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The Passenger Pigeon

Fall 1980
Volume 42, No. 3

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IN THIS ISSUE

209 Kestrel Observations	Page 93
By George J. Knudsen	
Roosting Behavior of the American Robin	96
By Leonard A. Eiserer	
Osprey of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	101
By John F. Olson	
Field Notes	103
By John Idzikowski	
By the Wayside	121
Book Review	124

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209 Kestrel Observations

By George J. Knudsen -- Chief Naturalist, DNR

Is there a single birder who doesn't have a mental list of favorites? Surely not! I certainly have a list, and among my many raptor favorites, the list topper is the American Kestrel, *Falco s sparverius*. Whenever I see one of these tiny, friendly bundles of feathered beauty hovering, perhaps above a delicious grasshopper, or perched on a powerline and hunched forward scanning the ground directly below, the sightings invariably cause me to smile! I recall times when I've talked to them, wishing them luck on their next, inevitable stoop.

I guess I've been in love with the "killybird" ever since the early 1930's when I identified my first one at Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Since that first encounter, nearly 50 years ago, I estimate I've observed a few thousand kestrels in Wisconsin! These subjective observations, through all those years, often seemed in retrospect to have assured me that kestrels were relatively common over much of our state. I recall, however, that as the DDT problem surfaced after World War II, I wondered what would happen to our kestrels. After all, as a Falconiforme it is a close relative of the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, a species that was seriously affected by DDT!

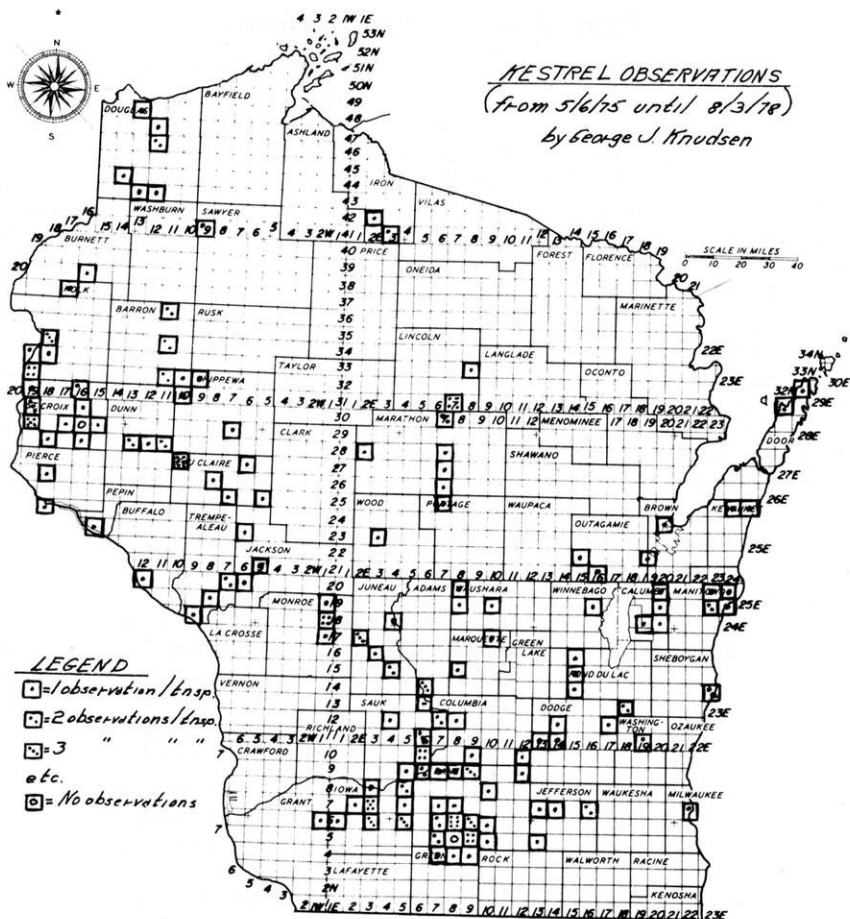
The DDT problem served to make me much more aware of kestrels in the post-war years. I have been fortunate in that I've worked for the Wisconsin Conservation Department (now the Department of Natural Resources) for 30 years, from 1950 to the present. Travelling extensively on beaver, otter, and blackbear research until 1963, and on state park work since 1963, my random, subjective kestrel sightings continually turned up comfortably reassuring kestrel numbers annually, and as usual, I smiled at each kestrel!

Early in 1975, I decided to become somewhat more objective in my kestrel observations. Therefore, from May, 1975 until August, 1978, I tallied all the kestrels I saw while on some of my state work trips, and while on certain hunting, fishing, and nature study sojourns. I didn't keep "score" on every trip during this period due to time constraints, weather and road conditions and various other considerations. When conditions were right as I travelled, I kept records of exact locations where I observed kestrels, numbers seen at these places, and the dates of sightings. The vast majority of sightings occurred as I drove, and because I had to watch the road and traffic I invariably missed birds on each trip. The majority of birds were spotted as they perched on power and telephone lines, where they stood out. Some were seen perched on bare tree branches, posts and poles, and on barbed wire fences. The rest were hovering or flying adjacent to, or over the highways and median strips.

The locations of my observations during the 39-month period are shown on the state outline map. Although I recorded each observation within one section (1 square mile), the map shows the locations by 36 square mile townships, due to map size limitations.

An analysis of the map, by observations, and comments follow:

It is obvious that a large number of sightings were made along the Interstate Highway system, highway 51, highway 151-18, highway 35, and highway 12, my main travel routes between state parks. The concentrated block of



townships in Dane county represent random observations near my home town, Verona, Wisconsin.

I tallied 209 individual observations of kestrels in 139 townships. The dots in the township squares on the map show that most observations were made only once in the townships indicated. The dots also show that I observed kestrels in many townships from two to six times. A large number of these multiple sightings occurred at widely spaced time intervals. The number of observations per year were: 1975--20, 1976--66, 1977--73, 1978--50.

It is of interest to note that in those townships with more than one observation, a large number of sightings were made within one to two miles of each other, often at intervals of one, two or three years! A number of the sightings were at the same spots along the highways where I had previously recorded kestrels. In addition, my son Jeffrey reported two kestrel sightings in February, 1977 and eight in March, 1977. Eight of these ten observations were in the same townships, and some were quite close to locations I had previously recorded. These multiple sightings suggest that certain areas attract kestrels more regularly than other areas, that some individual kestrels

return to the same area in ensuing years, and that some home to the same nest cavity used in past years!

One trip, from April 6, 1977 through April 8, 1977 stands out in my records. Travelling from Madison to Black River Falls, to Trempealeau and St. Croix Falls, then returning to Madison, I observed 22 kestrels in 20 townships. I spotted 18 singles and 2 doubles. This trip was made during the spring migration of kestrels. It is unlikely that I followed the only very long route that had a super concentration of kestrels and I can only wonder how many migrating kestrels there were in Wisconsin during those three days. Besides being a very interesting trip, with smiles all the way, the trip was very reassuring to me!

The concentration of sightings in the southern two-thirds of Wisconsin is due to the fact that kestrels are birds of open, agricultural-woodlot country, and to the fact that the majority of state parks are in this part of the state, therefore this is where I most often travelled. This is not to say that kestrels are extremely rare in northern Wisconsin. While they are not inhabitants of our extensive, solid forest tracts, they are often seen in the larger, open farmlands which are scattered about in our northern forests. I saw them rather frequently in the "big woods" country when I did my research in west central and northern Wisconsin from 1950 until 1963. Here, they were usually seen over open farmlands, extensive marshes, big, open bogs, and long, grassy beaver meadows.

The 209 individual observations, broken down by the four seasons, are: spring--117, summer--35, fall--15, winter--42. The spring count is high due to the abundance of migrators and because I made more trips during this period. The summer total is much lower due to somewhat fewer park trips (due to energy-saving state travel restrictions), and because the kestrels were more widely dispersed than during the spring migration wave. Fall observations were lowest due to very few park trips, and possibly because the birds were more casual during their fall exodus from the state. The winter total is relatively high since most of these observations were made in our southern counties during my many random outings.

In conclusion, I must emphasize that my "study", being basically a collection of random kestrel sightings, is a far cry from a scientifically sound research project. It does, however, support the conclusion that, at least during spring kestrel migrations, Wisconsin hosts kestrels that could number in the low thousands. In the face of this, and until more thorough studies are undertaken, it would be difficult to know how many kestrels summer in Wisconsin. Conceivably there could be a minimum of a few hundred breeding pairs in the state during summer.

A detailed study of the distribution and densities of Wisconsin's kestrels during all seasons would furnish a dedicated student with sufficient data to support a Masters or Doctors thesis. Short of a statewide study, research could concentrate on a few kestrel population "hotspots", and on population trend indices that could be obtained via standard automobile transect routes. These routes might also yield incidental index data for other birds that are easily seen from a slowly moving car, such as Upland Sandpipers, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, to name a few. Raptors have been counted via automobile surveys in South Africa and Europe, if I remember correctly.

As a postscript, I must add a few things to think about concerning the future of our kestrels.

Reflecting back on all my years of nature study, I estimate I have seen some dozens of tree cavities being actively used by kestrels. I have never seen them nesting on a cliff ledge or in old buildings, but I have often seen them near these places. Only once did I see a kestrel fly from a platform of a fairly large twig nest, and on checking it I found no eggs. Therefore, since kestrels, at least in the eastern United States, are primarily tree cavity nesters, I'm now beginning to wonder what effects the current surge in firewood cutting will have on them! So many dead elms and other trees which have woodpecker holes or other natural cavities in them are cut for firewood along fencerows and forest margins that this will surely reduce the number of nesting cavities. Before the current upswing in the search for firewood, I felt that although Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases were serious forestry problems, these fatal ailments greatly benefitted kestrels as well as many other hole-nesting animals.

What the overall effects of firewood cutting will be on "eastern" kestrels and other hole nesters remains to be seen. In our western states kestrels, especially in desert scrub areas, frequently nest on platform nests of other birds such as the American Magpie, *Pica pica hudsonia*, and on cliff ledges and in their crevices. In Europe, *Falco t. tinnunculus*, the European Kestrel, commonly nests on platform nests of the Rook, *Corvus f. frugilegua* and European Magpie, *Pica pica pica*. One can only wonder if our "eastern" kestrels would choose old twig nests in areas that might become devoid of nesting holes. If not, and looking toward the future, in the event tree hole cavities in and near open areas become extremely scarce, it is conceivable that nesting boxes could be constructed for kestrels.

Two wonderful friends of all birders who know them, and devoted friends of all raptors, especially kestrels, Fred and Frances Hamerstrom have shown that kestrels will gladly use nesting boxes. To quote "Fran," from her booklet entitled, "Birds of Prey of Wisconsin," she states, "To see whether lack of suitable nesting holes was keeping kestrels away (from the Hamerstrom's prairie chicken study areas of Buena Vista and Leola-Marshes in Central Wisconsin), 50 nest boxes were put up and as a result within 3 years more than 100 young kestrels were reared that wouldn't have been if it hadn't been for the boxes!"

Let's hope our tiny friends, the kestrels, will be with us in future years and in sufficient numbers to keep all of us smiling!!!

Roosting Behavior of the American Robin

By Leonard A. Eiserer

Ninety years ago, two New England ornithologists separately published the first scientific descriptions of a rather peculiar habit of the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Robins, said William Brewster (1980) and Bradford Torrey (1890), leave their summer breeding territories each evening and gather to sleep at a communal roost. Scientists had long known of the huge roosting congregations that robins form during their winter stay in southern regions of the United States. But the possibility that such communal roosting would persist even during the species' breeding season apparently

seemed so remote that early ornithologists overlooked the phenomenon for decades.

In retrospect, such an oversight is understandable. How can territorial robins spend all day squabbling with their neighbors, and then suddenly at dusk metamorphose into nonterritorial flockers who actually seek out the company of conspecifics? To be sure, many animals are territorial during part of their life cycle (such as the breeding season) and gregarious at other times (e.g., during migration). But for this Jekyll-and-Hyde transformation to occur **daily** is seldom found in the animal kingdom outside of the roosting habits of robins and some other birds.

Actually, communal roosting appears to characterize robins during most of their life cycle. The available literature suggests that the roost is attended by adult males throughout the breeding season, by adult females once their nest-sitting chores are completed in late summer, by the season's offspring as soon as they can negotiate the trip to the roost, and by most robins during their winter stay in the South (Eiserer, 1976, p. 141-149). Unfortunately, the pioneer observations of Brewster and Torrey did not include data on individually tagged or banded birds; nor, apparently, have such data been collected in the ensuing years. Thus the possibility exists that communal robin roosts during the breeding season actually represent gatherings of non-breeding or "surplus" individuals who have been unable to win territories. Birds who do own territories, then, might sleep within those territories each night rather than, as Brewster and Torrey inferred, congregating at roosts.

Still, communal roosting does appear to characterize freelifving robins much of the time in nature. One might wonder, therefore, whether some correlate of this habit occurs even when robins are maintained in captivity. Wild robins betray a characteristic restlessness around dusk as a preliminary to their flight to the roost; by Brewster's (1890) own account:

"There is nothing about the start (of the flight to the roost) which would attract particular attention, but a close observer will notice that, as evening draws near, such robins as may have been scattered about on the lawns or in the orchards begin to show marked restlessness, ascending to the tops of the taller trees, calling a good deal... At length they take wing, one after another in quick succession, each, as it flies, uttering a loud note, and in straggling order disappear over the trees."

The "marked restlessness" struck Brewster as being similar to the preliminary restlessness that wild robins show before migration commences (i.e., **Migratory restlessness**). Since many birds show migratory restlessness when maintained in captivity during their normal migration season, captive robins might be expected to similarly display **roosttime restlessness** during that time of day when they would normally be heading roostward.

