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**LOON**

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**The LOON** Minnesota's magazine of birds and nature, is published four times each year by the **Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**, the state-wide bird club. Permanent address: J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455. Anyone interested in birds and nature may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: **The Loon** and the **MOU Newsletter**.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Karol Gresser, 8850 Goodrich Ave., Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications send Mrs. Gresser \$5 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$6 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly. Life \$100. Also available from Mrs. Gresser: back issues of **The Loon** (\$1.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (20 for \$1 ppd.). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to Mrs. Gresser.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:** Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Hopkins, Mn. 55343. (phone 938-7464). The editor solicits articles, short notes, and black/white illustrations about birds and nature. See back cover for details.

"The Season" section of **The Loon** publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly desire reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON," Mrs. Janet Green, 9773 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Mn. 55804. (area 218, phone 525-5654).**

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Mrs. Marlyn Mauritz, Route 4, Box 886, Excelsior, Minn. 55331. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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**BROTHER THEODORE VOELKER**  
(1904 - 1974)

This issue of "The Loon" is dedicated to the memory of Brother Theodore Voelker who died in Winona on February 22, 1974. Brother Theodore was known to many M.O.U. members, his love for and knowledge of the birds of Minnesota was known throughout the state. Besides his bird watching expertise, Brother Theodore was a great conservationist. Because of this the M.O.U. is asking its members and friends to make memorial contributions to the Nature Conservancy. These funds will be designated for purchase of land for the preserva-

tion of the Prairie Chicken in Minnesota. The Nature Conservancy and the newly created Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society are desperately in need of funds for purchase of the few remaining pieces of virgin prairie in the state where Prairie Chickens still exist. Make your checks payable to The Nature Conservancy and send them to the M.O.U., James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. What better way can we remember Brother Theodore, he would have wanted it this way.

## THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

The most serious factor limiting wildlife numbers in southern Minnesota is the overwhelming lack of habitat; for birds, safe nesting cover and a place to live. Most of today's farmers have tilled every marsh, bulldozed the trees, and removed fence lines. Corn, soybeans, and the dollar are sacred and all else has been sacrificed to these new gods. Conservationists now refer to this vast fall-plowed region as Minnesota's "Black Desert". One bit of potential habitat remains and that is being mis-managed to standards of the 1930's, though with some of today's technology. I am referring to road right-of-way ditches.

Much more land is "tied up" in road right of way than most people realize. Even little-used township roads, many of them carrying less than 10 cars per day, are on a 66 foot right of way. With a 24 foot driving surface and a road around every section, as is common in southern Minnesota, this 42 feet of ditch adds up to a surprising 10¼ acres per square mile.

The light volume of traffic on township roads is not a major deterrent to use by many species of birds. They can adapt to that. The management practices applied are something else. Partly out of a desire for "neatness", partly a compliance with obsolete noxious weed laws, and partly out of ignorance, these roadsides, too, are annually reduced to biological deserts. Mowing has long been the accepted practice. DNR pressure to save the nesting pheasant has delayed mowing to mid-summer. The new trend is to early-summer spraying and late mowing, leaving a thoroughly "neat" roadside. The spraying is especially bad for several reasons.

The spray used is a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T in diesel oil or an oil and water base. The mixture is cheaper to use than 2,4-D alone and more effective as a herbicide. The oil base or oil emulsion is to reduce drift of the spray and to give a better "kill". Grassy plants are immune to moderate dosages of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T.

The result at best is a grassy ditch. No broad leaved "weeds". No diversity. A grass mono-culture not attractive to birds. Experts disagree as to the effects of the chemicals used on birds or eggs but spraying even minute dosages of oil on eggs has reduced hatchability to zero. The effect on the habitat is always disastrous. The plants killed provide cover for all and the seeds are food for many of the birds that might live here. The plant base of the habitat is eliminated.

Another facet of roadside spraying is the destruction of wildflowers. Common roadside plants, before spraying, ranged from yellow moccasin flowers to Turk's cap lilies and great blazing star. The flower show is season long. However, most of these flowers are very susceptible to the spray. A source of beauty is again sacrificed for a "neat" ditch of grass.

A new ethic, a new set of values, is emerging. A petition asking for an environmental impact statement on road-ditch spraying in Freeborn County attracted almost 10 times the required 500 signatures and many of the signers were farmers who were expected to favor the spraying. Some farmers have requested planning assistance from Soil and Water Conservation Districts for tree planting along farm boundaries. Esthetic planting of trees and shrubs as practiced along interstate and trunk highways may be extended to rural roads. Selected species may enhance the attractiveness of the area for wildlife while planning minimizes snow-drifting problems. Road side planning will yield ribbons of green through the "Black Desert".

WILLIAM H. BRYSON

# BROTHER THEODORE VOELKER

1904-1974

I remember well the day, late in the spring of 1958, when I first met Brother Theodore. The Short-billed Marsh Wrens and Yellowthroats were calling from a wet spot along Normandale in Edina. I was standing along the road looking and listening when I noticed a distinguished looking man obviously a bird-watcher, walking toward me. We met as if we were old friends, each having heard of the other and waiting for the day when we would meet each other.

This moment led to nearly 16 years of sharing our lives together, not only bird-watching experiences, but, the whole of our lives. The trials and tribulations of life, the joys, the beauties of the world, silence and the most wonderful of all, friendship were shared.

Almost from the moment we met we shared past bird-watching experiences and planned for the future. I had known well that Brother Theodore had discovered the first Bell's Vireo nest in Minnesota in Winona in 1952 and the next year the first nesting Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the state in Houston County.

It would take hundreds of pages to recount our trips and conversations about Minnesota birds. Picking him up at 3:00 A.M. at Benilde High School, where he was teaching, and driving to the far corners of the state, Salt Lake, Houston County, Heron Lake, Duluth, the Felton Prairie, the Waubun Yellow Rail Marsh plus hundreds of other "nooks and crannies" in the state to look for birds. Our friendly competition on getting the biggest Minnesota year list was the best "sport" I know of for two humans to engage in. He usually won each year, but, I gave him the excuse that he could get out more during the day with one of his lady friends while I had to earn a living.

After his retirement from teaching in 1967 Brother Theodore returned to his beloved Winona. Distance in no way cooled our relationship, letters, phone calls and visits by myself were accomplished whenever possible. One visit that especially stands out in my mind occurred during August, 1969. I was working hard on a big year list and I had written Brother telling him what birds I still needed, especially those in his area, Bell's Vireo, Orchard Oriole, Henslow's Sparrow, Common Gallinule, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Whip-Poor-Will. He said come on down, stay over night and I will get them all for you. We listened for Whip-Poor-Wills that night till very late with no success. Returning to his quarters we burned the midnight oil discussing life, religion, and of course birds. Finally he shunted me off to bed and in what seemed like a few minutes he was shaking me awake saying lets get out and listen to the dawn chorus and get you your birds. What a memorable day, August 2, 1969, I got my birds, all of them, learned more about plants, flowers and weeds and Winona County than I ever thought I could learn in a month. This is just one little mini experience, multiply this by 69 years, write it down on paper and you will read the biography of a great man.

Brother Theodore Voelker was born August 19, 1904 in West Burns Valley, Winona County, Minnesota. He attended school in the Winona area until June 1922 when he received an Associate of Arts degree from Winona Normal. In 1923 he entered the Christian Brothers Novitiate at Glencoe, Missouri, where he received the religious garb of the Christian Brothers and the name he was to bear, Brother Theodore, on March 18, 1923. His first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience wer made March 19, 1924.

His first assignment was at St. Pat-

rick High School in Chicago. While teaching a full schedule, he continued his college studies through summer classes, afternoon and evening classes at Chicago and DePaul Universities, where he completed his college education and earned his degrees.

Brother Theodore taught 14 years in various Chicago schools, then spent three years in Duluth, Minnesota as director and principal of Cathedral High School from 1931-34.

After short stays in Kansas City, Mo., and Memphis, Tenn., he taught at Christian Brother High School, St. Louis; was stationed at Cretin High School, St. Paul, Minn., two years, and spent the last 10 years of his teaching career at Benilde High School, St. Louis Park, Minn., retiring from active teaching in 1967. After one year spent in the novitiate in St. Yon Valley, St. Mary's College, he joined the biology department there as research associate in 1968.

He directed research in ornithology among both graduate and undergraduates. In the summer of 1969 he started the population study of birds nesting and wintering in St. Yon's Valley, which forms part of St. Mary's property.

Brother Theodore was an active member and past president of the Hiawatha Valley Bird Club of Winona. He was also a member of the Winona County Historical Society and a member of its board of directors three years.

He has represented the society and St. Mary's College, giving talks on birds, nature, pollution, early history of Winona, early education in Winona, and on holiday customs. He has conducted financial drives for many causes, directed glee clubs, coached and judged speech work and directed plays. He also authored a book, "I

Grew Up in West Burns Valley."

He was well known for his culinary abilities, having cooked for the Brothers in various communities on the cook's day off and for two full summers at Benilde High School, when the Brothers were without a regular chef.

He celebrated his golden jubilee as a Christian Brother in March 1973.

One of my greatest thrills was on December 7, 1968 at the M.O.U. winter paper session when I presented Brother Theodore with the Thomas Sadler Roberts award for outstanding contributions to Minnesota Ornithology. No person more worthily deserved the award.

Even though his health had been failing, especially in the early 1970's, he remained an enthusiastic bird watcher, we looked for Bobwhite in Winona County during the winter of 1972-73. He came to Minneapolis in December 1973 for the M.O.U. paper session and spent the weekend with us with two of his young students.

On February 12, 1974 I was sitting at my desk at work, the phone rang and it is Brother Theodore saying I just have a minute, but, I wanted you to know that we just banded a Hoary Redpoll at the feeder. My wife received a Valentine card from him a few days later. On Friday, February 22, Brother Theodore was talking to a 4-H group in Winona about birds, after he had finished a heart attack struck and a life ended. When I received a call at home about 11:00 P.M. that night informing me of Brother Theodore's death, as I heard the message I noted a book on friendship that he had sent us about a year before. As I hung up the phone I opened the cover of the book and saw the familiar God Bless You - B.T. I wrote 2-22-74. "He gave so much."

Bob Janssen

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Editorial by John C. Green ("To List or Not to List" Vol. 45 Pg. 72) I felt to be very appropriate. There is much to recommend local birding, if not in accordance with MOU's objectives, certainly in the realm of personal satisfaction.

A personal motivation for birding should be "knowing" birds, not merely an unending search for different shapes and color patterns. Bird watching should involve some observation, not just a glancing from bird to guide to bird. Does one become callous to the sight of resident American Goldfinch, Northern Oriole, Wood Duck, and Mallard plumages? Unfortunately, the commonplace does merge into the insignificant.

I am amazed by the variety of bird life in Ramsey County-bird life, meaning their numbers, habitats and habits. On a "dull" mid-August morning, a walk north of Lake Johanna yielded 40 species—counting everything except a parked 1963 Falcon. On September 29, a minor hawk migration was seen at Como Park: 17 Broadwings and 1 Sharp-shin. At the edge of the golf course, a Broad-wing feeding on a Como Park rodent was rudely interrupted. Yet how often do we fail to note the tree/shrub species or the immediate habitat? Was the bird resting, feeding, etc. or merely escaping the clumsy birder on his trail?

I'm sure other locality birders can greatly expand on these experiences. If you cannot, why not give it a try.

Yours truly,  
Mel Prantner  
1172 Fifield, Apt. 2  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on one of the finest and most attractive issues of **The Loon** (Fall of 1973). You are doing a mighty fine job.

The idea of having the M.O.U. participate in a **300 Club** is an excellent one. As a member of the ABA, I enjoy listing, and I am sure many others share that same interest.

Sincerely,  
Orwin A. Rustad  
1134 East Division Street  
Faribault, Minnesota 55021

Dear Sir:

Just a short letter to inform you that I am heartily in favor of John Green's proposal in his editorial in the last issue of "The Loon" (Fall '73). Even though I have a Minnesota list of 301 and thoroughly enjoy such listing activities as Big Days, Christmas Bird Counts, and Field Trips in general, I must say that the MOU will not be doing anything constructive toward our knowledge of birds (which is its stated goal) by encouraging competition in the form of trying to get the most species on one's list.

If the "300 club" idea is adopted, I think that a name change (to Minn. Birding Association, for instance) and a thorough reversal of goals and activities will be needed.

The only way we will ever gain more knowledge of the state's birds, and, as Dr. Green points out, save fuel, will be to intensively study the birds close to home.

Sincerely,  
James A. Baumhofer  
1884 Berkeley Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Bob,

Received my Fall issue of **The Loon** and I just want to say, "Thank You" for a wonderful issue. It certainly tells us a lot about what has happened the past 35 years.

Local editor interviewed Dr. Risser, the Roberts award winner, and there will be an article in our local paper. Dr. Risser is in the hospital for surg-

ery. That's why we almost didn't get him to the meeting—he didn't think he had time to go.

I just counted my life list and I have 295. I think it is a good idea to list. We keep annual lists, too. I feel it does have something to contribute. I don't like attitude of some who pull off to themselves instead of sharing on M.O.U. trips, but, I can't change that. My 295 represents life-list from many states. Does your editorial imply that the 300 are to be from Minnesota only?

We are planning to fly to Denmark next August so hope to add some new species to our life list. Kirsten must have over 200 that she has seen since we were married in 1967. It helps to have an experienced birder along.

Sincerely,  
Forest Strand  
Stewartville, Minnesota 55976

Editor's Note: Yes, the 300 would apply to Minnesota only.

Dear Mr. Janssen:

As a Biology teacher interested in birds and concerned about our environment, I'd like to respond to John Green's editorial in the Fall 1973 issue of **The Loon**.

From some of the comments I have heard from other birders recently, I suspect Green is going to get a lot of flak on his editorial. (Unless they aren't willing to openly identify themselves). I for one would like to support his position. Green certainly isn't asking us to cease our birding activities, but, he is saying we'd be wise to re-evaluate some of our procedures.

One birder I've had contact with was rather upset that someone would question his right to do as he pleased; however, we'd better never become so set in our ways that we can no longer question these things. Are birders a part of the science community? Doesn't the science community continually seek that which is the best?

I say, hats off to Green for keeping us alert and thinking. Much as I love

birds, just listing birds should never replace thinking, the true spirit of science, and a concern for our environment.

Robert E. Holtz  
Department of Biology  
Concordia College  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dear Bob:

In regard to the editorials in the fall '73 *Loon*, I would like to express quite complete agreement with John Green's thoughts on "to list or not to list".

I have enjoyed listing birds having "great days" and long lists, but, after many years of interest in birds as a complete amateur, there are so many other aspects more appealing to me. The past year I have not been able to get out to my favorite haunts to look for birds. However, there were so many rewarding experiences by observing in a very narrow area. I spent several hours just recently determining to my own satisfaction the identity of a Hoary Redpoll—many trips to the window—several reference readings, etc.—a very satisfying type of experience. Watching the nesting activities of familiar birds—seeing how many nests can be found in a small given area—as well as flowers and plants—can be a whole afternoon of complete absorption with no pressures to see how many different varieties can be found.

Each day now in my new life of retirement I walk out—usually to the river to see what I can see. As spring comes, I will again get out more and I hope to spend my birding time in a few areas with attention to what is interesting to me.

I was so pleased with the prize pictures in the *Loon* — especially the **Loon** by Dr. Harrison of Worthington, a friend of mine. His movies of this loon were so interesting.

Very sincerely,  
Helen S. Hatlelid  
312 South 17th Street  
Benson, Minnesota 56215

To the Editor:

I would like to add that I would oppose the forming of any type of "300 club"—a "100" or "150" or a "200" club would be much more plausible. We should try to reinforce

the birders who do most of the birding in their specific areas and not the ones who travel all over the country in search of rare or unusual birds which are generally insignificant.

Gerald Niemi

## THE NAMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

by MANLEY OLSON

At first glance it might appear that several new birds are now to be found in Minnesota. Bird watchers are reporting such birds as Northern Orioles, Gray Catbirds, and Dark-eyed Juncos. However, these are not "new" birds but merely birds with new names.

The names of American birds are determined by the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists Union. While its decisions are not legally binding they have been accepted as official for almost a century. The latest report of the Committee contains nearly a hundred changes in either the common or scientific names of American birds. These changes fall into several categories. Minor changes were made in the spelling of many scientific names and some common names, either to correct errors in syntax or to conform to international usage e.g. Widgeon is now to be spelled Wigeon. Several changes were made in common names. For example, Catbird becomes Gray Catbird (to distinguish it from the Black Catbird), Common Scoter becomes Black Scoter (it is not common in America) and Upland Plover becomes Upland Sandpiper (it is a sandpiper not a plover).

Of greater significance are those changes made for taxonomic reasons. Many of these will be of little concern to the average birder, for example the placing of both Golden and Black-bellied Plovers in the same genus. What will be most noticed and discussed will be those cases where

changes were made in species status.

In ornithological terms a species is a group of birds which is reproductively isolated from other groups of birds. In making its judgment the A.O.U. Committee used the breeding behavior of the birds as a major determinant of what constitutes a species. The Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers freely interbreed where their ranges join. Thus it is apparent that while birders have thought them to be distinct species the birds themselves have not.

On the other hand birders have long recognized that Traill's Flycatcher has two distinct calls but because the birds are so similar in appearance it was assumed all were of the same species. Recent field work, however, has demonstrated that two species exist and that birds with one call do not breed with the other.

A complete list of the changes may be found in **The Auk**, April, 1973 (90:411-419). Those cases which resulted in changes of the common names of Minnesota birds are as follows: (new names are in boldface).

Common Egret is now **Great Egret**.

Blue Goose is considered a color phase of the **Snow Goose**.

Green-winged Teal is considered a subspecies of the Eurasian Common Teal. Both Eurasian and American races will now be called **Green-winged Teal**.

Widgeon is now spelled **Wigeon**.

Shoveler is now **Northern Shoveler**.

Common Scoter is now **Black Scoter**.

Harlan's Hawk is considered a subspecies of the **Red-tailed Hawk**.

Pigeon Hawk is now **Merlin**.

Sparrow Hawk is now **American Kestrel**.

Upland Plover is now **Upland Sandpiper**.

Knot is now **Red Knot**.

Herring Gull is now split into two species. Herring Gull and **Thayer's Gull**.

Yellow-shafted Flicker and Red-shafted Flicker are merged as **Common Flicker**.

Traill's Flycatcher is split into two species. The breeding birds of southern Minnesota which have the "fitz-brew" call are now called **Willow Flycatcher**. The breeding birds of northern Minnesota which have the "fee-bee-o" call are now called **Alder Flycatcher**.

Catbird is now **Gray Catbird**.

Robin is now **American Robin**.

Parula Warbler is now **Northern Parula**.

Myrtle Warbler and Audubon's

Warbler are merged as **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

Yellowthroat is now **Common Yellowthroat**.

Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole are merged as **Northern Oriole**.

Slate-colored Junco, Oregon Junco, and White-winged Junco are merged as **Dark-eyed Junco**.

A revised checklist of Minnesota birds reflecting these changes is now available from the M.O.U., 1974 W. Summer Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113, or from affiliated clubs.

### NEW CHECK-LIST AVAILABLE

A new check-list of Minnesota birds showing all regular and casual species is now available. This check-list contains all the revisions — new names and spellings, plus, the new species and other corrections to the list — as contained in the recent supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list.

These check-lists are available at 5 cents each, postpaid.

## THE 1971 CHRISTMAS COUNT IN MINNESOTA

by **MANLEY OLSON**

The 1971 Minnesota Christmas Count proved to be another record-breaker. Twenty-nine counts were made exceeding the previous high of 26 counts in 1970. All of the 1970 counts were repeated while new counts were made at Hastings and Bagley and the Rochester count was resumed after an absence of several years. Twenty-five of the counts were reported in **American Birds**.

For the first time in recent years the count summary includes only birds seen in Minnesota. Compilers of counts that extend beyond Minnesota were asked to list birds by state. Thus this report will be consistent with all other reporting in the **Loon** in that it deals with birds observed in Minneso-

ta. For complete summaries of counts covering out-of-state territory, please refer to **American Birds**.

Despite the elimination of out-of-state birds, the 1971 counts set a new record for species seen with 115. The previous high was 104 in 1970. Two additional species were seen during the count period, a Redhead at Bloomington and a Turkey at Marshall. A Ringed Turtle Dove was seen in St. Paul but was not included in the report since it has been the policy on Christmas Counts to include possible escapes only if they have successfully bred in the area.

Four additional species were noted on out-of-state portions of counts: Brewer's Blackbird (Moorhead), Short-eared Owl and Winter Wren (Afton)

and Curved-billed Thrasher (Wabasha). Species seen during the count period in out-of-state areas were a Fox Sparrow (Moorhead) and a Yellow-rumped Warbler (Wabasha).

Included in the 115 species were 3 not previously reported on Christmas Counts: Trumpeter Swans at Excelsior, White-fronted Goose at Rochester, and a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker at Crosby. Seen for the second time were a Catbird at Bloomington (Minneapolis, 1959) and a Northern Oriole, also at Bloomington (Northfield, 1966). Reported for the third time were Snow Goose, Black-crowned Night Heron, Carolina Wren, Loggerhead Shrike and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The Greater Prairie Chicken was recorded for the first time since 1961.

Once again the counts were marked by an increasing number of participants. Bloomington had 54 observers, St. Paul (N.E.) had 39, and 6 other counts had over 20. It is significant that the four counts with the largest number of participants also were the 4 highest in terms of species sighted.

Bloomington was the leader with 56 species while St. Paul (N.E.) had 54, Excelsior had 52 and Winona reported 50. Five additional counts reported 40 species or more.

If the total area covered by counts had been included as in past years, several counts would have had higher species totals. Afton recorded 67 species exceeding the previous record of 60. Other totals were Winona 56, Wabasha 45, Moorhead 39, and Red Wing 34.

Three species were seen on every count: Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and Black-capped Chickadee. The Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch and House Sparrow were each missed on one count, while the Common Crow and Starling were each missed on two counts. On the other hand 27 species were each reported on only one count.

The widespread boreal finch invasion of 1971-72 was just beginning when the counts were taken but some effects were noted. Common Redpolls were found on 26 counts and Evening Grosbeaks on 20. Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills were generally restricted to northern counts but numbers were an indication of things to come, e.g. 629 Pine Grosbeaks and 786 White-winged Crossbills at Duluth, Minn.

**1974 W. Summer Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113.**

**Editors Note:** Yes, this is the 1971 Christmas Count. We are behind in publication of the Counts. The 1972 and 1973 count summaries will appear in forthcoming issues.





	Int'l Falls	Warren	Bagley	Hibbing	Walker	Moorhead	Duluth	Crosby	Fergus Falls	Little Falls	Sherburne	Cedar Creek	Anoka	Willmar	St. Paul N.E.	Minneapolis	St. Paul	Afton	Excelsior	Bloomington	Hastings	Red Wing	Cottonwood	Farbault	Marshall	Wabasha	Winona	Rochester	Mt. Lake-Windom	No. of Counts	No. of Individuals		
Brown Thrasher					2										x	3							1					x	3	6			
American Robin					x		3	x	6		x				5	1	2	1	2	5	2	7	1	x			25	1	13	61			
Varied Thrush																				1									1	1			
Eastern Bluebird																														1	1		
Golden-cr. Kinglet										4				23	2				6	1	9	4	1	x	3		11		3	10	56		
Bohemian Waxwing			6				408				65								1											4	480		
Cedar Waxwing							657			x				4	24		3	56		47						x	25			7	816		
Northern Shrike	x		1	2	1		2	5	2		3	3	1	1	1	9	5			7	3	1		1		3	1	1	20	55			
Loggerhead Shrike										1																				1	1		
Starling	58	18		111	3		222	12	44	30	18	102	28	4	64	585	1556	108	297	1502	133	18	273	126	270	67	324	522	472	27	6968		
House Sparrow	143	514		58	29	196	631	4	1155	725	188	287	32	276	1629	1198	1615	693	2471	1650	376	518	1247	635	1118	700	1442	200	1101	28	20931		
Meadowlark (species?)			1													1							1				1		4	5	8		
Yellow-headed Blackbird																				1										1	1		
Red-winged Blackbird					1										30	1		60		8	3	1		1			200	9	2	11	316		
Northern Oriole																				1										1	1		
Rusty Blackbird								1							4						1									3	6		
Common Grackle		4				3						2		3	22	40	6		8	9		1	1	1		4	24	1	3	16	132		
Brown-headed Cowbird			20																			1	1							3	22		
Cardinal						2					2		7	5	78	14	38	71	150	70	10	28	7	4			82	89	15	3	18	675	
Evening Grosbeak	290	21	50	250	443		186	388	7	16	101	144		1	61	27		9	19		6	1	x			x	23	27	x	20	2070		
Purple Finch				2	x		12		14	6		1	4	8	78	23	41	48	35	43	2	41					28	35	14		18	435	
Pine Grosbeak	269	27		85		3	629	46			7		4			1				1										10	1072		
Hoary Redpoll						5	x					1			1					1	1			1						6	10		
Common Redpoll	133	39		3	38		1511	11	10	6	715	492	62	260	938	229	457	15	123	768	24		87	7	3	160	13	59	45	26	6208		
Pine Siskin			3	1	5		2					1			25	36	2	3	63	6	3						55	3		14	208		
American Goldfinch						7	2			x	5		8		286	10	138	134	238	66	32	32		x		175	43	29	2	16	1207		
Red Crossbill			12		5		8																2							4	27		
White-winged Crossbill		5		5	8		786	55			x				32		20		2											8	913		
Rufous-sided Towhee															x												1			1	1		
Slate-colored Junco	5		1	19	3		29		5	1	141	4	12	23	127	75	86	208	229	125	37	55	52	23	3	20	174	86	63	26	1606		
Oregon Junco							1									4	x	3	6	1		1	3				1	4		x	9	24	
Tree Sparrow									1		17	7			6	43	98	33	42	82	70	52		70	100	2	8	260	62	5	18	958	
Harris' Sparrow							1							1																2	3	4	
White-crowned Sparrow																					2									1	2		
White-throated Sparrow			x				1								2												1	2		25	6	32	
Song Sparrow					1				1						1								1							1	1	6	6
Lapland Longspur															13								1							8		4	44
Snow Bunting	7	1070	50	35	62	32	35		129		22				40								234	2	8	10			448	15	2184		
No. of Species	18	21	23	23	27	16	46	26	41	18	30	24	27	29	54	34	46	38	52	56	40	25	40	22	23	38	50	36	30	115			
No. of Individuals	1134	1867	207	910	857	560	6340	802	3684	907	1980	1799	650	809	5366	4277	6770	2732	9572	7288	893	867	2437	1198	1598	3320	2995	17722	2606		92147		

# SHORE-BIRDING NEAR MOORHEAD, MINN.

By KEVIN J. ZIMMER

I would like to call attention to what is probably among the top spots in the state for shore-birding. I am referring to the six diked, interconnecting settling ponds owned by the American Crystal Sugar Company, located one mile north of Moorhead, in Clay County, Minnesota.

These settling ponds are no longer used by the company with the exception of one "lime" pond where there is some run-off from the sugarbeet plant. This group of ponds should not be confused with the fenced ponds on the opposite side of the road which are still in use and off-limits. A licensed agreement between American Crystal Sugar and the Fargo-Moorhead chapter of the National Audubon Society has recently been reached. The main point of the agreement is that the Audubon Society has permission to use the lagoons for nature study and nature education.

In the past there has been much trouble encountered from "gunners" illegally shooting migrating birds using these ponds. Hopefully this problem will be eradicated by spring, as agreements are under way concerning regular patrolling of the dikes by deputized citizens.

As I had stated previously, there are six lagoons, all diked and interconnecting. The dikes are easily walked, and if one owns a spotting scope the whole area may be covered with great accuracy in a relatively short amount of time. Each pond, according to its depth and make-up harbors different species of birds. The deeper ponds are used by the diving ducks, phalaropes, and grebes; while the shallow, water-covered mud flats are inhabited by the "peeps", plover, and pipits.

In two years of extensive observation at these lagoons I have personally recorded 84 species either at the lagoons or in the adjacent fields. Elsie Welter, the President of the local Au-

dubon chapter and resident expert on the bird-life at the lagoons, has probably recorded many more species in her years of observation, some of which will be recounted later.

The species of greatest interest to most birders at the lagoons are the shorebirds. Out of the 32 members of the families Charadriidae, Scolopaciidae, Recurvirostridae, and Phalaropodidae listed as regularly occurring in the state of Minnesota (The Loon 43:40-54), 28 have been observed at these settling ponds. Only the Whimbrel, Piping Plover, American Woodcock, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Red Knot have never been found. Also, the Western Sandpiper listed as casual in the aforementioned list, can be seen here. Although never common I usually see around five individuals during both spring and fall migrations.

The middle ponds in the diking system are usually the best for shorebirds. On a good day during migration, upwards of twenty species of these birds may be found. One may find a large flock of dowitchers (usually Short-bills) feeding in sewing machine fashion close to shore. If you are lucky you may see a Stilt Sandpiper feeding among them. Further from shore, on spits of mud, may be found a flock of American Golden Plover numbering over 200. Usually there are a few Black-bellied Plover mingling among them, and in spring, up to 40 Ruddy Turnstones would not be uncommon.

In the deeper waters in the ponds, a pair of stately American Avocets can be seen searching for food. During the peak of their migration I have noted hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes crowding the water (Mrs. Welter has also found the Northern Phalarope, uncommon in this area, on occasion), and Common Snipe are occasionally observed darting through the vegetation in the center of the deeper ponds.

At the right time in spring, large flocks of Dunlin can be seen on the same mudflats inhabited by the plover. On a few occasions I have found individuals or pairs of both species of godwits solemnly probing for food while a lone Sanderling runs along the shore. The most common shorebird is usually the Lesser Yellowlegs, and I have counted peak numbers of close to 3000 with a few Greater Yellowlegs interspersed. There are numerous "peeps" of different species to be found, with the Semipalmated and Least the most numerous. At times, while driving the gravel roads bordering the lagoons, we have come upon Upland Sandpipers standing in the center of the road, which only with great reluctance give way to the oncoming car.

All species of swallows found in Minnesota can be seen skimming over the lagoons, while a hawk (usually a Marsh Hawk) may cause the shorebirds to explode into flight. Many species of ducks abound here, and Whistling Swans, Eared Grebes, and Sora rails have also been recorded. The grassy, brush-laden ground is a favorite

haunt of the Savannah Sparrow and also harbors the Water Pipit during migration. Mrs. Welter has even found the Sprague's Pipit at this time.

The last two weeks of September offer a spectacle not easily equaled. It is at this time that the Franklin's Gull migrates through our area in the greatest numbers. On some afternoons during this time, veritable rivers of gulls may be observed passing over the lagoons. During the recent migration I counted the number of individuals in an average flock and multiplied this by the number of flocks seen. Using this method I observed an estimated 12,000 birds in 90 minutes of observation.

These are just some of the birds and sights available to the birder who visits this area. In past issues of "The Loon" I have seen little coverage of this area, with most Clay County reports being from the prairie habitats east of here. With this article I hope to make others aware of the fine birding to be enjoyed in this part of the state.

701 19th Avenue South,  
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

## THE 1973 SUMMER SEASON

Marjorie M. Carr

The summer report for 1973 consists of 252 species, with actual or probable nesting for 207 of these species. The report has been compiled much as it has been with late June and early July dates for known migrants, such as ducks, shorebirds, and warblers, included in the report.

Northern waterfowl lingered into June, and by mid-month, the nesting season at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge had not yet begun by many common ducks, such as Mallard and Blue-winged Teal. Refuge officials were puzzled by this.

One of the most exciting finds of the season were 2 adults and 1 downy

flightless young Solitary Sandpiper in Aitkin Co. (TS) This is the first positive breeding evidence for this species in Minnesota. The Thayer's or Iceland Gull on Lake Superior is unusual for June. We are trying to differentiate between these gulls, in as much as the Thayer's Gull has been declared a separate species by the AOU. These gulls occur with some regularity along the North Shore each winter.

Observers reported Green Herons more numerous and widespread than ever before. Warblers were wandering, with northern species reported as far south as Hennepin and Winona counties.

The Henslow's Sparrow reports from

Hennepin County were the first recorded there in 40 years. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were in good numbers on the Felton Prairie. A nest was found with 4 eggs. (5-26 HCK).

#### **Common Loon**

Breeding cards from 11 counties including Pope and Kandiyohi; seen in 15 other counties.

#### **Red-throated Loon**

6-7 Duluth JAB.

#### **Red-necked Grebe**

Nested in Itasca; seen in Marshall, Todd, Wright, Hennepin and Nicollet (7-15 JWP)

#### **Horned Grebe**

Seen in Marshall (RBJ & KE)

#### **Eared Grebe**

6-15 Marshall (KE) 7-8 Nicollet (JCG)

#### **Western Grebe**

Nested in Kandiyohi (50+ Sunburg Lake BAH); Pope (30+ Simon Lake BAH); Big Stone (300+ Big Stone Refuge Staff); Nicollet (200 JWP); seen in Marshall, Grant, Douglas and Hennepin (6-10 OJ).

#### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Nested in 10 counties; seen in 11 others, including Itasca (6-4 GN), St. Louis (6-23 St. Louis River JCG) and (6-2 GN).

#### **White Pelican**

Nested in Lac Qui Parle (150 young Marsh Lake BAH), seen in Big Stone, Nicollet, Jackson & Cook (6-6 Taconite Harbor JP) (6-16 no. of Arrowhead R. fide MMC).

#### **Double-crested Cormorant**

Nested in Lac Qui Parle & Pope; seen also in Marshall, Clay, Grant, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Kandiyohi, Hennepin, Nicollet & St. Louis (6-5 Duluth JCG).

#### **Great Blue Heron**

Nested in Pope (200 nests) St. Louis (100 nests) Mille Lacs (30 nests), Marshall, Itasca, Hubbard, Aitkin, Stearns & Hennepin; seen in 22 other counties.

#### **Green Heron**

Nesting reports from 13 counties; seen in 10 others including Clay, Ottertail, Itasca, Crow Wing.

#### **LITTLE BLUE HERON**

Nested in Pope (8 young produced from 3 nests Lake Johanna BAH) (6-30 7 adults RG), also seen in Aitkin Co. (6-25 BB).

#### **Cattle Egret**

Aitkin Co. (MacGregor 6-25 BB), Pope (Lake Johanna 6-2 (4 adults) BAH).

#### **Great Egret**

Nested in Pope (300+ nests); seen in Dakota, Kandiyohi & Koochiching (C Matsch).

#### **Black-crowned Night Heron**

Nested in Pope (300+ nests Lake Johanna) Marshall, Ottertail; reported from 15 other counties in southern half of state.

#### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

4 reports all from Houston Co. (6-2 KE) (7-21 RBJ) (6-16 & 7-29 FL) (7-4 KG).

#### **Least Bittern**

Seen in Lincoln, Jackson, Nicollet, Wright, Sherburne, St. Louis (6-23 St. Louis River JCG).

#### **American Bittern**

Seen in 23 counties.

#### **Swan (Species ?)**

Swift Co. (Hollerberg Lake 7-21 BAH).

#### **Snow Goose**

Big Stone Refuge (Big Stone Co. all summer). Probably a cripple.

#### **Canada Goose**

Nested in Big Stone, Hennepin; seen in Marshall, Ottertail, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Grant, Sherburne, Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Washington, Cottonwood and Houston.

#### **Mallard**

Reports from 29 counties; (135 young on Como Lake, Ramsey Co. 6-26 J. Wedin Walters).

**Black Duck**

Reports from Aitkin, Lake, Sherburne, Ramsey and Wabasha.

**Gadwall**

Nested in Mille Lacs (6-13 MI); seen also in Lyon, Lac Qui Parle, Wilkin, Ottertail, Clay, & Marshall.

**Pintail**

Nested in Aitkin (5-28 TS); seen also in Jackson, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Ottertail, & Marshall.

**Green-winged Teal**

Nested in Aitkin (TS); seen in Dakota, Hennepin, Sherburne, Lac Qui Parle, Grant, Morrison, Ottertail, & Marshall.

**Blue-winged Teal**

Reports from 33 counties.

**EUROPEAN WIGEON**

Aitkin Co. (6-5 Mille Lacs Lake TS).

**American Wigeon**

Seen in Marshall, St. Louis (6-23 St. Louis R. 2 pr. JCG); Aitkin, Wilkin, Grant, Lac Qui Parle, & Lyon.

**Northern Shoveler**

Nested in Aitkin (TS); seen also in Marshall, St. Louis (6-23 St. Louis R. JCG), Ottertail, Grant, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Cottonwood, Hennepin, and Anoka.

**Wood Duck**

Reports from 23 counties including Ramsey (159 young on Como Lake (6-26 J. Wedin Walters).

**Redhead**

Nested in Pope, Big Stone, Hennepin, Sherburne, Nicollet, & Jackson; seen also in Marshall, Ottertail, Grant, Stearns, Lac Qui Parle, & Lyon.

**Ring-necked Duck**

Nested in Marshall, Mahnomen, Itasca, Hubbard, St. Louis, Cass, Aitkin, Morrison, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, & Nicollet; seen also in Ottertail, Grant, Pope, Kandiyohi, & Lac Qui Parle.

**The Loon****Canvasback**

Reports from Marshall, Mahnomen, Aitkin, Wilkin, Big Stone, Lyon, and Hennepin.

**Greater Scaup**

St. Louis Co. (Duluth 6-7 JAB).

**Lesser Scaup**

Seen in St. Louis, Marshall, Aitkin, Grant, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, & Hennepin.

**Common Goldeneye**

Seen in Aitkin (7-16 TS) (7-23 EC); St. Louis (6-5 Duluth JCG); Lake (7-9 PBH).

**Bufflehead**

Hennepin (6-10 OJ).

**White-winged Scoter**

St. Louis (6-7 JAB).

**Ruddy Duck**

Reports from Marshall, Ottertail, Grant, Pope, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Carver, Sherburne, Hennepin, (150 males French Lake OJ), Ramsey, Washington & Nicollet.

**Hooded Merganser**

Reports from Marshall, St. Louis, Hubbard, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Sherburne, Hennepin, & Houston.

**Common Merganser**

Nested in Itasca; seen in St. Louis, Lake, Becker (7-22 GN).

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Nested in St. Louis & Lake; seen in Hennepin (7-22 CH) & Lyon (6-1 HCK).

**Turkey Vulture**

Seen in Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Goodhue, Wabasha, & Houston.

**Goshawk**

St. Louis (6-5 & 7-13 MMC), Aitkin (7-28 TS).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Seen in St. Louis, Aitkin, Mille Lacs & Sherburne.

**Cooper's Hawk**

Nested in Crow Wing (TS) & Anoka (SC).

**Red-tailed Hawk**

Nested in Pope, Stearns, Kandiyohi, & Hennepin; seen in 25 other counties including Clay (6-15 Krider's KE).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**

Seen in Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Washington, Dakota.

**Broad-winged Hawk**

Reports from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine, Isanti, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Washington, Goodhue, & Wabasha.

**Swainson's Hawk**

Dakota Co. (7-4 RR) (7-23 RBJ), Olmstead Co. (7-24 RBJ), Dodge Co. (6-17 JAB).

**Bald Eagle**

Nested in St. Louis, Cass & Aitkin; seen in Becker, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Isanti, & Houston (6-16 FL).

**Marsh Hawk**

Reports from 22 counties.

**Osprey**

Nested in Crow Wing (TS); seen in Marshall, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Isanti (7-22 SC) & Big Stone.

**Merlin**

Carlton Co. (6-7 JAB).

**American Kestrel**

Reports from 33 counties.

**Ruffed Grouse**

Nested in Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Hubbard, Cass, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Grant, Sherburne, Anoka, Washington, & Dakota.

**Greater Prairie Chicken**

6-16 Clay RBJ & KE.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Nested in Aitkin; seen in Cottonwood (7-1 & 3 LAF).

**Bobwhite**

Nested in Rice (7-26 OAR), Dodge (RBJ); seen in Hennepin (6-25 PT), Itasca (7-4 BB) escapees; Cottonwood (6-20 LAF).

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

Nested in Hennepin & Dakota; seen in 19 other counties, including St. Louis.

**Gray Partridge**

Nested in Dakota & Murray; seen in Rice, Cottonwood, Lac Qui Parle, Big Stone, Stearns, Clay, & Norman.

**Sandhill Crane**

Nested in Aitkin (Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge and NE of McGregor (TS), Mille Lacs (7-14 Mille Lacs Wildlife Refuge by Mgr., fide JCG); also seen in Sherburne (6-18 ShNWR staff).

**King Rail**

Houston Co. (LaCrescent 6-23 KE).

**Virginia Rail**

Nested in Wright; seen in Cottonwood, Dakota, Hennepin, Sherburne, Mille Lacs, Aitkin, & St. Louis (6-23 St. Louis River JCG).

**Yellow Rail**

Aitkin (6-13 OJ) (7-6 RBJ). See Note of Interest (TS).

**Sora**

Nested in St. Louis, Marshall, Crow Wing, Pope, & Hennepin; seen in Clay, Cass, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Wright, Dakota, & Blue Earth.

**Common Gallinule**

Nested in Houston; seen in Anoka.

**American Coot**

Reports from 25 counties, as far north as Marshall & St. Louis (6-10 JCG).

**Semipalmated Plover**

Clay (6-3 & 7-11); Le Sueur (St. Peter 6-1), St. Louis (Duluth 6-5 & 6-9 (15)).

**Piping Plover**

Nested in Duluth.

**Killdeer**

Nesting reports from St. Louis, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Pope, Kandiyohi, Wright, Ramsey, & Dakota; seen in 21 other counties.

**American Golden Plover**  
6-15 Marshall (Agassiz).

**Black-bellied Plover**  
Clay (6-3 & 7-11 Moorhead Lagoons).

**Ruddy Turnstone**  
6-3 Clay (Moorhead Lagoons), 6-9 St. Louis (Duluth).

**American Woodcock**  
Reports from Cook, Lake, Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Wright, & Ramsey.

**Common Snipe**  
Nested in Aitkin & Crow Wing; seen in 15 other counties.

**Whimbrel**  
6-2 St. Louis (Duluth) Joe Gallian.

**Upland Sandpiper**  
Nested in St. Louis, Aitkin; seen in Polk, Red Lake, Mahnomen, Clay, Becker, Ottertail, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota, & Rock (Blue Mounds State Park).

**Spotted Sandpiper**  
Reports from 23 counties.

**Solitary Sandpiper**  
Nested in Aitkin (7-11 TS); seen in Hennepin (6-27), Anoka (7-8), Washington (7-25), Houston (7-21), Clay (7-31).

**Greater Yellowlegs**  
7-5 Clay; 7-27 Hennepin.

**Lesser Yellowlegs**  
6-3 & 7-31 Clay; 6-22 Anoka; 7-18 Hennepin; 7-18 Morrison; 7-21 Wright; 7-21 Swift; 7-31 St. Louis (Duluth).

**Willet**  
7-28 Hennepin.

**Red Knot**  
7-13 Hennepin (OJ fide RBJ).

**Pectoral Sandpiper**  
6-15 Ottertail; 7-4 & 7-31 Clay; 7-10 Hennepin; 7-13 (1 adult & 1 young) Cottonwood (LAF).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**  
6-1 LeSueur; 6-5 St. Louis; 6-6 Aitkin; 6-15 Ottertail; 7-31 Clay.

**The Loon**

**Baird's Sandpiper**  
6-1 LeSueur; 6-1 & 7-31 St. Louis; 7-24 Hennepin; 6-3 & 7-31 Clay.

**Least Sandpiper**  
6-3 Cottonwood; 7-3 Anoka; 7-5 Clay; 7-8 Hennepin; 7-16 Aitkin; 7-31 St. Louis.

**Dunlin**  
6-3 Clay; 7-24 Hennepin.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**  
6-1 LeSueur; 6-3 and 7-31 Clay; 6-5 St. Louis; 7-9 Hennepin.

**Western Sandpiper**  
6-6 Aitkin (TS), 7-28 Hennepin (CH), 7-29 (ES); 7-31 Clay.

**Sanderling**  
6-5 St. Louis (Duluth), 7-4 & 7-14 Clay (Moorhead Lagoons).

**Short-billed Dowicher**  
7-10 Hennepin.

**Dowicher Sp.**  
6-10 & 7-4 Clay.

**Stilt Sandpiper**  
6-15 Ottertail; 7-11 Clay; 7-28 Hennepin.

**Marbled Godwit**  
Nested in Big Stone, seen in Lac Qui Parle (KE), Wilkin, Ottertail, Becker, Clay, Norman, Polk, Marshall, Roseau, & Lake of the Woods, (6-18 Baudette MMC).

**Hudsonian Godwit**  
7-8 Big Stone (Big Stone Wildlife Refuge Mgr.), 7-11 Clay (Elsie Welter).

**American Avocet**  
6-1 LeSueur (St. Peter GN), 6-2 Niccollet (Swan Lake); 6-3 & 7-14 Clay (Moorhead Lagoons); 6-28 Big Stone (1 adult and 2 downy young Big Stone Wildlife Refuge Mgr.).

**Wilson's Phalarope**  
Reports from 13 counties including St. Louis (6-9 Duluth RBJ), 6-1 (GN), Aitkin (6-19 TS), Houston (7-29 FL).

**Northern Phalarope**  
6-2 Niccollet (Swan Lake JWP).

### **Herring Gull**

Nested in St. Louis; seen also in Lake, Cook, Itasca, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Washington, Dakota, Winona, & Lac Qui Parle.

### **ICELAND OR THAYER'S GULL**

6-5 St. Louis (Stony Pt. MMC).

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Nesting attempted in St. Louis (Duluth JCG), reports from Marshall, Ottertail, Grant, Mille Lacs, Wright, Hennepin, Dakota, Winona, Nicollet, Lyon, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Seen in 17 counties, including Crow Wing, Hennepin, Goodhue, St. Louis (6-7 Duluth JAB).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

6-11 Mille Lacs (NMH), 7-31 Crow Wing 400 (TS), 6-7 & 9 St. Louis (Minn. Pt. JCG & RR), 6-21 Lake (JAB).

### **Forster's Tern**

Seen in Marshall, Clay, Cass (7-28 GN), Todd, Pope, Swift, Kandiyohi, Wright, Hennepin, Nicollet, Jackson.

### **Common Tern**

Nested in Duluth (JCG); seen also in Crow Wing (7-12 EC); Mille Lacs (6-11 NMH); Stearns, Hennepin, Washington, Houston (7-21 FL).

### **Caspian Tern**

6-9 St. Louis; 7-21 Kandiyohi.

### **Black Tern**

Nesting reported in 6 counties; seen in 21 other counties.

### **Mourning Dove**

Nested in 5 counties; seen in 23 other counties.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Seen in Clay, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Anoka, Hennepin, Goodhue, Murray, St. Louis (6-24 Duluth BB).

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Seen in 21 counties.

### **Screech Owl**

Seen in Sherburne, Hennepin, Lyon.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Nested in Pope, Crow Wing; seen in 6 other counties.

### **Barred Owl**

Nested in Wabasha; seen in Sherburne, Crow Wing, Aitkin.

### **Long-eared Owl**

Sherburne (7-14 1 picked up and later died ShNWR staff); St. Louis (6-9 Duluth JCG).

### **Whip-poor-will**

Nested in Sherburne; seen in Crow Wing, Aitkin, Anoka, Cook, Lyon, Cass.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Reports from 17 counties.

### **Chimney Swift**

Seen in 21 counties.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Seen in 25 counties.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Nested in Murray, Kandiyohi, St. Louis; seen in 29 other counties.

### **Common Flicker**

Breeding cards from Goodhue, Mille Lacs, Stearns; seen in 32 other counties.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Seen in St. Louis, Itasca, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Sherburne, Wright, Hennepin, Nicollet, Lake.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Seen in Jackson, Houston, Winona, Wabasha, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago, Stearns, Itasca (6-28 BB).

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Reported from 33 counties, including St. Louis (Duluth JCG); Lake of the Woods (6-18 Baudette MMC).

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Breeding card from Lake; seen in 16 other counties.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Nested in Wabasha, Pope; seen in 24 other counties.

**Downy Woodpecker**

Breeding cards from Stearns, Clay, Wabasha; seen in 22 other counties.

**Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker**

St. Louis (6-4 & 6 GN), Itasca (6-30 BB).

**Eastern Kingbird**

Breeding cards from Wright, Otter-tail, St. Louis, & Mille Lacs; nested in 4 other counties; seen in 24 other counties.

**Western Kingbird**

Reported from 17 counties.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

Nested in Pope; seen in 25 other counties.

**Eastern Phoebe**

Breeding cards from Crow Wing, Clearwater; seen in 22 other counties.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Seen in Itasca, Aitkin, (6-27 TS); Mille Lacs (6-4 MI); St. Louis, Lake, & Cook.

**Acadian Flycatcher**

Houston (6-16 FL & 7-24 RBJ).

**Traill's Flycatcher**

Nested in Aitkin; seen also in Marshall, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Ramsey, Dakota, Goodhue, & Lyon.

**Least Flycatcher**

Nested in Aitkin, St. Louis; seen in 24 other counties.

**Eastern Wood Pewee**

Nested in Clay, Pope; seen in 31 other counties.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Nested in Aitkin (7-21 TS), seen in Cottonwood, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Lake, & Cook.

**Horned Lark**

Nested in Hennepin, St. Louis; seen in 23 other counties.

**Tree Swallow**

Breeding cards from 10 counties; seen in 23 other counties.

**The Loon****Bank Swallow**

Breeding cards from Lake, Hennepin; reported from 20 other counties.

**Rough-winged Swallow**

Nested in Clay, St. Louis; seen in 17 other counties, including Kittson.

**Barn Swallow**

Reported from 35 counties.

**Cliff Swallow**

Reported from 21 counties.

**Purple Martin**

Seen in 34 counties.

**Gray Jay**

Breeding card from Hubbard (JAB); seen in Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Blue Jay**

Breeding cards from Lake, Wabasha, Cottonwood, Jackson; reported from 25 other counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Marshall (6-15 Agassiz RBJ), Clay (5-29) 2 nests (David Parmelee et al), Roseau (6-18) 2 young (Roseau River Wildlife Area) MMC.

**Common Raven**

Nested in Lake, Cook; seen in St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Pine (7-8 DM).

**Common Crow**

Reported from 30 counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 28 counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Breeding cards from Aitkin (TS), Hubbard (JAB); seen in Lake (7-10 ME).

**Tufted Titmouse**

Ramsey (7-5 BB).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 29 counties, including St. Louis & Lake.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Nested in Aitkin; seen in Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, & Pine.

**Brown Creeper**

Nested in Aitkin (7-11 TS); seen in St. Louis, (6-5 GN), Lake.

**House Wren**

Breeding cards from Wright, Clay, Cottonwood, Wabasha, Stearns, Carlton, Hennepin, & Sherburne; seen in 28 other counties.

**Winter Wren**

Nested in Aitkin (TS); seen in Isanti (SC), Chisago (RBJ), St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**

Reported from 18 counties.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren**

Reported from 26 counties.

**Mockingbird**

Itasca (7-2 BB), Wright (6-23 fide BAH), Polk (6-15 KE).

**Gray Catbird**

Breeding cards from Crow Wing, Wright, Ramsey; seen in 31 other counties including Cook (6-30 JCG).

**Brown Thrasher**

Breeding cards from 6 counties; seen in 27 other counties, including Cook (6-30 JCG).

**American Robin**

Reported from 32 counties.

**Wood Thrush**

Nested in Crow Wing, Hennepin, Clearwater; seen in Clay, Itasca, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Sherburne, Wright, Washington, Nicollet, and Winona.

**Hermit Thrush**

Nested in Crow Wing, Aitkin (TS); seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Swainson's Thrush**

Nested in Clearwater; seen in Lac Qui Parle, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, & Cook.

**Veery**

Reported from 19 counties, including Lyon.

**Eastern Bluebird**

Breeding cards from 5 counties; seen in 25 other counties.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Nested in Washington & Wabasha;

seen in Hennepin, Ramsey, Nicollet, Goodhue, Houston.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Nested in Clearwater, Aitkin, Lake; seen also in Wabasha (6-13 DM) Isanti (7-22 SC) Cook (JCG).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Reported from Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake & Cook.

**Sprague's Pipit**

6-10 Lac Qui Parle (F & AE), 6-16 Clay (RBJ).

**Cedar Waxwing**

Nested in Chisago, Lake, Hennepin, & Crow Wing; seen in 23 other counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike**

Nested in Pipestone & Morrison; seen in Dakota, Wright, Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Clay & Polk.

**Bell's Vireo**

Winona 7-4 (KG) & 7-21 (RBJ & FL).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

Nesting report from Clay; seen in 17 counties.

**Solitary Vireo**

Nested in Cook, Aitkin; also seen in Lake.

**Red-eyed Vireo**

Nesting reports from Murray, Stearns, & Aitkin; seen in 28 other counties.

**Philadelphia Vireo**

Cook (6-30 Mineral Center MMC).

**Warbling Vireo**

Reported from 29 counties.

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Nested in Aitkin (TS); seen in Isanti, Pine, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook.

**Prothonotary Warbler**

Nested in Wabasha (6-16 DM); Houston (7-21 RBJ & FL); also seen in Itasca (7-2 BB).

**Golden-winged Warbler**

Breeding cards from Aitkin, Crow

Wing, & St. Louis; seen in Hennepin, Washington, Chisago, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, & Cass.

**Blue-winged Warbler**

Reports from Anoka (7-14 SC), Goodhue, Winona, and Houston.

**Tennessee Warbler**

Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Itasca, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Pine, Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, and Winona.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

Lyon (6-1 HCK).

**Nashville Warbler**

Nested in Lake; seen in Hennepin, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine, Carlton, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, & Cook.

**Northern Parula**

Seen in Isanti, Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, & Cook.

**Yellow Warbler**

Breeding cards from Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Cottonwood; seen in 25 other counties.

**Magnolia Warbler**

Nested in Aitkin & Lake; seen in Itasca, St. Louis, Cook.

**Cape May Warbler**

Cook (6-30 Isabella JCG), Hennepin (6-2 Edina)—migrant.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

St. Louis (6-7 Duluth JAB), 6-9 JCG, Cook 6-26 JCG.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin, Isanti, Anoka.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

Seen in Washington, Carlton, Aitkin, Cass, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Cerulean Warbler**

Nested in Anoka; seen in Morrison, Stearns, Ramsey, Nicollet, Goodhue, Houston.

**Blackburnian Warbler**

Breeding cards from Aitkin, Crow Wing; seen in Anoka, Pine, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Breeding cards from Aitkin, Lake; seen in Washington, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Pine, Carlton, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

Seen in St. Louis Cook; migrant - Ramsey (7-1 St. Paul JAB).

**Pine Warbler**

Seen in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Isanti, Chisago, Pine, Lake of the Woods.

**Palm Warbler**

St. Louis (6-24 Whiteface River DB), Aitkin (6-8 TS).

**Ovenbird**

Nested in Aitkin, St. Louis; seen in 14 other counties including Cottonwood.

**Northern Waterthrush**

Seen in Cook, St. Louis, Aitkin, Chisago (6-28 JAB) - migrant.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

Nested in Chisago (6-9 WL); seen in Washington.

**Connecticut Warbler**

Nested in Aitkin (TS); seen in Cook (6-30 JCG) 8; Hennepin (6-11 FN) — migrant.

**Mourning Warbler**

Nested in Aitkin; seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Crow Wing, Carlton, Chisago, Anoka, Hennepin, Washington.

**Common Yellowthroat**

Reports from 40 counties.

**Wilson's Warbler**

6-5 St. Louis (Minn. Pt. (JCG).

**Canada Warbler**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca; migrants - 6-3 Ramsey; 6-2 & 9 Wabasha.

**American Redstart**

Nesting reports from Crow Wing, Nicollet; seen in 21 other counties from Polk to Houston.

**Bobolink**

Reports from 32 counties.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Reports from 20 counties.

**Western Meadowlark**

Breeding cards from Lac Qui Parle, Wabasha; seen in 24 other counties.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Nesting reports from Aitkin, Ramsey, Wright, Jackson; seen in 26 other counties as far NE as St. Louis (JCG).

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Reported from 31 counties.

**Orchard Oriole**

Nested in Pipestone; seen in Rock, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, Blue Earth, Winona, Wabasha, Dakota, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Clay.

**Northern Oriole**

Nesting reports from 9 counties; seen in 24 other counties.

**Rusty Blackbird**

6-30 Cook (Mineral Center) MMC.

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Reports from 22 counties.

**Common Grackle**

Nesting reports from 6 counties; seen in 22 other counties.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Reported from 31 counties.

**Scarlet Tanager**

Seen in 22 counties.

**Cardinal**

Breeding cards from Goodhue, Wabasha; seen in 17 other counties, including St. Louis (Duluth - 1 male all summer MMC).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Nesting reports from Clay, Wright, Pope; seen in 29 other counties.

**Indigo Bunting**

Reported from 37 counties from Cook to Murray.

**Dickcissel**

Reported from 27 counties including Aitkin.

**Evening Grosbeak**

Nested in St. Louis; seen in Cass,

**Purple Finch**

Nested in St. Louis, Aitkin; seen in Cook, Lake, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, Marshall, Crow Wing, Pine, Mille Lacs, Isanti, Stearns.

**Pine Siskin**

Nesting reports from St. Louis Aitkin, Ramsey; seen in 13 other counties including Lyon (7-14), Lac Qui Parle (7-1), Ottertail (6-21), Clay (6-15).

**American Goldfinch**

Reported from 29 counties.

**Red Crossbill**

Nested in Ramsey; seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin, 6-21 Grant, 6-18 Stearns, 6-1 Lac Qui Parle, 6-13 Cottonwood, also Isanti, Anoka, & Chisago.

**Rufous-sided Towhee**

Nesting reports from Hubbard, Dakota; also seen in Winona, Wabasha, Washington, Anoka, Pine, Cass, Itasca and St. Louis.

**Lark Bunting**

6-24 Rock (KE), 6-25 Aitkin (BB), 6-5 St. Louis (Minn. Pt. JCG).

**Savannah Sparrow**

Nesting reports from St. Louis, Aitkin; seen in 22 other counties.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

Reported from 22 counties from Rock to Cook (6-26 Sawbill Trail JCG).

**Henslow's Sparrow**

5 reports, all from Hennepin.

**LeConte's Sparrow**

Nested in Aitkin; reported from Lincoln, Cass, Hubbard, Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Marshall, St. Louis (Duluth).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

8-1 Wilkin (Dr. Harrison B. Tor-doff), 6-11 Becker (Mrs. E. W. Joul), 6-15 Mahnomen (RBJ & KE).

**Vesper Sparrow**

Reported from 31 counties includ-

**Lark Sparrow**

Seen in Anoka, Sherburne, Washington.

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Nested in Aitkin, Lake; seen in St. Louis, Cook.

**Chipping Sparrow**

Breeding cards from 5 counties; seen in 30 other counties.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

Reported from 24 counties.

**Field Sparrow**

Reported from 15 counties, including Ottertail (6-6 KE), Clay (7-1 PBH).

**White-throated Sparrow**

Seen in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Carlton, Mille Lacs, Isanti, Hennepin, ((6-26 RBJ), Lac Qui Parle (6-10 Boyd - Mrs. Oscar Eckhardt).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

St. Louis (7-8 DM) - (6-24 Whiteface R. DB), Cook (6-30 Mineral Center MMC).

**Swamp Sparrow**

Seen in 26 counties.

**Song Sparrow**

Reported from 30 counties.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Nested in Clay (5-26 Felton Prairie HCK), 6-15 KE & RBJ (50 birds), 7-1 PBH.

**Observers**

James A. Baumhofer (JAB).  
 Big Stone Wildlife Refuge Staff  
 Barbara Bodman (BB).  
 Donald A. Bolduc (DB).  
 Elizabeth Campbell (EC).  
 Steve Carlson (SC).  
 Marjorie M. Carr (MMC).  
 Kim Eckert (KE).  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Eckhardt (F & AE).  
 Mardene Eide (ME).  
 Mrs. L. A. Feil (LAF).  
 Ray Glassel (RG).  
 Janet C. Green (JCG).  
 Karol Gresser (KG).  
 N. M. Hiemenz (NMH).  
 Bruce A. Hitman (BAH).  
 Pershing B. Hofslund (PBH).  
 Charles L. Horn, Jr. (CH).  
 M. Ivanovs (MI).  
 Robert B. Janssen (RBJ).  
 Oscar Johnson (OJ).  
 Henry C. Kyllingstad (HCK).  
 Fred Leshar (FL).  
 William Longley (WL).  
 Dr. D. G. Mahle (DM).  
 Gerald Niemi (GN).  
 Fran Nubel (FN).  
 Jean Peterson (JP).  
 J. W. Pitman (JWP).  
 Richard Ruhme (RR).  
 Orwin A. Rustad (OR).  
 Terry Savaloja (TS).  
 Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (ShNWR).  
 Evelyn Stanley (ES).  
 Pat Telfer (PT).

