The passenger pigeon. Volume 48, No. 4 Winter 1986

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Winter 1986

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The Passenger Pigeon

Winter, 1986 — Volume 48, No. 4

A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

The Wisconsin Society For Ornithology, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

Volume 48, No. 4 **Winter, 1986**

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Cover: Tree Sparrow Photo by Paul Blanchard

THE PASSENGER PIGEON, (ISSN 0031-2703) is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Second-class postage paid at Hartland, WI and additional mailing offices. Membership and annual dues: Single $12, Family $15, Sustaining $25, Life $200, Patron $750, Library $18. Send Membership dues to membership chairman, Alex F. Kailing, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029. Send manuscripts to the editor, Charles A. Kemper, 733 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Back issues available at $2 each from Alex Kailing, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029.

POSTMASTER - Send Change of Address to WSO, W. 330 N. 8275 West Shore Drive, Hartland, WI 53029.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With all the recent attention being given to our economy, federal and state budgets, taxes, and the financial future of the United States and Wisconsin, I thought it appropriate to examine some aspects of WSO's historical, present, and future financial picture.

Membership dues were $1 in 1939; increases occurred in 1947 - $1.50, 1949 - $2, 1961 - $3, 1975 - $4, 1981 - $8, and 1986 - $12. Life memberships have been $25 in 1939, $50 in 1945, $75 in 1949, $100 in 1975, and $200 in 1981. Most organizations target their life membership rates at 20-30 times the annual dues. Using this as a "rule of thumb", WSO's current $200 life membership, which can be paid over a 4 year period, is a bargain. Please consider becoming a life member when it's time to renew your membership.

The major expense of the Society is publishing the **Passenger Pigeon**. Ten years ago the cost to publish 4 issues of the **Pigeon** was $4600. In 1986, the cost was $9800. Many other expenses (Honey Creek taxes, fire and liability insurance, etc.) also have doubled or tripled over this 10 year period.

However, during this same period of time, our membership has not doubled or tripled. If fact, our membership has remained steady at between 1000-1200 since 1962. This pattern is not unique to the WSO. I believe that many state ornithological organizations have experienced static membership. With this in mind, is it reasonable to think that the WSO can increase its membership? I believe that the answer is an emphatic **yes!** Everywhere we look there is more interest in birds. This is reflected by the ever increasing amounts of bird feed that people are buying, the increasing demand by the general public for birding field trips, an explosion in numbers of new bird books that have hit the market, increased public attention being given to endangered and threatened bird species, the start-up of several birding magazines, the heightened interest in bird art, and other events.

The most visible presence of the WSO also is the **Passenger Pigeon**. Planning is underway that will culminate in some new and exciting changes in the **Pigeon** starting with volume 50 in 1988. Our members are a diverse lot - beginners, academics, wildlife managers, backyard feederwatchers, bird banders, bird listers, and more. All of these people have one primary interest - they want information about **birds**. I believe that the **Pigeon** can help attract additional members, and when combined with other activities (exciting field trips, greater devotion to distributing educational materials, and in general, a greater overall visibility and presence in the state), our Society can become more dynamic, have a wider audience, and be even more financially sound.

Yes, the Society is financially sound! I recently appointed a Finance Committee, that with the leadership of our Treasurer, Catherine Cleary, will help give direction to our financial growth.

A General Endowment Fund, which stood at $2000 in 1976, has grown to over $28,000. Plans are being made to start an Endowment Fund devoted to the **Pigeon**. Income from endowment, general savings, scholarship, and Steenbock accounts are extremely important for carrying on the Society's many activities. Growth in this income will mean that the WSO can undertake more activities that will benefit Wisconsin birdlife and add to our enjoyment of birds.

All of you can help in some manner. Help recruit one new member. Submit information to the **Birder** and **Pigeon**. Visit and help at Honey Creek. Participate in our field trips. Please share with us what you can and everyone, including the Society, will benefit.

Noel J. Cutright

Monitoring Birds in the National Forests

By Robert W. Howe

National Forests have become one of the most important wildlife habitats in the United States. These federal lands contain half the big game and coldwater fish habitat in the nation, they support 85 endangered species, and they include an area of land more than twice the area of our National Parks (Barton and Fosburgh 1986, Norse et al. 1986).

In Wisconsin we have two national forests, the Chequamegon National Forest(844,604 acres) in northwestern Wisconsin, and the Nicolet National Forest (657,094 acres) in northeastern Wisconsin. The latter, when combined with the adjacent (and larger) Ottawa National Forest of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, contributes to one of the largest contiguous blocks of public land east of the Mississippi River (the fourth largest in the eastern National Forest System).

Recent laws have established general management guidelines for these National Forests. The Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, for example, instructs the U.S. Forest Service to manage forests for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, rangeland, timber harvest, watershed protection, and wildlife and fish populations (Norse et al. 1986). The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires the Forest Service to manage habitats to maintain viable populations of existing native vertebrate species and to give special consideration to the habitat of threatened or endangered species. The Resources Planning Act of 1974 requires each National Forest (or in some cases groups of forests) to develop a long-range land management plan, to be updated at least every 15 years (Barton and Fosburgh 1986).

Planning for Wisconsin's National Forests has led to the development of Land and Resource Management Plans for both the Chequamegon and Nicolet units. These documents, released in late summer of 1986, represent integrated plans which will guide all natural resource management activities for the next 10 years. Their purpose is "to provide direction for multiple use management and the sustained yield of goods and services from the Forest System lands in an environmentally sound manner" (U.S.D.A. 1986). The plans describe specific measures for implementing the general objectives established by legislative directives.

Citizens and other public agencies have had considerable opportunities to participate in the forest planning process. Indeed, draft plans were modified (and might still be modified) in response to objections or suggestions by those interested in improving conditions for native plants and animals. Yet public participation does not need to end once the forest plans have been finalized. The purpose of this article is to describe one avenue where both amateur and professional ornithologists can contribute to **implementation** of the forest plan, perhaps leading to improved management steps for the future. Forest Service planners are required by the National Forest Management Act to use the"best available data" in developing land management policies (Norse et al. 1986). Obviously, the more information that is available about wildlife species and their habitat needs, the more likely these species will be protected from potentially damaging land use modifications. Below I propose a collective effort to gather information about birds and habitats in the Nicolet National Forest (and perhaps elsewhere). This project will provide enjoyment and recreation for participants, while at the same time performing a significant conservation service.

The Nicolet National Forest Plan identifies three categories of wildlife species that are especially important to forest management policies. One **federally endangered or threatened** bird species, the Bald Eagle, regularly nests in the Nicolet

National Forest. Species not listed as endangered or threatened, but whose populations are nonetheless declining or are predicted to decline, are called **sensitive species**. The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nicolet National Forest (hereafter referred to as the Forest Plan) identifies 23 bird species (Table 1) as candidates for eventual listing as sensitive species (a formal list has not been adopted). The Forest Plan gives specific standards and guidelines to improve and protect habitats for these sensitive species. Finally, Forest Service planners have identified 25 birds (including Bald Eagle and several candidate sensitive species) as **management indicator species**. These birds (together with 5 mammal species and 2 fish species) were selected to represent the majority of other species in the forest and most of the existing habitat types. For example, Chestnut-sided Warbler was chosed to represent species requiring young hardwoods and aspen clearcuts, whereas Ovenbird was chosed to represent species of mature, long-rotation old growth and uneven-aged stands of managed timber. Population trends of these indicator species will be used to evaluate the success or failure of the Forest Plan in meeting prescribed objectives.

In order that the Forest Plan be implemented effectively, populations of the indicator species must be monitored regularly. Unfortunately, the Forest Service employs few full-time wildlife biologists (the Nicolet National Forest, for example, has only one full-time and one half-time wildlife biologist for the entire 657,094 acre forest). The chances of additional staff being added are slim in this age of budget deficits and spending cuts. Thus, volunteers and researchers from other sources will become especially significant.

In an effort to provide our members with a recreational opportunity and to help provide better information for future forest planning, the Northeastern Wisconsin and Marinette Chapters of the National Audubon Society, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, are sponsoring an "expedition" to monitor birds in the Nicolet National Forest. The expedition, scheduled for 13-15 June 1987, will cover a variety of habitats in the southern unit of the Nicolet National Forest. A group campground has been reserved at Boulder Lake for participants in the event. Planners will be meeting in February with Tony Rinaldi, Wildlife Biologist for the Nicolet National Forest, to establish specific points for monitoring. The goal is to establish permanent stations that will be monitored every year or perhaps every other year (alternating with points in the northern unit of the Forest.) Tentative details of the project are outlined below.

1. Points will be selected to represent a range of habitats existing in the forest, including areas undergoing various types of timber harvest (clearcuts, selection cuts, long rotation vs. short rotation, etc.) and sites that are not scheduled for disturbance (bogs, old-growth forest, etc.).
2. Each point will be visited by at least two observers, at least one of which is very familiar with the vocalizations of expected species. (Tape recordings will be provided for "practice" before the census).
3. All birds seen or heard during a 10 minute census period will be recorded at each pre-established point. Observers will estimate numbers of individuals for each species detected. Birds observed outside this 10 minute period are of interest, but they will not be part of the quantitative data and will be recorded separately. Birds observed during the first 3 minutes of the census will be specially designated to permit a comparison with established Breeding Bird Surveys, cornerstones of a nationwide bird sampling effort sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
4. Each group of observers will survey as many points as possible (probably 3-5) during the first 3 hr after sunrise. (The rest of the day will

be available for "exploring" the forest). Censuses will be conducted during 2 mornings, June 13 (Saturday) and June 14 (Sunday).

5. Densities of individual species will be estimated using independently derived "detectability distances" for each species. For example, Ovenfirds can be heard in forests from a distance of approximately 175 m; if 4 Ovenbirds are heard from a sample point, the density will be at least 4 singing males per 10 ha (the area circumscribed by a radius of about 175 m).
6. Results will be distributed to participants and to officials of the U.S. Forest Service. We hope that the data will be used to improve the list of indicator species and sensitive species (if necessary) and to establish long-term monitoring of species already identified by the Forest Plan.

Planners for the event will need some idea about the number of participants. If you wish to take part in this project, please contact me at the address given below. Include 1.) your name, address, and telephone number, 2.) the number of people who will be coming with you (families are welcome), 3.) your level of experience with birds of northern Wisconsin forests. Suggestions for improving the methods and volunteers to help in the planning process are especially welcome.

A second purpose of this article is to stimulate similar efforts in other National Forests, including the Chequamegon. These efforts, should they be developed, will be most effective if the methods are standardized and hence are comparable between areas. The point-centered method described here is not perfect but is widely used, simple, and easily adjusted. Our method differs from Breeding Bird Surveys in the non-random selection of sites (many of which will be located away from roads) and the longer census period (10 minutes/point). By specially recording birds seen or heard during the first 3 minutes of our census period, however, comparisons with existing Breeding Bird Survey routes (several of which pass through parts of the Nicolet National Forest) will be possible. Of course, the method proposed here is tentative and subject to revision; yet now is the time to refine and standardize methods for future studies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tony Rinaldi of the U.S. Forest Service has been involved with planning of this project and provided comments on an earlier version of this manuscript. Valuable suggestions for modifying the methods were contributed by Rev. Sam Robbins.

