



# **The passenger pigeon. Volume 31, Number 2**

## **Summer 1969**

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A MAGAZINE OF WISCONSIN BIRD STUDY



# *The* **Passenger Pigeon**

Summer 1969

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 2

Photo By  
RICHARD P. HERZFIELD  
Rt. 1 Hartland, Wisconsin



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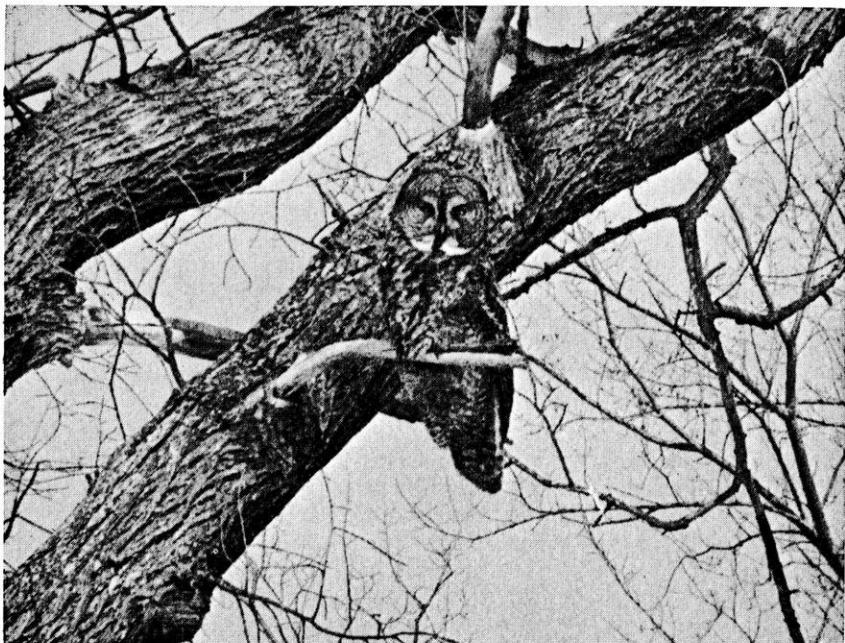
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# THE GREAT GREY OWL INVASION OF WISCONSIN 1969



The winter of 1968-1969 was remarkable for the widespread records of the Great Gray Owl in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Saskatchewan. Until a few years ago there were no recent records and this is considered the rarest of our owls. Mr. Bill Hilsenhoff in a coming issue will present more documentary on the movement of this bird into our state. Kumlien states that before the heavy timber was cut down this was not a rare Wisconsin bird even in the southern tier of counties.

# A GREAT GREY OWL IN THE BARABOO HILLS

On February 9, 1969, while driving on U. S. Highway 12, 4 miles south of Baraboo, at about 3:00 p. m., we sighted a large owl in a tree 100 feet from the highway. Our first thoughts were of the Barred Owl, but binoculars showed the yellow eyes, general gray coloring and facial characteristics of the Great Gray Owl. We were surprised, since this magnificent bird of the northern forests has been identified in Wisconsin only a few times previously, but the good view he offered left no room for doubt.

The owl was perched in one of a group of several trees in an open field which sloped back to a border of thick woods a few hundred yards away. We took many photographs, first from the car and then from outside, closer to the bird. We watched for almost an hour, and the owl did not exhibit signs of nervousness due to our presence until we moved very near to it.

The following afternoon we looked for the owl with Dr. Joseph J. Hickey and found the bird in a tree in the same pasture close to the woods away from the highway. We watched for two hours, taking more photographs. On a few occasions we approached to within 25 feet of the owl perched in a tree before he flew to another tree. Three times the owl dropped to the ground, rather gently it seemed to us, but apparently hunting, and one time we saw him quickly swallow a mouse, then return to his perch. Once, while flying from a perch across the open field, the owl dropped to the snow for a few seconds, then resumed his flight to a new perch. He seemed to move around quite a lot from tree to tree, although many of these times he probably moved from nervousness caused by his viewers. He stayed close to the ground, flying gracefully, and chose perches from 10 to 30 feet from the ground.

We were surprised to see how very prominent the large white "moustaches" of this particular bird were. They were much more noticeable than the black chin spot mentioned as an identifying mark of the Great Gray Owl in Peterson's Field Guide. It was also interesting that the owl's feet were always covered by his long belly feathers in dozens of photographs taken on several different perches.

We were unable to locate the Great Gray Owl on the next two days, but it was seen by several other people in this same field and nearby areas during the next two weeks.

Mindaugas Labanauskas  
Carolyn Connors  
Peter G. Connors



# THE GREAT GREY OWL IN SAUK COUNTY

By KENNETH I. LANGE



During the early afternoon of 2 February 1969, Walter and Rosemary Fleming saw a large owl along U. S. 12 in Sauk County, Wisconsin, about 1.5 miles south of state highway 159. Thinking that it was a Barred Owl, they drove on. Four days later Mrs. Jerome L. (Betty) Thiessen saw a large bird at dusk in this same area. On 9 February 1969 the authors of the preceding paper were returning to Madison from the Petenwell Flowage, where they had been photographing eagles. In the same area as the previous sightings, they saw a large owl, which they assumed to be a Barred Owl. They stopped to take pictures of the bird. To my knowledge, this was the first time that the bird in question (probably the same individual on all three occasions) was correctly identified as a Great Gray Owl. This owl was subsequently seen and identified by perhaps 50 people, and as far as I have been able to determine, it was last seen by Mrs. Arthur K. (Olga) Bassett, Jr., on 20 February 1969.

The locality is in section 22, T. 11 N., R. 6 E., Sumpter Township. This is pastureland, with scattered deciduous trees and saplings, bordered

by oak woods. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks and a Northern Shrike were also hunting in this area during February 1969.

I first saw the Great Gray Owl at 4:30 p. m. on 11 February. It was perched in an elm sapling when I arrived; it flew from this lookout to another just after I stopped the car. On its new perch the owl looked back and forth for a minute or so, hunched forward briefly, and then flew into an adjacent swale to emerge a moment later with a white-footed mouse in its beak. The owl landed on top of a fence-post by the swale and bolted the *Peromyscus*. Then it flew several hundred feet south into the vicinity of a grove of red and white pines by the Devi-Dells Motel. All this activity was seen amid blowing snow, a most dramatic and appropriate setting in which to view a visitor from the north.

The next day I explored the grove of pines to find two ruffed grouse but no owl pellets nor "whitewashed" trees.

I watched this owl on three additional occasions on as many days; the total observation time for the four sightings was about 70 minutes.

This particular owl was never seen at dawn or during the morning (the area was usually checked several times each day by myself and/or other people). The earliest sighting of which I am aware was at 1:30 p. m. (on a bright day). Since this bird was observed to be active into the twilight, it was assumed that on most days it hunted from the early afternoon into at least the early evening. It probably covered these pastures several times during a 24-hour period. But what if it had been quite successful in catching prey? It seems likely that the owl would then have stopped feeding and not hunted any more until it again became hungry. This may have been one of the reasons for the owl being sighted on only about half of the days in the period from 9-20 February.

It seemed to become more active as the day progressed, in that it changed perches more frequently during the late afternoon and at dusk than earlier in the afternoon. From 5:15 to 5:35 p. m. on 12 February, the bird utilized a dozen perches on both sides of the highway, thereby "looking over" an area approximately one-quarter square mile during a 20-minute period. On 17 February the Great Gray Owl used about 20 perches from 5:25 to 6 p. m. In contrast, from approximately 4 to 5 p. m. on the 17th, it used only seven lookouts, sitting in one spot for at least 25 minutes (so observed by Terry Rich).

Any object that afforded an unobstructed view of the surrounding countryside presumably could have been used as a lookout. The object actually chosen for a lookout usually was a tree, but saplings were also selected, and on at least several occasions the owl perched on top of a telephone pole. It often perched within 100 feet of the highway, so presumably it was not disturbed by the sound of traffic.

The owl was looking (and listening?) for small mammals, particularly mice (I saw it with a mouse on only one occasion, but it was also seen catching mice by several other people). Although Blue Jays were in the area, I never saw them mob this owl. Nor was the owl ever observed to attack a Blue Jay or any of the other birds, typical of southern Wisconsin in winter, that frequented this area.

In hunting for mice, this owl usually perched at a height of 25 to 40

feet above the ground (from about the middle to near the top of the tree-line), but sometimes it perched as low as 10 feet and as high as 60 feet above the ground. There was no correlation between the height of the perch and light intensity.

At a given perch the owl swiveled its head at least several times in order to scan the adjacent cover of snow and ice. When it landed on a heavy branch (its usual perch), it never looked directly down, but once when it landed in the top of a thin-branched elm sapling, which was nearly parallel with the ground, it not only looked away from the perch but also directly down, both in line with its body axis and to each side.

After a variable period of time, the Great Gray Owl flew from approximately 100 to 200 feet to another lookout. One evening, in moving from one lookout to another, the bird flew at about the same level as the height of the perch that it had just vacated; it flapped its wings about three to six times and then glided, sometimes tacking briefly in flight between perches. On another evening it was hunting more on the wing (and flapping more); on a number of occasions on this date the owl dropped to a given perch to within ten feet (often just a few feet) of the ground and quartered briefly (sometimes it made several sweeps) before it flew up to another lookout. Also, on this particular evening, the bird pounced ("fluttered" would be more accurate) to the ground on three occasions. The owl dropped to the ground from a perch, not from the air. Was it initially attracted by prey? Before flying off, it remained in position on the ground for a brief period and seemed to be scanning the adjacent area from its new vantage point.

Prey occasionally may have been spotted during flight, but most potential food was probably noted when the owl was stationary.

We have witnessed a number of authenticated records of the Great Gray Owl in Wisconsin in recent winters. One wonders how many have been missed or overlooked. Would the Sauk County bird have been identified by someone else, if the authors of the preceding paper had not stopped to photograph a "Barred Owl"? Look carefully at a "Barred Owl" in winter, even if it means a U-turn!

