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# T H E **PASSENGER** **PIGEON**

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# T *PASSENGER* H *PIGEON* Vol. 65 No. 3 E Fall 2003

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*Front Cover: This Long-eared Owl posed for Dennis Malueg, expert amateur nature photographer from rural Waushara County, in early November 2003 west of Stevens Point.*

## Importance of “Amateurs” to Ornithology

From my earliest years living on Fort Hill State Memorial in southern Ohio and tagging along on nature walks, I've always recognized how a bird watcher can contribute to the science of ornithology. Dr. Ed Thomas, a professional and one of Ohio's premier naturalists, and his wife Marion, a “simple” bird watcher, led spring and fall nature hikes at Fort Hill. I thought Ed to be stiff and too formal, but Marion, oh how I vividly remember her wonderful identification skills (showing me my first “Sycamore” Warbler near my favorite fishing hole), her meticulous field note taking, and her descriptions of supporting nature organizations, gathering and sharing her data, and giving bird programs and writing bird articles.

Many years later while studying for my Ph.D. at Cornell University, I watched how bird watchers from every walk of life mixed with graduate students and professors at the weekly ornithology seminars at Sapsucker Woods and usually reported more sightings during the weekly reading of the checklist for the Cayuga Lake Basin. This same mixture of bird lovers also participated together on Ithaca's January 1 Christmas Bird Count.

However, it was not until I read the essay, *The Amateur in Ornithology* by Howard Mayfield, of Kirtland's Warbler and Sandhill Crane fame, in the January 1979 issue of *The Auk*, that the real impact of this concept hit me. Mayfield's statement, “No branch of biology has felt the hand of the amateur like ornithology,” is simple but profound. Mayfield's essay moved me to deliver a paper at the 1979 WSO convention on the topic, where I presented many examples of how amateurs can contribute significantly to our knowledge about birds.

From backyards to remote forests, these citizens represent the world's largest research team, and much has been accomplished. Quoting from the Lab's web site <<http://birds.cornell.edu>>, “Results from citizen-science projects are being applied to bird conservation efforts. Citizen science also has led to the purchase of land that hosts breeding populations of several declining species. Findings from citizen-science projects are published in scientific and education journals and also are used to produce bird population management guidelines. At the same time, citizen scientists come to better understand the complete issues surrounding birds and conservation, making them effective stewards within their own communities.” Another valuable web site for “Citizen Science” projects is BirdSource <<http://www.birdsource.org>>.

My dream is that each and every WSO member becomes a Citizen Scientist in some way, whether it is through one of the Lab's many programs, BirdSource, submitting field observations to the WSO (or submitting data through eBird <<http://www.ebird.org>>), or helping gather data for some other worthy bird project. I can assure you, there is a project available to appeal to every WSO

member, from counting birds at your feeder, to driving and counting birds along the snow-covered back-roads on a Christmas Bird Count, to monitoring your bluebird house, to searching for Cerulean or Golden-winged Warblers in the woodlands of Wisconsin, there is some way that you can be a Citizen Scientist.

However, this dream is clouded by how key societal and economic trends are impacting and will impact the voluntary sector, including those that volunteer their time to being Citizen Scientists. These trends involve the aging population, the changing nature of households and families, increased level of educational qualifications and aspirations, and the growth of the digital and internet society. As a non-profit organization, the WSO must understand how these and other trends will impact today's declining WSO membership, funding, competition for time, and WSO's effectiveness as an organization. It is the responsibility of WSO's Board of Directors to lead the organization, but all members can help. I urge you to become engaged, become an active Citizen Scientist, and be a spokesperson for bird conservation.

Robert Putnam in his book (2000), *Bowling Alone*, documents how people born since the 1950s are less inclined to volunteer, vote, join associations, and play an active role in networks. He describes social capital as the basic fabric of our connections to one another and develops the conclusion that many more of us today are living off social capital and many fewer of us are replenishing it. Volunteering for organizations like the WSO and contributing your bird observations and data will help us build the social capital, or the social glue, that holds our society together.

It is fortunate that ornithology never drew a clear line between the amateur and professional. For as Jacob Bronowski in *A Sense of the Future* (1977) expressed: "Let no one tell you again that science is only for specialists; it is not. It is no different from history or good talk or reading a novel; some people do it better and some worse; some make a life's work of it; but it is within the reach of everybody." I ask all WSO members to become Citizen Scientists; every Citizen Scientist **is** making a difference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Flotuglis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "N" at the beginning.

## Just Saying Hello

With this issue my husband, Neil, and I are the newest editors of *The Passenger Pigeon*. We know you were expecting to see Dreux Watermolen's name on this column starting last May when he was elected Editor, but due to heavier than normal work requirements at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources it is not possible for him to give the time needed to edit this journal just now. Maybe he'll be able to come back to it in the future.

Since I have been serving as WSO's Publicity Chair for a number of years, as well as a term as President, I'm fairly sure you know me by now, so let me take this time to introduce Neil to you. He is a retired botany professor from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where, besides teaching, he spent his time putting Latin names on dried plant specimens. He can most definitely tell you what tree, shrub, or grass your bird is hiding in. Since retiring he has been serving as the editor for *Michigan Botanist*, the journal of the Michigan Botanical Society—a group of people as nutty about plants

as we are about birds. He also produces the index, writes book reviews, and serves as a reviewer for several other botany journals.

Neil will be our expert on Latin, English and editing, while I will deal with birds and birders (notice I did not say I was an expert on birds or on dealing with birders).

At all times, please remember that *The Passenger Pigeon* is your journal as a member of WSO. It does not belong to the editors or even the WSO Board of Directors. It should reflect what you wish to know and read about, or even what you wish to write about. Do let us know what you would like as content for the journal. If you are doing research on birds in Wisconsin, please consider *The Passenger Pigeon* as a place to publish your findings.

I've often been told that *The Passenger Pigeon*, is one of the best, if not the best state ornithological journal produced. With your help, Neil and I plan to keep that excellent tradition going. Let us hear from you.

Bettie and Neil Harriman, Editors



Immature male Goshawk at Cedar Grove Banding Station on 14 October 2002 expressing his displeasure at photographer *Helmut Mueller*.

# The Phenology of Spring Hawk Migration at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin

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Herbert Stoddard and Clarence Jung discovered concentrations of migrating hawks near Cedar Grove in the fall of 1921 (Jung 1964). The Milwaukee Public Museum observed and trapped hawks there in the 1930s but their efforts were interrupted by World War II. We started observing and trapping hawks at Cedar Grove in the fall of 1950 and the observations and trapping has continued every autumn since then (see e.g. Mueller and Berger 1961, Mueller et al. 2001). We have also done some watching and trapping in spring (Mueller and Berger 1969, 1992), but neither of these publications gives a broad overview of the migration of all species.

We provide such an overview in this paper and also a comparison between spring and fall migration at the station.

## METHODS

Cedar Grove Ornithological Station is located on the western shore of Lake Michigan about 40 miles north of Milwaukee. We watched for raptors in the springs of 1953–1958, 1962–1965 and 1970–1974. Observations were conducted on more than 30 days in 1953–1957 and 1963–1965 and on fewer than seven days in 1958, 1973 and 1974. The Station has been largely a volunteer operation. The

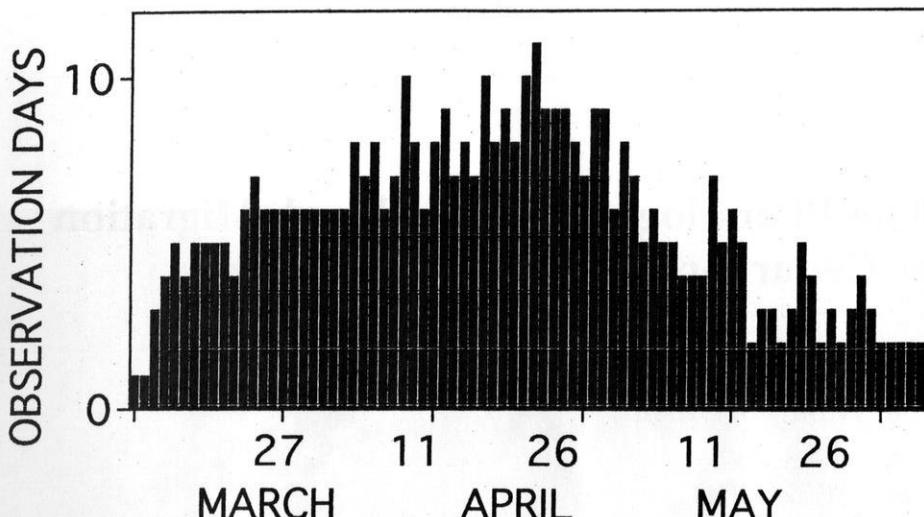


Figure 1. Number of hawk migration observation days at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

only exception was in 1963–1965 when we were partially supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. In most years the necessity of earning a living limited the number of days we were present at the station. The earliest date we watched for raptor migration was 13 March; the latest, 31 May. Observations were made less frequently at the beginning of the season, and particularly at the end (Fig. 1). The inception of observation in the spring was sometimes delayed until snow cover was sufficiently reduced to permit the installation of hawk traps. In most seasons, we were often absent from the station when weather conditions (or weather forecasts) suggested that few, if any, hawks would be seen. The number of hawks per observation day is thus probably greater than if we had been at the station every day. We generally watched for hawks for most of the day, but on

days with little or no migration, observations often became sporadic.

Statistics were performed in SYSTAT (Wilkinson 1989) on a Macintosh computer. The Kendall rank-order correlation coefficient was used to determine the relationships between aspects of migration and the Kendall partial rank-order correlation coefficient was used to ascertain the independence of the two factors when both of them were correlated with a third. All probabilities are two-tailed.

## RESULTS

For each species, we present (1) the extreme dates when that species was observed, (2) the range of dates within which 95% of the individuals were observed, (3) the best day, (4) the best year and (5) a graph showing the number of individuals observed per observation day between 13 March and 31 May. All of these are not

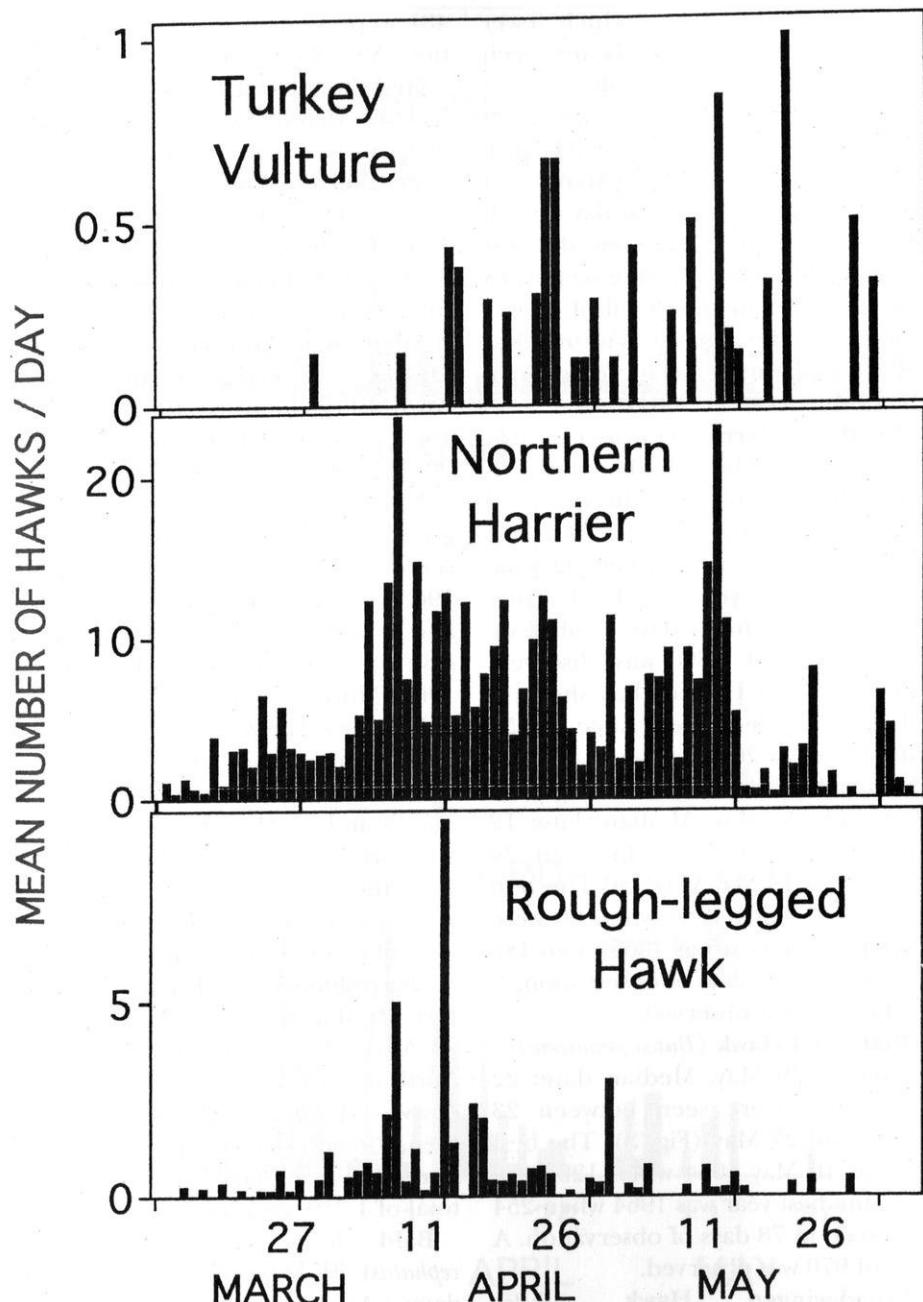


Figure 2. Mean numbers of raptors observed per observation day at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

provided for species of which fewer than a total of 9 individuals were seen during the years of this study.

**Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*). 29 March–26 May. Median date: 23 April. 95% were seen between 30 March and 25 May (Fig. 2). The best day was 10 May 1964, when 3 were seen, the best year was 1964 when 11 were seen in 78 days of observation. A total of 52 was observed. The Turkey Vulture has shown a phenomenal increase since 1953 (Mueller et al. 2001).

**Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*). 14 March–30 May. Median date: 18 April. 95% were seen between 23 March and 25 May (Fig. 2). The best day was 10 May 1964, when 92 were seen. The best year was 1964, when 589 were seen in 78 days of observation. A total of 2,899 was observed. The Northern Harrier has shown a substantial decrease since 1953 (Mueller et al. 2001).

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*). 16 March–24 May. Median date: 12 April. 95% were seen between 27 March and 13 May (Fig. 2). The best day was 12 April 1965 when 66 were seen, the best year was 1965 when 182 were seen in 60 days of observation. A total of 315 was observed.

**Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*). 15 March–29 May. Median date: 22 April. 95% were seen between 23 March and 27 May (Fig. 3). The best day was 10 May 1964 when 126 were seen, the best year was 1964 when 254 were seen in 78 days of observation. A total of 970 was observed.

**Broad-winged Hawk** (*Buteo platypterus*). 10 April–31 May. Median date: 29 April. 95% were seen between 18 April and 26 May (Fig. 3). The best day was 21 April 1955, when 467 were seen. The best year was 1955, when

481 were seen in 49 days of observation. A total of 2,161 was observed.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** (*Buteo lineatus*). 13 March–20 May. Median date: 9 April. 95% were seen between 18 April and 11 May (Fig. 3). The best day was 11 April 1954 when 14 were seen. The best year was 1954 when 43 were seen in 44 days of observation. A total of 237 was seen.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*). Only 6 individuals were observed: 7 April 1955, 17 April 1957, 22 April 1964, 9 May 1964, 28 May 1965, and 29 May 1965.

**Northern Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*). Only 6 individuals were observed: 24 March 1962, 25 March 1963, 26 March 1955, 31 March 1962 and 2 April 1964. There was an invasion of Northern Goshawks in 1962–1963 (Mueller et al. 1977).

**Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*). 13 March–18 May. Median date: 21 April. 95% were seen between 23 March and 11 May (Fig. 4). The best day was 1 May 1954, when 43 were seen, the best year was 1953 when 137 were seen in 30 days of observation. A total of 669 was observed.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** (*Accipiter striatus*). 19 March–30 May. Median date: 23 April. 95% were seen between 7 April and 25 May (Fig. 4). The best day was 21 April 1955, when 103 were seen, the best year was 1955 when 185 were seen in 49 days of observation. A total of 1,219 was observed.

**Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). 19 March–14 April. Median date: 4 April. Only 10 individuals were observed (Fig. 5). The best day was 7 April 1965 when 2 were seen, the best year was 1965 when 4 were seen in 60 days of observation.

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*). 2

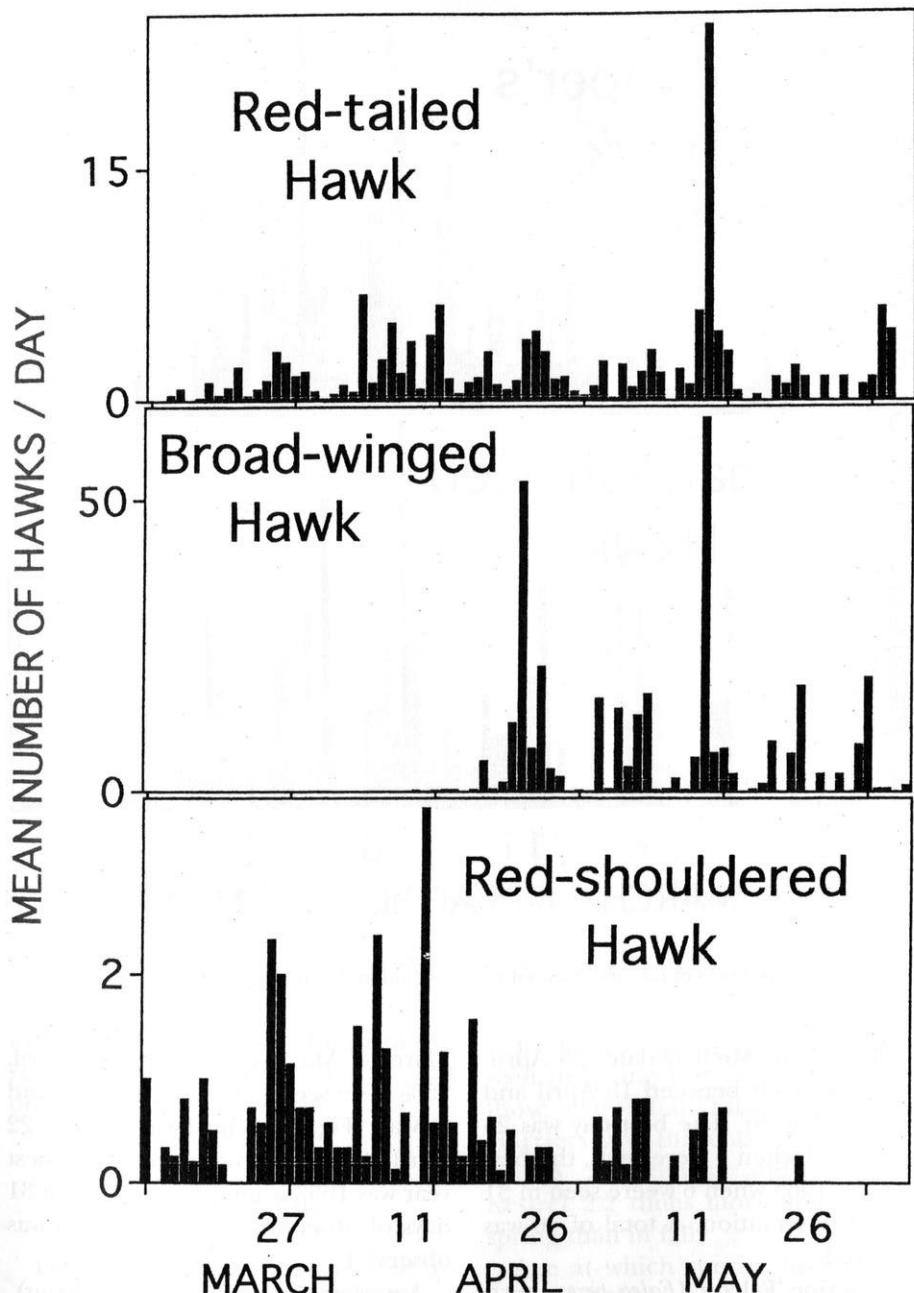


Figure 3. Mean numbers of raptors observed per observation day at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

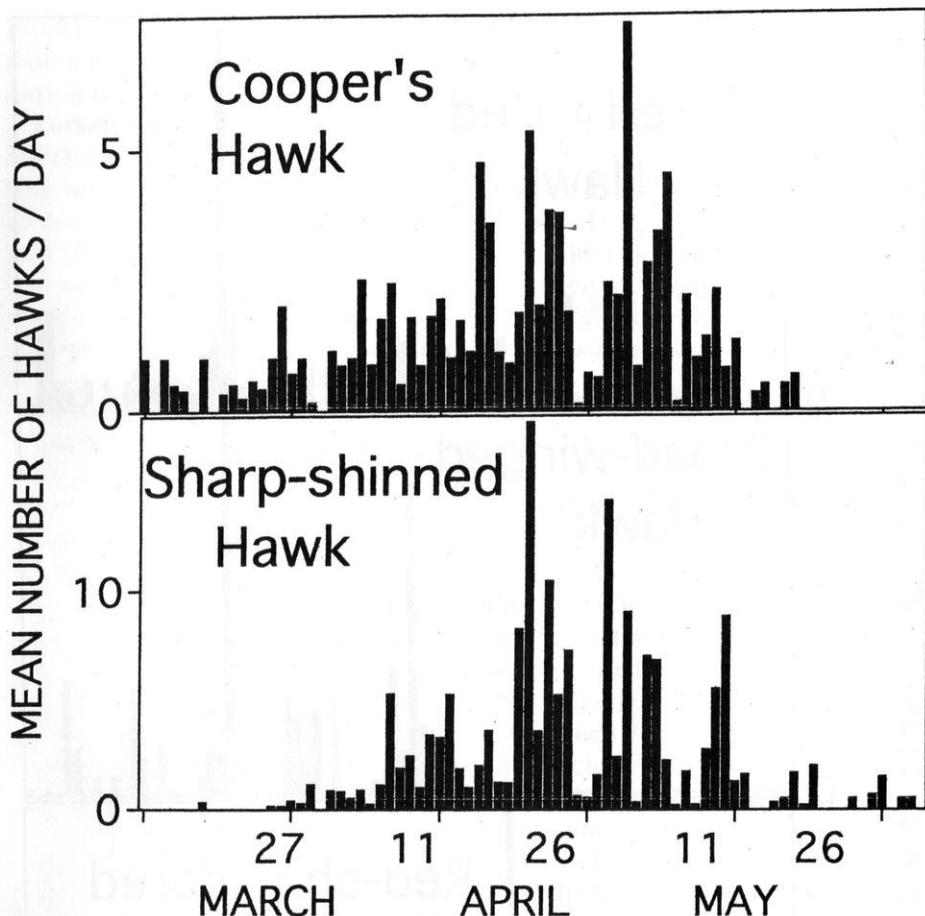


Figure 4. Mean numbers of raptors observed per observation day at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

April–29 May. Median date: 28 April. 95% were seen between 18 April and 27 May (Fig. 5). The best day was 23 April 1953 when 4 were seen, the best year was 1953 when 6 were seen in 31 days of observation. A total of 46 was observed.

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*). 12 April–20 May. Median date: 28 April. Only 9 individuals were observed (Fig. 6). No more than one was seen in a day and no more than two in a year.

**Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*). 26

March–7 May. Median date: 22 April. 95% were seen between 26 March and 7 May (Fig. 6). The best day was 22 April 1953 when 8 were seen, the best year was 1953 when 21 were seen in 31 days of observation. A total of 45 was observed.

**American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*). 15 March–28 May. Median date: 18 April. 95% were seen between 25 March and 13 May (Fig. 6). The best day was 27 April 1956 when 107 were seen, the best year was 1956

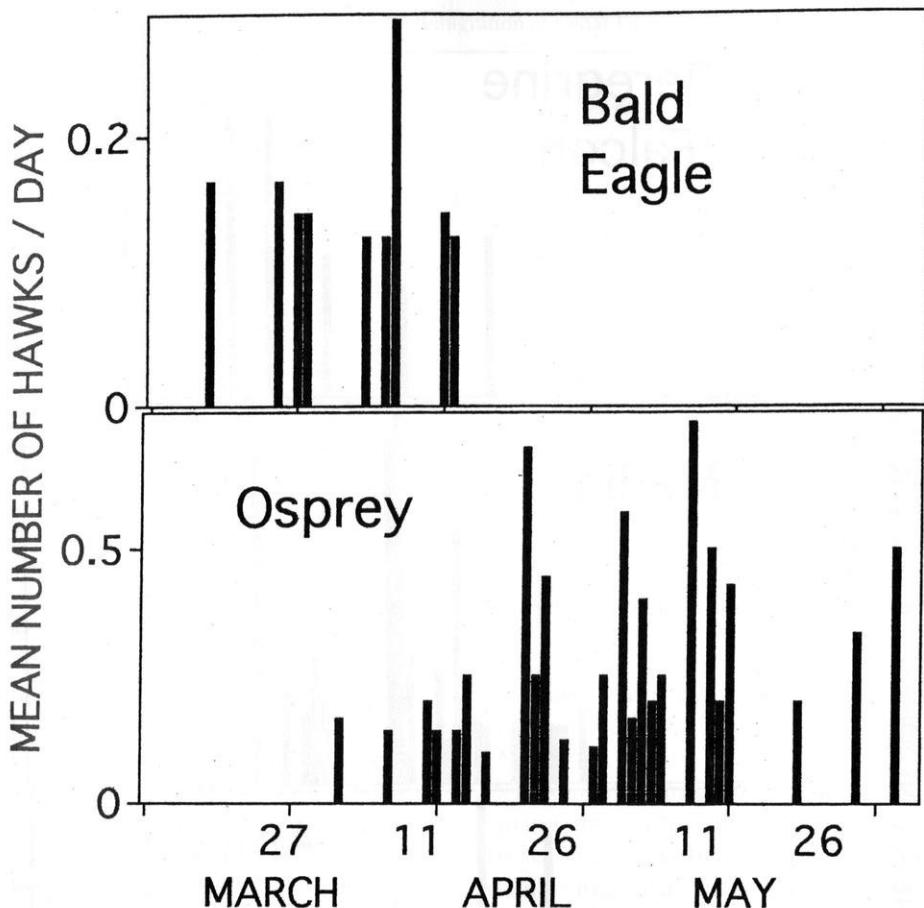


Figure 5. Mean numbers of raptors observed per observation day at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

when 267 were seen in 34 days of observation. A total of 1,920 was observed.

