



The passenger pigeon. Volume 45, No. 2

Summer 1983

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The
**Passeyger
Pigeon**

Summer, 1983
Volume 45, No. 2



A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY

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Cover Photo: Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) by Paul Blanchard.
Taken at Fall Creek, Wisconsin, July, 1983.

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HARRIER NESTING EXPLOSION - 1981

By Don G. Follen, Sr.

In 1961 I began to monitor the reproduction of raptorial birds in the Central Wisconsin area. This study has been conducted in Wood County for the most part and mainly in Arpin Township, a 36 square mile (23,040 acres) area of land directly in the center of the state. During this study the most intensive field work has been done on the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Almost immediately I discovered that it was not feasible to put a definitive boundary to the study area because of the foraging and territorial habits of the Northern Harrier. A one mile buffer zone was added to the study area and Harriers were recorded wherever an encounter occurred during the breeding period or from April to August.

On May 28, 1981 a friend called to tell me that a Harrier nest he had been watching in an adjacent fallow field had been destroyed by fire. Little did I suspect that I was about to discover an unprecedented breeding frenzy of the Northern harrier in 1981.

This author described Harrier production during an 11 year observation period from 1963 through 1974 in this same study area, during which time the maximum number of nests found in a given year (1965) was 15. In 1981, an unprecedented 29 nests were found in the study area and buffer zone, in a density never before witnessed in eighteen years of previous study. An additional 13 nests were found outside the study area.

ARPIN TOWNSHIP

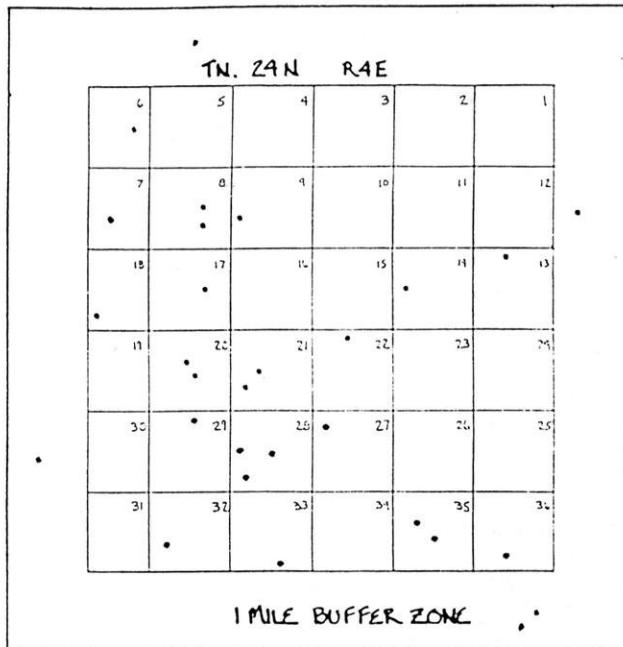


Figure 1: • = Harrier Nest - 1981

Figure 1 shows the study area with the one mile buffer zone and the Harrier nests of 1981. Figure 2 shows the 1981 study area concentration in relation to those additional Harrier nests found in and just north of Wood County, with an additional township buffer zone. By no means do I suggest that all of the nests in Wood County were found, but only indicate the density in one township compared to the surrounding townships, which were checked quite closely during the breeding season.

It is to be noted on Figure 2 that a cluster of nests was also found just north of Wood County, in the southwestern portion of Marathon County. This area is the southern tip of a large area known as McMillan Marsh, and runs nearly six miles to the north.

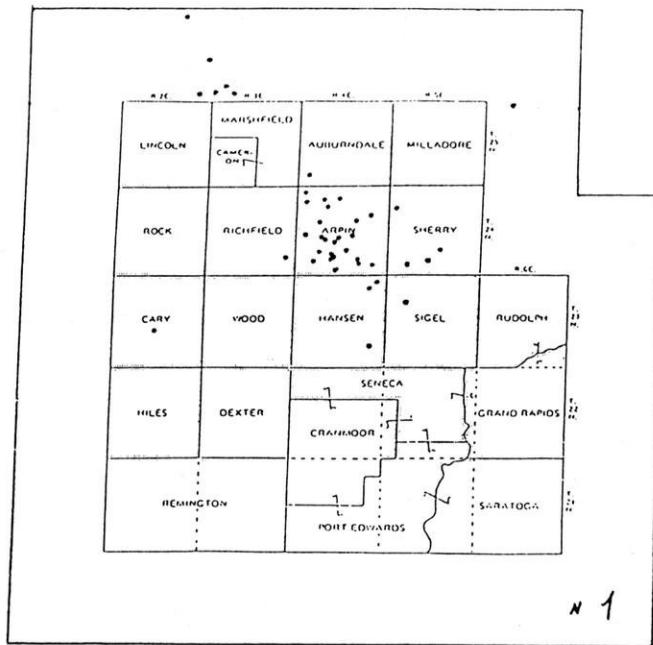


Figure 2: Study area concentration and additional Harrier nests with one additional township zone.

The nests in Figure 2 were found incidental to my employment. On June 8, 1981 the sudden flapping of wings above the dew soaked grass led me to discover five well-flying young, none of which could be captured. The grassy area around the nest and trails had been beaten down, suggesting that they had been practicing in the area for some time. This would indicate that this hen must have been on the nest near April 1st -- quite early for the species in this area. Another nest was subsequently found approximately fifty yards north and one hundred yards east of this nest, which fledged four young. Then a third nest was discovered one mile north, and a fourth, one mile west of the original site, plus two more further away. Since this area has no through roads, all one can do is get as close as possible. There are a couple of

access roads, but by and large it is roadless. From observation of the additional birds in and around this area, I estimated an additional ten to twelve breeding territories. Since time was a limiting factor and many of the observations were made during employment, limited field work could be done by the author. Subpermittee Ken Luepke found the northernmost nest in Figure 2.

It was interesting to note that a number of these successful nests were polygamous situations, where one male would be tending more than one nest. I am speculating that high nesting density occurs during time of high prey populations. In most bigamous situations I have observed, one nest usually appears to be about two weeks later than the other.

In 1981, we banded 76 young Harriers with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lock-on bands. Perhaps at that time there was a shortage of males in the natural system, for we found a ratio of forty-two males to thirty-four females. The first young were banded on June 21 and the last on August 3.

The winter of 1980-81 was a mild snowless one and was followed by a dry, warm spring. These conditions may be conducive to an increase in vole populations and thusly an increase in those species that feed largely upon that food source. Such conditions may have been responsible here for such an outbreak of Northern Harrier breeding activity in a relatively small area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dedicated to Fran and Fred Hamerstrom - nice people, good friends. A very special acknowledgement to Dean Albrecht of Arpin who has spent a lot of time, effort and expense to help me monitor the Harrier situation in our township; also to Bruce Bacon, Bob Streeter and Art Voightlander of the Wisconsin DNR for notifying me of nesting locations. to Cepek Construction & Engineering and to J.P. Elmer of Arpin for private assistance; and to Ken Leupke for his efforts. I also wish to acknowledge all those who have given us sightings of Harriers and nest locations and especially those farmers who have gone out of their way to leave enough space for the nesting Harriers. Thanks to Julie Bartell and Linda Safir for reviewing this paper.

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OSPREY BROOD WITH FOUR YOUNG

By Don G. Follen, Sr.

In 1965 I started locating Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nests in central Wisconsin to study production of young, territorial requirements, and through banding - migratory habits and longevity. These nests are largely located in the Wisconsin River Basin near Stevens Point in Portage County, south of Highway 82 in Juneau and Adams Counties. A few are scattered elsewhere in flowages and river bottoms.

On July 3, 1982, my son Ira and I went to Ju-11 and were surprised to find four live and apparently healthy young Ospreys. Ju-11 is a nest designation used by Ron Eckstein of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

He makes the aerial surveys of known nests in May and July. Ju-11 is a low nest situated on the root end of a large upended cotton wood tree (*Populus deltoides*) and is located in the Wisconsin River just south of the Wood and Juneau County Line. Three of the four young appeared to be about five weeks of age and the fourth and smallest of them I estimated to be closer to four weeks of age. (There was some difference in size and in feather development.) This bird appeared to be, obviously, the last of the clutch to hatch.

On July 23, 1982, there were still four young at the nest. One took flight with an adult at our approach and, after circling as the adult (presumed female) protested, flew to the river bank to the west and sat with the other adult on a snag. The other three young stayed in the nest. On a subsequent trip down the river on August 1, we found eight Ospreys in the area around the nest. We assumed that six of these birds were from this nest and that the other two were from an adjacent nest, no more than one mile distant, which is in a dead, slender, unclimbable tree and which had contained three young when last checked by Ron Eckstein within one week after our first visit. As far as I know this is the first report of a brood of four Ospreys to fledge successfully in Wisconsin.

Although I have been banding Ospreys in central Wisconsin for nearly two decades and have seen unhatched eggs in nests containing young indicating a clutch of four a number of times, I have never seen a nest with four young. Bent (1937) tells of a nest of seven young of which four survived. Postupalsky (1977) reports breaking up and fostering out chicks from large Osprey broods into failing nests to insure a greater survival of young. In the **Transactions of the North American Osprey Research Conference** (Ogden 1977) four-egg clutches are mentioned several times, but there is no reference to successful nests with four young. Postupalsky (pers. comm.) tells me that "among over 1600 nests recorded during the past two decades in Michigan" he has seen "only one successful brood of four young Ospreys". Dan Berger who with Helmut Mueller monitored Osprey reproduction in northern Wisconsin from 1952 through 1974 told me (pers. comm.): "No, I've never seen a four-young Osprey nest".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Ron Eckstein and the Wisconsin DNR for the annual reports of early nesting activity; Sergej Postupalsky for his findings and advice on the manuscript, J.P. Elmer for other assistance, Steve Rennhack and Don Follen, Jr. for their help in the field work, and to my family for their tolerance.

