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The Passenger Pigeon



Fall, 1986 — Volume 48, No. 3



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The WSO Board Meetings are usually a mixture of many feelings with accomplishment and success on one end and frustration and delay on the other. The October 18 meeting in Stevens Point had the typical range of feelings but included some surprises that are often (thankfully) absent.

All the WSO committees give an update of their activities at these meetings. One of the last committees reporting was the Field Trips, chaired by Ed Peartree. Following a short discussion of the upcoming Harrington Beach Hawk Trip, Ed announced his resignation from the Board. Ed attended his first Board meeting in January 1957 and thus has completed 30 years of service to the WSO as Field Trips Chairman. He has missed only a couple of meetings during this time. He also served as President in 1961-62. It is only through dedicated efforts such as Ed's that the WSO is today a successful organization that will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. I'm sure that I share with all Ed's friends and WSO members in issuing a heartfelt THANKS ED. As if this announcement wasn't enough, other Board members came to the meeting with stories of the loss of loved ones, mending broken bones, impending surgery, and assorted illnesses. Let's hope these unwelcome feelings are absent at the January 24 meeting. By the way, all WSO members are welcome at Board meetings. If you have any suggestions for a new WSO field trip chair or wish to share your thoughts on the future of this important WSO activity, please call or drop me a line.

One of the most exciting items discussed at the meeting was an announcement by Stan Temple, Research Committee Chair, that the University of Wisconsin Press will be publishing the results of the checklist project. I'm sure that all of you are aware of this activity, which was started in 1982, that involves the analysis of weekly checklist records from birdwatchers around the state. The Summer issue of the *Passenger Pigeon* examined geographic distributions and patterns of the relative abundance of Wisconsin birds. One of the most interesting aspects of these data is that the checklist results can be compared with other independent indicators of geographic distribution and relative abundance such as Christmas Bird Counts and the Sandhill Crane count.

The new book, which will provide accounts for 265 species, will include range maps and seasonal relative abundance information for northern and southern Wisconsin. The best news is that we shouldn't have to wait for years for the publication to appear. It should be ready in mid-1987 and will be available from the Supply Department.

Another report on bird population trends is hot off the press. This publication covers the first 15 years (1965-79) of the breeding bird survey. This survey, coordinated in Wisconsin since its inception by Sam Robbins, has depended entirely upon volunteers, almost 100 in Wisconsin alone. Results from the Wisconsin road routes have been periodically reported in the *Pigeon* by Sam. It's nice to see population trends analyzed nationally - almost 230 bird species are discussed and graphed in the report. As the report's abstract states, "We now have established a firm base for detecting future trends of the great majority of North American species. Over the next decade the continued compilation and analysis of comparable data will enable the detection of cyclic changes, the separation of continuing, long-term trends from temporary ones, and the measurement of effects of changing land use on avian populations both here and on the tropical wintering grounds of these insectivorous migrants." Copies of the publication (Resource Publication 157) may be obtained from the Publications Unit, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240.

Noel J. Cutright

Bird Migration Records for the Baraboo Hills, Wisconsin, 1966-1985

By Kenneth I. Lange

From the first returning Canada Geese and American Kestrels in February to the last cuckoos in late spring, and from the early migrants of summer to the last diving ducks in early winter, a multitude of birds move into and through the upper midwest each year. This paper is a description of these movements for the period, 1966-1985, for one area in Wisconsin, the Baraboo Hills.

The Baraboo Range, usually called the Baraboo Hills or Baraboo Bluffs, or just the Bluffs, is a major landform in Sauk and Columbia Counties (Figure 1). This outcrop, actually a syncline, consists of an elliptical ring of quartzite rock which extends for a west-east distance of 25 miles between Rock Springs and Cascade Mountain and encloses a canoe-shaped valley, the Baraboo Valley, with a north-south distance averaging approximately 5 miles. Greatest relief is attained at mountainous Devil's Lake, where bluffs with associated talus slopes rise 500 feet above the water (Figure 2). Included within these ancient hills are such well known spots as Devil's Lake State Park, Parfrey's Glen, Durward's Glen, Baxter's Hollow and Klondike, Natural Bridge State Park, Pine Hollow near Denzer and Hemlock Draw near Leland, and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology's Honey Creek Valley. Mossman and Lange (1982) review the geography, geology, and vegetation of this area.

The earliest published migration records (spring arrival dates) for Wisconsin appear to be from the 1880s (Cooke, 1888; Grundtvig, 1895; Willard, 1885). Spring arrival dates for various Wisconsin localities, including Baraboo, are listed in the Wisconsin Arbor and Bird Day Annual, 1908-1915. Schorger (1929, 1931) and Anderson, Jr. (1941) list migration dates for Dane County and vicinity, Leopold and Jones (1947) include spring arrival dates for birds in their phenological record, Bernard (1967) includes occurrence charts in his paper, and Mossman and Lange (1982) include arrival and departure dates in their study. For migration in the entire state, see Barger, Lound, and Robbins, Jr. (1975).

Tables 1-5 detail the migration records for the 20-year period of this study, based on daily coverage in the spring and less than daily but still regular coverage in the fall. Records from other observers (see the Acknowledgements) were also used. Only those species found for at least 4 years were included in the Tables. Certain species were excluded for other reasons, e.g. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and Mourning Dove and Song Sparrow, for which it was difficult to distinguish migrants from overwintering individuals, and the Brown Creeper (in fall), for which it was difficult to determine the last migrants.

The majority of records were from Devil's Lake State Park; other places in the Bluffs were covered only secondarily. Some of these places may differ markedly from the park, but detailed comparisons were not possible.

It has been argued that weather has little to do with the time of arrival of migratory birds, the assumption being that birds will depart if they are physiologically prepared to do so, regardless of the weather. Modern studies indicate that this may well be true, but weather does modify migration by controlling the advance of the seasons, as well as by aiding or impeding flight (Welty, 1982:569).



Figure 1. The Baraboo Hills, as outlined on the General Geological Map of Wisconsin, 1881. “Ablemans” is now Rock Springs, and “Kilbourn City” is now Wisconsin Dells. Devil’s Lake is just to the right of the letter, K, in the word, SAUK (for Sauk County).



Figure 2. An aerial view of Devil’s Lake, looking west. The lake is approximately a mile long and a half-mile wide. The north shore is to the upper right, the south shore is left center. The south bluff is on the far left, the east bluff is right center, and the west bluff is in the distance.

Table 1. Arrivals of summer residents, Baraboo Hills, 1966-1985

Species	No. Years	Median Date	Range
American Kestrel	15	Feb. 25	16 FE-15 MR
American Robin	19	March 7	20 FE-17 MR
Red-winged Blackbird	14	10	18 FE-17 MR
Killdeer	13	11	23 FE-17 MR
Common Grackle	19	11	15 FE-21 MR
American Woodcock	20	16	4 MR-28 MR
Eastern Bluebird	13	17	22 FE-25 MR
Eastern Meadowlark	8	18	2 MR-26 MR
Turkey Vulture	17	20	4 MR-30 MR
Sandhill Crane	10	20	4 MR-28 MR
Mallard	9	21	11 MR- 3 AP
Great Blue Heron	5	27	18 MR-14 AP
Eastern Phoebe	19	27	20 MR- 8 AP
Wood Duck	9	30	21 MR-14 AP
Brown Creeper	13	April 3	13 MR-15 AP
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	4	21 FE-17 AP
Winter Wren	18	5	24 MR-14 AP
Tree Swallow	11	7	30 MR-13 AP
Field Sparrow	18	8	17 MR-23 AP
Belted Kingfisher	18	9	18 MR-25 AP
Blue-winged Teal	10	12	24 MR-16 AP
Vesper Sparrow	11	12	30 MR-17 AP
Rufous-sided Towhee	15	15	31 MR-21 AP
Louisiana Waterthrush	19	16	11 AP-30 AP
Chipping Sparrow	20	17	5 AP-27 AP

Table 1. Continued

Species	No. Years	Median Date	Range
Broad-winged Hawk	20	20	12 AP-29 AP
Swamp Sparrow	11	20	19 MR-28 AP
Brown Thrasher	19	21	4 AP- 2 MY
Whip-poor-will	15	24	12 AP-10 MY
House Wren	18	24	17 AP- 3 MY
Barn Swallow	12	25	19 AP- 1 MY
Sora	8	27	11 AP- 1 MY
Chimney Swift	17	27	17 AP- 6 MY
Spotted Sandpiper	20	30	22 AP- 9 MY
Red-breasted Nuthatch	16	30	2 AP-15 MY
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20	30	14 AP-11 MY
Black-and-White Warbler	20	30	18 AP- 5 MY
Green-backed Heron	16	May 2	24 AP-16 MY
Nashville Warbler	20	2	22 AP-12 MY
Gray Catbird	20	3	15 AP-10 MY
Yellow Warbler	17	3	22 AP-10 MY
Black-throated Green Warbler	20	3	10 AP- 9 MY
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	19	3	23 AP- 9 MY
Henslow's Sparrow	7	3	21 AP-17 MY
Least Flycatcher	20	4	27 AP-10 MY
Wood Thrush	20	4	30 AP-13 MY
Ovenbird	20	4	27 AP- 8 MY
Bobolink	8	4	28 AP-10 MY
Northern Oriole	19	4	22 AP- 9 MY

Table 1. Continued

Species	No. Years	Median Date	Range
Yellow-throated Vireo	20	5	23 AP-12 MY
Warbling Vireo	20	5	29 AP-12 MY
Common Yellowthroat	18	5	22 AP-15 MY
Great Crested Flycatcher	20	6	30 AP-13 MY
Blue-winged Warbler	19	6	26 AP-12 MY
Cerulean Warbler	18	6	29 AP-17 MY
Veery	18	8	28 AP-17 MY
Chestnut-sided Warbler	20	9	4 MY-15 MY
Blackburnian Warbler	20	9	29 AP-18 MY
Scarlet Tanager	20	9	29 AP-16 MY
Common Nighthawk	16	10	17 AP-21 MY
Eastern Kingbird	18	10	28 AP-19 MY
Golden-winged Warbler	20	10	26 AP-19 MY
Indigo Bunting	19	10	28 AP-18 MY
Magnolia Warbler	20	11	29 AP-17 MY
American Redstart	20	11	2 MY-19 MY
Red-eyed Vireo	20	12	1 MY-21 MY
Canada Warbler	20	12	30 AP-18 MY
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15	14	18 AP-27 MY
Eastern Wood-Pewee	20	15	1 MY-20 MY
Acadian Flycatcher	17	17	9 MY-24 MY
Mourning Warbler	20	18	8 MY-30 MY
Black-billed Cuckoo	17	19	6 MY- 5 JE
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	20	13 MY- 5 JE

Table 2. Departures of summer residents, Baraboo Hills, 1966-1985

Species	No. Years	Median Date	Range
Eastern Kingbird	9	Aug. 29	22 AU- 6 SE
Bobolink	4	29	20 AU- 2 SE
Yellow Warbler	4	30	16 AU- 5 SE
Northern Oriole	16	Sep. 2	23 AU-23 SE
Blue-winged Warbler	11	3	26 AU-17 SE
Canada Warbler	11	4	24 AU-27 SE
Whip-poor-will	7	5	23 AU-16 OC
Golden-winged Warbler	13	5	26 AU-29 SE
Mourning Warbler	6	5	25 AU-23 SE
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	6	30 AU-25 SE
Veery	7	6	2 SE- 8 OC
Warbling Vireo	19	6	23 AU-30 SE
Great Crested Flycatcher	16	7	31 AU- 7 OC
Barn Swallow	14	8	3 SE-26 SE
Common Nighthawk	17	12	3 SE-10 OC
Green-backed Heron	9	13	25 AU- 1 OC
Cerulean Warbler	5	15	23 AU-30 SE
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7	17	24 AU-27 SE
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	16	18	2 SE-15 OC
Blackburnian Warbler	16	18	21 AU-11 OC
Louisiana Waterthrush	11	19	5 SE-14 OC
Least Flycatcher	15	20	2 SE- 2 OC
Yellow-throated Vireo	19	22	3 SE- 8 OC
Ovenbird	13	22	2 SE-25 OC
Wood Thrush	13	23	2 SE-14 OC
Indigo Bunting	7	23	19 SE-30 SE
Broad-winged Hawk	17	25	18 SE-13 OC
Eastern Wood-Pewee	20	25	5 SE-30 OC
Scarlet Tanager	16	26	2 SE- 4 OC

Table 2. Continued

Species	No. Years	Median Date	Range
Chestnut-sided Warbler	19	27	1 SE- 5 OC
House Wren	18	28	12 SE-13 OC
Black-and-White Warbler	16	28	2 SE-13 OC
Spotted Sandpiper	18	29	10 SE- 4 NO
American Woodcock	10	29	18 SE-24 OC
Red-eyed Vireo	19	29	6 SE-16 OC
Common Yellowthroat	18	29	8 SE-14 OC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	18	29	16 SE-20 OC
Chimney Swift	18	30	5 SE- 7 OC
Magnolia Warbler	19	30	21 SE-24 OC
Black-throated Green Warbler	19	30	1 SE-11 OC
American Redstart	18	30	3 SE-17 OC
Nashville Warbler	20	Oct. 2	20 SE-21 OC
Wood Duck	19	3	4 SE- 6 DE
Gray Catbird	19	4	27 SE-24 OC
Brown Thrasher	15	4	20 SE- 8 NO
Chipping Sparrow	10	4	18 SE- 3 NO
Great Blue Heron	6	5	25 SE-15 OC
Tree Swallow	15	7	11 SE-19 OC
Eastern Meadowlark	8	8	4 OC-19 OC
Vesper Sparrow	7	9	30 SE-20 OC
Eastern Phoebe	20	10	28 SE-28 OC
Blue-winged Teal	20	11	18 SE- 5 NO
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	11	30 SE-18 NO
American Kestrel	5	13	19 SE-13 NO
Rufous-sided Towhee	20	13	30 SE- 4 NO
Field Sparrow	13	13	3 OC-25 OC
Swamp Sparrow	14	16	20 SE-10 NO
Belted Kingfisher	18	18	30 SE- 6 DE

Table 2. Continued

Species	No. Years	Median Date	Range
Turkey Vulture	18	22	9 OC-26 NO
Eastern Bluebird	9	25	3 OC- 3 DE
American Robin	10	25	11 OC-10 NO
Winter Wren	19	Nov. 2	24 SE-19 DE
Mallard	18	7	18 SE-15 DE
Killdeer	9	7	9 OC-27 NO