"... the pair of gigantic owls that I hunted for an entire summer without securing either a shot at or an identification, though I learned to imitate their strange cry, and had decoyed one to my very feet in the thicket where I was hiding ..." (Wilfred J. Dorward, *Annals of the Glen*, 1901: 118). The locality is an area in Columbia County, about seven miles east of Devil's Lake. Dorward (also spelled Durward) was a naturalist, a writer, a photographer, and a taxidermist; certainly he knew and could identify the Horned Owl and the Barred Owl. Could these have been Great Gray Owls?

— Park Naturalist  
Devil's Lake State Park  
Baraboo, Wisc. 53913



# *Operation Bluebird* *Manitowoc County* *Spring Cleaning* **1969**

By **BERNARD N. BROUCHARD**

March 17, 1969 was our first warm "spring" day the temperature being as high as 55 degrees. On this particular day, the fourth day spent cleaning bluebird houses, my intent was to clean the lower 'tier' (of townships) trails.

After our 1000 plus bird houses were placed in 1964 it soon became apparent that it would be necessary to clean and check systematically in order to obtain an accurate accounting of each trail and house. For simplification, Manitowoc county has been divided into five tiers of townships. The southern (or lower) tier, or tier "E", was the target for March 17.

Each trail has a number (1 through 110) as does each house (1 through 10). Therefore the third house on trail 65 is officially designated number 65-3. The OPERATION BLUEBIRD - MANITOWOC COUNTY houses are made according to "W.S.O.-ROMIG" specifications but are painted five different colors for experimentation: red, yellow, blue, green, and white. After being in place for five years many of the numbers have worn off but the houses have retained most of their color. Therefore, if the blue house number 65-3 did not have a readable number it is simply called 65-B. If necessary, the records could be checked as to height above ground and direction facing to see if number 65-B was 3 or 8. The colors run: number 1 & 6 red, number 2 & 7 yellow, number 3 and 8 blue, number 4 & 9 green, and number 5 & 10 white.

Several trails in tier "D" were also cleaned as my route took me through that area. The first trail cleaned was the "**Fischer #41**". Nine houses were present (a red one being missing). Each had an old House Sparrow nest in it and each had a pair of House Sparrows near-by (this seems early). I also saw and heard a Western Meadowlark from this trail.

On the "**Schroeder # 82**" trail only five houses were found. House number 82-9(G), an old sparrow nest, had five Cardinal tail feathers, two Bluejay feathers, and three Saw-whet Owl primaries in it making it rather colorful. All this on top of a dead male Tree Swallow (unbanded).

Number 82-8(B) had a sparrow nest converted to a mouse nest with three mice present. This nest also had Cardinal feathers in it (Mr. Schroeder informed me that he has many Cardinals at his feeders). Number 82-R has a mess on the bottom that resembled a Tree Swallow nest

converted to a mouse nest with one mouse being present. Fifteen minutes after cleaning this house, it had a male House Sparrow inspecting it! Number 82-7(Y) had an old sparrow nest in it and 82-G had a mouse nest in it but no mice. Number 82-W had a Tree Swallow nest.

**“Wernecke #53”** had one white house missing (I removed the remaining nine houses after cleaning). 53-W had a sparrow nest in it with “wren sticks” on top. This “two story” apartment was converted to a mouse nest with one mouse present. Number 53-G also had a mouse nest but no mice. Number 53-B was MT (empty), and 53-7(Y) had an old sparrow nest as did the rest of the trail (53-2(Y), 53-3(B), 53-G, 53-R, and 53-R).

From this trail “Wernecke #53”), had I more time, I would have gone the five miles to the **“Reichwaldt #100” trail**. I surmised, however, that a long-time WSO’er like Myron Reichwaldt would have his houses already cleaned.

On the **“Lewis #105”** trail only eight of the houses were found, all of which had the door unscrewed and hanging open. All houses were MT and were removed. I heard a White-breasted Nuthatch and three Black-capped Chickadees singing their spring songs from this trail.

Most of the fences on the **“Sohn #94”** trail have been removed since it was last visited and only seven of his ten houses were located. Each of these had a sparrow nest and number 94-G had a female sparrow on the nest! I saw and heard two Eastern Meadowlarks and a Song Sparrow on this trail. This land is a large expanse of tall unpastured grass and it was interesting to note that many Short-eared Owl pellets were found. Also, during each of the past five summers Harriers have been present.

The four houses found on the **“Freis #106”** trail had sparrow nests in them.

Nine houses on the **“Weber #87”** trail had old sparrow nests and the tenth, #87-R, had a House Wren nest. Number 87-9(G) had a pair of House Sparrows on the roof when I approached. There was a flock of about 30 to 40 Redwings, Grackles, and Starlings on this trail.

Target happy “hunters” took a heavy toll on the **“Waack #88”** trail but all were repaired and cleaned when I arrived. This trail is one of many in Manitowoc county that is completely maintained by the land-owner!

**“Wernecke #85”:** No work to do here either—all set for the birds to move in!

All nine houses on the **“Stangel #107”** trail had been converted to mice nests but the original builder could not be determined. An adult Red-tailed Hawk was seen.

Twenty-three (of 40) houses were removed on **“Polster #49”, “Polster #93”, “Radant #39”, and “Stock #83”**. These houses (all sparrow nests) were heavily vandalized.

The **“Irons #72”** trail, last stop of the day, is only a partial trail of four houses, the rest being across the road in a “tier-of-townships-to-be-checked-another-day”! Number 72-G was propped open to keep the sparrows out (promptly closed). 72-B looked like a possible Bluebird nest but had been re-arranged by mice (none present). The very last house to be checked on March 17, was the only positive Bluebird nest seen. It also

had been remodeled into a mouse-house but none were present. I watched a Kestral on this trail for over one half hour. I was on a hill overlooking a large grassy area surrounded by "plantation pines" and had the opportunity to observe the bird from above with the dark pines for a background—what a picture!

So ended a typical "cleaning day" along the Bluebird trails of Manitowoc county. As of today, March 17, 1969, 38 trails (approximately 380 houses) have been cleaned and repaired. The high percentage of sparrow nests might have been the result of the birds filling the houses later in summer. Whether they actually raised young I do not know. During the summer, however, I very well remember evicting sparrows constantly. The removal of several trails has been undertaken so as to place them in more suitable habitat. House Sparrows did not move into these houses in numbers for several years so perhaps a new location might keep them out for two or three years. Another problem that we have is the "missing houses", the majority of which have fallen to vandals and thieves.

415 East Magnolia Avenue  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220

#### **MINUTES OF WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEB. 22, 1969**

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 by President Harold Mathiak. Other officers present were Messrs. Baumgartner, Cox, Hayssen, Hendrick, Kemper, Kruse; and Mmes. Schmidt and Cox. Mrs. Kemper was a welcome guest.

**MINUTES**—The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

**TREASURER**—Mrs. Holz was absent but sent her report (appended); it was discussed and approved.

**2nd VICE-PRESIDENT COX** reported that Convention plans were moving smoothly so far.

**VICE-PRESIDENT & PUBLICITY**—Mr. Hendrick has had, among other relevant correspondence, a request from Howard Young for a subscription to the **Passenger Pigeon** to be sent to Pigeon Lake Camp. This was approved.

**CONSERVATION**: Dr. Baumgartner stated that CNRA has presented the case against DDT in Madison; presentation of their side by opponents has been postponed, so it is all up in the air. It may come to the courts; the expense has been heavy but is justified by the importance of the cause. The publicity is having a terrific impact, not only in Wisconsin but nationally and internationally. The bills barring the use of DDT are being considered in the Legislature; passage seems improbable. Another bill licensing pest-control procedures is coming up; opposition is extreme from the Chemical Companies and from the Farm Bureau.

**PUBLICATIONS**—Mr. Holz absent, no report.

**EDUCATION**—Mrs. Hussong absent, no report.

**ENDOWMENTS AND ADVERTISING**—Mr. Hayssen has received a check from the Nelsons for another year's space.

**FIELD TRIPS**—Mr. Peartree said that about 75 people took part in the Petenwell trip. No wild turkeys were seen at Meadow Valley Refuge, and the Ranger there said that the winter had been very hard on them. A great gray owl had been seen in the vicinity but failed to show—two others have been reported in the state and many have been seen in Minnesota. Future dates—Milwaukee, Mar. 2; Honey Creek winter work day Mar. 23; spring work days May 3-4; Annual Walk Up the Valley May 18; Spring Campout will be held in the Lake Tomahawk area June 21-22.

**LEGAL COUNSEL**—Mr. Hall absent, no report.

**RESEARCH**—Hamerstroms absent; sent urgent request for continuation of the Osprey Survey for another year, asking that \$1000 be advanced to partially cover expenses. After lengthy discussion, since it seems that conclusive results depend on another season of study, Dr. Kemper moved that \$500 be advanced for this purpose with the decision as to further procedure to be decided at the next meeting after receiving an up-dated report. This was seconded by Mr. Hayssen, carried.

**MEMBERSHIP**—Mrs. Schmidt's report as of January 25 listed 1030 memberships, 1133 persons. Since then she has added 17 new members. Following discussion bringing out the fact that \$2 Student Memberships represent a loss to the Society, a motion by Dr. Kemper, seconded by Mr. Hendrick, authorized the phasing out of this type of membership by 1970. Changing **Joint to Family** Memberships was also approved on motion by Mr. Hayssen, seconded by Dr. Baumgartner and carried. A map showing the distribution and density of WSO members in the state will be brought up to date and on display at the Convention. This might be the basis of an article in the **PP**.

A reminder of the new rates is to appear in the **Badger Birder**.

**BOOKSTORE**—Mr. Kruse will have good selections at the Convention. Making a special price on Gromme's **Birds of Wisconsin** was regarded favorably. Details will be learned of what can be done, and the invitations can carry a request for orders at the set price so there can be sufficient supply secured on consignment.

