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THE PASSENGER PIGEON

FOR VICTORY

TO ENCOURAGE STUDY OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

VOL. IV

JANUARY, 1942

No. 1

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With this issue *The Passenger Pigeon* begins its fourth year of publication. Begun in 1939 with the avowed purpose of permanently recording existing and future bird records for the state and increasing interest in bird study in the field, it became the official organ of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology when that organization was started in May of the same year.

Since that time, the bulletin has grown from a mimeographed pamphlet to an eight page printed magazine, and the published indexes for each year indicate the number of bird records permanently on file in many places throughout the state. This fact in itself is a spur to further bird study and an educational factor of definite value.

The Executive Committee and the Society as a whole, we believe, appreciate the support given by the members since the inception of this program, but members might well be reminded that we are now entering upon the most difficult period of our development to date. Publication difficulties are many, but can be overcome—if there is enthusiastic support from Wisconsin bird students. War efforts are apt to dull one's interest in a hobby, but in this instance we believe the hobby should become intensified.

"War nerves" is a phrase increasingly used. Bird study in the field can calm them. "Keep fit" is also heard. Bird hikes are a natural answer to this demand. "Conserve your tires;" "Do without sugar;" "Substitute." There is no substitute for recreation; it is absolutely essential to our physical and mental well-being. Our available time may be curtailed, but not the number of our bird subjects.

Let us encourage this form of "keeping fit"—a praiseworthy dense effort for those at home—and continue to foster the growth of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology so that at the end of hostilities, its strength will not be so impaired as to result in its eventual disintegration.

The spirit of this continual growth and improvement may be noticed in this issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* with its new title and other headlines drawn by Mr. N. R. Barger of Madison. You also can help the Society to continue during this difficult period by renewing your membership promptly and encouraging your friends to join the Society. Those who can afford it should consider the matter of becoming Sustaining Members, and if the proposed changes in our constitution are passed at the annual meeting, those who could assist by becoming Life, or Patron Members, or by giving the Society an endowment, would be doing a very definite service.

Every member of the Society should do all in his power for the support of our country during this present war effort. If the Society's publication must be sacrificed or curtailed due to this cause, there at least could be no better reason for such action. However, we feel that there is a very definite place for the field study of birds and this publication even during war time; if you also feel this to be so, show it by your additional encouragement of the Society wherever possible.

W. E. Scott, Editor

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS FOR 1941

EDITED BY N. R. BARGER, MADISON, WIS.

Twelve surveys were made in nine localities for 1941. The warm season produced many interesting records. Nineteen species of ducks were found, the most interesting being the Blue-winged Teal and Shoveller. Also unusual were the Loons and Geese. One Saw-whet Owl, twelve Bonaparte's Gulls, one Mockingbird, one Crossbill, one White-crowned Sparrow and one Fox Sparrow are notable; while the warbler family is represented by the Northern Yellow-throat and Myrtle. Eighty-five species were counted in the state with Watertown contributing the largest local list of forty-seven species.

APPLETON.—(river banks, lake fronts, open fields, willow and alder thickets, cedar and tamarack swamps, hard woods, city parks and streets, and cemetery).—Dec. 22, 6 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy, dense fog at 4 P. M.; ground bare, except in few sheltered places; wind south-east, brisk to light; temp. 40° at start 40° at return. Five observers in 4 parties. Total hours afield, 18 (11 by foot, 7 by car); total party miles, 133 (22 by foot, 111 by car). Mallard, 14; Black Duck, 100; American Golden-eye, 181; American Merganser, 80; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Herring Gull, 15; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 12; Crow, 18; Black-capped Chickadee, 43; White-breasted Nuthatch, 26; Brown Creeper, 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 28; English Sparrow, 300+; Cardinal, 1; Goldfinch, 160+; Junco, 5; Snow Bunting, 1. Total, 20 species; 1018+ individuals. —Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Ben Seaborne, Dexter Wolfe, Mrs. H. L. Playman, Walter E. Rogers.

