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PINE GROSBEAK
Painting By
Elizabeth Zimmerman

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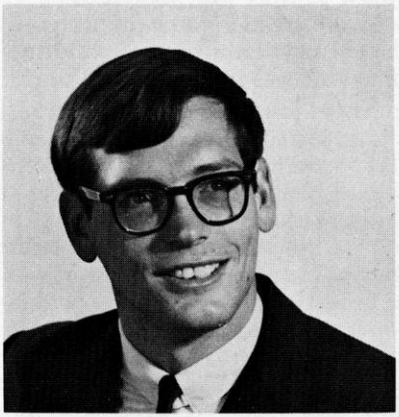
Distribution and Status

Bell's and White-eyed Vireos in Wisconsin

STEPHEN G. MARTIN
Department of Zoology and Entomology
Colorado State University — Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

The author was raised in Madison, where he attended the University of Wisconsin and earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Zoology. The latter program was supervised by Dr. John T. Emlen, and involved a field study of Bobolink behavior. In 1970 he received the Ph.D. degree at Oregon State University. Currently, he teaches ecology and field biology at Colorado State University

From the inception of **Wisconsin Birds: A Checklist with Migration Charts** (Barger, Lound and Robbins, 3rd Edition 1960) in 1942, the Bell's Vireo (**Vireo bellii**) and the White-eyed Vireo (**V. griseus**) have been assigned statuses of either rare (likely to be seen in the state five or less times a year; missed entirely some years) or very rare (likely to be seen in the state no more than once every three years). Gromme's (1963) modern treatise on Wisconsin's birds gives these vireos respective statuses of "rare summer resident locally" and "rare summer resident in south." Over the past decade, a surge in Wisconsin observations of these two southern vireos has occurred; during this interim, 276 Bell's Vireo individuals were reported in 82 different sightings, and records were published of 52 White-eyed Vireos in 39 sightings. This particular increase in records justifies a status review of these species, and suggests the desirability of summarizing distributional information on their occurrence within the state. It is the purpose of this paper to make such a review.



The author's interest in these brush-loving vireos was whetted gradually, commencing in 1965. Each spring and summer from that year to the present, I observed Bell's Vireos at two or three widely separated locations in southcentral Wisconsin and came upon the White-eyed species, including a 1967 nesting pair, on four occasions. As I engaged in a 7 year behavioral ecology study of the Bobolink (**Dolichonyx oryzivorus**), the Bell's Vireo was my constant companion, with as many as five males singing daily from thick shrubs along the edges of my research meadow in northwestern Dane County.

All records and locations reported herein were obtained from seasonal and special annotations in past issues of **The Passenger Pigeon** (Volumes 1-34, 1939 through 1972), as well as from direct correspondence with 27 WSO members whom I asked for clarifications and additions

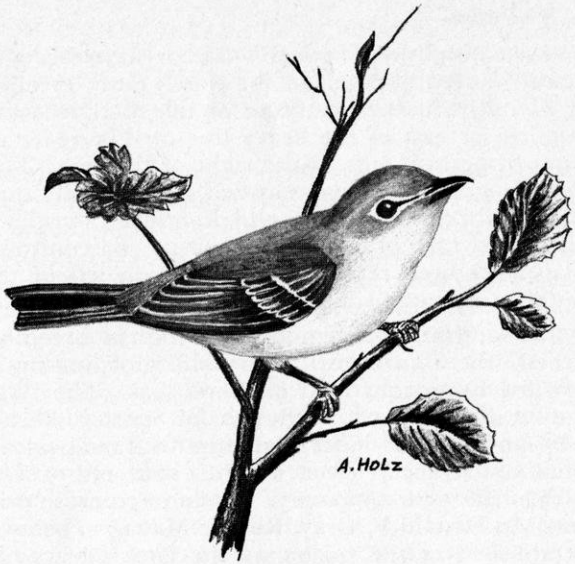
to reported materials. Some individuals contributed unreported sightings. Mrs. Arthur Gauerke, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology File Keeper, graciously copied records from the Society's files dating back to 1948, for verification of incomplete or otherwise questionable published reports. My own observations of these species, some previously unreported, are also included.

Bell's Vireo

The Bell's Vireo was unknown in the state when Kumlien and Hollister (1903) wrote their annotated list of the birds of Wisconsin. Since the first specimen of this vireo was taken near Lake Wingra in Madison, on 3 July 1914 by A. W. Schorger (deWitt Betts, 1914) a minimum of 345 individuals has been reported within the State's confines. Well over half of these have been seen from 1960 to the present. All known records are compiled in Table 1, while Figure 1 designates the approximate locations of these sightings. In preparing Table 1, I grouped all accounts by different observers into one entry when they were considered to be repetitive sightings at the same location on different dates. For instance, the single Mazomanie entry for 20 May to 6 September 1954 represents the composite of four separate published reports by different observers. Personal correspondence with reporters permitted proper grouping in many instances, while personal judgment was used in other cases.

In my experience, this shy inhabitant of willows and shrubby thickets is much more easily heard than seen, so a majority of reports are of singing males. Thus, in most instances the tabular entry for number of birds found in a locality refers to observed singing males and usually neglects females, which careful observation demonstrates are usually present in numbers equalling male abundance. Despite the advertised rarity of this vireo, it is apparent that the interest of most observers wanes after having seen or heard a single individual at one locality, for few records demonstrate any attempt to ascertain actual population numbers. This became clear to me at the "Wisconsin Riverbottoms" site, which is located along the railroad tracks paralleling Wisconsin Highway 78 north of Dane County Highway Y approximately 1.7 miles southwest of Sauk City. Beginning in 1966, I made careful late-spring censuses of singing males in the vicinity of a 30 acre wild hayfield 0.5 mile north of Highway Y, and discovered three, four, or five males in different years. Two additional pairs have usually nested 700 yards south of this meadow. Hence, a minimum of five to seven singing males are in this locale each year, yet most published reports by Wisconsin Society for Ornithology members finding the species in this area suggest the presence of only one or two birds.

Another indication of the difficulty of estimating size of a Bell's Vireo population was given to me by Reverend Sam Robbins, who has visited the Trempealeau Refuge colony (see below) every year since its discovery in 1962, reporting from three to six singing males each spring. In 1970, he and Kenneth Krumm made a concerted effort to determine the number of individuals in this population, and counted 13 different singing males. They estimated the population number to be 20 pairs! These two examples suggest that the total number of Bell's Vireos at **known** breeding localities in Wisconsin is substantially greater than the number tabulated in Table 1.



BELL'S VIREO

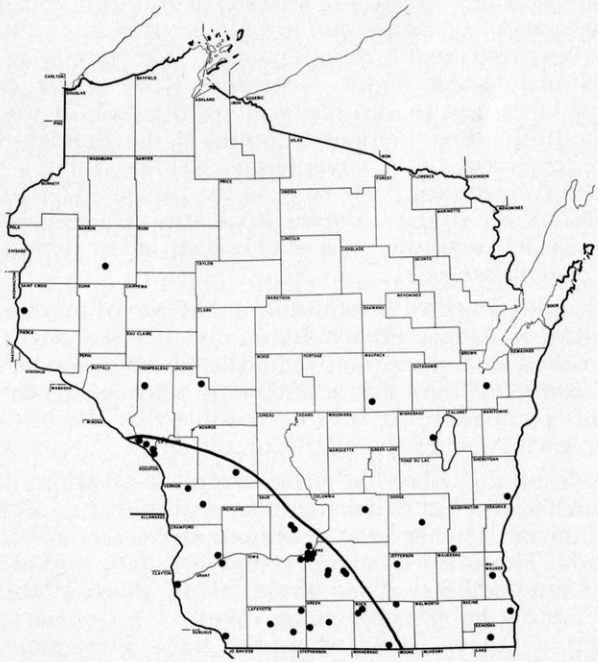


FIGURE 1. Locations of Bell's Vireo sightings in Wisconsin. For each report which includes a precise location, the mapped point indicates this locality. For observations accompanied by imprecise locational data, the point is centered in the approriate county. The heavy line separates the northwestern region where the Bell's Vireo is found infrequently and apparently does not nest, from the southwestern section of the state where it is a locally common breeding species.

Bell's Vireos "Colonies"

The Wisconsin sightings of Bell's Vireos have been concentrated strongly in southwestern portions of the state. Only 19 observations accounting for 21 individuals (5 per cent of the total records) have been made to the north or east of the heavy line on Figure 1, and only one known instance of nesting falls to the right of the line. The paucity of reports coming from the heavily censused southeastern quarter of the state, including Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Counties, attests that this species is indeed rare in eastern Wisconsin. By contrast, more than 205 individuals have been reported in the region left of the line since 1960, distributed at numerous locations as indicated in Table 1.

Within this southwestern region a number of breeding "colonies" can be discerned, where an historical continuity of nesting Bell's Vireos has been recorded by various field ornithologists. The largest of these is close to the headquarters of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's Trempealeau Refuge 5 miles northwest of Trempealeau. Approximately 20 pairs nest in locust cover which is scattered over an extensive area within this 700 acre sanctuary. Modern records are continuous since 1962, but Mr. Donald V. Gray, Refuge Manager, believes the population was established in the region by the late 1920's or early 1930's. At least one documented observation of a Bell's Vireo in this region came as early as August 1930, prior to the acquisition and development of the refuge land. The distribution of this vireo in the Trempealeau area is not restricted to the refuge proper. The species is also known from the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River where each summer a number of birds nest in shrubbery along the base of the bluffs near Winona. In 1970 a Bell's Vireo was found at the Kellogg Sand Prairie about 15 miles North of Winona (Gray, written comm.). It has also been reported from Perrot Park, close to the refuge. The June 1971 discovery of Bell's Vireo in the Chimney Rock area of Trempealeau County further signals the possibility of a widely distributed population within this region of the state.

Just 18 miles south of Trempealeau Refuge is another traditional nesting locality on Upper French Island at LaCrosse. Here the species was first recorded as nesting in 1942 and has been observed each spring since 1953, except for the interval 1960-1964 when no reports were published on this population. It is quite possible that the birds have been nesting here each summer since 1942 or earlier.

Mr. Frederick Z. Lesher has made careful observations of this population since 1966, and has delineated two nesting foci on French Island: one is at Tipman's Orchard on Lakeshore Drive at the northwest end of the island. The other is at an abandoned farmyard-orchard along Fisherman Road on the east side of the island. Each of these locations has limited nesting habitat, providing cover for only one or two pairs. A third area on French Island where the Bell's Vireo probably breeds is at the La Crosse Airport. Here during the late spring and summer, individuals have been observed inhabiting large but isolated clumps of shrubs growing within the sand prairie of the airport vicinity. It has been suggested that housing and commercial developments are encroaching on suitable nesting localities at French Island. From the early 1950's

came reports of as many as 5 - 6 singing males at a single location on the island, whereas today Mr. Lesher's observations suggest that the island is supporting only 3 - 4 pairs. Entries in Table 1, demonstrating a reduction in French Island vireo counts since the 1950's, support this conclusion.

A clustering of locations in northwestern Dane County appears to attract a sizeable population of breeding Bell's Vireos each year. One locus of this population is the Mazomanie area, where nesting birds were first discovered in 1949 and 1950 at a number of sites north and west of this town. Brushy habitats along the town road bordering the village on its west and north, and the Marsh Creek vicinity north of Mazomanie, have provided most of these records, yet scattered reports over the years in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of Black Earth Township, 29, 31, 32, and 35 of Mazomanie Township and Section 12 of Arena Township (Iowa County) indicate that the species' habitat occupancy in this region is extensive. For the few years since 1949 when no reports have come from Mazomanie, I suspect that careful early-summer censuses were not conducted in the area. Because of this population's widely scattered distribution at the time of discovery in 1959, it is likely that the birds were established in this region for a considerable period prior to their discovery.

A short distance northwest of Mazomanie is the region named "Wisconsin Riverbottoms" in Table 1. Here, each spring from five to seven pairs of Bell's Vireos nest in willow and dogwood thickets contiguous with meadows and the Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad tracks north of Dane County highway Y. The best place to consistently find two or three pairs in this region is along the northern edge of the large hay meadow in Section 13 (Mazomanie Township), which is visible from highway 78 when looking west. Other breeding pairs have been noted in brush patches just north and south of the railroad track - County Y intersection; in 1971 and 1972 I found nesting Bell's Vireos in willows bordering a hayfield 0.5 mile south of the railroad - highway junction. In 1967 and 1968 five Bell's Vireos were banded in the Riverbottoms Vicinity with standard Fish and Wildlife leg rings, incidental to mist netting Bobolinks. In two subsequent years, I observed a banded Bell's Vireo in this area, evidence that site tenacity operates in returning individuals of this species to a particular breeding location year after year.

One other active nesting region for this species in Dane County is the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison, where the first state specimen of Bell's Vireo was collected in 1914. Infrequent records of the species were obtained there from 1914 until 1956; beginning in 1956, sightings have been made each year, often at a variety of locations within the Arboretum. In most years, information is available at the Arboretum headquarters as to the location of recent sightings or of nests.

For the past six consecutive summers, one or two pairs have nested north of the golf course in Beloit. In contrast to this and other contemporary breeding localities, we have only incomplete observational chronologies for the two earliest known colonies of Bell's Vireos at Boscobel and Pine Bluff. Long intervals apparently passed when ornithologists failed to visit these breeding sites and their loss was thus not recorded.

It is possible that these colonies might be active today in the event that habitat has not been destroyed or that successional changes have not replaced the shrubs so important to this species. At any rate, the status of each deserves careful checking today, and for sake of completeness, I will give their history and location here.

The first known colony of Bell's Vireo in Wisconsin was discovered in 1925, approximately five miles south of Boscobel, by the late A. W. Schorger. He found the species to be common there, with one or two pairs nesting in nearly all the isolated hazel thickets growing in this area. A year later eight singing males were observed, and in 1928, three nests were found. The last published record for this population dates back to 1932 when two nests were located, yet in 1951 Schorger still considered Bell's Vireo to be a locally common breeding species in Grant County (Kumlien and Hollister, 1951). Weak field efforts in this region since Schorger's collection trips to Boscobel ended may have bypassed this colony, whose present status is unknown. A similar inconclusiveness rests over the status of a nesting area at the base of Pine Bluff Ridge north of Pine Bluff (Dane County). Reports from the mid-1930's proved the regular occurrence of the species in this vicinity, yet no reports were made from 1936 until 1948, when a nesting pair was discovered. There is no evidence of field efforts to check the species' status in this area from 1936 to 1948, nor am I aware of recent surveys.

