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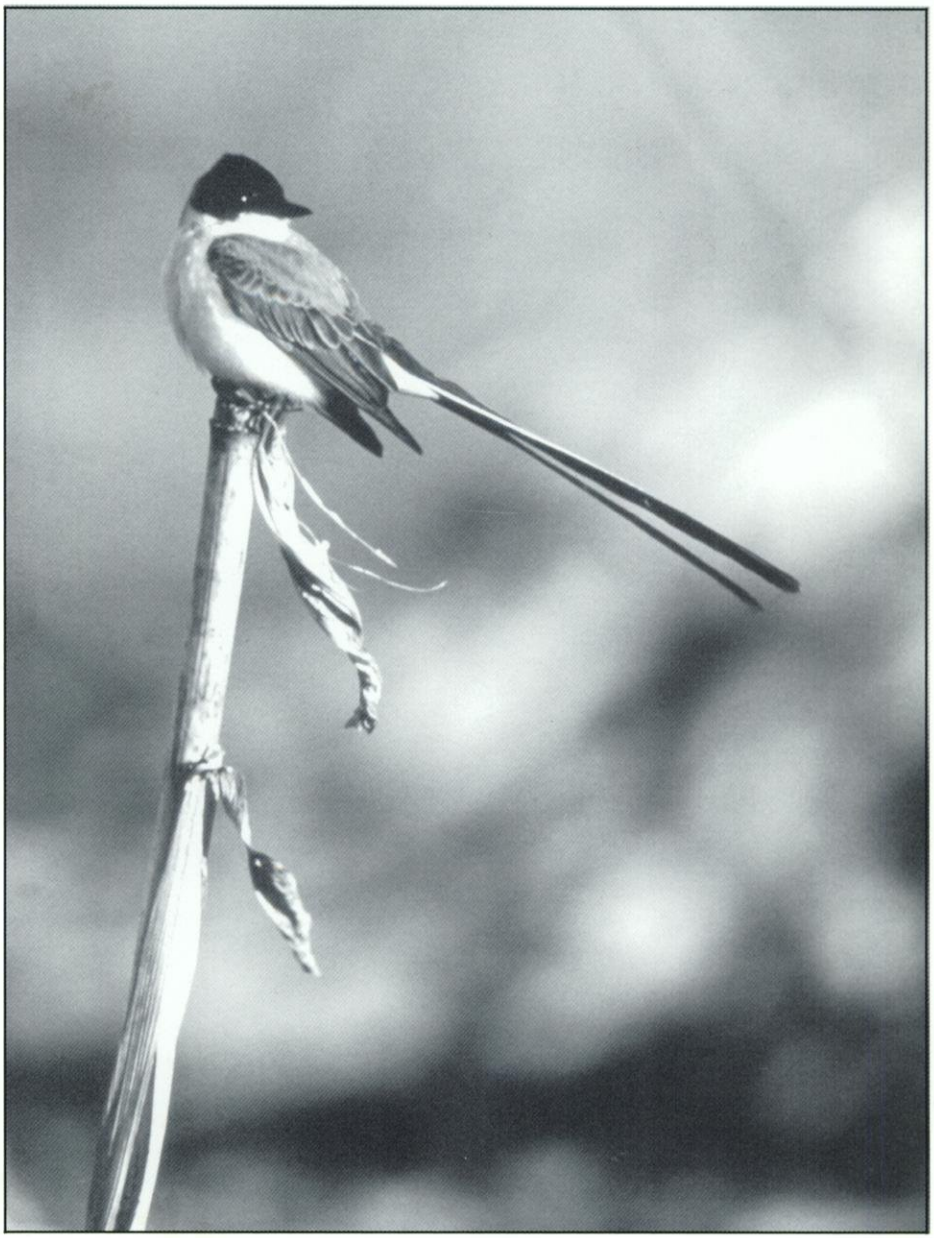

THE *PASSENGER PIGEON*
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Send all manuscripts, and correspondence to the Editor. Information for "Seasonal Field Notes" should be sent to the Associate Editor or the appropriate Field Note Compiler. Manuscripts that deal with Wisconsin birds, ornithological topics of interest to WSO members, and WSO activities are considered for publication. For detailed submission guidelines, see pages 3-5 of the Spring 2000 issue (Vol. 62, No. 1) or contact the Editor. As a general guide to style, use issues after Vol. 60, No. 1, 1998.

An Introduction to WSO's New President

In the spring, a two-and-a-half-year-old boy asks his grandpa, "What is *that* sound?" The brick mason, 25 years in this country since immigrating from Sweden, replies "That's a Mourning Dove." The little boy doesn't forget that one, and in the ensuing months asks the same question many times about different voices he hears and birds he sees. Each time his grandpa answers, and by the end of the summer the boy knows quite a few species by call, song, and sight. His life list stands at 10: Mourning Dove, European Starling, American Robin, English Sparrow (nowadays House Sparrow), House Wren, Purple Martin, Chimney Swift, Common Nighthawk, pigeon (Rock Dove), and Gray Catbird. In the fall, he asks his grandpa to write these names on the first page of a small, spiral-bound notebook, which he saves. As of that spring, the boy became an ornithologist.

Over the next few years, he adds many other birds to the notebook, almost all tracked down by himself with the help of a tiny Burgess bird guide. He also has started to find nests and collect one egg from each species, gluing the blown eggs onto a board that hangs on the wall above his bed. Now, he is also an oologist.

By the time he is 10, he has noted and recorded, in his boyish fashion, all sorts of behavioral interactions between birds and other animals and their habitats. Now, he is an ecologist. It all started because of his innate fascination with birds and nature, and a grandpa who also loved and learned the out-of-doors by himself.

Today, the boy is still most of these "ologists," and has even added a few more. He is writing this to you as an introduction to himself, and, as you soon will see, also to editorialize briefly on the importance of birds and birding.

Ornithology is a way of knowing nature that is possibly more comprehensive than any other "ology," except perhaps for plain old ecology. I started out as a "lister." Up through high school, in that old spiral notebook mentioned earlier, I daily listed all species and the number of individuals seen, as I religiously strove to add to my life list. I gradually metamorphosed into a bird behaviorist. That, in turn, brought out the ecologist, who, of course, is required to know lots of plants and animals other than birds. Then a little geology was found necessary, because different vegetation types depend on different soils and landforms. And there are many other things that each of us begins to know—all because of birds!

This brings me to the editorial. Because birds are so easily observable and so pleasing to us, they are very important in general conservation efforts, whether directly bird-related or not. We discover a large number of environmental problems because of the birds that we see or do not see. Birds are often the indicator species by which we know the health of ecosystems. Grasslands, wetlands, deciduous forests, and coniferous forests in North America are in trouble. Fragmen-

tation, reduction, draining, pollution, fire suppression, and many other threats are involved. We first understood this because birders, both lay and scientific, told us it was happening.

For example, how many meadowlarks do you see on the wires along roads these days? Now think back—how many did you see when you started birding? The increasing scarcity of meadowlarks and other species was one of the first signs of how greatly fragmentation and cropping practices have affected the health of our grasslands. As another example, you probably know that Brown-headed Cowbirds are severely reducing forest-interior birds such as the Wood Thrush and Kirtland's Warbler. I presume you also know that birders were the first to tell us that forest fragmentation and interruption of natural fire cycles by fire suppression were the respective reasons for the cowbird onslaught on these two species. One can easily deduce from this that *we* are the real problem in these ecosystems, not the cowbirds that we blame and who we used to diagnose the trouble.

We birders are—and must continue to be—conservation-minded. Your outgoing president, Sumner Matteson, is an ardent ornithologist and conservationist. Both of these clearly are in his blood. I would like to thank him here for doing a masterful job as WSO president and conservationist. He worked very hard at these, and I hope to be as facile as he was in both. Having taught ecology, conservation, and ornithology courses for 35 years at Ripon College, and having been an ornithologist for all but the first two-and-a-half-years of my life, they are in *my* blood, too!

Bill Brooks

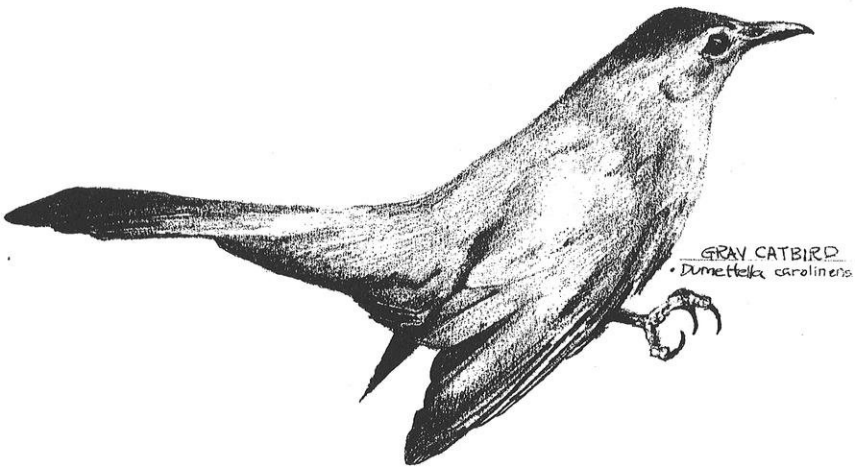
President

Another Double Issue, More Color Photographs

The current issue of *The Passenger Pigeon* is another double issue (similar to Vol. 62, Nos. 3&4), and contains the seasonal reports, "By the Wayside" material, and Records Committee reports from both the fall and winter 2000 seasons. This not only brings the seasonal reports back on schedule, but saves WSO a great deal in printing costs at a time when the Society needs to watch expenses carefully.

Also of interest in this issue are color photographs of some of the most exciting rarities that appeared in the state during the fall of 2000: Broad-billed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher. This is only the second time that color photos of this quality have appeared in the journal (see also Vol. 61, No. 2), and I hope you enjoy them.

R. Tod Highsmith, Editor



Gray Catbird *by Steve Lubahn*

The Effects of Forest Edges and Fragmentation on Birds: A Wisconsin Perspective

"Our interest's on the dangerous edge of things."
—Robert Browning, 1812–1889

David J. Flaspohler

Wherever two or more ecological communities meet, edge habitat is found. As most birders know, these boundary zones often support a mix of wildlife species from the adjoining communities, and so are good places to find a wide variety of birds.

Wisconsin birders enjoy one of the most diverse breeding bird communities in the United States, largely as a result of a coincidence of geology and political boundaries. Wisconsin lies at the intersection of several major plant communities, or biomes, and encompasses several large-scale, ecological boundaries, called ecotones, as a result. The broad boundary between Wisconsin's deciduous and coniferous forests (the tension zone), for example, stretches from Polk County in northwestern Wisconsin across the state to Lake Winnebago and south to Milwaukee. Anyone who spends a few minutes examining the range maps of Wisconsin species finds that the Acadian Flycatcher's (*Empidonax virescens*) breeding range is exclusively south of the tension zone, while the Black-throated Green Warbler's (*Dendroica virens*) range is almost exclusively above this line. In fact, the distribution of many birds is a very good predictor of broad vegetation patterns.

But ecological boundaries can also be quite small, such as those between patches of habitat within a biome that differ due to local changes in factors like topography, soils, hydrology, microclimate, or disturbance history. Such small-scale boundaries may influence whether you are likely to encounter a Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) in a particular stand of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest or a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) in a certain part of

Wyalusing State Park. Whether large-scale (ecotones) or small-scale (habitat edges), these boundaries can be considered "natural" in that they have characterized the Wisconsin landscape for eons, and birds of the upper Great Lakes region have evolved alongside and among them.

Overlaying these natural edges are human-created edges resulting from agriculture, fire suppression, timber management, and forest openings created by roads, homes, and other development. Such anthropogenic (human-caused) edges differ in important ways from natural edges, and have attracted the attention of ornithologists and conservation biologists because of their potential to affect many species of birds. For example, natural disturbances typically create structurally complex forest openings (like patchy burned areas following a fire or piles of downed trees following wind throw) that differ greatly in character from the structurally simple openings created by agriculture or intensive forest management. And the edge created where intensive agriculture or other development meets a forest is essentially permanent, whereas edges resulting from natural disturbances such as fire and blowdowns often regenerate quickly and so are relatively short-lived.

From an evolutionary perspective, human land-use practices have created new spatial relationships between forests and forest openings, and a new set of biological interactions among the species that inhabit these increasingly fragmented landscapes. In southern Wisconsin and adjoining states, modern agriculture exists on such an enormous scale that it has become a virtual biome of its own (Figure 1). In northern Wisconsin, where agriculture is uncommon but where many forests are managed intensively, a certain percentage of the landscape is kept in clearcut openings at any given time, so a certain amount of forest edge is always present (Figure 2).

Differences in the scale of forest edge, the temporal duration of an edge, and the type of land-use present in an opening all appear to play a role in determining whether an edge is good, bad, or benign for forest birds. I have been studying these questions in the forests of northern Wisconsin and upper Michigan for seven years, beginning as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Figure 3).

A Brief History of "Edge" Research

Our understanding of how landscape patterns affect natural communities has increased dramatically in the last 20 years. Still, there remains no widely accepted set of principles that describe how edges and fragmentation affect birds. Ornithologists and ecologists have been slow to advance beyond Aldo Leopold's often-quoted "Law of Interspersion," which addresses the positive influence of edge habitats on game species such as White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*):

> [G]ame is a phenomenon of edges. We do not understand the reason for all of these edge effects, but in those cases where we can guess the reason, it usually harks back either to the desirability of simultaneous access to more than one environmental type, or the greater richness of border vegetation, or both. (from *Game Management*, 1933, p. 131).

Figure 1. A highly fragmented agricultural landscape in southern Wisconsin (Vernon County). Photo by Stan Temple.

Figure 2. A recent clearcut in the Nicolet National Forest. Photo by David J. Flaspohler.

Figure 3. David J. Flaspohler is an Assistant Professor in the School of Forestry and Wood Products at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. Photo by Wolfgang Hoffman.

Almost half a century passed before the scientific community became interested in teasing apart the positive and negative effects of anthropogenic edges. Ornithologists have played a leading role in this research because birds are relatively easy to study and vary in their sensitivity to edges and fragmentation. While most of the early studies (late 1970s through mid-1990s) dealt with effects of edges on breeding migratory songbirds, others focused on the effects of fragmentation on migratory and resident birds in the Neotropics. Some bird species showed decreased nesting success near edges relative to the forest interior, while others appeared in higher densities near edges. Some studies found that species such as the Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) seemed to avoid forest edges or small habitat patches with lots of edge. Reduced nesting success near forest edges was attributed to heavy predation pressure from generalist species such as the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata),* American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and to brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). It was less clear, however, why nesting density was related to edges (higher for some species, lower for others), but three possible explanations for this pattern are all related to the increased density of edge vegetation alluded to by Leopold; namely, the greater availability of foraging and perch sites and/or greater concealment from predators.

Because much of the early work on birds and fragmentation was carried out in highly fragmented agricultural landscapes, the question remained whether edge effects were present in landscapes that are largely forested. By the mid-1990s, numerous studies were underway to identify whether birds in forested landscapes were vulnerable to edge effects.

How Edges and Fragmentation Affect Birds

In the context of bird conservation, edge effects are changes in characteristics of a bird population, such as nest success, that are related to proximity to a habitat edge. Fragmentation refers to the spatial arrangement of habitat patches, and has been shown to affect birds in at least three ways that often act synergistically: 1) fragments can become too small to support populations or even a pair of some species (area sensitivity); 2) fragments may become so isolated from other similar habitat or so surrounded by hostile habitat that birds cannot use them (isolation sensitivity); or 3) fragments may be subject to negative edge effects from predators and brood parasites (edge sensitivity).

It is relatively easy to document the effects of increased isolation on birds. Moreover, it is relatively simple to demonstrate a link between the mechanism (e.g., fragments smaller than the minimum territory size for a pair of birds) and the loss or decline in populations. However, the often subtle effects on bird biology of proximity to edge (competition with other species, decreased pairing and reproductive success, changes in breeding density and clutch size, etc.) have been far more difficult for researchers to elucidate.

Why is this so? What is becoming clear from dozens of edge-related studies across North America and Europe is that not all human-created edges are created equal. The degree of fragmentation and the pattern of land use be-

tween fragments appear to determine whether forest birds are influenced by an edge. For example, some edge effects do not manifest themselves until the landscape becomes highly fragmented pasture or some other land use that acts to subsidize populations of cowbirds and generalist predators like crows, skunks (*Mephitis* spp.), and house cats (*Felis domesticus*). It seems that once some theoretical fragmentation threshold is reached, negative effects on edge-sensitive species and declines in area-sensitive species begin to appear.

But what exactly is this "fragmentation threshold"? No doubt it depends on the particular species under consideration and the specific mechanisms that act upon it. Ornithologists cannot yet identify if and where this threshold exists, but such information would be tremendously valuable to conservationists and land managers. Imagine if one could accurately estimate the degree of harm to songbird populations (or even to individual species) when a given percentage of land is converted to row crops or a certain amount of forest is maintained in young clearcuts of a given size. Progressive forest and land managers are now asking for such information, but it is still a long way off.

What ornithologists can offer are some insights into how birds respond to human-created edges. Below are some general findings from the last 25 years:

- Landscape context and bird species matter: In short, a particular bird species may experience reduced nest success near edges in one landscape but not in another—the diversity of the predator community and the abundance of cowbirds appear to influence whether edge effects are present. Similarly, in a landscape where one species experiences edge effects, other species may not. It is well-known that not all birds accept cowbird eggs, but even among acceptor species differences in sensitivity to brood parasitism may be related to differences in nest location (ground, shrub, canopy, or cavity); behavior around the nest; or timing of the nest cycle. Landscape context and type of edge is also likely to influence whether edges affect other demographic characteristics such as pairing success, nesting density, clutch size, and propensity to renest after a failed or successful nest.
- Penetration of edge effects varies: The effects of edges may penetrate much farther into forests than previously thought. In the western United States, microclimatic gradients extend up to 240 meters from clearcut edges into intact forest. In northern Wisconsin, Ovenbirds and Hermit Thrushes (*Catharus guttatus*) appear to show reduced nest success up to 300 meters from clearcut edges.
- Even within a single site, edge effects may be complex: While edge effects can be detrimental to birds and can even cause local extirpation, they appear to be more complex than early studies suggested. Some species may be able to withstand reduced nest success near edges or may derive some benefit that partly offsets the costs of nesting near edges (see below). A related finding of some recent research is that edges and the open habitats adjoining forests may not be entirely inhospitable to some forest birds. Fledglings of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) and Ovenbird both appear to use and

have higher survival rates in the dense shrubby cover found in recent clearcuts for at least a few weeks after leaving the nest.

- Many other organisms are affected by edges: Birds are just one part of the natural community that may be affected by fragmentation. Dozens of studies of fragmentation and edge effects have focused on everything from trees to beetles, mammals, and frogs.

The Ovenbird has become a model species for studying edge effects on birds (Figure 4). My own research in northern Wisconsin (with Stanley Temple and Robert Rosenfield) suggests that Ovenbirds nesting in mature mixed-hardwood forest experience reduced nest success up to 300 meters from young clearcut edges. Paradoxically, they also appear to nest in higher densities near clearcuts relative to the forest interior (i.e., more than 300 meters from an edge). Finally, female Ovenbirds nesting within 300 meters of an edge lay larger clutches, on average, than females far from an edge.

Such complex reactions to edges defy simple interpretation, but we can gain insight by recalling a pattern first observed in the late 1970s in southern Michigan. Gates and Gysel (1978) found that birds breeding near a field-forest boundary had reduced nest success and bred in higher density than birds farther from the boundary. They called this boundary area an "ecological trap" in the sense that something about it attracted birds to breed preferentially within it, even though they were subjected to high nest-predation rates. Ovenbirds in northern Wisconsin may also find themselves attracted to features of forest/clearcut edges, such as greater vegetation density or a more favorable microclimate. We cannot explain why female Ovenbirds near edges lay more eggs, but possible explanations include greater food availability for females during the prelaying period or preferential territory site selection near edges by more fit females. It is also possible that Ovenbirds are making tradeoffs between the risk of nest predation and food availability. Ovenbirds nesting near edges do not succeed as often, but when they do they produce more young on average than if they had nested in the safer forest interior.

Conclusion

As a society, we have opted to allocate only a tiny fraction of resources toward understanding how human manipulation of the land affects biodiversity, and the majority of this has been targeted toward a half-dozen game species. Several dozen species of migratory songbirds breed in Wisconsin's forests, and ornithologists have had less than two decades to try to understand how the increasing fragmentation associated with our humanized landscape affects them. The study of edge effects specifically, and habitat fragmentation in general, now ranks as one of the largest areas of research in ornithology and conservation biology; a significant percentage of presentations at the 2000 international ornithological meetings in Canada (called "Living on the Edge—Birds 2000") dealt with edge effects and birds. The goal of all of this work is to construct a generalizable framework that would enable one to explain how landscape structure affects populations of birds and to make this framework useful to manag-

Figure 4. The Ovenbird has become a model species for studying the effects of forest fragmentation on songbirds. The author found this Ovenbird nest with two eggs in the Nicolet National Forest in May 1995. Photo by David J. Flaspohler.

ers. Such a framework will likely emerge as the results of numerous regional studies are examined.

Our understanding of the complex ecology of habitat edges has advanced a great deal since Leopold's first insights into edge effects. With continued research, we can expect that the birds and birders of Wisconsin and elsewhere will benefit and enjoy an undiminished diversity of species in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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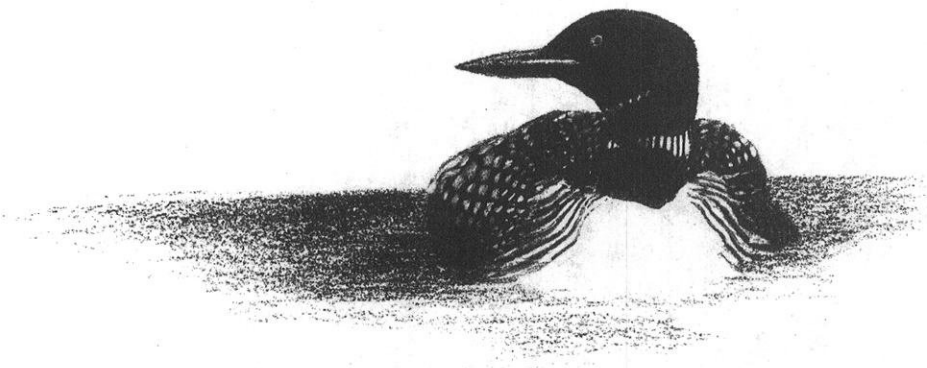

Common Loon *by Steve Lubahn*

Results of the 2000 Common Loon Survey in Wisconsin

Every five years since 1985, citizen volunteers, coordinated by the LoonWatch program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, have conducted a one-day survey designed to estimate the size and distribution of Wisconsin's Common Loon population. In the 2000 survey, volunteers observed 223 adults and 34 chicks on 151 lakes in 25 counties. The 2000 adult population estimate was significantly larger than the 1985 estimate, while the chick population estimate was the lowest on record.

by Theodore J. Gostomski and Paul W. Rasmussen

In the early 1900s, Kumlien and Hollister (1951) described the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) as a "common migrant" in Wisconsin and a formerly "common breeder on the small lakes from the southern tier of counties northward." Today, although loons can often be found on lakes in southern Wisconsin during spring migration, their breeding range is restricted primarily to the northern third of the state, with some nesting occurring in Jackson, Monroe, and Juneau counties (Figure 1). This northward trend is reflected throughout the Common Loon's entire North American breeding range, which once extended as far south as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Since the early 1900s, the species' range in the western Great Lakes has become restricted to the northern parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan (McIntyre and Barr 1997).

The reasons for the loon's decline and subsequent range contraction are many, and all are related to humans. Mercury poisoning (Evers et al. 1998, Meyer et al. 1995), ingestion of lead sinkers and jigs (Franson and Cliplef 1993, Pichner and Wolff 2000), and oil spills on the wintering grounds (Forrester et al. 1997) are some of the higher profile factors impacting loons. However, shoreline development and the associated human use of lakes are likely the primary factors that have resulted in the loss of traditional nesting and chick rearing areas (Heimberger et al. 1983, McIntyre 1988).

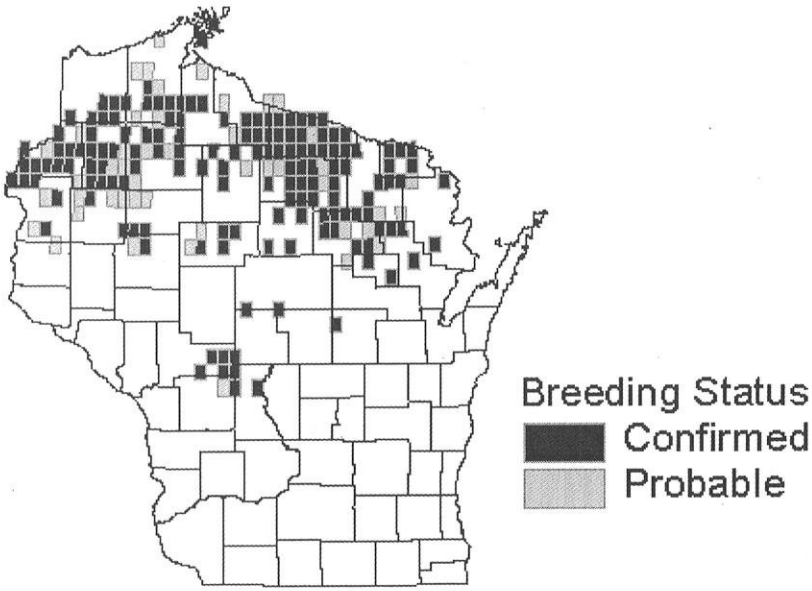

Figure 1. Distribution of the Common Loon in Wisconsin based on data collected for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project, 1995–1999. Graphic used with permission.

In the late 1970s, concern over the contraction of the loon's range in Wisconsin was the impetus behind an effort to document the breeding status and distribution of the Common Loon in the state (Zimmer 1982). That survey in 1976 and 1977 documented a population of 1,300 adults and 258 young that were distributed primarily in the northern third of Wisconsin, but extended as far south as Columbia County.

As a follow-up to Zimmer's work, LoonWatch, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, coordinated a one-day survey in 1985 on a randomly selected group of lakes in northern Wisconsin. The 1985 survey found the loon population had reached 2,334 ± 197 adults and 491 ± 98 chicks, an increase of 78% and 90%, respectively, over the 1976–1977 population estimate (Olson 1986, Strong 1988). Using the same methods, this survey has been repeated every five years to estimate the size and distribution of Wisconsin's loon population. The number of both adults and chicks has increased with each survey, but most noteworthy was the statistically significant increase of adults between 1985 and 1995 (Daulton et al. 1997).

Today, the Common Loon is listed as a Species of Special Concern in Wisconsin (rank S4), but is considered "demonstrably secure" on a global scale (rank G5) (Wisconsin Natural Heritage Program 1996). Still, concern exists that increasing rates of shoreline development and recreational lake use that are occurring in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 1996) threaten the loon's future. Localized incidents of humans using boats and personal watercraft to chase loons are reported to LoonWatch each year, and similar accounts of declining loon

productivity on specific lakes strengthens the resolve of many loon enthusiasts who feel that continued education and monitoring are necessary. Indeed, the work of LoonWatch is proactive in nature and serves to keep track of an important element of the northern aquatic ecosystem that is not regularly and systematically monitored by any other agency or organization in Wisconsin. To this end, the fourth "five-year survey" was conducted in July 2000 to maintain data on the size and distribution of Wisconsin's Common Loon population.

Methods

Two hundred and forty-three (243) lakes were randomly selected from 27 northern Wisconsin counties that constitute the primary range for nesting loons in the state (Table 1). The sample was stratified by lake size and county, with lakes divided into four size-classes: 25–49.9 acres, 50–149.9 acres, 150–499.9 acres, and ≥ 500 acres (Table 2). Our sampling goal was to visit at least 200 of the lakes.

The survey was conducted on 15 July 2000 between 0500 and 1000 (CDT). By mid-July, most loon chicks in this region are in family groups and are large enough for accurate observation (Daulton et al. 1997). Belant et al. (1993) evaluated the single survey technique for estimating loon populations and found that it can yield good estimates of fledging success if conducted when chicks are six weeks old. The morning hours were selected to minimize impacts of high wind and waves, to take advantage of low boating densities, and to minimize the potential for duplicate counting due to movements of adults or young on or between lakes.

Survey observers were recruited from among past participants, current LoonWatch volunteers, agency partners, and lake associations. Letters

Table 1. Distribution, by county, of lakes randomly selected for the 2000 Common Loon Survey in Wisconsin. N = 243 lakes in 27 counties.

County	No. of Lakes
Ashland	6
Barron	7
Bayfield	14
Burnett	11
Chippewa	16
Clark	2
Douglas	7
Dunn	3
Florence	5
Forest	7
Iron	11
Langlade	5
Lincoln	5
Marathon	8
Marinette	4
Menominee	4
Oconto	8
Oneida	27
Polk	10
Price	8
Rusk	5
Sawyer	14
Shawano	6
St. Croix	3
Taylor	4
Vilas	26
Washburn	17

Table 2. Lake size-class distribution for the 2000 Common Loon Survey in Wisconsin.

Size Class	Lake Size (acres)	No. of Lakes in Sample
1	25–49.9	63
2	50–149.9	88
3	150–499.9	56
4	≥500	36
TOTAL LAKES		243

were sent to past participants first, then new volunteers were recruited through press releases, radio announcements, letters to lake associations, and in the course of regular public presentations made by LoonWatch staff. When possible, returning participants were assigned the same lakes they surveyed in the past. New observers selected lakes based on proximity to their homes, and some chose multiple lakes if lake size and distance between lakes allowed them to cover more than one during the survey period. All observers were mailed a detailed instruction packet, lake map, data form, and return envelope and asked to return the form the first business day after the survey.

All data were incorporated into the LoonWatch database. From information on lake size and the number of adults and chicks observed on each lake we computed means, percentages, population estimates, standard errors (SE), and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for both adult loons and chicks. As for past surveys, we used standard estimation methods for data from a stratified random survey (Cochran 1977). After the 1995 survey, a recalculation of 1985 and 1990 survey results was required (Daulton et al. 1997). Comparisons of estimates among years or strata were carried out using estimated differences and associated standard errors (Cochran 1977).

Results

Surveys were conducted on 151 lakes in 25 counties. This represents 62% of the lakes in the sample and 92% of the counties. No lakes were surveyed in Clark or Dunn Counties, which contain three and five lakes, respectively, from the sample.

Two hundred and twenty-three (223) adults were observed on 85 lakes (56% of the lakes surveyed), and 34 chicks were recorded on 25 lakes, or 16% of those surveyed (Table 3). An average of 1.48 adults was observed per lake, while observations of chicks averaged only 0.23 seen per lake.

Using these data, we estimated the current Wisconsin loon population to number 3,131 adults (SE = 278; 95% CI = 2,586–3,676) and 462 chicks (SE = 96; 95% CI = 274–650). The 2000 adult population estimate was significantly larger ($P < 0.05$) than estimates for 1980 and 1985, but did not differ significantly from the 1995 estimate (Figure 2a). The 2000 chick population estimate was the lowest on record, but did not differ significantly from estimates derived from any of the previous surveys (Figure 2b).

Population estimates by lake size-class revealed that adult loons were most numerous on 50–149.9-acre (Class 2) lakes in 2000 (Table 3, Figure 3). However, the greatest probability of observing an adult was on lakes ≥ 500 acres, as 78% of these Class 4 lakes hosted adults at an average of 3.26 adults per lake. Similarly, the largest number of chicks in 2000 was also on Class 2 lakes (Figure 4), but the greatest probability (39%) of observing a chick was on Class 4 lakes, where an average of 0.57 chicks were seen per lake. There was no significant difference between size-classes for either the adult or chick estimates.

Loons were observed on ≥ 75% of the lakes surveyed in Menominee, Taylor, Lincoln, Burnett, Iron, and Douglas Counties (Table 4). However, these six counties only hosted 26% of all the

Table 3. Summary of observations and population estimates for both loon adults (a) and chicks (b) from the 2000 Common Loon Survey in Wisconsin. PE = population estimate, SE = standard error.

(a) Lake size (acres)	No. of lakes surveyed	No. of lakes with adults	% of lakes with adults	No. of adults seen	Mean adults/lake	Adult PE	SE
25–49.9	33	13	38.2	23	0.68	612.9	148.8
50–149.9	58	33	57.9	75	1.32	1202.6	168.9
150–499.9	37	21	56.8	50	1.35	656.8	114.8
500 +	23	18	78.3	75	3.26	658.7	116.0
Total	151	85	56.3	223	1.48	3131.0	278.1

(b) Lake size (acres)	No. of lakes surveyed	No. of lakes with chicks	% of lakes with chicks	No. of chicks seen	Mean chicks/lake	Chick PE	SE
25–49.9	33	2	5.9	3	0.09	79.9	57.7
50–149.9	58	8	14.0	11	0.19	176.4	60.4
150–499.9	37	6	16.2	7	0.19	91.9	35.5
500 +	23	9	39.1	13	0.57	114.2	31.2
Total	151	25	16.6	34	0.23	462.4	96.0

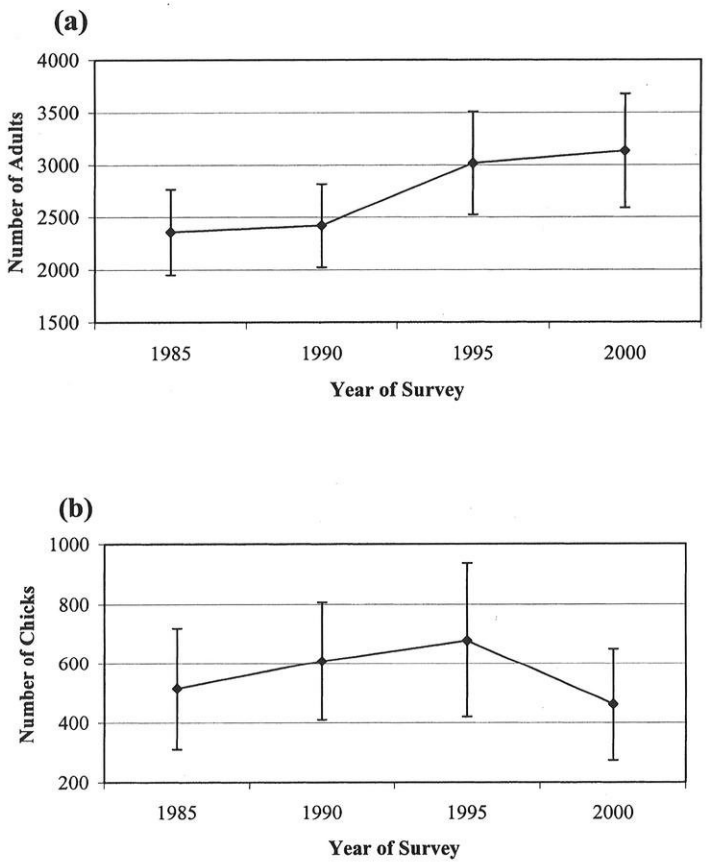

Figure 2. Wisconsin Common Loon adult (a) and chick (b) population estimates, 1985–2000. Bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

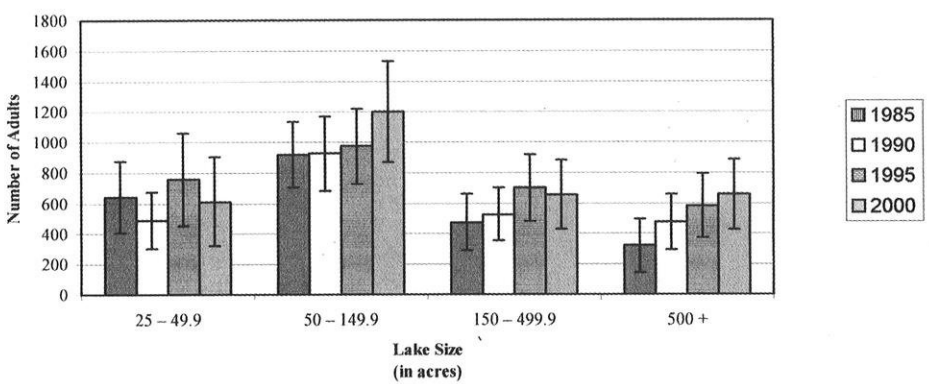

Figure 3. Wisconsin adult Common Loon population estimates by lake size-class, 1985–2000. Bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

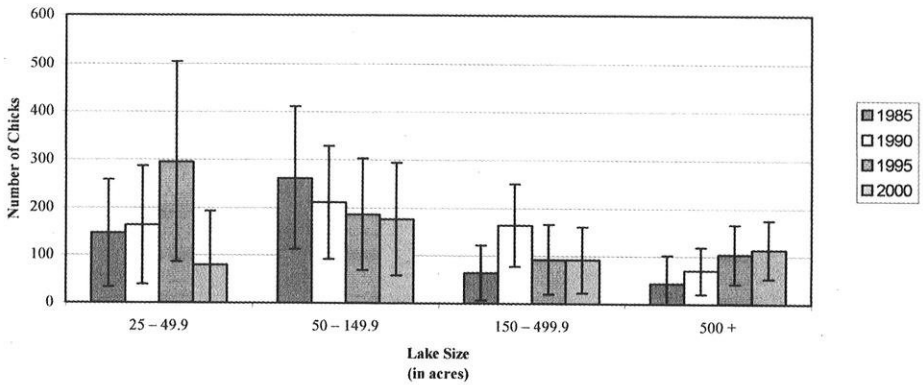

Figure 4. Wisconsin Common Loon chick population estimates by lake size-class, 1985–2000. Bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Table 4. Common Loon presence on survey lakes in Wisconsin, by county, in 2000.

