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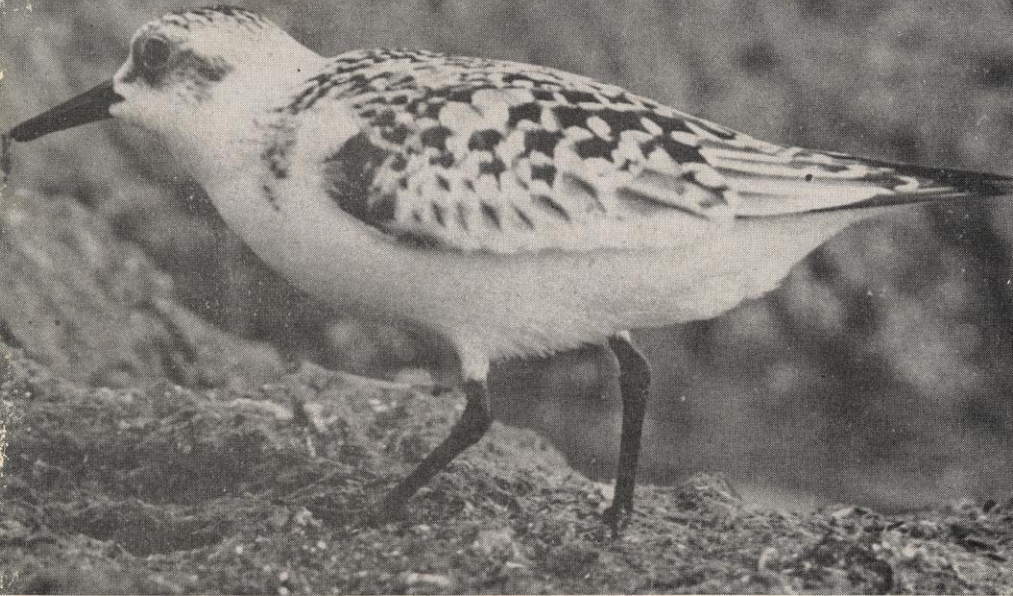
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The
PASSENGER PIGEON

VOLUME IX

October, 1947

NUMBER 4



SANDERLING

PHOTO BY HANS ZELL

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

Published Quarterly By

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, Inc.

NEWS . . .

Although the W. S. O. Supply Department opened last year with a modest stock of books and supplies, it now has a great variety of things to offer. Its policy is to keep the members informed whenever a new commodity comes on the market. Since we hope to give a complete service to members, you may order anything you need in the field of bird study, and we will supply you. All merchandise is sold at prevailing prices and the society pays the postage. Address N. R. Barger, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

Some items that will be purchased heavily this season are:

Peterson's Field Guide, new edition	\$3.50
Pough's Bird Guide, song birds in color	\$3.00
Bird Songs on Records, set of six	\$8.50
Note Paper, paintings by Audubon, set of 20	\$1.00
Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns and	
Life Histories of North American Diving Birds	
by A. C. Bent, new printing, two volumes, each	\$5.00
Bird Houses, Baths and Feeding Shelters, by E. J. Sawyer, illustrated pamphlet20
Hickey's Guide to Bird Watching, bird study with a purpose	\$3.50
Griscom's book "Modern Bird Study," modern methods	\$2.50

The 1948 convention of our society will be held from April 2-4, in Waukesha. Mr. S. Paul Jones announced recently. Mr. Jones is chairman of the convention committees and his dates were approved by our officers during a recent meeting.

The Waukesha convention promises to be a "bang-up" meeting with excellent speakers and movies. Special notices giving details will be mailed to all members during the latter part of March, when reservations will be made.

As last year, a great variety of books and supplies will be on display for pur-

chase. You will want to see this display before stocking up this year. Not only will you find what you want here, but you will help the society also since it gets the entire profit from the sales.

One of the projects the officers decided upon during their recent meeting was to explore the libraries throughout the state as to how well they are supplied with bird books. If the need for additional books is acute, ways and means will be sought to provide them as a society project.

Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison, bird chairman for the Wisconsin Federation of Garden Clubs, again is building up a great interest in bird study throughout the state. Each local garden club has a bird chairman operating under her supervision.

Those members who have manuscript under preparation for **The Passenger Pigeon** could help us catch up on our schedule of publishing the magazine, if they would send in their manuscript immediately after reading this issue. Photographs of Wisconsin birds also are welcome for publication.

A field list of birds has been prepared for the District of Columbia and environs by a staff of authors. We are acquainted with Chandler S. Robbins, brother of Sam Robbins, and Roger Tory Peterson, who are two of the authors. The booklet is arranged with migration charts and lists very much in the same manner as our yellow-bound booklet.

While taking a short vacation in Virginia last year, the Bargers observed the behavior of two species of vultures when attacked by a mockingbird. The carcass of a skunk had attracted some vultures to the nesting territory of a mockingbird. First a turkey vulture alighted on a fence post and was promptly attacked between the shoulder blades by the mockingbird. There was a perceptible flinch, but the vulture ignored the thrusts although they were repeated and, apparently, sharp. Then a black vulture took his turn on the same fence post and was also attacked. This vulture could not stand the thrusts, it seemed, but turned about nervously each time he was attacked and then retreated. Whether or not these traits are characteristic we do not know.

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REMINISCENCES OF WISCONSIN BIRDING

By HERBERT L. STODDARD*

Thomasville, Georgia

I came a long way to attend this convention, largely passing the warbler migration enroute. When I left Georgia full summer conditions prevailed.

The man who started me on my bird work as a small boy was an old time government surveyor by the name of Barber from Grant County, Wisconsin. We both lived in what is now Seminole County, Florida, from 1893 until 1900. Barber was interested in and knew birds and was an amateur taxidermist. I saw quite a few ivory-billed woodpeckers at that time in the beautiful pine and hardwood forests, which had scarcely been touched by the axe at that time. These were seen in many long trips made with a cattleman, now dead, who had cattle ranging over a half dozen counties north of Kissimmie.

My first field work in Wisconsin was at Delavan Lake in 1900 just after returning from the South. An old Aunt had a cottage on this beautiful lake and I spent three months roaming about. I did not realize that I was on classic ground, having never heard of Ned Hollister and his work there; Hollister was still there at that time. Later on in Washington, D. C., I came to know him well.

I will summarize briefly my Wisconsin work, before going into detail, so you will know what I am talking about. The summers of 1901-04 were spent at Prairie du Sac working with my Grandfather in the pump and windmill-building moving work. Prairie du Sac was our family home, Grandfather having moved there over a hundred years ago. From 1905 to 1909 I worked on a farm on Sauk Prairie—but winters were spent working in Ed. Ochsner's taxidermy shop. From 1910 to 1913 and again from 1920 to 1924 I worked with the Milwaukee Public Museum and from 1913 to 1920 with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. A good deal of field work was carried on in Wisconsin for both institutions. I have been in and out of Wisconsin since. In 1929 and 1930 I visited the State on several occasions in connection with Dr. Paul Errington's quail studies, as a representative of the U. S. Biological Survey; also in connection with other game work of Prof. Aldo Leopold, my host on this visit. During the last seven years I have not had the pleasure of seeing the beloved State until the past couple of days.

My early days of birding in Wisconsin were indeed in the "horse and buggy" days, only I was not so fortunate as to have a horse and buggy; "shanks mare" being the means of getting around. Those were the days of the natural history cabinet. Almost every well settled, respectable family had a natural history cabinet of some sort in the parlor. There were many amateur taxidermists, and a mounted horned owl for every mantel piece. The largest collections of mounted birds in our section were the Ochsner collection, a collection being formed by Mr. Albert Gastrow, and the Wiswall collection of Madison, also a collection down by Lodies Mill. The smaller collection of birds, minerals,

*Banquet speech delivered at the 1947 convention in Madison.

clam shells, etcetera, were scattered everywhere. They are now rare and seldom seen; I hope that it does not mean that people are getting away from Nature.

In my opinion Wisconsin is one of the most interesting states for bird study that I have ever worked in. You have that tremendous migration up the Mississippi and Wisconsin River valleys and another great route up the west shore of Lake Michigan. Bird students in the eastern part have an opportunity to study the waterfowl and shorebirds of the Lake, while all of you can look forward to the influx of rare and spectacular birds coming down at intervals out of the North. There has been the great movement of Carolinian fauna northward into the state. Around 1921 the cardinal and tufted titmouse were moving in, while the red-bellied woodpecker was already present in the Sauk region by 1905, if not earlier. The same movement brought in the Bewick's wren, the Kentucky and blue-winged warblers, yellow-breasted chat and Acadian flycatcher, and still continues, judging from the notes I read in **The Passenger Pigeon**. Then there is that eastward movement of western species into the state, the best known examples being the western meadowlark and the Brewer's blackbird, with the magpie to follow. This eastward movement of western species is just as striking as the northward movement of southern species. It may be as much due to the vast changes made in the landscape by man as due to climatic influences. In any case it is a fertile field for study and speculation, and less depressing than the contemplation of those species that have gone on or become rare during the same period. All such changes make life interesting for the bird lover and ornithologist.

I doubt if there is a more interesting portion of the state than the "Sauk Region"—I mean a district of about twenty-five miles centering on Prairie du Sac. It is tremendously diversified and about all it lacked in the early days was a really large lake. As a rule I do not approve of power dams, but the one at Prairie du Sac, which was built during my period of active field work in the region, corrected this deficiency. But man has laid a heavy hand on the section, all with adverse affect except in the case of Lake Wisconsin.