# CORRECTIONS - SPRING - 1973

Common Egret, 3-1 Anoka MF, should be deleted.  
Blue-winged Teal, 3-7 Dakota ETS, should read  
3-7 Goodhue ETS.  
White-winged Scoter, 3-29 St. Louis TS, should  
read 5-29.  
Hawk-Owl, 5-31 St. Louis (10) JAB, should be  
changed to (1).  
Trall's Flycatcher, 4-12 Washington WWL, should  
be deleted and 5-29 Aitkin TS should read 5-28.  
Eastern Wood Pewee, 4-14 Lac Qui Parle AFE,  
should be deleted.  
Bank Swallow, 3-13 Wabasha DWM, should read  
5-13 Wabasha DWM.  
House Wren, 3-7 Crow Wing TS, should read 5-13  
Crow Wing TS.  
Brown Thrasher, 3-11 Cottonwood LAF, should be  
indicated as a wintering bird.  
Veery, 4-10 Hennepin EWJ, should be deleted.  
Water Pipit, Peak, 4-19 Lyon, should read Peak,  
4-29 Lyon.  
Indigo Bunting, 4-14 Cottonwood LAF, should be  
deleted.  
Scarlet Tanager, 4-18 Hennepin RZ, should be  
deleted.  
Chipping Sparrow, 3-4 Stearns HCK, should read  
4-25 Stearns HCK.  
Lincoln's Sparrow, 3-17 Hennepin DB, should read  
5-17 Hennepin DB.

## ADD THE FOLLOWING SPECIES AND EARLY DATES TO THE SPRING 1973 SEASON

(All records by James A. Baumhofer unless in-  
dicated)

Eared Grebe, 4-15 Hennepin  
Western Grebe, 4-29 Sibley  
Red-shouldered Hawk, 3-19 (1), 3-21 (2) Aitkin TS  
Peregrine Falcon, 5-30 Crow Wing TS  
Cattle Egret, 4-20 Wabasha  
Yellow Rail, 5-27 Mahanomen  
Short-eared Owl, 4-12 (1), 5-28 (3), Aitkin TS.  
Eastern Phoebe, 3-15 Wabasha  
Tree Swallow, 3-26 Ramsey  
Cliff Swallow, 4-20 Goodhue  
Gray Jay, 3-4 Aitkin TS  
House Wren, 4-19 Ramsey  
Winter Wren, 3-10 Ramsey  
Long-billed Marsh Wren, 4-27 Goodhue  
Gray Catbird, 5-2 Ramsey  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4-27 Goodhue  
Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3-15 Goodhue  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3-29 Ramsey  
Sprague's Pipit, 5-26 Clay  
Yellow-throated Vireo, 5-5 Ramsey  
Red-eyed Vireo, 5-4 Ramsey  
Black-and-white Warbler, 4-27 Goodhue  
Blue-winged Warbler, 5-9 Ramsey  
Tennessee Warbler, 4-29 Sibley  
Orange-crowned Warbler, 4-19 Ramsey  
Northern Parula, 5-6 Chisago  
Yellow Warbler, 4-24 Ramsey  
Yellow-rumped Warbler, 4-6 Ramsey  
Cerulean Warbler, 5-9 Ramsey  
Bay-breasted Warbler, 5-9 Ramsey  
Palm Warbler, 4-23 Ramsey  
Northern Waterthrush, 4-27 Goodhue  
Louisiana Waterthrush, 4-27 Wabasha  
Connecticut Warbler, 5-18 Ramsey  
Mourning Warbler, 5-17 Ramsey  
Wilson's Warbler, 5-4 Ramsey  
Canada Warbler, 5-9 Ramsey  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4-27 Goodhue  
Rufous-sided Towhee, 4-12 Goodhue  
Grasshopper Sparrow, 4-18 Ramsey  
Vesper Sparrow, 4-3 Ramsey  
Lark Sparrow, 4-20 Wabasha  
Field Sparrow, 4-3 Ramsey  
White-crowned Sparrow, 4-27 Goodhue  
OTHER DATES OF INTEREST BY  
James A. Baumhofer  
LeConte's Sparrow, 4-29 Sibley  
Henslow's Sparrow, 4-29 Sibley  
Fox Sparrow, 3-7 Ramsey

# A COMPARISON OF TWO BREEDING BIRD CENSUSES FOLLOWING THE LITTLE SIOUX FOREST FIRE

by Barbara Bergstedt and  
Gerald J. Niemi

## Introduction

On May 14, 1971 the Little Sioux Fire started from embers left in a stump from a slash burning operation three weeks earlier. The flames revaged over 15,000 acres in the Superior National Forest, 40% of which were in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. (Rudd, 1971). The trees burned in this fire were approximately 100 years old, having been regenerated after a major fire year in 1864.

Due to the lack of bird population research in northern Minnesota and in burned communities, the present study was undertaken to evaluate the bird populations following a forest fire. The two major plant communities, according to Ohmann and Ream (1971), in the BWCA are Jack Pine and Quaking Aspen associated communities. Two 29.5 acre plots were established, one in a Jack Pine community with a recent logging history and the other in an Aspen community.

## Methods

The census procedure used was the territory mapping method described by Svensson (1971). The study involved establishing a square grid 350 x 350 meters with markers set equal distances apart to form forty-nine 50 x 50 meter individual plots. This insured the proper location of each avian species during censusing. The Jack Pine plot was visited by Bergstedt six times between June 13-18, 1973, totaling 13 man hours. Niemi visited the Aspen plot four times between June 4-7, 1973, totaling 12.5 man hours.

The quantitative vegetation analy-

sis of both plots was conducted according to James and Shugart (1971). This analysis was made to correlate the bird population with specific plant communities.

## Weather Data

The weather during the period of June 4-7 was generally calm with no precipitation and temperatures ranging from 55-75°F. The period of June 13-18 was calm to windy, some precipitation, and temperatures ranging from 60-70°F.

## Results

Table 1 indicates the species and density of species found in each plot. The results of the vegetation analysis are shown by tables 2 and 3.

**TABLE 1**

**Results and comparison of bird populations  
in Aspen and Jack Pine communities.**

ASPEN PLOT

Location: SW1/4-NE1/4, Sec. 29,  
T-66N, R14W-4th P.M. Shell  
Lake Quadrangle, USGS.

Species	territorial males	
	acres per 29.5	acres per 100
Chestnut-sided Warbler	17	58
Mourning Warbler	12	41
**Least Flycatcher	11	37
White-throated Sparrow	6	20
House Wren	5	17
*Red-eyed Vireo	3	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	—
Blue Jay	2	—
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	—
Ruffed Grouse	1	—
*Hairy Woodpecker	1	—
Veery	1	—
Blackburnian Warbler	1	—
Ovenbird	1	—
Common Yellowthroat	1	—
Chipping Sparrow	1	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>228</b>

Visitors not believed to have nested within the plot

Broad-winged Hawk  
 Common Flicker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Eastern Kingbird  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 Swainson's Thrush  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Common Grackle

House Wren	10	33
Song Sparrow	10	33
Red-eyed Vireo	6	20
Common Grackle	4	13
Mourning Warbler	2	—
Common Flicker	1	—
*Brown Thrasher	1	—
TOTAL	55	187

**JACK PINE PLOT**

Location: NE1/4-NW1/4, Sec. 31,  
 T66N, R14W-4th P.M. Shell  
 Lake Quadrangle, USGS.

Species	males territorial	
	per 29.5 acres	per 100 acres
Chestnut-sided Warbler	12	41
White-throated sparrow	11	37

Visitors  
 Killdeer  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Northern Three-toed Woodpecker  
 Least Flycatcher  
 Blue Jay  
 Common Crow  
 Hermit Thrush  
 Veery  
 Purple Finch

\* 1 nest found, contents not examined  
 \*\* 2 nests found, contents not examined

**TABLE 2**

**Vegetation Analysis of Aspen Community\***

900 trees/acre 187 ft. 2/acre = basal area	Relative Density	Relative Dominance	Frequency
<b>SPECIES</b>			
Burned Aspen sp.	17	40	100
Burned Red Maple	32	12	100
Burned White Pine	9	13	100
Burned Paper Birch	18	13	100
Burned White Spruce	10	6	100
Burned Balsam Fir	7	3	60
Unburned Aspen sp.	2	9	20
Unburned Maple	2	1	—
Unburned Birch	1	1	—
<b>Trees by size class (diameter at breast height)</b>			
3 to 6 inches	43	10	
6 to 9 inches	30	27	
9 to 15 inches	12	23	
15 to 21 inches	6	27	
21 to 27 inches	1	10	
27 to 33 inches	—	3	
<b>Shrubs found</b>			
Big-toothed Aspen			
Trembling Aspen			
Red Maple			
Red Oak			
Pin Cherry			
Speckled Alder			
<b>Herbaceous vegetation</b>			
Blueberry sp.			
Honeysuckle			
Raspberry			
Bunchberry			
Bedstraw			
Strawberry			
Clinton's Lilly			
Large leaf aster			
Bracken Fern			
Club Moss			

\* Based on 5 tenth acre circular sample plots.

TABLE 3

Vegetation Analysis of the Jack Pine Ridge\*

74 trees/acre 15.8 ft. 2/acre = basal area	Relative Density	Relative Dominance	Relative Frequency
<b>SPECIES</b>			
Burned Aspen	22	10	40
Unburned Aspen	1	23	40
Unburned Paper Birch	0.5	0.1	20
Burned Jack Pine	41	55	100
Burned White Spruce	33	5	40
<b>Trees by size class (diameter at breast height)</b>			
3 to 6 inches	69	20	
6 to 9 inches	29	42	
9 to 15 inches	—	—	
15 to 21 inches	2	38	
<b>Shrubs found</b>		<b>Herbaceous vegetation</b>	
Trembling Aspen		Bindweed	
Big tooth Aspen		Large-leaved Aster	
Red Maple		Blueberry	
Speckled Alder		Clinton's Lilly	
		Bunch Berry	
		Wintergreen	
		Sweet Fern	
		Bracken Fern	
		Club Moss	
Shrubs = 12,600 stems/acre			
Ground cover = 60%			
Canopy cover = 1%			

\* Based on 5 tenth acre circular sample plots.

## Discussion

Comparatively speaking, our analysis was hindered, because of the extreme paucity of information available in relationship to the regeneration of avian populations following forest fire. The basic problem is what can be considered a normal, low, or a high population and what can be considered unusual or common nesters in a burned over area of the BWCA? In final analysis how has fire affected the breeding bird populations?

In order to establish some basis of comparison, we attempted to relate our data to similar studies on breeding bird populations in the same proximal area and habitat. It should be remembered that all of these studies were conducted in unburned areas. Erskine (1970, 1972) has conducted a large amount of avian population work in Canada and has recorded

values which range from 34 territorial males per 100 acres in a mixed Jack Pine forest to 211 territorial males per 100 acres in a mature Poplar stand. Keindeigh (1956) conducted a trail census in Itasca State Park and recorded values which ranged from 80 territorial males in a Tamarack-Black Spruce community to 386 territorial males per 100 acres in an Aspen-birch community, and 334 territorial males per 100 acres in a Jack Pine community. Price and Speirs (1971) censused an Aspen forest near Lake of the Woods in Ontario and recorded a species density of 366 territorial males per 100 acres. One of the authors, Niemi (1972, 1973) censused a Balsam Fir-Birch community which recently was selectively logged of aspen and recorded densities of 280 and 390 territorial males per 100 acres. The studies cited exemplify a wide range of population levels. Factors which

affect these variations include observer bias, observer ability, weather, habitat differences, local disturbances (logging and fire), and countless numbers of unknown and interacting variables.

Our general population levels in relation to the previous studies show no drastic deviation in birds per 100 acres as there is such a wide range of population densities. The Aspen community supported 228 territorial males per 100 acres in comparison with 187 territorial males per 100 acres in the Jack Pine community. This difference seems very slight and insignificant in relation to the wide range of population levels. In comparing the communities vegetatively one would expect the Aspen plot to support a larger bird population due to an increased availability of nesting sites.

In relationship to the species diversity in the burned communities, the cumulative data of Hickey (1956), Erskine (1972), Keindeigh (1956), and Price and Speirs (1971) suggests Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Least Flycatcher, and White-throated Sparrow as the most abundant species in the northern deciduous and coniferous forests. Our studies deviate from these expected results to a large extent. The studies cited are all unburned census areas and thus the changes in species are due to the effects of the fire.

The Chestnut-sided Warbler's edge habits explains its abundance. Both the Aspen and Jack Pine habitat has the appearance of a giant edge. This corresponds with the results of Hickey (1956), who censused brush clearing in an Aspen community. He found the Chestnut-sided Warbler to be the most abundant species. The high density of the Mourning Warbler in the Aspen community could also be explained in this way.

The fairly high counts of the Least Flycatcher in the deciduous Aspen forest and White-throated Sparrow in the coniferous forest are to be ex-

pected as previously mentioned.

The unusual invader to the burned communities was the House Wren. One would not expect to find a bird-house dweller so abundant, yet the natural cavity dwelling habit of the House Wren would partially explain this. Another possibility could be due to the decrease of the tree canopy and a subsequent filling of the niche formerly occupied by various warbler and vireo species.

The general difference between species content would be attributed to the differences in vegetation of the two plots. In the Aspen community many species were recorded in the southwest corner of the plot where a few large unburned aspens remained. This area housed the Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blackburnian Warbler, and Ovenbird. This slight portion would be typical of a mature Aspen stand.

The Jack Pine ridge supported the greatest numbers of species at the lower elevations which were characterized largely by new growth of aspen suckers. The Song Sparrow was found in open areas characterized by large granite overcrops. This would satisfy the gross physiognomy of the Song Sparrow's habitat requirements.

The authors were unable to find any conclusive data in relation to the effects of fire on bird populations. Emlen (1970) conducted a before and after bird census in a controlled understory burn of a Jack Pine forest. His results showed no significant difference in population levels in relation to forest fire; however, none of his studies were based on original burn succession. This small amount of data is insufficient for comparison to the present study.

It is generally stated that density of birds increases with ecological age of the forest according to James and Shugart (1973) and Hickey (1956). The plant succession in the burn has been set back in the theoretical trend toward a climax community. Thus ecologically speaking the successional

age of the burn is now quite young and as should be expected the bird population densities are low in relation to a more mature stage of plant succession. Our results are low in comparison to many previous studies already cited.

There have been obvious changes in species composition due to the fire; but, if an actual change in density levels has occurred is unknown due to the lack of before and after studies in burned communities. A forest fire occurring during the breeding season of May through August would be hazardous to breeding bird populations. This reduction in population density is only temporary as fire is not only an agent of change in regards to the vegetation but also opens up new and different niches for avian species.

### Summary

Two breeding bird population studies were conducted in the 1971 Little Sioux burn of the BWCA. Comparative results of the two study plots indicates no drastic change in population levels two years after the fire. Based on the research conducted in unburned communities previously cited, however, it is plausible to assume the population is not as high as it would be if the fire had never occurred.

The species content of both plots was drastically changed from what would be expected in a normal Aspen or Jack Pine stand. Once again these changes would be expected and attributed to the fires destruction of the predominant vegetation. The species changes would be considered temporary and indicative of the bird composition in a brush or seedling stage of plant succession.

Weighing the pros and cons of forest fire as a means of revitalizing a mature, sterile forest is not the scope of this article; however, a minor discussion is necessary. It seems workable to assume fire as an agent to regenerate a forest ecosystem from an

ornithological viewpoint as long as the fire does not occur during the breeding season. This general conclusion is very inconclusive because a great amount of data must be accumulated in relation to broader censusing programs of burned communities, more detailed vegetation analysis, and the alternative of harvesting the lumber by either clear cutting or selective logging.

Needless to say, more research is badly needed on avian populations before and after forest fires. Equally so, more quantitative and qualitative research is needed throughout Minnesota. There is much data on types of birds nesting in Minnesota, migrating through Minnesota, and wintering in Minnesota; but, there is absolutely minimal data as to how many birds are nesting and in what types of habitats they are nesting.

Why do we need more data on population levels? This can be answered in a large number of ways. What kind of habitats house the most species in diversity and numbers? What are some of limiting factors affecting avian populations and individual species? What constitutes a good breeding season? These are some of the questions which remain unanswered. We the authors would like to find the answers to some of these questions. Possibly through individual motivation or local group sponsorship more breeding bird census plots could be established.

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## notes of interest

**BRANT AT ROCHESTER** — Having observed for some twenty years many different species of waterfowl on Silver Lake in Rochester, Minnesota, Sunday, October 7, 1973, I spotted a first for me. The day was overcast, in the 60's. I got out of the car on Seventh Street to walk down to the water's edge. Canada Geese were coming in, and there was much activity, both among the geese and Mallards, as well as the people in the park, some obviously transients, watching with open-mouthed amazement the arrival of huge flocks of Canada Geese both of the greater and lesser variety. It was between two and three o'clock in the afternoon. With my binoculars I spotted one goose resembling a Canada but much smaller than the other geese though larger than some American Coots nearby. I went to the west side of the lake for a closer look to confirm what at first glance I suspected it to be. Yes, it was definitely a Brant, but, an immature one with a black head, throat, and breast: with wing coverts and secondaries tipped with white: with black bill, legs, and feet; but without the white on the sides of the neck found on the adult. I hurried home to return with my husband, Ted, who verified it as an immature Brant. It was close by, just a few feet away; however this time it remained in the water. At no time did it appear shy, letting me approach closely and binoculars were not necessary. It must have been separated from its own kind and found its way to this area with a flock of Canada Geese with whom it seemed to identify itself but, in turn, was just barely tolerated by them. The following day I saw it on the shore, the same place and at the same time. This was verified an hour later by Rose Pendle and Jean Lofgren. **Phyllis Lindquist, 1201 Silver Lake Drive, Rochester, Minnesota 55901.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE.** The above bird was seen by many observers including myself on October 13, 1973 and again on December 8, 1973. After mid-December the bird was not observed so it would appear that it did not spend the winter in this area. This is only the second record for the Brant in Minnesota. The first record was of a single bird shot in Martin County on November 23, 1956. (**The Flicker** 29:85).

**SMOOTH BILLED ANI SIGHTING** — I believe the date was October 5, 1973, time 2:30 P.M. weather clear and sunny. Location about one mile west of the headquarters of the Roseau River Wildlife Area, Roseau County, Minnesota. Conservation Officer Sid Lawrence and I were traveling east on the ditch bank parallel to pool #2 on the wildlife area, when we sighted the ani sitting about a foot off of the trail in a clump of ash trees. Not knowing what it was we backed up for a closer look. Thinking it was wounded, I foolishly got out to pick it up rather than take a photo of it. Our closest observation was about six feet. We checked Peterson's book first to identify what we had seen, but this listed only the Groove-billed Ani, and we both agreed that the shape was right, but that the bill was not grooved. We then checked in **Birds of North America**, and agreed on the Smooth-billed Ani. I guess the only way you could describe the terrain in that area is marsh. It is possible that some tourist had the bird along and found they couldn't cross the border with it. **LaMonte Gross, Lake Bronson State Park, Lake Bronson, Minnesota 56734.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The above record is most unusual and in all probability Mr. Gross's conclusion that it was a released bird is the most accurate reason for it being in the area. The Smooth-billed Ani is a local resident of southern Florida. However, the closely related Groove-billed Ani, a resident of southern Texas, has been recorded in Minnesota on three occasions as follows: October 20, 1958, Lac Qui Parle County, September 17, 1959, Big Stone County and October 20, 1968, Washington County.

**KING EIDER ON MILLE LACS LAKE** — On October 16, 1973, I was checking the birds on Mille Lacs Lake and got to Wigwam Bay in Mille Lacs County at about noon. About 30 feet from shore in the mouth of a small stream was a duck which I thought at first to be a female Mallard. I soon realized it was not and took the following notes: Size: About the same as a Mallard; Head and Body: Uniform brown; Bill: Dark, and extending up the forehead. After I took these notes, a Common Loon came and chased the duck out into the bay. The Common Loons appear to be very aggressive on Mille Lacs Lake and I have seen them do this many times to Buffleheads and Common Goldeneyes. When the duck flew I could see that the underparts were the same brown as the rest of the body. I also noticed some white in the wings. I identified the duck as an eider, and since it did not have the sloping profile or the long slender frontal shield as shown in Peterson's and Robbins' Guides, I decided it must be an immature or female King Eider. When I left, the eider was still sitting out in the bay. Steve and Jo Blanich checked the bay about 5 hours later, but they could find only Common Loons, Lesser Scaup and a female Redhead, all of which left shortly. When I left, there were over 50 Common Loons scattered throughout the bay and they possibly chased the eider out into the lake. In all I observed the eider about 15 minutes in good light at about 30-50 feet with 9 x 36 Bushnell binoculars and a 15-60 power "zoom" spotting scope. **Terry Savaloja, Box 244, Deerwood, Minnesota 56444.**

**POSSIBLE FOX SPARROW NESTING IN MINNESOTA** — Our trip by houseboat, traveling north on Crane Lake (St. Louis County, Minnesota) about 22-25 miles to Namakan Lake, started on July 11, 1973. On Namakan Lake we traveled west and south some seven to ten miles to a cove that was to be our main base for three days. This cove is an elongated "C" shape with the north side heavily woody, rocky shore, about 200 feet long. The west shore is coarse sand, some 125 feet long with dense woods behind the sand. The south shore is a rocky peninsula about 75 feet long. A mixture of hardwood and fir with thick, low-growing evergreens and fruit-bearing bushes with a burned slash not only gave us a break in the woods but blueberries as well. We first observed our pair of Fox Sparrows near the slash on the northwest shore shortly after arriving at about 4:30 P.M. We have seen Fox Sparrows as they migrate through our yard in Minneapolis and have spent many an hour watching and studying them at our leisure, so we felt certain of our identification. However, having two new young (20 years old) birders along, we seized upon this as an excellent opportunity for teaching them how to identify and compare species. All agreed, after much perusing of Peterson and Robbins, that these were certainly Fox Sparrows. Over the next three days we observed them bathing, preening, and much of their foot-scratching antics not more than 25 to 30 feet away. A deadhead log on the edge of the beach made a shallow pool for their bath. Their heavily streaked breasts and spot looked much darker, as well as the rufous appearance redder, in the clear bright sunlight reflecting off the water. On the 13th our young birders were startled when they flushed one of the Fox Sparrows off a hitherto unseen nest located near an obscure path through the woods about 15 to 20 feet from their bath area. They reported that the nest held three eggs and was about a foot off the ground. None of us went down the path again as we didn't want to disturb them any more than we had.

**Pat Hubert and Anita Smith, 5812 Hansen Road, Edina, Minnesota 55436.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The above is a most unusual observation and if correct would represent a first nesting for this species in Minnesota. A request to Ms. Hubert and Smith failed to produce any further details on the observation as notes were not taken at the time.

**AN UNUSUAL MINNESOTA OBSERVATION** — There have been many unusual observations made in Minnesota in the past. A Red Phalarope at Knife River, a Purple Sandpiper at Grand Marais in December, Ruff's in Stevens, Sibley and Morrison Counties, King Eiders on Lake Superior and Red Lake, Louisiana Heron at Agassiz Refuge, a Brant at Rochester, the Willow Ptarmigan, invasion of 1933-34, an Ancient Murrelet found dead on a highway in February and Dippers on the North Shore are just a few examples of what I am talking about. An observation that occurred on November 18, 1973 I feel, can now be ranked with the above. On this date, Paul Egeland, Ray Glassel, Bill Pieper, Jo Blanich, Terry Savaloja and I were birdwatching along the west shore of Lake Mille Lacs in Crow Wing County. The time was about 2:00 P.M., it was a cool, mostly clear day with a light northwest wind, the temperature was around 30 degrees. Terry had suggested that we stop near Garrison at the rest stop to look in the pines for Saw-whet Owls. The whole group entered the woods, I was behind Paul Egeland. Paul noted a bird on the ground, he called White-throated Sparrow, then changed his mind to Golden-crowned Kinglet and finally he said, "No, it's a Red-breasted Nuthatch." I could not locate the bird immediately but I was very curious after hearing Paul call three different species. I located the bird and to say the least I was surprised to see a Worm-eating Warbler. The bird appeared

in good condition, the head striping was very prominent, the back was a deep olive green and the breast was a soft buffy-orange. We watched the bird for about an hour as it fed on the ground. Occasionally the bird would hop up on a branch and walk along the length of the branch. One time that it did this it "teetered" on the branch and almost looked like a miniature Spotted Sandpiper. The bird also scratched on the ground among the leaves and needles in a "chicken-like" fashion. Worm-eating Warblers have been recorded in Minnesota on several occasions but only as a spring migrant. The Worm-eating Warbler winters south of the United States in Central America and the West Indies. Bent in his "Life Histories" lists a November date for the State of North Carolina and states that most birds have left the U.S. by October. Of course, one wonders where this bird came from, was it some sort of reverse migration? It was far from its normal breeding grounds in the east-central part of the country. We will never know the answer to these questions but the recording of a bird such as this makes the hobby of bird-watching most exciting. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**BIRDING WHILE HUNTING** — I have not deer hunted for about four years, but due to the high meat prices, bucks only law, and as an excuse to get out into the outdoors I tried my luck this year. On November 9, 1973, while driving on U.S. Highway 53 near Canyon, St. Louis County with a friend, Dale Mell, I spotted my first Hawk Owl perched atop a spruce. We observed the bird for approximately five minutes until it made its characteristic shrike-like swoop into the woods. On that day we also saw a Northern Shrike, Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and numerous winter finches. On November 10, while continuing my hunting in the Island Lake area, 20 miles north of Duluth, I was walking on an old tote road when I spotted what I thought was a Ruffed Grouse. As I stalked the bird I noticed some peculiarities in its body form and color markings. As I approached without binoculars to about 15 feet, I recognized the bird as a male Spruce Grouse. The first of the species I had ever seen and very surprised to see it in the woods I have walked extensively throughout my life. Approximately one hour later, I was walking along the edge of a frozen swamp when I became attracted to a husky chirp. The call note was very unusual for this time of the year when approximately an inch of snow covered the ground. Once again without binoculars, I slowly stalked the chirper to within a distance of about six feet. To my utter amazement the bird was undoubtedly an immature Yellowthroat. In short my field notes read "a distinctive yellow throat with breast becoming a dull yellow and belly a dull white, then becoming yellow again at the crissum. The head, back, and tail were a drab green. There were no distinctive eye-ring, black mask, or wing markings. The bird was warbler size with a distinctive warbler bill." During the remainder of the season I also saw White-winged and Red Crossbills, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, and my brother saw a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. Oh, and as far as deer hunting is concerned the season was a disaster. I missed a beautiful buck within fifty feet on the second day of the season. I get the message of the birds and will continue to pick my binoculars and camera instead of my gun. Birding is truly a lot more fun. **Gerald J. Niemi, 227 West Fourth Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55806.**

**NEW NESTING LOCATION FOR THE WHITE PELICAN IN MINNESOTA** — In the last five years the White Pelican has been discovered nesting at two locations in Minnesota. The first of these locations was at Lac Qui Parle

Refuge on an island in Lac Qui Parle Lake during the summer of 1968 (**The Loon** 40: 100). This colony has been active every year since that time. The second nesting was found at Heron Lake, Jackson County in 1972 (**The Loon** 44: 124). Prior to these discoveries the last positive breeding evidence was that reported by Roberts in Grant County in 1878 (**The Birds of Minnesota**). Breeding had been confirmed on Lake of the Woods during 1956 by the Department of Natural Resources but these colonies were on the Ontario side of the border (**The Flicker** 32: 62). Non-breeding flocks are occasionally reported during the summer months on some of the larger marshy lakes of the western and central parts of the state such as Lake Traverse, Swan Lake and Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. In the May-June 1973 issue of the **Inland Bird Banding News** I noted an article by Dr. Norman F. Sloan of Michigan Tech. Univ. concerning breeding locations of the White Pelican in the United States. Nothing was mentioned about the breeding locations in Minnesota. I wrote to Dr. Sloan and informed him of the Minnesota locations and also mentioned the 1956 Ontario nesting on Lake of the Woods. After receiving all of this information Dr. Sloan forwarded it to Mr. Robert Hinckley, curator of Birds for the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. Mr. Hinckley contacted me by phone during July 1973 for additional information. His intention being to investigate the Lake of the Woods colony and find out if the birds were still present and breeding. He visited the Lake of the Woods area during August 1973 and found the birds nesting in both Ontario and Minnesota. Investigations were conducted by airplane with the cooperation of the Department of Natural Resources and Warden-Pilot John Parker. Three nesting colonies were located two in Ontario and one in Minnesota. The two Ontario colonies were located in approximately the area as the birds reported in 1956, on several small rocky islets east of Bear Island, a mile or so inside Ontario. These colonies consisted of approximately 175+ flightless young and 250-300 adults. The Minnesota colony was also found on a rocky islet, located SSW of Big Oak Island, NW of Little Oak Island and directly east of Sugar Point. This colony consisted of 80-100 juvenile birds and approximately 200 adults. Thus breeding has been established at a third location for the White Pelican in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**SAY'S PHOEBE AND BARN OWL OBSERVED IN ROCK COUNTY** — In August 1973 I moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota which is a few miles west of the extreme southwest corner of Minnesota. It was then that I began exploring county roads in Rock County and checking for possible strays from the south and west. On September 3, 1973 I was birding in the southwest part of the county and spending most of my time counting an influx of migrating Eastern Kingbirds (about 200 were seen that day). As I drove north on County Road 53 I passed a shelterbelt (located two miles east and two miles north of Hills) and noticed an unusual looking flycatcher sitting on a powerline on the west side of the road. The reason it looked so unusual was that I was so used to seeing black and white colored Eastern Kingbirds frequently along roadsides that day. This bird was the same size as an Eastern Kingbird but, as I glanced at it as I drove by, it appeared all dark. I backed the car up, turned off the engine, and looked at it through binoculars as it sat about 30 feet away. The bird mostly had its back to me and I was looking somewhat into the sun, so all I could see was that it was a dark-backed flycatcher with a dusky breast and a somewhat tawny or light orangish belly. There were Eastern Kingbirds sitting close to it and I could clearly see it was about the same size. I was fairly certain that I was looking at

at a Say's Phoebe because of the pale rusty belly (I have seen this species several times out West), but since the sun was at a bad angle I knew that light conditions were tricky enough to cause identification problems. I got out of the car to get a better angle, but the bird flushed and flew west about 100 feet away and perched at the edge of the shelterbelt. I could now see less than I did before but as I watched it for 10 minutes, the bird never "wagged" its tail in the manner of the Eastern Phoebe. Just as I was about to hike in towards the bird, it flew back towards me and perched again on the power line next to the car. But this time the bird was mostly facing me and it was somewhat in the shade. I again saw the dark brown back, the dusk brownish-gray breast, and the pale orangish belly. I was sure now that the tawny belly was not due to sunlight conditions and that this was indeed a Say's Phoebe. The rustiness was not quite as pronounced as on other Say's Phoebes that I have seen so I would guess that this was an immature bird wandering northeast from South Dakota, Nebraska, or possibly northwest Iowa (the nearest known breeding area). I watched the bird for about five more minutes and checked for wingbars, eyering or other distinctive marks. There were none, nor did the bird wag its tail. Because of the lack of tail wagging and the larger size, I was certain that this was not an aberrant Eastern Phoebe. I got out of the car to again try to get a better look but the bird flew east over a cornfield and disappeared. I returned to this spot about an hour later but there was no sign of the bird. This represents the second sight record for Minnesota, the first being in Winona County near St. Charles in 1963, exactly 10 years ago on September 3! There is also a specimen of this species of questionable origin at St. Benedict's College in St. Joseph, Minnesota, though it is likely that the bird was from St. Joseph (Stearns Co.). Therefore the Say's Phoebe is still hypothetical in the state, but it should be watched for in Rock County to see if it will occur in small numbers like the Blue Grosbeak does now. Both species are regular breeders in nearby northwest Iowa. Three weeks later I was again exploring Rock County for birds, this time in a rocky prairie area just north of Hardwick along Highway 75. This area is about five miles long and from a half to one mile wide, stretching from a mile south of Hardwick to the Pipestone County line. This area is grazed but the habitat looks suitable enough for prairie birds since it is likely to never have been plowed due to the many rocks. On September 23 I was driving west on a gravel road through this prairie a half mile east of Highway 75 and one mile south of the Pipestone County line. As I drove past a large bush on the south side of the road, a medium-sized owl flushed from the bush, flew parallel to the car for about 100 yards, and then veered south between a hedgerow. By the time I got the car stopped and could get out to look for the owl it had disappeared. But from what I saw of it in flight, it was almost certainly a Barn Owl. The owl had kept ahead of the car facing away from me, so I could not see the distinctive face pattern. What I did see was that it was definitely an owl because of its neckless and big-headed appearance and because of its light, erratic and moth-like flight. It first reminded me of a Short-eared Owl because it looked to be the same size, but this owl was evenly white below, a smooth grayish buff above, and with more rounded wingtips. The Short-eared Owl has more pointed wings, a distinctive light buffy wing patch in the primaries, and is mottled and streaked above and below with brown and black. I have seen Short-eared Owls many times in flight, and this owl was much different. No other owl is so evenly white below (except the Snowy and this owl was too small with too dark a back). Also this owl's medium size eliminates all other species except the Long-eared, Hawk, and

Short-eared. But again, none of these three has the even whitish coloration of the underparts as does the Barn Owl. There were several wooden structures and buildings in the area that could have been nesting sites for this bird, but it may have just been a stray migrant. The Barn Owl is now casual in Minnesota, the last nesting record being in 1963 in Martin County with only 2 sight records since then. But since there are so few observers along the southern border of Minnesota, it is possible that the Barn Owl still breeds here, and Rock County would be a good place to look. **Kim R. Eckert, 3301 Westbrooke, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106.**

**"THERE'S A HAWK IN MY BASEMENT! !"** — For a number of years, I have been running a "bird ambulance service" for the local humane society. It has taken me hither and yon, at all hours of the day and year and I have met some of the most interesting birds and the very nicest people on God's Green Earth. At 10:30 P.M. November 19, 1973, I received an urgent request to drive out in the country and get a hawk out of somebody's basement. It seems Mr. and Mrs. Jim Seitz, of Homestead Road, came home (after both working all day and having a late dinner in town) to find a hawk flying around in their basement. They discovered a large hole, through two panes of glass, in one of their over-sized basement windows and deduced the hawk must have been chasing something full-speed over their side lawn and went crashing through the window. It was an immature Goshawk. We had been enjoying heavy flights of Gos over Hawk Ridge all week long. Well, the poor bird was wearily perched on the back of a chair so we turned out the basement light—to keep him in place, and I fumbled through the dark and threw my jacket over him. He "footed" me in the hand but I got him. There were a few minor cuts on his legs and one on his cere but he seemed strong. At least his breath was (I held him in my arms all the way into town). Early the next morn, I took him up to the Hawk Ridge bander, Dave Evans, and he checked him over, weighed, measured, banded and released him. As we watched that lovely raptor pump away I thought of all the ambulance cases that didn't live to fly away. But this one did! **Koni Sundquist, 2903 Jefferson, Duluth, Minnesota 55812.**

**ANOTHER ARCTIC LOON OBSERVATION** — On September 10, 1973, I observed an Arctic Loon near 9773 North Shore Drive in St. Louis County. I took the following notes on the loon, which was about 50 feet from shore when I first saw it. Bill: Thin, grebe-like and not upturned. Back: Feathers dark, edged with lighter color. Back of Head and Throat: Slaty gray, not mottled. Sides of throat: Dark brown. Throat: White, dark line across one-third of the way down. This bird was seen by one other observer, John Green, and although it had moved further out in the lake, he could tell that it was not a Common or Red-throated Loon. I stopped at the Bill Carr's and we looked in their Birds of Canada book and found a good picture and description, including the dark line on the throat. This bird was not seen again although several people looked for it, and I do not think it was the one seen off Stony Point during the MOU Count. I used both 9 x 36 binoculars and a 15-60 "zoom" spotting scope in observing the bird. The sky was partly cloudy. The sun was setting when I left but light conditions were good when I first saw the bird. **Terry Savaloja, Box 244, Deerwood, Minnesota 56444.**

**A VERY LATE YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** — Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1973, my wife, Betty, her brother, Fred Kedney and I went

for a short walk in the Roberts Bird Sanctuary in Minneapolis. It was about noon on a fair, mild day, and we observed two or three late flying insects during the course of the walk. Near the small side-path that connects with the main one near the East end, and just past the little knoll, I saw a small bird that seemed at first glance to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. I pointed it out to the other two, and all three of us were able to observe it, both while it was still and when it was in motion, for two or three minutes before it disappeared. We agreed it was an immature Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Not only its throat, but its wing bars and faint eye ring were the same dull yellow as is belly. **Douglas Campbell, 4917 Russell Avenue So., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410.**

**AGGRESSIVE SHORT-EARED OWLS IN AITKIN COUNTY** — While I was visiting my feeding station  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Aitkin, Minnesota, on October 10, 1973, at about 6:30 P.M., I saw a Great Horned Owl sitting in a cottonwood, which is near a rice paddy. Skies were heavily overcast. As I sat watching the owl, two Short-eared Owls began attacking it. This went on for about twenty minutes, with the Great Horned Owl ducking each time a Short-eared Owl would dive at it. The two Short-eared Owls then flew off in separate directions. The following evening at about the same time, I found the Great Horned Owl sitting in a willow near the same location. This time there were five Short-eared Owls taking turns diving at it, making a noise like a hoarse dog bark at the beginning of each dive. This went on for about ten minutes, then the Short-eared Owls flew off, again in separate directions. The next evening was clear and I did not see the Great Horned Owl or the Short-eared Owls. **Lloyd Paynter, Aitkin, Minnesota 56431.**

**ANOTHER POMARINE JAEGER OBSERVED NEAR DULUTH** — Jaegers have been rare but regular fall migrants on Lake Superior for a long time, and until recently all of them have been identified as Parasitic or just jaeger, sp. But in 1970 Jan Green broke the ice with the first sight record of a Pomarine at Duluth's Minnesota Point, and two years later Marge Carr photographed one at the same place to establish this species on the state list. In 1973 Terry Savaloja observed an adult Pomarine with Parasitics in August, again at Minnesota Point, and on September 16, 1973 I identified another at Stoney Point, St. Louis County, just northeast of Duluth. This was the weekend of M.O.U.'s annual Hawk Watch at Duluth, and on Saturday three observers had spotted an Arctic Loon at Stoney Point (5th state record). So it was on Sunday a large group of people were out looking for the loon. I was also out at Stoney Point, but I arrived there about a half hour before everyone else. I could not find the loon at that time at the west end of the point, so I drove about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile up the shore to check on some gulls that were close to shore. As I watched them through a spotting scope, a fairly large dark bird flew over my head and circled over the gulls. When I first glanced at it all I could think of was Common Nighthawk (probably because of the brownish coloration, pointed wings sharply bent at the "wrist" showing a flash of white, and the swift, erratic flight), but this bird was much larger. By the time I reached my binoculars the gulls had flushed up and the bird was heading farther out on the lake. By now I knew this was a jaeger, probably an adult in light phase because of its whitish underparts, but there were no protruding central tail feathers (many adult Jaegers do not have such distinctive tail feathers). As I watched it fly away and circle twice more around the gulls (all Herring), I could easily see that this jaeger was about the same length and bulk as the gulls. It flew slowly

and heavily and did not really pursue any of the gulls. It was then that I identified it as a Pomarine Jaeger, in spite of the missing tail feathers. I have seen both Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers on Pacific Ocean pelagic trips and learned that the Parasitic is a slim, fast-flying bird, smaller than Herring or Ring-billed Gulls, while the Pomarine looks much heavier in flight and is almost Herring Gull size and bulk. If seen well, size alone is reliable enough to separate these two jaegers, even when size comparison is not available. And as I watched this jaeger flying with these Herring Gulls I was sure that this had to be a Pomarine. It flew west toward Duluth and I lost sight of it. I then drove back to the west end of Stoney Point to where the main group of birders had just arrived and located the Arctic Loon. I told them what I had seen, and then talked to Bill Wyatt of Moorhead who said that he had arrived at the Point about five minutes before the main group and thought he saw the same bird. He was just getting out of the car when he spotted the bird soaring out over the lake that reminded him of an Osprey. But the bird was darker and Bill was thinking it could have been a jaeger. Since jaegers and Ospreys both show a crook or bend in their wings at the wrist, it is possible that a jaeger could suggest an Osprey in flight, especially if it is the larger Pomarine Jaeger. It seems likely then that Bill Wyatt and I both saw the same bird. **Kim Eckert, 3301 Westbrooke, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106.**

**NEW YELLOW RAIL AREA** — On May 27, 1973, Rex and Liz Campbell, Steve and Jo Blanich and I visited the Waubun Marsh in western Minnesota. Due to high winds and low numbers, we were unable to locate any Yellow Rails. However, this trip did enable me to see the kind of marsh which Yellow Rails enjoy. The next morning, I stopped at a marsh in Aitkin County similar to the Waubun Marsh. As I got out of my car I heard alternating sets of two and three clicks. That evening Steve and Jo Blanich, Kim and Gilly Eckert and their dog, and I managed to flush one Yellow Rail twice at this site. The white wing patches were seen both times. This was site 1 and two rails were heard. On May 29, 1973, at about 11:00 P.M. (CDT), I stopped at seven different marshes in Aitkin County and heard at least 23 Yellow Rails. On June 21, 1973, I was looking for Yellow Rails at site 3 when a Common Snipe flushed and, in looking for a nest, I found an egg shell which I identified as belonging to a Yellow Rail. The shell was sent to the Bell Museum. At this same site on July 6, 1973, I saw a downy rail which could have been a young Yellow Rail. During the summer of 1973, Yellow Rails were seen and heard in at least seven different marshes in Aitkin County and one lake in Crow Wing County. The rails could be heard calling until about 10:00 A.M. and would begin again about an hour before sunset. After the first week in July, the rails became very quiet and hard to find. Following is a list of where, when and how many Yellow Rails were seen and heard at different sites: Site 1: 4 miles north of Hassman on Hwy. 169, west .4 mile, south side: May 28, 1 seen, 1 heard; May 29, 4 heard, June 5, 2 heard, June 19, 1 seen, 2 heard, June 30, 2 heard. Site 2. 4.5 miles west of Aitkin on Hwy. 210, north side: May 29, 3 heard. Site 3. 4.5 miles north of Aitkin on Hwys. 210 & 169, east side, south of Co. 56: May 29, 4 heard; July 6, 1 heard, 1 possible young. Site 4. 5 miles north of Aitkin on Hwys. 210 & 169, west side north of County 54: May 29, 3 heard. Site 5. 7.5 miles east of Hassman on Hwy. 210, north side: May 29, 5 heard; June 2, 1 heard; June 5, 3+ heard; June 21, 2 heard; July 6, 1 heard. Site 6. 6.2 miles east of Hassman on Hwy. 210, south side: May 29, 2 heard. Site 7. 3.5 miles east of Hassman on Hwy. 210, north side: May 29, 2 heard. Site 8. 2 miles west of

Deerwood on County Road 12, Rice Lake: Aug. 29, 1 seen; Aug. 30, 2 seen.  
**Terry Savaloja, Box 244, Deerwood, Minnesota 56444.**

**A SWAINSON'S THRUST ATTEMPTS TO WINTER IN ST. PAUL** — On November 23, 1973 both a Swainson's Thrush and a Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler appeared at my feeder. Both were seen on a regular basis at my feeder or elsewhere in the neighborhood through December 15. The warbler was not seen again. After an absence of nearly two weeks the thrush was again seen on December 28. It appeared to be in a weakened condition. I saw the bird on December 29 (St. Paul Christmas Count Day), it appeared very weak. I attempted to capture it but it had just enough flying ability to elude me. The next day, December 30, the Swainson's Thrush was found dead on the ground about 20 feet from the feeder. **Manley E. Olson, 1974 West Summer Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113.**

**INTERACTION BETWEEN GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKENS AND MARSH HAWK** — During October, 1973 Jane Link, Mick Sommer, and I were hiking at the Buena Vista Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to observe Prairie Chickens. It was early morning and we could hear chickens as we approached. About the time that we saw the chickens sitting in a small cottonwood tree a Marsh Hawk appeared from the opposite side of the field, soared across the booming grounds, and began to bank toward the tree in which the chickens were perched. Eleven chickens burst into flight from the tree as soon as the hawk veered. They continued in flight and the hawk landed on the ground. We walked closer and flushed eleven more chickens and the hawk. The Marsh Hawk had been sitting among them. He had made no kill and the chickens seemed unconcerned about him. Fran Hamerstrom later gave the following interpretation. The Prairie Chickens fear only the female harrier and seeing this immature one flying in, the first flock might have mistaken it for a female, but, by the time it landed the second group of chickens had time to realize that it was a male and therefore held their ground. It was an interesting interaction. **Mike Link, Director, Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone, Minnesota 55072.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Birding from a Tractor Seat.** Charles T. Flugum, 440 pages. Illustrated. \$8.95. For information write: **Birding from a Tractor Seat, Box 30038, St. Paul, Minn. 55175**

A capsule review of **Birding from a Tractor Seat** can be found in the preface where Mr. Flugum states that the book hopes to reflect . . . "the joy . . . of sight, sound and activities of birds" . . . and "the concern, lest we lose (them) through ignorance, apathy or plain disregard." Originally the 137 essays were monthly columns for a community publication over a period of 12 years beginning in 1952. As such, it is difficult to "lay seige" to the book and devour it quickly; rather it is a "break" book, a few minutes here and there for relaxation or a fast escape from one season to another by a flip of a page, made easy by the writing style which has the quiet flavor of a folksy letter. Of special interest to MOU people are the essays relating incidents from some of the meetings and various field trips. Also included are recollections of Audubon Wildlife Film personalites and birding jaunts of the Albert

Lea Audubon Society. The illustrations by Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge are delightful surprises tucked in throughout the text.

Most birders have jobs that offer little opportunity for birding during working hours. As a farmer with never-ending hours and constant proximity to the sights and sounds of the out-of-doors, it was amazing that Mr. Flugum could resist the urge to satisfy his curiosity about distant sightings. He waited years in some cases to identify birds whose songs were familiar from childhood. But, on the other hand, he could bird from the machinery, the fence line, the corn crib, the cow barn, and anywhere on his 240 acres that he had work to do. Not content with merely identifying and observing the activity, later he would augment his new knowledge with background reading. The result is that his chapters contain helpful hints and facts worth underlining regarding song, behavior, habitat, nesting, migration, and anatomy. The last two decades of scientific inquiry, specifically in areas of diet, disease, and habitat requirements, have made a little of his data obsolete, but that is of minor consequence.

City people generally consider good and desirable animal species to be those that are pretty and have clean habits. Mr. Flugum, as a farmer, equates good with an animal's diet. One exception he allows is the Robin, pardoned for decimating the beneficial earthworm because the bird is so cheerful and attractive. He felt that even the birds usually accused of crop destruction earned the crop remnant, as they often performed the service of consuming harmful insects earlier in the year. He welcomed foxes, hawks, and owls as natural controllers of rodents, which he considered to be only crop destroyers, not recognizing that their diet also includes insects and that they have an ecological niche of their own. In all fairness, the author was an advocate of the need to understand and protect predatory birds in a time and to an audience that considered them varmints. He did not begrudge the Cooper's Hawk a pheasant dinner, but then referred in a moralizing choice of words, to the rare happening when a predator turns "criminal and seek(s) food the lazy way by returning to the poultry yard". Nature's law is survival with no restrictions written such as man makes governing his own behavior. Any other seeker who finds a selection of sought-after objects, be it fish, bargains, or wild berries, is considered intelligent or lucky—but the predator is denounced for his find. True, there is less time spent hunting, but it takes the same amount of expended energy to kill the intended food whether it is wild or domestic. The jobs of both the predator, culling the weak and over-population, and the scavenger, cleaning Death's debris, was recognized as right and necessary, but Mr. Flugum draws the line when man's own future prey for consumption is taken—that cannot be tolerated and the villain must be destroyed. This attitude of beneficial merit expressed throughout the book has a strong financial importance for rural people and perhaps sheds light on an opinion seldom set forth in books.

Besides showing a farmer's view of birding, the book does accomplish its basic purpose and makes interesting light reading. More important, it indicates the possibilities open to a birder who concentrates on a locale and studying its species — a direct contrast to another recent book which depicts the broad travels of a lister.

**Marlyn Mauritz**

**THE SEA HAS WINGS** by Franklin Russell with black and white photographs by Les Line, 189 pp. E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., 201 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10003. 1973 \$10.00

Several years ago I read a book by Franklin Russell titled "The Secret

Islands". This book, as I recall, was about Funk Island off the north coast of Newfoundland and Grand Manan off the coast of Maine. This book always stuck in my mind as one of those favorites that will always be remembered and recalled. When I first heard of "The Sea Has Wings" by Mr. Russell I could hardly wait to get a copy.

It seems the author has a real knack for giving the reader the mysterious feel of an island, the sea and their birdlife. I don't think it would be to far off base to say that Mr. Russell is deeply in love with the northeast coast of the U.S. and Canada.

The photographs, all in black and white, by Les Line are magnificent and supplement the text very well. I especially like those of the Puffins. It is refreshing to see such excellent photographs in black and white in this day and age of splashy color.

The authors style of writing and his intense love for his subject at times lead to anthropomorphic statements such as the one on page 71, "The eagle understands and moves on as fast as is gracefully possible." But on the other hand contemplate on this statement in reference to seabirds on the open ocean: "They have survived the night, the snow, predatory fish, the falcons and the eagles, the icing of their feathers and they have come through to live another day. But they mark our own notions of security and question the real meaning of survival on this earth." Two last quotes from the book to tease your appetite, "But few men ever reach Funk Island and perhaps that is just as well." and then in speaking of Gannets, "The strangeness of their world, the clamor of their voices, the overpowering presence of them in their colonies, all combine to permanently score the memories of men."

This reviewer is planning a trip to Newfoundland this summer and after reading this book I can hardly wait to get there.

If you like the sea, islands and birds, and who doesn't, go get a copy of "The Sea has Wings", its a real bargain.

**Bob Janssen**

**A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** by Richard French, with 220 species illustrated in full color and 28 drawings in black and white by John P. O'Neill. Don Eckelberry has 8 full page color portraits. 516 pages. Livingston Publishing Co., 18 Hampstead Circle, Wynnewood, Pa. 19096. 1973. \$12.50

A Guide To The Birds Of Trinidad And Tobago — A total of 417 species of birds of the island of Trinidad and Tobago are discussed in the book. The author's introduction is the history of ornithology in the islands. He reviews the studies of past birders and collectors, what they have done to advance the knowledge of birds that inhabit the islands and the geography of the islands, describing the location of the hills and lowlands. The prominent trees, shrubs, plants and plantations are mentioned in detail. Of much help for birding anywhere is the relation of the environment to the many species. The author does this very well.

Breeding data and migration are an important part of ornithology. Much information is supplied in this book. In addition to the usual information most books give us, Richard French gives habitat, status, measurements, weights and the voices of the common species. He attempts to describe the songs and call notes which few authors do. Food, nesting habits, eggs, their size and color are also given. General behavior is detailed, this is very important when birding in a different country.

The plates by John P. O'Neill are very well done - excellent color. It is my wish that the female Green Kingfisher would be illustrated separately and

not be hidden behind the picture of the male. Spectacles on illustrated birds are not mentioned as such-minor details that we usually have in other books.

This book is a bargain and I recommend it highly for any one planning to bird in the West Indies, especially these two islands. **Don Bolduc**

**THE WORLD OF THE WOOD DUCK** by F. Eugene Hester and Jack Dermid, 1973, . B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, \$5.95.

This book serves as a layman's life history of the Wood Duck and it is profusely illustrated. Although the pictures are in black and white, they still do justice to this colorful bird. The chapters contain many comments which can only be construed as the authors' personal opinion such as his hunting philosophies. You might learn that the female always precedes the male in flight or how long it takes for a young duckling to hatch or any number of other fascinating pieces of information. You might read with interest observations made by other naturalists, including our own Dr. Breckenridge, or the hints on nesting boxes near the end of the book might be what you are interested in, but regardless of your own needs, the book is written in any easy-to-read style and has enough pictures to satisfy any browser. I recommend that you buy this book for your library.

**Mike Link**

## M.O.U. LIFE MEMBERS

Year Joined  
as  
Life Member

Mrs. Mary S. Baker 385 Lakewood Lane Marquette, Michigan 49855	1958	Dr. D. G. Mahle Rt. 1 Wabasha, Minnesota 55981	1965
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Wallace C. Dayton 505 - 730 Bldg. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402	1972	Mr. William Pugh 2703 Greenhaze Ave. Racine, Wisconsin 53406	1974
Whitney Eastman	1962	Mrs. Evelyn Putman 1407 Woodland Ave. Duluth, Minnesota 55803	1958
Mrs. Whitney Eastman 7000 Valley View Rd. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55424	1958	Dr. Charles Reif	1965
Miss Mary Elwell 1321 East 1st St. Duluth, Minnesota 55805	1958	Wilkes College Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18703	
Mrs. John C. Green 9773 No. Shore Dr. Duluth, Minnesota 55804	1965	Mrs. H. M. Richardson 5215 Third Ave. So. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419	1974
David R. M. Hatch Oak Lake Manitoba, Canada ROM 1PO	1974	Mr. M. H. Running Wa-Keya Apts. Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616	1974
Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Herz Route 4, Box 952 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331	1971	Dr. George N. Rysgaard 710 So. Division Northfield, Minnesota 55057	1963
Mr. Earl D. Kopischke Vernon Center, Minnesota 56090	1966	Mrs. R. Sivertsen 29 Summit Ct. St. Paul, Minnesota 55102	1974
Dr. Olga Lakela University of So. Florida Tampa, Florida 33620	1958	Elmer W. Strehlow PO Box 1443 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201	1965
Mrs. W. R. Luwe 309 State St. Mankato, Minnesota 56001	1958	Mr. Dana Struthers Rt. 5, Box 548 Wayzata, Minnesota 55391	1958
Mr. W. R. Luwe 309 State St. Mankato, Minnesota 56001	1958	Mrs. Helen A. Wilson 1450 E. 55th Place Chicago, Illinois 60637	1962

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### REPORT COLOR-MARKED COWBIRDS

Over 2,800 cowbirds were banded and color-marked in west-central Kansas during 1973 as an aid in studying their movements and hopefully to determine their place of origin. Birds were marked with dark blue or yellow plastic leg streamers. Banding and color-marking will be continued in 1974 with red, yellow, or dark green leg streamers. Observers should report location and date of sighting, sex of bird and color of leg streamer. Richard A. Hill, Department of Biology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601.

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### REQUEST FOR COWBIRD DATA

I would like to obtain some assistance from MOU members. I'm interested in collecting some data on bird species which hatch and feed young Brown-headed Cowbirds.

The information I need is as follows:

Date of observation

Location of Observation (At least county)

Species feeding the cowbird

Number of cowbirds being fed

Were any of the young of the feeding species present?

Please send this information to:

Robert E. Holtz  
Assistant Professor, Biology  
Concordia College  
275 N. Syndicate Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

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**PURPOSE OF THE MOU**

The Minnesota Ornithologists Union in an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds, we aim to create and increase public interest in birds and promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims through the publishing of a magazine, **The Loon**; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



**SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS**

The editors of **The Loon** need articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of the sheet with generous margins. Notes of interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired the author should so specify indicating number

required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, August and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (4th Place Photo Contest Winner)**  
 Photo by Bernard P. Friel ..... Front Cover

**DEDICATION** ..... 3

**THE PRESIDENT WRITES** ..... 4

**BROTHER THEODORE VOELKER** ..... 5

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** ..... 7

**THE NAMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING**  
 by Manley Olson ..... 9

**THE 1971 CHRISTMAS COUNT IN MINNESOTA**  
 by Manley Olson ..... 10

**SHORE-BIRDING NEAR MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA**  
 by Kevin J. Zimmer ..... 15

**THE 1973 SUMMER SEASON**  
 by Marjorie M. Carr ..... 16

**A COMPARISON OF TWO BREEDING BIRD CENSUSES FOLLOWING  
 THE LITTLE SIOUX FOREST FIRE**  
 by Barbara Bergstedt and Gerald J. Niemi ..... 28

**NOTES OF INTEREST** ..... 33

**BOOK REVIEWS** ..... 42

**M. O. U. LIFE MEMBERS** ..... 46



The  
**LOON**

SUMMER 1974

VOLUME 46 — NUMBER 2

**BLUE MOUNDS INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK  
LUVERNE, MINN. 56106**

**The LOON** Minnesota's magazine of birds and nature, is published four times each year by the **Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**, the state-wide bird club. Permanent address: J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455. Anyone interested in birds and nature may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: **The Loon** and the **MOU Newsletter**.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Karol Gresser, 8850 Goodrich Ave., Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send Mrs. Gresser \$5 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$6 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly. Life \$100. Also available from Mrs. Gresser: back issues of **The Loon** (\$1.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (20 for \$1 ppd.). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to Mrs. Gresser.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:** Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Hopkins, Mn. 55343. (phone 938-7464). The editor solicits articles, short notes, and black/white illustrations about birds and nature. See back cover for details.

"The Season" section of **The Loon** publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly desire reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Mrs. Janet Green, 9773 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Mn. 55804. (area 218, phone 525-5654).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Mrs. Marlyn Mauritz, Route 4, Box 886, Excelsior, Minn. 55331. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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## THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

I came away from our annual county tour of conservation practices installed under the technical supervision of the Soil and Water Conservation District convinced that some of the current agricultural programs are a boon to the birds. We saw wildlife ponds, fish ponds, permanent vegetation cover on steep hillsides and stream banks, and tree planting.

The wildlife ponds are just that; impounded or dug-out shallow ponds designed to provide season-long habitat for waterfowl and all the associated marshland species; terns, rails, Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, marsh wrens and others. Area game-managers from the DNR assist in planning wildlife ponds.

Fish ponds are primarily to provide a stay-at-home fishing hole for the landowner. The prettiest one of these in this area is 2/3 acre in size, along a drainage creek in a bur oak grove. While we were there robins and orioles were bathing in the shallow sand-bottomed spawning area. The biggest, 80 acre Hickory Lake, is a three-owner alternative to a drainage system. In it's fourth season, Hickory Lake is providing good fishing for both pan fish and game fish with a bonus for birders. Wood Ducks are most numerous and the oak-hickory woods around the lake are alive with birds.

The permanent grass cover on steep hillsides and stream banks provide a needed, though limited, habitat for meadowlarks, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, and other open-field species.

The tree planting program, relatively new to this area, is one of the districts best programs. Landowners are becoming convinced of the value of a windbreak. Plantings are a minimum of eight rows of trees. The DNR area game manager and the district forester assist in planning tree plantings and when plantings are a minimum of ten rows the DNR may make a cost-sharing payment to the landowner for the benefits to wildlife. All plantings are designed to provide a "snow catch" area and storm protection and food for wildlife, as well as a wind-break for the farmstead. The Freeborn Soil and Water Conservation District tree planting machine has been operating full time during the tree planting season the last two years. In 1973 over 17,000 trees were planted in seventeen sites.

All of Minnesota, including the cities and municipalities, is now in Soil and Water Conservation Districts. SWCD service is available to any property owner. The above-mentioned conservation practices are all eligible for cost-sharing, incentive payments (up to 60% of the cost of the project for ponds) through county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services offices. Any individual landowner or club contemplating a wildlife area development should make use of these services and incentives. They certainly help to put worthwhile projects within financial reach of many. Planning, design, and supervision of installation by DNR and SWCD personnel insures long-term benefits to both wildlife and the human environment.

**BILL BRYSON**

# ARCTIC TERN AND LITTLE GULL AS MIGRANTS IN DULUTH

by Janet C. Green

One of the regular features of the late spring migration in Duluth is the hundreds to thousands of terns that congregate the second half of May in the harbor. Large flocks are commonly seen resting on Minnesota Point, the Port Terminal or other dredge spoil and shore areas. A huge migration (14,000 birds) of terns flying along Minnesota Point was witnessed on May 20, 1971 by Kim Eckert (*Loon* 43:85). It has been assumed that these small white terns are almost all Common Terns with the exception of a very few Forster's Terns. Caspian Terns in groups of 20-50 and Black Terns in groups of 5-20 are also regularly present, as are hundreds of gulls, mostly Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls.

