

## **The passenger pigeon. Vol. 67, No. 2 Summer 2005**

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# The *Passenger* **PIGEON**



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# THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Vol. 67 No. 2  
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## EDITORS

Bettie R. and Neil A. Harriman  
5188 Bittersweet Lane  
Oshkosh, WI 54901  
920. 233. 1973  
bettie@vbe.com  
harriman@uwosh.edu

## BIRD REPORTS COORDINATOR

Wayne Rohde  
W6488 Beloit Rd.  
Walworth, WI 53184  
wsrohde@genevaonline.com

## ASSISTANT EDITOR (Art)

David Kuecherer  
726 Harvard Drive  
Neenah, WI 54956  
920. 725. 7915  
dkuecherer@new.rr.com

## FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Spring)

Karl H. David  
6880 Beechnut Drive  
Racine, WI 53402  
david@msoe.edu

## FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Summer)

Thomas K. Soulen  
1725 West Eldridge Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55113  
651. 631. 2069

## FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Autumn)

Mark S. Peterson  
1309 Brookside Parkway  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
918. 331. 3884

## FIELD NOTE COMPILER (Winter)

Kenneth I. Lange  
1530 East Street  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
608. 356. 3658

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*Front Cover: Yellow-rumped Warbler by Gary Krogman*

## **Now It's Our Turn**

**A** while back I was reading *North American Birds* (NAB), 58(4). 2004. An article in the journal called "The Changing Seasons: Rome Burning" brought to mind an issue that has been discussed among birders and environmentalists for the past few years. (You can access the article at [americanbirding.org/pubs/nab/archives/index.html](http://americanbirding.org/pubs/nab/archives/index.html); it's in adobe.pdf, so you can easily print it off.) How do we get non-consumptive users of our natural world to "fairly" pay their way in supporting conservation issues and their initiatives? Our hunting and fishing brethren have been supporting conservation for a long time through their licensing fees and their local, state, and national organizations. Don't you think we birders need to get involved too?

The article basically outlined the four major bird conservation crises that North Americans have experienced in the last 100 plus years. The first was mass slaughter of birds for the millinery trade in the late 1800s. Then, by the 1930s, it was apparent the second crisis was the devastation of wetland bird species by draining their habitats for agricultural needs and by allowing large hunting bag-limits on waterfowl. The end of World War II saw the emergence of the third crisis: the wide use of pesticides, such as DDT, and by the 1960s the problem had become acute.

Our predecessors, including a wide range of organizations, corporations, and individuals, coordinated aggressive plans to abate those problems. The plans included cleaning up and restoring habitats, educating the public on the issues, restricting the use of deadly chemicals, and finding the financial means to put the plans into affect.

Currently, we are experiencing North America's fourth major conservation crisis, which is far more complicated and encompassing than the other three. Today, we are seeing a broader spectrum of species being adversely affected and a wider range of ecosystems being threatened, all on a more global scale. This is compounded by the fact we're seeing many migrant and resident birds becoming more vulnerable "year round."

The emphasis of this issue of NAB highlighted the summer distribution of birds in each region of North America. At the end of each region's synopsis was an analysis of the region's ecosystems called "The State of the Region." Each commented about the current environmental issues that were negatively affecting that region's birds and their habitats. It was very humbling reading. It seemed that every ecosystem in North America has been affected in some way, particularly through the destruction of the habitats and/or fragmentation of them.

Of particular concern across North America was the grassland ecosystem—one that is not understood particularly well, and may be the least respected. This complex ecosystem has exhibited the most dramatic decline in its guild of bird

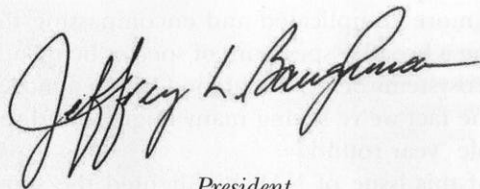
species in North America. Again, this decline has been due to the degradation, fragmentation, and loss of sensitive prairie habitat. To compound this problem, over the years, well-intentioned individuals have introduced non-native plant species, but recently, changing agricultural practices have had the most impact.

What can we do to help slow or even stop this crisis? We need to first identify these threatened habitats that hold viable populations of these declining species. Then we must find ways to conserve the habitats as much as possible. Fortunately, that process is well underway across North America. Many of these threatened areas are being identified as "Important Bird Areas" (IBAs). Wisconsin has over 100 of these areas identified already. Some have already been set aside, while others will be formally dedicated over the coming months and years.

We also need to continue to inform and educate the public to what the problems are and why we need to address them. We need to show our support of public and private agencies, in their efforts to address the problem, by volunteering our time, expertise, and financial contributions. We birders need to take the lead in these efforts or it may be too late for many of our birds.

Because all these efforts take huge financial commitments, I believe we birders need to shoulder some of this burden. Consider becoming a member of the various environmental groups or organizations and donate extra monies when and if you can. Also, I would like you to consider that money might be generated, for this purpose, by way of a tax. I know that the word tax is a dirty word for most of us, but maybe some sort of tax, on various out-door equipment (e.g., binoculars, scopes, camping gear, etc.), may be the most far-reaching and reasonable way we can generate money to aid birds and their habitats.

I hope I've enlightened you to some of the issues North American birds are facing here in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Please go to the website above and read the article. It may influence and elevate your concern for what is happening to all birds and may stimulate your thoughts on ways to come to their assistance.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Brangman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent part.

*President*

## **“Let Me Count the Ways”**

**W**ith all due respect to Elizabeth Barrett Browning, this issue of our journal is filled with reports on “ways” we count birds. The lead article is Noel Cutright’s recounting of his long-held dream of conducting a solid month of Breeding Bird Surveys (in fact he did 33 of them). He was participating in the largest and oldest “counting” of breeding birds that occurs each June across North America, and he managed to raise funds for the birds at the same time.

The second article switches to the counting of “our” birds in winter with Domagalski’s report of the 2004 Christmas Bird Count in Wisconsin. This way of counting began in 1900 and Wisconsin was represented in that very first effort by a count conducted in Sauk County by Alexander Wetmore.

Next you’ll find a report on counting birds in migration with the details from the Cedar Grove hawk-banding station for the fall of 2004. And finally you will find two articles about nesting birds: one a documentation for the first reported nest by a Yellow-throated Warbler, and the other about Acadian Flycatchers and Tufted Titmice breeding in Monroe County.

These are all different “ways” to “count” the activities of birds and enlarge our information base about them. There are many other counts and surveys being done every year in Wisconsin, and many of these could use your help. Give it a try!

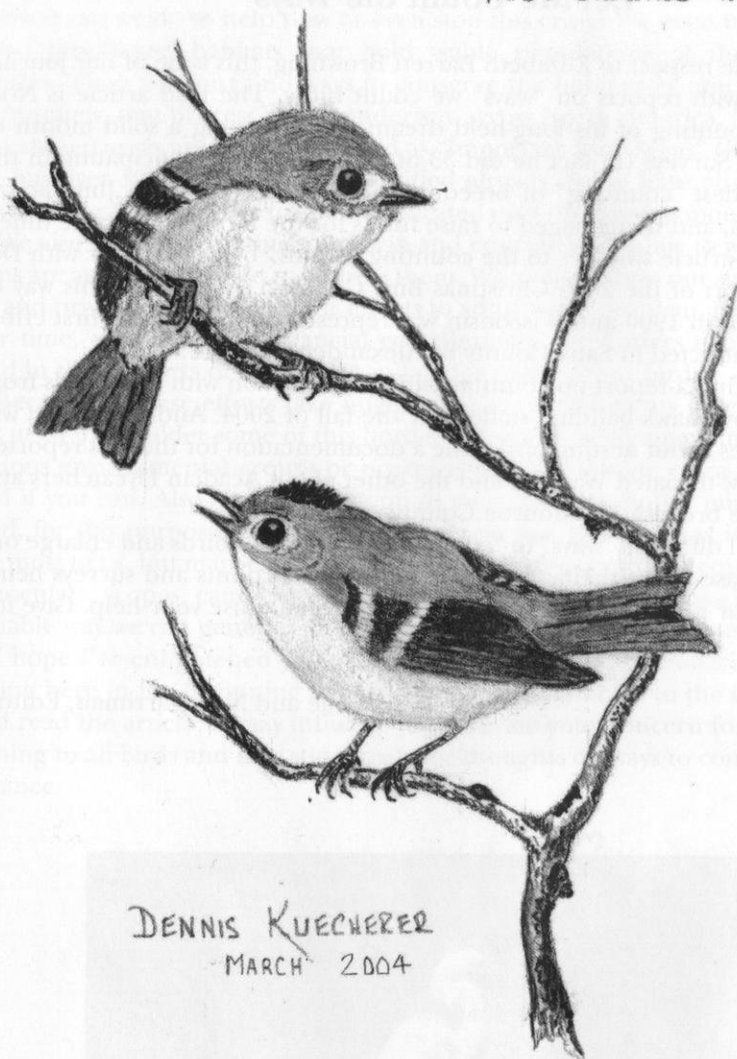
Bettie and Neil Harriman, Editors



Great Egret by Todd Ward



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS



DENNIS KUECHERER  
MARCH 2004

Drawing of Ruby-crowned Kinglets by Dennis Kuecherer

# Quad 30 Campaign

**Noel J. Cutright**

3352 Knollwood Road

West Bend, WI 53095-9414

262. 675. 2443 (h); 414. 221. 2179 (w)

Noel.Cutright@we-energies.com

## ABSTRACT

*Convinced that humans are doing more than enough things to negatively affect bird populations, the author set out to demonstrate that the public must do its part to assist bird conservation efforts. Saying, "Our birds need our involvement," Noel Cutright, twice past president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, officially launched his Quad 30 Campaign on 30 May 2004. His purpose: to celebrate 30 years of conducting Breeding Bird Surveys by completing 30 surveys in 30 days and in the process raise \$30,000 to support Important Bird Areas. In the process he hoped to:*

- *Raise awareness of bird conservation needs,*
- *Raise awareness of the importance of long-term bird monitoring programs,*
- *Raise the participation rate in the BBS program, and*
- *Despite rising 33 straight mornings between 2:50 and 4:15 a.m., have fun, be safe, and survive!*

*This is his story—*

## INTRODUCTION

Many months later, my list of Quad 30 Campaign memories goes on and on.

Lots of sunrises, surprises, M&Ms and PB&J sandwiches and pancakes, miles of windshield time, hours with my nose in a map, resetting the stop watch for 3-minute periods, fun, dreaming of singing birds, and hours of being on a birding "high."

I guess the odyssey really begins in June 1971 when I conducted my first three federal Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) in upstate New York. I had survived a difficult Master's degree program in plant pathology at Cornell University and had decided to pursue my Ph.D. in wildlife science. I immediately fell in love with the challenges and excitement of trying to identify every bird I could hear and see during a 3-minute period at 50 stops along each route. Each BBS route has a set starting point, and the 50 stops are a half mile apart. Started in 1966, the BBS program has provided data that have become extremely valuable in monitoring changes in breeding bird populations across North America.

I continued to do New York BBS

routes until I left the state in 1974, and then signed up for routes in Texas and Florida as my work took me there.

When I moved to Wisconsin in 1977, I immediately contacted BBS state coordinator Sam Robbins about any open routes. I soon started doing the four surveys in Wisconsin (Amberg and Wausaukee in 1980, and Paris and Raymond in 1981) and the Wilson route in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (1979) that I've completed every year since, including 2004.

Several years ago I began thinking about taking vacation time to conduct a batch of BBS routes, starting in southern states in late May and working north to the UP by early July. I envisioned tent-camping or renting a self-contained camping unit that I would park each evening near a route's starting point. This idea sat on the back burner during the 1990s as I focused on my family, job, and other bird-related activities, including the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA). But as my task of editing WBBA accounts neared completion, my dream began to revive, stimulated by an appreciation of how much BBS data were contributing to Atlas discussions of population trends of Wisconsin's breeding bird species. I also became aware that many BBS routes were not being surveyed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) and in Minnesota.

The "planets" started lining up toward the end of 2003. I turned 60, decided to go to a 30-hour work-week at We Energies, my heavy involvement with the WBBA manuscript was nearly over, and my good hearing was still intact.

I thought that if I could survey a couple of routes in my home state of

Ohio (something that I had longed to do), include my four "regular" Wisconsin routes, and add a large number of presently open routes in Minnesota and the UP, I could fill the month of June with surveys. I ran the idea past my wife Kate, and her response was, "Go for it!"

Having coordinated the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) as well as the Riveredge Bird Club Birdathon/Bandathon for nearly 20 years, I was confident that I could solicit and receive pledges for my effort. And as Chair of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Committee of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI), selecting this extremely important bird conservation program to receive any funds that I could raise was an easy decision.

A surprise 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party held at Harrington Beach State Park in late 2003, where many who attended made financial contributions to the budding effort, was a huge surprise and a real boost. I realized for the first time that the "journey" had truly been launched, at least on paper.

I decided early-on that I would pay for all of my expenses so that I could assure everyone that 100% of their contributions would go to bird conservation. Knowing that BBS expenses are tax deductible (this activity is considered to be a donation to the federal government) also helped in this decision.

Working with state BBS coordinators in Ohio, Minnesota, and Michigan to identify "open" routes, I committed to doing all available routes in western Ohio (2), Minnesota (14), and the UP (12). I also added one more route that opened in Wisconsin,

for a total of 5. I assumed that I would be unable to run a few surveys because of "bad" weather—heavy rain or strong winds. I considered the three extra routes an insurance policy in my quest to complete 30 surveys during the 30 days of June 2004. In doing so, I hoped to celebrate more than 30 years of collecting BBS data and in the process raise \$30,000 for bird conservation. Thus, the name—Quad 30 Campaign.

Work then began on logistics (the order of the routes, lodging, etc.), advertising the Campaign, and developing a way to visualize the pledge effort. I anticipated raising funds from friends, relatives, co-workers, individual birders, member organizations of WBCI, and others. I knew that the Wisconsin Energy Corporation (WEC) Foundation would match my donations that I made to the nonprofit WSO, which agreed to administer the Quad 30 funds. The WEC Foundation also made an upfront donation of \$5,000—what a boost to my spirits and a vote of confidence!

I had anticipated raising money from birders in Ohio, Minnesota (where I'm a life member of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union), and Michigan (where I'm a life member of the Michigan Audubon Society), but this effort was a complete failure. In hindsight, I needed to have a visible, respected, "local" birder/volunteer in each of these states to "legitimize" me and advertise the campaign—after all, monies raised in these states were to have gone to that state's IBA program and not into Wisconsin's.

A secondary objective of the Campaign was to advertise the importance of long-term bird monitoring programs like the BBS. I wanted to reach

the media and as many others as possible with this message. I knew that an attractive, well-designed web site was essential. Monroe County birder Lennie Lichter stepped forward to volunteer for what, to me, was an intimidating chore. The site, hosted by Wisconsin Birding at [www.quad30campaign.org](http://www.quad30campaign.org), proved a successful and extremely flexible vehicle that promoted the Campaign in advance, provided a running account of the surveys, and displayed not only the survey results, but also my fund-raising progress as I filed nearly daily updates from my laptop computer while on the road.

Contacting the media once I was on the road also proved far more difficult than I anticipated. I had contact information for newspapers near the BBS routes, but I found that it was impossible to follow through with contacts once the journey began. I needed a "back home" volunteer to contact the media (by e-mail, fax, and phone) a few days before I arrived in their neighborhood. A press release sent to all local media before the start of the trip, pinpointing the date that I would be in their area and providing a cell phone contact number, might have been effective also.

The web site—still up and running—includes a bird checklist for each of the 33 surveys; a daily journal account; a bird-of-the-day feature; checklists for mammals, herps, and butterflies observed while surveying the routes; a fund-raising update; photographs; some media accounts; and a final report.

Needless to say, my biggest accomplishment was actually completing **33 consecutive BBS routes**—a feat that any BBS volunteer will readily tell you



is statistically and cosmically impossible! It rained some afternoons and evenings; it rained as I drove to the starting point; and it rained immediately after several surveys. It misted on a few occasions, and I experienced a gentle shower or two during a few surveys, but only once did I need to stop during a survey for about 30 minutes to wait for a hard rain to pass. Winds were generally light enough, and I soon realized that the wind always blows in western Minnesota, though there are no tree leaves to interfere with hearing.

My uniform for all 33 counts consisted of a different bird T-shirt every morning, although on several mornings extra layers were needed as my car's thermometer registered 40 degrees in predawn northern Minnesota (and not much more than that five hours later) and the same pair of sweat pants (washed occasionally). My biggest worry was finding the starting point for each survey on strange roads (often gravel) in the dark, sometimes many miles away from where I had just spent the night, and **exactly 30 minutes before sunrise**.

I find numbers and statistics to be fun. Some examples:

- Based on a review of past survey results for all the routes, I predicted that I would tally 179 species: astonishingly, my Campaign total matched that prediction exactly! I also tallied 24,111 individuals.
- The only species encountered on all 33 surveys were American Crow, American Robin, Common Yellowthroat, and Chipping Sparrow.
- Species for which more than 1,000 individuals were tallied were American Robin (1,259), Red-winged Blackbird (1,216), Common Grackle (1,083), and Red-eyed Vireo (1,013).
- Total miles driven: 5,525, with 808 of those being driven on the 33 surveys (each route is 24.5 miles long).
- Hours spent actually surveying the 1,650 points (stops) totaled 82.5.
- Lodging costs averaged \$43.20/night, and I spent less than \$10 a day on food. Out-of-pocket Campaign expenses totaled about \$2,250, plus mileage. My next book will be *Noel's Field Guide to Birding Cheap in the Upper Midwest*.

My original goal of \$30,000 was more than met, with the total standing at nearly \$50,000 as of June 2005, and still rising as I continue to make presentations on the Campaign to birding clubs and other organizations around the state. My hope is that the IBA program will be able to leverage Quad 30 funds to obtain other grants for this program.

Looking back at every phase of this project, my most vivid memories continue to be, first, that 33 BBS routes were completed in 33 consecutive days; and second, that groups and individuals responded with a generous outpouring of support and donations. While I'm encouraged that some folks will contribute financially to bird conservation efforts, I'm discouraged that compared to the number of birders, bird watchers, and wildlife viewers there are, so few contribute to bird conservation at a time when the needs are so great. Given the stunning estimates for an increasing human population, the mounting number of everyday threats posed to our birds, and both day-to-day **and** long-term changes to our landscape—all of which place

stresses on quality habitats for birds—it is clear that **much more** must be done for bird conservation.

BBS data provide an index of population abundance that can be used to estimate population trends and relative abundances at various geographical scales. Declining population trends act as an early warning system to encourage research and management action to determine causes of avian declines and reverse them before populations reach critically low levels. That's why these BBS routes are so important, but additional support for other bird monitoring programs also is needed. Truly understanding and communicating the relationships between the land, the plants, the animals (including us), and the integrity of the air we all breathe and the water we all must drink continue to take urgent priority. We must reconnect people and nature!

### QUAD 30 JOURNAL

**Sunday, 30 May, West Carrollton, OH**—One BBS down and a bunch to go!

Today had a combination of highs and lows that are typical for observers doing BBS routes. There was rain but not enough to stop bird song so I pushed ahead, a detour for a culvert replacement, difficulty in trying to decipher the route descriptions from previous observers, and barking dogs (first one wasn't until stop 34—they must have slept in on Sunday—of course, this stop had 5 dogs—all barking). Later, a homeowner walked down the driveway to see if I was having a problem, and of course his barking dog accompanied him.

Some have asked how I calculated the number of species that I expected to tally during the Quad 30 Campaign. I took the results the last 3 times a route was run and just added up all the species. The West Carrollton route was last surveyed in 2001 (also in 2000 and 1999). Fifty-nine species was the average for these 3 years. I was fortunate to tally 70 today. I added 2 species never before seen on this route—a crowing Ring-necked Pheasant and a pair of Northern Harriers hunting together. The most abundant species was American Robin. Hearing 4 of my 2nd favorite warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, was a special pleasure. The biggest surprise was a Pileated Woodpecker that suddenly sounded off nearby in very unlikely pileated habitat.

**Monday, 31 May, Lockport, OH**—Over the years, one tends to judge the quality of a route on the diversity of bird life found along it. There are some that are excellent, others that are good or so-so, and then there are those that are just downright poor. And knowing the value of conducting surveys in these agriculturally-dominated landscapes that are bird-poor doesn't help the adrenaline to flow in the surveyor. Lockport is one of these "poor" routes.

After following a swollen river and passing through some woods associated with the Goll Woods Natural Area, the route headed straight west for more than 20 miles through prime agricultural country. There was a virtual absence of livestock, just mile after mile of row crops, some wheat, small woodlots, and farmsteads. With the flat land, roadside ditches were shallow, and I was amazed how many roadsides were mown with a lawn-

## QUAD 30 CRITTERS

Birds weren't the only fauna that I kept track of during my 33-day odyssey across the states of Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan from 30 May-1 July 2004. (Species listed in order observed.)

### Butterflies

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
Black Swallowtail  
Cabbage White  
Clouded Sulphur  
Orange Sulphur  
Viceroy  
Red Admiral  
Mourning Cloak  
Monarch  
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail  
Creamy Duskywing  
Hobomok Skipper  
White Admiral  
Little Wood Satyr  
Inornate Ringlet  
Long Dash

### Amphibians

Bull Frog  
American Toad  
Eastern Gray Treefrog  
Chorus Frog  
Leopard Frog  
Green Frog  
Spring Peeper  
Mink Frog

### Reptiles

Plains Garter Snake  
Painted Turtle  
Snapping Turtle  
Western Fox Snake

### Mammals

House Cat  
Raccoon  
Eastern Cottontail  
Gray Squirrel  
Opossum  
Eastern Chipmunk  
Fox Squirrel  
White-tailed Deer  
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel  
Coyote  
White-tailed Jackrabbit  
Striped Skunk  
Richardson's Ground Squirrel  
Red Squirrel  
Woodchuck  
Red Fox  
Porcupine  
Beaver  
Least Chipmunk  
Gray Wolf  
Least Weasel  
Meadow Vole  
Snowshoe Hare  
Black Bear  
Mink  
Muskrat

mower by the farmers. It was a little windier than I would prefer, but with the landscape being so open, hearing bird song wasn't inhibited much and was good practice for doing the upcoming western MN routes.

I wasn't expecting a large species total since the average for the last 3 times the route was surveyed (1998–2000) was 49 species. I managed to find only 46, and numbers were exceptionally low for some species compared with the 1998–2000 average. For example, I found only 8 Barn Swallows vs 39, 5 Savannah Sparrows vs an average of 22, 18 Song Sparrows vs 52, and American Goldfinch and House Finch numbers also were lower than the 1998–2000 average.

**Tuesday, 1 June, Raymond, WI**—I consider myself very fortunate today. I did the Raymond route in the company of good friends Karen Johnson and Kris Klewin. I must say that the route went faster, and I didn't even make a wrong turn (of course I've done this route for almost 25 yr).

Karen sure is a good counter of vehicles; one of the things the BBS office has asked us to do in recent years is to count the number of vehicles at each stop. The record for today was 62 at a stop near Highway 50 in Kenosha Co.

The average over the last 3 yr is 57 species, and my count was 58. No numbers appeared to be out of the ordinary, although the amount of standing water in the agricultural fields in Kenosha and Racine Counties may have set a record. The lone Purple Martin box that held martins in the past is now gone, but 1 singing martin flew over. Several species were represented by a single individual (e.g., Ring-billed Gull, Great Egret, Eastern Bluebird, Sedge Wren, Sora, Blue-

winged Teal, and Alder Flycatcher, to name a few). As has been the recent trend, a few Eastern Meadowlarks were found, but Western Meadowlarks remain absent along this route, which is quite sad.

**Wednesday, 2 June, Paris, WI**—Of the 5 BBS routes I've done for more than 2 decades, the Paris route, using a sports saying about a game, comes to you. I don't worry where any of the stops are or what turns to make. They just seem to happen, and today was no different. There was nothing spectacular that happened, and everything went as expected, which is probably good since I hadn't gotten to bed real early because of a Riveredge Bird Club meeting, where I talked about the Quad 30 Campaign, did final packing and loading, and said good-byes that had to last for a month.

The Paris species total is usually in the low-to-mid-60s—this year's total was 63. Nothing really jumps out from the data, although Cedar Waxwing numbers were quite low—only 3 compared with an average for the last 3 yr of 23 individuals. As has been the case for the last couple of years, it is nice to see both Sandhill Cranes and Wild Turkeys, now resident in an area of southeastern Wisconsin that is being developed rapidly but is still highly agricultural in the rural countryside.

Stop 25 gave me an opportunity to speak to a human for the first time during the day. He drove up in his old battered pick-up and wanted to know what I was doing. Said that he had seen me a few times in the last several years but was always too busy to see what I was up to. He owned one side of the road, and the stop is one of the more interesting ones because of the nearby marsh/lake. In about 5 min we



discussed the rainfall during May, making hay, the friskiness of his 4 horses just turned out to new pasture, his 39 Wood Duck boxes that are up in the nearby marsh and oak woods (always full of ducks, too, he said), the nesting Sandhill Crane pair that has been there for the last several years (they raise 1 colt each year), how efficient a predator of birds a house cat is (and raccoons, too), and the litter that people throw around. He seemed quite proud when I noted the Green and Great Blue Herons flying into his wetlands (neither of which I could count because the 3-min observation period had already ended).

Well, it is now on to Minnesota, and I'm facing a more than 500-mi drive after getting up at 3 a.m. It will definitely be a day for a power nap.

**Thursday, 3 June, Chandler, MN**—I certainly missed a photo op this morning—I've never thought about taking photos during a BBS. The full moon was setting in the west while the sunrise was a wonderful red, and there were 3 large windmills in the foreground to the east. Driving out to the starting point, I could see probably 50 red blinking lights that were coming from windmills.

The entire route today was on gravel roads through primarily agricultural habitat, mostly corn and soybeans. They have had good rains here, and I've been seeing lots of large flooded areas in the fields. Several stops near the beginning had some wonderful, steep grasslands, but overall, "good" bird habitat was limited. I was not expecting a lot from this route since the species totals from the last 3 times it was surveyed were only 37 in 2003, 42 in 1987, and 39 in 1986. I managed 53, so I was pleased with the results.

House Sparrow and Common Grackle tied for top honors with 168 individuals.

The 19 Dickcissels were nice as were the 67 Western Meadowlarks. I also stopped by one tiny marsh that held 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. I expect to see more of this prairie pothole species as I journey north in western Minnesota. Had another landowner in an old pick-up actually "chase" me down the road to the next stop to inquire what I was doing. He seemed very disappointed when I told him I was doing a bird survey. Not sure what he was hoping for.

Heard one still-migrating Tennessee Warbler on the route, and then as I worked on the data forms at the town park in Adrian, watched and listened to an Alder Flycatcher singing in a grove of 40-year-old aspen and ash. Although the route has yielded Blue Grosbeak in the past, I couldn't come up with one. I stopped by a pothole of about 5 acres on the way to Marshall and sat along the road enjoying the 16 territorial male yellow-heads and listening to the Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, Swamp Sparrows, and Virginia Rails as I watched a lone male Gadwall and 2 coot on the open water in the pothole's center. I also watched a harrier pair copulating while the female was trying to feed on a rodent.

**Friday, 4 June, Tracy, MN**—After reaching the starting spot on time at 5:10 a.m., as I watched the sky brighten, I could see some showers off to the west. What is the earliest you've seen a rainbow? There was a short one at 6:11, two partials at 6:21, and almost a full one at 6:43 (Figure 1).

This route had never been run before so I had nothing to compare this year's count with. I did encounter one



Figure 1. Early morning rainbow

problem because the route after the first mile had me going down a muddy farm lane—even the DeLorme map showed a road there but the line is narrower than normal, and I guess the federal technician in Patuxent, MD, obviously didn't notice the difference. I had to detour a mile around and pick up the route a mile south. While on the detour, a small deer and I paralleled each other for almost 0.5 mi at 28 mph. It wouldn't slow and finally crossed over in front of me. The entire route today was gravel except for 1 mi and mostly traversed highly agricultural land. Talked with a farmer who said they had had about 11 in. of rain in the last 2 wk.

Encountered the first American White Pelicans of the trip and at stop

38 had a flotilla of 44. It was nice to see a Great Egret in a pond ringed with Yellow-headed Blackbirds. A Broad-winged Hawk flyover was a surprise. I counted about half the number of pheasants as yesterday. With little wooded habitat except around almost each farmstead, where they are strategically placed to serve as windbreaks, I did manage to find 3 woodpecker species at 1 stop. Species count for the day was 56, 3 more than yesterday's total.

**Saturday, 5 June, Franklin, MN—** Today I was joined by one of my very best friends. Carl Schwartz drove all night after getting off work in Milwaukee and was asleep in his van behind the motel when I walked out. The nighthawks were calling when I went

to sleep last night, and they were flying overhead this morning when we pulled out of the parking lot. We heard a Whip-poor-will singing from the ridge along the Minnesota River, but none were calling at stop 1. The route soon climbed out of the riparian zone, and we looked at corn and soybean fields for the rest of the morning, with a couple of fields of peas thrown in and one sugar beet field. The only chance for woodland birds was around the farmsteads that all have groves that serve as windbreaks. Some are quite elaborate and planted with forethought, while others seem to be just what was there or took root. Some of the cottonwoods in people's yards are immense.

The butterfly fauna was scarce, as it has been for all routes in all three states. The best mammal sighting today was a Richardson's ground squirrel that ran across the road at a stop and disappeared down a sizable burrow. Also saw what I think are pocket gopher mounds. I patted a mule on the nose at one stop—can't remember the last time I saw one. Carl and I watched as 2 sizable pockets of rain showers approached and then slid past—one to the north and one to the south—a fortunate turn in the route to the west for 2 mi helped immensely, and we only felt a few small drops. And for wide-open country, the wind wasn't a problem.

This route has only been run twice before—in 1993 and 1994. Those results didn't foretell much excitement for today, and this turned out to be accurate. The totals in those counts were in the 30s; today's tally was 45. More than a quarter of the species were represented by only 1 individual. Excluding 1 large flock of geese and the

grackles that are present at almost every stop, the 2 most abundant species were Horned Lark (64) and Vesper Sparrow (52).

**Sunday, 6 June, Knapp, MN**—A dense fog made driving to our starting point this morning a little difficult. Although Carl and I had a few map/route description problems, the survey went well. A number of wetland species were observed, including 2 rail species, Black Tern, Common Loon, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and 6 species of waterfowl. Veery was added to the overall species list for the Knapp route. Two individuals of 4 different flycatcher species were encountered—Willow, Alder, Least, and Eastern Phoebe. The Great Crested was the most abundant (19) flycatcher, followed by Eastern Wood-Pewee (10) and Eastern Kingbird (4).

All in all, a nice route with 72 species, bettering the average of 63 found over the previous 3 yr. Carl then headed east, back to Milwaukee, while I turned northwest.

**Monday, 7 June, Chokio, MN**—The forecast for Day 9 of my Quad 30 called for temperatures near 90 here in Morris in the flatlands of western Minnesota. The route starts near town, so I was able to sleep in until 4:15 a.m.

The route apparently was changed a few years ago because of the preponderance of low maintenance roads of clay that are difficult to drive when wet. The route was last run in 1995 and appeared to have some nice wetlands along it, something I didn't see today. It was mostly corn/soybean habitat—mile after mile, stop after stop (Figure 2). I did manage to find 48 species, which is about par for when the route was last surveyed in 1993 and



Figure 2. Lots of flat agricultural fields in western Minnesota

1995. I did find a small flock of 7 Wild Turkeys, a Cooper's Hawk, a Willow Flycatcher, and a House Finch—all new for the route.

The only cat was at a farmstead where the owner stopped to chat. The stop was quite amazing as I tallied 24 species from in front of his house! He mentioned that I might be licked by his dog, and I noted the presence of a cat. The conversation went like this.

**He:** Yes, we have a whole herd of them, and the birds probably don't like it very much. **Me:** Yes, they are pretty efficient predators. **He:** Yes, that is why we have them, as he laughed and took off down the road.

Another vehicle pulling a trailer with two 4-wheelers with small trailers attached, stopped and the driver in-

quired what I was doing. I told him "doing a bird survey" and noted that it appeared he was going to pick up stones from fields. He said yes and suggested that we could exchange jobs. I said that I knew how to pick up stones, but I bet he couldn't identify birds; he laughed and agreed.

The wind was stronger than I would have liked, but in this mostly treeless country, it is less of a problem than in wooded habitat. At least I encountered no barking dogs. After redwings and grackles, the two most abundant species were Vesper Sparrow and Horned Lark. New for my journey was a Western Kingbird.

**Tuesday, 8 June, Chokio, MN—TEN surveys completed!**

I've been flirting with rain on sev-



eral counts, and I tried to will away this morning's. I did until stop 41 when a real gully-washer (except there are no gullies here in southwestern MN) struck, complete with all kinds of lightning and thunder. The survey had been going really well, so I waited out the storm in the parking lot of a waterfowl production area for about 40 min and was still able to complete the survey within the 5-hr window that is preferred.

Here in pothole and slough country, it is amazing how one can be going through mile after mile of corn and soybean fields only to come upon a small water-filled depression and see the bird life drastically change. The most productive pothole complex this morning yielded, in addition to the expected western Minnesota species, Redhead and Gadwall.

However, one sighting sent a shiver through me for the first time during the Quad 30 expedition. About 2 min into a stop, I maneuvered the car so I could use my window-mounted scope to gain an accurate count of geese. As I finished counting, a large bird called and flew past—a Marbled Godwit! I knew this species was possible but did not really expect to find one. As WDNR's Steve Miller and I have discussed, wouldn't it be great to re-introduce this wonderful shorebird species to Wisconsin, where it once bred.

This route was last run in 1989 and yielded 39 species; I tallied 56. Overall, the number of individuals for most species was par or above average. A noticeable exception was Western Meadowlark; the count for 1987, '88 and '89 was 33, 34, and 51 individuals. I tallied only 7 today. This species is in real trouble in the eastern part of its range.

**Wednesday, 9 June, Tenney, MN—I**

was awakened this morning by a bird song about 30 min before my alarm, which was set for 4 a.m. At first I thought it was a caged bird singing from the room next to mine. Now fully awake, I got up and poked my head outside. It turned out to be a Western Kingbird calling from a large cottonwood near a street light on the outskirts of Breckinridge, MN.

As I drove south to my starting point, I could see lightning, and 10 min later it was raining. As I turned off onto the gravel road that would be my companion for the next 4.5 hr, it was sprinkling lightly. I've never surveyed so many consecutive stops when it was raining. It never completely stopped until stop 22, but rain was never hard enough for me to sit it out in the car, and the birds didn't seem to mind. Winds were light, but with temperatures in the mid-50s, I did wear 3 layers of clothes for the first time during the Quad 30.

I ended up with 61 species, which is very close to the average for the last 3 yr the route was run, 1994–96. Sparrow counts were down considerably—Song, Savannah, and Vesper—but Bobolinks were up. I only found Black Tern at one wetland, and the count was 7, whereas the 3 previous counts had averaged 26. I couldn't find a Rock Pigeon, and crow numbers were lower than expected, which has generally been the case on the MN routes.

The small scattered woodlots were more productive than in the past, with higher numbers of Great Crested Flycatchers and Red-eyed Vireos; I also had a single Downy Woodpecker, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager, all three new for the route.

**Thursday, 10 June, Oklee, MN—I** knew I was still in western part of MN

when I was serenaded to sleep by a Western Meadowlark, but I knew I had moved north when I emerged from my motel room in Red Lake Falls and heard a Wilson's Snipe "winnowing" overhead.

For once I knew that I didn't have to worry about rain as I drove the 28 mi to the starting point, which I found with ease. Unlike on some routes, there were terrific descriptions for each stop, and I only had to add a couple of updates—no longer bee hives at one stop and the large cottonwood is gone from another. The Oklee route had last been surveyed in 1997.

I actually jumped at stop 2 when a couple of Black-billed Magpies awoke and started screeching. I had been hopeful that I could add this bird to my cumulative species list for the Quad 30. And although these birds flew out the back side of the aspen stand, I did see three others at other stops. I sure wish this species made excursions into Wisconsin more often.

For the 50 stops, I tallied 59 species, about par with past counts but did manage four new species for the route: Common Loon, Hooded Merganser, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Greater Prairie-Chicken. I tallied an amazing 383 Cliff Swallows, primarily from two nesting colonies in large concrete box culverts.

**Friday, 11 June, Nebish, MN**—I flirted with the rain gods again this morning, and the Quad 30 guy won again. Looking at the weather forecasts last night, I was more apprehensive than I've been to-date. However, after putting up with some heavy mist for a couple of stops and a light mist for another 10 or so stops, I managed to complete the route.

I'm in the North Woods of Min-

nesota today, north of Bemidji. Within the first 5 stops I had such species as Nashville Warbler, Common Loon, and Winter Wren. The day's tally was 71 species, compared with a 1993–95 average of 73, but the route's total has hit 80 species in 7 of the 14 yr it has been surveyed. I blame the miserable weather and more than hoped for wind. The only personal encounter of interest was at a road construction site where the Indian flagman wanted to know what I was doing and then asked if I had tribal permission. I told him I wasn't going off public roads to survey, so he let me pass.

**Saturday, 12 June, Erie, MN**—This is my last route in open country. This region was formerly termed "North Central Forested Plain" by the BBS program. I totaled 66 species, which is about par for when the route was done in the 1994–97 period. I did see 1 species (Wilson's Phalarope) that I wasn't expecting; it was present at the same stop as the day's only magpie and Blue-winged Teal. Le Conte's Sparrows were really going at the early stops—I tallied 9, and the route has had both Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Yellow Rail, but I wasn't lucky this year. I did see several pairs of Sandhill Crane and saw a wonderful squabble among 3 Marbled Godwits.

A route is always a good one when one has to work hard to add House Sparrows, starlings, and pigeons, and there are no barking dogs. The Erie route is therefore a good one, and I also encountered only 10 cars at the 50 stops.

Almost all of the remaining routes should be more forested than open, so I need to start thinking warbler!

**Sunday, 13 June, Cass Lake, MN**—I was looking forward to doing the Cass

Lake route because not only was it number 15 and thus halfway to 30, but the map indicated that the habitat would be primarily forested—no agricultural fields, no starlings, no House Sparrows, etc. My prediction was true, and the weather was the best I've had since I started the Campaign.

I also demonstrated that I didn't need Carl along to make a wrong turn, which cost me 3 stops before I realized that things weren't right. When this happens, there is nothing to do but to turn around and make the correction, erase data from the columns, and pick up from the last correct stop. This route did not have descriptions of the stop locations, which help immensely when one tries to follow a route for the first time. As I've been doing the routes, I'm filling out the stop description form provided by the BBS office and updating those that have stops described. Tomorrow, I'm really on my own since the Blackduck route has never been run before, so I don't know what to expect.

I predicted correctly that the most common species on the Cass Lake route would be Ovenbird and Red-eyed Vireo, 83 and 77 individuals, respectively. Warblers, my favorite group, accounted for 18 of the 67 species. Bird numbers present at the few wetlands I passed were disappointing.

In villages here, lilacs are at peak bloom, while wild geranium and wild columbine are blooming along the roadsides. Daisies are still in bud. I can't explain the dearth of butterflies I've been seeing all month. Today there were oodles of a brown dragonfly and a few Canadian tiger swallowtails. The "friendly" flies also made their first appearance and covered all

the dung piles along the gravel roads instead of having to compete with the butterflies.

I've now crossed the Mississippi River twice—once at La Crosse on the way to Minnesota and again today at stop 28 where it runs between 2 lakes. Many Cliff Swallows were nesting beneath the bridge.

Since more than 90% of bird encounters along a route, especially in forested habitats, typically are aural vs visual, it was especially neat to watch a singing Golden-winged Warbler foraging in a willow next to the road and later a second one that was silent but foraging in low shrubs next to the road. I did add Turkey Vulture and Brown Creeper to the cumulative list of 125 species for this route.

**Monday, 14 June, Blackduck, MN—** The Blackduck route is my kind of route: lots of forest, back roads, no barking dogs, 16 warbler species, and only 1 car, which I know will make some of you BBSers jealous because of the heavy traffic that must be endured on some BBS routes. This route started fairly close to where yesterday's Cass Lake route ended so I knew what to expect from a habitat perspective, but the route had never been surveyed before. This became evident when I drove it since the route shown had me following one private resort road for a short distance and also following an un-maintained sand road for some distance.

The highlight of the survey was not avian but mammalian. As I emerged from dense woods into a recent clear-cut, two wolves ran quite close in front of me before cutting into the brush on the far side of the clear-cut. They kicked up loose sand as they sprinted for cover. Goose bump city! I'm always



Figure 3. Boreal bogs were found on numerous stops in northern Minnesota and Michigan.

amazed when I see a wolf—they are tall and the tracks are huge!

It was nice to tally a few boreal bird species at a couple of black spruce bogs (Figure 3) and wetlands that weren't all that huge. The only field birds were at the last stop, adjacent to a cattle pasture. The temperature was 54 at the start and overcast; these conditions remained the same for the almost 5 hr it took to complete the survey. I enjoyed huge stands of blooming corn lily (*Clintonia*), Canada mayflower, starflower, dwarf cornel, and other northern wildflowers along the route.

**Tuesday, 15 June, Littlefork, MN—**When I stepped out of my Saturn Vue at the starting point, it was like hitting a wall of bird song. I think all the

species were singing with so much vigor just to stay warm. Typically, when I arrive at a route's starting point, I open the window as I prepare the map, forms, timer, and other gear. This gives me a chance to acclimate to the birds singing in the darkness. However, because it was 38 degrees, I hadn't done this, and the dawn chorus smacked me in the face. It took a couple of minutes to get going.

I thought the route would provide some nice bird diversity as I drove near it on my way to overnight in International Falls. And it was a good route with 73 species (15–20 species more than tallied from 1994 to 1999), including some bog birds: Lincoln's Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Connecticut Warbler.



New birds for the trip were a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and an immature Northern Goshawk that flushed from a roadside ditch and then allowed a scope view as it perched in a nearby paper birch. The 17 Veeries and 13 Sedge Wrens, along with the 3 most common warblers (Common Yellowthroat—40, Nashville—35, and Ovenbird—34) also give you an idea of the habitat diversity along the 50 stops.

**Wednesday, 16 June, Glendale, MN**—I was looking forward to this route when I first looked at its location in my Minnesota DeLorme. The starting point was a dead-end Superior National Forest Road on the doorstep of Voyageurs National Park. Looking at names of some of the lakes near the route made one think of animals (e.g., Pelican, Black Duck, Chub, Bug, Bluebird), but it was the 2 Moose Lakes that grabbed my attention most. I've dreamed for a long time of seeing a moose while doing a BBS.

The species list for the route was decent also, with 71 tallied in 1993, the only year the route had been run. I only came up with 61 under good weather conditions, although it rained much of the night. Thirteen of these species were not seen in '93, and the route has great potential. New species for the campaign included Ring-necked Duck, Common Merganser, and Gray Jay.

The '93 list showed 9 Tennessee Warblers. I know this song "cold," and I know that I didn't hear 9 in 2004. I heard 0, zero, none! Red-eyed Vireo (64) and White-throated Sparrow (55) were the most abundant species.