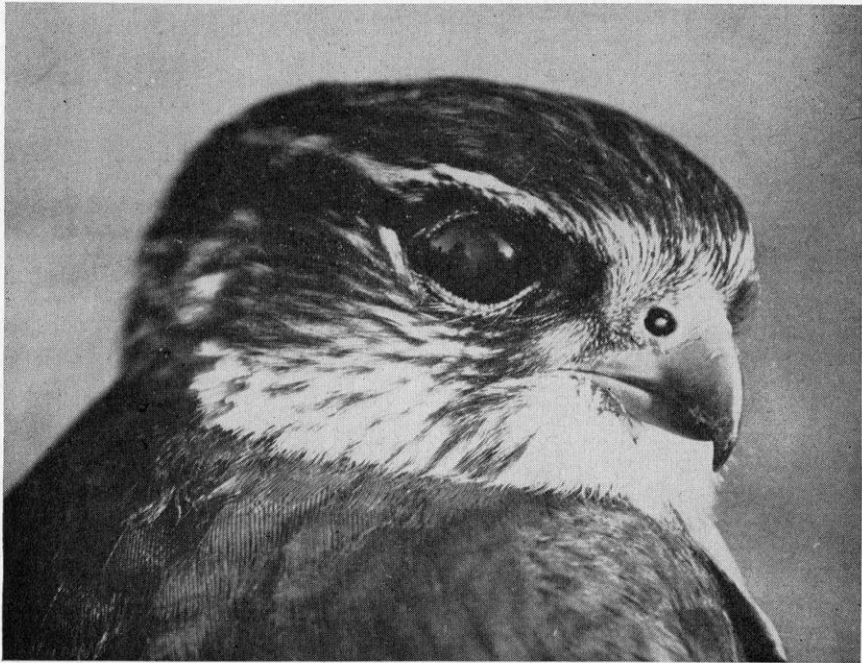
Birding Excellent Around Ferry Bluff

After the period of early work in the Sauk region, and after getting into museum work, I made a series of trips into the region for the museums. During all of the work out there we had a great deal of invaluable volunteer assistance from nature loving friends there. Three individuals left their work whenever we arrived and helped more than if they had been on the payroll, but never a cent would they willingly take. I refer to the late Ed. Ochsner and Bert Laws, and my good friend Albert Gastrow. Laws lived across the River from Ferry Bluff, one of the beauty spots of Wisconsin. I do not know whether the golden eagle can be listed as a nesting bird of Wisconsin on the basis of the great nest of juniper limbs Bert Laws pointed out to me on the cliff face a couple of miles down river from Ferry Bluff. It had been occupied only a couple of seasons previously when Laws showed it to me in 1911. I believe remnants still exist on that ledge for juniper limbs are most enduring. Anyway, it is a record as far as I am concerned, for Laws knew both the golden eagle and the bald eagle in all plumages and was positive in his

statements regarding the nesting birds, which "hung around" both summer and winter until one was shot.

Laws told me likewise of the nesting of the duck hawk on the cliffs across from his home, a fact we verified in a couple of hours. He stated that they had nested there each season for about twenty-five years to his knowledge. I believe the species has nested there most seasons during the thirty-six years since. Neither Ochsner nor I had known of the nesting of either the duck hawk or the golden eagle, only about twelve miles below us on the Wisconsin.

Something of exciting interest was always turning up in the Ochsner taxidermy shop. Among the things I recall was the finding of porcupine quills in the breast of an occasional great horned owl. As porcupines did not occur nearer than a hundred miles to the north, the movement



ALTHOUGH SELDOM SEEN, THE PIGEON HAWK DOES OCCUR IN WISCONSIN
PHOTO BY GEORGE PRINS

southward of these great owls was clearly indicated. A single specimen of the Canada lynx passed through our hands that was killed locally; Dr. Schorger has put this on record. Other rarities were a brown pelican, eared grebes, and a gyrfalcon, which is now mounted in the Milwaukee Museum. The first four or five Alleghanian least weasels reported for the state passed through Ochsner's hands, mostly landing in the Milwaukee Museum.

Among my particularly striking memories was the great goshawk migration of the winter of 1907-08. I have never experienced anything like it before or since; they literally invaded that country. There was lots of snow that winter and I actually saw more piles of

ruffed grouse feathers scattered through the woods than I had thought there were grouse in the region. On every trip afield one could see or hear these fierce creatures and several specimens were personally taken, and more handled in the Ochsner shop.

I saw my first Bohemian waxwings and evening grosbeaks during the following winter; an event always remembered by a bird lover. In 1910 a Townsend's solitaire appeared among the ground junipers on a bluff overlooking the Wisconsin River. This specimen was collected and mounted by Albert Gastrow, and later presented to the Milwaukee Museum. We always looked for another when passing the spot; not knowing at the time how few had ever been taken east of the Mississippi.

There was the changing point in my life when the huge bull hippo died in the Ringling Brothers winter headquarters in Baraboo in late February, 1910. Ed. Ochsner and I happened to be up there, and he obtained the specimen for the Milwaukee Museum. The museum's chief taxidermist, Mr. George Schrosbree came out on the midnight train and I helped him prepare the skin and skeleton for shipping; a bitterly cold week's job, with the thermometer ranging from zero to twenty below. Many such jobs turned up in following years when desired circus animals died, but I will always remember the hippo job, for it enabled me to realize a long ambition and get a job in bird work with a museum.

Turkey Vulture At Home Along the Mississippi

Then followed a series of fine collecting trips for the Milwaukee Museum. In the summer of 1910 we were on the Mississippi River, making camp at Prescott, Maiden Rock, and Fountain City and collecting extensively at each place. Many exciting things happened on that trip—my first for a museum. I heard my first sawwhet owl at Prescott but my nightly forays failed to collect the elusive bird. Also I became acquainted with the clay-colored sparrow at Prescott, and collected an orchard oriole and gray fox there. I felt right at home on the camp overlooking Lake Pepin for the turkey vultures were common (as they had been around my Florida residence) and came around camp in numbers, attracted by the skinned bodies of the specimens we had prepared.

Late November and December found me again at Prescott collecting both birds and mammals. It was very interesting to observe the large number of winter ducks there. The season was very cold and the water was choked with blocks of floating ice. The ducks would float down the River, then fly up again, and repeat the exercise the day long. I very nearly lost my life trying to retrieve a golden-eye that I had dropped near the thin edge of the ice between two wing dams. Went through the ice, pole and all, just before reaching the specimen and had a hard time clambering back on the ice, which broke off piece by piece. Finally I got out and made my way some mile and a half to the farm house, where the icy coat of mail was melted off before a red-hot coal stove. The worst of the adventure, which is commonplace in a collector's life, was the loss of the duck.

On this trip I saw a track of a least weasel among the corn shocks on this farm. The farmer promised to be on the lookout for the specimen when he hauled in the shocks. Sure enough a fine specimen in the pure white coat arrived at the museum later in the winter from this source.

The spring of 1911 found me gathering habitat group material for the museum in the Prairie du Sac region; we wanted a group showing nesting of all the important species of hawks and owls of the state. We soon had a fine series of red-tailed hawk nests under observation, climbing to them about three times a week so as to get the young in just the most attractive stage. Also, we soon located nests of the red-shouldered,



THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, A SOUTHERN SPECIES, NESTS RARELY IN WISCONSIN
PHOTO BY GEORGE PRINS

Cooper's and duck hawk, marsh hawk, long-eared owl, barred owl and many others. In this connection, I would like to go back and check on the present status of these fine birds; I fear that a great decline would be evident.

I suffered a knee injury on June 12th which handicaps me to this day, and stopped the work at that point. But worst of all I missed the museum's expedition to Wyalusing in Grant County, which I have always regretted exceedingly.

During the spring and early summer of 1913 I worked around Sauk, the Baraboo bluffs and the Wisconsin River bottoms. Conditions were very favorable for warblers in the Baraboo bluffs at that time and Blackburnians, golden-wings, blue-wings, Nashville, black-throated green, cerulean warblers and Louisiana water thrush, as well as the little Acadian flycatchers nested in greater or lesser abundance in Baxter Hollow. Most of these were only observed during the breeding season, as I knew little of the technique of locating warbler nests at that time. I imagine conditions have greatly changed for better or worse by now, as they were rapidly cutting out the larger hardwood at that time.

Ned Hollister set the pace in one very worthwhile type of ornithological study at Delavan. He came back after a period of fifteen to twenty years and restudied and published on the changes in bird life that had

occurred during that period. I would like to do the same in some favored haunts in Wisconsin, and can recommend the job to others; especially to those who knew a locality intimately, were entirely absent from it for a long period, then had the opportunity to return and record the changes both in ecology and bird life.

As early as 1900, pileated woodpeckers had apparently been "shot out" of both the Baraboo bluffs and the Wisconsin River bottoms, where later they became nearly as common as flickers. I saw none there previously to 1910, and both Ochsner and Laws stated that they had been gone since around 1900. I did not realize then that a decline had taken place across the northern portion of the bird's range. It is an especially interesting case, for the birds had disappeared while their forest range was still in pretty good condition. Then they staged a spectacular comeback on more or less devastated range. The answer is that they were shot and eaten by woodsmen, principally fur trappers, until laws protecting non-game birds became too rigid for such behaviour. So this particular decline of a large, showy bird was the direct result of shooting; not because of deterioration of environment, as is so often the case.

During the Spring of 1922, Mr. Schrosbree and I made a trip to Fox Lake to collect material for a great blue heron group, and enjoyed a few days of life in the tree tops; most of the nests in this colony being seventy (plus) feet above the ground in huge hardwoods. Wisconsin has been pretty rough on this species because of its supposed damage to game fish. But the Fox Lake birds at least were feeding almost one hundred per cent on carp, as examination of both stomachs and the nests showed. Later the same season we collected group material of the black-crowned night heron from a colony near Darlington.

Big Muskego Lake was a paradise for nesting water birds in the twenties; I do not know what it is like now. Black terns, Florida gallinules and yellow-headed blackbirds especially nested there in greater numbers than I have ever seen elsewhere. I recall finding thirty-five of the gallinule nests there in one day. Sora, Virginia and some king rails nested there, too, and the only Wilson's phalaropes I got acquainted with in Wisconsin. This was a favorite weekend spot for several years.

Bar Creek on the Lake Michigan shore south of Sheboygan was another favorite week-end collecting and observing spot during this period. Later many happy days were spent there with Owen Gromme, Clarence Jung and at times S. Paul Jones. We started the banding of shorebirds there, for a cheese factory above discharged wastes into the creek which stepped up the plankton and insect life to a remarkable degree; a fact that caused it to be a great gathering place for shorebirds. Jung and I ran into the most spectacular hawk migration I have ever seen there one October day; the start of the hawk studies carried on so intensively later by the Milwaukee ornithologists.