County	No. of Lakes Surveyed	No. of Lakes with Loons	% Lakes with Loons	Total Loons (Adults + Chicks)
Ashland	2	1	50%	1
Barron	7	3	43%	8
Bayfield	7	4	57%	12
Burnett	9	7	78%	24
Chippewa	8	4	50%	16
Douglas	4	3	75%	12
Florence	5	2	40%	6
Forest	7	3	43%	10
Iron	8	6	75%	17
Langlade	3	1	33%	3
Lincoln	1	1	100%	2
Marathon	3	2	67%	7
Marinette	2	0	0%	0
Menominee	4	4	100%	10
Oconto	5	3	60%	9
Oneida	17	11	65%	25
Polk	3	2	67%	4
Price	2	1	50%	3
Rusk	2	1	50%	6
Sawyer	11	7	64%	28
Shawano	4	0	0%	0
St. Croix	3	0	0%	0
Taylor	1	1	100%	3
Vilas	20	11	55%	29
Washburn	13	8	62%	22

loons observed (adults and chicks) and 18% of the lakes in the sample. Alternatively, loons were seen on 50–75% of the lakes surveyed in Marathon, Polk, Oneida, Sawyer, Washburn, Oconto, Bayfield, Vilas, Chippewa, Rusk, Price, and Ashland Counties (Table 4). These 12 counties accounted for 63% of all the loons observed and 62% of the lakes in the sample. Loons were observed on

< 50% of the lakes in Forest, Barron, Florence, Langlade, Marinette, Shawano, and St. Croix Counties.

Discussion

We did not achieve our survey target of 200 lakes. Though only one survey has met this goal in the past (207 lakes in 1990), fewer lakes were visited in 2000 than during any of the three previous efforts. One hundred and seventy-nine (179) lakes were assigned prior to this survey. This was still below each of the past three iterations, but much closer to the target and to the previous low of 185 lakes in 1985. Reasons for the loss of 28 lakes from the sample include volunteers forgetting the date, volunteers experiencing unexpected circumstances that prevented them from being able to participate, and at least one volunteer's vehicle breaking down on the way to a lake. In the future, more regular contact with volunteers to remind them of the date may be worthwhile and help bring us closer to our goal.

The 2000 chick population estimate, though it was the lowest on record, was not significantly different from previous estimates. Surveys of loon populations elsewhere in the region revealed no significant declines in chick numbers (Egan and Oelfke 2000), and Meyer (pers. comm. with P. Rasmussen) reported no decline in productivity on his study lakes in Wisconsin.

Daulton et al. (1997) noted that lakes > 500 acres were more likely to support at least one loon, and in fact supported the greatest mean number of adults per lake. We also found this to be true. Moreover, as in 1995, we also found that more than half (57%) of the adult population inhabited lakes < 150 acres in size, and the greatest net number of adults was on lakes of 50–149.9 acres.

Where the 2000 survey differed from the 1995 survey was in chick estimates. Daulton et al. (1997) found 70% of all the chicks on lakes < 150 acres and the greatest number of chicks on lakes of 25–49.9 acres. In 2000, we found 55% of the chick population on lakes < 150 acres and the greatest number of chicks on 50–149.9-acre lakes. This decline in chicks on smaller (25–49.9 acres) lakes is likely a function of higher between-year variability on lakes of this size (M. Meyer, pers. comm. with P. Rasmussen). Meyer, based on unpublished data he has collected in northern Wisconsin, suggested that chick production on smaller lakes exhibits greater fluctuation for several reasons: (1) chick survival is lower on smaller than on larger lakes, (2) potentially marginal habitat (i.e., less available prey), as evidenced by less consistent use of smaller lakes by loons for nesting from year to year, (3) specifically in 2000, low water levels early in the season resulted in decreased nest success for loon pairs, and (4) smaller lakes tend not to have islands, forcing loons to build nests in shoreline areas where their exposure to nest predation is greater. Consequently, it may just be that the 2000 survey happened to occur during a year of lower chick production on small lakes, leading to a shift in the distribution of chicks relative to lake size and an apparent, albeit normal, decline in the chick population estimate.

There was no discernible pattern in the geographic distribution of loons. The only notable statistic was that the lakes in the "top six" counties (those with loons on 75% or more of the lakes

surveyed) had an average size of 373 acres. Similarly, lakes in the "middle 12" counties (those with loons on 50–75% of their waters) averaged 279 acres in size. Both of these averages fall within the range of Class 3 lakes, which collectively supported the second lowest number of both adults and chicks that were seen.

The adult Common Loon population appears to be strong and may even be growing. However, adult loons will only continue to inhabit our lakes if they are able to nest and successfully raise young. Though it would be inaccurate to view our data as a sign that loon productivity in Wisconsin is declining overall, it is important to note that moderate to large lakes are an important component of the loon's breeding habitat, and it is these areas that are under the greatest pressure from development and recreational use (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 1996).

Meyer et al. (1997) showed that current minimum zoning standards in Wisconsin do not adequately protect lakeshore wildlife habitat, and though their focus on loons in this regard was hampered by other factors (i.e., mercury levels), it can be fairly surmised that increasing human use of Wisconsin lakes could severely limit the amount of available loon breeding habitat. To increase awareness, LoonWatch and a number of other organizations have been active in educating lakeshore property owners, zoning administrators, realtors, and developers about this potential problem. Recent efforts to strengthen shoreline zoning laws in many northern Wisconsin counties gives hope that we can direct lakeshore development without discouraging it.

One idea that has been discussed is to attempt an "economic assessment" of the presence of loons on a northern lake. What is the economic value of a loon? Certainly some tourist dollars spent on goods and services in northern communities can be attributed to the vacationer's desire to be "up north," and part of that experience, whether conscious or not, is to hear loons and to see them on the lake. So far, however, this type of valuation has escaped us. It is widely accepted that there is indeed some value and that this archetypal member of the "north woods" scene is worth protecting, but how to put a dollar value on such an intangible benefit is difficult at best. Until then, we can only hope that our educational efforts reach those who need them most and that our surveys continue to find loons nesting and successfully rearing young on Wisconsin lakes.

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Tundra Swans at A&W Ponds, Dodge County *by Jack Bartholmai*

Identification of Immature Trumpeter and Tundra Swans in the Hand

The authors detail the identification of an immature swan illegally shot by a Wisconsin hunter.

By William K. Volkert and Sumner W. Matteson

On 19 December 1999, Conservation Warden Tom Rose, of Waupun, brought a dead, gray, immature swan into the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office at Horicon Marsh for identification. Two swans had been shot by a hunter on Lake Maria in Dodge County in mid–December and were taken by the warden as evidence. The hunter claimed that the birds were flying toward him with the sun behind them and that he could not see them very well. This misidentification was not only a violation of state laws, but also an "ethical violation," since one of the fundamental rules of safe hunting states, "If you don't know, don't shoot."

The need for proper species identification (either Trumpeter Swan [*Cygnus buccinator*] or Tundra Swan [*Cygnus columbianus*]) now became important so that the hunter could be charged with the appropriate violations. While all swans are protected species in Wisconsin, the Trumpeter Swan is listed as an endangered species and carries a more serious fine. Essentially, the warden needed to know what kind of birds these were in order to charge the hunter with the appropriate violation.

The Tundra Swan has a 6- to 7-foot wingspan, weighs 13–20 pounds, and stands about 3 feet tall. Most Trumpeters weigh 21–30 pounds, have wingspans greater than 7 feet, and stand about 4 feet tall. As adults, both species are white with black bills. The Tundra's bill is slightly dish-shaped, or concave, and is smaller in proportion to its smoothly rounded head (Figure 1). The Trumpeter bill, on the other hand, appears wedge-shaped, similar to the head profile of a Canvasback. About 80% of Tundra Swans have a distinct yellow spot in front of the eye. The Trumpeter typically has a red border or stripe on the edge of its lower mandible, but occasionally a Tundra will have a similar red stripe on its bill, and infrequently a Trumpeter may be seen with a yellow mark in front of its eye (Matteson et al. 1995).

A third swan species also occurs in Wisconsin—the nonnative Mute Swan—that has an orange bill and black fleshy knob at the bill's base

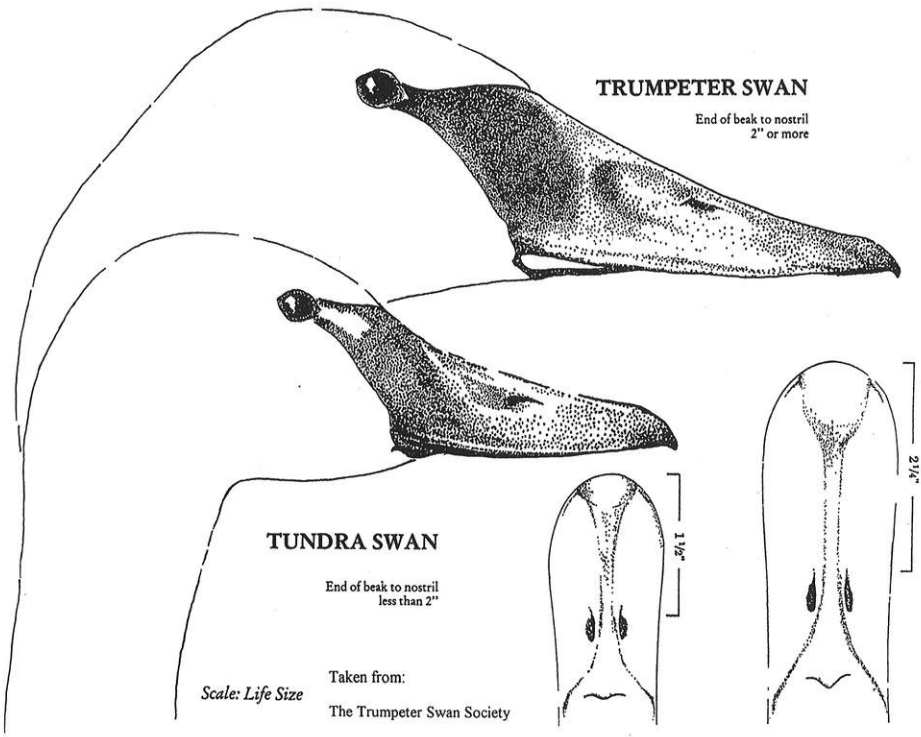

Figure 1. Head profiles and bill shape of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans (courtesy of The Trumpeter Swan Society).

when an adult. Mute Swan cygnets have two different color phases: "royal" (brownish) and "Polish" (white).

The best way to distinguish between Tundra and Trumpeter Swans is by their calls. The Tundra has a high-pitched, quavering call resembling that of a Snow Goose or Canada Goose. The Trumpeter's call is resonant, deep, loud, and trumpetlike—hence its name.

During their first summer, Trumpeter and Tundra cygnets have pink bills with black tips and a gray plumage that gradually changes to white throughout their first winter and spring. Tundra cygnets are silvery gray compared to the darker-hued Trumpeter cygnets, which are sooty gray in the head and neck area.

With the above information in mind, the dead swan's size, weight, plumage characteristics, bill length, and head profile and markings were examined. We also used several references (listed below) on identifying immature swans.

The bill of the dead swan measured 36 millimeters from the tip to the anterior edge of the nares. Mitchell (1994) states that "most" Trumpeter cygnets can be distinguished from Tundra cygnets if the bill measurement is $\geq$ 48–49 millimeters.

Since we had supportive, but not conclusive, information to make a decision, a final determination was made by internal examination. According to

Bellrose (1980, p. 87): "Dissection is the most infallible method of distinguishing the two species. A cross section of the sternum reveals that the windpipe of the Trumpeter Swan makes a vertical loop over a bony hump. This raised loop is absent in the [Tundra] Swan. The syrinx is also considerably larger in the Trumpeter than in the [Tundra] Swan and is probably responsible for the Trumpeter's deeper and more resonant tones."

Examination of the windpipe structure (Figure 2) matched Bellrose's description and allowed us to conclude with certainty that these birds were Tundra Swans. With relatively large numbers of Tundra Swans migrating through the state during fall, combined with an increasing number of Trumpeter Swans in Wisconsin recently (32 wild-nesting pairs produced 63 cygnets in 1999), as well as the probability that more immature swans may be found dead (from different causes) during fall migration, distinguishing between Trumpeter and Tundra Swan cygnets has become more important. And if the case involves shooting, identification becomes critical. We hope that the information contained in this note will be useful to others faced with similar circumstances.

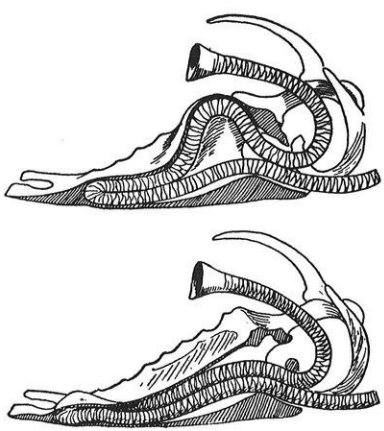

Figure 2. Windpipe structure of Trumpeter (top) and Tundra Swans (from Bellrose 1980, p. 94).

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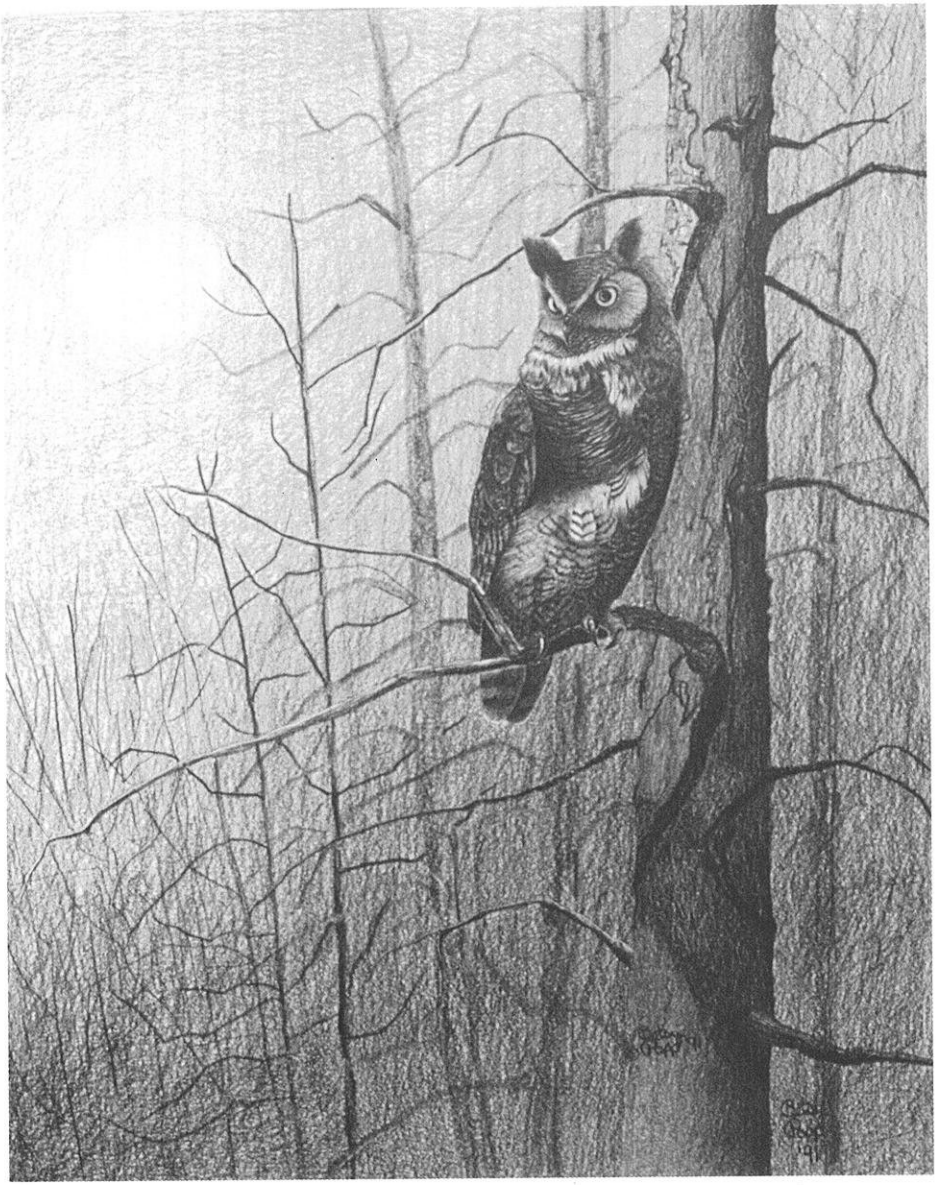

"Misty Watch" *by Betsy Popp*

"By the Wayside"

American Crow predation on Black-capped Chickadees, Unusual Great Blue Heron mortality, Bald Eagle eats Common Loon eggs, Blue Jay kills European Starling, Pileated Woodpecker feeds on wild grapes, evidence of late nesting or renesting by Sandhill Cranes, partial albino American Robin from northern Illinois, tape-recorded broadcasts of nestling alarm and adult nest defense calls to attract Merlins.

American Crow Predation on Black-capped Chickadees

American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) are omnivorous. As opportunity presents, they feed on carrion, shellfish, snails, worms, small crustaceans, insects (especially beetles, beetle larvae, grasshoppers, locusts, and crickets), amphibians, reptiles, mice and other small mammals, wild fruit, grain and other seeds, nuts, eggs, and small birds (Bent 1946, Goodwin 1976, Klein 1983, Nocera 2000, Pough 1949). Crows are also capable of pursuing and killing other birds (Bent 1946, Putnam 1992), including House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), recently hatched Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitus macularia*), and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) ducklings (Bennett 1938, Cuccia 1984, Hamas 1984, Putnam 1992, Septon 1991, Sutherland 1982). Long (1990) even reported an instance of an American Crow killing a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*).

Bent (1946) and Smith (1991) listed predators of Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*), but did not mention American Crows among them. Here, I report observations of two instances of American Crow predation on chickadees in suburban central Dane County, Wisconsin (T7N, R8E, Sec. 1) on 27–28 Dec. 1995.

On the first day at 1300 hours, an adult American Crow was seen flying from a backyard bird feeder to a branch in a white ash tree (*Fraxinus americana*) approximately 16 meters away and 6 meters above the ground. The crow carried a dead Black-capped Chickadee in its bill. The chickadee was nearly decapitated and had been partly eviscerated, with some internal organs hanging down to one side. The crow paused after landing, positioned the chickadee on the branch under its right foot, surveyed the area, then pecked several times at the chickadee.

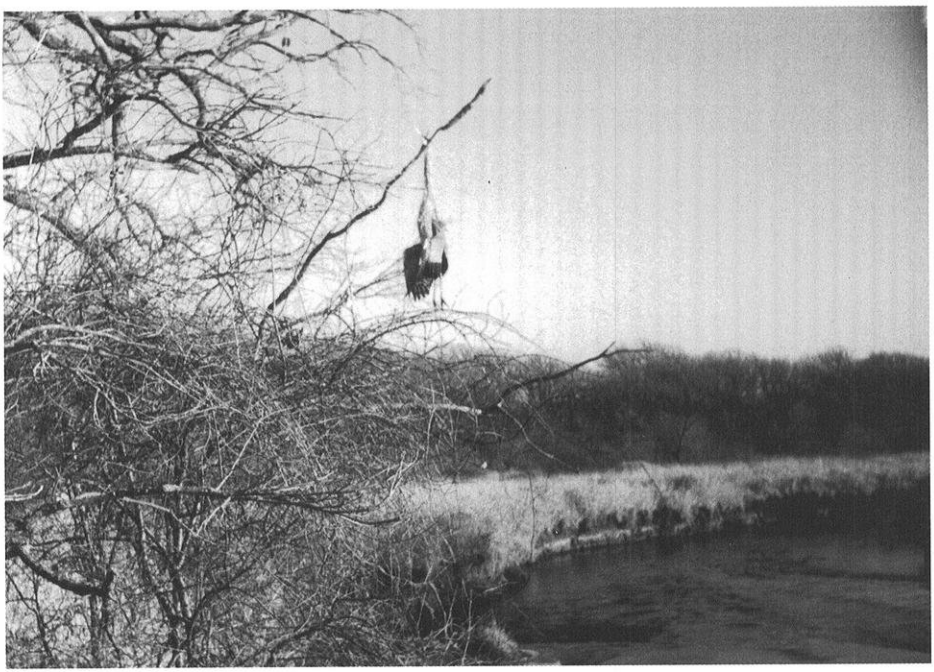

Figure 1. Unusual Great Blue Heron mortality. This dead Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodius*) was photographed on Badfish Creek, one mile east of Cooksville, Wisconsin, by Obert Nelson in November 1999. Writes John Wilde of Evansville, who sent in his friend's photo: "The heron, much ravaged by time, was still hanging as shown when I saw it on 7 May 2000. How the bird managed to hang itself is certainly a mystery."

The crow then ingested the now detached head of the chickadee in a single swallowing motion and the remainder of the bird in approximately four successive motions. The crow remained on the branch for about three minutes surveying the bird feeder and surrounding area and then flew out of sight.

During this time, four other chickadees were observed in another ash tree near the bird feeder. All four birds watched the crow, but remained nearly motionless. The chickadees returned to the feeder six to seven minutes after the crow flew off. A Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), apparently unaware of (or unconcerned with) the crow, visited the feeder for about two minutes while the crow was in the ash tree occupied with the dead chickadee. No other small birds were observed around the feeder during this time, although a variety of species routinely used the feeder and could be expected. Perhaps other species were frightened away during the initial attack.

At 1300 hours on the second day, I heard the "high zee" alarm calls characteristic of Black-capped Chickadee anti-predator responses (Ficken and Witkin 1977, Smith 1991). Upon investigation, I observed an American Crow (possibly the same individual) feeding on another chickadee atop the bird feeder. Four other chickadees were observed sitting motionless in the nearby

ash tree. It is unknown if the chickadee flock involved in this second attack was the same flock that was involved in the previous predation observation, but I believe it was not.

The crow decapitated the chickadee and swallowed the head. The internal organs were consumed next, but the remainder of the chickadee was abandoned when a nearby apartment door was opened, disturbing the crow. The remains of the chickadee fell to the ground, where they were scavenged a few minutes later by a second American Crow that had been watching from a nearby rooftop.

American Crows were not observed at or around the bird feeder before the reported incidents, although they routinely roost in a nearby conservancy area and scavenge on nearby parking lots. The predatory behavior appeared to be a new behavior, at least at the feeder in question.

A variety of factors, including the relatively high intelligence of corvids (e.g., see Zach 1979), probably influence predatory behaviors of American Crows. Two important factors are the spatial and temporal availability of birds as prey, both of which are likely to vary within habitats (Hamas 1984). The observed bird feeder is relatively isolated with respect to other feeders, making the presence of the chickadees and most other small birds unpredictable and highly variable. The feeder location may create a situation, by fostering accidental encounters or trial-and-error learning, that results in temporary but profitable food patches for the crows, as suggested by Hamas (1984).

It is not surprising that American Crows might opportunistically feed at a bird feeder, particularly in the winter when other animal foods (i.e. insects, carrion, hibernating species, etc.) may not be readily available. Such behavior could have competitive advantages; feeding on higher energy sources during the winter could result in increased fitness and production of more offspring during the breeding season. However, crows were not observed at the feeder during the remainder of that winter or in subsequent years (the feeder was maintained through the spring of 2000). Nor did the predation attacks appear to affect subsequent visitation rates by chickadees or other small birds. Together, these factors suggest that my observations were of chance encounters rather than repeated instances of learned behavior.—*Dreux J. Watermolen, Bureau of Integrated Science Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.*

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Bald Eagle Eats Common Loon Eggs

Late June 2000, Burnett County—In late June, a neighbor on the Burnett County lake beside which we live discovered a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) sitting on the nest of a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in front of her house. The nest had been an item of much observation for the prior several weeks. Eggs of the first loon nesting were lost to an unknown reason. The loons now were on their second nesting attempt.

When I arrived in the neighbor's yard, the eagle was eating what we assume was egg content, taking it with its bill from the nest. The material the eagle brought up in its beak appeared to be thin and runny; there were no pieces of substance to be seen. The eagle occasionally had stringy bits of what appeared to be vegetable matter in its beak after a feeding retrieval, probably material used to construct the nest.

The eagle later tossed from the nest fragments of what appeared to be egg shell. We were observing this with a 40–50× scope from about 150 yards. After feeding for perhaps 20 minutes, the eagle bent from the artificial nesting platform and moved its beak briskly through the lake water, then flew off.—*Jim Williams, 5239 Cranberry Lane, Webster, WI 54893.*

Blue Jay Kills European Starling

1 March 2000, Horicon, Dodge County—At about 10:15 A.M., I observed two Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) land on a platform feeder in my backyard. They chased away four House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and two Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*). The jays fed on cracked corn and opened several sunflower seeds. Four European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) joined the jays, and aggressive behavior occurred from each species. One of the jays struck a starling on the head. The starlings fed briefly, and one of them fluttered to the ground. It stood for a few seconds, and then fell over, apparently dead. The jays departed and I went outside to look at the starling. It had one small drop of blood on the top of the head, apparently from the blow of the jay.

This observation made me recall a report by a coworker of a Blue Jay killing an adult Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). The swallow was drinking at a backyard birdbath when a jay landed nearby. The jay pecked the swallow on the head and it fell into the water. The jay flew away, but the swallow was dead. My friend speculated that the swallow may have recently fledged from a nest box in his yard, and had not yet learned of jays' aggressive behavior.

Although jays are frequently observed eating eggs and the small young of other birds during the nesting season, these observations are of aggressive behavior at feeding and drinking

sites, not killing for food. Clearly, most small birds are aware of Blue Jay aggressive actions and give them ample room.—*Richard A. Hunt, 309 Birchcrest Road, Horicon, WI 53032.*

Pileated Woodpecker Feeds on Wild Grapes

19 October 2000, near Plainfield, Waushara County—Around 3 P.M., I happened to hear a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) calling from the front yard of the Hamerstrom homestead, so I went to one of the upstairs windows to see where it was. It was clinging to a small box elder tree at the edge of the lawn by the roadside, about six feet off the ground. As I watched, I observed that the bird would reach out and pluck something, then retract and reach out again. I then realized that the box elder was covered by a wild grapevine and that it was the grapes that were being eaten, one at a time. The bird appeared to pluck at one group of grapes six or eight times before moving its position to hit the next group. It fed at about three different groups of grapes before it flew off to perch on an ancient dead elm stump.

I observed this Pileated come back to this same tree two more times and perform the same eating pattern at about the same time each day. One time, I heard a car coming and was curious to see if this would flush the bird, but it sat tight and resumed dining on its grapes after the car was past. I wonder if this behavior has been observed by others?—*Deann L. De La Ronde, N6789 3rd Ave., Plainfield, WI 54966.*

Evidence of Late Nesting or Renesting by Sandhill Cranes

4 July 2000, Montello, Marquette County—Returning from shopping in Westfield, I noted a pair of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) several hundred meters ahead feeding in emerging silage corn. The site was the juncture of County Highway Y and Eagle Road, roughly 10 kilometers north of Montello. This was my home road and I routinely see this pair feeding here from March to August each year.

The surprise came as I drove past some 20 meters from the pair. Between them marched a downy, orange colt whose head, when raised, did not reach the knees of the parent birds. I estimated it at no more than 18–20 centimeters tall, which seemed very small for this time of year.

I had recently been to the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to visit a student involved with the Whooping Crane reintroduction project and had observed the collection of roughly three-week-old Sandhill Crane chicks being hand-reared there for imprinting on ultralight aircraft destined to lead them to Florida. The young cranes I'd seen at Necedah were fully two and a half times the height and four to six times the mass, with gray flight feathers and contours beginning to emerge, and a much less orange or downy appearance than the young crane in the field before me. I would have guessed the youngster in the field to be roughly five to eight days of age, which would have required the parents to be incubating as late as 29 June. This would place egg laying at about 31 May, given the 30-day incubation period for the species.

I have censused 16–30 square miles of Marquette County annually since 1982 for the International Crane Foundation (ICF) counts. It is not uncommon to have counts that occur past 15 April show low call numbers due to

nesting activity of adults. This pair of cranes (a pair whose nest, territory, and feeding location I've known for 12–15 years) had gone silent by the time of this year's crane count, coincidentally held 15 April, which is usually an indication that nesting has commenced. Given that evidence, I think it is more likely the colt I observed was the product of a late renesting effort rather than the pair being six weeks behind in nest initiation.

I called Scott Swengel at ICF to inquire whether young colts seen this late in summer were a common phenomenon for the species and the area. He recalled a case of another pair in the Westfield area that successfully hatched a third clutch on or about 1 July in 1983 or 1984, after loss of the first two nests. He also reported that one nest in the Briggsville area was laid on 30 May 2000 and is a suspected renesting.

While renesting is documented for the species, it is still a rare enough aspect of behavior to warrant description. As an epilogue, I saw the same colt on 11 July in the same field. While clearly older and larger, it was still significantly smaller and more orange than those I'd seen in Necedah six weeks earlier.—*Philip Whitford, Biology Dept., Capital University, 2199 East Main St., Columbus, OH 43209.*

Partial Albino American Robin from Northern Illinois

1 June 2000, Paw Paw, Lee County, Illinois—I observed a white robin foraging at the Paw Paw, Illinois Country Club (Figure 2). It was immediately obvious that it was an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), with its familiar walking posture and erect stance, along with its close association with others of its kind. In talking with Bob Woodrick, I was informed that this bird was first observed on 8 April 1997, and, much to my surprise, a bird of similar appearance reappeared at the same locality on 16 March 1998, and was photographed at that time. During the following years, additional observations and photographs have been made.

The following field marks were noted. It was a normally sized male, with a distinctive black half-moon-shaped crescent over the eye, which gives the impression of having a "black eye," along with several distinct black blotches on the posterior portion of the head. When folded, the primaries have several distinctive black markings. The bill appears normal for a male, but with a brighter yellow-orange appearance. The tarsi coloration appears normal. The throat and forehead are distinctively white, as was the entire dorsal surface of the back. The undertail coverts are whitish, while the breast is white with distinctive brick red splotches scattered throughout.

According to Bent (1949, *Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets, and their Allies*, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. #196), albino robins occur rather frequently, although Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*, Indiana Univ. Press) cites only localities from Mason, Morgan, and Sangamon Counties in Illinois.—*Harlan D. Walley and Kent A. Walley, Department of Biology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.*

Possible Nest Parasitism Observations for Giant Canada Geese

The following observations were incidental to an intensive 168-hour study

Figure 2. This partial albino American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) has been observed many times at a Lee County, Illinois, country club since 1997. Photo by Kent A. Walley.

of Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) sexual behavior conducted from 15 March to 5 May 1996 at Blendon Woods Metro Park, Columbus, Ohio. Observations were made within a fenced 48-hectare wildlife refuge within the park from a large public observation shelter overlooking a 4.5-hectare man-made lake with a resident population of roughly 180 Giant Canada Geese. Though the elevated shelter was only 5 meters from the lake, shelter entry was by way of paths that hid people from the geese, and people were not permitted to leave the paths. This arrangement permitted close observation of goose behavior virtually unaltered by human disturbance, other than supplemental feeding provided by park personnel in the form of five bushels of shelled corn per day placed at the water's edge on the northwest side of the lake.

From 0800 to 1400 EST on 5 April 1996, I was in the west observation shelter, the site where I spent all my time recording data on the sexual behavior of geese. This date marked the first week of any visible nesting activity at the park, though intensive territorial fighting for nesting territories had been prevalent in the preceding weeks. Only one nest was complete and being incubated as of this date, though several more had been started and contained incomplete clutches of eggs.

On 3 and 4 April, I watched the female of a well-known pair constructing her nest in a grassy area surrounded by blackberry canes on the near edge of the island, roughly 25 meters from the observation shelter. Elevation of the

shelter made it possible to see into the nest with a spotting scope to determine egg presence. The male of the pair constantly stood nearby and defended her from neighboring males that intruded into the territory. This is a densely nesting colony of geese. Island territories were small, limited in number, and fighting for them was intense since they were the only sites relatively free of predation. During the prior two days of observations, the female had laid two eggs and spent most of her time adding materials to the nest. Normal behavior of Canada Geese is for the female to begin incubation only as the clutch nears completion, frequently after the fourth egg is laid. Knowing this, I was not surprised when the goose and her mate left the nest territory to go to the feeding site across the lake.

Minutes after they left, I observed a single goose climb the bank of the island and sit down upon the nest. I was surprised at the absence of the male, but I still assumed this was the female of the territorial pair owning the nest; neither female was marked, so it was a natural assumption. The female in question occupied the nest for 25–30 minutes, pulling in grasses and other materials and adding them to the nest in typical fashion for the species. I never questioned that all wasn't normal until the territorial pair that belonged to the nest returned from feeding. They loudly drove off the interloping female that had been working on the nest with aggressive calls and actions, followed by a triumph display.

Obviously, since she was driven away and the returning pair clearly claimed the site, the nest this female had been working on was not her own. Yet, while this invading female had been working on the nest, she had ample opportunity to lay an egg in the nest—and I believe did so—since there were three eggs visible therein when she left. There is always a possibility that she may have only exposed a previously unseen egg that had already been present, but I believe it unlikely. Laying eggs in another bird's nest is a common action for some dump-nesting species, such as Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and nest-parasitizing waterfowl like the Redhead (*Aythya americana*). Anecdotal evidence of this behavior in domestic fowl goes back to the barren hen "Henrietta," recanted in Owen Wister's "The Virginian." However, construction upon, and use of, an active nest of another goose by a Canada Goose is unheard of.

To the best of my knowledge, one female laying her eggs in another Canada Goose's active nest has not been previously documented, though Brakhage (1965) reported "dump nests," collections of eggs in inactive nests, as part of his study. The distinction is that an inactive nest will not lead to true nest parasitism, since the eggs will not be hatched by another bird, whereas use of an active nest implies intent to parasitize by having the other bird incubate the eggs and raise the young.

Eggs not in nests, called drop eggs, are common early in the nesting season at sites where Giant Canadas nest. During the week preceding these observations, 8–10 drop eggs had appeared on the 20×50-meter island, scattered throughout numerous territories (exact numbers are uncertain since crows made rapid work of removing these high-nutrient items if territorial geese weren't nearby.). Drop eggs are believed to be laid by females that have not yet gained territories or

nests and may well not have a mate to assist in territorial acquisition. Only a very slight change in behavior is necessary to move from this drop egg deposition to dump nesting and then to a nest-parasitic reproductive strategy. The same physiological cues that draw a female to her own nest when she is about to lay an egg may make an unattended nest a natural place for a female without a nest to deposit her egg.

Once incubation begins, a female Canada Goose stays on the nest 95% to 98.6% of the time (Aldrich and Raveling 1983) and leaves the territory only to get water and bathe, so there is very little opportunity for nest parasitism. Additionally, it should be noted that parasitism after incubation began would be less likely to lead to successful hatching of the deposited egg(s) if eggs already in the nest began incubation more than a day or two earlier than parasitic eggs. On the other hand, since females who have begun nesting will leave the nest unattended before the clutch is complete, this provides a window of opportunity when another female would have access and opportunity to lay eggs in a nest not her own, and might do so with reasonable certainty that incubation had not yet commenced. Such a strategy would certainly convey an evolutionary advantage over simply abandoning the egg as a drop egg, since it might well hatch in another bird's nest. Thus, under Darwinian logic, one would expect such behavior to be selected for due to increased survival of genes for this behavior once the behavior was established. It would be interesting if one were able to follow the actions of this single female closely and find out if this was an isolated act or one she repeated with other nests, and whether the same female or separate individuals were involved in this and the following observation. Even more interesting would be finding out if her/their offspring showed similar behavior.

Though the bird in question in the prior observation was unmarked, there is circumstantial evidence that she might have repeated the process several days later at another nest. On 9 April, a reliable volunteer naturalist at the park said she had seen an unmarked female sit in and work on the nest of 4HOT (4HOT was the black-lettered alpha-numeric code on this goose's white neck collar) during a period of 40–50 minutes on 8 April, while 4HOT and her mate were off feeding. She was one of the few collared birds present and thus was well-known to park personnel and volunteers. 4HOT nested just 12 meters from the north observation shelter, so was easily watched. She had been on her nest off and on for the preceding two days and had a partially complete clutch of eggs. Again, the observation of the strange female on the nest corresponded to the period when egg laying had begun but the clutch in the nest was incomplete, providing a relatively rare opportunity for nest parasitism. 4HOT began incubation two days later and continued until the nest was destroyed by an unknown predator on 26 April. The other female was never seen on the nest again. Since eggs had not been counted prior to her presence on the nest, there is no certainty that one was laid. However, 4HOT's nest held six eggs when incubation began, at or above the norm for this subspecies, indicating that six eggs had been laid in four to five days by a species in which one egg every 1.5 days is the normal deposition rate (Cooper 1978). It is

possible that 4HOT laid all six eggs, but given the observation of the other goose on the nest and the short time frame, it is also quite possible that she did not. Only mitochondrial DNA tests or gene comparisons would prove that an egg was added, but the timing, actions, and circumstantial evidence pique the interest and hint at a possibility of a second incident of intentional nest parasitism within this population of the species. The interloper was driven off by 4HOT and her mate when they returned. As in the earlier observation, this goose added materials to the active nest of another goose, and possibly an egg as well. I probably would have thought nothing of this reported observation had I not witnessed such a similar event on the preceding day. Given these observations, it may be necessary to question prior conclusions of my own concerning rapid egg deposition rates observed for geese at this study site (Whitford 1998).