**HONEY CREEK**—The fenced, 10 acre swampy tract, rented from the Pagels for the past 10 years is now for sale at \$100 per acre under a 3-yr. agreement with the option of completing the transaction at any time. Mr. Hayssen would buy it, but, since it is not what he is really looking for, Mr. Peartree moved that WSO buy it on the terms stated. Seconded by Dr. Baumgartner and carried.

The Leland Rod and Gun Club is considering buying the land along Honey Creek from the WSO holdings to their Leland Park area. Since they have helped WSO in their purchase of local lands, it would be fitting to assist them if their plans materialize.

**EDITOR—PASSENGER PIGEON**—Dr. Kemper said that the new issue was in the mail; a shortage of copies to be sent to new members will be remedied by the printing of 1200 of the next issue. Whether to send last or current copies was left to be determined by the numbers on hand. Addition of "Dues & Change of Address" to the listing of the Membership Chairman on the back of the magazine was recommended, and a section of "Letters to the Editor" was suggested as an interesting addition. He wishes the photographs to keep on coming to him.

**EDITOR—BADGER BIRDER**—Miss Donald absent, no report.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**—Mr. Hayssen reported no problems.

**OLD BUSINESS**—President Mathiak reported that the results of the ballot by mail on the donation of \$500 toward CNRA's DDT hearings were—10 for, 2 up to \$250 and the rest did not vote.

A past donation to the Wisconsin Resource Council resulted in our being put on their membership list against our expressed desire. We do not wish to be members of the organization; therefore the whole matter will be dropped.

A motion by Mr. Kruse, seconded by Mr. Hayssen, that, subject to the approval of the Publications Committee, the Society underwrite the publication of 1000 copies of the revised *Bluebird Trails* was approved.

A motion by Mr. Hayssen that, due to unforeseen difficulties of upkeep and of utilization, the offer of the Erickson property be refused, seconded by Mr. Peartree and carried. President Mathiak will so inform Mrs. Erickson.

Miss Helen Northup is working on the index; what a faithful gal she is!!!

**NEW BUSINESS**—A list of Attorneys who are members of the Society and might be induced to take the place of Howard Bast, deceased, will be given to the President by Mrs. Schmidt in order that the vacancy be filled as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be held at Stevens Point, April 12—that will be a busy time, for the CNRA Council is also meeting at Hamerstroms and that is the weekend the WSO visits the Prairie Chicken Blinds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hazel H. Cox, Secretary

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**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.**  
**Stevens Point, Wis.** **April 12, 1969**

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by President Harold Mathiak. Other officers present were Messrs. Hayssen, Hendrick, Holz, Kemper, Peartree and Cox and Mmes. Holz, Schmidt and Cox. (Dr. Frederick Hamerstrom attended the afternoon session.)

**MINUTES** of the previous meeting were approved.

**TREASURER**—Mrs. Holz (report appended) said that she had sent a check for \$500.00 to Charles Sindelar for the Osprey Study commitment as directed by the Board and had advanced \$100.00 to David Cox for Convention expenses. Balanch sheet—\$31,141.52.

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**—David Cox reported that plans for the Convention were seeming to be coming along well, not too many papers have been offered but there is still time for them.

**MEMBERSHIP**—Mrs. Schmidt records—unpaid 144; deceased 2; cancelled 4—New—active 4; joint 10; sustaining 4—1059 memberships, 1435 individuals. This is a gratifying number; however, membership increase should continue percentagewise with population increase. The dues reminder situation will be left as voted previously, but Mr. Holz will look into the question of self-addressed envelopes for billing. Duplicate checks sent in by forgetful members are to be returned.

The matter of the Pigeon Lake subscription to the Passenger Pigeon was left in its somewhat confused state hoping for clarification.

**LEGAL COUNSEL**—Mr. Hall absent, no report. The appointment by President Mathiak of Attorney Robert W. Lutz of Chilton as our second Legal Counsel and the problems of this Committee were discussed at length.

**EDUCATION**—Mrs. Hussong was absent but sent her report to the President to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment for lunch — 12:00-1:10 p. m.

**EDITOR**—Dr. Kemper said that Helen Northup has about completed the index, including more information than the previous one. It will be bound separately—1300 copies.

The high quality of the magazine was praised, and it was firmly stated that there must be no economizing that could lower its excellent reputation among ornithological publications.

**AWARDS**—Mr. Holz announced that a name has been chosen to receive the Silver Pigeon Award at the Annual Meeting. After discussion of the many deserving persons who should be honored, the name of Chandler Robbins was voted to be presented to the membership for approval as recipient of the Society's highest honor, an Honorary Life Membership.

**PUBLICATIONS**—Mr. Holz said that the Bluebird Trails revised brochure had been taken care of and that new membership folders were being processed. There was talk of probable future population changes, of the Society's plans to adapt to changing conditions and of the necessity to personally express opinions about controversial matters without having the Society, in itself, seem to take a position that might be construed as lobbying.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**—The list of candidates is complete, said the Committee.

**ENDOWMENTS AND ADVERTISING**—Mr. Hayssen had nothing new to report, but he presented a request from Mary Donald who was unavoidably absent—she wished to be instructed as to what she was supposed to do about listing new members and changes of address—most organizations regularly bring their membership lists up to date; there is a rule adopted some years ago that this Society bring out a new list every five years. That was before the Birder was started, and it was decided, after consideration, that names added since 1967 when the current list was published should be listed as well as changes of address. Mrs. Schmidt thought that the list would be extremely long, so printing it as a separate issue was recommended with the future members names being added from time to time.

**PUBLICITY**—Mr. Hendrick will put out a news release for the Convention as soon as information is available. He has had gratifying results from his published article "Friday is for the Birds", hearing from interested persons from faraway places.

**FIELD TRIPS**—Mr. Peartree has set up the following events—at Honey Creek, the annual Work-week-end, May 3-4. The Walk Up the Valley, May 18. The Spring Camp-out will be held June 21-22 in the Tomahawk Lake area.

**RESEARCH**—Dr. Hamerstrom introduced a guest, Dr. Robert Cook, who praised the Society for its backing of the Osprey Study. He gave an overall picture of the National effort of which this is a part. In addition to surveys here in the Midwest, both the east coast and Montana are involved in this problem which is larger than any one

part and should be taken up another year by some integrating group such as National Audubon Society. He spoke of the tremendous scope of this study of a vanishing species in a critical situation and of the need for prompt and concerted action. President Mathiak offered to contact Senator Nelson to find out whether or not there could be Federal help for financing a co-ordinated program for these important studies.

Dr. Hamerstrom brought a report from Charles Sindelar (appended). Conservation personnel are being very helpful, two complete aerial checks are to be made and it seems that this is a crucial time in which previous study results will be added to and correlated to complete a significant report. Following discussion, a motion by Charles Kemper—that WSO will underwrite this year's expenses of Charles Sindelar while carrying on this Osprey Study—up to \$1,500.00; this includes the \$500.00 already advanced to him. It will be, hopefully, offset by money received from any source for this purpose. Seconded by Edward Peartree the motion was unanimously carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**—The Kruses were absent—all is well at Honey Creek and the Bookstore. Carla Kruse sent word that the Counties are discontinuing their system of 4H Workbooks on Conservation subjects. These will no longer be handed in and graded, so some other type of promotion for 4H Conservation work must be developed. She hopes that the funds for this will still be available.

There being no other business to be brought before the meeting, adjournment was at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hazel H. Cox, Secretary

## Minutes Of May, 1969 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President Mathiak. About 120 were present.

**MINUTES**—The minutes of the 1968 Business Meeting were accepted as printed in the *Passenger Pigeon*.

**TREASURER**—Mrs. Holz gave her usual concise and thorough report. Balance sheet showing:

ASSETS	LIABILITIES
Cash on Hand .....\$ 3,793.68	Endowment Fund .....\$ 2,000.00
Steenbock Savings .....2,358.19	Convention Fund .....150.00
(Total Amount)	General Fund .....1,169.73
General Savings .....1,997.15	Education Fund .....41.67
U. S. Treasury Note .....4,960.26	Prairie Chicken Fund .....213.57
Bookstore Inventory .....5,100.00	Research Fund .....50.00
Bookstore Equipment .....317.60	Publications Fund .....90.57
Addressograph .....181.41	Conservation Fund .....277.16
Mimeograph .....250.00	"Outside" Contribution Fund ..100.00
Land Values .....12,391.39	WSO NET WORTH .....25,056.00
\$31,349.68	Net Gain to Date .....2,200.98
	\$31,349.68

INCOME	EXPENSES
Membership Dues .....\$ 4,194.95	Addressograph .....\$ 51.18
Advertising .....200.00	Badger Birder .....298.70
	Circulation Manager .....93.95
\$ 4,394.95	Fire Insurance .....47.00
	Liability Insurance .....34.00
	Prairie Chicken .....166.71
	Membership Chmn. .....47.51
	Passenger Pigeon .....1,394.50
	Treasurer .....17.70
	President .....22
	Stationery & Printing .....41.50
	Miscellaneous .....1.00
	\$ 2,193.97
	Net Gain to Date .....2,200.98
	\$ 4,394.95

Following the reading of the Auditor's report, Judge Simpson moved that this be referred to the Board of Directors—seconded and carried.

**MIMEOGRAPHED REPORTS** from Board Members, President Mathiak, Secretary Hazel Cox; Education Chmn. Clara Hussong; Publicity, Donald Hendrick and Field Trips Edward Peartree were distributed. (Reports appended.)

**EDITOR—PASSENGER PIGEON**—Dr. Kemper proudly stated that the magazine issues were now up to date, that the new index would be published during the next two weeks—he thanked the Field Notes Editors and those who submitted manuscripts adding that he would like them to include a picture of themselves, please—stating modestly that he wants to put out the BEST magazine of its type in the country. (He is certainly well on the way!)

**ASSISTANT SAM ROBBINS** apologized for things undone—but he forgot to claim any credit for the enormous amount of things accomplished through the years. He stressed the importance of the Breeding Bird Surveys and reminded the group of the Transect Program that is going so well but can use more participants. He said that Wisconsin was truly "on the map" in regard to Ornithological operations and thanked all who are making this possible.