My most interesting experience with the spot was on a fall trip alone when hundreds, possibly thousands of phalaropes were noted far offshore; too far to tell with the glasses whether they were northern or reds, or both. It was on a Sunday and no boats were available. I had to know what species were there, so nothing to do but strap the old Parker on a driftwood log, swim out and shoot a specimen, which was done. All proved to be northern phalaropes. It was a long and very cold battle with the waves. It was a strange feeling to be swimming right among the

flocks; the birds alternately being in the trough of a wave below, or on the crest above the line of sight. I found shooting one on the water impossible, but finally picked off one flying with a flock overhead. It is sometimes hard going to properly "clinch" a bird record. In this case the specimen had to be carried a quarter of a mile in the teeth. Later, a single specimen of a red phalarope (my only experience with the species to date) was collected right in the mouth of Bar Creek. I envy the ones who can still camp out in that spot, a painting of which (by Gromme) still hangs on my wall.

I came to Wisconsin too late to know Hoy, Kumlien, or King, who did such wonderful work in the state. I did, however, get to know Dr. Cory (who did more on Wisconsin mammals) very well. I first saw him at the Milwaukee Museum while he was making his studies for "Mammals of Illinois and Wisconsin." I was delegated to relax and remove the skull from a tiny mounted shrew that had long posed as the rare Hoy's shrew. A glance at the teeth and the great man promptly pronounced it the lowly common shrew. We were all much let down. But if I missed knowing many of the early great, I have had better luck with the following crop, and value among my personal friends, Wetmore, Jackson, the late August Schoenebeck (a real ornithologist, whose records are often doubted by those not so fortunate as to have known him), Schorger, Leopold, Gromme, and Jung, all of whom are leaving their mark in ornithology. Then there is Bob Becker, of Beloit, an ornithologist to start with, who is making a reputation in another field. After giving up South American bird collecting he took over the old outdoor column of "Woods and Waters" of the Chicago Tribune, where he still carries on. This was one of the first outdoor features in the Mid-West; now there are scores of them.

Though many do not realize the fact, the great Carl E. Akley was intimately tied up with early Wisconsin ornithology and Museum work; before he became world famous as a mammal taxidermist, animal sculptor and inventor. While his great monument is in the old Field Museum in Chicago (I refer to the great series of African mammal groups, which took the best years of Akley's prime), the Milwaukee Museum can well treasure the muskrat group prepared by him in 1889, and the exquisitely mounted warblers in the synoptic collection there, labelled as from Elm Grove. The muskrat group is probably the first mammal habitat group prepared in America, and of great historical value. Akley once tried to raise a half million dollars for the preparation of a great series of groups of Illinois nesting birds to be exhibited in the Field Museum; had it succeeded it would probably have been the finest bird group display in the world. But the trustees of that institution evidently preferred the spectacular African groups, still proudly displayed in Chicago.

This is the second bird meeting I have attended in Wisconsin; the first being a meeting of the Kumlien Club in Madison some years ago. I am astonished at the growth of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology; this banquet would do credit to the American Ornithologist's Union as would the attendance at the meetings. I hope and believe this will become an even greater organization to help combat needless devastation of wildlife habitat within the state; a need never greater than at the present time.

SOME NOTES ON THE RUFFED GROUSE

By ALFRED S. BRADFORD

In early May 1934, I was trout fishing on the Peshtigo River north-east of Mountain. There were many ruffed grouse about and the males were in a frenzy of sexual excitement. Never before or since have I seen them so belligerent. Puffing out their feathers, erecting their crests, spreading their tails, they acted as though they wanted to dispute the right of way and moved out of our road only with the greatest reluctance. While all the woods was loud with their drumming.

At this season of the year fierce battles take place between the cock birds which in some cases do not cease until one is dead. In the spring of 1944 on Highway 70 in Vilas County I saw two grouse locked in combat so closely entwined they looked like a swiftly revolving ball. A car ahead passed close to them. Whereupon they separated. One ran swiftly back into the brush. The other, evidently badly wounded, fell on its side and lay there fluttering. The car had no sooner passed than the first bird returned, sprang on its prostrate antagonist and drove its beak into its brain again and again. Nor did it leave the body until I approached within a few feet.

Some years before this I interrupted another fight on my cottage road in the same county. The birds engaged like game cocks, springing two or three feet in the air and striking with bill, wing and foot. Their crests were erect, tails spread and eyes fiercely intent. I tried to draw back but they saw me and flew in opposite directions with a roar of wings.

In Vilas County the chicks evidently hatch the last of May for a number of times I have encountered a hen with her brood of downy young on Memorial Day fishing trips. A chicken-like cluck with a rising note of warning on the end sends the young ones scurrying into hiding while the mother tried to lead me away with the age old ruse of the broken wing and much outcry in a loud whining voice more like an animal than a bird. I have never tried very diligently to find the chicks for fear of stepping on them, so well do their colors blend with the forest floor.

The life of the grouse is one of constant peril. But the time of greatest mortality is from the laying of the egg in late April or early May until the chick grows big enough to fly in mid-July. The hen nests on the ground and the young follow her as soon as they are dry. A great variety of birds and beasts are ready to make a meal of eggs or birds or both if they can find them. However, their greatest enemy is the weather. Extreme drops in the temperature, snow, hail and especially prolonged rains destroy great quantities of eggs and young birds. And it is an almost invariable rule that a mild May and June mean a noticeable increase in the ruffed grouse population.

As far as I can discover the cock takes no part in the rearing of the brood. Only once have I seen two adult birds with a partly grown covey.

One June day I was brushing in a swamp northeast of Black Creek when I heard the dispersal cluck of a hen partridge followed by the sharp "sssang" of an angry snake. The sound increased in intensity and

was accompanied by excited high pitched "clucking." Cautiously advancing through the brush I saw two grouse belligerently confronting a large pine snake. The latter acted surprised and very very angry. The birds menaced him now from one side and now from another. First one and then the other would spring completely over him. Their crests were erect, their tails jerked nervously, they kept up their high pitched utterance, and their eyes gleamed as the cock birds do in their spring combats.

Quietly though I had come, the actors in this strange scene saw or heard me. One bird flew, the other came up to lead me away from the hiding chicks and the snake hastily wriggled off.

Was the snake looking for young partridge to eat or had he just happened along at the wrong time? Were the grouse a mated pair or did the hen's alarm note bring an old cock or chickless hen to the rescue? I will never know, and that is the trouble with most of our nature observations. We catch but unconnected glimpses of our wild neighbors and often we misinterpret what we see. It is like having a curtain rise, instantly fall, and being asked, not only to describe but also to explain what we saw on the crowded stage.

In September when the grouse commence to frequent the logging roads and less used graveled highways one can tell what kind of a nesting season they have had, as they are still in their family groups. More than five or six birds together is unusual and even in good years there are many couples and singles. Thus, some idea of the heavy mortality may be gained when one considers that the hen will average from eight to fifteen eggs per clutch.

After the frenzy of the mating season the grouse apparently get along together with a minimum of friction. In this they are unlike the ring-necked pheasant, both sexes of which seem to be always brawling. Often in late September or early October I have quietly come to some wintergreen covered knoll and, sitting down, patiently waited for the birds I have scared away to return. It seldom takes more than ten minutes if there has been no shooting. And as long as I sit perfectly still they pay no attention to me, but stir a cramped limb and they are gone in a thunder of wings not to return a second time.

Observing them on these occasions I have been struck by their resemblance to domestic doves. The males will often extend their ruffs, bow, dip, and strut. They share their food, one bird calling the others when it has found something choice. When all is going well many of the birds will utter a hen-like cluck, but lower, softer. When excited or scared they utter a shriller sound and at times a squawk. I am of the opinion that they are not nearly as watchful as their cousins the prairie chickens or the sharptails. Certainly they are much easier to approach. Perhaps this is because of their confidence in their speed and the protection of the forest. But over the years I have seen many instances when that confidence was misplaced and they would have profited by a little more wariness.

Winter with its snow and cold and consequent difficulty in finding food breaks up the coveys and scatters the birds far and wide. When spring comes 'round again their ranks have been drastically thinned, so that each year they are dependent on a good nesting season to keep up their numbers.

Appleton, Wisconsin, 1947.

THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE'S NEST

By ALVIN M. PETERSON

You no doubt have heard, read, or noticed that the Baltimore oriole is fond of, and often nests in the American elm, fastening its woven pouch to the tip of a high outer branch. The nest is often found in a little crotch and securely anchored with store string and other similar things. The pouch is constricted at the top into a neck or throat and then widens and forms the bag proper which is lined with hair. String, hair, and a grayish plant fibre, milkweed bark no doubt, are the chief materials used to form a structure so tough you will have trouble getting it from the branch and taking it apart.

That the books are right when they say the Baltimore oriole prefers the American elm when nesting, seems to be borne out by a little study I made during the months of December, January, and February one year, when I took ten long walks and listed the nests found and trees in which built. These walks were made in La Crosse and Onalaska—Onalaska was covered from end to end but the La Crosse walks confined to the vicinity of Myrick Park, Oak Grove Cemetery, and the North Side.

One hundred and four nests were found and these had been built in eight species of trees, the American elm, cottonwood, soft maple, hickory, burr oak, hackberry, box-elder, and cherry. A few of the nests were badly frayed—several trees held two nests, while a lone wide-spreading elm near the Roosevelt School in La Crosse, three, one in good condition, another showing signs of wear or weathering, and the third sadly disintegrated. It seems likely that where two or three nests are found in a given tree that they may have been built by the same bird in succeeding years.

A glance at the table will show that but one nest was found in a burr oak. This was in the pasture and fell to the ground before the next nesting season arrived, when orioles again used the tree and built directly above the old nest on the ground, so straight above that had a plumb been dropped from the new nest it must have come to rest on the fallen. The following table gives the data secured, with date, nests observed, and trees in which found:

NESTS OBSERVED

	Dec.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Tot.
Tree	25	26	9	11	14	15	16	30	6	27		
Amer. Elm	7	8	6	4	1	3	9	8	5	9		60
Hickory	1		2									3
Burr Oak	1											1
Soft Maple		1	3				1		4	1		10
Cottonwood			6	2	2	2	2	2	3			19
Hackberry				2	1	1			2			6
Boxelder					1		3					4
Cherry							1					1
Totals	9	9	17	8	5	6	16	10	14	10		104

Onalaska, Wisconsin, 1947.