Present Bell's Vireo Status

Clearly, the documentation of an annual continuity of high Bell's Vireo population numbers in suitable breeding habitats in southwestern Wisconsin warrants a status redesignation. Evidence is strong for assigning a status of "locally common summer resident in southwestern Wisconsin." To the north and east of the line drawn on Figure 1, the species continues to be rare as the term is used in the Wisconsin Checklist. The question naturally arises as to whether the increase in records over the past decade is a result of more observers, more intensive field work during the singing period combined with a greater awareness of the possibility of encountering "unusual" species, or if instead the Bell's Vireo has recently extended its range northward.

A case can be built for either explanation or a combination of the two, although I believe the former best explains the modern increase in sightings of this vireo. The fact that Kumlien and Hollister (1903) failed to report it in their annotated species records of Wisconsin is not suggestive that Bell's Vireo was absent from the state at the turn of the century, for the authors stipulate that the southwestern portions of Wisconsin, as well as areas adjoining the Mississippi River, were little known ornithologically. Even once field efforts were devoted to these parts of the state, the initial avian censuses over broad areas of southwest Wisconsin lacked rigorous scope and year to year continuity. Hence, early records are spotty and sometimes confusing, and the sporadic visits to the earliest discovered breeding localities provided exceedingly limited information as to the fullness of the Bell's Vireo's use of various habitats. Schorger's observations in Grant County clearly indicate the common occurrence of Bell's Vireos in one area in the 1920's. Moreover, since the "accidental" discovery of a number of nesting colonies in the 1940's and 1950's, at those locations where efforts are taken to annually assess the

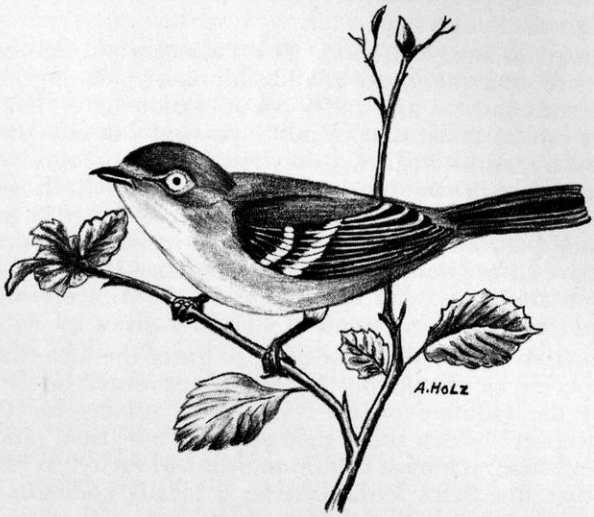
number of nesting pairs, annual population stability appears to be a general feature.

Unfortunately, most entries in **The Passenger Pigeon** dealing with this species are non-quantitative and imprecise, making difficult appraisals of trends such as are under consideration here. Nonetheless, a solid posture can be taken that over the years at colonies which are annually visited by ornithologists, this vireo has been found consistently since discovery of each colony. At Trempealeau and LaCrosse, evidence suggests the breeding sites were actively inhabited by 1930 and 1942 respectively, long before their "rediscovery". It is my belief that the colonies were active throughout the interim, and that light field work combined with unfamiliarity with the songs and the difficulty of observing this vireo have imparted the trend of sightings given in Table 1.

Unfortunately, we in WSO continue to foster the idea that the Bell's Vireo is a species we should not expect to encounter on field trips, as suggested by the footnote on the "Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Field Note Report", which states that a species not listed (and the Bell's Vireo is one of these) is almost certain to be a real rarity. With increasing cognizance that the Bell's Vireo **can** be a locally common breeder in southwestern Wisconsin, more field ornithologists will watch and listen for this interesting bird. Consequently, we should anticipate discovery of additional breeding colonies. With careful annual counts made at each, the extent of population stability of this species will be forthcoming. An unusual characteristic of the species which has facilitated my location of nests is the male's tendency to sing from the nest while incubating (see Barlow, 1962; Bennett, 1917).

White-eyed Vireo

In contrast to the marked preference of the Bell's Vireo for southwestern portions of the state, Wisconsin records of the White-eyed Vireo come predominantly from the southeast and southcentral regions. Only three reports accounting for 4.2 percent of sightings occur west of Rock, Dane, and eastern Columbia Counties (see Table 2, Figure 2). In the case of the white-eyed species, however, the counties showing highest incidence and greatest annual frequency of reports are those where the most intensive field efforts are centered, namely Dane and Milwaukee Counties. Numerous records in Sheboygan County were associated with the concentrated mist netting and banding operations at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station in the early 1960's. The close association between our limited sightings and the intensity or paucity of ornithological work in various areas is suggestive that we know little about the true distributional range and the occurrence of this vireo in southern Wisconsin, and that the species may indeed be present in portions of southwestern Wisconsin in numbers equalling those found in Dane County and points east. Had mist netting for small passerines not been initiated at Cedar Grove, for instance, our total records of the White-eyed Vireo in Wisconsin would be reduced by 18.3 percent and there would be only two reported sightings directly north of Milwaukee County, instead of 15. Increased field surveys throughout the infrequently censused southwestern Wisconsin habitats might likewise add considerably to an as yet poorly understood distribution picture.



WHITE-EYED VIREO

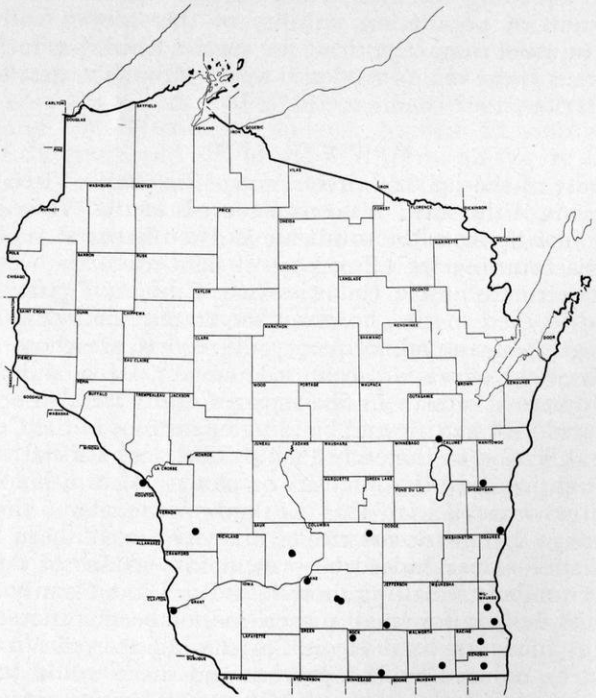


FIGURE 2. Locations of White-eyed Vireo sightings in Wisconsin. For each report which includes a precise location, the mapped point indicates this locality. For observations accompanied by imprecise locational data, the point is centered in the appropriate county.

In recent years, certain areas appear to be especially good for finding this vireo during May and early June. In 4 of 5 consecutive years I observed the species at approximately the same location in the Wisconsin Riverbottoms, along the railroad tracks as it traverses the east side of the large meadow described earlier. Tom Ashman has found the species in 9 of 11 years, generally in the Picnic Point and Council Ring areas of Madison. In both Madison and Milwaukee, records of this species have increased dramatically in the past decade, despite good ornithological work in these areas failing to find it in any numbers before 1960. Prior to 1950, only eight records were known for the entire state. The regularity of recent sightings in areas which have experienced heavy birding in the past, prompted A. W. Schorger to suggest to me that there surely has been a recent increase of this species in the state. The data presented in Table 2 support this conclusion. This table and Figure 2 should be consulted for details.

Even present information is sufficient to justify a revision of the White-eyed Vireo's status. With 52 documentations of the species' occurrence in Wisconsin from 1960 through 1971, it is clear that this bird conforms to the status description of "rare" rather than "very rare", according to Barger, Lound, and Robbins (1960). This conclusion is reinforced by Weise's (1971) summary of the species' status in southeastern Wisconsin, determined by rank ordering this with other species mist netted or found as casualties beneath television towers.

To date, we have no substantiation of breeding by this species within the state. However, Helmut Mueller reported that one of the two White-eyed Vireos captured at Cedar Grove on 27 August 1962 was immature, and he suspected breeding in the close vicinity of the banding station where suitable habitat is abundant. Although the possibility of a post-breeding dispersal into Wisconsin by this immature cannot be discounted, we have another source of evidence for nesting by the White-eyed Vireo within the state – from 25 May through at least 29 July 1967, a pair of these vireos inhabited a willow thicket at the Wisconsin Riverbottoms location. In late June of that year, I twice observed two adults simultaneously, and on four occasions I noticed an adult carrying food in its bill, presumably to nestlings or fledglings. At the time I was unaware that no documentation of White-eyed Vireo nesting existed for Wisconsin, and my observation schedule on Bobolinks prevented an exploration for the nest. Nevertheless, my sightings of adults carrying food suggested the presence of young birds in the area.

General Comments to Members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

In future years, as we learn more about some of the lesser-known species of Wisconsin birds, there will be periodic need of status revision. Reviews of this nature are dependent upon carefully recorded, documented observations and collections. In Wisconsin, **The Passenger Pigeon** provides not only the forum for presenting and discussing such reviews, but it also provides the only published source of distributional records for the state's avifauna. If our journal is to be authoritative in this regard, I urge more precision and completeness in reporting meaningful sightings of species seen infrequently within the state's boundaries.

In most instances, reports in the journal or in the WSO files were of little value in assembling accurate data on occurrence of the Bell's and White-eyed Vireos. Sometimes information was insufficient to determine with whom I should correspond for additional data. Localities were usually given to county, which makes it difficult to ascertain if separate reports for the same county in one year represent one or more birds at one or a number of locations. A journal entry for the White-eyed Vireo typifies the situation: "Seven found in three counties, as far north as Appleton on 5-17-69". On that date, these seven birds represented 11.5 percent of all previous reports of this species in the entire state; certainly such a discovery necessitated some specifics if the information was ever to serve as a useful contribution to knowledge of Wisconsin ornithology.

Usually **Passenger Pigeon** reports have failed to provide numerical information which is ultimately essential for revealing fluctuations in numbers of rare species and the regional extent of such fluctuations. Especially frustrating are non-quantitative or cryptic modifiers such as "arrival date", "a number", "several", and "common" when these represent the only published data on rarities for a particular year. The consequence of failure to specify simple but important data such as location, date, number of individual birds and observer, is that a person making a status review is forced to correspond directly with reporting individuals if names are available, and if they can be located. Even then, some respondents will be unable to recall needed details.

These comments suggest the immediate need for carefully publishing necessary data on rarities in the Season Field Notes, thereby having the Field Notes section function as a complete and accurate source of pertinent information. The nation-wide Breeding Bird Survey and particularly the Wisconsin transects of it (c.f., Robbins, 1971), will provide information complementing and enhancing but not substituting for elaborations in the Seasonal annotations, for the Breeding Bird Survey is best suited for assessing population changes of more common species. For the few species of accidentals and rarities in question, such full clarification in Field Notes should not increase publication cost excessively, and it will make the Season Field Notes useful for this and other important purposes.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF BELL'S VIREO IN WISCONSIN.

Date	Minimum Number Observed[1]	Location	Observers[2]
		BARRON COUNTY	
5-24-70	1	Hillsdale, Arland Township	12
		BROWN COUNTY	
5-20-54	1	No location cited	33
		COLUMBIA COUNTY	
5-19 to 9-1-61	2*	Pardeeville	58
		DANE COUNTY	
7-3-14	2*	Lake Wingra, Madison	44
6-9-22	2*	Lake Wingra, Madison	44
5-28-33	2*	½ mile north of Pine Bluff	44
6-10-34	2	½ mile north of Pine Bluff	44

6-2-35	1	½ mile north of Pine Bluff	44
6-21-36	1	½ mile north of Pine Bluff	44
5-17-42	1	Lake Wingra, Madison	44
5-1-44	1	Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison	65
7-4 to 8-31-48	2*	Pine Bluff	41, 45
5-23 to 9-23-49	3*	Mazomanie[3]	41
5-31-50	1	3 mi. NE of Mazomanie	44
5-17 to 8-50	2*	Mazomanie	41
5-20 to 9-5-51	2*	Mazomanie	41
5-12 to 8-52	2*	Mazomanie	3, 41, 46
5-23 to 8-1-53	2	Mazomanie	3, 11, 41, 53
5-29 to 9-6-54	2	Mazomanie	11, 41, 48, 53
6-55	1	No location cited	63
5 to 6-3-56	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms[3]	40
5-20-56	1	Council Ring, Madison	1, 53
6-4-56	2*	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	3, 48
5-24 to 8-57	3*	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	17, 18, 32, 44, 58
5-25-57	1	Madison	58
5-28 to 6-19-57	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	6, 44
6-6-57	1	Riverbottoms 3 mi. NW Mazomanie	1
5-21 to 8-58	2*	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	17, 55
6-8-58	1	Riverbottoms 3 mi. NW Mazomanie	1
5-15 to 6-11-59	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1, 3, 17, 41
5-18 to 5-22-60	"Several"	Marsh Creek, West of Mazomanie and "other localities"	1, 4, 17, 41, 48
5-18 to 9-1-60	6*	U. W. Arboretum, Madison	17, 48
5-11 to 8-61	8*	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1, 17
5-13 to 8-14-62	7	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1, 4, 17, 41, 48
5-18-62	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	4, 48
5-26 to 8-63	2	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1, 17
5-16-64	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	62
6-7-64	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1
5-23-65	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1
5-21-65	2*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28, 56
5-30-65	1	No location cited	31
5-18 to 8-19-66	8*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
5-19 to 8-26-66	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1, 61
5-13 to 7-7-67	1	Mazomanie	1, 3, 14, 59
5-14 to 8-20-67	10*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28, 43, 47
5-25-67	1	No location cited	27
5- to 7-16-67	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	43
5-20 to 8-1-68	8*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
5-30 to 7-21-68	1	Mazomanie	1, 14
5-30 to 6-20-68	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	17
5-19 to 8-30-69	8*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
5-18 to 6-24-69	4	U.W. Arboretum, Madison (Scattered observations)	1, 48, 61
7-5-69	1	Mazomanie	14
5-19 to 6-16-70	8*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
5-10 to 5-30-70	6*	U.W. Arboretum, Madison (Scattered observations)	1, 50, 61