And, oh yes, I'm still dreaming.

**Thursday, 17 June, Bergland, MI**—My first BBS in Michigan's Upper

Peninsula traversed through long tunnels of continuous hardwoods. The morning started well: On a little-used but newly-graded road, I chased a Barred Owl down the road in front of me. Its third perch was at stop 1, and at the second stop I heard 2 of them "speaking" to each other. It was another species added to the cumulative list, along with a kingfisher later in the morning.

What do you do when you hear a bird during a 3-min stop that shouldn't be there? Ignore it? Forget about the clock and go track it down? Think about it for the rest of the day and then add it to the data sheet knowing that you'll be questioned about it by the BBS office?

A few years ago I heard a "Hooded Warbler" singing in an aspen stand along the Amberg route in Marinette Co., WI. Fortunately, this individual was close, and with one soft "pish," it appeared immediately—a beautiful male Hooded Warbler. This sighting turned out to be the most northern Hooded Warbler recorded during field work on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. Flash forward to today—stop 5—a singing "Hooded Warbler!" But was it, or was it an imposter? Could there really be one of these "southern" warblers this far north, only 11 mi from Lake Superior? Don't tell anyone, but I also thought I heard one at stop 1, but it only sang a few times while the stop 5 bird sang throughout the 3-min period. And the habitat certainly looked "better" for this species than the aspen stand in Marinette Co. I finally decided not to count it.

Most of the northern hardwoods habitat along the west side of Gogebic Lake wasn't terribly exciting unless



you love hearing 80 Red-eyed Vireos and 55 Ovenbirds.

**Friday, 18 June, Ontonagon, MI—** This morning was pay-back time. For some BBS routes, it took me an hour of driving time (or even more) to reach the starting point. Today, I could have walked to it from my motel in “downtown” Ontonagon. I knew that I would tally Common Nighthawk since I had listened to them the previous two evenings, but I figured it would be too early in the morning for Chimney Swifts. I was correct on both predictions.

The last time the route was surveyed was 20 yr ago, and there were some obvious changes. Some of the biggest changes in bird numbers were seen with the thrushes. Just compare these numbers from 1985 and 2004: Hermit Thrush from 17 to 7, Wood Thrush from 9 to 0, American Robin from 51 to 46, and Veery from 37 to only 6! And there were other interesting declines. Least Flycatcher went from 29 to 7, Rose-breasted Grosbeak from 16 to 3, and White-throated Sparrow from 41 to 20. However, not all species went “south”: Nashville Warbler went from 7 to 22, Indigo Bunting from 4 to 25, and Red-eyed Vireo from 39 to 63.

In addition to possible changes in habitat along the roadsides and the obvious changes that are occurring in bird populations, one of the “problems” with a technique involving volunteer observers like the BBS is the differences among participants in their bird identification and counting abilities. Over the long term and over a large geographical region, these issues tend to be taken care of, but care must be exercised when comparing one survey with another survey when just 2 observers are involved.

Stop 50 yielded one of the larger surprises. The last 7 stops were on a busy state highway. As I looked down the road toward a couple of lumps in the mowed swath of grass along the blacktop, even with my dirty binoculars, I immediately identified 2 Upland Sandpipers casually foraging in the thin grass area as traffic sped past only a few feet away. Two Turkey Vultures also made an appearance as they soared over me on stop 46. I’m sure that neither this species nor the House Finch heard in Ontonagon was a species to be expected in the region in 1985.

**Saturday, 19 June, Herman, MI—** The results of today’s survey are troubling. I don’t know if all the birds froze last night (37 degrees at the route’s starting point), I was asleep, I was on the wrong road, or my ears were plugged, but my total number of species—60—paled in comparison with the totals for the route when it was run 3 times during the 1990s—79, 95, and 90!

I can explain part of it: The bay between Baraga and L’Anse held only 2 species of waterfowl plus a single loon, compared with a variety of waterfowl during the ‘90s. The habitats along the route are succeeding from more open to more closed vegetative types. Whereas the 3 surveys during the ‘90s averaged 2 towhees, 2 clay-colored, 2 vespers, 2 Bobolinks, and 8 Brewer’s, I encountered none of these species. I heard 2 savannahs versus an average of 10 and tallied only 4 red-wings versus an average of 25 during the ‘90s.

I also did terribly with the swallows: I had only 1 tree whereas the 3 previous surveys averaged 21 trees, 1 rough-winged, 25 cliffs, and 5 barns. I have absolutely nothing to suggest as a rea-

son for the swallow misses. For some species, I saw the same reduction in numbers (from previous surveys) as I did on the previous day's Ontonagon route: Least Flycatcher, 2 vs an average of 14, and Veery, 4 vs 12.

However, what is most troubling is that I saw some beautiful woodland habitat of several different kinds, and the silence was deafening. The weather was great—mostly sunny and little wind for most of the route. There just wasn't anything singing. Sure, there were a Red-eyed Vireo and an Ovenbird at most stops, but . . .

We hear so much about the causes for bird population declines and most of them rightfully center on habitat: habitat degradation, habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, habitat isolation, etc. But here I was in beautiful habitat with no birds to occupy it. Are we reaching the point where all of the other factors responsible for bird mortality are kicking in in a significant way? We are taught that most bird mortality is compensatory—if they don't die from one cause, they will from another, and populations can compensate for them. But are we reaching the point where cats, tall towers, windows, vehicles, pesticides, and a multitude of other factors are having a cumulative impact and becoming true factors that explain bird absence from "good" habitat?

I don't know, but I hit the sack still thinking and being very bothered about this.

**Sunday, 20 June, Ishpeming, MI**—I had run the Ishpeming route once about 10 yr ago and still remembered the singing Lincoln's Sparrows from young jack pine stands and clear-cuts with brush piles, certainly different habitat from the black spruce bogs

that one usually associates them with. They were still there singing their beautiful songs. They don't often sing during migration in southern Wisconsin, so it is a real treat to hear them on their breeding grounds.

I also remembered that when I did this route previously, that as it became lighter, some of those many Chipping Sparrow and few Pine Warbler songs were, to my horrors, juncos. I had never considered them a possibility. This time I was ready for them, and they were present to try and trick me once again.

The species total was 64, down about 10 from totals obtained during the 3 times the route was surveyed during the 1990s. I added Wild Turkey and Hooded Merganser to the route's cumulative list. Somehow I missed Red-winged Blackbird, its first absence on a Quad 30 route. Hearing an Olive-sided Flycatcher give its characteristic song ("3-beers"), while listening to a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher give its "chebunk" song, were wonderful highlights of the morning.

**Monday, 21 June, Brocky Lake, MI**—At I opened the door at stop 25, the very first bird song I heard was a Boreal Chickadee! It called 3 more times quite close to the car during the 3-min survey period—my first for the Campaign. I also had a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Gray Jay at 2 different stops. The weather was great, although the mosquitoes were competing with the blackflies to see who would win the contest for "most annoying." The mosquitoes haven't been as bad as they were farther south, and I still haven't taken any special insect precautions in the morning.

Final count is 68 species, and it was a treat to hear 4 Black-throated Blue

Warblers on the first 6 stops. The route has been surveyed only 3 times over the last 2 decades, and today's total was comparable to totals attained on those surveys. Reduced numbers of Wood Thrushes and Veeries were again noticeable. It was nice to tally both kinglets, and I actually saw 2 hummingbirds chasing each other.

I saw the second fawn of the spring after seeing the first on Saturday. And I saw 3 road-killed porcupines between the end of my route and Iron Mountain, my home for the next 5 days. Three of the next 5 routes are ones I've been running for more than 20 yr so they are pretty familiar, and I'm looking forward to knowing the stops after trying to find ones described by others or taking the time to write stop descriptions for an entire route.

**Tuesday, 22 June, Amberg, WI**—It is nice to be back in Wisconsin for a couple of surveys and to do the Amberg route with a couple of good friends from Portage—Ron and Elaine Hull. Although we messed up the 4:15 a.m. rendezvous, they caught up with me at stop 11, and then, what a coincidence. Ron has been surveying Golden-winged Warblers for 4 years, and during the first part of the 3-min observation period at this stop, I could hear the typical song of a golden-winged. Then, from the other side of the road came a typical Blue-winged Warbler “bee-buzz” song. Ron and I looked at each other in amazement. A blue-winged shouldn't be this far north in the state. Ron had all of his “sound” gear with him, so while I drove on to continue the survey, Ron stayed behind and was able to bring in and obtain good looks at a golden-winged and a blue-winged! Isn't it wonderful

that birds don't always read field guide range maps?

The survey turned out well, with 70 species. I usually reach the 60 to 65 mark on this route. Ring-necked Duck (a pair) was added to the route's cumulative species list (along with the Blue-winged Warbler). A list of 17 warblers was an excellent total and may be the highest total I've ever had on a BBS. Watching a soaring Osprey carrying prey along the Pestigo River was a special treat.

At stop 37, we watched a hummingbird searching for blooming flowers in the roadside ditch for almost the entire 3-min period, and a yearling black bear standing in the middle of the gravel road just ahead gave us cause to pause.

**Wednesday, 23 June, Wausaukee, WI**—The windshield wipers were on as I left Iron Mountain at 3:45 a.m., and I could see lightning to the south, but as I hoped, that thundershower slid east by the time I arrived at the starting point at a bridge over the Pike River. I like this route. It's less wild than Amberg but more diverse. The day's species count ended at 76, with 2 new species for the day at stop 50: Baltimore Oriole and Field Sparrow. A full third of the species tallied were represented by only a single individual, with 5 being sparrows: Clay-colored, Field, Vesper, Grasshopper, and Swamp.

A hummingbird feeder at a stop hosted a swarm of 4 hummers vying for a feeding port. As is usual for this route, the Red-eyed Vireo ruled supreme with 64 individuals. I was unable to pick out a yellow-throated among these vireo songs, but 3 blue-headed were distinguished. A Wood Duck and a Golden-crowned Kinglet

were added to the cumulative list for the route.

With 4 of the Campaign's 5 Wisconsin routes completed, I need 3 "new" species on my last count (Saxeville) to hit my targeted number of 115 for the state.

**Thursday, 24 June, Crystal Falls, MI**—I don't think I've ever done a BBS where I was so consistently cold. The temperature in the pre-dawn darkness was 43 degrees, then proceeded to drop to 40, and at the completion of the route—50 stops and 4.5 hr later—my car's digital readout glowed a cool 45 degrees. The heater and fan were on for the entire route, and the sun didn't do much warming until about stop 38. There was just enough wind to make the temperature feel even more chilling.

The final count was 65 species. An active Osprey nest was midway between 2 stops and therefore uncountable. The only "boreal wetland" stop was along a busily traveled state highway, but I did manage to hear a singing Lincoln's Sparrow and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and loved a sun-lit Palm Warbler singing from a dead spruce spire.

The Crystal Falls route comes close to a couple of We Energies' hydroelectric facilities where I've been conducting ecological studies for more than 15 years. Much of the landscape along the latter half of the route is northern hardwoods—mostly sugar maple with some basswood, paper birch, and oak. This is "hot" habitat for Red-eyed Vireos and Ovenbirds but not terrific for a diversity of species. I did have a cardinal living up to its name as it sang in the village of Crystal Falls—it truly was "northern." An enjoyable sight in one of the few fields along the route

was seeing 8, closely spaced, red turkey heads stretched above the blowing grasses.

**Friday, 25 June, Cunard, MI**—I've about had enough of this 30+ degrees stuff! At least it helps with mosquitoes, and the sun rose and warmed the air some after about stop 15. Stops 1 and 3 were special this morning. After worrying that singing Whip-poor-wills would escape me on this expedition, 3 were calling at stop 1. If one hopes to tally this species on a BBS, one must begin the survey promptly at the official "30 min before sunrise" starting time. I've never heard one further along a survey route than at stop 2.

The landscape at stop 3 could have been taken from one of Wisconsin naturalist Tom Uttech's paintings. It had the darkness, the bare coniferous trees, the water, a red sky from the sunrise, and some strategically placed clouds. It was all there—minus the bear, though.

Today's route produced a nice total—79 species, and the warbler list wasn't overly large at 11 species. The 3 species added to the route's cumulative list were Herring Gull, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Northern Cardinal. The route was last surveyed in 1997 (78 species) and 1998 (72 species). A singing Henslow's Sparrow heard during one of last stops was a nice addition to the Quad 30 checklist. This species is quite uncommon in the UP.

**Saturday, 26 June, Wilson, MI**—I had a little trouble getting into this morning's survey. I'm not sure of the reason; maybe it was my familiarity with the route. I first volunteered for the Wilson route when I was conducting biological studies on a proposed power plant site during the late 1970s





Figure 4. Concentrating so hard on 1,648 stops causes one to lose weight (check my shadow!).

for WEPCo, as We Energies was known then. This site, southwest of Escanaba, never went anywhere, but I'm still doing the Wilson BBS each June.

A friend who conducted 2 BBS routes for a number of years recently told me that he found the 4–5 hr spent on a BBS to be the most mentally grueling exercise he'd ever done. Concentration is definitely important (Figure 4), and it is easy for your mind to start wandering. We hear performers talk about needing to be "up" for a good show. Those conducting a BBS need to be "up" for 50, 3-min performances!

The day's tally was 72 species, which is within my normal range for this route. I did add a new species for the route—an adult Bald Eagle that called

to me from its perch in a tree at the edge of an open field. Another field where I often find Upland Sandpipers had been cultivated this spring—darn. Other species that I usually find but that escaped notice this year included Killdeer, Barn Swallow, Veery, and Whip-poor-will (at stop 1).

**Sunday, 27 June, Maple Grove, MI**—The species count this morning was 71, with 16 warblers, which is good, but overall the survey was more or less routine. A Connecticut Warbler was new for the route list. I guess the most unusual sight was a flock of 12 Mourning Doves in a sunny patch on the gravel road; the total count for the route was 29 doves, so I had about 40% of the total in one flock.

Sapsucker numbers were outstand-



ing—25, but numbers of waxwings, Veeries, white-throats, and red-wings were down from the totals observed on the most recent surveys in 1994, '96, and '97. A single kestrel mobbing a Red-tailed Hawk along with a soaring harrier were nice additions to the day's list.

A woman stopped and insisted on telling me about every bird that comes to her feeders—spring, summer, fall, and winter—day and night! I wanted to move on but I also didn't want to be rude to her. It was nice to see the joy in someone who is certainly into bird-feeding.

Ravens were feasting on 3 road-killed porcupines along the route and on the road back to Rapid River. And speaking of the drive back, as I drove through the village of Perkins, I saw a sign advertising an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the American Legion Hall. After paying my \$5, I feasted on pancakes (including some with blueberries), two kinds of eggs, sausage and bacon, and very good coffee, along with OJ and milk. I may not need to eat any more pancakes on the trip!

**Monday, 28 June, Isabella, MI—  
30 QUAD 30 CAMPAIGN BBS  
HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY  
COMPLETED!**

Yes, it is official. Thirty BBS routes have been completed, and they were done consecutively. So, what am I still doing out on the road? In planning the Campaign, I wanted to have a couple of "extra" routes in case of weather or other problems, so I lined up 33. Therefore, I started "early" in Ohio with surveys on May 30 and 31 and scheduled the 33rd one for July 1 in Wisconsin.

About half of today's route was

within the western part of the Hiawatha National Forest. I'm familiar with most of the area since We Energies constructed a major electrical transmission line in this area a few years ago. For many years this BBS route was surveyed by good friend Char Taylor of Escanaba.

The weather was absolutely gorgeous with a significant amount of ground fog that provided some unbelievably surreal scenes as the sunlight penetrated and burned off the fog. It was like someone knew that this was my 30th BBS! Blue skies, no wind, and cool temperatures were the order of the day. With last night's rain showers, everything was quite wet, and even as late as stop 25, the woods were dripping so much that it sounded like rain was falling.

The portion of the route that traversed the National Forest belonged to the world of Red-eyed Vireos (61), Ovenbirds (53), and Hermit Thrushes (30). At one stop as I was being serenaded by 4 hermits, I thought they had converted me to their side, but later, a lone Wood Thrush quickly pulled me back to its side of the ledger as to which thrush is my favorite songster. I added Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Canada Warbler to the route's cumulative list.

The only red-wing was a male that was mobbing a male harrier. I don't know when or where the chase began, but about 2 min later, here came the red-wing flying back toward where he first encountered the raptor. When I first was alerted to the red-wing, I was watching a Black-and-white Warbler that was perched like a statute. As soon as the raptor and red-wing flew past, it resumed foraging in the characteristic fashion favored by this warbler. As I

broke into the "developed" world, I began to encounter edge and open habitat species. Stop 50 in Manistique yielded four "firsts" for the morning—2 gull species, swift, and grackle.

So, on to the "bonus" routes! Tuesday's and Wednesday's routes are in the eastern portion of the Hiawatha National Forest near the Soo. I'll be traveling primarily forest roads where I expect the species diversity will be rather small.

**Tuesday, 29 June, Hiawatha National Forest, MI**—Twice when I awoke during the night and heard it raining, I thought how ironic it would be if all 3 "buffer" routes were rained out after doing 30 straight. Never fear, although the day was cloudy and wet, the survey was completed. It was a 40-mi drive from the motel to the starting point, a forest road in the Hiawatha. I didn't know whether to be excited over the 2 singing Swainson's Thrushes outside my window or stressed by the huge mud hole staring me in the face just past stop 1. But I made it through okay and also through another mud-filled stretch where some road repairs had been done.

The route passed through two worlds. The first 31 stops traversed mostly closed northern hardwoods with few openings or wetlands. Stops 32 through 50 were in the world of pines, mostly jack and red. Habitats varied from newly planted pine plantations to beautiful, very open, barrens-like stands of red pine to young and old jack pine stands—again no wetlands and little habitat diversity within these varied pine stands. In the more open areas, all of the bracken fern was brown, having been recently frosted. The ground was covered mostly with

blueberries and reindeer lichen with pockets of Canada mayflower and starflower in full bloom.

After the first couple of miles, the road improved significantly until it started through the pine; here the road wasn't much more than a 2-track in places, and the very wet vegetation along the sides was so close that I needed to turn on the wipers. It was cloudy, with a gusty but light wind, damp, and very quiet. At some stops I only was able to detect 1 to 4 birds. The ONLY human I encountered along the entire route was a young, lost, jeep-driving damsel who passed me at stop 15 but then returned 3 stops later from the other direction. She stopped and admitted she was lost. Again, the DeLorme map proved its great worth. She was leaving a friend's cabin and had gotten lost in the maze of forest roads.

Looking at the results from the only 3 times (1992–94) the route was run, I expected about 50 species. I ended up with 47. The species I expected to find generally were found, but numbers of the more common species were down, and in some cases, way down. To illustrate, warbler counts for the other three counts were 182, 233, and 176 individuals; I found only 102 warblers. Numbers of Red-eyed Vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers also were down.

After completing stop 38, the "road" became even smaller, and after stop 39, I was faced with a batch of "stop," "do not enter," and "trespassers will be prosecuted signs," as well as gates and fences across the road that I was supposed to travel to stop 40. After driving a logging trail and down a power line right-of-way, I was able to pick up the route from the other end and com-

plete it. The BBS office will hear about this one! Toward the route's end, I was on 4.5 mi of the straightest road I've ever seen. Near its end, I could look through the vegetation "tunnel" and see the haze blowing in from Lake Superior, roughly 2 mi away.

**Wednesday, 30 June, Bechler Lakes, MI**—As I drove to the starting point from my motel south of Sault Ste. Marie and as I have done most mornings, I listened to WLW from Cincinnati, home of "my" baseball team—the Reds. The station was forecasting temperatures in the mid-to-high 80s in much of the Midwest, but my car's thermometer read 40 degrees (actually 39 at 4:14 a.m. when I started at stop 1). I couldn't believe that I was going to experience an almost 50 degree swing for the day, but I did exactly that. When I passed through Marinette in the early afternoon, the temperature had hit 89. By the time I arrived in Waupaca for the night, it was still 82.

Today's route was almost entirely within the Hiawatha National Forest and was almost entirely within pine habitat, most of it jack. The route passed near more wetland habitat than the previous day's. I dreamed of hearing a Kirtland's Warbler in the young jack pine stands, since a few pair have been breeding in the UP for the last several years, but none materialized. The species total hit 55, similar to that attained the only two times (1992–93) the route was run. I did manage to hear both crossbill species as they flew overhead and tallied 22 Evening Grosbeaks and 7 Lincoln's Sparrows. The 5 Whip-poor-wills and 3 Common Nighthawks also were nice additions to the route's list for the day. The most abundant species was Hermit Thrush

(67 individuals); I heard at least one hermit at each of the first 28 stops. The hermit was followed by Ovenbird (50), Nashville Warbler (47), and White-throated Sparrow (33).

I've been thinking about why I so much enjoy conducting BBSs. One of the reasons is that I have a biologist's perspective. Since I work with a lot of engineers at We Energies, I've often teased them about wanting everything to be black-and-white, straight and level, as expected, and with no surprises. Biologists relish the thought of the unusual, the unexpected, the rarity, the surprise, the gray, etc. I believe that most birders (and bird watchers) hold similar viewpoints. No matter how many times you look at your feeder or drive that same road to work, there is always a chance to spy a new species or to observe some bird behavior or interaction that is new and therefore neat.

Another reason for my loving BBSs comes from childhood experiences. Everyone loves Christmas and opening presents, and my family enjoyed giving each other lots of presents but small ones. Most of our presents cost less than \$10 and certainly under \$20. But, oh, the thrill of the anticipation and the looking and wondering about all of those wrapped presents under the Christmas tree in the days, which seemed very long when you were young, leading up to Christmas morning. A BBS is similar: Each stop is a present and there are 50 of them! And the anticipation of what species each stop will present is exciting, and I can now say, yes, exciting even after 1,648 stops over a 33-day period.

As on the previous day, I had another route problem. The hand-written descriptions for the stops included



Figure 5. Mission accomplished!

this warning: "Watch for bad spot on road between 28–29!!" Well, I guess that spot became bad enough for the Forest Service to abandon that section of road, which now was blocked with a ditch at one end and a gate at the other. So I had to detour on another barely 2-track road and pick up the route from the other direction. Fortunately, this affected only a short section of the route and caused me to miss only stop 29. So for the entire Quad 30 Campaign, I "missed" this stop and one other on the western Minnesota route.

And now, for the long drive from the "Soo" to Waupaca, WI to run my last Quad 30 route in northern Waushara Co.

**Thursday, 1 July, Saxeville, WI—33 DAYS—33 BBS ROUTES** successfully completed! The field portion of the Quad 30 Campaign is officially over! I'm a little tired but elated. Over the last few days, I could tell the end was at hand as my M&M supply was nearing exhaustion, and I clearly could see the bottom of my pill and vitamin bottles (Figure 5).

Today's route through northern Waushara Co. ended in downtown Plainfield, where I spotted my only swifts and House Finches for the route. The eastern half of the route passed through a variety of habitats, whereas the western half traversed mostly agricultural habitat, including several, sizable, irrigated potato fields.



The 14 pewees were nice to hear, as was the sighting of 2 ravens. The Common Raven seems, according to the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas and seasonal field reports that are published in *The Passenger Pigeon*, the quarterly journal of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, to be extending its range southward in Wisconsin. We are seeing several bird species extending their ranges north in the state, but a few also are extending theirs south. The most abundant species tallied on the route were Mourning Dove and Chipping Sparrow with 51 individuals. Sparrow species totaled 8 along with Eastern Towhee (11 individuals), which I believe is decreasing in abundance. BBS data agree with my impression—an annual decline of 1.7% in Wisconsin and 1.8% survey-wide since 1966.

It's hard not to dwell on some numbers with the Quad 30 field work now completed: 1,648 stops (2 stops "missed"); 808.5 miles of BBS routes and approximately 5,525 total miles; 4,944 min (82.4 hr) of listening and watching; 1,716 M&Ms eaten, based on consuming 2 same-colored candies starting after stop 25 and continuing through stop 50 for 33 routes.

And 179 bird species tallied for the Campaign—the EXACT number that I forecast!

#### BIRD OF THE DAY

Almost every birding day has a highlight, or two, or six. Sometimes it's the scenery; other days the weather is memorable—for good or ill; often it's the companionship of those we bird with. And on many days, it's an encounter with a "special" bird. Here are

some of my daily favorites from along the 33 Breeding Bird Survey routes that were written and posted to the Quad 30 website as I traveled in Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan from 30 May to 1 July, 2004. Each offers a lesson or poses a question on the bird conservation issues that underpinned the Quad 30 Campaign.

#### Sunday, 30 May, West Carrollton, OH—Dickcissel

It's neat when one observes a year-bird while doing a BBS route. Since the Dickcissel is among the very latest of our spring migrants, I sometimes see my first one of the year in Wisconsin while doing one of the BBS routes in Kenosha and Racine Counties. This morning at stop 8 on the West Carrollton route, with one side of the road being a large, weedy fallow field, it was neat to hear the song of this Neotropical migrant.

Two birds were present, along with 2 Grasshopper Sparrows; this location was the only spot on the route where I observed these 2 species. Ohio is at the fringe of the eastern range of the Dickcissel. BBS data for Wisconsin show a significant 10.6% annual decline since 1966. The BBS data have been critical in clearly demonstrating the dramatic decline of the Dickcissel and some of its grassland brethren in the Upper Midwest.

#### Monday, 31 May, Lockport, OH—Horned Lark

Whenever I see extensive agricultural fields that are dominated by row crops, I think of the Horned Lark. This species nests very early in the Upper Midwest and is quite at home in these seemingly barren agricultural



habitats. I tallied 57 larks on the Lockport route, which was dominated by thousands of acres of young corn and soybeans struggling to grow in very wet soils. Larks were twittering away and some were doing their courtship flight song at 32 of the 50 stops along the route.

The average number of larks seen on Ohio BBS routes is 13.3, and the population is stable, according to BBS data. As you might expect, because of the extensive amount of woodlands in Wisconsin, the average is only 5 birds on WI routes, where BBS data indicate a small, non-significant decline of 0.6% per year since 1980. Survey-wide, the annual decline is 2.1%, with Canada showing a greater decline than the U.S. As our agricultural landscape continues to change, this species needs watching, and the BBS program is a wonderful way to survey this open field bird found along our roadsides.

**Tuesday, 1 June, Raymond, WI—  
Green Heron**

Have you ever looked closely at a Green Heron in perfect lighting? After flushing from a wet ditch along a railroad line at stop 20 on the Raymond route, a Green Heron landed in some dense tree foliage. After a few moments, it flew out and perched in full sun on one of the rails. Although it could have been closer (I guess this is almost a universal hope), its bright yellow legs certainly grabbed my attention. Looking at it as it stood there on an undulating old rail track was the neatest sight of today's route. Later, my passengers (Karen Johnson and Kris Klewin) and I watched a group of 3 Green Herons fly past us at stop 42. I "miss" them more often than not on

BBS surveys, and I generally consider them to be uncommon in the areas where I bird most often.

As wetland inhabitants, they are not surveyed adequately by the BBS, and the species is one of a number that the Monitoring Committee for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) will wrestle with on how best to track populations. BBS data for Wisconsin generally show it to be increasing in the eastern half of the state as well as in the Crex Meadows area in northwestern Wisconsin, as well as in the extreme southwestern third of the state, while declining in the rest of western Wisconsin. Data from the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA) show some evidence of breeding in almost half of the state's quads.

**Wednesday, 2 June, Paris, WI—Veery**

I'm quite sad to see this species disappear from some of the locations where I could routinely find them during the late 1970s and 80s. Back then, I could always hear them singing their downward spiraling song from the small wetland just down the road from where I live in Ozaukee County. I can still hear them in the Cedarburg Bog, just around the corner from my place, but I liked it when they were closer.

I also could always count on hearing them during the Honey Creek Birdathon in the wetland along the entrance into the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology's (WSO) Cox Nature Center in the Baraboo Hills in Sauk County. They are now absent from this wetland.

For the last couple of surveys of the Paris BBS route, I've been able to hear one singing from the Karcher Wildlife Area near the Racine-Kenosha County

line. For some reason, I always think of the Veery as being a bird of the North Woods, and they are, but their summer range extends throughout Wisconsin and into northern Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, and south through the Appalachians.

WI BBS data from 1966 to 2002 show a long-term decline of 2.3% per year. The annual decline for the U.S. is 1.3%. This is a species we **must** pay attention to from a conservation perspective and better understand its habitat needs here and in the Tropics, and the many threats to its well-being. I want my grandchildren to be able to hear one in the Cedarburg Bog when it is their time to enjoy this beautiful song.

**Thursday, 3 June, Chandler, MN—  
Ring-necked Pheasant**

138 pheasants on one BBS route!!!  
UNBELIEVABLE!

When I stepped out of the car to start stop 1 on the Chandler route, I was hit in the face with the sound of pheasant cocks crowing all around me—and this continued throughout the route. I've always heard about how pheasant hunting is terrific in places like Nebraska and South Dakota, but the density can't be any greater there than what I experienced today.

BBS data for Minnesota show a long-term decline of 1.7% annually, whereas in Wisconsin, the trend is also negative but not as severe (1.1%). I'm sure pheasant management is as complex and worked on as hard here as it is in Wisconsin. I wish our wildlife managers, including those with public agencies, private conservation organizations like Pheasants Forever, and private landowners, all the best as they at-

tempt to maintain high pheasant numbers. I just wish everyone could hear the crowing of this terrific bird as I did before dawn in the flatlands of southwestern Minnesota.

**Friday, 4 June, Tracy, MN—  
Mourning Dove**

I guess I don't think of this beautiful bird as being so abundant in open agricultural lands, but it certainly is common here in southwestern Minnesota in this habitat. If the wind isn't too strong, you can either hear their cooing, see them perched on some sort of wire, walking along the gravel roads, or flying swiftly by at just about every stop on BBS routes in this region.

Data from MN BBS routes are interesting in that from 1966 to 1980, the dove population was increasing annually at a rate of 4.8%. However, the trend for the years since shows a 1.6% annual decline, with a long-range trend of -1.1% per year. For Wisconsin the annual long-term trend is +1.1%. On those BBS routes where they have been tallied, the average number of individuals counted per route in Minnesota is about 30, while in Wisconsin it is only 20.

With the dove hunting season controversy having shifted from Wisconsin to Michigan, it will be interesting to see when, or if, this issue surfaces in Minnesota.

**Saturday, 5 June, Franklin, MN—  
Vesper Sparrow**

Before we started today's route near Franklin, I mentioned to fellow-traveler Carl Schwartz that he would have a terrific chance to really learn the song of the Vesper Sparrow. When the

route was completed, he agreed that this survey had provided a great opportunity to hear their sweet song, which reminds one of a Song Sparrow enough that many birders have much difficulty distinguishing between them.

The route's 50 stops yielded 52 individuals, and for those few stops where none were tallied, another stop would have 2 or 3 singing vespers. The species has shown an alarming decline since 1966 when the BBS started in both Minnesota (-3.1%) and Wisconsin (-4.4%). Let's hope that this can be reversed over the next three decades

#### **Sunday, 6 June, Knapp, MN— Virginia Rail**

When conducting a BBS, the observer is instructed to count all birds that are identified by sight and sound within a quarter mile of a stop. Birds can't be enticed to respond to a tape or by "pishing." On Sunday's Knapp route, which traversed some prime wetland habitat, Carl and I had already heard a couple of Soras. For some unknown reason, I had the urge to clap while standing near one particular wetland. I'm not sure why this particular one, as I had not had the urge before while listening to the sounds emanating from other wetlands along the route.

I gave about 4 loud claps, and immediately a Virginia Rail responded with its *kidick, kidick* call. Carl and I exchanged grins. That species made it onto the Knapp checklist, (but please don't tell the BBS folks). The BBS is not the method of choice to track populations of certain species, rails being among them, so adding 1 Virginia Rail won't skew any interpretation of popu-

lation trends for this species. But it may mean a few extra dollars for the Quad 30 Campaign as this species is seldom "gotten" on BBS routes.

#### **Monday, 7 June, Chokio, MN— Western Kingbird**

I knew from looking at past results that I might have a chance for a Western Kingbird in Minnesota, and I was wishing for one as I wrote up the account for Sunday's survey. I didn't have to wait long today. At stop 7, a Western Kingbird flew past me toward a row of large cottonwoods and then circled around. It caught a dragonfly and perched on a nearby sign where it began to whack the dragonfly, apparently in an attempt to remove its wings. After about 30 sec, it succeeded and then swallowed the body of the dragonfly.

My son Seth and I saw a couple of them in west-central Minnesota last August after we dropped off daughter Laurel at college in Morris. I've only seen one Western Kingbird in Wisconsin, but that one was noteworthy: it was on my property in Ozaukee County! It appeared on the same day that Wisconsin's first Eurasian Collared-Dove was present on the property along with a Northern Mockingbird. Whenever I see a Western Kingbird in the future, I'll always think back to that day in May of 1998.

#### **Tuesday, 8 June, Chokio, MN— Marbled Godwit**

How often do you get "goosebumps" when you see or hear a bird?

Today, I had them for the first time during the Quad 30 operation. Near the end of one of my 3-min stops near a wonderfully productive wetland

complex, I watched a Marbled Godwit sail in to land in a wet meadow bordering a cat-tail marsh harboring a nice colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Oh, how I wish that Marbled Godwits still bred in Wisconsin.

Steve Miller, one of the chiefs with the WDNR, and I have discussed what it would take to get this species back as a breeder in the state. At this point, we just wonder and speculate. Is it possible? At least, it is possible to dream about it and think about how many "goosebumps" would be created on Wisconsin's birders when they watched this large shorebird go through its courtship or spied one of its downy young.

### **Wednesday, 9 June, Tenney, MN— Orchard Oriole**

When I moved to Wisconsin in 1977, birders searched out any report of Orchard Oriole in southeastern Wisconsin because they were most definitely uncommon. I remember veteran birder Mary Donald telling me all the good spots to look for them in Ozaukee County. They are now much more common, with some feeders (e.g., Dan Panetti's and Tom Uttech's) often harboring more Orchard Orioles than Baltimore Orioles.

Since the BBS was launched in 1966, the rate of increase of this species in Wisconsin is 7.9% annually, although this number is not significant for those into statistics, and in Minnesota, the trend is also positive at 2.2% per year. During the WBBA, Orchard Orioles were found with some behavior indicating they were breeding in 12% of the state's quads; they were confirmed in 6%. Records were more or less uniformly distributed across the southern

third of the state, extending farther north in the two tiers of counties along both Lake Michigan in the east and the Mississippi River in the west.

Here in southwestern Minnesota, it has been most pleasant to hear an orchard's song here and there at the rural homesteads where some of the BBS stops have been located. It will be intriguing to see how the BBS tracks the population growth of this oriole in the future.

### **Thursday, 10 June, Oklee, MN— Greater Prairie-Chicken**

I wasn't really thinking of this species when I started the route as it was not on the cumulative species list for the Oklee route. But I thought I heard one booming quite far off at one early stop, and then at the next stop, I could hear them more clearly. I quickly drove back a nearby dead-end road but could get no closer and couldn't see them. I also heard booming at another stop a few miles down the road. It is such a terrific sound, and it carries for amazingly long distances in the open landscape. I urge everyone to sit in a blind some time in their lives and experience "chickens" booming.

For the last couple of years, the WDNR has been working on revising its management plan for the species. It has been a long and difficult path that I've participated in, along with Wisconsin's chicken expert, John Toepfer, and others from the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus, the WDNR, and other organizations. The chicken is at a real crossroads in Wisconsin, and some drastic action must occur if we are to maintain this magnificent bird as part of our avifauna.



### Friday, 11 June, Nebish, MN— Chimney Swift

I think many birders take this species for granted. I know that I do. Unless a BBS route goes through a city or village, swifts are usually seen at only a stop or two, and then it often is just a pair. Once you've done a route a couple of times, you begin to expect them at certain stops and hope you don't miss them. Today, I had them at only one stop, with 5 individuals tallied.

BBS routes in Wisconsin average about 4 birds, and the population is stable—a non-significant 0.3% annual decline. In Minnesota, the decline is 1.2%, and in both states the decline is more pronounced over the last two decades. The decline in the U.S. is 1.5% annually since 1966; in Canada, the annual decline is a scary 5.3%.

Should something be done now to better understand this interesting species from a conservation perspective? The Driftwood Wildlife Association in Texas is the only organization I know of that is focusing on swifts. Maybe we should do a more thorough survey of chimneys used for roosting and try to save the more important ones from destruction. This is just one thought and maybe the WBCI Monitoring Committee will take up this species.

The WBBA found swifts in 58% of the state's quads, being less common in the northern third of the state. Breeding was not easily confirmed, as about an equal number of quads had them as rated as Possible, Probable, or Confirmed.

### Saturday, 12 June, Erie, MN— Wilson's Phalarope

What is happening to this species' breeding population in Wisconsin?

When reviewing all of the WBBA data for the state, this species surfaces quickly as one in decline. It was confirmed as breeding in only seven quads during the Atlas. When Sam Robbins' analysis from *Wisconsin Birdlife: Population and Distribution, Past and Present* (1991) is compared with WBBA data, it is quite evident that if something doesn't change quickly, we may lose it as a breeding species for Wisconsin.

The BBS doesn't do a good job of tracking populations of a rare species like the Wilson's Phalarope. It shows up in the MN BBS data as being seen on only 3 routes, and the decline here has been more than 15% per year since 1966. I guess I'm quite lucky to see one fly into a sedge meadow this morning on the Erie route.

I suggest that some concerted monitoring work be undertaken **now** for this species in both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

### Sunday, 13 June, Cass Lake, MN— Golden-winged Warbler

The first golden-winged I saw today was foraging actively in a blooming small willow in the roadside ditch. Several times it hung upside-down to pick off an insect, all the while singing frequently its *bee-buzz-buzz-buzz* song. There is considerable concern for the population of this Neotropical migrant.

Cornell's Lab of Ornithology has a significant study underway to better determine its population status, and its habitat and area requirements. This



atlas project is being coordinated in Wisconsin by Amber Roth with terrific help from the likes of Ron Hull. It is hoped that areas will be identified that are particularly important for golden-winged conservation. As Amber described at the 2004 WSO convention, it favors early succession aspen habitats and also wetland shrub cover types.

The BBS data show a declining population in both Minnesota and Wisconsin; the annual decline in the U.S. is a statistically significant 3.6%. The WBBA showed that the species exhibited some breeding behavior in 38% of the state's quads, with a definite northern affinity, especially in the northwestern third of this northern range. The farthest south they were confirmed breeding was in the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County. This is a species that will receive considerable attention from the WBCI, so stay tuned for developments.

### **Monday, 14 June, Blackduck, MN— Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

At times, one just needs a little distraction while concentrating mightily for the nearly 5 hr that is required to run a BBS route. So I enjoy routes that go through sapsucker country. It gives me a chance to play with their minds on occasion. I've used an old, legal-size, wooden clipboard since I started doing BBS routes more than 30 yr ago. I like the extra length, and it makes a loud sound when I whack it with my pencil.

Sapsuckers have a unique drumming pattern that is fun to imitate. When they hear it, some seem to try and outdo it, while others will fly in closer to see what sapsucker has in-

truded on their territory. Today, I had a couple of sapsuckers that had wonderful drumming sites—very loud and distinctive. One could be heard over a half mile away. On one of my Marinette County routes in Wisconsin, one often perches on the wooden post of a metal road sign and really raps the sign. One individual today called close to my stop, and when I “drummed” on the clipboard, it immediately flew in quite close—agitated, with its head feathers raised.

Here in Minnesota, BBS data indicate the sapsucker population to be stable, while in Wisconsin it is increasing at a 1.7% rate annually since 1966. Across the U.S., it is increasing at an even greater annual rate of 3.1%.

### **Tuesday, 15 June, Littlefork, MN— American Bittern**

EIGHT American Bitterns singing at the first 3 stops! What a way to start a BBS. Most wouldn't consider bitterns capable of a serenade, but they are always music to my ears. We usually think of the American Bittern as a bird of the cat-tail marsh, but here in northern Minnesota, there wasn't a cat-tail to be seen. Several of their bog-thumping sounds seemed to be coming from wet roadside ditches.

The BBS probably doesn't do an adequate job of monitoring bitterns, but the BBS evidence at-hand indicates they have declined significantly in Minnesota (7.5% annually since 1966) and in Wisconsin (5.3%). The decline across Canada also is significant (2.5%), but the trend across the U.S. shows no real change. My impression from Wisconsin agrees with BBS data in that I can no longer find bitterns in some wetlands where they could be

heard during the late 1970s and 1980s. This species certainly bears watching.

**Wednesday, 16 June, Glendale, MN—  
Winter Wren**

Is there any better bird song than what comes out of the diminutive Winter Wren?

Listening to 9 of them today was a wonderful experience, and the distance that one can hear them always surprises me. Their song carries very well through the dense tangles of underbrush usually present in their coniferous, wet habitat. They are most abundant in southern Ontario and Quebec and in northern Maine. An interesting side-note is that the Winter Wren is the only one of the 59 wren species that also is found outside the New World.

BBS data for Minnesota and Wisconsin show them to be increasing since 1966 (2.1% annually in WI and 1.3% in MN). I recommend that if you ever have the chance to hear its recorded song reduced to a slower speed (half- or quarter-speed), please take the opportunity. I promise that its complexity will amaze you as you'll hear a remarkable blend of halftones and overtones all sung at the same time.

**Thursday, 17 June  
(No Bird of the Day)**

**Friday, 18 June, Ontonagon, MI—  
Herring Gull**

I guess that a few Herring Gulls shouldn't be unexpected on a BBS route near Lake Superior, but a cloud of 125? Until stop 46, I had tallied 17, with 12 of them walking the greens on the Ontonagon Golf Course. Suddenly the sky was filled with a swirling mass

of gulls, and I then realized that the road ahead of me was the entrance to a sanitary landfill. Obviously, this highly-engineered landfill was not present when the route was last surveyed 20 yr ago and did not serve the local gulls with some choice morsels of food.

I think that most birders in the Upper Midwest would probably include gulls if they were queried about which 5 bird species have increased significantly in the last several years. I'm sure this would be a top "guess" from those living along the western shore of Lake Michigan.

What is happening to our Ring-billed and Herring Gull populations in the Great Lakes region? Attendees at this spring's gull management conference in Milwaukee, hosted by the WBCI, We Energies, and the WSO, heard firsthand from Dr. Francie Cuthbert from the University of Minnesota about her periodic surveys of colonially nesting birds in this region. Needless to say, they are increasing! More and larger landfills are one reason, but trying to document all the reasons is not easy. However, it's obvious that many reasons are related to changes that **WE** are making to our landscape. We are creating conditions that favor these two species.

**Saturday, 19 June  
(No Bird of the Day)**

**Sunday, 20 June, Ishpeming, MI—  
Northern Parula**

I like the variety of buzzy, ascending songs coming down from the treetops as this wood warbler haunts the canopy of large conifers growing in moist soil in the more northerly reaches of Michigan, Minnesota, and

Wisconsin. In this region, the parula forms its hanging nest in dense masses of *Usnea* lichen (beard moss); in the southeastern U.S., it uses Spanish moss.