GREEN BAY.—(city parks and cemeteries and surrounding country, woods, swamps, fields and bay shore).—Dec. 28; 7:30 A. M. to 4 P. M. Partly cloudy, raw northwest wind, very light snow; temp. 16° at start, 24° at return, four inches snow on ground. Eleven observers working in 5 groups. Total party hours afield, 29, (21½ afoot, 7 by car); total party miles, 155 (29 afoot, 126 by car). American Golden-eye, 29; American Merganser, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 14; Herring Gull, 63; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 5; Saw-whet Owl, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 19; Northern Horned Lark, 54; Blue Jays, 68; Crows, 3; Chickadee, 116; White-breasted Nuthatch, 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Northern Shrike, 2; Starling, 72; English Sparrow, 1325; Evening Grosbeak, 9; Purple Finch, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 4; Redpoll, 53; Pine Siskin, 1; Goldfinch, 8; Tree Sparrow, 40; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; (seen at feeding stand with Pine Siskin and English Sparrow, able to fly, 3 observers within 10 feet of it.—Clara Hussong, Ray Hussong and Dorothy Ford); Lapland Longspur, 50; Snow Bunting, 350. Total, 33 species, 2337 individuals. E. O. Paulson, E. J. Wetli, C. G. Krawczyk, J. Holtermann, R. P. Hussong, J. B. Kendall, Dorothy C. Ford, V. Krawczyk, Clara Hussong, and Bernard Chartier. (Green Bay Bird Club.)

Fifty Canada Geese, ten Common Mallard and two Blue-winged Teal were seen flying near a private game preserve which has a flowing well that keeps the pond from freezing, and where the birds receive food and protection.

MADISON.—(Lakes Kegonsa and Waubesa, Arboretum, south and west shores of Lake Mendota).—Dec. 21; 6 A. M. to 4 P. M. Partly cloudy; ground bare; temp. 34 at start, 39 at return. 17 observers working in 5 parties. Total party hours afield, 23 (20 afoot, 3 by car); total party miles, 91 (19 afoot, 72 by car). Loon, 3 (Mrs. Barger, Mrs. Koehler, et al); Mallard, 419; Black Duck, 8; Lesser Scaup, 35; Am. Golden-eye, 219; Old-squaw, 1 (Thompson, Mitchell); Hooded Merganser, 1; Am. Merganser, 21; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 (Robbins); Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 5; Bob-white, 6; Pheasant, 30; Herring Gull, 28; Ring-billed Gull, 7; Mourning Dove, 14; Screech Owl, 1 (found dead); Great Horned Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Red-

headed Woodpecker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 40; No. Horned Lark, 39; Blue Jay, 185; Crow, 42; Chickadee, 93; Tufted Titmouse, 2 (Mrs. Koehler et al); White-breasted Nuthatch, 38; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 5; Robin, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Starling, 121; No. Yellowthroat, 1 (Robbins); English Sparrow, 1550; Rusty (?) Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 22; Purple Finch, 4; Goldfinch, 8; Red Crossbill, 1 (Robbins, Catenhuse); Junco, 73; Tree Sparrow, 173; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 1. Total, 46 species; 3241 individuals.—**Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, John Catenhuse, Ellen Hoffman, Ethel Horton, Silas Johnson, Mrs. F. H. Jones, Bill Kellman, Mrs. A. Koehler, George Koehler, Earl Mitchell, Richard Paull, Walter Raushenbush, Sam Robbins, Ruth Stillman, Dan Thompson, and Mrs. R. A. Walker.** (Madison Bird Club).

