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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 (minimum lots of 20 for \$1.50 postage paid). 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 invites 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 invite 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. Marilyn Mauritz, 6810 Tecumseh Lane, 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 PEOPLE WRITE . . .

### A CRISIS OVER FOR THE M.O.U.

Probably few of you will note the rather minor changes that were made in this issue on the opposite page and on the back cover. The word "invites" has been added in two places under the editors request for articles for possible publication in "THE LOON."

What is the reason for this seemingly insignificant change? Some of you know that in the past year your organization and the editor of "THE LOON" were sued and taken to court by one of our former members for non-publication of bird-records submitted. To say the least this was quite a shock to your editor and a very unusual experience. The charges presented were incredible and most disturbing to the editor. I had believed, probably naively, that such a response was beyond possibility. The worst thing that could happen would be that someone would get a little mad and pout for a while if his or her record wasn't given the importance the observer thought it should. But, to be sued and taken to court!

To make a long story short, the law suit failed and a later appeal, by the plaintiff, was withdrawn. This might not have happened without the help of Charles Horn Jr., Attorney and M.O.U. member. We are all fortunate to have such a man in our organization.

What does the outcome of this trial and experience mean to the M.O.U.? To the editorial staff it means that we will strive with renewed effort to furnish you with a reliable publication containing documented records of Minnesota bird-life, a continuing accurate account of changes in the distribution of the birds of the state.

The editors have a responsibility not only to the membership, but to the science of ornithology and to future readers of "THE LOON" to provide as accurate a journal as possible. To do this we have to ask questions, demand additional information

and prod for more data. This at times irritates some of you but it is necessary to provide authenticity and accuracy.

To help accomplish this we have organized the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC). MORC was established to spread the responsibility of judging casual and accidental records of Minnesota birds reported to the editor. After a year of operation the committee has performed admirably and with great dedication. In the very near future an article will appear in "THE LOON" explaining the functions of the committee in detail.

Thus we will be asking more questions, asking you to document your records more carefully and more fully. In our opinion this makes birding much more fun and rewarding for all of us. We hope you feel the same way.

### A FIELD TRIP

"Operator, I'd like to place a collect call to Kanaranzi, Minnesota, area code 507, 986-4321 . . . My name is Lystor, Bert Lystor . . . Hi, how are things at home? Hope it's better than up here . . . Just wanted to call and let you know I'll be home earlier than I thought tomorrow since there's nothing around. I don't know why I come on these January Grand Marais trips. Snow so bad this afternoon you could not see a thing in the harbor, and it's supposed to get down to 20 below tonight . . . 42 there today, huh? Most of the snow melted off the fields? It figures . . . No, I never see anything on these M.O.U. trips. Somebody saw a Glaucous Gull here, there were a couple of eagles around, and two groups saw Red-necked Grebes, but nothing really rare . . . What do you mean, 'Then the trip isn't all that bad'? Oh sure, there was a nice Snowy Owl at the Duluth harbor and some Oldsquaws at Good Harbor Bay, but so what? They're always around. I'm never gonna make that 300 Club at this rate . . . Our room? Yeah, it's all right, we can look out right over the lake. We'll have to get a table next to the window tomorrow at breakfast. You can look out at the ducks on the lake while you eat, though the way things were today there probably won't be anything out there. Only one goldeneye and three gulls between Duluth and here . . . Oh yeah, they're all here. They've got a room next to ours, and we had a drink with them before dinner . . . You'll never

guess who we sat with at dinner. They told us all about their California trip . . . Right. They're here too: We sat next to them at the program. It was a slide show on Ireland. Neat place, and that guy's a great photographer . . . Yeah, the big shots are here too. Bought both their books last year, but they were sure useless today. Was going to get them autographed, but after today I don't know. One book tells you the status of every bird in the state, and the other one tells you where to look for them, but what the heck, I still have to go out and find them on my own. And nothing was where they said it was. But at least they didn't see anything either . . . Three bus loads from Minneapolis, there must have been 200 at the program. Grand Marais sure warms up in winter with that many birders around. Someone said that is the warmest town in Minnesota, something to do with the warming effect of the lake . . . Huh? What do you mean, 'Sorry it's such a lousy trip'? Where did you get that idea? Just because there aren't any birds around, so what? All these M.O.U. trips are in neat areas. There's always a good program and lots of people you know . . . Listen, I just wanted to call and let you know I'll probably be home later than I thought tomorrow. Don't hold up supper for me. I'm bound to turn up a live bird somewhere on the way home. And even if I don't, there's always that May trip to Agassiz . . ."

## CORRECTION

I wonder how many of you noticed the error your editor made in the last issue of "THE LOON", Volume 4, No. 4. On page 177 there is a picture of two ducks with the caption Greater Scaup. Jan Green immediately upon receiving her copy brought it to my attention that these birds are RED HEADS and not Greater Scaup. She is absolutely right. Once again, this shows that snap decisions should not be made when identifying birds, whether in pictures or in the field. A most embarrassing error!

# A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF SUMMER PARULIDS NEAR BABBITT, MINNESOTA

Jeff Todd<sup>1</sup> and Pete Doran<sup>2</sup>

A comprehensive environmental impact analysis is being conducted by AMAX Exploration, Inc. on its copper-nickel exploration site (the Minnamax Project) near Babbitt, Minnesota. An important component of this program concerns wildlife-habitat relationships on and around the site. Birds, particularly songbirds, are an integral part of the wildlife systems within the boreal forest biome. Additionally, since many bird species, particularly during the breeding and summer seasons, have specific vertical and horizontal niche requirements, they become excellent indicators of habitat diversity and vegetation structure. This becomes practical and relevant to any land rehabilitation plans where ecological diversity is the goal of reclamation.

Avian populations have been studied intensively on the Minnamax site since October 1974. Studies generally have pertained to breeding bird populations and habitat selection and preferences over a wide range of plant successional stages. The studies were designed to provide the baseline information typical of most environmental impact programs and to delineate areas where continued monitoring would provide the best trend data. It goes without saying that yearly breeding bird censuses provide one area for monitoring. After analysing 12 months of observations and capture and banding data on the Minnamax site, we determined that banding data for resident summer warblers (Parulidae) provided another major area for monitoring trends. Parulids are the most di-

verse family on the site, and are well distributed throughout the current stages of horizontal and vertical habitat development. In addition, Parulids are easily captured and handled and do not seem to develop the degree of net-shyness found in other families.

The authors appreciate the awareness and cooperation of Jack B. Malcolm and his staff and Art Biddle, Environmental Project Manager. We express special thanks to Jim Johns and Dr. James A. Jones for their time and input into the overall program.

## The Site

The Minnamax site is located approximately six road miles south-southeast of Babbitt. Erie Mining Company's Dunka Road borders the site on the south and east, and Reserve Mining Company's Peter Mitchell pit forms the northern boundary. Although the exploratory shaft site, per se, involves only 10-15 acres of disturbance, a surrounding area of about 4,000 acres was included in the study.

The site has a long history of disturbances by human activity. For over 100 years, portions of the area have been clear-cut and reforested on a more or less continuous basis. Fire, mining exploration, clearing of rights-of-way, survey cuts, road-building, and gravel removal have contributed additional, but smaller scale, disturbances. These varied abrasions have disrupted the ubiquity of the boreal forest and created numerous successional stages and ecotones (edges) within physiographically diverse vegetation communities. The current result, then, is some 4,000 acres of excellent bird hab-

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itat ranging from riparian bottomlands to sparsely vegetated gravel pits to mature black spruce, birch, and aspen stands; from areas of open understory and little ground-cover to tangled almost jungle-like vertical cover.

Approximately 50 per cent of the site is covered by the jackpine complex, some of it planted in reforestation projects. This complex ranges in age from about 10-40 years, the older trees occurring in scattered, dense, rather closed stands. Because of culture practices, jackpine now thrives in areas once dominated naturally by other species.

Black spruce-tamarac bottomlands and drier birch-aspen uplands each comprise about 20 percent of the site. Both types also have been heavily logged over various periods in the past, but mature stands (60-80 years) of up to 60 acres remain.

An 8-12 year complex of aspen, speckled and mountain alder, and understory shrubs make up about 6 percent to the site. This complex represents a mid to upland successional stage after clear-cutting and without jackpine reforestation.

The remaining 4 percent of the site is composed of small, isolated patches of cattail marsh, heath bog, sedge bog, white cedar bog, stream-edge (riparian) communities, developing balsam fir-white spruce climax forest, and open, badly disturbed areas in pioneer and very early secondary successional stages.

#### The Techniques

Parulids were captured in 12m x 2.7m Japanese mist nets strung between 10 foot lengths of 1/2 inch electrical conduit painted flat black. Three nets were erected in-line in each of the four major habitat complexes described previously. In the highly variable jackpine complex, three nets were placed in a 10-15 year old stand and three in a 25-35 year stand. Net stations were operated in the early morning when weather permitted, and accurate records were kept of operating times and catches per unit effort. In

an attempt to minimize net-shyness problems, no station was run on consecutive mornings. When in operation, nets were checked hourly to reduce mortalities (none occurred). Captured birds were aged and sexed when possible, weighed, photographed, and banded with numerical U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands. All birds were released at point of capture.

For purposes of monitoring trends in summer Parulids, we used June 1 and August 15 as cut-off dates. These dates, of course, are somewhat arbitrary but were selected after reviewing some of the literature and our own data. June 1 seems to be an accepted date for initiating breeding bird censuses in northeastern Minnesota, and our observations and capture data indicate this to be a proper time. However, some late migrants undoubtedly pass through. The August 15 termination date was selected because it seems to be a natural break before the first early migrants. We began to pick up molting Nashville and Chestnut-sided Warblers on August 6. The first known migrant, a Wilson's Warbler, in 80-90 percent fall plumage, was netted 18 August. Wilson's Warblers were the earliest fall Parulid migrants through the Minnamax site, followed three weeks later by Blackpolls.

#### Results and Discussion

During the designated period, 136 individuals of 15 species were captured and banded (Table 1). These totals include species occupying all vertical strata, from the arboreal Blackburnian Warbler to such ground and understory dwellers as the Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat. We did miss several species believed to occur on the site, such as Bay-breasted, Palm, and Black-throated Green Warblers. However, we concluded that, given time, most species can be captured in nets. From Janet Green's (1971) checklist, we captured all those species given "abundant" and "common" ratings in the Superior National Forest.

Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Mourning, and Magnolia Warblers were most

TABLE 1. Warblers (Parulidae) captured and banded between June 1 and August 15, 1975 on the Minnamax site near Babbitt, Minnesota.

SPECIES	Banding Station - Habitat Types					TOTALS
	Lowland Conifers	25-35 year Jackpines	10-15 year Jackpine Complex	30-40 year Birch-Aspen Uplands	8-12 year Aspen-Alder Complex	
Nashville	1	5	8	3	8	25
Chestnut-sided		3	4	12	6	25
Mourning	1	1		13	5	20
Magnolia		8		9		17
Ovenbird	1	1		7	5	14
Yellow-rumped			3	1	3	7
Yellowthroat			4		3	7
Canada		1	1	2	2	6
Tennessee			1	2	1	4
Connecticut		1	1		1	3
Black-and-white				2	1	3
Blackburnian	1				1	2
Cape May			1			1
Am. Redstart				1		1
Yellow					1	1
TOTALS	4	20	23	52	37	136
Catch/100 hours	5	25	24	39	31	27
Diversity index <sup>2</sup>	1.37	1.65	1.89	1.87	2.12	N/A

<sup>1</sup> Includes juveniles

<sup>2</sup> Should be looked at relative to each other.

prevalent, accounting for 64 percent of the total. This is not unexpected, considering past disturbances and the diversified habitats on the site. Chestnut-sided and Mourning Warblers are known followers of disturbances (Niemelä and Bergstedt 1974). The Nashville Warbler generally occupies brushy forest ecotones (Harrison, et. al. 1975), but on the Minnamax site, we found the species in similar numbers and habitats as the Chestnut-sided. Thus, we included Nashvilles in our list of disturbance followers. Magnolia captures are interesting in that this species was captured only in mature, even-aged stands; equally in coniferous and deciduous. The data suggests that even though this species is well known for its coniferous haunts, habitat age and height requirements may

be more important in habitat selection than tree species.

We attempted to categorize Parulid diversity in the major habitat types by looking at the number of species and the abundance and distribution of individuals among the species based on a catch per unit effort basis. We calculated captures in terms of 100 net hours for each banding station and applied the data to the Shannon-Weaver logarithmic function (Shannon and Weaver 1963) to obtain a numerical diversity index for each habitat (Table 1). Calculation of this index is based on the formula:  $H' = 2.3026 (\log_{10} N - \frac{1}{N} \sum ni \log_{10} ni)$ , where  $H'$  is the index,  $N$  total number of individuals, and  $ni$  total individuals in the  $i$ th species. Diversity indices have been used by

numerous avian ecologists (In Balda 1975 and Hamilton and Noble 1975) to correlate species and abundance with horizontal and vertical habitats. For this study, indices are best viewed relative to each other and the general habitat types. The lower the index, the lower the Parulid diversity. A habitat with only one species would have an index of zero, whereas a habitat with many species of equal abundance may have index values of 4 or 5. We realize that our small sample sizes bias our indices somewhat, but in light of the trend-monitoring aspect of the program, we feel that this quantification technique is valid.

More individuals were captured in the birch-aspens uplands, making it the most productive for netting. However, our data indicate the 8-12 year old aspen-alder complex supports the most diverse Parulid population on the site. This young aspen-alder type is followed by the 30-40 year old birch-aspens uplands, the 10-15 year old jack-pine complex, the 25-35 year old jack-pine complex, and the least diverse mature lowland conifers. In the Minnamax case, the number of species per habitat is indicative of relative Parulid diversity, a conclusion drawn for many other areas of the country (In Balda 1975).

One of the more interesting facets of this program is the incidence of juvenile captures. Of the 136 total captures, 34 (25%) were birds of the year, most of which were incapable of sustained flight and, therefore, were assumed to have hatched on or very near the Minnamax site. Juveniles were captured representing 11 of the 15 species (Table 2). Only in the case of the Yellow Warbler was the juvenile capture the lone representative of the species, and the sample size does not allow for conclusions.

As with the total captures (except for the Mourning Warbler), the Chestnut-sided, Nashville, and Magnolia Warblers accounted for the majority (68%) of the juvenile captures. The only juvenile Mourning Warbler in the sample was captured at a late date (August 13) indicating that this species is probably a late nester on the site. This speculation may be corroborated by the late date of arrival (May 25). The earliest juvenile capture, a Nashville Warbler, occurred on July 7. Nashvilles and Yellow-rumped Warblers were the first Parulids on the site in the spring (May 7). The last captures (for this time period) were four Magnolia Warblers and three Chestnut-sided Warblers netted on August 15 (Table 2). After August 15, the only captured species identifiable as locally hatched juveniles were Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers. Improved aging techniques will be necessary in 1976 to further define juvenile populations at Minnamax.

In general, we found nothing in this study (numbers or species occurrences) which could be considered unique to the Minnamax site or unusual for Superior National Forest. Based on the Green (1971) checklist, the Cape May Warbler is rated "uncommon" and the Yellow and Connecticut Warblers are given "rare" ratings. The remaining captured species are either "abundant" or "common." All are known breeders. From our banding and observations, we would concur on all but the Connecticut and Yellow Warblers. On the Minnamax site, we would elevate the status of the Connecticut from "rare" to between "uncommon" and "common." Our observations strongly suggest that the Yellow Warbler, a resident of stream-edge lowlands (not sampled with nets), is "common" in its habitat.

**TABLE 2. Juvenile warblers captured and banded near Babbitt, Minnesota between June 1 and August 15, 1975.**

	Banding Stations - Habitat Type					TOTALS
	Lowland Conifers	25-35 year Jackpines	10-15 year Jackpines Complex	30-40 year Birch-Aspen Uplands	8-12 Aspen-Alder Complex	
Nashville		1-7/26 3-7/29	1-7/29	1-7/22	1-7/7 1-7/15	8
Magnolia		2-8/5		2-8/5 4-8/15		8
Chestnut-sided		1-7/17		2-8/5 3-8/15		6
Yellow-rumped				1-7/31	3-7/10	4
Yellowthroat					2-7/21	2
Black-and-white				1-7/22		1
Tennessee					1-8/6	1
Mourning	1-8/13					1
Canada		1-7/29				1
Connecticut				1-8/5		1
Yellow					2-7/21	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>

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# WINTER BIRDS OF RICE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

## (A 25 year summary)

By Orwin A. Rustad

The purpose of this report is to make available the compilation of winter birds recorded during the 25 year period, from 1951-1975, as part of the annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count.

The designated center of the 15-mile diameter circle for the study was Section 2 of Cannon City Township in Rice County, with Faribault, Minnesota the count name. Each year, observations were made on a single day during the official count period, with at least 8 hours being spent in the field. Observations were submitted annually for entry in the "Audubon Field Notes," and more recently "American Birds."

A cumulative list of 70 species was recorded during the 25 year survey, with 12 of these seen each year, and 17 observed only once. The Varied Thrush was the most unusual, being a western species seen but one year, which was at Northfield, Minnesota in Dec., 1966.

It is difficult to set up a rule defining the frequency that a given species has been observed over a period of time. This paper will follow the Frequency Standard outlined in the Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 11, Feb. 1957, pp. 63-64, The New York Standards of Abundance, Frequency, and Seasonal Occurrence. (Column 1.)

Regular: recorded every year.

Irregular: recorded less than once every year, but no less than once in five years, on the average.

Occasional: recorded less than once in five years, but no less than once in ten years, on the average.

Sporadic: recorded less than once in ten years, but no less than once in twenty years, on the average.

Casual: recorded less than once in

twenty years, on the average.

Exotic (or accidental): recorded but because of its normal range not expected to occur again.

Column 2 indicates the number of years a given species has been recorded in the study. If the species was recorded each year, a 25 is shown in the column, but if seen only two different years, a 2 follows the name of the species.

In column 3, the County Status is indicated, based on previous studies by the writer of birds in Rice County. It is difficult, in some instances, to establish whether a species is a Permanent Resident, or a Summer Resident. But when the bulk of the nesting species migrates in the fall, such as the Common Crow, the species is considered a Summer Resident. The following designations are followed:

Permanent Residents (PR): birds that do not migrate, but remain in the area throughout the year.

Summer Residents (SR): birds that normally migrate each spring and fall, and nest in the area.

Transients (TR): birds that pass through the county in the spring and fall to and from their northern nesting grounds.

Winter Visitants (WV): birds that visit the area during a portion of the winter, usually coming from the north, such as the Snowy Owl; or southern birds that are extending their range northward, such as the Tufted Titmouse.

Some species were more elusive than others to the observers. Thus the Screech Owl, which is a PR, was recorded only five separate years and was designated as Sporadic. Whereas, the Common Crow, a SR and the Dark-

eyed Junco a TR, were both recorded as Regular, as they had been seen each year during the 25 year survey.

Thus it is important, in many cases, to take into consideration the County Status shown in Column 3 of a species when referring to the Frequency of

Observation in Column 1.

The information found in Column 2 (Number of Years Recorded) should serve as a fairly reliable indicator of the probability that a given species may be seen in Rice County in the winter.

	Frequency of Observation (1)	Number of Years Recorded (2)	County Status (3)
<b>HERONS</b>			
Great Blue Heron	Casual	1	SR
<b>GEESE AND DUCKS</b>			
Canada Goose	Casual	1	TR
Mallard	Sporadic	10	SR
<b>HAWKS AND FALCONS</b>			
Goshawk	Casual	1	WV
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Casual	1	SR
Cooper's Hawk	Casual	1	SR
Red-tailed Hawk	Sporadic	15	SR
Red-shouldered Hawk	Sporadic	5	PR
Rough-legged Hawk	Sporadic	12	WV
Marsh Hawk	Casual	1	SR
American Kestrel	Sporadic	15	SR
<b>QUAIL, PHEASANT, PARTRIDGE, TURKEY</b>			
Bobwhite	Casual	2	PR
Ring-necked Pheasant	Regular	25	PR
Gray Partridge	Casual	3	PR
*Turkey	Accidental	1	Introduced
<b>PLOVER AND SNIPE</b>			
Killdeer	Casual	1	SR
Common Snipe	Casual	1	TR
<b>DOVES</b>			
Rock Dove	Regular	25	PR
Mourning Dove	Sporadic	11	SR
<b>OWLS</b>			
Screech Owl	Sporadic	5	PR
Great Horned Owl	Irregular	21	PR
Snowy Owl	Casual	1	WV
Barred Owl	Sporadic	7	PR
Long-eared Owl	Casual	2	SR
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>			
Belted Kingfisher	Sporadic	10	SR
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>			
Common Flicker	Sporadic	10	SR
Pileated Woodpecker	Occasional	18	PR
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Irregular	21	PR
Red-headed Woodpecker	Sporadic	10	SR
Hairy Woodpecker	Regular	25	PR
Downy Woodpecker	Regular	25	PR
<b>LARKS</b>			
Horned Lark	Sporadic	14	SR
<b>JAYS AND CROWS</b>			
Blue Jay	Regular	25	PR
Common Crow	Regular	25	SR
<b>CHICKADEES AND TITMICE</b>			
Black-capped Chickadee	Regular	25	PR
Tufted Titmouse	Sporadic	10	PR

	Frequency of Observation (1)	Number of Years Recorded (2)	County Status (3)
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>			
White-breasted Nuthatch	Regular	25	PR
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Casual	4	WV
<b>CREEPERS</b>			
Brown Creeper	Sporadic	12	TR
<b>THRASHERS</b>			
Brown Thrasher	Casual	1	SR
<b>THRUSHES</b>			
American Robin	Sporadic	7	SR
Varied Thrush	Casual	1	Acc.
Eastern Bluebird	Casual	1	SR
<b>KINGLETS</b>			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Occasional	15	TR
<b>WAXWINGS</b>			
Bohemian Waxwing	Casual	2	WV
Cedar Waxwing	Sporadic	5	SR
<b>SHRIKES</b>			
Northern Shrike	Sporadic	5	WV
<b>STARLING</b>			
Starling	Regular	25	PR
<b>WEAVER FINCHES</b>			
House Sparrow	Regular	25	PR
<b>MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES</b>			
Meadowlark, sp.	Sporadic	6	SR
Red-winged Blackbird	Casual	3	SR
Northern Oriole	Casual	1	SR
Rusty Blackbird	Sporadic	6	TR
Common Grackle	Sporadic	5	SR
<b>GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS</b>			
Cardinal	Regular	25	PR
Evening Grosbeak	Casual	4	TR
Purple Finch	Sporadic	7	TR
Pine Grosbeak	Casual	1	WV
Common Redpoll	Sporadic	10	WV
Pine Siskin	Sporadic	7	WV
American Goldfinch	Occasional	20	SR
White-winged Crossbill	Casual	1	WV
Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco	Regular	25	TR
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Sporadic	5	TR
Tree Sparrow	Irregular	23	WV
Harris' Sparrow	Casual	1	TR
White-throated Sparrow	Casual	2	TR
Song Sparrow	Sporadic	5	SR
Lapland Longspur	Casual	3	WV
Snow Bunting	Sporadic	6	WV

\* Unsuccessful transplant,  
no longer found in the County.

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# THE SUMMER SEASON (June 1 - July 31, 1975)

by Kim Eckert

June may have been wet and cool, but July made up for it by being hot and dry. A near record eight inches of rain fell on the Twin Cities during June, but the real news came on the last few days of the month when severe rains flooded the Red River valley, especially in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Up to 12 to 18 inches fell during that week, washing away field after field of "black desert" agriculture. Also hit were some virgin prairie tracts along the glacial Lake Agassiz shoreline including the Felton prairie. Whether this affected the Chestnut-collared Longspur and Sprague's Pipits here remains to be seen, but no one reported either species at Felton this summer. July made a good try to dry everything up — the Twin Cities had its third driest and third hottest July on record. Drought almost seems an annual event in July now in the southwest part of the state; only good March snows and an August downpour saved this summer's fields.