The 1947 Nesting Season

By REV. SAMUEL D. ROBBINS, Jr.

Heretofore it has been customary to include significant nesting data with the main body of field notes. However, it is felt that the value of this data may be increased by reserving it for an annual summary devoted exclusively to nesting data. This constitutes the first experimental attempt by **The Passenger Pigeon** to compile such a summary.

The question may well be asked: "How many species of birds nested within Wisconsin's borders this year?" Specific records are available for the nesting of 116 species—"specific records" being construed to include nests actually found, and young birds observed that are not fully grown and are unable to fly more than very short distances. The likelihood is that 175 or more species nested within our borders this year, but records available are necessarily sketchy and incomplete.

The spring arrival of most of the nesting birds was somewhat retarded by the cold spring weather, making it quite inevitable that the nesting season should be late in getting under way. Birds in the north and east sections of the state were further handicapped by a heavy snow fall on May 29. Therman Deerwester reported seeing many dead birds on the highway in Door County, mostly birds that may well have been nesting at the time. Carl Richter reports that a number of nests that he had under observation were deserted after that storm. With the cold spring weather retarding nesting operations, the nesting season dragged on later than usual; only the mild autumn weather saved many young birds that might otherwise have been lost. Mrs. Owen reports mourning doves still feeding their young in Hudson on September 29. Robbins found young indigo buntings, scarcely able to fly, in Neillsville on September 26, at a date when these birds would normally have left for the south.

There would be no point in mentioning all the species that nested in Wisconsin this year, but a brief summary of some of the more unusual and interesting highlights will be of interest.

Lesser Loon: A nest of this species with two eggs was found in Iron County on June 2 (Mrs. Sell). This nest was subsequently destroyed by high water on June 15.

American Egret: Three were reported nesting at Horicon Marsh, June 30 (Mathiak).

Black-crowned Night Heron: In Racine a nest was found with one egg on April 27 (E. Prins).

Canada Goose: A female and five young were reported from Portage County on July 29 and again on August 5 (R. L. Rottler)

Gadwall: In Green Bay a colony of seven nests was noted on July 16 by J. M. Rubesch. The nests contained from seven to fifteen eggs apiece. Six days later 47 of the total of 78 eggs had hatched; 31 were lost.

Green-winged Teal: A female and three young are reported from Burnett County, Aug. 7, by Hopkins, Stone and Thompson.

Wood Duck: Three nests were observed in Pierce County by J. A. Campbell. One seen on June 5 contained 14 young, and was located in a maple tree 500 feet from Lake Pepin. A second seen two days later was in an oak tree, 200 feet from the lake; this nest contained seven young. On July 19 a brood of 11 young, in a nest in a maple tree, probably constituted a second brood.

Ring-necked Duck: A nest of this species was found in Waukesha County, June 17 (G. Orians-Treichel).

Hooded Merganser: A brood of 11 young is reported in Polk County, June 24 (Norman Stone). Hovind found broods of young birds in Chipewa, Burnett and Rusk Counties during the summer months.

Turkey Vulture: One of the prize nesting records of the year. In the town of Armstrong, Oconto County, Carl Richter discovered a nest with one young bird, not yet feathered, in a crevice in a granite rock. The bird was seen on July 20 and 27. This is the first known nesting record for the species in Wisconsin.

Goshawk: Another uncommon nesting record is this nest with two young, found in Vilas County, May 29 (Thompson-Stroebe). The nest was located in a white birch tree, 35 feet above the ground.

Cooper's Hawk: A nest with four eggs was found in Oconto County, May 25 (C. Richter).

Broad-winged Hawk: In Oconto County Richter found six nests, each containing one or two eggs. The eggs in one nest were destroyed by crows that nested nearby.

Bald Eagle: A nest with one young was discovered in Vilas County, June 4 (Hovind). The nest was in a cedar swamp, forty feet up in a birch tree. Another nest with two young was found in Iron County, near the shore of a lake, on April 16 (Mrs. Sell). Carl Richter found another nest with two young in Marinette County on June 1.

Marsh Hawk: In Jefferson County a nest with four young was reported on July 15 (Paul Kennedy).

Prairie Chicken: A brood of seven was noted in Langlade County, Aug. 13 (Miersch). The young were about three-fourths grown, and were seen dusting in a small road.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Fifteen eggs were counted in a nest near a pine plantation in Forest County, June 3 (Bradle). Twelve of the eggs hatched between June 15 and 21.

Hungarian Partridge: In Green County a brood of nine young, a day or two old, was found in a hayfield, July 8 (N. L. Hicks). Another brood of 12 was reported in Rock County, Aug. 13 (Neugebauer).

Reeves' Pheasant: Evidence that this recently introduced species is taking hold is furnished by the report of three young, about three weeks old, observed in Waukesha County, July 18 (C. P. Fox).

King Rail: Reported nesting in Milwaukee by several observers. At least two young were observed.

Virginia Rail: A nest with six eggs was seen in Oshkosh, July 9 (Kaspar).

Florida Gallinule: Three nests were found in Waukesha County, June 16-18 (Orians-Treichel). A nest with ten eggs was seen in Oshkosh, June 20 (Kaspar). A brood of five young was seen near Green Bay, July 22 (Rubesch). Two young, not yet full grown, were seen in Madison, Aug. 30 (Robbins).

Killdeer: A pair found a baseball park in Pardeeville, Columbia County, a suitable place for nesting activities—until the baseball season got under way. With ball players doing their best to cooperate, the birds persevered through the first few games, but it is not known if the nest was ultimately successful.

Woodcock: Evidence of nesting activity has come from ten different counties covering most of the state. The earliest date is of a nest with four eggs in Oconto County, April 21 (Hovind).

Black-billed Cuckoo: A nest with three young was seen in Oconto County, July 4 (Carl Richter).

Barred Owl: In Oconto County, a nest with three eggs, April 27 (Carl Richter).

Pileated Woodpecker: Two nests were studied in Oconto County by Carl Richter. Excavation for both nests was nearly complete by mid-April, and both had four eggs early in May. One nest was located within 200 feet of nests of the red-shouldered hawk and barred owl, but the nesting of all proceeded harmoniously.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: In Waupaca, parents were carrying food from a feeder to their nestlings on July 3. On July 13 the parents brought their young to the feeder, and they continued coming until August (Mrs. Peterson).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A nest with five fresh eggs was found in Oconto County, June 1 (Carl Richter).

Crested Flycatcher: One pair nested in a burr oak close to a heron rookery near Kenosha (Mrs. Higgins). Two nests in the residential section of Appleton were reported by Mrs. Rogers. One was in a drain spout, and the nest was destroyed when the spout was cleaned. The other nest was in a hollow tree; one of the adults was shot, but the other was observed feeding the young on July 19.

Alder Flycatcher: Nine nests were located in Oconto County during the latter half of June (Carl Richter). Most contained three or four eggs.

Prairie Horned Lark: On May 9 the eggs in a nest at Black River Falls hatched (Mrs. Roberts).

Tree Swallow: A nest with 7 eggs and a cowbird egg was found in Oconto County, June 13 (Carl Richter). Other nests were reported from Mercer, May 20 (Mrs. Sell), and from Rhinelander, June 3 (Miss Almon)

Bank Swallow: About 20 pair nested in the clay banks along the shore of Lake Michigan near Two Rivers (Mrs. Smith). Bank and rough-winged swallows did not have good luck this year at Loganville. About 35 pair began nesting, but a night flood destroyed all the nests, and only two pair survived to nest again (Kruse).

Tufted Titmouse: Found nesting in Grant County, May 11 (Kaspar), and in Dane County, May 18 (Barger).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: One pair remained in Mercer all summer, raised a brood of young, and brought them to a feeder after they were full grown (Mrs. Sell).

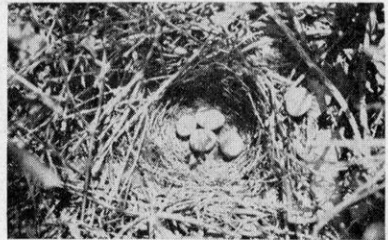


PHOTO BY HANS ZELL
NEST OF BROWN THRASHER LOCATED ON THE GROUND IN SUN LIGHT ALL DAY. NOTE THE COWBIRD EGG IN THE NEST AND THRASHER EGG ON NEST RIM.

House Wren: In Two Rivers one pair raised two broods. The first was scarcely out on its own before the second was started (Mrs. Smith). Near Oconto on June 29, Carl Richter found a nest in the hollowed top of a five-foot tall birch stub, only two and one-half inches in diameter. This nest contained four young. Richter believes that the size of a nesting cavity may sometimes help determine how many eggs a bird lays.

Winter Wren: A pair was observed off and on during the summer at Camp Long Lake, Fond du Lac County. On July 20 the parents were observed with a brood of four young (Mallow).

Prairie Marsh Wren: On May 7 this species was already starting to construct a nest in Two Rivers (Lintereur). In Oconto County young birds left the nest on July 13 (Carl Richter). In Oshkosh 29 nests were observed from July 9 to 19; there were no eggs and young, and it appeared that about 20 were dummy nests (Kaspar).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: A nest with five eggs was found in Oconto County, June 7 (Carl Richter).

Catbird: A nest found in Mercer on May 27 was later abandoned, but the pair probably re-nested (Mrs. Sell). In Oshkosh Kaspar found three different nests containing a total of five young and seven eggs; none survived, perhaps because of predatory grackles.

Robin: In Oshkosh Mrs. Fisher reported having five nesting pairs, all of which nested twice. In the same area Kaspar had under observation some 25 nests, and estimated that only thirty per cent of the eggs resulted in fledged birds. Most layings consisted of only two or three eggs, while many nests in all stages were destroyed by heavy rains and wind in May and June. A wind storm in late July destroyed the second nests of some birds. In Sauk County a nest containing one robin egg and three cowbird eggs was reported on June 1 (James Neis).

