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# *The Passenger Pigeon*

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

**THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.**

**A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY**

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# MONUMENT RECOLLECTIONS

By  
Phil Sander

*This Paper pertains to the building of the WSO Passenger Pigeon Monument at Wyalusing Park in 1941. "I thought the story would recharge the Memory of those living to recall old friends of the past years - as well as tell the story to new members of this W.S.O. project!"*

A leisure midsummer vacation led me South on Highway 35 along the Great River Road. The scenic bluffs, with rocky cathedral formations, seem to guard the river that flows thru ages of transformation.

The majestic expanse of the big Mississippi is a glorious sight - with colorful boats - sunlight and shadows on the bluffs - green trees and foliage - and the wildlife refuges with birdlife that kept my binoculars focusing on the many river birds.

A stop at Prairie Du Chien, to visit Historical Sites, made me realize I was close to the Wyalusing State Park and a good opportunity to revisit the Passenger Pigeon Monument.



Photo taken from cover of **Passenger Pigeon**, January, 1947



Arriving at the Park, I walked along the high bluff to again gaze upon the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, a scenic, breath-taking view. Then South along the trail to the monument. . . what a thrill to see it again after thirty years!

Sitting on the stone wall, I could not help but search my memory for the events that lead to the erection of this stone landmark, made possible by members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Looking back, I remember that William Ozburn, the conservation warden for the Wisconsin Conservation Department, mentioned that a group of bird watchers were having a state meeting at Racine. Since I was only about eleven miles away, I drove there to attend the third annual convention of W.S.O. held April 5 & 6, 1941 at the Racine Hotel. There I met President Alvin Throne, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, Wallace Grange, Ed Prins, Harwood Evans, Walter Scott, Owen Gromme and many other bird enthusiasts.

An afternoon meeting was adjourned to a nearby church, where papers were read, art works of birds were on display and the society business meeting was held. During the meeting, Owen Gromme suggested that a fitting monument with an inscription be sponsored by the society as a reminder of the lack of conservation that led to the great loss of this fine bird.

Returning home that evening I thought of Gromme's idea and sketched three or four plans for a possible monument. The next day I returned to the Racine meeting and showed the sketches to Owen Gromme and Wallace Grange. The sketches showed a field stone pedestal and plaque with a proposed site at Babcock. Grange told me that field stone may be a problem in an unglaciated area, but other local rock could be utilized. After a group discussion it was felt that Babcock would not get the traffic and not enough people would see the monument. Another suggestion was to place it at the Madison University Campus, but there was some concern of vandalism. Later C. L. Harrington, Superintendent of Forests and Parks, suggested that the monument could be placed in Wyalusing State Park. This park overlooks the Mississippi River, formerly a well defined flyway for the migrating pigeons.

A Monument Committee was then appointed by President Murl Deusing (1941-42) to work out the details. On that committee were Owen Gromme, Chairman, Clarence S. Jung, Miss Elizabeth Ochenschlaeger, and I to work out a suitable plaque design and select a site. We had several meetings in Milwaukee to determine plaque size and other details. Walter Scott acted as the liaison member, constantly checking for a progress report - this kept the project moving.

Since the Milwaukee Museum had mounted pigeons and skins, I asked Owen Gromme to help with a full size sketch of the bird. On November 4, 1941, I received several sketches of a tom pigeon, one of which I incorporated into the final layout.

A. W. Schorger, an authority on birds and animals of Wisconsin prepared the following legend:

DEDICATED  
TO THE LAST WISCONSIN  
PASSENGER PIGEON  
SHOT AT BABCOCK, SEPT. 1899  
THIS SPECIES BECAME EXTINCT  
THROUGH THE AVARICE AND  
THOUGHTLESSNESS OF MAN  
ERECTED BY  
THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

While in Madison, I had an opportunity to visit with Aldo Leopold and showed him the finalized sketch. He was quite pleased and made one correction in the wording in the last line, from *of* to *for* Ornithology.

The plaque design and wording was now resolved and it was time for the committee to select a site at Wyalusing Park. In May 1942, Gromme, Jung, Gus the photographer, and I met in Milwaukee and drove to Prairie DuSac. Here we stayed in a little old fashioned motel. Next day we visited a friend of Gromme's, Bert Law, who had a farm on the Wisconsin River. Gromme told us, near here he did his early hawk studies. Then on to Wyalusing, stopping now and then for some birding.

Arriving at the park, we were met by Paul A. Lawrence, Supt. of the park. We hiked the various areas and found a perfect site on the cliff edge of Sentinel Ridge. This spot overlooked the lowland, with miles of tree tops . . . The Great River . . . and beyond, the misty bluffs of Iowa. South along the ridge is a series of ancient Indian mounds, reminder that early people also selected the same impressive area as a memorial.

Earl G. Wright, President (1942-43), offered to sculpture the plaster model for the bronze casting and his artistry brought out each feature of the bird and oak branch it perched on.

During those years, bronze was difficult to obtain because of the European Conflict. Later, thru the effort of Mr. & Mrs. Louis R. Taylor, bronze became available and the casting was made.

With my prepared sketch of the stone shaft and wing, Paul Lawrence proceeded with having the limestone blocks cut at the park quarry. The stone masons erected the foundation, wing and monument with pride and craftsmanship that seemed to blend with the environment.

Meanwhile, Walter E. Scott prepared and edited a memorial booklet entitled, "Silent Wings" containing papers by Aldo Leopold, A. W. Schorger, Hartley H. T. Jackson, and rare photos of the Passenger Pigeon. Many W.S.O. members and friends made cash contributions to defray expenses for the erection of the monument and publishing the booklet. Everything was now put together, so the committee reported all was in readiness for the dedication ceremony.

The seventh annual W.S.O. Convention was held at the Great Hall, Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin at Madison, on May 10, 1947. Program Chairman, Walter Scott and his committee arranged and programed an excellent slate of ornithologists with outstanding presentations.

Professor Aldo Leopold welcomed the gathering with a response by President Clarence S. Jung. During his remarks, he announced the dedication of the monument would take place Sunday afternoon, May 11 at Wyalusing Park. Robert A. McCabe showed slides of bird trapping and others made slide presentations of bird studies. Owen J. Gromme gave his progress report on his illustrated book, "Birds of Wisconsin".

The afternoon session of movies featured Cleveland Grand and Murl Deusing showing bird life studies. W. F. Kubichek of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, showed a movie of the wildlife of Lower Souris Refuge. All slides and movies were pleasing and exciting to view.

At the evening banquet, the keynote speaker was introduced by Professor Aldo Leopold, who presented Herbert L. Stoddard, Thomasville, Georgia, who spoke on his "Reminiscences of Wisconsin Birding". Stoddard told of his early bird work at Delevan Lake, Prairie Du Sac and other areas of his Wisconsin studies. He believed Wisconsin was the most interesting state he had worked.

Sunday Morning, Harold G. Kruse and I teamed up at Madison and drove to Wyalusing, birding on the way; and at the park we hiked and explored the trails and caves along the park bluff. Upon approaching the completed stone work, I was pleased and happy that the W.S.O. project had finally materialized. As we sat on the wing and rested, Paul Lawrence came by and I had a chance to compliment him for his assistance.

On that beautiful day, early arrivals enjoyed field trips and an opportunity to observe the park bird life. In the afternoon, at Sentinel Ridge, members, guests and park visitors gathered for the dedication and unveiling of the monument.

J. Harwood Evans, Master of Ceremonies, introduced the designers and builders of the monument. As a speaker, I was rather unprepared, but told of our experiences at committee meetings, making the sketches and choosing a site. Earl G. Wright, Green Bay, sculpturer of the plaque, said completion of the plaque and monument was one of the highlights of his career. Miss Elizabeth Ochenschlaeger, Milwaukee, represented the family of Louis R. Taylor, donor of the bronze plaque, and Paul A. Lawrence who supervised the construction of the monument.

Dr. A. W. Schorger, Madison, National Authority on the Passenger Pigeon and author of the plaque wording, introduced the speaker for the dedication, Dr. H. H. T. Jackson of Washington, D.C., whose topic was "Attitude in Conservation". He said;

"We have today unveiled our monument dedicated to the last Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon, the only one erected to the memory of an extinct species. Let us not look upon this beautiful work of art as a token to the dead and the past, but rather as a symbol to the living and the future that never again will we permit through our ignorance or our indolence a native species to vanish from our midst.

After the unveiling, President Evans, in behalf of the W.S.O. presented the plaque and monument to the state of Wisconsin. It was accepted in behalf of the people of the state by Conservation Commissioner, William J. P. Aberg, Madison.

The ceremony was truly an inspiring event, and many members and friends expressed a joy for the society to sponsor such a worthy project. To me it was a warm satisfaction to see a rough sketch become a permanent reminder of Wisconsin's last pigeon, with the impressive simple wording by Schorger, hoping that all who read the plaque will heed the important conservation message it presents.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ozburn, Poynette, drove me back to Madison where I had parked my car. We had an interesting trip back recalling many pleasant memories while they lived in Kenosha. As I returned home from Madison, I could not help but recall the willing support and advice of many people that brought the monument to completion, and that the landmark will represent a strong ecological symbol of what will happen when man is heedless to his heritage.

My recollections would not be complete without telling the story of a sister monument in the East.

Our W.S.O. project was carried by a number of newspapers in Wisconsin and the Mid-West. The Milwaukee Journal had a story and picture of the bronze plaque. The Chicago Tribune carried a sketch of the monument in "Believe It Or Not" by Robert Ripley.

In the East, The Baltimore Sun printed the story, and on Dec. 5, 1946, The Hanover Evening Sun, in Pennsylvania, carried a release of how the W.S.O. project had caught the eye of William Anthony, local historian and publisher.

He was of the opinion that the nearby area three and a half miles North of Hanover called "Pigeon Hills" was named by the early settlers of this region for the now extinct bird, which gathered there in dense flocks. He felt this would be the most suitable site in Pennsylvania for a memorial to the species known scientifically as **Ectopistes Migratorius**.

Anthony conferred with friends and business acquaintances as to the feasibility of his idea. They all approved his project. A committee was formed, and Ervin S. Mummert was consulted as to a plan for a suitable monument. Other businessmen were contacted as well as citizens, and all agreed to provide funds for a stone shaft, tablet and inscription.

Edward H. Blettner was appointed Memorial Committee Chairman, and proceeded with the exciting program. Wording was prepared by Anthony and read as follows:

"In the interest of the preservation of wildlife, we have dedicated this memorial to the ill-fated Passenger Pigeon which from earliest pioneer days until the 1880's flocked to these Pigeon Hills. This migratory bird, now extinct, was once so plentiful its numbers darkened the skies".

Research indicated that the last authentic record of the Passenger Pigeon in York County was in September 1888, when a flock of 150 to 175 birds was observed near the city of York.



A figure of the pigeon was carved by Isaiah M. Myers. He also designed the shaft, built of native stone, Mummert and Dixon prepared a pattern to serve as a mould for casting the pigeon in brass. This plaque was attached to the shaft above the granite plaque.

The program on Sunday, October 12, 1947, was sponsored by the Boy Scouts of Conewago District, York Area Council No. 544. They were in charge of unveiling the monument. Preceding the program, fifty homing pigeons were released.

Some 1500 persons from the area witnessed the unveiling and dedication ceremonies of the monument at Pigeon Hills Reservoir Park. Dr. Herbert H. Beck, Director of Franklin and Marshall Museum, Lancaster, told the audience that passenger pigeons numbered in the neighborhood of 2,000,000,000 used to fly over Pennsylvania. He also read letters from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee, Department of Interior, Washington, D. C. and from John H. Baker, National Audubon Society.

In a letter by Allen M. Day, Director of the U.S. Department of Interior Wildlife Service, Mr. Day said, "The Passenger Pigeon was a victim of human greed. This memorial will stand as a constant reminder that man ruthlessly exterminated a beautiful bird that at one time outnumbered any other species in America. I hope that it will also serve as a symbol of the danger that even now threatens other bird species which can be saved the fate of the Passenger Pigeon only by concerted effort of such public-spirited and conservation-minded groups as yours."

In compiling my recollections that occurred three decades ago, it was refreshing to recall the associations of members and friends of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Also, I vision the many visitors at Wyalusing State Park, Wisconsin and Pigeon Hills, Pennsylvania who view the monuments, pause, and read the last tribute to a vanished American.

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# Protecting Non-Game Birds in Wisconsin

By

Walter E. Scott

*This is a paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of WSO in May 3, 1952 at Kenosha.*

The January 1952 issue of the **Wisconsin Conservationist** carried a story titled, "Confused Hunters", which read: "In checking two hunters' bags last fall, Conservation Warden John Marcon, Taylor County, discovered a woodpecker, which its possessor thought was a Woodcock, while his companion carried a Kingfisher, which he had taken for a Wood Duck."

Sample copies of this paper had been mailed to most all members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in a campaign for subscribers. How many of these bird students and so-called "Bird lovers" wondered what sort of penalty these ignorant hunters paid for their violation of state and federal laws? This question lead me to investigate the subject even further, for it is popular opinion among bird hobbyists that seldom, if ever, are violaters prosecuted for illegally killing non-game birds. The excuses of ignorance of proper identification or protection of property are often given.