Perhaps because of the uncooperative weather, only 42 reports were received (five fewer than last year), only 133 species were recorded as nesting (14 fewer than last year), and a total of 241 species were accounted for (eight fewer than last summer). It is tempting to complain about the lack of reports especially from the "old reliables," but new observers and new counties are turning up with every season at a good enough rate to offset our losses. However, the fact remains that Summer 1975 resulted with more "fewer reports than usual" comments than we'd like to see.

It also seemed that fewer highlights emerged from a relatively mediocre season, but several significant sightings prevailed. Two dead Red-throated Loons washed up on shore at Duluth in late June representing one of the few summer records for this species.

Among the herons, Green Herons continued to "invade" southwest Minnesota, Great Egrets again showed up at Agassiz Refuge, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were absent from usually reliable La Crescent. Wood Ducks also continued to do well in the southwest, an unprecedented Bufflehead turned up in St. Paul, Common Mergansers lingered in two southern counties, and a Red-breasted did the same. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Cass Co. may have been the forerunner of another range extension, while Rough-legged Hawks appeared in Aitkin Co. representing only the fifth summer record. The Bobwhite held on to its regular status with no less than four reports, while a King Rail at Big Stone Refuge also managed to barely keep its place on the regular list. No Greater Prairie Chickens were reported, but hopefully this was the result of no one looking for them rather than the devastating rains in June. Yellow Rails were reportedly heard in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area which would represent a new breeding area for this species. Shorebirds did well with woodcocks again persisting in the southwest, and new record dates for Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs and Sanderling. Ring-billed Gulls were all over the place increasing speculation as to how many California Gulls were hidden among them, a Little Gull lingered into June at Duluth, and yet another Least Tern was found — the third in 13 months. Roadside breeding bird surveys usually hold no surprises, but a third state record Band-tailed Pigeon must have thrown the Stearns Co. count off schedule. Great Gray Owls again nested in the state — this time it was two young raised near Aitkin. A Lyon Co. sapsucker nest was quite out of normal breeding range, and no less than six Black-backed Three-toed nesting reports were received. Acadian

Flycatchers continued to push north from Houston Co., while in the same area Tufted Titmice continued to be scarce. Winter Wrens set records by showing up in the southeast in at least two counties. Three Loggerhead Shrikes were seen — another poor total for a formerly common bird. Vireos and warblers did all right: for the second year in a row a Bell's Vireo was found at Pipestone, Black-throated Blues again seemed easier to find than in past summers, good late dates were obtained for Black-throated Green, Connecticut, Mourning and Wilson's Warblers, Franconia again came through with a Louisiana Waterthrush, and it took no less than Roger Tory Peterson to verify a Hooded Warbler

at Itasca State Park. A Rusty Blackbird in Cook Co. was only the third summer report on record. Summer Cardinal records from Rock Co. represented another range extension, and from the same area Blue Grosbeaks were found in no less than four different locations. A flock of Red Crossbills in the southwest was unusual enough, but there seems no explanation for the White-wings there on a hot July day. Lark Buntings were seen in summer for a change, and Henslow's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows were recorded in new areas. Also found in new areas were Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows, while a southwest record of a Chestnut-collared Longspur was long overdue.

#### **Common Loon**

Nested in Cook, St. Louis and Clearwater; also reported from 19 other counties west and south to Roseau, Marshall, Pope, Swift and Ramsey.

#### **RED-THROATED LOON**

Two were picked up dead at Duluth on the very late date of 6-25 (fide P. Hofslund).

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

Nested in Marshall also reported from Itasca (7-17, BB), Clearwater (6-1, DM) and Hennepin (7-6, OJ).

#### **Horned Grebe**

Only one report on 7-9 in St. Louis Co. (JG).

#### **Eared Grebe**

Reported from Marshall (SV), Lac Qui Parle (6-1, KG; 7-19, KE, PE, RJ), Lyon (6-14, PE) and Nobles (6-15, RJ).

#### **Western Grebe**

Nested in Marshall, Big Stone (30 pair on Thielke L., BE) and Kandiyohi; also reported from Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Rock, Pope and Hennepin (7-6, OJ).

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

Nested in Marshall, Swift, Cottonwood, Wright, Hennepin and Ramsey; also reported from 14 other counties.

#### **White Pelican**

Nested in Big Stone; also reported from Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Lincoln (300 on 6-12, KE) and Jackson.

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

Nested in Meeker, Pope and Big Stone; also reported from Marshall, Aitkin, Grant, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Murray and Ramsey.

#### **Great Blue Heron**

Nested in Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Pope, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington; also reported from 27 other counties.

#### **Green Heron**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Mower; also reported from 27 other counties north and west to Crow Wing, Cass, Becker, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Murray, Rock and Nobles; continues to increase in the southwest.

#### **Cattle Egret**

3 reports: 6-21 L. Johanna, Pope Co. (3 adults, BH); 6-23 Wabasha (DWM); 6-30 Freeborn (DG).

#### **Great Egret**

Nested in Pope and Ramsey; also reported from 12 other counties north to Marshall (SV).

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

Nested in Pope, Hennepin and Ramsey; also reported from 14 other counties.

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

Reported from Goodhue only (peak of 3, CF; 7-9, RJ); apparently missing from the usual spot at La Crescent.

### **Least Bittern**

Reported from Marshall, Aitkin, Pope, Big Stone, Wright, Rock, Hennepin and Ramsey.

### **American Bittern**

Reported from 20 counties.

### **Canada Goose**

Nested in Marshall, Aitkin, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Murray, Hennepin and Olmsted; also reported from St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Big Stone, Jackson and Freeborn.

### **Mallard**

Nested in Marshall, Clearwater, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Mille Lacs, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston; also reported from 17 other counties.

### **Black Duck**

Nested in Cook, Lake and Marshall (1 brood, SV); also reported from Hennepin (6-29, OJ).

### **Gadwall**

Nested in Marshall and Lyon; also reported from Big Stone, Lincoln and Nobles.

### **Pintail**

Nested in Marshall and Yellow Medicine; also reported from Cass, Stearns, Meeker, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon and Murray.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Reported from Marshall, Big Stone, Lincoln, Nobles, Chisago and Waseca.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Nested in Marshall, Mille Lacs, Pope, Pipestone and Hennepin; also reported from 21 other counties.

### **American Wigeon**

Nested in Marshall; also reported from Cass, Aitkin, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Lyon, Nobles and Hennepin; more reports than usual.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Nested in Marshall; also reported from Big Stone, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon and Nobles.

### **Wood Duck**

Nested in Cass, Itasca, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Kandiyohi, Renville, Redwood, Lyon, Cottonwood, Pipestone, Rock, Sherburne, Hennepin, Ramsey, Wabasha, Goodhue, Houston and Olmsted; also reported from 13 other counties.

### **Redhead**

Nested in Marshall, Pope and Hennepin; also reported from Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Hennepin and Rice.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Nested in Cook, Cass and Marshall; also reported from Lake, Itasca, Clay, Sherburne and Hennepin.

### **Canvasback**

Nested in Marshall, Clay, Lyon, Murray and Hennepin; also reported from St. Louis, Big Stone, Jackson, Wright and Rice.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Non-breeding birds noted in Cook, Marshall, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Lincoln, Nobles, Dakota, Wabasha and Rock.

### **Common Goldeneye**

Nested in St. Louis, Itasca and Clearwater; also reported from Cook, Lake, Hubbard, Cass, Lake of the Woods and Marshall.

### **BUFFLEHEAD**

2 reports: 7-4 in Marshall Co. (SV) and 7-13 at Pigs Eye L., Ramsey Co. (KE, PE; first summer record for southern Minn.?)

### **White-winged Scoter**

2 late migrants at Stoney Pt., St. Louis Co. on 6-3 (JG).

### **Ruddy Duck**

Nested in Marshall, Murray and Hennepin; also reported from 12 other counties.

### **Hooded Merganser**

Nested in Marshall, St. Louis, Ramsey and Houston; also reported from Hennepin, Goodhue and Rice.

### **Common Merganser**

Nested in Lake and Cook; also reported from St. Louis, Cass, Chisago (3 on 6-15, BB; late migrants?) and Jackson (1 injured male at Heron L. on 7-10, KE).

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Nested in Lake; also reported from St. Louis and Washington (1 injured male on 6-24, RH).

### **Turkey Vulture**

Reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Clearwater, Mille Lacs, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston (8) and Renville (6-28, PE).

### **Goshawk**

2 reports: 6-11 St. Louis (DWM) and 6-21 Aitkin (OJ).

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Cass, Beltrami and Hennepin.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

2 reports: 6-8 Hennepin (FN) and 6-30 Cass (CH).

### **Red-tailed Hawk**

Nested in Freeborn; also reported from 29 other counties.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

3 reports: 7-2 and 7-6 Cass (AS), 7-19 Anoka (CH) and Goodhue (CF).

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

Reported from 13 counties west to Marshall and Becker.

### **Swainson's Hawk**

Nested in Mower (R. Kneeskern); also reported from Lyon (7-6, HK), Rock (6-11, KE), Murray (7-6, KE, PE), Cottonwood (6-14, KE), Olmsted (7-5, JF), Steele (7-10, ES).

### **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**

Very late migrants 6-8 and 6-21 in Aitkin Co. (up to 3; S. and J. Blanich, T. Savaloja, L. Paynter).

### **Bald Eagle**

Nested in Itasca and St. Louis; also a total of 35 young raised from 26 nests in the Superior National Forest; also reported from Cook, Lake, Hubbard, Cass and Houston (6-17 near Reno nest site, RJ).

### **Marsh Hawk**

Reported from only 12 counties; fewer reports than usual.

### **Osprey**

Nested in Lake and Aitkin; also 15 young raised from 19 nests in the Superior National Forest; also reported from St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard and Anoka (7-26, CH; early migrant?).

### **Merlin**

Only one report on 6-23 in Lake Co. (JG).

### **American Kestrel**

Nested in Cass, Hennepin, and Dakota; also reported from 30 other counties.

### **Spruce Grouse**

Nested in St. Louis (2 broods along the Echo Trail, GN); also reported from Lake (6-1, Sawbill Trail, BDC) and Cook (6-30, near Grand Portage, GC).

### **Ruffed Grouse**

Nested in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Cass, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Mille Lacs and Hennepin (first county record in 25 years); also reported from Hubbard, Aitkin, Chisago, Wadena, Goodhue, Wabasha and Olmsted.

### **Sharp-tailed Grouse**

Nested in Marshall (brood seen, SV); also seen 6-21 Aitkin (OJ).

### **Bobwhite**

4 reports: 6-25 Spring Valley, Fillmore Co. (JF); 7-9 White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. (GC; second summer in a row here); 7-12 Mendota Heights, Dakota Co. (PE); "some evidence of them still being on the NSP property" near

Red Wing, Goodhue Co. (CF). The birds reported in the Twin City area are no doubt escapes.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Nested in Anoka, Hennepin, Steele and Lac Qui Parle; also reported from 19 other counties north to Clay and Stearns.

### **Gray Partridge**

Nested in Yellow Medicine; also reported from 11 other counties north to Big Stone and Stearns.

### **Sandhill Crane**

3 reports: 6-1 Koochiching (R. Huber); 7-16 Roseau (BB); 2 present in Marshall Co. (SV).

### **KING RAIL**

One seen 6-13 at Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle Co. (PE).

### **Virginia Rail**

Nested in Marshall and Aitkin; also reported from Cass, Hubbard, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Wright, Hennepin and Freeborn.

### **Sora**

Nested in Marshall, Wright and Hennepin; also reported from 11 other counties.

### **Yellow Rail**

Heard 6-7 near McGregor, Aitkin Co. (ES); also heard in a new location at Hook Lake, St. Louis Co. (DoM); second summer in a row with no report from Waubun.

### **Common Gallinule**

Nested in Houston; also reported from Goodhue (6-18 and 7-9; CF, RJ).

### **American Coot**

Nested in Marshall and Hennepin; also reported from 20 other counties.

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Late migrant 6-15 Lyon (BDC).

### **Piping Plover**

Nested as usual at Duluth; no other reports.

### **Killdeer**

Nested in Marshall, Aitkin, St. Louis,

Mille Lacs, Lyon, Olmsted and Wabasha; also reported from 29 other counties.

### **American Woodcock**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Dakota; also reported from Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Lake of the Woods, Sherburne, Goodhue, Big Stone (BE) and Rock (6-11, KE).

### **Common Snipe**

Reported from 20 counties south to Ramsey, Rice, Lyon and Big Stone.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

Nested in Rock; also reported from 13 other counties north to Clay, Aitkin and St. Louis.

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Nested in St. Louis and Mille Lacs; also reported from 28 other counties.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Late migrant 6-14 and 15 in Nobles Co. (KE, RJ); latest date on record.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Late migrant 6-14 Lyon (PE); latest date on record.

### **Willet**

One reported 6-29 in Marshall Co. (SV); very few summer records.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Late migrants 6-14 and 15 in Lyon and Nobles Co's (PE, BDC, RJ).

### **Least Sandpiper**

Late migrants 6-13 and 14 in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle and Lyon Co's (PE).

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Late migrants 6-13 and 14 in Lac Qui Parle and Lyon Co's (PE), and 6-14 and 15 Nobles (KE, RJ).

### **Sanderling**

6-13 Pope (OJ) and 6-15 Lyon (BDC); latest south dates on record by a week.

### **Marbled Godwit**

Reported from Marshall, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Swift and Meeker.

### **The Loon**

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Nested in Lac Qui Parle; also reported from Lyon, Pipestone, Wright and Hennepin; fewer reports than usual.

### **Herring Gull**

Nested in Lake, St. Louis (DM) and Mille Lacs (6-24, Hennepin I., NH); also reported from Cass, Itasca, Cook and Washington (7-14 to 19, WL; early migrants?).

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Nested in Mille Lacs; migrants and non-breeding birds also reported from Lake of the Woods, Cass, Becker, St. Louis, Marshall, Pope, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Cottonwood, Murray, Jackson, Nobles and Wabasha; more reports than usual; birders should check all summering "Ring-bills" for possible California Gulls, especially after last May's first state record in Pipestone Co. and since a pair of Californias probably bred at Drywood L., S.D. — only 15 miles west of Traverse Co. — in 1975.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Nested in Marshall; also reported from 11 other counties east to Itasca and St. Louis (6-27, Duluth, B. Henspeter).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

3 reports: 7-12 Lake of the Woods (BB); 6-29 Wright (ES); 7-6 Pipestone (KE, PE); only the 2nd and 3rd summer records south.

### **LITTLE GULL**

One immature still at Duluth on 6-1 (BDC).

### **Forster's Tern**

Nested in Hennepin; also reported from Marshall, Kandiyohi, Wright, Ramsey, Cottonwood, Lyon, Lincoln, Rock and Jackson.

### **Common Tern**

Nested in St. Louis and Mille Lacs; also reported from Itasca, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Big Stone, Washington (WL) and Wabasha (DWM).

### **LEAST TERN**

One adult at Midway County Park near Adrian, Nobles Co. on 6-14 (KE); seventh state record.

### **Caspian Tern**

Late migrant 6-1 Duluth (JG); also 3 adults on Mille Lacs L. on 6-24 (NH) — possibly bred?

### **Black Tern**

Nested in Pope, Hennepin and Ramsey; also reported from 30 other counties.

### **BAND-TAILED PIGEON**

One seen on a roadside breeding bird count near St. Joseph, Stearns Co. on 6-23 (NH); only the third state record.

### **Mourning Dove**

Nested in Marshall, St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Pope, Lyon, Rock, Hennepin and Ramsey; also reported from 25 other counties.

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Reported from Lincoln, Lyon, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Freeborn, Olmsted, Goodhue and Cass; unusual that most reports from the southwest.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Reported from 26 counties.

### **Screech Owl**

Nested in Lyon and Rock; also reported from Big Stone, Freeborn, Olmsted and Ramsey.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Nested in Lake of the Woods, St. Louis and Freeborn; also reported from 11 other counties.

### **Barred Owl**

Nested in Mower; also reported from St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Washington, Goodhue and Olmsted.

### **GREAT GRAY OWL**

Two young seen near Aitkin, Aitkin Co. from 7-19 to 8-2 (BB, S. and J. Blanich, L. Paynter) along with up to two adults; very few breeding records exist for this owl.

### **Short-eared Owl**

Reported only from Big Stone (BE); this owl continues to decline as a breeder in the state.

### **Saw-whet Owl**

6-8 Echo Trail, St. Louis Co. (GN);  
7-5 Gun Lake, St. Louis Co. (JG).

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

Reported from Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Itasca, Lake, Mille Lacs, Sherburne and Wabasha.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Nested in St. Louis, Cottonwood and Chippewa; also reported from 19 other counties.

### **Chimney Swift**

Reported from 28 counties.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Reported from 25 counties.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Nested in Stearns; also reported from 35 other counties.

### **Common Flicker**

Nested in St. Louis, Itasca, Mille Lacs and Cottonwood; also reported from 31 other counties.

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Nested in Cook; also reported from 11 other counties.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Nested in Olmsted; also reported from Stearns, Wright, Hennepin, Goodhue, Wabasha, Le Sueur and Freeborn (DG).

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Nested in St. Louis, Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 34 other counties.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Nested in Lyon (HK) and Mille Lacs; also reported from 17 other counties including Brown.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Nested in Itasca, Hubbard and Hennepin; also reported from 22 other counties.

### **The Loon**

### **Downy Woodpecker**

Nested in Hubbard, Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 22 other counties.

### **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**

Three nests found along the Echo Trail, St. Louis Co. (GN); one young seen in Cook Co. on 7-1 (GN); two nest holes found in Lake Co. at Isabella and Kitigan L. (JG).

### **Eastern Kingbird**

Nested in Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Stearns and Hennepin; also reported from 32 other counties.

### **Western Kingbird**

Nested in Clay, Pipestone and Rock; also reported from 16 other counties east to Cass, Mille Lacs and Hennepin.

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

Nested in Hubbard, Chisago and Wright; also reported from 30 other counties.

### **Eastern Phoebe**

Nested in Marshall, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass and Mille Lacs; also reported from 19 other counties.

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Reported from Aitkin (6-7, R. Huber), St. Louis (6-3, 6-20, 7-19; DM, GN), Lake (JG) and Rock (late migrant 6-8, KE).

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

Again nested at Vasa, Goodhue Co. (RJ, ES); also seen 7-20 to 24 at White-water W.M.A., Winona Co. (JF), and 7-20 at Beaver Creek Valley St. Pk. (DM).

### **Willow Flycatcher**

Nested in Murray; also reported from Yellow Medicine, Pope, Wright, Sherburne, Rice, Olmsted, Houston, Freeborn and Rock.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

Reported from Kittson, Clearwater, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Wadena, Cass, Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Lake and Cook; also 3 late migrants from 6-1 to 6-11 Rock (KE).

**Least Flycatcher**

Nested in Marshall, Cass, Itasca and St. Louis; also reported from 18 other counties.

**Eastern Wood Pewee**

Reported from 33 counties.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Reported from Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake and Cook; late migrant 6-8 to 6-11 Rock (KE); fewer reports than usual.

**Horned Lark**

Nested in Rock, Dakota and Cottonwood; also reported from 18 other counties; fewer reports than usual.

**Tree Swallow**

Nested in Marshall, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Wright, Stearns and Renville; also reported from 24 other counties.

**Bank Swallow**

Nested in Stearns and Renville; also reported from 23 other counties.

**Rough-winged Swallow**

Nested in Mille Lacs, Stearns, Olmsted and Lyon; also reported from 18 other counties including St. Louis and Cook.

**Barn Swallow**

Nested in Marshall, Cass, Mille Lacs, Clay, Lac Qui Parle, Wright, Hennepin, Olmsted and Lake; also reported from 23 other counties.

**Cliff Swallow**

Nested in Marshall, Beltrami, Cass, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Cook and Murray; also reported from 20 other counties.

**Purple Martin**

Nested in Hubbard, Cass, Mille Lacs, Lac Qui Parle, Cottonwood, Hennepin and Ramsey; also reported from 29 other counties.

**Gray Jay**

Nested in Itasca, St. Louis, Cook; also reported from Lake.

**Blue Jay**

Nested in Mille Lacs, Hennepin, Cot-

tonwood and Pipestone; also reported from 29 other counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

Seen on 7-14 in Roseau Co. (BB) and seen all summer in Marshall Co. (SV); continues to be regular in summer in the northwest.

**Common Raven**

Reported from Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Common Crow**

Nested in Hubbard, Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 36 other counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Nested in Lake, St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Hennepin and Rock; also reported from 24 other counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

Reported from St. Louis (6-11 and 22, GN), Lake (from 6-23 to 7-4, 4 birds, JG) and Cook (7-1, GN).

**Tufted Titmouse**

Only 2 reports: Goodhue (CF) and Houston (7-20, DM); continues to be scarce in summer.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Nested in Hubbard and Hennepin; also reported from 20 other counties including Lake.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from Lake of the Woods, Cass, Hubbard, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Brown Creeper**

Nested in St. Louis; also reported from Lake and Cottonwood (6-13, LF; late migrant?).

**House Wren**

Nested in Marshall, Hubbard, Becker, Itasca, Carlton, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Hennepin, Cottonwood and Lyon; also reported from 32 other counties.

**Winter Wren**

Reported from Marshall, Itasca, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Goodhue (6-14, Vasa, RJ) and Dakota (7-13,

South St. Paul; KE, PE) — farthest south summer reports on record.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**

Nested in Hennepin; also reported from 18 other counties.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren**

Reported from 17 counties.

**Mockingbird**

6-28 Albert Lea, Freeborn Co. (DG); only report.

**Gray Catbird**

Nested in Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Hennepin, Cottonwood and Pipestone; also reported from 33 other counties.

**Brown Thrasher**

Nested in Mille Lacs, Hennepin, Cottonwood and Rock; also reported from 32 other counties.

**American Robin**

Nested in Marshall, Cass, Hubbard, Beltrami, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Lake, Stearns, Wright, Chisago, Hennepin, Ramsey, Olmsted, Goodhue, Rock, Cottonwood and Pipestone; also reported from 23 other counties.

**Wood Thrush**

Reported from 13 counties west to Redwood, Renville and Rock (late migrants 6-11 and 13, KE).

**Hermit Thrush**

Reported from Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Swainson's Thrush**

Reported from Lake of the Woods, St. Louis, Lake and Cook; late migrants 6-2 Lyon (BBH), 6-4 Cottonwood (LF) and 6-11 Olmsted (V. Herring; need details; would be latest date south on record).

**Veery**

Nested in Marshall; also reported from 16 other counties west of Pope.

**Eastern Bluebird**

Nested in Cass, Mille Lacs, Anoka, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Olmsted, Pope, Lyon; also reported from 11 other counties: fewer reports than usual.

**The Loon**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Nested in Goodhue; also reported from Sherburne, Wabasha and Houston.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Nested in Clearwater; also reported from St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Reported from St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Cedar Waxwing**

Nested in Mille Lacs, Wright and Lac Qui Parle; also reported from 23 other counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike**

3 reports: 6-15 Wright (BH); 6-21 Scott (PE); 6-24 Mille Lacs (NH); continues to decline in summer.

**Starling**

Nested in Hubbard, Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 25 other counties.

**Bell's Vireo**

3 reports: 6-1 Pipestone National Monument, Pipestone Co. (SV); 6-2 Goodhue (CF); 6-5 Olmsted (JF).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

Reported from 12 counties northeast to Cass and Mille Lacs.

**Solitary Vireo**

Reported from Roseau, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Red-eyed Vireo**

Nested in St. Louis and Cass; also reported from 28 other counties.

**Philadelphia Vireo**

6-26 and 29 Lake (2 pairs, JG); late migrant 6-1 Rock (KE).