MADISON.—(to Wisconsin River and return) Dec. 26. 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. Snowing; 4-5 inches snow; northeast wind; temp. 30 degrees. About five miles on foot, seventy by car. Canada Goose, 22; Black Duck, 2; Mallard, 31; Golden-eye, 27; Bufflehead, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup Duck, 7; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 2; Bobwhite, 4; Coot, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Great-horned Owl, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 28; Prairie Horned Lark, 8; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 19; Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 2; Starling, 30; Cardinal, 6; Goldfinch, 2; Junco, 15; Tree Sparrow, 20; English Sparrow, 215. Total, 32 species, about 479 individuals. **H. G. Anderson.**

MADISON.—(around Lake Mendota on foot, excluding area within Madison city limits).—Dec. 24; 7:30 A. M. to dark. Cloudy; ground frozen; north wind, strong; temp. 30 degrees. Observers together. Distance walked, 30 miles. Loon, 4; Canada Goose, 8; Mallard, 4; Black Duck, 100; Gadwall, 20; Redhead, 6; Ring-necked Duck, 12; Canvasback, 20; Lesser Scaup, 100; Golden-eye, 500; Buffle-head, 20; Old-squaw, 3; Ruddy Duck, 2; Hooded Merganser, 8; American Merganser, 25; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Marsh Hawk, 1; Pheasant, 30; Coot, 1000; Herring Gull, 50; Ring-billed Gull, 10; Great-horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Blue Jay, 60; Crow, 30; Chickadee, 50; White-breasted Nuthatch, 20; Brown Creeper, 5; Mockingbird, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Starling, 50; English Sparrow, 100; Cardinal, 10; Siskin, 4; Goldfinch, 1; Junco, 18; Tree Sparrow, 100; Lapland Longspur, 1. Total, 42 species, about 2905 individuals.—**Arnold Jackson, Jr., N. R. Barger.**

MILWAUKEE.—(from the sea drome along the lake to Whitefish Bay). Dec. 22. Sky overcast; strong northeast wind; temp. 30 degrees. About ten miles on foot. Canada Goose, 5; Mallard, 150; Black Duck, 50; Red-legged Black Duck, 20; Baldpate, 1; Pintail, 2; Green-winged Teal, 1; Shoveller, 9; Scaup, 75; Golden-eye, 40; Buffle-head, 6; American Merganser, 15; Red-breasted Merganser, 9; Herring Gull, 35; Ring-billed Gull, 20; Bonaparte's Gull, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Crow, 3; Chickadee, 5; Starling, 17; English Sparrow; Junco, 3. Total, 22 species, about 477 individuals.

In Madison, on Dec. 27, added the following: Loon, 1; Canvasback, 8; Hooded Merganser, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Pheasant, 12; Prairie Horned Lark, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; Cardinal, 1; Tree Sparrow, 7. **Walter J. Mueller.**

RACINE.—(Racine harbor to Wind Point and north county line along the lake for party I; Washington Park, Graceland woods and 1½ miles along Root River for party II; Doc's sanctuary and Petrifying Springs for party III). Dec. 26; 7:30 A. M. to 5 P. M. Sky heavily clouded, fog and mist in early morning. Snow fell from 2 P. M. on. Moderate west wind; ground sparsely covered with snow in morning, covered in evening; temp. 35 at start, 30 at return. Observers in

three groups: Party I, one observer, nine hours, 18 miles on bicycle, 5 on foot; party II, two observers, nine hours, 5 miles on bicycle, 8 on foot; party III, one observer 1½ hours, 5 miles by car, 3 on foot. Total, 19½ hours, 25 miles by bicycle and car, 16 on foot. Bufflehead, 30; American Golden-eye, 556; Old Squaw, 9; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Pheasant, 30; Bonaparte's Gull, 2; Herring Gull, 680; Ring-billed Gull, 41; Mourning Dove, 1; Long-eared Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 8; Chickadee, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Starling, 224; English Sparrow, 121; Cardinal, 4; Purple Finch 2; Goldfinch, 1; Fox Sparrow, 1; Tree Sparrow, 50; Junco, 26; Lapland Longspur, 3,125; Snow Bunting, 25. Total, 31 species, 4,965 individuals. **Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, Elmer Hanson, George and Edward Prins.**