Very frequently these excuses are recognized as sincere and legitimate by conservation wardens or district attorneys and no action is taken other than an attempt at education.

Such was the case with Warden Marcon's violaters last fall. They obviously did not know any better. The warden was responsible for publicizing the incidents in the local newspaper in an effort to call attention to the need for more education of hunters on the subject of bird identification. Warden Marcon's letter of explanation to me states that "the hunter who shot the Pileated Woodpecker was a 17 year-old boy who was hunting with another boy of 18. The 18 year-old insisted it was not a Woodcock while the 17 year-old insisted he had shot his first Woodcock. To settle the argument, they stopped at my house and showed me the bird. Needless to say, he was a pretty embarrassed hunter". This case is worthy of consideration because there no doubt are hundreds of beginning Woodcock hunters in the state each fall. It would be an expensive process of education if each had to shoot a Pileated Woodpecker to learn its true identification.

Warden Marcon continued: "The hunter who shot the Kingfisher for a Wood Duck was checked at a beaver pond we were live trapping. He had requested to go along to see the live trapping operations. I suggested he bring his shotgun along as there were several Mallards on the pond each time we came there. While I removed the beaver caught in the live trap and carried him to the car, the fellow went around the shore of the pond. I heard him shoot and when I returned he asked if I could wade out and get his Wood Duck. He was very proud of his wing shot, stating he flew out of a tree. Wading out, I found this Kingfisher and spent several minutes pointing out how this bird differed from a Wood Duck . . . I believe that under the circumstances they were both honest mistakes."

In the last fiscal year, there were 103,981 duck stamps sold to waterfowl hunters in Wisconsin. No doubt several thousand of these people never hunted ducks before. It could be costly to Wisconsin's bird life if each of these thought that Kingfishers were Wood Ducks until they killed one to find out the difference. Possibly, some trout fisherman would like that, but certainly bird students and people interested in the cultural aspects of the state's wildlife would not condone such a potential threat to an interesting native bird.

Fortunately, most hunters are better informed as to their prey, but it could well be that there are many who make such "mistakes" and never get reprimanded for either their carelessness or their ignorance. They let their mistakes lie in the woods and fields. It is my belief that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology should take an interest in this problem in an effort to help the proper authorities and educational agencies find the most desirable solutions. There are many aspects of the problem to consider. For instance, the conservation department recently made a survey of books on conservation and wildlife in public and high school libraries of the state. The only Taylor County municipal library answering had none of the selected list books on conservation and the only high school library in that county answering also had none of the desirable books--not even Peterson's "Field Guide". Only an aroused and interested public can change such conditions.

Although this subject of "Protecting Non-Game Birds in Wisconsin" might well include a discussion of the importance of sanctuaries and refuges and the many projects for wildlife cover and food improvement on watersheds of the state, I have limited it to a survey of state law enforcement activities and problems. From these observations, I hope to be able to make some recommendations.

In the conservation department's Madison office, there are well over 60,000 arrest report cards which tell the story of many infractions of the conservation laws for more than three decades. It would take a long time to go through all of these cards to pick out cases dealing only with non-game birds. A trial run showed up about two cases an hour from several hundred cards. For this reason, conservation wardens were asked to cooperate by reporting the names they could remember of individuals involved in this type of arrest during the last 15 years. Eleven wardens responded to this request and six others reported additional juvenile cases which were given special handling and will be discussed separately. As might be expected, wardens near the large cities had the most experience in this regard.

Through this method detailed record data was investigated on 32 cases involving non-game birds, but surprisingly, none were found on such birds as Spruce Grouse or Sandhill Crane. Without question a number of such cases were overlooked.

Most of you have seen pictures in the newspapers of hunters with the beautiful "Snow Geese" they have shot. After the picture is published and the hunters discover to their sorrow that they had shot Whistling Swans, the process of education begins in the courts. These birds are so large and so well known that ignorance is not considered an adequate excuse. Ten of the 32 cases studied involved swans and the usual price for this course in the "school of experience" is \$25 and costs.

Some highly respected citizens have been caught in this publicity trap with the public demanding that justice be done. Last fall three men shot swans on Sheyboygan Marsh even after being warned that they were not geese and in another case the birds had been eaten before the facts were known. All of Wisconsin's 103,000 waterfowl hunters need to be given a key for rapid field comparison between Snow Geese and Whistling Swans. For each one publicized in the newspapers, how many more are left in the marshes to feed the mink and raccoon?

While most of the swan killers are run of the mill duck hunters and usually over 30 years of age, the 22 other cases involving non-game birds that were studied showed by far the greatest percentage were shot by young men 25 years old or less. Of 14 with ages recorded, only three were over 25 years. Of these 22 cases, three were for eagles, two for hawks and owls, three for shore, marsh and water birds and 14 for the so-called "song birds". In this latter group there was a Goldfinch costing \$14.68, a Meadowlark worth \$17.50 and a Pileated Woodpecker valued at \$57.56.

Of course, each offense has its own ramifications and frequently more than one violation is involved. In such multiple cases the warden often cites only the violation on which he will be most certain to get a conviction and urges a higher penalty on the basis of other possible counts. In this manner, Warden Herbert VanderBloemen secured \$112 in fines and costs from a Juneau County man who was trapping muskrats illegally and who also was taking hawks and owls in pole traps. He had in his possession a freshly skinned Marsh Hawk, a living Red-shouldered Hawk and a living Barred Owl. Of course, the courts, and not the warden, determine the penalty. Previous to 1939, there was a law which stipulated that the minimum fine for violation of the conservation laws was \$50 and costs or 30 days in jail. This law acted as a barrier to good law enforcement as far as non-game birds were concerned, for seldom would a district attorney care to try a case involving a "dickie-bird" when the only possible penalty was so harsh. In spite of this, there were convictions and Warden A. J. Peterson of Racine deserves special mention for prosecuting four cases involving "song birds" during the nineteen-thirties. Two of these violators paid \$50 and costs and two accepted 60 day jail sentences.

Back in October 1939, when I was assisting Warden R. J. Lake in Ozaukee County, I asked a hunter what he had in his hunting bag and found his only "game" consisted of several short-eared owls. The man was a Milwaukee real estate dealer, 45 years of age and I cannot recall that he gave any satisfactory explanation as to why he had killed those valuable protected birds. Warden Lake followed through to secure \$10 and costs which certainly did not compensate for the damage done to birds more beneficial to man than a mere duck. This was the only case I found which prosecuted anyone for shooting protected owls. However, there may be some others on record.

The federal law at present sets a \$500 maximum fine for the killing of a Bald Eagle in the United States. However, that would require action in federal court and most such cases are handled by state wardens in lower courts. The fines in two of the three eagle cases mentioned (one of which involved a golden eagle) were \$25 and costs. In one of the cases a



mature Bald Eagle had accidentally been caught in a fox trap. The trapper had it mounted and the bird was confiscated from the taxidermist. In recent years a Winnebago County man paid \$10 and costs for shooting a gull and an Outagamie County man paid a similar fine for shooting a Black-crowned Night Heron without a license. However, it is unfortunately a fact that too frequently wardens seem to prefer to charge an individual for hunting without a license when the most serious offense may be the fact that they killed a bird which was protected by the laws of the community which desired the presence of the living bird. Where the so-called "song birds" are concerned, many cases, even with adults, are handled with a warning for first offenders. As some supposed economic damage is frequently claimed, this is a part of the educational process.

It is not generally known, but there has been a law on the Wisconsin statutes since 1933, Section 29.65, which lists the amount of money the state can collect for civil actions for damages in certain conservation law violations. It places the value of Sandhill Crane at \$50 each, of swans at \$25 each, of Spruce Grouse at \$5 each and shorebirds, protected songbirds or harmless birds at \$3 each. This statute is not used by wardens very frequently because a criminal action would permit rescission of their hunting license (especially on second offenses) and that is preferred. However, record cards are also kept on civil actions and in certain cases such procedure might be desirable. Some recent cases for illegally killed swans brought fines of less than the \$25 a civil action would have demanded. It is obvious that this section of the statutes needs revision so that it would publicly recognize the economic value of such birds as Barn Owls and Red-shouldered Hawks.

It is in the treatment of juvenile cases, 16 years old or less, that the conservation department's law enforcement division has embarked on a new and progressive program under the leadership of Chief Warden George Hadland. Only the most serious of these ever end in criminal action in the courts and wardens are urged to work through parents, teachers, local youth leaders and juvenile parole authorities to lead youngsters in the right direction. Each case is reported to the Madison office and the chief warden sends each one a letter and a packet of educational material on laws, hunting safety and wildlife conservation. The Society could take a step in the right direction if they would supply additional materials, such as leaflets on hawks and owls and also on the value of birds in general, to be included with these packets. It should be mentioned that a program of youth education in the schools, at their request, has recently been expanded considerably. It will supplement the excellent work "Ranger Mac" has been doing for years.

A study of the several hundred juvenile report cards for this past season revealed 15 cases specifically mentioning the shooting of non-game birds. No doubt some of the other cases included protected birds in this group, and obviously many youngsters were warned but no report card was prepared. Of these 15 cases, one 10 year-old boy from Kenosha County was found by Warden Robert Winnie shooting "song birds", rabbits and squirrels this February with a .22 rifle he had gotten for a Christmas present. Eight of the boys were 16 years old and this seemed to be the most critical year for most prospective hunters.

It should be noted that there also is a high incidence of hunting accidents among this age group. In the 1950 season, seven of the 14 fatal hunting accidents were caused by boys from 12 to 17 and 3 of these by youngsters 12, 13 and 14 years old who killed themselves! This past season 61 of the injuries were caused by hunters under 21 years of age and 11 of the 16 fatalities were credited to youngsters with three caused by children under 14 years of age. There is need for more education aimed at the safe handling of firearms so far as youngsters concerned, and coupled with this there should be advice as to the value of all birds, including the non-game species, and simplified coaching aiming at identification of the kinds that can be hunted legally.

Two veteran wardens with much experience relating to this problem, R. J. Lake of Washington County, and Herbert VanderBloemen of Manitowoc County, recommend that an effort be made to teach people the kind of birds it is legal to kill under certain circumstances and in certain seasons and then stress the fact that all other birds are protected. They feel that the great mass of people, including hunters, will only be confused by the opposite approach requiring knowledge of all species. This seems to be an excellent suggestion worthy of consideration by the Society's committee on education and publicity.

A review of some of the juvenile cases from last season's record will indicate the type of violations the wardens experience. This January 3 boys in Ozaukee County were found shooting song birds at a winter feeding station. Last May, Warden Herbert Lemke of Waushara County found 3 16-year old Milwaukee boys "on the loose" at their parent's cottage on Big Cedar Lake. They were shooting at squirrels and "song birds" and succeeded in shooting a spotted sandpiper. Lake residents reported them for careless shooting over the water. Last October a 15 year old Wood County boy wounded his partner while he was shooting at a "song bird". For every case reported, there are no doubt a dozen less serious ones never placed on record.

Each warden has his own procedure worked out for handling juvenile cases, and this depends to a fair extent on local public opinion, the attitude of the district attorney and the warden's appreciation of what is of most importance. In recent years, many wardens are appreciating more fully the value of "nipping the violator in the bud", so to speak. They believe that if they can contact the young boys in the field and in the school or elsewhere, giving them the fundamentals on laws, outdoor ethics, gun safety and wildlife identification and appreciation, they will greatly reduce their future law enforcement job. Most of their problem cases are handled through contact with the parents, but if they are serious, they also work through the teachers and the juvenile court. It is not unusual to have the warden hold a gun for a period of time before returning it to the parent, or for the court to order no hunting for a year or so. Each case calls for special treatment.

Warden Herbert VanderBloemen claims that every boy in the rural areas has a rifle or a BB gun and this is true of one out of every ten city boys. They cannot legally secure a license to hunt until they are 12 years old, and they must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian until they are 17 years old. Still, many are out hunting without licenses, parents

or guardians or consideration for the laws. He makes it a practice to talk to all such youthful hunters. He finds that when you ask what they are shooting, the answer usually is "Sputzers", and when you want more details they claim to be shooting black birds and sparrows in the woods. "Yet the unprotected House Sparrow seldom is found in the woods", observes Warden VanderBloemen. Likewise, seldom do the youngsters know which birds that are black are legal targets. Warden VanderBloemen believes that too often "the boy with the gun kills to satisfy a misguided emotion" and he feels "we do not have enough teachers who know birds or are interested in them".

On the basis of this report it might be easy to point at the conservation department's law enforcement division with the argument that they should do a better job. No doubt, some such criticism might be warranted. However, I believe much more can be accomplished by making the necessary arrangements to work with through the conservation wardens and the schools to reach the young men of the state with interesting materials which will give them the facts they need for appreciation and identification of birds -- and especially the problem species.

# **FIELD** **NOTES**



By Frederick Z. Leshner

**The Autumn Season**

**August 1 to Nov. 30, 1976**

The dry weather of the summer of 1976 extended into the fall, as noted by many observers and reported in **American Birds**, Volume 31, Number 2, p. 179 (March, 1977). Volume trends of flow of the Mississippi River were down to as low as 4000 cubic feet per second, compared to normal flows of 10,000 to 12,000 cubic feet per second.