Table 3. Arrivals and departures of spring transients, Baraboo Hills, 1966-1985

Species	ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
	N	Median Date	Range	N	Median Date	Range
Common Loon*	19	Apr. 8	26 MR-28 AP	19	Apr. 30	11 AP-13 JE
Pied-billed Grebe*	12	Apr. 15	26 MR-10 MY	12	May 7	13 AP-23 MY
Horned Grebe*	14	Apr. 18	3 AP- 7 MY	14	Apr. 29	3 AP-16 MY
Canada Goose	9	Feb. 25	13 FE-17 MR	---	---	---
Ring-necked Duck*	11	Apr. 11	15 MR- 2 MY	11	Apr. 14	30 MR- 2 MY
Lesser Scaup*	16	Apr. 8	15 MR- 9 MY	16	May 2	4 AP-18 MY
Common Goldeneye*	18	Apr. 4	15 MR- 1 MY	18	Apr. 21	20 MR- 7 MY
Bufflehead*	14	Apr. 10	25 MR-23 AP	14	Apr. 18	27 MR- 6 MY
Hooded Merganser*	5	Apr. 4	11 MR-18 AP	5	Apr. 13	1 AP-22 AP
Common Merganser*	8	Apr. 3	13 MR-23 AP	8	Apr. 16	17 MR-26 AP
Red-br. Merganser*	15	Apr. 12	29 MR-29 AP	15	Apr. 30	2 AP-12 MY
Ruddy Duck*	4	Apr. 15	4 AP-22 AP	4	Apr. 21	4 AP-26 AP
Osprey*	13	Apr. 22	11 AP- 9 MY	13	May 5	15 AP-22 MY
American Coot*	15	Apr. 20	28 MR- 3 MY	15	Apr. 30	28 MR-23 MY
Herring Gull*	7	Apr. 5	28 MR-15 AP	7	Apr. 5	1 AP-25 AP
Ring-billed Gull*	7	Mar. 29	13 MR-11 AP	7	Apr. 11	27 MR- 1 MY

Table 3. Continued

Species	ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
	N	Median Date	Range	N	Median Date	Range
Olive-sided Flycatcher	13	May 20	6 MY-27 JE	13	May 28	11 MY-27 JE
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	Mar. 29	2 MR-16 AP	16	May 1	22 AP-12 MY
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18	Apr. 10	2 AP-18 AP	18	May 16	9 MY-24 MY
Gray-cheeked Thrush	16	May 8	30 AP-24 MY	16	May 19	4 MY-27 MY
Swainson's Thrush	19	May 5	21 AP-17 MY	19	May 23	8 MY-10 JE
Hermit Thrush	18	Apr. 11	21 MR-17 AP	18	Apr. 29	8 AP-13 MY
Solitary Vireo	15	May 7	2 MY-18 MY	15	May 11	5 MY-22 MY
Tennessee Warbler	20	May 6	26 AP-17 MY	20	May 27	18 MY- 9 JE
Orange-crowned Warbler	15	May 1	25 AP-11 MY	15	May 8	25 AP-19 MY
N. Parula Warbler	19	May 6	1 MY-13 MY	19	May 13	4 MY-22 MY
Cape May Warbler	14	May 10	4 MY-17 MY	14	May 15	9 MY-27 MY
Yellow-rumped Warbler	20	Apr. 12	3 AP-22 AP	20	May 16	6 MY-23 MY
Palm Warbler	20	Apr. 28	18 AP- 3 MY	20	May 15	8 MY-22 MY
Bay-breasted Warbler	16	May 14	2 MY-28 MY	16	May 17	2 MY-28 MY
Blackpoll Warbler	19	May 13	29 AP-23 MY	19	May 25	12 MY-28 MY
Northern Waterthrush	20	Apr. 30	23 AP- 5 MY	20	May 21	12 MY-30 MY
Connecticut Warbler	10	May 17	5 MY- 6 JE	10	May 21	15 MY-13 JE
Wilson's Warbler	20	May 15	1 MY-19 MY	20	May 23	12 MY-30 MY
Fox Sparrow	17	Mar. 21	4 MR- 7 AP	16	Apr. 16	14 AP-26 AP
White-throated Sparrow	19	Apr. 18	5 AP-29 AP	19	May 18	7 MY-24 MY
White-crowned Sparrow	8	May 9	3 MY-20 MY	8	May 13	3 MY-25 MY

LEGEND: N - Number of years

* - Devil's Lake only

Table 4. Arrivals and departures of fall transients, Baraboo Hills, 1966-1985

Species	ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
	N	Median Date	Range	N	Median Date	Range
Common Loon*	18	Oct. 31	3 AU-26 NO	19	Nov. 30	25 OC-27 DE
Pied-billed Grebe*	20	Sep. 24	23 AU-13 NO	20	Nov. 13	6 OC-11 DE
Horned Grebe*	15	Oct. 27	11 SE- 6 DE	15	Nov. 2	11 OC-15 DE
Tundra Swan	9	Nov. 12	28 OC-17 DE	9	Dec. 3	6 NO-25 DE
Snow Goose	14	Oct. 12	2 OC- 6 DE	14	Oct. 25	2 OC- 6 DE
Ring-necked Duck*	13	Nov. 12	18 OC-20 DE	13	Dec. 3	20 OC-29 DE
Lesser Scaup*	15	Oct. 22	22 SE- 3 DE	15	Dec. 12	18 NO-21 DE
Common Goldeneye*	20	Nov. 3	15 OC-11 NO	20	Dec. 15	28 NO-10 JA
Bufflehead*	16	Nov. 12	3 OC- 3 DE	16	Dec. 2	17 OC-22 DE
Hooded Merganser*	6	Nov. 10	2 NO-18 DE	6	Dec. 2	2 NO-18 DE
Common Merganser*	14	Nov. 21	3 NO-13 DE	14	Dec. 14	13 NO-29 DE
Ruddy Duck*	10	Nov. 5	11 OC-24 NO	10	Nov. 13	26 OC- 6 DE
Osprey*	10	Sep. 11	22 AU-13 OC	10	Sep. 25	2 SE-13 OC
American Coot*	18	Oct. 2	2 SE- 8 NO	18	Nov. 22	20 SE-15 DE
Herring Gull*	8	Nov. 10	23 JY- 6 DE	8	Dec. 11	25 NO-21 DE
Ring-billed Gull*	10	Aug. 9	8 JY-27 AU	10	Nov. 16	27 AU-15 DE
Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	Aug. 17	10 AU- 4 SE	7	Sep. 1	12 AU- 4 SE
Golden-crowned Kinglet	18	Sep. 24	17 SE- 2 OC	6	Dec. 1	30 OC-15 DE
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	20	Sep. 17	1 SE-27 SE	20	Oct. 29	5 OC-23 NO
Swainson's Thrush	18	Sep. 3	28 JY-18 SE	18	Sep. 30	21 SE-11 OC
Hermit Thrush	17	Oct. 2	24 SE-13 OC	17	Oct. 20	3 OC-31 OC
Solitary Vireo	13	Sep. 22	10 SE-29 SE	13	Oct. 3	10 SE-21 OC
Tennessee Warbler	17	Aug. 24	3 AU-13 SE	17	Oct. 6	19 SE-24 OC
Orange-crowned Warbler	16	Oct. 2	18 SE-19 OC	16	Oct. 11	20 SE-19 OC
N. Parula Warbler	8	Sep. 23	4 SE-10 OC	8	Sep. 29	16 SE-10 OC
Cape May Warbler	7	Sep. 15	1 SE-27 SE	7	Sep. 22	2 SE-17 OC
Yellow-rumped Warbler	19	Sep. 18	25 AU-24 SE	19	Oct. 27	19 OC-18 NO
Palm Warbler	17	Sep. 21	3 SE- 3 OC	17	Sep. 29	3 SE-19 OC
Bay-breasted Warbler	19	Sep. 14	23 AU- 2 OC	19	Sep. 28	12 SE- 6 OC
Blackpoll Warbler	14	Sep. 13	17 AU-30 SE	14	Sep. 29	27 AU-16 OC
Northern Waterthrush	13	Sep. 4	27 AU-27 SE	14	Sep. 22	3 SE-20 OC

Table 4. Continued

Species	ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
	N	Median Date	Range	N	Median Date	Range
Connecticut Warbler	5	Sep. 10	8 SE-25 SE	5	Sep. 10	8 SE-25 SE
Wilson's Warbler	9	Sep. 1	15 AU-26 SE	9	Sep. 10	15 AU-29 SE
Fox Sparrow	14	Oct. 6	24 SE-10 OC	14	Nov. 9	20 OC- 1 DE
White-throated Sparrow	18	Sep. 14	24 AU-23 SE	18	Oct. 29	14 OC-11 DE
White-crowned Sparrow	6	Sep. 30	23 SE-27 OC	6	Oct. 7	23 SE- 2 NO

LEGEND: N - Number of years

* - Devil's Lake only

Table 5. Arrivals and departures of winter visitors, Baraboo Hills, 1966-1985

Species	ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
	N	Median Date	Range	N	Median Date	Range
Rough-legged Hawk	14	Nov. 15	21 OC-10 DE	14	Mar. 21	17 FE-22 AP
Northern Shrike	8	Dec. 10	15 OC-11 JA	7	Mar. 13	9 FE-21 MR
American Tree Sparrow	11	Oct. 25	13 OC- 8 NO	10	Apr. 13	5 AP-22 AP
Dark-eyed Junco	20	Sep. 23	8 SE-29 SE	20	May 2	25 AP-12 MY

LEGEND: N - Number of years

Migrants, for example, tend to arrive earlier in early, warm springs and later in late, cold ones (Mossman and Lange, 1982:30-33; Saunders, 1959). For southern Wisconsin, spring 1985 was early, whereas spring 1967, with the exception of April, was late. In 1985 the average of all arrival dates for 49 summer residents was 6.9 days early and for 23 transients 6.4 days early, while in 1967 it was 1.8 days late for the summer residents and 0.9 days late for the transients, as compared with the 20-year median arrival dates for these species. These comparisons become more meaningful when separated into the 3 spring months (Table 6).

The same pattern occurs if one compares birds with the same 20-year median arrival dates, e.g. the 11 summer residents and one transient with 20-year median arrival dates of 3-5 May; the average spring arrival date for these species in 1967 was 3.3 days late and in 1985 it was 6.4 days early.

		1967	1985
MARCH	5 SR	+4.4	- 7.0
	2 T	+3.5	-14.5
APRIL	16 SR	-2.1	- 6.5
	10 T	-3.2	- 8.1
MAY	28 SR	+3.5	- 7.1
	11 T	+4.2	- 3.4

Table 6. Comparison of the average spring arrival dates for the same summer residents (SR) and transients (T) in March, April, and May of 1967 and 1985 in the Baraboo Hills; - = earliness and + = lateness in number of days, as compared with the 20-year median arrival dates for these species.

Perhaps the effects of early and late springs are seen best with specific groups of birds. For warblers, a total of 24 species, the average of all arrival dates in 1967 was 2.9 days late, whereas in 1985 it was 5.4 days early, as compared with the 20-year median arrival dates for these species. For vireos, a total of 3 species, the average of all arrival dates in 1967 was 6.7 days late, while in 1985 it was 9.7 days early, and for flycatchers, a total of 5 species, the average of all arrival dates in 1967 was 5.2 days late, whereas in 1985 it was 5.2 days early.

If a particular spring or fall lacks major weather fronts, then ground observers generally will not detect major waves, although the birds obviously are passing through. In those seasons with marked weather changes, waves usually are evident to ground observers, but it should be stressed that such waves generally represent interrupted migrations, not normal, safe journeys (Lack, 1960; Nisbet and Drury, 1967).

Major waves in spring were evident in the last week of April and/or the first week of May in several years, and the second and third weeks of May for approximately half the years. In fall the first noticeable push was detectable in most years toward the end of August and/or the beginning of September, e.g. nighthawks, thrushes and warblers, with a final passage toward the end of September and/or early October, e.g. kinglets, Tennessee and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and White-throated Sparrow. Between these early and late movements, a major peak occurred in the latter half of September in 7 of the 20 years.

Most spectacular to an earthbound observer is a major grounding of birds, when unfavorable weather impedes migrants and they concentrate in a relatively small area; with the return of suitable weather, the birds leave (Welty, 1982:572).

Frederick G. Wilson of Madison reported a 1916 grounding at Devil's Lake in a letter to the author, dated 13 April 1985: "...during the warbler migration the wind was from the south, but the next morning it was blowing a gale from the north...the sand beach was covered with small flies. And there dozens of warblers feeding on the shore, hovering around my feet as I walked." Another grounding occurred on 17 May 1940, when 21 species were on the beach during a rainstorm (Passenger Pigeon, Volume 2, page 84). The author has witnessed several groundings at Devil's Lake, notably on 7-8 May 1983; other observers found high numbers of migrants on these days in Baxter's Hollow to the west of Devil's Lake and Lake Wisconsin to the east, so this particular grounding took place over at least a 10 mile front. At Devil's Lake there were several hundred birds *on* the south shore road much of the time, *plus* thousands off the road. Most abundant were Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers, with more Gray-cheeked Thrushes than I'd ever seen before, spring or fall. Other species were also numerous, in fact, without binoculars one could identify more than 20 species of warblers (23 was my count), 2 vireos, 3 thrushes, 3 flycatchers, 2 sparrows, Northern Oriole, Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting. On the 6th and 7th a storm from the Plains states brought rain; later on the 7th, before the rain stopped, birds were everywhere along the shore of Devil's Lake, especially the south shore, feeding on the chironomid gnats (the "small flies" mentioned by Wilson) emerging from the lake and now grounded by the weather change.

Migration depends more on the weather at the point of departure and along the way than on the weather at the point of arrival (Lincoln, 1979:51). In 1979 in mid March there still was up to a foot and a half of snow on the ground in the Baraboo Hills and a continual snow cover south to about Peoria, Illinois; would migrants arrive under such conditions? On 12-13 March the first migrants (5 species) appeared, apparently in response to the south winds of the previous day and a half, and on 17-18 March the next group of migrants (10 species) arrived. Presumably these birds started their journeys in places removed from wintry environments. Weydemeyer (1973:412) reports a similar situation for the Tree Swallow in northwestern Montana.

