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FOR VICTORY
THE
PASSENGER
PIGEON

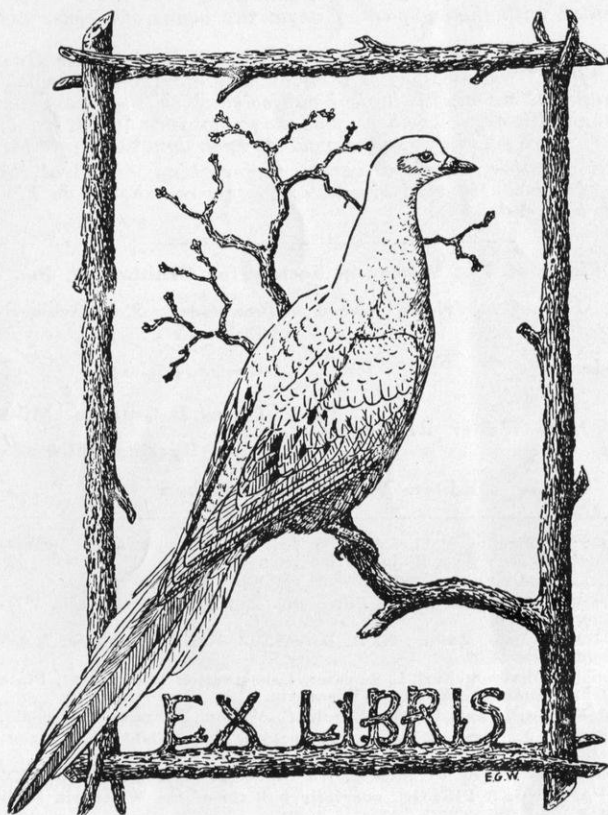
TO ENCOURAGE STUDY OF WISCONSIN BIRDS

VOL. IV

October, 1942

No. 3

(Old Series, Vol. IV, July, August, September, 1942, Nos. 7, 8, 9)



EX LIBRIS

The drawing on the front cover of this issue of The Passenger Pigeon was made by Earl G. Wright, who has generously donated the cut to the Society. This bookplate, with the Society's name added, is to be placed in every book in the Society's Library, now kept at the University of Wisconsin under the supervision of the Library Committee. This committee is at present actively engaged in the work of cataloging accessions already received and in due course of time all members will receive a list of books, periodicals and other literature available for their use on a loan basis.

It is the Society's plan eventually to accumulate in its Library at Madison the most complete ornithological library in the state of Wisconsin. It is evident that the larger portion of this collection will have to be donated by members of the Society and other interested persons whose names will be placed in each book received. Wherever duplicate material is received by the Library Committee, such extra copies will be sold or traded with the purpose of acquiring books otherwise difficult to obtain.

All members and friends of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology are urged to contribute copies of their own publications or books, pamphlets and reprints on ornithological subjects which they can spare from their personal library. Members who have no specific future plans for their libraries are requested to incorporate such donations into their wills.

Without question, this is a worthy undertaking, aimed at the future education of Wisconsin bird lovers, and everyone should do his part to accomplish this end.

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Librarian: Gilbert H. Doane, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

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A Forty-year Summary of the Wisconsin Christmas Bird Censuses

By Leonard Wing

State College, Pullman, Washington

The 1939 Christmas marked the completion of the first forty years of censuses taken by bird students and published in **Bird-Lore** (now **Audubon Magazine**.) Wisconsin has been active in contributing to these censuses, and censuses were reported from the state during each year of the period. The number totals 215 and varies from one to eighteen a year (Table 1) for from one to sixteen areas. The reports came from fifty-four different areas (Table 2.) One area, Elkhorn (mostly near Lauderdale Lake) has a continuous series of thirty-two censuses during the twenty-nine year interval 1906-1934. This series is one of the longest in the whole country, and it is to be hoped that some one will continue it. Other areas reporting a number of censuses are Madison, Hartland, and Milwaukee.



The Black-capped Chickadee was found on almost every Christmas Census. Photo by Eugene Sanborn, Vilas county. Courtesy Wisconsin Conservation Commission

The 215 censuses report 123 different species of birds. Of this number, six are "off-census species"—that is, were reported only as additional to those reported on the census trip itself, either because they were seen enroute to the census area, in a different area, or upon a different date. Studies for other states indicate that the number of off-census species diminishes as the number of on-census species increases and finally vanishes. It is to be expected that all off-census species will be found on-census eventually.

Table 3 is a tabulation of the 123 species, arranged in order of the percentage of years reported. The off-census species are listed at the

end. This tabulation is probably a useable but rough indicator of general relative occurrence of the species. Relative-abundance and frequency-of-occurrence tabulations are in preparation, but it seems likely that they will be delayed. It seems advisable to present this tabulation for such interest and use as the bird students of Wisconsin may have for it.

Table 1: Years of censuses, showing first the number of stations operated and second, censuses made in each year. Where only one figure appears, number of stations and censuses are identical. 1900: 1, 1901-06: 2; 1907: 5; 1908-09: 8, 9; 1910: 13, 15; 1911: 15, 16; 1912: 16, 18; 1913: 7; 1914: 5; 1915: 6; 1916: 4; 1917: 2; 1918: 3; 1919: 4, 5; 1920: 3; 1921: 4; 1922-23: 8; 1924: 3; 1925: 4; 1926-27: 3; 1928: 2; 1929: 4; 1930-31: 6; 1932: 3; 1933: 4; 1934: 3; 1935: 4; 1936: 4, 5; 1937: 5; 1938: 9, 10 (4 unpublished); 1939: 8, 10 (3 unpublished.)