Frost in the extreme north August 16 was followed by peak numbers of warblers in Douglas, Dane and LaCrosse counties August 18 through August 23. Arriving August 26 through August 29 were numbers of Black-poll and Palm Warblers. An early arrival in Milwaukee was a White-throated Sparrow on August 17. Other factors preceding these arrivals and peaks were showers, thunderstorms and strong winds the week of August 9-15. (**Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin**, Volume 63, Number 33, p. 11, August 17, 1976.)

Preceding this early August weather was the arrival on August 5 of both Golden and Black-bellied Plovers in Milwaukee and Marathon Counties.

Four of five record arrival dates occurred in August in the northeast and east. These were a Harlequin Duck, August 3, Milwaukee, Wilson's Warbler, August 8, Price County, Hudsonian Godwit, August 26, Brown County, and Rusty Blackbird, August 29, Oconto County. The fifth record arrival date was that of a Hawk Owl, November 12 in Barron County.

The only record departure date was that of a Piping Plover seen October 29 in Marathon County.

Oconto and Ozaukee Counties in the east were productive. Cattle Egrets, Louisiana Herons, and Snowy Egrets were found during August in Oconto County. Ozaukee County produced all three scoters between August 9 and November 6. Cooper's Hawks were reported probably down in numbers, but Red-shouldered Hawks were more numerous than usual. Wisconsin's first non hypothetical Prairie Falcon was caught and banded October 31, 1976 by William A. Smith (See **American Birds**, Volume 31, Number 2, P. 147 March, 1977). An attempt to reintroduce Peregrine Falcons was made during the summer in Pepin County, and birds were present until at least August 15.

A record number of 140 Saw-whet Owls was tallied by trapping at Cedar Grove.

Numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were up, but Redpolls, both Cross-bills, Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were more scarce than usual. There were only two reports of Dickcissels

There were no reports of the following ten species: Bewick's Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, White-winged Crossbill.

Thirty two observers filed 47 report forms of one sort or another. Observers continue to be concentrated in the more populated areas and in the north, but Niemi and Davis produced some interesting departure dates from the northwest.

I regret that I cannot continue as Fall Season editor. I rigorously recommend that the seasonal editor jobs be done somehow by regional editors. As numbers of observers grow, it will become necessary to divide the labor to maintain any quality and speed of editing.

### Seasonal Summary

**Common Loon:** Reported present at the beginning of the county period from Burnett County By J. Errard. Peak of 10 seen by D. Tessen in Ozaukee County, Oct. 23. Latest date Nov. 30, Brown County, Brother Columban and E. Cleary.

**Red-throated Loon:** Four reports, all from Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties, between Oct. 13 and 23. Last date and peak, Oct. 23, Tessen, Ozaukee, 10 birds.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Three reports. Sept. 12, R. Johnson, Douglas Co. Sept. 15, C. Faanes, St. Croix Co., 11 birds. Oct. 21, D. Gustafson, Ozaukee Co.

**Horned Grebe:** Earliest reports from Douglas County. Sept. 5, R. Johnson and Sept. 6, Gerald Niemi and Tom Davis. Peak, Oct. 23, 85 birds, D. Tessen, Ozaukee County. Last date Nov. 20, Faanes, Barron County.

**Western Grebe:** Five reports, all in October, from Milwaukee, Dane, and St. Croix Counties. Earliest, Oct. 2, C. Faanes, St. Croix, Latest, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, R. Korotev, Dane.



**Pied-billed Grebe:** Present widely in August. Three November reports. Latest, Nov. 16, G. Niemi and T. Davis, Douglas County.

**White Pelican:** 23 on August 23 from LaCrosse County by F.Z. Leshner.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Five of nine reports from six counties. Peak, 128, Aug. 22, D. Tessen, Brown County. Latest, Oct. 14, G. Niemi and T. Davis, Douglas County.

**Great Blue Heron:** Latest, Nov. 24, F.Z. Leshner, LaCrosse County.

**Green Heron:** Latest, two reports on Oct. 10. E. Epstein, Milwaukee County and C. Faanes, Barron County.

**Cattle Egret:** As many as 4 reported from Oconto Co. from Aug. 19-29 by D. Gustafson, H. Lindberg, and D. Tessen.

**Great Egret:** Reported last by C. Faanes from St. Croix County, Sept. 25.

**Louisiana Heron:** Two of this species entertained bird watchers at the Oconto Marsh. Reported during the summer season, then during August by D. Tessen, Ken, Jan & Phil Luepke and Dennis Gustafson. Last seen Sept. 4 by H. Lindberg.

**Snowy Egret:** Also at Oconto Marsh. Reported Aug. 27 by D. Gustafson, Aug. 29 by D. Tessen, and last on Sept. 6 by H. Lindberg.



Taken Town Pine River - Oct. 1975  
By the Merrill Shopper

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** Reported early in the season from Burnett, Milwaukee and Marathon Counties. Reported Oct. 13 by Robbins in Chippewa County where it is rare. Last reported Oct. 31 from Milwaukee County by D. Tessen.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** Reported unusually far north Aug. 1 in Outagamie County by D. Tessen. Only two other reports, both by E. Epstein from Milwaukee County, Aug. 30 and Sept. 25.

**Least Bittern:** Eleven reports from ten observers ranging from LaCrosse and Vernon Counties to the northeast at Oconto Marsh. Last seen Sept. 29 in Dane County by R. Korotev.

**American Bittern:** Thirteen reports from the northwest, north, and east, including Burnett, Price, Brown and Milwaukee Counties. Last reported Oct. 21 from Milwaukee by E. Epstein.

**Mute Swan:** One report: Sept. 24, Fond du Lac County by R. Knuth.

**Whistling Swan:** Nine reports mostly northwest, west, and central. Earliest Oct. 25, LaCrosse County, F.Z. Leshner. Latest Nov. 27, LaCrosse County, Leshner.

**Canada Goose:** Presumably resident populations reported in early August from Milwaukee, Jackson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Vernon and Douglas Counties. A cluster of last dates: Nov. 27, Fond du Lac, R. Knuth; Nov. 28, Milwaukee, E. Epstein; Nov. 28, Walworth, D. Tessen.

**Snow Goose:** Four September reports. Earliest, Sept. 15, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Peaks reported: Oct. 4, St. Croix County, C. Faanes, 500; Oct. 15, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein, 570; Oct. 17, Brown County, Columban and Cleary, 75. Last date, Nov. 30, C. Kemper Chippewa County.

**Mallard:** Peak, Oct. 6, Burnett County, J. Evrard, 4000. Departure, Nov. 24, Douglas County, G. Niemi and T. Davis.

**Black Duck:** Reported in August from Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. Peaks: Oct. 6, Burnett County, J. Evrard, 400; Oct. 31, Brown County, Columban and Cleary, 550. Departure, Nov. 24, Douglas County, G. Niemi and T. Davis.

- Gadwall:** Present Aug. 19, Brown County, Columban and Cleary. Peak, Oct. 6, Burnett County, J. Evrard, 200. Last date, Nov. 30, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt.
- Pintail:** Present at Milwaukee Aug. 2, E. Epstein. Peak, Oct. 6, Burnett County, J. Evrard. Last date Nov. 6, Dane County, R. Korotev.
- Green-winged Teal:** Present middle and late August, LaCrosse, Chippewa, and Milwaukee Counties. Last date Nov. 14, Dane County, R. Korotev.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Present at the beginning of the count period in Waukesha, LaCrosse, and Clark Counties. A late departure of Nov. 20 from Milwaukee by E. Epstein.
- American Wigeon:** Present in Burnett County August 1. Four late August reports from Burnett, Dane, LaCrosse and Chippewa Counties. Last date, Nov. 21, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt.
- Northern Shoveler:** Present August 1 in Burnett, St. Croix and Barron Counties. Last date Nov. 20, Dane County, R. Korotev.
- Wood Duck:** Last seen Oct. 22 in Barron and Milwaukee Counties.
- Redhead:** Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix County, C. Faanes. Last seen Nov. 21, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt.
- Ring-necked Duck:** Present Aug. 1 in Burnett and St. Croix Counties. Peaks: Oct. 17, Dane County, R. Korotev, 60; Oct. 18, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt, 120. Last date reported, Nov. 24, Douglas County, G. Niemi and T. Davis.
- Canvasback:** Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix County. Last reported Nov. 24, Douglas County, Niemi & Davis.
- Greater Scaup:** One report in August: D. Tessen, Milwaukee, Aug. 24. Last reported Nov. 31, Vernon County, V. Weber.
- Lesser Scaup:** Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix County. Peaks: Oct. 29, Barron County, C. Faanes, 2000; Oct. 31, Dane County, R. Korotev, 30. Departure dates clustered at Nov. 19, 20, 21. Last reported Nov. 21, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt.
- Common Goldeneye:** An early stray or lingerer Aug. 5 at Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Last reported Nov. 31, Vernon County, V. Weber.
- Bufflehead:** Two late August reports, Douglas and Winnebago Counties. Two diminutive peaks: Oct. 23, Milwaukee, E. Epstein, 65; Oct. 30, Chippewa County, S. Robbins, 50. Last reported Nov. 24, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.
- Oldsquaw:** Five of seven reports in October. Earliest reports, north, Oct. 11, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis; South, Oct. 15, Milwaukee County, Epstein.
- Harlequin Duck:** Four of five reports from Milwaukee, the fifth from Douglas County, (Nov. 5, Niemi and Davis). Record early arrival: Aug. 3, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.
- White-winged Scoter.** Earliest report Oct. 9, Ozaukee County, D. Tessen. The peak in Ozaukee County too, 38 on Oct. 23, Tessen. Last reported Nov. 11, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.
- Surf Scoter:** Tessen scored a sweep on scoters Oct. 9, finding this species as well as the preceding and following in Ozaukee County. Peak, Oct. 16, Ozaukee, Tessen, 110. Last date, Nov. 6, Ozaukee, Tessen.
- Black Scoter:** A record early date, Sept. 27. Douglas County, Niemi & Davis. Also seen in Ozaukee County, Oct. 9 by Tessen, who found 33. Also reported from Milwaukee and Barron Counties. Last reported Nov. 6, Ozaukee, Tessen.
- Hooded Merganser:** Present in St. Croix County Oct. 1, C. Faanes. Last reported Nov. 14, Dane County, R. Korotev.
- Common Merganser:** Peaked in Douglas County, Oct. 26, Niemi & Davis, 121. Last reported Nov. 28, St. Croix County, C. Faanes.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Peaks: Oct. 27, Milwaukee, E. Epstein, 60; Oct. 31, Dane, R. Korotev, 15. Three November reports, latest Nov. 28, St. Croix, C. Faanes.
- Turkey Vulture:** Reported mostly from the eastern and western edges of the state. Last reported Oct. 13 from Milwaukee by E. Epstein.

- Northern Goshawk:** Berger reported 33 all season from Cedar Grove, with a peak on Nov. 7. Also reported from Douglas, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Present Aug. 1 only in Barron County, C. Faanes. First migrant Aug. 14, Oconto County, D. Tessen. Peak at Cedar Grove, Oct. 13, where Berger recorded 404. Last seen Nov. 13 by J. Bielefeldt in Waukesha County.
- Cooper's Hawk:** A record low of nine all season at Cedar Grove, but reported from ten other counties. Earliest Aug. 2, Forest County, D. Tessen. Latest Nov. 24, Cedar Grove, D. Berger.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Berger reported 608 all season at Cedar Grove, an above average total. Peaks on Oct. 16 and Oct. 17 from Ozaukee and Vernon Counties; 35 and 43, respectively.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Berger reported a total of 42 for the season, "rather high". Reported from 8 other counties. Last reported Oct. 16 in Ozaukee County by D. Tessen.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Two peak flights: Sept. 16, Vernon County, W. Smith, 1229, and Sept. 20, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis, 2500. Last report Oct. 1, Barron County, A. Goff.
- Swainson's Hawk:** One report: Aug. 28, Cedar Grove, D. Berger, 1 adult.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Berger reported a record high of 97 for the season from Cedar Grove in Sheboygan County. Earliest report Sept. 12, Vernon County, V. Weber. Latest report Nov. 27, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.
- Golden Eagle:** Reported Oct. 17, Juneau Co, S. Krings and Nov. 24, Chippewa Co., C. Kemper D. Berger.
- Bald Eagle:** Present Aug. 1, Shawano County, M. Hardy. Peak on Nov. 28 in Vernon County, 13, W. Smith. Still present Dec. 1 in Vernon County.
- Harrier:** Last reported Nov. 7, Manitowoc, M. Albrecht.
- Osprey:** Reported from eleven counties. Aug. 21, Forest County, nest with 4 young, D. Tessen. Two October reports by Epstein: Oct. 22, LaCrosse County, Oct. 13, Ozaukee County.
- Peregrine Falcon:** Eight reported all season from Cedar Grove, Sept. 24 to Oct. 15, D. Berger. Three other reports: Aug. 15, Pepin County, F. Leshner, 2 transplants, see "By the Wayside;" Sept. 22, St. Croix County, C. Faanes, 2; Oct. 15, Ozaukee County, D. Gustafson.
- Prairie Falcon:** One report, a well authenticated fall departure record, Oct. 31, Vernon County, W. A. Smith. "By the Wayside".
- Merlin:** Thirty Seven reported by Berger from Cedar Grove between Sept. 4 and Oct. 15, Ten additional reports, mostly from Ozaukee and Douglas Counties. Last reported Nov. 1, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.
- Kestrel:** S. Robbins reported a peak of 11 on Aug. 28 in Chippewa County. Latest report Nov. 21, Columbia County, R. Korotev.
- Spruce Grouse:** One report: Oct. 30, Barron County, C. Faanes.
- Ruffed Grouse:** Reported in normal numbers from Burnett, Marathon and Wood Counties. Below normal in Shawano and Vernon Counties.
- Prairie Chicken:** Reported from outside central Wisconsin by J. Evrard on Sept. 1 from Burnett County, where he reported 10 birds. Reported Oct. 8 by Luepkes from Marathon County - 20 birds.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reported south from Jackson County on Aug. 21 by E. Epstein. Reported Aug. 24 by J. Evrard from Burnett County, and Oct. 15 by C. Faanes from St. Croix County.
- Bobwhite:** Reported throughout the period from Jackson County by D. Harmer. Reported during the period from Milwaukee, St. Croix, Rock, LaCrosse and Dane Counties.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reported from 14 counties northwest, northeast, east, central and southwest.
- Gray Partridge:** Present throughout the period from St. Croix and Brown Counties. A peak of 40 reported Oct. 18 by Columban and Cleary from Brown County.
- Sandhill Crane:** Present Aug. 1 in Waukesha, Burnett and Barron Counties. Peaks of 80, Marathon County, Sept. 6, Luepkes; 155, Burnett County, Sept. 17, J. Evrard; 350, Juneau County, Oct. 17, S. Krings.