The variability in spring arrival dates decreases as the season progresses, a phenomenon also noted by Leopold and Jones (1947:111). For land birds in this study, the range in arrival dates for summer residents in the first half of spring (March through the first half of April) averaged approximately 26 days, while in the second half of spring (the latter half of April through May) it averaged approximately 19 days; the comparable figures for spring transients were approximately 29 and 20 days. The variability in fall departure dates for land birds was greater than for spring arrival dates, and this was true for both residents and transients (an overall average of approximately 37 days for 72 species). No fall patterns were discernible, e.g. when comparing departure dates for August-September with October-November.

Neotropical migrants typically are the last to arrive in spring and the first to depart in fall (Mossman and Lange, 1982:30-33).

Perusal of Tables 3 and 4 reveals some interesting patterns among the transients. The Common Loon is found on Devil's Lake for approximately 3 weeks each spring and a month in the fall. The Pied-billed Grebe is at the lake for 3 weeks in the spring but about 7 weeks in the fall; the Horned Grebe, in contrast, is at the lake for only 12 days on the average in the

spring and a week in the fall. All the diving ducks, except the Ruddy, stay much longer on Devil's Lake in the fall than the spring. For the 3 mergansers at Devil's Lake, the Hooded occurs with virtually the same frequency in spring and fall, whereas the Red-breasted is primarily a spring visitor and the Common mainly a fall visitor. Two gulls, Herring and Ring-billed, occur regularly at Devil's Lake in spring and fall. In the spring the Ring-bill arrives about a week before the Herring Gull and stays longer, while in the fall the Ring-bill arrives some 3 months before the Herring Gull and leaves earlier. The Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes remain for an average of 18 days in the spring, whereas in the fall the Swainson's lingers longer than the Hermit. The only transient vireo, the Solitary, is here for approximately 5 days in the spring and 12 days in the fall. Certain transient warblers also remain only briefly. Orange-crowned, Parula, Cape May, Connecticut and Wilson's, e.g., are here just 1-10 days in spring and fall. In contrast, other transient warblers, e.g. Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Palm, and Northern Waterthrush, are here for 2 or more weeks in spring and fall. The Bay-breasted Warbler lingers for only a few days in the spring but about 2 weeks in the fall. All 3 transient sparrows (Fox, White-throat, White-crown) stay longer in the fall than in the spring, especially the White-throat.

Table 5 chronicles arrival and departure dates for 4 winter visitors. The Rough-legged Hawk appears as early as October and can be found as late as April, while the Northern Shrike arrives later than the Rough-leg but departs at about the same time. The Dark-eyed Junco arrives approximately a month before the American Tree Sparrow and leaves several weeks later.

The following incidental notes may also be of interest. The median departure date for the Common Nighthawk is 12 September, but the peak is often in the last week of August. Apparently this was also the case a century ago, as nighthawks in "countless numbers" were migrating over Prairie du Sac, just south of the Bluffs, in 1886 on 28 August (Sauk County News, 3 September 1886). The Common Flicker in fall is usually common through September or early October, often with a final wave around the middle of October. Actually, the earliest spring migrant, the Horned Lark, is not included in the Tables because of its relative scarcity in the Baraboo Bluffs. Arrival dates for the Bluffs vary from late January to approximately 20 February. The Blue Jay and American Crow are also not included in the Tables. For the Blue Jay, spring migration may be dispersed, but a peak, typically in early May, usually can be distinguished; fall migration likewise may be dispersed over a several week period, but in most years a peak occurs in the last week of September. For the American Crow, spring peaks have been noted in mid to late March and fall peaks to mid to late October. The Golden-crowned Kinglet in spring is often common around mid April, and in fall it is typically in highest numbers from the last few days of September into October, while the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is generally most numerous in spring in the latter part of April and early May, and in fall from the last few days of September into early October. The most abundant warbler is always the Yellow-rumped. Two major waves, about a week apart, occur in some springs and falls, with spring numbers peaking usually in late April and early May and fall numbers generally in late September and early October. Two other numerous warblers are the Tennessee and the Palm, with secondary numbers of Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackpoll, American Redstart, Wilson's and Canada. The Fox Sparrow often increases in numbers in spring in late March, and in fall it is usually

numerous by mid October, with most birds gone by the end of the month. The White-throated Sparrow peaks in spring in the last week of April and/or early May, and in fall in the last week of September and the first half of October.

The panorama of the seasons is always a joy to experience. Every year is different, yet similar. From my median dates for selected phenological events in the Baraboo Hills, mainly Devil's Lake State Park, I have fashioned a "typical" spring and a "normal" fall.

The first migrants, Canada Geese and the American Kestrels, are followed by American Robins, then Red-wings and Common Grackles. By the third week of March, American Woodcocks are peenting and sky-dancing and Turkey Vultures are banking and gliding over the Bluffs; soon after, woodchucks and chipmunks emerge from their winter dens. The Eastern Phoebe and the Golden-crowned Kinglet return in the last week of March, and the Mourning Cloak and a coppery colored geometric moth, the infant, are on the wing. On a hazy, almost balmy day at the end of the month, with spring still out of reach yet so tantalizingly close it seems that you can smell it, a Ruffed Grouse mounts a log, struts back and forth, then beats its wings against the air, slowly at first, then faster and faster: the drum-like sound rolls through the woods like spring thunder.

In the first week of April the ancient choruses of spring peepers and chorus frogs again resound from wetlands, and stamens are visible in hepatica flowers in warmer spots. Winter Wrens are back and within a week will begin to sing their tinkling, bell-like song.

Ice is melting, and sap is running and grass is greening. Devil's Lake opens in the second week of April, and very quickly Common Loons and diving ducks appear, along with the Tree Swallow and the Belted Kingfisher. Wood frogs are quacking now, and 13-lined ground squirrels have emerged.

Bloodroot begins to bloom in mid April, as a number of migrants return: Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush, and several sparrows and the Rufous-sided Towhee. The first painted turtle and eastern garter snake are basking in exposed places. In the third week the Devil's Lake Bluffs turn white from countless flowers of dutchman's-breeches and within a few days the first bumble-bees are flying, while a Broad-winged Hawk hunts for frogs in Steinke Basin. By the last week sugar maples turn yellow from the massed flowers, and the first young rabbits leave their nests. Midges begin to swarm in a living ground fog along the shore of Devil's Lake, and the Spotted Sandpiper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and several more warblers return.

Most new arrivals appear in the first half of May, a total of 43 species in those hectic, magical two weeks, as spring and the birds ride the south wind. Toads are trilling in the first week, and the spring azure, the first native butterfly to emerge from the overwintering pupae, and the common (clouded) sulphur are flying. The first tiger swallowtail and the first six-spotted tiger beetle appear in the second week. By mid May the Bluffs resemble a soft and misty tapestry, as the different species of hardwood trees become identifiable by the color of their emerging leaves. The last migrants - a few flycatchers and warblers and the cuckoos - return in the third week, as deer drop their fawns and the first monarch butterflies appear.

All the seasons have hints of the others. One of the first signs of fall is evident before the end of May, when the foliage of the dutchman's-breeches

begins to turn yellow. The sweet smell of wild grape flowers permeates the hedgerows by the end of May, a sign of the end of spring and the beginning of summer. Grackles are flocking in a few weeks, and chickadees become conspicuous as families disperse from their nests.

On a special night in late June, a full moon illuminates a lake of mist in Steinke Basin, as fireflies create a ballet of winking lights.

Several hundred Tree Swallows are massed on the wires on the former Johnson farm by the middle of July, and soon the first migrants appear -Solitary Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Swainson's Thrush, and Tennessee Warbler. Goldenrods are blooming in the meadows, and big-leaved aster and woodland sunflower are blooming in the forests.

Bird song is fading but insect song is swelling, especially on warm nights in August when the Earth itself seems to be alive with the pulsing choruses of snowy tree crickets and oblong-winged katydids. This is the tropical time, or so it seems, and in the southern sky these nights rides Scorpio, the dweller of hot places.

Rains pelt the Earth, and humid weather changes to dry and cool. The first migrant Common Nighthawks appear, feeding as they head south. Now, once again, a great restlessness sweeps the land, the restlessness of animals in migration. One sees it by day as Broad-winged Hawks thermal and Blue Jays move through the tree-tops, and hears it by night as chips from migrants sound overhead. One feels an ineffable sadness in hearing these calls, as if old friends were leaving, never to return. By mid September when one hears the last buzzing from the annual (dog-day) cicada, 20 species of birds have already departed, and by the second week of October when the sugar maples have set the Bluffs aglow, another 44 species have left, the greatest number in the last few days of September.

Invertebrates are moving, too. Young spiders, for example, are riding gossamer threads, strong as steel yet light as down, into unknown worlds. And monarchs, those winter residents of the Sierra Madre, are blowing like leaves, ever southward. "Who wouldn't in autumn," asks Loren Eiseley in his evocative poem on this butterfly, "like to rock and waver...over and through forests and hedges...float in the glades...sip the last nectar?" The last monarch disappears into the southern sky after mid October, when the painted turtle and woodchuck vanish.

Frost touches low places in its first appearance, a night journey, but then the "blond assassin" becomes bolder and walks abroad day and night. A visitor from the north, the Pine Siskin, calls overhead, yet for a fleeting moment it is spring, as migrant Eastern Bluebirds inspect a tree cavity.

Now with only a few migrant species of birds still lingering, mainly the White-throated Sparrow, the oaks are coloring and overlapping those red and sugar maples still in leaf; for a few days, the Bluffs are at their most flamboyant. This is the time when one wishes to beguile the Earth into slowing its passage through the sharp nights and the hazy dawns and the mellow days. But suddenly the wind blows strong from the south and leaves ride the currents; by the latter part of October, the predominant colors are muted browns of oaks and golds of popples.

Now the 13-lined ground squirrel begins its subterranean life, and the Belted Kingfisher, Turkey Vulture, and three thrushes depart. Making their last appearance toward the end of October are two butterflies, the Mourning Cloak and the Common (Clouded) Sulphur, and the Eastern Garter Snake,

while the Ruffed Grouse's fall drumming is heard one final time and a Common Loon appears on the lake.

A foggy period in early November is followed by a dusting of snow in the high places. The first Rough-legged Hawk appears over the Bluffs, while a new sound is heard in the woods, the grunting of buck deer in heat.

By the second week of November, when the last chipmunk has gone below ground for the winter, the loon on the lake is joined by several species of diving ducks; all the water birds will remain into December. At the time of the solstice, as mighty Orion stalks his prey in the icy darkness of the winter sky, Devil's Lake freezes amid a variety of awesome sounds and remains closed until spring.

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This paper is dedicated to a special friend, Obert Mielke of West Baraboo (1916-1983): may his spirit forever enjoy the warblers of spring. For sharing their field records, I am indebted to the following individuals: Olga Bassett, Margaret Brittingham, David J. Cox, Raymond Dischler, Lisa Hartman, Scott Hereford, Michael J. Johnson, Harold Kruse, Robert McGann, Michael J. Mossman, Edward W. Peartree, Ronald A. Rich, and Scott R. Swengel. Samuel D. Robbins, Jr., reviewed the manuscript and made a number of helpful suggestions.

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Devil's Lake State Park
Baraboo, WI 53913

An Auditory Census of Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) in Sauk County, Wisconsin

By Ann B. Swengel and Scott R. Swengel

During an auditory survey of Eastern Screech-Owls (*Otus asio*) in Sauk County, Wisconsin in February and early March, 1986, we heard five different Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) respond to our Screech-Owl tape on four different nights in four distinct areas. Since few Saw-whet Owls have been reported in southern Wisconsin, this piqued our interest, and we began an auditory census for Saw-whet Owls. We wanted to document the presence of Saw-whet Owls in the Baraboo Hills with as much detail as possible, including the number of individuals and the length of time they were present.

First we chose one location in which to listen for voluntary vocalizations. On nine nights, from 21 February to 7 March 1986, we listened for Saw-whet Owls for about one hour starting at dusk. On all six calm nights we heard 1 to 3 Saw-whet Owls calling for widely varying time spans, from a few seconds to 40 minutes of nearly continuous calling. All the owls used the monotonous series of high-pitched tones typical of the species. On the three nights in which the wind speed exceeded 10 miles per hour, we heard no Saw-whet Owls; we do not know whether this was because the owls were not calling or because we could not hear them. We always listened together and sat motionless, considerably improving our ability to maintain concentration and detect faint sounds. Movements appeared to disturb the owls, as twice when we moved during these vigils, they ceased calling and remained silent the rest of the observation period. The temperature during these listening sessions varied from 13 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit (-11 to +3 degrees Celsius).

Next we began a systematic auditory census in the Baraboo Hills of Sauk County. Mossman and Lange (1982) provide a detailed description of the physiography and habitats of the area. We chose two intersecting survey routes that totalled 7.2 kilometers in length and included the area in which we listened for voluntary vocalizations. We required six nights of calm conditions to complete the first survey, from 9 March to 17 March 1986; each section required approximately 1.5 hours. The temperature varied from 31 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit (-1 to +3 degrees Celsius), and the cloud cover ranged from clear to overcast with heavy fog. At stops spaced 100 meters apart, we played two 20-second taped segments of the typical Saw-whet Owl call, each followed by one to two minutes of silence for listening. We walked the entire survey route, and we covered each segment as a team of two people listening from the same spot. We mapped all the responses from Saw-whet Owls and used locations of calling owls and simultaneous calling of owls to detect different individuals along the route. The owls were not evenly distributed but were clustered in a few locations along our route. There were no clear habitat differences between the areas where we found Saw-whet Owls and those lacking them.

We found Saw-whet Owls in two kinds of forests: pine plantations and mixed coniferous-hardwood forests. Immediately adjoining the pine plantations were stands of hardwood forest. A variety of habitats bordered the Saw-whet Owl territories, including open water, wet meadows, grasslands, talus slopes, and cliffs.

We heard 16 to 17 Saw-whet Owls along the 7.2 kilometer route.

We reran 1.5 kilometers of the survey route on 14 April 1986. This time listening stops were spaced 200 meters apart. Although the typical call of the Saw-whet Owl is not loud, under excellent conditions it can carry a distance of at least one kilometer. The greater distance between stops increased our efficiency and made it easier to distinguish individual owls from each other. We heard the same number of owls along this segment as we had the month before -- 5 to 6 individuals, with most calls coming from the same locations as in the previous survey.