Wood Thrush: A nest nearly complete was found in Sauk County, May 25 (Kruse). Young birds were about in Appleton, Aug. 27 (Mrs. Rogers).

Willow Thrush: A nest of this species was deserted after the intrusion of a cowbird egg, in Oconto County. Subsequently six other nests with eggs were found (Carl Richter).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Three young, barely able to fly, were seen with their parents in Adams County, July 16 and 17 (Robbins).

Starling: In Two Rivers one nestful of young birds froze to death in the snowstorm of late May. The male finally hauled the little bodies out of the deep excavation and sang until he attracted another female, and started a second nesting (Mrs. Smith).

Golden-winged Warbler: Three nests were found in Oconto County; two of them contained cowbird eggs as well as their own (Carl Richter).

Yellow Warbler: Two nestings were observed in Oshkosh: the first came to grief when a storm destroyed the five eggs; the second attempt was successful (Kaspar).

Mourning Warbler: Six nests, two containing cowbird eggs, were found in Oconto County (Carl Richter).

Eastern Meadowlark: A nest with three eggs and two cowbird eggs was found July 3; the eggs hatched July 11, but the young were killed by a cat a week later in Two Rivers (Mrs. Smith).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Many nests and fledged young birds were seen in Waukesha County, June 16-18 (Orians-Treichel).

Red-wing: Thirty-eight nests were under observation in Oshkosh from May 26 to July 17. Five of the six nests begun in May were washed out by heavy rains. The average number of eggs in the nests was 3.2, and about sixty-eight per cent of the eggs developed successfully (Kaspar).



PHOTO BY H. L. ORIAN
MALE YELLOW WARBLER ON NEST.

Baltimore Oriole: In Oshkosh a nest was completed on June 14, and the young hatched on June 29 (Mrs. Fisher). In Two Rivers three young left the nest on July 14 (Mrs. Smith). Two young left a nest in Mercer, July 4 (Mrs. Sell).

Brewer's Blackbird: Two nesting colonies were present in Waukesha. On June 22 three nests were observed, one containing five young (Jones et al.). A nest with four eggs was discovered in Oconto County, June 6 (Carl Richter).

Bronzed Grackle: Between April 28 and June 20 eight nests were observed in Oshkosh. The earlier nests were destroyed by heavy rains; the later nests were more successful (Kaspar).

Goldfinch: A pair in Two Rivers built in some cedars, about two feet from the ground. The young were lost when about a week old (Mrs. Smith). In Mercer several young just out of the nest were observed on Aug. 26 (Mrs. Sell).

Henslow's Sparrow: A nest with five eggs was discovered in Oconto County, June 4 (Carl Richter).

Lark Sparrow: Found nesting in Sauk County, May 17 (Mrs. Balsom).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Five young were found in a nest in Oconto County, June 21 (Carl Richter).

White-throated Sparrow: Nest with four eggs, Oconto County, June 25 (Carl Richter).

Neillsville, Wisconsin, December, 1947.

WISCONSIN'S NEW BIRD BOOK

By O. J. GROMME*

Since work was started on the book to be called *Birds of Wisconsin* our society has grown considerably and there are undoubtedly a number of members who are not familiar with the aim and general plan of the work. I feel at this time that all of you will be interested in the progress to date.

For the benefit of the new members I will go briefly into the past and read the first letter sent out to the people who I knew would be interested as soon as the project was authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Museum. The letter was as follows:

*Progress Report presented to the 1947 convention Madison.

"During the many years since publication of "The Birds of Wisconsin" by Kumlien and Hollister, new state records have been established and the status of many species altered considerably. A vast amount of data has been accumulated and a rapidly growing amount of published notes and lists are scattered throughout scientific literature. It is very probable that an even larger volume of valuable material still remains unpublished in the note books of observers throughout the state and elsewhere.

The need for an up-to-date checklist of Wisconsin birds is obvious, but the hard work, time and research required and expense involved in assembling the material has been a discouraging factor. The Museum has been the recipient of numerous requests that we fulfill this need. The general tone of the requests is to the effect that our collections of Wisconsin material and the excellent Museum library and indices place us at a distinct advantage.

For a number of years the writer has been accumulating and indexing notes as opportunity presented. These notes include all of his own observations and studies in the field and laboratory. Included also are innumerable notes kindly sent to the museum by observers throughout the state in the hope that some day they should prove useful. In the aggregate the material now in hand is very considerable.

"Wisconsin Birds" has long been under consideration at the museum. Very recently the Museum Director ordered that work shall proceed. This indeed came as welcome news and work is now under way.

Our aim is to publish along the general plan of the more recent works concerning the ornithology of other states. The plan calls for illustrations of all Wisconsin birds in color as well as a number in black and white. The work will supplement that of Kumlien and Hollister.

An enterprise of this kind will, to a large extent, call for the cooperation of a wide variety of talent within the field of Wisconsin ornithology, particularly insofar as general observations, migration dates, etc., are concerned. It will be necessary to call upon a number of bird photographers to supplement our files, as well as upon the collectors who have in their possession bird skins, mounted specimens and eggs and nests which bear reliable data. The banding cooperators also are in possession of valuable notes.

There are a number in the state who have assembled indices and bibliographies of published material concerning Wisconsin authors and birds with the idea of publication or for other use. A copy of such files would very considerably enhance the completeness of the work. Proper acknowledgment will be made for the inclusion in every case where material is used. We have a fine index to Wisconsin authors and their articles on Wisconsin birds, but hope to assemble as complete a file as possible.

We have had numerous offers of cooperation in various forms which is much appreciated because the task confronting us is tremendous.

A number of chapters of a specialized nature will be entirely written and signed by authors whose work is nationally recognized as outstanding.

In certain instances we will ask for contributions from the various specialists whose work with individual species will add to the value of the written life histories. These items will have to be carefully selected for brevity and general content.

Among those who have agreed to contribute are Dr. A. W. Schorger who will do the bibliography and history of Wisconsin ornithology. He will probably combine biographies with the latter. Dr. Aldo Leopold will write an Ecology and Game Management. Walter Scott will write about the history of conservation. Dr. Frederick C. Lincoln will write a chapter on bird banding and there will be others.

A considerable amount of material has been sent in and the point has been reached where it has been necessary to devise a system whereby the clerical work and copying involved at this end be reduced to a minimum. It will be readily understood that orderly notes are highly essential for the efficient filing and handling of items or groups of items. Jumbled notes not in logical order will involve us in endless and discouraging work, if we can use them at all. For the convenience of those who wish to cooperate with us and for ourselves we have drawn up several forms. Form No. 1 is for the general observer, and primarily concerns migration data, or the presence or absence of a species in a given locality. Form No. 2 is for bird banders, and No. 3 for the oologist. We are enclosing herewith a sample of each form. We suggest that a careful estimate be made of the number of forms actually needed as based upon the number of species to be reported. This will save us considerable expense in printing.

We would like to know the location of any bird collections (skins or mounted) or egg collections in the state which are accompanied by accurate data.

All records from your earliest date will be much appreciated. We hope to build up a correspondence with all reliable observers in the state, so that we might continue accumulating and assimilating all authentic data up to the time of publication.

It is our intention that the handling of material at this end shall be conducted in such a manner that the accumulated items in the museum files will be "under control" and up to date at all times."

Since publication of this letter several years ago, work has been well under way. Obviously the war has slowed up our work considerably due to the necessary decrease in personnel caused by the war, but now we are back at it again.

The book is coming out in two volumes. In Volume I we will include introductions, acknowledgments, history of Wisconsin ornithology, ecology, topography, bibliography, biographies, etc. Volume 2 will include exclusively life histories and color plates. Bird students who do not wish to carry two volumes with them for identification purposes can find all of the necessary information and life histories, etcetera, in one book. There will be two editions, the de luxe autographed and numbered edition which will be the patron's edition or subsidy and will be limited in number to 200 and will sell for \$100.00 per copy. For this edition we are now accepting subscriptions. The money is being placed in a trust fund, drawing interest, and at the time of publication will be enhanced. The administrator of this fund will be the Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee Public Museum. The popular edition at time of publication will come out in eight or ten thousand copies and will be sold at the prevailing popular price, based upon absolute cost. Nobody will make any profit, it is purely a civic enterprise. We shall put as reasonable a price as possible on this edition in order to insure wide distribution among schools and bird students. The de luxe edition will be specially

bound but will probably also include a portfolio of separate color plates. There will be 83 colored plates which will include males and females of all Wisconsin birds. We are trying to make these color plates as comprehensive and informative as possible and in many cases are including colored illustrations of the nests and eggs. The cost of these plates will be enormous and necessarily we must include as many genera as possible on each plate, as former authors and illustrators have done. As of today 54 of the 83 plates, that is illustrations, are already complete. I realize that the public is clamoring for a good work. I hope that the members of this society realize the enormity of this task and the necessity of great care and long hours in its preparation. It will be at least four years from now before the work can be brought to completion barring any other upsets such as the recent war. We have already sold 35 copies of the de luxe edition without actually going out and soliciting orders. These subscriptions have been entirely voluntary so far by interested people.

Numbers of Wisconsin ornithologists are cooperating with us and have already sent in their notes and summaries on the forms that we have prepared. The accumulated material already fills several filing cabinets. To those cooperators who have not as yet had opportunity to send in their material, I will say that within a year of the closing date they will receive proper notice.

Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee.

Sac Prairie Autumn

By AUGUST DERLETH

22 September: The grackles made a wholesome and cheerful todo in the linden trees around the house today. Always a welcome flurry of sounds, it is good to hear; it is filled with a kind of somnolence, as if provoked by the day's bright sunlight, and a warmth, like a kind of family gathering of human beings met to talk over the events of the season.

23 September: Warblers went through today, pausing in the oak trees west of the house. I saw them flitting restlessly about this morning, foraging there as always—redstarts, Blackburnian, myrtle, and yellow warblers, as well as some others which, in the absence of field glasses, I could not certainly identify. For most of the morning the birds were in evidence around the house, invading bush and tree in search of food.