While numerous past studies have detailed egg deposition rates, clutch size, and nesting success for Canada Geese, few have intensively watched individual nests for prolonged periods. The latter form of study would be necessary to observe and recognize this form of nest parasitism in a natural setting. Only intense studies of marked birds or nest-by-nest DNA analysis of large numbers of eggs will finally permit us to accurately determine the extent of nest parasitism in Giant Canada Geese, if it does occur with some regularity.

I would like to acknowledge the kind assistance of Mr. Jim Giggi, Blendon Woods Metro Park Manager, and the Columbus Area Metro Parks for making this study possible. I also thank Naturalists Leslie Phillips and Karen Johnson for their daily assistance in keeping me informed of observed changes in nesting status of pairs on the few days I could not be present.—*Philip C. Whitford, Biology Department, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio 43209.*

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Tape-recorded Broadcasts of Nestling Alarm and Adult Nest Defense Calls to Attract Merlins

Tape recordings of adult Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) vocalizations have been used by several researchers to detect Merlins (Oliphant and Thompson 1978, Doolittle 1992, Caley 1994, Solensky 1997) but, to my knowledge, no studies have used nestling alarm calls or adult nest defense calls for this purpose. I here report the successful use of nestling alarm and adult nest defense calls to detect Merlins at 18 Wisconsin nest sites.

Using a portable Marantz Superscope tape recorder with an attached 48-centimeter parabola (Dan Gibson Company E.P.M. model 650), I recorded an adult Merlin pair as they defended their nest while researchers (Caley 1994) banded their young. Recordings of the nestlings' alarm calls

were also made at this time. Media Development personnel at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire edited the original tapes to produce a series of five-second recordings with one-minute intervals between calls.

Susan Caley (1994) and Matthew Solensky (1997) found most of the 18 nests visited during this study, which were located in urban Duluth, Minnesota, and in Superior and rural north-central Wisconsin. Following Balding and Dibble (1984), I made three broadcasts separated by one-minute intervals at each nest site to detect Merlins either aurally or visually. The tape was broadcast at 100 decibels (measured 1 meter from the speaker) at an estimated distance of 100 meters from the nest on days with no precipitation and a wind speed less than 16 kilometers/hour. The nestling alarm call recording was broadcast at six of the 18 nest sites, and the adult nest defense recording was used at the remaining 12 nest sites. Broadcasts were made during the incubation or early nestling period of the breeding cycle (20 June to 11 July 1994). Since all 18 nests were successful, it was assumed that at least one adult would be incubating, brooding, or near enough to hear the broadcast.

Merlins were detected at five of six nest sites (83.3%) following broadcast of the nestling alarm calls. The adult birds always vocalized, but flew closer only twice. The site where there was no detection resulting from the playback was an island on Trout Lake, Vilas County, Wisconsin. On this occasion, a male Merlin later vocalized near the nest site during the banding of the young. It is not possible to discern whether the male was present and did not respond to the broadcast or was out of hearing distance when the broadcast was given.

Interestingly, a female Merlin was observed perched near her nest on an island in the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. When I broadcast the nestling alarm recording out of visual sight of the female, behind a nearby island, the female responded immediately, flying to the island where I was concealed and vocalizing repeatedly. I then moved behind the island with the nest, out of visual sight of the female, and rebroadcast the chick alarm, whereupon the female flew immediately back to the nest, vocalizing repeatedly.

Merlins were detected at 10 of 12 nest sites (83.3%) following broadcast of a recording of adult nest defense calls. The birds usually vocalized ($n = 9$) and flew toward the broadcast from the nest or a nearby perch site ($n = 5$). No Merlins were heard or seen at the two nest sites where there were no detections following the broadcast.

The nestling alarm and adult nest defense recordings I used seemed to be nearly as effective as a recording of an adult female Merlin used by Matthew Solensky (1997) to locate 40 nests in north-central Wisconsin during the courtship period. Three of these 40 nests were discovered after he had failed to detect Merlins with broadcasts earlier in the year. His detection rate for Merlins at known nest sites was 92.5% (37 out of 40 nest sites). This may be an overestimate because there might have been other undiscovered nests in the area.

The data from this study are limited, but they suggest that nestling alarm or adult nest defense calls may be as effective as other vocalizations for detecting Merlins. This study suggests investigation of other combinations of

Merlin vocalizations with different parts of the breeding cycle.

I am indebted to Susan Caley and Matthew Solensky for sharing the location of Merlin nests with me, and to Tom Doolittle for sharing his knowledge of the Merlins. I wish to thank Tim Hirsh, Eugene Jacobs, and Patricia Duyfhuizen for editorial suggestions. My thanks also to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for the equipment and technological assistance of the Media Development Center. I also wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance contributed by my wife, Nancy, during this investigation.—*Terry Balding, Biology Department, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702.*

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The Fall Season: 2000

by Mark S. Peterson

The fall of 2000 will be remembered most for two periods full of rare birds in Wisconsin—one in late September and the other in late October and early November—when the fall editor just happened to be visiting the land where the wind comes sweeping down the plain (Oklahoma), so he missed most of the excitement.

The period in late September coincided with the WSO field trip to Wisconsin Point. Noteworthy birds found on this trip included an Arctic Tern, at least 7 Parasitic Jaegers, a Pacific Loon, and at least 30 Sabine's Gulls. This is at least the third year in a row when Wisconsin Point was the place to be in late September.

The second period occurred from mid–October to early November, and turned out to be one of the most phenomenal birding periods ever in Wisconsin. It began with the appearance of a *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird at Tom Uttech's feeder in Ozaukee County on October 13. This was followed by a Broad-billed Hummingbird at the Frerik's feeder in Waupun on October 20 (see Color Plate 1), a White-faced Ibis at Horicon Marsh on October 22, a Rufous Hummingbird at the Kuecherer feeder in Neenah on October 26 (see Color Plate 2), a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Patrick Marsh in Dane County on October 28 (see front cover and Color Plate 4), and, finally, an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Kewaunee on October 30 (see Color Plate 3). Unlike most years, all of these birds stayed around long enough for many birders, if they had the chance, to get to see most or all of them.

The fall of 2000 will probably not be remembered for its weather. August was warm and moist. Hale reported 5 inches of rain in Lake Mills for the month. Five inches of rain fell in Caroline on the 13th and 14th. M. Peterson found 17 warblers in Shawano County on the 12th, and Tessen found 17 warblers in Winnebago County on the 19th. On the 31st, it was 90° in Green Bay, 92° in Suring, and 95° in La Crosse.

September was moist, but not as warm. Hale reported 4.2 inches of rain in Lake Mills for the month. The first frost occurred in Caroline on the 16th. Tessen found 19 warblers in Brown County on the 2nd, M. Peterson found

16 in Shawano County on the 10th, and Ashman found 15 in Dane County on the 10th.

October was cold at the beginning of the month, but then was very warm at the end. Snow flurries were seen in Caroline on the 6th and 7th, while 2.5 inches of snow fell at Land O'Lakes and 1 inch at Eagle River on the 7th. It was 71° at Green Bay on the 26th and in the 70s in Caroline on the 31st.

November began very warm with 70s reported in most of the state on the 1st. The battle between fall and winter lasted about two weeks. Winter won, at least in the northern part of the state, on the 15th when the snow came to stay. By the 23rd, there was 4 inches of ice on the Marion Pond in Waupaca County. Goff reported −4° in Barron County on the 21st. For the month, 10.5 inches of snow fell in Stevens Point and 12 inches fell in Caroline.

A total of 302 species were found in the fall of 2000. Rarities were numerous and included: Red-throated Loons in Douglas, Manitowoc, Oconto, and Shawano Counties; Pacific Loons in Ashland, Dane, Douglas, Ozaukee, Portage, and Shawano Counties; an Eared Grebe in Dane County; Western Grebes in Kenosha, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Vernon, and Washington Counties; Snowy Egrets in Brown and Kenosha Counties; a White-faced Ibis in Dodge County; Ross's Geese in Barron and Brown Counties; Trumpeter Swans in Barron, Burnett, Dane, Portage, Shawano, and Vilas Counties; Harlequin Ducks in Brown, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Counties; a Barrow's Goldeneye in Ozaukee County; Swainson's Hawks in Ozaukee County; Golden Eagles in Kenosha, Ozaukee, and Trempealeau Counties; Spruce Grouse in Oneida and Vilas Counties; King Rails in Kenosha and Winnebago Counties; a Piping Plover in Dane County; Black-necked Stilts in Dodge County; American Avocets in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties; Willets in Milwaukee County; Whimbrels in Door and Manitowoc Counties; Hudsonian Godwits in Brown, Marathon, and Oneida Counties; a Marbled Godwit in Dodge County; Western Sandpipers in Dane, Manitowoc, and Racine Counties; a Purple Sandpiper in Sheboygan County; Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Brown, Dane, Dodge, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Sauk, and Winnebago Counties; a Ruff in Racine County; Red-necked Phalaropes in Brown, Dane, and Dodge Counties; a Red Phalarope in Douglas County; Parasitic Jaegers in Douglas County; a Mew Gull in Milwaukee County; a California Gull in Milwaukee County; Thayer's Gulls in Brown, Dane, Douglas, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan Counties; Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties; Sabine's Gulls in Douglas and Milwaukee Counties; an Arctic Tern in Douglas County; Eurasian Collared-Doves in Oconto County; a Barn Owl in Milwaukee County; a Boreal Owl in Douglas County; *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbirds in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties; a Rufous Hummingbird in Winnebago County; a Broad-billed Hummingbird in Dodge County; Three-toed Woodpeckers in Douglas County; Black-backed Woodpeckers in Douglas County; an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Kewaunee County; a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Dane County; Loggerhead Shrikes in Door and Oconto Counties; a White-eyed Vireo in Lafayette County; Carolina Wrens in Dane, Jefferson, Racine, and Waupaca Counties; Townsend's

Solitaires in Douglas and Sauk Counties; a Varied Thrush in Portage County; a Kentucky Warbler in Richland County; a Hooded Warbler in Shawano County; a Summer Tanager in Marquette County; a Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Waukesha County; and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Milwaukee County.

Reports (1 August–30 November 2000)

Red-throated Loon.—First reported by Williams in Douglas County on October 8. J. Williams found 3 in Douglas County on October 24. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on November 29.

Pacific Loon.—An invasion of this rare loon occurred with 1 in Douglas County on September 21 and 23, 1 in Shawano County on October 22 and 23, 3 in Douglas County on October 24, 1 in Ashland County on October 31, 1 in Ozaukee County on November 2, and 1 in Portage County on November 10 and 11. See "By the Wayside."

Common Loon.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Regan found 100 in Door County on October 30. Found at the end of the period in Dane and Winnebago Counties.

Pied-billed Grebe.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Oneida, and Door Counties. M. Peterson found 518 in Shawano County on October 4. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 30.

Horned Grebe.—First reported by Belter in Marathon County on August 29. On October 14, Tessen found 140 in Manitowoc County and 140 in Sheboygan County. Last reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on November 25.

Red-necked Grebe.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Winnebago County by Ziebell. Ziebell found 3 in Winnebago County on August 13. Last reported by Gustafson in Ozaukee County on October 28.

Eared Grebe.—Reported in Dane County by Burcar on August 24 and 27 and by Stutz on August 26.

Western Grebe.—First reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 14. Hoffman found 4 in Kenosha County on November 1. Last reported by Domagalski in Washington County on November 26.

American White Pelican.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dodge, Door, and Oconto Counties. Tessen found over 500 in Dodge County on October 2. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on November 1.

Double-crested Cormorant.—Reported at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Gustafson found 850 in Milwaukee County on September 4. Reported at the end of the period in Kenosha, Washington, and Winnebago Counties.

American Bittern.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Least Bittern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Jefferson and Winnebago Counties. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on September 16.

Great Blue Heron.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Sontag found 60 in Manitowoc County on September 24. Reported at the end of the period north to Manitowoc County.

Great Egret.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dane, Dodge, Milwaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Tessen found 125 in Dodge County on October 2. Last reported on November 1 in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties by Tessen and in Kenosha County by Hoffman.

Snowy Egret.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown County by several observers. Hoffman found 3 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported on September 12 in Brown County by J. Hansen and Regan.

Cattle Egret.—Found at the beginning of the period in Brown and Winnebago Counties. Ziebell found 4 in Winnebago County on August 4, and Gustafson reported 4 in Brown County (no date given). Last reported by Parsons in Walworth County on October 29.

Green Heron.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Burnett, Vilas, Oconto, and Door Counties. Belter found 8 in Marathon County on August 20. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Black-crowned Night-Heron.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Shawano and Door Counties. Ziebell found 30 in Winnebago County on September 16. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on November 14.

White-faced Ibis.—One was found by Tom Uttech and several others at Horicon Marsh, south of Hwy. 49, on October 22. This bird was seen by many others until at least November 8. See "By the Wayside."

Turkey Vulture.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Cowart found 65 in Ozaukee County on October 6. Last reported by Stutz in Sauk County on November 11.

Snow Goose.—First reported by Goff in Barron County on October 1. Evanson found 37 in Columbia County on October 29. Last reported by the Lukeses in Door County on November 6.

Ross's Goose.—Polk found one in Barron County on October 4, and Tessen found a group of 5 in Brown County on October 26. See "By the Wayside."

Canada Goose.—Found throughout the state during the period. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 3,400 in Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 10.

Mute Swan.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Door and Marathon Counties. Hoffman found 8 in Kenosha County on November 1. Reported at the end of the period north to Door and Marathon Counties.

Trumpeter Swan.—Found at the beginning of the period in Barron County by Goff. Stutz found 10 in Dane County on November 19. Reported at the end of the period in Portage County by Berner and Hall.

Tundra Swan.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Winnebago County by Tessen. Next reported by Stover in Door County on October 3. Lesher found over 10,000 at Pool 8 in Vernon County on November 13. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Door, Jefferson, and Richland Counties.

Wood Duck.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 265 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 3. Reported at the end of the period in Kenosha and Ozaukee Counties.

Gadwall.—First reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 10. Prochowicz found 2,223 in Trempealeau County on November 8. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Milwaukee, and Ozaukee Counties.

American Wigeon.—First reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on September 7. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 6,295 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 3. Last reported by Tessen in Door County on November 24.

American Black Duck.—Reported in scattered areas of the state south to Dodge County at the beginning of the period. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 85 in Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 3. Found at the end of the period north to Marathon and Door Counties.

Mallard.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 8,580 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 8. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Marathon, and Door Counties.

Blue-winged Teal.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 795 at Pool 6 in Trempealeau County on October 3. Last reported by Tessen in Milwaukee County on November 15.

Northern Shoveler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Langlade, and Ozaukee Counties. Prochowicz found 527 in Trempealeau County on November 8. Reported at the end of the period in Dane County by Ashman.

Northern Pintail.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron and Brown Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 550 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 10. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on November 13.

Green-winged Teal.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dane, Dodge, Door, Langlade, and Winnebago Counties. Pro-

chowicz found 416 in Trempealeau County on November 8. Last reported by Strelka in Milwaukee County on November 19.

Canvasback.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron and Ozaukee Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 80,700 at Pool 8 in Vernon County on November 8. Found at the end of the period in Kenosha, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties.

Redhead.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dodge, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties. Regan found 5,000 in Door County on October 30. Found at the end of the period in Door, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties.

Ring-necked Duck.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 10,775 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 8. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties.

Greater Scaup.—First reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on August 27. The Smiths found 550 in Oconto County on November 26. Reported at the end of the period along Lake Michigan north to Door County.

Lesser Scaup.—Reported at the beginning of the period by Ziebell in Winnebago County. Belter found over 200 in Marathon County on October 18. Found at the end of the period in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties.

Scaup sp.—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 11,155 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 8, and Idzikowski reported over 7,000 in Milwaukee County (no date given).

Harlequin Duck.—Reported between October 28 and November 12 in Ozaukee County by several observers, on November 13 in Sheboygan County by the Brassers, and on November 14 in Brown County by Paulios.

Surf Scoter.—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 21. Tessen found 6 in Shawano County on November 1. Last reported by David in Ozaukee County on November 27.

White-winged Scoter.—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 21. Last reported by Regan in Manitowoc County on November 28, when 5 were present.

Black Scoter.—First reported by Tessen on September 23 in Douglas County, where 4 were seen. Last reported by David in Ozaukee County on November 27.

Long-tailed Duck.—First reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 22. Regan found over 2,000 in Door County on November 28. Found at the end of the period in Door, Kenosha, and Ozaukee Counties.

Bufflehead.—First reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 21. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 1,130 at Pool 8 in Vernon County on November 21. Reported at the end of the period north to Vilas and Door Counties.

Common Goldeneye.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door County by the Lukeses. Bridge found 2,500 in Marinette County on November 23. Reported at the end of the period north to Marathon and Door Counties.

Barrow's Goldeneye.—Reported in Ozaukee County from November 12 to the end of the period by many observers.

Hooded Merganser.—Reported at the beginning of the period in scattered areas throughout the state. Prochowicz found 41 in Trempealeau County on November 8. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Door, Eau Claire, Portage, Washington, and Waupaca Counties.

Common Merganser.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Douglas, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 540 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 21. Found at the end of the period in Door, Kenosha, Washington, and Winnebago Counties.

Red-breasted Merganser.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door County by the Lukeses. Sontag found over 250 in Manitowoc County on November 7. Reported at the end of the period north to Door County.

Ruddy Duck.—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, and Winnebago Counties. Schultz reported over 27,000 at Lake Maria in Green Lake County on October 31. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Ozaukee, Washington, and Winnebago Counties.

Osprey.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage and Winnebago Counties. Berner found 9 in Portage County on August 11. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 18.

Bald Eagle.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage and Winnebago Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 28 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on November 21. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Northern Harrier.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffman found 11 in Kenosha County on September 13. Reported at the end of the period north to Portage, Waupaca, and Door Counties.

Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage and Waupaca Counties. Tessen found 50 in Ozaukee County on October 7. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Cooper's Hawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Oneida and Door Counties. Cowart found 10 in Ozaukee County on October 6. Reported at the end of the period north to Clark, Langlade, and Door Counties.

Northern Goshawk.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, and Oneida Counties. Reported at the end of the period in Door and Langlade Counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Kenosha, Outagamie, Portage, and Shawano Counties. Hoffman found 6 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on November 21.

Broad-winged Hawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Cowart found 3,116 in Ozaukee County on September 17. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on October 21.

Swainson's Hawk.—Reported by S. Cutright in Ozaukee County on August 28, and by Cowart in Ozaukee County on November 17.

Red-tailed Hawk.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Cowart found 112 in Ozaukee County on October 27. He reported a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk in Ozaukee County on November 17 and 20. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Langlade, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Rough-legged Hawk.—First reported by Berner in Portage County on August 21. Berner and Hall found 25 in Portage County on November 17. Found throughout the state at the end of the period.

Golden Eagle.—First reported by Lesher in Trempealeau County on October 28. Last reported by David in Kenosha County on November 19.

American Kestrel.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 20 in Shawano County on August 17. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Langlade, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Merlin.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Douglas, and Oneida Counties. Cowart found 52 in Ozaukee County on October 3. Last reported by Stutz in Dane County on November 19.

Peregrine Falcon.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Manitowoc, and Winnebago Counties. Cowart found 24 in Ozaukee County on October 2. Reported at the end of the period in Manitowoc County by Sontag.

Gray Partridge.—Reported during the period in Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, and Shawano Counties. K. Smith found 11 in Kewaunee County on October 3.

Ring-necked Pheasant.—Reported during the period north to Washburn, Oconto, and Door Counties. The Smiths found 16 in Oconto County on November 19.

Ruffed Grouse.—Found during the period south to Richland and Dane Counties. Berner found 11 in Portage County on August 14.

Spruce Grouse.—Reported by Gustafson in Oneida County on August 19, and by Reardon in Vilas County on October 1.

Sharp-tailed Grouse.—Reported by the LaValleys in Douglas County throughout the period.

Greater Prairie-Chicken.—Reported during the period in Portage County by Berner and

Hall. Hall found 273 in Portage County on November 23.

Wild Turkey.—Reported during the period north to Burnett, Florence, Forest, Marinette, and Door Counties. Hall found 26 in Portage County on November 28.

Northern Bobwhite.—Found during the period in Kenosha, Portage, and Richland Counties. Duerksen found 22 in Richland County on November 30.

King Rail.—Reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on August 24, and by Tessen in Winnebago County on September 2.

Virginia Rail.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Jefferson, Langlade, and Winnebago Counties. Hoffman found 4 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 23.

Sora.—Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dane, Langlade, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties. Ziebell found 56 in Winnebago County on September 16. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Common Moorhen.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, and Winnebago Counties. Ziebell found 5 in Winnebago County on August 13. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

American Coot.—Found at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dane, Dodge, Langlade, Manitowoc, and Winnebago Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 34,236 at Pool 7 in La Crosse County on October 3. Found at the end of the period north to Winnebago and Sheboygan Counties.

Sandhill Crane.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Parsons found over 3,000 in Walworth County on October 29. Reported at the end of the period in Dane County by Burcar.

Black-bellied Plover.—First reported by David in Racine County on August 4. Tessen found 130 in Brown County on September 30. Last reported by David in Kenosha County on November 17.

American Golden-Plover.—First reported by David in Racine County on August 18. Evanson found 50 in Columbia County on October 8. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 12.

Semipalmated Plover.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Ozaukee Counties. Belter found 21 in Marathon County on August 4. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Piping Plover.—Schwartz located one at the Nine Springs Sewage Treatment Plant in Madison, Dane County, on September 2.

Killdeer.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Tessen found over 300 in Winnebago County on August 12. Reported at the end of the period in Dane, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties.

Black-necked Stilt.—Tessen saw up to 2 individuals at Horicon Marsh in Dodge County on September 2 and 3. See "By the Wayside."

American Avocet.—Reported by David in Racine County on August 1. One was seen by numerous individuals at the Coast Guard impoundment in Milwaukee from November 10 to 17.

Greater Yellowlegs.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Brown, Dane, Dodge, Langlade, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties. The Smiths found 11 in Oconto County on August 27. Last reported by E. Hansen in Dane County on November 10.

Lesser Yellowlegs.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Langlade County. Ashman found 25 in Dane County on August 26. Last reported by Schimmels in Langlade County on November 10.

Solitary Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Langlade County. Berner found 44 in Portage County on August 5. Last reported by Schimmels in Langlade County on November 11.

Willet.—Reported in Milwaukee County by David on August 5 and by Strelka on August 16.

Spotted Sandpiper.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Stutz found 10 in Dane County on August 10. Last reported by Schimmels in Langlade County on November 9.

Upland Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door and Kewaunee Counties. K. Smith found 7 in Kewaunee County on August 3. Last reported by Knispel in Winnebago County on September 16.

Whimbrel.—Reported by Regan in Door County on August 29, the Shillinglaws had 4 in Door County on September 13, and reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County from September 6 to 18.

Hudsonian Godwit.—Reported by Belter in Marathon County on September 7 and 8, by Tessen in Brown County on October 2, and by Hewitt in Oneida County on October 20.

Marbled Godwit.—Reported by Tessen in Dodge County on September 2.

Ruddy Turnstone.—First reported by David in Racine County on August 4. Hoffman found over 50 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Red Knot.—First reported by Wood in Sheboygan County on September 4. Wood found 3 in Milwaukee County on September 9. Last reported by Wood in Milwaukee County on October 29.

Sanderling.—First reported on August 1 by David in Kenosha and Racine Counties. Tessen found over 500 in Brown County on September 30. Last reported on November 5 in Oconto County by the Smiths, in Ozaukee County by Utech, and in Racine County by David.

Semipalmated Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Portage, and Racine Counties. Tessen found 125 in Brown County on September 2. Last reported on November 1 in Langlade County by Schimmels and in Dodge County by Tessen.

Western Sandpiper.—Reported by David in Racine County on September 1, by M. Peterson in Dane County on September 6, and Manitowoc County on October 7 by Tessen.

Least Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Shawano County. Belter found over 50 in Marathon County on August 30. Last reported by Schimmels in Langlade County on November 1.

White-rumped Sandpiper.—First reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on September 1. The Smiths found 27 in Oconto County on October 22. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on November 8.

Baird's Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane County by Burcar. Berner found 5 in Portage County on August 22. Last reported by Idzikowski in Milwaukee County on November 15.

Pectoral Sandpiper.—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane, Dodge, Langlade, and Winnebago Counties. Belter found over 60 in Marathon County on August 4. Last reported by David in Racine County on November 24.

Purple Sandpiper.—Wood found one in Sheboygan County on October 29.

Dunlin.—First reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on September 1. Regan found 500 in Brown County on October 24. Last reported by the Brassers in Sheboygan County on November 25.

Stilt Sandpiper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane County by Ashman and Burcar. Tessen found 12 in Brown County on August 21. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on November 8.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper.—First reported by Tessen in Dodge County on August 5. Wood found 7 in Racine County on September 2. Last reported by Burcar in Sauk County on September 11.

Ruff.—David found 1 in Racine County on August 8.

Short-billed Dowitcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties. Tessen found 25 in Dodge County on August 5. Last reported by Tessen in Dodge County on November 1.

Long-billed Dowitcher.—First reported by Polk in Chippewa County on August 9. Tessen found 18 in Dodge County on November 1. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on November 21.

Common Snipe.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ashman found 35 in Dane County on November 5. Last reported on November 23 in

Dane County by Ashman and in Washington County by Domagalski.

American Woodcock.—Reported in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffman found 17 in Kenosha County on October 10. Reported at the end of the period in Kenosha and Portage Counties.

Wilson's Phalarope.—First reported by Berner in Portage County on August 13. Last reported by Regan in Brown County on September 19.

Red-necked Phalarope.—First reported on August 17 in Dane County by Ashman and Stutz. Regan found 3 in Brown County on September 10. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 21.

Red Phalarope.—One was found at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on October 14 by Juhnke. See "By the Wayside."

Parasitic Jaeger.—Up to 8 individuals were found at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County from September 21 to 23 by Schultz, Stutz, and Tessen.

Jaeger sp.—One was found at Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge in Trempealeau County by Benz on November 17.

Franklin's Gull.—First reported by Belter in Marathon County on October 1. Tessen found 5 in Brown County on October 20. Last reported by Cowart in Ozaukee County on November 10.

Bonaparte's Gull.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan Counties. Idzikowski found 6,000 at the end of the period in Milwaukee County.

Mew Gull.—One was present at the South Metro Pier in Milwaukee from November 11 to the end of the period.

Ring-billed Gull.—Found throughout the state during the period. Sontag found 1,500 in Manitowoc County on September 21.

California Gull.—Lubahn found 1 at Bradford Beach in Milwaukee County on November 5. See "By the Wayside."

Herring Gull.—Reported in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffman reported thousands in Kenosha County on September 13. Found at the end of the period north to Door County.

Thayer's Gull.—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 22. Idzikowski found 9 in Milwaukee County on November 20. Reported at the end of the period in Milwaukee County by Idzikowski.

Lesser Black-backed Gull.—First reported by Idzikowski in Milwaukee County on September 26, where he reported 3 at the end of the period. Also reported from Dane and Racine Counties.

Glaucous Gull.—First reported by the LaValleys in Douglas County on October 10. Regan found 3 in Brown County on November 26. Reported at the end of the period in Brown and Douglas Counties.

Great Black-backed Gull.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door and Sheboygan Counties. Tessen found 4 in Manitowoc County on November 21. Found at the end of the period in Door, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan Counties.

Sabine's Gull.—Up to at least 30 individuals were found by Schultz, Stutz, and Tessen at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County from September 21 to 23. One was also found at Bradford Beach in Milwaukee on November 5. See "By the Wayside."

Caspian Tern.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Oconto and Door Counties. Ziebell found 60 in Winnebago County on August 2. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Common Tern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas and Sheboygan Counties. Stutz found 20 in Douglas County on September 23. Last reported by Holschbach in Dunn County on November 3.

Arctic Tern.—One was found at Wisconsin Point in Douglas County on September 21 by Schultz and Tessen, and on September 23 by Stutz, Schultz, and Tessen. See "By the Wayside."

Forster's Tern.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Racine, Sheboygan, and

Winnebago Counties. Belter found 6 in Marathon County on September 10. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on October 21.

Black Tern.—Found at the beginning of the period in Jefferson, Oneida, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties. Ziebell found 42 in Winnebago County on August 6. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on September 13.

Rock Dove.—Found throughout the state during the period. Ziebell found 250 in Winnebago County on September 16.

Mourning Dove.—Reported throughout the state during the period. Ziebell found 220 in Winnebago County on September 16.

Eurasian Collared-Dove.—Two that were found during the summer were present throughout the period at White Potato Lake in Oconto County.

Black-billed Cuckoo.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Douglas, and Washington Counties. Last reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on October 3.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas, Richland, and Waupaca Counties. Last reported by Stutz at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment on October 28.

Barn Owl.—One was seen at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment by several observers on November 4. See "By the Wayside."

Eastern Screech-Owl.—Reported during the period in Dane, Dunn, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Richland, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties.

Great Horned Owl.—Found throughout the state during the period. Belter found 4 in Marathon County on October 18.

Snowy Owl.—First reported by the La-Valleys in Douglas County on November 2. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

Barred Owl.—Reported during the period south to Grant, Dane, Jefferson, and Waukesha Counties.

Long-eared Owl.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron County by Goff. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Short-eared Owl.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Clark and Portage Counties. Tessen found 4 in Milwaukee County on November 5. Reported at the end of the period in Portage County by Hall.

Boreal Owl.—Erickson reported a bird brought in to the Superior Animal Shelter on October 24. See "By the Wayside."

Northern Saw-whet Owl.—First reported by Baughman in Vilas County on September 30. The Smiths reported 17 in Oconto County on October 20. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 26.

Common Nighthawk.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Parsons reported over 1,000 in Walworth County on September 1. Last reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on October 10.

Whip-poor-will.—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane, Door, Langlade, and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on September 13.

Chimney Swift.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Sontag found over 300 in Manitowoc County on August 21. Last reported on October 10 by Frank in Ozaukee County and by Hoffman in Kenosha County.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 6 in Portage County on August 14. Last reported by Ziebell in Winnebago County on October 16.

Selasphorus sp. hummingbird.—One was present at the Uttech home in Ozaukee County from October 13 to 31, and another was captured at a feeder in Milwaukee County on November 17. Yet another bird was seen at Freistadt in Washington County from October 30 to November 22 (Figure 1). Unsubstantiated reports of at least three other birds were noted, from as far north as Vilas County. See "By the Wayside."

Rufous Hummingbird.—One was present at the Kuecherer home in Neenah in Winnebago

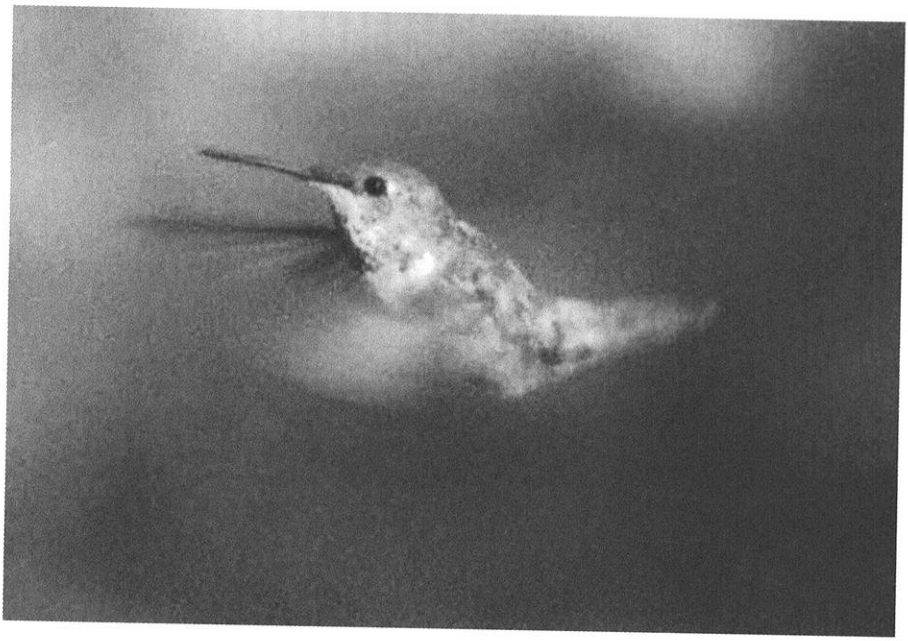

Figure 1. Many *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were noted in Wisconsin during late October and early November 2000. This individual was photographed by John Idzikowski at Freistadt in Washington County on 8 November 2000.

County from October 26 to November 1. See "By the Wayside" and Color Plate 2.

Broad-billed Hummingbird.—This first state record was present at the Frerik residence in Waupun in Dodge County from October 20 to 28. See "By the Wayside" and Color Plate 1.

Belted Kingfisher.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffman found 9 in Kenosha County on November 1. Found at the end of the period in Kenosha, Waupaca, and Winnebago Counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Shawano, and Door Counties. Lesher found 15 in Trempealeau County on October 28. Found at the end of the period in Barron, Kenosha, Portage, and Shawano Counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Reported during the period north to Burnett, Marathon, Shawano, Oconto, and Door Counties. Berner found 4 in Portage County on August 4, Stutz found 4 in Dane County on September 16, and Ziebell found 4 in Winnebago County on September 16.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Evanson found 6 in Ashland County on August 22. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Downy Woodpecker.—Found throughout the state during the period. M. Peterson found 11 in Shawano County on August 4.

Hairy Woodpecker.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. The Smiths found 7 in Oconto County on August 13.

Three-toed Woodpecker.—Reported by Zielinski in Douglas County on August 5, and by Hewitt in Douglas County on November 27. See "By the Wayside."

Black-backed Woodpecker.—In Douglas County: Stutz found 6 on August 20, Tessen found 4 on September 24, reported by Stutz on September 24, and by Belter on October 8.

Northern Flicker.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 16 in Portage County on August 4. Re-

ported at the end of the period in Kenosha, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Richland, and Washington Counties.

Pileated Woodpecker.—Reported during the period south to Grant and Dane Counties. Berner found 3 in Portage County on August 7, Tessen found 3 in Douglas County on September 24, and Belter found 3 in Marathon County on October 18.

Olive-sided Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade County by Schimmels. Last reported by Domagalski in Washington County on October 27.

Eastern Wood-Pewee.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 14 in Shawano County on August 4. Last reported on October 7 in Ozaukee County by Domagalski and Tessen.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade and Oneida Counties. Stutz found 6 in Douglas County on August 20. Last reported on September 17 in Ozaukee County by Bontly, Strelka, and Tessen.

Acadian Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Portage, and Washington Counties. Last reported on August 23 in Washington County by Domagalski.

Alder Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. M. Peterson found 4 in Shawano County on August 3. Last reported on September 10 in Oconto County by the Smiths and in Vilas County by Baughman.

Willow Flycatcher.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Douglas County. Last reported by Evanson in Green County on September 9.

Least Flycatcher.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Berner found 5 in Portage County on August 21. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on October 10.

Eastern Phoebe.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Knispel found 12 in Winnebago County on September 16. Last reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on November 5.

Great Crested Flycatcher.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. K. Smith found 4 in Kewaunee County on August 3, Berner found 4 in Portage County on August 4, and Belter found 4 in Marathon County on August 21. Last reported on September 15 in Kenosha County by Hoffman and in Ozaukee County by Uttech.

Ash-throated Flycatcher.—This first state record was found by Regan in Kewaunee on October 30 and was seen by many others through November 2. See "By the Wayside" and Color Plate 3.

Eastern Kingbird.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 20 in Winnebago County on August 13. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 2.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher.—The identity of this Central American rarity was confirmed by Burcar on October 28; the bird was seen by many others through October 31. See "By the Wayside" and Color Plate 4.

Loggerhead Shrike.—Reported by the Lukeses in Door County at the beginning of the period, and by the Smiths in Oconto County from the beginning of the period through August 13.

Northern Shrike.—First reported by Hall in Portage County on October 20. Tessen found 4 in Door County on November 24. Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the end of the period.

White-eyed Vireo.—Burcar found 1 at Lake Yellowstone in Lafayette County on September 11.

Yellow-throated Vireo.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Langlade, Oneida, Portage, and Shawano Counties. Belter found 4 in Marathon County on August 12, and Stutz found 4 in Grant County on September 10. Last reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on September 28.

Blue-headed Vireo.—Found at the beginning of the period in Oneida, Portage, Shawano, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on September 10. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on October 17.

Warbling Vireo.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. M. Peterson found 4 in Shawano County on August 4. Last reported on September 21 in Ozaukee County by Bontly and in Portage County by Hall.

Philadelphia Vireo.—First reported by Tessen in Winnebago County on August 19. Stutz found 6 in Dane County on September 16. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 2.

Red-eyed Vireo.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Evanson found 91 in Milwaukee County on September 12. Last reported by Domagalski in Washington County on October 8.

Gray Jay.—Reported during the period in Florence, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties.

Blue Jay.—Found throughout the state during the period. Belter found 80 in Marathon County on September 23.

American Crow.—Found throughout the state during the period. Belter found over 400 in Marathon County on October 7.

Common Raven.—Reported during the period south to Portage, Waupaca, and Outagamie Counties. Stutz found 6 in Douglas County on September 24.

Horned Lark.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. K. Smith found 97 in Kewaunee County on November 21. Found at the end of the period north to Barron and Clark Counties.