ROCK FALLS.—Dec. 22. 2 P. M. to 4 P. M. Cloudy, no wind, ground bare. Through oak and maple timber and corn fields. Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Cardinal, 2; Junco, 2.—Dec. 24. 9 to 11 A. M. Cloudy, trace of snow, temp. 35 degrees. Through open fields, scattered timber, etc. Pheasant, 3; Starling, 17; English Sparrow, 30; Redpoll, 7.—**H. E. Clark.**

SAUK CITY.—(North shore of Wisconsin River, Cactus and Lone Pine Bluffs).—Dec. 25; 2 P. M. to 5 P. M. Overcast, light drizzle; ground bare; temp. 32 degrees. Four observers working together. Hours afield, 3; miles afoot, 4. Ruffed Grouse, 9; Herring Gull, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 7; Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 1 (well seen and heard, Robbins); English Sparrow, 25; Cardinal, 5; Goldfinch, 12; Tree Sparrow, 10. Total, 16 species; 100 individuals.—**Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Jones, Phoebe Ellen Jones, Sam Robbins.**

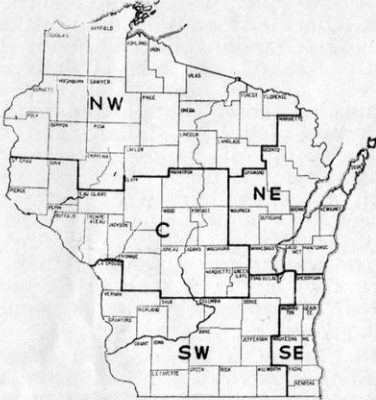
ST. CROIX FALLS.—(owner's yard). Dec. 26. 8 to 10:30 A. M. Ground freshly covered with snow. Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 3; Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 5; English Sparrow, 14; Cardinal, 13; Redpoll, 1; Goldfinch, 3; Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 3. Total, 13 species, about 62 individuals. At 1 P. M. a Bald Eagle was seen from window.—**Mrs. Stella P. Owen.**

WATERTOWN.—(Mashkigi Watag Swamps south of Watertown, Rock River from Pipersville to Watertown to Hahn's Lake, Vulture's Tamarack, Faville's Grove Game area, and Rock Lake. About 8 miles of river and half of Rock Lake with open water.)—Dec. 21; 7:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear; ground bare; wind southwest, light; temp. 28 at start, 36 at return. 10 observers in 4 parties. Total hours afield, 34 (31 afoot, 3 by car); total party miles, 114 (60 by foot, 54 by car). Ring-necked Duck, 2; Golden-eye, 46; Hooded Merganser, 2; American Merganser, 31; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 11; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Hungarian Partridge, 13; Bobwhite, 13; Pheasant, 141; Coot, 12; Herring Gull, 53; Ring-billed Gull, 18; Mourning Dove, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 3; Long-eared Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Flicker, 50; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 29; Downy Woodpecker, 54; Horned Lark, 11; Blue Jay, 63; Crow, 294; Chickadee, 381; White-breasted Nuthatch, 42; Brown Creeper, 6; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 108; English Sparrow, 515; Red-winged Blackbird, 200; Cardinal, 4; Purple Finch, 1; Redpoll, 116; Siskin, 5; Goldfinch, 6; Junco, 60; Tree Sparrow, 1162; Song Sparrow, 2; Lapland Longspur, 21; Snow Bunting, 2. Total, 27 species, about 3404 individuals.—**Arnold Bolle, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hawkins, Frank Kozlik, Earl Loyster, Glen Niere, Oliver Owen, Alfred Wallner, Ernst Wentland and Elton Bussewitz.**



DECEMBER

Many December records of great interest are to be found in the Christmas Census elsewhere in this issue. For this reason reports of various areas are shorter than usual. One thing is sure, many birds expected to be farther south, remained throughout December in Wisconsin. We look ahead with interest to see what effect the January blizzard had upon this situation.



Kindly send field notes to your area editor at the end of each month. See map to determine your area. Monthly reports should be in the hands of the local editors by the fifth of the following month. Send copious notes, but reports of ecological or news value are especially desired. Full details of identification should accompany all rare observations.