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TABLE 1. Species identified for special consideration by the Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource management Plan (1986)

Species	Status		
	Endangered	Sensitive	Indicator
Common Loon		x	x
Sandhill Crane		x	
Ruffed Grouse			x
Spruce Grouse		x	x
Wood Duck			x
Common Merganser		x	
Northern Goshawk		x	
Cooper's Hawk		x	
Red-shouldered Hawk		x	
Merlin		x	
Osprey		x	
Bald Eagle	x		x
Northern Harrier		x	x
American Bittern			x
American Woodcock			x
Upland Sandpiper		x	
Black Tern		x	
Long-eared Owl		x	
Barred Owl		x	x
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker			x
Pileated Woodpecker			x
Downy Woodpecker			x
Great Crested Flycatcher			x
Common Raven			x
Sedge Wren			x
Eastern Bluebird		x	x
Solitary Vireo		x	
Red-eyed Vireo			x
Black-throated Green Warbler			x
Blackburnian Warbler		x	x
Chestnut-sided Warbler			x
Pine Warbler			x
Ovenbird			x
Scarlet Tanager			x
Song Sparrow			x
Lincoln's Sparrow		x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow		x	
LeConte's Sparrow		x	
Savannah Sparrow		x	
Vesper Sparrow		x	
Clay-colored Sparrow		x	

Year-to-Year Changes in the Abundance of Wisconsin Birds: Results of the WSO Checklist Project

By Stanley A. Temple and Anita J. Temple

Since 1982 cooperating WSO members have maintained weekly checklist-records of the birds they have encountered, and we have analyzed these records with a view to detecting changes in abundance (Temple 1982). We have previously shown that the records can reveal seasonal and geographical patterns of abundance among Wisconsin birds (Temple and Temple 1984, Temple and Temple 1985). With the addition of 1985 records, we had accumulated 4 years of records, and it was possible to analyze them to see if year-to-year changes in abundance could be detected. The ability to monitor long-term trends in bird populations may be one of the most important aspects of the checklist project.

METHODS

To see whether or not the checklist records could detect year-to-year changes in the abundance of birds, we selected 5 bird species for analysis. Each of these birds was known *a priori* to have undergone a change in its abundance in Wisconsin between 1982 and 1986. The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) was declining in abundance following a major invasion in 1982 that resulted from an every-10-year crash in snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) populations in the boreal forest ecosystem (Mueller et al. 1977). The migrant Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) that pass through Wisconsin were increasing in abundance as a result of a steady post-DDT recovery and a string of especially good years of reproduction (Cade 1982). Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) wintering in Wisconsin had been declining in abundance as a result of a continent-wide drop in numbers caused by overhunting and habitat changes (Spencer 1986). Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) and Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) wintering in Wisconsin varied in abundance from year to year as a result of invasions from the boreal coniferous forests (Bock and Lepthien 1976).

For each species we calculated a reporting frequency (i.e., the percentage of checklists on which the species had been reported) for a specific period of time each year from 1982 to 1986: for the Goshawk, from September through December; for the Peregrine Falcon, from September through November; for the Black Duck, from November through March; and for the Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak, from October through March.

We also examined independent data on the abundance of these birds with which we could compare our checklist records. For Black Ducks, Pine Grosbeaks, and Evening Grosbeaks, we tallied the number of individuals that had been seen on annual Christmas Bird Counts in Wisconsin from 1982 to 1985 (Hilsenhoff 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986). For the Northern Goshawk and Peregrine Falcon we tallied the number of individuals that had been seen each year from 1982 to 1985 at the Cedar Grove Ornithological station (G. Allez, pers. comm.)

We calculated correlation coefficients (r) between reporting frequencies from the checklist project and these independent measures of abundance. The correlation coefficient indicates how closely variations in the two values parallel each other, and it reveals whether or not the two values are responding in similar ways to changes in bird abundance.

RESULTS

In Figures 1-5 we present the results of our analyses. In each case we present side-by-side comparisons of reporting frequencies calculated from checklist data

(dark bars) and the corresponding independent counts of birds (light bars). As can be seen in these figures, the year-to-year changes in reporting frequencies closely parallel those of independent counts. Correlation coefficients in all cases were high and significant: Northern Goshawk ($r^5$0.992, $P<0.05$); Peregrine Falcon ($r^5$0.964, $P<0.05$); Pine Grosbeak ($r^5$0.992, $P<0.05$); Evening Grosbeak ($r^5$0.994, $p<0.05$).

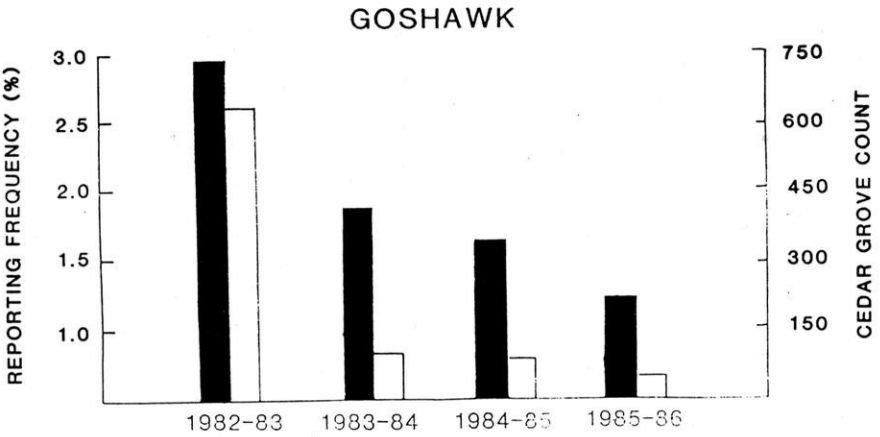

Figure 1. The changing abundance of Northern Goshawks in Wisconsin (1982-86) as revealed by reporting frequencies from the checklist project (dark bars) and migration counts at Cedar Grove Ornithological Station (light bars).

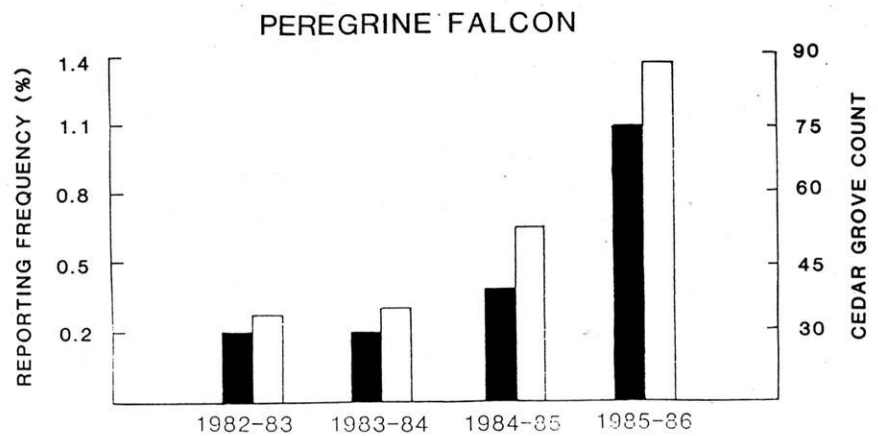

Figure 2. The changing abundance of migrant Peregrine Falcons in Wisconsin (1982-86) as revealed by reporting frequencies from the checklist project (dark bars) and migration counts at Cedar Grove Ornithological Station (light bars).

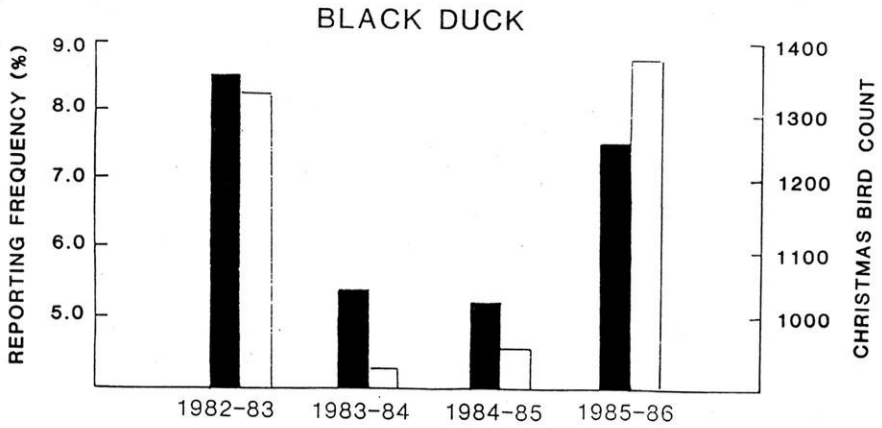

Figure 3. The changing abundance of wintering Black Ducks in Wisconsin (1982-86) as revealed by reporting frequencies from the checklist project (dark bars) and statewide Christmas Bird Count totals (light bars).

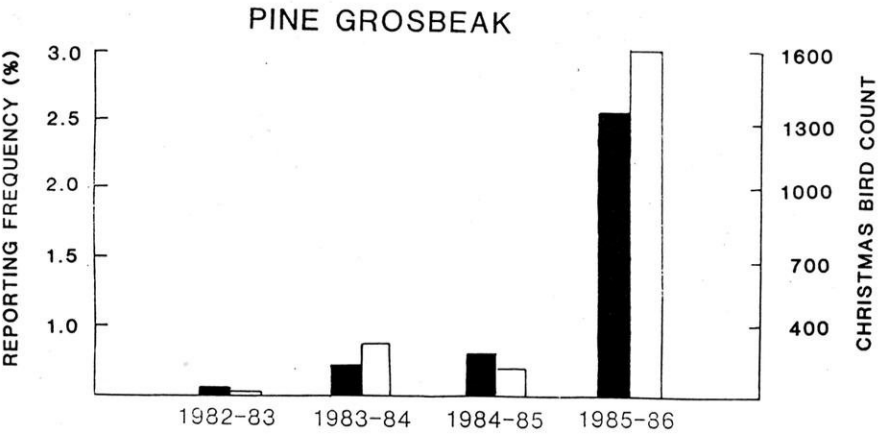

Figure 4. The changing abundance of wintering Pine Grosbeaks in Wisconsin (1982-86) as revealed by reporting frequencies from the checklist project (dark bars) and statewide Christmas Bird Count totals (light bars).