Probably anyone who has ever kept robins in captivity has indeed noticed an unusual restlessness in the birds at dusk. Wisconsin bird enthusiast Edna Koenig once adopted a one-month-old robin who had broken his leg. The bird lived with Koenig for the next 17.5 years (apparently a record for robin longevity), and among the characteristics that "Robbie" developed was his restless manner just before retiring each night. According to Koenig, "Robbie goes through a routine of calls and flying about, from the patio to his room, before he settles down" (Koenig & Koenig, 1975, p. 46).

Despite such anecdotal evidence, little systematic research on robin behavior in captivity was conducted after Brewster and Torrey made their original observations in the field. In one study, however, Palmer (1970) housed robins under natural illumination (i.e., near a window) and found that the birds became very active at sunrise and then showed progressively less activity as the day continued. Most importantly, the robins generated a second surge of activity (primarily rapid hopping between perches) at dusk before settling down for the night. Work in our own laboratory (Eiserer, 1979) has confirmed Palmer's findings (see Fig. 1).

Of course, an activity peak at dusk need not necessarily be a behavioral correlate of any "urge" to travel to a communal roostside; conceivably, it could instead be associated with "before-bed" tendencies to feed and drink. However, captive robins show a **decreased** tendency to eat and drink at dusk, so the excessive perch-hopping cannot simply be an indirect result of these other activities. Furthermore, the perch hops at dusk are often accompanied by excessive wing-flapping -- just what one would expect if the restlessness represented some urge to fly to a roostsite -- as well as the same sort of nervous calls mentioned by both Brewster and Koenig.

Roosting and Migration

Wild robins apparently travel to communal roosts during all four seasons, and captive robins correspondingly show restlessness at dusk during each month of the year (Eiserer, 1979, 1980a). Interestingly, what changes most from month to month is the degree of activity that the captives display during morning hours. In spring, the birds are extremely active in the morning, more active than even at dusk; in contrast, a more subdued level of activity occurs during winter mornings.

The morning activity of spring months appears to represent migratory restlessness in this species. Most songbirds, it is true, are nocturnal migrators who show migratory restlessness at night when kept in captivity. However, freeliving robins are rather exceptional in this regard and migrate primarily during the day. Hence it is not surprising that in captivity this species displays migratory restlessness during daylight hours.

Both roosting and migration, then, are associated with behavioral restlessness under conditions of captivity. The two phenomena share other characteristics as well. Both represent major rhythms in the robin's life cycle, roosting being a daily rhythm and migration an annual one. Both also involve significant distances to be traveled, up to 5-10 miles in the case of roosting and hundreds of miles of the case of migration.

Other similarities involve what might loosely be considered "personality changes": Although robins are territorial and thus basically antagonistic towards their fellows during daytime periods throughout the breeding season, the birds become sociable flockers both at the daily roostsite and during the seasonal migrations. It also appears true that though breeding robins are remarkably bold creatures during the daytime -- birds who can often be closely approached by humans, and who frequently nest near human abodes -- they inexplicably become wary at the approach of humans while at their roostsites as well as during the migration seasons. While the implications of these similarities are not yet clear, it seems reasonable to hypothesize that common physiological substrates (e.g., the same brain structures) may mediate both roosting and migration tendencies in robins.

Variables Affecting Roosttime Restlessness

If the behavioral restlessness that captive robins display at dusk is truly a reflection of the birds' urge to travel to a communal roostsite, then the restlessness should first appear ontogenetically at the age when a young wild robin would make its first visit to the roost. Young robins don't leave their nests until about Day 13 posthatch, and even after fledging cannot fly very well for a few days. Thus one might predict that roosttime restlessness would first emerge in young birds at around Day 15 or 16 posthatch.

In one study (Eiserer, 1980b), robin nestlings were hand-reared from Day 7 posthatch to the age at which they first showed high activity at dusk. This age turned out to be Day 13, a few days before the 15- or 16-day age previously predicted. This discrepancy seems rather small, however, when one realizes that the birds might easily have waited until their first autumn (the migration season) or even until they were fully mature to show restlessness at dusk. Thus the ontogeny data further support the premise that the high activity of captive robins at dusk is in fact a behavioral correlate of the roosting tendency of this species.

Another experiment (Eiserer, in press) indicates that captive female robins display much less roosttime restlessness when their tendency to incubate is high (i.e., during the breeding season) than when such tendency is absent (in late summer). This finding parallels the fact that wild females must spend nights on their nests to warm eggs and nestlings. In addition, it suggests the possibility that hormones which are at high levels during the reproductive season (e.g., prolactin) exert a suppressive effect on brain structures involved in roosttime restlessness.

Still other work (Eiserer, 1980c) indicates that the magnitude of restlessness is (a) larger when robins can see a quietly sitting human observer than when they cannot, and (b) smaller when the birds can see and hear conspecifics than when they are socially isolated. The first of these effects is consistent with the previous suggestion that robins experience increased fearfulness at dusk; in particular, increased fear of humans would be expected to cause an increase in restless perch-hopping. The second finding may be the result of an increased sociability tendency at dusk, such that robins who are isolated from (i.e., deprived of) conspecifics are more restless because of that unfulfilled need.

Such investigations exemplify the chief advantage of studying robins in captivity as opposed to the natural setting. The effect of conspecifics on the roosting tendency of freelifving robins would be extremely difficult to examine, since freelifving birds cannot be experimentally isolated from one another. The laboratory approach, on the other hand, permits the manipulation of variables, and thus the testing of particular hypotheses, to a degree that is simply impossible with a field approach.

Survival Value of Communal Roosting.

In closing, we may wonder why robins resort to communal roosts in the first place. Given the significant expenditure of energy that commuting to and from the roost involves, why don't robins simply spend nights within their own territories?

Protection from predators would not seem to be the answer. Despite the fact that robins usually select densely vegetated areas for their roosts, they nonetheless are no safer there than they would be at their nest sites. Indeed,

scattered out of their respective territories, the birds could never suffer concentrated predation at night; only when robins are gathered in densely populated roosts can a single predator (e.g., a bobcat) wreak havoc among them.

One possible benefit of communal roosting during the breeding season and early fall might be the preparation it affords young robins for the southern migration. The daily flights to and from the roost may provide helpful practice in navigating over at least short distances. Relatedly, the experience may be an important prerequisite for **Ortsruhe** -- i.e., the tendency of robins to return the following spring to the same locality where they hatched (as many of 75% of all year-old robins migrate back to within 10 miles of their hatchplace). **Ortsruhe** is itself advantageous because it helps ensure that the younger generation will settle in ecological regions where the species (as proven by the birds' own parents) has already been able to propagate.

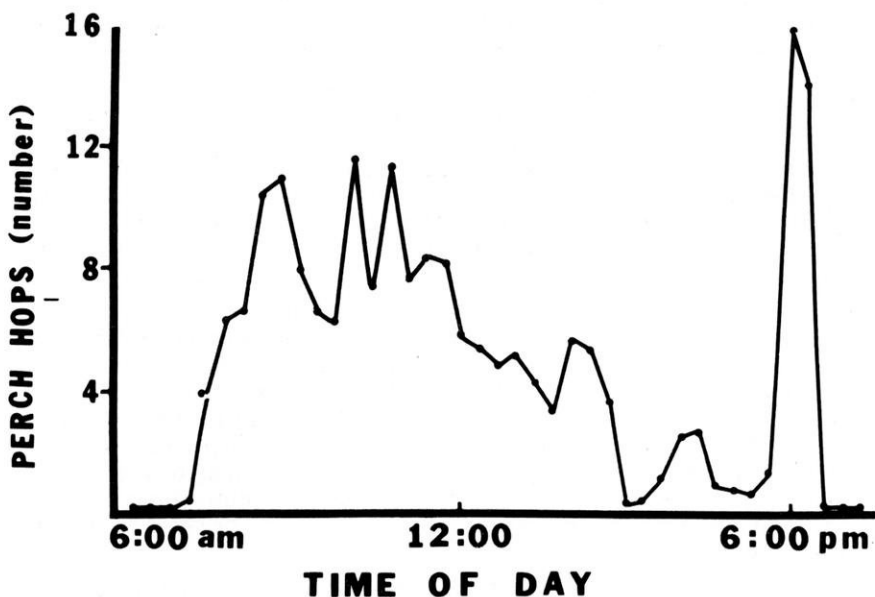


Figure 1: Number of perch hops per minute as a function of time of day, averaged for a group of 8 robins during the month of October. The burst of activity at 6:00 p.m. represents roosttime restlessness.

A second possibility stems from the ideas of Scottish ecologist V.C. Wynne-Edwards: If most robins within a given area are regularly convening at one place, the potential exists for what in effect is a local "census" which in turn could be instrumental in self-regulation of the robin population. In most sectors of North America, robins normally rear 2 or 3 broods of young each season. After breeding activities are completed, the birds abandon their territories and spend much time building up their body fat, primarily by eating great quantities of wild berries, in preparation for the fall migration. Perhaps during those seasons when population pressures are great, individual pairs of robins who rear only 1 or 2 broods gain a valuable

headstart in exploiting limited berry resources, and are thus better able to meet the demanding rigors of migration. Of course, this "census hypothesis" seems less relevant to the roosting behavior that robins show during nonbreeding periods -- e.g., when they are wintering in the South. Here, the advantage to communal roosting may lie in the conservation of body heat that sometimes accrues from sleeping in crowded quarters.* Unfortunately, all of these hypotheses are highly speculative, and the exact survival value (or values) behind communal roosting in robins and other species remains elusive and obscure.

**(Editor's Note: A recent study on "The Thermoregulatory Significance of the Winter Roost-sites Selected by Robins in Eastern Washington" (Walsberg and King, Wilson Bull. 97:33-38, March 1980) states, in summary, that "A microclimate analysis indicates that this behavior produces only a slight thermoregulatory benefit. It thus appears that either nonthermal factors (such as protection from predators) or thermal effects too poorly known to quantify may be of major importance.")*

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Osprey of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

By John F. Olson

In mid-April, the first Ospreys reappeared at the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage in Iron County. This area has had the largest nesting population in northwestern Wisconsin. After a leisurely winter in the Gulf states and northern South America, the brown and white "fish hawks" drifted north, following upriver runs of alewives and herring, and their more common fresh-water prey of suckers, perch and carp. Because Ospreys live primarily on fish, they select nesting sites adjacent to or directly over bodies of fishable water. It is this unique combination of clean, shallow water, adequate nesting sites, and good fish populations that is a limiting factor of Osprey production in Wisconsin.

While nesting sites on the breeding grounds have decreased, Ospreys have been subjected to an even more dangerous situation, that of environmental

pollutants, especially DDT. Such contamination builds up in the food chain, resulting in thin egg shells and eventual decrease in numbers of young produced. However, the state banned DDT in 1970, and the nation followed in 1972. Starting in 1975 there has been an increase in Osprey production. The average number of young per occupied territory in Wisconsin was 0.82 for the years 1966 through 1974. It increased to 1.1 in 1977 and 1978, and was up to 1.3 in 1979.

Additional threats to Osprey existence are nest predation by ravens, crows and raccoons, direct loss by shooting of birds or cutting down of nest trees, human encroachment for recreation and forest development, and human disturbance during incubation, which causes the adults to abandon the nest site or results in defective eggs.

Help for the Ospreys of Iron County

Since 1967, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been flying aerial surveys of known Osprey nesting sites to determine adult presence and production of young. These flights are made in mid-May, and later, in mid-July, every year. Another aerial survey involves searching for new territories where observations of adults have been reported but no known nest sites have been located. A territory plan is written for each known nest site and is followed by a management plan for the surrounding uplands, in an effort to minimize human disturbance during critical nesting periods, while preserving alternate nest sites within the immediate vicinity.

Another management technique employed in recent years has been the erection of artificial nesting platforms where nests have blown down or where historical nest sites have long since disappeared. In past years, a concerned ornithologist, Mark Pittman of Wausau, Wisconsin, built and erected platforms on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and had excellent nesting success. Continuing this work, in November, 1979, the DNR initiated an Osprey platform program for the flowage. Funding for this program comes from state and federal sources and is handled through the Bureau of Endangered and Non-game Species.

With the approval and excellent cooperation of Mark Fort, Flowage Manager for Chippewa-Flambeau Improvement Company, DNR personnel from the Mercer Ranger Station erected four new platforms on the flowage in February, 1980. Already two sites are occupied. One pair has selected a platform in a tree from which the nest blew down last summer, and another pair had selected a new platform atop a super-canopy red pine. This will be an active, on-going program with additional platforms erected every year until all critical nest sites are completed.

We strongly urge anyone encountering an Osprey or eagle nest to cause the birds as little disturbance as possible. With luck and our protection, the young Ospreys will return in a few years to build nests of their own. We intend to have platform sites waiting for them.

Box R
Mercer, WI 54547

FIELD

NOTES



The Autumn Season

August 1 - November 30, 1979

by John Idzikowski

This fall's migration was less spectacular than the excellent season had by observers in 1978--that is, if one measures excellence by the number of rarities that show up. Fifteen less species were found this year than last. Unfortunately, however, it is nearly impossible to provide an analysis based upon more quantitative data such as that available to the winter "Field Notes" editor. In the autumn there are just too many birds. The reporting, although improving each year, is far too cursory for most of the autumn birds. It is ironic that the best information given on report forms is usually for rarities and migrants rather than for the permanent residents which are our first-line indicators of avian population problems. That is not to say that migrants are not good indicators of long-term population changes, but their yearly movements are much too weather-dependent for good yearly conclusions about numbers. For instance, it appears to this editor that the Northern Waterthrush is much more scarce, as a fall migrant in southern Wisconsin, than it was ten years ago. Perhaps a survey of Wisconsin birders could be made that would indicate species that should be "blue-listed". It is important that seasonal reports reflect as much as possible the status of populations, for it is the integrity of bird numbers that is needed in this time of rapid habitat loss.