**Warbling Vireo**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Meeker; also reported from 22 other counties.

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Reported from Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook and Sherburne.

**Prothonotary Warbler**

Reported from Goodhue (CF) and Houston (6-17, RJ).

**Golden-winged Warbler**

Reported from Cass, Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis (including Babbitt; P. Doran, J. Johns) and Sherburne.

**Blue-winged Warbler**

Nested in Houston; also reported from Goodhue and Wabasha.

**Tennessee Warbler**

Reported from Cass, St. Louis and Lake; late migrants 6-1 Rock (KE) and 6-3 Washington (WL).

**Nashville Warbler**

Reported from Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Aitkin, Cass, Wadena, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook and Sherburne.

**Northern Parula**

Reported from Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Yellow Warbler**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Ramsey; also reported from 26 other counties.

**Magnolia Warbler**

Reported from Clearwater, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Cape May Warbler**

Reported from St. Louis (GN) and Lake (JG).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

4 reports: 6-26 Goldeneye L., Lake Co. (JG); 6-29 Honeymoon Lookout, Cook Co. (JG); 7-1 Gunflint Trail, Cook Co. (GN); 7-5 Wagosh L., St. Louis Co. (JG).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Nested in Lake; also reported from Marshall, Cass, Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis and Cook.

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

Reported from Itasca, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake and Cook; late migrant on 6-12 Lincoln (KE); latest date on record).

**Cerulean Warbler**

Nested in Goodhue; also reported

from Stearns, Sherburne, Wright and Houston.

**Blackburnian Warbler**

Reported from Cass, Itasca, Mille Lacs, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Nested in St. Louis; also reported from Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Carlton, Itasca, Lake and Cook.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

2 reports: 6-25 St. Louis (JG) and 6-23, 6-26 Lake (GN).

**Pine Warbler**

Reported from Beltrami, Cass and Itasca.

**Palm Warbler**

Only report was of a young bird seen 6-20 in St. Louis Co. (DM).

**Ovenbird**

Nested in St. Louis; also reported from 18 other counties.

**Northern Waterthrush**

Reported from St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

Again nested at Franconia, Chisago Co. (nest with 1 young and 2 cowbirds found; WL); a "family group" also reported at Beaver Creek Valley St. Pk. on 7-20 (DM).

**Connecticut Warbler**

Reported from Marshall, Aitkin, Cass and St. Louis; late migrants 6-1 Pipestone (HK) and 6-8 Rock (KE).

**Mourning Warbler**

Nested in St. Louis; also reported from Marshall, Cass, Itasca, Carlton, Lake and Cook; late migrants 6-1 Pipestone (HK) and Lac Qui Parle (AFE), and 6-8 Rock (KE).

**Common Yellowthroat**

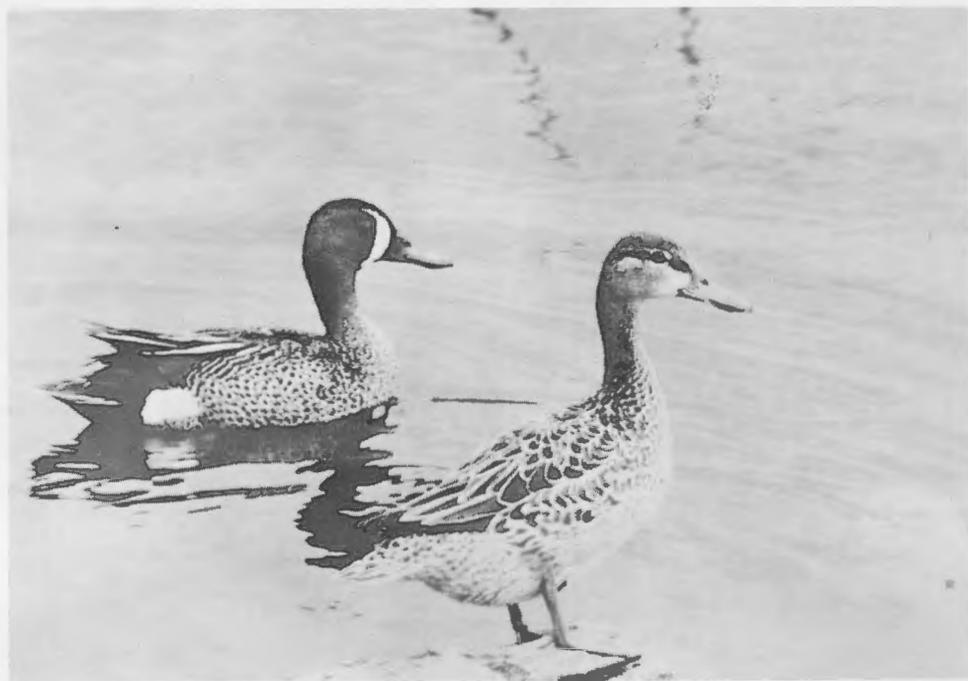
Reported from 41 counties.

**HOODED WARBLER**

One singing male present at Itasca State Park, Clearwater Co. from 6-14 to 6-22 (C. Neil, D. Parmelee, Roger



**Bald Eagle — Dick Behrens**



**Blue-winged Teal**



**Black-bellied Plover — Marj Carr**



**White-throated Sparrow — Vince Herring**

Tory Peterson); about the ninth state record and easily the farthest north.

**Wilson's Warbler**

6-26 and 29 Blesner Creek, Lake Co. (JG; there are no breeding records in the state; very late migrants?); late migrants 6-8 Rock (KE) and 6-9 to 6-13 Freeborn (DG).

**Canada Warbler**

Reported from Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook; late migrant 6-1 Lac Qui Parle (AFE).

**American Redstart**

Nested in Itasca and Mille Lacs; also reported from 22 other counties south-west to Lyon, Pipestone and Rock.

**House Sparrow**

Nested in Hennepin; also reported from 26 other counties.

**Bobolink**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 30 other counties.

**Eastern Meadowlark**

Reported from 18 counties west to Wadena, Rock (until 6-10, KE) and Freeborn.

**Western Meadowlark**

Nested in Chippewa; also reported from 31 other counties.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Nested in Clay, Mille Lacs, Wright, Hennepin, Scott, Lyon and Pipestone; also reported from 24 other counties northeast to Crow Wing, Cass and Itasca.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Nested in Marshall, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Wright, Hennepin and Ramsey; also reported from 38 other counties.

**Orchard Oriole**

Nested in Pipestone; also reported from Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lyon, Cottonwood, Murray, Rock, Freeborn, Hennepin, Goodhue and Wabasha.

**Northern Oriole**

Nested in Cass, Mille Lacs, Itasca, Stearns, Anoka, Hennepin, Goodhue

and Olmsted; also reported from 25 other counties.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD**

7-2, Saganaga L., Cook Co. (GN); only the third summer report on record.

**Brewer's Blackbird**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 13 other counties including Lincoln (7-19, RJ).

**Common Grackle**

Nested in Marshall, Clay, St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Pope and Hennepin; also reported from 29 other counties.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Nested in Lake (parasitized Song Sparrow), Marshall (Least Flycatcher, Veery, Red-winged Blackbird), Cottonwood (Common Grackle) and Pipestone (Orchard Oriole); also reported from 31 other counties.

**Scarlet Tanager**

Nested in Stearns; also reported from 13 other counties including Renville; fewer reports than usual.

**Cardinal**

Nested in Hennepin and Olmsted; also reported from 15 other counties west to Lyon, Murray and Rock (6-11 and 7-5; KE, PE).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Nested in Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 34 other counties; more reports than usual.

**Blue Grosbeak**

One male seen near Leota, Nobles Co. (A. DeKam); another near Adrian, Nobles Co. (6-14, KE); two males near Jasper, Rock Co. (7-18 and 27; KE); a peak of 6 all summer at Blue Mounds State Park, Rock Co. (KE).

**Indigo Bunting**

Nested in Murray; also reported from 29 other counties.

**Dickcissel**

Reported from 19 counties north to Clay, Stearns and Mille Lacs.

**The Loon**

### **Evening Grosbeak**

Reported from Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

### **Purple Finch**

Nested in Marshall and Mille Lacs; also reported from Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook and **Wabasha** (from 6-18 on; DWM).

### **Pine Siskin**

Nested in St. Louis; also reported from Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca and Lake.

### **American Goldfinch**

Nested in Mille Lacs; also reported from 35 other counties.

### **Red Crossbill**

Reported from St. Louis (7-2 and 7-7; DM, GN) and **Yellow Medicine** (flock heard 7-19; KE, PE); crossbill, sp. also heard 7-4 to 7-8 in St. Louis and Lake (JG).

### **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**

An unprecedented summer record of a flock of 10 near Luverne, **Rock Co.** on 7-5 (KE, PE).

### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Reported from Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, Wadena, Cass, Beltrami, St. Louis (6-24, JG) and **Lake** (7-7, JG; first county record?).

### **LARK BUNTING**

Two males were found on 6-15 in Rock and Pipestone Co. (BDC); very few summer reports recently, probably late migrants.

### **Savannah Sparrow**

Nested in St. Louis and Mille Lacs; also reported from 24 other counties.

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Reported from 15 counties north to Stearns and Mille Lacs; fewer reports than usual.

### **Le Conte's Sparrow**

4 reports: "fairly common" in Marshall Co. (SV); 6-8 Cass (S. and J. Blanche); 6-7 Aitkin (ES); 6-23 St. Louis (JG).

### **Henslow's Sparrow**

Reported from **Sherburne** (R. Bystrom), Wabasha (6-25, Kruger Park, JF) and Steele (7-4 and 7-10, up to 3 at Rice Lake State Park, ES, RJ); no reports from the "usual" Winona Co. areas.

### **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Found for the second year in a row in Aitkin Co. (6-7 and 6-22; ES, OJ); also "seen and heard regularly at 2 locations, heard occasionally elsewhere" in Marshall Co. (SV); no reports from Waubun.

### **Vesper Sparrow**

Reported from 34 counties including Lake (6-22, R. Huber) and Cook (6-29, JG).

### **Lark Sparrow**

Reported from Clay, Renville, Sherburne and Houston; note the different locations of these counties; the range of this species continues to defy description.

### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Reported from Lake of the Woods, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

### **Chipping Sparrow**

Nested in Cass, Mille Lacs, Stearns, Anoka, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon and Cottonwood; also reported from 28 other counties.

### **Clay-colored Sparrow**

Nested in Cass, Mille Lacs and Hennepin; also reported from 14 other counties south to Pipestone (KE) and Olmsted (JF); fewer reports than usual.

### **Field Sparrow**

Nested in Sherburne, Lyon and Pipestone; also reported from 14 other counties north to Pope and Stearns.

### **White-throated Sparrow**

Reported from Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook.

### **Lincoln's Sparrow**

3 reports: 7-16 **Kittson** (BB); 6-19 and 6-20 St. Louis (GN, DM).

**Swamp Sparrow**

Reported from 26 counties.

**Song Sparrow**

Nested in St. Louis and Mille Lacs;  
also reported from 33 other counties.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**

One heard near Burr, **Yellow Medicine Co.** on 7-19 (RJ, PE, KE); first summer record in the southwest in a long time, though species breeds regularly in South Dakota within 10 miles of the above location.

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# BREEDING BIRDS ON A COPPER-NICKEL EXPLORATION SITE

Pete Doran<sup>1</sup> and Jeff Todd<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

Breeding birds were censused in five general habitats on the copper nickel exploration project of AMAX Exploration, Inc. (Minnamax project) 6 miles south of Babbitt, Minnesota. These censuses were part of a comprehensive baseline wildlife study and monitoring program. The habitats censused were: a 27.5 acre one-year jack pine clear-cut, a 15 acre ten-year cut regenerated naturally to trembling aspen, 18.3 acres of 10-20 feet jack pines, 18.3 acres of mature lowland conifers, and 18.3 acres of an upland deciduous complex.

We appreciate the awareness and support of Mr. Jack B. Malcom and his staff on the Minnamax site, Mr. Art Biddle, Mr. Jim Johns, and Dr. James A. Jones, plant ecologist.

## Methods

The census method used was a modification of the technique used by Bond (1957) and Beals (1960). The reader is referred to those publications for specifics. This method was selected over conventional spot-mapping and road counts for reasons of time and economics. The technique is standardized in our work and will be used in year-to-year monitoring to establish breeding trends, the meat of any census work.

Censuses totaled 15 man-hours and were run between 3 June and 18 July, 1975. The censuses will be repeated annually through the duration of AMAX's activity in the area.

Breeding bird species diversity indices (based on breeding pairs/100 acres) for each censused habitat were calculated using the Shannon-Weaver

function (Shannon and Weaver 1963), and the tables of Lloyd et al. (1968). The diversity index is a function of the number of species and the distribution of individuals among those species for a given sample location. For the Minnamax program, indices should be viewed relative to each other and as yearly trend indicators. The lower the index, the lower the breeding bird diversity. A one species community will have an index of zero. A community with an index over 3.00 (on the Minnamax site) supports a very diverse breeding population. The principle of diversity for bird (and other wildlife) species and the various successional and climax plant communities will be key in the development of any future land rehabilitation plans at Minnamax.

## Vegetation

Due to time restrictions, quantified vegetation analyses were not conducted. For reference purposes the five habitat types are described here in a qualitative manner.

**One-year clear-cut** — This area was logged in the spring of 1974. At the time of the census, only a few trees were left standing. A large number of felled trees along with several piles of unburned slash are scattered abundantly throughout the cut. The herbaceous and shrub layers consist primarily of remnants from the mature jack pine community: principally alders, beaked hazel, blackberry, and raspberry in the shrub layer and aster, blue-head lily, Canada bunchberry, and blueberry in the herbaceous layer.

**10-year clear-cut with aspen regeneration** — This area was cut (jack pine) approximately 10-15 years ago and is

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<sup>1</sup>Index ( $H'$ ) based on  $\log e$ ; where  $H' = 2.3026(\log_{10} N - \frac{1}{N} \sum ni \log_{10} ni)$ .  $N$  = total individuals and  $n$  = total individuals in  $i$ th species.

characterized by abundant natural reproduction of trembling aspen now 10-15 feet tall. Several large (40-50 feet) trembling aspen clones have been left standing. Numerous felled pines and slash piles are scattered throughout the plot. Several dead snags are also on the area. Tree dominants are trembling aspen saplings and scattered, 3-4 foot jack pines. Upland willows and alder comprise the majority of scrub species. The open nature of this habitat creates a herbaceous flora of abundant grasses and sedges, with blueberry, aster, and bracken ferns scattered throughout.

**10-20 foot jack pine complex** — The tree composition of this plot is similar to the young aspen area with a reversed order of dominants. Ten to twenty feet jack pines are the key species, with vigorous growth of trembling aspens between pines. Upland species of willow and alder dominate a well-developed shrub layer. Abundant grasses and sedges again reflect the openness of this habitat type. Aster and blueberry are most frequently encountered in the herbaceous stratum.

**Mature lowland conifers** — Large (40-50 feet) individuals of black spruce and occasional jack pine form an extensive coniferous canopy in this plot. Where this canopy is broken, lowland alder are encountered. Beneath the canopy, the shrub layer is very poorly developed. Shade tolerant labrador tea is abundant. Sphagnum moss forms a nearly complete ground cover, with bunchberry, gold thread, club moss, and bracken fern the most common forbs or forb-like. This is the most ecologically mature of the five habitats sampled.

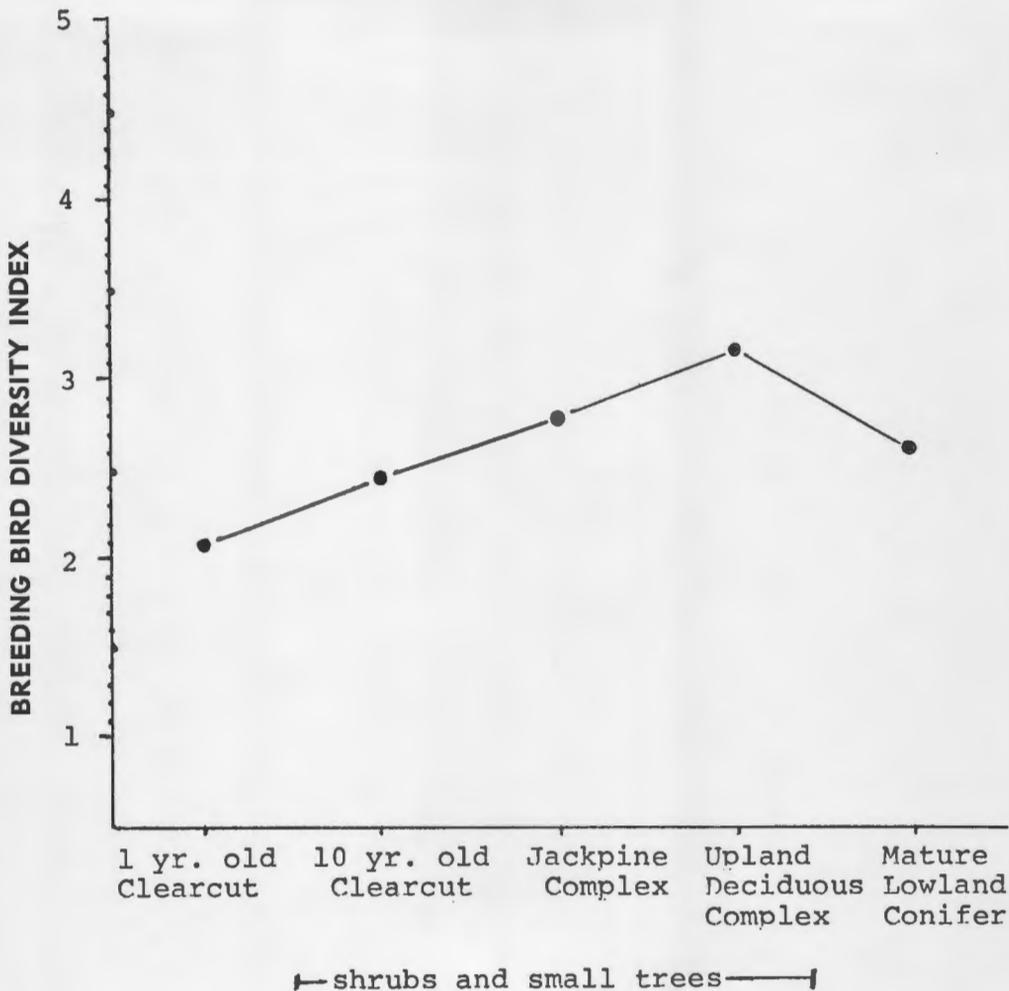
**Upland deciduous complex** — The degree of development of the understory is the outstanding feature of this type. Hazel, upland alder, mountain maple, and red osier dogwood form an almost impenetrable tangle of shrubs. The canopy is composed almost exclusively of paper birch and red maple with a few scattered individuals of trembling aspen present. Several spe-

cies of club moss and bunchberry are the dominant forbs. Abundant balsam fir and white spruce reproduction in the understory indicate the climax toward which this community is succeeding.

### Results and Discussion

The results of the five censuses are included in Table 1. Additionally, breeding bird diversity indices as previously discussed are included in the table.

Disturbance is the critical feature relative to habitat succession and breeding bird diversity on the Minnamax site. The close proximity of Reserve and Erie Mining Companies' taconite operations places Minnamax in a fairly extensive industrial area. Diamond drilling has been going on somewhat regularly since the early 1950's. The relatively immature nature of the majority of timber stands on the property reflects a history of extensive logging activities. Logging and the smaller scale disturbances have created a patchwork of various aged seres on the site, each with its own vertical foliage structure. Although still in the stage of preliminary analysis, our data indicate that breeding bird diversity on the Minnamax site relates directly to the stage of plant succession (Fig. 1) and complexity of vertical foliage structure. As a disturbed area progresses toward a mature climax community, breeding bird diversity also increases. These findings are not unusual from those of other researchers (as reviewed by Balda 1975). One possible anomaly is the inclusion of the wet lowland mature black spruce community. This community lacks the under and midstory development of the drier types but does not vary significantly from the 10-year clear-cut and jack pine complex in breeding bird diversity and number of species. However, species composition does change in this lowland conifer habitat as the more arboreal species (Blackburnian Warbler, kinglets, Purple Finch) replace such lower-story dwellers as the Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Yel-



**PLANT COMMUNITY**

**Figure 1. Relationship of diversity and various mesic successional stages (except Lowland Conifers) on Minnamax site.**

lowthroat, and Mourning Warbler.

The ubiquity and abundance of three known disturbance type breeders, the Nashville Warbler (Harrison, et. al. 1975), Chestnut-sided Warbler and Mourning Warbler (Niemi and Bergstedt, 1974) are indicative of the numerous habitat abrasions from human activity in the area. In the well-

developed deciduous complex with balsam fir reproduction, three classic boreal breeders, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, and Least Flycatcher (Ken-deigh in Niemi and Bergstedt, 1974), occurred most abundantly. A comparison of diversity indices also indicates this to be the most diverse in terms of breeding birds of the five habitats

**Table 1. Breeding bird survey data. Minnamax site. 1975. Presented as breeding pairs per 100 acres.**

Species	Habitat				
	1 year clearcut	8-12 year aspen-birch complex	Mature lowland conifers	15-20 year jack pine complex	Upland deciduous w/fir reproduction
Black-billed Cuckoo					5
Common Flicker				5	11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					5
Downy Woodpecker					5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					5
Alder Flycatcher		7		22	
Least Flycatcher					27
Olive-sided Flycatcher			5		
Blue Jay		7	5		
Red-breasted Nuthatch		7	5		11
House Wren		13			
Winter Wren			5		5
Gray Catbird				5	
Brown Thrasher					5
American Robin	7	7	5	5	
Hermit Thrush		7	11	16	11
Swainson's Thrush					5
Veery		7	5	5	16
Golden-crowned Kinglet			38		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			16		
Red-eyed Vireo				11	27
Black-and-white Warbler		7		22	5
Tennessee Warbler			27		
Nashville Warbler	7	13	49	38	5
Magnolia Warbler				5	5
Cap May Warbler			5		5
Yellow-rumped Warbler				5	
Black-throated Green Warbler					5
Blackburnian Warbler			22		5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	11	33		38	22
Ovenbird			16		22
Connecticut Warbler			5		
Mourning Warbler	15	33			11
Common Yellowthroat	4	20		44	
Canada Warbler					22
American Redstart		7		5	
Brown-headed Cowbird					11
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					11
Evening Grosbeak					5
Purple Finch			5		5
American Goldfinch				11	
Chipping Sparrow	4		5	5	
White-throated Sparrow	11	33	22	49	5
Song Sparrow	11	13		11	
Killdeer	4				
Rusty Blackbird	*(unusual visitant)				
Totals	74	214	251	302	282
No. Species	9	15	18	18	28
Diversity index	2.09	2.48	2.56	2.66	3.13

sampled, and is testimony to the high degree of vertical foliage development. The relatively high diversity index in the mature conifers may be dependent on the occurrence of occasional openings in the canopy and subsequent alder reproduction and patchy lower-story structure.

The presence of the House Wren in the 10-year aspen stand is interesting. Niemi and Bergstedt (1974) hypothesized that the combination of dead snags and lack of well-developed canopy resulting from heavy disturbances

invites this cavity nester to fill a niche formerly occupied by vireos and warblers. This trend is quite likely what has occurred on the Minnamax site.

Despite a lack of any territorial behavior, the presence of a flock of four Rusty Blackbirds on the one-year clear-cut should be noted (Todd and Doran 1975). Niemi (1975) has suggested the possibility of their breeding in northeastern Minnesota. Needless to say, summer birders in Minnesota should watch closely for this bird in the future.