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NEW AND ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF RARE OR UNSEASONAL BIRDS IN WISCONSIN, SPRING 1982 THROUGH WINTER 1982-83

By W.S.O. Records Committee

In the period 1 March 1982 through 28 February 1983 the WSO Records Committee received and subsequently accepted reports of rare birds, or of commoner birds on extraordinary dates, as listed below. Species are grouped in four categories: new state records of birds never before recorded in Wisconsin (or elevated from the hypothetical list), additional state records of birds previously recorded, new hypothetical records of birds not previously included on the hypothetical list, and additional hypothetical records of birds previously included on that list. For criteria on categories of occurrence see *Passenger Pigeon* 41:150-153 (1979). Species' names and sequence within categories of occurrence follow the 34th supplement to the AOU check-list of North American birds. Reports received and rejected during this same time will not be listed. All observers involved in rejected reports were notified of rejection by personal letter from the Committee.

New State Records

Hermit Warbler	.....	27 April 1982	Outagamie Co.
Baird's Sparrow	.....	16 June 1982 and later	Manitowoc Co.

Additional State Records

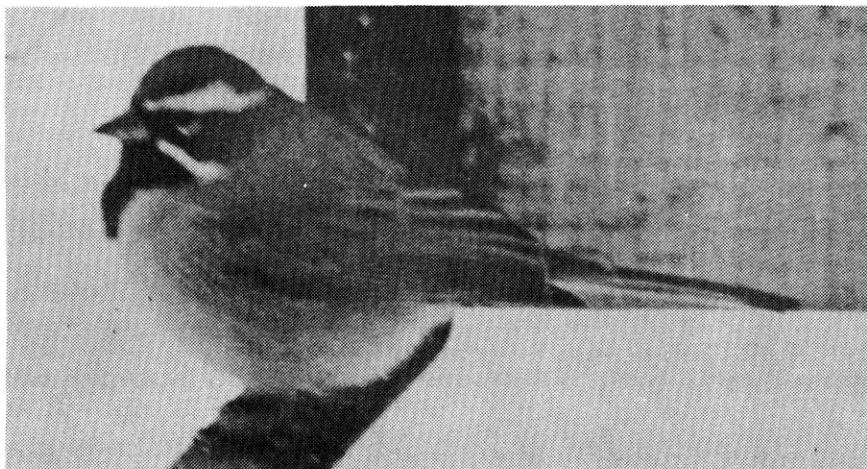
Anhinga	.....	2 May 1982	Winnebago Co.
Least Bittern	.....	13 December 1982	Monroe Co.
Tricolored Heron	.....	May 1982	Dodge Co.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	.....	26-27 March 1982	Milwaukee Co.
American Swallow-tailed Kite	.....	15-17 May 1982	Door Co.
		31 May - 8 June 1982	Waukesha Co.
Swainson's Hawk	.....	27 March 1982	Wood Co.
Yellow Rail	.....	20 April 1982	Milwaukee Co.
American Avocet	.....	19 April 1982	Brown Co.
Curlew Sandpiper	.....	15 May 1982	Milwaukee Co.
Ruff	.....	7 May 1982	Dodge Co.
Great Black-backed Gull	.....	18 June 1982	Manitowoc Co.
Least Tern	.....	8-9 July 1982	Milwaukee Co.
Groove-billed Ani	.....	26 August - 6 September 1982	Buffalo Co.
Northern Hawk-Owl	.....	6 November 1982	Sawyer/Rusk Cos.
Three-toed Woodpecker	.....	23 November 1982	Polk Co.
		8 January - 26 February 1983	Burnett Co.
Yellow-throated Warbler	.....	9 May 1982	Waukesha Co.
Ovenbird	.....	23 November 1982 - 14 January 1983	Eau Claire Co.
Northern Waterthrush	.....	29 January - 6 February 1983	Dane Co.
Western Tanager	.....	10 May 1982	Eau Claire Co.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	.....	11-23 February 1983	Wood Co.
American Tree Sparrow	.....	7 June 1982	Ashland Co.
Black-throated Sparrow	.....	21 November 1982 and later	Outagamie Co.
		30 November 1982 and later	Price Co.
Savannah Sparrow	.....	24 March 1982	Ozaukee Co.
Lapland Longspur	.....	3 August 1982	Dodge Co.

New Hypothetical Records

None

Additional Hypothetical Records

Prairie Falcon 15 October 1982, Sheboygan Co.
Vermilion Flycatcher 3 October 1982, Ozaukee Co.



Last winter (1982) Wisconsin had two Black-throated Sparrows. The Fifield sparrow photograph was shown in the Spring, 1983 edition. Two equally good and remarkable photos were taken in Hortonville by Jim Anderson at the Mary and Paul Jurack feeder.

AN UNFORGETTABLE RED-WING

By Carolyn N. Every

This is a true tale. The event took place in the spring of 1957 on the northern shore of Lake Mendota in Madison, Wisconsin. A male Red-winged Blackbird is the main character. Of no less importance is the other character, Harry, a thoughtful, caring man. They were strangers who became acquainted with each other that spring day when a crisis was imminent in the blackbird's family.

Luckily, as it happened, the man was a wild-life biologist in charge of pheasant breeding research at Poynette, the Wisconsin Conservation Department's game farm. What is "lucky" about it is: the man had to know about birds in order to communicate with a male Red-winged Blackbird, which he was able to successfully do, -- as you shall find out.

Harry was visiting some old friends, Mr. & Mrs. Peterson, who were staying in their summer cottage on Lake Mendota. As they talked in the Peterson's back yard, Harry became aware of the constant presence of a male Red-winged Blackbird who flew back and forth from his perch on the telephone wires overhead to the alfalfa field across the road. As Harry observed the bird, he thought he knew the reason for its anxiety. Sure enough! When he walked a short distance into the alfalfa field, he flushed the female from a nest with four eggs, one already starting to hatch.

Some days later Harry stopped at the Petersons' cottage. He noticed that a farmer was dirving a tractor with an attached mower in the alfalfa field, beginning to cut the first crop of alfalfa for hay. Harry alerted the Petersons and a quick decision was made to try to rescue the nest with its occupants before the farmer got to that spot in the field. As Harry approached the nest, the female flew away and was not seen again. The old male, however, was keeping a constant vigil from his perch on the wires in the Petersons' yard as Harry pulled up the clump of weeds which enclosed the nest. Harry carried the nest, with its newly hatched fledglings (pin-feathered, eyes not open yet) across the road to the Petersons' back yard, then put them in his car and drove to his apartment.

He prepared a temporary home for the birds in a coffee can lined with soft material, removed the birds from their nest and put them in the can. He then placed the can on the lid of the gas stove over the pilot light, giving the birds warmth with no danger of overheating them.

Feeding was next on the agenda. He prepared a mixture of moistened baby canary mash with hard-boiled egg yolk and dropped the food into the yawning mouths with tweezers. Water was dropped into their mouths with an eye dropper. It proved to be an almost full-time occupation that night and again the next morning. Harry had to go back to work. Another solution had to be found!

Of course, Harry was aware of the **best** solution to the problem. Was there some way to get the male to feed his little family? Would the bird accept that responsibility? Most important, could two males, one a bird and one a man, communicate with each other to get the male to care for the little birds?

It was worth a try.

Harry put the well-fed little birds back in their original nest and drove to the Petersons. As he studied the best approach to the problem, a plan of action took place in his mind. The male bird's perch on the telephone wires was almost directly above a tall French Pussy Willow bush in the back yard. Although the alfalfa field had been completely cut, the male Red-wing was still there, scolding profusely. Harry talked to the bird, making sounds similar to the bird sounds. At the same time he held up the nest toward the bird, hoping to get his attention. He then tied the nest up as high as he could in the pussy willow branches, about one foot from the top, and he and the Petersons moved away to await results.

Lo and behold! The male understood! He accepted the little birds without hesitation. It was a joyous time for the three friends to see the male fly down from the wires to the nest, gather food on the lake edge, and fly back to the nest in the bush to feed four hungry mouths.

In the following days, the blackbird, although very busy feeding four babies by himself, was rather aggressive in his vigil. As the Petersons' outhouse was located nearby, it was somewhat hazardous for the two people to approach it during daylight hours. After being pecked on his bald head by the bird, Mr. Peterson used an umbrella when he made a trip in that direction. Mrs. Peterson soon had to do the same. As they hurriedly made their way to the outhouse, the bird would land on top of the umbrella and furiously peck away!

The Petersons gladly put up with the inconvenience for the required length of time. A couple of weeks passed, and the male and his four youngsters were seen in a patch of sweet corn nearby, healthy and happy -- while the Petersons enjoyed a well-deserved rest!

It was a heartwarming experience -- three adults and one extra-ordinary male Red-winged Blackbird -- never to be forgotten by the persons who experienced it.