Table 2: Distribution of Christmas censuses. The city named frequently means "vicinity of", and first figure indicates years, while the second shows number of censuses. Where identical, only one number appears. **Barron county:** Barron, 1; **Brown:** Green Bay, 2; **Dane:** Madison, 13, 18; Oregon, 1; Verona, 1; Cottage Grove, 3; **Dodge:** Mayville, 2; **Douglas:** Superior, 3; **Dunn:** Menomonie, 2; **Columbia:** Kilbourn (Wisconsin Dells) 1; Lodi, 1; **Green Lake:** Green Lake, 2; Berlin, 2; Princeton, 1; **Jefferson:** Watertown, 9; Fort Atkinson, 2; Johnson Creek, 1; **Kenosha:** Kenosha, 1; **La Crosse:** La Crosse, 3; **Lafayette,** Darlington, 6; **Lincoln:** Tomahawk, 1; **Manitowoc:** Manitowoc, 1; Branch, 1; **Marathon:** Wausau, 1; Unity, 1; **Marquette:** Westfield, 6, 8; **Milwaukee:** Milwaukee, 13, 14; Wauwatosa, 3; **Monroe:** Sparta, 2; **Outagamie:** Appleton, 11; **Ozaukee:** Ozaukee, 2; **Pierce:** Ellsworth, 2; **Price:** Park Falls, 2; **Racine:** Racine, 3; Kansasville, 1; **Rock:** Beloit, 1; Evansville, 4; Janesville, 1; **Rusk:** Ladysmith, 4; **Sauk:** Prairie du Sac, 1; North Freedom, 3; Reedsburg, 5; Baraboo, 4, 5; **Shawano:** Shawano, 1; **Sheboygan:** Sheboygan, 3; **Walworth:** Walworth, 1; Elkhorn, 29, 32; Lake Geneva, 5; Whitewater, 4; **Waukesha:** Waukesha, 7; Dousman, 1; Hartland, 15; **Waupaca:** Waupaca, 1; **Winnebago:** Winneconne, 6.

Table 3: The species reported during the first 40 years of Christmas censuses in Wisconsin. The list includes 123 species (6 off-census) arranged by percentage of the total years reported as follows: 100%—Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay; 97.5%—Hairy Woodpecker, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tree Sparrow; 85% — Brown Creeper, 77.5% — Slate-colored Junco; 67.5% —American Goldfinch; 65 per cent —Bob-White; 62.5 per cent —Herring Gull; 57.5% —Red-headed Woodpecker, Common Redpoll; 50% —American Golden-eye, Ruffed Grouse; 47.5% —Golden-crowned Kinglet, Snow Bunting; 45% Marsh Hawk; 42.5 per cent —Robin, Pine Siskin, 40% —Wilson Snipe, Horned Lark, Red-breasted Nuthatch; 37.5% —Common Mallard, Purple Finch; 35% —American Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Kingfisher, Flicker, Cardinal; 32.5% — Ring-necked Pheasant, Long-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, Red-winged Blackbird; 30% —English Sparrow; 27.5% —Screech Owl, Starling; 25 per cent —Scaup Duck, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Rusty Blackbird, Song Sparrow; 22.5% —Red-shouldered Hawk, Hungarian Partridge, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Bronzed Grackle, Evening Grosbeak; 20% —Canada Goose, Hermit Thrush, Lapland Longspur; 17.5% — Old Squaw, Red-breasted Merganser; 15% —Buffle-head, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot; 12.5% —Pied-billed Grebe, Prairie Chicken, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Meadowlark; 10% —Black Duck, Canvas-back, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Pileated Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Pine Grosbeak, Swamp Sparrow; 7.5% —Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, American Rough-legged Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, White-winged Crossbill; White throated Sparrow; 5% —Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Baldpate, Wood Duck, Barrow's Golden-eye, American Scoter, Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Ameri-

can Oyster-catcher, Saw-whet Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red Crossbill; 2.5% —Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Holboell's Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Ruddy Duck, White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Killdeer, Barn Owl, Canada Jay, House Wren, Mockingbird, Myrtle Warbler, Arctic Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow; Off-census—American Bittern, Pigeon Hawk, Snowy Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, American Magpie, Baltimore Oriole.

(Editor's Note: The American Oyster-catcher here listed evidently was recorded by a beginning bird student, as it is not represented on Wisconsin's check-list. Barrow's Golden-eye is on the hypothetical list.)

THE DRAWINGS OF A. L. KUMLIEN

The Wisconsin Historical Society has two volumes of water color drawings by A. L. Kumlien. They are dated 1876 and were exhibited apparently at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in that year.

The first volume is devoted entirely to plants. The second contains two plates of butterflies, two of fish, one of the Thirteen-line Spermophile, and one of its Skeleton. The bird plates consist of drawings of the Cerulean Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Baird's Sandpiper, Blue Jay and the skeleton of the Stilt Sandpiper. The coloring of the Philadelphia Vireo is especially soft and pleasing. The plate of the Blue Jay is unique as the side of the bird shows the muscular system. The drawing is worth reproducing for its historical interest.

Insofar as known, these are the first colored drawing of birds to be produced by a Wisconsin artist. After the volumes had been donated to the University of Wisconsin, a member of the Kumlien family attempted recovery. Prof. E. A. Birge decided rightly that the University should retain possession. —A. W. Schorger.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS NEAR MADISON

By Samuel D. Robbins, Jr.

Madison Bird Club

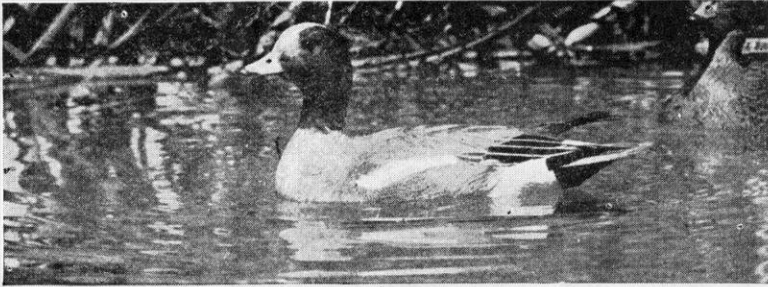
Between eleven and twelve o'clock on the morning of December 22, 1907, R. H. Denniston, now a professor of botany at the University of Wisconsin, counted sixteen individual birds of five different species. This was the first Christmas bird count on record for the Madison region. Although systematic yearly Christmas bird counts were not inaugurated until recently, different observers have made counts from time to time during the past thirty-five years. Chief among the early counters was Warner Taylor, who worked during the period from 1915 to 1922. Among others were Norman Betts (1913 and 1915) and S. Paul Jones (1919-1920). There was a gap in the bird counting for thirteen years after 1922, interrupted only in 1929 and 1930 by a group composed of Kempton, Ogden, and John and Jackson Main.

