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Area Game Manager
Cloquet, Minnesota

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THE LOON

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FRONT COVER

Young Barn Owls in a silo on the Dan Bowman farm, Northrup, Martin County, Minnesota. Photo by Raymond Glassel, September 21, 1963.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The recent death of Arthur A. Allen, first American professor of ornithology, set me to thinking again of the relationship of the amateur and professional ornithologist. Dr. Allen's contributions to both are almost legendary. With his passing, the two groups have lost a vital link. Who will step into his place?

Arthur Allen's contribution to professional ornithology has no greater monument than the number of graduates scattered around the world who owe their tutelage to Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. The work he did for the amateur may take a little closer scrutiny.

His "Book of Bird Life" was one of the first "readable" texts that covered aspects of bird behavior; his manual was one of the first; after the impetus of George Shiras III's nature photography, it was Dr. Allen's use of color photography that inspired a surge of amateur and professional nature photographers; along with Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg, it was Dr. Allen who pioneered the production of nature sound recording. All of these were accomplishments that interested non-birders in ornithology. Although I never knew Frank Chapman or worked under Arthur Allen, probably these two men, through their writing and other efforts directed toward the amateur, first guided my interest during my embryonic stage of ornithology.

The ornithologists of the world owe such a man as A. A. Allen the highest honor it can bestow for contributions to ornithology which cannot be measured by laws, theories, or discoveries. I wonder what Cornell owes him for academic reputation; what do the photographic and tape recording companies owe him for the popularity of their products?

A letter that started out with an intended plea for greater efforts toward cooperation between persons interested and those devoted to birds has turned into a eulogy for one man. I didn't intend to do this. Perhaps sentimentality has little place in even a quasi-scientific journal but being somewhat sentimental myself, I can never forget what I owe to such men as A. A. Allen, O. S. Pettingill, Jr., Harry Hann, Josselyn Van Tyne, George Sutton, and a host of others, for their help in directing an amateur into a most rewarding way of life.

Pershing B. Hofslund,
President

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE PEREGRINE FALCON

An inquiry has been launched into the present status of the Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk) as a nesting bird in the Eastern United States.

The disappearance of these birds in recent years has been an extraordinary phenomenon and we are particularly interested in learning when young or adults were last seen at many formerly occupied nesting sites.

Joseph J. Hickey of the University of Wisconsin is compiling these data. Your editor would also like any information you can supply on recent sight records of this bird in Minnesota.

Please send this information as soon as possible to The Editor, Robert B. Janssen, 1817 W. 59th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419.

M.O.U. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We thank all those who responded to our recent membership drive. We gained 60 new members from the efforts of Ben Thoma of Willmar and our Treasurer, Mrs. Gloria Peleaux. The drive will be continued this year. The only way that we can continue to grow and to print *The Loon* is by increasing our membership. We hope that all members will actively seek out people interested in birds and urge them to join the M.O.U.

As a reminder to members, 1964 dues are now due and should be sent to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

M.O.U. SPRING FIELD TRIP: WESTERN MINNESOTA
MAY 23 - 24, 1964
MORRIS, MINNESOTA

PLACE: Headquarters for the M.O.U. Spring Field Trip will be at Edson Hall on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris in Morris, Minnesota. There will be someone on duty at a registration desk in the lobby of Edson Hall from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. on Saturday and again until noon on Sunday. Field trips to a number of highly productive sloughs, woods, and prairies within one to forty miles of Morris are planned for both Saturday and Sunday. For those desiring to bird with a group there will be guided parties going out Saturday morning and afternoon. There will also be mimeographed maps and directions to likely birding spots for those desiring to go off alone.

MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS: Reservations for meals should be sent, with check, to R. A. Grant, Humanities Division, Univ. of Minn., Morris, Morris, Minn. *no later than May 9, 1964*. Meals will be served at the Dining Hall at U.M.M.

Cost: Luncheon: \$.75 (\$.85 if box lunch desired)

Dinner: \$1.50

Sunday Luncheon: \$.75 (\$.85 if box lunch desired)

Those desiring overnight accommodations must make their own arrangements. The following are all in Morris: Morris Motel, Thedin's Motel, Merchants Hotel, La Grand Hotel. Camping facilities are available at Pomme de Terre State Park one mile outside Morris.

Saturday luncheon will be served from 12:30 to 1:30 P.M., and dinner at 7:30 P.M. Sunday luncheon will be served from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT: An exhibit of original water-color bird paintings by Ernest Strubbe and Ken Haag will be hung in the lobby of Edson Hall. On Saturday evening at 8:30 P.M. there will be a showing of wild-life slides and films in Edson Hall Auditorium. This will be preceded by a brief review of the more interesting records compiled during the day's field trips.

TRIPS: Trips are planned to Frog and Artichoke Lakes (known for their breeding Western and Red-necked Grebes), to Lake Traverse and Mud Lake (the scene of spectacular waterfowl and shorebird migrations), and to areas where Burrowing Owls, Short-eared Owls, grassland sparrows, Upland Plover, and Krider's Hawks have bred in the last year. Both godwits, American Avocets, both dowitchers, three species of rails, and a very full range of raptors were recorded around Morris in May 1963, and, with a number of active people in the field, we may reasonably hope for a list of 150 species over the weekend.

All birders are urged to report their more interesting discoveries of each of the two days to the person on duty at the registration desk in Edson Hall. A total list will be compiled from these and reported in a forth-coming issue of *The Loon*.

M. O. U. TREASURERS REPORT — DECEMBER, 1963

CASH ON HAND DEC. 1, 1962

Bank Balance \$ 347.97

RECEIPTS

M.O.U. Dues (Individual)	1,865.45
Affiliate Club Dues	95.00
Dec. '62 Meeting (Reg. & Coffee)	39.15
Back Flickers	94.50
Dec. '62 Meeting (Whittle Shop %)	14.71
Loon Brochures	4.00
Hiawatha Valley Bird Club	50.00
Dr. Geo. Rysgaard (Life Memb.)	50.00
Dec. '63 Meeting (Registration)	53.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Curle Printing (4 Flickers)	\$1,972.70
U. S. Post Office	60.00
Bank Service Charges	8.15
Bank Exchange Charges	1.60
Curle Printing (Dec. '63 Meeting Notices)	8.00
Robert Janssen (Post Cards)	8.00
Janet Green (Postage)	2.09
Theodora Melone (Refreshments, Dec. '63)	7.74
Draper Dalton Co. (Printing)	18.15
Awards, Inc. (T. S. Roberts Award)	14.75

CASH ON HAND DEC. 31, 1963

Bank Balance (M.O.U.)	512.60
	\$2,613.78

SALT LAKE FUND

50.00

512.60

Actual Bank Balance Dec. 31 '63 \$ 562.60

Thomas Sadler Roberts Memorial Award

The presentation of the first Thomas Sadler Roberts Memorial Award was made by P. B. Hofslund, President of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union to Mary Lupient on December 7, 1963 at the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota. The occasion was the annual Paper Session of the Union. Inscribed on the plaque given to Mrs. Lupient are the following words: 1963 Thomas Sadler Roberts Memorial Award presented to Mary Lupient by the Minnesota Ornithologists Union for outstanding contributions to Minnesota Ornithology.

Dr. Harvey Gunderson of the Museum has been appointed chairman of the awards committee. This committee will determine future recipients of the award. The award will be presented at intervals determined by the committee.

MARCH, 1964

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Dr. George N. Rysgaard of Northfield, Minnesota is our newest Life Member. Dr. Rysgaard has taken an active part in the M. O. U. since its inception. In fact George was one of the original founders of the Union and is a past editor of *The Flicker*. The Minnesota Ornithologists Union now has over 700 members, of which 12 are Life Members. These Life Members are listed below:

Mrs. Miriam Barrett
Mr. Frederick Brewster
Mrs. Whitney Eastman
Mr. Whitney Eastman
Miss Mary Elwell
Dr. Olga Lakela

Mrs. W. R. Luwe
Mr. W. R. Luwe
Mrs. Evelyn Putnam
Mrs. Mary S. Ross
Dr. George N. Rysgaard
Mr. Dana Struthers

What Constitutes an Acceptable Bird Record?

by Janet C. Green

One of the ways in which an amateur can contribute something to the knowledge of bird life in Minnesota is to submit his unusual observations to *The Loon* for publication in the "Notes of Interest" section. (Another contribution, just as valuable of course, is to send a summary of his more usual observations to the editor of the "Seasonal Report" to help make that column more comprehensive.) These records form the reservoir from which a description of the seasonal, geographical and numerical status of the birds in Minnesota can be made. However, before an unusual sight record (unusual either because of the species seen, the season or part of the state in which it was seen, or the number seen) can be accepted and officially added to the record of birds seen in the state it must fulfill certain criteria. These criteria have never been spelled out in detail for readers of *The Loon* though they have been established by custom followed throughout the country by serious birders.

Robert Janssen and I, in compiling records for a future publication of an annotated check-list of birds of Minnesota, have found that the lack of any stated policy on the criteria required for acceptable sight records has allowed the accumulation of much published material that is not up to the

standards used in other areas and which we are adopting for our check-list. Therefore, I am seeking to remedy this situation for the future by discussing the problem of what constitutes an acceptable sight observation.

Most readers know that official listings of birds that occur in a state or region usually consist of two parts: the totally acceptable list and the hypothetical list. The presence of birds on the former list has been substantiated by a specimen or an adequate photograph; those on the latter list are usually substantiated only by acceptable sight records. However, just the existence of a specimen tells little about the occurrence of a species in the state. For Minnesota there are only single specimens of species that are so accidental in occurrence that they are expected never to occur again as well as of species that seem to be present in small numbers every year. In a state as large and as ornithologically unexplored in detail as Minnesota it is a function of the acceptable sight records to establish the difference between types of occurrence. The Harlequin Duck is a good example. It was not even listed in the first edition of T. S. Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota* published in 1932. Since that time only one specimen has been collected which put the species on the totally

acceptable list. However, the accumulation of sight records, especially during the last few years as more observation is done along the North Shore of Lake Superior, is showing that the Harlequin Duck appears here in very small numbers every year.

However, before an unusual sight observation can be used to either place a bird on the hypothetical list or to add to the knowledge of the status of birds on the totally acceptable list it must pass certain standards that insure the accuracy of the official record. Every birder knows that there are certain species that are difficult to identify, that the ability and experience of different birders varies tremendously, and that some weather conditions (e. g. snow, fog, glare, insufficient light) make even distinctive birds hard to identify. And all good birders know that it is possible for them as well as others to make mistakes (especially if haste is used) and that it is impossible in certain circumstances to be absolutely sure of an identification. Because of these uncertainties involved in sight identification the acceptability of such observations for the official record is contingent upon the submission of enough details to fully substantiate the identification. These criteria are used by experienced birders throughout the country with the knowledge that this striving for accuracy makes their hobby all the more worthwhile by contributing to the knowledge of bird distribution.

The details submitted with an unusual sight observation should include as much of the following as possible.

1. The names of all birders who observed the bird. (If a very rare bird is seen an attempt should be made to have it identified by at least three competent observers; this is obviously not possible in many situations so the rest of the procedure should be followed with more care.)

2. The exact date (or dates) and location of the observation.

3. The length of time that the bird was observed and what it was doing during that time.

4. The distance from the bird at all times.

5. The light and weather conditions at the time of observation.

6. The optical equipment used.

7. A description of the bird as it appeared *in the field*, including all plumage and other characteristics that were used in identification. (What is *not* wanted is a description of the bird as it is pictured in a field guide or how it "should have looked" if it really were the species claimed.)

8. The names of field guides and other books consulted.

9. Previous experience of the observer in identifying this species.

It is important that as many of these details as possible be included, especially if the bird seen was very rare or particularly hard to identify. Observers in the state with a known reputation as competent and experienced birders should remember that the official record is not just for this generation and enough information should be available to withstand later critical review.

One of the problems that Minnesota birders have that is not common to all parts of the country is in knowing when a species is unusual enough to warrant this amount of attention. Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota* is long out of print and not available to most. The range and seasonal occurrence in the standard field guides is not detailed enough and in some cases is inaccurate as far as Minnesota is concerned. The annotated check-list that we are compiling will fill this gap but until it is available other sources will have to be used. I would suggest the following procedure:

- a. Try to consult Roberts either in the library or belonging to a friend.

- b. Verbally question local experienced birders (for many parts of the state there are none and that can be a challenge to acquire and record information about the local birds).

- c. Try to extrapolate from the following available publications:

- 1) "Birds of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Region" by Anne Winton Dodge, Helen Ford Fullerton, W. J. Breckenridge, Dwain W. Warner. Revised edition, 1957. Available from the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
- 2) "Wisconsin Birds" by N. R. Barger, Roy H. Lound and Samuel D. Robbins, Jr. Third edition, 1960. Available for 35c from the W. S. O. Supply Dept., c/o Mr. Harold Kruse, Loganville, Wisconsin.
- 3) "Birds of Itasca State Park" by Donald K. Lewis. 1955. Available from the Minnesota Department of Conservation, Division of State Parks.
- 4) "Birds of Gooseberry Falls State Park, Minn." by Pershing B. Hofslund. No date given; compiled about 1956. Available from the Minnesota Department of Conservation, Division of State Parks.
- 5) "1961 and 1962 Bird Season in Northeastern Minnesota" by Janet C. Green. Available from the author, 1923 Greysolon Rd., Duluth, Minn. for 50c.
- 6) "A list of the Birds of Port Arthur-Fort William and Vicinity" by A. E. Allin. *The Flicker*, September, 1953.
- 7) "Survey of the Birds of Rice County, Minnesota" by Orwin R. Rustad. *The Flicker*, June, 1957
- 8) "Winter Bird Life as Seen by the Christmas Counts" by Janet C. Green. *The Flicker*, June, 1963.
- 9) "The Birds of Wadena County" by Richard Oehlenschlager. *The Flicker*, June, 1963.

d. When in doubt about the rarity of an observation, always make plenty of notes.

The publication of a sight observation in *The Loon* allows it to be available for those seeking to compile an accurate listing of birds of several states, the whole state, or just part of the state. However, its publication does not imply immediate inclusion on such a list. That is up to the compiler but if the above procedure is followed the observation will undoubtedly be accepted as valid. 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.

A FAMILY OF BARN OWLS

by Maynard Nelson, Earl Kopischke and Robert Chesness

During early September, 1963, we received a report of a family of "strange looking" owls on the Dan Bowman farm about eight miles north of Fairmont. This farm is in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3, Township 103, Range 30, Martin County, Minnesota.

Our first visit on September 10 revealed six young Barn Owls ranging in size from about one-third to one-half grown. These were grouped on the floor of a concrete silo. Old corn silage covered the floor.

No nest bowl was apparent and it is not known for sure that the owls were hatched there. A board measuring about 12" x 48" also provided a possible nest site near the roof of the silo. However, this was virtually in-

accessible to humans and we did not check it. An open doorway measuring about two by three feet in the roof of the silo provided the only entrance for the adult owls.

When humans approached, the owlets aligned themselves along the wall of the silo where they were easily photographed. (See front cover). Early defensive actions consisted of a loud and eerie hissing noise, a sound which was almost deafening as it resounded from the walls of the silo. This was accompanied by snapping of the bill and raising of the talons in a defensive action as an observer approached within inches of them.

As the owlets approached the age of flight, the hissing action declined

and a new type of defensive action came into play. This consisted of lowering the head so that the eyes pointed to the floor and then shaking the head slowly from side to side in a threatening manner.

Only when an observer was within inches of them did the owlets attempt to physically defend themselves. At such times, they struck out with large, sharp talons and clamped down on whatever was put before them. Birds held in hand also attempted to bite but this was a minor problem as compared to their sharp talons which easily penetrated cotton gloves.

On September 15 the young were banded by Ronald Huber. One of the adults was captured and killed in the barn by a dog on this same day. The only other observation of an adult was made by Mr. Bowman on September 30.

Shortly after the first adult was killed by the dog, we began "subsiding" the brood about three times a week with birds and small mammals found as road kills. On October 1, the youngest of the six was gone. No evidence of a carcass was apparent and examination of about 40 pellets failed to produce the leg band or other evidence of the missing bird. Possibly it had been stolen since numerous people stopped to see the brood. Mr. Bowman reported hearing of two men who supposedly had taken the bird. However, this report could not be verified.

On October 6 the youngest of the remaining five died and was partially eaten by the survivors. Starvation apparently was the cause of death since the carcass was emaciated. This indicated that our feeding rate of about

one pound of meat three times a week was inadequate. Apparently, the surviving adult had abandoned the young some time earlier and our contributions were the only food the young received after early October. At any rate, we increased the feeding schedule to six or seven times a week and no further mortality occurred.

By October 22 the remaining four began flying around in the silo and roosting on the silo doors 10 to 20 feet above the floor. One young was removed alive at this time for exhibition in the Division of Game and Fish Wildlife collection. This was considered justified in view of the owlet's dubious chances of survival without parental care and their attractiveness to the public.

By late October the remaining three young were strong fliers and moved freely in the silo. One owlet suddenly disappeared on about October 31, apparently having chosen to explore life in the outside world. The remaining two left sometime between November 8 and November 18* when we were gone from the area and feeding was discontinued.

Examination of about 40 pellets collected from the silo on October 2 indicated that the food provided by the adult owls consisted almost entirely of mice and shrews. At least 70 skulls, largely of mice, were counted as compared to evidence of only two small song birds.—*Division of Game and Fish, Game Research Center, Madelia, Minnesota.*

* *Editors Note:* On November 29, 1963 one Barn Owl was observed in the silo by Brother Theodore and Dean Honetschlager.

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Grantsburg, Wisconsin

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Paul Ekblad, Route 2, Grantsburg, Wisconsin

BIRDING BY CHANCE

by Charles Flugum

In going about my daily activities I sometimes see bird behavior that I seldom encounter on planned field trips. On Thanksgiving day in 1960 a Cooper's Hawk perched calmly on a post next to a No Hunting sign on my west line fence until I came within four or five rods with my tractor and plow. Taking off in typical accipiter flight the raptor went only a short distance before perching conspicuously again on another post. When I neared the fence on the next round the hawk was again perched on the original post and seemed as reluctant to leave as before. I now suspected that the hawk was feeding on something near by but could see no evidence of prey. On the third round I saw from a distance where the predator left the ground to assume its position on the post. When I turned at the end of the field I looked for and saw, nestled in the grass next to the woven fence, a hen pheasant minus its head and considerable flesh about its neck and shoulders. The hawk continued feeding, between my interruptions, for about two hours during which time it consumed nearly a third of its prey. After the hawk had left the area I stopped to examine the remains and, since there was still body heat, could only conclude that the pheasant had been taken alive.

In late October of 1961 I was out plowing on one of those miserable days when the rain was coming down in a borderline drizzle, not enough to send a fellow home but too much to let him stay in the field. A Ring-billed Gull came to join me in my discomfort, then another and another until there were thirty-eight gulls perched in a compact group on the wet plowing, all facing the wind, necks drawn in to make themselves as comfortable as gulls can be in such weather. When my tractor came near the group one of the gulls stretched out its neck, fluffed out its feathers and vigorously shook the moisture from its plumage. It then took to the air and appeared to be carrying some-

thing with its feet, a strange thing for a gull to be doing. When the others took off they all seemed to be carrying something. By this time, however, I was near enough to see that what they were carrying was dirt sticking to the underside of their feet. They were a strange-looking flock of gulls all flying with their laden feet hanging straight down.

On August 12, 1962 I left my combine in the field and started to walk home for dinner. Suddenly a Mourning Dove flushed from the stubble almost underfoot. I stopped to search for a nest and found the two eggs on the ground under a tuft of wrinkled barley. In cutting grain I had turned a corner a little too sharply leaving a small triangle of standing grain. During the interval between swathing and combining the dove had chosen to nest in this small, partially shaded spot. I had read reports of Mourning Doves nesting on the ground but this was my first witness of such a nesting. Strangely enough, the next summer I encountered another Mourning Dove nest on the ground not far from the first location, this time in standing grain. Was this perchance the same bird or one of the young that had grown up in such a nest and found nothing unusual in a ground nesting?

Every year there are Indigo Buntings nesting on or near my farm. For some reason they are attracted to my corn fields in early August. At this time I may encounter them there, feeding on the ground almost daily. I have known the song of the Indigo Bunting well for many years but on August 2, 1962 was the first time I had heard one of them sing while in flight. When disturbed near the edge of my corn field the bird took off and continued singing its familiar, strident song as it flew away over the field.

October 18, 1963 was a special day birdwise. On that day I saw my first rail in flight. There had been a light

rain during the night and the corn was rather wet for picking that morning but I was in the field with the machine. As I was going across a low place in the field a small rail burst into flight from almost under the corn picker. It flew across thirty rows of harvested corn to disappear among standing stalks. The bird's legs dangled, its head and neck extended awkwardly downward at quite an angle. The short, rounded wings beat furiously but the rail moved forward rather slowly for the effort expended. The bird looked yellowish in flight and I took it to be an immature Sora. Years ago I once saw a Sora run across a field from which the corn had been put into a silo. On the run a Sora is incredibly swift but across rows of mashed down cornstalks I suppose that flight, though much slower, is preferable.

As though the Sora was not enough to make my corn field seem a marsh bird haven, the next day an American Bittern took flight from among the corn stalks to alight again a short distance away and assume its characteristic, upright, camouflaging pose. I know that migrating birds may often be seen out of their normal habitat but a bittern in my corn field seemed a bit odd. My corn wasn't that wet.

On July 4, 1962 I had the good fortune to see, for the first time, that mysterious and rarely observed bird behavior called anting. As I looked out across the yard from our kitchen window I saw a Blue Jay acting rather strangely. Perched on the ground at the edge of our lawn the bird was preening its wing feathers very excitedly. Each time before stroking a feather with its beak it picked up something on the ground. Although I had never seen this peculiar bird ritual I had heard and read about it so the longer I watched the Blue Jay the more certain I was that it was picking up ants to stroke its feathers with. So entranced was the bird with its activity that at times it would stoop down to stroke the side of its head and neck against the ground.

When someone opened the door to step out onto the porch the Blue Jay

came to its senses and took off. I went out to look at the spot where the bird had been performing and found that an ant hill had been cut into by the rotary lawn mower and the ants were in confusion on the surface, perhaps trying to repair the damage to their abode. The Blue Jay did not return but a short time later a Robin came to watch the busy ants and, as if being seized by a similar spell, picked at the ground and stroked a feather but left after a few gestures. The disturbed ant hill must have been quite an attraction because when I looked out the window some time later, four Starlings were all enthusiastically anting and getting in each other's way.

When I think of the Townsend's Solitaire I get a mental picture of remote wilderness areas in the high mountains of the west with cool, splashing streams and spruce-covered canyons far off the beaten path. I have long wished that some day I might see and hear this bird that avoids civilization and loves to nest in lonely, shadowy places and render its enchanting song in the solitude of remote mountain recesses. I certainly didn't expect to see one of these mountain songsters perched in a boxelder tree near my garage here at Albert Lea, Minnesota. But that is exactly what happened on February 14, 1962. I was half way between my hen house and my porch with a pail of eggs when I became aware of a movement in the small boxelder tree and turned to stare in disbelief at the slim, long-tailed, gray bird with a conspicuous light patch in the middle of its darker wing.

At first I thought it was a Mockingbird and wondered what that celebrated southerner was doing in my yard in February. Then I noticed the rounded, thrush-like head, the short beak and large, placid eye accentuated by the light area around it. This was no Mockingbird. After a couple of minutes the bird flew leisurely to the top of a walnut tree near our house where it remained long enough for me to watch it through binoculars from my den window and compare it with illustra-

tions in the Audubon Bird Guide and Birds of America.

There had been reports of Townsend's Solitaires being seen in the Twin Cities and even in Albert Lea but I had taken these reports with a grain of salt. Now that I had seen the bird myself, would other birders accept my sight record? The story of this bird, however, did not end with my seeing it. By the first days of March a Townsend's Solitaire had made itself at home at 1510 Sunset St. where it invariably roosted in a small shrub on the front lawn and fed on the fruit of the ivy gracing the walls of May-

belle Thompson's house. Mrs. Thompson, who by the way is secretary of the Albert Lea Audubon Society, says that the bird sometimes uttered snatches of song. Audubonites and others stopped by to see the solitaire which would remain perched in its chosen shrub unless someone stepped out of their car. The solitaire remained at the Thompson home until Good Friday, April 20th. If this was the same bird, and we feel certain that it was, it must have had a propensity for moving on holidays. Arriving on St. Valentine's Day and leaving on Good Friday. *Route #1, Albert Lea, Minnesota.*

THE WINTER SEASON

by Ronald L. Huber

Weather: December temperatures ran up and down the thermometer like a roller-coaster. A few days of miserable, cold weather and then, suddenly, a few days of much warmer than usual weather. January, on the whole, was much warmer than normal, with the mercury pushing up into the 40-degree range on numerous occasions, dropping only for a brief cold spell now and then. February was generally mild with a few record-breaking days in the 50-degree temperature range. The few periods of snowfall were abrupt and heavy. For most of the winter, people in the Twin Cities looked at brownish-green lawns.

General considerations: So warm was the weather that a Duluth newspaper clipping showed a picture of a butterfly that had emerged one warm sunny day. Although the picture was not very clear, it appeared to be one of the Fritillaries. Mrs. Goranson reported that the Elk herd has increased in the Red Lake area, as reported by Conservation Department personnel up there. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harms have had moonlight mammal-watching at their home overlooking the Minnesota Valley in South Minneapolis. Meat scraps that they throw out at dusk have brought Raccoons, Spotted Skunk, Red and Gray Foxes to visit them. Identifications were aided by a back-yard floodlight.

LOONS AND GREBES:

Red-necked Grebe: Jan 4, Two Harbors,

Lake Co., 1 bird in winter plumage; Gerald Church. Feb. 15, Janet Green and others saw what was presumably the same bird, in the same bay.

Horned Grebe: Dec 6, Ramsey Co., Mpls Audubon Society; Dec 12 and 15, Duluth, Jan Green; Jan 12 and 26, Two Harbors, Dr Church; Feb 15, mouth of Encampment River, Lake Co., Jan Green and others; all birds were in winter plumage.

Pied-billed Grebe: Jan 4, Winona, Avifaunal Club, Jan 18, NSP Blackdog Plant, Dakota Co., R. B. Janssen.

HERONS:

Great Blue Heron: Jan 4, Winona, Avifaunal Club.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS:

Whistling Swan: Feb 9, Reads Landing, Wabasha Co., 1 photographed by the Goldbergs; Feb 16, near Wabasha 1 seen by Ken Krumm, same bird?

Canada Goose: Wintering as usual at Rochester and a few other areas in Southeastern Minnesota; most interesting report was 7 seen on Feb 15, Shotley, Beltrami Co., R. Grant and Tom Jegla.

Blue-Snow Goose: Last fall migrants seen Dec. 16, at Lac Qui Parle Refuge. One Blue Goose wintering as usual at Rochester.

Pintail: Jan 4 and Feb 1, Winona, Avifaunal Club.

Green-winged Teal: Jan 4 and Feb 1, Winona, Avifaunal Club.

American Widgeon: Dec 11, Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society; Feb 1, Winona, Avifaunal Club.
Ring-necked Duck: Dec 12, Duluth, Janet Green.

Canvasback: Jan 4, Red Wing, Goodhue Co., Avifaunal Club.

Lesser Scaup: Dec 3, Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society; Dec 14, Ramsey Co., Bill Litkey; Dec 29, Duluth, L. T. Magnus.

Oldsquaw: Usual flocks reported all winter at various points along North Shore of Lake Superior.

Harlequin Duck: Jan 6, Two Harbors, Lake Co., 1 male seen, Dr. Church. (See Notes of Interest).

White-winged Scoter: Jan Green reports that from 4 to 7 immatures present at Two Harbors, Lake Co., up until Dec 22; One immature seen there on Jan 2, Jan 18, and Feb 15, probably all sightings of same bird; Feb 15, Good Harbor Bay, Cook Co., two seen, P. B. Hofslund and others; Feb 16, Tofte, Cook Co., two seen, R. Grant and Tom Jegla. (same as Feb 15 birds)

Surf Scoter: Jan 18-19, Two Harbors, Lake Co., 1 immature, Jan Green, Avifaunal Club.

Ruddy Duck: Jan 4, Winona, Avifaunal Club.

Hooded Merganser: Dec 11, Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society; several wintering at Rochester, John Feehan.

VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES:
Turkey Vulture: Jan 5, Whitewater Refuge, Winona Co., 2 seen, John Feehan. Very few winter records for Minnesota.

Goshawk: Janet Green reports that in Northeastern Minnesota, they were present "all winter...in greater numbers than usual." Reports from elsewhere are as follows:

Nov. 25, Ramsey Co., R. B. Janssen
Dec 1, Ramsey Co., A. C. Rosenwinkel
Dec 27, Ramsey Co., Eliz. Campbell
Dec 28, Hennepin Co., Mrs. Ed Harms
Dec 28, Dakota Co., A. C. Rosenwinkel
Dec 29, Anoka Co., Avifaunal Club
Dec 29, Winona Co., Grace Dahm
Jan 6, Dakota Co., R. B. Janssen
Jan 6, Goodhue Co., R. B. Janssen
Jan 11, Anoka Co., R. B. Janssen
Jan 12, Ramsey Co., Eliz. Campbell
Jan 17, Anoka Co., Bill Litkey
Jan 17, Ramsey Co., Bill Litkey

Jan 17, Chisago Co., Bill Litkey
Feb 1, Olmsted Co., R. B. Janssen
Feb 2, Fillmore Co., John Feehan
Feb 13, Hennepin Co., Mpls Aud. Soc.
Mar 1, Aitkin Co., the Goldbergs

Red-tailed Hawk: Fewer numbers than usual this winter. Most interesting report was a melanistic individual with a red tail seen Jan 21 in Anoka Co., by Mrs. Joul. Melanism is virtually unknown in the eastern race, so this individual is probably referable to the western race, *Buteo jamaicensis calurus*, and is probably the first winter record for our state for that race.

Rough-legged Hawk: Reported from Big Stone, Stevens, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and St. Louis Counties. Largest concentration was in St. Louis Co., between Sax and Zim, where 17 were seen on a single ten-mile roadside count, Jan Green et al.

Golden Eagle: Jan 11, Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka Co., Brother Theodore; Feb 6, Minnesota City, Winona Co., 1 imm seen, Grace Gordon; Feb 9, Forestville, Fillmore Co., John Feehan.

Bald Eagle: Dec 7, Homer, Winona Co., 1 ad, Alton Shira; Dec 17, Beaver Bay, Lake Co., 1 ad, *vide* Jan Green; Jan 5-12, Encampment Forest, Lake Co., 1 ad, Myrtle Penner; Jan 18, Dakota Co., 2 ad, 1 imm, A. C. Rosenwinkel; Feb 8, Dakota Co., 1 ad, A. C. Rosenwinkel; Feb 11, Cass Co., 1 ad, John Mathisen; Feb 25, Mankato, Blue Earth Co., 1 ad, Earl Kopischke; all winter, Reads Landing, Wabasha Co., with high counts of 31 adults on Jan 4 and again Feb 1, Avifaunal Club; only immatures reported there were 4 on Feb 8, Grace Dahm and 2 on Mar 8, Jane Olyphant.

Marsh Hawk: Wintering in reduced numbers for the past two winters. Reported this winter from Dakota, Stevens and St. Louis Counties, the latter records apparently the first winter records from that area (Dec 30, Duluth, L. T. Magnus and Jan 18, Sax, Jan Green).

Gyrfalcon: Jan 15, French River, St. Louis Co., a gray-phase bird was seen by Robert Widmeier; perhaps a Note of Interest will appear in a future issue. This is one of the rarest birds

ever recorded within the boundaries of the coterminal United States.

Pigeon Hawk: Dec 28, Hibbing, St. Louis Co., Harriet Micensky.

Sparrow Hawk: Wintering in reduced numbers. Reported from Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, Winona Counties and "SE Minn (John Feehan)."

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH GULLS:

Spruce Grouse: Jan 4, Carp, Lake-of-the-Woods Co., 1 male collected, Bert Anderson; Feb. 16, Isabella, Lake Co., 1 female seen picking gravel, R. Grant and Tom Jegla.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: all winter throughout rural Hibbing, St. Louis Co., Harriet Micensky and Mrs. McCracken; Jan 19, near Meadowlands, St. Louis Co., Avifaunal Club; Feb 1, Washkish, Beltrami Co., R. Grant and Tom Jegla; Feb 19, Blackduck, Beltrami Co., Mabel Goranson.

Chukar: Feb 29, Ely, St. Louis Co., 7 seen, Brother Theodore.

Gray Partridge: Feb 1, Roseau, Kittson Counties, small flock in each county R. Grant and Tom Jegla; Feb 4 through 11, Dakota Co., Mpls Audubon Society.

Killdeer: Jan 4, Feb 1, Winona, Avifaunal Club.

Ring-billed Gull: Dec 14, Blackdog NSP plant, Dakota Co., Robert Jansen.

Iceland Gull: all winter, one first year bird in vicinity of Talmadge, French and Knife Rivers along North Shore of Lake Superior, seen by many observers, photographed at distance of 20 feet, first arrived Dec 15, seen thru March; One second year bird seen at Two Harbors dump, Lake Co., Dec 15, Jan Green.

Glaucous Gull: all winter, several individuals, various plumages at scattered points along North Shore of Lake Superior, from Duluth to Grand Marais.

MOURNING DOVE THROUGH WOODPECKERS:

Mourning Dove: Small numbers but widely scattered; reported from Kandiyohi, Traverse, Wright, Hennepin, Winona and Fillmore Counties.

Screech Owl: all winter, Stillwater, Washington Co., 1 red phase, D. Honetschlager; Feb 8, Minneapolis, 1 calling, Avifaunal Club; Feb 28, Morris,

Stevens Co., 1 red phase, R. Briggs *vide* R. Grant; Feb 28, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co., Mpls Audubon Society. **Great Horned Owl:** Nov 15, Harrison Township, Kandiyohi Co., a very white individual, possibly *subarcticus*, was collected and sent to the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. In the Fall Report, I listed three possible reports of *subarcticus*, only one of which (Olyphant) seemed reasonably certain. Now, however, after seeing photographs of her bird, there is the possibility that it was *scalariventris*. Many specimens in many museums stand incorrectly under the name *subarcticus* when they are actually *scalariventris*. The differences are subtle and intergrades occur. I refer the reader to the Royal Ontario Museum, Life Sciences Division, Contribution 54, "On an Unnamed Population of the Great Horned Owl," by L. L. Snyder, 1961. **Snowy Owl:** Reported south into Iowa this winter. The invasion in Minnesota involved the following counties in approximately the numbers indicated: Hennepin 13, Ramsey 4, Winona 1, Wabasha 1, Blue Earth 1, Watonwan 1, Stevens 1, Wilkin 12, Sherburne 1, Mille Lacs 1, Morrison 1, Becker 1, Roseau 1, St. Louis 21, Lake 3, Cook 2, Goodhue 1 and Chisago 1. Largest concentrations were in St. Louis Co., between Sax and Zim, where 7 were seen on a ten-mile roadside count, and south of Breckenridge, Wilkin Co., where 12-13 were seen hunting mice in a single field on March 8.

Hawk-Owl: early Nov, Warroad area, Lake-of-the-Woods Co., *vide* James Ruos; Jan 3, Washkish, Beltrami Co., 1 collected, Bert Anderson; Feb 1, Washkish, Beltrami Co., R. Grant; Feb 1, Roseau Co., R. Grant; Mar 1, Aitkin Co., the Goldbergs; Feb 12, Ely, St. Louis Co., Professor Earl Rosenwinkel; Oct thru March, 11 observations involving a total of 7 to 12 birds, *vide* Jan Green, St. Louis Co.

Barred Owl: Far more reports than usual this winter; reported from Lake-of-the-Woods, Beltrami, Cook, Hennepin, Ramsey, Goodhue, Winona, Olmsted and Fillmore Counties.

Great Gray Owl: Nov 2, Cook Co., Helen Hoover; Jan 5, Washkish, Beltrami Co., 1 collected, Bert Anderson; Jan 20, Canyon, St. Louis Co., J. W. Gaw-

boy; Feb 21-23, Central Lakes, St. Louis Co., Nels Hervi, et al.

Long-eared Owl: Dec 15, Rochester, 1 found dead, John Feehan; mid-Jan thru Feb, Rochester, 1 wintering, many observers; Feb 18, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co., two newly arrived, Brother Theodore; Mar 8, Minneapolis, heard calling, Mpls Audubon Society.

Short-eared Owl: Jan 18, Traverse Co., two seen, R. Grant.

Boreal Owl: Feb. 14, Duluth, one found dead, *vide* Jan Green.

Saw-whet Owl: Mar 7, Lake DeMontreville, Washington Co., 1 calling from 9:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., Jane Olyphant.

Belted Kingfisher: One all winter in west Minneapolis, Gloria Peleaux.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: Dec 21, Willmar, Kandiyohi Co., 3 on Christmas count; Feb 1, Cokato, Wright Co., Erma Christopher.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Jan 4, Frontenac, Goodhue Co., Brother Theodore; Jan 12, Martin Lake, Anoka Co., 4 seen, Lucia Johnson; Feb 14, Coon Lake, Anoka Co., Mpls Audubon Society.

HORNED LARK THRU SHRIKE:

Horned Lark: A few wintered in southeastern part of state; first migrants were Jan 15, Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society and Jan 18, Traverse Co., R. Grant; by Feb 1, common throughout most of open areas of state.

Gray Jay: Usual reports from Roseau (R. Grant), Lake-of-the-Woods (B. Anderson), Beltrami (M. Goranson), St. Louis-Lake-Cook (J. Green, et al) and Cass (Mrs. E. A. Schmid) Counties

Black-billed Magpie: Jan 23, 12 mi N. Virginia, St. Louis Co., Mrs. A. J. Wermerskirchen; Feb 1, Beltrami, Kittson, Marshall Co.'s R. Grant.

Common Raven: Common all winter in northern third of state.

Boreal Chickadee: Usual reports from Lake-of-the-Woods, Beltrami, St. Louis, Cook and Cass Counties.

Tufted Titmouse: Usual numbers wintering throughout southeastern Minnesota; most interesting reports were 2 on Willmar Christmas count and one all winter at Green Lake, Kandiyohi Co., R. A. Thompson.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Cass, Stearns, Hennepin, Anoka, Ramsey, Washing-

ton, Olmsted, Winona Counties and NE Minnesota, "not common (Jan Green)." None reported from western part of state.

Winter Wren: Feb 8, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co., Avifaunal Club.

Brown Thrasher: one all winter at feeder of Mrs. Ed Harms, Mpls and V. F. Ogren, Willmar, Kandiyohi Co.

Robin: Much scarcer than usual this winter; reported from St. Louis (Duluth, Hibbing), Cass (Walker), Kandiyohi (Willmar), Ramsey (St. Paul), Blue Earth (Vernon Center) and Rice (Northfield) Counties, one bird in each case.

Bohemian Waxwing: Scarce this winter; one flock of about 65 wintering in Duluth; Dec 18, small flock in St. Paul, A. C. Rosenwinkel; Dec 26, Dec 31, two seen in Washington Co., D. Honetschlager; Jan 16, Minneapolis, about 50, Mpls Audubon Society; Jan 21, Ramsey Co., Mpls Audubon Society; Jan 31, Pickwick, Winona Co., about 20, *vide* Grace Dahm; scattered along North Shore of Lake Superior ("not common") *vide* Jan Green. See Christmas counts.

Cedar Waxwing: Scarce this winter; one small group arrived in St. Paul about mid-Feb, A. C. Rosenwinkel; erratic all winter at feeder of Mrs. Ed Harms, Minneapolis; small group Mar 1, Washington Co., D. Honetschlager; Jan 31 thru Mar 3, small flocks in Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society; Jan 9-23, Duluth, A. K. Arndt, Lyle Patterson. See Christmas count.

Northern Shrike: Scattered individuals also reported from Roseau, Lake-of-the-Woods, Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Chisago, Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota, Winona and Stevens Counties.

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING:

Eastern Meadowlark: Jan 4, Hastings Dakota Co., R. Huber; Jan 18, Potsdam, Olmsted Co., John Feehan.

Western Meadowlark: Jan 1, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co., Brother Theodore; Jan 14-20, Minneapolis, 4-5 seen, Mpls Audubon Society; Mar 1, Twin Cities, common, singing, many observers.

Evening Grosbeak: Except for one or two large flocks, occurred mostly as small groups and scattered individuals in Cass, St. Louis, Stearns, Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Washington, Winona,

Olmsted, Kandiyohi, Beltrami, Lake-of-the-Woods Counties. See Christmas counts.

Pine Grosbeak: Fewer numbers than usual, reported only from northernmost parts of state: Beltrami, Lake-of-the-Woods, Cass, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook Counties. In NE Minn, "not common" *vide* Jan Green, in NW Minn, reasonably common, Goranson, Grant, Avifaunal Club.

Common Redpoll: Several large flocks reported on some Christmas counts, otherwise occurring in small to medium flocks in Cass, Clay, Lake-of-the-Woods, Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Pine, Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin, Washington, Ramsey, Dakota, Winona, Olmsted, Kandiyohi, Pipestone, Stevens and Traverse Counties—virtually the whole state.

Hoary Redpoll: Dec 9 thru Feb 21, Duluth, A. K. Arndt; Dec 28, Duluth, Avifaunal Club; early Jan, Verdi, Pipestone Co., 1 collected, Bert Anderson; Jan 5, Morris, Stevens Co., R. Grant; Jan 18, Traverse Co., R. Grant; Feb 15, Washkish, Beltrami Co., R. Grant; Feb 15 Grand Marais, Cook Co., Jan Green, et al; Feb 16, Tofte, Cook Co., R. Grant and Tom Jegla; far more reports than usual. See also Christmas counts.

Pine Siskin: Scattered singles and small groups reported from St. Louis, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Olmsted, Stearns, Cass, Clay and Kandiyohi Counties.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Feb 21, Bass Ponds, Hennepin Co., 1 adult male seen by Bill Litkey; very few winter records for Minnesota.

Red Crossbill: More widely scattered over state than usual, but in small numbers. Reported from Cook, St. Louis, Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Kandiyohi and Clay Counties; singles scattered along North Shore of Lake Superior in Feb, *vide* Jan Green.

White-winged Crossbill: Almost entirely absent this winter; see Christmas counts.

Oregon Junco: Dec 3, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co., Mrs. Eck; Dec 10-15, Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society; Dec 28, Dakota Co., Frank Kelley; most of winter, Minneapolis, feeder of Mrs. Ed Harms; Jan 5, Stevens Co., R.

Grant; Jan 12, Willmar, Kandiyohi Co., at feeder, O. Pearson; most of Feb, Washington Co., D. Honetschlager. See also Christmas counts.

Harris' Sparrow: Several near Cedar, Anoka Co., on Christmas count; Dec 31, Luverne, Rock Co., 3 collected, Bert Anderson; one even wintered at Ft. William, Ontario (see Canadian Lakehead report). See also Notes of Interest. Very few winter records for our state.

White-crowned Sparrow: Jan 1, Rochester, Olmsted Co., wintering bird banded by Carl M. Johnson; Jan 1, Barden, Scott Co., 1 imm, Avifaunal Club; Feb 11, Anoka, Anoka Co., 1 imm, Lucia Johnson; Mar 7, Minneapolis, 2 imm at feeder of Mrs. Ed Harms *vide* R. B. Janssen; to the best of my knowledge, this is the first winter that this species has been recorded here.

White-throated Sparrow: Dec 6 daily to Jan 19, Minneapolis, Mpls Audubon Society; Dec 22, Green Lake, Kandiyohi Co., feeder of R. A. Thompson; Dec 28, May Township, Washington Co., D. Honetschlager; Nov 20 thru Dec 1, Minneapolis, Mrs. Ed Harms; all winter, Rochester, *vide* John Feehan; Feb 26, Winona, 2 at feeder, Eunice Christenson. See also Christmas count.

Fox Sparrow: One wintering until Jan 1 at Rochester *vide* John Feehan; Feb 9, Frontenac, Goodhue Co., R. Huber; Dec 3 thru Feb 6, Schroeder, Cook Co., at feeder, Marie Afreith.

Lapland Longspur: Jan 4, Red Wing, Goodhue Co., R. Huber; Jan 18, Traverse Co., R. Grant; Feb 1, Altura, Winona Co., Avifaunal Club. See also Christmas count.

Snow Bunting: Reported from Roseau, Beltrami, Lake-of-the-Woods, St. Louis, Hubbard, Anoka, Washington, Goodhue and Wabasha Counties, mostly in small numbers. Only large flocks seen were "100" in Washington Co. (D. Hornetschlager), "several hundred" in Goodhue Co., (J. Feehan) and flocks "up to 100" in Roseau and Lake-of-the-Woods Co.'s (R. Grant); Absent along North Shore of Lake Superior, but seen inland in NE Minnesota (Jan Green); see also Christmas count.

SUMMARY: Certainly, during the six years I have spent on serious birding, there has not been a winter to compare

with this one. Unseasonably warm weather made it very pleasurable to go afield birding, and both feeders and wildness had plenty to offer in unusual wintering species. The Snowy Owl and Goshawk invasions are always of interest and the Gyrfalcon was, of course, spectacular. But most striking was the general over-wintering of many species which usually winter farther south: Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, puddle ducks, Winter Wren, and most interesting, 4 different sparrows. This may have been due mostly to the mild weather, but it must have been, in part, attributed to the increasing number of conscientious observers who submit their reports regu-

larly. In addition to the "old faithfuls" we now hear from John Feehan in the Rochester area and Frances Nubel, who compiles the Mpls Audubon Society observations. Ben Thoma has been doing a good job in the Willmar area, especially in editing the *Pelican*. We now lack regular reports only from the St. Cloud area, the Albert Lea-Mankato-Faimont-Owatonna area and the Worthington-Pipestone-Marshall-Madison area. There is no better way to learn about our Minnesota bird-life than a widespread network of reliable observers. Please send me your spring observations as close to June first as possible.—Room 480, State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota.

THE CANADIAN LAKEHEAD

by A. E. Allin

The autumn of 1963 was very mild; the mean temperature for October-November was higher than ever recorded except for 1931. The weather remained mild for the first few days of December but then turned very cold and the mean temperature for the month was only 6.7° compared with a 30-year average of 13.5°. January, however, was very mild with a mean temperature of 14.4° which is 7.2° above normal. February's mean temperature of 12.3° was 2.4° above normal. February 24 was the coldest day of the winter with a minimal temperature of -25°; five days later it was a record 48°. Snowfall for December, January, and February was 12.2", 15.6", and 6.0", a total of 33.8" for the winter. The 30-year average is 64.6".

In view of the generally mild weather and despite the severe cold of December, one might have expected more birds than usual to linger at the Canadian Lakehead but such was not the case. Generally, birding has been very poor, with limited numbers of the usual winter birds and a few strays being seen. Possibly this was related to available food. There was a very poor crop of berries on the Mountain Ash and these were soon eaten by Robins and Starlings. This may well explain the small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks present, the scarcity of wintering Robins, and the

absence of Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches. An excellent crop of fruit on the trees of the ornamental apples provided the only available food for the fruit-eaters. There seemed to be a fair crop of cones on the evergreens but they failed to attract many winter visitors. The relatively light snowfall left weeds exposed and did permit flocks of Common Redpolls to winter here. The severe cold of December resulted in the freezing of Thunder Bay and the local streams, driving out the majority of ducks. They failed to return to the area when subsequent mild weather and strong, favorable winds, freed the Bay of ice in mid-February. This was in marked contrast to a year ago when practically all of Lake Superior was covered with ice

Geese, Ducks, and Mergansers: Flocks of 20 and 8 Canada Geese were reported by two separate observers on January 8. A Mallard is again wintering at Dorion Fish Hatchery. Common Goldeneyes are scarce but we saw 5 on the Kaministiquia River on February 23. On February 1, we identified a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on the Nipigon River. This is our first winter record for this species.

Hawks: We saw an immature Goshawk at the Seaway Terminal on December 15. The bird was perched on a hydro pole at the base of which a Common Raven was feeding on a fresh-

ly killed Rock Dove. Another Goshawk was recorded on December 21, outside Port Arthur. At least one Pigeon Hawk is again wintering at the Lakehead. Individuals were reported on five occasions between December 31 and January 25. On three of these occasions the falcon was feeding on House Sparrows.

Grouse and Partridge: Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse are exceptionally scarce. A flock of Gray Partridge was seen in Port Arthur on December 21 and later Mrs. W. P. Hogarth saw a flock in Fort William. Single birds have been reported on several occasions in Neebing Township where they were introduced in the mid-thirties.

Gulls to Owls: An amazing 537 Herring Gulls were recorded on the Christmas Census, December 21. Few have been reported subsequently although a few were seen over Port Arthur on February 23. Mourning Doves are again wintering at the Lakehead. Mrs. Knowles saw two feeding on Rosslyn Road on January 8. We had reports of six Snowy Owls in December and January but none subsequently. Four Great Horned Owls were seen in early February. The Allins saw a Hawk-Owl in Paipoonge Township on December 21. The Canadian Press carried a report of a Snowy Owl attacking a Chihuahua and its mistress. A Great Horned Owl killed one of W. Hartley's cats outside Fort William and a "large owl" carried off a worker's hat in the local area.

Jays to Crows: Gray Jays are rather uncommon but Blue Jays are very common. The 62 seen on the Christmas Census greatly exceeded the average. In 1947 we saw only two although 23 species and 2770 individuals were seen on that census. Common Ravens are very common. Daily they are seen soaring about the massive grain elevators, apt substitutes for their primeval cliffs. Common Crows are rarely reported, but we saw 6 in Port Arthur on January 3 and 30 on January 18.

Chickadees to Thrushes: Black-capped Chickadees are very common. A record 174 were seen on the census. Only the occasional Boreal Chickadee frequents local feeders. A few Red-

breasted Nuthatches are wintering here. White-breasted Nuthatches have been reported at three feeders. We saw a Brown Creeper at a Chippewa Park feeding station on February 9, one of the few winter records for this species. A Robin was seen feeding on crabapples in Neebing Township on December 8. The only other reports were those of a male seen repeatedly in Fort William the week of February 8.

Waxwings to Starlings: A flock of Bohemian Waxwings appeared on October 21 and small flocks have been seen on at least 5 subsequent occasions. Northern Shrikes have been conspicuously absent. Fewer Starlings are present than usual.

Grosbeaks to Snow Buntings: Evening Grosbeaks have been fairly common, although operators of feeders report fewer than usual. On December 17 we observed a few eating ornamental apples but generally they appear to be feeding on the keys of the Manitoba Maple. Pine Grosbeaks however are very scarce probably due to the almost complete lack of Mountain Ash berries. Their principal food seems to have been the various species of ornamental crabapples. On occasion, they have been seen feeding along railroad tracks. Pine Siskins have been scarce but numerous flocks of Common Redpolls have been reported.

A Slate-colored Junco has been reported at one feeder. On December 21, two Tree Sparrows were seen at another feeding station. This is an uncommon winter resident. Most unusual was a **Harris' Sparrow** which we saw at a Neebing Township feeder. An immature of the year it had frequented two feeding stations in that area for at least two weeks. It was still present 3 weeks later. There are four winter records for Harris' Sparrow in Southern Ontario. There have been few reports this winter of Snow Buntings; a flock was seen near Pigeon River on February 16.

The annual Christmas Census was taken on December 21 by members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club, travelling 339 miles by car, and 16 on foot, in 16 parties. 3356 birds.

(Continued on page 20)

1963 CHRISTMAS COUNT IN MINNESOTA

by Janet C. Green

The most noteworthy result of the 1963 Christmas Count was the all-time high in total number of species and individuals seen. The same areas, 18 in number, were covered as in the 1961 and 1962 counts, but 5-8,000 more birds were counted than in those years and three more species were recorded than in 1961 when the previous high was set. Some of these larger totals may reflect more participation in the counts, but the relatively mild and open late fall and early winter are also probably responsible. The high totals were obtained in spite of the fact that the counts were taken during the two coldest periods of the month, often in sub-zero temperatures. Four areas (Excelsior, NE Suburban St. Paul, Winona and Rochester) produced totals of 35 species or more — the highest being the 42 species seen in Excelsior.

Since the three regularly most common species (Starling, House Sparrow and Black-capped Chickadee) were present in normal or slightly below normal numbers this year, the reasons for the high totals must lie elsewhere. And they can be found in the totals for waterfowl and ground-feeding sparrows. Eight species of ducks were seen that are not regularly reported on the Christmas Census (the average for non-regular ducks over the past five years is six) and the totals for Canada Geese and Mallards were higher than in the last three years though Common Goldeneyes remained about the same. There were six species of sparrows

seen that are not regularly reported (the five year average is four) and one of these, the White-crowned Sparrow, had never been reported before. Of the regular ground-feeding sparrows, Common Redpolls, Slate-colored Juncos and Snow Buntings were present in all-time high numbers with juncos breaking their previous high of last year by 2,000. However, the totals for Tree Sparrows and American Goldfinches were about average and were less than last year. Another indication of the openness of the country was the all-time highs for Horned Larks, Common Crows and Lapland Longspurs.

The picture for the invading northern finches was also interesting. Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were above average in number and more widespread in the southern part of the state but below average in the north. Pine Siskins were present in average numbers and well below the all-time high of last year. Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings were below normal in numbers, especially in the north where they are most often found, probably reflecting the failure of the mountain-ash berry crop.

Finally, the numbers of two other species seem significant. Ruffed Grouse reached an all-time low in numbers for the last 14 years of Christmas Counts. Northern Shrikes, which were at a very low number last year, were up to about average this year. 1923 *Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55812.*

	HIBBING	DULUTH	WALKER	MOORHEAD	WILLMAR	ST. CLOUD	ANOKA	CEDAR CREEK	EXCELSIOR	MPLS. NORTH	ST. PAUL SOUTH	ST. PAUL NORTH	NE SUBURBAN ST. PAUL	AFTON	PLAINVIEW	WINONA	ROCHESTER	NORTHFIELD	TOTAL
Canada Goose												32	25				6000		6057
Blue Goose																	1		1
Mallard						1			182	2	130	11	1	4	22	84	300	14	751
Black Duck									1							2	4		7
Pintail																3			3
Green-winged Teal																1			1
Wood Duck																	2		2
Ring-necked Duck												1							1
Canvasback																1			1
Lesser Scaup												1							1
Common Goldeneye	50					300	18		3	42	6	20		207			31		675
Bufflehead	3																		3
Hooded Merganser																	2		2
Common Merganser	11																		11
Red-breasted Merganser	3																		3
Osprey										1		2				2			5
Sharp-shinned Hawk															1				1
Red-tailed Hawk	2								3		3	1	2	1	1	9	1	3	26
Rough-legged Hawk								1			2	1			2	2		1	9
Golden Eagle															2				2
Bald Eagle														1	1	4			6
Marsh Hawk									1										1
Peregrine Falcon													1						1
Pipit Hawk	1																		1
Sparrow Hawk									5	1	2			1			2	1	12
Ruffed Grouse		1	2			2						1	1						7
Sharp-tailed Grouse	3																		3
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	1	26	9	13	12	73	81	108	38	26	184	3	8			3	3	599
American Coot																8	1		9
Killdeer													2			2			4
Common Snipe									3				6		2	3	1	2	17
Glaucous Gull	1																		1
Herring Gull	138																		138
Mourning Dove									20		1				13	2		1	37
Screech Owl													1						1
Great Horned Owl				1					1				1						3
Snowy Owl	5																		5
Barred Owl									1				1			3			5
Belted Kingfisher															3	3	1		7
Yellow-shafted Flicker					3													1	4
Pileated Woodpecker			2	1		2		2	7				1	2		2		1	20
Red-bellied Woodpecker					2				9		1		18		8	21	5	3	67
Red-headed Woodpecker													2						2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1															1

MARCH, 1964

Hairy Woodpecker	2	4	15	3	9	6	5	37	4	3	7	31	7	5	22	17	4	181	
Downy Woodpecker	3	8	17	4	16	8	2	6	63	7	5	12	68	7	3	39	44	20	332
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker						1													1
3-toed Woodpecker sp.						1													1
Horned Lark			2	13					37	9	9		13		8	17		10	118
Gray Jay			1																1
Blue Jay	13	2	21	2	7	18	10	79	66	29	6	12	209	11	24	97	44	11	661
Common Raven	10	5																	15
Common Crow					11	1	7	32	46	11	11	7	294	20	35	73	368	24	940
Black-capped Chickadee	35	46	48	5	45	23	8	76	197	49	7	36	241	55	39	161	142	10	1223
Boreal Chickadee	1		1																2
Tufted Titmouse				2	4			3			1	8			2	16	1		37
White-breasted Nuthatch	4		18	8	34	22		18	86	9	6	19	101	15	8	56	54	12	470
Red-breasted Nuthatch			7			45		2	2		2	1			2	1	4		66
Brown Creeper			3	1	1	3		2			1				1	4	2		18
Robin	1		1								1								4
Golden-crowned Kinglet			5					5											11
Bohemian Waxwing		90												45				12	147
Cedar Waxwing												1						6	7
Northern Shrike	1	2								3		1		1					8
Starling	73	378	17	59	65	18	1	5	576	106	85	12	94	110	33	368	185	145	2330
House Sparrow	322	618	43	767	115	256	30	321	1782	499	90	120	1351	412	275	1625		300	8926
Meadowlark sp.									1										1
Redwinged Blackbird									14					15	100	14			143
Rusty Blackbird									1				8					2	11
Brewer's Blackbird									2		4								6
Common Grackle									11		5		1						18
Cardinal				3	2	5	6	89	5	4	7	81	35	49	143	85	11		525
Evening Grosbeak	75	116	211	1		26		1	15				47		5	34	3		534
Purple Finch			2	8	1	1	50		122	7		30	22	4		15	34	6	302
Pine Grosbeak	106	4	17																127
Hoary Redpoll		7						2											9
Common Redpoll	2	286	97	2		60	50	354	142		50	2	1523	50					2618
Pine Siskin			2	21		6			29	30		2							90
American Goldfinch						12	90	7	393	21	6	16	108	165	52	10	16	50	946
Red Crossbill					30														30
White-winged Crossbill		2		1															3
Slate-colored Junco			1	19	62	66	700	406	749	201	75	220	439	157	120	386	199	152	3952
Oregon Junco									8	2	2	6	6	1			1		26
Tree Sparrow						1	1	168	244	92	100	64	395	25	41	552	95	75	1853
Harris' Sparrow								1											1
White-crowned Sparrow																		1	1
White-throated Sparrow													1				3		4
Fox Sparrow																	1		1
Song Sparrow										1									1
Lapland Longspur				100						100								50	250
Snow Bunting	60	133	150	565		6	2						324					300	1540
Total individuals	712	1926	684	1639	385	897	990	1566	5124	1250	655	672	5614	1353	863	3768	7671	1235	37004
Total species	17	25	24	23	16	25	15	20	42	22	27	31	39	23	28	36	35	33	90

CANADIAN LAKEHEAD

(cont. from p. 16)

of 24 species were identified including 1526 House Sparrows, 359 Rock Doves and 217 Starlings. Other species, and number seen, included: Goshawk 1; Gray Partridge 7; Herring Gull 537; Snowy Owl 2; Hawk-Owl 1; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Downy Woodpecker 9; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 62; Common Raven 113; Black-capped Chickadee 174; Boreal Chickadee 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Northern Shrike 1; Evening Grosbeak 156; Pine Grosbeak 22; Common Redpoll 94; Pine Siskin 6; Tree Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 42.