This morning I was privileged to hear 4 parulas and watched one in full sun and at a fairly low height throw its head back and just quiver as it sang several times before continuing to forage in a large white spruce. During the WBBA project, it was found during the breeding season in about a fifth of the state's topographic quads. Most of the confirmed breeding records occurred in the northern tier of counties, with a southern extension into Langlade County, and an exceptional record from Mike Mossman in the Baraboo Hills in Sauk County.

BBS data from 1966–2003 indicate that its population has increased at a 0.8% pace annually survey-wide (U.S. and Canada), which is similar to its trend in Wisconsin. In Minnesota, the positive trend is greater (1.9%), whereas in Michigan it is a whopping 10%.

### **Monday, 21 June, Brocky Lake, MI— Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

This is a nemesis species for my son, Seth. Does everyone know what a nemesis species is? It is one for which you have made several attempts to add to a list, usually your life list, but for a multitude of reasons, you are jinxed. You bird the “right” habitat but can’t find it, others with you see it but you can’t find it in your bins, you hear it but it is hidden from view, it disappears just before you arrive or appears just after you depart, and on and on. The yellow-bellied has been that way for Seth—he even saw one being

banded at Riveredge Nature Center recently, but he still can’t count it on his life list. He should have been with me today as there was one singing quite close to one of my stops at a black spruce/tamarack bog, and I was able to see it briefly a couple of times.

The yellow-bellied is a late spring migrant in Wisconsin and breeds across the northern two tiers of counties. In general, BBS data show a positive trend in its population over the last 35 yr in the U.S. and Canada, although because of its uncommon status, there probably are not enough routes where it is present to track its population with a lot of confidence.

### **Tuesday, 22 June, Amberg, WI— Northern Cardinal**

Selecting a Bird of the Day for the Amberg route was difficult—too many good possibilities—but I finally chose an interesting species for the North Woods. I recorded the first cardinal on this route in 2001, and the singing bird at stop 2 in 2004 made it 4 consecutive years. One of the audience’s reactions I enjoy most when I give a presentation is when I mention that the first pair of cardinals nested in Waukesha County (immediately west of Milwaukee) in 1939. Most of the reactions are ones of genuine surprise. I think most folks in Wisconsin believe cardinals have been residents in the state forever.

The WBBA documented breeding within the northern-most tier of counties, although cardinals remain quite uncommon in this region. A Christmas Bird Count was conducted in Florence County for the first time in January 2003, and on that count and again in 2004, cardinals were tallied

within the 15-mi-diameter count circle.

The BBS has done an excellent job of tracking the state's burgeoning cardinal population since 1966. In the 1966–79 period, their population in Wisconsin expanded at an annual rate of 2.2%. Since then the pace has quickened to 3.3% annually. This trend has been slightly slower in Michigan but even greater in Minnesota.

Which states show the greatest abundance of cardinals on BBSs from 1966 to 2002? Louisiana had 62 individuals per route; Mississippi 48, and Alabama 47. For comparison, the number for Wisconsin is only 7.

#### **Wednesday, 23 June, Wausaukee, WI—The Swallows**

When we discuss breeding bird populations, it seems like we don't think much about swallow species other than the Purple Martin. Most birders recognize that martin populations in the Upper Great Lakes region have declined precipitously over the last 20 yr. For example, the martin population in Wisconsin has declined annually at an 8.3% rate according to BBS data from 1980 to 2003. But what about the other swallows? I just don't seem to see as many swallows on my BBS routes as I once did.

Using BBS data from Wisconsin for 1980–2003, the trend is negative for 4 of the 5 species, with only the bank showing a positive trend (0.3% annually). All of the others have negative trends over this almost 25-yr period. The percentages are –3.5% for the rough-winged, –1.4% for cliff, –1.2% for barn, and –0.5% for tree. These trends certainly aren't as alarming as

that for the martin, but what do we think or what should we think about them? Do we need to think more about swallows when we are preparing bird conservation or management plans?

It is so easy to get caught up with the charismatic species or the ones that the media choose to hype, but we must not ignore the plight of any of our native species. That is why I'm so excited over the formation of the WBCI. It is addressing **all** native bird species.

#### **Thursday, 24 June, Crystal Falls, MI—Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Studying this species and documenting its distribution was one of the highlights of the WBBA. According to Sam Robbins' *Wisconsin Birdlife*, nesting of this northern sprite in Wisconsin had not been confirmed, although Sam was sure that it did nest in the state. Just take a look at the species map on the Atlas web site. Breeding confirmation was achieved in more than 10% of the state's quads! The golden-crowned is but one example of the importance of doing the Atlas.

During a BBS, one is fortunate to hear a single golden-crowned; the Crystal Falls route produced 2. Its song is quite high-pitched and is difficult to hear for many birders. Just as with Brown Creeper (3 singing birds on this route—2 at a single stop), its song is often lost in the background of all of the others.

BBS results show that the golden-crowned has increased 1.6% annually in Michigan and 1.9% in Wisconsin since 1980. However, the picture is not as rosy everywhere; it has declined 1.5% annually in the U.S. and at a 1% rate in Canada over this same time pe-



riod. The declines also are occurring in the states and provinces where the golden-crowned appears most abundantly on BBS routes: Washington and Oregon, and British Columbia and Quebec.

### **Friday, 25 June, Cunard, MI—Whip-poor-will**

When I opened the car door this morning at the starting point for the Cunard route and heard 2 of these wonderful goatsuckers, I knew that I already had my "Bird of the Day" selected. Just before the 3-min period ended, a third bird joined the chorus. I've enjoyed hearing them since childhood in southern Ohio. As many as 3 (though most nights only one) used the roof of our house as their singing perch during the hot summer nights in May and June. I enjoyed hearing my school chums and our relatives complain about them at breakfast after an overnight stay.

But what is happening to the Whip-poor-will population? I vividly remember Sam Robbins taking questions about this species when he appeared on Wisconsin Public Radio. Now, Bill Volkert and I receive the same type of questions when we join Larry Meiller or Jim Packard for these radio programs. Sam was concerned then; I'm concerned now. I certainly don't hear them singing in locations in Wisconsin where I did during the late 1970s and '80s. Most summers, I could hear them routinely from my home in west-central Ozaukee County. The one that my son Seth heard from our property during the spring 2004 migration was the first in probably 15 years.

The BBS data provide some confirmation of these observations: annual

declines of 5.5% and 5.4% since 1980 in Wisconsin and Michigan. Across the U.S. the annual trend is a statistically significant 2.3% decline since 1966. Biologists have offered some suggestions for what is causing this, but we really don't know. Suggestions have ranged from increased growth or density of shrub understory, especially by invasive woody species, to less grazing of woodlots by cattle. Let's hope that we can learn enough to reverse this decline, and it is for answering questions like this that we all need to provide greater support for bird conservation efforts.

### **Saturday, 26 June, Wilson, MI—Pileated Woodpecker**

The pileated became the obvious choice for today when one flew in silently and landed on a utility pole 35 ft away from me at stop 8. I just happened to be looking in its direction as it approached. For the next 45 sec the crow-sized male woodpecker played peek-a-boo with me from the other side of the pole. I was standing close to my Saturn Vue and didn't move a whisker. It sensed something was not quite right with the scene below and finally flew back toward where it had come from, once again not uttering a sound.

I grew up around pileateds in southern Ohio, and the species always has been one of my favorites. I vividly remember when Karl Maslowski, the famous wildlife photographer from Cincinnati, came to the state park where I spent my childhood and built a tall photographer's blind so he could take pictures of a nesting pair. I still have one of his black-and-white photos



hanging in the hallway of my late parents' house in Ohio.

When Kate and I moved to west-central Ozaukee County in 1977, we were pleased to find the county's only pair nesting nearby in the beech-maple woods at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station at the Cedarburg Bog. A pair has nested there every year since, and pileateds now make regular appearances elsewhere in the county. During the WBBA field work, some evidence for its breeding was gathered for more than half of the state's quads. The pileated was confirmed as a breeding species in all counties except eight along the Illinois border and in southeastern Wisconsin. BBS data show it is increasing throughout most of its range; the Wisconsin annual trend is +5.0% since 1966.

#### **Sunday, 27 June, Maple Grove, MI—Least Flycatcher**

I chose this bird, not because of anything that happened on today's route, but for a couple of other good reasons. As a family, the flycatchers seem to be ignored by many birders. A major source of funds for the WBBA was sponsorship (or adoption) of a species for \$500. Toward the end, co-editor Bettie Harriman and I became a little distressed because not a single flycatcher species had been adopted, and with 11 species to choose from, there should be at **least** one flycatcher that would "turn on" at **least** one sponsor.

By the way, can you name the 11 species of flycatcher that bred in Wisconsin during the Atlas field-work period from 1995 through 2000? I also

figured if I was going to highlight one flycatcher, why not the least?

The second reason is that I seem to be observing fewer leasts on many of my routes in 2004 compared with the most recent BBS data for these routes. What does the statewide BBS data tell us about the least's population? BBS data from Michigan (-2.2%), Minnesota (-1.2%), and Wisconsin (-2.2%) all show a statistically significant annual decline since 1966. This trend, although smaller, also is apparent survey-wide. The relative abundances of the Least Flycatcher on a BBS route in these 3 states also are similar: Michigan (3.9 individuals), Minnesota (4.9), and Wisconsin (4.3).

So what is going on with the population of this small empid flycatcher? Let's see what the WBCI folks can come up with on this species. These deliberations in Wisconsin, along with the thoughts of those concerned with bird conservation throughout the species' range, should provide us with insight into what might be happening to its populations and what may be done to reverse it.

#### **Monday, 28 June, Isabella, MI—Canada Warbler**

There was no obvious choice for today's route, so I decided to pick a species from my favorite family of birds, the warblers. Everyone that I know enjoys spotting a Canada Warbler in migration because it is a striking bird, although few birders are drawn to its song. On a "northern" BBS like today's, one often must concentrate extra hard at stops featuring wooded wetlands to listen for its rather soft, jumbled song of a few notes, each seemingly on a different pitch, from

all of the competing, often louder songs.

I consider the Canada to be an uncommon species, and often the BBS is not so good at monitoring species with low populations. However, this raises the question, how do we adequately monitor the Canada Warbler population? In general, BBS data show it to be in long-term decline. The trend is similar in both the U.S. and Canada—about a 1.9% decline annually since 1966. The relative abundance per BBS route is greatest in New Brunswick (3.5 individuals per route) and Maine (1.8). It is a long-distance migrant, wintering in and around the forests of northwestern South America. Descriptions of its breeding habitat often include attributes such as large stand size, dense patches of shrubs or saplings, and a lush ground layer.

Its distribution as indicated on the WBBA is interesting. While it has a decidedly northern distribution as one would expect, there are several, isolated, outlier, or disjunct populations. I suggest that these outlier sites be identified as potential sites for consideration as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). As Eric Epstein, the author of the Canada Warbler species account for the WBBA states, "Determining the factors responsible for the Canada Warbler's long-term decline is a high priority for researchers, conservationists, and birders."

This species highlights the prime reasons why I embarked upon my Quad 30 Campaign. We need robust, long-term, bird monitoring programs like the BBS, and we need to identify, protect, and manage those areas that are most important to birds!

## **Tuesday, 29 June, Hiawatha National Forest, MI—Evening Grosbeak**

How many of you have seen Evening Grosbeaks away from the vicinity of a bird feeder? On a BBS, they are usually tallied as they give their distinctive song flying high overhead. Today, I was fortunate to have 2 perch directly overhead; an adult was feeding a recent fledgling. I heard its typical call and thought it to be softer than what one normally hears. I looked up and there they were. They remained perched in the aspen about 25 ft over my head for a minute before the young bird flew off, followed by its parent.

During the WBBA, they were confirmed as breeders across the two northern tiers of counties, with the southernmost record coming from Menominee County. The earliest that a fledged young was observed during the Atlas project was June 12. BBS data indicate that the grosbeak breeding population is increasing across Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. It has been detected on more than a fifth of Wisconsin's BBS routes.

But what about grosbeak populations in Wisconsin during winter? The Christmas Bird Count is another long-term bird population monitoring program that is particularly suited to following trends of species that demonstrate population irruptions, like many of our winter finches, as well as for those species that breed in remote regions but winter in more accessible areas.

**Wednesday, 30 June**  
**(No Bird of the Day)**

**Thursday, 1 July, Saxeville, WI—**  
**Mourning Warbler**

I decided that the last "Bird of the Day" just had to be a warbler—the Mourning Warbler. On today's route I heard 6 of them singing from the dense thickets they favor when they arrive in mid-to-late May from their distant wintering grounds in Central and northern South America. Although the mourning is a "northern" species, our opinion of its distribution certainly has changed from what was then known and published in Sam Robbins' *Wisconsin Birdlife*. When results of the WBBA project were finalized, some evidence for breeding was attained in almost 60% of the state's quads. Breeding is certainly occurring further south than what was previously known.

Growing up in southern Ohio, I somehow failed to notice this species, and it was not until I was living in Ithaca, NY, that I finally saw one. I clearly remember driving madly to wake my future wife, Kate Redmond, to bring her back to a couple of grand discoveries on a beautiful May morning. I had discovered the largest "patch" of morels of the largest size I had ever seen, and I had flushed an incubating Ruffed Grouse near the largest of the wonderfully tasty mushrooms. AND I wanted Kate to see and hear the singing Mourning Warbler in the dense stand of brambles that were on the way to the morels.

This may be one Neotropical migrant that is benefiting from human activities, although the species remains vulnerable to a plethora of issues that could greatly affect its population in a negative way. BBS data from

Wisconsin indicate a long-term (1966–2003), statistically significant, positive annual increase of 1.7%.

# STRANGE HAPPENINGS

**31 May—"You Ought to be in Pictures . . ."**

Through the years I've been asked many questions about what I'm doing during a Breeding Bird Survey, asked questions about directions to a certain location, quizzed for who knows the reason why, asked to show identification, shouted at, honked at, asked if I'm lost, asked if I need help (the most common reason for a conversation), but the Lockport, Ohio count provided a new experience. I was video-taped!

While stopped almost in front of someone's residence, I was listening and looking in the opposite direction. When I turned toward the house, there was a fellow standing on the stoop by the front door with a video recorder pointed in my direction. I'm sure he now has tape of my car, my license plate, and of me. I have to hope that there won't be any break-ins in that neighborhood in the near future.

**2 June—A brief comment . . .**

While eating my two pancakes (high rating of 8.5 on scale of 1–10) and coffee at Abell's in Elkhorn, WI, after completing the Paris route (and on my way to Minnesota), I overheard from a group of about eight older but still working men: "Yea, Bill runs up high cell phone bills, but then he changes cell phones more often than his underwear!"

## 8 June—*A sad story . . .*

As I passed Eli Lake after breakfast in Ortonville, MN, I saw a creche of ducklings about 100 ft offshore. I looked at them through my scope and confirmed they were Wood Ducks; however, they were unattended in rather open water. I then spotted a road kill about 100 ft ahead and saw that it was a freshly-killed female woodie. I'm just assuming the 10–12 ducklings (they were packed so closely I couldn't obtain an accurate count) belonged to the dead female. Since they were still quite small, one has to wonder what their fate will be.

## 9 June—*Half a fish story . . .*

I've always been interested in road kills; you know, DORs. I guess that is why I really concentrated during the year when Bill Mueller was collecting bird kill data for Wisconsin's highways. As I drove north after breakfast, I noted something in the road where it passed closely between two lakes. I hung a U-turn, and the object turned out to be the front half of a 10-in. brown bullhead. There was no room for a fisherman to be in this area, so where did it come from?

## 9 June—*A special pancake*

At a cafe outside Fergus Falls, MN, I ordered my standard two pancakes and coffee, and the waitress asked if I really wanted two since they were plate-sized. The price for one was about what I normally pay for two so I said okay, let's go with one. It came, and it was **HUGE**, and on top were two eyes (2-inch diameter pancakes), a smiling mouth pancake, and even a tongue pancake hanging out of the

mouth. The skinny, wrinkled waitress and I had a good chuckle over the cook's handiwork. And the good blueberry syrup was a bonus.

## 10 June—*Close encounters*

I had two human encounters that were at the extremes. One, 35-year-old fellow in a pickup stopped by and made the comment that it appeared that some "scientific process" was underway. He seemed quite pleased with his assessment when I told him I was doing a breeding bird survey.

And then there was Roy. He had pulled out of his long driveway, and when he saw me stop, he slowly backed up about 1,000 ft and stopped next to me. He appeared to be about 70 and was beyond description in a very dilapidated appearance. I told him 4–5 times that I was doing a bird survey, and after the third time, he wanted to know if I wished to know his name and then told me that his name was Roy. I finally dropped the word "survey" and just said birds, and after 2 more times, he finally caught it and smiled. He then proceeded to talk about eagles in some sort of rambling way. I told him that I had seen no eagles but had seen a few cranes, which seemed to please him. I guess that was enough, as he just started to drive off without further comment but killed the engine three times. As I drove past his driveway, his name, Roy Nurmi, was on the battered red box.

Later, at Cindy's Cafe in Plummer, as I was having my daily pancake, yes only one again, as Cindy said they were big when I ordered two, one of the "regulars" asked Cindy if Roy had been in for his daily breakfast. Cindy said no, and the fellow said that he would



go to check on Roy. Seems like he has discovered two or three deaths by checking upon folks when they haven't been seen in town as expected. For some reason, I was hesitant to ask if he was talking about Roy Nurmi. Guess I'll never know.

## 20 June—*Another surveyor?*

Today, at one of the early 3-min stops on the Ishpeming, MI, route, I was standing next to the car listening and watching when I spotted a snowshoe hare in the road 200 yd behind me. As I watched, it started in my direction. I stood quietly as it continued at a slow lope. It seemed to not care that a car was parked in the right lane of the small black-topped county road, with a big, bearded man standing next to it. I continued to watch until I put down the binoculars and watched as it loped past me in the opposite lane—neither fast nor slow, but at a steady pace. When the 3-min-stop was finished, I proceeded down the road and passed the hare as it continued to lope down the road another fifth of a mile from where it had passed me. Where was it going?

A We Energies co-worker offered one explanation: "The snowshoe hare in Ishpeming was doing a BOS, or Breeding Ornithologist Survey. I'm sure it had another route someplace further down the road the next day, or as they say, hare today and gone tomorrow."

## 21 June—*Just call him strange*

Stop 25 on the Brocky Lake, MI, route was notably special. Stop 25 is always special for two reasons: (1) the route is half finished, and (2) I can open my packet of "regular" M&Ms.

For some reason, when I started doing BBSs more than 30 yr ago, I took along a packet of M&Ms. I've done this ever since. At the completion of stop 25, I open them and eat 2 of the same color. I continue doing this until the route is completed—and always two of the same color after each stop. There always have been enough M&Ms in the 1.69 oz packet to last through stop 50. I eat two of the same color to see if I can end up with no odd leftovers: no singles, no two of different colors, no three of different colors, etc. The game is extremely difficult to "win." This year is easier because while at a Big Lots store in Ohio, I bought a supply of M&Ms to last the entire Campaign. The price was right: 3 packets for 99 cents, but there are only 3 colors: red, white, and blue.

Today, for the first time, they came out even. I know, call me strange.

## BIRDING ON THE WEB

The Internet played a key role in the Quad 30 Campaign, just as it is an increasingly vital way for birders—citizens and scientists alike—to share all sorts of other information. Here are some key links to some of the issues raised during this effort:

### Quad 30 Campaign

[www.quad30campaign.org](http://www.quad30campaign.org)

The Quad 30 Campaign web site lets you retrace my journey and contains additional information and data on my field work.

### Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/> and  
<http://www.mbrpwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>



The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a long-term (started in 1966), continental avian monitoring program designed to track the status and trends of North American bird populations.

### **Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative**

<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/>

WBCI was organized in 2002 to encompass the full spectrum of bird conservation, including both game and nongame birds, by working together in voluntary, cooperative initiatives. It coordinates bird-based projects to ensure effective management for all birds in Wisconsin, assessing and managing birds and their habitats using the best available science. WBCI's focus is on Wisconsin birds, but helps coordinate conservation efforts at the regional, continental, and even hemispheric levels, since many birds are migratory.

### **Important Bird Areas**

<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/IBA/>

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is a global initiative that links local and state conservation efforts to national and international efforts to protect essential habitat for all birds. The Wisconsin IBA program is a voluntary, cooperative initiative that aims to identify and protect those sites that are most important to birds at any stage in their life cycle (breeding, wintering, or migration).

### **Wisconsin Society for Ornithology**

<http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso/>

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was organized in 1939 to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds. The aims have since expanded to emphasize all of the many enjoyable aspects

of birding and to support the research and habitat protection necessary to preserve Wisconsin birdlife. WSO strives to alert members and the public to situations and practices that threaten Wisconsin's bird populations.

### **Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas**

<http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wbba/>

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project was launched to provide baseline data for monitoring future changes in bird populations; assess habitat needs of breeding species and document species diversity; document abundance and distribution of rare and endangered species; provide comparisons with historical studies; assist international efforts to preserve Neotropical migratory birds; help in land use planning and assist industry in preparing environmental impact assessments. All of its records are on-line pending publication of the Atlas in 2006.

### **North American Bird Conservation Initiative**

<http://www.nabci.net/>

NABCI aims to ensure that populations and habitats of North America's birds are protected, restored, and enhanced through coordinated efforts at international, national, regional, and local levels guided by sound science and effective management.

### **Wisconsin Birding**

<http://wisconsinbirding.net/>

This site offers forums for birding hot spots, bird sightings, and birding buddies; is looking for more birding content; and will accept your birding articles or photos. Wisconsin Birding hosted the Quad 30 web site.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The entire Quad 30 Campaign has been a blast! I couldn't have achieved what I did without lots of support from my family (especially my wife Kate), friends, co-workers, and the entire birding community in Wisconsin. Those who have contributed money to the effort—THANKS. Key to the success of the Campaign was the Quad 30 web site; I owe Lennie Lichter big time for all of the web site's accomplishments. Having an employee founda-

tion, the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation, that made a generous donation and also then matched 1:1 my donations to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology was critical to fundraising. Thanks also go to Christine Reel, WSO Treasurer, who is safe-keeping all of the funds raised. Lastly, many, many thanks to Carl Schwartz for orchestrating my surprise birthday party that really kick-started the Campaign and for his significant formatting and editing of this paper.

## BIRD CHECKLIST FOR QUAD 30 CAMPAIGN

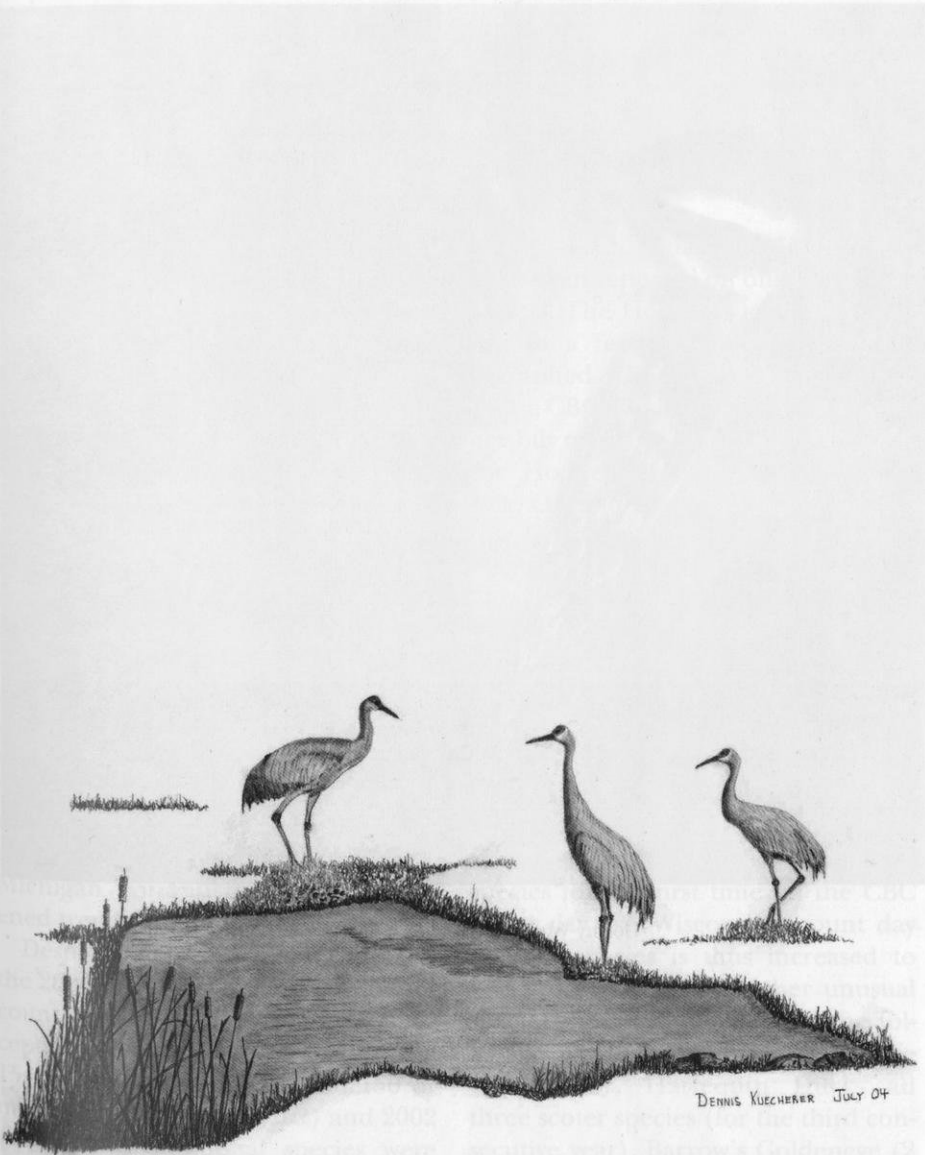
*RR (Routes Reported) column is the number of routes on which the species was reported*  
*TIR (Total Individuals Reported) column is the total number of individuals of that species reported for all 33 routes*

Species	RR	TIR	Species	RR	TIR
Canada Goose	14	687	Turkey Vulture	4	10
Wood Duck	11	21	Osprey	1	1
Gadwall	2	3	Bald Eagle	2	2
Mallard	20	199	Northern Harrier	8	11
Blue-winged Teal	7	23	Cooper's Hawk	3	3
N. Shoveler	1	1	Northern Goshawk	1	1
Redhead	2	7	Broad-winged Hawk	8	8
Ring-necked Duck	3	8	Red-tailed Hawk	12	18
Lesser Scaup	1	4	Am. Kestrel	7	10
Com. Goldeneye	1	2	Virginia Rail	1	1
Hooded Merganser	4	6	Sora	3	5
Com. Merganser	3	4	Am. Coot	1	1
Ruddy Duck	1	2	Sandhill Crane	11	62
Gray Partridge	3	11	Killdeer	20	289
Ring-necked Pheasant	12	386	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1
Ruffed Grouse	3	5	Upland Sandpiper	6	15
Gr. Prairie-Chicken	2	4	Marbled Godwit	3	6
Wild Turkey	8	34	Wilson's Snipe	7	24
N. Bobwhite	1	9	Wilson's Phalarope	1	1
Common Loon	13	37	Ring-billed Gull	3	15
Pied-billed Grebe	4	13	Herring Gull	9	155
Am. White Pelican	7	122	Forster's Tern	1	2
D-c. Cormorant	4	11	Black Tern	4	13
American Bittern	5	15	Rock Pigeon	13	211
Great Blue Heron	11	26	Mourning Dove	30	866
Great Egret	4	21	Black-billed Cuckoo	7	10
Green Heron	3	7	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	8

(continued)

Species	RR	TIR	Species	RR	TIR
Barred Owl	1	2	Wood Thrush	14	25
Common Nighthawk	3	5	American Robin	33	1259
Whip-poor-will	2	8	Gray Catbird	22	84
Chimney Swift	19	90	N. Mockingbird	1	9
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5	10	Brown Thrasher	20	48
Belted Kingfisher	4	5	European Starling	27	920
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	7	Cedar Waxwing	26	245
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	22	Blue-winged Warbler	2	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	19	141	Golden-winged Warbler	7	33
Downy Woodpecker	28	52	Nashville Warbler	19	461
Hairy Woodpecker	12	17	Northern Parula	7	30
Northern Flicker	28	95	Yellow Warbler	26	110
Pileated Woodpecker	19	53	Chestnut-sided Warbler	20	271
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	5	Magnolia Warbler	12	126
Eastern Wood-Pewee	27	128	Cape May Warbler	1	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	8	14	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	5	15
Alder Flycatcher	22	104	Yellow-rumped Warbler	18	92
Willow Flycatcher	7	21	Black-thr. Green Warbler	17	132
Least Flycatcher	22	128	Blackburnian Warbler	16	45
Eastern Phoebe	22	69	Pine Warbler	16	72
Great Crested Flycatcher	27	127	Palm Warbler	4	5
Western Kingbird	2	3	Black-and-white Warbler	18	107
Eastern Kingbird	28	112	American Redstart	16	82
Yellow-throated Vireo	10	18	Ovenbird	23	791
Blue-headed Vireo	15	44	Northern Waterthrush	11	22
Warbling Vireo	16	60	Connecticut Warbler	4	6
Philadelphia Vireo	1	2	Mourning Warbler	18	155
Red-eyed Vireo	32	1013	Common Yellowthroat	33	591
Gray Jay	2	5	Canada Warbler	8	23
Blue Jay	32	316	Yellow-breasted Chat	1	4
Black-billed Magpie	2	6	Scarlet Tanager	19	52
American Crow	33	589	Eastern Towhee	4	15
Common Raven	20	188	Chipping Sparrow	33	680
Horned Lark	15	418	Clay-colored Sparrow	19	89
Purple Martin	5	10	Field Sparrow	6	27
Tree Swallow	25	70	Vesper Sparrow	21	370
N. R-winged Swallow	4	8	Savannah Sparrow	23	329
Bank Swallow	2	28	Grasshopper Sparrow	4	4
Cliff Swallow	13	808	Henslow's Sparrow	1	1
Barn Swallow	19	356	Le Conte's Sparrow	3	11
Black-capped Chickadee	26	291	Song Sparrow	7	722
Boreal Chickadee	1	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	7	20
Carolina Chickadee	1	3	Swamp Sparrow	24	126
Tufted Titmouse	2	4	White-throated Sparrow	20	411
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	66	Dark-eyed Junco	7	36
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	41	Northern Cardinal	10	140
Brown Creeper	9	16	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	24	130
Carolina Wren	2	8	Indigo Bunting	24	337
House Wren	29	224	Dickcissel	5	29
Winter Wren	18	97	Bobolink	20	271
Sedge Wren	18	72	Red-winged Blackbird	31	1216
Marsh Wren	3	5	Eastern Meadowlark	11	56
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	17	Western Meadowlark	8	138
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	6	Yellow-headed Blackbird	6	109
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	3	Brewer's Blackbird	6	30
Eastern Bluebird	15	42	Common Grackle	30	1083
Veery	22	119	Brown-headed Cowbird	28	434
Swainson's Thrush	3	8	Orchard Oriole	7	15
Hermit Thrush	19	287			

Species	RR	TIR	Species	RR	TIR
Baltimore Oriole	26	106	American Goldfinch	31	449
Purple Finch	17	50	Evening Grosbeack	7	31
House Finch	10	67	House Sparrow	18	962
Red Crossbill	2	7	Total Species all Routes	179	
White-winged Crossbill	1	2	Total Individuals all Routes		24,111



Drawing of Sandhill Cranes by Dennis Kuecherer

Species	RR	RR	RR	RR	RR	RR
Red-headed Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-breasted Sapsucker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Nuthatch	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10



Downy Woodpecker by Gary Krogman

Red-headed Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-breasted Sapsucker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Nuthatch	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10	10	10	10	10



# The 2004 Wisconsin Christmas Bird Counts

**Robert C. Domagalski**

W140 N8508 Lilly Road  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
262. 251. 6259  
rcd@execpc.com

The first half of December was mild and snow free. It was not until the start of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) period that temperatures turned seasonably cold, freezing most inland lakes. Birders were left with few locations for water birds and little if any snow to concentrate the land birds and make them more visible. It was perhaps from this combination that many common species were found in numbers less than their 10-year averages. Of the 71 common species (Table 8), 39 were below their 10-year average. The cold weather struck late enough that a number of early circles were able to count Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes as these birds flew overhead on their departure from the state. Also the waterfowl on Lake Michigan continued a now lengthened trend of high numbers.

Despite the low count of individuals, the 2004 CBC had a record number of count day species. The total of 154 accepted species is matched only by the 154 in 2001. Other years with 150 or more species are 1997 (153) and 2002 (150). Two additional species were found during the count period (but not on a count day): Northern Hawk Owl (Herbster) and Hooded Oriole

(La Crosse). Northern Hawk Owls have been reported on only 5 previous counts. The Hooded Oriole was coming to a feeder and was well photographed. The Hooded Oriole is not only a CBC first, it is a state first. There are but two mid-continent records for the Hooded Oriole (one from Norfolk, Ontario for May 19–20, 1992 and one from Buchanan, Iowa on May 25, 2003). This Wisconsin record for a Hooded Oriole is the first valid winter record in the mid-continent.

Currently the Hooded Oriole is the only species in the history of the Wisconsin CBCs to be found during a count period but never on a count day. With the split of the Cackling Goose from the Canada, the 11 counts reporting Cackling Geese place this species for the first time on the CBC count day list. Wisconsin's count day total of species is thus increased to 227. Among the many other unusual species reported for 2004 are the following: Greater White-fronted Goose (Randolph), Harlequin Duck, all three scoter species (for the third consecutive year), Barrow's Goldeneye (2 from Hudson), Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Turkey Vulture (nearly yearly now), Gyrfalcon (Ash-

land), Virginia Rail (found most years by Al Shea on the Poynette Count), Bonaparte's Gull (Appleton), Mew Gull (Hales Corners—only the second CBC record), Marsh Wren (Fond du Lac), Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird (Poynette), American Pipit (Madison), Orange-crowned Warbler (Columbus), Spotted Towhee (Appleton), Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Western Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole (Chippewa Falls), and Hoary Redpoll (3 counts). Missing from the CBCs for the first time since 1985 is the Sharp-tailed Grouse. A Spruce Grouse has not been reported since 1998.

Despite there being 96 circles with over 4,000 field party hours, only 9 species set record high numbers for individuals. This is an indication of the low number of individuals for this count year and stands in bleak contrast to past years. The 2003 count had 30 species with record highs, the 2002 count had 18, the 2001 count had 38, and the 2000 count had 21.

#### LOCATION AND DETAILS OF THE COUNTS

The details of weather and participation for each count are reported in Table 1. Five counts taken in 2003 were not taken in 2004. Those five are Lakewood (no count attempted), Merrill (too few party hours to be valid), Mosinee (canceled due to weather), Stockbridge (no count attempted) and Rhinelander (results of the count misplaced). There is reason to believe all five counts will return in 2005. Jerry and Karen Smith have agreed to be-

come the new compilers for the Lakewood Count in 2005. This would make the Smiths compilers for three counts. If any field birder is willing to help with this struggling circle in the future, please contact Jerry Smith. His contact information can be found in the Appendix for the Peshtigo and Spruce counts. There are a number of other counts that are on the verge of extinction for lack of field birders. Among these are Adams, Black River Falls, Cable, Cassville, Hayward, Herbster, Merrill, Oconomowoc, and Three Lakes. If any field birder is able to aid these counts, please contact the compiler (who is listed after the name of the count in the Appendix). New in 2004 is Meadow Valley. This count is centered at the meeting of Jackson, Juneau, and Wood counties and includes the Golden Eagle habitat at Bear Bluff.

A total of 96 counts were accepted. This matches the total of counts taken in 2001. The only years with a higher number are 2002 and 2003 with 100 each year. As usual, the most popular date for conducting CBCs was the first available Saturday. This year that Saturday fell on December 18th. Of the 96 counts, 35 were conducted that day. Most of the larger counts are held on this first Saturday and, thus, 46% of all party field hours during the 2004 count year were on this one day, and 49% of all owling hours. Whether conditions are conducive or not for calling owls this first Saturday has much to say about owl numbers within the state that count year.

Only 28 counts reported 50 or more species. This compares to 38 counts reporting 50 or more in 2003. Madison, with 84, was the only count reporting 75 or more species. Circles with 70 or

Table 1. Details of the 2004 Wisconsin Christmas Bird Counts

Name of Count	Date	Sky	Snow Inches	Wind Dir.	Wind Mph.	Temp. °F		Observers		Parties	Party Hours	Owling Hours
						Low	High	Feeder	Field			
Adams (34)*	12/29	Cloudy-PCL	5	SE	5-8	29	35	0	2	2	14.00	3.00
Appleton (61)	12/18	Cloudy	0	SW-NW	15-25	25	32	12	32	21	107.75	3.00
Arpin (31)	12/23	Clear	6-8	NNW	0-10	-11	4	2	11	5	32.00	2.50
Ashland (4)*	12/18	Cloudy	5	WNW-N	15-30	8	20	1	8	4	32.00	0.00
Baraboo (90)	12/20	Cloudy	0	S	10-30	5	23	10	16	8	55.00	6.75
Bayfield (3)	12/16	Cloudy-Lt. Snow	3	NW	12-18	24	27	9	7	4	23.50	0.00
Beloit (87)*	12/18	Cloudy-PCL	0	NW	5-10	30	35	5	22	12	49.75	3.00
Black River Falls (27)	12/18	Partly Cloudy	0	NNW	20-30	20	31	4	7	3	11.75	0.50
Blanchardville (88)*	12/16	Partly Cloudy	0	SW	15	31	39	0	8	5	37.25	6.50
Bridgeport (95)*	12/17	Clear	0	N-W	1-5	20	34	0	20	8	47.00	6.50
Brussels (46)	12/26	PCL-Snow	4	NE-N	10	10	20	5	12	6	40.00	2.00
Burlington (72)	12/18	Cloudy	0	N	5-15	25	35	0	8	5	45.75	8.00
Cable (7)*	12/14	Partly Cloudy	4-10	?	5-10	12	22	8	8	2	10.50	0.00
Caroline (40)	1/3	Clear	3-4	calm	0-2	10	22	1	2	2	20.00	1.50
Cassville (96)	1/2	Cloudy	0-ice	NW	10-15	24	31	0	10	4	25.25	1.00
Cedar Grove (53)	12/15	Clear-PCL	0	W	15-25	20	25	0	13	5	58.00	4.50
Chippewa Falls (20)*	12/21	Clear	3	W	10-15	10	20	0	10	5	38.50	0.00
Clam Lake (8)*	1/2	Cloudy-Clear	8-12	W	5-15	23	29	2	9	5	46.25	4.50
Clyde (92)	12/29	Cloudy	0	calm	0	20	26	1	9	4	30.00	0.00
Columbus (81)	12/14	Clear	0	NW	8-15	11	25	0	6	5	31.00	3.75
Cooksville (86)	1/1	Cloudy-Frz. Rain	0	NE	10-15	20	26	2	6	3	21.50	4.50
Durand (19)*	12/28	Partly Cloudy	3	S	0-5	18	25	0	13	6	34.50	0.00
Ephraim (48)	12/18	Cloudy	0	NW	0-15	18	28	16	13	7	46.00	1.00
Fifield (9)*	12/18	Cloudy	6	NNW	5-20	11	27	25	3	2	13.00	0.00
Florence (13)	1/2	Cloudy-Clear	1-8	?	5-15	24	34	2	14	6	47.25	1.00
Fond du Lac (63)	12/18	Cloudy	1.0	WNW	14-24	9	35	0	2	2	14.00	5.25
Fort Atkinson (85)	12/18	Cloudy	0	SW-NW	10-20	28	30	22	11	4	23.00	2.00
Fremont (37)	12/14	Clear	0	W	7-15	10	25	0	11	6	41.00	0.00
Gilman (22)*	12/30	Cloudy-Lt. Rain	2-4	SE	5-20	21	39	3	13	6	44.25	1.00
Grantsburg (15)*	12/18	PCL-Clear	trace	NW	20-25	11	22	0	13	9	39.25	0.00
Green Bay (44)*	12/18	Cloudy	0	WSW-NW	5-15	27	33	21	24	12	74.00	8.25
Green Lake (75)	12/31	Clear	0-1	SW-W	15-30	32	46	0	9	5	15.50	3.00

(continued)

Table 1. (continued)

Name of Count	Date	Sky	Snow Inches	Wind Dir.	Wind Mph.	Temp. °F		Observers		Parties	Party Hours	Owling Hours
						Low	High	Feeder	Field			
Gurney (5)	12/18	Cloudy-Snow	12	N	15-25	8	27	2	9	5	18.50	0.00
Hales Corners (56)	12/18	Cloudy	trace	SW-NW	2-22	28	34	5	14	5	25.00	0.00
Hartford (68)*	12/26	PCL-Clear	trace	N	5-10	7	24	1	15	8	66.50	1.00
Hayward (6)*	12/14	Partly Cloudy	4-10	?	5-10	12	22	4	5	2	14.50	0.00
Herbster (2)*	12/19	Cloudy	?	?	?	-8	-1	0	5	2	10.00	0.00
Holcombe (21)*	12/14	Clear	0	NW	5-12	3	18	0	8	4	31.00	0.00
Horicon Marsh (79)	12/18	Cloudy	trace	W	5-10	28	37	0	17	11	64.75	4.00
Hudson (17)*	1/1	Cloudy	0	E	8-15	16	27	0	9	4	20.00	0.00
Hustisford (80)*	12/28	Partly Cloudy	0	W	5-10	28	41	0	9	7	47.50	4.50
Kenosha (58)	12/31	Clear	0	SW	12-24	43	55	4	2	2	18.00	0.00
Kettle Moraine (67)	12/19	Clear-PCL	trace	NW	10-15	0	11	1	7	5	32.00	2.00
Kewaunee (49)*	1/1	Cloudy	0.5	N-NE	7-15	18	28	0	15	7	48.50	2.00
Kickapoo Valley (94)	12/26	Clear	4	NW	3-5	-5	16	0	2	2	13.00	0.00
La Crosse (29)*	12/18	Partly Cloudy	0	NW	10-25	27	33	1	18	9	55.50	3.00
Lake Geneva (73)	12/19	Clear	0	W	15-20	0	10	3	19	11	44.00	2.00
Madison (83)*	12/18	Cloudy	trace	W-NW	7-20	22	36	15	83	23	223.00	10.75
Manitowish Waters (10)	12/29	Cloudy	16	N	0-5	20	22	7	12	6	39.00	0.00
Meadow Valley (33)	12/20	Cloudy	1-3	S	10-20	19	25	0	8	5	42.00	3.50
Medford (23)*	1/2	Cloudy-Clear	4	WNW	0-10	21	30	6	9	5	30.50	0.00
Milwaukee (55)*	12/18	Cloudy	0	SW-W	9-13	28	30	17	46	19	110.25	1.50
Montello (76)	12/16	Partly Cloudy	0	SW-NE	7-15	28	34	6	9	6	37.25	3.50
Mount Horeb (89)	1/2	Cloudy	0-ice	W	5-12	31	35	19	58	24	103.25	2.00
Nelson (18)*	1/4	Cloudy	0-1	NW	5-10	16	21	0	14	6	37.50	0.00
New Franken (45)*	12/18	Cloudy	0-2	NW-N	5-20	26	32	30	19	19	34.00	2.00
New Richmond (16)*	12/18	Clear	0	NW	10-25	20	34	0	10	5	25.50	0.00
Norske (39)	12/29	Cloudy	3-5	calm	0-5	18	27	1	5	5	35.75	2.00
Oconomowoc (69)	12/18	Cloudy	trace	W	5-10	30	36	1	12	4	20.00	0.00
Oshkosh (62)	12/18	Cloudy	trace	W-NW	5-20	24	34	21	16	8	60.50	0.50
Owen (24)*	12/18	Cloudy	0-3	NW-N	12-17	12	30	3	10	7	50.25	2.00
Palmyra (71)	1/1	Cloudy	0	E	5-15	20	32	2	28	11	80.00	7.75
Pardeeville (77)*	12/15	Clear-Cloudy	0	SW	5-30	17	40	14	13	7	44.50	2.50
Pensaukee (43)	12/19	Clear-PCL	?	?	?	-4	10	1	4	3	24.50	0.00
Peshtigo (59)	12/18	Cloudy-Lt. Snow	0	NW	10-20	28	32	2	5	3	27.50	0.50

Phelps (11)	12/18	Cloudy-Snow	12	NW	10-15	10	28	4	9	6	31.00	0.00
Plymouth (66)	12/18	Cloudy	trace	NW	10-15	27	33	2	18	5	26.00	0.00
Poynette (82)*	1/1	Cloudy-Frez.Rain	0	SE-E	5-10	20	30	21	27	11	48.50	1.00
Racine (57)*	1/2	Cloudy	0	WNW	10-15	36	42	4	22	9	51.25	2.75
Randolph (78)	1/2	Cloudy	0	NW	5-20	28	35	3	8	5	29.00	3.75
Richland Center (93)	12/18	Cloudy	0	W-NW	5-20	26	34	6	47	19	86.00	6.00
Riveredge (54)	12/18	Cloudy	trace	SW-NW	10-30	23	30	<b>37</b>	72	21	176.00	<b>24.50</b>
Rosendale (74)	12/16	Cloudy	0	SW-NW	10-25	30	39	0	11	7	48.00	0.50
Sauk City (91)	12/26	?	?	?	?	?	?	2	23	11	78.00	2.50
Seymour (60)	12/27	Cloudy	4-6	SW	0-8	-2	23	0	3	3	23.00	0.00
Shawano (41)	12/18	Cloudy	0	variable	light	19	30	3	8	3	24.25	6.00
Sheboygan (52)	12/31	Clear	0	WSW	?	42	53	0	4	2	17.00	2.50
Shiocton (42)	12/17	Clear	0	S-SW	0-5	7	27	2	19	7	42.00	0.00
Solon Springs (1)	12/18	Partly Cloudy	1-3	N	15-15	10	20	0	11	7	46.00	0.00
Spencer (25)*	12/28	Cloudy-PCL	2-5	SW	5-10	21	35	3	7	6	49.25	2.25
Spruce (14)	12/31	Cloudy	3	WSW-W	15-20	30	32	1	4	3	23.50	0.00
Stevens Point (35)*	12/18	Cloudy	0	SW-NW	5-20	10	30	2	32	8	63.00	5.00
Sturgeon Bay (47)	12/18	Cloudy	1	SW-NW	10-25	10	28	21	21	13	70.00	2.00
Three Lakes (12)	12/19	Partly Cloudy	12	NW	5	-15	7	0	4	2	10.00	0.00
Trempealeau (28)	12/18	Clear-Cloudy	0	?	?	5	38	7	13	5	42.00	2.00
Waterloo (84)	12/21	Cloudy-PCL	trace	W	18-31	18	31	8	15	8	54.50	0.00
Waukesha (70)	12/18	Cloudy-Lt.Snow	0	NW-SW	16-19	30	33	1	31	8	72.00	2.00
Waupaca (38)	12/20	Cloudy-Snow	3-4	S	10-25	8	14	2	4	4	25.00	0.00
Wausau (30)	12/18	Cloudy-Lt. Snow	0-2	NW-N	6-15	17	30	8	16	8	47.75	0.00
Wautoma (36)*	12/31	Clear	0-3	W	20-40	16	46	18	11	8	47.25	4.50
Willard (26)*	12/26	Clear	4	NW	5	15	30	3	12	6	51.00	2.00
Wisconsin Rapids (32)*	1/2	Cloudy-PCL	2	W	5-10	17	34	5	12	7	31.00	0.50
Woodland Dunes												
NE (50)	1/2	Cloudy	0	NW	5-10	33	38	1	13	8	28.50	0.00
NW (64)	1/1	Cloudy	trace	variable	0-5	22	31	0	11	5	27.50	0.00
SE (51)	12/19	Clear	trace	NW	10-20	0	12	2	6	5	21.75	0.00
SW (65)	12/18	Cloudy	0	W	10-15	30	34	1	9	4	21.75	0.50
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>477</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>4,075.25</b>	<b>210.25</b>

\* Counts marked with an asterisk had their reports sent to both the WSO and the National Audubon Society.