Not until 1936, however, was any concerted attempt made to cover the territory around Madison thoroughly. Two separate censuses were run that year: one by the Madison Bird Club under the leadership of N. R. Barger, which produced over 900 individuals, more than twice the highest number recorded previously; the other a group led by John Main which recorded a new high in total species, 24. These counts, together with one the following year by the Madison Bird Club, were apparently only forerunners, because in 1938, after a unusually mild autumn, John Main's group found 42 species and 3950 individuals. This was the first successful attempt to record a true picture of the bird life in this locality. Since then, the sport of counting birds has become more popular, and results have improved correspondingly. In 1939, three different counts were made. Main's party found 46 species, but the three parties found a collective total of 57.

The year 1940 is perhaps one of the greatest landmarks in the history of Christmas bird counts in Madison, both in a negative and positive sense. The death of John Main brought to an end Madison's heretofore best counting system. On the other hand, the Madison Bird Club started a series of bird counts which was the most thorough and inclusive yet made.

Twenty observers were organized into five groups, and recorded a total of 51 species and 4700 individuals. Three additional species were found in a count by Barger and Jackson. In 1941, three different bird counts produced a total of 62 species in Madison and vicinity.

Over this span of 35 years, 24 counts have been made, and 91 species have been recorded. Although the earlier counts produced smaller totals, they were not without their oddities. The only record of a Brown Thrasher was obtained in 1913. Nineteen Bohemian Waxwings seen by Jones in 1919 constitute the only Christmas record of this species. In the same year, 40 White-winged Crossbills and one Red Crossbill were found by Taylor. The only other crossbill record is that of a single specimen of the latter seen by the writer in 1941. The year 1929 produced the only Pine Grosbeaks, while the following year brought the sole Killdeer. More recently, single records have been obtained for the Loon, Canada Goose, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Old-squaw, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, Flicker, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Northern Yellowthroat, Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, Evening Grosbeak, and White-throated Sparrow. Other highlights include the astonishing total of 21 Long-eared Owls in 1938, and a large assortment of ducks, headlined by Blue-winged Teal and Shoveller, reported the same year.



The Baldpate was a recent addition to Madison's Christmas Census list. *Cut courtesy Wisconsin Conservation Commission.*

Such highlights and rare findings should be considered incidental, however, in exploring the true worth of Christmas bird counts. There are two particular benefits which may come from counting birds: one is an over-all picture of the bird life of a particular location at a particular date; the other is a comparison of the changes in bird life in a particular area from year to year. The ideal bird count gives valuable information in both of these lines. More often, however, when one aim is accomplished, the other is not. In Madison, two entirely different counts are made each year: one dealing with the yearly changes, the other with the over-all picture of the bird life.

The former type was started in 1939 by Barger and Jackson. Each year the same two observers cover the same territory on the same day, regardless of weather. Bird counts taken in this manner reveal very accurately the changes in abundance of birds from year to year. To be sure, varied weather conditions are bound to make some difference in the results, but such differences are relatively insignificant. Perhaps after several years of working a given area, it will be possible to estimate the approximate effect of different weather conditions.

The over-all type of census was started in Madison by the Madison Bird Club in 1940. All the interested observers were recruited and divided into several groups. Carefully planned routes were assigned to each group, avoiding overlapping except in cases where the best spots might be ex-

pected to show some variance in bird life during the day. The group lists were then compiled together into one grand total. In reality, this type of bird count is a group of several smaller counts taken together. If each individual party consisted of the same personnel, and covered the same territory each year, yearly changes over the entire area could be obtained with reasonable accuracy. But anyone who has tried to plan and direct such an undertaking knows of the tremendous difficulties in lining up the same personnel each year. And when personnel and area covered are not the same one must be careful not to try to compare yearly changes in a superficial manner.

A comparison of the counts in Madison in 1940 and 1941 should make this point clear. The Madison Bird Club found 51 species and 4728 individuals in 1940, against 46 species and 3241 individuals in 1941, indicating that the bird population was higher in 1940. On the other hand, Barger and Jackson found 26 species and 1175 individuals in 1940, against 42 species and 2905 individuals in 1941, indicating a marked increase in bird population in 1941. In all fairness, it should be added that the 1940 count by Barger and Jackson was made under unfavorable weather conditions, but even this cannot explain such a wide difference. Let us then consider just how the Madison Bird Club's groups were organized. Of the leaders of five groups working in 1940, only two participated in the 1941 count, and although five parties were operating in 1941, the personnel, area covered, and total hours afield were considerably lessened. That these differences are sufficient to account for the apparent discrepancies in the total is evident in the comparison of the findings of one party which operated similarly both years. This group, led by the same person both years, covered practically the same territory. Although one less observer took part in 1941, that year's total included 35 species and 1174 individuals, against 30 species and 775 individuals the previous year.