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# notes of interest

**SCOTT'S ORIOLE — FURTHER INFORMATION** — Koni Sundquist in "The Loon" 47:22-24 reported her observation of a Scott's Oriole in her yard in Duluth from May 23, to mid-June 1974. A number of us saw the bird and the bird caused quite a friendly controversy among Minnesota birders. Was the bird wild or had it escaped from captivity such as from one of the ships that regularly dock at Duluth harbor? It seems highly probable to say at the present time that the bird was wild and not an escaped bird. From reports received from other parts of the country, it would appear that the Scott's Oriole wandered widely from its normal range in the southwestern part of the United States in 1974 and 1975. A few examples of these wanderings, in addition to the Minnesota bird, are as follows: One bird from May 20 to June 24, 1975 near Grand Island, Nebraska (Nebr. Bird Review 43:64-66); One sub adult from May 1 to 3, 1975 at Red Rock Park, Colorado. Another bird, a male at Waterton, Colorado on May 3, 1975 and another individual at Golden, Colorado on May 5, 1975 (Colo. Field Ornithologist, June 1975 p. 22-23). Also in **American Birds** Vol. 28:694 and 854 and Vol. 29:124 and 911, reference is made to birds occurring out of their normal range in California in 1974 and 1975. Considering these records it is the opinion of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) that the Scott's Oriole should be placed on the accidental list of Minnesota species. **Robert B. Jansen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE AT DULUTH** — The Townsend's Solitaire that showed up on Hawk Ridge on Monday, Sept. 22, 1975, had poor timing, as it was the day after the MOU Hawk watching weekend. Molly Kohlbray, Burnett Hojnacki, Bob Cole, a young man from Illinois, our daughter Kathy, and I were on the Ridge when Burnett called our attention to a pale gray bird, with large white eyerings, perched on a dead tree in front of the overlook. The bird was actively hunting insects on the side of the hill, and we studied it for quite a while, as none of us had ever seen a bird like this before. We checked Peterson and Birds of North America, and in both field guides, the color of the solitaire was much too brown, and this bird was light gray. Finally, Bob Cole looked in his Audubon Field Guide, and only then were we absolutely sure of our identification. We were able to get a few photographs (See front cover **The Loon** 47, No. 4.) before the bird flew further down the hill. It was seen four days later west of Ole's Trail, and a month later near the Ridge. **Marjorie M. Carr, 1834 Vermilion Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55803.**

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER AND CATTLE EGRET IN DULUTH** — During the A.B.A. weekend on Hawk Ridge we decided to drive along the shoreline area toward Stony Point. On Friday, October 24, 1975, the weather had been heavy, with especially strong westerly winds, but by Saturday the 25th the strength had diminished a bit — blowing more from the southwest. We stopped several times to check water birds, the last stop by the bay area south of the Sucker River. Just as we were about to leave I saw an all white-winged bird fly in toward shore. It flew past and landed about 100 feet south of the car along the beach. I walked back along the road until

I could see the shoreline — with the sun behind me. Spotted the bird as it saw me, and it rose into the air, flying past me in a southerly direction, following the shore line as it curved in and out. It had been resting close to the overhang on the rocks along the water's edge. The bird's legs were black, the beak was yellow, the size and profile made it a definite Cattle Egret, immature. As we drove on, George called my attention to a bird on a post on the right hand side of the road. We stopped and watched the bird as it perched and turned; then took flight across the road, with its tail feathers trailing down behind it. It was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. We saw the bird fly into the trees above the small stream of the Little Sucker River. Driving back about 20 minutes later, I suggested we drive to the super-highway on the other side of the railroad-and-trestle over the river. Driving along this four-lane road, just past the river, George spotted a white object on the right side of the road: It was the flycatcher. It remained on the road, flying and fluttering its beautiful wings and tail in the graceful way it has, taking flight into the trees along the right side of the road, and perching regally there for us to admire. Later in the afternoon we came back and found it again on the apron of the road. Two residents of Duluth were walking along the trestle of the railroad, we gave them a ride around to the highway, where we again sat and watched the bird. It was most spectacular: The head and body were quite white; the tail was not fully grown, but still long enough to hang down in an arc. The sides of the breast under the wing were very striking, being a rather luminous peach-orange and when the bird hovered over the road facing us, I could see a pattern through the flight feathers. It looked more like an illusion — a white bird with translucent wings, a long inverted V tail and that lovely orange shining from under the wings. Jan Green sent me a note that the bird had been seen and given pleasure to other observers. It was found dead on Tuesday, October 28, beside the road. It is now in the collection of the University of Minnesota, Duluth. **Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416.**

**SUMMER OBSERVATIONS OF ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS IN AITKIN COUNTY** — On Saturday, June 21, 1975, between 8 and 9 a.m., my husband, Steve, myself and Ann Follis from San Francisco were driving north on Hwy. 65 from McGregor, Minnesota in Aitkin County. A mile south of Junction 65 and Co. Rd. 14, we saw, sitting on a fence post along a field on the west side of the highway, a large hawk being harassed by some crows. After a few minutes, it flew up and to the west and we readily identified it as a Rough-legged Hawk. Terry Savaloja joined us at the junction (Sather's Store) and we drove back to the field but did not see the bird. After birding in a bog along Co. Rd. 14, we drove back south through McGregor and just south of the Junction of Hwys. 65 & 210, a distance of approximately 10 miles, where we birded at the "Yellow Rail Marsh" there. This was about noon. Several hundred feet to the east, we watched for about 10 minutes, two Rough-legged Hawks hunting over the open marsh and small islands of brush. The same day at 9:30 a.m., Oscar Johnson of Minneapolis saw a Rough-legged Hawk 2½ miles south of Junction 65 and 27 in Aitkin County. It was hunting over an open, grassy marsh. He observed it for about five minutes as close as 30 yards. **Jo Blanich, Box 96, Crosby, Minnesota 56441.**

**SCOTERS AT MARSHALL** — Scoter records away from Lake Superior are always of interest to birders in Minnesota. The White-winged Scoter is occasionally seen and taken by hunters in the western part of the state during the fall. Very rarely are Black or Surf Scoters seen away from Lake

Superior, but, records for other parts of the state for all three species are increasing. On October 20, 1973, Paul Egeland saw four White-winged and two Surf Scoters at Marshall, Lyon Co. (**The Loon** 47:93) and during the fall of 1974, Surf Scoters were reported from Cottonwood and Le Sueur Counties. Also during 1974 Black Scoters were reported from Mille Lacs Lake and Beltrami Co. This past fall, on October 18, 1975, Ray Glassel, Bill Litkey, Bill Pieper and I were birding at the Marshall Sewage Lagoons, Lyon County, and saw the amazing total of 14 Surf, three Black and two White-winged Scoters. Seven of the Surf plus, the White-wings and Black Scoters were on one of the ponds and the other seven Surf Scoters were on another pond. With the increase in the number of sewage lagoons in the western part of the state is it possible that this is causing the increase in the numbers of scoter observations in Minnesota? As a final comment it is interesting to note that spring records for scoters away from Lake Superior are very rare and if a migration shift is occurring it seems to be happening only in the fall. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**WILD TURKEYS OF THE WHITEWATER** — On July 20, 1975, three of us were birding in the Doerer Pool area of the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area not too far from the town of Weaver, Wabasha County, and in a rather remote area of the management section when we came upon 15 to 20 wild Turkey poults dusting themselves in the sandy soil along one of the township roads. Almost at the same time that they spotted us, they headed for cover among the grasses nearby. With our binoculars we saw them scooting through the cover and making their way into the woods. Because of the quickness of the birds, we made the hurried estimate of somewhere between 15 and 20 birds. I have lived in this general area of Winona all my life and being aware of the great numbers of species of wildlife, I would still have to conclude the sighting of these turkeys ranks among the most memorable sighting that it has been my pleasure to witness. They were magnificent. A birders "thrill of a lifetime." Nick Gulden, our area game manager, was notified of this observation and upon discussing the Turkey sighting with him, he told us the wild Turkey is doing well in the Whitewater, and any time birds are noticed, the sightings should be reported to him. For those people who are not familiar with the Whitewater, it is a huge management and park area in southeast Minnesota, lying mostly in Winona County. Its area consists of thousands of acres of woods and grass lands. Through this timber and grass flows the three branches of the beautiful Whitewater River. Not only does the Whitewater River furnish water for the flora and animals, it also provides some excellent trout fishing. The German Brown, the Rainbow, and some Brook trout call this great stream home. **Andy Buggs, Minnesota City, Minnesota 55959.**

**LATE DATE FOR AMERICAN REDSTART** — November 13, 1975, was a bright sunny day with the temperature just above freezing (36°) and very light wind. From across the room I saw a small bird flutter up against the front window like warblers do late in the migration when they catch insects on the warm, sunny side of the house. At first I thought it might be the Yellow-rumped Warbler that I had seen about an hour before, flycatching from the garage and front walk, but the glimpse I had of this bird registered too much a greenish color for a Yellow-rumped Warbler. So I went outside to find it and spotted a warbler on the edge of the roof. I was really surprised when I put the binoculars on it to see an American Redstart. The light was excellent and I got as close as 20 feet where the field marks (grey head with

white eye-ring, olive-grey back, white breast, bright yellow spots on flank and yellow in the tail) were easily seen. House flies were active on the sunny side of the house and this may have been what it was eating. This is the only November record for the state. **Janet C. Green, 9773 N. Shore Dr., Duluth, Minnesota 55804.**

**LATE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS** — I was strolling along the main path just inside the Rose Garden entrance to the Roberts Bird Sanctuary in Minneapolis on October 17, 1975, at about 4 p.m., the sun was quite low in the clear sky, when an unusual small bird came into view and moved about rapidly in the huge tree on the left of the path inside the gate. I watched it through my 7x35 Bushnell binoculars, but was sure only of a white wing patch and dark head. As the light dimmed I called it a day. I came earlier the next day, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. The light was good, no cloud cover, and it wasn't long before I enjoyed the same bird along with its companion, a female bird. The sun shone on the black head and chin, white underparts, blue back and white spots on the wings of the male bird. In such good light and about 40 feet away, I became sure of warbler size and warbler bill. On Sunday, Oct. 19, I stood with a relative in the same spot, light equally good as before, and the two birds flew directly in front of us. This time I was equipped with Robbins "Birds of North America," and it took no time at all to identify the male and female Black-throated Blue Warbler. Robbins describes the male bird as "unique in all seasons." On Monday morning I met Ruth Carter (600 club), Betty Murphy and Don Hasty. They were watching the pair flying far up in the same tree, not low as they had been. They found the pair distinctive for positive identification. After the three left, Bob Stanley joined me and again we saw the birds low as if posing for us. On Tuesday, Oct. 21st, I again went to the Sanctuary and heard them (wheezy call as described in Peterson's recording of it) calling to each other. They circled high over my head, flew toward Lake Harriet and have not been seen since. **Miss Cecile F. Jendro, 1207 So. 7th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415.**

**FISH-FEEDING BEHAVIOR IN CANADA GEESE** — On February 22, 1975, while observing approximately 280 Canada Geese, and a variety of other waterfowl from the Swan Overlook on Sunny Lake, at Carver Park (Carver County), Pichner noticed a Canada Goose in the open water with something in its bill. With the use of a 20X spotting scope we identified the object as the remains of a fish, most likely a bullhead. As the bird swam across the water several other geese pursued it seemingly intent on stealing the fish. The fish was dropped several times and each time there was a scramble for it. Another goose finally retrieved the fish. We lost track of this bird as it joined a large group of geese. Our attention was immediately diverted to another goose standing on the ice a few feet from the open water. The goose was pecking at another piece of fish which appeared to be too large to be swallowed whole. The fish was eventually consumed by this and several other geese. Checking with Hennepin County Park Reserve District personnel and University of Minnesota researchers we learned that this fish-feeding behavior has been seen at Carver Park several times. A search of the pertinent literature on Canada Goose food habits failed to uncover a single report of fish-feeding behavior. Birds wintering in severe climates suffer significant energy drain. One way to counteract this would be to consume a larger proportion of protein than is provided for in the grain which they are fed. Winter killed fish would be a readily available source of high energy protein. We postulate that close observation of other wintering flocks of geese and

other anseriformes in cold climates will produce further sightings of this nature. **Jimmy Pichner, 2280 Priscilla Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55108, Mark R. Ryan, Dept. Animal Ecology, Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa 50011 and Cedo Zuckweiler, 108-C University Vlg., Ames, Iowa 50010.**

**WORM-EATING WARBLER OBSERVATION** — Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 16, T143N, R27W, Cass County, Minnesota. Habitat: Hardwoods and tag alders on level ground up and adjacent to cedar and spruce lowland swamp drainage area. While stalking deer in the above described area on Saturday, November 15, 1975, I paused to sit under a spruce tree to try to hide and outwit the wily Whitetail Deer. After a lull of several minutes, my attention was drawn to a small flock of Black-capped Chickadees which landed but 15 feet from me. One bird was different. The chickadees were feeding on upper branches while the bird which was different was low on a branch which was lying on the ground. It was walking and picking along the branch. It was very cooperative, allowing me to get a good look at it, coming within 4 feet of me. It had a conspicuously striped head, buffy underneath, a lack of wing bars and plain olive colored back, and was the same size as a chickadee. It was my first Worm-eating Warbler. The next five days of deer hunting were futile as my eyes and ears were up in the trees looking for birds! **Steve R. Blanich, Box 96, Crosby, Minnesota 56441.**

**LITTLE GULL AT MARSHALL LAGOONS** — On October 19, 1975, as I was leaving the lagoons at 3:30 p.m., a small gull, which at first I thought to be a tern, flew past in a southerly direction. It was but slightly larger than a Robin or Killdeer. There were no black markings on the wings. It had a short, square, white tail with no dark band. Leading and trailing edges of the wings were lighter than the rest of the mantle which was unusually light also. The bill was black and there was a dark spot behind the eye. The wings were dark underneath. It was unlike any of our regular fall gulls. This description is copied from notes taken on the spot in good light. The bird did not circle but flew steadily off to the south-southwest. I did not see it on the following day. I have seen the Little Gull in Egypt and the Mediterranean and believe that this bird could only be of that species. **Henry C. Kyllingstad, 205 Sixth Street South, Marshall, Minnesota 56258.**

**A PRAIRIE FALCON IN CLAY COUNTY** — On the morning of October 8, 1975, we were standing by our living room window, with seven-power binoculars in hand, watching for migrating birds along the Red River. It was about 8:00 a.m. and a fairly strong wind (32 knots) was blowing from the Southeast. Birds were finding it difficult to fly against the wind and were tending to fly low over and through the trees. We noticed a crow-sized falcon flying from our right(North) to our left (South). From its size, pointed wings and long tail, it was immediately apparent that it was a large falcon, either a Peregrine or a Prairie. We had seen both previously. We were able to get a good look at it through the binoculars as it passed by, dipping and swooping through the yard (the sun had been up for about an hour and a half and was at our backs; it was a clear day with the temperature at 63° at that hour). Since the bird was light brown, we knew that it was not a mature Peregrine male. The face markings were similar to that of the Peregrine but were very light and non-pronounced. In fact, the markings would not be clear to the naked eye (the trees over which the bird passed were about 100 feet from our position). Overall, the bird was very pale, with fine barring visible parallel to the trailing edge of the wings. Light tail banding was also

visible with one slightly darker band near the end of the tail. The underside of the wing was a very pale beige or light buff with darker areas back from the wrist and nearer in adjacent to the body. Overall, the bird had a "washed out" brown appearance. Because of the light color of the bird, the underneath patterning, the lack of pronounced facial pattern, and the lighter upper surface of the bird, we concluded that this was a Prairie Falcon, not an immature peregrine. We note that the appearance of this falcon is uncommon in Minnesota. Bent (1938) indicates a sighting in "The Red River Valley" on October 2nd but does not indicate the year. **Minnesota Birds** (1975) indicates the most recent sightings in Minnesota as Rock County, 1949, and Pennington and Mahnomen Counties in 1959. Our own records indicate another sighting of a Prairie Falcon here on May 9, 1970. At that time we were able to observe the falcon for several minutes and were convinced that it was a Prairie and not a Peregrine Falcon. **Laurence and Carol Falk, Route 3, Box 46, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.**

**SAY'S PHOEBE NEAR DULUTH** — Last fall, (1975) while driving along the Berquist Road, about two miles north of Lake Superior, near the French River, I noticed a flycatcher in the middle of a large field 150 feet from the road. Because it was Sept. 24, and our flycatchers were getting scarce, I viewed it through the scope, a Swift 15x60, and, to my surprise, discovered it was a Say's Phoebe. My field notes are as follows: Medium-sized bird, brown head, dark eye, grayish back, definite contrast between brown head, gray back, dark tail. Pinkish-orange breast and belly, wags tail, flycatches upward like a waxwing. In view, 45 min., closest distance to bird, 40 ft., furthest 200 ft. I didn't have my field guides with me, but checked the tail color after I got home. It appeared dark in the field, but I couldn't say it was black, as *Birds of North America* shows. The only other birds around the area were Common Crows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Palm Warblers, Rusty Blackbirds, and a meadowlark. A Yellow-rump and the meadowlark landed on adjoining fence posts, making size comparisons ideal. At one point, the bird flew across the road in front of the car, sat on a post for a short time, about 40 feet away, and flew back into its original field. A photo here would have been a silhouette, looking into the sun. We've seen many Say's Phoebes in California, and did see Kim Ekert's bird in Blue Mounds State Park in Rock Co., Minnesota. **Marjorie M. Carr, 1934 Vermilion Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55803.**

**CAROLINA WREN IN MINNEAPOLIS** — I was not too surprised at finding the Carolina Wren on October 6, 1975, because I had seen them before in the area. Hence I did not make any field notes. As I walked down the hill from my house to the corner, two birds flew from the ground at the corner of the house, one flew around to the east, the other into evergreen shrubbery by the house. I waited until it finally came out into full view in front of the shrubbery, knowing I had a wren from the first brief view, but thinking it too big for even a House Wren. I remember noting the strong eye-line and looking for tail markings which would let me know whether I had a Bewick's Wren. Also, I remember, after it flew into a tree nearby, noting the light rusty color on the underparts and enough mental notes to keep while I went up the hill to my house to check up with the books. As Ruth Lender and I had studied one in Eden Prairie this same spring and as I have seen these birds in previous years, one the year it wintered at 42nd and Aldrich Avenue, and at times at Fort Snelling, I feel pretty sure of the identification of this year. The interesting fact is that just two years ago I had a good opportunity

to study a Carolina Wren just next to my yard about 200 feet up the hill from this year's sighting, and about the same time of year as this one. I can conclude that some wrens must be nesting somewhere near this area, or else using this as their migratory path; a challenge for more sharp-eyed looking in another year. **Violet Lender, 2817 Robbins Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410.**

**BARN OWL IN MURRAY COUNTY** — On October 20, 1975, on our farm located in the S.W. corner of Murray Co., my nineteen year old son came in the house and said he saw a whitish owl in the grove and to come quick. I grabbed my 7x50 binoculars and saw it sitting in a tree. I could see at a glance it wasn't the Snowy Owl, but it had a whitish breast with some specks, and that white face! There was no doubt in my mind, it was a Barn Owl. He flew away, low and close enough that we could see his back and tail which was darker than the front. After about a half hour I spotted him again and through the binoculars could see the white heart shaped face, light colored breast with specks and the rusty colored wings. He flew again. About four o'clock in the afternoon, the Common Crows were making so much noise in the grove, I knew there had to be something out there, there he was again, this time he stayed, I called my husband and four children and we all looked through the binoculars. Because he was quite close by and kept looking our way, we could also view him without binoculars. Although I knew it was the Barn Owl every one told me what they saw while I checked "Peterson's" bird book. My husband who is good at judging distance, said we were about 40 feet from the owl. We watched it for 10 minutes and then we left. I went out the next morning to look for it, but, did not see it again. **Mrs. Arnold N. DeKam, Edgerton, Minnesota 56128.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Birder's Guide to Minnesota** by K. R. Eckert. Curle Printing Company, Minneapolis. 1974. 114 pages, photos, maps. \$3.50.

When I was getting interested enough in birding to want to see more species, I didn't feel that I knew where to go. I heard of other birders who always seemed to know just where to go and what to look for, and they saw scads of terrific birds. But when I went out, I just saw the same old birds, and not many at that. I felt left out, and tended to stay in more than I might have. Consequently, my hobby pulsed at a low ebb for many years.

Then one day I chanced across a copy of a guide to bird finding in Minnesota that was published 20 years ago. Despite its out-of-dateness, I was finally able to begin serious birding. I rushed off to many of the places described and my lists began to lengthen.

I even began to feel somewhat competent. But many of the places mentioned no longer existed. Marshes had become housing developments and woodlots had become freeways.

Happily, with Mr. Eckert's **A Birder's Guide To Minnesota**, we again have an up-to-date reference. It contains, as book reviewers are wont to say, a Wealth of Detail, on where and when to go: pages of left turns down tenths of miles on numbered county roads to obscure swamps and dumps and sewage settling ponds which heretofore only the best birds and birders knew. It must have been a dreadful bore to write this book, with all those precise details, but they are absolutely necessary to get to the Right Spot.

All you need to do is decide what birds you want to see, then find the section for the present season, spread out the official state highway map in-

cluded in the book, and begin, your eye on the book, your finger on the map. Suddenly an hour has passed and you can hardly wait to get started. And when you do get on the road, or in the woods, you will find birds, for this guide really works. There is only one danger: be sure to do all this **before** you go on a trip. If you do it afterwards, you will feel terrible about all the places you missed. Also, keep this book permanently in your car, for you never know but that you might be marooned at some family gathering, suffocating in non-birders, when an odd cousin, casually interested in birds, might give you the excuse to slip off to a nearby Likely Spot.

Besides directions, this guide is chockful of other goodies. For example, herein is listed the Inner Circle: people who know where every bird is at any time. And they are happy to tell you, though they may hedge a bit, like lawyers, because no bird can ever be guaranteed (except Oldsquaws in Good Harbor Bay (p. 58)). Just give one of these Big Birders a call, not to worry about bothering them, for their phones ring all the time anyway. But first do your homework by learning something about the birds. If you do this, you needn't worry about seeming ignorant, for intelligent interest is all that is required.

Another section of the guide lists most Minnesota birds and gives for each its abundance, habitat, and distribution. Also given is a brief sketch of Minnesota geography and habitats, some background on rare birds (Minnesota has seven out of the eleven "most wanted" species of the American Birding Association), and information for out-of-state birders on climate, maps, camping fees, and other vicissitudes. Last, but not least, is an excellent index, an absolute must for convenient use of a book of this type.

I have written this review for the Follower type of birder who thinks he must have Inside Information on where to go, but there is a second type, the Explorer, who cannot bring him-

self to accept directions and would rather find a bird on his own or do without. I mention this because birders form a spectrum, like any other segment of the Universe, so you may find yourself somewhat removed from either pole. This book should adapt readily to whatever your predilections, in any case. A third type is the Armchair birder, not always lazy, but perhaps not so spry anymore, and he too may enjoy this book. Reading it with a map and a field guide is a little like taking the trip itself, and you always get your bird.

I have also written this review from the standpoint of a Lister, that form of birder who likes to compile long columns of species glanced at as he hurries from field to woodlot to marsh. Such a viewpoint was natural to me, as I am a (rather lackadaisical) Lister myself. Non-listers, I am told, look down their noses at Listers, but even the most haughty Non-lister might find this book of use if he wants to see a given bird. After all, one cannot study the stone-turning techniques of the Ruddy Turnstone if one is unable to find the bird.

I am very thankful that Mr. Eckert took the trouble to do what no one else has bothered to do for the last 20 years, and he has done an excellent job. There is something of himself in it, too, which makes it entertaining as well as informative. And we are promised that the guide will be updated annually.

Dean Schneider

**Birds of the World: A Check List** by James F. Clements, Two Continents Publishing Group Ltd, New York, N.Y. 1974, 525 pages, hard cover, 6x9, \$15.00.

This book is divided in four parts. The first is an introduction with notes on the format and how to use the book, a list of major references and a table of contents of the orders and families.

The second section is a 496 page list of species with scientific name (bold face), common name, and range. Thirdly, a two page bibliography and lastly,

an 18 page index to the genera.

