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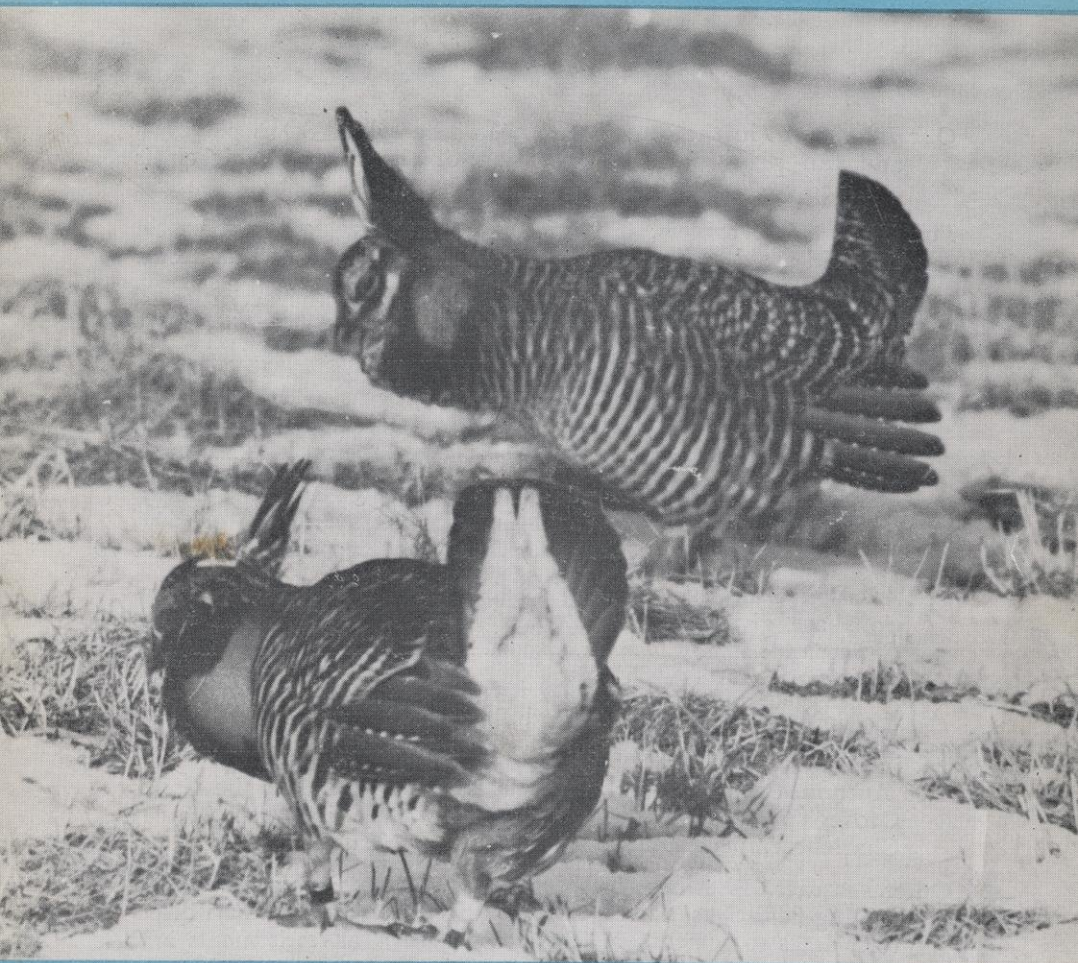
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The PASSENGER PIGEON

A Magazine of Wisconsin Bird Study

Published Quarterly By

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY
FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.



SUMMER ISSUE
VOL. XXI NO. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

Our Investment in the Prairie Chicken. The role WSO is playing—and can play—in the preservation of the Prairie Chicken is outlined by Prof. Daniel Q. Thompson	51
Fun With Fall Warblers. Techniques for studying fall warblers in the field are described by the editor	57
The 20th Annual Meeting. Clara Hussong relates the activities of the Green Bay convention held in conjunction with the Inland Bird Banding Association	66
Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts. Bird study areas in the Arlington area of southern Columbia County are detailed by Dr. Howard Winkler, featuring the famed Goose Pond region	70
A Ruff in Wisconsin. A new addition to the state's avifauna—and a straggler from the Old World—is described by the editor, who was fortunate to be in the party that discovered the bird	73
Conservation Comments. Thoughts about roadside brushing operations are given by Dr. Charles Kemper, WSO Conservation Chairman	78
New Associate Editor. Carl Frister is introduced as the new head of the field note department, and Barbara McEwen is introduced as the permanent file-keeper of field notes	79
The Autumn Season. Important field studies last fall at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station are included in Dr. Charles Kemper's summary of the autumn season	80
Other Features. Elsewhere in this issue are announcements of forthcoming field trips, a book review, a new list of officers and directors, dates to remember, "By the Wayside," advertisements and new items.	

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Summer (April-June) 1959

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Our Investment in the Prairie Chicken . . .

By DANIEL Q. THOMPSON

With the purchase of a second parcel of land in the Prairie Grouse Management Area (Figure 1), the W. S. O. extended its holdings in prairie grouse habitat to 60 acres. This may seem to be a very meagre addition to existing prairie grouse habitat, but in effect we have purchased two islands of nest and brood cover which will make suitable habitat of over a thousand acres of surrounding meadowland. Both parcels are now leased to the Wisconsin Conservation Department for development as prairie grouse habitat. These leases will provide the W. S. O. with a modest investment return. We are also free to realize an additional return through the sale of blue grass seed from our holdings.

Historical Ecology

Our purchases represent the first strong steps in restoration of a bird which has suffered a long history of extirpation and depletion. The Prairie Chicken or Pinnated Grouse (*Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*) was originally a common bird throughout the tall grasslands of the middle-west. While Schorger (1944) is skeptical of the widely held opinion that Pinnated Grouse actually increased following settlement, Grange (1948) and more recently Beck (1957) are of the opinion that an actual increase did occur. It is at least evident that the birds maintained themselves in remarkably high numbers during the first twenty years of settlement. The combination of virgin sod interspersed with the crops, weeds and pastures of the new homesteads offered a more varied habitat than the birds had ever previously known. This is the era when Prairie Chicken were ruthlessly exploited for meat and sport. Schorger (op. cit.) cites the potential bag of pinnates for a hunter in the Racine region to be 60 to 90 birds daily in 1849. While the reports of the number of birds taken by gun are truly astonishing, it is likely that a greater number were taken by the more efficient means of trapping. In referring to shipments of midwestern birds to eastern markets, Schorger states "by 1853, the shipments of Quails and Prairie Chickens had reached such proportions that they were designated by the 'cord' and ton."

In reviewing this phase of prairie grouse history, it is well to emphasize two points. First, the Prairie Chicken made an amazingly rapid adjustment to the violent environmental changes caused by settlement. The rapidity with which grains were recognized as a new food is an example of the marvelous adaptability of the Prairie Chicken. Second, it was habitat destruction which doomed the Prairie Chicken, not the pressure of hunters and trappers. In southern Wisconsin, for example, the birds maintained themselves in high numbers from the 1840's to 1857, during the peak of market exploitation.

It is perhaps ironical that the rush of settlement which destroyed the traditional prairie grouse habitat in Illinois and southern Wisconsin

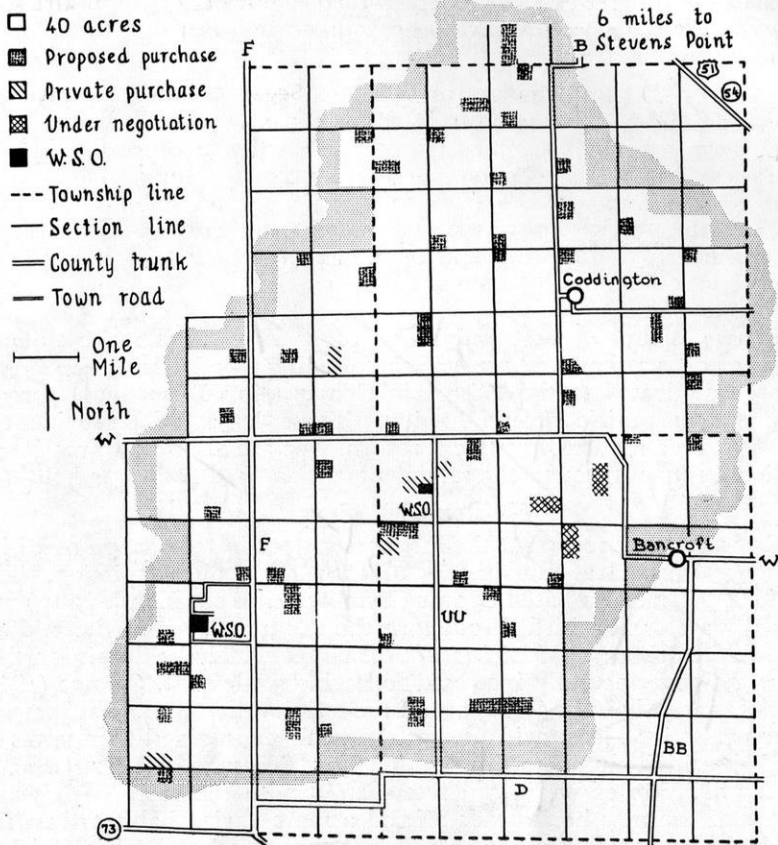


FIGURE 1. CURRENT OWNERSHIP STATUS AMONG THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT UNITS ON THE BUENA VISTA AREA. CONTROL OF APPROXIMATELY ONE FORTY-ACRE TRACT IN EACH SQUARE MILE WILL ASSURE THE SURVIVAL OF A HEALTHY PRAIRIE CHICKEN POPULATION.

(AFTER HAMERSTROM ET AL. 1957)

also caused a great demand for dimension lumber which in turn hastened the opening of a completely new Prairie Chicken range to the north. The great slashings left by loggers at the turn of the century burned night and day throughout central and northern Wisconsin—creating vast new stretches of grassland openings in what had once been a great forest. The response of the Prairie Chicken to this new opportunity was almost immediate. From 1875 to 1920 there were prairie grouse flocks in every northern county (Hamerstrom, et al., 1957). Once again the Prairie Chicken had demonstrated a remarkable vigor and adaptiveness in moving into a whole new geographic range. New food plants, strange cover types and a change in climate were all involved in this spectacular shift of range.

Fred Hamerstrom has pointed out the importance of ecological timing in the fate of the Prairie Chicken. If exploitation of Wisconsin for-

ests had not progressed in sequence with the plowing of the prairies, the surviving pinnates would have been trapped between farm and forest—without suitable habitat.

After 1920 three changes in land use began to alter the favorable situation in northern Wisconsin for prairie grouse. First, the fires which swept over the grassland openings were gradually suppressed by a growing system of forest protection. Brush and tree seedlings crept into the openings and gradually choked out the prairie grouse habitat. Second, a program of reforestation was started and later greatly expanded in the New Deal era. Thus, grassland openings were quickly converted into



"GET OUT OF MY TERRITORY!"

PHOTO BY R. W. POULTER

monotonous expanses of conifer plantings. Lastly, the hardy pioneer farmers who had "followed the axe" into northern Wisconsin were gradually forced to abandon much of the rough new land they attempted to settle. This meant a further reduction in forest openings in addition to the loss of field weeds and crops as winter food for the Prairie Chicken.

Gradually the Prairie Chicken was forced to abandon the forest openings and retreat into the marshes and sand islands of central Wisconsin. Today the process of range shrinkage is in its final stages as the birds have fallen back to the remaining core of habitable range in the Buena Vista (SW Portage Co.) and Leola (NE Adams Co.) marshes.

Buena Vista Marsh

It is to this last stage of the history of the Prairie Chicken that we now turn our attention and efforts. The best chance of survival for the Pinnated Grouse in Wisconsin is in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes.

FIGURE 2.

W.S.O. PRAIRIE

GROUSE

HABITAT

PURCHASE

AREA:

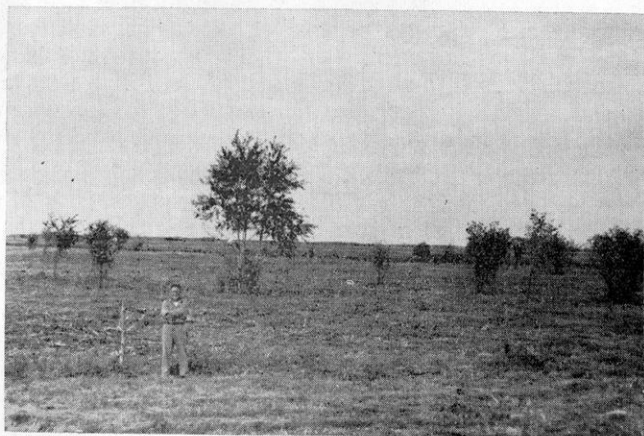
(A) BEFORE,



(B) DURING
BRUSH
REMOVAL,

(PHOTOS BY
F. N. HAMERSTROM)

(C) AFTER,
OSWALD
MATTSON,
GAME
MANAGER IN
CHARGE OF
THE PRAIRIE
GROUSE
MANAGEMENT
AREA APPEARS
IN UPPER AND
LOWER
PHOTOS.