24 September: This evening to the marshes, going early enough so that I could sit on the back river trestle for a while and continue with the writing of *Evenings in Wisconsin*, while watching the great blue herons fishing and the solitary sandpipers patrolling the wet sand from which the Wisconsin had retreated, crying loneliness, and listening to a chewink calling now and then out of the underbrush of Bergen's Island, to catbirds mewing fretfully from both sides of the back river. In the vicinity of the Spring Slough, barred owls called, several peepers gave voice with the illusion of Spring again strong in their calls, a toad trilled, and robins complained. I stood listening to this muted chorus with pleasure; the freshness of April was not in it, but it was no less delightful to hear in the gathering dusk.

26 September: Bluebirds were very numerous on the hills this afternoon, singing and chortling from time to time, and swinging, as customarily, on the twig-ends of trees, very blue against earth and sky in the autumn afternoon. A migrant flock, doubtless, like most bluebirds in no haste to be gone.

6 October: Screech owls keened in the cedars near the house tonight, beginning just prior to midnight and continuing long after. Except for the humming of motors on the distant highway, all else was still, so that their notes seemed all the more loud therefore. No less than three birds called.

13 October: High overhead, from where I lay reading on the hills this afternoon, a half dozen herring gulls floated on the blue; they never seemed to descend or even to change plane, but rode the wind far up river, over and back, and down again, making no sound, not even the common querulous cries as usually heard. I watched them with interest, but never saw the slightest alteration in their pattern or their flight. Perhaps they were birds which had just come in from the lake areas to the east, or up the river from the south, since gulls commonly increase here in the autumn months. They vanished ultimately northward.

14 October: A song sparrow celebrated today's unusual warmth by singing steadily, without pause, from one to four o'clock this afternoon. The bird was somewhere on Otto's Island; I heard him going by on my way to write in the hills, and I heard him from where I wrote; he still sang when I returned to the village at four, though at this hour the crying of killdeers and blue-jays, and the songs of bluebirds had been added to his melody.

19 October: A lone loon settled down at the wing dam this afternoon. I observed him with the aid of field-glasses from the top of the nearby hill, where I sat, reflecting that once or twice a year a loon settles in that place, with a regularity suggesting that it might well be the same bird. Of other birds this afternoon, I heard the songs and/or calls of killdeers, bluebirds, quail (quirting), crows, goldfinches, white-throated sparrows, redwinged blackbirds, robins, cedar waxwings, and a red-tailed hawk spiralling up heaven.

20 October: A trio of Boy Scouts accosted me on the railroad tracks, where I met them coming home from their camp, while I was on my way down this evening. I had just seen a pheasant cock concealing itself deep in underbrush where few such birds had ever been, and realized that hunters had probably forced the bird from its accustomed cover. The boys, led by Kenneth Fritz, demanded to know whether I had any special regard for hunters, and I was forced to admit that I did not, which pleased them. All afternoon they had witnessed hunters—"Thicker'n flies"—beating the marshes and meadows for the luckless birds. "If that's sport, we don't want any of it," they decided.

21 October: A Virginia rail foraged at the second brook this evening. I would not in all likelihood have seen the bird at all if I had not paused in that place to listen to the chorus of **conqueree** or **okalee** sounds coming from the redwinged blackbirds in the meadow nearby. The rail came out from the tall grasses and waded up and down in the water, foraging, unaware of me. I watched its slow progress, its quick movements while foraging, while the darkness came down. I could not remember having seen a rail at so late a date before.

1 November: After a period of many months during which the horned larks have been gone or silent, I heard their reedy songs arising out of the fields once again early this morning.

5 November: Golden-crowned kinglets invaded the lilac bushes west of the studio this morning, and, despite the heavy downpour which pelted leaves from the trees, the birds remained in some numbers not only at the bushes throughout the day, but elsewhere in the cedars and lindens around the house.

18 November: Despite the lingering snow and cold, the marshes resounded with the cries and songs of birds this afternoon—goldfinches, juncos, chickadees, tree sparrows, blue-jays, herring gulls, a pileated woodpecker, nuthatches, and, over along the river, the wild, sweet crying of killdeers, not yet gone south, and all the more pleasant to hear because it seemed so fugitive after snowfall and cold.

11 December: Despite cold, I went into the marshes today, and there saw and heard three pileated woodpeckers—the first time I have seen three of the birds at once. They made a concentrated todo of crying and tapping, flying from place to place, always deeper into the woods. The voices of other birds—goldfinches, chickadees (in song), blue-jays, and crows seemed cold.

20 December: A flock of pine siskins invaded the many coniferous trees around the house today. I saw them first in the hemlocks, where over a score of the birds fed among the little cones pending from the tips of the twigs, out of which the siskins ate by dint of hanging head down from the slenderest of twigs. Their industry matched that of foraging chickadees, and they were no less active, flying from cone to cone, and attacking each cone in the manner best suited to its position. Judging by the number in the near hemlock, there must have been well over a hundred of the birds.

NOTES ON WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON DATA

By W. E. SCOTT

In connection with the publication of "Silent Wings—A Memorial to the Passenger Pigeon," a general survey was made of published Wisconsin data on this bird and a re-check was begun on all specimens of birds and eggs known in the state. Because it was felt that this information was valuable to those who do not have all the original source material, it is reproduced here for future reference.

Several items of interest were discovered as a result of this searching. It will be noted that over half of the bird specimens in public institutions are male birds. This probably was caused by the fact that males were more beautiful. A good female specimen is rarer today. The specimen on which sex is unknown is an immature bird. These also are rarer by far than the adults. It was surprising to find that there were so few passenger pigeon eggs in the public institutions. An attempt should be made by them to secure any in private hands for safe-keeping.

Speaking of these rare eggs, one institution admitted that their specimen was "rolling around in the bottom of the case!" This has since

been corrected. Two reports were secured as to what may be original nesting material of the passenger pigeon: These are on display at the Hoy Museum in Racine and the Black River Falls Library.

It will be noted that less than half of the specimens on exhibit can definitely be credited to Wisconsin. However, many of these in the "unknown" class were undoubtedly taken in this state. Any specimen without definite record data attached was so listed, but there is little doubt that the Beloit College specimens collected by S. W. Willard or the Racine specimens collected by Dr. P. R. Hoy also came from Wisconsin. No doubt more Wisconsin specimens with good record data will be found in institutions outside the state than are on exhibit here. Specimens in private ownership are usually kept under glass and cherished by their owners.

A few more individuals who had seen large flocks of pigeons were discovered. Mr. C. G. Bridgman of Wautoma writes, "I remember the last end of the pigeon flocks quite distinctly. There was at one time a flight over the village of Wautoma that took one and one-half hours, obscured the sun, and the limits of the flock could not be seen." Rev. Edwin C. Dixon of Wisconsin Dells sent a newspaper article he wrote telling of his experiences with the birds in which he states: "I can give you an idea of what happened when I tell you that on one Saturday my two brothers, a young man working for us, and one of our boy friends, with father to drive the team and help us climb the trees by carrying a high ladder from tree to tree as we made the rounds, gathered eighty-one dozen salable squabs from their nests. We probably lost or killed several dozen besides the ones we had in the crates for sale that afternoon."

It is hoped that the Society's continued interest in this extinct bird will result in the better preservation of the few specimens which remain to be seen by future generations.

LIST OF WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON SPECIMENS



Of the millions of passenger pigeons which once darkened Wisconsin skies, there are probably no more than 80 specimens of mounted birds, skins and eggs in the possession of public institution and private individuals in the state. As a result of a survey made by W. E. Scott (re-checked in November 1947), only 75 such specimens were located, of which 22 are in private ownership. Following is a table showing facts known regarding the specimens of birds and eggs in public institutions on view to the public.

Name of Institution and City	Total Specimens	Sex			Eggs	Origin		Unknown
		M	F	?		Wis.	Other	
Public Museum, Milwaukee	17	10	5		2	10	5	2
Neville Public Museum, Green Bay	6	5	1					6
Public Museum, New London	3	2	1			1		2
University Biology Dept., Madison	3	1	1	1		1		2

Public Museum, Oshkosh	3	2		1	3			
Beloit College Museum, Beloit	2	1	1					2
Hoy Museum, Courthouse, Racine	2	1			1			2
State Historical Museum, Madison	2	1	1			2		
Conservation Dept. Museum, Poynette	2	1	1				2	
Concordia College, Milwaukee	2	1	1					2
Lawrence College, Appleton	2	1	1					2
Public Library, Black River Falls	2	1			1			2
High School, Baraboo	2	1	1			2		
Ripon College Museum, Ripon	1	1						1
State Teachers College, Whitewater	1	1						1
State Teachers College, Milwaukee	1	1				1		
High School, Potosi	1	1						1
Viterbo College, La Crosse	1							
Totals	53	31	15	1	5	20	7	25

Madison, Wisconsin, 1947.

The Student's Page

By MRS. N. R. BARGER

A thorough knowledge of bird songs and calls is a great aid to bird identification. Many times a song is the only means of locating a bird, in fact, in most cases birds are heard before they are seen. Therefore the importance of learning songs and calls cannot be over-emphasized.

The study of bird songs and calls can be very fascinating and most satisfying. For the beginner, however, it may seem confusing unless some definite plan of study is followed.

The easiest way to learn, of course, is to observe and listen with an expert who already knows bird songs and calls. This is not always possible. Listening to phonograph records is very helpful. A number of fine records are now available and can be ordered through the Society's Supply Department. It is suggested that bird songs on records sound more life-like when listened to from the next room rather than close by.

When neither of these aids are possible the beginner needs to rely on his own careful listening. A keen sense of sounds will soon enable him to identify the many characteristic calls and songs belonging to individual birds as well as bird groups or families. However, there is a great need for caution to be sure of accurate identification. Therefore it is advisable, especially in the beginning, to verify the identification by looking at the bird if possible while he is singing.

Many birds have a variety of calls and songs that may confuse the beginner. The blue jay, for instance, has quite a repertoire, although after some careful study a certain quality is found that suggests the blue jay's own characteristics. The starling is another common bird that is bound to cause errors in identification because he is capable of imitating parts of other birds' songs. I remember well a mistake I once made in my first year of learning birds, when in my enthusiasm I thought I heard a meadowlark. It was not too early to hear one, indeed, but I overlooked the proper habitat of the meadowlark. The song, or rather the imitation, was heard in the heart of the city and could not be anything but that of

a good mimicking starling. Needless to say I was chagrined but I do not mind pointing out this error because it has taught me to be much more cautious in trying to identify birds by their songs. With careful listening to a starling, its own characteristic qualities can readily be learned.