#### COMPARISONS BETWEEN SPRING AND FALL

Overall, migrating raptors are almost four times as abundant in fall as in spring (Table 1). The Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk are all relatively more abundant in spring than in fall and together constitute

more than 54 percent of the raptors seen in spring but only 9 percent of those seen in fall (Table 1). Northern Harriers are three times, Cooper's Hawk 2.5 times, and American Kestrel 2.2 times more abundant in spring than in fall.

Age at which species breed might influence the number seen in spring migration. Non-breeders might not migrate north as often as breeders. In Table 2, the actual age of first breeding is used for ranks 1–3 (ranks 2 and 3 are tied, hence 2.5). For the remain-

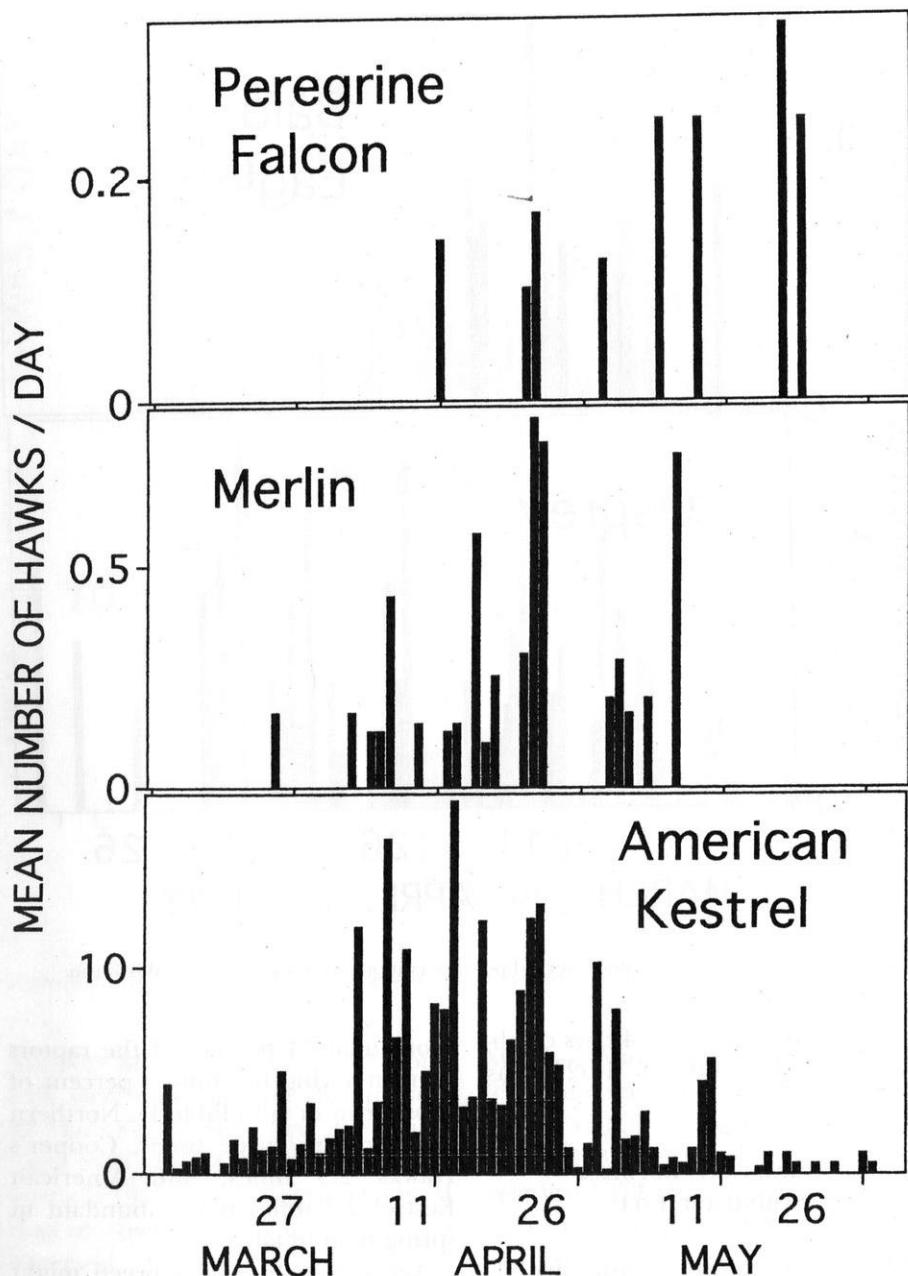


Figure 6. Mean numbers of raptors observed per observation day at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

Table 1. Comparison between spring and fall migration at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin

Species	% of total*		Birds/Day**		Relative Abundance Spring/Fall
	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	
Northern Harrier	27.4	4.4	7.0	2.2	3.1
Broad-winged Hawk	20.5	28.0	9.1	61.7	0.1
American Kestrel	18.2	2.7	5.2	2.3	2.2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11.5	42.0	3.9	33.5	0.1
Red-tailed Hawk	9.2	12.2	2.3	6.2	0.4
Cooper's Hawk	6.3	1.3	1.8	0.7	2.6
Rough-legged Hawk	3.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9
Red-shouldered Hawk	2.2	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.4
Turkey Vulture	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.4
Osprey	0.4	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1
Merlin	0.4	4.3	0.1	3.7	0.0
Bald Eagle	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Peregrine Falcon	0.1	0.9	0.0	1.0	0.0
Northern Goshawk	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.1
Swainson's Hawk	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
Totals	100.00	100.00	31.3	115.0	

\*All season (13 March–31 May; 1 August–15 December)

\*\* Birds seen per day within the calendar interval when 95% of the individuals of that species were observed.

der of the species we use the proportion of breeders that are less than one year old. Information on breeding ages were obtained from the accounts in *The Birds of North America* (Poole and Gill 1993–2000), except for the Osprey, American Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon, which were taken from Palmer (1988). The Rough-legged Hawk was deleted from Table 2 because there is no information available on age of first breeding. A Kendall rank-order correlation coefficient between the number of birds seen per day in spring migration divided by the number seen per day in fall and age at first breeding, is not significant ( $T = 0.047$ ).

Birds in reversed migration have already gone north and thus might be counted twice (or more) and there might be a correlation between the number of individuals of a species observed and the proportion that were in reversed migration. This may be

the case: there is a marginal correlation between the two ( $T = 0.364$ ,  $0.05 < P < 0.10$ ).

Birds that migrate early in the spring have a greater opportunity to be counted again and the median date of migration might thus be correlated with the number of individuals seen. This is true: there is a significant correlation ( $T = 0.515$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ).

Almost all the raptors seen in fall are southbound, as expected for the season, but in spring 61 percent are northbound with almost 40 percent in reversed migration (Table 3). The proportion of raptors in reversed migration varies from 71 percent in the Red-tailed Hawk to 15 percent in the American Kestrel. Mueller and Berger (1969) noted that on many days both northbound and southbound migrants were seen during short intervals of time in spring at Cedar Grove. They found that on more than 60 percent of the observation days less than 80 per-

Table 2. Ranks of species for birds/day, spring/fall, percent southbound in spring, breeding age, breeding range, and median date of spring migration

Species	Spring/Fall	Percent Southbound	Breeding Age	Breeding Range	Migration Time
Northern Harrier	1	6	9	6.5	3
Cooper's Hawk	2	5	9	3	5
American Kestrel	3	10	12	3	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	3	4.5	3	2
Bald Eagle	5	2	1	10	1
Turkey Vulture	6	4	2.5	3	8
Red-tailed Hawk	7	1	4.5	3	6
Broad-winged Hawk	8	7	9	6.5	11
Osprey	9	8	2.5	10	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	11	7	10	9
Merlin	11	9	11	10	7
Peregrine Falcon	12	12	6	10	12

Table 3. Number of raptors northbound and in reversed migration (southbound) in spring at Cedar Grove.

Species	Northbound	Southbound	% Southbound
Red-tailed Hawk	254	619	71
Bald Eagle	4	6	60
Red-shouldered Hawk	79	112	59
Rough-legged Hawk	130	182	58
Turkey Vulture	24	28	53
Cooper's Hawk	296	305	51
Northern Harrier	1503	1338	47
Broad-winged Hawk	1372	700	34
Osprey	33	14	30
Merlin	34	11	24
American Kestrel	1451	405	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	990	178	15
Peregrine Falcon	8	1	11
Totals	6178	3899 = 39%	

cent of hawks were migrating in one direction (northbound or southbound). They suggested that hawks migrating back to breeding areas were poor navigators and were often displaced in latitude or longitude. Some of the reversed migration was thus of birds that had overshot their goal or had found themselves too far west and were moving south along the lakeshore, looking for a place where they could go east without flying over water.

The differences between species in the proportion in reversed migration might be explained by their breeding ranges, with species that range entirely to the north of Cedar Grove showing less reversed migration than species that breed both north and south of Cedar Grove. To test this possibility we ranked each species by breeding range, with 3 the tied rank for the five species that breed both north and south of Cedar Grove, 6.5

for the two species that breed mostly to the north of Cedar Grove and 10 for the five species in which all, or all but a very few individuals, breed to the north (Table 2). A Kendall rank-order correlation coefficient between the ranks for proportion of reversed migration and breeding range shows a significant correlation ( $T = 0.459, P < 0.05$ ). Breeding range and the number of individuals migrating in spring relative to the number in fall are also correlated ( $T = 0.532, P < 0.05$ ).

Another possible influence on the proportion of individuals in reversed migration is the age when they first breed. Non-breeding individuals might be more likely to wander in spring migration. There is no correlation between age of first breeding and reversed migration ( $T = 0.362, P > 0.10$ ).

There is yet another factor that might influence the proportion of individuals in reversed migration. Species that migrate early might encounter adverse weather more frequently and reverse migration more often than species that migrate later. The correlation between proportion of individuals of a species in reversed migration and the median date of migration is marginal ( $T = 0.424, 0.05 < P < 0.10$ ).

There is no significant correlation between the number of birds seen per day in spring relative to the number seen in fall and the proportion of birds in reversed migration in spring ( $T = 0.275, P > 0.20$ ). Kendall partial rank-order correlation coefficients of pairs of factors influenceing the number of birds per day divided by the number in fall and the proportion of hawks in reversed migration are all not significant ( $P > 0.50$ ).

We would expect the raptors that migrate later in fall would migrate earlier in spring. Overall, this is true. A Kendall rank-order correlation coefficient between spring and fall median migration dates, on the species in Table 1, with the Swainson's Hawk and Northern Goshawk deleted because of small sample sizes, yields  $T = -0.480, P < 0.05$ . The only major difference is in the American Kestrel, which was ranked fifth in spring (relatively early) and first in fall (very early).

## DISCUSSION

For the most part, raptor species that migrate early in fall migrate late in spring. The major exception to this is the American Kestrel, which is the only species in which probably almost all yearlings attempt to breed. The early return may facilitate territory establishment and pair-bonding in juveniles as well as adults.

Almost four times as many hawks were observed in fall migration at Cedar Grove as in spring. Raptors are concentrated at Cedar Grove because westerly winds drift them against the leading line of the lakeshore (Mueller and Berger 1961, 1967a,b). The efficiency of a leading line in concentrating water-shy southbound migrants is enhanced if the line slants down from east of north to west of south, rather than simply north-south. This is the geography that prevails at Hawk Ridge, Minnesota, where many more raptors are seen in fall than at Cedar Grove. The shore of Lake Superior extends to Duluth from an angle of approximately  $50^\circ$  east of north, the shore of Lake Michigan extends from

Sheboygan to Milwaukee at an angle of only a little more than  $10^{\circ}$  east of north. Stronger and more westerly winds are required to concentrate hawks at Cedar Grove than at Duluth. In spring, the water should be to the north, rather than the south of the leading line as at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center on the southern shore of Lake Superior near Ashland. The lake shore extends at  $29^{\circ}$  east of north from Cedar Grove for 10.5 miles and at  $21^{\circ}$  from Port Washington (14 miles south). A bird flying directly north from Port Washington would pass five miles west of Cedar Grove. A bird flying directly south from a point on five miles west of Sheboygan would arrive at Cedar Grove after only nine miles. It is obvious that northbound birds would require considerably more wind drift to arrive at Cedar Grove than southbound birds.

Westerly winds to drift the hawks are less frequent in spring than in fall. The prevailing winds for Milwaukee, about 70 km south of Cedar Grove are WNW in March, NNE in April and May, SW in August and SSW in September and October (Knox 1996). Lastly, Lake Michigan is much colder in spring than in fall, and during warm weather (as with a southwest wind) a cold lens of air lies over the lake and the warm winds go over it. This cold air frequently extends inland for some distance and as the warm air rises over it updrafts are created. Migrating hawks probably use these updrafts and often may be migrating sufficiently inland to pass unobserved to the west of Cedar Grove. Thus, geography and meteorology combine to reduce the number of hawks seen in spring.

The proportion of individuals of a

species that were observed in reversed migration is correlated with the breeding range of the species. Birds which breed near the latitude of Cedar Grove are near their migratory goal and are more likely to be reorienting after having wandered too far north or west in their northward migration than birds that breed only to the north. Birds that are reorienting are more likely to be in reversed migration. This is not a complete explanation of reversed migration because many migrants move south in response to encountering adverse weather in the north. This is probably the reason for the marginal correlation with time of migration: late migrants are less likely to encounter poor weather.

The number of individuals of a species observed in spring relative to the number seen in fall is also correlated with breeding range. Birds in reversed migration have already gone north and thus could be counted twice. But this fails to explain all of the excess because there is no correlation between the proportion of birds seen in reversed migration and the number seen in spring relative to fall. But birds that were displaced to the west of Lake Michigan might also be northbound when trying to go east and looking for a way to avoid the lake. Mueller and Berger (1969) present evidence that birds breeding to the east of Lake Michigan occur in spring migration at Cedar Grove. More individuals are seen of species that migrate early in spring. The prevailing winds in March are westerly and NNE in April and May. In fall, very few raptors are seen on N and NE winds (Mueller and Berger 1961, 1967b). No rigorous analysis has been

done of wind direction and migration in spring, but very few raptors are seen on easterly winds.

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Ring-necked Pheasants by Cary Hunkel (with permission of the WI Department of Natural Resources)



American Robin fledgling by Jack Bartholmai. Robins were the most commonly reported species on Mueller's roadkill survey.

# Seasonal Timing of Highway Mortality of Birds in Wisconsin—1999

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*Abstract—I investigated the seasonal distribution of road mortality of bird species in Wisconsin during 1999. Records of 1548 deaths of 109 species were collected from 64 Wisconsin counties. Seasonal distribution of bird/vehicle collisions is concentrated during the breeding season for some species, and markedly drops off after young become independent.*

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**C**ollision with motor vehicles is a well-known source of mortality for both vertebrate and invertebrate organisms, and this mortality is one of the prominent ecological effects of roads (Farmer 1998, Forman and Alexander 1998, Groot Branderik and Hazebroek 1996, Hornaday 1931, Seibert and Conover 1991, Trombulak and Frissel 2000, Wilkins and Schmidly 1980). Organisms affected include mammals (Bashore et al. 1985, Davies et al. 1987, Garland and Bradley 1984, Oxley et al. 1974, Puglisi et al. 1974, Reilly and Green 1974), birds (Dhindsa et al. 1988, Loos and Kerlinger 1993, Massemin and Zorn 1998, Massemin et al. 1997, Mumme et al. 2000, Newton et al. 1991, Novelli et al. 1991, Rivers 1998,

Schorger 1954, Varland et al. 1993), reptiles (Rosen and Lowe 1994), amphibians (Fahrig et al. 1995), and many species of insects (Riffel 1999).

Some previous work on road mortality has concentrated on the seasonality of animal/vehicle collisions (Davies et al. 1987). This paper focuses on the seasonal timing of road mortality of birds in Wisconsin. Road mortality of some migrant species, especially of some passerines, is concentrated during the breeding season. Numbers of bird/vehicle collisions dropped off dramatically after juveniles of some species became independent.

The original objective of this study was to learn whether present-day road mortality has an effect on the

population of the Red-headed Woodpecker. Schorger (1954) found the Red-headed Woodpecker to be the second most commonly killed species on roads in a road mortality study in Wisconsin during the 1930s and 1940s. Numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers found in my study were markedly lower than those found in Schorger's study (Mueller 2001). To eliminate bias in collection of the data for this study, I asked cooperators to provide data on all species found. I noticed patterns in the seasonality of the data only after the study was completed.

## METHODS

To investigate the effect of highway mortality on birds in Wisconsin, I initiated collection of data on bird/vehicle collisions during 1999. With the help of 90 cooperators statewide, I gathered records of 1548 deaths of 109 species of birds, from 64 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The cooperators provided records of species found, dates, and locations throughout 1999. Table 1 lists the species for which records were obtained, the number of records for each species, and the percentage of the total of each. I graphed seasonal distribution of mortality records for fifteen species for which there were 30 or more records for the year.

## RESULTS

Birds were found killed on roads throughout 1999, but mortality did not occur equally in all seasons. Figures 1–6 depict the seasonal distribution of the mortality of those species

for which there were 30 or more records. In each case the figures represent a similar pattern exhibited by several species. For some species, the majority of the mortality occurred during the breeding season and the period of fledging, when birds are involved in courtship behavior, nest building activities, feeding young, nest maintenance or territorial defense, and when young birds are becoming independent. These species include the following passerines: American Robin, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Barn Swallow, Common Grackle, and American Goldfinch. In those cases (Figures 1 and 3) where the annual period of abundance is markedly different from the annual period of mortality, I have delineated the annual period of abundance on the graph. Figure 2 represents the patterns typical of a permanent resident species, in this case the House Sparrow.

The five most commonly-reported species were, in descending order of abundance: American Robin, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Barn Swallow, and European Starling.

American Robins are present in large numbers in Wisconsin from early March through late November (Barger et al. 1988, Temple et al. 1997). Road mortality of this species was concentrated in a period from April through August (Figure 1). The House Sparrow is a permanent resident, present in large numbers in Wisconsin throughout the year. Roadkills of House Sparrows were concentrated in July, August, and September (Figure 2). The Red-winged Blackbird is present in numbers in Wisconsin from late February through mid-November, yet the road-

Table 1—Species found killed on roads in Wisconsin in 1999, number of individuals, (percent of total)

Canada Goose, <i>Branta canadensis</i>	31	(2.0%)
Wood Duck, <i>Aix sponsa</i>	2	(0.13%)
Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	48	(3.1%)
Blue-winged Teal, <i>Anas discors</i>	2	(0.13%)
Gray Partridge, <i>Perdix perdix</i>	5	(0.32%)
Ring-necked Pheasant, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	43	(2.8%)
Ruffed Grouse, <i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	45	(3.0%)
Wild Turkey, <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	18	(1.2%)
Pied-billed Grebe, <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	1	(0.06%)
Least Bittern, <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	7	(0.45%)
Green Heron, <i>Butorides virescens</i>	2	(0.13%)
Turkey Vulture, <i>Cathartes aura</i>	4	(0.26%)
Sharp-shinned Hawk, <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Cooper's Hawk, <i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	1	(0.06%)
Red-shouldered Hawk, <i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Broad-winged Hawk, <i>Buteo platypterus</i>	2	(0.13%)
Red-tailed Hawk, <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	12	(0.78%)
Rough-legged Hawk, <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	3	(0.19%)
American Kestrel, <i>Falco sparverius</i>	8	(0.52%)
Virginia Rail, <i>Rallus limicola</i>	10	(0.65%)
Sora, <i>Porzana carolina</i>	5	(0.32%)
American Coot, <i>Fulica americana</i>	8	(0.52%)
Sandhill Crane, <i>Grus canadensis</i>	2	(0.13%)
Killdeer, <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	11	(0.71%)
Spotted Sandpiper, <i>Actitis macularia</i>	1	(0.06%)
Common Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	(0.06%)
American Woodcock, <i>Scolopax minor</i>	3	(0.19%)
Ring-billed Gull, <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	30	(1.9%)
Herring Gull, <i>Larus argentatus</i>	7	(0.45%)
Rock Pigeon, <i>Columba livia</i>	34	(2.2%)
Mourning Dove, <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	38	(2.5%)
Black-billed Cuckoo, <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	4	(0.26%)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Eastern Screech-Owl, <i>Otus asio</i>	10	(0.65%)
Great Horned Owl, <i>Bubo virginianus</i>	26	(1.7%)
Snowy Owl, <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	1	(0.06%)
Barred Owl, <i>Strix varia</i>	14	(0.90%)
Great Gray Owl, <i>Strix nebulosa</i>	2	(0.13%)
Northern Saw-whet Owl, <i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	8	(0.52%)
Common Nighthawk, <i>Chordeiles minor</i>	5	(0.32%)
Red-headed Woodpecker, <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	4	(0.26%)
Red-bellied Woodpecker, <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Downy Woodpecker, <i>Picoides pubescens</i>	7	(0.45%)
Hairy Woodpecker, <i>Picoides villosus</i>	2	(0.13%)
Northern Flicker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	12	(0.78%)
Pileated Woodpecker, <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Eastern Wood-Pewee, <i>Contopus virens</i>	1	(0.06%)
Empidonax Flycatcher, <i>Empidonax</i> sp.	2	(0.13%)
Great Crested Flycatcher, <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Eastern Kingbird, <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	20	(1.3%)
Warbling Vireo, <i>Vireo gilvus</i>	2	(0.13%)
Red-eyed Vireo, <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Blue Jay, <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	6	(0.39%)
American Crow, <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	44	(2.8%)
Purple Martin, <i>Progne subis</i>	1	(0.06%)
Tree Swallow, <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	28	(1.8%)

(Continued)

Table 1 (Continued)

Bank Swallow, <i>Riparia riparia</i>	5	(0.32%)
Barn Swallow, <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	120	(7.8%)
Black-capped Chickadee, <i>Poecile atricapilla</i>	6	(0.39%)
House Wren, <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	6	(0.39%)
Winter Wren, <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	(0.06%)
Sedge Wren, <i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	2	(0.13%)
Marsh Wren, <i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	13	(0.84%)
Golden-crowned Kinglet, <i>Regulus satrapa</i>	3	(0.19%)
Eastern Bluebird, <i>Sialia sialis</i>	4	(0.26%)
Veery, <i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	1	(0.06%)
Swainson's Thrush, <i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Hermi Thrush, <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	2	(0.13%)
Wood Thrush, <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	1	(0.06%)
American Robin, <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	151	(9.8%)
Gray Catbird, <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	28	(1.8%)
Brown Thrasher, <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	3	(0.19%)
European Starling, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	65	(4.2%)
Bohemian Waxwing, <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	3	(0.19%)
Cedar Waxwing, <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	17	(1.1%)
Yellow Warbler, <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	2	(0.13%)
Palm Warbler, <i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	1	(0.06%)
Ovenbird, <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Mourning Warbler, <i>Oporornis philadelphica</i>	1	(0.06%)
Common Yellowthroat, <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	10	(0.65%)
Eastern Towhee, <i>Pipilo erythrrophthalmus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Chipping Sparrow, <i>Spizella passerina</i>	5	(0.32%)
Vesper Sparrow, <i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	2	(0.13%)
Savannah Sparrow, <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	11	(.71%)
Song Sparrow, <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	21	(1.4%)
Lincoln's Sparrow, <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	1	(0.06%)
Swamp Sparrow, <i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	7	(0.45%)
White-crowned Sparrow, <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	1	(0.19%)
Dark-eyed Junco, <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	4	(0.26%)
Lapland Longspur, <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	1	(0.06%)
Northern Cardinal, <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	19	(1.2%)
Indigo Bunting, <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	7	(0.45%)
Red-winged Blackbird, <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	127	(8.2%)
meadowlark, sp. <i>Sturnella</i> sp.	11	(0.71%)
Yellow-headed Blackbird, <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	2	(0.13%)
Common Grackle, <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	60	(3.9%)
Brown-headed Cowbird, <i>Molothrus ater</i>	6	(0.39%)
Baltimore Oriole, <i>Icterus galbula</i>	6	(0.39%)
House Finch, <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	7	(0.45%)
Red Crossbill, <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	3	(0.19%)
White-winged Crossbill, <i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	1	(0.06%)
Pine Siskin, <i>Carduelis pinus</i>	7	(0.45%)
American Goldfinch, <i>Carduelis tristis</i>	46	(3.0%)
House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i>	142	(9.2%)

kills were concentrated during the months of May, June, July, and August (Figure 3). Barn Swallows are present in Wisconsin from late April through early October. Roadkills of

Barn Swallows were concentrated during July, August, and September. Similar patterns exist for the Common Grackle and American Goldfinch. The goldfinch begins

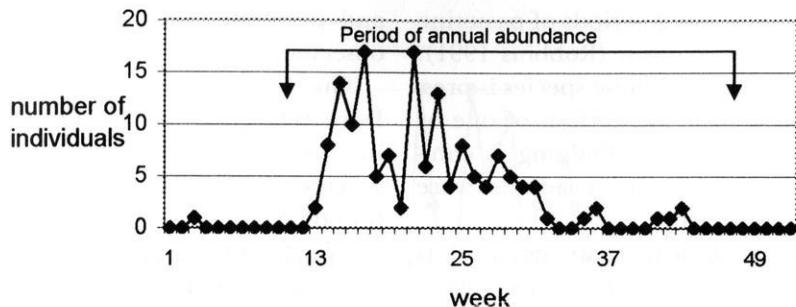


Figure 1. Seasonality of American Robin Road Mortality.