It is very difficult to get close to the resting flocks of gulls and terns. To my knowledge no one, before Memorial Day weekend 1973, had had the opportunity of looking over carefully and closely a resting group of terns away from the local breeding colony of Common Terns. The weather on May 27, 1973 provided me just that opportunity. It was cold, very windy and foggy that morning when I noticed a large congregation of gulls and terns on the macadam runway of the Skyharbor airport on Minnesota Point. I started to walk out to the runway but changed my mind when the full force of the wind hit me. It was obvious that no planes would be flying in that weather so I decided to ask the caretaker for permission to drive out to where the birds were. This was granted and I was able to get close to the terns and gulls in my car which provided shelter from the wind and also served as a blind.

A congregation of gulls and terns like the one I was observing is not a

uniform mixture of several species. Rather the different species segregate into sub-groups that seem to be based primarily on size. On this occasion the Common Terns with some Bonaparte's Gulls and Black Terns mixed with them were closest to me. A Caspian Tern flock was in the background and a large group of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were further down the runway. Using a zoom-lens spotting scope from the car window I worked over the birds closest to me. Usually in searching for unusual species of gulls or terns it is necessary to look carefully at each individual because of the variety of plumages (immature, winter) and because several species are quite similar. However, rapidly scanning with the 15 power scope I quickly picked out a black-headed adult gull with pure white wing tips - something I had never seen before. It was an adult Little Gull (see photo 1) - the first ever reported on Lake Superior and the second record for Minnesota (the first was from Lake Pepin by Violet Lender; *Loon* 44:56). Fortunately there is a pay telephone at the Skyharbor airport and I was able to immediately communicate my excitement to Marj Carr who alerted other birders before driving down to join me.

Before Marj arrived I had spotted several immature Little Gulls which were much harder to pick out from the Bonaparte's Gulls than was the adult. Then I focused my attention on the terns and soon noticed that many of them were Forster's Terns. Comparing them to the Common Terns, their slightly thicker and more orange bill, and more orange legs were quite noticeable at that close range. Also many Forster's Terns have a white indentation in the margin of their cap behind the eye that also

stands out at close range. Minutely examining the terns I found one that was obviously lower slung than the Common Terns. In addition to the very short legs, I could see that its bill was slightly smaller and a brighter red without the black tip of a Common Tern, and that its wings at rest were just a little bit shorter than the tip of the tail. Putting together all these field marks convinced me that I was looking at an Arctic Tern - the first identified in Minnesota or the upper Great Lakes. After making notes on the plumage of the Arctic Tern, I again scanned the tern flock and nearby located two more Arctic Terns engaged in courtship display.

Marj Carr had arrived by then, bringing her camera and her patient and skillful photography techniques, and was able to get good pictures of the Little Gulls and Arctic Terns in spite of the foggy weather. Two of these have been published in **American Birds** (v. 27, p. 776, August 1973), two are included here (one is the same as one in **American Birds**), and two other pictures showing the Arctic Terns have been deposited in the M.O.U. files. One Arctic Tern is present in photo 1. It is in the right hand third of the photo, behind the two Bonaparte's Gulls (one preening) that are in the foreground. The Arctic Tern has its head turned away from the camera but its very short legs are obvious. Next to it on the right are two Forster's Terns and behind it on the left is a Common Tern.

By this time several other local birders had joined us and also some out-of-town people who had been birding on the Point and were attracted to the line of cars and optical equipment parked at the end of the runway. Besides Marj and Bill Carr, Henry Roberts, Koni Sundquist, Charlie Horn, Bob Zink and Ed Currier were present that morning and saw the Arctic Tern and Little Gulls.

Although the flock of gulls and terns were occasionally disturbed by

the observers and took flight, they would settle on the runway again when we were all inside the cars. Constantly looking them over I located more Little Gulls. Besides the original adult, there were two adults in the back of the flock standing together like a pair. Marj and I also counted four immature Little Gulls, two of which are in photo 2. One is standing in the center foreground; the other is sitting to the left of the tern directly behind the center gull. The four were not seen at once, but because of the variation in the amount and color of the dark marks on their head and wings we identified four different immatures.

A couple of other species of gulls were also identified that day. The complete list of birds in the congregation on the runway is given below.

May 27, 1973

Glaucous Gull - 1 (immature)  
 Herring Gull - 400  
 Ring-billed Gull - 600 (many adults)  
 Franklin's Gull - 1 (adult)  
 Bonaparte's Gull - 150 (few adults)  
 Little Gull - 7 (3 adults, 4 immatures)  
 Forster's Tern - 50  
 Common Tern - 400  
 Arctic Tern - 3  
 Caspian Tern - 31  
 Black Tern - 25

Needless to say the presence of these birds caused much excitement in birding circles in Minnesota and in the ensuing days several were fortunate enough to see them. These include:

Little Gull

May 28 - 1 A, 2 I (Eckert, Gresser, Campbell)

May 29 - 1 I (Savaloja)

May 31 - 1 A, 4 I (Baumhofer)

Arctic Tern

May 28 - 1 - (Eckert, Rhume, Gresser, Stanley)

May 29 - 1 - (Savaloja)

May 31 - 1 - (Baumhofer)

In 1973 the weather for the five days preceding May 27th had been cloudy and cold with rain almost daily, and a cold front had passed through Duluth the night before. In 1974 spring was exceptionally late with cold weather through mid-June. At the end of a long spell of adverse weather, on June 17, 1974, I finally got a chance to leisurely observe with a spotting scope from the car the congregation of gulls and terns that had been at the Port Terminal since early June. My previous attempt that spring (May 28, 1974) to repeat my 1973 experience on Minnesota Point had only produced 30 Herring Gulls, 250 Ring-billed Gulls, 40 Bonaparte's Gulls, 100 Common Terns and 62 Caspian Terns. But on the evening of June 17th I was more fortunate and the birds I identified in 1½ hours of observing the flock at the Port Terminal dredge spoil is as follows:

June 17, 1974

- Herring Gull - 50
- Ring-billed Gull - 150 (mostly adults)
- Franklin's Gull - 2 (sub-adults)
- Bonaparte's Gull - 8 (2 adults, 6 immatures)
- Little Gull - 5 (immatures)
- Forster's Tern - 1
- Common Tern - 150 (100 loafing; 50 on nests)
- Arctic Tern - 2
- Caspian Tern - 9

The numbers of gulls and terns loafing on the sandy dredge spoil and bathing in the large puddles, the result of much recent rain, constantly changed as birds arrived and departed. I watched as late as the light would allow and then notified Marj Carr. She went down early the next morning and saw two immature Little Gulls and one adult Arctic Tern in breeding plumage. That morning, June 18th, the weather cleared and the wind came from the south; neither species was seen again although many people looked.

No pictures were taken in 1974 be-

cause the birds were too far away but I made the following notes on each species.

**Arctic Tern:** completely black bill and feet; forehead white contrasting in a sharp line with black crown; mantle slightly darker gray than Common Tern and the same color as the folded primaries; wings and tail tips at rest appeared of equal length; very short legs (standing on the sand almost no tarsus was visible); appeared vary slightly smaller in size than the Common Terns.

As I was observing it a nearby Common Tern made an attacking flight at it, and it flew off. The plumage of this bird was unlike any I had ever seen before and I concluded it was an adult (because of the sharp line between forehead and crown) in winter plumage. The black legs are diagnostic of an Arctic Tern in this plumage. There were a few Common Terns there that day that also were in winter or immature plumage, but their bills were black with dark red base and they had reddish legs. I saw another tern in breeding plumage with very short legs but did not get a chance to study it before the terns were disturbed and took flight, and I could not find it again when they settled. It may have been the same bird that Marj Carr more carefully identified the next day as a breeding adult Arctic Tern.

**Little Gull:** (1) watched it preen next to an immature Bonaparte's Gull, bill and head noticeably smaller than Bonaparte's and did not stand as tall, overall size more like Common Tern nearby; crown and upper nape, dark brown, this color darker and more extensive than in an immature Bonaparte's; grayish spot on face behind eye; primary tips and coverts of folded wing dark brown, darker than Bonaparte's; rest of mantle gray; bill black and legs flesh colored. (2 and 3) seen together, bathing and preening; similar to first bird but spot on face



**Photo No. 1**



**Photo No. 2**

**Gulls and terns at Minnesota Point, May 27, 1973; for identification see text. Photos by Marjorie M. Carr.**

dark brown rather than grayish; when flew watched one of them carefully and saw dark zig-zag line of coverts and primaries enclosing whitish patch of secondaries which had a thin darker trailing edge; tail was all white. (4 and 5) seen standing together; both had dark pattern on wings; one was getting a hood, grayish rather than black of adult, and had two dark spots on outer tips of tail; the other one had head markings that were less dark than any of the previous immatures seen that day.

These descriptions point out two things: one, that immature Little Gulls are similar to immature Bonaparte's Gulls, and two, that the markings on the head and tail are variable at least in the spring. All the spring immatures that I saw had gray backs. From my limited experience in identifying immature Little Gulls, I will offer the following suggestions on field marks to look for, assuming that this species is associated with Bonaparte's Gulls. Standing birds: 1) smaller than Bonaparte's although this is not as obvious as one might think because of size variation in Bonaparte's and distance from observer, 2) dark brown coverts and primary tips whereas Bonaparte's have lighter coverts and brown of primaries is not as extensive (compare species in photo 2, 3) head markings usually brownish rather than grayish of Bonaparte's, and in some birds more extensive than Bonaparte's. Flying birds: 1) a darker zig-zag line along wings than Bonaparte's, 2) whitish area on secondaries whereas in Bonaparte's the whitish area is on the primaries.

The question arises whether these occurrences of Arctic Terns and Little Gulls were accidental or are these species regular but rare through Duluth. It has always been assumed that Arctic Terns are coastal migrants and do not occur inland. All inland reports are viewed with skepticism because the species is so difficult to separate

from Common Terns, especially in flight when most terns are seen. However, the breeding population of Arctic Terns in central Canada (western Hudson Bay, James Bay, Lake Athabasca) might be assumed to have an overland route through the Great Lakes from the Atlantic Coast rather than the longer route around Ungava Peninsula. The only other observations of Arctic Terns from mid-continent that I could find in the literature were two older records in the 1957 A. O. U. Checklist (Toronto, Ontario and Ithaca, New York) and several recent ones (1972, 1973) from Ontario and Quebec on the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers. In 1972 birds were grounded during a cold front: three near Montreal on June 10, 1972 (**American Birds** 26:839) and 40 at Ottawa on June 11, 1972 (**American Birds** 27:53). The presence of this latter flock produced speculation that Arctic Terns might migrate through Ottawa: "Roger Foxall notes the interesting correlation with weather: 'The appearance of the flock after the passage of a cold front and their disappearance after the passage of a warm front (on June 13-14) does . . . indicate a grounding of migrants rather than a displacement.'" (*ibid*). This flock also altered Ontario birders to watch more carefully for this species and consequently other records were obtained in 1973 from the Ottawa River: three on May 25, 1973 from Ottawa (**American Birds** 27:767) and four on June 14, 1973 from Pembroke (**American Birds** 27:865). Duluth is a long way from the Ottawa River, but there may also be a regular but small migration of Arctic Terns through here that normally goes undetected.

It is easier to speculate about Little Gulls because their numbers have increased throughout the Great Lakes, especially Lake Erie and Ontario, since the early 1960's. The first New World breeding record (unsuccessful due to flooding of eggs) was on Lake Ontario (Oshawa) in 1962. There have been

subsequent breeding attempts on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario and Erie (**American Birds** 25:52; 25:853; 26:853) with the first authenticated successful nestings in 1971 near Whitby on Lake Ontario (**Ontario Naturalist** 13:38-40).

On the lower half of Lake Michigan Little Gulls have been regular but rare transients since the mid-1960's, being most often observed in the late summer and fall. In 1972 an attempted nesting was reported from Green Bay (**Passenger Pigeon** 35:96) and birds were present there again in the summer of 1973 (**Badger Birder** no. 118). No other Great Lakes nesting sites have been reported in **American Birds** to date.

One would assume that the Little Gulls seen at Duluth were not nesting at these lower Great Lakes localities,

although they may be the successful progeny from these areas. The only records of Little Gulls to the northwest of Lake Superior are from Saskatchewan where an adult was discovered near Lake Athabasca on June 26, 1962, by R. W. Nero (**Birds of the Lake Athabasca Region**, p. 87). There is also an old record of a specimen collected on the first Franklin Expedition (1819-1822) between York Factory, Manitoba and the mouth of the Coppermine River (**Ontario Naturalist** 13:38). The likelihood of this record has been doubted (**Blue Jay** 16:45) but considering the subsequent status of this bird, it does seem possible. The birds seen at Duluth may be regular transients to some undiscovered colony in northwestern Canada.

9773 North Shore Drive, Duluth,  
Minnesota 55804

## THE 1973 FALL SEASON - Aug. 1 to Nov. 30

by Robert B. Janssen

Species Compilation by  
James A. Baumhofer

Minnesota had generally stable weather conditions throughout the period. These stable conditions are normally not conducive to any concentrated migration activity. This was certainly evident from the reports received, birds seemed to trickle through the state with no heavy migration periods noted. This does not mean that there weren't some interesting observations as will be noted below. It is my conjecture that these rather stable conditions during the fall predict a winter where few summer birds overwinter. It is pure theory on my part but records seem to indicate that if very unstable weather with stormy conditions occur in September or October, many birds appear to lose their migratory urge and remain in and about areas where food is available such as feeders, dumps, open water,

etc. We will see what this winter brings but I would expect few unusual overwintering records.

Precipitation was variable over the state with the central, northcentral and northeast areas receiving heavy amounts. On the other hand, the southwest was extremely dry, especially in August. All areas had above normal rainfall in September except a few scattered localities such as Minneapolis, St. Paul. October was about average in rainfall but November was way above. For example, for the first time in seven months the Twin Cities area had above normal temperatures. By the end of November, winter had not really started in the state, most of the larger lakes were still open and there was little snow on the ground. Things changed drastically in early December.

## Loons through Herons

Seven Common Loons were still present in St. Paul on 11-30 (JJ). The **Arctic Loon** continues to make news in Minnesota, at least two were recorded on Lake Superior near Duluth in mid-September. One was seen by many observers attending the Hawk Count in Duluth. The Red-throated Loon was recorded twice, one adult on 9-16 at Two Harbors, Lake Co. (JAB) and one immature on Mille Lacs Lake on 11-20 (TS). Eared Grebes appeared to have a good year at Agassiz Refuge, 60 were counted on 8-29. Little Blue Herons were recorded at Lake Johanna, Pope County on 8-11 (BAH) 2 at Ashby Grant Co. on 8-25 (KRE) and a very late immature at Weaver, Wabasha County on 10-3 (JB). A Great Egret was still present at Winona on 11-18 for a late date for the state. An immature Yellow-Crowned Night Heron was seen in Aitkin Co. on 8-8 (TS) indicating further possible range extension northward in the state for this species.

## Waterfowl

Approximately 700 Whistling Swans were still present on the Weaver Marshes on 11-30 (FL). One of the most unusual records for the period was a **BRANT** seen on 10-7 at Silver Lake, Rochester. The bird was seen by many observers on 10-13 as it kept company with the 20,000 Canada Geese which are wintering in the area. White-fronted Geese are seldom recorded in the fall in Minnesota but 36 were at Agassiz Refuge on 10-14. Waterfowl hunters were disappointed this year in the state as no "northern flight" ever developed. Good numbers of ducks were reported at Agassiz Refuge, however, Mallards, 37,300 on 10-13, Gadwall, 26,980 on 10-15, 12,540 Blue-winged Teal on 10-15 and 14,630 American Widgeons on 10-15. Canvasbacks and Redheads are still in trouble especially the former. A sub-adult male Harlequin Duck was seen on Lake Superior near Duluth on 10-29 (JAB). A female or immature **KING EIDER** was seen

and carefully identified at close range on 10-16 on Mille Lacs Lake (TS). This is only the fourth state record for the species. White-winged and Black Scoters began showing up on Lake Superior by late October, 11 White-wings were seen on 10-27 in Cook Co. (RBJ). The rare Surf Scoter was seen only once on 10-29 near Duluth (JAB).

## Hawks

A record of a Swallow-tailed Kite was received from northern St. Louis Co. for early August, (fide Dr. W. J. Breckenridge). Hawk migration over Hawk Ridge in Duluth was good, probably not reaching the records of last year but excellent numbers of Goshawks, Sharp-shins and Broad-wings were reported. Golden Eagles were at Agassiz Refuge on 9-21 thru 11-29, one was in Crow Wing Co. on 11-3, Mille Lacs Co. on 11-25 (TS) and three at Whitewater State Park on 11-18 (FL). Bald Eagles were reported from seven different localities. By 10-18, 10 individuals were on their usual wintering grounds at Read's Landing, Wabasha County. Only two Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported, one on 9-23 at Duluth (JAB) and one on 9-30 in Rock Co. (KRE). One gray phase Gryfalcon was seen in Duluth on 11-8 (KRE).

## Grouse thru Rails

Spruce Grouse were recorded from three counties in the northern part of the state during October and November. Ruffed Grouse numbers are down from their peak in 1972. Only one record of a Bobwhite was received, a single bird on 8-21 in Mower County (KRE). Ring-necked Pheasant habitat continues to decline in the state and as a result the bird becomes more scarce and hunters complain. The Chukar continues to hang on in Ely, 4 adults and 10 young were observed on 9-4 (RBJ). Yellow Rails were seen and heard in Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties during August (RBJ, TS). A late Virginia Rail was seen in Aitkin Co. on 11-17 (fide TS). There were 2,000

Sandhill cranes present at Borup, Norman Co. on 10-6, by 10-29, 1,000 were still present (EA).

### Shorebirds

During August in Duluth excellent numbers of shorebirds were recorded. Dunlins which are very scarce in early fall were recorded on 8-25 (RBJ) in a very confusing fall plumage. Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, plus Buff-breasted, White-rumps (scarce in the fall). Knots, both Dowitchers, Semipalmated, Least, Baird's and Sanderlings were recorded in Duluth during August and September. A late Greater Yellowlegs was in Crow Wing Co. on 11-22 (TS).

### Gulls thru Kingfisher

Jaegers made history in Minnesota with unprecedented records being reported from Lake Superior near Duluth from early August to early September. It is difficult to determine how many individual birds were involved during the period but approximately a dozen individual sightings were reported. Two **Pomarine Jaegers** were seen on 8-5 at Duluth (TS) and one on 9-16 at Stoney Point, Lake Superior near Duluth (KRE). Three Glaucous Gulls were at Eagle Lake north of Duluth on 11-17 (RBJ). Bonaparte's Gulls were on Mille Lacs Lake all through the period, 2,000 on 8-7 (TS), this flock dwindled to 12 on 12-4 when the lake froze. This is a late date for this species in Minnesota. The first Barn Owl record for Minnesota in a number of years came from Rock Co. on 9-23 (KRE). The first Snowy Owl of the season was reported on 10-2 in Aitkin Co. (TS). Reports were received in November of Snowy Owls from Marshall, St. Louis and Dakota Counties. A Hawk Owl was north of Duluth on 11-17 (RBJ). Short-eared Owls have been very scarce in Minnesota all year, four reports were received this fall, six on Agassiz Refuge on 11-25, one in Nicollet Co. on 10-27 (DB), five in Aitkin Co. on 10-11 (LP) and one on the Sher-

burne Refuge on 11-12.

### Woodpeckers thru Swallows

A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was reported in Crow Wing Co. in early November (**vide** TS). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen near Duluth on 10-13 (JCG). Two Great Crested Flycatchers were seen along the north shore of Lake Superior, Cook Co. on 10-27 for a record late date for the state. The **SAY'S PHOEBE** is on the hypothetical list in Minnesota but Kim Eckert saw and carefully identified an immature bird in Rock Co. on 9-3.

### Jays thru Starlings

On 10-23 there were 28 Black-billed Magpies recorded on Agassiz Refuge, 2 were in Koochiching Co. on 10-10 (FN) and one in Morrison Co. on 11-3 (NMH). A Carolina Wren was seen in south Mpls. on 9-30 (VL) and a Mockingbird was at a feeder in north Minneapolis from 10-25 to 11-12 (RPR). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen later than normal - one on 11-23 in Minneapolis (RBJ) and one in St. Paul on 11-25 (JAB). Five Water Pipits were still in Clay Co. on 11-18 and two Sprague's Pipits were still on the Felton Prairie, Clay Co. on 10-10, this represents the latest date on record for this species (EA). The first Northern Shrike of the season was seen at Agassiz Refuge on 10-11, another on 10-22 in Rock Co. in the far southwest (KRE).

### Vireos thru Warblers

One of the most unusual records certainly for the season, if not for the state in some time was the observation of a **WORM-EATING WARBLER** on 11-18 on the west shore of Mille Lacs near Garrison. The bird was seen by six observers for over an hour (RBJ). Warbler migration was generally spotty with no waves reported, A Black-throated Blue female was seen in Minneapolis on 10-24 (VL) and another individual was reported on 9-11 (PF). A late Wilson's Warbler was in Rock Co. on 10-22 (KRE), an Ovenbird in St. Paul on 10-20 (JAB) and a Yellow-

throat was seen north of Duluth on 11-10 (GN).

### **Blackbirds thru Sparrows**

Rusty Blackbirds returned to the state earlier than usual with six being seen in Mahnomen Co. on 9-6 (RBJ). Dickcissels were still in Rock Co. on 9-9 (KRE). Winter finches began showing up in the north by October. Red and White-winged Crossbills were seen by many observers in the north and by the end of the period both species had spread to the southern part of the state. Common Redpolls were noted in small numbers in all areas. Pine Grosbeaks were only seen in small numbers but two were seen as far south as Anoka Co. on 10-18 (L Conroy). An individual of the Spotted race of the Rufous-sided Towhee was seen in Rock Co. on 10-22 (KRE). Longspurs were reported in good numbers, 15 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen in Rock Co. on 9-30 (KRE), the Smith's was seen in Duluth on 9-16 (RBJ) and Laplands began showing up in Duluth area in fair numbers by mid-September.

### **Common Loon**

Reported from Becker, Anoka, Hubbard, St. Louis, Wright, Hennepin, Cook, Itasca, Otter Tail. Peak 10-13 Mille Lacs (JM). Late north 11-10 Cook (KRE) and Clearwater (JM); 11-18 Crow Wing (RBJ); 11-25 Mille Lacs (TS). Late south 11-17 Cottonwood (LAF); 11-19 Hennepin (FN); 11-30 Ramsey (7) (JJ).

### **Red-throated Loon**

Two reports: 9-16 Two Harbors (JAB); 11-20 Mille Lacs (TS).

### **Red-necked Grebe**

Reported from St. Louis, Nicollet, Sherburne. Late north 10-30 Crow Wing (TS); 12-2 Mille Lacs (JJ). Late South 11-11 Le Sueur (GR).

### **Horned Grebe**

Reported from Marshall, Hennepin, Cook. Late north 11-6 St. Louis (JCG); 11-9 Crow Wing and Mille Lacs (TS).

### **The Loon**

Late south 11-3 Hennepin (ETS); 11-11 Hennepin (CLH); 11-13 Hennepin (VL).

### **Eared Grebe**

Only two reports: 8-29 Marshall (60) and 10-3 Marshall (AWR).

### **Western Grebe**

Reported from St. Louis, Pope, Nicollet. Late north 10-23 Marshall (2) (AWR). Late south 10-13 Kandiyohi (20) (BAH). Peak 8-2 Kandiyohi (100) (BAH).

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Reported from 15 counties. Late north 11-1 Marshall (7) (AWR); 11-30 Mille Lacs (TS). Late south 11-5 Wabasha (3) (DWM); 11-10 Wright (BAH); 11-24 Le Sueur (GR). Peak 8-29 Marshall (1640) (AWR).

### **White Pelican**

Reported from Murray, Lyon, Grant, Clay, Stearns, Jackson. Late south 9-30 Cottonwood (120) (LAF); 10-14 Lac Qui Parle (AFE). Peak 8-29 Marshall (829) (AWR).

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

Reported from Becker, Lyon, Murray, Pope, Clearwater, Grant, Cook, Wabasha, St. Louis Dakota. Late north 10-25 Mille Lacs (MI); 10-26 Marshall (4) (AWR); 11-9 Mille Lacs (TS). Late south 10-13 Swift (BAH). Peak 10-25 Lac Qui Parle (400) (AFE). Fewer reports than usual from the south.

### **Great Blue Heron**

Reported from 25 counties. Late north 11-15 Clay (GAA); 11-17 Morrison (LSR). Late south 11-1 Wabasha (DWM); 11-4 Wright (ETS). Peak 8-1 Marshall (300) (AWR).

### **Green Heron**

Reported from 13 counties. Late south 10-6 Le Sueur (GR).

### **Great Egret**

Reported from Lyon, Murray, Cottonwood, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Douglas, Otter Tail, Hennepin, Nicollet, Renville, McLeod. Late south 10-14 Goodhue (VL); 11-18 Winona (fide Hiawatha Valley Bird Club; latest on record).

Late north 10-3 Grant, (EA). Peak 9-16 Dakota (250) (RPR).

### **Black-crowned Night Heron**

Reported from Scott, Cottonwood, Clay, Pope, Otter Tail, Dakota, Aitkin, Sherburne. Late north 10-23 Marshall (2) (AWR). Late south 10-14 Goodhue (VL). Peak 8-29 Marshall (140) (AWR). One report from L. Superior, where it is casual: 9-14 St. Louis (JCG).

### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

One report: 8-8 Aitkin (1 imm.) (TS). This species is very rare away from its usual nesting sites near La Crescent.

### **Least Bittern**

Only three reports (seven last year), 8-5 Wright (4) (BAH); 8-16 Nicollet (2) (GN); 9-9 Houston (2) (FL).

### **American Bittern**

Reported from St. Louis, Anoka, Stearns. Peak 9-12 Marsall (100) (AWR). Late south 10-7 Rock (KRE) (latest date available!). Fewer reports than usual.

### **Whistling Swan**

Reported from Olmsted, Houston, Le Sueur, Sherburne, St. Louis. Early 9-15 Clearwater (RCD) (possible Trumpeter Swan?) Late north 11-4 Clay (54) (LCF); 11-18 Crow Wing (10) (TS), and (5) (RBJ). Late south 11-27 Murray (16) (EKB); 12-2 Wabasha (700) (FL). Peak 11-8 Hennepin (1000) (FN); 11-11 Wabasha (1000) (VL, DWM).

### **Canada Goose**

Reported from Becker, Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Cottonwood, St. Louis, Wright, Grant, Marshall, Ramsey, Washington, Norman. Late north 11-6 Hubbard (JM); 11-6 Marshall (12) (AWR). Late south 11-22 Hennepin (OLJ); 11-23 Hennepin (35) (VL); 11-30 Sherburne (230) (SWR). Peak 11-3 Olmsted (20,000) (RBJ).

### **White-fronted Goose**

Reported from Marshall, Sherburne. Late north 10-27 Crow Wing (3) (TS). Late south 11-4 Olmsted (RPR). Peak

10-14 St. Louis (50) (JCG); this species is casual in northeast Minnesota. More reports than usual.

### **Snow-Blue Goose**

Reported from 13 counties. Late north 11-10 Marshall (AWR), Cook (KRE), and Mille Lacs (2) (MI). Late south 11-17 Le Sueur 60) (GR); 11-28 Ramsey (40) (JAB); 11-28 Sherburne (4) (SWR). Peak 10-23 Marshall (699) (AWR).

### **Mallard**

Reported from 19 counties. Peak 10-3 Marshall **37,300** (AWR).

### **Black Duck**

Reported from Cook, Wright, Wabasha, Houston. Early 8-18 Sherburne (SWR); 9-8 Mille Lacs (2) (MI). Late north 11-1 Marshall (75) (AWR). Late south 11-24 Hennepin (3) (VL). Peak 10-3 Marshall (390) (AWR).

### **Gadwall**

Reported from Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Wabasha, Le Sueur, Sherburne. Late north 11-1 Marshall (5565) (AWR). Late south 11-27 Hennepin (3) (JAB). Peak 10-15 Marshall (**26,980**) (AWR).

### **Pintail**

Reported from Hennepin, Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Mille Lacs, Pope, St. Louis, Sherburne. Late north 11-1 Marshall (710) (AWR). Late south 11-11 Wabasha (6) (DWM).

### **Green-winged Teal**

Reported from Lac Qui Parle, Mille Lacs, Cass, Houston, Pope, Washington, Wabasha, St. Louis, Sherburne. Late north 11-1 Marshall (295) (AWR). Peak 10-3 Marshall (1720) (AWR).

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Reported from 15 counties. Late north 11-1 Marshall (190) (AWR). Late south 11-3 Stearns (NMH). Peak 8-29, Marshall (12,540) (AWR).

### **American Wigeon**

Reported from Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Mille Lacs, Olmsted, Cass, Ramsey, Wabasha, Aitkin, Sherburne.

Late north 11-1 Marshall (2700) (AW R). Late south 11-11 Hennepin (25) (DB) and (10) (VL); 11-27 Hennepin (7) (JAB); 11-28 Hennepin (25) (CLH). Peak 10-15 Marshall (14,630) (AWR).

#### **Northern Shoveler**

Reported from Grant, Aitkin, Sherburne. Late south 11-13 Hennepin (VL); 11-27 Hennepin (12) (EWJ). Peak 10-3 Marshall (2000) (AWR).

#### **Wood Duck**

Reported from 13 counties. Late south 11-17 Hennepin (CLH); 11-27 Wabasha (4) (DWM). Peak 9-19 Marshall (790) (AWR).

#### **Redhead**

Reported from Becker, Kandiyohi, Pope, St. Louis, Ramsey, Wabasha. Late north 11-22 Mille Lacs (TS). Late south 11-18 Hennepin (2) (VL); 11-25 Wright (5) (BAH). Peak 10-15 Marshall (1250) (AWR).

#### **Ring-necked Duck**

Reported from ten counties. Late north 11-1 Marshall (265) (AWR); 11-28 Mille Lacs (2) (TS). Late south 11-25 Wright (10) (BAH); 11-28 Ramsey (18) (JAB). Peak 10-14 Sherburne (2400) (SWR).

#### **Canvasback**

Reported from Becker, Kandiyohi, Pope, Houston, Le Sueur, Sherburne. Late north 11-1 Marshall (80) (AWR); 11-24 Mille Lacs (TS). Late south 11-22 Hennepin (OLJ); 11-28 Ramsey (9) (JAB); 11-29 Wabasha (15) (DWM). Peak 11-1 Wabasha 500) (DWM).

#### **Greater Scaup**

Four reports: 10-27 Cook (RBJ); 11-22 Crow Wing (TS); 11-8 St. Louis (4) and 11-27 Hennepin (JAB).

#### **Lesser Scaup**

Reported from Becker, St. Louis, Pope, Ramsey, Stearns, Cook, Itasca, Sherburne. Late north 11-18 Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs (RBJ); 11-30 Crow Wing (15) and Mille Lacs (10) (TS). Late south 11-25 Wright (15)

(BAH); 11-28 LeSueur (3) (GR). Peak 11-1 Marshall (4950) (AWR).

#### **Common Goldeneye**

Reported from 13 counties. Early 8-30 Marshall (2) (AWR). Peak 10-15 Marshall (160) (AWR) (low peak).

#### **Bufflehead**

Reported from ten counties. Late north 11-30 Crow Wing (6) (TS). Late south 11-23 Hennepin (20) (RBJ and (21)(RPR); 11-24 Hennepin (8) (VL); 11-29 Wabasha (DWM). Peak 10-15 Marshall (820) (AWR).

#### **Oldsquaw**

More reports than usual. Early 9-30 St. Louis (BDC). Peak 11-10 Cook (50) (KRE). Three reports away from L. Superior, all on Mille Lacs Lake: 11-8 Aitkin, 11-20 and 11-22 Mille Lacs (TS).

#### **Harlequin Duck**

Two reports: 10-29 St. Louis (JAB); 10-27 Itasca (1 shot) R. Kohlbry. This species is highly-unusual away from L. Superior.

#### **White-winged Scoter**

Reported on L. Superior from 10-6 through 11-18. Peak 10-27 Cook (12) (RPR). No inland reports.

#### **Surf Scoter**

Only two reports; 10-27 Beltrami (1 shot) R. Kohlbry; 10-29 St. Louis (3) (JAB).

#### **Black Scoter**

Fewer reports than usual. Nine individuals were reported from L. Superior from 9-17 through 10-27. One report inland: 11-2 Aitkin (TS).

#### **Ruddy Duck**

Reported from 11 counties. Peak 9-19 Marshall (280) (AWR).

#### **Hooded Merganser**

Reported from Wright, St. Louis, Houston, Sherburne. Late north 11-18 Aitkin (RBJ); 11-30 Crow Wing (2) (TS). Late south 11-12 Le Sueur (2) GR; 11-22 Hennepin (6) (OLJ). Peak 10-15 Marshall (580) (AWR).

### **Common Merganser**

Fewer reports than usual! Reported from St. Louis, Becker and Aitkin. Late north 11-8 Crow Wing (TS). Late south 11-19 Wabasha (DWM); 11-28 Ramsey (40) (JAB) (Also peak).

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Few reports. Reported from Lake and St. Louis. Late north 11-25 Crow Wing (TS). Late south 11-14 Le Sueur (2) (GR).

### **Turkey Vulture**

Reported from 11 counties. Late north 10-15 Lake (25) R. Kohlbry 10-16 St. Louis (4) (JCG). Peak 10-14 St. Louis (54) (JCG).

### **Goshawk**

Reported from Marshall, Becker, Mille Lacs, Hubbard. Early south 10-27 Sherburne (SWR). Early north 8-6 Carlton (OLJ) (probably breeding bird). 9-4 St. Louis (JCG). Peak 10-13 St. Louis (616) (JCG).

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Reported from 13 counties. Peak 10-13 St. Louis (1221) (JCG).

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Reported from Sherburne, Clay. Peak 10-13 St. Louis (12) (JCG).

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Reported from 26 counties. Late north 11-8 St. Louis (KRE). Peak 10-14 St. Louis (1645) (JCG).

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Five reports: 8-11, 8-18 Anoka (CLH); 9-31 **Lac Qui Parle** (AFE) (rare this far west. Two northern reports, one very late: 8-4 Aitkin (RBJ); 11-25 Crow Wing (TS).

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Reported from Marshall, Anoka, Hennepin, Mahnomen, Sherburne, Itasca, Clay. Late north 10-15 St. Louis (JCG). Peak 9-7 St. Louis (5676) (JCG).

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Two reports (four last year): 9-16

**Crow Wing** (KBZ) (rare this far north); 9-23 Rock (KRE).

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Reported from 16 counties. Early 9-15 St. Louis (2) (ETS). Peak 10-16 St. Louis (18) (JCG).

### **Golden Eagle**

Apparently a sharp decline in numbers! Only 11 birds reported (35 were seen at Hawk Ridge at Duluth last year alone - none were seen there this year). A breakdown of the reports by county follows: Marshall (four unknown age) (AWR). Wabasha (1 imm.) (JAB); Winona (3 ad.) (FL); Sherburne (1 ad.) (SWR); Crow Wing and Mille Lacs (1 imm.) (TS).

### **Bald Eagle**

A total of 77 individuals reported (35 ad., 28 imm., 14 unknown age). By county, the reports were as follows: Marshall (5 unknown), St. Louis (3 ad., 2 imm., 2 unknown), Wabasha (7 ad., 2 imm., 2 unknown), Dakota (2 ad.), Lyon (1 unknown), Becker (1 ad., 3 imm., ), Cass (4 ad., 1 imm., 1 unknown), Winona (1 imm.), Aitkin (2 ad., 2 imm., 1 unknown), Houston (6 ad., 4 imm.), Sherburne (3 ad.), Crow Wing (7 ad., 5 imm.).

### **Marsh Hawk**

Reported from 16 counties. Late north 11-30 Marshall (AWR). Late south 11-25 Stearns (LAF). Peak 9-12 (17) Marshall (AWR).

### **Osprey**

Reported from Anoka, Hubbard, St. Louis, Hennepin, Dakota, Sherburne, Wright, Fillmore, Winona.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Fewer reports than last year; for example, only one was seen at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, where 11 were seen last year. Seen on 9-23 St. Louis (JAB); 9-30 Rock (KRE); 10-1 Becker (BDC).

### **Merlin**

Fewer reports than last year (only six seen in Duluth). Other sightings 10-

31 Mille Lacs (MI); 8-16 (early) Nicolet (GN). Late 11-10 Hennepin (OLJ).

#### **American Kestrel**

Reported from 30 counties.

#### **Spruce Grouse**

Six reports of six individuals (three last year): 10-10 (2) 10-18 Koochiching (FN, TS); 10-27 Cook (RBJ, RPR); 11-7 Hubbard (KRE); 11-10 St. Louis (GN).

#### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 12 counties.

#### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Only two reports (four last year): 9-19 (18) Marshall (AWR); 10-13 Aitkin (TS).

#### **Bobwhite**

One report (none last year): 8-21 Mower (KRE).

#### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported from 14 counties.

#### **Chukar**

9-4 Ely (14) (RBJ). One of the few reports of this species in recent years.

#### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from Marshall, Rock, Lac Qui Parle, Clay, Dakota, and Dodge.

#### **Sandhill Crane**

Fewer reports than usual. Seen in Sherburne, Aitkin and Marshall. Peak 10-22 Norman (1000) (KBZ).

#### **Virginia Rail**

Fewer reports than usual. Seen 8-18 St. Louis (RBJ); 9-30 Wright (ETS). One very late date: 11-17 Aitkin Mark Carlson.

#### **Sora**

Reported from Marshall, Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Hennepin, Houston, Dakota, Sherburne.

#### **Yellow Rail**

Three reports: 8-4 Aitkin (2) (RBJ); 8-28 (1), 8-30 (2), Crow Wing (TS).

#### **Common Gallinule**

Reported from 8-21 through 9-22 (23 individuals) in Houston by (KRE,

FL, RBJ). Also, one report on 10-14 Lake R. Kohlbray.

#### **American Coot**

Reported from 13 counties. Peak 10-13 Marshall (29,940). Late south 11-27 Hennepin (225); 11-28 Hennepin (200) (CLH); 11-28 Le Sueur (6) (GR).

#### **Semipalmated Plover**

Fewer reports than usual. Seen in Mille Lacs, Wabasha. Early 8-4 Hennepin (OLJ); 8-5 Cottonwood (LAF). Two late dates: 10-11, 10-13 St. Louis, (FN), J. Gallion.

#### **Piping Plover**

Only one report! 8-25 St. Louis (2) (RBJ).

#### **Killdeer**

Reported from 18 counties. Peak 9-6 Mille Lacs (30) (MI).

#### **American Golden Plover**

Reported from Rock, Mille Lacs, Hennepin. Early 8-3 Aitkin (TS). Peak 9-18 St. Louis (60) (JCG). Late 10-21 St. Louis (8) (ETS).

#### **Black-bellied Plover**

Reported from Marshall, Murray, Wabasha, Sherburne, Hennepin. Early 8-7 St. Louis (2) (OLJ). Peak 9-22 St. Louis (100) (BDC). Late 11-3 Mille Lacs (3) (MI).

#### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Few reports; seen in Mahnomon, Mille Lacs. Early 8-7 St. Louis (GN). Late 10-11 St. Louis (FN).

#### **American Woodcock**

Reported from Aitkin, Itasca, Sherburne, Marshall, Becker, Anoka, Wabasha. Peak 9-2 St. Louis (30) (JCG). Late 11-1 St. Louis (JCG); 11-9 Mille Lacs (MI).

#### **Common Snipe**

Reported from 13 counties. Peak 8-29 Marshall (110) (AWR).

#### **Upland Sandpiper**

Three reports (two last year): 8-10 Clay (8) (KBZ); 8-15 Clay (FL); 9-5 St. Louis (RBJ).

#### **The Loon**

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Reported from Stearns, St. Louis, Pope, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Clay, Wright, Hennepin.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Reported from St. Louis, Anoka, Dakota, Mille Lacs, Wabasha, Nicollet. Early 8-2 Hennepin (OLJ).

### **Willet**

Three reports, two from Duluth; 8-4 Hennepin (ETS); 8-8, 8-18 St. Louis (OLJ, FL).

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

Reported from Marshall, Lyon, Wabasha, Lac Qui Parle, St. Louis, Clay. Early 8-1 Hennepin (CLH). Peak 9-1 Cottonwood (22) (LAF). One very late date: 11-22 Crow Wing (TS).

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Reported from 11 counties. Early 8-1 Anoka (SC). Peak 8-10 Clay (1000) (KBZ). Late 10-23 Hennepin (EWJ) and (2) (VL).

### **Red Knot**

Four reports of seven individuals: 8-17, 9-2, (2) St. Louis (JGG); 8-26 (3), 9-4 St. Louis (ETS, RBJ).

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Reported from Lyon, Wright, Wabasha, Clay. Early 8-1 Anoka (6) (SC); 8-2 Hennepin (4) (OLJ). Peak 8-18 St. Louis (50) (FL). Late 10-21 St. Louis (2) (ETS); 10-24 Mille Lacs (2) (MI).

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Seven reports of 14 individuals (four last year) from St. Louis, Anoka, Cottonwood, Mille Lacs, Clay.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Fewer reports than usual; seen in Marshall, Lyon, Mille Lacs, Clay. Early 8-6 St. Louis (3) (OLJ). Peak 8-14 St. Louis (10) (GN).

### **Least Sandpiper**

Few reports; seen in St. Louis, Clay, Mille Lacs. Early and peak 8-1 Anoka (100) (SC); 8-4 Hennepin (12) (OLJ). No late dates.

### **Dunlin**

Early 8-14 Anoka (10) (WHL). Peak 9-4 St. Louis (14) (JAB). Late 10-24 Mille Lacs (MI).

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Only one report with call-note data. All observers should include this information with dowitcher reports!

### **Long-billed Dowitcher:**

No reports, due to lack of call-note data. All observers should include this information with dowitcher reports.

### **Dowitcher sp:**

Reported from Mille Lacs, Marshall, St. Louis, Anoka, Hennepin. Early and peak 8-10 Clay (11) (KBZ).

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

12 reports, six from Duluth. Early 8-3 Hennepin (OLJ); 8-8 Lyon (4) (CLH).

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Fewer reports than usual; Seen in Wabasha, Lyon, Mille Lacs. Early north 8-4 St. Louis (RBJ). Early south 8-4 Hennepin (OLJ). Peak 8-10 Clay (75) (KBZ).

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

16 reports (only three last year!). Seen 8-14 thru 9-22 in Duluth, many observers. Also one very late inland date: 10-22 Rock (KRE).

### **Western Sandpiper**

Four reports (three last year): 8-10 Clay (2) (KBZ); 8-18 Hennepin (3) (CLH); 8-17, 8-19 St. Louis (JCG).

### **Marbled Godwit**

8-8 St. Louis (15) (OLJ), only report. (Large number for Duluth, where the species is rare).

### **Sanderling**

Seen in Mille Lacs, Early 8-6 St. Louis (9) (OLJ). Peak 9-2 St. Louis (40) (JCG).

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

One report: 8-12 Clay (75), fide G. A. Anderson.

**Northern Phalarope**

More reports than usual (none last year): 8-25 Lyon (KRE); 9-26 St. Louis (FN, JCG).

**Glaucous Gull**

Two reports (five last year): 11-5 St. Louis (1 subadult); 11-17 St. Louis (3) (RBJ).

**Herring Gull**

Reported from 11 counties. Peak 11-5, 11-17 St. Louis (2000) (JCG, RBJ). Late 11-26 Anoka (SC).

**Ring-billed Gull**

More reports than usual; seen in 13 counties. Peak 10-14 Wright (1000) (BAH). Late north 11-30 Mille Lacs (7) (TS). Late south 11-30 Stearns (NMH); 11-30 Ramsey (BAH, JJ).

**Franklin's Gull**

Reported from 13 countries. Peak 9-2 Clay (12,000) (KBZ).

**Bonaparte's Gull**

More reports; seen in Lake, Hennepin, Goodhue, Becker, St. Louis, Wright. Peak 8-7 Crow Wing (2000) (TS). Late 11-30 Mille Lacs (30) (TS).

**Forster's Tern**

Seen in Cass, Hennepin, Nicollet. Peak 8-11 Pope (50) (BAH).

**Common Tern**

Seen in Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Itasca. Peak 9-26 St. Louis (70) (FN). Late north 10-3 Cass (HJF). Late south 10-11 Wabasha (10) (DWM) (late for this number).

**Caspian Tern**

Seen in Anoka, Hennepin, Wabasha, Winona, St. Louis.

**Black Tern**

Reported from nine counties. Peak 8-5 Cottonwood (37) (LAF). No late dates.

**Mourning Dove**

Reported from 23 counties.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Only one report (eight last year).

**The Loon****Black-billed Cuckoo**

Reported from 12 counties.

**Screech Owl**

Only three reports (four last year): Lyon, Lac Qui Parle, Clay.

**Great Horned Owl**

Only 13 reports (20 last year).

**Snowy Owl**

Only four reports (three from AWR): 11-17, 11-26 Marshall (AWR); 10-2 Crow Wing (TS) (quite early).

**Hawk-Owl**

Five reports (more than usual): 11-9 St. Louis (GN); 11-1 thru 11-14 Aitkin (TS); 11-12 St. Louis, F. Kaliher; 11-17 St. Louis (DB, RBJ).

**Barred Owl**

Six reports (eight last year: seen in Cook, Crow Wing, Wabasha, St. Louis, Le Sueur, Sherburne).

**Long-eared Owl**

Reported only from Clay (EA).

**Short-eared Owl**

Seen in Nicollet, Ramsey, Sherburne, Clay. One very interesting peak: 11-23 Marshall (11) (AWR).

**Saw-whet Owl**

Two reports (four last year): Seen in Carlton, Sherburne.

**Whip-poor-will:**

Four reports (none last year!): seen from 8-18 to 9-15 in Anoka plus Sherburne, Lac Qui Parle, Clearwater.

**Common Nighthawk**

Seen in 14 counties. Peak 8-29 St. Louis (500) (JCG). Late 10-7 Washington (7) (WHL); 10-8 Ramsey (JAB).

**Chimney Swift**

Seen in 11 counties. Peak and late 10-2 Wabasha 150) (DWM).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Seen in 15 counties. Late north 9-30 St. Louis (GN), K. Sundquist. Late south 9-27 Hennepin (WKE).

**Belted Kingfisher**

Reported from 23 counties.

**Common Flicker**

Seen in 20 counties. Peak 9-30 Rock (200) (KRE).

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Seen in 14 counties.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Seen in seven counties. One northern report: 8-17 Mille Lacs (MI).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Seen in 17 counties.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Seen in 18 counties. One late report from the north: 11-10 Cook (KRE).

**Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 17 counties.

**Downy Woodpecker**

Seen in 17 counties.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**

Five reports: 10-17 thru 11-3 St. Louis (JCG, JAB); 10-18 Koochiching (TS); 11-10 Cook (KRE).

**Eastern Kingbird**

Seen in 11 counties. Peak 9-2 Lac Qui Parle (300) (AFE). No late dates.

**Western Kingbird**

Three reports (five last year): Seen in Rock, Clay, Hennepin.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

Seen in 10 counties. Three very late reports from the north: 10-26 St. Louis, Lake (2) (RPR); 10-27 Cook (2) (RBJ).

**Eastern Phoebe**

Seen in eight counties.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Seen in Anoka, St. Louis. Early 8-2 Cottonwood (LAF). One extremely late date: 11-22 Hennepin (BDC) by far the latest on record.

**Traill's Flycatcher**

Seen in Clay, Washington, St. Louis, Morrison.

**Least Flycatcher**

Seen in 11 counties.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Seen in eight counties. Early 8-8 Cottonwood (LAF).

**Horned Lark**

Seen in nine counties.

**Tree Swallow**

Seen in 13 counties. Peak 8-11 Pope (1000) (BAH).

**Bank Swallow**

Seen in six counties. Peak 9-2 Lac Qui Parle (400) (AFE).

**Rough-winged Swallow**

Seen in Stearns, Houston, St. Louis, Hennepin.

**Cliff Swallow**

Seen in six counties. Peak 8-7 Mille Lacs (250) (MI).

**Purple Martin**

Reported from ten counties. Peak 8-19 St. Louis (1000) (JCG).

**Gray Jay**

More reports than usual: seen in seven counties.

**Blue Jay**

Reported from 16 counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

39 individuals were seen from 9-7 thru 11-16 in Marshall, Itasca, Becker, Morrison, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, and Koochiching counties.

**Common Raven**

Seen in five counties. Also 11-12 Pine (10) (BDC) (unusual number for so far south).

**Common Crow**

Seen in 15 counties. Peak 10-17 St. Louis (500) (JCG).

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 17 counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Only two reports after last year's invasion: 9-15 St. Louis (JAB); 11-11 St. Louis (2) (DB).

**Tufted Titmouse**

Only one report: 11-5 Wabasha (3) (JAB).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Seen in eight counties.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Seen in eight counties.

**Brown Creeper**

Reported from 16 counties. Early 8-21 Hennepin (EWJ).

**House Wren**

Seen in 11 counties. One late report: 10-12 Anoka (SC).

**Winter Wren**

Seen only in Hennepin, Anoka, Aitkin, St. Louis. Also 11-20 Cottonwood (LAF).

**Short-billed Marsh Wren**

Seen only in Wright, Mahnommen, Anoka, Clay.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**

Seen in six counties. Late 10-14 Wright (BAH).

**Mockingbird**

One report: 11-11 Hennepin (RPR).

**Gray Catbird**

Seen in 10 counties. Late 11-2 Ramsey (JAB).

**Brown Thrasher**

Reported from eight counties.

**American Robin**

Seen in 18 counties. Peak 10-10 Hennepin (797) (PF).

**Wood Thrush**

Seen only in Hennepin, with one report from the north: 9-4 Lake (RBJ).

**Hermit Thrush**

Seen only in Hennepin, with one report from the north: 9-4 Lake (RBJ).

**Swainson's Thrush**

Reported from five counties. Late 11-5 St. Louis, D. Engstrom.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Fewer reports; seen only in Ramsey, Hennepin, St. Louis.

**Veery**

Seen only in Cottonwood and Morrison. Late 9-29 Itasca (MS).

**The Loon****Eastern Bluebird**

Reported from 23 counties.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

One report (none last year): 8-16 Nicollet (5) (GN).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Seen in 19 counties.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Seen in 22 counties. Two interesting late dates: 11-23 Hennepin (RBJ); 11-25 Ramsey (JAB).

**Water Pipit**

Reported only from Rock, St. Louis, Mille Lacs. One very late report from Clay: 11-18 (5) (EA).

**Sprague's Pipit**

More reports: 8-15 Clay (3) (FL); 10-10 (2) Clay (EA).

**Bohemian Waxwing**

Seen only in St. Louis and Koochi-ching.

**Cedar Waxwing**

Seen in 14 counties. Peak 11-17 St. Louis (400) (RBJ).

**Northern Shrike**

More reports; seen in 11 counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike**

Only one report: 9-16 Aitkin (KBZ).

**Starling**

Reported from 11 counties.

**Bell's Vireo**

One report (none last year): 8-4 Goodhue (JAB).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

Seen in Anoka, Hennepin, St. Louis, Morrison, Sherburne.

**Solitary Vireo**

Seen in Cottonwood, St. Louis, Morrison. Early 8-30 Ramsey (JAB). Late 10-8 Hennepin (RBJ), (ETS); 10-14 Anoka (SC).

**Red-eyed Vireo**

Seen in nine counties.

**Philadelphia Vireo**

More reports; Seen in Ramsey, Cot-

tonwood, Lake of the Woods, Morrison. Late 10-8 Hennepin (2) (ETS).

**Warbling Vireo**

Reported from eight counties.

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Seen in eight counties.

**Prothonotary Warbler**

One unusual report 9-23 Pope, R. Zink (was this a disoriented migrant, or are there western Minnesota nesting sites?)

**Golden-winged Warbler**

Seen in Aitkin, St. Louis, Morrison, Sherburne.

**Tennessee Warbler**

Reported from nine counties. Early 8-10 Anoka (2) (SC). Peak 9-17 Morrison (55) (LSR).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

Seen in nine counties. Late 10-30 Ramsey (JAB).

**Nashville Warbler**

Reported from ten counties. Peak 8-18 St. Louis (50) (JCG). Late 10-28, 10-30 Ramsey (JAB), (DRM).

**Northern Parula**

Seen only in Anoka, St. Louis, Itasca.

**Yellow Warbler**

Reported from 11 counties.

**Magnolia Warbler**

Seen in eight counties. Peak 9-16 St. Louis (120) (JAB).

**Cape May Warbler**

More reports; Seen in eight counties. Late 10-19 Ramsey (JAB).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

Seen in Cottonwood, St. Louis. Two very late reports: 10-23 Lyon (EKB); 10-24 Hennepin (VL).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Reported from 25 counties. Peak 9-16 St. Louis (200) (JAB). Late 11-18 Dakota (JAB).

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

Seen in Anoka, St. Louis, Washington, Sherburne. One extremely late report: 10-22 Hennepin (PF) (latest on record).

**Cerulean Warbler**

Seen in Anoka and Nicollet.

**Blackburnian Warbler**

Reported from six counties.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Seen in nine counties.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

Seen in ten counties.

**Blackpoll Warbler**

Reported from nine counties. Peak 9-16 St. Louis (20) (JAB). Late 10-10 St. Louis (JCG).

**Pine Warbler**

Seen in Hennepin, Sherburne, St. Louis.

**Palm Warbler**

Seen in nine counties. Peak 9-16 St. Louis (35) (JAB). Late 11-7 Ramsey (JAB).

**Ovenbird**

Reported from seven counties. Late 10-20 Ramsey (JAB).

**Northern Waterthrush**

Reported from six counties.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

One report: 8-4 Goodhue (JAB).

**Connecticut Warbler**

Seen in Lyon, Hennepin, Aitkin.

**Mourning Warbler**

More reports than usual. Seen in nine counties.

**Common Yellowthroat**

Reported from ten counties. Also 11-10 St. Louis (GN) (very unusual; probably the latest on record.)

**Wilson's Warbler**

Seen in ten counties. Early 8-2 Lyon (EKB). Peak 9-16 St. Louis (35) (JAB). Late 10-22 Rock (KRE) (latest on record?).

**Canada Warbler**

Seen only in five counties.

**American Redstart**

Reported from nine counties. Late 9-30 Hubbard (6) (HJF) (large number for so late.)

**Bobolink**

Seen in Mahnomen, Aitkin, (only one report last year.) Also 10-5 Hennepin (SC).

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Seen in six counties.

**Western Meadowlark**

Seen in 12 counties.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Reported from eight counties. Peak 8-17 Lac Qui Parle (400) (AFE). One very exceptional late report: 11-25 Kandiyohi (30) (LAF).

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Seen in 17 counties.

**Orchard Oriole**

Seen only in Lac Qui Parle on 8-26 (AFE) (very late).

**Northern Oriole**

Reported from 13 counties.

**Rusty Blackbird**

Seen in St. Louis, Crow Wing, Wright, Hennepin. Early 9-6 Mahnomen (6) (RBJ).

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Fewer reports; seen in only four counties. Peak 10-2 Stearns (150) (MC).

**Common Grackle**

Seen in 17 counties. Peak 9-21 Swift (3000) (BAH).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Seen in seven counties.

**Scarlet Tanager**

Seen in Anoka, Hennepin, St. Louis, Morrison (fewer reports than usual).

**Cardinal**

Seen in ten counties.

**The Loon****Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Reported from seven counties. Late 10-15 Hennepin (FN).

**Indigo Bunting**

Reported from 11 counties.

**Dickcissel**

Seen only in Rock, Mower, Freeborn, Faribault.

**Evening Grosbeak**

Seen in 14 counties as far south and west as Wabasha and Marshall.

**Purple Finch**

Reported from 13 counties.

**Pine Grosbeak**

Fewer reports; Seen as far south as Anoka and Washington.

**Hoary Redpoll**

One report; 11-30 St. Louis (JAB).

**Common Redpoll**

Seen in ten counties as far south as Anoka. Early 10-29 St. Louis (6) (JAB).

**Pine Siskin**

Abundant this year; Seen in 17 counties as far south and west as Carver and Rock. Peak 10-25 St. Louis (600) (JCG) (very high).

**American Goldfinch**

Reported from 16 counties.

**Red Crossbill**

Fewer reports than last year; Seen in 16 counties as far south and west as Wabasha and Lyon. Peak 10-27 Anoka (65) (SC).

**White-winged Crossbill**

Reported from nine counties, all except Hennepin and Washington in northern Minnesota. Peak 10-14 St. Louis (50) (JCG).

**Rufous-sided Towhee**

Reported only from Hennepin and Washington. An individual of the so-called "spotted" race was noted 10-22 Rock (KRE). Late 11-11 Dakota (JAB).

**Savannah Sparrow**

Seen in seven counties. Peak 9-3 Lyon (100) (EKB).

**Le Conte's Sparrow**

Only one report (five last year): 8-8 Aitkin (TS).

**Vesper Sparrow**

Reported from 17 counties.

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Seen in 27 counties. Peak 10-13 Clay (400) (KBZ).

**Tree Sparrow**

Common this year; Seen in 16 counties. Early 9-27 St. Louis (JCG); 10-1 Ramsey (2) (JAB).

**Chipping Sparrow**

Seen in 18 counties.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

Seen in six counties.

**Field Sparrow**

More reports; Seen in six counties. One north report: 10-13 Otter Tail (5) (KBZ).

**Harris' Sparrow**

Seen in nine counties. Early 9-16 St. Louis (JAB). Peak 9-3 Rock (50) (KRE). Late 11-25 Lac Qui Parle (AFE).

**White-crowned Sparrow**

Seen in nine counties. Peak 10-7 Ramsey (35) (JAB). Late 11-30 Ramsey (JAB) (one at feeder).

**White-throated Sparrow**

Reported from 22 counties. Peak 9-16 St. Louis (40) (JAB).

**Fox Sparrow**

Reported from 16 counties. Early 9-16 St. Louis (2) (JAB).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

More reports than usual. Seen in ten counties.

**Swamp Sparrow**

Seen in ten counties.

**Song Sparrow**

Seen in 22 counties.

**Lapland Longspur**

Reported from five counties. Early 9-16 St. Louis (RBJ), (OLJ). Peak 10-28 Rock (300) (KRE).

**Smith's Longspur**

Seen only in Duluth, where it is rare: 9-16 thru 11-1 St. Louis (JAB), (JCG), (RBJ), (OLJ), (FN), (KBZ).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**

Three reports: 8-15 Clay (20) (FL); 9-9 Clay (2) (RBJ); 9-30 Rock (15) (KRE) (one of the few reports away from Clay Co.).

**Snow Bunting**

Seen in 12 counties.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (AWR)<br/>           Elizabeth Anderson (EA)<br/>           James A. Baumhofer (JAB)<br/>           E. K. Bicek (EKB)<br/>           Don Bolduc (DB)<br/>           Betty and Doug Campbell (BDC)<br/>           Steve Carlson (SC)<br/>           Mable Coyne (MC)<br/>           Richard C. Davids (RCD)<br/>           Whitney and Karen Eastman (WKE)<br/>           Kim Eckert (KRE)<br/>           Alpha and Frederick Eckhardt (AFE)<br/>           Lawrence and Carol Falk (LCF)<br/>           Mrs. L. A. Feil (LAF)<br/>           Herbert J. Fisher (HJF)<br/>           Pepper Fuller (PF)<br/>           Janet C. Green (JCG)<br/>           N. M. Hiemenz (NMH)<br/>           Bruce A. Hitman (BAH)<br/>           Charles L. Horn, Jr. (CLH)<br/>           M. Ivanovs (MI)<br/>           Robert B. Janssen (RBJ)</p> | <p>Joan Johnson (JJ)<br/>           Oscar L. Johnson (OLJ)<br/>           Mrs. E. W. Joul (EWJ)<br/>           Violet Lender (VL)<br/>           Fred Leshner (FL)<br/>           William H. Longley (WHL)<br/>           Don and Wynn Mahle (DWM)<br/>           Judy McIntyre (JM)<br/>           Dennis R. Meyer (DRM)<br/>           Mary Muehlhausen (MHM)<br/>           Gerald Niemi (GN)<br/>           Fran Nubel (FN)<br/>           Lloyd Paynter (LP)<br/>           Gary Ritchison (GR)<br/>           Richard P. Ruhme (RPR)<br/>           L. S. Ryan (LSR)<br/>           Terry Savaloja (TS)<br/>           Madeline Schuller (MS)<br/>           Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (SWR)<br/>           Evelyn Stanley (ETS)<br/>           Forest and Kirsten Strnad (FKS)<br/>           Kevin and Barry Zimmer (KBZ)</p> |
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## THE 1972 CHRISTMAS COUNT

by Manley Olson

Perhaps the most interesting and encouraging statistic regarding the 1972 counts is the record number of participants: 394. Because several people participated on more than one count the number of actual individuals who were involved is somewhat lower but it still represents a significant involvement of Minnesota bird-watchers.