**King Rail:** Reported only from Oconto County by D. Tessen on Aug. 14.

**Virginia Rail:** Present Aug. 1 in Waukesha, St. Croix, Barron and Winnebago Counties. Reported from ten other counties. Last reported Nov. 10, Milwaukee, E. Strehlow.

**Sora Rail:** Twenty three reports. Peak of 52 seen by the Luepkes Sept. 6 in Marathon County. Six October reports, three on Oct. 10. Last reported Oct. 31, Barron County, C. Faanes.

**Common Gallinule:** Present Aug. 1 in Brown and Fond du Lac Counties. Reported from the west only from Vernon County by E. Epstein on Aug. 8. Last reported Oct. 18, Brown County, Columban and Cleary.

**Coot:** Present at the end of the period in Waukesha, Brown, St. Croix, Barron and Brown Counties.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Sixteen reports, eight from the first half of August. Two October dates: Oct. 9, Columbia County, D. Tessen; Oct. 11, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.

**Piping Plover:** Two reports. Oct. 13, Milwaukee, E. Epstein (good details). Oct. 29, Marinette County, D. Tessen, a new fall departure date.

**Killdeer:** Seven November reports, the latest Nov. 26, Marinette County, H. Lindberg.

**Lesser Golden Plover:** Twenty two reports from twelve counties. Early, Aug. 5, Milwaukee, Epstein. Peaks from mid September to mid October: Sept. 18, Columbia County, D. Tessen, 350; Sept. 30, Douglas County, Niemi & Davis, 20; Oct. 20, Douglas County, Niemi & Davis. Last reported Nov. 19, Milwaukee, Epstein.

**Black-bellied Plover:** Twenty seven reports from seventeen counties. Early, Aug. 5, Luepkes, Marathon County (Same arrival date as Golden Plover). Eight reports from the last week in August. Departure, Nov. 19, Luepkes, Kewaunee County.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Ten reports from three counties, Douglas, Marathon and Milwaukee. Arrival, Aug. 3, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Peaks, Aug. 9, Milwaukee, Epstein, 8; Aug. 14, Douglas, Niemi and Davis, 6. Departure, Sept. 27, Douglas, Niemi and Davis.

**American Woodcock:** Present Aug. 1 in six northern counties, and early in Aug. from three central counties. Latest departure, Oct. 22, Clark County, Luepkes.

**Common Snipe:** Present both at the beginning and end of the period from Douglas and Waukesha Counties.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Numbers reported down in Barron County. Present Aug. 1. in Fond du Lac, LaCrosse and St. Croix Counties. Last departure and peak date, Aug. 24, LaCrosse F. Leshner, 5.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Four October dates. Latest departure, Oct. 11, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1 in seven counties. One peak reported, Aug. 14, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt, 21. Latest departure, Oct. 9, Milwaukee, E. Strehlow.

**Willet:** Five reports from four counties. Arrival Aug. 4, Milwaukee, Epstein. Peak, Aug. 20, Douglas, Niemi and Davis, 20. Latest departure, Sept. 8, St. Croix County, C. Faanes.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Present Aug. 1 in Fond du Lac, Marathon and St. Croix counties. Five departure dates between Oct. 23 and Oct. 31. Latest departure Oct. 31, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Present Aug. 1 in six counties. Six reports from August, Three from September, none from October, but three from November. Latest Nov. 6, Milwaukee, E. Strehlow.

**Knot:** Six reports from five counties: Columbia, Douglas, Brown, Milwaukee, Sheboygan. Latest departure, Sept. 18, Columbia County, Tessen.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Present in August in 15 counties. Five reports from four counties in November. Last seen Nov. 24, LaCrosse, F. Leshner.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Two reports: Aug. 21, Dunn County, Robbins; Sept. 5, Columbia County, Tessen.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Thirteen reports during August, five from September, and one from October 9, Columbia County, Tessen, 8 birds.



- Least Sandpiper:** Present Aug. 1 in six counties. Five arrival dates the last week in August. Latest departure, Oct. 14, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.
- Dunlin:** First arrival Aug. 5, Milwaukee, Epstein. Peak date Oct. 11, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis, 28. Two last departures on Oct. 24: Winnebago County, C. Schultz; Dane County, R. Korotev.
- Dowitcher, sp:** There were ten reports of unidentified Dowitchers, contrasted with thirteen reports of Dowitchers identified as to species. Earliest, Aug. 1, Fond du Lac, R. Knuth. Last seen Sept. 27, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Nine reports. Earliest Aug. 6, Milwaukee, D. Tessen. Peaks: Aug. 14, Oconto, D. Tessen, 18; Aug. 22, Brown County, Tessen, 75. Last report Sept. 5, Columbia County, Tessen.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Four reports. One August report from Brown County by Tessen on the 22nd. The departure date of Oct. 21 by Columban and Cleary from Brown County is short of the record late date by two days.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Peak numbers of 40 and 30 birds were seen on Aug. 22 and 28, respectively, by Tessen in Brown County. Last seen Sept. 18 in Columbia County by Tessen.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Present in twelve counties during the season. Last seen Oct. 2 in Door County by R. Evanson.
- Western Sandpiper:** Three reports: Aug. 18, Chippewa County, C. Kemper, Aug. 27, Brown County, D. Gustafson; Sept. 30, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Reported from Douglas, Marathon and Milwaukee Counties. Earliest Aug. 5, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Peak Aug. 28, Milwaukee, Epstein. Last seen Sept. 20, Milwaukee, Epstein.
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Reported Aug. 26 and 27 from Brown County by Tessen and Gustafson. This is a record fall arrival date by four days.
- Ruff:** Reported only by Tessen in Brown County on Aug. 14.
- Sanderling:** Present Aug. 1 in Douglas and Fond du Lac Counties. Peaks: Aug. 18, Douglas County, R. Johnson, 45; Aug. 28, Milwaukee, Epstein, 36; Sept. 17, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis, 61. Last seen Nov. 5, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.
- Avocet:** Reported only by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on Aug. 19.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Five reports, four of which were between Aug. 22 and Aug. 28. Only report from outside Brown County on Aug. 23 in LaCrosse County by Epstein. Last seen Sept. 30, Brown County, Columban & Cleary.
- Northern Phalarope:** Three reports: Aug. 22, Brown County, Tessen; Sept. 13, Barron County, C. Faanes, 6; Oct. 26, Milwaukee, D. Gustafson.
- Herring Gull:** Present Aug. 1 in ten counties and still present at the end of the season in seven counties. Greatest peak reported Nov. 24, Douglas County, Niemi & Davis, 1250.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Present Aug. 1 in five counties and still present at the end of the season in four counties.
- Franklin's Gull:** One report from the east at Milwaukee on Sept. 6 by E. Epstein. Present Aug. 24 to Sept. 27, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis. Present Sept. 13 to Oct. 10, St. Croix County, C. Faanes.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Reported earliest on Aug. 2 from Milwaukee by Epstein. Peak on Sept. 17, Douglas County, Niemi & Davis, 126. Four November reports. Last reported Nov. 28, Milwaukee, Epstein.
- Little Gull:** A record early date on Aug. 5 from Milwaukee by Epstein. Last reported Nov. 6 from Milwaukee by Tessen.
- Common Tern:** Present Aug. 1 in Brown and Fond du Lac Counties. A peak on Aug. 20 of 12 was considered low by P. & L. Engberg in Oneida County. Faanes reported a peak of 12 in St. Croix County on Sept. 12. Niemi and Davis reported a peak of 50 on Sept. 11 from Douglas County. Last seen Sept. 30 in Douglas County by Niemi and Davis.
- Forster's Tern:** Reported from six counties. Earliest Aug. 15, Oconto, K. & J. Luepke. Last seen Oct. 11, Milwaukee County, D. Gustafson.

**Caspian Tern:** Earliest Aug. 2, Milwaukee, Epstein. Peaks on Aug. 28 from Milwaukee, LaCrosse, Brown and Door Counties. Last seen Oct. 9, Milwaukee, Tessen.

**Black Tern:** Last seen Sept. 10 in two counties, Brown and Douglas.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Only eight reports. Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix and Barron Counties, and Aug. 8 in LaCrosse County, E. Epstein. All other reports during September. Last report Sept. 16, Milwaukee, Epstein.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Only seven reports. Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix and Barron Counties. Last reported Sept. 11 from Door County by R. Evanson.

**Barn Owl:** One report: Sept. 18, Cedar Grove, Dan Berger.

**Screech Owl:** Present both at the beginning and end of the season in Barron, Brown, St. Croix, Vernon and Waukesha Counties. Also reported from Fond du Lac, Milwaukee and Oneida Counties.

**Great Horned Owl:** Reported throughout the period from Barron, Brown, Marathon, St. Croix and Waukesha counties. Berger reported they migrated at Cedar Grove.

**Snowy Owl:** Six reports, all north. Present at the end of the season in Brown and St. Croix counties.

**Hawk Owl:** One report, Nov. 12, Barron County, C. Faanes. This is a new fall arrival record by 4 days. The old record was set Nov. 16, 1925.

**Long-eared Owl:** Reported present Aug. 1 in Barron County. Reported from Milwaukee Nov. 25 and Nov. 28 by D. Gustafson and E. Epstein.

**Short-eared Owl:** Five of six reports during October, mostly from Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Still present Nov. 30 in Barron County.

**Saw-whet Owl:** A good year for them and banders of them at Cedar Grove, where 140 were banded. Peak, 20, Oct. 13, Cedar Grove, D. Berger. E. Epstein found a road kill of this species Oct. 17 in Milwaukee.

**Whip-poor-will:** Last reported from Price County on Sept. 17 by M. Hardy.

**Nighthawk:** Peaks were reported Aug. 26 from Brown and Marathon counties, and on Sept. 8 and 9 from Marinette and Shawano counties. Last reported Sept. 20 from Marathon County by the Luepkes.

**Chimney Swift:** Latest report Oct. 28 by R. Korotev in Dane County.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** One October report, Oct. 8, Brown County, Columban & Cleary.

**Flicker:** Five October reports, but latest report Nov. 2, St. Croix County, C. Faanes.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reported Throughout the season from ten counties.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Reported at the end of the season as far north as St. Croix and Barron Counties.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Late peaks, Oct. 31 and Nov. 9 from Brown and Vernon Counties respectively. Still present at the end of the period as far north as Barron, Brown and St. Croix counties.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Nine of twenty-five reports concentrated in the last week of September. Latest report Nov. 27, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Black-backed three-toed Woodpecker:** Two reports: Aug. 25, Douglas County, E. Epstein; Nov. 20, Outagamie County, D. Tiede.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Five September reports. Last reported Sept. 18, Dane County, R. Korotev.

**Western Kingbird:** One present Aug. 18-26, St. Croix County, C. Faanes.

**Great-Crested Flycatcher:** Five September reports. Last reported Sept. 20, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Eight October reports. Last reported Oct. 31, Dane County, R. Korotev.

**Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher:** First report Aug. 2, Chippewa County, C. Kemper; Last reported Sept. 30, Barron County, A. Goff.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Reported only from Waukesha County on Aug. 18 by J. Bielefeldt.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Reported present Aug. 1 from Barron, St. Croix and Winnebago Counties. Last reported Sept. 13, Douglas County, Niemi and Davis.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix, Waukesha and Winnebago Counties. Last reported Aug. 29, Marinette County, Daryl Tessen.

**Least Flycatcher:** Last reported Oct. 1, Milwaukee County, D. Gustafson.

**Eastern Wood Pewee:** Last reported Sept. 27, Barron County, A. Goff.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Last reported Sept. 4, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Horned Lark:** Still present Dec. 1 in Barron, Brown, St. Croix and Waukesha Counties.