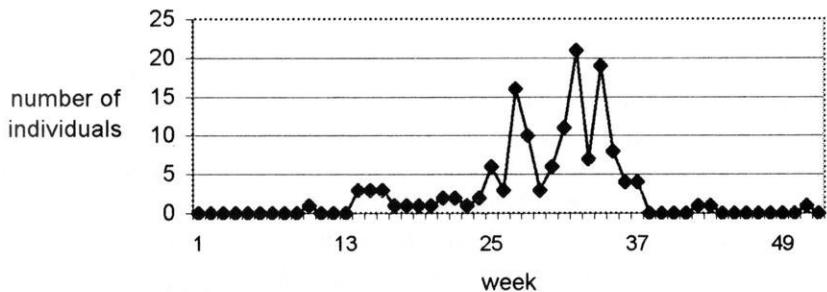


Figure 2. Seasonality of House Sparrow Road Mortality.

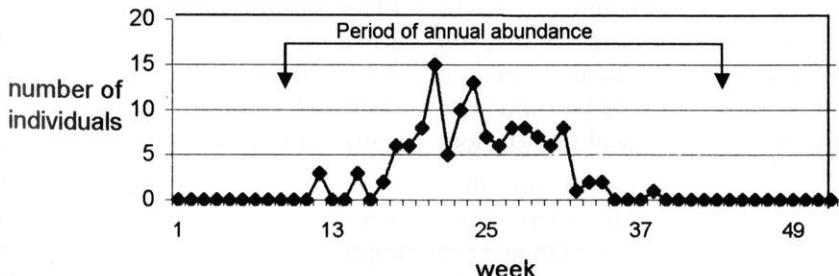


Figure 3. Seasonality of Red-winged Blackbird Road Mortality.

breeding later than most other passerines in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology 1995), and seasonal concentration of highway mortality reflected that timing.

## DISCUSSION

The three-to-four-month periods of concentration of roadkills in each case correspond to the breeding sea-

sons and fledging periods of passerine species in Wisconsin (Robbins 1991). Although each of these species is present in the state for periods of one or more months after fledging is completed, virtually no roadkills were found afterward.

Timing of peak road mortality is more complicated for some other species, and in some cases does not closely correspond with the breeding or fledging periods. Examples are Mallard, Ruffed Grouse, American Crow, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Canada Goose, and Ring-billed Gull.

The Mallard, Ruffed Grouse (Figure 4), Ring-necked Pheasant, and Canada Goose do not exhibit definite seasonal patterns of timing in relation to peak roadkill records. It is therefore difficult to draw any conclusions in regard to the seasonal distribution of these records.

The distribution of records throughout the year for American Crow (Figure 5) may be explained in part by crows' predilection for feeding on other roadkilled vertebrates, which in turn may cause crows to be vulnerable to vehicle collisions (field observations

and personal communication; many observers).

The Rock Pigeon and Mourning Dove (Figure 6) have lengthy breeding seasons in Wisconsin, these species often producing two or three broods (Ehrlich et al. 1988, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology 1995). These facts may explain the longer period during which road mortality was reported for these two species.

Some common or abundant species were more frequently killed on roads than other equally common species. The Barn Swallow, which frequents open meadows, wetlands, and open water, often flies low over vegetation or water while foraging for flying insects (Brown and Brown 1999, Robbins 1991). This species was more frequently involved in vehicle collisions than the Tree Swallow (Barn Swallow, 120 individuals, 7.8 % of the total; Tree Swallow, 28 individuals, 1.8 % of the total). The Tree Swallow pursues flying insects also (Robertson et al 1992); it often was noted to do so at a greater height above the ground than did the Barn Swallow in this study (R. Domagalski, personal communication), thus possibly resulting in the

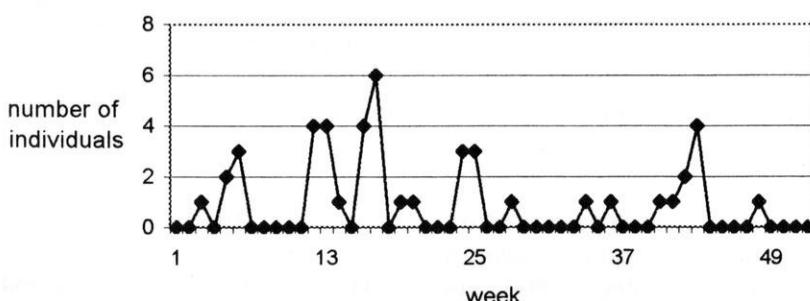


Figure 4. Seasonality of Ruffed Grouse Road Mortality.

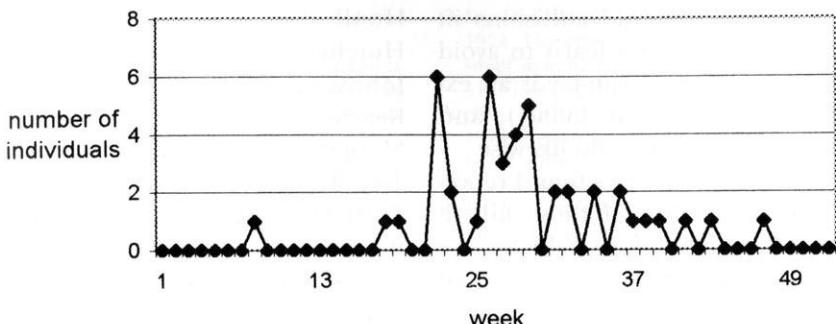


Figure 5. Seasonality of American Crow Road Mortality.

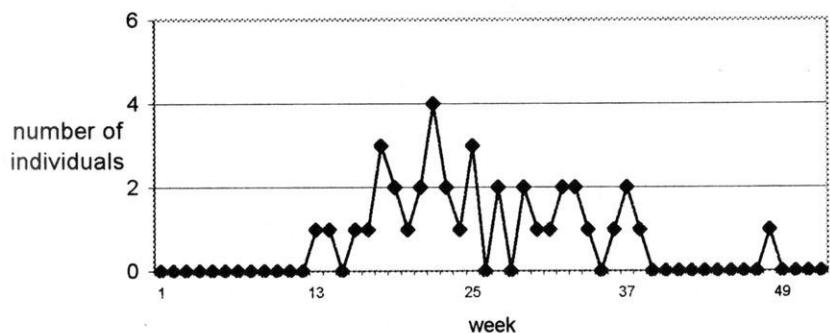


Figure 6. Seasonality of Mourning Dove Road Mortality.

Tree Swallow being a less frequent victim of vehicle collisions.

Several other species that are often found in open or "edge" habitats or near human habitation (American Robin, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird) were among the most commonly found species in this study. Nearness of habitat occupied by these species to roads may predispose these species to a greater likelihood of vehicle-caused mortality.

Some common species were not well represented in the data; examples are Red-eyed Vireo and Blue Jay. The vireo (a forest species) and jay (an

"edge" species) are often present in the canopy, and may fly across roads at a height great enough to avoid vehicle collisions. Red-eyed Vireos, for example, were found to have a mean foraging height of  $11.5m \pm 4.8$  SD on a New Hampshire study (Cimprich et al. 2000, Holmes et al. 1979). When flying across roads, if foraging at this height above the ground, they would easily avoid collisions with vehicles. Tarvin and Woolfenden (1999) describe the flight of Blue Jays thus: "When flying long distances, such as when harvesting acorns, (the Blue Jay) flies above tree level," (p.13). This

species may also avoid collisions in this way. Some species learn to avoid roads (the Florida Scrub-Jay is an example [Mumme et al. 2000]), and perhaps related species do likewise.

Numbers of all species found represent only a fraction of those killed. Many individuals hit by vehicles are thrown far from the road itself and are not usually found by observers. Others were quickly taken from the road surface by avian or mammalian predators and scavengers. One observer noted that many individual passerines "are gone (picked up by ravens or crows) within minutes of being hit" (P. Dring, personal communication).

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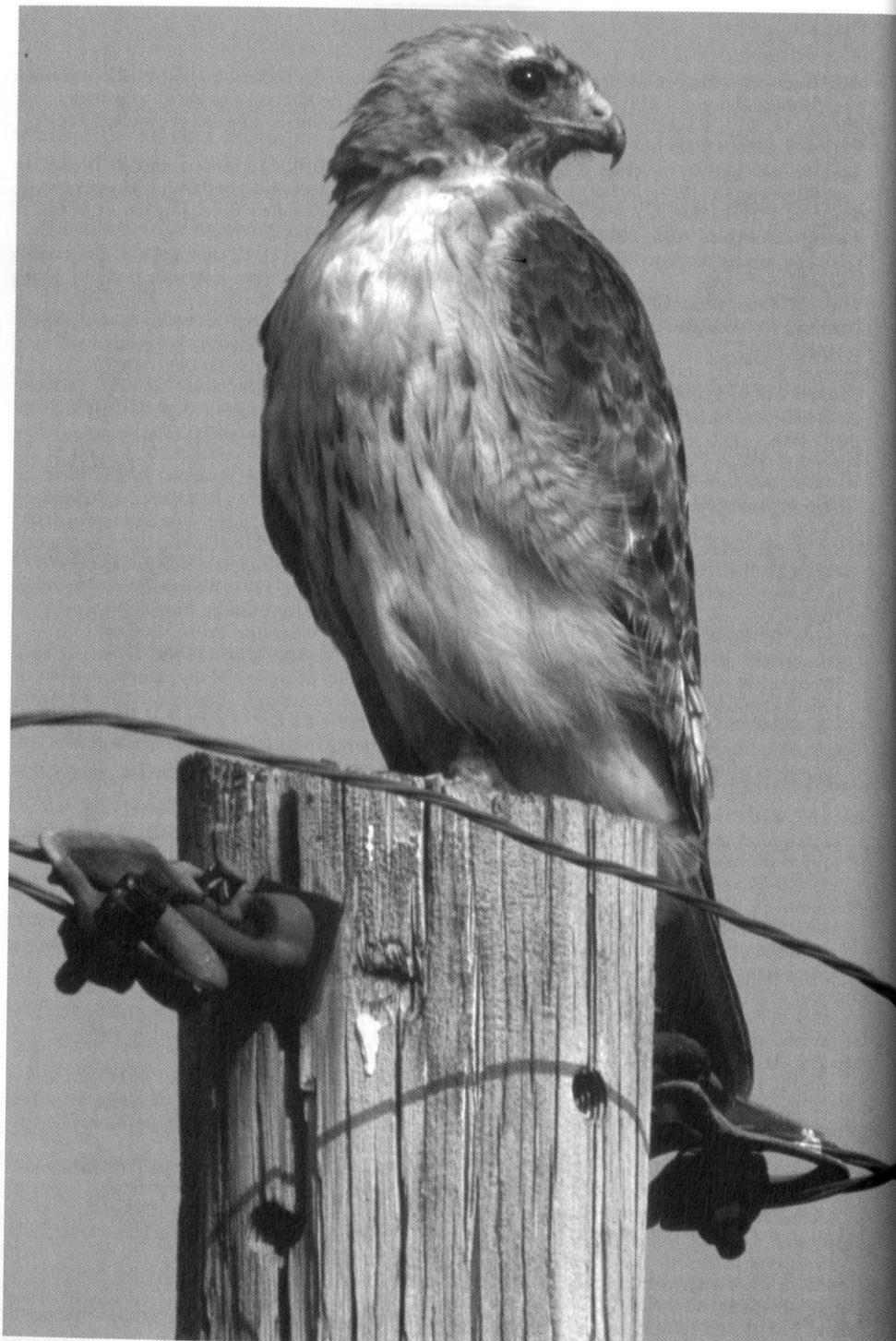
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Red-tailed Hawk sentinel at Horicon Marsh, August 2000, by Dennis Malueg

the winter season. Climatologists were predicting a relatively warm and dry winter, because of the El Niño weather pattern. "El Niño

will bring more snow to the northern tier of states, but less to the south. The

## The Winter Season: 2002–2003

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**B**efore I actually begin this seasonal summary, let me tell you of an interesting statistic for Devil's Lake in south central Wisconsin. This well known lake finally froze completely this winter on 27 January, 11 days later than the previous record date, which was set just last winter. I've kept track of the dates of ice-on and ice-off for Devil's Lake for some time, so one can easily determine the total number of days that the lake has been ice-covered in a given winter. This statistic shows a definite trend: the median total number of days is 119 for the 1970s, 105 for the 1980s, and 99 for the 1990s. This number for the last three winters, 2000–01, 2001–02, and this winter, is 120, 79, and 74. I expect that other lakes in northern states will show the same trend.

Now the winter season. Climatologists towards the end of 2002 were predicting the likelihood of a relatively warm and dry winter, because of the El Niño weather pattern. "El Niño

winter lies ahead" was a typical headline. And they were right—it was a relatively mild and snowless winter.

The period began with a surge of Arctic air on 30 November and 1 December, accompanied by light snow and flurries; below normal temperatures continued into the second week of December. But then it moderated, as evidenced by House Sparrows in La Crosse County carrying nesting material into a birdhouse on the 14th, as reported by the Helmans. The unseasonal weather culminated on the 18th, with temperatures in the 50s, showers, and joggers in shorts in southern Wisconsin, and freezing rain farther north. Temperatures again were above normal later in the month. On the 30th in Madison the high temperature was 53 degrees and Cedar Waxwings were catching flying insects, as noted by Philip Ashman; area golf courses were popular while local skating rinks reverted to puddles. In Green Bay the outdoor rinks weren't

even open, and the City Parks Department was canceling winter games and activities for the second year in a row. Snow was scarce throughout Wisconsin for the entire month.

At the beginning of the new year, the State Department of Tourism was reporting that the "lack of snow is on everyone's mind;" owners of businesses that reply on natural snow, such as those catering to cross-country skiers and snowmobilers, were becoming increasingly concerned. Some snow, a few inches, finally arrived on the 4th and 5th of January, but then another surge of warm air entered the state on the 7th and 8th; temperatures reached record highs in the 40s and 50s over much of Wisconsin and awakened all kinds of creatures, like chipmunks and garter snakes. People were calling this the "winter that wasn't" and comparing it to spring. Cold air then refrigerated Wisconsin for approximately two weeks and confirmed that the calendar actually was right—it still was winter. Larger lakes finally froze during this period. Temperatures moderated in the last week, but the relative lack of snow continued; the Recreation Superintendent for the Wausau Parks Department joked that eventually she might have to organize train rides to Canada so people could see snow. A measurable snowfall did whiten Wisconsin on the 28th.

February was a relatively uneventful month, with variable temperatures and little snow. However, some parts of the state, for example Oconto County as reported by the Smiths, were colder and snowier. The period ended with near normal temperatures, and little significant spring migration.

Newspapers in early Marsh were

warning of a drouth, at least in southern Wisconsin: "grass fires in February, low water levels in the Great Lakes and brown grass where there should be snow."

So, how was it for the birds? Comments like "very quiet" and "a paucity of birds" were expressed by a number of contributors. But, as always, there were interesting reports.

The period included Wisconsin's 5th winter record of White Pelican. The Double-crested Cormorant was again in high numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts, and at least 5 overwintered in Winnebago County. Two Greater White-fronted Geese lingered in Brown County through 4 January, a record late date, and a Brant in Brown County was only the second winter record. Some idea of Canada Goose numbers in Wisconsin can be inferred from these figures: 225,000+ on the Green Lake Christmas Bird Count and 50,000 on the Horicon CBC. A total of 5 species of geese and 3 species of swans was noted this winter; all the swans were in high numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts. All three scoters may have overwintered.

Why was the Northern Harrier relatively common and widespread throughout the period? This must have been related to the ready availability of voles, and this in turn may or may not have been related to the generally snowless landscape. Small open country mammals can be caught by raptors even with deep snow cover; one should be cautious in correlating the winter presence of raptors with snow depth.

Northern owls were in low numbers or absent. Snowy Owl, after the Christmas Bird Counts, was reported for just 5 counties, and there were no reports,

including the CBCs, for Northern Hawk-Owl, Great Gray Owl, or Boreal Owl.

The period in Wisconsin also included the first winter record of Solitary Sandpiper, the 4th record after 2 January of Purple Sandpiper, and the 6th record of Franklin's Gull.

A Black-billed Magpie in Douglas County was especially noteworthy, as it was only the first winter record for this species in Wisconsin since 1982.

Golden-crowned Kinglet was widespread throughout the period, and Hermit Thrush was in record numbers, 27, on the Christmas Bird Counts. American Robin was in high numbers for the 5th consecutive CBC; Bob Domagalski wondered if this might be related to the continual spread of common buckthorn, and Bill Brooks in the "President's Statement" (*Passenger Pigeon*, Volume 64, Number 4) also mentioned this possibility. The usual Townsend's Solitaires at Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County were joined this winter by a bird in Washington County, and Varied Thrush was noted in three counties, including the Christmas Bird Counts. There were three reports of Northern Mockingbird, and American Pipit, rare in winter, was represented by one bird in December. Bohemian Waxwing was reported from just four Christmas Bird Counts in northern Wisconsin.

Warblers were represented by three species: Orange-crowned Warbler, one throughout the period at a feeder in Racine County; Yellow-rumped Warbler, single birds in six counties after the Christmas Bird Counts; and Palm Warbler, one on the Ft. Atkinson (Rock County) Christmas Bird Count, Wisconsin's third winter record.

There were the usual overwintering sparrows; most notable was White-crowned Sparrow, with a total of 80 in weedy ground at the Coast Guard Impoundment on the Milwaukee CBC. After the Christmas Bird Counts, Lapland Longspur was reported from 9 counties, and Snow Bunting from 21 counties. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found for the third successive December, and a Black-headed Grosbeak in December was Wisconsin's 6th winter record; all the grosbeaks were at feeders.

All the winter finches were in low numbers throughout the period.

Late fall migration was reported for Canada Goose and Sandhill Crane, and inferred for various ducks and gulls.

Spring migration was noted for these species: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Horned Lark, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler (?), Fox Sparrow (?), Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird. See the species accounts for details.

There were also these signs of spring. This doesn't necessarily indicate nesting, but a Bald Eagle in Eau Claire County was lining its nest on 10 January (Janine Polk); Cooper's Hawk, a pair, was gathering nest sticks

in La Crosse County on 17 February (Fred Lesher); and a Great Horned Owl was incubating in Portage County on 26 February (Kent Hall).

A total of 73 people contributed reports or photos for 52 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Daryl Tessen, as usual, led the way, with 17 reports covering 25 counties, followed by Tom Prestby (2 reports, 14 counties), Marty Evanson (10 reports, 10 counties), and Sean Fitzgerald (5 reports, 5 counties). Daryl, I can't really give you an official citation or plaque, but after all these years I can at least herein recognize you as "Wisconsin's indefatigable birder," a tribute long overdue. Thank you!

The counties with the most coverage (five or more contributors per county) were Dane, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Shawano, Sheboygan, Washington, and Waukesha. Twelve counties were covered by just one contributor per county: Ashland, Columbia, Eau Claire, Juneau, Kewaunee, Menominee, Monroe, Pierce, Price, Taylor, Washburn, and Waushara. These 20 counties were not covered: St. Croix, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Vernon, Crawford, and Grant along the state's western boundary; Clark, Chippewa, Rusk, Sawyer, Iron, Lincoln, Florence, and Marinette in western and northern Wisconsin; Adams, Marquette, and Calumet in central Wisconsin; and Lafayette in extreme southern Wisconsin.

The following statewide species are not included in the species accounts: Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee.

These abbreviations are included with the species accounts: BOP—beginning of period, EOP—end of period, TTP—throughout the period, m. obs.—many observers, and CBC—Christmas Bird Count(s). There were 100 CBCs in Wisconsin this winter. A big thank you to Bob Domagalski for again sending the CBC report in time for me to include the highlights in this seasonal summary.

## REPORTS

(1 DECEMBER 2002—  
28 FEBRUARY 2003)

**Greater Whitefronted Goose**—7 December, Dane County (Yerger); Baraboo CBC, 3, and Green Bay CBC, 2; and 4 January, a record late date, 2 adults with Canada Geese in Brown County (documented by Gustafson).

**Snow Goose**—There were 105 on 14 CBCs. Tessen found 3 on 28 December in Waupaca County, and one on 6 January in Brown County. Migrants 22 February in Green County, 25 February in Winnebago County, and 28 February in Waukesha County (m. obs.).

**Ross's Goose**—Last winter there were 4 reports for December and January, this winter just one for the period, a bird on the La Crosse CBC 14 December.

**Canada Goose**—TTP in some 25 counties along Lake Michigan and also inland, including far northwestern Wisconsin (m. obs.). Tessen reported 5000 still in Vilas County 5 December, and the Smiths in Oconto County noted a maximum of 1250 for the period on 12 January. Schultz reported 225,000+ on the Green Lake CBC, and commented that in past winters the DNR surveys, now discontinued because of a lack of funding, regularly tallied 100,000 to 200,000 birds; also high numbers of 50,000 on the Horicon CBC. Hale in Jefferson County reported at least 500 in the Lake Mills area until 24 January, when Rock Lake finally froze completely. High counts of 7000–8000 for Dane County (13 February, Hilsenhoff) and Walworth County (28 December, Fitzgerald). Migrants 20 February in Waukesha County (Fitzgerald).

**Brant**—One in Brown County 11 November-1 January (Van Duyse) for a record late date and only the second winter report (documented by Tessen).

**Mute Swan**—A record number, 123, on the CBCs. Later reports for 11 counties: Bayfield and Ashland, Brown, Shawano, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, and Dane; maximum 17 in Dane County (m. obs.).

**Trumpeter Swan**—Totaled 208 on 8 CBCs, including 130 on the Hudson CBC. Also reports for these counties: Vilas, 5 December, 2; Shawano, 10 TTP; Polk, 27 February, 2 banded birds; Barron, TTP; La Crosse, an adult on 6 February; Juneau, 8 December; Dane, 16-22 February, maximum 3; and Rock, 1 February (m. obs.).

**Tundra Swan**—A total of 1026 on 13 CBCs, including 883 on the Madison CBC. Later reports (m. obs.) for these counties: Dane, through 29 December, then one on 18 February and 4 on 22 February; Brown, one on 1 January; Racine, total of 15 on 5 February; Kenosha, 11 on 4 December, one on 15 January, then 5 on 20 February; and Polk, 1 February.

**Wood Duck**—Sixteen on 10 CBCs. Later reports: through 15 January in Milwaukee County, and 2 males TTP in Racine County (m. obs.).

**Gadwall**—After the CBCs, reports for 7 counties: Dane, TTP, maximum 383 on 3 January; Winnebago, TTP; Ozaukee and Milwaukee, TTP; Kenosha, 19 February; Walworth, 30 on 13 January; and Rock, TTP (m. obs.).

**American Wigeon**—A total of 16 from the Milwaukee, Madison, and Montello CBCs. Later reports: Dane County, TTP?, maximum 2; and Milwaukee County, 21 January (m. obs.).

**American Black Duck**—Reports from 18 counties scattered throughout the state, not in the southwestern quarter. The maximum number was 24 on 8 February in Winnebago County (m. obs.).

**Mallard**—TTP in much of the state, but not in the extreme west or the southwest (m. obs.). Maximum in Winnebago County of 2000 on 16 February (Ziebell) must have included migrants.

**Blue-winged Teal**—Not on the CBCs. A male with Green-winged Teal in a half-open pond in Walworth County 20 February (documented by Fitzgerald) most likely a migrant (the only record for the period).

**Northern Shoveler**—A total of 127 on the Madison CBC plus 6 additional birds on 3 more CBCs. TTP in Dane County, with a maximum of 420 on 3 January (Hilsenhoff).

**Northern Pintail**—Ten on 7 CBCs. Later reports (TTP?) for 1-2 birds in Dane, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

**Green-winged Teal**—There were 14 on 6 CBCs. The only later report is from Fitzgerald: group of 15 in a half-open pond in Walworth County 20 February.

**Canvasback**—Total of 45 on 9 CBCs. Later reports for these counties: Dane, 5 January; Ozaukee, TTP, maximum 10; Milwaukee, 11 January, one; Kenosha, TTP?; and Walworth, 60 on 1 January (m. obs.).

**Redhead**—on 13 CBCs, a total of 199. Through 10 February in Bayfield/Ashland Counties, and TTP in Lake Michigan, north to at least Manitowoc County. Migrants in Dane County, a total of 5, 16-23 February, and in February in Lake Michigan counties (m. obs.). Maximum of 400+ on 11 January in Sheboygan County (Tessen), 180 on 27 February in Ozaukee County (Frank), and 300 on 8 February in Milwaukee County (Fitzgerald).

**Ring-necked Duck**—18 on 8 CBCs. Later reports for Dane County, maximum 12 on 2 January, and Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee Counties, single birds (TTP?). Ziebell's 16 February report for Winnebago County likely represents migration.

**Greater Scaup**—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to at least Manitowoc County; Tessen estimated 10,000 on 15 February in Milwaukee County. One in Shawano County, 6-29 January, and through 8 January in Oconto County (m. obs.).

**Lesser Scaup**—TTP or possibly so in Lake Michigan, north to at least Brown County; also TTP in Winnebago and Dane Counties. Maximum 15 in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

**Harlequin Duck**—A female in Sheboygan County 29 November–19 January (documented by Wood, Tessen, Peterson); 2 female-immature plumaged birds in Milwaukee County through 27 February (documented by Gustafson, Tessen, Wood); and one on the Racine CBC.

**Surf Scoter**—TTP in Lake Michigan, for example Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties (m. obs.), maximum 8 on 4 January in Ozaukee County (Frank).

**White-winged Scoter**—Possibly TTP in Lake Michigan (Milwaukee County ?), maximum 5 (m. obs.).

**Black Scoter**—Possibly TTP in Lake Michigan (Milwaukee County ?), maximum 4 (m. obs.), also a female at Babcock Park in McFarland, Dane County, apparently TTP (Ashman).

**Long-tailed Duck**—TTP in Lake Michigan, for example Manitowoc County (m. obs.). Tessen reported a total of 500 on 1 February in Kewaunee County.

