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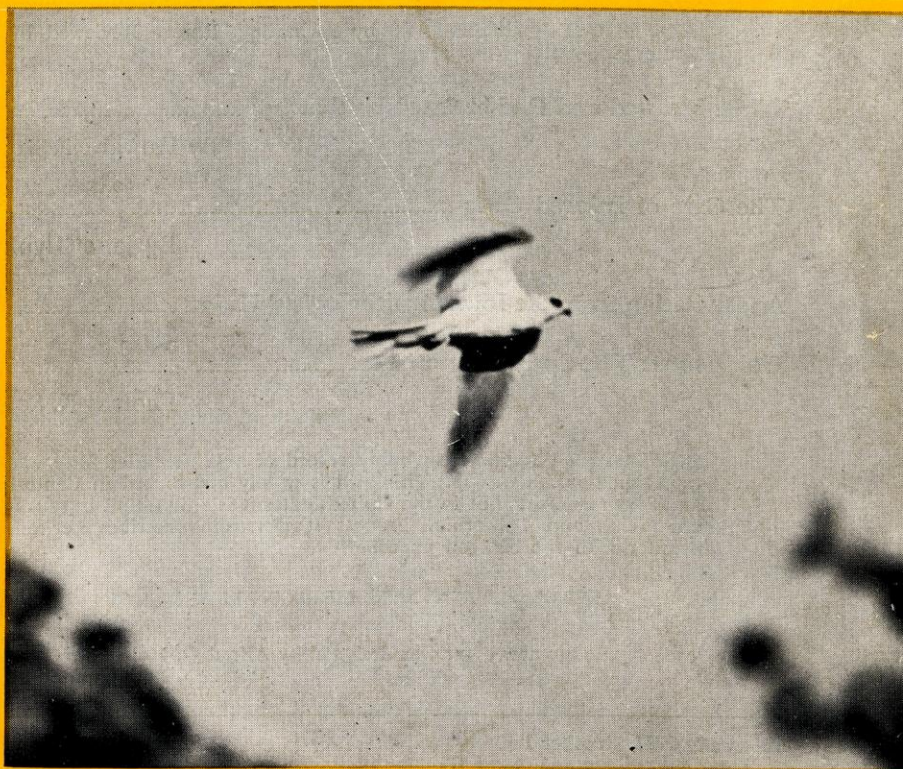
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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



# *The Passenger Pigeon*



*Spring 1965*

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

WHITE-TAILED KITE  
PHOTO BY JOSEPH HAGER

PUBLISHED  
QUARTERLY

BY

THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY, INC.

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COVER PHOTO: Wisconsin's first record of a White-tailed Kite was established in June, 1964. This bird is widely distributed in Central and South America, but in the United States it is only found in southern Texas and California. Frances Hamerstrom describes her encounter with the bird on page 3.

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Our new cover was designed by Alfred O. Holz

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# A White-tailed Kite in Wisconsin

By FRANCES HAMERSTROM

A Report of the WSO Research Committee

Photos by Joseph Hager

When coming home from an early morning's bird work, I tend to find myself sleepy, lazy, and contented. It was on just such an occasion, June 6, 1964, at about 8:20 a. m. that I spotted what I took to be a male Harrier sitting on a fence post southeast of the Sand Island Fire Tower in southwest Portage county, Wisconsin. In a liesurely manner I stopped my Kombi, climbed in back, set up a scope and prepared to check its legs for bands, a routine procedure as we have banded over 250 Harriers in our study area. Visibility was perfect, distance 132 yards, the legs were yellow as expected but too heavy for a number 4 band (the size for male Harriers), and the flags were too long for a normal Harrier. The bird held its wings high-shouldered like an Osprey and the bend of the wing was dark—almost black. I mused "I must try to catch him some day, he really has freaky plumage." I was still thinking it was a Harrieear when it turned its head towards me—a chalk white face, no facial disc, dark eyes (the red color was repeatedly seen later) and a black mask like a Charles Addams concept of a bird of prey. Suddenly I got the trembles, all sleepiness was gone. Swiftly I slid into the front seat and backed up slowly, dropping our traps as I went.

A moment or two later the bird muted, left the fence post and slowly flew past the traps and directly overhead. Curious dark spots showed near the bend of each wing underneath—no Harrier this, but an unidentified bird of prey. In retrospect I am abashed that I, Fran Hamerstrom, who has been concentrating on a Harrier study for five summers was fooled for at least 20 minutes. Later, one look at a picture was enough: my traps had been set for a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*).

## Observations and Trapping Attempts

We saw the Kite every day between June 6 and June 13 and again on June 15, 16, 20, 24, and 27. We saw eight kills and a few attempted kills, always made from the air and never from a perch. We identified three prey items: one meadow vole, one deer mouse, three unidentified mice, and one mammal the size of a ground squirrel. However, the lure animals that we offered in our attempts to catch the Kite were not accepted although he surely saw them. As bait or lures we used about 3 pigeons, 5 starlings, 6 sparrows, 2 frogs, 1 toad, 1 tiger salamander, 20 house mice, 1 ground squirrel, 1 stuffed Horned Owl, 1 stuffed Harrier, 1 stuffed Kestrel, 1 stuffed Prairie Chicken, 1 medium-sized mammalian road kill, and 2 live Horned Owl. Using a variety of traps we were able



to get within easy range of the bird, for it was astonishingly tame, especially for the first few days. Much of our time was spent in moving traps to the vicinity of the Kite's favorite perches and feeding the live lures. We watched the Kite, especially whenever the wind rose, leave the tree near which we had traps, gain altitude and then, hunting from on high, make a kill elsewhere. We never caught it.



THE WHITE-TAILED KITE FREQUENTED THE  
SAVANNAH-LIKE AREAS IN PORTAGE COUNTY.

The kite was most active from about 7:00 a. m. until almost noon and again from about 6:00 p. m. until dusk. During inactive periods we occasionally spotted it sitting on very low perches in open fields. It seemed to delight in the wind and made particularly spectacular flights on a day when we estimated the wind velocity at 40 to 60 miles per hour.

Our most nearly successful attempts at trapping occurred when we used tame Horned Owls as decoys (Hamerstrom, 1963). We tried the owls three times (near the center of section 26, Fig. 1) and in all instances the Kite stooped at the tethered owl, but not low enough to get caught. This seems to be a clear case of defense of territory.

While trying to trap it, we learned something about the territory which the Kite had established. The Kite stayed in open country and spent most of its time in section 26 on the Hinrichs, Rahr and Krause

Foundations Prairie Chicken lands (Fig. 1), an area of interspersed bluegrass knolls and edge swales with a savannah-like interspersion of widely scattered aspens and willows. It would stay in one part of the section for a day or two and then move to another part of the same section. Some-



THE KITE ON A TREE-TOP  
PERCH.

times, but not always, these shifts may have been because of the presence of our Horned Owl. When we exposed an owl, the Kite left its vicinity after two or three stoops and stayed away, but it remained in section 26 most of the time from June 6-13. After the 13th I went back to my Harrier study and spent much less time in pursuit of the Kite.

Section 26 is ordinarily heavily used by Harriers in summer and has been so for at least four years. In fact, Harriers nested there in 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1963. In 1964 Harriers were seen there before the Kite arrived, but they were conspicuously absent from June 6-20. One, an adult male, crossed the area on June 21 at a time when the Kite was not in sight. I suspect that early spring burning in 1964 prevented the Harriers from using the area for nesting and that the Kite kept them out during its sojourn there. Shortly after the Kite disappeared, Harriers hunted section 26 again. The Kite may have selected section 26 for its territory because of the suitability of the terrain and because there were no breeding Harriers to bother it. The Kite probably could not have

kept nesting Harriers away, for I have found Harriers to be strongly aggressive toward other birds of prey, even larger ones, within their nesting territories.

Outside section 26 we saw an episode which makes this seem a reasonable hypothesis. On a long journey from the north into section 27 (Fig. 1) on June 20, the Kite perched on a tree top. An adult male Harrier stooped at it hard and repeatedly. The Kite retreated to a lower perch, and finally was driven out of the tree and flew southward to a perch near the road between sections 26 and 27. Apparently the first perch tree (J, Fig. 1) was outside the Kite's territory for it allowed the smaller Harrier to drive it away with no sign of territorial defense; the second perch, near the west edge of section 26, was in or near the Kite's own territory and here it was not molested.

### Detailed Observations

To give an example of typical behavior and range I quote Arthur Moore's notes for June 10. Triangles with identifying letters on the map (Fig. 1) show the known range of the bird on this day:

8:00 a. m. Bird sighted at A [then soon disappeared].

11:00 a. m. Bird arrives low from south, lands at A. Traps with mice, starlings, ground squirrel, pigeon, all near B. [Birds soon disappeared; discontinued observations until late afternoon].

6:00 p. m. Bird sighted soaring over woods and fields east of C. Hovered frequently, dropped to ground in two stages at once. Went to fence post D; not observed eating, but presumably had a kill.

6:30-6:45 p. m. Bird flies slowly south then west, hovering frequently; perches in treetop south of E.

7:00-7:45 p. m. Bird hunts in field northeast of E, makes one definite kill: hovered, dropped slowly in two stages, then straight in, slowly, wings making a V above the back. Took kill to fence post F and ate it whole—a small mammal or large insect.

7:45 p. m. Bird flies from F to area west of G. Makes two kills, one definitely a mouse. Perches in top of tall cottonwood, G. We set up stuffed owl and dho-gaza at H; ground squirrel and mouse sets put out south and southwest of G. Bird eats last kill on fence post D and sits until about 8:30.

8:30 p. m. Bird flies from D directly to H; stoops strongly five times at owl, missing high dho-gaza possibly by 2 or 3 feet; flies on to perch in top of cottonwood, C.

9:00 p. m. Bird leaves C and disappears into woods to south.

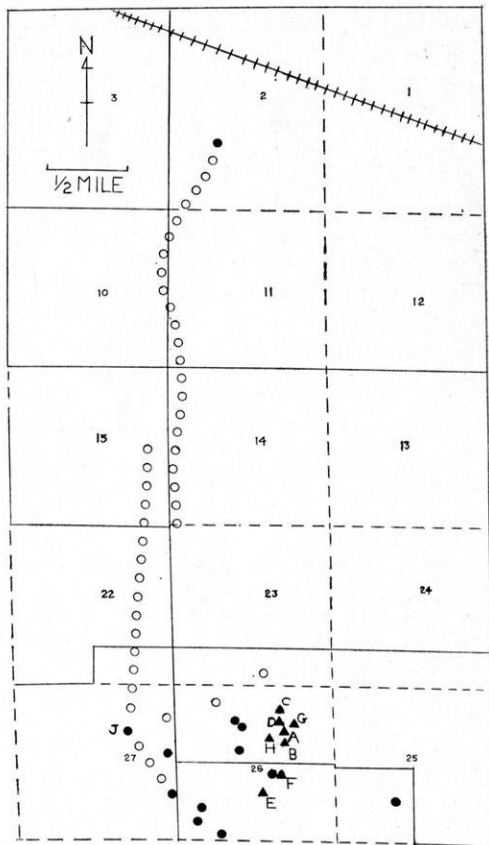
On June 7 we had an excellent chance to watch the Kite hunting and eating at close range. From the notes of Paul Drake, Jr.:

About 6:45 Kite began hunting field. Flight vaguely resembled Harrier's, but not as floppy. Wing beat deeper and more powerful. Would quite often hover in a peculiar manner. Head was high, tail low, feet hanging and wings beating more forward than downward. Legs would swing with each wingbeat. The occasional stoops were likewise peculiar. The bird's body would remain on a horizontal plane, feet hanging down. The wings were extended high over the back forming a V. The bird would simply drop, the wings acting as a parachute. After perhaps a half an hour of hunting, during which time the bird perched occasionally, it made a kill. It stooped in the above described manner from a considerable height, levelled off for a second at about 100 feet, then dropped to the ground. There was no noticeable braking as it approached the ground. Within a half a minute it was up again carrying a *Microtus* (meadow vole) which it carried to a fallen snag about 80 yards from the Kombi. It took a perch there 4 feet above the ground, cast a pellet, which we later found to contain an un-



Location of the study area

FIGURE 1.  
WHITE-TAILED KITE  
STUDY AREA



digested tail of *Peromyscus* (white-footed mouse) and began stripping the skin from the *Microtus* and eating the meat. It appeared that it also ate the strips of skin. It took it about 20-30 minutes to finish the *Microtus*. It feaked, paused, then flew to a perch midway up a 20-foot popple about 40 yards from the road where it began preening.

Pough (1951:127) gives the range of the White-tailed Kite thus: "Occurred originally from South Carolina south through Florida; s.c. Oklahoma south through c. Texas; and n. California south; through South America to n. Argentina and c. Chile. Now greatly reduced throughout its United States range." Bent (1937:62-63) lists the following casual records for the northern states: Massachusetts, May 30, 1910; Illinois, summer 1863 or 1864; while in Michigan one was said to have been taken near Ann Arbor in September 1878 and one in Livingston county



on April 21, 1879. To this list of northern casuals the A.O.U. Check List (1957:100) adds Oregon.

This is the first Wisconsin record for the White-tailed Kite. I find it unpleasant and disconcerting to spot a rarity. One knows one will take a lot of ribbing from one's supposed friends, but one is confronted by the duty of reporting a sight record of scientific value. Mercifully, the Kite stayed on the Buena Vista Marsh for some weeks and was identified at close range by Frederick Hamerstrom, Helmut and Nancy Mueller, Paul Drake, Jr., Arthur Moore, Mary Donald, Gordon Hammel, Raymond Anderson, and James Weaver, all of whom assisted in the trapping attempts, and by most of the Board of Directors of WSO. Joseph Hagar, former state ornithologist of Massachusetts, not only identified the White-tailed Kite, but has my eternal gratitude for taking the accompanying photographs of the bird in section 26, Town of South Grant, Portage county, Wisconsin, on June 12, 1964.

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Plainfield, Wisconsin 54966



## By the Wayside...

A Cattle Egret in Milwaukee. Since the first week in May, 1964, was stormy, with tornadoes reported all over the midwest, it is not illogical to suppose that migrating birds would be blown about—often found outside their normal range. Virginia Kazda and I stopped to look for shorebirds next to Highway 141, about 5 o'clock on May 8. With the ducks and shorebirds Virginia spotted a small heron on the other side of the pond, walking in the grass. It appeared to be white, but with binoculars we could see the buffy feathers on the head, back, and breast. The bill and legs appeared darkish, but were a dull red, as it flew nearer. Before

we could call others to see it, it flew off across the road to the northwest.  
—Mary Decker, Milwaukee.

**Cinnamon Teal in Ozaukee County.** On May 8, 1964, at Gebhardt's Pond on the Range Line Road and 167 in Ozaukee county at about 3:00 p. m., Marian Urdan and I saw a Cinnamon Teal with six Blue-wings. He was a nice bright cinnamon color all over and the size of a teal. He swam about, preened and stood on the shore with his head under his wing. The pond was checked again at 5:00 p. m., and he was still there resting in the edge of the grass. The following morning he was gone by 6:00 a. m. and was not seen again.—Mary Donald, Milwaukee.

**Racine Again Hosts Harlequin Ducks.** On March 28 I saw a male and female Harlequin Duck at 50 yards, flying low over the lake in good light—sun shining from behind on birds. The male was dull orange under the wings, white face crescent, white bar on greater coverts and secondaries, blue back with white stripes. The female was small and dark, no wing bars; one head patch showed clearly, one faintly, third one not visible. Had female Bufflehead in binoculars at the same time. This pair of birds was about bufflehead size—flew over and joined scaups and buffleheads.—Bill Weber, Racine (communicated by Louise Erickson).

**An Observation of a Red-tailed Hawk Copulation.** At noon on March 29, 1964, I spotted three Red-tailed Hawks soaring over an area about one mile east of Baraboo. As I watched, two of the birds, a male and a female, landed in the top of a 60-foot oak tree about 1,000 yards away. The third bird, sex not determined, soared in circles and finally drifted out of sight. During this time, the male left the female and flew to another tree located approximately 1,000 feet from its original perch. Following this he took flight and in a series of five or six broad circles, having diameters of about 700 feet, he gradually moved the leading edge of his flight pattern toward the female. Except for the final approach to the female, he flew at an approximate altitude of 30 to 40 feet. In his final swing he approached from above and mounted directly on her back and remained in this position with wings outspread for 10 to 15 seconds. Since my observations were centered on the male, I did not note any receptive movements of the female. She did, however, terminate the copulatory act by bending forward and seemingly pitching the male off onto the perch beside her.—Fred Jensen, Baraboo.