The 284 species found by 65 observers this year included such goodies as Western Grebe, Brant, Harlequin Duck, Spruce Grouse, Prairie Falcon, Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl (dead), Western Kingbird, Varied Thrush and Black-throated Sparrow. Four species of warblers, usually missed in fall, (Yellow-breasted Chat, Kentucky, Hooded and Louisiana Waterthrush) were found in their summer haunts by observers at the beginning of the period. The Harrington Beach S.P. area in Ozaukee County produced all three species of scoters for several weeks (see "By the Wayside").

The hawk migration was quite mediocre, with consistently poor showing in Ozaukee County on what appeared to be good hawk days. Cedar Grove, however, did quite well with 555 banded birds and Little Suamico apparently had a good season, although no totals for banded birds were indicated. See the reports for the excellent migrational peaks reported by Tom Erdman for raptors. In *American Birds* (33:236-40), Mueller, Berger and Allez discuss identification of the three species of the genus *Accipiter*. While this article is an excellent presentation for the fall field ornithologist and points out that not all *Accipiter*s can be safely identified in the field, this editor

does not believe that documentation is needed for all reports of Accipiters. See also a letter in response to this article (Am. Birds 33:909). It is hoped that reporters will use extra care in reporting Accipiters, not just guess on those not well seen, but please continue to report what you believe you have seen.

By the end of the period winter finches had barely made their way into the central part of the state except for the Red Crossbill which was in southern Wisconsin by August. Other fringillids of note included the third state record of the Black-throated Sparrow (the first found away from an artificial feeder) on the Milwaukee lakefront. The Milwaukee Coastguard Confinement structure was also the scene of several Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports. Great care must be taken in identifying this species and the LeConte's Sparrow.

We really need more data from the southwestern part of the state. An example of what might be found there is the Western Kingbird sighted by Allen Shea at the Avoca Wildlife Area in Iowa County. The west central and far north also need better coverage. It would be a help if eagles reported statewide were given by numbers of adults and immatures. It might also be interesting if Blue and Snow Geese were reported separately to monitor changes in the proportions of these two forms. The WSO Records Committee pared the list of rarities submitted somewhat. A good photograph is worth more than most verbal documentation, so make note of the photographers with long lenses in your area.

Little information was provided by observers concerning weather and migration. A week before August 1 Milwaukee had early warbler migrants including a few Tennessees. The cold fronts of late August brought good movements into the southern part of the state. On August 27 Milwaukee noted an excellent wave. From Barron County came peak dates of September 3, 14 and 15; the two latter dates corresponded with the cold front that brought the first frosts to the northern counties. Milwaukee had a very distinct final wave of warblers, tanagers and thrushes on September 30 which came along with a cold front. The most notable thing about this year's fall weather was the very mild temperatures at the end of the period. A check with Sam Robbins shows new late dates for autumn departures for nine species. This editor saw a Cape May Warbler on the record-breaking date of December 6, an interesting report for the winter season. August was generally cool and wet allowing for fairly good shorebird finding. Cool temperatures continued into September except for a warm period in mid-month; the coolness continued until the first week of October when warmer temperatures dominated. The second week of October brought cold Canadian air which pushed the Canada Geese in large numbers into the state before the 15th. November saw temperatures near zero in the northern counties before the warm-up at the end of the month.

Birders in the eastern counties are more spoiled than those who are unable to view on a regular basis the hawks and waterfowl that concentrate along the shore of lake Michigan. Many of the birders who live inland showed up in the east to visit some of the most productive Lake Michigan areas. The weedy areas especially along the lakefront in the eastern counties are excellent for sparrows, e.g. the grassy areas at Harrington Beach S.P. The Coastguard Confinement structure in Milwaukee will continue to draw in birds as absolutely no more filling has been carried out here since

December, 1979. This area will be good for years to come. Horicon Marsh and the "Beaver Dam Ponds" were very good this year (Dodge Co. CTH "C" and "W"). Sod farms seem to be good places for Buff-breasted Sandpipers. The Madison sewerage treatment mudflats produced excellent numbers of shorebirds. The partial lowering of the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County brought in hundreds of shorebirds in August. In the northwest, Crex Meadows and Wisconsin Point continue to be areas where western species can be found.

The Season Summary

Common Loon: Present at the beginning of the period in Barron, Price and Iron Counties. Most arrival dates south were from the early part of October. Peak numbers came in November inland and along Lake Michigan. A season high of 28 birds on Nov. 24 came from Dane County (Thiessen) who also found this species there on the 28th.

Red-throated Loon: First seen in Ozaukee County on Oct. 20 (Tessen); until Nov. 4, Gustafson and Hoffman found single birds there. Shea found 3 in Dane County on Nov. 18.

Red-necked Grebe: Reported from Rush Lake in Winnebago County on Aug. 23 (Frank) and on Sept. 16 (Ziebell).

Horned Grebe: First noted by Smith in Columbia County on Aug. 18 and at Horicon Marsh on Aug. 26 by Polk for early dates. Most reports from Lake Michigan came in beginning the last week of September. Frank found 14 birds in the Lake off of Ozaukee County on Oct. 28. The latest date was from the end of the period in Jefferson county when Etter-Hale found 5 birds on inland waters.

Eared Grebe: Many observers found the individual in the Milwaukee Embayment near the Coast Guard Station which was first seen by Idzikowski on Aug. 22 and last observed by Tessen and de Boer on Sept. 29.

Western Grebe: Hoffman reported one bird on Lake Wingra on Oct. 23.

Pied-billed Grebe: Migrational peaks included 32 birds in Monroe County on Sept. 28 (Epstein) and 12 birds in Dane County on Oct. 29 (Shea). Present on Nov. 25 in LaCrosse and Pepin Counties. Present at the end of the period in Portage and Winnebago Counties.

White Pelican: Follen saw one bird on the Albrecht Pond on Arpin (Wood Co.) on Sept. 19.

Double-crested Cormorant: Horicon Marsh had 100 birds on Aug. 1 which could be seen on the big pond by the Main Dike Road (Drieslein). Tessen reported 275 birds in Brown County on Aug. 20 and Cleary and Columban found 150 there on Sept. 23. Most end dates were from mid-November with the latest date from LaCrosse County on Nov. 26 (Leshner).

Great Blue Heron: No large concentrations were noted by observers this season, only groups of 5 or so birds being seen at one time. On Nov. 13 this species was still at Horicon Marsh and on Nov. 25 it was reported from Walworth County.

Green Heron: A group of 15 birds was noted in Marathon County on Aug. 26 by the Luepkes. Most late dates were from the first week of Oct. Last noted in Milwaukee on Oct. 30.

Little Blue Heron: All reports were from the Dodge County "A" and "W" ponds from Aug. 8 (Gustafson), 2 immatures, until Aug. 23 (Tessen). Also reported by Thiessen.

Cattle Egret: Present at the beginning of the period in Dodge County. Tessen found 35 birds on Aug. 20 in Brown County (Atkinson Marsh) and Cleary and Columban found 20 there on Sept. 18. Woodmansee found 22 birds in Sheboygan County on Oct. 29. Gustafson found this species in Milwaukee at the Coast Guard Impoundment on Oct. 31.

Great Egret: The greatest concentration of this species occurred at the "W" pond in Dodge County near the intersection of CTH "A" and "W". Tessen found 360 birds there on Aug. 8 and 313 were there on Sept. 8 (Shea). This species was found north to Oconto County during the period. Other peaks were far less than the Dodge County birds. Last seen on Nov. 27 in Oconto County (Erdman).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Ziebell found 12 birds in Winnebago County on Sept. 2 and Frank saw 8 birds in Dodge County on Oct. 4. On Nov. 16 this bird was still at Horicon Marsh (Drieslein) and on the 17th it was seen in Rock County (Mahlum).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Gustafson found this species on Aug. 30 in Milwaukee. One was seen in Dodge County, Sept. 25-30 (Tessen, Gustafson and Smith).

Least Bittern: Present Aug. 1 north to Shawano and Barron Counties.

American Bittern: Present Aug. 1 north to Barron County. The Luepkes found 4 birds in

Marathon County on Aug. 26. Most late dates were from Sept. Last reported in Milwaukee at the Coast Guard Impoundment on Nov. 24 by Idzikowski, although this individual was seen again on Dec. 2 for a winter record.

Mute Swan: Reported from Dodge County on Oct. 6 by de Boor.

Whistling Swan: Erdman reported the first in Oconto County on Nov. 2. The 6th and 7th of Nov. were the first dates of a major flight through the state. Polk reported a concentration of 3000 on the 10th from Buffalo County (Polk). The movement on the 6th and 7th was confined to the eastern counties with the peak being 500 birds in Oconto County on the 7th. Drieslein reported this species at the Horicon Marsh on Nov. 28 and Polk still found 100 birds at the end of the period off of Buffalo on the Minnesota side of the River.

Canada Goose: Reported at the beginning of the period in LaCrosse and Jefferson Counties. Flocks arrived at Horicon Marsh on Sept. 13 and peaked there at 70,900 on Oct. 30 -- much lower than the peaks of the early 70's (Drieslein). Other migration peaks included 1700 in Brown County on Sept. 18 (Cleary and Columban) and 1000 in Winnebago County on Oct. 1 (Ziebell). This year the concentrations were less than usual even at the areas satellite to Horicon. Reported at the end of the period in Winnebago, Milwaukee and Jefferson Counties.

Brant: Hoffman found a flock of 5 birds along the Wisconsin River in Dane County on Nov. 17. See "By the Wayside".

Greater White-fronted Goose: Reported from the Horicon Marsh in with the Canadas by Drieslein on Sept. 25; Sundell also found this species there shortly after this date.

Snow Goose: First reported from Horicon by Drieslein on Sept. 21; 100 birds were here on Oct. 20. Tessen reported 28 birds in Outagamie County on Sept. 23 and 225 birds in Manitowoc County on Nov. 4 for the season high. Other season highs were concentrated in mid-October. Present at the end of the period in Barron and Milwaukee Counties.

Mallard: The official season high from Horicon Marsh was 66,000 birds on Sept. 30. Polk reported "100's" from Buffalo County on Nov. 13 and the Luekpes found 800 in Marathon County on Nov. 6. Present north to Ashland at the end of the period.

Black Duck: Reported Aug. 1 in Iron and Outagamie Counties. On Aug. 30 Cleary and Columban found 450 birds in Brown County. Most peak dates were from September. Present at the end of the period north to Ashland County.

Gadwall: Shea found this species in Dodge County on Aug. 11. Peaks were from October with the high being 60 birds on the 21st in Dane County (Shea). Idzikowski found 15 birds from mid-November until the end of the period in Milwaukee.

Pintail: Present Aug. 1 in Dodge and Outagamie Counties. Drieslein found 1000 birds at Horicon in Dodge County on Sept. 30 and Polk reported 30 birds in Buffalo County on Nov. 13 for a western report. Present Nov. 30 in Brown and Dodge Counties.

Green-winged Teal: Present at the beginning of the period in Barron, Eau Claire, Chippewa and Outagamie Counties. Drieslein reported 1000 birds in Dodge County on Sept. 30 for a season peak. Present at the end of the period in Dane County.

Blue-winged Teal: Present Aug. 1 north to Chippewa County. Most dates were from Sept., but peak dates were later with 6000 birds at Horicon on Oct. 1. Humphrey found this species in Barron County on Nov. 25 for a late date.

American Wigeon: Present Aug. 1 in Outagamie County. Peaks were on Oct. 1 in Winnebago County with 2000 birds (Ziebell) and at Horicon on Oct. 31 with 4800 birds. Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee.

Northern Shoveler: Peaks were from late August and September. Thiessen reported 76 birds from Dane County on Nov. 18 for a late fall peak. Last present Nov. 30 in Milwaukee.

Wood Duck: Present throughout the reporting area on Aug. 1 with a group of 27 birds being reported from Dane County on Aug. 3. Thirty birds were found there on Sept. 4 and 30 birds were in Vilas County on Sept. 6 (Spahns). Present at the end of the period in Eau Claire and Milwaukee Counties.

Redhead: Present at the Horicon Marsh on Aug. 1 where Drieslein reported the official count of 1500 birds on Sept. 15. Polk reported 150 birds in Buffalo County on Nov. 13. Reported at the end of the period in Milwaukee.

Ring-necked Duck: Reported at the beginning of the period in Eau Claire County. The Luekpes found 82 birds in Marathon County on Aug. 26 and Drieslein reported 100 birds at the Horicon Marsh on Oct. 31. Present Nov. 30 in Milwaukee.

Canvasback: First seen on Sept. 16 in Dodge County by Polk where Drieslein found 50 on Oct. 31. Polk also found 400 birds in Buffalo County on Nov. 13. Present Nov. 30 in Milwaukee, Dane and Jefferson Counties.