6-1 to 7-10-71	6*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
6-1 to 7-10-71	4*	DNR land ½ mi. S. of junction, Highway 78 and County Y	28
6-71	8	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	61
		DODGE COUNTY	
7-2-71	1	Horicon Marsh	14
		GRANT COUNTY	
6-9-25	1	Potosi	44
6-10-25	"Common"	5 mi. south of Boscobel	44
6-19-26	8*	5 mi. south of Boscobel	44
6-2-28	6*	5 mi. south of Boscobel	44
6-11-32	2*	5 mi. south of Boscobel	44
5-18-41	1	Wyalusing State Park	3, 41
5-12-61	1	Wyalusing State Park	7, 58
		GREEN COUNTY	
7-12-66	1	3 mi. SW Jordan Center	3, 41
6-5-70	1	No location cited	3
		IOWA COUNTY	
9-23-49	1	Iowa-Dane border west of Mazomanie	41
6-55	"Several"	No location cited	63
		JACKSON COUNTY	
8-6-54	1	Merrillan	41a
		JEFFERSON COUNTY	
5-30 to 6-7-69	1	Faville Prairie	28
		KENOSHA COUNTY	
5-70	1	No location cited	15
		LaCROSSE COUNTY	
6-42	4*	French Island	16
7-28-53	6*	French Island	34
5-19-54	1	French Island	34
6-17-55	6	French Island	64
5 to 8-6-56	4	French Island	41
5-12-56	1	Onalaska	34
6-56	6*	La Crosse Golf Course	52
5-27-57	"Arrival"	No location cited[4]	8
5-16-58	"Arrival"	No location cited[4]	8
5-15-59	"Arrival"	No location cited[4]	8, 34
9-4-65	1	French Island	25
5-26 to 9-14-66	2*	French Island	25, 60
5-18-67	2*	French Island	25, 63
5-25-68	3	French Island	25
5-16-69	1	French Island	25
5-6 to 8-70	"Several"	French Island; Goose Island	25, 42
5-17-71	1	No location cited	25, 42
		LaFAYETTE COUNTY	
5-16-59	1	Yellowstone Lake	3
5-8 to 6-19-65	2	Yellowstone Lake	3
6-28-69	1	No location cited	3
5-9-70	1	No location cited	3

		MILWAUKEE COUNTY	
5-17-66	1	Milwaukee	6
5-16-71	1	No location cited	62
		MONROE COUNTY	
6-22-67	3	5 mi. east of Wilton	43
6-71	1	5 mi. east of Wilton	61
		RACINE COUNTY	
5-23-39	1	No location cited	36
5-19-63	1	No location cited	54
5-22-65	1	No location cited	10
		ROCK COUNTY	
7-4-64	1	Lake Koshkonong	31
5-17-66	1	Leota Woods, Evansville	65
5-18-66	1	Beloit	49
6-11-67	4*	Beloit	9
5-68	2*	Beloit	9
5-24-69	1	4 mi. SE of Brooklyn	41
5-29-69	2	No location cited	50
5-14 to 8-14-69	3*	Beloit	9
6- to 8-70	4*	Beloit	9
6-71	2*	Beloit	9
		SAUK COUNTY	
5-26-56	1	½ mi. west of Sauk City	41
6-7-59	2*	Honey Creek	3, 48
8-2-59	1	Leland	1
5-19-63	1	Honey Creek	1
		SHEBOYGAN COUNTY	
5-16-65	1	Cedar Grove (banded)	30
		ST. CROIX COUNTY	
5-13-61	1	Willow River State Park	41
7-3-63	1	Willow River State Park	41
		TREMPEALEAU COUNTY	
8-21-30	1	Trempealeau Refuge	2
6-1-60	1	Perrot Park	41
6-4-62	6*	Trempealeau Refuge	41
5-30-63	5*	Trempealeau Refuge	41
5-24-64	5*	Trempealeau Refuge	21, 41
8-4-65	5*	Trempealeau Refuge	41
5-26-66	3*	Trempealeau Refuge	41
5-19-67	5*	Trempealeau Refuge	41
6-13-68	3*	Trempealeau Refuge	14, 51
7-20-69	2*	Trempealeau Refuge	51
6-17-705	13*	Trempealeau Refuge	21, 41
6-18-71	4*	Trempealeau Refuge	41
6-18-71	3	Chimney Rock	41
		VERNON COUNTY	
6 to 7-51	1	No location cited	65
8-15-54	1	Viroqua	29
6-26-66	1	3 mi. south of Coon Valley	42
6-28-67	1	2 mi. west of Viroqua	25, 42

		WASHINGTON COUNTY	
5-19-60	1	Monches Woods	6
		WAUPACA COUNTY	
5-16-48	1	Waupaca	34a
		WINNEBAGO COUNTY	
5-9-70	1	Oshkosh	19

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF WHITE-EYED VIREO IN WISCONSIN[1]

Date	Minimum Number Observed[1]	Location	Observers[2]
		COLUMBIA COUNTY	
5-14-58	1	Pardeeville	58
5-16-60	1	Pardeeville	58
		DANE COUNTY	
10-21-23	1	Madison	44
8-21-43	1	Lake Wingra, Madison	41
5-5-50	1	Madison	58
5-4-52	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	20, 38, 46
5-10-52	1	Madison	20, 38
5-2-59	1	Council Ring, Madison	1
5-9-60	1	Council Ring, Madison	1
5-12-60	1	No location cited	26
6-7-61	1	Council Ring, Madison	1
4-30 to 5-20-62	6	U.W. Arboretum and Picnic Point, Madison	1, 4, 17, 48
5-7-63	1	Picnic Point, Madison	17, 66
5-28-63	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1
5-5-64	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	1
5-1 to 5-21-65	3	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	3, 17, 28, 56
5-28-66	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
5-25 to 7-29-67	2*	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	1, 28, 47
5-5-68	1	Picnic Point, Madison	59
5-9-68	1	Council Ring, Madison	1
5-11-69	1	Picnic Point, Madison	1
5-12 to 5-20-69	1	U.W. Arboretum, Madison	61
5-16-69	1	Wisconsin Riverbottoms	28
		GRANT COUNTY	
5-9-53	1	Wyalusing State Park	58
		JEFFERSON COUNTY	
Early Records	"A number"	Lake Koshkonong	22
		KENOSHA COUNTY	
5-15-62	1	No location cited	13
		MANITOWOC COUNTY	
5-15-63	1	Kiel	39
		MILWAUKEE COUNTY	
8-31-46	1	Whitnall Park	32
6-1-47	1	No location cited	32
6-3-56	1	Fox Point	6
5-18-61	1	No location cited	23
5-20-61	1	Whitnall Park	35

5-13-62	1	No location cited	65
6-14-67	1	Fox Point	6
5-5-69	1	Kletsch Park	6
4-29-70	1	Whitnall Park	14
5-19-71	1	No location cited	49a
6-4-71	1	No location cited	14
		OUTAGAMIE COUNTY	
5-17-69	1	Appleton	50
		RACINE COUNTY	
5-12-39	2	Racine	37
5-18-64	1	No location cited	54
4-25-71	1	Racine	36
		ROCK COUNTY	
4-23-60	1	Leota Park, Evansville	57
4-23-65	1	Beloit (banded)	5, 49
5-9-69	1	Beloit (banded)	49
		SAUK COUNTY	
6-29-71	1	No location cited	17
		SHEBOYGAN COUNTY	
5-18-52	1	Cedar Grove	39
5-19-62	3	Cedar Grove (banded)	30
8-27-62	2	Cedar Grove (banded)	30
10-5-62	1	Cedar Grove (banded)	30
5-4-63	1	Cedar Grove	30
5-23-63	1	Cedar Grove	30
5-10 to 5-18-64	4	Cedar Grove (banded)	30
		VERNON COUNTY	
6-3-51	1	Viroqua	29
		WALWORTH COUNTY	
5-70	1	Lake Geneva	24

1 Review appended remarks to Table 1 for specific interpretation of the tabulated summary presented here.

1 Most reports fail to specify numbers, and the tabulated values are hence the minimum number observed at that location.

2 Numbers refer to the reporters as follows: 1 Thomas Ashman; 2 Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey (as per Donald Gray); 3 Norval Barger; 4 Keith Brown; 5 Mr. and Mrs. David Cox; 6 Ms. Mary Donald; 7 Raymond Dryer; 8 L. J. Egelberg; 9 Thomas Ellis; 10 Louise Erickson; 11 G. W. Foster; 12 Ms. Alta Goff; 13 Richard Gordon; 14 Dennis Gustafson; 15 James Hamers; 16 Joseph Hickey; 17 William Hilsenhoff; 18 S. Paul Jones; 19 Jack Kaspar; 20 Alan Keitt; 21 Kenneth Krumm; 22 L. Kumlien and N. Hollister (1903); 23 Ms. Dixie Larkin; 24 Ledger; 25 Frederick Lesher; 26 Roy Lound; 27 Ralph Mancke; 28 Stephen Martin; 29 Ms. Margarette Morse; 30 Helmut Mueller; 31 J. Ohm; 32 Howard and Gordon Orians; 33 Edward Paulson; 34 Alvin Peterson; 34a Ms. Florence Peterson; 35 Karl Priebe; 36 Edward Prins; 37 George Prins; 38 Ragatz; 39 Myron Reichwaldt; 40 Eugene Roark; 41 Samuel Robbins; 41a Chandler Robbins; 42 Jerome Rosso; 43 Ms. Elizabeth Sandburg; 44 A. W. Schorger; 45 Walter Scott; 46 P. D. Skaar; 47 Charles Sontag; 48 Thomas Soulen; 49 Mr. and Mrs. David Stocking; 49a Elmer Strehlow; 50 Daryl Tessen; 51 Peter Tweet; 52 Brother Theodore Voelker; 53 Mary Walker; 54 William Weber; 55 Richard Wills; 56 John Wiens; 57 John Wilde; 58 Howard Winkler; 59 Chauncey Wood; 60 Howard Young; 61 Mr. and Mrs. James Zimmerman; 62 "May Count"; 63 "Numerous observers"; 64 "WSO Campout"; 65 "Unknown"; 66 "and others'.

3 See text for specific descriptions of these locations.

4 Presumably these represent arrival dates for the first individual returning to the colony on French Island.

5 This represents the first date a careful census was conducted at the Trempealeau Refuge. Thirteen different males were accounted for and estimation of total population number was 20 pairs.

* Known instance of nesting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My indebtedness extends to all who assisted by giving whatever information was still available on these vireos. I am especially grateful to the following individuals for their help: Mrs. Arthur Gauerke, Mrs. David Cox, Mrs. David Stocking, Mrs. James Zimmerman, the late A. W. Schorger, and Messrs. Tom Ashman, Donald Gray, Frederick Lesher, and Sam Robbins. Dr. Paul Baldwin offered helpful comments on the manuscript. I was supported by a Frank A. Chapman Memorial Award from the American Museum of Natural History when some of this material was collected.

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Notes on the Black Rail

In a recent issue of "The Birder" mention was made of my sighting of a Black Rail up in Iron County and my failure to trap it.

Actually, my interest in Black Rails started in early October of 1971 after my neighbor who owns a farm across the road from me near Saxon came over to my house to tell me about some funny acting black-birds he saw in his grain field as he was harvesting. He described them as young birds that couldn't fly very well; they were dark, didn't seem to have any tail feathers and as they flew, their legs were dangling.

My first thought was SORA—but then, these were dark, almost black, he had seen no other color except on the legs which he said were yellow. It seemed a bit far-fetched to identify them as Black Rails for this location was a long ways north of their accepted range. However, I showed him a Black Rail in my bird book and he seemed to think that these birds fit the picture. [Ed. note—There are at least 9 records of the Black Rail in Wisconsin, even though the 1959 AOU check list shows its range as no more north than Iowa and Illinois.]

I accompanied him to the area in his field where he had been raising them with each passing of the combine—then I watched as he continued harvesting, and sure enough three birds flushed at each passing of the machine. Because of the uncertainty as to just where they would raise, in which direction they would "flutter" or for what distance I could not use my glasses, but I did see them several times; they were perfectly black, had a stubby beak, little or no tail and their legs were yellow. When they were fluttering south I could see no white markings on their north end, their landing gear wouldn't retract, their take-off was almost vertical to a height of about one foot above the grain and almost immediately began to lose altitude as soon as they began horizontal flight to get away. After about 70 feet it seemed they were back in the tops of the grain where it appeared that they just closed their eyes and made a crash-landing. As the plot of standing grain became too small to be any longer tenable these birds took off toward the marsh adjoining the field and from which they had apparently been cut off at the first passing of the harvester. This time they cleared the tops of the grain and really outdid themselves by going 80 feet or more over the cut area before their clumsy landing, after which they immediately disappeared under the straw which had fallen behind the harvester. That was the last I saw of them.

Unless they were Corrigans, or their compass was off by 180 degrees I don't think they were migrants, and I can't conceive of them as being transients for they don't seem to care too much for being air-borne, and if they have extended their range to within 6 miles of Lake Superior and are nesting in that area I can't figure how they get there in the spring and back to the Gulf area in the fall unless they hitch-hike; allowing 15 miles per day as seasons advance they couldn't loiter along the way if they walked, and since they fly or "flutter" so slowly and in such short hops they haven't been accused of knocking over any radio towers in their urge to get from here to there or from there to here.

These birds perhaps have a much greater range than has so far been accepted by recorders because they are so secretive, elusive, harmless and unobtrusive that few people know they are around, seldom is one seen and identified by experts, and how many people would want to sit out is a marsh all night to hear a feeble "kickee-doo" and not be able to see the vocalist? Perhaps these birds are bothered with an inferiority complex and are introverts.