The number of species and individuals observed compares favorably with previous years though well below the 31 species counted in 1954 and 1962 and the 5505 individuals counted in 1958. The Goshawk had been seen only on the 1947 census, the Hawk-Owl in 1938, 1956, and 1962, and the Tree Sparrow in 1947 and 1960. The 113 Common Ravens had been exceeded on two occasions. We were surprised at the 537 Herring Gulls as they had been inconspicuous for some time; the majority were congregated in one small area of Port Arthur harbor. Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees were unusually abundant. Evening Grosbeaks have been exceeded in abundance only in 1963 when 204 were counted; Pine Grosbeaks however were the scarcest since 1945. No Common Crows, Robins, or ducks were identified. Altogether, it was a very successful census, despite the fact that no new species were added to our census list. The latter now totals 60 species; four additional species have been seen in the census period. Our nature diary dates back to March 1, 1921 when we recorded a Song Sparrow in Southern Ontario. That December we participated in our first Christmas Census which at the time was sponsored by Bird-Lore. Twenty-six groups reported to the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists' Club the results of the 1963 censuses taken in Ontario. 731 observers, reported 176,566 individuals of 133 species.

The winter months may have been lacking in outstanding observations but they provided an opportunity to

study records made and specimens collected throughout previous seasons. C. E. Garton reported a second local stand of Baked-apple Berry in a swamp near the mouth of the Black Sturgeon River. He also found a colony of Common Milkweed on Green Island, Lake Superior. His record of *Castilleja miniata*, a western species of Painted Cup, is new for Ontario. He also discovered *Viola novaeangliae*, once considered an eastern species of violet, in Thunder Bay District for the first time although he had previously found it in Quetico Park, Rainy River District.

Sometimes we are concerned that the efforts of conservationists meet with little success. However it is becoming evident that the need for such efforts is being realized by more and more people. The Advisory Board of the Lakehead Conservation Authority is more than hopeful that Cranberry Bay, one of our best marshes, will be purchased by the Authority and saved for multiple use by the public. We are equally hopeful of purchasing a parcel of land along the Kaministiquia River to be used as a Nature Trail. This area includes the only stand of Oak in the District. The Wild Plum reaches its northern limits in the same territory. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists' has collected more than \$20,000 to preserve stands of unusual wild flowers in the Bruce Peninsula on Lake Huron. There now seems to be a possibility of saving from builders' spoilation part of a large estate on Lake Ontario, the last marsh in the Toronto Metropolitan area. Benefactors have already contributed \$50,000 towards the project. The F.O.N. has every hope further donations of \$60,000 will permit the purchase of this property as well as final payments on the Bruce Peninsula project.

Last April, a Canadian newspaper supplement, Canadian Weekly, carried an account of the netting of Snow Buntings on Ile d'Orleans, Quebec Province, for sale as gourmet food in restaurants. This has been a custom carried on by *habitant* families for generations. The Snow Bunting is not protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act. To alter the Act would re-

quire the agreement of all Canadian Provinces and the United States. However Quebec could protect *les bruants des neiges* under its own game laws. This it has now done as it felt the wave of indignation which followed the publication of the above article. The Canadian Audubon Society naturally is pleased that the Snow Bunting is now protected, something they had vainly tried to accomplish for years. They had been unable to prove the species as a whole was threatened.

Further indication of increasing awareness that our natural resources must be protected has been seen recently in a stiffening attitude against mining in our parks. Although a majority of Provincial Ministers of Mines may favor this desecration, public opinion has finally been roused. The Federal Minister of Resources recently told the House of Commons that "harvesting of resources in National Parks was not consistent with the way in which the Parks should be maintained." The Minister of Mines for Ontario, in favor of mining in parks under certain circumstances, recently stated in the provincial legislature that he had been overruled by majority thinking of the Cabinet. The Fort William Daily Times-Journal opposed mining in our parks in their leading editorial of Feb

ruary 29, 1964. They aptly concluded their criticism as follows: "If steps are not taken now to preserve just a little of the unimpaired beauty which we inherited two or three centuries ago, there will be little left over for the generations to come. A mine, or mines, in Quetico Park for example would require roads and other avenues of transportation in quick order. This would be a big start toward the deterioration of the wonderful wilderness area we now have."

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the parent body, have consistently opposed opening parks to mining. We are grateful that our efforts, assisted by newspapers such as the Times-Journal and metropolitan dailies, especially the Toronto Globe and Mail, are now bearing fruit. Vigilance must never be relaxed. Mining interests have stated their intentions of yet opening parks to mining. One of their leaders has publicly stated "There is nothing so beautiful as a mine." The Minister of Lands and Forests of one Province believes conservations "dwell in the woolliest of atmospheres"!—*Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William, Ontario.*

NOTES OF INTEREST

FLYING SQUIRRELS FEEDING ON BIRCH SAP—While camping five miles north of Tofte, Cook Co., August 9-11, 1963, my daughters and I were able to watch a family of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and a variety of insects feeding on sap oozing from holes drilled by the sapsuckers in three small white birch trees by our camp site. About dusk on the first day we noticed a Northern Flying Squirrel run up one of the birches and begin to feed on the sap. Later the first flying squirrel was joined by three others, each one gliding down across the camp clearing to land with a gentle slap near the base of one of the birches, then scampering rapidly up to feed on the sap.

They continued coming and going from the birches until at least 11 p.m. and were present the next morning at 5 a.m., leaving in the gray light of dawn soon after the first sapsuckers and hummingbirds appeared. At times all three species were at the wide bands of sapsucker drillings at once and then one could estimate the dominance exerted by one species over another. The hummingbirds were repeatedly chased from holes by both sapsuckers and bees, the sapsuckers usually simply moving in with an angry chatter but the bees often pursuing a hummingbird for a few feet. Between the sapsuckers and the flying squirrels there seemed to exist an uneasy balance of power, each carefully avoiding the other during the few minutes, each evening and morn-

ing, when they were at the trees together. The hummingbirds sometimes fed within a few inches of the flying squirrels, but we observed no rivalry between them. *R. A. Grant, 111 E. 9th Street, Morris, Minnesota.*

* * *

LAKE COUNTY NESTING RECORDS—1962—(The following information was contained in a letter received from Mrs. Cottrille—Editor).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:

In 1962 my husband found the following Yellow-bellied nests:

- (1) June 19 — 4 eggs
- (2) June 20 — 4 eggs
- (3) July 3 — small young
- (4) July 8 — 3 eggs (possible renesting of No. 2)

He also found:

Bay-breasted Warbler:

- (1) June 23 — 5 eggs
- July 3 — 5 eggs hatched
- July 8 — nestings and parents photographed

Connecticut Warbler:

- (1) July 4 — 4 large young (nest photographed)
- July 5 — young fledged. Parents remained with them in vicinity several days

Cape May Warbler (found by me):

- (1) June 19 — nest building observed
- July 10 — 4 eggs still being incubated—male feeding female on nest
- (2) July 6 — 4 young fledging
- July 9 — 4 large young
- July 10 — young fledged while preparing to photograph

In addition 5 Tennessee Warbler nests and 1 Blackburnian Warbler nest were found. Except for the No. 3 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nest all the above nests were found in Lake County along County Road 16, T62N, R11W, Sec. 4 and 33. Nest No. 3 was found in section 13. *Mrs. Powell Cottrille, 6075 Brown's Lake Road, Jackson, Michigan.*

* * *

LAKE COUNTY NESTING RECORDS—1963 (Mrs. Cottrille very kindly submitted to me the following additional nesting records for 1963—Editor)

Bay-breasted Warbler:

- (1) June 19—4 eggs 5 feet from ground next to trunk in black spruce about 3 trees removed from previous year's nest.
- June 29—eggs hatched. Photographed July 2 (stills) and July 3 (movies)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:

- (1) June 20—4 eggs
- June 27—eggs hatched
- Photographed July 1 (movies and stills)

Tennessee Warbler:

- (1) June 20—4 young 24 hours old
- (2) June 22—young
- (3) June 23—Young just hatching
- (4) June 23—tiny young
- (5) June 24—Young

(We do not always count young in nest when weather is such that we do not want to keep parents off un-necessarily)

Lincoln Sparrow:

- (1) June 22—4 tiny young about 24 hours old.
- June 24—snake discovered by nest—2 nestlings missing.

Nestlings all gone by early morning on June 26 and male singing for the first time since we discovered the pair on the 21st.

Magnolia Warbler:

June 29—4 young just hatching. Nest 4 feet from ground near tip of branch of balsam. Photographed July 2.

Hermit Thrush:

June 27—3 eggs

All nests were again located in Lake County, T62N, R11W, Sec. 4 and 33. *Mrs. W. Powell Cottrille, 6075 Brown's Lake Road, Jackson, Michigan.*

* * *

PURPLE GALLINULE SPECIMEN FOUND IN MINNESOTA—A new bird species has now officially been added to the list of birds in Minnesota. The latest addition is a Purple Gallinule which was found dead by Mr. Ray Jasko near Toivola, St. Louis County, Minnesota on November 11, 1963. The specimen was sent to the Museum of Natural History by Mrs. John Micensky of Hibbing. Mr. Jasko found the specimen lying dead in an open field. Examination of the bird at the Museum revealed no signs of internal damage due to flying into an object or from being shot, thus the cause of death remains a mystery. The bird, an immature male, has been made into a skin and has been added to the research collection at the Museum for future reference.—*Bertin W. Anderson, Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

* * *

MELANISTIC BROAD-WINGED HAWKS—On September 21, 1963, Bob Janssen, Ray Glassel and I were enroute to Martin County, Minnesota, to check the progress of six nestling Barn Owls (see article elsewhere in this issue.) We were on highway 169 which follows the Minnesota River valley southward as far as Nicollet County. The high bluffs next to the highway are fairly well known to birders as hawk flight lanes during the fall. Shortly after entering Nicollet County, we noticed a "kettle" of Broad-winged Hawks circling and drifting southward along the bluffs. We got out to watch them and in three minutes we had counted 34 Broad-wings in two "kettles." The northernmost "kettle" contained about 15 Broad-wings, two of which were melanistic. The head and body were black above and below, the wings were black above but black with white linings below and the tails were normally marked above and below. Even had the tails not been normally banded, the characteristic shape of the Broad-wing would have served to identify the bird. None of us had even seen a melanistic one before. I recalled talking with Game Warden Martin Nelson of Ada, Minnesota during September of 1958 about birds of his area. At that time he mentioned having collected a melanistic Broad-wing "many years ago," which he sent to the late Dr. T. S. Roberts at the Museum of Natural History. At that time it was only the second one recorded for Minnesota. Other specimens have been reported from Iowa and Manitoba, but it seems that melanism is far less common in the Broad-wing than in any of the other common buteos of our area. Popular literature mentions that the tail-bands are usually obscured in the melanistic Broad-wing, and no mention is made of the light wing-linings. This latter character gives the melanistic Broad-wing the exact appearance of the Zone-tailed Hawk found in the extreme southwestern United States. *Ronald L. Huber, Room 480, State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota.*

* * *

OBSERVATIONS FROM MORRIS, STEVENS COUNTY—(The following information was received in a letter from Mr. Breen as a result of an inquiry sent to him—Editor).

Red-shafted Flicker. It was on September 26, 1963 that we saw the Red-shafted Flicker shortly after 5:00 p.m. My wife called my attention to the

different color of one of a pair of flickers about 25 or 30 feet from the window. The bird was facing away and the head and neck were a beautiful rose. Both birds then turned and moved toward us and we noticed the red "whiskers" in contrast to the black of the other bird. They were in sight at least five minutes and then flew out of sight within a short distance so that we could not get a good view while in flight.

Cinnamon Teal. We live on Lake Crystal in Morris. In the spring of 1962 the lake started to fill and for several weeks we had a gradually diminishing bar just off the end of our lot. The bar became a resting or loafing place for male Blue-winged Teal. One afternoon (June 13, 1962) I arrived home at 4:00 p.m. and walked down to the garden which was within 50 yards of the bar. As usual I checked on the ducks and immediately I spotted the Cinnamon Teal in with five or six other drakes. I got my binoculars and studied the bird from about 35 to 40 yards. The teal stayed on the bar except for short swings about the lake until about 8:00 P.M. and was not sighted again. *Frank J. Breen, Morris, Minnesota.*

* * *

FROG LAKE WATERFOWL--In 1961, some 500 White Pelicans spent all summer on Frog Lake because the bullhead supply was choice and plentiful. Double-crested Cormorants were also a common sight feasting with the pelicans on the fat bullheads. That year only six Western Grebes were sighted. In 1962, many ducks nested at Frog Lake taking full advantage of wet and favorable conditions while only a handful of pelicans and cormorants returned.

The year 1962, was a transition period for the entire Frog Lake waterfowl picture. All five of our grebes; the Western, Pied-billed, Eared, Horned, and Red-necked all found a sufficient ration of food to stay on Frog Lake that year.

In 1963, our most stirring impressions of the Frog Lake waterfowl show came in late June. We were driving slowly along the south shore of Frog Lake having arrived for a weekend visit with the Al Holslins. Seventy to eighty Ruddy Ducks were seen bobbing along the shore. Redheads, Blue-winged Teal, and Pintails completed the picture...the duck picture that is.

Then the white curved necks of Western Grebes began waving, swaying, then arching over the blue surface covering maybe a 100 foot span along the shore. We had seen a dozen Western Grebes at one time in 1962, and that was the most ever seen in one setting, so this was an almost unbelievable sight.

I started a quick count and got to 40 before I lost track. There were, fading out across the lake more white necks as far as I could see. We saw a mother grebe close to shore with three little ones on her back. At the same instant we saw the heralded "penguin dance" performed by a pair of mating grebes. Their feet churning like miniature steamboat wheels and giving impetus enough so they were standing on the water with their swordlike bills pointed forward. The creaking, cricket like sound that is the call of the Western Grebe would startle the calm in a repetitious melee.

The hired man had a better term for it, he called it "wire stretching" referring to the noise made by the stretcher used in putting up a fence. Any farmer familiar with such noises will readily attest that wire stretchers and Western Grebes mimic each other.

As we marveled at the gross maneuverings of some 100 Western Grebes, we almost forgot about the Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest we had found, about the 48 Wood Ducks we had seen around the Alberta-Cyrus-Alexandria area, about the coal black mink we almost ran over with the car, in fact the only thing remembered at all was that this was Frog Lake in full glory of her waterbird kingdom. *Ken Haag, 679 East Jessamine Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

* * *

SIGHT RECORD OF A GYRFALCON--On November 26, 1963 while watching a migration of Rough-legged and Red-shouldered Hawks, Common Crows and gulls from the "Sheep Farm Road" along the Minnesota River in Hennepin

County, a large darkish hawk with pointed wings flew by. It disappeared behind the trees across the river. We crossed the river hoping to get another look at the bird but we did not see it. Shortly after noon we returned to the north side of the river and continued on to the old Auto Club area. At 1:30 p.m. we spotted what was apparently the same bird as seen earlier in the day. It appeared to be the shape of a Peregrine Falcon but much larger. The bird was totally gray in coloration, the underparts were not light and there were no facial markings. My companion, Mrs. Thomas Murphy saw the same features and commented that it was more uniformly colored than the Peregrine Falcon. We watched the bird circle and fly about in the area for twenty minutes and after having the bird under observation for this length of time we concluded that it was a Gyrfalcon. As we watched the flight of the bird we noticed the broad based wings and the slow short wingbeats. I was viewing the bird with 9 x 35 binoculars. On November 19, 1963, in the same area, I also saw an immature Peregrine Falcon. Mrs. E. W. Joul, 5641 Grand Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

* * *

THE RED PHALAROPE IN MINNESOTA—In Hatch's *Notes on the Birds of Minnesota* (1892) the Red Phalarope is listed as a not uncommon and a regular spring and fall migrant. Dr. Robert's (*Birds of Minnesota*, 1936) implies that this account must be taken with a grain of salt, at least as far as regularity and numbers are concerned. Other than these two reports, we have found nothing about this species in the literature of Minnesota ornithology.

On November 17, 1963 Dennis Meyer called the attention of the senior author and several members of the Duluth Bird Club to a lone bird swimming in the boat slip at Knife River, Lake County, Minnesota. As the bird seemed unconcerned about the number of observers clustered above it, an unusual opportunity to check its identification was available. At times it was scarcely ten feet from us and was observed not only with binoculars, but with a 15x spotting scope.

The following points were noted: the heavy bill, not like the needle-shaped bill one might expect in a Northern Phalarope; the yellow base of the bill, characteristic only of the Red Phalarope; the unstriped back; the wing stripe reminiscent of that of the Sanderling, but not as contrasty; and, of course; the phalarope actions. The bird was in winter plumage.

The bird was observed by about a dozen individuals for a period of nearly 30 minutes. When we returned two hours later, however, it had left the area. Checking during that afternoon and later in the week by Mr. Meyer failed to turn it up again along the North Shore.—P. B. Hofslund, *Biology Dept., University of Minnesota, Duluth and Dennis Meyer, Cathedral High School, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

GRYFALCON SIGHT RECORD—The afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 23, 1964 Brother Theodore and I had the pleasure of seeing a bird, rare to these parts. The location was the Carlos Avery game farm, Anoka County. In front of the game farm headquarters we spotted a large hawk type bird chasing some smaller birds. Then this bird sat in a tree and when it flew again we were able to get a brief but very good look. The body was dark (brownish), long and shaped like the fuselage of a plane. The wings were large and pointed. The bird flew into a small clump of trees and we proceeded to follow in search. Coming around a curve we saw the bird perched in a tree along with all the little birds it was chasing. (We never did get to identify these small birds.) This time we received a very good look at the bird and confirmed that it was dark, large and falcon shaped. When it flew we noted the wings and size. After carefully checking with the Peterson guide we were most happy to assure ourselves that the bird was a Gyrfalcon. The Gyrfalcon is a rare visitor to these parts and is normally found in the arctic region with some birds coming down into Southern Canada for the winter.

The following day Brother Theodore went back to Carlos Avery with Mrs.

Lucia Johnson and again saw the Gyrfalcon. They also found many pheasant wings under a nearby tree and these could have been the workings of the Gyrfalcon. *Robert D. O'Hara, Jr., Benilde High School, St. Louis Park, Minnesota.*

* * *

SUMMER RECORD OF A PHILADELPHIA VIREO IN LAKE COUNTY—Since there is only one well described, published breeding record for the Philadelphia Vireo in Minnesota (*The Flicker*, September 1946, p. 57) the following observation is of interest. On July 7, 1963 while on a canoe trip with my husband doing geological field work in Lake County, I observed a Philadelphia Vireo that was carrying food in its bill. It was a bright sunny day and the light was at my back. I attracted the bird (by making a squeaking noise) from a tree 50 feet away (where I first saw it) to a perch on the lower limb of a jack pine 15 feet in front of where I was standing. There it remained in full view for about two minutes. During that time I studied it with 7x35 binoculars and noticed its typical vireo bill and actions. I also noticed that the bird was smaller than the common vireos and had a dull yellowish wash across its breast and along its flanks and had a light line through the eye. I could not get a good look at the back but the wings were unbarred and were a dark olive green in color. When the bird finally flew back into the woods it was still carrying the food in its bill. Unfortunately, other work commitments made it impossible to follow the bird. The exact location of the observation was on the north side of the North Kawishiwi River at the narrows in the NW quarter of Section 20, T63N, R9W. The vegetation along this stretch of the river was second growth white birch (30-40' high) with scattered openings away from the shore and an edge of alder and hazel along the river; there were a few jack pines in the more rocky places.—*Janet C. Green, 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

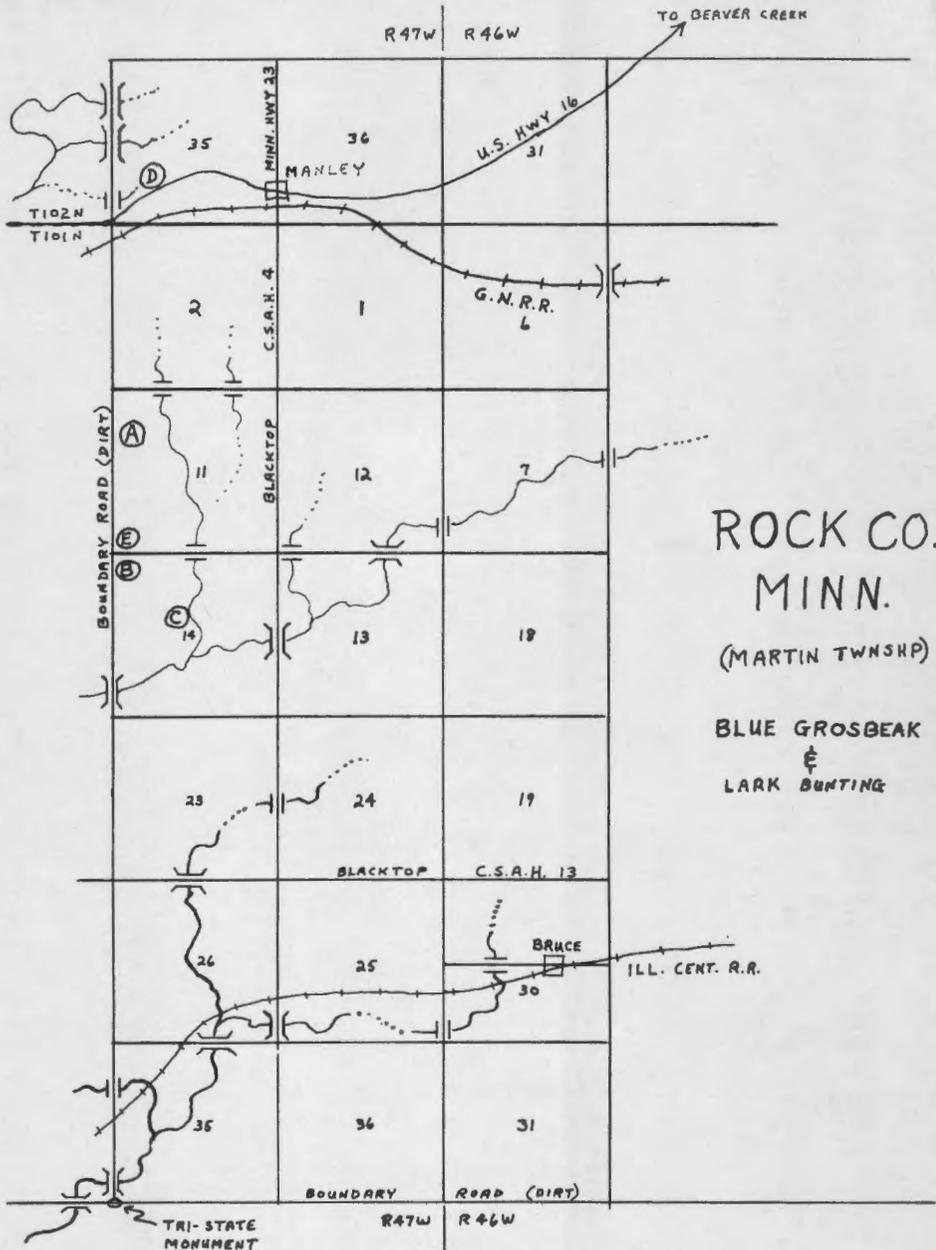
* * *

HARRIS' SPARROWS WINTER AT MONTICELLO—Two strange sparrows appeared in our yard on December 27, 1963. After reviewing our bird books Mrs. Eggena and I decided that they were Harris' Sparrows. They seemed to be young of the year. We noticed the buff color on the side of their heads, white throats and black spots on their breasts. We also noticed the scaled appearance on their crowns and the pinkish color of their bills and legs. Boyd and Helen Lien came to our place to observe these birds and confirm our identification. The sparrows appeared daily with Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows. They ate bread crumbs, ground and cracked corn placed on the ground. Sunflower seeds were available but we did not see them eat these. They fed many times during the day and were seen early in the morning and late in the afternoon. We have not seen them since January 29, 1964. *Paul H. Eggena, Monticello, Minnesota*

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BLUE GROSBEAKS AND LARK BUNTING IN ROCK COUNTY—On July 27, 1963, Ray Glassel, Dick Oehlenschlager and I were birdwatching in Rock County, Minnesota. Our principal aim was to look for the Say's Phoebe (The bird has been nesting recently less than 50 miles south into Iowa.) and the Blue Grosbeak (one specimen, taken in Rock County, 1961.) We centered our search along the Minnesota-South Dakota border road, from the intersection of highway 16 (near Manley, Minnesota) to the Tri-state Marker on the Iowa border. (See map on opposite page). It was along this dirt road (border) that the Blue Grosbeak specimen was taken in 1961. The road is a six mile stretch of pastures, cornfields, willow-bordered creeks and scattered farms with shelterbelts of Boxelder and other trees. The pastures and cornfields were edged with giant ragweed, shrub-sized Boxelders and an occasional Plum thicket. Just past the first crossroad south of the Great Northern Railway tracks, we found a singing male Blue Grosbeak on the South Dakota side of the road. The sky was overcast and a light rain was falling. At first, the bird looked so dark on the wires that we mistook it for a Brown-headed Cowbird. However, the huge beak, lending a top-heavy appearance to the bird, belied that impression. As we ap-

SOUTH DAKOTA
(MINNEHAHA COUNTY)



ROCK CO.
MINN.

(MARTIN TOWNSHIP)

BLUE GROSBEAK
&
LARK BUNTING

IOWA (LYON COUNTY)

proached more closely, we heard the soft, mellow song, almost Purple Finch-like. We also noted the deep, rich blue color, horn-grey beak and buffy wing-patches. So unique was his appearance that we were surprised to think that anyone could possibly confuse this bird with an Indigo Bunting.

In a few moments, the adult male was joined by a female that had been sitting silently in a nearby fifteen-foot Boxelder tree. The male continued to sing in the rain, nervously twitching his tail all the while. Then the female, followed by the male, flew across to the Minnesota side of the road. (locality A on map). Here they joined a third grosbeak that had been sitting unnoticed atop the corn-tassles. He was brown like the female but with a darker beak (like the male) and with numerous dark blue splotches on his head, nape and upper breast. A young male of the year? He did not sing, nor was he as active as the other two during the half-hour that we watched them.

About a mile farther south, another pair of Blue Grosbeaks was seen. They flew from the Minnesota side of the road (locality B on map) to a farm shelter-belt on the South Dakota side of the road. The shelter belt was a mixture of Boxelder, Scotch or possibly Norway Pine and Honey Locust. Again, a cornfield was nearby. Less than half a mile south from this pair, another adult male flew from a cornfield-soybean field juncture (on the South Dakota side) across an open, short-grass pasture to a farm shelter-belt. (locality C on map).

The next weekend (August 3, 1963) the three of us returned, accompanied by Bill Pieper and Bob Janssen. At locality A, near the fifteen-foot Boxelder, we found two adult males singing on the wires, while an adult female (silent) attended two brown, immaturish-looking birds in the corn-tops. Except for shorter tails and downier-looking plumage, they in every way resembled the adult female. No grosbeaks were found south of locality A on this date, but one adult male was seen flying across an open, heavily-weeded field at locality D, just north of highway 16.

On September 1, 1963, Ray Glassel, Dave Pearson and I again returned to the area but, despite diligent search, were unable to locate any grosbeaks. Our trip was highlighted, however, by a fall-plumage Lark Bunting at locality E on the map. The drab brown plumage was misleading but the white wing patches showed well, both in flight and while the bird perched. The dorsal aspect of the primaries still showed some blackish color. The bird was flushed several times, but always remained in the same vicinity, on fence posts and fence wires. *Ronald L. Huber, Room 480, State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota.*

* * *

BREEDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE KING RAIL IN MARTIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA—1962—On May 26, 1962, while doing experimental predator control studies, an adult male King Rail was accidentally killed in a steel trap in the NW¼ of Section 24, Township 103, Range 31, Martin County.

A week later, June 2, we found a King Rail nest about 100-150 feet from the spot where the male was trapped. The nest was located in the edge of a semi-permanent sedge-bullrush marsh bordered by ungrazed bluegrass-sedge pasture. The nest was about 30 feet out into the marsh where the water was 6-8 inches deep. It was very well concealed (80% canopy) about 10 inches above the water in sedges and was constructed of sedges and grasses.

The nest was unattended and contained twelve eggs, pale sandy with random brown and pale blue specks.

The next day, June 3, and again on June 14 we observed the female on the nest. On our next observation, June 21, 9 eggs were hatched. We collected 2 of the 3 unhatched eggs (no embryo development.) These 2 eggs measured 41.5 x 29 mm. and 40 x 38 mm. and are in our collection at Madelia Research Center.

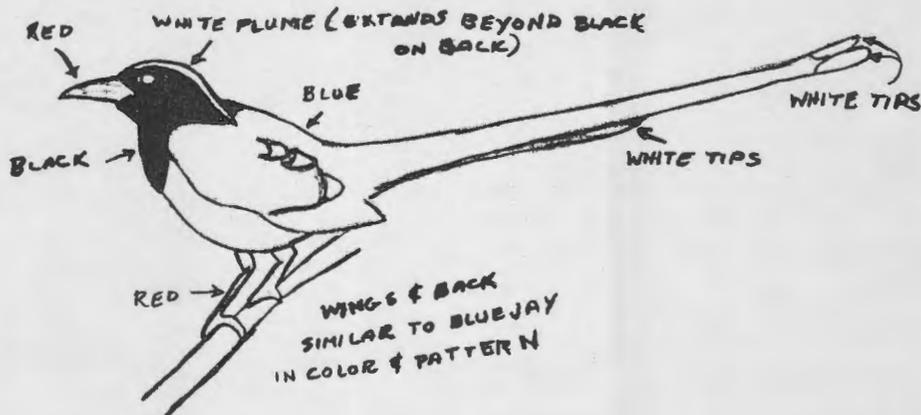
On July 11 an adult female and a minimum of 4 young (slightly smaller than a meadowlark) were observed feeding in the edge of a wet soybean field about ½ mile from the nest site. The female was quite bold and was approached to 20 feet with ease.

During several years of intensive field studies in this area, we have not previously observed King Rails.

This fall (1963) Game Biologist Earl Kopischke observed 2 King Rails in Blue Earth County. The first was on September 21 in Section 3, Township 105, Range 29 and another was observed about October 15 in Section 27, Township 106, Range 29.—*Robert A. Chesness and Maynard M. Nelson, Minnesota Division of Game and Fish, Game Research Center, Madelia, Minnesota.*

* * *

RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE—On January 2, 1964 I received a call from Dr. Breckenridge from the University of Minnesota concerning the presence of a very unusual bird near Red Wing, Minnesota. Dr. Breckenridge had received a call from a Mr. R. H. Behrens of Red Wing. Mr. Behrens gave a description of a bird that was seen on a farm in rural Goodhue County and from this description Dr. Breckenridge concluded that the bird might be a Collie's Magpie-Jay, the bird illustrated on the latest Audubon U. S. postage stamp. I received the directions to the farm where the bird had been seen and on January 4 at sunrise Ray Glassel, Harding Huber, Brother Theodore and I were parked near the Ekblad farmhouse located in Featherstone Township, Goodhue County, just south of Minnesota State highway No. 19. We immediately heard the call notes of a totally unfamiliar bird coming from behind the house. When we finally saw the bird we were stunned by what we saw: A bird over two feet long with the tail making up over half the length of the bird, black head, the back and tail were blue, the underparts pure white and the feet and bill a bright red. We observed the bird in the vicinity of the farmhouse for about one hour. Harding Huber sketched the bird and a reproduction of the sketch accompanies this article. We questioned Mr. Ekblad about the bird and he said that it first appeared in early October and had remained in the general area ever since. The bird fed on fish entrails and other animal remains that Mr. Ekblad provided for the bird. On returning to the Twin Cities I questioned Dr. Warner of the University on the identity of the bird. From a copy of "The Birds of Burma" we identified the bird as a Red-billed Blue Magpie. At that point Dr. Warner contacted Mr. Fletcher, Director of the Como Park Zoo in St. Paul. Mr. Fletcher informed us that a bird of this species had escaped from the Zoo in September 1962. The bird remained in the vicinity until December 1962 and then during a cold spell disappeared and it was presumed to have died. Mr. Fletcher believes that the bird seen by us near Red Wing is no doubt the same individual that escaped from the zoo in 1962. An amazing story of the survival of a strange species in totally strange (to itself) surroundings.—*Robert B. Janssen, 1817 W. 59th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*



AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: AN UNUSUAL DATE—Roberts *Birds of Minnesota*, Vol 1, p 446, 1932) records the American Golden Plover as late as June 4, 1929, (small flocks in Marshall Co.) and as early as August 26 (1875, Minneapolis). He gives no records between these dates, and, upon consulting Bent (*Life Histories of North American Shore Birds*, Part 2, pp. 190-193, 1929), I found that Bent lists no spring record for United States or southern Canada later than June 7 (Larimore, N. Dak.), and no fall record earlier than July 18 (Ipswich, Mass.) In fact, for that part of the continent which lies south of the arctic breeding grounds, these two authorities record less than a dozen occurrences of the species for the two months between June 4 and August 3.

It therefore seems worth recording that on July 2, 1963 (a date almost exactly midway between the two dates listed above) I observed a single American Golden Plover on a small, partially dry slough one mile east of Alberta, Stevens County, Minnesota. The bird was in the brownish fall plumage (no trace of breeding plumage) and was observed at 150 yards through a 25X spotting scope for a little more than five minutes. During this time it moved infrequently and did not fly. Conditions for observation were good (clear sky, 3 p.m., no air turbulence) and I have no doubt of the identification. I am familiar with all plumages of this species and the similar Black-bellied Plover, and am confident that I would not confuse the ashy eclipse plumage of the larger Black-bellied Plover with the distinctly brownish American Golden Plover. However, I had no opportunity to observe the bird's axillars, which would of course be black in a Black-bellied Plover.

The possibility of the bird being a stray Mountain Plover was considered and eliminated because of its dark coloration and lack of a white eyebrow stripe. Also, on the slough at the same time were many ducks (seven species), and several hundred shorebirds, including Killdeer, Piping Plover (1), Long-billed Dowitcher (8), Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope, and "Peeps." R. A. Grant, 111 E. 9th St., Morris, Minnesota.

* * *

1963 FALL HAWK MIGRATION, DULUTH — Although 139 hours and parts of 33 days (from Sept. 7th through Nov. 10th plus one day in December) were spent counting hawks in Duluth, the totals were only about $\frac{1}{3}$ of what they have been for the preceding two years. A total of 7,848 raptors of 14 species were recorded. This lowered total is due primarily to the absence of the mass Broad-winged Hawk migration that had been observed in mid-September the two previous years. Why this mass migration was missed at Duluth this year is not known. It may be that part of it came before regular observations were begun or that it was so high or above the clouds that it was missed. An indication of the latter was obtained on Sept. 19th when 100 Broad-wings were counted from 8:30-9:00 when the sky was clear and they were flying relatively low, but only about 35 were recorded for the next two half-hour periods and these were glimpsed through the gathering high clouds. At 10:00 the number of Broad-wings dropped almost to zero as the cloud ceiling lowered to about 2,000 feet. It is also possible that because of the preponderance of easterly winds during the month of September the main flight was directed elsewhere.

There were twice as many days in October with westerly winds as there were in September and the species (Red-tail, Rough-leg, Goshawk and eagles) whose main flight is during that month showed larger totals than those for the previous two years. The number of eagles is particularly noteworthy: 3 adult and 9 immature Bald Eagles; 2 adult, 3 immature and 2 un-aged Golden Eagles.

The Goshawk flight this year was spectacular, the best ever recorded in Duluth. Last year's flight was also exceptional but this year's was $2\frac{1}{2}$ times better (rated on the number of Goshawks divided by the total number of hours watched). In 1963 the flight started 10 days earlier than 1962 (on Sept. 14th) and the peak flight, where 10 or more Goshawks an hour were counted, started 20 days earlier (on Sept. 29th). However, the day of the biggest flight (about 50 an

hour) occurred the last five days of October each year. Almost all the Goshawks seen both years were adults, indicating that this was possibly an invasion of birds forced south by food shortages to the north.

The totals for the different species and the peak days for each are listed below.

	Total	Date of Greatest Number	Greatest Number on Single Day	Hours Observed on Date in Column Two
Turkey Vulture	30	10/2	5	5
Goshawk	731	10/27	197	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2,002	10/2	528	5
Cooper's Hawk	37	9/29	6	7
Red-tailed Hawk	1,612	10/27	780	4
Broad-winged Hawk	2,626	9/21	2,354	10
Rough-legged Hawk	261	11/10	204	5
Golden Eagle	7	10/27	4	4
Bald Eagle	12	9/21	5	10
Marsh Hawk	147	9/29	40	7
Osprey	39	9/21	13	10
Peregrine Falcon	10	9/21	6	10
Pigeon Hawk	7	9/14	3	10
Sparrow Hawk	133	9/8	29	7
Unidentified	194			
Total	7,848			

Janet C. Green, 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55812.

* * *

SUMMER TANAGER SEEN IN WINONA COUNTY—I saw the Summer Tanager on June 14, 1963, about 1:30 p.m., as I was walking along old highway 61, just above our house. The location is about three-fourths mile west of Homer, Winona County. The bird was a male tanager, no crest, smaller than a Cardinal. It was red all over, deeper on the head and foreparts, diminishing in intensity of color to the tail. It did not have the same brilliance as the flashy Scarlet Tanager. There is no question it was a Summer Tanager. It was picking around on the rather bare sloping bank that extends from the south side of the road up to the edge of the woods. It hopped and flitted about in the immediate area for a time and I watched it for a number of minutes at close range and then it flew up into the woods.—A. F. Shira, RFD #3, Winona, Minnesota.

* * *

ABERRANT DOWNY WOODPECKER AT WINONA—Occasionally while scanning the popular literature, I come across notes on unusual plumages of some of our commoner species of birds. In most instances, the observer reporting the aberration has not had much trouble in properly identifying the species. Two good examples would be the adult male Scarlet Tanager recently banded in South Dakota which had a red patch in each wing, and a Tennessee Warbler, which had a rose-colored breast. This past winter, however, we had a chance to observe an unusual Downy Woodpecker which would have fooled most amateurs and perhaps even some of the professionals.

The episode started when I received the following letter, quoted in part, from Grace Dahm of Winona, dated November 18, 1963:

"November 11 was clear and cold, about 40 degrees. A northwest wind, blowing at 35 mph, made it seem much colder. Hoping to entice a Brown Creeper (one stopped the next day) I put suet bits under the rough bark of the plum tree trunk, below the suet feeder on the tree. The tree is about 15 feet from the house and visible from a kitchen window above the sink.

At twelve noon as I was preparing lunch I took a second look at a "downy" at my suet in the bark. Too dark and differently marked and a bit too big, the bird, on more sharp scrutiny, showed a ladder-back. It flew to a nearby poplar—I had another quick look, and it was off in a northerly direction.

There was no color on the bird's head. I decided it had to be a female Northern Three-toed Woodpecker.

Wednesday afternoon, November 13, the bird was at the tree bark again. Thursday, November 14, I set up shop to watch again. About 3:00 p.m. the bird flew in. This time her three-toed foot was seen. Each day she fed about three to four feet from the ground. There was time to note that the bird's markings on the flanks were not as vivid as the books indicate.

Saturday, November 16, the bird came again. Daughter Mary and several college companions here for the day observed it, too, and noted its typical back pattern.

Question: Can this be a female changing to adult plumage, its flanks less marked, etc.? Can it be a hybrid?"

I showed the above letter to Bob Janssen, and we decided we had better check the bird. Winona seemed quite far south for the Three-toed Woodpeckers, although in days long gone by, the Black-backed was occasionally found around the Twin Cities and there is one recent reliable record from near Winona.

On November 29, Ray Glassel, Bob Janssen and I went to visit Mrs. Dahm at Winona. The ladder-back pattern and the fact that she counted three toes had us convinced that she was correct in identifying the bird. After a long wait, Mary Dahm finally noticed a woodpecker at the suet and asked its identity. Bob Janssen glanced at the bird and said it was a Downy Woodpecker. Grace Dahm looked again and proclaimed it to be the Three-toed she had been seeing. We all jumped to the window and got a glimpse of the bird before it nervously flew off. It definitely had a ladder-back (see accompanying sketch by Ray Glassel), a white line through the eye and a white patch on each occiput. Otherwise it was the same size, shape and coloration of a Downy Woodpecker. Although we immediately thought it was a melanistic Downy, we took fast notes on the observation, from which Ray prepared the sketch. We also immediately began checking plates in several references which Mrs. Dahm had open on the table. Partial melanism would clearly account for the black barring which interrupted the broad longitudinal white band on a Downy's back, as well as the obscured head pattern. It would also be easy to miscount the bird's toes when observing from behind and slightly to the side.

Considering the bird's overall appearance, we could easily see how easy it was to make an error in identification. This is simply another problem with



which the amateur is confronted but, from another perspective it is one of the challenges that makes birdwatching enjoyable. *Ronald L. Huber, Room 480, State Office Bldg., St. Paul 1, Minnesota*

HARLEQUIN DUCK AT TWO HARBORS—While sitting at my breakfast table the morning of January 6, 1964 looking across Burlington Bay of Lake Superior at Two Harbors, Minnesota, a duck about 300 yards offshore caught my attention. It particularly aroused by curiosity inasmuch as it was swimming rapidly and steadily toward the near shore, a behavior that seemed different from the many Common Goldeneyes seen here all winter. Viewing with 7 x 35 binoculars indicated that it was a male Harlequin Duck and this was confirmed using a 50x spotting scope. The duck proceeded to feed along the shore where the water is only 6 to 18 inches deep. I was able to walk out to the bank above the shore without disturbing the duck and view it with binoculars only 25 feet below me. The three white patches on the side of the head were classical in appearance, and the buffy-orange stripe along each side of the crown was clearly visible. *Gerald Church, Two Harbors, Minnesota*

BOOK REVIEWS

NAMING THE BIRDS AT A GLANCE, by Lou Blachly and Randolph Jenks with Guide Drawings by Sheridan Oman. 331 pages. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 501 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York. 1964. \$3.95.

This book is a guide to the eastern land birds from South Carolina west to the Rocky Mountains and north to the Arctic.

For many years the beginning bird-watcher has needed a new system for identifying birds. Mr. Blachly and Mr. Jenks have no doubt formulated a new system which should prove most useful to all beginners. Their system involves what they call "field use of the sight method." The advantages of this system are (1) It will lead to identification no matter which characteristic of a bird you may notice first. (2) It will refer you to a picture of *your* bird (with text conveniently at hand) on the *same page* (or near it) as the other species with which you might confuse it thus making identification by *elimination* part of the system. (3) The system thus ends for all time the always frustrating and often unsuccessful method of "thumbing through" after the bird has flown and your mental picture rapidly escapes you.

Birds are grouped in the book according to color combinations such as Black, Blue, Brown Rufous or Chestnut Combinations, Gray Olive-Gray or

Olive-Green Combinations, Orange, Red, and Yellow and White Markings Important in Identification. These keys to the obvious markings on birds are instantly available by referring to the end papers of the book which refers you to the page number.

Another outstanding contribution this book offers to the beginner is a chart accompanying each illustration indicating relative size of the bird. By horizontal lines the size of the House Sparrow, Robin and Common Crow, three well known species, are indicated. A vertical line on one of these lines indicates the relative size of the species in question. Size is one of the most difficult things to determine in the field and these charts will be of great help to the observer.

Other sections in the book deal with identification of specific groups of birds with like habits such as Woodpeckers, Soaring Skimming Insect Hunters in Flight, Ground Birds, Owls, Hawks, Eagles, Vultures, Crows and Raven. The latter section is most valuable because the species of hawks are illustrated in their different plumage phases, flight patterns and perched positions.

Obviously there is one main drawback to a book of this type, only spring plumage adult male birds are illustrated. Females, fall and winter plumages and immatures are not included. The authors attempt to justify this by stating that females are

usually paired off with males, making identification by association fairly simple. It is also stated that almost all birds whose plumage changes in the fall go south in winter and so are of no concern to the people in the Northeast. The above two statements are over-simplified and misleading and tend to discourage the beginner from ever attempting to identify the more difficult plumages. It would be most interesting to see the authors publish a companion volume on females, fall plumages and immatures. This type of work would minimize the frustrations involved in identifying these groups and also give the more advanced student a useful and much needed reference.

This book, along with a check-list of the birds found in his area, will give the beginner an excellent start along the road to more and complete enjoyment of the wonderful hobby of bird-watching.

Editor

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THE BEAVER IN MINNESOTA, by William H. Longley and John B. Moyle, Technical Bulletin No. 6, Minnesota Department of Conservation, 88 pages, August 1963. Free.

The mammal (other than human) which has most influenced recorded human history in the upper midwest is the Beaver. This has been an accepted fact that is further strengthened by a recently published Technical Bulletin (No. 6) of the Minnesota Department of Conservation. In "The Beaver in Minnesota" William H. Longley and John B. Moyle discuss this history in ten pages (pp. 7-17) telling us "that there are at least 40 Minnesota geographical entities named after this singular animal."

The next 22 pages discuss the natural history of the Beaver, incorporating much Minnesota information gathered by biologists of the Conservation Department. Here is told something of the Beaver's adaptation to a semi-aquatic life, the organization (and disruption) of Beaver colonies, the construction and location of dams and lodges. Concerning social organization in a colony is this statement, "Trapping studies indicate the importance

of the maternal female in holding colonies together. After her death, the colony is apt to be abandoned. On the other hand, if the adult male is lost, a new male is readily accepted by the female." We also learn that of the many plants that Beaver eat, the several species of poplar are most important. In New Mexico there was an average of 2.06 young per female where willow was the principal food, 2.75 in cottonwood areas, and 4.20 in aspen areas. Diseases (tularemia is most often implicated), may at times sharply reduce Beaver populations. But neither parasites nor predators seem to greatly influence the Beaver populations.

Under the topic of Beaver Management are discussions of past and present trapping regulations, Beaver farming (not successful), censusing, and Beaver values other than fur. A map on page 46 graphically shows the number of Beaver trapped to be greatest in northeastern Minnesota.

One could question the inclusion (in the appendix) of such topics as "A guide to Beaver trapping and pelting" and "Grading of beaver and manufacture of fur coats," although I found something of interest there.

I should like to personally voice my mild objection to using the numerical system for references. I have always found this more cumbersome than using the author and year, besides, I believe, this system is more susceptible to error.

To readers of *The Loon* there is a great deal of interesting information in this bulletin. It is also well to have all this regional information gathered into one bulletin. Harvey L. Gundersen, Curator of Mammals, Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota.

* * *

THE MIGRATIONS OF BIRDS, by Jean Dorst. 476 pages, maps and diagrams, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts. 1963. \$6.75.

In the conclusion to his book Mr. Dorst makes the following statement, "Since the dawn of history man has been fascinated by the disappearance and return of birds and has invented

countless legends and theories to account for them. In the past fifty years significant studies have been made towards solving these mysteries but what we have learned about orientation, the physiology of the migratory impulse and the fundamental causes of migration, is still like a few guide posts planted in an almost virgin forest."

This statement is an excellent summation of an outstanding book on bird migration. Mr. Dorst explains the "few guide posts" in a most detailed and expert manner. After reading the book one has a feeling of being informed on all that is known by the scientists in the field of migration. Of course as Mr. Dorst states much is yet to be learned and we have barely scratched the surface as far as the causes of migration are concerned.

The book opens with sections on Old Explanations of Bird Migrations and Present Methods of Studying Migrations. Following sections deal with bird migrations in different parts of the world, Europe and Northern Asia, North America, The Southern Hemisphere, Intertropical Regions and this section is concluded with a chapter on Sea-bird Migration. Thus every area of the globe is covered and general migration patterns and routes are given. Specific species are treated to give the reader an example of migration in each area.

In the next section chapter titles include Modes of Migration, Bird Invasions and Hibernation of Birds. Modes of Migration covers such interesting fields as routes, speeds, altitude, weather and behavior during migration. The chapter on Invasions is most enlightening and gives the reader an excellent account of the difference between time migrations and invasions of certain species.

In the chapter on the Physiological Stimulus of Migration, Mr. Dorst gives all of the latest hypotheses known. The three main physiological areas treated are the sexual cycle and its relation to the causes of migration and the part the thyroid and pituitary glands play in causing migration. Mr Dorst relates all three to the cause of migration but none of them explain migration fully and satisfactorily. In fact little is known concerning the physiological causes of migration. The glands in question control the birds' whole yearly cycle with the migration periods making up only a part of this cycle. Thus the study of these glands must be made within the framework of the yearly cycle. These studies must be made on individual species, as results from one species cannot be applied to another, even within the same family group. Much work remains to be done in this area.

This reviewer found the chapter on Orientation of Migratory Birds most interesting. The author relates all of the up-to-date experiments which have been carried out by Griffin, Kramer and Sauer. Kramer's work on diurnal migrants and their orientation by the sun is explained in detail. Sauer's work on nocturnal migrants and their orientation by the stars make fascinating reading.

The final chapter in the book deals with the Origin and Evolution of Migrations whose answer the author states "must remain in the realm of pure conjecture."

All of the above chapters are well supplemented with 131 maps and figures illustrating the material presented.

This well prepared, well written scholarly work is must reading for all those fascinated by bird migration.

Editor

PROFILE: MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

The year 1965 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Minneapolis Audubon Society, and as this anticipated time approaches we have many reasons to look forward to increased activities in our group. Our new constitution makes specific mention of our broadened con-

cern for conservation. This, coupled with the National Audubon Society campaign for careful and controlled use of insecticides, is of primary importance to us.

However, there is much to inspire us as we make these forthcoming plans:

In the past we have been active in all phases of educational and promotional work, as our various contributions to conservation will attest. One of our members gave the land and an endowment fund to establish the National Audubon Camp in Wisconsin, several other members were instrumental in raising the necessary funds to complete the camp. We were one of the first groups to recognize how well the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History could use additional funds for the new building program, with one of our members working further on this project. We have made contributions to conservation groups such as Nature Conservancy, Fort Snelling State Park, and others who have solicited our help with a forthright purpose. We shall continue to do so.

As early as 1916 our mounted bird collection was placed on display at Dayton's during "Bird Week." This collection is housed in the regular meeting rooms of the Walker Branch Library and can be seen there by previous arrangement. In 1960 eighty of our duplicated mounted specimens were given to science departments of our high schools. Back in 1917 the first martin house was given to the park board. As recently as this spring this project was again renewed and a new house was erected to replace the old one. There is also specific mention in a past article by Dr. Gustav Swanson about the organizing of Junior Audubon Clubs in thirty Minneapolis schools by our group, beginning in 1917. While we do not now actively organize Junior Audubon Clubs we do give advice and encouragement to leaders of youth groups. Since 1955 we have given 73 yearly subscriptions of *The Flicker* to schools, camps and libraries — in this way hoping to reach many with the nature and conservation story. At this date, December 1963, we have voted to give to the Museum of Natural History our valuable Passenger Pigeon, which will be placed in a permanent exhibit with the background painted by Frances Lee Jacques.

We have many activities which are educational and on such a regular schedule that sometimes their value

is not stressed enough. During the regular periods of migration we take weekly bird walks to many vantage points around the city, birding by car becomes a must in these instances. Our civic projects committee is active throughout the year; giving talks with films and slides, leading children's groups on tours through Robert's Sanctuary and on day-camp bird identification walks, setting up displays for garden groups and at the Minnesota Education Association Convention this year. From the George O. Ludcke Sr. memorial fund we purchased the film "The Bald Eagle, Our National Bird" and this has been shown to thousands of people. Ever since the National Audubon Camp in Wisconsin was established we have given a scholarship to their summer educational program each year. Our conservation committee, activated last year, is enlarging its interests and activities, thus bringing to our group pertinent information regarding conservation legislation. The Bertha Alden Morse Memorial Library has just been established, and it will be a source of continued interest as these books become available to our members.

Our next year marks an increased awareness in participating with the various Twin City birding groups toward a common goal. In 1964 we will have four programs concerning the activities of the Minneapolis Bird Club, the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, the Isaac Walton League conservation program, and the Minnesota Bird Club. These programs, combined with the regular yearly highlight program at the Museum of Natural History under the supervision of Dr. Walter Breckenridge, we hope will help us progress toward the national goal of concerted effort in the preservation of our wildlife heritage.

We are members of the Isaac Walton League and the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. As an affiliate of the National Audubon Society and the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, we also have many responsibilities.

Mrs. George A. Stanley,
Vice President
Mrs. E. D. Swedenborg,
M.O.U. Representative

Erect Nest Boxes To Save Eastern Bluebird

The Eastern Bluebird has been dwindling away rapidly, in many areas. One trouble is that Starlings destroy bluebird eggs and nests, as you probably have noticed, and take over bluebird nest holes. But we can foil the Starlings and save the bluebirds by putting up Starling-proof nest boxes. Every MOU member is urged to erect five or more such boxes right now— and five or more each future spring.

A box will admit bluebirds and exclude Starlings if the entrance is a round hole $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, no more. Cypress or redwood are most rot-resistant, but any boards a half inch or more thick will do. You need six pieces of board — front, back, two sides, floor, and roof.

In cutting boards to size, allow for overlap of boards at joints. The inside floor area should be 5 x 5 inches. Inside minimum height should be 8 inches or more. Buy or borrow a simple tool called an expansion bit to make a neat $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch entrance hole 6 inches above the floor in the front board. Do not place a perch on the box. The roof should slope gently to the front and should overhang the sides a half inch or more and the front $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or more. Drill a couple $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch holes in the floor for drainage and several more under the eaves for ventilation. To give you something to nail through in eventual mounting of the box, use a back board which extends down about 5 inches below the main box.

In planning the box, make provision for opening it spring or fall for cleaning. That is, design the roof or one side so that it will lift off or swing open after removal of one screw.

Daub the boards liberally with wood preservative before assembling them. You can then nail the box together. Your box will hold together longer, however, if you assemble it with plated screws.

Do not feel that you must put up your boxes on your own property. Get permission to erect them where they are most likely to be used — undisturbed, fairly open rural areas such as orchards. Ideally, each box should be mounted 5 feet or more above ground atop a vertical pipe or steel post and 10 feet or more away from trees or bushes where predators might lurk. But many successful bluebird nest boxes are on top of wooden fence posts. Place boxes a block or more apart.

Eastern Bluebirds are so scarce now that they may not find your nest boxes the first year, House Wrens, House Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, or Tree Swallows may be the first occupants of your boxes. But eventually the boxes you put up will enable Eastern Bluebirds to raise a couple broods a year and make a comeback. If each of us in the MOU will put up five or more neat boxes this spring and each succeeding spring, we can be a decisive factor in saving one of America's favorite birds.