**Bold lettering** within a count indicates the highest totals for the state.



more were Appleton (74), Milwaukee (72), Bridgeport (71), and Riveredge (70). For the fourth year in succession, total field party hours were in excess of 4,000 hours. This year's total of 4,075 hours is the lowest within these four years though still 8.7% above the 10-year average. Wisconsin birders are to be congratulated for the effort they put into the CBCs. Wisconsin likely has, for its size, the greatest density of counts in the nation. And birders often help with these counts at a cost to themselves. To give an example, the Cassville Count in Grant County is worked mainly by birders from the Milwaukee area. Not only must these people transport themselves across the state and often bear the cost of a motel for the night before the count but, this year, the night before the count had freezing rain that coated the roads with a half inch of ice. I am sure the steep roads and dugways of this driftless area were no pleasure to travel that count day.

The location of each count circle is shown in Figure 1. Count names can be matched with count numbers by looking at the alphabetical listing of counts in the first column of Table 1. Data from counts that include areas in other states note only species and participation for the Wisconsin portion of the count. For details on count compilers and count centers, consult the Appendix.

#### SUMMARY OF SPECIES

Results from the 2004 counts are reported in Tables 2–9. Tables 2–8 show the more common species, while Table 9 shows the less common species (species seen on 13 or fewer counts).

The common species have their counts divided into seven regions, each region having its own table. Table 8 includes the total number of individuals for each common species and compares that total with the average total (adjusted for party hours) over the past 10 years.

**Geese and Swans**—The Greater White-fronted Goose has now been reported for three consecutive count years. Previous to 2002, this goose had been accepted for only one count year (1998). This recent increase in reports reflects the increased number of White-fronted within the state. With the split of the Cackling Goose from the Canada, this count gives Wisconsin for the first time an idea of how common the former Richardson's is within the state in early winter. The Cackling Goose was reported on 11 counts with a total of 372 individuals. The high count was 136 at Beloit. All three swan species had impressive totals. The Mute Swan was record high for counts and individuals and 75% above its 10-year average. The Trumpeter Swan fared even better. The 260 reported from Hudson alone is larger than the previous statewide high of 208 set in 2002. The total of 2,515 Tundra Swans over 22 circles is bested only by 7,714 over 25 circles in 2001.

**Ducks**—Inland ducks fared poorly, while diving ducks off Lake Michigan continued their trend of strong numbers. Mallards were down 23% from their 10-year average, while the American Black Duck was down 51%. The American Black Duck has been in a steady decrease for decades but this year's fall is dramatic. Not since 1951 have fewer Black Ducks been found

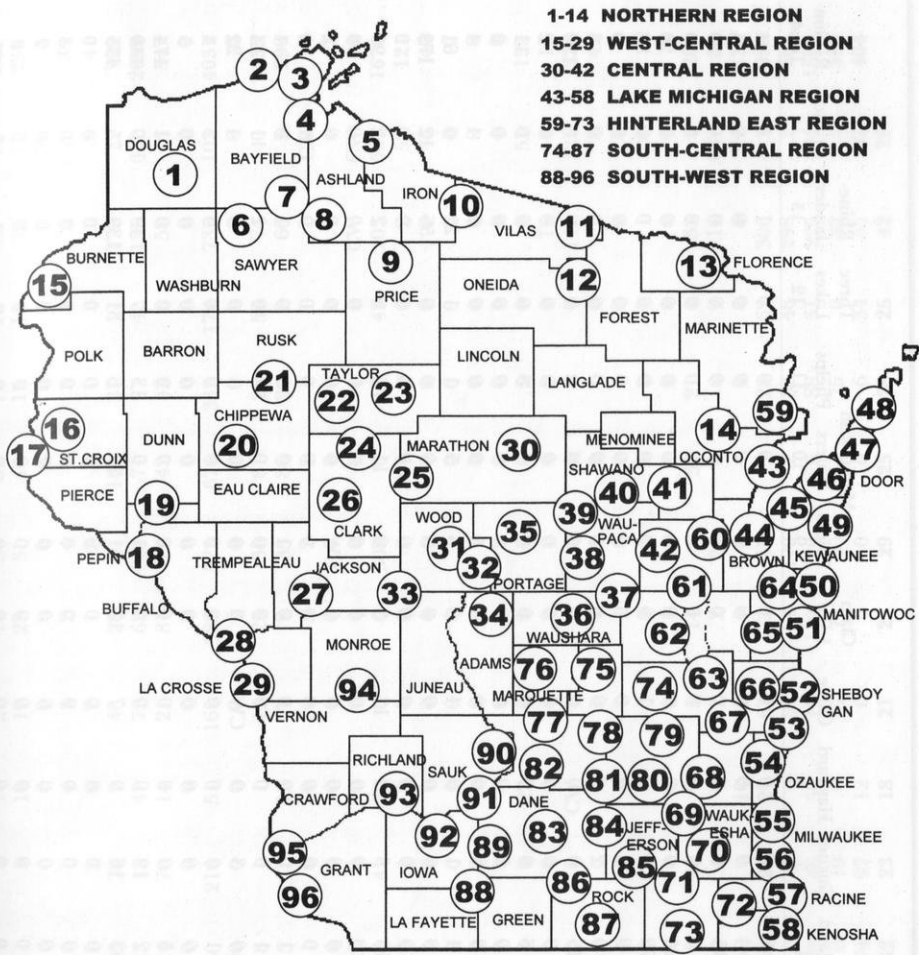


Figure 1. Locations of the 2004 Wisconsin Christmas Bird Counts.

(363)—and that year there were but 18 counts and many fewer field hours. Between 1951 and 2004, the lowest total of Blacks was 894 in 2001. This year's total is 590. Ducks off the shore of Lake Michigan continue to show strong numbers. Among these is the Redhead. Nearly all early winter Redheads are found on Lake Michigan. Before 1997 the highest count of Redheads was 63 in 1954. Many count years had Redheads in the single digit

and some years, such as 1964, no Redheads were reported. The 2004 total of 1,156 is nearly double the previous high of 592 (2001). The 700 Redheads reported from Ephraim is not only a single circle record, it is more than 100 individuals above the previous statewide high. Major increases in Redhead numbers began in 1997. In a similar fashion, the Greater Scaup has shown dramatic increases starting in 2000, the Bufflehead starting in 2001,



Red-bel. Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	6	13
Downy Woodpecker	8	11	9	4	5	10	20	14	30	31	17	18	33	15	225
Hairy Woodpecker	6	9	6	1	5	10	19	23	31	48	15	13	39	11	236
Northern Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	0
Pileated Woodpecker	0	4	4	0	1	4	3	2	4	4	3	4	6	CW	39
Northern Shrike	CW	5	6	6	2	0	2	1	3	2	1	2	3	8	41
Blue Jay	35	18	64	33	78	9	46	28	77	166	37	17	179	12	799
American Crow	74	27	492	153	13	47	72	62	162	71	97	42	135	612	2059
Common Raven	91	16	55	24	70	14	21	81	12	42	43	6	58	14	547
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-cap. Chickadee	250	86	130	260	216	51	168	326	523	676	333	174	735	103	4031
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch	22	8	5	8	1	1	13	25	36	61	28	53	74	0	335
White-br. Nuthatch	6	11	9	5	1	13	17	8	35	86	20	8	66	5	290
Brown Creeper	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	2	5	1	1	2	0	17
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
American Robin	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	CW	20
European Starling	6	29	245	196	41	22	0	0	308	0	17	43	203	569	1679
Cedar Waxwing	20	0	7	16	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	2	52	121
American Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	46
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-thr. Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dark-eyed Junco	2	53	1	3	0	22	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	53	139
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Snow Bunting	0	28	0	30	0	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	125	328
Northern Cardinal	0	2	5	10	0	0	5	4	5	0	1	0	2	8	42
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Grosbeak	19	0	31	6	38	0	5	14	1	36	21	0	33	0	204
Purple Finch	1	4	0	12	4	6	2	2	29	0	0	9	16	CW	85
House Finch	0	3	22	66	0	10	0	0	0	4	0	0	6	19	130
Common Redpoll	136	0	CW	58	22	27	67	175	35	75	28	62	306	5	996
Pine Siskin	13	0	0	0	0	0	38	64	170	2	30	48	298	2	665
American Goldfinch	24	161	21	98	46	50	19	159	216	276	88	31	225	194	1608
Evening Grosbeak	5	0	25	0	19	0	97	74	90	61	75	0	92	0	538
House Sparrow	0	32	47	74	97	12	0	0	0	0	6	34	65	37	404
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 3. Number of each species in west-central Wisconsin found on 14 or more counts

Species	Grants- burg 15	New Richmond 16	Hudson 17	Nelson 18	Durand 19	Chip- pewa Falls 20	Holcombe 21	Gilman 22	Medford 23	Owen 24	Spencer 25	Willard 26	Black River Falls 27	Trem- pealeau 28	La Crosse 29	Region Totals
Canada Goose	1508	3449	7984	257	0	1949	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	303	1007	16462
Mute Swan	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	1289	1350
Gadwall	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
American Black Duck	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
Mallard	18	489	802	325	0	334	0	0	50	4	0	1	0	222	575	2820
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	1512	176	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1703
Hooded Merganser	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Common Merganser	0	1	1562	598	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2162
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	5	CW	9	9	0	0	25	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	61
Ruffed Grouse	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	3	11	11	5	1	1	1	1	40
Wild Turkey	11	3	0	327	108	127	77	94	43	106	285	310	8	5	61	1565
Great Blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Bald Eagle	15	11	40	106	31	19	8	1	1	13	7	12	8	41	124	437
Northern Harrier	4	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	14
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	8
N. Goshawk	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	8
Red-tailed Hawk	4	18	7	60	26	19	6	4	2	18	25	36	2	16	33	276
Rough-legged Hawk	16	0	0	11	13	12	5	3	5	5	1	10	1	2	0	84
American Kestrel	1	1	0	2	4	0	2	1	0	9	6	1	1	2	4	34
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Herring Gull	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6
Rock Pigeon	83	269	115	895	584	356	289	292	142	469	886	500	48	126	264	5318
Mourning Dove	0	0	0	4	18	135	63	59	61	69	720	309	5	50	130	1623
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Horned Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	2	0	10
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	7
N. Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	0	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	12



Red-bel. Woodpecker	2	6	7	40	17	15	14	2	6	14	12	18	10	25	18	206
Downy Woodpecker	9	22	12	53	30	48	18	46	18	35	44	27	14	47	40	463
Hairy Woodpecker	5	3	7	11	6	13	11	16	22	17	21	22	8	12	29	203
Northern Flicker	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	12
Pileated Woodpecker	3	0	2	7	4	3	0	1	CW	2	4	5	1	2	7	41
Northern Shrike	6	2	CW	5	6	4	4	9	11	9	6	3	CW	1	3	69
Blue Jay	23	49	13	255	130	137	63	74	128	73	107	283	55	55	61	1506
American Crow	189	539	297	681	516	671	339	484	727	918	445	662	243	404	372	7487
Common Raven	19	0	0	1	2	1	5	32	10	5	1	17	3	0	0	96
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	2	56	0	0	0	0	20	17	0	CW	8	103
Black-cap. Chickadee	121	124	137	345	202	315	319	489	681	648	332	418	50	143	221	4545
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	6	1	23	4	0	0	0	1	2	6	12	16	71
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	14	1	8	6	14	10	7	27	6	5	12	5	18	4	146
White-br. Nuthatch	18	16	19	55	29	29	26	39	39	60	50	58	17	55	70	580
Brown Creeper	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	14	28
Golden-cr. Kinglet	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	0	198	1141	2	8	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	3	103	1460
European Starling	189	239	185	974	1325	238	1122	244	1363	4077	1438	664	50	324	346	12778
Cedar Waxwing	0	111	25	37	40	20	2	0	25	1	0	1	0	2	22	286
American Tree Sparrow	0	33	5	21	77	186	36	51	11	44	89	133	11	101	73	871
Song Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	3	4
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-thr. Sparrow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dark-eyed Junco	9	49	48	623	390	420	19	8	41	53	83	240	47	220	265	2515
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Snow Bunting	79	0	0	0	0	0	120	12	2	0	136	55	0	1	0	405
Northern Cardinal	11	27	22	181	89	136	11	0	54	43	48	53	23	61	62	821
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Br-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Finch	0	7	5	38	1	8	1	0	3	8	16	31	35	22	11	186
House Finch	0	51	77	33	17	25	0	15	12	51	38	34	29	36	62	480
Common Redpoll	436	44	2	2	2	74	212	252	303	193	377	511	0	0	0	2408
Pine Siskin	18	10	39	56	36	44	2	0	19	1	3	5	1	151	11	396
American Goldfinch	53	93	121	350	128	288	80	114	124	216	286	264	70	195	166	2548
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Sparrow	40	39	30	978	486	313	603	443	439	1334	1224	854	5	175	319	7282
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 4. Number of each species in central Wisconsin found on 14 or more counts

Species	Wausau 30	Arpin 31	Wisc. Rapids 32	Meadow Valley 33	Adams 34	Stevens Point 35	Wautoma 36	Fremont 37	Waupaca 38	Norske 39	Caroline 40	Shawano 41	Shiocton 42	Region Totals
Canada Goose	420	0	CW	0	0	1269	197	703	22	1	0	902	376	3890
Mute Swan	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	4	0	CW	0	0	8	0	0	1	1	2	5	0	21
Mallard	301	0	204	0	0	915	372	28	54	4	48	1354	44	3324
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Common Goldeneye	1	0	140	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	184
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	39
Common Merganser	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	420	0	0	0	24	0	450
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1	CW	0	0	0	2	8	0	1	0	5	1	18
Ruffed Grouse	0	CW	3	4	2	4	2	0	1	2	1	4	0	23
Wild Turkey	102	55	160	4	25	352	570	108	118	281	172	105	161	2213
Great Blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	0	0
Bald Eagle	4	4	CW	10	2	5	4	46	3	1	1	8	5	93
Northern Harrier	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	5	2	0	0	2	5	20
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10
N. Goshawk	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-tailed Hawk	5	23	4	5	2	21	31	52	3	11	2	4	68	231
Rough-legged Hawk	0	6	CW	14	5	10	12	8	7	6	2	6	1	77
American Kestrel	1	2	CW	0	0	2	2	15	1	1	1	7	32	64
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	1	0	31
Herring Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	167	1	0	0	6	5	179
Rock Pigeon	281	284	32	3	22	330	103	629	354	393	251	208	751	3641
Mourning Dove	134	93	75	10	99	353	127	136	347	247	23	93	219	1956
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Great Horned Owl	1	CW	CW	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	8	4	19
Barred Owl	1	CW	0	0	0	6	CW	0	0	2	1	1	0	11
N. Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	8
Red-bel. Woodpecker	5	9	1	14	2	17	17	30	9	9	1	6	28	148

Downy Woodpecker	22	30	11	20	1	58	47	61	20	11	2	14	60	357
Hairy Woodpecker	8	8	6	6	2	42	24	17	6	13	1	13	16	162
Northern Flicker	0	0	CW	0	0	1	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	9
Pileated Woodpecker	2	0	2	3	1	7	9	0	4	4	1	3	1	37
Northern Shrike	1	1	0	4	0	6	2	2	3	1	1	2	4	27
Blue Jay	41	44	28	91	28	144	131	57	40	127	0	72	109	912
American Crow	305	283	209	78	102	614	1059	247	484	406	90	408	425	4710
Common Raven	0	2	1	6	1	2	1	2	2	10	3	10	0	40
Horned Lark	0	31	0	9	7	CW	0	0	160	30	5	0	0	242
Black-cap. Chickadee	230	156	114	339	10	528	155	364	120	193	33	128	207	2577
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	CW	0	0	6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	7	59	<b>134</b>	1	92	29	25	10	22	2	15	19	433
White-br. Nuthatch	27	12	20	77	2	84	54	76	22	20	1	21	45	461
Brown Creeper	1	0	CW	9	0	7	10	3	0	2	0	3	3	38
Golden-cr. Kinglet	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	7	1	2	0	0	2	35
American Robin	0	0	0	0	0	4	25	0	0	0	0	1	0	30
European Starling	278	454	5	0	0	116	476	1562	237	389	220	737	1175	5649
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	60	0	17	211	10	31	0	32	0	31	0	392
American Tree Sparrow	2	62	3	68	169	95	14	306	109	241	42	121	72	1304
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-thr. Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dark-eyed Junco	77	37	35	35	75	338	327	400	566	806	12	66	281	3055
Lapland Longspur	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	210	0	0	0	0	217
Snow Bunting	1	0	0	35	0	120	0	0	5	10	16	568	152	907
Northern Cardinal	48	40	12	1	3	110	55	70	52	31	0	27	81	530
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	178	0	179
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	16	0	17
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	5
Purple Finch	22	5	10	3	0	3	25	0	3	23	3	1	4	102
House Finch	37	0	10	2	0	190	8	98	66	18	2	28	85	544
Common Redpoll	44	25	CW	12	0	68	1	0	1	254	18	37	0	460
Pine Siskin	35	0	8	0	0	104	121	6	118	29	33	23	18	495
American Goldfinch	311	69	47	78	0	237	164	318	266	260	21	172	308	2251
Evening Grosbeak	0	11	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	1	0	22
House Sparrow	202	140	14	0	0	175	26	1084	201	177	24	116	766	2925
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>40</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 5. Number of each species along Lake Michigan in Wisconsin found on 14 or more counts

	Pen- saucee	Green Bay	New Franken	Sturgeon			Kewau- nee	Woodland Dunes		She- boygan	Cedar Grove	River- edge	Mil- waukee	Hales Corners	Racine	Kenosha	Region Totals
Species	43	44	45	Brussels 46	Bay 47	Ephraim 48	49	NE 50	SE 51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	
Canada Goose	405	4667	2401	251	2569	54	1045	1876	723	2154	1443	6582	6190	1048	6782	16,000	54190
Mute Swan	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	14
Tundra Swan	7	0	0	CW	74	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	40	0	1	0	123
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	79	0	0	0	85
American Black Duck	0	142	10	8	5	0	14	2	9	27	2	1	21	0	28	0	269
Mallard	6	2537	33	36	363	90	118	377	100	1507	23	347	1537	226	1027	200	8527
Greater Scaup	86	0	15	CW	262	38	3	1500	36	400	1644	6526	4174	27	670	33	15414
Bufflehead	1	0	4	0	144	63	69	1	2	114	174	39	971	128	183	73	1966
Common Goldeneye	301	2	4	0	275	20	3650	170	55	327	261	126	1828	206	582	10	7817
Hooded Merganser	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	12	CW	7	2	33
Common Merganser	166	847	320	CW	1847	30	107	60	92	23	23	111	42	16	195	17	3896
Red-breasted Merganser	5	0	0	0	13	4	131	10	6	0	284	324	1045	2	175	5	2004
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	0	25	16	4	1	1	2	0	1	8	23	0	0	2	13	98
Ruffed Grouse	1	3	4	5	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Wild Turkey	127	22	147	797	181	52	198	44	0	5	66	402	CW	0	0	CW	2041
Great Blue Heron	0	1	CW	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	11
Bald Eagle	6	14	1	3	4	3	3	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	42
Northern Harrier	2	CW	6	0	1	1	3	1	0	4	14	6	1	0	1	2	42
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	CW	0	1	1	8	2	0	0	2	18
Cooper's Hawk	0	11	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	5	3	16	17	4	5	1	70
N. Goshawk	1	0	CW	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Red-tailed Hawk	14	47	21	25	12	0	25	13	4	15	40	59	27	6	15	13	336
Rough-legged Hawk	5	1	3	13	9	5	9	11	0	7	0	6	0	0	1	2	72
American Kestrel	3	14	5	3	0	0	10	5	2	8	16	22	8	2	9	9	116
Ring-billed Gull	0	100	4	1	103	50	46	4	13	346	188	282	923	776	177	201	3214
Herring Gull	33	336	69	0	527	18	378	1035	185	845	40	88	3767	18	754	401	8494
Rock Pigeon	304	833	179	384	203	0	496	321	54	632	791	1239	1563	80	472	1422	8973
Mourning Dove	91	686	166	255	171	68	323	176	25	170	203	818	604	133	523	216	4628
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	4	3	9	CW	37
Great Horned Owl	3	5	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	4	24	9	2	10	CW	67
Barred Owl	0	1	2	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	16
N. Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	6

Red-bel. Woodpecker	4	33	33	10	13	8	11	3	7	7	9	79	27	6	11	3	<b>264</b>
Downy Woodpecker	9	74	67	26	42	10	38	29	17	21	30	<b>273</b>	123	34	33	7	<b>833</b>
Hairy Woodpecker	5	42	33	16	31	18	11	6	3	5	10	<b>95</b>	30	3	3	1	<b>312</b>
Northern Flicker	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	<b>14</b>	2	0	0	1	<b>24</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	2	2	6	CW	9	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>27</b>
Northern Shrike	5	4	1	4	3	2	6	4	0	1	3	4	1	0	1	0	<b>39</b>
Blue Jay	15	45	70	49	51	24	91	48	15	42	25	153	12	8	21	6	<b>675</b>
American Crow	172	356	235	650	355	89	842	233	220	110	227	1200	592	50	581	133	<b>6045</b>
Common Raven	4	0	5	10	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>38</b>
Horned Lark	0	0	4	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	0	0	0	42	<b>131</b>
Black-cap. Chickadee	99	375	277	91	262	115	330	159	53	102	276	1077	567	111	203	82	<b>4179</b>
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	26	25	9	22	23	12	8	1	3	16	46	9	3	15	14	<b>234</b>
White-br. Nuthatch	7	88	95	20	44	12	22	10	13	13	27	<b>305</b>	105	27	24	11	<b>823</b>
Brown Creeper	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	14	2	1	1	2	<b>27</b>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	0	3	0	0	4	4	4	10	0	0	2	10	5	4	2	CW	<b>48</b>
American Robin	CW	16	1	CW	CW	0	12	0	1	1	2	71	774	40	27	29	<b>974</b>
European Starling	449	1171	125	801	862	32	421	661	35	465	1736	1779	3144	229	1942	<b>6000</b>	<b>19852</b>
Cedar Waxwing	CW	41	263	0	168	125	26	10	0	27	36	263	<b>392</b>	30	324	36	<b>1741</b>
American Tree Sparrow	106	120	33	29	12	0	53	11	2	0	101	301	48	31	142	0	<b>989</b>
Song Sparrow	0	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	16	1	<b>45</b>
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	15	1	17	<b>35</b>
White-thr. Sparrow	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	20	3	3	9	<b>49</b>
Dark-eyed Junco	55	345	165	122	100	33	331	109	88	92	298	1020	588	66	259	225	<b>3896</b>
Lapland Longspur	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	<b>17</b>
Snow Bunting	190	4	15	91	55	0	12	36	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	386	<b>839</b>
Northern Cardinal	28	136	102	58	96	27	71	41	21	37	116	367	324	82	113	17	<b>1636</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	<b>13</b>
Common Grackle	1	0	CW	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	CW	<b>8</b>
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	<b>9</b>
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Purple Finch	6	0	43	0	4	8	7	0	0	0	1	11	8	0	0	0	<b>88</b>
House Finch	11	311	190	39	119	0	61	14	57	23	94	514	470	70	148	8	<b>2129</b>
Common Redpoll	0	CW	29	12	7	8	17	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	<b>80</b>
Pine Siskin	2	3	27	0	99	72	5	95	1	6	2	20	5	0	0	0	<b>337</b>
American Goldfinch	231	446	474	304	348	172	368	134	111	48	135	1016	595	172	156	121	<b>4831</b>
Evening Grosbeak	CW	0	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
House Sparrow	230	1702	358	451	86	3	242	59	57	139	1348	927	1529	116	659	301	<b>8207</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.



Table 6. Number of each species in hinterland east Wisconsin found on 14 or more counts

Species	Pesh- tigo 59	Sey- mour 60	Apple- ton 61	Osh- kosh 62	Fond du Lac 63	Woodland Dunes		Ply- mouth 66	Kettle Moraine 67	Hart- ford 68	Ocono- mowoc 69	Wau- kesha 70	Palmyra 71	Bur- lington 72	Lake Geneva 73	Region Totals
						NW 64	SW 65									
Canada Goose	801	0	6505	7375	4800	51	2053	1190	552	1721	997	2514	5475	2122	4523	<b>40679</b>
Mute Swan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	<b>46</b>	33	2	<b>87</b>
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	<b>13</b>
Gadwall	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	23	15	0	13	3	5	<b>64</b>
American Black Duck	1	0	43	25	35	4	0	0	0	27	11	1	3	17	17	<b>184</b>
Mallard	61	6	2153	<b>4720</b>	402	80	14	269	0	215	370	324	102	862	645	<b>10223</b>
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Bufflehead	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	238	<b>286</b>
Common Goldeneye	5	0	402	527	1	0	0	0	0	1	18	25	1	2	389	<b>1371</b>
Hooded Merganser	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	<b>17</b>
Common Merganser	13	0	215	1204	180	0	0	5	0	0	190	7	0	0	935	<b>2749</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	<b>51</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1	3	8	2	0	14	3	9	3	1	0	0	5	3	<b>52</b>
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Wild Turkey	26	167	14	21	76	227	62	151	42	516	60	55	105	49	0	<b>1571</b>
Great Blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	CW	<b>8</b>
Bald Eagle	14	2	12	32	3	2	0	CW	0	1	CW	0	0	0	3	<b>69</b>
Northern Harrier	5	0	1	3	6	0	3	11	2	13	0	2	6	1	0	<b>53</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	<b>17</b>
Cooper's Hawk	1	4	<b>23</b>	10	2	1	0	4	1	4	4	2	2	4	4	<b>66</b>
N. Goshawk	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	7	32	102	35	20	11	5	8	61	108	13	23	42	20	13	<b>500</b>
Rough-legged Hawk	13	5	2	8	3	5	1	2	0	6	0	1	2	0	0	<b>48</b>
American Kestrel	3	10	20	14	7	15	11	6	5	11	9	0	7	2	4	<b>124</b>
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	34	45	36	3	0	39	8	20	83	1	47	16	618	<b>950</b>
Herring Gull	3	0	1510	287	151	255	45	1	15	7	102	1	43	30	286	<b>2736</b>
Rock Pigeon	329	546	1219	534	288	75	224	443	404	913	184	147	415	278	282	<b>6281</b>
Mourning Dove	91	596	731	408	239	118	45	68	120	514	91	172	335	204	86	<b>3818</b>
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	10	7	6	<b>33</b>
Great Horned Owl	0	2	9	3	8	0	0	2	2	3	3	5	<b>33</b>	9	3	<b>82</b>
Barred Owl	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	<b>7</b>
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	<b>11</b>
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	4	0	<b>12</b>
Red-bel. Woodpecker	7	10	30	30	4	6	2	7	16	37	12	17	28	13	29	<b>248</b>

Downy Woodpecker	12	37	66	81	20	21	14	26	48	93	17	32	59	27	48	<b>601</b>
Hairy Woodpecker	12	10	23	25	4	11	7	9	6	13	6	11	28	15	9	<b>189</b>
Northern Flicker	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	4	6	2	3	3	4	2	<b>30</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	<b>7</b>
Northern Shrike	3	1	4	0	1	0	2	2	3	5	0	1	4	5	0	<b>31</b>
Blue Jay	42	65	51	53	21	46	12	29	64	57	38	32	35	37	33	<b>615</b>
American Crow	359	182	512	340	128	108	79	260	404	1168	179	398	1016	457	518	<b>6108</b>
Common Raven	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CW	<b>18</b>
Horned Lark	0	94	7	4	0	0	<b>200</b>	0	1	53	19	0	21	8	69	<b>476</b>
Black-cap. Chickadee	207	163	384	253	92	133	27	50	334	465	140	190	359	195	146	<b>3138</b>
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	0	3	<b>18</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	13	1	38	25	1	9	2	4	32	15	3	7	44	5	10	<b>209</b>
White-br. Nuthatch	24	17	85	54	18	29	6	11	32	107	28	29	92	43	51	<b>626</b>
Brown Creeper	1	0	6	5	0	4	0	0	2	3	0	1	3	5	2	<b>32</b>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	0	0	17	9	2	13	0	0	4	1	0	0	23	18	0	<b>87</b>
American Robin	0	1	57	22	0	1	0	0	1	0	47	30	95	162	1	<b>417</b>
European Starling	252	725	3704	2304	231	102	108	433	920	1048	204	204	1422	480	626	<b>12763</b>
Cedar Waxwing	1	5	181	11	0	0	0	0	0	7	58	55	111	12	89	<b>530</b>
American Tree Sparrow	69	171	47	197	22	50	100	20	134	454	61	137	363	377	377	<b>2579</b>
Song Sparrow	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	6	9	<b>29</b>
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	<b>8</b>
White-thr. Sparrow	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	<b>13</b>
Dark-eyed Junco	59	283	454	355	87	100	21	92	526	861	105	233	1140	396	767	<b>5479</b>
Lapland Longspur	0	1	25	30	0	0	0	0	0	275	0	0	102	42	0	<b>475</b>
Snow Bunting	0	0	112	56	0	2	0	0	60	0	0	0	4	0	0	<b>234</b>
Northern Cardinal	15	64	260	136	30	28	14	35	89	231	82	134	156	76	160	<b>1510</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2	6	<b>26</b>
Common Grackle	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	<b>3</b>
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	8	0	1	<b>12</b>
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Purple Finch	13	0	7	2	1	0	4	0	0	8	16	6	17	2	1	<b>77</b>
House Finch	13	84	306	252	20	42	12	76	38	436	38	53	177	172	481	<b>2200</b>
Common Redpoll	123	31	2	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>164</b>
Pine Siskin	3	3	0	2	10	49	0	31	64	94	1	86	68	5	75	<b>491</b>
American Goldfinch	422	191	407	250	85	162	104	106	261	389	52	143	385	140	163	<b>3260</b>
Evening Grosbeak	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
House Sparrow	104	714	1481	1579	104	81	131	143	657	1526	331	125	557	404	602	<b>8539</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3733</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>		

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 7. Number of each species in south-central Wisconsin found on 14 or more counts

Species	Rosen- dale 74	Green Lake 75	Montello 76	Pardee- ville 77	Randolph 78	Horicon Marsh 79	Hustis- ford 80	Columbus 81	Poynette 82	Madison 83	Water- loo 84	Fort Atkinson 85	Cooks- ville 86	Beloit 87	Region Totals
Canada Goose	7345	<b>55050</b>	2917	1282	4601	23358	116	199	1701	11458	1982	99	2067	5512	<b>117687</b>
Mute Swan	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	<b>22</b>
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	CW	0	0	0	0	1	643	324	0	0	0	<b>968</b>
Gadwall	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	16	<b>498</b>	0	0	12	0	<b>528</b>
American Black Duck	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	7	1	7	3	0	CW	43	<b>67</b>
Mallard	4	101	378	2	60	37	0	525	180	3431	460	205	346	1403	<b>7132</b>
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Bufflehead	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	283	0	0	0	0	<b>287</b>
Common Goldeneye	0	52	1	4	2	0	0	1	119	270	6	0	0	116	<b>571</b>
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>42</b>	0	0	0	1	<b>43</b>
Common Merganser	5	167	CW	109	5	0	0	0	0	1045	2	9	0	11	<b>1353</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Ring-necked Pheasant	10	4	1	2	7	4	17	2	<b>83</b>	5	4	3	5	15	<b>162</b>
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Wild Turkey	8	120	267	273	87	110	37	15	103	171	109	104	33	83	<b>1520</b>
Great Blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	<b>7</b>
Bald Eagle	3	10	6	12	2	5	2	1	14	11	0	1	1	CW	<b>68</b>
Northern Harrier	15	3	CW	6	5	<b>24</b>	18	1	6	0	1	0	4	2	<b>85</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	2	2	CW	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	CW	CW	<b>13</b>
Cooper's Hawk	4	1	1	0	3	2	2	0	4	13	5	1	1	2	<b>39</b>
N. Goshawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	39	17	33	27	27	67	80	35	49	103	63	15	24	43	<b>622</b>
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	2	4	3	10	5	0	14	1	1	0	3	0	<b>47</b>
American Kestrel	<b>32</b>	3	0	6	19	20	28	5	12	7	7	4	6	13	<b>162</b>
Ring-billed Gull	16	5	84	72	27	233	2	0	49	<b>4448</b>	145	0	15	6	<b>5102</b>
Herring Gull	9	599	5	24	8	26	0	15	8	1246	5	4	0	6	<b>1955</b>
Rock Pigeon	686	82	179	179	756	714	759	405	218	735	266	373	132	729	<b>6213</b>
Mourning Dove	342	43	75	71	313	173	375	74	223	793	90	96	300	464	<b>3432</b>
Eastern Screech-owl	0	1	0	0	8	8	7	4	2	<b>17</b>	0	3	6	6	<b>62</b>
Great Horned Owl	2	3	0	0	8	7	9	7	7	19	2	0	4	3	<b>71</b>
Barred Owl	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	<b>13</b>
N. Saw-whet Owl	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Belted Kingfisher	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	2	<b>21</b>
Red-bel. Woodpecker	16	8	21	17	22	17	26	29	34	<b>129</b>	22	19	7	29	<b>396</b>
Downy Woodpecker	36	13	33	44	62	58	82	57	74	242	69	62	19	71	<b>922</b>

Hairy Woodpecker	7	3	11	26	8	13	11	9	21	94	16	13	7	10	249
Northern Flicker	0	0	5	2	2	0	1	1	5	3	5	7	1	5	37
Pileated Woodpecker	0	1	5	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	12
Northern Shrike	3	3	2	0	6	1	2	0	4	6	1	0	0	1	29
Blue Jay	119	20	132	81	80	33	79	74	123	103	46	26	24	50	990
American Crow	471	203	725	577	325	166	271	214	923	<b>1787</b>	512	150	263	358	6945
Common Raven	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Horned Lark	0	0	CW	0	21	23	113	41	2	0	16	0	22	152	390
Black-cap. Chickadee	171	123	151	209	205	156	266	278	277	<b>1140</b>	301	178	50	163	3668
Tufted Titmouse	0	1	1	14	0	0	0	0	35	14	13	2	1	13	94
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	9	24	9	2	2	1	7	23	45	9	17	4	2	157
White-br. Nuthatch	32	18	51	56	70	52	76	91	88	273	108	53	23	61	1052
Brown Creeper	1	1	2	2	1	1	5	2	1	<b>42</b>	1	1	3	6	69
Golden-cr. Kinglet	0	0	2	8	1	2	1	10	5	<b>24</b>	3	0	2	2	60
American Robin	1	3	CW	18	25	2	4	3	33	827	0	25	1	12	954
European Starling	1479	27	589	801	3726	2808	2798	2240	852	4269	2145	737	1149	3751	27371
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	22	0	0	0	41	0	23	188	58	0	15	54	401
American Tree Sparrow	157	9	43	35	634	205	463	445	562	<b>887</b>	205	74	281	246	4246
Song Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	4	0	18	1	0	3	12	46
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>18</b>	0	0	0	0	19
White-thr. Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>28</b>	0	0	0	2	32
Dark-eyed Junco	548	101	383	379	563	359	602	755	917	<b>1603</b>	556	236	220	353	7575
Lapland Longspur	253	0	0	0	65	0	385	125	50	0	0	0	CW	0	878
Snow Bunting	100	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	150	0	305
Northern Cardinal	53	33	52	87	64	84	103	118	114	<b>624</b>	97	84	33	142	1688
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	5	1	22	<b>42</b>	0	4	0	83
Common Grackle	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	2	0	44	0	0	0	0	57
Br.-headed Cowbird	150	0	0	0	22	0	<b>194</b>	10	0	0	50	0	9	28	463
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Finch	0	20	23	22	0	0	0	3	43	2	14	20	22	0	169
House Finch	187	34	103	58	110	49	234	87	270	<b>525</b>	212	99	37	172	2177
Common Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	63	0	0	0	67
Pine Siskin	2	0	13	28	0	15	2	56	84	156	6	95	6	10	473
American Goldfinch	381	52	265	292	156	262	552	192	307	<b>1280</b>	267	234	69	189	4498
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Sparrow	1372	41	108	115	1494	917	2019	1169	422	<b>2021</b>	1318	239	205	713	12153
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 8. Number of each species in southwestern Wisconsin found on 14 or more counts

Species	Blanchard- ville 88	Mount Horeb 89	Baraboo 90	Sauk City 91	Clyde 92	Richland- Center 93	Kickapoo Valley 94	Bridge- port 95	Cass- ville 96	Region Totals	Number of Counts	No. of Individ- uals	Percent Change
Canada Goose	35	89	3082	801	0	56	0	240	0	4303	69	237,255	-23.5%
Mute Swan	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	18	138	+75.1%
Tundra Swan	0	2	2	0	0	30	0	0	7	41	22	2,515	+79.1%
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	20	690	-29.1%
American Black Duck	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	10	0	20	43	590	-50.5%
Mallard	18	27	495	496	29	35	0	562	0	1662	73	33,776	-22.7%
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15,416	+69.0%
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	2,545	+28.0%
Common Goldeneye	0	0	60	33	0	0	0	84	0	177	53	12,013	+23.7%
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	136	-31.3%
Common Merganser	0	0	2	926	0	5	0	6	20	959	45	11,580	+48.7%
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2,059	+109.0%
Ring-necked Pheasant	30	19	0	1	0	8	CW	6	0	64	58	459	+6.7%
Ruffed Grouse	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	8	44	158	-54.9%
Wild Turkey	126	128	115	126	22	210	74	20	4	825	79	9,914	+44.2%
Great Blue Heron	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	21	36	-15.3%
Bald Eagle	4	2	40	138	5	59	2	104	132	486	79	1,294	+39.1%
Northern Harrier	4	2	2	5	0	4	0	6	2	25	56	237	+33.9%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	2	3	0	2	1	2	1	16	50	89	-7.3%
Cooper's Hawk	2	3	2	8	1	3	0	5	1	25	64	218	+19.1%
N. Goshawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	20	+7.5%
Red-tailed Hawk	68	96	65	111	21	92	30	86	39	608	84	2,587	+3.3%
Rough-legged Hawk	4	14	16	28	7	23	2	15	11	120	72	470	-17.4%
American Kestrel	18	19	3	7	1	29	CW	20	18	115	73	619	-18.4%
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	4	21	0	58	0	23	7	113	49	9,420	-18.1%
Herring Gull	0	8	12	78	0	200	0	0	0	298	55	14,142	-11.3%
Rock Pigeon	162	466	200	558	187	687	111	436	367	3174	89	34,040	+6.9%
Mourning Dove	68	236	64	325	8	15	38	243	40	1037	91	16,929	-5.1%
Eastern Screech Owl	9	2	2	1	0	2	0	12	0	28	32	163	-20.2%
Great Horned Owl	3	4	3	10	2	5	2	5	1	35	57	287	-27.7%
Barred Owl	4	0	CW	2	1	2	1	5	0	15	37	71	-20.0%
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	7	14	30	+265.9%
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	0	0	4	1	1	12	3	25	40	85	-11.3%
Red-bel. Woodpecker	50	71	47	77	23	66	17	67	32	450	87	1,725	+9.0%



Downy Woodpecker	48	96	87	102	29	100	12	121	41	636	96	4,037	-11.0%
Hairy Woodpecker	18	53	27	29	23	20	1	36	4	211	96	1,562	-5.9%
Northern Flicker	3	6	1	1	1	6	0	9	3	30	51	142	-8.2%
Pileated Woodpecker	4	4	5	6	5	10	4	18	4	60	61	223	-11.8%
Northern Shrike	3	5	4	3	0	2	2	1	1	21	79	257	+14.2%
Blue Jay	58	168	93	164	46	<b>294</b>	59	165	36	<b>1083</b>	95	6,580	-35.9%
American Crow	569	847	954	666	94	1239	120	340	226	<b>5055</b>	96	38,409	+3.4%
Common Raven	0	0	CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	741	-4.6%
Horned Lark	32	9	1	0	0	3	23	106	103	277	41	1,619	-47.1%
Black-cap. Chickadee	248	445	414	361	85	366	99	377	124	<b>2519</b>	96	24,657	-5.7%
Tufted Titmouse	10	<b>77</b>	38	24	6	55	3	61	22	<b>296</b>	33	485	+34.1%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	20	32	10	2	8	1	4	4	90	95	1,604	+23.7%
White-br. Nuthatch	81	148	84	91	36	125	11	135	38	<b>749</b>	96	4,581	-3.6%
Brown Creeper	2	2	4	9	3	1	0	7	1	29	62	240	-13.0%
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	2	6	0	3	0	0	0	1	15	42	249	-9.7%
American Robin	3	11	0	80	2	13	2	1	0	112	53	3,967	+46.2%
European Starling	761	1855	478	1259	592	1385	83	2168	726	<b>9307</b>	91	89,399	+18.2%
Cedar Waxwing	12	19	45	63	50	76	0	57	0	322	61	5,351	+39.4%
American Tree Sparrow	398	441	189	244	156	120	112	321	21	<b>2002</b>	79	12,112	-34.3%
Song Sparrow	13	1	1	0	1	0	1	<b>61</b>	1	79	36	206	-32.9%
Swamp Sparrow	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	14	72	+1.4%
White-thr. Sparrow	3	1	0	0	0	15	0	12	1	32	21	127	-34.9%
Dark-eyed Junco	602	825	1045	829	386	606	316	1307	228	<b>6144</b>	89	28,803	-9.2%
Lapland Longspur	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>857</b>	250	1111	21	2,719	+56.7%
Snow Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	7	0	127	39	3,145	-62.8%
Northern Cardinal	134	265	194	239	26	238	35	209	76	<b>1416</b>	89	7,643	+2.1%
Red-winged Blackbird	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	17	127	-92.0%
Common Grackle	0	2	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	23	15	271	+42.6%
Br.-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	17	505	-10.5%
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	212	-62.3%
Purple Finch	11	25	<b>47</b>	40	17	47	27	36	5	<b>255</b>	71	962	-35.7%
House Finch	28	253	164	142	6	160	10	69	23	<b>855</b>	84	8,515	+2.9%
Common Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	39	50	4,214	+65.0%
Pine Siskin	0	32	155	32	40	4	5	63	7	<b>338</b>	78	3,195	+69.7%
American Goldfinch	178	607	440	204	68	401	96	360	148	<b>2502</b>	95	21,498	+41.0%
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	570	-54.4%
House Sparrow	917	816	150	661	108	715	78	1506	381	<b>5332</b>	89	44,842	-8.1%
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>46</b>				

CW = Found within 3 days of the count day but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** within the counts indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.

