



The passenger pigeon. Volume IX, Number 2

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The PASSENGER PIGEON

April, 1947

VOLUME IX

NUMBER 2



HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE
PHOTO BY C. P. FOX



A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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NEWS . . .

The Hudsonian chickadee photographed on February 2, 1947 by C. P. Fox, Oconomowoc, on his feeding tray, constitutes an excellent record. Seldom has this species been found south of the Canadian zone, even in winter, by Wisconsin ornithologists. There was something of a flight of them to southern Wisconsin last winter, however, for several observers saw one, at least, on different days and in different parts of Madison, which is unusual. Mr. Fox states that, at the click of the shutter the bird flew in the window; he caught it, and, of course, had ample time to study its plumage for identification purposes. He then released the bird but it flew away, never to return to his station.

The Book Shop of the Society is now prepared to fill orders immediately for bird books, stationery, bird feeders and houses, bird paintings, pamphlets and other material of interest to members. Profits accruing from these sales go into the Society's treasury, and our experience to date in this regard has been very encouraging. We hope to build up a complete service for members, so request that you order anything needed even though you do not see it advertised in these pages. All merchandise is sold at currently prevailing prices, and we offer you one advantage—we pay postage. The New Field Guide by Roger Tory Peterson has just been printed and sells for \$3.50. It has a new set of illustrations, 500 in full color, and many new features. The book has been rewritten completely. To see it is to own it. Address all orders to N. R. Barger, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison 5.

Mr. S. Paul Jones, 509 West Avenue, North, Waukesha, convention chairman for 1948, says that it is not too early to begin thinking about that paper you are to present at the next annual meeting. He also invites criticism and suggestions: What do you want added next year? What do you want left out?

In this connection, Clarence A. Anthes, 713 Hamilton Ave., Waukesha, in charge of exhibits, reminds artists to begin to prepare paintings, and photographers, photos,

for the convention. Make it an exhibition of local talent!

Since Mrs. R. P. Hussong is unable to accept the new position of treasurer for the society, the Board of Directors approved Harold C. Wilson to take her place. Mr. Wilson's address is Ephraim, Wisconsin.

A new bird club has recently been organized in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Mrs. Winnifred Smith was instrumental in getting it started.

Please send in the list (complete) of birds observed in Wyalusing Park on the day of the monument dedication. The Field Notes Department Editor needs them to write up the combined report. Also, don't forget to send the May Day list.

You will not want to miss the convention memorial booklet titled "Silent Wings" if you were unable to attend the convention last May. There are fifteen engravings in this booklet, one in color.

The Green Bay Bird Club has been in existence eleven years. We said ten.

Mrs. Emilie Louise Toepler Roloff, Madison, long active in bird study and in many other sciences, died June 19, 1947 at the age of 80, after a long illness. The many birds about her home, which is called Bird Haven, afforded her a great deal of pleasure especially when ill.

Mr. Ralph T. Tuttle, Baraboo, sent down to the convention for exhibition purposes a net, which was used in early days for taking passenger pigeons. The net was left with Mr. Tuttle by a neighbor years ago.

Our thanks to "Trudi" Scott for taking notes in shorthand of the entire convention. We are thinking especially of the speeches.

Under the heading of news also comes the resignation of J. Harwood Evans, as treasurer. Mr. Evans served the society in this capacity since 1940.

We have asked members from time to time to be on the look-out for back numbers of *The Passenger Pigeon*, especially the earlier ones, which could be returned to the Society for resale. We now have a request for Volume I and II, to fill out a series. A reasonable price will be paid.

Since the publication of "Silent Wings"

(Concluded on page 75)

THE PASSENGER PIGEON, official publication of The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., is published quarterly in Madison, Wisconsin. Classes of membership and annual dues: Active \$1.50 (Students under 18 years \$1.00). Sustaining \$5.00. Life \$50.00. Patron \$100.00 or more. At least \$1.25 of each annual membership is set aside to cover subscription to *The Passenger Pigeon*. Send membership dues to the treasurer, Harold C. Wilson, Ephraim, Wisconsin. Send manuscripts to the editor, N. R. Barger, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

Entered as second class matter Sept. 4, 1940, at the post office of Madison, Wisconsin, under the act of Mar. 3, 1879.

THE DICKCISSEL IN WISCONSIN

By RICHARD D. TABER

Introduction

The dickcissel long has been a problem to ornithologists in Wisconsin and other north-central states because of its extreme irregularity of appearance and marked local fluctuations in numbers.

In order to bring together all available information on this erratic bird, the editors of *The Passenger Pigeon* distributed a dickcissel questionnaire among Wisconsin ornithologists in the summer of 1946. The results of this survey, together with material generously donated from the files of the Milwaukee Public Museum and that contained in the cited literature, form the basis of this paper.

Historical

During the 1860's and 70's Wisconsin did not harbor the network of bird-watchers it does today. Most of the dickcissel notes were recorded by three pioneer ornithologists, P. R. Hoy of Racine and Kumlien and Hollister of Walworth county (G, M, N, K).

Hoy collected eggs and nests and apparently found dickcissels common about Racine, for he collected nineteen nests there in one season, probably in the 1860's (G, M). In Walworth county, on the other hand, these birds were relatively rare until the early 1890's, when they became more common throughout southeastern Wisconsin (N, K).

An early report on the bobolink, which, like the dickcissel, is a meadow nester, sheds some light on a possible reason for this increase. Pastor Bruhin, writing about the environs of what is now Milwaukee, noted that bobolinks were unknown there in the 1840's, but that subsequently the land was cleared and by the early '70's the bobolink was a common breeding bird (O).

This emphasizes what would seem logical in any event—that the spread of agriculture, particularly dairying, provided such an increase in hayfield and meadow for nesting that the population rose in consequence.

However, another factor is perhaps also of fundamental importance. It is well known that Wisconsin is now experiencing a warm climatic phase to which many southern birds have responded by extending the northern border of their breeding range even farther north. The dickcissel, breeding commonly on the prairies of Illinois and Iowa, and irregularly across the southern parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, would fall within this category (B, H, I, S). The probable importance of a warm, dry climatic phase is enhanced by the fact that strong northern dickcissel colonies were established during the drought of the early 1930's; these will be discussed later.

Distribution

Dickcissel distribution within the state varies considerably from one summer to the next, so that observers commonly speak of a certain year as a "high" or "low" one for these birds. This comparative information, for those years and counties for which it is available, is presented in Table I.

Table I suggests that in the eastern part of the state the highest years from 1921-1946 were 1921, 1922, 1926, 1928, 1933, 1934, 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1946 and that the lowest years were 1924, 1935, 1937, 1942 and 1945.

The data from the west central portion of the state corroborate 1942 and 1945 as low years and 1941 and 1946 as high ones.

This information is further summarized for the state as a whole in Figure 1. The data are too scanty for significance, but it is interesting to note that each six-year interval after 1922 falls upon a high year, suggesting a six-year cycle.

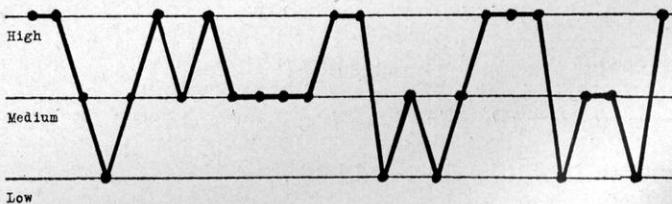
The information in Table I, along with reports from Rock county

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF RECORDED POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS
1921-1946

County	Source	1921	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
Walworth	Z																					M	M	L			
Dane	V, W, X	H	M	M	O	M	H	M	H	M	M	M	M	M	H	O	M	O	M	M	H	H	M	H	M	M	
Jefferson	33															M	M	M									
Waukesha	5, L	H	H													M	O	M	O	O	M	H	M	O	O	M	O
Dodge	Z, 11															M	O	O	O	O	M	O	O	O	O	O	M
Waupaca	21																					H	L	L	L		
Vernon	19														L	L					M	M	M	M	M	L	M
Pierce	33																					M	M	H			
Dunn	4																				H	L	M				

H—HIGH POPULATION M—MEDIUM POPULATION L—LOW POPULATION O—NONE
*(Z) BUSSEWITZ REPORTED THAT DICKCISSELS HAD APPEARED IN 1939 "ON MUD LAKE,
WEST OF WATERTOWN, AFTER AN ABSENCE OF FIVE YEARS."

(18, 28, 34, 35), leads to a better understanding of the population fluctuations in the southeastern counties. Fig. 2 shows in a general way the



1921 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

FIG. 1. STATEWIDE POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS, 1921-1946

counties of that region in which dickcissels are present every year, those in which they are present in all except low years and those in which

they are present only in high years. That this presentation is oversimplified is demonstrated by the "high" in Waupaca county in 1942 (22) which was a "low" year farther south. Conditions must have been very favorable in that local area.

Colonization and Sporadic Occurrence

Two parts of one general rule are commonly assumed to govern the distribution of birds and their extension of breeding range: the first

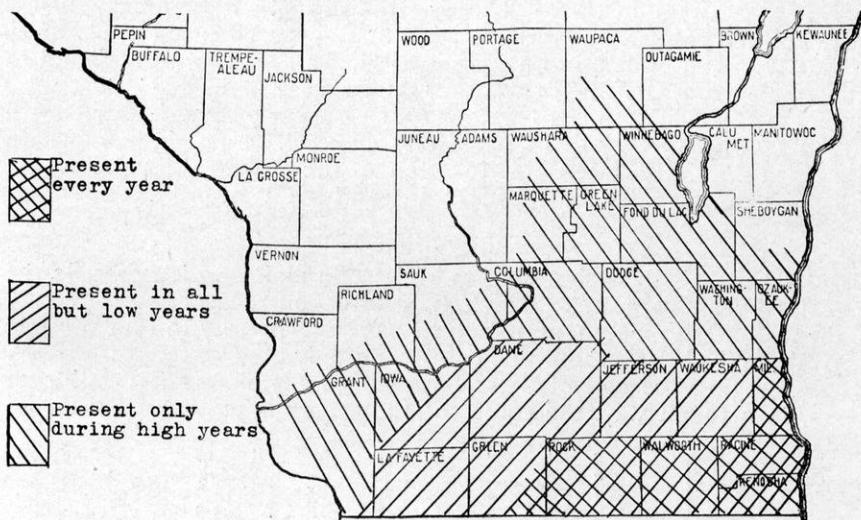


FIG. 2. THE DICKCISSEL BREEDING RANGE OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

is that a large proportion of the young birds return to the vicinity where they were reared in order to nest; the second is that a smaller proportion

TABLE II

SUMMARY OF SPORADIC OCCURRENCES FOR WHICH
THE YEAR OF OBSERVATION IS RECORDED
1921-1946

County	Source	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
Wood	20																X									X		
Brown	Z																									X		
Rusk	38																									X		
Sawyer	5																										X	
Oneida	27																											
Forest	25																											
Sheboygan	2																											

of the population strays to a greater or less extent and so may colonize on a new range. Such sporadic occurrences have been reported, for ex-

ample, in such northern counties as Door (11, 31), Marinette (25), Forest (25), Oneida (27), and Sawyer (5), which are ordinarily thought of as far out of dickcissel range. These reports are summarized in Table II.

It is to be expected that most of these "sparks" flung out at random from the main breeding population will fail to find a proper environment and consequently disappear. Occasionally, however, conditions for colonization will be favorable, and a local population breeding outside the normal summer range will be built up.

Such a situation occurred during the drought of the early 1930's. Mr. Richter points out that dickcissels first appeared in Oconto county about 1930 and built up to a peak in 1934. In 1933 they were found in the nearby counties of Forest and Outagamie and in 1934 they were found in Oneida county as well. From that peak they declined until about 1940 when they disappeared (25). They have not been noted in that area since. It is interesting to note that the peak of this colonization occurred during a "dickcissel high" in southern Wisconsin.

Migration

The dickcissel "arrives singing" (5). The males, which precede the females by about a week, perch in conspicuous places and advertise their readiness to mate (I, Q). Thus it is relatively easy to spot the first arrivals; arrival dates should be correspondingly accurate.