**The Madison Area's Third Ruff in Six Years.** Gravel road going south just east of junction of Highways 12 and Y, Dane county. One male Ruff. Brilliant sunlight from the proper direction, range 100-300 yards. Two pairs of 7x50 binoculars, one scope, 15x and 22x. Size comparisons possible with both species of yellowlegs (it was closer to Greater in size), Blue-winged Teal (it was smaller than these), Killdeer (it was larger than this). Habits much like yellowlegs. Watched it for about 15 minutes. Bill dark, possibly with a small region of the base a lighter color; slight droop at tip of bill. Bill length not much more than length of head. Bill did not appear as slender as yellowlegs', especially seemed thicker at base. Top of head and face and back of neck a bright coppery color,

like that of used yet semi-polished bottoms of Revere cooking pans. Rest of back a scaled olive brown. Some black on cheeks, it seemed. Face pattern seemed to blend with base of bill in such a way as to make it difficult to establish just what was the thickness and color of base. Chin and upper breast white. Extensive, irregular black blotches or mottling on lower breast, pretty general. Belly white. Legs a bright golden-orange, unlike the color of any other shorebird I've ever seen. Except as noted above, general shape not too different from yellowlegs, except that it didn't look quite as slender-necked, small-headed. In flight, the rump was largely white, the two oval patches seeming at the posterior end sometimes almost to meet. Fairly inconspicuous stripe at base of primaries. May 3, 1964, about 4:30 p. m.—Tom Soulen, Madison.

**A Possible Ivory Gull at Racine.** On May 13, 1964, I visited Wind Point in Racine county. There was a strong northeast wind blowing and consequently Lake Michigan was very rough. The sky was partly cloudy, the temperature . . . about 50°

A large flock of gulls and terns was perched on the shore and rocks on a small point. There were about 200 Herring Gulls, 600 Common Terns and 350 Bonaparte's Gulls. Among them there was a bird which was pure white except for a dusky spot on the head. It was slightly bigger than a Bonaparte's Gull. The legs were obscured. It was sitting with terns but was chunky rather than slender.

When it flew, I immediately noticed the long, narrow, pointed tern-like wings. The flight was also tern-like. The wings were, however, pure white and longer than a tern's.

It circled around for about two minutes and then landed again. As it was coming down, the feet dangled beneath it. In the sunlight, they appeared to be a deep red color; this is contradictory to the field marks in the Peterson field guide.

I observed the bird for about fifteen minutes through 8x40 binoculars at 30 yards. I don't believe this bird can be anything but an Ivory Gull.—Bill Weber, Racine.

**Seasonal Editor's note:** We are tempted to go along with Mr. Weber's identification of this bird, but at best we can give it only hypothetical status. Properly we should say simply that we do not know the identity of the bird. Despite Mr. Weber's commendably careful and complete description of most of the possible relevant field marks (far more than would establish the identity of most species), the deep red color of the legs does not permit us to call the bird an Ivory Gull; the reference books searched by your seasonal editor allow no leg color but black for this species. What the references frequently do not indicate is the number of specimens upon which the plumage description is based, and thus it is possible that at some age and at some seasons, an individual might possess deep red rather than black legs; we just don't know. We also cannot exclude the possibility that this bird was a largely albinistic individual of some other species.

The Ivory Gull normally breeds on islands north of the arctic circle. Even in winter it comes south only to Iceland and southern Greenland, and very occasionally to New England states. The **AOU Check-list of North American Birds** (5th edition, 1957) lists accidental records from British Columbia, Colorado, Manitoba, Ontario, and Wisconsin. (The Wisconsin records are of two different birds on March 8, 1947, one seen in the harbor at Two River, the other near the harbor at Oconto; the latter bird was collected by Carl H. Richter.)

Ivory Gull certainly seems the most likely possibility, but the available information leaves little choice: Mr. Weber's gull must remain unidentified.

**A Fight Between Two Hairy Woodpeckers.** On March 11, 1964, my husband and I heard a loud thud against one of our porch windows. Realizing that a bird had struck the window, we went out to see what had happened. We observed a young Hairy Woodpecker fluttering to a nearby tree, clinging to the trunk in a dazed fashion. Suddenly another Hairy—evidently the one who had chased him into the window—flew from another tree and attacked the stunned bird, fiercely driving his bill again and again at the younger bird's head. Suddenly both birds fell to the ground, where the fight continued. Seeing that the young bird was surely going to be killed unless I intervened, I ran through the deep snow to his rescue and was almost upon them before the attacker took fright and flew away. The young Hairy lay quietly in the snow, his eyes open and uninjured, but blood was oozing from his neck and head. I picked him up and brought him to the porch steps where my husband was waiting with the cage we use for wildlife first aid. For a few minutes the bird lay on the floor of the cage with his heart throbbing so that we could see the movement. Then he suddenly sprang to the side of the cage and tried frantically to get out. We were afraid he would catch his head between the wires of the cage, so my husband lifted it up, and as the bird flew toward the woods his enemy again appeared and attacked him in the air. As we watched the two struggle, a female Hairy suddenly appeared and separated the males again and again by flying between them and diving at them. This triangular fight was still in progress as we watched them fly out of sight behind a neighbor's house. We hope that she was more successful than we were in trying to save a life—if that was what she was trying to do.—Mrs. Melvin Asher, Tomahawk.

**Cannibalism in Gray Jays.** Following a canoe trip on the flooded Peshtigo River (on May 10), we returned to the home of the "in-laws" at Long Lake for supper.

After a good hearty meal I decided to drive up to check on our deer camp, so with brother-in-law, Lester Brown, we drove north on highway 139. Where the road crosses a spruce swamp we spotted a bird ahead, lying in the center of the road. It turned out to be a downy young Gray (Canada) Jay. The wing feathers were developed enough to allow the bird to fly at least short distances. It was in too damaged a condition to save as a specimen, so I placed it on the grassy shoulder of the road.

Less than half an hour later, upon returning, we found an adult Gray Jay (perhaps one of the parents) tearing the dead young apart and carrying portions into the swamp, probably feeding it to the remaining young.—Carl H. Richter, Oconto.

**Brown-headed Nuthatch at Milton?** On May 1, 1964, I am positive a Brown-headed Nuthatch was on an elm tree in our back yard. It was brown headed, pure white breast, the size of the Red-breasted and was searching the bark for food. It was only 20 feet from me but it did not stay. It came in with the Red-breasted Nuthatch and an assortment of warblers.—Melva Maxson, Milton.



**Seasonal Editor's note:** We must regard this record as hypothetical for several reasons. First is the fact that the closest part of the normal breeding range of this species is central Arkansas, there being only casual reports north to New Jersey on the Atlantic coast and accidental records from Iowa, Missouri, and New York. The second is that a major field mark—the brown color of the head extending to the eye—is not mentioned. It is difficult to imagine a bird the size and shape of a Red-breasted Nuthatch with a brown cap as being anything but a Brown-headed, but in the absence of a more complete description, the record certainly must be considered hypothetical.

**Raspberry House Sparrow Remains Aloof.** On February 29, 1964, and occasionally for the next two weeks we saw a raspberry-colored male House Sparrow in our yard. He had all the markings of the house sparrow but a definite pink color, not quite as pronounced as a Purple Finch. He kept apart from both the finches and the other sparrows.—June A. Ohm, Janesville.

**Yet Another Sighting of Blue Grosbeaks.** At 1:00 p. m. on May 11, 1964, a warm spring day, a pair of birds alit four or five feet from the ground on some bushes in a ten-acre wooded area on our property. I had the opportunity to study them through my 7x35 binoculars for a five minute period from a distance of about twenty feet. Tan wing bars and the large bill were evident in both birds, and I knew for certain that these birds were neither Eastern Bluebirds nor Indigo Buntings, both of which are in our area. The one bird was blue and the other brownish with slight tint of blue, both had the large bills and the tan wing bars. In an attempt to get closer to the birds, I scared them to another bush further down the path I was traveling. Since I had my Peterson field guide with me at the time, I consulted it. When I came across the picture and description of the Blue Grosbeak, I had no doubt that I had just observed these "strangers" to our area, the male and female Blue Grosbeak. Because the birds were merely down the path, I viewed them again, and verified the tan wing bars and the large bill from a distance of thirty to thirty-five feet.

Our property where I saw the Blue Grosbeaks consists of deciduous and coniferous woods with much undergrowth and bushes.—(Bro.) Daniel Poliski, Pulaski.

**Wisconsin's Third Green-tailed Towhee.** A Green-tailed Towhee was sighted at Prescott on May 10, 1964. The time was about 8:30 a. m., temperature about 50°, the sky was clear and a ground fog had just lifted.

The bird was found in a pasture rather heavily grown with scrub oak. It was in the company of a couple of Rufous-sided Towhees and some White-throated Sparrows.

The first glance indicated that it was not a species illustrated in Peterson. It had the characteristic towhee-like habit of scratching among the fallen leaves at the base of the trees.

I quickly found the description in the "accidental" section of Peterson. The rufous crown, white throat against a gray breast, and greenish tail as he flew were unmistakable.

I got my movie camera and took some pictures. While they were not of first quality and were somewhat overexposed, the pictures were good enough for positive identification.

I looked for the bird later that day and several times later but was unable to find it again.—Bob Garber.

**Wisconsin's First Lark Bunting Spends Five Months Near Milton Feeder.** I first saw it December 17, 1963. It was in the drive, apparently for grit. It was about the size of a House Sparrow, brown and buff, heavily striped like the female Purple Finch. It had a buff eye ring, buff wing



LARK BUNTING

PHOTO BY MELVA MAXSON

patches with the lower wing feathers being darker. The tail feathers, too, appeared darker and on blustery days white tips would show on the tail feathers. It had a strong finch-like bill, and the feathers around the bill, too, appeared dark.

This bird flew in regularly every day about 7:30 a. m., at 11:30 and again at 4:00 p. m. It seemed to prefer to eat on the ground with the sparrows, not at the feeder. It did fly in to eat at the window feeders in the afternoon, probably because they were both in sheltered areas. Prof. Hadow of Milton College set up a blind and after weeks of patient observation got an excellent picture of the bird in immature plumage.

We could see more black appearing on its breast and head and about April 1 could positively identify it as a Lark Bunting. It had become

completely black, quite like a blackbird except for white wing patches, some white tipped wing feathers, and the white tipped tail feathers,

Mrs. Melva Maxson of Milton succeeded in trapping and banding it on April 30. She also took several pictures of it.

It stayed in this area for three weeks after it was banded but did not return to the feeder where it had been trapped.—Mrs. E. M. Rumpf, Milton.

**Baltimore Orioles Provide Handy Nesting Material for Chipping Sparrows.** May 18 . . . tearing material from nest of Baltimore Oriole—the latter was in process of building—saw sparrow make three trips to

### A CHALLENGE TO WSO MEMBERS

Through the generosity of Professor Emeritus Harry Steenbock, Madison, the Society has been able to quicken its pace in establishing the Honey Creek Natural Area in Sauk county as a significant nature area in the beautiful ridge-and-valley country of south-western Wisconsin. Because of Dr. Steenbock's gifts (totaling over \$10,000), the Society has been able to purchase an additional 85 acres in the valley of the North Branch of Honey Creek. The Society now owns 210 acres and leases an additional 10.

Not all of Dr. Steenbock's gifts will be used for land acquisition, however. WSO's board of directors felt that only part of it should be used in the Honey Creek area; the remainder should be employed to strengthen the programs and influence of WSO in its other fields of endeavor. A committee, appointed by President Young, is at work now exploring how to utilize these funds most advantageously to advance bird study and conservation in Wisconsin.

The purchase of the additional 85 acres in Honey Creek presents a new challenge to WSO members. We now have an opportunity (with our contributions) to help complete payment on this land. The land cost \$5,000. The board of directors authorized the use of \$3,500 of Steenbock funds for this purchase. The unpaid balance of \$1,500 is our opportunity to join with Dr. Steenbock in expanding the Honey Creek Natural Area.

To date, 45 contributors have given \$316. Will yours be the next contribution? If so, it may be sent to the treasurer.

The Honey Creek Natural Area is located about two miles northwest of Leland, just west of county highway PF. Members are invited to hike the beautiful trails at any time. Groups wanting to visit the area should contact Harold Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, or James Zimmerman, 2114 Van Hise Ave.—Nils P. Dahlstrand.

nest for material in 15 minutes. (Note—oriole later abandoned the nest and this has since disappeared—carried away by other birds.)—Carl H. Richter, Oconto.

**Another Red-tailed Hawk Mating.** On April 11, 1964, my wife and I, while on our way to a WSO board of directors meeting at Stevens Point, had a most interesting experience with a pair of Red-tailed Hawks.

The area was nine miles north of Stevens Point. The terrain is partly white pine and oak, with sandy soil and a marshy area directly across the road.

It was 9:25 a. m. The weather was fair, the sun was shining at times with a slight overcast. The wind was twelve miles per hour in a south-westerly direction and the temperature was 43 degrees.

We noticed a Red-tailed Hawk sitting about 35 feet up on a dry branch of an oak tree. We stopped slightly beyond the hawk and while I fumbled for the binoculars, a male hawk glided in from the east slightly higher than the resting female. He, without any evidence of courship, lighted on her and instantly copulated. It was all so sudden and unusual that we were very surprised. Perhaps this has been viewed by many other birders but it was our first witness of hawk mating.

She roused, ruffed her feathers, preened herself for perhaps a minute and a half and then flew off to the east just over the tree tops. We did not see her again. The male hawk who had perched on an adjacent branch slightly above her now left his perch and flew in ever widening circles as he gained altitude until he was a small speck in the sky.—LeRoy Mattern, Wausau.



## book reviews

**THE GHOST TREE SPEAKS.** By Richard J. Dorer with illustrations by Walter Breckenridge. Ross and Haines, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1964. pp. 73, 27 full page illustrations. \$2.50.

Poet-conservationist Richard Dorer here has joined with his talented colleague, artist-naturalist Walter Breckenridge of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History to produce an exceptional little book. Though small in size, it is large in quality of both poetic words and beautiful drawings. Bird lovers will appreciate the delicate black and white pen sketches of passenger pigeons, cranes, and other such as the ruffed grouse, loon, great-horned owl and woodcock. There are many other wildlife and natural scenes including fawn deer, moose and timber wolves.

The author of this narrative poem tells the story of the "Land of Sky Blue Waters" from the point of view of a venerable pine tree which



watched the progressive pageant of Indians, missionary, explorer, voyageur, trapper, pioneer and timber cruiser and itself became a towering "Ghost Tree" because of man's carelessness with fire. Here is a story with a conservation message told in a beautiful manner by the author of an earlier successful poem called "The Man Who Plants a Tree." It would be hard to find in this country a more dedicated conservationist than Richard Dorer.

I have found this book to be a wonderful choice for gifts on special occasions to friends who appreciate the out-of-doors. Their reactions have been very favorable—and not only of the lovely pictures. For instance, the poem "Reverence" illustrated on an opposite page with a bald eagle, reads:

"I've marveled at the awe-inspiring sight  
An eagle witnessed in its circling flight  
When, like a startled fawn, night stole away  
Before the grandeur of a new-born day,  
As in a blaze of glory Autumn stood  
Supreme above a realm of lake and wood."

It is my hope the editor will be able to secure permission for reproduction of at least one of the Breckenridge drawings to embellish this review.—Walter E. Scott.



An Analysis of Christmas Bird Counts

# White-Breasted and Red-Breasted Nuthatches

By HOWARD F. YOUNG

Information used here was extracted from 24 years' records of Wisconsin Christmas censuses (1939 to 1962 inclusive) published in **The Passenger Pigeon**. It is based on 465 reports\* from 62 of Wisconsin's 72 counties.

Problems involved in the interpretation of Christmas census data have been recently discussed (Young, 1961). For a more detailed consideration of these, see Stewart (1954). It is acknowledged that some of these variables are operative at varying rates in the present study. Still, the results seem so clear-cut that considerable confidence can be placed in the

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\*A report represents one or more censuses from a given county in a given year. When censuses were combined into yearly county reports, those which did not list hours afield were not used in computing birds seen per man-hour.

following as a generalized picture of the distribution and density of these species in Wisconsin.

The White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) is commonly described as a permanent resident; the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is listed in the WSO Wisconsin Birds checklist as a "rare" winter resident.