In addition to our auditory survey and listening sessions mentioned above, we have heard or seen Saw-whet Owls on 20 other dates between 19 February and 1 July 1986.

Our numerical results are still preliminary, and we cannot yet estimate the exact number of owls in this population. As we have documented instances in which a known owl did not respond to the tape on a certain evening, we cannot know the number of owls that did not respond to our auditory census at any given time. Thus, our results provide a minimum estimate of the population. Our study area is only a small portion of similar habitat in the Baraboo Hills.

We could estimate the density of Saw-whet Owls along our survey route by assuming their typical call has a maximum audibility of 200 to 500 meters from each of our stops. However, we were unable to determine the distance between us and the calling owls accurately. When we approached a calling owl, it either moved away and maintained a constant distance from us or became silent. Furthermore, the terrain along our route varies so much that the maximum detection distances were not uniform at different stops.

Several studies of wintering Saw-whet Owls (Austing 1958, Mumford and Zusi 1958) have found that more than one individual Saw-whet Owl may be found sequentially in one area although only one owl may be there at any one time -- that is, one owl replaced another over time. Our results are different from theirs. We heard consistent responses from specific areas over a considerable period of time that included the entire period of spring migration. The distribution of Saw-whet Owls was discontinuous but consistent through time, even in homogeneous tracts of habitat, all of which appear suitable for Saw-whet Owls. This suggests that they are resident owls calling from their territories.

We elicited responses from several other species of owls to our taped calls, suggesting there may have been interspecific territoriality among several species of resident owls. Besides Northern Saw-whet Owls responding readily to Eastern Screech-Owl calls, we also received numerous responses from Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) to both Northern Saw-whet Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl tape recordings. Eastern Screech-Owls responded to Northern Saw-whet Owl taped calls during our initial survey at seven different stops. We suspect that calling by nearby Barred Owls discourages Northern Saw-whet Owls from calling. Austing (1958) found that both Barred Owls and Eastern Screech-Owls sometimes prey on Northern Saw-whet Owls.

As the Saw-whet Owl is an elusive bird, individuals are much easier to locate auditorily than visually. Even after we have heard an owl call from the same place several times, we are still usually unable to locate it on a roost. Thus, auditory censusing is much more time efficient than surveying by sight.

Voluntary vocalization occurred from late February through late April in our area, and responsiveness to our tape recordings has waxed and waned

during that same period. Furthermore, responsiveness may decline the more often an owl has been exposed to a taped call. Also, we have noted no tendency by Saw-whet Owls to approach our tape -- in fact, if anything, they have been repelled. Therefore, care must be taken when seeking responses by Saw-whet Owls to a taped call. Do not call during the day, as the owl is vulnerable to predation if it responds. Use taped calls judiciously -- don't harass the owls unnecessarily!

If you wish to make a Saw-whet Owl tape, we highly recommend the Saw-whet Owl segment on "Voices of New World Nightbirds," available on record from the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. Record the approximately 20-second call repeatedly, with breaks between calls so that you may stop the tape and listen. If you use the Peterson bird-song records, use only the second of the three types of calls.

Although there have been few previous records of Saw-whet Owls in our study area in the Baraboo Hills, our listening sessions and auditory censusing located 23 to 24 Saw-whet Owls, including seven outside of our survey route. We suspect that the presence of Saw-whet Owls is also underreported in other areas, and we hope that by auditory censusing, other people will be able to document populations of this species in Wisconsin.

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Northern Woodpeckers Visit Taylor County

By Sam Robbins

Three-toed (*Picoides tridactylus*) and Black-backed (*Picoides arcticus*) Woodpeckers put on a command performance in a tamarack bog ten miles northwest of Medford during January, February, and early March 1986. Virtually every weekend saw eager woodpecker-watchers coming from various parts of Wisconsin and northern Illinois in quest of these rarities. Most observers went home with one or two new species on their life lists.

The success of the observers was due partly to their own persistence, partly to the willingness of Chequamegon Bird Club members Leonard, Paul and Nick Risch to guide people on snowshoe-packed trails across deep snow into the bogs, and partly to the tameness of the birds themselves.

Nick Risch first discovered a female Three-toed Woodpecker in this area on 30 December 1985. When I accompanied him to the same area the following day, we failed to find the bird, but discovered a female Black-backed Woodpecker in the same region. From our parking place along CTH "M", the Black-back was readily viewed as it pecked softly on loose bark on a tamarack trunk. Judging by the extensive amount of debarking that had already taken place, the Black-back and/or Three-toed had been present for some time.

Paul and Leonard joined the search on subsequent days. By snowshoeing over two-foot snow drifts, they were able to cover the bog more completely, and discover that the area had at least two Black-backs and three Three-toes -- all females. Most visiting birders between early January and mid-March were able to find one or more of each species by following the snow-packed trails, listening for a soft pecking sound, and watching for movement as the birds dropped from the higher part of one tamarack trunk to a lower spot on a neighboring tree. The birds scarcely made a sound, other than the soft pecking. But they were remarkably tame. On one occasion Leonard was little more than an arm's length from a Three-toed.

The last observation date for any of the Three-toed Woodpeckers was 15 March. One Black-backed Woodpecker was still present on 22 March. By then thawing temperatures had rendered the snowshoe trails soft and treacherous. I have visited the area a few times since, from the vantage point of a driveway that bisects a portion of the bog, and have seen no recent debarking.

These were not the only individuals of these rare woodpeckers to visit Taylor County in the past few months. Leonard Risch first discovered a female Black-back while harvesting timber two miles west of Westboro on 24 August 1985. In the same area he came upon a male Three-toe on 19 September. This was 12 miles northeast of the spot where the winter residents were later located.

Two months elapsed. On 27 November Anita Groza came upon a female Three-toed Woodpecker near her home three miles northwest of the wintering area. On the same day, a mile distant, Leonard and Nick Risch were viewing a female Black-back.

These autumn observations were unknown to Jan and Ken Luepke when they discovered a female Three-toed Woodpecker on 28 December, two miles southwest of Perkinstown, while assisting with the Gilman Christmas bird count. I saw this bird on 30 December, and again on 23 January. But I

failed to find it on several subsequent efforts. This Perkinstown location was 11 miles west of the main wintering group of woodpeckers.

Had time permitted, I and others would have liked to investigate more of the numerous tamarack stands that exist in and near the southern unit of the Chequamegon National Forest. We learned of two additional bogs where evidence of extensive debarking was obvious (see accompanying map), but were unsuccessful in locating the woodpeckers that must have been present.

Does this qualify as an invasion? Evidence from autumn 1985 reports in American Birds points in this direction. Substantial movement of Black-backs was noted in Ontario and at Duluth, with 12 sightings of Three-toes

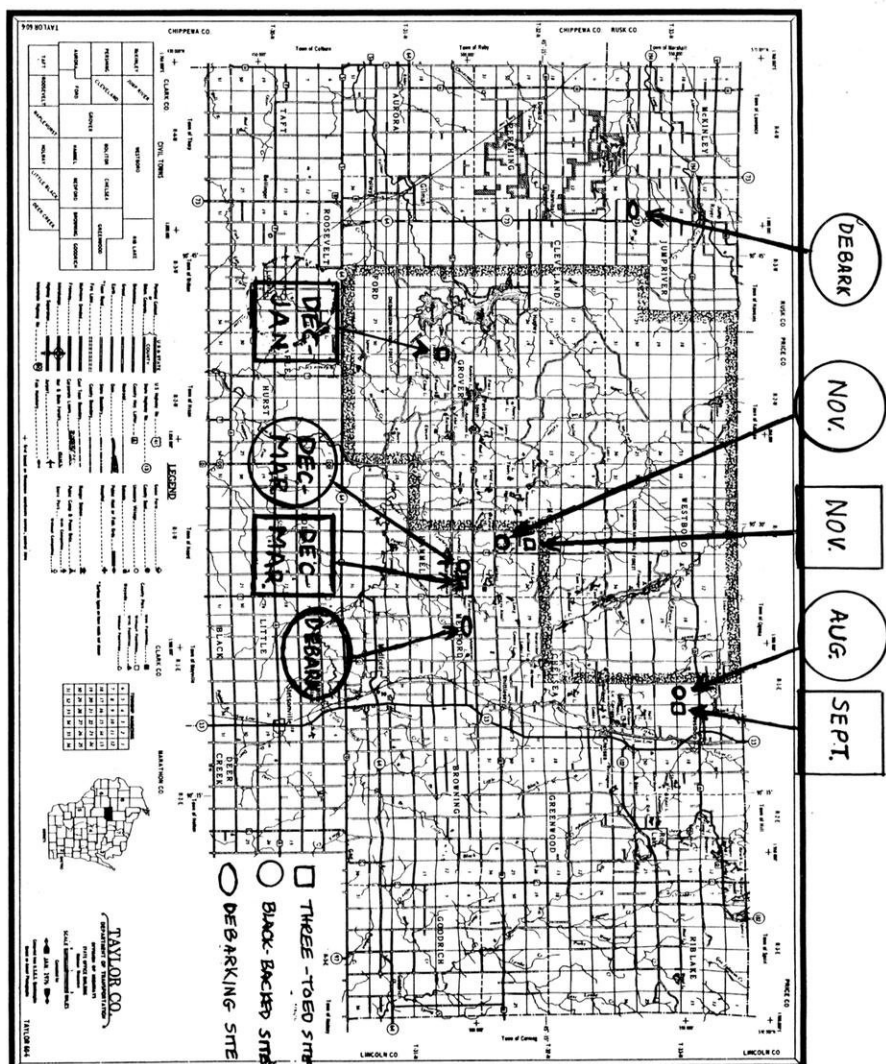


Figure 1. Sightings of Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers.



Three-toed Woodpecker (left) and Black-backed Woodpecker (right). Photos by Dr. Charles Kemper.

at Duluth in October and November. Single Black-backs were tallied on Wisconsin Christmas bird counts at Brule and Poynette.

When Richard Thiel (1978) reviewed the known Wisconsin records of the Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers, he listed observations of no more than two Three-toes in any one year. For the Black-back he showed wide variations in numbers, highlighted by 19 birds in 1942 and 13 in 1965. Since 1978 Black-backs have been found in nearly every season of each year in northern Wisconsin. Duplicate sightings of the same birds make it difficult to determine precise counts of individuals.

Even if one assumes that Taylor County's autumn 1985 individuals could have been the same as those that became winter residents, this region is known to have had at least three Black-backs (all females), and at least five Three-toes (four females, one male). Numbers were probably considerably higher.

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Euphoria and Benjamin

By Frances Hamerstrom

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Euphoria earned her name. It was because she was so different from a certain other harrier chick.

Early one summer I took a chick from a nest, partly to teach the gabboons how to become foster parents to harriers, but also to teach them how to learn from chicks. Then I watched both the gabboons and the chick, I hope improving my own skills as a teacher. People seem to want to urge chicks to eat. I watched this going on right by our woodpile and finally suggested, "Don't urge it to eat — tease it a little. Just as it moves its head forward for a bite, you ought to move your hand back."

It worked.

Pleased with myself, I watched the meal get off to a good start with an eager little chick striving for each mouthful.

What I hadn't anticipated was that teasing might be overdone! Some days later the chick had become so aggressive that nobody much enjoyed going outdoors. The chick lurked in the flowerbeds and attacked our bare ankles as we walked past the phlox.

"What shall we name it?" the gabboons asked.

My answer was firm. "We *are not* going to name that chick. It is going back on the marsh to be raised by harriers."

"Don't you want the chick?"

"Not this one. Take it back. Trade it for another — a small one."

The adult harriers accepted this dreadful youngster, and it was replaced by another enchanting downy — a chick that was never to be teased too much, in the hope that it would develop a friendly attitude. It was a female, who soon earned the name of Euphoria. She seemed to spend her time placidly perched on Cloud Nine.

There has often been discussion as to whether or not people can tell if a bird (or a mammal) is happy. The argument seems to run something like this, "They can't tell you so how can you tell?"

I argue; "They're frisky, in good plumage (or pelage), and they weigh about what they're supposed to."

"But they can't tell you!"

"Neither can a little baby."

People not only wonder whether or not a captive bird is happy but they also tend to fear that it isn't getting enough water. They don't seem to grasp that nestlings remain in the nest — do not leave it to take a drink — and may drink nothing other than droplets of rain or dew until they are almost full-grown. Euphoria showed no interest in water until she was 28 days old, at which time almost all her down had disappeared and she was a dark, essentially full-grown bird. At last she stepped into her bath-pan and drank. It was just a week later that she took her first big flights. This is the type of sequence that one cannot work out in the wild because one can't stay close to undisturbed birds pursuing their daily activities.



Euphoria stands on my hip and wakes me up. She stands on one leg and then the other.

I continued to take Euphoria in for the night until she was 37 days old. She slept on our sleeping porch, leaving us in peace during the night. At daybreak she stood on my hip.

When she was 36 days old, we offered her a one-third-grown lab mouse, by setting it out on the lawn. She seemed to find it less interesting than the corncobs we had tossed her. It moved. At last she stepped on it, pulled off a hind leg, and ate it! Food! She consumed the rest of the lab mouse. Young harriers make a strange growling sound when they first tackle live quarry to feed on it.

Benjamin became a hack harrier more or less through the back door. The rules of the Project are: do not interfere with nature any more than you absolutely have to. If you find a harrier chick that just cannot manage to hatch and is struggling to get out of its shell — leave it be. That's a rule I once broke myself. I watched a chick trying to make it out of its shell and it couldn't. The shell membrane was utterly inflexible and dry, like the parchment that diplomas are inscribed upon. I spat on that arena of life-and-death struggle, and I licked the line along which that struggling chick had

pipped until that chick forced back the cap of its egg and emerged successfully. I, myself, broke the rules of the Project and interfered.

When a gaboon named Kevin happened to tell me that the harrier nestlings in one nest were covered with small red ants — and it looked as though the smallest had not the slightest chance of surviving — I broke the rules of the Harrier Project again. I wanted to hand-rear a *male* nestling. Euphoria had been a gorgeous female. I was too busy to take a male nestling from a nest, but egged on by red ants and threats of death, I wanted that chick. I had a perfect right to take any nestling from any nest under permit, but a little dig from the heart sometimes stimulates scientific work.

I said, "Kevin, bring that chick in." So that chick, Benjamin, became part of our establishment.