Nor do similarities end there. Only this morning my little nine-year-old daughter enthusiastically related to me that she had seen and heard a chickadee while waiting for a bus yesterday. Then she added that she also heard a pewee. Of course, I knew she had heard the sweet call of the chickadee which so often is thought to belong to the phoebe or the wood pewee. However, if it is remembered that the latter two species feed almost entirely on insects, it is readily understood why it would be impossible to hear either call in midwinter in Wisconsin. Moreover, if one is familiar with the phoebe's and pewee's calls, the chickadee's call would never be mistaken for them.

The hairy and the downy woodpeckers' calls can easily be mistaken for each others' calls, but careful listening will soon prove that the hairy's call is much stronger.

Many other similarities in bird songs could be pointed out, but they all would, as already suggested, indicate the importance of careful, keen listening together with the usual identification by sight.

Fortunately many beginners in bird study are already familiar with most of the common bird songs and calls. On the other hand, it might be surprising to find additional calls that can be designated to certain species. There can be alarm notes, warning notes, scolding notes and others, particularly of the nesting birds.

A good plan to follow would be to begin in the winter time to learn the songs and calls of the permanent residents. Then as the early spring arrivals come some of their songs can be learned. Even the summertime offers many opportunities because such birds as the indigo bunting, song sparrow, field sparrow, house wren and others continue to sing throughout the hot summer.

The following story was contributed by a student in the eighth grade at West High School, Madison, who with the help of her mother, Mrs. Philip E. Miles, made the interesting observation of a pine siskin nesting in Vilas County. Very few breeding records of this species have been reported for Wisconsin. Her sister, Carol, in the tenth grade, photographed the nestling.

THE FIRST TIME I SAW A PINE SISKIN

by Joan Miles

For several days last August I had noticed a "cheeping" high up in a grove of hemlocks near our cabin on Tenderfoot Lake. Even though I had looked with the glasses several times I had not been able to see any birds or a nest. Then one morning I noticed something moving at the base of a small cedar tree. I walked down to the cedar and saw that it was a very little young bird which I could not identify. The mother soon flew down from a nearby tree. The young bird fluttered its wings and flew down the hill and lit on the ground. The mother cheeped to it and fed it, and then flew away. After hopping twenty or twenty-five feet to a hemlock the baby fluttered and clung to the bark until it was about four feet up. It rested a while but when it tried to climb higher up the



tree it fell. Its mother flew back to it and led it to a dead balsam about three feet high. The encouraged youngster got to the top by fluttering its wings and "chinning" itself! Flying down the slope into a small balsam the little mother managed to get her young one to follow. The baby was now five or six feet off the ground and apparently the mother thought it safe for she flew away. By this time we had decided they were pine siskins, the first I had ever seen.

1900 Arlington Place, Madison 5, Wisconsin, January 6, 1948.

BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

Bob-white Casualties. In our area quail suffered heavy winter losses. Of about 23 birds, not more than three pair survived the winter. On May 2 I found the remains of seven quail which had evidently perished in the blizzard of late January. They were lying in a close circle at the base of a four-foot embankment. Apparently they had sought shelter here from the storm, and were covered by five or six feet of snow during the night—Harold Kruse, Loganville.

Hawk versus Ducks. On April 21 I watched a marsh hawk female stoop at some ducks. As the hawk fluttered over the ducks, they cascaded water at her with their wings. The hawk seemed non-plussed at this, and flew over to a muskrat house about fifteen feet away. All the time the hawk sat there, the ducks continued to splash water into the air.—LeRoy Lintereur, Two Rivers.

Courtship Behavior of the Wilson's Snipe. I spent the evening of April 20, 1947, watching the winnowing flights of a group of Wilson's snipe near Stoughton, Wisconsin. Ten or fifteen birds occupied a wet pasture adjoining a sedge marsh along the Yahara River. At 6:30 p. m. two snipe came chasing toward me from somewhere across the marsh. Their erratic flight was very rapid and at a low level. Both birds called repeatedly while in the air. They dropped into the long grass at the pasture edge about fifty feet in front of me. Immediately the pair walked into the closely-cropped pasture, one bird ahead of the other. The rear bird constantly bobbed its head up and down with the bill held against the breast in a vertical position. After walking several yards, the lead bird stopped and its companion came abreast of it and also stopped. The leader next walked around in a circle about three feet in diameter with the bobbing bird following. The lead bird stopped again and the rear bird came alongside as before. Both birds then filed slowly back among the sedge tussocks until lost from view, repeating the "stop-come abreast-continue" procedure once more before out of sight. The entire display lasted about one minute. The lead bird apparently paid no attention to its follower, which bobbed its head continually when walking and at rest. All movements were slow and quite deliberate. Both snipe were vocally silent while on the ground. I presume they were a courting pair with a female as lead bird.

I have been unable to find this behavior described in the literature, and I saw it only once in twenty hours of observation at snipe winnowing grounds during 1946 and 1947.—James B. Hale, 409 Washburn Place, Madison.

Blue Jays Survive Electric Storm. On the night of July 26, 1947, lightning struck a huge willow which touches our summer cottage near Madison. It shattered the tree quite badly, jumped to our electric light wire, followed the wire to the fuse box and blew a fuse all to pieces. A nest of young blue jays was in this tree, on a limb about ten to fifteen feet from the limb which was struck. The young jays were three or four days old, but were not injured by the bolt. Next morning they seemed as hungry as ever.—Mrs. Arthur Koehler, Madison.

Adventures of a Young Cedar Waxwing. On August 4, 1947, a young cedar waxwing fell forty feet from a nest high in a box elder tree. We took it indoors and fed it Tartarian honeysuckle and raspberries. Twice a day the young bird was put in the garden where adult birds fed him and coaxed him to fly. The young bird learned to taste the berries, and would eat raspberries, but refused to eat Tartarian honeysuckle berries. On August 8 the rest of the young birds left the nest and the captive one flew from a perch on a box across the room to a dish of raspberries on the breakfast table. When put back he flew to my shoulder, then to my head, where he perched while I walked upstairs. When I put him into the garden again, an adult bird came at once and coaxed him into a tree.—Mrs. T. J. Peterson, Waupaca.

A White-Headed Warbler. On June 1, 1947, I approached a small oak tree containing several migratory warblers. My attention was quickly caught by a glimpse of a warbler with a solid white head. Continued observation showed the bird to display the markings of a Tennessee warbler elsewhere on its body, and it was in company with other Tennessee warblers. This was my first experience with a partially albino warbler of any species.—Sam Robbins, Neillsville.

THE SUMMER SEASON . . .

(All field notes for the period of September 1 to November 30 should be sent immediately to Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, 205 Hewett Street, Neillsville, Wisconsin.)

The lateness of the spring migration carried right on into June, with occasional migrants lingering until the middle of the month. In fact the general arrival of some of the later migrants, such as the indigo bunting and wood pewee, did not occur around Neillsville until June.

A number of birds that would ordinarily have spent the summer farther north remained in Wisconsin. Red-breasted mergansers and American golden-eyes remained in Madison, scaup and old-squaws in Milwaukee, Canada geese in several places, and a white-throated sparrow in Viroqua. The nesting season during these months is discussed elsewhere in this issue.

A few shorebirds were returning on their way south by the middle of July, and a good flight was reported during August at several points. The land bird migration was generally slow in getting under way. By the end of August only a handful of warbler and thrush observations had been made. Warm weather throughout the month of August provided little inducement for birds to start their trek southward.

Here are the season's highlights:

White Pelican: At Cedar Lake, in Polk and St. Croix Counties, where nearly 50 of these birds were seen in April, three occurred on June 12 (Lawrence Hope).

American Egret: Very few reports. In addition to the nesting birds at Horicon, one was seen in Green County, July 30 (Hetzler), and two in Sheboygan County, Aug. 14 (Popple).

Snowy Egret: See back page.

Little Blue Heron: Several accompanied the snowy egret in Kenosha County, Aug. 29 (Diedrich).

Canada Goose: A flock was present in Waushara County in August (Podoll); seven were seen at Horicon, July 18 (Burrow); a single bird that spent the summer at Hat Island, Door County, may have been injured (Wilson); also nested in Portage County.

Black Duck: A flock of 2000-3000 was present in Sheboygan Marsh, Aug. 14 (Popple).

Gadwall: Nested in Green Bay.

Pintail: A migrant appeared in Milwaukee, Aug. 25 (Mrs. Larkin-Gordon Orians).

Green-winged Teal: Nested in Burnett County.

Blue-winged Teal: 1500-2000 present in Sheboygan Marsh, Aug. 14 (Popple).

Redhead: Two males seen in Burnett County, July 15 (Stone).

Ring-necked Duck: Nested in Waukesha County.

Lesser Scaup Duck: A few remained in Milwaukee through the summer (Mrs. Larkin).

American Golden-eye: An immature was seen several times during the summer in Madison, and an adult was observed, July 20 (Buss).

Oldsquaw: Milwaukee, June 14 (Gordon Orians).

Hooded Merganser: Nested at several points in the northwest portion of the state. A migrant was seen in Milwaukee, Aug. 25 (Mrs. Larkin-Gordon Orians).

Red-breasted Merganser: Spent the summer in Madison (Loyster).

Turkey Vulture: Present in Crawford County from June 7 on; three in Jackson County, June 16 (Feeney); one in Milwaukee, June 25 (Gordon Orians); one in Vernon County, July 4 (Scott). Also nested in Oconto County.

Goshawk: Nested in Vilas County.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One in Adams County, July 16 (Robbins).

Sandhill Crane: Four seen in Adams County, July 31 (Deerwester).

King Rail: Dodge County, Aug. 29 (Mallow). Also nested near Milwaukee.

Virginia Rail: One in Rusk County, July 20 (Hovind). Unusual so far north.