**BADGER BIRDER EDITOR**—Mary Donald's report was read by President Mathiak. She reported 11 issues of the Birder had been put out in 1968-9 at a cost of \$37.00 or \$32.50 per issue. This includes paper, postage and incidentals. Credit was gratefully given to Lowell Hall for having the stencils made; to Carl Hayssen for transporting them; to James Fuller who does the mimeographing; to Ed Peartree who does the stapling and to Norma Schmidt who does the addressing and mailing. She has been pleased to receive news from new members and hopes that many more will send in bits to be share with others. She will welcome helpful suggestions and criticisms (although we can't think of any possible improvement!)

**MEMBERSHIP**—Mrs. Schmidt reported 1010 memberships, 58 Libraries, making, with the Joint memberships a total of 1224 persons. She receives and answers many letters, reports new members and address changes and asks that members co-operate by early payment of dues.

**AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS**—Mr. Holz will soon produce a new membership brochure—(Can't hardly keep up with changing costs, etc.??) A Silver Pigeon Award will be presented at the Banquet; the Honorary Life Award, given by the Society for distinguished service in the field of Ornithology, has been conferred by the Board of Directors on Chandler Robbins, subject to confirmation by the membership. This was willingly granted and will be awarded to him at the next Annual Meeting.

**BLUEBIRD TRAILS**—Mr. Romig said that next year would be the 10th anniversary of this project which has sponsored the erection of at least 60,000 bluebird houses. He sees growing enthusiasm among youth groups and their leaders and hopes for aid in extending the program. This seems a very worthy project, indeed.

**BOOKSTORE**—Harold Kruse reports sales amounting to \$8,134.00 and expenses of \$6,250.00 including \$300 for the catalog. \$1,000.00 has been turned over to the WSO Treasury but quite a number of accounts are still outstanding. These are reliable customers.

**HONEY CREEK**—Mr. Kruse said that WSO now owns over 217 acres there, with Nature Conservancy holdings and private lands dedicated to remaining protected there is now about 2000 acres so dedicated in the area. The Sierra Club is still working on their trail which will ultimately wind up hill and down dale from WSO lands, over the Baraboo Hills to Portage.

**CONSERVATION**: Dr. Baumgartner has been active along three different lines this past year:

1. The far-reaching DDT hearings in Madison, with a tribute to the capable and influential part taken by Joe Hickey.
2. The State ORAP Program, launched but in need of navigational directives.
3. The trapping and killing of predatory birds around Game Farms and Fish Hatcheries. He notes that managers of these places are difficult to convince of the error of their ways.

**RESEARCH**—Dr. Fran Hamerstrom, monitored by a very wise-looking Ambrose, made a plea for more understanding of the value of birds of prey; she spoke of the delights of having wild pets, said she approved of hunting, felt that it was a privilege

not to be abused but she thought that pole trapping operations were cruel and inhumane. She endorsed a petition being circulated about this matter.

**OLD BUSINESS—None.**

**NEW BUSINESS**—President Mathiak thanked the local Committees and Chairman David Cox who promptly shared the honor with his wife. They were given a fine hand.

Next year's Convention will be at Fond du Lac and Rockne Knuth, who will be in charge, was introduced.

Paul Romig presented a Resolution petitioning for the elimination of pole-trapping and asking that the Great Horned Owl be put on the protected list. Reasons for the exclusion of this bird when the protection bill was passed some years ago sparked a lively discussion. Dr. Von Jarchow claimed indignantly that it was a sneaky way of getting the bill through, saying that he thought it might be a good idea to have an open season on Hunters. Mr. Gromme agreed that this had been a political maneuver, they had to compromise in order to get the bill through at all. There was an agreement, however, that within five years it too would be placed on the protected list but nothing ever came of it. He said that he felt that morals were not improving, that the danger of indiscriminate shooting was increasing and approved the Resolution. A motion for approval by the Society was unanimously passed.

The following slate of officers was presented to the group by Carl Hayssen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

President, Donald Hendrick, Tomahawk  
Vice-President, William Pugh, Racine  
Secretary, Hazel Cox, Beloit  
Treasurer, Phyllis Holz, Green Bay  
Editor, Charles Kemper, Chippewa Falls

No other nominations being forthcoming the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for said slate. This was done and they were declared duly elected.

Mr. Gromme then wished to add his recommendation that the Grackle be taken off the protected list and this led to quite a discussion of the overlapping of State and National Migratory Bird Laws. This is a matter on which we are not too well versed and perhaps we should take it under serious consideration.

Mr. Mathiak praised those with whom he had worked during the past year then handed the gavel over to Mr. Hendrick who led the assembly in a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Mathiak for his faithful service.

Louise Erickson spoke of her hope that the idea of a WSO Convention at our northern outpost, Superior, had only been delayed, not permanently shelved.

Reverend Orians reported on the completion of the purchase of Goose Pond by Madison Audubon Society. He said that Dr. Steenbock's will assigned \$100,000.00 to the National Audubon Society for ornithological work in Wisconsin. Madison's request for aid was answered by a check for \$14,000.00 and a promise to pay one-half of the purchase price of the north part of the area. On this delightful, high note the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 with President Hendrick asking the officers to meet with him immediately for a few minutes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hazel H. Cox, Secretary

Meeting of Officers:

President Hendrick asked that all Committee Chairmen remain at their posts, said that he would not be able to attend a summer meeting but was sure that our new Vice-President, Mr. Pugh, would carry on effectively. The summer meeting was set for July 19, 1969, and the group dismissed.

Hazel H. Cox, Secretary



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

June 3, 1969

Dear Dr. Kemper:

These days Robbie's and Marty's singing awakens me at 5:00 o'clock so I get up soon thereafter. I wish there were someone who could write down the dozens and dozens of combinations of notes which Robbie sings. He usually sings steadily from 5:00 until I let him out of his bedroom—around 7:30 or so. I keep him away from Marty who is in the kitchen, until I am out there for they fight so much. Robbie gets Marty by the head and won't let go.

Marty has a house on top of the cupboard this year which he really guards. Into it he carries every piece of paper he can find. He attempts any size, but isn't always successful. He's a pretty busy bird too, trying to chase the Robins, Orioles, Catbirds and Cardinals from the window sill feeder where they come for currants. He makes the strangest noises.

Carla Kruse brought us a male Connecticut Warbler with a broken leg which someone found on a field trip at Beloit last Sunday morning. Henry taped the leg but do not yet know how successful the result will be. We have little Connie in a cage in Robbie's room. He lives on meal worms. These meal worms are really a blessing and worth their weight in gold to me. Since January 1966 we've bought 190,000 of them. All the birds like them. We have 10 birds in the house at present including 2 newcomers—2 young Robbins still with fuzz. Robbie carries food around in his bill even tho he's never fed any. The Red Crossbill is now on the patio for the summer but was in our bedroom all winter. I don't get much sleep these days for Marty awakens me with his singing at 5:00 a.m.. Robbie is in his own room where he sings but I can hear him through the closed doors. There are 3 canaries in the kitchen and the Cliff Swallow in his night cage in the pantry where Marty also sleeps but is free to go to the kitchen.

The birds keep me going for about 12 hours a day. I suppose I'm some kind of a nut to be a slave to the birds! Sometimes I haven't time to read the daily paper for a week but I do like to keep up my almost daily bird notes.

We do hope to see you sometime this summer, you and your wife or whoever else might come. Perhaps business would bring you this way sometime.

Sincerely,  
Edna Koenig

P. S.—Hope the tower kill wasn't so heavy—think of it often. We have a male Cardinal since March without a single feather on his head.

E. K.

Dear Doctor Kemper,

My brother Tim and I are birders from the great city of West Allis. Tim is a member of the W.S.O. and I of the Audubon Society. We have been drawing birds longer than we have been seriously observing them. Enclosed are two of our best drawings, drawn free hand with consultation of field guides, etc., for poses, body features and coloration. It would indeed be a great honor to have them in an issue of the **Passenger Pigeon**. I (aged 14½) drew a Black-throated Green Warbler, while Tim (aged 10½) drew a Little Blue Heron, dark phase. We thought that they might be easier to duplicate if drawn on thin paper, so we did so. I hope they are printable as is. We have studied Mrs. Rudy's drawings and they are excellent.

If you should need our address, it is:

2879 S. 103rd St.  
West Allis, Wis. 53227

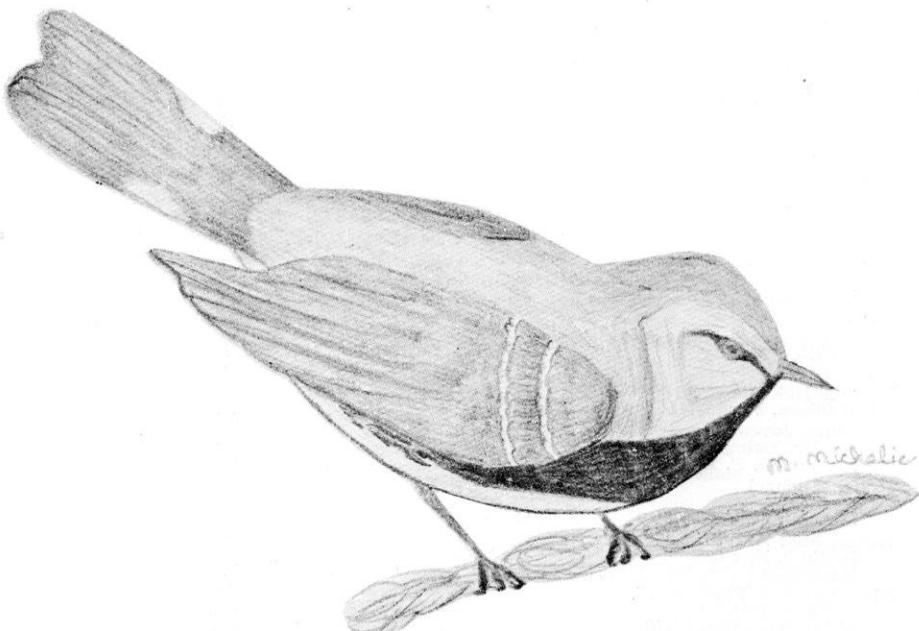
Thank you very much.