There isn't much written about them, and from my experience I would say that anyone that undertook to really study them would have to have the patience of Job. One would need the perseverance of a wolverine to locate a bird or its nest and would have to be devoid of all feelings to withstand the never-ending attacks of gnats, black flies, mosquitoes and woodticks that abound in the low-lands where the rails could be found, besides being impervious to cold feet and a wet back-side.

The summer of 1972 I was armed with a State permit (#364) and a Federal permit (#3-SP-348) to trap for identification, but the Black Rails were not impressed nor were they very co-operative.

However I can say that I did see one for just a moment, and I believe that one or more had entered my trap, but it was not escape-proof for they could get out after a few circuits of the mesh-lined enclosure, there were a number of bird droppings inside of the trap which I couldn't say were from Black Rails (I'm not an expert in that field either). The entire summer of '72 was an unusually wet one, the marsh where these rails should be was flooded and my trapping venture wound up with a big goose-egg (0).

For those who would be interested in knowing the geographical description of the area in which I saw Black Rails, it is as follows:

> Plat map of Town of Gurney in the Iron County Plat Book. (In a field) in the extreme SW corner of the SW¼ of SW¼ of Sec. 2 in T 46 N - R 1 W, adjoining a marsh in the extreme NW corner of the NW¼ of NW¼ of Sec. II T 46 N - R 1 W. Marsh and field being separated by section line only.

The above descriptions cover lands belonging to Allen Carlson of Saxon, Wis., who called my attention to the "funny" birds.

Confirmation on these Black Rails has been zero so far, just as hoped-for and attempted confirmation on Dippers was a couple of years ago at Gurney Falls on Potato River when Sam Robbins paid be a visit and the Dippers failed to appreciate the visitors. These birds were only supposed to be in the western mountain streams but have since been found in streams in Minnesota such as the Temperance River with reported sightings in others flowing into Lake Superior, so-o-o maybe a Rail in the Iron County area may also be confirmed.

Gerald E. Lindsay
3624 N. 54th Blvd.
Milwaukee 53216

Damage to Scotch Pine Plantations By Pine Grosbeaks Reported

A copy of the following intra-department memorandum was received from Norval Barger.

Department of Natural Resources
Intra-Department Memorandum
Wautoma Station
February 23, 1972

TO: W. C. Truax
FROM: R. C. Hopkins
SUBJECT: Damage to Scotch Pine Plantations by Pine Grosbeaks

On Monday 2-21-72, Warden Wm. Baier and I field checked several G. R. Kirk Co. Christmas tree plantations in Waupaca County with Mr. Richard Jeffery, field superintendent for G. R. Kirk Co. We found that Pine Grosbeaks were doing extensive damage to the company Scotch pine plantations as described in the accompanying write-up by Mr. Jeffery. During our two-hour field trip, we observed between 35 and 40 Pine Grosbeaks feeding in such plantations as Mr. Jeffery described it. The damage was generalized and widespread in the Scotch pine plantations we checked.

I have asked Dick to prepare this write-up for Ruth Hine for the Conservation Bulletin, for our forestry and research people, and am suggesting that Mr. Norval Barger may wish to submit this for publication in the Wisconsin **Passenger Pigeon.** I am confident this will prove of considerable interest. Dick says he knows similar damage has been reported in Michigan and by some other commercial growers in the north within the past three years. To his knowledge, they do not feed on red pine or white pine buds in plantations in immediately contingent areas. He also pointed out heavy use of persistent, unharvested apples on apple trees in the vicinity. The writer has also observed Pine Grosbeaks feeding on high bush cranberries on three occasions this winter (Jan.-Feb. 1972 at Wautoma, Wis.); the Grosbeaks apparently extract the seed and spit out the pulp which is left lying on the snow below.

Ralph C. Hopkins

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PINE GROSBEAKS (PINICOLO ENUCLEATOR) *POSE THREAT TO CHRISTMAS TREES IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN*

While winter pruning a Christmas tree plantation on Feb. 3, 1972 in Waushara County, Wisconsin, three Pine Grosbeaks were noted eating buds off the trees. The trees were Scotch Pines sheared one time. Because of the speed and extensive damage these three birds were doing, an extensive survey was made of other Christmas tree plantations.

From Feb. 14 through Feb. 17, seven plantations were walked. Five were in Waushara County, one in Waupaca County, and one in Portage County. One hundred and ten birds were counted with a range from three to fifty birds per plantation.

Most damage is done to the main leader but buds on lateral branches are also eaten. Small buds on sheared branches are eaten while large natural buds are passed up.

While watching these birds eating the buds, I started timing them to see how long it took them to eat a bud and pick the next one. From this information I made the following table.

Projected Pine Grosbeak Damage Potential

	9	seconds to eat 1 bud
x	20	buds per leader
	180	seconds or 3 minutes per tree or
	20	trees per hour per bird
x	50	birds (No. seen on one plantation)
	1,000	trees per hour
x	4	hrs per day (feeding time of birds ?)
	4,000	trees per day
x	90	days feeding period ?
	360,000	trees damaged in one winter by 50 Pine Grosbeaks

Damage may vary from a drop from No. 1 grade to No. 2 grade, a No. 2 grade to a cull, loss of 1 year's growth. In a plantation of harvestable size it can be very critical.

G. R. KIRK CO.
Richard Jeffery
Field Superintendent
Wautoma, Wisconsin

Editor's Note—It is apparent that the foresters who made their observations have a limited experience with Wisconsin ornithology. It may be true that there is some localized damage to pine plantations. But what the observers are apparently unaware of is that the winter of 1971-1972 was a phenomenal season. There has never been recorded in Wisconsin ornithological history such an explosive invasion of all winter finches—including Pine Grosbeaks. They were reported in just about every county in the state. Most winters they are absent or occur in very limited numbers. Furthermore they wander very irregularly when they do occur—not remaining more than a week or two in any one vicinity. Thus I for one doubt any serious commercial damage to anyone. We may or may not see such a phenomenal winter influx again in our lifetime.

Revisions and Additions to Extreme Arrival and Departure Dates

Passenger Pigeon, Vol. 32, No. 3

1. Page 89, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** under exceptional dates, insert Dec. 29, 1971 Fred Baumgartner.
2. **Mute Swan**—p. 89—under Winter Status column insert Jan. 1 - Jan. 14, 1972, David Bratley; January 19, 1972, Dennis Gustafson.
3. **Turkey Vulture**—p. 95—under Winter Status change 3 to 4 Jan. dates; under exceptional dates add 1/2/72 (Ed Peartree).
4. **Swainsons Thrush**—under exceptional dates put on p. 121 under Winter Status Jan. 1, 1972, Norval Barger.
5. **Baltimore Oriole**—p. 129—change 3 Dec. dates under Winter Status to 6 Dec. dates.

* * *

The Relative Productivity of Foot and Car Travel on Christmas Bird Counts

By JOHN BIELEFELDT

Data from Christmas bird counts are sometimes used to inspect annual or regional differences in a species' population size despite the many biases inherent in count methods. Such analyses usually overlook, among other factors, the potential effects of differential – year to year or area to area – foot and car coverage.

As the author has previously suggested (Bielefeldt, 1970), the productivities of foot and car travel probably differ. That is, the average number of birds of a given species counted in one mile (or one hour) afoot is unlikely to equal the average number counted in one mile (or one hour) by car. Year to year or area to area changes in the relative amounts of foot and car travel introduce one type of variation in a count's total of a species. Thus indexes of birds per party-hour (or per party-mile), when based on the sum of foot and car party-hours (or miles), ignore a source of variation and yield comparisons between years or areas less accurate than such comparisons might be (see Young, 19 , and Moe, 19 , for examples of this type of index).

Possibly average productivities can be discovered, on a species by species basis, which would indicate a general ratio between numbers per hour afoot and per hour by car, and between numbers per mile afoot and per mile by car.

In 1971 the author asked participants in 30 Wisconsin Christmas counts fielding approximately 150 count parties to record and report separately, for every party, the numbers of each species seen afoot and numbers of each seen by car, as well as party hours and miles by each travel method.

No precise definition of car travel is in fact possible, but for survey purposes count participants were asked to consider that:

> foot counts were any party-hours and party-miles when a party walked 0.10 mile or more, that is, when it moved 0.05 mile or more **away from** the car;
> car counts were all party-hours and party-miles in a moving or stopped car, even if the party got out of the car, so long as it did not walk 0.10 mile or more.

The selection of 0.05 mile as a minimum walking distance away from the car was made on the premise that participants are unlikely to keep track of and report any walking which totals less than 0.10 mile.

In actual count practice, in the author's experience, rather long walks of one-half mile or more at certain areas favored by participants are the rule in foot travel. Yet birdcounters in cars do often stop briefly alongside a likely-looking area, often see or hear other species while stopping the car to observe some bird, and often even get out of the car and walk a short way to obtain a better view. It is hoped that survey definitions of foot and car travel correspond to such counting behavior of participants rather than to positions in or out of a moving automobile.

Usable reports were received from 33 parties of the 1971 Wisconsin Christmas counts (from two areas, composite reports for more than one party were submitted and used). Nineteen of these parties traveled both afoot and by car, 10 traveled only by car, and four traveled only afoot.

Ideally, both foot and car coverage by each party would be comprehensive enough to record some individuals of common species by each travel method. Actually, however, either foot or car segments of the count were brief or nonexistent for many parties, and often a party failed to see some common species by one or the other method of travel.

In these circumstances, the only feasible method of deriving foot/car ratios was the following, with computations made separately for each species:

1) Parties not recording a species at all by either method, or by the one method they used, were omitted from a species' analysis since ratios, rather than "real" figures on number per party-hour or party-mile, are of interest here.

2) For each of the remaining parties, indexes of number per party-hour afoot, number per party-mile afoot, number per party-hour by car, and number per party-mile by car were calculated using the separate tallies of individuals of a species observed afoot and observed by car.

3) In each of these four categories, the median index was found. (Indexes did not seem normally distributed, so the median or "middle" index served as the best measure of central tendency.)

4) The foot/car ratio between medians of the per-party-hour-afoot and per-party-hour-by-car categories were computed, as was the comparable ratio for party miles.

In this way is was possible to incorporate the data of all parties observing a given species. While this ratio of medians approach may well admit in the medians of car figures biases (e.g., observer ability) not present in the medians of foot figures, and vice versa, no alternative was feasible in working with the few data of a one-year survey.

Table 1 shows the ratios of medians for ten commonly recorded species, as calculated from the cooperating 1971 Wisconsin Christmas counts.

TABLE 1. PRELIMINARY RATIOS OF FOOT AND CAR PER HOUR AND PER MILE PRODUCTIVITIES, 1971 WISCONSIN CHRISTMAS COUNT

Species	*Ratio of Medians*[a]	
	Ft Hr/Car Hr	*Ft Mi/Car Mi*
Red-tailed Hawk	0.7	9.6
Downy Woodpecker	2.3	25.2
Blue Jay	1.9	18.2
Common Crow	0.4	5.7
Black-capped Chickadee	2.2	36.8
White-breasted Nuthatch	3.6	43.5
Starling	0.2	3.0
House Sparrow	0.1	1.4
Cardinal	3.7	41.1
Slate-colored Junco	1.2	12.0

[a]N for the computation of medians equalled 19 to 23 for foot counts and 20 to 29 for car counts except for the Red-tailed Hawk, where N was 12 for foot counts and 16 for car counts.

Some factors affecting individual parties' counts and hence the level of medians require comment. One of the foremost is habitat coverage, for which data were not collected in this survey in order to minimize the effort needed from cooperators. The above preliminary ratios are presented under the assumption that most parties restrict foot coverage, primarily at least, to woods, brushy streambanks, and similar areas likely to yield high returns of species and individuals; they usually avoid walking, it is assumed, in rather unproductive open field and residential areas. Certainly these assumptions are not totally justified, and some parties will walk extensively in habitats "typically" covered by car. It is postulated, however, that per hour or per mile indexes from such atypical parties will tend to fall at the extremes of distributions of these indexes, and that medians will be relatively little-affected. A large-scale expansion of this type of study should nevertheless gather and analyze habitat coverage data.

Observer biases, a collective second factor, are probably considerable but as usual remain conjectural. Observers' abilities in identifying species — at a distance or by call note for instance — differ substantially, but the differences are unalterable difficulties of Christmas count analysis. An indicator of the potential effects of observer behavior is found in travel rates, which varied from 0.25 to 3.00 party-miles per party-hour afoot, and from 4.2 to 39.2 party-miles per party-hour by car. Nevertheless, more than half the travel rates under each travel method fell within fairly narrow limits, so again medians may not be grossly affected.

Several other characteristics of count procedure admit potentially important biases, but these too are inherent or unquantifiable problems in using reports from a few Christmas count parties.

Even with questions of reliability in a small uncontrolled survey using Christmas count data, a significant conclusion appears:

In most species analzed, foot coverage records more birds per party hour, and many more birds per party-mile, than car coverage does. The exceptions to this generalized result, among some species, are equally significant in documenting that productiveness of foot and travel vary widely by species.

Foot/car ratios approximately two or three to one for party-hours and 20 or 40 to one for party-miles, if accurate, have important implications for indexes using Christmas count records. Since these ratios measure "average" or middle tendencies, they have little validity in analyzing one or a very few counts of a species. Rather their usefulness comes in long-term studies of one area's count of a species, in regional comparisons of groups of counts of a species, or in some combination of the period-of-years and group-of-counts approaches.

For each species, an index of number per car-equivalent hour (or mile) can compensate for foot-car productivity differences by using ratios like these. If, as Table 1 suggests, a party-hour afoot yields – on the average – 2.18 times as many Black-capped Chickadees as a party-hour by car, then some actual number of foot party-hours multiplied by 2.18 yields car-equivalent party-hours. These can be directly added to real car hours, and an index of number of chickadees per total car plus car-equivalent hours is realized. A foot-equivalent index is also possible, of course.

Ratios, as expected, differ by species. In this limited survey, the most reliable results probably occurred for common, easily-identified, and conspicuous (in call and behavior) species not given to flocking – the Black-capped Chickadee and the Blue Jay. Analyses of less common or less noticed species require more data than were available here, and flocking species – including those with roost flights like the Common Crow – present special problems in the high variability of parties per hour and per mile figures.