Averaging the arrival dates for each county makes it possible to trace, in a rough way, the course of the spring migration. This is at-

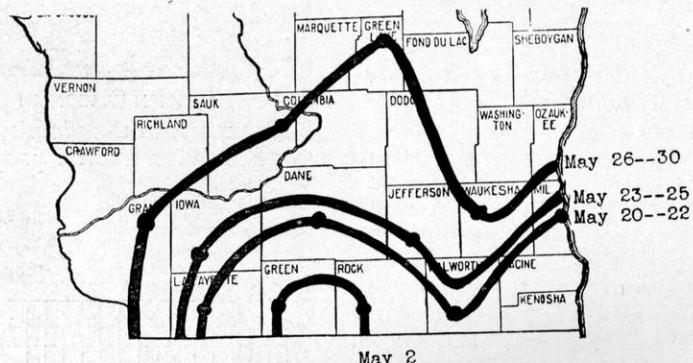


FIG. 3. THE COURSE OF THE SPRING DICKCISSEL MIGRATION IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN, BASED ON AVERAGE DATES OF FIRST ARRIVAL

tempted in Figure 3, where the two prongs of the migration may be clearly seen: one reaching northeast into Ozaukee (23) and the other, much larger, encompassing Grant, Juneau and Outagamie counties.

However, Figure 3 shows the migration of a generalized "high" year. In "low" years, the birds penetrate only as far as Rock, Walworth and Milwaukee counties, as shown in Figure 2.

Dickcissels are also found yearly in La Crosse, Vernon and Pierce counties (4, 19, 21, 33) but first spring arrival records for those counties are lacking. It is at present, then, impossible to state with certainty whether those counties are reached by the migration from the southeast or whether there is a second migration route via the prairies of Iowa and southern Minnesota.

Nesting

The dickcissel is essentially a prairie or prairie-border bird and may nest in either of these types. The nests may be placed on the ground or a few inches above it, as is the case with clover-field nests, or as high as six feet above the ground in bushes (I). Rank vegetation seems necessary, since Gross, in Illinois, found over seven times as many nesting birds in meadow as in pasture (I).

In modern Wisconsin, nests are found in marshes (3, 27), hayfields (I, 18), and weedy waste spots (25). Clover-field nests, which are probably most common, may be at ground level or elevated as much as a foot (15). Those familiar with the nesting habits of the dickcissel in intensively cultivated areas may be surprised to learn that all of the nineteen nests found by Hoy (probably in the 1860's) near Racine were over a foot from the ground, in various thorny shrubs (G).

Mr. Richter states that during the years they nested in the Green Bay marshes of Oconto county the dickcissel nests there were elevated ones and that when there is fair drainage the nests may be in slight depressions on the ground and suggests that the height of the nest from the ground may vary with the wetness of the location (25).

Nesting begins shortly after the birds arrive in late May or early June. At this season, and even later, a singing male does not necessarily indicate a nearby nest since the males may sing even when unmated (I).

The nest is about 4.5 to 5 inches in outside diameter; the general shape and construction are shown in Plate I (I).

The eggs, measuring .80x.60 inches, are pale blue and unmarked; they vary in number from 3 to 5 (G). Cowbird eggs are found among those of the dickcissel fairly commonly (25).

While the interval between pair formation and nest-building is not definitely known, it is probably a week or less, since nests containing first eggs were found in Oconto county in the second week of June, less than three weeks after dickcissels probably arrived, in 1933 and 1934 (25). The actual period of nest construction is four days or more and there then follows an interval of two days before the first egg is laid. Incubation begins, at least in some cases, before the last egg is laid, and occupies at least 11 days. After hatching, the young remain in the nest for nine days; they are fed by the mother for a considerable period after leaving the nest (I). Plate II shows a fledgling still under parental care (I).

An "average" southern Wisconsin nesting chronology would run somewhat like this:

May 25—the male arrives and sings from a fence post by a clover-field

June 2—the female joins the male

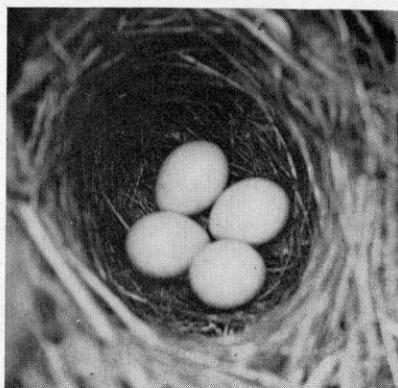


PLATE I

PHOTO BY ALVIN M. PETERSON, ONALASKA
DICKCISSEL NEST AND EGGS FOUND IN SHORT
BRUSH AND GRASS ALONG A FENCEROW.

June 7—the nest is begun

June 27—the eggs hatch

June 14—the first egg is laid

July 6—the young birds leave the nest

However, since practically all hayfields are moved between the second week of June and the first week of July, it is apparent that those dickcissels nesting in hayfields suffer heavy nest destruction. Mr. Clapp has suggested, in fact, that yearly fluctuations may be largely controlled by the time of haying in relation to the hatch (5).

In this connection, it seems very probable that the lateness of haying during drought periods may contribute to the dickcissel population increases of those times.

July nests are often found (27, 23, N). These may represent the efforts of late arrivals, the renesting of birds whose first nests were destroyed in haying or the second nestings of birds who have successfully hatched their first clutch (25, N).

Autumn Migration

Departure dates are more difficult to determine than arrival dates, for while newly-arrived males advertise their presence with song in the



PLATE II. PHOTO BY GEORGE PRINS, RACINE
DICKCISSEL FLEDGLING IN TYPICAL NESTING HABITAT

spring, they are quite inconspicuous as they prepare to depart in the fall. It has been reported from Illinois that after the nesting season, in August, large aggregations of these birds gradually form and that by September 1 these have usually left for the south (1). Such aggregations have not been reported for Wisconsin.

Some of the latest occurrence dates on record are: August 2, 1934, Rusk county (38); August 17, 1939, Jefferson county (2); September 30, 1939, Racine county (23); August 30, 1941, Jefferson county (4); August 15, 1943, Dane county (28).

These dates, with the Illinois observations, suggest that the bulk of the population has left Wisconsin by the middle of August.

Conclusion

In order to understand the migrations and population fluctuations of the dickcissel, much more than a mere listing of dates of arrival and departure is necessary. Yearly censuses in each county, taken with the purpose of showing annual fluctuations, will in time make possible a much more accurate charting of "highs" and "lows." More intensive observation of small units of population and the vicissitudes of their nesting seasons will help reveal the mechanisms behind these fluctuations.

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 Aa The Journal of the Kumlien Club of Madison.

LIST OF DICKCISSEL COOPERATORS

Name and Address

Counties Covered

1 Carmen A. J. Beining, Platteville*	Grant
2 Elmer A. Becker, Elkhart Lake*	Sheboygan
3 George W. H. vos Burgh, Columbus*	Columbia
4 Irven O. Buss, Madison	Columbia, Dunn, Dane, Eau Claire, Pierce, St. Croix, Jefferson, Sauk, Walworth
5 Howard Clapp, Oconomowoc*	Waukesha, Sawyer, Walworth
6 Rev. Francis S. Dayton, New London*	Waupaca, Winnebago
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9 Mrs. John Farner, Colfax	Dunn
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11 Edward J. Hart, Waupaca	Door
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13 Zida C. Ivey, Fort Atkinson	Jefferson
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15 Harold Kruse, Loganville	Sauk, Dane, Columbia
16 Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee	Milwaukee, Waukesha
17 Aldo Leopold, Madison	Dane, Sauk
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19 Margaret E. Morse, Viroqua	Vernon, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk, Rock, Walworth
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26 Samuel D. Robbins, Madison*	Iowa
27 Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, Appleton	Oneida, Outagamie
28 A. W. Schorger, Madison	Dane, Sauk, Iowa, Green, Rock, Jefferson, Dodge, Columbia
29 Alfred S. Bradford, Appleton	Outagamie
30 Winnifred Smith, Two Rivers	Door
31 A. U. Stearns, Marinette	Door
32 Mrs. C. M. Schwendener, Milwaukee*	Racine
33 Rev. C. Toppe, Elmwood	Pierce, Jefferson, Dodge
34 Mrs. Floyd Traxler, Milton Junction	Rock, Dane
35 Dwight M. Warner, Whitewater	Rock, Walworth
36 Harold C. Wilson, Ephraim	Door
37 Howard Young, Madison	Waukesha, Sauk, Dane
38 Francis Zirrer, Birchwood	Rusk

*From the files of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Department of Wildlife Management
 University of Wisconsin, Madison May, 1947

OUR HUMMINGBIRD NEIGHBORS

By MRS. G. B. LARSON

Even dishwashing can be interesting when Madam Hummingbird decides to build her nest in plain view from your window above the kitchen sink, and that's just what she decided to do at our summer cottage on Lake Tichigan. We noticed the tiny fairy bird quite frequently at the big oak tree and soon saw what she was up to. The site was chosen about eight feet from the ground and about six feet from the window. The nest was taking shape. She evidently had gathered lichen and moss, and we watched her pluck out some of the down from her own breast to add to her building materials. I suppose the nectar from the flowers was used for cement. The nest was hardly an inch in diameter and very shallow. Because of its shape and perfect blending of color it looked like a knot on a horizontal branch of the oak and it was very difficult to detect. In fact we had to re-locate it each time, even though we knew exactly where this little architectural masterpiece was built.

While Madam Hummingbird was busy building, she was molested one morning by a curious wren who peered in and around the nest from all angles. At this time I had expected the gaudy male to make his appearance and protest the wren's intrusion, but no, the culprit let his lady-love carry on her own battle. She was quite proficient at this also. She drove the wren down to the grass below, and, in dive bomb fashion, stabbed the wren's tail in lightning fast backward and forward flight. The poor wren didn't know how to escape and whirled around like a dazed fly. From that time on the prospective mother was undisturbed. However, she never got used to having us open the kitchen door. Just seeing the door move would cause her to get off the nest, even before one of us would make his appearance through the door, so we were doubtful about her staying with us long enough to hatch the eggs.

At intervals of a week or ten days we went to our city home for two or three days and that gave her a chance to nest undisturbed, but when we thought her period of incubation had been served, she seemed to be off the nest for two or three days. Our curiosity got the best of us and so we hauled out the stepladder and peeped into the nest. There we saw two tiny, round, breathing matters covered with wet, dark down. They were not like naked newly hatched birds we were used to seeing, but



more like little wet bumble bees in greyish brown. At no time could we hear the faint chirp or twitter of the young ones when the mother came with the food. Perhaps for that reason we so seldom saw her feeding the young.

We classified the male as a very poor husband, and a very neglected daddy for all of that. Apparently he was a man of the world and concerned himself very little with his family. We never saw him at any time although our neighbors saw him while she was building the nest. But who are we to judge, if Madam Hummingbird thought she had attracted the most gorgeously feathered male that there is, it is not us for us to condemn him.

After the little birds had remained in the nest for about two weeks their adolescent vanity came to the fore and much preening was taking place. Next they decided their apartment was much too confining for a pair of twins so they started to venture forth into the unexplored world. The more venturesome of the two hopped out of the nest, up about three inches in his first effort, next a foot, then a few feet, and in an hour's time he had reached the top branches of a twenty foot oak. The next morning the second bird ventured forth much as the first one had, and not a peep out of either one. The mother's encouraging words had been faintly whispered to each as they left their nest. She didn't seem a bit alarmed at our nearness to her young. We spent several hours right under the tree with our binoculars, witnessing their "take-off." They were very desirable tenants, so quiet, and when they vacated their home they left it immaculate.

I suppose we shall never see them again. However, we shall have their photograph to remember them by. Our neighbor, Alfred Maage, Sr., took their picture the morning of their departure. A portrait lens was used just a few feet from the nest and this makes the ordinary sized oak leaves look huge beside the tiny birds. The hummingbird's nest was cut down and will be preserved as an ornithological treasure.

2519 North 44th Street
Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin
January, 1947

1946 In Review

By SAMUEL D. ROBBINS, Jr.

The process by which the discovery of a bird in the field develops into the editing of an annual summary of all field records for the state is enormously complex—but fascinating. A hunter bagging a duck; a boy seeing the first sandpiper of spring; a housewife noticing that her yard is full of little birds on a particular morning in May—these are the bits of raw material which eventually combine and sift themselves into the over-all picture of bird life that the annual summary attempts to paint. First of all the bird must be identified—positively and accurately. Then it should be jotted down in a notebook—species, numbers, date, place, prevailing weather conditions, etc. At the end of each season, these notes should be gone over, edited, and sent to the field note editor—arrival, peak and departure dates for both common and rare species,

special details of the unusual records, and general comments on the season as compared with previous seasons in the same area. The records are then copied on file cards, and filed by species and county; when they are all assembled, they are mulled over—species by species—and notes of possible general trends taken. Out of these trends, and the more unusual records, grows the annual summary.