Yellow Rail: Oconto County, June 2 (Carl Richter).

Piping Plover: One in Milwaukee, Aug. 25 (Mrs. Larkin-Gordon Orians).

Semipalmated Plover: Arrived in Milwaukee, July 24 (Gordon Orians).

Golden Plover: Milwaukee, Aug. 28 (Gordon Orians).

Black-bellied Plover: Milwaukee, Aug. 14 (Gordon Orians).

Ruddy Turnstone: Lingered in Two Rivers until June 6 (Mrs. Smith). Arrived in Milwaukee, Aug. 25 (Gordon Orians).

Woodcock: More than usual seen in Mercer (Mrs. Sell).

Solitary Sandpiper: Arrived in Milwaukee, July 13 (Gordon Orians).

Greater Yellow-legs: Milwaukee, Aug. 27 (Mrs. Larkin); Oshkosh, Aug. 31 (Kaspar).

Lesser Yellow-legs: First in Milwaukee, July 13 (Mrs. Larkin); peak in Oshkosh, July 22 (Kaspar).

White-rumped Sandpiper: One in Milwaukee, Aug. 14 (Gordon Orians).

Baird's Sandpiper: Milwaukee, Aug. 26 (Mrs. Larkin-Gordon Orians); Oshkosh, Aug. 30 (Kaspar).

Least Sandpiper: Arrived in Milwaukee, July 12 (Gordon Orians); in Oshkosh, July 24 (Kaspar).

Red-backed Sandpiper: One lingered in Marinette County until June 1 (Carl Richter).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Numerous in Milwaukee in the latter half of August (many observers); Delavan, Aug. 27 (Mrs. Larkin-Gordon Orians).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First in Milwaukee, July 12 (Gordon Orians); several in Oshkosh, July 25 (Kaspar); abundant in Ripon in August (Cors).

Sanderling: Arrived in Milwaukee, July 13 (Mrs. Larkin).

Wilson's Phalarope: Two seen in Marinette County, June 1 (Carl Richter); one in Oshkosh, Aug. 12 (Kaspar).

Bonaparte's Gull: Still in Madison, June 1 (Loyster), and in Milwaukee, June 2 (Mrs. Larkin).

Forster's Tern: Milwaukee, Aug. 20 (Gordon Orians).

Common Tern: Young birds were flying along the western shore of Lake Winnebago by July 25, making it seem probable that they nested nearby (Kaspar).

Caspian Tern: One strayed inland to Lake Arbutus, Clark County, July 1 (Robbins).

Barn Owl: Horicon, June 8 (Mathiak).

Nighthawk: Migration during the last two weeks of August was noted by many observers, but the indications are that it was not a heavy flight.

Pileated Woodpecker: One at Devil's Lake, Sauk County, Aug. 12 (Cors).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Oconomowoc, June 25 (Peartree); also nested in Waupaca.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One in Neillsville, June 25 (Robbins); pair in Marathon County, July 8 (Robbins). Also nested in Oconto County.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: Seen on three occasions during the latter half of August in Vilas County (Mrs. Miles).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Still in Milwaukee, June 3 (Mrs. Larkin), and in Two Rivers, June 4 (Mrs. Smith).

Acadian Flycatcher: Milwaukee, June 1 (Bierman).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Milwaukee, June 1 (Mrs. Balsom).

Northern Raven: Price County, June 5 (Feeney); in Vilas County in August (Miles).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Nested in Mercer. No migrants had appeared by the end of August.

Winter Wren: For the second consecutive year, this species was found summering in the Devil's Lake region of Sauk County. A pair was seen there on Aug. 16 (Cors). Another singing male spent the summer in a steep, heavily wooded ravine on the north slope of a mound in Neillsville (Robbins). A pair nested in Fond du Lac County. All these records are unusually far south.

Carolina Wren: One was seen and heard singing in Oshkosh, Aug. 24-27 (Kaspar)

Olive-backed Thrush: Remained into early June at Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Rhinelander. An unusual summer record is furnished by the report of one in Milwaukee, July 31 (Larkin-Donald). A fall migrant had reached Kenosha by Aug. 24 (Mrs. Higgins).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Also remained into June at Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Rhinelander.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Nested in Adams County.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A straggler lingered in Milwaukee until June 6 (Mrs. Balsom); another was present in Mercer, June 18-20 (Mrs. Sell).

Blue-headed Vireo: Remained in Milwaukee through June 5 (City Club).

White-eyed Vireo: One was carefully observed in Milwaukee, June 1, by Gordon Orians and his uncle, G. H. Orians.

Blue-winged Warbler: Neillsville, June 1 (Robbins).

Lawrence's Warbler: There seems to be no room for doubting a sight record of this hybrid in Loganville, July 11 by Harold Kruse. It was an adult male, singing the song of a blue-winged warbler, and was seen twice the same day, with every distinctive field mark carefully noted from a distance of fifteen feet. The only previous report we have of this bird's presence in Wisconsin is of a sight record in Oshkosh on May 15 of this year by Mrs. Glen Fisher.

Tennessee Warbler: The peak of the migration in Neillsville was on June 1 (Robbins). It was reported in the first week in June in all areas of the state by many observers, the latest report being in St. Croix Falls, June 14 (Heinsohn).

Nashville Warbler: Last migrant in Milwaukee, June 5 (City Club).

Magnolia Warbler: Lingered into the first week in June in Milwaukee and Neillsville.

Myrtle Warbler: Clark County, June 1 (Robbins).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Milwaukee, June 1 (Mrs. Balsom); numerous in Door County, June 8 (Krawczyk).

Cerulean Warbler: Seen and heard several times in late June and July near Neillsville (Robbins); in Fond du Lac County, July 18 and Aug. 22 (Mallow-Batha).

Blackburnian Warbler: Remained in Madison until June 10 (Emlen).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Still in Kenosha, June 4 (Mrs. Higgins), and in Milwaukee, June 6 (Mrs. Balsom).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Lingered in Milwaukee until June 6 (Mrs. Balsom).

Black-poll Warbler: Unusually late is the report of a bird on June 15 in Milwaukee (Mrs. Balsom).

Pine Warbler: Migrant in Milwaukee, Aug. 30 (Mrs. Larkin).

Grinnell's Water-thrush: Migrating in Milwaukee, Aug. 29 (Gordon Orrians).

Connecticut Warbler: Neillsville, June 1 (Robbins); Loganville, June 2 (Kruse); Milwaukee, June 3 (Mrs. Larkin).

Mourning Warbler: Numerous migrants in early June are reported by many observers. Several also spent the summer near Neillsville, and in a short morning drive through southern Taylor County on July 8, at least ten singing males were heard (Robbins).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was present in Albany, Green County, for about ten days in July (Hetzler).

Hooded Warbler: Another record of this rare visitor from the south is furnished from Madison, June 8, by G. A. Hall.

Wilson's Warbler: Still in Rhinelander, June 1 (Miss Almon); Oshkosh, June 2 (Kaspar); Kenosha, June 4 (Mrs. Higgins); Mercer, June 5 (Mrs. Sell); and Milwaukee, June 6 (Mrs. Balsom).

Canada Warbler: Another very late bird: Milwaukee, June 14 (Bierman).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A huge concentration—more than 200—was noted in Oshkosh, Aug. 2 (Kaspar).

Orchard Oriole: For the second consecutive year, Mrs. Smith had a male of this species spend the summer on her place in Two Rivers, but this year he had no mate. One was present in Waukesha, June 22 (Jones et al.), and one in Viroqua, June 29 (Miss Morse).

Brewer's Blackbird: Nested in Oconto and Waukesha Counties. Also present in Clark, Dane, Jefferson, Taylor, Walworth and Wood Counties (Robbins).

Pine Siskin: A surprising number of summer records of a bird that usually summers farther north. This species cannot be included among the definite nesters in Wisconsin this year, because the evidence is inconclusive; but in Mercer an adult was seen carrying nesting material on June 5 and 15, and in September adults were seen feeding young (Mrs. Sell). On Aug. 31 young were also being fed in Vilas County (Mrs. Miles). In addition, one was seen in Two Rivers, June 23 (Mrs. Smith), and 55 were seen in Odanah, Ashland County, June 15 (Kaspar).

White-winged Crossbill: Another unusual summer record is of a pair of this species in Mercer, June 5 (Mrs. Sell).

Lark Sparrow: Lone Rock, June 24 (Miss Morse).

Slate-colored Junco: Seen in two places in southern Clark County in June (Robbins).

White-throated Sparrow: Lingered in Milwaukee until June 2 (Mrs. Larkin), and in Kenosha until June 3 (Mrs. Higgins). Even more remarkable was the individual seen in Viroqua, July 5 (Miss Morse). Also nested in Oconto County.

A reminder to our observers: (1) that field notes for the fall season are due, and should be sent in promptly; (2) that reports of the 1947 Christmas bird counts should be turned in immediately; (3) that we hope to receive from every observer a total list of the birds he has seen in Wisconsin during 1947, and we hope to receive lists covering certain counties, also—these lists should be sent in along with reports for the winter season, if not before.

A Snowy Egret in Wisconsin

Our attention was called to this bird by two enthusiastic and capable Milwaukee bird students, Miss Phyllis Gorski and Mr. Carl Buntrock. Their description was complete in all details and convinced us that the bird referred to was noticeably different than the immature little blue herons with which it associated. The writer accompanied them to a small partially dried slough south of Camp Lake, Kenosha County, on August 29. While it was not possible to differentiate and positively identify this bird from the little blues at a distance, as an individual it appeared to be more active and displayed characteristics not exhibited by the others. At close range the yellow of the lores and toes became quite obvious if these points were looked for. The bird was thus observed for a half day, spending its time hunting, moving about and resting in company with little blue, great blue and black-crowned night herons and also various shore birds, ducks and bitterns.—Lester Diedrich.

Diedrich collected this specimen for the Milwaukee Public Museum. The only collected record we know of prior to this is that mentioned in Kumlien and Hollister's "Birds of Wisconsin." Here it is stated that six were collected on Lake Koshkonong in August, 1886. Charles Hetzler, however, records a sight record of a snowy egret among a flock of American egrets in Albany (Green County), on July 28 and 29, 1946.

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