Table 9. Species found on 13 or fewer counts

Species	Number of Counts	Number of Birds	Count and Number
Gr. White-front Goose	1	5	Randolph 5
Snow Goose	7	24	Burlington 1, <b>Horicon Marsh 8</b> , Oshkosh 1, Pardeeville 1, (Racine), Randolph 7, Rosendale 1, Shawano 5
Cackling Goose	11	372	Appleton 3, <b>Beloit 136</b> , Burlington 1, Horicon Marsh 17, Lake Geneva 80, Madison 55, Montello 4, Oshkosh 10, Racine 2, Riveredge 63, Shiocton 1
Trumpeter Swan	9	307	Bridgeport 4, Grantsburg 3, <b>Hudson 260</b> , Madison 1, Manitowish Waters 4, New Richmond 8, Palmyra 2, Shawano 22, Waterloo 3
Wood Duck	7	8	Appleton 1, (Beloit), Grantsburg 1, Green Bay 1, Hartford 1, (Kenosha), Milwaukee 1, <b>Riveredge 2</b> , Solon Springs 1
American Wigeon	6	7	Chippewa Falls 1, Madison 1, <b>Milwaukee 2</b> , Sheboygan 1, Stevens Point 1, Woodland Dunes SE 1
Northern Shoveler	3	433	Horicon Marsh 2, <b>Madison 418</b> , Shawano 13
Northern Pintail	6	7	(Beloit), Bridgeport 1, Fond du Lac 1, Green Lake 1, Lake Geneva 1, <b>Shawano 2</b> , Sheboygan 1
Green-winged Teal	2	2	Appleton 1, Blanchardville 1
Canvasback	5	31	Bridgeport 3, (Kenosha), Lake Geneva 5, Madison 3, Milwaukee 1, <b>Shawano 19</b>
Redhead	11	1156	Cedar Grove 113, <b>Ephraim 700</b> , Green Bay 2, (Hales Corners), Hartford 1, (Kenosha), Madison 2, Milwaukee 45, Oshkosh 5, Randolph 2, Riveredge 25, Sheboygan 23, Sturgeon Bay 238
Ring-necked Duck	4	19	(Beloit), Lake Geneva 2, <b>Madison 15</b> , (Montello), Oshkosh 1, Shawano 1, (Sturgeon Bay)
Lesser Scaup	13	345	Appleton 8, Beloit 1, Bridgeport 1, Cedar Grove 60, Fond du Lac 1, Green Bay 7, <b>Lake Geneva 151</b> , Madison 28, Milwaukee 77, Oconomowoc 5, Oshkosh 4, Racine 1, Randolph 1
Harlequin Duck	3	3	Cedar Grove 1, Milwaukee 1, Sheboygan 1
Surf Scoter	2	9	Milwaukee 3, <b>Woodland Dunes NE 6</b>
White-winged Scoter	3	28	<b>Cedar Grove 20</b> , Milwaukee 7, (Oshkosh), Woodland Dunes NE 1
Black Scoter	1	3	Milwaukee 3
Long-tailed Duck	5	122	<b>Cedar Grove 72</b> , Milwaukee 7, Racine 2, Sturgeon Bay 1, Woodland Dunes NE 40
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	2	Hudson 2
Ruddy Duck	8	14	Burlington 1, Green Bay 1, Kenosha 1, Lake Geneva 1, <b>Madison 6</b> , Oconomowoc 2, Pardeeville 1, Randolph 1
Gray Partridge	4	19	Bridgeport 1, Horicon Marsh 2, Kenosha 3, <b>Shawano 13</b>

Gr. Prairie-Chicken	2	28	Adams 15, Spencer 13
Northern Bobwhite	3	30	Kenosha 9, <b>Pardeeville 16</b> , Richland Center 5
Common Loon	3	10	(Baraboo), Green Lake 1, <b>Madison 8</b> , Racine 1, (Sturgeon Bay)
Pied-billed Grebe	1	2	(Kenosha), <b>Madison 2</b> , (Sturgeon Bay)
Horned Grebe	1	1	Milwaukee 1
Double-cr. Cormorant	8	43	Bridgeport 2, Fremont 1, <b>Green Bay 34</b> , Milwaukee 1, Oconomowoc 1, Racine 1, Riveredge 2, Sturgeon Bay 1
Turkey Vulture	2	3	Baraboo 1, (Lake Geneva), <b>Peshtigo 2</b>
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	19	Arpin 1, Bridgeport 2, Fremont 2, <b>Kenosha 3</b> , Madison 1, Montello 1, Mount Horeb 1, Pardeeville 1, Poynette 2, <b>Sauk City 3</b> , Trempealeau 1, Wautoma 1
Golden Eagle	10	17	Bridgeport 2, Durand 2, Grantsburg 2, Kickapoo Valley 2, <b>Meadow Valley 3</b> , Nelson 2, Owen 1, Penauskee 1, Sauk City 1, Waupaca 1
Merlin	8	9	Appleton 1, <b>Ashland 2</b> , Columbus 1, Green Bay 1, Horicon Marsh 1, Oshkosh 1, (Poynette), Racine 1, Willard 1
Gyr Falcon	1	1	Ashland 1
Peregrine Falcon	8	8	Appleton 1, Cedar Grove 1, Green Bay 1, (La Crosse), (Milwaukee), Racine 1, Riveredge 1, Sheboygan 1, Willard 1, Woodland Dunes SE 1
Virginia Rail	1	1	Poynette 1
American Coot	13	2915	Appleton 1, Burlington 6, Hartford 4, Kenosha 71, Lake Geneva 580, <b>Madison 2136</b> , Montello 1, Racine 5, Randolph 3, Milwaukee 83, Riveredge 8, Shawano 7, Waterloo 10
Sandhill Crane	6	1771	Appleton 1, (Beloit), Baraboo 698, Burlington 7, (Lake Geneva), Madison 12, Shiocton 1, <b>Waterloo 1052</b> , (Woodland Dunes NE)
Killdeer	2	3	Baraboo 1, <b>La Crosse 2</b>
Wilson's Snipe	9	14	Baraboo 1, Blanchardville 1, Bridgeport 2, Kickapoo Valley 2, <b>Madison 3</b> , Montello 2, New Richmond 1, Shiocton 1, (Trempealeau), Wautoma 1
Bonaparte's Gull	1	1	Appleton 1
Mew Gull	1	1	Hales Corners 1
Thayer's Gull	4	6	Appleton 1, <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , Racine 1, Woodland Dunes NE 1
Iceland Gull	2	2	Appleton 1, Racine 1
Lesser Black-b Gull	3	4	Madison 1, <b>Milwaukee 2</b> , Racine 1
Glaucous Gull	9	22	Appleton 2, Bayfield 1, Cedar Grove 2, Milwaukee 2, Racine 1, Sauk City 2, Sheboygan 4, <b>Woodland Dunes NE 7</b> , Woodland Dunes SE 1

(continued)

Table 9. (continued)

Species	Number of Counts	Number of Birds	Count and Number
Great Black-b. Gull	9	29	Appleton 3, Cedar Grove 1, Kewaunee 1, Milwaukee 1, Pensaukee 1, Sheboygan 4, Sturgeon Bay 1, Woodland Dunes NE 8, <b>Woodland Dunes SE 9</b>
Eura. Collared-Dove	3	26	<b>Bridgeport 14</b> , Durand 5, Hales Corners 7
Snowy Owl	2	2	Oshkosh 1, Woodland Dunes SE 1
N. Hawk Owl	0	0	(Herbster)
Long-eared Owl	9	16	Cedar Grove 1, Columbus 3, Cooksville 1, Mount Horeb 1, Madison 1, Oshkosh 1, <b>Palmyra 4</b> , Randolph 1, Riveredge 3
Short-eared Owl	7	15	Blanchardville 1, Bridgeport 2, Burlington 1, <b>Cedar Grove 5</b> , Meadow Valley 2, Mount Horeb 3, New Franken 1, (Oshkosh)
Red-headed WP	10	22	Bridgeport 3, (Brussels), Florence 1, New Franken 3, Mount Horeb 1, Richland Center 4, Riveredge 1, Sauk City 1, <b>Shawano 5</b> , Stevens Point 2, Sturgeon Bay 1, (Waupaca)
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	10	16	Appleton 1, Baraboo 1, Cassville 1, Fort Atkinson 1, (Kenosha), La Crosse 1, <b>Madison 6</b> , (Mount Horeb), Nelson 1, Racine 2, Riveredge 1, Waterloo 1
Black-backed WP	1	1	Meadow Valley 1
Gray Jay	7	31	<b>Clam Lake 16</b> , Fifield 2, Hayward 1, Manitowish Waters 6, Phelps 2, Shawano 1, Three Lakes 3
Boreal Chickadee	2	4	Clam Lake 2, Three Lakes 2
Carolina Wren	5	9	Baraboo 2, Bridgeport 1, <b>Madison 3</b> , Milwaukee 2, (Pardeeville), Racine 1
Winter Wren	12	28	Appleton 1, <b>Baraboo 10</b> , Blanchardville 2, Bridgeport 1, Burlington 1, Hales Corners 1, Horicon Marsh 1, Madison 6, Milwaukee 2, Oshkosh 1, Palmyra 1, Riveredge 1
Marsh Wren	1	1	Fond du Lac 1
Ruby-crown Kinglet	2	3	Madison 1, <b>Meadow Valley 2</b>
Townsend's Solitaire	2	2	Madison 1, Woodland Dunes NE 1
Eastern Bluebird	13	84	Blanchardville 12, Bridgeport 15, Burlington 2, Cassville 9, Cooksville 2, Kenosha 2, Milwaukee 6, Mount Horeb 4, New Richmond 3, Pardeeville 6, <b>Richland Center 18</b> , Riveredge 2, Sauk City 3
Hermit Thrush	6	10	Bridgeport 1, Burlington 1, Green Lake 1, <b>Madison 3</b> , <b>Milwaukee 3</b> , (Riveredge), Waukesha 1, (Wisconsin Rapids)
Varied Thrush	2	2	Bayfield 1, Willard 1
Gray Catbird	3	4	Appleton 1, <b>Milwaukee 2</b> , Stevens Point 1

N. Mockingbird	1	1	Poynette 1
Brown Thrasher	5	5	Ashland 1, Columbus 1, Ephraim 1, (Manitowish Waters), Medford 1, Shawano 1
American Pipit	1	4	Madison 4
Bohemian Waxwing	11	862	Ashland 21, (Cable), Clam Lake 1, Fifield 51, <b>Florence 435</b> , Gilman 13, Medford 25, Owen 32, Phelps 200, Seymour 1, Three Lakes 80, Wisconsin Rapids 3, (Woodland Dunes NE)
Orange-crown Warbler	1	1	Columbus 1
Yellow-rump. Warbler	2	2	Baraboo 1, Sauk City 1
Eastern Towhee	2	3	Blanchardville 1, <b>Shawano 2</b>
Spotted Towhee	1	1	Appleton 1
Field Sparrow	1	3	Bridgeport 3
Savannah Sparrow	1	3	Madison 3
Fox Sparrow	6	11	Beloit 1, Cedar Grove 1, Cooksville 2, (Hales Corners), Oconomowoc 1, Peshtigo 2, <b>Waukesha 4</b> , (Woodland Dunes NE)
White-cr. Sparrow	4	9	Hartford 1, Kenosha 2, Lake Geneva 1, <b>Madison 5</b>
Rose-br. Grosbeak	2	2	Brussels 1, (Kenosha), Riveredge 1
Western Meadowlark	1	1	Bridgeport 1
meadowlark species	2	3	Randolph 1, <b>Woodland Dunes SW 2</b>
Rusty Blackbird	1	34	Fort Atkinson
Brewer's Blackbird	3	8	<b>Hustisford 5</b> , Palmyra 2, Pardeeville 1
blackbird species	1	300	Columbus 300
Hooded Oriole	0	0	(La Crosse)
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	Chippewa Falls 1
Red Crossbill	5	34	Florence 1, Shawano 5, Solon Springs 4, Three Lakes 10, <b>Willard 14</b>
White-w. Crossbill	9	58	Clam Lake 5, Florence 1, Lake Geneva 4, Meadow Valley 6, Montello 1, Palmyra 1, Phelps 7, <b>Solon Springs 21</b> , Three Lakes 12
Hoary Redpoll	3	4	<b>Clam Lake 2</b> , Florence 1, Peshtigo 1

Parentheses indicate species was seen within 3 days of the count but not on the day of the count. **Bold lettering** indicates counts having the highest totals for the state.



the Common Goldeneye starting in 1997, and the Common Merganser starting in 1997. The Red-breasted Merganser, which has been slow to join this trend, had its second highest total of individuals and was 109% above its 10-year average. The 2,059 found this year is surpassed only by the 3,518 of 1998. Perhaps of all the Lake Michigan ducks showing increase, the three scoter species are the most notable. This is the third consecutive count year in which all three scoters were reported. Previous to 2002, all three species were reported only in 1990 and 1994. Last year Cedar Grove was the first count to report all three scoters within a single circle. This year that feat was matched by Milwaukee. Harlequin Ducks were reported from Cedar Grove, Milwaukee and Sheboygan. Two male Barrow's Goldeneye were documented from Hudson. Other than a report from Gurney in 1997, this is the only non-Lake Michigan count day report of a Barrow's.

**Partridge through Quail**—Despite a general lack of snow, species in this category did well. The Wild Turkey continued its increase with numbers 44% above the 10-year average. The Ruffed Grouse and the Sharp-tailed Grouse did less well. For the first time since 1985 and only the second time since 1973, no Sharp-tailed Grouse were found. Though this might be a down year in the Ruffed Grouse cycle, it is at the same time the worst showing since the 1960s.

**Loons through Vultures**—Pied-billed Grebes were reported from Madison, while a Horned Grebe was reported from Milwaukee. No Red-throated Loon or American White Pel-

ican was noticed. Turkey Vultures were documented from Baraboo and Peshtigo. Vultures have been found each count year now, starting with 1999.

**Hawks and Eagles**—Raptors did well. The Bald Eagle was found on a record number of counts and was 39% above its 10-year average, while a record number of Golden Eagles were reported. The Cooper's Hawk continued its long term growth with numbers 19% above the 10-year average. The Red-shouldered Hawk was found in record numbers and has now had two strong count years in succession. Despite generally open ground, the American Kestrel was below its 10-year average. A Gyrfalcon was documented from Ashland. It is the first count Gyrfalcon since 1997.

**Rails through Shorebirds**—Virginia Rails were reported for the 4th consecutive year from Poynette and, statewide, in 11 of the last 12 count years. In contrast, the Sora was been found only three count years—1969, 1974, and 1983. As with the Tundra Swan, the early CBC counts caught the tail end of the Sandhill Crane migration. The 1,771 cranes are bested only by the 6,019 in 1998. Although cranes have been found on 14 of the last 15 count years, this is only the second count with a number over 547. As is typical, the only shorebirds reported were Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe.

**Gulls**—Gull numbers remain stable. The recent increase in such species as Thayer's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous and Great Black-backed continue to hold. The Mew Gull documented from Hales Corners

is but the second accepted CBC record, the first being from Milwaukee in 1997. The Bonaparte's Gull is an exception to the rule of increasing early winter gull numbers. As recently as 1997, the Bonaparte's was regularly the third most common gull species on the CBCs. It was often reported by the hundreds and in certain years, such as 1965 and 1983, was reported in the thousands. This count year shows one Bonaparte's (that from Appleton), while last year it was but a count week species.

**Doves**—After an explosive year in 2003, in which numbers were far greater than any year previous, the Mourning Dove was back to typical totals in 2004. The Eurasian Collared-Dove is perhaps about to have a population explosion within the state. Since this dove tends to be a permanent resident in the places it is found, the CBCs are as good a measure as any other of its increase. The 2001 count had this invasive dove as a count period bird at Riveredge. The 2002 count had this same individual as a count day species. In 2003, five individuals were found over 2 counts. In 2004, 26 individuals were documented over 3 counts. Bridgeport documented 14 individuals, with Durand finding 5. This dove is likely more common in the southwestern part of the state than in other areas. The 7 individuals reported from Hales Corners were at one feeder. On other days, as many as 12 Eurasian Collared-Doves could be found at this feeder.

**Owls**—For an unknown reason, the three most common owls (Screech, Great Horned and Barred) continue to show in weak numbers. Although

the winter of 2004–2005 had the greatest northern owl irruption in the history of the state, one would not know that by looking at the CBC results. The counts were perhaps taken too early to catch the brunt of the irruption plus most of the action was confined to the far northwestern part of the state where there are few circles. Although a Northern Hawk Owl was a count period bird at Herbster, there were no reports of the Great Gray. The last CBC report of a Great Gray was from Shawano in 2001. Snowy Owls were also scarce with individuals found only at Oshkosh and Woodland Dunes SE. Wisconsin birders are becoming adept at finding Northern Saw-whet Owls. In 2004, 30 such owls were found over 14 counts—both records. The previous high had been 20 over 12 counts set in 2003. Starting with 2001, never fewer than 13 Saw-whets over 9 counts have been reported. In the 60 some years of WSO counts before 2001, the high had been 8 owls over 5 counts (1997).

**Kingfishers**—After three successive strong counts (the best being 2002 with 140 individuals over 56 counts), the kingfisher was back to normal numbers (85 over 40 counts).

**Woodpeckers**—Although most woodpecker species show numbers less than their 10-year averages, their populations seem to still be stable. The one exception, as usual, is the Red-headed Woodpecker. The Red-headed has shown a steady decline since the mid-1980s but this year's drop is drastic. For the first time in the history of the CBCs, the Red-headed has been relegated to the list of "uncommon" species. In 2004, only 22 such woodpeckers were reported over

10 counts. To put these numbers into perspective, on the 2004 count, one was as likely to find a Golden Eagle or call in a Saw-whet Owl as one was to see a Red-headed Woodpecker. The worst Red-headed year previous to this was 1999, with 55 birds over 17 counts. In 2003, 88 Red-headed were reported over 26 counts. The 2004 count was also a lean year for the Blue Jay. Perhaps both these numbers are due to the lack of a mast crop rather than to a general lack of birds. The sole Black-backed Woodpecker was found at Meadow Valley, which is a bit south for this species.

**Shrikes through Ravens**—Northern Shrikes were widespread, appearing on a record 79 counts. Gray Jays continued to be unimpressive with 31 showing over 7 counts. This is 53% below the 10-year average. Blue Jays had their weakest showing since 1979, being 36% below their 10-year average. As with the Red-headed Woodpecker, this could be due to a poor acorn crop. Both the American Crow and the Common Raven were found in average numbers.

**Larks**—Although Horned Lark numbers are shown to be 47% below the 10-year average, that 10-year average is exaggerated by a huge number of larks on the 2000 count. Horned Larks, with this in consideration, did about average, especially considering the lack of snow cover.

**Chickadees, Titmouse, Nuthatches and Creepers**—A total of 4 Boreal Chickadees was reported from two counts (Clam Lake and Three Lakes). The Tufted Titmouse continued its strong numbers, being 34% above the

10-year average and being found on a record high 33 counts. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was widespread, appearing on a record 95 of 96 counts.

**Wrens and Kinglets**—Carolina Wrens numbers (9 over 5 counts) are identical to the 2003 numbers and are normal for the species. Winter Wrens (28 over 12 counts) are surpassed only by 30 over 17 counts in 2002. The 10 Winter Wrens reported from Baraboo are a single circle record. A Marsh Wren documented from Fond du Lac is the first since 1997 and places this species on the CBCs for the 11th count year. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported from Madison and Meadow Valley.

**Thrushes**—With 84 birds over 13 counts, the Eastern Bluebird continued the high numbers that began in 1999. The lowest total since 1999 has been higher than any total previous to 1999. Townsend's Solitaires were documented from Madison and Woodland Dunes NE. The only other year with two reports was 2001 (with reports from Baraboo and Kettle Moraine). This is the 10th count year for the Solitaire; it has been reported in 4 of the last 5 years. After two record breaking years (2002 and 2003), the Hermit Thrush is back to average numbers with 10 found over 6 counts. The American Robin continued its string of high counts that began in 1998. The 3,967 Robins reported over 53 counts are 46% above the 10-year average. Varied Thrushes were found at Bayfield and Willard.

**Catbirds through Waxwings**—After being absent as a count day species for three count years, 4 Gray Catbirds

were found over three counts in 2004. Catbirds were noted at Appleton, Milwaukee, and Stevens Point. Four individuals is a record high, while three counts can be matched only by 1956 and 1970. As with the Catbird, the Northern Mockingbird became a count day species (Poynette) after a three year absence. Five Brown Thrashers were found over 5 counts. Four American Pipits were documented from Madison. Pipits have been documented on only 5 other count days in the history of the CBCs and each time it was but one individual. The 2004 total of 862 Bohemian Waxwings is exceeded only by 1452 (1989) and 1238 (1986). The Florence count of 435 is exceeded as a single circle total only by the 585 at Ashland in 1989. As with the American Robin, Cedar Waxwings continue to show the high numbers that began with the 1999 count. The current year's total of 5,351 is 39% above the 10-year average.

**Warblers**—After three record shattering years in a row, Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers dropped to two individuals (one at Baraboo, the other at Sauk City). An Orange-crowned Warbler documented for Columbus marks the third count year for this warbler. The other years are 1983 (Woodland Dunes NE) and 1997 (Montello).

**Towhees and Sparrows**—A Spotted Towhee was found at Appleton, making this the 6th count year for the Spotted. Eastern Towhees were found on two counts—Blanchardville and Shawano (with two individuals at Shawano). Sparrow species showed poorly, perhaps due to the lack of snow. Of the common species, the

American Tree Sparrow was 34% below its 10-year average, the Song Sparrow 31% below, the White-throated 35% below, and the Dark-eyed Junco 9% below average. The American Tree Sparrow had its lowest count of individuals since 1993.

**Longspurs through Grosbeaks**—Lapland Longspurs had one of their most impressive counts, with 2,719 recorded over 21 circles. The 857 longspurs at Bridgeport are of special note. Going the opposite way, the Snow Bunting had a weak count with the total of 3,145 individuals being 63% below the 10-year average. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were documented from Brussels and Riveredge. This is the 11th count year for the grosbeak.

**Blackbirds**—The roosts at Horicon and Hustisford were not found this count and thus blackbird numbers plummeted. After three successive counts with well over 3,000 individuals each count year, Red-winged Blackbird numbers (127) were among the weakest on record. The only count with a weaker total was 1993 with 77. Only a single Western Meadowlark was identified (Bridgeport), with meadowlark species found at Randolph and Woodland Dunes SW. A Baltimore Oriole was found at Chippewa Falls, making this the 10th count year showing the Baltimore. The star bird of the CBC was the count period Hooded Oriole coming to a feeder in La Crosse. It is a new state species and the first winter record for a Hooded in the mid-continent.

**Finches**—One of the few common species to set record high numbers in 2004 was the American Goldfinch. Its



total of 21,498 individuals was 41% above the 10-year average. The old high had been 18,068 set in 2003. Pine Siskins did well also, being 70% above the 10-year average. Other species in this category fared poorly. Among them are Pine Grosbeak (62% below its 10-year average), Purple Finch (36% below average), Red Crossbill (45% below average), White-winged Crossbill (65% below average), and Evening Grosbeak (54% below average). A surprise on the 2004 count was the large number of Common Redpolls. Redpolls have a pattern of being abundant on counts of odd numbered years and scarce on counts of even numbered years. 2004 is an even number and thus redpolls should be scarce. Instead of scarce, the number of redpolls found this year (4,214) is an increase over the number the year before (2,821). Only once before in the history of the CBCs have two years of abundance (proceeded by only one year of scarcity) occurred. That was in the counts of 1985 and 1986. If the pattern from those two counts should repeat this time, then the next two count years should show few redpolls. Four Hoary Redpolls were documented over 3 circles—Clam Lake; Florence, and Peshtigo. These are the first Hoary on an even count year since 1984 and are a record high for such a year.

**House Sparrow**—Considering how poorly so many species did for number of individuals, the House Sparrow did comparably well, dipping only 8% below its 10-year average.

#### APPENDIX

An alphabetical listing of the counts follows. This listing includes the loca-

tion of the count center plus the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the compiler. For birders wanting to join a count, it is suggested they contact the appropriate count compiler. For those wanting to start a new count, they must first contact me, the state compiler, whose address is at the beginning of this article.

**Adams** (34); Jct. Hwys. 8th Drive and Beechnut Rd. (3 miles E. of HW 13 and Beechnut), Adams Co.; Darwin Tiede, 2809 Schaefer Cir., Appleton, WI 54915; 920. 997. 9418; ctiede@new.rr.com. **Appleton** (61); Jct. Hwys. 47 and 125, Outagamie Co.; John Shillinglaw, 1952 Palisades Dr., Appleton, WI 54915; 920. 731. 4222; jashlaw@aol.com. **Arpin** (31); 1/2 mi. N of Jct. Hwy. C and Oak Rd., Wood Co.; Dennis Seevers, 5969 Butternut Rd., Arpin, WI 54410; 715. 569. 4260; rock-cut@tznnet.com. **Ashland** (4); Jct. Hwy. 2 and Sanborn Ave., Ashland; Dick Verch, 906 Ellis Ave., Ashland, WI 54806; 715. 682. 5453; dverch@cheqnet.net. **Baraboo** (90); Jct. City View Rd. and Hwy. A, Baraboo; Scott Swengel, 909 Birch St., Baraboo, WI 53913; 608. 356. 9543; swengel-a.s.@earthlink.net. **Bayfield** (3); T 50 N, R 5 W, S-22; Albert Roy, Jr., 906 Water St., Ashland, WI 54806; 715. 682. 5334. **Be-loit** (87); Jct. Tracy and Eau Claire Rds., about two miles W of Rock Co. Airport; Brad Paulson, 15034 W. Carroll Rd., Brodhead, WI 53520; 608. 879. 2647; bpaulson@genencor.com. **Black River Falls** (27); Jct. Hwys. H and 54, Jackson Co.; Judy Allen, W12866 River Rd., Black River Falls, WI 54615; 608. 488. 4154; knothole@discover-net.net. **Blanchardville** (88); 2.5 miles SW of Blanchardville; David Willard, Bird Division, Field Museum



of Natural History, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605; 312. 665. 7731; dwillard@fieldmuseum.org. **Bridgeport** (95); Hwy. 18 bridge over Wisconsin R.; Dennis Kirschbaum, 1505 E. Parrish St., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821; 608. 326. 2718; ka09801@mhtc.net. **Brussels** (46); Jct. Hwy. 57 and Stevenson Pier Rd., Door Co.; Charlotte Lukes, 3962 Hillside Rd., Egg Harbor, WI 54209; 920. 823. 2478; lukes@dcwis.com. **Burlington** (72); Jct. Hwy. A and Crossway Rd., Racine Co.; John Bielefeldt, Box 283, Rochester, WI 53167; 262. 514. 2376. **Cable** (7); Jct. Hwys. M and D, Bayfield Co.; Brad Gingras, Cable Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 416, Cable, WI 54821; 715. 798. 3890; brad@cablemuseum.org. **Caroline** (40); 2 miles W of Caroline; Janet Hewitt, E1074 Paulson Rd., Iola, WI 54945; 715. 445. 2489. **Cassville** (96); Jct. Garden Prairie and Muskellunge Rds., Grant Co.; David Sikorski, 449 N. 39th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208; 414. 379. 9650; akela317@aol.com. **Cedar Grove** (53); Jct. Hwy. G and Palmer Rd., Sheboygan Co.; Tom Uttech, 4305 Hwy. O, Saukville, WI 53080; 262. 675. 6482; tmuttech@prodigy.net. **Chippewa Falls** (20); Jct. Hwys. 178 and S, Chippewa Co.; Charles A. Kemper, 727 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 3815; cak@bluebuzz.net. **Clam Lake** (8); 7 miles SE of Clam Lake; Keith Merkel, 11722 Robin Rd., Marshfield, WI 54449; 715. 384. 2383; keith.merkel@wick-mail.com. **Clyde** (92); Jct. Hwy. ZZ and Weaver Rd., Iowa Co.; Steve Greb, 1714 Labrador Rd., Oregon, WI 53575; 608. 835. 5266; grebs@dnr.state.wi.us. **Columbus** (81); Jct. Johnson and Jahnke Sts. (south of Columbus); Larry Michael, 713 Clinton St. Apt. 103, Horicon, WI 53032; 920. 485. 2936; lamichael@powerweb.net. **Cooksville** (86); Cooksville, Rock Co.; David and Anna Marie Huset, 242 W. Church St., Evansville, WI 53536; 608. 882. 5648; amdhuset@eishome.com. **Durand** (19); Jct. Hwys. 25 and DD 3 miles N of Durand, Dunn Co.; Charles A. Kemper, 727 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 3815; cak@bluebuzz.net. **Ephraim** (48); Hwy. A 3 miles S of Jct. with Hwy. 42, Door Co.; Paul Regnier, P.O. Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202; 920. 839. 2802; paul@ridgesanctuary.org. **Fifield** (9); Fifield Post Office; Thomas Nicholls, W7283 Walnut St. P.O. Box 63, Fifield, WI 54524; 715. 762. 3076; nicho002@umn.edu. **Florence** (13); just NE of center of Section 19, Town of Commonwealth, Florence Co.; Noel Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Rd., West Bend, WI 53095; 262. 675. 2443; noel.cutright@we-energies.com. **Fond du Lac** (63); Jct. Tower and Cody Rds., Fond du Lac Co.; Jeff Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 477. 2442; jeffb@csd.k12.wi.us. **Fort Atkinson** (85); Jct. Hwy. K and Hackbarth Ave., Jefferson Co.; Richard Wanie, W5920 Lee Dr., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538; 920. 563. 6274; crwanie@compufort.com. **Fremont** (37); Jct. Hwys. I and HH 4 miles SW of Fremont; Daryl Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI 54911; 920. 735. 9903; bhaunts@core.com. **Gilman** (22); 1 mile W of Miller Dam, Taylor Co.; Janice Luepke, B-894 Eau Pleine Rd., Spencer, WI 54479; 715. 659. 3910; luepke@pcpros.net. **Grantsburg** (15); Jct. Hwys. 70 and 48 in Grantsburg; Dennis Allaman, 506 W. St. George Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840; 715. 463. 2365; allaman@usa.net. **Green Bay** (44); Jct. Allouez and S.

Webster Aves.; John Jacobs, 2373 Libal St., Green Bay, WI 54301; 920. 432. 2438; jjacobs@new.rr.com. **Green Lake** (75); Jct. Hwy. J and Swamp Rd., Green Lake Co.; Thomas Schultz, N6104 Honeysuckle Lane, Green Lake, WI 54941; 920. 294. 3021; trschultz@vbe.com. **Gurney** (5); Hwy. 169 in Gurney; Joan Elias, 11140 W. Edwards Rd., Saxon, WI 54559; 715. 893. 2358; joan-elias@nps.gov. **Hales Corners** (56); Jct. 27th St. and Rawson Ave., (Milwaukee Co. only); Mark Verhagen, 9701 W. College Ave., Franklin, WI 53123; 414. 425. 8550; mark.verhagen@ces.uwex.edu. **Hartford** (68); Jct. Hwys. 60 and 83 in Hartford; Bob Domagalski, W140 N8508 Lilly Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051; 262. 251. 6259; rcd@execpc.com. **Hayward** (6); boat landing at Phipps near Hwy. 63, Sawyer Co.; Brad Gingras, Cable Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 416, Cable, WI 54821; 715. 798. 3890; brad@cablemuseum.org. **Herbster** (2); Hwy. 13, 1 mile W of Herbster; Phyllis Johnson, P.O. Box 249, Cornucopia, WI 54827; 715. 774. 3600; phyllisjohnson@mailstation.com. **Holcombe** (21); Chippewa-Rusk county line, 1 mile E of Hwy. 27; Charles A. Kemper, 727 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 3815; cak@bluebuzz.net. **Horicon Marsh** (79); Jct. Main Ditch and Main Dike in Refuge; Bill Volkert, DNR, N7725 Hwy. 28, Horicon, WI 53032; 920. 387. 7877; brchwood@thesurf.com. **Hudson** (17); Afton, MN; Joseph Merchak, 1723 Laurel Ave., Hudson, WI 54016; 715. 531. 0542. **Hustisford** (80); Jct. Hwys. CJ and M, just east of Clyman; Bob Domagalski, W140 N8508 Lilly Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051; 262. 251. 6259; rcd@execpc.com. **Kenosha** (58); Jct. Hwys. 158 and 104th

Ave. (Kenosha Co. only); Ron Hoffmann, Box 886, Kenosha, WI 53141; 262 654. 5854. **Kettle Moraine** (67); Hwy. DD, W of Auburn Lake, Fond du Lac Co.; Bill Volkert, W996 Birchwood Dr., Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 387. 7877; brchwood@thesurf.com. **Kewaunee** (49); Jct. Hwys. 42 and D, Kewaunee Co.; William Mueller, 1242 S. 45 St., Milwaukee, WI 53214; 414. 643. 7279; iltlawas@earthlink.net. **Kickapoo Valley** (94); Jct. Hwys. T and 131, Monroe Co.; Eric Epstein, 22505 Kensington Rd., Norwalk, WI 54648; 608. 823. 7837; tickcity@centurytel.net. **La Crosse** (29); La Crosse Courthouse; Rick Kinzie, 55787 Kinzie Rd., Gays Mills, WI 54631; 608. 734. 3136; huey@mwt.net. **Lake Geneva** (73); Interlaken Lodge, Hwy. 50 (approx. 2 M east of Jct. with Hwy 67); Wayne Rohde, W6488 Beloit Rd., Walworth, WI 53184; 262. 275. 5548; wsrohde@genevaonline.com. **Madison** (83); State Capitol; Cheri Carbon, 2714 Harvard Dr., Madison, WI 53705; 608. 233. 0024; cbcarbon@wisc.edu. **Manitowish Waters** (10); Jct. Hwys. 51 and W, Vilas Co.; John Bates, 4245 Hwy. 47, Mercer, WI 54547; 715. 476. 2828; Manitowish@centurytel.net. **Medford** (23); 2.5 miles NE of Whittlesey, Taylor Co.; Susanne Adams, 850 N. 8th St., Medford, WI 54451; 715. 748. 4875, ext. 36; smadams@fs.fed.us. **Meadow Valley** (33); Jct. Jackson, Juneau and Wood Cos.; Andy Paulios, 2217 Clover Ln., Janesville, WI 53545; 608. 314. 0894; andypaulios@yahoo.com. **Merrill** (not enough field hours in 2004); Jct. South End Rd. and Hwy. 107, Lincoln Co.; Sherry Frazier, W4990 Fowler Dr., Merrill, WI 54452; 715. 536. 7969; racin64@whoever.com. **Milwaukee** (55); Jct. Port Washington Rd. and Hampton Ave., Glendale;

Marilyn Bontly, 901 E. Fairy Chasm Rd., Bayside, WI 53217; 414. 228. 0314; mbontly@wi.rr.com. **Montello** (76); Harrisville, Marquette Co.; Daryl Christensen, P.O. Box 182, Montello, WI 53949; 608. 296. 3068; gr8fish@palacenet.net. **Mosinee** (count cancel due to weather); Jct. Hwys. O and C (where C intersects from the north), Marathon Co.; Dan Belter, 5903 Heath St., Weston, WI 54476; 715. 359.]-6328; bwhawk@earthlink.net. **Mount Horeb** (89); Jct. Hwys. 78 and Bus. 18/151, Mount Horeb; Kenneth Wood, 3971 Forshaug Rd., Black Earth, WI 53515; 608. 767. 3343; kwwood@wisc.edu. **Nelson** (18); 1 mile S of Jct. Hwys. I and D; Charles A. Kemper, 727 Maple St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; 715. 723. 3815; cak@bluebuzz.net. **New Franken** (45); Jct. Hwys. P and SS, Brown County; Ed Houston, 2818 Sugarbush Ct., Green Bay, WI 54301; 920. 339. 3273; ezehouston@aol.com. **New Richmond** (16); 2 miles E of Boardman, St. Croix Co.; Joseph Merchak, 1723 Laurel Ave., Hudson, WI 54016; 715. 531. 0542. **Norske** (39); 1 mile E of Jct. Hwy P and Rustad Rd., Waupaca Co.; Janet Avis Hewitt, E1047 Paulson Rd., Iola, WI 54945; 715. 445. 2489. **Oconomowoc** (69); Hwy 67, 2 miles N of Oconomowoc; Marlyn Winter, 323 Lawn St. #7, Hartland, WI 53029; 262. 367. 6819; birdymom44@aol.com. **Oshkosh** (62); Jct. Hwys. 21 and 41 in Oshkosh; Thomas Ziebell, 1638 White Swan Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54901; 920. 235. 0326; cziebell@new.rr.com. **Owen** (24); Hwy. D 2.5 miles N of Hwy. 29, Clark Co.; Jon Zellmer, 808 West Blodgett St., Marshfield, WI 54449; 715. 384. 8849; zee@commplusis.net. **Palmyra** (71); 0.5 miles N of Jct. Hwy 20 and Nelson Rd., Walworth Co.; Eric Howe, N9564 Nature Rd., Eagle, WI

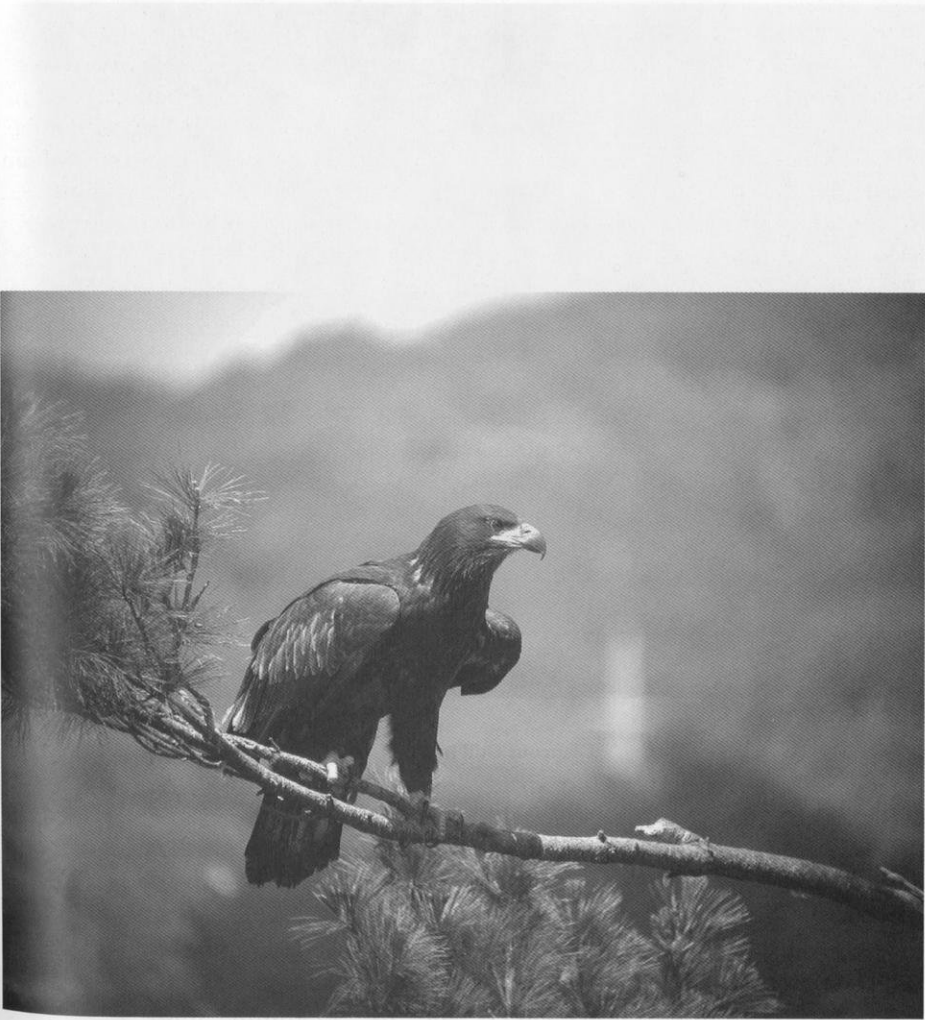
53119; 262. 594. 5853; wibirder@att.net. **Pardeeville** (77); north end of access road that comes from Monthey Rd. into the south side of French Creek Wildlife Area, Columbia Co.; Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, 203 Breezy Point Dr., Pardeeville, WI 53954; 608. 429. 4365; pschwalbe@jvlnet.com. **Pensaukee** (43); Pensaukee; Thomas Erdman, 4094 Hwy. S, Rte. 2, Oconto, WI 54153; 920. 465. 2713; erdmant@uwgb.edu. **Peshtigo** (59); Harmony Corners, Marinette Co.; Jerry Smith, 6865 Fredrickson Rd., Lena, WI 54139; 920. 829. 6353; kajers@ez-net.com. **Phelps** (11); Jct. FR 2199 and FR 2533, 2 miles SW of Phelps; Bill Reardon, 1700 Open Acres Ln., Eagle River, WI 54521; 715. 479. 8055; breardon@nnex.net. **Plymouth** (66); Jct. Hwys. 23 and C, Sheboygan Co.; Robert Brigham, 851 Chaplin Ct., Plymouth, WI 53073; 920. 892. 7716; rbrigham@wi.rr.com. **Poynette** (82); Jct. Hwys. 51 and CS; Mark and Sue Martin, Goose Pond Sanctuary, W7468 Prairie Lane, Arlington, WI 53911; 608. 635. 4160; goosep@chorus.net. **Racine** (57); Hwy. H 0.5 miles S of Hwy. K (Racine Co. only); Eric Howe, N9564 Nature Rd., Eagle, WI 53119; 262. 594. 5853; wibirder@att.net. **Randolph** (78); Hwy. P midway between Cambria and Randolph, Columbia Co.; Larry Michael, 713 Clinton St. Apt. 103, Horicon, WI 53032; 920. 485. 2936; lamichael@powerweb.net. **Rhineland** (no count reported in 2004); Rhineland; Ced Vig, 919 Birch Bend, Rhineland, WI 54501; 715. 362. 3047. **Richland Center** (93); Jct. Hwys. O and TB SE of Richland Center; Robert Hirschy, University of Wisconsin Center-Richland, 1200 Hwy. 14 West, Richland Center, WI 53581; 608. 647. 3042; rhirschy@uwc.edu.