But it can readily be seen that such a summary is complete and accurate only when all the different steps are taken completely and accurately. The bird must be positively identified; dates must be kept accurately; reports to the field note editor must be complete; they must come from all the representative areas of the state; the field note editor should be sufficiently familiar with the bird population in all the areas of the state at all seasons of the year to appreciate the significance of the reports he receives. Since no one of these steps were taken adequately in 1946, the picture for the year is necessarily incomplete.

The General Picture

Although the winter months were not unusually severe, relatively few of the birds that usually prefer a warmer winter climate remained within Wisconsin's borders. Nor was there an unusually heavy influx of the more northerly wintering species, with the notable exception of the snowy owl which was present in good numbers. Evening grosbeaks and goshawks were also reported more frequently than usual.

The spring migration got under way earlier than usual in southern Wisconsin. Many migrants appeared during the first week in March, but cooler weather later in the month brought the migration back to normal, where it remained throughout the migration period. A few early stragglers provided exceptions: Redstart in Milwaukee, Mar. 20 (Steven); magnolia warbler, Milwaukee, Apr. 19 (Treichel); wood pewee, West Bend, Apr. 20 (Vogelsang); and golden-winged warbler, Wood County, Apr. 27 (Becker). All but the wood pewee constitute the earliest known state records. The spring duck and hawk migrations were disappointing, but the shorebird flight was good along Lake Michigan and Lake Winnebago. A few unexpected warblers turn up almost every spring, and this year had its share: Kirtland's warbler in Rhinelander, Kentucky warbler in Waukesha, hooded in Milwaukee, prothonotary in West Bend and Milwaukee, blue-winged in Milwaukee and Madison, and yellow-breasted chat in Brown County and Madison.

The nesting season got under way early, and was generally successful. The only outstanding record for the summer season was the white pelican at Horicon; although mild surprises were occasioned by the orchard oriole in Two Rivers, the winter wrens in the Devil's Lake area of Sauk County, the Carolina wren in La Crosse, the Bewick's wren in Sauk and Richland Counties, and the cerulean warbler in New London. Late summer saw the heaviest egret flight in years reaching Wisconsin.

Highlighting the autumn season was the unusually mild weather that induced many birds to linger later than usual. Eighteen state records for late departure were broken, while two others were tied. The season in general was very good. Although the duck flight was disappointing, as was the hawk migration along Lake Michigan, the migration of shore birds and small land birds was good. The season also produced a good number of rarities—western grebe, golden eagle, northern phal-

arope, Franklin's gull, white-eyed vireo, white-winged crossbill, and Gabel's sparrow.

December found an unusual number of birds lingering that ordinarily go south—many ducks, kingfisher, flicker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, brown thrasher, robin, hermit thrush, bluebird, several blackbirds, white-throated, fox, swamp and song sparrows. The lakes in southern Wisconsin remained open nearly till the end of the year, enabling the ducks to linger. Evening grosbeaks appeared in fair numbers, while redpolls and pine grosbeaks were decidedly more numerous than usual. Owls were conspicuous by their absence.

The Rarer Records

One reason why ornithology is so fascinating is that it has both predictable and unpredictable elements, carefully blended together. The sighting of a rare bird is thrilling and unpredictable; the appearance of a number of rare birds—though one cannot say where, when, or even what species in advance—is entirely predictable, for every year seems to bring its share. Comments on the rare records for 1946 follow.

Red-throated Loon: One found dead in Milwaukee, Mar. 16 (Helmut Mueller); one seen there on Nov. 2 (Gordon Orians).

Holboell's Grebe: Madison, Oct. 3 (Strelitzer).

Western Grebe: Flock of six, Oct. 12, in Green Bay by Paul Hoffman. Also, flock of eleven, Nov. 26, on Lake Michigan by Mrs. Winnifred Smith. (See last issue for status of this rare Wisconsin species.)

White Pelican: Two seen at Horicon, June 5-6 (Mathiak), and July 10 (Hopkins).

Barrow's Golden-eye: Because immature American golden-eyes have been mistaken for this species so often, there has been a tendency to doubt virtually all sight records of the Barrow's in recent years. But when an observer as reliable as Mrs. Smith of Two Rivers is able to approach to within 30 feet of a bird of this species, and to distinguish the irregular spot before the eye and the purple sheen of the head, there is hardly room for doubt. The bird was seen just north of Two Rivers, Mar. 29-Apr. 1.

White-winged Scoter: This species is rarely found away from Lake Michigan, but is reported from Columbia County on Nov. 3 (Loyster), and from Madison on Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins).

Turkey Vulture: This species was again reported on numerous occasions: Milwaukee, Apr. 1 (Kinzie), June 25 (H. C. Mueller), and Oct. 12 (Gordon Orians); Racine, Mar. 18 (von Jarchow), and Apr. 1 (Prins brothers); Waukesha County, in May (Gordon Orians); and Sauk County, Sept. 5 (Kruse).

Goshawk: Reported on six occasions from Dane, Sauk, Door, Marinette and Vernon Counties, all between February and May. No fall reports.

Golden Eagle: Observed at La Crosse, Nov. 12 (H. A. Anderson). Seen four times in Wood and Jackson Counties, in February, April and October (Searles-Becker); also reported from Elkhorn in January.

King Rail: This bird may not be as rare in the state as the records indicate, but it was reported on only two occasions: a parent with brood were seen in Dane County, June 28 (Barger-Robbins); and one was seen in Horicon Marsh, Aug. 26 (Hopkins).

Yellow Rail: Only report comes from Oconto, May 12 (Carl Richter).

Golden Plover: Recorded in spring from Oshkosh and Dane County, and in fall from Milwaukee.

Ruddy Turnstone: Seen in late May in Madison, Milwaukee and Oshkosh; reported in good numbers from Milwaukee between Aug. 30 and Oct. 19.

Western Willet: Reported on five occasions, all in spring: in Green Bay, Apr. 20 (Mrs. Hussong); in Milwaukee, Apr. 30 (Gordon Orians); in Oshkosh, May 12 (Evans); in Appleton, May 15 (Mrs. Rogers); and again in Green Bay, May 8 (Eric Richter).

Knot: Milwaukee, Sept. 8-21 (several observers).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Only report from Madison, May 24 (Robbins).

Baird's Sandpiper: Milwaukee, Aug. 1-Sept. 9 (several observers).

Red-backed Sandpiper: Seen in the latter half of May in Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Winnebago Counties (several observers); also seen in Milwaukee, Oct. 19-26 (Gordon Orians).

Dowitcher: Dane County, Apr. 28 (Anderson-Barger); Oshkosh, May 16 (Evans); Milwaukee, May 16-17 (Mrs. Nunnemacher et al); one fall record: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (H. C. Mueller).

Wilson's Phalarope: This is another bird that may be more prevalent than the records indicate, but again only two known records are at hand: Oshkosh, May 6 (Evans); and Dane County, May 24 (Barger-Robbins).

Northern Phalarope: Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Kelley); Two Rivers, Sept. 11 (Mrs. Smith).

Glaucous Gull: This wanderer from the North and East was found in Oconto, Feb. 20-23 (Carl Richter).

Franklin's Gull: One observed Sept. 25 in immature plumage, Milwaukee, by Gordon Orians.

Barn Owl: The only report for the year comes from Winnebago County, July 5 (Kaspar).

Snowy Owl: Numerous reports between January and April; one fall report from Jefferson County, Oct. 28 (fide Scott). H. A. Anderson saw one at La Crosse, Nov. 13.

Saw-whet Owl: Milwaukee, Mar. 13 (Gordon Orians); Madison, Dec. 31 (Curran).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Reported in Milwaukee, May 16-June 1 (several observers); in Madison, May 23 (Robbins); again in Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al).

Acadian Flycatcher: Wood County, May 25 (Becker); singing male in Madison, late May to early July (Chan & Sam Robbins).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Reported in spring only from Milwaukee: one was seen on the record-breaking early date of Apr. 23 (Mrs. Balsom), and others were seen, May 15-17 (several observers). Three fall reports: Madison, Aug. 28 (Robbins); Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (Mrs. Larkin et al); Two Rivers, Sept. 12 (Mrs. Smith).

Canada Jay: The paucity of reports from northern Wisconsin doubtless reflects the lack of observers, rather than the lack of birds. Rarely does this species wander as far south as Wisconsin Dell, but three were seen near there on Nov. 6 (Neess, Nelson, Le Cren).

Raven: Reported as far south as Jackson County, Mar. 3 (Duchart-Searles).

Hudsonian Chickadee: Rarely has this hardy little fellow wandered into southern Wisconsin, but one was turned up in Madison, Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins). This species was seen also by other observers about this time.

Bewick's Wren: Noted in Sauk County, Apr. 2-June 7 (Kruse); Dane County, Apr. 28 (Anderson-Barger); Richland County, a brood, July 1 (Barger-Chan Robbins).

Carolina Wren: Nested in La Crosse (Gatterdam). Also found in Green Bay, Apr. 24 (Mrs. Hussong); in Kenosha, May 10 (Mrs. Higgins); in Milwaukee, May 15 (Mrs. Balsam); in Janesville, Aug. 1 (Mrs. Randall); and in Sheboygan County, Aug. 25 (Mueller-Sharp).

Mockingbird: Milwaukee, Apr. 23 (Dr. Hahn et al); a pair was seen in Madison, April-May, (Mrs. Walker et al).

Varied Thrush: Perhaps the prize of the year! How this bird of the far west ever found its way into Wisconsin mid-winter is a mystery, but Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Allen of Janesville have colored moving pictures to prove that it happened. The bird—a male—was a daily visitor at the Allen's feeding tray from Feb. 13 to Feb. 28. The only other known record of this species in Wisconsin is a sight record of one seen in Madison, Oct. 26, 1944, by Mrs. H. R. English.

Pipit: Perhaps more extensive field work will show this bird to be of regular and not so rare occurrence in both spring and fall; but the only available reports for 1946 are from Milwaukee, Sept. 28 (Gordon Orians); and from Madison, Oct. 7-19 (Springer).

Bohemian Waxwing: Pierce Co., Feb. 19 (Buss); Shawano County, Mar. 25 (Mary Staeger); Neillsville, Nov. 19-22 (Robbins).

White-eyed Vireo: One was carefully observed in Milwaukee, Aug. 31 (Gordon Orians).

Philadelphia Vireo: Spring reports come from Milwaukee, May 3-27 (several observers), and from West Bend, May 26 (Vogelsang); in fall, one was seen in Milwaukee, Sept. 1-2 (several observers), and several were noted in Madison, Sept. 12-28 (Robbins).

Prothonotary Warbler: Two spring records: one in West Bend, May 12 (Vogelsang); one in Milwaukee, May 16 (Mrs. Balsom et al). In all likelihood this species was also present along the Mississippi and Wisconsin River bottomlands—an area which is inadequately covered by bird observers.

Cerulean Warbler: This is another species that would probably be recorded more regularly if the bottomlands were visited more often. The only authentic records for the year are three more unusual ones: Kenosha, May 22 (Mrs. Higgins); New London, July 2-6 (Robbins); and a nesting record for Waukesha County, June 14 (Jones et al).

Kirtland's Warbler: Why the breeding grounds of this species should be confined to a few counties in Michigan, when Wisconsin provides similar habitat and climate, is one of the many ornithological questions that has yet to be answered. Even sight records have been very meager, and inconclusive enough to relegate this species to the hypothetical list. Whether or not this bird is to be admitted to the state list on the basis of another sight record is not for this writer to decide, but he is satisfied that Miss Lois Almon saw one near Rhinelander on May 23. The bird was carefully and patiently studied, and all the distinctive field marks were noted.

Kentucky Warbler: Again because of lack of coverage of the river bottom areas, the only report for 1946 comes from Waukesha County, where one was seen on May 16 (Jones).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Brown County, May 19 (Strehlow); Madison, June 28 (Barger-Robbins).

Hooded Warbler: This southern bird rarely reaches our borders, but on June 2-3 two live birds and one dead one were found in Milwaukee (Mrs. Jackson).

Orchard Oriole: This species is known to have nested near Two Rivers (Mrs. Smith) and near Lone Rock (Miss Morse). One was also seen in Green Bay, May 30 (Eric Richter); an immature male was found in Poynette, May 23 (Anderson); and an adult male was seen in Dane County several times in May and June (Barger-Robbins).