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Middleton, WI 53562

FEBRUARY NESTING OF MOURNING DOVES IN WISCONSIN

By David E. Blockstein

Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) do not generally begin to nest in the Upper Midwest until April (Michigan: Lund, 1952; Caldwell, 1964; Iowa: McClure, 1942; Minnesota: Harris et al., 1963; Blockstein, 1982). The earliest record for central Illinois is of a dove seen carrying a stick on 6 March 1974 (Hunt, 1978). Even in the southern United States, Mourning Doves rarely begin nesting before March (Mirarchi, 1978). Here, I report on a nesting attempt by Mourning Doves in southern Wisconsin during the unusually warm February of 1983. The average temperature for this month was 26.3° C, 5.8° C higher than normal (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Climatological Data, 1983).

The nest was located 2.4 m up in the crotch of a Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolium*) in a planter between Russell Laboratories and Steenbock Library on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus (N. latitude

43°8'). It was built atop the mud remains of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) nest. Nest-building was first noted by L.B. Keith on 21 February 1983. An adult was seen on the nest the following day (R.G. Johnson, R.L. and S.K. Knight, pers. comm.). The pair may still have been nest building at that time.

The nest was first called by my attention by J.J. Hickey on 25 March, 1983. We were informed at that time by F.M. Dyer that the adult had been on the nest until a couple of days previously. The nest contained 2 cold, rotten eggs. The embryos in each were well developed and downy. The older embryo was 29 mm long with a culmen of 6 mm and a tarsal length of 5 mm. Although neither egg was pipped, they were within 2 days of hatching and probably developed for 11-13 days (see Hanson and Kossack, 1963).

The eggs probably froze when temperatures dropped to 18° C on 9 March. If so, they were laid 24-26 February, a couple days after nest-building was first observed. This suggests that the eggs were incubated for more than a week after they froze. This is not unreasonable, as I have observed Mourning Doves incubating infertile eggs for as many as 4 days after the normal hatching date later in the breeding season.

According to Christmas count records, there has been an increase in the number of Mourning Doves wintering in southern Wisconsin (Hilsenhoff 1982). These eggs were perhaps laid by an overwintering dove that was stimulated by the warm weather. Whatever the actual date of egg-laying during the last week of February, this is an extremely early record.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Joseph J. Hickey for showing this nest to me and members of the Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison for recording their observations of this nest. Chris Robaidek provided climatalogical data.

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DEAD BOREAL OWL FOUND IN NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

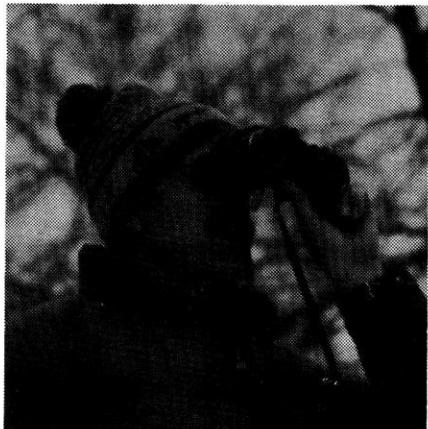
By William F. Jensen

The Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) breeds in the conifer forests of Alaska and Canada (Godfrey, *The Birds of Canada*, Natl. Museums of Canada and Natl. Museums of Natural Sci. pp. 428. 1979), and is considered a rare to casual visitor to northern Wisconsin (Kumlien and Hollister, *The Birds of Wisconsin*. The Wisconsin Soc. of Ornithology, Inc. pp. 122. 1951; Grome, *Birds of Wisconsin*. The Univ. of Wis. Press. pp. 221. 1974; Faanes, Birds of the St. Croix River Valley: Minnesota and Wisconsin. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Service, Washington, D.C. pp. 196, 1981). Faanes (Ibid.) reported two recent sightings of this species near Grantsburg, Wisconsin on 19 December 1952 (N.R. Stone) and 13 April 1975 (W. Norling).

On 11 March 1982 D.K. Mayer found a dead Boreal Owl near the Village Park (NE 1/4, Sec. 10, T.34N.-R17W.), in Balsam Lake, Polk County, Wisconsin. The 5 acre (2 ha.) park consists of mature white pine (*Pinus strobus*) forest surrounded by residential housing.

The specimen was a female in adult plumage and weighed 110 gm. There was little subcutaneous and visceral fat present and no evidence of injury or parasites. The stomach was empty. Cause of death is unknown, but the condition of the bird suggested starvation. Weather may also have been a contributing factor. A blizzard on 8 and 9 March was accompanied by high winds and temperatures of -20° F. The specimen is now being stored in the Dept. of Biology, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, River Falls, Wisconsin.

Rt. 1, Box 135
Idlewild Road,
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810



FIND THIS
BIRD
ONLY IN
RACINE

W.H. PUGH OIL CO., Racine, WI

FIELD NOTES



The Summer Season

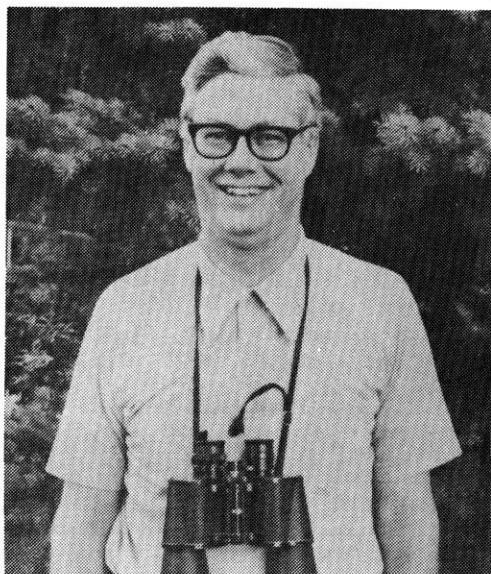
June 1 to July 31, 1982

By Tom Soulen

(Editor's Note: After many years of faithful service, the Harold Roberts have stepped down. Our newest editor, Tom Soulen, is not new to Passenger Pigeon readers. He served as Spring Editor from 1961 through 1966. He also served as Editor for the Western Great Lakes Region for "American Birds" (formerly "Audubon Field Notes"; "the journal name changed during the time I was associated with it") for 2 years, 1970-72.

He says he began observing birds in earnest "during my Junior High years, and for most of the 35 years since then (I'm now 48), I've birded whenever I could, although the intensity has varied greatly; I'm certainly far less continuously active now than I was in high school and college. We moved to the Twin Cities in 1964, and most of the Wisconsin birding I've done since then has been in conjunction with visits to Marillyn's parents in Antigo and mine in Waukesha. We still manage at least a few such trips each year, and occasionally there is even time during breeding season for a full half-day's "wandering transect" of small favorite areas in Langlade or Waukesha Counties or -- if I'm lucky -- in the Hiles area of the Nicolet National Forest.

For a number of years I have recorded whenever I could the number of individuals of each species I find on each trip (I use a format for recording



observations quite similar to Sam's, at least during migration), and I have had the chance over the past 20 or so years to visit some places often (e.g., the Nicolet Forest 10 times) so that I can see some interesting comparisons and changes as I review the data I have gathered. With my work schedule, which keeps me busy pretty much of the academic year, I have been forced to take advantage of summer for much of my birding, and I have enjoyed it greatly, in whichever state it has been."

The widespread frost in northern counties June 3 and 4 signaled what was to be a cool month, with temperatures ranging 3-10 degrees below normal statewide; Madison experienced a record low 45° on the 30th, and the mercury sank to 37° that night in Rhinelander and Superior. While rainfall during June was somewhat spotty, many northern locations reported that it was wet as well as cool. July was more variable, with some parts above normal in temperature. Although some locations reported dry conditions, others, particularly in the south, experienced heavy precipitation.

Of the 260 species reported in the state during the period, 156 are included in the detailed report below. An additional 71 species were common and widespread enough to be found in more than 25 counties and are omitted entirely. The remaining 33 species, generally noted in 10-25 counties, are listed here, with the number of counties in which each was observed given in parentheses: Pied-billed Grebe (25), Black-crowned Night Heron (12), American Bittern (22), American Black Duck (14), Green-winged Teal (17), Lesser Scaup (10), Hooded Merganser (11), Sharp-shinned Hawk (15), Cooper's Hawk (12), Bald Eagle (14), Ring-necked Pheasant (21), Virginia Rail (13), Sora (24), American Coot (21), American Woodcock (24), Common Snipe (23), Upland Sandpiper (21), Wilson's Phalarope (12), Herring (17) and Ring-billed (18) Gulls, Forster's Tern (10), Great Horned (22) and Barred (23) Owls, Whip-poor-will (25), Red-bellied Woodpecker (21), Horned Lark (22), Brown Creeper (13), Marsh Wren (22), Yellow-throated Vireo (22), Brewer's Blackbird (24), Evening Grosbeak (15), Grasshopper Sparrow (18), and White-throated Sparrow (19).

Several observers reported a total lack of American Bitterns in areas where they usually occur. At least three contributors commented on lower than normal numbers of each of the following: Great Blue Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Pheasant, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird (although some found it up in numbers), Western Meadowlark, Rufous-sided Towhee and Vesper Sparrow. The only species reported to be more numerous than usual by at least three individuals was the Cedar Waxwing.

In the rarities department, the most excitement of the season was provided by the Baird's Sparrow found June 16 in Manitowoc Co. by Bernie Brouchoud. It obliged a number of observers for the next week and a half by being both vocal and tolerant of close approach. Other especially noteworthy species sighted were a Glossy Ibis at Horicon, the previously reported Swallow-tailed Kite staying until mid-June in Oconomowoc, and a Least Tern and an adult Parasitic Jaeger in Milwaukee. In addition, there were observations of a number of less rare but still unusual gulls, terns, and shorebirds, especially in Manitowoc and Milwaukee.