**Riveredge** (54); Jct. Hwy. 33 and Lakeland School Rd., Ozaukee Co.; Mary Hollebeck, c/o Riveredge Nature Center, P.O. Box 26, Newburg, WI 53060; 262. 375. 2715; maryh@riveredge.us. **Rosendale** (74); 2.5 miles S of junc. of Hwys. 23 and 26, Fond du Lac Co.; Seth Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Rd., West Bend, WI 53095; 262. 675. 2443; stcutright1@hotmail.com. **Sauk City** (91); 2.5 miles SE of Witwen, Sauk Co.; Nancy Raffetto, 7106 S. Steele Lake Lane, Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849; 608. 643. 1274; raffetto@wisc.edu. **Seymour** (60); Jct. Hwy. C and Culbertson Rd., Outagamie Co.; Daryl Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida, Appleton, WI 54911; 920. 735. 9903; bhaunts@core.com. **Shawano** (41); 3 miles N of Lunds, Shawano Co.; Larry Riedinger, Box 11, Caroline, WI 54928; 715. 754. 2995; lgkriedinger@yahoo.com. **Sheboygan** (52); Jct. 10th St. and Erie Ave., Sheboygan; Scott Baughman, 3043 Rolling Meadows, Sheboygan, WI 53083; 920. 459. 9845; baughman@milwpc.com. **Shiocton** (42); Jct. Hwys. M and 54, Outagamie Co.; Steven Petznick, Mosquito Hill Nature Center, N3880 Rogers Rd., New London, WI 54961; 920. 779. 6433; petznisj@co.outagamie.wi.us. **Solon Springs** (1); Jct. Hanson and Hruska Rds., Douglas Co.; Andy Paulios, 2217 Clover Ln., Janesville, WI 53545; 608. 314. 0894; andypaulios@yahoo.com. **Spencer** (25); Jct. Hwys. F and 153, Marathon Co.; Janice Luepke, B-894 Eau Pleine Rd., Spencer, WI 54479; 715. 659. 3910; luepke@pcpros.net. **Spruce** (14); 1 1/2 miles N of Spruce on Hwy. B; Jerry Smith, 6865 Fredrickson Rd., Lena, WI 54139; 920. 829. 6353; kajers@ez-net.com. **Stevens Point** (35); Old Main Bldg., U.W.-Stevens Point; Nancy Stevenson, 1890 Red Pine Ln., Stevens Point, WI 54481; 715. 341. 0084; gypsysigma@yahoo.com. **Stockbridge** (no count taken in 2004); 3 miles SE of Stockbridge; Carroll Rudy, W3866 Hwy. H, Chilton, WI 53014; 920. 849. 9021; mcrudy@dotnet.com. **Sturgeon Bay** (47); Jct. Hwys. 57 and P, Door Co.; Charlotte Lukes, 3962 Hillside Rd., Egg Harbor, WI 54209; 920. 823. 2478; lukes@dcwis.com. **Three Lakes** (12); 6 miles E of Three Lakes; Bill Reardon, 1700 Open Acres Ln., Eagle River, WI 54521; 715. 479. 8055; breardon@nnex.net. **Trempealeau** (28); Jct. Hwy. K and Fremont St., Trempealeau; Thomas Hunter, 11675 Jay St., P.O. Box 114, Trempealeau, WI 54661; 608. 534. 6233. **Waterloo** (84); Jct. of Hwys. O and B on Jefferson/Dane county line, 5 miles west of Lake Mills; Bob Domagalski, W140 N8508 Lilly Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051; 262. 251. 6259; rcd@execpc.com. **Waukesha** (70); Jct. Hwy. D and Brookhill Rd., Waukesha Co.; Patrick Horn, S76 W19840 Sunny Hill Dr., Muskego, WI 53150; 262. 679. 1459; cphorn3@juno.com. **Waupaca** (38); Jct. Hwy. 49 & Smokey Valley Rd, Waupaca Co.; Daryl Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI 54911; 920. 735. 9903; bhaunts@core.com. **Wausau** (30); Jct. Grand Ave. and Thomas St., Wausau; Jim Pellitteri, 9203 Riverbirch St., Rothschild, WI 54474; 715. 359. 9708; jjpellitteri@co.marathon.wi.us. **Wautoma** (36); Mount Morris, Waushara Co.; Chip Hutler, W8733 State Rd. 21, Wautoma, WI 54982; 920. 787. 2479; mecan@network2010.net. **Willard** (26); 1 mile E and 1.5 miles S of Willard, Clark Co.; Janice Luepke, B-894 Eau Pleine Rd., Spencer, WI 54479; 715. 659. 3910; luepke@pcpros.net. **Wisconsin Rapids** (32); Wisconsin Rapids Airport; Darwin



Tiede, 2809 Schaefer Circle, Appleton, WI 54915; 920. 997. 9418; ctiede@new.rr.com. **Woodland Dunes NE** (50); Mishicot; **NW** (64); Menchalville; **SE** (51); 2 mi. S of Newtonburg; **SW** (65); 3 miles W of St.

Nazianz on Hwy. C; all counts only in Manitowoc Co.; Bernard Brouchoud, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, P.O. Box 2108, Manitowoc, WI 54221; 920. 793. 4007; woodlanddunes@lakefield.net.



Young Bald Eagle by Gary Krogman





# The Autumn of 2004 at Cedar Grove

***Helmut C. Mueller***

*Department of Biology and Curriculum in Ecology  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3280  
hmueller@email.unc.edu*

***Nancy S. Mueller***

*409 Moonridge Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516*

***Daniel D. Berger***

*1806 Grevelia Street  
S. Pasadena, CA 91030*

***John L. Kaspar***

*Department of Biology  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh  
Oshkosh, WI 54901*

***John Bowers***

*Silver Beach North 6750  
Cedar Grove, WI 53013*

The autumn of 2004 marked the 55<sup>th</sup> year of continuous operation of the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station. We arrived on 9 August and departed on 23 November. We watched for migrants from dawn to dusk on each of the 106 days, and counted or estimated their numbers. We attempted to trap all hawks. We also operated a 136m long line of 61mm (stretched mesh) mist nets with 72m of them extending to a height of 8m. These large mesh nets captured small

birds only rarely. Probably 100 warblers escaped through the nets for every one captured. Beginning on 28 September, we left the mist nets up at night to capture owls.

After a good year in 2003 (Mueller et al. 2004), this year was very poor. Fewer Turkey Vultures, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Ospreys, Merlins, American Kestrels, and Peregrine Falcons were seen in 2004

Table 1. Numbers of diurnal raptors observed and the percent trapped

Year	Observed			% trapped		
	2004	2003	Average 1994–2003	2004	2003	Average 1994–2003
Turkey Vulture	112	182	156	0	0	0
Black Vulture	0	0	0.1	—	0	0
Mississippi Kite	1	0	0	0	—	—
Northern Harrier	87	341	193	4.6	2.3	3.3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1177	3040	2801	19.9	18.5	18.2
Cooper's Hawk	157	225	171	33.8	31.6	37.4
Northern Goshawk	15	6	12	73.3	50.0	61.5
Harris's Hawk	0	0	0.1	—	0.0	100
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	35	30	0	8.6	5.7
Broad-winged Hawk	45	2590	649	0	0.3	0.3
Swainson's Hawk	0	0	0.1	—	—	0
Red-tailed Hawk	743	1068	929	14	16.4	15.7
Rough-legged Hawk	32	33	37	0	0.0	1.9
Golden Eagle	1	0	0.9	100	0.0	0
Bald Eagle	13	15	14	0	0.0	0.7
Osprey	28	113	66	0	0.0	0
Merlin	224	707	438	13.4	11.6	18.9
American Kestrel	46	128	114	0	3.9	8.1
Peregrine Falcon	41	81	70	31.7	17.3	22.5
Short-eared Owl	1	1	1.2	0	0	0
Unidentified	50	89	59	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2782</b>	<b>8654</b>	<b>5469</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>
Total*	2743	5769	4871	16.4	18.7	17.3

\*Less vultures, Broad-wing, and Osprey

than on the average for the previous 10 years (Table 1).

We trapped and banded only 450 hawks, a sum exceeded by every year since 1974. We saw only 2782 hawks, our worst year since 1981. Hawk migrations at Cedar Grove are greatly influenced by weather. Westerly winds after a cold front produce good numbers of hawks, northerly or easterly winds bring very few hawks (Mueller and Berger 1961, 1967). There was little good weather in 2004. The poor season was partially offset by two highlights: a Golden Eagle was trapped on 6 November, our first since 1977, and a Mississippi Kite was seen on 17 September, our first since 1970.

The number of Saw-whet Owls net-

ted at night was greater than in 2003, but still below the average for the previous 10 years (Table 2). The numbers of other species of owls did not change significantly.

Overall, the number of non-raptorial birds netted was back up to the numbers in 2002, after the low of 2003 (Table 3). The number of flycatchers and vireos netted did not differ from 2003 but continued to be lower than the average for the previous 10 years. The number of kinglets returned to the 10-year average after a low in 2003. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes showed a marked increase, but the numbers of Hermit Thrushes decreased. Fox Sparrows were down, but Dark-eyed Juncos were up. The

Table 2 Numbers of owls netted

Species	2004	2003	Average: 1994–2003
Long-eared Owl	20	21	12.1
Short-eared Owl	0	0	0.1
Great Horned Owl	2	1	0.6
Barred Owl	0	0	0.2
Boreal Owl	0	0	0.1
N. Saw-whet Owl	103	79	135.0
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	2	1.8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>149.9</b>

greatest increase shown was in siskins and goldfinches. Notable captures in our nets included: two Great Blue Herons, a Wild Turkey poult, and two Wilson's Snipe.

The number of non-raptorial birds seen migrating was down slightly from 2003, but was still substantially larger than the number seen in 2002 (Table 4). The number of small finches (goldfinches, siskins and redpolls) increased, reflecting the increase in the

numbers netted. The greatest increase was in the number of swallows observed, but Blue Jays and Double-crested Cormorants also increased significantly. Most of the remaining species showed significant declines.

The number of migrants observed and netted is undoubtedly influenced by wind and other weather conditions, and the trends from year to year do not necessarily reflect populations.

Notable observations in 2004 in-

Table 3. Numbers of non-raptorial birds netted

Species	2004	2003	2002
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	3	21
Northern Flicker	19	13	47
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	2	11
Eastern Phoebe	7	11	21
Red-eyed Vireo	19	16	30
Blue Jay	26	15	26
Brown Creeper	11	10	36
Golden-crowned Kinglet	20	5	21
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	20	7	20
Gray-cheeked Thrush	65	25	29
Swainson's Thrush	414	181	167
Hermit Thrush	90	105	166
Yellow-rumped Warbler	18	32	66
Palm Warbler	5	11	6
American Redstart	5	5	17
Fox Sparrow	27	52	34
White-throated Sparrow	23	32	92
Dark-eyed Junco	94	53	151
Pine Siskin	30	4	1
American Goldfinch	49	15	14
<b>Totals all species</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1211</b>

Table 4. Numbers of non-raptorial migrants observed

Species	2004	2003	2002
Canada Goose	3861	12,515	6490
Tundra Swan	35	446	1105
Double-crested Cormorant	2747	2419	2193
Great Blue Heron	27	27	13
Sandhill Crane	107	470	46
Common Nighthawk	222	598	1008
Chimney Swift	426	947	897
Red-Headed Woodpecker	9	4	24
Northern Flicker	843	974	1078
Blue Jay	2223	1555	1486
Purple Martin	38	5	45
Swallow sp.	8340	2682	2222
American Robin	3707	4021	1508
Cedar Waxwing	14,522	19,743	14,182
Blackbirds sp.	2285	3277	2287
Small Finches	3135	2267	38
<b>All non-raptorial migrants</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>55,600</b>	<b>39,500</b>

clude a probable Whooping Crane on 6 October. Two cranes flew north over the station and were seen only for a few seconds before disappearing behind trees. One had a wing-spread that was about a foot greater than the smaller one and appeared lighter in color through a  $10 \times 40$  binocular. A V-formation of about 20 Marbled Godwits flew over on 30 October. An American White Pelican passed over on 25 October. Common Redpolls were seen on 5 November, and a Townsend's Solitaire on 7 November. A visit to the beach on 8 November produced a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the midst of several hundred Ring-billed Gulls.

An interesting, but disappointing, fall migration.

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*The Cedar Grove Ornithological Station is a non-profit organization incorporated under Chapter 131 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and it relies heavily on public donations for continued operation. All personnel are unpaid volunteers.*



# First Reported Nest for Yellow-throated Warbler in Wisconsin

**Larry Riedinger**

312 E. Garfield Ave.

Marion, WI 54950

715. 754. 2995

LGKRiedinger@yahoo.com

Editor\_nwb@yahoo.com

## ABSTRACT

*Seventeen birders from the Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club observed a Yellow-throated Warbler (Dendroica dominica) building a nest on 15 May 2004 in Wyalusing State Park. We observed the activity for about half an hour between 1 and 2 p.m.*

The Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club enjoyed a long weekend (Friday–Sunday) at Wyalusing State Park in May 2004. On the way there, it was rainy and cool but we did see several interesting birds including Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole, and Lark Sparrows. Later the skies cleared and just before sunset in the park, we had a great, long view of two singing Henslow's Sparrows.

Saturday, 15 May, was bright and clear. We soon logged several of our target birds, including Bell's Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Kentucky, Prothonotary (nest building), and Cerulean Warblers. After lunch we

went to a spot known for Yellow-throated Warbler sightings—and we were not disappointed. Near the top of a tall white pine was a Yellow-throated Warbler. Soon we noticed it going to the tops of nearby hardwoods and returning to the pine. It seemed intent on doing “something” about a meter from the top. Two members went for their scopes and we spent about a half hour watching (from about 30 meters away) the bird build a nest. The base of the tree was lower than our position, which gave us a good viewing angle. The nest-in-progress was about a meter from the top of the pine. It was in an upland stand of mixed forest with a mostly open canopy and irregularly developed middle and understory. The macro- and micro-habitats fit well with records in Hall (1996) on pages 8–9. We took plenty of time viewing so each member could get a good look, as the bird also was a lifer for most people present.

During my time at a scope, I saw what appeared to be the finishing

touches going into the nest. The bird (we observed only the female [Hall, 1996]) was carrying in fine, soft-appearing material and was "doing the twist" after applying it—apparently gauging/adjusting the fit. We went on our way and continued to log many species that day and the next for a trip total of over 120.

Only later in a conversation with Bettie Harriman did I learn that our experience could provide the first documented observation of a Yellow-throated Warbler building a nest in Wisconsin. Most breeding occurs in southern Ohio, West Virginia, and east Tennessee and our record could be the most northern (Sauer *et al.* 1996).

Club members present were Karen Seibers of Kimberly, Curt & Cathy Ellefson of Green Bay, Jessica Miller of Kaukauna, Bruce Inkmann & Carol Elvery of Wau-paca, Joan McIntyre of Appleton, Todd & Cindy Ward of Dale, Neil Shroeder of Appleton, Joan Laabs of Appleton, Mike O'Connell of New London, Steve Petznick of New London, and the author of Marion. Also present were Jim Wyers of Appleton, who was our highly skilled guide for the trip, and Gary & Bon-

nie of Madison who joined with us for some of that day.

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*Larry Riedinger makes his living in the mental health field but fills most recreational hours birding for pleasure, for science, and for writing about birds and related public policy. Mark Peterson introduced him to birding on a sub-zero day in January, 1993. He was hooked! Currently he does bird surveys for the DNR in several of their State Natural Areas and coordinates the Shawano County Crane Count & Shawano Christmas Bird Count. He edits The Northeast Wisconsin Birder for the Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club and directs the Navarino Wildlife Area Bird Survey for the Navarino Nature Center.*

# Two Nesting Reports from Monroe County

*Lennie Lichter*

24703 Lake Road  
Cashton, WI 54619  
*lennieandmaria@yahoo.com*

## ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS

On 24 August 2004, I heard something new as I walked down the wooded slope into our Impenetrable Valley. It was almost an insect-like noise, coming from down near the muddy floor of the Valley. Since it also sounded somewhat flycatcher-like, I searched carefully until I finally saw the two young Acadian Flycatchers (*Empidonax virescens*). They were huddled close together on a branch just above the dry mud; I could tell what they were by their short tails, buff-edged flight feathers, and somewhat ruffled look. I was finally able to confirm this species as nesting successfully here.

I had been finding this species singing on our property off and on through the years since the late 1980s, but I was never sure that they even attempted to nest here. In 2003, I had seen what I thought was a pair of them in their usual haunts on our North Slope, and the first one I heard singing this past spring also was not too far from that location.

It wasn't until 17 July, when I was trying to track down a Tufted Titmouse in this secluded Valley that I first discovered the male Acadian singing. His

explosive "song" was heard quite a while before I finally saw him among some leafy oak branches. Many people describe the song as sounding like "pizza," but to me it's always had an extra syllable and sounds more like "Split-t-chip!" or "Split-t-check!"

Our Impenetrable Valley was a lot easier to get around in this year than it usually is. A mid-June cloudburst had sent a scouring rush of water through it that pretty much wiped out the stinging nettles and jewelweed that usually grow almost head-high there, leaving just a washed-out, muddy floor. Because of this, as well as because of the interesting bird life there, I spent much more time in the Valley in 2004, even camping out (with cot, sleeping bag and mosquito netting) for a couple of nights.

The male flycatcher would sometimes approach me closely, looking like he was almost coming to meet me when I entered his Valley. Besides his song, he also had a sharp "Pit . . . pit" call note that sounded a lot like the scolding call of the Wood Thrush, as well as another call that sounded a lot like the song of an Alder Flycatcher. On one occasion I saw him interact with another bird and they were making noises that reminded me of the

calls made by pairs of Eastern Phoebes near their nest. I finally got a look at his mate on 8 August, about the same time I started hearing a new "Pwipwipwipwipwipwi" call. He would often give this call as he approached the female. Though I spent quite a lot of time there, I was never able to locate the nest.

On 6 August, when I approached the Valley from a different direction by cutting through a neighbor's property, I heard the song of another Acadian Flycatcher coming from that valley. I quickly went up and over the ridge to see if "my guy" was still there. I heard him after a few minutes, but it wasn't until the next morning that I confirmed that there were definitely two birds singing there. In the following weeks I was occasionally able to position myself in such a way that I was able to hear them in "stereo," not easy to do because of the distance between them, as well as the topography and vegetation. The neighbor's valley had not been scoured clean so it was much harder for me to even get a good look at that particular bird, and I was never able to locate a female there, if one was indeed present.

The new insect-like sound mentioned earlier that I heard as I hiked down the slope on 24 August sounded like a repeated "Wi-jit . . . wi-jit . . . wi-jit." I found a comfortable log to sit on from which I could see the youngsters as they patiently waited for the adults to bring them food. They never got higher than a couple of feet from the ground, and always perched close together as they slowly moved down the Valley. They were out of sight behind a slight rise by the time an adult approached them with food.

The second and last time I was able

to see them was on 28 August. This time they were at least 25 feet up in the branches in the same area and I located them after I heard still a different sound. This call sounded like "Wi-jit . . . ahhh . . . ahhh." These four-note phrases were repeated in that same pattern, and separated by about a few seconds. The "ahhh . . . ahhh" notes reminded me of the distant bark of a squirrel. I wasn't positive that both parts of the call were even coming from the two birds until they both moved farther down the Valley. Sure enough, they had taken both the call and the distinctive pattern with them and they were still high in the the trees over in that direction.

To view this information as it happened, with maps, please visit [http://couleeeadubon.org/wr\\_birds.html](http://couleeeadubon.org/wr_birds.html). My Acadian Flycatcher adventures of 2005 will also be linked to this site.

### TUFTED TITMICE

You can probably imagine my surprise last 22 July, when, after noticing that there was not a bird in sight around our feeders, I saw first one, then another, then another Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) enter one of our roofed platform feeders, until there were 5 of them feeding there together. All five stayed there for at least two minutes, peacefully eating sunflower seeds, before one flew off. The rest remained there for another two or three minutes. The only other bird seen near the feeders during that time was another Tufted Titmouse, who was not allowed to join them, probably a member of the other family that resided nearby.

The fun all began near the beginning of April, when I first heard a Titmouse singing in a new area of our property. This was not the first time that two males had been heard singing here, so I wasn't too surprised, and figured that this new bird would be moving on soon. For the last 5 or 6 years we have usually had one male (whom we've named Peter—for his song) nesting near our yard. In 2002 and 2003 he and his mate had raised two broods, four young total, each year. On 10 April 2004, I noticed that Peter had been singing more than usual and was wondering if he was hearing some competition in the distance. This was two days after I had heard the other male on our North Slope. I headed in a different direction, though, up our Spring Valley, and soon heard one singing near the spring. Standing midway between them, I could just barely hear them both singing. I kept going in that direction toward the western part of our property and I heard yet another Titmouse singing down in what we call the Impenetrable Valley. I continued out to our West Field and heard and saw still a fourth Titmouse singing near a dying Shagbark Hickory tree out there. On the weekend of 18 April, I again heard all of the above, plus a new one near our south boundary in Ovenbird Hollow, and another one on the North Slope where I had earlier heard that first "intruder." At this time I also noticed that Peter was singing even more desperately, and he no longer seemed to be accompanied by his mate when he came to the feeders.

By then I had "named" them all, with Peter being called T1 and the others labelled in the order that I first found them, as T2 through T6, and I

kept track of them by hiking near their territories very early on weekend mornings. By 25 April Peter had attracted a new mate: she looked somewhat like a young bird, with no pinkish coloration on the sides at all. T5 was seen showing his mate around the North Slope on the weekend of May 2nd, and I heard T6 and T4 counter-singing in their territories "out west" that same weekend.

The status of the birds did not change much in the next few weeks, though once or twice one or another would not be noted on a weekend hike. On 23 May we observed Peter feeding his mate at the feeders. This is part of the courtship bonding and takes place between members of a mated pair in various species. I got a good look at T5 and his mate around that time, noting that they had practically identical plumage, unlike Peter and his mate. It also was about this time that I was noticing that T2, the one near the spring (in what I thought looked like excellent habitat due to the nice water supply) had started wandering a little to the south, up the side of Redtail Ridge. Either that, or there was a 7th Titmouse up there. T3 was also moving a little and was heard northwest of his corner in the Impenetrable Valley.

Peter was overheard discussing his territorial boundaries with T5 on the weekend of June 6th. Songs sung by the Tufted Titmice during the time all this was going on included: the usual "Peter-Peter-Peter" song; a faster version of that song; a song that sounded more like "Pierre . . . Pierre . . . Pierre;" and another totally different song that sounded like "Pretty Bird," repeated after short pauses. Call notes included: the most commonly heard



“Shway-shway-shway” scolding note; a two-note “Too-whit” (with the second note rising), repeated after a short pause; and “Wheeee-up” with the second note dropping (this was also repeated after a short pause).

On 26 June Peter and his mate brought their two new fledglings to the feeders for the first time. Young Tufted Titmice holler something that sounds like “What!” when begging for food from the adults. We were surprised to see what I’m confident were T5 and his mate, bringing their three new fledglings to the feeders on 1 July. T4, his mate and their two young ones were seen on 5 July in the branches of a clump of basswood trees at the base of our Southwest Slope. It wasn’t until 24 July that I located T3, his mate and their two young ones near their corner of the Impenetrable Valley. As far as I know, these four families were the only successfully raised Tufted Titmice here this year, with only one brood each. The wet and cool summer might have affected their nesting even though they are cavity nesters. T2 and T6 were no longer seen or heard after late June.

In August I did a little more hiking in the neighboring woodlands and

heard two more Titmice singing to the north of our property. This year I plan on extending my census work to include some of these surrounding hills and valleys. The five Titmice in the feeder on July 22nd were probably T5 and his family and the sixth was one of Peter’s family. The birds usually disperse from the yard in late summer and only two or three Titmice remain here for the winter. This was true in previous years when only the one pair were around. This winter two birds are sometimes seen but often it’s three birds. We have been unable to figure out whether or not two families are still around.

To view this information as it happened, with maps, please visit [http://coulecaudubon.org/wr\\_birds.html](http://coulecaudubon.org/wr_birds.html). My Tufted Titmouse adventures of 2005 will also be linked to this site.

*A native of Wisconsin, born and raised in the Kenosha area, Lennie Lichter has been a birder for 40 years. He and his wife Maria reside on 102 acres of woods and fields he has owned since 1974. Their Wilderness Retreat is in the beautiful Driftless Area of Monroe County, east of La Crosse.*

## 50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

I was struck immediately by the photo taken by George Prins of Racine that graced the cover of this issue. It shows a King Rail nest with 11 eggs! Six years of field work during the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (1995–2000) failed to confirm breeding by this elusive species.

The bird food recipe by Florence Peterson of Waupaca almost makes me hungry. “She saves waste fat, gravy, and any other left-over cooking liquids. Next comes cold, boiled potatoes, dry bread, meat scraps, left-over vegetables, stale Karo syrup, and breakfast cereal. The coarse foods are put through a food chopper, and these ingredients are then mixed with the liquids.” How this concoction is offered to the birds is not stated.

Jerry Vogelsang gives a nice report of the February 27, 1955 Milwaukee area WSO field trip. “By 8:30, 21 birders were on the spot (Smith Brothers’ parking lot in Port Washington), armed with binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, lunch, and plenty of warm clothes.” (Doesn’t sound much different from today.) In the harbor were “buffle-heads, golden-eyes, ruddies, old-squaws, and scaups.” The group was able to re-find in the west slip toward the power plant the male harlequin that had been found a few weeks earlier by Carl Frister, Ken Lange, and Harold Bauers. A stop in Virmond Park revealed 4 Long-eared Owls roosting in a pine grove. At the Juneau Park Lagoon, “we found two wintering Canada geese and took close-up looks at redheads, scaup, mallards, and pintails.” The group of 33 birders had lunch in the warmth of the South Shore Beach pavilion and then scanned for ducks inside the breakwater. “We then left for the harbor area near Jones’ Island where we saw Hungarian partridge, a sparrow hawk, and many gulls.” And an Iceland Gull made an appearance—“a perfect ending to the trip.”

Future DNR Secretary, C. Dennis Besadny, summarized the 112 species found on 41 Christmas Bird Counts between December 24, 1954 and January 2, 1955. Counts were virtually non-existent in the northern three tiers of counties (exception being 1 count in Price and 4 in Polk). Contrast this with Bob Domagalski’s summary in this issue.

Finally, the lead article, which focused on the management of predacious and fish-eating birds in Wisconsin, had been delivered by Walter Scott at the annual WSO convention in Wausau on April 30, 1955. He made a strong plea for the WSO to promote the study and conservation of these important groups of birds. Fifty years later, we have come a long way, but hawks are still being shot, and cormorant populations present a real management challenge. (Excerpts from Vol. 17(2), 1955)

*Prepared by Noel J. Cutright, WSO Historian, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095-9414. h. 262. 675. 2443, w. 414. 221. 2179. Noel. Cutright@we-energies.com.*



Yellow-headed Blackbird by Gary Krogman

# The Fall Season: 2004

*Mark S. Peterson*

*1309 Brookside Parkway  
Bartlesville, OK 74006-4604*

After 22 years of writing about the fall seasons from Caroline, Wisconsin, I now find myself about 800 miles away, where spring begins in late January, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Instead of spending much of my time along Lake Michigan, in the north woods, or somewhere in the hills of southwestern Wisconsin, I will now be pursuing birds in such places as Black Mesa, the Wichita Mountains, Hackberry Flats, and Red Slough. I will also be seen periodically chasing birds in Wisconsin, but rarely in the cold of winter.

There continue to be many opportunities to see birds in the company of others through the WSO field trips. This is especially true in fall. Beginning in August with the "hot spots" trip, this is a good chance to see many species of shorebirds and early fall passerines, with herons sometimes in good numbers. The trip to Wisconsin Point in late September has become known for the rarities that are seen every year. Where else, except on this trip, can jaegers, scoters, Western and Red-necked Grebes, Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Sabine's, Little, and Franklin's Gulls, and Black-legged Kittiwakes be seen with any regularity on one weekend? The trip to Harrington Beach in October is almost always

good for hawks, late passerines, and early migrating waterfowl. Many of the birds found in the field notes were reported on these weekend trips.

August was generally cool to near normal, with rainfall from average to below normal. Frost was reported on the 21st, with upper 20s in the north-central areas. Ashman reported the beginning of migration with a front going through the Madison area on the 28th and 29th. Tessen reported 16 species of shorebirds in Juneau County on the 20th, M. Peterson found 14 species of warblers in Shawano County on the 21st and 13 species on the 31st, and in Dane County Ashman found 16 species of warblers on the 28th and 14 species on the 29th.

September was reported to be sunny, very warm, and very dry. Hale reported 0.43" of rain in Jefferson County, the Lukes recorded 2.45" in Door County, and Tessen reported the month to be the 2nd or 3rd driest on record. M. Peterson found 17 species of warblers on the 1st in Shawano County. Ashman found 17 species of warblers on the 12th and 16 species on the 25th in Dane County. In Winnebago County, Tessen had 16 species of warblers on the 8th and 15 species on the 22nd, and he found 15 species



of warblers in Douglas County on the 24th.

October was reported to be cloudy, cool but pleasant, and with lots of rain. The Lukes reported 6.36" of rain in Door County during the month. Tessen found 15 species of warblers in Winnebago County on the 1st and Ashman found 11 species of warblers with many later fall migrants in Dane County on the 4th.

November was reported to have normal to above normal temperatures

and limited to normal precipitation. The Lukes reported 3.02" of rain in Door County for the month. Risch reported that the season turned into winter on the 24th. A major northern owl invasion into the state began during the month.

A total of 300 species were reported during the fall season. Many rarities were found, but most of these were seen only briefly and included the following: Ross's Geese in Ashland, Bayfield, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, and





Peregrine Falcons on the U. S. Bank sign, Main Street, La Crosse, WI taken by Tim Collins in September 2004.

Douglas Counties; Cackling Geese in 17 counties; Brants in Manitowoc County; a Harlequin Duck in Ozaukee County; Spruce Grouse in Vilas County; Pacific Loons in Douglas County; Eared Grebes in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties; Western Grebes in Ashland, Dane, Douglas, and Portage Counties; a Snowy Egret in Fond du Lac County; a Golden Eagle in Ozaukee County; a Gyrfalcon in Ashland County; a King Rail in Shawano County; a Black Rail in Waukesha County; Whooping Cranes in Juneau and Winnebago Counties; Piping Plovers in Manitowoc and Ozaukee Counties; Black-necked Stilts in Dodge and Jefferson Counties; American Avocets in Dodge, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties; Willets in Mil-

waukee and Waukesha Counties; Whimbrels in Manitowoc and Racine Counties; Hudsonian Godwits in Dodge and Racine Counties; Marbled Godwits in Juneau, Milwaukee, and Oneida Counties; Red Knots in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Oneida Counties; a Western Sandpiper in Manitowoc County; Buff-breasted Sandpipers in 7 counties; Red-necked Phalaropes in Chippewa and Dodge Counties; a Pomarine Jaeger in Douglas County; Parasitic Jaegers in Dodge, Douglas, and Ozaukee Counties; a Little Gull in Douglas County; Thayer's Gulls in 6 counties; an Iceland Gull in Douglas County; Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Dane, Douglas, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties; Black-legged Kittiwakes in Douglas



Whooping Cranes on 25 October 2004 at the Highway 21 bridge over the Yellow River at Necedah, Juneau County by Dennis Maleug.

and Milwaukee Counties; Sabine's Gulls in Douglas County; an Arctic Tern in Douglas County; Eurasian Colared-Doves in Columbia, Green, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties; Snowy Owls in Door, Manitowoc, and Oconto Counties; Northern Hawk Owls in Bayfield and Douglas Counties; Great Gray Owls in Douglas County; a Boreal Owl in Portage County; a Rufous Hummingbird in Bayfield County; Black-backed Woodpeckers in Douglas, Polk, and Vilas Counties; a Western Kingbird in Douglas County; Loggerhead Shrikes in Dodge, Grant, St. Croix, and Shawano Counties; a Bell's Vireo in La Crosse County; Boreal Chickadees in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties; Carolina Wrens in 10 counties; Townsend's Solitaires in Bay-

field, Dane, St. Croix, and Sauk Counties; Hooded Warblers in Dane, Door, and Rock Counties; Western Tanagers in Dane County; a Spotted Towhee in Waukesha County; Henslow's Sparrows in Dodge and Racine Counties; Le Conte's Sparrows in Dane, Douglas, and Shawano Counties; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Dane and Milwaukee Counties; and Orchard Orioles in Ozaukee, St. Croix, and Waukesha Counties.

#### REPORTS

(1 AUGUST–30 NOVEMBER 2004)

**Snow Goose**—First reported by Knispel in Winnebago County on 18 September. Yoerger found 50 in Columbia County on 6 November. Last reported by Johnson in Douglas County on 26 November.

**Ross's Goose**—First reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 29 September. Thiessen found 3 in Dane County on 16 October, and Tessen found 3 in Dodge County on 28 October. Last reported by Wood in Columbia County on 20 November.

**Cackling Goose**—First reported on 26 September in Dane County by Thiessen and in Manitowoc County by Domagalski. Tessen saw over 350 in Columbia County on 28 October. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, Oconto, St. Croix, and Winnebago Counties.

**Canada Goose**—Found throughout the state during the period. Persico saw 2300 in St. Croix County on 26 November.

**Brant**—McDowell and J. Peterson saw 2 at Point Beach State Forest in Manitowoc County on 1 November. See "By the Wayside."

**Mute Swan**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state during the period. M. Peterson saw 7 in Shawano County on 8 October.

**Trumpeter Swan**—Reported at the beginning of the period in St. Croix and Vilas Counties. Persico saw 44 in St. Croix County on 25 November. Reported at the end of the period in St. Croix County by Persico.

**Tundra Swan**—First reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on 3 October. Leshar found up to 8000 in Mississippi River Pool #8 in Vernon County from 25 October through the end of the period. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Wood Duck**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Frank saw 57 in Dodge County on 5 August. Reported at the end of the period in Vernon County by Leshar.

**Gadwall**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Door, and Winnebago Counties. Frank found 101 in Milwaukee County on 7 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**American Wigeon**—First reported by Tessen in Fond du Lac County on 7 August. Evanson found 14 in Dane County on 23 October. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**American Black Duck**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sheboygan

County. The Smiths saw 45 in Oconto County on 9 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Mallard**—Found throughout the state during the period. Persico found 1152 in St. Croix County on 26 November.

**Blue-winged Teal**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 65 in Marathon County on 30 August. Last reported by Kavanagh in Dane County on 10 November.

**Northern Shoveler**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade and Winnebago Counties. Stutz found 30 in Dane County on 22 August. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Jefferson, Vernon, and Waukesha Counties.

**Northern Pintail**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 5 August. On 31 October Stutz found 20 in Dodge County and 20 in Fond du Lac County. Reported at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, and Vernon Counties.

**Green-winged Teal**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 150 in Dane County on 23 October. Reported at the end of the period in Dane and Vernon Counties.

**Canvasback**—First reported by Frank in Milwaukee County on 1 August. Leshar reported 60-70,000 in Mississippi River Pool #8 in Vernon County. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Ozaukee, Vernon, and Waukesha Counties.

**Redhead**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. Reported at the end of the period in Door, Sheboygan, Vernon, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties.

**Ring-necked Duck**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Douglas, Langlade, and Vilas Counties. Tessen saw 20 in Dodge County on 2 October. Reported at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, and Vernon Counties.

**Greater Scaup**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by the La Valleys. Tessen saw 1000 in Sheboygan County on 11 October. Found at the end of the period north to Door and Oconto Counties.

**Lesser Scaup**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane County by Ashman and Stutz. Stutz found 25 in Dane County on 7 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Harlequin Duck**—Reported in Ozaukee County on 6 November by Wood, on 7 November by Thiessen, and on 8 November by Tessen.

**Surf Scoter**—First reported on 24 September in Douglas County by Johnson and Tessen. Tessen found 16 in Manitowoc County on 3 November. Last reported by Berner in Buffalo County on 17 November.

**White-winged Scoter**—First reported on 19 October by Tessen in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. Stutz found 15 in Ozaukee County on 30 October and Tessen found 15 in Manitowoc County on 3 November. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 18 November.

**Black Scoter**—First reported by Brady in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 29 September. Tessen found 10 in Ozaukee County on 8 November. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 18 November.

**Long-tailed Duck**—First reported by the Lukes in Door County on 8 October. Tessen saw 25-30,000 in Manitowoc County on 9 November. Found at the end of the period in Door and Ozaukee Counties.

**Bufflehead**—First reported by the Lukes in Door County on 17 September. Frank saw 386 in Ozaukee County on 18 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Common Goldeneye**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door County by the Lukes. The Smiths found 441 in Oconto County on 30 November. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Hooded Merganser**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Milwaukee Counties. Evanson found 21 in Dane County on 13 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Common Merganser**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Door and Langlade Counties. Bruce saw 1500-2000 in Winnebago County on 25 November. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Red-breasted Merganser**—Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Door Counties. Tessen saw 12,000 in Manitowoc County on 6 November. Reported at the end of the period north to Door County.

**Ruddy Duck**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, St. Croix, and Winnebago Counties. The Schwalbes found 367 in Columbia County on 2 November. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Rock, and Vernon Counties.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—Found throughout the state during the period. Knispel found 6 in Winnebago County on 18 September.

**Ruffed Grouse**—Reported during the period south to Richland and Sauk Counties. The Smiths found 3 in Oconto County on 31 October.

**Spruce Grouse**—Reported in Vilas County on 20 August by Prestby, on 27 August by Baughman, and 4 September by Frank.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—Reported during the period in Douglas County by the La Valleys and in Langlade County by Schimmels.

**Wild Turkey**—Reported during the period north to Washburn, Oneida, Florence, and Marinette Counties. A. Holschbach found 28 in Marinette County on 19 November.

**Northern Bobwhite**—Reported during the period in Richland, Rock, Taylor, and Vilas Counties. Duerksen found 12 in Richland County on 24 October.

**Red-throated Loon**—First reported by Paulios in Douglas County on 5 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 18 November. See "By the Wayside."

**Pacific Loon**—Reported in Douglas County on 24 September by Prestby, Johnson, Stutz, and Tessen, on 25 September by Prestby, and on 26 November by Johnson and Semo. See "By the Wayside."

**Common Loon**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Barron and Langlade Counties. Stutz found 35 in Dane County on 14 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Pied-billed Grebe**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Thiessen



found 35 in Dane County on 23 October. Reported at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, and Winnebago Counties.

**Horned Grebe**—First reported by the Lukes in Door County on 27 August. Tessen saw 225 in Sheboygan County on 11 October. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Red-necked Grebe**—First reported by Frank in Dodge County on 12 August. Last reported by Tessen in Manitowoc County on 3 November.

**Eared Grebe**—Reported by Prestby in Manitowoc County on 16 October and by Wood in Sheboygan County on 24 October.

**Western Grebe**—First reported on 24 September in Douglas County by Johnson, M. Peterson, Prestby, Stutz, and Tessen. Paruk found 4 in Ashland County on 9 November and Evanson reported 5 in Dane County on 7 November. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on 12 November.

**American White Pelican**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dodge, Door, La Crosse, Oconto, and Winnebago Counties. Thiessen saw over 1000 in Dodge County on 7 August. Reported at the end of the period in La Crosse County by Leshner.

**Double-crested Cormorant**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Milwaukee County. Knispel saw 1788 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Reported at the end of the period north to Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

**American Bittern**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade, St. Croix, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on 7 October.

**Least Bittern**—Reported by Thiessen in Dodge County on 7 August, where 3 were noted and by Gustafson in Waukesha County on 2 September.

**Great Blue Heron**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found over 50 in Shawano County on 23 August. Reported at the end of the period north to Oconto County.

**Great Egret**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Door, Oconto, and St. Croix Counties. Tessen reported 100s in Dodge

County in August. Last reported by Tessen in Fond du Lac County on 6 November.

**Snowy Egret**—Reported in Fond du Lac County by Wood on 14 and 21 August.

**Cattle Egret**—First reported by Frank in Dodge County on 5 August. Thiessen saw over 20 in Fond du Lac County on 22 August. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 10 October.

**Green Heron**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Last reported by the Lukes in Door County on 26 October.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Door County. Frank found 8 in Milwaukee County on 16 September and Knispel found 8 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on 19 November.