It should be re-emphasized that the present study remains preliminary because of the few responses utilized. Many more party reports from one or more years could give better estimates of these ratios for the commoner Wisconsin winter species.

The Grand River Wildlife Area

On 28 July 1969 the gates of a mile-long dam across the Grand River were closed, and by October close to 2000 acres were flooded (WISCONSIN CONSERVATION BULLETIN, January-February 1970, pages 20-21). The impoundment and adjoining lands comprise the Grand River Wildlife Area. This is public property (Department of Natural Resources) located in Green Lake and Marquette counties.

In this journal in 1967 (29:3-15), Daniel W. Anderson and Frances Hamerstrom reported on Double-crested Cormorants in Wisconsin. A general decline was evident and the species in 1966 was known to have

nested in only three localities: Crex Meadows in Burnett County; Lac du Bay along the Wisconsin River between Wausau and Stevens Point; and by the head of the Lemonweir River in Jackson County. The authors concluded that for Wisconsin the total number of nesting pairs was no more than 30 (their "rough estimate").

It is a pleasure to be able to report that approximately 35 active cormorant nests could be seen this past summer (1972) in the Grand River Wildlife Area. The nests are in Green Lake County (T. 14 N.; R. 11 E.). On 22 June, Tom Ellenbecker and myself, in a canoe, counted 33 nests of cormorants and 17 of Great Blue Herons in a rookery located in Section 6, and two nests of cormorants and 18 of great blues in a rookery located in Section 5. The "west colony" (in Section 6) and the "east colony" (in Section 5) are about a mile apart.

While we were drifting through the west colony it was quite a thrill to be able to count between 60 and 70 cormorants in the air at the same time – the exact number couldn't be determined.

All the nests (cormorants and herons) are located in dead standing trees; the trees were killed by the rising water. I don't know when the cormorants and herons first nested here, but it could have been as early as 1970.

Black-crowned Night Herons and Cattle Egrets are also reported to nest here, and shorebirds can be seen in season.

Recently (2 October 1972) I canoed through the rookeries in sections 5 and 6, and experienced a day rich in sights and sounds.

The air was aswarm with tree swallows—their chittering and bubbling calls were accompaniment for much of the day. Puddle ducks, Canada Geese, and Ring-billed Gulls added their voices, and Myrtle Warblers flitted from one dead tree and shrub to another, chipping in flight or while foraging. Redwings chucked overhead. Great Blue Herons waded the shallows, and a few (at least two) cormorants were noted.

Such an area also attracts birds of prey. Four Bald Eagles, two adults and two immatures, flew from one dead tree to another. Most exciting to me was the sighting of two peregrines, an adult and an immature. The adult soon flew away, but I was able to watch the immature for about 20 minutes as it preened and rested in the top of a dead elm.

At dusk, when I returned to the damsite, cranes were bugling and waterfowl were flying into the sunset.

Much of the activity in the Grand River Wildlife Area can be seen only from a boat (motorboats are not allowed) as the impoundment is large.

If you're thinking of a trip in the fall, you might want to check the dates for the waterfowl hunting season so as to avoid possible conflicts.

It's an exciting place and certainly one to watch!

– Kenneth I. Lange
Naturalist, Devil's Lake State Park
Rt. 4 Box 36
Baraboo, Wis. 53913

FIELD NOTES

By WILLIAM L. HILSENHOFF

The Winter Season **December 1971 - February 1972**

January and February 1972 produced one of the best migrations of winter finches ever witnessed in Wisconsin. Pine Grosbeaks, which are encountered in limited numbers in the northern half of the state, were seen throughout the state by almost everyone as they invaded in unprecedented numbers. Common Redpolls were abundant, there were numerous well-documented reports of Hoary Redpolls, and most observers commented on abnormally high numbers of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. Both species of crossbills were also in evidence throughout the state, and Evening Grosbeaks were numerous in the northern two-thirds of the state. The spectacular Christmas Count (**Passenger Pigeon** 34:3-17) gave hints of the finch invasion, but its peak occurred after the Christmas Count period.

The mild weather of November and December that produced a record Christmas Count gave way to cold and snow in January, and 25 species that were found on Christmas Counts were not seen thereafter. Others disappeared by late January (Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow) or remained in greatly reduced numbers. After being recorded on 25 Christmas Counts, Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported wintering in only 2 areas, and Swamp Sparrows, seen on 12 Christmas Counts, were not seen after January 21. Records show that both of these species tend to disappear after the Christmas Count period.

Snowy Owls were much in evidence, with many sightings this winter, and Northern Shrikes were frequently seen in the northern two-thirds of the state. I can think of no species normally found in January and February that was not present in above normal or near normal numbers.

Two House Finches were sighted at Green Bay to head the list of rarities, but they were not photographed to allow them to be added to the state list (See "By the Wayside"). The Brown-headed Nuthatch and Curve-billed Thrasher, new to the state list earlier in the winter, remained through the report period. Additional rarities included a Red-throated Loon, Mute Swans, a Barrow's Goldeneye, a Turkey Vulture (third January record), Glaucous Gulls, an Iceland Gull, a Great Black-backed Gull, a Ringed Turtle Dove, a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, a Harris' Sparrow, a Fox Sparrow, and a Pigeon Hawk taking birds from a feeder in northern Wisconsin.

Mild weather during the last week in February triggered an early migration of some species. Cedar Waxwings, although wintering in much of the state, definitely became more numerous in the last week of February. Marsh Hawks, Robbins, blackbirds, Canada Geese and Killdeers were all noted migrating on February 28 and 29, and the Hermit Thrush seen in Madison on February 29 may well have been an extremely early migrant.

Reports of winter season observations were received from 88 observers in 43 counties. In the season summary that follows I have tried to be as concise as possible, reporting the number of Christmas Counts (C.C.) on which each species was seen and its status in Wisconsin during January and February.

* * *

The Season Summary

Common Loon — 1 C.C. (Madison)

Red-throated Loon — 0 C.C.: Seen Bayfield Co. Jan. 1 (Albert Roy).

Pied-billed Grebe — 6 C.C.: Wintered Winnebago Co. (Daryl Tessen). Seen Juneau Co. Feb. 12 (Dennis Gustafson).

Great Blue Heron — 4 C.C.

Black-crowned Night Heron — C.C. pd. (Horicon)

***Yellow-crowned Night Heron** — 1 C.C. (Stevens Point)

American Bittern — C.C. pd. (Horicon): Seen Winnebago Co. Jan. 3 (Delbert Greenman), dead Jan. 5.

***Mute Swan** — 1 C.C. (Bayfield): Seen (2) Bayfield Co. Jan. 1-14 (David Bratley & Roy); (1) Milwaukee Co. Jan. 19 (Gustafson).

Whistling Swan — 1 C.C. (Appleton): Wintered (1) Outagamie Co. (Tessen).

Canada Goose — 15 C.C.: Wintered Winnebago Co. (Tessen), LaCrosse Co. (Jerome Rosso). Migrating Dane Co., Rock Co. Feb. 89.

Snow Goose — 1 C.C. (Randolph)

Blue Goose — 3 C.C.: Wintered Milwaukee Co. (Gustafson, Mary Donald).

Mallard — 38 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Black Duck — 27 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Gadwall — 4 C..C.: Wintered (3) Outagamie Co. (Tessen), (17) Dane Co. (Bill Hilsenhoff), (3) Milwaukee Co. (Gustafson, Donald). Seen Waukesha Co. Feb. 11-28 (Richard Sharp).

Pintail — 5 C.C.: Wintered (2) Outagamie Co. (Tessen), (4) Winnebago Co. (Tessen), 2-3) Milwaukee Co. (Donald, Gustafson).

Green-winged Teal — 3 C.C.: Wintered (2) Milwaukee Co. (Donald).

Blue-winged Teal — 1 C.C. (Appleton)

American Widgeon — 3 C.C.' Wintered LaCrosse Co. (Rosso), Milwaukee Co. (Gustafson, Donald). Seen Outagamie Co. through Jan. (Tessen).

Shoveler — 1 C.C. (Madison): Wintered (3) Dane Co. (Hilsenhoff).

Wood Duck — 7 C.C.: Wintered Winnebago Co. (Tessen), Milwaukee Co. (Gustafson, Donald), Rock Co. (Melva Maxson). Seen Ozaukee Co. Feb. 14 (Tom & Carol Bintz), Waukesha Co. Feb. 11-29 (Sharp).

Redhead — 8 C.C.: Wintered Winnebago Co. (Tessen), Ozaukee Co. (Bintz), Milwaukee Co. (Donald). Seen Wood Co. Feb. 6 (Don Follen).

Ring-necked Duck — 3 C.C.: Wintered Winnebago Co. (Tessen), Milwaukee Co. (Donald, Gustafson). Seen Ozaukee Co. Jan. 16 (Bintz).

Canvasback — 7 C.C.: Wintered Ozaukee Co. (Bintz), Milwaukee Co. (Donald).

Greater Scaup — 7 C.C.: Wintered Manitowoc Co., Ozaukee Co., Milwaukee Co.

Lesser Scaup — 10 C.C.: Wintered (2) Outagamie Co., (3) Winnebago Co., Ozaukee Co.

Common Goldeneye — 36 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Barrow's Goldeneye — 0 C.C.: Seen Milwaukee Co. Jan. 15 - Feb. 29 (Donald et al).

BARROWS GOLDENEYE

Bufflehead — 9 C.C.: Wintered Outagamie Co., Winnebago Co., Ozaukee Co., Milwaukee Co. Seen LaCrosse Co. Jan. 16 (Fred Lesher).

Oldsquaw — 7 C.C.: Wintered Manitowoc Co., Ozaukee Co., Milwaukee Co., Kenosha Co.

Harlequin Duck — 1 C.C. (Racine)

White-winged Scoter — 1 C.C. (Saukville): Seen Ozaukee Co. Jan. 12 (Bintz), Feb. 20 (Gustafson), (7) Milwaukee Co. Feb. 20 (Tessen).

Ruddy Duck — 5 C.C.: Wintered Ozaukee Co. (Bintz, Gustafson), Milwaukee Co. (Donald).

Hooded Merganser — 9 C.C.: Wintered Vilas Co. (Linda Thomas), Milwaukee Co. (Donald). Seen Juneau Co. Feb. 19 (Gustafson).

Common Merganser — 21 C.C.: Wintered 8 counties north to Wood.

Red-breasted Merganser — 8 C.C.: Wintered Ozaukee Co., Milwaukee Co. Seen Wood Co. Feb. 6 (Follen).

***Turkey Vulture** — 0 C.C.: Seen Waukesha Co. Jan. 2 (Ed Peartree, Ed Larson, Sharp).

Goshawk — 5 C.C.: Seen Monroe Co. Jan. 12 (Eleanor Hebard), Chippewa Co. Feb. 12 (Sam Robbins), Brown Co. Feb. 12-19 (Ed Cleary, Bro. Columban).

Sharp-shinned Hawk — 8 C.C.: Seen 6 counties north to Trempealeau.

Cooper's Hawk — 10 C.C.: Wintered 8 counties north to Buffalo (Merton Maier). Seen Oneida Co. Jan. 15 - Feb. 13 (L. J. Schimmels).

Red-tailed Hawk — 42 C.C.: Somewhat below normal numbers.

Red-shouldered Hawk — 3 C.C.: Wintered Grant Co. (William Smith), Milwaukee Co. (Donald). Seen St. Croix Co. Feb. 20 (Peter Tweet), Outagamie Co. Jan. 8 (Tessen), LaCrosse Co. Feb. 2 (Rosso).

Rough-legged Hawk — 41 C.C.: Below normal numbers in south. Seen Douglas Co. Jan. 10 (T. Staupe), Barron Co. Jan. 10 (Alta Goff).

Golden Eagle — 2 C.C. (Durand, Green Bay): Seen Bennet Co. Jan. 29 (N. R. Stone), Wood Co. Feb. 12 (Follen), Adams Co. Feb. 26 (Tessen), Juneau Co. Feb. 6 (Donald), Grant Co. Jan. 9, Feb. 20 (Smith).

Bald Eagle — 16 C.C.: Wintered 12 counties statewide.

Marsh Hawk — 18 C.C.: Wintered Rock, Dane, Kenosha Counties. Seen Oconto Co. Feb. 3 (H. L. Lindberg), Grant Co. Feb. 19-29 (Smith).

Pigeon Hawk — 1 C.C. (Sauk City): Seen Langlade Co. Feb. 24-29 (Bernard Pickering).

Sparrow Hawk — 31 C.C.: Wintered 15 counties north to Wood, Oconto, and St. Croix.

Ruffed Grouse — 31 C.C.: Observed in most counties.

Prairie Chicken — 1 C.C. (Dancy): Wintered Portage Co.

Sharp-tailed Grouse — 1 C.C. (Antigo): Wintered Burnett, Langlade, Taylor Counties.

Bobwhite — 2 C.C. (Shiocton, Richland Center): Wintered Outagamie Co. (Tessen), Rock Co. (Mrs. J. Mahlum).

Ring-necked Pheasant — 34 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Gray Partridge — 7 C.C.: Wintered Portage, Outagamie, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Dane, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties.

Turkey — 0 C.C.: Seen Adams Co. Feb. 19 (Greenman), Juneau Co. Feb. 18 (Donald).

Virginia Rail — 1 C.C. (Waukesha)

American Coot — 17 C.C.: Wintered (1100) Dane Co. (Hilsenhoff), (6) Winnebago Co., Outagamie Co., Ozaukee Co., Waukesha Co., Milwaukee Co.

Killdeer — 2 C.C. (Richland Center, Cornelia): Seen (2) LaCrosse Co. Jan. 23 (Rosso), Vernon Co. Feb. 26 (Lesher), Grant Co. Feb. 28 (Smith), Dane Co. Feb. 28 (N. R. Barger), Feb. 29 (Philip Ashman).

American Woodcock — 1 C.C. (Madison).

Common Snipe — 10 C.C.: Wintered LaCrosse, Vernon, Grant, Dane, and Waukesha Counties.