The following comparisons with counts of previous decades show very strikingly the growth of Minnesota Christmas Counts:

	cnts.	obs.	speci.	indv.
1942 .....	7	30	44	2046
1952 .....	8	66	54	7788
1962 .....	18	200	74	31447
1972 .....	29	394	108	91749

The 29 counts ties the record set in 1971. Not included in that total is a second count taken at Rochester which covered much the same territory as the established count in that area. The figures for the second Rochester count appear in the tables of data but the figures were not included in the tabu-

lations. The author has also learned that a sizeable part of the LaCrosse, Wisconsin count covers Minnesota territory, however no separate report for Minnesota was available.

Five areas were censused that were not covered in 1971: Albert Lea, Crookston, Itasca State Park, Owatonna, and Wannaska. Unfortunately no reports were received from five areas covered in 1971: Anoka, Bagley, Hastings, International Falls, and Red Wing. Again compilers were asked to include only observations in Minnesota if their count included territory in two states.

The 108 species seen is second only to the 115 species seen in 1971 and the number of individuals is also second only to 1971. Three species were seen for the first time. Duluth recorded a Hermit Thrush; Excelsior found a Clark's Nutcracker (previously reported during the count period - Bloomington 1970) and Willmar reported a Red-shafted Flicker (another was seen in the count period at Duluth). Ironically the latter will cease to exist as an addition to the all-time list as of the next count as it is being reduced to subspecific rank.

Two species were seen for the second time. For the second year in a row Excelsior reported Trumpeter Swans while Itasca reported Spruce Grouse, last reported from Baudette in 1941. Seen for the third time were the Hawk Owl (Hibbing) and the Turkey (Willmar). The Great Gray Owl reported from Hibbing was the first recorded since 1959.

Five additional species were reported during the count period: Eastern Bluebird and Brown-headed Cowbird at Rochester, Pied-billed Grebe at Fergus Falls, Sharp-tailed Grouse at Crookston, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Winona. The later has never before been seen during count time.

An additional five species were reported on Wisconsin parts of Minnesota counts and thus are reported for

Minnesota in **American Birds**: Great Blue Heron and Winter Wren (Afton) and Blue-winged Teal Curve-billed Thrasher, and Lincoln's Sparrow (Wabasha). A Mockingbird was seen in the count period in the North Dakota portion of the Moorhead count.

Excelsior was the leader with 50 species, while St. Paul had 48, Fergus Falls had 46, and Bloomington had 42. Totals for two-state counts were Afton 64, Wabasha 43, Winona 42, and Moorhead 39. The duplicate Rochester count reported 51 species.

Five species were seen on every count: Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, and White-breasted Nuthatch while the House Sparrow was missed on one count. However, 27 species were each reported on only one count and another 15 species appeared on only two counts.

All species reported have been included in the tables including some questioned by the editor of **American Birds**. Substantiating information was provided in all but two cases. The 15 Field Sparrows reported from Warren appear with a ? and all meadowlarks have been lumped together in the table but both species have been included in the total although none of the compilers designating species documented their reports.

All-time high counts were established for 16 species and tied for three others. These included 20,000 Canada Geese at Rochester, 4 Goshawks at Itasca, 12 Black-billed Magpies at Warren, 906 Horned Larks at Mt. Lake-Windom, 623 Pine Siskins at Excelsior, 78 Red Crossbills at Moorhead, and 4 Harris' Sparrows at Marshall.

Total count records were established for 22 species and tied for three others including Mallard 15,691; Black Duck 154; Goshawk 14; Great Horned Owl 64; Horned Lark 1680; Black-billed Magpie 22; Black-capped Chickadee 4389, Boreal Chickadee 23; Bohemian Waxwing 674; Pine Siskin 2035; Red Crossbill 240; and Tree

Sparrow 2678.

Most of these record counts are achieved as a result of the species being observed in large numbers on several counts rather than due to high concentrations on an individual counts. For example the record number of Black-capped Chickadees was achieved be-

cause 17 of the 29 counts each reported over 100 birds. Whether these record counts reflect an increase in birds or is due to an increase in birders cannot be answered here but the presence of a record number of observers certainly is a factor in the higher totals.

Count	date	No. of Observers	No. of Parties	Party Hours	Sky	Wind	Temp. Range	Snow Cover	Compiler
Afton	J1	8	3	23	Clear	W 10-12	4 15	5	Lien
Albert Lea	D17	15	9	36	Clear	SW 23	10 19	15	Gregerson
Bloomington	D30	37	18	104	Cloudy-Rain	SE 10-15	36 38	1	Gresser
Cedar Creek	D17	11	5	35	Cloudy	SSW 16-20	7 21	4	Lien
Cottonwood	D17	3	3	25	Cloudy	NW 5-15	14 34	1	Egeland
Crookston	D28	5	2	14	P. Cloudy	E 5-10	15 20	3	Svedarsky
Crosby	J1	2	2	14	P. Cloudy	SW 0-5	-5 10	8	Savoloja
Duluth	D17	20	11	46	Cloudy	SSW 20	6 19	1	Green
Excelsior	D30	26	8	98	Cloudy-Rain	E 10	35 37	5	Janssen
Faribault	D16	2	1	9	Clear	WNW 12-15	-10 4	6	Rustad
Fergus Falls	D16	22	12	79	Clear	SE 3-8	-20 0	7	Anderson
Hibbing	D27	8	6	31	Cloudy	NW 10-15	0 26	3	McCracken
Itasca	D31	24	8	44	Cloudy-Clear	W 26	7 -4	12	McIntyre
Little Falls	D19	1	1	9	Cloudy-Clear	N 5	10 22	3	Ryan
Marshall	D16	8	8	45	Clear-Cloudy	NW 0-5	0 10	3	Kyllingstad
Minneapolis	D30	13	6	35	Rain	NNE 15-40	36 36	3	Johnson
Moorhead	D16	13	3	34	Clear-Cloudy	SSE 0-5	-22 14	4	Nellermoe
Mt. Lake-Windom	J1	17	4	32	Clear-Cloudy	WNW 5-10	0 18	2	Wagner
Owatonna	D30	14	5	37	Rain	SSE 5-20	29 38	6	Hill
Rochester I	D30	30	7	38	Cloudy	SE 18-39	42 32	4	Fowler
Rochester II	D31	4	3	9	Cloudy	N 14-26	28 10	5	Baumhofer
St. Paul	D16	27	12	80	Clear-Cloudy	NW 13	-9 3	4	Goldberg
St. Paul (NE)	D30	42	12	97	Rain	E 5-15	35 38	9	Fitzpatrick
Sherburne	D16	16	6	49	Clear	NW 5-10	5 -12	5	Drieslein
Wabasha	D28	7	2	18	P. Cloudy	SE 5-20	16 40	7	Mahle
Walker	D30	3	2	12	Cloudy	NW 10-15	21 23	12	Hanson
Wannaska	D31	14	6	-	-	-	-	-	Carlson
Warren	D17	7	3	20	Cloudy	SE 5-20	-5 25	2	Lynne
Willmar	D16	17	2	15	Clear	SE 2-5	-15 8	2	Thoma
Winona	D17	14	6	22	Clear-Cloudy	SE 10-15	0 15	12	Hamernick

1974 W. Summer Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113





	Wannaska	Warren	Crookston	Hibbing	Itasca	Walker	Moorhead	Duluth	Cosby	Pegasus Falls	Little Falls	Sherburne	Cedar Creek	Willmar	St. Paul (NE)	Minneapolis	St. Paul	Afton	Excelsior	Bloomington	Cottonwood	Fairbault	Marshall	Wabasha	Winona	Rochester 1	Rochester 2	Owatonna	Mt. Lake-Windom	Albert Lea	No. of Counts	No. of Individuals			
Hermit Thrush								1																								1	1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet									1					6											1	1	1					3	11		
Bohemian Waxwing			25	45		x	8	314	x	15	7	12				130	30	32	24	x			36							6			13	674	
Cedar Waxwing	x	x					25			8		15			210		37	20	37			4		40			8		x			9	304		
Waxwing (sp)					4																											1	4		
Northern Shrike							4	1	2		x	4		2	1	2	5	3	5					7		1	1	3				13	40		
Starling		53	72			5	859	23	55	14	43	9	9	9	39	60	2801	95	121	284	293	68	238	135	108	382	52	634	189	12		25	6479		
House Sparrow	9	756	95	63		36	522	345	5	1606	460	248	162	76	1401	227	2069	401	673	1005	945	243	944	1284	1437	949	43	639	1020	418		28	18038		
Meadowlark (sp)														2						1		1											1	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	2	7					3			12	x				34	3	81	1	1	28	48	1	79	105	261			x	268			16	634		
Rusty Blackbird							9	1	6						5			1	x			18	12				x					7	52		
Brewer's Blackbird							6						1		11				1														4	19	
Common Grackle						x	2						2	5	5	6	1	14	4	3			12	8		2	1	2	10	5		15	81		
Cardinal							1	2					2	15	56	14	23	103	123	56	4	6	6	33	123	40	9	4		13		18	624		
Evening Grosbeak	219	31	31	80	80	274		155	308	1	160	101	264	x	122		85	23	3		x	10	7	1				3		4		21	1963		
Purple Finch			4	10					27			7		9	36		17	9	64	25	3			43			18		6	x	37		15	868	
Pine Grosbeak	7	13			8			26	x	1				2			4		x													7	61		
Hoary Redpoll							1																										1	1	
Common Redpoll	1	x	15	38		10	67	1				165		x	41		41	11	18		1	x	16		1	x	28		1	6		16	481		
Pine Siskin	7	30			24	95	1	x			55	155		16	293	9	23	606	623	67	2			25		x		4				17	2035		
American Goldfinch							76		2	6		146	56	12	275	55	108	53	293	29				90	7	40	22	8	3	32		18	1291		
Red Crossbill	6	18		22	2	78	30		32						12								40									9	240		
White-winged Crossbill	2			1			1		x																								3	4	
Slate-colored Junco	1		25		1		11	4	20			158	37	14	101		29	82	208	102	113	45	209	63	66	207	81	13	38	37	115		24	1812	
Oregon Junco													1		1	1	2	1	2		1	2		4	2	1					4		11	39	
Tree Sparrow	5			1		1		5	20		137	37	63	121	44	98	185	190	277	109	212	380	30	322	128	21	106	207	13			23	2678		
Field Sparrow	15?																															2	2	17	
Harris' Sparrow																							4						1				2	5	
White-crowned Sparrow																				1														1	1
White-throated Sparrow							2									3	2			1														4	8
Pix Sparrow																																		1	1
Song Sparrow															1		x								2	x	2					4	7		
Laughing Lark																																		2	33
Song Sparrow	51	315	25	4	53	45			182												39	37	18				x	21		73			11	859	
No. of Species	15	21	18	20	28	17	27	38	30	48	14	37	25	27	37	26	48	38	50	48	29	22	33	39	33	36	51	31	29	28					
No. of Individuals	739	1297	358	620	501	670	1058	2570	663	4168	807	1891	1029	462	4217	1081	8692	3379	8735	5615	2107	1154	2290	5528	2895	22544	16794	2324	3130	1225			91749		

An x indicates the species was seen during the count period but not on count day.

# TWENTIETH CENTURY RECORDS OF WOLVERINE IN MINNESOTA

by Elmer C. Birney

The recent report of a wolverine, *Gulo gulo*, said to have been killed in 1967 near (4 miles south) Skibo, St. Louis County, Minnesota (Nowak, 1973:23), has prompted me to review records of this species from the state since 1900. I am particularly interested in recording full details of this most recently reported specimen.

Swanson (1945:67) summarized nineteenth century records of wolverine in Minnesota. Several published records that indicate this species has been in the state since the turn of the century are available. These can be summarized briefly, but it should be noted that none is documented by tangible evidence; nevertheless, a couple are reasonably convincing. The existence of a skull (USNM 110281) taken in Itasca County in 1899 was reported by Jackson (1922:53). This specimen provides the most recent, unequivocal record of the wolverine in Minnesota. Jackson's paper prompted Johnson (1923:55) to cite a passage of a letter from a fur trader reporting the purchase of a wolverine pelt in northern St. Louis County in 1918. This specimen, said to be a green pelt, has been cited often without qualification. However, it apparently was purchased near the U.S.-Canadian border and easily could have been from Canada. The pelt was not preserved as a scientific specimen. A few years later, Johnson (1930:440) noted two additional anecdotal records of wolverines in Minnesota; one supposedly was shot in Red Lake County about 1890 and another allegedly was "killed in the vicinity of Brainerd, Crow Wing County" in the "80's" or "90's".

Swanson (1945:67) reported the story of a trapper who claimed to have helped "dig out a wolverine in

March, 1923, about 12 miles north of Bemidji." This locality was cited as a marginal distribution record by Hall and Kelson (1959:925). Two additional undocumented records were placed in the literature by Franey (1953). A wolverine was said to have been shot in Aitkin county in 1947 and given to a farm boy. The other was reported as having been shot 10 miles north of Floodwood, St. Louis County, in 1934 and later exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago. Nowak (1973:22) stated that: "Modest numbers were present [in Minnesota] in the 1890's, and individual animals—probably wanderers from Canada—were killed there in 1918 and 1934." These two records probably are the ones mentioned above (no literature citations were provided by Nowak).

Several unpublished reports of sightings of animals identified as wolverine have come to my attention while attempting to learn about the specimen alleged to be from Skibo. I will list these with brief annotations, but have made no thorough review of newspapers, trappers and furriers, or other possible sources of unpublished reports of wolverines. I have solicited the assistance of John Moyle and William Longley of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and James Kimball and Edward Franey, two prominent state naturalists. Longley (pers. comm., 11 April 1974) informed me of three sight records of wolverine in Minnesota. A dead animal observed in the spring of 1972 north of Hastings, in Washington County, was reported to the Department of Natural Resources as a wolverine. I have been unable to reach either by telephone or letter the party making the report, and thus do not know if the carcass

was examined or if any parts were saved. At a place north of this locality (on Highway 494, just east of Oakdale), an animal was observed on 11 June 1973 and reported by telephone to Longley as being a wolverine. The observer has no doubt regarding the animal's identity. These localities are south of early documented wolverine localities in Minnesota. They probably represent well-intentioned cases of misidentification. A wolverine purportedly was observed just south of Lake Kabetogama, St. Louis County on 14 October 1972. I have attempted to contact the observer, but without success.

Moyle informed me of two records of animals identified as wolverines; one, from 10 miles SE of Hibbing, St. Louis County, is of an animal said to have been observed in poor light. The second observation seems to have considerable credibility. An experienced conservation officer, Marvin R. Smith, working out of International Falls, Minnesota, observed tracks in fresh-fallen snow in sec. 14, T. C9 N, R. 23W, Koochiching County, in April 1966. Smith initially believed the tracks to be those of a cub bear, but identified them as wolverine tracks after the animal had been cornered and forced to swim across the East Fork of the Rat Root River (Smith, pers. comm., 6 June 1974). Smith observed fresh wolverine tracks in the area one year later (April 1967) but again he did not see the animal.

Franey (pers. comm., 14 February 1974) informed me of a wolverine killed near Babbitt, St. Louis County, sometime in the 1960's. The pelt of this animal was said to have been saved as a tanned rug, but the hunter reportedly refused to give the carcass to the Bell Museum. I have heard of this incident from other sources but cannot even speculate as to the identity of the animal or the validity of the incident. Franey also kindly gave me a letter dated 2 April 1953 describing an incident which took place 3 miles

south of Herman, Grant County; five hunters shot at a red fox in a dried slough during pheasant season (the previous year?). Immediately thereafter a dark brown animal that "looked like a cub bear with a long tail . . . [came out of the slough and] waddled along through a field." No explanation was given in the letter why the red fox was shot at and something "strange" was left unmolested.

A recent incident shows why extreme care must be used to interpret sight records. A trained veterinarian-natural historian examined "a dead wolverine" along the east shore of Lake Pepin, south of Maiden Rock, Wisconsin, during the last week of April, 1974. A few days later, he asked if the Bell Museum would want this specimen. I drove with him immediately to the location and secured the specimen in question. It proved to be a badly mangled, partially decomposed dog with a mixture of permanent and milk teeth such that it required comparison to accomplish a positive identification.

The Bell Museum has the skeleton of a wolverine, number 7643, cataloged as being from 4 miles south of Skibo, St. Louis County, Minnesota, killed 11 November 1967. I believe this specimen to be the basis of the following statement (Nowak, 1973:23): "Minnesota's first kill in many years took place near the town of Skibo, in the northeastern part of the state, in 1967." Unfortunately, suspicious circumstances associated with the killing and ultimate deposition of this specimen in the Museum cast doubt on the validity of the record. After thoroughly investigating the history of this specimen, albeit seven years after the incident occurred, I have concluded that the issue could be debated *ad infinitum* and we would never be sure of the specimen's origin. However, it is my personal opinion that this wolverine probably was not shot in Minnesota.

According to information from lo-

cal newspapers at the time (e.g., Minneapolis Star, 21 Nov. 1967), Mr. Walter Jones shot a deer near the Duluth-Mesabi railway tracks, dressed the animal, and went to get help from three hunting companions to carry out the carcass. "Returning to the deer, the members of the party found the wolverine eating it — Jones shot it" (St. Paul Pioneer Press, 12 Nov. 1967).

Albert W. Erickson was Curator of Mammals in the Bell Museum in 1967. In a recent letter to me (1 May 1974), Erickson stated: "My recollections on this are vague but sufficiently clear for me to recall that the whole matter was a hoax. The specimen really came in from Canada." This letter further explains that a banker (whom I deduced to have been a member of the hunting party) confessed the hoax to Erickson by telephone. The specimen was delivered to the Bell Museum by Leroy Angell, Area Game Manager at Cloquet, Minnesota. Angell (pers. comm., 30 April 1974) has informed me that many versions of the story regarding the origin of the wolverine existed at the time, including one that Mr. Jones recently had returned from a moose hunting expedition to Canada and had brought it back from that trip. Angell noted that many residents of the area knew Mr. Jones and claimed to have "... the real inside story." He added that he did not know at the time whether or not the record was authentic, and concluded that he still does not know.

I have discussed the question of the validity of this specimen with field biologists from the Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife and from the State Department of Natural Resources; most were familiar with stories of the incident and none supports the specimen as a valid Minnesota record. But insofar as I could determine, only Erickson and Angell seriously investigated the matter at the time.

Some clues can be obtained from examination of the skeleton. The ani-

mal is a young adult listed as a male, but the baculum is missing. The well-developed sagittal crest corroborates the identification of sex. Teeth are only slightly worn and show no obvious damage that might suggest the animal struggled against a steel trap. The skull is whole and in near perfect condition, showing no evidence of a bullet hole. In fact, the only possible evidence that the animal may have been shot seems to be one partially shattered rib. Even this does not appear to have resulted from a bullet. However, the right radius and ulna are broken about 1 to 1½ inches distal to the radial notch. The break on the ulna clearly shows evidence of sawing; that of the radius appears more "natural" but some scratches on the bone may have resulted from a saw. Distal portions of both bones below the break are missing. The breaks conceivably could have resulted from a large steel trap. I am unable even to guess at the meaning of the saw marks. Comparisons of the skull with wolverine skulls in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History from Minnesota, Canada, and Alaska, indicated the animal in question was relatively large for the species, but no conclusion regarding its origin was possible.

The circumstances discussed above clearly indicate that this record must be viewed skeptically, but it cannot be ignored. A letter of inquiry dated 26 April 1974 to Mr. Jones was neither returned by the postal service nor answered.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances associated with this particular specimen, Nowak's (1973) argument that wolverine are making a comeback in the contiguous United States remains convincing. The fact that a specimen has been taken in Iowa, far south of the Minnesota border (Haugen, 1961; Bowles, 1974), and another in South Dakota (Lee, 1962) certainly indicates that the existence of wolverine in Minnesota is possible, but the

Iowan specimen also is suspect. Haugen, for example, did not believe the animal had gotten to its place of death without human assistance. Bowles thought it more likely the animal was a wanderer that had arrived there without direct assistance. Little information is available regarding the South Dakotan specimen. Newby and Wright (1955) documented the success of wolverine in Montana following a previous period of complete or near extirpation. Jackson (1961) discussed in detail the status of wolverine in Wisconsin. He concluded that prior to about 1870 a sparse population may have occurred in proper habitats over most of the state, but that the species

probably did not exist there at the time of his writing.

In summary, the last unquestionable, documented record of a wolverine in Minnesota is the specimen taken in Itasca County in 1899, as reported by Jackson. Some of the Twentieth Century records may be accurate, but I know of no way to distinguish these from mischievous bits of misinformation and inadvertent inaccuracies of identification. At best, Minnesota today harbors no more of a wolverine population than an occasional wanderer from Canada. It is even possible, although I consider it unlikely, that no wolverine has set foot in the state since 1899.

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- Bell Museum of Natural History,  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota 55455**

# notes of interest

**MINNESOTA'S THIRD GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH** — I recently wrote Charles Flugum of "Birding From a Tractor" fame about a rare (I think) bird I've had at my feeders for a couple weeks. He said he'd never seen one and suggested I write you (Dr. W. J. Breckenridge). I live five miles west of Pine City on Pokegama Lake and here is a description of the bird. This bird is perhaps a little larger than a Purple Finch, at least thicker and definitely has a finch bill. The bill is gray. Above that the head is black with the hind head and sides of head gray. The main body is a chestnut brown and that blends into a rosier belly. The rump is also rosy. The wings are edged with gray and there are some light colored bars on the wings. The feathers on the back have some interesting streaks. He was at a feeder on my window sill one day so I looked directly down on him for a few seconds. Although he's less easy to see on the dry grass and pine needles where he's feeding around. Richard Poughs, "**Eastern Land Birds**" shows a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, but, the bill is yellow. I have heard no voice nor have I seen a mate, but, he feeds around with the Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, American Goldfinches, and Purple Finches- and often all day by himself. He eats under the feeders where I put out sunflower seeds. **Mrs. Francis Ludwig, Pine, City Minnesota.**

Editors Note: I wrote to Mrs. Ludwig for further information about the above bird and I am convinced of her identification of a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. The bird was first seen at her feeder on March 27, 1974, and was last seen on the morning of April 6, 1974. This is a most unusual and interesting record.

**THAYER'S GULL IN DULUTH** — Many Herring Gulls were feeding along the shore of the lake near downtown Duluth in the early afternoon of December 23, 1973, and I took the opportunity to study them. The birds were all within 200 feet of the shore, and many were right on the shoreline. Individuals were constantly rising from the water, flying a short distance or merely hovering over the water, then settling back on the water. I soon noticed one adult gull who, when it raised its wings, appeared as a "white-winged" gull from the underside. Upon studying this bird I noted the white windows in the tips of the primaries were much larger than those on nearby Herring Gulls even though the tips appeared as black as the tips of the Herring Gulls. In addition the eye was dark instead of yellow, and the fleshy area around the eye appeared dark. The bill, similar in color to accompanying Herring Gull bills, appeared smaller (more delicate); the head also looked smaller. The head, neck and breast was heavily streaked with brown, the streaking being heavier than on most of the Herring Gulls. The mantle looked to be the same color as the mantle of the Herring Gull. When this gull finally flew from the area it flew directly over my head and I was able to confirm the fact that no black appeared to be present on the under side of the primaries, and the bird looked like a "white-winged" gull from below. I have seen numerous Thayer's Gulls, both adult and immature, in Cali-

fornia, and this bird looked like a typical adult. Hybrids between Herring and Glaucous Gulls look similar, but, tend to be large and heavy billed. Mrs. Janet Green of Duluth has good photographs of immature Thayer's Gulls taken on Lake Superior in mid winter and it is to be expected that Thayer's Gulls should occur on the Great Lakes. **Guy McCaskie, Research Associate, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California.**

**AGGRESSIVE MOCKINGBIRD** — During a normal winter day at our bird feeders behind our home we will have an average of seven to nine different species in our yard. The number of individuals to be seen at any one time would average between twenty and thirty, counting such species as Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Blue Jays, House Sparrows, a Downy or two, etc. This was the situation up to December 18, 1973 when a Mockingbird dropped in to look things over. Within 24 hours a drastic change took place once the newcomer decided to stay. It spent most of the time at a neighbor's across the alley where the sun would shine on the various bushes



and small trees where the bird stayed during the day. We put out raisins on one of the feeders, and every half hour or so the Mockingbird would fly directly to this feeder and swallow one or two of the raisins. Then it would usually go to a small winter water feeder on the ground below our bedroom window and drink some of the warm water. The latter must have been as much of an attraction as the food, for a number of times we watched the bird on the water bowl take as many as 30 separate sips of water, each time raising its bill to let the water run down its throat. This procedure would sometimes take a full three minutes. After the bird had its fill it would usually fly straight back across the alley to the neighbor's yard and sit on a clothes-line near the house, or in a bush in the sun. When the temperature dropped

to 8 below the first week it was here we expected to find it dead the next morning but it was as chipper as ever. The next week the temperature went down to almost 30 below one night and the bird came through without any ill effects. We enjoyed the presence of the bird in our yard, as did many visitors. The only trouble was that, beginning the next day, hardly another bird came to the feeders. The ones that would come in and land in our apple tree would not stay long. As soon as the Mockingbird spotted them he (or she) would fly over and chase them out of the yard. This went on until January 8. Instead of a quart or two of seeds put out for the birds each day we didn't use an ounce for over three weeks. Finally, we netted the bird, held it over night, and took it over to one of the feeders at Wood Lake Nature Center, having first received permission to do so. We left the bird with a pint of raisins on the feeder and wished it good luck! The very next day we had five species and ten individuals at the feeders, and within a week we were back to an average of seven species and approximately 30 individuals in the yard. It is possible that the resemblance of the Mockingbird to a shrike may have contributed to the dropoff in activity while the former was in the neighborhood, for all five nearby residents who feed the birds reported an almost complete absence of the normal population while the Mockingbird was here. This took in an area indicated by a radius of 150 feet in all directions from our own yard. The bird had evidently established this area as its own territory and was guarding or protecting a winter food supply. **Maury and Isabel Goldberg, 1915 Palace Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.**

**ARCTIC HORNED OWL** — January 26 was a very mild day, so I decided to hike around Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun. Seeing nothing of interest, I walked through the Robert's Sanctuary. Near the eastern end, I observed what I believe was an Arctic Horned Owl. It was perched out in the open and very clear to view. I was using a 7 x 50 binocular and had a long period to look at it before it was disturbed. Without the binoculars, the owl appeared to be light gray in color, only the facial disks being darker. It was disturbed twice and the wings were almost pure white for half their length. It permitted me to approach for a good view and with my binoculars, the basic color was a light gray with darker bars and flecks. The widely spaced horns, prominent facial disks and powerful build, identified it as a Horned Owl. I have seen this color variation or subspecies only once before in the state. This was about ten years ago in Glenwood Park near the wild flower garden. The day was bitterly cold and I discovered the huge bird on a low branch, sitting like a brooding hen. It showed no fear of me and continued to gaze about with its fierce orange-red eyes. This individual was almost entirely white and had I not seen the prominent "horns", I would have thought it a Snowy Owl. It finally flew down into the garden in doing so, showed considerable buff color under the wings. **Mrs. Loren Erickson, 3633 Elliot Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407.**

**RED-SHAFTED FLICKER IN REDWOOD COUNTY** — As most birders know the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flicker were recently lumped into one species known as the Common Flicker. However, it is still of interest to note the occurrence of the Red-shafted race in Minnesota. When the Red-shafted was a full species it was considered a hypothetical species in Minnesota. The few specimens that had been obtained showed considerable hybridization with the Yellow-shaft. There were a number of sight records of Red-shafts, but, these lacked details and none were of a pure Red-shafted Flicker. This

past winter a Red-shafted Flicker spent the entire season in and around the farm of Loren Holmberg. The Holmberg farm is located in Underwood Township, Redwood County approximately seven miles north of Milroy. On February 9, 1974, Bill Piper, Paul Egeland, and I had the opportunity to observe the bird. The bird regularly visited a suet feeder outside the kitchen window of the Holmberg residence. This feeder was located approximately 15 feet from the house. Paul Egeland had observed the bird on several occasions from inside the house and stated that the bird appeared to be a "full" Red-shafted Flicker. We did not see the bird till afternoon on the 9th, but, when we did see him we were able to observe him very closely. The brown head and nape, gray checks and throat, the two red "mustache" marks, plus the salmon red wing linings and under tail were all plainly seen. The Holmbergs told us that the bird was first seen in their yard in late October, it started coming to the feeder in early December and remained in the area till mid-April. This observation represents the first verified sight record and the first winter record for the Red-shafted Flicker in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

#### **WINTER ROOSTING HABITS OF THE BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE —**

The purpose of our study was to determine the night roosting habits of the Black-capped Chickadee in January 1973 at the Katherine Ordway Natural History Area in Inver Grove Heights, Washington County, Minnesota. We established three feeding stations. Station I was in a thicket adjacent to the driveway and a meadow. This feeder consisted of a platform resting on the snow. Station II was placed about 100 yards away and was on a post near the lab building. Station III, also a platform feeder, was on the snow in an oak forest approximately 400 yards from the lab building. All feeders were filled daily with sunflower seeds and millet. Bird traps were placed at each feeding station for about three hours each afternoon to capture chickadees for banding and identification. From our banding and recaptures we concluded that a single flock of about 20 birds was using all three feeders. We attempted to follow the birds from station I to their roost. Each night just as the sun was setting the birds flew away in small groups of three to six. Several of them consistently flew into the oak forest in which station III was located, so we decided to wait in the oak forest for the birds to arrive. On January 9 we discovered that the birds were stopping to feed for a short time at station III before moving on again. We then attempted to follow the birds from this feeder to their roost. From reading about night roosting in **A Sand County Almanac** by Aldo Leopold and nesting in **The Birds of Minnesota** by Thomas S. Roberts, M.D., and from personal conversation with other bird watchers, we developed the preconception of chickadees roosting in holes in trees. When on the 10th we observed a chickadee enter a hole in a stump at about 4:25 p.m., we felt we had evidence supporting this idea. The bird remained for a few minutes but quickly flew away as we approached. We spent the next five days locating similar holes in tree stumps. Each evening we attempted to follow the birds to these potential roosting sites. However, we were unable to find any more evidence of chickadees utilizing such sites; neither did we find any droppings in or around any of the holes. Due to this evidence and our later findings, we now think that the chickadee was using the tree hole for purposes other than roosting. On the 16th we noticed a significant number of birds leaving station III and crossing an open area of about 75 yards. The next night we waited across the openings for the birds. That night we observed a chickadee roosting in an oak sapling. The roosting site was about

four feet above the ground in an oak sapling six to seven high. The bird was perched toward the end of a branch and was protected on all sides by hanging leaves. In close proximity there were several other similar saplings. The saplings were located on a south-facing slope in a shallow hollow, protected from the wind that particular evening. We approached the bird to within three to four feet. It remained completely motionless until our noise disturbed it and it flew out of sight. We noted droppings beneath the roost which suggested it had been previously used for roosting purposes. After this we searched other oak saplings. We found a dead chickadee which we assumed had frozen to death, hanging in a similar roost. The next two days were spent searching for bird droppings under similar oaks. We found at least six sites with two or more droppings in the same area. We also noted a few droppings under a large oak with leaves. We marked these areas with masking tape for future reference. Though we waited across the clearing the next three evenings, the birds did not arrive. We assumed this was due to the change in the direction of the wind. We tried to find the birds in other areas but were unsuccessful. When the wind again changed to the north the birds returned. While we were unable to observe the birds going directly to their roosts, we did observe two or more birds in their roosts and we scared eight others out of their roosts. We also scared a Common Redpoll and three American Goldfinches out of similar roosts. This may indicate a common night roosting habit. The chickadees did return to two of the sites we had marked. One particular bush was used at least three times. The birds did not, however, return to the same roosts each night. At between 100 foot candles and four foot candles the birds left the feeder and flew to the general roosting area. They flew around from branch to branch at the top level calling to one another. Then suddenly they darted into a bush and made no noises. Through our studies we have come to believe that in the winter, chickadees roost out on the branches of trees and bushes which have retained their leaves, and that they do not go to the same roost every night. **Bryan Van Gorp and James Langager, 1551 Selby Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55104.**

**CLARK'S NUTCRACKER RECORD FROM TRACY** — I would like to report to you an interesting bird we had here at our home in Tracy, Lyon County during December, 1973. We have a feeder a few feet in front of our picture window. Every day for a week or so a large gray bird (very tame acting) would come and eat. I was using Peterson's bird book then and I could not find a picture of this bird. No one could identify it until we had a guest from New Mexico. She saw the bird and informed us it was a Clark's Nutcracker. What was probably the same bird was sighted at several different locations in Tracy over a period of two or three weeks in December. **Mrs. A. M. Engerbretson, 113 Elm Street, Tracy, Minnesota 56175.**

**WINTER RECORD OF A RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** — While visiting friends in Bemidji, Minnesota on Wednesday, February 27, 1974, I spent a few moments watching birds at my friend's home close to Lake Bemidji. The feeders were frequented by Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Black-capped Chickadees, House Sparrows, several Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Hairy Woodpecker. About 10:00 A.M. a bird landed in the main feeder, slightly over one meter from the kitchen window. I immediately recognized it as kinglet due to its small size; relatively rapid movements, including wing fluttering; short tail; and greenish-gray color. I noticed occasionally during the bird's two visits to the feeder, a small red patch on top of the head, which was not

always visible. During the approximately four minutes of observation I detected no black and white stripes above the eye, but, did discern a white eye ring. I never heard the bird call, nor do I remember wing markings. No binoculars were used. Based on my familiarity with Golden-crowned Kinglets in Montana's coniferous forest and a few sightings I have made of both species of kinglets in Minnesota I determined it to be a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. This, according to Kim Eckert, is the first winter record of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Minnesota. **Brent Haglund, Biology Department, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57102.**

Editors Note: Because of the extremely warm weather experienced in Minnesota at the end of February it is possible that this was an exceptionally early spring migrant.

**VARIED THRUSH SEEN NEAR WINONA** — About 8 A.M. Friday, February 8, 1974, I noted this unusual "robin" scratching on the ground near our evergreens. He appeared to be eating finely cracked corn and millet seed. At a distance of twenty feet I was able to identify him positively from the Golden Field Guide, as a male Varied Thrush. The black-banded orange breast, orange-washed wings, and orange eye stripe were very clear. I called Mrs. Harvey Gordon, but, before she arrived, the bird had flown. Saturday morning the bird again appeared about 8 A.M. and this time Brother Theodore



Voelker, Mr. and Mrs. William Drazkowski and Mrs. Harvey Gordon from the Hiawatha Valley Bird Club arrived just too late to see him. Acting on a hunch my husband phoned the Fred Krage's just west of us who also keep up bird feeders, and who admitted to having a funny looking "robin" there. Mrs. Krage made the birders welcome in her kitchen and soon the thrush flew to

a nearby apply tree and then down to the feeder about four feet outside the kitchen window. Everyone present had an excellent view of the bird, and Mr. Draskowski was able to set up his camera for a series of close up shots. Sunday was a windy, blizzardy day and viewers who came were disappointed not to see him. However, he did come back to both feeders Monday, February 11, and has been seen infrequently since. Our home is located midway between Winona and Minnesota City, just off Highway No. 61 in an area heavily planted with evergreens. These trees may have attracted the bird. While the western and northern parts of Minnesota have attracted the Varied Thrush frequently, Brother Theodore felt that this was a first sighting for the southeastern part of the state. **Mrs. Peter N. Whitney, Minnesota City, Minnesota 55959.**

**Editors Note:** The Varied Thrush has become a regular winter visitor at many feeders in Minnesota. During the past winter, birds were reported from the following locations: Scandia Valley, Morrison County, on Lake Alexander, a single bird from early December, 1973, thru March, 1974 reported by Robert J. Sivertson. A single bird at the residence of Ed Deppe, 9278 St. Croix Trail North, Stillwater, Minnesota from mid-December to March 30, 1974. The accompanying photograph is of this bird. Another bird spent from early December 1973 thru February 1974 in the Loon Lake area south of Hibbing in St. Louis at the residence of Mrs. Roland Wivoda. The bird was reported by Harriet Micensky. Finally a bird spent at least the month of January, 1974 at a feeder just west of Northfield, Rice County. I observed this bird on January 19, 1974. It was first reported earlier in the month by Dr. G. N. Rysgaard.

**SAW-WHET OWL OBSERVATION** — On Saturday, February 9, 1974, we had arrived at our home in Reads Landing, Wabasha County. We were feeding and counting the number of different species by our feeders and watching



the Bald Eagles flying low over the Mississippi River. It was about 1:30 P.M., my husband and I decided to go for a drive along a country road going to Kruger Park, near Wabasha. We were driving along busily chatting about the Barred Owl we see quite often sitting in trees on the side of the dike road going from Wabasha to Nelson, Wisconsin. Also, the Long-eared Owl my husband spotted on one of the bird trips we led, this one at Glencoe, Minnesota and were wondering if the Screech Owl was still sleeping in a bird house at my cousins place near Winona. Plus we were wishing we would see a different species of owl. I glanced out of the side window of the car and I spotted what looked like a ball of feathers on a post about four feet high very close to the side of the road. Backing the car very slowly we stopped to see it was a beautiful little Saw-whet Owl, the first one we had ever seen. My 35 MM camera is my constant companion when ever we go for a drive. Opening the car window I took some slides with the 350 MM lens plus a 2.X Converter from about 18 feet. It was a sleepy little owl and did not seem to mind having its picture taken. I stepped from the car and took some more slides with the 200 MM lens. Again changing lens I got as close to the owl as about three feet this time using a 50 MM lens, plus the converter. The owl would partly open its pretty yellow eyes to look at me. Leaving, the Saw-whet Owl was still sitting in the nice warm sunshine. **Mrs. Gertrude Lint, 15115 Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata, Minnesota 55319.**

**CONCENTRATION OF WINTERING COWBIRDS** — On February 2, 1974 in 10 degree weather with heavy snow, seven Brown-headed Cowbirds were at my feeders all day. They kept on coming until February 5, when I had twenty male cowbirds and one female cowbird at the feeder all day long. This was in 17 degree weather with a 15 m.p.h. wind. Then on February 10, 1974, I had twenty males and five females at the feeder during the day. This was in 15 degree weather with a 35 m.p.h. wind. This may not be too unusual, but, for the fact that I live in the middle of the city of Winona, about 5 miles from the countryside. **Robert M. Bilder, 460 East Street, Winona, Minnesota 55987.**

**LOON AT PINE RIVER** — An immature Common Loon was found on the ice of Inguadona Lake, Cass County, Minnesota, on December 9, 1973. The adult birds had migrated south long ago, but, this loon, being hatched late in season, could not fly, and so was left behind. The loon was found by Henry Miller of Longville and given to Everett Geske, Conservation Officer at Longville. Officer Geske brought the loon to me. The bird was released below the dam in Pine River. For several days, the bird was observed catching fish in the pool below the dam. The loon left the area below the dam in Pine River and wandered downstream. Very cold weather arrived and much of the open water below the dam soon covered with ice. Meanwhile the loon was having difficulties keeping a hole open. Eventually the open water closed with ice and the loon was observed frozen on the ice by Thor Peterson. He rescued the loon and called me again. I again placed the loon below the dam at Pine River where it stayed for several weeks. However, it again disappeared and hasn't been seen since February 25, 1974. **Arthur Gensmer, Conservation Officer, Pine River, Minnesota.**

**GYRFALCON SIGHTING** — On Saturday, December 29, 1973 a white phase Gyrfalcon was sighted over the St. Croix River at Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota. It was at 2 P.M. on a bright afternoon. Lloyd Hackl, Bayport, and I were counting a group of Red Crossbills feeding at the top of a large white

pine. Hackl spotted a large white bird coming up the river from the south. We both studied the bird through binoculars as it flew rapidly at about 150 feet height. It could be seen distinctly against the clear blue sky. The bird was large, crow size, purest white with sharply defined black wing tips. As we studied the various reference books, we could find no possible bird except the white phase Gyrfalcon. **Dean Honetschlager, Route 1, Box 40, Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota 55047.**

**BALD EAGLE TAKES DUCK** — In mid-November, Lake Darling, near Alexandria, Minnesota, was cold and gray with just the beginnings of ice forming in sheltered edges. Few birds are seen - a Herring Gull, and a small flock of ducks. At 10 A.M. on November 18, 1973 a large black bird flew towards the center of the lake from over the west shore. As seen from the western part of the north shore, the bird could have been a crow, but it then dived at a small flock of ducks in a most uncrowlike manner. Through binoculars, the bird proved to be a mature Bald Eagle. The eagle continued to harass the ducks for at least twenty minutes. The ducks dived under water at each swoop - the large bird seemingly not quick enough to get a victim. Apparently one duck was hit and became separated from the flock. The eagle concentrated its swoops on this one for another five minutes. It then went into the water on to the duck. It was in the water for about 30 seconds before it laboriously raised from the lake with the duck in its talons. The eagle flew towards the northwest corner of Lake Darling to several large trees above a deserted cottage. The weight of the duck was enough to require a second run at the shore to get lift to settle on the chosen branch. For an hour the eagle stayed in the tree eating the duck. It then flew eastward across the lake. **Mary Ann and Dean Honetschlager, Route 1, Box 40, Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota 55047.**

**SONG SPARROW "ENJOYS" WINTER IN TRACY** — I have a Song Sparrow. Now that in itself may not seem unusual, but, I feel that it is. We own and operate a greenhouse in Tracy, Minnesota, and on January 7, 1974, when it was about 20 degrees below zero, a sparrow found it's way into our place thru a "crack in the bottom of a door." I didn't spot him, but a friend of mine did and he caught it. In the process, every tail feather but one was pulled out. He got loose in the greenhouse which is 25 x 100. Usually when birds get in there they hit themselves against the glass and either break their necks or knock themselves out. This one immediately took to the "green garden in January." With all the tail feathers pulled out it left the bird with a bad balance. It took two days to identify it. I wasn't sure what it was and called in my "sparrow expert" another member of MOU, Elaine Bicek. By this time I had a bird bath and food out for it. It took right to the food and water although I haven't seen it take a bath. It is over two months later and we still have our singing friend with us. I am sure that he will not be able to stay much longer at it gets pretty hot under the glass. Every morning when we turn the radio on out there, he starts singing. Mostly he sings in the morning, or at least the loudest is at that time. We have really enjoyed having him. It has been a mild winter and we don't usually have the ventilators (ceiling windows) open, but, this March and some of February we did. He would sit within two or three feet of the open window and still decided that it was better inside where he was. Oh, I did forget to mention that it was about one month before he grew back the tail feahers. We do use pretty strong insecti-

cides in the greenhouse, but the odor apparently keeps him away from the bench that we use it on, because he stays clear of it for a couple of days. He prefers mixed seed and sunflower seeds to eat. **Netter Holm, 468 Craig Avenue, Tracy, Minnesota 56175.**

**SORA NEST BUILDING BEHAVIOR** — On June 2, 1973 we stopped by a little pond on the old road into Albert Lea from Myre State Park, Freeborn County. We saw a Sora carrying reeds to a little mound in the center of the pond. He paid no attention to us but ran frantically back and forth carrying reeds, measuring from 8-10 inches, in his bill. Sometimes he had quite a struggle pulling out the reeds. He made many trips before we realized that there was movement in the center of the hump and that his mate was putting them in place. After awhile they exchanged places and the emerging adult did not work as diligently but often stopped for a snack of whatever the Sora eat. After carrying a few more reeds to the growing heap they both worked in the nest together. Regretfully we left them at their work and felt that it must be near the time for the laying of eggs because they were working so hard. On later trips we would see one rail out feeding. One day the rail put its head down and chased away a Red-winged Blackbird. A Yellow-headed Blackbird near by must have been minding its own business because the rail ignored him. This pond had other wildlife in it too . . . a pair of muskrats, Blue-winged Teal, Mallards and we think another pair of Sora's. We were able to do all this observation without field glasses and sometimes standing along the edge of the road. I would estimate that we were sometimes within twelve feet of the adult bird. On June 17 we observed two black chicks with one of the adult Sora's and another time saw six little bodies go streaming across the pond. My observations ended at this time but my friends continued to watch and saw the young chicks grow a little larger, but soon the reeds and rushes made observation impossible. **Mary Kampen, 715 N. Shore, Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007.**

**SOUTHERLY NESTING OF EVENING GROSBEAKS** — It happened about eight miles (in straight line) northwest from Onamia, Mille Lacs County, in the northeast corner of Morrison County, Richardson Township, in the vicinity of Hannah Lake. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks probably nested at John Strait's house in 1973 where a bird feeder was kept full the whole summer. The adult birds with their brood feed often at Strait's feeder the whole summer. Most likely the feeder convinced the birds to nest south from their usual nesting grounds and they acted in accordance with an Old Roman's proverb "Ubi bene, ibi patria", ("where is good, there is fatherland") by choosing a new fatherland with plenty of food. **M. Ivanovs, Onamia, Minnesota 56359.**

**BANDING RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS IN MINNESOTA** — The fifteen year period between 1959 and 1973 has been a fascinating time of banding the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the State of Minnesota. During this fifteen year period I have banded at least one Ruby-throated Hummingbird each of thirteen years for a total of forty-seven birds. The first year, 1959, my third year banding birds, I banded two birds, both females, with cut-down zero bands, keeping only the last two or three digits. I found this to be a very unsatisfactory experience because I couldn't get the band small enough to fit on the leg and I suspect that they may have made a stiff joint on the right leg, which I banded, by covering the leg joint. In 1960 the Don

Bleitz Wildlife Foundation in California came out with some experimental bands which I found highly satisfactory. I have since used forty-five of these experimental bands. In 1966 I began to measure the right wing and the mandibles and to weigh the birds with an O'haus scale. During the fifteen years I have banded Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Minnesota I have banded in fifteen locations. Many of the birds were sexed, weighed and measurements taken of wing and bill length. A look at the right wing measurements of 17 birds show that they averaged 41 mm. for the males and 45.1 mm. for the females or 43.11 average for both. For seven males the average weight is 3.2 grams, and for ten females the average is 3.5 grams. For six males the average mandible length is 15.2 mm. and for ten females the average length is 20 mm. Of the forty-seven birds I have banded, 27 have been females and fifteen have been males. Five unsexed birds in 1961 were the results of my inexperience in banding in my early years, and I just forgot to determine and put on record whether they were males or females. The percentage of birds banded was 32% males and 57% females with 11% birds of undetermined sex. In 1964 many birds were banded in our yard, my home banding station was at 21 S.W. Third Street, Chisholm, Minnesota. I could not understand why so many birds were coming through our yard as we did not have many flowers and these were not particularly nectar bearing plants. Then one day my neighbor lady, who was interested in birds, too, told me of the 20 or so Ruby-throated Hummingbirds she had seen that morning from her upstairs bedroom window on their blossoming buckeye tree. I went out to look and counted fourteen hummingbirds at one time. My most unusual experience with a Ruby-throated Hummingbird came on May 13, 1970 while we were living in Wyoming, Minnesota. I had caught and banded an adult male bird and as it seemed a bit loggy, maybe I had held it too tightly, and it did not immediately fly from my hand, I placed it on the iron railing on the front steps. While it lay there I took a picture or two of it. Then taking it in my right hand I held it out, facing up, and the bird took off, rather slowly I thought, and flew to the eave of our neighbor's house, about eighty feet to the west. Upon alighting on the roof, immediately above the eave trough on a south slope, a Blue Jay flew down and picked up the bird in its mandibles. It took the bird to a perch in a red oak tree and took one hard jab at the bird before it dropped it and it fell to the ground about forty feet below. When the Blue Jay made no effort to fly to the ground and recover the bird, I went to pick it up. It was already dead. I suppose the Blue Jay might have mistook the Ruby-throated Hummingbird for a large moth or some other insect. Since the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is so small a large maple, basswood, or oak leaf blowing across the landscape could easily cover the body of a dead bird and so, few recoveries are made. I try to carefully examine each leg of all the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds I catch in my mist nests to ascertain whether or not they are already banded. It will be a happy day if I ever find one with a band on its leg, whether it is a bird I have banded or a foreign banded bird. **Forest V. Strnad, Stewartville, Minnesota 55976.**

Editors Note: The above article is reprinted in part from the November-December 1973 issue of *Inland Bird Banding News*, Vol. 45, No. 6, pages 215-217. It is of interest to note from the above information that the females average larger than the male birds.

**COMMENTS ON RECENT SMOOTH-BILLED ANI REPORTS.** On October 23, 1968, the late Lowry Elliott reported what he thought was a Smooth-billed Ani on his farm near Milbank (Grant Co.), South Dakota. He saw the bird at

close range (flying at 25 feet away, and on the ground, later, at 10 feet away), but observed no grooves or markings on the beak. He reported the observation in **South Dakota Bird Notes** 20(4):91, December 1968. Because there had been several previous records in that vicinity (but on the Minnesota side of the border) for the Groove-billed Ani, I immediately suspected that a bird of the year Groove-billed Ani **might not have developed the rostral sulci** ("grooves"). A quick check through Bent's **Life Histories** confirmed my suspicions. Before I could write to Lowry about his observation, I learned of his passing. We had corresponded frequently and I had much respect for his birding abilities. I am sure that he entered that Great Sanctuary in the Sky believing that he had seen a Smooth-billed Ani, but without any denigration towards my old friend I unhesitatingly refer his observation to a bird-of-the-year Groove-billed Ani. I suggest that the same holds true for the recent report of a Smooth-billed Ani in Roseau County, Minnesota by LaMonte Gross (**Loon** 46(1):34), even though our editor supports the contention that it was a released bird. **Ronald L. Huber, 2896 Simpson St., Roseville, MN. 55113.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**FEATHERS IN THE WIND**, The Mountain and The Migration, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, by James J. Brett, illustrations and hawk descriptions by Alexander C. Nagy.

A seventy-two page paperback covering the history of the association, the geology and topography of the Kittatinny Ridge on which Hawk Mountain is located, a short chapter on wind and weather and their effects of hawk migration, a description of the migration and identification tips for hawks, eagles and vultures which use the Kittatinny Ridge, and a final chapter on hawk conservation.

This book is brief, well and profusely illustrated with photographs, drawings and graphs. Although much of the information applies to Hawk Mountain, the section on good migration weather and how thermals are used and a section on identification during migration make this a useful as well as interesting book for a Minnesota Hawk-watcher.

Available for \$3.00 from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Route 2, Kempton, Pa. 19529.

Molly Kohlbray

**GROUSE AND QUAILS OF NORTH AMERICA** by Paul A. Johnsgard, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska: 553 pp, 140 plates (52 in color), 30 tables and 45 figures and maps. Color paintings by C. G. Pritchard, J. P. O'Neill, D. F. Landau and L. A. Fuertes, 1973, \$25.00.

This is the first comprehensive study of North American grouse and quail that attempts to assemble in one work what is known of this interesting group of birds. Although many studies have been made of Ruffed

Grouse, Bobwhite and other more familiar species, little is as yet known of others, especially some of the Central American quails. As the author points out in his preface, although he has done some extensive field work, very little that he presents is new and original material. What he has attempted to do is assemble the studies that have been made and put this in concise form.

The book covers all the 25 native and successfully introduced species of grouse, quails and partridges found north of Guatemala. The chapters and pictures on the Mexican species are especially timely due to the increased interest in the birds of that area. The author has traveled extensively in this region in an attempt to learn more of their habits and ranges.

The book is divided in two parts. The first part is entitled; Comparative Biology and is quite technical. The first seven chapters deal with such subjects as evolution and taxonomy, moults and plumages, reproductive biology and population ecology. Chapter 8 deals with propogation in captivity which should be of great interest to aviculturists. Chapter 9 is devoted to hunting, recreation and conservation as related to these birds.

Part II is an account of individual species with a chapter devoted to each species. This section is written in a less technical vein and should be of great interest to bird watchers. The information is quite detailed and the range maps are excellent and up to date. The chapters include sub-headings such as range (from the A.O.U. checklist, including sub-species), identification, habits, movements, reproduction, courtship, vocal signals and evolutionary relationships. These chapters are interestingly written and the excellent studies of the grouse courtship rituals are well done.

I would say the book serves its purpose well. The color photographs are on the whole excellent. Some of the black and white photographs leave something to be desired, especially of some of the caged birds but many of these are included to show certain hybrids among various quails, which in itself is most interesting. The colored paintings that were commissioned especially for this book are indeed beautiful works of art.

This book has something for everyone interested in this fascinating group of birds, be they ornithologists, hunters, birdwatchers or whatever. I would highly recommend it to all.

R. A. Glassel

# **A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MINNESOTA**

by

Kim Eckert

\$3.50

**Where to Find Birds in Minnesota**, the popular guide published about 20 years ago, has been out-of-date and out-of-print for some time. But as of September 1974, thanks to M. O. U. financial and moral support, Minnesota will have a new bird-finding guide.

**A Birder's Guide to Minnesota** includes information on more than 150 birding areas, an annotated list of species, a section with addresses and telephone numbers of 12 of Minnesota's most active birders (who can offer up-to-date guidance and information), and future annual supplements are planned to keep this guide current.

This book, now at the printers, will be approximately 120 pages long and has five maps, lists of Minnesota mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and an index of birds and locations. Hopefully, the book will be on sale in time for the September M. O. U. hawk watch at Duluth, but if you wish to reserve your copy now send \$3.50 (plus 25¢ postage if you want it by mail) to K. R. Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030. Please make checks payable to the Minnesota Ornithologists Union.

### PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds, we aim to create and increase public interest in birds and promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims through the publishing of a magazine, **The Loon**; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



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### SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** need articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of the sheet with generous margins. Notes of interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired the author should so specify indicating number

required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, August and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>BRANT</b> (See Vol. 46:33 for details) Photo by William R. Pieper .....	Front Cover
<b>THE PRESIDENT WRITES</b> .....	51
<b>ARCTIC TERN AND LITTLE GULL AS MIGRANTS IN DULUTH</b> by Janet C. Green .....	52
<b>THE 1973 FALL SEASON</b> by Robert B. Janssen and James A. Baumhofer .....	57
<b>THE 1972 CHRISTMAS COUNT</b> by Manley Olson .....	72
<b>TWENTIETH CENTURY RECORDS OF WOLVERINE IN MINNESOTA</b> by Elmer C. Birney .....	78
<b>NOTES OF INTEREST</b> .....	82
<b>BOOK REVIEWS</b> .....	93
<b>A BIRDERS GUIDE TO MINNESOTA</b> .....	Inside Back Cover



# The LOON

FALL 1974

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GARDNER

**The LOON** Minnesota's magazine of birds and nature, is published four times each year by the **Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**, the state-wide bird club. Permanent address: J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455. Anyone interested in birds and nature may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: **The Loon** and the **MOU Newsletter**.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Karol Gresser, 8850 Goodrich Ave., Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send Mrs. Gresser \$5 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$6 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly. Life \$100. Also available from Mrs. Gresser: back issues of **The Loon** (\$1.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (20 for \$1 ppd.). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to Mrs. Gresser.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:** Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Hopkins, Mn. 55343. (phone 938-7464). The editor solicits articles, short notes, and black/white illustrations about birds and nature. See back cover for details.

"The Season" section of **The Loon** publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly desire reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season" request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON," Mrs. Janet Green, 9773 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Mn. 55804.** (area 218, phone 525-5654).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Mrs. Marlyn Mauritz, Route 4, Box 886, Excelsior, Minn. 55331. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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## THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

After a good many years of really enjoying, and I feel learning from, MOU field trips, I was shocked and surprised at the suggestion from a birder that field trips were a somewhat frivolous and useless function of the MOU and that they did nothing to further MOU goals. He suggested that each member contribute the money he might spend on field trips to a land acquisition-habitat preservation fund and "do something meaningful for conservation." This suggestion has some merits; donations to our endowment and sanctuary funds are always welcome and are used at the discretion of the board unless specified for certain projects such as Hawk Ridge or Prairie Chicken land acquisition.

Our three field trips; Spring, the Hawk Watch, and the North Shore Winter trip remain as vital functions of the MOU. Testimonial to this lies in the large and growing attendance at all three. While the professional ornithologist probably prefers bird study by himself or in a small group, most amateurs seem to enjoy birding more in larger groups where expertise and observations are shared to the mutual enjoyment of the whole group. The spring field trip helps acquaint all of us with new birding areas within the state.

Kim Eckert's new book, **A BIRDERS GUIDE TO MINNESOTA**, sponsored by the MOU, will be a great help to field-trippers on an individual, club, or small group basis. He suggests very specific areas in each section of the book. For more personalized birding in unfamiliar areas also carry the MOU roster. Call or write ahead to that fellow MOU member you met at a recent field trip for area suggestions or even personal guide service. Most birders are very friendly and always helpful in this respect.

To observe and study birdlife we must go afield. That's a field trip. And that is a big part of what the MOU is all about!

**BILL BRYSON**

# A BLACK-THROATED SPARROW IN MINNESOTA

by Robert B. Janssen

On September 20, 1974, Janet Green and I discovered a Black-throated Sparrow at Stoney Point along the North Shore of Lake Superior in St. Louis County. This is the first record for the species in Minnesota. The bird was first seen with six Lapland Longspur feeding in the parking area overlooking the lake. The bird was an immature in readily identifiable plumage and the following is a description of the bird: small sparrow about the size of a Chipping Sparrow smaller than the Lapland Longspur which accompanied it. Crown, medium gray with a tinge of buff, white stripe over eye from bill to nape. Cheek, medium gray with a speck of white under eye. Throat, clear white, breast, whitish gray with fine streaks of medium gray, heaviest on sides. Wing coverts and back, buffy with slight grayish tinge, back was unstreaked. Primaries were grayish buff. Appeared to have one very faint wing bar at point of separation of coverts from primaries in folded wing. The flanks, belly, and under tail coverts were whitish gray. The tail was black with a slight white edge on outer feathers. The bill was small, sparrow-like with the lower mandible a light steel gray contrasting with the upper mandible which was a drab grayish brown. We watched the bird from distances as close as ten feet. The bird was seen and photographed (see opposite) by many people for the next three days. It was last seen by William Pieper on September 23. In the A.O.U. Check-List (1957 edition) the range of the Black-throated Spar-

row is listed as breeding from northeastern California, northern Nevada and Utah to southwestern Wyoming, western and southern Colorado, northwestern Oklahoma, and central-northern Texas and southward into Mexico and Baja California. It winters in the deserts of the southern part of its breeding range. It is listed as casual in Oregon, Idaho, and Kansas. Since 1957 there are records of its accidental occurrence in the Upper Midwest. The first of these is a single adult bird on May 3 and 4, 1959 at Rockton, Winnebago County, Illinois (**Passenger Pigeon** Vol. XXII, No. 1, p. 26-27). Another adult bird visited a feeder in Madison, Wisconsin from December 23, 1959 until April 22, 1960. (**Passenger Pigeon** Vol. XXII, No. 1, p. 32-33). This constituted the first record for Wisconsin. Both of the above birds were photographed. The only record for South Dakota was an adult bird that was an almost daily visitor to a feeder in Vermillion during the last two weeks of December 1971. (**South Dakota Bird Notes**: Vol. XXIV, No. 1, p. 20). From December 4, 1973 to February 4, 1974 a single bird remained at a feeder in Omaha, Nebraska. This represents the second state record for Nebraska. (**American Birds**: Vol. 28, No. 3, p. 660). From these records it would appear that the Black-throated Sparrow has recently become an accidental wanderer into our region mainly during the winter season. **14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**



**Photo by Lloyd Paynter**



**Photo by Marj Carr**

# NESTING TURKEY VULTURES IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

by Dana Gardner

The Turkey Vulture ranges throughout the state of Minnesota, though suffering the same fate as many other birds of prey, it has become an uncommon bird in many areas. Indeed, as early as 1874, in his Report on the Birds of Minnesota (Bulletin of the Minn. Academy of Natural Science) Dr. P. L. Hatch stated that in Minnesota the Turkey Vulture was, "formerly more common . . . still breeds but is becoming rare." During the summer months I have found this bird to be common in certain areas of Fillmore County in southeastern Minnesota. From early May to late September I have flushed groups of 12 to 18 vultures from the steep bluffs in the Root river valley where they prefer certain dead trees for roosting.

Nesting records of vultures in Minnesota are scarce due to the secretive habits of the bird and the often remote or inaccessible nest location. In June of 1970 I flushed a Turkey Vulture from a rocky crevice in a cliff bordering the Root River, a typical nest site. However, I was unable to find a nest. On July 22, 1971 I discovered a vulture nest in the partially collapsed hay mow of a small log barn, the only building left standing in a deserted and remote farm site. There are two small cultivated fields nearby, but the site is otherwise surrounded by deciduous forests and rocky bluffs that border the Root river.