This is a book that would find its best use as a check-list for world traveling birdwatchers. It has doubtful value to the taxonomist or biogeographer.

Since taxonomists do not agree on the numbers of species I will not comment on the validity of the 8904 species listed. In a work of this scope, limited space must be given to range (half a line), but, even so errors and misconceptions are many. For example, the range of the Great Cormorant is listed as "almost world wide." This is certainly not true in the Western Hemisphere. The Gray Jay's range is "Alaska to S.W. United States" leading one to believe it to be absent from N.E. Canada and U.S. The inconsistency of ranges are many. Snow Goose is listed "Arctic America to Mexico" which is fine and takes in consideration of seasons and migration, yet the White-fronted Goose is listed as "Arctic Circumpolar" not considering any winter range.

The author used the sequence of Van Tyne & Berger (Fundamentals of Ornithology 1959) for arrangement of Orders and Families. The sequence of genera and species are compiled from 31 well known field guides and checklists which the author considers the most likely for a given area. This leads to much confusion, as for example, the Hooded Crow is separated from the Carrion Crow by seven species (all new world species). Most authorities consider these two birds conspecific, so it is hard to understand this arrangement. The book contains many errors in spelling and omissions. The Purple Sandpiper seems to have been left out entirely, which fact was not corrected on the page of addenda and corrigenda sheet that came with my copy.

On the plus side it is an attractive, well bound book. The type is large and clear and there is space given to enter date and location of sightings for life list purposes. If the world traveling birder is willing to spend \$15.00 for a place to keep his life list, I would say

this book would well suit that purpose.  
Raymond Glassel

**Golden Eagle Country** by Richard R. Olendorff. Illustrations by Robert Kautona. Alfred A. Knoff, New York, 1975, 202 pp., \$12.95.

Among avaphiles (bird lovers) charadriophiles (shorebird lovers) and raptorphiles (hawk and owl lovers) are recognized tribes. What Matthiessen has done for the former Olendorff does for the latter on a more limited basis. The book is a narrative account of the author's study during a two-year period of nesting raptors in a 2,000 square mile area of the high Great Plains. Wisely, the exact location of the study is not revealed. However, a reference to a 19th century cattle baron will give some readers a fix on it.

Olendorff appears to have very good scientific credentials and the reader is confident of the author's statements. His subjects are western raptors — the Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and above all the Golden Eagle. Without being overly technical Olendorff tells us a lot about these birds but avoids the cardinal sin of anthropomorphism. He also avoids the "gush" that makes so many nature books unreadable after the first dozen pages. If the author has one stylistic weakness, it is his use of dialogue. It doesn't sound real, but on the other hand Hemingway didn't know much about hawks.

Olendorff is an optimist about raptors. He believes every North American species, except the California Condor, "occurs in sufficient numbers for active management research — and for actual management!" In his study area he found numerous raptors successfully nesting and coping with an environment where men were or had been. He finds that man's works, especially the introduced cottonwood tree, have been used as successful nesting sites. At a time when the phrases "endangered species" and "vanishing wildlife" are continually mouthed by addled pates who don't

know a grackle from a starling and when one radio announcer professed horror in the fact that humans exhale carbon dioxide which pollutes the atmosphere, a book like Olendorff's is good tonic.

It should be added that Katona's illustrations are very good (except the one of the Mallards that look like Northern Shovelers) and "fit the text." The reviewer approached this book with misgivings but came away most gratified. He's looking forward to more.

Charles L. Horn, Jr.

**Bird Finding in Illinois**, compiled by Elton Fawks, edited by Paul Lobik; published by the Illinois Audubon Society, Downers Grove, Ill., 1975; 20 maps, 97 pages, \$3.95.

In the June 1964 issue of **The Audubon Bulletin** (the former drab and lifeless publication of Illinois Audubon; always with the same cover, including only occasional photographs, full of sentimental poetry, overly-emotional accounts of environmental causes, and "Notes of Interest" along the lines of reports of how beautiful were the Mute Swan and Ringed Turtle Dove at Rawson's Lake) veteran editor Paul Lobik asked for help with the September 1964 issue because he "plans to be working all of his spare time on our forthcoming book, BIRD FINDING IN ILLINOIS." Well, September 1964 came and went and resulted in some good news and some bad news. First the bad news. Mr. Lobik found no help and thus **The Audubon Bulletin** yawned its way into the 1970's with the same drab format under the same uninspired editorial direction. The good news? **Bird Finding in Illinois** didn't emerge for another 11 years.

The Illinois Audubon Society and I go back a long time. As a beginning birder in the early 1960's in Chicago I was a faithful subscriber to Mr. Lobik's magazine, but I gradually became disillusioned with a virtually non-existent field notes section edited by Elton Fawks. Normally only about a page or so was allowed to appear with

the most meager of observations. I wrote the editor and complained, pointing to the quality of such magazines as **The Loon**. In reply I received a scolding for rocking the boat and was actually told that the amount of field notes in **The Loon** was "appalling." My I.A.S. membership promptly lapsed, and I've been waiting for revenge ever since. I suppose now's my chance, but this review will have value only if objective (it may not sound like it but my prejudices against I.A.S. will be in check) and if written by a qualified birder (I've managed to get back to Illinois every year to keep in touch with the birders and birding areas there).

A total of 79 areas are covered by about 50 contributors. At first that might sound like some pretty good totals, but lack of quality offsets the quantity. All but a few of the contributors are relative unknowns — only a few of them are familiar names among Illinois birders. The state's real experts, people like Larry Balch, Dave Bohlen and Vern Kleen, for the most part did not participate. This is because Editor Lobik recruited contributors only from the ranks of Christmas Bird Count compilers — hardly an exhaustive process. And while 79 sounds like a lot of areas, only about 15 of these are areas away from the Chicago vicinity, the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers — certainly too much of the state is inadequately covered. Even the "well-covered" and well-known Chicago area is incomplete: excellent migrant traps along Lake Michigan at Northwestern's landfill in Evanston, Gilson Park in Wilmette, and Illinois Beach State Park near Waukegan are left out, as are two excellent pine stands in Lake Forest and Libertyville, an interesting heronry with Cattle Egrets at Joliet's Lake Renwick, and the always productive Skokie Lagoons forest preserve. Also the unique Shawnee National Forest at the southern tip of the state is poorly done. The only information is supplied by the U.S. Forest Service and consists mainly of the

location of picnic sites and a mention of game birds like Ruffed Grouse and Turkeys. The visiting birder is told nothing of the Swainson's Warblers and Black Vultures at Herron Pond, the Mississippi Kites at Union County Conservation Area, and the other southern specialties at their northern range limit.

Of course this guide has some value and mentions many of the state's best birds and areas, but far too many are left out as far too much space is devoted to ordinary species in mediocre areas. The "unusual species" in one area include Horned Lark and Northern Oriole; one spot boasts of Chukars and Barnacle Goose, neither of which comes close to being wild; the Greater Prairie Chickens mentioned at Willow Slough were extirpated over ten years ago; no less than three pages is wasted on bluebird trails at Quincy; one page devotes itself to perpetuating the Purple Martin myth by advising a visit to Griggsville, "Purple Martin Capital of the World"; one area goes out of its way to mention the "rare" American Redstarts "near the concrete sewer" — the examples are endless. Of the 20 maps, only half are coherent or useful; the rest either tell you nothing or will tend to get you lost. It is hoped that the areas' printed directions are more meaningful, but one has to wonder as these local "experts" also offer such sage advice as watching out for snow and ice in winter and "avoid driving off the road" in their "Restrictions and Hazards" sections.

By far the most entertaining part of the book (you'll easily get four bucks worth of laughs here) are the 50 or so line drawings. A few of them are OK, a few are reprints of those that "thrilled" readers of **The Audubon Bulletin** for so many years (Editor Lobik for some reason seems proud to remind us that one drawing that appears no less than three times in the guide is the same Cardinal that languished on the front cover of his magazine for over 30 monotonous years), but most of the drawings are just plain

bad. It's hard to believe these drawings as you turn the pages, but in case the reader thinks he's seeing things, his doubts will not last long since even the worst drawings will reappear on later pages. A new Cardinal drawing on the cover is even worse than the old one, the Sora chicks are ridiculous, a Purple Martin looks featherless and quite dead, two different House Wren drawings defy identification, Cedar Waxwings somehow turn out resembling Woody the Woodpecker, and the Oldsquaw, European Tree Sparrow, Sandhill Crane, Eastern Bluebird, Dickcissel, and Swainson's Warbler drawings simply defy description. About all you can say in favor of these pictures is that they are at least consistent with the quality of the text.

So on your next birding trip to Illinois, call Larry Balch or Charlie Clark in Chicago or Dave Bohlen or Vern Kleen in Springfield to get information and directions. Only buy **Bird Finding in Illinois** if you want some good laughs along the way.

— Kim Eckert

**Minnesota Birds: Where, When, and How Many**, by Janet C. Green and Robert B. Janssen, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1975; 20 photographs, 106 maps, 217 pages; \$9.75.

Book reviews, in my opinion, have either one of two purposes: either to bring readers' attention to a good book they may not have heard about, or to warn readers away from a faulty book they may have otherwise bought. But how do you review a book that almost everyone knows about and that has no significant faults? It's about as pointless as trying to review *The Bible* for a publication by the Gideons. But here goes my second attempt at this; my first effort failed to come off the way I wanted. Its title was: "With Tongue in its Cheek and Foot in its Mouth, A Book Review that's Pretty Hard to Swallow." Hopefully, tongue and foot are back where they belong, and this review will be more palatable.

Might as well start off with a cliché (gives me a chance to show off my

French): authors Green and Janssen need no introduction. It would be simply impossible to find someone better qualified to write such a book. Frequently, even the finest books are sometimes authored by someone who, while certainly competent, is not the authority in the subject. Had **Minnesota Birds** been written by anyone else, we would have been more than justified in asking, "Where are Bob and Jan?" As great as T. S. Robert's classic was and still is, some updating of Minnesota ornithology was certainly in order. It was wisely decided over ten years ago not to make any attempt to emulate or replace Roberts' work. Such a feat is probably impossible and would have taken another ten or twenty years to complete. Rather, **Minnesota Birds** is meant only to supplement and update Roberts, though "only" is hardly the word to use in connection with ten solid years of research. The result may be modest next to Roberts' two gigantic volumes, but there is no question as to which book has more value to Minnesota birders.

A proper book review should include a summary of the book's contents, which include a forward by Dr. Harrison B. Tordoff; an excellent preface explaining contents, documentation, purposes and authors responsibilities. Notes on nomenclature, terminology and maps. Geography and Ecology of Minnesota Birdlife; the heart of the book giving the distribution of Minnesota's 374 species and finally three valuable appendixes, a bibliography and index. There are two things about the contents that I particularly like for some reason. One is the introductory material. Many books have introductions that are either devoid of any substance and thus unnecessary, or so long and involved that they seem longer than the main text and never get read. The twenty pages of introductory material here give an authoritative and readable background on Minnesota's ornithology: its sources in Roberts, the contributions of amateurs, the cartography, and its rela-

tion with Minnesota's geology, topography and habitats. And at no time does any of this bog down in scientific double talk. The second real plus in my view is the data on migration dates. Roberts included them in his work and seasonal reports in **The Loon** specialize in them, so we may be tempted to take such information for granted. But the fact remains that very few state monographs include information on migration dates, certainly an important aspect of any state's ornithology. In this respect then, this book ranks near the top in its genre.

Is **Minnesota Birds** flawless then? Unfortunately no, but its faults include things only a nitpicker could appreciate. One of the authors (I won't mention which one he is) once accurately described me as a nitpicker. Such character insight deserves to be rewarded, so I'll do my best to live up to expectations and pick out the nittiest nits I can find. For one thing, the photos, while of excellent quality, could have been better balanced. Of the eight habitat photos, five are of northern forested areas and two portray western prairie — nothing shown of the southeastern deciduous woods. Including the cover photo of a Nashville Warbler (one might have expected a more representative Minnesota species for the cover), there are 13 bird photos with the same lack of balance: nine from the wooded north, four from the western prairie, and again nothing from the southeast. A second minor fault might be the authors decision not to include habitat preferences under the species accounts of breeding birds, though justification of this omission could be that such information is in the field guides. Finally, there are a few problems with the range maps. One is that the hexagonal symbols in the counties that indicate former nesting are difficult to see. Though it is explained in the introduction, the range maps for the ducks are confusing. Breeding ranges based on D.N.R. data are shaded with extra records from M.O.U. files shown by the

usual county symbols. And there are so many of these "extra" records that one questions if the D.N.R. really was the best source for these maps. Also while all the other maps have the county symbols within the "continental range boundary" line, with the ducks these symbols end up on the "wrong" side of the line. There are also other maps that might be misleading. A few species have maps that make a bird look much more widespread than it really is. While some of these maps are qualified in the text, others stand without clarification (e.g. Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, King Rail, Common Gallinule, Henslow's Sparrow) and suggest a bird to be easier to find than it really is. Finally, one might have hoped for more species to have been mapped. The authors have correctly omitted maps for species with a very limited breeding range and for species that breed throughout the state. But there are several species which, while absent in parts of the state, are not mapped. The text adequately describes these ranges, but maps for such species as Turkey Vulture, Screech, Barred and Saw-whet Owls, Pileated Woodpecker, Veery, Eastern Meadowlark, Dickcissel and Clay-colored Sparrow might have made birders more aware these species are not state-wide in their distribution.

I began with one, so I may as well end with another cliché: it's always easier to criticize than compliment. It seems that all I've done so far is complain, but such is the nature of a nit-picker. Rest assured, however, that the few minor flaws described above come nowhere near to the book's

strengths which are too numerous to mention. To put it simply, **Minnesota Birds** is not suggested reading, it is required reading—a must textbook for every student of Minnesota birds.

— Kim Eckert

**The Dictionary of American Bird Names**, Ernest Choate, Gambit, Chicago, Illinois, 1973.

This is a dictionary that should be read from cover to cover. Why do we call the reddish colored finch that spends its cool months with us a Purple Finch? Because "purpureus" in Latin was the crimson color of the Roman togas and not the color we consider purple today.

Why is a Pileated Woodpecker "dryocopus pileatus"? The answer is easy to understand—dryos (Greek)—a tree, kopis (Greek)—a dagger, and pileatus (Latin)—cap—put it together and you have a capped tree dagger.

Who is Franklin in Franklin's Gull? It wasn't Benjamin. No, he was an Arctic explorer whose ship sunk in the frigid north.

Why is a large marsh bird like a Great Blue Heron or the Black-crowned Night Heron called a shite pote? I know many people would be shocked if they knew what they have been saying when referring to these birds. Here is a clue—the name refers to the birds' toilet habits at take-off and each word has an extra letter.

The book is divided into common names, Latin names, and biographies, as well as essays on classification. This book is a must.

Mike Link

## REPORT MARKED UPLAND SANDPIPERS

I wish to enlist the aid of the membership of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union in reporting to me any sightings of wing-marked Upland Sandpipers.

During 1975, I marked ten Upland Sandpipers with yellow plastic wing-markers. The markers show an "A" plus one or two numbers. This marking program is related to a research project I am conducting as a partial requirement for a master's degree.

All sighting reports should include the number-letter combination on the wing-marker, which wing the marker is on, the number of other Upland Sandpipers thought to be with the marked bird, time of day, the date, and the location.

**John Dorio, St. Cloud State Univ., Dept. of Biological Sciences, St. Cloud, Minn. 56301.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER CLASS

The Environmental Learning Center will offer a "Weekend with the Birds" on May 28-30, 1976. Dr. Pershing Hofslund, biology and ornithology professor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth and hawk researcher, will lead the weekend course. Through use of slide shows, movies, discussions, and field trips you will gain an ecological awareness of birds and their functional role in our environment, an understanding of bird behavior, and skills in identifying birds by sight and sound. The weekend will be filled with a casual, relaxing, and enjoyable atmosphere of learning about birds and their environment. One graduate credit is available from U.M.D., if you wish. The cost is \$33.50 for adults, \$28.50 for students. To register write the E.L.C., Box 191-A, Isabella, Mn. 55607, or call area code 218/293-4345.

## CORRECTIONS

The early south record for the Caspian Tern listed in the last issue of **The Loon** (47:167) should be changed from 4-22 Hennepin to **4-19 Chisago**. The date ties the record early date for the state.

In the article "Wildlife Utilization of Beaver Flowages on the Chippewa National Forest, North Central Minnesota, **The Loon** 47:184, the seventh line up from the bottom left hand column should be changed to read as follows: "of edge by a factor of **pi** (diameter)"

## 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** invite you to submit 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, July and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.

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# The LOON

SUMMER 1976

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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 statewide 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 (minimum lots of 20 for \$1.50 postage paid). 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 invites 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 invite 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. Marilyn Mauritz, 6810 Tecumseh Lane, 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 . . .

On March 9, Minnesota's Commissioner of Agriculture released a position paper on soil and water conservation in Minnesota. Since then the drought has made his comments even more important than they seemed at the time.

Mr. Wefald says, in part, that serious soil losses are occurring and that, "most of the problem is due to lack of adequate conservation practices on the land." He places some specific problems in a list including:

"Too many marginal lands which should have stayed in grass, pastureland, and wildlife habitat have been put into production."

"Too many windbreaks and . . . shelterbelts have been removed . . ."

"Too many sloughs and ponds have been put into crop production."

We in MOU can only say all the above is true. Yet, we see proposals advanced in some regions of the state which call for the conversion of grassy roadsides to cropland. We see a concerted attack on current regulations which scarcely protect against draining of wetlands and absolute rejection of proposed legislation which would give greater protection. We see rejection of statewide land-use planning as a general principle in the name of "local rule." If the state's Commissioner of Agriculture can issue a call to wise conservation of natural resources that is not framed in "more is better," why cannot those other interests fighting against a sensible conservation policy be persuaded?

MOU members should encourage Commissioner Wefald for his vision. They should also work to gain political and financial support for the plan he's espoused. It's even more important that this kind of approach to agricultural production be applied at the national level, where rational approaches to long-term agricultural conservation seem to be a seldom thing. The present national policy of letting all production be controlled from the commodity market place will certainly not permit sound land planning and soil conservation practice to prevail.

The interest of MOU's membership in agricultural practice is clear. We are for an approach which guarantees the survival of wetlands and related habitat, so the wildlife we seek to protect may survive. We are for this because it provides a more livable habitat for humans, as opposed to a mechanistic pen for automatons, as the developers would have. Further, we are for it because it ensures the continuing long-term productivity of the earth upon which we live. That's more than some nebulous "life-style." That's survival!

Jack Mauritz

## MORE FROM BERT LYSTOR . . .

Bert Lystor was mad. He'd been looking for that dumb bird all day. But suddenly he heard it — a distinct caw, first one, then several, as a mob of crows chased up a Boreal Owl from the edge of a poplar grove. Bert was so excited he didn't bother even to look out the car window to watch the chase. Instead, he slammed on the brakes, frantically grabbed for his looseleaf notebook (which looked more like a file cabinet), and pulled out his Lists.

“. . . Wwrong County . . . Tyger County . . . Paul VI County . . . Millard County . . . Lucky Pearl County . . . Little Rock County . . . Irone County . . . Bad Tint County . . . ah here it is, All Marsh County!” And Bert triumphantly placed a bold checkmark on the county list next to Common Crow.

Everyone else in the car was excited too, and they all, except Bert, jumped out to see if they could get a better look at the owl. Elvira Mentalist was the first out the door, over the ditch and into the trees. Close behind was Dr. Arnie Thologist, and bringing up the rear came little Dickie Birdlover. Meanwhile, Bert stayed in the car and could hardly contain himself as he pulled out more lists.

“Let's see, today's Tuesday the 16th . . . nope, I don't need a crow for my Even Dated Tuesdays List, but maybe if I can talk them into staying up here an extra day, I could get it for my Odd Dated Wednesdays List . . . ah, here we are, my Four P.M. To Five P.M. List . . . doggone it, don't need crow on that one either — if only it was 4:30 a.m. instead of p.m. . . . OK, here's one I need it for, my Heard Out Of A Car Window While Driving East List! . . . and here's another one I can check it off on, I almost forgot my Gravel Road In The Woods Wth Three Passengers List!”

By now, Elvira, Arnie and Dickie had spotted the owl again and came back to the car. Bert was about to ask them why they wanted a better look at a bunch of crows, when Arnie interrupted. As always, he was the first to put Bert down.

“So how many lists was this one new for?”

“Only three,” lamented Bert.

Elvira also couldn't resist a dig at a lister. “Poor Bert, why don't you start a Cloudy March Day In A Leap Year List?” she laughed.

“I already have one,” said Bert. “Gee thanks. I almost forgot it!”

“I don't believe it,” said Arnie. “You know, one of these days you're going to be so busy checking something off on all your lists, that you're gonna miss a rare bird. How many lists do you keep anyway? Nobody could possibly keep as many as you do.”

“Fifty-eight,” said Bert proudly. “I used to be tied with a guy in Texas at 57, but I put one over on him and started a List List!”

“What's a List List?” asked Dickie.

“A list of all my lists! Want to see it?”

“No,” signed Dickie. “Why don't you just keep a life list like everyone else?”

“Are you kidding? I'd never get to check anything off! I've seen almost everything there is to see in Minnesota. It's been almost two years since I've seen a lifer. What's the point of going birding if you never get to check off anything new?”

“Isn't there anything you haven't seen?” asked Dickie.

“Yeah, there is one bird I could sure use for my Life List, but no one

hardly ever sees them around here any more," Bert said wistfully.

"What's that?" asked Elvira.

Bert stared off into space trying to picture how it would look checked off on his Life List.

"Boreal Owl," he said.

## IN MEMORIAM: OLE A. FINSETH

by P. B. Hofslund

Last December Ole died. Except for Minnesota birders and others that spent time at Hawk Ridge he was little known in the ornithological community, but for those who knew him well, he was the very symbol of all that is good, and gentle, and exciting about birding.

I asked to be allowed to do Ole's memoriam for "The Loon," but it has taken me weeks to write, because I find that I do not have the facility of words to express how I felt about this gentle man. The best I can do is but recount a few incidents in his life and hope that these will portray for you the kind of person he was.

Ole was born on a farm near Oslo, Minnesota on the 21st day of September, 1890. He attended a nearby primary school in his early years, a commercial school in Red Wing for six months, and then completed a two year academic course at North Star College in Warren, Minnesota. On June 2, 1916 he married Ann Grenlin and they produced a fine family of three girls and a boy. Ann died in 1964, and I'm not quite sure that Ole ever recovered from the loss. In 1924 the family moved to Duluth where Ole served as an accountant for several firms, retiring to a more active birding life in 1961.

One time Ole told me how he happened to join the Duluth Bird Club. Always interested in birds, he was attracted by a notice in the Duluth paper of a coming meeting of the then Duluth Bird Club, the meeting to be held at the Duluth Teacher's College. He

expressed his interest, but also his hesitancy to intrude on a meeting of obvious experts including professors from the College. He was vaguely ashamed of his Scandinavian accent and lack of a college degree. Luckily for the recently formed bird club his daughters talked him into attending the meeting and he remained a faithful member for over 30 years. Later he became president of the club, and although I don't remember the exact terms of office, I believe that he served nearly eight years in that post. Later he served as field trip chairman and until a few months before his death he also served well as treasurer. He was vice president of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union in 1947 and served as its president in 1953-54.

The Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge at McGregor is intimately associated in my mind with Ole. Early in the '50's the Duluth Bird Club ran a banding program on the Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorants that nested on Tom's Island. Joel Bronoel, Ole and I were active in on all of the banding, and we were assisted at times by Harvey Putnam and Jim Felton (a youngster at that time, now an astrophysicist). Although all of us were younger than Ole (he was in his 60's), it was always he that shinned up the trees to get to the hard to reach nests.