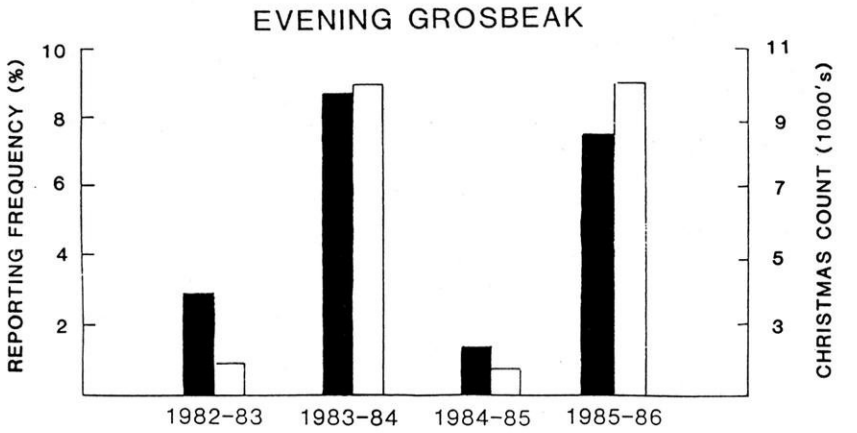

Figure 5. The changing abundance of wintering Evening Grosbeaks in Wisconsin (1982-86) as revealed by reporting frequencies from the checklist project (dark bars) and statewide Christmas Bird Count totals (light bars).

DISCUSSION

For the 5 species we examined, reporting frequencies calculated from checklist records appear to be remarkably good indicators of year-to-year changes in abundance. They closely paralleled results of independent counts but have important advantages over them. The checklist records can be used to monitor changes in abundance of all the species in Wisconsin, in any seasons, and in any region of the state. Temple and Cary (1987) have shown how versatile the project's results can be for monitoring bird populations.

Because we were able to detect year-to-year changes in the 5 species that we knew *a priori* to have undergone changes in abundance, we are optimistic that the reporting frequencies will also be able to detect changes in the abundance of species that are not well monitored by other studies. Additional analyses of data for other species will be needed to verify this prediction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the WSO members who have contributed their weekly checklist-records for analysis. George Allez provided unpublished data on raptor counts from the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station. John Cary provided assistance with computer programming and data management. Funding for The Wisconsin Checklist Project came from The A.W. Schorger Fund of the Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Aggressive Behavior by a Crow Against Double-crested Cormorants

By Philip A. Cochran

On 18 May 1986, at approximately 1120 h, I made the following observations from the west bank of the Fox River on the St. Norbert College campus in DePere. As I walked down to the river, I noticed a Double-crested Cormorant *(Phalacrocorox auritus),* hereafter referred to as C1, taking off from the surface at a point not far above the spillway of the De Pere dam and nearer to the east bank than to the west bank. As C1 took off, the head of a second cormorant (C2) showed briefly above the surface in the same general area. C1 circled and appeared to be headed back to the area it had just left, when a solitary Crow *(Corvus brachyrhynchos)* flew at it from the west bank and forced it to deviate from its path. The Crow then continued across the river toward C2, which, in the meantime, had reappeared with head and neck above the water. As the Crow approached to within approximately 1 meter, C2 surmerged. Meanwhile, C1 continued toward the same area. After forcing C2 underwater, the Crow flew up from the water and immediately headed toward C1, which by now was several meters away. When the Crow neared, C1 dove into the water from a height of approximately one meter and remained submerged. The Crow continued to the far shore and landed on a pole. Within one minute, one of the cormorants surfaced and the crow immediately flew at it, forced it underwater, and continued to the near shore, where I lost sight of it. Both cormorants surfaced within a minute and flew downriver. I did not hear the Crow emit any call during all of this, but several gulls on the far shore were screaming.

During the course of his research on Wisconsin cormorants, Thomas Meier (personal communication) did not observe aggressive interactions between crows and cormorants. He did observe aggressive behavior directed toward cormorants by an Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus),* which appeared to be defending its territory. A similar interpretation might explain the behavior of the crow in the present case. Since the Fox River at the St. Norbert campus is approximately 0.3 km wide, the crow's aggressive behavior represented a substantial energetic investment.

In my two years at St. Norbert College, these were the first cormorants I had seen in the water in the campus vicinity, although several times I noticed individuals flying down the river valley at high altitudes. Subsequently, I regularly observed 1-3 cormorants in the vicinity of the DePere dam throughout the summer of 1986. Usually they were below the spillway.

I thank Thomas Meier, Mead Wildlife Refuge, for coments on an earlier draft of this note.

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Parasites and Predators

By Dr. John Bergstrom

During the summer of 1986 I was an instructor at the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin. I had an unique opportunity to observe feeding behavior of birds.

During one of our class session bird walks in July, a group of about fifteen campers and myself were studying birds and their ecology. We saw a fledging Cowbird perching on a power line being fed by its surrogate mother, a Yellow Warbler. Few of the campers had ever observed this feeding behavior and many were not familiar with parasitic relationships in birds so we discussed this while waiting for the warbler to reappear.

Less then one minute later, amidst much alarm activity in nearby birds, a Cooper's Hawk zoomed out of the woods and captured the Cowbird and without hesitating flew back into the woods. My startled group expressed much wonderment, concern and in some cases elation.

Regardless of our attitude toward Cowbirds, the incident was not only education but rare. How often do we get to observe parasitism or predation? To see either of these avian interrelationships involving a single species is certainly uncommon but to see them at the same time with a single bird involved must be a once in a lifetime event.

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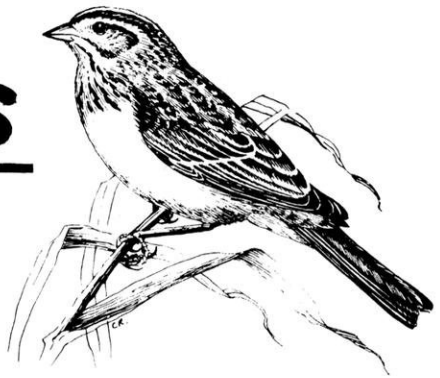
FIELD NOTES



The Winter Season

December 1, 1985 - February 28, 1986 **By Kenneth I. Lange**

A person who truly enjoys the seasons might agree with this comment of John Ruskin, a 19th-century writer: "There is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."

Part of the "good weather" this winter was an especially heavy snow cover. A second major snow storm blanketed Wisconsin on 30 November and 1 December so that by 2 December all of the state, except the extreme southeastern section, had a snow cover of a foot or more, the greatest depth for early December since the official survey was started in the winter of 1961-62. The snow cover remained at record depths into early January, and for the remainder of the period it continued at above average depths.

The snow cover also was here for an unusually long time. The Madison and Baraboo area, for example, experienced a continuous snow cover for 116 days, just 2 days short of the record set in the winter of 1978-79. Actually a major snow storm in early November made the length of time seem even longer, but bare ground showed for a few days between this storm and the final cover, depriving us of a new record.

Only 71% of the state's corn was harvested by 8 December, compared to a 5-year average of 94%; rainfall was heavy in October and November, in fact the fall of 1985 was the second wettest known, and then the snows started. 20% of the corn still hadn't been harvested by the end of the period. As a result, it *seemed* that Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, and woodpeckers, for example Red-headed and Red-bellied, were especially numerous in corn fields this winter. There was a record number of Blue Jays on the Christmas Bird Counts and the unpicked corn might have caused some of them to linger. The Northern Cardinal and Red-bellied Woodpecker also were in record numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts, but other factors, for example mild winters and/or winter bird feeding, might have been involved here.

Another major feature of the period was an ice storm in southern Wisconsin on 4-5 February, reminiscent of the ice storm of March 1976.

December and early January were in general very cold; Lesher in LaCrosse County, for example, reported that the Mississippi River was 99% frozen,

hence an absence of wintering divers. For late January and February the temperatures climbed to near or above normal.

The period concluded with cool, stormy and cloudy weather, and average snow depths of approximately a foot state-wide, although the snow cover extended only as far south as northeastern Iowa and extreme northern Illinois.

There was a generally poor cone and berry crop in northern and central Ontario, and the irruptive species, for example "winter finches," departed their nesting grounds, as reported by Ron D. Weir in **American Birds** and **Seasons,** the quarterly magazine of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The Pine Grosbeak moved southward in high numbers across all of North America in the fall, so that by the end of November "good numbers" were found as far south as Ohio and New Jersey **(American Birds,** 1986, Volume 40, page 80); in Wisconsin this species was in above normal numbers throughout the period. Redpolls were in high numbers over much of Wisconsin, although in some counties, for example, LaCrosse, Iron and Door, they were in below normal numbers. The Evening Grosbeak was generally in high numbers, with contributors in two counties, Marathon and Marinette, reporting this species in low numbers. Purple Finches virtually deserted Ontario by the end of October and staged an excellent flight into Wisconsin, but their numbers here abruptly declined by late November; the great majority of contributors reported below normal numbers for the period. Both crossbills were scarce, while the numbers of Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches varied from above to below normal. Incidentally, we now know that American Goldfinches range widely and will visit feeders up to 15 kilometers (9+ miles) apart in a day, and the same may be true of other finches, for example Pine Siskins which often travel with goldfinches (**American Birds,** 1986, Volume 40, page 63).

There are also "winter raptors" - what about them? Snowy Owls were reported from 12 northern and eastern counties, while the American Kestrel and the Rough-legged Hawk were generally in below normal numbers. But Rough-legs were common throughout the period in Devil's Lake State Park region, belying the idea that hawks necessarily vacate areas with deep snow cover. Availability of food is primary, so the presence of raptors in areas with deep snow cover must involve such factors as the numbers and behavior of meadow mice and other prey animals. John Bielefeldt discusses previous winters, for example 1978-79 **(Passenger Pigeon,** 1979, Volume 41, page 179), when Rough-legs also remained in relatively high numbers, despite deep snow cover.

The American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco afford another possibility of determining a pattern in the distribution of birds in relation to snow depth. For the Sauk City Christmas Bird Count, both species were in low numbers (less than 300 for the sparrow and less than 800 for the junco) in six of the 30 years; two of these six years had little or no snow cover and these were the only years in which both species were in low numbers. So far, so good! But several other Counts in the 30 year period of the Sauk City Counts also had little or no snow cover. I'm reminded of a comment of Bielefeldt: "It's hard to prove any seasonal generalizations."

Both species of three-toed woodpeckers were found in nothern Wisconsin. Blue Jays, along with Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, may have benefited from the abundant corn left unharvested. Red-breasted Nuthatches virtually all left Ontario by the end of October but fall migration in

Wisconsin was poor (**American Birds,** 1986, Volume 40, page 116), and winter numbers were typically below normal. Bohemian Waxwings were "strongly incursive" into Ontario and New England in the fall (**American Birds,** 1986, Volume 40, page 80), and there was a good invasion into Wisconsin this winter.

The Northern Shrike was widespread in the fall of 1985, but only Wisconsin observers reported relatively high numbers (**American Birds,** 1986, Volume 40, pages 79 and 116). These high numbers continued into early winter, in fact shrikes in Wisconsin, at least in the southern part of the state in December, may have been in record numbers. Remarkable totals of 28 and 18 were tallied, for example, on the 15-year-old Poynette and 30-year-old Sauk City Christmas Bird Counts; the previous highs for these Counts were 3 and 4, respectively. Shrikes remained numerous into January, for example Lange found 4 in an area of approximately 400 acres west of Sauk City in Sauk County on the 19th, but then their numbers declined.

The Northern Cardinal generally was in normal numbers, while the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Black-headed Grosbeak were both found during the period.