Two vulture chicks responded to my intrusion by assuming a hunched over posture and disgorging the contents of their stomachs. They emitted a loud, guttural hiss for the length of my visit. The chicks were about  $\frac{3}{4}$  adult size; their developing primaries and tail feathers were dark brown, their heads a dark gray. They were otherwise covered by long, fluffy,

white down, giving them a strange and comical appearance.

During the 1972 breeding season I visited the site on May 6 and found two eggs; one stained, the other appearing fresh. The adult had flushed from the nest and one other vulture circled overhead when I departed. On June 9 I found one egg pipped, the other hatched. The egg shells remained in the nest with the dry chick. On June 11 the hatched chick had disappeared and the remaining chick was dead with shell fragments nearby.

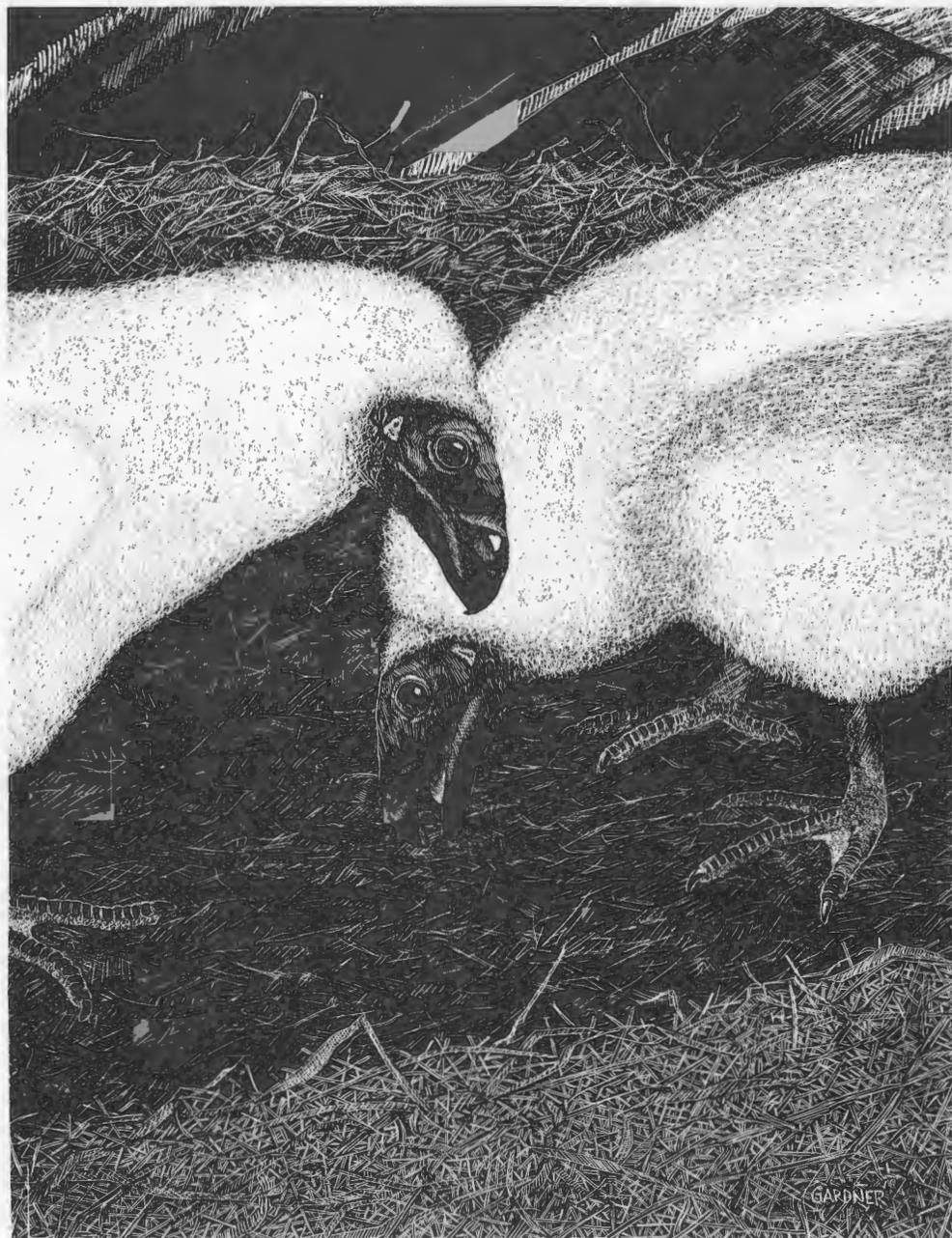
I was unable to visit the site in 1973. My parents checked the area in early June and flushed an adult vulture from the barn.

In 1974 I flushed an adult from the barn on June 11. The nest held one newly hatched chick, still wet and struggling to free itself from the shell, and one dry chick with egg shells lying three feet from the nest. When I departed three adults circled overhead. On June 27 six vultures were soaring in the area and one glided low over the barn at my approach. The two chicks had grown rapidly and were approximately 10" in length. The wing and tail feathers had not yet broken from their sheaths. Both chicks vomited their recent meals and hissed until I departed. No egg shells remained near the nest. My parents visited the site on Aug. 4 and found the chicks adult in size and well-feathered. They retreated to the corner of the barn, vomitted and hissed very loudly until the observers departed. No adults were seen.

The nest itself, a shallow depression in the old hay, did not move from year to year, although the barn roof has collapsed more and more each year. I never detected any foul or musty odors at the nest site, possibly due to

the open location. Always the adults were timid, flushing immediately whenever I found them on the nest, though on my June 11, '74 visit, the adult paused long enough to vomit an odorous mass of partially digested

food before departing. The only interaction I observed between vultures and other birds was in July '72 when an adult was heckled by an Eastern Kingbird as it flew low over the nearby field. **Lanesboro, Minnesota 55949.**



# THE WINTER SEASON, DEC. 1973-FEB. 1974

by K. R. Eckert

This winter's weather had few extremes one way or the other and can best be described as nondescript. What I recall as a relatively mild and snowless winter was not borne out in the statistics. December was much colder than normal, especially towards the end of the month. Regional temperatures ranged from 1.7° below average in the North Central to a frigid 4.6° below normal in the Southwest. The month's high was 55° at Pipestone and Redwood Falls on the 8th and 9th, while the low dipped to -41° in Thorhult (northwest Beltrami Co.) on the 31st. Snowfall was a bit above normal in most regions, with only the North Central and Northeast slightly below average. North Mankato received the most snow with 21.3", while Grand Marais was the driest spot with only .33" of precipitation.

Cold temperatures persisted into the first half of January, and the month averaged colder than normal. Only the Southeast was slightly above normal, while the Northwest was 4.2° below normal. The month's high was 54° at New Ulm on the 16th, and the low again was at Thorhult with -45° on the 11th. Snowfall was below average everywhere except the Northwest which was only a fraction drier than usual. No less than three locations reported .00" of precipitation, and the highest snowfall for January was a modest 16.6" at Gunflint Lake in Cook Co.

February saw temperatures quite close to normal, except for a substantial warming at the end of the month. The Southwest was 1.4° above normal, the Northeast was 1.8° below normal, but everywhere else had virtually normal temperatures. On the 27th and 28th the mercury reached a high of 54° at Windom, Worthington and Luverne, while good old Thorhult again was the cold spot (whatever happened to International Falls?) with -37° on

the 4th. Snowfall was also close to average with half the regions reporting slightly higher precipitation and half slightly lower. Isle in Mille Lacs Co. received the most snowfall with 23.5".

While the weather may not have been too exciting, the birds were. Nothing all that spectacular was found, but 50 contributors reported no less than 138 species, perhaps the highest count for any winter. Part of this variety of species is due to the increase in the number of Christmas Counts which is the best way to get observers out in winter. Thirty-one counts were taken this winter as compared to 27 last year and only 20 counts four years ago. But even though no exotic strays were turned up, 138 species is a very respectable total, and there were quite a few highlights. An injured Common Loon lingered until late February in Cass Co., and 2 Red-necked Grebes were seen off Lutsen on the MOU North Shore trip. Also injured was an American Bittern that was in Goodhue Co. through most of December. The Brant at Rochester was still present until 12-8, and Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported at St. Paul and St. Cloud. A white-phase Gyrfalcon turned up in Washington Co., and Merlins were seen twice in December. The elusive Spruce Grouse was only reported once, but the Turkeys at Whitewater Wildlife Area continue to be seen in good numbers. North Shore dumps are being cleaned up and closed, fishing boats have almost disappeared on L. Superior, and wintering gulls seem to be declining. Only 2 Glaucous Gull reports were received from the North Shore, but a newly-split Thayer's Gull was identified at Duluth by Guy McCaskie from California. Hawk-Owls invaded northeastern counties in their best numbers in many winters, there were 4 Great Gray Owl reports, the very rare Boreal Owl was seen only

once, and Saw-whet Owls showed up at two locations. A "red-shafted" Common Flicker in perfect plumage wintered in Redwood Co., and a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was found in Aitkin Co. A single Clark's Nutcracker in Redwood Co. turned up a year after last winter's invasion, a Carolina Wren was found on the Afton Christmas Count, a Mockingbird lingered into January in St. Paul, an unprecedented Swainson's Thrush was also in St. Paul until 12-29, and the Varied Thrush continues to establish itself on the regular list by showing up at 7 different spots. Perhaps the best birds of the winter were a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Beltrami Co. and a Loggerhead Shrike in Duluth in January, both probably the first authentic winter records for these species. Yellow-rumped Warblers lingered into mid-December in St. Paul and Grand Marais as did a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ortonville. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks were not nearly as common as in most winters, but redpolls were around in good numbers and Hoary Redpolls were identified (or misidentified?) in unprecedented numbers. White-winged Crossbills also staged an impressive invasion and in most areas were even more common than Reds. Finally, 2 White-crowned Sparrows lingered well into December at two locations, and a Fox Sparrow stayed for the Afton Christmas Count on January 1.

#### **COMMON LOON**

An injured bird wintered in open water below a dam at Pine River in Cass Co. and was last seen on 2-25.

#### **RED-NECKED GREBE**

2 seen off Lutsen, Cook Co. on 1-26 (KE).

#### **Horned Grebe**

12-23 and 1-19 at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (RR, RBJ).

#### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Reported by several observers at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. until 1-23; another was in Sherburne Co. on 12-10 (BD).

#### **White Pelican**

A late migrant seen 12-3 in Big Stone Co. (D. Peterson).

#### **Great Blue Heron**

One lingered until 12-31 at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. and was noted on the Bloomington Christmas Count.

#### **AMERICAN BITTERN**

An injured bird lingered until 12-25 near Etter, Goodhue Co. (JB).

#### **Whistling Swan**

Noted on the Excelsior, Rochester and La Crosse Christmas Counts.

#### **Trumpeter Swan**

The introduced resident flock at Carver Park in Carver Co. was down to 6 wintering birds (KH); it appears that this swan will not survive here.

#### **Canada Goose**

Reported from 17 counties north and west to Otter Tail and Lac Qui Parle; the early December peak at Rochester was estimated at 22,000, while the wintering flock numbered 12,000.

#### **BRANT**

The immature bird from last fall was last seen on 12-8 at Rochester, Olmsted Co. (RR).

#### **White-fronted Goose**

One seen at Rochester, Olmsted Co. on 2-24 (RBJ); was this an injured overwintering bird as has been seen here in the past, or perhaps a very early spring migrant?

#### **Snow Goose**

Seen on the Marshall, Sherburne NWR, and Rochester (7 all winter) Christmas Counts; late migrants on 12-2 in Mille Lacs (MI) and Ramsey (JB), 12-9 in Big Stone (D. Peterson).

#### **Mallard**

Reported from 23 counties north to Cook, Cass and Clay; peak of 6,000 on the Wabasha Christmas Count.

#### **Black Duck**

Reported from 11 counties north to Cook and Wright; peak of 60 on the Wabasha Christmas Count.

**Gadwall**

Reported on the Excelsior, Hastings and La Crosse Christmas Counts; also seen 12-3 Big Stone (D. Peterson), 12-16 Ramsey (JB), 12-2 and 1-27 Olmsted (CH, JB), and 2-26 Hennepin (EJ).

**Pintail**

Reported on the Afton, St. Paul and Hastings Christmas Counts.

**Green-winged Teal**

Seen on 12-16 in Ramsey (JB).

**Blue-winged Teal**

An injured late migrant seen in Washington on 12-2 (JB).

**American Wigeon**

Reported on the Bloomington, St. Paul and Hastings Christmas Counts.

**Northern Shoveler**

Seen on the Excelsior and Bloomington Christmas Counts.

**Wood Duck**

Reported from 12 counties north and west to Stearns and Big Stone; this duck is much more common in winter than in former years.

**Ring-necked Duck**

Reported on the Bloomington Christmas Count; also seen 12-8 Winaona (RBJ), 12-14 to 17 Crow Wing (TS).

**Canvasback**

Reported on the Hastings Christmas Count.

**Lesser Scaup**

Seen on the Grand Marais, St. Paul Northeast and Hastings Christmas Counts; also on 12-2 Mille Lacs (MI) and 12-20 Stearns (NH).

**Common Goldeneye**

Reported from 16 counties north to Koochiching and Otter Tail.

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**

A male was seen on 1-6 at Sartell, Stearns Co. (NH) and no less than 3 were reported on the St. Paul Christmas Count; this is a very rare bird in Minnesota and details should be submitted on all sightings; it is unfortun-

ate that few if any birders were notified of the birds in St. Paul so that they could be checked out.

**Bufflehead**

Reported on the St. Paul and Hastings Christmas Counts; late migrants on 12-2 in Mille Lacs (MI) and Hennepin (CH).

**Oldsquaw**

Reported on L. Superior in good numbers (about 300 on the MOU North Shore trip); also seen 12-15 to 1-18 Big Stone (D. Peterson), 1-13 Ramsey (JB) and on the Bloomington Christmas Count.

**Hooded Merganser**

Seen on the Bloomington Christmas Count and on 12-15 in Crow Wing (TS).

**Common Merganser**

Reported only from Crow Wing, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington and Dakota; did not seem as common as in most winters.

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Seen on the Grand Marais, Duluth and Willmar (details?) Christmas Counts; late migrant on 12-2 in Mille Lacs (MI), and a few lingered on L. Superior until 2-10.

**Goshawk**

Reported in good numbers from 17 counties south to Redwood, Le Sueur and Dakota.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Seen on the Itasca, Excelsior, St. Paul Northeast, Afton, Hastings and Rochester Christmas Counts; also reported 12-22 Dakota (KG), 1-22 Le Sueur (GN) and 2-25 Carver (MM); much more common than usual.

**Cooper's Hawk**

Seen on the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Hastings Christmas Counts; also 2-19 Anoka (SC).

**Red-tailed Hawk**

Reported from 18 counties north to Chisago, Wright and Cass (Walker Christmas Count).

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Much more common than usual: seen on the Afton, Hastings, Faribault and Rochester Christmas Counts; also reported from **Stearns** on 1-29 (NH) and **Crow Wing** into February (S. Blanich).

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Reported from 17 counties; peak of from 14 to 21 birds was in the Sax-Zim area, St. Louis Co. through most of December.

### **Golden Eagle**

More records than usual: 12-5 Lac Qui Parle (AFE), 12-5 Le Sueur (1a) (HC), 12-8 to 2-23 Winona (RBJ, RR, FL), Itasca Christmas Count (1a), 2-4 Sherburne (BD), 2-9 Renville (li) (RBJ), and 2-24 Dakota (li) (JB).

### **Bald Eagle**

Also much more widespread than usual: reported from Clearwater (1i), Hubbard, Cass (2a, 1i), St. Louis (2), Stearns (1a), Sherburne (1a, 1i), Carver, Washington (7a), Hennepin, Dakota (6), Goodhue (6a, 1i), Wabasha (13a, 3i), Winona (3), Houston (4a, 1i), Steele (1a), and Freeborn.

### **Marsh Hawk**

Reported on the Fergus Falls and Bloomington Christmas Counts; also seen 12-7 (6), 12-9 (2) and 2-21 (1) Aitkin (TS), 12-9 to 14 Stearns (NH), 1-20 Ramsey (JB) and 2-22 Cottonwood (LR — early migrant?).

### **GYRFALCON**

An individual of the rare white phase was sighted on 12-29 at Marine-on-the-St. Croix, Washington Co. (D. Honetschlager).

### **MERLIN**

12-2 Washington (JB) and 12-19 Cook (Grand Marais Christmas Count); very few winter records for the state.

### **American Kestrel**

Reported from 31 counties north to St. Louis (Duluth Christmas Count), Clay (2-15, RHJ) and on Moorhead Christmas Count), and Otter Tail (RHJ); much more widespread than usual.

### **Spruce Grouse**

1 female seen near Little Marais, Lake Co. on 1-26 (VL); only report.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 24 counties.

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Reported on the Warren, Hibbing, Sax-Cotton, International Falls and Northwoods Christmas Counts; also 12-22 and 26 Pine (DAB, FN), 1-26 St. Louis (KE), and 2-21 Aitkin (TS).

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported from 31 counties.

### **Chukar**

7 of the resident flock at Ely, St. Louis Co. seen 12-27 (TS).

### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from 12 counties; peaks of 42 on the Moorhead Christmas Count and 71 on the Warren (Marshall Co.) Christmas Count; more common than usual.

### **Turkey**

One seen on 2-24 (RBJ) and 23 seen on 2-2 (RR) at Whitewater Wildlife Area, Winona Co.; the introduced flock near Beaver seems to be well established.

### **American Coot**

Reported on the Excelsior, Bloomington and Rochester Christmas Counts; also seen 12-8 Wright (BH), 12-14 and 15 Crow Wing (TS), and in December in Big Stone (D. Peterson).

### **Killdeer**

2 seen on the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count; also on 1-12 in Houston and Winona (2) (FL).

### **Common Snipe**

Reported on the Bloomington, St. Paul Northeast, Hastings and La Crosse Christmas Counts; also seen in **Stearns**, Ramsey, Blue Earth, Le Sueur and Winona.

### **Glaucous Gull**

Less common on L. Superior, seen there only on the Duluth Christmas Count (2) and on 12-26 Lake (2) (TS); also seen inland until 1-20 at Black

Dog L., **Dakota Co.** by several observers.

### **Herring Gull**

Not as common on L. Superior as in most winters; also seen on the Bloomington, St. Paul and Hastings Christmas Counts; also on 12-3 in Scott (RH) and Anoka (SC).

### **THAYER'S GULL**

Last year this form was split into a full species, and it is now apparent that some gulls identified as Icelanders were really Thayer's, probably a rare but regular migrant and winter resident; Guy McCaskie, an expert on this gull, identified one at Duluth on 12-23.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Reported on the Bloomington and St. Paul Christmas Counts; late migrants also seen 12-4 on Mille Lacs L. (TS), 12-5 Le Sueur (GN), 12-3 Carver (KH), and 12-1 to 9 Hubbard (HF).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Late migrants on Mille Lacs L. on 12-2 and 12-4 (JJ, TS).

### **Rock Dove**

Around as always, but several Christmas Count compilers were not aware that a rule change now permits counting this species.

### **Mourning Dove**

Reported from 24 counties north to St. Louis, Mille Lacs and Stearns.

### **Screech Owl**

Reported from 11 counties north to Stearns and Clay.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from 35 counties; "arctic" subspecies noted on 1-23 in Stearns (NH) and on 1-26 in Hennepin (L. Erikson); more common than usual.

### **Snowy Owl**

More widespread than usual: a peak of 8 in Duluth harbor, as many as 4 in the Sax-Zim area (St. Louis Co.), Cook, Koochiching, Marshall, Aitkin, (5), Todd, Clay, Stearns (12-1 to 18, NH), Washington (Afton Christmas Count), Ramsey (St. Paul Christmas

Count), and Dakota (Hastings Christmas Count).

### **HAWK-OWL**

A major invasion year: 3 were present in the Sax-Zim bog (St. Louis Co.) from 12-19 to 2-23 (several observers); 1 at Twig (St. Louis Co.) from 12-21 to 2-23 (several observers); 1 at Island Lake, St. Louis Co. on 12-23 (GN); 1 in Cook Co. on 1-26 (T. Dyke); 1 in Crow Co. on 12-7 (TS); 3 in Aitkin Co. from 1-12 to 2-9 (TS); 1-21 McGrath, Aitkin Co. (P. Hubert, A. Smith); 1-27 Pliny, Aitkin Co. (KE).

### **Barred Owl**

Reported from 11 counties north to Stearns.

### **GREAT GRAY OWL**

One reported on the Sax-Cotton Christmas Count, and what was possibly the same bird was at Canyon on 12-26 and at Meadowlands on 1-26 (TS); one at 1-16 in Lakewood Twp., St. Louis Co. and another on 1-19 at Greenwood L. in Lake Co. (G. Olson).

### **Long-eared Owl**

Only report was from the Excelsior Christmas Count.

### **Short-eared Owl**

Reported from the Marshall, Minneapolis, St. Paul Northeast and Afton Christmas Counts; also seen 12-22 Cottonwood (LR) and 1-28 Carver (KH).

### **BOREAL OWL**

This very rare northern visitor showed up on 1-13 at Cotton, St. Louis Co. (E. Pearson).

### **Saw-whet Owl**

Birds found dead on 1-22 and 2-24 in Crow Wing Co. (TS); another seen on 2-9 in Kruger Park, Wabasha Co. (G. Lint).

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Reported from 16 counties north to Crow Wing, **Clearwater** and Otter Tail.

### **Common Flicker**

Reported from 19 counties north to Otter Tail and Clay; a perfectly plumaged "red-shafted" form wintered into

April near Vesta, Redwood Co. (P. Egeland).

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 23 counties.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from 19 counties north to Crow Wing (2-20, TS).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Reported from 14 counties north to Crow Wing (TS).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Seen on the Marshall and Winona Christmas Counts; also on 12-11 Hennepin (VL).

**Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 40 counties.

**Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 39 counties.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**

Reported on the Itasca and Sax-Cotton Christmas Counts; also seen on 2-28 Pine Co. (R. Carter, B. Murphy).

**NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**

The only report was of a male in Aitkin Co. on 12-31 (TS).

**Horned Lark**

Reported from 19 counties north to Otter Tail. First spring migrants noted on 1-24 Anoka (SC).

**Gray Jay**

Reported from Cook, St. Louis, Koochiching, Aitkin, Itasca, Clearwater and Pine (Northwoods Christmas Count).

**Blue Jay**

Reported from 41 counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Seen on the Warren (Marshall Co.), Itasca, Fergus Falls and International Falls Christmas Counts; also 12-28 Perham, Otter Tail Co. (NH), 12 in Beltrami Co. on 2-23 (E. Rose), and 10 in Aitkin Co. (TS).

**Common Raven**

Reported from 12 counties south to Becker, Cass and Carlton.

**Common Crow**

Reported from 35 counties north to Cook, St. Louis, Cass, Clearwater and Clay.

**CLARK'S NUTCRACKER**

One seen in mid-December at Tracy, Redwood Co. (Mrs. A. Engerbretsen).

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 42 counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Reported on the Itasca (8), Sax-Cotton (21), Hibbing and Grand Marais Christmas Counts; also 1-1 Aitkin (RR), 1-26 St. Louis (10) (TS).

**Tufted Titmouse**

Reported on the Bloomington, St. Paul Northeast, Afton and Hastings Christmas Counts.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 37 counties.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 17 counties south to Lyon, Steele and Olmsted.

**Brown Creeper**

Reported from 28 counties north to St. Louis, Aitkin, Cass, Clearwater and Clay; much more common than usual.

**Winter Wren**

Seen on the Excelsior Christmas Count and on 12-8 in Rock Co. (KE).

**CAROLINA WREN**

One seen on 1-1 on the Afton Christmas Count.

**MOCKINGBIRD**

One in St. Paul, Ramsey Co. from 12-18 to 1-8 (M. Goldberg).

**Brown Thrasher**

Seen on no less than 4 Christmas Counts: Bloomington (also all winter), St. Paul Northeast and Rochester (also all winter); another on 2-2 Carlos Avery Wildlife Area, Anoka Co. (FN); seems to be increasing in recent winters.

**American Robin**

Reported from 13 counties north to Crow Wing and the North Shore.

### **SWAINSON'S THRUSH**

From 11-23 to 12-29 at a feeder in St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (M. Olson); probably the first Minnesota winter record.

### **VARIED THRUSH**

No less than 7 reports: from 1-5 to 2-14 Encampment Forest, Lake Co. (several observers); 11-29 to 2-14 Rose L., St. Louis Co. (Dr. Walker); 12-10 to 2-5 Hibbing, St. Louis Co. (H. Micensky); early December to 3-20 Scandia Valley, Morrison Co. (Mrs. R. Sivertson); mid-December to 3-30 Stillwater, Washington Co. (E. Deppe); 1-15 to 1-20 Northfield, Rice Co. (several observers); 2-8 to 2-11 Minnesota City, Winona Co. (Mrs. P. Whitney); this species seems now well established on the regular list.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Reported only on the Excelsior Christmas Count.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Reported from 14 counties north to St. Louis (Hibbing Christmas Count) and Clearwater (Itasca Christmas Count).

### **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**

One reported with good details on 2-27 at a feeder in Bemidji, Beltrami Co. (B. Haglund); this would be the first authentic winter record for the state except that this may have been a very early spring migrant since there was quite warm weather the last week of February.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

Not as common as most winters: seen from 1-8 to 2-9 in Crow Wing Co. (peak of 52) (TS); 1-20 in Duluth (2) (D. Engstrom); also reported (details?) on the Albert Lea Christmas Count.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Reported from 15 counties north to Cook, Lake, St. Louis and Clay.

### **Northern Shrike**

Reported from 21 counties.

### **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**

Marge Carr verbally reported one at her feeder in Duluth well into Jan-

### **The Loon**

uary; hopefully details are forthcoming since this is probably the first Minnesota winter record.

### **Starling**

Present.

### **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER**

Late migrants lingered 11-23 to 12-15 in St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (M. Olson) and 11-17 to 12-18 in Grand Marais, Cook Co. (J. Vesall).

### **House Sparrow**

Alive and well.

### **Meadowlark, sp.**

Reported from 11 counties north to Clay Co. (Moorhead Christmas Count) and Mahnomon Co. (1-3, LCF).

### **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**

Late migrant on 12-15 in Big Stone Co. (D. Peterson).

### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Reported from 20 counties north to Crow Wing, Otter Tail and Clay.

### **Rusty Blackbird**

Reported from 11 counties north to Cook (12-19, Grand Marais Christmas Count) and Big Stone (12-15, D. Peterson).

### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Reported on the Warren (Marshall Co.), Excelsior and Minneapolis Christmas Counts; also 12-15 Big Stone (D. Peterson).

### **Common Grackle**

Reported from 22 counties north to St. Louis, Crow Wing and Otter Tail.

### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Seen on the Marshall, Excelsior, Winona and La Crosse (13) Christmas Counts; also 12-2 Washington (JB), 12-27 to 1-9 Cottonwood (LF), 2-2 to 2-10 Winona (25 peak, B. Bilder), and 2-21 Olmsted (JF).

### **Cardinal**

Reported from 25 counties north to St. Louis (all winter), Stearns and Lac Qui Parle.

### **Evening Grosbeak**

Reported from 21 counties south to

Winona and Le Sueur; not as common as usual.

### **Pine Grosbeak**

Also not as common as usual: reported from 13 counties south to Washington (Afton Christmas Count), Ramsey (St. Paul Christmas Count and 2-19, RH), Anoka (1-26, SC) and Cottonwood (12-28 to 1-13, LF).

### **Hoary Redpoll**

No less than 24 reports from 17 counties; 11 Christmas Counts recorded them (peaks of 7 on the Moorhead count and 6 on the St. Paul Northeast count); seen south to Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Olmsted, Lyon and Lac Qui Parle; birders should not be afraid to identify this species which is regular in small numbers with Common Redpolls in the northern half of the state, but at the same time caution is in order since redpolls can vary quite a bit in whiteness and misidentifications often result.

### **Common Redpoll**

Reported from 36 counties; more widespread than usual but no large flocks were reported.

### **Pine Siskin**

Reported from 33 counties; also more common than usual.

### **American Goldfinch**

Reported from 25 counties north to St. Louis, Pine, Crow Wing and Marshall.

### **Red Crossbill**

Reported from 15 counties south to Houston, Winona and Dakota.

### **White-winged Crossbill**

More common than usual, outnumbering the Red Crossbill in most places: reported from 19 counties south to Olmsted, Dakota, Cottonwood and Rock.

### **Purple Finch**

Reported from 29 counties.

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Reported from 32 counties north to Cook, St. Louis, Cass, Marshall and Clay.

### **Tree Sparrow**

Reported from 31 counties north to Duluth, Crow Wing, Todd, Otter Tail and Marshall.

### **Harris' Sparrow**

Reported on the Fergus Falls, Mountain Lake, Afton, Rochester and Hibbing Christmas Counts; also 12-25 Clay (LCF), 2-9 Renville (RBJ), and all winter in Swift (HH) and Lac Qui Parle (AFE); much more common than usual.

### **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

Seen on the St. Paul Christmas Count and on 12-18 in Grand Marais, Cook Co. (J. Vesall); few winter records.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Seen on the Bloomington, Hastings and Winona Christmas Counts; also 6 on the Nicollet Mall, downtown Minneapolis (CH); 12-26 in Ramsey Co. (JJ), and in January in the Encampment Forest, Lake Co. (H. Harbor).

### **FOX SPARROW**

1-1 on the Afton Christmas Count; few winter records.

### **Swamp Sparrow**

Late migrants on the Blomington and Hastings Christmas Counts.

### **Song Sparrow**

Reported from 11 counties north to St. Louis (Duluth Christmas Count).

### **Lapland Longspur**

Reported on the Cottonwood, Marshall, Mountain Lake, Afton, Hastings and Duluth Christmas Counts; also 1-19 Aitkin (RR) and 2-10 Rock (KE).

### **Snow Bunting**

Reported from 35 counties; more widespread than usual.

## CONTRIBUTORS

- James A. Baumhofer (JB)  
Bradley D. Berven (BB)  
David Blais (DB)  
Donald A. Bolduc (DAB)  
H. Buck (HB)  
Betty and Doug Campbell (BDC)  
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Mrs. Arnold DeKam (AD)  
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Laurence and Carol Falk (LCF)  
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Joan Fowler (JF)  
Pepper Fuller (PF)  
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Karol Gresser (KG)  
H. Hatlelid (HH)  
K. Heidel (KH)  
N. M. Hiemenz (NH)  
Bruce A. Hitman (BH)  
Robert E. Holtz (RH)  
Charles L. Horn, Jr. (CH)  
M. Ivanovs (MI)  
Mrs. Richard H. Jackson (RHJ)  
Robert B. Janssen (RBJ)  
Joan Johnson (JJ)  
Oscar L. Johnson (OJ)  
Mrs. E. W. Joul (EJ)  
Violet Lender (VL)  
F. Z. Leshner (FL)  
Mary H. Muelhausen (MM)  
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Fran Nubel (FN)  
Jean Peterson (JP)  
Gary Ritchison (GR)  
Richard P. Ruhme (RR)  
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Orwin A. Rustad (OR)  
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C. K. Sherck (CS)  
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# AN "INVASION" OF CUCKOOS IN AUSTIN

by

Dean G. Schneider

From late June until late July of 1974, I heard or saw Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the city of Austin nearly every day. I noted most of them in my yard on the outskirts of Austin. Others were noted as I bicycled through the town on various errands. A few were in wooded river floodplains on the edges of Austin. During this time, Austin did not have a serious caterpillar outbreak.

Unfortunately, I have no comparison to previous summers because this is my first summer in Austin, and so far as I know, no one else in the city has been interested in identifying cuckoos.

Austin is a city of 26,000 people about 12 miles north of the Iowa line in Mower County, Minnesota. The surrounding area is flat and intensively farmed. Trees are reasonably numerous in the city residential areas, and wooded areas of river floodplain lie at the north and south edges of town. To a traveling bird, Austin may appear as an island of trees in a vast plain of corn and soybeans.

Robbins, et al., in *Birds of North America*, the Cornell/Peterson field guide record, and other recent writers clearly distinguish the calls of Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos. Roberts, in *Birds of Minnesota*, states that he had difficulty in distinguishing the calls of these two species. From my own experience of this summer, I believe that occasional vocalizations may be intermediate. I have no definitive proof, however, in that I did not clearly see a bird making a call somewhat like that of the other species. Unfortunately, I did not make notes on odd calls, and only a vague unease remains with reference to identifications by ear alone.

Nearly all vocalizations were like those on the Cornell record, or as de-

scribed in standard field manuals, however, and I assigned all calls to one of the two species on this basis. I both saw and heard six birds, and saw two birds that did not call. All the rest, I heard but did not see.

I was absent from Austin on the days noted in Table 2.

I heard no calls at night. Of the eight birds I saw, several caught caterpillars as I watched. These larva were usually colorful and spiny. I also saw one copulation attempt of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Table 1 gives the basic data of this report. The data are organized in Table 2 in order to show the peak numbers during the study period.

Table 1 shows that neither species predominated during the study period of June 18 to August 17. I feel that data are inadequate to demonstrate this conclusively, however. That is, one species may have predominated, or arrived first, or departed last, but my data do not show this.

Tables 1 and 2 suggest that the largest number of birds were present from June 26 to July 27. During this period of 32 days, I noted 28 birds for an average of nearly one bird per day. Since I made no attempt to seek out the birds, and noted most of them in my yard, the cuckoo population of Austin must have been quite high during this time.

The beginning and end of the "invasion" are abrupt. Because high populations of cuckoos have accompanied caterpillar outbreaks, I was alert for signs of such, but noted only one "tent" in the city. Also, tree leaves were not badly eaten by insects. I did not investigate insect damage thoroughly, however, and my estimate must be judged as subjective.

In general then, it would appear that large numbers of both species of

cuckoos that are found in southern Minnesota abruptly converged on the city of Austin without the stimulus of a caterpillar outbreak. They remained about a month, then left as

suddenly as they had come. Both species appeared to occur in about equal numbers throughout the period covered by this report.

**TABLE 1. Number of Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos seen during the study period.**

Date	Black-billed	Yellow-billed	Seen	Heard	Comment
June 18	x			x	
26		x	x	x	Three males, one female
26	x		x		
28		x		x	
30	x		x		
July 4		x		x	Two birds
7		x		x	Three birds
7	x			x	
9		x	x	x	
10		x	x	x	
12	x			x	
12		x		x	Two birds
18	x	x		x	One of each species
19		x		x	
20	x	x		x	Helmer Myre S.P., one of each species
21	x			x	
26		x		x	Two birds
27	x			x	
31	x		x	x	Lena Larson Game Preserve, 7 miles SE of Austin
Aug. 16	x			x	
17	x			x	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>			

**TABLE 2. Observations totalled for successive calendar weeks. I was absent from the city on the dates noted.**

Period	Number of birds Observed	Days absent from Austin
June 16-22	1	June 22
23-29	6	June 23
June 30-	3	June 28-30
July 6		
July 7-13	9	
14-20	5	
21-27	5	
July 28-	1	
Aug. 3		
Aug. 4-10	0	August 9-10
11-17	2	August 11-14

808 15th Ave S.E., Austin, Minnesota 55912.

# notes of interest

**POSSIBLE MOUNTAIN PLOVERS SEEN AT MOORHEAD** — Three Mountain Plovers were sighted in a flock of American Golden Plovers two miles south of Moorhead, Minnesota, in Clay County. The flock of 30 Golden Plovers (including a number of immature birds) and three Mountain Plovers landed at a pond in an unplanted field about 1 p.m. on May 2, 1974. I watched them from the car about 100 feet away on a county road through 10 power binoculars for about 10 minutes before another car drove by and startled them. They flew away and did not return. The sky was light overcast, and temperature 49 degrees, and the wind from the north at 20 knots gusting to 29 knots. The previous day the wind had been from the South-southwest gusting to 38 knots. I had seen Mountain Plovers before in their normal range, but, never in this area. I was alone in the car, and the birds did not remain in the area; therefore, the sighting is unverified. Description: The three birds appeared to be quite different from either the mature American Golden Plovers or the immature American Golden Plovers who had the same basic color pattern as the mature, but, were blotchy looking on the breast instead of solid black and white. The Mountain Plovers were smaller and more slender. The coloring was very smooth on back, back of neck and upper wings — a very light brown or rich tan color. The heads were distinctive with a dark cap and a pure white forehead reaching back above the eyes. The white breast and front neck were divided from the white forehead by a streak through the eye. I didn't determine the color of the legs. I did not notice these birds in flight when a car startled the entire flock and they flew away. I made no written notes in the field, but, memorized the description on the spot. **Carol J. Falk, Route 3, Box 46, Moorhead Minnesota 56560.**

**EARLY BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER** — On April 13, 1974, Bill Pieper, Paul Egeland, Ray Glassel and I were birding in Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County. We had noted many early April migrants along the creek near the headquarters, Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were common and there were at least two Winter Wrens present. As we were watching these birds a Black and White Warbler was seen. We all made the comment that it was our earliest date for this species. In checking the previous early dates for this bird I found April 15 to be the earliest date previously recorded in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**LAZULI BUNTING IN MOORHEAD** — A single male Lazuli Bunting was observed at our home along the Red River about two miles south of Moorhead, Minnesota in Clay County. The bird was about eight feet from our living room window at a ground feeding station in the back yard at 5 P.M. on May 22, 1974. The temperature was 66 degrees and the sky was heavy overcast. The Lazuli Bunting was first seen sitting on a circle of wire mesh around a feeding area; after a couple of minutes, it dropped to the ground and fed along with a variety of species of sparrows feeding on milo and oats. I was standing too close to focus 10 power binoculars. The camera was

mounted with a 400mm. lens and 2x converter, but, the bird was too close to focus the lens and there was insufficient light. The bird flew away before the 200mm. lens could be mounted on the camera to try it, so no picture was taken. The bird flew away after being observed for about five minutes and did not return. Since I was home alone, there is no verification of the sighting. A description of the bird seen: blue head and neck, upper back was brownish blue, lower back, plain blue, upper breast and sides were pink-orange-tan blend; mid and lower front white, wings had one very prominent white wing bar and one quite faint one. Tail and wings were rather dark in color. Description was noted at time of sighting, but, since I know of no bird which could easily be confused with adult male Lazuli Bunting, I judged description to be superfluous. It was about the same size as the smaller of the sparrows feeding with it (about equal to clay colored, etc.) I have seen Lazuli Buntings several hundred miles west of here on several different occasions, but, this is the first time I have seen the bird in this area. Earlier in the day, I had also observed an Indigo Bunting in the neighbor's driveway about 100 feet from the spot where the Lazuli was seen. **Carol J. Falk, Route 3, Box 46, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.**

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS IN FREEBORN COUNTY:** Editor's Note: The Black-headed Grosbeak is of accidental occurrence in Minnesota with only two documented reports of it being observed in the State. These records are as follows: one at Mendota Heights, Dakota County from mid July to August 9, 1967 (*The Loon* 39:130); April 19 to 26, 1972 one in West St. Paul, Dakota County (*The Loon* 44:121-122). A hybrid Black-headed Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen and banded in Washington County on May 11, 1972 (*The Loon* 45:64-65). In *The Flicker* 19:104 there is a short note of a Black-headed Grosbeak being seen near Bemidji on August 11, 1947 and a reference to two other unverified sight observations, one at Duluth and one at St. Joseph, Stearns County. This spring at least four birds were reported from observers in Freeborn County, Mrs. Jim Gregerson of Albert Lea observed one of the birds herself and supplied the following observations. The details are admittedly sketchy and incomplete, but, there is enough evidence to indicate that the Black-headed Grosbeak did occur in Freeborn County this spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Foss of London, Freeborn County noticed two male Black-headed Grosbeaks near their kitchen window, on the branch of a maple tree. Both birds stayed together picking at the buds on the tree. They clearly saw the black heads, plump bodies of yellow with deeper orange-yellow markings down the breast. The birds were the same shape as a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Wings were marked with wide white wing bars, the beaks were broad and light color. This observation occurred in early May, 1974.

Also, in early May, Mrs. T. M. Gill of Route 3, Albert Lea reported a Black-headed Grosbeak. She noted the dark head, wing bars, yellow coloration, and size and shape of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

The third observation came from Dr. and Mrs. E. M. Johnson of Emmons, Minnesota, who for 20 minutes observed a Black-headed Grosbeak at their home in Emmons, Freeborn County. They observed the black head, face, wings, and tail. The wings had white wing bars. The breast was a tannish gold with an orange spot. This observation took place also in mid-May.

On May 13, 1974, I observed a male Black-headed Grosbeak in Albert Lea. We have both Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Northern Orioles here and

most other observers reported at first they thought this bird was an oriole, but, that they noticed a difference and had to look it up. I knew the bird might be in the area, so I had checked the field marks. When I saw the bird, I first noticed the beak, dark head, grosbeak shape, differences in coloration and the markings especially the wing bars. The habitat was open woodland. It was perched in a tree, but, flew when I moved closer. **Mrs. Jim Gregerson, Route 3, Box 34, Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007.**

**MORE BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK REPORTS** — On May 27, 1970, Mr. Norm Kordell and his wife observed a male Black-headed Grosbeak at their feeder. The bird was seen at a distance of about 30 feet, in good light, with 7/15 X 35 zoom binoculars, for about 15 minutes. All salient characters were noted, and convenient comparison was made with both sexes of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak also frequenting the feeder. Mr. Kordell is a Department of Natural Resources (State of Minnesota) employee, so he contacted Mr. John McKane, Editor of the **Minnesota Volunteer**. Mr. McKane in turn checked with local authority Ken Haag and found that the observation was "possible but not probable" because there were "no previous records for the state." Understandably, Mr. Kordell did **not** report another appearance this spring, at his residence on the boundary of Afton State Park, Washington County. His carefully-kept notes show that a female Black-headed Grosbeak appeared May 11, 1974 and remained until June 1. A male was seen May 13 by Mrs. Kordell and again the following day by Mr. Kordell. Again, close comparison with both sexes of Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole helped confirm the identity of the Black-headed Grosbeak, seen at feeding trays from varying distances of five to 15 feet. Most of the close range observations were made with the naked eye, but 8 X 50 binoculars were occasionally used. A long and detailed telephone conversation with Mr. Kordell provided an excellent description of both sexes: heavy, conical beak with black head and light orange breast in the male, and light orange breast with considerably less streaking than the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the female. I thank Mr. Kordell for sharing his observations with me and for allowing me (perhaps reluctantly) to prepare this note on his behalf. **Ronald L. Huber, 2896 Simpson St., Roseville, Minnesota 55113.**

**CINNAMON TEAL OBSERVED** — On April 24, 1974, I saw a Cinnamon Teal about six miles west of Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County in a flooded low area near Bat Lake. This same flooded area was an excellent observation area for many shorebirds and ducks this spring. I observed a pair of Cinnamon Teal together, I am assuming that the female was a Cinnamon Teal. Because the area was quite large I used my 40 power scope to observe the birds. I then could see some unusual markings on the males head and neck. The bird had two white spots on both sides of its head and a white ring around its neck. It also seemed to me that when the male moved its head in the right position with the sun the top of the head seemed to have a very light greenish tint. Other than these markings the male was smooth reddish brown all over except its back and tail. There were many other Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal in the same area for good observations of all three teal together. The male Cinnamon was swimming with the female and when other teal would come to close he would chase them off. **Mr. Lester Rupp, Mountain Lake, Minnesota 56159.**

Editors note: The white markings and greenish coloration on the head and neck of this bird indicate a possible teal hybrid. One can only guess as to the

possible hybridization — the white marks on the face would indicate a cross with a Blue-winged Teal, the greenish a Green-winged Teal and the neck ring of unknown origin.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS — SPRING 1974** — In the March 1974 issue of *The Wilson Bulletin* (Vol. 86, No. 1 — p 83-84) I noticed an article on Mountain Bluebirds expanding their nesting range eastward in North Dakota. It would appear from migration records from Minnesota for the spring of 1974 that the bird is also extending its migration routes eastward. At least six observations of individual birds were made during March and April. All of these records are documented below with the exception of a single male bird seen at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County from March 11 to 13, 1974 by Thad Fuller. Mr. Fuller photographed the bird and it is definitely a male Mountain Bluebird, however, the photograph was not suitable for reproduction. The Mountain Bluebird is a casual species in Minnesota with only eight spring records being recorded in the past. It is unprecedented to record six individuals during one spring migration season. **Editor**

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD AT FARIBAULT** — On March 6, 1974, I observed a Mountain Bluebird about 10 miles northwest of Faribault in Rice County, Shieldsville Township in section 14, near Hunt Lake at the junction of county 66 and 37. The bird was with three male Eastern Bluebirds on a power line where the comparison of color and size were made easy between the two species. Being that the day was clear and sunny, and the birds remaining in the immediate area for at least five minutes, positive identification was easily made. A 7 x 35 binocular and a 25X spotting scope were both used, and reference was made to **A Guide to Identification, Birds of North America**, by Robbins et al. The birds were observed sitting on the power line, and flying down to the ground picking up food. Identification was made at close range using the car as a blind to compare the lighter color of the Mountain Bluebird to that of the Eastern Bluebird, its slightly larger size and somewhat longer tail. This is the first known record of the Mountain Bluebird in south central Minnesota and Rice County. **Orwin A. Rustad, 1134 East Division Street, Faribault, Minnesota 55021.**

**FEMALE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD SEEN AT MINNEOTA** — The following is excerpted from a letter received by Dr. Harrison Tordoff at the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, at the University of Minnesota. "What kind of southwestern Minnesota bird might be similar to a Texas Jay? The bill seemed similar to the Canada (Gray) Jay, but, the body seemed very gray and non-descript until the bird flew — at which time the back and tail (plus some wing feathers?) were a bright blue. There was a distinct, easily seen white ring over the top portion of the eye. The bird was not especially wary. It sat on a fence post watching the ground. Would fly out — hover a little, drop down and come back to the post top. The bird was seen on March 30, 1974." This information was received from Mr. Daren Gislason, Minnesota 56364. Dr. Tordoff identified the bird as a female Mountain Bluebird — **Editor.**

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY** — On March 29, 1974 while driving along a county gravel road three miles south of Louisburg, Lac Qui Parle County, I saw a blue colored bird fly from the power line as I passed in the car. From the brief glance I got as I passed, I assumed that it was an Eastern Bluebird. Since this would have been my first bluebird for the season, I stopped and turned around in order to confirm the

sighting. When I looked with my binoculars (10X50) my conclusion of a bluebird was confirmed. However, upon close scrutiny, there seemed to be something wrong. There was no rusty color in the breast like I knew the male Eastern Bluebird had. Unfortunately, I did not have my field guides in the car. I thought that perhaps this was a female eastern since the blue color was a light sky blue. I could not recall whether the female eastern had the rusty color or not. I watched the bird for about 15 minutes as it fed, occasionally flying from the wire to the ground and back, and made the following notes. No rust color in the breast, black on ends of primaries, no rust observed anywhere on the bird in flight. The temperature was about 35° with a wind about 5 mph from the northwest. I then left, returned to town and checked my field guide. I realized that I had seen a Mountain Bluebird. Because this was a first for me, I returned to the area about 2 hours later. The bird was still there, feeding from the wire, and the identification of the Mountain Bluebird was confirmed. **John Schladweiler, 1011 Third Ave., Madison, Minnesota 56256.**

### **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS AND PRAIRIE FALCON IN ROCK COUNTY —**

There have been few resident birders in the southwest corner of the state, and as a result we don't yet know the true status of those western strays that turn up in Minnesota from time to time. Because of this, since moving to Sioux Falls in 1973 I have been spending most of my birding time in Rock County. On March 30, 1974 I was birding along county roads in the northern part of the county near Hardwick. Here along U.S. Hwy. 75 there is a mile-wide strip of rocky prairie pasture that is about 6 miles long and filled with boulders and outcroppings of Sioux quartzite. It was in this area in 1973 that I found a stray Barn Owl along a gravel road 4 miles north and ½ mile east of Hardwick. I decided to check this same road on the 30th and within ¼ mile of where the owl was I found a female Mountain Bluebird feeding along the fence line on the side of the road. I stayed in the car and used it as a blind as I watched the bird for about 10 minutes from distances of from 20 to 100 feet. The bird was grayish brown all over with no hint of rusty as is found on the breast of the female Eastern Bluebird. The blue coloration was confined to the tips of the wings, rump and tail and could be seen best as the bird flew. This blue was more of a turquoise or light blue, while the female Eastern Bluebird has more of a deeper and darker blue that covers more of the wings and back.

Then on April 12, 1974 I was birding at Blue Mounds State Park and found a male Mountain Bluebird in full breeding plumage. Blue Mounds is just north of Luverne in central Rock County and includes a large area of prairie with frequent Sioux quartzite outcroppings. I was out hiking on this 3 mile long and mile wide stretch when I found the unmistakable male Mountain Bluebird feeding along two intersecting fence lines about ½ mile south of the main park drive. This bird's sky-blue plumage on back and breast made identification no problem, and it was seen the next day by Bob Janssen, Ray Glassel, Bill Pieper and Paul Egeland.

But the best bird of that day came just after I had left the bluebird and was walking north back to the main park drive. My dog was out with me and had wandered off when I was watching the bluebird. I was scanning the surrounding prairie for her with my binoculars when three birds flew into view about 150 yards away. The first I saw was a Common Crow and at first I assumed that's what all three birds were. But as I kept watching I quickly noticed that there were two crows chasing a third bird which was a hawk. This hawk had a long tail and long pointed wings, was light brown

in overall coloration, had no distinct pattern on its face, wings or tail, and was virtually the same size as the pursuing crows. It did not seem particularly bothered by the crows, but flew low over the ground at a moderate speed with steady wingstrokes frequently interrupted by a short glide. This hawk (by now I knew it was a falcon by its pointed wings and long tail), was flying no more than 10-15 feet above the ground but was at or a bit below my eye-level since I was standing on a rise of land, and therefore I was unable to see the dark axillars that are diagnostic of the Prairie Falcon. Eventually the three birds flew off to the north after about two or three minutes and were not seen again. Because of the falcon's size and light coloration I identified it as a Prairie Falcon. The American Kestrel is perhaps half the size of a crow and the Peregrine is much darker and has a distinct "moustache" mark on its face. I later read that the flight of the Prairie Falcon is often as I observed with this bird: low with short glides between steady wingbeats. This is the first reported Prairie Falcon I know of in the state since the early 1960's, when there were one or two sight records. This species is at best only casual in Minnesota, but it could be looked for along the western border of the state especially in fall and early winter when this species is said to have a tendency to wander eastward from the Dakotas. **K. R. Eckert, Box 47, 512 Essex Street, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**SAY'S PHOEBE IN ROCK COUNTY** — Kim Eckert informed me that he had seen a Mountain Bluebird in Blue Mounds State Park just north of Luverne, Rock County on April 12, 1974. On April 13, Bill Pieper, Ray Glassel, and I went to Blue Mounds to look for the bluebird. We arrived about mid-morning, it was cloudy with north winds and temperatures in the 40's. We parked our car near the entrance and walked the Hiking Trail along the buffalo pens. After we had gone several hundred yards Ray Glassel spotted a bird on the lower strand of barbed wire of the fence. He could not get a good view of the bird until it flew out on an exposed rock and began flicking its tail. Posture was typical phoebe, the head and tail were a dark gray with the back a lighter gray. The belly and underparts were a rust orange grading into a grayish rust throat. Obviously a Say's Phoebe, a Minnesota first for all of us. The bird remained in the area for about 10 minutes. Kim Eckert checked the area the following day, but, could not find the bird. However, on April 27, we were all in the same area looking for other birds. At that time we found a singing male Say's Phoebe along the cliff edge of Blue Mounds Park. On the next day Kim Eckert found a second bird, which he presumed to be a female, flying in amongst the rocks of the cliff. The male remained on top of the cliff singing from a favorite perch. A careful search of the area failed to reveal a nest, however, there is a good possibility that the pair nested in the area. This observation represents the third observation for Say's Phoebe's in Minnesota. The two other records are of a single bird seen in Rock County on September 3, 1973 by Kim Eckert and a single bird seen near St. Charles, Winona County on September 3, 1963. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**BLUE GROSBEAK IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY** — Bill and I drove out at the supper hour to the N. J. Hodson farm a short distance from Judson, Blue Earth County; to see a bird the Hodson's had called about. This was on May 10, 1974. In the Hodson's opinion, they believed it to be a Blue Grosbeak, but, they were uncertain because the color varied from that in a birdbook they were using. The bird was feeding on the ground below a feeder just

out of the kitchen window. It definitely was a Blue Grosbeak. Bill concluded it was an immature male, because it still had considerable brown coloring washed with the blue — but, the beak was just as pictured and the wing stripes of brown were pronounced. On returning home we checked several bird guides and they described the immature male Blue Grosbeak just as we had seen. The bird was in and out of the feeding area on both the 10th and 11th. It stayed in the area about 10 days and was not seen again. **Mrs. W. R. Luwe, 309 State Street, Mankato, Minnesota 56001.**

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN HUBBARD COUNTY** — Dennis Christianson an employee of Hubbard County was hauling gravel from a pit just a short way from our farm home and observed this beautiful bird all day on May 13, 1974. This bird was still around the area the following day so he came up to the house to look in the bird book to identify it. The book we used to classify it was Roger Tory Peterson's **A Field Guide to the Birds**. My wife (who is Dennis' mother) and I went up there to check it out. We were able to come within 12 to 15 feet of it and it did not appear to be flightly at all. This bird was observed for three days. I covered the area for several days thereafter, but, as far as we know it left the area. Our farm is located just off Highway 34 and on the township line between Akeley Township and Mantrap Township. There was little doubt that this was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, it's long tail with the black trim — light grey with pink on the wings and sides. **Clarence Bergo, Akeley, Minnesota 56433.**

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN LAKE COUNTY** — The following sighting was made on May 11, 1974 at Nine Mile Lake near Schroeder, Lake County. My husband had spotted the bird earlier in the week, but, did not know what it was. The first bird I saw was quite close. It had white sides, and a black head, even without the binoculars, so I thought Common Goldeneye. When I looked at the bird through the field glasses and saw that it definitely had a crescent-shaped white patch behind its beak — in front of its eye, I made note of these features and checked Peterson's to be sure. I then drove to the other end of the lake where I saw the second bird with similar markings. The head shape seemed to be different than most ducks. After reading the description I agreed with the low rounded crown and abrupt forehead. I then went home to get my friend, because I knew she would be excited by this find. On the second trip out we used her spotting scope. We both then saw more black on the sides of the body and the purple gloss to the head. Incidentally, there was also a pair of Common Goldeneyes on the same lake which we used for comparison. **Mrs. Helen Tucker, Box 65, Schroeder, Minnesota 55613.**

**KING RAIL IN DULUTH** — The species was observed on the open baseball field of Minnesota Point. There had been a steady rain the previous evening and thru the morning of May 3, 1974. The field was quite soggy. The sky was overcast and a very light drizzle was coming down. I frequently visit the point especially when the aforementioned conditions exist. On first observation of the field for birds I saw Marbled Godwits, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstones, and several distant birds that were too far away to identify. I decided to drive over to the large parking lot and approach these distant birds using the outfield fence of the baseball field as a blind. The outfield fence proved to be an excellent cover when I reached the fence and looked over it, a Willet, not more than 10 feet away was startled and took flight. I followed the Willet with the field glasses making note of the wing pattern. The Willet

landed near a Marbled Godwit, but, to the left of the godwit was a large chicken like bird. My first inclination was to call it a Virginia Rail, but the size was too large for a Virginia, although the chicken-like appearance and the buff color resembled a Virginia. I have seen both Virginia and King Rails on previous occasions in the Twin City area. My final choice on the King Rail versus the Virginia Rail was: Size; buffy colored breast extending to abdomen; chicken like body except the beak which is large, legs a brownish color and long. **Dave Reynolds, 1623 East 5th Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55812.** (Editors Note: This is a most unusual locality and situation in which to see a King Rail in Minnesota. Most, if not all records of the bird in the past have been restricted to the southern  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the state.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER AT WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER** — On April 27, 1974, at Richfield's Woodlake Nature Center, my husband and I were fortunate enough to sight a Worm-eating Warbler and to observe its furtive actions for nearly half an hour. Bird watching was excellent that morning. Full sunlight was perfect for revealing colors and markings of birds. Small, late-developing foliage offered optimum visibility. Before coming upon the Worm-eating Warbler, we had already been thrilled by our first glimpse this year of a Northern Parula. As we walked in a southerly direction along our usual route, we heard the song and scratchings of White-throated Sparrows in nearby brush and stopped to sight them. We had a perfect view of them through our binoculars. As we admired the enhancing effect of the morning sun on the yellow of their lores, we noticed that the sparrows had as company a bird we had never seen before. Our mystery bird, almost surely a warbler, was olive — almost bright olive — without noticeable wing bars and buffy underparts. It would have appeared all-over olive except for very prominent black head stripes. We watched it move silently, tail a little lifted, in and out among the leaves for a long while, consulting our bird books as we watched. The place where we saw the bird is unique in that right there the ground falls sharply away from adjacent, fenced private property. Thus a small, but steep, hill is formed. The hill is a tangle of brush and leaves. The Worm-eating Warbler seemed at home there; and while we watched, it never really left the ground. Our only problem in identifying the bird to our satisfaction lay in the fact that, according to our books, the bird should not be in this area. However, the bird came into the bright sunlight often enough for us to observe its olive back and its salient black head stripes for long enough periods for us to be convinced that we had seen a "casual." A few days later we returned to Woodlake to see if we could sight the bird again. Although we watched patiently, we did not see it. **Shirley Mahowald, 7412 Kellogg Ave., Edina, Minnesota 55435.**

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW AND BELL'S VIREO IN SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA** — For the past several years the Henslow's Sparrow and Bell's Vireo have been uncommon and local but regular summer residents in southeast Minnesota, mostly in the Winona area with occasional sightings north to the Twin Cities. Reports of these two species away from that part of the state are quite unusual: in the past 10 years I know of only three records of the sparrow and four of the vireo outside of the southeast. But both species should be watched for in southwest Minnesota; in former years the Henslow's Sparrow bred on the prairie north to Traverse County and the Bell's Vireo is fairly common in southeast South Dakota within 50 miles of the Minnesota line. On April 27, 1974 I was hiking the rocky prairie at Blue Mounds State Park in Rock County when a small, dark, short-tailed sparrow flushed just

in front of me from a low wet spot in the grass. I knew I was up against one of the "sneaky" species of sparrows, so I stalked it carefully to get a better look at it. As the bird sneaked through the grass and flew around I was able to get several brief but good looks at the bird. It was darker than the common Vesper, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows that were around, with dark rufous wings, an unmarked greenish-gray head, and short but distinct streaks on the breast and sides. I thus was able to identify it as a Henslow's Sparrow. The bird never sang, nor was it seen or heard on subsequent trips to this spot, but the Henslow's could possibly nest on prairie such as is found at Blue Mounds. Henry Kyllingstad of Marshall reports that he has twice found this species in summer on the small patch of virgin prairie at Pipestone Monument in Pipestone County, about 20 miles north of Blue Mounds. Perhaps more field work at these spots will reveal that this elusive sparrow is a local but regular breeder in southwest Minnesota.

Then on May 27, 1974 I was birding up at Pipestone National Monument, a small but excellent area of virgin prairie, Sioux quartzite bluffs and outcroppings, and oak woodlands along a picturesque stream. As I was walking along the hiking trail just south of the visitors center I heard the unmistakable song of the Bell's Vireo coming from a line of scrubby trees and brush along the trail. Just the day before I had been birding with the South Dakota Ornithologists Union in southeast South Dakota and had seen and heard several Bell's Vireos (and Yellow-breasted Chats) in such brushy thickets and edges. Therefore the vireo's distinctive song was fresh in my mind at Pipestone: a rapid, rasping warble ending first with a rising inflection, and then after a pause another warble with a downward inflection. After a short search I found the bird and watched it feeding in the thicket at close range for about five minutes. It was grayish-green above with faint spectacles, two distinct wingbars and a clear yellowish wash on its sides. On two subsequent trips here I did not find this bird, but the Bell's Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chat may be rare but regular breeders in this part of Minnesota in brushy edges and thickets such as at Pipestone National Monument. **K. R. Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**CROW HARASSES KESTREL** — While out "road birding" on March 30, 1974, Ron Kneeskern and I saw a Common Crow harassing an American Kestrel. The two birds were flying about 50 feet above an old field, and the crow repeatedly swooped upon the falcon. With quick banks, the kestrel avoided the crow and we observed these actions through about six encounters. At the last encounter, the kestrel released a mouse-sized object and the crow followed this to the ground. It then picked up the object and flew about 200 yards away where it alighted on the ground and ate it. Meanwhile, the kestrel flew on its way. We watched the encounter through seven power binoculars as it occurred over the junction of Mower County roads 34 and 46 at 4:12 PM CST. The temperature was 35 degrees F., with strong north to northwest winds under an overcast sky. We saw eleven American Kestrels in an hour of road birding, a relatively large number compared to the preceding days, so the migration must have been in full swing. **Dean G. Schneider, 808 15th Avenue S.E., Austin, Minnesota 55912.**

**185 SPECIES ON MAY 1974 BIG DAY** — On May 18, 1974 Paul Egeland, Henry Kyllingstad, Terry Savaloja, Kevin Martell and I recorded a record 185 species (two more than last year) on our fifth May Big Day count. Our count continues to be the largest Big Day in inland U.S. by a wide margin. The only places that have recorded higher counts are at coastal Delaware,

Louisiana, Texas and California. I mention this not to brag about our birding ability (endurance is what we have more than anything), but only to point out that M. O. U. members live in one of the best birding states and need not leave Minnesota to see an excellent variety of birds.