The Prairie Grouse Management Area is centered around Buena Vista Marsh which has an interesting history of its own. One hundred years ago it was primarily tamarack swamp with relatively little open marsh and scattered sand islands supporting stands of white pine. It was drained sometime after 1900; however, the prospects of making a rich agricultural district of Buena Vista Marsh began to dim quickly with the discovery that the low "moor" was a frost pocket which stunted upland crops. The drying peat also became susceptible to deep fires which smouldered out of control for months on end, blanketing the countryside with a pungent haze. Drainage was clearly a very costly mistake; bankruptcy and land abandonment followed. Thus the land ownership pattern was gradually altered as small holdings were incorporated into ranch size grassland units—a process which is still continuing. Seed companies also discovered that the new meadowlands were a very satisfactory source of bluegrass seed. The summation of these practices has meant open country which has afforded an oasis of grassland habitat for the shrinking Prairie Chicken populations.

ABC'S of Prairie Chicken Management

Before a restoration and management program can be established for a species, a large fund of knowledge on the natural history and ecology of the species must be gathered. Wisconsin is extremely fortunate to have had a succession of able game biologists who have painstakingly gathered this information for the Prairie Chicken. The work by Hamerstrom et al. (op. cit.) Grange (op. cit.), Schmidt (1936) has shown that the Prairie Chicken has many needs but the most important ones could be listed as: 1. nest cover, 2. rearing cover, 3. winter food and roost cover, 4. space factor.

With regard to these needs, it is apparent that even Buena Vista Marsh is deteriorating as Prairie Chicken habitat. Between 1951 and 1953 nesting and rearing cover losses were almost five times as great as the gains (Hamerstrom et al., op. cit., p. 33). To offset these changes the Hamerstroms and O. Mattson have proposed a management plan which will involve the control of approximately one forty acre unit per square mile. These key holdings will be managed as nesting and rearing cover. The surrounding grassland farms will supply booming grounds and the "space factor" and much of the prairie chicken food.

This approach to chicken management has been called "ecological patterning" and represents a new departure in wildlife management policy.

Habitat Restoration

A policy statement of 14 May, 1953 by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission established the present basis for Prairie Grouse Management. Under the new arrangement, private land can be leased for development as nesting and brood rearing habitat.

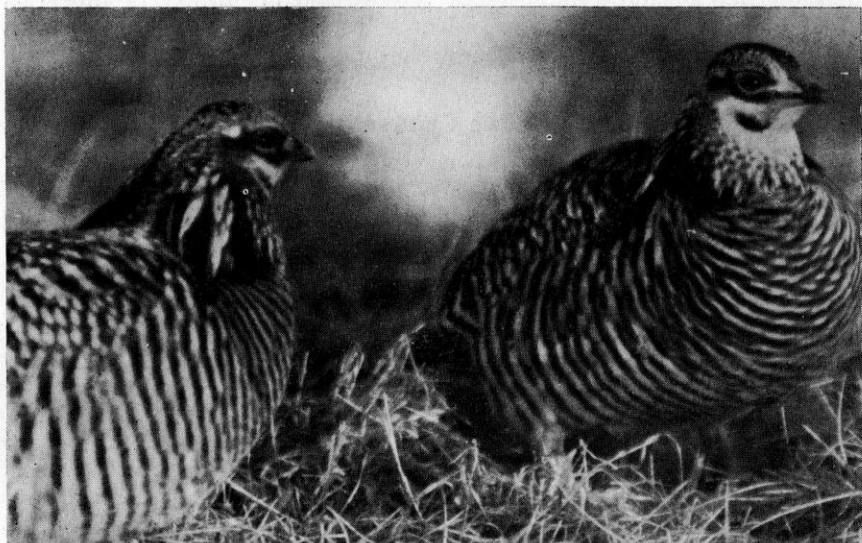
Maintaining the prairie-like condition of the country often involves the use of heavy machinery and herbicides* to destroy brush (Figure 2b).

*While the indiscriminate use of herbicides on wildlife cover is deplorable, here is a case where chemicals are used as a means of preserving a species.

The cost of these improvements is paid for by the state. The results are often quite spectacular (Figures 2a and 2c) within one season of management.

One of the stipulations in the lease agreement states that the state shall have the right to open (or close) a leased tract to hunting. We of the W. S. O. may decry this item, but we could hardly expect continued support of the Prairie Grouse Project with Federal Aid funds,* if some possibility of hunting Prairie Chickens were not forthcoming in the event of the recovery of the "chicken" population.

The perpetuation of the Prairie Chicken will obviously not be the only wildlife benefit derived from the Prairie Grouse Management program. Grassland songbirds and Upland Plover can be expected to increase on the managed "forties".



"THE BOYS ARE MAKING QUITE A FUSS OVER US!"

PHOTO BY R. W. POULTER

Many individuals and organizations are joining in the effort to purchase the 80 parcels of land needed to complete the management plan for the Buena Vista area. In addition to our two parcels, the following organizations and individuals have made purchases:** Wisconsin Conservation League (3 forties), Prairie Chicken Foundation (1 forty, 6 more under negotiation), Mrs. Gordon Kummer (1 forty), Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Jung (1 forty). These combined efforts amount to roughly one tenth of the parcels needed to assure the success of the Buena Vista Management plan.

WSO members are urged to continue work towards the purchase of more prairie grouse parcels.*** These purchases are a unique opportunity

*from excise tax on sale of arms and ammunition.

**contributions to the W. S. O. Prairie Chicken fund are tax deductible.

***Contributions to the WSO Prairie Chicken Fund should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Alfred O. Holz, 125 E. Kolb St., Green Bay.

to participate in a pioneer venture in wildlife conservation. The prairie grouse program in Wisconsin has been an outstanding example of imaginative research coupled with bold planning. It remains for us to match these early accomplishments with forthright action in executing the restoration plan. We have had to be content with erecting a monument to the Passenger Pigeon—let us lose no time in creating a living memorial to the magnificent wildlife heritage embodied in the Prairie Chicken.

Acknowledgement

Warm thanks are extended to Frederic and Frances Hamerstrom who have supplied most of the ideas and materials for this article.

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Ripon College
Ripon, Wisconsin

Fun With Fall Warblers...

By SAM ROBBINS

Nearly twenty years ago, a man I respected highly as one of the most competent observers of my acquaintance made the remark that the only time he was sure of the identification of a fall warbler was when he had the skin in his hand. Before Roger Tory Peterson came forward with his plates on "confusing fall warblers" in his *Field Guide to the Birds*, a great many observers were reluctant to tackle the warblers in fall plumage. More recently bird-watchers have slowly been developing an interest in fall warblers, and have been gaining some measure of confidence in their ability to distinguish some of these birds in the field; yet the task force of observers who spend time on small land birds in the fall remains but a small fraction of those who go afield in the spring.

This paper is presented in the hope that it will stimulate greater interest in some birds that have been largely neglected. The fall land bird migration is every bit as exciting and interesting as the spring flight. Birds gang together in waves in fall even more than in spring. In fall the warblers and their partners in migration may be more easily seen, in comparison with spring, because they show less preference for the tops of tall trees and more preference for bushes and other low vegetation. The distinctive songs of spring are largely missing, of course; but the birds do more chipping in fall, and with practice one can learn to distinguish quite a few of the fall warblers by their call notes.

I shall describe the techniques I have used in studies of fall warblers in Adams County during the past seven years. With minor revisions necessitated by geographical location and habitat differences, similar techniques should be useful anywhere. These methods of fall warbler

*Presented at the 1959 W. S. O. Convention at Green Bay on May 9, 1959.

study will be discussed under four headings: when to look for them, where to look for them, how to approach them, and how to identify them.

When To Look for Them

The beginnings of the fall warbler flight usually come before the middle of August in Adams County. In fact, an occasional straggler may be seen in the last days of July. Records for the last few years show an early arrival date of July 29 for migrating Tennessee and Nashville Warblers, a Black-throated Green on August 3, a Canada on August 4, a Northern Waterthrush on August 5, and a Bay-breasted as early as August 10. The list would be longer if one could identify the author of every chip heard during the first two weeks of August; but these early stragglers often appear very restless, flying into one tree for perhaps a minute or two, and then taking off for parts unknown.

TABLE 1

Extreme Dates for Sizable Warbler Flights In Fall

Year	First Date	Last Date
1952	August 16	September 24
1953	August 22	September 24
1954	August 23	October 1
1955	August 22	September 22
1956	August 20	September 28
1957	August 24	September 30
1958	August 16	September 29

Any time after the middle of August the migration may get under way in earnest. Table 1 shows the date when I detected the first sizable warbler migration for each of the past seven years; these are the dates when I first saw at least five species of migrant warblers, or at least 15 individuals in addition to those known to have been spending the summer. This indicates that the fall migration is well under way at least a week before the end of August, and sometimes by about the middle of the month.

Some migration continues into October. Myrtles often remain until late October; and such species as Tennessees, Orange-crowns, Palms and Yellowthroats may linger until mid-October. But the major and more varied part of the fall flight is ordinarily over by the end of September. Last dates on which a sizable variety of warbler species have been seen each year are shown in Table 1.

In between these early and late dates, the migration may be divided roughly into two periods: the "Tennessee period" and the "Myrtle period." The "Tennessee period" covers the last part of August and the first two weeks of September. The Tennessee is by far the most numerous species during this time. Nearly all other species—with the possible exception of the Orange-crown—are likely to be seen during this time; the major part of the migration of such species as the Black-and-White, Golden-winged, Parula, Yellow, Cape May, Blackburnian, Connecticut, Mourning, Wilson's and Canada occurs in this earlier period.

By mid-September the flight of Tennessees begins to tail off, and the Myrtle builds up to become the most conspicuous fall warbler. Other species that become more noticeable in this later period are the Orange-crowned and Palm. Absent—or nearly so—during this time will be the Golden-winged, Yellow, Mourning, Wilson's and Canada, whose migrations will be completed by mid-September. Certain other species are spread out nearly equally in both periods; these include the Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat and Redstart. See Table 2.

Within the period when warblers are most likely to be present (last week in August and all of September for Adams County), migrating warblers can be found in some numbers on any day except for days of strong wind—at least during the early morning hours. On only three occasions during the past three years have I failed to record at least ten species of warblers in two hours of early morning birding. Of course there are days when real waves occur, when one sees many more birds than on other days, but I have done insufficient work in correlating waves with weather conditions to suggest the exact type of weather conditions one should look for in anticipating a wave in fall. One can see warblers in fall without depending on a wave, however.

Most of my work with fall warblers has been of necessity done in the early morning hours. And that appears to be the best time of day for such study. During the first half-hour of daylight, the birds are flying around and chipping considerably, but do not lend themselves to close observation until they settle down to feed in the trees and bushes. The next two hours—roughly between 6:30 and 8:30 a. m.—provide the best observation time, for the birds are relatively noisy and active during this time of day. Warblers can be found at almost any time of day, however,

TABLE 2

Make-up of Early (Aug. 20-Sept. 15) and
Late (Sept. 15-Oct. 5) Warbler Flights

Species Listed In Order of Relative Abundance

Seen Mostly In Early Flight	Evenly Divided	Seen Mostly In Late Flight
Tennessee	Yellowthroat	Myrtle
Black-&White	Redstart	Palm
Golden-winged	Magnolia	Orange-crowned
Blackburnian	Bay-breasted	
Canada	Nashville	
Cape May	Ovenbird	
Wilson's	Bl-thr. Green	
Yellow	No. Waterthrush	
Bl-thr. Blue	Blackpoll	
Parula	Chestnut-sided	
Connecticut	Pine	
Mourning		

provided it is not too windy. They are harder to find in late morning and afternoon because they do less chipping; but "fall warblering" can be carried on at any time of day.

Where To Look for Them

Wherever there are insects and vegetation, there are likely to be fall warblers. There is no one type of vegetation that stands out as being more favored by the birds than another. Jack-pines and white oaks dominate much of the land in Adams County; fall migrants may be found in stands of pine, in oak woodlots, or in mixed patches of woods. Along the various creeks and the Wisconsin River there are alder and willow bushes and elm and maple trees; warblers are often seen moving through this vegetation as well. In Adams County, therefore, one can take off in search of fall warblers in virtually any direction, and find himself in suitable habitat where warblers may be expected.

Of course it does not follow that warblers will be encountered wherever there is suitable habitat. In an area as heavily forested as Adams County, suitable habitat is much too plentiful for the number of birds available. So for the most effective "warblering" one looks for a second factor—in addition to the habitat—in locating warblers. This factor is the presence of other birds. The sighting of a Blue Jay or a sparrow crossing the road is good reason for stopping the car. Warblers are gregarious birds, especially in fall; not only do they flock together in groups, but also they tend to associate with other species of birds. This is particularly true of Black-capped Chickadees. Whenever I stop the car, either because the habitat looks promising or because I have seen or heard a bird, I get out and listen. If I hear a warbler chip or a Chickadee, I know I am "in business."