NORTHWESTERN AREA—Carl R. Eklund reports seeing three Snowy Owls while making a survey of Kakagon Sloughs in the Bad River Indian Reservation near Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior, Ashland County. "Apparently they were feeding on the great number of wounded ducks which had been crippled by hunters." One was feeding on a Scaup. A few other Snowy Owls have been encountered, mostly from Ashland County in November.

At St. Croix Falls, Polk County, Mrs. Stella P. Owen reports: A Bald Eagle, Dec. 14 and 26; Robin, Dec. 13 and 17; and five or more Evening Grosbeaks about Dec. 1. On Nov. 30 she saw five Pine Grosbeaks and three White-winged Crossbills. Two Pine Grosbeaks were feeding on the road, Nov. 5, east of Herbster, Bayfield County (Feeney). Rev. C. Toppe reports a flock of 75-100 Evening Grosbeaks at Bloomer, Chippewa County, Dec. 31.

Though the ground was covered with snow, a Meadowlark was seen Dec. 18, south of Grantsburg, Burnett County, by George Ruegger.

—W. S. Feeney, Editor, 808 E. Worden St., Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

NORTHEASTERN AREA—Strehlow and Wright observed two immature Double-crested Cormorants on Dec. 7 at Green Bay. Strehlow also reported for the same date thirty-two Canada Geese, eight Lesser Scaup, and fifty-two American Mergansers. A crippled Hooded Merganser was brought to the Green Bay Sanctuary on Dec. 24 (Strehlow).

A Snowy Owl was seen on Dec. 7, in the Green Bay Sanctuary, by Wright and Strehlow, and by careful stalking Wright was able to take several photographs of it as it sat on the top of a newly planted elm tree about twelve feet high. On Dec. 15, two Snowy Owls were shot while killing ducks in the winter enclosure of the Sanctuary and turned over the Neville Public Museum. Another Snowy Owl was brought to the Museum by Strehlow, who got it from the Game Warden, S. W. Hayner. It had been shot by boys with a 22 rifle.

Mrs. Walter E. Rogers reported a Sparrow Hawk seen on Dec. 14 at Manawa, Waupaca County.

Many hours were spent in the field during the month of December by Strehlow, and the following birds were reported: Screech Owl, Dec. 2; Northern Barred Owl, Dec. 18; and twenty-seven Red-headed Woodpeckers for the month. Only eight Crows were observed by him in December. On the twenty-first two Evening Grosbeaks were seen; one-hundred, fifty Redpolls, Dec. 14; and Slate-colored Juncos, not common, only twenty-five for the month. A. F. Novy observed eight Mourning Doves feeding on rag weed in Manitowoc County, Dec. 27. Robins were seen on Dec. 14 and 25 (Strehlow); and at Oshkosh, Dec. 25 by Mrs. Bernice Spoo. Mrs. Spoo also reports three Cardinals for that date.—**Earl G. Wright, Editor, Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, Wisconsin.**

CENTRAL AREA—About Dec. 1 two ladies rescued a Snowy Owl from two dogs in Dunn County. A late date was made for the Meadowlark in Dunn County, Dec. 8 (Clark). Five Pine Grosbeaks were observed in Clark County, Dec. 25 (Grange); and one-hundred Snow Buntings in Wood County, Dec. 21 (G. Becker).—**Wallace Grange, Editor, Babcock, Wisconsin.**

SOUTHEAST AREA—A few Canada Geese, Pintail, Baldpate, Shoveller, and a Green-winged Teal plus plenty of Mallard and a sprinkling of Black Ducks are wintering on the Milwaukee waterfront with hundreds of deep diving ducks usually found there. Twenty-five White-winged Scoters were seen in the Milwaukee harbor (G. Becker).