After an absence of several years, and shortly after Ole suffered his first heart attack, we again visited the Refuge. My one memory of that trip is of Ole scrambling up a haystack so that he could locate for the rest of us a

flock of geese. The last time I visited the Refuge again was with Ole when we went as representatives of the Bird Club to offer what we could to help in the planning of "wild space." Although he was now in his late 70's, Ole went step for step over the area and was as fresh at the end of the tour as I was.

It is hard to describe what one envisions as the inner feelings of a man. The only way is to point at some of the signposts that the man left. I've chosen two, a sketch of a Snow Bunting that Ole did when he was younger. He explained to me that the first time he saw this bird he felt the excitement and beauty so that he had to try and capture it. Incidentally, there were very few of us that ever got to see Ole's talent, yet I know of no other bunting sketch that has for me captured the feeling of this winter visitor.



The Loon

The same is true of his writing. The only bird article that I can remember Ole writing was the very well done "Ornithological History of Minnesota" that appeared in the March, 1958 issue of "The Flicker," but many years ago I came across a poem that Ole had written on the occasion of seeing a wounded Pileated Woodpecker, a victim of some unthinking nimrod. As editor of the "Flicker" I published it. and I'd like to use it again to try to show the talent and the sensitivity of the man. The Poem is simply entitled, "Woody."

I was once a roving creature. On steady wings I zoomed o'er the forest flyways, when a shot from the gun of a careless hunter shattered my wingbone, halting my flight. No longer I sally from tree to tree, digging deep with my chisel, spearing with my arrowlike tongue the hidden ant and the deadly borer in the heartwood.

Unable to fly, I am as if chained to my post with invisible bonds, forged by men I was trying to serve.

Wise men make laws to protect me. Fools mock these laws and destroy me. Pity me not, but know me better. Teach of my work and my worth to your youth, that when men, they'll respect and protect me.

Memories step in as I write this and I could go on and on reminiscing, but when Ole would telephone he said what he had meant to say and then he hung up. I guess his life was like that too. Active up to the day before he died, I guess he did what he meant to do and then hung up. **Duluth, Minnesota**

# WATCHING MINNESOTA'S WARBLERS

## . . . IN JANUARY

by Dana Gardner

To the Minnesotan who watches the warblers in radiant breeding plumage, singing in the northern conifers, the lush tropical forests may seem an unlikely setting for these birds. Yet, perhaps few people realize that these northern songsters spend the better part of their lives as silent, solitary inhabitants of tropical rain forests and the forests of cloud-covered mountains in Central and South America.

In Minnesota the bulk of the warblers arrive in the May "warbler wave" and few linger in the state past the end of September. In fact, by late September many warblers are well established in their wintering grounds. Eisenmann reports that in Panama early migrants arrive in mid-August and the last stragglers of spring migration can be seen in May, and he states that, "From September to April warblers are conspicuous in the avifauna of Panama" (in Griscom and Sprunt, 1957). That leaves only four to five months for migration and breeding. To be sure, our northern warblers spend most of their lives far from the place of their birth: Skutch, in 1939, found the Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) to be absent from the Costa Rican highlands for a period of only four months and three days (in Bent, 1953).

The following comments are from observations I made during the past three years in southwestern Colombia and Panama, where some of Minnesota's breeding warblers are common winter residents. I refer readers who desire detailed accounts of the habits of migrant warblers in Central America to the works of Skutch. He gives interesting information in his Life Histories of Central American Birds (Skutch, 1954), as well as contributions to the other cited references.

In the mountains of western Panama the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) is common during the winter months. As conifers are found only as far south as Nicaragua, this and other warblers of the northern spruce and pine forests must spend their winters among broad leaved trees. I saw it forage high in the oaks; rarely did it come down low, but its distinctive golden cheeks and traces of the black bib made identification easy. The Wilson's Warbler, on the other hand, frequents low scrub and bushes in the pastures and forest edges of the same area. Its constant activity, flycatching behavior, and frequent chips make it one of the more conspicuous winter residents, just as it is a conspicuous migrant as it moves north through the willows in the "warbler wave." The Wilson's chipping is the only noise I've heard a northern warbler make in the tropics. Skutch states that the several warblers he has heard singing on the wintering grounds were usually involved in territorial disputes, or, the occasional song from a brightly attired male soon to leave on its northward journey (in Griscom and Sprunt, 1957).

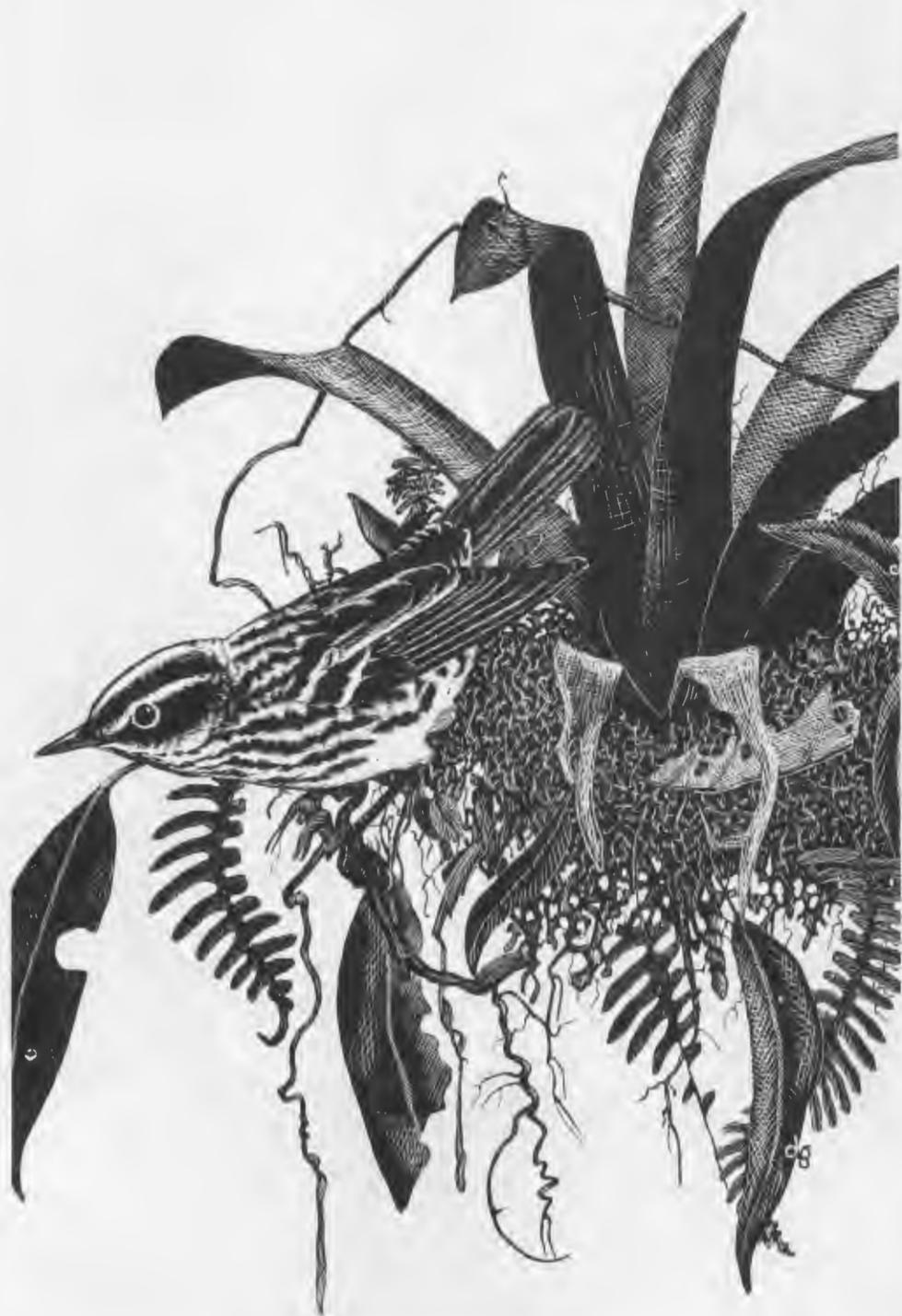
In the lowland forests of the Panama Canal Zone the Bay-breasted and Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Dendroica castanea*, *D. pensylvanica*) are abundant fall migrants. Arriving in late September and early October, they cause many a sore neck for they look very much alike when foraging in the tree-tops and they rarely descend for an easy identification. The Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) is less common as a wintering bird in Panama, but in the tropics it seems to be as versatile in terms of habitat as it is in the temperate zone. On the 1974 Canal Zone Christmas Bird Count



Bay-breasted Warbler



**American Redstart**



**Black-and-white Warbler**



**Northern Waterthrush**

our party futilely tried to identify a Yellow-rump as one of the tropical flycatchers, for it perched high in a tree and hawked insects from a dead branch. Rather dully attired except for the yellow rump, the bird was certainly not unlike some tropical flycatchers in appearance or behavior. Another party on the same count was equally puzzled by a small bird flitting about the forest floor in the manner of an antbird. It also turned out to be the Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) I see frequently during the winter months but it moves northward earlier in the spring than other warblers. Though females and immatures are common, I have yet to see a male in breeding plumage. But there are no doubts to the bird's identification when it appears, for its constant movement, flashing its bright wing and tail patches, cannot be confused with any other bird. It favors lowlands in Panama and is not rare in the city parks of Cali, in southwestern Colombia.

Though I saw the Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) wintering in humid lowland forests in Panama and dry forests in Colombia, I found it to be most common in the Andean cloud forest above Cali, Colombia. It creeps along the tree trunks in its usual unwarbler-like manner, but just as often investigates the many clumps of air-plants, ferns, and orchids that drape the trees in the foggy mountain forests. Usually seen alone, I once watched one dart up to join the frenzied feeding activities of a passing flock of tanagers. But before the flock passed out of sight the Black-and-white returned to its solitary habits. In the same area, however, I have watched Blackburnian Warblers (*Dendroica fusca*) foraging with other birds. Indeed, it wasn't uncommon to see a Blackburnian in company with four or five bright tropical tanagers moving

through the trees in the mist. But never did I see one of these warblers associate with one of its own kind.

The Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) is not an uncommon resident in Panama and the Pacific coast of Colombia during the winter months. Here it does not always seek out the swamps and streams as it does in its northern home. But in the humid tropical forest, especially the rainy Pacific coast of Colombia, the waterthrush never lacks a wet environment. Its familiar bobbing motion makes it noticeable, for such a small bird is easily hidden by the big leaves and the dark shadows on the tropical forest floor.

It is a pleasure to watch the migrant warblers in the tropics where the native parulids are relatively uncommon. But their habits are for the most part solitary and silent: at times they seem very different from the birds I became acquainted with in Minnesota, where one first hears a song, then sees a tiny gem of a bird. Here they bring to mind mundane office-workers: having spent a noisy, flamboyant summer on the northern lakeshore, they must come back and put in those dreary 9 to 5 days, living only with anticipation of another trip north.

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# WINTER ECOLOGY OF BALD EAGLES IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

by Craig A. Faanes

In recent years, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), has been the subject of intensive research by many persons. Herrick (1924); Bent (1937); Broley (1947); Dunstan, Mathisen and Harper (1975) and many others have contributed much to our knowledge of the nesting ecology of the eagle.

Imler and Kalmbach (1955) and Robbins (1960) were among the first to indicate the importance of the Mississippi River as a wintering area for Bald Eagles. However, it was not until Southern (1963, 1964) and Ingram (1965) summarized their work in Illinois and southern Wisconsin, that the various aspects of the winter ecology of Bald Eagles were made known.

With all these data published, a considerable amount of information remains to be gathered on the winter ecology of Bald Eagles in Minnesota. Dunstan (1971) stressed the importance of obtaining more information on the winter ecology of eagles because as he stated, "we must know what additional stresses are being placed on birds of breeding age during the pre-breeding season and also what lethal and sub-lethal factors endanger the wintering birds."

This paper summarizes the results of a study of Bald Eagles conducted throughout the winter of 1975-1976 in the upper Mississippi River valley near Red Wing, Minnesota. The major objectives of this study were to:

1. determine the population of Bald Eagles wintering in this portion of the Upper Mississippi River valley.
2. study various aspects of the behavior of wintering eagles.
3. determine the levels of pesticide concentration in the food of wintering eagles.

4. determine if the heated water discharge from the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant was important in maintaining a wintering population of Bald Eagles.

## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

The study area extended for approximately 35 km along the Mississippi River and its backwater sloughs, between Prescott, Wisconsin and Red Wing, Minnesota.

The study area was a relatively flat river flood plain. The main channel of the river was less than 500 meters wide. In the area of North and Sturgeon Lakes, the width ranged to about 1.5 km, as this included many backwater areas. The vegetation of the area was dominated by four tree species: cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), american elm (*Ulmus americana*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*).

The study area encompassed essentially all of the suitable habitat for wintering eagles in this portion of the river valley. Below Red Wing, the river widens out into Lake Pepin. The lake is frozen throughout the winter, thus is of no value to wintering eagles. The next area of suitable habitat begins at Reads Landing, Minnesota, about 40 km from Red Wing.

Population counts were conducted on a weekly basis throughout a four month period: 18 November, 1975 to 28 February, 1976. Eagles were censused within the study area by direct count at each area of concentration. These areas were: Prescott, Diamond Bluff and Trenton, Wisconsin; Colvil Park, Bay Point Park, Lock and Dam 3 and the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant, in Minnesota.

Censuses were conducted between 08.00 and 16.00 hours. At each census

area, the river valley was scanned with the aid of 8x40 binoculars. When an eagle was sighted, a 15-60X spotting scope was used to determine the age and activity of the eagle. The following data were collected at each census area and on each date: time, air temperature, wind, sky conditions, water or ice conditions, age of the eagle, height of the eagle (whether perched or flying) and the behavior of the eagle.

The census counts were considered to be representative of the actual number of eagles present on the study area, since counts were made from the same locations each date, and since little time elapsed between counts on a given day. This reduced the possibility of counting the same eagle more than once.

In order to obtain data on pesticide concentrations in the food items of the eagles, 18 gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) were collected from each of two areas. The fish were analyzed for PCB's and organochlorine insecticides using the Armour-Burke Separation Technique (Armour and Burke, 1970).

The whole fish from each site except fillets from a few individuals were composited into single samples from each collection site. The fillets (three each composited from the Red Wing Steam Plant, and one each from the Prairie Island Plant) were analyzed separately. Mercury, chlorocarbon insecticide and PCB residues were analyzed in both whole fish composites and the two fillet samples. The percent fat was measured in the whole fish composites.

PCB's were measured and reported as the Arochlor 1254 PCB. Spiking techniques (Mark Briggs, Minnesota DNR, oral comm) were used to determine the percent recovery from sample clean-up operations and to confirm the position and identity of the analytical peaks.

Gizzard shad were selected as they were among the most abundant fish in this portion of the river (J. D. Hudson,

oral comm). Also, Southern (1963) reported shad were the most commonly used eagle food item during his study of eagles in northern Illinois.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Population Censuses

During the study, population counts were made on 15 days. Observations were made from mid-November until the last week of February. The end of February was selected for termination of the study, as the major spring migration of Bald Eagles begins in this area about 1 March, and birds observed after this date could not be considered as wintering birds.

Four eagles, three immatures and one adult, were observed on 18 November. More immatures than adults were observed until 25 November (Figure 1). As winter progressed, the number of immatures decreased steadily until 31 December. Faanes and Goddard (in press) stated that the fall migration of eagles in the Pierce-St. Croix County, Wisconsin area begins in late September and continues into mid-December. From 31 December to 7 February, the population contained only one immature.

The number of eagles on the study area increased to 17 adults and six immatures between 4 December and 9 December. The peak population was reached on 22 January, when 31 eagles, 30 adult and one immature, were observed. The population remained relatively stable until early February. On 14 February, nine eagles were present, and only four remained in the area on 28 February.

Southern (1964) found a higher immature/adult ratio in his study area until mid-December, after which time, very few immatures remained in the area. Jonen (1973) found similar results in western Illinois. Dunstan et al. (1975) determined from band recovery data that immature Bald Eagles from Minnesota winter along the lower Mississippi River valley near the Gulf of Mexico.

The concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in this study was relatively low

Number of Eagles Observed

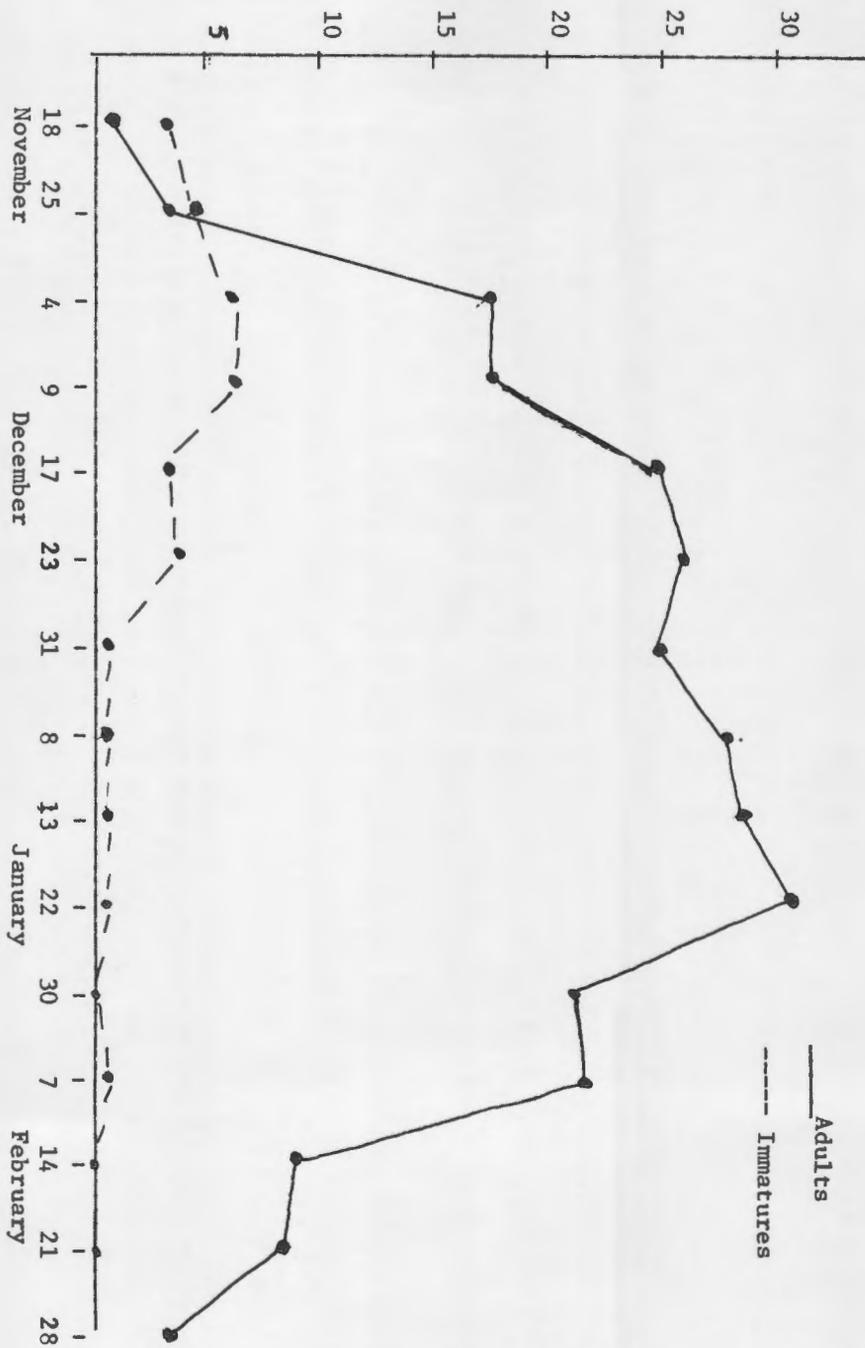


Figure 1. Population census of bald eagles during the winter of 1975-1976.

when compared to other findings. Southern (1963) reported as many as 262 eagles on his study area. Ingram (1965) reported a high count of 152 eagles in southern Wisconsin. Jonek (1973) found 60 to 70 eagles wintered on his study area in western Illinois.

With regards to Minnesota, Dunstan et al. (1975) stated that the major wintering areas in the state were at Prescott, Wisconsin and Reads Landing, Minnesota.

During this study, nearly one-third of all eagles observed were in the area near Prescott. Robert Cochran (oral comm) reported a high of five eagles at Reads Landing, Minnesota in January. William Smith (written comm) found 22 eagles along 40 km of similar habitat near La Crosse, Wisconsin on 22 January. Carl Madsen (oral comm) stated that the only large concentrations of eagles observed during an aerial census conducted on 7 January between the Twin Cities and Moline, Illinois, were on this study area and near Savannah, Illinois.

Thus it appeared that the concentration of wintering eagles in this study area was among the highest reported

on the upper Mississippi River during the winter of 1975-1976.

### Population Distribution on the Study Area

Throughout the study, 29 percent of the eagles were observed in the Prescott area. The peak population at Prescott was reached on 22 January, when 18 eagles were observed. The second most important area was at Trenton, where 19 percent of the eagles were observed.

The area near the nuclear power plant had a high population of five eagles on 22 January. Only four percent of the eagles were observed near the power plant (Table 1).

The distribution of the population within the study area was regulated by the availability of open water, and the presence of suitable roosting and perching trees. In the Prescott area, the warmer waters of the Mississippi River mix with the colder waters of the St. Croix River. Except for periods of extremely cold air temperatures, this area will remain at least 40 percent open, providing ample fishing territory.

Table 1. Population Distribution of Wintering Bald Eagles on the Study Area.

Date	Prescott	Diamond Bluff	Trenton	Bay Point Park	Colvill Park	Lock and Dam 3	Prairie Island	Total
18 November	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
25 November	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	7
4 December	0	1	0	0	1	21	0	23
9 December	1	1	9	0	5	7	0	23
17 December	2	1	8	9	1	7	0	28
23 December	8	0	14	4	1	3	0	30
31 December	9	0	8	6	0	0	3	26
8 January	7	0	3	16	0	2	0	28
13 January	13	1	2	4	5	3	1	29
22 January	18	0	0	3	3	2	5	31
30 January	8	0	1	6	1	4	1	21
7 February	12	1	4	4	1	0	1	23
14 February	0	4	4	0	1	0	0	9
21 February	2	1	0	2	3	0	0	8
28 February	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4

The areas at Trenton and Bay Point Park were next highest in importance to the eagles. The amount of open water available at these areas was regulated by air temperatures and the presence of Lock and Dam 3, about 2 km upstream.

I believe one of the important factors regulating the comparatively lower population in these two areas was the presence of many houses and cottages along the river bank. Dunstan et al (1975) pointed out the effects of human disturbance on nesting eagles and this may have been a factor affecting the wintering eagles.

Near Prescott, the amount of human development along the river was much lower. The combined factors of ample open water and little human disturbance were important in attracting and maintaining a relatively large wintering population.

#### **Environmental Factors Affecting Population Distribution**

The number of eagles observed in the area and their distribution within the area was also regulated by the environmental factors of air temperature and the amount of open water available.

Very few eagles were observed until after daily air temperatures were below  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  (4 December). After this date, the air temperatures ranged from  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  on 9 December to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  on 8 January. On 8 January, ice conditions ranged from 60 percent frozen at Prescott to 100 percent frozen at Colvil Park and Diamond Bluff.

The highest population reached at Prescott (18) resulted after a week of air temperatures below  $-13^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Southern (1963, 1964), Ingram (1965) and Jonen (1973) found a higher population of eagles in their study areas immediately after periods of extremely cold weather.

The area near the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant was not important for wintering eagles. Those birds observed near the plant were in the area for only short periods of time, and soon departed. All eagles observed near the

power plant were observed near the heated water discharge channel. This indicated that eagles could be attracted to this area, especially during periods of extensive cold weather. If the winter had been more severe and the cold air temperatures lasted for longer periods, the heated discharge channel may have been more important as a feeding area for the eagles.