Glaucous Gull — 1 C.C. (Bayfield): Seen (4) Ashland Co. Dec. 20 (Bratley, Roy), (2) Bayfield Co. Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 (Roy), (1-4) Milwaukee Co. Jan. 17 - Feb. 13 (Gustafson), (1) Ozaukee Co. Feb. 20 (Gustafson).

Iceland Gull — C.C. pd. (Waukesha): Seen Milwaukee Co. Feb. 2 (Gustafson), Feb. 13 (Donald).

Great Black-backed Gull — 1 C.C. (Appleton): Seen Milwaukee Co. Jan. 17 (Gustafson).

Herring Gull — 23 C.C.: Wintered Lakes Superior and Michigan, inland in Outagamie, Dane, and Waukesha Counties.

Ring-billed Gull — 11 C.C.: Wintered Ozaukee, Milwaukee, and Kenosha Counties.

Bonaparte's Gull — 5 C.C.

Forster's Tern — C.C. pd. (Kenosha)

Mourning Dove — 51 C.C.: Wintered Marinette Co. (Lindberg), Barron Co. (Goff), and 24 counties farther south.

Ringed Turtle Dove — 0 C.C.: Seen Manitowoc Co. Jan. 23 (R. W. Hammond).

Screech Owl — 12 C.C.: Seen Wood, Dodge, Rock, Racine, Grant, and Kenosha Counties.

Great Horned Owl — 25 C.C.: Seen 10 counties statewide.

Snowy Owl — 4 C.C.: Seen 14 counties statewide.

Barred Owl — 16 C.C.: Seen 11 counties from Wood to Kenosha.

Long-eared Owl — 10 C.C.: Wintered Columbia, Dane, Milwaukee, Rock, Racine, and Kenosha Counties.

Short-eared Owl — 4 C.C.: Seen Dane Co. Jan. 10 (Nancy Ashman), (6) Grant Co. Feb. 19 (Smith), Rock Co. Feb. 22 (Mahlum).

Saw-whet Owl — 1 C.C. (Monroe): Seen Brown Co. Jan. 21 - Feb. 23 (Cleary).

Belted Kingfisher — 20 C.C.: Seen Vilas Co. Feb. 23-29 (Thomas). Wintered 8 counties farther south.

Yellow-shafted Flicker — 28 C.C.: Wintered 11 counties north to Brown (Cleary), Buffalo (Maier) and Trempealeau (Ruth Lender).

Pileated Woodpecker — 25 C.C.: Seen 15 counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker — 41 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Red-headed Woodpecker — 34 C.C.: Wintered 12 counties north to Wood and Shawano.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — 14 C.C.: Wintered Buffalo Co. (Maier). Seen Grant Co. Feb. 1 (Cavin Rutman), Feb. 12 (Smith).

Hairy Woodpecker — 64 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Downy Woodpecker — 66 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker — C.C. pd. (Rhinelander): Seen Taylor Co. Jan. 22 (Lois & John Fadness).

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker — 0 C.C.: Seen Taylor Co. Feb. 10 (Jim Evrard).

Horned Lark — 24 C.C.: Wintered 24 counties north to Washburn. Migrating after Feb. 5.

Gray Jay — 6 C.C.: Seen Manitowoc Co. Jan. 20 (Ray Casper), Vilas Co., Price Co., Oneida Co., Forest Co.

Blue Jay — 69 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Common Raven — 13 C.C.: Seen 11 counties south to Wood and Oconto.

Common Crow — 65 C.C.: Somewhat above normal numbers northern third.

Black-capped Chickadee — 69 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Boreal Chickadee — 5 C.C.

Tufted Titmouse — 17 C.C.: Wintered St. Croix Co. (Tweet), Brown Co., Trempealeau Co., Dane Co., Racine Co., Grant Co., Rock Co.

White-breasted Nuthatch — 67 C.C.: Numbers somewhat below normal southern third.

Red-breasted Nuthatch — 35 C.C.: Wintered 15 counties statewide.

Brown-headed Nuthatch — 1 C.C. (Milwaukee): Wintered Milwaukee Co. (many observers).

Brown Creeper — 37 C.C.: Wintered 22 counties north to Vilas (Thomas) and Burnett (Stone).

Winter Wren — 3 C.C.

Carolina Wren — 2 C.C. (Chippewa Falls, Madison): Wintered Dane Co. (Roy & Martha Lound).

Long-billed Marsh Wren — C.C. pd. (Horicon)

Mockingbird — 1 C.C. (Beloit)

Catbird — C.C. pd. (Milwaukee, Madison)

Brown Thrasher — 13 C.C.: Wintered Waushara Co. (Mrs. Chipman), Ozaukee Co., Milwaukee Co. Seen Dodge Co. Jan. 24 (Harold Mathiak), Sheboygan Co. Feb. 21 (Eleanor Kuhn).

Curve-billed Thrasher — 1 C.C. (Buffalo): Wintered Buffalo Co. (Maier **et al**).

Robin — 22 C.C.: Wintered 14 counties north to Marinette (Lindberg). Seen Langlade Co. Feb. 29 (Bernard Pickering).

Hermit Thrush — 5 C.C.: Seen Dane Co. Feb. 29 (Barbara Vogelsang).

***Swainson's Thrush** — 1 C.C. (Sauk City)

Eastern Bluebird — 1 C.C. (Sauk City): Seen Dane Co. Jan. 20 (N. Ashman).

Golden-crowned Kinglet — 25 C.C.: Wintered LaCrosse Co. (Rosso), Milwaukee Co. (Mrs. Herbert Fadel).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 6 C.C.: Seen Columbia Co. Jan. 15 (Smith), Brown Co. Jan. 26 (Cleary).

Bohemian Waxwing — 2 C.C. (Rhinelander, Hudson): Seen Manitowoc Co. Jan. 8 (Mr. & Mrs. R. Hallisy), Bayfield Co. Jan. 13 (Roy), Buffalo Co. Feb. 6-10 (Maier), Milwaukee Co. Feb. 14 (Gustafson), Chippewa Co. Feb. 25 (Robbins).

Cedar Waxwing — 23 C.C.: Wintered 14 counties in southern two-thirds of state. Seen St. Croix Co. Feb. 25 (Tweet), Chippewa Co. Feb. 25 (Robbins).

Northern Shrike — 29 C.C.: Seen most northern and central counties. Also seen in Dodge, Ozaukee, and Dane Counties.

Loggerhead Shrike — 1 C.C. (Augusta)

Starling — 63 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Myrtle Warbler — 2 C.C. (Sauk City, Lake Geneva)

House Sparrow — 62 C.C.: Normal numbers.

meadowlark spp. — 15 C.C.: Wintered 15 counties north to St. Croix and Brown.

Red-winged Blackbird — 19 C.C.: Wintered 7 counties north to Manitowoc and LaCrosse.

***Baltimore Oriole** — C.C. pd. (Chippewa Falls, Oconomowoc): Seen Waukesha Co. Dec. 23 (Sharp).

Rusty Blackbird — 8 C.C.

Brewer's Blackbird — 3 C.C.

Common Grackle — 33 C.C.: Wintered 7 counties north to Outagamie (Tessen). Seen Brown Co. Jan. 28 (Cleary).

Brown-headed Cowbird — 12 C.C.: Wintered 9 counties north to Outagamie. Seen Brown Co. Feb. 8 (Cleary).

Cardinal — 58 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Evening Grosbeak — 49 C.C.: Wintered commonly northern two-thirds of state, and in 7 counties south to Dane and Milwaukee.

Purple Finch — 52 C.C.: Numbers much above normal.

House Finch — 0 C.C.: Seen Brown Co. Jan. 21 (Cleary). See "By the Wayside".

Pine Grosbeak — 15 C.C.: Wintered in almost every reporting county.

Hoary Redpoll: 1 C.C. (Fremont): Seen 15 counties statewide.

Common Redpoll — 55 C.C.: Seen in every reporting county.

Pine Siskin — 31 C.C.: Wintered 36 of 43 reporting counties.

American Goldfinch — 56 C.C.: Near normal numbers.

Red Crossbill — 8 C.C.: Seen statewide in 17 counties.

White-winged Crossbill — 15 C.C.: Seen statewide in 25 counties.

Rufous-sided Towhee — 3 C.C.: Wintered Rock Co. (Maxson). Seen Manitowoc Co. Jan. 16-27 (Lylene Scholz).

Vesper Sparrow — 3 C.C.

Slate-colored Junco — 59 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Oregon Junco — 21 C.C.: Wintered 10 counties north to Buffalo and Outagamie.

Tree Sparrow — 52 C.C.: Normal numbers.

Chipping Sparrow — 1 C.C. (Milwaukee)

Field Sparrow — 2 C.C. (Saukville, Beloit): Seen Trempealeau Co. Jan. 7 (Lender).

Harris' Sparrow — 0 C.C.: Seen Rock Co. Jan. 6 (Martin Stabb).

White-crowned Sparrow — 1 C.C. (Waukesha).

White-throated Sparrow — 8 C.C.: Wintered Outagamie Co. (Tessen), Manitowoc Co. (Donna Feest), Sheboygan Co., Jefferson Co., Milwaukee Co., Kenosha Co. Seen Brown Co. Jan. 24 (Cleary).

Fox Sparrow – 4 C.C.: Seen Sheboygan Co. Feb. 1-19 (Kuhn).
Swamp Sparrow – 12 C.C.: Banded Waukesha Co. Jan. 21 (Peartree).
Song Sparrow – 27 C.C.: Wintered 13 counties north to Chippewa (Robbins).
Lapland Longspur – 8 C.C.: Wintered 10 counties north to Wood (Don Halgerson).
Snow Bunting – 30 C.C.: Wintered 27 counties statewide.

By the Wayside . . .

House Finches at Green Bay – "On January 21, 1972, Leonard Thompson and I saw this species mixed in with over 100 Purple Finches at the feeders of Mrs. Francis Snyder of Pilgrim Street of Green Bay. She had spotted this species the day before and called me, but I was very reluctant to say that it was a House Finch as I had never heard of this species being in this area before. So I thought that she was mistaken."

"What a surprise I got when two of them landed with the Purple Finches and the Purple Finches kept on chasing them so it was hard to get a good look at them, but we managed to get a good description which is given below."

"Resembles a Purple Finch, but the male is a slimmer looking bird with a longer tail which is not notched as much as the Purple Finch's. The red on the back part of the tail is very red and the same holds true of the red on the throat and breast, which extends down further than that of the Purple Finch. The sides of the bird are streaked. The female is plain and has no eye stripe. The bill is quite small."

"Used 7X50 glasses to observe those birds. Observed them thru the windows of Mrs. Snyder's house so we were quite close as the feeders are not far from the windows. Time: about 1:30 p.m."—Edwin Cleary

Identifying winter meadowlarks—"Using a new method of identification suggested to me by Charles Clark and Lawrence Balch of the Chicago area, I easily identified (easy if you get a good look at the back) one Eastern Meadowlark in Ozaukee County on February 26. After examining many skins of both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks in winter plumage, they noted that one color pattern could consistently be used to separate the two. It seems the Eastern has black paches against a rusty brown back while the Western has brown patches against a gray-brown background, also on the back. This requires care of course under favorable conditions, but should help many observers when no call note is given to distinguish them. This characteristic is not as safe in spring plumage, but other field marks and song are available to separate them at this time."—Dennis Gustafson

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Four-Mile Island in the Horicon Marsh is a large and important nesting area for the Great Blue Heron, the Black-crowned Night Heron and the American Egret; and

WHEREAS the American Egrets are a unique avian resource and the Horicon colony is one of the few remaining colonies in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS these unusual birds are dependent upon aquatic organisms provided by the waters of the Horicon Marsh; and

WHEREAS the proposed poisoning of the waters of the Rock River and the Horicon Marsh pose a threat to the food supply of this rookery and these unique birds;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., opposes the treatment with fish poisonings of these waters until a thorough study is made and all measures are taken to assure that this unique avian resource will in no way be jeopardized;

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be directed to the:

A. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
B. Governor of the State of Wisconsin
C. U. S. Department of Interior
D. President's Committee on Environmental Quality

Adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., May 20, 1972.

Carl G. Hayssen, Secretary

Mr. Carl G. Hayssen, Secretary
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc.
Route 1, Box 368
Hartland, Wisconsin 53029

June 28, 1972

Dear Mr. Hayssen:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the resolution from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology concerning the status of the various species of herons and egrets on Horicon Marsh. We certainly understand your concern but at the same time we wish to emphasize the thinking that entered the decision concerning a rehabilitation of the fishery in the Rock River - Horicon Marsh system.

The full system has been overrun with carp. The net result is that areas which normally produce rich stands of aquatic vegetation and abundant invertebrates have been converted to turbid environments wihch seem to be heavily overbrowsed by the abundant carp. This picture can be changed and changed sharply by getting rid of the carp in the system.

It is our feeling that the management measures proposed will benefit most of our common species of fish and wildlife. To be sure there will be one lean season but immediately following rehabilitation measures, the invertebrates recover and food resources expand to undreamed of levels. This kind of environment attracts more birds of various kinds, plus provides better habitat for fish than existed previously.

Observers of the Horicon scene report that the wading birds are making use of adjoining and surrounding areas and still using their rookeries.

I am confident that you will see this picture much improved this next year.

Thank you for expressing your concern.

Very truly yours,
Bureau of Fish Management
C. N. Lloyd
Director

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS OF PREY OF WISCONSIN by Frances Hamerstrom, illustrated by Elva Paulson. Department of Natural Resources, Madison, 1972 soft cover) 64 pp. Special Edition (hard cover) published for the WSO, 1972, $5.95.

Those visiting Cedar Grove and Hawk Ridge, Duluth in the fall will surely want to take this book along. Its small size will fit handily in the back pocket or knapsack. It is a lovely little book, beautifully written and attractively printed.

The author, WSO's own newest honorary life member, has a very light, skilled touch with words as well as a profound knowledge of her subject. The book is written primarily for amateurs but there are a great many "nuggets" of information for professional ornithologists, bird banders, experienced bird watchers and outdoorsmen as well. Mrs. Elva Paulson, daughter of the author, has done a beautiful job of illustrating, greatly enhancing this work.

There are field keys to identification and descriptions of each species with special emphasis on life history, ecology, and conservation.