This year we lengthened our route considerably by starting at midnight in Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties where Terry had staked out several species including several calling Yellow Rails. We then drove east to the Duluth area and on the way found a very late Snowy Owl sitting along Highway 210 near McGregor. We arrived at Duluth just before dawn and induced an elusive Saw-whet Owl to answer our tape recorder. At sunrise we were at Stoney Point and spotted both White-winged and Black Scoters on the lake. Later in the Duluth harbor we found Surf Scoter and a late Glaucous Gull. We left Duluth and headed southeast toward St. John's at 8:15 with 100 species. By the time we reached Stearns Co. we had added 24 more species along Hwy. 23, mainly by stopping at a spruce bog near Nickerson on the Carlton-Pine Co. line. Here (and at Duluth) we picked up several northern species that we never had recorded on our four previous Big Days which never went north of Stearns County before. We birded for passerines in the productive woodlands at St. John's from noon to 1:30. In previous years we had always spent at least five hours here, but this year we did not have the time with our longer itinerary and we missed several "common" woods birds (in spite of our record 185 species we had a record low of only 18 warblers and vireos). We headed west from St. John's with 143 species and birded our way to Lake Johanna. We were hoping to find Cattle Egret and Little Blue Heron but found neither and left there at 3:30 with 158 species. We then knew we had a chance for a record but as usual we were fighting the clock (a Big Day is a race against time more than anything else). To get to Marshall and our best shorebird stop before dusk we knew we had to leave out either the Frog Lake area or Salt Lake, both of which we had always checked before. We decided to leave out Frog Lake where we usually had Eared and Western Grebes and headed for Salt Lake with a stop on the way at Marsh Lake. We were lucky and made the right decision to include Salt Lake; there we found not only the two grebes but also a very late flock of all four geese: Canada, Snow, Blue and White-fronted. We left Salt Lake at 6:30 with 175 species and headed for Marshall, confident that there were enough shorebirds there to break our record. We reached the sewage ponds at 8:00 and were disappointed to find that a few of the shorebirds there the day before were gone. Terry had kicked up a Whip-poor-will in a nearby woodlot, and Paul and Henry spotted some late Water Pipits fly by at dusk. We finally quit at 9:30 in Pipestone Co. with our 185th bird for the day: a female Swainson's Hawk sitting on a nest that was staked out earlier and could barely be seen by the light of our flashlights.

Spring 1974 was cold and many migrants were late while others hardly showed up at all. With such conditions it at first seemed unlikely that we could come close to 185, but by beginning farther north we offset our warbler losses at St. John's and our shorebird losses at Marshall with many "northern" species new to our cumulative Big Day list (we added 19 new species for a 5-year total of 228 species). We covered no less than 615 mi. by car, walked another 4 mi. and were birding for 21½ continuous hours. As was said earlier we possess endurance more than anything else (except perhaps foolhardiness). I hope that not that many others went to the extreme lengths we did this past cold spring to run up a list because it was the wrong year to try it. But May 1975 should have better weather and I hope some of you experiment with your own route. You won't get 180 on

your first try, but you can after a few years of trying, and perhaps some one will reach 200 in the future. Florida, Texas, Arizona and California have nothing on our own state of Minnesota.

Following is a summary of our 1974 Big Day and our 5-year cumulative Big Day list:

	1974	5-yr. cum.
Loon, grebes, pelican, cormorant	7	8
Hérons	5	7
Swan, geese, ducks	24	27
Hawks	9	10
Gallinaceous birds, rails, coot	6	7
Shorebirds	21	30
Gulls, terns	9	9
Doves, cuckoos	2	4
Owls	4	6
Goatsuckers, swift, hummingbird, kingfisher	5	5
Woodpeckers	7	7
Flycatchers	6	8
Horned Lark, swallows	7	7
Jays, raven, crow, chickadee, nuthatches, Brown Creeper	8	8
Wrens	3	4
Mimic thrushes, thrushes	9	9
Gnatcatcher, kinglets, pipit, waxwing, Starling	5	6
Vireos, warblers	18	29
House Sparrow, Bobolink, meadowlarks, blackbirds, orioles	10	11
Tanager, finches	8	10
Sparrows	12	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>228</b>

—K. R. Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.

**EARLY DATE FOR A LITTLE BLUE HERON** — The Little Blue Heron has been occurring with increasing frequency in Minnesota in recent years. Nesting has been recorded at Lake Johanna, Pope County and Pelican Lake, Grant County during the past two years. While on a birding trip to south-western Minnesota on April 13, 1974, an adult Little Blue Heron was seen in a roadside pond just south of St. Peter, Nicollet County. The exact location was at the junction of Highways 169 and Minnesota 99. This observation represents the earliest date that this species has been recorded in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**PEREGRINE SEEN** — On April 10, 1974 while doing field research near what is known as the Louisville Swamp, (where Sand Creek enters the Minnesota River, three miles south of Chaska, Scott County) I flushed a Peregrine Falcon out of a dry oak opening atop the limestone cap that overlooks the Minnesota River flood plain in this area. The bird had been feeding on a female Red-breasted Merganser and it was only when it flushed that I realized I was within 20 feet of its kill. It immediately turned away from me flying low with slow deliberate flaps, than at about 30 yards it increased speed and banked off to the left, disappearing down into the bottomland forest along the river. Though I viewed the bird for only a short period of time its unmistakable falcon form, large size and slaty grey coloration left

no mistake that I had seen a Peregrine. **Thomas E. Zajicek, Staff Biologist, Environmental Affairs Dept., N. S. P., 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.**

**KENTUCKY WARBLER VISITS BROOKLYN PARK AND PARK CENTER ORNITHOLOGY CLASS** — The 1974 spring migration will no doubt be recorded as a banner year for the number of warblers that visited Minnesota. Students of my ornithology class at Park Center High School reported all but two of the regular species of warblers that appear on the M. O. U. check list. It was a delight to watch the list grow through the later part of April and into May. To me the high-light of our warbler observations occurred on May 20, 1974 when we identified a Kentucky Warbler in a wooded area along Shingle Creek near Park Center High School. One of my students pointed out a bird about eight to ten feet above the creek level in a willow tree and asked, "What is that bird?" At the time the bird was about 30 to 40 feet away from us. As soon as I got the bird in the field of view with my binoculars I noted that black whisker mark below the eye and the yellow throat and breast. It looked exactly like the illustrations of Kentucky Warblers in Peterson's, **A Field Guide To The Birds** and, **Warblers Of North America**. Illustrations from both of these books had been used as visual aides in classroom instruction. On May 24, 1974 a Kentucky Warbler was seen again in the same area by myself and several of my students. This may have been a different bird as it appeared more brightly colored than the first Kentucky Warbler which we saw. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55445.**

**PARTIAL ALBINO BUTEO IN YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY** — On April 6, 1974 Paul Egeland and I were birding our way up the Minnesota River valley just northwest of Granite Falls, when Paul spotted a hawk sitting in a tree about 100 yards from the road. We pulled over and looked at the bird with binoculars to see that it was a buteo that appeared mostly white. We were assuming that we were looking at the ventral side of the bird since we saw so much white, but when I put the spotting scope on the hawk I was quite surprised that we were looking at the bird's back! Neither of us had seen anything like this before, so we checked the plumage carefully. The folded wings and back were pure white with no visible markings of any sort, the head and neck were a uniform grayish brown, and the tail (which was mostly hidden by the folded wings) appeared mostly dark. We got out of the car to get a closer look, but as we approached the hawk flew off and landed in a tree along the Minnesota River about ½ mi. away. As it flew we noticed that the under side of the bird was also pure white with no visible marks on the breast, belly, or under the wings. We hiked towards the bird again but we were still about 100 yards away when it again flew. This time we could see the upper surface of the primaries and noticed a diagonal black bar about ½ inch wide and perhaps four or five inches long across the primaries of each wing near the wingtips. This mark was not visible when the wings were folded as the hawk was perched. The hawk flew over a hill and was not seen again. We can only assume we saw a partially albino hawk (possibly a Red-tailed Hawk because of its size and shape), since we know of no species with field marks as unusual as we observed. **K. R. Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**AN EARLY EASTERN KINGBIRD** — The Eastern Kingbird I observed on April 10, 1974 was located ten yards from our driveway at the Northwoods

Audubon Center. At the time there was little foliage to cover the bird and obscure our view. The black back, tail, and crown were evident as were his white chin, throat, breast, and stomach and the white on the end of the tail. The movement of birds in our area was unusual this year in many ways. This early arrival of the Eastern Kingbird was symptomatic of the entire spring. **Mike Link, Northwoods Audubon Center, Route 1, Sandstone, Minnesota 55072.**

**POSSIBLE WHOOPING CRANE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY** — Three independent observations on May 13, 1974 along the St. Croix River near Afton should arouse special interest. Mrs. Norm Kordell noticed a huge white bird with black wing-tips, as it twice circled the bay in front of their home. Long legs trailing out behind and a long straight neck immediately eliminated White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Whistling Swan, Snow Goose, Sandhill Crane. The bird was too distant for her to see any red on its head. Because the black was confined to the wingtips only, she eliminated the Wood Ibis. Unknown to her, the bird was seen a day or two earlier and about a mile further north by Mr. John Dahlby, who also arrived at the same identification. Still later, and half a mile further north, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Cournoyer saw the bird and also identified it as a Whooping Crane. Some time later, when they learned of each other's observations and compared notes, Mr. Kordell telephoned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to report the observation. He was told that he would be informed if anyone else reported a Whooping Crane in that vicinity! Overcoming fear of skepticism, Mr. Kordell recently shared his wife's observations during my telephone call. I thank them for allowing me to prepare this note on their behalf. **Ronald L. Huber, 2896 Simpson St., Roseville, Minnesota 55113.**

**BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY** — On January 14, 1973, Mr. Jerry Nelson observed a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at his residence on the western boundary of Afton State Park. He summoned Mr. Oliver Charley and Mr. Norm Kordell to confirm his observation. The bird repeatedly circled the trunk of a Norway Pine at about eighteen inches above ground. It was extremely tame, and Mr. Kordell was able to photograph the bird at varying distances, including one photograph at a distance of two feet using a close-up lens! No yellow was observed on the bird's head, so they presumed that it was a female. Mr. Kordell has colored slides of the bird. **Ronald L. Huber, 2896 Simpson St., Roseville, Minnesota 55113.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Birds of California**, by Arnold Small, Winchester Press, New York, 1974, 310 pages, \$12.50.

Arnold Small needs no introduction, but his book does. His credentials as an authority on California birds are more than adequate, and he has put together an attractive and unique state bird book. I say unique because in spite of its title **The Birds of California** is not what you might expect. This is not your standard "state bird book" account of bird distribution, migration dates, nesting data, etc.

A checklist of all 518 species of birds recorded in California opens the book, and a place for checking off your state life list is provided. After a brief preface and introduction, chapter one follows with a very good summary of California's geography, topography and climate, and a long and detailed account of bird populations, migration and status classification (terms such as pure transient, complex transient, perennial visitor and irregular visitor get a bit complicated). Chapter two is a general summary of birding activities and techniques that a beginner would find of interest, and it even devotes a half page to the hazards of air-conditioned cars to binoculars (a problem I wish I had). Chapter three is the complete annotated list of California birds. Most species are thoroughly covered, but a few interesting species have only a one or two line account (eg., all you'll find under Flesh-footed Shearwater is "rare irregular visitor . . . open sea . . . length of state").

By far the largest and best section is Chapter four, "California's Habitats for Birds," which occupies fully the last half of the book and is what this book is really all about. After all, habitat is what bird distribution is mostly about, and Mr. Small has done an outstanding job here of photographing, defining, mapping, and describing 25 California habitats and as-

sociated species. Birds and habitats from urban residential areas to remote alpine meadows are vividly portrayed, giving the reader a real feel for the birds and topography of the diverse habitats.

It is also in this section that most of the bird photographs appear. No less than 304 species are photographed in the book, most of them of excellent quality, but a few others seem thrown in for reasons of quantity rather than quality. One might also question why such species such as House Sparrow, American Coot and Brown-headed Cowbird each need two photos. But such minor flaws are quickly overlooked by much more interesting photos: winter plumage Common and Yellow-billed Loons and Eared and Horned Grebes (for identification comparison), a winter plumaged Red Phalarope with a black bill (the field guides say it should be light), adult and immature Thayer's Gulls, a Ross' Goose in flight with a flock of Snow Geese, and the brilliant color photo of the White-tailed Kite on the book's cover.

So if your taste in bird books involves learning the avifauna of another state, reference to authoritative bird lists and records, reading general accounts of birds, their ranges and habitats, or just looking at pictures, **The Birds of California** is hereby recommended — even if you don't plan to visit the state. It may change your mind — about California and about state bird books.

— K. R. Eckert

**OWLS** by Tony Angell with 63 drawings by the author. 80 pp. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington 98195. 1974 \$12.95.

Man has always been fascinated by owls and the present period is no exception. Owl sculpture, owl candles, owl ornaments, etc. and of course owl books are currently very popular.

OWLS by Tony Angell is a good book, the only trouble being that it can be read at one sitting. You won't learn much about specific owl species, but, you will learn about owls in general.

The main thrust of the book is the authors drawings. They are enjoyable, but, I am not sure I enjoyed them. If this sounds contradictory, you are right and it is the way I felt after reading the book and studying the drawings. The drawings helped me get a feel for owls in general, but, once again, as in the text, not for individual species. For some reason they all had a tendency to look alike.

On page 59 there is a bad typographical error of a repeated sentence which seems inexcusable. The authors optimistic comments about the Barn Owl expanding its range northward and easily adapting to man's presence seem overly generalized especially to observers in the Upper Midwest area.

If you are an owl fancier and collector of owl "things" you most certainly should include this book in your collection.

Bob Janssen

SONG OF THE NORTH WIND by Paul A. Johnsgard with photographs by the author and illustrated by Paul Geraghty. 160 pages. Published by Anchor Press Doubleday and Company, Inc., 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017. 1974. \$5.95.

This is a delightful book written by a noted zoologist and expert on waterfowl. The subtitle to the book "a story of the Snow Goose" gives an accurate description of what the book is all about. The author traces the yearly cycle of the Snow Goose from its breeding grounds on Southhampton Island in Hudson Bay to Devils Lake in North Dakota, Sand Lake in South Dakota, Lake Traverse in Minnesota to the National Wildlife Refuges in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri and finally to the birds wintering grounds in Louisiana and Anahuac Refuge in Texas. Then the spring migration route is retraced to Southhampton.

Weaved in between the biology and geography of the Snow Goose migration is as the author explains "the contrasting visions of our natural resources as seen by aboriginal North Americans and by our policy-making bureaucrats in Washington, as well as (to) establish parallels in attitudes of whites toward both our wildlife and the Indians."

In this reviewers opinion this combination makes for most interesting and thought-provoking reading. The only criticisms that I have of the book is an obvious typographical error on page 104, elder for eider and the rear end paper map in my copy was out of register.

When I was about half way through the book I received in the mail the "Outdoor News Bulletin," the bi-weekly publication of the Wildlife Management Institute. The bulletin contained a review of "Song of the North Wind" and here is what the review said in part: "Seriously deficient in most ways, the book could be considered harmful from the standpoint that the author apparently is considered a qualified zoologist, but repeatedly resorts to the commercialism of "script" writing which features anthropomorphism and emotionalism in this case. Such tactics inevitably misinform the average reader who comes to view wild animals as something they're not, namely human. With the tremendous need for public understanding of wildlife problems in order to better manage them, this kind of writing should be condemned. If a story is partly fiction, it should be labeled as such."

Obviously, the above reviewer did not read beyond the first few pages, or only skimmed the book and did not bother to read what the authors purpose was in writing the book. It is a tragic situation when the wildlife biologist only looks at a Snow Goose or any form of wildlife, as a thing, a number, something to be harvested. There is more to wildlife than that, and it is unfortunate that some biologists won't take the time to read what

one of their own is saying. Why is "emotionalism" such a dirty word to some of the scientific community. Are emotions unscientific? I doubt if this book is a plea to emotionalism, more so it is a look at the web that connects all life on earth. I recall a few eminent biologists who have made pleas to us to understand this "web of life." The Snow Goose is not only something to be plucked from its environment, studied, reduced to statistics and then slaughtered at Sand Lake. Rather it is a part of the total, the salt marshes, the rivers, the rice fields, the lakes, yes, even the human community. Why do we have such a problem in accepting the latter?

This book is worth while reading for amateur as well as professional. Because of the noted reputation of the author, the book is biologically accurate and what makes it so worth-

while is that it goes beyond biology. Why does that scare the biologist?

If nothing else the Wildlife Management Institute should read page 140 and take heed of the statistics that "the goose population is presently being harvested at a rate equal to or exceeding its average annual productivity." I would ask if the biologist is doing his job in protecting the resource? Just so there is no misunderstanding, this reviewer is not just a preservationist, but, is a hunter who has shot his share of geese, ducks and grouse and will continue, hopefully, to do so.

Considering todays high book prices, at \$5.95 the print in this book is a bargain, the illustrations, maps, photographs, and jacket are the "frosting on the cake."

Bob Janssen

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## A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MINNESOTA

by

Kim Eckert

\$3.50

**Where to Find Birds in Minnesota**, the popular guide published about 20 years ago, has been out-of-date and out-of-print for some time. But as of September 1974, thanks to M. O. U. financial and moral support, Minnesota will have a new bird-finding guide.

**A Birder's Guide to Minnesota** includes information on more than 150 birding areas, an annotated list of species, a section with addresses and telephone numbers of 12 of Minnesota's most active birders (who can offer up-to-date guidance and information), and future annual supplements are planned to keep this guide current.

This book, now at the printers, will be approximately 120 pages long and has five maps, lists of Minnesota mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and an index of birds and locations. Hopefully, the book will be on sale in time for the September M. O. U. hawk watch at Duluth, but if you wish to reserve your copy now send \$3.50 (plus 25¢ postage if you want it by mail) to K. R. Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030. Please make checks payable to the Minnesota Ornithologists Union.

**BIRD BONANZAS** would like any birders from Minnesota who contemplate taking a birding tour in 1975 to know what some of your fellow Minnesotans who have taken our tours have said about them.

"I participated with much pleasure and satisfaction . . ."

*Mrs. Karen Eastman, Minneapolis*

"To date, birding with you remains the highlight of my birding career. My warmest appreciation for that memorable and wonderful experience."

*Mrs. Frances Nubel, Minneapolis*

"The trip was the most rewarding birding trip I have ever taken, both in terms of areas covered and in the exciting birds seen. I would certainly recommend **BIRD BONANZAS** to anyone."

*Mrs. Ruth Carter, Minneapolis*

"Now that your Ecuador trip is history, it seems appropriate to take a few moments to say thank you for a fine trip.

"The itinerary on mainland Ecuador enabled us to see all the major habitats, and I was well pleased with the variety of birds seen on this, my first trip to South America.

"The accommodations were first-rate; well-maintained and serviced, and comfortable after a long day of birding. The meals were great; and with Humberto ordering for us, we tried many delicious Ecuadorean dishes we probably wouldn't have tried if left to our own.

"I particularly appreciated the size of the group. It fitted nicely into the V-W bus and was small enough that Clive didn't have to raise his voice to tell us something.

"I was particularly pleased with the fine job Clive did, from meeting us at the airport, to showing us the birds, and finally, to straightening out our return reservations and getting us all back with a minimum of delay (when the airline cancelled our flight).

"Altogether, it was a wonderful trip and I would unhesitatingly recommend **BIRD BONANZAS** to anyone interested in birding."

*Mr. James Rupert, White Bear Lake*

Need we say more?

## Bird Bonanzas . . .

### 1975 TOUR SCHEDULE

NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
1	Jan. 4-12	Colombia-Santa Marta
2	Jan. 11-26	Panama
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7	Apr. 5-20	Costa Rica
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10	May 17-27	Washington
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17	Aug. 9-24	Surinam
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## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds, we aim to create and increase public interest in birds and promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims through the publishing of a magazine, **The Loon**; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** need articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of the sheet with generous margins. Notes of interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired the author should so specify indicating number

required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, August and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### TURKEY VULTURE NESTING SITE

Scratch Board drawing by Dana Gardner ..... Front Cover

THE PRESIDENT WRITES ..... 99

### A BLACK-THROATED SPARROW IN MINNESOTA

by Robert B. Janssen ..... 100

### NESTING TURKEY VULTURES IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

by Dana Gardner ..... 102

### THE WINTER SEASON, DEC. 1973-FEB. 1974

by K. R. Eckert ..... 104

### AN "INVASION" OF CUCKOOS IN AUSTIN

by Dean G. Schneider ..... 113

NOTES OF INTEREST ..... 115

BOOK REVIEWS ..... 128

BIRD BONANZAS 1975 TOUR SCHEDULE ..... Inside Back Cover

The  
**LOON**

WINTER 1974

VOLUME 46 — NUMBER 4



**The LOON** Minnesota's magazine of birds and nature, is published four times each year by the **Minnesota Ornithologists' Union**, the state-wide bird club. Permanent address: J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455. Anyone interested in birds and nature may join. Any organization with similar aims may affiliate. All MOU members receive our two quarterly publications: **The Loon** and the **MOU Newsletter**.

**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Karol Gresser, 8850 Goodrich Ave., Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send Mrs. Gresser \$5 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$6 yearly; Sustaining \$25 yearly. Life \$100. Also available from Mrs. Gresser: back issues of **The Loon** (\$1.50 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (20 for \$1 ppd.). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to Mrs. Gresser.

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"The Season" section of **The Loon** publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly desire reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON," Mrs. Janet Green, 9773 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Mn. 55804.** (area 218, phone 525-5654).

**EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER:** Mrs. Marlyn Mauritz, Route 4, Box 886, Excelsior, Minn. 55331. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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## THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

As we move toward a new year we of the MOU hope for and have, by resolution, asked the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the extension of wildlife management practices to non-game wildlife species. At present, most management and habitat improvement expertise is directed toward those species that are hunted; the rationale being that hunting licenses pay the bill and that hunted species require special management. With the widespread changes in land use and destruction of habitat in recent years many non-game species are declining rapidly today. The status of many species is unknown. Our MOU records, and the Audubon Christmas bird counts, are the best sources of information on non-game bird populations. Our members are knowledgeable of the habitat preferences and requirements of most Minnesota birds. Should management of non-game species become a reality in Minnesota, our records will be a valuable source of guidance for the Department of Natural Resources.

Besides our regular species we also have our rare and casual Minnesota birds. Last summer the MOU Board of Directors established a Records Verification sub-committee, composed of recognized expert birders, to the Research and Records Committee. The purpose of this sub-committee is the acceptance (or rejection) of unusual bird sightings for MOU records. These sightings may be of rare or casual species, unseasonal sightings, or of species that just plainly aren't supposed to be here. The credibility of these unusual reported sightings may be more fairly evaluated by this committee of six experts.

The luckiest sighting of a rare bird in Minnesota that I can think of was the famous Stevens County Ruff of 1964. He was identified by Jan Green and others early in the Spring Field Trip, then he displayed for all of us the rest of the week-end.

If you're lucky enough to find a rare bird sometime you don't need the whole MOU around to confirm it, though, just carefully record your details, make note of as much as possible of his characteristics, coloration, conformation, and behavior. Support your sighting with photographs if possible, and try to get a verification of identification from fellow birders in the area. Submit your facts to the records committee and you may have a first.

That's what keeps bird-watching the fascinating hobby that it is — always interesting, challenging, enjoyable, and sometimes downright exciting, even if that new bird is only new to you.

Good birding,  
Bill Bryson

# THAYER'S GULL

## AND ITS STATUS IN MINNESOTA

by Janet C. Green

When the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature made their latest revisions in the Check-list of North American Birds (1973), they included a species that was not familiar to many mid-western birders — Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Of course the Thayer's Gull existed before the 1973 Check-list supplement but had been considered a sub-species of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) which breeds in the Canadian arctic archipelago and winters on the Pacific coast. It was first described in 1915 by W. S. Brooks as a separate species but was assigned by Dwight in 1917 to sub-specific status where it officially remained until 1973, although not without some dissent (A. Brooks, 1937). The problem of its taxonomic status arose because it is intermediate between the Herring Gull and the western race of the Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides kumlieni*; the term Kumlien's Gull will be used here for convenience) in both size and amount of pigment in the primaries, and because the relationships among these three gulls in the breeding season were poorly known. Investigations in the 1950's and 1960's by Macpherson (1961) and Smith (1969) on the breeding grounds showed that Thayer's Gull was reproductively isolated from both the Herring Gull and Kumlien's Gull where their ranges overlapped (that is, where it is sympatric with those species). Smith (1969) showed that the reproductive isolating mechanisms involved differences in habitat preference and timing of the breeding cycle as well as morphological characters. The important visual clue for species recognition is the contrast of the eye with the head. The Herring Gull has a light eye, and where Kumlien's Gull and Thayer's Gull are sym-

patric with it, they both have dark eyes. But in the small area on the east coast of Baffin Island where Thayer's Gull and Kumlien's Gull are sympatric, the latter has a light eye. The amount of melanin in the primaries of Thayer's Gull and Kumlien's Gull is even more variable, with the contrast between them most pronounced where they are sympatric (Kumlien's with whitish tips and Thayer's with dark tips). Otherwise in the remaining segregated (allopatric) populations the wing-tips of Thayer's Gull vary from black to medium grey and Kumlien's vary from medium grey to white. The size of these three gulls is also variable with the range for both Thayer's and Kumlien's almost completely overlapping, although the latter form averages smaller. Also, males of both Thayer's and Kumlien's overlap in measurements with female Herring Gulls. All these characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

Obviously with such subtle differences from other species Thayer's Gull is difficult or impossible to identify in the field. The field problem is compounded by the fact that most birds are seen in migration or on the wintering grounds and their breeding area is consequently unknown. Also, most individuals are immatures, and the immature plumages of this species have not been described in enough detail to separate them on the one hand from Herring Gulls and on the other hand from Kumlien's Gulls. On the Pacific coast birders have to worry about separating Thayer's Gull from the Herring Gull, while on the Atlantic coast observers are primarily confronted with the Herring Gull and Kumlien's Gull plus the Greenland race of the Iceland Gull (*L. g. glaucoides*). Most descriptions in field guides refer to

this latter race which parallels the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in the stages of its plumage from yearling to adult and is relatively easy to separate from the Herring Gull or Thayer's Gull. The big problem is in separating Thayer's Gull from the Herring Gull or Thayer's Gull from the variable Kumlien's Gull. On the Pacific coast gulls the size of female Herring Gulls with primary tips paler than that species are called Thayer's Gull, and on the Atlantic Coast birds of the same description are called Kumlien's Gull. On the Great Lakes, where the Herring Gull is abundant, both Kumlien's Gull and Thayer's Gull probably occur casually. Therefore, the identification problem is doubly difficult here and is certainly not solvable in many field situations. Since size is a crucial character, the smaller western race of the Glaucous Gull (*L. h. barrovianus*) compounds the difficulty. This bird, called the Point Barrow Gull, is about the size of a large Herring Gull and has a mantle that is darker grey than the typical Glaucous Gull; in adult plumage it has a yellow iris and a yellow eye-ring. I have notes from Lake Superior on several adult individuals that fit this species and it probably occurs on the upper Great Lakes in winter.

Ideally a discussion of the status of these species in Minnesota should be based on specimens, but there is only one specimen of an Iceland Gull (MMNH #10539) and none of a Thayer's Gull. There is another specimen of a medium-sized "white-winged" gull (MMNH #7755) collected on August 10, 1931 on Lake Superior in Cook County. In 1954 MMNH #7755 and #10539 (both are immatures; the former is all white and the latter is in the buffy plumage) were sent to the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. and were identified as *L. g. glaucoides* (the Greenland race of the Iceland Gull). However, they were examined at the Bell Museum in December, 1973 by Guy McCaskie who is of the opinion that MMNH #7755 is

an albino Herring Gull (personal communication). Obviously, if immature white-winged gulls are that difficult to classify in the hand, field identification is even more dubious.

Nevertheless, in the winters of 1970-71 and 1971-72 I observed a number of immature gulls that were definitely not Herring Gulls and seemed too large and too dark to be Iceland Gulls. They were all in first-winter plumage and comparable in size to a female Herring Gull. The over-all color varied from a brown which was about the same color as some lighter first-year Herring Gulls to a buffy brown which was lighter than Herring Gulls but not as light as the buffy white of typical Iceland Gulls or as the pinkish buffy of first-year Glaucous Gulls. The wing-tips were their most distinctive characteristic, being a buffy brown usually a shade darker than the back color (which was noticeable when the wings were folded at rest), and definitely not the uniform dark brown of first-year Herring Gulls or the buffy white of first-year Glaucous Gulls. On the wing the primary tips appeared quite light, especially from underneath, and the tail had a broad brownish band at the posterior end which was the darkest part of the bird in flight. The standard literature isn't very helpful in identifying first-year Thayer's Gulls, but there are a few good photographs from the wintering area (*California Birds* 2:21; *Western Birds* 4:78-81). Macpherson (1961) has a photograph of a series of juvenile specimens of Canadian arctic gulls, and indicates in his discussion that although there is a great deal of variation in the primary color of first-year Thayer's Gulls there is no overlap with the series of Kumlien's Gull that he examined.

In early January, 1971 I obtained a number of photographs of several first-year Thayer's Gulls at Knife River, Lake County and in February, 1972 Marj Carr and I both got pictures of an immature Thayer's Gull at the Duluth dump. Some of these pictures accompany this article and the whole



**Figure 1.**  
Immature Thayer's Gull (right center) with adult and immature Herring Gulls, Knife River, Lake County, January 1, 1971. Photo by Janet C. Green.



**Figure 2.**  
Immature Thayer's Gull (center) with adult and immature Herring Gulls, Knife River, Lake County, January 1, 1971. Note dark patch around eye. Photo by Janet C. Green.



**Figure 3.**  
Immature Thayer's Gull with sub-adult Herring Gull in background, Duluth landfill, February 8, 1972. White patch on wing coverts from wear. Photo by Janet C. Green.



**Figure 4.**  
Immature Thayer's Gull in flight. Note the light primaries and banded tail. Same bird as in figure 3. February 9, 1972, Duluth landfill. Photo by Marjorie M. Carr.

series was examined by Guy McCaskie in December, 1973 and by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. in January, 1974; both concurred with my identification. Also, McCaskie on his visit to Duluth that year observed an adult Thayer's Gull (Loon 46:82-83). With this substantiation the Thayer's Gull has been added to the Minnesota list of bird species.

Furthermore, I am interested in knowing how abundant Thayer's Gull might be in Minnesota. In addition to the fall and winter first-year birds described above I have notes on light-primaried gulls as far back as 1963, some of which have been published and identified as Iceland Gulls. In re-reading these descriptions I have concluded that some were like the Thayer's Gulls seen in 1970-71 and 1971-72, some are quite small with white primary tips and are presumably Iceland Gulls, while others are impossible to assign to either species. Table 2 represents published Minnesota records of light-primaried gulls whose identity has been reassigned. Through the winter of 1973-74 there were 14 acceptable records of the Thayer's Gull and 5 acceptable records of the Iceland Gull.

There are also descriptions in my field notes of other white-winged gulls that have puzzled me. All the records are in the spring (April and May) and the birds were generally buffy white with primaries the same color, and had a wide, light-brown band on the posterior third of the tail that was the darkest part of the bird. This band was very similar to that shown on the bird at the Duluth dump in February

1972. These birds were about the size of an average to small Herring Gull and associated with the Herring Gulls, being sometimes aggressive toward them. In May, 1974 Marj Carr and I saw two more birds like this and she took several pictures of them that show the size relative to the Herring Gull and the very light plumage. I was able to watch both birds (different individuals; determined by plumage variations) at close range and concluded that they were Thayer's Gulls whose almost white plumage was the result of wear and fading, probably produced by spending the winter amid the snow and ice of the Great Lakes. The tail, being protected by the folded wings, was not as bleached out, and the undertail coverts and belly were also darker. All the Thayer's Gull records for Minnesota are listed in Table 3.

To help those trying to identify light-primaried gulls in the field, I would like to make several suggestions. First, the observer should be thoroughly familiar with all the plumages of the Herring Gull and Glaucous Gull, both of which occur on Lake Superior regularly. Secondly, detailed notes should be taken in the field on the size (of body and bill) and overall color in relation to known stages of the Herring Gull, the color of the primary tips both underneath and on top, the color and pattern of the tail, the eye and bill color, the eye-ring color if adult, and the color of the legs if adult. Thirdly, it is impossible to identify in the field all gulls even if seen in detail at close range.

Table 1

Comparison of Some *Larus* Gulls  
ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*)

BREEDING RANGE (taken from Godfrey, 1966)

*L. g. kumlieni* - coastal southern Baffin Island and extreme northwestern Quebec

*L. g. glaucooides* - southern Greenland

SIZE (taken from Smith, 1966; Tables 1, 2, 7, 8, 13)

	Males	Females
wing (flattened)	383-425 mm (mean 409)	373-407 mm (mean 390)
exposed culmen	38-52 mm (mean 44.5)	34.1-45.1 mm (mean 40)
bill depth at posterior nares	13.7-17.4 mm (mean 16.5)	13.6-15.3 mm (mean 14.5)

## ADULT PLUMAGE

- iris - variable from yellow to yellow heavily flecked with dark brown (dark at distance)
- eye-ring - reddish purple (dark at distance)
- wing-tips - variable from white to ashy grey (slightly darker than mantle) of varying extent; white on underside
- mantle - slightly lighter grey than Herring Gull

### THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*)

#### BREEDING RANGE (taken from Godfrey, 1966)

Breeds in arctic Canada, from Banks Island, southern Melville Island, Axel Heiberg Island, and central Ellesmere Island, south to southern Victoria Island, Boothia Peninsula, Pelly Bay, northern Southampton Island, Coats Island, northern and central-eastern Baffin Island, and in a small area in northwest Greenland.

#### SIZE (taken from Smith, 1966; Tables 4, 5, 7, 8, 13)

	Males	Females
wing (flattened) -	400-431 mm (mean 412)	374-408 mm (mean 393)
exposed culmen -	47.1-55 mm (mean 51)	41.0-54.2 mm (mean 45.5)
bill depth at posterior nares -	16.0-18.9 (mean 17.5)	13.1-19.4 (mean 15)

## ADULT PLUMAGE

- iris - variable from dark to yellow lightly flecked with dark brown
- eye-ring - reddish purple (dark at distance)
- wing-tips - variable from black like Herring Gull, or with black reduced in extent by large white window, to ashy grey; appears whitish from underneath
- mantle - averaging slightly darker grey than Herring Gull
- bill - may be more greenish yellow than Herring Gull

### HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

#### BREEDING RANGE (taken from Godfrey, 1966)

In North America (*L. a. smithsonianus*) breeds from central and north-central Canada and western Greenland south to western interior Canada, northern Minnesota, central Wisconsin, central Michigan, northern New York (south along the coast to Long Island,) and casually to north coastal Virginia. Also in Iceland, Europe, and northern Siberia.

#### SIZE (taken from Smith, 1966; Tables 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8)

	Males	Females
wing (flattened) -	429-446 mm (mean 435)	409-426 mm (mean 419)
exposed culmen -	52.4-62.0 mm (mean 58)	47.3-55.1 mm (mean 51.5)
bill depth at posterior nares -	17.0-21.4 mm (mean 19.5)	15.1-18.8 mm (mean 17)

## ADULT PLUMAGE

- iris - yellow (light at distance)
- eye-ring - orangish yellow
- wing-tips - black with white tip, outermost primaries with sub-terminal white spot; extensive black shows on underside of wing

Table 2

## Revisions of Published Minnesota Records for Gulls with Pale Primaries

Date	Place	Reference	Previous Identification	Present Identification
Aug. 10, 1931	Cook County	MMNH #7755; Roberts (1932, p. 542)	Iceland Gull	Herring Gull (albino)
Mar. 2, 1963	Knife River	Loon 39: 46	Iceland Gull	unknown
Dec. 15, 1963- Mar. 29, 1964	Knife River, French River	Loon 39: 46	Iceland Gull	unknown
Nov. 14, 1964	Knife River	Loon 39: 46-47	Iceland Gull	Thayer's Gull
Jan. 22-23, 1967	Knife River	Loon 39: 47	Iceland Gull	unknown
Jan. 28-Feb. 12, 1967	Knife River	Loon 39: 47	Iceland Gull	unknown
Feb. 2, 1967	Knife River	Loon 39: 47-48	Iceland Gull	unknown
Apr. 24, 1968	Duluth harbor	Loon 41: 26-27	Iceland Gull	Thayer's Gull
May 6, 1970	Lester River	Loon 42: 119	Iceland Gull	Thayer's Gull
Feb. 8-9, 1972	Duluth dump	Loon 44: 45	Iceland Gull	Thayer's Gull

Table 3

## Thayer's Gull Records for Minnesota

Date	No.	Place	Substantiation
Nov. 14, 1964	One imm.	Lake Co. (Knife River)	Loon 39: 46-47 (org. Iceland Gull)
Apr. 24, 1968	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Duluth harbor)	Loon 41: 26-27 (org. Iceland Gull)
May 6, 1970	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Lester River)	Loon 42: 119 (org. Iceland Gull)
Nov. 15, 1970	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Eagle Lake, Gnesen Twp.)	Notes on file (JCG)
Dec. 13-20, 1970	Two imm.	St. Louis Co. (Eagle Lake, Gnesen Twp.)	Notes on file (JCG)
Jan. 1, 1971	Two imm.	Lake Co. (Knife River)	Notes on file (JCG); photos (JCG)
Jan. 17, 1971	Two imm.	Lake Co. (Knife River)	Notes on file (JCG)
Feb. 10, 1971	Two imm.	St. Louis Co. (Talmadge River, Clifton)	Notes on file (JCG)
May 3, 1971	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Sucker River mouth)	Notes on file (JCG)
Nov. 19, 1971	Two imm.	St. Louis Co. (Eagle Lake, Gnesen Twp.)	Notes on file (JCG)
Feb. 8-9, 1972	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Duluth dump)	Notes on file (JCG); photos (MMC)
Dec. 23, 1973	One ad.	St. Louis Co. (Duluth waterfront),	Loon 46: 82-83
May 3-6, 1974	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Lester River)	Notes on file (JCG); photos (MMC)
May 20, 1974	One imm.	St. Louis Co. (Talmadge River, Clifton)	Notes on file (JCG); photos (MMC)

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9773 North Shore Dr., Duluth, Minnesota 55804.

# THE SPRING SEASON - March 1 to May 31, 1974

by Terry Savaloja

This spring could probably be summarized as cloudy and wet, with April starting out with 7.2 inches of snow in the Twin Cities on April 3. Most of that snow did disappear during the following week when temperatures moderated. April 20 to April 22 brought heavy rains to the central part of the state and the ice was out of the lakes in the southern part of the state by this time. Most northern lakes had ice until mid and late May. April ended on a good note with highs in the 80's on the 26th and normal precipitation for the month across most of the state.

During May the Minneapolis-St. Paul area experienced 20 cloudy days, 9 partly cloudy days and only 2 clear days. Cloudy, wet, cold weather was prevalent from May 6 to the 15th with a record low of 27° being recorded on the 6th. This cold weather retarded migration, of course, but good waves, especially of warblers, were recorded when conditions improved from the 16th to the 26th.

Since this is my first seasonal report I would like to explain my style. I have followed pretty much the style of Eckert and Egeland in their 1970 spring season report. As a general rule, you will find three early dates for the south and two or three where possible for the north, and, where applicable, the two latest departure dates for migrants.

Summary: A total of 296 species were recorded by 94 observers.

The heron family made a good showing in the department of rarities with three reports of Little Blue Herons and a report of a Cattle Egret in St. Louis Co. Waterfowl were also pretty good with the first state record of Mute Swans, a possible hybrid Cinnamon Teal, 2 male Barrow's Goldeneyes, and a good showing of the three scoters in late May on Lake Superior.

Red-shouldered Hawks are apparently still expanding with reports from the northwest and southwest, also a Prairie Falcon was seen in the southwest at Blue Mounds State Park. A possible Whooping Crane in Washington Co. would be the first state record in many years. A King Rail at Duluth appears to have overshot its range and the Yellow Rails were back in Aitkin Co. by the end of April. Mountain Plovers at Moorhead constitutes the first state record for that species, American Woodcocks were showing up on the western prairies and were even performing courtship dances. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a rare spring migrant, was reported twice. The American Avocet also showed up a little out of its normal range at Duluth. Tayer's Gulls were reported five times from Lake Superior and Least Terns were found at the Marshall sewage ponds in mid-May. Snowy Owls were around late into May with one still in Aitkin Co. on 5-18, Great Gray Owls were reported twice during the period. Flycatchers were in the news with a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Hubbard Co., Say's Phoebes in Rock Co., Blue Mounds State Park, of course, Acadian Flycatchers in Houston Co., Alder Flycatchers reported, but no reports of Willow Flycatchers. Mockingbirds were reported from the North Shore and the Wood Thrush appears to still be expanding north and westward. Mountain Bluebirds virtually invaded the state with seven reports of this casual species. Sprague's Pipits were reported twice from Rock Co., Bell's Vireos were reported three times, and a Black and White Warbler on 4-13 in Rock Co. was the earliest date on record. Prothonotary Warblers were reported five times and a Worm-eating Warbler was reported on 4-27; there were eight reports of Blue-winged Warblers and three reports of Black-

throated Blue Warblers. A Kentucky Warbler was present in the Twin Cities from 5-20 to 5-24 and the Connecticut Warbler was reported 12 times; the Yellow-breasted Chat was reported twice. Orioles were recorded in unprecedented numbers this year, an immature male Scott's Oriole showed up in Duluth on 5-23 and constitutes the state's first record; this bird was trapped, banded, photographed and measured, also the Northern Orioles in this same yard were unbelievable. From 5-19 to 5-31 K. Sundquist banded 148 Northern Orioles compared to 5 to 25 in other years; for bait she used 7 lbs. of jam and 10 dz. oranges. R. Davids banded 70 this year in 4 hours. The Orchard Oriole was reported 14 times. Black-headed Grosbeaks also invaded the southern part of the state with five reports, Blue Grosbeaks were reported twice. A male Lazuli Bunting was reported from Moorhead on 5-22. Henslow's Sparrows were reported twice and a Lark Sparrow in Duluth was far out of its normal range. A Smith's Longspur was reported from Rock Co. on 4-28.

### THE 1974 SPRING SEASON

#### Common Loon

Early south 3-28 Rice OAR; 4-5 Benton NMH; 4-6 Dakota ES; early north 4-9 Cass HRH; 4-13 Morrison LSR; 4-14 St. Louis KS.

#### Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4-6 Hennepin OJ; 4-23 Hennepin VL, BDC; early north 4-20 Otter Tail PF, CLH; 4-21 Morrison LSR.

#### Horned Grebe

Early south 4-10 Rice OAR; 4-11 Hennepin VL; 4-12 LeSueur GR; 4-12 Olmsted JF; early north 4-14 Morrison LSR; 3 reports on 4-17; late south 5-14 Hennepin VL; peak 5-3 Lake Superior (540) JG.

#### Eared Grebe

16 reports of 70 individuals: early south: 4-13, 4-20 Wabasha DWM; 4-15 Freeborn DG; 4-16 Lyon HCK; early

north 4-22 Otter Tail PF; 4-25 Marshall AR; 4-27 Otter Tail MS; peak 5-3 Marshall (20) AR; 5-12 Lyon (20) HCK; one report on Lake Superior 4-24 (2) M. Penner.

#### Western Grebe

Early south 4-25 Nicollet GR; 4-26 Big Stone DS; 4-27 Kandiyohi BH; 2 reports north 4-25, 5-10 Marshall AR; a surprising peak of 6 was recorded on Lake Calhoun, Hennepin Co. on 5-24 ES.

#### Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3-3 Dakota DR; 3-5 Anoka SC; 3-16 Big Stone; early north 3-15, 4-7 Crow Wing (75+) TS; 4-8 Mille Lacs MI; peak 5-3 Marshall (122) AR.

#### White Pelican

Early south 4-6 Watonwan RBD; 4-7 Murray HCK; 4-8 Chippewa CLH; 1 report north 4-18 Marshall (137) AR; peak 4-14 Murray (200+) HCK.

#### Double-crested Cormorant

Early south 4-6 Chippewa KE; 4-9 Lac Qui Parle JS; 4-11 Chippewa CLH; early north 4-11 Pine ML; 4-17 Marshall AR; 4-22 Clay LCF; peak 5-18 Pope (300+) BH.

#### Great Blue Heron

Early south 3-4 Stearns (5) MC earliest date on record; 3-6 Stearns (5) NMH; 3-8 LeSueur HC; 3-10 Hennepin OJ and Rice OAR; early north 3-28 Mille Lacs MI; 4-5 Marshall AR, 4-7 St. Louis MK; peak 5-18 Pope (150+) BH.

#### Green Heron

Early south 4-8 Stearns NMH; 3 reports 4-15; 2 reports 4-20; early north 4-27 Carlton D. Olson (fide JG); 5-3 Marshall AR.

#### Little Blue Heron

3 reports; 4-13 Nicollet Co., St. Peter (1) RBJ; 4-20 Lyon Co. Sewage Lagoons (1) HCK; 5-18 Pope Co., Lake Johanna (1 ad) BH.

#### Cattle Egret

2 reports; 5-2 Mt. Iron, St. Louis (2) NJH; 5-25 Ashby, Grant (18) KZ.

#### The Loon

### **Great Egret**

Early south 3-27 Stearns NMH; 3-30 Dakota DR; 3-31 Pope BH; early north 4-14 Mille Lacs MI; 4-21 Marshall AR; 5-8 Clay LCF; 5-16 Aitkin, D. Lind and L. Paynter; peak 5-18 Pope (150+) BH.

### **Black-crowned Night Heron**

Early south 3-9 Murray AD; 4-2 Hennepin OJ; 4-5 Cottonwood LR; early north 4-11 Clay KZ; 4-15 Marshall AR; 4-29 Crow Wing TS; peak 5-18 Pope (50+) BH.

### **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

Only 2 reports: 4-20 LaCrescent, Houston Co. RBJ & KE.

### **Least Bittern**

5-4 Lyon DR — only report.

### **American Bittern**

Early south 4-13 Hennepin OJ; 4-17 Stearns NMH; 4-17 Lyon HCK; early north 4-20 Pine ML; 4-21 Marshall AR; 4-23 Cass HRH.

### **MUTE SWAN**

On 5-9 B. Hojnacki observed 3 swan of this species with 18 Whistling Swan in Lake Superior near Ashland, Wis. Possibly the same birds were observed near Duluth on 5-26 & 27 with 1 Whistling Swan by R. Fox & JCG (First state record).

### **Whistling Swan**

Early south 3-11 Houston FL; 3-14 Chippewa CLH; 3-19 Freeborn DG; early north 4-8 Clearwater RCD; 4-9 St. Louis MMC; 4-14 Mille Lacs MI; late 5-28 Lake Superior GJN; peak 4-9 Wabasha (520) DWM.

### **Swan sp?**

3-17 to 3-20 St. Louis M. Borey (fide MMC)

### **Canada Goose**

Early south 3-1 Freeborn DG; 3-2 Chippewa CLH; 3-2 Murray AD; 3-2 LeSueur GR; early north 3-10 Becker TRS; 3-13 Marshall AR; 4-6 Mille Lacs MI; peak 3-25 Chippewa (41,500+) CLH and 4-6 Lac Qui Parle and Chippewa (15,000) KE.

### **White-fronted Goose**

10 reports; south 3-13 Cottonwood (2) RD; 3-15, 4-15 and 5-23 Chippewa (12) CLH; 3-16 Olmsted DR; 4-5, 4-27 Olmsted (1) JF; 4-6 (200), 5-18 (3) Lac Qui Parle KE; 4-17 LacQui Parle (12) JS; 5-18 LacQui Parle HCK; north 4-19 Marshall (2) AR; 5-12 St. Louis J. Gallion; 5-12 Crow Wing (1) TS.

### **Snow Goose**

Early south 3-1 Olmsted (4) JF; 3-14 Chippewa (50) CLH; 3-14 Cottonwood (4) RD; 3-14 Stearns (5) NMH; early north 4-19 Mille Lacs (2) MI; 4-21 Aitkin (24) JB, TS; 4-22 Marshall (11) AR; late 5-31 Cottonwood (1) LR; peak 5-5 Lac Qui Parle (350) KG.

### **Mallard**

Peak 4-19 Marshall (4164) AR.

### **Black Duck**

Early south 3-21 Olmsted JF; 3-27 Dakota BDC; 3-30 Wabasha DWM; early north 4-13, 4-17 St. Louis GJN, JCG; 4-18 St. Louis UMD; 4-19 Marshall AR.

### **Gadwall**

Early south 3-9 Cottonwood LR, RD; 3-19 Freeborn DG; 3-21 Chippewa CLH; early north 4-11 Marshall AR; 4-17 Lake Superior GJN; 4-20 Crow Wing TS; 4-21 Mille Lacs MI; peak 5-3 Marshall (3650) AR.

### **Pintail**

Early south 3-3 Rock KE; 3-3 Rice OR; 3-4 Cottonwood RD; early north 3-17 Becker TRS; 4-13 Marshall AR; 4-16 Aitkin JB, TS; peak 4-25 Marshall (460) AR.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Early south 3-3 Rock KE; 3-12 Lac Qui Parle CLH; 3-19 Freeborn DG; early north 4-15 Mille Lacs MI; 4-15 Marshall AR; 4-16 Aitkin JB, TS; peak 5-3 Marshall (1080) AR.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Early south 3-6 Murray AD; 3-15 Le Sueur HC; 3-19 Freeborn DG; early north 4-8 Mille Lacs MI; 4-10 St. Louis MMC; 4-11 Marshall AR; peak 5-3 Marshall (14,580) AR.

### **Cinnamon Teal**

4-23 and 4-24 Cottonwood Co., (possible hybrid male) LR, RD and E. Duerksen.

### **American Wigeon**

Early south 3-3 Hennepin DR; 3-4 Rice OR; 3-6 Cottonwood RD; early north 4-17 Lake Superior GJN; 4-18 St. Louis UMD; 4-18 Mille Lacs MI; peak 4-25 Marshall (1476) AR.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Early south 3-29 Wabasha DWM; 3-30 Chippewa CLH; 3-30 Rock KE; early north 4-14 St. Louis NJH; 4-16 Marshall AR; 4-20 Mille Lacs MI; peak 5-3 Marshall (2080) AR.

### **Wood Duck**

Early south 3-3 Wabasha DR; 3-6 Cottonwood RD; 3-7 Anoka SC; 3-7 Chippewa CLH; early north 4-4 Crow Wing TS; 4-10 Hubbard HF; 4-10 Clay KZ.

### **Redhead**

Early south 3-10 Cottonwood LAF; 3-12 Cottonwood RD; 3-16 Rice OR; early north 4-15 Mille Lacs MI; 4-17 Morrison LR; 4-19 Cass HRH; 4-19 Marshall AR; peak 5-10 Marshall (1690) AR.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Early south 3-3 Rock KE, 3-5 Rice OR; 3-6 Cottonwood RD; 3-6 Wabasha DWM; early north 4-9 Mille Lacs MI; 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-13 St. Louis GJN; peak 4-19 Marshall (7370) AR.

### **Canvasback**

Early south 3-3 Hennepin DR; 3-10 Olmsted JF; 3-11 Wabasha DWM; early north 4-15 Mille Lacs MI; 4-16 Marshall AR; 4-17 Morrison LSR; peak 4-25 Marshall (620) AR; 4-15 Big Stone (4500) DS.

### **Greater Scaup**

14 reports: early south 3-19 Freeborn DG; 3-30 Lyon HCK; 4-6 Lyon KE; early north 4-11 Cass HRH; 4-15 Marshall AR; 4-15 Mille Lacs MI; peak 4-21 Aitkin (24) JB, TS.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Early south 3-1 Olmsted JF; 3-2 Da-

kota RBJ; 3-3 Rock KE; 3-3 Houston FL; early north 4-11 Morrison LSR; 4-17 St. Louis JG; 4-17 Mille Lacs MI; peak 4-25 Marshall (25,300) AR.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Late south 4-24 Hennepin OJ; peak 4-19 Marshall (2280) AR.

### **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**

5-11 Nine Mile Lake, Lake Co., 2 males observed by H. Tucker.

### **Bufflehead**

Early south 3-1 Olmsted JF; 3-8 Cottonwood RD; early north 4-8 St. Louis UMD; 4-10 Pine ML, 4-11 Cass HRH; peak 5-3 Marshall (920) AR.

### **Oldsquaw**

3 reports: 3-10 Lake Superior (15+) BH; 3-10 St. Louis (25) JG; 3-19, 4-17, Freeborn Co. DG.

### **White-winged Scoter**

12 reports, all from Lake Superior, 5-9 to 5-25, many observers; peak 5-15 (50) MMC.

### **Surf Scoter**

5 reports, all from Lake Superior; 5-15 (5) MMC, 5-17 (1) DE, 5-18 (2) KE; 5-20 (5) TS, JB; 5-25 (6) RBJ.

### **Black Scoter**

8 reports from Lake Superior, 4-30 to 5-20, many observers; 4-10 to 4-16 (1) Wabasha Co. DWM.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Early south 3-7 Anoka SC; 3-13 Chippewa CLH; 3-22 Hennepin REH; 3 reports north, 4-25 Marshall AR; 5-18 Marshall MS; 5-19 Lake Superior (2) GJN; peak 5-10 Marshall (730) AR.

### **Hooded Merganser**

Early south 3-3 Dakota DR; 3-7 Anoka SC; 3-8 Wabasha DWM; early north 3-24 Crow Wing TS; 4-6 Marshall AR; 4-11 Morrison LR; peak 4-19 Marshall (270) AR.

### **Common Merganser**

Early north: 3-6 Crow Wing TS; 4-8 Mille Lacs MI; 4-11 Morrison LSR; late south 4-27 Kandiyohi BH; 4-28 Stearns NMH; 4-28 Swift HH; peak 4-19 Marshall (1270) AR.

### **The Loon**

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Early south: 3-12 Scott VL; 3-27 Dakota RBJ; 3-30 Rock KE; early north 4-13 Morrison LSR; 4-15 Mille Lacs MI; 4-17 St. Louis JG; late south 5-11 Goodhue VL; 5-15 Le Sueur GR; peak 5-5 St. Louis (700) JG.

### **Turkey Vulture**

Early south 4-6 Sibley HCK; 4-7 Winona DR; 3 reports on 4-14; early north 4-8 Becker TRS; 4-9 St. Louis MMC; 4-11 St. Louis MK.

### **Goshawk**

Late south 4-15, 4-28 Freeborn DG; late north 4-18 Crow Wing TS; 5-23 St. Louis DWM.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Early south 3-2 Le Sueur GR; 3-9 Hennepin VL; early north 3-27 Morrison LSR; 4-2 Mille Lacs MI; 4-9 St. Louis MMC; 4-9 Crow Wing TS.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Earliest in north 3-17 Morrison LSR; 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-21 Crow Wing JB; early south 3-31 Lyon HCK; 4-6 Cottonwood LR; 4-13 Rock RBJ.

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Early north 3-18 Crow Wing TS; 3-26 St. Louis GJN; 3-27 Otter Tail DCF; Harlan's subspecies; 3-30 Rock, dark phase, KE.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

Appears to be still expanding its range in state to include southwest and northwest: early in south 3-9 Rice OR; 4-6 Anoka SC; early north 3-27 Crow Wing TS; 4-2 Crow Wing JB; other reports 5-4 Lyon HCK, and 4-5 Crow Wing (bird on nest) TS; 4-8 Mille Lacs MI; 4-16 Clay LCF.

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Early south 3-16 Nicollet (details? possible Red-shouldered) FN; 4 reports for 4-6; early north 4-14 St. Louis KS; 4-14 Pine D. Olson; 4-20 Itasca MS.

### **Swainson's Hawk**

6 reports and 3 nests reported: 4-14 Stearns NMH; 4-16, 4-18 to 4-20 10+, 2 nests near Austin DS; 4-27 Pipestone

RBJ; 5-4 Pipestone KG; 5-13, 5-18 & 19 near Holland bird on nest KE.

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

Early north 3-10 Aitkin (46+) TS; 3-14 Becker TRS; latest 5-13 Wabasha DWM; 5-18 St. Louis KE, TS, HCK; peak 3-24 Aitkin (70+) TS.

### **Golden Eagle**

12 reports of 16 individuals with only 3 reports giving age: 3-12 Marshall (1) AR; 3-18 Chippewa (1) CLH; 4-2 Hennepin (1 imm) FN; 4-3, 4-8 Benton (1 ad, 1 ad) NMH; 4-6 Renville (1) HCK; 4-6 Hennepin (2) VL; 4-10 Becker (2) TRS; 4-10 St. Louis (1 ad) MMC; 4-16 Freeborn (1) DG; 4-20 Pope (1) HH; 4-27 Le Sueur (1) GR; 5-20 St. Louis (2) DWM.

### **Bald Eagle**

35 reports from 3-1 to 5-10 for a total of 130 individuals (47 adults, 39 immatures, 44 no age indicated); reported from Winona (1), Freeborn (1), Hennepin (4), Houston (21), Big Stone (4), Le Sueur (4), Cottonwood (2), Anoka (3), Lac Qui Parle (2), Lyon (2), Rice (1), Wabasha (31), Watonwan (2), Chippewa (10), St. Louis (28), Itasca (3), Hubbard (1), Cass (1), Becker (1), Mille Lacs (2), Marshall (1) Crow Wing (2).

### **Marsh Hawk**

Early South 3-1 Stearns NMH; 3-3 Lyon HCK; 3-4 Cottonwood LAF; early north 3-7 Pine ML; 3-8 Mille Lacs MI; 3-10 Aitkin TS.

### **Osprey**

27 reports of 27 individuals: early south 4-13 Sibley DB and KG; 4-13 Stearns NMH; early north 4-11 Pine ML; 4-14 Morrison LSR; 4-19 Crow Wing TS.

### **PRAIRIE FALCON**

1 report of this accidental species: 4-12 Blue Mounds State Park, Rock Co. (1) KE.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Only 4 reports this year: 4-10 (2), 5-7 (1) Marshall AR; 5-7 St. Louis (1) UMD, GJN; 5-19 Stearns (1) RBJ.

### **Merlin**

Only 6 reports: 3-4 Freeborn (1) DG; 4-14 Itasca (1 pr?) MS; 5-11 Crow Wing (1) TS; 5-16 (1), 5-23 (1) St. Louis GJN.

### **American Kestrel**

Early north 3-3 Aitkin TS; 3-4 Clay LCF; 3 reports on 3-13.

### **Spruce Grouse**

Only 1 report 3-11 Isabella ELC, St. Louis (1) GJN.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from St. Louis, Hubbard, Morrison, Cass, Becker, Mille Lacs, Lake, Goodhue, Dakota, Washington, Anoka, Mahnomen, Sherburne and Houston.

### **Greater Prairie Chicken**

5 reports with all but one from Wilkin Co.: 3-20 Clay (7) E. Anderson; 4-13 (12-15) DCF; 4-20 (60+) CH; 4-20, 21 (100) PF; 4-28 (50) JS.

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

5 reports all from Aitkin Co.: 4-2 (1), 4-6 (3), 4-17 (7) TS; 4-21 (2) JB; 5-5 (1) GJN.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported from St. Louis, Clay, Mille Lacs, Otter Tail, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Dakota, Ramsey, Cottonwood, Anoka, Rock, Rice, Wright, Wabasha, Stearns and Scott.

### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from Clay, Morrison, (4-27, Pierz 1, DCF); Otter Tail, Cottonwood, Redwood, Stearns, Rock, Pipestone, Lyon, Meeker & Swift.

### **WHOOPING CRANE**

An individual of this accidental species was possibly seen on and around 5-13 in the Afton, Washington Co. area, observers were Mrs. N. Kordell, Mr. J. Dahlby and Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Cournoyer (see last issue of LOON, Vol. 46, No. 3 for details).

### **Sandhill Crane**

9 reports: 4-4 Swift (93), 4-5 Chipewa (9) CLH; 4-5 Lac Qui Parle (9) JS; 4-13 Anoka (2) GC; 4-13 Wilkin (11) DCF; 4-16 Marshall (3) AR; 4-20 Mor-

rison (5) BH; 4-21 Benton (1) OJ; May Marshall (4) AR.

### **King Rail**

1 report, 5-3 Minn. Pt., St. Louis Co. (1) D. Reynolds; first report from the NE.

### **Virginia Rail**

13 reports: early south 4-20 Houston KE; 4-28 Hennepin DR; 4-30 Hennepin ETS, VL; only report north 5-25 Cass MS.

### **Sora**

Early south 4-9 Ramsey RH; 3 reports 4-20; early north 4-28 Aitkin (10+) TS; 5-4 Mille Lacs MI, 5-10 Marshall AR.

### **Yellow Rail**

4-28 Aitkin (11+ calling) TS; 5-18 Aitkin (several heard) KE; 5-25 Benton (1) NMH; May (calling in over 20 different marshes) Aitkin TS.

### **Common Gallinule**

Only 3 reports: 5-2 Houston (2) FL; 5-5 Hennepin (1) VL; 5-5 Stearns (1 dead) NMH.

### **American Coot**

Early south 3-4 Olmsted JF; 3-6 Anoka SC; 3-10 Dakota BDC; early north 4-6 Mille Lacs MI; 4-11 Pine ML, 4-13 Marshall AR; peak 4-15 Big Stone (15,500) DS and 5-3 Marshall (13,720) AR.

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Early south 4-27 Lyon RBJ; 4-27 Le Sueur GR; 4-27 Cottonwood RD; early north 5-16 St. Louis GJN; 5-19 Clay KZ; 5-21 St. Louis JG.

### **Piping Plover**

18 reports: 9 in Duluth from 4-24 to 5-26, up to 5 in number; 1 from Yellow Medicine 5-11 (2) BDC; 1 from Olmsted 5-11 (8) JF; 1 from Lac Qui Parle 4-2 (2) JS; 6 from Lyon 5-3, 5-9, 5-11, 5-12, highest number 2, RD, KE, PF, HCK.

### **Killdeer**

Early south 3-3 Rock KE; 6 reports on 3-6; early north 3-15 St. Louis MMC; 3-30 Marshall AR; 3 reports on 4-6.

### **The Loon**

## **MOUNTAIN PLOVER**

5-2 Moorhead Clay Co. (3) C. Falk, first state record (See last issue of LOON, Vol. 46, No. 3 for details).

## **American Golden Plover**

Early south 4-20 Cottonwood LR; 4-26 Chippewa CLH; 4-27 Murray RBJ; only report north 5-19 Clay KZ; late 5-18 Lyon HCK; 5-18 Grant DR; peak 5-5 Cottonwood (750) RD.

## **Black-bellied Plover**

Early south 5-5 Lac Qui Parle KG; 3 reports 5-18; early north 5-16 St. Louis GJN; 5-20 St. Louis TS; late 5-26 Pennington MS; 5-28 Le Sueur GR.

## **Ruddy Turnstone**

Early south 5-12 Lyon HCK; 5-14 Cottonwood LR; early north 5-14 St. Louis JG; 5-16 St. Louis MMC; 5-16 St. Louis GJN; late 5-27 St. Louis GJN, JG.

## **American Woodcock**

Early south 4-7 and 4-14 Lac Qui Parle JS; 4-25 Hennepin BDC; early north 3-16 Clay D. Evans; 4-6 St. Louis NJH: the reports from Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone (5-27, KE), and Hubbard (5-17, HJF) are of interest since Woodcocks have not been seen in this part of the state before.

## **Common Snipe**

Early south 3-13 Le Sueur GR; 4-5 Mower DS; 4-5 Stearns MNH; early north 4-14 Mille Lacs MI; 4-15 Marshall AR; 4-16 Crow Wing TS.

## **Whimbrel**

4 reports from Duluth: 5-16 (1) MMC; 5-19 (4) GJN; 5-20 (3) BDC and PF; 5-23 (1) DS; 5-16 Goodhue (4) C. Farnes.

## **Upland Sandpiper**

Early south 4-27 Rock KE; RBJ; 4-27 Pipestone RBJ; 4-30 Stearns NMH; only reports north 5-4 St. Louis JG; 5-19 Clay KZ; 5-30 Aitkin TS.

## **Spotted Sandpiper**

Early south 4-23 Freeborn DG; 4-25 Nicollet GR; 4 reports on 4-27; early north 4-21 Morrison LSR; 4-30 Clay KZ; 3 reports on 5-3.

## **Solitary Sandpiper**

Early south 4-27 Carver, Sibley ETS; 4-28 Anoka SC; 4-30 Stearns NMH; early north 4-27 Aitkin TS; 4-28 Morrison DCF; late 5-18 Dakota RC.

## **Willet**

Early south 4-23 Hennepin OJ; 4-30 Hennepin VL, ETS (21); early north 4-30 St. Louis GJN, UMD; 5-9 Mille Lacs TS; late 5-21 St. Louis JG.

## **Greater Yellowlegs**

Early south 3-31 Sibley RBJ; 4-9 Carver FN; 4-12 Rock KE; early north 4-16 Aitkin TS, JB; 4-21 Aitkin (50) JB; 4-21 Mille Lacs MI; late 5-19 St. Louis GJN.

## **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Early south 4-7 Lyon KE; 4-8 Lyon HCK; 4-9 Carver FN; early north 4-19 Marshall AR; 4-21 Mille Lacs MI; 4-21 Aitkin JB, TS; 4-19 Marshall AR; late 5-18 Pope BW.

## **Red Knot**

3 reports: 5-5 Aitkin (1) L. Paynter; 5-22 St. Louis (1) MMC; 5-23 St. Louis (2) UMD, GJN.

## **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Early south 4-4 Wabasha DWM; 4-8 Lyon HCK; 4-17 Le Sueur GR; early north 4-27 Aitkin TS; 5-4 Morrison DCF; 5-12 Aitkin JB; late 5-25 Le Sueur GR; 5-25 Lake RBJ; peak 5-19 Clay (200+) KZ.

## **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Early south 5-9 Lyon HCK; 3 reports 5-11; early north 5-19 Clay KZ; 5-23 St. Louis UMD, GJN; late 5-30 Aitkin TS; peak 5-19 Lyon (300) HCK.

## **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early south 4-6 Lyon KE; 4-8 Lyon HCK; 4-13 Lyon RBJ; early north 4-23 St. Louis UMD, GJN; 4-24 Clay LCF; late 5-23 Hennepin OJ; peak 5-18 Lyon (50+) BH.

## **Least Sandpiper**

Early south 4-20 Cottonwood LR; 4-23 Cottonwood RD; 4-27 Lyon KG, RBJ; early north 5-2 Clay LCF; 5-12 Aitkin JB, TS; late 5-28 Le Sueur GR.

### **Dunlin**

Early south 5-4 Lyon KG, HCK; 5-11 Wabasha VL; 5-11 McLeod RBJ; early north 5-13 Aitkin L. Paynter; 5-14 St. Louis UMD, KE; 5-14 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Only 2 reports with call note data: 5-11 Yellow Medicine BDC; 5-14 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

No reports with call note data.

### **Dowitcher sp.**

20 reports from 4-27 to 5-28 from St. Louis, Clay, Aitkin, Olmsted, Lyon, Swift, Cottonwood, Douglas, Le Sueur and Wright.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

10 reports all from the south: 5-4 to 5-18 Lyon many observers; 5-12 Cottonwood LR.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early south 4-21 Benton OJ; 4-26 Lyon HCK; 4-27 Le Sueur GR; early north 5-7 St. Louis UMD, GJN; 5-11 St. Louis JG; late 5-28 Aitkin RBJ; 5-28 St. Louis JG, GJN; 5-28 Le Sueur GR.

### **Western Sandpiper**

3 reports all from the southwest: 4-23 Lyon (3) HCK; 5-4 Lyon (1) KG; 5-26 Cottonwood (4) LR.

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

2 reports of this rare spring migrant: 5-13 (12) KE; 5-18 (2) DR, Lyon Co.

### **Marbled Godwit**

Early south 4-14 Lac Qui Parle JS; 4-20 Wabasha DWM; early north 4-13 Wilkin DCF; 4-20 Wilkin CH; 4-20 Otter Tail PF.

### **Hudsonian Godwit**

Early south 4-15 Lyon HCK; 5-9 Chippewa CLH; 5-10 Hennepin OJ; only reports north 5-16 Aitkin (28+) TS; 5-19 Clay KZ.

### **Sanderling**

Early south 4-27 Lyon HCK; 5-4 Goodhue RBJ; early north 5-16 St. Louis UMD, GJN; 5-18 St. Louis KE; late 5-27 St. Louis GJN and 5-27 Hen-

nepin ETS; peak 5-23 St. Louis (300+) GJN.

### **American Avocet**

5 reports: 4-27 Lyon RBJ, DR; 5-12 Rock (2) KE; 5-17 St. Louis (Duluth 3) DE; mid-May Big Stone DS.

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Early south 4-20 Sibley BDC; 4-21 Rock KE, KG; 4-22 Cottonwood LR; early north 4-29 Clay KZ; 5-7 Marshall AR; peak 5-10 Lyon (200+) HCK.

### **Northern Phalarope**

7 reports: 5-11 Brown (6) RBJ; 5-11 (3) PF, BDC; 5-12 (7) Lyon HCK; 5-12 Cottonwood (6) LR; 5-18 Lyon (30+) BH; 5-18 Lac Qui Parle (80+) DR.

### **Glaucous Gull**

5 reports from St. Louis Co. and 1 from Dakota: 3-30 Dakota DR; 5-4 (1) MMC; 5-14 (2) UMD; 5-14 (1) GJN; 5-17 (1) MMC; 5-18 (1) KE, HCK, TS.

### **THAYER'S GULL**

This former subspecies was reported 5 times, all from Lake Superior: 5-3 St. Louis (1) MMC; 5-4 St. Louis (1) JG; 5-13 Lake (1) MMC; 5-20 St. Louis MMC, JG.

### **Herring Gull**

Early south 3-1 Houston FL; 3-3 Wabasha DWM; 3-3 Dakota DR; early north 3-2 St. Louis GJN; 3-10 St. Louis BH.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Early south 3-3 Wabasha DWM; 3-10 Le Sueur GR; 3-12 Cottonwood RD; early north 4-2 Mille Lacs MI; 4-5 Becker TRS; 4-15 St. Louis GJN.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Early south 3-30 Lyon HCK; 4-5 Lyon KE; 4-12 Chippewa CLH; early north 4-16 Marshall AR; 5-3 Clay LCF; peak 5-31 Marshall (25,000) AR.

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early south 4-6 Douglas PCHS; 4-10 Le Sueur GR; 4-16 Hennepin ETS; early north 5-3 St. Louis MMC; 5-4 St. Louis DE; 5-5 Aitkin GJN; late 5-26 St. Louis CH; peak 5-12 St. Louis (1000's) PBH.

### **The Loon**

### **Forster's Tern**

Early south 4-10 Wright DCF; 4-11 Chippewa CLH; early north 4-29 Mille Lacs TS; 5-3 Marshall AR; 5-3 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Common Tern**

Early south 4-15 Cottonwood RD; 4-18 Ramsey REH; 3 reports 4-23; early north 5-2 Becker TRS; 5-6 Beltrami HJF; 5-6 Mille Lacs MI.

### **LEAST TERN**

5-12, 13 Marshall sewage lagoons, Lyon Co. (1 adult) KE, HCK.

### **Caspian Tern**

Early south 4-30 Houston FL; 5-4 Goodhue RBJ; 5-7 Hennepin ETS; early north 4-11 St. Louis MMC; 5-7 St. Louis UMD, GJN; late 5-28 St. Louis JG; peak 5-25 St. Louis (100+) BH.

### **Black Tern**

Early south 4-26 Stearns NMH; 4-29 Washington WHL; 5-1 Hennepin KG; early north 4-26 Cass BDC; 5-11 Crow Wing TS; 5-13 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Mourning Dove**

Early north 3-1 St. Louis MMC; 3-17 Marshall AR.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Only report 5-27 Hennepin (1) ETS.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Early south 5-21 Hennepin many observers; 5-21 Cottonwood LAF; early north 5-21 Crow Wing TS; 5-23 St. Louis UMD, GJN.

### **Screech Owl**

Reported from Rice, Hennepin, Cottonwood, Lyon, Stearns and Clay (3-8, 5-23, KZ).

### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from Mille Lacs, Hubbard, Clay, St. Louis, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Rice, Olmsted, Lac Qui Parle, Otter Tail, Rock, Lyon, Anoka, Cottonwood, Le Sueur, Wabasha, Pope and Stearns.

### **Snowy Owl**

9 reports: 3-1, 3-17, 3-31 Freeborn DG; 3-2 St. Louis MMC; 3-3 Aitkin TS; 3-28 Clay LCF; 3-31 St. Louis B. Hoj-

nacki; 4-24 Aitkin C. Orjala; 5-18 Aitkin (1) KE, HCK, TS.

### **Barred Owl**

Reported from St. Louis, Crow Wing, Wabasha, Winona, Sibley, Le Sueur, Wright and Stearns.

### **Great Gray Owl**

2 reports: 5-12 Alvwood Koochi-ching Co. (1) S. Sorensen, H. Fellows; 6-1 Island Lake St. Louis Co. (1) GJN.

### **Long-eared Owl**

1 report 3-6 St. Louis G. Coughlin.

### **Short-eared Owl**

6 reports 3-7 Marshall AR; 3-30 Rock KE; 4-6 Lyon HCK; 4-6 Crow Wing TS; 4-13 Stearns NMH; 4-28 Wilkin JS.

### **Saw-whet Owl**

6 reports 3-1 (2 dead), 3-12 (1 dead), 4-10 (1 calling) Crow Wing TS; 3-12 Stearns (1 dead) NMH; 4-28 to 4-30 St. Louis (1 calling) JG; 5-18 St. Louis (1 calling) KE, HCK, TS.

### **Whip-poor-will**

9 reports: 4-24 Blue Earth GR; 4-30 Anoka (3) RBJ; 5-4 Morrison LSR; 5-6 Murray ADK; 5-12 Lyon HCK; 5-15 Winona DS; 5-18 Lyon TS; 5-21 Rice OR; 5-24 Chippewa CLH.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Early south 4-16 Freeborn DG; 4-20 Hennepin PCHS; 4-23 Wright BH; early north 5-18 St. Louis GJN; 5-20 Itasca MS; 5-21 Mille Lacs MI, Crow Wing TS.

### **Chimney Swift**

Early south 4-20 Goodhue RBJ, KE; 4-26 Rice OR, Stearns NMH; early north 5-7 Clay LCF, Crow Wing TS; 5-13 Morrison LSR.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Early south 5-9 Olmsted JF; 5-10 Freeborn DS; 5-16 Lac Qui Parle OE; early north 5-4 Crow Wing TS; 5-15 Crow Wing JB; 5-17 St. Louis JG.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Early south 3-9 Sibley RBJ; 3-12 Stearns NMH; 3-14 Mower DS; early north 4-5 St. Louis GJN; 4-7 Marshall

AR; 4-8 Crow Wing TS.

### **Common Flicker**

Early north 4 reports on 4-10, Marshall, Becker, Crow Wing, Clearwater; peak 4-21 Aitkin (200) TS, JB; Red-shafted subspecies: 3-8 Douglas (1) VL; all winter to 4-7 Redwood, P. Egeland.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from Mille Lacs, Clay, St. Louis, Hubbard, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Houston, Wright, Hennepin, Benton, Sibley, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Wabasha, Pope, Stearns, Carver and Olmsted.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from St. Louis (4-28, 1, JG), Morrison, Dakota, Olmsted, Houston, Redwood, Goodhue, Anoka, Carver, Scott, Le Sueur, Wabasha, Wright, Hennepin and Stearns.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Early north 4-20 Morrison LSR; 5-5 Aitkin GJN; 5-6 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Early south 3-3 Cottonwood RD; 4-1 Mower DS; 4-2 Stearns NMH; early north 4-9 Mille Lacs MI; 4-10 Clay LCF; 4-11 Hubbard HJF.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Reported from 32 counties.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 32 counties.

### **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**

2 reports: 4-22 to 4-26 Beltrami NMH; 5-24 St. Louis GJN.

### **Eastern Kingbird**

Early south 5-2 Benton MC; 5-6 Cottonwood RD; 5-8 Stearns NMH; early north 4-10 Pine ML; 5-5 Morrison DCF; 5-16 Aitkin L. Paynter.

### **Western Kingbird**

Early south 5-9 Rock KE; 5-11 Lyon PF; 5-12 Chippewa JS; early north 5-11 Clay LCF; 5-13 Lake MMC.

### **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**

5-13 to 5-16 Akeley, Hubbard Co. (1) C. Bergo, D. Christianson (See last issue of LOON, Vol. 46, No. 3 for details).

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Early south 4-27 Cottonwood LR; 5-3 Wabasha JF; 5-3 Mower DS; early north 5-18 Pine ML; 5-21 St. Louis UMD, GJN; 5-21 Crow Wing JB, TS.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Early south 4-1 Cottonwood LR; 4-3 Anoka SC; 4-4 Mower DS; early north 4-8 Crow Wing TS; 4-10 St. Louis MMC; 3 reports on 4-11.

### **SAY'S PHOEBE**

This accidental species was seen in Blue Mounds Park from 4-13 to 5-19 by RBJ, KE, DR, JB and TS.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 5-11 Le Sueur GR; 5-12 Hennepin CH; 5-13 Freeborn DG; early north 5-21 St. Louis UMD, GJN; 5-21 St. Louis JG; 5-22 Crow Wing JB.

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

2 reports: 5-25 Houston (1) FL; 5-31 Houston (2) KE.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

Only reports: 5-21 Goodhue DR; 5-27 Rock KE; 5-28 Aitkin RBJ.

### **Willow Flycatcher**

None reported.

### **Flycatcher sp?**

"Traill's" Flycatchers which were not identified as Alder or Willow: early south 5-7 Hennepin VL, ETS; 5-11 Hennepin OJ; 5-11 Olmsted JF.

### **Least Flycatcher**

Early south 4-27 Swift HH; 4 reports on 5-3; early north 4-23 Cass HRH; 4-30 Morrison LSR; 5-6 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Eastern Wood Pewee**

Early south 5-3 Hennepin VL; 5-5 Cottonwood RBD; 5-7 Murray AD; early north 5-18 Marshall AR; 5-18 Clay LCF.

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 5-12 Hennepin CH; 5-16 Stearns NMH; 5-16 Hennepin ETS; early north 5-16 Mille Lacs MI; 5-18 Clay KZ.

**Horned Lark**

Early north 3-1 Clay LCF; 3-1 Morrison TS; 3-10 Morrison LSR.

**Tree Swallow**

Early south 3-17 Nicollet FN; 3-26 Olmsted JF; 3-30 Wabasha DWM; early north 4-6 St. Louis KS; 4-10 St. Louis MMC; 4-11 Morrison LSR.

**Bank Swallow**

Early south 4-11 Rock DR; 4-12 Rock KE; 4-19 Cottonwood LR; early north 4-22 Crow Wing TS; 4-25 St. Louis GJN.

**Rough-winged Swallow**

Early south 4-11 Rock DR; 4-13 Rock KG; 4-19 Le Sueur GR; early north 4-30 Morrison LSR; 5-4 Clay LCF.

**Barn Swallow**

Early south 4-11 Rock DR; 4-16 Cottonwood RBD; 4-17 Cottonwood LAF; early north 4-17 Cass HRH; 4-20 Morrison BH; 4-28 St. Louis TS.

**Cliff Swallow**

Early south 4-21 Benton OJ; 4-22 Anoka SC; 5-4 Goodhue RBJ; early north 4-20 Cass HRH; 4-26 Marshall AR; 4-26 Cass BDC.

**Purple Martin**

Early south 3-31 Cottonwood RBD, LR; 4-2 Le Sueur GR; early north 4-7 Becker TRS; 4-9 Crow Wing TS.

**Gray Jay**

11 reports from St. Louis, Hubbard, Marshall, Cook, Aitkin, Lake and Pine.

**Blue Jay**

Reported from 15 counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Only 2 reports 3-9 St. Louis (2) DB; 3-10 Aitkin (10) TS.

**Common Raven**

Reported from St. Louis, Hubbard, Beltrami, Lake and Aitkin.

**Common Crow**

Reported from 17 counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 14 counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Only report 3-22 Hennepin OJ.

**Tufted Titmouse**

6 reports from 3-8 to 5-29 in Hennepin and Houston.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 14 counties.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

15 reports from St. Louis, Hubbard, Crow Wing, Clearwater, Olmsted, Murray, Stearns (5-20 digging nest cavity NMH), Hennepin and Le Sueur.

**Brown Creeper**

Early south 3-2 Cottonwood LR; 3-3 Rock KE; 3-4 Mower DS; early north 3-2 Crow Wing TS; 3-18 St. Louis GJN; 3-25 Hubbard HJF.

**House Wren**

Early south 4-13 Cottonwood LAF; 4-24 Stearns NMH; 4-26 Hennepin PF; early north 4-6 St. Louis MK, KS; 5-2 Clay LCF.

**Winter Wren**

Early south 3-4 Mower DS; 3 reports 4-2; early north 4-21 St. Louis GJN, NJH; 4-23 St. Louis JG; late south 5-26 to 5-27 Houston (1 singing) FL.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**

Early south 4-27 Cottonwood LR; 4-27 Lyon RBJ, DR; 4-28 Cottonwood RBD; only reports north 5-2 St. Louis MMC; 5-18 Clearwater MS.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren**

Early south 4-27 Cottonwood RBJ; 4-27 Olmsted JF; 4-28 Cottonwood LAF; 4-28 Hennepin DR; only reports north 5-9 Aitkin TS; 5-19 Pine JG; 5-25 Itasca MS.

**Mockingbird**

8 reports: 5-4 Renville (1) DR; 5-10 Olmsted (2) HB; 5-17 St. Louis (1) MMC; 5-25 St. Louis (1) RBJ, DR; 5-26 Lake (1) MMC; 5-27 Lake (1) J. Gallian; 5-31 Beltrami (1) B. Carr.

**Gray Catbird**

Early south 4-24 Swift HH; 4-27 Rice OR; 4-29 Hennepin DR; early north 5-13 Mille Lacs MI; 5-15 Mor-

risson LSR; 5-16 Cass HRH; 5-16 Crow Wing JB.

### **Brown Thrasher**

Early south 3-30 Murray AD; 5 reports on 4-20; early north 4-23 Clay LCF; 4-25 Pine ML; 4-27 Marshall AR.

### **American Robin**

Early north 3-10 Clay LCF; 3-11 Clearwater RCD; 3-12 Becker TRS; peak 4-11 Clearwater (1000's) RCD.

### **Wood Thrush**

Early south 4-27 Rice OR; 5-4 Carver REH; 5-4 Renville DR; 7 reports north; early 5-8 Beltrami MK; 5-17 Hubbard HJF; other reports from St. Louis and Itasca.

### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 4-2 Hennepin BDC; 4-2 Freeborn DG; 4-4 Hennepin DB; 4-4 Murray AD; early north 4-9 Crow Wing TS; 3 reports 4-11; late south 5-19 Stearns NMH.

### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south 4-10 Olmsted JF; 4-23 Hennepin DB; 4-24 Dakota RC; early north 4-22 Crow Wing TS; 4-25 St. Louis MMC; 5-2 Clay KZ; late south 5-31 Hennepin ETS.

### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Early south 4-16 Le Sueur GR; 4-25 Olmsted JF; 4-29 Hennepin BDC; early north 5-7 Clay LCF; 5-12 Mille Lacs MI; 3 reports on 5-16; late south 5-25 Le Sueur GR.

### **Veery**

Early south 4-21 Hennepin KCS; 5-5 Rock KE; 5-8 Sherburne NMH; early north 5-4 St. Louis DR; 5-8 Crow Wing JB, TS.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Early south 2 wintered in Mower Co., DS; 3-4 Freeborn DG; early north 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-16 Aitkin JB; 4-24 St. Louis JG.

### **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**

7 reports of this casual species: 3-6 Rice OR; 3-11, 3-13 Marshall T. Fuller; 3-25 Clearwater R. Newcomb (fide RCD); 3-29 Lac Qui Parle JS; 3-30 Rock

KE; 4-12 Rock KE; 4-13 Rock RBJ; (see last issue of LOON, Vol. 46, No. 3 for more details).

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Early south 5-3 Wabasha JF; 5-4 Goodhue RBJ; 5-5 Hennepin DB.

### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 3-3 Rock KE; 3-4 Mower DS; 3-28 Murray AD; early north 4-10 St. Louis JG; 4-11 Clay KZ; 4-11 Clearwater RCD.

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 4-4 Olmsted HB; 4-5 Olmsted JF; 4-6 Hennepin BDC; early north 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-11 Clay KZ; 4-13 Morrison LSR; late south 5-20 Mower DS.

### **Water Pipit**

5 reports: 3-30 Lyon HCK; 4-12 Rock KE; 4-18 Le Sueur GR; 5-13 Lyon KE; 5-18 Lyon DR.

### **Sprague's Pipit**

4-28 (1) and 5-5 (1) Rock Co. KE.

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

4 reports: 3-1 Cass (7) HJF; 3-6 St. Louis (50) KS; 3-30 Clay (9) LCF; 4-4 Anoka (1) SC.

### **Cedar Waxwing**

Early south: all winter Stearns NMH; 3-1 Anoka SC; 3-3 Rock KE; early north 3-12 St. Louis GJN; 3-12 Clay KZ.

### **Northern Shrike**

Late south 3-31 Wright BH; 4-7 Dakota DR; only reports north 3-3 St. Louis MMC; 3-6 Pine ML; 4-6 St. Louis JG.

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

11 reports: early south 4-6 Stearns NMH; 4-14 Scott VL; 4-17 Lyon HCK; early north 3-1 St. Louis MMC; 4-20 Morrison BH; 5-4 Wadena DB; 5-12 Aitkin TS.

### **Starling**

Reported from 13 counties.

### **Bell's Vireo**

3 reports: 5-16 Hennepin (1) OJ; 5-25 Olmsted (1) JF; 5-27 Pipestone (1 singing male) KE.

### **The Loon**

### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

Early south 5-3 Stearns NMH; 5-9 Houston FL; 3 reports on 5-11; early north 5-5 Morrison DCF; 5-21 Mille Lacs MI; 5-21 Crow Wing TS.

### **Solitary Vireo**

Early south 4-27 Mower DS; 4-28 Hennepin ETS; 5-1 Hennepin WKE; early north 4-27 Clay LCF; 5-11 Mille Lacs MI; late south 5-24 Hennepin ETS.

### **Red-eyed Vireo**

Early south 5-5 Swift HH; 5-8 Hennepin REH; 5-8 Sherburne NMH; early north 5-17 Itasca MS; 5-17 Crow Wing TS; 5-21 Clay LCF.

### **Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 5-6 Hennepin PCHS; 5-14 Goodhue DS; early north 5-18 Mille Lacs MI; 5-19 Clay KZ; late 5-28 St. Louis JG and 5-30 St. Louis (6) GJN.

### **Warbling Vireo**

Early south 4-30 Houston FL; 5-3 Stearns NMH; 5-3 Swift HH; early north 5-16 Itasca MS; 5-17 Douglas RBJ; 5-20 St. Louis BDC.

### **Black-and-white Warbler**

Early south 4-13 Rock (1) RBJ earliest date on record; 4-15 Stearns NMH; 4-21 Pipestone KG, DB; early north 4-30 Morrison LSR; 5-4 Mille Lacs MI; 5-5 St. Louis NJH.

### **Prothonotary Warbler**

5 reports: 5-7 Houston (1) FL; 5-13 Freeborn (1) DG; 5-17 Ramsey (2) BDC; 5-20 Hennepin (1) DB; 5-26 Hennepin (1) FN.

### **WORM-EATING WARBLER**

4-27 Richfield, Hennepin Co. S. Mahowald (see last issue of LOON Vol. 46, No. 3 for details).

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

Early south 5-4 Hennepin WKE; 5-10 Hennepin PCHS; 5-10 Olmsted JF; early north 5-18 Clearwater MS; 5-19 Pine JG, ML; 3 reports 5-21.

### **Blue-winged Warbler**

8 reports: 5-11 Olmsted (6) JF; 5-18 Winona (3) DS; 5-16 Hennepin (1) BDC;

5-20 Hennepin PCHS; 5-20 Fillmore (6) JF; 5-22 Hennepin (1) OJ; 5-25 Houston (2) FL; 5-26 Goodhue (1) ETS.

### **Tennessee Warbler**

Early south 5-4 Ramsey REH; 5-4 Goodhue RBJ; 5-7 Hennepin ETS; early north 5-17 Crow Wing TS; 3 reports 5-18; late south 5-29 Stearns NMH.

### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early south 4-20 Hennepin ETS; 4-23 Hennepin CH; 4-25 Hennepin OJ, RBJ; early north 4-28 Clay LCF; 4-30 Morrison LSR; 4-30 Crow Wing TS; late 5-25 Lake RBJ; 5-25 St. Louis GJN.

### **Nashville Warbler**

Early south 4-23 Hennepin FN; 3 reports on 4-27; early north 5-5 Crow Wing JB; 5-7 St. Louis NJH; 5-10 Morrison LSR; late south 5-28 Watonwan LR.

### **Northern Parula**

Early south 5-4 Goodhue RBJ; 5-8 Anoka SC; 5-11 Goodhue DR; early north 5-19 St. Louis NJH; 5-20 St. Louis DWM; 5-20 Crow Wing TS; late south 5-25 Chisago RBJ.

### **Yellow Warbler**

Early south 4-25 Hennepin PCHS; 3 reports on 5-4; early north 5-8 Hubbard HJF; 5-10 Morrison LSR; 5-11 Clay LCF.

### **Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 5-3 Stearns NMH; 5-5 Lac Qui Parle OE; 5-10 Hennepin OJ; late north 5-8 Hubbard HJF; 5-10 Morrison LSR; 5-16 Mille Lacs MI; late south 5-28 Hennepin VL.

### **Cape May Warbler**

Early south 5-5 Wabasha DWM; 5-11 Goodhue DR; early north 5-10 Morrison LSR; 5-13 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

3 reports: 5-11 Rice (2) OR; 5-12 Hennepin (1) PCHS; 5-21 St. Louis JG.

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Early south 4-1 Rice OR; 4-2 Le Sueur GR; 4-7 Cottonwood RBD; early north 4-7 St. Louis DE; 4-10 St. Louis MMC; late south 5-24 Hennepin VL.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

Early south 5-3 Mower DS; 5-4 Stearns NMH; 5-6 Anoka SC; early north 5-5 Crow Wing TS, JB; 5-9 Clay KZ; 5-10 Mille Lacs MI; late south 5-28 Hennepin OJ.

**Cerulean Warbler**

Early south 5-11 Hennepin PCHS; 5-16 Houston FL; also reported from Goodhue, Stearns, Winona, Anoka and Becker (5-18 (1) TRS).

**Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 5-9 Wabasha JF; 5-10 Mower DS; 5 reports on 5-11; early north 5-14 Pine ML; 5-16 Mille Lacs MI; 3 reports on 5-21; late south 5-30 Hennepin VL; 6-2 Houston KE.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Early south 5-3 Hennepin VL; 5-6 Stearns NMH; 5-10 Mower DS; early north 5-14 Pine ML; 5-18 Morrison LSR; 5-18 Becker TRS; 6 reports on 5-21.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early south 5-11 Sibley RBJ; 5-15 Stearns NMH; 5 reports north: early north 5-16 Crow Wing TS; 4 reports on 5-21; late south 5-28 Hennepin VL.

**Blackpoll Warbler**

Early south 4-27 Rice OR; 5-5 Rock KE; 5-6 Stearns MC; 5-7 Mille Lacs MI; 5-11 Clay LCF; 5-16 Becker TRS; late 5-30 Le Sueur GR.

**Pine Warbler**

Early south 4-10 Stearns NMH; next report 5-10 Hennepin PCHS; 5-17 Goodhue DR; early north 4-26 Crow Wing JB; next report 5-4 Hubbard HJF; 5-6 Cass HRH.

**Palm Warbler**

Early south 4-21 Olmsted JF; 4-23 Hennepin OJ; 4-24 Mower DS; early north 4-23 St. Louis JG; 4-30 Morrison LSR; 4-30 St. Louis UMD; late south 5-25 Le Sueur GR.

**Ovenbird**

Early south 4-15 Stearns NMH; 4-29 Hennepin DB; early north 5-11 Clay LCF; 5-14 Crow Wing TS; 5-14 Pine ML.

**The Loon****Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 4-25 Hennepin ETS; 4-27 Le Sueur GR; 4-30 Hennepin WKE; early north 5-4 Mille Lacs MI; 5-11 Clay LCF; 5-14 St. Louis GJN, UMD.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

Only 2 reports: 5-5 Hennepin (2) DR; 5-26 Ramsey GC.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER**

5-20 to 5-24 Hennepin OJ, PCHS.

**Connecticut Warbler**

12 reports from 5-5 to 5-30 in Hennepin (15 birds), Freeborn (1), Stearns (1), Cottonwood (1), Aitkin (4) and Pine (1).

**Mourning Warbler**

Early south 5-12 Stearns NMH; 3 reports 5-16; early north 5-21 St. Louis JG; 5-23 St. Louis GJN; late south 5-30 Hennepin DR and 6-2 Hennepin CH.

**Common Yellowthroat**

Early south 4-24 Mower DS; 5-2 Swift HH; 5-4 Stearns NMH; early north 5-11 Clay LCF; 5-22 Mille Lacs MI; 5-14 Crow Wing TS.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**

2 reports: 5-15 Olmsted (1) C and T Johnson; 5-29 St. Louis (1) MMC.

**Wilson's Warbler**

Early south 5-4 Stearns NMH; 3 reports on 5-10; early north 5-11 Crow Wing TS; 5-14 Pine ML; 5-15 Mille Lacs MI; late south 5-28 Hennepin VL.

**Canada Warbler**

Early south 5-12 Stearns NMH; 5-16 Hennepin PF; 5-16 Houston FL; early north 5-21 Cass KZ; 5-22 Crow Wing JB; 5-22 Mille Lacs MI; late south 5-31 Hennepin ETS.

**American Redstart**

Early south 4-30 Houston FL; 5-7 Le Sueur GR; 5-10 Lyon HCK; early north 5-12 Mille Lacs MI; 5-14 Crow Wing TS.

**House Sparrow**

Reported from 11 counties.

**Bobolink**

Early south 4-15 Cottonwood RBD; 4-30 Blue Earth GR; 5-7 Murray AD; only 4 reports north: 5-16 Aitkin (100+) L. Paynter; 5-18 Beltrami MS; 5-19 Clay KZ; 5-26 St. Louis NJH.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Early south 3-3 Murray AD; 3-3 Wabasha DWM; early north 4-8 Mille Lacs MI; 4-13 St. Louis JG.

**Western Meadowlark**

Early south 3-6 Anoka SC; 3-6 Wabasha DWM; 3-8 Le Sueur GR; early north 3-11 Marshall AR; 3-29 Hubbard HJF; 4-8 Clay LCF.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Early south 3-24 Le Sueur GR; 3-30 Stearns NMH; 4-12 Hennepin DR; early north 4-17 Marshall AR; 4-27 Crow Wing TS; 5-4 St. Louis DE.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Early south 3-2 Cottonwood LR; 4 reports on 3-3; early north 3-8 Pine ML; 3-19 Mille Lacs MI; 3-26 Aitkin GJN.

**SCOTT'S ORIOLE**

5-23 to first week of June, St. Louis Co. (Duluth) imm. male, KS, PBH, JG, MMC, TS.

**Orchard Oriole**

14 reports from 5-11 to 5-29 from Clay, Murray, Hennepin, Pope, Yellow Medicine, Goodhue, Lac Qui Parle, Mower, Dakota, Washington, Cottonwood and Rock.

**Northern Oriole**

Early south 5-2 Olmsted JF; 5-2 Hennepin WKE; 5-3 Hennepin RBJ; early north 5-5 Crow Wing JB; 5-10 Crow Wing TS; this species showed up in unprecedented numbers this year through much of Minnesota.

**Rusty Blackbird**

Early south 4 reports on 3-3; 3-9 Cottonwood LR; only reports north 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-28 Morrison DCF.

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Early south 3-6 Pope WH; 3-12 Hennepin BH; 3-24 Hennepin OJ; early

north 4-10 Cass HRH; 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-14 Cass KZ.

**Common Grackle**

Early south 3-2 Hennepin FN; 3-3 Freeborn DG; 3-3 Washington REH; 3-3 Rock KE; early north 3-10 Crow Wing JB; 3-15 Mille Lacs MI; 3-23 Morrison LSR.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Early south 3-13 Mower DS; 3-18 Murray AD; 3-24 Hennepin OJ; early north 4-10 Crow Wing TS; 4-13 Mille Lacs MI; 4-16 Aitkin JB.

**Scarlet Tanager**

Early south 4-18 Lyon DR; 5-7 Olmsted JF; 5-10 Lyon HCK; early north 5-14 Pine ML; 5-17 Crow Wing JB; 5-18 Cass HRH; 5-20 Becker TRS.

**Cardinal**

5 reports north from 3-9 to 5-14 in Mille Lacs, Clay and St. Louis.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Early south 5-1 Hennepin ETS; 3 reports on 5-2; early north 5-3 Clay LCF; 5-10 Crow Wing JB.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**

5 reports of this accidental species: early May (2 males) London, Freeborn Co., Mr. and Mrs. M. Foss; early May (1) Albert Lea, Freeborn Co., Mrs. T. M. Gill; mid-May (1) Emmons, Freeborn Co., Dr. and Mrs. E. M. Johnson; 5-13 (1 male) Albert Lea, Freeborn Co. DG; 5-11 to 6-1 (1 female) Afton State Park, Washington Co., Mr. and Mrs. N. Kordell (see last issue of LOON, Vol. 46, No. 3 for more details).

**Blue Grosbeak**

2 reports 5-11 to 5-21 Blue Earth Co. (1) C. Luwe; 5-26 Rock (1) KE.

**Indigo Bunting**

Early south 4-26 Olmsted JF; 5-5 Stearns NMH; early north 5-14 Pine ML; 5-21 Crow Wing TS; 5-22 Clay LCF.

**LAZULI BUNTING**

5-22 Moorhead, Clay Co. (1 male) C. Falk (see last issue of LOON, Vol. 46, No. 3 for details).

**Dickcissel**

Early south 4-15 Freeborn DG; 5-9 Murray AD; 5-19 Rock KE, TS, JB.

**Evening Grosbeak**

Reported from 8 counties: late 5-21 Crow Wing JB; 5-25 Lake RBJ; 5-26 St. Louis CH.

**Purple Finch**

Late south 5-16 Stearns NMH; early north 3-1 Clay LCF; 3-3 Aitkin TS.

**Pine Grosbeak**

2 reports: 3-2 St. Louis DR; 3-3 Aitkin TS.

**Hoary Redpoll**

14 reports: late south 4-12 Washington WHL; late north 4-15 Clay LCF.

**Common Redpoll**

Late south 4-20 Stearns BH; 4-22 Hennepin PF; late north 4-18 St. Louis GJN, UMD: peak 3-1 Crow Wing (350+) TS.

**Pine Siskin**

Late south 5-31 Hennepin VL, CH; 5-31 Stearns NMH; peak 3-2 Wabasha (150) DWM.

**American Goldfinch**

Early north 5-8 Crow Wing TS; 5-12 Cass HRH; 5-13 Mille Lacs MI; peak 5-28 Clay (150) KZ.

**Red Crossbill**

Late south 5-26 Hennepin VL; 5-30 Hennepin ETS.

**White-winged Crossbill**

18 reports from 3-1 to 5-4 in Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Hennepin, Olmsted, Wabasha, Ramsey and Stearns.

**Rufous-sided Towhee**

Early south 4-17 Dakota RC; 4-19 Freeborn DG; early north 5-1 St. Louis JG; 5-2 Mille Lacs MI; 5-4 Crow Wing JB, TS; 2 reports of the spotted western race: 4-21 Pipestone (2) DB; 4-21 Rock (2) KG.

**Savannah Sparrow**

Early south 4-15 Cottonwood RBD; 4-18 Murray AD; 5 reports on 4-20; early north 4-21 Mille Lacs MI; 4-21 Aitkin TS; 4-21 St. Louis GJN.

**The Loon****Grasshopper Sparrow**

Early south 4-22 Swift HH; 4-23 Cottonwood RBD; only report north 4-25 Pine ML.

**Le Conte's Sparrow**

5 reports: 4-27 Cottonwood LR; 5-16 Aitkin TS; 5-17 Kandiyohi RBJ; 5-19 Clay KZ; 5-28 Aitkin (common) RBJ.

**Henslow's Sparrow**

2 reports: 4-27 Rock (1) KE; 5-4 Hennepin VL.

**Vesper Sparrow**

Early south 3-2 Cottonwood LR; 4-5 Le Sueur GR; 4-6 Yellow Medicine KE; early north 4-6 Crow Wing TS; 4-16 Aitkin JB; 4-22 Cass HRH.

**Lark Sparrow**

Early south 4-21 Ramsey GC; 5-4 Renville DR; 5-10 Anoka SC; only reports north 5-25 St. Louis PBH; 5-28 Clay LCF.

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Late south 5-16 Stearns NMH; 5-29 Dakota RC; early north 3-6 Crow Wing JB; 3-11 Clay LCF; 3-11 Clearwater RCD.

**Tree Sparrow**

Early north 3-14 Clay LCF; 3-15 Clay KZ; late 5-14 Olmsted JF; 5-26 Lake BH.

**Chipping Sparrow**

Early south 4-2 Le Sueur GR; 4-3 Stearns NMH; 4-8 Dakota RC; early north 4-16 Hubbard HJF; 4-22 Clay LCF.

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

Early south 4-20 Dakota RC; 4-26 Mower DS; 4-27 Renville RBJ; early north 4-28 Clay KZ; 5-1 Clay LCF; 5-3 St. Louis JG.

**Field Sparrow**

Early 3-19 Murray AD; 4-6 Rice OR; 4-9 Olmsted JF.

**Harris' Sparrow**

Early south 3-1 Swift HH; 4-9 Hennepin OJ; 4-15 Freeborn OG; early north 4-28 Clay LCF; 5-2 Morrison LSR; late 5-26 Clay LCF.

**White-crowned Sparrow**

Early south 4-23 Stearns NMH; 4-23 Swift HH; 4-23 Hennepin DR; early north 5-2 St. Louis NJH; 5-3 St. Louis JG; 5-3 Clay LCF; late 5-25 Clay LCF.

**White-throated Sparrow**

Early south 3-1 Hennepin VL; 4-2 Hennepin CH; 4-9 Le Sueur GR; early north 4-9 Crow Wing JB; 4-10 Pine ML; 4-18 St. Louis MMC; late south 5-20 Fillmore JF.

**Fox Sparrow**

Early south 3-16 Dakota BDC; 3 reports on 3-23; early north 4-9 St. Louis MMC; 3 reports on 4-10; late 5-12 Stearns NMH.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

Early south 4-8 Hennepin VL; 4-15 Hennepin OJ; 4-16 Hennepin ETS; early north 4-20 Cass HRH; 4-21 Clay

LCF; 4-28 Clay KZ; late 5-26 Lake MMC.

**Swamp Sparrow**

Early south 4-13 Nicollet DB; 4-13 Pope BH; 4-14 Rock KE; early north 4-10 Clay KZ; 4-18 St. Louis UMD.

**Song Sparrow**

Early south 3-6 Mower DS; 3-14 Olmsted JF; early north 4-8 St. Louis D. Olson; 5 reports on 4-9.

**Lapland Longspur**

Early south 3-3 Rock KE; 3-6 Cottonwood (1000+) RBD; early north 4-3 Mille Lacs MI; late 5-25 St. Louis RBJ, CH.

**Smith's Longspur**

1 report 4-28 Rock (1) KE.

**Snow Bunting**

Late south 3-6 Cottonwood RBD; late north 5-12 St. Louis GJN.

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#### **COLOR-MARKED CANVASBACKS**

Canvasbacks marked with colorful plumage dyes were recently released at key migrational concentration areas in the North Central states by wildlife research biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of the color-marking program is to determine the migrational dispersal and wintering distribution of Canvasbacks staging on the Upper Mississippi River. During the 1974 fall migration, male Canvasbacks were dyed different colors at concentration areas near LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Keokuk, Iowa. The colors used were blue, yellow, and pink. Any observation of color-marked Canvasbacks should be reported to the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, P. O. Box 1747, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401. The following information is requested: observer (name and address), date, time, location of observation (be specific), and color of the bird (be descriptive). In addition, information on the activity of the bird, size of the flock, and species of ducks associated with the marked bird would be helpful. This research on the migration habitat and destinations of the Canvasbacks is part of a comprehensive investigation to identify major factors influencing the population status of this species. Any observations of these color-marked Canvasbacks would be greatly appreciated. — David L. Trauger, Wildlife Biologist

# GREAT GRAY OWLS OCCUPY ARTIFICIAL NEST

by Robert W. Nero\*, Spencer G. Sealy\*\*,  
and Herbert W. R. Copland\*\*\*

Great Gray Owls successfully fledged three young from a nest near the U.S.-Canadian border north of Roseau, Minnesota in the summer of 1970. This was the second Great Gray Owl nest reported for the state (see Nero 1970, *The Loon* 42: 88-93). We would now like to report a third Minnesota nest and, so far as can be determined, the first successful occupancy of an artificial nest by this species in North America.

The 1970 nesting was in an old hawk or crow nest 40 feet above ground in a live tamarack in a clear-cut black spruce stand. The nest tree had practically no branches other than a few supporting the nest which was readily visible from an adjacent highway. The nest, which had been under observation since mid-April, collapsed about June 8, spilling four well-developed young onto the ground. Three nestlings survived, including the smallest, but no trace was found of one older nestling. The three surviving young and the adult female were banded on June 9. The family remained within a quarter-mile of the nest site for at least the next two months.

The three fledged owls and the adult female were last seen by us in a heavy stand of tamarack on July 29. On the latter date, encouraged by D. Muir and R. R. Taylor, we installed an artificial nest in a suitable tree in the vicinity. It was thus hoped to obtain another Great Gray Owl nesting in a future season. Inasmuch as Great Gray Owls usually use a deserted or vacant nest built by another species and have been known to use artificial nests in Sweden (see Hoglund and Lansgren 1968, *Viltrevy* 5: 363-421) we believed there was some chance of success. Moreover, in a thorough search

throughout the woods within a half mile of the original nest we had been unable to find any other suitable nest.

The artificial nest was placed in a live, deformed tamarack at a height of about 15 feet. It consisted of a shallow, wire-mesh bowl about 17 inches in diameter fastened to a limb and then built up with cedar boughs and tamarack twigs to resemble a hawk nest.



R. W. Nero examining artificial nest (A), March 6, 1971. Photo from color transparency by Robert R. Taylor.

When next examined on March 6, 1971, the following "spring", the artificial nest showed signs of having been visited by a Great Gray Owl. There were tracks in the glazed surface of a hard mound or cake of snow covering the nest, and a large piece of snow had been removed from one side. A small down-feather was frozen to the surface and a large Great Gray Owl contour feather was found beneath the snow in contact with the nest lining. Another

fresh Great Gray Owl feather was found on a low shrub about 10 feet from the nest tree. It had snowed in this area two days earlier, hence it seemed likely that a bird had visited the nest some time before the last snowfall and then again on March 4 or thereabouts, attempting to clear the nest when the snow was fresh and soft.

Although Great Gray Owls were occasionally seen in the general vicinity of the artificial nest, the nest was not used that year nor in 1972 and 1973. However, the above observation provides an interesting record of early nest inspection by this species.

On March 17, 1973, having learned that a Great Gray Owl recently had been seen not far from the artificial nest (A), a second nest (B) was constructed in a live tamarack several hundred yards south. This nest was built entirely of tamarack branches and twigs placed in a crotch at a height of about 25 feet. According to a local informant, nest B was occupied in summer 1973 by a pair of hawks, possibly Red-tailed Hawks.

Red-tailed Hawks were found at nest B a year later on April 13, 1974; one was seen on that early date carrying twigs to the nest. On the same date, nest A showed signs of a recent visit by a Great Gray Owl. Twigs had been dug out of the bottom of the nest, exposing the wire-mesh screen, and were scattered on the snow beneath the tree. Several wet Great Gray Owl feathers were lying on the screen and a fresh feather fragment was on the nest edge. According to Høglund and Langren (1968), in early nesting stages in Sweden, Great Gray Owls frequently scratched vigorously in the bottom of nests, sometimes kicking them to pieces. Thinking that the owl might still return and use the nest, we repaired it, building up the edge with small branches and lining it with fine tamarack twigs. A slight depression was left in the center.

On May 11, 1974 nest B was still occupied by Red-tailed Hawks and to our elation we found a female Great Gray

Owl incubating two fresh eggs in nest A. It was raining and cold when we stumbled through the bog to the nest site and it seemed unlikely that there would be a bird on the nest, judging by the early occupancy of nest B by Red-tails. And, at first glance from about 100 feet, there didn't appear to be anything on the nest which was just visible through the dripping trees. But then suddenly, while we were still far from the nest, a Great Gray Owl slipped off the nest and disappeared in the woods. A quick look in the nest revealed two white, fresh-looking eggs. We immediately left the vicinity to let the wary female return. Great Gray Owls usually sit tight on the nest, hence it was a surprise to find one leaving so readily, especially during a cold rain. If we had not seen the female leave, we probably would have surmised that the nest had been deserted.

On a later date, when we were able to observe the female more closely, we identified it as a bird that had been trapped, banded and individually color-marked by us within a half-mile of nest A on March 30, 1974. The owl's weight on that date was approximately 1075 grams.



Color-marked adult female Great Gray Owl near nest, May 25, 1974. Photo from color transparency by Spencer G. Sealy.



Great Gray Owl clutch in artificial nest May 25, 1974. Photo from color transparency by Spencer G. Sealy.

Because of the female Great Gray Owl's wary attitude, and other commitments, we waited until May 25 to next check the nest. On this date the female was reluctant to leave the nest, and one of the two eggs was pipping. On a return visit in late afternoon May 30, when the nest contained nestlings, the female again stayed on the nest until forced off. Five dead meadow voles present in the nest on that date suggested that prey was readily available and the male was actively attending the nest. This was the first occasion on which the male was apparent at the nest site and even then it was only heard hooting nearby.

When next checked on June 6, there was only one nestling present; we are unable to account for the loss of the other. The female was attentive and

stayed near the nest throughout the visit. When the nestling was removed from the nest to be measured, the female returned and sat in the empty nest. On this date there were no mice in the nest and although it was under observation from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., there was no sign of the male. The female hooted at intervals throughout the period of observation, which led us to suspect that the male was by now having difficulty finding food. This thought gained further support on June 16 when we found that the Red-tails had deserted nest B, with no sign of their having reached the hatching stage. However, these birds may have failed for other reasons, e.g., miscreant gunners: a dead Common Raven dangling in a not too distant tree near the highway had been shot during this

period.

Upon our arrival at nest A on June 8 at 5:30 p.m. we found the surviving nestling standing up, apparently in good condition. As we approached the nest tree and made ourselves comfortable to wait for the male to arrive, the nestling gave the food-begging call of a young owl: low chattering notes or **Twittering**. The female was perched nearby, at steady intervals softly calling **Whoop!** After we settled down, the female flew to the nest, whereupon the owlet increased its rate of **Twittering** and then uttered the hunger call given by older young, a loud, strident **Shreek!** The female soon settled down, brooded the nestling and ceased calling. A few minutes later she softly called **Whoop!** a few times. Twice she suddenly left the nest, each time more frequently calling **Whoop!** or **Who-oo!**

At times she gave an anxious **Shreek!**, her version of the food-begging call. Two and a half hours later, at 8:05 p.m., the male finally arrived and delivered a mouse. The female received the meadow vole and offered it to the nestling which gulped it down whole.

One of us then left the nest site to try and follow the male which had been at the nest for less than a minute. The male was found an hour later at 9:05 p.m. hunting actively in a cleared area, several hundred yards from the nest tree, moving perch to perch, scanning its surroundings hurriedly and apparently having difficulty finding prey. It was followed for 35 minutes, during which it continued to hunt, before it went out of sight. Thus, during a period of four hours the male brought one mouse to the nest.



Young Great Gray Owl about 22 days old, June 16, 1974. Photo from color transparency by Spencer G. Sealy.

We visited the nest for the last time on June 6 (1:40 to 3:00 p.m.) and banded the well-developed nestling. The female was aggressive and at times flew over us and perched nearby. The nestling also gave signs of aggression, sitting up high and clacking its bill. The size and vigor of the young owl on this date left little doubt in our minds that it would fledge successfully.

Observations made at an active Great Gray Owl nest 50 miles north in Manitoba in 1973 and 1974 showed that even when disturbed by observers this species will use a nest in successive years. Thus, there is some possibility that nest A will be occupied again.

During the past 4 years, 35 artificial nests were built in an effort to attract nesting Great Gray Owls. Since there is some risk in attracting owls to nests in locations vulnerable to gunners, considerable effort was taken to put nests in inconspicuous sites. Usually nests were installed where Great Gray Owls had been seen or heard. Nests were built in tamarack trees to facilitate climbing and construction. Also, nests are more conspicuous in these deciduous conifers in winter when owls presumably are searching for nest sites. Nests were built in trees at heights ranging from 15 to 35 feet and in suitable habitat. Construction varied with need; in many instances only natural materials were used, but often branches were wired together and bound to supporting limbs. In an ideal situation, that is, with a suitable natural cluster of supporting branches, a nest strong enough to hold a person could sometimes be built in half an hour. Most nests were built in win-

ter, occasionally at temperatures of more than 30 degrees below zero.

Our owl "nest-line" runs northwards from the U.S.-Canadian border for 60 miles. Within this region (and further north) there is a zone of almost continuous black spruce-tamarack bog interspersed with deciduous trees and bordered by clearings, some of which are cultivated. The main value of artificial nests is that they can be checked annually for possible occupancy of Great Gray Owls, thus affording further opportunity for study of the nesting habits of these interesting birds. Natural nests built by Common Ravens, Common Crows and hawks of several species are perhaps even more likely potential breeding sites, although such nests are sometimes difficult to find. In areas where natural nests are scarce, artificial nests may serve as an inducement to nesting Great Gray Owls. However, to date only three of our nests have been occupied, two by Red-tailed Hawks and one by Great Gray Owls.

Thanks are due the following persons for assistance in various ways: Elmer Fast, Raymond G. Hobbs, Dr. Michael Metcalf, Dalton Muir, Woody Nero, Clarence E. Nordstrom, Harold J. Oelslager, Robert R. Taylor, and Maurice Yaremchuk.

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\*546 Coventry Road; \*\*Zoology Department, University of Manitoba; \*\*\*Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature - Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA.

# THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

At the Fall Board Meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union (MOU) held at the Long Lake Conservation Center in Aitkin County, a new committee was formed called the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC). This sub-committee will be part of the Research and Records Committee which is headed by Jan Green. Bob Janssen will co-ordinate the sub-committee.

The duties of MORC are as follows:

1. Maintain the State List. This would include determinations as to Regular, Casual, Accidental or Hypothetical status.
2. Review reports of rare species or those new to the state and decide on the acceptability of these records.
3. To maintain records.
4. To educate birders in methods of keeping records on rare species by use of a standardized form.

Members of the sub-committee are:

Dr. Harrison Tordoff  
Janet C. Green  
William R. Pieper  
Kim Eckert  
Paul Egeland  
Robert B. Janssen

The first work of the sub-committee was the review of the records on two Prairie Falcons and the Rufous Hummingbird. All three records were accepted by sub-committee members. These records are published in the Notes of Interest section of this issue.

Most of the work of the sub-committee will be done by mail. Several face to face meetings of members will be held during the year.

Participation by members of the MOU is encouraged and needed by the sub-committee. Your suggestions for methods for handling records, new committee members, etc., are most welcome.

Bob Janssen

## COLOR-MARKED EAGLES

L. D. Frenzel and Graduate Students from the University of Minnesota have again color-marked immature Bald Eagles in conjunction with studies on the Chippewa National Forest. Individual birds have been color-coded by markings on one wing with non-toxic plastic paint. Assistance is requested in reporting findings of these or any other color-marked birds via Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or by calling Dr. Frenzel at (612) 373-1715. Date, location, color combination and wing so marked are the items of information that are important.

Assistance in this matter is appreciated.

# notes of interest

**PROBABLE RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** — Editor's Note: The following report of a probable Rufous Hummingbird occurring near Grand Rapids, is one of the most exciting Minnesota records in recent years. The Rufous Hummingbird is the common breeding "hummer" of the Northwest, Washington and Oregon, and western Canada. It is an abundant migrant across the western part of the United States and is a casual or accidental fall migrant east to Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida. The following excellent details received from Ms. Wachsberger are sufficient to add the species to the hypothetical list of Minnesota birds.

Observation: August 4, 1974, approximately 9 a.m., Itasca County Range 28, Goodhope Township, Section 16, SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{2}$ , private road. Bright day, but road and birds shaded by heavy woods to east and south. I was walking toward the northeast when I heard hummingbirds in flight. The rhythms suggested display flights, so with the thought "late in the season for mating — do they have a late brood?" I looked for the source. I first saw the female Ruby-throat, somewhat to my left. She was making angular flights, with frequent pauses to probe at twigs and knots, hovering. When she perched, she would preen hastily, then jump up and pick at another twig. To my left appeared a presumptive male, but, **not** a Ruby-throat. He was approximately 30% bulkier, and his flight sound was deeper and buzzy. Also, instead of the pendulum flight of the Ruby-throat, he flew complete oval loops. At various points in the figure, he would hover, and I had a strong impression of a "figure eight" wingbeat, and of a broad round tail. The wings were proportionally long and "falcon" type, as opposed to the "accipiter" shape of the Ruby-throat. The impressions of wing and tail shape were confirmed when he perched. At no time did the sun strike either bird, so I could not observe iridescence, but, a broad dark collar (on the larger bird) suggested that it should flash. Otherwise, the bird was bright red-brown (like a thrasher) above, with darker olive to green wings. The underparts were similarly colored, fading to cream toward the collar and around the vent. When I had watched them for about four minutes, at a distance of six feet much of the time, they darted away in opposite directions. I believe I saw a Rufous Hummingbird.