#### **Behavior and Activity of Wintering Bald Eagles**

Activities were broken down into three categories: perched, slow-flapping and soaring. Of the 295 eagle observations made during the study, 248 (84 percent) were perched, 34 (12 percent) were slow-flapping and 13 (4 percent) were soaring.

Soaring birds were observed only during the first and last two weeks of the study. Slow-flapping birds were observed throughout the study period. The activities of the eagles were indicative of two factors. First, all soaring birds were observed during late November and late February. These soaring birds were migrating through the area. Secondly, the number of perched or slow-flapping birds was regulated by time of day. All slow-flapping birds were less than 90m. above the river surface, and were assumed to be hunting or flying to another perch. Jonen (1973) made an excellent interpretation of the daily cycle of wintering eagles. The reader is directed to Jonen's paper for a more detailed explanation of the factors affecting daily movements.

Although many other species of birds were present in the area during the winter, only two instances of interspecific behavior were noted. Instances of intraspecific behavior were noted more commonly, especially when the eagles were feeding or landing in trees. Instances of intraspecific aggression between adult and immature eagles have been documented by Southern (1963, 1964) and Ingram (1965) and will not be discussed further.

Eagles demonstrated a preference

for specific branches or limbs which were utilized for perching. Usually the preferred branches were on trees which leaned over the river. Ingram (1965) and Jonen (1973) found similar instances of eagles acquiring a favorite fishing or roosting perch, and later utilizing the perch extensively.

### Food Habits

Quantitative data were not gathered on the food habits of wintering eagles. However, when an eagle was observed catching a fish or eating prey, I attempted to identify as closely as possible the organism being consumed. A total of 37 items were positively identified (Table 2).

Though few data were gathered on the food habits of wintering eagles, the general pattern that fish are most commonly utilized (Southern, 1963, 1964; Hancock, 1964 and Jonen, 1973) was demonstrated.

### Pesticide Concentrations in Eagle Food Items

Mercury, chlorocarbon insecticide, PCB residues and percent fat were measured in 36 gizzard shad. The average length and weight of the fish collected at the Prairie Island Plant was 114 mm and 27.9 g. The average length and weight of the fish collected at the NSP steam plant was 122 mm

and 19.5 g. All fish analyzed were less than one year old.

The mercury, chlorocarbon insecticide concentrations, PCB residues and fat content data obtained are presented in Table 3.

Pesticide concentrations in the gizzard shad were relatively low when compared to the results obtained by other investigators. Degurse and Ruhland (1972) found an average concentration of 24.7 ppm PCB at Prescott. The range in concentration was 50.3 ppm in a white bass (*Roccus chrysops*) to 7.64 ppm in a carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).

Mercury concentrations were slightly less than those found by Kleinert and Degurse (1972) in a sample of two white bass. Henderson et al. (1972) found an average concentration of 0.18 ppm mercury in fish analyzed throughout the Mississippi River drainage basin.

The residues of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides found was low. Degurse and Duter (1975) found concentrations of total DDT ranging from 0.168 ppm to 0.631 ppm in fish collected at Prescott. Total DDT residues were much lower than those reported by Henderson et al. (1971) and Degurse and Duter (1975) from the Mississippi River. Dieldrin residues were comparable to those found by Henderson et al. (1971).

I had no opportunity to obtain pesticide residue data from living eagles. Cromartie et al. (1975) presented the most recent data on organochlorine residues in Bald Eagles. Wiemeyer et al. (1972) reported average residues from five Minnesota Bald Eagles were: 1.02 ppm DDD, 0.99 ppm Dieldrin, 9.57 ppm DDE, 7.7 ppm PCB and 0.3 ppm Mercury.

From comparable data obtained in this study, it appeared that the pesticide residues found were at relatively "safe" levels. What is not known is the rate at which these pesticides accumulate in the tissues of the eagles.

Table 2. Prey Items Identified as being utilized by wintering Bald Eagles.

Prey Item	Number of Individuals	Percent Total
Gizzard Shad	29	78.4
Suckers	4	10.8
Redhorse	2	5.4
White Bass	1	2.7
Common Goldeneye	1	2.7
Total	37	100.0

Table 3. Mercury, Chlorocarbon insecticide, PCB and fat residues in gizzard shad around the Red Wing and Prairie Island Power Generating Plants, December 1975.

Sample	% Fat	Mercury ppm	PCB's as Arochlor 1254 ppm	Heptachlor ppm	Heptachlor Epoxide ppm	Dieldrin ppm	Endrin ppm	p-pDDE ppm	o-pDDT ppm	p-pDDT ppm
Red Wing Composite (18 Shad)	9.8	0.11	1.86	0.017	0.001	0.002	—	0.022	0.064	0.011
Prairie Island Composite (18 Shad)	5.9	0.13	2.01	0.010	0.003	0.010	—	0.014	0.163	0.026
Red Wing Fillet Composite of 3 Shad	*	0.26	1.80	0.011	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.021	0.090	0.022
Prairie Island 1 Fillet	*	0.19	1.47	0.013	—	0.008	—	0.012	0.178	0.018

\* determination not made

— below detection limit

A recovery factor of 90 percent was used in calculating the above measurements.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

It appeared that this portion of the Upper Mississippi River valley was an important wintering area for Bald Eagles. The environmental factors of air temperature and ice cover were most important in regulating the distribution of eagles in the area.

Suitable habitat exists along this portion of the river, however areas of intense human disturbances and activity are not used as readily by the eagles.

The food habit data gathered indicated that an abundance of gizzard shad and other fish species is necessary for the maintenance of a wintering eagle population.

The level of pesticide residues in the prey items are at low levels. However, more detailed research is necessary to determine the extent to which the eagles are exposed to these pesticides.

Sound land management practices are necessary to insure the availability of suitable habitat for wintering eagles. It will also be necessary to control human development along the river so the eagles will be exposed to as little disturbance as possible during the winter period.

Further study of this wintering population is necessary to monitor those environmental and man-induced factors which regulate winter Bald Eagle populations.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Barred Owl — photo by Mrs. Rollyn Lint, Sr.

# notes of interest

**THIRD MINNESOTA PRAIRIE WARBLER** — I recently came across a copy of **Minnesota Birds** at one of the campus libraries here in Madison. The book lists only two published reports of Prairie Warbler sightings in the state. I would like to offer the following (belated) account of an additional sighting. On June 10, 1975, I heard an unfamiliar bird song while working on the Kenneth Bratland farm in rural Spring Grove (Houston County), Minnesota. The bird was first heard at 6:35 PM in a field between the house and barn. Identification of the bird was made when I returned to the area at 7:20 PM. The bird was simultaneously singing and foraging at heights ranging from 5-15 feet in several apple and Lombardy Poplar trees that were present in the field. I observed the bird at close range (8-15') with a 7x35 binoculars (and my naked eyes). Its distinct facial markings, side streaks, chestnut back streaks and tail wagging habit identified it as a male Prairie Warbler using both the Peterson and Robbins Field Guides. The bird was observed for about 25 minutes, however, no photographs were obtained. Shortly after my final observations, I compared its song with examples provided on Donald J. Borror's **Common Bird Songs** (and against similar songs of other species) and confirmed my previous identification. Heavy clouds set in that evening and rain followed for several days. No additional sightings of Prairie Warblers were made while I was present in this area during the following five weeks. In response to Bob Janssen's letter dated June 9, 1976, I would like to clarify two points concerning my Prairie Warbler observation. The first and apparently most important point is that I did take field notes at the time of the sighting. The notes including conditions of the sightings plus observations dealing with field marks, song and behavior. They provided the primary basis for my first letter. The second point concerns the long delay in reporting this observation. At the time of the sighting the only range map that I possessed for the Prairie Warbler is the one reproduced in **Birds of North America** (plus descriptions of the range in the Peterson Eastern Field Guide and a National Geographic series book). Considering that this sighting was made in extreme southeastern Minnesota, I estimated that this bird was about 100 miles beyond the range given by Robbins, et al. and considered it an unusual, but not extremely rare, sighting. In mid-February of this year I discussed this sighting with Dr. Timothy C. Moermond, professor of the ornithology course at the University of Wisconsin. He suggested that this species may have always been present in the area but never observed by birders (as may be the case with some other rare sightings). However, I have not seen any Prairie Warblers since my arrival in the area earlier this month, June, 1976). Therefore it was not until the first week of March, 1976, when I came across a new copy of **Minnesota Birds** that I became aware of the true rarity. This book acquainted me with MOU and **The Loon**. I checked all recent editions of **The Loon** before sending you my previous letter. After learning of the rarity of this sighting and that no Prairie Warbler pictures (or specimens) are available for Minnesota, I regret that I failed to obtain photographs- especially when a camera equipped with a telephoto lens was readily available and the bird was within close range. **Steven M. Roble, 4605 Jay Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53704.**

**A FIFTH RECORD OF THE IVORY GULL FOR MINNESOTA** — On our way to search for Snowy Owls in the port area on New Year's Day 1976, Jan Smith and I made a routine check for gulls and ducks at Canal Park in Duluth. A few Herring Gulls were circling in the 10-15 mph NE wind as light snow fell from a heavily overcast sky. One immature gull sat far out on the concrete breakwater of the ship canal, near a chunk of ice. Putting my 20x spotting scope on the gull, I decided it was another Herring, then automatically rechecked the piece of ice. About two-thirds the gull's size, the ice was bird-shaped . . . then the head part rotated, and the "ice" was suddenly a small, all-white gull! Moving quickly to the base of the breakwater, I hurriedly mounted the scope to its pod. The gull was sitting on the concrete, facing away from me, but I could see its bill and many black-tipped feathers on the back. My field book (Robbins, et al.) made it an immature Ivory Gull. But this bird had a dark crescent-shaped patch between beak and eye, not shown in Robbins, and the head seemed vaguely pigeon-like. Leaving Jan at the scope, I scrambled around the gate and moved slowly along the breakwater. I was within forty feet when the gull stood up. Through my 7x35 binoculars, the gull's black legs and black-tipped tail feathers clinched the identification of Ivory Gull. Except for the bill, legs, tips of feathers, and cheek patch, it was pure white. It then flew slowly along the breakwater, showing its dark-tipped primaries, secondaries, and wing coverts very clearly. Turning left, it flew on across the lake towards downtown Duluth.

Back at the scope, I found Jan had been joined by two more birders, Chuck and Pam Bergman of Minneapolis. They too, had a scope and all of us agreed we had definitely seen an Ivory Gull. We had watched it from 1:00 to 1:15 p.m. **Dean G. Schneider, 4722 Cooke Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55803.**

**ICELAND GULL AT DULUTH** — The following notes were written on the evening of March 14, 1976 after observing the Iceland Gull.

Seen circling the fishing boat which had just pulled up to the slip to the west of the arena (Weyerhauser Pier) at about 3:45 p.m. Was in group of about 75 Herring and six Glaucous Gulls. They never landed on the ice or open water of inner harbor, probably because a Snowy Owl was sitting on the harbor ice opposite the boat slip. There was an open water channel from the ship canal to the fishing boat slip. We drove to the next pier to the west so we could watch the gulls with the sun at our backs. The gulls were whirling around the end of the Weyerhauser Pier at distances from 75 to 300 feet. I saw the Iceland Gull at the closest range through binoculars at least twice and watched it twice more as it circled farther away. It was a first year bird with buffy plumage overall, white primaries (both above and below) and an all black bill. The buffy color was very similar to the first year Glaucous Gulls which were also present and I could detect no difference in shade with the birds flying around. It also had a buffy tail band ( $\frac{2}{3}$ rd's distal end) about the color of back and only visible from above. The white primaries were noted as the bird banked away from me a couple of times and were seen from above in full sun. The most noticeable character of the bird was its small size. It stood out as smaller than all the Herring Gulls and was decidedly lighter and more maneuverable on the wing. The small size and white wing tips lead to the conclusion that it was an Iceland Gull. **Janet C. Green, 9773 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804.**

**OBSERVATIONS OF THAYER'S GULL IN 1975** — I observed the following Thayer's Gulls in 1975. All were single birds in first year plumage: March 7, 1975. Clifton, Duluth Twp., St. Louis County.

Seen resting on floating ice on Lake Superior about 75 yards off shore in company with four Herring Gulls and five immature Glaucous Gulls. Observed with spotting scope from car window. Description from notes taken when I returned home that day.

Buffy plumage with wing tips darker than back but not the dark brown of Herring Gull at similar age (cf. Fig. 2, **Loon**, winter, 1974). Size was that of female Herring Gull. Buffy color overall was a shade darker than the first year Glaucous Gulls with it. Bill was all dark.

November 28, 1975. Eagle Lake, Gnesen Twp., St. Louis County.

Seen sitting on frozen lake with 1050 Herring Gulls (accurate count by ones) about 100 yards off shore. Observed with spotting scope from car window. Description from notes taken in the field.

Slightly lighter than first year Herring Gull; wing tips a bit darker than back; size of average Herring Gull. All black bill.

November 29, 1975. Grand Marais Harbor, Cook County.

Seen in boat slip with many Herring Gulls. Watched with binoculars from car at close range — down to 50 feet. Pointed the bird out to companions — Janssen, Glassel, Egeland, Rhume — who concurred with identification.

As dark on back overall as many first year Herring Gulls but mottling similar to white-winged gulls because of type of feather edging (lighter or wider — I'm not sure which). Wing tips at rest were as dark as back (buffy brown) and had lighter margin of primary tips. This contrasted with uniform dark brown wing tips of nearby Herring Gulls. On the wing, could see that wing was all the same color without darker tips and the tail had wide buffy brown (unmottled) terminal band. Size of Herring Gull and had all black bill. **Janet C. Green, 9773 North Shore Dr., Duluth, Minnesota 55804.**

**THAYER'S GULL AT BLACK DOG** — On January 2, 1976, at about 3:00 p.m. we were birding at the Black Dog Power Plant in Dakota County. Among the many Mallards on the open water we noted two immature Herring Gulls standing on the ice. These birds were about 150 yards from us. They were soon joined by a third gull which flew in from our left. This third bird appeared much lighter than the Herring Gulls and did not have black wing tips. This bird joined the other two on the ice. We walked toward the birds and when we were about 100 yards or less from the birds all three of them took to the air. All three birds were approximately the same size, two were obvious dark first year Herring Gulls. The third bird was a "white-winged" gull and from the following notes taken by both of us while the bird was under observation we concluded the bird was a Thayer's Gull. Here are our original field notes: same size as Herring Gull which accompanied it, definite white wing tips from below, sun light shining through made tips appear silvery white from beneath. Wing tips from above were brownish. Body light mottled brown on back, underside (breast) a little darker, but, not as dark as the two immature Herring Gulls. Tail from above, whitish to mottled brown with dark band near tip, tip of tail light. Bill color not noted. After we had made these observations, the birds circled high over the plant and disappeared from view. A few minutes later as we drove to the opposite side of the plant a first year Glaucous Gull flew directly over the car, we noted the black tipped bill, overall whitish mottled plumage throughout without a tail band. There were approximately 20 Herring Gulls on the east side of the plant in various plumages, but we could not locate the Thayer's Gull again. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota and Raymond Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Avenue, Bloomington, Minnesota 55431.**

**PROBABLE GROOVE-BILLED ANI** — On October 27, 1975 at approximately 1100 CST, an ani was observed in a small acre pasture in Larsmont, St. Louis County, Minnesota. Larsmont is about 17 mi. N.E. of Duluth and about ½ mile north of the North Shore of Lake Superior. The first observation was misidentified as a Common Grackle. Although the "grackle" was exhibiting some odd behavior, because it was approaching within two or three feet of my laying down cows head and it hopped and flew differently. It was still overlooked until 3:15 p.m. when I was feeding the cows, the ani landed within five feet of me. At that time, I noticed its large beak and ruffed throat and bill. After sitting for about two minutes, it flew up into a red pine and sat until I went into the house for my identification book. When I went outside about three to four minutes later it was gone. **Mr. Gary Phipps, Larsmont, Minnesota 55610.**

Editor's Note: When Mr. Phipps talked to me a few days after seeing this bird, his verbal description contained more information about its size and shape that left no doubt in my mind he had seen an ani. He was particularly impressed with the disjointed way it flew: "as if it were going to fall apart." It stayed close to his two cows all afternoon and from a distance he just assumed it was a grackle until he got close enough to notice the huge bill. He did not see any obvious grooves on the bill. **J. C. Green.**

**MINNESOTA'S FIRST WINTER OSPREY** — About 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, January 25, 1976, my husband, young son and I drove the five miles from Hastings, Minnesota to Prescott, Wisconsin, to check on the Bald Eagles that winter on the Mississippi River. The eagles are usually perched in the trees on the Minnesota side of the river, just south of the point where the St. Croix River joins it. The water is always open for a stretch of about a mile or more, and the area is a good one for observing eagles, goldeneyes, and on occasion, several other wintering ducks. In order to get a good look at the eagles, you must take Front Street in Prescott, which runs parallel to the Mississippi south of the railroad bridge, and then continue on 2nd St. S., which runs between the St. Croix Boat Works and the Jacques Fertilizer Plant until it comes to a dead end at the municipal disposal plant. There is a turn-around here, and the area is elevated, offering a perfect view across the Mississippi to Ravenna Township in Dakota County, Minnesota. As expected, we spotted six adult Bald Eagles perching in the trees. As we watched, several began leaving the trees to fly down to the open water to feed, as they usually do at this time of the day. After observing them for about ten minutes, I scanned the entire area on the Minnesota side of the river with 10x50 binoculars for one last look before we left. As I did, I caught sight of a large bird (although not as large as the nearby eagles) standing at the edge of the water. From it's size it seemed to be some type of hawk or owl. I was viewing it almost head on, and I could see that it had an extremely white breast, belly and throat, and the sides were dark. I jokingly remarked to my husband that it looked like a little penguin standing there because the contrast between the white front and dark sides was so startling. As I watched, it turned its head, and I caught a glimpse of some sort of black marking on the face. It suddenly flew up into a small tree. As I was now viewing it from the side, I could very plainly see the black streak through the cheek, the pure white front and the very dark back and wings. As the bird flew again, this time to a higher perch in a very large tree, I could see the black wrist marks on the under side of the long wings. The bird remained in this larger tree for several minutes, and at this point I looked away to consult "Birds of North America." When I looked back it had left its perch and was out flying over

the water, and with wings raised, it dropped down and apparently took a fish from the river. It then flew up and away down the river around a bend and out of sight. We waited several minutes, but the bird didn't reappear, so we left this site and drove back up onto the main street of Prescott (Broad St.) and took this street south. Broad Street goes south out of town, up a very steep incline along a bluff so that as you go up, you have a perfect view of the river below. When we had almost reached the top of the hill, my husband spotted this same bird flying below us. As the bird rose higher and got above eye level, we could see the white underparts, the black wrist marks on the wings, and the barred fan shaped tail. The bird landed in a large tree on the edge of the bluff partially obscured from our sight, so we drove up the hill further to get a better view of the tree. But the bird flew off, and although we remained in the area about 15 or 20 more minutes, we did not see it again. My husband and I are convinced that we had seen an Osprey. We know of no other large hawk-like bird with these field marks that has the habit of "fishing" as Bald Eagles do. On previous occasions in the last several years, we have glimpsed a large bird of prey in this same area with the wintering Bald Eagles, but were never able to get a good enough look at it to identify it. We wonder if we have had an Osprey spending previous winters along the Mississippi River in Dakota County. **Mrs. Joanne T. Dempsey, 1017 W. 14th St., Hastings, Minnesota 55033.**

**Editor's Note:** The above report is most unusual. Because of this the information was submitted to the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee. The committee accepted the record as valid. It is interesting to note that another Osprey was reported on the Rochester Christmas Bird Count during late December 1975.

**FIRST WINTER RECORD FOR A FERRUGINOUS HAWK** — It was on January 24, 1976 my husband and I went for a drive on Highway 60 through Dumpries, Wabasha County. Turning onto county No. 86, we saw a large dark hawk sitting in a tree beside the road. Using our 7x50 binoculars we could see the white under its wings and the all white under tail as it flew from one tree to another and back again. I did not get a picture of this hawk. But, seeing this hawk it prompted me to send in a picture of another large beautiful hawk Mrs. Otto Gadow, my husband, and I saw sitting in a tree at Sugar Loaf, Winona County, on January 2, 1972. It was a large dark rusty colored bird as pictured in the Audubon Water Bird Guide. It was larger than a Red-tailed Hawk. It was not too scared as it sat long enough for me to get a picture of it with my Miranda 35 and 350 MM lens. Both my husband and I, after checking all our bird books figured both hawks we saw were dark phase Ferruginous Hawks. **Mrs. Rollyn Lint Sr., Reads Landing, Minnesota 55968.**

**Editor's Note:** The color photo of the 1972 bird that Mrs. Lint furnished with the above information was submitted to Dr. Harrison Tordoff of the Bell Museum of Natural History and to Janet Green of Duluth. Both of them and I agreed that the photo was a Ferruginous Hawk, dark phase. The large size, white under tail, very dark brownish to chestnut breast and belly are obvious in the photo. As Mrs. Lint states above, no photo was obtained of the 1976 bird so a positive identification can not be determined. The belated report of the 1972 bird thus represents the first winter record for the Ferruginous Hawk in Minnesota.

**HERMIT THRUSH AT FERGUS FALLS** — This bird was first seen by my mother on November 23, 1975 in our back yard. She knew she had seen a thrush, but didn't know which species. Four days later several members of the family, including me, again saw the bird, and I confirmed it as a Hermit Thrush. Through December there was very little snow in western Otter Tail County and the thrush fed largely on fallen apples from a jelly crab tree in our back yard. The bird was present most days, generally showing up in early morning or mid to late afternoon. It ranged widely throughout the neighborhood until the snow cover deepened in early January. After that it stayed in our yard more often, feeding on small grain and table scraps. The persistent tail wagging so often noted in this species was never exhibited in my many observations, but short jerks, rather than slow, deliberate wagging, were noted several times. On December 20, 1975 a male robin showed up and was often seen feeding with the thrush. Food and shelter was no problem, but the cold weather proved too much. The Hermit Thrush died the night of January 6, after having survived several quite cold nights. The temperature that night was between 20 to 25 below zero. It was found frozen in our garage, where it often spent the night. On January 11 the robin died, although I believe its death was due largely to competition from the starlings for food, rather than from the cold. **Steve Millard, 304 N. Vine St., Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537.**

**A DECEMBER HERMIT THRUSH** — Apparently Mower County is having a special on thrushes. On December 20, 1975, which was the day before our Christmas Count, my wife and I spotted a Hermit Thrush at the J. C. Hormel Nature Center in Austin. Our observation was so close we didn't need glasses. I estimate we were less than 20 feet from it. We had Robbins field guide along and checked this at the time. The next day, the 21st, our group on the Count saw it briefly when it flushed. They felt it was a thrush, but, it was not identified as to species. The day after the count, the 22nd, Richard Birger who is the nature center naturalist, Robert Jessen, a good birder and myself went out at noon. The bird flushed again, perched very briefly in the open, and then disappeared into an evergreen. It was agreed by them it was a thrush, but, again not identified by species. Birger later went out in the afternoon, saw it again, and identified it as a Hermit Thrush. I later checked Robbins field guide, Peterson's field guide, Pough's Audubon field guide, Roberts, Birds of Minnesota and Forbush Natural History of American Birds. I believe the picture in Robbins was very close to its coloration. The head and back was olive to olive brown. The tail was brown in definite contrast to the back. There was an eye ring, but, not as pronounced as the one shown in Robbins. The breast was more heavily spotted than the Swainson's or Gray-cheeked. Each time it was seen it was under a group of fir trees whose boughs reached the ground in places. There was also a stand of dried grass in front of them which added to the cover. It was on the ground or bottom boughs when first seen at these observations. The bird was not seen after the 22nd. **Ronald Kneeskern, 1208 N.W. 5th Street, Austin, Minnesota 55912.**

**ANOTHER DECEMBER HERMIT THRUSH** — The Howard Merriman's of 9401 Highview Drive, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County had a Hermit Thrush visit their feeder from about December 7, to December 23, 1975. The bird was a daily visitor to the feeder usually in the late afternoon hours. On December 23 Ray Glassel saw and positively identified the bird. On December 24 I spent over two hours at the Merriman's, whose home is on the shore of Reiley Lake, waiting for the bird to appear, but, I did not see it. The bird

has not been reported since the 23rd sighting. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**Editor's Note:** The above two records of December Hermit Thrushes probably represent extremely late migrants not over-wintering birds. The only winter record for the species is of a bird that remained at a feeder near Duluth from December 17, 1973 to at least February 24, 1974.