- Greater Scaup:** Tessen's report of a Milwaukee bird on Sept. 15 may have been a bird that summered there; he reported more than 2000 birds in Ozaukee County on Lake Michigan on Oct. 13. Other peaks of similar numbers were reported from Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties into mid-November. More than 2000 birds were in the Milwaukee Embankment at the end of the period (Idzikowskis).
- Lesser Scaup:** Present at the beginning of the period in Barron County and in Winnebago County where Tessen found 800 birds. The Spahns found 75 birds in Oneida County on Sept. 3. Drieslein reported 100 birds from the Horicon Marsh on Oct. 31. Polk found 600 birds in Buffalo County on Nov. 13. Present at the end of the period in Dane and Winnebago Counties.
- Common Goldeneye:** First reported in Ozaukee County on Oct. 14 by Frank. Most dates were from November with 25 birds in Dane County on November 11 (Mark Peterson). Present at the end of the period in the eastern counties west to Madison.
- Bufflehead:** First seen by Tessen in Menominee County on October 13. Most dates were from October. Peaks were later with 150 birds in Buffalo County on November 13 (Polk) and 58 birds in Dane County on the 24th (Thiessen). Present at the end of the period in the eastern counties north to Winnebago.
- Harlequin Duck:** Found in Milwaukee County on Nov. 18 by Frank and in Pepin County on Nov. 25 by Hoffman.
- White-winged Scoter:** An excellent migration this fall, reported from 7 counties as far west as Buffalo. Harrington Beach S.P. was by far the place to go for this species as Tessen found 32 birds there on October 13 and 62 birds on Nov. 17th. See "By the Wayside". Last reported in Manitowoc County on Nov. 25 by Sontag.
- Surf Scoter:** Tessen found 41 birds in Ozaukee County on Oct. 13 and 6 birds on Nov. 17 in the same location at Harrington Beach. Also found on Nov. 13 in Buffalo County by Polk.
- Black Scoter:** Reported by Tessen from Harrington Beach State Park in Ozaukee County on Oct. 13 (17 birds) until Nov. 17. Also reported from Manitowoc County. Last reported by Follen in Juneau County on Nov. 27 (4 birds)
- Ruddy Duck:** Present at the beginning of the period in Dodge and Winnebago Counties. On Oct. 16, Polk reported 60 birds in Chippewa County; the Luepkes also found 60 birds on Oct. 21 in Wood County for migrational peaks in October. Frank found 44 birds in Milwaukee on Nov. 18. Present at the end of the period in Winnebago and Milwaukee (25 birds) Counties.
- Hooded Merganser:** Present at the beginning of the period in the northern counties. On Sept. 6 the Spahns found 30 birds. Tessen saw 40 birds on Sept. 22 in Oneida County and on Sept. 29 he saw 40 in Dodge County. On Nov. 13 Polk saw 30 birds in Buffalo County. Present at the end of the period in Winnebago, Dodge and Milwaukee Counties.
- Common Merganser:** Reported Aug. 1 by Butterbrodt in Iron County. All other dates were from November with a peak of 350 birds on Nov. 25 in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Present at the end of the period north to Winnebago County.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** First seen on Sept. 17 in Douglas County by the Luepkes. On Oct. 9 Erdman reported 28 birds in Oconto County. Tessen found more than 200 in Ozaukee County on Nov. 10. Present Nov. 30 in Milwaukee.
- Turkey Vulture:** Reported Aug. 1 north to Iron County. Peartree saw 24 birds in Sauk County on Sept. 20 for the season's peak. Most dates were from October, but no peaks were noted. Reported at the end of the period in Manitowoc County.
- Northern Goshawk:** This species continues to remain relatively scarce during the autumn season with only 10 reports received. It was reported Aug. 1 in Marinette County. Between Aug. 30 and Nov. 30 in Oconto County, Erdman observed 17 birds with a peak of four on Nov. 3. He banded 15 or those 17.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Reported at the beginning of the period from Barron and Chippewa Counties. Peaks in Sept. were of 175 birds on the 15th from Oconto County where a total of 1395 birds were seen through Nov. 29 (Erdman). Steffen reported a total of 940 birds from Sept. 1 until the end of the period (Manitowoc Co.).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Present at the beginning of the period in Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. Erdman first noted this species in Oconto County on Aug. 25 and then saw 3 on Oct. 13; the last bird was seen on Nov. 13. A total of 19 birds was seen during this period. Epstein saw 13 birds in Monroe County on Oct. 12. Last noted in Rock County on Nov. 18.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Erdman reported 535 birds during the period with a peak of 87 on Nov. 3. On Oct. 23 Polk reported 36 birds (Eau Claire Co.) Steffen counted 235 birds during the period of Sept. 1 through the end of the period (Manitowoc Co.).

- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reported at the beginning of the period by Hafeman in Shawano County. Steffen found 34 birds in Manitowoc County during the period of Sept. 1 through the end of November. Erdman reported 12 birds during the period of Aug. 25 through Nov. 29 when 4 birds were seen for the last report of the season (Oconto Co.).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Waukesha County. Erdman reported a season total of 17,000 birds between Aug. 14 and Oct. 13 with a peak of 8950 on Sept. 14 (Oconto Co.). Steffen saw 483 birds during raptor trapping efforts in Manitowoc County this season. Other peaks of interest included 5000 birds over Barron County on Sept. 14 (Goff). Epstein reported peaks in Monroe County from Sept. 8 through the 24th. Other peaks around the state were from this same period. Last seen in Oconto County on Oct. 13 by Erdman.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** First reported in Manitowoc County on Sept. 1 by Steffen for a rather early date; 20 birds were observed during the season's trapping efforts there. Other arrival dates from the northern counties came from mid-September, but the statewide movement came in mid-October. Erdman reported a season's total of 58 birds with a peak of 12 birds on Oct. 23 in Oconto County. Present widely at the end of the period.
- Golden Eagle:** Epstein found this species in Monroe County on Oct. 23 and again on Nov. 10 while Safir found on in Waukesha County on Sept. 24. This is the first year in several that this bird was not reported from Crex Meadows in Burnett County.
- Bald Eagle:** Present Aug. 1 south to Vernon County. Polk reported 7 imm. and 3 ad. birds in Burnett County on Sept. 24. Erdman reported a total of 6 birds during the period of Sept. 6 through Nov. 29 in Oconto County during raptor trapping efforts. Drieslein saw 6 imm. and 1 ad. at Horicon Marsh on Nov. 27 (Dodge County). Present at the end of the period in Vernon and Oconto Counties.
- Northern Harrier:** The best indicators of the migration of this species came from raptor trapping stations such as Erdman's in Oconto County where a low total of 67 birds was seen during the period of Aug. 11 through Nov. 10 with a peak of 5 birds on Nov. 5. Steffen saw 121 birds during the period of Sept. 1 through the end of the period. Last seen in Columbia County by Gustafson on Nov. 25.
- Osprey:** A seasonal total of 46 birds came from Erdman in Oconto County with a peak of 5 birds on Sept. 13 while Steffen found 24 birds in Manitowoc Co. during the season. Most late dates were from late September and early October, although Polk found one bird in Chippewa County on Nov. 27.
- Prairie Falcon:** One bird was seen flying over Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on Sept. 16 by Dempsey. See "By the Wayside".
- Peregrine Falcon:** First seen in Douglas County on Sept. 3 by Dempsey. Erdman reported a total of 5 birds during the period of Sept. 21-30 in Oconto County. Steffen saw 24 birds during the period of Sept. 17 - Oct. 9 with a peak of 8 birds on Sept. 20 (Manitowoc County). Last seen Oct. 14 in Dodge County by Hoffman and de Boor.
- Merlin:** Seen in Forest County on Sept. 1 by Follen for the first date of the season. Erdman saw 4 birds during the period of Sept. 13-27 (Oconto County). Steffen in Manitowoc County reported a total of 8 birds during the period of Sept. 15 - Oct. 5. Last seen by Tessen in Forest County on Oct. 7.
- American Kestrel:** In Oconto County, Erdman recorded a peak of 38 birds on Sept. 6 and a season total of 70 birds, while Steffen in Manitowoc County saw 35 birds through Oct. 5. Present widely at the end of the period.
- Spruce Grouse:** Reported from Forest County by Vanderschaegen during the period.
- Ruffed Grouse:** Present in the reporting counties in the southwest and northwest with groups of 10 birds from Marathon County and 12 in Eau Claire County.
- Greater Prairie Chicken:** Reported from Burnett, Portage, Marathon (40 birds), and Wood (3 birds) Counties during the period.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Polk reported 11 birds from Burnett County during the period.
- Bobwhite:** Mostly absent in the northwest and scattered in the southeast where it still can be found in Milwaukee County (continually released birds?). In the northeast found north to Forest County with 24 birds being reported in Shawano County. Found southwest to Lafayette County and west to St. Croix County.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** No specific comments were reported by observers pertaining to the supposed low populations of this species due to the bad winters, in conjunction with the problems the DNR has faced in maintaining populations at Poynette for stocking. But fewer reports were received this autumn than the previous two. Found north to Dunn County and in the east to Brown County where 125 birds were reported. While present in the southeast this species's numbers are definitely down when compared to previous years.

Hungarian Partridge: Found north to Brown County, west to Columbia County and south to Milwaukee County with flock numbers of 18 from Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties and 13 from Dodge County.

Turkey: No reports were received from the Necedah area.

Sandhill Crane: Tessen reported 11 individuals in Winnebago County on Aug. 24. Bielefeldt counted 30 birds in Waukesha County on Sept. 21 and Oct. 4. Goff reported 63 individuals in Burnett County on Oct. 18 where this species reached its northern limit as far as the fields reports read this season.

King Rail: Drieslein reported this species at the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County Sept. 12.

Virginia Rail: Reported until Sept. 25 in Dodge County, with earlier dates north to Shawano County.

Sora: Reported north to Barron County at the beginning of the period; last reported in Milwaukee on Oct. 15 by Strehlow.

Common Gallinule: Found north to Oneida County Aug. 1 and last noted in Brown County on Sept. 30 by Columban and Cleary.

American Coot: Ziebell found 2000 birds in Winnebago County on Oct. 13. Robbins reports 10,000 or more in Taylor County on Oct. 18 and Polk reported "100's" in Buffalo County on Nov. 13. The last late concentration came from Smith in Dane County on Nov. 18 where 3000 were estimated. Present at the end of the period in Winnebago and Milwaukee Counties.

American Avocet: All reports were from the Coast Guard Confinement Structure in Milwaukee from Aug. 9 until Sept. 12 (many observers).

Semipalmated Plover: Present at the beginning of the period in Barron and LaCrosse Counties. Thiessen reported the season's peak of 15 birds from Dane County on Aug. 14. Most late dates were from late September, although de Boor saw this species in Ozaukee County on Oct. 14.

Piping Plover: The only report this season came from Milwaukee where Gustafson reported this species on Aug. 2 and again on the 27th.

Killdeer: Interesting concentrations included 125 birds in Dodge County on Sept. 8, Tessen, (probably the "W" Pond near Beaver Dam) and 150 birds in Jefferson County on the same day, Tessen. Most peaks were in September, with a few in October. Last noted by Shea in Dane County on Nov. 24. It is surprising that no individuals were seen at the end of the period with the warm weather in late November.

Lesser Golden Plover: Tessen first reported this species in Dodge County on Aug. 3 with three birds. He found 100 there on Sept. 15 and noted 65 in Oneida County on Sept. 22. Erdman saw 32 birds in Oconto County on Sept. 26 for a late peak. Only a few individuals remained in October with the last sighting coming from Columbia County on Oct. 21 (Shea).

Black-bellied Plover: Tessen first noted in Milwaukee on Aug. 16 where he also found 7 birds on Oct. 13, the largest number of birds reported this season. Also on the 13th were 6 birds in Dodge County. Last noted in Milwaukee on Nov. 1 by Gustafson.

Hudsonian Godwit: At the "W" Pond in Dodge County on Oct. 4 Frank noted 3 birds, and on Oct. 14 Polk noted one in the same location. Lindberg saw one in Marinette County on Aug. 11 and Volkert found one in Dodge County on Sept. 29.

Marbled Godwit: One bird was first seen by Gustafson at the "W" Pond in Dodge County on Aug. 8. It was seen by many observers until Sept. 15 (de Boor).

Whimbrel: For the first time in at least 3 years no birds were seen on the Juneau Park Landfill in Milwaukee, but 4 other birds were seen in widely scattered areas. Schroeder noted 3 birds in Door County on Aug. 15 and Kemper photographed 3 there on the 17th. Erdman saw 4 birds in Oconto County on Aug. 20 where he saw one on Nov. 2 for the last date. Sontag and Knuth saw this species in Manitowoc on Aug. 25 (4 birds) and again on Sept. 13 and 27. The Nov. 2 bird exceeded the previous state departure record by seven days.

Upland Sandpiper: Only 6 reports received this autumn with the most northern county being Outagamie. The last date was Sept. 10 in Milwaukee (Gustafson).

Greater Yellowlegs: Present Aug. 1 in Outagamie, LaCrosse and Brown Counties. Peaks were in early October from Dodge County where both Tessen and Frank reported about 180 birds at the "W" Pond, Oct. 4 and 8. Last noted in Marinette County by Lindberg on Oct. 28 with 8 birds.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Present Aug. 1 in Outagamie, Barron and Brown Counties. The only high numbers came from Dodge County on Aug. 14 (125 birds) and on the 29th of Sept. (70 birds) seen by Tessen. Shea noted 18 in Dane County for the only other numbers reported with 18 birds on Oct. 1. Last noted in Outagamie County on Nov. 4 by Tessen.