The next day Kevin said, "The ants were much fewer at the nest. They may have been stirred up by the banding crew."



Benjamin 25 days old.



Horned Owls continue to hoot close to the house and so I still carry him into the house. It is absolutely zany to carry what appears to be a full-grown hawk on a basket-top tray.

I didn't listen. I wanted to learn from Benjamin. I didn't say, "I'm glad to hear that. Take Benjamin back."

I couldn't say it. I had learned so much from the witchy-bitchy creature who preceded Euphoria — and from my earlier hack harriers — *I wanted Benjamin.*

Benjamin weighed about 5 ounces (141 grams to be exact) and his fourth primary was 31 millimeters long. Using the age scale that we had devised, we calculated that he was 12 days old, so his hatch date was July 2.

At 20 days he toddled about 25 feet and he was apt to start home without being called. He seemed to have a stronger sense of "home" than female nestlings.

At 23 days he was up on his legs and running! He also paddled for the first time. Young hawks exercise their wings by paddling before they can fly, and I must say their approach to this daring undertaking is hilariously conservative. They clutch a substantial substrate — the nest edge, or some growing grass — to make certain they will not suddenly find themselves airborne and out of control.

Because I work with young birds I find I get credit for all sorts of marvels. For example people say to me, "Mrs. Hamerstrom, I think it is just *wonderful* how you teach those birds to fly!"

I point out that I can neither teach birds to fly, nor fish to swim. They do these things all by themselves; but I can watch their progress and take notes.

Benjamin weighed 360 grams when he was 26 days old. He looked like the prototype of avian adolescence, but four days after this picture was taken he chased a big Lab pup by running at it. The next day he managed to fly three feet to the top of a bushel basket.

On August 4 (age 33 days) Benjamin weighed 369 grams; and two days later he suddenly flew high over the woodshed and into the formal garden. His previous flights had been about nine feet.

My notes from August 20 read,

Until last night Benjy has slept on the porch. I whistle him in every evening. When he is well inside the screen door, I throw him a piece of meat and shut the door quickly. Young horned owls call right near our house and barn, so I've brought him in in spite of the fact that he is essentially full grown.

Last night I declared that it's time that he finds suitable roosting places. He may be programmed to learn this during adolescence rather than later, and I don't want to release an inept bird to migrate.

The first night out is always an anxious time with a hawk at hack. If the bird doesn't show up ready for breakfast, one goes to look for the carcass. They almost always are perfectly all right.

Benjamin caused me no worry. This morning I was awakened by the bugling of sandhill cranes. I open my eyes and there was Benjamin swinging past the north garden. He was flying with a dark bird. Still half asleep, I took it to be a crow. Strange company for a harrier!

About an hour later I woke up again and this time I went to investigate. Benjamin was flying with the dark bird. It was no crow. It was a young female harrier! They looked like brother and sister.

Apparently she had been attracted to Benjamin and possibly hoped to intercept a food drop from his parents. She hardly expected a *person* to come and toss half a rat into the air.

The wild harrier's appearance changed Benjamin's temperament. He had already shown that he considered the vicinity of our house his territory by trying to intimidate that big Lab pup — now the wild bird sat on Benjy's favorite high perch. He dove and smacked her right off it. After both birds put on an air show for about 20 minutes, the wild bird disappeared. I threw Benjy a chunk of pigeon breast. Instead of taking his own sweet time he dove and bound to it as though that big female were right there to grab it from him. Competition has had a most salubrious effect on a number of my hack birds. Benjy was no exception.

August 24:

Tossed Benjy a live but not lively mouse — much as I often toss him sticks to play pounce with. He pounced, started to carry it and then promptly dropped it as soon as he saw it was alive. (I gave the mouse a mercy killing.) This confirms my belief that young do not hunt before migration even more.



Benjamin finds mock quarry.



He spins to kill it...



...and quickly nails it from the opposite direction.



Off he goes with his booty.

August 28:

Young horned owl very close — on weathering yard by back door?
Young redbtail in field south of pond today. Benjy, at dusk, flew west over woods to young redbtail's territory.

August 30:

Benjy leaves. Benjy and black bird flying "in company" S.E. Benjy chasing. Wind S.W. It switched to N.W. later in day. Then a thunderstorm followed by a front — one of the annual patterns that starts thousands of young hawks moving southward — and away!

September 15:

Benjamin has been gone over two weeks. Each day I whistle. Perhaps he will suddenly swing over the marsh and back once more to me. (A

young Cooper's Hawk returned after an absence of 11 days.) Benjamin left in magnificent condition. I miss him. It is good that he has gone down the wind on migration. It seems silly, but I am about to go outdoors and whistle once more — just in case...

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Robert E. Gard

FIELD **NOTES**



The Fall Season

August 1 to November 30, 1985

By Mark Peterson

Although the number of species was almost as high as the fall of 1984, the fall of 1985 was not as exciting as the previous fall. What had begun as a dry summer, soon turned into a very wet fall. The fall ended on a cold snowy note. A winter finch invasion occurred, although for the most part, the numbers were not high.

August began as a warm and humid month. A high of 96 occurred in Racine. Severe weather with several tornadoes and substantial rainfall occurred near the middle of the month. Temperatures cooled off slightly near the end of the month, but the above normal rainfall continued. Janine Polk reported a large migration in the Eau Claire area on the 27th and 28th.

September started with hot and wet weather. A high of 98 was recorded at Mt. Mary. The second week was cooler with the first frost reported in the central and northeast for several days at the end of the week. Fred Leshner reported a large Swainson and Gray-cheeked Thrush migration on the 9th and 10th with 80 to 90 calls per minute between 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. He reported, "The great number of calling birds made a din reminiscent of Spring Peepers." The next morning he went to the WKBT tower in Galesville in Trempealeau County and found 107 freshly killed birds of 20 species. These included 25 Red-eyed Vireos, 12 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 12 Tennessee Warblers, and 15 Ovenbirds. The third week of September began cool, then became very warm, and then cooled off again. On September 22, Al Shea and Susan Acre reported a large tower kill at the WMTV tower in Madison. They found 801 specimens of 31 species which included 268 Ovenbirds, 83 Tennessee Warblers, 64 Magnolia Warblers, 61 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 47 Black and White Warblers, 42 American Redstarts, 42 Red-eyed Vireos, 27 Nashville Warblers, and 26 Bay-breasted Warblers. The month ended with wet and very cool weather, with the first killing frost on the 25th in the north and west. A low of 23 was reached in Lake Thompson.

The first week of October was cool with some light snow in the northwest. Frost again occurred in midweek in all but the southeast and along Lake Michigan. Most of the rest of the month was cool, although not as wet. A brief warmup occurred on the 26th with a high of 75 in La Crosse, before the cool weather returned.

November began with very wet weather. A significant snowstorm occurred on the 8th and 9th with 4-12", with the heaviest snow from Lone Rock to Fond du Lac. Most of this melted the following week, but on the 16th, 4-8" fell north of a line from Green Bay to Eau Claire. The temperatures again warmed on the 18th to a high of 62 in Lone Rock and Racine, before a strong cold front again moved through. 1-4" of snow fell in the northwest on the 19th and 1-4" fell statewide on the 21st and 22nd. The last week of November was cold and snowy. A low of -12 was reached in Rice Lake on the 24th, and a low of -16 occurred in Duluth on the 29th. The month ended with a large blizzard bearing down on most of the state.

82 observers found a total of 281 species which is down slightly from the 286 species of the previous fall. Rare sightings that occurred during the period included: American White Pelicans, a Snowy Egret, Cattle Egrets, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, a Brant, a Harlequin Duck, the three Scoters, a Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagles, Spruce Grouse, a Piping Plover, Whimbrels, Western Sandpipers, a Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Little Gulls, a Great Black-backed Gull, Common Barn Owls, Black-backed Woodpeckers, A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaires, Varied Thrushes, a Hooded Warbler, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and a Hoary Redpoll.

THE SEASONAL SUMMARY

Red-throated Loon: Swengel found the first one in Bayfield County on October 7. Bontly found the last one in Milwaukee County on November 17. Also reported in Ozaukee County.

Common Loon: Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Forest, Iron, and Oneida Counties. Polk found 60 in Chippewa County on November 13. Found at the end of the period in Dane and Jefferson Counties.

Pied-billed Grebe: Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Epstein found 88 in Monroe County on September 23. Reported at the end of the period in Dane and Marinette Counties.

Horned Grebe: First reported by Hoefler in Burnett County on September 9. Bontly found 50 in Milwaukee County on October 25. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 28.

Red-necked Grebe: Found at the beginning of the period in Barron and Winnebago Counties. Berner found 6 in Barron County on August 4 and Ziebell found 6 in Winnebago County on September 27. Ashman found the last one in Dane County on November 16.

American White Pelican: Ziebell reported 2 in Winnebago County from September 20 to September 27. Polk reported one in Dunn County from October 22 to October 31. Tessen reported one in Dunn County on October 16.

Double-crested Cormorant: Reported at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Leshner found 300 in La Crosse County on September 15. Reported at the end of the period in Brown County Cleary and Columban.

American Bittern: Reported at the beginning of the period south to Brown, Dodge, and Eau Claire Counties. Last reported by Holton in Milwaukee County on October 25.

Least Bittern: Found at the beginning of the period in Iron and Shawano Counties. Berner found the last one in Barron County on September 11.

Great Blue Heron: Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 46 in Marathon County on August 11. Leshner reported 3 in La Crosse County at the end of the period.

Great Egret: Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Dodge, La Crosse, Outagamie, Pepin, Trempealeau, and Winnebago Counties. Polk found 45 in Dunn County on September 8. Last reported by Hunter in Trempealeau County on November 17.

Snowy Egret: Tessen found one in Brown County on August 22.

- Cattle Egret:** Reported from the beginning of the period to August 30 in Brown County by Cleary and Columban. Tessen found 2 in Brown County on August 22. Verch found 3 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on October 8.
- Green-backed Heron:** Found at the beginning of the period north to Brown, Shawano, Marathon, Chippewa, Barron, and Burnett Counties. The Luepkes found 35 in Marathon County on August 13. Last seen by the Luepkes in Marathon County on November 2.
- Black-crowned Night Heron:** Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties. Sontag found 11 in Manitowoc County on August 30. Last seen on October 25 in Manitowoc County by Sontag and in Milwaukee County by Holton.
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** Tessen found one in Winnebago County on August 9; Mueller found one in Milwaukee County on August 14, and Sontag reported one in Manitowoc County from September 18 to October 16.
- Tundra Swan:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Burnett County by Hoefler. Leshner found 2000 in La Crosse County on November 17. Found at the end of the period in Dane, La Crosse, and Winnebago Counties.
- Mute Swan:** Reported during the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Buffalo, Door, and Racine Counties. Verch found 43 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on November 5.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Reported in Iron County by Butterbrodt on October 4. Baughman found 11 in Dodge County on October 26.
- Snow Goose:** First reported by Anderson and Prickett in Outagamie County on September 14. Bontly found 120 in Milwaukee County on October 30. Gluckert found the last one in Kewaunee County on November 27.
- Brant:** Sontag found one in Milwaukee County on November 23. This bird was seen by several others from November 23 through the end of the period. This record was accepted by the records committee. See By the Wayside.
- Canada Goose:** Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Butterbrodt reported that DNR Warden Harold Schmude estimated that there were 250,000 in Ashland and Iron Counties on October 4. Found at the end of the period north to Barron and Marinette Counties.
- Wood Duck:** Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Tessen found 50 in Rock County on September 14. Reported at the end of the period in Brown, Shawano, and Winnebago Counties.
- Green-winged Teal:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Manitowoc Counties. Tessen found 50 in Dodge County on November 2. Last reported on November 9 in Dane County by Ashman and in Dodge County by Baughman.
- American Black Duck:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Dane, Manitowoc, Polk, and Racine Counties. Woodmansee found 40 in Milwaukee County on November 23. Found at the end of the period in scattered areas throughout the state.
- Mallard:** Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period in Burnett, Columbia, Dodge, and Dunn Counties. Ashman found 55 in Columbia County on October 16. Last reported by Leshner in La Crosse County on November 19.
- Northern Pintail:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Burnett, Columbia, Dodge, and Dunn Counties. Ashman found 55 in Columbia County on October 16. Last reported by Leshner in La Crosse County on November 19.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 350 in Winnebago County on September 21. DeBoer found the last one in Racine County on November 17.
- Northern Shoveler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown and Dodge Counties. Ashman found 47 in Dane County on October 26. Reported at the end of the period in Dane County by Ashman, Cederstrom, and Thiessen.
- Gadwall:** Found at the beginning of the period in Brown County by Cleary and Columban. Ashman found 58 in Dane County on November 3. Reported at the end of the period in Brown, Dane, and Green Lake Counties.
- American Wigeon:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Sauk County by Lange. Leshner found 800 in La Crosse County on September 26. Reported at the end of the period in Dane and Racine Counties.