Purple Martin.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Oconto and Door Counties. Ziebell found 110 in Winnebago County on August 17. Last reported by Holschbach in St. Croix County on September 16.

Tree Swallow.—Found at the beginning of the period throughout the state. Ziebell found 1,150 in Winnebago County on August 22. Last reported by Belter in Marathon County on November 4.

Rough-winged Swallow.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Barron and Oneida Counties. Hoffman found hundreds in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on September 25.

Bank Swallow.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Langlade, and Door Counties. Belter found 90 in Marathon County on August 17. Last reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on October 1.

Cliff Swallow.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. K. Smith found 202 in Kewaunee County on August 9. Last reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on October 1.

Barn Swallow.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. The Smiths found 150 in Oconto County on September 8. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Black-capped Chickadee.—Reported throughout the state during the period. M. Peterson found 90 in Shawano County on August 12.

Boreal Chickadee.—Reported in Vilas and Oneida Counties during the period. Baughman found 5 in Vilas County on September 28.

Tufted Titmouse.—Found during the period in Dane, Dunn, Green, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Richland Counties. Decker found 3 in Richland County on August 28.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. Belter found 12 in Marathon County on October 16. Found at the end of the period south to Dane and Washington Counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch.—Found throughout the state during the period. Berner found 11 in Portage County on August 1, and M. Peterson found 11 in Shawano County on September 10.

Brown Creeper.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas Counties. Hoffman found 7 in Kenosha County on September 13. Found at the end of the period in Dane, Kenosha, Langlade, and Portage Counties.

Carolina Wren.—Reported from the beginning of the period to August 8 in Jefferson County by Hale, throughout the period in Waupaca County by Hewitt, on August 18 in Racine County by David, and on September 16 in Dane County by Stutz.

House Wren.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Parsons found 34 in Walworth County on August 3. Last reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on October 31.

Winter Wren.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Sontag found 5 in Manitowoc County on October 25. Last reported by Holschbach in Dunn County on November 5.

Sedge Wren.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 10 in Winnebago County on August 13. Last reported by David in Milwaukee County on October 2.

Marsh Wren.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Oneida County. Ziebell found 60 in Winnebago County on September 16. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on November 6.

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Oneida, Vilas, and Waupaca Counties. Bridge found 50 in Dane County on October 23. Found at the end of the period north to Langlade and Door Counties.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida and Winnebago Counties. Stutz found 20 in Dane County on October 6. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on November 6.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Shawano County. Tessen found 20 in Winnebago County on August 19. Last reported on October 7 in Ozaukee County by Domagalski and Tessen.

Eastern Bluebird.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Belter found over 50 in Marathon County on September 4. Last reported by Anderson and Petznick in Outagamie County on November 11.

Townsend's Solitaire.—Reported at Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County by many observers from November 4 to 18, and by Hewitt in Douglas County on November 28.

Veery.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Kewaunee, Langlade, Portage, Shawano, Vilas, and Waupaca Counties. Berner found 3 in Portage County on August 24. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on October 10.

Gray-cheeked Thrush.—First reported by Tessen in Brown County on September 2. Uttech found 12 in Ozaukee County on September 12. Last reported by Goff in Barron County on October 8.

Swainson's Thrush.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida and Ozaukee Counties. Uttech found over 30 in Ozaukee County on September 12. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on October 27.

Hermit Thrush.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Zehner found 8 in Milwaukee County on October 6. Last reported by Ashman in Dane County on November 23.

Wood Thrush.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Langlade, and Door Counties. Hoffman found 7 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Goff in Barron County on October 8.

American Robin.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Lesher found 200 in La Crosse County on November 23. Reported at the end of the period north to Vilas County.

Varied Thrush.—One was reported at the Stucker feeder in Portage County from mid–November to the end of the period.

Gray Catbird.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hall found 23 in Portage County on September 6. Last reported by Zehner in Milwaukee County on November 11.

Brown Thrasher.—Found in scattered areas throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hall found 25 in Portage County on September 1. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

European Starling.—Found throughout the state during the period. Knispel found 1,514 in Winnebago County on September 16.

American Pipit.—First reported on September 14 in Ozaukee County by Cowart and in Waupaca County by Hewitt. Tessen found 65 in Ozaukee County on November 4. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on November 24.

Bohemian Waxwing.—First reported on November 11 in Langlade County by Schimmels and in Vilas County by Baughman. Berner found 20 in Portage County on November 29. Found at the end of the period in Portage and Vilas Counties.

Cedar Waxwing.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 190 in Portage County on November 17. Reported at the end of the period north to Langlade County.

Blue-winged Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Portage, Richland, Shawano, and Washington Counties. Berner found 5 in Portage County on August 7. Last reported on September 12 in Kewaunee County by K. Smith and in Washington County by Domagalski.

Brewster's Warbler.—Reported by Berner in Portage County on August 24, and by Ott in Marathon County on October 1.

Golden-winged Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Langlade, Oneida, Portage, and Shawano Counties. M. Peterson found 5 in Shawano County on August 27. Last reported by Bontly in Milwaukee County on September 19.

Tennessee Warbler.—First reported by Domagalski in Dodge County on August 2. Tessen found 50 in Winnebago County on September 16. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on October 14.

Orange-crowned Warbler.—First reported by Stover in Door County on August 25. Domagalski found 3 in Washington County on October 15, and Bridge found 3 in Dane County on October 19. Last reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on October 20.

Nashville Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 15 in Shawano County on August 27. Last reported in Washington County by Domagalski on October 11.

Northern Parula.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Ashman found 4 in Dane County on September 10. Last reported by Bridge in Marinette County on September 24.

Yellow Warbler.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffman found over 20 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 2.

Chestnut-sided Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. Berner found 11 in Portage County on August 7. Last reported by Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 2.

Magnolia Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Winnebago County. M. Peterson found 15 in Shawano County on September 10. Last reported by Domagalski in Ozaukee County on October 14.

Cape May Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida County by the Fishers. Belter found 3 in Marathon County on September 24. Last reported by the Brassers in Sheboygan County on November 11.

Black-throated Blue Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on September 10. Last reported on October 4 in Manitowoc County by Sontag and in Outagamie County by Anderson and Petznick.

Yellow-rumped Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Winnebago County. Cowart found over 2,000 in Ozaukee County on October 2. Last reported by Zehner in Milwaukee County on November 28.

Black-throated Green Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Hoffman found 17 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by the Lukeses in Door County on October 14.

Blackburnian Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, Portage, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 3 in Portage County on August 24, M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on August 26, and Hoffman found 3 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by Tessen on October 2 in Ozaukee County.

Pine Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas Counties. Baughman found 40 in Vilas County on September 8. Last reported by Baughman in Vilas County on September 30.

Palm Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Douglas, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Sontag found 25 in Manitowoc County on September 20. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Bay-breasted Warbler.—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on August 12. Ashman found 4 in Dane County on September 24. Last reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on October 3.

Blackpoll Warbler.—First reported by Tessen in Outagamie County on August 12. Sontag found 7 in Manitowoc County on September 12. Last reported by Domagalski and Tessen in Ozaukee County on October 7.

Black-and-white Warbler.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. M. Peterson found 8 in Shawano County on September 10. Last reported by Belter in Douglas County on October 8.

American Redstart.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Washington Counties. Ashman found 25 in Dane County on September 10. Last reported on October 11 in Milwaukee County by David and in Sheboygan County by the Brassers.

Ovenbird.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Dane County. Berner found 11 in Portage County on August 14. Last reported by Uttech in Ozaukee County on October 3.

Northern Waterthrush.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Shawano, Washington, and Waupaca Counties. M. Peterson found 8 in Shawano County on August 4. Last reported by Sontag in Manitowoc County on October 13.

Louisiana Waterthrush.—Reported from the beginning of the period to August 10 in Dane County by Burcar, on September 9 in Pierce County by Holschbach, and on September 13 in Milwaukee County by Cowart.

Kentucky Warbler.—Duerksen found 1 in Richland County on September 7.

Connecticut Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida County by the Fishers. Last reported by Belter in Marathon County on September 17.

Mourning Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Berner found 6 in Portage County on August 14. Last reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 24.

Common Yellowthroat.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 37 in Shawano County on September 9. Last reported by Regan in Brown County on November 6.

Hooded Warbler.—M. Peterson found a male in Shawano County on August 12.

Wilson's Warbler.—First reported by Berner in Portage County on August 14. Last reported by Domagalski in Washington County on September 21.

Canada Warbler.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Door, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. M. Peterson found 3 in Shawano County on August 27. Last reported by Bruce in Winnebago County on October 3.

Summer Tanager.—Reported by Meid in Marquette County from the beginning of the period to August 9.

Scarlet Tanager.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Washington Counties. Berner found 7 in Portage County on August 1. Last reported by Hall in Portage County on October 1.

Eastern Towhee.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Dane and Washington Counties. Berner found 9 in Portage County on August 11. Last reported by Lesher in Jackson County on November 26.

American Tree Sparrow.—First reported by Domagalski in Dodge County on October 2. Hall found 250 in Portage County on November 14. Found at the end of the period north to Barron, Langlade, and Oconto Counties.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow.—Gross reported one coming to a feeder in Mukwonago on November 25 and 26 (Figure 2). This is Wisconsin's first record for this species. See "By the Wayside."

Chipping Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 65 in Portage County on August 6. Last

Figure 2. Wisconsin's first record of Rufous-crowned Sparrow appeared at the feeder of Maureen Gross in Mukwonago, Waukesha County, on 25 November 2000. Taken from video footage by Maureen Gross.

reported on November 5 in Portage County by Berner and in Ozaukee County by Frank.

Clay-colored Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Ozaukee County. Stutz found 25 in Douglas County on August 20. Last reported by the Lukeses in Door County on October 25.

Field Sparrow.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Barron, Langlade, and Door Counties. Hall found 22 in Portage County on October 5. Reported at the end of the period in Ozaukee County by Uttech.

Vesper Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Washington County. Berner found 13 in Portage County on August 4. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 1.

Savannah Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. K. Smith found 95 in Kewaunee County on August 3. Last reported on October 28 in Dane County by Ashman and in Ozaukee County by Uttech.

Grasshopper Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane, Door, Portage, and Shawano Counties. Berner found 3 in Portage County on August 13. Last reported by Lesher in La Crosse County on September 23.

Henslow's Sparrow.—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane, Langlade, and Shawano Counties. Last reported by Burcar in Dane County on October 1.

Le Conte's Sparrow.—Reported by Gustafson in Oneida County on August 18 and in Milwaukee County on October 19.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.—In Milwaukee County: Wood found 6 on September 17, David found one dead on September 21, Idzikowski found 9 on September 25, and Gustafson found one on October 7.

Fox Sparrow.—First reported by Hewitt in Waupaca County on September 10. Belter found 16 in Marathon County on October 18. Found at the end of the period in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Winnebago Counties.

Song Sparrow.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. K. Smith found 76 in Kewaunee County on August 3. Reported at the end of the period north to Portage County.

Lincoln's Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Hall found 5 in Portage County on September 23, and Stutz found 5 in Dane County on October 9. Last reported by Stutz in Dane County on October 27.

Swamp Sparrow.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Ziebell found 70 in Winnebago County on September 16. Found at the end of the period in Dane and Kenosha Counties.

White-throated Sparrow.—Reported at the beginning of the period south to Portage County. Stutz found 200 in Dane County on October 6. Reported at the end of the period north to Outagamie County.

Harris's Sparrow.—First reported by Tessen in Douglas County on September 21. Last reported by Holschbach in Dunn County on November 1.

White-crowned Sparrow.—First reported by Bontly in Ozaukee County on September 17. Stutz found 6 in Douglas County on September 23. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on November 30.

Dark-eyed Junco.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Oneida and Vilas Counties. Hoffman found 126 in Kenosha County on November 1. Reported at the end of the period north to Barron, Oconto, and Door Counties.

Lapland Longspur.—First reported by Frank in Ozaukee County on September 29. Hall found 225 in Portage County on October 7. Found at the end of the period north to Portage and Waupaca Counties.

Snow Bunting.—First reported on October 19 in Kewaunee and Oconto Counties by the Smiths and in Manitowoc County by Sontag. Tessen found 1,100 in Outagamie County on November 22. Found at the end of the period north to Clark and Door Counties.

Northern Cardinal.—Found throughout the state during the period. Hoffman found 20 in Kenosha County on September 13.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Berner found 22 in Portage County on August 18. Lesher reported an immature in Jackson County on November 26.

Indigo Bunting.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. M. Peterson found 33 in Shawano County on August 4. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on October 10.

Dickcissel.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Dane and Portage Counties. Last reported by Huf in Milwaukee County on October 18.

Bobolink.—Found at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Baughman found 40 in Vilas County on August 20. Last reported by Burcar in Dane County on October 7.

Red-winged Blackbird.—Found at the beginning of the period throughout the state. Ziebell found 4,000 in Winnebago County on October 8. Reported at the end of the period in Dane and Kenosha Counties.

Eastern Meadowlark.—Reported throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Hoffman found over 40 in Kenosha County on September 13. Last reported by K. Smith in Kewaunee County on November 9.

Western Meadowlark.—Found at the beginning of the period in Dane and Portage Counties. K. Smith found 4 in Kewaunee County on August 10. Last reported by Gustafson in Milwaukee County on October 27.

Yellow-headed Blackbird.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Dane, and Winnebago Counties. Belter found 25 in Marathon County on August 20. Last reported by M. Peterson in Dodge County on October 26.

Rusty Blackbird.—First reported by Baumann in Brown County on September 23. Ziebell found 20 in Winnebago County on November 3. Last reported by the Smiths in Oconto County on November 25.

Left: Wisconsin's first record of Broad-billed Hummingbird appeared at the Freriks' feeder in Waupun, Dodge County, in late October 2000. Photo by Dave Freriks.

Below: This Rufous Hummingbird visited a feeder at the Kuecherer residence in Neenah, Winnebago County, in late October 2000. Photo by Dennis Malueg.

Brewer's Blackbird.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Winnebago County. Belter found over 600 in Marathon County on October 18. Last reported on November 1 by Holschbach in Dunn County and by Hoffman in Kenosha County.

Common Grackle.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 2,000 in Winnebago County on November 9. Found at the end of the period in Clark and Kenosha Counties.

Brown-headed Cowbird.—Reported at the beginning of the period north to Vilas County. Parsons found 1,000 in Walworth County on October 16. Last reported on November 30 in Ozaukee County by Frank and in Kenosha County by Hoffman.

Baltimore Oriole.—Found throughout the state at the beginning of the period. Ziebell found 12 in Winnebago County on August 6. Last reported by Hoffman in Kenosha County on September 15.

Pine Grosbeak.—First reported by Baughman in Vilas County on November 15. Reported at the end of the period in Douglas County by the LaValleys.

Purple Finch.—Found at the beginning of the period south to Portage and Waupaca Counties. The Lukeses found 15 in Door County on September 13. Found at the end of the period in scattered areas throughout the state.

House Finch.—Reported during the period north to Vilas County. Hall found 46 in Portage County on November 30. Found at the end of the period north to Barron, Langlade, and Door Counties.

Red Crossbill.—First reported by Baughman in Vilas County on August 2. Frank found 4 in Ozaukee County on November 4. Last reported by Baughman in Vilas County on November 27.

White-winged Crossbill.—Reported by the LaValleys in Douglas County from the beginning of the period to September 24.

Pine Siskin.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Barron, Portage, and Vilas Counties. Berner found 190 in Portage County on November 27. Reported at the end of the period south to Ozaukee County.

American Goldfinch.—Found throughout the state during the period. Cowart found 3,330 in Ozaukee County on October 2.

Evening Grosbeak.—Reported at the beginning of the period in Shawano and Vilas Counties. Found at the end of the period in Vilas County by Baughman.

House Sparrow.—Found throughout the state during the period. Ziebell found 200 in Winnebago County on September 16.

CONTRIBUTORS

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50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*—Spring

August Derleth on the American Crow (from "Walden West," noted as a "work in progress"):

"And, being the epitome of wildness, he is canny as well as arrogant, and in every attribute he has, his essential independence of man stands out. Whereas sparrows, robins, starlings, even nighthawks, and a host of lesser birds do not trouble themselves about and often elect the company of mankind, the crow shuns it, mocks it, derides and keeps his distance from even a lone walker in the woods at any season. But winter is peculiarly the crow's season; however more difficult may be his foraging, he seems in this season to come into his own, hurling his challenge from every corner of the grey winter sky, constantly about in all manner of weather."

"In the sound of his caw is the proof of his wildness. Here clearly is the voice of one who has resisted all the blandishments of civilization, who has defied the best efforts of man to either tame or slay him. It is curious to reflect that the crow's voice should comfort a man in his solitude, however much the crow's rascality be known; yet it is so. It is as if this proof of the essential wildness of this black scavenger were an immutable assurance of the persistence of the wilderness, of the continuity of life itself. There is never dearth of them; they survive from season to season; they escape the most intent gunman; they return as inevitably as the seasons themselves."

(Excerpts from Vol. 13, No. 1, 1951)

Left: Wisconsin's first record of Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered in Kewaunee, Kewaunee County, in late October 2000. Photo by Jack Bartholmai.

Below: A fork-tailed Flycatcher (Wisconsin's third record) was found at Patrick Marsh, near Sun Prairie, Dane County, in late October 2000. Photo by Jack Bartholmai.

"By the Wayside"—Fall 2000

Rare species documentations include Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, Ross's Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Piping Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Red Phalarope, California Gull, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Barn Owl, Boreal Owl, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Selasphorus hummingbird, Three-toed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

23 October 2000, Shawano Lake, Shawano County—I arrived at the county park on the north side of Shawano Lake. Initial scans revealed coots, various ducks and gulls, and a Red-headed Woodpecker at a feeder. After several scans, I picked up a loon that was preening and/or actively feeding in the middle of the lake. It appeared to be a sharp, black-and-white contrasting bird, but a longer, more careful, look was needed. The problem was to relocate it after it dove. When it started to preen, it could be seen to be an overall dark (black) loon with an obvious white throat and neck (front), with a clean contrast with the dark head and neck (back). There was no irregular line down the neck, as in a Common Loon. The bill was held straight and seemed smaller than the typical Common Loon. Eventually, it dove and could not be relocated, as it evidently moved more towards the western side of the lake. About 12 Common Loons were later located to the east and south. None showed the darkness and smooth contrast between the black and white on the neck.—*Daryl D. Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

31 October 2000, Chequamegon Bay, Ashland County—The bird was diving and feeding on the bay in the general proximity of Common Loons. The immediately noticeable characteristic of this bird was its obviously thinner bill and slimmer build than the Common Loon it originally surfaced near. The bird was almost as long as the Common Loon, but its neck was noticeably slimmer and the bill was much less massive, with no noticeable angles. The culmen was dark and the rest of the bill appeared off-whitish. The head was very roundish and its plumage was a smooth dark gray from the eyes back over the nape and down the neck and back. The

malar and cheek base were white, which continued down the throat and upper breast. The gray appeared darkest where it met white on the sides of the neck, forming a thick border between uppers and lowers. The back and upperwing surfaces were finely scalloped with grayish or silver, leading me to believe the bird was immature.—*Daniel P. Williams, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806.*

10–11 November 2000, Wisconsin River Flowage, Portage County—I was checking the flowage, as usual, in the late afternoon, and this loon was the only bird on the water. The flat crown abruptly, but smoothly, sloped into the forehead, and sloped equally smoothly into a rounded nape. It had a long, stout, tapered straight bill that was shorter than the head and held slightly above the horizontal throughout the observation.

It was essentially a black-and-white bird. It had a black forehead, crown, nape, back, wings, and most of the sides and flanks. An obviously darker area of jet black was confined to the lower neck and upper back. The black head feathering appeared to extend from the gape and entirely encompassed the eye. Except for an obscure, narrow, collarlike band extending into the hindneck, no white feathering interrupted the immaculate black top of the bird. The white throat; broad, white cheek; foreneck; and breast were equally immaculate. The margins of black-and-white plumage of the head, neck, and breast were sharp and uninterrupted. The collarlike band did not completely encircle the nape, and was not obvious in relaxed posture, but became prominent when extending the neck. No chinstrap was seen. The white face and cheek patch extended well behind the eye. There was an area of white plumage above the water line along approximately three-fifths of the length between the breast and the tail. The width of this area was something less than one-quarter the depth of the body. It was clean white excepting scattered smudges of gray. This side patch was generally even throughout its length. The open wing was entirely blue-black, with dim bands of darker black through at least the fore part of the inner wing. The underwing, although not well seen, appeared unmarked white.—*Murray Berner, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481.*

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

22 October 2000, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County—Almost as soon as I stopped along Horicon Marsh, I spotted a large, dark, wading bird near some Canada Geese in an open area that seemed fairly shallow. Through a scope, the bird could be seen as a little smaller than the Canada Geese, but longer-legged and longer-billed. The bill quickly identified this as an ibis, being long, slim, and distinctly downcurved. Most of the body was blackish with a glossy green sheen and some chestnut color (an adult bird). The legs and bill were dark gray. The head and neck were slightly streaked (kind of a gray or slightly brownish tone), indicating winter plumage. Most important was the face, which lacked any of the light border around the lore area that is almost always present on a Glossy Ibis in any adult plumage. Most of the time, the eye just appeared dark, but on at least one occasion, while it was preening, a red color was seen in the eye, again indicating not a Glossy

but a White-faced Ibis.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.*

22 October 2000, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County—After leaving Waupun, where I had gone to see the Broad-billed Hummingbird, I stopped along Highway 49 to look at the waterfowl and shorebirds that were gathered on the south side of the road, just west of the pumphouse. Tom Uttech and Dan Belter and another out-of-state birder were also present. Suddenly Tom yelled "Ibis," and we looked up to see a large, dark *Plegadis* ibis flying by within about 50 meters. It flew back from us to the south, and then dropped out of sight in the cattails.

We were elated at the sighting, but also disappointed that the bird had disappeared. Fortunately, however, the bird returned a short time later and landed out in the shallow water in front of us about 70–80 meters away, providing us with good scope views. After a few minutes, it got up and flew a short distance to another spot, but where it landed was a little more distant, perhaps 125–150 meters away. Wishing I had acted sooner when the bird was closer, I now got my camera out of the car and snapped a number of shots. Jack Bartholmai also arrived and began taking photos. We continued watching the bird in our scopes and exchanging comments about our observations for about 20 minutes or so. The lighting was good, with the morning sunshine coming from the east (our left).

The bird was obviously an ibis, with long legs and neck and a long decurved bill. It was an adult in winter plumage, with deep chestnut-brown on the body and glossy greens on the wings and scapulars. The head and neck were heavily streaked with dark grayish brown mottling. We focused most of our attention on the head, knowing that this was where we should look for any distinguishing characteristics that would help us identify the species. Because the bird was spending most of its time feeding—moving around with its head down and the bill in the water—this was not an easy task, but we kept watching and waited for opportunities when the bird would pause and look up.

On a number of occasions, especially when the bird was initially closer, we were able to get brief looks at the eye color and facial pattern in the sunlight. We all agreed that the irises were red and that the facial skin in front of the eye lacked any obvious pale border, both of which would be consistent with a White-faced Ibis at this time of year. A Glossy Ibis would have had dark gray eyes and a more obvious pale border to the bare facial skin. Because of the distance, we could not be absolutely certain of the color of the facial skin itself, but it appeared to be somewhat reddish gray. Unfortunately, my photos are rather distant and show only a large, dark ibis. They aren't good enough to capture any of the details we observed through our scopes.—*Thomas Schultz, Green Lake, Wisconsin 54941.*

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

4 October 2000, southeast Barron County—One very small, white goose with black wing tips swam with the hundreds of Canada Geese on the pond. The little goose was about the same size as the tiniest, stubbiest-billed Canadas. It had a short, thick neck; a very rounded head profile; and a short, pink bill that lacked the thick black

tomia of Snow Geese, having instead some greenish coloration on the base that was clearly visible even at this distance. The little goose swam around for a while and finally disappeared behind a rise near some houses at the southwest corner of the pond.—*Janine Polk, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.*

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*)

28 August 2000, Concordia University, Ozaukee County—The bird was the right size; too big to be any other buteo. This bird was a light-morph adult. When over me, I could see the brown upper breast and the white throat above the brown upper breast. I could also see the white underparts, the striped tail, and the very dark wing tips and wing edges. The flight was strong because the wind was fast and the bird was going with the wind. It was flying away from crows.—*Seth Cutright, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095.*

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*)

2 September 2000, Nine Springs Sewage Ponds, Dane County—Returning from Iowa, my wife gave me an hour to bird while she shopped for a computer. The plover was in a group of approximately 30 shorebirds in the first pond inside the gate. This was an adult Piping Plover that had nearly completed the transition to winter plumage. It jumped out immediately as I scoped this mixed flock; most noteworthy was its overall pale and sandy appearance. I also quickly noted the pale orange legs. As it moved around and fed, I was able to notice that the feet were a brighter orange, more like the summer-plumage form. The bill was short and stubby and largely black, although the base was still orange and more so on the lower bill. The neck ring was the same sandy color as the head and back and was complete (just narrower at the central point of the breast). The black forehead bar was completely gone, and there were no darker feathers in the neck ring, either. I also noted the white forehead and a fairly faint white eyebrow stripe.—*Carl Schwartz, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53211.*

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2–3 September 2000, Horicon Marsh, Dodge County—After talking with Larry Michael for a while, with no appearance of the Black-necked Stilt, I moved over to the Auto Tour Road and boardwalk. After looking there, I returned briefly to the site and was rewarded with a brief appearance of the stilt as it fed in the back part of the ditch.

After church the following day, I returned to Horicon Marsh. Seeing nothing initially, I waited for about a half hour when suddenly two large, black-and-white shorebirds appeared, flying in from the west over the cattail marsh. Both birds disappeared behind the cattails on the left side of the ditch. Almost immediately, one appeared, feeding in the open back part of the ditch. Its large size and black-and-white pattern could be seen with patience. The head and upper body were black, with the front of the neck and belly being white. The legs were long and the bill was long, thin, and dark. After checking other bird sites, I returned to the ditch where other birders had gathered. Soon, one of the birds reappeared.—*Daryl D. Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*)

14 October 2000, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—Near mid-afternoon, John Hockema and I were birding Wisconsin Point. By coincidence, we were looking in the same area when we both saw a medium-sized, gray shorebird fly in and dive behind the gulls. Within seconds, the bird rose again and flew across our field of view for a few seconds, and John called out, "Phalarope!" The bird turned, flew away from us, and eventually dropped gradually behind the concrete. As the bird flew away we both detected an overall grayish to the back, wings, and tail. The back was itself solid gray. There was an obvious white line extending across each wing. The bottom rear of the bird did not contrast against the gray back, wings, or tail. We watched for a few minutes to see if the bird would return. It did not.

The drizzle stopped and we headed to the beach with our scopes. As we reached the beach, four shorebirds landed at water's edge in front of us. We identified them as three Ruddy Turnstones and a Greater Yellowlegs. Later, we found a Black-bellied Plover along the shore about 100 yards from us. Then we noticed a phalarope swimming between the beach, the Wisconsin-side concrete wall, and several large rocks just offshore. Even as the waves swung it about, the bird easily swam and spun as phalaropes do. It skillfully avoided the concrete wall and large rocks. This bird was very obviously a phalarope, and one experienced at maneuvering in the relentless, large waves.

The first view I had of this bird through my scope was from the rear. I saw an obvious rufous-orange in the inverted "V" under the tail feathers. This coloration was obvious each of the several times the bird was aimed so that I saw it from behind. The beak was black and stubby, somewhat like that of a Sanderling, but maybe more stubby than a Sanderling's. The forehead and peak of the head were white. There was a mildly mottled, black stripe from the back of the top of the head down the back of the neck that connected with and/or blended into the obviously solid gray back. This was not the "black toupee" look, reaching across the top toward the front of the head, of a Red-necked Phalarope. There was an elongated black patch extending behind each eye. The throat was tinted with faint orange. The bird's back was quite obviously uniform gray.

Except for two times when the bird flushed for no apparent reason and returned in a minute or so, we observed it steadily for about two hours from 40 yards and later from 20 yards. After having such luxurious observation periods of this bird at Wisconsin Point, and after checking field guides and comparing similar species, it was very obvious to us that this was a Red Phalarope in transitional plumage from summer to winter. Attempts at locating phalaropes or similar birds in the area, especially at Wisconsin Point, on subsequent days were unsuccessful.—*Charles M. Juhnke.*

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

5 November 2000, Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County—This particular gull was easily separable in flight among a flock of Ring-billed Gulls flying toward me. Initial separating features were longer and darker wings and a slightly

darker mantle. The outer primaries, as on a Ring-billed Gull, were blackish up to the alula, yet more uniform than a Ring-bill. The secondaries were also blackish. The greater coverts were also dark, but a more uniform blackish brown. The lesser coverts were a washy, yet slightly mottled, brownish gray; darker and more uniform than a much lighter and mottled Ring-billed Gull. The inner primaries were slightly paler, but not as contrasting as the pale windows of a Ring-bill—consistent, more along the lines of a Mew or Thayer's Gull.

I have seen a lot of variation in early- and late-winter first-year Ring-billed Gulls and second- and third-year Herring Gulls, yet this bird stood out quite differently. The wings and mantle were not dark enough to suggest a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Also, in flight, was an all-white upper tail and rump with a sharply demarcated blackish band. This feature precludes a first-year Ring-billed Gull. The standing bird offered additional clues that suggested a California Gull. These features included a distinctly longer bill that lacked an obvious gonydeal angle at the tip. The bill was a pale yellowish gray, maybe greenish, with a dark tip. The legs were the same color as the bill. The back of the head, nape, neck, and sides of the breast were mottled with brown. I wish I would have looked at the iris, but I did not. The bird was overall longer-bodied, heavier-breasted, and long-winged. All these features were perfect for a California Gull. It stood on the beach next to some Ring-billed Gulls, and was slightly, but obviously, larger. Again, the mantle was a darker shade, but not dark enough to suggest a Lesser Black-backed, Western, or even a Black-tailed Gull.—*Steven Lubahn, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.*

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

21–23 September 2000, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—A few of us were birding Wisconsin Point on the afternoon of 21 September, scouting birds for the WSO weekend field trip. At around 5:30 P.M., we were scanning the lake with scopes from the breakwater wall at the harbor entrance, and noticed a flock of gulls that were flying far out over the lake, probably more than two or three miles away! What caught our attention was their unusual flight style as they wheeled about, occasionally diving down to the surface of the lake to pick something off the water. As we kept watching them, Chris Wood and I were becoming more and more mystified, since we were certain that they were too small and active to be Ring-billed or Herring Gulls, but they didn't appear to be Bonaparte's Gulls, either. Fortunately, the flock was moving in our direction and we continued to watch the birds, hoping to get some visual clues to their identification.

Finally, as they got to within a mile or less, we began to pick up a hint of a striking wing pattern, and we continued to get better looks when the birds started to pass in front of the trees and ridgeline of Minnesota's north shore. The darker background of the shoreline now made it much easier to see the birds' field marks and the characteristic pattern of the Sabine's Gull became totally obvious to us: a long, black triangle of black on the outer wing; a wide, white triangle of white on the middle part and trailing edge; and a medium brownish color on the inner

part of the wing and the mantle. We were absolutely stunned with the realization that we were seeing a flock of 19 Sabine's Gulls—an observation that, as far as we knew, was totally unprecedented on the Great Lakes!

The birds continued flying toward Duluth, then seemed to realize that they were running out of lake and started heading back out toward the middle of Lake Superior, where we eventually lost sight of them. The next day, we were back at the point and saw two individuals at about 10 A.M., three birds at around 11:30, and another group of three later in the afternoon.

Much to the delight of the attendees of the WSO field trip, the gulls made several appearances through the morning of 23 September. Our group's biggest observation of the weekend, with two flocks totalling at least 29 individuals, flew in from the lake, passed out beyond the harbor entrance and into Minnesota waters, and then back out into the lake. By far, the majority of the Sabine's Gulls we observed were juveniles, with the most adults seen at one time being two or three. The juveniles showed the very striking and diagnostic wing pattern that is typical of the species: a black triangle on the outer primaries and up to the wrist; a large, white triangular patch on the trailing edge of the wing that extends up to the wrist (including the inner primaries and secondaries); and a medium grayish brown color on the inner wing, upperwing coverts, and the mantle that extends up onto the head. The flying birds presented a truly flashy appearance with this distinctive and contrasty wing pattern. The underparts were all white, and the tail was white with a black bar across the terminal portion, although most of the time this was difficult to discern. The adults looked very similar, but were a cleaner gray with less brown above (on the inner wings and mantle) and appeared to have more black on the head, although the exact extent was difficult to discern with the distance.—*Thomas Schultz, Green Lake, Wisconsin 54941.*

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

21, 23 September 2000, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—Around 2:50 P.M., shortly after arriving at Wisconsin Point, Daryl Tessen, Chris Wood, and I were scanning Lake Superior when we noticed a small group of terns approaching. Most of the birds were identified as Common Terns, but one of the individuals caught our attention because it was noticeably darker than the others. As we focused in on that bird and followed it with our scopes, we became more and more convinced that we were seeing an adult Arctic Tern.

As mentioned above, the most noticeable feature of this bird was its overall darker appearance, especially on the underparts. The throat, breast, and belly were all a uniform medium-to-darkish gray, which greatly contrasted with the very white rump and tail. The pale rump also stood out in stark contrast to the darker gray back and mantle. The bird had a completely dark (black) cap—as it would look in breeding plumage—which supported our feeling that this was an Arctic Tern because this species doesn't typically molt into winter plumage until it reaches the wintering grounds. Common

Terns, on the other hand, tend to commence their fall molt earlier.

In overall structure and flight style, this bird also showed the characteristics of an Arctic Tern because the head and neck projection appeared short, while the tail projection behind the wings was rather long. The exact color and profile of the bill was difficult to discern due to the distance, but the bill did appear rather smallish in size. The wings seemed to be relatively narrow, slimmer than those of the Commons, and, at times, the narrow, dark trailing edge of the primaries could be seen and appeared narrower than the corresponding stripe on the Commons. There was no evidence of partial wing molt, with all of the flight feathers appearing uniform. As the bird flew, it also appeared to have a lighter, more buoyant, flight style than that of the Common Terns flying nearby.—*Thomas Schultz, Green Lake, Wisconsin 54941.*

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

4 November 2000, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee County—After flushing one Short-eared Owl, this bird, an adult female, flew up from tall, weedy vegetation and flew north over the impoundment area. We did not see where the bird landed.

The bird was approximately 17 inches in length; had a cinnamon-buff belly and breast; a white, heart-shaped face with white facial disks; an amber-mixed-with-gray upper surface of the wings and back; and long legs. This bird was slightly larger and longer than the Short-ear that flew just before this bird.—*William P. Mueller, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214.*

4 November 2000, Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, Milwaukee County—Bill Mueller called me to alert me to its presence. It was flushed twice by birders, and then flew directly toward another group of birders that included me.

The bird was seen while in flight in good light with 7 × 35 binoculars for approximately a minute, and through a Leica scope while perched on the ground for about 10 minutes. It was observed in the scope perched in a thick clump of small willows at about 100 feet.

During its flight across the impoundment, it was mobbed by an adult Goshawk and a flock of American Crows that continued to harass it for about 15 minutes. Markings observed while in flight and while perched included: a white, heart-shaped face; no ear tufts; dark eyes; large head in flight, along with its moth-like flight; pale underparts and golden buff upper plumage. Two Short-eared Owls were in the same area and in flight at the same time.—*Noel Cutright, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095.*

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)

26 October 2000, Superior, Douglas County—An employee of the Superior Animal Shelter called me at 7 A.M. to tell me that a woman had brought in a "tiny owl." I expected it to be a Northern Saw-whet Owl, but it was clearly a Boreal Owl. In the hand, this screech-owl-sized owl was unmistakable, with a dark, grayish-black forehead dotted with white, a blackish rim around the facial disks, and no tufted ears as a screech-owl would have. It was larger than the many Saw-whets I've seen and handled over the years. Also, the black rim around the light facial disks, the

pale bill, and spots (rather than streaks) on the forehead preclude a Northern Saw-whet Owl. It was brought to Molly Evans, who transferred it to the Raptor Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.—*Laura Erickson, Duluth, Minnesota 55804.*

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)

20 October 2000, Waupun, Dodge County—I first saw him outside the dining room window, then went outside to get a better look. Immediately observed was a hummer that was much darker and greener than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and seemed a bit larger than a Ruby-throated (see Color Plate 1). Upon closer observation, the bill was a dull reddish on the two-thirds near the head. The bird also had a very dark chin; the light wasn't very good at the time, but it did appear to be bluish to me, and this was confirmed in the morning with the better light. There was a small amount of white on the lower breast. Also noticed in the morning was the small white patch behind the eye, which pretty much confirmed it was a Broad-billed. This was again confirmed with John Idzikowski's arrival in the morning.