An unusual number of hawks seem to be wintering in this area. American Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks (mostly immature), Marsh Hawks (all males) and Sparrow Hawks (mostly males) have been reported for December. A Barn Owl has been seen in Racine (E. Prins) and the Short-eared Owl is again wintering around Milwaukee.

Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers (Prins), a Mockingbird (Mrs. Pierce), Robins, Meadowlarks and Song Sparrows are among the rarer winter residents reported. Unusual winter records have been made for the Mourning Dove (flock of six in Waukesha County by Mrs. Philip) and a Brown Thrasher (Racine County by Mrs. Pierce). Interesting to note among the winter residents are records of several flocks of Lapland Longspurs for Waukesha County and an Evening Grosbeak for Racine.—**Murl Deusing, Editor, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

SOUTHWESTERN AREA—General remarks: Cardinals, Chickadees and Red-headed Woodpeckers have been unusually abundant in the area during December. Peterson, of Onalaska, speaks of flocks of Cardinals numbering fifty or more. Both Peterson and Gatterdam comment on the large flocks of Robins feeding in the hackberry trees. Bobwhites were doing well previous to the blizzard. A Red-headed Woodpecker, observed by Miss Morse in Viroqua during the Christmas holidays, was in immature plumage. This is late as the molt is usually complete by Dec. 1. Gatterdam's squirrel house, used by Sparrow Hawks for summer nesting, now houses a Screech Owl.

Late stragglers: Zimmerman and Hubbard noted about 2,500 Canada Geese in Walworth County Dec. 13. In this gathering was a lone Blue Goose. Loons and a Red-winged Blackbird were still in Madison, Dec. 28. A thrush with an injured wing (either Olive-backed or Grey-cheeked) was found in Sauk County Dec. 25 (Leopold). A Snipe, Baraboo, Dec. 8 by Goodenough. A Robin, Viroqua, Dec. 21 and 23 by Miss Morse. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Madison, Dec. 14 by Barger.

Unusual: Three White-winged Scoters (G. Becker) and an Old Squaw (Zimmerman) were seen in Madison Dec. 31 and Dec. 16 respectively. On Dec. 14 and 21 a lone Bohemian Waxwing was observed in Madison by the undersigned.—**N. R. Barger, Editor, 132 Lathrop St., Madison, Wisconsin.**



BY THE WAYSIDE

An April Concentration of Herring Gulls in Door County. April 1, 1939 was a cold raw day near Sturgeon Bay, Door County. Patches of snow could still be seen here and there on the frozen ground. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when I became conscious of the plaintive cry of many Herring Gulls. Looking out of the window I saw a beautiful sight. Five or six hundred of these birds were flying in circles over a piece of low land in the center of which was a large flat stone pile which was covered with these graceful birds. For two entire days they ascended, descended and circled around this spot. The third day they started leaving the place in pairs, and on the morning of the fourth day, there were still twenty-five or thirty left, but by evening they too had disappeared. I watched for the recurrence of this sight the following year, but I looked in vain. Do you think that this might have been the courtship of the Herring Gull?—Sister Mary Martha, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Spread of the Starling and English Sparrow in North America. A report on the spread of the Starling, based mainly upon data from the Bird-Lore Christmas censuses, has been completed. The starling now occupies 2,717,161 square miles of North America. The English Sparrow covers 3,676,427 square miles. It is presumed that the Starling will eventually occupy all of the territory overrun by the Sparrow. The Sparrow spread much faster than the Starling.—Leonard Wing, Pullman, Washington, (from **Washington State Wildlife Management Notes**.)

More By the Wayside Notes Requested. Members of the Society are requested to send directly to the editor any By-the-Wayside notes such as the above which they might like to submit for publication. It is planned that these notes should feature especially unusual field observations which would add to our knowledge of the life history or habits of various birds. Copy should be prepared in the form shown above and be short and to the point. —W. E. Scott, Editor.