- Canvasback:** First reported by Polk in Dunn County on September 25. Berner found 100 in Barron County on October 7. Found at the end of the period in Jefferson, Racine, and Sauk Counties.
- Redhead:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Dodge, Dunn, and Winnebago Counties. Peterson found 200 in Shawano County on November 19. Reported at the end of the period in Racine County by DeBoer.
- Ring-necked Duck:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, Dunn, Monroe, and Shawano Counties. Hoefler found 1200 in Burnett County on October 23. Reported at the end of the period in Jefferson County by K. Hale.
- Greater Scaup:** First reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on September 15. Woodmansee found 2000 in Milwaukee County on November 23. Found at the end of the period in Milwaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan Counties.
- Lesser Scaup:** First reported by Swengel in Wood County on September 17. Verch found 250 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on November 5. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Racine, Sauk, and Winnebago Counties.
- Harlequin Duck:** R. Johnson found one in Douglas County on October 26.
- Oldsquaw:** First reported by Swengel in Bayfield County on September 25. Bontly found 50 in Milwaukee County on October 30. Reported at the end of the period in Manitowoc and Milwaukee Counties.
- Black Scoter:** First reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on September 30. Verch found 14 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on November 12. Last reported in Milwaukee County on November 23 by Casper and Woodmansee. Also reported in Chippewa, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Shawano Counties.
- Surf Scoter:** First reported by Baughman in Manitowoc County on September 28. Tessen found 8 in Ozaukee County on October 6. Found at the end of the period by Baughman in Ozaukee County. Also reported in Ashland, Bayfield, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties.
- White-winged Scoter:** First reported in Manitowoc County by Baughman on September 27. Tessen found 27 in Ozaukee County on November 8. Reported at the end of the period in Ozaukee County by Baughman. Also found in Ashland, Bayfield, Dane, Douglas, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties.
- Common Goldeneye:** Found at the beginning of the period in Iron and Manitowoc Counties. K. Hale found 178 in Jefferson County on November 26. Reported throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Bufflehead:** First reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on September 8. Verch found 152 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on November 12. Reported at the end of the period north to Marinette and Burnett Counties.
- Hooded Merganser:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, Manitowoc, Marathon, and Winnebago Counties. Berner found 151 in Barron County on October 25. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Jefferson, and Manitowoc Counties.
- Common Merganser:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Iron County by Butterbrodt. K. Hale found 336 in Jefferson County on November 30. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron Counties. Frank found 2000 in Milwaukee County on October 20. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, and Winnebago Counties.
- Ruddy Duck:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Columbia, Dodge, Dunn, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago Counties. Holton found 175 in Milwaukee County on October 23. Found at the end of the period in Sauk and Winnebago Counties.
- Turkey Vulture:** Found at the beginning of the period north to Door, Shawano, Barron, and Burnett Counties. Swengel reported that Lisa Hartman found 210 in Sauk County on October 8. Wilda found the last one in Pepin County on November 19.
- Osprey:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Shawano, Marathon, Trempeleau, and Polk Counties. Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 25 on September 24, and Cowart found 25 in Ozaukee County on September 25. Last reported on November 2 in Monroe County by Epstein, and in Ozaukee County by Hanbury.
- Bald Eagle:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Langlade, Chippewa, Dunn, and Polk Counties. Hunter found 95 in Trempeleau County on November 17. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

- Northern Harrier:** Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Cowart found 29 in Ozaukee County on October 6. Reported at the end of the period in Sauk and Racine Counties.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Outagamie, and Polk Counties. Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 567 on October 5. Found at the end of the period in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, La Crosse, Sauk, and Shawano Counties.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Found at the beginning of the period in Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Sauk Counties. Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 19 on October 5. Reported at the end of the period in Buffalo, Green Lake, and Sauk Counties.
- Northern Goshawk:** First reported by Mueller in Door County on August 10. Reported at the end of the period in Langlade and Manitowoc Counties.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Forest, La Crosse, Outagamie, and Washington Counties. Hanbury found 4 in Ozaukee County on October 2. Polk reported that Pazderski found one in Chippewa County on November 3.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Fond du Lac, Sauk, Eau Claire, and Dunn County. Epstein found 1932 in Monroe County on September 24. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 27.
- Swainson's Hawk:** Reported by Follen in Wood County on October 5.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 110 on October 5. Reported at the end of the period north to Brown, Douglas, and Burnett Counties.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** First reported by Robbins in Taylor County on September 1. Epstein found 8 in Monroe County on November 9. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Golden Eagle:** Reported by Bontly in Douglas County on August 28; by Follen in Wood County on October 5; at Cedar Grove Ornithological Station on October 27 and November 14; and by Epstein in Monroe County on November 24.
- American Kestrel:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 57 on October 5. Reported at the end of the period north to Marinette and Polk Counties.
- Merlin:** First reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on August 17. Cowart found 40 in Ozaukee County on October 5. Last reported on November 25 in Sauk County by Lange and Swengel.
- Peregrine Falcon:** First reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on September 9. Cowart found 38 in Ozaukee County on September 24. Last reported on October 24 at Cedar Grove Ornithological Station.
- Gray Partridge:** Reported during the period in Brown, Columbia, Dodge, Marinette, and Ozaukee Counties.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reported during the period north to Marinette, Marathon, Douglas, and Burnett Counties. Sontag found 4 in Manitowoc County on November 8.
- Spruce Grouse:** Leshner found 2 at Stone's Bridge in Douglas County on August 16.
- Ruffed Grouse:** Reported during the period south to Sheboygan, Washington, Dane, Sauk, Monroe, and La Crosse Counties. The Luepkes found 21 in Marathon County on November 9.
- Greater Prairie Chicken:** Found during the period in Burnett, Marathon, and Portage Counties. Leshner found 15 in Burnett County on August 13, and the Luepkes found 15 in Marathon County on November 8.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reported during the period in Burnett and Douglas Counties. Leshner found 10 in Burnett County on August 13.
- Wild Turkey:** Reported during the period in Marinette, Sauk, Winnebago Counties.
- Northern Bobwhite:** Found during the period in Columbia, Dunn, Eau Claire, Sauk, and Trempealeau Counties.
- Virginia Rail:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. Last reported by Lindberg in Marinette County on September 28.

- Sora:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Sheboygan, Dane, and Eau Claire Counties. Hunter found 8 in Trempealeau County on September 8. Last reported by Cleary and Columban in Brown County on September 30.
- Common Moorhen:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane and Winnebago Counties. Leshner found 9 in La Crosse County on August 18. Last reported by Baughman in Dodge County on October 24.
- American Coot:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Milwaukee, Dane, Sauk, and La Crosse Counties. Ziebell found 5000 in Winnebago County on September 27. Reported at the end of the period in Brown, Dane, Eau Claire, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Marinette, and Winnebago Counties.
- Sandhill Crane:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Racine, Dane, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. Hoefler found 796 in Burnett County on October 29. The Luepkes reported one bird that was injured and eventually captured at the end of the period in Taylor County.
- Black-bellied Plover:** First reported on August 6 in Manitowoc County by Petersen and Tessen. Berner found 26 in Barron County on September 30. Last reported by Verch in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on October 29.
- Lesser Golden Plover:** First reported by Frank in Dane County on September 5. Swengel found 200 in Columbia County on October 16. Last reported by Tessen in Columbia County on November 2.
- Semipalmated Plover:** Found at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Manitowoc, and Shawano Counties. Sontag found 12 in Manitowoc County on September 1. Last reported by the Brassers in Sheboygan County on October 14.
- Piping Plover:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Manitowoc County by Frank and Sontag. Last reported by Swengel in Manitowoc County on September 18.
- Killdeer:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Frank found 425 in Dane County on September 5. Reported at the end of the period in Brown County by Cleary and Columban.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Manitowoc, and Winnebago Counties. Tessen found 200 in Outagamie County on August 6. Last reported by Baughman in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties on November 9.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Tessen found 250 in Dane County on August 31. Last reported on October 27 in Dane County by Cederstrom, and in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties by Baughman.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Sauk, Shawano, and Winnebago Counties. The Luepkes found 21 in Marathon County on August 4. Last reported by Berner in Barron County on October 21.
- Willet:** Reported from the beginning of the period to August 9 in Manitowoc County by Sontag; on August 6 in Manitowoc County by Peterson and Tessen; and on September 2 in La Crosse County by Leshner.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Sontag found 11 in Manitowoc County on September 3. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on October 28.
- Upland Sandpiper:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. Hudick found 3 in Polk County on August 3. Hoefler found 3 in Burnett County on October 2 for the latest report.
- Whimbrel:** Sontag found 3 in Manitowoc County on August 27, Frank found one in Manitowoc County on August 29, Sontag found one in Manitowoc County on September 7, and Swengel found one in Manitowoc County on September 9.
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Reported by the Leglers in Dane County on October 3, Thiessen in Dane County on October 6, and by Mueller in Manitowoc County on October 30.
- Marbled Godwit:** Sontag found 2 in Manitowoc County on August 9.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties. Sontag found 4 in Manitowoc County on September 4. Last reported by Thiessen in Dane County on October 6.
- Red Knot:** First reported by Leshner in La Crosse County on August 10. Last reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on September 8. Also reported in Manitowoc County.

- Sanderling:** Found at the beginning of the period in Manitowoc County by Frank and Sontag. DeBoer found 65 in Racine County on September 19. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on October 25.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, and Shawano Counties. Tessen found 30 in Outagamie County on August 11. Last reported by Cederstrom in Dane County on October 13.
- Western Sandpiper:** First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on August 11. Last reported by Thiessen in Dane County on September 29. Also found in Jefferson, Manitowoc, and Walworth Counties.
- Least Sandpiper:** Found at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, La Crosse, Manitowoc, and Marathon Counties. Thiessen found 110 in Dane County on September 2. Last reported on October 20 in Dane County by Cederstrom and Thiessen.
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** Reported from the beginning of the period to September 30 in Brown County by Cleary and Columban, and in La Crosse County on August 8 by Leshner.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Found at the beginning of the period in Dane County by Thiessen. Thiessen found 6 in Dane County on August 25. Last reported in Dane County on October 26 by Tessen and Thiessen.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Manitowoc, and Shawano Counties. Thiessen found 185 in Dane County on August 17. Last reported by Polk in Chippewa County on October 31.
- Purple Sandpiper:** The Pratts found one in Milwaukee County on November 17. This record was accepted by the records committee. See By the Wayside.
- Dunlin:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown County by Cleary and Columban. Thiessen found 100 in Dane County on October 20. Last reported by Glueckert in Kewaunee County on November 24.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. Thiessen found 35 in Dane County on September 2. Last reported by Cederstrom in Dane County on October 20.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** R. Johnson found one in Douglas County on August 11, Peterson found one in Dane County on August 28, Tessen found 4 in Jefferson County on August 31, and the Leglers found one and Thiessen found 3 in Dane County on September 2.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Dane, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Manitowoc, and Marathon Counties. Thiessen found 11 in Dane County on September 2. Last reported by Swengel in Dane County on October 1.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** First reported by Tessen in Manitowoc County on August 6. Thiessen found 30 in Dane County on October 12. Last reported on October 26 in Dane County by Tessen and Thiessen.
- Common Snipe:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Brown, Dane, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. Cederstrom found 24 in Dane County on October 20. Found at the end of the period in Sauk County by Swengel.
- American Woodcock:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sheboygan, Dane, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. Berner found 15 in Barron County on October 21. Last reported by the Luepkes in Marathon County on November 9.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown County by Cleary and Columban. Tessen found 3 in Dane County on August 31. Last reported on September 25 in Brown County by Cleary and Columban.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** First reported by Polk in Eau Claire County on August 24. Tessen found 2 in Dane County on September 14. Last reported in Dane County by Swengel on September 20.
- Franklin's Gull:** Reported from the beginning of the period to August 9 in Manitowoc County by Sontag, on August 10 in La Crosse County by Leshner, on September 19 in Racine County by DeBoer, on October 1 in Dane County by Swengel, on October 2 in Dane County by the Leglers, and on October 15 in Ozaukee County by Cowart.
- Little Gull:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Manitowoc County by Frank and Sontag. Sontag found 4 in Manitowoc County on August 4. Last reported by the Leglers in Milwaukee County on November 3. Also reported in Racine County.

- Bonaparte's Gull:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dunn, Manitowoc, Racine, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties. Sontag found 350 in Manitowoc County on August 4. Found at the end of the period in Milwaukee by Bontly and Holton.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Reported during the period in scattered areas throughout the state. K. Hale found 647 in Jefferson County on October 4.
- Herring Gull:** Reported during the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Sontag found 760 in Manitowoc County on September 26.
- Glaucous Gull:** Reported from September 12 to the end of the period in Manitowoc County by Sontag; from November 17 to the end of the period in Douglas County by R. Johnson; on November 23 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties by Verch; and on November 24 in Ozaukee County by Sundell.
- Great Black-backed Gull:** Glueckert found one in Kewaunee County on October 2. This record was accepted by the records committee. See *By The Wayside*.
- Caspian Tern:** Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Burnett, Door, Douglas, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan Counties. Sontag found 222 in Manitowoc County on August 1. Last reported by Baughman in Ozaukee County on October 5.
- Common Tern:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Douglas, and Manitowoc Counties. Sontag found 150 in Manitowoc County on September 1. Last reported by Holton in Milwaukee County on October 13.
- Forster's Tern:** Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Racine, and Winnebago Counties. Sontag found 75 in Manitowoc County on September 23. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 22.
- Black Tern:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Manitowoc, Dodge, Columbia, and La Crosse Counties. C. Schultz found 170 in Winnebago County on August 4. Last reported on September 23 in Manitowoc County by Sontag, and in Winnebago County by Ziebell.
- Rock Dove:** Reported throughout the state during the period. Berner found 80 in Barron County on September 29.
- Mourning Dove:** Found throughout the state during the period. Holton found 100's in Milwaukee County on August 31.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Manitowoc, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on September 25.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Found at the beginning of the period in Burnett, Door, Langlade, Polk, and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 6.
- Common Barn Owl:** A nest in Deerfield in Dane County was reported to have had 3 young. Several observers reported seeing the adult flying to and from the nest in a large tree between September 5 and September 14.
- Eastern Screech Owl:** Reported during the period in Barron, Brown, Dane, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Shawano, and Winnebago Counties.
- Great Horned Owl:** Found throughout the state during the period.
- Snowy Owl:** Reported from October 30 to the end of the period in Ashland/Bayfield Counties by Verch, and on November 12 in Burnett County by Hoefler.
- Barred Owl:** Found during the period south to Milwaukee, Washington, Sauk, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties. Berner found 3 in Barron County on September 21.
- Long-eared Owl:** Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 3 during the period, and the Luepkes found one in Marathon County on October 26.
- Short-eared Owl:** Reported by Hoefler in Burnett County on October 25, by Mueller in Milwaukee County on October 27, by Thiessen in Dane County on November 10, and by Mueller in Kewaunee County on November 24.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Reported by Wierzbicki in Brown County on October 3 to October 17, on October 31 in La Crosse County by Lesher, and from November 1 to November 16 in Barron County by Berner. Cedar Grove Ornithological Station reported 14 on the night of October 24-25.
- Common Nighthawk:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. DeBoer found 18,000 in Racine County on August 27. Last reported by Cowart in Ozaukee County on October 15.