Fall migration for the period was limited to relatively few species, for example Canada Goose and certain raptors, while spring migrants included Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose?, certain ducks, Bald Eagle, Harrier?, American Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk?, Cooper's Hawk?, Northern Goshawk?, Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove?, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls?, Horned Lark, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing?, Song Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird?, and Common Grackle?

A total of 62 people contributed records for the following 59 counties (the number of contributors follows each county name): Adams - 4, Ashland - 3, Barron - 2, Bayfield - 3, Brown - 1, Buffalo - 1, Burnett - 1, Calumet - 1, Chippewa - 1, Clark - 3, Columbia - 4, Crawford - 1, Dane - 7, Dodge - 1, Door - 3, Douglas - 3, Dunn - 2, Eau Claire - 1, Fond du Lac - 2, Forest - 2, Green Lake - 1, Iowa - 1, Iron - 1, Jackson - 4, Jefferson - 1, Juneau - 5, Kenosha - 2, Kewaunee - 2, LaCrosse - 2, Langlade - 1, Manitowoc - 2, Marathon - 7, Marinette - 1, Marquette - 1, Milwaukee - 15, Monroe - 1, Oneida - 2, Outagamie - 1, Ozaukee - 8, Pepin - 1, Polk - 2, Portage - 5, Price - 1, Racine - 2, Rock - 2, Sauk - 6, Shawano - 2, Sheboygan - 4, Taylor - 9, Trempealeau - 2, Vernon - 1, Vilas - 1, Walworth - 1, Washington - 1, Waukesha - 5, Waupaca - 1, Waushara - 2, Winnebago - 3, Wood - 2. Coverage was lacking in 13 counties: 4 in southern and southwestern Wisconsin (Green, Lafayette, Grant, Richland), 5 in the west and northwest (Pierce, St. Croix, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn), and 4 in the north-central and northeast (Lincoln, Menominee, Oconto, Florence).

Abbreviations used in the species accounts: BOP - beginning of period, EOP - end of period, TTP - throughout the period, m. obs. - many observers, and CBC - Christmas Bird Count(s).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Loon: One in Door Co., 11 Dec. (Lukes), and one on the Milwaukee CBC.

Pied-billed Grebe: No reports, including the CBC, the first time since 1947 that this species was not found on the Counts.

Horned Grebe: 11 Dec., one in Door Co. (Lukes).

Double-crested Cormorant: Two on the Green Bay CBC.

Great Blue Heron: Five on as many CBC. Later records: 11 Jan., 1, Dane Co. (Hilsenhoff), and 19 Jan., 1, Sauk Co. (Baughman, T. Schultz). One in Polk Co., 19 Feb. - EOP (Hudick), probably a migrant.

Black-crowned Night Heron: One on the Green Bay CBC.

Tundra Swan: Single birds on Dec. in Trempealeau (Hunter) and LaCrosse (Lesher) Cos., one in Door Co., 8 Dec. - 8 Jan. (Lukes), and one TTP in Dane Co. (Hilsenhoff).

Mute Swan: On seven CBC, a total of 24 birds, throughout the state. Later records: TTP in Douglas (Johnson), Ashland (Roy), Portage (T. Schultz), and Racine (DeBoer) Cos.

Snow (and Blue) Goose: Two on the Stevens Point CBC, and (Ziebell) one in Winnebago Co., 17 Jan. - EOP.

Brant: Two in Manitowoc Co., 21 Nov., with one lingering until 7 Dec. (Sontag), Wisconsin's first winter bird in 5 years.

Canada Goose: 2000+ were flying south over Jefferson Co., 5 Dec. (Hale), and there was a heavy flight over Madison, Dane Co., 11 Dec. (Lange from John Diekelmann). TTP in eight counties in southern and central Wisconsin, with the maximum number being approximately 1000 in Adams Co. (Lange). Probable migrants in Ozaukee and Fond du Lac Cos., EOP (Baughman).

Wood Duck: On 12 CBC throughout the state. TTP in the following counties: Racine (DeBoer), Milwaukee (Baughman), Winnebago (Ziebell), and Shawano (Peterson), with January records for Dane Co. (Cederstrom) and LaCrosse Co. (Lesher).

Green-winged Teal: On the Green Bay, Madison and Cadiz Springs CBC, with one TTP in Milwaukee Co. (Baughman et. al.).

American Black Duck: TTP in south-central, eastern and northeastern Wisconsin (m. obs.), and the Ashland area (Roy; Verch). Goff found this species in Barron Co., 20 Feb. - EOP.

Mallard: Overwintering birds have been increasing in numbers in recent years; 23,800 were censused by the DNR in both 1984 and 1985, mostly in southern counties. Contributors reported Mallards TTP in 20 counties, mainly in southern and eastern Wisconsin. Maximum numbers were 2500 in Winnebago Co., 17 Feb. (Ziebell), 500 in the Big Springs area of Adams Co. (Lange), and at least 200 on the Rock River in Fort Atkinson, Jefferson Co. (Hale).

Northern Pintail: Single birds on the Green Bay and Manitowoc CBC, and (m. obs.) TTP in Milwaukee Co.

Blue-winged Teal: Until 10 Jan. in Racine Co. (DeBoer).

Northern Shoveler: TTP in Madison, Dane Co.; maximum 52 on the Madison CBC.

Gadwall: A total of 49 birds on six CBC in southern Wisconsin. Apparently TTP only in Dane Co. (m. obs.). Two in Adams Co., 8 Feb. (Tessen).

American Wigeon: One TTP in Dane Co. (Hilsenhoff).

Canvasback: Two on the Kenosha CBC; also on the Racine CBC, where this species remained TTP, maximum 17 (DeBoer).

Redhead: Two on the Sturgeon Bay CBC and two on the Kenosha CBC.

Ring-necked Duck: Found on four CBC, with single birds TTP in Dane (Hilsenhoff) and Portage (Baughman) Cos.

Greater Scaup: TTP in Lake Michigan, Kenosha to Door Cos., with the greatest number (2000+) in Milwaukee Co. (m. obs.).

Lesser Scaup: On nine CBC throughout the state. Later records: TTP in Milwaukee and Portage Cos. (Baughman), Ozaukee Co., 11 Jan. (Tessen), and Dane Co., 8-15 Feb., 1 (Tessen).

Harlequin Duck: One in Milwaukee Co., 7-8 Dec. (Tessen; Baughman).

Oldsquaw: TTP in Lake Michigan, Kenosha to Door Cos., with the greatest number (750) in Door Co. (m. obs.).

Surf Scoter: One in Ozaukee Co., 7 Dec. (Baughman).

White-winged Scoter: One in Milwaukee Co., 7-8 Dec. (Baughman; Frank), and one in Ozaukee Co., 7 Dec. (Baughman).

Common Goldeneye: TTP in Lake Michigan, Kenosha to Door and Marinette Cos. (m. obs.), Shawano Co. (Peterson), Dane Co. (m. obs.), Sauk Co. (Lange; Swengel), Jefferson Co. (Hale), the Eau Claire area (Polk), Polk co. (Hudick), and Ashland Co. (Roy). Ziebell found this species in Winnebago Co., 6 Jan. - EOP, with a maximum of 700 on 17 Jan. Birds in Feb. in LaCrosse (Lesher), Barron (Goff), and Douglas (Johnson) Cos. may have been migrants.

Bufflehead: TTP in Lake Michigan, Kenosha to Door Cos. (m. obs.), also Winnebago Co., 1 Jan., 1 (Tessen), Dane Co., 8 Feb., 1 (Hilsenhoff), and Washington Co., EOP (Baughman).

Hooded Merganser: On seven CBC in eastern and southern Wisconsin. Later records: TTP in Milwaukee Co. (m. obs.), Sheboygan Co. (Kuhns), Jefferson Co., 1 (Hale), and Dane Co., 1 (Hilsenhoff), also Winnebago Co., 7 Feb., 2 (Ziebell), and Barron Co., 30 Jan. - EOP, 5 (Goff).

Common Merganser: TTP in Lake Michigan, Kenosha to Door Cos. (m. obs.), Dane Co. (Hilsenhoff), Columbia Co. (Tessen), and Sauk Co. (Lange; Swengel). Ziebell found this species in Winnebago Co. from 6 Jan. - EOP, maximum 30 on 6 Jan., and Goff noted it in Barron Co. from 1 Feb. - EOP.

Red-breasted Merganser: On 10 CBC in eastern and southern Wisconsin. Later reports: TTP in Milwaukee Co. (m. obs.), and (DeBoer) Racine Co., maximum 1100 on 15 Feb., also 8 Jan. in Sauk Co. (Swengel), 25 Jan. in Sheboygan Co. (Brassers), and 3 Feb. in Manitowoc Co., after an absence of 6 weeks (Sontag).

Ruddy Duck: On the Fond du Lac and Milwaukee CBC.

Osprey: One on the Sauk City CBC.

Bald Eagle: Epstein in Monroe Co. noted a total of 11 southbound on 2 Dec. TTP in Polk Co. (Hudick), Barron Co. (Goff), the Eau Claire area (Polk), Pepin Co. (Wilda), Buffalo Co. (Wilda), and Trempealeau Co. (Hunter) in the west, Sauk (Swengel) and Dane (Lange) Cos. along the Wisconsin River, and Marinette (Lindberg) and Door (Lukes) Cos. in the east. Butterbrodt found this species in Iron Co. from 20 Jan. - EOP. Southernmost birds were noticeably reduced in numbers by the EOP.

Northern Harrier: On 10 CBC in southern Wisconsin. Later records: 1 Jan., one in Outagamie Co. (Tessen), and 2 Feb., Rock Co. (Mahlum).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: January and February records for 10 counties in southern and eastern Wisconsin (m. obs.). Possible migrants in Manitowoc Co., 5 Feb (Sontag), and Racine Co., 22 Feb. (DeBoer). Only Peterson supplied documentation.

Cooper's Hawk: January and February records for 6 counties in southern, eastern and northeastern Wisconsin (m. obs.). Possible migrants in Milwaukee Co., 2 Feb. (Mueller), Crawford Co., 9 Feb. (Merz), and Jefferson Co., 16 Feb. (Hale). Documentation supplied by Hale, Mueller, and Peterson.

Northern Goshawk: January and February records for 13 counties scattered throughout Wisconsin (m. obs.). Birds on 22-24 Feb. in Brown Co. (Wierzbicki) may have been migrants.

Red-shouldered Hawk: One TTP in Polk Co. (Hudick), and Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk Co. (Lange), also one in Manitowoc Co., 2 Feb. (Sontag).

Red-tailed Hawk: Northward to the following counties: Douglas, 4 Dec. (Johnson), Barron, TTP (Goff), Marathon, TTP (Luepkes), and Shawano, TTP (Peterson).

Rough-legged Hawk: Numbers generally below normal, with a few "hot spots" where birds remained TTP in above normal numbers, e.g. the Devil's Lake State Park area in Sauk Co. (Lange). Migration underway by the EOP.

Golden Eagle: Found in Jackson Co. (Hixton CBC), Monroe Co., an adult, 2 Dec. - EOP, another adult, 21 Dec. - EOP, and an immature, 2 Dec. (Epstein), Vernon Co., 22 Feb., two near Wildcat Mountain State Park, undocumented (Leglers), and Juneau Co., 8 Feb., an immature (Tessen), and 16 Feb. an adult (Baughman, T. Schultz).