Two basic computations were made: 1) number of individuals seen per man-hour of observation, and 2) percent of reports on which the species was listed. Table 1 summarizes these and other data.

Table 1.

Species	Total Man-Hrs. Observation	No. of Individuals Reported	No. Per Man-Hr.	Reports Showing Species Present		Counties Reporting Species Present	
				No.	%	No.	%
White-breasted Nuthatch	9179	6451	.70	421	90	60	97
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9179	719	.08	160	34	43	69

It is clear that the White-breasted is more abundant and widespread than the Red-breasted Nuthatch during the winter season in Wisconsin. Table 1 also shows the inadequacy of such terms as "common" or "rare." While the number of Red-breasted Nuthatches per report has routinely been low, it has been seen on about 1/3 of the censuses, and has been found during winter in better than half of the counties.

#### Distribution and Density of White-breasted Nuthatch

When the data are summarized for the White-breasted Nuthatch, it is found that a large majority of the reports show it routinely present. Only Bayfield and Sawyer counties (representing two reports and ? man-hours) have not listed it. Among those counties where it has been reported, the lowest frequencies occur in the northeastern part of the state (Vilas, Forest, Oconto and Door counties). Thirty-four counties (55%) recorded White-breasted Nuthatches on every report.

Turning to abundance of individuals, the state average for 24 years is .70 birds per man-hour of observation. This varies from .00 (Door county) to 4.29 (Pierce county). Eighteen counties (24%) recorded one or more birds per man-hour of observation. These counties were mainly in the southwestern part of the state.

#### Distribution and Density of Red-breasted Nuthatch

The Red-breasted Nuthatch has been found during Christmas censuses in 63 percent of the counties. Those in which it has been recorded lie primarily in the western half of the state. To date only Forest county (6 reports, 73 man-hours) has averaged in excess of 1 bird per man-hour. This species is reported most frequently, and in greatest numbers, in the

northern third of the state. Here the data are most incomplete, so that an extensive analysis is not possible.

### Discussion

In comparing the two species, it is quite obvious that their distribution patterns within the state are very distinct. In Figure 1, counties where Red-breasted Nuthatches reach their greatest abundance are marked with horizontal lines, those in which the greatest White-breasted Nuthatch abundance occurs are marked with vertical lines. In addition, stippling has been added to those counties where White-breasted Nuthatches have been reported at a rate of 1 bird per man-hour or more. While the Red-breasted Nuthatch is frequently reported as far south as the Illinois border, particularly in the eastern half of the state, its greatest density appears to be in the northeastern area, where the White-breasted Nuthatch appears to be the least abundant.

Red-breasted Nuthatches are more frequently reported than the White-breasted, and found in greater numbers, in only three counties: Vilas, Lincoln and Forest. From Christmas census data available to date, these, along with Oneida and Price counties, seem to be the prime area for the "Red-Breasts." With only 6% of the reports and 3.8% of the man-hours of observation, they have accounted for 27.5% of all Red-breasts on Christmas censuses.

On Figure 1, the heavy lines, running from northwest to southeast, enclose the "ecotone" or "tension zone" between the southern hardwood forest and the northern hardwood forest (Curtis, 1959). Southern hardwoods lie mainly south of the northern line; northern hardwoods lie mainly north of the southern line.

The counties with the heaviest densities of Red-breasts lie well above these lines, but (with the exception of Barron, Rusk and Price counties) those with the heaviest White-breast densities lie within or south of the tension zones.

There is some similarity between the distribution of the White-breasted Nuthatch and that of the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), recently reported by the Hamerstoms (1964). Both are best represented south of the tension zone. The Nuthatch, however, has been more successful in invading the northern forest.

Analysis of Christmas census records for the Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus pubescens*) and the Hairy Woodpecker (*D. villosus*) by Young (op. cit.) showed that the greatest population for both species is found south of the tension zone, with the Downy decreasing more in the north than the Hairy.

It is probable that numerous other forms in the state have a similar distribution. As we move from the north and east to the south and west, we pass from the influence of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. Those counties bordering these waters have a more maritime climate, which gradually changes to an inland climate as we move away from them. On opposite sides of the tension zone we find significant differences in such things as average winter and summer temperatures, growing season, rain-

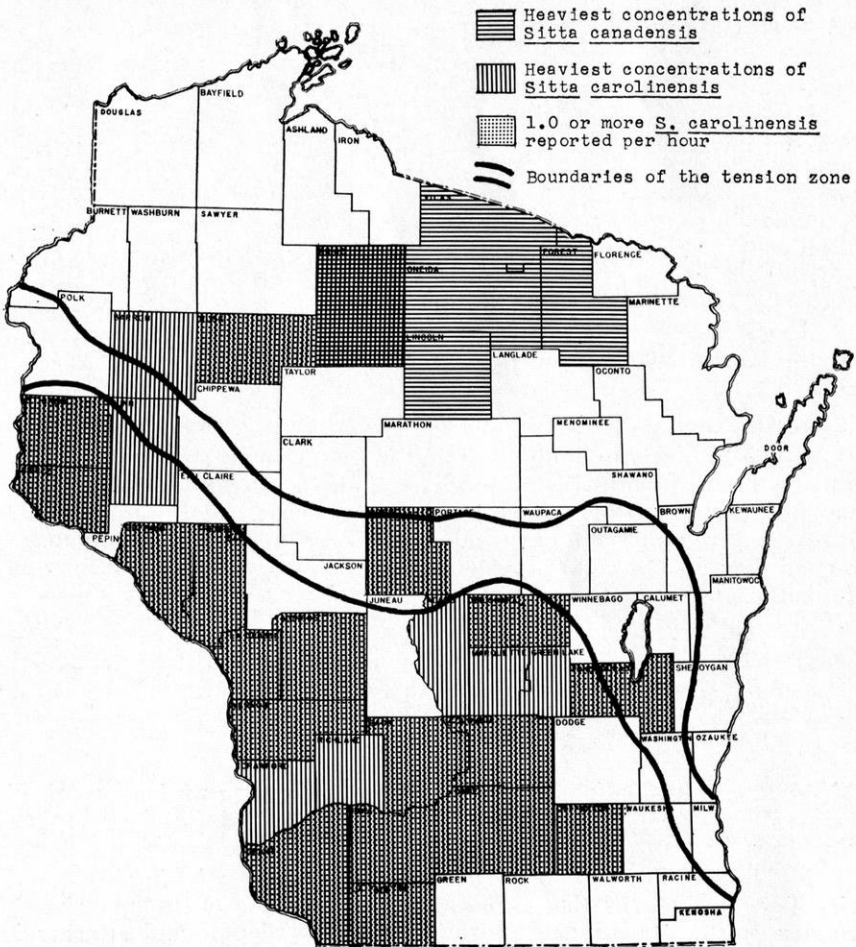


FIGURE 1.

fall, etc. The distribution of the Nuthatches may reflect other influences of these factors as well as the change in forest type.

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# **The Care of Injured Owls**

By JANE OLYPHANT

Within the last year, it has been our privilege to have had in our care several owls (injured, sick, or orphaned), which Mr. John Fletcher, Director, St. Paul Como Park Zoo, has entrusted to us for care. So far, all except one has recovered and each was banded and eventually released. Any species of bird that needs help is indeed a challenge, but to us owls have been even more of a challenge. We find them among the most fascinating of birds. Because of their stay in our "hospital," we have had opportunities galore to study them at very close range. The following notes are a brief outline of practical nursing for owls.

## **Food**

While in captivity, both adult and immature owls are usually easily fed. We prefer to feed them beef liver high in nutritional value, with the addition of multi-vitamins and liquid calcium. We alternate liver with live mice which we have found they feed on despite captivity, as long as they do not suspect that they are being watched. The feeding of small vertebrates stimulates the regurgitation necessary for an owl's proper digestion. The pellets, composed of bones, fur or feathers, allow the owl to get rid of the fat which it cannot digest. Sometimes we have found it necessary to withhold the liver in order to get the owl to prey on the mice.

## **Treatment of Injuries**

Many of our "patients" have been shot, and when we have received them from Mr. Fletcher, they have usually had an injured or broken wing, or a flesh wound on their body.

My husband has been particularly helpful in aligning fractured wing bones and finds that thin cardboard is an excellent material to use as a splint. This he folds around the injured part and attaches it with adhesive or masking tape. To give proper support and to keep the wing in proper position, he then tapes the entire wing snugly to the owl's body. Before the splint is applied the wounded area is thoroughly cleaned with soap and water, and then antibiotic ointment is copiously applied. Next, the area is covered with a gauze pad, and then the splint is applied.

In cases of broken or shattered bones, liquid calcium is added to the diet; we believe it helps the healing process. In addition to administering antibiotic ointment directly to wounded areas, we also give liquid penicillin orally in hopes that it will prevent any infection from becoming systemic.

The extent of the fractured area and the seriousness of the injury, will determine how long the cast is to be left on. We usually leave the first cast on for a week. In some instances, healing has been marked after this time, and when the bandaged area is examined, we find that to continue the healing process, a smaller bandage and smaller cast will



do the trick. Even if the wing is rapidly recovering, a cast will protect the wing from becoming reinjured on the side of the cage.

When we have cared for an owl with a flesh wound, we have had to cut away the feathers surrounding the wound in order to medicate the area. Again, we use antibiotic ointment copiously. If there is no bleeding, we do not apply a gauze bandage, as aeration helps the healing process.

#### **Other Observations on Recovery**

Aside from actual treatment, we are convinced that proper rest and good diet provide important keys to our "patient's" recovery. The fact that they actually can rest while with us, and do not have to fight for survival in the wild, plays a major part in getting them back to health. Energy that they receive through diet and rest, therefore will help them when they are once more released to the wild. We are of the opinion that they are healthier and more robust as a result. When release time comes, the rewards are beyond description.

It is worth mentioning here that the only owl to come into our "hospital" that we considered ill, was an adult Screech Owl which had growths on all of its talons. It appeared to be a fungus growth. The

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talons were of no use to the owl as far as serving to catch prey. They were completely blunted by this growth.

It was no problem to scrape the talons clean, and we noticed the talons to be normal after this operation. We kept the talons covered with fungicide ointment in hopes that further infection would be prevented. The owl, extremely thin and weak when he arrived, was with us only about 2½ weeks. Besides liver, his preferred food was English Sparrows of which he would devour only the head!

The following owls have been in our care during the last year and a half: five Great Horned Owls (three young raised in our barn so that they could be taught to care for themselves and two others with injured



"MONSTER," A BARRED OWL, RECOVERED FROM A GUN SHOT WOUND.

PHOTO BY JANE OLYPHANT

wings); one Barred Owl (flesh wound from gunshot in belly); one Short-eared Owl (gunshot wound at base of primaries in right wing); and five Screech Owls (three with wing injuries, one with diseased talons, and one with a scratched cornea of the right eye). The latter bird flew down a St. Paul area resident's chimney and landed in an incinerator! The injured cornea was treated with ophthalmic ointment.

This Olyphant "Operation Owl Recovery" is indeed a joint affair. It takes an almost instinctive "know-how" to be able to handle any of the large owls. My husband knows how! Many of the courses of treatment have been prescribed by him. He has that certain sense of knowing what will help our injured patients. Once the treatment is set up, I take over the actual physical care and feeding.

One very important precaution we have learned together about the handling of any owl, big or small is: A large part of an owl's strength is wrapped up in its talons. We have learned to beware of talons at all times. Their striking power is extremely swift and deadly and we never go near the big boys without that fact in mind. Many times when it is

necessary to handle the large owls, we find that to "mummy" them in a heavy blanket is best for both owl and human. To place a stick or something similar in their talons, when handling owl, is also helpful.

Dangerous or not so dangerous, big or small, the care and study of owls is proving extremely fascinating and rewarding to both of us.

The author is grateful to her husband, Murray, for generous help in writing this article.

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## an invitation from the Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE OF IOWA BIRD: THE GOLDFINCH

You are all invited to become members of the Iowa Ornithologists Union. While Iowa and Wisconsin differ geographically we do have a common boundary, the Mississippi River, and share the same migrant species. People in southern Wisconsin especially share an almost identical avifauna with Iowa.

The chief bond would be that many people in the two states would read both **The Passenger Pigeon** and **Iowa Bird Life**, thereby sharing field experiences, improving our perspectives, and increasing our knowledge of birds. At times we could attend each others conventions.

Anyone desiring a sample copy of **Iowa Bird Life** can obtain one from the editor, Peter Petersen Jr., 2736 E. High St., Davenport, Iowa. Yearly memberships in the IOU are available in four classes: contributing member, \$10.00; supporting member, \$5.00; regular member, \$3.00; junior member (under 16), \$1.00. A subscription to **Iowa Bird Life**, a quarterly, is included in all classes of membership. Please send remittance to Dr. Myrle Burk, Secretary-Treasurer, Route #2, Waterloo, Iowa.



# FIELD NOTES

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By THOMAS K. SOULEN

Spring Season

March 1—May 31, 1964

Most of Wisconsin's amateur ornithologists felt that spring, 1964, produced a somewhat disappointing migration, particularly of passerines. There were a few comments to the contrary, especially in southeastern counties. Melva Maxson of Milton, for instance, had a banner banding year in her small yard, totaling 346 warblers, among them 77 Nashvilles and 127 Tennessees. Among the majority assessing the migration as poor, the general complaint was of rather small numbers of birds, with these few passing through rapidly. It is quite true there were none of the delightful deluges of passerines which we have come to regard as a lister's paradise (or simply a marvelous experience, depending on our frame of reference). Yet from the viewpoint of a seasonal field notes editor, the season was a stunning one. Rarely can one so precisely delineate the movement of so many species into so many parts of a state the size of Wisconsin.

## Early Migrants

The first part of March generally was a continuation of the mild winter, and with warming temperatures there were reports of the first Robins, Common Grackles, and Red-winged Blackbirds from several areas. The period March 11-15 produced a real deluge of observations of these species and also scattered very early reports of others. Carl Richter, for instance, noted three unidentified sandpipers flying along the shore of Green Bay on March 15. Cold weather settled in for the rest of the month, keeping waters frozen in the north (and at night in the south). There also was some snow. During the few days around March 26-28 the amounts present along roadsides through much of the state was ample to keep many birds easily visible there. Whether arrival dates during the last half of the month represent true migration we cannot tell, but from March 20-23 and 25-30 there may well have been continued movement of small numbers of some species through the state, as well as new appearances by some others. There were two especially interesting midwestern shorebird observations on March 28, when Bill Weber found a dead Semipalmated Sandpiper on top of fresh snow in Racine county, and five observers saw 6 Baird's Sandpipers (two locations, one bird collected) just into Minnesota on the Mississippi River.

We don't know whether these birds had just arrived or had come in with the influx earlier in the month—as were Richter's Sandpipers, mentioned previously. (Janet Green elaborates on the March migration in the June, 1964, **Audubon Field Notes**).

### April and May Reports

With cold continuing into early April, migration was held back, particularly in the north. There are reports of sufficient arrivals for some species statewide April 2-4 to warrant speculation of decided movement then, but not until April 11-12 did the season's first massive influx of birds occur. With ponds just open in the north, waterfowl numbers shot up, and passerines of many species which had been piling up in the south of Wisconsin spread into much of the state in those two days.

Perhaps the most striking example of the sudden arrival of a species is provided by Bill Hilsenhoff, who through April 10 had seen no Yellow-shafted Flickers, despite regular daily birding. On April 11 he counted in Dane county no less than 41!

Norman Pripps in far northern Iron county called April 11 the peak of the spring migration. Richard Bernard at Superior on the same date saw within one hour 600 Whistling Swans, 40 Goshawks, 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Cooper's Hawks, 85 Red-tailed Hawks, and 50 Marsh Hawks. A Least Sandpiper appeared in Minnesota on April 12 (see August, 1964, **Audubon Field Notes**), and Daryl Tessen found a near-record Dunlin in Winnebago county on the same day.

Those who did not observe arrivals of typical mid-April migrants on April 11-12 had in almost all cases seen birds by about April 18-19. The progress of many species from south to north across the state was remarkably orderly during this week. By April 20-23 some species not normally seen until May trickled into a few areas of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Many species which appeared April 26-29 were five to ten days ahead of schedule. This latter period showed a rather well-marked influx of many birds into the state.

The early trend of the migration continued through May. Many peaks were reported on May 2-5, another period of heavy migration (the heaviest, according to some observers). Other peak dates noted were May 7, 10, 15-16, and 19. There was no widespread agreement as to the time of major movement of passerines. Most people were of the opinion that the whole migration was decidedly early, and examination of the peaks mentioned surely bears this out. Most birders saw very few migrants after May 21.