The bird spent a good portion of the day perched on a honeysuckle vine along the south side of our house. It fed from the feeders every 10 minutes or so. It occasionally flitted about the trees and shrubs catching insects. It was quite vocal, especially in the morning. It had a chattering sound, lower in pitch and much louder than the Ruby-throated. It was very tolerant and almost curious of people at times.—*David H. Freriks, Waupun, Wisconsin 53963.*

22 October 2000, Waupun, Dodge County—This bird was very easy to see. It seemed not to mind people close by. When perched, I could clearly see that this was a male hummingbird, by such bright colors on it. Both the upperparts and underparts were a dark green color. The gorget was bluish in color. The undertail coverts were white, and the bird's blackish, notched tail could clearly be seen, especially when it flew to the feeders nearby. The bill was red underneath and a darker reddish on top. Also, when seen from the right angle, I could tell that the lower base of the bill was very wide for a bird of this size. This bird was very vocal. It seemed to sound something like a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The bird would sit on a small twig near the feeder next to the house, but every so often it would fly up to the trumpet creeper and feed in the flowers there.—*Dan Belter, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.*

22 October 2000, Waupun, Dodge County—This cooperative bird was sitting on a vine as my wife Margot and I arrived at the Freriks home in Waupun. The sun, at our backs, reflected off the hummingbird, displaying the iridescent green feathers covering most of its body. The slightly forked tail was black and the undertail coverts were white. The throat was blue and the bill was bright red over most of its length. The size seemed about the same as a Ruby-throated. A little white showed behind the eye and, overall, the bird was a little scruffy-looking. It gave a scolding call twice, which the National Geographic guide describes accurately as similar to a kinglet.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.*

26 October 2000, Waupun, Dodge County—It was a very cooperative bird. It sat on a small shrub and visited a hummingbird feeder regularly. It seemed just a little larger and plumper than a Ruby-throated, although it did have its feathers fluffed quite a bit of the time. Its breast and upper belly were green and the throat was an iridescent blue/black. The lower belly was white, and there was a white point that extended up into the green belly (this looked like the feathers of the belly were somewhat separated, revealing the feathers beneath, rather than an actual field mark). The undertail coverts were white. The most striking feature was its red bill, which was dark at the tip. The head was green, but often looked black due to the iridescent feathers. The eye was dark and there was a small white spot behind the eye. The wings were dark and about the same length as the dark tail on the sitting bird. There was a small white patch in the area of the wing coverts. It was difficult to see the bird's back, because it always sat facing us when it landed on its perch and always nectared at the same port on the feeder where we could not see its back.

The Broad-bill's behavior was interesting to watch. It fed at intervals of about 5–6 minutes. Immediately after feeding it would fly to the exact same perch in a small shrub and begin scolding. Its scolding sound would start out fast, and then trail off as if the bird were a wind-up toy running down. Often when it was chattering it would look very slender and sleek, but as soon as it stopped chattering it would again puff out its breast and belly feathers. We watched the bird for about 30 minutes.—*Jean M. Strelka, Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53209.*

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

26 October 2000, Neenah, Winnebago County—While walking past the dinette window on the way to the kitchen, I glanced out into the yard—a habit for years—and saw a flash of rusty color at the feeder. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds hadn't been seen for several days, so I knew I had something special. This particular bird hovered and darted into the feeder. It had a rufous-colored back upon first sighting with binoculars. After setting up the scope, the back showed green with a wash of rufous color showing through from beneath (see Color Plate 2). This coloration extended from the tail to the head. The edges of the wings, when perched, showed dark borders. The tip of the tail was black. The neck had mottled spots and streaks, which flashed iridescence when presented to light. The breast was light, with some rusty color. The bill was dark and the eye was dark with a small spot of white behind. The size was similar to that of a Ruby-throat.

In the morning, the bird made more frequent trips to the feeder, and usually went to the other two nectar feeders once or twice. It occasionally perched in the cedars, and at other times would perch in a nearby pear tree, basswood, or honeysuckle bush. All who had seen the bird have agreed that it was a sub-adult male Rufous.—*David Kuecherer, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956.*

26, 28 October 2000, Neenah, Winnebago County—Arriving at Dave Kuecherer's home, we waited for about half an hour until the hummer appeared at his feeder. We watched it come a few times to the feeder that late afternoon

and then two days later at a more leisurely pace with some of the Green Bay Bird Club in the early morning.

The hummer was an immature male Rufous. It had rusty sides, with a central white belly, rufous on the tail, and a fair amount of rufous appearing on the back. The central part of the gorget was showing red. A limited amount of green was interspersed on the back and head.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

Selasphorus Hummingbird

28 October 2000, Ozaukee County—After waiting for some time, William Hutcheson, Nick Walton, and I finally saw the bird arrive in the yard. The bird spent time at the hummingbird feeder, perched in the cedars and other trees in the yard, and perched on the wires connected to the house. Distinctive features of this bird included a white throat, rufous flanks, and a green back and cap. With the exception of the flanks, the bird was white underneath. The bird seemed similar in size and proportions to Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, with which I am much more familiar.—*Aaron Stutz, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.*

17 November 2000, Franklin, Milwaukee County—Our wildlife rehabilitation center was called about this bird coming to a hummingbird feeder in cold weather on 16 November 2000 in Milwaukee County. The exposed culmen was 16 millimeters. The weight was 3.7 grams. The wing chord was 39 millimeters. The tail length was 27 millimeters. The width of the outer rectrix was 2 millimeters. The outermost (tenth) primary was narrower than the ninth.

The bill was black, similar in appearance to a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. It had an iridescent green back and rump, with the rump feathers tipped with rufous. It had an iridescent green crown. The sides of the face were rufous with a whitish spot directly behind the black eye. The gorget was tan, with green or red or bronze iridescent spots and/or streaks. Red was especially present on the left lower third of the gorget. It had a rufous uppertail with black spots on the central rectrices.

It had brownish green upperwings and underwings. The leading edge of the underwing was rufous. The upper breast and belly were white. The undertail coverts were light rufous. The sides and wing pits were rufous. There was white spotting on the three outermost tail feathers on each side. The tail feathers were worn. The secondaries appeared to be fresh and the primaries were worn (except the first). The feet and legs were black. It was superficially similar in size and shape to a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—*Scott Diehl, Hubertus, Wisconsin 53033.*

Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)

5 August 2000, Gordon Dam Campground, Douglas County—We were sitting at our campsite eating lunch, when the bird flew overhead and landed in a tree. We got about a 30-second look at it with our binoculars before it flew about 20 feet to another tree. We got the bird back in our binoculars again for another 15–20 seconds, but then it flew away and could not be found again.

It had an undulating flight to the trees. The bird was larger than a Downy Woodpecker and about the

same size as a Hairy. The color of the bird was black and white, with the black on the wings, tail, and head. The white was on the outer edges of the tail, chest, belly, and throat, as well as the white stripes on the head. One stripe originated from behind the eye and arched toward the back of the head, then ran along the side of the neck and along the edge of the nape. The other stripe started at the posterior of the nape and ran at an angle to the shoulder. The back had black-and-white, horizontal bar-like markings; not solid black like a Black-backed Woodpecker. The beak was black. The eye could not be seen in detail, nor could the legs. There was no interaction with other animals and the bird was silent.—*Matthew P. Zielinski, Blanchardville, Wisconsin 53516.*

27 November 2000, Sims Lake Burn, Douglas County—On my way to a Boreal Owl-seeking trip to Burnett, Douglas, and Bayfield Counties, I stopped again at the Sims burn area. This woodpecker had been seen several times there earlier. This was my sixth trip to the Sims burn.

Half of the trees had been recently bulldozed. The area was still very active with many Hairy, Downy, and Pileated Woodpeckers. I saw 10 Black-backed Woodpeckers in one view due to improved visibility with the trees down. I finally saw a bird that had a yellow cap and a narrow, white line extending to the back of the eye. The back was barred horizontally and was not all black. The sides were also barred. A Black-backed Woodpecker in the same view had a solid black back. The bird continued working quietly for several minutes while I watched.—*Janet Avis Hewitt, Iola, Wisconsin 54945.*

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

30–31 October 2000, Kewaunee, Kewaunee County—Heading south on Lakeshore Drive during the late afternoon of October 30, I stopped to check some mountain ash trees near the road. I saw the flycatcher moving about in a nearby tree. After watching the bird for about 30 minutes, I went and notified the property owners of their unusual bird and prepared them for the potential consequences. The bird was seen briefly the next morning at another nearby location, only to reappear at the original spot where it remained the rest of the day. It was a very cooperative bird, and was enjoyed by many over the course of the next three days (see Color Plate 3).

It was a typical-looking *Myiarchus* flycatcher: brownish upperparts, gray and yellow underparts, and brownish tail. Direct size comparisons could sometimes be made with a few American Robins that were also in the area, with the flycatcher appearing slightly smaller lengthwise, and with a much slimmer build. The crown was grayish brown, with the crest appearing fairly smooth and rounded most of the time, with grayish ear coverts. The black bill appeared relatively slim and short. On one occasion, using a scope at close range, I thought I observed a hint of paleness at the very base of the lower mandible, but in most viewing conditions the bill appeared entirely black. The nape and mantle were a grayish brown. The flight feathers were slightly darker brown. The coverts showed buffy white tips, forming two thin wingbars, and there were broad whitish tertial edges. The primaries were rusty red at the outer edge, darkening near the

tips. One of the inner primaries appeared dark in color, lacking the reddish outer edge; this was noted on both wings. The secondaries, like the tertials, showed prominent pale edges. Some of the flight feathers appeared to show some wear, especially the coverts. It had a whitish throat and a pale gray breast that washed down into a pale yellow belly and undertail coverts. There was no clear demarcation between the two colors. It had a relatively long-looking, brownish-red tail, with some rectrices showing more reddish tones than others, each with very thin pale edges and tips. One observer noted that while the tail was spread the two innermost rectrices looked "frayed." I had several decent looks at the underside of the tail. The outermost rectrices showed a dark outer edge, which widened out at the tip, appearing to cross the tips of the tail feathers.

Jan Hansen was close to the bird when it was heard calling once; his description, "wik." During the time I observed the bird it was mostly seen feeding on mountain ash berries, which it took on the fly. It was seen taking insects only a few times. On other days, just the opposite behavior was noted, as it spent most of its time flycatching. It was a beautiful bird with subtle shades of gray, yellow, and red.—*John Regan, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303.*

1 November 2000, Kewaunee, Kewaunee County—As I drove up to the location where the bird was being reported, I noticed that there was another car in front of me driving slowly. This car pulled over to the side of the road and I saw that there were two people inside the car. They had binoculars lifted up and were looking at a mountain ash tree. I pulled up behind them and saw that they were looking at a bird in this tree. I looked through my binoculars and saw that this was the reported flycatcher that was being seen. When I first saw this bird, my first impression was that this bird was a very light *Myiarchus* flycatcher. The back feathers were a light grayish brown in color. The throat and breast were a very pale gray color. The belly had a very pale yellowish wash to it. The wing feathers, when folded, had a rufous coloring. This rufous color was seen when the bird took short flights. I also saw some rufous coloring in the tail when the bird was in flight. It looked like there were also two wing bars on the folded wing. The bill was all dark, and the bird had a dark eye.

No other flycatchers were present with this bird. I could see how someone could make a mistake and call this bird a Great Crested Flycatcher if they didn't have experience with *Myiarchus* flycatchers. Overall, this bird was much lighter than what a Great Crested Flycatcher would look like.—*Dan Belter, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.*

1 November 2000, Kewaunee, Kewaunee County—The bird was visiting a yard in Kewaunee that had many trees of short to medium height. There was also a barn that had been partially converted to a house. I first spotted the bird in a small tree near the buildings, but it soon flew close to the road and was easy to observe. The bill was all black and fairly small. The face was gray and lacked an eye ring. The throat and breast were pale gray. The belly was a pale yellow. The back and upper tail were pale brown. The primaries were edged in orange-brown, and the tertials and secondaries were edged in

white. There were two white wing bars. The undertail was entirely orange-brown and lacked a terminal band; therefore, the flycatcher was probably a juvenile. The pale gray throat, pale yellow belly, and entirely black bill eliminated a Great Crested Flycatcher. The smaller bill and an appearance of less bulk than a Brown-crested Flycatcher, which I have seen in the southwest many times, eliminated that species. The only other similar species in North America are the Dusky-capped and La Sagra's Flycatchers, which both have very little reddish-brown on the undertail. The flycatcher was quite active and moved around the yard, and even landed on the ledge of a barn window as it searched for insects. I did not hear any vocalizations.—*Thomas C. Wood, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051.*

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

28 October 2000, Patrick Marsh near Sun Prairie, Dane County—We were following up on a tip from a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources employee that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had been seen at the marsh the previous day. As I walked up a slight hill away from the water's edge, a bird flushed from a low shrub and flew over my head back to the water's edge. As the bird flew, I noted the very long, forked tail that fluttered in the breeze. I also saw that the head was dark and the breast quite white (see Color Plate 4). The bird landed in a 10-foot shrub along the shoreline and perched for several minutes about 75 feet from me. As the bird remained still, I confirmed that the head and tail were black and the nape and upper back were gray. I knew that this bird could not be a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. I noted that there were white outer edges about half way down the tail. The tail appeared to be about one and a third longer than the combined head-and-body length of the bird. The black cap extended below the dark eye. The dark bill appeared to be slightly upturned. As it was very windy, the bird seemed unsteady on the branch. It flew again to another low shrub out of sight for a short time, but was relocated on an overhanging branch of a downed cottonwood tree along the shore. Here it remained as we scoped it from less than 50 feet for about 10 minutes.—*Kay Burcar, Cross Plains, Wisconsin 53528.*

30 October 2000, Patrick Marsh near Sun Prairie, Dane County—Bettie Harriman and I arrived a little after 7:00 A.M. A few people had seen the bird earlier, but lost it as it flew by. About a dozen people frantically searched for about a half hour when it was sighted in the cornfield. Everyone congregated, and in a few minutes it was spotted on a corn stubble. For the next hour or more it offered fantastic views. The body was Eastern Kingbird-like in size, with a striking black, gray, and white pattern. The cap was black as well as the wings. The distinct, unbelievably long, forked tail was also black. The throat and breast were white. The back was a soft gray. Because of the cold morning, it fed infrequently as it moved around the cornfield and weedy areas adjacent to the lake.—*Daryl D. Tessen, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.*

30 October 2000, Patrick Marsh near Sun Prairie, Dane County—We searched for this bird on Saturday but did not

find it, so returned to the scene first thing on Monday morning. There were a lot of birders present. The bird cooperated by perching low to the ground on several cornstalks and in several small trees. The first thing one noticed was the long, dark tail feathers, which floated out behind the bird as it flew. The bill, and the top of the head to below the eye, was nearly black. The back was also a very dark charcoal gray. The underparts were white, with white also along the sides of the neck. I had several scope views and noted some brown in the wings. This was, perhaps, a juvenile or young bird; the tail, though extremely long, was probably not as long as it would be on an adult male Fork-tailed Flycatcher. No pinkish color was observed in this bird's plumage. It resembled an Eastern Kingbird, though its body size, without the tail, looked smaller.—*Marilyn Bontly, Cedarberg, Wisconsin 53012.*

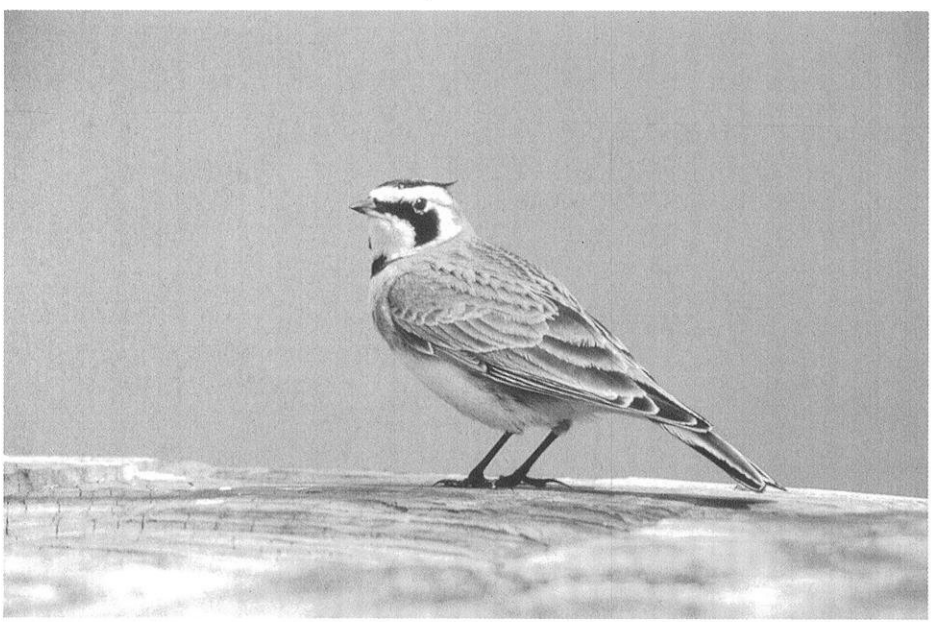
30 October 2000, Patrick Marsh near Sun Prairie, Dane County—While walking along the edge of an oak grove, Paul Sunby and I spotted a bird flying overhead in our direction. We could clearly see a kingbird-sized bird with a very long tail that flopped in the air as it flew. The white undersides, black cap, and gray back were briefly seen, but were diagnostic. We gave each other high fives, then split up, one to follow the flycatcher, one to notify other birders in the area. The bird disappeared for about 45 minutes, then was found in the cornfield where it had been found the day before. Closer, longer looks were now possible. The black cap ended abruptly on the nape, where the gray of the back began. Wings were very dark, leading to a long, black tail with a narrow white border. The white of the throat extended to the sides of the face, below the black cap and the rest of the way underneath. The eye was dark, within the black cap, and the legs and bill were also very dark. This bird did not often sit up very high like Scissor-tails do, and even disappeared down in the grass for long periods of time.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.*

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*)

25–26 November 2000, Mukwonago, Waukesha County—This bird appeared at my feeding platform. It was an average-sized sparrow and was rather plump. His tail was notably long. His overall color was a dull gray, overlaid with a rusty color on the head, back, wings, and possibly the tail. The legs were a dull pink. The dark beak was sharply pointed. The eye was black, with an obvious white eye ring. The head was rufous on top with a thin black line, followed by a contrasting white line, followed by another thin black line just above the eye. From the eye to the nape was a rather undefined streak changing from near black at the eye to a rufous color toward the nape. Below this streak was a gray cheek patch. The bird had a grayish white throat bordered by black lines that originated at the base of the bill and stretched diagonally to the sides. Above these black diagonal lines, but below the gray cheek area, was a contrasting white streak. The rather well-defined reddish cap graduated into scattered, random streaking over the nape, back, and wings. There were no white wing bars. There were no spots

or streaking on the dull gray breast, belly, flanks, or vent.

This bird acted rather shy and hesitant when approaching the feeding platform. He approached only after other sparrows and finches came to feed. Once he began feeding, he seemed engrossed in eating and was not quick to leave. I did not hear this bird vocalize, despite the microphone mounted outside. The bird flew in typical sparrow fashion to and from a brushy area about 75 feet away.—*Maureen Gross, Mukwonago, Wisconsin 53149.*



Horned Lark *by Jack Bartholmai*

WSO Records Committee Report: Fall 2000

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 81 records of 22 species from the fall of 2000; 76 of the reports were accepted. Included in this fall's list were Wisconsin's first records of Broad-billed Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. In addition to the state's third record of a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, unprecedented numbers of Pacific Loons and Sabine's Gulls were seen. Record late dates were established for American Avocet and Dickcissel.

The state list increased to 416 species with the three additions.

Accepted

Pacific Loon—

#2000–072 Douglas Co., 23 September 2000, Schultz, Tessen.

#2000–073 Shawano Co., 23 October 2000, Tessen.

#2000–074 Douglas Co., 24 October 2000, J. Williams (3 birds).

#2000–075 Ashland Co., 31 October 2000, D. Williams.

#2000–076 Ozaukee Co., 2 November 2000, Frank.

#2000–077 Portage Co., 10–11 November 2000, Berner; 10 November 2000, Hall.

These winter-plumaged birds were noticeably smaller than Common Loons, with shorter, more slender, but straight bills. Instead of exhibiting a small knoblike prominence on the forehead as a Common Loon or Arctic Loon does, the foreheads on these birds were smooth in profile. The dark gray of the hindneck was cleanly demarcated from the white of the foreneck in a straight line, in contrast to the irregular, sometimes diffuse, border on the side of the neck of a Common Loon. Whereas the back of a Common Loon is lighter than the top of the head, the back of the Pacific Loon was darker than the top of the head/hindneck. The gray of the top of the head extended down to the eye. The eye of a Common Loon would have white appearing just above the eye and just in front of the eye, making it much easier to see than is the eye on a Pacific Loon, which is on a dark gray background. With patience, many observers were able to see the birds well enough to note a gray "chin strap."

No white was observed above the water line along the flank as would appear on an Arctic Loon. The Ashland County and Ozaukee County birds appeared to be particularly lighter gray on the head than on the back. In addition, their backs had some whitish edgings to the feathers, suggesting immature birds. (For further field identification discussion, see *Birding*, Vol. 29, No. 2.)

This is the fourth consecutive late-fall record for Douglas County. The total number of sightings of Pacific Loons in one season is unprecedented in Wisconsin.

White-faced Ibis—

#2000–080 Dodge Co., 22 October 2000, Gustafson, Belter, Schultz, Tessen; 28 October 2000, Tessen.

The dark body and long, decurved bill were indicative of an ibis. Some chestnut sheen was noted on the body, as was a greenish sheen across the shoulders, suggestive of an adult bird. The head and neck could be seen by some observers to have a slight streaking of gray. The facial skin lacked any light border, which, if present, would be characteristic of an adult Glossy Ibis. Most importantly, those observers fortunate enough to have better lighting angles could see a reddish iris color.

Plegadis ibis—

#2000–080 Dodge Co., 22 October 2000, Wood; 22, 28 October 2000, Stutz.

The long, decurved bill was evident, as was a lack of any light stripe setting off the facial skin from the rest of the feathered head. This lack of contrasting stripe rules out an adult Glossy Ibis; however, an immature Glossy, as well as an adult or immature White-faced Ibis, would exhibit this lack of contrasting color. The eye color could not be determined due to poor light direction. Undoubtedly, these observations were of the White-faced Ibis identified by others at this site.

Ross's Goose—

#2000–078 Barron Co., 4 October 2000, Polk.

A small white goose with black wing tips was noted to have a particularly short, stubby, pink bill. The black "grin patch" of a Snow Goose was not evident. The bird was smaller than nearby Snow Geese and had a rounder head.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2000–079 Ozaukee Co., 12 November 2000, Wood; 18 November 1999, Domagalski; 25 November 1999, Frank; 30 November 1999, Bontly.

This individual was located in a large flock of Common Goldeneyes because of the extensive black on the back. The black extended lower down the flank of the bird, particularly at the shoulder, than the black on the back of a Common Goldeneye. This black encompassed some white spots on the side of the bird, in contrast to the white sides encompassing some black spots on a Common.

With closer scrutiny, the steeper rise to the forehead, purplish rather than greenish tint of the dark head, and crescent rather than round white facial patch were evident.

A Barrow's Goldeneye has now spent the late fall and winter off Virmond Park in Ozaukee County for the seventh consecutive year.

Black-necked Stilt—

#2000–081 Dodge Co., 2, 3 September 2000, Tessen (2 birds).

These long-legged shorebirds were suggestive of avocets, with a straighter black bill and an overall more delicate constitution. They were black on the crown, hindneck, wings, and mantle, but white on the foreneck, breast, and tail. Most striking were the long, pink-red legs.

This is the second late-summer sighting of stilts at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge; last year's appearance was made after successful breeding nearby.

American Avocet—

#2000–082 Milwaukee Co., 10 November 2000, Idzikowski (photo); 11 November 2000, Domagalski; 12 November 2000, Wood; 17 November 2000, Horn.

This large gray-white shorebird had a long, thin, upturned black bill. The overall color was broken by a large black wing area, sliced front-to-back by a wide white stripe.

The 17 November date ties a record late date for Wisconsin for the species.

Red Phalarope—

#2000–084 Douglas Co., 14 October 2000, Juhnke.

This small shorebird exhibited a white breast and neck. Contrasting with this was an unmarked, light gray back. The crown was white centrally, but dark gray laterally and caudally. This dark gray extended down the back of the neck. There was a black eye patch, along with a short, black bill. The bill was stouter than that of a Red-necked or Wilson's Phalarope. In flight, the observer saw a white wing stripe. This individual was also noted to have a rust-colored smudge on the undertail coverts, as well as a faint orange tinge to the throat.

Mew Gull—

#2000–087 Milwaukee Co., 11 November 2000, Idzikowski (photo).

In this instance, the bird was located in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls because of its slightly darker gray mantle. The overall size was the same to slightly smaller than the other gulls. The white head had some dark streaking on it. The yellow bill was smaller than that of a Ring-billed Gull, without the gonydeal angle or black ring. A dark eye and yellowish green legs completed the description.

California Gull—

#2000–088 Milwaukee Co., 5 November 2000, Lubahn.

In comparison to the associated flock of Ring-billed Gulls, this bird was slightly larger, longer-winged, and had a slightly darker gray mantle. The primaries and secondaries were blackish and the coverts were washed in gray and brown, indicating a second-winter bird. The tail and rump were starkly white and cleanly demarcated from the blackish terminal tail band. The bill was longer, lacked a gonydeal angle, and was yellowish green-gray with a dark tip. The legs were similarly yellowish green-gray. The white head, neck, and sides of the breast were mottled with brown.

This is Wisconsin's fifth record of a California Gull.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—

#2000–085 Dane Co., 8 October 2000, Walton.

#2000–086 Milwaukee Co., 26 November 2000, Wood.

The Milwaukee bird had the expected very dark gray mantle contrasting with the black primary tips. The white head and underparts were heavily streaked with brown, particularly heavy periocularly. The bill was similar in size and shape to a Herring Gull, and was grayish proximally and yellowish distally. The distal bill had a black spot at the gonys with a very small red spot. The legs were still pinkish, instead of the yellowish they usually become in third-winter plumage.

The Dane County bird also had a very dark gray mantle, and similar mottling on the head, underparts, and periocular region. The yellow bill had an orange smudge and black mark on the distal lower mandible. On this individual, the legs were pale yellow. This bird is also believed to have been entering third-winter plumage.

Sabine's Gull—

#2000–089 Douglas Co., 21 (19 birds), 22, 23 (29 birds) September 2000, Schultz, Tessen.

#2000–090 Milwaukee Co., 5 November 2000, Lubahn.

The Milwaukee County bird was seen with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. The brownish back and lesser coverts contrasted strikingly with the dark primaries and the broad white triangle that fanned backward from the carpal bend of the wing. A black trailing edge to the white tail was also apparent.

The majority of the Douglas County birds were also immatures, though three individuals with the gray mantle of adults were also evident on the 21st and the 23rd. They also had the black primaries and starkly contrasting white triangle extending back from the bend in the front of the wing, separating the gray lesser coverts and the black primaries. Of note is that at least 19 birds were reported on the 21st, only to be outdone by 29 individuals seen on the 23rd. Such numbers are totally unprecedented in the state!

Arctic Tern—

#2000–091 Douglas Co., 21, 23 September 2000, Schultz.

This individual was detected in a flock of Common Terns because it appeared darker, particularly through the underparts. This gray extended through the throat, breast, and belly. The cap remained extensively black, not beginning to molt as the Common Terns were. The head and neck appeared short, while tail extension beyond the wings appeared to be longer than the Common Terns. The bill appeared to be relatively short, but color was not discernible. The wings appeared narrower than those of the Common Terns, exhibiting a narrower trailing black edge to the underside of the primary tips than did the Commons.

Boreal Owl—

#2000–092 Douglas Co., 26 October 2000, L. Erickson.

This bird was presented to a rehabilitator. The owl was slightly larger than a Northern Saw-whet Owl, lacking the ear tufts of an Eastern Screech-Owl, having white spots instead of streaks on the forehead, and having a black rim around the facial disks.

Selasphorus hummingbird—

#2000–093 Milwaukee Co., 17 November 2000, Diehl (photo).

#2000–094 Ozaukee Co., 14, 22 October 2000, Tessen; 19 Octo-

ber 2000, Bontly; 22 October 2000, Wood; 28 October 2000, Stutz.

#2000–104 Washington Co., 8 November 2000, Idzikowski (photo only).

The Milwaukee County hummingbird was similar in size to a Ruby-throated. It differed in having a slightly drooped bill, a few central and lateral bronze gorget spots, a buffy upper breast band, rufous flanks, and metallic green feathering on the back and crown. The photos of the tail show an apparent lack of emargination of the second rectrices, suggesting that this could be an Allen's Hummingbird. Wing chord, exposed culmen, and tail length measurements are inconclusive in separating this bird as Rufous or Allen's. This individual appears to be an immature male, and it spent the winter in the care of a rehabilitator. As of this writing, further information on its appearance after molting the following spring has not become available.

The Ozaukee and Washington County individuals had a green back and crown, pale rufous flanks, and darker rufous on the tail. They had a few flecks of darker color on the central part of an otherwise white throat, which suggests that they were females. Female Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds are generally considered indistinguishable, even in the hand.

More information on the difficulty of separating Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds can be found in *Birding*, Vol. 29, No.1, February 1997.

Rufous Hummingbird—

#2000–095 Winnebago Co., 26 October 2000, David Kuercherer; 26, 28 October 2000, Tessen; 28 October 2000, Hansen.

Overall, the size was comparable to a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. This hummingbird had a rusty wash on the sides, rufous on the tail, and rufous interspersed among the green back and head feathers. The gorget was incompletely mottled with red, including the lateral aspects, which suggested it was an immature male. The tail tip was black.

Broad-billed Hummingbird—

#2000–096 Dodge Co., 20 October 2000, Freriks (photo); 21 October, Wood; 22 October, Malueg (photo), Gustafson, Belter, Bontly, Bartholmai (photo); 22, 28 October, Stutz; 26 October, Strelka.

Leisurely observed and photographed at a feeder, this hummingbird had a wide, reddish bill that became black toward the tip. The crown, forehead, back, and breast were green. The wings and slightly forked tail were dark gray or black. A small white line was apparent behind the eye. White was also apparent in the undertail coverts. The gorget and upper breast were blue. This is Wisconsin's first state record.

Three-toed Woodpecker—

#2000–097 Douglas Co., 5 August 2000, Zielinski.

#2000–103 Douglas Co., 11 November 2000, Hewitt.

A small Downy-sized woodpecker was noted to have a black head, wings, and tail. A white stripe was noted extending behind the eye; another was noted extending from the bill to the shoulder. Black-and-white barring was

noted on the back, flanks, and edge of the folded primaries.

The November bird was similarly marked, but, in addition, exhibited a yellow area on the crown.

Ash-throated Flycatcher—

#2000–098 Kewaunee Co., 30, 31 October 2000, Regan; 31 October 2000, Hansen, Paulios, Harriman, Tessen, Bartholmai (photo); 1 November 2000, Belter, Idzikowski (photo), Wood; 2 November 2000, Bontly; 3 November 2000, Schultz.

This *Myiarchus* flycatcher was similar in overall pattern to the Great Crested Flycatcher, but differed in numerous areas. Its overall size was slightly smaller than anticipated for a Great Crested. The throat and upper breast were whitish to pale gray, not the dark gray of a Great Crested. The lower breast was a paler yellow. In addition, the transition between the gray and yellow areas of the breast was much harder to delineate. The bill was slightly less bulky than a Great Crested and most observers described it as overall black in color. A few reports of a very limited pale area at the base of the lower mandible were also made, but all of these observations suggested that this area was significantly less pronounced than on a Great Crested. The rufous underside of the tail apparently had a thin brown line across the tip of the tail feathers, not consistently evident to all observers. The rufous in the tail and on the primaries distinguishes this species from the Dusky-capped Flycatcher; the smaller bill and lighter yellow lower breast distinguish it from a Brown-crested; the lighter yellow breast contrasts it with a Nutting's Flycatcher; and the more extensive rufous on the tail, with the brownish tipping to the underside, separates this species from La Sagra's Flycatcher. Observers reported a call note distinctly different from that of a Great Crested Flycatcher; more of a "bik" sound.

This is Wisconsin's first record of an Ash-throated Flycatcher.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher—

#2000–099 Dane Co., 28 October 2000, Burcar, 29 October 2000, J. Peterson, Stutz, Bartholmai (photo); 30 October 2000, Bontly, Harriman, Tessen, Gustafson, Belter.

This kingbird-sized flycatcher had a black crown that extended down to encompass the eye. A dark gray back and wings contrasted with the white breast, belly, and throat. The white of the throat reached up and behind the ear area. The most striking feature of the bird was, of course, the two long, black outer tail feathers.

This is Wisconsin's third record.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—

#2000–100 Waukesha Co., 25, 26 November 2000, Gross (photo).

A small, stocky sparrow, overall grayish in color, was seen around a feeder. The crown was rufous, as was the trailing end of an eye stripe and some streaking on the back. Also noted were a white eye ring, a white lore spot, and a white malar stripe. Below the malar stripe was a black lateral throat stripe.

This is yet another first record for Wisconsin.

Dickcissel—

#2000–101 Milwaukee Co., 18 October 2000, Huf.

Two sparrow-sized birds were flushed from a weedy patch. Noted were a yellow upper breast, faint black bib, light eyebrow, and an absence of wing bars.

This is a record late date for Wisconsin.

Smith's Longspur—
#2000–103 Iron Co., 4 October 2000, Hewitt.

Seen in the company of two Lapland Longspurs, this bird contrasted with them in having a clear buffy yellow breast and abdomen. In addition, there were fewer black markings on the head and back. Faint brownish streaking was noted on the flanks. It lacked the rusty patch on the side of the neck present on the Lapland Longspurs, and the top of the head was paler in color, with fine streaking. The notched tail had white outer feathers. When it briefly flew, the white on the shoulder area was seen.

NOT ACCEPTED

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper—
#2000–083 Brown Co., 24 October 2000.

Initially seen feeding with 28 Pectoral Sandpipers, this individual was felt to stand out from the others because of its brighter rufous color, particularly on the back and crown. The supercilium was noticeably white, particularly as it coursed caudal to the eye. The breast was buff-colored, but the position of the bird did not allow determination of any streaking on the central breast. The legs were noted to be yellow. After the bird flew and repositioned itself, the breast was seen to be buffy centrally, fading into the white lower breast. The sides of the upper breast had a limited amount of streaking.

Mention was not made as to whether the bill was a bit shorter, a bit straighter, and a bit darker than the adjacent Pectorals. In addition, it was not determined if the crown was flatter than those of the Pectorals. A third mark not ascertained was the presence of the eye ring to be expected in a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The supercilium was not specifically described to widen or narrow in its caudal half (widening would occur in a Sharp-tailed). While the brighter rufous color stood out from the other Pectorals, juvenile Pectorals will appear brighter than the worn plumage of adults. Some juvenile Pectorals may have less prominent streaking centrally on their buffy breasts, although the apparent degree of absence in this bird is intriguingly like a Sharp-tail. These two species are similar enough that it may take photographic evidence to allow final identification.

Arctic Tern—
#2000–091 Douglas Co., 21, 23 September 2000.

In a flock of Common Terns, a "darker" tern was noted. It was grayer on the breast "up towards the head" than the Commons were. This was not thought to be attributable to lighting as can often occur when looking at Common Terns. Although the undersides of the primaries were edged in black, the degree of black or any comparison to the Commons wasn't presented in the description. The bill was felt to be smaller than the Commons, but the view was distant. In documenting a difficult species such as this, direct comparison of the black primary edgings would be essential, as would

the overall flight patterns, relative wing length and shape, and relative head and neck length.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher—

#2000–098 Dane Co., 31 October 2000.

Undoubtedly, the observer saw the remarkable flycatcher, but the description was limited to "an Eastern Kingbird with long tail feathers." While this could be a generalization to start a description, more exact wording and comparisons are needed to adequately document a species in words.

Mew Gull—

#2000–087 Milwaukee Co., 11, 14 November 2000.

While very likely correctly identified, there was no description beyond indication that the mantle, eye, bill, legs, and primaries were used to identify the bird.

Jim Frank
WSO Records Committee Chair

50 Years Ago in *The Passenger Pigeon*—Summer

The WSO has always been interested in documenting range changes of Wisconsin's birds. Having just recorded Red-bellied Woodpeckers on two breeding bird surveys in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I found the paper by Arnold Peterson on the range of this woodpecker in Wisconsin in 1950 quite interesting.

"Today (1950)," writes Peterson, "the Red-bellied Woodpecker is found as a permanent resident locally southwest of a line from Milwaukee County to Polk County on the St. Croix River. The northward extent of the breeding range coincides closely with the 'tension zone' between the northern and southern hardwood forests. The northernmost extent of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, like that of the southern hardwoods, is commonly in low river-bottom forests. In the eastern part of the state the species is rarely encountered even as a straggler north of the southern hardwood forests."

Peterson noted that, "Since records indicate that the species has not extended its range in the eastern half of the state in the past seventy years, this would suggest that little further extension of range can be expected anywhere in the state." As we know today, the range of the Red-bellied has changed significantly in the last half-century.

Peterson noted that nests in Wisconsin were found from 12 to 30 feet high in oak, red birch (*Betula nigra*), butternut, soft maple, American elm, and apple. (Excerpts from Vol. 13, No. 2, 1951)

The Winter Season: 2000–2001

by Kenneth I. Lange

Some years ago in this journal, while summarizing a mild winter, I said I thought that the next winter might also be mild—it turned out to be bitterly cold. In last winter's report, I referred to those cold, snowy winters of the not-too-distant past as being almost archaic. I'm afraid that I'm "a little slow to learn," as a friend once tactfully described a mutual acquaintance. I really should stick to summing up the past, not predicting the future, although I'm comforted by certain comments by meteorologists that I've been saving for just such an occasion. One comment has to do with uncertainty—if you don't know what's going to happen, "Predict more of the same." The other comment concerns overconfidence: "As soon as you develop an ego about forecasting, Mother Nature does something to put you in your place."