Hoary Redpoll: The records indicate that this species is of casual appearance in Wisconsin, but since redpolls are not often seen under circumstances where it would be possible to determine the presence of this smaller, lighter variety, the hoary redpoll may not be as rare as the paucity of records indicates. Two of these birds were carefully studied at close range in Neillsville on Dec. 28 (Robbins). Another was seen subsequently on Dec. 30.

White-winged Crossbill: A female of this erratic visitor from the north was seen near Wisconsin Dells on Nov. 6 (Neess, Nelson, Le Cren).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Reported in Milwaukee, Apr. 22-May 15 (several observers); and in Oconto, May 14 (Carl Richter).

Lake Sparrow: Several seen in the region of Lone Rock, June 26 (Miss Morse). One was also seen in Vernon County, May 15 (Strelitzer); and another in Mercer, Sept. 27 (Mrs. Sell). More complete coverage of the southwestern portion of the state might indicate the bird to be regular and rather numerous in that area; but the bird in Mercer was certainly a straggler.

Harris's Sparrow: The dates of observation of this species indicate that the bird wastes little time in Wisconsin. Both spring records were made on May 12: in Milwaukee (Mrs. Balsom) and in Oshkosh (Evans). The fall reports spanned ten days: Mercer, Sept. 29-Oct. 7 (Mrs. Sell); Rhinelander, Oct. 7 (Miss Almon); and Neillsville, Oct. 8 (Robbins).

Gambel's Sparrow: This straggler from the far west, a subspecies of the white-crowned sparrow, finds a place on the 1946 list because an adult was trapped and banded in Oshkosh on Oct. 6 by Kaspar.

Hypothetical List

Oregon (?) Junco: Whenever one of the western forms of our slate-colored junco is seen in Wisconsin, we are almost sure of having a hypothetical list to attach to the regular list of rarities; for the subspecific race cannot be told with certainty in the field. Indeed, experts often disagree in the subspecific determination of a skin in the hand. All that can be said in this case is that one of these puzzling stragglers from the west was noted in Milwaukee, Mar. 26 by Robbins. The bird was noticeably different, even when seen with the naked eye; and when studied at close range with 8x binoculars, the pink sides and sharp contrast between gray head and brownish back were plainly evident.

General Comments and Suggestions

It is always interesting to count up the number of different species and subspecies seen in the state during the year, but such a task is not as easy as it appears on first glance. It involves making decisions about what birds should be included or excluded—such as the rock dove (is it a "wild" bird?), chukar partridge (can it be considered in our list of Wisconsin birds after having been introduced only recently?), black duck (should both the common and red-legged forms be counted?), northern water-thrush (should both the northern and grinnell's forms be included?), et cetera. Should one include species for which Wisconsin has no specimen, or should those records augment the hypothetical list? There may well be criticism about the author's decisions—and he welcomes any criticism or comments—but in arriving at a total for the year he has included the rock dove, and three species for which Wisconsin has no collected specimen, but which seem to be very reliably reported: Barrow's golden-eye, varied thrush, and Kirtland's warbler. All other questionable additions have been left out. The total for the year is thus put at 264 species, plus two subspecies (prairie horned lark and Gambel's sparrow), or a grand total of 266.

Next year we hope to add a new feature to the annual summary. We are planning to stimulate a little friendly competition to see which individuals and which counties can produce the largest total list of species for 1946. Such a project will be of very limited scientific value, but it will add much in the way of interest and enthusiasm for observers to get out in the field as often as possible, and to record accurately what they see. Of course it is inevitable that certain strategic areas and the observers in those areas will have an advantage. But that should not discourage anyone. Those who have never kept a yearly list will find it a thrill to see how many different species they can see in one year; and each year will continue to provide thrills as observers try to better previous marks. At the end of the year, observers will be asked to send in a copy of the list of birds they have seen in Wisconsin. The county lists will be built up from the field notes regularly submitted, plus any additional data available. Such a project can succeed only with the co-operation of many observers covering a representative area.

Neillsville, Wisconsin

March, 1947

SOCIETY MEETS IN MAY AT MADISON

By GERTRUDE M. SCOTT

For the second time in its nine-year history, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology met in Madison in May. Quite different from that first organization meeting, the spacious quarters of Great Hall at the Memorial Union were utilized, under the sponsorship of the Department of Wildlife Management and the Biology Department of the University. The weekend of May 9-11 was chosen in an attempt to coincide with warbler migration—and incidentally because it was just before examinations and the only time that the facilities at the Union were available for outside use.

Because several members had expressed a desire for more time to visit and become acquainted with colleagues from other cities, a recep-

tion was held on Friday evening, May 9, under the auspices of the Kumlein Bird Club. In the entrance hall, the registration desk and banquet and housing arrangements tables claimed first attention, where 161 members and 116 guests registered. Honorary members of the Society, the two speakers for the banquet and monument dedication ceremonies—Herbert L. Stoddard of Georgia and H. H. T. Jackson of Washington, D. C.—were present at the reception. Other members from a distance included Lawrence Johnson of Middlebury, Indiana and Charles Kossack of Barrington, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Hamerstrom of Pinckney, Michigan were continuing their study of the prairie chicken in central Wisconsin and attended the meeting.

Proceeding into Great Hall, delegates found exhibits of paintings at either end of the large room, and a new service of the Society in the form of a "store" of which Mr. Barger was in charge was set up to provide bird books and other hobby equipment for sale. Wisconsin bird artists—Owen Gromme, Earl Wright, Byron Jorns, Antoon de Vos, D. E. Tibbitts, and Michael Lapcewich—as well as E. W. Steffen of Iowa and George M. Sutton of Michigan exhibited at the meeting. Rev. John Baechle of Indiana and Robt. A. McCabe showed several bird photographs also. A new type of material for bird study was shown by Mrs. Arthur Koehler, in the form of many small painted wood carvings of birds, perched among catkins and on small individual twigs to show to best advantage.

Periodically, groups proceeded across the street to the University of Wisconsin library, where Gilbert H. Doane had set up in his office a display of elephant Audubon portfolios, as well as Gould, Mathews, and Beebe volumes. These rare and beautiful books had recently been acquired by the University with the Thordarson collection, and members of the Society were privileged to be among the first to view them. Shortly after nine o'clock the 300 or more people in attendance settled down to see the first Wisconsin showing of Edgar M. Queeny's "Arkansas Timber-Toppers," loaned by the Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission. Many beautiful "shots" in slow motion of ducks landing and taking off among the flooded timber were included.

At a table decorated with a lovely display of forsythia and daffodils, Mrs. N. R. Barger presided over the serving of refreshments. By 11:30, most delegates had left and the two guards—ornithology students at the University—settled down for the night, one to study for an exam the next morning.

The anticipated morning "rush" at the registration desk did not materialize because almost 100 members and guests had registered the previous evening. After the welcoming address by Prof. Aldo Leopold of the University's Department of Wildlife Management, and a short response by President Clarence S. Jung, Robert A. McCabe presented his paper on "Bird Trapping Techniques Developed at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum." Clyde Terrell of Oshkosh followed with advice on "Attracting and Building Homes for Wood Ducks." "Bird Studies at Davis, California" was the subject chosen by Dr. John Emlen, Jr., head of the new department of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the University. For herself and Dr. Leon J. Cole of the University's Genetics Department, Frances Hamerstrom of Pinckney, Michigan gave the results of their observations and conclusions in "Laying Cycles of the House Wren."

The Field Note Editor of the Society, Sam Robbins of Neillsville, presented an outline of material and observations desired for record in the Society's bulletin in his "Keeping Up with Wisconsin Birds." He has forms prepared which may be secured by writing to Mr. Robbins, if you did not get your copies at the Convention.

As time was running short, the business meeting was then called to order. Details of the reports and elections as well as other action may be found in the Secretary's report elsewhere in this issue.

Arrangements had been made for luncheon at the Memorial Union for those who wished it, and 142 were served there. On the terrace back of the Union, immediately after lunch, the delegates gathered for the first group photograph of Society members.

The afternoon session, consisting entirely of movies, was presented in the Memorial Union Theater. As time had not permitted at the morning meeting, Owen Gromme first gave his progress report on the forthcoming book on Wisconsin Birds, for which he is at present preparing paintings and collecting notes. All of the sessions were open to the public, and at this one about 700 persons gathered to see Cleveland P. Grant's "Birds of Town and Country," Harold Wilson's "Cormorants of Hat Island," and Murl Deusing's "Bright Feathers." The Fish and Wildlife Service in Chicago loaned W. F. Kubichek's "Wildlife of the Lower Souris Refuge" for showing. These four movies made a fine wildlife show and the running accounts given with the first three kept everyone interested.

Guests arriving at the Loraine Hotel for the 6:30 banquet were greeted by a bird which was the symbol for the meeting. A tinted slide had been made from a photograph of a living male passenger pigeon and it was projected onto a screen at the head of the stairs. Daffodils and forsythia dominated in the table decorations, while each of the 202 places was marked by a small colored cut-out of a bird mounted on a twig, the handiwork of Mrs. R. A. Walker.

Cleveland P. Grant did an excellent job as toastmaster, bringing to it the easy-going naturalness that characterizes his lectures. Groups from various cities were recognized—he counted 50 from Madison, while Milwaukee had "about 45." Green Bay, Racine, Kenosha, Appleton, Ladysmith, Waukesha, Oshkosh, and Manitowoc also were represented. In a special appeal to American ornithologists, F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr., Dr. John Emlen, Jr., and Mrs. Hamerstrom spoke relative to the need for assisting our colleagues in Europe. Directions were made available for sending clothing packages, or food packages through the auspices of CARE. Anyone who will assist may reach Mrs. Hamerstrom at Pinckney, Michigan. At the banquet itself, the equivalent of \$271 in European value was collected.

Prof. Aldo Leopold spoke briefly on the above subject and then introduced the speaker for the evening, Herbert L. Stoddard of Thomasville, Georgia. In his "Reminiscences of Wisconsin Birding," Mr. Stoddard said he began his Wisconsin bird work at Delavan Lake, where his aunt had a cottage. Three months in the summer of 1900 were spent exploring around there. He summarized briefly his early field work around Prairie du Sac, and on trips for the Milwaukee and Field museums. Those were the days when almost every respectable well-