Matt Michelic

*We are delighted to receive your letter and your fine illustrations. We want you, Matt, also in the W.S.O. We certainly want to encourage all young people to join with us in enjoying and learning more about this great exciting world of nature. Mrs. Rudy certainly will appreciate your remarks. Here is an invitation to other Wisconsin artists who would like to submit samples of their work.—Editor.*

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER**

*Drawn by Matt Michelic*



**LITTLE BLUE HERON**  
Drawn by Tim Michelic



**ADDRESS CHANGES**

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Griese, James  
2238 Allied Drive, Apt. 3  
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Jais, Mrs. Joyce  
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Kohel, Michael  
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Mann, Mrs. Henry B.  
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Madison, Wis. 53705

Mueller, Mrs. Judy  
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Columbus, Wis. 53925

Younk, David E.  
5305 — 16th St.  
Racine, Wis. 53406

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bauers  
2846 — N. 84th St.  
Milwaukee, Wis. 53222

**RENEW ACTIVE**

Berndt, Dr. Floyd  
Knuth, Rockne  
McKee, Brownlee  
Pedersen, Mrs. Gertrude  
Russell, Donald  
Von Jarchow, Dr. B. L.

**RENEW FAMILY**

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Kehrl  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Glen Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Roberts



# FIELD NOTES

By HAL and NANCY ROBERTS

## Summer Season

June 1 - August 15, 1968

The summer of 1968 will go down on the books as one of the wettest on record. June was the wettest month with many areas receiving rain on over half the days of the month. Many observers reported on damage to nesting caused by the rain and accompanying high winds. Nests of Osprey and Bald Eagle were especially vulnerable. Mrs. Carol Rudy found four of five nests of Osprey which had been active last year were blown down in June and the fifth nest produced no young.

An additional effect of the cold, wet June was a decrease in insect population. Some observers felt that the lack of insects was a great factor in the widespread failure of swallow nestings. However, later in the summer with hot weather, insect populations soared to perhaps record heights.

Waterfowl nestings appeared to be good in most locations. As a result of the abundance of rain, there were some very good sites for shorebird observations; for example, the Powell Marsh at the Iron-Vilas county line and in Green Bay:

Following are some of the highlights of the season:

**Eared Grebe:** A first nesting record for the state. See *By the Wayside*.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The four found in Crex Meadows, Burnett County, on June 13 by Dennis Gustafson are the only ones reported.

**Common Egret:** Three in Buffalo county July 25 (Thomas H. Nicholls) and five in Vernon county on July 27 (Nicholls) where they were found throughout June by Viratine Weber.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** An adult on a nest in Greenfield Park, Milwaukee on July 3 (Gustafson) and one July 15 in Whitnall Park, Milwaukee (Elmer Strehlow). Also reported in Pierce county (Richard H. Behrens).

**Least Bittern:** Noted in St. Croix county from July 1 to August 11 (Sam Robbins). Seven nests in Pierce county in July (Behrens).

**Canada Goose:** Forty at Powell Marsh, Iron and Vilas counties, on August 10 (Gayle A. Tryggsesteth). Another 40 in Brown county August 7 (Daryl Tessen). One brood in St. Croix county (Robbins) and one pair and a single in Outagamie county (Alfred S. Bradford).

**Gadwall:** Two at Goose Pond, Columbia county in June (William L. Hilsenhoff) and 15 migrants still in Brown county on June 1 (Tessen).

**Pintail:** Twelve at Goose Pond, Columbia county in June (Hilsenhoff) and two June 2 in Dodge county (Tessen).

**Green-winged Teal:** Noted throughout the period in Waukesha (Gustafson) and in Barron county to August 7 (Tessen). Tessen also found 10 at Horicon on June 2.

**American Widgeon:** Late migrants reported in Columbia county (Hilsenhoff, John Bielefeldt), Brown and Dodge counties (Tessen) on the first two days of June.

**Shoveler:** Late migrants in early June in Douglas (Richard F. Bernard), Brown and Dodge (Tessen) and Columbia (Hilsenhoff, Bielefeldt) counties.

**Ruddy Duck:** A female with nine downy young ones noted in Brown county on June 24 and 29 (Tessen). Eight in St. Croix county June 13 (Gustafson).

**Hooded Merganser:** Found in Price county (Alice Vincent, Maybelle Hardy), St. Croix and Polk counties (Robbins), LaCrosse (Tessen) and Waukesha on August 3 (David Bratley).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** A female with 7 young in Oneida county on June 27 (Gustafson). July 17 at Superior and July 24 in Bayfield county are also most likely nesting birds (Bernard).

**Turkey Vulture:** Noted in Bayfield county from June 28 on (Bernard).

**Goshawk:** A nest near the one located in 1967 was unsuccessful (Charles Sindelar).

**Pigeon Hawk:** Sindelar found an unsuccessful nesting near the site of the one he located in 1967.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** July dates in Douglas and Bayfield counties (Bernard) and one in Oneida on June 27th (Gustafson).

**Cooper's Hawk:** One noted in Vilas county (Bradford), one in St. Croix county (Robbins) and one in Fond du Lac county (Tessen).

**Bald Eagle:** Observed in Forest county (Katherine D. Rill) and Price county (Hardy). In Langlade county nests were damaged by high winds (Mrs. Carol Rudy).

**Osprey:** Found in Forest and Oneida counties (Gustafson), missing from the usual places in Price county (Vincent). Four nests were blown down in June in Langlade county and 3 young birds were observed in Lincoln county (Rudy). A bird observed on July 1 in Marinette county (Harold L. Lindberg).

**Spruce Grouse:** On June 8, C. H. Richter found a male in Forest county.

**Sandhill Crane:** One pair summered in Winnebago county as reported by Tessen who says this is his first summer record of the species. July observations of up to 10 individuals near Dale and New London, all in farm country (John W. Green) found August 12 in Jefferson county (Emil Stock).

**King Rail:** A pair with nine young were observed in Dane county in June (Evelyn Werner).

**Piping Plover:** Two in Douglas county on June 4 (Bernard).

**Semipalmented Plover:** Lingered in Marinette county until June 10 (Lindberg) and 3 fall birds noted in Dane county on July 18 (Hilsenhoff).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 4 in Columbia county June 1 (Bielefeldt) and 2 in Winnebago county on June 2 (Tessen).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Late spring migrants in Marinette on June 10 (Lindberg).

**Common Snipe:** Rudy reports numbers well above last year in Langlade county.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First fall migrants in Waupaca county on July 15 (Rill).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** July 13, first fall birds in Outagamie county (Tessen).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** A late spring migrant in Waukesha to June 15 (Gustafson) and at Goose Pond, Columbia county same date (Hilsenhoff); early fall migrants on July 10 in St. Croix county (Robbins) and Dane county (Hilsenhoff).

**Knot:** Three were carefully observed in Barron county on August 7 by Tessen. He reports that one was in full spring plumage; the other two were in partial plumage.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Two late migrants stayed in Waukesha county until June 2; fall migrants noted in Brown county on July 24 (Tessen).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Latest spring date was June 15 for one bird in St. Croix county. Biggest concentration reported was 35 in Brown county, June 1 (Tessen).

**Least Sandpiper:** First fall migrants on July 7 in St. Croix county (Robbins).

**Dunlin:** Lingered in Marinette county until June 17 (Lindberg).

**Dowitcher:** July 24 is the earliest date for fall birds when some 125 were observed in Brown county by Tessen. Some of this number were Short-billed as identified by call note.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Two early fall migrants in Dane county on July 10 (Hilsenhoff). Also found in St. Croix county July 7 and August 11 (Robbins) and in Brown county, several dates with a maximum of 25 birds on August 7 (Tessen).

**Semi-palmented Sandpiper:** Two at Goose Pond on June 15 were latest spring birds (Hilsenhoff). Earliest fall birds were seen in Marinette county on July 11 (Lindberg).

**Sanderling:** Spring birds on June 10 in Marinette county (Lindberg) and three fall migrants in Brown county on August 7 (Tessen).

**Western Sandpiper:** One was observed in Douglas county on June 4 by Bernard.

**Marbled Godwit:** One was carefully observed in Columbia county on June 1 (Bielefeldt).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Four were located at Powell Marsh, Vilas and Iron counties (Tryggeseth).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** A number of July observations would indicate possible nesting: July 28 in Vilas - Iron counties (Tryggeseth), three on July 24 and 25 and on July 29 in Brown county (Tessen). Winnebago county also had several pairs of successful nesters (Tessen). The one bird found in Waukesha county August 14 (Bartley) was probably a fall migrant.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Sixty were still present in Winnebago county on June 2 (Tessen).

**Benaparte's Gull:** Fourteen in Bayfield county on June 8 (Bratley) and in Manitowoc county on June 23 (John Kraupa).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Late spring migrant on June 8 in Polk county (Robbins). One stayed from July 29 through August 7 in Tessen's yard. Early fall migrants were banded August 1 and 4 in Rock county (Maxon).

**Gray-checked Thrush:** A late migrant June 1 in Outagamie county and a record-breaking early fall migrant on July 30 at Appleton (Tessen).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A nest in Manitowoc county is unusually far north (Lyene Scholz). Seemed more abundant in St. Croix county (Manley Olson).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Apparent nesters found in three locations: Bayfield county July 30 (Bernard), Three Lakes spruce bog, Oneida county on June 27 (Gustafson) and in Florence county July 9 (Ashman).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** One singing June 13 in Buffalo county (Gustafson) and two nesting in Wyalusing Park, Grant county (Bratley).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Hilsenhoff reports them more common in Florence county.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** A June 7 observation in Manitowoc county is out of usual range (Marjorie Albrecht).