All our conclusions about migratory movement of birds are complicated by the fact that observers differ in their bird watching habits. Some cover a small area daily. Others drive long distances—regularly or sporadically—sometimes in an effort to run up a big daily or yearly list. Still others are more casual and consequently provide relatively spotty coverage. Despite these varying approaches, I nevertheless discern a real pattern to the movement of some species, simply because so many observers have submitted reports (over 50 records of some species were received this year!). In cases where reports of a species are fewer, how-



ever, such factors as days of the week come into play in trying to interpret data at hand, e.g., was this barrage of weekend observations real, or had birds arrived during the week? And the other fact mentioned—the types of observations submitted by birders who “operate” in different ways—also may govern the data with which your editor can work.

Finally, we should mention that many species appear to enter a given area gradually. We received for the first time this year some data illustrating such gradual build-ups. In Madison, Paul Krombholz and Steve Curtis noted 12, 18 and 57 Common Grackles each day on Picnic Point during the period of March 12-14, with the numbers continuing to increase until the full breeding population had arrived. Bill Hilsenhoff counted Chimney Swifts during the period of April 25-29, also at Madison, and came up with these daily totals: 2, 10, 35, 60, and 200.

### **Widespread Exodus of Canada Geese**

A particularly striking example of massive movement of a species occurred this year on April 23, when observers in six eastern counties saw large flocks of migrating Canada Geese. Rarely do these many people witness such a pronounced movement of birds over such a large area. That many of the migrating geese seen probably came from Horicon Marsh is evident from this account of Bill Hilsenhoff: “On April 23, while driving from Madison to Oshkosh, I counted 4,300 Canada Geese flying into the Horicon Marsh from the west and northwest. Most of these geese were seen between Beaver Dam and Waupun. Upon my return at 5:30 p. m. I noticed Canada Geese north of Oshkosh and as I drove south I saw more and more geese. All of these geese were headed directly north and the flocks that had already traveled some distance from the marsh were flying very high. Between Oshkosh and Waupun I counted 15,100 Canada Geese, all flying north, and I did not see any geese south of Waupun. This was probably the last exodus of geese from Horicon Marsh this spring, as no geese were seen on subsequent trips to Oshkosh.”

### **Reports of Daily Intensive Surveys of Small Areas**

Helmut and Nancy Mueller found this spring better at Cedar Grove than last year. Their observations, including some very interesting passerine records, are noted in the following field notes summary. In terms of birds trapped and banded, spring success there can't begin to compare with fall, but at least this year there were not long periods of easterly winds, which tend to drive birds away from the lakeshore. Since they closed the banding station on May 31 this year, we have no information about any early June migration along the lakeshore. On the basis of the experience of former years, however (some of which seemed as early as this one), we can expect that it occurred as usual. The Muellers noted several good hawk flights in April, but the best was May 10, when they observed 502. (Mary Donald reports a reasonable hawk flight in Milwaukee May 9-10.) The Muellers also saw 55 hawks May 27, mostly Broad-winged and Marsh. In both of these May flights essentially all of the hawks were southbound. Such southward movement (of raptors

and also passerines) at this station in May has occurred before (see 1955 **Passenger Pigeon 27-29**, especially last paragraph).

Paul Kromholz and Steve Curtis spent many hours keeping track of migrants on Picnic Point in Madison, as they had last year. Their observations were supplemented this year by those of several other observers who visited specific areas in and near the University Arboretum regularly, and also by a brief check most evenings with the radar installation at Truax Field. Without an overall summary of the entire project, your seasonal editor cannot comment on the agreement of the several types of observations, except that they did agree at times (he was one of the "other observers"). A comprehensive report of this project will be published. The strictly Picnic Point data are just as valuable a contribution to our picture of migration in Wisconsin this year as they were in 1963. The brief summary of what happened day-to-day there in populations of select species dovetails beautifully in what observers in many parts of the state witnessed in their own localities.

Several others submitted daily tallies of various species in a small area, and these were of interest despite the limited scope. We strongly encourage more people to undertake a similar project. John Bielefeldt conducted one rather unusual daily count on 22 water areas in western Waukesha county from March 26 to April 5, totaling some 1,700 birds, mostly waterfowl. Waters opened up in southern counties during this period, and he noted peaks of species with reference to April 2, the date after which water did not freeze at night. Species peaking were as follows: Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Redhead, and wintering Mallard before April 2; Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, and American Widgeon on April 2; Wood Duck, Green- and Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Pintail, Black Duck, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Common Loon, and migrating Mallard after April 2. Flood ponds were absent.

### **Few Comments Made on Abundance or Scarcity**

People made few comments on species or groups of species with regard to abundance or scarcity, and when they did, their comments usually have been included in the appropriate place in the field notes. Waterfowl and shorebirds did evoke some general statements. Both Alfred Bradford and Daryl Tessen found waterfowl plentiful in the Lake Winnebago area, although Richard Bernard (Douglas county) and Emil Stock (Jefferson county) felt numbers were down. Shorebirds were definitely less numerous than in 1963 in Dane and Columbia counties (many observers) but could be found rather easily in at least one flooded field in Winnebago county, where Daryl Tessen found 20 species during the spring. Both Ed Paulson (Brown county) and Mary Donald (Ozaukee and Milwaukee counties) mentioned a very good shorebird migration, particularly of Dunlins.

### **The Season Summary**

Comments on individual species follow, with any supporting details of rarities mentioned in the summary or in "By the Wayside." The official

Wisconsin list increased by one in spring 1964, when the Lark Bunting took up five months residence near the feeder of Janet Rumpf in Rock county and was photographed by several observers.

**Common Loon:** Arrivals March 31 in Dane (Tom Ashman) and Waukesha (John Bielefeldt) counties preceded others by several days. The first semi-northern report came from St. Croix county April 4 (John T. Tokemoen), with widespread arrivals in northern counties April 12-17.

**Red-throated Loon:** Seen well in Green Lake county April 21 (Sam Robbins); four noted on Lake Michigan in Ozaukee county April 24 (Daryl Tessen); reported from Cedar Grove in Sheboygan county April 26 (Helmut C. and Nancy S. Mueller).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Two in Green Lake county April 21 (Robbins); two in Rock county, last seen April 21 (Melva Maxson et al.); Douglas county April 20 through May 2 (Richard F. Bernard).

**Horned Grebe:** The only birds seen before April were March 17 in Racine county (Bill Weber) and March 21 in Rock county (Maxson). Little pattern to arrivals, the next reports being April 3-4 from both southern and northern counties. Few May observations, the latest from Columbia county May 25 (Richard P. Narf).

**Eared Grebe:** A surprising number of reports. One to three birds in breeding plumage were seen in Waukesha county April 8-15 (Karl Priebe, Mary Donald), and Sam Robbins saw one individual well in St. Croix county May 20, the first time the species has appeared in this county. No details were provided with the following reports: Waupaca county April 21 (Mrs. Russell A. Rill), Columbia county May 14-15 (Emil Urban, Ed Peartree), and five birds on Horicon Marsh May 11 (Richard Sharp).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Arrived first March 14-15 in three southeastern counties, with other birds arriving 1½ to 2 weeks later. The majority of arrival dates reported, however, fell within the period April 2-9, and there was no regularity to the spread of this species over the state.

**White Pelican:** Reported only from Douglas county May 29 (Bernard).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Only seven reports, mostly in April, the first being April 7 in Racine county (Louise Erickson). It was present at the end of May only in Douglas county (Bernard). Sam Robbins comments on the decline of cormorants, recalling this the first spring when he "failed to see a single bird."

**Great Blue Heron:** Reports from Waukesha county March 15 (Jim Fuller, Peartree) and Oconto county the next day (Carl H. Richter) precede all others by at least two weeks except Rock county (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum) and Brown county March 23 (Tom Erdman, Gary Henkleman, Bill Talen). General arrival statewide April 2-4.

**Green Heron:** The early season produced a barrage of April records, unusual for this species. The first of these, April 6 in Racine county (Bob Fiehweg), is five days earlier than Wisconsin's previous record arrival. Other April dates came from nine eastern and central counties. Most northern and western arrivals came during the second week of May. Weber reports 38 from Racine county April 30. The Muellers saw 21 migrants at Cedar Grove May 7.

**Little Blue Heron:** Three well-documented observations, quite remarkable in view of the fact that there have been only eight previous spring records since 1950. A bird found April 17 in Racine county (Fiehweg) was seen subsequently at least ten times by many observers. Both this bird and one seen April 18 in Dane county (William Hilsenhoff) were several days earlier than this species has appeared previously in the state. One bird was seen in Lafayette county May 9 (the N. R. Bangers, the Roy Lounds, Helen Northup).

**Cattle Egret:** After reports from three localities in the spring of 1962, observers saw none of these egrets in spring 1963. The only 1964 report is written up in "By the Wayside," a bird seen May 8 in Milwaukee county by Mary Decker and Virginia Kazda.

**Common Egret:** Seen in 13 counties, the only northern ones of these being either along the Mississippi or St. Croix Rivers in the western part of the state or along Lake Michigan on the east. Earliest observation was that of Sharp in Jefferson county April 10, with four more reports April 12-29. All other sighting occurred in May.

**Snowy Egret:** Here is another heron species which has been seen rarely in Wisconsin in spring. There were well-documented reports from Adams county April 26 (Mrs. T. A. Pascoe) and Marinette county May 29-June 2 (Harold Lindberg). Noted May 7 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** First noted April 6 in Racine county (Fiehweg) and April 10 in Brown county (Erdman et al.). Little pattern to subsequent arrivals. These

herons had reached several northern counties by the last week in April. Reported nesting for the first time in Marathon county (Mrs. Spencer Doty).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron.** Not reported since birds first began nesting on the Racine-Kenosha county line in 1955. No birds had appeared in the vicinity of this nesting site by June 12 (Erickson). Seen in Pierce county, where it was found in 1962 and 1963 (Robert Garber).

**Least Bittern:** This bird is secretive, and not many observers are familiar with its "song." Despite these facts, there have been in recent years reports from at least five or six counties. This year we have but three: Dane county May 9 (Ashman), Sheboygan county May 10 (Gordon and Carol Bly), and Winnebago county May 16 (Tessen).

**American Bittern:** First noted in Waupaca county (Florence Peterson) April 5, with three more appearances April 17: Lincoln county (Donald J. Hendrick), Oconto county (Richter), and Racine county (Fichweg). No other reports until May. There were observations in 21 widely scattered counties, but a few observers commented on greatly reduced numbers. Mary Donald found but one in Milwaukee county, and Bill Hilsenhoff encountered none.

**Whistling Swan:** A bird seen in February on the Mississippi in Buffalo county probably wintered (Kenneth Krumm). Subsequent observations came from most parts of the state, first at Horicon Marsh March 13 (fide W. D. Carter) and Brown county March 15 (Ed O. Paulson), in many counties about a week later, and in most remaining sections by the end of the first week of April. Peaks in southern counties were within a week of April 1, and in the north were April 11-13. Although most birds had left by about April 20, there were May observations in the following counties: Bayfield, Columbia, Dodge, Douglas, and Oconto, where two were still present May 31 (Richter).

**Canada Goose:** The most striking aspect of the migration of this species was the massive movement which occurred April 23, when large flocks (the largest ever seen, according to some) were observed in these eastern counties: Dodge, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, and Winnebago. There was evidence of some northward movement a few days earlier, and a few days later many observers noted that birds had departed from their areas. First arrivals were scattered, beginning in early March. People from most sections of the state had seen or heard their first birds by mid-March, but others found none until April 11 and after. Over 40,000 birds were reported by Horicon Marsh personnel on April 5. Most other peaks March 22-25.

**White-fronted Goose:** Columbia county April 11 (Ashman); Dane county April 25 (Barger); Horicon Marsh May 2 (Bielefeldt).

**Snow Goose:** Noted in these counties: Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Columbia, Douglas, Jefferson (300 on March 23, Tom Balzer), St. Croix, and Waukesha.

**Blue Goose:** These counties provided observations: Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Marinette, and Waukesha.

**Mallard:** Had filtered into some northern counties by March 16-22.

**Black Duck:** Movement April 11-12 is indicated by arrivals in Burnett (Norman R. Stone) and Douglas (Bernard) counties and a reduction in numbers in Bayfield county (Janet L. Kozlowski).

**Gadwall:** Present March 1 in Dane (Hilsenhoff) and Milwaukee (many observers) counties. Noted March 10 in Racine county (Weber) and in several other areas March 14. Other arrival dates diffuse. Not noted in many northern counties, and those birds which were seen did not arrive until April or even May. Still present May 31 in Brown, Columbia, and Dodge counties.

**Pintail:** Present March 1 in Milwaukee (Mary Donald) and Racine (Tessen) counties. Appeared March 4 in Buffalo county (Krumm), not elsewhere until mid-March. Decided movement in northern counties April 11. Peaks April 5 at Horicon Marsh (Carter), Dane county April 9 (Hilsenhoff), and Marinette county April 11 (Lindberg). Still in five counties at the end of May.

**Green-winged Teal:** Many arrivals March 14-16. Few others until about the second week in April, when birds reached a number of northern counties. A few present at the end of May.

**Blue-winged Teal:** One seen well in Racine county March 16 (Fichweg), with other birds putting in an appearance in some localities the last week of March. Most northern observers reported their first arrivals April 8-16. Most peaks mentioned fell within the period April 12-22. A nest with 12 eggs was found by Richter in Oconto county May 17.



**Cinnamon Teal:** A bright male observed by Mary Donald and Marian Urdan in Ozaukee county May 8 is only the sixth ever seen in Wisconsin in spring. Details in "By the Wayside."

**European Widgeon:** One male seen well in Racine county March 29-April 1, with the chestnut head and gray sides noted (Ed Prins et al.); undocumented reports from Columbia county April 12 (Urban) and Horicon Marsh May 11 (Sharp).

**American Widgeon:** Present in Milwaukee at the beginning of March. The first migrants were seen March 6 in Racine county (Fiehweg) and March 7 in Winnebago county (Tessen). Other arrivals were March 14 and from March 18 on. Nearly all northern observers noted their first birds during mid-April. The end of May found widgeon present in Dane, Dodge, and Racine counties.

**Shoveler:** Arrivals in southern counties were spread through the last ten days of March, first at Horicon Marsh March 29 (Carter). A good many observers, particularly from northern counties, noted no birds until after the April 11 push. Most peaks April 12-19. Birds remained until the end of May in Brown, Dane, and Dodge counties.

**Wood Duck:** Seen March 10 in Jefferson county (Sharp), with a few more reports during the following week. Observers in most areas, however, noted none until after the first week of April. A remarkable 60 males were seen on the Racine May count.

**Redhead:** Present at the beginning of March in the following counties: Columbia, Milwaukee, Marinette, and Racine. Although a few birds appeared in southern counties around mid-March, most arrivals were the last week of March and later. Very few birds were seen in northern counties until the second week of April. The few peaks mentioned were April 12-19.

**Ring-necked Duck:** Rock county March 2 (R. E. and June A. Ohm); Kenosha and Racine counties March 7 and 11 (Weber); four more counties March 14-16; other arrivals scattered, except that those in northern counties were April 11-16. Southern peaks came during the last 10 days of March, including 800 in Kenosha county March 30. Northern peaks were during the latter half of April.

**Canvasback:** Reported from 21 counties, with several observers commenting on considerably increased numbers. Pattern of arrivals much as with Ring-necked Duck. Few observations in May, the last being two in Racine county May 21 (Mrs. Arthur Stoffel) and a report from Columbia county May 25 (Hilsenhoff).

**Greater Scaup:** More reports than usual from counties away from the Great Lakes or the Mississippi. Most observations away from Lake Michigan were during April, although one bird was seen in Madison March 15 (Tom Soulen). Few noted in May, the last about the middle of the month.

**Lesser Scaup:** Many arrivals March 13-22, although as with many of the waterfowl, reports from northern observers give dates of first appearances as from the second week in April on. Many lingered into May in all sections of the state, with birds present in seven counties during the last week of the month. All peaks mentioned were in April.

**Common Goldeneye:** Most departures from southern counties had taken place by April 20. There were but three May observations: Bayfield county May 15 (Kozlowski), Racine county May 30 (Weber), and Door county May 31 (Erickson).