For a state the size of Wisconsin, it seems surprising that so few Christmas bird counts are made. Perhaps many observers feel that there are not enough enthusiasts in their locality to make an effort at counting birds worthwhile. The example set by Barger and Jackson should show such people what they can do. A small group of ornithologists, or even a single person, can make a worthwhile bird count by following a few simple principles. First an area which is expected to be reasonably productive should be selected. It is preferable to choose a route which will take in several different types of country. This not only makes for larger totals, but also brings out yearly differences better. The personnel should be selected with the view of working together over a period of years, rather than for a single day. Perhaps better than sticking rigidly to the same date each year would be the attempt to make use of similar weather conditions from year to year. Wherever possible, this should be done; otherwise the same date should be chosen each time. The time spent in the field should be nearly constant, but if the chosen itinerary is followed closely, the time will not vary much.

If several observers can get together, it is advisable to organize a bird count on a greater scale. All the participants should be lined up in advance, and divided into small groups. It is advantageous to have some advance scouting expeditions to determine the presence of any unusual birds, so that special effort can be made to find these birds. Advance information on owls, especially, is helpful. The routes of the various groups should then be planned. The groups should take plenty of time and cover their territory thoroughly. If a group finishes early, it may profitably spend time on some area covered by another party, but the numbers of birds seen should be kept separate from the other totals of that party. In short, this large-scale bird counting effort should be nothing more nor less than a combination of well-organized territorial bird counts.

It is the writer's hope that more of Wisconsin's ornithologists will aid in the counting of birds at Christmas time this year and in years to come.

RAISING A YOUNG PURPLE MARTIN

By Louise Field Hanson

Madison, Wisconsin

July 16, I found a baby Purple Martin below the martin house on the grounds of the Madison Post Office. As it was very hot, I placed him in the shadow of the pole, hoping his parents would feed him. Judging from the canaries which I raise, I thought he was almost ready to fly and some protection was all he needed. However, I found him later under a parked car and put him in the open to await results. In a few hours, we discovered him under a car again; this time he ran right to me; opened his mouth—at that time bright yellow—and squeaked for food. We replaced him on a ledge of the martin house, exciting the whole colony, and in the ensuing scramble, he fell off again. His wings were little use to him, although well covered, and he fell quite hard. Deciding it was useless to put him up again, we brought him home.

We tried feeding him hot bread and milk with little success, and were advised that force feeding of ground beef or hard-boiled egg would be necessary. While one person pried open the bird's mouth with the flat end of a toothpick, started far back in the corner of his mouth and turned edgewise, the other jammed ground beef far back into his mouth with another toothpick. We had to use this method on July 17 and most of the 18th, but when we got the meat on the pick for feeding that evening, the martin opened his mouth wide as soon as he saw it and from then on there was no more force feeding. Until the 24th, feeding was no trouble—he ate his hamburger greedily, also a few flies and moths which we caught for him. He took a few drops of water daily from a medicine dropper. Then he refused to eat beef and we tried to provide the desired 50 flies a feeding, about once an hour. This was a real job. By the evening of the 26th, flies were scarce so I urged beef again, and when he was very hungry he would eat it. "Marty" was banded on July 27 by Mr. Loyster.

From the 25th on, Mr. Hanson and I would take him out on our hands and swat flies for him to pick up. He never flew, but we had to move our hands to a position where he could reach the flies. He would snap lazily at live ones, but caught few. Following the same practice, Mr. Hanson Sr. took the Martin out on the 30th about 4 p. m. They were not very well acquainted and "Marty" seized the opportunity to fly away. I arrived home at 5:15 and called him and we finally located him on a nearby garage roof. He flew into some shrubbery and from there ran up my arm to my shoulder.

On August 2, we took him to Camp Randall and after watching his confused flying about learned that he just didn't know the things a Martin needed to know to take care of himself. I wrote Miss Oehlenschlaeger for advice and kept feeding him flies and beef.

When taken outdoors on the evening of August 4, he flew off immediately and was soon lost among many Martins flying about the neighborhood. At 11:30 the next morning, Mr. Scott phoned me at the office saying a young fellow wanted to talk to me. He held "Marty" to the phone and I certainly was pleased to hear the familiar squeak. Some people had noticed him following them and upon picking him up, they discovered the band and took him to the Conservation Commission offices.

Replying to my request, I received a very helpful letter from Miss Oehlenschlaeger, and a box of meal worms which "Marty" loves. He drank deeply from the suggested pie-tin bath and is now much livelier. At first he was kept in a canary flight cage, but he fought so much after his outing that now I let him have the run of the apartment.

While I am finishing this "Marty" is sitting on my left wrist telling me it is his dinnertime—he has a lot to learn before he can take care of himself as the only thing he knows to do when hungry is to come to me and cry. It is getting close to migration time so there are still problems concerning him.

Arkansas Kingbird Nests in Columbia County

On May 12, 1942, at 10:20 o'clock, Elton Bussewitz, Frank Kozlik, and Irvn Buss observed a male Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) about a half mile north of Arlington in Columbia county. When first seen he was perched on a fence wire near highway 51.

On June 4, Kozlik, Buss, and George Halazon saw a pair of kingbirds close to this site in a farmer's yard. Both birds displayed typical nesting behavior, but careful watch of the birds for a half hour did not reveal the location of their nest.

Mr. Kozlik and Arnold Buss saw a single kingbird in the same farmyard on June 19 and a second bird about two miles southwest of the former site in the B. M. Bauer farmyard near highway 51. Sexes were not indentified on this day.

At 4:30 o'clock on July 6, Kozlik and Buss stopped at the Bauer farm and soon found a kingbird's nest in the front yard. The nest was built on the limb of a Norway spruce (*Picea Abies*) six feet from the trunk and about 5 feet above the ground. Rootlets, grass stems, and cattle hair made up the greater part of the nest. Its general appearance was similar to the nest of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Only one newly hatched young, that did not yet have its eyes open, was in the nest. The adult female sat on the nest until the limb on which the nest was constructed was touched. Evidently she was brooding the young bird.

Photos were taken of the nest, but the density of the tree at the nest site was not conducive to good photography.

Subsequent visits to the nest showed that the birds were not successful in their nesting attempt. It is unknown what happened to the young birds.