**Bufflehead**—TTP in Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to at least Manitowoc County; the Smiths in Oconto County found this species through 15 December, with a maximum of 75 on that date. Also these reports: TTP in Winnebago and Dane Counties, maximum for Dane County 27 on 2 January; and Walworth County, 13 January (m. obs.).

**Common Goldeneye**—TTP in these localities: Bayfield and Ashland Counties; the Wisconsin River from at least Iowa County north to Marathon County; Winnebago County, maximum 1200 on 16 February; Lake Michigan from Oconto County to Kenosha County; and Rock County, maximum 63 on 17 February. The high numbers in Winnebago and Rock Counties must have included migrants.

**Barrow's Goldeneye**—No reports for Ozaukee County's Virmond Park, where this species had been found the past 8 winters, but for the second consecutive winter found in Milwaukee County's Doctor's Park, a male, 1 January-EOP (documented by Gustafson, Frank, Fitzgerald, Tessen, Wood, Stutz, and Prestby).

**Hooded Merganser**—TTP in these localities: Lake Michigan, north to at least Manitowoc County, maximum 3; Walworth County; Dane

County, maximum 27 on 21 December; and Portage County, maximum 3. Noted in Rock County 1–22 February, and Bayfield/Ashland Counties 25–28 February (m. obs.).

**Common Merganser**—TTP in these localities: the Wisconsin River from at least Dane and Sauk Counties north to Marathon County; Winnebago County, maximum 1000 on 16 February; and Lake Michigan between Oconto and Kenosha Counties. Noted in Rock County 1–22 February. The high count in Winnebago County must have included migrants: migrants also in February, the 22nd, in La Crosse and Barron Counties (m. obs.).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—TTP in Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to at least Manitowoc County. A high count of 250 on 25 February in Racine County (Fitzgerald) suggests migration.

**Ruddy Duck**—On the Kenosha, Oshkosh, and Appleton CBCs, a total of 9. TTP in Ozaukee County, maximum 10 (Frank, Tessen). In Kenosha County found through 2 January, then again 19 February (Hoffmann); migration also suggested by a single bird in Dane County 13–18 February (Hilsenhoff, Tessen).

**Gray Partridge**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for Shawano, Brown, Manitowoc, and Kenosha Counties; maximum numbers from 8–32 (m. obs.).

**Ring-necked Pheasant**—Northward to these counties: Bayfield/Ashland, 1 December–6 February; Marathon, TTP; and Oconto, TTP (m. obs.).

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**—After the CBCs, reports for Douglas, Burnett, and Wood Counties (m. obs.).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken**—After the CBCs, this report: maximum 235 on 18 February in Portage County (via Hall).

**Wild Turkey**—A record number, 7896, on the CBCs. After the Counts, noted in 22 counties, north to Burnett, Oneida, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

**Northern Bobwhite**—Excluding the CBCs, this report: single birds and groups of 3–7 TTP in Kenosha County (Hoffmann).

**Red-throated Loon**—4 December, one in Manitowoc County (Sontag), and 14–15 December, one in Racine County (Racine CBC and Prestby).

**Common Loon**—4 December, one in Manitowoc County (Sontag); 2 on the Sturgeon Bay CBC; and 21–23 December, one on Devil's Lake in Sauk County (A. Holschbach).

**Pied-billed Grebe**—One on the Madison CBC and 2 on the Lake Geneva CBC.

**Western Grebe**—Tessen and Uttech watched one in the Port Washington harbor in Ozaukee County 2 January.

**American White Pelican**—One on the Green Bay CBC, Wisconsin's 5th winter record; still there 6 January (Tessen).

**Double-crested Cormorant**—Like last winter, again high numbers on the CBCs, a total of 124 on 7 counts, including 75 on the Woodland Dunes SE Count in Manitowoc County. At least 5 TTP at Menasha in Winnebago County (Tessen), and apparently also TTP in Milwaukee County (Gustafson).

**Great Blue Heron**—A total of 54 on the CBCs. TTP in Columbia County, and January reports for Rock, Washington, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

**Turkey Vulture**—Grantsburg CBC in St. Croix County, 14 December, and 1–2 TTP in Kenosha County (Hoffmann).

**Bald Eagle**—TTP in some 7 northern counties, including Douglas and Vilas Counties, also TTP in a number of southern counties and Jackson County in western Wisconsin. High counts typically in February, for example in Winnebago County with 32 on the 16th and 40 on the 20th. Through 24 February in Rock County (m. obs.).

**Northern Harrier**—A high number, 256, on CBCs; like last year, again relatively common after the Counts. January reports for some 6 southern and eastern counties, with birds TTP in another half-dozen counties. Migrants widespread in the latter half of February, north to Dane, Winnebago, and Sheboygan Counties (m. obs.).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—After the CBCs, reports for 17 counties, north to Baraboo, Vilas, and Oconto Counties. No reports for counties along the Mississippi or west central Wisconsin (m. obs.).

**Cooper's Hawk**—After the CBCs, reports for 24 counties, north to Washburn, Bayfield/Ashland, Marathon, and Oconto Counties; mainly in south central and eastern Wisconsin (m. obs.).

**Northern Goshawk**—The expected invasion (every 10 years) did not materialize this winter, as it did, for example, in 1992 and 1982. There were 17 on 15 CBCs, and just two later reports: Oconto County, 23–24 January, maximum 2 (Smiths); and Walworth County, 13 January (Fitzgerald).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—Eight on 7 CBCs. Later reports for these counties: Oconto, one TTP (Smiths); Manitowoc, 11 February (Sontag); Ozaukee, 28 February (Frank); Waukesha, one TTP (Fitzgerald); Walworth, 27 January (Fitzgerald); and Juneau, 25 January (A. Holschbach). The Manitowoc County and Ozaukee County birds most likely were migrants.

**Red-tailed Hawk**—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 10 February; Vilas, 6 December; Taylor and Marathon, TTP; and Oconto, TTP (m. obs.).

**Rough-legged Hawk**—High counts in late winter, as usual, notably 41 on 16 February in Dodge County (Freriks).

**Golden Eagle**—Excluding the CBCs, January and February reports for these counties: Jackson, Wood, Portage, Sauk, and Waukesha (m. obs.). Usually single birds, maximum 4 on 14 February in Wood County (Prestby).

**American Kestrel**—Northward to these counties: Burnett, 10 February; Barron, TTP; Marathon, 25 January; and Oconto, TTP, maximum 4 (m. obs.).

**Merlin**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for these counties: Bayfield/Ashland, 1–23 December; Marathon, several TTP; Portage, one on 5 December and one on 21 February; Sheboygan, 1 and 8 January; and Walworth, 27 January (m. obs.).

**Peregrine Falcon**—Reports from La Crosse, Portage, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

**King Rail**—On the Poynette CBC, 28 December.

**Virginia Rail**—Single birds on the Poynette and Palmyra CBCs, and (documented by Yoerger) one on 18 January at the Anthony Branch Fishery Area near Oregon in Dane County.

**American Coot**—TTP in these counties: Dane, maximum 350 on 2 January (Hilsenhoff); Winnebago; Ozaukee, maximum 65 on 4 January (Frank); Milwaukee and Racine; and (?) Kenosha, maximum 17 (Hoffmann). Parsons tallied 80 on 1 January on Rock Lake in Jefferson County.

**Sandhill Crane**—December records for Rock County (the 8th), and the Poynette and Columbus CBCs. Fitzgerald reported the only February record, 20 February in Waukesha County.

**Killdeer**—Single birds on the Sauk City, Baraboo, and La Crosse CBCs.

**Solitary Sandpiper**—1 December, one in Ozaukee County (Uttech), Wisconsin's first winter record; the previous late date was 24 November 1946 from Racine County (Edward B. Prins).

**Purple Sandpiper**—One in Sheboygan County 1 December—9 January (documented by Wood, Peterson, Brassers, Stutz, Tessen), and maximum 2 in Milwaukee County 28 December—2 January (documented by Gustafson, Prestby, Stutz).

**Wilson's Snipe**—Excluding the CBCs, these reports: Oconto County, through 1 January, maximum 2 on 30 December (Smiths); Richland County, 7 December (A. Holschbach); Dane County, 18–20 January (Yoerger); and Rock County, 18 January (Yoerger).

**Franklin's Gull**—Wisconsin's 6th winter report, 20–29 December, was an adult in alternate plumage along the mainly frozen St. Croix River at Prescott in Pierce County, also in adjacent Washington County, Minnesota, generally

resting on ice among Canada Geese (documented by Kieser).

**Bonaparte's Gull**—24 on the Kenosha CBC; 11 still in Kenosha County 26 December (Hoffmann).

**Ring-billed Gull**—TTP in Walworth County, and Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to at least Manitowoc County, with January reports for Kewaunee and Door Counties; also TTP in Winnebago County, where Ziebell reported a maximum of 50 on 2 December. January reports for Jefferson, Dane, Portage, and Ashland/Bayfield Counties (m. obs.).

**Herring Gull**—TTP in Lake Michigan, north to at least Manitowoc County, with January reports for Kewaunee and Oconto Counties; also TTP in Walworth, Washington, Winnebago (maximum 764 on 14 December), and Ashland/Bayfield Counties (m. obs.).

**Thayer's Gull**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 1–4, usually just one, first and second year birds from Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee Counties 2 December–15 February, and Douglas County 10 February (m. obs.).

**Iceland Gull**—Excluding the CBCs, 1–2 birds from 7 January–28 February in these counties: Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, and Winnebago; first year and second year birds and an adult noted.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—Through 2 January, a lone bird again in Dane County; also Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Kewaunee Counties 4 January–22 February. From 1–3 first year and third year birds noted.

**Glaucous Gull**—Excluding the CBCs, TTP in these counties: Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee; usually 1–5, with a maximum of 15 on 15 February in Manitowoc County. Also Winnebago County, TTP, maximum 3, and Douglas County 10 February (m. obs.).

**Great black-backed Gull**—27 on 8 CBCs; these are record numbers for both individuals and counts. Excluding the CBCs, TTP in these counties: Racine, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee; maximum 15 February

in Sheboygan County (10) and Manitowoc County (25). Also one in Winnebago County 14 December–19 January (m. obs.).

**Rock Pigeon** (formerly Rock Dove)—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Vilas, and Oconto (m. obs.).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—The Holy Cross, Ozaukee County bird still at its usual location after 1.5 years (documented by Gustafson, Frank, Stutz).

**Eastern Screech-Owl**—TTP in these counties: Manitowoc, Outagamie, Winnebago, Green Lake, Washington, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Walworth, Rock, Dane, and Sauk (m. obs.).

**Snowy Owl**—One on the Bridgeport CBC and 2 on the Sturgeon Bay CBC. Later reports (single birds): Bayfield/Ashland Counties, 9 February; Shawano County 1 January–16 February; Outagamie County 15 February; and Winnebago County 17 December–2 February (m. obs.).

**Northern Hawk-Owl**—No reports, including the CBCs.

**Great Gray Owl**—No reports, including the CBCs.

**Long-eared Owl**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for these counties: Portage, 11–26 December, maximum 4 (Berner); Green Lake, 29 January, 1 (Tessen); Brooklyn Wildlife Area in Dane, 16 December, 2, but not later nor in other traditional roosts in the W.A. (Ashman); Ozaukee, 30 January–EOP (Uttech); Waukesha, 3–19 January, maximum 2 (Gustafson, Wood, Prestby, Peterson); Racine, 30 December (David); and Walworth, 5 January (Fitzgerald).

**Short-eared Owl**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 7 counties: Portage, one from 4 January–EOP; Winnebago, TTP, maximum 7; Ozaukee, 11 January; Kenosha, 10 December and 4 January, 1; Walworth, 20 February; Waukesha, 9 January, 26, and 1 February, 8; and Rock, TTP, maximum 5 (m. obs.).

**Boreal Owl**—No reports, including the CBCs.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—13 on 9 CBCs, the same numbers as last winter. Later reports for these counties: Ozaukee, 18 February (Uttech); Dane, one roosting in red cedar at Madison's Picnic Point, 22 January–5 February (Ashman); Green Lake, 29 January, 2 (Tessen); and Portage, 25 December–17 January (Berner).

**Belted Kingfisher**—There were 140 on 56 CBCs; these are record numbers for both individuals and counts. TTP in Dane and Rock Counties, and January reports for Green, Sauk, Washington, Manitowoc, and Shawano Counties (m. obs.).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—TTP in Manitowoc and Portage Counties, one in Fond du Lac County 28 December, one in Rock County 5 January, one in Iowa County, and a total of 12 on 2 February in Richland County (m. obs.).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—A record number, 1958, on the CBCs; this species, after the Downy Woodpecker, is now the most numerous woodpecker on the Counts. Northernmost reports, where TTP, from Burnett, Marathon, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Sixteen on 11 CBCs. Later reports: Sauk County, through 19 January, maximum 2 (A. Holschbach); Fond du Lac County, one on 11 January (Wood); and Kenosha County, one at a feeder from 5 December–25 January (Hoffmann).

**Black-backed Woodpecker**—Three on the Solon Springs CBC. Jim Baughman reported a total of 2 males and 2 females in two areas in Vilas County, 13 December–5 January, feeding on dead and dying tamarack and jack pine.

**Northern Flicker**—212 on 46 CBCs; these are record numbers for both individuals and counts. Later reports for single birds in 15 counties, north to Taylor, Wood, Portage, and Oconto Counties (m. obs.).

**Pileated Woodpecker**—341 on 69 CBCs; these are record numbers for both individuals and counts.

**Eastern Phoebe**—One on the Mt. Horeb CBC.

**Northern Shrike**—After the CBCs, reports for 21 counties scattered throughout the state,

but generally absent from the southwestern quarter west of Sauk and Iowa Counties (m. obs.).

**Gray Jay**—Including the CBCs, reports for these counties: Douglas, Ashland, Price, Vilas, Oneida, and Forest (m. obs.).

**Black-billed Magpie**—8 January, one in Cleveland Township, Douglas County (documented by Perala), Wisconsin's first winter record since 1982.

**Common Raven**—Southernmost reports for Jackson County in February, Juneau County 8 December, and Manitowoc County 14 February (m. obs.).

**Horned Lark**—Peak numbers in February, from Rock County (the 16th) to Barron County (the 3rd) and Oconto County (the 23rd).

**Boreal Chickadee**—Including the CBCs, reports for these counties: Ashland, Price, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, and Langlade (m. obs.).

**Tufted Titmouse**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for these counties: Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Waukesha, Green, Rock, and (27 December) Racine (m. obs.).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Scattered throughout the state, except for the western, southwestern, and extreme southern sections; relatively low numbers (m. obs.).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Vilas, and Oconto (m. obs.).

**Brown Creeper**—Excluding the CBCs, northernmost reports for these counties: Burnett, probably TTP (McInroy); Vilas, TTP (J. Baughman); and Forest, 29 January (Tessen).

**Carolina Wren**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 7 counties: Portage, Waupaca (for the 5th consecutive winter), Sauk, Dane, Jefferson (at a feeder in Lake Mills, March 2001-9 February 2003, Hale), Milwaukee, and Kenosha.

**Winter Wren**—A record number, 30, on 17 CBCs. Later reports for these counties: Marathon and Portage (possibly the same bird),

Sauk, Dane, Green, Washington, and Milwaukee (m. obs.).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—343 on 58 CBCs, the highest number of individuals since 1982 on a record number of counts. Later reports for 15 counties, north to Vilas and Oconto Counties: absent from the western third of Wisconsin (m. obs.).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—Total of 4 on the Appleton, Madison, and Riveredge CBCs. No later reports.

**Eastern Bluebird**—138 on 19 CBCs, which are record numbers of individuals and counts. January reports for Iowa, Ozaukee, and Kenosha Counties, with February reports (migration) beginning on the 18th in Dane County (m. obs.).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—Maximum of 3 TTP in Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County (A. Holschbach), and one from 27 December-3 January in the Loew Lake Unit of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest in Washington County (documented by Domagalski, Tessen, Wood).

**Hermit Thrush**—A record number, 27, on 7 CBCs, including 12 on the Milwaukee CBC. Later reports for these counties, where TTP or likely so: Outagamie, Sauk, Dane, Washington, Waukesha, and Milwaukee (m. obs.).

**American Robin**—Numerous and widespread, with high numbers on the CBCs for the fifth consecutive winter. After the Counts, reports for 22 counties. Northernmost reports from these counties: Bayfield/Ashland, through 18 February; Portage, TTP; and Oconto, 8 January, 1. Generally, absent from western Wisconsin. Maximum numbers for wintering birds approximately 30-80. Migration indicated by reports of 200 on 19 February in Waukesha County, and 110+ on 27 February in Dane County (m. obs.).

**Varied Thrush**—Polk County, 3-8 February (Berner); Shawano County, 4 February—"late February" (Bunker, Peterson); and Sheboygan County through 12 January (Brassers, Frank, Peterson).

**Gray Catbird**—Columbia County, 8-9 December (Domagalski); Dane County, 3 Decem-

ber (Ashman); and Kenosha County, 28 January (Fritz).

**Northern Mockingbird**—One at a feeder TTP in Bayfield/Ashland Counties (documented by Verch for the fall report, when it first appeared); one in Dane County 29 December (Yoerger) and 4 January (Husets); and one in Iowa County 16 February (A. Holschbach).

**Brown Thrasher**—A total of 5 on the Appleton, Mount Horeb, Milwaukee, and Burlington CBCs. One later report: one through 19 January in Dane County (Cederstrom).

**European Starling**—Northward to Vilas County, where TTP (m. obs.).

**American Pipit**—Last winter there were 3 reports for 2 counties in February; this winter one was found on the Racine CBC 12 December. Rare in winter!

**Bohemian Waxwing**—110 on the Bayfield CBC, also on 3 other northern CBCs; no later reports.

**Cedar Waxwing**—After the CBCs, the northernmost report was from Outagamie County, TTP, maximum 200 (Tessen).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—One at a peanut feeder from early December until at least 4 March east of Waterford, Racine County (documented by Jacyna); Wisconsin's second record of this species overwintering.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—On 9 CBCs, a total of 30, with 15 on the Milwaukee CBC. Later reports from 6 counties: Richland, 2 February (A. Holschbach); Columbia, one TTP where water from the sewage plant flows into Rowan Creek at Poynette (Dischler); Dane, 25 February (Ashman), migrant?; Sheboygan, one on 1 January (Brassers, Tessen); Milwaukee, 19 February (Bontly); and Kenosha, apparently TTP, one (Jacyna).

**Palm Warbler**—One on the Fort Atkinson (Rock County) CBC, 28 December, Wisconsin's third winter record.

**Eastern Towhee**—A total of 6 on the Caroline, Sauk City, Madison, and Racine CBCs. One later report: 23 February, one at a feeder dur-

ing a snowstorm in Walworth County (documented by Fitzgerald).

**American Tree Sparrow**—TTP in Barron, Marathon, and Oconto Counties, with maximum numbers of 50–110. Northernmost reports from Burnett County, 10 February, and Bayfield/Ashland Counties, through 18 December (m. obs.).

**Chipping Sparrow**—A total of 4 on 4 CBCs. One later report: one at a feeder TTP in Portage County (Hale).

**Field Sparrow**—A total of 4 on 4 CBCs. Two later reports, both 16 February: one in an American Tree Sparrow-junco flock in Walworth County (documented by Fitzgerald), and one in Sauk County (A. Holschbach).

**Vesper Sparrow**—A. Holschbach found one in a weedy field in Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County 13–19 December.

**Fox Sparrow**—Total of 11 on 10 CBCs. Later reports from 8 southern and eastern counties, north to Portage and Manitowoc Counties: possibly TTP in at least several of these counties (m. obs.).

**Song Sparrow**—After the CBCs, reports for 13 counties, north to Portage and Manitowoc Counties; TTP, generally just one bird, in at least some of these counties, for example Dane, Rock, Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha. Migration indicated by a maximum of 12 on 19 February in Walworth County (m. obs.).

**Swamp Sparrow**—After the CBCs, reports for 6 counties: TTP in Dane (maximum 8 on 14 December); Green; Walworth (maximum 5 on 17 February, suggesting migration); Ozaukee, 29 January; Waukesha, 8 January; and Kenosha, two at a feeder 11 January (m. obs.).

**White-throated Sparrow**—One at a feeder in Eagle River, Vilas County, 7 December (J. Baughman). After the CBCs, reports for 11 counties, north to Sauk, Shawano, and Ozaukee Counties; TTP in at least some of these counties, for example, Dane, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee. After December, the maximum number was 15 on 2 January in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

**Harris's Sparrow**—One at Picnic Point in Madison, Dane County, TTP, in a large flock of American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco (Ashman), and one in Rock County 18 January-8 February (Yoerger).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—High number (80!) on the Milwaukee CBC 14 December. Later reports for these counties: Winnebago, 20 February; Dane, an immature at Picnic Point in Madison, 7 December-5 February; Ozaukee, TTP; Milwaukee, one TTP; and Walworth, one in flock of American Tree Sparrow 16 February (m. obs.).

**Dark-eyed Junco**—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 27 December; Burnett, 10 December; Washburn, one TTP at a feeder; Vilas, 1 December-1 February; and Oconto, TTP, maximum 65 on 22 December (m. obs.).

**Lapland Longspur**—After the CBCs, reports for 9 counties: Portage, Outagamie, Winnebago, Brown, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Kenosha, Walworth, and Rock. The largest flock reported (100 on 30 January) was in Outagamie County (Tessen); numbers otherwise were low, less than 10 (m. obs.).

**Snow Bunting**—After the CBCs, reports for 21 counties scattered throughout the state, except for the southwestern quarter. Flocks of 150-250 in Jackson, Portage, and Marathon Counties, and Tessen reported a huge flock (estimated 4000!) in Brown County 30 January. Latest date in extreme southern Wisconsin—26 February in Walworth County (m. obs.).

**Northern Cardinal**—Northward to these counties: Bayfield/Ashland, TTP; Taylor, 20 January; Marathon, TTP; and Manitowoc, TTP (m. obs.).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Reports for the third successive December: an adult male through the 15th in Racine County, and another through the 28th in Winnebago County; both birds were at feeders (m. obs.).

**Black-headed Grosbeak**—A female at a feeder in Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County, 13-23 December (documented by Pountain); first winter record since December 1997.

**Red-winged Blackbird**—TTP in Portage and Kenosha Counties, 1-2 at feeders; also mid-

winter records for Brown, Dodge, Racine, Waukesha (50 on 31 January), and Walworth (30 on 8 February) Counties. Migration indicated by a number of reports for southern and eastern counties 13-27 February (m. obs.).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—Single birds on 20 February in Waukesha County (Fitzgerald) and 27 February in Dodge County (Tessen).

**Rusty Blackbird**—A roost of 1000 at Mud Lake Wildlife Area on the Hustisford CBC, 30 on the Rosendale CBC, and one on the Madison CBC. After the Counts, January reports for Dodge and Waukesha Counties, and one on 1 February in Oconto County. Migrants or likely so 13 February-EOP in Dodge County, maximum 5, and 21 February in Waukesha County (m. obs.).

**Brewer's Blackbird**—One from 13 February-EOP in Dodge County (Tessen).

**Common Grackle**—February reports for Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, and Dodge Counties (m. obs.), maximum 50 on 22 February in Jefferson County (Prestby).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—On 12 CBCs, including Hustisford (400 at a roost at the Mud Lake Wildlife Area) and Columbus (a total of 353). After the Counts, single birds in the first week of January in Ozaukee, Dodge, and Dane Counties, and a group of 100 on 1 February in Brown County. Tessen in February in Dodge County found 100+ on the 13th, and 175 on the 18th; also a report for 19 February in Waukesha County (m. obs.).

**Pine Grosbeak**—A total of 40 on 5 CBCs in northern Wisconsin, and the Sauk City Count; no later reports.

**Purple Finch**—Excluding the CBCs, reports for 14 counties in extreme northern, north central, and eastern Wisconsin, from Douglas County diagonally southeast to Walworth and Kenosha Counties; maximum number of birds 2 (m. obs.).

**House Finch**—Northward to Bayfield/Ashland, Vilas, and Oconto Counties, where TTP (m. obs.).

**Red Crossbill**—Total of 91 on 4 northern CBCs and the Sauk City Count. Later reports

for these counties: Burnett, 10 February (Paulios); Vilas, 29 January, 2 (Tessen), and 11 February (J. Baughman); and Oneida, two on 29 January (Peterson).

**White-winged Crossbill**—Found on 8 northern CBCs. Later reports for these counties: Burnett, 10 February; Vilas, 18 and 28 February; Forest, 20+ on 29 January, and 15–16 February; Marathon, 25+ on 17 January; and Portage, 4 January–12 February, maximum 20 (m. obs.).

**Common Redpoll**—Total of 25 on 6 CBCs scattered statewide; this is the lowest number of Counts for this species since 1956. Just one later report: Vilas County, 11 February (J. Baughman).