There is a section on rare visitors, a section on nest boxes, and an excellent bibliography of references in the rear of the book.

This is a short but valuable work; it is rare in being both a good reference and an extremely readable work. It will appeal to the bird student, both the serious, and the casual. It is a distillation of many hours of first hand experience in the field.

I was a little chagrined to read that "unless you live deep in the city, there is probably at least one Horned Owl within two miles of your home." While this happens to be true for me, I hate to think of all those hours on Christmas Counts when I pretty near froze my ears listening in vain for an owl, any owl, in the pre-dawn winter darkness.

On another page the author makes the plaintive plea "don't take a chance and snowmobile near an eagle's nest." I heartily endorse the plea but I was suddenly reminded of this newest technological monster. And how many people do you think will heed that plea?

The hard cover edition is not only more durable than the soft cover, it also has another advantage. Profits from its sale go to your organization, the WSO. — C. A. Kemper

* * *

KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL by Stephen R. Wylie and Stewart S. Furlong. Illustrated by Jack R. Schroeder. Livingston Publishing Company, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. 32 pp. $3.95.

This small book is unique in several respects. Firstly it is washable. It is printed on an extruded polyolefin (an opaque plastic), not paper. Secondly, it illustrates all species of ducks, geese, and swans in winter plumage.

It is written for the hunter and is meant to be carried in the jacket or pants pocket. It is hardy as well as handy. Two features that are not so great. It is expensive, even considering the ravages of inflation. The average hunter will not notice or care if he does notice, that the scientific names are not according to the latest AOU nomenclature.—C. A. Kemper

* * *

WORDS FOR BIRDS: A LEXICON OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES by Edward S. Gruson. Quadrangle Books. 305 pp. $8.95.

This book fills a need for both the amateur and professional ornithologist who wonders about the origin of both vernacular and scientific names.

Mr. Gruson is a man of many scholarly credentials. He has been the assistant to the President of Harvard for Community Affairs, President of the Medical Center Housing and Development Corporation in New Haven. He has a BA in biochemistry from the University of Toronto. He has done postgraduate work at the Medical Nobel Institute in Stockholm and received a Master's Degree in City Planning.

This work is apparently a labor of love. The author has researched a great deal of fascinating information, historical, biographical, etymological, mythological, and ornithological.

It is an excellent reference and very readable. I believe it a very fine addition to every serious birder's library.

A delightful enhancement to this book are 238 marginal illustrations from the pen of Alexander Wilson. —C. A. Kemper

* * *

THERE'S A SEAL IN MY SLEEPING BAG by Lyn Hancock. Alfred A. Knopf, New York City. 292 pp., 36 photographs, 3 maps. 1972. $6.95.

This is both a delightful and informative story. The author, an Australian by birth, is a speech teacher in Vancouver. She met her husband and accepted his marriage proposal in an airplane skimming treetops in British Columbia on an eagle counting study.

Her story is autobiographical. It tells of her experiences with wildlife she helped raise or revive. This included sea lions, eagles, Murres, Puffins, cougars and others. Her account tells of camping on barren wild islands, climbing rocky cliffs, sleeping in sleeping bags on jagged rocks, flying over wilderness coasts and forests. She has a great gift of humor and narrative.

The Hancocks run the Wildlife Conservation Center in Saanichton, British Columbia, and produce film and lectures. Don't miss reading this one! —Irma Chipman

* * *

Letters to the Editor

P. O. Box 631
Green Bay, Wis.
December 6, 1972

Dear Dr. Kemper:

Please include the following requests for information in the next Passenger Pigeon. (Fall 1972)

Red-Tail hawks with colored tail streamers. Birds were trapped and banded at Little Suamico during the fall migration. Streamers may number from one to three per bird, and be either red, white, blue, yellow, or green in color. The colors indicate banding date.

Snowy Owls color-marked blue or black on head, body or wings. Owls marked with blue are from the Green Bay study area, and sightings should be referred to me. Owls marked with black are from the Milwaukee and Waukesha areas. They should be reported to Charles Sindelar, 456 Baird Street, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The snowies arrived here the last week in November in force. Had at least five in the study area on the 26th. Only marked one so far. I don't expect very many this year but you can never be sure.

Thanks for the help!

Season's Greetings
Thomas Erdman

PS: Great Blue Heron survey is about complete. (FINALLY)

Dear Dr. Kemper:

I would like to add the following comments on the article "Some Comments on Improving Wisconsin Christmas Counts" (**Passenger Pigeon** 32(4): 157-159) and also submit references to my article.

Christmas Count abundance of some species can apparently be analyzed by using indexes of number per party car-mile (ignoring party foot-miles).

A test on the Rough-legged Hawk, a conspicuous and fairly common species frequenting mostly those areas – farmlands and marshes – covered by car on Christmas Counts, confirms this possibility.

Indexes of number of rough-legs per ten party car-miles for 1956-64 for nine state counts (Wausau, Dancy, Green Bay, Adams, Mazomanie, Madison, Waukesha, Racine, and Beloit) do show the three to four year periodicity of peak abundance characteristic of this species. Although the two northernmost areas, Wausau and Dancy, do not find rough-legs on most of their Christmas Counts, the other areas' counts exhibit such a "cycle". The variations are usually not statewide, probably occurring locally in accord with the availability of rodent prey, mainly meadow mice (**Microtus**) which also have a three to four year cycle. While local cycles of abundance of rough-legs follow, in part, the rise and fall of prey populations, hawk "peaks" reach different levels.

There are indications that local December snow depths affect local rough-leg populations (by concealing mice in varying degree), though this factor's influence cannot be specified without extensive work.

The party car-mile index is likely useful for analyzing Christmas Count numbers of some other species, too, notably the Red-tailed Hawk.

Sincerely,
John Bielefeldt
302 S. Waterville Rd.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

REFERENCES

John L. Moe. "Winter Distribution of Red-Headed Woodpeckers in Wisconsin," Passenger Pigeon 30(2): 72-74 (1968).

Richard L. Plunkett. April 23, 1970, personal communication.

Howard Young. "Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers in Wisconsin," **Passenger Pigeon** 23(1): 3-6 (1961).

Howard Young. "White-Breasted and Red-Breasted Nuthatches in Wisconsin," **Passenger Pigeon** 27(1): 16-19 (1965).

* * *

Letters to the Editor

18 October 1972

Dear Dr. Kemper:

While birding three miles southeast of Iola in Waupaca county on August 6, I was fortunate enough to find a small but widespread flock of "Blue-winged" Warblers. I could hear them singing all along the margin of the oak woods near an abandoned field. It is possible that they bred here but this hasn't been determined.

Although possibly I heard as many as a dozen birds, I was able to observe only two of the birds fairly closely. The first looked basically like a typical male Blue-wing, but upon consulting Robbin's field guide I realized a color difference in the bird that I was viewing; its wingbars were not white but yellow!

The second bird was closer but remained in view for only a very short time. I was able to see that there was only one wing bar, and that was wide and yellow, the visible portion being only somewhat narrower than that of a Golden-wing. Before I could check the pattern of the head, the bird flew off leaving me with only a glimpse of yellow on its anterior.

Later I checked in Chapman's book, **The Warblers of North America** and Sprunt's **The Warblers of America** at the university library. These books included only information on the typical Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids. Finally I came upon Kenneth C. Parke's paper on the **Genetics of the Golden-wingedXBlue-winged Warbler Complex** (Wilson Bulletin 63:5-15). Here was an illustration of the first bird I saw. Parke's classifies it as a crossover Blue-wing hybrid. The only possible candidate for the second bird was the illustration of the Brewster's Warbler.

I usually spend a great deal of time in the woods photographing birds; however on this occasion I was without my camera due to cloudy conditions earlier in the day.

Cordially
Bruce Parfitt

Some Records from the Superior Marshes

Box D
Horicon, Wis. 53032
August 3, 1971

Here are some bird observations by Dave Bratley and myself which add to the knowledge of birds in northern Wisconsin. It was nice to be able to check with Richard Bernard (1967) to see what has been previously recorded for Douglas County.

Great Blue Heron. We watched birds leaving the rookery on Madeline Island July 11, 1971, and calculated some were flying about 11 miles to the mainland to feed. Others apparently were going much greater distances. About 50 nests in the rookery.

Black-crowned Night Heron

Sight records

Kakagon Sloughs (1) May 5, 1970
Fish Creek (1) June 18, 1971
Madeline Island (1) July 11, 1971

Long-billed Marsh Wren

This is a common nester, probably second in number to the Red-winged Blackbird. The following nests were found:

Area	Date	No. eggs	Ht. above water	Habitat
Wis. Point	6-16-71	0	.7 ft.	Cattail & carex
"	"	0	1.0 ft.	Cattail
"	"	4	.5 ft.	Carey
"	6-17-71	0	.7 ft.	Carey
"	"	5	.2 ft.	Cattail
"	"	0	1.1 ft.	Cattail & carex
"	"	0	1.0 ft.	Cattail & carex
"	"	0	.9 ft.	Cattail & carex
"	"	0	.6 ft.	Cattail
"	"	3	.3 ft.	Cattail & carex
Fish Creek	6-18-71	0	1.5 ft.	Sweetgale & carex
"	"	0	1.2 ft.	Sweetgale & carex
"	6-19-71	0	1.0 ft.	Cattail
"	"	5	1.1 ft.	Cattail
"	"	0	.4 ft.	Burreed & cinquefoil
Wis. Point	7- 9-71	0	1.7 ft.	Cattail
"	"	0	1.7 ft.	Cattail

Least Bittern

Sight records:

Wisconsin Point (1) Aug. 5, 1970
Fish Creek (1) Aug. 8, 1970

Nest records:

Wis. Point 6-16-71; 3 eggs; in sweetgale and carex; 5 young in nest July 9, 1971.

Fish Creek 6-19-71; 5 eggs; in burreed and marsh cinquefoil; 4 young on July 11, 1971.

Fish Creek 6-19-71; empty; female on fresh nest, deserted July 11, 1971; cattail.

Fish Creek 6-19-71; 5 eggs; in sweetgale and burreed; 5 young on July 11, 1971.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Fish Creek 6-15-71; 0 eggs, fresh nest in cattail. About 5 adult males in area. There were two young barely able to fly on July 11, 1971. Female was concerned about the young but no adult males were seen or heard. Three more nests found July 11, 1971.

Wisconsin Point 6-16-71; 0 eggs, fresh nest in cattail, adults concerned. Nest empty July 9, 1971 and no adults around.

Brewers Blackbird

Wisconsin Point 6-16-71; 4 eggs in low juniper. Other nesting pairs in vicinity. At tip of Wisconsin Point.

We did not see any gallinules on the Superior marshes. We saw a few harriers in 1970 but not a single one in 1971.

Very truly yours,
Harold A. Mathiak
Biologist

HAM:co

Dear Mr. Kemper: July 2, 1972

I thought it would be appropriate to pass along a rather unusual bird observation to you and the readers of **Passenger Pigeon** that was made by my wife and I. We were in Boulder Junction in Vilas county on June 12, 1972 when we decided to visit a nearby wildlife exhibit called Aqua-land. In the exhibit area they have a musky pond where visitors are able to purchase live frogs to feed the muskies. With all the visitors present the muskies are given more frogs than they can consume. Therefore there are many frogs to be seen hopping near the edge of the pond. We were watching one of these fugitive frogs from the musky pond when we saw a Grackle fly along and pounce on the frog's back and try to fly away with it. The frog proved to be too heavy for the grackle but he made five attempts while carrying the frog a few inches each time. Finally the frog escaped back into the pond.

One can only speculate whether the Grackle imagined himself to be a mighty soaring Eagle or a crafty musky in his attempt at preying on the frog. Sincerely, Jerry E. Gretzinger

A Bristle Thighed Curlew in Wisconsin?

Dear Dr. Kemper: January 4, 1973

A year ago I reported an observation of a large shorebird whose call did not match any of those described in the widely known field guides of the United States, nor in the Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe by Peterson, Mountfort, and Hollum. Enclosed are copies of all preceding correspondence concerning this call.

Recently I have heard the R. T. Peterson recording of shorebirds in "Field Guide to Western Bird Songs", and surprisingly, this call of the Bristle-thighed Curlew (**Numenius tahitiensis**) nicely matches the call I

heard at Grand River Marsh on October 20, 1971, although the recording lacked volume in comparison.

The Eskimo Curlew (**Numenius borealis**) which I originally suspected the questionable bird to be is not so large as my estimate of size based on rate of wing-beat. I have since had an opportunity to inspect the Milwaukee Museum specimen and, of course, am disappoined that the Eskimo Curlew seems to be an unlikely identification. The probability of a Bristle-thighed Curlew's occurrence in Wisconsin is not great, but it seems a more likely prospect than the alternate possibility that the bird was another species with an aberrent call. Hybridization in American shorebirds is extremely rare.

The description of the Bristle-thighed Curlew's call described on page 189 of the "Shorebirds of North America", G. D. Stout, P. Matthiessen, R. V. Clem, R. S. Palmer, is as follows: "Usual call a drawn-out modulated pee-u-wit, reminiscent of a Black-bellied Plover." This description is the best I have found to match the call in question but it differs importantly on the third syllable which was clearly an "ee" ending matching the "plee" of the first syllable. No "t" or end consonant was discernible in the call of the bird heard at Grand River Marsh. A "t" sound was also not audible on the recording.

I am satisfied that the call was probably that of a Bristle-thighed Curlew based on great similarity to the call on the recording. It is unfortunate that visibility was too poor to permit other confirming field identifications. I can only urge other Wisconsin birders to listen carefully and watch for this unusual visitor.

Very truly yours,
Alan J. Rusch
Natural Resources Specialist

* * *

Dear Miss Donald: November 1, 1971

On October 20, 1971 while duck hunting at the Grand Marsh Wildlife Area I heard a large shorebird repeatedly give the following call: Plee-a-Lee, a clear whistle suggestive of a bluebird and phonetically of a pewee. The call, which at first sounded as if someone were attempting to attract my attention, was mistaken for another hunter. Shortly, however, the bird flew overhead in the morning darkness and although I tried to pick out bill shape it was too dark for that. The wing beat was slow and the flight course was not direct, similar to a slow moving Greater Yellowlegs. The bird disappeared from earshot and returned faintly and briefly about 10-15 minutes later. In all the call was heard about 30-40 times, often enough to form a clear mental image of it. Later attempts to identify the call revealed that it most closely resembled that of an Eskimo Curlew. The first syllable started clearly with a more expressive or harder consonant than did the third syllable. The "a" or second syllable was soft and lower and I suspect would not be noticed in a distant or faint call.