A further feature of the season, more pronounced than usual, perhaps partly because of the cool weather, were the extreme late departure dates for a

number of spring migrants. For example, a considerable assortment of "northern" warbler species lingered until mid to late June in Manitowoc and Milwaukee Counties. An astonishingly late Tree Sparrow was still present in Ashland Co. on June 7. Shorebirds also seemed to depart even later than they sometimes do. Fall migration began with the reappearance of five shorebird species before the end of June and a number more in early July, and certain passerine species were obviously on the move by July 26 or before.

There were 60 observers who submitted information on observations for the season; 47 of them provided major coverage of at least one county. Some included information on sightings by 11 additional people who did not themselves submit reports. Many observers also submitted one or more multi-county forms that supplemented information on counties covered by others and/or provided records from counties that otherwise would not have been represented. These county reports, in conjunction with the miscellaneous brief notes provided by the remaining contributors, left only these counties with no reported coverage: Buffalo, Calumet, Kewaunee, Pepin, Portage (from which 6 observers submitted records just several summers ago!), Racine, and Trempealeau.

A few observers also reported nesting data. We encourage more such information, as it is very sparse with respect to many Wisconsin species. Observers who find concrete or suggestive evidence of nesting should report it, even for common species. Use the standard Nesting Report Form --which can be obtained from the Associate Editor, Darly Tessen -- or just jot down pertinent details, e.g. nest location, number of eggs or young, or if an actual nest is not found, suggestive evidence such as breeding behavior or carrying nesting material or food.

Following are details of the summer season:

Common Loon: Reported from 25 counties in all, LaCrosse (Lesher) and Monroe (Epstein) being the southernmost. Family groups were noted in Oneida and Taylor Counties.

Red-necked Grebe: Forty-eight birds and a number of nests were located on Rush Lake, Winnebago Co. June 11 (Ziebell). Two nests were found in the Grand River Marsh, Green Lake Co. (Idzikowski). A family group of 7 birds was in St. Croix Co. June 22 (Evrard).

Eared Grebe: A bird was at Rush Lake, Winnebago Co. June 2-17 (Bruce Eichhorst, James Otto et al.), and 2 were at Goose Pond, Columbia Co. June 9-11 (Peterson).

Western Grebe: A single bird was in Winnebago Co. June 11-17 (Anita Carpenter, Ziebell).

Double-crested Cormorant: Noted in 16 counties. Birds returned to a Clark Co. site that was new last year (Robbins). Peak numbers reported in 3 counties were: 180 in Burnett (Hoefler), 250 in Dodge (Haugen), and 400 in Marathon (K. and J. Luepke).

Cattle Egret: Noted in Brown Co. June 29-July 1 (Columban fide Cleary) and at Horicon Marsh, Dodge Co. (Refuge Staff, Tessen). Also reported by Idzikowski June 6 (24 in Dodge Co.) and 26 (9 in Fond du Lac Co.).

Great Egret: Located in 9 southern and western counties.

Snowy Egret: The only report was of 2 birds in Brown Co. July 22 (Peterson).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Two locations: Outagamie Co. July 3 (Anderson, Mosquito Hill Nature Center Staff) and Dodge Co. July 20 (Cowart) to 29 (Gustafson).

Least Bittern: A number of nests were found in Winnebago Co. June 11 (Ziebell); there were additional reports from Brown, Dodge, Iron, Juneau, Marathon, Taylor and Waukesha Counties.

Glossy Ibis: A number of members of the Horicon Marsh Refuge staff observed one of these in Dodge Co. June 17-18. See **By the Wayside**.

Mute Swan: All reports came from the usual Ashland/Bayfield/Douglas Co. area, with at least 20 birds being noted as the maximum.

Whistling Swan: A previously injured bird took the summer to recuperate in Dunn Co. (Polk); it could fly. A few stragglers were noted in Manitowoc Co. as late as June 3 (Sontag).

Canada Goose: Reported as breeding in LaCrosse Co. (Lesher); observed in 20 other counties, in most cases even after the middle of June.

White-fronted Goose: Quite surprising was a lone bird at Goose Pond, Columbia Co. on June 4 (Peterson).

Snow Goose: Reported as being present throughout the period in Winnebago Co. (Ziebell); migrants were noted in Manitowoc Co. as late as June 9 (Sontag).

Gadwall: Noted in Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Dodge, Dunn, Kenosha, St. Croix and Winnebago Counties.

Northern Pintail: This species was reported as present throughout the season only in Dunn Co. (Polk); there were observations also in Dodge, Juneau, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and St. Croix Counties.

American Wigeon: Three reports: Dodge (Haugen) and Douglas (Johnson) Counties throughout the period, and Taylor Co. June 4 (Robbins).

Northern Shoveler: Noted in Barron, Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Dodge, Manitowoc, Monroe and Winnebago Counties.

Wood Duck: Of the 35 counties from which this species was reported, 28 were in the northern half of the state.

Redhead: Reported from Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dodge (500 maximum, Haugen), Dunn Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Winnebago (290 maximum including 75 young and a number of nests, Ziebell) Counties.

Ring-necked Duck: Recorded in 12 counties, the southernmost being Monroe (Epstein).

Canvasback: Observed only in 2 counties: St. Croix June 10 (Evrard) and Winnebago until June 17 (Ziebell).

Greater Scaup: Noted until June 17 in Winnebago Co. (Ziebell).

Common Goldeneye: Observed in Douglas, Door, Manitowoc, Oneida and Winnebago Counties.

Ruddy Duck: This species was noted in 5 counties: Chippewa, Dodge (100 maximum, Haugen), Dunn, St. Croix (family with young June 22, Evrard) and Winnebago (300 on June 11, Ziebell).

Common Merganser: Recorded in Forest, Iron, Langlade, LaCrosse and Vilas Counties.

Red-breasted Merganser: Reported from Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Manitowoc and Milwaukee Counties.

Turkey Vulture: Of the 18 counties in which this species was seen, Bayfield and Forest were the northernmost.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Richard Sharp saw the bird he first reported May 31 in Oconomowoc until June 8, and others saw it until mid-June. See last issue's **By the Wayside**.

Northern Goshawk: There were observations in Vilas Co. July 15-18 (Baughman) and Forest Co. July 27 (Tessen).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Among the 17 counties reporting this species, some are rather far north: Ashland/Bayfield (Verch), Iron (Butterbrodt) and Oneida (L. and P. Engberg).

Rough-legged Hawk: A bird seen in Jackson Co. June 5 is most unusual (Jeff Groth, Dar Tiede).

Northern Harrier: Of the 26 counties from which this species was reported, only 5 are in the southern half of the state.

Osprey: Three young were noted at a nest at Grand River Marsh, Green Lake Co. on June 25 (Idzikowski); there were observations in 17 additional counties.

Spruce Grouse: The only report was of a family on National Forest Road 2174 in Forest Co. on July 27 (Tessen).

Greater Prairie Chicken: Reported from 2 counties: Burnett (2 on June 12, Hoefer) and Marathon (K. and J. Luepke).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: The only observations were in Burnett (Hoefler) and Douglas (Johnson) Counties.

Common Bobwhite: Noted in Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Monroe, Richland, Rock, Vernon and Washington Counties.

Gray Partridge: Observed in Brown, Dodge, Jefferson, Outagamie, Shawano and Winnebago Counties.

Wild Turkey: There were more summer reports than usual, in Dane Co. June 21 (Cederstrom), Juneau Co. June 5 (Lesher), Richland Co. at various times (Duerksen) and Wood Co. July 18 (Robbins). The Dane and Richland Co. birds likely were the result of recent DNR releases.

Sandhill Crane: Observed in 20 counties. Maximum numbers reported were 20 in Dodge Co. (Haugen) and 52 in Shawano Co. (June 24, Peterson).

King Rail: This rarely encountered species was observed in Burnett Co. June 15 (Polk) and in Dodge Co. (Horicon Refuge staff).

Yellow Rail: The only bird reported was one seen well from a boat at the south end of Horicon Marsh on July 24 (John and Susan Braastad).

Common (Gallinule) Moorhen: There were observations in only 6 counties: Brown, Dodge, LaCrosse, Manitowoc, Shawano and Winnebago.

Semipalmated Plover: The latest spring migrants had disappeared from most areas by June 5, but there was a report from Brown Co. June 17-20 (Cleary, Columban). The first fall migrants were noted in Taylor Co. July 9 (Robbins) and in Burnett Co. July 10 (Soulen) with observations in 3 additional locations July 18-28.

Piping Plover: Three adults and 1-4 immatures were noted in Ashland Co. during July (Verch), and a bird was seen July 1 in Douglas Co. (Polk).

Lesser (American) Golden Plover: A very late bird was still in Milwaukee on June 11 (Gustafson).

Black-bellied Plover: Birds lingered until June 1 in Eau Claire Co. (Polk) and until June 6 in Bayfield (Maercklein) and Douglas (Johnson) Counties. Also reported from Horicon Marsh (Refuge staff).

Ruddy Turnstone: Spring migrants had left most areas by the end of the first week of June, but one was still in Manitowoc on June 26 (Sontag). Birds returned to Milwaukee by July 25 (Thiessen) and to Manitowoc by July 30 (Sontag).

Whimbrel: One bird was in Milwaukee July 22 (Cowart).

Solitary Sandpiper: The first fall migrant reported was in Chippewa Co. June 29 (Polk), with several additional locations reporting within the following week.