**Tree Swallow:** Peaks reported Aug. 8, Marathon County, Luepkes, 300 and Sept. 4, Brown County, Columban and Cleary. Three reports Oct. 8 and 9. Last reported Oct. 9 Columbia County, D. Tessen.

**Bank Swallow:** Last reported Sept. 30 Brown County, Columban and Cleary.

**Rough-winged Swallow:** Last reported Sept. 16, Oneida County, Engbergs.

**Barn Swallow:** Peaks of 60 and 20, respectively, on Aug. 13 and Aug. 20 from Brown and Oneida counties. Three October reports. Latest Oct. 15, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein.

**Cliff Swallow:** Peaks of 250 and 200, respectively, from Marathon and Oneida counties. Last reported Sept. 21, St. Croix County, C. Faanes.

**Purple Martin:** Peak reported Aug. 4, Milwaukee, E. Epstein, 1000+. Last reported Sept. 9, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt.

**Gray Jay:** Seven reports, all north: Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Forest, Oneida, Price.

**Northern Raven:** The usual reports from north and central Wisconsin. Peak Nov. 26, Wood County, Luepkes, 40. Reported flying south down the Mississippi in **Vernon County** on Oct. 2, W.A. Smith.

**Crow:** No large concentrations at roosts. Two peaks: Nov. 19, Milwaukee, E. Strehlow, 142; Nov. 15, Brown County, Columban and Cleary, 100.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** R. Evanson reported a peak of 300 Aug. 28 & 29 in Door County.

**Boreal Chickadee:** D. Tessen reported 5 in Forest County on Aug. 2.

**Tufted Titmouse:** Reported present throughout the season from St. Croix and Vernon counties. Only three other reports: Aug. 13, Dane Co., R. Korotev; Sept. 10, Manitowoc, M. Albrecht; Oct. 31, Waukesha, D. Gustafson.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Numbers up. Present Aug. 2 in Langlade, Menomonie and Oneida counties, and Aug. 6 south from Vernon County. Reported from 14 counties, and into the winter season from Barron, Brown and LaCrosse Counties.

**Brown Creeper:** Present at the end of the season in Waukesha County.

**House Wren:** Five October reports concentrated from Oct. 5-16. Latest Oct. 16, Milwaukee, E. Strehlow.

**Bewicks Wren:** No Reports.

**Carolina Wren:** Two reports: Aug. 13, Milwaukee, E. Epstein; Nov. 12, Milwaukee, D. Gustafson.

**Marsh Wren:** Reported mostly north and west. Last reported Oct. 29, Brown County, Columban & Cleary.

**Sedge Wren:** Reported last from a northern county, Douglas, Oct. 19, Niemi and Davis.

**Mockingbird:** Two reports, both from Milwaukee: Sept. 18, D. Tessen; Oct. 19, D. Gustafson.

**Gray Catbird:** Last report from **Door County**, Nov. 12, R. Evanson.

**Brown Thrasher:** Last report Nov. 16, Chippewa County, C. Kemper.

**Robin:** Peaks appeared in three counties between mid September and mid October. Reported present at the end of the season from Barron, LaCrosse, Milwaukee and St. Croix counties.

**Varied Thrush:** Appeared on Nov. 2-Nov. 6, Chippewa County, C. Kemper

**Wood Thrush:** Last reported Oct. 8, **Door County**, R. Evanson.

**Hermit Thrush:** Reported from 14 counties in Oct. Last reported Oct. 29, Barron, C. Faanes.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Reported from 5 counties in October. Last reported Oct. 10, Manitowoc County, M. Albrecht.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Reported from 3 counties in October. Last reported Oct. 17, Milwaukee, Epstein.

**Veery:** Five of eight reports during Sept. Last reported Oct. 5, Chippewa County, C. Kemper.

**Eastern Bluebird:** Last reported Oct. 20, Brown County, Columban & Cleary.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reported as far north as St. Croix County. Last report Aug. 25, Vernon Co., V. Weber.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reported in normal numbers from 16 counties. Present at the end of the season in Brown and Waukesha counties.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Reported in normal numbers from 14 counties. Last reported Nov. 21, LaCrosse County, F. Leshner.

**Water Pipit:** Eight counties reporting, and numbers were up. Peaks: Oct. 19, Waukesha County, 50; Oct. 9, Columbia County, 30. Last reported Nov. 5, Waukesha, J. Bielefeldt.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** No reports.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Widespread reports in above average numbers. Reported present Nov. 30 from eight counties.

**Northern Shrike:** Numbers Up. Reports from 15 counties. First reported Oct. 10, Door County, R. Evanson. A season total of 54 at Cedarburg, D. Berger. Present at the end of the season in Barron and Brown counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** No reports.

**White-eyed Vireo:** No Reports

**Bell's Vireo:** No reports.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** All September reports concentrated between Sept. 11-19. Latest report Sept. 19, Chippewa County, S. Robbins.

**Solitary Vireo:** Last reported Oct. 9, Chippewa County, S. Robbins.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** A peak of 60 on Aug. 28 in Door County. R. Evanson. Last reported Sept. 30, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt, and Chippewa County, C. Kemper

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Sixteen reports from nine counties. Last reported Oct. 5, Chippewa County, C. Kemper

**Warbling Vireo:** Last reported Sept. 28, Brown County, Columban and Cleary.

**Black and White Warbler:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Douglas, Price and St. Croix counties. Early south Aug. 15, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Two October reports: Oct. 5, Douglas Co., Niemi & Davis; Oct. 8, Milwaukee, E. Strehlow.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Three reports: Aug. 8, LaCrosse, E. Epstein; Aug. 13, Dane Co., R. Korotev; Aug. 18, Vernon County, V. Weber.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Price, St. Croix and Waukesha counties. Last reported Sept. 26, Shawano, M. Hardy.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Present Aug. 1 in St. Croix, Vernon and Waukesha counties. Last reported Sept. 26, Vernon County, V. Weber.

**Tennessee Warbler:** First report Aug. 9, Juneau County, E. Epstein. Peaks: Aug. 16, Outagamie County; Sept. 1, LaCrosse County; Sept. 19, Dane County; Oct. 9, Brown County. Last reported Oct. 15, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Reported from only nine counties. Earliest Aug. 13, Barron County, A. Goff, which ties the fall arrival date set in 1961. Last reported Nov. 8, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Nashville Warbler:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Douglas and St. Croix Counties. Last reported Oct. 12, Brown County, Columban and Cleary.

**Northern Parula Warbler:** Six of ten reports concentrated between Sept. 11-15. Last reported Sept. 25, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Yellow Warbler:** August peaks reported Aug. 18 and 22 from Douglas and LaCrosse counties. Last reported Oct. 14, Brown County, Columban and Cleary.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Peaks reported during Aug. from Dane County the 19th and LaCrosse County the 23rd, September peaks were on Sept. 4, Milwaukee, Sept. 26, Shawano County, and Brown County, Sept. 30. Last reported Oct. 8, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt.

**Cape May Warbler:** Widespread arrival dates from five counties the last week in August. Last reported Oct. 2, Monroe County, E. Epstein.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** nine reports from five counties, all north, northeast and east. Peak Sept. 4, Milwaukee, E. Epstein, 3. Last reported Sept. 27, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Six widespread peak dates concentrated between Sept. 16-27. Last reported Nov. 30 Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt. Present at the end of the season in Barron County.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Peaks from both Dane and Door counties Aug. 28. Last reported Oct. 9, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Reported only from Waukesha County by J. Bielefeldt.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Eight arrival dates concentrated between Aug. 22-29. Last reported Sept. 28 from both Shawano (M. Hardy) and Vernon (V. Weber) counties.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Peaks reported Aug. 28, 29 and 30 from Dane, LaCrosse and Brown counties respectively. Last reported Oct. 1, Vernon County, V. Weber.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First reported Aug. 15, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Widespread arrivals recorded the last ten days of August. Last reported Sept. 28, Shawano County, M. Hardy.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Five arrival dates concentrated between Aug. 26-29. Last reported Oct. 9, Dane County, R. Korotev.

**Pine Warbler:** Ten reports from eleven counties north, east and central. Last reported Oct. 13 Ozaukee County, E. Epstein.

**Palu Warbler:** Six counties, mostly north and central, reported arrival dates of Aug. 28 and 29. Last reported Oct. 23, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Ovenbird:** Last reported Oct. 6, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Northern Waterthrush:** Early arrival south Aug. 3, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Six widespread departure dates between Oct. 2-10. Last reported Oct. 10, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** No reports

**Kentucky Warbler:** No reports.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Eleven reports from seven counties, all north, northeast or east with the exception of an Aug. 13 report from Dane County by R. Korotev. Last reported Sept. 26, Shawano County, M. Hardy.

**Mourning Warbler:** Eleven reports from seven counties all northwest or east. Last reported Sept. 20, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**Common Yellowthroat:** Last reported Oct. 15, Barron County, C. Faanes.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** No reports.

**Hooded Warbler:** No reports.

**Wilson's Warbler:** A record early fall arrival of Aug. 8 by M. Hardy from Price County. last reported Oct. 1, Vernon County, V. Weber.

**Canada Warbler:** Early south Aug. 15, Milwaukee, E. Epstein. Last reported Sept. 24, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**American Redstart:** Last reported Oct. 9, Ozaukee County, D. Tessen.

**Bobolink:** Last reported Oct. 12, Milwaukee, E. Epstein.

**E. Meadowlark:** Present at end of season in St. Croix County.



**W. Meadowlark:** Present at end of season in St. Croix County.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last reported Oct. 9, Wood County, Luepkes.

**Redwinged Blackbird:** Peaks: Sept. 2, Marathon County, Luepkes, 4400; Sept. 19, Wood County, Luepkes, 2000; Sept. 28, Brown County, Columban and Cleary, 2100.

**Northern Oriole:** Last reported Sept. 30, Brown County, Columban & Cleary.

**Rusty Blackbird:** A new fall arrival date by 17 days: Aug. 29, Oconto County, D. Tessen. Present Dec. 1 in Barron and St. Croix Counties.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Brown, and Marathon counties. Peak, Sept. 10, Manitowoc County, M. Albrecht, 3000. Last reported Nov. 1, Door County, R. Evanson.

**Common Grackle:** Present at end of season in Barron, Brown, St. Croix and Waukesha Counties

**Scarlet Tanager:** Last reported Oct. 9, Milwaukee County, D. Tessen.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A late peak of 25 on Oct. 4 from Vernon County, V. Weber. Last reported Oct. 13, Milwaukee County, E. Strehlow.

**Indigo Bunting:** Last reported Oct. 2, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt.

**Dickcissel:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron and St. Croix counties. No other reports.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Reported absent from Waukesha County and below normal numbers in Chippewa County. Present Aug. 1 in Iron and Price Counties. Adults with young Aug. 2, Oneida County, D. Tessen. Present at end of season in Barron and Brown counties.

**Purple Finch:** Aug. 1 in Barron, Chippewa, Douglas, Iron, Oneida and Price counties. Arrived south Aug. 18, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt, Aug. 23, LaCrosse County, E. Epstein, and Aug. 29, Trempealeau County, S. Robbins.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Reported only from Brown, Douglas, Marathon, Price and Wood Counties. First arrival Oct. 27, Price County, M. Hardy.

**Hoary Redpoll:** One report, Nov. 24, Douglas County, G. Niemi.

**Common Redpoll:** Reported only from Chippewa, Douglas, Manitowoc and Milwaukee counties. Arrival dates clustered Nov. 2-5. Earliest Nov. 2, Chippewa County, S. Robbins, who reported numbers down.

**Pine Siskin:** Present Aug. 1, Barron County. Absent or below normal in Waukesha and Milwaukee counties. No reports south of Milwaukee.

**Red Crossbill:** Reported in early August from Barron and Oneida Counties.

**White-winged Crossbill:** No reports.

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** Four October dates, Oct. 6-9. Last reported Oct. 9, Manitowoc, M. Albrecht, and Dane County, R. Korotev.

**Sarannah Sparrow:** Very late, Nov. 21, Barron County, C. Faanes.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Reported only from Barron, St. Croix and Waukesha Counties. Last reported Oct. 11, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt.

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Reported Oct. 11-18, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1, Waukesha County, J. Bielefeldt. Last reported Oct. 12, Brown County, Columban and Cleary.

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** One report, Sept. 9, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Last reported Oct. 23, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein.

**Northern Junco:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron and Iron Counties.

**Tree Sparrow:** Reported early north from Douglas County, Sept. 23, Niemi & Davis, and south from Milwaukee County, Sept. 24, E. Strehlow.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Last reported Oct. 17, Chippewa County, S. Robbins.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron, Brown, Chippewa, and Jackson counties. Last reported Oct. 5, Niemi and Davis, Douglas County.

**Field Sparrow:** Last reported Nov. 9, Dane County, R. Korotev.

**Harris Sparrow:** First reported Sept. 24, Douglas County, Niemi & Davis. Last reported Oct. 30, Barron County, A. Goff.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** First arrival Sept. 12, Brown County, Columban & Cleary. Last reported Oct. 24, Dane County, R. Korotev.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Reported very early south, Aug. 17, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein. Also early south Aug. 29, Trempealeau County, S. Robbins. Peaks from Brown and Dane Counties, Oct. 9.