**Brewster's Warbler:** One carefully observed on June 30 near Hudson, St. Croix county (Manley Olson).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Nine lingered in Dane county until June 1 (Hilsenhoff) and an early fall migrant appeared in St. Croix county on July 20 (Robbins).

**Nashville Warbler:** Lingered in St. Croix county to June 22 (Robbins) and fall migrants appeared in Douglas county on July 17 (Bernard).

**Cape May Warbler:** One singing male was carefully observed near Shelp Lake, Forest county on June 27 and 28 (Gustafson). At least four immature birds were found August 1 in Langlade county (Rudy).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Found in three northwest counties out of the usual range: Dunn on June 7 and July 14, Polk on June 15, and Barron on July 7 (Robbins).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** A very late spring migrant in Sauk county on June 16 (Kenneth I. Lange).

**Bell's Vireo:** Three were singing in Trempealeau county on June 13 (Gustafson). Also found in the University Arboretum, Dane county on June 20 (Hilsenhoff) and in the Mazomanie area on July 21 (Ashman).

**Forster's Tern:** A group of 8 probably nested at Horicon where they were seen June 18 (Gustafson) and July 24 and August 7 observations in Brown county (Tessen) may have been fall migrants.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Rudy found increased numbers in Nicollet National Forest, Langlade county. There were June records from Polk, Vernon and LaCrosse counties. In the latter, a pair with young birds was found on June 16 (Bratley).

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** One nesting near Stone's Bridge on the Brule River, Douglas county, was observed July 1 and 4 (Bernard).

**Western Kingbird:** This bird was present at two Hudson locations, St. Croix county, through August 9, where it has nested for several years. In addition a pair was found at Burkhardt ten miles away on July 28 (Olson).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Migrants were noted to June 3 in Dane county (Hilsenhoff) and June 5 in Douglas county (Bernard).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Three observations: June 2 in Sauk County (Tom Ashman), June 1 in Dane county (Hilsenhoff) and one singing in Waukesha on June 20 (Gustafson).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** One in Monroe county June 12 (Gustafson) is the most southerly observation.

**Boreal Chickadee:** Found in Sawyer county July 17 (Bernard), Forest and Oneida counties on June 27 and July 8 (Gustafson).

**Tufted Titmouse:** One one report. Was noted June 23 in Rock county (Mrs. Joseph Mahlum).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Several records unusually far south in the state; most notable the immature female which was banded in Rock county on August 3 (Melva Maxon). Also one found at Devil's Lake State Park and one in Baraboo hills on June 23 (Lange) and one in Dane county June 21 (Hilsenhoff). Also noted in Milwaukee on July 5 (Mary F. Donald).

**Carolina Wren:** One at Portage on June 29 created a disturbance at the nest box being used by House Wrens (Margarite Cuff). Also one seen in Sauk county on August 11 (Ashman).

**Mockingbird:** A pair apparently nested unsuccessfully in LaCrosse where a live male and dead female were found near Midway on June 13 (Gustafson). One bird was discovered on August 10 in Price county (Alta Goff), one near the Oconto-Marinette line (Chauncey Wood) and three in Adams county on August 26 (Don Follen).

**Palm Warbler:** Several observations in late June in Oneida county (Donald) and in Sawyer county on July 17 (Bernard).

**Kentucky Warbler:** One in Manitowoc county June 7 (Albrecht) and one banded in Rock county on June 16 (Maxon).

**Connecticut Warbler:** One singing on July 8 near Shelp Lake, Forest county (Gustafson). Spring migrants to June 1 in Outagamie (Tessen) and to June 9 in Brown counties (Fr. Melvin Wierzbicki).

**Mourning Warbler:** A male carrying food was observed at Honey Creek, Sauk county, on July 1 (Lange).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** A singing male in Waukesha county on June 29 (Bratley).

**Hooded Warbler:** One in Dodge county August 3 (Ashman).

**Wilson's Warbler:** One lingered in Dane county until June 1 (Hilsenhoff).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Did not stay in their usual habitat in Outagamie county (Bradford) but increased in 3 or 4 colonies in Winnebago county (Tessen). Also increased in a St. Croix county marsh; one that normally holds 20 to 30 pairs had 100 pairs (Robbins).

**Orchard Oriole:** Four observers reported; a male at Trempealeau county on June 13 (Gustafson), one in St. Croix county June 19 (Robbins), one in Polk county June 8 and a male in Waukesha county June 29 (Bielefeldt).

**Dickcissel:** Most observers reported good numbers.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Found at nine locations in northern Wisconsin with evidence of nesting in may cases.

**Purple Finch:** Two in female-immature plumage on August 9 in LaCrosse (Tessen); a banded bird at a feeder in Sauk county (Edna Koenig), and six were banded July 24 and 25 at Honey Creek, Sauk county (Ed Peartree and Dave Cox).

**Pine Siskin:** Noted July 3 in Douglas county (Bernard); one singing, Forest county, on June 28 (Gustafson), ten on June 9 and eight on June 29 in Bayfield county (Bratley).

**Red Crossbill:** In Douglas county July 10 and 12 (Bernard).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** One singing June 12 in Crex Meadows, Burnett county, and one in the same area but different location on June 13 (Gustafson). One singing on nesting ground in Oconto county on August 1 (Richter). Robbins found birds at seven previously unknown locations on the Breeding Bird Survey: two locations in Polk county, one in Sawyer and four in Rusk.

**Lark Sparrow:** One nested in Waushara county on June 13 (Tessen) and nested in Portage county (Marguerite Baumgartner).

**Harris' Sparrow:** A record-breaking late migrant on June 2 in Price county (Hardy).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The one in Beloit on June 30 is remarkable (Mahlum).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** A pair on June 27 may have been nesting in a black spruce bog near Shelp Lake, Forest county (Gustafson). Also found in late June in Oneida county (Donald).



# By the Wayside...

**Goshawk Nests in Douglas and Oneida Counties.** On 13 June, 1967, we stumbled onto a Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) nest in southeastern Douglas County. We were asking locals about the location of a reported Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest. As usual, they knew nothing of the Eagle nest, but they did know of a "big, mean hawk" not far away. We decided to find the Eagle nest first, then, if any daylight remained, check this report.

Our lack of enthusiasm at this point stems from past experience with inexperienced or uninterested individuals. We found the Eagle nest and returned to find a very aggressive female Goshawk and, after some searching, the nest, about 30 feet up in a White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*).

The climb to the nest would have been very uneventful if the female Goshawk had left the area; however, she did not, as we expected, so two of us climbed the tree together and tried to protect each other. She hit us both several times during our brief encounter with Wisconsin's most aggressive raptorial bird.

The nest contained three young, about three weeks old. In the nest we also found a mammalian jawbone, later identified as that of a young gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). This was the only food remains we found, after a thorough search of the area.

We returned to the area the next day to attempt to trap the adults, but by then the female was much less aggressive, so we failed. Both times we were in the area we saw and heard only a single adult.

Errol Schluter and Sindelar returned to the nest area 6 May, 1968, and found that the hawks had built a new nest about 200 feet from the nest they used in 1967. One adult was on the nest, apparently incubating. On our next visit to the nest on 1 June, 1968, we found the nest empty and falling apart, probably having been abandoned for some time. A search of the area disclosed no Goshawks.

We found another nest inferred to be that of Goshawks in Oneida County in 1966. Although we did not see the birds ourselves, Dr. Clausen (a professional botanist) gave us a very accurate written and oral description, including the appearance, voice, and aggressive behavior. When we visited the nest late in the season, we found molted adult Goshawk feathers under the nest and evidence that young had probably fledged from the nest. Dr. Clausen visited the area on several occasions, and each time she was aware of only a single aggressive adult.

No Goshawks were evident in this area in 1967 or 1968.

Our thanks to Dr. Long, mammologist at Wisconsin State University in Stevens Point, for identifying the gray squirrel mandible.—Charles Sindelar, Waukesha, Wis.; Allen Jacobson, Hixton, Wis.

**Eared Grebe Nests in Wisconsin.** On July 6, 1968, at approximately 7:00 p. m., a pair of Eared Grebes were spotted swimming close to the shore of East Twin Lake, two miles southwest of Roberts in St. Croix County. Little coloration could be seen at first as the birds swam through greenish algae in brackish water, but 7x binoculars revealed the distinctive neck shape and crested head. It was a bit puzzling to observe that one bird seemed noticeably larger than the other. The coloration became much more vivid when observed through a 30x telescope. It also became apparent why there appeared to be a size difference. On the back of one grebe rode two very tiny downy young; at times their heads could be seen moving this way and that, and at other times the baby birds were completely concealed under the wings of the parent. The parent carrying the young was not seen to dive at all, while the other parent swam in circles around the mate and dove frequently. Nearby for comparison were several Pied-billed Grebes, Ruddy Ducks and Coot. A few minutes later, a third adult Eared Grebe was discovered on the far side of the same lake.

An adult Eared Grebe was seen in this location on May 30, but had not been seen subsequently, although two adults were observed 12 miles away at New Richmond on June 10 and 11. This makes at least the fourth year in the last ten years that Eared Grebes have been seen in the Roberts area late in May, but none had previously been seen in summer. Although there have been rare sightings in June and July in recent years, this is the first positive evidence of nesting which we have been able to find for Wisconsin. My mother, Mrs. Rosa Robbins of Belmont, Massachusetts, shared in this observation.—Sam Robbins, Roberts.

**WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY**  
**1968 Summary Report**  
**of the**

**North American Nest Record Study in Wisconsin**

Participants reporting .....	64
Area covered	
Total number of counties with participants ....	38
Counties with 2 or more participants reporting .....	22
Nests reported	
Total number .....	756
Participants reporting 50 or more nests .....	4 — % of total nests reported — 41%
Participants reporting 25 or more nests .....	5 — % of total nests reported — 20%
Species reported	
Total individual species .....	100
Bird species having 10 or more nests reported	
Bluebird .....	56 Chipping Sparrow .. 18
Catbird .....	37 Song Sparrow .. 18
Mourning Dove ..	24 Baltimore Oriole .. 16
Brown Thrasher ..	24 Starling .. 14
Blue Jay .....	20 Cowbird .. 14

— Aarol Epple

# BOOK REVIEWS

**PEREGRINE FALCON POPULATIONS—Their Biology and Decline.**

Edited by Joseph J. Hickey. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1969. 596 pp., frontispiece and 60 photographs. \$10.00.