I am continuing to investigate the calls of Eurasian shorebirds and the only one found so far with a similar call is the Curlew (**Numenius**

arquata arquata). However, the first syllable of this bird's call is clearly not an "ee" sound.

As this report seems to be improbable I am happy to report that three other Department of Natural Resources employees also heard the call: James Hale, Richard Hunt and James March. Mr. Hale also saw the bird overhead.

Yours very truly,
Alan J. Rusch

Dr. Roger Tory Peterson
Meck Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

November 5, 1971

Dear Dr. Peterson:

The attached correspondence will explain my dilemma, which is: Is the call I heard truly that of an Eskimo Curlew or A. a lesser known and described call of another more common shorebird, or B. a call of a shorebird not native to the western hemisphere?

Any of the alternatives described above seem quite exciting to me and any enlightenment you may provide would be most welcome.

Unfortunately the poor morning's light made it impossible to distinguish the bill length or shape. The light was good enough to permit an estimate of size, which approximated that of a Greater Yellowlegs or perhaps larger. The wing beat was clearly too slow to have been confused with the Black-bellied Plover whose call is apparently somewhat similar.

None of the people hearing the call, including myself, recall hearing it previously.

Very truly yours,
Alan J. Rusch

Dear Mr. Rusch:

Nov. 23, 1971

My apologies for this delay in writing you. Naturally you would like to have a firm answer on the bird which might or might not have been an Eskimo Curlew. However, Dr. Peterson has been in and out of the house for much of November and I have only recently been able to talk with him about your letter.

The basic problem is that Roger has never seen or heard the Eskimo Curlew. Therefore, I do not believe that we could be of much help! He has had experience with its counterpart in New Zealand, but that is not the same bird nor in the U.S.

Have you written to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.? It is very possible that the sound Lab. would have had a contributor send in a tape of this bird's call or could direct you to someone who had precise knowledge.

I truly hope you do solve this dilemma. With all good wishes,

Sincerely,
Barbara C. Peterson
(Mrs. Rogert T. Peterson)

Dr. Peter Paul Kellog
Library of Natural Sounds
The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Dr. Kellog:

On October 20, 1971 while duck hunting at Grand Marsh Wildlife Area I saw and heard a large shorebird which I believe may have been an Eskimo Curlew. The call seems to resemble the descriptions of this bird more than others I have found.

I have assumed that the Eskimo Curlew call is unrecorded and am hoping this assumption to be wrong. The call which I heard was as follows:

> At first the call was mistaken for another hunter attempting to attract my attention. The larger shorebird was then seen overhead in the morning darkness. The call was a clear whistled "Plee-a-Lee" quite loud and heard approximately 30-40 times. The length of the call is estimated to be slightly over a second as it requires about 5 seconds to imitate 3 calls. The first consonant "P" was definitely harder (but not strikingly harder) than the second "L". The "a" sound was softer, briefer, and lower than the preceding "Plee" and following "Lee" sounds which were about equal in volume and tone. I doubt that the "a" sound would be noticed in a faint or distant call. The call was phonetically similar to a peewee's and also suggestive of a bluebird's. My recollection of pitch is not good in this instance but I would guess the killdeer's "Killdeer" call near it.

I would be pleased to know if a recording of the Eskimo Curlew or similar calls, including the European Curlew are available for comparison.

Very truly yours,
Alan J. Rusch

Dear Mr. Rusch:

Your letter of last year to Dr. Kellog has just come to our attention. Dr. Kellog is presently on an extended trip throughout the Southwest, Mexico, and nearby Central American countries. We don't know when to expect his return so I am answering your request about shorebirds at this time.

I regret that there are no calls of the Eskimo Curlew in the Laboratory of Ornithology's collection, and you simply have begun to work with a bird that is not known to anyone in particular. The bird is so near extinction, as I am sure you know, that there are probably not more than two people in the entire world that have seen one of these in the last twenty years. There has been a spate of sightings in the Galveston, Texas area over the last several years and possibly some of the Texas birders would be able to tell you more about the bird than this Laboratory. I regret that we are not of any more help to you than that.

Sincerely, James Tate, Jr.

Ed. Note: "The Bristle-thighed Curlew breeds in western Alaska (near mouth of the Yukon River). It winters from the Marshall Islands south to the Santa Cruz, Figi, Tonga, Samoan, Marquesas, and Tuamotu islands. It migrates directly over water to and from its summer and winter ranges." AOU checklist, 1957.

Double Tragedy at the Bird House

By MRS. HENRY KOENIG

No doubt many of you may have read in earlier issues of the Passenger Pigeon about our Purple Martin. It is with a heavy heart that I report the loss of our precious seven-year-old Marty on June 12, 1972. At this writing on Sept. 10, I still miss him and grieve over his death. Everyone who came to our home to see the birds loved Marty and so did we. He sang throughout the year and was the most tame and friendly bird it was our good fortune to have had.

On May 19, a woman came with an adult female Robin she had found in her country yard. Before she left I again looked at the bird in a box and was amazed to find that it had recovered and was anxious to get out. I was overjoyed for I felt that the Robin no doubt had a nestful of young eagerly awaiting the return of their mother.

After the woman left with the bird I went to the kitchen and found Marty in terrible trouble. My small camera which we rarely use was on the desk where I had carelessly left it after Henry went to the hospital. Marty had chewed and swallowed double, part of the synthetic black camera strap about a quarter inch wide. I could not pull it out which might have killed him, so had to cut each end as short as possible and he swallowed them.

Marty sat around for days with eyes closed looking miserable. After some time I coaxed him to eat a worm or two a day. Later there were a few days when I thought he might recover for he ate a bit more but this this didn't last long for he couldn't digest the synthetic material. He grew weaker each day and on the morning of June 12, he died. I held him a long time after he was gone for I loved him so.

Three years ago Marty swallowed about 12 inches of heavy cotton cord, also double, which we had to cut off at each end. After five days of misery, he recovered. But this time luck was against him and he couldn't make it.

Another heartache occurred less than a week ago on Sept. 5, when we lost our tiny one-legged Black-capped Chickadee. He had been with us since Feb. 23, 1971. He had recently become quite tame and took food from my hand. He didn't have to do this for much food was always available.

Chickie was such a cheerful, lively bird and sailed from room to room, singing all the while. His song daily awakened me for he usually slept on his shelf in our bedroom and sometimes on the patio. The night of Sept. 4 he chose to sleep outside where he was the only one since the two young Baltimore Orioles had been released the day before. The two baby Bluebirds slept on the light fixture in our bedroom and perhaps he was annoyed when they perched in a tree too close to his sleeping shelf but they never slept there.

When I got up the morning of Sept. 5 I was worried about Chickie. Something was wrong for he couldn't seem to perch and would fall to

the floor, rolling over. It almost seemed as if he was trying to scratch himself with his foot which would have been impossible. Had he slept inside we might have known when his trouble began. I awakened Henry who caught Chickie and put him into a cage where the bird lay on his side on some soft cloth. The situation looked more serious. I have since been told that perhaps he was in pain and tried to get at the pain with his one little foot. In about half an hour our pet was gone. I was shocked and couldn't believe it. He had been so full of life the day before and was perfectly normal. Suddenly I was heartbroken.

The day of Chickie's death I said to my husband, "How I wish we had our Chickie again for I miss him so terribly." That afternoon our attention was called to a bird which was on the sidewalk in the yard and did not leave when someone walked by. When Henry went out he found a Chickadee which he brought in and put into a cage supplied with food and water. I was so glad we had found it in its time of need. It seemed almost unbelievable that we had a Chickadee again. The bird sat in a corner a long time. It seemed weak so we cracked sunflower seeds for it. Later it became more active and by evening sat on the perching wire for the night.

The following day it acted quite normal and even sang a bit. I was so relieved to hear that familiar song. He flew about in the cage and seemed anxious to get out so we decided to free him on the patio where he could try his wings more extensively. He flew from screen to screen in an attempt to escape. We realized he should be released at once before he was exhausted. It was hard to part from our newly found treasure but he fortunately had recovered from whatever may have happened to him the day before. Henry opened the door and out he went to freedom. This bird no doubt was one of a number of Chickadees which had often come to visit our Chickie through the screen, and we hope he continues to come to the feeders.

Now we have only 10 birds in the house, and we are firmly anchored here at home. There are the two young Martins from near Milwaukee and Middleton who can't fly well yet and shall remain over winter; the two young Bluebirds, which were brought when about four or five days old; the year-old Nighthawk unable to fly well; the two flightless Cedar Waxwings; the six-year-old Canary found by children; the precious seven-year-old Cliff Swallow; and of course 11-year-old Robbie, the Robin.

Seventy-four birds were brought to the Bird House since Jan. 1, 1972, which includes 24 species. The many House Sparrows, Grackles and Starlings are not included in this count.

Included in the species were:

Baltimore Oriole	Goldfinch	Purple Martin
Bluebird	Hairy Woodpecker	Redpoll
Bluejay	Kingbird	Robin
Cardinal	Mourning Dove	Screech Owl
Cedar Waxwing	Pheasant	Sora Rail
Chickadee	Pine Grosbeak	Sparrow Hawk
Downy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin	Woodcock
Forster's Tern	Purple Finch	Yellow-shafted Flicker

New International Crane Trust At Baraboo

The International Crane Trust (ICT) is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to the preservation of the world's endangered cranes species. We are all familiar with the plight of our Whooping Cranes. We are also aware that the American and Canadian Governments are sinking vast funds into the preservation of this species. However few people are aware of the fact that at least nine of the world's other crane forms are in a Whooping-demise with little or nothing being done to save the birds and their habitats. Here in Baraboo we have constructed, at considerable cost, the world's best facilities for the propagation of cranes in captivity. Here we hope to eventually maintain a viable population (at least 15 pairs) of each endangered species and eventually restock natural areas with subsequent progeny.

The Trust is supported by Mr. Norman Sauey. Mr. Sauey graciously provided land and financial backing for the important venture. Eventually the Trust will be self-supporting through funds procured from a gate charge to a public-education-appreciation area, grants from various Governments whose cranes are breeding as their property at the Trust, and through a membership drive. All this will begin after the Trust is constructed and operating. We hope to open our gates to the public in 1976.

The Trust is directed by myself and Mr. Sauey's son Ronald. Ron and I were colleagues at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology from which I procured my Ph.D. in crane ethology in 1971, and from which Ronald hopes to graduate in 1975. His research topic is the natural history and conservation of the Siberian White Crane (**Grus leucogeranus**), an endangered species, similar to the Whooping Crane in size and plumage, breeding in the Siberian tundra and wintering in Iran, India, and southern China. During the next two years Ron's studies will take him to these areas.

While the Trust was under construction in 1972, I journeyed to Japan and Australia as a research fellow for the New York Zoological Society to study the world's second rarest crane, the Manchurian Crane (**Grus japonensis**) and the little-known desert-adapted Brogla (**Grus rubicunda**) of northern Australia.

Currently I am making the Trust a functioning reality while Ron is beginning his field studies of **leucogeranus.** This spring I am doing extensive field surveys of Wisconsin's Sandhill Cranes with the intent of under-

standing the species and eventually placing Whooping Crane eggs in their nest to initiate a breeding-migratory wild population of that species in eastern North America.

We are anxious to meet WSO people and heartily extend to you all an open invitation to visit our facilities in Baraboo. Currently we have several pairs of the rare Manchurian Cranes and the Chinese White Naped Cranes (**Grus vipio**). Although these are not on the WSO list and cannot be added thereto, I am sure you will enjoy seeing such majestic birds.

George Archibald (Ph.D.),
International Crane Trust
City View Road
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913 USA

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve

By DON FOLLEN, SR.

I have never seen the seven wonders of the world, but I have beheld many beautiful and breathtaking sights in nature. Some of our national parks reveal in geographical formation such beauty as to make one ponder about his own existence on this planet. I would like to comment on an experience that I have experienced several times.

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is located just to the north of Duluth, Minnesota along Skyline Drive. The reserve itself was purchased in 1972 by the Duluth Audubon Society and turned over to the city of Duluth while management is to be retained by the Society. The reserve consists of 115 acres of the ridge area and plans now call for an additional 165 acres to be used as a buffer zone. A nature center of this type will be hard to find elsewhere.

On September 16, 1972, Jim Scheunemann and I ventured up to observe and count on the fall migration and to attend the dedication ceremonies for the official opening of the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. Guest speaker for the evening banquet was Dr. Frances Hamerstrom, lecturer, author, and great personal friend, along with her husband Fred, and Chrys, her Golden Eagle. Chrys because of her majectic beauty was of course the center of attraction. What a fitting way to dedicate a new reserve with such significance.

Anyone who has ever watched a soaring hawk has had to envy their complete mastery of the air. Imagine what it is like to see them sometimes just off your fingertips like a living river of birds. When one stands on watch with people like the Hamerstroms, Greens, or Dr. Hofslund; people that have contributed so much to our knowledge and conservation efforts, he tends to become humbled.

I have made a half dozen trips to Duluth in the past seven or eight years and I have never returned with a feeling of disappointment. I will always have time for hawk watching and I know that the very best place I can watch them is at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve. Try it, you'll like it. I have met with people from Nebraska and even New Mexico, so I don't think anyone lives too far from this wonder of nature to experience it once.

The Princes of the Air

The princes of the air today,
is what I call our birds of prey.

Those graceful things of beauty there
that glide so lightly through the air,
sometimes low, sometimes high; at times
a mere speck in the sky.

The sun goes down and then comes night.
The master of the silent flight
takes his place in nature's role.

Sometimes beast, sometimes fowl,
are nighttime meals for the owl.

With all the hazards of our time
and a rapid pace just like mine.

Today the princes are around,
tomorrow – will they still abound?

DGF, Sr.

HOUSE SPARROW

Drawing by Rockne Knuth

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