Editor's Note: This record is unique in being the farthest north nesting known for the Arkansas Kingbird in Wisconsin, See The Passenger Pigeon, Vol. II, No. 7, p. 90 (July, 1940) for a summary of previous records.)

A CLUE TO PRAIRIE CHICKEN MORTALITY

In the last number of the Passenger Pigeon, you inquire for evidence that cold, wet springs are destructive to the young of the Prairie Chicken. I do not know of any really direct proof. There are numerous statements in the Wisconsin literature since the early '50s that dry seasons are favorable, and cold, wet springs unfavorable to the young.

This subject has been investigated by Norman Criddle, "Some Natural Factors Governing the Fluctuations of Grouse in Manitoba." **Canadian Field-Naturalist** 44, No. 4 (April 1930) 77-80. He plotted rainfall, and abundance of Sharp-tailed Grouse and grasshoppers for the years 1895-1929 and says:

"The influences of excessive rainfall and cold have been long recognized as important factors in reducing the number of young birds which would otherwise attain maturity . . . If insects are excessively abundant, such as is the case, for instance, when there is a grasshopper outbreak, then the birds will have no difficulty in finding them even under adverse conditions, and the young, despite the rain and cold, will survive, but if insects are not in abnormal numbers then there will be a very high death rate due to starvation."

He mentions that the beginning of a grasshopper rise is always preceded or accompanied by abnormally dry seasons, but once the rise is well under way precipitation becomes a minor factor in controlling them. It seems sound to believe that cold, wet weather will reduce the activity of most insects, and hence their availability. —A. W. Schorger.

REPORT YOUR CHRISTMAS CENSUS THIS YEAR!



THE SUMMER SEASON

American Egrets appeared in fewer numbers in Wisconsin this year than last, or observers of them have been less. In Horicon, at least, they were very poorly represented this year by comparison. As indicated in the following reports, Zimmerman was responsible for most egret records, as he was able to see them in conjunction with his waterfowl work. The season's hatch of ducks was disappointing in southern Wisconsin. Some of this may have been due to high water and floods.

NORTHWEST AREA—The following breeders have been reported by F. Zirrer for Sawyer County: Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail, Marsh Hawk, Myrtle Warbler, Palm Warbler and Connecticut Warbler. He also has some detailed notes on the warblers.

While vacationing in Burnett County, Misses Bernice Andrews and Frances Glenn saw many birds and their young during the first half of July.

A few miscellaneous notes follow:

Great Blue Heron: Few small rookeries in area. Young just leaving their nests, July 8; Sawyer County (Feeney). **Red-breasted Merganser:** One Vilas County, July 10 (E. W. Peartree). **Turkey Vulture:** Seen occasionally in parts of Northern Wisconsin. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Carrying food, Sawyer County, July 7; two immatures flying and calling, Price County, Aug. 12 (Feeney). **Red-tailed Hawk:** Rose high without flapping wings while drifting only slightly down wind. Then he glided back over the spot from which he rose, losing very little altitude, without beating wings (Feeney). **Broad-winged Hawk:** Carrying a snake was attacked by a Kingbird, which rode its back and pulled its head feathers for several seconds; Sawyer County, July 8 (Feeney). **Bald Eagle:** Sawyer County, July 7 and 8 (Feeney); an eagle was seen flying low over a pond where there were four ducks in the weeds. As he flew over, the ducks flushed, but settled back at once; Sawyer County, July 16 (Hopkins). **Ospreys** and old nests have been seen throughout Northern Wisconsin. One with fish in talons, Price County, June 1 (Hopkins). Observed another dive, catch a fish and fly three-hundred yards to a birch stub to eat it (Hopkins). **Sparrow Hawk:** One circling high on a hot day. It was repeatedly catching insects and eating them leisurely, while soaring higher and higher; Rusk County, Aug. 20 (Feeney).

Spruce Grouse: One, July 14, Forest County (Deane Mather). **Ruffed Grouse:** Several heard drumming early in July. **Mourning Dove:** One July 14, Vilas County (Mather). **Nighthawk:** Migration, Aug. 23 in Price County. **Pileated Woodpecker:** Seen occasionally throughout Northern Wisconsin. **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker:** June 8, Price County, Aug. 10, Forest County (Hopkins); two, Forest County, Aug. 11 (Feeney-Hopkins); one Vilas County, June 2 (D. S. Farner). **Kingbird:** Nest with four young nearly fully fledged, Sawyer County, July 8 (Feeney); nest with three eggs in alder over river, Price County, July 10 (Hopkins). **Phoebe:** Nest with four eggs, Rusk County, June 18 (Feeney). **Canada Jay:** seen frequently through all Northern Wisconsin. Nestings are undoubtedly fairly common. **Raven:** Both old and young are seen frequently throughout Northern Wisconsin. **Willow Thrush:** One, Vilas County, July 10 (E. W. Peartree). **Golden-winged Warbler:** Rusk County, June 19 (Feeney). Seemingly a migrant, Aug. 18, Forest County (Hopkins). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Fighting a fox snake at their nest. The snake was in the nest

swallowing one of the young birds which was just beginning to get feathers, Rusk County, June 18 (Feeney.) **Chipping Sparrow:** With nearly fully fledged young able to fly, Rusk County, June 19 (Feeney). —**W. S. Feeney, Editor, Menasha Avenue, Ladysmith.**

While vacationing in Vilas County, July 25 and 26, Mr. and Mrs. Scott noted the following: Yellow Rail, one; Bald Eagle, one; Bank Swallows, flocking; Purple Finch, three (males). Juveniles of the following were seen; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Myrtle Warbler, four; and Connecticut Warbler, three.

In Oneida County: Two juvenile Ospreys and one adult, July 27; and one juvenile Connecticut Warbler; also by the same observers.