This may not have been one of those old-fashioned cold and snowy winters, but December, at least, made us think so. It was, in fact, the nation's coldest November–December period on record. Much of Wisconsin in December experienced record or near record cold *and* snow, an unusual combination.

The period began with relatively little, if any, snow cover, and seasonal temperatures. This quickly changed, with scattered snowfalls, including a statewide snow storm of 2–15 inches on December 11th, and below normal temperatures throughout the month. Devil's Lake in Sauk County was ice-covered by December 13th, the earliest date in four years. In Dane County, as related by Philip Ashman, all water bodies were also frozen by December 13th, so that very few waterfowl lingered. By the end of December, most of Wisconsin was covered with a snow blanket of at least a foot-and-a-half in depth. This early snow cover, by allowing cold air to maintain its intensity farther south, created conditions suitable for winter storms and a more normal winter weather pattern.

After a full month of below-freezing temperatures, the state experienced thawing or near-thawing temperatures, at least in southern Wisconsin, in the first and second weeks of January; the snow pack was thus reduced measurably. The remainder of the month saw

generally normal or near normal temperatures, with scattered snowfalls and rainstorms.

February temperatures were variable; Karen Etter Hale in Jefferson County reported a total of 14 days, half the month, over 30 degrees; Murray Berner in Portage County reported temperatures to be about average; and Alta Goff in Barron County reported the temperature to be eight degrees colder than normal. This month, like January, was relatively dry, although a snow cover persisted into March. The heaviest snow cover was in northern Wisconsin, where 2.5 feet of snow was on the ground in Douglas County in the third week of February, as reported by Larry Semo, and an above-average snow depth of 3.5 feet was reported in Barron County at the end of February, as noted by Goff.

It was also an icy winter. Over much of the state the snow pack was heavily crusted from icy rain as well as from freezing and thawing; in Sauk County and elsewhere, one could walk on the snow pack without breaking through for much of the period. The comments of Char Lukes in Door County are pertinent: "This has been the iciest winter in recent memory! From December 16 through February 25 we have had five rainstorms, two of which were of .70 inches or more."

As I mentioned last winter, in a sense *all* bird records are weather-related, but certain ones stand out. For this winter, I especially call your attention to the following birds: Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Horned Lark, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Cedar Waxwing (see the species accounts for details).

Here is a summary of the more noteworthy bird records. An Eared Grebe lingered in Winnebago County through 20 December, as reported by John Shillinglaw, for the state's second latest date on record. A Great Egret was noted through 4 December in Marquette County by Daryl Christensen, for Wisconsin's second winter record. At least one Turkey Vulture overwintered in Sauk County, roosting in the same white pine plantation in Devil's Lake State Park where approximately 25 roosted in the winter of 1994–95 (*Passenger Pigeon* 57(3):188, 192). Canada Goose is usually a common to abundant winter resident in Washington County, but this winter, as reported by Bob Domagalski, this species could only be found there through 27 December, with spring migrants not noted until 1 March. Gulls, according to Daryl Tessen, were in generally low numbers "except curiously on the Fox River." At least one of the two Eurasian Collared-Doves initially reported at White Potato Lake in Oconto County in May 2000 was still there on 1 February 2001, as reported by Peter Bridge; this species was introduced from Europe and is rapidly colonizing North America. Major flights of the northern forest owls were reported for fall 2000 (*North American Birds* 55(1):17), but the only species in relatively high numbers for this winter in Wisconsin was Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Brown Creeper ranged northward to Douglas, Vilas, and Oconto Counties, and Golden-crowned Kinglet was found on 6 February in Vilas County by Jim Baughman. Varied Thrush was reported from seven counties and Townsend's Solitaire from three counties.

Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur were generally common in December and into January, but in diminished numbers by February. Two Chipping Sparrows frequented a feeding station in Dane County for the period (documented by Sylvia Marek), only the sixth and seventh records for this species after 8 February. Another sparrow, the Black-throated Sparrow, spent much of the winter at another feeder in Dane County (documented by Tom Schultz), for Wisconsin's fifth winter record. Pine Siskin (also American Goldfinch) was in good numbers in northern Wisconsin, but otherwise the winter finches were scarce or absent.

Late fall migration was reported for these species: Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, various ducks, Ring-billed Gull, and Herring Gull.

Spring migration was noted for these species: Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser(?), Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk(?), Cooper's Hawk(?), American Kestrel, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Northern Saw-whet Owl(?), Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird. In contrast, approximately twice as many species were reported as spring migrants last year.

There were also these signs of spring. In Sauk County, a Northen Cardinal was singing on 31 December and a House Finch on 9 January. In Door County, as reported by the Lukeses, a pair of Great Horned Owls was singing duets on 3 January and a Common Raven was carrying nest material on 12 February.

A total of 82 people contributed reports or photos covering 55 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The counties with the most complete coverage (five or more contributors per county) were Columbia, Dane, Douglas, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oconto, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Vilas, and Winnebago. A total of 10 counties was covered by just two contributors per county: Barron, Brown, Dunn, Green, Juneau, Kenosha, Menominee, Outagamie, Sauk, and Waushara. A total of 24 counties was covered by only one contributor per county: Bayfield, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Crawford, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, La Crosse, Lafayette, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Pepin, Pierce, Rock, St. Croix, Walworth, Washburn, Waukesha, and Wood. These 17 counties were not covered: Polk, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Grant along the state's western boundary; Ashland, Iron, Sawyer, Rusk, Price, Taylor, and Clark in the northern half of the state; and Monroe, Adams, Richland, Iowa, and Racine in the southern half of the state.

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

These abbreviations are included with the species accounts: BOP—beginning of period, EOP—end of period, TTP—throughout the period, CBC—Christmas Bird Count(s), and m. obs.—many observers.

A final note—a reminder, really. Please, if you have records of rare birds, continue to send the documentation forms to the Associate Editor. It is fine to report such rarities via the Internet and email, but written reports should still be sent directly to Jan Hansen, Associate Editor.

Reports (1 December 2000—28 February 2001)

Red-throated Loon.—December records (single birds) for these counties: Manitowoc on the 2nd (Tessen); Sheboygan on the 9th (Brassers); and Kenosha on the 3rd (David).

Common Loon.—On 3 December, 3 in Dane County (Ashman, Stutz); 2 December, 2 in Manitowoc County (Tessen); 16 December, one in Milwaukee County (Hales Corners CBC); and 6 February, one in Kenosha County (Hoffmann).

Pied-billed Grebe.—Latest date 31 December, Walworth County (Parsons).

Horned Grebe.—On 16 December, one on the Milwaukee CBC. Also these records: 21 January, one in Ozaukee County (Domagalski); and 7 February, one in Winnebago County (Tessen).

Red-necked Grebe.—On 8 December, one in Dane County (Ashman). On 16 December, one in Lake Michigan just north of Bradford Beach, Milwaukee County (documented by Wood).

Eared Grebe.—One through 20 December in Winnebago County (Shillinglaw) for the second-latest date on record.

Double-crested Cormorant.—Found in Brown County, BOP and EOP (Tessen); in Winnebago County, BOP and EOP, 2 (Tessen); and in Washington County, BOP–10 December (Domagalski).

Great Blue Heron.—After the CBCs, these records: one in Kenosha County 15–31 January (Hoffmann), an emaciated bird with frostbitten feet in Milwaukee County on 26 December (Diehl), and one in Manitowoc County TTP (Sontag).

Great Egret.—One through 4 December in Marquette County in an area of open water and current by the confluence of the Grand River and a drainage ditch (documented by Christensen). This is Wisconsin's second winter record; the first was in the winter of 1980–81. This species apparently is less cold tolerant than the Great Blue Heron.

Black-crowned Night-Heron.—One on a Dane County CBC 1 January (Wilde) (see page 142 in *Wisconsin Birdlife,* 1991, by Sam Robbins, Jr., for other winter records for this species).

Turkey Vulture.—At least one TTP in Sauk County, roosting in a white pine plantation in Devil's Lake State Park (Lange); 2 on 31 January and 26 February in Kenosha County (Hoffmann); and one on 18 February in Dane County (documented by Chern and Hinebaugh).

Greater White-fronted Goose.—On 17–18 February, one in Dodge County (documented by Bahls and by Domagalski).

Snow Goose.—TTP(?) in Ozaukee County (m. obs.). Also these records: Brown(?) County, 17 December (New Franken CBC); Walworth County, 16 February (Parsons); and Kenosha County, 10 February, 1 (David).

Ross's Goose.—One on 21 February in Ozaukee County (Frank, Uttech).

Canada Goose.—TTP in relatively few counties away from Lake Michigan; for example, Dane, Dodge, Winnebago, and possibly Portage. BOP and EOP in a number of counties; for example, Walworth, Outagamie, Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, St. Croix, and Barron. Migrants noted in Green Lake County mid–February (m. obs.).

Mute Swan.—Reports for these counties: Douglas, maximum 7 on 16 February at Gordon; St. Croix, through 6 February, 1; Marathon, TTP, 1; Shawano, TTP, maximum 4 on 18 January; Door, TTP, maximum 9 on 4 December; Dane, TTP, maximum 7 on 11 January; Washington, through 10 December and again on 18 February; Milwaukee, maximum 5; Walworth, TTP?, maximum 7 on 10 December; and Kenosha, up to 8 TTP (m. obs.).

Trumpeter Swan.—Persico reported that the flock on the St. Croix River in Hudson, St. Croix County, has been increasing every year for the last 4–6 years; the maximum number this

winter was 54 on 13 January. He wrote: "Many are banded and come from Polk and Burnett Counties . . . Crex Meadows is the primary rearing area. The flock consists of family groups with gray/white juveniles and pure white adults, and single swans and pairs without young." After December, this species was also reported for Portage County, TTP? ("only marginally wild," notes Berner), and in Shawano County, 16–25 February, 3 (Peterson).

Tundra Swan.—BOP in Oconto and Door Counties, and 3 in St. Croix County through 8 January (Persico). For Dane County, excluding the CBCs, 31–40 on 10 December (Ashman, Evanson), and one on 6 January (Hilsenhoff).

Wood Duck.—Portage County, a female TTP (Berner); Ozaukee County, 1 TTP (m. obs.); and Kenosha County, 2, TTP? (Hoffmann).

Gadwall.—TTP in these counties: Chippewa, a few; Shawano, maximum 22 on 19 January; Winnebago(?); Manitowoc, maximum 2; Ozaukee, 1; and Dane, maximum after December, 28 on 18 January (m. obs.).

American Wigeon.—Single birds in these counties: Dane, 4 February; Winnebago, TTP; and Milwaukee, 1 January (m. obs.).

American Black Duck.—Reports from 18 counties scattered throughout the state (m. obs.); but not in the northernmost two to three tiers of counties or the southwestern quarter of the state.

Mallard.—TTP in the counties bordering Lake Michigan, in southeastern and south-central Wisconsin, and in St. Croix, Marathon, Portage, Shawano, Door, Green Lake, and Winnebago Counties (m. obs.).

Blue-winged Teal.—Parsons reported 9 from 16–18 February in Walworth County.

Northern Shoveler.—TTP in Dane County (m. obs.), maximum 380 on 3 January (Hilsenhoff).

Northern Pintail.—Found in Ozaukee County, 10–21 February, 3 (Frank, Williams); and in Milwaukee County, 10 February, 1 (Williams).

Green-winged Teal.—Found on 23 February in Winnebago County (m. obs.).

Canvasback.—Reported from Ozaukee County, TTP, maximum 2 (m. obs), and from Kenosha County, through 31 January, maximum 18 (Hoffmann).

Redhead.—Noted in Ozaukee County, TTP; in Milwaukee County, through 1 January, with 23 on 10 February; and in Kenosha County, through 22 January, maximum 4 (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Duck.—One to two birds noted TTP in these counties: St. Croix, Eau Claire, Oconto, Dane(?), and Ozaukee. One in Winnebago County 10 January–9 February. Other records after the CBCs, also 1–2 birds, from February, mostly the last week of the month: Shawano, Milwaukee, and Walworth Counties (m. obs.).

Greater Scaup.—TTP in Lake Michigan, from Kenosha County north to Door County; also in Portage County, one bird through 15 December (m. obs.).

Lesser Scaup.—TTP, 1–2 birds, in Dane and Ozaukee Counties. Also one in Milwaukee County 6 January, and one in Walworth County through 11 January (m. obs.).

Harlequin Duck.—A female in Milwaukee County 6 January (Tessen), and a male in Sheboygan County 10 February (Brassers, Williams).

Surf Scoter.—TTP in Ozaukee County (m. obs.) and 1 January in Milwaukee County (Bontly); this is the sixth consecutive winter that this species has been reported in Lake Michigan after December.

White-winged Scoter.—On 16 December, 2 on the Milwaukee CBC, the latest record.

Black Scoter.—The Brassers found this species in Sheboygan County 2–9 December.

Long-tailed Duck.—Noted in Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to Door County, but irregularly; only through 22 January in Kenosha County and 1 January in Milwaukee County, for example. Also reported in low numbers; the high count was 30+ on 1 January in Kewaunee County (Tessen).

Bufflehead.—TTP in Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to Door County. Also these records: Walworth County, TTP(?); Dane County, 4 February; and St. Croix County, 13 February, 1 (m. obs.).

Common Goldeneye.—TTP in these localities: St. Croix County, maximum 65 on 3 January; the Wisconsin River from at least Dane and Sauk Counties north to Portage County; Winnebago County; and Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to Door County. BOP and EOP in these counties: Douglas, Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire; Waupaca and Outagamie; and (TTP?) Walworth County (m. obs.).

Barrow's Goldeneye.—Found in Lake Michigan by Ozaukee County's Virmond Park for the seventh consecutive winter; the extreme dates are 2 December (Tessen) and 13 January (Frank, Peterson). Also these reports: Kenosha County, a pair through 22 January (Hoffmann), and Douglas County, 10 February–EOP, a male and "almost certainly" at least one female, "probably eating zebra mussels" (Johnson).

Hooded Merganser.—TTP in these counties: Eau Claire, Winnebago, Dane(?), Walworth(?), and Kenosha. A maximum of 9 in Kenosha County and "several" in Dane County, otherwise single birds. Also these reports: 31 January in Wood County, one found through 10 February in Portage County, and one on 6 January in Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

Common Merganser.—TTP in these localities: St. Croix County, maximum 47 on 14 January; Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties; Portage County, maximum 6; the Wisconsin River, at least in Sauk and Dane Counties; Winnebago County, maximum 140 on 10 February; and Lake Michigan between Milwaukee and Door Counties. These counties with February records: Marinette, 12 on the 11th; Shawano, the 22nd; Waupaca and Outagamie, EOP; and Dodge, the 18th (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser.—TTP in Lake Michigan from Kenosha County north to Door County (m. obs.).

Ruddy Duck.—These reports for Lake Michigan: Kewaunee County, one on 1 January; Ozaukee County, TTP; and Kenosha County, through 6 February, maximum 3. Also in Dane County: 20 on 8 December, also noted 8 February (m. obs.).

Bald Eagle.—TTP in a few northern counties (for example Barron, Vilas, and Door), and in approximately 8 central and southern counties; mainly BOP and EOP (m. obs.).

Northern Harrier.—Reardon reported one still in Vilas County 6 December; also BOP in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Ozaukee Counties. TTP(?) in Manitowoc and Kenosha Counties. Migrants or likely migrants in February, mainly from the 19th to EOP, in Walworth, Dane, Winnebago, and Outagamie Counties (m. obs.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk.—After the CBCs, reports for 11 counties, from St. Croix, Marathon, Shawano, and Door Counties in the north to Dane, Walworth, and Kenosha Counties in the south (m. obs.); these reports may include migrants.

Cooper's Hawk.—After the CBCs, reports for 19 counties, north to Dunn, Chippewa, Marathon, Oconto, and Door Counties (m. obs.); these reports may include migrants.

Northern Goshawk.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 9 counties: Douglas, St. Croix, Eau Claire, Jackson, Marathon, Portage, Oconto, Brown, and Door (m. obs.).

Red-shouldered Hawk.—TTP in Chippewa County; 4 February in Columbia County; and 4–13 January in Dane County (m. obs.).

Red-tailed Hawk.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 2 on 28 December and approximately the last month of the period; Marathon, TTP; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Rough-legged Hawk.—Berner reported up to 17 TTP in Portage County's Buena Vista grasslands. Also TTP in Barron and Door Counties, with records for southern Wisconsin through approximately mid–February (m. obs.).

Golden Eagle.—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: Jackson County, 2 on 10 January (Belter), and one on 24 January (Peterson); Juneau County, one on 24 January (Peterson), and 2 on 31 January (Tessen); and Oconto County, one on 28 January (Smiths).

American Kestrel.—Northward to these counties: Barron, BOP and EOP; Marathon, 6 February; and Oconto, 4 February. Also BOP and EOP in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties (m. obs.). Some of these records doubtless include migrants.

Merlin.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 6 counties: Douglas, 17 January–EOP; Marathon, a few TTP; Outagamie, 1 January; Brown, 3 January; Columbia, 4 January; and Ozaukee, 3 December (m. obs.).

Gyrfalcon.—At least 2 in the Superior, Wisconsin/Duluth, Minnesota area this winter; documented by Belter for 1 January, and by Johnson for 29 January. Also an immature at Rice Lake in Barron County 26 December (Williams).

Peregrine Falcon.—Reports for Douglas, Brown, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties (m. obs.).

Gray Partridge.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for these counties: Shawano, Door, Outagamie (maximum 30+), Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Columbia, and Dane (m. obs.).

Ring-necked Pheasant.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Barron, Portage, Oconto, and Door (m. obs.).

Spruce Grouse.—No reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse.—Reports of 1–2 birds in Douglas County 19 February (Semo), Jackson County 27 January (Stutz), and Wood County 27 January (Stutz).

Greater Prairie-Chicken.—A total of 169 on the Plainfield CBC on 23 December. Also Marathon County, 25 on 4 December (Belter) and 4 on the Spencer CBC 17 December; and TTP in Portage County, maximum 309 on 20 December (Hall).

Wild Turkey.—Noted in 30 counties, north to Burnett, Chippewa, Marathon, Langlade, Marinette, and Door Counties (m. obs.).

Northern Bobwhite.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for these counties: Dunn and Eau Claire (Polk); Portage, TTP, maximum 13 on 24 January (Hall); and Kenosha, TTP (Hoffmann).

American Coot.—TTP in these counties: St. Croix, maximum 2; Winnebago, maximum 5; Ozaukee; Milwaukee; Kenosha(?), 1; and Dane, maximum 30+ on 4 February. BOP and EOP in Walworth County (m. obs.).

Sandhill Crane.—Found on one CBC at Madison in Dane County on 16 December, 2 birds. Harriman and Kuecherer noted one with an injured wing in Outagamie County on 17 January. Migrants in February: 13th, one in Green Lake County (Schultz: "others about 2 weeks later"); 25th in Dane County (Houston); 27th in Jefferson County (Hale); and 28th in Waushara County (Domagalski).

Killdeer.—Latest date: 30 December, 2 in Trempealeau County on the Trempealeau CBC.

Purple Sandpiper.—Found on 2 December, Milwaukee County (m. obs.).

Common Snipe.—A total of 47 on 18 CBCs; no later records.

Bonaparte's Gull.—Bontly reported this species in Ozaukee County 10 December and in Milwaukee County 1 January.

Mew Gull.—Found on 2 December, one in Milwaukee County, documented by Gustafson and by Tessen.

Ring-billed Gull.—TTP in a few counties (for example Winnebago, 2; and Ozaukee), but generally BOP and EOP (for example Outagamie, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, and Walworth Counties) (m. obs.).

Herring Gull.—TTP in Lake Michigan between Door and Ozaukee Counties; BOP and EOP in Milwaukee County. Also TTP in Washington and Winnebago Counties (m. obs.); maximum in Winnebago County 800 on 10 February (Ziebell). In Douglas County in far northwestern Wisconsin, this species was noted through 28 December, a total of 60, and then again 11 February, when 300 were found (Johnson). BOP and EOP in Dane and Outagamie Counties (m. obs.).

Thayer's Gull.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 1–2 birds in these counties: Douglas, Outagamie, Winnebago, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Kenosha. The dates range from 4 January to 16 February (m. obs.).

Iceland Gull.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 1–2 birds in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Ozaukee Counties, with dates ranging from 4 January–15 February (m. obs.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.—A lone bird in Dane County 10 December (Ashman, Evanson).

Glaucous Gull.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for these counties: Douglas, 28 December and 11 February–EOP, maximum 9 on 11 February; Outagamie, 4 January, 7; Winnebago, TTP, maximum 5 on 14 February; Manitowoc, TTP, maximum 6 on 12 January; Sheboygan, 2 December, 1, and 10 February–EOP, maximum 5 on 26 February; and Ozaukee, 2 December and 21 January–15 February, 1 (m. obs.).

Great Black-backed Gull.—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: Outagamie County, 4 January, 1; Winnebago County, 5 January, 1; and Lake Michigan from Door County south to Kenosha County. TTP in Door, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties. Maximum count of 9 (first-winter birds to adults) on 17 January in Manitowoc County (m. obs.).

Rock Dove.—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Vilas, Oconto, and Door (m. obs.).

Mourning Dove.—Northward to the following counties: Douglas, TTP (Semo found a group of 16 at a farmstead on 19 February); Vilas, TTP; Marinette, 25 December, 1; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove.—At least one of the two birds initially reported at White Potato Lake in Oconto County in May 2000 was still present on 11 February (Bridge); documented by Tessen for 23 January. First winter record for this exotic species.

Eastern Screech-Owl.—TTP in Dane, Ozaukee, Winnebago, and Shawano Counties, and BOP and EOP in Outagamie County (m. obs.).

Snowy Owl.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 14 counties: Douglas, Washburn, Marathon, Portage, Oconto, Shawano, Outagamie, Winnebago, Door, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Dane, and Columbia; TTP in Portage County, where up to 4–5 were noted in the Buena Vista grasslands, and in Winnebago County, 2 (m. obs.).

Northern Hawk Owl.—One near Phelps in Vilas County 12 December–28 February (m. obs.; documented by Baughman, Hansen, Tessen, and Heikkinen and Unson). This bird was banded by Bruce Bacon on 24 December. First winter record since the 1996–97 winter.

Great Gray Owl.—One in Winnebago County 3–10 December (m. obs.; documented by Sykes, Shillinglaw, Mueller, and Wood), and several in Douglas County 17 December–7 January (Figure 1); also a dead bird in February (LaValleys).

Long-eared Owl.—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: Green County, 11 February, 1 (Peterson); Kenosha County, 24 January (Hoffmann); and Manitowoc County, 31 December (Jim and Aaron Holschbach).

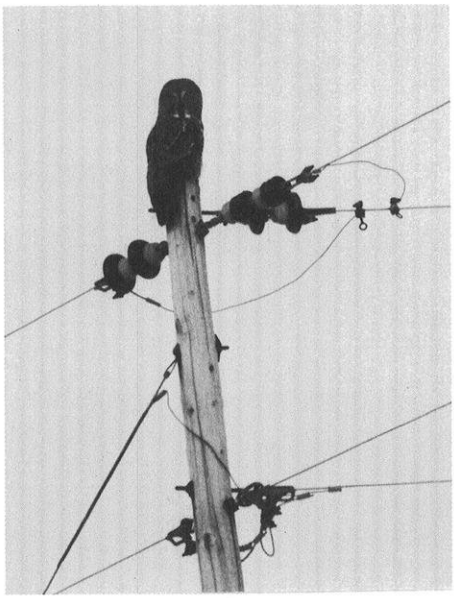


Figure 1. Several Great Gray Owls were reported in Douglas County during the winter of 2000–2001. This bird, photographed by LaVerne LaPole, was found near Poplar on 23 December 2000.

Short-eared Owl.—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: Ozaukee County, 10 December (Uttech); Manitowoc County, 6–30 December (Holschbachs); Winnebago County, 4 December, 4 (Tessen); and Douglas County, 28 January (Johnson).

Northern Saw-whet Owl.—Baraboo and Kewaunee CBCs, also these reports: an emaciated bird with frostbitten feet in Milwaukee County 28 December (Diehl), one in Ozaukee County 21 February (Frank), one in Jefferson County 21–23 February (Hale), one in Portage County 6 February (Hall), one in Oconto County 23 January (Tessen), and one in Washburn County 4 February (Hansen). Some of these birds could have been migrants.

Belted Kingfisher.—After the CBCs, reports for 8 counties: St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Portage, Oconto, Shawano, and Jefferson; one bird in all cases, except for St. Croix County, where 2 were noted TTP (m. obs.).

Red-headed Woodpecker.—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: Burnett County, 1–31 December (McInroy); Portage County, wintering at the Whiting/Plover River colony for the first time since 1996–97 (Berner); Shawano County, 10–23 January, maximum 3 (Peterson, Tessen); and Green County, 17 February (Evanson).

Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Northernmost reports for these counties: Burnett, Barron, Marathon, Marinette, and Door (m. obs.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—No reports after the CBCs.

Black-backed Woodpecker.—Douglas County (m. obs.; for example, Tessen on 26 December, 4), and Oneida County (Tessen).

Northern Flicker.—After the CBCs, reports for 8 counties: St. Croix, Portage, Oconto, Waushara, Columbia, Dane, Washington, and Milwaukee; 1–2 birds in all cases (m. obs.).

Northern Shrike.—After the CBCs, reports for 25 counties, from far-northern Wisconsin south to Dane and Ozaukee Counties; generally average numbers (m. obs.).

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

Common Raven.—Southernmost report from Juneau County on 31 January (Tessen). The LaValleys reported a count of 127 on 24 February in Douglas County.

Horned Lark.—TTP in Dane County. Numbers decreased statewide after early January, then increased in February (migrants?). February records for Eau Claire, Portage, Oconto, Shawano, Outagamie, Winnebago, Columbia, and Dane Counties (m. obs.).

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

Tufted Titmouse.—Exclusive of the CBCs, reports for 10 counties (m. obs.), including (like last winter) southeastern Wisconsin, where generally this species has been scarce. Noted in these counties: Dunn, Pepin, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Marathon (Belter's first county record, one from 24 December–27 January), Columbia, Dane, Jefferson, Milwaukee (one TTP, Cowart), and Walworth. It will be interesting to see if this species is again reported for southeastern Wisconsin next winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Throughout the state, except for the southwestern quarter and the southernmost tier of counties west of Walworth County; generally average numbers (m. obs.).

White-breasted Nuthatch.—Northward to the following counties, where TTP: Douglas, Vilas, Forest and Florence, Marinette, and Door (m. obs.).

Brown Creeper.—After the CBCs, these reports: Douglas County, 18 February; Vilas County, TTP; and Oconto County, 11 February (m. obs.).

Carolina Wren.—One TTP in Waupaca County for the third consecutive winter (Hewitt), and one at a feeder in Madison, Dane County, 17–18 December (documented by Karlson).

Winter Wren.—A total of 7 on as many CBCs; no later reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—After the CBCs, reports for these counties: Vilas, 6 February (Baughman); Portage, TTP, maximum 5 on 11 December (Berner); Oconto, one on 23 January (Tessen); Winnebago, TTP (Ziebell); Dodge, TTP (Domagalski); and Washington, TTP (Domagalski).

Eastern Bluebird.—A total of 66 on 10 CBCs, but only these late records: Dane, TTP (Burcar); Ozaukee, 13 January (Peterson); and Kenosha, 31 January, 2 (Hoffmann).

Townsend's Solitaire.—These reports: Vilas County, one on 3 December (documented by Baughman); Kewaunee County, one through 5 January (documented by Domagalski and by Tessen); and Dane County, one by the Middleton Public Library, 13 January–17 February (documented by Mueller, Gustafson, Tessen).

Hermit Thrush.—Winter documented this species from Waukesha County on 23 February (TTP?).

American Robin.—After the CBCs, reports for 11 counties, mainly southern and central Wisconsin; also Douglas County. Mostly reports of 1–15 birds, with 50–55 in Dane and St. Croix

Counties, and 100+ in Kenosha County (m. obs.).

Varied Thrush.—Including the CBCs, reports for these counties: Vilas, 5 January (Peterson); Door, 1 December–29 January (Lukeses); Marathon, 13 December–26 February (Figure 2); Portage, TTP; Winnebago, 13 December (photo by DeLong); Dane, 31 December (documented by McDowell); and Washington, 1–27 December (including the Hartford CBC).

Gray Catbird.—No reports after the CBCs.

Northern Mockingbird.—One record, a bird on a Manitowoc County CBC on 31 December.

Brown Thrasher.—No reports after the CBCs.

European Starling.—Northward to these counties, where TTP: Douglas, Vilas, Forest (12 December), and Door (m. obs.).

Bohemian Waxwing.—Including the CBCs, reports from these counties: Douglas, Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade, Oconto, Shawano, Door, Taylor, Marathon, Portage, and Marquette. Maximum numbers (more than 100) in Vilas County 14 January (120) and in Langlade County 22 February (200+); most flocks less than 60 (m. obs.).

Cedar Waxwing.—After the CBCs, northernmost reports for these counties: St. Croix (TTP, maximum 35 on 27 January); Marathon (through 2 January); Shawano (TTP); and Kewaunee (1 January, 20).

Yellow-rumped Warbler.—One on the Milwaukee CBC 16 December; last seen on 2 February (Cowart, Idzikowski).

Eastern Towhee.—A total of 5 on as many CBCs, with the bird on the Kenosha CBC remaining through 22 January (Hoffmann).

American Tree Sparrow.—Northernmost reports as last year: Douglas County, 12 January–EOP, 5; Oconto County, TTP; Door County, 15

Figure 2. Varied Thrushes were reported from seven Wisconsin counties during the winter of 2000–2001, including this bird in Wausau, Marathon County. Photo by Duane Pyan.

December–EOP, maximum 31 on 14 January (m. obs.).

Chipping Sparrow.—Single birds on the Green Lake, Montello, and Lake Geneva CBCs. Also these records: 2 TTP at a feeder in Dane County (documented by Marek), and one in Portage County 26–28 February (Hall); only the sixth and seventh records for this species after 8 February.

Field Sparrow.—Single birds on the Bridgeport and Riveredge CBCs, also (m. obs.) one in Dane County 7–12 February.

Black-throated Sparrow.—One at a residential feeder in DeForest, Dane County, 6 January–11 March (documented by Schultz). This is Wisconsin's fifth winter record; also found in the winter of 1959–60, February 1976, and (2 birds) in the winter of 1982–83.

Savannah Sparrow.—Latest date 1 January, one in Ozaukee County (Bontly).

Fox Sparrow.—After the CBCs, these reports: one TTP at a feeder in Beloit, Rock County (Williams); and 7 February, one in Dane County (Stutz).

Song Sparrow.—TTP in these counties: Dane, Winnebago(?), Outagamie(?), Manitowoc, and Ozaukee; 1–2 birds. January records for Marathon, Jefferson, and Kenosha Counties, and likely migrants in Dane County EOP (m. obs.).

Lincoln's Sparrow.—No reports after the CBCs.

Swamp Sparrow.—After the CBCs, single birds in Kenosha County on 31 January (Hoffmann) and in Douglas County on 28 January (Johnson).

White-throated Sparrow.—TTP or most likely TTP in these counties: Rock (5 on 27 January) and Dane (4 on 28 January), Milwaukee and Ozaukee, Calumet and Outagamie, Green Lake, and Portage (m. obs.).

Harris's Sparrow.—The bird at a feeder in Rock County on the Beloit CBC 16 December was seen "into February" (Williams). Also, one at a feeder in Madison, Dane County, 29 January–EOP (m. obs.; documented by Heikkinen and Unson), and one in St. Croix County 17–21 January (Persico).

White-crowned Sparrow.—After the CBCs, these reports: Kenosha County, 21 January (Hoffmann); Rock County, 27 January, 2 at a feeder in Beloit (Williams); and Dane County, 2 February–EOP (m. obs.).

Dark-eyed Junco.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 8 January–EOP, 1; Burnett, 8 February; Barron, TTP; Marathon, 15 December–27 January, maximum 20+ on 27 January; Marinette, 10 February, 1; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Lapland Longspur.—After the CBCs, reports for 10 counties: Portage, Outagamie, Winnebago, Manitowoc, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Kenosha, and Dane and Columbia. The highest numbers were in the first part of the winter in Outagamie County, where on 9 December Tessen found 350+, and where on 28 December he found a total of 520. In Manitowoc County on 2 January, the Holschbachs found a total of 250. TTP in Ozaukee, Dodge, and Winnebago Counties (m. obs.).

Snow Bunting.—After the CBCs, reports for 24 counties scattered throughout the state, except for the north-central and southwestern counties and the southernmost tier of counties west of Walworth County. TTP in Barron, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Portage, Door, Winnebago, Dodge, Jefferson, and Ozaukee Counties. This species, like Lapland Longspur, was generally most numerous in December and early January; for example, 700 on 3 January in Portage County; 100+ on 9 December and 130 on 28 December in Outagamie County; 150+ on 3 January in Calumet County; and 120 on 2 January in Manitowoc County (m. obs.).

Northern Cardinal.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, one on 20 January; Vilas, 6 December; Oconto, TTP; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—16 December, one in Jackson County (photo by Allen, verified by Domagalski); Wisconsin's 11th winter record.

Red-winged Blackbird.—After the CBCs, approximately a dozen birds in Kenosha County 31 January (Hoffmann), and one in Dodge County 27 January (Tessen). Single birds (migrants?), reported on 16 February in Walworth County, 24 February in Door County, and 27 February in Kenosha County (m. obs.).

Eastern Meadowlark.—After the CBCs, one in Winnebago County at least into January

and perhaps February (Tessen), and one in Door County 16 December–17 January (Lukeses).

Meadowlark sp.—Stutz reported one in Dane County on 21 February.

Yellow-headed Blackbird.—A female with Brown-headed Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds on 27 January–18 February in Dodge County (Tessen, Domagalski).

Rusty Blackbird.—After the CBCs, these reports: 11 January, one at a feeder in Chippewa County (Polk); 4–14 January, one in Ozaukee County (Frank); and 27–28 February, four (migrants?) in Manitowoc County (Holschbachs).

Brewer's Blackbird.—One in Taylor County on the Gilman CBC 16 December.

Common Grackle.—After the CBCs, only one record: approximately 8 in Kenosha County on 31 January (Hoffmann).

Brown-headed Cowbird.—TTP in Dodge County, 6–10 birds (Domagalski, Tessen); Ozaukee County, a few (Frank); and Kenosha County, a few (Hoffmann). Migrants(?), a total of 5 birds, on 28 February in Brown County (Tessen).

Pine Grosbeak.—After the CBCs, reports for these counties: Douglas, 28 December–EOP, maximum 30; Vilas, 11 January; Florence, 4 January; and Langlade, 6 February, 1 (m. obs.).

Purple Finch.—After the CBCs, reports for 20 counties; not reported from north-central and southwestern Wisconsin. Generally uncommon, maximum numbers less than 20, except for a total of 50 on 1 February in Shawano County (m. obs.).

House Finch.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 20 January–EOP; Marathon, TTP, maximum 40+ on 15 December; Marinette, one on 10–11 February; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

Red Crossbill.—After the CBCs, reports from 5 northern counties, plus Portage County and Kewaunee County (m. obs.). The only contributor reporting "good numbers" was Semo in Douglas County on 19 February.

White-winged Crossbill.—Found on 2 CBCs; one in Ashland County and one in Taylor County. After the CBCs, reports for these counties: Douglas, 3 small flocks on 19 February; Vilas, 18 January–28 February; Oneida, one on 1 January; Forest, one on 1 January and 3 on 6 February; Menominee, 2 on 6 February; and Portage 10–24 February, maximum 8 (m. obs.).

Common Redpoll.—Exclusive of the CBCs, these reports: Douglas County, 4 small flocks (maximum 12 in any given flock) from 16–19 February, associated with natural food sources (e.g., alders) not with feeders (Semo); and Oconto County, one on 1 January (Smiths) and two on 23 January (Tessen).

Pine Siskin.—After the CBCs, reports for 19 counties, from far northern Wisconsin south to Dane, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee Counties; generally absent from western and southwestern Wisconsin. Often in high numbers: for example, 100+ in Douglas County; 250 on 3 January and 150 on 6 February in Forest County; 80+ on 19 January in Marathon County; 60 on 8 January in Portage County; and 94 on 27 February in Shawano County. The high count in southern Wisconsin was 28 on 7 January in Dane County (m. obs.).

American Goldfinch.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, 15–28 December and 16–19 February (TTP?); Vilas, TTP; Forest, 19 January; Florence, 19 January; Marinette, 19 January; and Door, TTP. High numbers (17–75) reported for these counties (m. obs.).

Evening Grosbeak.—After the CBCs, these reports: Douglas County, one in mid–February; Vilas County, TTP; Florence County, two on 19 January; Langlade County, 3 January; Menominee County, 3 January and 6 February; Shawano County, 5–27 February, maximum 35 on the 27th; and Portage County, one on 4 January (m. obs.).

House Sparrow.—Northward to these counties: Douglas, TTP; Vilas, TTP; Forest, 17 December; Marinette, one on 10 February; and Door, TTP (m. obs.).