R.E. Turner, Shafer, Minnesota

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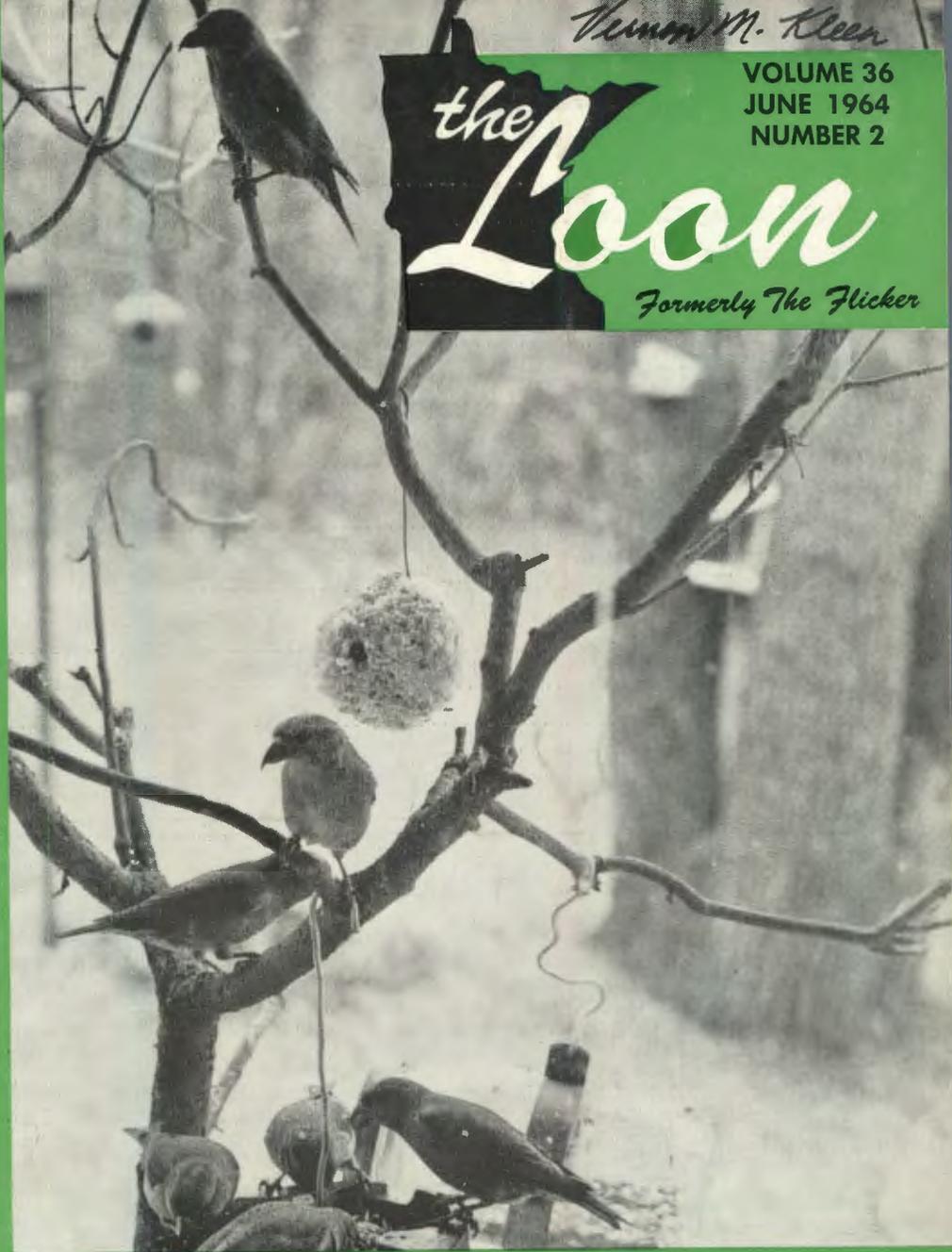
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THE LOON

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FRONT COVER

Red Crossbills at feeder of Sheridan C. Flaherty, Morris, Minnesota.
Photo by E. H. Strubbe

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I recently returned from the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Kalamazoo, Michigan. At the Council meeting and again at the symposium on hawk migration, I was struck forcibly by comments made by Roger Tory Peterson, the new president of the Wilson Society.

After a comment during the hawk symposium discussion, the question was raised about the decline of Sharp-shinned Hawks in the East. Dr. Peterson reported that the Osprey population of the Connecticut River has declined from 150 breeding pairs in 1954 to 15 pairs ten years later. His prediction was that they might disappear entirely from this region by 1970. The Peregrine Falcon has disappeared from all the northeastern states as a breeding bird. The Bald Eagle decline continues. Connecticut seems to have lost their bitterns and night herons, and even the Belted Kingfisher has not been seen this year. In the south, thousands of egrets died this spring, and so it goes, one tragic recital after another.

It doesn't seem possible to tie these losses to a single factor, but when they are examined closely, one salient point keeps popping up everywhere you look—they are with one exception, closely associated with water, their food consists largely of animals associated with water, and it becomes apparent with every investigation of pesticides made, that water with its associated creatures is perhaps the greatest concentrator of the residual chemicals that we have. The one exception, the Sharp-shin, feeds on small birds and rodents. It takes little imagination to associate its ills stemming from the eating of the weakened and dying small animals who are succumbing to their own accumulation of hydrocarbon poisons.

Perhaps even more tragic than the apparent demise of our birds, is the lack of understanding given to this problem by the general public. An acquaintance missed at the meeting was home picking up dead birds from his yard. Why the dead birds? The city of Battle Creek had just sprayed with dieldrin—a city in a state where no more dramatic a case has been shown against the indiscriminate use of chlorinated hydrocarbons. Dr. Peterson recommended to the investigating committee on the pesticide problem that (and here I quote from a recent Audubon report), "Permits to manufacture them (chlorinated hydrocarbon complex) should be withdrawn . . . (because) it is impossible to keep these poisons from contaminating our entire environment so long as winds blow, waters flow, and fishes swim." If such contamination affects population of other vertebrate animals so drastically, can we be so naive as to believe that the human body escapes scot-free?

We use as an excuse the great production of food (surpluses?) that is possible because we have destroyed insects. Yet it seems that each year it is necessary to increase the dosage or get a more powerful poison. A problem has arisen in the hordes of blackbirds destroying the same crops that have been "saved" from the insects. Is it not possible that the checks on the predators, the hawks and in the case of blackbirds even the mice and shrews, have declined so that there is a population explosion of these creatures just as ultimately dangerous to certain food supplies as the insects? Are there not biological controls as effective as chemical and not as potentially dangerous?

I do not advocate the elimination of chemical controls—I enjoy a mosquito free yard, an individual plant saved, as much as the next person. I do advocate, however, the stopping of mass and indiscriminate uses of these poisons, the recognition that these are poisons and should be treated, labelled, and sold as dangerous chemicals, and that every company who disposes of the product, waste product, or materials should be subject to such action that it would no longer be profitable to ignore the utmost in safety precautions. Too often, we

are afraid to enforce such measures because of the threat that a major industry will move elsewhere. Therefore I feel it necessary that such controls be on a national level so that there would be no place in our country where an operation could move and escape such a regulation.

It is hard for the individual to realize that the drainage of a swamp in southern Minnesota may affect the water supply of Des Moines, Iowa; the poisoning of a thousand acres in the southland may cause an irruption of some equally disastrous form in Minnesota. I further advocate that no science teacher be allowed to teach without a thorough understanding of ecology and that relationships of man and his environment be a part of every curriculum from kindergarten through college.

P. B. Hofslund
President

M.O.U. SPRING FIELD TRIP

The M.O.U. Spring Field Trip was held at Morris, Minnesota on May 23 and 24, 1964. More than 80 persons registered for the event that included field trips through five counties of western Minnesota (Stevens, Grant, Traverse, Big Stone, and Lac Qui Parle) and the South Dakota side of Lake Traverse. A total of 139 species of birds were recorded during the two days of field observation.

White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants were seen on lakes and sloughs throughout the area covered by the trips. Only four species of hawks were recorded. Large numbers of shorebirds had arrived in the Morris area the previous week. Twenty-one species were recorded and nearly all of these were seen in either or both of two localities; a shallow slough near Alberta, Minnesota and Salt Lake near Marietta, Minnesota. It is of some interest to note the variety of shorebirds that can be seen near one body of water in western Minnesota. Those recorded at the slough one mile east of Alberta included Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, and Wilson's Phalarope. Those recorded at Salt Lake included Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, and Northern Phalarope.

Flycatchers and swallows were abundant throughout the area. Transient warblers and vireos were largely gone from the Morris area, summer residents which include the Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Warbling Vireo were common. Seven species of sparrows were recorded, but the less conspicuous species were probably overlooked during these trips. In general the nesting season was in full swing for most permanent and summer resident birds.

Some rather interesting and unusual birds were observed during the field trips and only these species will be discussed separately in this report.

Red-necked and Western Grebe: Both species were at Frog Lake, Stevens Co. Twenty-four Western Grebes were observed at one time on the lake.

Ruff: One individual, a straggler from the Old World, was discovered by Janet Green and seen by many persons in a slough one mile east of Alberta. (See articles elsewhere in this issue).

American Avocet: Six individuals were seen at Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co., R. Grant, T. Jegla, and others. Two nests, each containing four eggs, were

found on an island in the lake. According to R. Grant no American Avocets were at Salt Lake on May 11.

Burrowing Owl: One pair at a burrow near Wheaton, R. Grant and others.

Cliff Swallow: A large nesting colony was found under a bridge at Lac Qui Parle Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co., R. Grant and T. Jegla.

Lark Bunting: This bird, presumably rare in Minnesota, was discovered in two different localities; two males, one mile north of Artichoke Lake, T. Jegla, H. Goehring, and others; seven males and one female near Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co., R. Grant, T. Jegla and others.—*Thomas C. Jegla, University of Minnesota, Morris, Minnesota.*

NOTES ON THE WHITE-WINGED JUNCO

by Bertin W. Anderson

Mrs. Robert Leach, on October 29, 1963, trapped a junco at Sunfish Lake Ramsey County, which she thought might be a White-winged Junco (*Junco aikeni*) and sent the specimen to the museum for further identification. I have since had an opportunity to compare the bird with other specimens in the research collection. In the collection there was one other specimen which was nearly identical to Mrs. Leach's specimen—an adult male col-

lected in 1926 in Minneapolis. Upon comparison of these two specimens with typical specimens of Slate-colored Junco (*J. hyemalis*) and *J. aikeni* it becomes obvious that neither specimen is a White-winged Junco. This conclusion was drawn from the following two lines of evidence.

a) Measurements indicate the bird from Sunfish Lake to be within the range of *J. hyemalis*.

	Culmen	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
White-winged Junco, adult male	13.2-13.7	80.0-92.7	21.6-22.9	76.2-86.3
Specimen in question, male	12.7	80.0	20.9	70.0
Slate-colored Junco, adult male	11.7-13.1	76.2-82.6	20.3-21.8	68.7-73.7

b) The plumage of a White-winged Junco is rather gray on the back and much lighter than the Slate-colored Junco. The throat and head is darker but still lighter than in an adult Slate-colored Junco. The white on the wing is more extensive on a White-winged Junco than on the specimen in question. (See drawing next page)

Mr. C. E. Peterson reported (1952) seeing a flock of eight to eighteen White-winged Juncos near Madison, Minnesota on April 5 and 6, 1952. A flock of junco's with white wings is more likely to be true *aikeni* than individuals with slight white wing bars and which are in the company of *J. hyemalis*.

The individuals in question could be explained by any of the following alternatives:

- 1) A hybrid of *J. hyemalis* and *J. aikeni*
- 2) A partial albino of *J. hyemalis*
- 3) An aberrant color variation of *J. hyemalis*

A. R. Phillips (1962) has recommended that *J. aikeni* no longer be recognized as a distinct species but as a subspecies of *J. hyemalis*. Though this is not completely resolved, if this is found to be the case one would expect to find several types of intergrades between the two subspecies. In this case I would favor the first explanation as being the more plausible. Then it could be explained as a result of a cross which contained more genes of a typical *hyemalis* than *aikeni*. However, more observations and specimens are needed before this situation can actually be clarified.

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Minnesota Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Scale—approx. nat. size

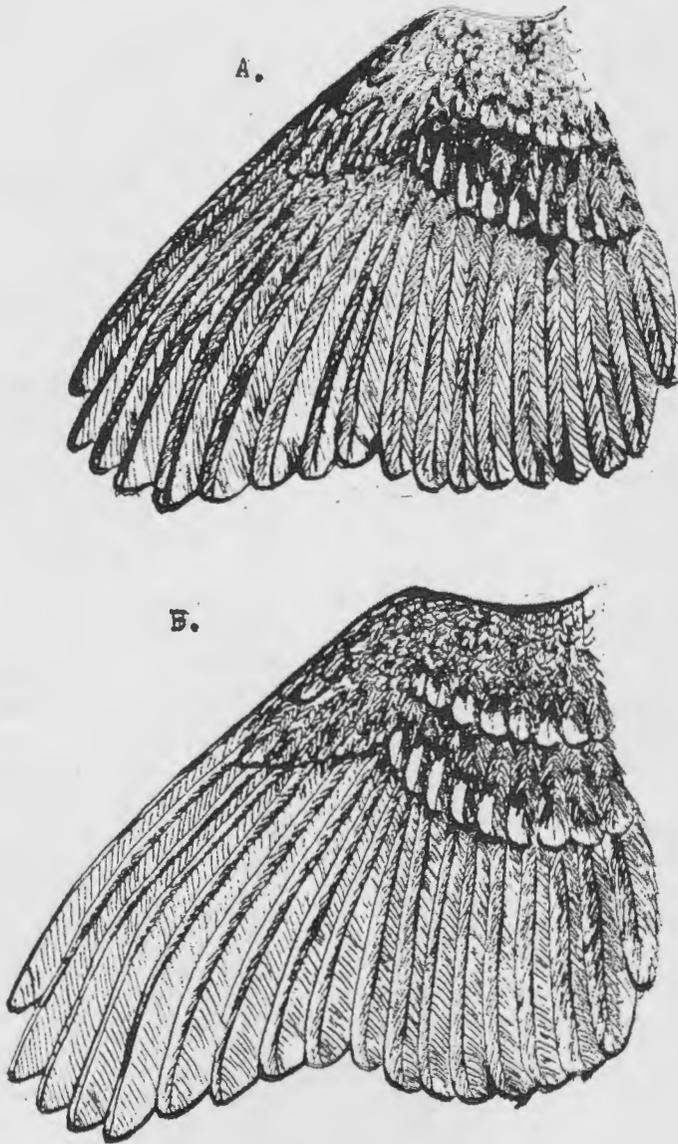


Fig. 1. A) Illustration showing the white on the wing of the specimen sent in by Mrs. Leach. B) Illustration showing the white on the wing of a White-winged Junco. Notice also the lighter quality and larger size of the wing of the latter. (Illustration by John A. Jarosz.)

THE CANADIAN LAKEHEAD

by A. E. Allin

Following the relatively mild months of January and February, the temperature for March was below normal with a mean of 16.8°, comparing unfavorably with a normal 20.5°. The snowfall of 8.8" was fifty percent the average for March. The mean temperature for April, 35.8°, was 0.1° above normal. The precipitation of 5.39" was a record high. In part this was due to 6.6" of snow bringing the winter total to a sub-normal 54.9". The weather continued to be very wet and cold during the first two weeks of May.

A few birds generally considered summer residents survived wintering at the Lakehead. These included a few Common Crows, Robins, and Slate-colored Juncos. At least one Purple Finch and Brown Creeper were reported and the Harris' Sparrow was still present at Gibson's feeder in April. At least two Mourning Doves probably wintered locally. At least one Pigeon Hawk was frequently seen during the winter months. On several occasions it fed on House Sparrows. The winter of 1963-64, however, was very poor for the usual winter visitors, not only the passerines but also the predators being very scarce.

Evidence that spring had arrived by mid-April included the voices of the Swamp Tree Frogs on April 23. We believe only 2 were calling and their efforts were feeble. We saw our first butterfly, a Milbert's Tortoise Shell on April 23.

Mourning Cloaks were seen on April 26. About April 16, 53 snakes (? Garter) were ignorantly killed near Nolu; "as they slithered from winter nests" according to an account in a local newspaper. V. Murie and M. Hogarth watch an Otter playing on the banks of the Waministiquia River on April 23. By April 26 Northern Pike were splashing in shallow waters near small streams in which they would soon spawn.

Although this is generally considered the season of migration, several

species of birds were already nesting in March and April.

A pair of Gray Jays nested as usual near Dorion. On March 28, we first heard House Sparrows singing as they do during the breeding season. Robins were nest-building on April 25. The Allins found several occupied nests of Common Crows on April 26.

Probably the first hint of migration was the changing status of winter visitors. T. Perrons reported a heavy movement of Snow Buntings and Pine Grosbeaks on March 1. The last Pine Grosbeaks were seen on March 8. The occasional Snow Bunting was still present in early May. Common Redpolls were abundant on March 8, with a northern movement definitely underway. They were still common on March 22; subsequently they were scarce although we saw a small flock as late as April 20. The Northern Shrike was virtually absent last winter. We believe a northern movement was underway in early March. We saw 3 on March 8, and 4 were reported a week later. Two were seen on April 17 and April 18.

Herring Gulls winter here in varying numbers. The local birds evidently had been joined by newcomers by mid-March. A few Common Crows were seen on March 11; they were abundant on March 15. As usual these two species were the first summer residents to return from farther south. W. Rosser reported Lapland Longspurs on March 16 and 23, very early dates for this species. We saw at least 25 on March 30 between Pigeon River and Cascade River, Cook County, Minnesota. A large flock was still present at the Lakehead on May 17.

The last of February and the first few days of March produced maximum high temperatures which may have stimulated the northern movement of winter residents. If so, the cold and snow of late March must have delayed migration during that period. The normal weather of April resulted in a

steady migration without spectacular movements and this pattern continued through the first half of May with migration generally delayed.

Loons to Bitterns: A Great Blue Heron was seen on April 2. One always wonders how these big birds find sufficient food so early in the season. D. Storey saw the first American Bittern on April 26.

Swans to Mergansers: A lone Whistling Swan was seen at the foot of Black Bay on April 19, although that large bay was still ensheathed in ice except at the outlet of Hurkett Creek. Swans were seen in the local harbor on April 25 (5), April 26 (9), and on Cloud Bay (3) towards the end of the month. Two marked movements of Canada Geese were reported. On the 13th, huge flocks were seen from Ingnace, 130 miles west of the Lakehead, to Geraldton, 175 miles to the northeast. A second massive movement occurred on April 24 when flocks were reported from Grand Marais (J. Bro Noel) to the Lakehead. On April 26, flocks rested in Thunder Bay. We received no reports of species other than Canadas during this period.

Common Goldeneyes wintered here as usual in small numbers, particularly at Dorion Fish Hatchery. They were reported in increased numbers on April 11. D. Storey saw an early Ring-necked Duck on April 12 and others reported Mallards and Black Ducks on the same date. The first Pintails were seen on April 16 and Blue-winged Teal on April 18. We saw the first Greater Scaup on April 16 and Lesser Scaup two days later. Generally a few Common Mergansers winter here; two were seen off Hurkett Creek on April 19. R. Robb reported Hooded Mergansers on April 18. Buffleheads were seen on April 22, Green-winged Teal on April 22, and American Widgeons on April 25. The Allins and M. Hogarth saw 2 male and 1 female Wood Duck, unusual visitors, on April 26, at Chippewa Park. The movement of ducks seemed smaller than usual but water levels are very low in Lake Superior and this may have resulted in changes in their feeding areas. The majority had left the Harbor by mid-May. An interesting

phenomenon is the presence of a pair of either Blue-winged Teal or of Mallards in nearly every slough and marsh.

Vultures, Hawks and Falcons: D. Storey identified a Turkey Vulture over Fort William on April 26. There are only a few local records for this bird. Red-tailed Hawks were first seen on April 11. Rough-legged Hawks were uncommon; one was seen over Slate River on April 12. A Golden Eagle was caught in a trap set for Fisher in Forbes Township about March 7. It was in poor condition but this may have been due to the fact it was caught only by one talon and may have survived some time in the trap before it died of exhaustion and starvation. Two Bald Eagles were seen near Chippewa Park during the first week of April. A Sparrow Hawk and a Marsh Hawk were seen on April 5. A Pigeon Hawk was reported in Strange Township on April 12.

Grouse to Gulls: We have little idea how grouse survived the winter. The latter was not particularly severe and more snow would have been in their favor. Gray Partridge are still present in several areas. A Killdeer was seen by J. Hebden on April 11. An American Woodcock was killed when it flew into a picture window on April 18. We saw two Common Snipe in Fort William on April 23. Greater Yellowlegs were seen on April 16 and Lesser Yellowlegs on April 23. Generally the migration of shorebirds has been very poor to this date of writing in mid-May. Herring Gulls were seen and heard on March 14. We saw Ring-billed Gulls on April 16, and a Glaucous Gull at Hurkett Bay on April 19. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Dorion on May 16. Mrs. Knowles reported a Mourning Dove at Rosslyn on April 20 but this may have been a bird which wintered in that area.

Owls to Woodpeckers: The last Snowy Owl of the winter was seen on March 7. T. Perrons reported a Barred Owl, on April 12. This species is locally uncommon. The first Belted Kingfisher was seen on April 18. The occasional Pileated Woodpecker has been seen. K. Denis reported a Black-

backed Three-toed Woodpecker on March 15. The Yellow-shafted Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen on April 12 and 13 respectively.

Flycatchers to Brown Creepers: An early Eastern Phoebe was seen by the Robbs on April 18. We saw a few Tree Swallows on April 26. However a long drive on May 17 produced few swallows, including both Tree and Barn. It seemed evident that the bulk of swallows had not yet arrived. This is not surprising in view of the cold, wet weather of early May. It probably can be correlated with the immense numbers of swallows seen at Frontenac on May 9. White-breasted Nuthatches successfully wintered at two feeders. B. Blake reported the first Brown Creepers in Vickers Park on April 13.

Wrens to Shrikes: B. Blake reported the return of the House Wren on May 10. Males were soon very abundant, several setting up territories in a single city block. We saw our first female on April 25 but they had probably been present earlier as two pair were engaged in nest building on that date. On April 28, a wave of the usual late-migrating Robins was seen in Fort William. (The next day we saw a very large migrating flock north of Spooner, Wisconsin). We saw an early Swainson's Thrush on April 17. The Rossers reported a Hermit Thrush on the same date. None of the three thrushes appeared to have returned in numbers by mid-May. If so they were inconspicuous and relatively silent. The first Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen and heard on April 23.

Vireos and Warblers: The only warbler seen during April was the Myrtle Warbler. It was reported by Mrs. Cryer, near Stanley, on April 19. Few Myrtle Warblers were seen between then and mid-May and only the occasional warbler of several other species was recorded.

Meadowlarks to Cowbirds: The Western Meadowlark was first seen on April 22. Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were reported on April 18, Rusty Blackbirds on April 15, Brewer's Blackbirds on April 18 and the Common Grackle on April 12. Brown-headed Cowbirds were first re-

ported on April 14.

Tanagers to Buntings: A Hoary Redpoll was seen in Fort William on March 7. The occasional Purple Finch and Slate-colored Junco wintered at the Lakehead. Mrs. Cryer saw early migrants of both species at Stanley on April 1. Mrs. Cryer reported the first Song Sparrow on April 13. There were several reports of Fox Sparrows on April 14 and they remained in the region in small flocks for about a week. Tree Sparrows did not appear until April 16. An early Swamp Sparrow was reported on the same date at Mrs. Gibson's feeder in Neebing Township, where the Harris' Sparrow had spent the winter. On visiting this feeder on April 16 we saw two well-marked Oregon Juncos. We do not consider the Chipping Sparrow an early migrant but three reports of these birds were received on April 17 and 18. White-throated Sparrows appeared on April 17 but the main waves did not arrive until much later. Several naturalists reported White-crowned Sparrows as early as May 3 and Harris' Sparrows on May 6. A lone Clay-colored Sparrow appeared at Con-saul's feeder on May 7. A Savannah Sparrow was seen there on May 4.

A new species should not be added to a State or Provincial list unless it can be fully documented. Actually the specimen should be collected so that the identification may be fully confirmed and the sex, age, and subspecies determined. In certain instances a good colored picture may be acceptable where circumstances prevented the collection of a specimen. This problem had remained a theoretical one with us, from the time we recorded in our first notes the arrival of a Song Sparrow in southern Ontario on March 1, 1921, until recently.

On December 22, 1962, the Allins were participating in the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club Christmas Census. In Chippewa Park, Fort William we leisurely observed, in good light and in all possible positions, a Mountain Bluebird. We had previously seen the species in the west and subsequently restudied breeding pairs in South Dakota. We have also examined skins

in the Royal Ontario Museum. There is no doubt in our minds that this was a Mountain Bluebird, but since we were unable to collect it, and since we did not have a camera available, the Mountain Bluebird can be given only hypothetical status as a bird which has occurred in Ontario.

On March 31, 1963, Mrs. H. C. Karst reported a strange bird had been frequenting her feeder in Neebing Township, during the latter half of March. She believed it was a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. That afternoon the strange visitor was photographed by Carl Rydholm as was a Purple Finch for comparison. Unfortunately the light was poor in the late afternoon and a telescopic lens was not used. Details of the birds cannot be distinguished by direct examination of the kodachromes, or even in a viewer. However, when they are projected on a screen under favorable circumstances, there is no difficulty in identifying the familiar Purple Finch. I felt the visitor was

definitely a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and, based on the illustrations in Petersons' "A Field Guide to Western Birds," evidently a Hepburn's Rosy Finch. W. Earl Godfrey, Curator of Ornithology, National Museum of Canada, stated in a personal communication that the picture showed "what appeared to be *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*" but conservatively added "The photographic evidence alone however...is not quite good enough on which to base a new Ontario record." Dr. P. B. Hofslund is convinced it is a Rosy Finch *probably* a Hepburn's. James Baillie, Acting Curator of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, also is convinced the pictures depict a Hepburn's Rosy Finch and has included the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in the birds listed on the check-list cards of Ontario birds distributed by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists:—*Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William, Ontario.*

First Record of the Ruff for Minnesota

by Janet C. Green

My husband John and I started out the first day of M. O. U. spring field trip at Morris on May 23, 1964 by getting up at dawn and going to a slough west of town that Dick Grant had recommended as a good place for shorebirds and ducks. We arrived at the slough, which is located about 6 miles west of Morris, Stevens County on Hwy. 28 just east of the town of Alberta, before the sun was quite up and were rewarded by the sight of a grassy-bordered pothole full of hundreds of shorebirds, and many ducks, gulls and terns. The day dawned bright and clear and we first spent about three-quarters of an hour sorting out the shorebirds on our side of the pothole—mostly Stilt Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers and Semipalmated Sandpipers with a sprinkling of Dunlins, Hudsonian Godwits and Wilson's Phalaropes. Looking farther afield with the spotting scope, I located a strange-looking, medium-sized shorebird partly obscured by a fence run-

ing through the middle of the slough. We moved to get an unobstructed view of the bird, and as soon as we saw it clearly, it was obvious that it was something we had not seen before. Because of the way it puffed out the feathers on its neck while preening, I suspected at once that it might be a Ruff but we proceeded to take notes of all the features we could see before looking it up in Peterson's eastern guide. The light was excellent and we were watching it through a 15-60 power zoom-lens spotting scope at a distance of about 80 to 100 yards as it preened and fed along the fence line. It was quite aggressive towards the shorebirds near it and puffed out its neck feathers in display that succeeded in putting a yellowlegs to flight. When we had finished taking notes we looked at the field guide and decided that it really must be a Ruff, a Eurasian species that is casual on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America. John manned the telescope while I drove back into town to

find someone else to come and corroborate our identification. By the time I returned with Tom Jegla, Dick Grant and Dick's European field guide (by Peterson, Mountfort and Hollom) John had managed to get an excellent look at the distinctive pattern on the tail as the bird fanned it while preening, and he had made a sketch of it. This matched perfectly the picture of the Ruff in flight in the European field guide and it convinced all of us that the identification was correct. A full description of the bird as we saw it, which was a male acquiring the breeding plumage, appears at the end of this article.

Fortunately for everyone at the M. O. U. meeting the Ruff remained in almost exactly the same spot for the two day weekend and was seen by over 75 people. Ernest Strubbe took some very clear pictures of it with his Questar lens and these together with some sketches by Ken Haag appear elsewhere in this issue. In retrospect it was discovered that the bird had been present in the pot-hole the day before we saw it but it had not been identified. It remained in that slough for over a week, being last seen on May 31st.

The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (1957) places the Ruff as accidental in the interior of North America and mentions records for southern

Ontario, Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa. Since that time there have been several additional observations for the interior: four in southern Ontario, one in Ohio, two in Illinois (Chicago), two in Missouri (St. Louis, Mound City), and two in south central Wisconsin. With one exception these all seem to be east of or adjacent to the Mississippi River. The exception was at the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Missouri which is in the Missouri River drainage. This Minnesota record seems to be the furthest north and west that the Ruff has penetrated into the interior of the continent.

Description: Medium-sized shorebird noticeably larger than Lesser Yellowlegs (but not near the size of the godwits) with bright yellow legs and a dark, medium-sized, straight bill. Breast, throat and sides of neck were creamy buff, lighter under the chin, and contrasting fairly sharply with the white belly. Light feathers of neck and upper breast occasionally puffed out into "ruff." Top of head and back of neck were dark brown; back and wings, dark brown with some buffy mottling, especially on wings. A few dark markings where breast joins belly and also along flanks. White wing linings. Tail with dark band at tip and two large white patches on either side of dark midline. 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.

THE SPRING SEASON

by Ronald L. Huber

Weather: March was generally warm and dry, with the Woodchuck appearing on the 13th, and the Eastern Chipmunk on the 28th (DH). April was mostly warm and wet, with almost 4 inches of precipitation at Fargo-Moorhead (EGA). Although there were a few cold days in April, Mourning Cloak butterflies were out on the 11th and Milbert's Tortoise-shells were out by the 23rd (RLH). May was alternately warm and cool, with little rain and a few periods of very strong winds from the south and west. Temperatures in the 80's were recorded in southern and western Minnesota during the

first few days of May, and at Fargo-Moorhead, winds gusted to 41m.p.h. on May 3 (EGA). About mid-May, strong winds ripped through the Twin Cities area, with gusts to 106 m.p.h. Almost coincidental to these windy periods were the passerine waves: 5-3 Fargo (and night flights on 5-5 and 5-19) EGA, first week of May, Ramsey Co., (and night flight on 5-11) ACR, 5-15 Rochester (night flight) JPF, did not materialize in Winona Co. GD, did not materialize in Douglas Co., MVS, did not materialize in Marshall Co., DLO, 5-17 Washington Co. DH; most observers agreed that peaks occurred

during first few days of May and again in mid-May. Janet Green of Duluth recorded new early arrival dates for the area for *eleven* species of warblers!

General consideration: Perhaps it might prove interesting, phenologically, to try and compare annual spring and fall movements of birds with such other phenomena as the foliation and defoliation of common trees and flowers, spring and autumn schedules of resident vertebrates (mammals, reptiles, amphibians) and common, easily recognized insects (butterflies, beetles, dragonflies, etc.). Some observers not only report their bird observations to me, but they also report when they see the first bats, butterflies, chipmunks, etc. On 4-22, while watching and listening to the moon-lit American Woodcock courtship performances near Duluth with the JCG's, I was surprised to hear the calls of Wood Frogs and Cricket Frogs, even though the temperature was only a few degrees above freezing. We also heard a Winter Wren singing in the darkness of a nearby spruce swamp. The following day we saw a Snapping Turtle that had just emerged on Minnesota Point. On 4-26, RG and WRP found several Blanding's Turtles active in Anoka Co. On 4-30, RO trapped a Bog Lemming near his home in Wadena Co (a new county record). He also trapped a Meadow Jumping Mouse on 5-5 and collected Silver-haired Bats, migrating north along the Crow Wing River, on 6-6. In April, an Otter was carefully identified in Lac Qui Parle Co., along the Minnesota River not far from Appleton, by HFH. This appears to be an isolated record for the southwestern quarter of the state. As is most likely evident, observers are identified in this report by their initials, a complete list of which follows the summary.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANT:

Common Loon: 4-5 Ramsey Co, BI; 4-7 Dakota Co, MAS; 4-8 Winona Co, GD; 4-11 Ramsey Co, 30, KH; 4-11 Duluth, FN; 4-11 Wright Co, EC; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-13 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-19 Becker Co, EGA; 4-22 Marshall Co, DLO.
Red-throated Loon: only record, 5-28

Duluth, JCG.

Red-necked Grebe: 4-5 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 4-18 Two Harbors, GEC; 4-24 Marshall Co, DLO.

Horned Grebe: 4-10 Wright Co, EC; 4-12 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-17 Pope Co, RPR; 4-18 Two Harbors, GEC; 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-20 Wadena Co, RO; 4-24 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-2 Beltrami Co, JAM.

Eared Grebe: 4-16 Pope Co, ELC; 4-18 Frontenac, Goodhue Co, RBJ; 4-19 Becker Co, EGA; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG; 5-18 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-20 Anoka Co, MAS; 6-6 Rock Co, DP.

Western Grebe: 4-25 Frog Lake, RBJ; 5-22 Marshall Co, DLO.

White Pelican: 4-4 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 4-15 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-17 Big Stone Co, 100 plus, RPR; 4-18 Wheaton, RG; 5-18 Becker Co, RLW.

Double-crested Cormorant: 4-4 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 4-16 Hennepin Co, 9, MAS; 4-16 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-18 Swift Co, RG; 4-18 Duluth, 5, JCG; 4-20 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-20 Wadena Co (2nd Co. record), RO.

HERONS, EGRETS, ETC.

Great Blue Heron: 3-27 Ramsey Co, BL 3-30 Anoka Co, ACR; 4-1 Wright Co, EC; 4-1 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-1 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-3 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-4 Washington Co, DH; 4-5 Duluth, NJH; 4-12 Beltrami Co, MG.

Green Heron: 4-12 Washington Co, DH; 4-19 Wabasha Co, JPF; 4-22 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-25 Dakota Co, IG; 4-26 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-30 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-4 Wright Co, EC.

Little Blue Heron: 5-8 and 5-9 Frontenac, Goodhue Co, 1 immature seen by many observers. See Notes of Interest. Bird not there on 5-10.

Common Egret: 4-2 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-8 Winona Co, 4, GD; 4-11 Le Sueur, FL; 4-16 Pope Co, ELC; 4-16 Wadena Co (2nd Co. record), RO; 4-26 Ramsey Co, 3, ACR; 4-29 Hennepin Co, MEH; 5-5 to 5-7 Roseau Co, JR, 5-6 Becker Co, *vide* RLW; 5-9 Grant Co, 2, RPR; 5-16 Stearns Co, 2, EAH.

Cattle Egret: 5-26 Grass Lake, Minneapolis, 1 adult, seen all day by MAS, RBJ. See Notes of Interest.

Snowy Egret: See Notes of Interest.
Black-crowned Night Heron: 4-12 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-14 Washington Co,

DH; 4-18 Lake Traverse, RG; 4-19 Hennepin Co, MAS.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 5-3 La Crescent, BT; 5-9 Pig's Eye area, S. St. Paul just inside Dakota Co from Ramsey Co, RLH, nest found on 5-17; 5-17 Cannon Falls, Goodhue Co, photographed, BHL, IG.

American Bittern: 3-31 Wright Co, EC; very early; 4-10 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-25 Virginia, VFB and Ely, MWM; 5-2 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-19 Chippewa Co, RLH, 5-11 Marshall Co, DLO.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS:

Whistling Swan: 4-4 Washington Co, 10, ACR; 4-4 Salt Lake, 18 and 4-9, 200, RKO; 4-2 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-4 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-5 Wabasha Co, 1200, GD; 4-6 Hennepin Co, 70, photo in Mpls newspaper; 4-11 Wadena Co, 3 flocks of 300 each, RO; 4-11 Hibbing, HM; 4-11 Warroad, JR; 4-11 Duluth, 700, most ever recorded there, PBH; 4-12 Washington Co, DH; 4-17 Stearns Co, 14, RPR, EAH.

Canada Goose: 3-7 Ramsey Co, ACR; 3-14 Salt Lake, 150, RKO; 3-16 Wright Co, EC; 3-16 Marshall Co, DLO; 3-22 Washington Co, DH; 4-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-12 Warroad, JR; 4-11 thru 4-29 Duluth, more observations than ever before, JCG.

White-fronted Goose: 3-15 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, 5, RKO; 4-4 Swift Co, RBJ; 4-18 Salt Lake, RG; 4-18 Duluth, 1, JCG; 5-11 Marshall Co, 7, DLO.

Blue-Snow Geese: 4-4 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 4-9 Salt Lake, 400 mixed, RKO; 4-11 Marshall Co, peak on 5-5, 5000 mixed, DLO; 4-11 French River, Snow Geese only, JGH; 4-12 Duluth, 1 Blue Goose, JCG; 4-18 Warroad, JR; 4-22 Ramsey Co, mixed, ACR.

Black Duck: 3-22 Duluth, peak on 4-18, 100, JCG; 3-27 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-2 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-17 Marshall Co, DLO.

Gadwall: 3-21 Ramsey Co, BL; 3-27 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 St. Peter, BT; 4-11 Marshall Co, peak 5-15, 4,080 seen, DLO; 4-12 Salt Lake, RKO; 4-18 Duluth, JCG.

Pintail: 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 3-28 Washington Co, BL; 3-29 Duluth, JCG; 4-4 Salt Lake, 200, RKO; 4-5 Wabasha Co, GD; 4-7 Dakota Co, MAS; 4-10 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-16 Warroad, JR.

Green-winged Teal: 3-28 Dakota Co, RBJ; 4-5 Duluth, JCG; 4-7 Dakota Co, MAS; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-11 Sibley Co, FL; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-17 Big Stone Co, RPR; 4-18 Warroad, JR; 4-19 Washington Co, DH; 4-25 Becker Co, EGA. *Cinnamon Teal*: 4-25 Agassiz National Refuge, Marshall Co, male seen at less than 50 feet by O. E. Janzen, Roseau High School science teacher, *fide* JR; 5-11 Downer, Clay Co, 4 seen, *fide* EGA, details given to RBJ. (See Notes of Interest).

Blue-winged Teal: 3-14 Salt Lake, RKO; 4-7 Dakota Co, MAS; 4-11 Sibley Co, RG; 4-11 Washington Co, DH; 4-12 Duluth, JCG; 4-14 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-15 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-16 Warroad, JR.

American Widgeon: 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 3-29 Duluth, JCG; 4-6 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-12 Warroad, JR; 4-14 Washington Co, DH.

Shoveler: 3-14 Salt Lake, RKO; 4-7 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 Duluth, AMBR; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-14 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-17 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-19 Washington Co, DH.

Wood Duck: 3-21 Washington Co, DH; 3-25 Dakota Co, EWJ; 3-28 Washington Co, DH; 4-6 Washington Co, JO; 4-6 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-18 Duluth, JCG; 5-1 Marshall Co, DLO.

Redhead: 3-28 Washington Co, BL; 4-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-12 Duluth, JCG; 4-14 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-17 Stearns Co, RPR.

Ring-necked Duck: 3-28 Washington Co, BL; 4-5 Hennepin Co, many, MAS; 4-5 Stearns Co, 150 on 5-2, RPR; 4-11 Carver Co, RG; 4-11 Duluth, PHB; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO.

Canvasback: 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 4-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 Two Harbors, GEC; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-14 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-17 Stevens Co, 40, RPR.

Greater Scaup: 4-10 Duluth, JCG; 4-11 Sibley Co, RG, RBJ, BT, FL.

Lesser Scaup: 3-8 Wabasha Co, JO; 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 3-16 Wright Co, EC; 3-20 Washington Co, DH; 3-21 Ramsey Co, BL; 3-27 Ramsey Co, ACR;

4-2 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-2 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-12 Duluth, JCG; the 2nd week in April, Winona Co, KK reported fantastic total of 126,700 of this species.

Bufflehead: 3-28 Dakota Co, RBJ; 4-3 Ramsey Co, BL; 4-6 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-6 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Duluth, PBH; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-11 Carver Co, RBJ; 4-17 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-20 Beltrami Co, MG.

Oldsquaw: latest dates, 3-1 Duluth, 25, JCG; 4-23 Two Harbors, 18, GEC.

Harlequin Duck: 4-1 mouth of Cross River, Lake Superior, one male, JGH. (See Notes of Interest).

White-winged Scoter: 4-14 Duluth 3, PBH; 4-29 Duluth, 24, JCG; 5-4 Duluth, 25-30, JCG; last seen at Duluth on 5-16, PBH.

Ruddy Duck: 4-4 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 4-11 St. Peter, BT, FL; 4-20 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-22 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-4 Duluth, 28, JCG; 5-12 Hennepin Co, 32, MAS; 5-15 Sherburne Co, RPR.

Hooded Merganser: 3-27 Dakota Co, ACR; 3-28 Washington Co, BL; 4-4 Duluth, PBH; 4-6 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Warroad, JR; 4-12 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-14 Marshall Co, DLO.

Common Merganser: 3-8 Wabasha Co, JO; 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 3-17 Duluth, JCG; 3-27 Dakota Co, ACR; 4-6 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-19 Stearns Co, RPR.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3-28, Dakota Co, RBJ; 4-4 Duluth PBH; 4-4 Dakota Co, large flock, MAS; 4-11 St. Peter, BT, FL; 4-19 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-15 Marshall Co, 'rare spring migrant,' DLO. This species was common in Eastern Minnesota this spring.

VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES:

Turkey Vulture: 4-11, Duluth 17, PBH; 4-11 Swan Lake, RG; 4-16 Itasca Co, JAM; 4-16 Wadena Co, RO; 4-19 Wabasha Co, JPF; 4-19 Warroad, JR; 4-19 Houston Co, GD; 4-25 Hennepin Co, ACR; 4-27 Collegeville, EAH; 5-2 Cass Lake, JAM; 5-28 Lake Co, JGH.

Goshawk: 3-13 Princeton, brought to JO, she banded and released it in Washington Co; 3-20, Stearns Co, RPR; 3-22, 4-10 and 4-11 Wadena Co, RO; 3-15 Duluth, AMBR; 4-8 Stearns Co, RPR;

at Duluth on 4-11 (PBH), 5-8 (JCG), 5-16 (PBH) and 5-17 (DM).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 3-2 and 3-21 Washington Co, DH; 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 3-27 Ramsey Co, BL; 3-27 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 3-27 Hibbing, HM, SM; 3-31 Washington Co, JO; 4-4 to present, Collegeville, Stearns Co, RPR, EAH, probably nesting.

Broad-winged Hawk: 4-11 Duluth, MAS; 4-23 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-23 Fargo, EGA; 4-25 Lake Traverse, RBJ; 4-26 Duluth, 30, DM; 4-30 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-1 Wright Co, EC.

Swainson's Hawk: 5-2 Wangs, Goodhue Co, RBJ, BL, RG, HFH; 5-9 Fargo, EGA.

Rough-legged Hawk: latest dates, 4-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-10 Sax to Zim, St. Louis Co, 38, JCG; 4-11 Duluth, MAS; 4-11 Sibley Co, RG, FL; 4-18 Appleton, RG, RLH; 4-21 Mahtowa, RLH; 5-3 Warroad, JR; 5-14 Nickerson, RLH; 5-15 Sherburne Co, RPR, EAH.

Ferruginous Hawk: 4-18 Lake Traverse, RG, RLH; very rufous above, extremely white, contrasty windows on dorsal aspect of primaries, pink tail, rough-leg shape.

Golden Eagle: 3-20 Hibbing, 1 found dead, J. Gawboy; 4-4 St. Louis Co, J. Gawboy, 5-5, 22 mi S Warroad, JR.

Bald Eagle: 3-7 Duluth, JCG; 3-8 Warroad, JR; 3-8 Wabasha Co, 1 ad, 2 imm, JO; 3-10 Stearns Co, H. Wilson; 3-15 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 3-25 Freeport, 1 ad, N. Zaczkowski; 3-25 DH; 3-29 Cascade River, Lake Superior, AEA; 3-29 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-5 Duluth, 1 ad, 1 imm, JCG; 4-15 Cass Co, 2, JAM; 4-17 Cass Co, 6, JAM; 4-18 Ramsey Co, 2 ad, MAS; 4-18 Duluth, JCG; 5-13 Itasca Co, JAM; 5-13 Hennepin Co, ELC.

Marsh Hawk: 3-2 Sherburne Co, RPR; 3-5 Marshall Co, DLO; 3-12 Duluth, JCG; 3-13 Hennepin Co, MEH; 3-14 Dakota Co, RBJ; 3-15 Warroad, JR; 3-16 Wright Co, EC; 3-19 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 3-21 Washington Co, DH.

Osprey: 3-27 Aitkin Co, JGH; 4-11 Duluth *vide* JCG; 4-16 Washington Co, DH; 4-18 Swift Co, RG, RLH; 4-27 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Stearns Co, Wm. Heibel; 4-28 Washington Co, ACR; 5-2

Dakota Co, RG; 5-3 Dakota Co, MAS; 5-13 Winona Co, KK.

Peregrine Falcon: 3-17 Marshall Co, 1, and 2 on 5-18, DLO; 4-3 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-16 Big Stone Co, ELC; 4-27 Warroad, JR; 5-31 Wright Co, EC.

Gyrfalcon: 4-30 Ely, St. Louis Co, 1 white phase bird, MWM; seen again there 5-2 thru 5-19, sporadically.

Pigeon Hawk: 4-11 Duluth, MAS; 4-11 Wadena Co, RO; 4-18 Warroad, JR.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS:

Spruce Grouse: 4-25 St. Louis Co, 1 seen, NJH.

Greater Prairie Chicken: 4-17 Stevens Co, RPR; 4-25 Felton, Clay Co, booming, 7 birds, RG, RLH; 4-29 Cass Co, near Nimrod, LJ, RO; 5-6 Ada, Clay Co, booming, EGA.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: 5-17 Aitkin Co, 1, PHB.

Bobwhite: 5-13 Dakota Co, 1 calling, RG; 6-10 Anoka Co, 1 calling, DP, LJ.

Chukar: 5-30 Ely, St. Louis Co, 2, JCG.

Gray Partridge: 4-18 Artichoke Lake, RG, RLH; 4-19 Wabasha Co, JPF; 5-5 Wright Co, EC.

CRANES AND RAILS:

Sandhill Crane: 4-12 Marshall Co, 25, DLO; 4-20 Warroad, JR; 5-17 Aitkin Co, 1, DM.

Virginia Rail: 5-15 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-21 Duluth, PBH; 5-23 Ramsey Co, MAS.

Sora: 4-12 Anoka Co, RBJ, 1 found dead; 4-19 Wabasha Co, JPF; 4-22 Hennepin Co, ACR; 4-25 Salt Lake, RLH; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-1 Wright Co, EC; 5-7 Sherburne Co, RPR; 5-7 Washington Co, DH; 5-8 Winona, DCF.

Yellow Rail: 5-23 Becker Co, south of Waubun, none seen or heard at usual spot, but their presence was detected by a fresh nest with eggs, which was unfortunately destroyed underfoot, RLH.

Common Gallinule: 5-29 Ramsey Co, Mrs. Swedenborg.

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS:

Semipalmated Plover: 4-14 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-25 Salt Lake, RG, RLH; 5-7 Grand Marais, Cook Co, JCG.

Piping Plover: 5-7 Duluth, PBH; 5-10

Salt Lake, RLH.

American Golden Plover: 4-4 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ, very early; 4-18 Stevens Co, RG, RLH; 5-7 Duluth, JCG.

Black-bellied Plover: 4-11 Ramsey Co, 1 fall plumage, very early, excellent details given, BL; 5-12 Hennepin LJ; 5-19 Duluth, PBH; 5-22 Marshall Co, DLO.

Ruddy Turnstone: 5-9 Duluth, JCG; 5-22 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-23 Mille Lacs Lake, TEM; 5-24 Hennepin Co, RBJ.

American Woodcock: 4-4 Duluth, *vide* PBH; 4-13 Washington Co, DH; 4-25 Dakota Co, ACR.

Whimbrel: 5-12 Dora Lake, Cass Co, JAM; 5-20 Duluth, 16 JCG.

Upland Plover: 4-25 Salt Lake, RG, RLH; 4-26 Sherburne Co, RPR; 4-28 Wright Co, EC; 5-24 Marshall Co, DLO.

Solitary Sandpiper: 4-19 Wright Co, EC; 5-2 Frontenac, RBJ; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Winona Co, BT; 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-7 Duluth, JCG.

Willet: 4-25 Salt Lake, RBJ; 5-7 Sherburne Co, 1, EAH; 5-9 White Rock Dam, above Lake Traverse, EGA; at Duluth on 5-7 JCG, 5-10 BL, 5-19 PBH.

Greater Yellowlegs: 4-4 Washington Co, BL; 4-7 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-11 Nicollet Co, FL; 4-12 Duluth, JCG; 4-17 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-1 Washington Co, DH; 5-2 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Knot: 5-21 Duluth, 1, JCG; 6-6 Salt Lake, 1, RBJ, FL.

Whiterumped Sandpiper: 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG; 5-19 Duluth, PBH.

Baird's Sandpiper: See Notes of Interest; 4-25 Salt Lake, RBJ.

Least Sandpiper: 4-12 Hennepin Co, RBJ, RG; 4-19 Wright Co, EC; 5-7 Winona Co, LJ; 5-8 Duluth, DM; 5-12 Hennepin Co, MAS.

Dunlin: 4-17 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Duluth, JCG; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5-7 Stevens Co, RAG, 15 identified by call note.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 5-10 Redwood Co, RG, RLH; 5-17 Dakota Co, RG, RLH.

Stilt Sandpiper: 5-7 Winona Co, BT; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG.

Marbled Godwit: 4-17 Stearns Co, 2, RPR; 4-18 Salt Lake, 1, Wilkin Co, 30,

RG, RLH; 4-27 Warroad, JR; 5-1 Marshall Co, DLO.

Hudsonian Godwit: 5-9 White Rock Dam, above Lake Traverse, EGA; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG; 5-14 Marshall Co, 10, "rare spring migrant," DLO; 5-15 Hennepin Co, 30, good details, MEC; 5-17 Aitkin Co, 6, PBH.

Sanderling: 4-18 Frontenac, RBJ; 5-7 Winona Co, LJ; 5-7 Duluth, 125, JCG; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG; 5-12 Hennepin Co, MAS.

American Avocet: 5-5 Duluth, 2 PHB; 5-10 Salt Lake, RG; 5-16 Fargo, 2, DRL.

Northern Phalarope: 5-10 Salt Lake, RG, RLH; 5-29, Dakota Co, RBJ.

Ruff: See articles elsewhere in this issue.

Glaucous Gull: latest dates, 3-29 Grand Marais, Cook Co, AEA; 3-29 Duluth, last adult, JCG; 4-19 Duluth, 1 immature, JKB; 5-3 DM and 5-5 PBH at Duluth, 1 immature. (See Notes of Interest).

Iceland Gull: last date for wintering bird, 3-29, St. Louis Co, first year bird, JCG.

Ring-billed Gull: 4-1 Dakota Co, RBJ, late; 4-5 Duluth, JCG; 4-8 Winona, GD; 4-17 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-13 Stearns Co, RPR.

Franklin's Gull: 3-20 Douglas Co, very early, MVS; 4-4 Albert Lea, RLH; 4-11 Swan Lake, RBJ; 4-15 Marshall Co, many thousand, DLO; 4-16 Lac Qui Parle Co, ELC; 4-17 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-18 Wright Co, EC.

Bonaparte's Gull: 4-21 Hennepin Co, LJ; 4-24 Duluth, JCG; 5-2 Frontenac, RBJ.

Forster's Tern: 4-12 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-17 Pope Co, many, RPR; 4-17 Wright Co, EC; 4-20 White Rock Dam, above L. Traverse, EGA; 4-21 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-11 Marshall Co, DLO.

Common Tern: 5-6 Duluth, JCG.

Caspian Tern: 5-7 Duluth, JCG; 5-17 Ramsey Co, RLH; 5-21 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-29 Ramsey Co, MAS.

Black Tern: 4-19 Douglas Co, early, MVS; 5-3 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-3 Wright Co, EC; 5-4 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-16 Duluth, PBH; 5-17 Crow Wing Co, MSB.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS:

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5-6 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-10 Frontenac, JPF; 5-14 Washington Co, DH; 5-16 Wabasha Co, RBJ, JCG; 5-19 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-20 Wright Co, EC; 6-6 Wadena Co, 1 collected, RO; definitely extending range northwestward.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 5-10 Frontenac, JPF; 5-11 Washington Co, DH; 5-13 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-17 Anoka Co, RG; 5-17 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-19 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-19 Wright Co, EC; 5-21 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 5-27 Stearns Co, RPR.

Snowy Owl: latest dates, 3-4 Beltrami Co, MG; 3-6 Duluth, *vide* JCG; 3-15 Hibbing, HM; 3-19 Hennepin Co, TEM; 3-22 Zim, St. Louis Co, NJH; 4-9 Warroad, JR; 4-13 Minneapolis, good details, ARF; 4-16 Marshall Co, 2, DLO; 5-28 Duluth, good details, RN.

Burrowing Owl: 4-18 Traverse Co, a pair returned to the usual spot near Wheaton, RG, RLH.

Hawk-Owl: latest dates, 3-1 Sax to Zim, St. Louis Co, 4, DM; 3-8 same area, 1, DM.

Great Gray Owl: 3-1 Central Lakes, St. Louis Co, Mr. C. E. Stultz; 4-4, Beltrami Co, 2, RG, WRP.

Long-eared Owl: 3-21 Ramsey Co, BL; 4-1 Rochester, JPF; 4-11 Duluth, MAS.

Short-eared Owl: 3-7 Wabasha Co, JPF; 3-14 to 4-11 Duluth, 1, DM; 4-7 Wadena Co, RO; 4-9 Salt Lake, RKO; 4-12 to 4-16 Duluth, 2, DM; 4-16 Marshall Co, 3, DLO; 4-18 Big Stone, Stevens, Pope, Stearns Co's, 16 seen, RPR, EAH; 4-18 Lac Qui Parle, Wilkin, Traverse Co's, 9 seen, RG, RLH; 4-18 Ramsey Co, BL; 5-27 Duluth, DM.

Saw-whet Owl: 3-1, 1 found dead, R. Bernard; 4-4 thru 4-20 Wadena Co, RO; 4-8 Duluth, 1 captured by DM; 4-22 Duluth, 2 heard, JCG.

Whip-poor-will: 4-25 Pickwick, PW; 5-3 Duluth, DM; 5-4 Rochester, JPF; 5-7 Two Harbors, RK; 5-8 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 5-15 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-16 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 5-17 Washington Co, DH; 5-17 Beltrami Co, MG; 5-19 Warroad, JR.

Common Nighthawk: 4-26 Dakota Co, IG; 5-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-3 Rochester, JPF; 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-8 Winona, GD; 5-11 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-13 Washington Co,

DH; 5-15 Wright Co, EC; 5-22 Cass Co, JAM.

Chimney Swift: 4-26 Ramsey Co, RLH; 4-26 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-30 Rochester, JPF; 5-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-3 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-4 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-4 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-4 Wright Co, EC; 5-5 Cass Co, JAM; 5-9 Washington Co, DH.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 5-2 Dakota Co, RBJ, HFH; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-7 Wright Co, EC; 5-8 Stearns Co, "common by 5-12," RPR; 5-10 Duluth, JCG; 5-12 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-18 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: 3-30 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-2 Washington Co, JO; 4-2 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-7 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-9 Rochester, JPF; 4-9 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-11 Duluth *vide* JCG; 4-11 Carver Co, RG; FL; 4-12 Washington Co, DH; 4-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-12 Cass Co, JAM; 4-16 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-16 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-16 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-19 Warroad, JR; 4-20 Beltrami Co, MG. Slight invasion of hybrid flickers; RAG reports 7 observed that showed a mixture of both species and RO collected a specimen in Wadena Co that was a typical Yellow-shafted except for a few red feathers at the top of each black "whisker."

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3-15 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-18 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-28 Wright Co, EC; 5-2 Frontenac, RBJ; 5-4 Fargo, EGA; 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-4 Washington Co, DH; 5-8 Lake and Cook Co's, 3, JGH; 5-9 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-14 Cook Co, *vide* AEA; 5-18 Marshall Co, DLO.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2-29, 3-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-8 Encampment Forest, MEP; 4-9 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-10 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-12 Washington Co, DH; 4-14 Winona Co, GD; 4-15 Cass Co, JAM; 4-16 Warroad, JR; 4-17 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-18 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-17 Crow Wing Co, MSB.

KINGBIRDS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS:

Eastern Kingbird: 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-23 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-1 Winona Co, GD; 5-2 Wabasha Co, RBJ;

5-4 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-4 Wright Co, EC; 5-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-10 Washington Co, DH; 5-13 Cass Co, JAM; 5-17 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-17 Beltrami Co, MG. *Western Kingbird*: 5-4 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-10 Lac Qui Parle Co, RG, RLH; 5-16 Wabasha Co, RBJ; 5-20 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-23 Sherburne Co, RPR; 5-24 Douglas Co, MVS.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 5-4 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-7 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-7 Washington Co, DH; 5-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-15 Wright Co, EC.

Eastern Phoebe: 4-10 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Carver Co, RBJ; 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-12 Grand Marais, Cook Co, Eliot Davis; 4-14 Hennepin Co, MAS.

Yellowbellied Flycatcher: 5-12 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-14 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-16 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-18 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-19 Goodhue Co, MAS; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 5-27 Stearns Co, RPR. *Trail's Flycatcher*: 5-18 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-19 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-20 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-23 Stearns Co, RPR.

Least Flycatcher: 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 5-5 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-6 Duluth, AKA; 5-8 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-10 Cass Co, JAM; 5-12 Anoka Co, LJ.

Eastern Wood Pewee: 4-27 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-4 Wright Co, EC; 5-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-13 Dakota Co, MAS; 5-16 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-17 Washington Co, DH; 5-17 Winona Co, GD; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-10 Lac Qui Parle Co, RG, RLH; 5-19 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-19 Wright Co, EC.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 5-16 Castle Danger, Lake Co, Donald Wick, others, photographed.

Tree Swallow: 4-7 Sherburne Co, LJ; 4-7 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Hennepin Co, FL; 4-11 Carlton Co, JCG; 4-11 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Ramsey Co, BL; 4-12 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-16 Cass Co, JAM; 4-18 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-20 Beltrami Co, MG.