NORTHEAST AREA—An even one-hundred species were reported for the month of June from three observers: Clara Hussong, E. W. Strehlow and John Holtermann. These observers are from Brown and Door Counties. Their reports were for the most part lists of birds seen on Sunday trips. Space does not permit the listing of this number of species, but it is interesting to note the comparison with the lists from the same observers for the month of July.

About the same number of days were spent in the field with only sixty-one species recorded. Only four of the species reported for June do not nest in the area, making a total of thirty-five breeding species for June that were not observed in July. This is to be expected at the height of the nesting season when birds are more secretive.

Clara Hussong reported the finding of a Towhee's nest, June 6, in a railroad ditch near Suamico, Brown County. The nest was in a tuft of grass with a dried bracken forming a tent over it. In spite of the extremely heavy rains of a week before, the nest contained five young birds.

Mrs. Hussong also reported the Indigo Bunting building up in numbers, especially in the northern counties of this area; and that the Upland Plover left the fields near her home early in August, where in other years they stay until the middle of the month. The editor believes their early departure coincides with the extremely dry weather at that time.

Mr. F. R. Zimmerman sent in the following notes made while vacationing in Door County, July 8, one pair of Loons on Lilly Bay, Lake Michigan side of Door County; on Clarks Lake, July 12, four Green Herons, two Mallards, six black Ducks, two Ring-necked Ducks, and one Lesser Scaup (male); July 7, American Merganser, female with young on beach below Whitefish Bay. Piping Plover, nest with four eggs, Lilly Bay, July 10; Crows, destroying eggs on 14th; Spotted Sandpiper on beach, Lilly Bay, July 7; Caspian Terns, five along Lake Michigan; Black-throated Green Warbler, very common through the peninsula. Oven-bird common nester.

Arnold Jackson also spent some vacation in Door County with the following results: June 3-10, two Snow Geese, six Blue Geese; July 19, eight Greater Yellow-legs, one-hundred Pectoral Sandpipers; Aug. 14, one Bonaparte's Gull; Aug. 27, five-hundred Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers mixed; Three Black-bellied Plover (one in summer plumage); Aug. 31, one Piping Plover and two Sanderlings.

Miscellaneous notes by Zimmerman in the area include: Six American Egrets on Lake Butte des Morts, Aug. 14; six Lesser Scaup, four Ruddy Duck (two young), three Sanderlings in Green Bay, July 31; seven Pintail on Lake Winneconne, Aug. 21. The common ducks, such as Mallard, Blue winged Teal and Black Ducks were more abundant and well distributed, but by no means encouraging as to numbers. —**Earl G. Wright, Editor, Neville Public Museum, Green Bay.**

CENTRAL AREA—A nest of the Clay-colored Sparrow was found containing four eggs, July 2 in Wood County. On the same day two Lesser Yellow-legs were seen. A Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared near Babcock, July 8. This species is not known to nest in Wood County. The first Solitary Sandpiper was noted July 9.

There was a heavy migration of Cliff Swallows and Nighthawks Aug.

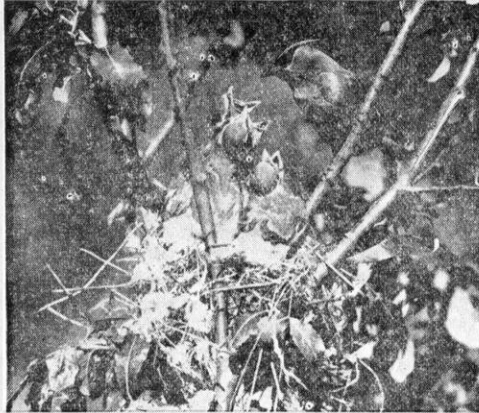
17. Cliff Swallows are very abundant in migration in Wood County, while the other swallows are fewer in numbers. Only one flock of Purple Martins was seen in August (22).

F. R. Zimmerman noted two American Egrets in Portage County, Aug. 1. —**Harold A. Mathiak, Editor, Babcock.**

A Brewer's Blackbird was observed in Portage County, July 27 by Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

SOUTHEAST AREA—June: The last of the migratory birds passed through this area during the first week in June. Red-breasted Mergansers dropped into Dr. von Jarchow's sanctuary during the last week of May and the first week of June, but did not stay. The nesting season was in full swing by June 10th. Redstarts were more numerous on their nesting grounds than usual. An Upland Plover was found nesting in Racine County (von Jarchow). Among unusual nesting finds were two nesting Barn Owls, one in Racine County, and one in Walworth County (von Jarchow) and a nesting Nashville Warbler at Spruce Lake (Dettman). A pair of Turkey Vultures were seen circling over Racine County on June 12 (von Jarchow). Heavy rains in the last weeks of June did serious damage to the nesting birds.

July: Nesting was heavier than usual during the early part of July, probably because many birds were nesting again after losing their broods in the June rains. The Golden-winged Warbler was observed several times during July in Racine County and a pair of Turkey Vultures were seen July 2 in Racine County (Deusing). This observation coupled with the one reported for June indicates a possible nesting pair.



Cedar Waxwings were found nesting in the Southeast Area until the end of August. Photo by Milwaukee Public Museum; cut courtesy Wis. Conservation Commission.

August: Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Black-billed Cuckoos, Cedar Waxwings, and Goldfinches were nesting right up to the end of the month. Egrets were not observed in the numbers usually found during this month, though they were seen in Waukesha County. (Feldman). Among unusual birds this month were a mature Bald Eagle observed in Waukesha County, August 6 (Doll), and an Acadian Owl killed by an automobile in Racine County (von Jarchow). Most of the Purple Martins left the area August 15 and 16, though some were seen to the last of the month (Mueller). The migration of warblers began weakly during the middle of the month and then suddenly gained strength during the last week. Wood Ducks were seen in a flock at Cedarburg Swamp and an Osprey was observed there August 29 (von Jarchow). Interesting to note is the large number of albino birds this year. There are a number of records of albino Robins

and one Tree Swallow for Milwaukee, as well as a record of an albino Barn Swallow for Beloit. Several of the albino Robins in Milwaukee were closely observed and were moulting from adult plumage into the albino form.