Chickadees are valuable aids in locating fall warblers. They are quite noisy; often I have heard them when I heard no warbler chip, but found a group of warblers nearby on investigation. Chickadees also respond quite readily to the observer's "squeak" or "sh-psh-psh" sound, and in the process of responding they elicit a similar response among any warblers present. The remarkable correlation between the presence of Chickadees and warblers is shown in Table 3. During the past three years an accurate check has been made wherever a stop is made for fall warblers on each field trip. Over the three years a total of 300 stops was tabulated for 41 field trips, the stops being made either because of promising habitat or the known presence of birds. At 125 of these stops warblers were present, but no Chickadees were found. At 159 stops both warblers and Chickadees were noted. At only 16 stops were Chickadees present with no warblers detected, and only three of these stops occurred during the main fall warbler migration period. When one considers only the period between August 25 and September 30, fall warblers were found at 104 of the 107 stops where Chickadees were present.

How To Approach Them

Detecting the presence of fall warblers is one thing; getting close enough to be able to see the characteristics of their plumage for identification purposes is quite another. To identify warblers, even with the aid of binoculars, one should be within 100 feet of the birds. An open,

TABLE 3

Prevalence of Chickadees and Warblers In the Same Flocks

Figures Indicate Number of Stops
With Chickadees and/or Warblers Seen

	Chickadees Only	Chickadees & Warblers	Warblers Only
Aug. 15-Oct. 10	16	159	125
Aug. 25-Sept. 30	3	104	82

frontal "attack," in the hope of coming within identification range, can be a most frustrating experience; the birds will usually move away from the observer as rapidly as the observer approaches, and always keep just out of range.

A more profitable method is to listen carefully to the chips of the warblers, Chickadees, and whatever other birds are present, long enough to size up the approximate direction and distance of the birds. One should then move slowly and quietly in the direction of the birds, and locate a suitable "squeaking spot" that can serve as an observation point.

A suitable "squeaking spot" should have as many as possible of the following characteristics. (1) It should be close enough so the birds can hear the observer's "squeak," but far enough so that the birds are not alarmed by the observer's approach; 150 to 200 feet from the birds is a good distance. (2) It should be so located that the observer does not have to look against the sun; preferably the sun should be behind or to the side of the observer, but if this is not feasible, the observer should be so stationed that his eyes are shaded from the sun by a branch of a tree. Trying to identify warblers while looking against the sun is inevitably a losing battle. (3) It should afford an unimpaired view of several trees that are not more than 50 feet away, and these should be trees with foliage both low down and high up; some birds prefer the low branches, while others prefer higher ones, and it is to these branches that the observer will be trying to attract the birds. (4) It should be located close to a tree or bush. The observer need not be concealed to attract the birds by "squeaking," but he should not stand out in the open conspicuously, and he should not make sudden movements when the birds are near; often birds can be attracted into the branches of the very tree the observer is near, affording excellent views without the aid of binoculars.

Once located in the most desirable "squeaking" spot available, the observer can then give forth with his "sh-psh-psh" sound and watch for the approach of the birds. If Chickadees are present, they are usually the first to respond; and if the observer makes no sudden moves to frighten the Chickadees, warblers that are in the vicinity are likely to follow. It will be seen in Table 4 that some species of warblers respond more readily to "squeaking" than do others. This was determined by recording the birds seen at each stop on each fall warbler trip during the past three years; on each of 300 stops, the number of birds of each species identified was recorded, together with information on whether or not that species responded to "squeaking" at that particular stop. It will be noted that the species responding to "squeaking" most frequently

TABLE 4

Response of Warblers to "Squeaking"

Figures Indicate Per Cent of Stops When Each Species Responded,
Compared With Total Stops Species Was Recorded

40% or More		30% or Less	
Magnolia	60	No. Waterthrush	30
Canada	57	Bay-breasted	29
Redstart	56	Blackpoll	29
Yellowthroat	55	Tennessee	26
Orange-crowned	53	Nashville	26
Wilson's	50	Palm	25
Ovenbird	49	Bl-thr. Green	23
Chestnut-sided	45	Myrtle	19
Black-&-White	43	Cape May	15
		Golden-winged	10
		Blackburnian	10

are invariably the birds that prefer the lower bushy terrain to the higher trees, but that all species may be expected to respond some of the time.

Often when warblers do not respond to "squeaking," they are busy working through the trees and moving in a definite direction. The way to move within identification range of such flocks is to circle around and get just ahead of the flock in the direction of its movement. While the direction of movement may be altered somewhat by the observer's presence, at least some birds in the flock can be seen at fairly short range. Sometimes one can work this "flanking attack" two or three times on the same flock, and one is often rewarded by seeing quite different birds each time.

It must be remembered that warblers remain on the move almost constantly. When confronted by a flock of such birds, there is the tendency for one's attention to be diverted from one bird to another, as one bird after another makes a move that attracts attention. Instead of allowing attention to wander from one bird to another, the observer does well to pick out a bird within range until the bird is either identified or permanently out of sight. If a bird is momentarily hidden by leaves or branches, it is sure to move within a few seconds, and may then be identified. Under this plan some birds will be seen well enough for identification, and some will go by without being looked over; but the percentage of birds that can be identified will be higher.

In dealing with fall warblers, observers cannot expect to come close to identifying all the birds they see. In a flock of any size, the birds just go by too fast for 100% observation. I watched a good-sized flock for half an hour on August 26, 1957, and in that time determined the presence of 12 Tennessees, 5 Black-and-White, 4 Magnolias, 4 Cape Mays, 4 Myrtles, 4 Redstarts, 3 Blackburnians, 3 Nashvilles, 2 Ovenbirds, 2 Chestnut-sides, 1 Bay-breast and 1 Blackpoll. This added up to 45 in-

dividuals identified, and at first seemed like thorough coverage of the flock; but when the birds worked through the trees and flew across the road, 75 individuals were counted crossing the road. One can only guess at the percentage of fall warblers that slip by in similar fashion. But I have determined that on 60% of the stops made during the past three years where warblers were present, at least some of the birds known to be present escaped identification.

How To Identify Them

The identification of warblers in fall plumage is not as bewildering as has often been supposed, when properly analyzed. Several species look essentially the same in fall as in the spring; these include the Black-and-White, Golden-wing, Blue-wing, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Ovenbird, both Waterthrushes, and Redstart. Adult males of other species in full breeding plumage are sometimes seen in early fall. Still other species in fall plumage resemble closely the spring plumage of the female; in fact, a knowledge of the spring plumage of females is quite necessary for competence in fall warbler identification. Quite necessary also is the ability to distinguish warblers from vireos (heavier bills, less active mannerisms) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (large eye ring, hyper-active wing fluttering).

One can go far in differentiating fall warblers by giving careful attention to three main plumage features: the presence or absence of streaks on the underparts, the color of the underparts, and the presence and color of wing bars. The plumages of fall warblers are broken down according to these three features in Table 5.

"Streaked underparts" refers to any type of streaking. Species like the Ovenbirds, Waterthrushes, and the male Black-and-White have heavy

TABLE 5
F A L L P L U M A G E

STREAKED UNDERPARTS			W B I A N R G S	UNSTREAKED UNDERPARTS		
<u>White</u> <u>Below</u>	<u>Pale</u> <u>Yellow</u>	<u>Bright</u> <u>Yellow</u>		<u>White</u> <u>Below</u>	<u>Pale</u> <u>Yellow</u>	<u>Bright</u> <u>Yellow</u>
Ovenbird Waterthr.	Or.-crown Palm Waterthr.	Canada	N O N E	Tennessee (male) Redstart (male)	Tennessee B-t. Blue Yellowthr.	Nashville Connecticut Mourning Yellowthr. Wilson's Canada
Bl-&-Wh. Myrtle B-t Green	Bay-breast Elburnian Pine Blackpoll	Magnolia Elburnian Pine	W H I T E	B-t. Blue (male)	Parula B-t. Blue	Blue-wing Parula Magnolia
	Cape May Pine Palm	Yellow	Y E L L O W	Gold-wing Chest-side Redstart	Tennessee	Yellow

streaking; while streaking may be faint in such birds as the Yellow, Orange-crown, Bay-breast and Blackpoll. The streaking may cover the entire breast, or it may be limited to the flanks. Streakings are faint enough in some species to be virtually absent in some individuals; thus similar plumages of the Canada, Magnolia and Yellow are listed in both the streaked and understreaked columns.

The color of the underparts in fall warblers may be described as white, pale yellow, or bright yellow. Here again there are intra-specific differences that must be shown in the table. Thus some Northern Waterthrushes show a definite yellow tint to the underparts, while others show no trace of yellow. Some Yellowthroats have very bright yellow underparts, while some individuals will be only faintly colored.

Wing bars are noted in Table 5, even though they may be quite faint. Some species have yellow wing bars, some have white wing markings, and some have none at all. Individual differences between birds of the same species again require a double listing. Careful scrutiny of many fall Tennessee Warblers will show a faint yellow wing marking on many individuals, but on many others this marking appears absent.

The color plates in Peterson's **Field Guide to the Birds** are somewhat oversimplified, not allowing for all the intraspecific differences. But they are very helpful in pointing up additional field markings that should be noted in addition to the three main plumage features already mentioned. The color of the back is an added important feature, and with certain species the presence or absence of streakings on the back is diagnostic. The presence or absence of an eye-ring is helpful in determining the Mourning, Connecticut and Nashville.

An observer will not go far in identifying fall warblers until he learns the fall plumage of the Tennessee thoroughly. This is by far the most common species in the early part of the fall migration, and the fall plumage is noticeably different from the spring garb. It is a rather nondescript bird, lacking in striking features of any kind; it lacks breast streakings, has a pale yellow breast that gradually blends into white under tail coverts, and has a very inconspicuous yellow wing marking that is indistinguishable in some individuals. The beginner in fall warbler identification should master this bird first of all, and then is better able to branch out in identifying other species.

Call Notes Are Helpful

Yet another important means of fall warbler identification is open to those whose ears are sensitive and trained. When one listens carefully to warbler chips, one can detect differences that are often diagnostic of certain species. A breakdown of warbler chips is given in Table 6, with three key features stressed. "Single" chips are those that sound to the human ear as if they are single notes; "multiple" chips give the impression of two or more notes being given simultaneously. "Strong" chips are strongly accented, and have good carrying power; "weak" chips are more like faint lisps that can be heard for only relatively short distances. The pitch of various chips are arbitrarily listed as high, medium and low. How well this designation of chips might stand up under spectrographic analysis one can only guess. The important factor, however, is not the visual interpretation of a sound, but the way the sound actually

affects the ear. And this analysis describes the effect of the sounds of warbler chips on the writer's ears.

Learning the differences in warbler chips is not the easiest part of fall warbler identification. An observer who cannot remember the full songs of warblers from one spring to the next and must learn them anew each year is bound to have even more trouble with chips. But to one with a good audible memory span the soft thin lisp of the Tennessee and the soft junco-like chip of the Myrtle become easily recognizable. I have on numerous occasions sighted comparatively rare warblers like the Connecticut, Mourning, Cape May and Parula by deliberately passing over birds giving the call note of the Tennessee and concentrating on birds in the direction of a less familiar chip.

TABLE 6
F A L L W A R B L E R C H I P S

<u>SINGLE</u>				<u>MULTIPLE</u>		
<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>		<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>
	Tennessee Wilson's Canada Redstart	Waterthr. Ovenbird Magnolia	S T R O N G	Bl-&-White Yellow Cape May Blburnian Bay-breast Blackpoll Pine Ovenbird	Chest-side Waterthr. Wilson's	Bl-&-White Gold-wing Chest-side Ovenbird Yellowthr.
Parula Cape May B-t Green Blburnian Pine	Tennessee Myrtle Palm	B-t Blue Myrtle	W E A K	Nashville Or.-crown Cape May	B-t Green	

It should not be inferred that every species of warbler has a perfectly distinctive chip. A high-pitched, strong, multiple chip is to me a "dendroica" chip; I cannot tell if it is made by a Yellow, Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breast, Blackpoll or Pine without looking up the author. A very high-pitched single lisp is always worth investigating, because it might be a Parula, Cape May or Blackburnian; but observation is the only sure way of determining which species is present.

Nor should it be inferred that all warbler species can be positively identified at 100 feet. The Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes are extremely difficult to distinguish, until the bill can be seen at close range. Bay-breasts and Blackpolls must often remain unidentified because one cannot get close enough to distinguish the color of the legs and the under tail coverts. But if one is sufficiently enterprising in his pursuit of fall warblers, and honest enough to let pass as question-marks birds that are imperfectly seen, he can enter whole-heartedly into one of the most exciting and challenging phases of bird-watching!

Adams, Wisconsin

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

By CLARA HUSSONG

The largest attendance at an annual meeting in five years marked the 20th anniversary celebration of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology held May 8-10, 1959, at the Beaumont Hotel in Green Bay. Included in the 212 registrations were about 20 members of the Inland Bird Banding Association, which held a joint meeting with the W. S. O.