- Solitary Sandpiper:** Present on Aug. 2, Chippewa County, Kemper. Tessen reported 9 birds in Oneida County on Aug. 17 and Thiessen saw an amazing 74 birds in Madison on the 5th. Last seen in Milwaukee by Strehlow on Oct. 10.
- Willet:** First seen by Vanderschaegen in Oneida County on Aug. 11 then by Gustafson in Milwaukee at the Coast Guard Confinement Structure on Aug. 17. Thiessen found 3 birds in Dane County on Aug. 18 and Tessen found one in Dodge County on Sept. 15. Last seen by Sontag in Manitowoc on Sept. 24.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1 in Chippewa and Outagamie Counties. Sontag saw 25 birds in Manitowoc County on Sept. 2 and found the latest bird there on Oct. 23. There was only one other October date.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** Tessen's 5 birds in Milwaukee on Sept. 3 was the only number given for any report. By far, most of the turnstones in migration through Wisconsin travel down the Lake Michigan shoreline and most stick to the outer breakwaters during this period. Large flocks are sometimes seen flying over the lake in August; many are missed. Most late dates were from September, but one bird was in Milwaukee on Nov. 8 (Gustafson) -- a new state departure record.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Present Aug. 1 in Dane County. Frank and Tessen reported about 20 birds in Dodge County on Aug. 21 and 23. Last seen by Shea in Dodge County on Sept. 3.
- Northern Phalarope:** On Aug. 11 Vanderschaegen found 12 birds on the mudflats of the lowered Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County. In Dodge County at the "W" Pond Thiessen first saw this species on Aug. 12; Tessen saw 16 birds there on Aug. 21 and many observers found these birds until the 9th of Sept. (Thiessen).
- Woodcock:** Most late dates for this species were from October with the most individuals found by the Luepkes in Marathon County on Sept. 25. Last noted in Dane County on Nov. 4 by Smith.
- Common Snipe:** Thiessen reported 11 birds from Dane County on Oct. 21; the week following this most of the late birds were found in the state. Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Monroe Counties, due probably to the very mild conditions then.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Thiessen reported this species from the beginning of the period in Dane County and it was present in Milwaukee during the first week of August (Idzikowski). Tessen reported 85 birds from Dodge County on Aug. 16 and several other observers found these individuals about the same time. The last date that seems reasonable came from Dodge County on Sept. 29 (Volkert). Two October dates were reported, the last being from Columbia County on the 27th. These late October records, without more documentation, are regarded as **Dowitcher** sp. unknown.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Tessen's sightings were the most interesting with 95 on Sept. 8 at the "W" Pond in Dodge County and 85 on Oct. 13. The latest date was from Dane County on Oct. 28 (Thiessen).
- Red Knot:** An unusually high 10 reports were received this year with probably 5 birds involved. Idzikowski found the first at Bradford Beach in Milwaukee on Aug. 11; 2 or 3 birds were seen here until Sept. 29 (m. obs.). Shea also reported one in Dodge County on Aug. 12 and Sontag found this species in Manitowoc until Sept. 13.
- Sanderling:** Reported Aug. 1 in LaCrosse County. Tessen found 15 birds in Manitowoc County on Aug. 5 and Sontag found 30 birds there on the 9th of Oct. Gustafson found 30 in Milwaukee on Oct. 29. Frank found 3 in Ozaukee County on Nov. 1 for a late date.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** At the beginning of the period reported south to Dane County. Smith found 25 in Dane County on Aug. 4 and Sontag saw 12 in Manitowoc County on Sept. 30. Last seen on Oct. 14 in Dane County (Thiessen).
- Western Sandpiper:** Reported in Dane County on Aug. 2 and again on the 26th by Smith and Thiessen. Tessen found 1 in Outagamie County on Aug. 5 and 1 in Dodge County on Sept. 1. Present Sept. 3 in Dane County.
- Least Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1 in Dane County. Thiessen found 154 birds on Aug. 5 in Dane County. Most late dates were from late September or early October. Last noted on Oct. 21 in Dane County.
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** Most of the 8 reports were from Dodge County from Aug. 21 until Oct. 14 with 2 birds being seen by many observers. Also found in Milwaukee by Tessen on Oct. 13 and in Brown and Manitowoc Counties during September.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** A very good migration this season with 19 reports - the first, Dodge County Aug. 8 (Tessen) and through Oct. 8; the peak there was 6 birds on Sept. 29. Thiessen saw 14 in Dane County on Sept. 16 and the last report for the season was there on Oct. 28. Also reported from Oneida, Milwaukee, Manitowoc, St. Croix and Chippewa Counties.

- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Only seen in LaCrosse and Dane County on the 1st of August. Tessen found 85 birds in Dodge County on Aug. 14; other concentrations came from Thiessen in Dane County with 115 birds on Aug. 5 and 160 on Oct. 21. Drieslein found an October peak of 300 birds in Dodge County on the 16th. Sontag's report on Nov. 22 in Manitowoc was by far the latest with only two other November dates.
- Dunlin:** All reported migration peaks came in October with Dane County having 45 on the 21st and Dodge Co. 125 on the 20th. Last reported on Nov. 25 in Dodge and Milwaukee Counties. This species was present in LaCrosse County Aug. 1.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Gustafson saw 35 birds in Dodge County at the "W" Pond on Aug. 8 for the first reported peak although the earliest date was Aug. 1 in Dane County. Tessen also reported this species from Dodge County until Oct. 8 which was the late date for the season. Thiessen's 26 birds in Dane County on Sept. 9 was also noteworthy.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Never an autumn passes recently with this species, once very rare, being missed. Seven reports were received from 5 counties including Milwaukee, Dodge, Jefferson, Outagamie and Dane. The spread of sighting dates was Aug. 18 through Sept. 16 with as many as eight birds in Outagamie Co. on Aug. 19 (Tessen). Open fields with short vegetation and the dryer areas near wet shorebird haunts seem to be the place to find this westerner.
- Ruff:** One individual was described by Tessen on Oct. 13 from the "W" Pond in Dodge County. Seen the following day by Hoffman and de Boor. Fourth fall record; first beyond August.
- Glaucous Gull:** Typical November sightings were from Ozaukee County (Gustafson) on the 23rd and Milwaukee on the 4th (de Boor and Hoffman).
- Herring Gull:** Interesting peaks came from Door County on Aug. 2 (Schroeder) with 2500 birds, 650 in Brown County on Oct. 31 (Columban and Cleary) and 400 on Nov. 25 in Winnebago County (Ziebell). Present at the end of the period in areas throughout the state, but heaviest concentrations were from Lake Michigan counties, especially in the south.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Interesting peaks and concentrations included 600 in Dodge County on Aug. 23 (Frank) and 340 in Winnebago County on Oct. 16. End of the period reports were more restricted than with the Herring Gull to more southeastern counties, but some inland areas were also noted.
- Franklin's Gull:** Most reports came from Milwaukee and Dodge Counties, but it was noted in Barron County and Robbins found 6 in Clark County on Oct. 20. Milwaukee had individuals from Aug. 11 until Nov. 4. While Dodge Co. had at least two birds of different ages from Aug. 8 until Oct. 27 (many observers).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Present in normal numbers of several hundred birds in Milwaukee on Aug. 1 and at least 100 birds were still present there on Nov. 30. Tessen noted 300 birds in Milwaukee on Nov. 4 and Frank found 200 there on Nov. 18. No other concentrations reported. Reports came from a few inland locations west to Taylor County.
- Little Gull:** As usual all the observations of this species came from the Milwaukee Embankment area and most notably the Coast Guard Confinement Structure at South Shore. This year the birds arrived from their summering areas in Manitowoc County during the last week of July; in some years these birds have arrived by the 11th of July. Gustafson reported this species on Aug. 1 for the first official period date; as many as 7 birds were seen with 6 being adults and one a very vividly marked immature bird (Sept. 15-26, Polk and Gustafson). Last noted by the Idzikowskis on Nov. 24. Four adults spent December in the Chicago harbor area according to **American Birds**, due probably to the mild weather.
- Forster's Tern:** Present Aug. 1 in Outagamie, LaCrosse and Milwaukee (20 birds) Counties. Reported north to Vilas County during the period. The greatest number of birds came from Milwaukee (above) with other peaks being unmentioned or very small, such as 5 in Monroe Co. on Aug. 13. Woodmansee found one bird in Milwaukee on Oct. 27.
- Common Tern:** Present Aug. 1 in Milwaukee and Outagamie Cos. Sontag saw 10 in Manitowoc Co. on Aug. 13 and Hafeman reported 35 until Sept. 4 from Shawano Co. Hardy reported 12 birds in Price Co. on Sept. 17. Last seen in Vernon Co. on Oct. 30.
- Caspian Tern:** Milwaukee showed the greatest concentration of this species with 225 counted by Tessen, Aug. 28 and 10 still present there, Sept. 29. The Luepkes found 26 birds in Douglas Co. on Lake Superior, Sept. 17 and Sontag found 30 in Manitowoc Co., Sept. 11. Most reports were from the Lake Michigan counties, but one bird was noted by Leshner in LaCrosse Co. on Aug. 26. Last noted in Milwaukee Oct. 6 by Hanbury.
- Black Tern:** Peaks of 34 in Dane County on Aug. 5 (Thiessen) and 35 in Monroe Co. on Aug. 13 (Epstein) were interesting. Last reported by Epstein in Milwaukee on Nov. 25.
- Rock Dove:** The ubiquitousness of this species is always noted in the seasonal reports.

Milwaukee has contributed much to the increase in numbers of wild pigeons with excellent nesting sites as well as grain trucks occasionally spilling their loads. At the Lakefront one hill near South Shore had well over 1000 birds on a daily basis sunning themselves. Does anyone have an extra pair of Peregrines?

Mourning Dove: Present throughout the state with peaks of as many as 100 birds being reported, probably in roosts.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Four birds were reported in Manitowoc Co. by Sontag on Sept. 18, otherwise reported north to Barron Co. on Aug. 1. Last noted in Dane County on Oct. 23.

Black-billed Cuckoo: More reports were received for this species than for the preceding one, although the distribution of reporting counties was about the same. Sontag noted 6 birds in Manitowoc County on Sept. 18. Last seen in Milwaukee County on Oct. 30.

Groove-billed Ani: Two birds from different locations in Manitowoc Co. were picked up dead or dying near Two Rivers and have been salvaged for museum skins (fide Steffen and Erdman); dates were not reported.

Screech Owl: of 14 reports the most northern county was Oneida.

Great Horned Owl: Reported throughout the state with no more than 2 birds noted from one reporting area.

Snowy Owl: An average fall for this species was indicated with one bird in Winnebago County on Nov. 18 (Ziebell) and one each in Dodge Co. (Drieslein) and Brown Co. (Columban and Cleary) on the 19th.

Barred Owl: Reported north to Price and Oneida Counties and south to Sauk and Ozaukee Cos.

Hawk Owl: Klugow reported one from Douglas Co. on Nov. 21.

Great Gray Owl: Amazingly there were four reports of this species due to the efforts of Don Follen's search as well as some birds that probably stayed to summer after the late winter invasion of 1978. The first was of a bird caught from the rear of a pick-up truck on Aug. 19 by G. Petersen; this bird was quickly released (Washburn Co.). Then Follen reported one from Forest Co. on Aug. 25; Klugow had a report of one in Douglas Co. in early Nov. and another bird was reported in Washburn Co. on Nov. 28.

Long-eared Owl: Three reports: Erdman reported 9 birds from Oconto Co. during the period of Oct. 23 through Nov. 24. Drieslein found a roost on the northwestern edge of the Horicon Marsh in Dodge Co. on Nov. 4 and found 4 birds there on the 11th and Shea reported 2 from Dane County on Nov. 18. The traditional southeastern county roosts have been very unproductive for this species for the last 4 autumns.

Short-eared Owl: First reported in Milwaukee on Sept. 25 (Polk). Drieslein saw 15 birds at the end of the period in Dodge County over the fields of the northern edge of Horicon Marsh. Also reported during the period in Forest, Ozaukee, Marathon and Monroe Counties.

Boreal Owl: A bird was found dead on Hwy. 51 in Lincoln Co. near the Wisconsin River that Follen claims was this species although no details were provided.

Saw-whet Owl: Erdman reported this species at his banding station in Oconto Co., Oct. 1 through Nov. 17, with a total of 52 birds banded. Peaks during his trapping efforts were 6 on Oct. 15 and 8 on Nov. 8. The Cedar Grove trapping station reported a low 50 birds (fide Erdman) and the trappers at the Cedarburg Bog were unable to net one bird for the first time in 7 years. Also reported by Wierzbicki in Brown Co. on Oct. 11.

Whip-poor-will: Hafeman reported 8 birds from Shawano Co. in late August; otherwise it was reported throughout the reporting area during the period until Sept. 29 in Sauk Co. (Pear-tree).

Common Nighthawk: The migrational movements of this species were quite well spelled out in the reports received with the first date of note being Aug. 26 when the Luepkes reported 112 birds in Marathon County. Then Epstein reported 125 over Monroe County on Aug. 27. In southern Wisconsin, Milwaukee first saw a movement on Aug. 23 when Woodmansee counted more than 500 birds; the major movement in Milwaukee was on Aug. 29 when Gustafson reported 3000 and Frank 300 birds; Madison also reported a peak of 105 birds on the 29th (Shea). Erdman counted 1500 in Oconto County on the 28th, the day before the southern influx. September peaks were from the first week and were of 50 or so birds. Last reported in LaCrosse County by Leshner on Oct. 17.

Chimney Swift: Robbins reported 700 birds on Aug. 28 in Taylor Co. and Ziebell reported 600 in Winnebago Co. on Sept. 5. Shea noted 250 in Dane County on Sept. 18. Last noted in Dane County on Oct. 16.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Reported widely at the beginning of the period. Tessen reported 7 birds in Outagamie County on Aug. 24 and 12 in Walworth County on Sept. 1. Last noted by Ziebell in Winnebago County on Oct. 1.