American Kestrel: Northward to the following counties: Bayfield, 21 Dec.., 1 (Roy), Marathon, TTP, 1 (Luepkes), Shawano, TTP (Peterson), and Brown, TTP (Wierzbicki). A migrant in Sauk Co., 23 Feb. (Lange).

Merlin: One on the Poynette CBC, 4 Jan., and also in Columbia Co., 8 Feb. (Tessen). One other record, a bird in Portage Co., 30 Dec. (Baughman, T. Schultz).

Gyrfalcon: Temple saw a dark phase bird in Dane Co., 16 Feb.

Gray Partridge: Walworth (Tessen), Ozaukee (m. obs.), Outagamie (Tessen), and Shawano (Peterson) Cos.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Northward to Douglas Co. (Johnson) in the west, and Marinette Co. (Lindberg) and Door Co. (Lukes) in the east. Northern limits between these areas uncertain.

Greater Prairie Chicken: Dancy, Spencer, and Arpin CBC. The Luepkes found this species TTP in Marathon Co.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Taylor Co. (N. Risch).

Wild Turkey: On eight CBC, with the usual reports for Juneau Co., also (Woodmansee) Adams Co.

Northern Bobwhite: On the Black River Falls and Richland Center CBC, with January - February records for Jackson Co. (T. Risch), Monroe Co. (Epstein), Sauk Co. (Swengel), and Marquette Co. (Tessen).

American Coot: On six CBC in eastern Wisconsin. Later records: Winnebago Co., one TTP (Ziebell), Dane Co., TTP, maximum 44 (Cederstrom; Hilsenhoff), and Walworth Co., 18 Jan., 1 (Tessen).

Sandhill Crane: One with a broken wing in Taylor Co., 7 Dec. (Luepkes; N. Risch).

Killdeer: On the Wautoma and Cornelia CBC. Merz found one in a springy area, with snipe, in Crawford Co., 12 Jan., and Swengel reported a migrant in Sauk Co., 22 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: 5-7 Dec., one in Milwaukee Co. (m. obs.).

Common Snipe: On eight CBC in southern Wisconsin. Later records: 12-14 Feb., one in a springy area in Perrot State Park, Trempealeau Co. (Hunter), and TTP, maximum 7 on 15 Feb., a springy area in Crawford Co. (Merz).

Bonaparte's Gull: Milwaukee Co., 5-8 Dec., maximum 50 (m. obs.), and Ozaukee Co., 7 Dec. (Tessen).

Ring-billed Gull: TTP in Racine (DeBoer), Milwaukee (m. obs.) and Sheboygan (Brassers) Cos. All other reports (five southern and eastern counties) were for December.

Herring Gull: TTP along Lake Michigan, Racine to Door and Marinette Cos. (m. obs.). All other reports (five southern and eastern counties and Ashland Co.) were for December.

Thayer's Gull: Milwaukee Co., 8 Dec. - 2 Feb., maximum 2 (m. obs.).

Glaucous Gull: One on the Racine CBC, also in Racine Co., 6 Feb. - EOP, maximum 2 (DeBoer), Milwaukee Co., 7 Dec. - 2 Feb., maximum 2 (m. obs.), Manitowoc Co., BOP - 11 Jan., 1 (Sontag), and Sauk Co., one at the Prairie du Sac dam, 10 Dec. (Leglers).

Mourning Dove: Northward to the following counties: Douglas, TTP (Johnson), Ashland area, TTP (Verch), Price, 12 Dec. - 4 Jan. (Hardy), Vilas, 2 Jan. (Reardon), and Shawano, TTP (Peterson). Increased numbers by 2 March in Winnebago Co. (C. Schultz).

Barn Owl: Two on the Luck CBC.

Eastern Screech Owl: Reported in seven counties in the southern part of the state, plus Marathon Co., 12 Dec. - 6 Feb., 1 (Luepkes), Taylor Co., 2 Jan. 1 (Medford CBC), and Barron Co., TTP (Goff).

Snowy Owl: 12 counties in northern and eastern Wisconsin. Still here at the EOP in Douglas Co. (Johnson), the Ashland area (Verch), Barron Co. (Goff), and Winnebago Co. (Ziebell).

Northern Hawk Owl: One on the Brule CBC; this species had been found on only two previous Counts.

Long-eared Owl: On five CBC in southern Wisconsin. Two later records: Milwaukee Co., 1 Jan. (Baughman, T. Schultz), and Sauk Co., through 10 Jan. (Swengel).

Short-eared Owl: 4 Dec., Monroe Co. (Epstein), 14 Dec., Douglas Co. (Johnson), on four CBC in southern Wisconsin, and 13 Feb., Taylor Co. (N. Risch).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Single birds on the Hixton, Madison and Milwaukee CBC. Later records: Sauk Co., 19 Feb. - EOP (Swengel), Door Co., 12-17 Feb. (Lukes), and Douglas Co., one killed by a car in Superior, 10 Jan., and another found dead at Amnicon Lake, 17 Feb. (Semo).

Belted Kingfisher: TTP in Polk (Hudick) and Trempealeau (Hunter) Cos., with birds probably overwintering in Monroe Co. (Epstein), Crawford Co. (Merz), Dane Co. (Cederstrom; Tessen), and Jefferson Co. (Hale). January reports for Outagamie (Tessen) and Manitowoc (Sontag) Cos.

Red-headed Woodpecker: January - February reports for 12 counties, north to Buffalo (Wilda), Clark (Luepkes), Juneau (Tessen), and Shawano (Peterson) Cos.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Northward to the following counties: Barron, TTP (Goff), Taylor, 2 - 19 Jan., 1 (N. Risch), Marathon, 14 Dec. - Jan., 2 (Luepkes), Marinette, TTP, normal numbers (Lindberg), and Door, TTP, normal numbers (Lukes).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: On six CBC in southern Wisconsin. One later record, a bird in Milwaukee Co., 8 - 10 Jan. (Green).

Three-toed Woodpecker: Douglas Co., several sightings (Semo), and Taylor Co., 28 Dec. - EOP, at least three females in conifer bogs (m. obs.).

Black-backed Woodpecker: Douglas Co., two pairs (Semo), Vilas Co. (Reardon), Taylor Co., 6 Jan. - 26 Feb., at least two females in conifer bogs (m. obs.), and Columbia Co., an undocumented bird at the Conservation Education Center near Poynette (Lange from David Fallows).

Northern Flicker: After December, records for six counties in southern and eastern Wisconsin (m. obs.).

Horned Lark: TTP in southern and eastern Wisconsin (m. obs.). Most contributors reported peak numbers in February.

Gray Jay: Douglas, Iron, Vilas, Forest, Oneida, Price and Taylor Counties.

Common Raven: Southward to the following counties: Jackson (N. Risch; T. Risch), Wood (Luepkes), Shawano (Peterson; Tessen), and Door (Lukes).

Boreal Chickadee: Reported only from Price Co. (Hardy).

Tufted Titmouse: Eau Claire area (Polk), Crawford Co., TTP (Merz), Sauk Co., TTP (Lange; Swengel), Dane Co., TTP (Ashman; Hilsenhoff), and Rock Co., 25 Feb. (Mahlum).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Throughout the state but generally in below normal numbers.

Brown Creeper: TTP in 10 counties, mainly in southern and eastern Wisconsin (m. obs.).

Carolina Wren: One on the Milwaukee CBC.

Winter Wren: On 7 Dec. Cederstrom found one in Dane Co. and Lange found one in Sauk Co., also single birds on the Woodland Dunes NE, Newburg, and Beloit CBC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Hale found this species in Jefferson Co. on 17 Dec. and again on 21 Jan., and Lange (from Ray Dischler) noted a similar pattern in Sauk Co. - through November, then again on 20-21 January.

Townsend's Solitaire: One in Door Co., 24 Nov. - 5 Jan. (Lukes).

Hermit Thrush: After Dec. only in Milwaukee Co. where noted through 22 Feb. (m. obs.).

American Robin: TTP, generally 1-2 birds, north to Marathon Co. (Luepkes), with single birds in Burnett Co., 5 Jan. (Fuller), Ashland Co., 19 and 22 Jan. (Roy; Swengel), and Bayfield Co., 1 Jan. (Swengel). Birds in Crawford Co., 25 Feb. (Merz), may have been migrants.

Varied Thrush: Four birds reported for fall 1985, with three lingering at feeders into the winter: one near Hurley, one near Taylor, and one at Colby (American Birds, 1986, Volume 40, page 116). The Colby bird, an immature male, remained TTP (m. obs.). Other reports: Rock Co., an immature at a feeder, 14 Dec. - mid Jan. (Mahlum), Dane Co., one at a feeder in Middleton (Leglers), Columbia Co., one on the Poynette CBC, 4 Jan., and Door Co., one at a feeder (via the Lukes).

Northern Mockingbird: One in Ozaukee Co., 7 Dec. (Tessen).

Brown Thrasher: Four birds on as many CBC in eastern and northeastern Wisconsin, with one later record, a bird in Milwaukee Co., 9 Jan. (Frank).

Bohemian Waxwing: A good invasion, south to Milwaukee Co. (m. obs.), although absent from much of the state (records for 14 counties). Maximum counts after the CBC were 281 on 21 Jan. in Ashland area (Verch), 105 on 17 Feb. in Bayfield Co. (Swengel), 80+ on 11 Jan. in Milwaukee Co. (Casper), 75 on 15-22 Jan. in Polk Co. (Diers), 71 on 4 Jan. in Fond du Lac Co. (Baughman), and 70 on 20 Jan. in Green Lake Co. (T. Schultz).

Cedar Waxwing: TTP in at least a few southern counties.

Northern Shrike: Reported in 35 counties throughout the state. Especially numerous (record numbers?) early in the period in southern Wisconsin. Still present at the EOP in some southern counties, e.g. Racine, Sauk and Crawford.

Loggerhead Shrike: Tessen identified one in Walworth Co., 15 Feb., Wisconsin's first winter record in 3 years.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: One on the Madison CBC.

Northern Cardinal: Northward to the following counties, where TTP and in normal numbers: Barron (Goff), Taylor (N. Risch), Marathon (Luepkes), Marinette (Lindberg), and Door (Lukes).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An unusual number of records. A male at a feeder on the Gilman CBC, which was found dead in late Jan. (Luepkes), two on the Wisconsin Rapids CBC, and one on the Kenosha CBC.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Two records for this western species: one at a feeder in Butler, Waukesha Co., 25 Dec. - EOP (m. obs.), and one in Polk Co. near Balsam Lake, 22 Jan. (Diers).

Rufous-sided Towhee: One on the Black River Falls CBC.

American Tree Sparrow: Large flocks were found in Walworth Co. (400 on 15 Feb.) and Kenosha Co. (500+ on 22 Feb.) by Tessen, but generally this species was in below normal numbers.

Fox Sparrow: Five birds on four CBC in southern Wisconsin.

Song Sparrow: TTP in Racine (DeBoer) and Dane (Ashman) Cos. Possible migrants in Kenosha (Tessen) and Rock (Mahlum) Cos., 22 Feb.