**Bufflehead:** Seen March 7 in Winnebago county (Tessen), in most other reporting southern localities from March 14 on. The first northern arrival was March 22 in Oconto county (Richter), the next April 4 in Lincoln county (Hendrick), with a more general influx after the first week of April. Last noted May 17 in Dane county (Hilsenhoff).

**Oldsquaw:** Only three observations away from Lake Michigan: April 2 (Bielefeldt) and 9 (Mrs. Paul Hoffman) in Waukesha county, and April 15 in Marathon county, the first time ever seen there in migration, according to Mrs. Doty. One still in Racine county May 19 (Weber).

**Harlequin Duck:** Observed for the third year in a row in Racine county this spring, by a number of people. A pair was seen March 28 and one female on May 3 (Weber).

**White-winged Scoter:** Six seen well at a distance of 75 yards in Racine county March 8 (Fiehweg); one in Ozaukee county April 24 (Tessen); a carcass found on the beach at Cornucopia, Bayfield county, May 2 (Kozlowski); noted April 20 through May 10 in Douglas county (Bernard).

**Ruddy Duck:** Wintered in Brown, Milwaukee, and Winnebago counties. Noted March 5 (also wintering?) in Racine county (Erickson, Dorothy Kuehn), next much further north, in Lincoln county March 24 (Hendrick). No other arrivals until April,



and there was little pattern in the dates reported. The few peaks mentioned were April 19 and later. Quite a few May reports, with the end of the month finding birds still present in Brown, Columbia, St. Croix, and Winnebago counties.

**Hooded Merganser:** There were more reports of these species than of other mergansers. Two birds were noted in Racine county March 8 (Fiehweg), but 11 of 33 arrival dates fell in the period March 13-19, including Brown (Erdman et al.) and Marinette (Lindberg) counties. Other northern arrivals were April 4 or 14-16. Present May 31 in Columbia county (Hilsenhoff).

**Common Merganser:** Noted in Douglas (Bernard) and Burnett (Stone) counties March 13-14, elsewhere in northern counties April 5 and 11. One in Racine county May 30 (Weber).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Wintering along Lake Michigan as usual. Birds were seen inland in March only in three southern counties. A mild push into the state during the period April 2-6 carried birds as far as Oconto county (Richter), although all other arrival dates in northern counties were April 11-16. One noted May 30 in Racine county (Weber). Peak noted in Cedar Grove area April 25 (the Muellers).

**Turkey Vulture:** There are three very early reports; March 6 in Douglas county (Bernard), March 7 in Jackson county (Chuck Sindelar fide Dan Berger), and March 14, photographed in Racine county (Erickson et al.). The major migratory movement of this species apparently occurred from the end of March through April, and during this period there were observations in virtually all parts of the state. Total number of counties reporting: 19.

**Goshawk:** A veritable flood of reports, from no less than seven counties, perhaps wintering birds or some returning from the major flight of the fall of 1963, when over 700 were observed at Duluth (February, 1964, **Audubon Field Notes**). For the last ten years or so, anything over four or five reports would have been remarkable. (We here exclude consideration of observations in suitable nesting areas, since birds do not frequent such areas in spring.) Most reports are of March birds, with a few from mid-April, and one reported on the Wausau May count. Peak of 40 noted in Douglas county April 11 (Bernard).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Noted in only 13 counties. Peaks April 11 in Douglas county (30, Bernard) and April 17 at Cedar Grove (16, the Muellers). Still seen near the end of May at Cedar Grove (the Muellers) and in Waupaca county (Peterson). Seen first in Brown county February 28 (Erdman, et al.).

**Cooper's Hawk:** General migratory movement of this species coincided with that of the Sharp-shinned, beginning about mid-March. Although most far northern observers noted none until April or even May, Kozlowski saw a bird March 18 in Bayfield county. Peaks of six in Douglas county April 11 (Bernard) and 11 at Cedar Grove May 10 (the Muellers). Seen in 19 counties.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Very few reports from far northern counties. There are suggestions that migratory movement began in some areas about March 12-16. Peaks were scattered, Belzer noting a big movement April 5-7 in Jefferson county, Bernard counting 85 in Douglas county April 11, the Muellers observing 126 at Cedar Grove May 10. Erickson commented that there were "not too many around this year."

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Aside from a number of observers reporting arrivals March 14-15, one can discern little about the migratory pattern of this species in the spring of 1964. The few reports from far northern counties are from April and May. Thirty-five noted in Racine county May 5 (Erickson).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Tom Nicholls provides the season's first report: April 15 in Dane county. Birds invaded five other counties within the next 3 days, including Bayfield (Kozlowski). By April 25 very few observers had noted no birds. Peaks listed were as follows: Dane county April 21 (Narf), Racine county May 3 (52, Fiehweg), and Cedar Grove May 10 (252, the Muellers). Still to be seen in several southern counties May 31.

**Swainson's Hawk:** There were four good reports this spring, more than ever: St. Croix county April 18 (Robbins and 40 members of the Minneapolis Audubon Society); Cedar Grove April 22 and May 9 (the Muellers); Lafayette county May 9 (the Bangers, the Lounds, Northup).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Birds were seen in central counties from mid-March on, although far northern observers reported none until April. A fair number of May observations, including five at Horicon Marsh May 2 (both phases, commonest hawk along Main Dike; Bielefeldt) and a Cedar Grove report May 24 (the Muellers).

**Bald Eagle:** Most observations are from typical nesting areas, with 13 counties in all being represented. The only report from southern Wisconsin was from Waukesha

county April 15 (Charlotte J. McCombe). Two were seen in courtship flight March 24 in Adams county (Ellen Allan).

**Marsh Hawk:** Present March 1 in St. Croix county (Robbins). The only other observation prior to an obvious migratory movement was in Rock county March 11 (the Ohms). Birders in nine counties noted arrivals March 14-15, as far north as Brown (Erdman et al.) and Shawano (Brother Jodocus Grider) counties, with all but a few far northern counties reporting birds within the following week. Four peak dates fell within the period April 2-11, with another late one May 10 at Cedar Grove (92, the Muellers).

**Osprey:** Seen first April 8 in Rock county (the Ohms), with birds reaching several counties within the next three days. Noted in Douglas (Bernard) and Burnett (Stone) counties April 19-22.

**Peregrine Falcon.** Reports in the spring of 1964 in Wisconsin were roughly comparable to those of the preceding two years except that they were mostly in May rather than in April: Horicon Marsh during April and May (fide W. D. Carter); Cedar Grove April 22 and May 18 (one each date; the Muellers); Horicon Marsh May 2 (Bielefeldt); Burnett county May 6 (Stone); Columbia county May 16 (Fred Alyea, Chuck Sontag); Bayfield county (Kozlowski); and Grant county May 30 (Barger).

**Pigeon Hawk:** Cedar Grove March 26 and April 23 (one each date; the Muellers); April 23 and May count in Brown county (Paulson); Racine county May 2 (one, Prins). Noted also in Polk county (Philip J. Hummel).

**Sparrow Hawk:** The most easily discernible period of migration was March 14-16, a period during which many observers noted arrivals, including some in northern counties. Other arrival dates were rather diffuse. Some people in far northern areas saw no birds until April 8-12. The Muellers report peaks at Cedar Grove April 7 (48) and 17 (36).

**Spruce Grouse:** An unfortunate bird found with a broken neck by Mrs. Emma Fell in Oneida county May 10 provides the first spring observation of this species in Wisconsin in many a year. Mrs. Fell's land is within 10-20 miles of several areas where Spruce Grouse once could be found regularly if rarely by persistent birders. There have been but few recent reports from these nearby areas. The occurrence of this particular bird rather far from typical black spruce habitat is interesting.

**Ruffed Grouse:** Richter found a nest containing 11 eggs on May 11 in Oconto county. A bird was noted sitting on a nest on the Antigo May count.

**Greater Prairie Chicken:** Two birds noted for the second year in a row in Oconto county (noted last year incorrectly as Marinette county) by Lindberg, on April 11.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Douglas county March 24-April 25 (Bernard); Burnett county throughout the period (Stone); Florence county April 21 (Nils P. Dahlstrand).

**Bobwhite:** A few more reports than last year. Observed in eight counties, Langlade being the only one of these not in the southwestern part of the state. The R. B. Dryers of Columbia county note that there "seem to be more this year."

**Gray Partridge:** Eight of the ten counties reporting this species were in the eastern or southern part of the state.

**Turkey:** The Ericksons and Barbara von Jarchow found one bird and many tracks in Juneau county April 12.

**Sandhill Crane:** More reports than in a number of years, from 12 counties. Fifty flew over the Beloit house of Hazel and Dave Cox on March 19. Allan saw three in Juneau county March 23. The next observation was in Burnett county April 9 (Stone), with most other first dates coming within the next two weeks. More May observations than in some years, including the Antigo and Wausau May counts, two at Horicon Marsh into June (Donald, Carter), five in Marquette county May 27 (Narf), and three near the Waukesha-Jefferson county line into June, where a local farmer indicates that they spend the summer regularly (Peartree, Soulen).

**King Rail:** The only report was from Dane county May 16 (Soulen).

**Virginia Rail:** One of the 11 reports was in April (the 26th) in Racine county (Fiehweg). Hilsenhoff observed one building a nest in Dane county May 16, and Lindberg located a nest containing 12 eggs in Marinette county May 27. At this latter nest there was "one old one dead along side of nest but the other one flushed off."

**Sora:** Six April observations came at three distinct times: April 16-17, 20-21, and 28. Two of the earliest were from northern counties (Burnett, Stone; Lincoln, Hendrick).

**Common Gallinule:** One bird was seen well in Washington county April 18 by Mrs. Earl Schmidt. Hilsenhoff's Winnebago county observation April 23 was the only

other before a mild influx May 2-3. A fairly general arrival was noted May 11-13. The only northern county reporting was Brown (Paulson, Erdman et al.).

**American Coot:** A decided movement into several counties occurred March 15-17, reaching Burnett county (Stone). No other arrivals were noted until the last few days of March, and a fair number of northern observers reported none until mid-April.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Two observations April 19 in far northern Douglas (Bernard) and Bayfield (Kozlowski) counties precede by four days Wisconsin's record arrival date. Kozlowski's bird was the only one she saw all spring. No other birds were seen in the state until May 3, and many birders noted none until nearly the middle of the month. Peaks mentioned were May 25-27. Lindberg commented on a good flight in Marinette county.

**Piping Plover:** One of these rare shorebirds was seen well at Wind Point in Racine county April 22 by Fiehweg and John Saetveit; previously this species had never been seen in Wisconsin earlier than April 28. Bernard reported several present June 4 in Douglas county.

**Killdeer:** There were a few early March reports, but by far the majority of the arrival dates fell in the period March 13-15. A few northern observers noted none until April. Peaks were March 16 at Cedar Grove (140, the Muellers), March 17 in Racine county (29, Weber), and on scattered dates later in the season. Grider (Shawano county) and Margarette E. Morse (Vernon county) mentioned a scarcity of this species.

**American Golden Plover:** There were a few observations in mid-April, the first April 12 in Winnebago county (Tessen). All other reports were in May, with birds lingering until the last week in May in Columbia county (several observers) and at Cedar Grove (the Muellers).

**Black-bellied Plover:** There was one exceptionally early observation in Racine county April 22 (Weber). All other reports were May 2 and after. Ninety-five were counted in one field May 19 by Erickson in Racine county. Other peaks were May 7-9 and 25-26. Lindberg noted "more than ever before" in Marinette county.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Seen very early in Brown county May 3 (Paulson), with a peak there May 17. There were a few reports May 7-11, but most arrivals were May 13-17. Although Hilsenhoff noted less than usual in Columbia county, both Lindberg (Marinette county) and John Kraupa (Manitowoc county) commented on the greatest flight they had ever seen. Most peaks were May 22-29; on the latter date Erickson counted 415 in Racine county.

**American Woodcock:** Appeared March 14 in Manitowoc (Kraupa) and Racine (Weber) counties, a day later at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). All northern arrivals were April 9-16.

**Common Snipe:** Of the five observations of March migrants, Weber's Kenosha county one of March 22 was the earliest. Penetration into northern counties did not occur until mid-April.

**Whimbrel:** Racine May count personnel were treated to the amazing sight of 40 to 50 of these May 16. Four were still present there May 31; some were photographed (Prins).

**Upland Plover:** Seven were noted in Racine county April 16 (Weber), with a fair number of observers elsewhere in southeastern Wisconsin recording arrivals within the following week. The few mentioned in northern counties appeared first April 25-28. Peaks were scattered from April 28 to May 10. McCombe reports two pairs nesting in Waukesha county.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The arrival of this species in many parts of Wisconsin this spring was phenomenally early. Of the 36 reports, nearly 40% are from the month of April, beginning with an incredibly early April 9 in Douglas county (Bernard). Observers in five additional counties had seen birds by April 18-22.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** This species appeared in four counties April 18-22, first at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). There were no reports after May 19. Hilsenhoff remarks that this was the "first year I can remember that I have not seen a single Solitary Sandpiper."

**Willet:** Ozaukee county May 8 (Donald); one in Racine county May 12 (Weber); one present June 4 in Douglas county (Bernard).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** This species spread over most of the state April 10-19. Hilsenhoff found them less common than usual. Most departures were by mid-May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Arrivals similar to preceding species, with one earlier in Marinette county April 8 (Lindberg). Still present the last week in May in Columbia (Hilsenhoff) and Douglas (Bernard) counties. Hilsenhoff felt that this species also was less common than usual.

**Knot:** The only report is of four birds June 1 in Bayfield county (Kozlowski, Mrs. Brady).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Arrival dates form a diffuse pattern. Several mid-April observations follow Robbins' April 4 report from St. Croix county. By April 20 birds had reached the only northern counties from which the species was reported (Bayfield, Kozlowski; Douglas, Bernard). Peak dates mentioned ranged from mid-April to late May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Reports from seven counties came between May 3 (Brown county, Paulson) and the end of May, when birds were still present at least in Columbia county (Hilsenhoff). There were quite a few areas in which birds could be seen late, but most peaks mentioned were during the last week of the month.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** A bird was seen well in Sheboygan county April 19, nearly as early as this species has ever been seen in Wisconsin in the spring (Harold Koopmann). May reports are from May 8 (Rock county, Maxson) until the end of the month (Manitowoc county, Kraupa; Racine county, Weber).

**Least Sandpiper:** Noted in several counties May 3, with other arrivals stretched through most of May.

**Dunlin:** Tessen's April 12 Winnebago county report (very well documented) is exceptionally early. No more were observed until May 2, when Kozlowski saw one in Bayfield county. More general movement occurred May 5-8, although some people noted none until a week later. Peaks were May 9, 16-19 (the major ones), and 25.

**Dowitcher:** The only ones specifically identified (by call note) proved to be short-billed: five in Waukesha county May 17 (Bielefeldt); Dane county May 23 (Robbins); Dane and Columbia counties May 23-27 (Hilsenhoff), where they were "less common" than usual. Other dowitchers were noted as early as May 6 in Dane county (Ashman), but most reports came after about May 15.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** There were four reports May 9-20, from four counties: Brown (Paulson), Dane (one, Soulen), Douglas (two, Bernard), and Lafayette (the Bargers, the Lounds, Northup).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** One found dead March 28 in Racine county on top of new snow by Weber is nearly two weeks earlier than the previous record arrival date. An April 19 bird in Bayfield county also is very early (Kozlowski). All other reports are from May.

**Western Sandpiper:** A remarkable total of four reports, each supported by details: Lafayette county May 9 (the Bargers et al.); May 22-25 in Columbia (the Dryers), Dane (Robbins), and Milwaukee (Donald) counties.

**Marbled Godwit:** Three noted May 15 in Winnebago county (Tessen); one seen well, standing and in flight, by Brother Jude Lustyk and Brother Daniel Poliski of Pulaski, on May 24.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Noted in 8 counties by 12 observers, first May 10 in Racine county (Weber). Other observations were May 15 through May 29 (Columbia county, Sharp). Several observers commented on the presence of dull-plumaged birds of this species even toward the end of May; it is birds of this description which may easily be misidentified as Marbled Godwits by those relatively unfamiliar with these species.

**Ruff:** For the third time in six years this species appeared within 25 miles of Madison. It was seen first on May 3 by the Fred Alyeas and the Chuck Sontags, later that day by the Tom Soulen. The next day it was present at the same pond in Dane county (the Roy Lounds). See "By the Wayside."

