414—965-3687)

**Publications:** Ruth L. Hine,

3609 Nakoma Rd., Madison 53711 (608—233-6856)

**Conservation:** Dr. Robert S. Cook\*

U. of Wis.-Green Bay, Green Bay 54302  
(414—468-0789)

**Education:** Roy J. Lukes,\*

Box 152, Baileys Harbor 54202 (414—839-2045)

**Endowments and Advertisements:** James Severance,\*

Rt. 1, Prairie du Sac 53578 (608—544-3552)

**Legal Counsel:** Robert W. Lutz,\*

50 E. Main St., Chilton 53014 (414—849-2355)

**Field Trips:** Edward W. Peartree,\*

36516 Lisbon Rd., Oconomowoc 53066 (414—567-4086)

**Publicity:** Chuck Gilmore,

246 North High St., Randolph 53956 (414—326-3221)

**Custodian:** Walter E. Scott,

1721 Hickory Rd., Madison 53705 (608—233-6140)

### Research Committee

**Chairmen:** Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom,\*

Plainfield 54966 (715—335-4110)

### Supply Department

**Manager:** Harold G. Kruse,\*

Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville 53943 (608—727-2941)

Handles orders for books, stationery, etc. Catalog available  
10% discounts to WSO members for ornithological supplies.

### Assistants:

Edward W. Peartree,

36516 Lisbon Rd., Oconomowoc 53066

(Records) (414—567-4086)

Mrs. C.P. Frister

**Binoculars:** Ed Prins,

1238 Indiana St., Racine 53405 (414—632-9048)

### Editorial Staff

**Editor:** Charles A. Kemper M.D.\*

P.O. Box 2, 733 Maple St., Chippewa Falls 54729  
(715—723-3815)

**Circulation Manager:** W.D. Brown,

225 W. Lakeside St., Madison 53715 (608—256-2287)

**Associate Editor:** Daryl Tessen,

2 Pioneer Pl., Elgin, Ill. 60120 (312—695-2464)

**The Badger Birder Editor:** Mary Donald,\*

6918 N. Belmont La., Milwaukee 53217 (414—352-8940)

### Seasonal Editors:

(spring) Rockne Knuth,

1062 N. Koeller St., Oshkosh 54901 (414—235-2290)

(summer) Mr. and Mrs. Harold Roberts,

Rt. 2, Box 19, Stevens Point 54481 (715—344-2870)

(autumn) Fred Leshner

509 Winona Lane, LaCrosse, WI 54601 (608—783-1149)

(winter) John Bielefeldt,

40 River View Lane, Oconomowoc, WI 53066 (414—567-3568)

**Historian (Scrap Book):** Hazel Cox,

1905 Cottage Ave., Beloit 53511 (608—365-8230)

**File Keeper:** Ray Anderson,

College of Natural Resources,  
Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point 54481

**Addressograph:** Nancy Andrich,

Rt. 1, Box 64A, Rubicon 53078 (414—474-4593)

**Mimeograph:** Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kailing

446 N. Hwy. 83, Hartland, WI 53029

\*Member Board of Directors