- Whip-poor-will:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, and Washington Counties. Last reported by Swengel in Sauk County on August 20.
- Chimney Swift:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 2000 in Winnebago County on September 20. Last reported by Baughman on October 13 in Fond du Lac and Washington Counties.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Racine, Dane, Monroe, and La Crosse Counties. Tessen found 3 in Menominee County on August 20. Polk reported that Christofferson found one at a feeder in Chippewa County on November 19.
- Belted Kingfisher:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 18 in Marathon County on August 25. Reported at the end of the period in Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Polk, Trempeleau, and Washington Counties.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Reported at the beginning of the period throughout the state. Hunter found 20 in Trempeleau County on September 28. Found at the end of the period in Barron, Brown, Racine, Rock, Sauk, and Trempeleau Counties.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Marathon and La Crosse Counties. Berner found 10 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported by Baughman in Fond du Lac County on November 16.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Reported throughout the state during the period. Berner found 11 in Barron County on September 28.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 8 in Barron County on September 28.
- Black-backed Woodpecker:** Reported by Tessen in Forest County on August 20; by Bontly in Douglas County on August 28; by Fuller in Burnett/Polk Counties on September 21; by R. Johnson in Douglas County on September 29; and by Reardon in Vilas County on October 17.
- Northern Flicker:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 33 in Marathon County on August 25. Reported at the end of the period in Manitowoc, Marathon, Outagamie, Racine, and Sauk Counties.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Reported during the period south to Brown, Green Lake, Sauk, Monroe, and Trempeleau Counties. Berner found 5 in Barron County on August 30.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First reported by Bontly and Woodmansee in Milwaukee County on August 6. Berner found 3 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported by Polk in Eau Claire County on September 22.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 15 in Marathon County on August 25. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 13.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by R. Johnson. Last reported by Parsons in Grant County on September 27.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Found at the beginning of the period in Fond du Lac and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Swengel in Sauk County on August 8.
- Alder Flycatcher:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 7 in Barron County on August 3. Last reported by Berner in Barron County on September 18.
- Willow Flycatcher:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Monroe, and Washington Counties. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 3.
- Least Flycatcher:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Marathon, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 14 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported by Lange in Sauk County on October 2.
- Empidonax Sp. Flycatcher:** Last reported by the Kunns in Sheboygan County on October 12.
- Eastern Phoebe:** Found at the beginning of the period throughout the state. Frank found 10 in Milwaukee County on October 10. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on November 15.
- Great-crested Flycatcher:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 5 in Barron County on August 16. Last reported by Baughman in Ozaukee County on October 5.

- Eastern Kingbird:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Epstein found 25 in Monroe County on August 30. Last reported by Baughman in Dodge County on September 29.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Greg and Debbie Geller found one near Cross Plains in Dane County on August 17. This record has been accepted by the records committee. See By the Wayside.
- Horned Lark:** Reported at the beginning of the period throughout the state. R. Johnson found 45 in Douglas County on October 1. Found at the end of the period north to Brown, Barron, and Burnett Counties.
- Purple Martin:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 125 in Barron County on August 4. Last reported by Baughman in Manitowoc County on September 28.
- Tree Swallow:** Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Frank found 2500 in Dane County on September 5. Last reported by Baughman in Columbia County on October 24.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Found at the beginning of the period north to Brown, Douglas, and Barron Counties. Berner found 7 in Barron County on August 3. Last reported by Swengel in Columbia County on October 1.
- Bank Swallow:** Reported at the beginning of the period north to Shawano, Marathon, Douglas, and Marathon Counties. Frank found 750 in Dodge County on August 1. Last reported in Fond du Lac County by Baughman on October 2.
- Cliff Swallow:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Washington, Dane, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. The Luepkes found 600 in Marathon County on August 16. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 6.
- Barn Swallow:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 325 in Barron County on August 21. Last reported by Cederstrom in Dane County on October 28.
- Gray Jay:** Reported during the period in Ashland, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Taylor and Vilas Counties. Tessen found 4 in Forest County on October 13.
- Blue Jay:** Found throughout the state during the period. Epstein found 526 in Monroe County on September 26.
- American Crow:** Reported throughout the state during the period. Ashman found 250 in Dane County on November 22.
- Common Raven:** Found during the period south to Shawano, Marathon, Monroe, and Eau Claire Counties. Berner found 18 in Barron County on November 4.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** Reported throughout the state during the period. Berner found 40 in Barron County on August 3, and Glueckert found 40 in Door County on October 6.
- Boreal Chickadee:** Found by Reardon in Forest County on August 24.
- Tufted Titmouse:** Found during the period in Chippewa, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jefferson, and Rock Counties. K. Hale found 3 in Jefferson County on August 15.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Sheboygan, Outagamie, Shawano, Barron, and Polk Counties. Holton found 10 in Milwaukee County on October 13. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 10 in Barron County on September 28.
- Brown Creeper:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Outagamie, and Polk Counties. Tessen found 30 in Ozaukee County on October 6. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- House Wren:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 6 in Marathon County on August 18. Last reported by Holton in Milwaukee County on October 13.
- Winter Wren:** Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Fond du Lac, Polk, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Ashman found 8 in Dane County on October 10. Last reported by Lange in Sauk County on November 23.
- Sedge Wren:** Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Dodge, Dunn, Eau Claire, Marathon, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 8 in Barron County on September 7. Last reported in Milwaukee County on October 10 by Bontly and Frank.

- Marsh Wren:** Found at the beginning of the period north to Sheboygan, Shawano, Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties. Last reported on October 11 in Dane County by Ashman, and in Manitowoc County by Sontag.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade County by Pickering. Tessen found over 200 in Ozaukee County on October 20. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Manitowoc and Sauk Counties.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First reported by Bontly in Sawyer County on August 14. Tessen found 45 in Ozaukee County on October 6, and Ashman found 45 in Dane County on October 7. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 16.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Found at the beginning of the period in Dunn, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Monroe, Ozaukee, Polk, and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 3.
- Eastern Bluebird:** Reported at the beginning of the period north to Door, Shawano, Ashland, Bayfield, and Burnett Counties. Hudick found 64 in Polk County on October 16. Polk reported that Pazderski found the last one in Chippewa County on November 17.
- Townsend's Solitaire:** Swengel found 2 in Sauk County on October 22.
- Veery:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Brown, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Langlade, Marathon, and Milwaukee Counties. Berner found 100 in Barron County on September 9. Last reported by Woodmansee in Milwaukee County on October 7.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** First reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on August 28. Ashman found 4 in Dane County on October 7. Last reported by Verch in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on October 22.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Found at the beginning of the period in Milwaukee County by Woodmansee. Leshner estimated that approximately 5400 Swainson's and gray-cheeked thrushes, mostly Swainson's, passed overhead from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on September 9 to 10 on French Island west of La Crosse. Last reported by Anderson and Prickette in Outagamie County on October 13.
- Hermit Thrush:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Langlade, Shawano, and Sheboygan Counties. Woodmansee found 50 in Milwaukee County on October 7. Found at the end of the period in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Sauk Counties.
- Wood Thrush:** Found at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Sauk, and Sheboygan Counties. Last reported by Anderson and Prickette in Outagamie County on October 19.
- American Robin:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Woodmansee found 500 in Milwaukee County on October 21. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Varied Thrush:** One was reported at the Thorpe feeder in Monroe County from November 9 to November 12. Robbins reported one at the Clifford feeder in Marathon County from November 21 to the end of the period, one at the Lehman feeder in Bayfield County from November 25 to the end of the period, and one at the Curran feeder in Jackson County from November 28 to the end of the period.
- Gray Catbird:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 20 in Dane County on September 14. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on November 17.
- Brown Thrasher:** Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 11 in Dane County on October 7. Reported at the end of the period in Fond du Lac County by Baughman.
- Water Pipit:** First reported by DeBoer in Racine County on September 15. Epstein found 16 in Monroe County on October 5. Last reported by Epstein in Monroe County on November 4.
- Bohemian Waxwing:** First reported by Verch in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on October 16. Verch found 68 in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on November 19. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Langlade, Marathon, Outagamie, and Polk Counties.
- Cedar Waxwing:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. DeBoer found 300 in Racine County on August 25. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Northern Shrike:** First reported by R. Johnson in Bayfield County on October 9. Cowart found 4 in Ozaukee County on October 27. Found at the end of the period south to Green Lake, Sauk, Monroe, and Eau Claire Counties.

- Loggerhead Shrike:** Reported by Cowart in Door County on August 8, by Epstein in Monroe County on August 9, by Lindberg in Marinette County on August 15, and 2 were found by the Kuhns in Sheboygan County on September 19.
- European Starling:** Found throughout the state during the period. The Luepkes found 500 in Marathon County on August 21.
- Solitary Vireo:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland and Bayfield Counties by Verch. Berner found 10 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported on October 10 in Dane County by Ashman, in Manitowoc County by Sontag, and in Milwaukee County by Frank.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Found at the beginning of the period in LaCrosse, Marathon, Outagamie, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 3.
- Warbling Vireo:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Washington, Dane, Sauk, and La Crosse Counties. Berner found 3 in Barron County on August 26. Last reported on September 27 by Baughman in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties.
- Philadelphia Vireo:** First reported by Peterson in Shawano County on August 13. Ashman found 4 in Dane County on September 14, Bontly found 4 in Milwaukee County on September 24. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 6.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Sontag found 6 in Manitowoc County on September 6. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 12.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Dunn, Eau Claire, Monroe, and Sauk Counties. Last reported by Lange in Sauk County on August 28.
- Golden-winged Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Polk, Sauk, and Washington Counties. Berner found 5 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported by Epstein in Monroe County on September 28.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by R. Johnson. Berner found 33 in Barron County on August 25. Last reported by Epstein in Monroe County on October 6.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** First reported by Leshner in Douglas County on August 16. Bontly found 5 in Milwaukee County on October 6. Last reported by Cederstrom in Dane County on October 25.
- Nashville Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Price, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 31 in Barron County on August 25. Last reported by Cederstrom in Dane County on October 20.
- Northern Parula Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by R. Johnson. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 4.
- Yellow Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 1.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 13 in Barron County on August 25. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 7.
- Magnolia Warbler:** First reported by Tessen in Oneida County on August 15. Ashman found 40 in Dane County on September 21. Last reported by Frank in Milwaukee County on October 15.
- Cape May Warbler:** First reported on August 20 in Eau Claire County by Polk, and in Menominee County by Tessen. Berner found 12 in Barron County on August 27. Last reported by Hardy in Price County on September 29.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Shawano County by Peterson. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on September 11. Last reported by J. Hale in Door County on October 11.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Oneida Counties. Tessen found 100 in Ozaukee County on October 6. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on November 19.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas, Fond du Lac, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Pickering found 9 in Langlade County on September 2. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 22.

- Blackburnian Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Brown, and Douglas Counties. Pickering found 13 in Langlade County on September 2. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 10.
- Pine Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. Berner found 6 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 6.
- Palm Warbler:** First reported by Leshar in Douglas County on August 12. Berner found 31 in Barron County on September 16. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 22.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** First reported by Tessen in Oneida County on August 15. Berner found 28 in Barron County on September 11. Last reported by Lange in Sauk County on October 6.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** First reported by Leshar in Douglas County on August 14. Pickering found 19 in Langlade County on September 2. Last reported by Berner in Barron County on October 3.
- Cerulean Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Fond du Lac County by Baughman, and from August 24 to August 25 in Barron County by Berner.
- Black and White Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Brown, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Ashman found 9 in Dane County on September 21. Last reported by K. Hale in Jefferson County on October 10.
- American Redstart:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Racine, Dane, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. Ashman found 50 in Dane County on September 21. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on October 10.
- Prothonothary Warbler:** Reported from the beginning of the period to August 16 in Polk County by Hudick, and on September 22 in Dane County by Cederstrom.
- Ovenbird:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Brown, Dane, Sauk, and Eau Claire Counties. Berner found 12 in Barron County on August 30. Last reported by Sundell at his feeder in Ozaukee County on November 13.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Pickering in Langlade County on October 5.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Reported from the beginning of the period to September 14 in Sauk County by Swengel.
- Kentucky Warbler:** Reported in Fond du Lac County on September 8 by Baughman.
- Connecticut Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas County by R. Johnson. Last reported by Baughman in Ozaukee County on October 5.
- Mourning Warbler:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Sauk Counties. Berner found 6 in Barron County on August 26. Last reported by the Leglers in Dane County on September 30.
- Common Yellowthroat:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 30 in Barron County on August 3. Last reported on October 21 in Dane County by Ashman, and in Milwaukee County by Woodmansee.
- Hooded Warbler:** A male was found in Ozaukee County on October 6 by Cowart and Tessen.
- Wilson's Warbler:** First reported by Leshar in Douglas County on August 16. Pickering found 4 in Langlade County on September 3. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 30.
- Canada Warbler:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Brown, Douglas, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 6 in Barron County on September 10. Last reported on September 21 in Milwaukee County by Mueller, and in Winnebago County by Ziebell.
- Scarlet Tanager:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Dane, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Polk, and Sauk Counties. Tessen found 20 in Forest County on August 20. Last reported on September 29 in Dane County by Ashman, and in Sauk County by Lange.
- Northern Cardinal:** Found throughout the period north to Door, Marinette, Langlade, Price, Barron, and Burnett Counties. Smith found 20 in Waukesha County on November 23.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Fond du Lac, Dane, Sauk, and La Crosse Counties. Ashman found 20 in Dane County on September 21. Reported at the end of the period at a feeder in Taylor County by the Luepkes.