Willet: One in Douglas Co. July 7 (Johnson); 12 in Dodge Co. July 17 (Tessen); one in Dunn Co. (Polk) and 2 in Dane Co. July 18 (Thiessen); up to 2 in Milwaukee July 19-26 (Cowart et al.)

Greater Yellowlegs: One spring straggler in Eau Claire Co. June 12 (Polk). Fall birds began to appear July 2 in Dodge Co. (Haseleu), with others in Brown Co. July 5 (Wierzbicki) and Milwaukee July 8 (Bontly, Woodmansee). No large numbers were reported until after July 20.

Lesser Yellowlegs: The last spring migrants departed June 4 from Dane (Theissen) and Eau Claire (Polk) counties, and it was only 17 days before fall migrants returned to Winnebago Co. (Schultz), with others following on June 26 (Dane Co., Thiessen) and 29 (Chippewa Co., Robbins; LaCrosse Co., Lesher).

Red Knot: Noted in Manitowoc June 6 (K. and J. Luepke) and 8 (Sontag) and Milwaukee July 23-24 (Cowart).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The last spring migrant was reported from Chippewa Co. June 4 (Polk). The first fall migrants were seen in Dane Co. July 9 (Thiessen) and Manitowoc July 10 (Sontag), with others showing up elsewhere 1-2 weeks later.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Birds departed as follows: LaCrosse Co. June 8 (Lesher), Door (R. and C. Lukes) and Eau Claire (Polk) Counties June 12, and Dane Co. June 13 (Thiessen). Just 2 days earlier, June 11, there had been 31 birds present in Dane Co. An early fall migrant appeared in LaCrosse Co. June 29 (Lesher); Lake Michigan arrivals were noted July 8 in Milwaukee Co. (several observers) and July 25 in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag).

Baird's Sandpiper: One still in Taylor Co. June 2 (Robbins). Fall migrants appeared in Columbia (Tessen) and Vilas (Baughman) Counties July 17, and in Dunn Co. July 22 (Polk) and Dane Co. July 24 (Thiessen).

Least Sandpiper: Still present in Winnebago Co. June 11 (Ziebell). By June 29 birds had arrived in Chippewa (Polk) and LaCrosse (Lesher) Counties, and in Milwaukee Co. a day later (Cowart).

Dunlin: There were 6 spring departure dates between June 2 and 13, the last being from Manitowoc Co. (Sontag). The first fall migrant appeared July 25 in Milwaukee Co. (Thiessen).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First arrivals were reported June 27 (Dane Co., Thiessen) and 29 (LaCrosse Co., Lesher). There were July appearances in 8 additional counties, with 65 birds in Dodge Co. July 31 (Tessen).

Long-billed Dowitcher: The only reports were from Brown Co. July 22 (Tessen) and Dunn Co. July 29 (Polk).

Stilt Sandpiper: One was still present in Chippewa Co. June 1 (Polk). Except for a Dane Co. report July 2-11 (Thiessen), fall birds returned to 7 additional counties July 17-27.

Semi-palmated Sandpiper: The gap between spring and fall migrants was small to nonexistent in Manitowoc Co., with reports there dribbled through June (Sontag). Elsewhere, the latest departures were June 12 (Eau Claire Co., Polk) and 13 (Dane Co., Thiessen), and the first returns were July 9 (Taylor Co., Robbins) and 10 (Outagamie Co., Tessen).

Western Sandpiper: Only one report, of a single bird in Manitowoc Co. June 12 (Tessen).

Marbled Godwit: One bird in Manitowoc Co. July 29 (Sontag).

Sanderling: The latest departure dates reported were June 13-16, and the first arrival dates were July 16-22. At least 45 birds were in Manitowoc Co. June 16 (Tessen).

American Avocet: Two birds in breeding plumage were noted this summer, one in Manitowoc Co. June 17 (Sontag) and one in Dunn Co. July 18 (Polk).

Red-necked (Northern) Phalarope: Janine Polk found birds in Eau Claire Co. June 2 and Dunn Co. July 23.

Parasitic Jaeger: One adult was observed in the Milwaukee harbor July 19 (Cowart). See **By the Wayside**.

Glaucous Gull: One was present much of the summer in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag); a bird was also seen July 30 in Milwaukee Co. (Gustafson).

Great Black-backed Gull: This species was reported June 18 in Manitowoc Co. (Cowart). There were sightings there by 3 additional observers through July 10 (Bontly, Cowart, Tessen).

Franklin's Gull: Birds were observed June 8-29 in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag), with 20 present on June 16 (Robbins, Tessen). There also were observations in LaCrosse Co. June 8 and 29 (Lesher) and Monroe Co. June 12 (Epstein).

Bonaparte's Gull: Reported from Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Winnebago Counties.

Little Gull: Noted through much of the season in Manitowoc Co. (Sontag et al.). Up to 5 birds present also in Milwaukee Co. July 8-27 (a number of observers).

Common Tern: A nest with 2 eggs was discovered in Winnebago Co. July 18 (Schultz). Noted in 16 counties overall.

Least Tern: One bird in Milwaukee Co. July 8-9 was seen very well by several observers (Bontly, Cowart, Frank, Woodmansee). See **By the Wayside**.

Caspian Tern: There were reports from 6 counties, encompassing most of the season: Burnett, Doof, Douglas, LaCrosse, Manitowoc and Milwaukee.

Black Tern: The largest numbers reported were of 250 in LaCrosse Co. July 22 (Lesher) and of nests containing 200 eggs in Winnebago Co. June 4 (Ziebell). Noted in 33 counties.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The most northerly counties from which this species was reported were Ashland/Bayfield (Verch) and Iron (Butterbrodt).

Screech Owl: Reported from Barron, Brown, Dane, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

Great Gray Owl: Noted at one location in Burnett Co. until the end of June (Hoefer). Also reported at an additional Burnett Co. Site and one in Bayfield Co. (Don Follen fide Polk) and in Douglas Co. (Klugow fide Polk).

Long-eared Owl: There were 2 reports: Burnett Co. July 16 (Hoefer) and Marinette Co. (Lindberg).

Saw-whet Owl: One in Oneida Co. June 27 (Polk).

Pileated Woodpecker: Nested in Ozaukee Co. (Idzikowski); noted in 37 additional counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The only county of the 27 reporting that was not in the northern or southwestern part of the state was Outagamie (Anderson).

Black-backed (Black-backed Three-toed) Woodpecker: There were several reports from Forest Co., quite possibly of different birds: June 6 (Reardon); June 23 (Thiessen) and 27 (Polk, young fledged), along Forest Road 2182; July 27 (Tessen, along Forest Road 2174); and July 31 (Epstein). Also noted in Vilas Co. June 6 (Baughman) and Ashland Co. June 8 (Robbins).

Three-toed (Northern Three-toed) Woodpecker: One bird was seen coming to a feeder in Burnett Co. July 5 (Fuller).

Western Kingbird: The only bird seen was in Richland Co. June 6 (Duerksen).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Still in Manitowoc Co. June 7 (Sontag) and Milwaukee Co. June 10 (Woodmansee). Also observed in June within its breeding range, in Ashland, Forest, Iron, Shawano, Taylor and Vilas Counties, and on July 27 in Oneida Co. (Tessen).

Acadian Flycatcher: Noted in these counties: Dane June 5-11 (Peterson), Lafayette June 7 (Barger), Manitowoc until June 26 (Sontag), Monroe June 26-July 12 (Epstein), Sauk from June 5 on (Cederstrom et al.), Vernon June 13 (Epstein) and Waukesha June 9 (Soulen) and 27 (Cowart).

Alder Flycatcher: There were no reports this summer from southern counties after mid-June except for Dane (Cederstrom, June 23). Noted in 24 counties in all.

Willow Flycatcher: Of 18 counties total, the northernmost were Chippewa and Clark (Robbins), Price (Hardy) and Taylor (Robbins).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: A migrant was still present in Rock Co. June 5 (Tessen). There were breeding area observations in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Langlade and Vilas Counties.

Gray Jay: Noted in Ashland and Bayfield (Verch), Forest (several observers, June 18 to July 27), Price (Hardy) and Vilas (Baughman, July 30) Counties.

Northern Raven: Two in Monroe Co. June 6 (Epstein) and birds in Jackson Co. at various times (Harmer, Leshner, Robbins) were somewhat south of the birds reported in the remaining 21 counties in which this species was observed.

Boreal Chickadee: Reported from Washburn Co. June 18 (Frank), Forest Co. June 23-July 27 (Thiessen, Polk, Tessen), Langlade Co. July 2 (Epstein), Vilas Co. July 17-28 (Baughman) and Oneida Co. July 27 (Tessen).

Tufted Titmouse: Noted throughout the period in Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties (Polk). Also reported June 5 (6 birds) to 11 in Dane Co. (Peterson), June 8 in Vernon Co. (Weber), and June 22 in Sauk Co. (Cederstrom).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Unusual was the report of this species throughout the period in Milwaukee Co., with 3 present July 25 (Woodmansee). Also noted in 15 counties in its usual more northern range.

Winter Wren: Recorded in 18 counties, the most southern being Vernon June 28 (Epstein) and Waukesha June 9 (Soulen).

Hermit Thrush: Birds in Jackson Co. (Polk) were markedly south of those reported in 15 additional counties.