The People in the Picture. (To use key, place ruler on indicator marks numbered from right to left, including in column all persons having at least one eye to the right of the line and left of previous line.) Individuals in columns, from top to bottom: 1. R. Neugebauer, Madison; C. A. Anthes, Waukesha; R. P. Hussong, Green Bay. 2. D. Q. Thompson, Ladysmith; A. E. McVey, Beaver Dam; Mrs. N. R. Stone, Webster; W. Dettman, Milwaukee. 3. N. R. Stone, Webster; Mrs. R. Neugebauer, Madison. 4. P. Sander, Kenosha; Eleanor Peterson, Madison; Mrs. H. A. Main, F. Atkinson; E. W. Strehlow, Green Bay; Lydia Dettman, Milwaukee; Mrs. H. Higgins, Kenosha. 5. Helen Schroeder, Madison; M. E. Vore, West Bend; Mrs. C. R. Decker, Jr., Milwaukee; Mrs. A. Weber, Green Bay. 6. W. E. Scott, Madison; O. S. Bersing, Madison; Mrs. D. Fogwell, Bristol; H. Higgins, Kenosha. 7. C. Kossack, Barrington, Ill.; R. N. Buckstaff, Oshkosh; Mrs. G. Delsart, Green Bay. 8. F. R. Zimmerman, Madison; Leone Schuessler, Kenosha; Mrs. C. M. Schwendener, Milwaukee; Mrs. M. J. Duquaine, Green Bay. 9. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr., Pinckney, Mich.; E. Roarh, Madison; H. A. Steinke, Portage; M. J. Duquaine, Green Bay. 10. H. C. Wilson, Ephraim; Wes Seauist, Madison; Annie Boyce, Oshkosh; Charlotte Moody, Kenosha; Mildred Van Vonderen, Green Bay. 11. A. O. Schwengel, Port Washington; K. MacArthur, Milwaukee; P. W. Romig, Green Bay. 12. H. H. T. Jackson, Washington, D. C.; L. J. Johnson, Middlebury, Ind.; E. A. Clemans, Oshkosh; Mrs. M. Cutler, Milwaukee; C. G. Krawczyk, Green Bay. 13. G. H. Doane, Madison; G. C. Becker, Port Edwards; Lillian Marsh, Manitowoc; Mrs. F. B. Garrett, Green Bay. 14. A. W. Schorger, Madison; H. A. Mathiak, Horicon; O. J. Gromme, Milwaukee; Merle Pickett, Manitowoc; Helen Schaller, Manitowoc; Mrs. S. Miller, Sheldon. 15. G. W. Longenecker, Madison; B. L. von Jarchow, Racine; W. Grange, Babcock; H. Kruse, Loganville; H. Clapp, Oconomowoc; Mrs. M. W. Schneider, Hales Corners; A. L. Throne, Milwaukee; Genevieve Mart, Neenah; Mrs. Lola Welch, South Wayne. 16. R. R. Adams, Waukesha; E. W. Peartree, Oconomowoc; Mrs. H. Clapp, Oconomowoc; Flora Garrett, Oshkosh; Mrs. A. L. Throne, Milwaukee; Clara Hussong, Green Bay; L. A. Johnson, Waukesha. 17. C. E. Nelson, Waukesha; Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Appleton; Karine Kjolseth, Oshkosh; B. J. Bradle, Crandon; Mrs. Ethel Olson, South Wayne. 18. S. P. Jones, Waukesha; G. W. Treichel, Milwaukee; Edna Peebles, Fond du Lac; Mrs. A. Koehler, Madison; Mrs. R. A. Walker, Madison. 19. W. E. Rogers, Appleton; Mrs. B. J. Bradle, Crandon; Mrs. A. D. Phillips, Madison. 20. G. J. Brabender, Wausau; Mrs. H. L. Playman, Appleton; E. Krause, Sun Prairie; Mrs. L. C. Dietsch, Plymouth; N. R. Barger, Madison. 21. Mrs. W. J. Geiger, Oshkosh; A. G. Johnson, Waukesha; Josephine Seiker, Manitowoc; J. L. Diedrich, Milwaukee; Mildred Williams, Stevens Point. 22. Mrs. P. J. Steib, Milwaukee; A. G. Etter, Madison; C. L. Strelitzer, Milwaukee. 23. J. H. Evans, Oshkosh; Mrs. W. E. Hicks, Oshkosh; Mildred Deusing, Milwaukee; L. P. Steven, Milwaukee; C. B. Terrell, Oshkosh. 24. E. G. Wright, Green Bay; M. Deusing, Milwaukee; H. F. Young, Madison; R. A. McCabe, Madison; K. F. Miller, Milwaukee. 25. P. J. Steib, Milwaukee; Mrs. W. J. Whitmus, Wauwatosa. 26. Arelisle Quimby (inside door), Sheboygan; K. Kaspar, Madison; Anna Hehn, Milwaukee; Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Milwaukee; Mary Donald, Milwaukee. 27. J. L. Kasper, Oshkosh; L. J. Cole, Madison; Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Milwaukee. 28. H. L. Stoddard, Thomasville, Ga.; C. S. Jung, Milwaukee.

settled family had a "natural history cabinet." They were scattered all bad because so many people are getting away from Nature now."

From the standpoint of bird study, Mr. Stoddard believes Wisconsin is the most interesting state in which he has worked. This is partially accounted for by the Mississippi flyway with its branch up the Wisconsin river, and the Lake Michigan route. Mentioning the movement northward of the Carolinian fauna, he cited the increase in Wisconsin of the cardinal and the Kentucky and blue-winged warblers. The best example of the eastward migration of a western species into the state is the western meadowlark, and even the magpie is appearing.

He spoke of several experiences in the Prairie du Sac region, but said that one of his most vivid memories is the goshawk migration of 1907-08. There was a great deal of snow that winter and the birds literally invaded that territory. "Actually, I saw more piles of ruffed grouse feathers scattered over the bluffs than I thought there were grouse in that region."

One type of study which he would recommend to older ornithologists who have had an opportunity at some previous time to make a fairly detailed study of a region is to return to that area after a 15 or 20 year absence to make a comparative study. In conclusion, he voiced the hope that the Wisconsin Society would be able to do its bit to help prevent the "devastation man is visiting upon the landscape."

Being a member of one of Wisconsin's foremost teams himself, Mr. Grant thought it time to recognize some of the Society's "husband-wife" combinations such as Wallace and Hazel Grange, Murl and Mildred Deusing, Fred and Frances Hamerstrom, John and Virginia Emlen, Norval and Clara Barger, Aldo and Estelle Leopold, R. P. and Clara Hussong, Earl and Marie Wright, and Walter and Nell Rogers.

Program chairman for the Convention, Walter E. Scott was given an opportunity to introduce his assistants as follows: reception, Irven O. Buss; housing, Mrs. Arthur Koehler; art exhibits, F. R. Zimmerman; miscellaneous exhibits, N. R. Barger; student assistance, John Emlen, Jr.; mechanical arrangements, Frank Kozlik; monument memorial booklets, Ben Hubbard; library exhibit, Gilbert H. Doane; banquet, Mrs. R. A. Walker and the West Side Garden Club; reception refreshments and decoration, Mrs. N. R. Barger and the Sunset Garden Club; field trips, Robert A. McCabe and N. R. Barger; and registration, the other half of another "husband-wife" team, Mrs. Walter E. Scott.

J. Harwood Evans, retiring treasurer after eight years of service, was introduced as the new president of the Society, and spoke briefly regarding his expectations for the future.

By 10 p. m., those attending had been urged to "get some rest" to prepare for the early morning field trips at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum and Wyalusing State Park, and the passenger pigeon monument dedication ceremonies to follow.

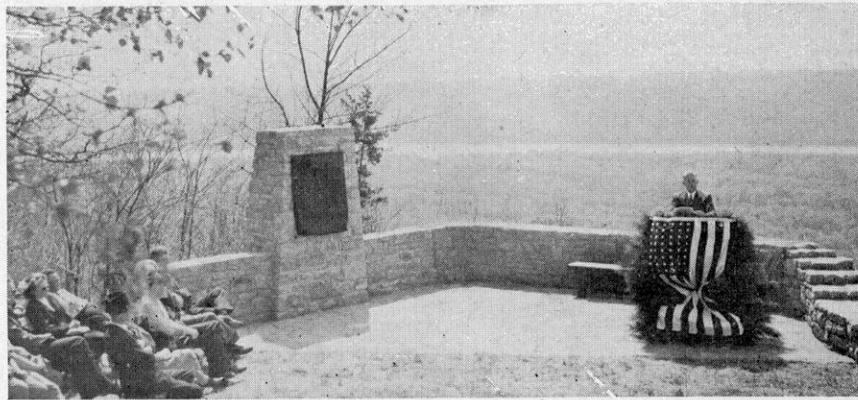
Passenger Pigeon Monument Dedicated

On one of the first pleasantly warm days of the season, May 11, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology dedicated its monument to the extinct passenger pigeon at Wyalusing State Park. Members of the Society began arriving at the park in the very early morning for field trips to study the interesting bird life present in that area. Because of

its unique combination of terrain—flooded river bottoms, lowland pastures, and high bluffs interspersed by wooded ravines, many and various species could be observed in a relatively short time. A late spring season resulted in retarded leafing of the trees and this was of considerable aid in identification of small warblers and flycatchers. The ground was carpeted with violets, spring beauties, anemones, and other spring flowers to delight all those who had endured a long winter.

Luncheon was scheduled for 11:30, but many seemed to overlook that detail, in their desire to observe one more newly-arrived migrant. Shortly afterward, members of the Society and many park visitors who were attracted by the unusual idea of erecting a monument to an extinct species of fauna, began gathering on Sentinel ridge, overlooking the broad Mississippi with its extensive wooded bottomlands, which is here swelled by the waters of the Wisconsin. The neat and imposing stone monument was the focal point, its face covered by a square of black cloth. J. Harwood Evans of Oshkosh, newly elected president of the Society, was master of ceremonies. He introduced first Mr. Phil Sander of Kenosha, one of the members who assisted in selection of the site and in designing the monument. Mr. Sander told briefly of the trip of the committee in searching for an ideal spot and their satisfaction when they found this location.

Next, Earl G. Wright of Green Bay was presented. Mr. Wright stated that he felt that the completion of the monument and plaque was one of the highlights of his career. Mr. Wright, an able artist and director of the Neville Public Museum, designed and modeled the final pattern of the plaque. Representing the family of Louis R. Taylor, donor of the plaque, Miss Elizabeth Oehlenschlaeger of Milwaukee spoke briefly of her sorrow that her good friend, Mrs. Taylor, had passed away before the monument was completed, since she had taken such a vital



DR. H. H. T. JACKSON ADDRESSES THE SOCIETY PRIOR TO THE UNVEILING

interest in everything concerning birds and other wildlife and the plaque was of deep interest to her. She expressed the feeling that dedication of a monument is always a sad occasion and this one, to a beautiful bird now extinct, was no exception.

Mr. Paul Lawrence, superintendent of Wyalusing State Park, was called from his duties for a brief introduction. From the beginning,

Mr. Lawrence had taken a deep interest in the project, envisioning the monument in its lofty setting and finally supervising its erection and completion.

President Evans then introduced Dr. A. W. Schorger of Madison, national authority on the passenger pigeon, and author of the words on the plaque: "Dedicated to the last Wisconsin passenger pigeon. Shot at Babcock, Sept. 1899. This species became extinct through the avarice and thoughtlessness of man." Dr. Schorger presented Dr. H. H. T. Jackson of Washington, D. C., Chief of the Section on Biological Surveys with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Jackson delivered the dedication address, his subject being "Attitude in Conservation." A native of Wisconsin, he is now in charge of the study of endangered species of wildlife, to prevent their extermination. He stated: "It is difficult in most cases to determine the cause or causes of an extinction. Often it appears that it may be one chief factor, or again it may be several. Extinction in every case was brought about at first by gradual depletion of the population and through local extirpation. When the population becomes reduced to a danger point, extinction may come with unexpected rapidity. Dislike the assertion as we may, in recent times the human species has been the prime factor in the extermination of other species." Citing illegal hunting and trapping, lack of respect for protective laws, extension and improvement of travel facilities, drainage, cultivation, stock raising, and other necessary changes in wildlife habitat as prime factors in the heavy toll taken of many species, he added that "general methods of conservation and of preserving species are well formulated." These include adequate organization; legal protection; permanent refuges, sanctuaries, parks, primitive or wilderness areas; improvement of habitat; and elimination or control of exotic species.

After quoting editorials and letters illustrating the two extremes—the commercializer with no regard for the future and the sentimentalist who believes that no wildlife should be killed for any purpose whatsoever—he called for a sound middle course in our wildlife conservation activities, education and publicity. "May we hold ourselves to reason and fairplay, and avoid misstatements and exaggerations. Let us keep our feet on the ground and our heads level."



DETAIL OF THE PLAQUE ITSELF

He concluded: "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."

For the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, President Evans presented the plaque and monument to the State of Wisconsin and it was acknowledged by a member of the conservation commission, W. J. P. Aberg of Madison, during whose talk the plaque was unveiled. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Aberg said:

"I couldn't help but be impressed with Miss Oehlenschlaeger's suggestion that the dedication of a monument always had an air of sadness about it. I have had that same thought. I met this assignment with rather mixed emotions—sorrow, and particularly sorrow because it is necessary to dedicate a monument to an extinct species by reason of man's avarice; the other—joy and optimism, because the dedication of this monument is a recognition of the faults and mistakes of the past and a realization of what must be done in the future that those things may never happen again. Species have become extinct in the past. We find relics of species that passed out of existence millions of years before man was on the earth. Their passing was not as dramatic as the passenger pigeon, in three, four or five decades. The major cause was man's own rapacity and man's own inconsiderate activities.

"I wonder if we are quite fair in judging past responsibility by the rules of 1947 when their actions took place 50 and 60 years ago. All through our history, so far as conservation is concerned, we have had these movements inspired by those who could see what was happening and wanted to do something about it. In 1867 there was an interim committee appointed in the legislature to investigate the rapid destruction of forest trees. They reported with conclusions as modern as the methods used today. Still we went merrily on for years until a period of 60 or 70 years passed and then we took some action. If we had been living then, how many of us would have given a thought to the fact that a species was becoming extinct? We should realize that more has been accomplished by reaching the stage we have today—of realizing what we can't and must do about our out-of-doors and animal and bird life.