**Fox Sparrow:** Record early date tied, Sept. 12, Manitowoc County, M. Albrecht. Present at end of season from Barron County.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Present Aug. 1 in Barron County. Peak Sept. 17, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein, 12. A new fall departure date by one day, Nov. 24, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Last reported Nov. 21, Dane County, R. Korotev.

**Song Sparrow:** Reported present at the end of the season from Barron, Brown, St. Croix and Waukesha counties.

**Lapland Longspur:** An arrival date of Sept. 9, Milwaukee County, E. Epstein, missed the record by only 2 days. Significant peaks: Oct. 3, St. Croix County, 300; Oct. 14, Douglas County, 450. last reported Nov. 6, Milwaukee County, D. Tessen.

**Snow Bunting:** Reported from 19 counties. First reported Oct. 7, Price County, M. Hardy. Significant peaks clustered in late October and mid November. Greatest peak reported Nov. 21, Dane County, R. Korotev, 500. Present at the end of the season in Barron, Milwaukee and Winnebago counties.

#### Observers, Autumn Season, 1977

Albrecht, Marjorie; Berger, Dan; Bielefeldt, John; Butterbrodt, Mary E; Cleary, Edwin d; Brother Columban; Engberg, Paul and Louise; Epstein, Eric; Evanson, Randall M.; Evrard, Jim; Faanes, Craig; Goff, Alta; Gustafson, Dennis K.; Hafemann, Mary R.; Hardy, Maybelle; Harmer, Dorothy K.; Johnson, Robbye; Kemper, Charles; Knuth, Rockne; Korotev, Randy; Krings, Steve; Leshner, Fred; Lindberg, Harold; Luepke, Ken, Jan, Phil; Niemi, Gerald, and Tom Davis; Mahlum, Gyda; Robbins, Sam; Schultz, Clark; Smith, William A.; Strehlow, Elmer W.; Tessen, Daryl; Tiede, Dar; Weber, Viratine; Wierzbicki, Melvin.

*Help Save*

## HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

*Mary and Charlie Nelson*



# **By the Wayside...**

## **LeConte's Sparrow**

All records of LeConte's Sparrows October 11-18...come from weedy upland cornfields or cornfield edges, **not** from the wet meadows often described as migrant as well as breeding habitat.

John Bielefeldt  
Waukesha County

## **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Nine Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen in Jackson County on August 21. They were observed dust bathing on a sandy lane through Black Duck Flowage ten or twelve miles northeast of Millston.

Eric Epstein  
Milwaukee

## **Spruce Grouse**

One shot in the Mikana Swamp Wildlife Management Area. I examined the skin. I was then able to positively identify the bird as a Spruce Grouse. This is the first documented record of the Spruce Grouse for Barron County.

Craig Faanes  
River Falls

## **Peregrine Falcon**

According to Dr. Harrison Tordoff, University of Minnesota, it may be possible to reintroduce man-hatched Peregrines into the Red Wing, Minnesota to Iowa state line area of the Mississippi River within 15 years.

Fred Leshner  
LaCrosse

Here are the details on my Prairie Falcon:

The bird was caught at 1:00 PM on October 31 at my bluff-top trapping station by the Mississippi River near Genoa, Wisconsin. It was lured in with a pigeon, which I was actually activating for another bird, and got tangled in a back-up net. The bird came in so fast and unexpectedly that I didn't know what I had until I took it from the net — an immature female Prairie Falcon.

Considering the possibility that the bird had escaped from a falconer, I held it while contacting Twin Cities area falconers to see if someone had lost a bird. The "prairie" had had no falconry equipment on it when caught, but stood well on the fist. In the opinion of one experienced falconer, it had been held before; in the opinion of another experienced falconer, it had not been held.

Four days after capture, the "prairie" was banded and released from Grandad Bluff above LaCrosse. I still have heard from no falconers, and feel the chances are about 50/50 that my bird was an authentic wanderer from the Western Great Plains.

Bill Smith  
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LaCrosse, WI 54601

### BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER IN OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

On November 20, 1976, I observed a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) at the Gordon Bubolz Nature Area in Outagamie County north of Appleton. The bird was observed for a period of about five minutes at 2:45 in the afternoon in a tree on the border of an extensive swamp area. The sky was partly cloudy with the light on the bird (sun over my left shoulder).

My attention was first drawn to a Downy Woodpecker which had just landed in a tree about 20 meters distant. When it alighted, I first noticed the large dark bird higher up in the same tree. It appeared to be about twice the size of the Downy when viewed with the naked eye. Upon examination of the bird with my binoculars (10x50 Tasco), I realized it was one of the more northern woodpecker species. I had no previous experience with either *Picoides*, although I had studied the pictures in my field guides many times, and knew to look at the back to see if it was black or laddered, and at the crown to determine the presence of absence of a yellow patch.

The following field marks were noted and written in a notebook at the time of observation: solid black back, black tail (topside) with white outer tail feathers, black hatch marks on the white side giving a laddered effect, wings black with some white spotting, face black with lateral white stripe extending from top of bill backwards across cheek (below the eye), white belly and throat with black lateral "whisker" mark between the white cheek and throat. No yellow crown patch noted. The bird uttered no notes during the period of observation.

The bird was scaling the bark off the tree, and also was seen backing down the tree in a series of jumps. The bird was observed and independently identified by others in the following days in various parts of the swamp. Many trees in the area show extensive scaling of large patches of bark.

Dar Tiede  
42 Mahler Court  
Appleton, WI 54911  
November 27, 1976

# Behavior of Adult and Juvenile White-breasted Nuthatches at the Time of Fledging

By James L. Ingold

The behavior of birds at the time of fledging of the young has been recorded for a number of species (Hann, 1937; Schantz, 1939; Odum, 1941; Spencer, 1943; McLaren, 1975). However similar observations have not been available for the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta Carolinensis*).

Field observations were made at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station near Saukville, Ozaukee County. These observations were made during the summer of 1976 as part of a larger study on territory quality and breeding behavior of the White-breasted Nuthatch.

Three nests were held under observation during this period but fledging was only observed at one nest. The young of this nest fledged on 16 June 1976. Three days earlier they had started to call every time the male brought food to the nest. The notes were very squeaky, not like the typical notes of the adults. By the sixteenth, the vocalizations of the young were indistinguishable from those notes of the adults.

The nest observation for 16 June was started at 6:00 A.M. During the session only the female brought food to the young. The male was singing from a tree 44 m. from the nest. The male had previously stopped singing in May but resumed singing during the period when the young were leaving the nest. The young birds responded by giving the yank call.

Ten minutes into the observation period, the female landed at the nest entrance, with food in her bill. She entered the nest half way and then backed out again. She did not feed the young, forcing them to poke their heads out of the nest entrance. She then fed them. The female continued this behavior until 7:35 A.M. While the female was feeding the young, the male continued to sing and call. A behavior pattern similar to this has been described for the Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*, (Odum, 1941) and the Boreal Chickadee *Parus hudsonicus*, (McLaren, 1975). In these two species the calls given were soft; however in the nuthatch, they were given at the normal volume.

The first young to leave the nest was a male. He left at approximately 7:25 A.M. The other six birds left between 7:30 and 7:40 A.M. When the first five birds left the nest, they flew directly from the nest hole to the tree where the male was singing. The last two young, a male and a female, remained on the nest tree very close to the nest. They did not leave until the male flew to them. When he flew away so did they. After all of the young had left the nest, the family group started to move through the territory. Both adults and the young stayed very high up in the canopy. The group was very vocal and active.

Publication No. 28 of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station  
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## Mallard/Merganser Pair Bond

By Joellyn Dahlin

Field observations over a period of six consecutive days from April 18-23, 1977, in Owen Park, Eau Claire, Wisconsin revealed a rather unique relationship between a female Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and a male Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).<sup>\*</sup> This pair is unusual in that Hooded Mergansers do not appear to associate with other ducks. Using visual observations, I attempted to confirm that a pair bond was formed on the basis of daily activities and courtship displays.

The pair always arrived at the park between 0600 and 0700, never were in the company of other waterfowl, and performed normal duties such as feeding, preening, and general comfort activities together or in close proximity of one another. Even though the merganser is smaller in size, he protected the female Mallard and was constantly watching for signs of potential danger.

Interesting to note was the apparent lack of hostility between the merganser and the other drake mallards. Besides the expected rivalry for the female's attention, only one incidence of aggression occurred between the merganser and drake mallards, which stemmed from a minor dispute over food.

Other social displays that led to a speculative pair bond formation involve the courtship display of the merganser. Generally, the act takes place in close proximity to other drake mallards, while the merganser himself revolves in circles both on land and in water around the female Mallard. Essentially the display involves a sudden upward stretch of the neck and head, a forward nod, and return to normal position. Generally silent except during the breeding season, the merganser utters a guttural call when the head is stretched backwards and tipped. Also prominent is the inflated crest, in addition to much bowing, chasing and splashing.

During the time the merganser performed the courtship display, the female Mallard didn't seem to be either attracted to or repelled by the male. However, when the act was completed, she would be drawn to the male and both would then assume activities as a close pair. An explanation of this relationship is still questionable but application of these behavioral observations supports the suggestion of pair bond establishment.

<sup>\*</sup>Note: These are wild birds and are not confined to a zoo-like environment.

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## THE "SAPSUCKER" SHALL IT BE KILLED OR PROTECTED?

Reprinted from **The Wisconsin Farmer**  
and **North-western Cultivator**, Vol. XIV, 1862

Mr. Editor:— The farmer, although completely dependent on Nature and her laws, is generally ignorant of them—sometimes to an incomprehensible degree. Perhaps this is not to much to be wondered at, from the fact that educated men sometimes teach them with arguments calculated to mislead the ignorant, the most absurd doctrines, which are oftentimes productive of the most mischievous results. These arguments have weight with the farmer in a great many cases, from the fact that they are made by men who have the reputation of being scientific, and who are supposed to understand the subjects of which they speak.

A lecture on destructive birds (including the Sapsucker **Picus villosus**), delivered by Dr. Hoy of Racine before the Illinois Horticultural Society, is an illustration of this fact and another instance in which carelessness or ignorance is allowed to circulate doctrines unsound or false in character and mischievous proportionately to the faith with which they are received and the credibility of the authority by which they are advanced.

This lecture is reported in the "**Illinois Farmer**," Vol. VII., No. 1, page 17.

The Dr. illustrated the lecture with specimens of birds, insects and sections of wood. After describing the Sapsucker and mentioning the different birds, it could not and should not be confounded with, he remarks that **some naturalists** contend that this bird is insectivorous, but he affirms that although "it may occasionally take up a beetle, its food is the fiber and cambium bark of trees, and his drink the sap, hence its name, the Sapsucker;" the Dr. then describes some of its habits as follows:

"The Sapsucker is a migratory bird, and arrives in Racine, Wis., about the 15 day of April, not varying more than five days. On his arrival he attacks the sugar maple, pine, spruce and silver poplar; but the sugar maple is the favorite at this time. He also attacks thrifty growing fruit trees. The damage to be guarded against at this time more particularly is to the poplars and maples. About the last of June they return to the deep wood to breed, from which they make daily forays to the orchards and gardens, doing more or less damage. After the breeding season is over, the old birds with their broods, return to the fields, orchards and gardens of the farmers and others and go quietly to work to destroy thousands of valuable fruit, shade and ornamental trees. Returning with the new recruits, they attack the apple, the pear and the mountain ash with a vigor that, unless they are killed at the outset, an immense number of valuable trees will be killed or seriously injured. While in the deep forest he lives on the ironwood and lynn, mainly, as these trees furnish sap and an abundance of cambium or cambium and liber. Yet they prefer the smooth, thrifty trunks of fruit tree, as is proved by their daily visits to the orchards." Dr. H. then repeated his recommendation to destroy them on every occasion.

The above remarkable statements seem to be uttered in good faith, but they could not certainly result from the personal observation of the doctor regarding the habits of this bird, but must rather be a lingering remnant of that superstition which farmers have **nearly** and **naturalists** **antirely** done away with. I am persuaded that if the doctor had but given his attention for one hour to this bird as it works actively in the orchards and woods, he would never have made the above assertions; but it is to these careless and inconsiderate opinions which men of education promulgate without regard to **facts** that the farmer owes his ignorance of nature, and which render so many of his operations unsuccessful. The Hairy Woodpecker, **Picus villosus**, is called the Sapsucker, from the belief that it sucks the sap of trees; but that is a mistake, as an hour's observation of the habits of this bird will decide; and if this is not satisfactory, let the observer kill one of them and open its crop, and he will find there nothing but insects, their larvae and eggs: that it feeds on the liber and sap of trees is disproved by the fact that it works as actively on dead limbs of trees, wood piles, fence posts, &c., in which there could not possibly be a drop of sap, and by the invariable absence of either in the crop. The perforations in the bark which this bird makes are done while it is searching for insects and their larvae; while thus engaged it labors with much energy and activity, frequently spending several minutes at one spot, rather than suffer the vermin, which are concealed beneath the bark, to continue their work of destruction unmolested. On such occasions it becomes so intent on its occupation as to allow one to approach quite near the scene of its operations, and it may often be seen drawing out the larvae from the holes it has made and swallowing them.