**Sanderling:** One bird seen very well by Saetveit April 22 in Racine county was as early as this species has ever appeared in the state. Most other reports were mid-May and later.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Seen April 28 in Columbia (Hilsenhoff) and Dane (Ashman) counties, in other areas about a week later. Still present May 31 in Columbia (Hilsenhoff) and Marinette (Lindberg) counties.

**Northern Phalarope:** This species was reported only on the Green Bay May count.

**Glaucous Gull:** Two observations: March 28 in Douglas county (Bernard) and April 15 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers).

**Herring Gull:** Movement into northern counties was not well defined, but arrival dates there were somewhat bunched in the periods March 20-23, April 2-3 and 10-11. Most peaks noted were April 3-6.

**Ring-billed Gull:** The first report away from Lake Michigan was March 10 in Dane county (Soulen). Hendrick's observation in Lincoln county March 26 was the first in the north; others saw none there until after the first week in April.

**Laughing Gull:** Spring occurrences of this species appear to be getting almost regular, at least in Racine county, where it has been for three consecutive years. Weber found two there May 12, and for the rest of the month a number of observers saw at least one adult and two immatures.

**Franklin's Gull:** Three birds of this species also appeared in Racine county May 12 (Weber) but were not seen subsequently.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** There were a few observations in counties bordering Lake Michigan during the first week in April, the first April 1 in Racine county (Weber). Rather decided northward movement occurred April 11; Richter noted them as numerous in Oconto county on that date. Away from Lake Michigan there was no definite pattern to arrival dates; in these "inland" areas birds appeared from April 11 to May 26. All peaks in southern counties were April 14-20.

**Ivory Gull:** Turn to "By the Wayside" for Bill Weber's account of a bird which resembled an Ivory Gull very closely but which unfortunately did not possess the black legs which apparently are a constant field character. Observed May 13 at Wind Point in Racine county.

**Forster's Tern:** Despite your seasonal editor's comments last year about careful identification of April white terns, only three of the 12 people who saw either this or the following species in April bothered to mention any details of their observations. Hilsenhoff's sighting of Forster's in Dane county April 18 occurred under excellent lighting conditions; it was the earliest report of either species submitted with details. Out of 9 observers reporting both species, 5 noted birds of this species an average of a week earlier than the Common. There was a definite influx of Forster's April 25-28.

**Common Tern:** See preceding species. None of the 12 April reports of this species was accompanied by details of any kind. Peaks: May 9 in Racine county (8,000, Weber); May 14 in Racine (10,000, Weber), Winnebago (Hilsenhoff), and Sheboygan (9,000-14,000, the Muellers) counties; May 20 in Sheboygan county (1,600, the Muellers).

**Caspian Tern:** Seen in four counties bordering Lake Michigan May 2-3. The only reports inland were May 9 in Lafayette (the Bangers et al.) and Winnebago (Tessen) counties, and May 16 in Burnett county (Stone).

**Black Tern:** Appeared May 2-3 in nine counties, mostly in the southeastern part of the state. A definite further movement is suggested May 7 by a large migration in Waupaca county (Rill) and arrivals in Burnett county (Stone). Some far northern observers noted none until May 17. A peak of nearly 600 in Racine county May 10 (Weber).

**Mourning Dove:** Significant movement of migrants was noted at Cedar Grove by the Muellers as late as April 22 and May 7, with about a hundred birds each day.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Observations April 30 in Vernon county (Viratine E. Weber) and the next day in Waupaca county (Peterson) were nearly a week before subsequent reports. Definite influxes occurred May 5-7 and 16-17. The northernmost reports came from Brown, Marathon, and Waupaca counties.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Appeared in four counties May 5, in four more by May 8. Most arrivals were May 14-17.

**Barn Owl:** One seen May 19 in Racine county (Erickson, Dorothy Kuehn).

**Screech Owl:** Noted in only six counties.

**Snowy Owl:** Reports from seven counties were mainly from the northern part of the state. Last seen April 28 in Marinette county (Lindberg).

**Barred Owl:** The only reports from southeastern Wisconsin were those of Peartree and Fuller (Waukesha county); most other sections of the state were represented well.

**Long-eared Owl:** The only report outside of Milwaukee and Racine counties (quite a few observations until mid-March) was from St. Croix county, where Robbins found this species from March 7 into May.

**Short-eared Owl:** March and early April observations came from Racine and St. Croix counties. The Muellers saw migrants at Cedar Grove April 17 and May 3 (one each date).

**Saw-whet Owl:** Two reports with no details: listed for March 30 and April 1 on a migration chart in the University of Wisconsin Zoology Department (such records usually are fairly well screened); noted also on the Racine May count.



**Whip-poor-will:** Found April 18 in Dane county (Ashman), nearly a week before four other reports April 22-25, including Marathon county (Mrs. Karl Williams). There were a few more April reports from northern counties, although May 7 appeared to be the earliest general penetration into the northernmost section of the state.

**Common Nighthawk:** A very perceptible if slight influx was noted May 3-6, reaching Burnett (Stone) and Lincoln (Hendrick) counties. Most other arrival dates were May 9-12, 14, and 16. Peaks mentioned were scattered: May 10, 14, 16, 19, and 26.

**Chimney Swift:** Observed first along Lake Michigan April 13, in Racine (Fiehweg) and Sheboygan (the Muellers) counties. There were scattered Dane county observations until April 25, the next date of perceptible movement. By April 28 birds had traveled as far north as Lincoln (Hendrick), Oconto (Richter), and St. Croix (Robbins) counties. People in the southern and central parts of the state generally had noted arrivals by April 30, and in the northern part by May 4-9.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Alyea and Sontag found this species on Picnic Point in Madison on April 27, a near-record arrival date. (On this date there appeared also in the same location a number of species which were early, some in considerable numbers.) Other arrival dates were scattered throughout May, with no particular pattern. Earliest northern observation was in Iron county May 9 (Norman Pripps).

**Belted Kingfisher:** A very decided northward movement occurred April 11, when this species appeared in six central and northern counties across the state.

**Yellow-shafted Flicker:** Twenty-two of 54 arrival dates were April 11-12, indicating a dramatic influx statewide at that time; several observers also noted peaks at this time. Smaller numbers of migrants were noted in a fair number of localities up to a week before these dates.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Richter found a nest with four eggs in Oconto county May 15. The Muellers report one April 24 at Cedar Grove, the first seen there in at least 10 years.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Migrants appeared in many areas May 3-5, although not until May 8-10 in the northernmost counties. During the first third of May Erickson commented on "many many migrants . . . sometimes . . . 30-40 in a day."

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Aside from wintering birds present in several southern counties March 1, Hendrick's observation April 2 in Lincoln county was the earliest of the season in a northern county, Mrs. John Brakefield's March 29 in Rock county the earliest overall. All other reports were later than these, with nearly a third of these being April 11. Most peaks were April 12-16, and by April 25 birds had left all but a few southern counties.

**Eastern Kingbird:** The first migrant was extremely early, April 17 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers); the next birds appeared in four widely scattered counties April 26-29. Birders noted arrivals in most areas May 2-3, although some northern observers saw none until up to a week later. Most peaks occurred May 20 and later.

**Western Kingbird:** Two reports: May 5 in Douglas county (Bernard); two birds at different spots in St. Croix county May 15, one seen also May 19 (Robbins).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Sætevit heard and saw well a very early arrival in Racine county April 22. After two other late April observations in southern Wisconsin, migrants straggled in from May 2 to May 10, with no easily discernible pattern of movement. Most peaks were May 13-17.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Birds found March 15 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers) and in Racine county (Dr. von Jarchow) were the first of the season. The next report came from Sauk county March 21 (Peartree), with no others until March 28-30, when birds arrived in three more counties. Another mild push occurred April 2-4, and for the next week some continued to filter into other parts of the state. There were quite a few arrivals April 11-12, reaching all but the northernmost counties, where birds appeared generally April 16-18. Pripps found none in Iron county for the second year in a row. Richter located a finished nest May 2 which nine days later contained one phoebe egg and two cowbird eggs (Oconto county). Most peaks were concentrated in the period April 26 to May 3.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Two May 8 observations are very early: Dane county (Soulen, heard and seen well) and Racine county (Weber). Eight of the twelve other arrival dates were May 15-18, with the remaining ones late in the month. Birds were present in six counties the last few days of the month. Peartree banded 12 in Waukesha county May 27-31.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Three in Racine county May 3 (Fiehweg) are extremely early (no details); noted also on the Racine May count. There were three other observations: Milwaukee county May 16 (Donald), Sauk county May 24 (Ashman), and Grant county May 30 (Barger).

**Traill's Flycatcher:** There were four undocumented reports April 30 to May 8, three more May 9-11. A very marked influx occurred May 16-17, reaching whatever northern counties reported this species. It is quite possible that some or all of the earlier birds were actually Least Flycatchers. Hilsenhoff's first Madison Traill's was May 16, and he had neither heard nor seen in usual nesting areas any suspicious Empidonax prior to that date; he also commented that the Least "appeared and peaked 2½ weeks earlier." All peaks for Traill's were May 21-26. At Cedar Grove about 15 birds were banded on each of the days May 22-24; only one bird was banded May 16, the first date on which this species appeared there (the Muellers).

**Least Flycatcher:** One banded at Cedar Grove April 27 (the Muellers); noted the next day in Milwaukee (Donald) and April 29 in Dane county (Hilsenhoff). Many birds arrived May 2-5, as far north as Lincoln county (Hendrick). By May 10 just about all sections of the state had reported this species. Although some northern peaks were later, all of the southern ones were May 5 and 16.

**Eastern Wood Pewee:** There were three fantastically early reports April 16-18 in northern counties, none of them supported by details, unfortunately. One such report we might easily disregard; three is another matter. After handling a great many of the smaller flycatchers during banding operations at Cedar Grove, Helmut Mueller has mentioned the fact that such normally trusted field characters as eye-rings and wing bars are subject to a great deal of variation; this fact might cast records of some of these species still further in doubt if they are based on sight alone. There was a trickle of birds into a few southern counties May 2-3. May 6 brought a few more. By May 8-12 quite a few observers had noted arrivals in the south, but the greatest influx occurred May 15-17 in all parts of the state.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Milwaukee county May 8 (Donald); seven other counties May 13-19; seven additional counties until the end of the month.

**Horned Lark:** Between March 10 and 20 there were three arrival dates and four peak dates. Further definite movement might be indicated by a departure and two peaks noted April 18-23.

**Swallow sp.:** The Muellers noted 1,100-1,400 daily May 5-7 at Cedar Grove.

**Tree Swallow:** Birds appeared in five counties April 6-7, as far north as Marinette (Lindberg) and Waupaca (Peterson, Rill). Many more arrivals April 11-12 penetrated most sections of the state.

**Bank Swallow:** An April 11 report from Lafayette county (Barger) was six days earlier than the next group, April 17-23, from 11 counties representing all but the northernmost part of the state. There were no further arrivals until May 2-6. Except for Hendrick's April 22 observation in Lincoln county, northern arrivals occurred May 10-15; there were relatively few reports from northern counties.

**Rough-winged Swallow:** First observations were April 9 in Racine county (Erickson) and April 14 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). Observers in nine other counties saw birds April 17-24. Quite a few arrivals were noted the first week in May. Not seen north of Brown, Kewaunee, and Waupaca counties in the east, although it reached Douglas county in the west.

**Barn Swallow:** Seen in five counties April 7-14, first in Racine county (Erickson). The majority of the arrival dates stretched from April 17 until the end of the month. The only far northern April reports were April 10 (Washburn county, Roy E. Johnson) and April 24 (Burnett county, Stone). Birds reached Lincoln, Bayfield, and Douglas counties May 2-7.

**Cliff Swallow:** There were two extremely early reports: Rock county April 15 (Frances Glenn, Bernice Andrews, Amy Gardner, the R. A. Dougans; one bird, seen very well at close range); Dane county April 17 (Alyea). Noted in Rock county also on April 20 (Brakesfield). There were two more April reports. Spread over the entire state by May 10.

**Purple Martin:** Seen March 24 in Dane county (Ashman) and at Cedar Grove (the Muellers); the next reports were April 3-7, then April 11 and thereafter. Birds reached Burnett (Stone) and Florence (Richter) counties April 12, other far northern counties April 15-18. The only peaks mentioned were four April 21-26, two more May 2.

Alfred S. Bradford says that in Vilas county "numbers have almost reached the vanishing point, at least in the township of St. Germain."

**Gray Jay:** Price county March 20 (Hilsenhoff); April 18 and in mid-May in Lincoln county (Hendrick); Florence county May 10 (Richter; see account of possible cannibalism in "By the Wayside"); Oneida county May 29, adults feeding 3 young that were out of the nest (Dahlstrand).

**Blue Jay:** Had returned to Lincoln county by April 4 (Hendrick) and Iron county April 10 (Pripps). Virtually all visible migration occurred April 25 to May 11, with the largest peaks being May 3, 5, and 7 at Cedar Grove (over 600 each date, the Muellers) and May 10 in Racine county (over 800, Weber).

**Common Raven:** The only observation south of the usual range was in Waupaca county March 3 and 7 (Peterson). Seen in 12 counties in all.

**Common Crow:** Arrived in numbers March 7 in Marinette and Oconto (Richter) and Douglas (Bernard) counties, with a peak the next day in Vernon county (V. Weber). Richter noted continued arrival in large numbers in Oconto county March 14. The Muellers saw 1,200 migrants at Cedar Grove March 16. Other peaks were March 17-25. Still migrating at Cedar Grove April 21 (the Muellers).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Three peaks April 23-26. Maxson noted only one all spring in Rock county.

**Boreal Chickadee:** Lincoln county April 16 (Hendrick).

**Tufted Titmouse:** This species appeared in three rather northern counties: Douglas April 9-11 (Bernard), Brown April 19 (Paulson), and St. Croix May 2 (Robbins).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Observed in 22 counties representing all sections of the state except the northeastern, where there are relatively few observers. Tessen mentions a good migration, with birds especially common May 1-10. Where birds had not wintered, migration probably began about the last week in April. Birds were still present in Outagamie county May 20 (Tessen).

**Brown-headed Nuthatch:** A May 1 observation in Rock county by Melva Maxson lacks some details and is purely hypothetical but remains a possibility. See her account in "By the Wayside."

**Brown Creeper:** Quite a few arrivals and peaks April 11-12, although this species had been seen in eight counties previous to these dates. Eighteen were banded at Cedar Grove April 12 (the Muellers). Richter observed a nest April 11 in Oconto county which was later washed out; a possible second attempt contained five eggs May 31. He observed a finished nest May 9 in Forest county.

**House Wren:** Noted April 21 in Dane county (Ashman), in eight other counties by the end of the month. Northern arrivals were May 3-10. Morse observed adults feeding young in Rock county June 1.

**Winter Wren:** Paul Krombholz and Steve Curtis first found one on Picnic Point in Madison April 6; the general push of birds into the state April 11 brought Winter Wrens to three counties, as far north as Kewaunee (Roy Lukes). There were five more reports in the following week. Erickson's observation May 3 in Sauk county is the latest in a southern county.

**Bewick's Wren:** Noted only in St. Croix May 13 (Robbins) and on the Grant county May count.

**Carolina Wren:** The only reports come from the Honey Creek area of Sauk county in mid-May (several observers).

**Long-billed Marsh Wren:** The three earliest observations were in Racine county April 23 (Weber), Brown county April 28 (Paulson), and Burnett county May 5 (Stone); not found elsewhere until May 9 and later. Birders noted this species in only 14 counties.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren:** Carter provides two dates from Horicon Marsh (March 18 and April 3) which would precede the previous record arrival date of April 15. The bird was heard and seen at a distance, but in the absence of documentation which could be possible only under ideal conditions of observations, this record had best be considered hypothetical. Noted in Brown county April 28 (Paulson), Horicon Marsh May 2 (Belzer), and Burnett county May 5 (Stone). The week beginning May 10 brought birds to most sections of the state.

**Mockingbird:** A banner year for these! No less than 12 birds were found in 10 counties, from April 18 in Dane county (zoology migration chart) until May 24 in

Columbia (Tessen) and Winnebago (Mrs. Fred W. Riddle) counties. Two rather northern observations were May 5 and 16 in Burnett county (Stone and many others) and May 17 in Marathon county (the David Bierbrauers).

**Catbird:** Arrived in eight counties in April, earliest in Dane county April 25 (Nicholls). Movement into northern counties was rather diffuse, reaching most reporting counties by May 10. May 2-3 was a period of very definite influx in southern and central counties. Peaks mentioned were rather spread out, from April 29 to May 20, with most in the period May 5-12. Richter found a nest containing four eggs in Oconto county May 29.