Swainson's Thrush: Late migrants in Manitowoc Co. June 4 (Sontag), Milwaukee Co. June 7 (Woodmansee) and Waukesha Co. June 8 (Bob Adams, Soulen). Reported within range in Ashland, Bayfield, Forest and Iron Counties. A bird in Shawano Co. July 26 might well have been a migrant.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: A migrant was noted in Forest Co. July 26 (Reardon)

Eastern Bluebird: There were 20 noted in Marinette Co. July 10 (Lindberg) and 13 in Burnett Co. the next day (Soulens). Reported from 35 counties in all.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One in Clark Co. June 23 was in a woods that has been censused for 10 years with no previous evidence of this species (Robbins). Four were noted in Shawano Co. July 17 (Peterson). Reported from 14 counties in all.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Reported from these northern counties: Bayfield, Forest, Langlade, Oneida and Vilas.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Also reported from 5 northern counties: Ashland, Douglas, Forest, Iron and Vilas.

Loggerhead Shrike: Nested in Winnebago Co. (John Kaspar, Ziebell) and Eau Claire Co. (Polk, 4 young). Also noted as follows: 2 in Burnett Co. (Hoefler), Dane Co. June 7 (Mary Donald, Roger Sundell), Door Co. June 14 to July 27 (R. and C. Lukes), 3 in Douglas Co. June 19 (Johnson), and Oneida Co. June 19 (L. and P. Engberg) $\frac{1}{2}$

White-eyed Vireo: One in Green Co. June 5 (Tessen) to 8 (Peterson), and another in Dane Co. June 6 (Thiessen) to 21 (Cederstrom).

Bell's Vireo: Noted in these counties: Iowa June 1 and Crawford June 4 (Barger), Marquette June 4 (Peterson), Vernon June 13 (Epstein), Grand June 18 (Lesher), and Green Lake June 26 (Idzikowski) and July 13 (Cowart, Gustafson).

Solitary Vireo: Reported from these northern counties: Ashland (Robbins), Barron (Goff), Bayfield (Maercklein), Chippewa (Polk), Douglas (Johnson), Forest (Baughman, Epstein, Thiessen), and Vilas (Baughman).

Black-and-White Warbler: Unusual was a bird observed in Milwaukee Co. until June 23 (Bontly, Frank, Woodmansee). It was thought that a July 16 bird in LaCrosse Co. was a migrant (Lesher). Noted also in 21 more northern counties.

Prothonotary Warbler: Most interesting were the over 20 birds noted on a St. Croix River Breeding Bird Survey between St. Croix Falls and Stillwater, MN on June 23 and 26 by Joe Hudick and Tom Van Zoeren. At least 6 singing males were in the Osceola area, 10 miles north of the previous assumed northern edge of their range. One adult was observed feeding an already fledged young bird north of Osceola. There were other reports from Grant (Epstein), Jefferson (Cowart), LaCrosse (Tessen), Outagamie (Anderson, Peterson), Rock (Tessen), Vernon (Weber) and Wood (Jeff Groth, Dar Tiede) Counties.

Worm-eating Warbler: Present in its usual Baraboo Hills, Sauk Co. locales June 5 (Cederstrom, Sontag) and July 8 (Gustafson).

Blue-winged Warbler: of the 12 counties from which this species was reported, the northern-most were Chippewa (Robbins) and Polk (Hudick).

Tennessee Warbler: Noted in Outagamie Co. June 17 (Robbins) and Florence Co. June 20 (Hanbury). Fall birds appeared July 22 in Eau Claire Co. (Polk) and July 26 in Outagamie Co. (Tessen).

Nashville Warbler: In addition to observations in 19 more northern counties, there were reports from Juneau Co. June 5 (Lesher) and Monroe Co. June 12 (Epstein), as well as individuals present throughout the period in Outagamie and Winnebago Counties (Tessen).

Northern Parula: Most unusual were birds noted in Milwaukee Co. until June 13 (Bontly, Frank, Woodmansee) and Waukesha Co. on June 27 (Cowart). The other 10 counties producing observations were within normal range.

Magnolia Warbler: Manitowoc (Sontag) and Milwaukee (Woodmansee) Co. birds lingered until June 14. Also reported from 6 northern counties.

Cape May Warbler: Observed in these 3 counties: Ashland (Robbins), Vilas (Baughman) and Iron (Butterbrodt).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Noted throughout the period in Bayfield Co. (Maercklein), on June 17 in Florence Co. (Hanbury), until June 26 in Iron Co. (Butterbrodt), and until July 14 in Vilas Co. (Baughman).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A bird remained in Manitowoc Co. through June 14 (Sontag). Reported nesting in Door Co. (R. and C. Lukes). There were observations in 16 additional northern counties.

Black-throated Green Warbler: In addition to reports from 14 northern counties, one bird was still present in Milwaukee Co. June 13 (Bontly, Woodmansee). Also in Sauk Co. July 8 (Gustafson).

Cerulean Warbler: A Vilas Co. bird July 14 seems very far north (Baughman). There were June reports from Grant (Epstein), Sauk (Cederstrom), and Waukesha (Soulent) Counties.

Blackburnian Warbler: A migrant lingered in Milwaukee Co. until June 2 (Woodmansee), and at least one bird was noted in Sauk Co. (Baxter's Hollow) June 9 (Soulent) and July 8 (Gustafson). The remaining observations were in 10 northern counties.

Pine Warbler: Southernmost of the 12 counties reporting was Juneau (Lesher).

Palm Warbler: A Langlade Co. report June 16 represents a new location (Epstein). Birds were noted in Forest Co. July 13 (Baughman) and 30 (Epstein).

Northern Waterthrush: One present in Manitowoc Co. through June 9 (Sontag). Noted in 16 more northern counties.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reported from only 5 counties: Grant, Monroe and Vernon (Epstein), and Sauk and Waukesha (Soulent).

Kentucky Warbler: Noted in 4 counties: Dane June 11 (Peterson), Grand June 8 (Epstein) and 18 (Lesher), Monroe June 26 (Epstein), and Vernon June 10 (Epstein).

Connecticut Warbler: Although birds of this species are known to migrate late, those noted June 5 in Jackson Co. were in suitable nesting habitat and may have been territorial males (Polk). A migrant was observed in Milwaukee Co. June 4 (Cowart). The other reports were from these counties: Bayfield June 2 (Maercklein), Door June 25 (R. and C. Lukes), Douglas throughout the period, with 4 on June 12 (Johnson), Iron at the beginning of the period (Butterbrodt), and Vilas through June 27 (Baughman).

Mourning Warbler: Again, birds were noted in several southeastern counties (Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Waukesha), in addition to 23 more northern ones. There also was a June 5 Monroe Co. report (Epstein).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Three counties produced reports of 2 birds each: Green June 5 (Tessen) through 8 (Peterson) Walworth June 5 (Idzikowski) and Waukesha June 8, in an area where this species has nested previously (Adams, Soulent).

Hooded Warbler: The only report came from Waukesha Co. June 3 (Frank).

Wilson's Warbler: Noted June 2 in Door Co. (R. and C. Lukes).

Canada Warbler: A Milwaukee Co. bird was still present June 24 (Frank), and one was observed in Vernon Co. June 10 (Epstein). Sauk Co. birds were reported by several observers, last on July 8 (Gustafson). The remaining observations were in 11 northern counties.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Noted in a new area in Washington Co. June 16 (Haseleu). One female in Price Co. June 19 (Hardy). Forty eggs and 30 young in Winnebago Co. June 11 (Ziebell). Reported from 21 additional counties.

Orchard Oriole: Three territorial males were present at the beginning of the period in Eau Claire Co. (Polk), and 3 birds were observed in Milwaukee Co. through June 28 (Bontly, Idzikowski, Woodmansee). Also noted in Crawford Co. June 4 (Barger), Green Lake Co. June 26 (Idzikowski), June 8 (Gustafson) and 30 (Cowart), Richland Co. June 2 (Duerksen) and Waukesha Co. June 3 (Frank).

Northern Cardinal: Reported from 35 counties in all, none of them in the northern quarter of the state.

Dickcissel: Except for up to 2 birds in Shawano Co. July 8-20 (Peterson) and reports from Chippewa/Dunn/Eau Claire Counties (Polk), all observations were in 7 southern counties. Sam Robbins stated that this was the first year since he moved to Wisconsin 36 years ago that he had not found this species. He further observed that there had been influxes into the state every 4-6 years prior to 1967, but no real ones since, just a "steady, alarming decline".

Purple Finch: Reported from 23 counties in all, Jackson (Lesher) and Juneau (Robbins) being the southernmost.

Pine Siskin: Birds that nested in Manitowoc Co. had left by June 10 (Sontag). All remaining reports were from 11 northern counties.

Red Crossbill: Noted in these counties: Forest June 23-July 20 (Epstein, Polk, Thiessen), Waupaca June 14 and Oneida July 27 (Tessen), Vilas July 18-25 (Baughman), and Washburn June 23 (Polk).

White-winged Crossbill: Unusual was a Milwaukee Co. observation June 9 (Bontly). Also reported in Forest Co. June 27 (Polk).

Baird's Sparrow: While there have been previous reports of this species in Wisconsin, none has been seen and heard well by nearly as many observers as was the bird found at Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Manitowoc Co. on June 16 by Bernie Brouchoud. It was seen and heard subsequently at least through June 26, Accepted by the Records Committee. See *By the Wayside*.

LeConte's Sparrow: There were reports from Ashland and Bayfield (Verch), Douglas (Johnson), Lincoln (Epstein) and Vilas (Baughman) Counties.

Henslow's Sparrow: Noted in 6 counties: Grant, Manitowoc, Monroe, Richland, Waukesha and Waupaca.

Lark Sparrow: Observed in these counties: Adams (Robbins), Eau Claire (Polk), Pierce (Epstein), and Sauk (Gustafson).