The convention opened with a reception on Friday evening, at which two movies were shown. R. P. Hussong, program chairman, showed a film taken on field trips of the W. S. O. and the Green Bay Bird Club. A Fish and Wildlife Service sound movie, "The Whooping Crane," was also shown. This film depicted the rare whoopers on their wintering grounds at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, and also the terrain in the vicinity of Fort Smith and Great Slave Lake, the summer breeding grounds of these birds.

Field trips were taken both Saturday and Sunday mornings. On Saturday, the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary was visited, and on Sunday both the west and east bay shores were explored under the leadership of Chester Krawczyk and Hussong. Two Whistling Swans were still to be seen on the west shore—one bird appeared to be an injured individual. About a dozen early warblers were sighted, and such water birds as Canada Geese, the Caspian and Common Terns, and numerous species of ducks.

Following the Inland Bird Banding Association's business meeting Saturday morning, the program opened with a welcome from the Green Bay Bird Club given by the club president, Miss Margaret Olson. W. S. O. President Stanley Polacheck responded to the welcome.

In "Banding in Relation to Winter Bird Populations" Karl Bartel, Blue Island, Ill., pointed out that banding activities reveal the presence of more birds, both as to individuals and species, than a Winter or Christmas Bird Count usually shows. He urged a more thorough investigation of an area in making winter counts.

R. B. Hogar of Glen Ellyn, Ill., another bird bander, explained "Banding Without Trapping," through narrative and the use of slides. The speaker and his wife operate a "bird hospital" in their back yard, in which they attempt to care for injured or sick birds. After treating them, they band them, Hogar reported.

Among the bird "patients" at their hospital were the Golden, Piping and Semipalmated Plovers; and a Screech Owl which somehow found its way into the jewelry department of the Marshall Field Store in Chicago. The Hogars treat and band as many as 90 birds a day. His suggestion for transporting injured birds from one place to another was to use a paper bag, instead of a cage.

Alfred Holz of Green Bay reported on recent research and experiments conducted by scientists in attempting to solve "the mystery of migration." Birds use the sun by day and the stars by night as their guide in their spring and fall flights, these scientists believe. Even in caged birds it was found that migrating species assumed the position on their perches in which they would face in their flight when their time of mi-

gration approached. When a false planetarium sky was projected, Holz reported, the birds reacted in various ways: to a "none-such" sky they showed confusion and irritation; and to a "wrong" sky (wrong for the season or the area) the birds responded by facing in the direction they would be traveling under such a sky. A spirited discussion from the floor followed Holz's report.

Sam Robbins, W. S. O. editor of Adams, gave helpful tips on identifying the confusing fall warblers. He showed the period of heaviest migration to be from August 25 through September 30, and further divided



EDITOR ROBBINS, OUTGOING PRESIDENT POLACHECK, INCOMING PRESIDENT HUSSONG AND SPEAKER DYER AT BANQUET TABLE.

PHOTO COURTESY GREEN BAY GAZETTE

fall warblers into "early" and "late" migrators. Memorizing those with breast markings and those without, and noting absence or presence of wings bars in the various species is also a help when often only a quick look is possible. Learning to know their call notes, or the pitch of their voices, is another big help in identification, according to Robbins.

Ed Prins of Racine, whose bird slides are famous far beyond the bounds of the state, came up with some unusually fine pictures. A Scarlet Tanager against a blue sky; soaring eagles and hawks, and a beautiful collection of shore bird portraits were among his pictures. Mr. Polacheck presented the Saturday morning speakers.

The Saturday afternoon program speakers were introduced by Al Holz. They included Howard Young of La Crosse; Mrs. R. P. Hussong of Green Bay; Daniel O. Trainer Jr., of Madison; Norbert E. Damaske, Wautoma; Helmut C. Mueller, Madison, and Harold Wilson, Ephraim.

Young reminded W. S. O. members that the Robin is the subject of the study project for 1959. Through blanks included in **Passenger Pigeon**

issues, he asked for information on arrival dates for the two sexes, and the number of breeding birds and successful clutches for this season, to use in comparison with other years. Mrs. Hussong showed slides of scenes and wildflowers in The Ridges Wildflower Sanctuary at Baileys Harbor, and told the history of this natural wildflower preserve.

By taking blood samples of dead and injured birds and animals picked up along highways and elsewhere, a new technique for detecting the presence and prevalence of disease in wildlife is being developed, Mr. Trainer of the Wisconsin Conservation Department announced. Already by this method it has been discovered that some Wisconsin pheasants and grouse are inflicted with disease which has been prevalent for some time in eastern states, Trainer said. He advised members of W. S. O. wishing to cooperate with this work to write for a set of instructions and a working kit which may be had from the Wildlife Research Department of the Conservation Department.

Mr. Damaske, also of the Game Management Division, described an area near Princeton which is both a breeding ground and a migratory feeding spot for Sandhill Cranes. He reported that in recent years the marsh near the White River is becoming increasingly popular with these birds in their spring and fall flights. In spring the first birds arrive in the area between April 6 and 10, and by early May all except residents have left. In the fall gathering, they arrive between Sept. 6 and 10, and leave by Oct. 15.

Not all the Red-tailed Hawks which pass through Wisconsin are the common "Eastern Red-tails," according to Mr. Mueller, of the University of Wisconsin's Department of Zoology. Close examinations of hawks trapped and banded at the Cedar Grove Hawk Sanctuary, and of dead and injured birds, reveal markings that suggest some may have strains of Western Red-tail, Harlan's or Krider's hawks in their blood. He suggested that this whole group of hawks should be "worked over" from a taxonomy standpoint.

The afternoon's program session closed with a gay and colorful movie of the Harold Wilson family's late spring vacation in Florida. Harold's descriptive commentary on family vacations was as entertaining as his pictures of Flamingoes, Anhingas, Egrets, alligators and Florida scenes.

Carl Frister of Milwaukee was master of ceremonies at the Saturday evening banquet, at which four W. S. O. "oldtimers" were honored guests. The honorees and their wives were the Walter Scotts of Madison, the Sam Robbins', the Norval Bangers of Madison, and the Murl Deusings, now of St. Louis, Mo. The Deusings were unable to attend the annual dinner, but sent their greetings. Walter Scott gave a brief history of the founding of W. S. O., and listed the charter members.

Close-ups of colorful warblers, their nests and young, were pictured in William Dyer's film on "Birding in the Sub-Canadian Forest of Michigan," which followed the banquet. Mrs. Dyer attended the meeting with her husband.

Mr. Dyer, superintendent of schools at Union City, Michigan, spent several summers in both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan filming warblers and other birds. The rare Kirtland's, the Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Canada, Myrtle and Magnolia were among the warblers

whose family "portraits" were included in the movie. Young Pileated Woodpeckers, heads sticking out of their tree-hole nest; the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Veeries and Cuckoos were other birds whose home lives were portrayed.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Polacheck at 4:15 p. m. in the Beaumont Hotel in Green Bay on May 9, 1959. Approximately 90 persons were present.

Miss Northup, secretary, reported the minutes of the last convention were published in the **Passenger Pigeon**, v. 20, no. 2 and moved the reading be omitted. Motion accepted.

Mrs. Holz, treasurer, gave the treasurer's report.

Mr. Robbins promised an issue of **The Passenger Pigeon** in a few days and announced the resignation of Mrs. Eleanor Miles as business manager. Mrs. Raymond Roark of Madison will succeed her.

Mr. Kruse reported on the Supply Department. He has filled 345 orders during the past year and has cash on hand to the sum of \$587. He told of the Farm Field Days held at Yellowstone Lake where he and Mrs. Kruse conducted a WSO exhibit without help from other members. He also hopes to issue a new catalogue of the holdings of the Supply Department.

Judge Simpson, chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported. Other members are Carl Frister and Roy Lound. The slate: Ray Hussong, president. Mrs. Frances Hamerstrom, vice-president. Mrs. Alfred Holz, treasurer. Helen Northup, secretary. Sam Robbins, editor. As no nominations were made from the floor, Mr. Anthes moved to accept the slate, carried. Whereupon Mr. Polacheck turned the meeting over to the new president, Mr. Hussong.

New business was as follows: Mr. Polacheck moved we pass a resolution to write to the Governor, the chairman of the committee to which the bill is assigned, and the legislature, to keep the Conservation Commission as it is. Mr. Kruse, suggested that an interim study should be made and Mr. Polacheck added this as an amendment to his motion. Mr. Gromme asked if the bill had not got beyond the study stage, and Mr. Kruse said even so he thought a study should be made. Mr. Scott said the bill passed the assembly and will come up in the Senate shortly. It will pick six new commissioners and make other changes. Dr. Kemper stated that the bill was intended to keep the Commission out of politics but that he felt it would not accomplish this purpose. Motion carried.

Mr. Frister asked about the location of 1961 convention, and Judge Simpson said this matter was for the Board to determine. The 1960 convention will be held at Adams.

Mr. Scott announced that the Conservation Department stopped the sale of the Sister Islands in Green Bay and will buy them. Applause.

Mr. Scott said that the Bald Eagle (stuffed) which perches above the state legislature is in a very dark phase—black, in fact—and proposed something be done about it. He proposed that it be either cleaned up or burned up. He moved, seconded by Polacheck, that we write to the governor and ask that something be done. Mr. Gromme suggested including in the motion the name of Karl Kahmann, taxidermist, as the man to do it. Carried.

Mr. Robbins urged individual action on the DDT problem. He moved that WSO go on record as favoring Bill 557-S and Joint Resolution 55-S and that this be conveyed to Senator Leverich. Seconded by Mr. Polacheck and carried. Mr. Robbins added that personal contacts were more effective and urged members to write to the governor and Senator J. Earl Leverich.

Miss Bertha Pearson moved that the secretary write a letter of appreciation to the Consolidated Power and Paper Company, attention Mr. Stanton Mead, President, for their generous gift of 20,000 acres of land in Portage, Marathon and Wood Counties to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. Carried.

Judge Simpson expressed thanks to the elected officers of the Society and the members of the Green Bay Bird Club for the year's work and the convention, and called for a rising vote of thanks.

Mr. Gromme talked further about the poison spraying effects everywhere.
Mr. Bartel expressed the appreciation of the Inland Bird-Banding Association for being included in the convention. The meeting adjourned at 5 p. m.
Helen Northup, Secretary

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS

ARLINGTON

If Madison is known as "the city of lakes" the southern part of Columbia County could well be called the "region of prairie marshes and ponds." Most of the area around Arlington and Poynette is rich farmland. It is not hilly in the extreme, nor is it perfectly flat, having elements of both types of topography. The gently rolling terrain plus the proximity of rivers—the Wisconsin to the West, the Crawfish to the east, the Fox to the north—that help keep the water table up, make the development of prairie ponds natural. The amount of water in these ponds varies greatly during wet and dry years, and during different seasons of the same year, but the ponds can be counted on to be attractive to waterfowl in April and May and often continue to attract waterfowl and shorebirds in late May-early June and again in the fall.

Goose Pond

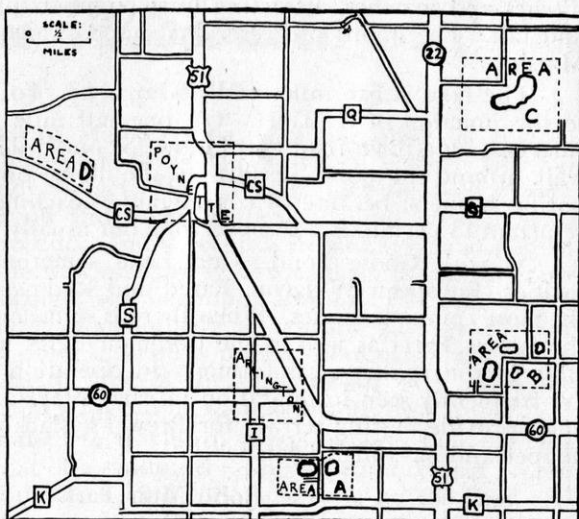
Most famous of these prairie ponds in southern Columbia County is Goose Pond (Area A) just southeast of Arlington. The roads leading to this area have been well worn by ornithologists for many years, because it is one of the leading shorebird observation spots in Wisconsin. Some areas attract large numbers of the smaller sandpipers but do not get the big ones. Goose Pond gets the big ones as well as the smaller species. In recent years the number of Hudsonian Godwits seen here may equal or surpass the numbers seen throughout the rest of the state combined. No spot in Wisconsin is more apt to turn up a Willet or Marbled Godwit in late April or early May. The Northern Phalarope is regular in the last week of May, joining with the Wilson's Phalarope that is not only present from late April on, but frequently remains to breed. Golden Plover arrive generally in late April, joined by Black-bellied Plover in May. Stilt, White-rumped, Baird's and Western Sandpipers have been recorded occasionally in spring.

Goose Pond is well named, for this is a favorite stopping place for geese in both spring and fall. The concentrations of Canada Geese and Whistling Swans that gather in early April when the pond opens up are pleasing to both eye and ear. Any time from mid-April to late May one may find on this pond most of the species of ducks—surface-feeding and diving—that normally come to inland Wisconsin; and one may be rewarded with an extra treat of a rarity such as the European Widgeon, Eared or Red-necked Grebe. The duck and goose population is again good in the fall from late September to early November because the area is maintained as a refuge during the hunting season. Snow and Blue Geese sometimes concentrate here in the fall.