Swamp Sparrow: On nine CBC in eastern and southern Wisconsin.

White-throated Sparrow: After the CBC, the following records: Milwaukee Co., TTP (m. obs.), maximum 4, 29 Jan. (Bontly); Dane Co., apparently TTP (Ashman: Tessen), maximum 6, 11 Jan. (Hilsenhoff); Green Lake Co., one at a feeder TTP (T. Schultz); and Winnebago Co., 27 Dec. - EOP, 1 (Ziebell).

White-crowned Sparrow: Six on the Beloit CBC and one on the Madison CBC, also one in Milwaukee Co., 23 Jan. (Frank).

Dark-eyed Junco: Found in the following places where the American Tree Sparrow was not reported: LaCrosse Co., TTP (Lesher; Wilda), Ashland Co., 3-7 Dec., 1 (Roy), and the Ashland area, BOP - 21 Jan. (Verch).

Lapland Longspur: Noted in seven counties. Relatively few birds must have been in the state during the period, as the largest group reported was only 12 (DeBoer for Racine Co.).

Snow Bunting: Throughout the state; noted in 32 counties. After the CBC, the largest flocks (more than 100) were reported for Racine Co., 23 Feb. (DeBoer), Ozaukee Co., 16 Jan. (Frank), and Taylor Co., 13 Feb. (N. Risch).

Red-winged Blackbird: A few wintering in southern Wisconsin, with a group of 50 in Trempealeau Co. on 2 Feb. (Hunter), and a group of 23 in Kenosha Co. (singing) on 22 Feb. (Tessen).

Western Meadowlark: One in Ozaukee Co., 1 Jan. (T. Schultz).

Meadowlark spp.: On six CBC in southern Wisconsin.

Rusty Blackbird: On four CBC in southern Wisconsin, also Green Lake Co., 30 Dec., 4 (T. Schultz). Only one later record: 3 in Taylor Co. on 19 Feb. (N. Risch).

Brewer's Blackbird: One on the Brule CBC, and three on the Poynette CBC.

Common Grackle: After January, the following records: Barron Co., TTP (Goff), Shawano Co., 7 Jan. - EOP, 1 (Peterson), Door Co., 10 Feb., 1 (Lukes), Jefferson Co., 19 Feb. -EOP, 1 (Hale), and Dane Co., 8 Feb., 1 (Hilsenhoff).

Brown-headed Cowbird: After December, noted only in Dane Co., where TTP (Cederstrom).

Pine Grosbeak: A good invasion; reported in 40 counties throughout the state. Above normal numbers TTP; highest counts after the CBC were 50 in Price Co., 31 Jan. (Hardy), and 50 in Sauk Co., 15 Feb. (Lange). Still in southern counties, e.g. Milwaukee, Green Lake and Sauk, at the EOP. Hardy in Price Co. observed that this species seldom came to elevated feeders but would feed in cardboard boxes on the snow.

Purple Finch: Generally in below normal numbers for the period.

Red Crossbill: On eight CBC throughout the state. Later records for the following counties: Dane (Ashman), Sauk (Swengel), Green Lake (T. Schultz), Winnebago (Ziebell), and Taylor (Luepkes; Tessen).

White-winged Crossbill: On the Adams, Baraboo, and Newburg CBC. Only one later record: Bayfield Co., 1 Jan. (Swengel).

Common Redpoll: Reported in 30 counties throughout the state. In high numbers over much of Wisconsin; flocks of 100+ were noted on a number of CBC and also in Sauk Co. (Lange), Marathon Co. (Luepkes), and Taylor Co. (N. Risch). Still in some southern counties, e.g. Jefferson and Green Lake, at the EOP.

Hoary Redpoll: A few scattered sightings, with the Common Redpoll.

Pine Siskin: Throughout the state, with population estimates varying from above to below normal.

American Goldfinch: Generally TTP; Butterbrodt in Iron Co. noted this species only at the BOP. Population estimates ranged from above to below normal.

Evening Grosbeak: Generally in above normal numbers. Reported in 37 counties throughout the state. Flocks of more than 100 were noted on a number of CBC and also on 13 Feb. in Taylor Co. by N. Risch.

CONTRIBUTORS

Philip Ashman, Jeffrey L. Baughman, Homer C. Bishop, Marilyn Bontly, David and Margaret Brasser, Mary E. Butterbrodt, Gary S. Casper, David Cederstrom, Bill Cowart, Gerald A. DeBoer, Richard W. Diers, Mary F. Donald, Eric Epstein, James Frank, Kevin Gluckert, Alta Goff, Robert Green, Karen Etter Hale, Don Hanbury, Maybelle Hardy, Dorothy Harmer, William Hilsenhoff, Joseph Hudick, Thomas J. Hunter, Robbye Johnson, Howard Jorgenson, Roland Kuhn family, Kenneth I. Lange, Dorothy and Karl Legler, Fred Lesher, Harold Lindberg, Jan and Ken Luepke, Charlotte and Roy Lukes, Gyda Mahlum, Ed Merz, William Mueller, Mark Peterson, Janine Polk, Mary J. Raile, Bill Reardon, Nick Risch, Tim Risch, Albert Roy, Clark Schultz, Larry Semo, Raymond Smith, Charles Sontag, Scott Swengel, Stanley A. Temple, Daryl Tessen, Dick Verch, Melvin Wierzbicki, Curt Wilda, Winnie Woodmansee, Norma Zehner, Tom Ziebell.

By the Wayside...

Black-headed Grosbeak in Polk County

At our property in the village of Balsam Lake, Balsam Lake Township, Polk County, Wisconsin, we have packed footpaths in the snow and through the woods and over the fields, and usually take walks in the AM and PM. First noticed a large (approx. 75) flock of Bohemian Waxwings feasting on Buckthorn berries in the middle of January 1986. Had seen the waxwings on AM of 22 January but they were not present in PM when I approached from the south along the west side of a spruce-pine windbreak. I continued along a path between the Buckthorns and Prickly Ash, and noticed a larger bird flitting in the lower branches of a white oak adjacent to the Buckthorns. As I got closer, the bright breast was apparent and considering the shape of the bird I anticipated seeing a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. However, the reddish-orange color covered the whole breast changing quite abruptly to yellow or buff on the belly. Not white like the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The closest bird in coloration is the Robin, but only about one-third of the bottom was Robin-like in color. Except for the wider beak, the head looked a little Robin-like, but the chin was black changing abruptly to red-orange at the throat; white barring was also apparent on the upperparts (the wings and tail). As the bird flitted farther away, it gave a short Robin-like call. Back home I checked bird books -Black-headed Grosbeak is the only bird it could have been. I watched the bird at a distance of 20-25 feet, but did not have optical equipment.

Richard W. Diers

Purple Sandpiper in Milwaukee County

On December 5, 1985, while scanning Lake Michigan for ducks, I saw a bird from the corner of my eye fly past and land in the stones at the edge of the water on the beach at the Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. As it flew past, I noticed a light colored wing stripe and that the wing strokes were *not* shallow as in a Spotted Sandpiper. I briefly saw the bird in the Bushnell Spacemaster II scope -- it was a very chunky, charcoal-gray shorebird with a decurved bill. The curvature was slight but noticeable. The upperparts of the bird - head, nape and back - were only very slightly mottled; the underparts were lighter than above and more heavily mottled. The bill had a darker tip and a lighter basal area which appeared reddish. The legs also seemed to be reddish; they definitely were not black. By this time the bird had moved along the beach and I couldn't get it in the scope or the 7x35 Bausch and Lomb binoculars. I went south on the path, hoping to see the bird when it again appeared, but I didn't see it. The time of viewing was from 8:42 - 8:45 a.m.

Marilyn Bontly

THAYER'S GULL

Dates: Dec. 8, 1985 and February 2, 1986

Time Seen: On 12/08/85 at 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
On 02/02/86 at 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: South Shore Yacht Club (both sightings)

I decided to write the documentation of both these birds on the same form because of the similarity in their characteristics. Needless to write two almost identical reports.

Both birds were "winter - adults" and were viewed at relatively close range, 20 to 150 feet. The birds were compared with winter adult Herring Gulls at close range so direct comparisons were made and what may be an important ID hint verified (*). I again took a few photographs of the birds for study and verification of the sightings.

Head

Shape: Seemed somewhat smaller than a Herring Gull's because of the rounder crown profile. The Herring Gull's flatter forehead gives the head a longer shape.
Color: White with brown streaking similar to many of the Herring Gulls.

Eye

Color: Dark from a distance but both birds had brown irides and purple orbital rings when seen at close range (20-30') through the scope at about 30-45x.

Bill

Size: Slightly shorter in length and in depth than the bills of Herring Gulls.
Shape: The culmen was relatively straight to the curve at the tip. The bill showed little or no increase in depth at the tip (gonys angle) like the Herring Gull does.
*Color: The following characteristic in bill color has not only been consistent in these two birds but also with the other winter adult Thayer's Gulls (4-5) I've seen here the past two winters. These birds' bills show a "two-toned" effect. *The basal 2/3's is a grayish or greenish-yellow, with the tip a*

brighter yellow. Whereas the adult winter Herring Gull shows a consistently colored bright yellow bill (as did the Kumlien's Iceland Gull from a year ago at the same location).

Legs

Color: Discerning leg color is dependent on lighting conditions. The bird on 12/08/85, appeared to have deeper pink legs than the Herring Gulls present - that day was bright and sunny. The bird on 02/02/86, appeared to have about the same color legs as the Herring Gulls present - an overcast day.

Mantle

Color: Slate-gray noticeably darker than the Herring Gull but also light dependent.

Wing

Standing & Swimming

Color: *Upper surface* same color as the mantle and primaries black about the same as the Herring Gulls. The white tips of the primaries slightly larger (.25X) than those of the Herring Gull.
Under surface very light gray to white, appeared black in all Herring Gulls present.

Flying

Color: Upper surface slate-gray with white trailing edge from the base of the secondaries out through the dark triangular wedge of the primaries. The Herring Gull has a similar pattern but the edge is not continuous; it terminates at the black wedge. Also I feel the white edge is slightly narrower for the Herring.
Primary tips of the Thayer's Gulls were lighter in color than the Herring Gull, because of the larger size of the white mirror spots on the outer two primaries and the less extensive black areas to the remaining four primaries.
Under surface light gray to white with the gray outer primary areas mirroring the black areas of the upper surface.

Habitat: Lake Michigan - Harbor area and public feeding area for ducks.

Comparison with similar species: Winter adult Herring Gull.

Distance: From about 20 feet to 150 feet.

Optical Equipment: 10x40 Leitz binos, 20 - 45X Zoom Spotting Scope & 600mm.

Weather: On 12/08/85, bright, sunny day, wind 0-5 SE - Excellent visibility. On 02/02/86, overcast, low clouds, little wind - visibility good.

Other members of observation party: 12/08/85 - Betty Shaw and Larry Jones both from Illinois. 02/02/86 - Tom & Wendy Schultz, Bill Cowart, Jim Frank, John Idzikowski.