- Belted Kingfisher:** Most late dates for this species were from late October, but there were a few November dates with one report from the end of the period in Oconto County. During the period groups of 7 maximum were reported.
- Common Flicker:** Peak migrational dates were from mid-to late September with Hardy reporting 100 birds in Price County on Sept. 16 for a high. Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee and Wood Counties.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** In the southeast one bird was still present at the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County, otherwise this bird is still most commonly reported in the central and northern sections of the state. Numbers from one reporter never exceeded 4 individuals.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** In the western part of the state this species was reported north to Barron County and in the east north to Oconto.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** At the beginning of the period this species was found north to Marathon and Eau Claire Cos. Present at the end of the period north to Shawano County.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Present Aug. 1 south to Jackson County. It reached southern Wisconsin by the end of September in numbers. On Sept. 30 Woodmansee reported more than 40 birds in Milwaukee Co. Last noted in Dane County on Nov. 17.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** There were fewer reports for this species than for the Downy and fewer individuals reported at one time. Present throughout the state during the period.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Present throughout the state during the period and more common apparently than the Hairy. As many as 8 birds were reported at one time.
- Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** Follen reported this species from Forest and Oneida County on Aug. 25 and 26. Polk reported one in Douglas County on Nov. 29.
- Eastern Kingbird:** Erdman reported a peak of 135 birds in Oconto County on Aug. 24 and Tessen found more than 60 in Columbia County on the same day. Most late dates were from early September with the latest being from Vernon County on Sept. 25.
- Western Kingbird:** Shea found one bird in Iowa County at the Avoca Wildlife Area on Oct. 20, two weeks beyond the previous state departure record.
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** No peaks were reported this season, but most dates were from September with the last being Sept. 25 in Jackson County.
- Eastern Phoebe:** On Oct. 5 Erdman found 6 birds in Oconto County; other reports provided little in the way of numbers; the bulk of the late dates came from mid-October with the latest date being Nov. 2 in Ozaukee Co. (Gustafson).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Woodmansee first noted this species in Milwaukee Co. on Aug. 3 and single birds were reported until Sept. 15 (Waukesha Co.).
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Woodmansee reported one bird in Milwaukee Co. from Aug. 21 until the 31st.
- Willow Flycatcher:** Present at the beginning of the period north to Chippewa County. Last noted on Sept. 8 in Waukesha County by Tessen. All reports were based on song identification.
- Alder Flycatcher:** Noted south to Ozaukee County at the beginning of the period (Cedarburg Bog). and seen and heard until Sept. 8 in Waukesha County (Tessen).
- (Traill's Flycatcher):** One bird was noted in Chippewa County on Sept. 19.
- Least Flycatcher:** Noted at the beginning of the period mostly in the northern and central counties. Sontag reported 20 birds in Manitowoc County on Aug. 26. Last noted in Barron County on Sept. 26.
- Eastern Pewee:** Most dates for this species were from September with a peak of 5 birds coming from Waukesha County on Sept. 8. Last noted by Gustafson in Milwaukee on Oct. 19.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First noted on Aug. 15 in Milwaukee by the Idzikowskis. Most late dates were from September, but the three birds on Oct. 11 were astonishingly late (Erdman, Oconto Co.).
- Horned Lark:** Reported in nine counties at the beginning of the period mostly in the central part of the state. Surprisingly, no large concentrations of birds were noted; 35 birds were seen in Dane County on Nov. 11 for the season's high. Present widely at the end of the period.
- Tree Swallow:** Peak concentrations came from very late August and September with the Spahns reporting 100 birds from Oneida County on Sept. 3; Frank saw 1000 on Sept. 13 in Dodge County and Ziebell reported 1000 in Winnebago County on the 22; the last peak was from Dodge County where Tessen estimated 2000 birds on Sept. 29. There was no October concentration reported. Last noted in LaCrosse County on Oct. 26 by Leshner.

- Bank Swallow:** Present Aug. 1 north to Iron and Barron Cos.
- Rough-winged Swallow:** No peak concentrations were reported this season and the last report came from Dane County on Sept. 7.
- Barn Swallow:** Most peaks reported were from August and early September with Woodmansee reporting 1000 birds in Milwaukee County on Aug. 21 and Ziebell seeing 40 in Winnebago Co. on Sept. 1 for that month's peak. Last seen on Oct. 20 in Iowa Co.
- Cliff Swallow:** The Luepkes saw 20 birds in Marathon County on Aug. 26 and Hardy saw 50 in Price Co. on Aug. 5. Frank found 10 birds on Sept. 15 in Ozaukee Co. and his last the following day.
- Purple Martin:** Present at the beginning of the period north to Iron Co. In Eau Claire Co. on Aug. 20, 400 birds were reported and the Spahns saw 500 on Sept. 4 in Oneida County. The last high was of 300 birds in Vilas County on Sept. 6. Last noted on Sept. 20 in Manitowoc Co. by Sontag.
- Gray Jay:** Reported by Tessen in Oneida Co. (4 birds) and in Forest Co. (3 birds); also reported from Vilas Co. and 7 birds in Price Co.
- Blue Jay:** Peaks were from the end of Sept. until mid-October with a nice flight of 430 birds on Sept. 21; other reported peaks were much lower. At the end of the period present in varying numbers; it was quite scarce in Milwaukee, probably due to a relatively poor mast crop.
- Northern Raven:** Found as far south as Wood and Oconto Counties in groups of not more than 10 birds during the period.
- American Crow:** The Luepkes reported 200 birds in Marathon County on Oct. 2; other reports were of groups of far fewer. Milwaukee had at least 5000 birds in its roost at the end of the period.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** Present widely throughout the state with a peak of 50 birds being reported from Oneida County and 100+ from Ozaukee Co.
- Boreal Chickadee:** Reported from Oneida, Forest and Vilas County with as many as 8 birds in Oneida Co.
- Tufted Titmouse:** Reported from Sauk, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dane and Juneau Counties.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** Present widely throughout the state during the period with no unusual numbers reported.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Insufficient reporting came from the northern counties to make any conclusions concerning the early part of the period. When it reached the southern counties by the first week of September it was present only in very low numbers and oftentimes was absent from many flocks of migrants. The Spahns found 15 birds in Vilas County on Sept. 6 for the only seasonal high. Peak numbers from the south came from November when wintering birds found their proper habitat and had concentrated somewhat, but these numbers were of only 5 or 6 birds tops. Present in low numbers throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Brown Creeper:** Present Aug. 1 south to Ozaukee County. Tessen's 40 birds in Ozaukee County were the season's high (Oct. 20); other highs were much lower, usually less than 10 birds. Present in the southern counties at the end of the period.
- House Wren:** A season high of 15 birds came from Manitowoc County on Aug. 21. Most late dates were from late Sept. with the last normal late date being Oct. 19 in Marathon Co., but Gustafson found one very late bird in Milwaukee on Nov. 15, bettering the previous state record by three days.
- Winter Wren:** Reported Aug. 1 south to Taylor Co.; this species reached the southern counties by late September with no concentrations noted of more than 5 birds. Last reported in Manitowoc Co. on Nov. 14 by Sontag.
- Marsh Wren:** Most late dates of this species were from late September and no numbers were reported from any county. One in Eau Claire, Nov. 16, Kemper. Last seen on Nov. 17 in Milwaukee by M. Peterson. Present Aug. 1 north to Taylor County.
- Sedge Wren:** Present Aug. 1 throughout the state. The Spahns reported 50 birds from Vilas County early in the period. No other numbers were recorded. Last noted by Bielefeldt in Waukesha County on Oct. 15.
- Gray Catbird:** Most migration peaks were from September with Thiessen's 24 birds on the 23rd being the month's high. Slightly higher peaks were noted in August, e.g. 30 in Milwaukee Co. on the 20th (Strehlow). Most late dates were from the first half of October. Last seen on Nov. 11 in Dane County (Shea).
- Brown Thrasher:** The only concentration of birds came in September on the 23rd when Thiessen saw 18 birds. Most late dates were from the end of October, but one bird was seen on Nov. 23 in Jefferson County by Etter-Hale.

- American Robin:** Smith saw over 500 birds in Dane County on Aug. 25 for a late summer peak. Peaks of "100's" were common in mid-October from many locales. Present in unusually high numbers especially in the southern counties at the end of the period.
- Varied Thrush:** One bird was reported from Iron County on Nov. 7 by Butterbrodt and on Nov. 28 one was present at a feeder in Rusk Co. (Rudy Hon).
- Wood Thrush:** Present at the beginning of the period north to Iron County. Present until Oct. 10 in the state (Sheboygan Co.). No definite peaks were noted.
- Hermit Thrush:** Present Aug. 1 in Oconto and Iron Counties. Peaks in migration were from October with 12 birds in Eau Claire Co. (Polk) and 15 birds in Milwaukee on Oct. 22 (Woodmansee). Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee (Idzikowskis).
- Swainson's Thrush:** First noted in Vilas County on Aug. 18; this species reached the southern counties by Aug. 31 with many reports from early September. There were two October dates plus one very late bird in Brown County on Nov. 15 (Cleary and Columban).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Hoffman first noted this bird in Pepin County on Sept. 3 and it reached the southern counties by mid-September, slightly later than normally. Sontag reported 10 birds in Manitowoc Co. on Sept. 18. Last noted by Strehlow in Milwaukee Co. on Oct. 10.
- Veery:** Present at the beginning of the period north to Iron Co. Last noted in Dane County on Sept. 23. No peaks were noted.
- Eastern Bluebird:** Of 22 reports the most northerly was from Wood County. Tessen saw 17 birds in Waukesha County on Sept. 8 and Epstein found 21 birds in Monroe Co. on Oct. 13. No other highs were noted during the period. Last seen on Nov. 4 in Jackson Co. by Barnett.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reported north to Monroe Co. during the period and seen as late as Oct. 14 (Ozaukee Co.). As many as 3 birds were seen at one sighting.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First reported by Tessen in Oneida County on Aug. 15 (5 birds). This species reached southern Wisconsin by late September in numbers. Highs included 30 birds in Winnebago County on Oct. 21 and 25 in Milwaukee on Nov. 10. Present at the end of the period in the southern counties in higher than normal numbers.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Reported Aug. 1 in Douglas County. This species reached the southern counties by the 3rd week of September; peaks were higher than for the above species and all from October. Polk found 30 in Eau Claire Co. on Oct. 5 and 25 were seen by Sontag on Oct. 19 in Manitowoc Co. Present at the end of the period in Dane County (Shea).
- Water Pipit:** A good show was noted by observers this fall with the Spahns first noting it in Oneida County on Sept. 4. Frank found 40 birds in Ozaukee Co. on Nov. 1 for a late peak after the bulk of the dates in October with lower highs. Last seen in Ozaukee Co. on Nov. 4.
- Bohemian Waxwing:** Robbins reported 3 birds from Taylor County during the period of Nov. 13 through the 28th.
- Cedar Waxwing:** Woodmansee reported over 150 birds on Aug. 21 for a late summer concentration. Migration peaks were from October with 150 birds in Brown County on Oct. 19 (Cleary and Columban) and in Nov. with 135 birds reported by Robbins on the 28th. Present widely at the end of the period.
- Northern Shrike:** First noted in Marathon County on Oct. 18. Thiessen saw 10 birds in Adams Co. on Oct. 26. One bird was noted in Price County on the 18th also. Reported in Eau Claire and Chippewa Cos. at the end of the period with very few individuals in the southern counties near the end of the period.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Only one report was received this season of one bird in Winnebago County on Aug. 28 (Tessen).
- European Starling:** High concentrations included 3000 in Marathon Co. on Sept. 28 and 2500 reported from Door County. Milwaukee's roost of over 100,000 birds was not too far into development by the end of November due to the mild conditions.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Noted Aug. 1 in Outagamie County. Most dates were in September with no discernible peaks. The last bird was seen by Strehlow in Milwaukee Co. on Oct. 4.
- Solitary Vireo:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron and Oconto Counties. It reached the south by Sept. 3 with Woodmansee reporting a peak of 5 birds on Sept. 29 in Milwaukee Co. Last reported in Dane and Waukesha Counties on Oct. 11.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** The Spahns saw a group of 20 birds in Vilas County on Sept. 6. Migration peaks south were during September until the 29th. Last noted in Manitowoc County on Oct. 15.
- Philadelphia Vireo:** First seen by Sontag on Aug. 21 in Manitowoc County. Peak dates were noted during the first half of September, and Bielefeldt saw the latest bird in Waukesha Co. on Oct. 4.