Many other species frequent the area. Coot, Common Gallinule, and other marsh birds frequent parts of the pond and marshy edges; a

colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds may be seen and seems to be increasing annually; Water Pipits and Lapland Longspurs are often found during migration; and Gray Partridges may commonly be found in the nearby fields.

Goose Pond may be reached from several directions. The simplest way is to turn south on a town road off Highway 51 at the bend of the highway on the eastern outskirts of Arlington and to follow south on this town road for about one mile. The pond will be clearly visible. There is an excellent vantage point on this road because it bisects the pond and affords views of the water on either side. Other good observation points are on the east-west town roads just north of the pond and the drive leading to a farm at the southwest corner of the pond. A particularly good place is at the western portion west of the railroad tracks on the farmer's land. It is suggested that permission be requested to walk down to the area, and it will generally be granted.



Schoeneberg's Marsh

The name is all-inclusive for an extensive area of ponds and marshes four to five miles east of Arlington (Area B). Starting from the junction of highways 51, 60 and 22, go north on 22 one-half mile and then turn east on a town road. After one-half mile, one notes a sign indicating a dead end road; it is along the dead end road that one sees the west end of Schoeneberg's Marsh. This area has been very productive of all species of waterfowl—even including a Cinnamon Teal in 1959. The Common Gallinule, Sora and Virginia Rail breed here; King Rails have been seen.

Returning to the town road, proceed east another half-mile and then turn north. Follow this road slowly, looking at the various ponds and marshy areas on both sides of the road; any one of these may yield something unusual. One mile beyond where this road bends eastward, near a crossroad, an orchard will be seen which has attracted a Mockingbird for three successive years.

Mud Lake

Mud Lake (Area C) has been a famous name to the hunters of this area for generations, but has only recently been given much ornithological recognition. It is a shallow pond bordered by excellent sloughs,

ditches and marshes, attracting huge numbers of water birds in spring and fall. The flights of geese, ducks and swans rival those of Horicon Marsh.

The lake is five miles east of Poynette. Follow Highway 22 north to the junction of C. T. H. "Q"; one-half mile north of this junction, turn east on a town road and follow for one mile. Before attempting to walk around the pond, permission should be obtained from the neighboring farmers; because of considerable poaching of game, farmers are reluctant to permit access to everyone but usually welcome ornithologists.

As with Goose Pond, Mud Lake sometimes produces waterfowl rarities (European Widgeon, Eared and Red-necked Grebes) as well as the more common species. When there is sufficient water in late summer, the Snowy Egret as well as the Common Egret has been seen. A Great Blue Heron rookery was formerly in operation here. Sandhill Cranes are frequently seen in migration in early May. In summer the adjacent fields provide nesting terrain for Brewer's Blackbirds, Dickcissels, Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows.

John Muir Park

One of the more delightful spots in the entire area is John Muir Park (Area D) maintained by the Village of Poynette. Its charm consists of many features: lovely river bottomland as Rowan Creek meanders leisurely through it, excellent woodlands on its northern parts, and magnificent wild flower areas. It is located about two miles west of Poynette; follow C. T. H. "CS" and watch for a sign indicating where to drive in.

Almost certain to be seen here are Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Duck, Broad-winged Hawk, and frequently the Winter Wren. Ruffed Grouse, Woodcocks and Barred Owls are often heard. This is a fine spot for winter observations; generally there is some open water, and excellent cover attracts concentrations of winter finches such as Redpolls, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks.—Howard A. Winkler.



NEWS...

The pamphlet "Wisconsin Birds—A Checklist With Migration Charts," originally published in 1942, is now in process of revision and will become available some time this fall. Two of the original authors—N. R. Barger and Sam Robbins—together with Roy Lound make up the revision committee.

Also scheduled for publication within the next few months will be the "Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts" series in booklet form. In addition to the articles of this title that have appeared in **The Passenger Pigeon** within the past five years, a

number of new areas will be described. Every Wisconsin ornithologist will want a copy. Watch for future announcements.

Before you receive your next issue of **The Passenger Pigeon**, you may be well along with your planning of Christmas gifts. Why not consult the "Dark Room" about gift possibilities? When answering advertisements, be sure to mention our magazine.

The Supply Department is another excellent source for gifts. An inquiry to Harold Kruse will bring a prompt reply. Or perhaps you will consider a gift membership in WSO for a friend or relative.

(more news on page 76)

A Ruff in Wisconsin . . .

By SAM ROBBINS

Early on the evening of May 15 a party of five observed a large shorebird the likes of which none of us had even seen before. Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Buddy Barger, Mary Walker and the writer were returning from Goose Pond and other small ponds and flooded fields that are often attractive to ducks and shorebirds in mid-May, and paused by a flooded field one mile west of Norway Grove in north-central Dane County at 8:00, just as daylight was beginning to dim. The call note of the Dowitcher (presumably Short-billed) was heard just as the car stopped, so at first glance other shorebirds present were passed over until the Dowitchers were sighted. One of the birds passed over made the writer wonder, "Why should a Pigeon be wading out in the water?"

When attention returned to this bird, it was obvious that this was no pigeon; the bill was that of a sandpiper. The appearance of a Pigeon was created by the general size, a solid very dark color on the head and breast, and a rather thick neck. We all studied this bird for 15 minutes, the bird being in plain sight wading in shallow water 100-150 feet away, in light that was still good—but rapidly fading. The following notes were taken on the spot: "Shorebird, definitely larger than nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. Entire head solid dark chocolate brown. Breast even blacker, ending with black blotches on the flanks. Legs about Yellowlegs length, yellow, but not as bright yellow as the Yellowlegs. Bill about the same length as Lesser Yellowlegs, straight and dark. Lower belly white. Back brown with inconspicuous streaks. Fluffy effect of head and neck feathers."

Realizing the importance of wing and tail pattern and call note in shorebird identification, we proceeded to flush the bird. And here the fading light began to be a limiting factor. The wing pattern resembled that of the Pectoral—dark brown, bordered in part by an even darker brown; but we were not sure of any wing stripe, even the inconspicuous one which the Pectoral has. The tail showed a vivid pattern of black and white, almost reminiscent of a Ruddy Turnstone; but the five observers could not agree on the exact placing of the black and white markings. No call note was heard.

Observation gave way to speculation on the return trip to Madison. The possibility of a Ruff was guessed at; but this was purely guessing, because none of the observers were familiar with the species, and it seemed like a fantastic guess for an old world species that is extremely rare even on the Atlantic Coast. But no one could come up with a more plausible guess.

At this point supper had already been long delayed. But it could be delayed still longer while Bill Foster and his European bird guides were sought out. Bill's first comment, on hearing the description of the bird, was: "You must have seen a Ruff!". The more we studied pictures and descriptions in Peterson's Eastern and European guides, the more our suspicions of the Ruff were confirmed. No picture or description matched our bird perfectly, but the remarkable variations in head and

breast plumages of this species suggested that our bird was in some sort of in-between plumage. In the non-variable parts of the Ruff—back, legs, wings, tail—everything about our observation matched up. With three exceptions, all of which could easily be attributable to imperfect observation in diminishing light: (1) the Ruff should have an inconspicuous white wing stripe like the Pectoral; (2) the base of the Ruff's bill should be lighter than the rest of it; and (3) the tail of the Ruff should show a black central line flanked by large oval white patches.

Return visits were planned for the next day, in hopes of checking on these points, photographing, and possible collection. First to arrive were the Bargers, the Roy Lounds, J. Allan Simpson and Helen Northup—necessarily very early because of other commitments that day. The bird was found, but the results of photographing the bird at 65 feet were at that time uncertain because of imperfect early morning light. But when the bird flew, the distinctive tail pattern of the Ruff was unmistakable: vivid white oval patches separated by a black median line. Wing and bill markings were still in doubt.

Later in the morning the writer returned to the area, accompanied by A. W. Schorger; the bird was flushed three times, but by this time the bird had taken a liking to a different part of the pond where it could be better concealed by broken-down corn stalks. But Robbins was able to detect a Pectoral-like inconspicuous light wing stripe, and Schorger commented significantly: "I've near seen anything like it!". Foster and J. J. Hickey searched in the afternoon, and Foster caught a glimpse of the bird, but could add nothing on the bill that was still in doubt.

Other efforts were made to find the bird on succeeding days, but these were unsuccessful—until Wednesday, May 20. Among the most diligent searchers were Dr. and Mrs. Howard Winkler, who combed the area fairly thoroughly on three successive days with no success. But on the fourth day—May 20—they were rewarded with the best view that anyone had: while watching some Dowitchers and Northern Phalaropes at a distance of 30 feet, the Ruff flew in and landed with the group. Dr. Winkler had observed this species frequently in Holland and England in various plumages—including the plumage that was identical with this Wisconsin stranger. In correspondence with the writer, Dr. Winkler states: "There is no possible doubt in my mind about this bird despite its apparent rarity. The bill was quite definitely lighter at the base—not always seen; there was a faint but discernible wing stripe; the tail flight pattern was distinctive and like no other North American bird—white patches along the lateral parts of the tail with a central dark stripe, clearly seen when the bird flushed." Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Dryer shared in that observation.

The "icing on the cake" was furnished when photos by Martha Lound and Buddy Barger were developed, showing the bird in silhouette to good advantage. A photo will be included in the next issue.

A perusal of the new A. O. U. "Checklist" shows that occurrences of the Ruff in the Midwest are accidental but not unprecedented. There are single records for Ontario, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. Primarily it is a bird of Europe, Africa and Asia; occurrences in the United States—even along the heavily bird-watched Atlantic Coast—are very rare. Adams, Wisconsin

State of Wisconsin Conservation Commission

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COOPERATION

This certificate is an acknowledgment of the generous and timely cooperation given to the Conservation Department by the

WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

through the purchasing and leasing to the Department of 120 acres of land in the Portage County Buena Vista Prairie Chicken Management Area.

On May 14, 1953, exactly six years ago, the Conservation Commission adopted its Wisconsin Prairie Grouse Management Policy which states that "it is considered basic that every reasonable effort be made to maintain a huntable population through management and restoration of habitat for these birds in the state and to assure their presence for future generations." This policy also endorsed the idea of cooperative agreements "with all other public and private owners of land designated as essential to prairie grouse management." In the case of Buena Vista marsh, where continued private ownership is important for a stable tax structure, this cooperative lease arrangement is the foundation to any plan controlling land use.

It is significant that public-spirited individuals and groups are concerned over the future of the prairie chicken in Wisconsin and interested in seeing that this valuable native bird does not become extinct in Wisconsin. Only through such constructive and cooperative action can we hope to succeed on these complicated problems of wildlife restoration and management.

An expression of appreciation has been spread upon the official records of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission at their meeting of May 14, 1959. This certificate is a well-deserved acknowledgment of cooperation.



WISCONSIN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Arthur R. MacArthur
Arthur R. MacArthur, Chairman

CERTIFICATE AWARDED WSO FOLLOWING SOCIETY'S PURCHASE OF LAND FOR PRAIRIE CHICKEN SURVIVAL. THE FIGURE "120 ACRES" IS TWICE THE SIZE OF WSO'S HOLDINGS, BUT PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE THE FIGURE CORRECT BY FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE "CHICKEN FUND."

MORE NEWS . . .

Plans are already moving ahead for next year's WSO convention at Adams. The dates are June 3-5. A new high school auditorium and several new motels are available. Fran Hamerstrom is developing local committees, and is on the trail of a "name" speaker for the banquet.

It will soon be time to turn in your Robin questionnaire to Prof. Howard Young. If you do not have a copy of the questionnaire from the last issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*, write and request one from Prof. Young (Dept. of Biology, Wisconsin State College, La Crosse). Information about arrival dates, nesting success, fledged young seen, etc., should be as definite and factual as possible, but even impressions not backed by factual data will be of some use. The success of this

project depends upon the cooperation of a great many observers, and a successful project could play an important role in decisions about the uses of insecticides in the future. Please try to send your information to Prof. Young by September 1.

Miss Margaret Crabbe (1089 Division St., Green Bay) is the new membership chairman. But building up the membership of WSO is not a job for just one person. Every reader of this magazine can help. Miss Crabbe will gladly furnish membership fliers to any member requesting them.

Quite a few members have already visited the Honey Creek area near Leland in Sauk County that has been leased to WSO. If you would like to visit the area, a set of maps has been prepared by Harold Kruse and is available from him on request.

(more news on page 78)

BOOK REVIEW *

BIRDS—A GOLDEN PICTURE BOOK. By Clara Hussong, with pictures by Marjorie Hartwell. Golden Press, 1959, 57 pp.

A book by Clara Hussong automatically strikes a responsive chord among Wisconsin bird-lovers. Many W. S. O. members have marveled at her enthusiastic support for the Society throughout its twenty years of existence, and untold thousands of others have marveled at her writings in the nature columns of Green Bay and Appleton newspapers in recent years.