After receiving the above information, I wrote to Ms. Wachsberger concerning the wing shape on both birds which I thought to be somewhat confusing. The following reply was received. Editor

I appreciate the point of the wing shape. I might have chosen more exact analogies, and perhaps my sight of Ruby-throats is influenced by the sound and reflection that they are almost as implausible as bumblebees. Let me try another way. Consider the wing as a spread hand — in the Ruby-throat the outline suggests a longer second finger, as the normal human pattern. The "rufous" I saw had a long first "finger", giving a spiky effect when he folded his wings. In flight, the outline of the primaries was that of a flattish reflex bow. At the top of the wingbeat there appeared to be rather extreme extension up and forward from the shoulder. The angle of

the wrist remained quite sharp. Knowing that I cannot draw, I attempt as I watch an unknown bird or animal to verbalize what I observe. Sometimes my language is too private. When consultation of the book **Birds of North America** pointed to a Rufous Hummingbird, I first thought it too unlikely to report. However, Dr. A. Bolz insisted that I should. Dr. Bolz asked me to alert him to a further sighting, that he might come with camera. Alas, I have been unable to return to the spot. Last weekend I went to the cabin, but, it poured rain all the time. (The "private road" of the report leads to a family cabin). I had thought to at least photograph the spot in similar light conditions. I wish I could add more details, but, unless in answer to specific queries, doubt I could. There is no point in embroidering. **Elizabeth M. Wachsberger, 523 Fourth Avenue East, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744.**

**A PRAIRIE FALCON IN ANOKA COUNTY** — On September 4, 1974, Gary Wynia and I observed a Prairie Falcon at Carlos Avery Refuge, Anoka County. I am confident of the identification, since there were excellent conditions for observation, and since I have seen peregrines a number of times, and have seen the Prairie Falcon once before. When I first saw the bird it was sitting in a naked tree about 40 yards from me, with its back to me. I had the sun at my back. The bird was a medium-sized hawk, with a generally grayish cast. Mainly because I was seeing it from the rear while it looked over its shoulder at me, but, also perhaps because at that range, using a 25X scope, I had considerable magnification, the thing that struck me most about the bird was its face markings. The most distinct mark was a clear white eye-stripe, similar to that of a Goshawk. (In fact, until it flew the only thing I could think of was that it might be an odd Goshawk, though it did not sit at all like an accipiter.) Besides the eye-stripe it had two or three vaguely defined, vertical gray marks on its cheeks. When some Common Crows made the bird take wing, I saw immediately that it was a large falcon, about the size of a peregrine. (I had not thought of a falcon before it flew. It was not sitting in the posture that I associate with peregrines.) It was a dashing flyer, and swept down over a nearby pond, putting up a flock of yellowlegs, before it flew on out of sight. As it went over the pond, I saw the black "armpit" marks, and I was sure then that it was a Prairie Falcon. Upon returning to my car, and consulting a field guide, I found that the odd face markings which I had noted fit with the Prairie Falcon, and that confirmed me in my identification. **W. Phillips Shively, 1572 Northrop Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.**

**PRAIRIE FALCON** — On August 6, 1974, while birding along the old, old, North Shore road, I saw a large falcon flying toward me. The bird was no more than ten feet above the gravel road. There were two Tree Swallows, one American Robin, one Purple Martin, and five American Kestrels diving at and about the bird. It was beating its wings constantly, and flying at great speed. I barely had time to pull over and stop the car. The moustaches were clearly visible, as the bird came head on, the overall coloring was a rich brown, so I thought it to be an immature Peregrine Falcon. I couldn't take my eyes off the bird, but reached for my binoculars with one hand, and the camera with the other. The binoculars would have been a hindrance, as the bird had to gain altitude to pass up and over the car, and cleared it by ten feet. There was no chance for a photograph. As it passed overhead, I could see the light underwings, the light breast with vertical streakings, and finally, the black axillars, which were very apparent to the naked eye, at such close range. Only then, was I convinced that I had seen my first

Prairie Falcon in Minnesota. We saw two in Saskatchewan, two years ago. After the bird passed over the car, it skimmed along the road once more. I turned the car around, and literally "flew" to try and catch it. I passed a man in a grader, and looking through the rear view mirror, I'm afraid I left him in a huge cloud of dust. At sixty miles per hour, it took two miles to catch the falcon, only to have it veer off toward the expressway. The back of the bird was a soft brown, flecked with light brown, and looked very much like a peregrine in profile. I watched it, going away from me, through 8 X 40 Trinovids, and even without sunlight, this bird was much lighter in color than the peregrines that have passed over Hawk Ridge. I would like to have had more time to record additional field marks, but it all happened so fast, that I was content just to have been in the right place at the right time, to enable me to see the diagnostic black axillars of the Prairie Falcon.  
**Marjorie M. Carr, 1834 Vermilion Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55803.**

**STATUS OF THE TRUMPETER SWAN IN MINNESOTA** — References to the Carver Park Reserve Trumpeter Swan flock in recent editions of "The Loon" have led me to believe that there is some confusion regarding the status of the swans in the Park Reserves. Most recently K. R. Eckert referred to the six wintering birds at Carver Park Reserve. The swans have been included in the past two years' Christmas counts. In both cases the inference is that this is a free-flying flock of birds, which is not true. During the first few years of our restoration efforts we allowed swans to fly out of the Sunny Lake Refuge, but it soon became apparent that this method of restoration would not be successful. We have subsequently changed our entire program. The remainder of the original flock was rendered flightless and maintained as a breeding nucleus to provide the birds for later releases. Pairs of offspring will be released on selected marshes when they have reached breeding age (three years). Releases will be made in early spring. If they nest successfully they will be allowed to go free. If not, they will be kept for a second trial the following year. None of our young birds will be ready for release until the spring of 1976. We have no intentions of allowing our birds to regain flight before this date, although we have failed to catch and clip some birds in the past. There are now 18 Trumpeter Swans within the Park Reserve District including eight juvenile birds. The six swans at Sunny Lake represent three adult pairs, one of which has just reached sexual maturity. They are all kept for breeding purposes, and the eggs or young birds will be removed each year to prevent overcrowding during the nesting season. Since the swans at Carver Park Reserve are flightless (We failed to catch one this summer, so it can fly.) and are enclosed by a 6-foot fence, I do not feel they should be included in the Christmas Bird Counts. I would also appreciate any future references to the swans to include the entire flock of the Hennepin County Park Reserve District and not just those at Sunny Lake. I hope this letter will remove any confusion that may have existed about our flock of Trumpeter Swans. **L. N. Gillette, Wildlife Biologist, Hennepin County Park Reserve, Route 1, Box 32, Maple Plain, Minnesota 55359.**

**BLACK-HOODED PARAKEETS IN MINNEAPOLIS** — During the week of June 2, 1974 a pair of Black-hooded Parakeets were reported from the Bryn Mawr section of Minneapolis. On June 7, I received a call from Ray Glassel informing me that he had just seen the birds. I went over to the area

at 1:30 P.M. The place where the birds were being seen was along the north side of Highway 12 where there is a park like area and several baseball diamonds. After looking for about 15 minutes, I spotted the pair of birds feeding in the grass on one of the baseball fields. The birds were spectacular in plumage and were exactly like those pictured on page 51 of the May 1974 issue of Audubon Magazine (Vol. 76 No. 3). They fed on the ground till I flushed them. They flew and perched in a nearby tree. Later they circled the baseball field and again landed on the ground. While they flew they uttered a harsh, noisy call. Several weeks later I saw the pair of birds fly over the highway in the area of the baseball fields. How long after this they remained in the area I do not know. The issue of Audubon Magazine, mentioned above, stated that "flocks of between 20 and 200 Black-hooded Parakeets in the vicinity of Detroit, (Michigan) and Windsor, Ontario (p. 54). Where the pair in Minneapolis came from will probably never be known.  
**Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**IMMATURE EAGLE MOVEMENT** — An unusual Bald Eagle nest destruction and banding observation occurred recently on the Superior National Forest. For the past ten years the Forest has included eagle nest #L70 in the annual spring and summer eagle census. A Mr. R. Butler of Duluth, who has a cabin near this nest, has also observed and recorded the eagle activity at this nest on a weekly or semi-weekly basis for approximately the same 10 year period. During the 1974 nesting season two young eagles were successfully raised at the nest. In mid-October, Mr. R. Butler contacted me concerning this nest. After watching the eagle activity at this nest all summer, his last visit in September revealed that the nest was destroyed and the two immature eagles at the nest were banded. Bands were observed on both legs of the two immature eagles. Our first impressions were that someone had climbed the white pine nest tree, banded the birds and in the process destroyed the nest. Mr. Butler noted that the immature eagles were not banded prior to September nor did the nest tree have any marks indicating climbing talons were used. The Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife, and the Minnesota DNR did not issue Bald Eagle banding permits for nests on the Superior National Forest in 1974. Applications for eagle banding permits are closely scrutinized. It would also seem impossible for an amateur bander to capture these immature eagles either in the nest or on the ground once they have fledged. I contacted J. Mathisen, D. Frenzel, C. Sindalar and A. Grewe, the eagle experts in the Lake States, to try and determine how these eagles were banded. We believe the nest could have been destroyed in early September when high winds did destroy several eagle nests on the adjacent Chippewa National Forest. All four individuals agreed that only C. Sindalar banded both legs of eagles. Since Sindalar banded 94 of the 106 known eaglets in Wisconsin this year, two of his birds were evidently present at this nest. The resident immatures must have moved to another location. Recent research by all four individuals indicates that there is considerable movement of immature eagles between territories once they fledge. Immatures are readily accepted and cared for by the resident adult eagles. Sindalar believes it is quite unusual for two of the Wisconsin birds to be at this nest. Very little is known of immature pair bonds. This is only a hypothesis of what could have occurred at nest #L70. However, it is the only logical explanation. Hopefully this account will serve for documentation of acceptance of transient immatures by resident adults. **Karl Siderits, Wildlife Biologist, Superior National Forest, P.O. Box 338, Duluth, Minnesota 55801.**



**FEMALE BURROWING OWL ON HAY BALE NEAR BURROW**  
photo - Jim Brandenburg

During the Summer of 1974 a pair of Burrowing Owls nested one mile west of the Indian Petroglyphs near Jeffers in Cottonwood County. Four young were reported raised in the burrow. A photo story about this particular bird appeared in the Worthington newspaper. Editor

### **POSSIBLE NESTING OF SWAINSON'S HAWK IN STEELE COUNTY —**

On April 27, 1974 at about 2:00 P.M. my wife and I were driving one mile northeast of Owatonna when we saw two hawks perched in a grove of trees adjacent to the road. The two hawks appeared to be Swainson's Hawks (light phase) and further identification with a 20x spotting scope and a 400 mm lens verified this fact. We watched the hawks for approximately 30 minutes and during this time observed one of the hawks fly into a stick nest 15 to 20 feet high in an oak tree. When we left the hawks were still perched in the small woods. As we now live in St. Paul, we do not often return to our home town of Owatonna and so did not see the hawks again until July 12. We first saw a hawk gliding in the general area in which we had seen the first two Swainson's. We had considerable difficulty keeping the hawk in sight but after 30 minutes we finally identified the hawk as a Swainson's, again using a 20x spotting scope and photos taken with a 400 mm lens for future reference. We then spotted a second Swainson's Hawk gliding on the other side of the road. Both hawks appeared to be hunting and we observed one aborted dive and one complete but unsuccessful dive. The nest we had seen earlier was, by now, obscured by leaves, and knowing that hawks are touchy about nest disturbance we did not want to take any chances on the hawks deserting if they were nesting. We, therefore, do not know if the hawks did nest. In as much as the hawks were in the same area as the first pair we saw, we believe these were the same hawks, and that they did spend the summer in the area. The hawks were never seen by us after July 12. Roberts (*Birds of Minnesota*, Vol. 1, page 323) says the following about the occurrence of Swainson's Hawks in Eastern Minnesota, "... so far as known at present only an irregular spring and fall migrant in the eastern part, if it occurs there at all." He also states that spring migration occurs in April and fall migration in September. Using these guidelines the only summer records of Swainson's in eastern Minnesota are two sightings recorded in the Loon 46(1): 19 on 6/17/73 in Dodge county and another in Olmsted county on 7/24/73. Records also exist further north in Goodhue and Dakota county in the southeastern part of the state. These two records indicate that Swainson's hawks do summer in southeastern Minnesota and may nest there. Our sighting is the first we know of in Steele County and supplies more evidence that these hawks are, in fact, summer residents in this part of the state. **Jimmy and Linda Pichner, 2255 North Snelling, Apt. 106, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113.**

**FALL WORM-EATING WARBLER —** Robert Janssen's note about the Worm-eating Warbler in Volume 46, No. 1 of *The Loon* prompts me to write about a sighting I had on August 26, 1973, which I thought was of that species. At about 11 A.M. on that date I was birding in the Roberts Sanctuary in Minneapolis. I was on the main path watching some warblers in the bushes on the south side of the path about twenty yards west of "Bird Feeder Knoll". As I watched a warbler-sized bird landed on a branch about 15 feet from me. It was on eye level with its head facing me. I could see the head and back but not the breast and underparts. The bird had what I would call a "warbler" beak. The head was striped and the back an olive color. The dark head stripes were more brown than black but they contrasted distinctly with the rest of the head which was tan. There were no wing bars. The bird remained perched for only about ten seconds and then disappeared into the undergrowth. I was unable to locate it again. My impres-

sion was that I had seen a Worm-eating Warbler, but the total absence at that time of any fall sightings in Minnesota made me doubtful. I can be positive that this bird was a warbler and not a White-throated Sparrow or any other species of sparrow. The bird's head showed a definite median line. I've never seen a "confusing fall warbler" like this bird before and the only bird illustration like it is that of a Worm-eating Warbler. **Charles L. Horn, Jr., 5100 Juanita Av., Edina, Minnesota 55424.**

**HENNEPIN COUNTY WOODCOCK REPORTS** — We have seen American Woodcocks in both Baker and Elm Creek Park Reserves. In mid-May Ed Sorgatz, the Park Manager of Baker Park Reserve saw a female with four young cross his driveway, which is located along Half Moon Creek in Baker Park Reserve. In mid-July I flushed one bird from the edge of a tamarack stand located just north of Sorgatz's and on August 23 I flushed two Woodcock from a small aspen stand in the southern portion of the Park Reserve. Two Woodcock were flushed on three separate occasions on August 19, and August 20, 1974 in lowland willow, ash, and dogwood thickets on the east and south shores of Hayden Lake in Elm Park Reserve. These dates also represent the first times I visited these areas this year, so it is possible the birds inhabited the area all summer. **Larry Gillette, Wildlife Biologist, Hennepin County Park Reserve District, Route 1, Box 32, Maple Plain, Minnesota 55359.**

Editor's Note: The American Woodcock is a regular spring and fall migrant in Hennepin County, but, in recent years it is not known to occur during the breeding season. The above reports would indicate that it is benefiting from the Hennepin County Park system.

**CINNAMON TEAL IN YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY** — On August 17, 1974, Paul Egeland, Ray Glassel, and I were birding in western Minnesota. One of our usual stops is a small lake in southern Yellow Medicine County named Tyson Lake. This lake is particularly good for shorebirds, and waterfowl during the migration season. On this date there were many ducks present, especially Blue-winged Teal. Paul was the first to note an unusually plumaged small duck that at first none of us could identify. The bird was loafing along the shore of the lake, but, almost immediately after we saw it, it swam out into the middle of the lake. It was accompanied by three other teal, all of which were in fall plumage. The four birds remained very close together throughout the time we observed them, which was over an hour. A description of the one bird which we identified as a Cinnamon Teal is as follows: Head and neck were a reddish-cinnamon color. An outstanding feature of the head was a bright gold or yellow eye. The back of the bird, as it swam on the water, was a non-descript gray-brown. As the bird preened it occasionally showed a light under belly. While the bird was under observation it raised up and flapped its wings on only two or three occasions. Because the bird was facing toward us at these times it was difficult to determine the color on the wings. All of us felt the blue speculum was present. It was impossible to tell if any of the other three birds were female or young Cinnamon Teal. It was interesting to note that on occasion the Cinnamon Teal was mildly antagonistic to one of the other birds. He would lower his head to the water and gently pursue the bird for a second or two. Again it was impossible to tell if this antagonism was directed to the same bird at all times. There are 25 total records (including this one) for the Cinnamon Teal in Minnesota. Three-fourths of these records are for the spring. There are no summer records, the previous earliest date being August 27.

Thus, this August 17 record is the earliest fall date for the species in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**A NEW AREA FOR YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS** — I flushed the two Yellow-crowned Night Herons from the swampy edge of a small lake about 9:00 a.m. on June 11, 1974. The lake is near St. John's in Stearns County. One of the birds was an immature and it flew up into a tree about 50 feet from me while the adult flew about a 100 feet before it lit in a tree. Foliage hid most of the adult, but, I could see its head and breast clearly. The white patch on the side of the head, the white crown, and the gray breast were clearly visible. Believe it or not, the forehead even had a yellowish cast to it. The sun was to my back, and I had 7x35 binoculars. I had a closer and more open view of the immature, but, of course distinctive characters are not so evident. I examined the bird carefully — about five minutes — and then checked Peterson as soon as I got back to my office. The only thing I noted mentioned there was the shorter, thicker bill — it was a quite thick bill. Since it had been sitting with the adult before I flushed them, I'm fairly confident of the identification. I have seen adults and immatures in Kansas, but, that was over 15 years ago. No other observers saw the birds, but Ed Hibbard and Bob Russell (both good birders) saw an adult here in May of 1963 and 1964. I suspect the birds nest here, but, the vegetation is so thick I was unable to check even a fraction of the trees. I plan to start watching the area early next spring and hopefully find the nest before the leaves get too thick. **Norman L. Ford, Department of Biology, St. Johns University, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321.**

**A LATE RECORD FOR THE WESTERN GREBE** — This observation was made by me and my wife, Mary Ann, both in the morning and afternoon of December 22, 1973, in the Otter Tail River, Otter Tail County. This section of the river, locally known as the "levee", in Fergus Falls has open water during the winter due to the warm water discharge of the local power plant. Our distance of observation was no greater than twenty yards and several times the bird expanded its wings so that all markings were clearly seen. To my great disappointment, however; I had planned to go to the river the following day to try and get some pictures, but, this was fruitless because of a great change in air temperature and the levee area was completely covered with fog. This lasted for three days and since I left town for the Christmas Holidays I could no longer try to photograph the bird. This stretch of the river, as it passes through the city, is about two miles long and has provided us with a wonderful summer and winter waterfowl sighting area for many years. The local Fish and Game Club has established a fine breeding area for ducks (Mallards) and Canada Geese in the area, and they have been almost too successful since there are home owners in town who really are bothered by the birds. It's quite a sight to have Canada Geese nesting and bringing 9 to 12 goslings practically in your front yard. **Paul W. Anderson, 414 East Lakeside Drive, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537.**

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE NESTING IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY** — Previous nesting records for the Black-billed Magpie in Minnesota have come from the northwestern part of the state in either Clay (LOON 45: 121-123) or Marshall counties. M.O.U. member Miles Holets of Meadowlands, St. Louis county informed Janet C. Green that magpies nested in the vicinity of Meadowlands during the summer of 1974. The area where the birds nested

was approximately two miles north of Meadowlands on the farm of Martin Watsula. The birds began nesting in very early spring. The nest was located 12 feet up in a balsam, about 75 feet from one of the farm buildings. Later several young were seen along and landing on the road. Magpies have been observed in the area during past years; the birds began building a nest, but, it did not appear that they raised any young. Mr. Holets also reported that about 1971 a magpie was caught in a small animal trap in the same general area. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER NESTING AT VASA** — The Vasa area of Goodhue County along Bell Creek is an excellent area for birding. On June 1, 1974, Paul Egeland and I were in the area searching for Blue-winged and Cerulean Warblers. As we walked along toward the creek we heard a sharp call note and then noted a small empidonax type flycatcher. As we approached closer the bird became very agitated and began giving a sharp explosive call which sounded like the peet-suh call described in Robbins Field Guide. We saw the bird at very close range and noted the rather large size, (larger than a Least) white wing bars and heavy billed appearance. Nearby was another bird carrying nesting material. We assumed this to be the female. She immediately flew to a partially constructed nest. The other bird, presumably the male circled around us giving his explosive call in a very agitated manner. This is the most northerly observation of the Acadian Flycatcher in Minnesota and only the second known nesting area. The acadian has been recorded nesting since 1966 in Houston County at Beaver Creek State Park. During 1973, Brother Theodore recorded the Acadian Flycatcher near Winona in July, but, did not find a nest. It would appear that this species is expanding its range northward in the state. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**A SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN EDINA** — After completing my Breeding Bird Census on June 27, 1974, I decided to stop at the Southdale Shopping Center on my way home. I was heading north on France Avenue when I noticed a bird over the Byerly's Store parking lot. I was approximately 100 yards from the bird, but, I noticed immediately that it was something different. It was cuckoo or magpie like in appearance. The bird was about 30 feet in the air and headed directly for me — in a few seconds it passed directly over the car. I couldn't stop because of the traffic, but, I got a good look at the bird. The following is a description: Size about 12 inches or slightly more, of which 6 or more inches was tail — a long flowing tail, split up the center about half way. I could not distinguish much coloration only light below and darker above. As it passed over, my immediate reaction was that of a "thin" kingbird with a long tail. My first Minnesota Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The bird passed over to the southwest heading for a large area of apartments. I turned around within a few seconds and spent the next 45 minutes combing the area between France and Normandale Avenues, but, I did not see the bird again. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**RING-BILLED GULL NESTING AT THE PORT TERMINAL, DULUTH** — The Ring-billed Gull has always been a rare breeding species in Minnesota. It was not till 1963 that the first documented record of its nesting in the state was obtained from Mille Lacs Lake (**The LOON** 36:133). During 1973 unsuccessful nesting was reported near the taconite loading docks in Duluth

harbor by Janet C. Green. On June 23, 1974, I had occasion to stop at the Port Terminal in Duluth to observe the nesting Common Terns and Piping Plovers. There were a number of Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls loafing on the sand. As I approached a single Ring-billed Gull took flight from a grassy area and circled over my head, calling in a very agitated manner. I searched the grassy area from which the gull took off and discovered a nest with two eggs. I left the area, but, watched the gull and it soon landed near the nest and within a few minutes it was back on the nest incubating the eggs. After a short while I searched the surrounding area, but, could not find any other nests of this species. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**NESTING BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** — One of the thrills of the 1974 MOU spring field trip was the finding of two nests of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker near the Isabella Environmental Learning Center in Lake County. About four o'clock on a warm, sunny June 22nd, while walking the trail to the east of FR#177 just north of the Little Isabella River, we encountered a cut and burned area about a half mile along the way; here we heard the sound of young birds and stopped to learn more. At first we thought the sound was coming from a close location, but then an adult woodpecker flew to a tree about 300 feet to the right of the trail, and as the bird sat at the hole the noise of the young birds increased in volume and we knew that was the source of the original sound. This tree was out in the middle of the burned area where there were a few scattered trees still standing upright. Our group, consisting of Don and Shirley Bolduc, Bill and Arlene Bryson, Gwen Mosborg, Paula Fluck, Eileen Bartels, Edith Grace Quam, Pat Leacock and ourselves, stayed about twenty minutes to await the return of the adult. We grouped about 45 feet from the tree, in some thin shade, and swatted mosquitoes while we watched a young bird peering out the hole about 25 feet up. Finally the adult male came and fed the young and left, then the female came, too. The female stayed around the nest longer than the male and when she left she flew to a nearby dead tree and did some drumming. After the adults left a young bird again appeared in the nest opening, and it seemed to be a different bird. The young always had a small yellow patch on the front of the head. Since it was nearing dinner time, we decided to leave and all but Bill Bryson, Pat Leacock and Jerry Gresser went to the Center. These three then found a second nest about 400 feet along the trail as they came out toward #177. The setting was about the same — an individual tree among widely scattered trees standing in the middle of a cut area with very little underbrush. This nest also appeared to have more than one young and both male and female adults came to feed. The sharp "pic" note drew attention to the young and adults. These two nests were seen later that weekend by many MOU people and the photographers had a field day with the cooperative birds. **Jerome and Karol Gresser, 8850 Goodrich Ave., Bloomington, Minnesota 55437.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Book of Owls** by Louis Wayne Walker, A. E. Knopf, Publ., New York, 1974, 256 pp., \$12.50.

A book describing the natural history of owls has all the potential of being a single-minded and drab collection of treatises of interest only to single-minded and drab persons. Louis Walker has avoided this trap. He's done it by injecting personal observations from a lifetime fascination by owls into his writing. The drab facts are still here but they are well surrounded by lively anecdotal information about 13 species of owls. This is a fresh, colorful, informative work of value to anyone with a general interest in the natural world. Any person who has responded to life and living things will feel Walker's same response. To the uninitiate, it should spark some response.

The book is well illustrated by a carefully selected set of top-notch black and white photos. I have no way of knowing if the decision to avoid color was for this reason, but its appropriate that these largely nocturnal photos should appear in an after-dark color scheme.

Mr. Walker's knowledge is obviously based primarily on his experiences in the east and the southwest. Some of the statements relevant to Minnesota's owls, especially the rare Great Gray, have a fairly dated ring. Recent reports from exploration in northwestern Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba do not support the statements of extreme rarity implied in the text. The same extends to the questionable scarcity of photos of Great Grays which is advanced as the reason for using Lapp Owls (a similar European species) for illustration. (See article in this issue on Great Gray Owls). I know pictures have been taken in Minnesota and suspect that some from Manitoba are also about.

All in all you should read this book. It will present some new information to nearly everyone, should capture the interest of any serious birder, and offers excellent supporting photography of owls in action.

— Jack Mauritz

**Beyond the North Wind** by Joseph James Shomon, A. S. Barnes & Co., Inc., Cranbury, N.J. 08512, 166 pp., \$10.00.

It seems every naturalist must have an overriding love affair with some part of the world. Muir's mountain or Thoreau's pond, all naturalists form a special bond with that place which fills their voids. Perhaps that's why they're naturalists in the first place. A person who is not made more complete by some place in or some special function of the natural world may not be able to generate the enthusiasm for nature that leads one to this profession. Shomon is a naturalist and his bag is obviously the far north. Tundra, and, to a lesser extent, Taiga, appear to provide for him that mixture of mystery to captivate and esthetic beauty to satisfy that rewards a naturalist.

Joseph Shomon's knowledge and experience are revealed in his work. He has visited the high Arctic and has gained knowledge worth sharing. His grasp of basic ecological systems forms a connective thread tying some quite unrelated chapters together. A series of widely diverse remembrances of trips, over some spread in time, gain coherence in the whole. The man's interest in an overall description of the Arctic is projected well enough to relate these separated elements.

This is an honest book. Dr. Shomon does not present himself as the all-wise and knowledgeable wilderness expert. In fact, in one of the segments notable to me, he presents a revealing

picture of a man whose curiosity leads him into a situation far riskier than he finds comfortable. On a lone bivouac in search of polar bears, he sets up a remote camp. Unarmed and in a tent, he's unable to sleep because of his precarious feelings. He creates some mental protections from a couple of rusty traps and a club that certainly offer no physical protections if a bear should appear. However, he admits to fooling himself well enough to sleep! A slayer of man eaters, he's not! A naturalist, trying to describe some of what he's found most interesting, he is.

I found several typo or printing errors, more than customary. The photos, though of interest, are neither that decorative nor that pertinent to the text as to add greatly to the book. I've a feeling that Shomon was much more of a fisherman in his earlier visits, hence the many pictures of him in that situation. I had the uneasy notion that many of the black and white pictures were intended for a hunting and fishing magazine article rather than for his book. Two sets of good quality color plates ease some of this feeling, (only one's a fishing shot!) and one, of the tundra near Churchill, is really lovely.

All in all, the book is a revealing look at some unusual country through the eyes of a knowledgeable man. It also is a look at the man . . . to add interest!

— Jack Mauritz

**A Voice for Wildlife**, A Call For A New Ethic In Conservation. Victor B. Scheffer. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1974. 239 pages. With decorations by Ugo Mochi. \$8.95.

In his introduction, the author states his intention ". . . to show not that a particular use (for wildlife) is intrinsically right or wrong, but that some uses fit better than others into the new morality."

He sets the tone here for the rest of the book. A tone of advocacy with-

out harangue. While he is not afraid to question, or to criticize, he does so without malice. His efforts are toward not castigating, or humiliating the 'old conservationists', but rather, giving them reason to rethink and recalculate the ethic of man toward wildlife.

The book is broken into three sections, with reference notes, suggestions for further reading and an index arranged at the back of the book. The first section, entitled 'Confrontation Between People and Wildlife', discusses the way people use wildlife. Discussed are sport hunting, trapping, scientific collection, sealing, introduction of exotics, the problem of wildlife pests, and 'bird and beast watching'. In each chapter the justifications and explanations of the uses are explained from the 'old conservationist' viewpoint, intermixed with this are the counterpoint ideas of the 'new conservationists' and the rationale for them. I would note that Dr. Scheffer is careful to point out that the 'new conservationists' and their 'new morality' are not confined to youth. He notes that these ideas and many of their champions have been about for many years.

Birders will take pride in being one of the few groups of users of wildlife who are acting within the new ethic. Though we are prodded to remember that even the observer can be harmful to wildlife and its habitats, and we are urged to carefulness.

The middle section, 'Wildlife Management and How It Works', is succinctly described by a chart on page 139. LEARNING ABOUT WILDLIFE and LEARNING ABOUT PEOPLE are the input factors into the center box, AN ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE. From this core, DEALING WITH WILDLIFE and DEALING WITH PEOPLE feed out.

Under chapter headings of these five components the methodology of wildlife management is explained. The wildlife manager will be disappointed by the simplicity, but the general reader will find it sufficient. Here, as in the first section, Dr. Scheffer takes

the opportunity to point out discrepancies between the old order of thought and the new, rapidly emerging ethic for wildlife.

It is in the final, and shortest, section that the heart of the book is exposed. 'An Ethic Toward Wildlife' traces the sources of this 'new' conservation credo and describes how it is and will be put into motion. It is here that Dr. Scheffer's strongest advocacy is dealt. Still, he is not the rabble rouser, but instead, the philosopher, who attempts to see the changes of the future and who predicts a plausible course for the new ethic.

It is a book mostly for the professional biologist or manager. It is a call to them to reevaluate the very dogmas of wildlife management. Scheffer sees the goal of "maximum sustainable yield . . ." and the slogan of ". . . conservation through use" as "not wrong

but incomplete." (page 217)

For the hunter the book is neither outright condemnation of his sport, nor eloquent justification of it. It is a call to reconsider, to bring to hunting an ethic that is all too often lacking.

To the bird watcher it is a quiet reaffirmation of his/her 'new morality' use of wildlife. An opportunity to renew and strengthen their dedication to wildlife.

To those of us who are all three it is a challenge to develop an ethic for ourselves and for wildlife.

To any who read it the book is informative, entertaining, and thought provoking. It is a call for more democracy in dealing with wildlife and wildlife problems. Most of all, and I cannot resist the temptation, it is A Voice For Wildlife.

Mark R. Ryan  
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# INDEX TO VOLUME 46

- Anderson, Paul W., a late record for the Western Grebe, 174
- Ani,  
Groove-billed, 34, 93  
Smooth-billed, 34, 92-93
- Avocet, American, 15, 20, 143, 150
- Beroo, Clarence, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Hubbard County, 121
- Berosterf, Barbara and Gerald J. Niemi, a comparison of two breeding bird censuses following the Little Sioux Forest fire, 28-33
- Bilder, Robert M., concentration of wintering cowbirds, 89
- Birnev, Elmer C., twentieth century records of Wolverine in Minnesota, 78-81
- Bittern,  
American, 17, 61, 104, 105, 145  
Least, 17, 61, 145
- Blackbird, 60, 125  
Brewer's, 10, 25, 70, 77, 110, 157  
Red-winged, 14, 25, 51, 70, 77, 91, 110, 157  
Rusty, 14, 25, 60, 70, 77, 110, 157  
Yellow-headed, 11, 14, 25, 51, 70, 91, 105, 110, 157
- Bluebird,  
Eastern, 14, 23, 68, 73, 110, 118, 119, 154  
Mountain, 118-119, 120, 143, 154
- Bobolink, 24, 51, 70, 125, 157
- Bobwhite, 6, 13, 19, 58, 64, 94
- Brant, 33-34, 35, front cover No. 2, 58, 104, 105
- Bryson Bill, the president writes, 4, 51, 99, 135
- Bufflehead, 12, 18, 34, 62, 75, 106, 146
- Bunting,  
Indigo, 25, 27, 70, 116, 157  
Lark, 25  
Lazuli, 115-116, 144, 157  
Snow, 14, 71, 77, 111, 159
- Camobell Douglas, a very late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 39-40
- Canvasback, 12, 18, 58, 62, 75, 106, 146, 160
- Cardinal, 14, 25, 70, 77, 110, 157
- Carr, Marjorie M., the 1973 summer season, 16-27;  
Prairie Falcon, 168-169
- Catbird, 9, 10, 11  
Black, 9  
Gray, 9, 10, 13, 23, 27, 68, 153
- Chat, Yellow-breasted, 123, 144, 156
- Chickadee, 85, 86, 125  
Black-capped, 11, 13, 22, 67, 73, 74, 76, 83, 85-86, 109, 153  
Boreal, 13, 22, 67, 73, 76, 109, 153
- Chukar, 58, 64, 107
- Coot, American, 13, 19, 33, 64, 75, 107, 125, 128, 148
- Copland Herbert W. R., Robert W. Nero and Spencer G. Sealy, Great Gray Owls occupy artificial nest, 161-165
- Cormorant, Double-crested, 17, 60, 125, 144
- Cowbird, Brown-headed, 14, 25, 47, 70, 73, 89, 110, 128, 157
- Crane,  
Sandhill, 19, 59, 64, 127, 148  
Whooping, 127, 143, 148
- Creepers, Brown, 13, 22, 68, 76, 109, 125, 153
- Crossbill,  
Red, 14, 25, 36, 60, 70, 73, 77, 89, 105, 111, 158  
White-winged, 11, 14, 36, 60, 70, 77, 105, 111, 158
- Crow, Common, 11, 13, 22, 29, 67, 76, 90, 109, 119, 120, 123, 125, 153, 165, 168
- Cuckoo, 113, 114, 125, 175  
Black-billed, 21, 66, 113-114, 151  
Yellow-billed, 21, 66, 113-114, 151
- Dickcissel, 25, 51, 60, 70, 158
- Dipper, 35
- Dove, 125  
Mourning, 13, 21, 66, 76, 108, 151  
Rock, 108  
Ringed Turtle, 10
- Dowitcher, 15, 20, 59, 65, 150  
Long-billed, 65, 150  
Short-billed, 15, 20, 65, 150
- Duck, 15, 16, 34, 58, 90, 125, 129  
Black, 12, 18, 61, 73, 75, 105, 145  
Harlequin, 58, 62  
Rino-necked, 12, 18, 62, 75, 106, 146  
Ruddy, 18, 62, 146  
Wood, 7, 12, 18, 45, 51, 62, 75, 106, 146
- Dunlin, 16, 20, 59, 65, 150
- Eagle, 44, 90, 93, 166, 170  
Bald, 12, 19, 58, 63, 75, 89, 90, 107, 147, 166, 170  
Golden, 58, 63, 75, 107, 147
- Eckert, Kim, Say's Phoebe and Barn Owl observed in Rock County, 37-38; another Pomarine Jaeger observed near Duluth, 40-41; the winter season, Dec. 1973-Feb. 1974, 104-112; Mountain Bluebirds and Prairie Falcon in Rock County, 119-120; Henslow's Sparrow and Bell's Vireo in southwest Minnesota, 122-123; 185 species on May 1974 big day, 123-125; partial albino buteo in Yellow Medicine County, 126
- Egret,  
Cattle, 17, 27, 124, 143, 144  
Common, 9, 27  
Great, 9, 17, 58, 60, 127, 145
- Eider, King, 34, 35, 58
- Engelbreton, Mrs. A. M., Clark's Nutcracker record from Tracy, 86
- Erickson, Mr. Loren, Arctic Horned owl, 84
- Falcon, 120, 125, 168  
Peregrine, 27, 58, 63, 125-126, 147, 168, 169  
Prairie, 119-120, 143, 147, 166, 168, 169
- Falk, Carol J., possible Mountain Plover seen at Moorhead, 115; Lazuli Bunting in Moorhead, 115-116
- Finch, 36, 60, 125  
Gray-crowned Rosy, 82  
Purple, 14, 25, 29, 70, 77, 82, 111, 158
- Flicker,  
Common, 10, 13, 21, 29, 67, 84, 105, 108, 152  
Red-shafted, 9, 10, 73, 76, 84-85, 105, 108  
Yellow-shafted, 9, 10, 76, 84
- Flycatcher, 37, 125, 143, 152, 175  
Acadian, 22, 143, 152, 175  
Alder, 10, 143, 152  
Great Crested, 22, 59, 67, 152  
Least, 22, 28, 29, 31, 67, 152, 175  
Olive-sided, 22, 29, 67, 152  
Scissor-tailed, 59, 121, 143, 152, 175  
Traill's, 9, 10, 22, 27, 67  
Willow, 10, 43, 152  
Yellow-bellied, 22, 39-40, 67, 152
- Ford, Norman L., a new area for Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 174
- Gadwall, 12, 18, 58, 61, 75, 106, 145
- Gallinule, Common, 5, 19, 64, 148
- Gannet, 44
- Gardner, Dana, nesting Turkey Vultures in southeastern Minnesota, 102-103
- Gensmer, Arthur, loon at Pine River, 89
- Gillette, L. N., Status of the Trumpeter Swan in Minnesota, 169; Hennepin County Woodcock reports, 173
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, 23, 27, 68, 125, 154
- Godwit, 122  
Hudsonian, 20, 150  
Marbled, 20, 65, 121, 122, 150
- Goldberg, Maurey and Isabel, aggressive Mockingbird, 83-84
- Goldeneye,  
Barrow's, 104, 106, 121, 143, 146  
Common, 12, 18, 34, 62, 75, 106, 121, 146
- Goldfinch, American, 7, 14, 25, 70, 77, 82, 86, 111, 158
- Goose, 33, 124, 125, 129  
Blue, 9, 12, 61, 75, 124  
Canada, 12, 17, 33, 58, 61, 73, 75, 105, 124, 145, 174  
Snow, 9, 11, 12, 17, 61, 75, 105, 124, 127, 128, 129, 130, 145  
Ross', 128  
White-fronted, 11, 12, 58, 61, 105, 124, 145

- Goshawk, 12, 18, 39, 58, 63, 73, 75, 106, 147, 168  
 Grackle, Common, 14, 25, 29, 70, 77, 110, 157  
 Grebe, 15, 39, 125  
 Eared, 16, 17, 27, 58, 60, 124, 128, 144  
 Horned, 12, 17, 60, 75, 105, 128, 144  
 Pied-billed, 12, 17, 60, 73, 105, 144  
 Red-necked, 17, 60, 104, 105, 144  
 Western, 17, 27, 60, 124, 144, 174  
 Green, Janet C., Arctic Tern and Little Gull as migrants in Duluth, 52-57; Thayer's Gull and its status in Minnesota, 136-142.  
 Gregerson, Mrs. Jim, Black-headed Grosbeaks in Freeborn County, 116-117  
 Gresser, Jerome and Carol, nesting Black-backed Woodpecker, 176  
 Grosbeak, 117  
 Black-headed, 116-117, 144, 158  
 Blue, 38, 120-121, 144, 157  
 Evening, 11, 14, 25, 36, 70, 77, 86, 91, 105, 110, 158  
 Pine, 11, 14, 36, 60, 70, 77, 105, 111, 157  
 Rose-breasted, 25, 27, 28, 31, 70, 73, 116, 117, 157  
 Gross, LaMonte, smooth-billed Ani sighting, 34  
 Grouse, 58, 93, 94, 129  
 Ruffed, 12, 19, 28, 36, 58, 64, 75, 93-94, 107, 148  
 Sharp-tailed, 13, 19, 64, 73, 107, 148  
 Spruce, 36, 58, 64, 73, 75, 107, 148  
 Gull, 16, 40, 52, 53, 54, 59, 82, 104, 125, 176  
 Bonaparte's, 21, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 66, 108, 150, 176  
 Franklin's, 16, 21, 53, 54, 66, 150  
 Glaucous, 13, 53, 59, 66, 76, 83, 104, 107, 124, 137, 140, 150  
 Herring, 10, 13, 21, 40, 41, 52, 53, 54, 66, 76, 82, 90, 108, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 150, 176  
 Iceland, 16, 21, 136, 137, 140-151, 142  
 Kumlien's, 136, 137  
 Little, 52-57  
 Ring-billed, 21, 41, 52, 53, 54, 66, 108, 150, 175-176  
 Thayer's, 10, 16, 21, 82-83, 104, 108, 128, front cover No. 4, 136-142, 143, 150  
 Gyrfalcon, 58, 89-90, 104, 107  
 Haglund, Brent, winter record of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 86-87  
 Hawk, 16, 39, 42, 43, 58, 93, 119, 125, 126, 162, 165, 168, 172  
 Broad-winged, 7, 19, 29, 58, 63, 147  
 Cooper's, 12, 18, 43, 63, 75, 106, 147  
 Harlan's, 10  
 Marsh, 12, 16, 19, 42, 63, 75, 107, 147  
 Pigeon, 10  
 Red-shouldered, 12, 19, 27, 63, 75, 107, 143, 147  
 Red-tailed, 10, 12, 19, 63, 75, 106, 126, 147, 162, 163, 165  
 Rough-legged, 12, 63, 75, 107, 147  
 Sharp-shinned, 7, 12, 18, 58, 63, 75, 106, 147  
 Sparrow, 10, 75  
 Swainson's, 19, 63, 124, 147, 172  
 Heron, 58, 125, 143  
 Black-crowned Night, 11, 12, 17, 61, 145  
 Great Blue, 12, 17, 60, 73, 105, 127, 144  
 Green, 16, 17, 60, 144  
 Little Blue, 17, 58, 124, 125, 143, 144  
 Louisiana, 35  
 Yellow-crowned Night, 5, 17, 58, 61, 145, 174  
 Holm, Netter, Song Sparrow "enjoys" winter in Tracy, 90-91  
 Honetschlager, Dean, Gyrfalcon sighting, 89-90; Bald Eagle takes duck, 90  
 Horn, Charles L. Jr., fall Worm-eating Warbler, 172-173  
 Huber, Ronald L., comments on recent Smooth-billed Ani reports, 92-93; more Black-headed Grosbeak reports, 117; possible Whooping Crane in Washington County, 127; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Washington County, 127  
 Hummingbird, 92, 125  
 Ruby-throated, 21, 66, 91-92, 151, 167  
 Rufous, 166, 167-168  
 Ivanovs, M., southerly nesting of Evening Grosbeaks, 91  
 Jaeger, 40, 41, 59  
 Parasitic, 40, 41  
 Pomarine, 40-41, 59  
 Janssen, Robert B., Brother Theodore Voelker, 5-6; an unusual Minnesota observation, 35-36; new nesting location for the White Pelican in Minnesota, 36-37; the 1973 fall season - Aug. 1 to Nov. 30, 57-72; Red-shafted Flicker in Redwood County 84-85; a Black-throated Sparrow in Minnesota, 100-101; early Black-and-white Warbler, 115; Say's Phoebe in Rock County, 120; early date for a Little Blue Heron, 125; the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee, 166; Black-hooded Parakeet in Minneapolis 169-170; Cinnamon Teal in Yellow Medicine County, 173-174; Black-billed Magpie nesting in St. Louis County, 174-175; Acadian Flycatcher nesting at Vasa, 175; a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Edina, 175; Ring-billed Gull nesting at the Port Terminal, Duluth, 175-176  
 Jay, 59, 125  
 Blue, 11, 13, 22, 28, 29, 67, 73, 76, 83, 92, 109, 153  
 Gray, 13, 22, 27, 67, 76, 109, 118, 153  
 Texas, 118  
 Johnson, Oscar L., Kentucky Warbler visits Brooklyn Park and Park Center Ornithology class, 126  
 Junco, 10  
 Dark-eyed, 9, 10, 26, 71, 86, 111, 158  
 Oregon, 10, 14, 77  
 Slate-colored, 10, 14, 77  
 White-winged, 10  
 Kampen, Mary, Sora nest building behavior, 91  
 Kestral, American, 10, 12, 19, 64, 107, 120, 123, 148, 168  
 Killdeer, 13, 19, 29, 64, 76, 107, 121, 148  
 Kingbird, 175  
 Eastern, 22, 29, 37, 67, 103, 126-127, 152  
 Western, 22, 67, 152  
 Kingfisher, 59, 125  
 Belted, 13, 21, 66, 76, 108, 151  
 Green, 44  
 Kinglet, 115  
 Golden-crowned, 14, 23, 27, 35, 68, 77, 87, 110, 115  
 Ruby-crowned, 23, 27, 59, 68, 86-87, 105, 110, 115, 154  
 Kite, 115  
 Swallow-tailed, 58  
 White-tailed, 128  
 Knot, 10, 59  
 Red, 10, 15, 20, 65, 149  
 Langager, James and Bryan Van Gorp, winter roosting habits of the Black-capped Chickadee, 85-86  
 Lark, Horned, 13, 22, 67, 73, 76, 109, 125, 153  
 Lindquist, Phyllis, Brant at Rochester 33-34  
 Link, Mike, interaction between Greater Prairie Chickens and Marsh Hawk, 42; an early Eastern Kingbird, 126-127  
 Lint, Mrs. Gertrude, Saw-whet Owl observation, 88-89  
 Longspur, 60  
 Chesnut-collared, 17, 26, 60, 71  
 Lapland, 14, 60, 71, 77, 100, 111, 159  
 Smith's, 60, 71, 144, 159  
 Loon, 58, 89, 125  
 Arctic, 39, 41, 58  
 Common, 17, 34, 39, 58, 60, 89, 104, 105, 128, 144  
 Red-throated, 17, 39, 58, 60  
 Yellow-billed, 128  
 Ludwig, Mrs. Frances, Minnesota's Third Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, 82  
 Luwe, Mrs. W. R., Blue Grosbeak in Blue Earth County, 120-121  
 Magpie, Black-billed, 13, 22, 59, 67, 73, 76, 109, 153, 174-175  
 Mahowald, Shirley, Worm-eating Warbler at Wood Lake Nature Center, 122  
 Mallard, 7, 12, 16, 17, 33, 34, 58, 61, 73, 75, 91, 105, 145, 174  
 Martin, Purple, 22, 67, 153, 168  
 McCaskie, Guy, Thayer's Gull in Duluth, 82-83  
 Meadowlark, 14, 51, 73, 77, 110, 125  
 Eastern, 25, 70, 157  
 Western, 25, 70, 157  
 Merganser, 115  
 Common, 12, 18, 63, 75, 106, 146  
 Hooded, 12, 18, 62, 75, 106, 146

- Red-breasted, 12, 18, 63, 106, 125, 147  
Merlin, 10, 19, 63, 107, 148  
Mockingbird, 23, 59, 68, 73, 83-84, 105, 109, 143, 153  
Murrelet, Ancient, 35  
Nero, Robert W., Spencer G. Sealy and Herbert W. R. Copland, Great Gray Owls occupy artificial nest, 161-165  
Niemi, Gerald J., birding while hunting, 36  
Niemi, Gerald J. and Barbara Bergstedt, a comparison of two breeding bird censuses following the Little Sioux Forest Fire, 28-33  
Nighthawk, Common, 21, 40, 66, 151  
Nutcracker, Clark's, 73, 76, 86, 105, 109  
Nuthatch, 125  
Red-breasted, 13, 22, 29, 35, 68, 76, 109, 153  
White-breasted, 11, 13, 22, 68, 73, 76, 83, 109, 153  
Oldsquaw, 12, 62, 106, 146  
Olson, Manley, the names they are a-changing, 9-10; the 1971 Christmas Count in Minnesota, 10-14; a Swainson's Thrush attempts to winter in St. Paul, 42; the 1972 Christmas Count, 72-77  
Oriole, 117, 125, 144  
Baltimore, 10  
Bullock's, 10  
Northern, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 25, 70, 116, 117, 144, 157  
Scott's, 144, 157  
Osprey, 19, 41, 63, 147  
Ovenbird, 24, 28, 31, 59, 69, 156  
Owl, 38, 43, 89, 125, 128-129, 176  
Arctic Horned, 84  
Barn, 38-39, 59, 119  
Barred, 13, 21, 66, 76, 89, 108, 151  
Boreal, 104, 108  
Burrowing, 171  
Great Gray, 73, 76, 104, 108, 143, 151, 161-165, 178  
Great Horned, 13, 21, 36, 40, 66, 73, 76, 108, 151  
Hawk, 27, 36, 38, 59, 66, 73, 76, 104, 108  
Long-eared, 21, 38, 66, 89, 108, 151  
Saw-whet, 13, 35, 66, 88-89, 105, 108, 124, 151  
Screech, 13, 21, 66, 76, 89, 108, 151  
Short-eared, 10, 27, 38, 39, 40, 59, 66, 76, 108, 151  
Snowy, 13, 38, 59, 66, 76, 84, 108, 124, 143, 151  
Parakeet, Black-hooded, 169-170  
Partridge, Gray, 13, 19, 64, 75, 107, 148  
Parula, Northern, 10, 24, 27, 69, 122, 155  
Paynter, Lloyd, aggressive Short-eared Owls in Aitkin County, 40  
Pelican, White, 17, 36-37, 60, 105, 125, 127, 144  
Pewee, Eastern Wood, 22, 27, 152  
Phalarope, 15  
Northern, 15, 20, 66, 150  
Red, 35, 128  
Wilson's, 15, 20, 65, 150  
Pheasant, Ring-necked, 13, 19, 43, 58, 64, 75, 148  
Phoebe,  
Eastern, 22, 27, 38, 67, 152  
Say's, 37-38, 59, 120, 143, 152  
Pichner, Jimmy and Linda, possible nesting of Swainson's Hawk in Steele County, 172  
Pintail, 17, 18, 61, 75, 106, 145  
Pipit, 15, 125  
Sprague's, 16, 23, 27, 59, 68, 143, 154  
Water, 16, 27, 59, 68, 124, 154  
Plover, 9, 15  
American Golden, 9, 15, 20, 59, 64, 115, 149  
Black-bellied, 9, 15, 20, 59, 64, 149  
Mountain, 115, 143, 149  
Piping, 15, 19, 64, 148, 176  
Semipalmated, 19, 64, 148  
Upland, 9, 10  
Prairie Chicken, Greater, 11, 12, 19, 42, 148  
Ptarmigan, Willow, 35  
Puffin, 44  
Quail, 93, 94  
Rail, 41, 51, 58, 91, 125  
King, 19, 121-122, 143, 148  
Virginia, 19, 58, 64, 122, 148  
Yellow, 5, 19, 27, 41-42, 58, 64, 124, 143, 148  
Raven, Common, 13, 22, 67, 76, 109, 125, 153, 163, 165  
Redhead, 10, 18, 34, 58, 62, 146  
Redpoll, 105  
Common, 11, 14, 60, 70, 77, 82, 86, 111, 158  
Hoary, 6, 14, 70, 77, 105, 111, 158  
Redstart, American, 24, 70, 156  
Reynolds, Dave, King Rail in Duluth, 121-122  
Robin, 10, 43, 76  
American, 10, 14, 23, 68, 109, 154, 168  
Ruff, 35, 135  
Rupp, Mr. Lester, Cinnamon Teal observed 117-118  
Rustad, Orwin A., Mountain Bluebird at Faribault, 118  
Sanderling, 16, 20, 59, 65, 150  
Sandpiper, 9  
Baird's, 20, 59, 65, 149  
Buff-breasted, 15, 59, 65, 143, 150  
Least, 16, 20, 59, 65, 149  
Pectoral, 20, 65, 149  
Purple, 35  
Semipalmated, 16, 20, 59, 65, 150  
Solitary, 16, 20, 65, 149  
Spotted, 20, 36, 65, 149  
Stilt, 15, 20, 65, 150  
Upland, 9, 10, 16, 20, 64, 149  
Western, 15, 20, 65, 150  
White-rumped, 20, 59, 65, 149  
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied, 13, 21, 28, 67, 76, 152  
Savaloja, Terry, King Eider on Mille Lacs Lake, 34; another Arctic Loon observation, 39; new Yellow Rail area, 41-42; the spring season - March 1 to May 31, 1974, 143-160  
Scaup,  
Greater, 18, 62, 146  
Lesser, 12, 18, 34, 62, 75, 106, 146  
Schladweiler, John, Mountain Bluebird in Lac Qui Parle County, 118-119  
Schneider, Dean G., an "invasion" of Cuckoos in Austin, 113-114; crow harasses kestrel, 123  
Scoter, 143  
Black, 9, 58, 62, 124, 146  
Common, 9, 146  
Surf, 58, 62, 124, 146  
White-winged, 18, 27, 58, 62, 124  
Sealy, Spencer G., Robert W. Nero and Herbert W. R. Copland, Great Gray Owls occupy artificial nest, 161-165  
Shearwater, Flesh-footed, 128  
Shively, W. Phillips, a Prairie Falcon in Anoka County, 168  
Shorebirds, 16, 59, 124, 125  
Shoveler, 9, 75  
Northern, 9, 12, 18, 62, 106, 146  
Shrike,  
Loggerhead, 11, 14, 23, 68, 105, 110, 154  
Northern, 14, 36, 59, 68, 77, 110 154  
Siderits, Karl, immature eagle movements, 170  
Siskin, Pine, 14, 25, 70, 73, 77, 82, 86, 111, 158  
Smith, Anita and Pat Hubert, possible Fox Sparrow nesting in Minnesota, 35  
Snipe, Common, 13, 15, 20, 64, 76, 107, 149  
Sora, 16, 19, 64, 91, 148  
Sparrow, 60, 115, 122, 125, 173  
Black-throated, 100-101  
Chipping, 26, 27, 28, 71, 100, 158  
Clay-colored, 26, 71, 158  
Field, 26, 27, 71, 73, 77, 158  
Fox, 11, 27, 35, 71, 77, 105, 111, 159  
Grasshopper, 25, 27, 123, 158  
Harris', 14, 71, 73, 77, 111, 158  
Henslow's, 5, 16, 25, 27, 122-123, 144, 158  
House, 11, 14, 73, 77, 83, 86, 110, 125, 128, 156  
Lark, 26, 27, 144, 158  
Le Conte's, 25, 27, 71, 158  
Lincoln's, 26, 27, 71, 73, 159  
Savannah, 16, 25, 70, 123, 158  
Sharp-tailed, 25  
Song, 14, 26, 29, 31, 71, 77, 90-91, 111, 159  
Swamp, 26, 71, 111, 159  
Tree, 14, 71, 73-74, 77, 111, 158  
Vesper, 25, 27, 71, 123, 158

- White-crowned, 14, 27, 71, 77, 105, 111, 159  
 White-throated, 14, 26, 28, 29, 31, 35, 71, 77, 111, 122, 159, 173
- Starling, 11, 14, 59, 68, 77, 110, 125, 154
- Strnad, Forest V., banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Minnesota, 91-92
- Sundquist, Koni, there's a hawk in my basement, 39
- Swallow, 16, 59, 125  
 Bank, 22, 27, 67, 153  
 Barn, 22, 153  
 Cliff, 22, 27, 67, 153  
 Rough-winged, 22, 67, 153  
 Tree, 22, 27, 67, 153, 168
- Swan, 17, 125, 145, 169  
 Mute, 143, 145  
 Trumpeter, 11, 12, 73, 75, 105, 169  
 Whistling, 12, 16, 58, 61, 75, 105, 127, 145
- Swift, Chimney, 21, 66, 125, 151
- Tanager, 125  
 Scarlet, 25, 27, 70, 157
- Teal, 117  
 Blue-winged, 16, 18, 27, 58, 61, 73, 91, 106, 117, 118, 145, 173  
 Cinnamon, 117-118, 143, 146, 173-174  
 Eurasian, 9  
 Green-winged, 9, 12, 18, 61, 75, 106, 117, 118, 145
- Tern, 51, 52, 53, 54, 125  
 Arctic, 52-57  
 Black, 21, 52, 53, 66, 151  
 Caspian, 21, 52, 53, 54, 66, 151  
 Common, 21, 52, 53, 54, 55, 66, 151,, 176  
 Forster's, 21, 52, 53, 54, 66, 151  
 Least, 143, 151
- Thrasher,  
 Brown, 14, 23, 27, 29, 68, 76, 109, 154  
 Curve-billed, 11, 73
- Thrush, 87, 125  
 Gray-cheeked, 68, 154  
 Hermit, 23, 29, 68, 73, 77, 154  
 Swainson's, 23, 29, 42, 68, 105, 110, 154  
 Varied, 14, 87-88, 105, 110  
 Wood, 23, 68, 143, 154
- Titmouse, Tufted, 13, 22, 67, 76, 109, 153
- Towhee, Rufous-sided, 14, 25, 27, 60, 70, 158
- Tucker, Mrs. Helen, Barrow's Goldeneye in Lake County, 121
- Turkey, 10, 73, 75, 104, 107
- Turnstone, Ruddy, 15, 20, 64, 121, 149
- Van Gorp, Bryan and James Langager, winter roosting habits of the Black-capped Chickadee, 85-86
- Veery, 23, 27, 28, 29, 68, 154
- Vireo, 31, 59, 124, 125  
 Bell's, 5, 23, 68, 122-123, 143, 154  
 Philadelphia, 23, 68, 155  
 Red-eyed, 23, 27, 28, 29, 31, 68, 155  
 Solitary, 23, 68, 155  
 Warbling, 23, 69, 155  
 Yellow-throated, 23, 27, 68, 155
- Vulture, 93, 102, 103  
 Turkey, 18, 63, front cover No. 3, 102-103, 147
- Wachsberger, Elizabeth M., probable Rufous Hummingbird, 167-168
- Warbler, 16, 31, 36, 59, 122, 124, 125, 173  
 Audubon's, 10
- Bay-breasted, 24, 27, 69, 156  
 Black-and-white, 23, 27, 69, 115, 143, 155  
 Blackburnian, 24, 28, 31, 69, 156  
 Blackpoll, 69, 156  
 Black-throated Blue, 24, 59, 69, 143, 155  
 Black-throated Green, 24, 69, 156  
 Blue-winged, 24, 27, 143, 155, 175  
 Canada, 24, 27, 70, 156  
 Cape May, 24, 69, 155  
 Cerulean, 24, 27, 69, 156, 175  
 Chesnut-sided, 24, 28, 29, 31, 69, 156  
 Connecticut, 24, 27, 69, 144, 156  
 Golden-winged, 23, 69, 155  
 Kentucky, 126, 144, 156  
 Magnolia, 24, 69, 155  
 Mourning, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 69, 156  
 Myrtle, 10  
 Nashville, 24, 69, 155  
 Orange-crowned, 24, 27, 69, 155  
 Palm, 24, 27, 69, 156  
 Parula, 10  
 Pine, 24, 69, 156  
 Prothonotary, 23, 69, 143, 155  
 Tennessee, 24, 27, 69, 155  
 Wilson's, 24, 27, 59, 69, 156  
 Worm-eating, 35-36, 59, 122, 143, 155, 172-173  
 Yellow, 24, 27, 69, 155  
 Yellow-rumped, 10, 11, 24, 27, 42, 69, 105, 110, 115, 155
- Waterthrush,  
 Louisians, 24, 27, 69, 156  
 Northern, 24, 27, 69, 156
- Waxwing, 77, 125  
 Bohemian, 14, 68, 73, 77, 110, 154  
 Cedar, 14, 23, 29, 68, 77, 110, 154
- Whip-poor-will, 5, 21, 66, 124, 151
- Whimbrel 15, 20, 149
- Whitney, Mrs. Peter N., Varied Thrush seen near Winona, 87-88
- Wigeon, 9  
 American, 12, 18, 58, 61, 75, 106, 146  
 European, 18
- Willet, 20, 65, 121, 149
- Wolverine, 78-81
- Woodcock, American, 15, 20, 64, 143, 149, 173
- Woodpecker, 59, 125  
 Black-backed Three-toed, 22, 67, 76, 109, 127, 152, 176  
 Downy, 11, 13, 22, 29, 67, 73, 76, 83, 109, 152  
 Hairy, 11, 13, 21, 28, 67, 73, 76, 86, 109, 152  
 Northern Three-toed, 11, 13, 29, 36, 59, 105, 109  
 Pileated, 13, 21, 36, 67, 76, 109, 152  
 Red-bellied, 13, 21, 67, 76, 109, 152  
 Red-headed, 13, 21, 67, 76, 109, 152
- Wren, 51, 125  
 Carolina, 11, 13, 59, 105, 109  
 House, 23, 27, 28, 29, 31, 68, 153  
 Long-billed Marsh, 23, 27, 68, 153  
 Short-billed Marsh, 5, 23, 68, 153  
 Winter, 10, 23, 27, 68, 73, 109, 115, 153
- Yellowlegs,  
 Greater, 16, 20, 59, 65, 149  
 Lesser, 16, 20, 65, 149
- Yellowthroat, 10, 36, 59-60  
 Common, front cover No. 1, 5, 10, 24, 28, 69, 156
- Zajicek, Thomas E., peregrine seen, 125-126
- Zimmer, Kevin J., shore-birding near Moorhead, Minn., 15-16

## PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds, we aim to create and increase public interest in birds and promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims through the publishing of a magazine, **The Loon**; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** need articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of the sheet with generous margins. Notes of interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired the author should so specify indicating number

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Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, August and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>THAYER'S GULL—DULUTH CITY DUMP — 2-9-72</b>	
Photo by Marjorie Carr .....	Front Cover
<b>THE PRESIDENT WRITES .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>THAYER'S GULL AND ITS STATUS IN MINNESOTA</b>	
by Janet C. Green .....	136
<b>THE SPRING SEASON — March 1 to May 31, 1974</b>	
by Terry Savaloja .....	143
<b>GREAT GRAY OWLS OCCUPY ARTIFICIAL NEST</b>	
by Robert W. Nero, Spencer G. Sealy and Hubert W. R. Copland .....	161
<b>THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>NOTES OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>BOOK REVIEWS .....</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>INDEX TO VOLUME 46 .....</b>	<b>180</b>