**Pine Siskin**—Just one report after the CBCs: Vilas County, 5 January (J. Baughman).

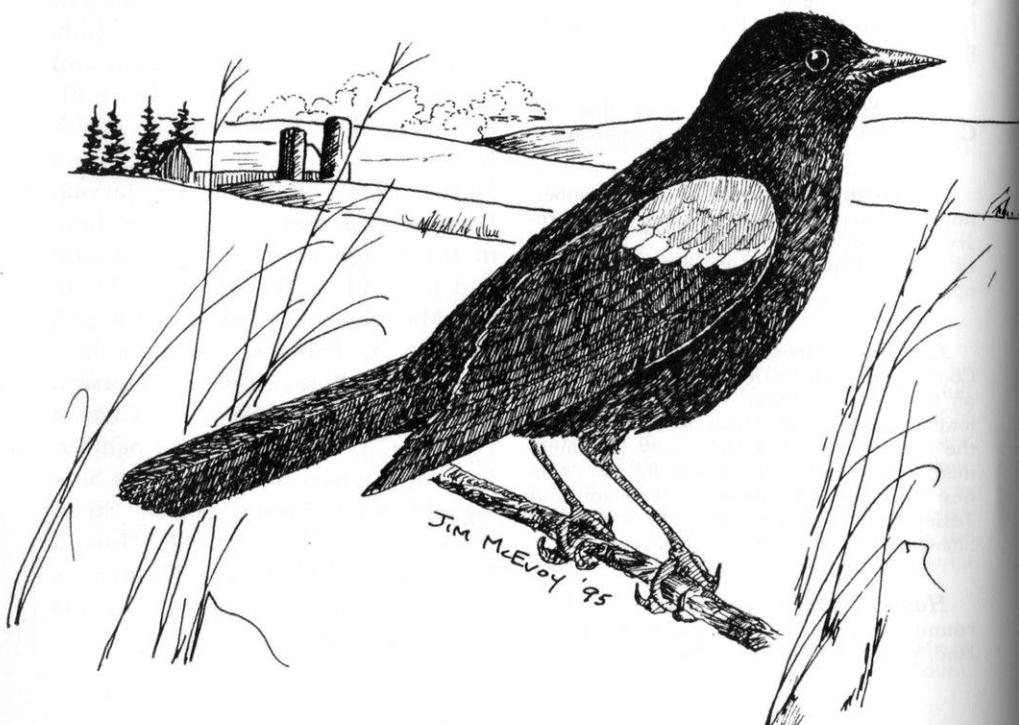
**American Goldfinch**—After December, northward to these counties: Douglas, 10 February; Bayfield/Ashland, TTP; Vilas, TTP; and Oconto, TTP, maximum 95 on 25 January (m. obs.).

**Evening Grosbeak**—Bayfield/Ashland Counties through 18 December. A total of 235 on 10 CBCs in northern Wisconsin; this is the lowest number of individuals since 1960. Absent the entire period in Vilas County (J. Baughman). After the Counts, reports for two counties: Langlade, 29 January, 7 (Peterson and Tessen), and 16 February (Prestby); and Shawano, TTP, maximum 15 (Peterson).

**House Sparrow**—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Bayfield/Ashland, Vilas, and Oconto (m. obs.).

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Male Red-winged Blackbird by Jim McEvoy (with permission of the WI Department of Natural Resources)

# “By the Wayside”—Winter 2002–2003

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*Rare and unusual species documentations include White-fronted Goose, Brant, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Virginia Rail, Purple Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-billed Magpie, Townsend's Solitaire, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Black-headed Grosbeak.*

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## *Compiled by Kenneth I. Lange*

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### **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*)

**4 January 2003, DePere, Brown County**—Two adult birds were seen with Canada Geese. They were slightly smaller than the Canadas with pinkish bills, white faces at the base of bills, mostly brown bodies with a dark speckled bellies, and orange legs.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

### **BRANT** (*Branta bernicla*)

**1 January 2003, Fox River north of DePere, Brown County**—This individual was first discovered, documented, and photographed during November 2002. Early morning on 1 January, it was found resting among several thousand Canada Geese on the ice of the Fox River, then seen swimming. A small goose, black head and neck, with a white patch on the neck, dark

back and wings, light belly. Unmistakable!—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

### **HARLEQUIN DUCK** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

**1 January 2003, Shorewood Nature Preserve, Milwaukee County**—The female Harlequin was a mostly dark brown diving duck with a dark stubby bill. She was between Buffleheads and goldeneyes in size, and had white spots at ear and base of bill.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

**8 February 2003, North Point, Milwaukee County**—An immature male Harlequin, same size and shape as the female, b the bill, vertical white line at front edge of the flanks, and a darker body than the female was seen at North Point.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**  
(*Bucephala islandica*)

**9 January 2003, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County**—This duck was located with Common Goldeneyes. It had a faster rise to forehead, purplish sheen to head (rather than green), long white facial crescent (rather than round). Black on back extends down farther on side encompassing white spots, the black on back projects lowest at 'shoulder' area. Bill was slightly stubbier than Common Goldeneye.—*James Frank, Mequon, WI.*

**8 February 2003, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County**—I was scanning the Common Goldeneyes close to shore when this male goldeneye caught my eye. It had a very dark back, where the black extended down it sides much more than on the male Common Goldeneyes. There were small white spots that ran up his side into the back, just the opposite of the Common Goldeneye which has small black streaks that run down into the white. It had a more crescent shaped white patch behind the bill and in front of the eye. The crest was more shaggy in the back and the bill didn't angle quite so steeply into the forehead like a Common Goldeneye.—*Sean Fitzgerald, Burlington, WI.*

**28 February 2003, Doctor's Park, Milwaukee County**—This adult male Barrow's Goldeneye had been reported on the hotline for quite some time. To find it I simply looked for a goldeneye with white spots enclosed in a black mantle and scapulars. When I found a bird that matched this description I made sure it had the proper head shape and was not a male first winter

Common Goldeneye. The bird was dark headed with a white spot at the base of the bill. Its upperparts were mostly dark with the afore-mentioned white spots and its flanks were white. It was swimming and diving in Lake Michigan.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

**VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*)**

**18 January 2003, Anthony Branch Fishery Area, Dane County**—The bird flushed as I approached the bank of a small stream. It flew nearly directly away from me, so I saw mostly the back of the bird. I saw a very dark brown bird with russet coloration on the wings from the shoulder extending out about half the length of the wing. The russet coloration was on the leading edge of the wing back about 2/3 the width of the wing. Very short tail, with legs trailing well behind/below the body. Smallish head compared to body size and narrow neck. The bird flew about 20 feet and dropped down behind some grass overhanging the stream bank.

My first thought was a snipe. Size was very similar. Snipe have bold corn row stripes down their backs, no large russet patches on the wing. A snipe's head is larger and neck is shorter. I also flushed a snipe that day and they usually flushed much farther away and flew a considerable distance before landing, with a faster flight than the bird I observed.—*Quentin Yoerger, Evansville, WI.*

**PURPLE SANDPIPER**  
(*Calidris maritima*)

**1 December 2002, Sheboygan Point, Sheboygan County**—As I scanned the

rocky point from the pavilion with 7 × 42 binoculars, I noticed a shorebird at the very tip of the point when it briefly appeared, then moved out of view behind the rocks. I walked out on the rocks and stopped when I saw this squat, chunky shorebird about 40 feet from my position. I sat on the rocks and had very good views while it probed in the algae at water's edge.

The head, mantle, throat, and breast were a very dark solid gray. The scapulars were also gray but had thin indistinct brown edging. The greater coverts and tertials were gray and edged with white. The white belly was very heavily streaked, and streaking was evident even on the undertail coverts.

The bill was orange for the proximal fifty percent and black for the distal fifty percent. The legs were an even brighter orange. There was a faint white eye ring, thickest at the front. I heard no calls and the bird did not fly during my observation, so I did not see the upperwing pattern.—*Tom Wood, Menomonee Falls, WI.*

**2 December 2003 and 9 January 2003, Sheboygan Point, Sheboygan County**—Larry Riedinger and I left early on 2 December hoping to find a Purple Sandpiper. We worked our way south along the Lake Michigan shore from Algoma to Sheboygan, where we ran into Daryl Tessen, who had not found the bird. I walked to where the shore met the breakwall and where the algae was the thickest and thought I saw a plump shorebird go behind a rock on the breakwall. I moved closer and found a small plump shorebird feeding on the algae around the rocks. It had a dark gray back, tail, wings, neck and head. There was dark gray streak-

ing on the breast and flanks. The belly and lower tail area were white. There was a faint white eye ring. The bill was slightly drooped and about the same length as the distance from the base of the bill to the back of the head. The base of the bill was yellow-orange, going to dark gray on the distal one-half. The legs and feet were yellow-orange. When the bird flew a short distance a white line could be seen on the wings.

On 9 January, I returned to Sheboygan Point. About 200 feet north of the parking lot I found a plump shorebird feeding around the rocks. It was dark gray above, white below with dark gray streaking on the breast and flanks. It had a faint white eye ring, a drooping bill that was yellow orange at the base and dark gray on the distal end. The legs and feet were yellow-orange.—*Mark Peterson, Caroline, WI.*

**25 December 2003, North Point, Sheboygan County and 30 December 2003, North Point, Milwaukee County**—I observed one bird at Sheboygan and 2 near North Point in Milwaukee. These chunky shorebirds were observed feeding along the lakeshore. All three had purplish-gray bodies, slightly down-curved bills with an orange base and bright orange legs. All the birds had purplish-gray upperparts and white underparts with streaks.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

**28 and 31 December 2003, Lake Michigan shoreline, Milwaukee County**—On a random check of the algae mats near the soccer fields, I noted two sandpipers working along the mounds of algae. After getting closer, I realized they were both Purple Sandpipers. They were about Dunlin size, but with

a darker purple-gray head, mantle, wings, and breast. The purple-gray showed some lighter edging on the feathers, indicating probably, juvenile birds. There was a slight whitish eye ring, a two-tone bill (a little shorter than Dunlin's) with a dark tip and orange-tinged base. It was slightly drooping. This chunky looking pair of sandpipers both showed bright orange legs. The belly was white, with the purple-gray spotting along the flanks. I was able to photograph the birds and call the hotline to spread the news. Fortunately, many were able to see these sandpipers. On 31 December I could only find one individual.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

#### FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*)

**24, 26, and 29 December 2002, St. Croix River near Prescott, Pierce County**—I had heard of this bird's presence through word of mouth, and studied Franklin's/Laughing Gull field marks before observing it. This bird had characteristics of an adult Franklin's Gull in **alternate** plumage (in late December!). The bird had a full black hood and broad white eye arcs. Back and upperwings were clean grey. White bar above the primaries was prominent in flight, eliminating Laughing Gull. Underparts were white (no rosy wash). Legs and feet were very dark red. Bill was dark red and fairly straight. The bird didn't associate with the many Herring Gulls present, so no direct size comparisons could be made.—*Douglas Kieser, Minneapolis, MN.*

#### EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

**11 December 2002 and 1 February 2003, Holy Cross, Ozaukee County**—This bird was larger and paler than a Mourning Dove, with a black crescent on nape, gray undertail coverts, and a wide, squared tail with a white band (except for the central tail feathers).—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

**28 February 2003, Holy Cross, Ozaukee County**—This large, square tailed dove was observed flying around in the trees in Holy Cross. The bird's overall color was slightly paler than the neighboring Mourning Doves. The light was poor, but for about 3-4 seconds I was able to see the black collar on the bird. I eliminated Ringed Turtle-Dove by size, this bird was slightly larger than the Mourning Doves it perched near on several occasions. According to my field guide a Ringed Turtle-Dove should be smaller than a Mourning Dove.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, WI.*

#### BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica hudsonia*)

**8 January 2003, Cloverland Township, Douglas County**—While driving home on the afternoon of 8 January, we spotted a medium-to-large sized long-tailed bird attempting to land near a roadkilled deer carcass. The bird was apparently frightened by our car and landed in an apple tree in the yard of a private residence. It was then that we turned our car around and observed the bird in detail. The bill was crow-like, as was the black head. There were white patches on the upper

wings (really noticeable during flight), green below and behind the white wings patches, and a white belly. The tail was extremely long and different than other local species. We watched the bird for about two minutes until it flew to another tree, stopped briefly, and then flew north and out of view.—Ronald R. Perala, Brule, WI.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**  
(*Myadestes townsendi*)

**27 and 30 December 2002, Loew Lake Unit of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Washington County**—This was a rather long and slender bird with an overall pale gray color and no immediately striking color or tone differences. When observed while perched, the quite small bill could be seen to be all dark or dark slate gray. The forehead was well rounded. This, combined with the smallish bill, gave the bird a mild appearance. A whitish eye ring circled the dark eye and was very noticeable. The folded wings were slightly darker than the body of the bird. Buffy wing patches were seen on these folded wings. The tail was somewhat long, adding to the slender look of the bird. When in flight, the white outer tail feathers could be seen against the darkish tone of the remainder of the tail. Flight was brief as it darted back into the spruce trees.—Bob Domagalski, Menomonee Falls, WI.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**  
(*Vermivora celata*)

**29 December 2002, east of Waterford, Racine County**—This warbler had been utilizing a peanut feeder for a

couple of weeks. Its overall color of yellow-green was easy to pick out as it approached from the adjoining woodlot. The bill was long, slender, sharply pointed, and slightly decurved. The head and back were grayish with the nape, in particular, having a shimmer of silver-gray. The yellow on the breast was a hue similar to that of a winter goldfinch. Very thin streaks covered the breast. The yellow glow of the undertail coverts approached the brightness of a Palm Warbler's. A fairly large, poorly defined eye ring blended into a slight supercilium. A thin dark eye line was more defined behind the eye than in the lores. The most obvious field-mark was a small white crescent on the flanks at the base of the wing. No wing bars or tail spots were observed. The bird ate peanut pieces with rapid, fidgety movements.—Joe Janya, Salem, WI.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**  
(*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

**13 to 23 December 2003, Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County**—This finch-like bird was about one-third again larger than the House Finches it was first seen with. It had a large head with a big thick bill. The head was brown with a narrow center stripe and a wider stripe above each eye. There was a noticeable buff-white collar. The bill was large and stout with upper mandible definitely darker than the lower. The back was tawny with heavy brown streaks, tawny orange rump, and brown tail feathers. The wings were brown with two narrow bars and slight wing patch of buff-white. The breast was tawny orange that extending well

down toward the legs with slight streaking along the sides. This bird was seen at our black oil sunflower feeders off and on several times per

day for six days between the 13 and 23 of December.—*Charlie Pountain, Elkhart Lake, WI.*

## 50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*

A series in the Pigeon devoted to Wisconsin's favorite bird haunts began as a new feature in 1953. After covering Mazomanie, Cedar Grove, and Crex Meadows in the first two issues, Norm Barger covered the city of Madison in this issue. While many of the areas mentioned continue to be Madison area hotspots today, two areas caught my eye.

The general vicinity of Hoyt's Park, located along Regent St. east of Blackhawk, attracted Bewick's Wrens, "despite the recent platting of the general area." Barger mentioned that "its song can be heard here in the early spring of most years." The Hoyt's Park area is "one of the few areas within the city where the Wood Thrush remains to nest." Also mentioned here is the wooded edge near the old quarry that was good for warblers.

Hammersley's Marsh, a small wetland located along the South Belt Line south of Odana Rd. and east of Gilbert Rd., was discussed with much fanfare. However, its future was described as, "it is now slated to become part of a new real estate development project." In addition to concentrations of waterfowl and rails, the marsh attracted a great variety of shorebirds annually, including Willets, Red Knots, Wilson's Phalaropes, and Hudsonian Godwits. Single individuals of European Wigeon and Cinnamon Teal also were found on this marsh. It would make for interesting reading to compare some of the state's birding hotspots in 1953 with today's conditions.

(Excerpts from Vol. 15, No. 3, 1953; compiled by Noel J. Curight, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095-9414; 262. 675. 2443)

# WSO Records Committee Report: Winter 2002–2003

***Jim Frank, Chair***

WSO Records Committee  
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**T**he WSO Records Committee reviewed 32 records of 16 species for the winter 2002–2003 season. Twenty-nine of the records were accepted. In addition, 2 of 2 older records were accepted upon review.

## ACCEPTED

### *Greater Whitefronted Goose*—

#2002-099 Brown Co., 14 December 2002, Johnson (2 birds).  
#2002-100 Sauk Co., 26 December 2002, Kalenic (3 birds).

These geese were slightly smaller than the Canada Geese, but had orange bills and feet and white forefaces. Otherwise they were brown in color with darker brown barring across the breasts.

### *Brant*—

#2002-062 Brown Co., 14 December

2002, Van Duyse; 1 January 2003, Tessen.

A small goose with a black head and neck was noted to have a white patch on the side of the neck. The light sides and breast contrasted with the darker color of the back and wings. This is the same individual reported since 11 November 2002.

### *Barrow's Goldeneye*—

#2002-089 Milwaukee Co., 1 January, 2 February 2003, Gustafson; 9 January, 27 February 2003, Frank; 8 February 2003, Fitzgerald; 15, 27 February 2003, Tessen; 23 February 2003, T. Wood; 28 February 2003, Stutz.

The Barrow's Goldeneyes was observed to have a dark head with a crescent-shaped, white, facial spot, a steeper forehead than the Common

Goldeneyes, black extending down the flanks encompassing white spots (instead of white extending up the edge of the back encompassing black spots), and a stubbier, dark bill.

This bird was present at a site only 1.5 to 2 miles south of Virmond Park, the wintering location of a Barrow's Goldeneye for the seven winters prior to the now two consecutive winters at Doctor's Park in Milwaukee Co.

***King Rail*—**

#2002-101 Columbia Co., 28 December 2002, Shea.

This bird responded to a Virginia Rail tape recording. A King and Virginia Rail responded to the tape. The 3-note call was louder, deeper and more guttural than the call of the Virginia Rail. In addition, the call does not descend as does the call of a Virginia. The King Rail responded a second time, this time to a King Rail tape.

***Virginia Rail*—**

#2003-001 18 January 2003, Dane Co., Yoerger.

This small brown bird was flushed, it flew a short distance and then disappeared. In flight, the dangling legs were evident, as were the russet shoulder/wing patches. The head was small and the tail short. The bird flew directly away from the observer so the bill length could not be determined.

***Purple Sandpiper*—**

#2002-092 Sheboygan Co., 1 December 2002, T. Wood; 2 December 2002, 9 January 2003, M. Peterson; date?, Brasser,Brasser; 2 December 2002, 1 January 2003, Tessen (photo); 25 December 2002, Stutz (photo).

#2002-093 Milwaukee Co., (2 birds) 28, 31 December 2002, 1 January 2003, Gustafson; 30 December 2002, Stutz; date?, Prestby.

A short, squat, dunlin-sized shorebird had a slightly longer than proportional beak, with an orangish base to it. The short legs were orange as well. The overall color was brownish gray breaking into streaking down the sides of the breast.

The Milwaukee report is the first multiple bird sighting on record in Wisconsin.

***Franklin's Gull*—**

#2002-094 Pierce Co., 24, 26, 29 December 2002, Kieser.

This gull had a full black hood with broad white eyelids. The mantle was uniformly gray with a prominent white bar separating the black primary tips from the gray mantle. The legs were dark red. Bill was described as red and straight.

***Eurasian Collared-Dove*—**

#2001-039 Ozaukee Co., 11 December 2002, 1 February 2003, Gustafson, 4 January 2003, Frank; 28 February 2003, Stutz.

This dove was closer to Rock Dove than Mourning Dove in size. The tail was longer than a Mourning Dove's and squared off, rather than pointed. The overall color was paler than the brownish plumage of a Mourning Dove. The nape of the neck had a black crescent across it. In flight, the primaries were darker than the secondaries. The distal 2/3 of the underside of the tail was white in contrast to the black of the proximal 1/3 of the un-

dertail and the dark gray undertail coverts. This individual has been present at this location since July 2001.

***Black-billed Magpie*—**

#2003-003 Douglas Co., 8 January 2003, Perala.

A large or at least long-tailed bird was seen feeding on a deer carcass. The head and bill were black and crow-like in size and shape. The belly was white and there were white wing patches above the dark greenish wings. The tail was long and dark in color.

***Townsend's Solitaire*—**

#2002-095 Washington Co., 27, 30 December 2002, Domagalski.

A slender pale gray bird was noted to have a white eye ring, and buffy wing patches. The bill was small and dark in color. The tail seemed longer than proportional for the bird and had white outer feathers contrasting with the otherwise gray color.

***Orange-crowned Warbler*—**

#2002-096 Racine Co., 29 December 2002, (4 March 2003), Jacyna.

This warbler was overall yellow-green with a gray head and back. A light dark eyeline contrasted slightly with a lighter superciliary line. The bill was dark, thin, and small. Very faint streaks could be seen on the breast. Showing more color than the rest of the bird were the yellow undertail coverts.

This bird overwintered, being reported to the documenting observer to still be present on 4 March.

***Palm Warbler*—**

#2002-102 Rock Co., 28 December 2002, Wanie.

A drab warbler was seen consistently pumping its tail. A lighter eyeline was all that could be seen to break the otherwise dingy color. Faint streaks could be discerned on the breast.

***Black-headed Grosbeak*—**

#2002-097 Sheboygan Co., 13-28 December 2002, Pountain (photo).

This feeder visitor was photographed, but not described. The tan-orangish breast lacked any streaking across the middle. Very faint streaks could be seen on the lateral-most breast and low on the flanks. The white supercilium and malar stripe contrasted with the light brown crown stripes and the cheek patch. The beak appeared gray rather than pinkish.

Additional identification information on female Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks can be found in *Birding*, Vol. 23, No. 4, 1991.

**OLD REPORTS—ACCEPTED**

***Pacific Loon*—**

#2002-098 Sheboygan Co., 20 October 2002, S. Baughman.

In comparison to nearby Common Loons, this bird was smaller, with a "less blocky" head. The bill was straight. The back, back of neck, and top of head were very dark, lacking any pattern. A faint throat necklace could also be seen.

***Red Phalarope*—**

#2002-070 Sheboygan Co., 20 October 2002, S. Baughman.

This shorebird was about the size of adjacent Dunlin and Sanderlings. It spent much of its time spinning and feeding in the shallow water near the

shore. The back and wings were light gray, the breast and belly white, the head white with a black ear patch. The short bill was dark, but had a hint of yellow at the base. The side of the neck had a hint of buff color against the white background coloration.

#### NOT ACCEPTED

##### ***Common Raven*—**

#2003-004 Rock Co., 18 February 2003.

This bird was simply described as solid dark black, larger than a crow, with a block shaped bill as opposed to a pointed bill. The bird was apparently seen at close range, but alone. The shape of the tail was not reported and there was no mention of any vocalization. Crows can appear unexpectedly large when seen at close range so without the tail shape or vocalization being used to differentiate the bird from a crow, the identification is uncertain.

##### ***Cassin's Finch*—**

#2003-005 Bayfield Co., 18 January 2003.

Three male finches were observed at a feeder. They were described as a cross between a male and female Purple Finch because there was a dark cheek on these birds as is found on immature and female Purple Finches. The head and throat were purplish with brown on the back of the head. The feathers on top of the head intermittently were elevated giving the suggestion of a crest. The breast was dark pink, fading to white on the belly. There was very faint streaking on the undertail. The back was more brown streaked than the expected purplish color.

Later that day, a lone female Purple

Finch was seen at the feeder, after these three birds had departed.

The digital photos are a shade distant and in poor light, but the dark cheek patch area is discernible. In addition, the silhouette of two of these birds can be used to make a case against them being Cassin's Finches. The bill appears stubby and stocky, rather than elongated. At close range, the longer bill of a Cassin's Finch should be apparent, giving the bird a decidedly different profile than a Purple Finch. The dark brown cheek area seems suggestive of a subadult plumage for these probable male Purple Finches.

Additional identification information on Purple, House, and Cassin's Finches can be found in a 1986 article in *American Birds*, Vol. 40, No. 5.

##### ***European Goldfinch*—**

#2003-006 Waukesha Co., 25 January 2003.

Mixed with a flock of American Goldfinches, this individual differed in having a brownish breast contrasting with a white belly, black wings with a yellow "zigzag" across them, and a red face surrounding a pink bill. The crown and nape were black contrasting with the white on the central face.

The identification is deemed accurate; however, the origin of this bird is believed to be captivity. Information has come to light that many European passerines have been released by a bird breeder/collector in northern Illinois. This may explain the presence of this bird as well as other reports of European Goldfinches in recent years in southeastern Wisconsin.

# Wisconsin Big Day Counts: 2003

**Wayne Rohde**

*WSO Bird Reports Coordinator  
W6488 Beloit Road  
Walworth, WI 54184*

**A** strange affliction overtakes birders during the month of May. An affliction so strong, so powerful, so compelling, that it leads grown people to drop almost every other responsibility and head straight to the nearest lake, river, marsh, bog, mudflat, field, tangle, or woods—in other words, anywhere another bird, any bird, might be found—in search of avian wonders and numbers—

## THE COUNTS

—unless your name is **Daryl Tessen**. Daryl caught “Big Day Fever” early, on **February 27**, taking in the Rat River Wildlife Area, Horicon Marsh, McFarland, Lake Monona, Milwaukee, Port Washington, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, etc. on his way to an **82** species day. Highlights included three species of swans, 22 species of ducks (among which were Harlequin, and Black and Surf Scoters), 13 Rough-legged Hawks, six species of gulls (including

Thayer’s, Iceland, Glaucous and Great Black-backed), seven species of owls (Eastern Screech, Great Horned, Snowy, Barred, Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet), Tufted Titmouse, and Rusty and Brewer’s Blackbirds.

Fortunately **Daryl** thawed out two months later, just in time to hit the May portion of the Big Day run commencing **May 1**, to embark on what he characterized as “an unplanned Big Day.” Sites visited this day were Van Patten Road, the Shiocton area, Rat River Wildlife Area, Horicon Marsh, Sheboygan, Cleveland, Fischer Creek, Kingfisher Farm, Manitowoc, and Two Rivers. Daryl’s **105** species day included Little Blue Heron, White-faced Ibis, 19 species of ducks, Rough-legged Hawk, six species of gulls, and a “swallow slam.”

At it again on **May 3**, **Daryl** upped his count to **117** species while visiting Poygan Marsh, Pine Road, White River Marsh, Green Lake, Puckaway

Lake, Lake Maria, Lake Emily and Horicon Marsh. Prize finds this time were four species of grebes (including Red-necked and Eared), 19 species of ducks, four species of rails (a "rail slam" if one goes by WSO's field card), and Henslow's and LeConte's Sparrows.

Almost a week later, on **May 8**, Daryl journeyed forth for his fourth Big Day of the year, locating **124** species at Baxter's Hollow, Devil's Lake State Park, the Arlington ponds and Grassy Lake Wildlife Area. Twenty-one species of warblers and 11 species of sparrows were sighted this time.

It was on this same day, **May 8**, that **Jim Frank** began his own series of Big Day counts. Taking in only Dodge and Green Lake Counties, Jim found **120** species, including four species of grebes (Red-necked and Eared), 15 species of ducks (including a Surf Scoter), all the swallows and an American Pipit.

Only two days later, on **May 10**, Jim concentrated solely on Ozaukee County, finding 17 species of ducks (including Long-tailed Duck), six diurnal raptors, five gulls (including Lesser Black-backed and Thayer's), all the swallows, six thrushes, 17 warblers, 11 sparrows, and eight blackbirds—**145** species in all.