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Ash-throated Flycatcher (1 November 2000, Kewaunee County) *by John Idzikowski*

"By the Wayside"—Winter 2000–2001

Rare species documentations include Barrow's Goldeneye, Mew Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, Chipping Sparrow, and Black-throated Sparrow.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

11 February 2001, Wisconsin Point, Douglas County—When Shaun Putz and I arrived at the western end of Wisconsin Point, we could see a small patch of open water (the *only* open water) at the lighthouse with a few ducks in it. With scopes, we were able to find the male Barrow's Goldeneye. As we picked our way carefully and quietly along the rocks, the birds got up, flying first east down the beach then swinging west over Park Point. When they returned, they landed directly in front of the lighthouse. We sneaked the rest of the way out and up the stairs, peeked over the edge, and found them right below us about a city block away. Through binoculars, Shaun's scope, and my camera lens, we could pick the bird out by the purple sheen on its head; the Common Goldeneyes had a green sheen. Both species had black heads, black backs with white lines, white breasts and sides, and small dark bills. Rather than the oval cheek patch, the Barrow's had a long crescent-shaped patch. The white marks on its back were shorter, with more black between them. The Barrow's also showed a black mark running from the upper back onto the side of the breast, and more black under the tail. We enjoyed a long look, not really noticing the females, but one photo we took shows what is almost certainly a female Barrow's Goldeneye.—*Robbye Johnson, Superior, WI.*

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

2 December 2000, South Metro Pier, Milwaukee County—A large flock of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls was resting on the beach next to the Oak Creek Water Filtration Plant. Careful scanning of the flock revealed one gull with a mantle that was a little darker gray than the adjacent Ring-bills (Figures 1 and 2). As I slowly worked my way closer, these additional traits were observed: a more rounded head shape with fairly heavy streaking; slightly smaller size than the Ring-bills; a shorter and much thinner bill than the Ring-bills, with no dark ring or tip (all yellow, with a slight greenish tone); eye very dark (almost black), compared to the pale yellow iris of the Ring-bills;

Figure 1. This Mew Gull was seen by as number of observers in late November and early December 2000 at the South Metro Pier in Milwaukee County. Photo taken on 11 November 2000 by John Idzikowski.

and legs dull greenish. The rest of its body was similar to a Ring-billed, with white undersides, gray wings with black tips (white "window" more extensive than in a Ring-bill when finally seen in flight), and more white appearing on the wings (tertials?) as two bands near the rump, and black wing tips.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

23 January 2001, White Potato Lake, Oconto County—I went up to White Potato Lake the morning after returning from a winter Arizona trip. Almost immediately, I found the bird perched on a television antenna. It later moved to adjacent trees, where it commenced calling. A second bird responded from a small wooded area by a parking lot near the lake.

The bird was large and chunkier than a Mourning Dove, with a black bill, black half-collar, and a black upper tail with the remainder white. In flight, I could see the square-shaped tail.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

21 December 2000, near Phelps, Vilas County—This bird had been previously reported during the area's Christmas

Figure 2. Another view of the Milwaukee County Mew Gull, with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls for comparison (Mew Gull is at right with wings outstretched). Photo taken on 11 November 2000 by John Idzikowski.

Count. We first observed the bird perched at the very top of a large deciduous tree in a farmyard. The breast and belly were white and heavily barred with tawny brown. The back, wings, and wing coverts were darker brown, with the secondaries and wing coverts showing fairly large white terminal spots. There was also fairly heavy white spotting along the edges of the mantle. The crown was gray with many small white spots, and the facial disk was off-white. There were two parallel, vertical black streaks on both sides of the head, one just behind the eye and the other running from the back of the crown down to the throat. The eyes were yellow. The tail was noticeably long, and the bird pumped it frequently. The bird was not very active during the observation, although it did change perches several times, always landing at the very top of a tree or snag. While perched, its head swiveled almost continuously as it searched the ground below for prey.—*Jan Hansen, Green Bay, WI.*

3 January 2001, near Phelps, Vilas County—When I arrived at the farm south of the junction of the two forest roads near Phelps, the hawk owl was perched atop a spruce tree. There was a light snow falling. I sat and enjoyed the bird for 15 minutes. I noted its hawklike shape and long tail. The face was white framed in black. The belly was finely barred. The top of the head was lightly spotted. To me, this is the fiercest-looking of the owls. It was constantly watching the ground for prey.—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

10–11 February 2001, near Phelps, Vilas County—The bird was sitting in a tall, exposed deciduous tree overlooking a field next to a farmhouse. There appeared to be a small woods behind it, and in front of it were snow-covered fields. The area was at the top of a fairly

high hill. We did not even bother to use our scope, and were satisfied to look at it through binoculars.

The bird had a long tail, and a buffy-striped chest with a white band at the neck. The largish, owl-like head was rounded and without tufts, and the distinctive black bands coming down toward the neck from the top of the head (like broad umbrella struts) were quite clear. On the 11th, we saw it fly to a tree above the farmhouse, and the long tail was quite distinct as it flew. When it flew, the bird looked to be about 16–17 inches long. It seemed unconcerned, even when we got out of the van to look at it. Of all the hawk owls we've seen, this one had very handsome coloration.—*Chuck Heikkinen and Delia Unson, Madison, WI.*

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

3 December 2000, Shady Lane Road, Winnebago County—The first sighting of the owl was as it was perched on a road sign about 100 yards away. Without the aid of binoculars, the owl appeared larger than a Short-eared Owl (the species of owl we had hoped to find!). As the bird left its perch and flew directly toward us with slow and ponderous wing beats just 3 to 4 feet above the ground (less graceful than a Barred Owl), we were at once struck by the image of a "barrel with wings." The owl landed on a fence post approximately 60 yards away and began searching for food, swivelling its head from side to side as it looked at the ground below. This gave us time to set up a scope and observe the bird's massive facial disks and small (relative to the disks) beady yellow eyes. The bright white feathers that characteristically form the "bow tie" field mark were distinctive. While we were observing the bird, it once again took flight and landed closer to us on another fence post about 40 yards away. At this time, we took down our scope, loaded it back into our truck, and observed the owl from the truck. We drove up the road to where the bird was perched, and were less than 20 feet away at this point. The strong concentric rings of feathers around its eyes, and the massive size of the head in proportion to the body, were very telling. The yellow eyes were even more impressive at close range. The bird again flew to an adjacent fence post, giving us an excellent view of its broad, wide wings. Perched upright once more and continuing to search for food, we were struck by the enormity of its head in proportion to its body. In flight, the bird also appeared not to have any neck—it appeared stubby. The bird was still perched on the fence post when we departed the area.—*Tom and Carol Sykes, Appleton, WI.*

8 December 2000, County Highway M and N. Loop Road, Winnebago County—This was my seventh try for the Great Gray Owl in four days! After running early morning errands, I decided to drive out and check the area. Nearing the junction of County Highway M and N. Loop Road, I discovered Dave Kuecherer parked and flashing his lights. The bird sat in a large cottonwood tree, sunning itself and dozing. I called numerous people, who arrived in the next hour to hour and a half. Everyone had great looks. The bird hunted successfully along the shoulder of the road, then perched at different spots, eventually on top of a pole where great photos were taken by Dennis Malueg. The markings were obvious—

it was a very large gray owl with a large gray facial disk, light eyes, and the distinct black-and-white "bow tie."—*Daryl Tessen, Appleton, WI.*

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

27 January 2001, Middleton, Dane County—After several checks along the street behind the Middleton Public Library, a grayish bird was spotted diving into a small cedar tree behind the library. Shortly, it came out and sat on an open branch, then on the ground, and back to the tree. It flew up to a telephone line, where it sat briefly, then flew into a backyard, landing on the top of a deciduous tree. During this time, the following traits were seen by my wife Margot and myself: a mostly gray bird with a blackish longer tail with white edgings; a conspicuous white eye ring; two buffy wing bars; and buffy underwings in flight. It was about the size of an Eastern Phoebe, which it reminded me of because of its flycatcher-like flight and hovering, perching on exposed spots, and restlessness.—*Dennis Gustafson, New Berlin, WI.*

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)

Fall 2000–March 2001, Madison, Dane County—I live in Crestwood, near Owen Conservation Park. My backyard and beyond is wooded. I have lots of shrubs, weeds, and a small prairie garden. I scatter millet on the ground under the shrubs and on my "bird" picnic table.

I first noticed the Chipping Sparrows late last fall, feeding on weed seeds with White-throated Sparrows. I remember thinking, "How strange, they should have migrated." I was very busy and not home much, and did not see them on the day of the Audubon Christmas Count. When I returned from Costa Rica on January 17, I finally took the time to observe the Chipping Sparrows as they fed with about seven White-throated Sparrows and several American Tree Sparrows. I saw them about 10 feet from my window and consulted all of my many bird books and confirmed my previous casual observations. Dave Fallow observed and confirmed my identification on February 4.

The two Chipping Sparrows are much smaller and behave differently than the American Tree and White-throated Sparrows. They are probably first-winter birds. They have light gray—almost white—underparts, with no streaking and no dark spot, or "stickpin," on the breast. The rump is gray, not brown like the Clay-colored Sparrow. The crowns are streaked, and in the sunlight I see a slight rusty tint. Both have a strong eye line both behind and in front of the eye. One has a pink bill; the other one has a darker pinkish bill. Both have flesh-colored legs (not as pink as a Field Sparrow). These small, slim birds have notched tails and faint wing bars.—*Sylvia Marek, Madison, Dane County.*

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)

15 January 2001, Deforest, Dane County—I was alerted to the presence of this bird by Tony Kalenic, and I then contacted the property owner, Jan Feucht, by telephone to get some additional information. She informed me

Figure 3. Wisconsin's fifth record of Black-throated Sparrow appeared at a feeder in DeForest, Dane County, in early January 2001 and remained until mid–March. Photo by Jan Feucht.

that the bird had first been seen at her house on January 6, and that it had been a regular visitor all week since then. Jan was reluctant to release word about this bird to the general birding community (not wanting a horde of birders invading her neighborhood), but she wanted me to come and document the record.

I arrived at the Feucht residence on January 15 at about 7:00 in the morning, and waited around for the bird to appear, watching the feeder area and the bushes and trees around the property. Jan came out to talk to me, and said she hadn't seen the bird yet that morning. I continued to wait, and, finally, at about 8:40, the bird showed up and came down to feed on the ground under the feeder behind the house. I was about 40–50 feet away at the side of the street. The bird fed for perhaps 5 minutes, then disappeared. I waited around for a little while longer, then decided to take my camera and tripod and set up behind the house about 20 feet from the feeder. After about a 45-minute wait, the bird showed up again and I managed to take several photos, although the day was overcast and the lighting was poor.

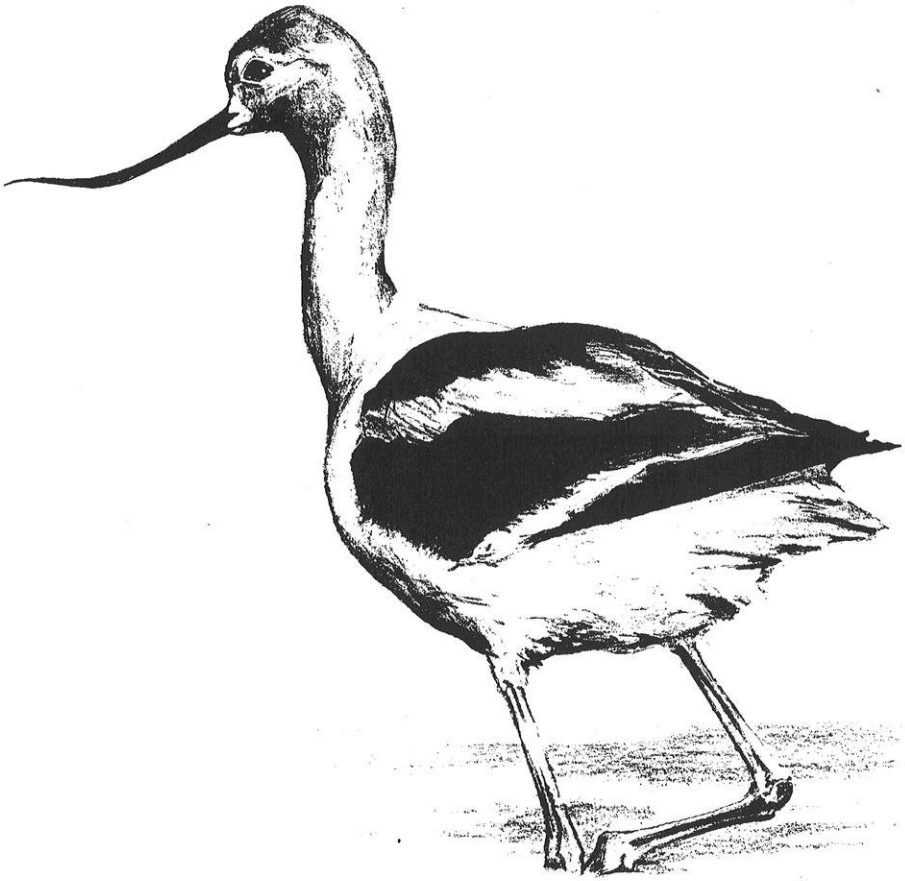
The bird was rather small in size for a sparrow—definitely smaller than the juncos that were also present at times. The bill was rather long proportionally, and tapered evenly to a sharp point; it was blackish on the upper mandible and bluish gray on the lower. The legs were also rather long and dark in color, and the bird sometimes held one of them stiffly off the ground. I wondered if it had gotten frozen.

The most striking plumage feature was the black throat and bib, which ex-

tended well down into the upper breast where it came to a point. The black throat/bib was bordered by white on the sides that extended through the malar region and then down into the upper breast. The white border on each side of the bib nearly met near the bottom tip of the bib. The rest of the underparts were mostly a pale, warm gray that was strongest on the sides and flanks and extended back to the rear of the flanks. The undertail coverts were whitish.

The face was fairly dark gray with blackish in the lores, except for a bold, white supercilium and a narrow white crescent below the eye. The forehead and crown were also dark gray, and were bordered by a narrow stripe of black just above the white supercilium, with the black extending very narrowly across the front of the forehead just above the bill. The upperparts were gray, with a slight hint of brownish on the mantle. The wings were a similar color, and showed no wing bars. The tertials were blackish in the centers, and had broad brownish edges. The tail was mostly dark, but had a little white at the tips of the outer rectrices, although this was much less prominent than is shown in the field guides.

The sparrow was present through January 20, and then disappeared for nearly a month before returning on February 17, and then it continued to show up through at least March 11.—*Tom Schultz, Green Lake, WI.*



American Avocet *by Steve Lubahn*

WSO Records Committee Report—Winter 2000–2001

The WSO Records Committee reviewed 35 reports of 13 species for the winter season; 25 of the reports were accepted. An additional report of the first suspected nesting of Rusty Blackbirds in Wisconsin was also accepted, as were six reports from the fall 2000 season.

Accepted

Ross's Goose—

#2001–001 Ozaukee Co., 21 February 2001, Frank, Uttech.

This individual was seen in a flock of 5 Snow Geese. The obviously smaller size of this white goose with black wing tips was apparent, as was the smaller, more rounded head and the smaller, triangular bill. This pink bill lacked the dark "grin patch" of the Snow Geese. Although the size at rest was close to that of a Mallard, in flight the wingspread was surprisingly closer to that of the Snow Geese.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2000–079 Ozaukee Co., 16 December 2000, Frank, Wood; 11 January 2001, Frank.

#2001–002 Kenosha Co., 5, 8 January 2001, Hoffmann.

#2001–003 Douglas Co., 11 February 2001, R. Johnson (photo).

These male birds exhibited the broader black coloration to the back, extending down in a point over the shoulder. This black encompassed white spots on the back, instead of white encompassing black spots on the Common Goldeneyes. The head had a faster rise up to the forehead, with the overall color bluish black instead of greenish black. The white spot on the face was elongated instead of round. The dark bill was slightly shorter than those of the Common Goldeneyes. The Ozaukee County records constitute the seventh consecutive winter this species, and probably this bird, has wintered in Lake Michigan off Virmond Park.

Gyrfalcon—

#2001–004 Douglas Co., 1 January 2001, Belter; 29 January 2001, R. Johnson.

#2001–007 Barron Co., 26 December 2000, D. Williams.

The Douglas County bird was overall a grayish color, the Barron County bird brownish. They were larger than a Red-tailed Hawk with longer tails. The wings were slightly pointed, but noticeably less so than on a Peregrine. The overall color of the birds was broken by generalized streaking on the face and underparts. A light stripe ran from the eye down the cheek.

Mew Gull—

#2000–087 Milwaukee Co., 2 December 2000, Gustafson.

This gull was slightly smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls, with a slightly darker gray mantle; more rounded head; a shorter, thinner, all-yellow bill; and a dark iris. In flight, the white mirrors in the primary tips were more extensive than those of the Ring-billed Gulls.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—

#2001–005 Oconto Co., 23 January 2001, Tessen.

These two doves were a bit larger and grayer than a Mourning Dove. The back of the neck had a black crescent. In flight, the proximal portion of the squared-off undertail was black, the distal white. These birds represent the continued presence of Wisconsin's fourth record for this species.

Great Gray Owl—

#2000–110 Douglas Co., 23 December 2000, LaPole (photo only).

#2000–110 Douglas Co., February 2000, LaValley.

#2000–106 Winnebago Co., 3 December 2000, Sykes; 4 December 2000, Shillinglaw; 8 December 2000, Tessen; 9 December 2000, Mueller; 10 December 2000, T. Wood, Heikkinen, Unson; date unknown, Malueg (photo only).

These large owls lacked ear tufts, had yellow eyes, and a yellowish bill. The facial disks appeared to be concentric rings. The grayish body was mottled and barred throughout.

Northern Hawk Owl—

#2000–107 Vilas Co., 16 December 2000 and 7, 11 January 2001, J. Baughman; 21 December 2000, Hansen; 3 January 2001, Tessen; 18 January 2001, Belter; 10, 11 February 2001, Heikkinen, Unson.

This crow-sized bird was seen sitting relatively vertical in posture in trees. The tail seemed disproportionately long and was pumped from time to time. The head seemed disproportionately large. The bird was overall dark brown with white spotting on the mantle and wing coverts. The crown had numerous small white spots. A striking, dark vertical stripe framed the whitish facial disks. The eyes were yellow.

Black-throated Sparrow—

#2001–006 Dane Co., 15 January 2001, Schultz (photo).

This sparrow was relatively small compared to most other sparrow species, including the adjacent juncos. The throat was black, extending down the upper breast to a point. This black bib was bordered by a white malar stripe that extended down onto the gray-white breast and belly. The upperparts of the bird were gray. The black lores were followed by a white supercilium. The owner of the property the bird was frequenting reports that this individual was present from January

6 to January 20 and again from February 17 through March 11.

Rusty Blackbird—

Ashland Co., 11 July 1999, Matteson.

While investigating a report of Trumpeter Swans, the observer discovered a family group of five blackbirds: three juveniles in company of an adult male and female. The male was black with white eyes and a greenish gloss to the head. The grayish female had light eyes, not the dark eyes of a female Brewer's Blackbird. The brownish juveniles did have dark eyes. The group remained within 10–20 feet of each other during the 10–12 minute observation. They foraged at the edge of a stream and pond in an alder swamp. Although the youngsters appeared to be capable of flight, it is presumed that this close-knit family group in appropriate habitat represents Wisconsin's first breeding evidence of Rusty Blackbirds.

Fall 2000 Reports Accepted

Pacific Loon—

#2000–073 Shawano Co., 22 October 2000, Peterson.

White-faced Ibis—

#2000–080 Dodge Co., 26 October 2000, Peterson.

Mew Gull—

#2000–087 Milwaukee Co., 22 November 2000, David.

Barn Owl—

#2000–114 Milwaukee Co., 4 November 2000, Mueller, Cutright.

Great Gray Owl—

#2000–113 Iron Co., 29 October 2000, Brown.

Not Accepted

Greater White-fronted Goose—

#2000–112 Buffalo Co., 2 January 2001.

A "fairly large" goose was observed at close range to be gray-blue all over, with fine white lines around the circumference of the body. A faint white flank line extended the length of the body. The legs were reddish pink, not the anticipated orange of a White-fronted Goose. The bill was pink, but no white facial front was present. The undertail coverts were white. The identity is not certain from this information. The leg color raises the question of a Greylag Goose or barnyard hybrid rather than a White-fronted Goose.

Barrow's Goldeneye—

#2000–104 Manitowoc Co., 3 December 2000.

This goldeneye was seen in a flock of Common Goldeneyes. It was noted because the bird's back was unusually dark, making half of the bird black. Only one white spot was seen in this black back. Also noted was the different head shape. A disproportionate amount of the head extended in a caudal direction. The observers did not note the shape of the white facial spot on this bird, nor was mention made of the black extension of the back pattern down in between the white breast and white sides. More than likely the bird was a Barrow's; however, without these plumage details, an immature-plumaged Common Goldeneye isn't ruled out from the written description.

Gyrfalcon—

#2001–004 Douglas Co., 27 January 2001.

This bird was seen for 10 seconds from a moving vehicle crossing a bridge, but at close range. It was reported to be between a medium-sized buteo and falcon in shape, thicker in the body than a gull, uniformly gray on top and whitish underneath. Specific mention was made of the tips of the wings being dark and of not seeing "mutton-chop" marks on the cheeks. No assessment of wing shape, tail shape, markings in the plumage, nor facial pattern was possible with the brevity and situation of sighting.

Purple Sandpiper—

#2000–108 Milwaukee Co., 2 December 2000.

Although this bird was most likely correctly identified, the description was limited to a small, plump shorebird, gray/purple in color with orange legs and bill. Small is a relative term that would be more descriptive if used in comparison to some other known size (e.g., smaller than a Killdeer). The gray/purple color implies there was no other coloration nor break in a solidly colored bird. The same applies to describing an orange beak. Was the entire beak orange or a certain portion of it? Taken as worded, this would be an aberrant Purple Sandpiper. The 50-foot viewing distance would allow notation of more details than supplied.

Great Gray Owl—

#2000–105 Bayfield Co., 15 December 2000.

Another probable accurate identification was made, but a large owl with no ear tufts, heavily ringed facial disk, belly streaked gray and brown, and beak outlined in white was the extent of the description. Without acknowledgment of the eye color, a Barred Owl could almost fit this wording.

Northern Hawk Owl—

#2000–107 Vilas Co., 16 December 2000.

The limited description was of a crow-sized bird, perched more upright than a crow, an owl-like facial pattern, with a longer tail. Without more information, this probably accurate identification is incomplete.

Veery—

#2000–109 Dane Co., 12, 23 December 2000.

This *Catharus* thrush had a brown back with an overall reddish tint. The eye ring was indistinct, and the bird was "weakly" spotted. The species of this thrush genus can be difficult to separate in the field and in description. The color of the "weak" spots would be of interest. The brown color with a reddish tint doesn't exclude the more likely Hermit Thrush from consideration. They can vary from having a reddish tint to the brown back to almost not having any noticeable reddish tint even in the tail. With the presented information, species identification is not possible.

For more extensive information on identifying *Catharus* thrushes, see the April and August 2000 issues of *Birding*.

Gray-cheeked Thrush—

#2000–110 Waukesha Co., 16 December 2000.

This thrush was apparently of the genus *Catharus*. Its upperparts were brown, its breast buffy with distinct dark spots. No eye ring was detected. The cheeks were not spotted or

streaked, but no notation of color was indicated, only that they were darker than the brown of the head and back. Although no reddish color was seen when specifically looked for, the possibility of a Hermit Thrush still exists. Immature birds have less distinct reddish tail tones than adults, and there are subspecies variations in the degree of reddish tones even on the back. The cheek being described as darker in color suggests it wasn't gray, as this should appear lighter than the adjacent brown head and back. From the information presented, identifying such an individual as a Gray-cheeked Thrush is difficult. Photos may be the only way to conclusively demonstrate its identity.

For more extensive information on identifying *Catharus* thrushes, see the April and August 2000 issues of *Birding*.

Wood Thrush—
#2000–111 Milwaukee Co., 16 December 2000.

A thrushlike bird was flushed from the ground. The back and sides were described as moderate bright red and the chest as white with black spots. It was felt to be larger than a Hermit Thrush, perhaps cardinal-sized. An eye ring was not noted.

The color of the back listed as red seems misleading, so it is difficult to interpret. The observer specifically mentions not noticing an eye ring, but it isn't clear whether that was because it wasn't present or because the observation was brief. Neither the color pattern on the cheek or the tail length was indicated, allowing the description to include the possibility of a thrasher. This may well have been a Wood Thrush, but the brevity of the observation limited the field marks that could be detected.

For more information on identifying Wood Thrushes, see the April 2000 issue of *Birding*.

Jim Frank
WSO Records Committee Chair

"Attitude Western Style" *by Betsy Popp*

Ray Anderson
1928(?)–2000

Ray Anderson has the distinction of being the only Ph.D. student of Fred and Fran Hamerstrom. His closeness to the Hamerstroms was legendary, and "Cuzz Ray" (as Fran called him) was supportive of Fran and her research right up until the end of her life. Fran would often call on Ray for support whenever things got difficult, and he was always there.

Ray was born in White Lake, Wisconsin, served in the Air Force, and returned to enter the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he received a B.S. in conservation education and biology. He then taught at Nekoosa and Marshfield High Schools and worked in the summers on his M.S. degree in conservation biology at the University of Michigan. He returned to UW-Stevens Point as a faculty member in the Conservation Department in 1958. In 1961, he took a leave of absence from his teaching duties to pursue and complete a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology at UW-Madison.

After returning to UW-Stevens Point, Ray was given the responsibility of drafting the curricular plan that was used to develop a new wildlife management major within the school's College of Natural Resources. The program grew to become the largest undergraduate program of its kind in North America. He is also credited with starting the student chapter of The Wildlife Society, a group that received numerous national honors while he was faculty advisor.

But it was his research that made Ray shine brightest. He advised over 50 graduate students in projects related to Greater Prairie-Chickens, Cooper's Hawks, Common Loons, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks,

Sandhill Cranes, waterfowl, wolves, turtles, frogs, and rattlesnakes. Perhaps he is best remembered for his studies of black bears and the reintroduction of both pine martens and elk into the state.

I worked with Ray for most of my 30 years at UW-Stevens Point. Ray was a straightforward individual whom I highly respected. Put simply, he cut through the bureaucratic red tape and got things done. For many years, Ray was a record keeper for, and member of, WSO (these records now reside at UW-Green Bay).

I will always remember him for the statement he had on his answering machine: "Do that which you can for the wild ones, and they, in turn, will do for you." Here is one man who lived his beliefs and who will live on in the memory of WSO and its members.

Kent Hall
200 Pine Bluff Rd.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Edward W. Peartree
1922–2000

Ed said it all started with a YMCA bird walk, which was instrumental in sparking his passion for birds and the habitat they lived in. He obtained his federal bird banding permit at age 18, and continued to observe, band, and photograph birds for the next 60+ years. He banded an amazing total of 48,100 individual birds of 139 different species over this period.

Blessed with an excellent memory, Ed could identify most of Wisconsin's flowers and wildlife, and give you both their common and scientific names. These he generously shared with field trip participants over the 30 years he served as WSO's field trip chairman. He took thousands of slides of birds and wildflowers, and gave presentations throughout Wisconsin, often utilizing a two-projector slide presentation technique to illustrate such features as the subtle age and sex variations of various bird species.

Ed was very active in WSO. In addition to his longtime role as Field Trip chair, he also served on the Supply Department for 29 years and as WSO President in 1961. His lengthy service to the Society was recognized with the Silver Passenger Pigeon Award in 1967 and the Passenger Pigeon Certificate in 1981. His wife

Jeannette (J. J.) also received the Silver Passenger Pigeon in 1987 for her banding assistance at WSO's Honey Creek Nature Center. Beyond WSO, Ed also held multiple terms as president of the Inland Bird Banding Association.

Ed banded for years in the Oconomowoc area, then, in 1959, began to concentrate on WSO's Sauk County Honey Creek property, following the early banding efforts there of David Cox and Roy Lukes. As retirement arrived, he moved from Oconomowoc to Sauk City to be nearer to Honey Creek. He and J. J. participated in the Honey Creek Bandathon/Birdathon for the last 13 years. Because of them, hundreds of birders got to see, photograph, and sometimes handle birds up close for the first time.

Ed's contributions to the Society (particularly to Honey Creek) and his influence on the many individuals who were lucky enough to have known him will not be forgotten. Honey Creek will not be the same again without Ed.

Alex Kailing
W330 N8275 West Shore Drive
Hartland, WI 53029

The 2001 WSO Awards

WSO's service awards for 2001 were presented at the annual convention banquet in Baraboo on 26 May. Three of the four recipients were present at the event and are pictured above: (from left to right) Thomas R. Schultz, Noel J. Cutright, and Mary F. Donald.

The **Golden Passenger Pigeon Award** is given for outstanding contributions in the field of ornithology. Past recipients have included Sam Robbins Jr., Chandler Robbins, Frederick and Fran Hamerstrom, Aldo Leopold, and Owen Gromme. The last Golden Passenger Pigeon was awarded to University of Wisconsin ornithologist Stan Temple in 1989.

The 2001 award was given to **Thomas R. Schultz** of Green Lake, who is widely considered to be Wisconsin's premier bird artist and an artist of growing national acclaim. Tom's work is featured prominently in *A Field Guide to the Warblers of North America* in the Peterson field guide series, in both the second and third editions of the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, and in the third and fourth editions of WSO's *Wis-*

consin's Favorite Bird Haunts. Tom is currently working on paintings for a new field guide to the birds of India.

The **Silver Passenger Pigeon Award** is given in recognition of exceptional and distinguished service to WSO. This year's recipient is **James Frank** of Mequon. Jim's seemingly tireless efforts on the Society's behalf are many. Most WSO members probably know him best as the author of the Records Committee Report that appears in each issue of *The Passenger Pigeon.* Indeed, Jim has served on the Records Committee since 1991 and as its chair since 1992. His meticulous work in sifting through and verifying Wisconsin's rare bird sightings—a painstaking and sometimes contentious task—is greatly appreciated. But the list goes on: Jim has also served as associate editor and author for the annual Big Day reports in *The Passenger Pigeon* from 1989–99, for the May Day Count reports since 1989, and for the North American Migration Count reports since 1993. In addition, he gave his all for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project, serving as a field worker, a writer of several species accounts, and a quality control coordinator.

The **Certificate of Appreciation** is awarded for continued exceptional service to WSO after receipt of the Silver Passenger Pigeon Award. Since receiving the Silver Passenger Pigeon in 1989, **Noel J. Cutright** of West Bend has only increased his activity on behalf of Wisconsin's birds.

Although he left the post of Publicity Chair in 1992, Noel continues to promote WSO and birding to the general public, as well as to other environmental organizations and agencies. He is frequently sought out by the press for comments on bird conservation issues in the state, and is an increasingly regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's *Larry Meiller Show.* He has held the post of WSO's Conservation Committee chair since 1992, and has significantly raised the level of the Society's participation in bird conservation issues statewide and nationally. Thanks to his extensive knowledge of avian biology, his scientifically based testimony at public hearings, his thoughtful and authoritative position papers and articles on avian issues, and his friendliness and ability to work with others, Noel has helped to make WSO a major participant on any issue involving birds in Wisconsin.

It was through Noel's initiative that Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Mississippi River were named as Important Bird Areas. He was instrumental in preserving the Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area, and he led WSO to adopt a Birders' Code of Ethics. He was involved in the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project from the start: Noel wrote the atlasing handbook, conducted training workshops, did fieldwork, and is now the lead editor for the final publication. He continues to conduct the annual Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon (which he created), contributes frequently to *The Passenger Pigeon,* and participates in many Breeding Bird Survey routes and Christmas Counts in the state every year.

On top of all this, Noel offers constant support to other board and committee members, providing them with assistance and ideas whenever he can. Not the least of his contributions to WSO is his ability to mentor new birders, new members, and new leaders in the Society.

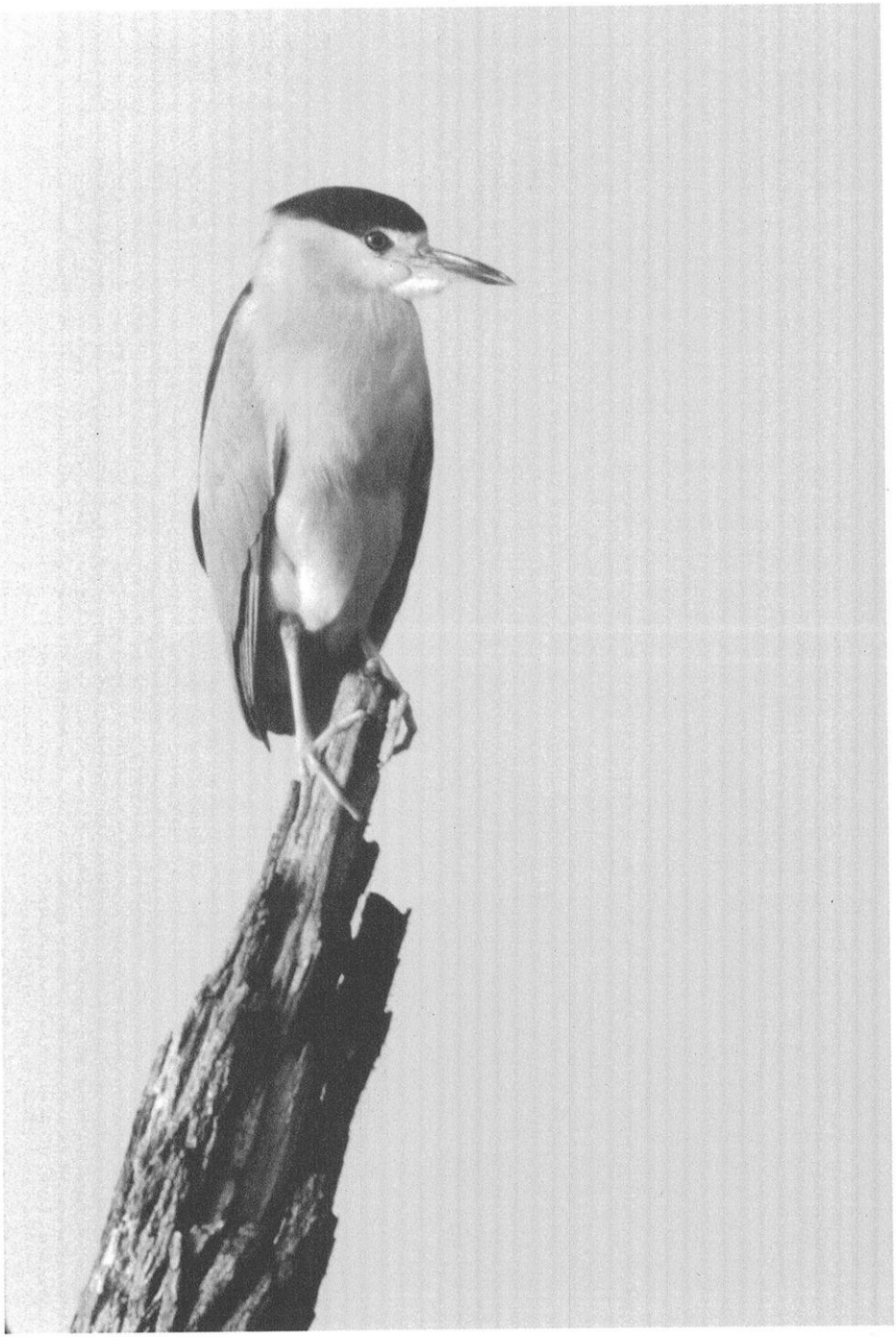
The **Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award** was given this year for the

very first time. The WSO board felt that a new award was needed to honor individuals who continue to give outstanding service to the Society after receiving both the Silver Passenger Pigeon and the Certificate of Appreciation, as well as to honor the shining example of organizational service provided by the late Sam Robbins.

The first recipient of this new award is **Mary F. Donald** of Milwaukee, whose involvement with WSO stretches back over 50 years. Mary received the Silver Passenger Pigeon in 1974 and the Certificate of Appreciation in 1985. She served as WSO's Secretary from 1948–50, as Vice-President in 1978, and as President in 1979. She edited *The Badger Birder* from 1965–1991. She coordinated WSO's birding hotline from 1975–87, and has physically housed the hotline phone in her home for the past 26 years and personally paid all bills associated with it. Finally, she served as the Awards Committee chair from 1991–2000.

Impressive as they are, these statistics of Mary's service to WSO only hint at the eminent role she has played in regard to Wisconsin birders and birding. A dedicated lister and chaser, she long held the distinction of having seen more species in the state than anyone else—and today, despite the activities of younger generations of birders, she has been bumped down only to second place. Mary has had a finger firmly on the pulse of the state's bird life for decades, and has willingly shared a wealth of information on what birds were where and how to go about seeing them. She was an early proponent of doing Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Survey routes in the state, both for the value of the scientific data and the social interaction. She has encouraged young people in their birding efforts, and can look with pride and pleasure at those from the Milwaukee area who she tutored and who went on to achieve important things in the world of birds and birding.

With the awarding of this first Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award, WSO honors a true pioneer of Wisconsin birding.



Black-crowned Night-Heron *by Jack Bartholmai*

Notices and Advertisements

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

26 May 2001, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

President Sumner Matteson convened the annual business meeting at the 2001 WSO Annual Convention, hosted by the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society and Wausau Bird Club, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, at 1:30 P.M., 26 May 2001. He thanked Kent and Sue Hall for their leadership and work in organizing this annual convention, as well as the host organizations.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

[A copy of the complete minutes, excerpted here, is available from WSO Secretary Jane Dennis.]