In 1965, an international conference, sponsored by the University of

Wisconsin, was held at Madison to explore the current status of the rapidly declining population of Peregrine Falcons in particular and other birds-of-prey in general. The conference was attended by about 50 contributing experts, with papers also being submitted by eleven who could not attend. Professor Hickey has done a magnificent job of organizing, editing, and summarizing the vast amount of material presented; he has also brought the reader up to date on developments since the conference, and contributed major work in his own research.

Since 1950, the Peregrine Falcon has essentially disappeared as a resident or nesting bird in the eastern and north central United States. Populations in the western and mountain states have declined precipitously. The same story is true of most of Europe. Only in some parts of British Columbia and the Canadian Arctic is the bird known to be prospering. The disappearance of the falcon has followed a characteristic pattern in most places. The production of eggs has decreased as has their hatching success; many eggs are broken or possibly eaten by the birds. Then the population rapidly diminishes. The birds decrease first in the areas that practice fairly intensive farming. An exception to the relative uniformity between America and Europe has been the decimation of Finnish populations while Canadian Arctic falcons do well. The Finnish falcons winter in France; the Canadian migrate to Central and South America. The ecological situation and essentially the first 500 pages of the book are summarized in a short essay by our own Dr. F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr., that is a masterpiece in organization, conciseness and synthesis of a very large mass of data.

Many factors which might be expected to account, at least partially, for pressures on the falcon population are examined carefully. Egg collecting has declined rapidly in the past few decades. Shooting of the birds may have increased in some places but legal protection has also been effective in many. As a matter of fact, the recent ineffectiveness of falcon netting, as practiced by pigeon fanciers in Belgium, has furnished some of the most dramatic data on the population decline in Europe. The removal of the young from nests by falconers cannot in any way account for the precipitous nature of the disappearance. Spoilation of nesting sites by man's activities, such as road and home building has done some damage, but, on the other hand, cities have furnished nests, refuge and food for the adaptable peregrine for many years. Some evidence is cited for nest destruction by other predators, raccoons and owls, but this factor as with all others mentioned so far, separately or taken together cannot be considered responsible for the recent, peculiar, disastrous loss in numbers of Peregrine Falcons and other raptors.

The conference almost inevitably examined the correlation between this problem and the use of hard or persistent insecticides. The evidence was (in 1965) circumstantial and some at the conference cautioned against equating coincidence with cause, but nevertheless, a substantial case was built against DDT, DDE, dieldrin, aldrin and other chlorinated hydrocarbons, particularly by studies from Great Britain. The weight, and hence, thickness of eggshells has been shown (since the conference) to have decreased in the endangered raptors, and Hickey in 1968 showed that the DDE content and shell thickness of herring gull eggs were most certainly inversely correlated.

Seven years ago, I wrote on **Silent Spring** for **The Passenger Pigeon**. This present book, while in many ways the very antithesis of the earlier, being orderly, calm, objective and completely documented, places the full weight of hard experimental evidence on the case against the use of the stable chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides.

Because of the apparent adaptability of most of our raptors, there is hopes that they can come back if the chemicals causing their troubles are withheld from their environment and food supply. When the years of DDT, dieldrin, aldrin and others are written off as history, this book will be cited as one of the sturdy jobs done in the defense of our wildlife, and ultimately, of man himself.

— F. T. Ratliff

\* \* \*

INTRODUCTION TO ZOOLOGY, Savoy, T. H., 1968, Philosophical Library, Inc., New York.

In the first chapter the author states that, "The foundation of zoology has always been morphology, the science of structure", and he then proceeds to indicate how firm a foundation he thinks this is. The entire book is devoted to presenting the details of structure for the entire Animal Kingdom, ranging from the one-celled Protozoa to the highly evolved Mammalia.

While it is interesting to turn the pages of this book and learn about the details of structure that separate such closely related groups as the Scorpions and the Pseudoscorpions, the Rodents and the Lagomorphs, and the Copepods and the Ostracods much is lacking when almost no mention is made about the functions that these structures perform. Neither is any information presented on how the interdependence of the structures and their functions adapt the organism to its environment.

The reviewer believes that an organism is more than just a number of structures organized into a whole. If the structures do not function in a manner to allow the organism to survive, the structures have no value. Organisms without life possess the same structures as those with life. It is the functioning of these structures that give the organism its vitality and allow it to be adapted to its environment. This book has the flavor of a series of jars containing "pickled" specimens and does not impart any feeling of animation that studying the "whole" organism can give.

A book entitled "Introduction to Zoology" should do more than

describe animal structures. There should also be information about the animal's physiology, its behavior, and ecology. The lack of these last mentioned areas is a shortcoming in the book. It would have been more truthful to have entitled the book "Introduction to Animal Morphology".

The book was not written for the casual observer or individual with no training in zoology. Technical terms, such as proglottids, chelicerae, mesenchyme, and metanephros, abound. No glossary is included so that the uninitiated can learn the meanings of words unfamiliar to him, nor are the technical terms included in the index so that their meaning can be located in the text.

This book is recommended for those who would like to have a book detailing the intricacies of animal structures. Others, who would like to know more about animals would do well to examine some other, more general, book on zoology.

— Harold G. Liebherr

\* \* \*

**FIELD BOOK OF WILD BIRDS AND THEIR MUSIC.** F. Schuyler Mathews. New York. Dover Publications, Inc., 1967. New edition of the work revised and enlarged edition of the 1921 publication by G. P. Putnam's Sons, with a new foreword by Donald J. Borror. Paperback, \$2.75.

Dover Publications is performing a valued service in its program of republication of outstanding ornithological works that have long since been out of print. This volume is a reprint of a pioneer work of the early twentieth century, but the chief value of it is obscured by the blurb on the back cover that speaks of it as "a useful and important companion to any field trip." Read it at home, try it out with a piano, but don't burden yourself with it on a field trip.

Mathews started out in the latter years of the nineteenth century to study bird songs, and diagram their content by means of musical scales that could be reproduced at a piano. He first published this work in 1904, specializing largely in the song birds he had encountered near his winter home at Boston and his summer excursions to New Hampshire's White Mountains. A revised edition, expanded to include more of the eastern North American species, appeared in 1921.

When published, it was subtitled, "A Description of the Character and Music of Birds, Intended to Assist in the Identification of Species Common in the United States East of the Rocky Mountains." This is misleading on three counts.

First, the book is limited to those species that seemed to the author to utter song of musical quality, and it is not clear how the line between "musical" and "non-musical" was drawn. Why, for instance, was the Yellow-billed Cuckoo included while the Mourning Dove was left out? Why did he take space to describe the voice of the Snowy Owl strictly from hearsay (p. 271), while passing off the Red and White-breasted Nuthatches by stating they "have no song" (p. 226) and settling for a brief description of their call notes? Mathews chose to concentrate on the owls and passerines almost exclusively.

Second, the book can hardly claim to cover song birds that are common east of the Rocky Mountains when it omits such species as the Crested Flycatcher, Dickcissel, Henslow's and Clay-colored Sparrows. The Prothonotary, Orange-crowned and Cerulean Warblers were omitted, giving rise to the suspicion that Mathews was writing mainly of the song birds of New England and the mid-Atlantic states.

Third, this work is not likely to help people identify strange songs. If an observer is confronted by a strange song, he needs some type of key based on the various sound features he is hearing, eliminating the gross impossibilities, and narrowing the song down to just a few possibilities. No such key is attempted. The best a person could do would be to suspect the presence of a particular species, listen to an unfamiliar song, and determine if the printed song in the book fits this unfamiliar song. But who would rely on such an identification, without confirming it visually? The reviewer has memories of trying out Mathews' volume in this manner during the reviewer's high school years when he was just learning bird songs, and found it frustrating and unsatisfying.

This volume might better be sub-titled, "An Esthetic Appreciation and Musical Interpretation of Some Eastern Song Birds." As such, it is a valued contribution to ornithological literature. Not content with the feeble previous efforts to describe bird songs by ascribing verbal

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syllables (the Ovenbird's "teacher, teacher", the White-throated Sparrow's "Old Sam Peabody", etc.), Mathews sought a more accurate means of describing song. Before the advent of recording devices and the still-more-recent sonograms, Mathews found the musical scale to be the most effective means of producing a more precise interpretation of a given song. The advent of newer methods of song description since 1921 takes nothing away from Mathews' work; he was a pioneer, and his was an important step forward. In many instances the subsequent recordings have shown Mathews to be remarkably accurate in his representations.

Don't be surprised if your Common Yellowthroat and Indigo Bunting do not sing exactly according to the pattern Mathews described. Individual differences are now well known, and Borror's foreword shows evidence to indicate that certain variations within Mathews' own geographical area may have occurred within the past fifty years.

— Sam Robbins, Cadott

## *News of General Interest . . .*

MADISON, WIS.—By midsummer the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters will have received \$1 million from the estate of the late Harry Steenbock, who discovered Vitamin D.

It will be a giant step up in the world for the organization, which at its founding 99 years ago, planned to raise an endowment of \$100,000 and never piled up more than \$8,000.

Steenbock died at the age of 81 on Dec. 25, 1967. The University of Wisconsin biochemist left an estate of \$6.3 million.

The academy got three mentions in the will.

The first was a \$5,000 bequest.

Next, the academy was listed as one of seven organizations to receive \$100,000 each.

And finally, at the end of the will, the academy was listed as the residual beneficiary—the one to get what was left over after all the other grants were made.

Assemblyman Norman Anderson (D-Madison), the academy's attorney, said the residual now amounts to about \$850,000. But this keeps growing because interest on the estate's assets will be added to it until the estate is fully settled.