She is not content to write down bare observations, but strives to show their meaning in the grand scale of nature. The word "habitat" appears prominently throughout. Typical is this statement: "A bird's home place—its habitat—is filled with life. Many other living things are at home there, too—such things as trees, bushes, rabbits, mice, frogs, snakes, beetles and grasshoppers. It is a small but busy world, alive with color, sound, and movement. Every living thing in the habitat is of value to other living things." (p. 8).

This book was meant for children, but there is much here for any beginner. Over 90 species are described and pictured, divided according to habitats: home yards, parks and small woods, fields and farmlands, deep woods, marshes, and lakes. The scope of this book is enormous for one of its kind. The drawings of parts of a bird's anatomy are simple and vivid; characteristic bird nests are depicted; there is space for a youngster to begin his "life list" as something more than a mere list of species.

The book is written with charm of manner, a sense of humor and great appreciation of nature. You will not want to put it down once you have started, and will be sorry when it comes to an end. It is profuse with glorious color plates, printed on fine quality paper, and is a great credit to the publishers.—Donna Denzin.

*Available from the W. S. O. Supply Department.



WSO DIRECTORS
START UP LOWER
HONEY CREEK
VALLEY TO VIEW
LEASED LAND . . .

PAUSE TO SEE
BIRDS, ANIMALS,
WILD FLOWERS
EN ROUTE . . .



AND FIND SOME
REAL HIKING
IN THE UPPER
REGIONS.

PHOTOS BY
CHARLES KEMPER

MORE NEWS . . .

The S. Paul Jones Memorial Fund is growing. If enough people, who remember him and want to keep alive his influence for the preservation of Wisconsin birds, continue to contribute to this fund, it will eventually be possible to purchase land for a permanent sanctuary in his memory. Send your contribution to the treasurer.

During the past year, publicity chairman Clara Hussong sent out 76 publicity releases about field trips to local newspapers, 91 informational stories about the Green Bay convention, and 33 announcements about the summer campout. Fine work!

Wanted: more observers in the field during the forthcoming fall season. By

reading the field notes in this issue, you will get a better idea of what to expect this fall; by reading "Fun With Fall Warblers" in this issue, perhaps you will feel that fall birding can be just as exciting and rewarding as spring birding. It becomes apparent, on reading the summary of last fall's field notes, that comparatively few observers are sending in reports for this important period. Keep records of the birds you see on each field trip, or around your home each day, so that you can detect when some of our more common species depart for the south. Keep watch, too, for large concentrations of birds that may appear from time to time: the flocking of swallows on the wires, concentrations of blackbirds in the marshes, strings of Nighthawks that pass southward in late August. And when you see birds you can't recognize, write down careful descriptions on the spot.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

By CHARLES A. KEMPER

One of the problems that has not received the attention it deserves is the common practice of cutting roadside trees and bushes by highway crews, telephone and power linemen.

This practice, of course, is so widespread and so entrenched that it is not likely to be changed no matter how much protest is raised. The people in charge of these operations insist that it is necessary and no arguments to the contrary seem to prevail. One of the reasons given to me personally by the foreman of a county crew cutting down hazel and alderbrush in front of my farm was that he thought it improved the looks of the place. Secondly, he had to do something to keep his men busy, and besides if they did not cut down the bushes and trees, the telephone company was going to come by and spray it anyway.

Since this practice is not likely to be stopped by my protests or yours, perhaps we just have to accept it. However, there is one phase of this problem that is particularly irksome and I don't think we have to take it lying down. There is no need to perform these operations just at the very height of the nesting season between late May and mid-July. I asked the local head of the Northern States Power Company why they cleared under their high lines this time of the year. He was very considerate in his answer, admitting that he had never given this problem any thought. He would, however, take it up at the next board meeting. It seems to me "I've heard that song before." I pointed out that most utility companies are concerned about wild life. It would certainly be good public relations for them to announce they would voluntarily abide by this restriction. By doing so, they would not only be doing something concrete for conservation, but they would also set a fine example for the local and state highway commissions.

While we are trying to alleviate the destruction of birds by toxic insecticides and by collisions with TV towers, we would do well to con-

sider this problem which may be equally destructive. It would be a fine step forward in conservation if by law or reason we could restrict these loathsome brushing operations to other than the nesting season.

119½ Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls

By The Wayside . . .

The Cityfied Rail. One can imagine my surprise when on August 18, 1958, I went into my backyard and saw a Sora walking away from our small lily pool. The shore marshes of Lake Wausau are close, being through the neighbor's yard, across the street, and down the thirty-foot bank; but nevertheless I never expected to see a rail in the yard. Further observation showed it feeding on insects in the garden and on the lawn. Aphids on the lily pads seemed especially attractive, and there was even time for a bath and some preening. When a gray squirrel came to the pool for a drink, the rail seemed quite disturbed. In fact, it jumped into the pool, swam across to the other side, and climbed out on the lawn to get away. After an hour and a half of loafing in the yard, it disappeared. After this, I won't be surprised to see a Bittern catching the goldfish in the pool!—Barbara M. Doty, Wausau.

NEW ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Carl Frister of Milwaukee has been called out of "retirement" to take over responsibility for editing the field notes. When Harold Liebherr found that his teaching duties did not allow sufficient time to do the Associate Editor's job justice, another former WSO president was selected for the post. Frister has not really "retired" since his year as president and his seven years as treasurer, for he has remained a faithful Society worker and an active field ornithologist. These are the very qualifications needed for the Associate Editor.

All correspondence about field notes should go to him. Address: 2956A North 38th Street, Milwaukee 10. He has forms for reporting field notes that can be sent on request. Frister is anxious to build a fuller network of field observers throughout Wisconsin. Vast areas of northern, western and central Wisconsin are rarely heard from; only when these gaps are filled can a clearer picture of the distribution and migration patterns of our birds emerge. Observers in these sections are urged to keep records of even the common birds they see, and to communicate with the Associate Editor.

Seasonal writers will continue to edit summaries of field notes for the magazine: Wallace MacBriar for spring, Martha and Roy Lound for summer, Charles Kemper for fall, and Howard Winkler for winter. Mrs. Raymond Roark of Madison is continuing as Circulation Manager.

Permanent files of all Wisconsin field records, begun in 1946 and then suspended in 1950, are now being revived under the supervision of Mrs. John McEwen of Milwaukee. She is already working on data for 1951, and will eventually have up to date a file of bird records that will be of immense value.



FIELD NOTES

By CHARLES A. KEMPER

1958

Autumn Season

August 16-November 30, 1959

An accurate picture of the fall migration is invariably harder to obtain than one of the spring flight, partly because the fall movement is spread over a longer period of time, and partly because fewer observers are in the field. The number of reports received for the autumn season does not match up with spring reports; consequently most attempts to generalize on the pattern of fall migration involve much guess-work.

Fortunately some of the guess-work is removed by some exceptionally fine data accumulated by banders and observers who manned the Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station this fall. At various times the Station was manned by Dan Berger, Helmut Mueller, David Seal, Nancy Schneider, Dick Wills, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Hamerstrom, Elva Hamerstrom, John Kaspar, Lu Johnson, Donald Prentice, Jack Oar, Raymond Wren, Jack Raubal and others. Not only did they make direct observations of diurnal migrants, but they also captured and banded 3925 birds of 75 species.

Such extensive observations give valuable clues as to the peak period of migration of some species. In a more limited way it throws some light on the relative abundance of some related species. For instance, the tally of banded thrushes between Aug. 31 and Oct. 21 was 114 Hermits, 1086 Swainson's, and 153 Gray-checked; since these species are similar in habitat preferences, habits, and susceptibility to mist-net trapping, it is a logical assumption that these figures indicate with reasonable accuracy the relative abundance of these thrushes—at least in the Cedar Grove area in the fall of 1958.

Valuable hawk data was gathered, too. 2283 hawks were observed during the season, of which 11% were banded. Over half (1342) of the observations were of Sharp-shins. The frequency with which this species is seen on a major hawk migration route contrasts sharply with the infrequency with which it is seen by the casual observer out for a morning bird walk during the same period. One wonders what percentage of migrating hawks are funneled into major channels such as Cedar Grove, and one wonders what other sizable hawk migration routes there may be in Wisconsin that are as yet undiscovered. The one at Cedar Grove and the one just across our borders at Duluth, Minnesota, are well known; but are there others?

The fall goose population was exceptional, probably due to shunting of western birds into our flyway because of near drought conditions in the Great Plains. On Oct. 26 I witnessed the greatest migration of Canada, Blue and Snow Geese I have ever seen; flock after flock, 100-800, passed over; they kept coming all day, filling the skies at times. At Horicon the managed public goose hunt was closed two weeks early after the kill had risen to 16,940. No comparable increase in duck populations was reported, however.

Shorebird observations were erratic. Tom Soulen reports that Horicon was not as productive as in previous years. Chippewa County was fairly unproductive due to dry weather and a lack of ponds. Sam Robbins reports that the drainage ditches in Adams County that have sometimes attracted fair numbers of small shorebirds had very little this season. But late in July Soulen discovered two ponds east of Madison that were well populated: the Mill Pond at Marshall; and Chub Lake near Waterloo. Many observers visited extensive mud flats and shallow water at these locations in August and September, witnessing spectacular flights of Yellowlegs, Pectorals and "peeps" in the thousands. Golden and Black-bellied Plovers and Silt Sandpipers were also seen in more than usual numbers.

The movement of passerines was spotty. Huge migrating flocks of Nighthawks and swallows were noted at Cedar Grove, and my banding of 83 Lincoln's Sparrows in Chippewa County suggests that this species was numerous. The banding data from Cedar Grove gives more reliable information about the fall movement of puzzling empidonax flycatchers than is normally obtained. Sam Robbins heard a heavy flight of night migrants at Superior, Aug. 27-28, but in general the warbler migration was considered below par. Especially notable to me was the drop in numbers of Myrtle and Palm Warblers.

The season was not without its quota of rarities. White Pelicans were seen at Madison, a White-fronted Goose was collected at Horicon, a Swainson's Hawk was sighted at Cedar Grove, three Parasitic Jaegers were noted at Superior, a Glaucous Gull turned up at Port Washington, a Mockingbird was banded at Chippewa Falls, and a Hooded Warbler was found in Madison.

During the latter part of the fall migration, one always looks for clues suggesting the pattern of winter finch influx that may be expected in the following period. Evening Grosbeaks began appearing in some numbers in November, and small groups of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were noted. No crossbills were reported. From Oct. 10 on, however, Bohemian Waxwings were appearing in northwestern Wisconsin, and by the end of the period had been reported from five locations, presaging one of the heaviest flights of this species in recorded Wisconsin ornithological annals.

Common Loon: Departed from Polk Co., Nov. 11 (Mrs. Lester Pederesen); one seen in Madison, Dec. 3 (Tom Ashman).

Red-throated Loon: 20 seen at Milwaukee, Nov. 3 (Mary Donald); only report.

Horned Grebe: Two early arrivals noted by Sam Robbins: Superior, Aug. 28; and Adams Co., Sept. 13.

Pied-billed Grebe: None reported after a Madison bird on Dec. 2 (J. G. Waddell).

Double-crested Cormorant: Only two fall reports for what was once regarded as a common migrant in Wisconsin. Does the scarcity lie with the birds or with the field ornithologists?

White Pelican: Seven birds were present at Madison on Nov. 23-24, first reported by Tom Ashman, seen subsequently by many observers and photographed by Martha Lound. These may be the same birds that were present at Crystal Lake in northern Dane County the previous week, eight birds (one injured) being seen there by William Burden until the very day they appeared in Madison.

Common Egret: Made first recorded appearance in Chippewa Co. on Sept. 2 (C. A. Kemper). Tom Soulen writes: "definitely fewer at Horicon . . . highest count was 24 on August. 25." Correlated with information from neighboring states, there are suspicions of a westward displacement of this species this fall; Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois all report smaller numbers than usual, while Minnesota produced a wider distribution than usual, and a few reached eastern South Dakota.

Little Blue Heron: One straggler reported in Outagamie Co., Sept. 14 (Alfred Bradford).

Green Heron: Last seen in Kenosha, Oct. 7 (Mrs. Howard Higgins), and in Madison, Oct. 4 (J. G. Waddell).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Unusually late departure from Brown Co., Nov. 25 (Edwin Cleary). Last seen at Cedar Grove, Oct. 10; no records from western Wisconsin.

American Bittern: Last migrants: Outagamie Co., Oct. 20 (Alfred Bradford); Beloit, Oct. 18 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Least Bittern: One still in Outagamie Co., Sept. 14 (Alfred Bradford).

Whistling Swan: DePere, Nov. 1 (Edwin Cleary); Outagamie Co., Nov. 10 (Alfred Bradford); Marathon Co., Nov. 15 (the Spencer Dotys); Milwaukee, Nov. 24 (Mary Donald); Chippewa Co., Nov. 30 (C. A. Kemper).

Snow and Blue Geese: Arrived at Beloit on Oct. 5 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum), escaping detection by more northern observers. Other arrival dates: Chippewa Co., Oct. 9; Bayfield Co., Oct. 12; Milwaukee, Oct. 12. Last report comes from Columbia Co. on Nov. 11 (Donald Cors, Sam Robbins).