Bank Swallow: 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 4-15 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-19 Rochester, JPF; 4-25 Washington Co, IG; 4-26 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-6 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ;

Rough-winged Swallow: 4-18 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 4-22 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-25 Chipewewa Co, RG; 4-26 Duluth, DM; 4-26 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-6 Hennepin Co, MAS.

Barn Swallow: 4-17 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-24 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-25 Salt Lake RG; 4-27 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-30 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-30 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-4 Wright Co, EC.

Cliff Swallow: 4-30 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RLH; 5-2 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Winona Co, BT; 5-4 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-5 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-6 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-9 Cass Co, 100, JAM; 5-13 Sherburne Co, colony RPR; 5-14 Grand Marais, Cook Co, AEA.

Purple Martin: 4-8 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-10 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-11 Nicollet Co, RBJ; 4-11 Chisholm, FS; 4-11 Ramsey Co, BL, ACR; 4-15 Wright Co, EC; 4-16 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-16 Rochester, JPF; 4-18 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-20 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-21 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-22 Cass Co, JAM; 4-24 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-24 Warroad, JR.

MAGPIE THROUGH SHRIKES:

Black-billed Magpie: latest date, 3-4 Beltrami Co, MG.

House Wren: 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-25 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-28 Sherburne Co, RPR; 5-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 5-2 Ramsey Co, IG; 5-2 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-4 Duluth, JCG; 5-5 Wright Co, EC; 5-10 Cass Co, JAM; 5-14 Marshall Co, DLO.

Winter Wren: 4-22 Duluth, 1 heard, RLH, JCG; 5-3 Hennepin Co, RBJ.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: 5-17 Anoka Co, RG; 5-19 Anoka Co, LJ.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: 4-29 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-7 Washington Co, DH; 5-14 Wright Co, EC.

Mockingbird: 4-19 Anoka Co, RG, RBJ, LJ, RLH; 5-9 and 5-10 Duluth, JCG, BL.

Catbird: 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-2 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-5 Washington Co, DH; 5-18 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-26 Rochester, JPF; 5-17 Beltrami Co, MG; 5-6 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-2 Chisago Co, ACR; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 5-6 Two Harbors, RK; 5-6 Duluth, SNE.

Brown Thrasher: 3-25 Hennepin Co, 3, ACR; 4-22 Duluth, JCG; 4-25 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-22 Duluth, JCG; 4-26 Ramsey ELC; 4-21 Washington Co, DH; 4-26 Pope Co, WH; 5-18 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-25 Fargo, EGA; 4-19 Wabasha Co, JPF; 4-26 Wright Co, EC; 5-8 Beltrami Co, MG.

Wood Thrush: 5-10 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-10 Washington Co, DH; 5-14 Wabasha Co, JPF; 5-11 Beltrami Co, MG; 5-17 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-8 Duluth, one found dead, DM.

Hermit Thrush: 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-9 Hennepin Co, "very limited numbers!" MAS; 4-20 Warroad, JR; 4-14 Duluth, PBH; 4-23 Ramsey, ELC; 4-15 Wright Co, EC; 4-11 Sibley Co, RBJ. *Swainson's Thrush*: 4-27 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-3 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-4 Washington Co, DH; 4-26 Wright Co, EC; 4-30 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 5-7, a few only, Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-15 Wright Co, EC; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-17 Washington Co, DH; 5-4 Pope Co, WH; 5-5 Winona, GD; 5-5 Rochester, JPF; 5-9 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Veery: 5-6 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-12 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-11 Duluth, Rosalie Naddy; 5-9 Dakota Co, RLH.

Eastern Bluebird: 3-15 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-1 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-11 Warroad, JR; 3-15 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Lac Qui Parle Refuge, RKO; 3-19 Washington Co, JO; 5-8 Beltrami Co, MG; 3-19 Washington Co, ACR.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4-23 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 4-28 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-11 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-21 Warroad, JR; 4-12 Duluth, JCG; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 4-12 Washington Co, DH; 4-17 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-19 Rochester, JPF; 4-15 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-11. Nicollet Co, RG.

Water Pipit: 4-4 Lac Qui Parle Co, RG, 1 seen very early; 5-7, small flock Sherburne Co, EAH; 5-10 Lac Qui Parle Co, RG; 5-4 through 5-11, Wadena Co, small flock in freshly-plowed fields, RO.

Sprague's Pipit: 5-13 Dakota Co, 2,

FN, EWJ; 4-25 Felton, Clay Co. RG, RLH.

Bohemian Waxwing: Latest Dates, 4-5 Hennepin Co, 9, MAS; 4-15 Duluth, DM.

Northern Shrike: Latest dates, 3-10 Sherburne Co, EAH; 3-14 Warroad, JR; 4-19 Duluth, JCG; 3-22 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-15 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Loggerhead Shrike: 4-10 Sherburne Co, RPR; 5-12 Wright Co, EC; 4-18 Washington Co, IG; 4-10 Pope Co, WH; 4-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-18 Lake Traverse, RG.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS:

Bell's Vireo: 6-1 Wabasha Co, nesting, RG; 6-12 Luverne, Rock Co, 1 heard, RLH, appears to be first record for county.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 5-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-4 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-14 Cass Co, JAM; 5-3 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-17 Aitkin Co, PBH.

Solitary Vireo: 5-15 Stearns Co, RPR;

4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Washington Co, DH; 5-14 Marshall Co, "new record for refuge," DLO; 5-10 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Frontenac, HFH; 5-6 Two Harbors, RK.

Red-eyed Vireo: 5-8 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-12 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-15 Wright Co, EC; 5-16 Washington Co, DH; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 5-13 Winona Co, GD; 5-16 Rochester, JPF; 5-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-16 Cloquet Forest Research Center, GWG.

Philadelphia Vireo: 5-5 Wright Co, EC; 5-8 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-16 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-16 Duluth, PBH.

Warbling Vireo: 5-15 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-13 Goodhue Co, MAS; 5-8 Wright Co, EC; 5-8 Washington Co, DH; 5-11 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-6, 5-7 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-11 Duluth, Rosalie Naddy, 5-9 Hennepin Co, RLH.

Black and White Warbler: 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-12 Washington

(Continued on page 56)

THE RUFF

by Ernest H. Strubbe

When 30 to 40 cars stopped along highway No. 28 about one mile east of Alberta, Minnesota, on Saturday, May 23, 1964, a new chapter in the history of birding in Minnesota was unfolding. With about 80 to 100 people looking on with binoculars, spotting scopes and a Questar, a Eurasian shorebird—the Ruff was performing his breakfast maneuvers in a farm pond belonging to Leroy Tolifson. Having been discovered by Jan Green of Duluth at a dawn-kissed hour, the Ruff was by now doing more than all other thousands of combined birds present to put Mr. Tolifson's pond on the map!

The Spring Convention of the M.O.U. (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union) just happened to be held at Morris on May 23rd and 24th. Most of the aforementioned group would have been indeed content to sight and identify the 14 species of shorebirds (snipe, plovers, sandpipers, etc.) that were all in the puddle, along with 10 species of ducks, several assorted herons, coots, and gulls, and one Canada Goose. They had left Morris Saturday morning with

about the same expression on their faces as that of a farmer who just got 35 cents a pound for his choice steers. When they saw Tolifson's shorebird slough, their expressions all lit up—to about 50 cents a lb. for steers! And when they had seen the Ruff—there was no limit to the price of steers!

What the Ruff saw probably was equally rare in his "people watching" experience. He saw persons from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, Albert Lea, Moorhead, LeSueur, Fargo and dozens of places in between. He saw farmers, businessmen, students, college instructors, housewives, lawyers and doctors. He saw people from 3 to 75 years of age—men and women. Both Democrats and Republicans.

The Ruff is occasionally seen on the Atlantic coast. There are only a few records of its ever being inland, including Wisconsin, but it had never been seen in Minnesota. For a European bird, he managed to get quite a ways from home! (See photos on next page.)





ruff depressed

The Ruff

Photos by
E. H. Strubbe
and
field sketches by
Ken Haag

(Continued from page 53)

Co, DH; 4-27 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-26 Dakota Co, IG; 5-9 Pope Co, WH; 5-5 Rochester, JPF; 5-1 Wright Co, EC; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Goodhue Co, HH; 5-3 Encampment Forest, J. Pratt.
Prothonotary Warbler: 5-11 Collegeville, Stearns Co, RPR & EAH; 5-3 La Crescent, BT.

Golden-winged Warbler: 5-3 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-6 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-10 Goodhue Co, IG; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 5-11 Frontenac, JPF; 5-17 Aitkin Co, DM.

Blue-winged Warbler: 5-3 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-10 Wabasha Co, JPF.

Tennessee Warbler: 4-29 Hennepin Co, RBJ.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-23 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-14 Washington Co, DH; 5-8 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 5-8 Hibbing, HM.

Parula Warbler: 5-5 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-29 Pickwick, PW; 5-9 Duluth, BL.

Magnolia Warbler: 5-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-4 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-9 Wright Co, EC; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-10 Washington Co, DH; 5-3 Rice Co, IG; 5-11 Frontenac, JPF; 5-9 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-7 Duluth, JCG.

Cape May Warbler: 5-12 Stearns Co, "fairly numerous" RPR; 5-4 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-3 Adrian, EHW; 5-6 Washington Co, DH; 5-3 Rice Co, IG; 5-20 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-16 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-10 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-7 Duluth, JCG.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 5-19, T. S. Roberts, Sanctuary, Mpls., Minn. 2 seen, MAS; 5-26 Duluth, AKA.

Audubon's Warbler: See Notes of Interest.

Myrtle Warbler: 4-14 Stearns Co, peaks on 4-29 and 30 and 5-1, RPR; 4-9 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-19 Warroad, JR; 4-12 St. Louis Co, NJH; 4-30 Washington Co, DH; 4-30 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-12 Winona, GD; 4-14 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-11 Hennepin Co, RG.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 5-7 Stearns Co, "few noted" RPR; 4-25 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-5 Ramsey Co,

ELC; 5-3 Rice Co, IG; 5-2 Frontenac, HFH; 5-1 St. Louis Co, NJH.

Cerulean Warbler: 5-13 Collegeville, Stearns Co, "a remarkable influx" there on 5-16, when 14 singing males noted, RPR & EAH; 5-13 Goodhue Co, MAS.

Blackburnian Warbler: 5-12 Stearns Co, "few noted" RPR; 5-3 Dakota Co, MAS; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-17 Washington Co, DH; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 5-15 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-9 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-1 St. Louis Co, NJH.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-17 Washington Co, DH; 5-17 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-13 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-7 Duluth, JCG.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 5-17 Stearns Co, "scarce" RPR; 5-19 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-19 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-15 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-16 St. Louis Co, NJH.

Blackpoll Warbler: 5-12 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-3 Dakota Co, MAS; 5-15 Wright Co, EC; 5-8 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-5 Washington Co, "thick" on 5-18, DH; 5-9 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-15 Duluth, AKA.

Pine Warbler: 5-19 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-26 St. Louis Co, (early) HJH; 5-5 Rochester, Mrs Rose Pendle *vide*, JPF.

Palm Warbler: 4-27 Stearns Co, peak 5-1, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-1 Washington Co, DH; 4-27 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-26 Wright Co, EC; 5-2 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-3 Duluth, DM.

Ovenbird: 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Wright Co, EC; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-8 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-3 Duluth, DM.

Northern Waterthrush: 5-6 Duluth, JCG; 4-29 Stearns Co, peak 5-7, not seen after 5-10, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, "many!" on 5-5, MAS; 5-9 Wright Co, EC; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-17 Washington Co, DH; 4-18 Ramsey Co, good details, BL; 5-4 Frontenac, JPF; 5-8 Ramsey, ACR.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 5-3, 5-8 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-2 Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Connecticut Warbler: 5-27 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-20 Anoka Co, MAS; 5-18 Rochester, JPF.

Mourning Warbler: 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-15 Wright Co, EC; 5-13 Fargo, EGA; 5-15 Rochester, JPF; 5-15 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-16 St. Louis Co, NJH. *Yellowthroat*: 5-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-9 Wright Co, EC; 5-6 Ramsey Co, ELC; 5-5 Washington Co, DH; 5-5 Rochester, JPF; 5-3 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-3 Duluth, DM; 5-2 Wabasha Co, RBJ.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 5-16 Reno, Houston Co, RBJ, MB, JCG.

Hooded Warbler: 4-27 Fargo, EGA, excellent details. Probably third North Dakota record.

Wilson's Warbler: 5-7 Stearns Co, peak 5-12, RPR; 4-21 Diamond Lake, Mpls, Ruth Akeley; 5-9 Wright Co, EC; 5-5 Ramsey ELC; 4-22 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 5-6 Washington Co, DH; 5-5 Rochester, JPF; 5-9 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-8 Duluth, JCG.

Canada Warbler: 5-3 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-15 Ramsey ELC; 5-18 Rochester, JPF; 5-20 Cloquet Forest Research Center, GWG; 5-17 Dakota Co, RG.

American Redstart: 5-17 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-6 Duluth, JCG; 5-11 Stearns Co, "low numbers" RPR; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-2 Wright Co, EC; 5-6 Ramsey ELC; 5-5 Washington Co, DH; 5-3 Goodhue Co, IG; 5-3 Pope Co, WH; 5-6 Ramsey ACR; 5-14 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-10 Olmsted Co, JPF; 5-2 Wright Co, EC.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES:
Bobolink: 5-7 Sherburne Co, RPR; 5-20 Anoka Co, MAS; 5-7 Wright Co, EC; 5-18 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-17 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-25 Dakota Co, ACT; 5-17 Washington Co, ACR.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 4-10 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 4-17 Stevens Co, RPR; 4-21 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-26 Duluth, DM; 4-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-26 Winona, GD; 4-19 Wright Co, EC; 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-11 St. Peter, RG. *Orchard Oriole*: 5-16 Houston Co, RBJ, MB, JCG.

Baltimore Oriole: 5-4 Rochester, JPF; 5-3 Wright Co, EC; 5-3 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-4 Ramsey ACR; 5-8 Duluth, AKA; 5-2 Wabasha Co, RBJ; 5-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-3 Wright Co, EC; 5-7 Cass Co, JAM; 5-3 Ramsey ELC; 5-3 Washington Co, DH; 5-3 Ramsey Co, IG; 5-5

Pope Co, WH; 5-14 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-2 Winona, GD.

Summer Tanager: See Notes of Interest.

Scarlet Tanager: 5-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-19 Hennepin Co, 10, MAS; 5-12 Wright Co, *fide* EC; 5-19 Ramsey ELC; 5-15 Washington Co, DH; 5-23 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 5-21 Fargo, EGA; 5-3 Winona, FR, DJ.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4-30 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 5-4 Duluth, AKA; 5-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-3 Dakota Co, MAS; 5-13 Wright Co, EC; 5-3 Ramsey ELC; 5-7 Washington Co, DH; 4-28 Hennepin Co, MEH; 5-15 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-11 Winona, GD; 5-10 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-5 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Indigo Bunting: 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-12 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-5 Hennepin Co, "many" MAS; 5-15 Wright Co, EC; 5-13 Ramsey ELC; 5-7 Washington Co, DH; 5-18 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 5-9 Hennepin Co, DB.

Dickcissel: 5-18 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-10 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-13 Goodhue Co, MAS; 5-23 Wright Co, EC; 5-10 Dakota Co, IG; 5-24 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-16 Washington Co, ACR; 5-10 to 5-13 Schroeder, Cook Co, Marie Afreith.

Evening Grosbeak: 3-25 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-11 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-20 Marshall Co, 20, DLO; 4-27 Fargo, EGA; 4-12 Winona, GD; at Anoka feeder until first week of May, LJ; 5-2 Stearns Co, 1 seen, RPR; 4-21 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-24 Cass Co, JAM; 4-30 Warroad, JR; migrants began moving north into Duluth on 4-11, *fide* JCG; 4-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 3-29 Washington Co, DH.

Pine Grosbeak: latest dates, 3-24 iron range area, St. Louis Co, *fide* JCG; 3-11 Beltrami Co, MG; 5-6 Virginia, St. Louis, Co, VFB.

Blue Grosbeak: 5-30 Rock Co, South of Manley, pair, RG, WRP, seen again on 6-6 by RLH, probably nesting.

Hoary Redpoll: latest dates 4-22, Two Harbors, with Common Redpolls, RK.

Pine Siskin: At Anoka feeder until 2nd week of May, LJ; two peaks in Stearns Co, 2nd week April and 5-1, 75-100 each time, RPR; 5-10 Hennepin Co, 8, MAS; 1st northward migrants at Duluth, 4-12, JCG; 5-8 Ramsey Co, ELC; 3-29 Washington Co, DH; 4-20 Washington Co, DH.

Red Crossbill: 5-25 still at feeder in Anoka, LJ; last week in March, Ramsey Co, ELC; 3-7 Ramsey Co, EWJ; 4-1 Washington Co, DH; 4-11 Stevens Co, SH; 3-21 Washington Co, 6 at feeder, JO; 5-30 Fargo, EGA; 3-13 Rochester, 8, JPF; 4-17 to 6-1 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-26 and 5-13 to 5-18 Wadena Co, RO, specimens collected were of two races, *minor* and *benti*.

White-winged Crossbill: 3-31 to 4-8 Fargo, 1 at feeder, EGA.

Rufous-sided Towhee: 4-26 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-30 Cass Co, JAM; 4-26 Duluth, DM; 4-20 Hennepin Co, Mrs. Wynne, 4-29 Hennepin Co, MEH; 5-3 Pope Co, WH.

Lark Bunting: 5-9 Schroeder, Cook Co, one male, Marie Aftreith; 5-24 Two Harbors, one male, RK; 5-24 Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co, colony, RAG; 5-26 Big Stone Co, TJ, several males, not seen again on 5-27.

Savannah Sparrow: 4-24 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-5 Wright Co, EC; 4-22 Duluth, JG; 4-28 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-18 Salt Lake, RG, RLH.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-2 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-9 Duluth, JCG and BL; 5-2 Wabasha Co, RBJ.

Le Conte's Sparrow: 5-23 Becker Co, BL, RLH.

Henslow's Sparrow: 5-5 T. S. Roberts Sanctuary, Mpls, 1 seen, Karen Eastman.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 5-23 Becker Co, BL, RLH.

Vesper Sparrow: 4-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-11 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-12 Washington Co, DH; 4-17 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-15 Wright Co, EC; 4-11 Sibley Co, FL.

Lark Sparrow: 5-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-2 Sherburne Co, RPR; 5-5 Winona, GD; 4-26 Scott Co, RG; 5-2 Wabasha Co, RBJ.

Oregon Junco: latest dates 4-18 Two Harbors, RK; 4-9 through 4-23 Wadena Co, specimens taken, RO; 3-20 Hennepin Co, MEH; 3-7 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-11 Carver Co, RBJ.

Tree Sparrow: latest dates, 4-14 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-23 Hennepin Co, RBJ; 4-17 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-4 Ramsey Co, ACR; 5-10 Cook Co, HH.

Chipping Sparrow: 4-12 Anoka Co, RBJ; 4-19 Stearns Co, RPR; 4-17 St. Louis Co, Mrs. D. Barclay; 4-27 Ram-

sey ELC; 4-30 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-21 Wright Co, EC; 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 5-5 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-14, 4-23 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 5-3 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-2 Stearns Co, RPR, EAH; 4-28 Wright Co, EC; 4-22, 4-25 Dakota Co, ACR; 4-25 Lake Traverse, RBJ.

Field Sparrow: 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-11 Sherburne Co, EAH; 4-11 Ramsey Co, BL; 4-28 Wright Co, EC; 4-19 Douglas Co, MVS; 4-17 and 4-25 Ramsey Co, ACR; 4-11 Hennepin Co, RG, RBJ.

Harris' Sparrow: 5-7 Anoka Co, LJ; 5-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-4 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Wright Co, EC; 5-12 Washington Co, DH; 5-3 Pope Co, WH; 5-11 Marshall Co, DLO; 5-5 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-29 Ramsey Co, ACR.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4-26 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-7 Hennepin Co, MAS; 5-7 Wright Co, EC; 5-8 Wadena Co, RO; 3-7 RBJ, 3-8 RLH and 3-9 MEH at feeder of MEH in S. Minneapolis; 5-8 Ramsey Co, IG; 5-12 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-25 Lac Qui Parle Co, RG.

Fox Sparrow: 4-14 Hennepin Co, MEH; 4-4 Washington Co, BL; 4-17 Marshall Co, DLO; 4-13 Winona Co, PW; 3-20 Rochester, JPF; 4-12 Beltrami Co, MG; 4-11 Sibley Co, RBJ; 4-12 Anoka Co, LJ; 4-14 Stearns Co, RPR; 3-22, 4-14 and 4-21 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-15 Cass Co, JAM; 4-15 Warroad, JR; 4-11 Two Harbors, RK; 4-14 Two Harbors, 89, RK; 4-7 Washington Co, DH.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 4-23 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-18 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 4-26 Duluth, DM; 4-27 Hennepin Co, MEH; IG; 4-19 Ramsey Co, IG; 5-9 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 4-25 Lac Qui Parle Co, RG, RLH.

Swamp Sparrow: 4-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 5-5 Hennepin Co, MAS; 4-17 Duluth, AKA; 4-25 Dakota Co, ACR; 4-11 Nicolet Co, FL.

Lapland Longspur: "best migration ever reported here (Duluth and North Shore)," 100's seen between 3-24 and 4-1, *vide* JCG.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 4-25 Beardsley, Big Stone Co, RBJ; 4-25 Felton, Clay Co, several singing males, RG, RLH.

Snow Bunting: latest dates, 3-18 Stearns Co, Bill Heibel; 4-23 Duluth, JCG.

SUMMARY: Migration tabulators will find the most interesting thing about this spring to be first, the earlier than usual passerine movements and second, that peaks observed along river areas failed, in some cases, to materialize in open country. Strong winds from the west and south brought us some unusual species, like the Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cinnamon Teal, Hooded Warbler, Audubon's Warbler and sent to the northeastern corner of our state such western and southern visitors as the Willet, American Avocet, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, and Lark Bunting. The ornithological highlight of the spring was the Ruff, a European shorebird new to our state and seldom recorded in the interior U.S.

My personal highlight occurred on 5-24 near McNair, Lake Co (about 20 miles N of Two Harbors) when RG, WRP and I took the second U.S. records of the Red-disked Alpine butterfly.

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EAH, Edmund A. Hibbard; EC, Erma Christopher; EGA, Elizabeth G. Anderson; EHW, Edmund H. Winter; ELC, Elizabeth Campbell; EWJ, Mrs. E. W. Joul; FD, Frances Dickerson; FL, Fred Leshner, FN, Fran Nubel; GD, Grace Dahm; GEC, Gerald E. Church; GWG, Gordon W. Gullion; HFH, Harding F. Huber; HH, Helen Hoover; HHG, Harry Heggenness; HM, Harriet Micensky; HW, Henry Wilson; IG, Isabelle Goldberg; JAM, John A. Mathisen; JCG, Janet C. Green; JG, John Gillam; JGH, John G. Hale; JKB, Joel K. Bronoel; JO, Jane Olyphant; JPF, John P. Feehan; JR, James Ruos; KH, Ken Haag; KK, Ken Krumm; LJ, Lucia Johnson; MAS, Minneapolis Audubon Society; MB, Mance Brackney; MEC, Marion E. Cross; MEH, Mrs. Ed Harms; MEP, Myrtle E. Penner; MG, Mabel Goranson; MSB, Mrs. Steve Blanich; MVS, Mrs. Vernon Serenius; MWM, Myles M. Murphy; NJH, Nels J. Hervi; PW, Pauline Wershofen; RAG, Richard A. Grant; RBJ, Robert B. Janssen; RG, Ray Glassel; RK, Ruth Kuchta; RKO, Richard K. Olson; RLH, Ronald L. Huber; RLW, Robert L. Wright; RN, Ray Naddy; RO, Richard Oehlschlager; RPR, Robert P. Russell; SF, Sheridan Flaherty; SNE, Mrs. S. N. Erickson; TEM, Mrs. T. E. Murphy; TJ, Tom Jegla; VFB, Vera F. Barrows; WH, Wayne Hawkinson; WRP, William R. Pieper. *Railroad & Warehouse Commission, 480 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

MINNESOTA'S BOBWHITE QUAIL

by Robert A. Chesness

Everyone likes the Bobwhite. His cheery "bobwhite" whistle is a special delight to bird watchers. The Bobwhite also provides excellent quality shooting for the sportsman. It holds well to pointing dogs, is a fast, sporting target and is tops on the dinner table. Small wonder then, that all of us would enjoy higher Bobwhite populations in Minnesota.

In comparison to our major game birds, Ring-necked Pheasants and Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhites never were very abundant in Minnesota. They were not mentioned in writings of early explorers here, according to T. S. Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota*. Apparently they were either rare or non-existent during the pre-settlement period. In the Minneapolis Daily Tribune issue of 5 March 1869 it is stated that quail were first brought to Minnesota by General H. H. Sibley and Franklin Steele in 1845, who brought them here from Iowa.

Bobwhites increased in numbers with the breaking of the prairie sod and the partial clearing of the deciduous forest in southern Minnesota. There is little information available regarding their abundance until 1919, when harvest statistics were first calculated from hunter report cards. Bobwhite populations were probably at their peak during the 1920's when the calculated annual harvest totaled 6-10 thousand birds. Like other game birds, quail populations and the reported hunting kill have commonly fluctuated from year to year. However, an overall decline in their numbers is clearly evident when we compare average annual kill estimates using 10 year periods: 1919-1928—8,400; 1929-1938—5,700; 1939-1948—3,800; 1949-1958—3,200. Hunting of Bobwhites has not been allowed in Minnesota since 1958.

Intensive upland game census was initiated by the Minnesota Division of Game and Fish in 1939, but little data has been obtained on Bobwhite populations. Cursorry surveys in 1946 indicat-

ed that only a limited number of quail were present in Wabasha, Winona, Houston, and eastern Fillmore, eastern Olmsted and eastern Goodhue Counties. In Scott County they were reported as scarce or absent on the uplands but locally common along the Minnesota River bottoms. In 1947 game bird inquiries were sent to 750 4-H Club members. Only 8 percent of the questionnaires were returned. Although the reliability of the Bobwhite distribution data is questionable, it is interesting to note that quail broods were reported from Brown, Olmsted, Pipestone, Pope, Stearns and Steele Counties.

Bobwhites have not been abundant enough in recent years to be censused by spring "whistling counts," the common census technique used in states to the south. This technique was tried in 1950, but no whistling Bobwhites were heard at 75 stops made in what was considered the best quail range in Wabasha, Winona, Houston and Fillmore Counties.

Beginning in 1949, Game and Fish Division fieldmen have recorded the number of quail observed during the summer Ring-necked Pheasant census. Some 3,500-4,000 miles of rural roads are traveled on this census. Although only a small number of Bobwhites are observed in any given year, the data indicate a persistent downward population trend, just as was shown by the calculated harvest figures. On a statewide basis, an average of 35 Bobwhites were observed annually from 1949-1953. The average dropped to 15 during 1954-1958 and during the past 5 years, 1959-1963, an average of only 4 were observed. (See Table I) Apparently, legal hunting was not an important factor in the population decline for Bobwhites have continued to decline despite closed seasons since 1958.

Most of the observations in recent years have been in the traditional Bobwhite counties in southeastern Minnesota although they were seen

in Pipestone County in 1949, Grant in 1951, Kandiyohi in 1952, Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle in 1963, and Cottonwood and Morrison in 1954. However, it is possible that some of these observations could have resulted from game farm releases of Bobwhites. Such releases were terminated by the Division of Game and Fish in 1952.

Climate and weather conditions are factors closely associated with population changes of all game birds in Minnesota, but more particularly with Bobwhite. Available data indicate that the northern limits of its range are largely set by winter temperatures and snow conditions. Generally, northern Bobwhites can withstand cold temperatures as long as they are in good flesh. But they are not as adept as Ring-necked Pheasants when it comes to resisting cold temperatures or scratching for food in deep snows. Sudden losses may occur even during mild weather if their food supply is cut off by heavy snow or ice. Intensive studies in Wisconsin have shown that winter mortality of Bobwhites was directly correlated with the number of months during which 3 or more inches of snow covered the ground. (C. Kabat and D. R. Thompson. 1963. Wisconsin quail 1934-1962, Population dynamics and habitat management. Wis. Conservation Dept. Tech. Bull. No. 30, 136 p.).

The stresses of severe winter have assumed greater significance in recent years because of changes in land use associated with modern agriculture. Intensive farming practices, especially since World War II, have

resulted in a serious deterioration of the diversified habitat preferred by Bobwhite. The small "patch" farms of former years were a boon to Bobwhites. However, modern plows, mowing machines and bulldozers have brought about larger, cleaner farms with few brushy field borders, woodlots, weed patches and their idle areas. Intensive use of modern herbicides has resulted in a stepped-up program of cleaning out brush in road ditches and fencelines. Loss of brushy hedgerow cover was cited as a prime reason for the Bobwhite decline in Wisconsin.

Many woodlots and brushy pastures in what was once our best quail range in Minnesota are now grazed so heavily that no ground cover remains for Bobwhites. Corn shocks, formerly an important source of winter food and cover, are almost non-existent today. Most cornfields are cut for silage and then fall plowed, leaving the ground bare of food.

The future of the Bobwhite in Minnesota does not look bright. Isolated populations will probably continue to exist in scattered locations where optimum habitat remains. However, they cannot persist in appreciable numbers if the present trend of intensified land use continues. *Madelia Game Research Center, Madelia, Minnesota.*

Editors Note: Any persons reporting Bobwhites in Minnesota should send these reports to the Editor. If you have past observations on Bobwhite please include these also as we would like as much information on this species as possible.

TABLE 1

Some Recent Bobwhite Observations by Minnesota Game and Fish Personnel*

Date	County	Nearest Town	No. Seen	Observer
12 May 64	Houston		2	P. Ham
30 Jul 63	Blue Earth	Lake Crystal	1	P. Bremer
5 May 63	Sherburne		2	A. Christensen
10 Jan 63	Fillmore	Fountain	13	N. Gulden and R. Rislove
Oct 63	Wabasha	Weaver	1	N. Gulden
Jan 62	LeSueur	St. Thomas	13	G. Gust
19 May 61	Houston		1	P. Ham
12 May 61	Big Stone		2	W. Breezee
1 Jan 61	LeSueur	St. Thomas	14	G. Gust
24 May 60	Fillmore		2	F. Hammer
24 Oct 59	Morrison	Randall	1	L. Blakenskip
June 58	Martin	Truman	1	L. Olson
12 Jan 55	Wabasha	Weaver	16	W. Longley
22 May 55	Wabasha	Weaver	1	W. Longley
24 Sep 55	Dodge	Kasson	12	W. Longley
6 Apr 54	Wabasha	Weaver	2	W. Longley
21 Jul 54	Dodge	Oslo	2	W. Longley
6 Oct 54	Wabasha	Weaver	30	W. Longley
Oct 52	Goodhue	Eggleston	12	R. Buselmeier (U.S. Corp. Engineers)

* Does not include August census observations

NOTES OF INTEREST

MALE SUMMER Tanager IN DULUTH. On the afternoon of May 12, 1964 Mrs. Arthur Wright identified a male Summer Tanager at her feeder in the Lakeside area of Duluth. Realizing she had observed a rare bird, she called Miss Catherine Lieske the next day when the bird returned. Miss Lieske also identified the tanager. I was notified about noon that day and when I arrived, it was still visiting the feeder. It remained in Mrs. Wright's yard all afternoon except for occasional forays to neighboring yards, and came to the feeder periodically for some suet. On its favorite perch in an apple tree the bird could be approached very closely and I took many pictures of it both in black and white (see photo) and in color. Copies of the colored pictures are on file in the Museum of Natural History. The bird was in the adult male plumage: completely red with dusky red wings. But some loose yellow feathers on one flank may indicate that it was a first year male, having recently molted into the breeding plumage. It remained in the area for several days, being last seen by Mrs. Wright on May 16th.



This is the fourth documented record for the state and the only one north of Minneapolis. The previous observations range from May 14th to June 14th.—
Janet C. Green, 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota

* * *

WINTERING HARRIS' SPARROWS—There seems to be an unusually large wintering population of Harris' Sparrows this year (1963-1964) in Minnesota. Roberts (1932) listed the Minnesota range of this sparrow as being "an abundant spring and fall migrant throughout the state, somewhat more numerous in the western prairie region." The major spring migration takes place from late April through May, and the fall movement occurs from mid September through October. This year, however, there have been the following records.

Collected by Bertin W. Anderson for a study at the Museum of Natural History:

- Dec. 20, 1 male, skull not ossified, Le Sueur Co., 1 mi. E of Le Sueur.
- Dec. 24, 1 male, skull not ossified, Rock Co., ½ mi. SE of Luverne.
- Dec. 31, 3 females, skulls not ossified, Rock Co., ½ mi SE of Luverne.
- Jan. 25, 1 male, ossified skull but immature plumage, Rock Co., 1½ mi. SE of Luverne.
- Feb. 15, 1 male, skull ossified, Rock Co., ½ mi. SE of Luverne.

From the Kingfisher (1964):

2 Harris' Sparrows feeding daily at Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Eggena's feeders in Monticello.

1 Harris' Sparrow included in the Christmas Count at Cedar Creek Natural History Area on Dec. 21.

Other Harris Sparrows were seen but not collected on several of the first five dates listed above. Notice that six of Anderson's seven specimens are immature birds.

The third edition of the A.O.U. (1910) lists the winter range of Harris' Sparrow as extending from northern Kansas and western Missouri, southward to southern Texas. The fourth edition of the A.O.U. (1931) reports the winter range as northern Kansas, southern Nebraska, and western Missouri to southern Texas. Finally, the fifth and most recent edition reports the winter range as southern British Columbia, southern Idaho, northern Utah, northern Colorado, northern Nebraska, and central Iowa, southward to southern California, southern Nevada, central Arizona, south-central Texas, northern Louisiana and Tennessee.

The above records together with this winter's specimens and observations suggest that the Harris' Sparrow is extending its winter range northward. If this is so, it is interesting to speculate as to possible causes. Perhaps this extension is due to a general amelioration of the climate, or, specifically, to this year's relatively mild, snowless winter. Perhaps the Harris' Sparrow is undergoing an evolutionary adaptation to a colder environment. In either case note the apparent recession of the southern edge of this species' winter range. Also, the seeming expansion of range may be due, in part, to an increase in the number of field observers. Another possibility is that some pathologic condition disables these birds from completing a normal migration.

The occurrence of Harris' Sparrows in Minnesota raises several questions: Why are they here, and of what significance is the seeming predominance of immature birds. These questions will warrant further investigation in the future.—*Pete Getman, Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

* * *

GLAUCOUS GULL SEEN IN GOODHUE COUNTY—On April 18, 1964 a Glaucous Gull was seen near the sand bar which extends into Lake Pepin at Frontenac, Goodhue County. A flock of approximately 100 Ring-billed and Herring Gulls had been resting on the sand bar but these took flight as I approached. I watched the gulls as they flew and a few minutes later I noted an all-white gull circling directly over my head. The bird appeared slightly larger than the Herring Gulls circling near it, the large bill, the pure white plumage and the lack of black wing-tips were noted with 9 x 35 binoculars. I secured only a brief glance at the mantle but it appeared to be white with no mixture of gray. It was thus presumed that the gull was a first year bird. After soaring overhead for about 5 minutes the bird circled higher and then disappeared over the lake. There are very few records of this species off of Lake Superior where it is a regular winter visitant in small numbers. This fact plus the April 18th date make the record doubly interesting. It is interesting to speculate where the bird came from. It is possible that it wintered somewhere along the open Mississippi River to the south. However none were reported, to my knowledge, along the river in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa or Illinois during the past winter.—*Robert B. Janssen, 1817 W. 59th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

* * *

SOME EXTREMELY EARLY RECORDS OF THE BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—On March 28, 1964, during the unseasonably cold weather that characterized the latter part of the month, five Baird's Sandpipers were observed feeding in a pond near Eggleston, Goodhue County. They were watched for ten minutes by Robert B. Janssen, Raymond Galassel, John C. Green and myself. They were feeding with a Killdeer along the edge of the pond right beside the road and were observed with binoculars and a 15 power spotting scope at distances from 25 to 100 feet. Although the temperature was 15°, the sun was shining brightly and was coming from directly behind us. The following characteristics were noted: a small sandpiper (much smaller than the adjacent Killdeer) with dark

legs and a straight bill; the back had a scaly rather than striped appearance; the breast was vertically marked with buff but not as sharply or extensively as a Pectoral Sandpiper; the wings extended beyond the tip of the tail; when flushed, no white rump was seen and the distinctive call note of the Baird's was heard.

That same day about 65 miles north along the Mississippi River a single Baird's Sandpiper was seen at Elk River. It was collected and the specimen turned over to the Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis.

The previous early record for the state is April 22nd and most early arrival times are the end of April.—*Janet C. Green, 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

HARLEQUIN DUCK RECORD—On April 1, 1964, as I neared the mouth of the Cross River at Schroeder, I noticed a duck standing asleep in the rapids near the edge of the ice. The noise of the rapids in the stream and the waves in adjacent Lake Superior muffled my foot steps as I approached within 20 feet of the duck. The bizarre white markings on the dark head, a circle flanked by crescent-like marks, indicated that it might be a Harlequin Duck. The large crescent between the bill and the eye and the white wing patch indicated to me that it was a male. A later check in Peterson's *Field Guide to Birds* and Kortright's *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America* verified my identification.—*John G. Hale, Minnesota Division of Game and Fish, Area Fisheries Biologist, 10029 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

ANOTHER HARLEQUIN DUCK RECORD—On November 11, 1963 Bill Pieper and I were birding along the north shore of Lake Superior in hopes of securing some interesting waterfowl records. Throughout the previous month, all three species of scoters had been seen, mostly in the vicinity of Two Harbors.

At French River, we stopped to check out a small brown duck which looked at first glance like a female Bufflehead. Several winters of previous experience had taught us to look twice for the easily overlooked female Harlequin Duck. Our suspicions were correct. Less than twenty feet from shore, the lone female was diving and watching us warily. The three white face patches were easily seen with binoculars at such close range. She slowly drifted out from shore at our closer approach, and ceased diving altogether. We noted lack of white on wings when she out-flexed them to dive. As she swam farther away, the three face patches became less distinct, not only because of the difference in size, but because of the difference in intensity of white.—*Ronald L. Huber, Room 480, State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

* * *

SNOWY EGRET SEEN IN HENNEPIN COUNTY—(The following information was received in a letter from Mr. Dayton - Editor.) About 7:30 A.M. on April 30, 1964 we saw a white-heron like bird fly into our goose pond located on our property on the shore of Mooney Lake, Hennepin County. The bird was about 1½ times the size of a Common Crow. The geese in the pond chased the heron out and it flew to the lakeshore only 50 feet away. Finally it flew to a dead fallen tree about 300 feet away. We have a 19.5 power scope on a tripod and it was with this that we first saw the yellow feet. The legs and bill were dark. The white feathers were somewhat in disarray—a fairly good breeze was blowing at the time of observation.—*Douglas Dayton, Route 2, Box 712, Wayzata, Minnesota.*

REPORTED SIGHTING OF AN AUDUBON'S WARBLER—On the morning of April 24, 1964, from our window overlooking the bank of Christmas Lake, Hennepin County we both saw an Audubon's Warbler. It was seen at the same time as a small number of Myrtle Warblers. We each had it in our binoculars only for a short time before it flitted on - but there was no mistaking its yellow throat and its otherwise Myrtle Warbler-like markings. We are both very familiar with the Audubon's Warbler since we have seen a great many in various southwestern states and in California.—*Rachel and Phillip Tryon, Box 114, Route 4, Excelsior, Minnesota.*

* * *

WILLOW PTARMIGAN IN LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY— On 14 March 1964, Mr. Paul E. Bremer and I interviewed Mrs. Theodore R. Dopp of rural Graceton, Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota. We were convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that Mrs. Dopp had observed two ptarmigan, most likely the Willow Ptarmigan on several occasions between February 27 and March 12, 1964.

Mrs. Dopp had observed these arctic grouse singly at her table-top bird feeder situated twenty feet from the farm home in Section 14, Township 161 North, and Range 33 West. The ptarmigan readily accepted the wheat grains, although other foods were available. The Dopp farm is characterized by well drained upland grain and potato fields and aspen woods which lie adjacent to extensive areas of poorly drained willow, alder, and marsh type vegetation.

The ptarmigan were approximately the same size as the Spruce Grouse. Both ptarmigan were observed in an early stage of prenuptial molt. The plumages were nearly all white except for the black tail feathers and a scattering of tan feathers on the head, neck, and body. The black tail feathers were covered by the white tail coverts except in flight. *James L. Ruos, Grouse Research Project, Minnesota Division of Game & Fish, Warroad, Minnesota.*

* * *

YELLOW RAIL SPECIMEN FROM LAKE COUNTY.—The Yellow Rail is very secretive in its habits and although it occurs regularly in the state, it is rarely seen and hence its migration and breeding distribution are poorly known. Therefore, it seems desirable to publish the following record. On October 2, 1961 a Yellow Rail was brought alive to the University of Minnesota at Duluth. It had been captured by Karl Hankins when it became trapped in one of the large buildings at the taconite plant at Silver Bay, Lake County. The bird was made into a specimen and is #1544 in the collection at U. M. D.—*Janet C. Green, 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

ALBINO BLUE JAY—On Saturday, March 1, 1964, I observed a white Blue Jay along the Blue Earth River approximately 2 miles southwest of Vernon Center in Blue Earth County.

I noted the white bird, accompanied by three Blue Jays of normal coloration, fly across an opening and sit in a tree. Making use of my binoculars, I carefully observed the jays for approximately one-half hour. I managed to approach within about 50 feet and got an excellent view of the white individual. All feathers were snow-white excepting the outer tail feathers which appeared to have a slight blue-gray tinge. Both the mandibles and feet were light colored. The eyes appeared to be light brown in color, although I could not get a perfect view of them.—*Earl D. Kopischke, Game Biologist, Vernon Center, Minn.*

* * *

MOURNING DOVES WINTERING NEAR NORTHFIELD—A flock of Mourning Doves has wintered across the road from our home in a thicket of wild plum, oaks and other trees. This area is in southern Dakota County two miles north-

east of Northfield, Minnesota. On several occasions we have counted 30 to 40 birds flying into the thicket with some moving over the field to the wooded area on the Cannon River half a mile away. Even in the coldest days of December (1963) they were seen. One day a dove visited our bird feeder eating on the ground beneath. This dove, injured perhaps by a hawk, flew and settled against the base of the house one day and we picked it up and noted that one eye appeared to have been plucked out. The bird seemed stunned but after a night in our house the bird was able to fly away. In the 15 years we have lived here we have never before seen Mourning Doves all winter.—*Mrs. Alvin Houston, Route 2, Northfield, Minnesota.*

* * *

LATE RECORD FOR THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK IN MINNESOTA—(The information given below was received in a letter from Mrs. Dahm after she had personally contacted Mr. Gaylord Baumann who had seen the bird—Editor). On December 29, 1963 about 9:30 a.m., returning from church, Mr. Baumann saw an American Woodcock in the low shrubbery in front of his home at 156 East Broadway, Winona, Winona County, Minnesota. He restrained his little girl from running to it, then they moved into the house. He got on a warm jacket and returned outdoors to check on the bird as it moved along the side of the house. Returning indoors to get his camera and ready it for a picture, he kept an eye on the bird from the window for approximately 5 to 10 minutes. Before he could return outdoors to take a picture a group of neighbor children came out and frightened the bird away. Mr. Baumann knows both the American Woodcock and Common Snipe from 25 years of hunting experience and he said he recognizes the peculiar set of the eyes in the American Woodcock and also the type of bill as compared to the Common Snipe. There was no question in his mind that the bird was an American Woodcock. Mr. Baumann believed that the bird may have been blown on the high wind of the previous night from the Woodcock Sanctuary near Dodge, Wisconsin. This area is 4 to 5 air miles due north of Winona.—*Mrs. J. Milton Dahm, 357 E. 5th Street, Winona, Minnesota*

* * *

RED-SHAFTED FLICKERS WINTER AT JACKSON—(The following information was received in a letter from Mrs. Culbertson—Editor.) During the winter a year ago we fed a pair of Red-shafted Flickers. Mr. Culbertson keeps a daily record and the male came on November 9, 1962; the female and male were first observed together on January 13, 1963 and they were here every day, often several times, until April. It was a flicker winter, I guess, for we sometimes had a dozen Yellow-shafted Flickers in the yard at a time, but never more than the one pair of Red-shafted Flickers. We have looked in vain for them this winter (1963-64).—*Mrs. G. H. Culbertson, 612 First Street, Jackson, Minnesota.*

* * *

HARLAN'S HAWK RECORD—On March 30, 1964, Robert D. O'Hara and I were bird watching along the Minnesota River. Near Belle Plaine, Scott County we saw a Harlan's Hawk along the dirt road near the bridge. The hawk was sitting at eye level in a small tree along the road. Since it stayed there for several minutes we were able to make a good naked eye observation and also with 9 x 35 binoculars. The hawk was dark colored both front and back. There were lighter colored spots on his back and wings. The feathers of the tail were white nearest the rump, gradually growing darker along their length until they terminated in a dark band at the end of the tail. When the bird flew we got a good flight observation as it circled above us. Buteo-shape, the wings were completely dark on the top except for lighter spots varying in size from a half-dollar to very small discs. The under-wing was very dark except for

brilliant white linings to the rear of the primaries and secondaries. The overall shape of the bird was like that of a Red-tailed Hawk.—*Brother Theodore, Benilde High School, 2501 South Highway 100, St. Louis Park, Minnesota.*

* * *

CINNAMON TEAL RECORD—On April 25, 1964, Emil Zavoral, of Thief River Falls, and I were driving through the Agassiz Waterfowl Refuge looking at the ducks and geese. We were driving east along the main road through the refuge about one-thirty p.m. About a half-mile east of the Refuge headquarters is a big pool on the north side of the road. As this pool contained quite a number of ducks, we were driving very slowly, stopping now and then to observe especially interesting groups. On the eastern end of the pool, a large ditch goes out and parallels the road for miles. It is about fifteen feet wide and no more than ten or fifteen feet from the edge of the road. It was a bright, clear day without even a hint of overcast. As the ditch was on the north side of the road, the sun was behind us and consequently there was no glare of any kind. About fifty feet down this ditch was a small group of teal. All were Blue-winged Teal except one. At first I assumed it to be a Ruddy Duck as it is the only duck of anything near that shade of brown that I had ever seen. As we drew nearer, I realized it was not a Ruddy Duck. I have hunted ducks for fifteen years and never before have I seen one like it. It did not have the white cheek-patch and black cap of the Ruddy Duck nor did it swim with its tail pointed upward which was very characteristic of most of the Ruddy Ducks I have seen. Instead, it appeared to be a uniform reddish-brown with just a hint of bluish-gray at the wings. As we were no more than twenty-five or thirty feet from them, the ducks became quite alarmed and pivoted back and forth as they often do when trying to decide what to do (or so it seems from our viewpoint). They remained for about forty-five seconds and then flushed and left to the north of us. As it flushed, I noticed that the belly and breast were primarily brown and not white. I did not get a look at the underside of the wings so I do not know their coloration. As soon as we reached home, I checked my identification as a Cinnamon Teal drake. Subsequent checking in other books convinces me that my identification is correct.—*Orville Janzen, 309 8th Ave. N.E., Roseau, Minnesota.*

* * *

A WINTER RECORD FOR THE SURF SCOTER—On January 19, 1964, Ray Glassel and I were birding along the north shore of Lake Superior. Two scoters had been seen all winter at Two Harbors, keeping close company. One of these was definitely a White-winged Scoter, the other was simply presumed to be the same. We located the two with no difficulty, but the only field marks visible with 8x35 Binoculars were the white head markings of the immature scoters. Dennis Meyer of Duluth arrived soon after we did, and with his 20X scope, we could easily see the white head markings on both birds and a white wing-patch on one of them. This one was definitely an immature White-winged Scoter. The other bird, although it showed no white on the wing at rest, could also have been the same species, since the white does not always show when the bird is at rest. Then, while both birds were in the scope, the unidentified one took flight and landed just a few feet from the immature White-winged Scoter. There was clearly no white on the wing of the flying bird, and when in close proximity to the White-winged Scoter, the latter bird was noticeably larger. This confirmed the identity of the second duck as an immature Surf Scoter, and to the best of my knowledge this is only the second winter record for that species in Minnesota.—*Ronald L. Huber, Room 480 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

* * *

LATE MIGRATION WAVE—On March 23, 1964, I received a letter from Robert P. Russell of Colledgeville, Minnesota, which contained some observations

for the seasonal report and this following note:

Perhaps this should have been included in the fall migration but on December 6, 1963, the day preceding the first heavy snowfall, a tremendous migration of birds took place over St. Cloud between 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. on the seventh. I estimate the number at least as 5,000 plus, but it would be difficult to estimate as it was spread out for at least 10 miles in width. The majority of the birds were Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs but there were a few blackbirds and meadowlarks. While standing in a field at about 1:00 a.m. on the seventh, I heard clearly the calls of at least two Cardinals singing in flight. All the birds were heading south to southeast and flying very low. Some could be seen only 100 feet above the ground. By 2:00 a.m. the snow was falling very thick and the bird notes were quite infrequent. The next day we had 10 inches of snow on the ground with dreep drifts and there was very few places a lark or longspur could inhabit."

The late date of this wave further substantiates the fact that many migrants lingered much later than usual last fall.—*Ronald L. Huber, Room 480 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota*

* * *

LITTLE BLUE HERON AT FRONTENAC—We observed an immature Little Blue Heron on May 8, 1964, feeding in a slough with four Common Egrets, just north of the village of Frontenac, Goodhue County. We had the bird in our 30-power Balscope for some time. The Common Egrets furnished a handy size comparison. We could see the black tipped bluish bill clearly—also the dark greenish legs and the prominent bluish feathers in the primaries against the body.

We went back the next morning with our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Hans A. Feldman, of Belvidere, Illinois, and found the bird still there. We reported the observation to a number of others who also saw the bird, including Dr. A. E. Allin, of Fort William, Ontario.

This is apparently a visiting heron year for Minnesota for two other southern species have also been observed. On May 26 a group from Minneapolis Audubon Society observed a Cattle Egret at Grass Lake in metropolitan Minneapolis. Also on April 30 George Dayton reported a Snowy Egret at Mooney Lake. (See notes of interest elsewhere on these observations). *Whitney and Karen Eastman, 7000 Valley View Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

* * *

CATTLE EGRET SEEN IN MINNEAPOLIS—At 3:15 p.m. on May 26, 1964, I received a call from Mrs. Fran Nubel stating that a Cattle Egret had been present on Grass Lake in Minneapolis since early morning. This lake is located in south Minneapolis near 59th and Girard Avenue. I immediately went down to the lake and found the egret standing in some tall grass on the west shore of the lake. I approached the bird to within 30 to 40 yards and the following characters were noted thru 9x35 binoculars: Size between that of a Green Heron and American Bittern, basic color white with a rusty brown tinge on the feathers on top of the head and thru the central part of the breast, the bill was thick and a yellow-orange color, the eye was light and because of the grass I could not see the leg color. However, Mrs. Whitesel who saw the bird first, about 8:45 a.m. noted that the legs were yellow. The bird seemed disturbed by my presence and after about two minutes of observation it flew to the north shore of the lake. I then left the area and returned about 5:00 p.m. with several other interested people but we could not locate the bird. There were several children playing around the edge of the lake and it is presumed that they caused the bird to leave the general area. This is the fourth sight record for this species in Minnesota, the first being in Pope County in June 1959, the second in Houston County in May 1961, and the third in Goodhue County in May 1962.—*Robert B. Janssen, 1817 W. 59th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRD SONGS OF SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA by Nelson W. and Florence B. Barker Series II 12" Record, Tom Jones Recordings, Rochester, Minnesota 1964 \$3.50.

In the June 1963 issue of *The Flicker* a review was written on the Barker's first record and the book published in conjunction with this record. It was stated that everyone would anxiously await their second recording. It was well worth waiting for. The Series II record contains songs of 44 additional species bringing the total species recorded to 76. Once again the Barker's have done an excellent job in providing us with clear, and very audible recordings of many interesting species of birds found in southeastern Minnesota. It is hoped that the Barker's will soon come out with a Series III record. The Barker's recordings have several advantages over similar works. First, several variations of each song or call notes are given for the individual species, secondly a longer duration of recording for each species is given and thirdly, the inexpensive nature of the records makes them available to all.

This record, the book and first record are now available at the following stores in Rochester: Adam's Book and Stationery Store, Monte's Gift and Stationery Store, The Book Store of Lucy Wilder and the Book Department of Dayton's.

Editor

THE BIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA by Robie W. Tufts with illustrations by Roger Tory Peterson and John Crosby, line drawings by John H. Dick. 482 pages. Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 1961. \$7.50.

The Birds of Nova Scotia is an excellent regional work. The color plates by Roger Tory Peterson as might be expected are very well done. Those by John Crosby are less in number and this is fortunate as they are not of the quality of the Peterson plates. This is caused primarily because Crosby's illustrations are very small and far too many species are illustrated on each plate. The line drawings by John Dick

enhance the text very much.

The author, Mr. Tufts, is very well qualified to write a book on the birds of Nova Scotia. His years of experience in the field are much in evidence throughout the book.

In the Introduction to the book the author covers many interesting aspects of Nova Scotia related to the birdlife of the region. These include Topography and Geology, Vegetation, and Climate. Also in the Introduction are remarks on the Names of Birds, Status of Occurrence, Bird Distribution, Bird Protection and Conservation and most interesting a chart showing the changes in the last 60 years in population of 34 species of birds in Nova Scotia.

As stated this is an outstanding work and even though Nova Scotia is located a great distance from Minnesota the plates contained in the book are of great value to birdwatchers in this area.

Editor

THE GREAT AUK, by Allan W. Eckert, 202 pages, endpaper maps. Little, Brown, Boston, Massachusetts. 1963. \$4.75.

This is no doubt a book with a purpose, not just a novel about the disappearance of a species. After reading this book at one sitting, this reviewer, cannot help but feel that the author is warning present and future generations of the impending disaster confronting many species of wildlife.

In this novel, Allan W. Eckert traces the final stages in the annihilation of the Great Auk. This annihilation was brought about not only by man but nature as well. Man reduced the population to such a low level that natural disasters such as storms, predation and other hazards finally wiped out the bird. No doubt evolution doomed the Great Auk long ago but the pitiful way in which man hastened this disappearance is a tragic story.

Besides giving us an account of the disappearance of this bird, Mr. Eckert has given a very good description of the Auk's migration, courtship and nesting habits, feeding and activities

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on the wintering grounds. Added to this is an explanation of the vast seabird assemblages found in the North Atlantic in the 19th century.

Those people interested, not only in birds, but in conservation in general, will want to have this book in their libraries to be read now and in the future as a reminder of the mistakes of the past.

Editor

ALABAMA BIRDS by Thomas A. Imhof. Color Illustrations by Richard A. Parks and David C. Hulse. Published for the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division 1962 by University of Alabama Press. \$7.50.

Alabama now joins the growing list of states that have shown interest in publishing more than a check-list of birds for their respective areas. Mr. Imhof is to be congratulated on a fine and extensive work dealing with all available information on the birds of Alabama up to 1962.

The text treats 350 species of birds which have been recorded in the state of Alabama. Each species description contains the following information; name, other names, description of plumage, distribution in Alabama, nesting, food, general distribution and a occurrence in Alabama section. The author has very conveniently broken the State of Alabama into six regions in the occurrence in Alabama section. These regions are: Tennessee Valley Mountain Range, Piedmont Upper Coastal Plain, Lower Coastal Plain and Gulf Coast. These divisions make it much easier to understand the distribution of the birds in the State.

Maps are used with many of the species and in general these maps are useful in determining distribution and nesting areas within Alabama. However, the author attempts to illustrate from four to six different items on each map and this tends to make them difficult to read and limits their usefulness. The maps used to illustrate Alabama recoveries on birds banded in other parts of the United States are very useful and interesting.

It was hoped by this reviewer that Alabama Birds would contain color illustrations that would prove helpful

to other people outside of the Alabama area. This however is not the case. The illustrations by Hulse and Parks are mediocre at best. The color plates by Hulse are very poor, for example plate 6 illustrating the Sandhill Crane bears little resemblance to the actual bird. Fortunately Hulse did a very small portion of the illustrations and those by Parks do enhance the text. However they are mainly of spring-plumaged birds and higher quality illustrations of this type are readily available in many other sources.

On the whole Alabama Birds is a well done state work and a valuable contribution to our knowledge of birds of the southern United States. It is hoped that all other states will eventually have publications of this type.

Editor

THE QUIET CRISIS, by Stewart L. Udall. 210 pages. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. 383 Madison Avenue, New York, New York. 1963. \$5.00.

The Quiet Crisis is a book that should be read by everyone interested in the preservation of wild America. Secretary of Interior Udall in his book traces the conservation movement in America from the time of the Indian down to the present. The reader is given a clear understanding of how the "Myth of Superabundance" developed in early America and how this myth was used by men to destroy forests, wildlife and other resources. Secretary Udall tells us how the conservation movement developed through such early pioneers as Daniel Boone, Jed Smith, and Henry Throeau. The Beginning of Wisdom, a chapter title, relates the ideas and thoughts of George Perkins Marsh, a conservationist of the 19th Century whose ideas were far ahead of his time. The Beginning of Action, Chapter VII, deals with the ideas of Carl Schurz and John Wesley Powell. Succeeding chapters deal with Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt and others. The author in the final chapters gives us hope for the future if man only uses the facts that science has given us and takes a lesson from the past. Quoting from the last chapter every American should consider the following: "One of the paradoxes of American society is that while our economic

standard of living has become the envy of the world our environmental standard has steadily declined." More food for thought is the following statement: "Henry Thoreau would scoff at the notion the Gross National Product should be the chief index to the state of the nation or that automobile sales or figures in consumer consumption reveal anything about the authentic

art of living. He would surely assert that a clean landscape is as important as a freeway, he would deplore every planless conquest of the countryside and he would remind his countrymen that a glimpse of grouse can be more inspiring than a Hollywood spectacular or color television."