Dark-eyed (Northern) Junco: The only 2 reports were from Iron (Butterbrodt) and Vilas (Baughman) Counties.

Tree Sparrow: Most unusual was an extremely late migrant in Ashland Co. June 7 (Larry Leach, Verch).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Reported nesting in Waukesha Co. June 27 (Cowart) and from 26 additional counties, mostly in the north and west.

Field Sparrow: Of the 28 counties from which this species was reported, the northernmost was Florence (July 15, Hadbury).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Noted in these northern counties: Ashland and Lincoln (Robbins), Douglas (Johnson), Forest (Baughman, Peterson, Thiessen), Langlade (Epstein), Oneida (Tessen), Price (Hardy) and Vilas (Baughman).

CONTRIBUTORS

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Status of the Yellow-billed Loon in Wisconsin

By WSO Records Committee

After long delay and consultation with authorities in Alaska, the WSO Records Committee has decided to class the Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) as a species of possible occurrence in Wisconsin on the basis of reports at Madison in November 1979 (See L.L. Erickson, "Letter to the editor," *Passenger Pigeon* 44:131-132 (1982)).

This designation does not give the Yellow-billed Loon an official place on the list of the birds of Wisconsin or even on the state's hypothetical list. The "possible occurrence" category is instead intended to apply to species for which "there have been one or more reports of its presence in Wisconsin under conditions that leave its specific identity open to some doubt although the time, place and other circumstances suggest a substantial

likelihood that the species had occurred and may possible recur" (Passenger Pigeon 41:153 (1979).) The category also alerts observers to the possibility that careful attention might yield satisfactory evidence that a species whose presence has been suspected does in fact occur in the state on occasion.

However, observers should note that the commonly-used field guides are not entirely adequate to the problem of identifying this loon, especially in non-breeding plumage. In brief, bill shape is not reliable and bill color is not sufficient in itself to confirm a Yellow-billed Loon because many Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) show light gray bills that can look quite pale under some conditions. As with other difficult identifications, description of a whole array of supporting field marks is needed to verify a Yellow-billed Loon in Wisconsin. D. Roberson (Rare Birds of the West Coast, Woodcock Publications) and J. Trochet ("Field identification of loons in basic plumage," New Mexico Ornith. Soc. Bull. 10:27-32 (1982)) provide details on identification.

*Save the
Wetlands
for the
Cranes*

Mary and
Charlie Nelson



By the Wayside...



An Amazingly Cooperative Baird's Sparrow in Manitowoc County

At 5:35 a.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 1982, I was doing one of the summer bird survey routes at Woodland Dunes Nature Center in east central Manitowoc County, when I heard a very unusual bird call. As I moved closer I realized that it something unfamiliar.

The habitat was a wet overgrown field. Scattered willows in the area were 3 to 3½ feet tall and the meadowsweet was about 1½ to 2 feet tall. The area was about 50% "brush" (willows, meadowsweet, etc.) and about 50% open (grasses, wild strawberries, etc.). It was 44 degrees, clear, and the wind was from the north at about five mph. There was a heavy dew.

The bird continued to sing as I moved closer. When I reached a distance of about 100 feet from the bird I began to take "mental notes". It was a sparrow! Its tail was notched; the tail was not as short as a Grasshopper or Henslow's; it had very fine markings (not streaks) across the upper breast. I moved to within 50 feet! The throat was light and unmarked; it had "whisker marks" below the cheek area; it had a very noticeable center head stripe that showed up especially well when the bird looked directly at me; it had a light stripe above the eye, but there was a very noticeable dark stripe between it and the center crown stripe; the entire head had a more yellowish look than the rest of the bird; and there were light tan stripes on the back. I had never seen a Baird's Sparrow but this is what I thought I might have been looking at. The song was a somewhat musical trill of about 4 to 7 notes (it was "slower" than a Chipping Sparrow's trill -- all on the same pitch).

All the bird books at the nature center verified Baird's Sparrow -- except for the song! I played the Peterson eastern record and the songs didn't match. At about that time Jim Steffen of Manitowoc showed up; we both went back and saw and heard everything I had earlier. When we got back Jim suggested the western record. This record also had the Baird's. After playing all the other western sparrows, we listened to the Baird's. It was recorded 4 times, and the second half of the first and second songs was close to our bird. Checking back with books, we found that most said it was a two part song, but Peterson (second edition) said: "Song often begins with three or four musical zips" etc. The word "often" led me to believe that, perhaps, some birds might sing only the second part. That is what I concluded this

bird was doing! By elimination the bird could not be anything other than a Baird's Sparrow!

Bernard N. Brouchoud
508 New York Avenue
Manitowoc, WI 54220

The Same Sparrow, One Day Later

It was overcast, cool, with rain threatening as Bernie Brouchoud led a group of eight of us into the same area where he had seen and heard a Baird's Sparrow the previous morning. The area consisted of a 40-acre field, overgrown with tiny willow and meadowsweet brush. Most of the vegetation was under two feet tall. The only other birds we detected here were Savannah, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows.

Our attention was first drawn to a song that was new to us. It consisted of six to seven notes, all on the same pitch, connected to one another in a trill, yet sufficiently slow to make the six to seven notes stand out. The general quality was somewhat buzzy, bearing some resemblance to a shortened form of the "slow song" of the Grasshopper Sparrow. During the observation period the song was repeated 30-40 times, always from the tip of a tiny shrub. Each time the bird sang, it lifted its wings slightly but perceptibly.

Most of the observation took place from about fifty feet. The following notes were taken on the spot with the bird in view.

1. The crown was bisected by a broad ochre stripe;
2. The face was generally a dull tan-gray;
3. Over the eye was a broad gray stripe, lighter directly over the eye;
4. The lower cheek and side of throat had a darker streak;
5. The throat and upper breast were tan-gray, with considerable dark brown flecking (very thin streaking) evident when the bird was at close range;
6. The lower breast and belly were off-white, devoid of streaking;
7. The back was brownish, heavily streaked with light tan;
8. The wings were brownish -- not a smooth solid brown, but devoid of pronounced wing bars or other conspicuous markings;
9. The tail was moderately short and notched, but not as extremely short as that of a Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrow.

While most of us watched the bird in clear view at fifty feet, John Idzikowski crept closer and attempted photography from 25-30 feet. Following a 30-minute observation (sometimes the bird disappeared among the weeds, then re-appeared), we returned to Woodland Dunes headquarters, where we listened to the Peterson recordings of the Baird's Sparrow. None of the four song samples matched perfectly the song we had heard, but song #2, minus the introductory notes, matched our bird very well.

Sam Robbins
512 East Broadway
Medford, WI 54451

(Editor's Note: These two descriptions are the most complete of the several that are on file pertaining to the summer 1982 observations of this rare sparrow. A considerable number of observers saw and heard the bird but did not submit written reports. Some observers were able to approach to within

25 feet of the bird, and optical equipment used included 7- to 10-power binoculars. The points most frequently mentioned on the official report forms as distinguishing this bird from other possible species -- such as Grasshopper, Henslow's or Savannah Sparrow -- were the following: song; broad, decidedly ochre crown stripe; fine streaking on upper breast; tail length (longer than Grasshopper or Henslow's); lightness of eye stripe (lighter than Henslow's); and brown wing color (as opposed to the reddish of a Henslow's).

Glossy Ibis at Horicon Marsh

The bird was seen by six people: Karen West, Kerry Beheler, and Anne Notestiens, Research Students/Assistants from U. of W. Madison; Dottie Thompson and Darrell Haugen, Assistant Managers, Horicon NWR; and Tom Isaac, Biological Technician, Horicon NWR. Dates June 17 and 18, 1982, 7:30 to 4:30, cloudy to clear conditions. The bird was seen on five separate occasions in the I-3 impoundment. The water level was 2-6 inches depth. The bird was approximately 300 yards from the road, where it was observed with a spotting scope on 4 occasions. From a distance it appeared to be just a large sized black bird. Not one of the observers was able to see any white on the face of the bird. The decurved bill was very evident. We have pictures in the files of Glossy Ibis on the refuge in 1962.

Darrell Haugen
Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
Route 2
Mayville, WI 53050

Four Accounts of a Least Tern in Milwaukee

1. On July 8th at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, a tiny tern - fluttering and silvery - in constant motion - hovering, and darting, with very rapid, blurred wingbeats -- very long wings, bright, light leading edge - yellow bill tipped with dark - back of head very dark - forepart very light, but extending further back on the crown than that of an adult in summer plumage.

Winnie Woodmansee
1500 E. Brown Deer Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217

2. We first saw the Least Tern perched on a log in the water, and it was so small we could not be certain what it was. But when the bird took flight, it was more easily observed. The rapid wingbeat, long wings and almost darting flight was apparent; also the bird almost appeared to hover over the water. The bill was yellow with a dark tip; the wings had a white leading edge which could easily be seen as the bird flew about. The back of the head was black, but the white of the forehead extended back to the top of the head, so the bird was not in complete summer plumage. I observed Least Terns on their breeding grounds in Florida in April and May, 1978.

Marilyn Bontly
9077 N. Meadowlark Ln.
Bayside, WI 53217

3. Upon receiving word from Winnie Woodmansee that a Little Gull and Least Tern were present at the Coast Guard Impoundment around noon on July 8, I hurried down to the harbor. Scanning the mudflats south and east produced nothing unusual. While settling back to watch the gulls and terns on the south flat, I noted a lone white spot suddenly present on the east mudflat. Viewing in my spotting scope, I first noted a black tipped yellow bill and a crown black caudally, white cranially. The overall size was tiny compared to the gulls and terns usually present there. The body was gray above and white below. After a 10-15 minute wait, it took to the air on long, buoyant wings. The dark leading edge of the wings was apparent from the dorsal side. It disappeared over the lake, but 45 minutes later it was again suddenly present, sitting on the east mudflat -- all alone. The previous marks were again evident.