**Eric Howe, Mike Ramsden, and Al Schirmacher** joined me for a **May 13** Big Day on my wife's birthday (sorry, Susie, but these things just happen!), focusing our efforts in Green, Dane, and Dodge Counties. Among the **143** species seen were Prothonotary Warbler and a pair of Bell's Vireos at Cadiz Springs State Park near Brownstown. True to our "joy of birding" mentality, we spent half an hour watching an American Bittern, that

obliged us by stepping out into the sunlight at Horicon Marsh.

On **May 14**, **Robbye Johnson** and **Shaun Putz** limited their excursion to Douglas County, and observed **141** species, of which both bitterns, 12 species of ducks, eight species of diurnal raptors (including Merlin), Sharp-tailed Grouse, all the swallows, Gray Jay, both kinglets, six thrushes, 19 warblers, Northern Cardinal, 10 sparrows, eight blackbirds, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were highlights.

**May 16** saw another foursome hit the trails, when **Scott Franke, Jesse Peterson, Andy Paulios, and Steve Betchkal** ventured to Columbia, Wood, Marquette, Green Lake, Juneau, Sauk, and Dodge Counties, enroute to a **179** species day. Their highlights included Red-necked and Eared Grebes, 15 species of ducks, seven diurnal raptors, Greater Prairie Chicken, all four rails, 13 species of shorebirds, five owls (including Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet), seven flycatchers, all the swallows, Tufted Titmouse, six thrushes, 27 warblers (including Worm-eating), 13 sparrows (including Lark and LeConte's), and nine species of blackbirds.

**Jim Frank** was also back in the field on **May 16**, when he banded Ozaukee, Milwaukee and Dodge Counties. Highlights of this **154** species day were 14 species of ducks, six diurnal raptors, 12 species of shorebirds, Glaucous Gull, four species of terns, all the swallows, 26 warblers (including Prothonotary), 10 sparrows, and nine blackbirds.

On **May 17** I again took in Green, Dane, and Dodge Counties—this time alone—but also added Sauk and Columbia Counties to the route we'd traveled four days earlier, for a **153**

species day. Special treats this day were Eared and Red-necked Grebes at Horicon, Kentucky and Cerulean Warblers, both at New Glarus Woods State Park, Worm-eating Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush at Baxter's Hollow, 24 warbler species altogether, and Lark and Clay-colored Sparrows near Sauk Prairie.

**Jim Frank** concluded his round of May Big Days with his best effort of the four, **165** species, on **May 18**, when he was joined by **Scott Diehl**, and revisited Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Dodge Counties. Highlights this time included Red-necked and Eared Grebes, 15 species of ducks, seven diurnal raptors (including an Osprey), Ruffed Grouse, 12 shorebirds (including 38 fly-by Whimbrels!—see his personal account, below), four terns, all the swallows (meaning that Jim had a swallow “slam slam”—all the swallows on each of his Big Day counts), six thrushes, 26 warblers (including Orange-crowned), 11 sparrows, and nine blackbirds.

On **May 19** **Daryl Tessen** enjoyed yet another of his now-famous “relaxing” Big Days, when he headed to the Brooklyn Wildlife Area, Nine Springs, Baxter's Hollow, Devil's Lake State Park, Goose Pond, Lake Maria, Horicon Marsh, Two Rivers, and Manitowoc. His final Big Day effort of 2003 netted **163** species, including Red-necked Grebe, 16 species of shorebirds (among which were Western Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope), four empids, all the vireos except for the Philadelphia, all the swallows, and 26 warblers (including Worm-eating).

**Al Schirmacher** joined me (or was it the other way around?) on **May 21** for a very laid-back day of birding (more

talking than birding, more theology than ornithology), taking in Rock, Dane, Iowa, Sauk, Columbia, and Dodge Counties. Among the **121** species observed were Acadian Flycatcher, and Cerulean, Canada, and Hooded Warblers at the Cook Arboretum in Janesville, White-eyed Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chat at the Brooklyn Wildlife Area, and numerous Lark Sparrows and Orchard Orioles at “Wisconsin’s Desert,” the Spring Green Reserve.

#### THE ANECDOTES

Next to the delight of seeing and hearing a multitude of birds are the special memories of a Big Day outing. Two such stories stood out this year, the first relayed by Jim Frank:

There's a good bit of work to top off on the planning of a Big Day before success is achieved. Every Big Day I wonder what I miss because I'm looking one way while something must be flying behind me or overhead. There are so many split-second looks at the “only one of a species” on these Big Days—there just have to be a lot of “missed birds” too.

Then there is the May 18<sup>th</sup> Big Day with Scott Diehl. We had one very late, unexpected Osprey fly over South Shore Park in Milwaukee as we got in the car. After congratulating ourselves, we drove off. A few minutes later we were on the Hoan Bridge, a few miles north of the park, and were eyeball to eyeball with the Osprey again! An hour or more later, in Ozaukee County, 25-30 miles farther north, we were scanning Lake Michigan. Here comes the Osprey still moving north, giving us a third chance—just in case we missed it the first time? It had to be the same bird!

On the other side, that day we

scanned the lake at Harrington Beach briefly—as 38 Whimbrels went by! That is the stuff that holds on to me. You just never know what will turn up at the next stop.

And then there was the e-mail I received from Mike Ramsden, after our Big Day outing:

I thought we had one heck of a day. I felt fortunate to be able to sleep in this morning, and with it raining pretty good I didn't feel guilty about not getting out.

I think you have a really good philosophy about Big Days, and I'm glad we were able to maintain a relaxed pace without getting discouraged about not hitting 150 species (or whatever). I don't keep track of how many species I personally see on these outings, because the group total is the final measuring stick. I think all of us would agree that ten more species were easily obtainable, but as I said earlier and feel even more strongly about now: "It's more fun to bird Horicon for three hours than to make a quick ride down Hwy. 49 before dark."

I'm also realizing more than ever the importance of sharing the experience with other like-minded individuals. So thanks, guys, for sharing the experience.

### THE STATS

For the record, 14 Big Day counts were reported to me this year. Thirteen birders were involved: 12 males and one female (does this indicate anything about the competitive nature of this game?). Daryl Tessen took part in five counts, while Jim Frank was involved in four; all but one of these efforts were solo ventures. Two counts involved as many as four participants: Betchkal, Franke, Paulios, and Peter-

son; and Howe, Ramsden, Rohde, and Schirmacher. Thirteen of the 14 counts occurred in May. At least 19 counties were visited, with Dodge County being visited most frequently (12 of the 14 counts), and Dane County coming in a distant second (six counts). Only two counts involved a single county (Douglas and Ozaukee), demonstrating once again that for the Big Day, birders are more interested in seeing numbers of birds than in discovering what's really going on, bird-wise, in a more confined area. And now for the winners: Betchkal, Franke, Paulios and Peterson with 179 species; Frank with 165 species; and Tessen with 163 species.

### THE RULES

For those unfamiliar with Big Day count rules:

Count must be taken within a 24-hour calendar day (midnight to midnight).

Count must be taken within the state boundaries, but it may cover as many parts of Wisconsin as birders can reach in the time limit.

All participants must be within direct conversational contact at all times during the birding and traveling periods. This excludes meal and rest stops if birding is not conducted during those times. This limits the number of parties involved to one, and participants to that number safely and comfortably contained in one vehicle.

Areas can be revisited during the day.

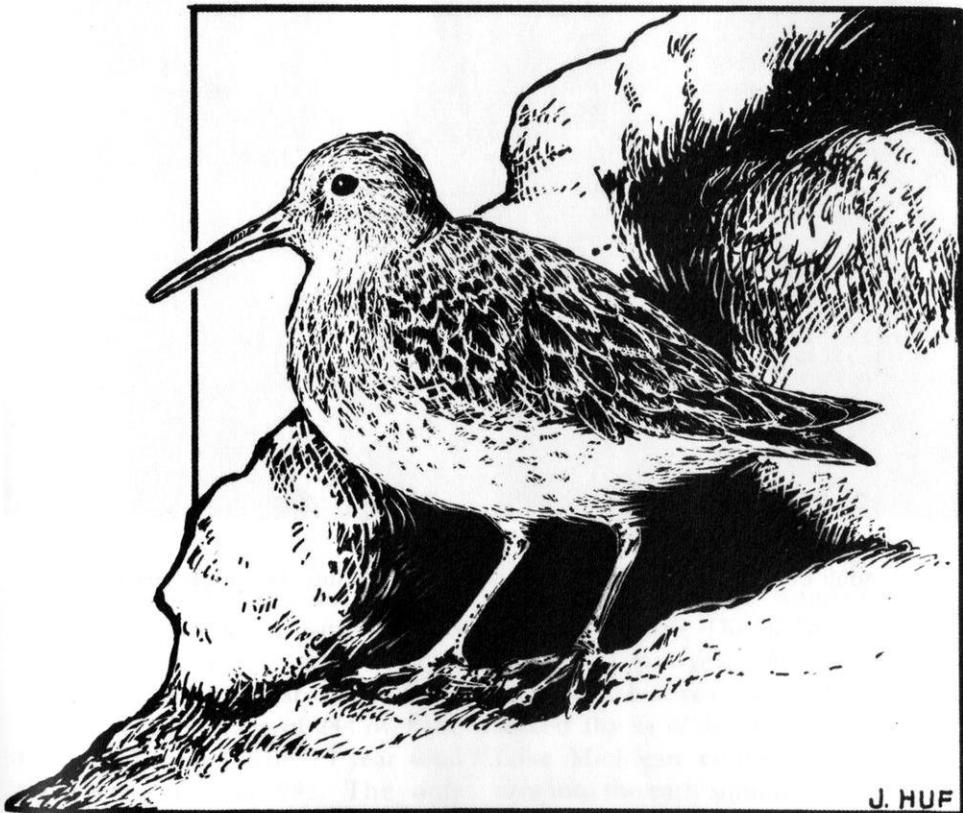
Counting individual birds is optional.

The same areas may be covered on different Big Day counts.

No fees are involved in conducting the counts.

It is critical that all unusual species—whether they are early or late sightings, or rare species—be completely documented. Reports of rarities are subject to review by the WSO Records Committee.

Please note that there is no special Big Day form; standard checklists, such as WSO's *Wisconsin Birds—Field Checklist*, may be used. Completed Big Day lists should be sent to Wayne Rohde, WSO Bird Reports Coordinator, at the address above ASAP after the count.



Purple Sandpiper by Judith Huf



Adult Cooper's Hawk, February 1999 in Dodge County, *by Jack Bartholmai*

# Wisconsin May Counts: 2003

**Jim Frank**

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The 15 May Counts in 2003 are the highest number conducted in the past four years breaking a downward trend that started 7 years ago. In the past decade, counts had numbered in the low twenties. In spite of the low level of participation, observers were treated to numerous unexpected birds. Leading the way in participation as usual was Winnebago with 41 participants, followed by Portage with 25 birders and Ashland with 21. Winnebago remained on the top of the species list with an incredible total of 195 species, Milwaukee/Ozaukee followed with 182 and Oconto with 174.

The total species list of 242 compares with an average of 244 over the previous 14 years. The 15 year total for species is now 292. The only species new to this list was a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Milwaukee/Ozaukee. Second ever records of Thayer's Gull from Milwaukee/Ozau-

kee and Eurasian Collared-Dove from Oconto made it two years in a row for each species.

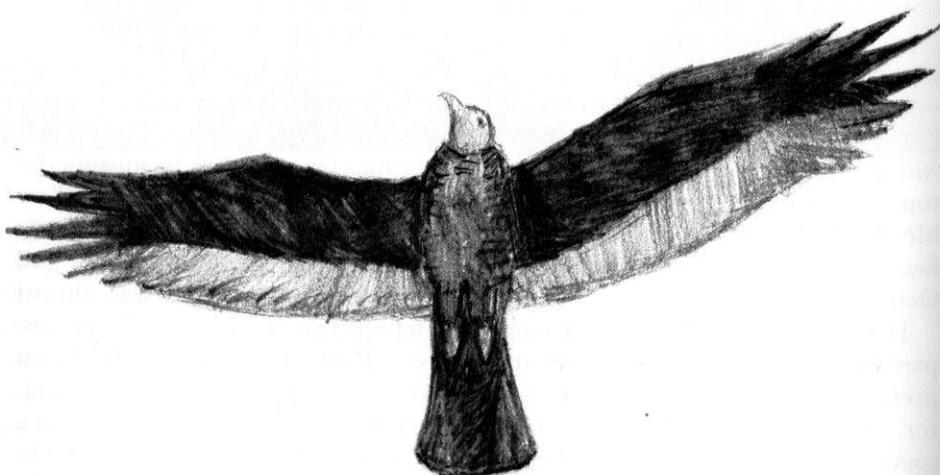
In general the numbers of species were average, but low water levels starting early in the spring may account for record low numbers of counts recording Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Canvasback, Red-head, Virginia Rail, Sora, Coot, and Wilson's Snipe. The low Solitary Sandpiper numbers may just be missing the migration wave for the species. Low Broad-winged Hawk numbers are harder to figure. The diversity of gull species of last year (8) was almost matched this year with 7 species. Mixed flocks of immature birds on Lake Michigan continue to linger, now into the early summer. Breaking a record with 8 counties reporting Orchard Orioles is rather surprising given the low number of counts taken. In a continuation of the sparse winter

Table 1. The 2003 Wisconsin May Counts.

COUNT	Date	Time	Sky	Wind	Temp	Observ.	Party	Species
Ashland	5/21	04:30-16:30	Clear	NW 8	41-68	21	4	139
Burnett	5/19	04:00-21:00	Clo.	? 20	55-65	2	1	115
Oconto	5/23	02:30-20:30	Clear	SW 5	42-69	7	4	174
Marathon	5/24	00:45-21:00	Clear	Calm	42-71	2	1	152
Portage	5/17	02:30-18:00	Pt.Clo.	NE 10	42-66	25	2	160
New London	5/10	04:00-20:00	Clear	—	—	1	1	57
Mosquito Hill	5/17	07:00-14:00	Clo.	NW 5	44-53	5	2	70
Waupaca	5/26	04:00-21:30	Clear	W 8	49-68	6	5	151
Winnebago	5/10	00:30-20:00	Pt.Clo.	N 8	46-70	41	22	195
Sheboygan	5/17	03:30-16:00	Clo.	NE 5	45-67	15	7	137
Oconomowoc	5/11		Rain	? 35	47	13		103
Milwaukee/Ozaukee	5/10		Pt.Clo.			4	4	182
Rock	5/10	06:00-20:30				18	8	125
Racine	5/10	05:00-18:00	Clo.	S 5	52-68	13	5	119
Kenosha	5/10	04:30-18:30	Clear	NE 10	58-69	2	2	145

for finches, no siskins or crossbills were reported on any of the counts. Finally, the Western Meadowlark tally of two, tying last year's record low, is very worrisome.

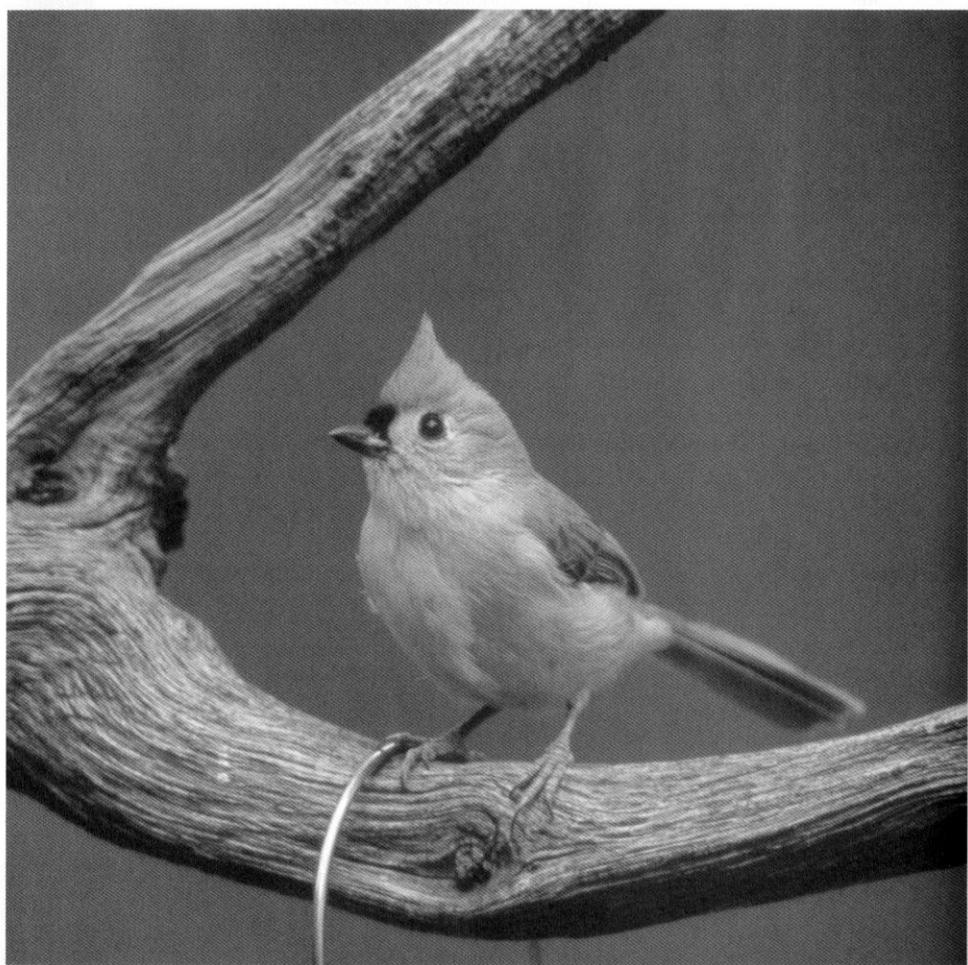
Additional articles by Jim Frank in this issue are the "Records Committee Report" and the "North American Migration Counts."



Turkey Vulture floating overhead by Seth Cutright

Table 2. Species of note seen on Wisconsin May Counts in 2003.

Species	Count(s) seen
Greater White-fronted Goose	Marathon
Surf Scoter	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Long-tailed Duck	Milwaukee/Ozaukee, Racine
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Ashland, Burnett
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Marathon, Portage
Horned Grebe	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Eared Grebe	Ashland
American White Pelican	Oconto, Winnebago, Rock
Cattle Egret	Winnebago
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Kenosha
Northern Goshawk	Winnebago, Burnett
Yellow Rail	Winnebago, Burnett
King Rail	Winnebago
American Golden Plover	Kenosha
Willet	Winnebago
Hudsonian Godwit	Marathon
Red Knot	Marathon, Kenosha
White-rumped Sandpiper	Oconto
Stilt Sandpiper	Winnebago
Laughing Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Thayer's Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Great Black-backed Gull	Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Oconto
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Portage
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Tufted Titmouse	Portage, Rock, Racine
Carolina Wren	Kenosha, Waupaca
American Pipit	Winnebago, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Cerulean Warbler	Marathon, Kenosha
Prothonotary Warbler	Winnebago, Oconomowoc, Kenosha, Racine
Louisiana Waterthrush	Kenosha, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Hooded Warbler	Sheboygan, Rock, Kenosha
Summer Tanager	Winnebago
Henslow's Sparrow	Marathon, Portage, Rock, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Le Conte's Sparrow	Oconto, Burnett
Fox Sparrow	Rock
Lapland Longspur	Marathon, Portage, Winnebago
Dickcissel	Waupaca
Western Meadowlark	Portage, Milwaukee/Ozaukee
Orchard Oriole	Oconto, Winnebago, Sheboygan, Oconomowoc, Rock, Kenosha, Milwaukee/Ozaukee, Racine



Tufted Titmouse by Jack Bartholmai

# North American Migration Count 2003: WISCONSIN

***Jim Frank***

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[jcfbirdr@yahoo.com](mailto:jcfbirdr@yahoo.com)

The eleventh North American Migration Count took place on 10 May 2003 in numerous states and counties across the country. The count differs from Wisconsin's traditional May Counts in that this count attempts to count the *individual numbers* of each species (as you do on Christmas Bird Counts) and the number of *party hours* is also reported (again as on Christmas Counts). It differs from the Christmas Counts in that the count area is an entire county, not a 15 mile diameter circle. In addition, this count is taken on the *same day* across the country (*always the second Saturday in May*) to in essence take a "snapshot" of the spring migration in North America. The premise is that *numbers* of birds will create useful comparative data for the future, something the mere "ticking" off of species doesn't generate.

The count is held on the second Saturday of May, a time when some of the northern states haven't reached their peak of migration, but still have lingering early migrants. The southern states may be past their peak, but late migrants may still be present. Because spring migration is so dynamic, counts have to be held on the same day to avoid repetitive counting. Obviously nothing is foolproof, we all are aware of how far some birds can fly in one day's time if they are on the move.

Please note it is possible to conduct a traditional May Count on the same day as a Migration Count, as long as it occurs on the second Saturday in May and individuals are counted for the species. In the year 2004, the date of 8 May will be used for the Migration Count.

When the data from 2003 were ex-

amined they showed, relative to the previous ten years, that ducks and shorebirds were off from last year, back to average numbers, partly because of the low water levels in many places this spring. On all of the counts, the total Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were 5, for Dunlin only 4, and for Short-billed Dowitchers 3. The migration peak encountered was for the early May migrants, demonstrated by very high Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Blue-headed Vireo numbers. For those still wondering about the repercussions of West Nile virus, the corvid numbers appeared normal.

Individually, Winnebago County as usual led the way, this time with a total of 194 species. It was followed by Ozaukee County's 145 species and Marathon County compiled a list of 143 species. Bayfield's 28 observers again inched out Winnebago's 26 for participation honors.

In this eleventh year of counting, new to the count list were Piping Plover (1) in Bayfield County, Lesser Black-backed Gull (1) in Ozaukee County, and Carolina Wren (2) in Kenosha County. The eleven year total is now 276 species recorded on Wisconsin Migration counts. This year's 240 species was the second highest species total in the eleven years.

Other species of note were Black Scoter (1, Bayfield), Northern Goshawk (1, Winnebago), Rough-legged Hawk (1, Bayfield), Sharp-tailed Grouse (2, Bayfield), Yellow Rail (1, Winnebago), King Rail (1, Winnebago), Willet (9, Bayfield; 3, Clark; 1, Winnebago), Hudsonian Godwit (2, Bayfield), Red Knot (1, Kenosha), Stilt Sandpiper (1, Winnebago), Thayer's Gull (1, Ozaukee), Long-

eared Owl (2, Marathon), Short-eared Owl (1, Winnebago), Loggerhead Shrike (1, Vilas), Gray Jay (1, Vilas), American Pipit (7, Vilas), Connecticut Warbler (2 Marathon, 2 Kenosha), Hooded Warbler (1, Kenosha), Summer Tanager (1, Winnebago), American Tree Sparrow (2, Bayfield), Henslow's Sparrow, (1, Ozaukee), Harris's Sparrow (2, Clark), Red Crossbill (6, Vilas), White-winged Crossbill (3, Vilas), and Common Redpoll (1, Bayfield).

The following species recorded the highest total numbers in eleven years of Migration Counts: American White Pelican 86 (triple the previous high), Double-crested Cormorant 2699, Canada Goose 1977, Oldsquaw 395 (total of 22 individuals on 2 of 10 previous counts), Broad-winged Hawk 70, Spotted Sandpiper 108, Forster's Tern 201, Red-bellied Woodpecker 89, Pileated Woodpecker 35, Blue-headed Vireo 35, Prothonotary Warbler 4, Yellow-rumped Warbler 2635, Pine Warbler 87, Louisiana Waterthrush 5, and Lincoln's Sparrow 34. Second highest totals were reached for Mute Swan 16, Bald Eagle 57, Wild Turkey 138, Solitary Sandpiper 98, Upland Sandpiper 11, Palm Warbler 628, and American Goldfinch 1684.

Record low numbers of American Coots were recorded with 59, Pine Siskin with 1 (Clark County), and Western Meadowlarks were absent from count totals for the second year in a row as were Grasshopper Sparrows. Second lowest counts were found for Red-breasted Nuthatches 38, and Evening Grosbeaks 19.

The 2004 North American Migration Count is to be held Saturday, May 8. Compilers of the 2003 counts are listed below. If you are interested in

Table 1. The 2003 North American Migration Count in Wisconsin.

County	Species	Observers	Party-hours
Bayfield	135	28	30
Ashland	57	13	4
Vilas	108	5	17
Clark	139	9	94
Marathon	143	12	83
Florence	97	2	25
Winnebago	194	26	131
Ozaukee	145	1	16
Milwaukee	63	3	26
Kenosha	125	2	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>448</b>

joining one, contact them. If you want to initiate a new one yourself, contact Jim Frank at the address above. Even if you count alone, the data are useful since they are analyzed by party-hours.