Editor

M.O.U. FALL FIELD TRIP TO WATCH FOR HAWKS AT DULUTH SEPTEMBER 19 and 20, 1964

There will be a dinner at the Endion Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. on the 19th followed by a showing of the National Audubon Society film "The Bald Eagle." Price of the dinner will be \$2.25 to be paid at the door. Reservations are necessary for the dinner and should be made by September 15th with Mrs. Harvey Putnam, 107 Woodland Ave., Duluth.

Directions for finding the hawk lookout are in the June, 1963 issue of **The Flicker**.

LOON DECAL AVAILABLE

A two color, blue and black, decal showing the new official seal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is now available. An illustration of the decal is shown below. The design was created by artist Ken Haag. These decals are available for \$1.00 each as a donation to the M.O.U. It is hoped that all members will display this new emblem on their cars. Send your requests for the decal to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Museum of Naatural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.



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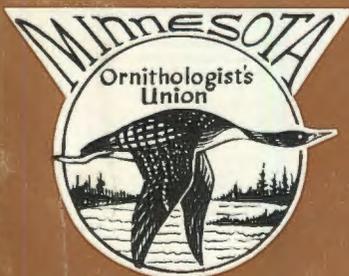
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THE LOON

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FRONT COVER

Photo of a mounted Fulvous Tree Duck shot in Minnesota in 1950. See Notes of Interest.
Photo by Harding Huber

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A farmer noting no pheasants on his farm assumes that the pheasant population is at a low ebb not only here, but wherever pheasants exist. A like farmer who sees a larger than usual pheasant crop, makes the opposite assumption. Farmer number one says "close the season"; farmer number two says "increase the bag limit"; and when the Conservation Department adopts a middle-of-the-road policy, neither is satisfied — each assured in his own mind that "arm-chair" biologists know nothing about populations.

Actually, to recognize significant population changes is not easy. It takes the trained analysis of hundreds of local situations with the knowledge of changes that have occurred over periods of time. Game birds have been so thoroughly studied that seldom do trained game managers make a mistake. Local situations are relatively worthless unless considered with other local situations when arriving at broad decisions.

However, local overpopulations or underpopulations are symptomatic, each indicates that all is not well with the patient's health at least locally and local situations may blossom out into nationwide epidemics. The carefully kept records of Robin populations on the Michigan State campus provided one of the first alarm bells against the dangers of pesticides.

At the last American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, Dan Berger gave a very disturbing report on the welfare of one of the world's most interesting birds, the Peregrine Falcon. He, with a colleague, had surveyed the known aeries from Tennessee to Maine. The results were nil, nothing, no Peregrines at all. In the discussion period following Berger's report, Roger Tory Peterson pointed out that the collapse of populations in the East is not confined to birds but is true of other groups, such as the butterflies. The overwhelming evidence points to the misuse of insecticides as the cause for the decline.

The danger of species extinction is very real. It appears that the Peregrine population of the east is no more. What about those in the midwest? Dr. Joseph Hickey is at present making a check of the known aeries here.

The point I have been trying to make is that the study of populations is assuming a greater importance, especially if we are concerned about saving our wildlife. Game populations have had regular checks kept on them, the falcon aeries are quite well known in the east because of the popularity of falconry, but what about song birds or butterflies? Do you know the status of the birds of your yard or favorite birding place?

As president of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, I would like to suggest that you add one more facet to your hobby. How about extending it beyond the migration seasons, keeping a regular check of the resident birds even if they be only Starlings and House Sparrows.

P. B. Hofslund

DECEMBER PAPER SESSION AND GENERAL MEETING

The annual paper session and general meeting of the M. O. U. will be held on December 5, 1964 at the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Anyone who wishes to give a paper is requested to contact Dr. Harry H. Goehring, 907 Ninth Ave. S., St. Cloud, Minn.

FLUCTUATIONS IN THE RUFFED GROUSE POPULATION OF THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT, ONTARIO

A. E. Allin

The Ruffed Grouse is the most important native upland game bird of North America although in large areas of the United States it is replaced in popularity by the Bobwhite and the exotic Ring-necked Pheasant. In number of birds shot it would be greatly exceeded by the Mourning Dove, a recognized game bird in many states. The average annual kill of Ruffed Grouse runs into the millions. In Minnesota alone, the reported kill was 407,000 birds. Add to these figures the vast number of birds killed and not reported, and those which are crippled, to die unrecovered, and one appreciates the annual hunting toll of this valuable bird.

The Ruffed Grouse is represented by one of its ten races throughout the forested areas of North America from Alaska to southern Labrador, including all of Canada except the most northern regions and a portion of the southern prairies. In the United States it is found in the northwest, and most of the area east of the Mississippi River except the southern tiers of states. It is a permanent resident of Minnesota throughout the wooded areas but is most abundant in the forested northern counties and least common in the southwestern part of the state.

But the Ruffed Grouse, or "partridge" as it is familiarly known over great areas of its range, is as popular with naturalists as it is with sportsmen. The first white men who came to America were as intrigued with the drumming of the male during the mating season as were the aborigines. Many theories were advanced as to how the sound was produced. William Brewster (1874) faithfully described the drumming, a description confirmed with the advent of the modern camera. The drumming is caused by the beating of the air by the bird's

flight feathers in a forward and upward motion. In the autumn, grouse appear in the most unusual places and many stories have been told of their mad flights. This must involve only a relatively small number of birds as a major percent of grouse remain in an area not exceeding a half-mile in diameter. Irrespective of area, race, sex, or age, the birds may occur in either a gray or a red phase. Generally the ruff is black but a considerable number of birds possess ruffs which are bright copper color and I have seen one bird with a ruff which was a rich brown. Partial albinism occurs and I feel that such birds have sometimes been reported as Willow Ptarmigan.

Fascinating as the habits, coloration and movements may be, the best known peculiarity of the Ruffed Grouse is its periodic rise and fall in numbers. Once considered by the laymen as a seven-year cycle, it is now recognized to be nearer ten years. Cyclic fluctuations in many species of animals have long been recognized. One of the best examples is the lemming where there are unbelievable build-ups in population, climaxed by their death marches. Following periods of relative scarcity, their numbers rise to another peak. Equally well-known is the cyclic fluctuations in the numbers of the Snowshoe Hare. These increase rapidly for several years. There is then a crash due to wide-spread mortality, followed by another rise in numbers. These fluctuations in numbers of the hare and in fur-bearing animals was confirmed by the continuous records of the Hudson's Bay Company. Those interested should consult Elton (1924).

The periodic fluctuations of the Ruffed Grouse are now well-known, but it appears to have been recognized by sportsmen long before it was acknowledged by ornithologists. A letter ap-

peared in *Field and Stream* (1883) entitled "The Fluctuating Grouse Supply." The writer "A. G. C.," stated shooting was not to blame but that their periodic decimation was attributable to disease, a disease which did not involve the grouse over its entire range simultaneously, but one which moved across the continent. This unknown sportsman had early come to a conclusion not recognized by ornithologists until much later. In 1888, grouse were so scarce in Ontario, a closed season was declared for the first time. *Rod and Gun* carried articles by Temple (1908) and Horsey (1909) entitled "The Scarcity of Partridge." There were further closed seasons in 1908-09, 1916-19, 1925-31, and 1936-37. In 1924 under the auspices of the American Game Association, Allen and Gross (1926) initiated a scientific study of the causes of the shrinkage in grouse population. The report established the fact that these fluctuations were periodic and occurred in regular cycles.

In the following years, numerous writers contributed their ideas as to

the probable cause, or causes, of this phenomenon. Taverner (1929) admitted he had once blamed game scarcity on raptors, forced down from the north by a scarcity of rabbits. Only later he realized that the predators were wandering beyond their usual range due to a general food scarcity. Bent (1932) blamed grouse scarcity on a combination of circumstances. He referred to the clearing and cultivation of the land, the increased numbers of sportsmen, severe winters, unfavorable breeding seasons, and periodic scarcity of insects, as contributing factors. He believed predators served only to keep the numbers of grouse in check. He attributed the great declines at periodic intervals to parasites and disease. Roberts (1932) recognized that disastrous epidemics periodically decimated the Ruffed Grouse. He believed the declines in the Varying Hare and grouse concurred. We now know that this is not always true. Roberts restated the idea that predators hunted the grouse when hares were scarce. He erroneously concluded that "Rabbit Disease," which

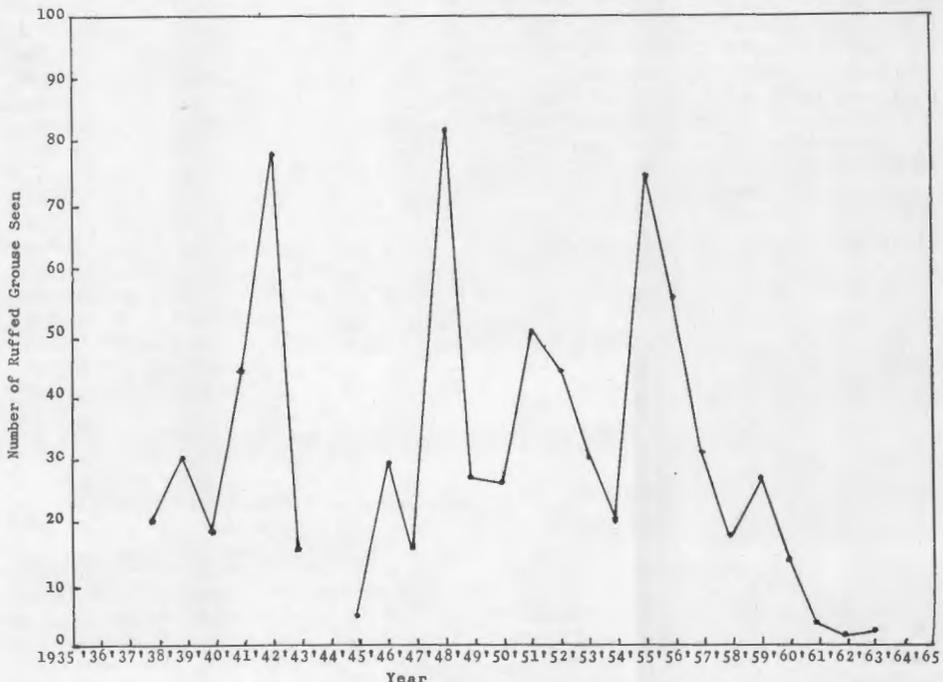


Figure 1. Fall Counts of Ruffed Grouse, Thunder Bay District, 1938-1963.

periodically wiped out the hare populations, was Tularemia and postulated on the possibility that this disease was also the cause of the periodic crashes in grouse population. Todd (1940) attributed the fluctuations to cold wet springs which interfered with the hatching of the eggs and the raising of the broods. He also blamed declines in grouse populations to deforestation and excessive hunting. He ruled out predators as being the main factor as he realized the latter had decreased at a faster rate than had their supposed victims.

The first published cycle graph of North American grouse was compiled by Criddle (1930). He, too, felt predators were of secondary importance. He believed the mortality of young birds during wet periods was actually from starvation due to insect inactivity and that rainfall was of less importance than was generally supposed.

The effect of weather conditions on the success of grouse population receives a great deal of attention to this day. Some workers have found that warm springs and summers lead to high grouse populations the following April. Others have found a high correlation between high mean June temperatures and high annual grouse kills. It has been shown that high May temperatures led to a successful breeding season and that low May temperatures resulted in low production of young grouse. Since the range of the Ruffed Grouse extends over such a vast expanse of North America, with corresponding differences in the breeding season, one would expect such differences in the importance of the months concerned if weather does actually have an important effect on production. Other workers have found a low April population after a mild winter. This is probably related to total snowfall, as it is commonly believed grouse plunge into deep snow, either for protection from severe cold or from predators. Related to this, is the supposed mortality which results if a freezing crust should develop during the night preventing the birds' escape. *The Duluth News Tribune*, May 31, 1964, attributed the poor 1963 grouse season to the losses dur-

the winter of 1962-63 when there was little snow. Ted Shields, Minnesota Game and Fisheries Director, was reported as saying, "Grouse find protection from cold by burrowing into snowbanks." Those particularly interested should consult the several excellent papers on this phase of the problem in *Grouse Management Symposium*. (*The Journal of Wildlife Management*. (1963 (4): 520-895).

Leopold and Ball (1932) published an interesting account. They showed that American and British grouse cycles did not synchronize, that American cycles averaged 10 years and British cycles 6.5 years. Fluctuations cannot be rightly attributed therefore to solar radiation (sun spots) as has been suggested by some workers.

In the early thirties, C. H. D. Clarke, a Forestry graduate of the University of Toronto, carried out his doctorate studies on fluctuations in numbers of the Ruffed Grouse. Clarke took as his minor an intensive course in Bacteriology and Immunology. (Incidentally this scribe was a classmate). He was thus better prepared to assess the importance of disease as a cause of these fluctuations than had been previous workers. Clarke's thesis (1936) confirmed the well-established fact that the Ruffed Grouse population was subject to periodic fluctuations which were cyclic. He demonstrated that the cycle is not uniform across North America, that the population may be increasing in one region while decreasing in another. Some variation could be demonstrated even in Ontario, which was to be expected in an area stretching 1,000 miles from Cornwall on the St. Lawrence River to Cape Henrietta Maria in extreme northwestern Ontario.

The Ruffed Grouse is capable of rapid reproduction. According to Bump (1935) the average clutch is eleven eggs. In one experiment Moran and Palmer (1963) introduced grouse to islands where they had not previously been found. At the end of the second breeding season, the spring population had doubled on one island and tripled on another. The estimated over-winter mortality of 70 per cent

of the fall population was considered normal. In the area studied by Clarke, in a normal year, accompanied by heavy fall shooting, adult grouse increased by 50 per cent from one spring to the next.

Production is greatly changed however in years of decline. Clarke showed that mortality in the young birds in the first weeks of life averaged 60 per cent and could be much higher. Some broods may be completely destroyed. These adults might re-nest and it does not seem clear what would be the expected mortality in the second broods. In one area Clarke showed that instead of the expected increase of 50 per cent, there was an actual decline of 25 per cent and only 15 young were present on a plot which 20 had occupied the year previous. From his investigations, Clarke assumed that a blood protozoan parasite (*Leucocytozoon bonasae*) was the cause of the die-off in the region and period with which he was concerned. At least the disease was evidently prevalent and seemed the one possible cause of the heavy mortality in the young birds. Dr. M. Fallis of the Ontario Research Foundation has found other blood parasites seemingly associated with the declines in grouse pop-

ulations. There is some evidence the iniquitous Blackfly may be an intermediate host. In a recent personal communication, Clarke intimated little more is known concerning "Grouse Disease" than when he completed his studies three decades ago.

For adjacent Manitoba, Criddle showed there were three cycles of approximately 10 years in the period, 1895-1929. Peaks occurred at Aweme in 1901-02-03, 1912, and 1922-23 with minima in 1895-96, 1907, and 1915-16. Leopold and Ball demonstrated the cycle in American grouse averaged 10 years; individual cycles varied from 9 to 14. Roberts believed the disastrous epidemics occurred at intervals of 7 to 11 years. Clarke obtained data from various sources and showed that in northwestern Ontario there were Ruffed Grouse peaks in 1883, 1902, 1912-13, 1922-23 and 1932-33 with minima in 1907, 1916 and 1927-28. There were indications that another decline was commencing in 1933-34. Additional figures for central Ontario showed peaks in 1875 and 1893, with minima in 1878 and 1897-98. For the other years the two regions had peaks and minima which roughly coincided. The average periodicity was approximately 10 years as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Fluctuations In Ruffed Grouse Populations, Ontario, 1875-1933

PEAKS		MINIMA	
Northwestern	Eastern	Northwestern	Eastern
	1875		1878
1883	1883-84		1885-86
	1893		1897-98
1902	1904-05	1907	1907
1912-13	1913	1916	1917-18
1922-23	1922-23	1927-28	1926
1932-33	1933		

Adapted from Clarke, 1936.

Our own studies cover fluctuations in the Ruffed Grouse population in the Canadian Lakehead region of southern Thunder Bay District, Ontario, from 1938 to 1963. The region covered extended from Fort William south to Pigeon River and west beyond Whitefish and Shebandowan Lakes. Lack of roads limited trips north of Port

Arthur to a maximum of 25 miles and the region hunted east of Port Arthur was chiefly a narrow strip along Highway 11 and between the latter and Lake Superior. Dorothy Allin accompanied us and sighted many birds on the majority of the trips. David Allin was our hunting companion from 1946 to 1957. Many of the observations were

made while cruising the country roads; others were made during brief incursions into the woods or while patrolling tote roads. During the early part of the seasons, the majority of the grouse were found on the ground. Commencing in early November, or earlier if there had been snowfalls, the grouse would frequently be seen budding on White Birch and Aspen Poplar or feeding on the fruit of the Mountain Ash.

During the early years of the study there were two short open seasons, one in early October, the other in early November. For most of the period however, seasons were much longer and recently have extended from September 15 to December 15. This obviously alters our statistics, but less than one might imagine over an entire season. The September opening conflicted with water-fowl hunting, fall fishing and migration studies. Dense foliage made it very difficult to find grouse during this period except for those actually on the bush roads. Rarely was it possible to do much hunting after mid-November due to poor road conditions. On the other hand, the short seasons generally concurred with good road conditions, woods which had largely lost their foliage, especially in the second season, and weather conditions generally favorable for woods travel. As a result, the maximum number of trips possible was made during the brief seasons, whereas there was less incentive for frequent trips when there was a long open season. Further observations of course, were made prior to the opening season and between seasons as we travelled the countryside engaged in our other outdoor activities.

Other factors probably affected our statistics more seriously. In the early years of the study, we had to familiarize ourselves with local conditions. In those years however, few people hunted Ruffed Grouse and the birds were relatively undisturbed. This condition gradually changed, particularly after 1945, when relative prosperity and unlimited gas allowances coincided with a period of relatively high populations. During that period the roads were

regularly patrolled by countless hunters. In years of grouse scarcity, particularly 1961, 1962, and 1963, it became obvious that the hunters were losing their enthusiasm except for the most devoted sportsmen. These probably increased their efforts but there was a diminished over-all pressure on the grouse populations.

Much more serious was illness which precluded any observations during 1944 and only a limited number in 1945. However, observations of other hunters indicated grouse were at a probable minima during this period. Our observations were again limited in 1961, another period of recognized scarcity. Apart from these three years, observations were intensive. Even in years of scarcity, our general interest in nature took us into the country at every opportunity and due to this interest we covered wide areas in contrast to most grouse hunters. The latter have their favorite areas and return to them at every opportunity. They deviate from this habit only when grouse become extremely scarce in such regions and they turn to local areas where friends report grouse are plentiful, either because "Grouse Disease" has not yet affected them, or because such an area is again on the up-swing in abundance.

Clarke noted a decline in the Ruffed Grouse population of northwestern Ontario in 1933 and it was marked in 1934. However, open seasons continued through 1935. No hunting was permitted in 1936 and 1937 indicating poor grouse populations as would be anticipated on the basis of previous cycles. Unfortunately we have no estimates of the local grouse population.

From table 2 and Figure 1, it is evident that the population was still at a relatively low ebb in 1938 when we commenced our studies, and this low population continued throughout 1939 and 1940 with the upswing commencing in 1941. Even in 1938 however, there were local areas of abundance as evidenced by our finding 12 grouse in one day in territory which was strange to us. This probably explains why an open season was declared, although this may merely indicate the

TABLE 2
Fall Counts of Ruffed Grouse, Thunder Bay District, 1938-1963

Year	Number Seen	Remarks
1938	20	Becoming more common.
1939	30	Generally common.
1940	18	Wet spring; reduced numbers.
1941	44	All reports suggest abundance.
1942	78	Very common; I saw 14 in one day.
1943	16	Sharp decline; scarce.
1944	..	No trips; reported very scarce.
1945	5	Few trips; still very scarce.
1946	29	Becoming common in local areas.
1947	15	Only abundant in local areas.
1948	82	Once more abundant.
1949	27	Sharp decline; common in local areas.
1950	26	Most hunters report scarcity.
1951	53	Generally abundant; scarce in some areas.
1952	44	Still abundant.
1953	30	Sharp decline noted.
1954	20	Scarce in most areas.
1955	75	Generally abundant; local areas of scarcity.
1956	55	Generally common; scarce in some areas.
1957	31	Moderately common; local areas still abundant.
1958	18	Scarce; biologists had predicted a good year.
1959	27	Generally distributed; nowhere common.
1960	14	Marked decline; local areas abundant.
1961	4	Few October trips; generally considered scarce.
1962	2	Very scarce; common in very few areas.
1963	3	All reports indicate scarcity.

changed outlook on the part of the conservation authorities, based upon grouse studies of preceding years.

A projection of Clarke's ten-year cycle fluctuations from 1883-1932 predicted another peak in 1942. Our figures show that this occurred on schedule locally and we counted 72 grouse, the second highest figures registered during the 25 year period covered by our notes. However, the ten-year cycle demonstrated by Criddle and by Clarke did not continue throughout the subsequent two decades. Following the peak of 1942, there was a crash in 1943 which continued for five years with a new peak in 1948 only six years after the one experienced in 1942. There was another sharp decline in 1949 and 1950 with better populations in 1951 and 1952 than expected. The population then fell to relatively low levels in 1953 and 1954 to rise to a new peak in 1955 with a somewhat lower level in 1956. This peak occurred only seven years after the one in 1948. There had been three

peak populations in this portion of Ontario in 14 years. This type of fluctuation is similar to the figures of Roberts and of Leopold and Ball.

During this period, hunting seasons had been extended and some biologists attributed the sustained high grouse population to the heavy hunting to which the grouse had been subjected. They argued this kept grouse populations at a relatively constant level and circumvented the conditions favorable to "Grouse Disease." This was fictitious thinking and contradicted their own often-stated arguments that hunting has little effect on the overall picture. Bump (1933) has gone so far as to claim that the sportman takes only 3 per cent of the annual potential of 100 eggs laid. Those who did believe in this concept however had their faith shattered subsequent to 1956, when local grouse populations continued to decline steadily until minimal populations were attained in 1961, 1962 and 1963. For these years as seen in Table 2, we were able to find only 4, 2 and 3 grouse respectively in mark-

ed contrast to even the so-called minima of 1938-1940, 1943-1947, and the erratic populations of 1949 to 1954.

Preliminary observations during the winter of 1963-64 and the spring and summer of 1964 offer little hope that there is yet an improvement locally in the grouse population. This is not unexpected on the basis of the ten-year cycle. A new peak may not occur for several more years if we are in one of the long cycles noted by Leopold and Ball. Possibly, in view of the recent 7- and 6-year cycles, a longer one is to be anticipated if Snyder (1951) is correct in his assumption that the cycle is a ten-year *arithmetical average*.

Further proof of the decline in the Ruffed Grouse population in recent years is evidenced from statistics of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. (Thunder Bay District Fish and Game Association Newsletter, July, 1964). In Geraldton District, 140 miles northeast of the Lakehead, the kill per 100 miles driven by car declined as follows: 1960-5.7; 1961-4.1; 1962-2.3; 1963-1.2. Comparable figures were obtained for grouse shot per 100 man hours hunting on foot: 1960-60; 1961-35; 1962-16; 1963-13. For the single year 1962, brood counts in the Port Arthur District showed a decline in the average number of young per brood from 7.5 in June, to 5.3 in July, to 2.9 in August, a reduction of 62 percent. Dorney (1963) has shown that road hunters get a greater percentage of young grouse than do bush hunters. The ratio of juveniles to adults in his series was 290:100 in brush hunting and 518:100 in the case of road hunting.

In recent years, Christmas Census Counts have been utilized in determining bird distributions. They have been particularly useful in demonstrating extra-limital movements, incursions of northern visitors and varying abundances of certain critical species. In Table 3 we have tabulated the results of census counts of Ruffed Grouse compiled by members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club at Fort William-Port Arthur, Ontario, 1939-1963, and published in the *Canadian*

Field Naturalist and/or *Audubon Field Notes*. For comparison and possible further aid in our study of given fluctuations, we have included similar census counts made at Duluth, Minnesota, 1947-1963, by the Duluth Bird Club. These counts were published in *The Flicker* and/or *Audubon Field Notes*. These counts proved of relatively little value for the purpose of our study. Taken on a single day, a count may be affected by weather conditions or the number of participants. The finding of a covey within the territory may give an exaggerated high figure. The following year the successive covey might still be present but outside the small area with 7 and one-half mile radius covered by the census. We have included them however as compilations of grouse observed in these two areas for the respective periods covered. Taken in areas contiguous to cities they probably give a false impression of the actual number of grouse present in similar areas of 177 square miles remote from metropolitan areas. They do demonstrate however, how well Ruffed Grouse can survive in close proximity to man, provided even limited forested areas remain.

During the period when we were studying the grouse populations at the Canadian Lakehead, biologists were carrying out studies of the Ruffed Grouse in many parts of its range including New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Michigan. Many of these studies are included in the Grouse Management symposium. Numerous studies have also been carried out at Cloquet Forest Research Center, Minnesota. In New Hampshire, Allison (1963) carried out censuses from mid-June to mid-September from 1949 to 1962. He showed "population fluctuations occur independently of hunting." During the 14 years of his study, the total broods counted per 100 miles walked, ranged from highs of 84, 88 and 88 in 1951, 1952 and 1956 to a low of 33 in 1959. These peaks and minima are less extreme than has been suggested by previous studies.

Ammam and Ryel (1963) carried out similar investigations in Michigan. Twelve intensive methods were used

TABLE 3

CHRISTMAS CENSUS COUNTS OF RUFFED GROUSE, FORT WILLIAM-
PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO, AND DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Year	Fort William - Duluth Port Arthur		Year	Fort William - Duluth Port Arthur	
1939	1	—	1952	7	16
1940	2	—	1953	0	1
1941	6	—	1954	3	9
1942	2	—	1955	2	2
1943	1	—	1956	0	9
1944	—	—	1957	0	15
1945	0	—	1958	7	7
1946	0	—	1959	1	7
1947	2	1	1960	3	1
1948	1	5	1961	0	0
1949	2	10	1962	1	1
1950	4	2	1963	0	1
1951	7	4			

to inventory the Ruffed Grouse. The following proved most useful: Spring mail carrier counts, June and July brood counts, cooperators hunting reports and hunting-kill estimates. A correlation between the summer mail carrier counts and kill estimates would be of great value but no good grouse index of this sort was found to compare with the MacMullan (1960) correlation of 0.98 in the case of mail carrier counts and kill estimates of the pheasants. The figures are subject to many variations particularly as related to hunting success. However, it seems evident that there were peaks about 1938, 1941-42 and 1951-52 with the population again rising in 1961-62. Minimal populations were present in 1945, 1955-56. Their paper was most important in pointing out the inherent difficulties in estimating grouse counts and the suggestions arising from their work should be most helpful to future workers in this field. Spring counts of adults, and censuses of drumming males cannot take into account adverse conditions which may be present in the breeding season. They can give no correlation to the fall population in years when "Grouse Disease" decimates the young birds. The same fault can be found with brood counts taken too early after the young have hatched. Graham and Hunt (1958) found a non-cyclic population of Ruffed Grouse in September, 1964

a 100-acre wooded swamp in southern Michigan.

Palmer and Bennett (1963), also working in Michigan, carried out intensive grouse studies through a cycle which extended from a near-peak in 1950 through a low in 1956 to a new high in 1962. Hunter kill averaged 30 percent on a hunted area. Yet the declines in population from fall to the following spring on this hunted area and an unhunted study area were similar, with an average turn-over of 60 to 70 percent. They referred to an interesting New York State experiment where professional hunters attempted to shoot out grouse populations on square mile areas after the regular seasons had ended. Despite familiarity with the coverts, the birds became so wary that the hunters concluded it was actually impossible to shoot out a grouse population.

SUMMARY

The Ruffed Grouse, our most important native upland game bird is widely distributed throughout Canada and the forested areas of northern United States. During the past eighty years, increasing attention has been paid to the marked cyclic fluctuations which occur in its numbers, throughout its range. The cycles have an arithmetical average of about ten years, but individual cycles have varied in length from six to fourteen years. In

periods of decline, 70 per cent of young grouse may die; this decimation may continue for three years. The subsequent rise to a new peak population is due to the grouse's high production potential.

From 1938 to 1963, we studied the grouse population at the Canadian Lakehead, counting all grouse seen during frequent trips throughout the forested areas during the hunting seasons. Peaks of populations occurred in 1942, 1948 and 1955. Minimum populations occurred in the late thirties, in 1943-44-45, and again in 1961-62-63. Possibly local factors favored relatively high populations from 1949 to 1955 when minimal populations were expected.

These cycles have been attributed to winters with little snow, to cold, wet, Mays, or Junes and to deforestation. These conditions may affect local populations but cannot produce the continental fluctuations. Over-shooting has received much consideration. This cannot explain continent-wide changes and probably has less effect on local populations than was once considered.

Finally, the periodic declines in Ruffed Grouse populations have been attributed to "Grouse Disease." Bacteria, have been found in various studies. In Ontario at least, blood protozoan parasites have been incriminated and the Blackfly has been suggested as an intermediate host. It is obvious much work remains to be done before we shall have a satisfactory explanation for the cyclic fluctuations in Ruffed Grouse populations throughout the wide range of the species.

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THE SUMMER SEASON

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This summer's report will be handled somewhat differently than usual in that I have divided the observations into two parts. Part I will treat the breeding or summer resident species and Part II will cover the transients. Breeding data was, in some cases, very sketchy and in other cases (Robin, Mallard, etc.) only a general statement is needed. Actual breeding evidence for any given species is noted as such.

Weather: Temperatures throughout the state were about normal. Most areas experienced prolonged dry-spells, interrupted by brief but torrential rains. During the last week of July a sharp cold snap broke a period of hot weather and sent the first migrants southward through the state.

General considerations: This has been an exceptional year for butterflies. The Dainty Sulphur, usually thought of as a southern species, was taken in Swift, Sibley, Goodhue, Dakota and Wabasha Counties. Several Avifaunal Club members took two Macoun's Arctic butterflies in Lake County on June 20. This was the second Minnesota occurrence and only the third United States record.

September, 1964

Part I: Summer Residents

Common Loon: breeding in Crow Wing (ELC), Ramsey (ELC, ACR), Lake (JCG) and St. Louis (DRM) Counties.

Horned Grebe: 6-20, Lake Superior, Big Sucker River, RLH; 8-5, Farm Lake, Lake Co., JCG.

Eared Grebe: one seen 6-16, Lake Superior, Big Sucker River, St. Louis County, RBJ.

Western Grebe: breeding, Frog Lake, Stevens Co, RAG, RLH, ES, others.

Pied-billed Grebe: breeding in Ramsey (ELC), Lake (JP), Itasca (JAM), Clay (DM), Stevens (RBJ) and Hubbard (ACR) Counties.

Double-crested Cormorant: 6-15, Duluth, RBJ.

Great Blue Heron: breeding in St. Louis (VFB, DRM) and Dakota (GL) Counties.

Green Heron: one stray seen 6-20 in Lake Co, n. of Two Harbors, (See Notes of Interest), DP, RG, RLH; breeding in Ramsey Co, ELC.

Common Egret: Clay Co, 7-19, EGA; breeding in Dakota Co, GL.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: breeding as usual at La Crescent, Houston Co,

(FV, FN) and also breeding in South Saint Paul, Dakota Co, GL, RLH, photographed by HFH; another very interesting record was a single immature seen at Superior, Wisconsin, (just south of Duluth) on 7-9 by Mary Donald and others.

Least Bittern: breeding in Wright Co, GS, one seen 7-4 Anoka Co, RBJ.

American Bittern: breeding in Crow Wing Co, MSB.

Canada Goose: 6-24, Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Mallard: breeding in Hennepin (RLH), Ramsey (ACR, ELC), St. Louis (JCG, DM, SNE, VFB), Cook (JCG, AEA, HH), Beltrami (MG, JAM), Lake (JCG), Cass (JAM), Crow Wing (TEM), Hubbard (LWJ) and Roseau (PEB) Counties.

Pintail: breeding, Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Green-winged Teal: 6-16, Duluth, RBJ; July, Anoka Co, DP.

Blue-winged Teal: breeding in Ramsey (ELC), Winona (GD) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties; also seen at Duluth (breeding?) *vide* JCG.

American Widgeon: Pelican Lake, near Orr, St. Louis Co, 6-7 thru 6-14, ad and 10y, NJH; Round Lake, Itasca Co, 7-6, six separate broods, JAM.

Wood Duck: breeding in Hennepin (RLH), Ramsey (ACR, ELC, MAS), St. Louis (JWG), Lake (JNG), Beltrami (JAM), Wabasha (BF), Winona (BF) and Houston (BF) Counties.

Ring-necked Duck: breeding in Beltrami (JAM), St. Louis (JCG), Lake (JNG) and Anoka (DP) Counties.

Common Goldeneye: breeding in St. Louis (JCG, NJH), Lake (JCG), Beltrami (JAM) and Cook (*vide* JCG) Counties.

Hooded Merganser: breeding in St. Louis Co, JCG.

Red-breasted Merganser: breeding in Lake Co, JP.

Turkey Vulture: 7-14 and 8-15, Wabasha Co, FN, RBJ; all summer, Lake Co, JCG.

Goshawk: 8-14, Crow Wing Co, MSB; 8-29, Lake Co, JCG.

Red-tailed Hawk: breeding in Crow Wing (MSB) and Roseau (PEB) Coun-

ties.

Bald Eagle: 6-17, Cook Co, RBJ; breedingwise, our national emblem isn't faring so well; an inventory of known nests in the Chippewa National Forest this summer revealed that only 30 of 55 nests were active this summer; even more discouraging, only 15y were brought off from the 30 nests, JAM.

Marsh Hawk: breeding in Roseau Co, PEB.

Osprey: 6-8, Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 8-2 and 8-17, Crow Wing Co, TEM; breeding in St. Louis (JWG) and Lake (JCG) Counties.

Peregrine Falcon: 6-16, Cook Co, RBJ.

Pigeon Hawk: breeding Lake (JCG) and Cook (DE) Counties.

Sparrow Hawk: breeding in Wabasha Co, DRM.

Spruce Grouse: 7-13, Farm Lake, Lake Co, female and 3y, JCG; 7-29 Greenstone Lake, Lake Co, JNG; 8-3, South Kawishiwi River, Lake Co. JNG; 8-9, Gheen, St. Louis Co, NJH.

Ruffed Grouse: breeding in Washington (ELC), Itasca (JAM), Beltrami (JAM), St. Louis (NJH), Lake (JCG) and Roseau (PEB) Counties.

Greater Prairie Chicken: 6-13, Mahanomen Co, RAG.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: 6-24, Sax, St. Louis Co, DM.

Bobwhite: 7-4, Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka Co, 1 y found DOR, DP, JW, RLH; 7-18, Wabasha Co, ad and 3y, DRM; 7-25, Faribault, 1 calling, OR; 8-28, Castle Rock, Dakota Co, ad and 8y, OR.

Ring-necked Pheasant: breeding in Ramsey (ELC) and Clay (DM) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Chukar: 7-10, Ely, St. Louis Co, ad and 1y, Will Chester.

Sandhill Crane: Normally this species nests only in the very northwestern part of our state, but this summer a captive bird mated with a wild one at the Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka Co, and raised 2y, MAS, DB, others. It has also been reported recently that this species may nest at the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Aitkin Co.

Virginia Rail: 6-6, Minneapolis, ad and y, MAS.

Sora: breeding in Crow Wing (TEM), Wright (GS) and Washington (ACR) Counties.

Yellow Rail: 5-23, Becker Co, nest and eggs destroyed under foot, RLH; 6-14, Mahnomen Co, one heard, Mr. Joseph Hagar.

Common Gallinule: 7-4, Anoka Co, ad and 6y, RBJ.

American Coot: breeding in Ramsey (ELC), Beltrami (JAM) and Clay (DM) Counties.

Piping Plover: 6-16, Duluth, RBJ; 8-14, Duluth, JCG; 8-18, Duluth, DM; 8-22, Duluth, DP, FL.

Killdeer: breeding in Ramsey (ELC), St. Louis (HM, DM), Lake (RLH), Winona (GD) and Roseau (PEB) Counties.

American Woodcock: 7-27, Beltrami Co, MG. (See article elsewhere in this issue)

Upland Plover: Clay Co, 6-2, nest and 4e, OAS; Stevens and Traverse Co's, about 10 pair, RAG; 7-4, Hennepin Co, 9 birds, MAS.

Spotted Sandpiper: breeding in Ramsey (ACR, ELC), Lake (JP) and St. Louis (DM, RLH) Counties.

American Avocet: Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co, 2 nests, 4 eggs each, RAG.

Wilson's Phalarope: a few scattered breeding pairs in Stevens Co, RAG.

Herring Gull: breeding in Cook (AEA) and St. Louis (HM, DM) Counties.

Common Tern: all summer, Crow Wing Co, TEM; breeding at Duluth, DM.

Black Tern: breeding in Ramsey (ELC, ACR), Hubbard (LWJ) and Clearwater (LWJ) Counties; seen all summer, Crow Wing Co, TEM.

Mourning Dove: breeding in Ramsey (ACR, ELC), Clay (DM), Anoka (MAS) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6-8, Duluth, JCG; 6-14, Wadena Co. pair in breeding condition collected, RO; 6-17, Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 8-8, building (??), Hennepin Co, MAS; Nobles Co, all summer, common, HSH.

Black-billed Cuckoo: breeding in Hennepin (MAS), Ramsey (MAS) and Crow Wing (TEM) Counties.

Screech Owl: breeding in Stevens (RAG) and Ramsey (ELC) Counties; 8-15, Beltrami Co, MG.

Great Horned Owl: breeding in Dakota (MAS), Stevens (RAG), Blue Earth (EK) and Roseau (PEB) Counties.

Burrowing Owl: Traverse Co, 2 nesting pairs, Stevens Co, 1 nesting pair, RAG.

Barred Owl: 7-30, Lake Co, JCG; seen regularly, Cook Co, HH; breeding St. Louis Co, JWG.

Great Gray Owl: 7-4 and 7-18 near Canyon, St. Louis Co, DM. (See Notes of Interest)

Long-eared Owl: 6-19, Twig, St. Louis Co, JCG.

Short-eared Owl: breeding, Roseau Co, PEB.

Saw-whet Owl: 7-2, Meadowlands, St. Louis Co, JWG; 7-13, Farm Lake, Lake Co, JCG; 8-27, Farm Lake, Lake Co, 1 imm banded, JCG.

Whip-poor-will: Winona Co, Gilmore Valley, all summer, GD; 6-27, Ely, St. Louis Co, HEP.

Chimney Swift: breeding Ramsey (ELC) and Crow Wing (MSB) Counties.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: breeding in Crow Wing (ELC) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Belted Kingfisher: breeding Ramsey (ELC), Lake (JCG) and St. Louis (FS) Counties.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: breeding Ramsey (ELC), St. Louis (DM, SM, AKA), Beltrami (JAM), Crow Wing (TEM), Winona (GD) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Pileated Woodpecker: Hibbing, St. Louis Co, 6-20, 2y in nest, MJE.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: breeding Ramsey (ELC) and Rice (MAS) Counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker: breeding Ramsey (ELC), Beltrami (*vide* MG), Hennepin (MAS), Dakota (MAS) and Goodhue (GD) Counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: breeding Lake (DM) and Goodhue (MAS) Counties.

Hairy Woodpecker: breeding Ramsey (ELC), Crow Wing (TEM), Hubbard (LWJ) and Hennepin (MEH) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Downy Woodpecker: breeding Ramsey (ELC), Hennepin (MAS), Winona (FV) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties; also

Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 6-30, Mt. Iron, St. Louis Co, WJM; 7-13, Newton Lake, Lake Co., JNG; 7-20, Gunflint Lake, Cook Co., HH; 8-4, South Farm Lake, Lake Co., JNG.

Eastern Kingbird: breeding Ramsey (ACR, ELC), Beltrami (JAM), Clay (DM), St. Louis (MJM), Wabasha (DRM), Hubbard (LWJ) and Roseau (PEB) Counties.

Western Kingbird: 7-27, Fargo-Moorhead, 40 birds, EGA; breeding Clay (DM) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties; 6-27 Anoka Co., 2 seen, RBJ.

Great Crested Flycatcher: breeding in Beltrami (JAM), St. Louis (CS), Winona (KL), Hubbard (LWJ), Lake (JCG), and Roseau (PEB) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Eastern Phoebe: breeding Wabasha (RG), Crow Wing (ELC, TEM), St. Louis (HM, DM), and Clearwater (ACR) Counties; also Winona Co, feeding y Cowbird, DRM.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6-20, McNair, Lake Co, spruce swamp, looked like good area for breeding, DP, RG, RLH.

Least Flycatcher: breeding St. Louis (DM), Crow Wing (TEM) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Eastern Wood Pewee: breeding St. Louis (DM), Crow Wing (TEM), Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Crow Wing Co, pair most of summer, MSB.

Horned Lark: Hennepin Co, several nests, EWJ.

Tree Swallow: breeding in Ramsey (ELC), Crow Wing (ELC, MSB, TEM), St. Louis (SM, HM, JWG, DM, JCG, SNE), Beltrami (MG, JAM) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Bank Swallow: breeding in Clay (DM), Crow Wing (MSB) and St. Louis (FS) Counties.

Rough-winged Swallow: breeding Ramsey Co, ELC and Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Barn Swallow: breeding St. Louis (MWM, HM, DM), Beltrami (JAM), Lake (JCG), Clay (DM) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Cliff Swallow: breeding St. Louis (HM,

DM, JCG), Cook (AEA), Lac Qui Parle (RAG), Crow Wing (TEM), Wabasha (DRM) and Nobles (HSH) Counties.

Purple Martin: breeding Ramsey (ELC), St. Louis (RLH), Crow Wing (MSB, TEM), Winona (GD), Hubbard (LWJ) and Roseau (PEB) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Gray Jay: 7-4 Meadowslands, St. Louis Co, ad feeding 1 y, DM.

Blue Jay: breeding Hennepin (MAS), Ramsey (ACR), Winona (GD, CG) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Common Raven: 7-18, Hinckley, Pine Co, 4 at roadkill, RAG; Lake and Cook Co's, throughout June and July, *vide* JCG.

Common Crow: breeding Lake (DM) and St. Louis (WM) Counties.

Black-capped Chickadee: breeding Ramsey (MAS, ELC), St. Louis (CS), Hennepin (MEH), and Crow Wing (TEM) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Boreal Chickadee: 7-26, McNair, Lake Co, 2 ad and 4y, RG, WRP, RLH.

Tufted Titmouse: Ramsey Co, Bald Eagle Lake, 1 y at feeder, ELC; two other Titmouse "families" reported to ELC from around the lake; 7-17, Hennepin Co., RBJ.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 6-25, Mt. Iron, St. Louis Co., WJM; 7-29, Virginia, St. Louis Co, VFB; 8-19, Pelican Lake, St. Louis Co, NJH; breeding Ramsey (ELC), Hennepin (MEH), and Crow Wing (TEM) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: breeding St. Louis Co, CS, HM.

Brown Creeper: 7-4 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 7-17, Pelican Lake, St. Louis Co, NJH; 7-31, Gunflint Lake, Cook Co, HH.

House Wren: breeding Ramsey (ACR, ELC), Crow Wing (ELC), St. Louis (SM, AKA), Dakota (*vide* ACR), Roseau (PEB), Wabasha (DRM), Beltrami (MG) and Hennepin (MEH) Counties, also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Winter Wren: 6-10, Duluth, JCG; 6-20, Canyon, St. Louis Co, JCG; 7-18, Kelsey, St. Louis Co, DM; July, 8 localities in Lake Co, JCG.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: breeding Wright Co, GS.

- Catbird*: breeding Ramsey (ELC), St. Louis (SNE), Wabasha (DRM), Hubbard (LWJ) and Roseau (PEB) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.
- Brown Thrasher*: breeding Ramsey (ACR, ELC), St. Louis (HM, DM, SM, SNE, AKA), Wabasha (DRM), Winona (GG) and Beltrami (MG) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.
- Robin*: breeding in Ramsey, St. Louis, Lake, Beltrami, Clay, Hennepin, Crow Wing, Winona, Wabasha and Hubbard Counties.
- Wood Thrush*: 6-27 and 7-11, Crow Wing Co, TEM; 7-12, Hennepin Co., RBJ.
- Swainson's Thrush*: 6-3, Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.
- Veery*: breeding St. Louis Co, VFB.
- Eastern Bluebird*: breeding St. Louis (HM, DM), Beltrami (MG), Winona (GD), Wabasha (GD), Hubbard (LWJ) and Dakota (*vide* ACR) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*: 8-13, Rice Co, MAS; 7-7, Winona Co, 2 ad and 2 y, *vide* GD.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet*: 8-8, Hibbing, St. Louis Co, 2 ad and 8y, HM.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet*: reports from St. Louis Co: 6-1 thru 6-28, pair, Duluth, JNG; 6-10, Normanna, JCG; 6-20, Kelsey, JCG; 6-25, Sax, JCG; 6-28, French River, JCG; 7-1 Hibbing, HM; and Lake Co, South Farm Lake, 7-7, JCG.
- Sprague's Pipit*: all summer near Felton, Clay Co, at usual spot, undoubtedly breeding.
- Cedar Waxwing*: breeding Crow Wing (ELC), Beltrami (JAM), St. Louis (DM), Houston (GG) and Hubbard (ACR, LWJ) Counties.
- Bell's Vireo*: 6-12, Luverne, Rock Co, RLH; 6-14, Wabasha Co, nest empty, RG, RLH; 8-7, Winona Co, heard, FV; 8-15 Winona Co., 3 singing, RBJ.
- Yellow-throated Vireo*: 6-18, Crow Wing Co, MSB; breeding Crow Wing Co, TEM; Fargo-Moorhead, 1y, EGA; Winona Co, 2y and 1y Cowbird, KL.
- Red-eyed Vireo*: breeding Crow Wing (ELC), St. Louis (VFB, MWM, HM), Lake (JCG) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties; 8-17, Crow Wing Co, ad feed-
- ing 1y Cowbird, TEM.
- Philadelphia Vireo*: 7-10, Pickerel Lake, Lake Co, JCG.
- Warbling Vireo*: breeding Ramsey (MAS), Winona (GD) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.
- Prothonotary Warbler*: breeding Houston (RLH) and Anoka (FL) Counties.
- Golden-winged Warbler*: 6-5, Canyon, St. Louis Co, JCG; 6-24, Zim, St. Louis Co, JCG; 8-16, Crow Wing Co, TEM; 8-21, Crow Wing Co, MSB.
- Blue-winged Warbler*: 7-14, Goodhue Co, ad and 1y, MAS.
- Tennessee Warbler*: Lake Co, 8 summer resident observations, JCG.
- Nashville Warbler*: breeding Farm Lake, Lake Co, JCG and Hibbing, St. Louis Co, HM.
- Parula Warbler*: breeding Farm Lake, Lake Co, JCG.
- Yellow Warbler*: breeding Cass (ACR), St. Louis (MWM, SNE, NJH, VFB), Beltrami (JAM), Crow Wing (TEM), and Hubbard (ACR, LWJ) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; Ramsey Co, ad feeding 1y Cowbird, ELC.
- Cape May Warbler*: breeding, 2 separate families, Lake Co, JCG.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler*: 7-5, Lake Co, 11 mi E of Jordan, logging roads, RK.
- Myrtle Warbler*: breeding St. Louis (CS, DM), Lake (JCG) and Crow Wing (MSB) Counties.
- Black-throated Green Warbler*: breeding Lake Co, Encampment Forest, JP.
- Cerulean Warbler*: 6-14, Goodhue Co, RG, RLH; all summer, Anoka Co, DP, RG, JW, RLH.
- Blackburnian Warbler*: breeding Itasca Park, Clearwater Co, LWJ.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler*: breeding Crow Wing (MSB, TEM), Cook (MAF) and Lake (JCG) Counties; Crow Wing Co, 6-6, 3e and 1e Cowbird, ELC.
- Bay-breasted Warbler*: 6-20, McNair, Lake Co, DP, RG, RLH; 7-10, Lake Vermillion St. Louis Co, RE.
- Pine Warbler*: 7-10, Crow Wing Co, TEM.
- Palm Warbler*: 7-4, Meadowlands, St.

Louis Co, ad feeding 2y, DM.

Northern Waterthrush: resident, June and July, Fernberg area, Lake Co, JCG.

Connecticut Warbler: 6-20, Lake Co, N of McNair, DP, RG, RLH; June, 5 different swamps in Sax-Kelsey-Zim area, St. Louis Co, JCG, DM.

Mourning Warbler: breeding Crow (MSB) and Lake (JP, JCG) Counties.

Kentucky Warbler: 7-24, came aboard ship in western Lake Superior and left upon arrival at Duluth, JPP; Anoka Co, singing first year male seen by DP, WRP, RG, RBJ, WJB, HFH, RLH and others, remained in area from about 6-3 to 7-16. (See article elsewhere in this issue and Notes of Interest)

Yellowthroat: breeding Ramsey Co, ACR, Crow Wing Co, ad feeding 1y Cowbird, ELC.

American Redstart: breeding St. Louis (VFB), Crow Wing (TEM), Hubbard (LWJ) and Washington (ACR) Counties.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: breeding Ramsey (ACR, ELC, MAS), Clay (DM), Hennepin (MAS), Wright (MAS) and Winona (FV) Counties; 6-6, Duluth, JCG.

Red-winged Blackbird: breeding St. Louis (HM, DM, SM), Ramsey (ACR, MAS), Winona (GG), Hubbard (LWJ) and Becker (RLH) Counties.

Orchard Oriole: Sand Prairie, Wabasha Co. 6-3, nesting pair, one of which was a first year male, DRM; Winona Co, Knopp's Valley, pair feeding 6 large y, 7-20, JK.

Baltimore Oriole: breeding Ramsey (ACR, MAS, ELC), St. Louis (DM, VFB), Hennepin (MAS), Winona (GD) and Roseau (PEB) Counties.

Brewer's Blackbird: breeding St. Louis (HM, DM), Clay (OAS) Counties; 7-3, Fernberg, Lake Co, six seen, JNG.

Common Grackle: breeding Beltrami (JAM), Lake (JCG), Hennepin (RLH, MEH) and Washington (ACR) Counties.

Brown-headed Cowbird: See Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow

and Song Sparrow.

Cardinal: breeding Ramsey Co, ELC; Fargo-Moorhead, ad and 2y at feeder, EGA.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: breeding Ramsey (ELC), St. Louis, ad feeding 3y and 1 y Cowbird (AKA), Crow Wing (MSB), Hennepin (MAS) and Winona (DRM) Counties.

Indigo Bunting: 8-14, Lake Co, JCG; breeding Crow Wing (TEM) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Dickcissel: reported as very numerous by observers in southern half of state; Northern-most records were Wadena (RO) and Clay (EGA) Counties.

Blue Grosbeak: seen again all summer in Rock Co; has reached north and east to Blue Mounds State Park, about 7 miles N of Luverne, Rock Co, BWA. (See Notes of Interest)

Evening Grosbeak: although this species has been recorded for the past few summers feeding young in northern Minnesota, not until this year were the nests actually found. 6-26, near Brainerd, Crow Wing Co, nest found by Robert and Rita Dzilna, photographed by W. J. Breckenridge. 6-28, near Gheen, St. Louis Co, 1y fell from nest 14 feet up in White Pine, NJH; young being fed were reported from Hubbard (ACR, LWJ), Beltrami (JAM, MG), Crow Wing, (MSB), Cass (MG) and St. Louis (PBH, HEP, AKA) Counties.

Purple Finch: breeding in St. Louis (AKA), Crow Wing (MSB), Beltrami (MG) and Hubbard (ACR, LWJ) Counties.

Pine Siskin: 6-14, Hennepin Co, pair visiting feeder, MED; Fargo-Moorhead, June until 7-9, EGA; breeding St. Louis (DM, AKA) and Lake (JCG) Counties.

American Goldfinch: breeding St. Louis (DM), Ramsey (MAS), Winona (JM) and Hubbard (LWJ) Counties.

Red Crossbill: Crow Wing Co, throughout summer, visiting feeder, MSB; 6-20, Lake Co, DP; 7-18, St. Louis Co, DM; Fargo-Moorhead, young seen early June, last adult 7-9, EGA.

White-winged Crossbill: 7-10, Lake Co, JCG; 8-22, St. Louis Co, DP, HFH, RLH.

Lark Bunting: 5-31, Salt Lake, Lac Qui

Parle Co, nest and 4e, RAG, photographed by ES; (see photo section); Rock Co, all summer, 100 or more, BWA.

Savannah Sparrow: breeding St. Louis (JCG) and Anoka (MAS) Counties.

LeConte's Sparrow: St. Louis Co, 3 places in Sax-Zim area, JCG; all summer at usual spot in Becker Co, S of Waubun, RLH, RO, DP.

Henslow's Sparrow: 6-14, Winona Co, 2 singing, RG, RLH.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: all summer at usual spot in Becker Co, S. of Waubun, RAG, RLH, DP, RO.

Vesper Sparrow: 6-5, Lake Vermillion, St. Louis Co, WJM; breeding Crow Wing Co, MSB.

Lark Sparrow: 7-25, Hennepin Co, ad feeding 2y, MAS.

Slate-colored Junco: 7-18, Meadowlands, St. Louis Co, ad carrying food, DM; 6-16, Cook Co, RBJ.

Chipping Sparrow: breeding in Crow Wing (TEM, ELC), Beltrami (MG, JAM), St. Louis (HM, CS), Lake (JCG, DM), Hubbard (LWJ), Clearwater (LWJ) and Washington (ACR) Counties; also Fargo-Moorhead, 6-28, ad feeding 1y Cowbird, EGA.

White-throated Sparrow: breeding Lake (DM, JCG) and St. Louis (DM) Counties.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 6-25, Kelsey, St. Louis Co, JCG; 7-4, Meadowlands, St. Louis Co, ad carrying food, acting nervously, DM; 7-7, South Farm Lake, Lake Co, JNG.

Swamp Sparrow: breeding Lake (JCG), Crow Wing (MSB) and Anoka (RLH) Counties.

Song Sparrow: breeding Hubbard (LWJ), Crow Wing (TEM), Goodhue (MAS) and St. Louis (HM, DM) Counties; Duluth, St. Louis Co, 7-3, ad feeding 1y Cowbird, AKA.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: all summer at the usual spot in Clay Co, between Felton and Ulen, RLH, RG, DM.

Part II: Transients

Red-throated Loon: 6-10, Duluth, St. Louis Co, BT.

Snow Goose: last spring date, 5-14, Traverse Co, RAG.

Blue Goose: last spring date, 5-31, Traverse Co, RAG.

Greater Scaup: last spring date, 6-6, Duluth, St. Louis Co, JCG.

White-winged Scoter: 6-10, Duluth, BT.

Harlan's Hawk: last spring date, 4-4, Traverse Co, RAG, first fall date, 9-3, Dakota Co, RLH.

Peregrine Falcon: latest spring dates, 5-2, Stevens Co, RAG; 5-31, Lac Qui Parle Co, RAG; first fall date, 8-31, Ramsey Co, RLH.

Semipalmated Plover: last spring dates, 6-6, Lac Qui Parle Co, DP; 6-7, Stevens Co, RAG; fall dates, 7-28, Brown Co, DB; 8-12, Clay Co, LWJ; 8-18, Duluth, DM; 9-6, Grant Co, RLH.

American Golden Plover: spring-fall overlap of dates, Stevens Co, 6-7, 6-11, 6-18, 6-28, 7-1, 7-8 and 7-12, RAG; Traverse Co, 8-30, RAG and 9-6, RAG, RLH.

Black-bellied Plover: last spring date 6-6, Stevens Co, DP, HFH, RLH; fall dates, 8-18, Duluth, DM; 8-22, Duluth, DP, FL; 8-24, Duluth, DB.

Ruddy Turnstone: last spring dates, 5-31, Stevens Co, RAG; 6-6, Duluth, JCG; fall dates, 8-14, Duluth, JCG; 8-22, Duluth, FL, DP; 8-24, Duluth, DB.

Willet: 6-14 Stevens Co, RAG.

Solitary Sandpiper: last spring date, 6-2, Duluth, PBH; fall dates, 7-4, Anoka Co, DP, RLH; 7-12, Stevens Co, RAG; 7-16, Lake Co, JNG; 7-20, Itasca Co, JAM; 8-29, Lake Co, JNG.

Greater Yellowlegs: spring-fall overlap of dates, Stevens Co, 6-6, 6-27, 7-1, 7-8, 7-12, RAG, RLH, DP, HFH; 7-28, Brown Co, DB; 7-29, Clay Co, LWJ; 8-12, Clay Co, LWJ.

Lesser Yellowlegs: spring-fall overlap of dates, Stevens Co, 6-6, 6-11, 6-18, 6-26, 7-1, 7-8, RAG; 7-11, Minneapolis, MAS; 7-28, Brown Co, DB; 7-30, Clay Co, LWJ; 8-12, Clay Co, LWJ; 8-15, Duluth, JPP.

Knot: last spring date, 6-6, Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ.