Annual Reports of the Officers

President—Sumner Matteson—This has been another very rewarding year. A year and half ago, I worked with an ad hoc committee comprised of Bill Foster, Mark Martin, and Bill Volkert to help launch the Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund (SRSEF) in memory of Sam Robbins. The SRSEF will provide a stable basis for ongoing shorebird conservation efforts. This past year the fund has grown to $17,277.51, which includes 148 donations from organizations and individuals, with fund management ably provided by WSO's Treasurer Alex Kailing. At the past April WSO Board meeting, the Board decided to create a shorebird committee to oversee development of the fund, based on the recommendation of WSO attorney David Kinnamon. Related to these developments, Bill Volkert and I recently submitted an article to *The Passenger Pigeon* on SRSEF shorebird management activities at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area, and Mead Wildlife Area, where drawdowns occurred during spring migration to benefit migrating shorebirds.

Another shorebird-related project I worked on was the development of a shorebird web site where someone observing shorebirds at any of 12 Wisconsin sites (Nine Springs Lagoon in Madison, Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area, A&W Ponds, Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, Horicon Marsh, Teal Flowage and South Rice Lake at Mead Wildlife Area, Ken Euers Natural Area in Green Bay, Peshtigo Point, Seagull Bar, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, and Long Island/Chequamegon Point) can log on, fill out a survey form, and provide data on shorebirds observed. These data will become part of a national data bank on continental shorebirds tracked by the Western Shorebird Hemisphere Reserve Network, and the survey will begin to provide the basis of long-term shorebird monitoring efforts in Wisconsin. Bill Volkert, Judith Johnson from Marinette, Jan Hansen,

and DNR wildlife managers Tom Meier and Jim Hoefler contributed information to the development of the site. The site was actually created by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for Wisconsin's involvement in shorebird monitoring efforts. I worked with biologist Jon Bart and programmer George Lundy; the site still needs refinement, such as additional site maps and links, but it is basically set to go. The web address is http://wss.wr.usgs.gov/. If you should log on, the Western Shorebird Survey home page will appear. Select "Map of Sites," highlight "Wisconsin," and click on "Switch Maps." Highlight one of the 12 Wisconsin sites you want to examine and click "Obtain Descriptions."

Finally, I worked with the Nominating Committee to find a prospective Vice President for your approval, and with the Board to find two new committee chairs for Education and *The Badger Birder.* Please join with me in welcoming Mariette Nowak as Education chair, and Mary Uttech as our new *Badger Birder* editor. Both are excited about serving WSO and bring a wealth of experience to the Board. I think many will be pleased by the new look of the *Birder,* and I thank former editor Rob Whitmire for his year of service to WSO.

I have enjoyed immensely these past four years as Vice President and President. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for the enrichment I've experienced in working with your highly talented Board. The best of birding to all of you!

Vice President—Bill Brooks—From the Minutes: Bill said he was submerged in finals at Ripon College at the time of the deadline for annual report submittals, so was unable to contribute a written report this year.

He did call attention to upcoming WSO conventions. The 2002 WSO Convention is scheduled to take place at Ripon College, 31 May through 2 June 2002, "with the help of the Oshkosh Birding Club and Tom Schultz and Daryl Christensen."

The 2003 WSO Convention will be held at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay and will hopefully coincide with the publication of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas.

Secretary—Jane Dennis—Highlights of the year include the following:

- Publication of *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts,* 4th ed., compiled and edited by Daryl D. Tessen, printed for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology by Independent, Inc., De Pere, Wisconsin, in 2000.
- WSO Certificate of Hospitality Awards (stunning documents, bordered with feathers, prominently displaying names of landowners who welcomed birders, with colored pictures of the bird(s) sighted and shared) were mailed to the Dick Bell family, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kuecherer, the Tom Uttech family, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Freriks, and Gene Jacobus.
- "Celebrate Wisconsin and Benefit the Whooping Crane" at the Midwest Birding Symposium this fall in Green Bay, at the Regency Suites Hotel/KI Convention Center, August 30 to September 2, 2001. For information and to sign up, contact Jennifer Birkel by regular mail at c/o KPC, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI, 53187-1612; by telephone at 800-558-1544, ext. 245; or by email at jbirkel@kalmbach.com. (Information and

reservations can also be obtained through the Birder's World magazine web site, http://www.birdersworld.com/news/2001/0108.html.)

Treasurer—Alex Kailing—From the Minutes: The Treasurer's 2001 Convention Report presents statements of revenue and expenses and financial balance, 1996 total through 2000 total, along with comments on pertinent items such as the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, the Sam Robbins Shorebird Endowment Fund, and the Midwest Birding Symposium. See Tables 1–3.

The Passenger Pigeon *Editor—R. Tod Highsmith*—Although a good supply of quality manuscripts continues to be submitted for publication in the journal, sharp increases in printing and paper costs over the last several years threaten to cramp our style. As a result, WSO treasurer Alex Kailing and I are looking into ways that we can lower expenses without resorting to limiting the number of pages in each issue. The major change so far is that we are experimenting with a new printer (Allen Press of Lawrence, KS) who appears capable of providing us with high quality printing services at a lower rate than our previous printer. I will also be talking with our current typesetter (Impressions, Inc., in Madison, WI) about ways to save money. One money-saving step already implemented is the publication of the fall and winter issues of

Table 1. WSO Statement of Revenue, 1996–2000.

	1996 TOTAL	1997 TOTAL	1998 TOTAL	1999 TOTAL	2000 TOTAL
REVENUE					
BOOKSTORE	3,320.89	3,312.54	2,926.27	2,379.93	13,948.08
SLIDES	55.00				
INTEREST	1,098.24	1,412.63	986.97	734.51	442.41
INVESTMENTS			1,250.59	16,162.18	62,127.00
CONVENTION	1,058.61	911.40	2,168.22	370.00	1,951.94
ADVERTISING		624.50	905.50	472.00	580.00
PIGEON					
BACK COPIES	36.00	31.00	6.00	45.50	72.98
SUBSCRIPTIONS	789.00	728.00	902.00	500.00	224.00
MEMBERSHIP					
DUES	22,470.50	26,585.50	26,212.80	27,088.71	28,097.79
LIFE	1,910.00	1,645.00	2,050.00	3,325.00	1,700.00
MBR LIST		6.00			
CONTRIBUTIONS					
ENDOWMENT	1,067.50	1,479.00	283.00	827.00	161.00
SCHOLARSHIP	2,600.79	3,923.26	640.86	1,410.50	1,813.55
HONEY CREEK	1,772.50	1,367.00	1,167.50	1,692.50	1,191.00
FLEDGLING				587.70	642.00
OTHER				357.67	1,181.22
BIRDATHON	2,876.86	1,968.48	4,910.95	3,118.50	2,640.38
MEMORIALS	4,000.00	5,445.00		195.00	150.00
PIGEON COLOR					1,500.00
SRSEF					4,613.52
HAUNTS					474.94
SPECIAL PROJECTS					
VIDEO PROJECT		5,000.00	100.00	100.00	
SEMINAR	2,125.00	3,370.00	1,488.00	5,402.00	
ROBBINS FUND			280.00	4,335.00	4,359.00
FUND PASS THRU				2,000.00	
COSTA RICA TRIP				7,800.00	21,860.00
BIRDERS EXCHANGE					43.00
1 BIRD 2 HABITATS					2,721.44
HOT LINE					60.15
MBS					2,000.00
ATLAS	67,433.41	74,167.35	100,218.21	58,923.18	8,260.85
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 115,165.80**	**$ 132,945.52**	**$ 147,308.87**	**$ 138,400.88**	**$ 162,816.25**

Table 2. WSO Statement of Expenses, 1996–2000.

	1996 TOTAL	1997 TOTAL	1998 TOTAL	1999 TOTAL	2000 TOTAL
EXPENSES					
ADMINISTRATION	294.03	459.66	541.66	603.75	478.71
ASSOC. EDITOR	598.45	768.52	1,167.18	1,030.66	772.80
BIRD HAUNTS			58.00	297.69	55,765.06
AWARDS	189.95	145.93	48.84	104.02	
BADGER BIRDER					
PRINTING	6,009.07	7,780.50	8,894.85	6,672.99	10,534.86
MAILING	1,984.33	2,054.70	2,037.71	2,589.37	2,556.77
MISC.	64.53	314.02	449.68	239.79	173.85
CONVENTION	677.48	400.00	725.00	800.00	400.00
BOOKSTORE					
INSURANCE	277.00	126.00	250.00		
MISC	300.00	340.00	370.00	390.00	680.82
FIELD TRIPS		312.50	120.00	192.46	194.35
HONEY CREEK					
TAXES	1,269.90	1,110.48	736.19	1,059.54	1,150.80
INSURANCE	1,380.00	1,381.00	1,380.00	1,380.00	1,449.00
UPKEEP	635.29	1,746.91	878.45	789.40	1,112.48
HOT LINE	229.88	281.10	256.30	198.08	254.80
MEMBERSHIP	3,453.98	2,469.35	2,362.24	2,009.54	2,174.85
PIGEON					
PRINTING	17,170.37	20,784.16	18,732.16	24,700.78	29,570.73
MAILING	1,884.88	1,602.26	1,907.19	2,182.12	2,964.82
MISC	374.98	378.16	393.07	438.64	241.80
PRESIDENT		218.55	32.00	32.00	20.90
PUBLICITY	200.00	218.55	483.90	552.58	428.31
BIRDATHON	177.15	100.56	142.42	139.29	236.92
RECORDS	186.40	175.88	154.69	27.00	252.68
GRANTS	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
YOUTH				570.00	790.00
SEMINARS	227.26	5,200.15		6,397.97	
PRINTING	4,425.95	61.72	965.87	5,224.60	1,130.91
TREASURER	290.51	124.05	129.72	89.70	60.80
YOUTH				333.16	288.97
SPECIAL PROJECTS	1,465.00	4,249.95	2,363.73	2,799.00	150.00
AQUACULTURE MAILING					240.86
EQUIPMENT				1,550.00	
COSTA RICA TRIP				8,175.00	21,566.00
SRSEF GRANTS					300.00
VIDEO PROJECT				1,497.21	
BARABOO HILLS BOOK			4,000.00		72.00
1 BIRD 2 HABITATS					450.38
LISTERS					181.60
CATS PROJECT			591.40	319.04	1.65
MBS					592.62
ROBBINS PROJECT				3,043.40	
PRAIRIE POSTER		1,000.00	250.00		
ATLAS	48,716.65	72,092.33	74,844.22	68,441.98	36,591.01
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 97,626.82**	**$ 128,613.10**	**$ 122,526.51**	**$ 146,843.76**	**$ 175,832.11**

Volume 62, 2000, as a double issue (it's cheaper to print a single large issue than two smaller ones).

The past year has seen some changes in the journal's staff. Jan Hansen has been doing a fine job in his first year as Associate Editor, after taking on the post long held by Daryl Tessen. Jerry and Karen Smith are stepping down as spring seasonal editors after producing three years of fine spring reports, and will be replaced in 2001 by Karl David.

Also stepping down is Bill Hilsenhoff, who has served for over 25 years as the Christmas Count compiler and reporter for WSO—thank you, Bill, for so many years of great work. Stepping into Bill's shoes is Bob Domagalski, whose first Christmas Count report appeared in the Fall/Winter 2000 issue of the journal.

Another newcomer is David Kuecherer, who leaped into the Art Editor position vacated last year by Cary

Table 3. WSO Balance Sheet, as of 31 December 2000.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
LIQUID ASSETS					
CASH	1,788.93	2,279.20	859.43	1,085.88	2,612.27
SAVING ACCOUNTS					
GENERAL	16,883.58	15,108.68	8,222.60	3,615.85	17,890.65
ENDOWMENT	11,045.49	14,793.43	17,532.68	7,136.37	1,559.35
ATLAS	4,006.42	30,617.15	20,966.14	51,630.37	23,161.29
SRSEF					5,000.00
INVESTMENTS					
GENERAL	957.38	957.38	957.38	957.38	
ENDOWMENT	35,021.06	35,021.06	35,021.06	50,025.56	50,025.56
GRANTS	15,300.00	15,300.00	15,300.00	15,300.00	
ATLAS	25,000.00		40,000.00		
INVENTORIES					
BOOKSTORE					
CASH	2,672.63	2,336.63	3,574.02	3,237.42	5,704.44
INVENTORY	22,118.81	14,955.54	14,929.51	15,349.88	53,935.86
SLIDES					
CASH	4,728.11	5,022.39	5,441.14	6,199.52	5,850.75
INVENTORY	1,312.98	1,734.58	1,518.40	1,840.80	1,695.30
FIXED ASSETS					
EQUIPMENT	7,131.82	7,418.74	7,369.10	8,919.10	8,919.10
LAND & BUILDINGS					
PRAIRIE CHICKEN	1,491.39	1,491.39	1,491.39	1,491.39	1,491.39
HONEY CREEK					
LAND	21,475.86	21,475.86	21,475.86	21,475.86	21,475.86
BUILDINGS	8,927.88	8,927.88	8,927.88	8,927.88	8,927.88
TOTAL ASSETS	**$ 180,862.34**	**$ 177,838.37**	**$ 204,053.59**	**$ 197,162.17**	**$ 208,249.70**

Reich. David has been hard at work contacting artists and photographers, and has already amassed a fine collection of new and varied material for use in future issues of the journal.

As usual, I want to thank all those who submitted articles to the journal in the past year, whether first-time authors or regular contributors. It is their work that makes *The Passenger Pigeon* such a valuable, living document of Wisconsin ornithology.

Annual Reports of the Committee Chairs

Associate Editor—Jan Hansen—The Fall Season of 2000 produced an excellent total of 77 seasonal reports from various observers around the state. This number dropped to 62 during the Winter Season, with the difference probably due to the lack of rarities present in Wisconsin during that period. (Any report, whether it be a complete seasonal report or the documentation of a single rarity, is counted as one report. When unusually high numbers of rarities are present, many observers submit documentation forms, which inflates the total number of reports for that period.)

Making the reporting process more user-friendly will be one of my major objectives during the coming year. To that end, many of the reporting forms are now available to be completed electronically on the WSO web site. These include the Exceptional Record Documentation Form and Multi- and Single-County Reporting Forms. It is hoped that the electronic reporting process will be improved upon during the coming year.

Revision and updating of the reporting forms is also in progress. The Exceptional Record Documentation Form has been revised and is now known as the WSO Rare Bird Report. It is hoped that by the time of the fall mailing both the Single- and Multi-County Reporting Forms will also have been revised and updated to reflect current nomenclature. As these forms are revised there will also likely be changes in the species requiring documentation. Examples of possible species that will no longer require documentation include Snowy Egret and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Any suggestions on this subject from field observers will be welcome.

One of my first responsibilities after assuming this position was finding a replacement for Bill Hilsenhoff as the CBC editor. Bob Domagalski assumed this position on a one-year interim basis in late 2000 and has now agreed to continue compiling and writing the annual CBC count summary for *The Passenger Pigeon.* With Bob's help the WSO CBC form has been revised and the new form will be used beginning with this year's counts.

Early this year, Jerry and Karen Smith resigned their position as the Spring Season Editors. Beginning with the Spring Season of 2001, Karl David of Racine has assumed this position. Karl writes with much wit and charm and should be an excellent addition to the current cadre of seasonal editors. There is a strong possibility that I will be looking for another seasonal editor before the end of 2001. Anyone with recommendations for a candidate, or with an interest in a Seasonal Editor position, is asked to contact me.

From the Minutes: Jan added that Otus Asio Tours is planning a Texas trip with WSO; Mark Korducki is in charge. It will be a fantastic trip to southern Texas and all are welcome to take it.

Atlas—Bettie Harriman—From the Minutes: Bettie said that this is the sixth and final year of collecting data for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA), a year of covering special spots and assuaging atlas addicts. The atlas has had excellent coverage: "Of the 16 or so people on the Steering Committee, no one probably ever dreamed we would get such good coverage." Atlasers covered the priority blocks (143) in each of the designated quads (only 2 were not covered) and did their job very well. Data compiled from the other blocks are on the WBBA web site. Now we compile the data and write the species accounts, pulling the WBBA together. Bettie has been in charge of the fieldwork and thanked everyone for getting it done. Noel Cutright is the chief book editor.

Awards—Daryl Tessen—WSO has created a new award as a way to recognize those people who have already been given a Silver Passenger Pigeon and a Certificate of Appreciation for their contributions to WSO, yet still keep serving. The new award is called the Sam Robbins Lifetime Achievement Award.

Badger Birder Editor—Mary Uttech—First of all, a big thank you to all for the warm welcome as your new editor of *The Badger Birder.* I've been compiling the newsletter for only the past three months and I've been pleased with all the constructive feedback. Keep the comments and suggestions

coming! Also, please continue to send me articles, reports, and other items that may be of interest not only to our members but also to the casual reader who may become interested in birding and WSO by something seen in the *Birder*. My goal with each issue is to provide the reader with a good dose of substance sprinkled with fun, while maintaining a professional appearance and consistency in format. The better the *Birder*, the more likely we are to attract new readers, keep current readers involved, and generate interest from advertisers. I look forward to hearing from you. Send your messages to muttech@asq.org.

Bookstore—Don and Christine Reel—Sales in 2000 totaled $24,810 through the traditional bookstore that we run out of our home, and $1,850 through the online bookstore. Convention sales in 2000 were $2,755.

Sales of the fourth edition of *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts* through March 31 totalled more than 650 copies, with revenue for WSO of $18,220. We created publicity materials that included flyers for special events and an ad that appears in each issue of *The Passenger Pigeon*. In addition, we sent review copies to editors of journals in neighboring states (reviews have appeared in three of the journals to date), we placed an ad for three months in the newsletter of the American Birding Association, and we sent a special mailing to community and academic libraries throughout the state (resulting in orders for more than 50 books to date).

We continued to communicate with members through articles in *The Badger Birder*. In addition, we published the WSO Bookstore Catalog during April 2001, listing the items that we continue to stock in our traditional bookstore and describing how to access the online bookstore. The WSO Bookstore catalog is also available as part of the WSO web site, which contains a link to our email address and to the online bookstore.

We are pleased to serve the organization, and we appreciate your support throughout the year.

Birder Ethics—Mark Korducki—From the Minutes: Mark said that no special issue had come up this year and that it was a pretty good year overall. There was some discussion on Wisbirdnet about reviewing the birders' code of ethics. We will now publish the "WSO Code of Ethics" on an annual basis.

Conservation—Noel Cutright—

- Attended three of four Board meetings.
- Coordinated Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon for 16th year.
- Supported the federal CARA legislation through letter writing and support of Wisconsin coalition.
- Continued to oppose Mourning Dove hunting season.
- Served on Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) Steering Committee.
- Continued to supply input to various state and federal Master Plan efforts.
- Continued to support WDNR's plan to control Mute Swans.
- Boosted efforts in Wisconsin to develop birding trails.
- Wrote letter on Lapham Peak radio tower controversy.

- Wrote letters to EPA concerning registration of pesticides that can be harmful to birds.
- Continued to support protection of horseshoe crabs on the mid-Atlantic coast.
- Attended meetings and provided comments on WDNR's Land Legacy project.
- Continued to provide insight and information on impact of towers and wind facilities on birds.
- Wrote letter opposing closure of Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center.
- Provided comments to USFWS on designation of Critical Habitat for Piping Plover in Wisconsin.
- Supported passage of legislation to protect wetlands in Wisconsin.
- Supported Whooping Crane reintroduction efforts in Wisconsin.

From the Minutes: There has been lots of work on conservation on the local, state, regional, national, and international level. Noel urged members to try to familiarize themselves with the issues being discussed and to make comments. Noel will keep the WSO oar in the water.

Noel asked WSO members to "take an issue and run with it," as Jane Raymond-Wood is doing with aquaculture's negative impact on some birds. Jane saw that aquaculture is growing in economic influence and that courses are being offered in high school, so she put some educational pieces together and "ran with it" to Wisconsin high schools. Noel said, "If you see any issue you want to work on, do it!"

Noel said that the Wisconsin Bird Conservative Initiative (WBCI) was signed last week [to "work together to preserve habitat for birds that annually migrate to or through Wisconsin"], and he introduced Karen Etter Hale, Executive Director of the Madison Audubon Society, who spearheaded putting this conservation effort together. Karen said that lots of people helped put WBCI together. The WBCI committee worked hard to get sponsors [68 as of May 20] from any group that works on all birds and all habitats. Consider your group, she asked WSO members, and sign on if you have anything to do with birds and habitat.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has received money from the federal Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). Part of the state's allocation ($300,000) has been put aside for work on bird trails, Whooping Cranes, and other areas. The federal government is still trying to pass more CARA legislation.

Noel brought up posting pesticide signs. If a yard has been treated chemically, the owner must post a sign, because the pesticide might "drift" to neighboring yards. WSO has not done much in this area of conservation, though Madison Audubon has helped (you can sign up in January for a "pesticide free" sign).

Education—Mariette Nowak—From the Minutes: In Mariette's absence, Sumner noted that WSO can rightfully expect good things from her. Mariette is a retired director of Wehr Nature Center and is both creative and talented.

Field Trips—Jeff Baughman and Tom Schultz—From the Minutes: Tom said that WSO field trips have been well attended and popular. In addition to the Texas trip, WSO and Otus Asio Tours

are thinking of Costa Rica in March or April 2002.

Honey Creek—Mike Mossman—From the Minutes: Noel Cutright reported for Mike that there were 90 species recorded at the annual WSO Birdathon on May 19. The event was both good and sad, for there were no mist nets [due to the death last year of Ed Peartree], and Harold Kruse didn't walk to the waterfall for the first time in 40-some years.

Membership—Alex Kailing—From the Minutes: Alex noted that the Membership section in the "Annual Report" is self-explanatory (see Table 4). Many libraries have discontinued membership because of the web. Life members have increased in number, and seven more are in progress. The proportion of senior membership is going up more and more.

Publicity–Bettie Harriman–Since June of 2000, the following publicity for WSO has occurred (a very special thanks to all members who volunteered to help with the WSO booths!):

- Announcements of the scholarships and grants winners to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and *Wisconsin State Journal.*
- Booth at the Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival on 18–20 August in Oshkosh.
- Booth at the Wild Bird and Backyard Habitat Expo in Waukesha on 13–15 October. This was extremely successful for WSO with about two dozen new members joining during the show.
- Reception hosted by WSO at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum on Sunday, 22 October, during the Birds in Art show.
- Art Show at the Bergstrom Mahler Art Museum in Neenah from 2–31 January 2001 of art from the new *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts* and other works of the four artists featured in the book. On Sunday, 7 January, an afternoon book signing was held at the show. About 300 persons attended. Special thanks goes to David Kuecherer, WSO member and one of the artists, for arranging for the show and hanging it.
- Booth at Wild Ones Natural Landscaping event on 20 January 2001 in Oshkosh.
- Booth at Havenwoods State Forest WinterFest on 17 February in Milwaukee.
- Booth at Wild Ones meeting in Eau Claire on 3 March.
- Booth at Upper Mississippi River Festival on 19 May in Prairie du Chien. Another huge thank you goes to members who helped staff this booth, and especially to Jane Dennis for overseeing it.

From the Minutes: Bettie called attention to the Membership report of new members: 164 in 2000 versus 131 in 1999. We had 30 more members this year, and they came mostly from the WSO booth at the Wild Bird, Wildlife, and Backyard Habitat Expo, held in Waukesha in October. The second annual Expo is coming up next November, in West Bend. This was an extremely good venue for WSO; it's the first time we've been at a festival with an interest mostly in birds. So far we've displayed mostly at festivals for ducks and plants. WSO offered a discount at its Expo booth and got 29 or 30 new members. It was a different and inter-

Table 4. WSO membership status, as of 1 May 2001.

CATEGORY	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
SENIOR	63	50	48	49	46	48	50	51	37	52	68
REGULAR	598	616	610	672	679	663	638	622	669	661	639
FAMILY	376	346	321	349	358	336	330	335	318	322	336
SUSTAIN	112	91	88	84	86	84	58	48	55	41	52
1/4 LIFE	5	6	10	7	9	3	7	8	9	7	7
LIFE	82	86	87	93	98	105	108	110	117	120	124
PATRON	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
HONORARY	8	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	4	3	3
BOARD	4	2	2	4	3	5	9	8	7	5	5
LIBRARY	48	46	40	44	47	44	45	42	37	42	36
EXCHANGE	43	36	40	41	43	44	50	48	47	47	46
TOTAL	1346	1292	1259	1356	1381	1344	1306	1283	1306	1306	1322
DECEASED	4	5	6	9	5	3	8	11	3	2	1
NON RENEW	130	189	237	172	177	191	200	166	150	170	156
LIBRARY DROP	2	2	3	1	0	4	2	4	8	2	5

NEW MEMBERS: [New members for the calendar year]

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
140	171	176	180	163	134	147	120	130	131	164

esting experience for us. We are not going to be at the 2001 Ducks Unlimited Greater Outdoor Festival; it is kind of expensive for our state of finances.

The big six-panel display board used at such gatherings is being redone by Judith Huf, who will bring it up to date with some changes in activities; the new display board will be ready by the end of August for the Midwest Birding Symposium (MBS).

Records—Jim Frank—The Records Committee reviewed the following rare bird reports during 2000:

Season	No. of Reports	Accepted	Not Accepted
Fall 2000	81	76	5
Summer 2000	13	11	2
Spring 2000	71	62	9
Winter 1999–2000	18	17	1
Totals	183	166	17

New additions to the state list were Smew, MacGillivray's Warbler, White-winged Dove, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The state list now stands at 416 species.

The Records Committee was comprised of Janine Polk, Bob Domagalski, Dennis Gustafson, Scott Baughman, and Jim Frank.

Research—Robert Howe—During this year my efforts as WSO Research Chair have been devoted mainly to work with the Breeding Bird Atlas and WSO Archives. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA) Data Management Center has continued to operate successfully and within budget at the UW-Green Bay office. As of August 2001, the operations will move into new space in Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, a $20 million academic building that will include new facilities for the Richter Museum of Natural History, University Herbarium, and headquarters for the Cofrin Arboretum. A permanent room has been constructed for WSO Archives on the lower level, adjacent to the Richter Museum.

I also developed a pre-proposal for a funding request from the Joyce Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports efforts to protect the natural environment of the Great Lakes. The pre-proposal was submitted in April, but we are not likely to be considered for funding until 2002. The proposal requests funds to cover publication costs of *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts* and the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*, in addition to a special symposium in conjunction with the 2003 WSO convention in Green Bay.

Scholarships and Grants—Janine Polk—The Nelson Award for 2001 is awarded to Terri Beth Peters for *Comparative Numbers and Reproductive Success of Black Terns at Selected Wetlands in Southeastern Wisconsin during 2000 vs. 2001.*

WSO Scholarships are awarded to Michelene M. O'Connor, for *Migratory and Resident Avifauna Use of Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens*; William E. Stout, for *An Urban Cooper's Hawk Nesting Study in the Metropolitan Milwaukee Area*; Dennis A. Hassly and Kent D. Hall, for *American Kestrels on Buena Vista and Leola Grasslands*; and Mike Mossman, for *Transcribing the Field Notes of W. E. Snyder.*

Web Site Coordinator—Jennifer Davis—During the year 2000, the follow-

ing work was done on the WSO web site:

- Site Menu revised and updated.
- News section updated from selected articles from *The Badger Birder* and *The Passenger Pigeon.*
- Hotline Reports kept updated, thanks to Jane Dennis, who copies the hotline report messages from Wisbirdn into the web files on the WSO web site.
- Important Dates section updated (field trips, meetings, etc.) once a month based on *The Badger Birder* and information sent to me by birders.
- *Passenger Pigeon* table of contents added as each new issue published.
- State Bird Checklist updated (this was a year for additions!).
- Online Forms for single-county and multi-county reports created.
- Christmas Counts section created with individual count coordinator contact information and state map indicating count locations.
- Wisconsin Organizations, Birder Contacts, and Web Links sections updated.
- WSO Bookstore section revised to reflect change to limited selections now available from the Reels.
- Administration section updated to reflect change of Officers and Committee Chairs.

Youth Education Coordinator—Steve Kupcho—This year I attended three out of the four board meetings for the society. The "Budding Birder" column in *The Badger Birder* continues to contain articles on the youth grant awards through the Fledgling Fund participants. Two birding summaries from last year's awardees have not yet been returned, and the students have been notified as to their commitment. The 2001 Youth Birder Spotlight recipient was Seth Cutright, and a feature story on Seth appeared in the May issue of the *Birder.*

I continue to conduct youth birding workshops for teachers and students. I was at the Wausau School Forest and Horicon Marsh Bird Festival in early May giving talks and presenting birding activities. I have been working with the planning committee for the Midwest Birding Symposium to be held in late summer 2001 (I have attended three of the planning sessions thus far and shared my knowledge in the area of youth infusion activities). I will be leading a youth workshop called "Bik'n, Bird'n and Bytes" at the symposium on Saturday, September 1. It will incorporate birding by bike and the computer (software), utilizing the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and the computer lab at UW-Green Bay for the all-morning session. I worked at the WSO booth at the Ducks Unlimited Festival in Oshkosh last August and focused my attention on the children entering the exhibits with their parents, handing out youth-related materials to the youngsters. I also worked at the organization's booth at the first annual Wild Bird and Backyard Habitat Expo in Waukesha last fall and shared WSO with the many teachers who came to the booth. I sent out a dozen educational packets that they had requested for classroom use. These packets are the same ones that I developed for teachers at other workshops in which I've taken part.

The year, once again, was challenging and rewarding, as new venues (e.g., Midwest Birding Symposium, Wild Bird Expo) seem to open up yearly.

Unfinished Business

The reading committee for the annual minutes of 2001 was named: Kent Hall, Jim Anderson, and Ann Swengel.

New Business

The WSO Treasurer, Alex Kailing, spoke on the need to increase WSO dues. As per the WSO Bylaws, the Board of Directors determined the requisite increase in dues and notified the WSO membership at least 15 days before a vote could be taken at a WSO annual business meeting.

Alex briefly presented the history of adjusting WSO dues to cover the costs of maintaining publications and other member services. There was an addition of a youth membership category in 2000.

Alex admits that we should have been watching the increasing costs more closely, especially for paper and printing. WSO members regularly receive certain benefits (*Passenger Pigeon, Badger Birder,* services such as renewals); WSO income (from dues, *Pigeon* subscriptions, advertising) must at least cover the costs of these benefits. It is very apparent that this is no longer the case; comparing membership costs of 1996 and 2000, one sees that *The Passenger Pigeon* cost $22 per member to produce in 1996, and $35 per member in 2000. The per-member cost of publishing *The Passenger Pigeon* alone increased 72%. *The Badger Birder* experienced a similar increase (and there has already been a start on reducing *Birder* costs).

Alex made several cost-reduction proposals to the WSO Board of Directors; the ideas were honed in January and were discussed at length in April. It was evident that something had to be done, though we did not want to significantly reduce benefits (such as publishing only six issues of *The Badger Birder* per year or reducing the number of pages in *The Passenger Pigeon*). Alex commented that the payment for Life membership, for instance, goes entirely to the Endowment Fund and that WSO must cover these membership costs.

It was proposed that WSO make the following dues increases effective next year (that is, starting with October 2001 renewals): Single, $30; Family, $35; Sustaining, $75; Senior, $15; Life, $600 for Single and $700 for Family; Patron, $1,000; Library, $25; Youth, $15; and Foreign, an additional $5. It was moved and seconded that these categories be established. The motion carried by voice vote.

Questions arose. It was suggested that WSO send *The Badger Birder* by email rather than by mail, thereby saving both printing and mailing costs. Alex replied that several people had proposed this, and that he intended to survey the membership to see how many would be interested (about 30–40% of members have provided an email address). It can be done, Alex said; he will get a feeling from the membership survey in the next *Birder.*

Alex was asked to explain why income from investments goes up substantially, and to explain what are WSO's sizable investments. He replied that the WBBA is a good example of a sizable investment, though the WSO treasury is only holding the total sum; the Midwest Birding Symposium presents a similar situation. Income from interest does not rise proportionally

because interest rates are now only 2%; Alex is trying to get short-term certificates of deposit to increase interest income.

Steve Kupcho, chair of the WSO Nominating Committee, presented the committee report for May 2001. The Nominating Committee, composed of Christine Reel, Nancy Stevenson, and Tod Highsmith, offered the following slate of officers to serve WSO from now until May 2002: President, Bill Brooks; Vice President, Daryl Christensen; Secretary, Jane Dennis; Treasurer, Alex Kailing; and Editor, Tod Highsmith.

A brief introduction to Daryl Christensen was provided. Daryl is a professional fisherman who guides and participates in fishing tournaments. He assisted with bird projects of the Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources for 20 years, most notably concerned with Forster's Tern management and monitoring on Puckaway Lake. He has participated in the WBBA for the past five years, contributing significantly to its database. He is an outstanding naturalist and conservationist.

After a request for additional nominations from the floor, it was moved that the WSO nominations be accepted as presented. It was seconded and the motion carried.

It was announced that the Midwest Birding Symposium will be held in Green Bay from August 30 to September 2, 2001.

Outgoing President Sumner Matteson expressed his appreciation for being able to share the expertise and knowledge of WSO birders. "It's been an honor and a privilege to serve," Sumner said, and he gave the gavel to the new WSO president, Bill Brooks. Bill thanked Sumner for the last four years, for doing "a really, really good job."

It was moved and seconded that the 2001 WSO annual business meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The WSO annual business meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ARTISTS

Jack R. Bartholmai is an amateur wildlife photographer and wood sculptor. His current focus is photographing the birds of Dodge County, his stomping grounds since 1972. His photos appear frequently in local newspapers, travel brochures, calendars, and maps.

William S. Brooks is Professor of Biology at Ripon College, specializing in ornithology and ecology. He was involved with WBBA atlasing in Marquette, Waushara, and Green Lake Counties for six years, and wrote the grebe species accounts for the atlas book. He continues to be active in a 10-year wetland restoration project on Rush Lake, Winnebago County, the largest prairie pothole east of the Mississippi and the center of Red-necked Grebe distribution in the state.

David J. Flaspohler is an assistant professor in the School of Forestry and Wood Products at Michigan Technological University. He earned his masters and doctorate at UW-Madison. His primary research interests include the effects of forest management on songbirds and other organisms.

Jim Frank has been one of WSO's most active contributors to Seasonal Field Notes. He now assists WSO by compiling and summarizing the annual May Day Counts and Migration Day Counts, and is the Records Committee Chair. He is a veterinarian in Milwaukee with an interest in avian medicine.

Theodore J. Gostomski is the Staff Biologist and LoonWatch Coordinator at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in Ashland.

Kent D. Hall is a retired Professor of Biology from UW-Stevens Point, with a passion for birding in Portage County, North America, and foreign countries. He is currently involved in an American Kestrel research project in the Buena Vista Grasslands, and will begin a project there on Eastern Bluebirds in the summer of 2002. He is Vice-President of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

R. Tod Highsmith is a freelance environmental sciences writer and is editor of *The Passenger Pigeon*. He received a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he studied the vocal behavior of wood-warblers.

John Idzikowski is an ornithologist who has taught at UW-Milwaukee and

nature centers throughout southeastern Wisconsin. A past WSO president and seasonal field editor for *The Passenger Pigeon,* he enjoys birding the Lake Michigan shoreline and taking digital photographs of birds.

Alex F. Kailing is WSO's treasurer and Membership Committee chair, and is one of the organization's longest-serving board members.

Kenneth I. Lange is the retired Naturalist of Devil's Lake State Park. He has a master's degree from the University of Arizona. Ken has been a frequent contributor to WSO publications, as a field note compiler and author of articles and the book *Breeding Birds of the Baraboo Hills.* He formerly worked at the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. National Museum. He is the 1993 recipient of WSO's Silver Passenger Pigeon award.

Steve Lubahn graduated from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design in 1994. He has always been a nature lover, but recently became interested in birding and a member of WSO. He is currently working with acrylics, painting bird images in large format at his Milwaukee home.

Sumner W. Matteson is an avian ecologist working in the non-game program of the Bureau of Endangered Resources of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He is a regular contributor to *The Passenger Pigeon.*

Mark S. Peterson, the fall field note compiler, is a registered nurse. He is a 1992 recipient of the Silver Passenger Pigeon award.

Betsy Popp is a wildlife artist in Townsend, Wisconsin, who works in a variety of media, including oils, watercolor, and oil pastels. When not painting, she enjoys photography, taxidermy, and wood carving.

Paul W. Rasmussen is a biometrician for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Integrated Science Services. He is also involved with the design and analysis of numerous WDNR bird projects.

William K. Volkert is a wildlife educator and naturalist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh. He coordinates the International Lake Baikal Project in Siberia, Russia, and has traveled extensively in the Canadian Arctic and Central and South America.

Red-winged Blackbird *by Jack Bartholmai*

The Practical Side of Inter-American Bird Conservation

Birders' Exchange is a joint project of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and the American Birding Association. It aims to assist in the conservation of Neotropical migrant and resident birds by filling a need for basic equipment and tools in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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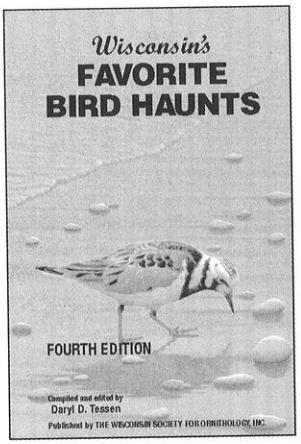

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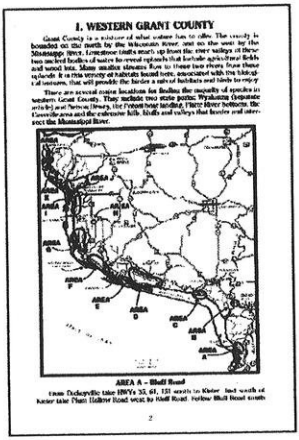

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Contact WSO Bookstore for price and ordering information.
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