#### COUNT COMPILERS:

**Bayfield Co.**—Wendy Stein, 77015 W. Maple Hill Road., Washburn, WI, 54891.

**Ashland Co.**—Dick Verch, 906 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, WI, 54806.

**Vilas Co.**—Bill Reardon, 1700 Open Acres Lane, Eagle River, WI, 54521.

**Florence Co.**—Jean Strelka, 12366 N. River Road, Mequon, WI, 53092.

**Clark Co.**—Ken and Jan Luepke, B894 Eau Pleine Road, Spencer, WI, 54479.

**Marathon Co.**—Lynn Ott, 409 N. 11th Street, Wausau, WI, 54403.

**Winnebago Co.**—Tom Ziebell, 1322 Ceape Avenue, Oshkosh, WI, 54901.

**Ozaukee Co.**—Jim Frank, 10524 N. O'Connell Lane, Mequon, WI, 53097.

**Milwaukee Co.**—Beverly Bryant, 9701 W. College Avenue, Franklin, WI, 53132.

**Kenosha Co.**—Ron Hoffman, Box 886, Kenosha, WI, 53141.



A chilly Merlin in January 1999 in Dodge County by Jack Bartholmai

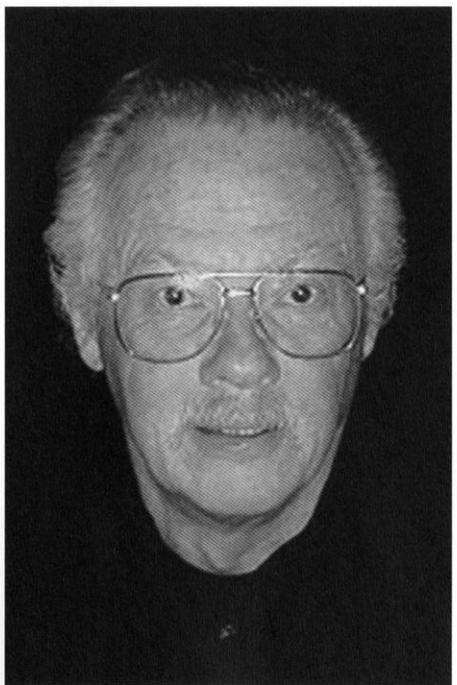
## WSO Awards—2003

### *Daryl Tessen*

*3118 N. Oneida Street  
Appleton, WI 54911  
920. 735. 9903  
bhaunts@core.com*

The Board of Director's for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology were pleased to present four awards for service to the Society and/or to the field of ornithology at the Society's 2003 Annual convention banquet on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 31 May 2003.

Two Bronze Passenger Pigeon Awards, given for contributions to ornithology by volunteer or professional activities outside of work in WSO, were given this year. One was presented at the banquet to Thomas Sykes of Appleton. Tom is a nature artist who has served as past president of the Fox Valley Audubon Society, worked hard in the protecting of the Heckrodt Wetlands Preserve, served on Senator Kohl's Environmental Committee for regional planning, and is currently heading an issues committee on the problem of traffic on highway 49 through Horicon Marsh for



Jim Williams, now of Minnesota, recipient of the Bronze Passenger Pigeon, 31 May 2003.

became disenchanted with the University scene and returned home. Once home, he began a quest to understand and study the natural world, reading whatever books he could find, including encyclopedias. The stay at home, however, only lasted for one and a half years; he returned to Madison to be near his future wife, JoAnn Hansen.

A seminal moment occurred when he approached 24 years of age. After returning to Madison, he worked for Reynolds Transfer, which moved furniture and office equipment. He had begun this work in September 1971, and he told me the following story:

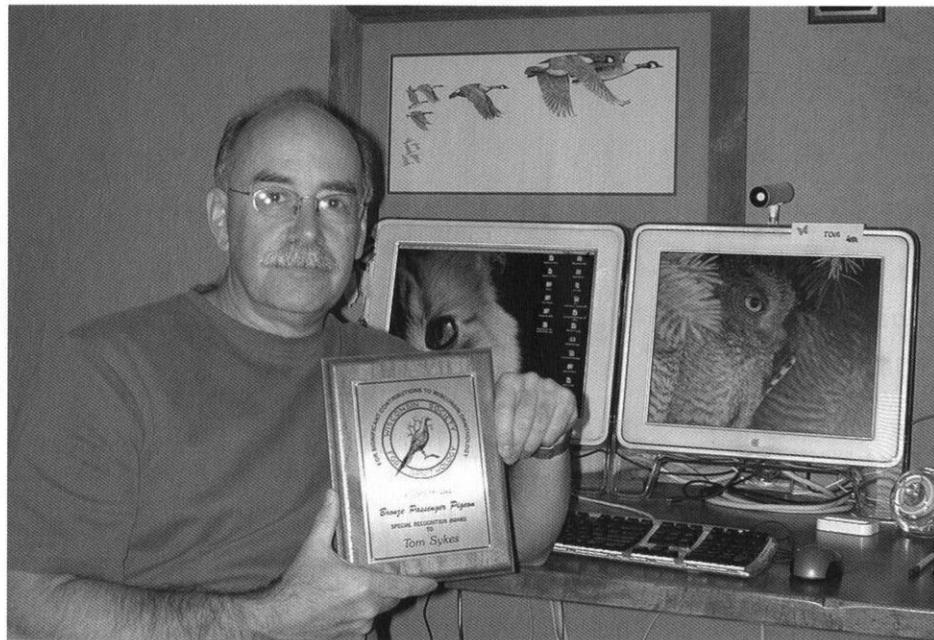
"In mid-winter this big revelation occurred. I'm with a fellow worker named Charlie O'Rourke. Charlie had been a basketball player at the University of Massachusetts, and he was the school record holder in scoring until a little known guy named Julius Erving came along and broke his record. Charlie's 6'8", and he was like [former professional basketball player] Larry Bird: he couldn't jump very high, but boy, could he shoot the lights out of the hoop! And here he is a college graduate, but we're both working at this same moving company. One day we're driving by Lake Monona, and Charlie's looking at the warm water outlet that keeps some of the water from freezing, 'Look at the Goldeneyes out there.' And I'm going, 'What? What's a Goldeneye?' He says, 'It's a duck.' At that point, I'm saying to myself, 'Okay, I'm this outdoorsman. I've spent my whole life hunting and fishing, and I really know this outdoor stuff. Here's this guy from Boston, this elitist from the East Coast, and he's rattling off this duck's name, a duck that I don't even know! Something's wrong here.' That same night, I received a paycheck, and I bought a pair of binoculars and a *Peterson Field Guide*. The following weekend, using binoculars and the field guide, I saw about 15 species of ducks out on Lake Monona."

The next part of the story occurred the following spring.

"I turned 24 over the winter, and JoAnn and I are now married and living in Middleton. One day in late April, we went to Tiedeman's Pond to observe ducks there. I'm looking at several duck species, but I'm still not really hooked as a birder. Then I see this very brightly colored bird just flitting around the trees. I spend about an hour following that thing because I was not used to following small things with binoculars. I had little experience trying to find something that's rapidly moving through the trees and actively foraging up there. So I follow this bird around. I get a little glimpse of a field mark, and then I open up the book. I'm looking through the book, looking at the bird, and then I get more field marks. It took me about an hour to figure out that this bird was a Myrtle Warbler, today known as a Yellow-rumped Warbler; one of the most common warblers in Wisconsin that occurs nearly everywhere during migration. But it didn't matter; my eyes were opened. The sheer beauty of the warbler impressed me. I ran back to our apartment, and I'm out of breath, but managed to say, 'Jo, Jo, I saw this coolest bird!' That's when all of the seeds planted in me began to germinate. Birding absolutely hooked me after that moment. It was as if somebody had tossed a big old hook out there, and I had latched onto birding, hooked for the rest of my life."

Let's flash forward to the year 2001. That same young man who couldn't identify a Goldeneye at nearly 24 years of age has now become middle-aged and wizened. He's now a top-notch birder, who also has become an outstanding naturalist.

With the right weather conditions and bird movements, anything is possible, Sam Robbins used to say. And so it was in May 2001 when Randy Hoffman and longtime birding companion Al



Thomas Sykes of Appleton, recipient of the Bronze Passenger Pigeon, 31 May 2003.

the "Friends of Horicon Marsh." Five years ago Tom and Jim Williams, our second Bronze recipient, founded the Wisconsin birding listserve, Wisbirdnet, to serve the need for quick communication among the birders of our state. Tom has served as the on-site manager of the computer aspects of this service, as well as the principal host.

A second Bronze Passenger Pigeon Award was given to the co-founder of Wisbirdnet, Jim Williams, now in Minnesota. In addition to his creation and hosting of Wisbirdnet, Jim served as the Big Day editor for *The Passenger Pigeon* for several years, has been the Editor of *Minnesota Birding*, the Minnesota Ornithological Union's (MOU) newsletter, for many years, and is currently the Vice President for

MOU. Jim was Associate Editor of *Birding*, the magazine of the American Birding Association, for five years.

From time to time, WSO gives the Silver Passenger Pigeon Award for exceptional service to the Society. This year, the Silver Pigeon was given to Randy Hoffman of Waunakee. His award was presented by Sumner Mateson, a WSO past president, who shares what he said in the presentation:

This year's recipient of the Silver Passenger Award grew up in and near Arkansaw, Wisconsin, in Pepin County's rolling coulee country. He graduated from Arkansaw High School in 1965. That same year he attended college at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Two years later he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison but quickly

Shea, both former presidents of WSO, combined their talents to break the state record for the most number of bird species observed in a single 24-hour period—211. About this record day, Randy later told me, “Most people are just absolutely amazed that there’s virtually nothing rare in that 211 species; they’re just common to-be-expected species for Wisconsin. The rarest bird we had was an Eared Grebe, but every spring there are several seen in the state.”

So how does one reach the almost unthinkable 200 species in one day? Here’s what Randy had to say:

“A high count on a Big Day all gets back to one’s knowledge. You need knowledge of migration, bird habitats, song/chirps, and diurnal periods. If you can associate a bird with a habitat type and know something about phenology—what the timing of the migration is, where you would expect to see some of these birds—then you can develop a time-efficient route so that you’re not wasting time going through a habitat with virtually nothing new in it. Planning, then, becomes very important and is quite exciting to undertake. One of the confusing parts to planning a Big Day count is deciding when to do it. Great migrations happen right in front of a low-pressure system, which usually means you’re going to have wet weather or windy conditions. This makes listening difficult. You may have great looks at numerous species, but you’re not going to hear very many. When we did our 211 count, the highest wind all day was four miles an hour. A high pressure system occurred over the top of us; virtually no migration; we only had a couple of chips at night. I think we only picked out two species, and a few warblers in the daytime. This was about five days after a real good wave of warblers. But even with a high-pressure system, there are always a few birds moving.”

So with 211 species under their belts

you’d think Hoffman and Shea would retire, right? Wrong! A year later when Randy came into my office and asked me how I think he’d done after his Big Day, which occurred on 19 May 2003, I said jokingly “230 species.” Well, it was no joke. I had stumbled onto the exact number, the fifth highest Big Day birding record for anywhere in North America! It is unlikely that this record will be topped anytime soon in Wisconsin, and when it is, Randy most likely will be smiling down from the Heavens.

For his three decades of service to WSO, including serving as past vice-president and president in the late 1980s and early 1990s, for overseeing the development of a master plan for Honey Creek, for expanding WSO field trips nationally and internationally, for contributing to the quality papers of *The Passenger Pigeon*, for his unparalleled accomplishments as one of Wisconsin’s pre-eminent birders, and for his long-time efforts to preserve state natural areas that provide important breeding and migratory habitats for Wisconsin’s birds, it was my distinct pleasure to present Randy Hoffman with WSO’s 2003 Silver Passenger Pigeon Award for outstanding service to the Society.

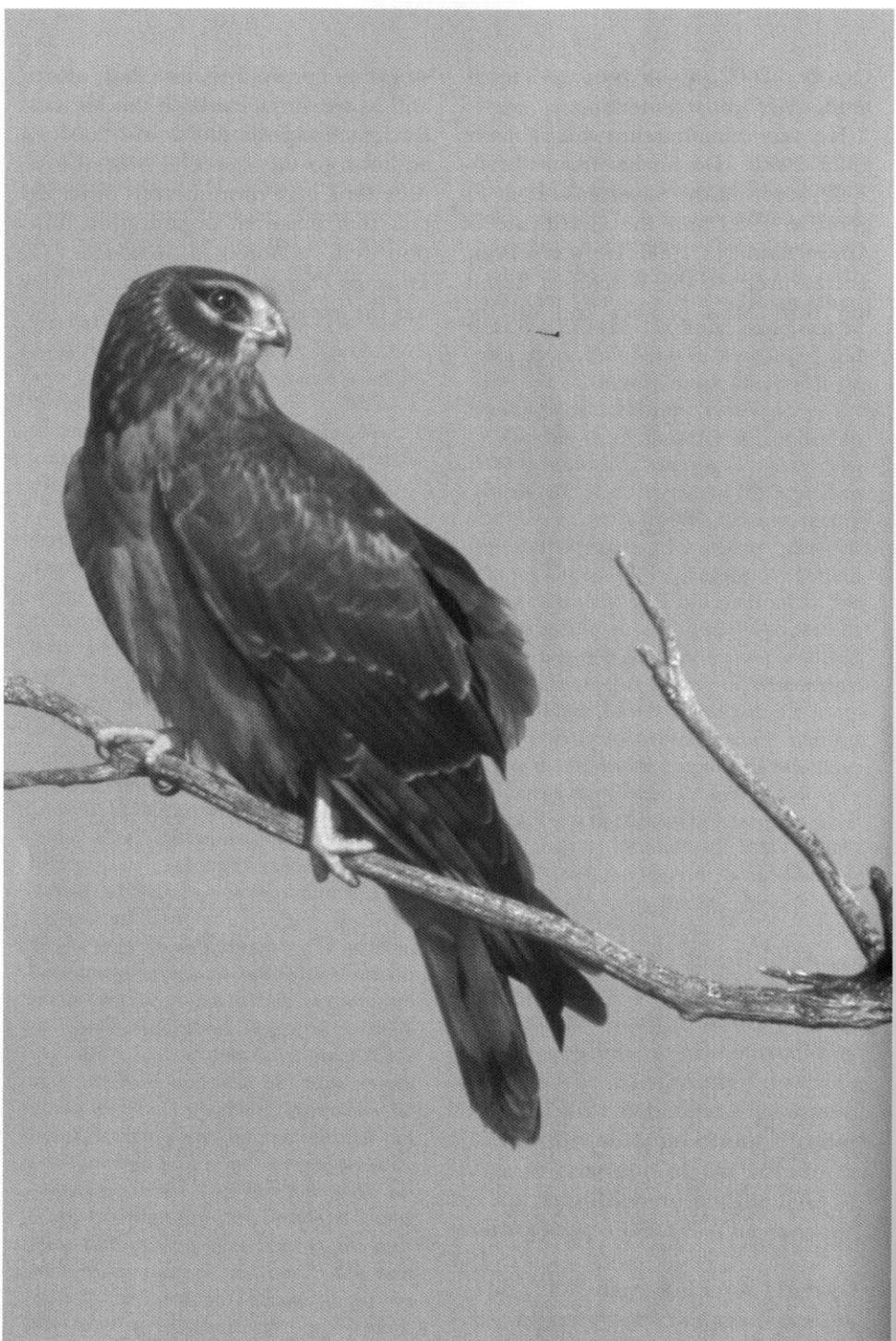
In 2001, the WSO Board of Directors created the Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award to honor individuals who continue to give outstanding service to the Society after receiving both the Silver Passenger Pigeon and a Certificate of Appreciation. It also serves to continue to pay tribute to the late Sam Robbins and the level of commitment to WSO that he exemplified.

The 2003 Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award was given posthumously to Alex Kailing. Alex had given twenty-five years of dedicated service to WSO when he passed away on 19

October 2002, as he prepared to attend a WSO Board meeting.

He was Membership Chair from 1978–2002, Treasurer from 1990–2002, received the Silver Passenger Pigeon in 1985 and the Certificate of Appreciation in 1996. He was serving as treasurer for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project and on the

steering committee for that effort, and as treasurer for both the Midwest Birding Symposia, 2001 and 2003. In addition to these several official jobs, Alex took care of numerous other details that make an organization function well. As noted *In Memoriam* (*The Passenger Pigeon*: Vol. 64, No. 3), Alex was the supreme volunteer.



Immature Northern Harrier in Dodge County, August 1997, by Jack Bartholmai

## Report of the Annual Meeting, 31 May 2003

### MINUTES OF THE 2003 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Vice President Daryl Christensen, acting for President Bill Brooks who was absent, called the business meeting of WSO's 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to order at 12:10 on Saturday, 31 May 2003, in Mary Ann Cofrin Center, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The convention was held in Green Bay at the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity from 30 May to 1 June 2003.

Vice President Christensen thanked Bob Howe, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and volunteers for a great convention. Christensen suggested that we take a minute to recognize Alex Kailing, who was part of the Society for a long, long time. The WSO assemblage paused for a moment of silence to remember Alex.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by a reading committee, made up of Barbara Blackmore, Jean Zachariesen, and James (J.J.) Goodwin. A Reading Committee, comprised of Tod Highsmith and Karen Etter Hale, will review the minutes of the WSO 64th Annual Business Meeting.

Christine Reel said the WSO Financial Report was among the reports of officers in the WSO Annual Report, May 2002–May 2003). It was moved and seconded to accept the WSO Treasurer's report for 2003. The mo-

tion carried. The Financial Report is given in full below.

The WSO Secretary reminded members about the Midwest Birding Symposium, which takes place September 11–14, 2003, at the Regency Suites/KI Convention Center in Green Bay. The benefactor this year is the Greater Prairie-Chicken—and each \$1 contributed will result in a \$4 donation to enhance genetic diversity of the Prairie-Chicken.

Editor Tod Highsmith said what it had been an honor to serve as editor of the *Passenger Pigeon* and on the WSO Board of Directors. He spoke of the incoming editor, Dreux Watermolen, who was with DNR's Integrated Scientific Services and had a "broad natural history background," good skills in editing and publishing, and experience with working on deadlines.

Daryl Tessen said that the WSO presentation of awards would be a little early this year, and he urged people to come to the happy hour.

Via Tom Uttech, Mary Uttech, *Badger Birder* editor, reported that she was pleased to do the job and thought it fascinating. It was frustrating, however, because it was hard to get content. To resolve this problem, *Badger Birder* proposed to begin a series on discussing bird habitat and/or a series on introducing new locations. The *Badger Birder* editor is looking for contributions.

Wayne Rohde thanked WSO for the honor to serve as Bird Reports Coor-

dinator. He asked members never to hesitate to make suggestions, for he is still learning.

Noel Cutright said that WSO is looking for new blood for Honey Creek, for after serving for 19 years, he is stepping aside. WSO would like volunteer(s) to coordinate the Honey Creek birdathon and bandathon for next year.

Mariette Nowak thanked Christine Reel and Dr. Bob Howe for helping with the publication of *Beyond the Birdfeeder: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants*. (See also WSO website, Education, Birdscaping Your Yard.)

Jeff Baughman said that WSO appreciates people coming on field trips, which have been well attended. He will take suggestions for areas to visit and try to work something out before the new schedule comes out in October. Field trip leaders are looking at floating field trips; that is, to "float" dates for the best weather for the January winter birding trip as well as the March trip to Dane and Columbia counties.

Bettie Harriman had nothing to add to her written Publicity report. If you know of events where WSO should attend or have a presence, she said, she would be happy to provide you or someone else with material to take for display.

Bob Howe said that it was convenient for WSO to be here at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, for WSO is part of the building, Mary Ann Cofrin Hall. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas is here, and downstairs WSO has room for storing archives, a space that's available for as long as we want to use it. Howe said that now that WSO has a place to put historical

documents, any member of a bird club is welcome to go through the historical papers of its organization to see if WSO could use any. Howe said that WSO is indeed glad for UWGB.

Bettie Harriman said work on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA) was moving right along. She gave the floor to Senior Editor Noel Cutright, who had no additional comments but repeated that the editors were working to get the Atlas published. All species accounts were in hand, had been reviewed, and were now being checked for accuracy (to be sure what was written agreed with the database) and for consistency. The Atlas will be submitted to UW Press in the next few months.

Barbara Duerksen is looking for applications for Youth Grants.

Vice President Christensen asked for approval of committee reports; it was granted.

## OLD BUSINESS

Vice President Christensen proposed that the 65<sup>th</sup> WSO Annual Convention be held in Chippewa Falls, May 21–23, 2004. It was so moved and approved.

The Nominating Committee for 2003–2004 WSO officers was made up of Jim Frank, Marilyn Bontley, and Daryl Tessen. Nominations for 2003–2004 include: Secretary, Jane Dennis (the only repeat); Editor, Dreux Watermolen; Treasurer, Christine Reel; Vice President, Jeff Baughman (one-year term); and President, Noel Cutright (one-year term). The list of nominees was approved. A motion to accept the proposed ballot unanimously was also approved.

Outgoing Vice President Christensen handed the gavel to incoming President Noel Cutright.

Over the past 50 years, WSO has had 2-year terms. This year Daryl Christensen was unable to continue. By the conduct of this meeting, Cutright said, you can see the unique talents and experience he brings to the organization, and Cutright asked for applause. It was thought that the Society should pick someone with recent Board experience to fill this gap; hence, it was decided to propose that Noel Cutright assume the presidency for 1 year.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Concern was expressed about membership trends, for it looked as if membership was declining significantly, from 1,489 to 1,283, and discussion followed.

Cutright accepted a motion to adjourn the WSO annual business meeting. It was so moved, seconded, and approved, and the WSO annual business meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

*[A copy of the complete minutes, only excerpted here, is available from WSO Secretary, Jane Dennis, 138 S. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-5248; 608-231-1741; jadennis@facstaff.wisc.edu.]*

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF OFFICERS

**President—Bill Brooks**—This year most of my effort has been involved with helping in the hunts to find replacements for several WSO positions that have opened. I believe the number of positions needing refilling may have been a one-year record (except for the year WSO was initiated!). After

Alex Kailing passed away in October 2002, we needed to find several people to fill the positions he had held. Christine Reel quickly volunteered to be WSO Treasurer, and has been working diligently and well at that position since late 2002. She must be voted in at the 2003 Convention. Jesse Peterson also soon volunteered for and was appointed WSO Membership Chair. He has since been doing proactive, excellent work for WSO in that department. Bettie and Neil Harriman volunteered to do much of the mailing Alex had done, and they have been mailing out the Badger Birder for several months now. Noel Cutright volunteered to carry on Alex's unofficial historian role.

Jan Hansen, former Associate Editor of *The Passenger Pigeon*, moved to the east coast early this year, and was replaced by Wayne Rohde. The WSO Board also changed the old name of the position, and I appointed Wayne to be the new (first, actually!) WSO Bird Records Coordinator. The name represents more properly what the job truly involves. Most recently, Tod Highsmith "retired" from the editorship of *The Passenger Pigeon*, and will be replaced by Dreux Watermolen as soon as he is voted in as Editor at the 2003 Convention.

I also was involved in two much smaller activities for WSO this year. In the fall I attended the Madison Audubon Society's "Prairies Jubilee" near the Goose Pond. I answered questions and gave out WSO brochures and other informational handouts at the WSO traveling display throughout that day. On March 14th, 2003, I, along with Joan Sommer and Jane Dennis, represented WSO at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge cel-

eration of the 100-year Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. I was pleased to be able to accept a Certificate of Appreciation presented to WSO for our "commitment to the National Wildlife Refuge System and especially to Horicon Wildlife Refuge."

**Vice President—Daryl Christensen—**  
Most of the past year was spent planning for the 2002 convention and silent auction, both of which were very successful events. The silent auction netted almost \$1,000 for the Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund. It was one of the fun events of the 2002 convention. I want to thank Sherry Christensen for all her hard work in setting up the auction and keeping the records straight during the busy-ness of the convention.

Following the 2002 convention, I began the planning stage for the 2003 and 2004 convention sites. UW-Green Bay made my job an easy one with their willingness to host the 2003 convention.

The Chippewa Valley, which is rich in birdlife, requested information about hosting the 2004 convention. After dozens of phone conversations and e-mails, we held a meeting in Chippewa Falls with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Dr. Charles Kemper who had worked on the past convention in Eau Claire. We toured several facilities and subsequent phone calls and e-mails the following week confirmed that Chippewa Falls will be our convention site in 2004. Dr. Kemper and his committee are planning some great birding trips and convention surprises.

On an unfortunate note, I was forced to step down from becoming

WSO President in 2003 due to an increased travel schedule in my business. This was very disappointing to me, but unavoidable at this time. I hope that I will be able to serve WSO in that capacity sometime in the future. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the WSO Board for their support and understanding and to Noel Cutright for filling in for me.

I have to say that in my years of serving on local, county, state, regional and national boards, I have never worked with a finer bunch of people. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is a class act and I am very proud to have served as Vice President the past two years.

Thank you, Board members, and President, Bill Brooks, for all your hard work in keeping the organization going during a year when so many positions needed to be filled. I look forward to the future of WSO and being a part of it whenever and wherever I can.

**Secretary—Jane Dennis—**As WSO Secretary during 2002–2003, I:

- Received visitors to the WSO booth at the Wild Bird, Wildlife and Backyard Habitat Expo, held 1–3 November 2002, at Washington County Fair Park, West Bend. Sadly, this was a final effort, for the Expo has now been discontinued.
- Joined other Board members in reviewing "Beyond the Birdfeeder: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants," an idea and contribution of WSO Education chair, Mariette Nowak.
- Served actively (taking minutes again!) on the planning committee for the Midwest Birding Sympo-

sium, sponsored by WSO, Eagle Optics, and Birder's World, to be held in Green Bay, at the Regency Suites Hotel/KI Convention Center, 11-14 September 2003.

This Symposium's benefactor is the Greater Prairie-Chicken. By combining attendee and speaker donations, book and souvenir sales, and proceeds of two silent auctions with matching funds from the Minnesota Prairie-Chicken Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the 2003 Symposium will contribute to the Greater Prairie-Chicken Restoration Project, an effort organized by The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural

Resources to help the Greater Prairie-Chicken, a critically endangered species. (On the ground, each \$1 contributed = \$4 in actual benefit.) For information, as it develops, see Birder's World magazine website (<http://www.birdersworld.com/brw/news/news.html>).

**Treasurer—Christine Reel**—Following the death of Alex Kailing in October of 2002, I assumed his duties as Treasurer. Even though he couldn't have known how important it would be one day, Alex kept the WSO records highly organized, and my taking over for him has been as smooth as it could have been.