Jeffrey L. Baughman

Three-Toed Woodpecker in Taylor County

Bill Cowart and I drove to Medford on 15 February 1986 to try and find the Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers that had been in the area. We met Sam Robbins at about 0800 h who drove out to the Chequamegon National Forest with us to show us where the birds were. We stopped three miles west of hwy. 13 at the Black-backed spot (off Co. M) first. After Bill and I had hunted down one Hairy Woodpecker by wading through knee deep snow in the forest, a member of another birding party (which included

Tom Schultz) found a Three-toed Woodpecker about 100 yards into the forest from the road. We were able to approach to within 10 feet of the tree the bird was feeding on at heights of 8 to 15 feet. It was a female. Three toes present on each foot. Crown dark (black), face black except two narrow white stripes extending from base of bill to neck and from behind eye to neck. Wings black. Back mottled black and white. Tail black except outer tail feathers white; no black spotting was observed on the outer rectrices but the tail was not fanned very well and these feathers were partly obscured by adjacent ones. Flanks (sides) were barred black and white; these feathers were fluffed out enormously, like cotton, due to the cold (about 0°F). Throat white. Bill black. The bird worked the bark of a dead tree, flaking off bark rather than hammering and chiseling.

Later in the day a Black-backed Woodpecker was located about 400 yards away. The face of this bird was much darker than the Three-toed, with the white line extending from behind the eye in the Three-toed completely absent in the Black-backed; and the lower white line extending from the base of the bill in the Three-toed thinner in the Black-backed. Also the back of the Black-backed was entirely black, whereas the Three-toed had definite white mottling on the back.

The Three-toed Woodpecker was smaller than the Hairy Woodpeckers we saw that day but appeared larger than Downy Woodpeckers.

Gary S. Casper

Curious Cardinal Behavior

The male cardinal's maverick antics caught my eye through the kitchen window December 17, 1986 around 9:00 a.m. Repeatedly, he thrust his beak at a dark object nearly a third his length on our snow-encrusted open lawn, while his companions congregated at the sunflower feeder 10 yards away.

From my vantage point, I couldn't tell if the bird was trying to eat or lift his burden, but it seemed to be the latter. Each lunge budged the object a fraction of an inch.

Closer examination proved the object to be the furry corpse of a Short-tailed shrew *(Blarina brevicauda)*. Unfortunately, squeamishness about possible contagion prevented me picking it up to ascertain whether rigor mortis had set in, although the body appeared fresh, as if it had died only moments before. A lone line of tiny footprints across the snow marked his final, doomed journey.

What instinct triggered the cardinal's interest in the mammal corpse? Hunger was not a motive, as our feeder is always filled. To my knowledge, the cardinals who flock to our feeder ignore the rodents (voles, probably) peeking out of the rodent burrows pocking the snow there.

There was no sign of struggle--no blood, no feathers. The shrew had no visible wounds, nor was its fur in any disarray. Perhaps the shrew's life ended that winter morning from natural causes, and his death throes excited the cardinal's curiosity. Does any reader have another explanation?

A falconer reports that he has often seen cardinals pecking at dead rodents, but is uncertain how the rodents died or if the cardinals were eating them.

Shelley Goldbloom
N5071 Greens Coulee Lane
Onalaska, WI 54650

Black-backed Woodpecker in Taylor County

Having found two Three-toed Woodpeckers a couple hours earlier, we unsuccessfully continued to check other tamaracks in the area of Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin, on 21 February 1986. While standing on County Highway M, I heard a woodpecker tapping. Turning, I saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker sized woodpecker with a black head, back and wings. The bill was black and Hairy Woodpecker length. The face had 2 white stripes, one from the eye to the nape of the neck, and one through the whisker area, broader than the upper stripe. The throat and central breast were white, and the blanks horizontally barred with black and white stripes. The habitat was a tamarack bog. Optical equipment was 7x35 binoculars; viewing distance was 25-30 yards.

James C. Frank

Black-headed Grosbeak in Waukesha County

From notes taken in the field, 15 January 1986, a bird coming to a feeder at a residence in Butler, Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Distance - 100 ft., optical equipment - 9x binoculars. Head: crown stripe - light gray-brown, bordered by black stripes; superciliaries - wide, cream colored; cheeks -dingy black; chin - light. Mandible: dark uppers, light lower. Dorsal Surface: nape and lower back - yellow-orange; upper back - streaked (scalloped) dark gray. Ventral Surface: throat and breast - yellow-orange, with central longitudinal stripe bright lemon-yellow (no streaking); stomach and crissum - white. Wings: black with extensive white mottling (including tips of the secondaries). Wing linings - bright lemon-yellow. Rose-breasted Grosbeak lacks extensive orange-yellow coloration and the bright lemon-yellow wing linings. Other members of the observation party: Mrs. Loretta Hernday (owner of the home).

Bill Cowart

House Finch

Chronology of the House Finch in my back yard to date: July 14, 1986 - one female, two males at thistle feeder. July 15, 16, 17, 18 - one to four birds frequently present in varied sexual combinations, letter to the editor sent. July 19 - one female caught and banded. July 31 - another female caught and banded.

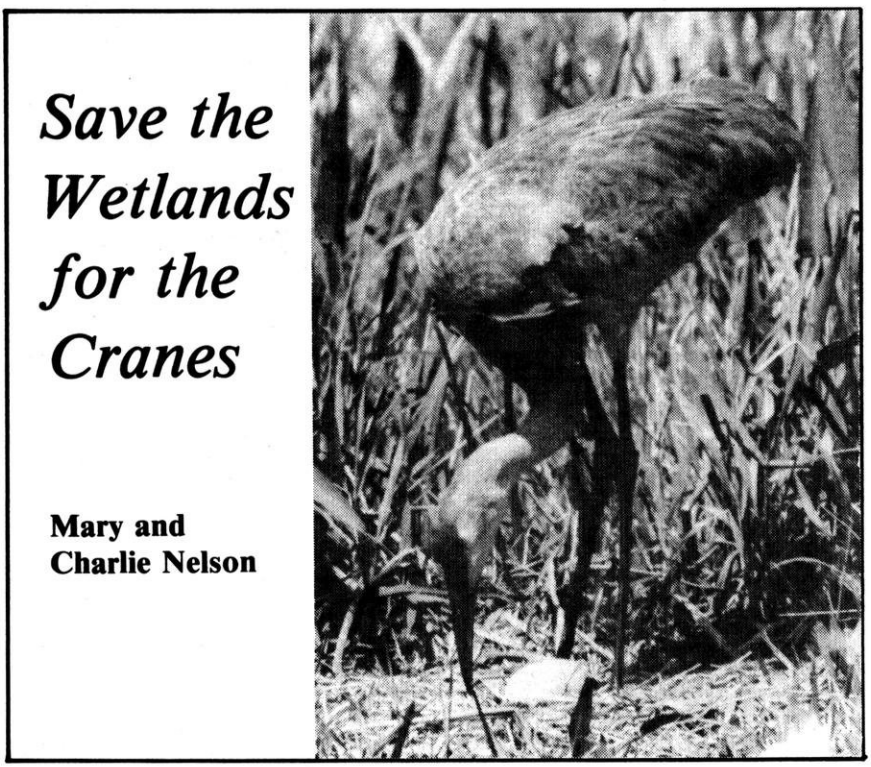
None were seen again until August 27. August 27-30 - six young birds were banded in this period, four male and two female.

September 6-10 - five more finches, two male and three female were banded in this stretch. September 17-18 - one female each of these days was banded. Not a single finch feather was then seen until November 28 when two males were at the thistle feeder and no more to date.

I believe the sequence shows that there were two,, possibly three successful nestings and fledging and the House Finch is established in southwestern Milwaukee County.

Incidentally, from my observation, the finch eats only small seeds. The two times that I saw them on my large feeder they ate everything but never picked up a sunflower seed.

Carl L. Strelitzer
3266 S. 91st St.
Milwaukee, WI 53227



Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper

Regarding the letter from Ed Merz in the Fall, 1986 **Passenger Pigeon**, Duluth Audubon Society has been keeping track of songbird migration, including Blue Jays, during the falls of 1983, '84 and '85 at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve along the north shore of Lake Superior, in Duluth Minnesota. Although I have not yet made counts along Wisconsin Point or any spots along the south shore, I imagine the Blue Jay migration flyways may be similar to those of Sharp-shinned Hawks--I'd be very interested in hearing from anyone with data about Blue Jay migration at any locations in Wisconsin. Because migrating jays are silent (unless a Sharp-shinned Hawk buzzes the flock), it is not at all surprising that Mr. Merz was unfamiliar with the phenomena. But a migrating flock of these exquisite birds is a sight one never forgets.

In Duluth, Blue Jays begin migrating through sometime in the last week of August or the first week of September, and the flight is pretty much finished by the first week of October. Some highlights of three years of counting: 206 jays counted in 4 hours on 9/11/83; 205 jays count in 2 hours on 9/22/83; 467 counted in 2 hours on 9/19/84; 386 counted in 2½ hours on 9/20/84 (these counts were made at Hawk Ridge); 1050 counted in 2½ hours on 9/1/75; 1170 counted in 5 hours on 9/4/85; 916 counted in 4 hours on 9/5/85; 693 counted in 3½ hours on 9/10/85; and 868 counted in 3½ hours on 9/12/85 (these counts were made at the Lakewood Pumping Station on the North Shore just a couple of miles east of Duluthg). So far we haven't been able to detect any weather patterns to predict a big flight -- they fly sometimes on clear, high pressure days with a NW wind, and sometimes on foggy, overcast days with an easterly wind.

During the migration, I've noticed that the migratory flocks of jays visiting my yard all sit in feeders or on the ground beneath and eat the seeds one by one. This is in contrast to the resident jays -- the two that remained from fall 1986 through the present spent a good deal of time filling their throat pouches and carrying seed away, which they hid in some neighborhood tree cavities and in the gutters of several houses. Although they were not banded, I've been able to recognize these individuals by their responses to a whistled call I make when I feed them peanuts.

I am collecting data for a long-term study on the Blue Jay, and would appreciate hearing from anyone with dates and locations of migrations flights, or from anyone with data or anecdotes about Blue Jay behavior.

Sincerely,
Laura L. Erickson
4831 Peabody Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55084

Book Reviews

Wildlife 2000, Modeling Habitat Relationships of Terrestrial Vertebrates, Jared Verner, Michael L. Morrison, and C. John Ralph, Editors., The University of Wisconsin Press, 114 North Murray Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715, 1986, 470 pp., price not given.

This book, the published proceedings of a 1984 international symposium held in California, is definitely not for the casual birder. The book's complex and highly technical subject matter deals with the development and application of models to predict wildlife responses to habitat changes. A model is defined as "a tentative ideational structure used as a testing device". The symposium was the idea of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of The Wildlife Society whose stated goal was to "initiate communications between managers and researchers on the state-of-the-art in wildlife-habitat modeling".

The attractive, well-edited volume contains 60 numbered papers divided into 5 technical sections and a summary section. Each section or part has an introduction and a summary by both a manager and a researcher.