The insects both in the larva and perfect state which it destroys are all greatly injurious to fruit and forest trees; among the former may be mentioned the apple tree borers of which two species attack the smaller limbs and branches, and one or more the trunk; the peach and pear tree borers, and multitudes of small insects which mine the bark and otherwise injure the tree. Forest trees are perforated in various directions by coleopterous larvae which utterly ruin the wood for anything but fuel. Such is the immense reproductive power of these insects that unless their numbers were diminished greatly by this family of birds, the immense forests of this country would be completely destroyed, at least for timber purposes. I do not intend in this short, hastily written paper to enter into details regarding the different insects which are destroyed by the woodpeckers, nor the methods and amounts of injuries which they do. I wish merely to call the attention of the farmer to the fact that these birds are his friends instead of his enemies, (which he can prove with very little trouble) and that he should protect them and encourage them in the work which nature has designed them for, and which they are willing to perform.

E. A. Samuels  
Boston, Mass.  
Feb. 5, 1962

## **The Sapsucker: Rare chance for a Bostoner to see the Great West without expense**

As the Sapsucker appears to have awakened a good deal of interest among Naturalists of late, and has even been the occasion of severe censure upon one of our most intelligent, generous ornithologists, we have thought it well to make room for yet fuller discussion of the subject, that our readers may judge whether the severe rebuke administered by Mr. Samuels of Boston is really deserved, we herewith republish from the 6th volume of Transactions of the State Agricultural Society, just out of the press, the communication of Dr. Hoy, which is, in every important respect, identical with the one reviewed in the March No.

Dr. Hoyt: I respond to your call by furnishing the following article, the substance of which was communicated to the Wisconsin Nat. History Society. It is at your service, with the belief that it embodies facts that add something to the stock of useful knowledge:

There is a singular want of agreement in the statements of writers especially in the Agricultural Journals, in respect to the Sapsucker. One says the Sapsucker molests trees only that are infested by worms—that the worms are what it is after, and nothing more. Another, that the Sapsuckers are not in quest of worms but the vital juice of the tree—that they suck the sap of fruit trees and so on. These articles indicate the lack of close observation—of something definite by which we can determine what species of bird they refer to; for all of the spotted Woodpeckers, and even including the Nuthatcher, are by many indiscriminately called Sapsuckers.

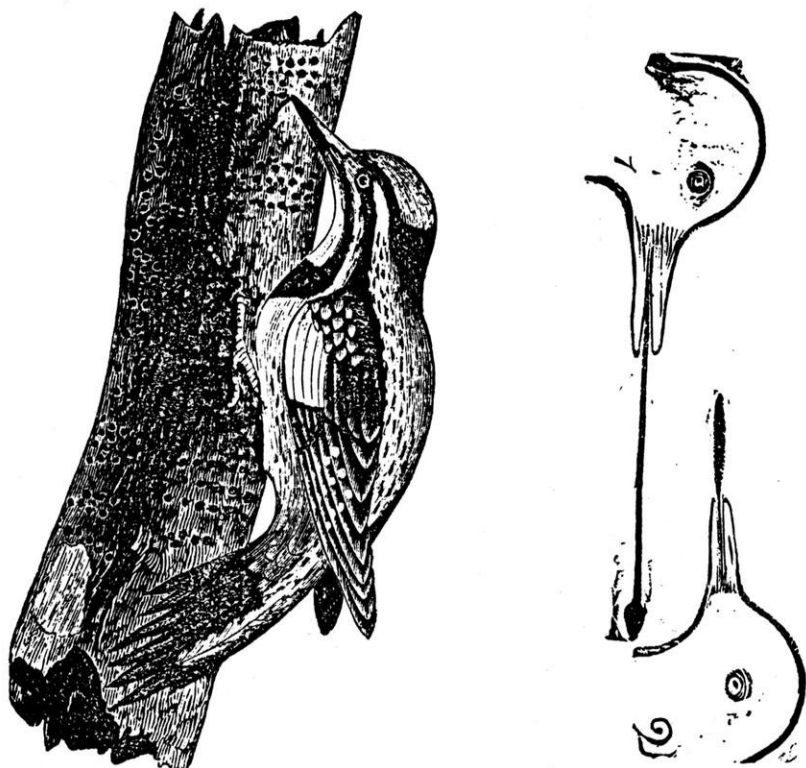
A term so indefinitely applied should either be dropped or restricted to one species, the yellow-bellied Woodpecker which not only sucks the sap, but eats the inner bark, (liber,) of various ornamental, fruit and forest trees.

**Description.**— The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, (*Picus varius* of Naturalists,) is in length 8-½ inches; expanse of wings 15 inches, the whole crown and throat is a rich, deep scarlet red, bordered with black. From the nostrils there is a white stripe running down the sides of the neck, curving slightly around the breast, which has a black spot in the centre. Wings black, with an oval spot of white; the primaries tipped and spotted with the same. Rump white, bordered with black; belly yellow; back dusky yellowish, waved and spotted with white.

The female marked nearly as the male, but wants the scarlet throat, which is whitish.

The young in October have the red mixed and mottled with brown.

The tongue of this species is quite unlike that of any other of our Woodpeckers; the horny tip is very much larger than in any other species, of the same size, with which I am acquainted; the point is rounded, unlike the sharp, lancet-like tip of the Downy, and Harry Woodpecker, so well fitted to explore for those worms that burrow in trees. The tongue is short and stout, admirably adapted for scooping out the inner bark and viscid cambium, (the jelly-like substance which is to form the new growth, situated between the wood and bark,) on which it subsists.



The Sapsucker (*Picus Varius*).

The outline cut will explain the difference between the tongues of the Hairy Woodpecker, figure 1, and that of the yellow-bellied species, figure 2; the birds being nearly of the same size, the tongues are represented as being thrust out to their full length. In vastly the majority of Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers the tongue is not capable of being extended more than from one-half to three-fourths of an inch beyond the beak; while in other species the tongue can be protruded from two to four inches. The stomach, or gizzard, is large and muscular. There are other anatomical peculiarities, all, however, fitting it to procure and digest the bark on which it mostly lives.

Prof. Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institute, has recently constructed the new genus *Sphyrapicus*, of which *Picus varius* is constituted the type: a wise disposition, doubtless, for in habit and voice, as well as anatomically considered, this species differs widely from all other of the so called spotted Woodpeckers.

The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker is found throughout North America, east of the Rocky Mountains; north-west of the great lakes it is the most numerous species. They make their appearance at Racine, Wis., suddenly in large numbers after a warm night, about the 15th of April; for, like many other birds, Woodpeckers migrate only during the night. Then comes



"prime **boy-time**;" armed with bow and arrow, cross-bows, guns, pistols and stones, all sorts and sizes hurry to wage war against the "**Sapsucker**"; and so eager is the pursuit that it is sometimes difficult to determine which do the greater damage for the time, the boys or the birds. The Sapsuckers time is now divided between playing **bo-peep** with the boys, and gouging out the tender bark of various trees; maple, cherry, peach, plum, apple, pear, mountain ash, poplar, pine, spruce, in fact, almost every species of tree suffers more or less. The holes are made on the trunk and large branches, usually in a line running around the tree or branch, so as to girdle it with a row of punctures. These are from one-sixth to one-half an inch in diameter, and placed so close that there is only a narrow septum between, not sufficient, many times, to keep up the circulation and in consequence the tree dies; a result that occurs more frequently from wounds thus made in the summer and fall, when the divisions are more liable to dry, than during the spring when the active forces of vegetable life more readily repair the injury. There is not an orchard or garden of any size in this vicinity, that does not number trees killed outright by these sapsucking Woodpeckers.—All go further North by the 5th of May, except such as remain to nest in the adjacent woods. While in the forest they feed on the bark of the wild cherry, iron wood, basswood, and white oak, but continue to visit neighboring orchards for a more dainty meal, as they prefer thrifty cultivated trees. By the middle of September the young appear in the orchards and gouge the trees in their own hook; they retire South by the first of November. A silent bird, especially when sucking their food, an occasional **kawee, keweeah**, uttered in a minor key, is all the note they have.

I have shot and dissected many at all seasons, and in every case bark was found in the stomach, and in a majority of instances nothing but bark and a few gravel stones, a substance not met with in other species of Woodpeckers. When insects were found they proved to be **ants** and small **beetles**; in no instance have I found the larva of the **borers or elators**, which constitute so large a share of the diet of the Hairy and Downy Woodpecker.

Several years since these facts were communicated to Prof. Joseph Leida, of Philadelphia, who requested me to forward specimens in alcohol, "as my statements were highly interesting, being new to Science." In compliance, I shot a specimen while he was engaged in breakfasting on a Silver-leaved Poplar; I also chipped out that portion of the tree on which he was operating at the time. In answer, Prof. Leida stated that his dissections confirmed my statements in every particular.

I have described the migration as occurring at Racine, which will answer equally well for most localities in the North-west, with the exception of numbers, for it is an interesting fact that for physical reasons elsewhere explained, birds are met in greater variety, and in larger numbers, during their migrations, at this point than in any other place, perhaps in North America. A statement amply proved by the large number of species in my cabinet, collected within ten miles of Racine.

### DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picus pubescens*)

The second species is in rather bad repute for its sapsucking propensity. It is more commonly called the **Little Sapsucker**, in contradistinction to the **Hairy Woodpecker** (*Picus villosus*), which it closely resembles in everything except size; even the same **plick, plick, plip**, is repeated, only in a more feeble voice.

The Downy Woodpecker is only 6-½ inches in length, and 12 inches in expanse of wings — Color, black and white, spotted and streaked; the male has a small red spot on the back of the head; female similar, without the red.

This little hardy species, together with the larger Hairy Woodpecker, remain with us during the entire year.

The habits of this industrious, cheerful bird, have been severely commented upon by many; but I am of the opinion it has been made, unjustly, to answer for the sins of the Yellow-bellied species. That the Downy Woodpecker does, during early spring, tap the maple for the purpose of slaking its thirst, I have had ocular demonstration; and that it makes many small punctures in certain sweet apple-trees, for which it pays rather frequent visits to the orchard, I have but little doubt; yet I **do know** that I have shot and dissected very many with the object of ascertaining the contents of the stomach and in no case have I found vegetable matter; but in all instances I have found abundant evidence that the bird has been engaged in a good work—in destroying the larvae of the **borer** and **elators**, that do so much injury to our fruit and ornamental trees.

There is one valuable office to which so far as I can learn, this species alone is engaged in; that is the destruction of the pupa of the various species of *Atacus*, (the native silkworm moths,) thereby keeping in check and preventing the undue multiplication of the large, voracious larvae of these splendid insects.

Prof. J.P. Kirtland, in his report on the Zoology of Ohio, condemns the Downy Woodpecker for mischief-doing, and invokes that extermination I would call down on the *Picus varius*, and for similar reasons. But I must believe that the Professor has inspected the work of the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, and charged the innocent with the damage. With all the evidence I have collected, in the fourteen years by attention has been directed to the Woodpeckers, with the view of deciding this matter, I would not dare recommend the destruction of the Downy Woodpecker; but, instead, I would commend this bird to the kind protection of the Horticulturist, believing it to be his best interest so to do.

Yours truly,  
P.R. Hoy

From a private letter just received from Dr. Hoy, we venture to make the following pithy extract without further comment:

"I do not know who this Mr. Samuels is; but I do know that he is in **great haste** to remind us of the West that we must be extremely careful how we write or talk of things new, unless we first ask the **BOSTON FOLKS**, for whatever is worth knowing must come from that heaven-

avored spot, where the **shriveled leaves** of the Book of Nature can only be read with profit. The habits of the wild denizens of the western forests can only be studied with profit in the Cabinets of Cambridge or the Museums of Boston—Wonderful Samuel!! Great is Boston!!

“I shall not answer the article, for he is barking up the wrong tree. I have nothing to say against the **Picus villosus**—one of my favorites. I wish I had a spare copy to send to him.

“I will authorize you to say that I will obligate myself to pay the expense of Mr. Samuels from Boston to Racine and home again, if I fail to convince him of the truth of every statement in my lecture.”

### **Shall we Destroy the Sapsucker?**

After this question had been fully settled by nurserymen, and others who have lost their young and tender trees by the injury these birds have inflicted and by such naturalists as Dr. Kirtland of Cleveland, Dr. Hoy of Racine and Dr. Leidy of Philadelphia, it is attempted to be again opened by Mr. E.A. Samuels of Boston, in the March No. of the Wis. Farmer. He has committed the blunder of applying this sap-sucking quality to the wrong bird, and very naturally comes to the conclusion that Dr. Hoy is altogether mistaken. If he should tell us that squirrels do not eat nuts—he knows they do not—because he has examined the stomach of a cat and finds in it only the mangled remains of a mouse—his argument would be about as conclusive as in the present case!

When Mr. Samuels examines the matter with as much care, skill and thorough scientific accuracy, as Dr. Hoy has, he will find reason to apply to himself some of the harsh words he has hurled at that naturalist. It will be found that he is himself the “educated man” who is teaching the “ignorant farmers” absurd doctrines; though he is not a man who has the reputation of being scientific, nor does he “understand the subject of which he speaks.”