**Turkey Vulture**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. A. Holschbach found 83 in Sauk County on 6 October. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on 8 November.

**Osprey**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Evanson saw 36 in La Crosse County on 15 September. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on 25 November.

**Bald Eagle**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Stutz found 12 in Douglas County on 25 September. Found at the end of the period south to Lafayette County.

**Northern Harrier**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee County. Stutz found 15 in Douglas County on 25 September. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Door, and Taylor Counties.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Door, Oconto, and St. Croix Counties. Stutz found 30 in Douglas County on 25 September. Found at the end of the period in Barron, Door, Langlade, and Ozaukee Counties.

**Cooper's Hawk**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Tessen saw 4 in Douglas county on 25 September. Reported at the end of the period north to Door County.



**Northern Goshawk**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door County by the Lukes. Found at the end of the period in Door and Florence Counties.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Outagamie and St. Croix Counties. Thiessen found 4 in Ozaukee County on 7 November. Reported at the end of the period in St. Croix County by Persico.

**Broad-winged Hawk**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Gustafson found 200 in Waukesha County on 17 September and Tessen found 200 in Douglas County on 25 September. Last reported by Goff in Barron County on 18 October.

**Red-tailed Hawk**—Found throughout the state during the period. Knispel found 8 in Winnebago County on 18 September and Stutz found 8 in Dane County on 7 November.

**Rough-legged Hawk**—First reported by the La Valleys in Douglas County on 8 October. Persico saw 3 in St. Croix County on 20 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Golden Eagle**—Uttech saw one in Ozaukee County on 15 October.

**American Kestrel**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Stutz saw 25 in Douglas County on 25 September. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Door, Langlade, Oconto, and Taylor Counties.

**Merlin**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Vilas Counties. Stutz saw 20 in Douglas County on 25 September. Reported at the end of the period in Douglas County by the La Valleys.

**Gyr Falcon**—Reported in Ashland County by Brady from 19-29 November and by J. Peterson on 28 November. See "By the Wayside."

**Peregrine Falcon**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Manitowoc Counties. Stutz saw 10 in Douglas County on 25 September. Reported at the end of the period in La Crosse and Manitowoc Counties. [See photo.]

**King Rail**—M. Peterson heard one in Shawano County on 25 and 29 August.

**Virginia Rail**—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane, St. Croix, and Winnebago Counties. M. Peterson heard 5 in Shawano County on 15 August. Last reported by Knispel in Winnebago County on 19 October.

**Sora**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Columbia, Dane, Langlade, Sauk, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported on 7 October in Iowa County by A. Holschbach and in Winnebago County by Ziebell.

**Black Rail**—Sears saw one along the Scuppernon Nature Trail in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest on 7 November. See "By the Wayside."

**Common Moorhen**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Winnebago County by Ziebell. Frank found 32 in Dodge County on 4 September. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on 3 October.

**American Coot**—Reported at the beginning of the period in south to Dane and Milwaukee Counties. Knispel saw 800 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Reported at the end of the period north to Marathon County.

**Sandhill Crane**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson saw over 2000 at the Navarino Wildlife Area in Shawano County on 9 October. Reported at the end of the period north to Oconto County.

**Whooping Crane**—In Juneau County, M. Peterson saw 3 on 19 August and Tessen saw 3 on 20 August. Bruce saw one in Winnebago County on 1 October. [Dennis Maleug sent a photo to the *Pigeon* Editors of 3 taken on 25 October in Juneau County. See photo.]

**Black-bellied Plover**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 1 August. In Fond du Lac County, Tessen found 110 on 2 October, and 110 on 1 November. Last reported by M. Peterson in Shawano County on 4 November.

**American Golden Plover**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 1 August. Tessen found 60 in Douglas County on 25 September, and 60 in Fond du Lac County on 29 September. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 1 November.

**Semipalmated Plover**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Shawano County. Tessen saw 25 in Dodge County on 31 August. Last reported by Brady in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 12 October.

**Piping Plover**—Reported by Wood in Manitowoc County on 6 September, and in Ozaukee County on 19 September.

**Killdeer**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 120 in Marathon County on 3 September. Last reported by Yoerger in Green County on 27 November.

**Black-necked Stilt**—Up to 3 individuals were reported by Kurowski at Prince's Point State Wildlife Area in Jefferson County into the beginning of August, and up to 5 individuals were seen by many in Dodge County from 7 to 26 August. See "By the Wayside."

**American Avocet**—Reported by Frank in Milwaukee County on 1 and 19 August, by Wood in Dodge County on 21 August, and 7 were seen by A. Holschbach in Sauk County on 25 August.

**Greater Yellowlegs**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Tessen found 40 in Dodge County on 19 October. Last reported by Polk in Chippewa County on 17 November.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**—Reported at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Tessen found 650 in Dodge County on 4 August. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on 8 November.

**Solitary Sandpiper**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Marathon, St. Croix, and Shawano Counties. Belter found over 40 in Marathon County on 8 August. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on 10 October.

**Willet**—Reported in Milwaukee County by Peterson on 9 August and by Tessen on 10 August, and in Waukesha County by Gustafson on 26 August.

**Spotted Sandpiper**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 17 in Winnebago County on 27 August. Last reported by Thiessen in Sauk County on 22 October.

**Upland Sandpiper**—Reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 4 August and by Bruce in Winnebago County on 12 August.

**Whimbrel**—Reported by Prestby in Racine County on 11 August and by Sontag in Manitowoc County on 29 August.

**Hudsonian Godwit**—Reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 1 October and by Gustafson in Racine County from 4 to 13 October.

**Marbled Godwit**—First reported on 20 August by Tessen in Juneau County, and by Prestby in Oneida County. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on 28 September.

**Ruddy Turnstone**—First reported by Tessen in Sheboygan County on 7 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 4 October.

**Red Knot**—First reported by Prestby in Milwaukee County on 18 August. A. Holschbach saw 7 in Oneida County on 28 August. Last reported by Mueller in Milwaukee County on 18 September.

**Sanderling**—First reported on 10 August in Dodge County by Tessen and in Douglas County by the La Valleys. J. Holschbach saw 127 in Manitowoc County on 11 September. Last reported by Tessen in Manitowoc County on 9 November.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**—Found at the beginning of the period north to St. Croix County. J. Holschbach saw 12 in Manitowoc County on 22 August. Last reported by M. Peterson in Shawano County on 4 November.

**Western Sandpiper**—One was seen by Mueller and Sontag in Manitowoc County on 17 October. See "By the Wayside."

**Least Sandpiper**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to St. Croix and Shawano Counties. A. Holschbach found 24 in Sauk County on 2 August. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 11 October.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 1 August. Johnson saw 4 in Douglas County on 12 September. Last reported by Thiessen in Dane County on 6 November.

**Baird's Sandpiper**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, Outagamie, and St. Croix Counties. A. Holschbach saw 75 in Oneida County on 28 August. Last reported by Tessen in Fond du Lac County on 28 October.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—Reported at the beginning of the period north of St. Croix and Shawano Counties. Tessen saw over 350 in

Dodge County on 31 August. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 1 November.

**Dunlin**—First reported on 2 October in Dodge County by Tessen, and in Sheboygan County by the Brassers. Tessen saw 2,000 in Fond du Lac County on 30 October. Last reported by Kavanagh in Dane County on 21 November.

**Stilt Sandpiper**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Columbia, Green, Outagamie, Ozaukee, and St. Croix Counties. Tessen saw 70 in Dodge County on 4 August. Last reported by 1 October in Dodge County by Tessen, and in Racine County by Gustafson.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**—First reported by M. Peterson in Juneau County on 19 August. Prestby saw over 20 in Oneida County on 20 August, and Gustafson saw 20 in Racine County on 25 August. Last reported by Wood in Racine County on 5 September.

**Short-billed Dowitcher**—First reported on 1 August in Milwaukee County by Frank, and in Outagamie County by Tessen. Tessen saw 100 in Dodge County on 4 August. Last reported by Tessen in Fond du Lac County on 2 October.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**—First reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 4 August. Tessen found 80 in Dodge County on 19 October. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 1 November.

**Wilson's Snipe**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Frank saw 18 in Dodge County on 4 September. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on 30 November.

**American Woodcock**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Last reported by Turk in Richland County on 20 November.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 1 August. Tessen saw 65 in Dodge County on 10 August. Last reported by M. Peterson in Dodge County on 2 September.

**Red-necked Phalarope**—First reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 10 August. Tessen saw 5 in Dodge County on 22 August. Last reported by Polk in Chippewa County on 25 September.

**Pomarine Jaeger**—Johnson saw one at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on 18 September. See "By the Wayside."

**Parasitic Jaeger**—First reported by Frank in Dodge County on 4 September. Several were seen by several observers in Douglas County, from 17 to 26 September. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on 1 November.

**Franklin's Gull**—First reported by Thiessen in Dodge County on 7 August. Last reported by Baughman in Vilas County on 24 October.

**Little Gull**—Reported in Douglas County by Johnson on 24 September, and by Tessen on 25 and 26 September.

**Bonaparte's Gull**—Reported at the beginning of the period south of Milwaukee County. Baughman saw 120 in Vilas County on 28 October. Last reported by the Lukes in Door County on 14 November.

**Ring-billed Gull**—Found throughout the state during the period. Hale saw about 10,000 in Jefferson County on 29 October.

**Herring Gull**—Reported throughout the state during the period. Stutz saw 500 in Douglas County on 25 September.

**Thayer's Gull**—First reported on 24 September in Douglas County by Johnson and Tessen. Last reported by Stutz in Dane County on 14 November.

**Iceland Gull**—Johnson found one in Douglas County on 26 November.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—First reported by Thiessen in Racine County on 6 September. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on 17 November. Also reported from Douglas and Milwaukee Counties.

**Glaucous Gull**—First reported by Tessen in Manitowoc County on 6 November. Tessen saw 6 in Manitowoc County on 9 November. Reported at the end of the period in Douglas County by Johnson.

**Great Black-backed Gull**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties. Tessen saw 12 in Manitowoc County on 9 November. Found at the end of the period in Door, Douglas, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties.

**Black-legged Kittiwake**—Idzikowski saw one on the breakwall in Milwaukee on 14 November. See "By the Wayside."

**Sabine's Gull**—Up to 3 of this species were seen by several observers off Wisconsin Point in Douglas County from 22 to 27 September. See "By the Wayside."

**Caspian Tern**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Door and Oconto Counties. Frank saw 62 in Milwaukee County on 3 September. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on 27 September.

**Common Tern**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties. Stutz saw 100 in Douglas County on 25 September. Last reported by Tessen in Sheboygan County on 19 October.

**Forster's Tern**—First reported by A. Holschbach in Sauk County on 9 August. Stutz saw 20 in Douglas County on 25 September. Last reported by Brady in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 3 October.

**Arctic Tern**—Several observers saw one flying by Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on 26 September. See "By the Wayside."

**Black Tern**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Tessen found 300 in Dodge County on 14 August. Last reported by Frank in Douglas County on 22 September.

**Rock Pigeon**—Found throughout the state during the period. Stutz saw 50 in Dane County on 7 November.

**Mourning Dove**—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths saw 148 in Oconto County on 1 August.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—Reported during the period in Columbia, Green, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties. Kavanagh saw up to 3 individuals at Arlington in Columbia County. See "By the Wayside."

**Black-billed Cuckoo**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Door, and Ozaukee Counties. Last reported by Romano in Lafayette County on 27 September.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Green and Win-

nebago Counties. Last reported by Romano in Lafayette County on 27 September.

**Eastern Screech-Owl**—Found during the period in Dane, Iowa, Ozaukee, Richland, Rock, Sauk, and Winnebago Counties.

**Great Horned Owl**—Reported throughout the state during the period.

**Snowy Owl**—Reported on 26 November in Door County by the Lukes, and in Manitowoc County by Wood, and on 30 November in Oconto County by the Smiths.

**Barred Owl**—Reported during the period south to Green, Lafayette, Rock, and Waukesha Counties. Belter found 3 in Marathon County on 21 November.

**Northern Hawk Owl**—Individuals were found in 5 different locations in Bayfield and Douglas County from 3 to 28 November. See "By the Wayside."

**Great Gray Owl**—Semo and Johnson found 6 different individuals in Douglas County from 16 November to the end of the period. Numerous photos were taken.

**Long-eared Owl**—First reported on 5 November by Belter in Marathon County, where 5 individuals were found. Reported at the end of the period in Dane and Rock Counties.

**Short-eared Owl**—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on 26 September. Last reported by Romano in Lafayette County on 4 November.

**Boreal Owl**—One was trapped at the Portage County Banding Station on 1 November. [See photo on page 280.]

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade County by Schimmels. Sontag found 4 in Manitowoc County on 16 October. Last reported on 10 November in Lafayette County by Romano, and by Uttech in Ozaukee County.

**Common Nighthawk**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Brady saw over 900 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 3 September. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on 20 September.

**Whip-poor-will**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Rock, Shawano, and



Vilas Counties. M. Peterson heard 7 in Shawano County on 25 August. Last reported by the Lukes in Door County on 26 September.

**Chimney Swift**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Stutz saw 120 in Dane County on 13 September. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on 28 September.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson and Tessen saw over 25 coming to feeders in Bayfield County on 11 August. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on 21 October.

**Rufous Hummingbird**—A male was coming to a feeder kept by Terry and Sandy Brown, from 5 to 13 August, and it was seen by several other observers. See "By the Wayside."

**Belted Kingfisher**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 10 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Reported at the end of the period north to St. Croix County.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 3 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported by M. Peterson in Shawano County on 1 November.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—Reported during the period north to Burnett, Florence, Marinette, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties. Stutz found 6 in Dane County on 7 November.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Door, St. Croix, and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Romano in Lafayette County on 26 November.

**Downy Woodpecker**—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths found 7 in Oconto County on 28 November.

**Hairy Woodpecker**—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths found 6 in Oconto County on 1 August.

**Black-backed Woodpecker**—Reported by Baughman in Vilas County on 25 August, by Collins in Polk County on 14 November, and by Johnson in Douglas County on 17 November.

**Northern Flicker**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 20 in Winnebago County on 18 September.

ber. Reported at the end of the period north to St. Croix County.

**Pileated Woodpecker**—Reported during the period south to Green and Lafayette Counties.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door and Vilas Counties. Tessen found 4 in Outagamie County on 24 August. Last reported by Persico in St. Croix County on 22 September.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 22 in Shawano County on 14 August. Last reported by Martin in Dane County on 8 October.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Milwaukee Counties. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on 24 October.

**Acadian Flycatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Kavanagh in Dane County on 28 August.

**Alder Flycatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Outagamie County. The Smiths found 6 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported by Persico in St. Croix County on 12 September.

**Willow Flycatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Oconto and St. Croix Counties. Last reported by Romano in Lafayette County on 27 September.

**Least Flycatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Ashman found 8 in Dane County on 28 August. Last reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on 1 October.

**Eastern Phoebe**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 11 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Heikkinen in Dane County on 9 November.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County and by Yoerger in Rock County on 12 September.

**Western Kingbird**—Johnson found one in Douglas County on 4 September. See "By the Wayside."



**Eastern Kingbird**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 27 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported on 14 September in Dane County by Kavanagh, and at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in Outagamie County.

**Loggerhead Shrike**—Reported by Leshner in Grant County on 8 August, by Tessen in Dodge County on 22 August, by Persico in St. Croix County on 16 September, and by M. Peterson in Shawano County on 1 November.

**Northern Shrike**—First reported by the La Valleys in Douglas County on 4 October. Brady saw 3 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 27 November. Found at the end of the period in scattered areas throughout the state.

**Bell's Vireo**—Leshner found one in La Crosse County on 14 August.

**Yellow-throated Vireo**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Duerksen in Richland County on 1 October.

**Blue-headed Vireo**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Shawano County. Ashman found 6 in Dane County on 4 October. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on 24 October.

**Warbling Vireo**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 6 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on 3 October.

**Philadelphia Vireo**—First reported by Thiessen in Dane County on 17 August. Last reported by Berner in Portage County on 24 October.

**Red-eyed Vireo**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Tessen found 60 in Forest County on 1 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Kenosha County on 13 October.

**Gray Jay**—Reported during the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Stutz found 3 in Vilas County on 5 September.

**Blue Jay**—Found throughout the state during the period. Persico found 105 in St. Croix County on 19 September.

**American Crow**—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths found 137 in Oconto County on 17 October.

**Common Raven**—Reported during the period south to Outagamie County. Stutz found 5 in Douglas County on 25 September.

**Horned Lark**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Stutz found 12 in Dane County on 29 October. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron and Langlade Counties.

**Purple Martin**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel saw 30 in Winnebago County on 24 August. Last reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County on 19 September.

**Tree Swallow**—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel saw 1093 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on 23 October.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico saw 67 in St. Croix County on 21 August. Last reported on 18 September in La Crosse County by Ruhser, and in Winnebago County by Knispel.

**Bank Swallow**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths saw 47 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported on 15 September in Barron County by Goff and in La Crosse County by Evanson.

**Cliff Swallow**—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico found 186 in St. Croix County on 7 August. Last reported by Frank in Douglas County on 20 September.

**Barn Swallow**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico saw 162 in St. Croix County on 7 August. Last reported by Leshner in Vernon County on 1 November.

**Black-capped Chickadee**—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths found 17 in Oconto County on 1 August.

**Boreal Chickadee**—Reported during the period in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties.

**Tufted Titmouse**—Reported during the period north to Barron and St. Croix Counties. A. Holschbach found 8 in Sauk County on 9 October.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties. Berner found 45 in Portage County on 5 November. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—Found throughout the state during the period. Stutz found 7 in Dane County on 28 August, and the Smiths found 7 in Oconto County on 30 November.

**Brown Creeper**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to St. Croix and Shawano Counties. Reported at the end of the period north to Marathon and St. Croix Counties.

**Carolina Wren**—Reported from 10 counties during the period, north to Manitowoc, Portage, and Winnebago Counties.

**House Wren**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 18 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported on 19 October in Dane County by Thiessen, and at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in Outagamie County.

**Winter Wren**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Ashman found 16 in Dane County on 4 October. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on 21 November.

**Sedge Wren**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 13 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported by Martin in Dane County on 24 October.

**Marsh Wren**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 3 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported by Martin in Dane County on 24 October.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Barron and Door Counties. Ashman found 50 in Dane County on 4 October. Reported at the end of the period north to Manitowoc and Winnebago Counties.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by the La Valleys. Persico found 43 in St. Croix County on 2 October. Last reported by Uttech in Lincoln County on 21 November.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Door, Oconto, and St. Croix Counties. Stutz found 9 in Dane County on 28 August. Last reported on 12 October in Milwaukee County by Bontly, and in Ozaukee County by Uttech.

**Eastern Bluebird**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico found 33 in St. Croix County on 16 October. Reported at the end of the period in Sauk County by A. Holschbach.

**Townsend's Solitaire**—First reported by Stutz in Dane County on 17 October. Thiessen found 4 in Sauk County on 25 October. Last reported by Thiessen in Sauk County on 28 November. Also reported from Bayfield and St. Croix Counties.

**Veery**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Last reported on 6 October in Door County by the Lukes.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**—First reported on 31 August in Brown County by Wierzbicki, and in Ozaukee County by Uttech. Last reported on 7 October at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in Outagamie County.

**Swainson's Thrush**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties. Frank found 15 in Ashland County on 23 September. Last reported by Wierzbicki in Brown County on 19 October.

**Hermit Thrush**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Door and Shawano Counties. Ashman found 42 in Dane County on 4 October. Reported at the end of the period in Dane County by Ashman.

**Wood Thrush**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Langlade and Oconto Counties. M. Peterson found 4 in Shawano County on 5 August. Last reported by Romano in Lafayette County on 18 October.

**American Robin**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico found 105 in St. Croix County on 30 October. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Oconto, and Taylor Counties.

**Gray Catbird**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 19 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 25 October.

**Brown Thrasher**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Gustafson found 3 in Racine County on 16 September. Last reported by Thiessen in Dane County on 20 October.

**European Starling**—Reported throughout the state during the period. Knispel saw 656 in Winnebago County on 18 September.

**American Pipit**—First reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on 9 September. Stutz found 60 in Dane County on 29 October. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 18 November.

**Bohemian Waxwing**—First reported by the Lukes in Door County on 3 November. Baughman found 20 in Vilas County on 23 November. Reported at the end of the period in Douglas County by Johnson.

**Cedar Waxwing**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico saw 165 in St. Croix County on 20 November. Reported at the end of the period north to Oconto and St. Croix Counties.

**Blue-winged Warbler**—Reported at the beginning of the period north to St. Croix County. Last reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on 16 September.

**Golden-winged Warbler**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Langlade Counties. Ashman found 5 in Dane County on 6 September. Last reported on 27 September in Milwaukee County by Bontly and Zehner.

**Brewster's Warbler**—M. Peterson saw one in Shawano County on 23 August.

**Tennessee Warbler**—First reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County on 2 August. Tessen saw over 120 in Winnebago County on 1 October. Last reported by Thiessen in Dane County on 12 November.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—First reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on 29 August. Persico saw 6 in St. Croix County on 3 October. Last reported by Domagalski in Manitowoc County on 30 October.

**Nashville Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Door and Shawano Counties. Persico found 37 in St. Croix County on 18 September. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on 17 October.

**Northern Parula**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Door and Langlade Counties. Ashman saw 3 in Dane County on 12 September. Last reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on 7 October.

**Yellow Warbler**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 4 in Shawano County on 10 August. Last reported by Knispel in Winnebago County on 18 September.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Ashman found 11 in Dane County on 28 August. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on 10 October.

**Magnolia Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Door and Shawano Counties. Tessen found 20 in Forest County on 1 September. Last reported by the Lukes in Door County on 28 October.

**Cape May Warbler**—First reported by A. Holschbach in Sauk County on 19 August. Knispel found 10 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 20 October.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Mueller in Milwaukee County on 18 October.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Manitowoc County. Ashman found 40 in Dane County on 18 October. Last reported by A. Holschbach in Sauk County on 28 November.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Tessen found 15 in Forest County on 1 September. Last reported by Thiessen in Sauk County on 22 October.

**Blackburnian Warbler**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Door and Langlade Counties. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on 21 August. Last reported by the Brassers in Sheboygan County on 9 October.

**Pine Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Baughman found 40 in Vilas County on 11 September. Last reported by Baughman in Vilas County on 2 October.

**Palm Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Vilas Counties. Stutz found 25 in Douglas County on 25 September. Last reported by Glueckert in Kewaunee County on 26 October.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 27 August. Stutz saw 4 in Dane County on 19 September. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on 7 October.

**Blackpoll Warbler**—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on 27 August. Knispel saw 4 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on 21 October.

**Cerulean Warbler**—Reported by Thiessen in Dane County on 12 September, and by Tessen in Outagamie County on 22 September.

**Black-and-white Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Door and Shawano Counties. Ashman found 11 in Dane County on 28 August. Last reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on 1 October.

**American Redstart**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 30 in Dane County on 28 August. Last reported by Evanson in Dane County on 31 October.

**Ovenbird**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Stutz found 10 in Dane County on 28 August. Last reported in Milwaukee County on 7 October by Bontly and Frank.

**Northern Waterthrush**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. Ashman found 6 in Dane County on 12 September. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on 18 October.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**—Reported in Sauk County from the beginning of the period to 10 August by A. Holschbach.

**Connecticut Warbler**—First reported on 29 August in Forest County by A. Holschbach. Last reported on 16 September in Ozaukee

County by Uttech and in Racine County by Gustafson.

**Mourning Warbler**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on 4 August. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on 11 October.

**Common Yellowthroat**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 35 in Shawano County on 1 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County on 18 October.

**Hooded Warbler**—Reported by Ashman in Dane County from the beginning of the period to 29 August, by Klubertanz in Rock County on 25 August and 22 September, and by the Lukes in Door County on 26 October.

**Wilson's Warbler**—First reported by M. Peterson in Shawano County on 1 September where 5 were seen. Last reported on 25 September in St. Croix County by Persico.

**Canada Warbler**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on 4 August. Last reported on 25 September in Dane County by Ashman, and in St. Croix County by Persico.

**Scarlet Tanager**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Tessen saw 7 in Winnebago County on 1 October. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on 7 October.

**Western Tanager**—Reported in Dane County by Kavanagh on 12 September and by Evanson on 2 October. See "By the Wayside."

**Spotted Towhee**—Gustafson reported one at Muskego Park in Waukesha County from 8-26 November, possibly the same one from the previous winter. See "By the Wayside."

**Eastern Towhee**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 12 in Dane County on 4 October. Last reported on 25 October in Milwaukee County by Bontly and Zehner and in Racine County by Gustafson.

**American Tree Sparrow**—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on 24 September. Stutz found 60 in Dane County on 20 November. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Door, and Oconto Counties.



**Chipping Sparrow**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Stutz saw 60 in Dane County on 29 October. Last reported by Thiessen in Dane County on 8 November.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Manitowoc County. Last reported by Dischler in Columbia County on 16 October.

**Field Sparrow**—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Frank found 6 in Ozaukee County on 22 August. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on 29 October.

**Vesper Sparrow**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sauk County. Last reported by Brady in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 20 October.

**Savannah Sparrow**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Persico found 26 in St. Croix County on 10 October. Last reported by Frank in Milwaukee County on 7 November.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—Reported at the beginning of the period in St. Croix and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Persico in St. Croix County on 21 August.

**Henslow's Sparrow**—Reported by Frank in Dodge County on 12 August and by Gustafson in Racine County on 2 September.

**Le Conte's Sparrow**—Reported by M. Peterson in Shawano County on 6 August, by Stutz in Douglas County on 25 September, by Stutz in Dane County on 10 October, and by Thiessen in Dane County on 9 and 11 October.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**—In Dane County, first reported by Yoerger on 26 September, Thiessen found 5 on 6 October, and last reported by Kavanagh on 11 November. Also reported by Wood in Milwaukee County on 3 October.

**Fox Sparrow**—First reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on 25 September. The Smiths found 6 in Oconto County on 25 October. Found at the end of the period in Barron and Dane Counties.

**Song Sparrow**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 80 in Oconto County on 1 August. Re-

ported at the end of the period north to Manitowoc and Winnebago Counties.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Langlade Counties. Frank found 4 in Milwaukee County on 5 October. Last reported by Martin in Dane County on 6 November.

**Swamp Sparrow**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Evanson found 24 in Dane County on 12 October. Reported at the end of the period in Dane and Green Counties.

**White-throated Sparrow**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Door and Shawano Counties. Ashman found 200 in Dane County on 4 October. Reported at the end of the period in Barron, Dane, and Ozaukee Counties.

**Harris's Sparrow**—First reported on 25 September in Douglas County by M. Peterson, Stutz, and Tessen. Persico found 15 in St. Croix County on 10 October. Last reported by Persico in St. Croix County on 23 October.

**White-crowned Sparrow**—First reported on 18 September in Winnebago County by Knispel. Persico found 9 in St. Croix County on 10 October. Last reported by Dischler in Columbia County on 16 November.

**Dark-eyed Junco**—Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Vilas Counties. Heikkinen found 90 in Dane County on 10 October. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Door, Marathon, and Oconto Counties.

**Lapland Longspurs**—First reported by Johnson in Douglas County on 4 September. The Smiths found 255 in Oconto County on 2 November. Found at the end of the period in Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Racine, and Winnebago Counties.

**Snow Bunting**—First reported by Johnson in Douglas County on 13 October. M. Peterson saw 50 in Shawano County on 1 November. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

**Northern Cardinal**—Found throughout the state during the period. The Smiths found 17 in Oconto County on 28 November.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M.



Peterson saw 20 in Shawano County on 1 September. Last reported by Ruhser in La Crosse County on 6 October.

**Indigo Bunting**—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 31 in Oconto County on 1 August. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on 31 October.

**Dickcissel**—Reported in Dane County by Martin on 1 August and by Kavanagh on 21 August.

**Bobolink**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. M. Peterson saw 30 in Shawano County on 14 August. Last reported by Tessen in Fond du Lac County on 29 September.

**Red-winged Blackbird**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Evanson found 1000 in Dane County on 25 September. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Green, Rock, and Waukesha Counties.

**Eastern Meadowlark**—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 10 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Ruhser in La Crosse County on 11 November.

**Western Meadowlark**—Reported by Persico in St. Croix County on 1 and 27 August and by Risch in Taylor County on 5 October.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Langlade, Outagamie, St. Croix, and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on 30 October.

**Rusty Blackbird**—First reported by the Smiths on 5 September in Oconto County. The Smiths found 150 in Oconto County on 18 October. Last reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County on 26 November.

**Brewer's Blackbird**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Outagamie County. Knispel saw 1160 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Last reported by Gustafson in Racine County on 30 October.

**Common Grackle**—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Stutz saw 500 in Dane County on 10 October. Reported at the end of the period in Barron, Dane, Oconto, and Winnebago Counties.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. Knispel found 15 in Winnebago County on 18 September. Found at the end of the period in Rock and Winnebago Counties.

**Orchard Oriole**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Manitowoc and St. Croix Counties. Last reported by Gustafson in Waukesha County on 22 August.

**Baltimore Oriole**—Found at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Sauk Counties. The Smiths found 5 in Oconto County on August 1. Last reported by the Lukes in Door County on 15 September.

**Pine Grosbeak**—First reported by Risch in Taylor County on 7 November. A. Holschbach found 4 in Forest County on 19 November. Found at the end of the period in Douglas County by Johnson and the La Valleys.

**Purple Finch**—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Barron, Door, Langlade, and Oconto Counties. Tessen found over 25 in Bayfield County on 11 August. Found at the end of the period north to Barron, Door, and Oconto Counties.

**House Finch**—Found throughout the state during the period. Stutz found 28 in Dane County on 19 September.

**Red Crossbill**—First reported by Frank in Vilas County on 4 September. Berner found 8 in Portage County on 13 November. Found at the end of the period in Langlade and Ozaukee Counties.

**White-winged Crossbill**—First reported by Berner in Portage County on 5 November. Last reported by A. Holschbach in Forest County on 19 November.

**Common Redpoll**—First reported by Belter in Marathon County on 5 November. Risch saw 100 in Taylor County on 20 November. Reported at the end of the period south to Manitowoc and Portage Counties.

**Pine Siskin**—First reported by Brady in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on 1 August. Tessen found 90 in Ozaukee County on 11 October. Found at the end of the period north to Vilas County.

**American Goldfinch**—Found throughout the state during the period. Stutz saw 200 in Dane County on 29 October.

**Evening Grosbeak**—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Florence Counties. Reported at the end of the period in Douglas County by Johnson and the La Valleys.

**House Sparrow**—Found throughout the state during the period. Knispel saw 262 in Winnebago County on 18 September.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Philip Ashman, Tom Auer, Jim Baughman, Dan Belter, Murray Berner, Marilyn Bontly, Ryan Brady, David and Margaret Brasser, Paul Bruce, Brian Collins, Ruth Ann Corrao, Bob Domagalski, Barbara Duerksen, Marty Evanson, Jim Frank, Cathy Gagliardi, Kevin Gluckert, Alta Goff, Richard Grossenbach, Dennis Gustafson, Karen Etter Hale, Judy Haseleu, Chuck Heikkinen, Aaron Holschbach, Jim Holschbach, John Idzikowski, Robbye Johnson, Kay Bur-

car Kavanagh, Tom Klubertanz, Roy Knispel, Ronald Kurowski, Terry Lane, Steve and Laura La Valley, Fred Leshner, Roy and Charlotte Lukes, Chester Martin, Mike McDowell, Bob Mc Inroy, Mosquito Hill Nature Center, William Mueller, Tim Oksiuta, Jim Paruk, Andy Paulios, Larry Persico, Jesse Peterson, Mark Peterson, Janine Polk, Tom Prestby, Paul Risch, John Romano, Jean Ruhser, L. Dean Sauers, Lynn Schimmels, Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, Michael Sears, Larry Semo, Jerry and Karen Smith, Charles Sontag, Jean Strelka, Aaron Stutz, Tom Sykes, Daryl Tessen, Steve Thiessen, Gary Turk, Tom Uttech, Dick Verch, Josh Watson, Melvin Wierzbicki, Jim Williams, Thomas Wood, Quentin Yoerger, Norma Zehner, and Tom Ziebell.



Killdeer by Gary Krogman



Belted Kingfisher by Gary Krogman

## “By the Wayside”—Fall 2004

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*Documentations of rare and unusual species include Brant, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Gyrfalcon, Black Rail, Black-necked Stilt, Western Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Western Kingbird, Western Tanager, and Spotted Towhee.*

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### **BRANT (*Branta bernicula*)**

**1 November 2004, Lake Michigan at Point Beach State Forest, Manitowoc County**—The birds were first spotted by the naked eye at a distance of 300 to 400 yards, flying from north to south along the shoreline. With binoculars, and then a scope, it was immediately apparent that these two generally dark, rather large birds were not cormorants and that they were too large for ducks. As the birds flew closer, I observed the classic shape of a goose with a dark duck/goose-like bill. The coloration of both birds was a black/very dark gray head and neck, except for a narrow white marking on the side and front of the neck below the chin, a lighter grey-colored belly, clearly delineated from the dark of the neck and upper breast, a dark grey/almost black back and wings, and a white tail. These birds appeared medium-sized for geese, although there were no other geese in the area to compare with. They flew in a straight line and appeared to be moving rather quickly.

Their wingbeats were strong and appeared slightly faster compared to Canada Geese.—*Jesse Peterson, Waunakee, WI.*

### **RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*)**

**5 September 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—Amy first indicated that she saw a loon to the east of Gull Bluff. At first look, the loon was dark with a light-colored chin and a bi-colored neck. What struck me about the bird was the thin bill, round small head, and the loon's posture. The loon constantly held its bill above parallel, as if it were looking above the horizon. On closer examination, there also was some light speckling/marking on the loon's back (scapulars, tertials, coverts, etc.). The lower breast and belly were white. The neck showed a hint of red, but the light was not great. I would say this bird was a juvenile Red-throated Loon.—*Andy Paulios, Janesville, WI.*

### PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*)

**24 September 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—Fairly early on Friday morning, I discovered a loon on Lake Superior to our northeast. It remained on the surface for over 15 minutes, preening and swimming, before it took flight, flying into Minnesota waters. It originally was off the first turnout on Wisconsin Point.

The loon was in winter plumage, and smaller than a Common Loon. It was a dark-bodied loon, with a straight line between the white and dark on the neck. The bill was small, not thick-billed as a Common Loon. The flanks were dark.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

**26 November 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—Larry Semo and I were gull watching from the bluff at Wisconsin Point. As he scanned the farthest gulls (better scope), I spotted two loons fairly close to shore, closer than the gulls normally sit. They were swimming close together. They were smaller and more slender than Common Loons. Their heads were thickly rounded at the back, unlike Red-throated Loons. Their bills were slender, straight, and horizontally held, not tipped. Cheeks, throat, and the front of their necks were white. Both had a clean edge between light and dark on the head and neck, and both had narrow, dark chin straps.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

### GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*)

**19–29 November 2004, Ashland, Ashland County**—Tom Doolittle, a local wildlife biologist and raptor expert, informed me that he had seen a Gyrfalcon working the ducks and pi-

geons along the Ashland shoreline. I headed out the next morning and quickly found the bird perched on the old Ashland oredock. Over the course of that day and many hours in subsequent days, I watched the bird rather extensively, as did other birders, as it perched, hunted, and fed at various points in Ashland. Views were occasionally distant and sometimes quite close. Lighting was often quite good. I saw the bird frequently in flight (both ventral and dorsal sides) and perched. It was a large raptor, about the size of a Common Raven. The tail was relatively long and the wings long and pointed, clearly indicating a falcon. The crown, cheeks, and auriculars were dark gray with a slight pale supercilium and white forehead. There was an indistinct but discernible dark malar (mustache) stripe. The eye was brown with a yellow orbital ring, the cere was yellow, and the beak dark gray. The nape was dark gray with two distinct patches of whitish mottling, almost resembling large "eye spots." The back was gray with each feather having a distinct pale gray bar running horizontal across its center. The tail was also gray to pale gray with thin darker gray tail bands. The thin darker bands were about half the width of the lighter gray bands. On the perched bird, the wingtips fell at least 2 to 3 inches short of the tail tip. On the upperside, the wings were also gray with some pale barring. When perched, the bird showed white undersides from the throat to the undertail coverts. The undertail coverts had moderate amounts of dark spotting and barring, while the flanks were heavily and darkly barred. These dark markings were light on the belly, very light on the breast, and absent on or near the



throat. The legs and feet were yellow. Overall, the bird appeared rather small-headed and large-chested when perched. In flight, the falcon shape was clearly evident, with long, pointed wings and a long tail. Uppersides were dark gray and undersides white to pale gray. The remiges were nearly the same color as the underwing coverts, although the secondaries were a bit grayer than the paler primaries. The wings and tail were broader at their bases than a Peregrine's would be. The wingtips took on a more rounded appearance when the bird soared. In powered flight, the bird looked like a huge Merlin, with effortless wingbeats, stemming from a flicking of the outer half of the wing, as opposed to the long rolling wingbeat of a Peregrine.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI.*

#### **BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)**

**7 November 2004, Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Waukesha County**—As I approached the edge of the stream, moving quietly, a small sparrow-sized black bird flushed. In flight, it appeared to flutter almost as if it were injured, yet moved pretty fast. The flight was unlike any other bird I have seen. Rail flight of larger rails was similar but not the same. It was the flutter aspect to the flight that was startling. I say flutter because there was no discernible wing flapping in the sense of most other small birds. It flushed to about a height of 2-3 feet above the ground, then flew straight away, never climbing higher for about 30 feet. It then landed on a mud flat, giving me a momentary glimpse. Then it ran into the base of the cattails that were a foot away from the mudflat. I immediately

knew it was a rail. It was almost all black, but the feet were lighter and when it first flushed, I detected white flecks on its back and, for a split second, thought it was some type of starling that was missing half of itself due to some gross injury, as it seemed so small. When it landed I had only a second before it disappeared. But the shape of this small rail was unmistakable. Birds fall into certain general types, and you can just tell by the shape what category your bird falls into. I have observed Virginia and Sora Rails and this bird was much smaller and was all black in the light I was in at the final distance before it disappeared. At this time of year there are no downy Virginia or Sora Rails, which could be confused with a Black Rail. This bird was very, very shy. It flew only far enough to give itself a cushion of safety. While the bird seemed to flutter and not really fly, it made good speed before it landed.—*Micheal Sears, Nashotah, WI.*

#### **BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*)**

**14 and 21 August 2004, Dodge County**—Four of this species were seen on 14 August and five were present on 21 August. Two of the birds were adults and the rest juveniles, so I assume this was a family group which would indicate successful breeding this year.

The birds were feeding in a pond about 60 yards from state highway 33. I observed them from my vehicle using both 7 × 42 binoculars and a 20–60× spotting scope.

All five individuals had black backs and white underparts. The backs of

the juveniles were duller, and a faint brownish tint could be seen at certain angles. The bills were very long, thin, and black, and the base of the lower mandible was reddish on the juvenile birds. The face pattern differed between adults and juveniles. The adults had a blacker face with a large white spot above the eye. The juveniles had a black patch surrounding the eye and a thin black line connected this patch from the rear of the eye to the crown. All five birds had a black nape and crown with a white forehead. The adults had very long bright red legs, and the legs of the juveniles were similar, but much duller (pinkish) in coloration.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

**26 August 2004, Dodge County**—I almost missed 5 birds in a small pond east of the road. Standing still, all blended with tall plants in the pond as I drove by. Something struck me as odd, so I stopped and backed up. The binoculars quickly revealed 5 Black-necked Stilts standing in the pond. They were 1.5 feet tall with long pink legs, black top of head, back of neck, back and wings. The throat, forehead, breast, and belly were white. Three of the birds weren't really black, but more charcoal gray-brown. Their legs were more pink than the more pink-red of the 2 adult birds. Thin, relatively long black bills also were noted.—*James Frank, Mequon, WI.*

**WESTERN SANDPIPER**  
(*Calidris mauri*)

**17 October 2004, Manitowoc Break-wall, Manitowoc County**—While walking on the outer segment of the north breakwall of the harbor area in Mani-

towoc, I found a lone "peep" feeding among the rocks that line and support the wall. I was hoping the bird to be a Semipalmated Sandpiper because this report would have been much easier to finish. The bird, however, was not easily made into a Semipalmated Sandpiper since its appearance was consistent with a first year Western Sandpiper seen both in the Manitowoc lakeshore and more often along the coast of Washington. The bird had black feet, a bill that was longer than the width of the head and larger at the base, giving a "high" forehead appearance. The bill was slightly drooped. The forehead was rusty in color, similar to the auricular area and the scapulars. Although there were no "peeps" in the area for comparison, it seemed more robust than a Semipalmated Sandpiper. The wings were not longer than the tail, thus ruling out a strange-colored Baird's or White-rumped Sandpiper. The sides of the breast were finely streaked. When Bill Mueller and Andy Paulios were lead to the bird, Bill's first comment was that it could be a Dunlin because of the bill. However, the Dunlin was ruled out from consideration because the bill was drooped, not decurved, and its general appearance was as described above.—*Charles Sontag, Manitowoc, WI.*

**POMARINE JAEGER**  
(*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

**18 September 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—I was birding the breakwall with Mike Hendrickson and another birder when, through my scope, I picked up a dark brown bird flying head on down the beach towards me. It had slow, even wing beats,

like a gull. It had a very dark brown back and wings with tiny "headlights" at the bend, a warm golden brown head, and a dark bill tip. When the bird got too close in the scope, I switched to binoculars for a few seconds as it flew behind us over the breakwall and into the entry. Then I reached for my camera. I spent precious seconds finding the bird through the 500 mm lens, and got only one photo, but through the lens I saw light wing flashes at the base of the outer primaries, a dark, squared tail with no evident extensions, a pale rump, and quite light underparts. The bird stayed low, eye level or below us, the whole time. About a half an hour later, after the other birders had gone, I saw a very dark brown jaeger out from the entry, too far to see much other than light wing flashes. It had the same gull-like flight. When it flared up to harass a gull, I could see that it was the same size as the gull. They were close enough for me to identify the gull as a Ring-billed. Only one jaeger is that large. I believe it was the same bird as the first sighting, although underparts were not visible this time.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

#### SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*)

**22 September 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—While I was endlessly scanning the gulls and terns, this bird jumped out with its striking wing pattern. A Bonaparte's gull-sized bird was flying inside the breakwater on the Minnesota side of the entryway. It fought the northeast wind, eventually heading toward the Wisconsin breakwater and finally flying up over it, and out into the lake?