White-fronted Goose: One in full adult plumage appeared at Horicon on Sept. 21 in company with 60 Canada Geese; collected the next day and donated to the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Gadwall: First migrant noted at Madison on Sept. 17 (Sam Robbins).

Green-winged Teal: An early report in Marathon Co., Aug. 18 (Mrs. Spencer Doty); not seen elsewhere until a month later.

Wood Duck: Still in Polk Co. on Nov. 2 (Mrs. Lester Pedersen).

Redhead: Early arrival in Outagamie Co. on Sept. 28 (Alfred Bradford); arrived in Chippewa Co. by Oct. 8 (C. A. Kemper).

Lesser Scaup: First recorded in Chippewa Co. on Oct. 9 (C. A. Kemper); peak flights between Oct. 21 and Nov. 10.

Common Goldeneye: Arrived at Milwaukee by Oct. 20 (Mary Donald); but there were no inland records until Nov. 12 in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper) and Nov. 14 in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins).

Oldsquaw: Only report: arrived Nov. 3 at Milwaukee (Mary Donald).

Ruddy Duck: Migrants in Adams Co. by Sept. 8 (Sam Robbins). Reports very scanty.

Turkey Vulture: First seen on Sept. 21, Waukesha Co. (Mrs. Howard Higgins); five counted at Cedar Grove between Sept. 30 and Oct. 11; one at Madison, Oct. 26 (Tom Ashman).

Goshawk: Individuals at Cedar Grove on Sept. 21, 26, and Oct. 24; one near Adams on Nov. 15 (Sam Robbins).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Of 2283 hawks counted at Cedar Grove in fall migration, 1342 were of this species; peak flights were noted on Sept. 21 and Oct. 11, with the last bird seen on Nov. 6; 164 of these were trapped and banded. An early migrant was recorded in Adams Co., Aug. 18 (Sam Robbins).

Cooper's Hawk: 11 banded at Cedar Grove, peak flight of seven on Oct. 11; very similar in numbers to previous years.

Red-tailed Hawk: 60 seen on Oct. 17 at Cedar Grove; of 238 sighted in the fall, 20 were banded.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 14 seen at Cedar Grove on Aug. 24, of which two were banded; other records from Vernon Co. on Oct. 1, Adams Co. on Oct. 17, and Kenosha on Oct. 26.

Swainson's Hawk: One seen at Cedar Grove on Aug. 31 (Helmut Mueller, Dan Berger).

Broad-winged Hawk: The total of 170 migrants at Cedar Grove represents a decided decline from a year ago when 483 were seen on one day; last migrant noted on Oct. 1.

Rough-legged Hawk: No records from western part of the state. Arrived at Cedar Grove on Sept. 21, with total of 25 reported all season compared to but two the preceding year.

Bald Eagle: Vilas Co., Aug. 20 (Alfred Bradford); Juneau Co., Oct. 18-21 (Sam Robbins); Ozaukee Co., Nov. 20 (Frances Werderman, Marian Urdan).

Marsh Hawk: Late date of Nov. 30 in Brown Co. (Edwin Cleary); at Cedar Grove the flight totaled 214, with peaks on Sept. 25 (33) and Oct. 11 (46).

Osprey: At Cedar Grove migration was observed from Aug. 30 to Oct. 25, with peak of six on Sept. 30; other reports from Dane Co. on Aug. 21 (Tom Soulen) and Sept. 17 (Sam Robbins), Milwaukee on Sept. 1 (Mary Donald), and Outagamie Co. on Oct. 2 (Alfred Bradford).

Peregrine Falcon: 19 of 51 seen at Cedar Grove between Sept. 14 and Oct. 17 were banded, with peaks of 12 on Sept. 30 and Oct. 4; also noted in Chippewa Co. on Oct. 16 and 26 (C. A. Kemper), and in Milwaukee on Oct. 4.

Pigeon Hawk: Excellent flight at Cedar Grove: arrived on Sept. 6, 22 on Sept. 30, 56 on Oct. 4, last seen on Oct. 17; also noted in Manitowoc Co., Aug. 17 (John Kraupa), and in Adams Co., Sept. 21 (Sam Robbins).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Noted by one observer: Alfred Bradford in Oconto Co.

Turkey: Several seen in the Meadow Valley area on Oct. 21 (Mary Donald, Sam Robbins, et al.), where the recent planting seems to be thriving.

Sandhill Crane: 300 reported north of Princeton, Sept. 30 (Marian Urdan, Mary Donald); also reports from Vilas Co. on Sept. 27 (Alfred Bradford) and Marathon Co. on Sept. 25 (the Spencer Dotys).

Virginia Rail: Last seen in Bayfield Co. on Sept. 24 (David Bratley) and in Milwaukee on Oct. 9 (Mary Donald).

Sora: John Kraupa again turned up the latest fall date: Oct. 13 in Manitowoc Co.

Common Gallinule: Tom Soulen makes this significant comment: "At Horicon where previously we have found 500-1500 of both these species, (Gallinule and Coot) there just didn't seem to be any this August. This may not be indicative of a reduction in their numbers; but it does illustrate the virtually complete disappearance of suitable habitat which is visible from the roadside." Last seen in Madison, Sept. 26 (Sam Robbins).

Semipalmated Plover: Reports from Douglas, Adams, Manitowoc, Dodge, Dane and Rock Counties: last date, Sept. 20 at Waterloo (Sam Robbins).

Killdeer: Last seen in Rock Co. on Nov. 11 (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Golden Plover: Arrived at Madison on Aug. 15 with one bird in spring plumage (Tom Soulen); built up to a peak of 500 at Sun Prairie, Dane Co., on Oct. 13 (Mary Donald et al.).

Black-bellied Plover: Few reports. Arrived in Dane and Dodge Counties by Aug. 25 (Sam Robbins); last seen in Manitowoc Co. on Oct. 19 (John Kraupa), and at Cedar Grove on Oct. 30.

Ruddy Turnstone: No reports this fall.

Woodcock: Last state report, Nov. 15, Columbia Co., (Donald Cors).

Common Snipe: Peak of fall flight in Rock Co., Oct. 3 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum); one still in Outagamie Co. on Nov. 23 (Alfred Bradford).

Spotted Sandpiper: Last seen in Madison on Oct. 20 (J. G. Waddell).

Solitary Sandpiper: Still present in Dane Co., Sept. 26 (Sam Robbins).

Willet: One at Cedar Grove on Sept. 20 (Helmut Mueller et al.).

Greater Yellowlegs: Had arrived in Rock Co. by Aug. 1 (Bernice Andrews); last noted on Oct. 27 in Dane Co. (J. G. Waddell).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Remarkably heavy flight at Waterloo (Tom Soulen); latest, Oct. 27, Dane Co. (J. G. Waddell).

Knot: One in Manitowoc Co., Aug. 27 (John Kraupa); one at Cedar Grove, Sept. 15 (Helmut Mueller et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Heavy flight in Dodge and Dane Counties; last seen on Oct. 20 (J. G. Waddell).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Two reports, both by Sam Robbins: Aug. 22 in Adams Co., Sept. 20 at Waterloo.

Baird's Sandpiper: First noted on Aug. 28 at Superior (Sam Robbins) and in Rock Co. (Bernice Andrews); last seen at Necedah on Oct. 21 (Mary Donald, Sam Robbins, et al.). In between more reports than usual were received from Adams, Dane, Dodge and Juneau Counties.

Least Sandpiper: Not noted after Oct. 1 in Dane Co. (J. G. Waddell).

Dunlin: No reports.

Dowitcher: Five in Adams Co., Aug. 22-26, and one at Superior, Aug. 28, gave the call note presumed to be the Short-billed (Sam Robbins—see 1959 Pass. Pigeon 46); single birds on Sept. 20 in Dodge Co.

(Sam Robbins) and on Oct. 26 in Dane Co. (Tom Ashman) could not be specifically designated.

Sanderling: One inland record: Dodge Co., Sept. 20 (Sam Robbins).

Northern Phalarope: Sept. 11, Milwaukee (Mary Donald).

Parasitic Jaeger: Three at Superior, Aug. 28 (Sam Robbins). See 1958 Pass. Pigeon 165-6.

Glaucous Gull: Nov. 20 at Port Washington harbor; one adult with gray mantle seen at close range (Mary Donald, Frances Werderman, Marian Urdan).

Franklin's Gull: Two seasonal records: Aug. 28 at Superior (Sam Robbins), and Oct. 2 at Milwaukee (Mary Donald).

Forster's Tern: Only report: Sept. 24 in Bayfield Co. (David Bratley).

Common Tern: Last record on Nov. 6, Brown Co. (Edwin Cleary).

Caspian Tern: One report: Sept. 1, Point Beach State Park near Two Rivers (Wallace MacBriar).

Mourning Dove: A growing (speculative) number of wintering birds every year make departure dates meaningless.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last reported, Vernon Co., Oct. 19 (Weber).

Short-eared Owl: Oct. 1, Outagamie Co. (Alfred Bradford); Oct. 20, Beloit, (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Saw-whet Owl: Dead bird reported from Manitowoc Co. on Nov. 3 (John Kraupa).

Whip-poor-will: The last report was of a bird banded by C. A. Kemper, Sept. 22, in Chippewa Co.

Nighthawk: Heavy flights were noted at Wausau (Mrs. Spencer Doty) and Oconomowoc (the Paul Hoffmanns) on Aug. 25, at Chippewa Falls on Aug. 30 (C. A. Kemper), and at Cedar Grove on Aug. 30 (6000) and 31 (18,000). Last date: Oct. 25 at Cedar Grove.

Chimney Swift: Most had departed from Wisconsin by the end of the first week in September, but Bernice Andrews saw one at Beloit on Oct. 1, and Tom Soulen saw birds in Madison on Oct. 9.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Several late September dates; one still at Sauk City on Oct. 1 (Mrs. Henry Koenig), and last seen in Vernon Co. on Oct. 9 (Weber).

Belted Kingfisher: In southern Wisconsin wintering records are not rare, but departure dates in the northern part of the state have significance; last seen in Bayfield Co. on Oct. 30 (David Bratley), and in Chippewa Co. on Nov. 13 (C. A. Kemper).

Flicker: Peak flight, Sept. 25-27 at Milwaukee and Cedar Grove; last dates, Nov. 5 at Cedar Grove, and Nov. 6 at Beloit (Bernice Andrews, Frances Glenn).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One on Nov. 30 at West DePere (Wilber Borten), the second consecutive year this species has been found in Brown County in late November. Last date for Rock Co., Nov. 4 (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Eastern Kingbird: Mrs. Howard Higgins found one at Kenosha on Oct. 7, a month later than other late dates.

Crested Flycatcher: Last date, Sept. 24 in Vernon Co. (Weber).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Several noted near Chippewa Falls and Cedar Grove, Sept. 3-4; one still present at Cedar Grove on Oct. 6 (Helmut Mueller), the latest date on record.

Trail's Flycatcher: Peaks, according to banding data; Aug. 31 at Cedar Grove, Sept. 17 at Chippewa Falls; last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 3.

Least Flycatcher: Peaks at Cedar Grove on Aug. 31 and Sept. 7; latest date, Oct. 6 at Cedar Grove.

Wood Pewee: Also last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 6; no other October dates.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Almost no reports; one noted on Aug. 29 in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins), and on Sept. 10 at Horicon (Ed Peartree).

Tree Swallow: Spectacular flights recorded at Cedar Grove on Aug. 30 (2000), Sept. 7 (4000) and Sept. 15 (4000), last seen on Oct. 11. Peak at Beloit reported on Sept. 14 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Bank Swallow: No September reports; latest, Aug. 31 at Beloit (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Rough-winged Swallow: Late date, Sept. 25 at Cedar Grove.

Barn Swallow: One lingered in Vernon Co. until Oct. 11 (Weber).

Cliff Swallow: Flock of 100 reported from Waterloo on Sept. 20 (Sam Robbins), but none seen thereafter in the state.

Purple Martin: 2700 reported on Sept. 7 at Cedar Grove; last seen on Sept. 20 in Polk Co. (Mrs. Lester Pedersen).

Gray Jay: Late summer records on Aug. 27 in Ashland and Sawyer Counties (Sam Robbins); later dates in Florence and Pierce Counties. Reported by the Roy Lounds as "scarcer every year."

Raven: One noted Nov. 9, Cedar Grove. Common throughout northern Wisconsin.

Boreal Chickadee: Not normally seen in Wisconsin in summer, this species was twice recorded from the northern part of the state in late August. Mrs. Howard Higgins submitted a detailed report of one seen in Florence Co. on Aug. 21, and Sam Robbins found two in Sawyer Co. on Aug. 27. The latter is especially noteworthy, because this species had not been recorded from northwestern Wisconsin for several years.

Tufted Titmouse: This bird is becoming more established in southern Wisconsin; "easier to find in Madison" (Tom Soulen). Seen in Oconomowoc on Nov. 2 where it "has been rare" (Ed Peartree). But fewer northern reports this fall; much scarcer in Chippewa Co. where it had been becoming more common over the past four years (C. A. Kemper).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Widespread reports from central and southeastern Wisconsin, but down in numbers from the tremendous 1958 fall invasion.