#### Financial Summary

#### I. WSO Statement of Revenue, 1998-2002

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Advertising	799.00	437.50	580.00	472.00	905.50
Bookstore & WSO Pubs	8,950.50	2,968.67	1,137.08	2,379.93	2,926.27
Haunts	5,838.00	12,079.00	12,811.00		
Convention	2,522.88	1,470.92	1,951.94	370.00	2,168.22
Donations					
Endowment	292.00	183.00	161.00	827.00	283.00
Haunts	250.00	500.00	474.94		
Honey Creek	1,340.45	936.00	1,191.00	1,692.50	1,167.50
Bandathon	2,503.70	2,440.00	2,640.38	3,118.50	4,910.95
Memorials	2,235.00	757.67	150.00	195.00	
Pigeon			1500.00		
Robbins Trip				4,335.00	280.00
Scholarships & Grants	2,832.00	834.22	1,813.55	1,410.50	640.86
Youth	135.00	318.00	642.00	587.70	
Other	2012.00	926.00	1,181.22	357.67	
Interest	1,357.69	293.06	442.41	734.51	986.97
Investment Income			62,127.00	16,162.18	1,250.59
Membership dues	31,088.25	25,366.00	28,097.79	27,088.71	26,212.80
Membership - Life	1,450.00	2,200.00	1,700.00	3,325.00	2,050.00
Pigeon, subscriptions & back issues	879.92	456.00	296.98	545.50	908.00
Miscellaneous		11.40	163.30		
Costa Rica Trip	6,038.20	19,200.00	21,860.00	7,800.00	
Robbins Trip				4,335.00	280.00
Seminar				5,402.00	1,488.00
Video				100.00	100.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>70,524.59</b>	<b>71,377.44</b>	<b>140,921.59</b>	<b>76,903.70</b>	<b>46,278.66</b>

**II. WSO Statement of Expenses, 1998–2202**

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Administration	477.50	63.75	478.71	603.75	541.66
Awards	114.60	218.49		104.02	48.84
Bird Reports Coord	51.16	118.52	772.80	1,030.66	1,167.18
Birder, mailing	1,425.51	2,477.51	2,730.62	2,829.16	2,487.39
Birder, printing	8,550.74	5,894.82	10,716.46	6,672.99	8,894.85
Bookstore & WSO pubs	1,155.75	1,824.37	680.82	390.00	620.00
Haunts		780.00	55,765.06	297.69	58.00
Printing	157.80		1,130.91	5,224.60	965.87
Convention	1,280.00	400.00	400.00	800.00	725.00
Field trips			194.35	192.46	120.00
Honey Creek	3,527.94	3,685.73	3,712.28	3,228.94	2,994.64
Hotline	88.45	90.50	254.80	198.08	256.30
Membership	1,274.69	2,398.59	2,174.85	2,009.54	2,362.24
Pigeon, mailing	1,757.42	1,742.97	3,206.62	2,620.76	2,300.26
Pigeon, printing	13,849.04	17,569.44	29,570.73	24,700.78	18,732.16
President			20.90	32.00	32.00
Publicity	647.75	401.06	665.23	691.87	626.32
Records	220.53	176.04	252.68	27.00	154.69
Scholarships & Grants	2,000.00	1,350.00	2,000.00	2000.00	2,000.00
Youth	388.28		790.00	570.00	
Miscellaneous	663.80				
Baraboo Hills Book					4,000.00
Costa Rica trip	19,888.20	5,555.63	21,566.00	8,175.00	
Equipment				1,550.00	
Prairie Posters					250.00
Robbins trip				3,043.40	
Seminars				6,397.97	
Video				1,497.21	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>57,727.97</b>	<b>44,848.26</b>	<b>137,433.59</b>	<b>75,310.74</b>	<b>49,467.12</b>

**III. Special Projects, 1998–2002**

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Atlas, income	34,313.73	54,547.84	8,260.85	58,923.18	100,218.21
Atlas, expense	34,440.55	7,884.73	36,591.01	68,441.98	74,844.22
MBS, income	5,029.20	93,967.77	2000.00		
MBS, expense	23.78	93,463.64	592.62		
Nicaragua Proj. Income	10,000.00				
Nicaragua Prof. Expense	6,714.35				
1 Bird 2 habitats, income	120.00		2,721.44		
1 Bird 2 habitats, expense		181.60			
Osprey Project, income	13,000.00			2,000.00	
Osprey Project, expense	8,142.48			2,000.00	
SRSEF, income	1,062.52	3,643.33	4,613.52		
SRSEF, grants			300.00		

## IV. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2002

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Cash	2,582.70	2,822.52	2,612.27	1,085.88	859.43
Bookstore	6,043.44				
Slides	7,007.79				
Savings, general	34,873.01	28,987.33	17,890.65	3,615.85	8,222.60
Money Market	17,037.90			957.38	957.38
Savings, endowment	16,120.98	3,982.44	1,559.35	7,136.37	17,532.68
Money Market	36,646.21	50,025.56	50,025.56	50,025.56	35,021.06
Savings, atlas	39,874.12	40,490.13	23,161.20	51,630.37	20,966.14
CD	30,489.19	30,000.00			40,000.00
Savings, SRSEF	2,867.70	3,991.50	5,000.00		
CD	17,587.38	15,000.00			
Savings, MBS	7,520.05	2,504.13			
Savings, Grants				15,300.00	15,300.00
Inventory, Bookstore & Pubs	26,455.11	44,888.65	59,640.03	18,587.30	18,503.53
Inventory, slides	1,609.85	8,164.20	7,546.05	8,040.32	6,959.54
Fixed assets, equipment	6,569.61	8,919.10	8,919.10	8,919.10	7,369.10
Fixed assets, land	31,895.13	31,895.13	31,895.13	31,895.13	31,895.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>285,180.17</b>	<b>271,671.38</b>	<b>208,249.70</b>	<b>197,162.17</b>	<b>204,053.59</b>

**Editor, The Passenger Pigeon—Tod Highsmith**—How do I sum up five years as Editor of The Passenger Pigeon? Let's start off with the numerical/analytical approach:

- From 1998–2002, I prepared 17 separate issues of the journal (including 3 double issues) with a total of 2,040 pages (average of 408 pages per year).
- These 17 issues averaged 120 pages in length, and ranged from 64 to 212 pages (the latter was a double issue).
- Over those five years, 20 sets of seasonal field notes, "By the Waysides," and Records Committee Reports were published, along with annual reports on the Christmas Bird Counts and other bird counts/surveys, and the minutes of WSO's annual business meetings.
- In addition, a total of 69 research, commentary, historical, current ornithology, and obituary articles

were published, representing the work of more than 60 authors.

- 44 articles were submitted by authors for publication; 33 of these were accepted and published, and 11 were rejected or not published for various reasons.
- 36 articles were solicited by the Editor, the vast majority of which were published in two special issues (Wisconsin Wetland Birds, Fall 1999; Special Perspectives on Birds and Birding, Spring/Summer 2002).
- Art works (drawings, paintings, photographs) were contributed by over 22 individuals.

The Editor's job is to assemble, edit, and proof all the materials for each issue, and shepherd it all through the typesetting and printing processes. And while that's a big job, the numbers above make it abundantly clear that The Passenger Pigeon is a joint effort of literally scores of people. I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to and helped with the jour-

nal during my editorship; I enjoyed working with all of you.

Summing up the past five years in a more heartfelt manner, I can honestly say that it has been an honor to be the temporary steward of one of the top state bird journals in the country, and to be a member of such a dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors. WSO is quite a remarkable organization, embracing as it does everyone from the casual feeder watcher to the professional ornithologist, and I look with pride on all the Society accomplishes toward educating birders and conserving birds and habitat.

As my last official duty, I am helping the incoming editor, Dreux Watermolen, put together his first issue of the journal, and am doing my best to familiarize him with the various idiosyncrasies of the Pigeon so that the transition between our reigns will be seamless. I look forward to watching him grow into the job and put his own stamp on the journal, and I'm sure he will do a splendid job. And, though this may sound a little silly, it will be a real treat to receive future issues in the mail and not already have read all the articles!

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Badger Birder Editor—Mary Uttech—**  
Completed 11 issues of the newsletter.

**Bird Reports Coordinator—Wayne Rohde—**No report.

**Bookstore—Joan Sommer—**The WSO Bookstore underwent significant changes over the last year.

In October of 2001, the WSO Board made the decision to streamline the bookstore operation, limiting inventory to items published by WSO and/or of particular and significant interest to Wisconsin birders. That decision having been made, and after 6 years of service to WSO as bookstore managers, Don and Christine Reel went in search of a new bookstore manager.

In June 2002, I took over the bookstore management. I would like to extend my thanks to Don and Christine for helping me through the initial transition period and remaining available for good advice and as my most valuable resource. Their experience has been invaluable to me.

Bookstore sales, as expected due to the restructuring, were lower overall. Sales for 2002 for the traditional bookstore were \$10,964.07. The online store rang up sales of \$1,616.32.

Sales of Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts remain steady considering we are two and a half years out from the original 2000 publication date. Total sales of Haunts through March 2003 stand at 1152 copies, totaling WSO income of \$31,616.13.

A new WSO T-shirt, designed by WSO's Tom Schultz, debuted in January 2003 to an enthusiastic group of Wisconsin birders. The T-shirt features the phrase "The Joy of Wisconsin Birding" surrounded by stunning bird images including Scarlet Tanager, Dunlin, White-Throated Sparrow and Bonaparte's Gull among others. The back is a striking image of a pair of Black-Throated Blue Warblers. Available only through the WSO Bookstore, the T-shirt has been impressively popular—so popular, in fact, that a re-

order was necessary in March 2003. Sales through March 2003 totaled 126 T-shirts, resulting in income of \$2308.62 for WSO.

A new edition of the WSO Field Checklist came out in January 2003 and is available through the bookstore. A new edition of Wisconsin Birds: A Checklist with Migration Graphs is due out in summer 2003.

The complete catalog of titles stocked by the bookstore is available on the WSO website at <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso>.

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you by phone and e-mail over the last 11 months. It has been especially enjoyable running into you out in the field and being able to put a face to a name. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions you might have to make the bookstore more useful to you.

I look forward to working with you in the future.

#### ***Conservation—Noel Cutright—***

- Attended all 4 Board meetings
- Continued coordination of the Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon
- Continued involvement with ABA's Birding Exchange
- Represented the WSO on WBCI's Coordinating Council
- Chaired WBCI's Important Bird Areas Committee
- Worked on organizing some of Alex's files relating to WSO history and archives

Issues where I represented WSO's interests:

- Harbor Island in Milwaukee (part of Milwaukee Lakeshore State Park)
- Master Plans for several WDNR and USFS properties
- Revision of the Prairie Chicken Management Plan
- Mourning Dove Hunting
- American Crow hunting season and its relation to West Nile Virus
- Support for ban on carbofuran (pesticide)
- Support for WDNR's plan to acquire more land at Greenwood Wildlife Area
- Cliff Swallow control at Oxford Correctional Institution
- Urge WDNR to do better job monitoring State Natural Area bird populations
- Highway 49 wildlife slaughter at Horicon
- Support for Gathering Waters grant for land trusts
- Investigated Glacial Lake Cranberries land easement possibilities
- Testified at WDNR's NRB meeting in support of the Land Legacy Report
- Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan for Peregrine Falcon
- Double-crested Cormorant Management Plan

***Education—Mariette Nowak—***As Education Chair, I have written a brochure on birdscaping with native plants. The brochure can be found on the WSO website under Education and is entitled "Birdscaping Your Yard." It consists of general information under the title "Birds and Plants, An Ancient Collaboration," which is followed with a list of "Wisconsin's Best Plants for Attracting Birds." Efforts are now underway to produce a printed and illustrated version of this

brochure, which will be available to members and the public. In addition, I have given several slide programs to groups on the above subject.

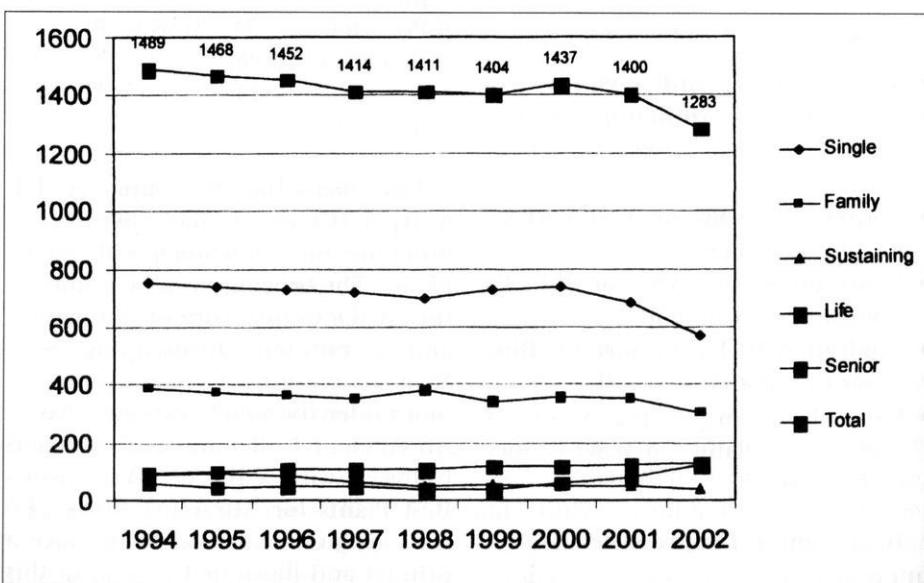
**Field Trips—Jeff Baughman and Tom Schultz**—No report beyond a full roster of popular and successful field trips.

**Membership—Jesse Peterson**—Total membership at calendar year end:

**IV. WSO Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2002**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Single	752	737	730	718	700	726	738	685	572
Family	385	372	361	353	380	344	358	351	306
Sustaining	89	96	86	63	51	56	50	49	40
Life (1 of 4)									2
Life (2 of 4)	10	8	3	8	9	9	10	3	3
Life (3 of 4)									2
Life	93	99	107	107	110	119	120	126	128
Patron	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	7
Senior	58	46	50	49	41	41	60	79	127
Youth								6	6
Library	46	46	47	49	44	43	41	41	41
Exchange	42	47	48	48	48	46	46	46	47
Honorary Life	6	6	6	5	4	3	3	4	2
Board	2	5	8	8	18	12	5	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1489</b>	<b>1468</b>	<b>1452</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1411</b>	<b>1404</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>1286</b>

**Membership Trends, 1994–2002:**



**Membership Renewal Status (as of 30 April 2003)**

	Paid through 2002	Renewed for 2003	% Renewed	2003 New Members
Single	572	373	65%	10
Family	306	212	69%	20
Sustaining	40	26	65%	0
Life (1 of 4)	2	2	100%	0
Life (2 of 4)	3	3	100%	0
Life (3 of 4)	2	2	100%	0
Life, couple (1 of 4)	0	0	0%	1
Life, couple (2 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Life, couple (3 of 4)	0	0	0%	0
Senior	127	90	71%	1
Youth/Student	6	3	50%	0
Library	41	28	68%	0
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>32</b>
Life	128			
Life, couple	0			
Patron	7			
Honorary Life	2			
Board	3			
Exchange	47			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>187</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1286</b>			

**Publicity—Bettie Harriman**—The WSO display, along with free educational materials and sometimes with WSO items for sale, was present at the Madison Audubon's Prairie Jubilee at Goose Pond in September, 2002, the 3 days of the Wild Bird and Backyard Habitat Expo in West Bend in November, 2002, the Fox Valley Wild Ones meeting in Oshkosh in January, 2003, Horicon Marsh for the Centennial Celebration of the Refuge system in March, 2003, and Heckrodt Wetland Reserve on 1 May 2003 for an International Migratory Bird Day celebration. The display board and free materials are available for use by any members who wish to have WSO represented at bird- or nature-related events. Contact me (920.233.1973 or [bettie@vbe.com](mailto:bettie@vbe.com)) about a month in advance of the date to make arrangements for the display.

WSO was a co-sponsor for David Sibley's appearance at Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum during this year's Birds in Art in October, 2002. The two-day event was well attended.

Copies of the second edition of the WSO Speakers' Bureau, published in May of 2001, are still available to members or others interested in presentations about birds. Contact me for a copy.

I attended all four Board meetings, spoke with reporters on numerous occasions by phone or e-mail, continued to serve on the Outreach Committee of Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, as well as the Important Bird Areas Committee and the Coordinating Council.

WSO continues with its membership on the Policy Council of the American Bird Conservancy and I

continue to be the representative. From time to time, I have written letters regarding conservation issues of the Council, such as federal controls on pesticide use.

And finally, my husband Neil and I are overseeing the printing, folding, and mailing of the *Badger Birder* following Alex's death.

### Records—Jim Frank

	Records Reviewed	Records Accepted	Records Not Accepted
Winter '01-'02	77	62	15
Spring '02	45	36	9
Summer '02	10	7	3
Fall '02	77	69	8

Additions to Wisconsin's State List for the year were Ross's Gull, Black Rail, Thick-billed Murre, White Ibis, and Band-tailed Pigeon. One old record of a White-cheeked Pintail was rescinded. These changes bring the state list to 421 species.

Records Committee Members for the past year were Jim Frank (chair), Dennis Gustafson, Bob Domagalski, Scott Baughman, and Dan Belter. Replacing Dennis Gustafson for the coming year is Mark Korducki.

**Research—Robert Howe**—During this year I have worked mainly on the Breeding Bird Atlas, WSO Archives, and Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA) Data Management Center has continued to operate successfully at the UW-Green Bay office in Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, where it will reside indefinitely. I worked on a committee for the long range future of the WSO web site, and a plan has been de-

veloped for maintaining operations after the WBBA has been completed.

The WSO Archives are housed in a separate room in Mary Ann Cofrin Hall and have been organized into reasonably accessible boxes. Computer files from Alex Kailing have been organized and saved on CDs and on the UW-Green Bay network for historical purposes.

I completed a summary paper on the Nicolet National Forest Bird Survey at the International Partners in Flight Symposium in Asilomar, California. This and other information on Wisconsin forest birds has been incorporated into a web site on Great Lakes Bird Conservation at <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/greatlakes/>. Ongoing research projects of mine include collaborations with the Natural Resources Research Institute at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. While these projects are outside my specific role as WSO Research Chair, they have helped maintain connections with other researchers on Wisconsin ornithology.

**Scholarships and Grants—Janine Polk**—Steenbock Award, for beginners, amateurs and independent researchers, to fund almost any type of meaningful bird-related project:

- Kenneth Damro—Researching traditional nesting sites of Chimney Swifts

Nelson Grants, established through a 1993 bequest from the Charles and

Mary Nelson family, for ornithological research involving wetlands:

- Betsey Abroe—Do more attractive males produce more sons in the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)?
- Marc C. Pedersen—Extraterritorial movements of male and female Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*) in relation to a male ornamental trait
- Norma Rudesill—Yellow-headed Blackbird colony survey in St. Croix County

WSO Grants, to provide additional support for work that is being carried out and funded through another program:

- Nick McCann—Photographic evidence of Common Loon predators during depredation events
- Laurel Spencer Forsythe—Passenger Pigeon exhibit renovation at the New London Public Museum
- William E. Stout—An urban Cooper's Hawk nesting study in the metropolitan Milwaukee area

**Website—Jennifer Davis**—Continued to maintain WSO website including: posting items in the Important Dates section and the Birder News section based on information in the Badger Birder; archiving Hotline Reports (Jane Dennis preparing the reports for the web); posting the Table of Contents from each issue of The Passenger Pigeon; updating National and Wisconsin Organization entries (Joan Braune doing the legwork for updating the Birding Clubs section); updating changes in the Birder Contact list; updating WSO Administrators and Committee Chairs; updating the WSO

State Checklist; updating and revising Christmas Count page; updating Bookstore page; adding new sections including “Birdscaping Your Yard”; and adding new bird graphics.

**Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas—Bettie Harriman**—Almost all of the work on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (Atlas) since last May focused on getting the book written, including some continuing data processing, writing of species accounts by about 75 authors, editing the accounts by the three editors, writing of introductory chapters by the editors, creating maps, tables, and graphs to illustrate Atlas findings by Jennifer Davis, collecting color photographs of each species, and working with the University of Wisconsin Press (as publisher).

Jennifer Davis continues to run the Data Management Office at UW-Green Bay for the Atlas. Her activities were as follows:

#### **Database**

- Continued entry of late data.
- Regular updating of online Species Datasheets and Species Query to provide authors with current WBBA data and summaries.
- Continued quality control of existing data based on Species Author requests.
- Provided data to organizations, researchers, etc. upon their request.

#### **Website**

- Continued to update data on the Atlas web site regularly.
- Created new look for Atlas web site and added section on Species Audio clips.

**Book**

- Created Breeding Range boxplot charts for all species.
- Created Distribution Maps for all species.
- Downloaded and revised Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Trend Estimate graphs for all species.
- Created “data page” for each species that includes Distribution Map, Breeding Range chart, BBS Trend Estimate graph, Breeding Status summary table, and Habitat summary table.
- Began working on Species Account layout template in conjunction with Project Director.

David Kuecherer and Tom Schultz are the Art Committee and have been collecting and deciding which color photographs to use for each species on each account page. This process continues at this time.

The three editors, Noel Cutright, Robert Howe, and Bettie Harriman, helped authors find information sources, urged (coerced?) them to meet deadlines, edited accounts, and wrote numerous accounts. They are currently working on the introductory chapters and final editing of the species account section.

Some additional species were sponsored (\$500), but many others are still available. Two major sponsors this past year were We Energies and American Transmission Company. Sadly, the Atlas Treasurer and one of its earliest and strongest supporters, Alex Kailing, died unexpectedly on 19 October 2002. The new Treasurer is Christine Reel and all inquires concerning WBBA finances should be ad-

dressed to her at 2022 Sherryl Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188-3142, or phone 262-547-6128 or e-mail: dcree@execpc.com. The Atlas is included in the 2003 budget of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, with the funds going towards publication costs at UW Press.~

**Youth Education—Barbara Duerksen**—In April, the WSO Youth Grant Program awarded a grant to Lindsay Horan of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, for a project of the senior earth science class to teach kindergarteners about bird characteristics and habitats. Youth Grants are awarded in spring and fall for bird research or education.

Youth Education Coordinator activities of the past year:

- Presented bird talks to schools in Richland and LaCrosse Counties, assisted teachers with bird field trips and workshops and students with projects.
- Held bird conservation workshops at the Richland County Conservation Field Days for sixth graders.
- Attended planning meetings for the Midwest Birding Symposium to be held in Green Bay in September. A birding competition, Super Bowl of Birding, for middle school student teams will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 6 to 10 a.m.
- Attended the education subcommittee meetings for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative.
- Continued collection of photos for a Wisconsin Birds compact disk, designed primarily for use in schools.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ARTISTS

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**Jack R. Bartholmai** is an amateur wildlife photographer and wood sculptor. His current focus is photographing the birds of Dodge County, his home territory since 1972. His work appears frequently in local newspapers, travel brochures, calendars, maps, and bird publications.

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**Daniel D. Berger** is a retired entrepreneur who spends his falls trapping hawks at The Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, where he has been most autumns since 1950.

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**Noel J. Cutright**, Terrestrial Ecologist with We Energies, is serving his second term as WSO President, and has served as both Conservation and Publicity Chair.

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**Seth Cutright**, a young WSO member, is now a senior at Concordia University where he is majoring in art. He also enjoys watching raptor migration along the Lake Michigan shore there and going on WSO and Riveredge Bird Club field trips.

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**Jim Frank** serves as WSO's Records Committee Chair, writes the annual May Day Counts and Migration Day Counts articles, plus the quarterly

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Records Committee Report. He is a generous contributor to the Seasonal Field Notes. He also authors the "Records Committee Report" and the "May Day Counts."

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**Judith Huf** has worked as an artist in many fields, from painting and sculpture to technical and scientific illustration and creating exhibits for nature centers and museums. She has a lifelong interest in natural history, especially birds.

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**Cary Hunkel** has her Master of Fine Arts degree from UW-Madison. Her avian images have appeared in Madison Audubon Society and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publications, as well as in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's "Birds in Art."

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**Kenneth I. Lange** is the retired Naturalist of Devil's Lake State Park. He has been a frequent contributor to WSO publications, as a field note compiler and author of the book *Breeding Birds of the Baraboo Hills*. He received WSO's Silver Passenger Pigeon Award in 1993.

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**Dennis Malueg** is a serious amateur bird and wildlife photographer. He currently works from his backyard stu-

dio, prairie, and 80-acre forest to capture images of birds native to Waushara County.

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**Jim McEvoy** has been an art instructor in Madison and spent 20 years as a graphic artist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources before his retirement in 1997. He continues to draw and paint at his home in rural Dane County.

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**Helmut C. Mueller** is a retired Professor of Biology and Ecology at the University of North Carolina. He and Dan Berger started The Cedar Grove Ornithological Station in 1950. He spends falls at Cedar Grove since his retirement.

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**Nancy S. Mueller** is a retired Professor of Biology at North Carolina Central University. She first came to Cedar Grove in 1958 when she and her husband were graduate students at the

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University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has been spending falls at Cedar Grove since her retirement in 1993.

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**William P. Mueller** focused his graduate work at UW-Milwaukee on avian biogeography, especially of the Red-headed Woodpecker. He is now serving as the WSO Conservation Chair.

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**Wayne Rohde** serves as the Director of the Sheltered Workshop at Inspiration Ministries and as a pastor at Fontana Bible Church. He's been an avid birder since 1967, particularly in Wisconsin's inland tier of southern counties, and especially enjoys introducing others to the joy of birding through birding literature and optics.

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**Daryl Tessen**, long time Associate Editor of *The Passenger Pigeon* and author of Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, is the chair of the WSO Awards Committee.

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## THE WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is an educational and scientific non-profit organization founded in 1939 "to encourage the study of Wisconsin birds." The Society achieves this goal through programs in research, education, conservation, and publication.

### OFFICERS (2003-2004)

**President\*** Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood Road, West Bend, WI 53095-9414; h. 262. 675. 2443; w. 414. 221. 2179; Noel.Cutright@we-energies.com

**Vice President\*** Jeffrey L. Baughman, W2640 Middle Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010; 920. 477. 2387; jeffb@csd.k12.wi.us

**Secretary\*** Jane A. Dennis, 138 S. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-5248; 608. 231. 1741; jadennis@facstaff.wisc.edu

**Treasurer\*** Christine Reel, 2022 Sherry Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188-3142; 262. 547. 6128; dcree@execpc.com

**Editors\*** Bettie and Neil Harriman, 5188 Bittersweet Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54901-9753; 920. 233. 1973; bettie@vbe.com; harriman@uwosh.edu

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2003-2004)

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