"In accepting this monument and plaque for the conservation commission as a trustee for the people of the state of Wisconsin, I believe it will be an expression to those who see it to guide them and see that they do not continue the errors and faults of the past and when they see it, bow in sorrow. On behalf of the people of the state and as trustee for them as member of the conservation commission, I can say it will be carefully guarded and watched daily; if vandals try to molest it, their efforts will be prevented, for the joy it will give to the future and sorrow that it is necessary to dedicate monuments of this kind."

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH BUSINESS MEETING of The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

The business meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was called to order at 11 a. m., May 10, 1947 by Mr. Clarence Jung, president, at Madison, Wisconsin.

Minutes of the sixth convention meeting of April 6, 1946, held at Appleton, Wisconsin were read and approved.

The treasurer, Mr. J. Harwood Evans, read his report as of April 4, 1947. He

again called attention to the fact that the membership fees were not paying the expenses of the organization and that we were having to use the reserve fund to pay current bills. The deficit was \$162.41, which left a cash balance in the reserve fund of \$706.27. The cost of the four issues of THE PASSENGER PIGEON for 1946 was \$671.61.

Motion was made by Mr. Earl Wright to accept the report.

The report was audited by Messrs. S. Paul Jones and Harold Wilson.

Mr. N. R. Barger, editor, said he had no report at this time.

Mr. Walter Scott, convention chairman, said he had talked with Mr. Paul Lawrence, superintendent of Wyalusing State Park, that everything was spic and span and that they all hoped the weather would be good. The unveiling of the passenger pigeon monument would be at 1 p. m., Sunday, May 11.

Mr. Earl Loyster reported that all of the check lists had been sold, that he had bought back some extra copies, and that he had \$30.00 to turn into the treasury. The society tendered him a vote of thanks.

Under new business, Mr. S. Paul Jones reported that the waterfowl situation was in the most discouraging condition in 26 years and suggested that the following motion be sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service, motion: "To close the 1947 season on ducks, if not in the whole country at least in the Mississippi flyway."

The president called for the question and Mr. Earl Wright reported that one of the reasons the authorities were so reluctant to close the season on ducks was the loss of revenue from the sale of duck stamps that would ensue so suggested that we, as an organization, go on record as supporting the National Audubon Society in the sale of the duck stamps to non-hunters if the season was closed for a year.

The motion was carried.

The secretary then read a communication in regard to two changes in the constitution signed by 10 members of the organization.

Recommended Constitutional Changes

Article VII. The Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the above named officers and five directors who shall be elected at the annual meeting and who shall automatically be considered chairmen of the following standing committees: membership, endowments, education and publicity, library, and legal counsel. Six members of the board shall constitute a quorum. (Remainder of Article the same.)

Article III. Membership. Section 4. Dues of student members shall be one dollar for each calendar year, active members one dollar and fifty cents, and sustaining members five dollars. (Remainder of section the same.) (Original letter attached.)

A motion was made by Mr. Earl Wright and seconded by Mr. S. Paul Jones that the recommended change in Article VII be accepted. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Mr. J. Harwood Evans and seconded by Mr. Clarence Anthes that the recommended changes in Article III be accepted. The motion was carried.

A motion was then made by Mr. Walter Scott and seconded by Mr. Carl Streifel, that the change in the active membership fee begin with the No. 3 issue of THE PASSENGER PIGEON, 1947. The motion was carried.

The president then read the recommendations of the nominating committee. (Officers elected are found elsewhere in this issue.)

Mr. Alvin Throne moved to accept the report and that the secretary be requested to cast an unanimous ballot for the society. The motion was carried.

An invitation to hold the next convention at Waukesha was then presented to the convention from the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club by Mr. S. Paul Jones.

Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Gromme that the invitation be accepted. The motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. A. P. BALSOM, Secretary.



The Pugnacious Partridge

(A Story of the Strange Behavior of *Bonasa Umbellus*)

By DR. H. O. SCHNEIDERS

We were told pictures of a partridge could be made by driving along a road near the Little Rib River and parking near a certain tree.

Sure enough, after a few moments we saw movement on the hillside. Slowly, carefully, a partridge came through the roadside brush, under the fence and looked us over.

It went under the car and as we stooped and waved our hands it came out to get acquainted.

Shadow boxing was enjoyed by the bird, we put on gloves and had quite a bout, as the movies will attest. After considerable trial and boxing the partridge permitted himself to be picked up and held in the hands. I thought it was a cock due to the very long tail feathers, although they were not measured.

A week later we drove out with others to make some more pictures, but the bird did not appear.

We visited a nearby farmer who told us a partridge had been found by the roadside dead, evidently struck by a car. He also told us that the partridge would come into the house with the children and box with them, and that their fingers were a mass of bruises from peckings of the fighting partridge.



Sac Prairie Spring

By AUGUST DERLETH

9 April: While I sat in a sheltered place on the hill above the wing dam this afternoon, watching from time to time how the herring gulls fed across the river along the sandbars, I grew aware of a stately Canadian goose walking up along the shore of the Wisconsin just south of the wing dam, stopping now and then to feed in the shallow water there. I watched the goose until it tired; then it ran forward a little, beating its wings, and took off in low flight, sufficient to carry it over the river and well above the wing dam, where it settled into the water.

10 April: A flicker cried persistently this morning not far from the house. I could not avoid listening; his voice penetrated the studio, and it was not unwelcome. It has a fierce quality of pride in it, and few bird voices are so commanding as the flicker's in its high, rattling tempo. It seems to me essentially a voice of the deep woods, and is at its best there, echoing among the trees.

15 April: Riding in along the road to the Ferry Bluff this evening, the headlights of the car reflected redly from the eyes of a bird along the roadside. Kenneth stopped the car, and I got out and walked over to it

as quietly as possible. But it did not move until I reached down toward it; then it flew noiselessly up, perhaps a little numbed by the cold weather—the year's first whippoorwill, sight of which seemed to me at least partial proof that the whippoorwills, as I have long suspected, come much earlier than first songs would indicate, the average date for first songs being more than ten days later than April 15th. By the same token, whippoorwills might quite conceivably remain later than last songs in autumn seem to indicate, accounting for reports of them as late as mid-October in some regions of Wisconsin north of Sac Prairie.

16 April: I watched a pair of jacksnipes in the marshes just at sundown this evening, standing on the railroad tracks for some time. I observed that the cock made the customary flight—that is, the rapid forward circling, punctuated by even more rapid little dips, in the course of which the wind in its wings made the eerie **whoo-oo-oo-oo**, while the hen uttered the typical jacksnipe cries, with occasional variations, and also made short dipping flights, but **not** with any wing-sound, yet with curiously held stiffened wings, raised above its body. This pattern was invariable. Moreover, the two birds maintained largely the same distance between them—from seven to twelve feet, and appeared to make no attempt to come closer together, though on two occasions the hen made as if to settle to the ground, but the cock not following, she resumed the flight pattern. Finally, however, the hen dropped into the willows, and there set up a plaintive variation of her customary cry, which ultimately brought the cock down briefly, too. The flight was presently resumed.

18 April: While lying on my back on the hill above the wing dam this afternoon, I chanced to look past an areoplane going by toward a fluff of white clouds thin against the blue, and saw a great bird soaring very high up in heaven, the shape and contour of wings and body indicating beyond doubt that it was a falcon of some kind, and its size suggesting that it must be either the grey or the black gyrfalcon, rare in this vicinity. An eagle it was not, being too slim and too trim for that, and being clearly falcon-winged. I watched it for some time; indeed, until it disappeared into and beyond the clouds, spiralling up out of sight, easily more than a mile above earth at that place.

20 April: I sat at the east end of the Spring Slough trestle this evening taking pleasure in the hyla choir rising from the Upper Meadow, and the booming of jacksnipe falling from above, together with the fluting of woodcocks in aerial dance; and, while I sat there, a pair of wood ducks swam past on their way up under the trestle to the lake at the north end of the slough, the two of them talking quietly together in a kind of intimate murmur. Doubtless they were planning a nest in the vicinity. Neither bird saw me in their progress up along the dark water and out of sight.

6 May: In the vicinity of the Spring Slough at dusk the first wood-thrush gave its dulcet, liquid song to the evening. I stopped and listened, thinking how wonderfully contemplative a song it was, how it stood out among all the evening songs of many birds and frogs rising from every side—a clear, sweet song, though its range is not wide, and doubtless it is lost at any distance against the full-throated singing of the hundreds of redwings in the meadows.

13 May: Hunting morels today, I startled up a small screech owl in the red phase. The bird rose up noiselessly and lit on a branch not far away,

its little ear tufts erect: a thin bird, I thought, and obviously nesting nearby—indeed, it may have started away from its nest, though I did not see its starting point, and could not discover the nest on perfunctory search—for it flew only a little way at a time, and kept not far ahead of me; but each time it landed, it was struck out against the sky, though the woods there are deep enough; but by coincidence it was so each time, and I was thus able to observe it easily, since it stayed only about thirty feet ahead of me until I turned, when it flew back into the woods I had left, doubtless to return to its nest.

25 May: While walking along a wooded ridge in search of morels today, I was started by a weird and unfamiliar whistle, which sounded to me at first like the distress whine of a dog or some such animal; but suddenly it was augmented by a hissing, too pronounced for a snake's; so I stood still to discover what would happen. At this a hen grouse, wings out-spread, neck feathers ruffed, came running at me, whistling and hissing, and, not far behind her, a cock grouse rose up, similarly poised; he was the source of the louder whining, and, as the hen grouse veered and turned away—immediately folding her wings and settling her feathers—he made a futile attempt to lead me away from the nest with young chicks in it, readily evident in old leaves under a brush nearby. Long after I had left the spot I could hear that strange whistling whine.

1 June: Watching a nighthawk sky-coast over the low hills along the Mazomanie road this evening, I observed that the **zoom** occurs at the precise moment of the upward drift of the bird coming out of his coast; indeed, one bird falling directly overhead toward a hen flying westward, controlled his fall and his direction with stiffly arched wings until I thought certainly at any moment I must hear the sound of the air rushing through his wings; but I heard nothing until he had coasted over her and up. The birds evidently rise in pairs, fly about for a while, and then proceed west toward the Wisconsin to forage over the water.

TWO EARLY WISCONSIN BIRD-LISTS

By A. W. SCHORGER

There was found recently in the library in the Biology Building, University of Wisconsin, a manuscript entitled: "List of Birds found in Wisconsin Territory." It is signed by Samuel Sercomb and dated March, 1848. It is probable that this list came originally from the Increase A. Lapham papers in the files of the Wisconsin Historical Society and it has since been transferred to this institution. This is the earliest state list known, antedating that of Thure Kumlien by two years.

The list comprises 119 species. Sercomb gives only common names to the birds, some of which are preceded by a plate number. Investigation showed that both the plate numbers and common names correspond with those used by De Kay¹ in his work on the birds of New York. The manuscript is of historical interest only. The common names vary greatly in many instances from those in present usage; e.g. it is somewhat startling to find that the Virginia rail was then "mud-hen." It is probable that the list was prepared for use by Lapham since, in that prepared by him in 1850, he credits many species to Sercomb.

Little is known of Sercomb except that he was a taxidermist and had accumulated, for the time, a notable collection of specimens in natural history. He resided in Milwaukee when the list was prepared and in 1853 came to Madison to take charge of the museum conducted by the Wisconsin Natural History Association.

A search of the Lapham papers² revealed a pretentious list of birds prepared in 1850. Lapham was a man of remarkable ability; however his contributions to ornithology and mammalogy were slight in comparison with those to botany, conchology, archeology, geology, and other branches of science. Lapham intended apparently to print the list in a new edition³ of his "Wisconsin."⁴ The nomenclature follows De Kay and each species has a page number corresponding with that in the first edition of Nuttall's Ornithology.⁵ The list of 143 species was sent to Dr. P. R. Hoy for additions, and he made a few interlinear comments. Lapham had searched the literature as is shown by his references to Schoolcraft,⁶ Say, and Bonaparte. Thomas Say was the naturalist attached to Long's Second Expedition,⁷ made in 1823, in the narrative of which are recorded a few of his observations on birds made during the overland journey from Chicago to Prairie du Chien. Unfortunately for the ornithology of this state, many of Say's specimens were lost in transit. I am unable to check Lapham's statement in the original manuscript that Say found the cardinal.