Pectoral Sandpiper: spring-fall overlap of dates, 6-6, Rock Co, DP; Stevens Co, 6-7, 6-11, 6-18, 6-27, 6-28, 7-8, 7-12, RAG; 7-21, Minneapolis, MAS; 7-30 Clay Co, LWJ; 8-12, Clay Co., LWJ.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last spring

(Continued from page 89)

dates, 6-6, Rock Co, DP; 6-6, Duluth, JCG; 6-7, 6-11, 6-14, Stevens Co, RAG.

Baird's Sandpiper: last spring date, 6-6, Rock Co, DP; fall dates, 7-26, Duluth, WRP, RG; 8-18, Duluth, DM.

Least Sandpiper: fall dates, 7-8, Stevens Co, RAG; 7-24, Duluth, JPP; 7-26, Duluth, WRP; 8-15, Duluth, JPP.

Dunlin: latest spring dates, 6-5 Minneapolis, MAS; 6-6, Duluth, JCG; 6-6, Lac Qui Parle Co, DP; 6-11, Stevens Co, RAG; fall dates, 8-5, Frontenac, Goodhue Co, CMJ.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5-7, Stevens Co, RAG; 6-28, Stevens Co, RAG; 8-2, Mahanomen Co, DP.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 5-24, Stevens Co, RAG; 8-29, Sibley Co, 2 seen, RBJ, DB.

Dowitcher, species ?: 6-29, 7-1, 7-6, 7-8, 7-12, Stevens Co, RAG; 8-12, Clay Co, LWJ; 8-14, Minneapolis MAS; 8-30, Grant Co, RAG.

Stilt Sandpiper: 6-10, 7-1, 7-8, Stevens Co, RAG; 7-28, Brown Co, DB; 8-5, Frontenac, Goodhue Co, CMJ; 8-22, Duluth, JPP.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last spring dates, 6-5, Minneapolis, MAS; 6-6, Duluth, JCG; 6-6, Rock Co, DP; 6-7, 6-11, Stevens Co, RAG; fall dates, 7-24, Duluth, JPP; 7-2, Duluth, WRP; 7-28, Brown Co, DB; 8-14, Duluth, JCG; 8-22, Duluth, FL; 8-26, Duluth, JCG.

Western Sandpiper: 5-31, Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co, two, RAG.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: spring dates, 6-5, Stevens Co, RAG; 6-6, Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; fall dates, 7-26, Duluth, WRP, RG, RLH; 8-30, Traverse Co, about 35 seen, RAG.

Hudsonian Godwit: latest spring dates, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, Stevens Co, RAG, DP.

Sanderling: latest spring dates, 6-6, Duluth, JCG; 6-6, Lac Qui Parle Co, DP; 6-7, Stevens Co, RAG; 6-29 Duluth, DP, RG, RLH; fall dates, 7-26, Duluth, WRP; 8-22, Duluth, FL, DP.

Northern Phalarope: 6-6, Lac Qui Parle Co, DP; 6-7, 6-11, 6-27, 7-1, Stevens Co, RAG; 8-30, Grant Co, RAG; 8-12, Clay Co, LWJ.

Jaeger, species ?: 8-22, Lake Superior, off St. Louis Co, JPP observed light-

phase bird from his boat, tail length not clearly seen.

Bonaparte's Gull: latest spring date, 6-6, Duluth, JCG; fall dates, 8-10, Lake Co, JCG; 8-22, Duluth, DP, HFH.

Caspian Tern: last spring dates, 6-28, Crow Wing Co, TEM; fall dates, 9-6, Dassel, RLH.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: latest spring date, 6-14, Two Harbors, RK; fall dates, 8-3, Lake Co, JCG; 8-3, Crow Wing Co, TEM.

Mockingbird: Ramsey Co, 1 adult seen from about 5-1 to 7-1, Mrs. L. A. Carlson; 8-18, Minneapolis, KWE. DP informs me that a woman in Anoka Co brought several nestling Mockers home with her from Kansas and raised them as "pets" this summer.

Yellow-throated Vireo: fall date, 8-16, Minneapolis, DB.

Black and White Warbler: fall dates, 7-18, Meadowlands, St. Louis Co, DM; 8-3, Crow Wing Co, TEM; 8-12, Minneapolis, MAS; 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

Tennessee Warbler: last spring date, 6-16, Duluth, JNG; fall dates, 7-16, Duluth, PBH; 7-26, Hibbing, SM; 8-14, Duluth, JCG; 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

Orange-crowned Warbler: fall dates, 8-3 (very early), Crow Wing Co, TEM; 8-26, Duluth, JCG.

Nashville Warbler: fall dates, 7-18, Meadowlands, St. Louis Co, DM; 8-16, Crow Wing Co, TEM; 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

Parula Warbler: fall dates, 8-22, Kelsey, St. Louis Co, DP, RLH.

Magnolia Warbler: fall dates, 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

Blackburnian Warbler: fall dates, 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

Bay-breasted Warbler: fall dates, 8-22, Kelsey, St. Louis Co, RLH; 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

Blackpoll Warbler: fall dates, 8-16, Minneapolis, DB; 8-30, Ely, St. Louis Co, JCG.

Pine Warbler: fall dates, 8-22, Kelsey, St. Louis Co, RLH.

Northern Waterthrush: spring date addenda, 5-6, Stevens Co, RAG; fall dates, 8-4, Minneapolis, MAS; 8-13, Rice Co, MAS; 8-17, Crow Wing Co, TEM; 8-22, Kelsey, St. Louis Co, DP, FL; 8-

23, Minneapolis, DB.

Connecticut Warbler: spring dates, 5-20, Stevens Co, RAG; 6-6, Duluth, JCG; fall dates, 7-18, Meadowlands, St. Louis Co, DM.

Wilson's Warbler: fall dates, 8-20, Minneapolis, RBJ; 8-24, Hibbing, HM; 8-25, Two Harbors, RK; 8-26, Duluth, JCG; 8-27, Lake Co, JCG.

Canada Warbler: fall dates, 8-23, Minneapolis, DB.

White-crowned Sparrow: late spring date, 6-13, Hibbing, St. Louis Co, SM.

Lapland Longspur: last spring date, 4-25, Stevens Co, RAG.

SUMMARY: This summer was notable on several counts. After several years of summer Evening Grosbeaks, the first two actual nests were found for the state. The Lark Buntings moved in from the west to breed in Lac Qui Parle County and presumably Rock County. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron extended its nesting range northward by about a hundred miles. Dickcissels were "super-abundant" in the southern half of the state. Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to show evidence of northward range expansion. Bobwhite may be on the up-swing. The rare Kentucky Warbler put in two appearances and several species of northern warblers continued to show breeding evidence in northeastern Minnesota.

Despite these interesting records, observations were received from only a handful of observers this summer. It would almost seem that the summer heat drives most observers to the comfort of their air-conditioners. Or perhaps they fear the bloodthirsty black-flies of the northern coniferous woods. I would venture to say that the migratory and winter status of many species in Minnesota has been more thoroughly worked than the breeding status. How far south in Minnesota do the Mourning and Chestnut-sided Warblers breed? Do the Bufflehead and White-winged Scoter breed here? When was the last Willet nest found? Will someone have the honor of finding a first Ferruginous Hawk nest in

northwestern Minnesota? All it takes to answer these questions, one way or the other, is the *effort*. Sure its' easy (and enjoyable) to sit in a cool, comfortable den and read about the other guy's observations — but *vicarious* birding isn't quite enough for me. Is it enough for you?

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Lark Buntings

Nesting at Salt Lake



photos by E. H. Strubbe



OBSERVATIONS OF A KENTUCKY WARBLER

David Pearson

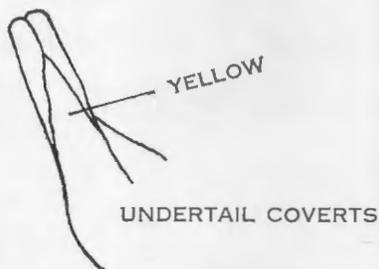
On June 3, 1964, while looking for late migrants below the Coon Rapids Dam, Anoka County, I heard what sounded like an odd Mourning Warbler singing. Having just seen a male of this species a few hundred yards north, I casually passed this individual off as the same bird or another of the same species without identifying it by sight. Going through the same area on June 10, I again heard this aberrant song. On close investigation, I discovered what was certainly not a Mourning Warbler singing, it looked more like a Yellowthroat, but even this was not a close description. The bird then came to within fifteen feet of me and continued singing. I could see clearly that this was what must be an immature Kentucky Warbler. It was only a half-mile from this area that I had seen a fall plumaged individual of this species the previous summer (see Flicker No. 4, Vol. 35), but this bird in front of me was quite different in that it had a profusion of gray covering the entire top of the head except where it turned into a dark blotch below the eye, and that it had no trace of spectacles except for an indistinct lightening of the lores. The back was a dark olive while the entire ventral area from under tail coverts to lower mandible was a medium bright yellow.

On later observation and comparisons with Yellowthroats occupying the same area, it was found that this yellow, especially on the under tail coverts was an excellent factor in separating these two species when they assume their fall plumages and become easily confused. The coverts of the Yellowthroats (see sketch) extend proximally one-third the distance of the tail leaving the entire two-thirds of the distal end without under tail coverts. In contrast the coverts of the Kentucky, as is true of all the genus *Oporornis*, extended almost two-thirds the length of the tail.

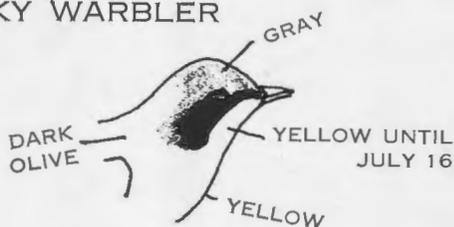
Besides this distinctive field mark, other useful differences were noted in the month and a half of observation. Its overall shape resembled the Connecticut possibly more than any other warbler; many of its habits also resemble this close relative. When not singing, the bird was literally impossible to locate in that it was so secretive and habitually fed low in the undergrowth and the middle of dense clumps of foliage. Flying from one feeding spot to another, it would seemingly launch itself from the center of one brush pile and land in the center of the next. Unlike the other *Oporornis*, however, it tended to walk along the ground on branches and quite often wagged its tail somewhat as a waterthrush.

The male Mourning Warbler I had seen on June 3 remained in this area also until July 13 and presented an unusual comparison. Not visually, as one might expect, for the two birds remained within respective half-acre areas 250 yards apart the entire period of observation, but instead, when wind conditions were right, I could hear the two birds singing simultaneously. The Mourning singing what I took to be a non-breeding song consisting of the first three notes of the normal cheery-cheery-cheery-chory-chory song, and the Kentucky singing its four to five noted song - each note being more distinctively two-syllabled and rolled than the Mourning. The most often heard sequence was a four and a half note song, chory-chory-chory-chory-chor with the final note slurred slightly downward.

Some would call the Mourning a frequent singer, but in comparison to the Kentucky it is almost silent. From June 3 to July 1, I could go to this area any time of the day from 5:30 A.M. (standard time) to 6:00 P.M. and expect to hear this bird singing. After



KENTUCKY WARBLER



YELLOWTHROAT

UNDERTAIL COVERTS

July 1 singing intensity and frequency were noticeably reduced. Towards evening and under overcast skies this also occurred. The song was usually softened in volume, shortened to three and a half or four notes, and lessened in frequency. During its most intense singing periods, I timed the song intervals at twelve to fifteen seconds and up to eighty-five songs in a series. In the slower periods, the intervals remained the same but a series rarely exceeded ten. Singing perches were usually obvious vantage points located anywhere from a bush two feet off the ground to a dead cottonwood thirty feet up; on the whole they were used quite consistently.

One peculiar habit connected with its singing was that of attempting a song while holding a grub in its mouth (these grubs were the only food actually seen being eaten or carried by the bird). The effect was a muted but recognizable (as well as comical) utterance. This action was noted several times and aroused serious suspicion of nesting activity but no young nor mate could be found in the extended period of extensive search and observation.

According to all available literature and from my own personal, albeit slight, observations of this species in the South, this individual was located in an ideal habitat. The area was along Coon Creek about a half mile above its mouth to the Mississippi River. Most of this area is made up of near climax forest consisting of basswood, cottonwood, and hackberry. The specific area in which the bird stayed, however, was distinctively second growth and very bushy with clumps of quaking aspen, poplar, and young green ash and hackberry. Most feeding was observed in black raspberry clumps which were quite extensive in the area, but occasionally the bird could be seen catching grubs higher up in wild grape vine complexes. Other birds of this area were: Wood Thrush, Veery, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Song Sparrow, Yellowthroat, and occasionally a Louisiana Water-thrush.

In the period of observation, eight persons besides myself (Ruth Andberg, Lyle Bradley, Harding Huber, Ron Huber, Bob Janssen, Lucia Johnson, Bill

Pieper) saw and identified the bird as a Kentucky. On July 16 Dr. Breckenridge accompanied me to see the bird for what was to be my last time and verified the record as "undoubtedly a Kentucky."

On this occasion the bird had begun its fall molt and had acquired within a week a whitish throat beneath the black mask. (One University of Minnesota specimen taken in an immature plumage resembled the bird under observation very closely before its plumage change. The only difference was in the definite spectacles of the mus-

eum specimen.) Otherwise I have been unable to find more than a few words concerning the immature plumage of the Kentucky warbler and must, therefore, assume that this seemingly unusual plumage is normal.

With this evidence, its habits, song, and habitat, the remaining question of hybridization is not completely eliminated and the identification of this bird as a Kentucky Warbler is only as close to certainty as one can get without actually having collected the specimen. —*Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington.*

NESTING AMERICAN WOODCOCK

L. J. Koopman and R. E. Erickson

We discovered an American Woodcock nest containing one egg near Ann Lake in Kanabec County (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, T. 40 N., R. 25 W.) at 2:30 P.M. on May 14, 1964. One bird flushed at a distance of approximately 10 feet from us. Another American Woodcock flushed within 20 feet of the nest site at the same time. The nest was on the east facing slope, that had been cleared of trees and brush just 3 months earlier, within 15 feet of a sphagnum bog-marsh fringed with willow. (See Figure I) A distance of more than 1,000 feet was cleared varying from 50 to 100 feet wide. The immediate vicinity of the nest was quite open, only sparse grass and alder sprouts were present. A marker was placed 3 feet from the nest.

The nest site was visited again on May 26, 1964 at 11 A.M. The female flushed from the nest when we were at a distance of about 12 to 15 feet away. (We assumed the bird was a female because of it's large size. Females are considerably larger than males.) Colored slides were taken at this time showing the nest of 4 eggs and the surrounding vegetation. Incubation had already progressed 9 days

assuming the eggs were laid on successive days and that incubation had begun immediately. Since most literature on American Woodcock place the incubation between 19 and 21 days, June 6th was picked for observation day - project "Woodcock hatch."

We visited the nest site once before observation day to make sure the nest was not destroyed. This was on June 4th at 4:20 P.M. Because of it's location along the edge of the marsh and it's exposure, it appeared highly vulnerable to predation. The female flushed when we approached to within 8 feet of the nest. Colored pictures were taken at this time also. The nest site was kept under observation for an hour or so, but the female did not return.

On June 6th, the day of project "Woodcock hatch," the nest site was visited at 9:40 A.M. The temperature was around 75 degrees F. with strong southerly winds and partly cloudy skies. We approached to within 30 feet of the nest site. For more than an hour we attempted to locate the female on the nest with a 20X spotting scope. The bird was so well camouflaged that

Figure I - Location of American Woodcock nest



Figure II - Nest of American Woodcock



we had no success although the marker (a 2½" x 6" white tag lying on the ground) was plainly seen. Then we slowly approached the nest site. When we were approximately 10 feet away the female flushed. She flew off slowly, with feet hanging and tail down, into the edge of the woods about 200 feet away. Considerable excreta was dropped on the nest as she departed. There were three young already out of the eggs. (See Figure II). One was nearly dry. The other two were wet and probably had just emerged. All of them had the pronounced white egg-tooth. Pictures were taken of the nest and young without disturbing them.

An observation station was then selected on a pile of brush and debris about 60 feet from the nest site directly opposite the fringe of willow brush. The view was open and the viewers were also exposed. About 35 minutes later the female flew out of the woods and landed about 20 feet from the nest. She immediately made a couple of short flights over and near the nest. Observing her through the binoculars it appeared as though her beak made movements as she hovered in the air, although no sound was heard. She then made a longer flight of about 250 feet directly away from the nest and to the right of our observation station, as though to divert our attention away from the nest. (At no time did she carry on a broken wing display as some other birds do in a similar situation.) Fifteen minutes later she flew directly back over the nest and landed about 75 feet from the nest, to the left of our observation post. She immediately made two more short flights further in the same direction - about 10 to 15 feet each time. These short flights appeared to be "decoying" flights.

The nest was watched continuously with binoculars during this time. Within a minute after the last short flight (she was now over 100 feet from the nest) she approached the nest walking with short, quick movements. She walked within a foot of the nest, turned and walked several feet away. Then she came back and made a U-turn around the nest, stopped, and then started away again in the same direc-

tion as before. She repeated this behavior once more and moved 10 feet or more from the nest, disappearing from view. During this activity it appeared as though her beak was opening and closing, but no sounds were heard. The female was in plain view while she was close to the nest, and there was no visible evidence that any young followed her when she walked away and disappeared into the edge of the willow. Very shortly thereafter she flew, from a spot about 30 feet from the nest, out over the willow a distance of more than 100 feet. It appeared as though she carried something between her legs and tail, although we could not be certain as she flew directly away from us.

At 12:30 P.M., about 10 minutes after the last mentioned activity, we visited the nest, and one of the young was missing - the one that was nearly dry when first seen. Shortly after returning to our observation station the female circled back over the area and flew very close to where we were sitting. She then flew into, and lit in the edge of the woods to one side and back of us. There was no movement for 20 minutes. At 12:45 P.M. we left the nest site after taking some more pictures of the two remaining young which were now quite dry and active. They appeared strong enough to walk away from the nest. While taking pictures the remaining two young were handled and showed no sign of wariness. When placing a hand in the nest they struggled to climb into the palm and up the wrist. There was no evidence of fear. The female American Woodcock had left them shortly after their emergence from the egg and conditioning evidently had not occurred up to that point.

Acknowledgements to Dr. Harvey L. Gunderson, Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, and to Wm. H. Longley, Research Biologist for the Game and Fish Department, Minnesota Conservation Department, for their helpful suggestions and criticisms.—*Section of Game, Minnesota Game and Fish Division, Department of Conservation, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

THE CANADIAN LAKEHEAD

A. E. Allin

The heavy precipitation of April continued throughout May and June when it measured 5.53" and 5.57" respectively. The May temperature was 2.7° above normal. In June it fell to 2.6° below the average, and frost was noted in several areas during the first week. Buds were scarcely out on the Black Ash on June 4 and the flowers were just past their best on Pin-Cherries, Saskatoons and Choke-Cherries. The early part of July was very hot but a cool trend toward the end of the month prevented it becoming the hottest July in 40 years. The mean temperature was 66.1° compared with the average 63.5°. High temperatures of 90° and 92° were recorded on July 15 and 17, respectively. It was the driest July on record with only 0.73" of rainfall; the normal is 2.78".

The fruit crop on the Blueberries and Saskatoons is a moderate one. There appears to be a very heavy crop on the Mountain Ash in contrast to the poor one a year ago. I cannot recall as heavy a crop of cones as is presently on the White Spruce. We anticipate an interesting winter with more than the usual number of northern visitors.

Spring migration was generally poor, with no major waves of migrating birds. There was increased activity on May 16 and 17 when several Brown Thrashers and no less than four Mockingbirds were reported. On May 16 the first Yellow-breasted Chat for the region was identified in Neebing Township. May 18 produced a definite migration of several species of warblers but the movement was a transient one overlooked by most observers. The heaviest migration of the year occurred on May 21, when we identified 11 species of warblers. However, the major movement generally experienced during the last week of May did not materialize in 1964. Thrushes, warblers, and sparrows were never common. The shore bird migration was equally poor; some shore birds were very late. We saw two American Golden Plovers and

a Semipalmated Plover in Cook County, Minnesota, on May 31, and John Hebden reported a flock of Dunlins in Paipoonge Township, Ontario, on June 7. (Only a short time later, shorebirds were reappearing in Manitoba.) Birds were very scarce at the end of May. I spent the entire afternoon of May 30 in swamps along the north shore of Lake Superior and saw only six birds belonging to six separate species! In general, fields and forests seemed unusually quiet throughout June; tree-lined city streets and parks would have been equally quiet had it not been for the abundance of Robins.

Notwithstanding the generally-poor spring migration and a general scarcity of birds throughout the summer, many interesting observations were made. Dr. H. Quackenbush carefully described the Yellow-breasted Chat seen on May 17 in Neebing Township. None had previously been reported from the District. Four Mockingbirds over the weekend of May 17 was unusual although this bird seems to have become a regular visitor. We have few previous records for the Black-billed Magpie, one of which was seen in Oliver Township on May 18 by A. Elsey. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen on May 24.

Several important nesting records were established extending the breeding ranges of the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Loggerhead Shrike and confirming the fact that the Black Tern and the Ring-billed Gull do nest in Thunder Bay District. The White-breasted Nuthatch, once considered a rare visitor, is now seen during the winter months at many local feeding stations. Two spent the past winter at Mrs. M. Cryer's feeder in Paipoonge Township, and occasionally came to the feeder during the spring and early summer. In mid-July, an adult was seen feeding young by Mrs. Cryer. The Loggerhead Shrike is an exceptionally rare visitor to the Lakehead area. D. MacLulich saw one during the sum-

mer of 1936 on the Sibley Peninsula and Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Speirs reported one in Dorion Township a few years ago. On July 13, the Allins saw a Loggerhead Shrike in Paipoonge Township and on June 15 located its nest, eight feet from the ground, on a horizontal branch of a White Spruce tree. It contained six eggs. The coloration of the breast, and details of the mask were studied at four feet. The grey coloration of the fully-grown young also separated this species from the young of the Northern Shrike which are brownish-colored birds. On June 13, at Whitefish Lake, I rediscovered a colony of about 20 Black Terns in a small marsh where we found them a few years ago and where we subsequently saw young flying with the parent birds. We found a nest containing two eggs on a small floating island. A year ago C. E. Garton discovered a small colony of Ring-billed Gulls on Granite Island, Black Bay, Lake Superior. When he revisited the Island on June 30, 1964, several nests were present containing eggs and young birds. A set of three eggs is now in my collection confirming the present breeding status of the Ring-billed Gull in Thunder Bay District. On July 9, in MacTavish Township, Mrs. W. P. Hogarth found a nest of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, pendant at the end of a horizontal branch of a White Spruce, about ten feet from the ground. It contained fully-grown young. The late Col. L. S. Dear found nests of this species locally but it is an experience shared by only a few naturalists.

Loons and Grebes: We have no information on the success of Common Loon nestings. Last year, heavy rains followed the onset of nesting but in 1964 the heavy precipitation of April and May have had less effect as nesting sites should have been chosen at higher levels. Nevertheless there is reason to believe that the Red-necked Grebes at Whitefish Lake lost their nests due to high water levels. However, their nesting habits differ from those of the Common Loon.

Cormorants, Herons, and Bitterns: A small colony of Double-crested Cormorants is still present on an island not

far from the border. Few cormorants are now seen however in contrast to the numbers which were reported a few years ago.

Swans, Geese and Ducks: Two swans were present in Squaw Bay the first week of May. Unfortunately a poacher shot one. It was later turned over to the conservation authorities. As expected it was a Whistling Swan which had not proceeded to its northern breeding grounds and not a stray Trumpeter Swan from the west. A Red-breasted Merganser was seen in the Harbor accompanied by at least 17 young. We have seen fewer broods of young pond ducks than usual.

Vultures, Eagles and Hawks: Hawks are very scarce with the exception of Sparrow Hawks. Pigeon Hawks successfully nested in Vicker's Park. I believe they have nested in this small park or its environs annually since the early forties, utilizing the spruce trees as nesting sites. L. Manuel reports the occasional Bald Eagle over Lake Nipigon but we have not heard of any occupied nests in 1964.

Grouse to Coots: Numerous coveys of Ruffed Grouse have been seen but it is too early to know whether this species is already on the ascendency of its cycle or whether the majority of the young will succumb again this year to grouse disease. We have no reports on the success of Spruce or Sharp-tailed Grouse or Gray Partridge. We failed to find any American Coots on our one trip to Whitefish Lake on June 13. Soras have been seen regularly in the harbor. A Virginia Rail was found dead in Port Arthur on June 12.

Shorebirds: Upland Plovers were first seen on May 16, and an American Golden Plover on May 18. On May 24, the Allins saw a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes in Paipoonge Township. This is one of the few local records for this species. J. Hebden found Dunlins still present on June 7. Returning shorebirds were very early. We saw Pectoral Sandpipers on July 15, Solitarys on July 20, and a Least Sandpiper on July 22. Peculiarly we have not yet seen either species of yellowlegs. Usually

these are our first south-bound migrants

Gulls and Terns: Ring-billed Gulls were again seen early in the season in the Harbor and L. Manuel noted their presence during the summer at Lake Nipigon. As recorded above, C. E. Garton found them breeding on Granite Island. Manuel saw a few Bonaparte's Gulls on Lake Nipigon in July and we saw one locally on July 30. The colony of breeding Black Terns at Whitefish Lake remains rather constant in size.

Doves to Kingfishers: A few Mourning Doves have been present all summer. We saw a Short-eared Owl in Fort William on June 14. The plague of Tent Caterpillars is still about 100 miles to the west and only a few Black-billed Cuckoos have been seen. Chimney Swifts and Common Night hawks must have had a difficult summer due to the heavy rains. We again listened to the Whip-poor-wills along the Norwesters on May 26. On August 13, the temperature fell to 39° and there was a northwest wind of 16 miles. There was a small movement of Common Nighthawks.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, and Swallows: A colony of Bank Swallows attempted to nest in the temporary sand piles of a cement-mixing plant. The uncommon Rough-winged Swallow was reported in May. An egg of a Barn Swallow was found in what appeared to be the deserted nest of a Eastern Phoebe in a garage.

Jays to Wrens: On August 8, the Allins saw a travelling family of Boreal Chickadees near the mouth of Cloud River not far north of the border. The Short-billed Marsh Wren is an uncommon summer resident; as usual we found one colony. We noted above the breeding of the White-breasted Nuthatch in Paipoonge Township as well as the Black-billed Magpie seen in Oliver Township on May 18.

Mimids and Thrushes: Although the Mockingbird has become a regular visitor, it was unusual for four to be reported over one weekend in mid-May. The Catbird was again conspicuous by its apparent absence but numbers of Brown Thrashers were seen in May.

Robins have been very abundant. Young appeared in early June, and in early July, and a few about August 8. Only the occasional Eastern Bluebird has been seen and the two nests in Hogarth's Bluebird boxes were both destroyed, probably by thoughtless humans rather than by predators. Veeries seem relatively common, but Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes appear to be scarce.

Kinglets to Starlings: We noted above nesting records for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the Loggerhead Shrike. Cedar Waxwings are one of the few birds which I consider as occurring in their usual numbers. The broods of young Starlings appearing in last June seemed small. These birds were flocking late in June. On July 11, we saw a very late brood of young Starlings in Fort William.

Vireos and Warblers: These birds were unusually scarce. W. Hartley reported a Chestnut-sided Warbler feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird. Mrs. Atkinson saw six Black-throated Blue Warblers at Dorion on May 5. This is one of our uncommon warblers, occasionally noted on migration but not yet found breeding. A Red-eyed Vireo was in full song on August 9. A family group had been seen in the area a week previously.

Bobolinks to Tanagers: Bobolinks were present in at least three areas. We were surprised to see two males still in breeding plumage on July 25. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Shebandowan on July 13. Small colonies of Brewer's Blackbirds are now widely distributed throughout the Lakehead area, particularly in low-lying areas along the highways. No Scarlet Tanagers have been reported; a year ago several were seen.

Fringillidae: Indigo Buntings were seen north of Pigeon River in May and one was seen in Blake Township in July. Undoubtedly these birds occasionally breed here but no nest has been found since 1938. I found a dead juvenile in Cook County in 1962. Pine Siskins were present in Fort William on May 16, at Dorion on June 4, and about Atikokan all summer (Mrs. Peruniak).

Clay-colored Sparrows are evidently very scarce; we heard it on only one occasion. Harris' Sparrows were last seen on May 15. Lapland Longspurs, which were common along the north shore last spring were still present in the harbor on May 17 according to D. Story. T. Perrons reported a few Snow Buntings still present "about" May 11, an unusually late date.

It was a good summer to be interested in nature in general rather than in birds alone. On July 7, Dorothy Allin and I were photographing the beautiful Calypso Orchid in a White Cedar swamp when I found an unusual small violet with a pale, streaked, lower petal. It proved to be *Viola palustris* evidently a rare species in Thunder Bay District. We also caught three specimens of the Big Marble Butterfly (*Euchloe ausonides mayi*) one of our rarest butterflies which we first took in Sibley Park, May 27, 1961. Previous easterly specimens in the National Collection were from Manitoba. This spec-

ies has recently been found in Minnesota. We failed to find it on June 14 when we made a special trip into Cook County for that purpose. The Monarch Butterfly was common as it had been in 1963. June 13 was spent at Whitefish Lake, Red-necked Grebes were probably flooded out by high waters. We found the nest with two eggs of the Black Tern. We again listened to the trilling of the Gray Tree Frog where we had heard it a few years ago. Our only other local record was one heard in Neebing Township in 1962. It has been taken 100-odd miles to the west in Rainy River District. The nearest Minnesota locations appear to be Pinch and Moose Lakes in the northern St. Louis County. Its presence in Thunder Bay District was confirmed on June 27, when Catherine Aller caught one at Shebandowan Lake. It is presently in this scribe's collection.—*Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Box 1100, Fort William, Ontario.*

NOTES OF INTEREST

ALBINO PURPLE MARTIN—While vacationing at Lake Hubert, Crow Wing County, the last week in July 1964 I noticed a white Purple Martin flying with quite a large gathering of normal plumaged Purple Martins. Later that evening I saw it again perched on a wire but not with the large flock.

The next day a large number of Purple Martins were feeding over the lake surface in front of the cottage we occupied and the white Purple Martin was in the group.

As it left the lake it flew directly over me and there was no doubt whatsoever about its being a Purple Martin.

I have had Purple Martins in my back yard for many many years and this is the first time I have ever seen a white one.—*Paul C. Wallis, 1861 Ashland Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

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LATE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW—Our home is by the Hibbing Airport, St. Louis County, Minnesota. We have many sparrows in our area. To the south of our house is our bird feeding area, and we have several feeders besides an area of the ground where I scatter bird seed. The sparrows come to the ground area in large numbers. I was so surprised to see a White-crowned Sparrow with the other sparrows on June 7, 1964 and again on June 13. Every day after that I continued to watch but never saw it again. I was beginning to wonder if it was going to nest here. I was particularly interested in the White-crowned Sparrow because I had been hoping to get a Gambel's to band—*Selena McCracken, Star Route 4, Hibbing, Minnesota*

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RED-SHAFTED FLICKER ON THE GUNFLINT TRAIL—Shortly before noon on April 20, 1964, my husband, Adrian, and I approached Swamper Lake on the Gunflint Trail. Adrian was driving slowly as the day was overcast and there was enough drizzle to make parts of the road unpleasantly slippery. Ahead and lying over the lake was an island of bright sun. At one point, Swamper Lake lies very near the Trail and, in the narrow band of earth between blacktop and water, I saw the white rump of a sunning flicker. As we approached, we saw that the shafts of its primaries were red. We slowed to a crawl and, at ten feet, the absence of the scarlet patch at the back of the head, a field mark of the Yellow-shafted Flicker, was plain. As we moved on, the bird turned slightly and I saw that both whiskers were red. Then it flew. Fortunately we were able to stop abruptly, because it passed just above the hood and in front of the windshield. Its underfeathers were so deeply red that I could not detect the salmon cast expected in the Red-shafted Flicker, which I believe this bird to be. I wonder if some of the intergrades recently reported, with orange underfeathers and partially red whiskers, may have been Minnesota-hatched—*Helen Hoover, Grand Marais, Minnesota.*

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EUROPEAN WIDGEON NEAR HALSTAD—On April 11, 1964, I recorded ten male European Widgeons and what I believed to be ten female European Widgeons. This recording was made at Grandin Lake, a 35-acre lake in North Dakota just across the Red River from Halstad, Norman County, Minnesota. I have done very careful birding in the area along the river and around the lake in the past three years.

This particular Saturday was a sunny, 70 degrees. On trips to the area during the preceding week I had seen many Blue-winged Teal and some Green-winged Teal, so on this day when I first spotted the ducks from about 200 yards away with my 7 x 35 binoculars I again thought I saw both Blue and Green-winged Teal.

I then went around the lake and approached from the south so that I could get a better look at them as they sat in the shallow water at the south end of the lake. At first glance I again thought them to be the Green-winged Teal, but then I immediately saw the very evident lighter patch on the top of the head. (It appeared almost as white in the American Widgeon.) The size difference between the widgeon and the teal was also very evident, but the colors and color pattern seemed quite similar. I was now within 50 yards of the ducks, and I was sure that it was a species that I had not seen before so I made my notes. Later I identified the ducks from my Peterson's Guide, from *Birds of America*, and others.

Because of limited time I remained for only about 20 minutes. I regret that I could not obtain a picture or have another birder identify them.

I was not able to determine the number of females because of the many Blue-winged Teal and Gadwalls swimming among them, and I am not sure that I would be able to clearly identify them anyway.

I returned on the following day (Sunday) with my camera, but the birds had evidently continued on their northward migration.

Even though this was recorded in North Dakota I thought it might be of interest, for it was only half a mile from our border.—*James M. Sulerud, Halstad, Minnesota.*

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BLUE GROSBEAK OBSERVATION—As a result of the note published in the March 1964 *Loon*, three of us (Doris Doeden, Iona Jackson and myself) set out from Worthington, Minnesota on June 28, 1964 to see if the Blue Grosbeaks were in the same location in Rock County as they had been in 1963.

We reached the border road about 10 a.m., drove south 2½ miles from US
September, 1964

Hwy. 16 and parked the car. Almost at once we heard a bird singing which had to be the grosbeak. For about 1½ hours we observed a pair of Blue Grosbeaks flying back and forth between two rows of trees — ash and box elder — just south of location "B" on Ron Huber's map. Eventually the pair flew off over the corn field to the southeast. Another pair was observed on the telephone wires approximately ¾ miles south of Hwy. 16, both on the Minnesota and South Dakota sides of the road, adjacent to a farmer's woodlot. Again, after we had a good look at both male and female, they flew off over a corn field. After lunch in Larchmont, Iowa, we drove back the same border road and observed both pairs at the same locations. Obviously, they had set up territories although we could find no nest in the time we spent at the first location.—*Jean McIntosh, 3209 W. 43 Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

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SOUTHERN BIRDS IN STEARNS COUNTY—Three uncommon species, typical of southern woodlands, were observed this spring (1964) in the vicinity of St. John's University, Collegeville, Stearns County, Minnesota. Observed were the Red-shouldered Hawk, Prothonotary Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler. They were seen in the 1,000 acre Collegeville State Game Refuge, a semi-wilderness area near the northern edge of the "Big Woods." The refuge is in a region of heavily forested hills interspersed with lakes and small swamps. Much of the woods is in a virgin condition except where spot lumbering has taken place. Common trees include the Basswood, maples, oak, and American Elm.

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks appeared on April 4 and have been seen regularly since then. A second pair was seen later during April and its courtship flight watched closely. However no definite nesting activity has been found. This is the first known record of this species since about 1939 at Collegeville.

A male Prothonotary Warbler was seen on May 11 by Ed Hibbard and a group of biology students. This species may be of regular occurrence in Stearns County as several birds were seen in May of 1961. It is a fairly common summer resident in southeastern Minnesota but known only as a rare migrant this far north.

Cerulean Warblers made a remarkable influx into this area. They were first noted May 13 and rapidly increased in numbers. 14 singing males were heard on May 16 after covering only about 30% of the refuge. The first female Cerulean appeared on May 19. A male bird was collected after flying into a window at the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota. It was identified by Nick Zaczkowski of St. Benedict's biology department. The Cerulean also breeds in southern Minnesota but it appears a well established colony of these birds is present in Stearns County. Nesting reports from this area would help substantiate this claim.—*Robert P. Russell, Edmund A. Hibbard, St. Cloud, Minnesota.*

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BALD EAGLE NESTING 1964—The December 1963 number of *The Flicker* contained an article concerning the status of Bald Eagles on the Chippewa National Forest in northern Minnesota. The following information is a sequel to that article.

The 1964 nest inventory resulted in 14 new nests being found, bringing the total known eagle nests on the Chippewa to 55. Thirty of the observed nests were active in 1964. Of these, 12 (40.0 percent) were successful in bringing young to an advanced stage of development. The 12 nests produced 15 eaglets, or 1.2 young per nest.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Chippewa National Forest is one of the major nesting areas of the Bald Eagle in the United States. If the continental population continues to decline, this forest may become one of the last strongholds of the species.

The U. S. Forest Service now has firm management policy for protecting nest trees and establishing buffer zones around aeries.—*John Mathisen, Bemidji, Minnesota.*

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CINNAMON TEAL OBSERVATION—On May 2, 1964, my husband and I were watching for birds in a pond on the western edge of Becker County in Minnesota. We saw several ducks that were totally unfamiliar to us. When they were first observed they were about one hundred feet from us and I referred to Peterson's Western Bird Guide and we both decided that they were Cinnamon Teal. The birds were definitely brown. There were bluish patches on the wings, as were the two females, although they were speckled or mottled and less bright in color tone. There were two males and two females. We watched them for twenty minutes at least, and they swam as close as 20 to 30 feet from the car. Our binoculars are Bausch and Lomb 7-35. A trip a few days later found them in the same pond, but we have not seen them since. We did not observe them do anything but swim.—*Mrs. Fred M. Scheel, 1342 So. River Road, Fargo, North Dakota.*

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LAZULI BUNTING OBSERVATION—First observed Lazuli Bunting for 5 minutes on May 18, 1964, at 9:50 CST on the very tip of the dead top of a box elder tree, the tree being about 50 ft. tall and the dead top between 6-7 ft. tall, in sheltered open woods south of the bend of the Red River of the North which is adjacent to 4th Street and 2nd Avenue North in Moorhead, Clay County, Minnesota.

Wind was NNW averaging about 10 mph; light, good. Attention attracted due to unfamiliar song. Heard answering song from inside foliage of another box elder 50 feet away. Seemed to be stationary while constantly singing but hard to find because of white underparts. Appearance and song suggested Indigo Bunting. Variation in song sharply delivered - six notes generally. Turned all the way around and coloring easily seen. Bright blue head and throat; deep, buffy band on breast directly below throat; white underparts; small, dark bill; brownish wings with snowy white wingbars, top wingbar somewhat wider; bluer rump. Other observations included the following: 11:10 A.M., same date, in nearby tree, sitting and singing. 11:55 A.M., same date, glimpsed on branch of same tree; saw him in flight; thereafter heard him sing for 10 minutes but couldn't find him in foliage. 6:00 P.M., same date, 5 minutes. 6:15 P.M., same date, another quick view. 6:30 P.M., same date, glimpse. 6:30 P.M., same date, good view for 1 minute by Mrs. George A. Anderson, 1458 S. River Road, Fargo, North Dakota. 9:10 A.M., May 19, 1964, heard him sing for 5 minutes but could not find him in deep foliage.—*Mrs. Leslie Welter, Jr., 124½ 4th Street North, Moorhead, Minnesota.*

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UNUSUAL OBSERVATION OF A KENTUCKY WARBLER—(*Editor's Note: The following information was received in a letter from Ray Naddy of Duluth. Mr. Perkins is the first mate on the Great Lakes ore carrier D. G. Kerr. Mr. Naddy received the information from Mr. Perkins after his ship had docked in Duluth. The bird has come aboard in mid-lake. This constitutes the first record for this species in the Duluth area.*)

As I went to breakfast on July 24, 1964 I saw this warbler on deck. After eating I took a tour around until I made the identification as a Kentucky Warbler. A warbler with an olive back, yellow underparts clear to the tail, eye ring and a black area from bill to eye then down the side of the neck. The black sideburns weren't as jet black as in the spring, but very noticeable. We (the D. G. Kerr) were just west of the Portage Upper Entry on the upbound course for

Devil's Island at the time (Devil's Island is in the Apostles group) probably 20 miles from land to the south. The wind was out of the SSW at 25 knots with cloudy skies. We docked at Duluth about 5:30 P.M. I figured the activity of preparing to dock would drive the bird ashore but I noticed him hopping around on deck after we docked. Then, just before I was relieved at 8:00 P.M. I saw the warbler in between the hatches feeding on some small flies. As I walked by, he flew over the side, down toward the dock and disappeared up the dock.—*J. P. Perkins, c/o Str. D. G. Kerr, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.*

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LATE SNOWY OWL OBSERVATION—About noon on May 28, 1964 I received a call from Mrs. Clarence Anderson of 916 W. 9th Street, Duluth, Minnesota, regarding the rarity of white owls. I told her they are not at all unusual in the winter but would be unheard of at this time of the year. She explained that a large white owl was in her yard. About a half hour later I was able to leave the office and go to Mrs. Anderson's which is located almost at the summit of one of Duluth's highest hills. Driving into the yard Mrs. Anderson pointed out a "glob" of white in a rock outcrop about a block away. I did not have my binoculars with me and had to walk through a field of sumac to get close to the bird. The bird watched me as I approached. I got within 30 feet of it. It was white with only a very few indistinguishable black or gray markings on the breast. It was definitely a Snowy Owl. The bird flew down the hill and lit on a chimney of a house. Driving down the hill I saw the bird again on the roof of another house. It was not seen or reported after this.—*Ray Naddy, 1104 Anderson Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

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OBSERVATION OF A LOUISIANA HERON IN MINNESOTA—On May 10, 1963, a Louisiana Heron was observed at the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Middle River, Marshall County, Minnesota by the author and Ralph Town. Both observers are employed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as assistant refuge managers.

The bird was first flushed from a shallow roadside ditch along the refuge's west boundary during the regular weekly waterfowl census. Its small size, yet heron-like appearance, first attracted the attention of the observers. The flying bird was carefully studied with 7x50 binoculars. A white plume on the back of the head and white belly were clearly visible. A sketch of the bird showing the distinctive color markings was made at that time.

Continuing on the census route, the heron was again flushed. This time it landed not far from the road. With the aid of a B&L spotting scope the white head plume and white belly bordered on the front with blue were easily distinguishable. As the writer had seen this bird in the Carolinas, this second observation left no doubt as to the bird's identity.

Again the same day, and on several other occasions during the following two weeks, the heron was observed by the author. All observations were made within three miles of a Great Blue Heron rookery.

Unfortunately, the heron was never cooperative enough to submit to photographing.—*David L. Olson, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Middle River, Minnesota.*

Editors Note: This constitutes the first record for this species in Minnesota.

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A SECOND PROBABLE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER RECORD FROM THE CLOQUET FOREST RESEARCH CENTER—Early in the morning of May 20, 1964, I closely observed a gray-backed warbler having a yellow breast streaked with black laterally, a conspicuous dark cheek patch, broken, white eye ring, and inconspicuous wing bars, which very closely resembles the description of the Kirtland's Warbler, given by R. T. Peterson in his "A Field Guide to the Birds."

Collecting of this individual was not possible hence positive identification remains uncertain, but I believe it was this species, whose summer range is supposedly confined to a limited area in Michigan.

This warbler was foraging in an alder briefly within a few feet of a Canada Warbler and the differences and similarities were noted between the two birds. Their back, wings and tails appeared to be similar in color and pattern, but there was a marked difference in the distribution and intensity of color about the eyes and cheeks and on the "Kirtland" the black breast stripes extended laterally well back toward the flanks, whereas the black stripes formed a "necklace" on the Canada Warbler. My first impression was that the bird was a female or immature Magnolia Warbler but it lacked the white in the tail and the conspicuous white wing bar which characterizes this species. Also, it was as large or slightly larger than the nearby Canada Warbler.

This record constitutes the second probable recent sighting of the Kirtland's Warbler in the immediate vicinity. For several minutes on July 18, 1958, in company with John J. Kupa, I watched a warbler foraging under the crown of a closed-canopy, 67 year old jack pine forest, about 30 feet above the ground. Being new in Minnesota at that time I identified it routinely as a Kirtland's Warbler, since it closely agreed with Peterson's color figure in his 1947 edition. It was sometime later that I learned that this species is not supposed to occur here.

Of course these records must be considered hypothetical until we are fortunate enough to have a shotgun at the same time we make a sighting. However, the current trend towards extensive jack pine reforestation in this area increases the likelihood of additional sightings, and perhaps a confirmed record—*Gordon W. Gullion, Forest Research Center, University of Minnesota, Cloquet, Minnesota.*

Editors Note: The above record, if correct, is most unusual. The Kirtland's Warbler is a very rare bird and one with a very limited range. Sight records of this species must always remain open to question in view of these facts. However there is a specimen taken in Minneapolis and (Roberts *Birds of Minnesota* 1936), thus the possibility does exist that this species may occur again on very rare occasions, in this area.

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FULVOUS TREE DUCK SPECIMEN FOR MINNESOTA—On May 24, 1929, Dr. W. J. Breckenridge (now director of our Minnesota Museum of Natural History) observed two Fulvous Tree Ducks in Lincoln County, Minnesota, about six miles west of Arco (*Birds of Minnesota*, 1936). Although Dr. Breckenridge's description leaves no doubt as to the identity of the ducks, he himself suggested the possibility that they may have been escapees from an aviary. The fact that his observation was in the spring (rather than fall) and that there seemed to be a pair (rather than an individual or a small flock) tends to support his suggestion. On the other hand, in late October of 1948 a specimen was taken from a small flock (which the hunters at first thought were Redheads) near Salem, McCook County, South Dakota (*South Dakota Bird Notes* 1:35-36, 1949), only about 60 miles southwest of Dr. Breckenridge's observation.

On October 20, 1950 the Onamia Postmaster, LeRoy Jackson, while hunting on Lake Onamia, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota, shot a strange duck from a flock of eight. Game Warden Claude Whitney identified the bird as a Fulvous Tree Duck. His identification was verified by a number of people, from the Conservation Department and from the University of Minnesota. The bird was subsequently mounted and is now in the possession of Mr. Whitney.

The front cover photograph of the Fulvous Tree Duck was taken by Harding Huber. The first Minnesota specimen, the South Dakota specimen and Dr. Breckenridge's sight record may have marked the beginnings of what are now well-documented (*Audubon Field Notes*) autumnal or post-breeding dispersals of this species into Ohio, Michigan and the Atlantic coast of the United States.—*Ronald L. Huber, Railroad & Warehouse, 480 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

SUMMER RECORD OF A GREAT GRAY OWL—The Great Gray Owl is a regular though seldom seen Minnesota visitant, and summer records are rare enough for special notice. Before 1936 there was only one recorded summer record (T. S. Roberts, *Birds of Minnesota*, 1936.) In recent years there have been several observations. The latest, is a 1963 record by Warden James Gawboy near Toivola-Meadowlands, St. Louis County, in the same area where I saw one on July 4, 1964. On this date, Ted Thompson and I spotted a very large bird sitting in a dead tree along Highway 113 about one half a mile off Highway 53. It was 5:30 A.M. and there was a very overcast sky, but with my 20X spotting scope we got a good look at the bird. It was a very large grayish-brown owl with yellow eyes, its plumage was very ragged, and a black chin was just visible. Pictures taken at that time were not good enough beyond showing the owl form, but we felt no doubt that it was a Great Gray Owl. The habitat was a tamarck swamp which runs along on both sides of the road for about two miles. It has been logged to some extent. I made another trip to this area on July 18, 1964, and found the Great Gray in the same general area about half a block from where I had seen it on the first occasion.—*Dennis Meyer, 4123 London Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

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FERRUGINOUS HAWK SIGHT RECORD FOR TRAVERSE COUNTY—On April 18, 1964 Ray Glassel and I were birdwatching in westcentral Minnesota. We observed a typical light-phase Rough-legged Hawk near Appleton, Swift County. A few hours later, at Mud Lake, Traverse County, we observed another Rough-leg — immediately identifiable by its shape and flight. It flew across our field of view and then directly away from us. The light was very good with the sun behind us. Ray had 6 X 30 and I had 8 X 35 binoculars. The hawk had dropped from a tree, flown low over the ground and then arisen abruptly to another tree about a hundred yards away. As it arose to its second perch, we could easily see the following characters: rufous back and wings, white “windows” at the base of the primaries and pinkish tail with no terminal band. We also noted that the white area on the dorsal aspect of the primaries was more extensive and was a more intense white than the similar markings that one occasionally sees on the common Rough-leg. Both Ray and I have seen Ferruginous Hawks on other occasions and we both concurred on the identification of this individual. Although the Rough-legged Hawk displays tremendous variation in its plumages, particularly in the succession of melanism, we felt that the rufous (rather than black or brown) dorsum, purely pink tail (lack of terminal band), and more extensive, brighter white on the baso-dorsal aspect of the primaries marked this individual as a Ferruginous Hawk rather than a Rough-legged Hawk.—*Ronald L. Huber, 480 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

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GREEN HERON SIGHT RECORD IN LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA—On June 20, 1964, Ray Glassel, Dave Pearson and I were birdwatching in Lake County. We were travelling north from Two Harbors, with our ultimate destination near Ely, Minnesota. About six miles north of Two Harbors we saw a very small, dark heron fly over the road with very rapid wingbeats. Although the light was excellent, the bird still looked very dark in appearance. Since the road at this point was bordered on either side with rather tall Black Spruce trees, we did not get a long look at the bird, but we have seen it so many times that we automatically called out Green Heron. Only after a few seconds pause did we realize that the bird was out of place in a spruce bog area, and that Janet Green had not previously recorded it for the Duluth area. A later check with her showed that this was the first record for northeastern Minnesota. The only other possibility would have been Least Bittern (one record for Canadian Lakehead by Dr. A. E. Allin) but the bird we saw was a trifle too long-winged for a Least Bittern and was too dark, considering the light conditions. On such a clear day as this, a Least Bittern would have looked very light from beneath.

Of further interest, we saw another Green Heron, with a closer, better look, in Pine County, just below Nickerson, on our return trip. This might indicate a slight northward spread of this species, as has recently been the case with the Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Minnesota.—*Ronald L. Huber, 480 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

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OWL OBSERVATIONS—SCREECH OWL—May 7, 1963—While birding with an Audubon group in Roberts' Sanctuary, Hennepin County, someone spotted a Screech Owl looking out of a hole high in a tree near path, near west end. Several times later in spring saw it in the same hole.

March 17, 1964—With Audubon group on Sheep Farm Road, Hennepin County. Fran Nubel spotted Screech Owl sitting in opening of branch of dead tree. We were in car ahead of her and did not see it. When we went back to her, the owl had gone into the hole. Someone kiddingly suggested that Mrs. Whitesel hit the tree to make the owl fly out (as she had done this once before with a Great Horned Owl and it worked), so she climbed up the hill, hit the tree, and we all saw the Screech Owl fly out and into the trees down the road.

BARRED OWL—March 17, 1964—In the woods across from J. W. Wilkie's, Hennepin County, brief glimpse of Barred Owl as it flew up from the ground into the trees.

July 11, 1964—Bay Lake, Crow Wing County. Turned left down the gravel road and about half way down the hill something caught my eye. We backed up and found a beautiful big Barred Owl sitting close to the trunk, on the lowest branch of a dead pine tree. It wasn't more than fifty feet from us. There was no traffic on the road, and we watched it for at least ten minutes. It sat still and watched us. We could see it clearly without the binoculars, but we also used them. The day was cloudy, late afternoon or early evening, warm. When we started the car it flew back into the woods.

SNOWY OWL—November 6, 1963—A Snowy Owl perched on one of the power poles on the road along the edge of Flying Cloud Airport, Hennepin County. We were in the field across the road. It flew as we walked toward it.

January 1, 1964. On the airport side of 24th Avenue, Hennepin County, about where 67th Street would be, a Snowy Owl landed on top of a utility pole, having flown up from the field across the road as we were driving up the street. I stopped the car about twenty feet from the pole and we sat and watched it. Later I got out of the car and walked even closer. The owl sat there until after we left, having watched it for 10-15 minutes.

January 7, 1964—Took the Audubon group to see if the Snowy Owl was still there. It was on top of the radar towers on 24th Ave. down near 70th St. when we went by shortly before 9 a.m. Later, after meeting rest of group at Bass Pond, Hennepin County, brought them back and it was still in the same place, so we all saw it. Later in the month saw it once more.

SNOWY OWL—March 12, 1964—About six p.m., coming back home from the Minneapolis airport, and having watched a huge flock of ducks in cornfield for 45 minutes, when we reached 24th Avenue at about 67th St., a Snowy Owl was perched on the insulator of the utility pole at the low spot where we saw the Snowy Owl on January 1st. This owl sat on the pole, watching for food, and we parked right at the foot of the pole, looking up through the windshield at it. It flew across the road after a while, apparently thinking it had sighted food, but hovered over briefly, then flew back to the same pole. It sat there for about ten minutes, then flew down into the field on the airport side, next to the baseball field, and we watched it hunting—unsuccessfully—for about five minutes. Then it perched on the fence between the airport and ball park, too far away and getting darker, so we left. When we first stopped, it was so close to us on the pole that we could see how the individual feathers blew in the strong wind, and when it flew we had a marvelous view of it too. This owl seemed to be much dirtier than the one we saw several times in January, and did not seem to be nearly as heavily marked.

GREAT HORNED OWL—Bay Lake, Crow Wing County—Sunday, July 21, 1963. Tom and I got up about 7 a.m. We took the rowboat and decided to look for birds. About 30 feet from us, as we went around a small bend, we saw a Great Horned Owl sitting in the water by the dock. The water is very shallow and the beach fine sand. The owl was submerged except for its head. When it saw us it sat up very erect, looked at us for a few seconds, then turned and flew up into the woods. We looked at it closely, both with and without the binoculars, and both had an excellent view of it.

April 24, 1964—Diamond Lake, Hennepin County—Watched Great Horned Owl being chased by flock of Common Crows, perch in trees at lake to rest. Mrs. Joul and Mrs. Ackley and I. 8 a.m.

1964—Heard what we believe was Great Horned Owl in July at Bay Lake.

LONG-EARED OWL—Went to Duluth with the Nubels and Ruth Ackley. Saturday, April 11, 1964. After a very exciting morning of watching the hundreds of Whistling Swans flying over (since 5:30 a.m.) and then resting in the bay, and then the strong wind bringing many kinds of hawks, I spotted an owl flying close to the ground out on Minnesota Point. We managed to track it down, found it was a Long-eared Owl, and were within ten feet of it. It sat close to the trunk of a small tree and we watched it from two different angles for fifteen or twenty minutes. It was about six feet up from the ground.

BARN OWL—April 23, 1964—Coming back from the Minneapolis airport, 5:30 p.m. while driving west on 70th street, spotted an unusually large bird flying about ten feet above ground right at the point where the runway crosses road. We stopped just past the lights, next to the "No Parking" sign, and looked back so that the sun was behind us and the light was excellent. It was a clear day, about 70 degrees, very little wind. There were very few cars going by, and the planes were not using this runway, so not too much disturbance. We sat and watched for at least ten minutes, then felt it was necessary to move on, considering the location where we were parked. The bird was flying near the bushes, about 200 to 300 feet from us. It soared back and forth, landing on the ground several times, and flying up not more than ten to fifteen feet above the ground. We were able to see it from every angle—from the back, from underneath, flying, standing. We saw the beautiful golden-brown back and wings. The white, heart-shaped face, the underparts very whitish, the long, white-covered legs, all were very clear, both with and without the binoculars (7 x 35 W.A.) We had Peterson's Field Guide in the car and used it. My son Bart and I both watched it and in our opinion it fits no other description except Barn Owl.

When we got home I called both Mrs. Joul and Mrs. Ackley, but found neither of them at home. Calling again later, we arranged to meet at Diamond Lake at eight the next morning and did so. While there we watched a Great Horned Owl being chased by Common Crows, stop and rest in the trees on the west side of Diamond Lake. We then went out to the airport, looking for the Barn Owl, but did not find it in the area where we had seen it the previous evening.

ADDITIONAL—March 27, 1964—Took Mrs. Joul out to the Sheep Farm Road to look for reported Arctic Great Horned Owl, No owls sighted, but found a trail of white feathers near one of the houses. They were in the trees and bushes on the south side of the road. At one point at the side of the road found a "clump" of white feathers. These were identified by Dr. Gunderson as Snowy Owl feathers, and checked against skins in class session.

March 31, 1964—On Sheep Farm Road, three cars with Audubon Group. Mary M. spotted Great Horned Owl flying down toward ground. We stopped and all got out. It had prey of some sort, and we all watched it—within about 100 feet—for about ten minutes. It was aware of us, but kept busy with prey. It was considerably lighter than the Great Horned Owl we saw at Bay Lake. —Mrs. Thomas E. Murphy, 5936 Columbus Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

BOOK REVIEWS

DAWN IN A DUCKBLIND - 35 full color photographs of waterfowl and a high-fidelity 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm record of their calls. Text by Arthur A. Allen. Record edited by Peter Paul Kellogg. A Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Book Album. Houghton-Mifflin Company. 2 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts 1963. \$6.95.