F. R. Zimmerman visited the Sheboygan marsh on Aug. 14 and noted two American Egrets; again on Aug. 25 and found three Baldpate, twelve Pintail, three Black-bellied Plover, and about fifty Wood Duck. —**Murl Deusing, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee.**

SOUTHWEST AREA—In his duck survey along the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, Zimmerman found the Wood Duck to be present in good numbers. Mallards were next in numbers but did not make a good showing. Great Blue Herons, feared to be dwindling in numbers, were regularly distributed but in small numbers. This waterfowl survey was conducted in August.

Nesting: On June 15, Loyster found a nest of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo with two eggs, and one of the Grasshopper Sparrow with three eggs, both in Rock County. A search for nests among bulrushes in the Horicon Marsh, by Mitchell, June 16, revealed the following: Coot, two nests with eggs; Long-billed Marsh Wren, nest, but empty; Red-winged Blackbird, two nests with eggs; another with two young and an infertile egg; American Bittern, one nest with eggs upon which the female was sitting, and would not move even when prodded with a stick; Florida Gallinule, three nests with eggs; Redhead Duck, one nest containing egg shells and membranes of recently hatched young—flushed female fifteen yards from the nest. On July 16 Mitchell saw a Forster's Tern over the marsh. It is a possible nester.

Miss Morse of Viroqua observed the following nests, chiefly in Vernon County: On June 19 a Wood Pewee was building a nest high in an oak tree. It collected lichens by flying against lichen-covered tree trunks and picking bits off. On the same day a Red-eyed Vireo was found on the nest. The nest was deserted five days later when it contained only three Cowbird eggs. The location was nine feet up in an ironwood tree. On June 28, a Bobwhite with twelve young; one young Upland Plover; and a young Rose-breasted Grosbeak, being fed out of the nest, were noted. A nest of the Warbling Vireo was discovered eleven and one-half feet up in a sugar maple. It was white in color from spider cocoons. Two young were reared. On June 30 a Redstart was finishing a nest. In Dodge County, July 4, a female Prairie Chicken was found with five young (Miss Morse).

From LaCrosse, J. J. Hickey notes two nests of Bell's Vireos. The nests were in a young black locust plantation on the prairie. One nest located sixteen feet from the ground, had newspaper woven into the outer lining. Four eggs hatched July 8. A pair of Barn Owls raised three young this season near Merrimac (Goodenough).

American Egrets appeared as follows: One, Horicon, July 24 (Fairfield); another, Aug. 24 (Mitchell). Few, LaCrosse, during August (Gatterdam). Five, Mississippi River, August 16 (Miss Morse); and eight Walworth County, Sept. 4, also by Miss Morse. Zimmerman saw sixteen in Grant County during August; two near Lake Koshkonong, and three on Lake Kegonsa.

Miss Morse records a Tufted Titmouse in Walworth County and a small colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. One Orchard Oriole was seen, June 21, by Miss Morse which is the only record we have received of this species this season. She states that the Dickcissel was not seen as much this year as during the past two.

Signs of fall migration were indicated Aug. 1 by Mitchell, when swallow began to flock on the wire. On Sept. 4, Miss Morse saw a flock of Cliff Swallows numbering about two-hundred and fifty, near Merrimac. Goodenough considered the flocks of doves this season to be more plentiful near Baraboo. Hawk migration was in progress during the last week of August in the last area. —**N. R. Barger, Editor, 4333 Hillcrest Drive, Madison.**



Purple Sandpiper Found Near Racine. Mr. George Prins of Racine recently donated a specimen of a female Purple Sandpiper to the Milwaukee Public Museum. On Nov. 8, 1942, while walking the gravelly beach at Wind Point on Lake Michigan near Racine, he picked up a recently dead specimen from among the cast-up water vegetation. The bird was in excellent condition and is a valuable skin record. —O. J. Gromme, Milwaukee Public Museum.

(Editor's Note: Kumlein and Hollister (1903) list the Purple Sandpiper as a rare migrant and state that they never once saw the bird in Wisconsin in spite of the fact that Dr. Hoy had reported it "greatly abundant" at Racine in April and May of 1852. One specimen is reported to be in the Oshkosh Normal School. It is said to have been taken at Bay View (Door County) in May, 1881.)

Albino Ruffed Grouse Shot in Door County. Wesley Groening of Route 4, Columbus, shot an albino Ruffed Grouse near Sturgeon Bay, Door County, sometime in November. The specimen has been mounted and is still in his possession. —W. E. Scott, Madison.

Duck Hawk Hits Wooden Bluebill Decoy. While hunting ducks at Mud Lake near Bailey's Harbor (Door County) on November 2, I had nine Bluebill and Mallard decoy blocks on the water. About 10:30 a. m. a Duck Hawk swooped down fast and hit one of the Bluebill blocks, stopping on it momentarily and then flying away. —Harold Shine, Conservation Department, Madison.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET AT OSHKOSH

The Society's Board of Directors met at the home of J. Harwood Evans at Oshkosh on October 11, 1942, with all members present except Murl Deusing. The following is a summary of the business transacted.

1. N. R. Barger was designated to take over temporary editorship of The Passenger Pigeon in case the present editor was called for army duty.

2. The Society's Annual Meeting date was tentatively set for the week end of May 1 and 2 at Waukesha. It was decided not to call the meeting off, even though many members could not be present, as there is a large local representation of the Society in the Milwaukee area. Further details on the meeting will be announced later.

3. The Editor was instructed to set aside extra copies of The Passenger Pigeon for members now in the Armed Forces who cannot be located and whose membership has temporarily lapsed.