Hoy, on October 21, 1850, replied to Lapham as follows: "Yours was duly received and I regret not being able to answer sooner. I am happy in being able to add many birds to your list. I have checked all those I have noticed. All I believe excepting the Mississippi kite (and as this is strictly a southern bird, I doubt its ever being seen as far north as this), Acadian Owl, Canada Jay, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Turkey, Willow Grouse, Whooping Crane, (at the time Say visited the Northwest the **Grus americana** and **Grus canadensis** were regarded as the same but from much inquiry I have not as yet been able to learn whether the White Sand-hill Crane ever comes as far north as Wisconsin; they are quite common in Central Illinois, however an occasional straggler may come within our borders), Florida Gallinule, Double-crested Cormorant, Canvas-backed Duck. For the Shoveller you refer to Say at Chicago. I have seen them frequently near there. Your pages in Nuttal do not agree with my copy. Yours must be the 1st edition which is quite deficient in many particulars. **Fringilla ambigua** is entirely left out of my copy, undoubtedly the white-crowned finch in another dress. I am prepared to prove the Red-tailed Hawk (**Buteo borealis**) and Winter Buzzard (**Buteo hyemalis**) are specifically the same. The additions I make are entirely from my own observation, having shot or seen them beyond a doubt myself.

In all 78 not in your list.

I am of opinion the shore lark of this country will be found distinct from the shore lark (**Alauda alpestris**) of the east. Their habits are quite different. Please tell Mr. Sercomb I should be pleased to have him make me a call the first opportunity. I have given the names as preferred in Nuttall.

P. S. Mr. Shepherd of Caledonia in this county in the winter of '44 or '45 shot a fine specimen of the Artic Owl (**Strix scandiaco**).⁸ It was

flying, near the middle of the day, and he shot it with his rifle while on the wing. I made strict inquiry and all agree in the description (it was taken to a school house as a curiosity)."

The additions are omitted from Hoy's letter. Hoy wrote on January 10, 1851, that Lapham could add to his list Tengmalm's owl (Richardson's owl) and "Hutchinson's barnacle goose" (Hutchin's goose).

Lapham's list⁸ with the additions supplied by Hoy, totalling 216 species, was found buried in the Appendix to the Journal of the Senate. It was printed for the use of the University, and is known to few if any bird students.

Albert C. Ingham, Secretary of the Wisconsin Agricultural Society, was anxious to establish a reputation for the infant organization and requested Lapham to prepare revised lists of the plants and animals to be found in the state. As late at least as April 16, 1853, Lapham intended to include a personally revised list of birds. Hoy wrote to Lapham on April 20: "The annexed list of birds in addition to those included in your former catalogue comprise 284 species, all with but few exceptions found within 15 miles of Racine, a number considerably greater than has yet been found in any other state." This statement was overly optimistic since De Kay had recorded 310 species for the state of New York.

During the year 1853 Hoy published his *Notes*⁹ in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. He undoubtedly felt that he should not bury his labors in the work of another author less capable in the field of ornithology, but his understanding with Lapham on this point is unknown. Lapham decided finally to withdraw his list for on December 13, 1853, Ingham wrote to Lapham that he had substituted Hoy's revised *Notes* for his list. The volume containing Hoy's catalog¹⁰ of 290 species was issued in the first quarter of 1854.

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9. P. R. Hoy. *Notes on the ornithology of Wisconsin.* Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil. 6 (1853) 304-13; 381-5; 425-9.
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March 24, 1947

BOOK REVIEWS

SILENT WINGS—A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON. Edited by Walter E. Scott. Published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, c/o Walter E. Scott, Mendota Beach Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin. 44 pages, illustrated. Price \$1.00.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology has brought together here in a well-illustrated booklet a great amount of the most authentic information available regarding the passenger pigeon, which became extinct with the death of the last bird in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens on September 1, 1914. The occasion for the publication of this booklet was the unveiling of a monument erected to the memory of the passenger pigeon at Wyalusing State Park on May 11, 1947. The publication itself is an extension of the meaning of this monument to all those who are interested in the preservation of our wildlife in its native habitat.

Professor Aldo Leopold of the Department of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin here contributes in prose poetry a picture story "On a Monument to the Pigeon."

Dr. A. W. Schorger of Madison, one of the leading authorities on this extinct bird, offers two authoritative articles which answer many of the questions regarding the "Wild Pigeons" as they were known and hunted for the market in the early days. Although his subjects center around Wisconsin, where the greatest nesting ever known received his thorough study, his analysis of the reasons for the disappearance of this most prolific bird, once seen in the millions, applies to all parts of the country. His subject titles are: "The Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin and the Problems in its History" and "The Great Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting of 1871."

Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson, Chief of the Section of Biological Surveys, Division of Wildlife Research of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. gave the monument dedication address at Wyalusing State Park and his statements on "Attitude in Conservation" are printed here because of their important bearing on the need for a reasonable attitude in consideration of conservation problems today. Dr. Jackson explains some of the factors which cause the extinction of wildlife species in local areas as well as throughout the entire range and states that action to preserve this wildlife for posterity depends upon five major factors: 1—Adequate organization; 2—legal protection; 3—permanent refuges, sanctuaries, parks, primitive or wildlife areas; 4—improvement of habitat; 5—elimination or control of exotic species. He cites cases of radical action for conservation which harm the cause more than they help and urges a level-headed type of conservation based upon education.

The booklet is well illustrated with a frontispiece in color of the male passenger pigeon, some of the only photographs ever taken of these birds, early date sketches showing methods of hunting and trapping, a reproduction of Audubon's passenger pigeon painting, as well as a picture of the monument and a photograph of the habitat group on exhibit in the Chicago Natural History Museum. Also featured is a photograph of "Martha," the last living passenger pigeon, and authentic notes selected from scientific journals regarding the attempts to propagate these birds in captivity shortly before they disappeared.

This booklet should be in the library of everyone interested in the protection and preservation of our native species and should be an educational guide in the teaching of the reasons for conservation. It can hardly fail to carry a message and a warning that will ring in the ears of all who read it.—G. M. S.

VILLAGE DAYBOOK: A SAC PRAIRIE JOURNAL. By August Derleth. Engravings by Frank Utpatel. Endpaper Map by Hjalmar Skuldt. Pellegrini and Cudahy, Chicago. 306 pp., More than 28 illustrations. 1947. \$3.25.

Those who enjoy reading the *Sac Prairie Bird Seasons*, by August Derleth, in *The Passenger Pigeon* will welcome this book. "*Village Daybook*" is a gleaning of the best passages from August Derleth's journal of daily life in Sac Prairie. With the humor of a Mark Twain and the sensitivity of a Thoreau, he keeps a record of the people and their countryside, of anecdotes told in the harness shop, and of all the small events that are the very fabric of life for millions of Americans.

"Here are ordinary people in the lesser known aspects of their daily lives, seen against the background of a beloved American countryside which Mr. Derleth explores with the accuracy of a naturalist—the snow on the hay stacks, the birdcalls, the hot summer hum of locusts, and the smells of herbs. . . . Nothing is too slight for him to record—from a night-hawk struck by a car, to a housemaid who specializes in such graphic language as 'I'm as dry as a fish in a sandbar' and 'Well, I'll be cowkicked by a Jersey mule!' All these things—the gossip and the feuds, the humor and the small tragedies—have seldom been recorded. . . . *Village Daybook* joins its companion volume *Village Year*, which received enthusiastic acclaim." (Quotation taken from book cover.)

All bird notes included in this book were made in the marshes, lowlands, and adjacent areas of the Wisconsin River near Sauk City. They convey to the reader a beautiful picture of year-around bird activity for that region. The author and both artists are residents of Wisconsin.—N. R. B.

BY THE WAYSIDE . . .

Foraging of a Hairy Woodpecker. While working in the woods on February 28, we became aware of a loud rustling sound, as of a squirrel or rabbit running through dry leaves. A closer search revealed a hairy woodpecker industriously tearing dry leaves from a squirrel's nest in a tall red oak. This continued at intervals for nearly an hour, until the nest was almost completely demolished. The reason for all this activity was not determined, unless it was that the bird may have been searching for acorns or other seeds stored by the squirrel.—Harold Kruse, Loganville.

Rare Junco in Milwaukee. On January 20 a report came to the Milwaukee Public Museum from a Mr. Ned Swigart of an unusual junco at his feeding tray. The Swigarts had noticed the difference in color pattern and the unusual behavior of this particular individual. I went out that afternoon to verify the report. When the junco first appeared, it hopped along the low ledge, then down to the patio and among the low evergreens, bordering the walk. Although obtaining a fair share of

the available food, several of the "regulars" were not too tolerant and kept it on the move. The bird's size was apparently no different from the typical slate-colored junco, but the color pattern of the upper body was striking—the head and nape, very dark, almost black, forming a distinct hood that ended abruptly at the shoulders and upper breast. In contrast, the back, upper wing area and sides were quite light-ashy grey tinged with rufous. Primaries rump, rectrices and crissum not distinguishable from *hyemalis*. The habits of this bird, although typically junco-like, exhibited greater activity, possibly because it was not fully accepted by the local birds. These observations do not imply any hypothesis on my part, simply because I am not qualified to reach a conclusion on a species given to so much controversy.—J. L. Diedrich, Milwaukee.

Pine Grosbeaks Visit Appleton. Pine grosbeaks were present in numbers from January 6 to February 24. After the first visitation, we found full males, along with some immature males and females. Gradually the females decreased in numbers and only males—from four to eight—remained in our yard. According to my observations in 25 years, this is the first time these birds have been here in numbers.—Mrs. W. E. Rogers, Appleton.

THE WINTER SEASON . . .

(All field notes for the period of March 1 to May 31 should be sent immediately to Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr., 205 South Hewett Street, Neillsville, Wisconsin.)

The mild weather of the autumn season continued through most of December and January, inducing a most unusual variety and number of birds to spend the winter within the borders of the state. The winter months were not only relatively mild, but also deficient in moisture. In spite of the historic blizzard that swept southern Wisconsin on Jan. 30, the snowfall for the winter months was well below normal. What effect the blizzard had on the bird population is not known. Many of the unusual wintering species in the Milwaukee area were not reported after the blizzard, but that may have been due in part to the curtailed field work. A good number of the unusual winter visitants near Madison were reported in February. In Green Lake the storm forced one robin to seek shelter in a warm house.

A second feature that made the past winter an interesting one for the field observer was the presence of northern finches. Evening grosbeaks and redpolls were represented in good but not exceptional numbers. The influx of pine grosbeaks, however, was such as has seen no equal in Wisconsin in many years.

The snowy owl flight of the previous winter was not duplicated; in fact all owls were more conspicuous by their absence than presence. Also in contrast to last year, the end of February this year saw virtually no signs of the coming spring migration. The month of February was not unusually cold, but was consistently too cold to afford an opportunity for the deep snow in the southern part of the state to melt. Consequently even the early stragglers of the first arrivals were not to be found.

Loon: Madison, Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins).

Horned Grebe: Wintering at Milwaukee (Steven).

Pied-billed Grebe: One lingered in Madison until Jan. 3 (Springer).

Whistling Swan: On the remarkably late date of Dec. 24 a pair were seen in Iron County (Holger).

Canada Goose: A flock of 500 was still in Waushara County on Dec. 24 (Curran). One was observed on a Christmas bird count in Milwaukee, Dec. 28.

Gadwall: Lingered in Madison through Dec. 25 (Barger); wintered in Milwaukee (many observers).

Baldpate: Last noted in Madison, Dec. 16 (Springer); wintered in Milwaukee (many observers).

Pintail: Madison, Jan. 3 (Taber); wintering in Milwaukee.

Green-winged Teal: Noted in Madison on Jan. 1 (Bird Count) and Feb. 11 (Taber), indicating that this species spent the entire winter in that region.

Shoveller: Wintered in Milwaukee (Gordon Orians).

Wood Duck: Racine, Dec. 29 (Bushman).

Redhead: Madison, Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins); wintered in Milwaukee.

Ring-necked Duck: Last seen in Madison, Dec. 25 (Barger).

Canvas-back: 100 seen in Madison, Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins); wintered in numbers in Milwaukee.

Bufflehead: Noted in Oshkosh, Dec. 29 (Kaspar).

White-winged Scoter: One in Madison, Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins). Unusual inland.

Ruddy Duck: Remained in Madison until Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins), and in Milwaukee until January (Gordon Orians).

Hooded Merganser: Wintered in Milwaukee; last seen in Madison, Dec. 22 (Springer).