**Brown Thrasher:** A bird in Dane county March 27 might have wintered (Nicholls). First arrivals were April 11-12 in Racine (Weber) and Milwaukee (Donald) counties. Birds appeared next April 17-19 in eight more counties. The first central and northern arrivals were April 20-23, but observers in most northern areas found none until near the end of the first week of May. Most peaks were in the period May 2-5, although 6-11 birds were found on various dates on Picnic Point in Madison from April 17 to May 22 (Krombholz and Curtis), and a few observers noted peaks May 10.

**Robin:** A small influx occurred March 5-7, with just a few more reports until a very pronounced invasion of southern and a few central counties March 13-15. A few more days brought birds to several areas further north; although he had noticed birds present March 12 in Oconto county, Richter stated that they arrived in numbers there March 17. People found Robins in the northernmost counties by the period April 3-9. Peaks ranged from March 14-16 in several localities to April 11, also in several areas. These were the two main periods of movement; on the latter date the Muellers saw nearly 1,200 migrants at Cedar Grove.

**Wood Thrush:** Arrival dates of April 19 (Vernon county, V. Weber), April 25 (Marinette county, Lindberg), and April 26 (Jefferson county, Belzer) were verified, but there were no details in support of the reports. Found April 29 in Milwaukee county (Donald, also no details). Observers in all but the northernmost counties saw or heard birds May 2-5. By May 6 a few had reached the north country, but others did not arrive until May 16.

**Hermit Thrush:** March 11 (Waukesha county, Fuller) and March 14 (Racine county, Weber) birds very likely were wintering. Migrants appeared first in Milwaukee county April 6 (Donald) and then April 8 in Madison (Krombholz and Curtis) and at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). Quite a few birds arrived April 10-11, with observers all over the state noting birds by April 19. Most departures were April 24-27. Two were banded at Cedar Grove May 16 (the Muellers).

**Swainson's Thrush:** There are three well-supported mid-April observations, all April 16: Brown county (Erdman et al.), Dane county (Krombholz and Curtis), and Racine county (Stoffel). The next reports were April 27-29. Most birders in southern and central counties had noticed birds by May 5, but not until nearly mid-May could one say this species had spread over the entire state. There were several peak periods, each mentioned by 2-4 observers: May 5, 9-10, 16, and 19. Th Muellers banded 64 at Cedar Grove May 19.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** An April 19 report from Brown county (Erdman et al.) was undocumented. Weber carefully identified one in Racine county April 27. Quite a few birds appeared May 2-5, as far north as Kewaunee (Lukes) and St. Croix (Robbins) counties. Peaks: May 6, 16, and 19. On this latter date the Muellers banded 22 at Cedar Grove. Both this and the preceding species lingered in several southern counties until the end of May.

**Veery:** One in Kenosha county April 29 (Erickson). Many arrivals the first few days of May, reaching a few central counties. General arrival in the north occurred May 10 and after.

**Eastern Bluebird:** One report March 13 from Buffalo county (Krumm), two more March 15-16. The next birds appeared March 21-23, then none until the end of March, at which time Hendrick noted them in Lincoln county. April reports follow no pattern, except that most observers had seen birds by the middle of the month. Three peaks mentioned were April 14-19. There were more reports of scarcity than of abundance of this species. With the exception of Hilsenhoff, who felt numbers were up in the vicinity of Madison, the only other observers who felt they were doing well were reported from Shawano and Waupaca counties, where indeed this species has been holding its own rather well. At least six birders in southeastern counties felt numbers were very low.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The first birds appeared April 22 in Dane (Krombholz and Curtis) and Kewaunee (Lukes) counties. More arrived April 25-29. The Muellers found them very common at Cedar Grove this spring, although the species had not been seen there for several years.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Only five scattered March reports, first in Eau Claire county March 12 (Robbins). Some movement apparently occurred April 4-6. Birds left some areas, reached others April 11-12. Most observers noted departure by April 19, except for Robbins (St. Croix county April 28).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Found April 6 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers), then none until April 10-12, when birds appeared in 10 southern and central counties. Arrivals in far northern counties occurred April 16-18. Most peaks were April 20-23, although Weber noted 370 in Racine county April 25. Other peaks May 2-5, during which period the Muellers banded at least 35 at Cedar Grove. Maxson had banded 71 in Rock county by April 30.

**Water Pipit:** On March 28 Hilsenhoff had an opportunity to study a bird in Dane county for five minutes at a distance of 10 feet. This is as early as this species has ever appeared in Wisconsin. Lukes states that birds arrived in Kewaunee county April 9 (no details), with a peak there May 2, when he observed 15-20 sitting in shrubs (such "perches" are indeed unusual, but not unknown). Seen May 3 in Columbia county (Alyea), May 5-15 in St. Croix county (Robbins), and May 19 (Fiehweg) to May 31 (Weber) in Racine county, as late as pipits have ever lingered in the state.

**Cedar Waxwing:** The first migrants were noticed in Sheboygan county March 16 (Koopmann), with others appearing in several areas March 19-21. Other arrival dates were completely without pattern. First seen May 20 in Shawano county (Brother Jodocus Grider), May 30-31 in Bayfield (Kozlowski) and Douglas (Bernard) counties. Peaks April 7 (200) and May 6 (180) at Cedar Grove, May 5 in Waupaca county, and May 25-27 (500) in Waukesha county.

**Northern Shrike:** The only southern report was from Dane county March 20 (Hilsenhoff). Left Douglas, Oconto, and Shawano counties April 1-4.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** One banded at Cedar Grove April 11 (the Muellers). Four reports April 16-19, reaching central counties on both sides of the state. A nest with 6 eggs in Kenosha county (Ed Prins) and one in Waukesha county May 10 (Bielefeldt).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Dane county May 5-9 (Ashman, Krombholz and Curtis); Racine county May 8 (Weber); Cedar Grove May 10-19, four banded (the Muellers).

**Bell's Vireo:** Not seen or heard at all this spring in the University Arboretum in Madison, where they had nested (or at least summered) regularly for nearly 10 years. Noted elsewhere in Dane county May 16 (Barger) and May 30-31 (the Ohms). The Ohms saw a bird sitting and singing on a nest three feet off the ground. Robbins heard five birds on the hot afternoon of May 22 in Trempealeau county, the same place he found them in 1962 and 1963.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Arrived May 2 in Jefferson county (Sharp), spreading as far north as Bayfield county by May 6 (Kozlowski). Quite a few observers statewide noted none until May 10-15. "Especially scarce" in Dane county (Hilsenhoff).

**Solitary Vireo:** One banded at Cedar Grove April 28 (the Muellers). Many arrivals May 2-6. Reported only from 13 counties, all southern or central.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Appeared May 2 in Dane (Ashman) and Racine (Prins) counties, in seven more areas by May 6. No well-defined influx. Arrivals in far northern counties were primarily May 9-17. Peaks May 16, 18, 22, and 26.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** One bird in Racine county May 1 (Weber), in two other counties May 4-5. Next arrivals were May 10 and 15-18. Birds had reached Bayfield (Kozlowski) and Burnett (Stone) counties by May 10. Still at Cedar Grove May 28 (the Muellers).

**Warbling Vireo:** Three observers noted Dane county arrivals April 27. Birds appeared in a number of areas May 2-4, including some northern ones.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Brown county April 17 (Erdman, Talen, and Henkleman); Rock county April 20 (Maxson); seven counties April 27-29. Had reached Bayfield county May 2 (Kozlowski), but not other northern locales until May 10-16. Peaks May 5, 7, and 16, among others.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Noted in 9 counties, first in Dane May 2 (Narf). A Marquette county report May 16 (the Fred Shepherds) is interesting; apparently birds were found near Germania also in spring and summer 1963.



**Worm-eating Warbler:** Two dates, now constituting new arrival and departure records: one banded at Cedar Grove April 17 (the Muellers); one banded May 24 in the University Arboretum at Madison (Univ. zoology graduate students). Last year this summary stated that six were banded at Cedar Grove April 27-May 11; apparently one bird was trapped and banded six times during that period.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Dane county April 29 (Hilsenhoff); had reached several central counties by May 5. Northernmost locale reporting was Sawyer county at the end of May (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Seen in Dane county April 28 (Krombholz and Curtis) three days earlier than the record arrival date, not elsewhere until May 2. Noted as far north as Brown county in the east (Paulson, May 11) and St. Croix (May 15) and Dunn (May 17) counties in the west (Robbins).

**Brewster's Warbler:** There were only two observations of this hybrid: May 5 in Dane county (Ashman) and May 16 in Milwaukee county (Donald). The Dane county bird was four days earlier than the previous earliest arrival in the state.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Very early birds appeared in Dane county April 27 (Ashman, Krombholz and Curtis) and in Rock county April 29 (Maxson). Birds spread over the southern part of the state the first week in May, did not reach far northern areas until May 17. Peaks mentioned most often were May 5, 7, 10 and 16. Still in Dane county May 29 (Barger) and at Cedar Grove May 30 (the Muellers)..

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Appeared in Milwaukee county April 22 (Donald). Other arrivals were April 27-29, May 2. Reached a few northern counties May 10-14. Last noted at Cedar Grove (the Muellers) and in St. Croix county (Robbins) on May 19.

**Nashville Warbler:** Noted in Rock county April 26 (Maxson), in four other counties by April 29. Many arrivals May 2-3, as far north as Marathon county (Doty). Most far northern reports were May 10-16. Most birds had left southern counties by May 20; the only exception was a bird banded at Cedar Grove May 28 (the Muellers). Peaks were May 5, 7 and 16.

**Parula Warbler:** Reported from only 10 counties, earliest April 27, banded in Rock county (Maxson). Noted as late as May 23, also in Rock county (the Ohms).

**Yellow Warbler:** Fiehweg saw a bird in Racine county very well April 22. Appeared in eight counties April 26-30, as far north as Kewaunee (Lukes). Quite a few arrivals May 2-3. First dates in several central and northern counties suggest movement May 6, 10 and 13. There was no agreement on peak dates. Richter found three nests in Oconto county May 23, one unfinished, the others with few eggs; six days later he found five nests with an average of five eggs each.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Appeared in a number of counties May 2-3, quite a few more by May 5, including Bayfield (Kozlowski). Most movement in northern counties occurred May 10-14. More people mentioned May 16 as a peak date than any other, although they ranged May 3-17. One banded at Cedar Grove May 31 (the Muellers).

**Cape May Warbler:** Noted first May 1 in Dane county (Krombholz and Curtis), with quite a few more areas reporting within the next few days. Had reached some central counties May 6-7 but no northern counties until May 10-16. Most birds had departed by May 19, although Brakefield reports them as present in Vilas county at the end of the month.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Ten counties reporting, with most arrivals May 2-5 and most departures May 16-17.

**Myrtle Warbler:** The first report is from Dane county April 6 (Krombholz and Curtis). There were only four reports April 9-11, indicating that these birds did not accompany the flood of some other species which appeared at that time. A fair number of arrival dates cluster around April 15-19, including Oneida county (Freda Brunner fide Dahlstrand) and Lincoln county (Hendrick). Most northern observers first saw birds May 2-10. Birds had left all reporting areas by May 20. Peaks were not consistent, ranging from April 29 to May 11.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Ashman's April 26 observation in Dane county was followed by reports from three other areas in the last few days of the month. Most arrivals appeared to be May 2-3, as far north as Brown county (Erdman et al.). While birds were common in Forest county May 9 (Richter), they did not reach most northern areas until a week later. Had left most of the southern counties by mid-May, but one was still present in Dane county May 28 (Soulen).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Hilsenhoff's bird in Dane county April 30 (seen very well) was three days earlier than this species has arrived previously. Subsequent birds appeared in three additional counties May 3-5 and two more May 7-8; the only remaining reports were from four other counties May 15-17, including St. Croix (Robbins). Birds were present in five southern counties at the end of May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** There were many arrivals May 2-5, reaching Brown county (Erdman et al.). Most northern observers noted this species May 9-16. Still present May 29 in Dane county (Soulen).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Reported from 10 counties May 2-5. General penetration north began May 6 and continued for 10 days. Peaks May 5, 7, 9-10 and 15-16. Three males were singing in Maxson's woodlot in Rock county into June, and there were late May or June reports also from Sheboygan and Jefferson counties.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Appeared May 3 in three widely scattered counties from Green (Ashman) to Brown (Erdman et al.); next reports May 5-8, then May 10 and after, reaching Burnett county by this time (Stone). The only peak mentioned was May 16. One male in Dane county May 29 (Soulen).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** One very early report (no details) from Waukesha county April 28 (Peartree); one seen well in Dane county May 2 (Narf). Definite movement May 4-5, with relatively few other reports until May 15-17, when birds had reached most parts of the state. Many departures May 16-20, with end-of-month observations only in Dane county (many observers) and at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). Most peaks May 16-19, with one each May 13 and 22.

**Pine Warbler:** Noted from April 21 (Dane county, Krombholz and Curtis) until May 19 (Racine county, Erickson), with intervening observations in six more counties.

**Prairie Warbler:** Erdman and Henkleman provide an excellent account of a bird seen well for 10-15 minutes in Brown county May 6; they noted the eye and cheek marks, yellow breast with black stripes restricted to the sides, and generally olive black. The Muellers saw one just eight feet from their banding station at Cedar Grove May 8; while watching it for several minutes, they tried unsuccessfully to drive it into a mist net. This is the first Prairie Warbler ever seen at Cedar Grove.

**Palm Warbler:** One in Racine county April 24 (Weber). Quite a few birds appeared April 26-30, with the next batch May 2-5 reaching some central counties. Northern arrivals were diffused. Last seen May 23, in Brown county (Erdman et al.). Peaks ranged from April 27 to May 13.

**Ovenbird:** Observed April 28 in St. Croix county (Robbins), in three other areas the next day. The next reports were May 2-5, reaching Iron (Pripps) and Oconto (Richter) counties. By May 9-10 this species had completely blanketed the state. Peaks May 5, 10 and 15-17.

**Northern Waterthrush:** A bird which Hilsenhoff saw in Dane county April 18 is the earliest; he couldn't see the throat (which some believe may not serve as a reliable field mark anyway), but its sides and eye line were strongly yellow. Noted in Milwaukee county the next day (Donald). There were a fair number of other reports the last seven days in April. Penetration of central and northern counties took from April 27 to May 9-10. Peaks April 28 to May 16. A nest found in Oconto county May 31 contained two eggs, one of them a Cowbird's (Richter). One in Dane county as late as May 28. (Soulen) is unusual.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Peartree observed this species at its breeding grounds at Honey Creek in Sauk county April 18. One in Racine county April 22 (Fiehweg). Several observations April 27, including St. Croix county (Robbins) and Cedar Grove (the Muellers). The Cedar Grove bird is the first banded there in over 900 waterthrushes!

**Kentucky Warbler:** Seven reports May 8-17 from different counties, including the first ever recorded at Cedar Grove (the Muellers).

**Connecticut Warbler:** There were two very early reports, from Dane county May 5 (Narf, seen well) and Racine county May 7 (Erickson). Observers in four more counties encountered birds May 10-12. All other observations were May 19 and later. Still present May 31 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers) and in Outagamie county (Tessen).

**Mourning Warbler:** Seen in Dane county May 4-5 (Ashman, Curtis) and at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). There were a few more reports the next few days. Reached Burnett county by May 10 (Stone). Six arrivals May 14-16. The only peak reported

was May 26 at Cedar Grove, when six were banded (the Muellers). Richter found a nest in Oconto county May 31 which contained five eggs.

**Yellowthroat:** One was seen well in Rock county April 25 (Glenn et al.). Birds appeared in four other southern counties April 28-30, most remaining southern and some central counties May 2-5, most northern areas by May 10. Most peaks were May 5-13.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Outagamie county May 3, two birds (Tessen); Sheboygan county May 4-25, eight banded (the Muellers); Racine county May 5-16 (several observers); Waukesha county May 10, one banded (Peartree; Nellis Smith banded five nearby); St. Croix county May 16 (Robbins; also noted here 1961 and 1963); Dane county May 30-31 (the Ohms).

**Hooded Warbler:** Present in Madison April 26 (Ashman) until May 29 (Soulen), likely at least two males in widely separated localities; one banded at Cedar Grove May 7 was the first ever recorded there (the Muellers); Manitowoc county May 9 (Merle Pickett, David Nedveck and 5 others); Waukesha county May 10 (Fuller); Racine county May 16 (Erickson). Also noted near Wausau during May count period (Bierbrauer).