- Warbling Vireo:** Reported Aug. 1 north to Taylor Co.; the last bird was in Dane County on Sept. 25 (Smith)
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Woodmansee reported a high of 5 birds in Milwaukee Co. on Sept. 29. Most other migrational peaks came from early September. Last noted in Vernon County on Oct. 21.
- Golden-winged Warbler:** Reported north to Barron Co. at the beginning of the period, and reported in the south during the first week of September. Last reported on Sept. 15 in Barron County (Goff).
- Blue-winged Warbler:** Seen as far north as Monroe County during the period and last noted in Waukesha Co. on Sept. 8.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Present Aug. 1 in Milwaukee Co. as late July migrants were still in the treetops. This species arrived south by Aug. 22; most peaks were from the first half of September with 20 to 40 birds being reported during this period. Last noted in Waukesha Co. on Oct. 19, by Bielefeldt.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** Epstein's arrival of Sept. 14 in Monroe Co. was the first acceptable one; others were very early; reporters must be careful differentiating this species from adult Tennessees which are quite uncommon amidst the many hundreds of young Tennessees. Polk reported a high of 10 birds in Eau Claire Co. on Oct. 10. Last noted by Hoffman in Dane County on Oct. 23.
- Nashville Warbler:** Reported from the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee County. Peaks were from the first week of September with 30 birds in Vilas County on the 3rd (Spahns); other peaks were far lower than that. Last noted by Woodmansee in Milwaukee Co. on Oct. 21.
- Northern Parula:** Reported Aug. 1 in Chippewa Co. and then reached the southern counties by the second week of September. Last noted by M. Peterson in Ozaukee Co. on Oct. 7.
- Yellow Warbler:** Reported Aug. 1 north to Brown Co. Smith saw 7 in Dane County on Aug. 4 and the Engbergs found 10 in Oneida County on Sept. 1. (This is a lot considering that most have departed the state by this date.) Last noted by Cleary and Columban in Brown County on Sept. 30.
- Magnolia Warbler:** First seen by Kemper, Eau Claire Co., Aug. 19. Noted in Taylor County by Robbins on Aug. 20. This species reached the southern counties by the end of August. Son-tag reported 10 birds in Manitowoc Co. on Sept. 26. Last seen by Gustafson in Milwaukee Co. on Oct. 19.
- Cape May Warbler:** First seen by Hardy in Price County on Aug. 18. The Spahns reported 5 birds in Vilas County on Sept. 1. Nine seen Sept. 9, Chippewa Co., (Kemper). Most southern reports were from the second week of September. The latest report was from G.S. Peterson in Winnebago Co. on Nov. 8, with a very late straggler present in Milwaukee on Dec. 6 (Idzikowskis).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** First noted by Hardy on Aug. 17 in Price Co. It reached south by the first week of September. Last noted in Chippewa County on Sept. 30 (Kemper).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Present in Eau Claire Co. at the beginning of the period. Peaks were noted of 60-70 birds in Oneida and Vilas Co. during the first week of September by the Spahns. This species reached the southern counties by Sept. 15 in numbers. The main peaks over the entire state were in late September and early October with Erdman reporting "100's" on Oct. 7 and similar reports coming from the south. A few are normally seen in with the first major waves of September warblers such as 5 that were noted in Milwaukee on the 5th, possibly Wisconsin nesting birds(?) Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee County.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** First noted at the beginning of the period in Taylor County (Robbins). Groups of 3 and 4 individuals were reported in the southern counties by the first week of September, but the highest peak was on Sept. 29 when Woodmansee found over 20 birds; last noted by Mahlum in Rock County on Oct. 18.
- Cerulean Warbler:** Reported in Monroe County on Sept. 2 by Epstein and on Sept. 26 by Goff in Barron County.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Reported Aug. 1 in Taylor and Barron County. Present in southern Wisconsin by the end of August. During the first week of September, 3 and 4 birds were reported at one time in the south. Last seen on Sept. 23 by Horman in Dane County.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Reported Aug. 1 north to Iron County. Most dates were from September with the latest being Oct. 2 in Dane County.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** First noted Aug. 14, Chippewa Co. Kemper. Noted in Taylor and Manitowoc Counties on Aug. 23. Most birds were in the southern counties during the first

- half of September with a peak of 36 birds in Eau Claire County on the 11th. Woodmansee reported the latest bird in Milwaukee County on Sept. 29.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Tessen first noted this species on Aug. 24 in Outagamie County. It was present in the southern counties throughout September. Last seen in Dane County on Oct. 12 by Smith.
- Pine Warbler:** This species was surprisingly well seen this season with 17 reports. Present at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Barron and Shawano Counties. Tessen saw 5 birds in Menominee County on Sept. 22. Most dates were in September. Last noted in Price County on Sept. 24 by Hardy.
- Palm Warbler:** First noted by Hardy in Price County on Aug. 7. The highest numbers of this species were from late September with Cleary and Columban reporting 100 in Brown County on Sept. 23 and Woodmansee reporting more than 100 in Milwaukee Co. on Sept. 29. Most late dates were in mid-October.
- Ovenbird:** Present throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Most dates were from the first half of September, with no interesting numbers being reported. Last noted in Brown County on Oct. 10.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Present at the beginning of the period north to Barron County. Most dates were from September with no numbers being reported except for 4 in Manitowoc Co. on Sept. 25. Last noted on Sept. 30 in Milwaukee Co. by Strehlow.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Polk reported this species in Eau Claire County on Aug. 1.
- Kentucky Warbler:** Reported in Eau Claire County Aug. 1 and in Dane County on Sept. 11. Hanbury found one very late bird on Nov. 3 (details given).
- Connecticut Warbler:** Reported during the period of Aug. 8 through Sept. 15 in counties north to Vilas County.
- Mourning Warbler:** Reported north at the beginning of the period to Taylor County. The Engbergs reported 10 birds in Oneida County on Sept. 1. All late dates were from the first week of Sept., but Sontag found one bird in Manitowoc County on Oct. 2.
- Common Yellowthroat:** All peaks for this species were from September with 40 in Vilas Co. on Sept. 6 and 30 in Manitowoc Co. on the 26th. Late dates were from the first week of November, but one bird was present in Waukesha County on Nov. 30 (Bielefeldt).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Hoffman described one bird in Pepin County on Sept. 3.
- Hooded Warbler:** Reported in Waukesha County by Bielefeldt until Oct. 4, three weeks beyond the previous state departure records.
- Wilson's Warbler:** First noted on Aug. 21 in Manitowoc and Price Counties. Most dates were from September with the last in Fond du Lac County on Oct. 2 (Schultz).
- Canada Warbler:** Present at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee County. Most migrants arrived in the south by late August and early September. Last seen in Eau Claire County on Sept. 14.
- American Redstart:** Present Aug. 1 throughout the state with migrational flocks reaching the southern areas by early September, but surprisingly no peaks were noted until the end of the month with 30 birds in Milwaukee County on Sept. 29. Last noted in Monroe County on October 13 (Epstein).
- House Sparrow:** Cleary and Columban reported 1800 birds in Brown County. Numbers in high concentration areas such as Milwaukee were also faring well.
- Bobolink:** Epstein reported 100 birds in Monroe County on Aug. 19. Tessen found 45 birds in Winnebago County on Aug. 24 and 50 were reported from Marathon County on Sept. 1; it was last seen in Marathon County on Oct. 3.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Reported west to Barron County during the period and last seen there on Nov. 6 although surely others remained around through the end of the period due to mild weather.
- Western Meadowlark:** Reported east to Waukesha County during the period. Last noted in Dunn County on Nov. 9.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reported Aug. 1 in Dodge and Barron Counties. Last seen in Iowa County on Oct. 20 by Shea.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Peaks of a thousand or so birds were seen in the reports during September. Present at the end of the period in Milwaukee and Eau Claire Counties.
- Orchard Oriole:** Leshar reported one bird from LaCrosse County on Aug. 15.
- Northern Oriole:** A high of 6 birds came from Dane County on Aug. 25. Last noted in Richland County on Sept. 16.

- Brewer's Blackbird:** Present at the beginning of the period in the western counties. Albrecht reported 500 in Manitowoc County on Sept. 27 and Woodmansee found more than 400 in Milwaukee County on the 24th. Last seen in Dane County on Nov. 17.
- Rusty Blackbird:** This species reached the southern counties by the end of September, but peak numbers came later with 200 in Dodge County on Oct. 20; there were other peaks that were much lower also at this time. Thiessen reported this species at the end of the period in Dane County.
- Common Grackle:** Smith reported 950 birds in Dane County on Sept. 13 and there were 1100 in Marathon County on Oct. 15. Present widely in the southern counties at the end of the period.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Present Aug. 1 throughout the state with late reports on Nov. 11 in Dane and Columbia Counties.
- Scarlet Tanager:** Present Aug. 1 north to Barron County; most peaks were during September with groups of 3 and 4 individuals being reported. Woodmansee found one late bird in Milwaukee County on Nov. 22 after most birds had departed by mid-October. The previous state departure record was Nov. 5.
- Cardinal:** Reported north to Burnett and Price Counties during the period.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reported north to Iron County on Aug. 1. Sept. 8 was a peak day for Peartree in Sauk Co. with 12 birds and for Polk in Eau Claire County with 12 birds. Last seen by Wierzbicki in Brown County on Oct. 10.
- Indigo Bunting:** Reported at the beginning of the period north to the central counties. Epstein reported 7 in Monroe County on Sept. 22 and Polk found 8 in Eau Claire County on Oct. 3. Last noted by Hoffman in Columbia County on Oct. 17.
- Dickcissel:** Reported in Waukesha County on Aug. 1 and in Dane County on Aug. 2 (Bielefeldt and Lang). Last noted in Columbia County on Aug. 18 by Hoffman.
- Evening Grosbeak:** Reported south to Price County on Aug. 1. Tessen reported 35 birds in Vilas County on Aug. 17 and the Spahns reported 100 there on Sept. 1. Hardy reported 75 in Price County on Nov. 8. This species did not wander into the southern counties this year in anything but very small numbers in November. By the end of the period it was present south to the central counties and mostly absent in the southern.
- Purple Finch:** Reported in Taylor and Price Counties at the beginning of the period. One bird was noted by Woodmansee in Milwaukee Co. on Aug. 3. There were several August reports south, but this species did not seem to move into the south in its normal pattern in early September. Erdman reported 85 birds in Oconto County on Sept. 18. Most other highs were from October with fewer birds per peak. Present at the end of the period in mostly the northern and central counties.
- Pine Grosbeak:** Reported from Iron, Price and Marinette Counties during the last week of November.
- Common Redpoll:** Reported from Nov. 13 until the end of the period in Price, Bayfield and Marinette Counties.
- Pine Siskin:** Reported in Iron County on Aug. 1. There was no influx into the southern counties this year. The Spahns reported 30 birds in Oneida Co. on Sept. 4. Small numbers reached the southern counties by early October. Reported only in Oconto County on Nov. 30.
- American Goldfinch:** Present Aug. 1 throughout the state with migration peaks during late September and early October. Peartree saw 27 in Sauk County on Oct. 1 and a late peak of 120 was noted by Epstein in Monroe County on Nov. 3. Present widely at the end of the period.
- Red Crossbill:** Of an unusually high 20 reports received this bird was noted in good numbers throughout the state during the period. It was present in Milwaukee on Aug. 8 (Idzikowskis). The first noticeable movement was in western Wisconsin where Polk noted 25 birds in Eau Claire County on Oct. 18 and 25 in Chippewa County on the same day. Bielefeldt noted 50 on Nov. 13 in Waukesha County and Tessen had 50 in Milwaukee County on Nov. 17. Last seen on Nov. 29 in Burnett County.
- White-winged Crossbill:** Seen in normal, non-invasion numbers from Nov. 11 until the 29th in counties south to Dane.
- Savannah Sparrow:** The Spahns reported 200 birds in Vilas County on Sept. 6 and Ziebell found 20 in Winnebago County on Sept. 22 for season highs. Most late dates were from late October, but one bird was noted in Manitowoc County on Nov. 25 and Humphrey had one in Barron County on Nov. 30.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Seen from the start of the period until Aug. 4 in counties north to Iron. Also seen at the Milwaukee Lakefront in late September in the weedy areas.

- Henslow's Sparrow:** Present in Waukesha County on Aug. 1. Gustafson found 3 birds in Dodge County on Aug. 8. Last reported on Sept. 29 in Monroe County by Epstein.
- LeConte's Sparrow:** Noted by the Spahns in Vilas County on Sept. 6 and was last seen by Bielefeldt in Waukesha County on Oct. 15. It was seen in 7 counties west to Iowa Co. during this period with the best concentration of individuals at the Milwaukee Lakefront during late September and early October (2 or 3 birds).
- Vesper Sparrow:** Reported north to Vilas County during the period. Ziebell reported 6 birds in Winnebago County on Sept. 22. All peak numbers were from September. Humphrey reported one bird in Barron County on Nov. 5 for a late date.
- Lark Sparrow:** Noted by Hoffman in Pepin County on Sept. 3 and by Gustafson in Milwaukee on Oct. 29. The previous state departure record had been Oct. 4.
- Black-throated Sparrow:** The "bird of the season" was found by Casper in Milwaukee on October 30 in with a flock of juncos and sparrows at the Milwaukee Lakefront. It was photographed on the 31st and seen by many observers through Nov. 10 (Tessen). See "By the Wayside".
- Northern (Slate-colored) Junco:** Reported Aug. 1 in Iron County. This species reached the southern counties in numbers by Sept. 26. Hardy reported 1000 birds in Price County on Sept. 30 and Polk found more than 300 birds in Eau Claire County on Oct. 21. Peak numbers south were from early October.
- Northern (Oregon) Junco:** Seen from Oct. 21 until the end of the period in both eastern and western counties.
- Tree Sparrow:** First noted in Milwaukee on Oct. 1. The only high concentration reported was of 30 birds in Price County on Oct. 24. Most dates came from late October, but reports of numbers were lacking, possibly indicating a general lack of a good movement for this species when compared to some autumns.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Reported north to Washburn County at the beginning of the period. Definite peaks were seen during the first half of September with 25 birds noted by the Spahns in Vilas County on the 1st and 30th in Oneida County on the 3rd. Stragglers remained until late October and November with the last bird seen on Nov. 21 in Dane County (Smith). There were no reported peaks in the far southern counties where chippies are less common during the summer than in the north.
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Found north to Oneida County on Aug. 1. Individual birds were noted in counties south to Milwaukee until the 15th of October.
- Field Sparrow:** Reported north to Barron County on Aug. 1. Polk reported 15 birds on Aug. 22 in Eau Claire County. Late dates were generally from late October. Last noted this year by Epstein on Nov. 25 in Monroe County.
- Harris' Sparrow:** Shea found this species in Iowa County on Sept. 22. Seen in 5 other counties including Milwaukee, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Barron and Dane until Oct. 19.
- White-crowned Sparrow:** First noted in Dodge County on Sept. 13. Hardy found 10 in Price County on Sept. 28; most dates were around this time. Reported by Cleary and Columban in Brown County at the end of the period. Peartree found one bird in Sauk County on Oct. 1 which he identified as the *gambeli* race.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1 in Taylor, Iron and Ozaukee Counties. The Spahns reported 36 birds in Oneida County on Sept. 3. This species reached the south by the last week of September in numbers; Polk found 150 birds in Eau Claire County on Oct. 16; numbers went down quickly after this date. Present at the end of the period in widely scattered areas in the southern counties, especially notable in Milwaukee.
- Fox Sparrow:** First noted in Burnett County on Sept. 24. Polk reported 40 birds in Eau Claire County on Oct. 16; most dates were from mid-October. Present at the end of the period in Dane County (Thiessen) and Barron County.
- Lincoln Sparrow:** It arrived in the south by the second week of September. The Spahns found 30 birds in Oneida County on Sept. 3 and 15 were in Milwaukee on the 29th (Tessen). Last noted on Oct. 23 by Hoffman in Dane County.
- Swamp Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1 throughout the state. Peaks were from September with 30 birds in Vilas County on Sept. 6 and 43 in Dane Co. on Sept. 16 (Thiessen). Present during October when many sightings were made. Last seen at the end of the period in Dane and Milwaukee Counties.
- Song Sparrow:** A peak of 64 birds was reported by the Spahns in Vilas County on Sept. 6 and the Luepkes found 12 birds in Marathon County on Oct. 2; only small groups were reported after this date. Present at the end of the period in the southern counties.
- Lapland Longspur:** First noted by Polk in Burnett County on Sept. 6 and she saw 300 birds

in Chippewa County on Oct. 7. The Luepkes saw 400 in Marathon County on Nov. 25 and Shea reported 265 in Dane County on Nov. 11. Few reports came from eastern Wisconsin during the period. Last noted in Marathon County on Nov. 27. This bird hit the southern counties by the second week of October.