Part 1. titled, Development, Testing, and Application of Wildlife-Habitat Models, contains 23 papers. Part II., Biometric Approaches to Modeling, is composed of 6 papers. Part III., When Habitats Fail as Predictors, contains 8 papers. Part IV., Predicting Effects of Habitat Patchiness and Fragmentation, is made up of 9 papers. The last technical section, Part V., Linking Wildlife Models with Models of Vegetation Succession, contains 12 papers. The final section, Part VI., Synopsis, is 2 papers, 1 from a manager's viewpoint and the other from a researcher's viewpoint.

Despite my training and experience in both wildlife management and research, I found the book difficult to read. I found myself skimming most of the book and reading only those papers that have direct application to my present work. Papers I read in their entirety included: Evaluation of a Mallard Productivity Model by D.H. Johnson, L.M. Cowardin, and D.W. Sparling of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in North Dakota; Weather-Induced Variation in the Abundance of Birds by S.J. Heil and E.C. Breedy; and Assessing Habitat Quality for Birds Nesting in Fragmented Tallgrass Prairie by R.G. Johnson and S.A. Temple of the Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The book ends with the optimistic conclusion of both researchers and managers that wildlife-habitat modeling, although in its infancy, will aid greatly in the struggle to balance Man's needs with those of wildlife.

The publication of the proceedings has achieved the goal of the symposium originators -- the initiation of communications between researchers and managers in wildlife-habitat modeling. I would highly recommend this book to persons actively involved in this area of interest.

James O. Evrard
Department of Natural Resources
Box 61
Baldwin, WI 54002

Review of ILLINOIS BIRDS AND BIRDING - Noel J. Cutright

This quarterly journal published by The Illinois Audubon Society is in its second year. The 8½ x 11" format journal is devoted to information about the populations and distributions of Illinois birds (including nesting, migrations, wintering, and rare occurrences), identifications, field trips, site guides, ecology, and behavior. The 24-page Jan-Mar. 1986 issue contained articles on the Illinois breeding bird atlas, big day birding in the Chicago area, Illinois' first Scrub Jay, using tape recorders (reprinted from *Birding)* , seeing 305 species in Illinois in one year (included 22 trips to Chicago - a 400 mile round trip, 3 traffic tickets, and 43 life birds), 2 bird finding guides, and a photo quiz. There were also 6½ pages of field notes covering the breeding season and a few miscellaneous items. The annual subscription rate is $10 from Illinois Audubon, Box 608, Wayne, IL 60184. Wisconsin birders who want to keep up with what is happening in the birdworld in our neighbor to the south should consider subscribing.

Shorebirds - An Identification Guide by Peter Hayman, John Marchant and Tony Prater. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1986 412 pages and 88 plates. $35.00

Billed by many as the bird book of 1986 **Shorebirds** follows the same general format of Harrison's **Seabirds** (1983), that is, a wealth of color plates in the center of the book with a large text including identification, distribution and other salient information. **Shorebirds** has over 1600 color paintings divided into 88 plates plus numerous line drawings in the text. Twelve families representing 214 species are treated, all within the Order Charadriiformes; only 5 of these families have members in North America and only 3 in Wisconsin.

The artwork by Hayman alone should give him first author status as it is a very painstaking form of scientific illustration. The Introduction explains how the basic drawings were worked up from specimens and then colored with washes of paint. The authors point out the practice of the National Museum of New Zealand of spreading out the right or left wing of museum specimens -- an artists fantasy come true and excellent advice for all American museums. Hayman's tremendous attention to every feather is a wonder to look at in an arm chair but often depicts a bird in such a way that is too museum-like and is not seen under field conditions except when one is on top of a bird with a Kowa or Questar scope. This detail in conjunction with the use of light off-whites and dark grays and umbers often makes the paintings too contrasty and scaly at the expense of the softness of the plumage and leading to exaggeration of the field marks of note. But the 20 or so paintings on each plate (some have 30) are not readily usable, especially for field use. Opposite each plate is the key for the illustrations which are numbered by species and lettered by age and sex. Each plate has up to 4 species depicted and these *plus* all the different plumages sometimes scattered throughout the page for comparative purposes makes finding a name for a given illustration not a quick matter.

Perhaps the money paid for the foreword by the patron saint of bird book introductions and forewords, Mr. R.T. Peterson could have been used to get someone to label (at least with clear abbreviations) each illustration so that the book could truly be an effective field guide. If this format of field/identification guide is to be continued this problem should be addressed. I am now slowly and carefully writing in all of the proper labels on the paintings; it takes about five minutes to do each plate neatly and carefully.

(EDITOR'S COMMENT: I think Mr. Roger Tory Peterson has a very appropriate introduction. After studying this book, excellent and comprehensive as it is, one can appreciate more Mr. Peterson's genius in his unique field guide style which cuts through all the maze of detail and points out instantly the significant diagnostic features. This book represents a departure from Peterson's style in its detailed comprehensiveness. I also agree that the drawings are superb but they are arranged in a confusing manner.)

For some of the North American species the colors seem to be too intense or too washed out along with the contrast problem already mentioned. The American Woodcock (Plate 64) is far too rufous (no. 164d) while the Long-billed Dowitcher (no. 184a) does not do justice to many of the birds of late May migrating through Wisconsin. This book is noteworthy in avoiding the often outlandishly brilliant colors of many earlier field guides and coffee table bird books.

The fear that a book written partly about North American birds from the British side of the Atlantic is that the American species will be under-treated. This is not generally a problem. But there are a few areas that could perhaps be improved. The Stilt Sandpiper text and painting on Plate 85 ignores completely the two-toned effect of the wing of Stilts - an excellent way of telling Stilts from Yellowlegs in flight. The Baird's Sandpiper on Plate 81 (no. 198a) is not as brown as most breeding plumaged birds I have seen. Variations of plumages of New World species are not portrayed as much as I would hope.

Range maps are opposite the plates and provide the general breeding and wintering ranges while one must go to the text for information on routes and corridors. The nomenclature is generally acceptable to American birders except in a few instances where more cosmopolitan species are given a common name with a British preference. Terminology is adequately explained with a nice section on the moult of shorebirds, although the better Humphrey-Parkes moult terminology is not used. Page 17 of the Intro has a set of terminology that is used to describe feathers that reminds me of the intricacies of leaf shape and texture found in botanical keys; although here the authors do not go overboard. There is a section on world conservation of shorebirds which is admirable. I was surprised to see the British using the phrase "partially albinistic" which grates on avian geneticists who equate it with being "partially pregnant". The term to use is "leucistic" for a non-albino partially white animal. There is no treatment of the identification of downy chicks which would be an aid to those workig on tundra breeding grounds. The treatment of stints (peeps) is profound and thorough enough to even the most diehard field observer.

Is this the bird book of 1986? No, its probably the bird book of 1986 through whenever another in this British authored "series" arrives. The future should bring a book of this sort on raptors, hummingbirds and waterfowl of the world for a start, but with the quick fix field guide wars and pure listing of many North American "experts" it is evident that these will have to come from our friends in the British Isles.

Read this book in short sessions, especially the accounts of some of the insular species that you never knew even existed. Use it as a visual aid to Peter Mathiessen's **The Windbirds** or as a field guide watching peeps in late August. It will help bring an expectation and hope for the days of life on the Arctic tundra and on the mudflats of Wisconsin in even the most wintry of Januarys.

John Idzikowski

New Waterfowl Identification Guide Available from WSO Supply Department

The Society now has available a long out-of-print booklet entitled **Ducks at a Distance** . This 4x7" format, 56-page guide was originally published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Both sexes of all of the common ducks are shown in flight in both color and black-and-white; also shown are hen and drake wings in color, different plumages, and typical flock pattern. Identification is stressed throughout although a few other items are discussed including a 2-page, 40 species layout showing comparative sizes. This is a perfect stocking stuffer, gift for you local library or nature center, or a multitude of other purposes, and it is cheap! -- only $1.00 plus tax. A recent Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology catalog listed the booklet at $3.

Noel Cutright

Wisconsin Herpetological Atlas Project

By G.S. Casper

Many birders occasionally observe amphibians or reptiles ("herps") while in the field, or find them dead or injured on the road. These observations can now be reported and will add to our knowledge of the biology, distribution and abundance of these animals. The Herpetological Atlas Project was started in 1986 as a cooperative effort between the Milwaukee Public Museum, Section of Vertebrate Zoology and the Wisconsin DNR, Bureau of Endangered Resources. The goal of the project is to produce accurate distribution maps for Wisconsin amphibians and reptiles, assess abundance and population trends, collect natural history information and produce a dynamic data base which can be used to direct research and identify conservation needs. In 1986 35 new county records and over 300 endangered and threatened species records were obtained. The project relies heavily on volunteer reports. Birders spend a lot of time in the field and regularly encounter turtles, frogs and toads, snakes, salamanders and lizards. If you can identify these animals please jot down the species, date, and exact locality on your daily lists, just as birds are noted, and then transfer these records to the herp report form. Road kills can also be collected and frozen, as these represent potentially valuable museum specimens (contact G. Casper, address below, for transfer to the museum). Report forms are available from Mike Mossman (DNR, Bur. Endangered Resources, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707; 608/266-0545) or Gary Casper (Sect. Vertebrat Zoology, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, WI 53233; 414/278-2782).

CORRECTION

In the Letter to the Editor, Fall, 1986, Volume 43, No. 3, the date should have been 20th September, not November.

Ed Merz

A Declaration for the Land

Land is environment. It is soil, water, air, life forms and the processes within which they interact. The Land is our only source of our food and water. It is habitat. The Land is not only a resource; it is the source.

We are at the threshold of choice -- of opportunity, survival or extinction.

Now is the time to act, work, live, interact with the land as if our lives depended on it, for they do.

Aldo Leopold

From **The Wildlifer** - November-December 1986

This is the crew that treated the buildings at H.C. Nature Center in August, 1985. The same crew did the job three years ago also. Pictured are Jane & Dick Appleyard, Ed Peartree and Chuck Gilmore.

(Photograph by Jeannette Peartree)

Curved-billed Thrasher photo by Keith Merkel. Watch for story to follow in future issue.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF W.S.O. GRANTS

Funds are short for environmental problems and education in these days. Many graduate students need help. But so do other people with good ideas; they also need money for independent projects.

Ornithology has never been limited to professionals. Let's keep it that way! W.S.O. wants to encourage both -- so offers two kinds of grants.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Steenbock Award (not for graduate programs)

A $200 award is offered annually in May. Even beginners (of any age) may apply. Graduate students and professionals in ornithology, etc., may not apply except for "personal projects" that have not been authorized by their supervisors. Nobody needs to recommend you (The Committee will follow up if need be.)

The W.S.O. Scholarship

A $200 to $400 scholarship will be awarded in May. **Anyone may apply.** The scholarship might be awarded to further an officially recognized project. Give names and addresses of two references if applying for an officially recognized project, such as a graduate or D.N.R. program.

The Rules

To apply, give your name, address, phone number, and occupation. Type, on a single sheet, what you want to do and how you want to do it.

Write by April 1, 1987 to:
Ms. Frances Hamerstrom
Chmn. Scholarship Comm.
Route 1, Box 448
Plainfield, WI 54996

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