4. The possible affiliation of the Society with the Wilson Club was discussed and the matter was referred to the Affiliations Committee. They will be expected to make their report at the next annual meeting and the proposal will be voted upon by all members present.

5. It was deemed advisable for the Society to secure the services of an attorney for assistance on legal matters and Alfred S. Bradford of Appleton was named in this capacity. Mr. Bradford is a member of the Society and will act as a member of the Endowment Committee.

6. The following committees were appointed by President Earl G. Wright: **Library:** Gilbert H. Doane, Chairman, Miss Ellen Hoffman, Mrs. L. W. Holm; **Affiliations** (with Wilson Club): Murl Deusing, Chairman, Clarence S. Jung, Miss Elizabeth A. Oehlenschlaeger, W. E. Scott; **Membership:** J. Harwood Evans, Chairman, Mrs. Walter Rogers, Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, N. R. Barger, Mrs. Edythe Phillips, Mrs. Clara Hussong, Mrs. Phelps Wyman; **Endowment:** Clarence S. Jung, Chairman, Owen J. Gromme, Ralph Buckstaff, Alfred S. Bradford, A. W. Schorger; **Sanctuary:** Dr. B. L. von Jarchow, Chairman, F. R. Zimmerman, Murl Deusing, Charles Thornton. The Passenger Pigeon Memorial Committee, working with Chairman Owen J. Gromme, is continuing in their activity.

NEWS NOTES

Recent donations to the Society's Library include the following: Dr. George B. Rossbach, Blanchan's "Bird Neighbors;" Fred J. Pierce, one periodical; Prof. Aldo Leopold, three reprints; Mrs. Walter E. Rogers, one periodical; W. E. Scott, Blanchan's "Birds That Hunt and are Hunted," Chapman's "Bird-Life" Scott's "The Story of a Bird Lover," Wilson and Bonaparte's "American Ornithology," Schorger's "Notes on Birds of Dane County, Part I," Wisconsin Arbor and Bird Day Annuals, 1907 and 1909, Audubon Magazine, Vols. I and II, 1887 and 1888 (except Vol. I, No. 3), 15 booklets, 4 reprints, 4 periodicals. Members wishing to donate material to the Society's Library should send or deliver it directly to Mr. Gilbert H. Doane, University of Wisconsin Library, Madison.

P. A. Lawrence, superintendent of Wyalusing State Park, recently finished building the foundation for the Passenger Pigeon monument which is to be located there. The Society deeply appreciates his interest and activity in its behalf.

The membership list published in the last issue of The Passenger Pigeon should have shown the following members in the Sustaining Membership classification: Walter J. Mueller, Dr. George B. Rossbach, and Howard Young.

A. W. Schorger's article on "The Wild Turkey in Early Wisconsin" was published recently in the Wilson Bulletin. Anyone having a direct interest in this subject may secure a reprint by contacting Mr. Schorger at 168 N. Prospect ave., Madison. Irven O. Buss's article on the history of a large cliff swallow nesting site in Dane County was carried in the same publication.

Additional Society members reported to be in the Armed Forces are as follows: Harry J. Stroebe, Kay T. Rogers, Lawrence Johnson, Henry J. Conjurske, and J. R. Smith.

The following members are lost and their copies of The Passenger Pigeon cannot be delivered due to incorrect address. Their latest address is shown here and anyone knowing their whereabouts should please contact the Editor: Miss V. Sue Miller, 14 N. Van Buren st., Green Bay; Miss Jeannette Hirschboeck, Bellin Hospital, Green Bay (also undelivered at Forestville); James Miracle, High School, Shawano.

Mrs. Walter E. Rogers has organized a Junior Audubon Club for girls at Appleton and during the past summer has had from 15 to 35 girls attending field bird hikes. She states that they are all "future members of the WSO."

Two research reports of the National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth ave., New York City, have been released recently for sale: The Roseate Spoonbill by Robert P. Allen, \$2.50; The Ivory-billed Woodpecker by James T. Tanner, \$2.50.

Walter Mueller reports that on September 25 a pailful of dead birds was collected on the roof of the filtration plant in Milwaukee. Most of them were Cliff Swallows, Purple Martins and Barn Swallows. On the 27th, more dead birds were found, including 3 Martins, 18 Cliff Swallows and one Barn Swallow. Although Mueller does not state the possible reason for this mortality, there are indications that temporary cold weather and subsequent lack of food may have been responsible.

Recent meetings of the Kumlain Club of Madison included a showing of Murie's colored movies of "Wildlife of Mount McKinley," and discussions by Joe Hickey on "Some Problems in Studying Ecology of Birds," and Donald Farner on "Foreign Ornithological Literature." The Madison Bird Club's recent meeting featured the Wisconsin Conservation Commission's new color-sound movie on Wisconsin Grouse. The Editor would like to receive news items of this type from other Wisconsin bird clubs.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We pay tribute to the many members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology who have offered their services and themselves in this great conflict for the preservation of Democracy. This brief message is addressed to those who must stay at home.

In these trying times when tires must be conserved, the Bird Lover will not travel so far afield. Perhaps this is a good thing, for altogether too much time has been spent at the wheel of the automobile going to a distant place to study birds and many local bird haunts are passed up—the near-by woodlot; the open pasture; or the slough. A short walk from home is not as familiar to most of us as some place many miles distant.

Walking is good for war-frayed nerves and the war effort should not be allowed to dull one's interest in a hobby. The curtailment of the use of the automobile should intensify one's interest in Bird Study. More time will be found to read the current issue of the Passenger Pigeon and to go through the old files. Walking is becoming a lost art. Let us go into the field on foot with notebook, pencil, camera and glasses and share our finds with our fellow bird students by reporting such finds to the Editor of the Passenger Pigeon or the local area Field Note Editor.

Although it may be more difficult in these times to lend your full efforts in support of our Society, everyone is encouraged to renew and continue his membership promptly, so that we may carry on to a fuller realization of our interests after the war.

Earl G. Wright