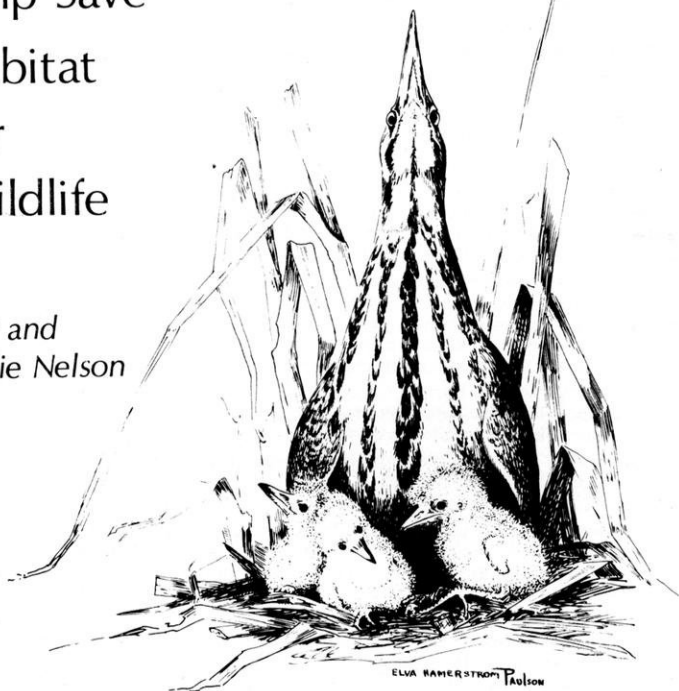
Snow Bunting: Polk first saw this species in Chippewa County on Oct. 9. There were more than 300 reported in Columbia County on Nov. 11 and Erdman reported 335 in Oconto County on Nov. 8. This bird reached the southern counties by the second week of October. Present at the end of the period south to Waukesha.

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By the Wayside...

All Three Scoters in Ozaukee County, Oct. 13 - Nov. 17

After the poor scoter migration of 1978 it was a pleasure to see excellent numbers of all three species in Ozaukee County. Harrington Beach State Park was the place to see the best concentrations with smaller numbers present south to the Port Washington harbor and Loon Bluff (see the "Summary" for dates and numbers). A leisurely study was afforded from the beach at the park allowing excellent comparison between all three species. Identification points included for Surf Scoter: white cheek patches on face and black wings (flying and flapping birds seen) and multi-colored bill with two large white top head spots on the male. Black Scoters showed the gray-white cheek and dark cap for the female and immatures and all-black wings (again flying and flapping). The White-winged had white face patches and white on the wing. The first sighting, Oct. 13 was preceded by several days of intense weather caused by the passage of a cold front.

Daryl Tessen

A Ruff (Reeve?) in Dodge County

An intense storm front had passed through Wisconsin several days before Oct. 13. The weather that day was cold and windy. While birding the "W" ponds near Beaver Dam, I was surprised to discover an unusual appearing shorebird among the Greater Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlin. Switching to the zoom scope it was seen to be slightly larger than the plovers and slightly smaller than the Yellowlegs. The bird's back was browner than the Yellowlegs with its bill longer than the plovers. The legs appeared dark; the brown of the head, back and wings being soft color. After feeding along the edge of the pond for awhile it took flight and the oval tail-rump pattern was seen confirming the identification as a Ruff. It was surprising to see this species at such a late date.

Daryl Tessen

Brant Along the Wisconsin River

Early on Nov. 17, I noticed 5 goose-like birds flying north along the Wisconsin River (Dane County). The flight appeared swift and the formation was compact. No vocalizations were heard from these birds; this intrigued me as Canadas usually make some noise. When the birds were overhead I noticed that they had extensive black on the breast and had white

bellies. I quickly checked their heads and noted that they were black with no white at all. On two of the birds I saw a small amount of white at mid-neck. I did not see this on the other birds as I was concentrating on the first two. They flew out of sight as I watched them.

Randy Hoffman

A Good Day for Hawks

On Sept. 14, here in Hillsdale (Barron County) I was filling one of my bird feeders at 12:30 p.m. and happened to look up; the sky was "aswarm" with hawks. I got my glasses and as I returned I saw more coming. The first "kettle" was low and I could make out Broad-wings and Red-tails plus 7 Turkey Vultures soaring below the rest. After this first group passed the swarm continued for another hour. Altogether I saw four large groups of hawks, eagles and vultures and I estimated that nearly 5000 birds flew through directly overhead and to the east over town.

Alta Goff

A Prairie Falcon at Wisconsin Point

On Sunday, Sept. 16 while driving back from the lighthouse at Wisconsin Point, I stopped the car about one mile back from the end of the road to look at waterbirds out on the Bay. As I was getting out of the car I heard a very loud, high-pitched "keee-keek" coming from the other side of the road; it immediately struck me as some kind of hawk sound. As I looked up I saw a large falcon-shaped bird flying just above the trees out across the Bay. The bird was flying directly into a very strong wind coming from the southwest. As it flew I saw the black axillars and falcon shape of a Prairie Falcon. It had a light-colored longish tail, but I couldn't get much color on it or any markings. I would estimate this bird to be the size of a Ring-billed Gull. The bird called once more as it flew across the Bay and out of sight.

Janelle Humphrey
Hastings, MN

A Black-throated Sparrow in Milwaukee. Wisconsin's Third Sighting

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1979 I was birding the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Lake Park in Milwaukee. As I rounded the northwest corner of the fence surrounding the Water Plant I saw a striking bird in with the juncos on the lawn along the fence which I immediately knew to be an adult plumaged Black-throated Sparrow. The bird had a brownish-gray back, the sides were gray and the belly a light buff. The tail was longer than most sparrows' and was gray with white outer tail feathers that were narrower than the white of the junco's tail that it was with. The bill was black as was the eye with a white eye ring. The top of the head was dark brown and a white eyeline was distinctive. The cheek was slate bordered on the bottom by a white line running from the base of the bill that outlined the black throat which blended with the belly. The area was very scrubby with scattered dirt piles and the slope running down to the beach near these was wooded. The bird was photographed on Oct. 31 by John Idzikowski and I saw it again on Nov. 1 and 2. It was always seen close to the ground flitting about feeding on weed seeds in the brush. (See the photo of this individual in **American Birds**, 34:165.)

Gary Casper
Milwaukee

A Great Gray Owl near Hayward

On Aug. 19 while driving with Larry Gray of Minneapolis on Frog Creek Road which is off Hi. 77 north of Hayward, we spotted a large gray owl sitting in the road with a rodent in its feet. I had only one unexposed picture left in my camera and took it of this bird as it was flying ahead of our pickup truck. The bird would fly ahead of our truck as we approached and land on the road again. Soon it would just remain on the road as we would drive past. Larry then got into the rear of the pickup and then jumped out as we passed the bird and he was able to grab the owl. It had a wingspan of at least 36 inches and big yellow eyes. We knew that we shouldn't be fooling around with owls so we released it and it flew to a tree at the side of the road. When we had it in the hand it made a cackling sound. We then went to talk to the wildlife technician at the nearby DNR station and he pointed out one of Don Follen's posters requesting information on the Great Gray Owl. The bird on the poster was identical to the one we had in the hand. We then contacted Don Follen several times. I had seen this bird here in the spring. (This sighting is included in the report in the Summer, 1980 Passenger Pigeon, Vol. 42, No. 2).

Don G. Follen Sr.
for Greg Peterson

A Possibly Paired Female Albino Grackle

The occurrence of albino birds is not particularly rare in itself, but the fact that the color of the albino female in the following sighting apparently had not prevented her successful pairing may be of interest. On 29 April, 1972 in Menasha, Wisconsin, an albino female grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) flew by us followed by a normally colored male. They landed on a lawn about 100 feet distant where the male followed the female in the course of their subsequent foraging. After awhile the female flew off and the male again followed. Thus, they appeared to be traveling together as a pair. All of the female's plumage appeared to be white, although the head had a yellowish cast. The underparts did not appear as bright white as above, but this may have been because they were not directly lighted. The bill was yellow. Unfortunately, we were not able to locate the pair in the vicinity during the later searches so do not know if the albino bred successfully.

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and M. - F.M. Minock
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NEW PUBLICATION

The Bird Watchers Digest is a new bimonthly magazine published by William H. Thompson, P.O. Box 110, Marietta, Ohio 45750. Rates are \$1.75 per copy or \$9.00 per year. It is a very attractive, readable, enjoyable journal especially for the bird enthusiast. It features 20-25 articles per issue - full color cover, many photos and illustrations. It is a compact 5" to 8" size.

Book Review

A Manual for Bird Watching in the Americas, Donald Heintzelman, Universe Books, 381 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, 255 pp., \$17.95. This book is primarily intended for the beginning birder. It attempts to interest the beginner in various aspects of the hobby plus provide an assortment of information. Therein lies the main problem. Topics covered include equipment, check-lists, rare bird alerts, organizations, backyard birding, counts, pelagic trips and specialized bird groups (hawks, owls, shorebirds, etc.). Because of this multiplicity the topics cannot be covered with any degree of depth. Adding to the problem is the coverage area that includes North, South and Central America. For the beginner this book is undoubtedly of value. However for the more experienced birder the addition of this to one's library should be done only after its careful examination.

Daryl Tessen

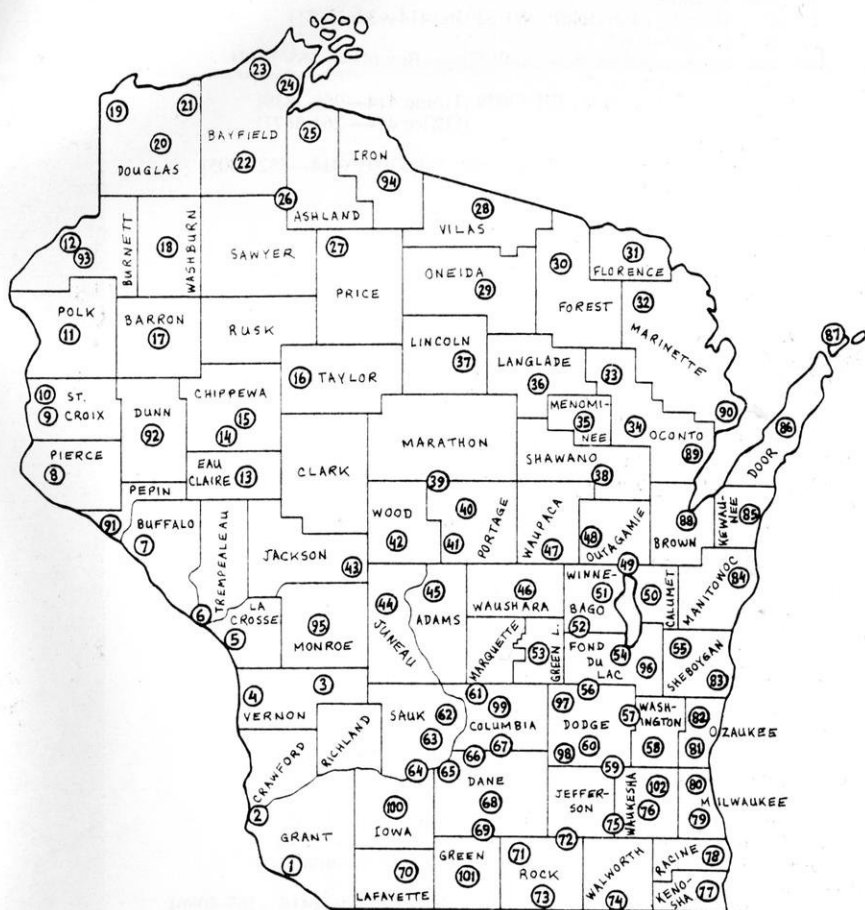
The following new releases, just in time for Christmas giving or I.O.U.'s, are by WSO member/ornithologists whose work is of special interest to us. Both will be reviewed in a future issue. **Strictly for the Chickens**, 1980, by Frances Hamerstrom, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa 50010; price \$11.95. **The Great Gray Owl: Phantom of the Northern Forest**, 1980, by Robert W. Nero, photographs by Robert R. Taylor, Smithsonian Institution Press Books, P.O. Box 1579, Washington, D.C. 20013; price \$17.50.



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