The upper wings had a white triangle extending from the carpus back to cover the inner primaries and outer secondaries. Another narrow black triangle went from the carpus, down the outside of the wing to cover the outer few primaries. The inner portion of the wing from the front of the wing (carpus to shoulder) back to the innermost secondaries was dingy gray. This dingy gray extended across the mantle. It was dingy gray rather than the clean gray of typical gull mantles—dingy in being 'freckled' with darker and lighter appearing gray-brown feathers. The tail was triangular-flat across the back edge, perhaps slightly notched, but it had a black terminal band.—*James Frank, Mequon, WI.*

**27 September 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—Shaun Putz picked these out in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. Two birds, same size, shape and flight as Bony's. They were close enough to see the diagnostic wing pattern through the scope. Three clean-edged triangles, points meeting at the wrist-outer primaries black, center of wing bright white, inner triangle merging with the back, dark but not black (not close enough to see the greenish-brown). No other gull has this pattern.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

#### BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)

**14 November 2004, On the breakwater in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County**—This last cold front brought in a lot of mostly Herring and Ring-billed Gulls to the breakwaters in the Milwaukee Embayment so I spent the last hour of light today scoping

through about 3,000 birds. After finding a very dark-backed adult intermedium type Lesser Black-backed Gull off of the south shore boat ramp, I went to the ferry lot and scoped the 1,500 there on the east-west breakwater. At about 400 yards away, half way out, there was a Ring-billed sized gull standing among the Herring Gulls; the back color was about the same shade of gray as the Herring Gulls; legs and bill were black and proportionately smaller than those of the surrounding Herring Gulls. Even in the waning light the pink legs of the Herring Gulls were readily visible, contrasting with the black legs of this bird. The wingtips were black with no mirrors visible and only a narrow white wing crescent visible above the tips. A thin dark but diffuse bar of feathering contrasted with the light gray back extending across the coverts of the folded wing from the tips to the bend of the wing. As the bird moved its head right and left I could see that the nape and back of the head were dark but not black as expected in a juvenile bird earlier in the fall. Some dark markings were present on the face but as the bird was turned away most of the time, I could not detail these.—

*John Idzikowski, Milwaukee, WI.*

#### ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*)

**26 September 2004, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County**—The bird was first spotted as it landed in the water with a group of Common Terns; it then quickly flushed with the terns and disappeared. Then, the group of terns it was with was relocated, as was the Arctic Tern. It was followed as it landed in the water again, approxi-

mately 300 yards out. It was studied as it sat in the water and as it flew around before and after landing. It was flushed again, and studied in flight, all the while, part of, or vaguely following, the group of Common Terns. It landed one last time, even further out. Then, it flushed again with the group of terns and flew towards the Minnesota breakwall. It reached the breakwall and crossed directly in front of us as it headed southeast towards Wisconsin, not to be seen again that day. It was with the Common Terns the entire time it was viewed. Flight was similar to that of a Common Tern and no differences in particular were noted.

It was a uniform light gray on the upper wing and mantle. The under wing was white with a dark, thin trailing edge to the primaries, composing one half to one fourth of the length of the wing. When seen backlit and silhouetted by the sun, the bird apparently showed some translucency throughout the wing and flight feathers, with no particular region showing any more or less opacity or translucency. The bill was solid orange-red, with no black tip and was about one third to one half the length of the head. The black cap extended from the nape to the base of the bill (gape) without interruption. A slight tinge of gray was seen on the belly occasionally in flight when the bird banked and the light was right.

Common Tern was eliminated because of the dark wedge in the upper and underwing of the primaries, which this bird obviously did not have. Forster's Tern was eliminated because this bird had a uniformly gray upper wing and primaries, whereas a Forster's Tern has bright, frosty white



primaries that contrast with the rest of the wing, as well as a lack of translucency throughout the wing, plus a Forster's has an orange bill with a black tip, but this bird had a solid orange-red bill with no black tip.

The closest the bird came was probably about 50 yards as it passed the Wisconsin lighthouse. It was seen other times at distances ranging from 100-400 yards.—*Tom Auer, Duluth, MN.*

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE**  
(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

**24 August to 12 October 2004, Arlington, Columbia County**—I saw 3 doves fly in from the south and land on telephone lines close to where my car was parked, I noted a white-tipped, fan-shaped tail in flight and a squared-off tail at rest, when the bird was perched. The breast was light gray, as was the head, with a 1-2 inches black mark at the nape of the neck. The back was uniform darker gray color than the breast with no black spotting on the upper wing. Several Mourning Doves were close by, so size comparison showed the Eurasian Collared-Dove larger and fuller-bodied. On 12 October I saw only 1 individual on a power line in the residential area of Arlington. It continued to perch there for the entire time of the sighting (about 8 minutes).

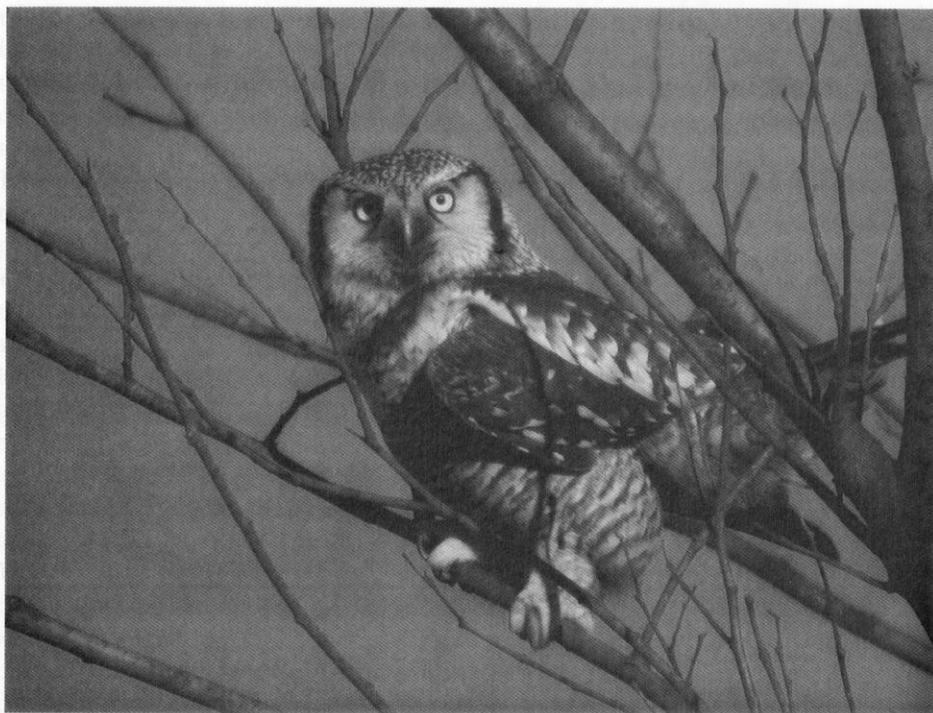
On 24 August, the individual made several cooing noises, definitely different and lower than a Mourning Dove call. It was a 3 note rhythmic "coo coo coo," with the accent on the second syllable.—*Kay Burcar Kavanagh, Niagara, WI.*

**NORTHERN HAWK OWL**  
(*Surnia ulula*)

**3 November 2004, near the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and WI Highway 13, Bayfield County**—The bird was sitting in an ash tree about 20 yards from the highway. It was "medium-sized" (larger than a Saw-whet, smaller than a Barred Owl). A long tail was noted, as was the lack of ear tufts, and yellow eyes. As I viewed it through the scope, the barring of ventral portions, including the legs, was apparent (brown barring). The back was brown with white markings. The face was gray, bordered by a darker boundary line.—*Dick Verch, Ashland, WI. [see photo].*

**13-15 November 2004, along old U.S. 2 between Highway G and Cross Road west of Ashland, Bayfield County**—Local birder Tim Oksiuta originally found this bird on 11 November 2004. I tried to find it on 12 November with no luck, but then tried again that day and relocated it in the same place Tim had seen it. It was perched very unhawk owl-like in the middle of a willow tree not far from the main trunk and certainly not at the tip of a branch. Partially soaking up the morning sun, it sat rather still the entire time I viewed it from my car. It was a crow-sized owl with overall gray-brown color. The grayish-brown tail was long and pointed with distinct but thin whitish bands. The underside was pale grayish-white with brownish horizontal barring all the way down to the undertail coverts. The wings on the upperside were darker brown with extensive white spotting. The beak was pale colored and the eyes yellow. The face was pale gray and outlined sharply by black borders. The crown was pale grayish with conspicuous





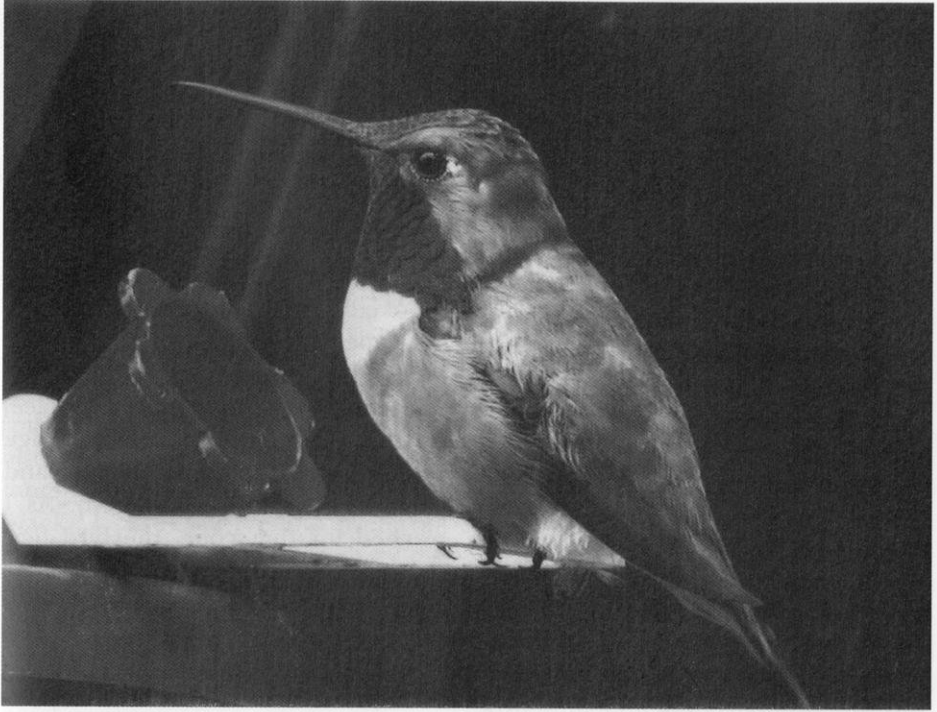
Northern Hawk Owl by Dick Verch on 3 November in Bayfield County, WI.

white spotting. I also saw the bird on 14 November and as of 15 November it was still present.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI.*

**17 November 2004, along county trunk highway A just north of Pioneer Trail, Douglas County**—After observing a Great Gray Owl on Melcheski Road, Larry Semo and I went looking for the one he had seen earlier on county trunk highway A. Instead, we found a Northern Hawk Owl in the bog. It seemed agitated, moving from tree to tree and flicking its tail up and down. (I have not seen this behavior before.) Falconlike, it swiped at something on the ground, but missed. This owl was crow-sized with a long tail extending several inches past the folded

wingtips. The breast and belly were finely barred with rusty brown. The facial discs were heavily edged in black and the eyes were yellow.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

**26 November 2004, along Highway 13 roughly 0.5 mile west of the Bayfield County Line in Douglas County**—A medium-sized "earless" owl with a long, pointed tail was seen actively hunting. The forehead was basally dark with considerable diffused white spotting. The face was whitish except for distinct black borders. A second set of dark borders extended to the rear of the head, creating two whitish eyespots on the back of the head. The eyes and bill were yellow. The breast and undertail coverts were



Rufous Hummingbird at the feeder of Sandy Brown in Bayfield County on 10 August by Dick Verch.

barred with brownish bands. The back was mostly brown, except for light spotting to the scapulars and wing coverts. The bird typically perched atop spruce or aspen trees. When in flight, the flight was fast and direct, falcon-like, and when attempting to perch, the bird would fly straight up to the tip of a tree.—*Larry Semo, Westminster, CO.*

**27 November 2004, approximately 5 miles north of county trunk highway M along Highway 35, Douglas County—**While driving down highway 35 in Douglas County, my wife spotted a distant bird perched high in a tree about 150 yards away. From a distance we could only see the silhouette of a chunky bird smaller than a Red-tailed

Hawk, but larger than a Kestrel. As we moved closer we could see the bird had a barred belly, long tail, pushed-in owlish face, yellow eyes and bill, dark comma-shapes framing the bird's eyes, and a dark back with white spotting.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**  
**(*Selasphorus rufus*)**

**10 August 2004, about 5 miles east of Grand View, Bayfield County—**Dick Verch received a call from Sandy Brown on Monday, 9 August. She said she had a Rufous Hummingbird at her feeder, which had first appeared on Thursday, 5 August or Friday, 6 Au-

gust. Dick and I went down and found a haven for hummingbirds with numerous feeders and dozens of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Almost immediately we saw the Rufous, an incredibly stunning adult male coming to a feeder only inches from Sandy's kitchen window. We viewed the bird from inside only a foot away and then went outside to photograph it, where we subsequently viewed the bird at 5 to 10 minute intervals for 45 minutes to an hour. The bird was the size of a Ruby-throated, but the head, back, rump, tail, and sides were rufous. There was no green on the back, as would be seen in an Allen's Hummingbird. The upper breast was white, while the gorget was orange-red when lit and a rich brown color when shaded. In flight, the bird's wings produced a distinctive high buzzy trill.—*Ryan Brady, Ashland, WI. [See photo.]*

**11 August 2004, east of Grand View, Bayfield County**—Mark Peterson and I drove up to the feeder in Bayfield County to try for the male Rufous Hummingbird. After watching for some time with at least two dozen Rubys, the male Rufous appeared. For the next 1+ hour, it appeared several times feeding at a feeder by a side window occasionally. This was a brilliantly-colored male with a rufous body-head, back, tail, and sides. The gorget was reddish.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

**WESTERN KINGBIRD**  
(*Tyrannus verticalis*)

**4 September 2004, Douglas County**—I had taken a friend and a birder from North Carolina out on Ross Road, hoping for Sharp-tailed Grouse. We were on a side road watch-

ing sparrows when I saw a kingbird on top of a small tree to the east. It was only a silhouette. When we got out of the car to scope the sparrows and longspurs, the kingbird flew west past us and landed on a dead branch about a block away. This time with the sun shining on the bird. Since I thought kingbirds were long gone to the south, I looked at this one again. Instead of the expected blackish, dark gray and white terminal band, I was surprised to see a very pale unmarked gray face, gray back and top of head, white edge feathers on the tail, whitish throat and upper breast, and yellow belly. As I reached for the scope, the bird flew away.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

**WESTERN TANAGER**  
(*Piranga ludoviciana*)

**12 September 2004, near Cross Plains, Dane County**—As I watched 12 different warblers taking baths and preening in the nearby bushes, I noted a bright yellow-breasted, thrush-sized bird. I immediately noted 2 whitish wingbars. I then checked the head and nape which was pale yellow, which contrasted from the grayish back. The beak was a relatively short seed-eater type, unlike the longer pointed gray-black bill of nearby Baltimore Orioles. It also was a light golden color unlike the gray/black of the oriole bill. The tail seemed less than one third of the bird's total length. The rump was pale golden and the legs were grayish.

The individual was quite aggressive toward the smaller warblers. It jumped onto the rim of the bath, then would dip into the water and then skim the water surface and again perch on the rim. It took long 5-minute baths, then

would perch in the bushes and preen for several minutes. It repeated this sequence at least 5 times. What a totally gorgeous look at this rare Wisconsin bird! *Kay Burcar Kavanagh, Niagara, WI.*

**2 October 2004, Odana Hills Golf Course in Madison, Dane County—**

While watching a mixed flock of warblers, thrushes, and woodpeckers, I saw a yellowish bird fly into view and perch on a branch. Good looks at the beak and build of the bird led me to immediately identify it as a tanager. I also observed a large bright yellow rectangular rump patch surrounded by black. I also saw yellow undertail coverts and prominent wingbars distinguished from dark wings. The head was yellowish-green. The tail was very dark. The breast and belly were quite yellow, but not as intense as the rump patch.

I knew from the beak that this was a tanager species. The size also was comparable to the Scarlet Tanagers I'd seen in the previous couple of weeks. I observed rather striking white wingbars set off by the contrasting dark wing coverts and yellow sides and flanks. The color contrasts initially reminded me of Evening Grosbeak coloration. I then was fortunate enough to observe the bright yellow rump area for several seconds. This bright yellow rump area was at least 3 times as large as a Yellow-rumped Warbler would show. It was surrounded by a blackish

tail and wings. After the observation, I consulted Sibley and concluded this bird was none other than a Western Tanager. I believe the bird I saw to be a non-breeding plumage male, but was unable to detect any red coloration on the head. The beak was not sufficiently large to be a Summer Tanager and the tail was too dark for that species. The presence of wingbars eliminated Summer and Scarlet Tanagers.—*Marty Evanson, Madison, WI.*

**SPOTTED TOWHEE**  
(*Pipilo maculatus*)

**8 and 26 November 2004, Muskego Park, Waukesha County—**

As the towhee came into view, I noticed the typical black hood; rusty sides (flanks); white belly; black back, wings, and tail with white outer tail feathers at the terminal corners. Unlike the Eastern Towhee (which left a month earlier), this male had no white at the base of the primaries (which shows as a white patch along the lower edge of the wing). Instead, this towhee had a multitude of white spots across the back and upper wings (coverts), as well as white wingbars. The bright red eye and conical black bill completed the towhee description. Because of the location, I believe this is probably the same bird as last winter. Where did it spend the summer?—*Dennis Gustafson, Muskego, WI.*



Bald Eagle along the Mississippi River by Gary Krogman



# WSO Records Committee Report: Fall 2004

*Jim Frank*

*WSO Records Committee Chair  
10524 N. O'Connell Lane  
Mequon, WI 53097-3314  
262. 242. 2443  
jcfbirddr@yahoo.com*

**T**he WSO Records Committee reviewed 57 records of 23 species for the fall 2004 season, accepting 49 of the reports. Two additional summer records were also accepted. The creation of the new species Cackling Goose and subsequent documentations this fall of these scattered (but seemingly regular?) migrants pushed the state list to 424 species.

## ACCEPTED

### **Red-throated Loon—**

#2004-047 Douglas Co., 5 September 2004, Paulios.

This small loon had a thin bill, held persistently above horizontal. There was light speckling on the dark back of this bird. The chin was lighter in color than the head and neck. Though the light wasn't the best, the observer felt the foreneck had a reddish color to it.

### **Pacific Loon—**

#2004-048 Douglas Co., 24 September 2004, Tessen.

#2004-049 Douglas Co., 26 November 2004, R. Johnson, Semo (2 birds) (photo).

These winter plumaged birds were noticeably smaller than a Common Loon, with a shorter, more slender, but straight bill. Instead of exhibiting a small knob-like prominence on the forehead as a Common Loon or Arctic Loon does, the forehead and crown on these birds was smooth in profile. The dark gray of the hindneck was cleanly demarcated from the white of the foreneck in a straight line, in contrast to the irregular, sometimes diffuse border on the side of the neck of a Common Loon. The overall dark color of the hindneck, and top of the head was darker than the back color. The gray of the top of the head extended down to encompass the eye. The eye of a Common Loon would have white appearing just above the eye and just in front of the eye, making it much easier to see against a white background than on the dark gray background of a Pacific Loon's periocular area. With patience, the observers were able to see the birds well enough

to note a gray "chin-strap" on the November birds. No white was observed above the water line along the flank as would appear on an Arctic Loon. (For further field identification discussion, see *Birding*, Volume 29, No. 2.)

#### **Ross's Goose—**

#2004-052 Douglas Co., 18 November 2004, Semo (photo).

This mallard-sized small white goose had black primaries, a small, pink bill, and lacked the "grin patch" of a Snow Goose. This sighting was unusually far north, relative to previous records in the state.

#### **Brant—**

#2004-053 Manitowoc Co., 1 November 2004, J. Peterson, McDowell.

Two medium-sized geese were observed in a fly-by along Lake Michigan. The black head, neck, and upper breast contrasted with the lighter gray lower breast. A white patch was observed on the upper side of the neck. The tail ends of these geese were white with a black tail band.

#### **Cackling Goose—**

#2004-054 Milwaukee Co., 6 October 2004, Gustafson.

#2004-055 Racine Co., 18 October 2004, Gustafson.

#2004-056 Waukesha Co., 17–26 October 2004, Gustafson.

#2004-057 Burnett Co., 26 October 2004, J. Williams.

#2004-058 Columbia Co., 6 November 2004, Yoerger.

These small "Canada Geese" were felt to be at the far end of the size spectrum. Observers acknowledged seeing some more intermediate sized geese they did not know how to cate-

gorize. The birds identified as Cackling Geese were described as Mallard or Ross's Goose-sized, with very short necks and very stubby bills. Nearby Snow and Blue Geese were larger than these birds.

The complexities of distinguishing the 9–12 former subspecies of Canada Goose are contested by experts even on measured museum specimens. Most of the problem for identifying this new species appears to stem from the smallest subspecies left in the Canada group, *Branta canadensis parvipes*. These birds are more Snow Goose sized. Although nesting in western Canada, they appear to wander into the midwest based on a few museum specimens. Clinal variation in the various subspecies in terms of size and darkness/lightness of plumage confuse the issue. Complicating things further are the probable, but uncertain interbreeding of *B.c. 'parvipes'* with Cackling (Richardson's) Goose.

The situation appears to be much less than settled. For now, the smallest, Ross's Goose-sized individuals, with very short-necks would appear to be Cackling Geese. A fair number of other relatively smaller geese may not be identifiable, whether seen well, photographed, or collected.

#### **Gyr Falcon—**

#2004-059 Ashland Co., 19–29 November 2004, Brady; 28 November 2004, J. Peterson.

This large grayish hawk had a relatively long tail, and wide, but pointed wings in flight. The back and wings were a bit darker gray overall than the breast. There was also a faint malar stripe observed.

**Black Rail—**

#2004-082 Waukesha Co., 7 November 2004, Sears.

A small black bird fluttered a few feet off the ground for about 30 feet before landing on a mudflat and scurrying into the base of the cat-tails. The overall habitat was a grassy wetland, very spongy wet in places. The overall shape was felt to be rail-like, with no tail, and no strength to the flight. The size was indicated to be noticeably smaller than a Sora. In a brief look at the bird before it ran into cover, white spots were noted on the black back of the overall black bird.

The late date of observation precludes the potential fledgling rails of more common species.

This record gives Wisconsin three consecutive years with a record, and two consecutive falls with a record.

**Black-necked Stilt—**

#2004-060 Jefferson Co., 28 May 2004, Kincaid (nesting record); June-July 2004, Kurowski (nesting record).

#2004-061 Dodge Co., 8 August 2004, Sykes; 14 August 2004, T. Wood; 26 August 2004, Frank; ?? August 2004, Tessen.

These shorebirds were felt to be 18 inches tall, black above, white below with long pink-red legs and a thin, straight black bill. The group of Dodge Co. birds had three individuals in which the color was more brownish dark gray with pale pink kegs suggesting juvenile birds and a local breeding. The Jefferson Co. birds were observed in company with downy young, again suggesting local breeding.

These would be the second and

third breeding records for Black-necked Stilts in Wisconsin.

**Western Sandpiper—**

#2004-062 Manitowoc Co., 17 October 2004, Sontag, Mueller.

This lone bird was a Semipalmated-like 'peep,' but the bill was a bit longer than expected with a wider base and droopier tip than expected. There was rufous coloration on the crown, auriculars, and scapulars. The breast had very fine streaks on the sides. The wingtips did not extend beyond the tail as they would in White-rumped or Baird's Sandpipers.

The bill length alone should not be used as indicative of a Western Sandpiper. The range of lengths to the bills of Semipalmated Sandpipers does significantly overlap that of the Western, depending on the geographic origin of the bird. Juvenile "semis" can even have a hint of rufous to the scapulars.

**Pomarine Jaeger—**

#2004-063 Douglas Co., 18 September 2004, Auer, Hendrickson, R. Johnson (photo).

This "in flight" bird was viewed as close as 50 ft. by the observers. The overall brownish bird was felt to be the same size as a Ring-billed Gull, but smaller than a Herring Gull. The overall mottled, brownish bird was more yellowish brown on the head/face, and very light on the abdomen. The upper breast had a darker, heavier brown mottling extending around the circumference of the bird. Relative to the overall length of the bird, the base of the wing seemed unduly broad. The mottled underwing exhibited a "double light flash" of white at the base of the primaries. Also noted was a broader, more distinct barring of the

undertail coverts. No projection was seen along the trailing edge of the tail at the central retrices.

#### **Lesser Black-backed Gull—**

#2004-064 Douglas Co., 16 October 2004, R. Johnson.

#2004-065 Dane Co., ??? 2004, Kavanaugh.

#2004-066 Douglas Co., 16 November 2004, Semo.

The Douglas Co. individual(s?) was a first year bird, smaller than a Herring Gull, with a long wing tip extension, and a relatively thin, black bill. The head was noticeably whiter than the rest of the body, but was diffusely streaked with brown. In addition, the rump seen in flight was also contrastingly white compared to the brown of the rest of the body. The mantle was dark brown with some white scalloping; the coverts and scapulars also brown, but with more extensive white slotting. The legs were pink.

The Dane Co. bird was slightly larger than the Ring-bills, with a dark gray mantle, all yellow bill, and yellow legs.

#### **Black-legged Kittiwake—**

#2004-068 Milwaukee Co., 14 November 2004, Idzikowski.

This observation was of an immature bird, standing in comparison to Herring Gulls, suggesting a Ring-billed Gull stature, similarly gray mantle, but black legs and bill. A black stripe crossed the folded gray wing. The nape was dark, but not as black as expected.

#### **Sabine's Gull—**

#2004-069 Douglas Co., 22 September 2004, Frank; 26 September 2004, Tessen (3 birds); 27

September 2004, R. Johnson (2 birds).

These reports were all of immature birds, similar in size to associated Bonaparte's Gulls. Overall they were white below, but had a mottled gray-brown mantle that extended in heavy smudging onto the otherwise whitish head. The white tail had a black terminal band. Most striking and diagnostic was the wing pattern. The outer black triangle, middle white triangle, and inner gray-brown triangle were easily seen, even at a distance.

#### **Arctic Tern—**

#2004-070 Douglas Co., 26 September 2004, Auer, Svingen, Watson.

Loosely associated with some Common Terns, this individual differed in the uniformity of the mantle and upperwing grayness. It lacked the dark outer primaries of the Common Terns, the black limited to the very trailing edge of the outer  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the wing. At rest on the water, the tail appeared to extend beyond the wingtips. Finally, the red bill lacked a dark tip.

#### **Eurasian Collared-Dove—**

#2003-066 Columbia Co., 24 August-12 October 2004, Kavanaugh.

#2004-071 Sauk Co., 4 November 2004, A. Holschbach.

The heavier body than a Mourning Dove, slimmer build than a Rock Dove, the paler, grayer overall coloration, and black nape crescent were seen. In addition, the white undertail tip and dark gray proximal undertail and undertail coverts were also reported. In flight, the primaries were darker than the rest of the body and

the squared off tail had white tips at each distal corner.

#### **Boreal Owl—**

#2004-083 Portage Co., 1 November 2004, Malueg, (photo).

This owl was mist netted and photographed. This small, brown owl had whitish facial disks bordered by dark brown stripes, reminiscent of a Hawk-Owl's face. The forehead had tiny white spots, the breast larger white spots. The eyes and bill were yellow. [See photo.]

#### **Northern Hawk-Owl—**

#2004-073 Bayfield Co., 3 November 2004, Verch; 3, 13 November 2004, Brady.

#2004-074 Douglas Co., 16 November 2004, Semo (photo); 17 November 2004, R. Johnson.

#2004-075 Douglas Co., 26 November 2004, Semo, (photo).

#2004-076 Douglas Co., 27 November 2004, Stutz.

These observations were of crow-sized owls sitting conspicuously on top of small trees. The yellow eyes were situated on a grayish face, bordered by very dark bands. The forehead was brown with white speckling. A grayish breast had darker horizontal banding. The tail was relatively long. The brown back and wings was speckled with white. If observed in flight, the wing-beat was described as more falcon or accipiter-like rather than owl-like.

These records are the harbinger of what would become an unprecedented winter invasion of Wisconsin by this species. The November 3<sup>rd</sup> record missed last year's second earliest state record by 2 days and the 112 year old earliest ever record by 7 days.

#### **Rufous Hummingbird—**

#2004-077 Bayfield Co., 10 August 2004, Verch (photo), Brady; 11 August 2004, Tessen.

This ruby-throated-sized hummingbird was striking in the presence of a rufous crown, back, and rump, in addition to rusty flanks. The belly and central breast were white. This adult male individual had an orange-red gorget.

#### **Western Tanager—**

#2004-079 Dane Co., 12 September 2004, Kavanaugh.

#2004-080 Dane Co., 2 October 2004, Evanson.

These yellowish tanagers had black wings with two whitish wingbars, a grayish back, a black tail, a yellow rump, and a short, grayish bill.

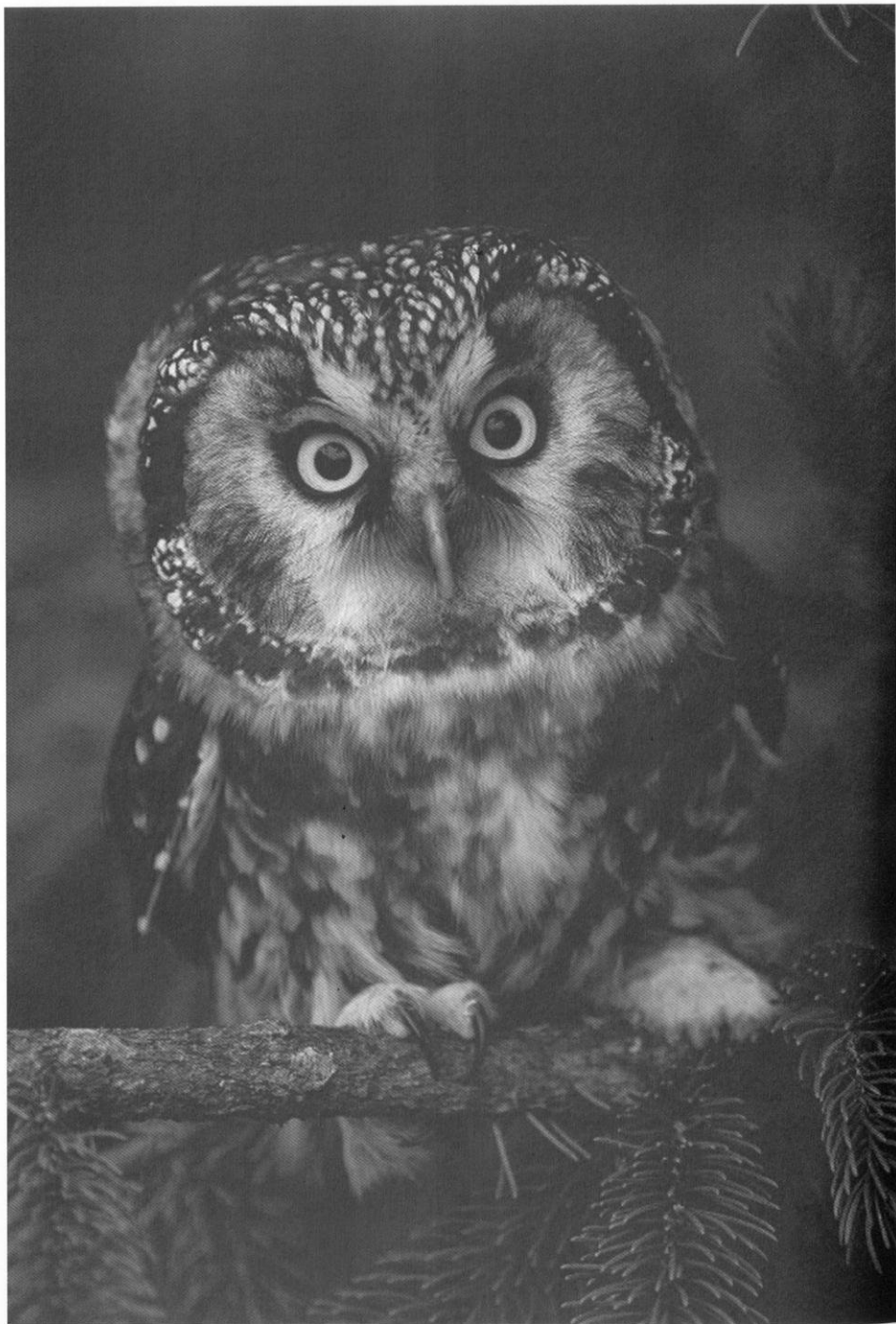
#### **Spotted Towhee—**

#2004-081 Waukesha Co., 8–26 November 2004, Gustafson.

The observer reported a bird with the size and general appearance of an Eastern Towhee. The bill was "finch-like," or conical. It had a dark black head, back, wings, and tail and rusty flanks. White was noted on the central breast and outer tail tips. Diagnostic were the white tipped wing coverts that created two white wingbars and white spots on the scapulars. The white spot in the base of the primaries on an Eastern Towhee was not evident. The observer felt the call note to be softer and more catbird-like than the call of the Eastern Towhee.

This is the second consecutive November report of this species at the exact same location. Of course this is presumed to be the same individual





Boreal Owl by Dennis Malueg taken on 1 November 2004 at the Linwood Springs Research Station in Stevens Point after banding.

that wintered at this site the year before, disappearing in mid-April.

### NOT ACCEPTED

#### **Yellow-billed Loon—**

#2004-050 Shawano Co., 17 October 2004.

This loon was observed without binoculars, at distances as close as 20 yards from a fishing boat. Initially the seemingly larger size than a Common Loon was noted, in addition to a browner coloration than expected. The bill was entirely yellowish, and held uptilted. The brown of the back was darker than that of the nape and top of the head. This brown blended into a whitish foreneck and face. The white did not reach the height of the eye and it encompassed a brownish patch behind the eye.

Important features that were noted included the suggestion of a greater than expected size, the yellowish bill, the overall brownish color, and the darker auricular patch. It should be noted that some young Common Loons may also have very pale bills. With closer observation, the upper margin of the upper culmen will be dark the entire length of the dorsal margin, but dark for only the proximal half in Yellow-billed Loons. The shape of the lower culmen would exhibit more of an angle than the smooth surface of a Common Loon. Without binoculars, this may have been hard to assess. The contour of the head was not described in this observation. Typically the Yellow-billed Loon has a knob-like prominence on the forehead and a subtler one at the hind-crown, giving a "double bumped" appearance.

This careful description was very likely a Yellow-billed Loon. First reports of a species are always subject to careful scrutiny. If the last couple of ID points would have been noted this probably would have been accepted as a hypothetical record. Because of the difficulty identifying these two species, a photograph may be necessary for a first state record.

#### **Anhinga—**

#2004-051 Grant Co., 3 October 2004.

This bird was described as long-necked, with a yellow bill, and a rust colored breast. It dove and then swam with just its head out of the water. No overall color was indicated for the bird, no suggestion was made of any light feathering to the back on an otherwise dark bird. The shape of the bill wasn't acknowledged to be pointed or blunt and slightly hooked.

Young cormorants can have contrasting lighter color to the throat and breast and yellow bills. Without a more complete description, the information could be describing a cormorant.

#### **Gyr Falcon—**

#2004-059 Ashland Co., 25 November 2004.

Because of a description limited to a "large grayish falcon," with a whitish throat and neck area, and a dark head, a Peregrine Falcon isn't eliminated from consideration. In addition, a notation of the relative size of the bird and the wing shape would have been useful.

#### **Lesser Black-backed Gull—**

#2004-065 Dane Co., 6 November 2004.

More than likely correctly identified, the description didn't totally sup-

port the conclusion. A "dark-mantled" gull, slightly larger than adjacent Ring-bills. Without an indication of the leg color and the degree of dark to the mantle color, a California Gull isn't eliminated.

#### **Black-legged Kittiwake—**

#2004-067 Douglas Co., 24 September 2004.

This observation was made from "considerable" distance. It was described as larger than a Bonaparte's Gull, but direct size comparison was not indicated. At great distance, size is of course a problem to accurately assess. It was reported to have a "dark W" across the wings, a "darkish collar," and a black-tipped tail.

The question of judging the size at this distance opens the possibility of an immature Little Gull. Without a suggestion of the color of the secondaries being black or white, this species cannot be eliminated. In addition, a juvenile Sabine's Gull has similar size, wing pattern, tail tip color, and darkish nape. A mention of the mantle color, if determinable at this distance, would have helped here.

#### **Barn Owl—**

#2004-072 Shawano Co., 31 October 2004.

This optically unaided look was from as close as 10 feet. Unfortunately the description was limited to a light tan owl with a "monkey face." Although this identification is most likely correct, the lack of indication of

the color of the facial disks, the eye color, the breast color, and the underwing pattern, allows a case to be made for a Short-eared Owl or even a Northern Harrier.

#### **Northern Hawk-Owl—**

#2004-073 Bayfield Co., 6 November 2004.

This is with little doubt a correct identification; however, the limited description consisted of a crow-sized owl with a long tail, dark markings on the face, white throat, and horizontal barring on the breast. A more exact description of those "dark markings on the face," the eye color, and presence or absence of ear tufts would have completed the identification.

#### **Western Tanager—**

#2004-078 Winnebago Co., 8 September 2004.

A "tanager-sized" bird was observed feeding up in the trees. The description was limited to a yellowish breast, a greenish-yellow head and nape, and wingbars on a darkish wing. There are occasional circumstances that Scarlet Tanagers suggest a hint of wingbars. Without any mention being made of the back color being grayish/darker/contrasting with the nape, the Western Tanager identification isn't conclusive. Even more significant was the lack of description of the bill shape. Female orioles can fit descriptions such as this without attention to this important detail.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**Gary Krogman**, of Eau Claire, has been photographing birds for over two years with a digital camera attached to a spotting scope (digi-scoping). Most of his photos were taken within 100 miles of Eau Claire. Besides birds, butterflies are a favorite subject for Gary to photograph.

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**Major Dennis R. Kuecherer** retired from the US Army in 1992 and then spent nine years doing breeding bird surveys for the Department of the Interior, WDNR, and the WSO. Dennis has been an avid birder for most of his

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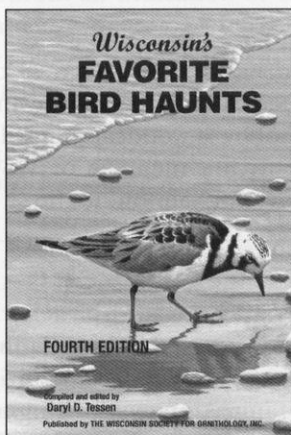
life and has a U.S. Lower 48 total of 702 species. Besides drawing, his other hobby is woodcarving wild flowers. This life member of WSO currently lives in Salmon, Idaho.

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**Todd Ward** is an avid birder who has become interested in bird and wildlife photography by experimenting with digiscoping. Along with being a member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, he and his wife Cindy are members of both the Oshkosh Bird Club and the Northeast Wisconsin Birding Club.

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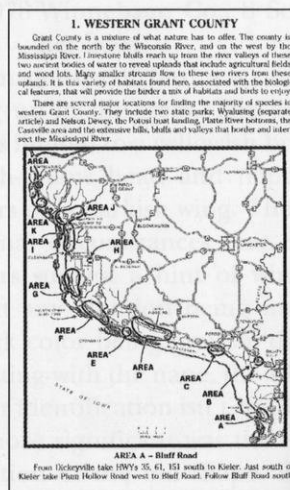
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### OFFICERS (2003-2004)

- President\*** Jeffrey L. Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 477. 2442; jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us  
**Vice President\*** David W. Sample, 1816 Vilas Avenue, Madison, WI 53711; 608. 257. 1011; djsample@chorus.net  
**Secretary\*** Jane A. Dennis, 138 S. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-5248; 608. 231. 1741; jadennis@facstaff.wisc.edu  
**Treasurer\*** Christine Reel, 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188-3142; 262. 547. 6128; dcree@execpc.com  
**Editors\*** Bettie and Neil Harriman, 5188 Bittersweet Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54901-9753; 920. 233. 1973; bettie@vbe.com; harriman@uwosh.edu

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2003-2004)

- Annual Convention (2005)** Scott Baughman, 3043 Rolling Meadows Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53083-8107; 920. 457. 5574; baughman@milwpc.com  
**Awards\*** Daryl D. Tessen, 3118 N. Oneida Street, Appleton, WI 54911; 920. 735. 9903; bhaunts@core.com  
**Bird Reports Coordinator\*** Wayne Rohde, W6488 Beloit Road, Walworth, WI 53184; 262. 275. 5548; wsrohde@genevaonline.com  
**Badger Birder\*** Mary Uttech, 4305 Hwy. O, Saukville, WI 53080; 262. 675. 6482; muttech@asq.org  
**Book Store\*** Joan Sommer, 114 S. Milwaukee Street, Fredonia, WI 53021; 262. 692. 6085; jsommer2@wi.rr.com  
**Conservation\*** William P. Mueller, 1242 S. 45th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53214; 414. 643. 7279; iltlawas@earthlink.net  
**Education\*** Mariette Nowak, N9053 Swift Lake Road, East Troy, WI 53120; 262. 642. 2352; mnowak@wi.rr.com  
**Field Trips\*** Thomas R. Schultz, N6104 Honeysuckle Lane, Green Lake, WI 54941-9609; 920. 294. 3021; trschultz@vbe.com; and Jeffrey L. Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 477. 2442; jbaughman@csd.k12.wi.us  
**File Keeper** Thomas C. Erdman, Richter Museum of Natural History, MAC 212, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54911-7001  
**Historian\*** Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095-9414; h. 262. 675. 2443, w. 414. 221. 2179; Noel.Cutright@we-energies.com  
**Honey Creek** Barbara Morford, S11691 Badger Road, Spring Green, WI 53588-9742; 608. 544. 2965  
**Hotline (414-352-3857)** Mark Korducki, 2955 N. 77th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222; 414. 476. 8049; korducki@netzero.net  
**Legal Counsel** David L. Kinnamon, 9507 N. Wakefield Court, Bayside, WI 53217-1245; 414. 277. 5000  
**Loan of Slides** Stephen J. Lang, 5613 Commanche Way, Madison, WI 53704-1027; 608. 249. 5684  
**Membership\*** Jesse Peterson, 810 Ganser Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597-1930; 608. 849. 3108; peterson.jesse@tds.net  
**Publicity\*** Ursula C. Petersen, 3112 Sunnyside Street, Madison, WI 53589; 608. 224. 4538; ursula.petersen@datcp.state.wi.us  
**Records\*** Jim Frank, 10524 N. O'Connell Lane, Mequon, WI 53097-3314; 262. 242. 2443; jcfbirdr@yahoo.com  
**Records Committee Archivists** John Idzikowski, 2558 S. Delaware Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207-1908; 414. 744. 4818; idzikoj@uwm.edu; and Brian Boldt, 1126 E. Pleasant Street #201, Milwaukee, WI 53202; 414. 225. 2543; bboldt@excelcomm.com  
**Research\***  
**Scholarships and Grants\*** Janine Polk, 1407 Frederic, Eau Claire, WI 54701-4902; 715. 839. 9265; j\_l\_polk@yahoo.com  
**Webmaster\*** Jennifer Davis, UW-Green Bay, Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, Green Bay, WI 54311-7001; 920. 465. 2545; wso@uwgb.edu  
**Youth Education Coordinator\*** Barbara Duerksen, 17494 Merry Hill Road, Richland Center, WI 53581; 608. 538. 3820; bduerksen@mwt.net

\*Members of the Board of Directors

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