Jack Arndt, Madison, academy treasurer, said the \$5,000 was being put into the general fund for youth work and that the \$100,000 was invested in treasury bills.

Anderson said the \$850,000 would be received in May or June. A decision will have to be made on investing it.

Arndt said the basic plan was to engage a full-time administrator and possibly a secretary out of the interest. Scholarships and research grants also will be set up in the sciences and humanities. The budget may be about \$80,000.

The academy is one of three science units in the country that includes arts and letters. It tries to cover all three fields in its activities, even to rotation of its presidents. The president is Adolph Suppan, fine arts dean at UW-Milwaukee. The

president-elect, who will take over at the academy's annual meeting May 3 at Whitewater, is UW bacteriologist William Sarles.

\* \* \*

Two factions of conservationists are on opposite sides of the bird fence over a problem of how to keep hawks and owls from bothering game farms.

The issue involves raids—and no one denies them—that predatory birds make on pheasants and other upland birds, particularly the young, in pens. Private game farm managers are issued permits by the state natural resources department to trap or shoot the marauding birds, turning over the carcasses to the department.

The North Central Audubon council, headed by James Zimmerman, botanist at the University of Wisconsin's arboretum, has called a meeting of a dozen conservation groups for 10 a. m. Saturday at the Madison Ramada Inn, to marshal support to get the permit system stopped.

The permit opponents claim that steel traps atop poles torture birds. They say raids can be stopped by putting netting over the rearing pens (as the state has done). This might not solve "harassment" in which a circling hawk creates panic and death among chicks.

Predator birds are credited with agricultural value in killing mice and other rodents. The birds' supporters say they want to save the birds but not put anyone out of business. They are referring to sportsmen's clubs, fish pond operators and hobbyists, enthusiastic conservationists—who are trying to save their wildlife.

Hawks, all owls except the great horned owl and similar birds are protected by law. But when they become damaging, permits are issued to control them, or the state does it. Under similar rules are deer, but the crop is protected only while it is growing.

\* \* \*

As an off-shoot of the conservation movement, a project is well underway to preserve the story of Wisconsin's leadership in preserving natural resources. The 10-year-old effort, in the Wisconsin State Historical Society, is accumulating the writings and even the voices (by tape) of conservation personalities, along with early records of conservation organizations.

Materials have come in in big batches and small packets. For instance, there are the letters of Francis Zirrer, expert on northern Wisconsin birds, to Arlie Schorger, retired wildlife professor at the University of Wisconsin. There are the papers of the late Mrs. Wilhelmina La Budde, Milwaukee leader of conservation education; of the late Louis (Curley) Radke, the "father of the Horicon marsh"; of the late William J. G. Aberg, former chairman of the conservation commission and of the late C. L. Harrington, superintendent of the state park system. R. G. Lynch, retired Milwaukee newsman and a member of the natural resources board, has contributed letters he received from the late Ernest Swift, former conservation director. Walter Scott, natural resources department's administrative aide and an ardent historian, has rounded up early records of the Citizens Natural Resources association, Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Letters, Wisconsin Ornithology society, Gordon McQuarrie Foundation and others.

Although the collections are not yet ready for reference use, they are to be a valuable supplement to the UW's nearby archives, covering such state conservation giants as Aldo Leopold, John Muir and Increase Lapham. Such history, the society points out, is "a basic segment of our state's economic and cultural heritage."

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Hearings on a bill to strengthen the recently established Environmental Quality Council—by transferring to it various executive agency functions relating to evaluating effects of certain activities on the environment and requiring an annual conservation report—will be held by the Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations in July.

Announcement of the hearings, which will be held in Washington, D.C., was made by subcommittee chairman Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), who, together with seven other Government Operations Committee members, introduced the bill (H.R. 11952).

The Environmental Quality Council was created by the President in May, through executive order, to "advise and assist the President with respect to environmental quality matters" and to "perform such other related duties as the President may from time to time prescribe."

"In introducing this legislation," Rep. Reuss said, "It was our goal to provide a vehicle for strengthening the role of the council by enabling it to review standards and guidelines for major aspects of government operations and their impact on the environment."

A key provision of the bill is the requirement that the council transmit annual reports to the President, the Congress, and the public. These reports, Rep. Reuss noted, "will provide to the Nation a comprehensive, on-going, inventory of its environmental quality problems and progress."

The bill also sets forth in detail a "Declaration of National Environmental Policy."

In addition to Rep. Reuss, members of the Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee are Reps. Jim Wright (D-Tex.), Floyd V. Hicks (D-Wash.), John E. Moss (D-Calif.), Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.), Gilbert Gude (R-Md.), and Paul N. McCloskey (R-Calif.), all of whom are sponsors of the legislation. Joining with them as a sponsor is Rep. John A. Blatnik (D-Minn.), chairman of the House Government Operations Committee's Executive and Legislative Reorganization Subcommittee.

Congressman William L. Dawson (D-Ill.) is chairman of the House Government Operations Committee.

Dates for the July hearings will be announced later.

## The DDT Fight is Your Fight !!

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*Mary and Charlie Nelson*

# From Other Journals . . .

1969 Auk 86(2); p. 392

People who maintain a series of ten or more nesting boxes for Eastern Bluebirds have been sending nesting information to Dr. Douglas James, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark 72701. The data are used to evaluate the annual population fluctuations of bluebirds. Persons who qualify but are not now participating in the program may write Dr. James for the project report form.

\* \* \*

An onslaught of spiny, venomous creatures that voraciously eat living coral is reducing a Pacific island to piles or rubble. The organisms threaten ultimately to destroy the 1,200 mile Great Barrier Reef and the unique marine life it harbors off the northeast coast of Australia.

The strange-looking animals are a species of starfish, *Acanthaster planci*, commonly known as "Crown of Thorns". They have multiplied phenomenally in recent years, Jon Weber of Pennsylvania State U. reports in **Earth and Mineral Sciences** (38:37).

The remarkable acceleration of *Acanthaster* reproduction is a mystery. The sea star, first discovered 200 years ago, had been seen only rarely until late in the 1950's. Then it began multiplying at a rate without recorded precedent.

It is suggested that the removal of tritons and other mollusks, natural predators of the sea star, by shell collectors may have precipitated the onslaught of starfish.

\* \* \*

A comparative study of LeConte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows is given in **The Auk**, 86:199-231, April, 1969 by Bertram Murray, Jr.

The LeConte's Sparrow breeding range extends across northern Wisconsin. These two species are sympatric (i.e., they have broadly overlapping ranges). The LeConte's Sparrows inhabit fresh water marshes and low wet prairie in glaciated portions of the Interior Plains Region, extending into British Columbia. [Robbins and Kemper have observed this species in fairly dry grassy meadows in Chippewa county.] A very interesting and detailed discussion is given of the summer and winter songs of these species, the habitat, geographic variations, migrations, voice, singing behavior, territoriality, interspecific aggression and nesting behavior. Interestingly all LeConte's nests were found parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird. The last illustrates once more the ornithological expertise of cowbirds in even being able to locate the nests of these most secretive and elusive North American sparrows.

\* \* \*

A study was made of movement and mortality rate of Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) by Paul Stewart in the **WILSON BULLETIN**, Vol. 81, pp. 55-61. An analysis of 439 recovery records of banded birds is on file with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

While most of us may be under the impression that this species is non-migratory, records indicate considerable dispersion in fall and winter. Most do remain near their breeding and hatching places throughout

the year. Ninety-three percent of the recoveries were taken within 50 miles of the banding sites. But of the remainder, 29 individuals, 16 had traveled more than 100 miles, 7 more than 200 miles, 5 more than 300 miles, 3 more than 400 miles, and one approximately 860 miles from central Alberta to southeastern South Dakota.

Fewer southern than northern birds made long distance flights. Great Horned Owls appear not to perform regular north-south migrations but rather to disperse in all directions. Movement appeared to be confined to young birds. Most recoveries were birds intentionally killed by man, chiefly shot. First year mortality of young birds was 46 percent; mean annual mortality after the first year was 31 percent.

\* \* \*

An interesting longevity record is reported by Malcolm Davis in *The Auk*, 86:347. A Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) at the National Zoo, Washington, D.C. died after 61 years, 8 months and 26 days. The care and food of the bird were minimal, consisting of a paddock, a bucket of water, shelter, and a ration of ground bread, grain, greens, and an occasional dab of raw hamburger.

I wonder how much longer he might have lived if he had had Mr. and Mrs. Koenig as caretakers.

\* \* \*

A study by Seivert Rohwer and Glen Woolfenden, Zoologists at the University of South Florida, on *The Breeding Birds of Two Florida Woodlands: Comparisons with Areas North of Florida*, is printed in *The Condor*, 71:38-48, 1969. It may come as a surprise to learn that the breeding land bird fauna of peninsular Florida is impoverished. Two reasons suggested: the subtropical climate is not favorable for most North American breeding species; secondly, the natural colonization of the peninsula by tropical species has been deterred by geographical barriers.

\* \* \*

Babies are being born throughout the world at a rate of 3.9 every second, people are dying at a rate of 1.7 every second, a net gain of 2.2 people every second—or 132 per minute, or 190,000 per day or 1.3 million a week.

By July 1, 1969 the Population Reference Bureau says the world population will be 3.551 billion.

Unfortunately smoking is not the solution to this depressing problem.

\* \* \*

Howard Young writes in *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Biology and Decline* (Edited by Joseph Hickey, The University of Wisconsin Press) a discussion of Peregrine Population Dynamics. He points out that a mortality rate, whether brought on by human disturbance, pesticides, shooting, or disease, of only 10% would in three years cause a 12% drop in population. A 10% reduced productivity results in only a 6% decrease. A combination of 10% mortality and 10% decrease in productivity would reduce populations by 22%.

I think Howie understands this but I admit I was a little confused. Howie has also contributed an interesting paper, "A Consideration of Insecticide Effects on Hypothetical Avian Populations", in *Ecology*, 49:5, Summer, 1968, 991-994.

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