**Wilson's Warbler:** Ashman's April 30 observation in Dane county was a day earlier than this species previously has appeared in spring. Other arrival dates were not concentrated during any particular period, although birds advanced northward during the first 10 days of May. Weber saw 63 in Racine county May 10; other peaks were May 14 and 16. Two banded at Cedar Grove May 31 (the Muellers).

**Canada Warbler:** Noted by three observers in Dane county May 2 (two birds, seen very well). Observations May 5 in Brown county (Erdman et al.) and May 6 in Milwaukee county (Donald) are also rather early. May 9-10 saw a dramatic penetration of this species into all parts of the state. Peaks May 14, 22-23. Most departures occurred by May 21, although Peartree reports them present May 31 in Waukesha county.

**American Redstart:** Appeared April 29 in Dane county (Hilsenhoff), in all but the northernmost counties May 2-5, where they had arrived by May 9-10. Peaks were May 5, 15-17 and 19. Krombholz and Curtis noted that breeding birds were present on Picnic Point in full strength by May 7 (Dane county). Richter found a nest containing four eggs in Oconto county May 31.

**Bobolink:** There were several scattered reports the last week of April, the earliest April 22 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers). By May 10 few observers had missed birds of this species.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** The first reports (March 11) come from Marinette county (Lindberg) and Rock county (Mahlum). By March 14-16 birds had appeared in all but some western and far northern counties. Arrival dates indicate further migration March 20-23, not again until April, when the period April 11-19 brought birds to nearly all remaining sections of the state. The Muellers report migrants as late as May 19 at Cedar Grove.

**Western Meadowlark:** St. Croix county March 8 (Robbins); Rock county March 11 (several observers); quite a few other areas March 14-15, and Burnett (Stone) and Shawano (Brother Jodocus Grider) counties March 18. Observers in most other parts of the state had noted birds by about mid-April.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** This year birds arrived first April 15 in Winnebago county (Hilsenhoff), in several other areas within the next few days. Noted in 16 counties in all, including Marathon (Wausau May count; second time observed here), Marinette (Lindberg; 20 pairs, a few more than last year), Wood, and four counties in the far northwestern part of the state. None in a swamp (now dry) in Racine county (Erickson), consequently no birds in the county. The Dryers found none in a spot where they had nested since 1955, although they did find a small colony in another area of Columbia county.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** There were a few reports before March 10-16, the period during which birds appeared in practically all parts of the state. Observers in several far northern counties noted none until April 9, however. Krombholz noted the first females in the Picnic Point marsh in Madison on April 4. Kozlowski reported the first Bayfield county males April 9, females April 28. Peaks were March 14-15, 30 (42,000 in Kenosha county; Weber), April 4, three April 10-13, and May 16 (3,800 at Cedar Grove, where migrants were still present May 19; the Muellers).

**Orchard Oriole:** May 10 in Columbia (the Dryers) and Rock (the Ohms) counties; May 13 in Buffalo county, an immature male (Krumm); May 16-27 in St. Croix county (Robbins); also on a Sheboygan May count (Koopmann).

**Baltimore Oriole:** One bird appeared on Picnic Point in Madison April 22; within the next week there was a big increase here, and at times one could see as many as 10-15 on a single branch at once! The period April 26-28 brought birds to many areas, and by May 5 practically all observers had noted arrivals. Nearly all peaks were May 3-10. Erickson observed "quite a few more than last year's low" in Racine county, and the Dryers found them "in good supply" in Columbia county. The Wausau May count uncovered 154 birds.

**Blackbird sp.:** The Muellers report the following peaks at Cedar Grove: March 23 (2,500), April 7 (22,000), and April 9 (12,000).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Most arrival dates were March 14-21, although Weber saw birds in Kenosha county March 7, and a few northern observers noted none until April 12-18. Bradford found a rather late bird in Outagamie county May 3; he had a "good view of it."

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Appeared March 18 in Jefferson (Sharp) and Rock (Glenn et al.) counties, in a few more areas later in the month. First northern report was April 7 in Lincoln county (Hendrick), with most remaining arrivals April 16-19. Richter found three nests containing an average of four eggs in Marinette county May 16. Birds were found in most northern and some western May counts, although they were not restricted to these areas.

**Common Grackle:** Just a few March 6-7, many March 10-14, principally in southern and a few central counties. Slight further movement March 25-29, with primary penetration into northern areas April 4, 7 and 11. Peaks March 16 in the south, in April in the north.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Appeared March 14 in several counties. Some movement may have occurred March 27-28. Next arrivals April 5, 9 and 11, the latter date being mentioned by many observers. Northern birds appeared mostly April 15-19. Most peaks mentioned were the last week in April. The Muellers saw over a hundred birds migrating at Cedar Grove as late as May 7.

**Scarlet Tanager:** April 26 and 27 birds in Rock (Maxson) and Vernon (V. Weber) counties are earlier than the previous April 30 record arrival date. Subsequent birds appeared in rather well-defined intervals; May 2-6, 10-11, 14-16 (remaining central counties), and 25-30 (most northern counties). Three peaks May 16.

**Cardinal:** Noted May 4 in Iron county, the "first seen in this area" (Pripps).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Seen in six counties April 21-18, including Douglas (Bernard). Birds had reached all but a few far northern areas by May 10. Peaks primarily May 3-5 and 9, also May 7, 16 and later. A total of 178 seen on the Wausau May count.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Brother Daniel Poliski of Pulaski saw a pair May 11 at close range. His account is in "By the Wayside."

**Indigo Bunting:** Noted first April 27 in Madison (Krombholz and Curtis), next April 30 in Rock county (Mahlum). May 2-6 saw the arrival of birds in many areas, including some central counties. The spread of this species into northern counties was gradual; Kozlowski saw none in Bayfield county until May 25.

**Dickcissel:** Very early birds in Rock county May 2 (Mahlum) and in Waukesha county May 3 (Bielefeldt). A few more arrived May 15-18 in three additional counties. Many arrivals May 22-31 were the beginning of the largest invasion many observers had ever seen.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Seen in 28 counties in all sections of the state. Migrants peaked March 16, 28 and April 18 at Cedar Grove with migrants still noted there May 17 (the Muellers). Birds left many areas April 11-27, others lingering until mid-May, with the last reports May 24 in Bayfield (Kozlowski) and Douglas (Bernard) counties.

**Purple Finch:** Some movement occurred March 17-22, April 9-12 and 21, late April to May 5; based on various arrival, departure, and peak dates. Latest southern report was May 18 in Dane county (Soulen).



**Pine Grosbeak:** Richter's March birds in Oconto county were the tail end of one of his "best winters . . . in many years" for this species. Hilsenhoff reports them in Marinette county March 31.

**Hoary Redpoll:** Alyea had a most unusual opportunity to study one of these creatures among several hundred Common Redpolls on the ground at close range in good light a number of times March 31 in Forest county.

**Common Redpoll:** Reports from 16 counties were mostly in March; the last of four April (northern) observations was April 25 in Douglas county (Bernard). Lindberg commented on a "good flight" in Marinette county.

**Pine Siskin:** A few scattered March and April reports. The principal May migration occurred from the 2nd to the 17th; the only observation later than this was May 30 in Douglas county (Bernard).

**American Goldfinch:** Pronounced movement of this species was noted in several localities March 22-28. April 14-17 brought observations from some additional areas. Yet further migration was evident May 3-6.

**Red Crossbill:** Noted in Dane, Milwaukee, and Waukesha counties in the south and Bayfield and Washburn counties in the north and as late as May 12 (Bayfield county, Kozlowski).

**White-winged Crossbill:** March reports from two counties: Dane (Krombholz, Nichols) and Waukesha (Roberta Downey).

**Green-tailed Towhee:** Bob Garber saw and photographed one of these in Pierce county May 10, providing Wisconsin with its first spring record. "By the Wayside" includes all the details.

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** Three March observations. Brown county March 19 (Erdman et al.); Sheboygan county March 21 (Koopmann); Rock county March 27 (Brakefield). Most April arrivals were April 15-19, although birds drifted into various areas throughout the month. All northern first dates were in May. Three peaks May 1-2.

**Lark Bunting:** A bird present at the Rock county feeder of Mrs. E. M. Rumpf since December 17 changed into identifiable plumage during the spring months, and good photographs of it by several people establish this as a bona fide Wisconsin species. The bird remained until May 20. Mrs. Rumpf tells the story in "By the Wayside."

**Savannah Sparrow:** There were two reports March 19, as early as these sparrows have ever appeared here: Brown county (Erdman et al.; no details) and Waukesha county, banded (Art and Lucy Gauerke). The next birds arrived April 11, and during the following week this species reached even some northern areas. The last fairly well marked period of movement was April 26-28.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** St. Croix county April 24 (Robbins); Vernon county April 29 (V. Weber). A few further observations the first week in May, others not until May 17 and after. There were none observed in northern counties.

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Two were seen and heard in St. Croix county May 15 (Robbins).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Waukesha county April 19 (Bielefeldt); St. Croix county April 27 (Robbins). Three early May observations, including Oconto county (Richter). All others May 16-23. Brown, Marathon, and Pierce were the only non-southern counties reporting.

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Robbins saw one at 40 feet in St. Croix county May 19.

**Vesper Sparrow:** A few were sighted April 5-6, and many appeared April 9-12, reaching some northern areas. Observers in most other sections of the state had seen birds within the next week.

**Lark Sparrow:** Dane county from May 6 on (Ashman and several others); Pierce county May 11, two at Prescott (Robbins); Rock county May 18 (the Ohms).

**Slate-colored Junco:** Some movement occurred through the latter half of March; but the most pronounced periods of migration were: April 8-9, when birds reached the northwestern corner of the state; April 11-15, when there were several peaks noted and



when other far northern observers noted arrivals; and April 19-28, when birds left most areas. There were May reports from 10 counties, the last May 9-10.

**Oregon Junco:** Eleven counties reporting, last from Bayfield county May 1 (Kozlowski).

**Tree Sparrow:** Most returns to northern counties were April 11-18, although Stone (Burnett county) and Richter (Oconto county) saw birds in late March. Almost all departures were April 18-28. Noted May 2-3 at Cedar Grove (the Muellers; one banded) and in Brown county (Paulson).

**Chipping Sparrow:** There were two exceptionally late March dates: Waupaca county March 26, one seen at a feeder with Tree Sparrows (Peterson); Waukesha county March 27 (Fuller; no details). A mild influx April 10-12 pushed birds as far as Forest county (Richter) and Iron county (Pripps). Many more birds arrived April 16-24, with the last stragglers appearing May 2-3.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Found April 22 in Rock county (Maxson), April 23 in Brown county (Paulson), and the next day in St. Croix county (Robbins). Two more reports April 28. May observations were from 13 additional counties representing most sections of the state.

**Field Sparrow:** It is possible that a March 16 Rock county bird (Maxson) wintered, but six birds in Kenosha county March 22 (Weber) would be difficult to explain on this basis. Six observers reported arrivals from March 26 to April 3. A few more birds April 9 preceded a rather widespread influx April 11-12 which reached all reporting central counties. The few birds noted in far northern counties had arrived by the following week.

**Harris' Sparrow:** Noted in these counties May 5-7: Dane (many observers), Rock (Brakefield), St. Croix (Robbins), and Vernon (V. Weber). Bernard reports in from Douglas county May 10-14.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Appeared in Rock county April 24 (Maxson), and in four other counties (some central) by the end of the month. The period May 2-5 brought birds to a number of other areas, as far north as Bayfield county (Kozlowski). All peaks were May 3-7 (except May 16 at Cedar Grove, when 11 were banded; the Muellers). Hilsenhoff counted 40 in Madison May 5, while Lindberg noted few in Marinette county. Most departures were May 15-18, with a few later, the last a bird banded at Cedar Grove May 30 (the Muellers).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** Janet Kozlowski of Bayfield county had a repeat of last year's experience of hearing and not being able to see a possible Golden-crowned Sparrow (see 1963 **Passenger Pigeon** 158-9). A bird singing a typical Golden-crowned song (Mrs. Kozlowski is familiar with the species from several years residence in Alaska) was heard in "typical habitat" from May 15 to June 2 by at least four observers. White-throated Sparrows also were present in this particular area, but none of the four or five variations in their songs were close to the pattern of the mystery bird. (We cannot exclude the possibility of an extremely aberrant White-throat song, however). Some of Mrs. Kozlowski's comments on the song were that the White-throat song is "querulous" and more "quavering and slow in delivery. In contrast, the whistle of the Golden-crowned is plaintive, deliberate, and clear . . . the delivery is faster . . . there is less interval of time between songs." We should mention an interesting paper which appeared in **Science**, Vol. 146, pp. 941-2 (issue of November 13, 1964), by L. Richard Mewaldt of San Jose State College in California. Dr. Mewaldt has been studying the return of the three *Zonotrichia* sparrow species to their winter home at San Jose in the season after they had been displaced in winter 1961-62 to Baton Rouge, La., and in winter 1962-63 to Laurel, Md. He presumes that in the spring migration following the winter of displacement, birds go to their ancestral breeding ground in Alaska and northwestern Canada, then winter again in the San Jose area. Evidence for movement from Laurel to the normal breeding area during regular spring migration came when a Golden-crowned which had been displaced to Laurel was recovered by chance on May 13, 1963, at a point in Ontario almost on a direct line from Laurel to the breeding ground. This date is 8 days after Mrs. Kozlowski first heard her bird last year. The Ashland-Bayfield county part of Wisconsin is similarly almost on this direct line. Whether Dr. Mewaldt's study in any way accounts for Mrs. Kozlowski's bird will have to await some means of conclusive identification, but it certainly seems

possible that her bird could be one of the displaced ones. (His study showed, incidentally, that considerable homing occurred with birds displaced once and to an even greater extent with birds displaced twice.) In the event of a future appearance of this bird, perhaps someone with a portable tape recorder could entice the bird into the open (it remains in an impossible alder tangle) with a pre-recorded Golden-crowned Sparrow song transcribed from the Peterson **Field Guide to Western Bird Songs** record (Houghton-Mifflin) or with an on-the-spot recording of its own song.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Early migrants April 12 in Outagamie county (Tessen) and April 13 in Bayfield county (Kozlowski) were a few days ahead of a barrage of arrivals April 16-19 and 21-25. Three peaks April 25-27, five May 2-5. Many departures by mid-May or shortly thereafter. Still in Dane (Krombholz and Curtis) and St. Croix (Robbins) counties May 27-28. Richter found three recently hatched young and two piped eggs in Oconto county May 31.

**Fox Sparrow:** Noted March 13 in Dane county (Krombholz and Curtis) and in two more counties within the next five days. The last five days of March brought birds to nine more counties, including central ones. The period April 11-18 saw the remaining arrivals, virtually all peaks, and many departures. Nearly all other departure dates were within the next week. There were May 2 reports from Marinette (Lindberg) and Winnebago (Tessen) counties.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** An April 18 report from Jefferson county (Sharp; no details) is very early. Noted April 24 in Kewaunee (Lukes) and Racine (Weber) counties. Virtually all other arrivals were May 2-5, with departures May 10-19 except for Dane county (May 24; Krombholz and Curtis) and Cedar Grove (May 26, one banded; the Muellers).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Present in Dane county March 15 (Krombholz and Curtis; wintering?). Hilsenhoff counted 23 in Dane county March 28, where he normally does not observe this species in numbers until mid-April. A few more arrivals April 6-10, no more until April 15-19, the major period of movement, during which birds reached some northern counties. The last arrivals were April 26-28.

**Song Sparrow:** After scattered early March observations, a fair number of new birds appeared March 11-15. Some movement may have occurred for a few days beginning March 18, but the next major influx was March 23-26. A few northern observers noted birds April 4, but most of them not until April 11. Most peaks were April 10-19.

**Lapland Longspur:** Noted in 10 counties, mainly from March 14 through May 9. Still present the last few days of May in Brown county (Paulson) and in Douglas county (Bernard; 53 birds).

**Snow Bunting:** Birds had left all southern counties by the end of March (except Washington, where one was seen and photographed April 17-23; Mrs. Earl Schmidt), most other areas by the end of April. A bird in breeding plumage on the beach near Green Bay May 17 was seen at close range for some time (nice supporting details) by Erdman, Talen, and Henkleman; it was a day later than this species has ever lingered in spring.



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