All of the previous Cornell records have been excellent and "Dawn in a Duckblind" is certainly a great addition to the series. The recording includes calls of most of the swans, geese and ducks found in the Eastern United States. The call of the Trumpeter Swan was very interesting considering the present rarity of this species. On side I of the record the listener is told what each call is and many different types of calls especially of Canada Geese are given. Other waterfowl calls include Whistling Swan, Snow Geese, Mallard, Pintail, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Loon, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, Red-head, Canvasback, and American Coot. Also included are several other marsh birds such as marsh wrens, blackbirds, gulls, and rails. The interesting call of the Gadwall was strangely missing.

Side II contains the calls only and no narration. The record begins before dawn with the call of the Barred Owl and continues thru the various other goose and duck calls heard from the blind as the day progresses. A most interesting and new treatment in bird song recording.

Colored plates accompany the text and enhance the whole publication. Listed at the end of the text are all of the major National Waterfowl Refuges, with information on size, location and periods of waterfowl concentration. Highly recommended publication.

Editor

NEW MEXICO BIRDS by J. Stokley Ligon, 34 Color Plates, black and white illustrations 360 pages. The University

September, 1964

of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 1961. \$8.50.

This book replaces the monumental "Birds of New Mexico" by Bailey published in 1928 and long since out of print. As has been stated several times in regional book reviews contained in "The Loon" a state is to be commended on publishing a work on birds of its area. After the publication of such an outstanding work as "The Birds of New Mexico" in 1928, "New Mexico Birds" is a tribute to the author and the state. It is hoped that more states will continue to publish works on their respective areas and also bring up to date earlier publications. "New Mexico Birds" treats 399 species including 34 strays. The book contains information on the Life Zones, Climate, Topography of New Mexico, and a most interesting section on pioneer ornithologists of the area. Also included in the introduction are sections on ornithological literature of the southwestern United States and general information on birds.

Illustrating a work such as "New Mexico Birds" and other works of this nature seems to be a general problem. Authors depend on a number of artists and sources and this leads to problems, "New Mexico Birds" appears to be typical of regional works in that many of the illustrations enhance the text and others definitely detract from it.

Contained in the book are 34 color plates, many of which should have been deleted. Those by E. R. Klambach are misleading and distorted. Plates VII, VIII, and XXXIII are good examples of very poor plates. Those by Rice, Allan Brooks and Walter Weber are excellent. The frontispiece on the Roadrunner is very disappointing but the second frontispiece showing species by Life Zones is excellent. The black and white illustrations and photographs are generally good. However the author has depended on many old Fish and Wildlife drawings by Ridgeway. These were fine in their day, over 50 years ago, but they look very pecu-

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liar and out of date in a new book. The photo of the Evening Grosbeak's nest and the drawing of Lark Bunting plumages are fine additions to the text.

The book is concluded with an excellent section on New Mexico bird watching areas.

Editor

EXPLORING OUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES by Devereux Butcher - revised second edition, 340 black and white illustrations, 340 pages. Houghton-Mifflin Company, 2 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts. 1963. Cloth \$6.50, Paper \$3.85.

This is the standard book about our national wildlife refuges, which are among the last remaining unspoiled spots on our continent. It describes in detail more than 40 refuges, and contains a chapter on extinct and vanishing species of wildlife. The book contains over 340 superb illustrations. These illustrations represent one of the best collections of wildlife photos contained in one volume. The bird pictures are especially good and most impressive.

Many examples of excellent bird photography could be mentioned, the Ferruginous Hawk on page 126 is an outstanding example.

The book is designed to help in planning vacation travels, it tells how to find each refuge, what species one may expect to find there, and the nearest town where one may stay. This is an excellent work and is highly recommended.

Editor.

I WENT TO THE WOODS by Ronald Austing, illustrated in color and black and white photographs. 144 pages. Coward-McCann Inc., 200 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York. 1964. \$5.00.

This reviewer must admit that the first few chapters of this book seemed dull, uninteresting and commonplace. However, the last seven chapters were not only very interesting but proved to be fascinating and made the book well worth reading. The story begins when Mr. Austing was a boy and just like many other boys he had an interest in the out of doors. His interest rested mainly with birds, especially raptors and more specifically hawks. This later developed into an intense interest in photography. In the early chapters the author tells of the time involved in the photographing of birds. Experiments with different cameras and many kinds of equipment are explained. Chapter 5 tells of the difficulties in stopping birds in flight on photographic film. This chapter should appeal to anyone who has attempted this difficult task. To the uninitiated in the ways of photography this chapter makes one appreciate the difficulties involved in getting photographs that we have come to take for granted. Chapter 6 deals with the authors experiences with the Saw-whet Owl. The explanation of where to find their winter roosts and how to capture them is very interesting and enlightening. Other chapters deal with an albino Red-tailed Hawk, photographing hummingbirds and kingfishers, capturing Peregrines and man's relations with the animals with which he shares the earth. This latter chapter is very well written and thought-provoking. The author readily admits that his photographs of birds are "staged" and not taken in the wild. Mr. Austing is no doubt a very capable photographer as the illustrations in the book show. The book contains 57 photographs, nine in color. It is disappointing that the color photographs are very poorly reproduced in the book. The black and white photographs are excellent.

Editor

LOON DECAL AVAILABLE

A two color, blue and black, decal showing the new official seal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is now available. An illustration of the decal is shown below. The design was created by artist Ken Haag. These decals are available for \$1.00 each as a donation to the M.O.U. It is hoped that all members will display this new emblem on their cars. Send your requests for the decal to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.



CORRECTION

The front cover photograph of the Red Crossbills Vol. 36, No. 2, June 1964 was erroneously credited to E. H. Strubbe. The photo was actually taken by Sheridan C. Flaherty.

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THE LOON

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FRONT COVER

Nest, eggs and young of the Ring-billed Gull, June 19, 1963. Hennepin Island, Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota. (See Notes of Interest).

Photo by Nestor Hiemenz

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

They say that if you want something done find the busiest man in your organization and ask him to do it. There is something to this, because someone who is busy, is busy because he has enthusiasm. He is probably efficient, too, because he must be to get all of the things done. He is visionary, otherwise he could not work up the enthusiasm necessary to take on the drudgery every task entails.

There is something horribly wrong with the above philosophy, too. First of all, to be done well, many projects need the entire energies of the leader, if the results to be achieved are accomplished efficiently and with dispatch. Frequently, the minor aspects, or those which don't require a deadline, are neglected, and more often than not, these secondary objectives mean the success or failure of the entire project.

Secondly, while continuity is important, there is the matter of fresh ideas. A new approach is often the catalyst that makes an idea crystallize. Continuity can lead to cliques. A leader has to have a corps of people whom he can trust to do the work, keep him informed, and help to keep up his own enthusiasm. When someone refuses or neglects to do a job asked of him, the leader turns more and more to a select few, the people who have performed in the past, thus narrowing step by step the "ruling few", this often leading to a group of discontents who, because of personal dislike, subjugation of their own ideas, or pure jealousy, in one way or other help defeat the desired accomplishments of the organization as a whole.

Perhaps, the worst result of this "Let George do it" philosophy is the effect on the individual himself. He becomes lazy and therefore hides his own abilities under a basket. He loses enthusiasm, because he is not taking an active part. He becomes defensive, because he subconsciously realizes he didn't do his full share. He alibis and blames others. He deprecates and undermines. He pushes other potential leaders into limbo, either through his own bad advice, or by leaving the feeling that the doers are "God", and no mere mortal can hope to achieve the high pinnacle of success.

Therefore,, in the year just starting, let us not develop "George". Let us not live in the dark ages of the past. We can't defend against an atomic attack by making a circle of the covered wagons. If there is an area where we have the slightest talent, let's not be lazy or modest. Volunteer! If you have constructive ideas, offer them. If you oppose a project, an idea, or a slate of officers, oppose it openly. If you are defeated, take it in good grace, and attempt to make what is good for the organization succeed. In other words, don't make George, or Charley, or whoever it may be, do it all. You be "George", too. . .

We are at a period of time where such interests as ornithology are in the ascendancy. Recreation is beginning to be a by-word in every community. It is not just a privilege of a favored few, but a recognized need of every citizen. Some aspects may flourish at the wayside, and then die because of lack of nourishment. The reams of advertising of the more commercially adaptable forms act as needs to deprive other forms of the nutrition they need. Nature appreciation of any kind needs a vigilant force to take its place in the sun. Education is the only means and education cannot be left to the colleges and universities. This form of publicity needs you.

Which one of you as an individual or a club will take on one of these ideas? Who will alert the resort owner to the possibility of attracting customers by advertising the unique birding possibilities of his resort area (Examine the ads in *Audubon Magazine*, and remember that Minnesota is just as orni-

thologically attractive in far areas as New Jersey is to you); advertise the ornithological possibilities of the state (National bus lines, City Tourist Bureau publicity brochures, travel guides, plaques such as are used by the geological and historical societies); give a wider distribution of the state publication or other ornithological periodicals (Mrs. John Lueshen of Wisner, Nebraska volunteered and took on a project of informing interested people throughout Nebraska and North and South Dakota of the impending meeting and the benefits of the Wilson Ornithological Society; establish money raising projects? Unfortunately, any group to be truly successful must have a cash reserve so when a project is needed they have some place to turn. Donations, the tapping of certain Fund organizations, bequests, sales; all of these are available, if the person with the knowledge of how and who to approach will work out the correct procedure. (Dr. H. Lewis Batts, Jr. and a group of interested citizens raised \$2,000,000 in 11 months to build a nature interpretive center at Kalamazoo, which will stand as the model throughout the world for such institutions). What can you do to establish sanctuaries, devise worthwhile ideas in Minnesota, help Scout troops earn their Bird Study Merit Badge, etc., etc., etc.

Last, but not least, are you giving support to activities of the Society already underway? Did you go on the winter field trip; are you planning to attend the Spring gathering (this year in a place never before visited by the state organization); do your vacation plans take in the possibility of attending the Wilson Society annual meeting when it convenes in the Black Hills in June of 1965; did you contribute items to the M.O.U. newsletter; will you take part in the American Ornithologists' Union Meeting when it holds its 1966 meeting in Duluth?

Did you ever know of two cities, side by side with the same opportunities? One took the bull by the horns, struck out with new ideas, took some chances, and said we can do it. The other sat on its hands and said "No, It costs too much. We can't do it, because the people won't approve. Which place succeeded, and which place is in an economic as well as a mental doldrom? Don't let George do it.

Sincerely,
P. B. Hofslund, President

FEBRUARY NORTH SHORE FIELD TRIP

The dates for this year's annual M. O. U. North Shore Field Trip are February 13th and 14th. In late December there was still a lot of food left along the shore for any winter invading birds that desire to visit; the trees are laden with mountain ash berries, spruce cones and ash keys. And Minnesota's first Black-legged Kittiwake was seen in Lake Superior in mid-December. So come and take advantage of the beauty and excitement (and unpredictability) of birding along the North Shore in winter. We will meet with members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club in Grand Marais at the dinner in the Grand Marais High School at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday the 13th. The cost of the dinner is \$2.00 and reservations are necessary (write to Mrs. A. M. Fenstad, Grand Marais). The dinner will be followed by an illustrated talk by John Pratt on the "Flora and Fauna of the North Shore." Hotel accommodations are available at the East Bay Hotel or the Shoreline Motor Lodge in Grand Marais; reservations are recommended.

EVENING GROSBEEKS IN MINNESOTA -- SUMMER 1964

I. First Nest of the Evening Grosbeak Found in Minnesota

Mrs. E. D. Swedenborg

On June 7th, my daughter, Alice Johnson, and I visited Robert and Rita Dzilna at their summer home on Loon Lake, Cass County, and at their feeding station saw a pair of Evening Grosbeaks.

June 16th. Two pairs, each male feeding the accompanying female and a single male came to the feeder. I watched one pair all forenoon. They flew in and out of practically every evergreen tree near the house (mostly in the vicinity where a pair had been June 7th) but did not seem especially interested in any particular tree. As they moved from tree to tree a clear whistle would be given seemingly by the male. Two males and one female came to the feeder around 8 p.m.

Excerpt from Mrs. Dzilna's letters:

June 20. "The grosbeaks are still busy feeding and again one of the female birds was fed by the male."

June 25. "Today we saw the young Evening Grosbeaks. That is, we saw one and heard one more. Maybe there are some more, we don't know as yet. The one we saw is quite young, it cannot fly but is hopping around and the parents feed it. So it must have been hatched just near the cottage, how else could it have got here!! Robert saw the female Evening Grosbeak carry a straw."

June 26. "Today we saw the male grosbeak feeding his little chick. The mother bird is building a new nest in a Norway pine, about 40 feet high; she pulls little tree roots out of the drive and carries them up. The nest is on the top of the pine in the thick younger branches about 2 to 2½ feet from the top."

June 29. "Mrs. Swedenborg congratulates us on finding the nest. But this is still very doubtful. Robert says he saw the mother carry something like

a long, very thin root or straw up and my sister has seen her pulling roots and with her beak full, flying up too. The female goes up quite often and stays for a while but we don't know what she is doing there. The male came, sat for a short time on a branch just below then flew away as the female came too. She did not even sit down, just fluttered her wings in front of "the nest" and flew after the male."

June 30. "We are sure there is a nest, but what is going on in it we cannot tell. It would be impossible to get up, and the nearest bigger tree, a birch, is not as high. There are so many different pairs around (but we have never seen any of them picking on the drive except the female). More news from Robert. He saw the male flying to the nest, the female was there and there was the act of breeding, then he fed her. Then they both came to the feeder."

July 1. "The nest is built into the thick needles so that it is almost impossible to see it; very clever. Robert says that she is now already brooding, for she does not carry anything to the nest any more. Salty spots seem not to be what attracts them to our place, we have never seen them picking soil except one female, but she tried to pull some roots out. It must be the sunflower seeds."

July 2. "This is in the evening. Robert has seen her leaving the nest, the male was there too, she chirped but he had nothing for her, so they both went to the feeder and in three minutes she was back on the nest. I don't wonder that the nest has not been found, it is nothing but pine needles you can see, the rest you have to guess."

July 12. Again visited the Dzilnas. Five young birds came to the feeder

at once — 3 males and 2 females. The males have a yellowish spot above each eye. The ones with the yellow spots had darker beaks. All the young feed themselves.

We could see the adult female huddled down in the nest. She left it several times during the day to feed. Sometimes she was joined by a male at the feeder. The nesting tree was about 40 feet from the feeder. She would give one or sometimes three shrill whistles before leaving the nest; one time she sat on a limb near the nest and gave the whistles before going back on the nest. Usually the female would drop down to the feeder, eat a few seeds and return, but one time during the afternoon she stayed off for ten minutes.

Excerpts from letters:

July 21. "On the 17th we noticed for the first time, that there were young birds in the nest. One can see the mother and father feeding them. I think there are not more than two. At present there is a lot of business at the feeder. This morning I saw 7 young birds at the same time. They are at all stages of development. The mother from the nest does not take seeds to the little ones. I watched her and she didn't go to the feeder, but she stayed away at least 10 to 15 minutes before she got back to the nest and fed the young. When she comes back to the nest it takes her quite a long time before she has finished feeding the young."

July 24. "The young seem quite big already and they flutter their wings when they are fed, just like the young that are fed on the feeder. We hope the young will still be in the nest when Mr. Janssen comes, but they are growing very fast. Only a week ago we could barely recognize their heads and now they almost get over the rim of the nest."

July 30. "The male is feeding the little female, which fell out of the nest on Saturday. It was a very windy day, July 25, when she was blown out of the nest. We heard that there was some trouble and went looking. Robert saw her hanging on for dear life to some birch branches, just next to the nest. On the next morning Robert

found her almost at the same place where he had found the first little bird just a month ago. The male was feeding her and all seemed good. There was a storm at night. Next night there was a worse storm and in the morning Robert saw the male looking desperately for her on the ground. Robert found her quite wet and very miserable. He warmed her and put her on a small cherry tree. We were scared the male might not find her, but he came soon to feed her and from then on she changed her location every day. The male was very busy these days, feeding her and the one(s?) in the nest. Yesterday evening Robert saw the male feeding them there, they are flapping their wings and quite noisy. . . This morning very early when I was getting up I saw such a commotion at the feeder as never before. There were four on the feeder (all young ones, but more mature) and the smaller ones tried to get on too, but were driven away. I counted six in the branches but there were many more on the trees farther away; most of them young."

Aug. 17. "I want to tell you some about the latest happening with the birds. One day there was nobody going to the nest any more, and we noticed the female feeding the young, but she did not bring it to the feeder at least for one more week. About that time, when the female started to bring this bird (the one that had stayed in the nest) to the feeder, I found the first one sitting on the ground near the feeder and trying to find something to eat. It was very weak; it just sat there, all ruffled and listless. Then there happened something terrible. The chipmunk found it, lifted itself to its hind legs and tried to bite it in the neck! I ran out and saved it, but it did not even try to fly away, so I took it and put it on a branch. There it sat until the afternoon. It was a very hot day and in the afternoon the sun shone on it and its little beak was open. So I wanted to put it in the shade, but it had probably gained some strength for it flew away to the ground and from there at last again on a branch, where we left it. It was lost for two days; then it was back on the ground under the feeder, but it could not crack

the sunflower seeds, so I put small bird seeds on the ground and now it came every day several times. The chipmunk harasses it some, but it now is strong enough to take care of itself. Meanwhile the female was feeding the other young bird (both are females) on the feeder and did not recognize the one below. I think the male, who fed it must have met with an accident, so it had to fend for itself long before it was big enough, or maybe he abandoned it, because some weeks ago all the Evening Grosbeaks suddenly left. There were two very windy days and the wind blew all the seeds off the feeder. They probably could not find anything to eat and they all disappeared, except these three: the old female who still comes to the feeder with the female young and the other young bird that fends for itself. We cannot be sure how many young were in the

nest, but we think there were only two. Also from the first brood, we did not see more than two. Last Monday (Aug. 10) when I went shopping I got the sunflower seeds, then there were still all the grosbeaks coming, in fact, so many that I thought I would be broke. They chased one another off the feeder. We counted twelve young ones at the same time, but there were more in the trees."

"So that is all about our grosbeaks at present. We wonder whether they will return when they don't find so much to eat. In spring, when the grosbeaks started to come to the feeder we had three pairs, so if each had two broods that would make twelve young. But I think the last week we had many "strangers" too, because they were fighting so much." 4905 Vincent Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

II. Evening Grosbeaks Nesting in Northern St. Louis County

Vera Barrows, Nels Hervi, Ruth C. Erickson and Mary J. Wolcott

Word was passed along from person to person to Nels Hervi that a young bird that had fallen from a nest appeared to be an Evening Grosbeak. On Tuesday, June 30, 1964 Miss Vera Barrows accompanied us as we drove from Virginia, north through Cook to

the tiny town of Gheen. We checked our directions with the postmistress and drove into the yard at the Stowner's house.

Seven year old Billy (the eldest of five children) delighted in showing us



his "pretty bird". He walked to a small pine tree where the bird was perched on a branch and picked up the little Evening Grosbeak. He had trained the young bird to sit on his finger. We could see evidence of the male coloration pattern, plus two small tufts of down still on his head. The bird was sturdy and alert and apparently well cared-for.

Billy and his mother pointed out the nest 50 feet up in a pine tree in the back yard. It was loosely constructed and impossible to examine except through binoculars.

III. Possible Evening Grosbeak Nesting

John and Ann Mathisen

On July 29, 1964 on the northwestern edge of Bemidji, Beltrami County, an adult male Evening Grosbeak arrived at our feeder where it ate sunflower seeds. Periodically he would fly to a small oak on the lawn in which was a young male which he fed as it opened its mouth and fluttered its wings. This young bird had the large white wing patch of its sex; and the body was generally a yellowish color. Its breast was overlaid with tan streakings.

The latter part of the second day the young bird appeared on the edge of the feeder and attempted to feed itself. On subsequent days this young male could feed itself.

We received permission to put a band on the bird and he now wears number 61-133958 on his leg. He is recorded as a "Local" on June 30th, because he was not yet flying, although nearly completely feathered out.

We took pictures of the young grosbeak perched on Billy's finger. When Billy had put the bird back on his branch in the small pine, we watched first the male and then the female came in with food for the hungry bird. It was impossible to ascertain if they were feeding young elsewhere at the same time. **Virginia, Minnesota and Royal Oak, Michigan**

On July 31st we banded an adult female Evening Grosbeak which had arrived on the scene. She was seen with two young females (bill of a horn color) and these were eventually banded (August 1st and 8th). The males were never captured in our traps (the adult male wore a band that was split open and about ready to fall off so it was most unfortunate he was not caught).

This group of five grosbeaks possibly constituted a family. The two males seemed to remain together as a unit as did the three females. The females remained longer in the vicinity than did the males. The presumption is the adults nested near the edge of town. **Bemidji Minnesota**

IV. Evening Grosbeak Observations

A. C. Rosenwinkel

(Reprinted from the *Cardinal*, Vol. 13, No. 1, September 1964) Are Evening Grosbeaks changing their migration habits? On a vacation trip through the Park Rapids—Itasca Park—Lake George and Walker area, August 1st through August 8th I saw to my surprise, 18 to 25 Evening Grosbeaks at the feeders of Melahn's Resort on beautiful Lake George, Hubbard County. We found similar numbers of these northern birds at Deubener's Lake

estate on Lake George, also at Becker's Hilltop Acres Sanctuary near Walker, Cass County. Here we found a number of Pine Siskins also on the numerous feeders. The Beckers reported that the Evening Grosbeaks had previously always remained much farther north during summer and had come southward to their feeders about the beginning of October, bringing their then nearly fully-grown young, still fed by the parent birds. However, since

the summer of 1955 the Evening Grosbeaks have regularly come to Hill-top Acres Sanctuary near Walker, Minnesota as early as mid July. I found that there were more young than adult birds. The females usually fed the young. **St. Paul, Minnesota**

Editors Note: This year the Evening

Grosbeaks were noted as early as June 30th at Becker's and Harold Hanson's feeder in Walker. Adults with young returned to feeders in the Duluth area as follows: July 8th, Anne K. Arndt; July 10th, Evelyn Putnam; July 29th, Lyle Patterson, and July 30th, P. B. Hofslund.

THE FALL SEASON

Ronald L. Huber

Weather: Autumn was rather mild until about mid-November, when temperatures suddenly dropped and light snow fell over most of the state. The third week of November was deceptively mild and then blustery weather set in to stay. Thanksgiving found heavy snows over southcentral Minnesota and moderate snows elsewhere. Temperatures reached 19 below in some parts of southern Minnesota. Several species of the usual winter visitors put in their appearances about as expected. They seemed to arrive on the "heels" of the late-lingering fall migrants. Some notable late dates were obtained for some of these fall migrants.

General considerations: An Elk was shot in Houston County on 11-7. This is the only modern record for our state outside of the Red Lake area and it is suspected that the animal escaped from a game farm in Iowa or Wisconsin. An Opossum has been feeding by moonlight, somewhat irregularly, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harms since 9-13. In recent years the Opossum has been recorded as far north in our state as Beltrami County, but it is still to be considered a southern mammal and its occurrence as far north as the Twin Cities is noteworthy. On 11-11, WRP and RG observed a Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel near Shakopee, Scott County, a rather late date. On the same day, I took several specimens of the

Alfalfa and Common Sulphur butterflies in Wabasha County, a new late date.

Common Loon: 9-19 Pelican Lake, St. Louis Co., 13, NJH; peak 10-16 to 10-31 Duluth, fide JCG; 10-25 Lake Bemidji, Beltrami Co., 8, WRP; 11-14 Lake Superior, St. Louis Co., JCG; 11-15 Olmsted Co., fide JPF.

Red-necked Grebe: 9-21 Cook Co., 4, MAF. 10-22 Duluth, JCG. 11-11 Waseca Co., WRP, RG; 11-15 Stevens Co., 2, KH, ES; 11-28 Lake Harriet, Mpls., RBJ.

Horned Grebe: 9-25 Duluth, 12, JCG; 11-12 Wright Co., 5; EC; 11-19 Mpls., RBJ; 12-3 Duluth, JCG.

Eared Grebe: 11-7 Lac Qui Parle Co., 2 mi S Salt Lake, RBJ, RG; latest date on record.

Western Grebe: 9-27 Frog Lake, Stevens Co., 53, RAG; 11-1 Frog Lake, 3, MIG; 11-15 Frog Lake, 1, KH, ES.

Pied-billed Grebe: 9-6 Two Harbors, RK; 10-12 Crow Wing Co., 20, TEM; 11-10 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-12 Wright Co, EC; 11-15 Stevens Co, ES, RAG.

White Pelican: 9-1 Traverse Co, 150, RAG; 10-11 Traverse Co, many, FN.

Double-crested Cormorant: 9-6 Traverse Co, 20, RAG; 10-15 Traverse Co, 250, FN; 11-7 Lake Lillian, Kandiyohi Co, 1, RBJ, RG.

Great Blue Heron: 11-4 Washington Co, ACR; 11-4 Stearns Co, RPR; 11-10 Hennepin Co, FN; 11-10 Wabasha Co, JPF.

Green Heron: 9-5 Montevideo, Chippewa Co, RBJ; 9-19 Stearns Co, RPR; 10-16 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Common Egret: 8-26 (20) and 8-27 (54) Dakota Co, RLH; 9-16 Carver Co, FN;

10-4 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Black-crowned Night Heron: 9-20 Mpls, RBJ; 10-23 Washington Co, ACR.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 8-26 (1 ad, 1 imm) and 9-1 (1 ad) Dakota Co, RLH; **9-27 Morris, Stevens Co,** 1 imm observed for 40 minutes in mid-afternoon at 100-250 yards with 25X scope by RAG; field marks he noted were slate-colored back and long legs. (See Notes of Interest)

American Bittern: 9-13 Roseau Co, JLR; 9-27 Stevens Co, RAG; 9-28 Duluth, JCG; 10-3 Ottortail Co, RO, RLH; 10-23 Washington Co, ACR.

Whistling Swan: 11-11 Duluth, 9, JCG; 11-15 Stevens Co, 47 ad, 25 imm, KH, ES RAG; 11-16 Becker Co, 110, RLW; 11-16 Mt. Iron, St. Louis Co, 800, WJM; 11-19 Wright Co, EC.

Canada Goose: 9-14 Ely, St. Louis Co, fide JCG; peak NC Minn 9-22 to 10-7, JLR; peak NE Minn 9-27 to 10-15, JCG; 10-3 Washington Co, 30, ACR; 10-19 St. Louis Co, WJM; 11-16 Roseau Co, JLR.

Blue-Snow Geese: peak NE Minn 9-29 to 10-8, JCG; peak NC Minn 10-2 to 10-5, PEB; 10-6 Stevens Co, RAG; 10-10 Pine Co, Al Thiry; 10-15 St. Louis Co, WJM; 10-16 Beltrami Co, MG; 11-16 Wright Co, 200, EC; 11-27 Mpls, 7, EWJ.

ROSS' GOOSE: 10-20 through present time, one seen and photographed by many observers at Silver Lake, Rochester, Olmsted Co. Second Minnesota record.

Gadwall: 10-3 Stearns Co, 100, RPR; 10-23 Ramsey Co, 2, ACR; 11-14 Stevens Co, 20-30 ES.

Pintail: 9-24, 9-27 (13) Duluth, JCG; 10-4 French River, St. Louis Co, JGH; 11-13 Stevens Co, ES; 11-22 Mpls, 1, HFH.

Green-winged Teal: 9-27 (JCG) through 10-18 (WJM) St. Louis Co; 11-13 Stevens Co, ES; 11-16 Mpls, FN; 12-6 Winona Co, WRP, RG, RLH.

Blue-winged Teal: 10-3 Duluth, FN; 10-26 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; feeding daily in Mr. Neihardt's yard, Ramsey Co until 11-30, 16 birds, ACR.

American Widgeon: 9-20 to 10-19 Duluth, JCG; 10-3 Ottortail Co, 200, RO, RLH; 10-29 Roseau Co, PEB; 11-29 Mpls, DB.

Shoveler: 11-7 Big Stone Co, RBJ; 11-19 Mpls, 9, RBJ.

Wood Duck: 9-13 to 10-15 Roseau Co, PEB; 10-3 French River, St. Louis Co, JGH; 10-18 Ramsey Co, 8, ACR.

Redhead: 10-25 Beltrami Co, 20, WRP, RG, RLH; 11-4 Duluth, 1, JCG; 11-15 Stevens Co, RAG.

Ring-necked Duck: 10-9 Duluth, JCG; 10-11 Crow Wing Co, 26, TEM; 11-4 Duluth, JCG; 11-15 Stevens Co, RAG; 12-6 Winona Co, WRP, RG, RLH.

Canvasback: 10-24 Beltrami Co, 20, WRP, RG, RLH; 11-15 Stevens Co, RAG.

Bufflehead: 8-12 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-11 Hennepin Co, 8, ACR; 10-17 Duluth, JCG; 10-25 Beltrami Co, flocks of 30 and 40, WRP, RO, RLH; 11-14 (10) and 12-3 (1) N. shore Lake Superior, JCG.

Oldsquaw: 10-31 Castle Danger, 4, JCG; 11-14 Grand Marais, Cook Co, 150, AEA; 11-14 Two Harbors, 17, JCG.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: 10-16 Lester River, St. Louis Co, female or imm, JCG.

KING EIDER: See Notes of Interest.

White-winged Scoter: 10-10 Lake-of-the-Woods Co, 1 shot, C. E. Carson; 10-16 Duluth, JCG; 10-17 Two Harbors, RK; 10-19 Duluth, 2 males, 1 female, FN; 10-21 Two Harbors, 6 males, 1 female, FN; 10-30 St. Louis Co, JWG; 11-4 Duluth, JCG.

Surf Scoter: 10-15 Stearns Co, 4 imm, good details, NH; 10-31 Lake Co, JCG; 11-4 Rice Lake, Sherburne Co, 1 shot, DE; 11-14 Lake Superior, St. Louis Co, 1 imm, JCG.

Common Scoter: 10-10 Two Harbors, 2, JCG; 10-18 Two Harbors, 3, RK; 10-20 Duluth, 2, FN; 11-7 Beltrami Co, 1 shot, Joe Young; 11-14 Two Harbors, 2, JCG.

Ruddy Duck: 10-13 Duluth, 9 JCG; 11-12 Wright Co, EC; 11-15 Stevens Co, ES, RAG; 11-16 Mpls, 2, FN; 12-6 Winona Co, WRP.

Hooded Merganser: 9-6 Stevens Co, RAG, RLH; 11-7 Swift Co, RBJ; 11-15 Duluth, AKA; 12-6 Rochester, 1 male, WRP, RG, RLH.

Turkey Vulture: 9-12 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 9-14 Lake Co, RAG; 9-14 Cass Co, JAM; 9-10 Duluth, PBH; 9-27 Stearns Co, RPR; 9-27 Duluth, peak, 60, PBH, JCG; 10-5 Duluth, PBH.

Goshawk: 9-20 Duluth, PBH; 9-29 Duluth, 4, PBH, JCG; 10-2 Roseau Co, PEB, JLR; 10-13 Roseau Co, 3, PEB, JLR; 10-19 Ramsey Co, GL; 10-21 Two Harbors, 12, RK; 10-24 Roseau Co, PEB, JLR; 11-1 Ely, St. Louis Co, JNG; 11-1 Mille Lacs Co, RBJ; 11-6 Stevens Co, ES; 11-8 Wadena Co, RO; 11-10 Hennepin Co, RG; 11-17 to 11-21 Roseau Co, PEB, JLR; 12-2 Hennepin Co, RBJ.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10-13 Olmsted Co, JPF.

Broad-winged Hawk: 9-5 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 9-11 Duluth, peak 6622, PBH, JCG; 9-21 Mpls, 50, fide FN; 9-22 Ramsey Co, 50, ELC; 10-1 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-2 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 10-4 Duluth, JCG, PBH.

Swainson's Hawk: 9-18 Lac Qui Parle Co, N. Robertson; 10-8 Roseau Co, 1 dark phase, JLR.

Rough-legged Hawk: Recorded from 17 counties! 10-7 Stearns Co, RPR; 10-13 Duluth, peak, 15, JCG; 10-16 Roseau Co, PEB, JLR; 11-15 Nobles Co, EHW; 11-18 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-28 Stevens Co, RAG; 12-6 Winona (1) and Goodhue (1) Co's, WRP, RG, RLH.

Golden Eagle: 10-3 Duluth, 3, PBH; 10-23 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 11-7 Dakota Co, RLH; 11-20 Roseau Co, JLR; 11-22 Winona Co, 2, JPF; 12-6 Winona Co, 2, WRP, RG, RLH.

Bald Eagle: 9-5 Ely, St. Louis Co, JCG; 9-11 Duluth, 4, PBH; 9-12 Roseau Co, PEB, JLR; 9-21 Two Harbors, RK; 10-11 Cass Co, JAM; 10-19 St. Louis Co, FN; 10-23 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 10-23 Crow Wing Co, ELC; 10-24 Cass Co, WRP, RO, RLH; 10-30 Crow Wing Co, ELC; 11-6 Cook Co, 2, MAF; 11-20 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-21 and 11-27 Duluth, Neil Pearson; 11-30 (14), 12-2 (24) and 12-3 (55; 48 ad, 7 imm) Read's Landing, Wabasha Co, counts by Game Warden Willis Kruger; 12-6 (4) Read's Landing, WRP, RG, RLH.

Marsh Hawk: 9-12 Duluth, peak, 35, PBH; 11-4 Wright Co, EC; 11-17 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-28 Pope Co, 4, RAG.

Osprey: 8-23 Chisago Co, FN; 9-1 Traverse Co, RAG; 9-2 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-2 Duluth, JCG; 9-20 Duluth, peak, 3, JCG; 9-22 Ramsey Co, ELC; 9-26 Stearns Co, RPR; 10-2 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 10-6 Duluth, JCG.

Peregrine Falcon: 9-10 Duluth, PBH; 9-13 Schroeder, Cook Co, 6, MAF; 9-15 Glenwood, Pope Co, RAG; 9-25 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 10-3 St. Louis Co, JWG; in view of this bird's recent disappearance in the east, these reports are encouraging.

Pigeon Hawk: 9-10 Two Harbors, 5, RK; 9-13 Schroeder, Cook Co, 5, MAF; 10-2 Roseau Co, 2, JLR, PEB; 10-17 Duluth, PBH; 10-24 Hennepin Co, FN.

Spruce Grouse: 10-8 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 10-10 Cook Co, fide JNG; 10-14 Beltrami Co, MG; 10-25 Beltrami Co, WRP.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: 9-21 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 10-16 Roseau Co, 15, DB; 10-17 Roseau Co, 43, JLR, PEB; 10-17 Marshall Co, 9, DB; 11-1 (10) and 11-20 (20) Roseau Co, JLR, PEB.

Bobwhite: 11-4 Darwin Hills, Wright Co, 1 EC.

Gray Partridge: 9-30 Stevens Co, 8, M. Jacobson; 11-7 Swift Co, RBJ.

Sandhill Crane: 9-9 Roseau Co, 6, PEB, JLR; 10-3 Clay Co, (600) and Wilkin Co, (5), RO, RLH; 10-13 Wilkin Co, 300, FN; 10-15 (50) and 11-6 (2000) Clay Co, EGA; 11-11 Roseau Co, 1, JLR; 10-18 through 11-23, one imm at St. Francis, Anoka Co, seen by many observers, bird not particularly shy, photographed by DB.

Virginia Rail: 9-5 and 9-18 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-6 to 11-3 Hennepin Co, 1 imm, Irene Dahl.

Sora: 9-18 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-24 Roseau Co, JLR; 9-25 Duluth, A. Rekas; 10-10 Cass Co, JAM.

Common Gallinule: 9-18 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Semipalmated Plover: 9-6 Grant Co, RLH.

American Golden Plover: 9-13 Roseau Co, 15, JLR, PEB; 9-19, 9-22 (34) and 9-27 Duluth, JCG, EMB; 10-3 Norman Co, RO,

RLH; 10-21 through 11-17 Moorhead, 15, EGA.

Black-bellied Plover: 9-1 Traverse Co, 25, RAG; 9-27 Stevens Co, 100 plus, RAG; 10-3 Duluth, 16, JCG; 10-21 thru 11-16 Moorhead, EGA; 11-4 Duluth, 6, JCG.

Ruddy Turnstone: 9-14 Duluth, 8, RAG; 9-26 Duluth, fide JCG.

American Woodcock: 10-22 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-9 Wabasha Co, JPF.

Spotted Sandpiper: 9-20 Duluth, JCG; 9-29 Ramsey Co, 2, ACR; 10-10 Frontenac, Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Solitary Sandpiper: 8-12 to 10-17 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Greater Yellowlegs: 8-12 to 11-14 Moorhead, 15, EGA; 9-18 to 10-24 Stevens Co, RAG; 10-2 Roseau Co, JLR; 10-14 Duluth, PBH; 11-1 Stevens Co, MIG.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 8-12 to 11-12 Moorhead, 15-20, EGA.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 8-12 to 11-17 Moorhead, 10-15, EGA; 9-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-3 Ottertail Co, RO, RLH; 10-18 Virginia, NJH; 10-24 Stevens Co, 30 plus, RAG; 11-1 Stevens Co, MIG.

Baird's Sandpiper: 9-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-20 Duluth, 7, JCG; 9-29 Duluth, JCG; 10-24 to 11-9 Moorhead, 3, EGA.

Least Sandpiper: 8-28 and 9-5 Ramsey Co, 6, ACR.

Dunlin: 9-24 Duluth, 2, FN; 11-6 to 11-9 Moorhead, 1, EGA; 11-7 Madison, Lac Qui Parle Co, 2, RBJ.

Dowitcher, species?: 8-12 Moorhead, 1, EGA; 10-12 Ottertail Co, 1, FN; 10-25 Carver Co, 15, FN.

Stilt Sandpiper: 10-7 to 10-10 Stevens Co, 10, RAG.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 9-1 to 9-18 Stevens Co, RAG; 9-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-15 Moorhead, 1, EGA.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 9-1 Herman, Grant Co, 13, RAG; 9-17 Duluth, 5, R. Cohen; 9-27 Duluth, EMB.

Northern Phalarope: 8-12 Moorhead, 10, EGA; 9-1, 9-6 Herman, Grant Co, 35-40, RAG.

Jaeger, species ?: 9-20, 9-21 Duluth, 2, JCG; 10-3 Lake Onamia, Mille Lacs Co, Dana Struthers. (See Notes of Interest)

Glaucous Gull: 11-1 Knife River, Lake Co, one 2nd yr bird (earliest date on record), JCG, RK.

ICELAND GULL: 11-14 Knife River, Lake Co, one 1st yr bird, JCG, RG, RLH.

Franklin's Gull: 11-7 Wright Co, EC; 11-7 McLeod and Lac Qui Parle Co's, RBJ; 11-11 Waseca Co, 3, WPR, RG; 11-17 Jackson Co, many, FN.

Bonaparte's Gull: 9-22 Duluth, JCG; 10-22 Mille Lacs Co, 200, ELC; 10-25 Beltrami Co, 14, WRP, RO, RLH; 11-1 Mille Lacs Co, many, RBJ; 11-7 Artichoke Lake, Big Stone Co, RBJ.

Forster's Tern: 9-10 Ramsey Co, 6, ACR.

Common Tern: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, numerous, TEM; 9-21 Duluth, JCG; 9-26 Pelican Lake, St. Louis Co, NJH.

Caspian Tern: 9-15 Pope Co, RAG; 9-20 Duluth, JCG; 9-22 Crow Wing Co, 3, TEM; 9-25 Ramsey Co, 8, ACR.

Black Tern: 9-12 Ramsey Co, 4, ACR.

Mourning Dove: 11-1 Roseau Co, 1, JLR; 11-8 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-22 Two Harbors, RK; 11-25 Dakota Co, 8, RLH; 11-28 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-28 Pope Co, 1, RAG.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 9-24 Duluth, 1, FN; 10-4 Schroeder, Cook Co, MAF.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 9-6 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-29 Cloquet Forest, GWG.

Screech Owl: 10-11 Ramsey Co, ELC; 10-22 Olmsted Co, JPF; 11-26 Stevens Co, RAG; 11-30 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Snowy Owl: reported from 13 counties: earliest 10-21 Cook Co, fide RN; 10-22 Roseau Co, JLR; 10-22 Duluth, JKB; 10-22 Beltrami Co, Dave Sovereign; 10-23 Anoka Co, LJ; 10-24 to 11-23 NE Minnesota, 31 observations by 13 observers, fide JCG.

Hawk-Owl: 10-27 Swan River, Itasca Co, 1, RN; 11-4 Mt. Iron, St. Louis Co, WJM; 11-21 Island Lake, St. Louis Co, L. Paterson.

Burrowing Owl: 9-1 to 9-18 Stevens Co, 2 ad, ly, RAG.

Great Gray Owl: 10-15 Lake-of-the-Woods Co, JLR; 10-21 Itasca Co, 12 mi N Squaw Lake, George Fullerton; 10-23 Shotley, Beltrami Co, 1 found dead, MG; 11-7 (2), 11-8 (3), 11-9 and 11-10 Roseau Co, JLR, PEB; 11-15 Pequaywam Lake, St. Louis Co, Tom Peck.

Long-eared Owl: 10-22 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-14 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Short-eared Owl: 9-28 to 10-30, Roseau Co, 8 obs of single birds, JLR, PEB; 11-8 Wadena Co, RO; 11-24 Mpls, HFH.

Saw-whet Owl: 9-12 Ely, St. Louis Co, 1 banded, JCG; 10-15 Fargo-Moorhead, 1, EGA; 10-18 Mpls, 1 banded, Gloria Peleaux; 10-23 Duluth, 1 injured bird, PBH; 11-7 Knife River, Lake Co, 1 dead, JCG.

Common Nighthawk: 9-6 Stevens Co, RAG; 9-5 (368), 9-6 (148) Duluth, PBH; 10-1 Mpls, 3, RBJ.

Chimney Swift: 9-13 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-26 Mpls, RBJ.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 9-22 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-24 Duluth, AKA; 9-26 and 10-1 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-13 Two Harbors, RK; 9-25, 10-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-17 Dakota Co, MIG; 11-1 Anoka Co, RLH; 11-10 Anoka Co, FN.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 9-24 through 10-8 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 9-27 Mpls, RBJ; 10-4 Duluth, AKA; 10-11, 10-18 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Many observations in N. Minn: 9-3 Kashiwi River, Lake Co, 2, JNG; 9-15 Ely, St. Louis Co, MWM; 9-22 Virginia, St. Louis Co, Florence Miller; 9-25 Cook Co, HH; 10-4 to 11-6 NE Minn, 19 observations by 12 observers, fide JCG; 11-1 Mille Lacs Co, RBJ; 11-14 Central Lakes, St. Louis Co, C. Stults; 11-15 Ely, MWM; 11-16, 11-25 Mt. Iron, St. Louis Co, WJM; **Twin City Area records:** 10-27 St. Paul, Ramsey Co, 1 captured, Ida Halper; 10-28 Washington Co, DH; 10-30 Mpls Campus, ad female found dead, D. Higgins; 11-10 Anoka Co, one ad male, EWJ.

NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: 10-18 Duluth, 1, PBH.

Eastern Kingbird: 9-5 Two Harbors, 15, RK; 9-6 Mpls, RBJ; 9-18 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Western Kingbird: 9-1 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-5 Stevens Co, RBJ; 9-7 Stevens Co, RAG.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 9-27 Duluth, JCG.

Eastern Phoebe: 9-13 Washington Co, wave, DH; 9-23 Two Harbors, RK; 10-6 Mpls, fide FN; 10-9 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 9-3 Mpls, RBJ; 9-4 Ely, St. Louis Co, 1 banded, JCG; 9-19 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Trail's Flycatcher: 9-25 Duluth, 1 banded JCG.

Least Flycatcher: 9-22 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-25 Duluth, 1 banded, JCG.

Eastern Wood Pewee: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-19 Duluth, RBJ; 9-19 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-24 Duluth, JCG.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 9-3 Mpls, RBJ; 9-8 Two Harbors, 3, RK.

Horned Lark: 11-7 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 11-17 (15) to 11-21 (75) Roseau Co, JLR; 11-28 Pope Co, 4 flocks of 5-100, RAG.

Tree Swallow: 9-27 Stearns Co, large numbers, RPR; 9-27 Duluth, JCG; 10-3 Todd Co, large numbers, RBJ; 10-3 Washington Co, ACR.

Bank Swallow: 9-23 Washington Co, 6, ACR.

Rough-winged Swallow: 9-23 Washington Co, ACR; 9-27 Mpls, RBJ; 10-10 Mpls, HFH.

Barn Swallow: 9-27 Stearns Co, large numbers, RPR; 10-3 Hennepin Co, fide FN; 10-3 Ottertail Co, RLH, RO; 10-19 Two Harbors, 2, FN.

Cliff Swallow: 9-27 Duluth, PBH.

Purple Martin: 9-7 Mpls, RBJ; 9-14, 10-3 Washington Co, ACR.

Black-billed Magpie: 9-20, 10-2 to 10-25 Roseau Co, 15-20, JLR; 10-15 Beltrami Co, MG; 10-16, 17, 18 Roseau (9), Clearwater (25) and Beltrami (3) Co's, DB; 10-18 Roseau Co, 30, JLR, PEB; 10-21 Aitkin Co, Mr. Thornbloom; 10-25 Lake-of-the-Woods Co, (2) and Beltrami (15)

Co's, WRP, RO, RLH; 11-1 (20) to 11-21 Roseau Co, JLR; 11-8 Wadena Co, RO.

Boreal Chickadee: At feeders in Hibbing (HM), Cloquet (GWG) and Cook Co (HH).

Tufted Titmouse: Usual SE Minn records; 11-15 N. shore of Mille Lacs Lake, Aitkin Co, Mrs. Bartsch.

House Wren: 9-29 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-3 Duluth, AKA.

Winter Wren: 9-19 Duluth, JCG; 10-13 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-19 Olmsted Co, JPF; 11-10 Mpls, RG.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: 9-13 Anoka Co, FN; 10-17 Stearns Co, RPR.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: 9-5 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 9-27 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-10 Frontenac, Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Mockingbird: 11-7 Fairfield Corners, Swift Co, RG, RBJ.

Catbird: 9-26 Washington Co, MIG; 9-29 Duluth, JCG; 10-10 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-24 Ramsey Co, at feeder, reported to JO.

Brown Thrasher: 9-27 Ramsey Co, ELC; 9-27 Duluth, JCG; 10-16 Ramsey Co, ACR.

VARIED THRUSH: See Notes of Interest

Hermit Thrush: 10-10 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 10-11 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 10-13 Two Harbors, RK; 10-17 Mpls, FN; 10-20 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Swainson's Thrush: 9-20 Duluth, RBJ; 10-3 Washington Co, ACR; 10-7 Two Harbors, RK; 10-7 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-20 Duluth, one found dead, FN.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 9-8 Ely, St. Louis Co, JCG; 9-16 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-20 Duluth, RBJ; 10-8 Mpls, EWJ; 10-9 Cook Co, MAF.

Veery: 9-7 St. Louis Co, NJH.

Eastern Bluebird: coming back strong; 9-25 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-12 Crow Wing Co, 2, TEM; 10-17 Mille Lacs Co, RBJ; 10-17 Dakota Co, 11, MIG; 10-17 Stearns Co, "common all fall," RPR; 10-18 Crow Wing Co, 6, MSB; 10-19 Washington Co, ACR; 10-24 Becker Co, 11, ELC; 10-25 Mpls, 18, fide FN; 10-26 Wright Co, EC; 10-26 Hennepin Co, FN; 10-26 Washington Co, DH; 10-30 Morrison Co, ELC; "throughout Oct.," SE Minn, several flocks 15-20, JPF; 11-1 Sher-

burne Co, 1, RLH; 11-7 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-8 Wadena Co, RO; 11-24 Washington Co, ACR.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 9-22 Two Harbors, 100, RK; 10-15 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-19 Olmsted Co, JPF; 10-23 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-25 Duluth, PBH; 11-4 Wright Co, EC; 11-10 Washington Co, JO; 11-6 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-24 Washington Co, banded, JO.

Water Pipit: 9-14 Lake Co, 3, RAG; 9-19 Duluth, JCG; 10-4 Duluth, 20, JCG; 10-13 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-25 Grant Co, RBJ; 11-5 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Bohemian Waxwing: 9-21 Fargo-Moorhead, 2, EGA; 11-1 Fargo-Moorhead, ECA; 11-1 Ely, St. Louis Co, 5, JCG; 11-8 Two Harbors, GEC; 11-11 Duluth, 1, PBH; 11-18 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-21 Stevens Co, 1, ES, his 2nd record in 30 yrs; 11-22 Becker Co, 20-30, RLW.

Northern Shrike: 10-14 Roseau Co, JLR; 10-22 Hibbing, 2, SM; 10-22 Aitkin Co, ELC; 10-23 Duluth, JCG; 10-23 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-25 Beltrami Co, 4, WRP, RO, RLH; 11-8 Wadena Co, 1 singing, RO; 11-13 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-18, 11-21 Roseau Co, JLR; 11-26 Stevens Co, RAG. (See Notes of Interest)

Loggerhead Shrike: 9-18 Hennepin Co, fide FN.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-12 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Solitary Vireo: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-5 Ramsey Co, in partial song, ACR; 9-21 Duluth, 5, JCG; 9-25 Stearns Co, RPR; 10-3 Duluth, A. Rekas.

Red-eyed Vireo: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-15 Duluth, 5, fide JCG; 9-24 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-3 Duluth, JCG; 10-13 Olmsted Co, JPF.

Philadelphia Vireo: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-11 Ramsey Co, MIG; 9-24 Duluth, JCG; 10-9 Olmsted Co, JPF.

Warbling Vireo: 9-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-14 Lake Co, RAG; 9-22 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-22 Two Harbors, RK.

Black and White Warbler: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-11 Dakota Co, fide FN; 9-14 Duluth, 6, JCG; 9-27 Duluth, AKA.

Golden-winged Warbler: 9-2 Crow Wing Co, TEM.

Tennessee Warbler: 9-8 Ely, St. Louis Co, 62 banded, JCG; 9-25 Stearns Co, RPR; 9-28 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-13 Cook Co, MAF.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 9-8 Hibbing, HM; 9-25 Stearns Co, RPR; 10-2 Ramsey Co, ELC; 10-3 Olmsted Co, JPF; 10-6 Duluth, JCG; 10-12 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 10-15 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Nashville Warbler: 9-19 Ramsey Co, 2, ACR; 9-27 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-8 Olmsted Co, JPF; 10-12 Ramsey Co, ELC; 10-17 Duluth, JCG.

Parula Warbler: 9-12 Ely, St. Louis Co, 3 banded, JCG.

Yellow Warbler: 9-2 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-3 Hibbing, SM; 9-19 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-19 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Magnolia Warbler: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-11 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-14 Lake Co, RAG; 9-24 Duluth, JCG; 10-12 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Cape May Warbler: 9-19 Duluth, JCG; 10-2 Olmsted Co, JPF.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 9-17 Edina, Hennepin Co, KWE.

Myrtle Warbler: 9-22 Duluth, 100, JCG; 9-27 Crow Wing Co, peak, MSB; 10-3 Ramsey Co, 40, ACR; 10-4 Washington Co, "numerous," DH; 10-6 Hennepin Co, many, FN; 10-8 Olmsted Co, JPF; 10-12 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 10-17 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-18 Two Harbors, RK; 10-26 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-7 Hennepin Co, 1, EWJ.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 9-3 Ramsey Co, MIG; 9-19 Hibbing, HM; 9-19 Duluth, JCG; 10-8 Fargo-Moorhead, LWJ.

Blackburnian Warbler: 9-17 Duluth, R. Cohen.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 9-11 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-24 Hibbing, HM.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 9-5 Roseau Co, 6, JLR, PEB; 9-19 Duluth, 10, JCG; 9-25 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Blackpoll Warbler: 9-20 Duluth, 2 banded, JCG; 10-2 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Pine Warbler: 9-5 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-7 Cass Co, 1 banded, JAM; 9-19 Duluth, RBJ, JCG; 9-19 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-12 Ramsey Co, ELC.

Palm Warbler: 9-10 Roseau Co, 20, JLR; 9-14 Duluth, 10, RAG; 9-16 Cass Co, JAM; 9-19 Hibbing, 20, HM; 10-5 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-19 Two Harbors, 1, FN.

Ovenbird: 9-24 Duluth, FN; 10-17 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-16 Cloquet Forest, GWG.

Northern Waterthrush: 9-8 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-12 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-25 Two Harbors, RK.

Connecticut Warbler: 9-7 Hibbing, 1 banded, HM; 9-18 Edina, Hennepin Co, 1, KWE; 9-19 Duluth, 1 banded, the Sanford Tylers.

Mourning Warbler: 9-19 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-21 Duluth, JCG; 9-27 Fargo-Moorhead, LWJ.

Yellowthroat: 10-2 Hibbing, HM; 10-5 Washington Co, 10-7 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-9 Duluth, JCG.

Wilson's Warbler: 9-2 Crow Wing Co, TEM; 9-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-9 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-29 Two Harbors, RK.

Canada Warbler: 9-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-15 Duluth, JCG; 9-16 Ramsey Co, MIG.

American Redstart 9-25 Duluth, A. Rekas.

Bobolink: 9-5 Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ.

Eastern Meadowlark: 10-12 St. Louis Co, FVS; 10-17 Mille Lacs Co, 4, singing, RBJ.

Western Meadowlark: 11-7 Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co, 6, RBJ.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 9-3 Roseau Co, PEB, JLR; 9-10 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-15 Stevens Co, RAG.

Baltimore Oriole: 9-21 Mpls, 1, fide FN.

Rusty Blackbird: 9-27 (500), 11-15 (200) and 11-22 (5) Stevens Co, RAG; 9-27 Isanti Co, ACR; 10-2 Todd Co, RBJ; 10-4 N. Shore L. Superior, 300, JCG; 10-15 to 11-18 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-20 Hennepin Co, 60, fide FN; 10-26 Two Harbors, RK.

Brewer's Blackbird: 9-11 Duluth, 69, PBH; 11-7 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 11-16 Stevens Co, 10, RAG; 11-18 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Scarlet Tanager: 9-14 Duluth, JCG; 9-26

Crow Wing Co, MSB; 9-27 Hennepin Co, fide FN.

Cardinal: noteworthy records: "throughout the fall," Fargo-Moorhead, 8 observers fide EGA; 10-18 Beltrami Co, MG; 10-22 to 10-31 Duluth, feeder, Pearl Grif-fith.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 10-1 Mpls, RBJ.

Indigo Bunting: 9-12 Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Dickcissel: 9-20 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-3 Washington Co, ACR and 6 other observers, good details.

Evening Grosbeak: No sharp increase noted in NE or NC Minn as compared to summer populations. JCG reports gradual increase in NE Minn as follows: Sept, 9 observations by 6 people; Oct, 23 observations by 9 people; Nov, 42 observations by 11 people. JLR reports they have disappeared from Roseau Co by end of Nov. but MG reports they are still in Beltrami Co; southern limits thus far: 11-11 Fargo-Moorhead, 1 at feeder for single afternoon, EGA; 11-21 Washington Co, 1, Mrs. W. Lundgren.

Pine Grosbeak: 10-6 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-17 Duluth, AKA; 11-21 St. Louis Co, 12, L. Patterson.

Common Redpoll: 10-30 Ramsey Co, 4, ACR; 10-31 Duluth, NJH; 11-6 Duluth, 200, fide JCG; 11-8 Wadena Co, RO; 11-27 Orr, St. Louis Co, NJH; notably absent Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Red Crossbill: 9-16 Cloquet Forest, 20, GWG; 9-25 St. Louis Co, JNG; 10-6 to 10-15 Cloquet Forest, GWG.

White-winged Crossbill: 9-24 Lake Co, 2, JNG; 10-25 Duluth, 2, JNG; 10-25 Beltrami Co, 1, WRP, RO, RLH; 10-31 Lake Co, 8, JCG; 11-8 Wadena Co, RO; 11-18 to 11-25 Cloquet Forest flock of 10-30 birds, GWG; 11-25 Shotley, Beltrami Co, small flock, MG; 12-2 Stearns Co, 20-30 birds, RPR.

Rufous-sided Towhee: 9-27 Crow Wing Co, MSB; 9-29 Duluth, 1, JCG; 10-3 Washington Co, ACR; 10-23, 10-28 Mpls, FN.

Lark Bunting: 9-5 Salt Lake, Lac Qui-Parle Co, 1, RBJ.

Savannah Sparrow: 10-24 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-25 Duluth, 6, PBH; 10-25 Grant Co, RBJ; 10-30 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-11 Nicollet Co, WRP, RG.

LeConte's Sparrow: 9-27 Morris, Stevens Co, RAG; 10-3 Douglas Co, RBJ; 11-8 Cass Co, just NW of Poplar, RO.

Vesper Sparrow: 10-10 Dakota Co, RBJ; 10-25 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Oregon Junco: 9-30 Hibbing, 1 banded, HM; 10-16 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-14 Mpls, RBJ.

Chipping Sparrow: 10-5 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-11 Crow Wing Co, 20-30 birds, TEM; 10-12 Duluth (PBH), Hibbing (SM) and Two Harbors (RK).

Clay-colored Sparrow: 9-22 Two Harbors, 10, RK; 9-28 Cass Co, JAM; 10-12 Duluth, PBH; 10-16 Stearns Co, RPR; 10-26 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Field Sparrow: 10-10 Frontenac, Goodhue Co, RBJ.

Harris' Sparrow: best fall migration I can recall in six years: 9-19 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-24 Duluth, 15, JCG; 10-3 Becker, Mahnomen, Norman Co's, many, RO, RLH; 10-6 Roseau Co 30, JLR; 10-13 Wilkin Co, many, FN; 10-15 Chippewa Co, many, FN; 10-20 Stevens Co, 6, RAG; 10-25 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-1 Stevens Co, MIG; 11-7 Lac Qui Parle Co, RBJ; 11-11 Mpls, MEH; 11-13 Duluth, JCG; 11-13 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-30 Cloquet Forest, GWG.