James C. Frank
5442 N. Bay Bridge
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

4. Upon arriving at the Coast Guard Impoundment in Milwaukee, Jim Frank showed me a Least Tern which was sitting on the far-side mudflats. The black-tipped yellow bill was very noticeable, also the black-edged fore-wings as it preened. The bird was seen in the same location the following morning. In flight, then, the small size, very fast wing-beat and slightly forked white tail were noted. The bird was in adult plumage.

Bill Cowart
4034 N. 45th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53216

(Editor's Note: These four observers got within 50-100 yards of the tern, aided by 7-8X binoculars or 15-60X spotting scopes. Lighting conditions were good to excellent.)

An Adult Parasitic Jaeger in Milwaukee

I was sitting on the rocks at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment on July 19, 1982, scoping through the gulls and terns when they all flew up at once. It seemed odd, since no people or dogs were to be seen out on the mudflats. Suddenly, I noticed three Caspian Terns chasing what looked like a black Caspian Tern out over the water. As they zigged and jinked with incredible agility over the water, the light abdomen and striking, white "flashes" underwing at the base of the primaries, in contrast with the dark body of the bird, identified it at once as being a jaeger. The 3 terns chased it off north over the city, but after they eventually gave up, the jaeger drifted back south down the lake-front on the NE wind (a front had just the evening before moved in from Canada), and as it passed overhead, the pointed central tail feathers extending a few inches beyond the tail identified it as a Parasitic Jaeger.

Bill Cowart
4034 N. 45th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53216

A Tenacious Kingbird in Kenosha County

Over Parkside Campus on July 13, 1982, I watched an Eastern Kingbird attacking a Red-tailed Hawk. What was unusual (to me) was that the kingbird dropped from above onto the back of the neck of the hawk and rode for several yards. This was repeated at least 4-6 times while I watched. The hawk may have been an immature.

Homer C. Bishop

A Nicolet National Forest Parade of Northern Species

After spending the morning and early afternoon of July 27, 1982 birding in Menominee and Oneida Counties, we worked our way over to Forest Road 2183 in Forest Co. Traveling the road slowly yielded only a Boreal Chickadee (heard), a Lincoln's Sparrow and Yellow-rumped Warbler. We turned north on Forest Road 2174. After passing through several miles of deciduous woods, it passes through a nice tamarack bog that occasionally yields a nice assortment of northern species. Initially nothing unusual appeared until four Gray Jays landed near the car. For approximately the next 20 minutes a fine variety of species put on quite a show. A Raven spent several minutes in our vicinity, followed by a medium sized black woodpecker landing in a nearby tamarack -- a female Black-backed (Three-toed) Woodpecker. Almost immediately after it flew off, a clucking could be heard in the adjacent brush. Suspecting grouse, we moved to investigate, but before we could, another woodpecker was heard to the south. This proved to be a male Black-backed (Three-toed) Woodpecker, and it put on a fine show for the next five minutes. Upon its departure the grouse briefly emerged -- a family of Spruce Grouse. A Boreal Chickadee appeared, and a family of Golden-crowned Kinglets, plus one Gray Jay. Within the space of less than one-half hour we were fortunate enough to see quite an array of northern species.

Daryl D. Tessen
2 Pioneer Park Place
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Aggression in Eagles

On March 20, Conservation Warden Max Harter was driving through Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County. He saw three adult Bald Eagles standing on the ice on the Refuge Extension Flowage. Upon closer observation through binoculars he observed that one of the eagles had another pinned to the ice with its talons. When Mr. Harter got out of the car to take a better look, two of the eagles flushed. The eagle that had been pinned apparently could not fly, although it tried. Meanwhile its aggressor returned, and dropping from 100 feet, it smashed into the crippled eagle with its talons. This eagle then flushed again, and once more dropped down and hit the crippled bird with its talons. At this point the two healthy eagles flew away and Mr. Harter walked out to look at the wounded eagle. The bird appeared to be seriously injured and was not at all aggressive. One of its talons had been freshly severed and its feathers were in disarray, although no other external wounds were visible. Mr. Harter picked up the eagle with the intention of sending it to the Raptor Rehabilitation lab, but the bird died less than an hour later.

I have never observed this intraspecific aggression in eagles before. It may possibly be linked to breeding behavior; however other breeding pairs in the area are already nesting by this date.

The eagle was sent to the National Wildlife Health Lab in Madison for necropsy.

Submitted by Paul Kooiker
Project Manager
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

Cowbird: Scarlet Tanager: Chipping Sparrow Interaction

On August 14, 1982, a single Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) flew onto my lawn, followed shortly by a strong flying fledgling of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), which watched as the sparrow fed the cowbird. The sparrow then flew off, and the tanager flew down and landed about one meter from the cowbird, which begged vigorously. The tanager did not feed it. A Chipping Sparrow arrived shortly and fed the cowbird, and then the three flew off together. Cowbird fledglings are known to beg from non-parental adults (Ficken, Auk 84:601; Friedman, 1963, *Host Relations of Parasitic Cowbirds*, 144). The unusual feature was the following behavior of the tanager. Its action possibly could be explained by the recent loss of a fledgling, which might or might not have been a cowbird.

Howard Young
Department of Biology
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
LaCrosse, WI 54601

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Adult and nestling turkey vultures in Wisconsin are being marked with green patagial wing tags during 1983 and 1984, as part of a study of nest and roost fidelity, feeding ranges, and migration. Tags are encoded with a small "U" and large white numerals, 1-99. If marked vultures are sighted, please report date, location, tag number, whether tag is on right or left wing, and other pertinent observations to the:

Bird Banding Laboratory
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Laurel, Maryland 20811

and to:

Madison Audubon Society
Route 1, Box 128A
Arlington, WI 53911

Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Please find enclosed some pictures that I took of a partially albino Cardinal in our back yard this spring.

My first sighting of the female cardinal was on February 27, 1983 at 5:45 p.m. just as it was getting dark. I was very excited about this observation, and had called Mr. Fred Lesher and told him about this incident. He said that I should try to get a picture if possible and send it to you. I tried quite a few times and wasn't successful in my efforts until the last day that I had seen her at our feeder which was Monday, March 14th. I was able to have enough light to get a picture with favorable settings.



Date: March 14, 1983

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: 100' from house to feeder, thru Anderson Thermal pane patio doors.

Days observed after the first day 2/27/83 are as follows:

March 1st, March 2nd, March 10, March 13 & 14

(Always abroad 5:45 to 6:15 p.m.)

She could have been present at the feeders before or after this time but have not observed her. Also she came alone, and would leave if another cardinal would land on the bird feeder.

I hope this information will be of help to you in your study of birds. I became a member of Wisconsin Society of Ornithology three years ago and enjoy reading your **Passenger Pigeon**" quarterly issues.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Lorraine Harnwell
Route 1, CTH B, Box 108
West Salem, Wisconsin 54669

Dear Dr. Kemper:

While trapping Kestrels at an active garbage dump, southeast of Chicago, Illinois, on January 29, 1983, I captured an unusual AHY male American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).

What was unusual about the bird was a growth on its right center toe . The

growth was one inch in diameter. It was all black and was almost round. Upon close examination I could see it was not attached to the flesh, but to the toe nail only. I assumed it could not be nail growth, so I tried to break it with my finger nails, which was fruitless, because it was too hard.

I then got out a large pliers and started to crush it. It took a great amount of pressure, but I finally crushed it. The inside was white so I assumed it must have been plaster of paris, or something of that consistency.

How such a thing like that could become attached to a toe nail is uncertain. If the bird picked it up at the dump, the bird should have been able to bite it off.

The only solution that's feasible, the bird was caught by someone, who then attached this object to the bird's toe as a lark, and held it until it was solid. The bird was then released.

Anyway the bird should be happy now with that weight off its right foot, and the leg sporting an F & W Band #133-56303.

Karl E. Bartel
2528 W. Collins St.
Blue Island, IL 60406

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Wednesday, I was given a Golden-crowned Kinglet that ran into a window of the Iron County Forestry Shop in Hurley (near a stand of tall spruces). The man that gave it to me noticed the bird had very fine bands on both legs. On looking at them with my 10X hand lens, the bands appear to be thread, or thread-like, with a thicker, knotted area. The knot-like area is not rough, but appears smoothed out with glue or something similar. I called Dick Verch in Ashland Wednesday night, but he had not heard of anyone banding in this manner. If you know of anyone, please let me know. I have the bird in my freezer.

Sincerely,
Mary E. Butterbrodt
W.S.O.

(Editor's Note: All I know is that such a band is illegal and not approved by the Federal Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office. Can anyone out there shed any information on this. — C.A. Kemper)

CORRECTION

Dear Dr. Kemper:

In looking over the latest issue of the **Passenger Pigeon** I was surprised by the early dates I reported (Black Tern, 4/24; E. Kingbird, 4/25; Yellowheaded Blackbird, 4/9; LeConte's Sparrow, 4/21; and Ruddy Turnstone, 4/16). Upon checking my records I find all are correct except for Ruddy Turnstone which arrived 5/16. I hope you will see that this is corrected by the appropriate people.

Dick Verch
Northland College
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

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