Brown Creeper: Flight apparently subdued this fall; earliest reported arrival was Sept. 22 at Cedar Grove; by Oct. 2 it had reached Adams, Madison and Beloit.

House Wren: In contrast to most years, no October reports; the bulk of departure dates ranged from Sept. 15-26, with the latest in Chippewa Co. on Sept. 28 (C. A. Kemper).

Winter Wren: An unusually late date on Nov. 11 by Mrs. Howard Higgins at Kenosha is noteworthy.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: Remained in Outagamie Co. until Oct. 12 (Alfred Bradford), just one day earlier than his sight observation of the previous year.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: No October dates, in contrast with most recent years; latest date, Sept. 24 in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper).

Mockingbird: A straggler banded at Chippewa Falls on Nov. 11 is the first county record (C. A. Kemper).

Catbird: Seemingly abundant in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper); no quantitative reports from other observers, but peak noted at Oconomowoc on Sept. 22 (Mrs. Emma Hoffmann) and in Vernon Co. on Sept. 26 (Weber); last reported on Oct. 21 at Cedar Grove.

Brown Thrasher: One hardy specimen still at feeder in Balsam Lake, Polk Co., on Nov. 18 (the A. M. Hermstads).

Robin: Peak flights on Sept. 12 (200) and Oct. 24 (300) at Cedar Grove.

Wood Thrush: Latest date, Oct. 7, Rock Co. (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Swainson's Thrush: Reports from this and other years show the bird arrives around the end of August and has departed by the third week in October. That the flight rapidly builds up early in September is indicated by data from the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station showing 128 banded on Sept. 4, and 101 on Sept. 5. Last reported there on Oct. 21.

Gray-checked Thrush: Arrived at Madison by Aug. 25 (Tom Ashman); last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 12, with peak on Sept. 13-14.

Veery: Last noted at Cedar Grove on Sept. 21.

Bluebird: Numbers definitely down in summer, but fall reports were widespread through October, with the latest in Brown Co. on Nov. 10 (Edwin Cleary).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last, Sept. 4, Adams Co. (Sam Robbins).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Arrived in Outagamie Co. by Sept. 6 (Alfred Bradford); last noted in Columbia Co. on Nov. 11 (Donald Cors) and in Rock Co. on Nov. 10 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum)—both unusually late dates.

Water Pipit: Early arrival noted in Richland Co. on Sept. 14 (Wallace MacBriar); other reports from Dane, Dodge and Sheboygan Counties.

Bohemian Waxwing: A flock of 25 at Balsam Lake, Polk Co. (the A. M. Hermstads) on Oct. 10 ushered in the arrival of perhaps the greatest invasion of these birds into Wisconsin on record. Subsequent reports during the period came from Bayfield, Marathon, Sheboygan and Dane Counties.

Cedar Waxwing: Widespread large flocks throughout the season.

Gray Shrike: One seen in Bayfield Co. on Oct. 19 (David Bratley)—only two days later than the all-time state arrival record established in Dunn Co. in 1897 by J. N. Clark. Another shrike (species ?) was observed in Outagamie Co. on Oct. 20 by Alfred Bradford.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Few reports; last observed in Adams Co. on Sept. 19 (Sam Robbins).

Solitary Vireo: Late date, Oct. 12, at Cedar Grove.

Red-eyed Vireo: At Cedar Grove a peak was noted on Sept. 13, with departure on Oct. 16; another late departure was noted in Chippewa Co. on Oct. 12 (C. A. Kemper).

Philadelphia Vireo: First arrival noted in Bayfield Co. on Aug. 27 (David Bratley); at Cedar Grove peaks were noted on Sept. 13 and 26, with departure on Oct. 12.

Warbling Vireo: Most had left Wisconsin by mid-September, but one was seen Oct. 4 in Rock Co. (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews).

Black-and-White Warbler: None seen after Oct. 1 at Cedar Grove.

Golden-winged Warbler: One of the earliest warblers to leave the state in fall; a bird in Madison on Sept. 17 (Tom Ashman) is only three days shy of tying the all-time late date for the state.

Blue-winged Warbler: One on Aug. 16, Adams Co. (Sam Robbins).

Brewster's Warbler: One seen at close range in Adams Co. on Aug. 18; the fact that there was a definite yellow wash on the breast, compared with an all-white breast on a male of this hybrid seen in June and July, plus a distance of over 20 miles in location, makes it obvious that this was a different bird from that reported in summer (Sam Robbins).

Tennessee Warbler: Abundant and widespread; had arrived in Adams Co. by Aug. 16 (Sam Robbins); at Cedar Grove a peak was noted on Aug. 31, with the last individual recorded on Oct. 10.

Orange-crowned Warbler: First observed at Beloit, Sept. 19 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum); last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 18.

Nashville Warbler: Fall arrivals are hard to detect, since this species breeds widely in northern and central Wisconsin, but a bird at Chippewa Falls on Aug. 15 was thought to be a migrant (C. A. Kemper); last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 10.

Parula Warbler: Reports from Douglas, Vilas, Adams, Dane and Milwaukee Counties; last, Sept. 23, Milwaukee (Mary Donald).

Yellow Warbler: Last seen, Sept. 17, Dane Co. (Tom Ashman).

Cape May Warbler: All records sandwiched between the Adams Co. arrival on Aug. 15 (Sam Robbins) and the Milwaukee departure on Sept. 23 (Mary Donald).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Individuals in Adams Co. on August 16, Sept. 6 and 23 (Sam Robbins et al.), and at Cedar Grove on Sept. 24.

Myrtle Warbler: A few August records from northern Wisconsin; most arrival dates in September and departure dates in October; one lingered until Nov. 17 at Madison (Tom Ashman).

Black-throated Green Warbler: One late bird at Beloit on Oct. 20 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Blackburnian Warbler: Seen as early as Aug. 15 in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); last seen in Madison on Sept. 21 (Tom Ashman).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Early migrants in Adams Co. by Aug. 16 (Sam Robbins); last noted in Chippewa Co. on Sept. 23 (C. A. Kemper), and in Cedar Grove on Oct. 2.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Extreme dates of Aug. 16 (Adams Co., Sam Robbins) and Oct. 1 (Cedar Grove) are normal.

Blackpoll Warbler: All records fell within the brief period from Sept. 11 (Chippewa Co., C. A. Kemper) to Sept. 29 (Cedar Grove).

Palm Warbler: Earliest arrivals were on Sept. 4 at Adams and Cedar Grove; most had left by Oct. 9, but a remarkable exception was the bird seen in Vernon Co. until Nov. 7 (R. & V. Weber).

Ovenbird: Last seen in Milwaukee on Sept. 28 (Wallace MacBriar) and at Cedar Grove on Oct. 4.

Northern Waterthrush: Latest, Oct. 12 at Cedar Grove.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Still to be seen on breeding grounds in Adams Co. during W. S. O. fall campout, Sept. 7.

Connecticut Warbler: Aug. 27-Oct. 2 in Douglas, Chippewa, Adams, Outagamie and Sheboygan Counties.

Mourning Warbler: Two reports: Ashland Co., Aug. 27 (Sam Robbins); Cedar Grove, Sept. 13.

Yellowthroat: Last seen in Vernon Co. on Oct. 15 (R. & V. Weber).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The breeding birds near Waukesha were last seen on Aug. 6 (Peter Weber, Robert Adams); noted at Cedar Grove, Sept. 14-15.

Hooded Warbler: This rare warbler was seen by Tom Soulen at Madison on Aug. 21.

Wilson's Warbler: Aug. 18, early date in Adams Co. (Sam Robbins); last seen on Sept. 26 at Cedar Grove).

Canada Warbler: Present in migration from Aug. 15 (Adams Co., Sam Robbins) to Sept. 27 (Vernon Co., R. & V. Weber).

Redstart: Very numerous at Superior on Aug. 28 (Sam Robbins) and at Cedar Grove on Aug. 31; last seen at Cedar Grove on Oct. 12.

Eastern Meadowlark: An estimated 100 still present in Brown Co. in mid-November (Edwin Cleary).

Baltimore Oriole: One at Luck, Polk Co., on Sept. 20 (Mrs. Lester Pedersen)—a very late date.

Rusty Blackbird: Late dates: Nov. 11 in Outagamie Co. (Alfred Bradford), and Nov. 22 in Vernon Co. (R. & V. Weber).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: One near Beloit on Oct. 17 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum) is extraordinarily late.

Indigo Bunting: An immature banded on Oct. 8 in Chippewa Co. is late (C. A. Kemper).

Evening Grosbeak: Appeared in November at widespread areas across the state.

Purple Finch: Reports indicate a plentiful supply of these birds throughout the state.

Pine Grosbeak: One at Cedar Grove on Nov. 9; also noted in Price Co., Nov. 15-22, but thought to be scarcer than usual (the Roy Lounds).

Common Redpoll: Arrived in Brown Co. on Nov. 1; also noted during the month from Polk, Price and Sheboygan Counties.

Goldfinch: The fall peak at Cedar Grove was Nov. 6-9.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Departure dates ranged from Sept. 23 in Chippewa and Brown Counties to Oct. 9 at Waukesha.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last at Beloit, Aug. 22 (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

Slate-colored Junco: Unusually early date for Milwaukee, Aug. 30 (Mary Donald).

Oregon Junco: One banded in Chippewa Co., Oct. 21 (C. A. Kemper); one reported at Madison, Nov. 4 (Tom Ashman).

Tree Sparrow: Arrived by Sept. 30 in Brown Co. (Edwin Cleary) and Florence Co. (Mrs. Howard Higgins).

Chipping Sparrow: Last, Oct. 26 in Vernon Co. (R. & V. Weber).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Last seen in Chippewa Co. on Oct. 8 (C. A. Kemper), and in Adams Co. on Sept. 29 (Sam Robbins).

Field Sparrow: No later date this year than Oct. 26, when one was banded in Chippewa Co. (C. A. Kemper).

Harris' Sparrow: Arrived in Chippewa Co. on Sept. 26 (C. A. Kemper); a very late date in Madison on Nov. 24 (the Roy Lounds).

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White-crowned Sparrow: Noted at Cedar Grove between Sept. 22 and Oct. 12; no other dates outside that period.

White-throated Sparrow: Early migrant at Wausau, Aug. 15 (Mrs. Spencer Doty).

Fox Sparrow: At Cedar Grove the arrival was noted by Sept. 20, with the peak on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Unusually common this fall in Chippewa Co.; between the Sept. 15 arrival and Oct. 17 departure, 83 were banded.

Lapland Longspur: Arrived in Adams Co. by Oct. 1 (Sam Robbins); still present in Brown Co. on Nov. 16 (Edwin Cleary).

Snow Bunting: October reports from Outagamie and Rock Counties; November reports from Oconto, Brown, Marathon and Adams Counties.

FIELD TRIP NEWS

September 12-13, Dodgeville. In keeping with a policy of scheduling trips to explore new areas as well as re-visit familiar spots, this fall's campout is to be held at Governor Dodge State Park near Dodgeville. This is a newly created park and campsite that has received very little attention to date from ornithologists. Campers will be gathering by supertime on Friday evening, Sept. 11, ready to make full use of the weekend in good fellowship and ornithological study. The park entrance is at Highway 23, three miles north of Dodgeville, in central Iowa County.

September 27, Cedar Grove. This annual trek in quest of migrating hawks is always popular. No one can guarantee that a major flight will occur on this day, but there is the definite possibility. Whether or not a real flight develops, one can see the hawk-trapping system in operation, and perhaps see trapped hawks close up. Other migrating birds are sure to be present, in the trees and bushes, and off-shore. WSO members and friends should gather on the ridge any time after 8:00 a. m., keeping clear of the banding station while coming and going, and bring a picnic lunch.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 15, 1959 (State-wide)—Field notes for June, July, half of August, should be sent to Mrs. Anne Dodge, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, for inclusion in "Audubon Field Notes."

August 15-25, 1959 (State-wide)—Field notes for June, July, half of August, should be sent to the Associate Editor.

August 16-29, 1959 (Spooner)—Final camping period for Wisconsin Audubon Camp.

August 25-30, 1959 (Regina, Sask.)—Annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.

September 1, 1959 (State-wide)—Questionnaires for the 1959 cooperative research project dealing with Robin populations should be sent to Prof. Howard Young, Wisconsin State College, La Crosse.

September 12-13, 1959 (Dodgeville)—WSO fall campout at Governor Dodge State Park.

September 13, 1959 (Green Bay)—Green Bay Bird Club trip to Suamico Bay Shore.

September 27, 1959 (Cedar Grove)—WSO field trip to the Cedar Grove Ornithological Research area.

October 11, 1959 (Green Bay)—Green Bay Bird Club trip to the Menominee Indian Reservation.

November 30, 1959 (State-wide)—Field notes for the period Aug. 16-Nov. 30 should be sent to Mrs. Anne Dodge, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota, for inclusion in "Audubon Field Notes."

December 1-10, 1959 (State-wide)—Field notes for the period Aug. 16-Nov. 30 should be sent to the Associate Editor.

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