White-crowned Sparrow: 9-5 St. Louis Co, WJM; 9-10 Hibbing, HM; 9-11 Ramsey Co, ACR; 9-12 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 9-25 Two Harbors, 100, RK; 9-26 Crow Wing Co, peak, MSB; 10-8 Winona Co, the Sanford Tylers; 10-16 Ramsey Co, ACR; 10-27 Cloquet Forest, GWG; 11-7 Dakota Co, RLH.

Fox Sparrow: 9-8 Roseau Co, JLR; 9-12 Ely, St. Louis Co, JCG; 9-12 Hennepin Co, EWJ; 9-20 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-5 Washington Co, DH; 10-24 Ramsey Co, ACR; 11-4 Hibbing, HM; 11-4 Wright Co, EC; 11-6 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-20 Mpls, MEH.

Lincoln's Sparrow 9-6, Two Harbors, RK; 9-24 Duluth, 10, JCG; 9-27 Sherburne Co, MIG; 10-3 Duluth, 1 banded, A. Rekas; 10-10 Goodhue Co, RBJ; 10-15 Traverse Co, FN; 10-25 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA.

Swamp Sparrow: 9-27 Sherburne Co, MIG; 10-26 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-14, 11-25 Ramsey Co, ACR.

Lapland Longspur: 9-20 NE Minn, fide JCG; 10-3 Clay, Norman Co's, RO, RLH; 10-15 Stevens Co, 50-55, RAG; 10-16 NE Minn, fide JCG; 10-20 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-24 Stevens Co, 50, RAG; 10-30 Clay Co, common, RPR; 11-1 Wright Co, 60, RLH; 11-7 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 11-13 Ramsey Co, 12, ACR; 11-15 Nobles Co, EHW.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: 10-24 Grant Co, 5 mi N. Elbow Lake, 25 with flock of 100 Lapland Longspurs, good details, RBJ; 10-24 Stevens Co, near Alberta, 1 with flock of 50 Lapland Longspurs, good details, RAG.

Snow Bunting: 9-14 St. Louis Co, 4, WJM; 10-8 Roseau Co, JLR; 10-9 Duluth, JCG; 10-15 Beltrami Co, MG; 10-17 Crow Wing Co, RBJ; 10-23 Fargo-Moorhead, EGA; 10-29 Wabasha Co, fide FN; throughout Nov, many reports for N. Minn south to Duluth and Fargo-Moorhead.

Summary: Due, perhaps, to the mild fall weather, interesting late dates were obtained for the Red-necked, Eared and Western Grebes, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Sandhill Crane, Franklin's Gull, Red-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, Orange-crowned and Pine Warblers, Dickcissel and several sparrows. A few

coveted species turned up: Ross' Goose, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Iceland Gull, Varied Thrush and Smith's Longspur. Most observers felt that the fall warbler migration did not meet normal expectations. This was especially felt by some of the bird-banders, who reported that their fall warbler banding was the poorest in several years.

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SOME NOTES ON THE FALL 1964 MIGRATION OF VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Janet C. Green and J. P. Perkins

In September I received a long letter from J. P. Perkins, first mate on the Str. D. G. Kerr, which is an ore carrier on the Great Lakes, describing a nocturnal migration he had witnessed over Lake Superior on the evening of September 7-8, 1964. This night was followed by my best warbler banding of the fall and, as I discovered later, also by that of Mrs. Harriet Micensky, a bander on the Mesabi Range. I had been banding every day for the first half of September at Farm Lake near Ely and Mrs. Micensky had also been banding daily at

December, 1964

her home in rural Hibbing. Since our best day and the mass migration over Lake Superior coincided, I would like to cite our figures and quote Mr. Perkins' dramatic letter to illustrate some of the ways of studying the fall migration.

Mr. Perkins' hobby is studying and photographing birds and his study of migration over the Great Lakes has just been published in the Sept.-Oct. issue of *Audubon Magazine*. His unique experiences and vivid description merit quoting his letter in full.

"Now back to Sept. 7th. We were

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on our way to Duluth and inclement weather threatened. Just after my morning watch and in the vicinity of Caribou Island we encountered a severe electrical storm with heavy rain and hail accompanied by high winds. I figured that nothing in the line of small birds could survive this but there were some that did. Shortly after the storm was over, a few warblers came aboard along with some sparrows. They were wet and soggy looking which indicated they had been in the storm. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers and Henslow's, Sharp-tailed, Lincoln's and one Song Sparrow comprised the rest of the few birds aboard. During the afternoon watch it seemed that maybe things were shaping up for a possible major wave of birds on the west end of Superior. The weather was just plain lousy with a twenty-five knot wind from the south."

"I decided to do a little letter writing after being relieved at 8:00 p.m. About 10:00 p.m. the wheelsman stopped in the room on his way back from coffee break and asked me if I could hear the birds overhead. I went to the pilot house along with the wheelsman. I snapped on the ship's search light and shot the beam into the air and was rewarded with the sight of birds everywhere up there. I knew that a massive wave of birds had started across the lake. The ship at this time was twenty-three miles to the eastward of Outer Island in the Apostle group on a course for Devil's Island. The wind had shifted to the north and lessened in velocity with drizzle and light rain accompanying it."

"I went back to my letter writing and was just finishing up when the 3rd mate came in with a handful of dead birds. I knew then that the flight had lowered and that birds were striking in the rigging and against the cabins. I dressed for the weather and gathered my flashlight and went on deck. I could plainly hear the cheeps and chirps of the birds now and could see them flying through the glow of the lights and fluttering around the deck lights. A look upward revealed many birds in the glow of the naviga-

tion light on the mast head. I journeyed back on deck to see what was going on aft. Here even more birds were in evidence. Looking up at the range lights we could see hundreds of birds milling around. The range lights are the highest and brightest lights aboard ship. Being part of the required navigation lights they have to be on from sunset to sunrise. Their illumination was drawing birds of all kinds and many to their deaths. The deck beneath the spar was littered with the fatalities. Here again the lighting of the after search light revealed the layers of birds overhead. While I had the light on I even identified a lone Common Nighthawk along with the warblers and thrushes. I estimated around two hundred birds in sight up there at any given time. This was a major warbler migration and although I've seen many a migration I believe this one to be the greatest. No doubt about it, millions of birds were going south this night. Fatalities were heavy. Birds were being drawn into the ventilating fans and chopped birds were raining into the firehold and engine room."

"Going back to the forward end I rigged up my Eastman Startech camera. This camera is made especially for extreme close-up. I snapped a few shots of birds in the trees. (Mr. Perkins has some trees in pots aboard ship to use in his photography.) I then figured out a better way to get close-ups of the birds. I broke off a branch from one of the wild currant bushes. Standing close to one of the lights that the birds were fluttering around, I just held up the branch beneath the bird and when it was sitting the way I wanted, I just snapped the picture. How about this for convenience?"

"The peak of this migration occurred about 12:00 to 12:30 a.m. I stayed up until 2:00 a.m. watching and identifying birds. At Outer Island the land to the northward was thirty-seven miles away with the islands about eight miles to the southward. By 1:30 a.m. the flight had thinned out considerably. As I had to be up and on watch at 4:00 a.m., I figured I'd better try and get a little sleep. Before retiring I gathered up a bag full of dead

birds for examination after watch. At about 2:15 a.m. we made it to bed."

A list of the fatality count of the bag of birds

Swainson's Thrush	1
Veery	1
Red-eyed Vireo	4
Black and White Warbler	2
Tennessee Warbler	4
Magnolia Warbler	8
Cape May Warbler	2
Blackburnian Warbler	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	11
Blackpoll Warbler	12
Palm Warbler	3
Ovenbird	1
Northern Waterthrush	1
Mourning Warbler	7
American Redstart	15

A daily comparison of the number of birds caught at a banding station is one of the ways of pinpointing the waves of migrants grounded locally with some accuracy. This is especially useful during the fall when so many of the warblers and vireos are difficult to identify. The birds concentrated in one location may only be grounded

because of some local condition, such as bad weather or good food supply, and do not necessarily reveal the timing and extent of the migration going on overhead. However, in this case good banding days in Ely and Hibbing (about 60 miles apart) agree very well and our best day for warblers and vireos was on September 8th, the day following Mr Perkins' mass nocturnal migration. But the species we caught were different from his and from each other. On the 8th Mrs. Micensky banded mostly Palm Warblers, 20 of them, with 6 Myrtles and 5 Ovenbirds and a few of several more species. On that day I caught 62 Tennessee Warblers and 6 Nashvilles and only one or two of a few more species. These differences may represent the different feeding habits of the various species and their relation to the placement of our mist nets rather than the actual composition of the migrants grounded in our vicinity. A chart showing the daily totals for the number of species and the number of individuals of vireos and warblers caught at the Ely and Hibbing banding stations follows.

Date: Sept.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Hibbing															
Individuals	2	1	33	0	18	37	16	54	9	35	45	11	0	6	5
Species	2	1	8	0	6	9	7	16	5	9	7	5	0	2	3
Ely															
Individuals	4	2	13	10	7	29	4	75	2	33	24	43	5	6	1
Species	3	2	1	8	6	8	4	6	2	8	7	8	4	2	1

1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.

THE CANADIAN LAKEHEAD

A. E. Allin

The late summer of 1964 was quite cool; the mean temperatures of 58.3° and 50.1° for August and September were 3.7° and 2.7° below average, respectively. The maximum temperature only reached 80° on three occasions. August was very windy. A record low of 25° was recorded the morning of September 15. Since the last spring frost occurred on June 5, our frost-free period of 101 days equalled the average recorded for the past 23 years at

the Lakehead Airport. October continued cool with a mean temperature of 39.9° compared with an average 42.6°. The first half of November was slightly warmer than usual.

It will be recalled that July was the driest on record. A total rainfall of 4.13" in August was 0.6" above normal but the precipitation in September of 2.48" compared unfavorably with the average 3.32" and October 1.14" was

only half the long-term normal. Precipitation continued below normal during the first half of November.

Only traces of snow had fallen by mid-November. East of our area snow fell on September 10. Areas to the west received several inches of snow on September 25 and in mid-October. Marshes and creeks were frozen temporarily on October 10 resulting in a mass movement of waterfowl to larger bodies of water. By mid-October trees were generally bare of leaves. A few tamaracks and the willows still retained their yellow and green leaves into November. Mayweed was the only weed still in bloom although Pansies and autumn-flowering Crocuses still formed patches of colour in our garden. Well-cared-for lawns were still being cut.

The berry crop on the Mountain Ash is very heavy in the cities as well as throughout the surrounding forests including those in Cook County, Minnesota. For once they have not been eaten by Starlings in the cities nor by Robins in town and country. There is also a heavy crop of cones on the White Spruce. Despite nature's bounty—or perhaps because of it—mid-November saw no influx of Pine Grosbeaks, or Bohemian Waxwings, or crossbills, Common Redpolls or Pine Siskins. Peculiarly, Robins and Cedar Waxwings have evidently migrated, although some years we do not realize how many of these have remained until later in the winter.

Several late breeding records were reported in 1964. On September 15, I saw a female Common Goldeneye accompanied by three half-grown young on a beaver pond in Paipoonge Township. Ordinarily this species is a very early nester. Mrs. R. M. Beckett saw a Spotted Sandpiper with four young in the same township on September 1. Cedar Waxwings are notoriously late breeders but a bob-tailed young seen in Fort Williams on September 4 was a late record.

Each January we speculate as to the new species we may add to our life list when we holiday in areas more or less remote from the Canadian Lakehead. On April 12 accompanied by the

well-known Toronto ornithologists, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Speirs, and Dr. K. Ketchum, we saw our first Arctic Loon, on Hamilton Bay, Lake Ontario. Dr. Speirs flagged it to within 100 feet by waving a white handkerchief. This gave us all an excellent opportunity to observe its identifying features. This species breeds at Cape Henrietta Maria in northwestern Ontario. There is a sight record for Lake Ontario, May 15, 1952 and a specimen was collected on Lake Erie, at Ashtabula, Ohio, many years ago. It is possible it may yet be found as an accidental visitor to Lake Superior.

Loons to Bitterns: L. Manuel reported numbers of Common Loons on Lake Nipigon on September 5, 6, 7 and 8. Small groups were seen as well as flocks containing 16, 24 and 40 birds. A White Pelican was seen in the local harbor on September 17 and another remained from September 17 to 20 at the mouth of the Wolf River, 50 miles to the northeast. Mrs. Peruniak reported one during the same period at Atikokan. White Pelicans are accidental visitors at the Lakehead. Double-crested Cormorants are decreasing in numbers. We failed to record one all season; the Muries reported a small breeding colony persisted on an off-shore island in Lake Superior.

Swans, Geese and Ducks: Canada Geese were again shot in mid-September at Hurkett and South Fowl Lake. Blue-winged Teal left early explaining why banders took so few. More Lesser Scaup were seen at Whitefish Lake than for many years especially in the period October 10-18 after the small northern lakes had frozen. Common Goldeneyes and Buffleheads were the common ducks on October 25. The first Greater Scaup were reported on November 11. Mallards and Black Ducks were still present in the local harbor in mid-November in reduced numbers. Five Ring-necked Ducks and a late pair of Hooded Mergansers fed at the mouth of the Neebing River on November 5.

T. Timmerman recently joined the local Department of Lands and Forests as District Biologist. His first activity was to set up a duck-banding station

in the local harbor where shooting is prohibited. David Story, a local science teacher, and his students co-operated with Mr. Timmerman in operating a single lily-pad, multi-entrance trap. Their activities resulted in the taking of 1010 ducks of five species. Of these, 620 were actually banded, including 453 Black Ducks, 127 Mallards, 11 Pintail, 22 Blue-winged Teal and 7 Green-winged Teal. Twelve birds carried bands at the time of their original local trapping. There were 268 repeats.

Vultures, Eagles, and Hawks: As usual the fall hawk migration was poor. On September 12, we saw only a single Red-tailed Hawk and a Marsh Hawk from one observation point and the Robbs reported 2 Peregrine Falcons, and a few Sharp-shinned Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks over the Sibley Peninsula. J. Hebden and M. Smith reported only a few hawks over Jarvis Bay on the same date. Mrs. Peruniak reported a small movement of Rough-legged Hawks at Atikokan on October 22 and 26.

Despite the fact the Bald Eagle should be readily identified, we find many reports open to suspicion. Rough-legged Hawks and Ospreys are erroneously identified and young Bald Eagles are identified as Golden Eagles. However, it seems certain an adult Bald Eagle was seen west of the Lakehead on November 10 and that two, possibly three, have been seen over the Seine River. P. Nunan reported several feeding on moose entrails in Mark Township. An immature barely escaped being killed by a speeding car near English River on September 28. Another immature Bald Eagle was wilfully killed by goose hunters as it drifted over their pits in Saskatchewan. These two incidences illustrate hazards these noble birds may meet during migration.

Grquse to Coots: The Ruffed Grouse continues scarce and we saw only six birds. However they were evidently common in small areas west of the Lakehead; one hunter found them very common in the Pickle Crow region. He reported the only Spruce Grouse in the same area. Amazingly a female Ring-necked Pheasant was shot in Sep-

tember near South Gillies by a hunter who brought in a wing for identification! American Coots were very common at Whitefish Lake in early October.

Shore-birds: Despite a promising beginning in mid-July, the shore-bird migration was relatively poor. A few Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs were present throughout August and the first half of September. A lone Solitary Sandpiper was seen on September 5 as were two Common Snipe. The latter species was seen on numerous occasions on city lawns during the first half of October. While watching for migrating hawks at Hillcrest Park, Port Arthur, on September 12, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper flew into the area and alighted on the paved road beside my car—and then proceeded to feed on the adjacent lawns. We saw our only Black-bellied Plover at Gurney, east of Nipigon, on September 13. There were no reports of the usual large flocks of American Golden Plovers; Margaret Hogarth saw a single bird on September 15 at the Airport and K. Denis reported a few along the waterfront on October 25.

Gulls to Owls: Cuckoos were scarce all summer but we saw two Black-billed Cuckoos on August 16. The plague of tent caterpillars did not reach our area in 1964 but will probably do so in 1965.

As yet, it does not seem this will be a good year for owls. Two Snowy Owls were seen at Atikokan and 3 in Thunder Bay District during the last week of October. Mrs. Beckett found a dead Saw-whet Owl in Neebing Township on October 15. A Short-eared Owl flew over Hillcrest Park when we were hawk-watching on September 14.

Nighthawks to Woodpeckers: One hundred Common Nighthawks were seen in two adjacent areas on August 16. Mrs. Beckett saw a rather late Common Nighthawk on September 4. She also saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on September 15. Dorothy Allin reported another on September 25. Mrs. Cryer saw a late Belted Kingfisher in mid-November.

Flycatchers and Horned Larks: Eastern Kingbirds were common on August 16 and again on August 19. We saw 4 on September 5. Horned Larks were conspicuous by the absence locally, but Mrs. Peruniak noted a movement of this species at Atikokan on September 24.

Jays to Nuthatches: Gray Jays have been unusually common. Blue Jays are present in their usual numbers. A "black-and-white crow" reported from Neebing Township by one of our naturalists must surely have been a Black-billed Magpie. This species has been reported on a few occasions. Common Ravens appeared in Fort Williams on August 23, unusually early. We saw 20 east of the Lakehead on September 13. They were all moving westerly along Highway 17. A small flock of Common Crows lingers about the Lakehead Cities. White-breasted Nuthatches have returned to Mrs. Cryer's feeder.

Thrushes to Shrikes: Robins were common, with flocks seen frequently throughout the first half of October. They became scarce in the last half of the month. We saw one on October 31 but none subsequently. An Eastern Bluebird was seen on September 15 and the Muries saw two on October 12. When bluebirds were common, we saw small flocks in early October. No Northern Shrikes have been reported.

Vireos and Warblers: Although migrating warblers were common on a few occasions, the only heavy movement seems to have been in late September. We had failed to see any evidence of migration prior to September 13 when Palm Warblers were present in small numbers. Absence from the area through the first half of October precluded us obtaining first-hand information during that period but we heard of no major late movements.

Fringillidae: The movements of this group have been most disappointing despite a record crop of berries on the Mountain Ash in the cities and throughout the surrounding forests including those of Cook County, and a similar terrific crop of cones on the White Spruce. Mr. Consaul reported only a few Fox and White-crowned Sparrows and only one Harris's Sparrow during migration. Slate-colored Juncos were not common; we saw our last birds on October 11. Tree Sparrows occurred in their usual numbers and we saw 20 lingering here on November 1. There have been comments on the scarcity of Snow Buntings; there is some evidence there was a movement through the area about October 23 to 25 with a few birds still present in mid-November. We saw 4 Evening Grosbeaks on September 6 but the usual winter flocks have failed to appear. To mid-November, no Pine Grosbeaks had been reported locally, though J. Lowcock informed me they had appeared along the Geraldton-Nipigon Highway during the second week of November. The Robbs saw 4 White-winged Crossbills in Sibley Provincial Park on September 12 and C. E. Garton saw a flock at Dorion in late October. Pine Siskins are present in small scattered flocks. Common Redpolls are very scarce; I saw two in Fort William on November 5. A. Elsey, a biologist who is in the forests a great deal of his time, has seen only one redpoll all fall. M. Hogarth reported Lapland Longspurs at the Airport on September 15 and S. Peruniak at Atikokan on September 24. Last spring, Lapland Longspurs arrived in northeastern Minnesota and Thunder Bay District of Ontario, unusually early. Peculiarly they were very late in arriving in southern Manitoba.—**Regional Laboratory, Ontario Department of Health, Fort William, Ontario.**

NOTES OF INTEREST

RING-BILLED GULL NESTING IN MINNESOTA—Hennepin Island Mille Lacs Lake, Mille Lacs County, June 11, 1963. While fishing out of Isle, on the east side of the lake, I was surprised to see a large number of fully adult Ring-billed Gulls, instead of the usually few stragglers, mainly immatures, generally found about the lake in summer.

The farther we went out into the lake, the more gulls we saw, and as we neared Hennepin Island a veritable cloud of Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns arose from the island, the first indication I had that the gulls were nesting here.

There were at least 100 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls nesting on the island, mainly about the boulders on the north half of the island, while the Common Terns nested on the beach on the south part of the island.

The nests of the gulls were built of weeds and almost all of them contained two or three eggs, but a few nests held eggs and newly hatched young, while all of the nests of the Common Tern held eggs.

June 19, 1963. Visited Hennepin Island again to photograph the nesting Ring-billed Gulls, but it was so windy and rainy that little time was spent on the island but I did succeed in obtaining several pictures. (See front cover)

Most of the gulls' nests still held eggs, but there were also many young birds, some of which scrambled about the boulders while others took to the water and swam about.

July 23, 1964. Visited Hennepin Island to see if the Ring-billed Gulls were again nesting here. It was so very windy that we could not approach very close to the island, much less land on it. Adult gulls were numerous, but they were greatly outnumbered by gray immatures, evidently young of the year, flying about the island."—*Nestor M. Hiemenz, 705 18th Avenue South, St. Cloud, Minnesota.*

Editors Note: The above record is most interesting and is the first nesting record of this species in Minnesota. Hennepin Island is a well-known nesting place for Common Terns and has been visited by many people. No one, up until 1963, has ever noted nesting Ring-billed Gulls. Another check of the island will be made in 1965.

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REPORT OF A VARIED THRUSH IN RAMSEY COUNTY—In early November, I received a report of a Varied Thrush seen in Roseville, Ramsey County, Minnesota. Since there are very few acceptable records of this species for Minnesota, I telephoned the observer, Mrs. C. N. Reiersen, for substantiating details. She said she had observed the bird at close range and in good light for about one hour, in her yard at 2292 West Laurie Road, on October 30, 1964. It fed on the ground, hopping about in the grass like a Robin. It flew only once or twice, just a few feet each time. Its size and shape were those of a Robin. I asked her what field-marks she noted in arriving at her identification. She volunteered the description: Just like a Robin, except that the breast wasn't as orange-colored. Instead, it was a buffy or tawny color, with some wash of this same color on the wings and also forming an eye-stripe. On the breast was a dark, horizontal, crescent-shaped mark, resembling the chest-band of a Yellow-shafted Flicker. The buffy wash on the wings showed plainly even while the bird was at rest. The bird remained in her yard for about one hour and then disappeared. It was not seen again.

Her description and the length and conditions of the observation seem to indicate that her report is reliable.—*Ronald L. Huber, 480 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON NESTING IN SOUTH SAINT PAUL

—Sporadically throughout the summer of 1963, George Laiuste observed Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the Pig's Eye slough area of South Saint Paul, Ramsey County. He reported to me in a personal conversation that he had seen immature Night Herons in the area during late summer, but he did not consider himself erudite enough to distinguish between the immatures of the two species. Most of these observations were published in the *Flicker*. This spring, on May 9, 1964, I observed one adult feeding in a small pool near the Hog Cholera quarantine area, just south of the Chicago Great Western Railway trestle in Dakota County. Several days later George also observed an adult in the same area, and when he reported it to me, I urged him to look for the nest, since he spends many hours in the area during spring migration. On May 12, he and a friend found the nest and on May 17, Ray Glassel and I confirmed their discovery. At that time, one adult was incubating while the other stood in attendance about three feet from the nest.

We left the nest entirely undisturbed until July 5, when George and I went to check on the nesting progress. We found both adults perched within a few feet of the nest and at least one large pin-feathered young in the nest. The height of the nest and the canopy of the trees made it difficult to establish the exact contents of the nest. At our closer approach, the one nestling that we could see crouched down into the loosely-knit mass of twigs and became all but invisible. We remained motionless for a few minutes and presently it stuck its head up to look around again. Another movement on our part and again the one visible nestling crouched down into the nest. Under these circumstances, the casual passer-by, human or animal, would view the nest as empty. The adults remained as motionless as wood-carvings the whole while.

A week later, on July 12, my brother Harding decided he would try to photograph the nest with his new telephoto-lens camera. We arrived at the spot to find both adults perched near the nest, two immatures perched just above the adults and two immatures standing in the nest—a total of four young! Harding began taking photographs and as he moved closer, the adults and two perched immatures became uneasy and flew away, one by one, adults first. The two immatures standing in the nest did not leave, although they appeared perfectly capable of flight. They peered about awkwardly, except when we made any movements, at which time they "froze" into a camouflage position.

The nest was about 50 feet up in a Black Willow. Other trees in the area were Cottonwood and Basswood. Ground cover was mostly knee-high Nettle, and water-filled pools dotted the area. The general habitat was very reminiscent of the pseudo-Carolinian river-bottom forest at La Crescent, Minnesota, about 115 miles to the southeast, where this species was first found nesting in Minnesota. Although there are reportedly colonies of this species on the Mississippi River near Red Wing, Goodhue County and Hastings, Dakota County, our South Saint Paul nest appears to be the only documented breeding record north of the La Crescent area.

On several occasions in late July, adult Yellow-crowns flew over my home, about a mile southwest of the nesting spot. I do not know what prompted these movements away from the nesting and feeding site, but these local movements occurred repeatedly, indicating a return to the area after each movement. These instances were all at about dusk and the call-note was heard each time — a high-pitched *kwok*, somewhat higher-pitched and less guttural than the Black-crowned Night Herons which were nesting in a colony across the river. A period of quiescence followed (during early August), although one adult was seen flying near the nest-site on August 7 and another was heard there on August 12. There was no further evidence of the Yellow-crowns until August 27, when one adult and one immature were feeding in a small inlet with a pre-migration aggregate of herons which included 54 Common Egrets, 7 Great Blue Herons and

4 Black-crowned Night Herons. On September 1, this aggregate was reduced to 8 Common Egrets, 1 Great Blue Heron and 1 adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron. This was the last date on which the Yellow-crown was observed.—*Ronald L. Huber, 480 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.*

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GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKENS IN HENNEPIN COUNTY—On a warm, overcast August 8, 1964 at 4:30 p.m., Betty Copeland, Virginia Spanton and I were birding on the Old Sheep Farm Road south of Highway 169, Hennepin County. We stopped on the highest stretch of the road to watch the Common Egrets on the river bottom, when the driver, Betty Copeland, saw five "chicken-like" birds crossing the road in front of the car, then working their way west and up the embankment. They had short, ruddy-like tails and the top of the heads seemed darker than the rest of the body. The markings were not too distinct. The legs were very similar to what we used to call "white stockinged"—not the graceful build of the Ring-necked Pheasant's legs. I had no doubt but that they were Greater Prairie Chickens. I have seen many hundreds of them in North Dakota and western Minnesota. These birds appeared to be immature, as they were much buffier than those I remember from previous years.—*Mrs. R. E. Whitesel, 5707 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

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On August 19, 1964 about 10:00 a.m., my daughter Ruth and I came onto the Old Sheep Road from Highway 169 Hennepin County at the west end. A light rain had started shortly before this time. There is a ravine about one-half mile east of a house at the west end of the road which has several dead trees standing around it. When we were about a block away, I saw two birds perched on a fallen dead tree. We stopped, observed them, then drove closer. By this time the rain had stopped, and we were able to see the face marks and the short dark tails. One bird was an adult, the other a young one. Another bird was on the ground, and later the head of a fourth one was observed by my daughter. We then drove opposite them, and they flew down and disappeared from sight.

In the road about a quarter of a mile east of this spot, we found a dead young Ring-necked Pheasant, and compared it with the birds we had just seen, noting the color, length of tail, and other points of difference. We felt certain that the first four birds we saw were Greater Prairie Chickens.—*Mrs. Wm. H. Lender, 2817 Robbins, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

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About ten o'clock on the morning of August 23, 1964 Ruth Ackley and I were on the Old Sheep Farm Road south of Highway 169, Hennepin County, when we saw a Greater Prairie Chicken cross the road and disappear into the brush. Three more birds flew up and over to a grove of trees south of the road, and we were able to observe them on the ground under the trees.

That same day about 4:30 p.m., from the inside of the car, we watched three of the birds in the cow pasture through short, thin weeds which came half way up the car window. We got a very good look at the Greater Prairie Chickens, for they were not aware of us, before they walked slowly into the brush. We observed the long, black neck feathers on one of the birds and the short, rounded tail - not the long tail of the Ring-necked Pheasant. Both of us were using 9 x 35 Bausch and Lomb binoculars.—*Mrs. E. W. Joul, 5641 Grand Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

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On a warm August 25th, 1964 after enthusiastic reports of the Greater Prairie Chickens having been seen by six members of the Minneapolis Audubon Society, I went to the area where they had been sighted on August 8, 19, and 23rd.

Driving eastward on the Old Sheep Farm Road from Highway 169, Hennepin County, I stopped the car just beyond the row of dead trees on the hill north of the road and the pasture with the grove of box-elder and a few willow

trees on a lower level south of the road. Glancing at my watch, I noted the time: 10:00 a.m. and quietly got out of the car. I stood leaning against the trunk, with bright sunlight to my back. Exactly three minutes later, eighteen to twenty feet in front of me, a large chicken-like bird flew over the road at an eight or nine foot height, south to north, and dropped out of sight in the tall grass of the hillside. Through 7 x 35 extra wide angle Japanese lens, I could plainly see the broad, short, rounded black tail, the black tufts of feathers on the side of the neck, the heavy brown and white transverse barring on the underparts. The silhouette was that of the Greater Prairie Chicken.

Two minutes later, a second bird came from the same spot, circled the road once at approximately the same height as the first, but flew into the box-elder trees and out of sight. The black neck feathers were not apparent, but I did note the heavy barring of the underparts and the short, rounded tail, paler than that of the first bird. I remained at the spot for an additional twenty minutes but saw nothing stir.

If the birds were Greater Prairie Chickens, these are the first records for the area in thirty years according to Bob Janssen. (A former booming ground was located nearby Flying Cloud Airport.)—*Frances Nubel, 2000 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

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SECOND KING EIDER RECORD FOR MINNESOTA—At the end of October game warden James Gawboy brought me a specimen of a King Eider that had been shot on Oct. 29, 1964 from a flock of five or six similar looking ducks at Lost Lake, near Lake Vermillion, St. Louis County by a young hunter from



Virginia. Gawboy had aged and sexed the bird as an immature male. My husband took the attached photograph and then we returned the bird since the hunter wanted it mounted.—*Janet C. Green, 1923 Greysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

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TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE SEEN IN ANOKA COUNTY, 1961—On November 23, 1961 a Townsend's Solitaire was seen in front of our cabin which is on the south side of Anoka County Rd No. 24 just east of Cedar Creek. It was Thanksgiving Day and we had dinner up at our cabin - 7 guests and my husband and

I. The others were not familiar with birds, but they were having fun watching the many common ones that kept coming to our feeders and learning to identify them with my help. Suddenly one said "What's that gray one over there?" Obviously it was something different, looking sort of like a Mockingbird and acting sort of like a flycatcher. My binoculars were handy and one glance through them was enough — Townsend's Solitaire, a bird with which I had long been familiar in Oregon. None of our guests had ever seen one before. It was early afternoon and the visibility was excellent while we watched it for about 15 minutes. It was eating berries of black alder which it would snatch on the wing, returning each time with the red berry in its bill to its perch on a nearby high bush. This behavior was suggestive of a flycatcher and was totally unlike that of any of our common winter birds. The perching bush and the black alder bush were both about 35 feet from where we sat. The following field marks were noted: a gray bird about the size of a Catbird, white eye ring, tawny wing markings and white outer tail feathers. The identification was checked in R. T. Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* on the spot. After we reached home in Minneapolis that evening, I had a look at the illustration in Peterson's *A Field Guide to Western Birds* as a double check on my memory.—Mrs. Donald B. Lawrence, 2420 Thirty-fourth Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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A PROBABLE PALM WARBLER NESTING IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY—There have been few Minnesota nesting reports of the Palm Warbler since the first two nests were found in 1906 and 1929. On July 4, 1964 about 6:30 A.M. in a large Spruce bog near Meadowlands, St. Louis County, Minnesota. I saw an adult Palm Warbler feeding two well grown young. An exhaustive search in the area failed to reveal any nests. I did see several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and several Lincoln's Sparrows, one of which was carrying food and acted as if it was nesting in the area. I returned to the bog on July 18, 1964 to again look for Lincoln's Sparrows and Palm Warbler nests but was unsuccessful. I did see a Slate-colored Junco apparently carrying food to young in a distant part of the bog.—Dennis Meyer, 4123 London Road, Duluth, Minnesota.

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HARLAN'S HAWK SIGHT RECORD—On September 3, 1964, while on my way to work at about 7:45 a.m., I observed a very dark hawk with the over-all shape of a Red-tailed Hawk. I was looking down on the hawk from the top of a hill and I could see the black dorsal color and the strong white mottled effect at the base of the tail. Although the light conditions seemed to be good (I could see the white mottling with the naked eye), I was not able to discern the white spots usually characteristic on the dorsum of the Harlan's Hawk. As I drove down the hill, I was able to look up at the ventral aspect of the hawk. The flight feathers were a dirty white, contrasting noticeably with the black forward half of the wings. The wing pattern from beneath strongly suggested the pattern of a Turkey Vulture. The tail from below appeared to be somewhat the same color as the dull white flight feathers. Although this seems to be quite an early date for a Harlan's Hawk, I feel certain of the identification.—Ronald L. Huber, 480 State Office Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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PROTHONOTARY WARBLER NESTING RECORD—On May 31, 1964 while birding below the Coon Rapids Dam on the west side of the Mississippi, in Hennepin County, I heard a strong, sweet, cadenced song vaguely familiar to me from my experience in Iowa with the Prothonotary Warbler. Upon pursuit and observation of the singer I identified the bird as that species. He was singing and moving about among trees and vines (mostly silver maple and wild grape) overhanging the slough. I watched him for 15 minutes, then began to think there might be a nest nearby, since the bird showed considerable attachment to a limited area. When I moved into "his area," he stopped singing and disappeared. I climbed among several fallen trees which extended from the bank

into the slough, looking closely for a nest cavity, but without success. I left the area and hid about 50 feet away. Soon the bird returned. Convinced that there must be a nest nearby, I again approached the fallen and leaning logs to look for a cavity. This time I found a cavity on the underside of a stump about 10 feet long projected at a 45° angle from the bank. When I tapped the log near the cavity, a second, duller colored bird flew from the cavity. While the female was off the nest I noted that the cavity was about 4 feet above water which was only 2 or 3 inches deep. I was unable to either see into the cavity or reach into it far enough to determine if there were eggs or young.



On June 5, I returned to the site with mirrors and mist nets, determined to find out if there were eggs and young, and hoping to capture and band both birds. I flushed the female from the nest at 10:20 A.M., and found one broken egg directly below the nest in the mud. (The river level had dropped, exposing the mud previously covered by 2 or 3 inches of water). I took 5 photographs of the cavity and nest site. However, I was unable to see into the nest even with mirrors. I did succeed in capturing and banding the female. With the photographs, the broken egg, and my personal observations as evidence, I left the nest site, convinced I had strong evidence that the Prothonotary Warblers were nesting. I was not able to return again to the nest. On June 17 I compared the smashed egg I had collected with several in the collection of the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History. Though there was wide variation in the color and spotting of the eggs, my specimen matched several museum specimens. My collected egg also matched the Prothonotary Warbler egg shown on plate 4 of *Birds of America* by Pearson. Bent refers to breeding records of the Prothonotary Warbler north to Cambridge, Lake Pepin and LaCrescent. Roberts reports a breeding record from Cambridge. Therefore my observation of the nesting pair is within the limits of the previously reported breeding range. This record is however, the northern-most report of breeding Prothonotary Warblers for some years. It is interesting to add that I observed a male Prothonotary Warbler in T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary, in Minneapolis, on May 15, 1964. Two other bird-watchers also observed this bird.—Fred Leshner, 1234 Knox Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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JAEGERS SEEN NEAR DULUTH AGAIN IN THE FALL OF 1964—About five o'clock in the afternoon of September 20, 1964 while my husband and I were taking down our banding nets on Minnesota Point in Duluth we heard some strange, tern-like sounds coming from the beach. John ran out to the edge of the dune just in time to see through his binoculars two birds fly swiftly by and then head out toward the lake where they landed. I arrived too late to see anything except a dark dot on the lake's surface take off and fly further away. But about five minutes later we again heard the strange noise and I got to the dune edge in time to see one of the birds fly by. The view that we each got was quick but we both agreed that they were unlike anything we had seen before: dark back and top of head, with white underparts and dark, sharp-pointed wings and a dark, fairly long tail. Their style of flight reminded us of a tern or falcon but was not quite like either. We knew that they must be jaegers but our view was not good enough to determine which species. The next day, again while banding birds on Minnesota Point, I heard that strange cry and looked up in time to see the two jaegers chasing a gull high over head. Again my view was too brief before they disappeared behind some trees to try to tell which species they were.

On August 22, 1964, J. P. Perkins of the Str. D. G. Kerr saw a jaeger flying over Lake Superior near Duluth. In a letter to me he quoted from his field notes as follows: "about three and a half miles south of Duluth Pumping station, I sighted what I thought was a falcon (peregrine) approaching the ship from ahead. On passing off our starboard bow I saw that the bird looked like a falcon all right but wasn't. The back and tail were dark as to appear black, some shading of white showed up in the primary feathers, but not too prominent. As the bird was at its closest point of approach, I could see a black cap and white extending up each side of the neck and nearly across the nape. The bird then turned up somewhat and headed for the beach showing what appeared to be all white from throat to vent. The wings were very falcon like. I had a good clear look at this bird which I would identify as one of the jaegers. The light phase of the Parasitic I imagine but without binoculars and a good look at the tail assembly it would have to go down as just a jaeger."—*Janet C. Green, 1923 Graeysolon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

ANOTHER RECORD OF THE HARLEQUIN DUCK FOR ST. LOUIS COUNTY—On a drive up the shore of Lake Superior on October 16, 1964 I stopped at one of the parking areas at the Lester River bridge in Duluth to scan the lake for ducks. My attention was immediately caught by a small duck swimming close to shore. Looking at it through my binoculars told me at once that it was a Harlequin Duck in the female or immature plumage but since the light was poor from the glare of the sun on the lake, I moved further up the shore to get the bird in better light. There I watched it with the 15 and 25 power eye-pieces of my spotting scope as it swam along about 50 feet from shore and finally passed directly in front of my observation point (where the light was again bad). By this time I had been able to observe it carefully enough to make sure of my identification: about five minutes of observation time. When I went back to the car to write up what I had noted about the plumage, the duck started to dive near a large rock about 25 feet from shore. I made the following notes on the description of the duck: a small, dark, chunky duck with a dark, short bill; plumage all dark brown except for a large, diffuse light buff area in back of the bill and below and forward of the eye, and a bright white, round spot on the side of the head posterior to the eye (I could not see the spot that is supposed to be above the eye though I looked for it); the breast and sides above the waterline appeared almost as dark as the back and there was no white in the wing; the size was compared to a Red-necked Grebe that was swimming with it for a while and it appeared about two-thirds as long as the grebe. This is the earliest that this duck has been seen in the fall. Excepting one very unusual

June observation, the other records for the Harlequin Duck (there are 12 of them) range from early November to early April.—*Janet C. Green, 1923 Grey-solon Road, Duluth, Minnesota.*

* * *

IMMATURE NORTHERN SHRIKES SEEN NEAR TWO HARBORS IN SEPTEMBER—On September 14, 1964 in rural Two Harbors, I saw two birds resembling juvenile Northern Shrikes more than anything else. They were brown on the backs, in the sun they seemed to be reddish brown, with black wings and slim longish black tails. They were robin sized, big round headed and chunky. I observed one perched in a small poplar tree with 7x35 binoculars at a distance of about 20 feet or less. It had a black mask through the eyes and a lighter brown area above it, giving the impression of a cap. The breast was a light brown or tan with scaly looking horizontal barring. The bill was hooked, heavy and appeared all black. I could see white on the tip of the tail but not on the outer edges. It had the habit of flicking its tail up and down slowly while perched. It flew out of the tree low over the ground into another tree. In the 15 minutes or so that I followed these two around, I noticed they always flew low and then up into a tree. They also made an assortment of indescribable sounds. However, I did not notice any white on wings or tail in flight.—*Ruth Kuchta, West Star Route, Two Harbors, Minnesota.*

* * *

RED CROSSBILLS AT FARGO-MOORHEAD—Some of these birds were seen as early as December 17, 1963. They appeared at the feeding station where I had been trapping on February 29, 1964. From then until the first week of June, 225 were banded with the help of Mrs. A. C. Burt. Usually one to five were taken almost daily but on February 9, 14 were banded; 12 on March 22, 11 on April 25, 10 on May 1 and 12 on May 5.

As usual, banding helped to estimate the number present. For a long time we rarely saw a banded bird but toward the end of the period about half of those we saw at the feeding place were banded. They were surprisingly tame. Almost any disturbance would cause them to fly up but with care one could approach almost to arm's length of them.

Casualties ran rather high. Three banded birds were found dead nearby, also two or three unbanded. The largest number (5) were found about a mile away and two about two miles away. One bird, banded February 10, was caught at Detroit Lakes, Otter Tail County, Minnesota (42 miles east) by W. E. Reid on March 12 and one banded by Mr Reid on March 11 was caught here May 5 and May 12.

The birds remained much longer than we had expected. We watched for signs of nesting. Occasionally a bird would pick diffidently at nesting material. Five banded birds were taken May 17; three on May 20. Two were banded June 1 and two June 2. The last one was banded June 9 when two young Red Crossbills sat on top of the trap. One young bird was seen by Mrs. George Anderson. Of the 225 birds banded, 54 were re-trapped one or more times. The first one banded January 31 was caught on February 14, March 17 and April 29. One banded February 2 was taken February 16, February 24, April 30, May 2 and 14.

The birds were supplied liberally with sunflower seeds. Besides the Red Crossbills, 160 Pine Siskins and 51 Common Redpolls were banded. They did not crack the sunflower seeds but ate small pieces left by the Red Crossbills. The last Common Redpolls were caught April 10, Pine Siskins May 24.—*O. A. Stevens, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota.*

* * *

UNUSUAL PLUMAGED AMERICAN WIDGEON—On October 7, 1964 while observing waterfowl on Grass Lake in south Minneapolis, Hennepin County, I noted an unusual male American Widgeon among a group of over 100

Widgeons spread across the lake. The bird was in full winter plumage and was normal in every way except the head and neck were completely buffy white with the exception of the usual area of green from the eye to the back of the neck. Kortright, *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, 1943 states as follows concerning the winter plumage of the American Widgeon, "Head with slight crest; forehead and crown, pure white, sometimes faintly tinged with buffy; patch of glossy green from eye extending around hind head; rest of head and neck, creamy to buffy, *speckled with black*" etc. (italics mine). The bird under observation did not have any black speckling on the head or neck. This "white-headed" appearance made the bird very conspicuous when among the other widgeons. The rest of the body plumage appeared to be normal. On October 18, 1964 I again observed the bird and verified the above plumage characters. On both occasions I wondered if this might be some type of "white spotting" or partial albinism (Hanson-Auk, Vol. 66, No.2). During years of observing American Widgeons, in this area, both spring and fall, I have never seen this peculiar plumage of the head. Checking the literature I could find no mention of any such plumage. If other people have observed anything similar to this I would appreciate hearing from them. Robert B. Janssen, 1817 W. 59th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

* * *

THE GREEN-WINGED TEAL AS A DIVER—The Green-winged Teal is generally considered to be a member of the surface feeding or puddle duck group. Little has been written about any of this groups abilities as divers. Roberts, *Birds of Minnesota*, Volume I, 1936 states as follows, "They (puddle ducks) can dive on occasion but their usual habit is to feed in shallow water by tipping up to procure their food from the bottom or by scooping it up with the broad strainer-like bill, this having earned for them among sportsmen the name of "puddle ducks." More specifically Forbush and May, *Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*, 1939 state about the Green-winged Teal, "In the water it is a buoyant swimmer and an excellent diver but does not ordinarily dive except to escape some enemy." In *The Book of Birds* Volume I, National Geographic Society, 1939, the following comments are made, "This Green-winged Teal is not much of a diver, for it usually feeds in shallows." Further checking in other well-known literature on waterfowl failed to reveal any other information on diving by the Green-winged Teal except in Bents *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, Part I, 1932 which gives the following information, "Unlike most of the surface feeding ducks, it is an expert diver and can swim for a long distance under water to reach some needed shelter where it can hide with only its head or its bill exposed. A wounded bird often escapes in this way and seems to have vanished." The above would indicate that the Green-winged Teal dives only to escape some danger. In view of the above rather scanty and confused information concerning the diving ability of this duck I was quite surprised to see three female or immature Green-winged Teal on Grass Lake, south Minneapolis, Hennepin County, diving very expertly. This observation was first made on October 21, 1964. They were obviously diving not to escape some danger but to feed. When first seen the three teal were in association with five Ring-necked Ducks. The Green-winged Teal appeared very much like small scoters when they dove. Like scoters they partially opened their wings before disappearing under the surface of the water. I timed at least 10 dives of the birds and they remained under water for five to seven seconds. They would then surface, remain on the surface for a few seconds and then dive again. I visited the lake again on October 22nd (24 hours later) and found what I assumed were the same three birds still diving. I never noticed the birds bring any food material to the surface but would assume because of their actions they were feeding under water in the same manner as diving ducks. Robert B. Janssen, 1817 W. 59th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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If all of you would also join the WSO and all WSO members would join the MOU, then we both would be twice as good as we are now! For only three dollars a year more this could be done. *The Loon* and *The Passenger Pigeon* could reach a much wider audience, we could greatly augment our voices in the struggles of conservation, we could keep up our liaison with our fellow birders, we could increase our knowledge of birds, improve our perspectives and share our problems, and not least we could increase our treasures. It is up to each one of us to make a great idea work. *The Passenger Pigeon*, official publication of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is published quarterly. Classes of membership and annual dues are: Students—\$2.00, Active—\$3.00, Husband and wife—\$4.00, Sustaining—\$5.00 or more, Life—\$75.00, Patron—\$100.00 or more, Library—\$2.00. Membership dues should be sent to the treasurer, Mrs. Alfred O. Holz, 125 Kolb Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.



BOOK REVIEWS

WATERFOWL IN MINNESOTA, Minnesota Department of Conservation, Division of Game and Fish, Section of Research and Planning, drawings by John M. Idstrom, edited by John B. Moyle, 210 pages 1964. \$2.00.

It is always enjoyable to pick up a book that is very informative, well illustrated and still very inexpensive. These all apply to "Waterfowl in Minnesota." This book, in 210 pages, contains a tremendous amount of information not only on Minnesota Waterfowl but waterfowl found throughout the United States.

In the first sections of the book general information is given on waterfowl such as classification, identification, spring migration, fall migration, waterfowl habitat, waterfowl populations and their management and present and future waterfowl management objectives and approaches.

The last section of the book treats the waterfowl by species, species that occur regularly in Minnesota and

those that are rare, accidental, or extinct. Under each species there is contained sections on Description, Range, Food Habits and Status as a Game Bird.

The book is well illustrated with photographs and line drawings. Of special interest are maps showing the breeding ranges of each regular species that breed in Minnesota with the exception of the mergansers.

Of special interest are the appendices, treating such subjects as sex ratios, calculated kill of waterfowl, Goldeneye and Wood Duck nesting boxes, waterfowl kill by flyways, Duck Stamp sales and a historical summary of waterfowl hunting regulations in Minnesota.

It is very evident that *Waterfowl in Minnesota* contains a wealth of information and is easily available to all those interested in waterfowl. A highly recommended publication.

Editor

THE LOON

BIRDS OVER AMERICA by Roger Tory Peterson, *New and Revised Edition*, 342 pages, 80 black and white photographs. Dodd, Mead and Company, 432 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016. 1964. \$7.50.

In 1948 when *Birds Over America* was first published it won the John Burroughs Award for excellence in ornithological literature. Little can be added by a reviewer to acclaim this excellent book. The book has been republished, using the same chapter titles and the same black and white photographs as contained in the original edition. The chapters have been revised, including up to date information on such subjects as pesticides, the present status of the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon and the conservation of birds in general. This is the type of book that will always interest the bird-watcher whether his interest be in banding, photography, listing or one of the many other facets of this fascinating hobby. It is also the type of book that should be read and re-read every few years to refresh our memories on *The Lure of the List*, *Billions of Birds*, *Warbler Waves*, *Fugitive Warblers*, *Trailing Americas Rarest Bird* and *The Rock Coast*. The above chapter titles and others contained a wealth of information about American birds, written with the authority and informality so characteristic of Roger Tory Peterson. Must reading for all bird-watchers.

Editor

THE LIFE OF BIRDS by Joel Carl Welty, 546 pages, illustrated, Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York, New York. 1963. \$12.95.

Contained on the jacket of this excellent work on ornithology is the following statement: "The CHIEF AIM of this broad survey of modern ornithology is to present, simply and straightforwardly, the basic facts of the biology of birds, including many discovered only recently. It is a book to be read straight through with profit and enjoyment by the laymen; it is also a permanent reference book for bird enthusiasts who wish to supplement their field observations with an understanding of the genetic and

environmental reasons why birds behave as they do." The above statement fits this book perfectly. It is one of few authoritative textbooks on ornithology that can be read easily and profitably by the layman. The book is profusely illustrated with 129 line drawings, 99 black and white photographs and 90 maps, charts and diagrams. This book departs from the normal textbook in that the first chapter is titled "Birds as Flying Machines" and the last chapter is "The Origin and Evolution of Birds." This is a refreshing change from the standard procedure of starting with origin and evolution. This reviewer found Chapter Twenty, *The Geography of Birds*, especially interesting. This chapter deals with the present pattern of bird distribution in the world, how it is changing, bird dispersals and man's influence on bird distribution. Other chapters deal with all phases of bird study such as migration, flight, ecology, nests, eggs, territory, courtship, song, food, the kinds of birds, etc. At the end of each chapter there is included a most helpful list of suggested readings.

Editor

SORT GUIDE TO THE EASTERN LAND BIRDS, by George C. West. Consists of a deck of cards, sorting needle and instructions, packaged in a plastic box. Crown Publishers, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016. 1964. \$4.95.

Since the publication of the Peterson Field Guide series there have been many unsuccessful attempts to create substitute systems to easily identify birds. The *Sort Guide* must now join these unsuccessful substitutes. Each card illustrating in black and white or color, one or two species of birds is punched with a series of holes. These holes correspond to a character of identification for each species. A needle is inserted in the deck and the cards with the character you are looking for drops out. This procedure is supposedly like that of an IBM sorting machine. You then continue to sort until you have your bird identified. The system is cumbersome, time-consuming and inadequate. Only land birds are included in

the set of cards. Besides illustrations, the cards contain range maps, a short description of the bird and an explanation of the birds habits. The illustrations, especially those in color, are mediocre at best. The one commendable feature of the *Sort Guide* is that it teaches the observer to look for many characters when identifying a bird. This one feature may give the *Sort Guide* a future with the young beginning bird-watcher. However, at the price of \$4.95 the beginner is much better off purchasing the comparably priced Peterson Field Guide.

Editor

A SURVEY OF ENCAMPMENT FOREST by John Pratt. Black and white drawings by Ken Haag. 51 pages, paper bound. 1964. Available from the author at Box 240D, Route 3, Wayzata, Minnesota, \$2.50.

Encampment Forest, located in Lake County, Minnesota some 30 miles northeast of Duluth, is a fascinating place. It is known to many bird-watchers as an excellent place to observe birds at any time of the year. Many of us can recall observing winter birds at Mrs. Penner's feeder during the M.O.U. winter field trips. John Pratt, an expert on Encampment, has put together a most enjoyable book about the area. He tells us of the history, the geography and geology, weather data, and most important a discussion and lists of the plants, birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians found at Encampment Forest. The black and white sketches done by artist Ken Haag are very attractive and add much to the text. The value of this book lies in the fact that the list of plants and animals can be used, not only for the Encampment area, but for the whole north shore of Lake Superior.

Editor

BIRD MIGRATION by Donald R. Griffin, 180 pages, Doubleday and Company, Inc., 277 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017. 1964 Paper \$1.25.

The big advantage of this little book is that all the latest information on the fascinating subject of bird migration is now available in an inexpensive

paper back edition. Mr. Griffin summarizes his own studies and those of Sauer and Kramer. These are explained in easy to understand language and make very interesting reading. One of the most interesting chapters is the one on the authors experiences in following birds with an airplane during a homing experiment. The chapters on Celestial Navigation and Experimental Analysis are the most informative and summarize the latest known information on how birds find their way during migration. These chapters are illustrated with simple diagrams that make it easy to understand the text. A highly recommended publication and must reading for the serious student and active bird-watcher.

Editor

THE WORLD OF BIRDS by James Fisher and Roger Tory Peterson, 288 pages, many full color illustrations, and maps, black and white photographs and drawings, Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York, New York 10017. 1964. \$22.95.

Magnificent, stupendous and many other adjectives can be used to explain the latest work of Fisher and Peterson. After reading this book and spending many hours just looking at the illustrations this reviewer's first thoughts were, what can be published in the future for the bird-watcher that could top this book. Possibly the answer to this question is just more of the same that is contained in this book. The part of this work that is most impressive are the color drawings by Roger Tory Peterson. They are superb. The one on page 19 on feathers is a most interesting treatment of a fascinating part of birds. Pages could be written on these illustrations but space does not permit nor would words do them justice. They must be seen to be appreciated. This book is divided into four principal sections, the first is an outline of ornithology as a science; second, a discussion of the techniques, tools and tasks of international bird-watching; third, a full classification and mapping of bird families of the world and fourth a discussion of the relations of birds to man and conservation. The

THE LOON

third section containing the maps showing distribution of families is not available in any other book. Of further importance, a list of extinct birds and vanishing species of the world are given in this volume. One of the main disadvantages of many present day books on birds aimed at the general bird-watcher is that they are very ex-

pensive, most are priced anywhere from \$10.00 to \$25.00. "Birds of the World" falls into this category and this will no doubt make it unavailable to many. However, it is worth every penny of its \$22.95 price tag which puts this book in a class by itself.

Editor

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OPERATION BLUEBIRD

On the inside of the back cover of the March 1964 issue of "The Loon," you requested all club members to construct and place out around their respective homes a number of bluebird houses. I am keenly interested in the results of this request now that the nesting season is over.

I think it an excellent idea and one that should be put into effect every spring or better still have each club affiliated with the MOU to set up an "Operation Bluebird." There are three such operations in practice now besides the one we started last spring. No doubt you have heard or read of this effort to bring back the native bluebird to our country side. There is one in Kentucky (Duncan), one in Indiana (Musselman), and one in Warren, Pa. (Highhouse). Last March my two nephews and I decided to set up an "Operation Bluebird," in Northeastern Ohio where we live. I will describe our actions which will give you an idea of the operation.

One night early last spring as we sat around the fireplace talking over the approach of spring and the return of our summer birds, it was decided to make an attempt to restore the Eastern Bluebird to our locality as much as possible. Soon we met at my house and started construction of a number of nesting boxes of an approved style. This was much as the plans for bluebird houses usually given in pamphlets and books. The boxes were constructed with hinged lids and a hook and eye method to facilitate quick inspection and cleaning. As the nesting boxes were to be left in place for an indefinite length of time they were constructed from the standard dressed mill lumber. In two nights work we had over thirty boxes constructed, stained and ready to go. These were also numbered and stenciled with our project name.

It was decided that, inasmuch as Mr. William Highhouse only lived about a two and a half hour drive from our homes in Conneaut, Ohio we would take an evening and drive over. Mr. Highhouse was contacted by telephone and an evening date arranged on which to meet at his house. We spent a very pleasant evening at Warren, Pa. We learned many things about such an operation as we planned. We learned that Bill constructed his boxes practically the same as ours. He places them on regular routes throughout the country around Warren. Boxes are placed not too far from the road on fence posts, utility poles and on trees wherever there was good bluebird habitat. In all the years the boxes have been placed on the utility poles the companies have co-operated, even to the extent that the linemen moved the boxes and replaced them before they left. Mice, House Wrens, White-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees and Tree Swallows nest in the boxes besides the tenants wanted. The boxes are kept low, three to four feet above the ground, to eliminate House Sparrows and the entrance hole kept to 1 1/4 inches to keep out the starlings. During bluebird nesting season all but the Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows are evicted. Occasionally a box comes up missing as vandals or others carry them off.

Mr. Highhouse stated that one of the reasons for the scarcity of Eastern Bluebirds in his territory was the infestation of the nests by the larva of the nest screw worm fly. To overcome this he dusts the nests just before hatching time with a mild flea powder. One not containing DDT. This has evidently been very successful as Mr. Highhouse expected to fledge his two thousandth Eastern Bluebird sometime this summer. In 1957 he started with fifty-seven boxes and now has a route of one hundred seventy-five boxes with two helpers. He keeps a detailed record of each box and makes the rounds of his route once each week during nesting season. I think this is a remarkable effort with excellent results.

The boxes we had constructed were placed on a preplanned route in the vicinity of Conneaut, both in Ohio and Pennsylvania as our town is at the line of these two states. As my work takes me away from home April to December the work of taking care of the route fell to the other two members of our operation.

Just to show you how scarce the Eastern Bluebird really is, at least in our area, here are the results from 35 nesting boxes. Just two families of Eastern Bluebirds used the houses placed for them. On May 13th in box #13 five young Eastern Bluebirds hatched. Two weeks later a pair nested in box #34. This one was placed in the back yard of one of the participants.

This is rather a lengthy letter, but it might help get some one or club interested in a project.—J. P. Perkins, 118 Grandview Avenue, Conneaut, Ohio.

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