- Indigo Bunting:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 10 in Marathon County on August 24. Last reported by Tessen in Forest County on October 13.
- Dickcissel:** Reported by Baughman in Ozaukee County on October 13.
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee, Washington, Dodge, Dane, Sauk, and La Crosse Counties. Ashman found 6 in Dane County on October 10. Reported at the end of the period in Fond du Lac County by Baughman.
- American Tree Sparrow:** First reported by Swengel in Bayfield County on September 24. Ziebell found 80 in Winnebago County on October 16. Found at the end of the period north to Marinette, Langlade, Barron, and Burnett Counties.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 32 in Barron County on September 16. Last reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on October 26.
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 14 in Barron County on September 16. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 20.
- Field Sparrow:** Reported at the beginning of period north to Outagamie, Shawano, Price, Barron, and Burnett Counties. Berner found 10 in Barron County on August 3. Last reported by Baughman in Fond du Lac County on November 2.
- Vesper Sparrow:** Found at the beginning of the period north to Door, Shawano, Douglas, and Burnett Counties. Berner found 5 in Barron County on August 17. Last reported by Baughman in Columbia County on October 24.
- Lark Sparrow:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties by Polk.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Luepkes found 35 in Marathon County on August 11. Last reported by Berner in Barron County on October 24.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Chippewa, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Sauk, and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Swengel in Sauk County on August 20.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** Found at the beginning of the period in Fond du Lac and Marathon Counties. Last reported by Baughman in Ozaukee County on October 5.
- LeConte's Sparrow:** In Barron County, Berner reported on August 16, 4 on August 20, and one on September 28, and Baughman found one in Ozaukee County on October 5.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Reported by Thiessen in Dane County on September 29.
- Fox Sparrow:** First reported by Swengel in Bayfield County on September 23. Berner found 16 in Barron County on October 8. Polk reported that Christofferson found one in Chippewa County on November 25.
- Song Sparrow:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 40 in Dane County on October 10. Found at the end of the period in Brown, Racine, Rock, and Sauk Counties.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, and Bayfield Counties. Berner found 13 in Barron County on October 2.
- Swamp Sparrow:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 23 in Barron County on September 28. Reported at the end of the period in Manitowoc County by Sontag.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Chippewa, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Iron, Langlade, and Price Counties. Ashman found 75 in Dane County on October 7. Found at the end of the period in Brown, Green Lake, Milwaukee and Racine Counties.
- White-crowned Sparrow:** First reported by Leshner in Bayfield County on September 7. Berner found 38 in Barron County on October 2. Reported in Ozaukee County by Sundell at his feeder from November 20 to the end of the period.
- Harris' Sparrow:** First reported by Verch in Ashland/Bayfield Counties on September 21. R. Johnson found 7 in Douglas County on October 2. Last reported by R. Johnson in Douglas County on October 27.

- Dark-eyed Junco:** Found at the beginning of the period in Douglas, Iron, Oneida, and Polk Counties. Pickering found 600 in Langlade County on October 12. Found throughout the state at the end of the period. Putnam reported one of the Oregon race in Dane County from November 17 to November 30.
- Lapland Longspur:** First reported by Cowart in Oconto County on September 19. The Luepkes found 110 in Marathon County on October 20. Reported at the end of the period in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties.
- Snow Bunting:** First reported by Swengel in Bayfield County on October 8. Peterson found 500 in Shawano County on November 10. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Bobolink:** Found at the beginning of the period north to Brown, Langlade, Marathon, and Barron Counties. Berner found 38 in Barron County on August 21. Last reported on September 18 in Dodge County by Swengel, in Dunn County by Polk, and in Monroe County by Epstein.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Cederstrom found 5000 in Dane County on October 26. Reported at the end of the period in Barron, Brown, Dodge, Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Racine, Shawano, Taylor, and Walworth Counties.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 30 in Barron County on October 6. Found at the end of the period in Brown County by Cleary and Columban.
- Western Meadowlark:** Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Polk, Sauk, and Trempeleau Counties. Last reported by Hudick in Polk County on October 14.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Chippewa, Dodge, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Marathon, Polk, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Baughman in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties on October 24.
- Rusty Blackbird:** First reported by Polk in Chippewa County on September 24. Thiessen found 100 in Dane County on October 26. Reported by Thiessen at the end of the period in Dane County.
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Reported at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee, Brown, Shawano, Marathon, and Eau Claire Counties. C. Schultz found 200 in Winnebago County on October 6. Last reported by Hardy in Price County on November 23.
- Common Grackle:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 500 in Barron County on September 17. Found at the end of the period in Brown, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Ozaukee, Racine, and Walworth Counties.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 3 in Barron County on August 3. Found at the end of the period in Brown, Fond du Lac, and Kewaunee Counties.
- Orchard Oriole:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Dunn and Eau Claire Counties by Polk.
- Northern Oriole:** Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 11 in Barron County on August 16. Polk reported that Christofferson found one at a hummingbird feeder in Chippewa County on November 16.
- Pine Grosbeak:** First reported by Hardy in Price County on October 22. Woodmansee found 16 in Milwaukee County on November 17. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Purple Finch:** Found at the beginning of the period south to Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Monroe, and Eau Claire Counties. Berner found 10 in Barron County on August 27, and Woodmansee found 110 in Milwaukee County on October 17. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.
- Red Crossbill:** Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland/Bayfield Counties by Verch. Bontly found 4 in Milwaukee County on October 23. Found at the end of the period in Ashland, Bayfield, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Sauk Counties.
- White-winged Crossbill:** Reported from August 19 to October 23 in Douglas County by R. Johnson, on September 8 in Bayfield County by Leshner, and on October 31 in Ozaukee County by Cowart.

Common Redpoll: First reported by Robbins in Taylor County on September 22. Berner found 150 in Barron County on November 15. Found at the end of the period south to Shawano, Marathon, and Eau Claire Counties.

Hoary Redpoll: Hardy found one in Price County on November 12.

Pine Siskin: Found at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron Counties. Tessen found 70 in Chippewa County on October 26. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

American Goldfinch: Found throughout the state during the period. Epstein found 42 in Monroe County on November 16.

Evening Grosbeak: Reported at the beginning of the period in Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Douglas, Green Lake, Iron, and Price Counties. Hardy found 75 in Price County on November 24. Found at the end of the period south to Milwaukee, Sauk, and La Crosse Counties.

House Sparrow: Found throughout the state during the period. Glueckert found 225 in Kewaunee County on November 24.

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Caspian and Royal Tern at Manitowoc in June-July, 1985. Photo taken by Jeff Baughman.



By the Wayside...

Purple Sandpiper at Bradford Beach in Milwaukee

On November 17 at 1300 hours, my husband, Lance Pratt, and I came upon a sandpiper I could not readily identify on a breakwater at the south end of Bradford Beach in Milwaukee. Our attention was first drawn to the bright yellow legs on the short, rotund, strikingly dark body. This combined with (1) the "two-toned" bill with yellowish at the base and black toward the tip and (2) the nearly complete white eye-ring caused me to conclude this was a Purple Sandpiper, according to Peterson's **Field Guide to the Birds** (1980). We watched the sandpiper in bright sunlight for approximately ten minutes, and during this time it continued walking on the wet rocks, intermittently looking our way but persistently pecking at the rock surfaces. We and the bird approached each other within at least ten feet while this activity continued.

Owing to the fact that I have never knowingly seen a Purple Sandpiper in the field, but only in museum collections, I hesitated to make a definitive identification and also consulted the **Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds** (J.K. Terres, Ed., 1980) and **Birds of North America** (Robbins, et al, 1966). I later learned through the grapevine that several birders saw Purple Sandpipers in the area in December. At any rate, this made for an invigorating experience!

Jeanne Hornbeck Pratt

Night Migration, September 9-10, 1985

La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties

About 10:00 p.m. C.D.T. the night of September 9, 1985, my son, Jonathan, age 23, alerted me to the fact that many birds were calling as they flew low in the night sky over our home on French Island west of the La Crosse Municipal Airport. Our home is located literally in the center of the Mississippi River trench, midway between the bluffs of Wisconsin to the east and Minnesota to the west. The sky was overcast but not foggy at ground level, winds were very light from the North, temperature was 64°F, relative humidity was 82%, and barometric pressure was 30.05 and rising. The previous day had been overcast and misting.

As I stepped outside I could hear that there was indeed a chorus of night calling birds, mostly Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. The Swainson's sound like Spring Peepers and the Gray-cheeked sound like Common Nighthawks. At 10:00 p.m. and again at 11:45 p.m. I was able to count between 80 and 90 Swainson's and Gray-cheeked calls per minute, mostly Swainson's. At 1:00 a.m. I confirmed that thrushes were still calling at nearly the same rate. The great number of calling birds made a din reminiscent of Spring Peepers.

If my estimate of up to 90 birds per minute is three times too high, based on hearing each bird three times as it passed over, and allowing intervals when numbers of birds diminished drastically, a total of approximately 5400 Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes could be estimated to have passed overhead between 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. Strangely, no warbler calls were heard. The only other birds identified by call were a Great Blue Heron and Solitary Sandpiper.

Suspecting a tower kill at the WKBT tower at Galesville in Trempealeau County, about 15.5 miles north of my home, I visited the tower the next morning. In the mowed grass area extending 50 to 100 yards around the base of the tower, I collected 107 freshly killed birds of 20 species. Additional birds were no doubt hidden in the dense cornfields under the portions of the guy wires beyond the mowed grass. Species collected and numbers of each are as follows:

Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Tennessee Warbler	12
Swainson's Thrush	7	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Gray Catbird	4	Black & White Warbler	4
Solitary Vireo	1	American Redstart	5
Philadelphia Vireo	1	Ovenbird	15
Red-eyed Vireo	25	Northern Waterthrush	4
Golden-winged Warbler	2	Mourning Warbler	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	12	Common Yellowthroat	5
Magnolia Warbler	1	Scarlet Tanager	1
Cape May Warbler	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2

Six and one-half miles southwest of LaCrosse in Houston County, Minnesota, there was a kill at the WHLA tower. This tower at its base is 560 feet above the elevation of French Island, and rises 800 feet above ground. The engineer in charge of this tower reports a kill that same night of 19 species and 209 individual birds. He also reports that there was heavy fog at ground level around the tower and poor visibility the night of September 9-10.

Fred Leshner
509 Winona St.
La Crosse, WI 54603

A Brant at Red Arrow Park in Manitowoc

A Brant (western form) was initially observed in Manitowoc's Red Arrow Park on 21 Nov. 1985. Because of the distance, about one mile, positive identification was not made until 23 Nov. when it was again found in the same area, but observed from a distance of 50 feet. At this distance, the typical field marks on this small goose, slightly larger than a mallard, were easily recorded using 7x50 binoculars. The black bill, head, neck, and chest was interrupted only by the white, with black streaking, collar in the upper foreneck and side of neck. The dark brown back was contrasted with the white sides which were streaked with dark brown, becoming solid black on the breast, and merging with the chest. The white flank and under and upper tail coverts was interrupted only by the black margin of the tail. The wings were uniform brown-black, observed when the bird stretched or flapped its wings when it was approached. It was not observed in flight, however.

The bird maintained a distinct individual space that was met with aggressive threats when invaded by the Herring Gulls, Mallards, and Goldeneyes, which were in the immediate area. One such threat is pictured. Unfortunately, the Mallard managed to get out of the field of the picture. Both male and female mallards were threatened, especially when the Brant was foraging or near the shoreline. It appeared that the Brant was dining on blue green algae which collects along the shore. This area was about ½ mile south of the sewage treatment facility.

The question is not whether or not the bird is a Brant, but whether it was released or had escaped from a private aviary. The bird was carefully examined for the usual forms of marking captive birds, such as wing tags or leg bands, but none were found. Whether the bird was web or toe marked was also considered, but could not be ruled out because direct observation was not possible. It is my feeling that the bird was not an "escapee" because of its behavior. It was as uncomfortable with my presence as the Mallards and Goldeneyes in whose company it kept. The close approach, 50 feet, was permitted only by remaining in the car.

Charles Sontag

Great Black-backed Gull in Algoma

At 5:30 p.m. on October 2, 1985, I looked out our kitchen window, hoping to spot some migrating sandpipers on the beach. To my surprise, a rather large gull with a black back was out there eating away at a large fish. I grabbed my 7-15 x 35mm zoom binoculars and stepped outside for a closer look. Standing about 25 yards away, I made the following observations: several inches larger than the surrounding Herrings; white head, tail, and underparts; and an orange spot near the tip of the large yellow bill. It left for a few minutes but came back. It was angry at the Herring Gulls that were trying to steal its meal. It walked over to the invaders with its wings spread and back hunched. The Herrings quickly got the message from the bigger gull. I observed the bird for 10 minutes. I paged through my field guide and found that it was an adult Great Black-backed Gull. The sand beach has little vegetation and it is separated from my house by a road and a small but steep hill. The temperature was 50 and the skies were partly cloudy.

Kevin Gluckert
206 Fremont St.
Algoma, WI 54201

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Cross Plains in Dane County

Glimpsing an unfamiliar bird perched on a powerline as we drove past at highway speed we quickly became curious and backtracked. There, perched about twenty feet off the ground and thirty feet away was a light gray bird, body size roughly the same as a robin, with dark wings and a long tail. The sides of the body had a definite pinkish-yellow tinge and there was an area of darker gray running through the dark eye. The bill was dark and heavy. Within seconds of these initial observations, the bird made a flight to the ground during which flashes of salmon-pink wing linings and the long, dark, deeply forked tail, with a few white feathers therein, became evident and confirmed our belief that we were watching a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. As those times when the bird was perched, the tail could be seen to have a length approximately the same as that of the head and body, a character of an immature individual. The deep fork was not apparent in the tail at rest.

After ten minutes of watching, we decided to return to our nearby home to get our camera. The bird was in the same area when we returned a few minutes later.

We were impressed with the graceful, slow, bouyant flapping flight as it sallied for insects from perches on the powerlines. Also noted was its remarkable lack of concern for our close presence. Many times the bird landed within a few feet of us, wings clearly audible. Similarly, the bird remained calm as I approached various perches taking pictures with a 200 mm lens; its 4x effect being the only optical enhancement available during these observations.

Save the Wetlands for the Cranes

**Mary and
Charlie Nelson**



Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I wanted to report something I found of interest to me. I don't know if this is common or not, but it was a first for me - migrating blue jays.

Saturday, 20 November, 1:00 p.m., my son and I drove over to the Mississippi River, U.S. Highway 35, 2 miles south of Ferryville, to look for migrating birds. After glassing the marsh for sometime I turned and started watching the soaring hawks and small flocks of waxwings up among the bluffs. As I watched, a small flock of blue jays flew by heading down river. I thought nothing of it at first, but within 5 to 10 minutes another small flock passed by. They were flying over the tree tops about 50 yards high at the base of the bluffs. I wondered at first if these were just local birds flying back and forth, consequently I started observing where they went and where they were coming from up river. Within another 5 to 7 minutes a flock came along the shoreline from up the river, they passed overhead and moved south down the valley. I followed their flight with binoculars until they disappeared from my sight.

Within the next 20 minutes flocks of blue jays in groups of 26 to 75 passed, all coming and going as the others. The time interval was approximately the same as mentioned above. They flew by quietly and I observed that the local blue jays in the woods were not affected by the migrating birds. The local birds were busy doing what blue jays do -- whatever that is!

I totaled 225 birds in the flocks that were counted. It was a partly cloudy day in the 70's. No dominate winds from any direction and light rain showers were moving in from the west all day long.

Kickapoogian Observer, Ed Merz
Rt. 2, Box 48A
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655



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