L. A. L.

## **BIRDS MOST COMMON**

### **(Did Old Abe Lay an Egg!?)**

There will be no attempt to enumerate all of the birds that visit the upper Mississippi, but only to name those best known to the author. Of the land birds perhaps best known are:

Robin red breast, Baltimore oriole, golden robin or hangnest, ground robin or chewink; yellow-bird, green-bird, eastern blue-bird, cat-bird, snow-bird; house-wren, long-billed marsh-wren; horned lark, shore lark, meadow or field lark; black-and-white creeping warbler, Maryland yellow throat or black masked ground warbler; scarlet tanager, yellowthroated vireo,

warbling vireo, rose-crested grosbeak, indigo bird; cowbird of grey black-bird; blue jay, king bird or bee martin, whippoorwill or night-jar, chimney-swift; night-hawk or bullbat, marsh hawk or harrier, sparrow hawk or pigeon hawk, large brown chicken hawk, blue falcon, brown falcon, broad winged buzzard, white headed or bald eagle, golden eagle, grey or war eagle, osprey or fish eagle or hawk; large white gull, small bluish gray gull; wood thrush, veery, tawny thrush or Wilson's thrush, brown thrush, sandy mocking bird or thrasher, golden crowned thrush, water thrush or water wagtail; barn swallow, white-bellied swallow, cliff swallow, bank swallow, song or English sparrow, chipping sparrow or hair bird, clay colored sparrow; cedar waxwing or cherry bird, American gold finch, rubythroated humming bird, belted kingfisher; black-billed cuckoo, yellow-billed cuckoo; redheaded woodpecker, golden-winged woodpecker, spottedwinged woodpecker, downy woodpecker; great horned owl, red or screech owl, American long-eared owl, barred owl; wild or passenger pigeon, Carolina dove or mourning dove; pinnated grouse or prairie hen, ruffed grouse or partridge, quail or bob white, American woodcock, curlew or large plover, killdeer plover, upland plover, small tip-up plover; American snipe, sand-hill crane, white or whooping crane; great blue heron, green heron; American bittern, junk turtle or stake driver, least bittern; Carolina rail, American coot or mud or water hen, pelican, cormorant or blackjack; swan, Canada goose, brandt goose; blue winged teal, green winged teal; wood or timber-nesting duck, black fall duck, red-billed grebe, mallard duck, red-headed duck, Mariannette duck, spoonbill duck, French rosenelle, canvass-backed duck, saw-bill duck, large fish duck, small fish duck.

It may not be generally known that the bald or white-headed eagle does not grow his white feathers until he is three years old, or that the female, after that age, also has a white head; but it is true, according to my own observation, and that of others. When a boy of about twelve years old, I was induced by a country lad of about my own age to go with him to cut down a tall pine tree in which there was a nest belonging to two white-headed eagles which made their presence known even before we had approached the tree. When we reached the base of the tree, the boy, George Ensign, said that he would chop the tree down if I would guard him and myself against the swoop of the eagles, which became more and more threatening as they descended nearer and nearer as the chopping went on. I prepared myself with a good stout club and stood guard until the tree fell. Just as the tree reached the ground two enormously large grey eagles hopped out of the nest, and spreading their wings they seemed to invite me to battle. I rushed upon both where they stood, and before young Ensign could reach me, I had killed both of them. The white-headed eagles came no nearer to earth after the tree had fallen, and finally disappeared in the sky. Upon examining the dead eagles, which I had supposed to be the female partners of the two white-heads sailing aloft, I found that they were the young eaglets. Though as large in appearance as the parent eagles, their feathers were still immature, and not strong enough for flight. I had always been told that the "bald eagle," was the male, and hence my great blunder in killing the young eagles which George Ensign and myself had designed to surprise our people with. It was a great grievance to both of us, after our long walk and George's great labor in

cutting the tree, but the lesson has been useful to me in compelling closer attention in the study of nature. I am acquainted with several members of the famous "Eagle Regiment," the Eighth Wisconsin, and all agree in the statement that their eagle, "Old Abe," as it was called, did not start out with a white-head, but obtained it after about three years service. Whether true or not, it has been reported that "Old Abe," the hero of many a hard-fought battle, while at Madison in charge of the warden appointed to its care, was proved to be a female by laying eggs.

By LaFayette Houghton Bunell, M.D.

Veteran of the Mexican War of 1846-8, of California Indian War of 1851 and of War of the Rebellion of 1861-5.

Surgeon of Thirty-Sixth Wisconsin Inf.

And

Author of "Discovery of the Yo-sem-i-te."

**From Winona and its environs on the Mississippi in ancient and modern days. Published 1897 in Winona, Minn.**

## IN MEMORIAM —

### Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson

1881 - 1976

Dr. Hartley H.T. Jackson died in 1976 and was buried at Milton, Wisconsin, where he was born on May 19, 1881. He was a Charter Member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and given Honorary Membership in 1942. When W.S.O. dedicated its monument to the Passenger Pigeon at Wyalusing State Park in 1947, he was one of the major speakers with the subject "attitude in Conservation" which was published in **Silent Wings**.

By the time he was 15 years old (1896) he published his first scientific paper and he continued his education with a B.S. at Milton College (1904), M.S. at the University of Wisconsin (1910) and Ph. D at George Washington University (1914). After graduation from the U.W. in Madison he joined the U.S. Biological Investigations (1927-1935). In 1936, he became leader of their Section on Wildlife Surveys, a position he held until his retirement in 1951. Following these more than four decades of active work as an expert in the field of mammalogy, he became a Consultant at the U.S. National Museum.





Dr. Jackson served as Editor of the **Journal of Mammalogy** (1925-29) and by 1961 had authored more than 900 scientific articles of which at least one hundred were important contributions in his field of research. In his taxonomic publications he described 44 new mammals, and in 1961 his definitive book on the "Mammals of Wisconsin" was published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

His three primary articles on Wisconsin Ornithology were: "Notes on the Summer Birds of the Mamie Lake Region" (Auk), "Notes on the Summer Birds of the Door Peninsula, Wisconsin and Adjacent Islands" (TRANS. WASAL), and "Summer Birds of Northwestern Wisconsin" (Passenger Pigeon).

Dr. Jackson's Wisconsin roots were very deep and he was one of the state's most highly respected scientists during the last half century. Although he died at his retirement location of Durham, North Carolina, he was one of Wisconsin's illustrious naturalists--a true native son whose heart always remained here. He had been a member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters for 66 years and of the W.S.O. for 37 years and also was affiliated with many other scientific organizations. At the age of 16 when he entered Milton College, Prof. Ludwig Kumlien introduced him to Ned Hollister, junior author of "Birds of Wisconsin". Hollister became a close friend of Jackson and they both retained their connections with Kumlien, the senior author. According to Dr. A.W. Schorger's excellent article on Hollister (see **Passenger Pigeon**), he helped Jackson secure his first position with the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey in 1910. They worked together closely in Washington, D.C. for many years until Hollister's death 1924. When their mutual friend, Kumlien, died in December, 1902, both of these pioneers in our nation's natural history work were pallbearers at his funeral. These interesting facts were quoted by Dr. Schorger from a letter written by Dr. Hartley H.T. Jackson.

Walter E. Scott  
July 17, 1977

## Book Reviews

**The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, - Eastern Region.** Text by John Bull and John Farrand, Jr., Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1977, 775 pp., \$7.95.

This book, "revolutionary" as it is with its 584 photographs instead of drawings, will never replace Peterson.\* But I fear a lot of newcomers to the world of birds will buy it, lured by its attractive format and big claims, and

\*Peterson, Roger Tory. **A Field Guide to the Birds**, Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston.

if they do not go beyond it, we can expect a whole new wave of wacko reports and erroneous sightings.

In the photographic section, birds are grouped by general appearance (duck-like birds, chicken-like birds) or in the case of the passerines, by color, instead of by family, much as has been done in certain wildflower guides. Unfortunately, rare birds reports cannot be verified as easily as rare plant reports. Therein lies one of several problems.

As the photographs are not made to any particular scale, we find, for example, an enormous-looking Sanderling on the same page with a mere wisp of an Upland Sandpiper, and a Stilt Sandpiper looking every bit as large as its godwit companions. The actual sizes are reported under the pictures, but this is supposed to be a guide for **visual** identification, and I fear the photographs will often be misleading.

It is a disappointing at the least that many of the pictures do not illuminate crucial field marks, or were taken under such odd lighting conditons as to subvert the purpose of the guide. The only Prothonotary Warbler we get seems to have a striking orange head and a mostly blue body. The Eastern Kingbird, sandwiched between the shrikes and a female Pine Grosbeak for some reason, could be taken for a Phoebe, so obscured by shadow is its white-tipped tail; the female Connecticut Warbler looks for all the world like a thrush; and the Mockingbird comes off as a drab brown bird with no white to be seen anywhere. These are extreme examples, of course. The majority of the photographs are good, if somewhat inadequate for identification purposes.

To do this thing right, I think it would be necessary to include, in some cases, two or more shots of the same bird, as in the traditional field guides (perching and flight illustrations). The scattered black and white drawings in the margins of the text of this book do not make up for this lack. Also, the photographs appearing together should be made to the same scale. (And such a field guide would probably have to sell for thirty dollars!)

The text, arranged by habitat, is indeed much more complete than those of the other field guides. It offers in addition to physical description, information on voice, habitat, range and nesting; plus, for each bird, a paragraph on behavior, status or other points of interest.

The problem with this book, simply stated is its pretension to be a better field guide. It is an excellent book, jam-packed with useful information and fine photos, but it is not an excellent field guide. I do indeed recommend its purchase as a supplement, but please, not as a primary field identification guide.

Linda L. Safir

**Adventure of the Stone Man** by Frances Hammerstrom, Illustrated by William Kimber, The Crossing Press, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886, 103 pp, Price - Hardback Cover, \$7.00

This book, brand new and received just as this issue goes to press, is the latest of Fran Hammerstrom's books for children, and in my opinion the best. It is in fact a perfectly delightful and charming book for

children of all ages. This reviewer enjoyed it even more than did his grandson who is fascinated by it. I can't think of a better Christmas present idea for parents and grandparents or non-parents.

It came as a surprise to me to learn that Fran had lived as a small child in the mountains of France. But Dr. Hammerstrom is like a mountain herself; one seems to be continually awed and impressed by some new aspect of her experiences, talents and person. WSO members have long known of her scientific credentials, and knowledge of Prairie Grouse, Hawks, Owls and falconry, but it will come as a surprise to some, I am sure, of her great ability as a children's storyteller. She has a very deft way with words, a wonderful warm empathy with children, and a fine talent for suspense and adventure.

This is really a good story. Marie and Pierre are two children, living in France about 50 years ago. They stumble on a cave in which a rare Eagle Owl lives. On the floor of the cave they find a little stone man. After a series of interesting and exciting adventures, this precious treasure finally is turned over, a super sacrifice by Marie, to the kindly professor from the French National Museum. Marie's generosity, I think, is matched by Fran's generosity. All the proceeds from this book, as other books by Fran are turned over to Raptor Research, a worthy project that requires lots of money. You can purchase this book direct from the author, at Plainfield, Wis. 54966. I suggest you get several.

No small part of the charm of this book is owed to the illustrator, William Kimber, a Canadian who has done, I think, an extraordinary job.

C.A. Kemper

### **Revisions and additions to "Extreme Arrival and Departure Dates", Passenger Pigeon, Fall 1970, XXXII, no. 3.**

**Harlequin Duck:** P. 93 under Fall Arrival Column, delete Nov. 1, 1951-Dixie Larkin, add Aug. 3, 1976, Eric Epstein.

**Snowy Egret:** on P. 88 under Summer status column, insert "nest Aug., 1975 - Daryl Tessen."

**Wilson's Warbler:** on P. 129, under Fall Arrival Column, delete "Aug. 12, 1967, Dennis Gustafson"; insert "Aug. 8, 1976, M. Hardy."

**Hudsonian Godwit:** on page 104, under Fall arrival column, delete "Aug. 30, 1956"; insert Aug. 26, 1976, Daryl Tessen and Dennis Gustafson.

**Rusty Blackbird:** on page 136, under Fall arrival column, delete "Sept. 15, 1958, Alfred Bradford", and insert "Aug. 29, 1976, Daryl Tessen."

**Hawk Owl:** on page 111, under Fall arrival column, delete "Nov. 16, 1925, C.D. Klotz" and insert "Nov. 12, 1976, C. Faanes."

**Piping Plover:** On page 101, under Fall Departure column, delete "Oct. 14, 1965, Karl Priebe", and insert Oct. 29, 1977, Daryl Tessen.

**Black Scoter (Common):** on page 95, under Fall Arrival, delete "Oct. 10, 1953, Gordon Orians", and insert "Sept. 27, 1976, Niemi and Davis".

**Prairie Falcon:** On page 97, under Fall Departure, insert "Oct. 31, 1976, W.A. Smith". Under Exception Dates, delete "only record; hypothetical".

**American Golden Plover:** On page 100, Species column, delete "American" and insert "Lesser".

**Little Gull:** On page 107 under Fall Arrival Column, delete "Oct. 26, 1966, Mary Donald," and insert "Aug. 5, 1976, Eric Epstein".

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