Turkey Vulture: Rare at any season, this species has been almost unknown in Wisconsin in winter. On Jan. 9 one was found dead near Saddle Mound in Jackson County by Warden Radke, who estimated that the bird had been dead about three weeks. W. E. Scott also saw a live bird in Dane County, Jan. 26.

Goshawk: Madison, Jan. 1 (Bird Count).

Cooper's Hawk: Wintering birds reported from three localities in southern Wisconsin: Dane County, Dec. 22 (Springer) and Jan. 1 (Bird Count); Milwaukee, Jan. 31 (Mrs. Balsom) and Feb. 26 (Mrs. Larkin); and Sauk County, Feb. 1 (Kruse).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Madison, Jan. 21 (Taber); wintered in Milwaukee (Gordon Orians).

Rough-legged Hawk: Horicon, Dec. 23 (Mathiak); Madison, Dec. 24 and Jan. 1 (Bird Counts); Oshkosh, Jan. 5 (Kaspar); and Grant County, Feb. 21 (Richards).

Bald Eagle: Seen in Dane County, Jan. 1 (Bird Count) and Feb. 13 (Levine); also wintering in Sauk County (Derleth) and in Clark County (Warden Clumpner).

Marsh Hawk: One was reported from Milwaukee, Jan. 18 (Treichel).

Pigeon Hawk: One seen in Grant County, Feb. 21 (Richards). Very rare in winter.

Sparrow Hawk: Wintering birds reported from Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Madison and Two Rivers.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: A flock of 44 was seen in Wood County, Dec. 1 (Searles).

Chukar Partridge: Eight seen in Dane County in December (Sampson).

Coot: Last seen in Madison, Jan. 3 (Springer); wintered in Milwaukee.

Woodcock: One seen along a highway in Dane County, Feb. 8 (Don Thompson). Very rare in winter.

Glaucoous Gull: Although this species is being reported more frequently in the Great Lakes region, each occurrence is still a real "find." One individual is reliably reported from Milwaukee on Jan. 12 (Treichel-Gordon Orians).

Bonaparte's Gull: Lingered into January in Milwaukee (Gordon Orians).

Mourning Dove: Wintering birds reported from Dane, Sauk, Columbia, Milwaukee and Racine Counties.

Snowy Owl: Only two reports: one at Horicon, Jan. 2 (Mathiak-Smith); one at Manitowoc in January (Hubbard).

Long-eared Owl: Reported from Waukesha, Jan. 25 (Jones).

Short-eared Owl: Waukesha, Jan. 1 (Koller); Milwaukee, Dec. 22 (Jankowski) and Feb. 16 (Treichel); and Madison, Jan. 25 (Taber).

Saw-whet Owl: One in Madison, Dec. 24 (Curran); one in Milwaukee, Jan. 6 (Diedrich); wintering near Sauk City (Derleth); one was found dead near Wisconsin Dells, Feb. 22 (Springer).

Belted Kingfisher: Madison, Jan. 1 (Bird Count); Sauk County, Jan. 26 (Scotts).

Flicker: An unusual number of wintering birds reported. One or more was seen in Crawford, Richland, Rock, Dane, Waukesha, Brown, and Milwaukee Counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: In addition to the usual winter populations in Dane and Sauk Counties, individuals of this species also turned up in several unexpected areas. Several wintered in Milwaukee (Gordon Orians); others were seen in Barron (Mrs. Walsh), Appleton (Bess Russell), Butte des Morts (Robert Murray), and Waukesha (Jones).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Seen in Madison, Jan. 1 (Bird Count) and Jan. 18 (Young); also, Waukesha, Dec. 22 (Bird Count).

Horned Lark: Present throughout the winter in Milwaukee (several observers); the main movement was well under way in early February in the open areas of southern and central Wisconsin. Doubtless many, if not all, of the birds in this early movement are the Northern form; there is some question about the arrival of the prairie horned lark in the state before March. Observers are asked to be extremely careful in submitting their horned lark records, referring to a particular form only when identification is positive.

Blue Jay: Unusually scarce around Milton (Mrs. Maxson).

Northern Raven: Regular in Rhinelander throughout the winter (Lois Almon).

Crow: Lingered in Rhinelander until Dec. 6 (Miss Almon). Late. Increase in numbers noted in Sauk County by Feb. 17 (Kruse).

Black-capped Chickadee: More numerous than usual near Logansville (Kruse).

Hudsonian Chickadee: Observed in Madison, Dec. 24-Jan. 26 and later, several observers. Photographed in Oconomowoc, Feb. 2, by C. P. Fox while at feeding station.

Tufted Titmouse: Wintered in Appleton for the first time since 1933 (Mrs. Rogers). Another unusual winter record was reported from St. Croix Falls (John Heinsohn). Further wintering birds were noted in Winnebago County (Kaspar) and in Dane County (Bird Count).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Wintering reports from Barron, Iron, Brown, Dane and Milwaukee Counties.

Brown Thrasher: Single stragglers were seen in Milwaukee, Dec. 22 (Treichel), and in Madison, Jan. 1 (Bird Count).

Robin: The warm fall weather induced a surprising number to remain in Wisconsin for the winter. The usual wintering group in La Crosse was decidedly larger than usual (Gatterdam); quite a few remained in Milwaukee (several observers); and from one to six were reported from Clark, Brown, Green Lake, Sauk, Dane, Waukesha, and Rock Counties.

Hermit Thrush: Milwaukee, Dec. 28 (Bird Count).

Olive-backed Thrush: One was reported in Milwaukee County on the phenomenally late date of Dec. 1 (Mary Donald). Latest date on record.

Bluebird: One was seen in Brown County in late January (Hubbard); another was found dead in Milwaukee, Jan. 19 (Gordon Orians).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: One in Rhinelander, Dec. 31 (Miss Almon). First winter record for that area.

Bohemian Waxwing: A small flock was seen in Madison, Feb. 9 (Mrs. Miller).

Cedar Waxwing: 50-60 present in Loganville throughout January and February (Kruse); also seen in Shawano, Jan. 25 (Luther Erickson), and in Delafield, Jan. 12 (Janet Buckeridge).

Northern Shrike: Milwaukee, Dec. 28 (Bird Count) and Jan. 15 (Mrs. Larkin); Madison, Jan. 1 (Bird Count); Reedsburg, Jan. 2 (Kruse); Neillsville, Jan. 27 (Clumpner-Robbins).

Myrtle Warbler: The second winter record of recent years was obtained when an individual was seen in Madison, Dec. 16 (Springer-Levine).

Eastern Meadowlark: Wintered in Sauk City (Derleth), Milwaukee (Gordon Orians), and Racine (Edward Prins).

Red-wing: Six were seen flying over Oshkosh, Jan. 11 (Kaspar); wintering birds were also noted in Horicon, Madison, and Milwaukee.

Rusty Blackbird: A single individual was seen in Marquette County, Dec. 26 (Robbins); one spent the winter in Madison (Taber).

Bronzed Grackle: Horicon, Dec. 21 (Mathiak); Oshkosh, Dec. 25 (Kaspar).

Cowbird: A female spent the winter in Racine County (Mrs. Pierce); 29 were banded at Horicon in January and February (Mathiak).

Cardinal: Becoming more numerous in Oshkosh (Kaspar).

Evening Grosbeak: Most of the reports in December came from Vilas, Oneida, Shawano, Oconto, Brown, Iron, Clark, Wood, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties in the northern and central section; but in January and February smaller numbers were also recorded in Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Dane and Crawford Counties.

Pine Grosbeak: Widespread reports from much the same areas as the evening grosbeak. Various observers report this to be the biggest influx of pine grosbeaks in many years; others found them this winter for the first time. Oddly enough some areas had a predominance of bright-colored adult males, while other areas did not get a single one.

Hoary Redpoll: Neillsville, Dec. 28-30 (Robbins). See annual summary.

Pine Siskin: Madison, Dec. 24 (Barger-Robbins); 25 seen there on Jan. 18 (Young).

Goldfinch: More numerous than usual in Loganville during most of the winter, but disappearing late in February (Kruse).

Towhee: A female was observed in Madison on three occasions: Dec. 8 (Virginia Spence), Dec. 16 (Levine), and Jan. 3 (Springer).

Slate-colored Junco: More than usual in Milton (Mrs. Maxson).

Montana (?) Junco: Milwaukee, Jan. 20 (Diedrich). See "By the Wayside" column.

Tree Sparrow: Unusually common in Milwaukee (Gordon Orians).

White-throated Sparrow: One spent the winter at a feeding tray in Milwaukee; another was seen in Madison, Jan. 4 (Stokes).

Fox Sparrow: One in Milwaukee, Dec. 22 (Mueller, Sharp, Gordon Orians).

Swamp Sparrow: One spent the early part of the winter in Milwaukee, but disappeared in January (several observers); one was seen in Madison, Jan. 4 (Springer).

Song Sparrow: Wintering birds noted in Dane, Waukesha, Milwaukee and Winnebago Counties.

Lapland Longspur: Noted on Feb. 9 in Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties (Kaspar), and in Columbia County (Scotts).

Snow Bunting: Noted in the open country of southern Wisconsin in January and February (various observers).

MIGRATING BIRDS AT SEA

By EDWIN D. CLEARY

I am writing about one of the most unusual happenings connected with nature of the many I observed during the thirty-eight months I spent in the service of my country.

On April 15, 1944, we were on our way back from the Mediterranean area with a large convoy of one hundred sixty ships. At the time I was a signalman stationed on one of the protecting destroyers. At about one o'clock in the afternoon of this date we were sailing along between the Canary Islands and the Strait of Gibraltar about one thousand miles out when suddenly the whole convoy was engulfed by wave after wave of thousands and thousands of migrating birds. I never saw anything like it before. It was really an unusual sight.

The vast, endless procession of birds followed us hour after hour until finally the whole ship and as far as we were able to determine every ship in the convoy was covered with chilled, confused and exhausted birds. As we watched this awe-inspiring sight down, down hundreds dropped like falling leaves in the forest to be swallowed up by the angry waves.

You could hardly walk without stepping on a bird. Many would light on the sailors' heads or shoulders. Everywhere you looked you would see a struggling mass of birds seeking safety. The foremast, the mainmast, the lifeboats and even the large guns were covered with birds. I recall that at the time we had to signal the convoy by flag hoist and as we bent the flags on the halyards and pulled the signal up clinging birds dropped off the halyards as they attempted to hold fast to the lines.

I noticed that most of these birds were swallows, warblers, Spanish mourning doves and European shrikes. I am not sure if the last two mentioned are named correctly. So we see that there were not many different species of birds in this group. The largest part of the group consisted of the doves.

By the time the sun set very few birds were left. The next morning only the doves we had saved by placing them in a box with the intention of liberating them when we passed the Canary Islands, was the only evidence left of the great migration of the day before.

The birds were flying in the wrong direction away from land instead of toward it. This would indicate that they appeared to be hopelessly lost. The only explanation I have to offer is that while on their way to northern Europe they were blown from their course by the unusually strong winds and being unable to breast these gale-like winds they dropped into the sea from complete exhaustion.

135 South Wisconsin Street, Depere, Wisconsin.

NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 38)

which listed the names of those making substantial cash contributions to the Passenger Pigeon Memorial Fund, the following individuals and groups have made such contributions:

Mrs. Florence Bruegger, Oshkosh

Irven O. Buss, Madison

Harry H. Klemme, Kiel
Aldo Leopold, Madison
Alma Prucha, Milwaukee
Harold F. Wing, Jackson, Michigan
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As money received for this fund is presently of value in defraying expenses for the publication of "Silent Wings," donations even at this late date are very welcome.

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to the Passenger Pigeon*

Published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology to commemorate the unveiling of a monument to the memory of the extinct passenger pigeon.

Containing articles by Professor Aldo Leopold, "On a Monument to the Pigeon," Dr. Harley H. T. Jackson, "Attitude in Conservation," and Dr. A. W. Schorger, "The Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin and the Problems In Its History" and "The Great Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting of 1871."

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* * * * *

"Many thanks to you for sending me that fine publication, 'Silent Wings,' a fine tribute to a splendid bird, full of valuable lessons in the cause of conservation. I have nearly finished reading it with the keenest interest, for I am old enough to have seen some of the last of the species. The saga of the passenger pigeon is a sad story, but I hope it will teach us a lesson."—**A. C. Bent, Taunton, Massachusetts, author of Life Histories of North American Birds.**

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