NEWS NOTES

Elton E. Bussewitz again this Spring is requesting that members assist him in his study of the arrival date and date of first full song of the Robin. Members making such observations for their area should send the information directly to Mr. Bussewitz at 237 Langdon st., Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Reinhart Hoberman of Lodi, Wisconsin, found a living Turkey Vulture, unable to fly, on his property near that town in the early part of November, 1941. The bird was turned over to the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm by him.

During October, 1941, Donald G. Allen collected a female Surf Scoter on one of the cranberry flowages near Babcock in Wood County.

All members of the Society will soon receive a return post card announcing details of the Society's Fourth Annual Convention which is to be held on April 11 and 12 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Northland Hotel in Green Bay. The card will request banquet reservations and titles of papers which members may wish to present at the meeting. All members should set these dates aside and make plans to attend. The main feature of the banquet program will be Dr. Arthur A. Allen's presentation of colored motion pictures of birds with synchronized sound effects of the birds themselves taken in the field by Dr. Allen. Other features already scheduled on the program include Murl Deusing's colored motion picture entitled "Wild Wings" and a talk by Dr. Howard Lee on bird photography. Exhibits of photographs by Dr. Lee and bird pictures by Jacques are already arranged by the local committee. **For further details on the program, overnight accommodations and transportation, members are requested, to contact the program chairman, Mrs. Clara Hussong, Route 3, Green Bay, directly.**

8 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

Four amendments and three additions, recommended by the Executive Committee as changes in the Constitution, are herewith offered for consideration of the members of the Society:

Article I (Name) now reads: This organization shall be known as the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. Amend to read: Section 1. This organization shall be known either as the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology or the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, Incorporated.

Article III, Section 1 now reads: Section 1. Membership in the Society shall be of four classes: Student, Active, Sustaining and Honorary. All classes may or may not reside within the State of Wisconsin but only resident members shall be entitled to vote or hold office. Student members shall not have power to vote or hold office. All members under the age of eighteen years will be automatically listed as Student members. Amend to read: Section 1. Membership in the Society shall be of six classes: Student, Active, Sustaining, Life, Patron and Honorary. Remainder to read as before.

Article III, Section 4 now reads: Section 4. Dues of Student and Active members shall be one dollar for each calendar year and Sustaining members five dollars or more. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues. All annual dues for the ensuing year shall be payable on the first of January. No member in arrears shall be entitled to vote or hold office. The periodical of the society shall be free to all members. Members in arrears shall be dropped from the membership roll at the end of three months, provided that they have been sent at least two notices of delinquency. Amend to read: Section 4. Dues of Student and Active members shall be one dollar for each calendar year and Sustaining members five dollars. Any member upon payment of twenty-five dollars shall be entitled to Life membership and shall be exempt from membership dues and any member upon payment of fifty dollars shall be entitled to Patron membership and shall be exempt from membership dues. Remainder to read as before.

Article IV, Section 3 now reads: Section 3. Elections shall be held once each year by ballot at the annual meeting. The officers shall be distributed throughout the State as much as is practicable. Amend to read: Section 3. Elections shall be held once each year by ballot at the annual meeting except that a rising vote of the membership will be acceptable if there are no nominations other than those recommended by the nominating committee. Remainder to read as before.

New sections are suggested as follows: To Article I (Name): Section 2. The Society may incorporate under the Wisconsin statutes if such procedure is deemed advisable.

To Article II (Objects): Section 3. The Society and its officers are empowered to accept endowments of property or money for the purpose of creating an endowment fund or furthering the purpose of ornithology in Wisconsin with only the interest of said fund to be used to improve or increase the Society's publications or to further the interest of ornithological education in Wisconsin as determined by the Executive Committee. All moneys received from Life or Patron memberships are to be placed in this endowment fund and said fund is to be kept in either the First National Bank of Madison or the First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee. The Executive Committee is impowered to use up to 25% of the Endowment Fund principal in case of emergency need.

To Article III (Membership): Section 5. There shall be a special membership fee for public or school libraries in the state of Wisconsin of one dollar for a two year period and all such present library members shall automatically receive a membership adjustment upon passage of this amendment.

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