**WINTER VOCALIZATION OF SNOWY OWL** — T. S. Roberts states in *The Birds Of Minnesota* that he never heard the Snowy Owl utter any sound or cry during the winter season when observing this species in Minnesota. Roger T. Peterson in *A Field Guide To Western Birds* states that the Snowy Owl is usually silent except on its breeding grounds. Robbins makes a similar statement in *Birds Of North America*. On Monday December 29, 1975 while observing a Snowy Owl near the Port Terminal in Duluth, Dr. Takeo Murakawa and myself heard it utter a high piercing windy-sounding whistle three or four times. The first time the noise was heard we were about thirty yards from the bird. At this time the bird was sitting on snow covered ice. At that time I did not see the owl's mouth so I did not realize that the owl was making the sound. A few minutes later the bird turned its face toward us and on this occasion I saw its gaping mouth emitting the above mentioned sound. Subsequently upon being flushed the owl once again made this sound while in flight. Karl Karalus describes a similar sound in *The Owls Of North America*, stating that the Snowy Owl gives this sound when its nest or young are approached. True, we were approaching the bird but certainly not its nest or young. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55445.**

**SNOWY OWL BEHAVIOR** — February 3, 1976, 1:30 p.m. — I observed an immature Snowy Owl about 100 yards from the road on a pole, next to Industrial Park, 49 & Co. Road 18 in New Hope. There is a swamp to the east and a field to the west. Poles run north and south. The owl glided about 30 yards to the west and caught something. I moved my car to a different point where I could see the bird eating. Without field glasses I couldn't see what it was. After about 3 minutes of eating I noticed the owl had caught sight of something in the weeds. The owl suddenly took off and a hen pheasant flushed. The owl chased for about 30 yards then veered off and came back to its kill. After watching the snowy feed for about 5 more minutes, I decided to see what type of prey it had caught. The owl was about 75 yards away, it flushed when I got within 50 yards. I observed it flying off with something in its talons. The kill this owl made was a hen pheasant. Several things were of particular interest to me: That the owl would leave her kill to chase other quarry; that she could consume almost an entire pheasant in that short a time; only flight and tail feathers remained. I assume it was a leg she carried off flying east across the swamp, circling and then came back toward me settling in the swamp about 60 yards from me to finish her meal. **Kenneth Holkestad, 8910 61½ Avenue North, New Hope, Minnesota 55428.**

**CAROLINA WREN IN CROW WING COUNTY** — On the afternoon of October 28, 1975, I heard an unusual bird in my neighbor's yard. When I first spotted the bird, it was high up in the trees, but as I watched, the bird flew into a brush pile close to me. From where I stood I could see, without binoculars, that the bird was a Carolina Wren. It moved to another brush pile

in our yard and at this point, I called Jo Blanich. By the time Jo arrived, the bird had moved through our yard by flying from brush pile to brush pile, and was in another neighbor's yard. Jo and I watched the bird for about ten minutes and when I last saw the wren, it was in our yard, still singing from time to time. I did not see the bird after the 28th, but Mark Carlson, who lives near me, told me he had seen the wren on the 26th in his yard. A description of the wren is as follows: larger than a House Wren, white eye stripe, buffy underparts, cocked tail, and reddish back. Jo and I have seen the Carolina Wren in the southern states and I have seen it once before in Minnesota. **Terry Savaloja, Box 244, Deerwood, Minnesota 56444.**

**A LATE RECORD FOR THE CHIPPING SPARROW** — On December 6, 1975, I received a call from Steve Malaby, a 6th grader at Winston Churchill School, that he had found a dead Clay-colored Sparrow in his garage that morning. When I went to his house to pick up the specimen, I guessed it probably was a Chipping Sparrow. We used **Birds of North America**, Robbins, Bruun, Zim & Singer, as a guide, but it was difficult for us to decide. We then keyed it out, using Roberts' **Birds of Minnesota** and concluded it was a Chipping Sparrow in first fall plumage. I would describe the bird as having a plain gray rump and upper tail coverts. The crown is streaked with buff, black, and rufous. The eye line is buffy. The bill is dark above and light below. The throat is buff and gray. The belly and under tail coverts are a dirty white, underneath, these feathers are dark gray. The legs are pale flesh colored. The feathers on the back are dark in the center giving a streaked appearance. The length is 5.0". The specimen is now in the Bell Museum collection. According to **Minnesota Birds**, Green and Janssen, the latest dates are November 2, 22-27. Personal correspondence from Bob Janssen reveals some reports of Chipping Sparrows on Christmas counts, but none have been substantiated and were probably confused with Tree Sparrows. **Vince Herring, 2677 4th Ave. N.E., Rochester, Minnesota 55901.**

**DECEMBER FIELD SPARROW RECORD** — On December 4, 1975 while birding near the N.S.P. power plant at Prairie Island, Goodhue Co., I observed a Field Sparrow among a group of about 15 Tree Sparrows. The bird was seen in good sunlight, observed with 9x35 B&L binoculars from as close as 50 feet and for a period of about five minutes. All field marks were carefully noted and compared with Tree Sparrows present. My attention was drawn to the bird when I noted the buffy belly with lack of central breast spot. The white eye ring was prominent and the bill and legs were flesh colored. It also lacked the brown eye line and malar stripe of the Tree Sparrows. There is only one winter record for this bird (Winona Co.) in Green and Janssen's "Minnesota Birds." However, the late fall date given is November 29, so perhaps this could be considered a late migration date. **Raymond A. Glassel, 8219 Wentworth Avenue South, Bloomington, Minnesota.**

**EVENING GROSBEAK PREDATION ON HOUSE SPARROW** — During the first half of December 1975 we in Le Sueur experienced an unusual visit by a small band of Evening Grosbeaks. Individuals or groups of this band were seen at several feeders in town during that period. At our feeder we had from five or six to twenty at a time, brazen, hungry, yet strikingly pretty. At the Fritz Roschen home, 730 South Fourth Street, at 8:30 in the morning on either December 9 or 10, the Roschens are not sure which, they were watching the feeder in their west yard. There was no snow. A female Evening Grosbeak came in, perched in a tree about 10 feet from the window. The

Roschens were both watching this particular bird. Suddenly she left her perch, descending to a House Sparrow sitting on the ground. "It pecked the sparrow two or three times on the head. The sparrow didn't move. Then the grosbeak picked up the sparrow in its bill and flew away with the dead sparrow." These facts are as reported to me in person by Mr. Roschen after consulting with Mrs. Roschen as to the exact sequence of events. The Roschens are experienced observers. **H. F. Chamberlain, 428 South Second Street, Le Sueur, Minnesota 56058.**

Editor's Note: This is a most unusual report. The most unusual is the grosbeak picking up the sparrow and flying off with it, an extraordinary feat. I would be interested to hear readers comments.

**ESCAPED TUFTED DUCK OBSERVED** — I observed a male Tufted Duck at Blackdog Lake, Burnsville, Minnesota twice during the winter of 1976. I first saw what appeared to be a male Ring-necked Duck while using a 15-60X spotting scope to count Mallards, Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers on January 25. The bird was with a group of Mallards in the water about 200 yards away. I could see the black head, black back and the light-colored sides and crescent characteristic of Ring-necked Ducks, but as he preened I noted a tuft of feathers on the back of the head. I watched for about five minutes and then left to continue the duck count.

On the afternoon of February 8, I observed the Tufted Duck again. He was near the same location on the west end of Blackdog Lake with about 20 Mallards. I watched him from 150 yards for nearly an hour. As he preened I could see the white "scaup-like" speculum, white sides and crescent and the tuft. He did not have a white ring around the base of the bill. These characteristics distinguish the Tufted Duck from the similar Ring-necked Duck which has a grey speculum, grey sides with a contrasting white crescent, a white ring around the base of the bill and no tuft. During the remainder of February and March I made several more trips to Blackdog Lake but could not find the bird again.

The Tufted Duck is a common breeding species in Europe and Asia. To my knowledge this is the first record of this species in Minnesota. Green and Janssen do not mention this species in their recent book **Minnesota Birds** (1975). Bellrose (**Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America**, 1976:335) summarizes 18 sightings on the east and west coasts of the United States. In central United States, Gochfeld (**Condor** 1968:186-187) reported a male in Wyoming and **American Birds** (1973, 1974) lists three sightings in Chicago.

Some observers have speculated Tufted Ducks mingle with scaup in Alaska and migrate with them to southern wintering grounds. No Ring-necked Ducks or scaup were observed during these two observations but they have been seen in previous years. It is possible this Tufted Duck escaped from a captive waterfowl collection in the Twin Cities area. **Michael A. Johnson, Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.**

Editor's Note: Readers are referred to the article "A Guide to North American Waterfowl Escapes" by Dick Ryan (**Birding** Vol. IV, No. 4, July-August 1972). The Tufted Duck is listed as abundant in collections and the majority of observations are of releases or escapes. There are several people in the Twin Cities raising exocytic waterfowl, including Tufted Ducks and one of these persons is in the Burnsville area!

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR ON NORTH SHORE** — Sunday, March 21, 1976, driving slowly along Highway 61 south of Cascade Lodge, Cook County, we spotted an immature male Chestnut-collared Longspur feeding on the melted snowy apron of the road. The bird was very casual about cars speeding by, and landed opposite our car often. We decided its identity easily; the plumage was seven-eighths developed- with a definite chestnut collar on the nape, black cheek stripes, a black breast with a few light feathers scattered irregularly, a beige throat, longspur tail and back. He seemed to be feeding from the open patches along the road as well as the low snow banks. We also watched Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding along these same road areas, they were also very unafraid, and flew down beside the car to hunt for what I believe were the seeds from Birch trees. Common Redpolls were also with the nuthatches, but the large number of nuthatches were impressive to us. From Lutsen up to Hovland, and also along the Gunflint Trail we must have seen over two hundred Red-breasted Nuthatches, usually in groups of four to eight; sometimes redpolls would be with the nuthatches, but the nuthatches were prevalent all along the roads, the redpolls were in flocks of fifteen or twenty. **Evelyn T. Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416.**

**BEWICK'S WREN IN CROW WING COUNTY** — On April 8, 1976, at about 5:30 p. m., my husband, Steve, and I stopped along Hwy. 210 about ½ mile east of Deerwood to look at a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on a pole beside the railroad track 200 yards to the right of the highway. I could not see a belly-band on the hawk and put a spotting scope on the car window to look at it when I heard an unfamiliar, flat, thin scolding in some scrub oaks beside the car where the highway shoulder slopes off into a marsh. I looked to see what was scolding and a wren popped out on a limb. It had a conspicuous white eye stripe, reddish brown cap, plain brown back, clear grayish underparts, and long tail with barring on the edges. It flew into a larger bush and flitted up and down in back of the trunk for a minute or two. Steve was able to see the white edges on the back of the tail. We identified it as a Bewick's Wren. It then flew directly away from us into some willows in the marsh. I walked out as far as I could but could not get a response to my "pishing". Terry Savaloja looked for the bird about an hour later and as the light faded, saw a long tailed wren a few yards west of this spot. He looked again the next day but could not find it. There is one other spring record for a Bewick's Wren for the northern half of the state: April 29, 1956, in Aitkin County (near Wealthwood, W. R. Peiper) and one in the fall; September 8, 1945, Duluth. There have been no records for the state since 1970. **Jo Blanich, Box 96, Crosby, Minnesota 56441.**

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW AT THE APPLETON BRIDGE** — During the M.O.U. spring field trip to Salt Lake on April 24, 1976, Chuck Bergman, Paul Egeland, Kim Eckert, Dean Schneider and I decided to investigate the Minnesota River Valley from Lac Qui Parle Lake to Marsh Lake. The weather on the 24th had been cold and windy, with rain. At about 6:30 P.M. skies began to clear and we decided to make one last stop at the Appleton Bridge before heading for the meeting in Madison. I walked up on the road and crossed the bridge and after a few minutes I glanced to the east and noted a large bird coming directly at me. The bird was about 50 feet in the air and at first I thought it was a Marbled Godwit, but, as it flew almost directly overhead I noted the cinnamon under-wing linings and the unmistakable long, down-curved bill of a Long-billed Curlew. The bird continued its flight

path across the river for several hundred yards to a grassy area in Lac Qui Parle County. It appeared to land, but, a search for the bird failed to reveal where it had gone. Kim, Paul, Dean and Chuck all had an excellent look at the bird while it was in flight and confirmed it as a Long-billed Curlew. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA COMMON RAVEN OBSERVATIONS** — Green and Janssen in **Minnesota Birds** state that the Common Raven is a casual fall migrant in the central region and unknown as a spring migrant in the southern region. On October 26, 1974 while birding in Oak Park, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County I observed and heard a Common Raven. At this time the bird was viewed with both binoculars and spotting telescope with Common Crows visible in the same field of view. On May 16, 1976 while participating in a field trip sponsored by the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis a Common Raven was sighted and identified at Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County. This observation of the Common Raven was made only with the aid of binoculars. The call was once again heard and a small flock of Common Crows were observed nearby for size comparison. In a personal conversation with Janssen he stated that to his knowledge there were no other reports of Common Raven observations in southern Minnesota. **Oscar L. Johnson, 7733 Florida Circle, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55445.**

**MONK PARAKEET SIGHTED IN WRIGHT COUNTY** — A Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) flew over our house and landed in a bur oak in our front yard on May 8, 1976 about 2:00 P.M. The bird was about the size of a Mourning Dove and at first almost seemed like one except that it was "green." It had a fairly long pointed tail in flight and a fairly rapid wing-beat, about like a hovering American Kestrel. The raucous chattering first caught my attention. Several friends, helping us lay sod that day, also saw the bird. I immediately went into the house, grabbed a shotgun, collected the bird, and froze it. The Departments of Natural Resources in most states advise destroying the species when found because of their potential damage to crops. The front part of the head and upper part of the chest was gray and the bill was a yellowish orange. The primaries were distinctly blue. The rest of the bird was green. (See **Audubon Magazine**/May, 1974/Vol. 76/p. 49.) A few days later the specimen was turned over to Dr. Al Grewe at St. Cloud State University who said the bird will be mounted for their museum. **David and Carol Fiedler, Route 5, Box 251, Buffalo, Minnesota 55313.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Prince of Game Birds: The Bobwhite Quail** by Charles Elliott.

"Ho Hum. Another life history bird book." This thought is what crossed my mind and probably yours as you read the title. However, the first few pages quickly take out of the cut and dried category and place it among that select group of natural history books which are a pure pleasure to read. A glance at the introduction of the book

tells you that it enjoys a unique status not shared by many books on the environment. While Jimmy Carter was still Governor of Georgia, he asked his Department of Natural Resources to publish this book. It is indeed refreshing when we get **any** politician to take it upon himself to show an interest in **anything** that relates to our wildlife resources. It is my fervent hope that if Jimmy Carter does become our next

president, that he continues to show an interest in the wildlife of this country. All too often our natural resources are the first to get cut when the budget axeman starts swinging.

Perhaps the most pleasurable aspect of the book is the ease with which it is read. Mr. Elliott at one time was the field editor for **Outdoor Life** magazine and still contributes articles to it. This popular writing experience is obvious since the author can explain in a manner understood by anyone such ecological concepts such as the use of controlled burning to benefit quail populations. However, he does not get down to such a primer level that educated ecologists are bored by the reading. Being a wildlife biologist, I knew that Herbert Stoddard was one of the foremost authorities on bobwhite quail. However, I didn't know that his rise to this stature was due to a five year study that he conducted which was partially funded by a group of plantation owners. These owners got together as a group in order to find out how to better manage their lands for quail. Thus, the Tall Timbers Research Station in Florida began its pioneering into fire ecology and its management implications for wildlife. In this day and age of all out agricultural production it is encouraging to read of such broadminded landowners. If only there were such landowner groups in Minnesota which had welfare of the pheasant as their primary objective.

Throughout the book the author hammers home the fact bobwhite, as with any and all animals are dependent on habitat. The formula is as follows: Without good ground cover and the accompanying weed seeds you have no quail.

The author's explanations of failures to increase populations through stocking of others races and species of quail would be required reading for everyone. It never fails that stocking is the hue and cry whenever populations of game birds fall. If the native birds can't make it, why should hand

reared birds? One interesting aspect of the bobwhite pointed out in this book is that the familiar "bob-white" song may come only from unmated males looking for spouses. This would be contrary to the many birds that sing for territorial defense. Perhaps this also applies to some of our other species?

There are some minor things in the book which are confusing or in error. Pg. 40: "Unlike many nestlings of the bird class, young quail start out in life practically fending for themselves, instead of having to be parent-fed for a length of time." To me this makes it sound like very few birds are precocial whereas this isn't true. The great majority of our game birds are the same as the quail in this respect. Pg. 41: "Coveys normally are made up of families, portions of families, bobs and hens that have been unsuccessful at nesting and extra single birds that either went unmated or had been lost from their own coveys." What is left? This statement is rather inclusive and should cover all coveys rather than just a "normal" situation. Pg. 48: "**In a quail** (my emphasis) this storage place has been described as a membranous, expandable little sac located at the lower portion of the esophagus and known as the crop or craw." Sounds to me like the description of a crop or craw for all birds that have one!

These passages coupled with some rather dark pictures which are hard to interpret are about the only bad things that I can point out in this book. The important points such as the necessity of good habitat for good populations and that with good habitat predation is minimized are emphasized and presented in an understandable language. Presented in this book are not only the natural history and habits of the bird but sections on managing the lands so that it may produce maximum numbers of bobwhite. It points out to landowners the benefits of farming for wildlife. While the book is concerned with bobwhites in Georgia, with a few

words changed here and there, the section on land management could apply to pheasants in Minnesota. Wherever good populations of any species is wanted, the recipe is the same: habitat management on private land — good populations everywhere.

Also treated in the last section of the book is a section on bobwhite hunting. Chapters on the ethics of quail hunting and hunters responsibility is welcomed in an era of slobos who hunt and preservationists who don't but are quick to criticize.

Despite what I have written here the book is a valuable one and does achieve its primary purpose of being a guide "for farmers and other land-owners interested in building their bobwhite population for their own pleasure, the pleasure of their friends, and as a part of the income-producing land operation."

With bobwhite as with other farmland wildlife, their welfare depends on the farmers since they are merely by-products of agriculture. Unfortunately, in Minnesota they have gone the way of another by-product, the prairie chicken.

John Schladweiler

**The Life of Birds**, 2nd edition, by Joel Carl Welty, W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1975, 623 pages, \$18.50.

In this reviewer's opinion, the first edition of Professor Welty's book has been the best available textbook of general ornithology ever since its publication in 1962. The second edition should maintain this position.

In preparing the earlier edition the author consulted some 8000 books and papers listing about 800. For the revised edition he consulted around 6000 more, most of them published since 1960. The list of references now covers 43 pages of small type and includes over 1700 items. This in itself is quite a prodigious accomplishment. While one might wish these references placed at the chapter ends rather than lumped in the back of the book, economy probably dictated the present ar-

rangement. Having some references cited in several chapters could add more pages, and 623 of them already make a sizable volume.

Much new material has been added "in such fields as respiration, photoperiodism, circadian rhythms, water and fat metabolism, celestial orientation, magnetic sensitivity, behavior, vocalization, and evolution." A new chapter, *Birds and Man*, summarizes many issues of concern to all of us.

Physically this is a handsome volume, page size measuring 7 $\frac{7}{8}$  by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches with two print columns of easy to read length. Typographical errors are remarkably rare. New drawings by Larry Barth are well done and a fine addition. On page 16 a much revised "highly speculative family tree of birds showing possible relationships" is a distinct improvement and should please most critics of the earlier one. Paper quality is very good. Half-tones are well-reproduced. A heavy reliance on pictures of European birds, many by Eric Hosking, may be forgiven as they are fine photographs serving well to illustrate the points intended.

It is somewhat surprising that the author devoted only one short paragraph to the Humphrey and Parkes (1959) plumage terminology which has been accepted by such authorities as Palmer in his *Handbook of North American Birds* (1962). Even though Welty prefers Dwight's (1900) scheme, a fuller exposition of the alternate might be expected in a text which is generally satisfyingly thorough.

These minor criticisms aside, this is a most excellent general textbook which should prove interesting to students outside of the classroom as well as those in formal courses. The writing is clear, the style never stilted or pedantic. I found myself, when looking up a particular point, reading far beyond the exposition simply because it was fun to read more.

The author stated two aims in the preface of his first edition: "to present, simply and straight-forwardly,

the basic facts of bird biology . . . to arouse in the reader a lasting enthusiasm for birds . . ." His purpose, stated in the new volume "remains unchanged: to be informative and stimulating." He has succeeded most admirably on both counts. A first rate textbook, this work should prove informative and interesting to anyone with even the most casual interest in the biology and behavior of birds.

Henry C. Kyllingstad

**PENGUINS — Past, Present, Here and There** by George Gaylord Simpson, maps, color, black and white photos, 150 pages, Yale University Press, 92A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520 - 1976. \$10.00.

I have always wanted to read a book by George Gaylord Simpson, but, had never gotten around to it. Why, I am not sure, because after reading "Penguins" I could become a real fan of Dr. Simpson.

This scholarly work is easy to read, and yet the reader comes away with a tremendous knowledge of the penguins of the world. Dr. Simpson's lively writing is a real joy to read.

Chapters in the book include discussions on how and when penguins were discovered by Europeans, how they were named, Penguins Past and Penguins Present, Penguins Life Cycles, a most interesting chapter on behavior and ecology, and last, but not least, Penguins and Man.

I found myself referring constantly to the color-plate facing page 102. This plate shows the heads of nine species of penguins. On the back of this plate are the heads of the nine other species in black and white. This plus the color and black and white photos, maps and drawings really enhance the text. Most of us will never get to see a wild penguin in its natural habitat, foregoing this experience, the reading of this book comes in as a good second.

I would highly recommend this book as your next purchase of a bird book, you won't be sorry.

Bob Janssen

**The Pleasure of Birds: An Audubon Treasury** edited by Les Line, drawings by Chuck Ripper. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1975. Hardcover, \$14.95.

Upon reading **The Pleasure of Birds** readers may have the feeling that they have read this material before. Editor Line has brought together a delightful anthology of twenty-five articles and eighteen color photographs which at one time since 1966 have appeared in **Audubon** magazine. Line states in the forward, "The contributors to this book, among them some of the foremost naturalist authors and photographers in the world, consider the superstition of birds, the tradition of birds, the art of birds, the science of birds, the hobby of birds. And from page to page there is a unifying theme: the pleasure of birds."

The list of authors include eight current or former editors of publishing firms and periodicals including **American Birds**, **Reader's Digest** and **Outdoor Life**. Five of the authors are professors of zoology or ecology related sciences. Two of the authors, Lawrence and Terres are winners of the John Burroughs Medal. Roger Tory Peterson and George Miksch Sutton are noted bird artists whose writings are included.

The armchair birder reading this book is given a wide range of articles from a very limited area near Hampton, Connecticut in Edwin Teales article "Birds Of An Old Farm" to Roger Tory Peterson's world wide birding experience in "Vulture Vigil". "Shed Few Tears" by Harold Mayfield gives a very interesting account of population dynamics of the birds of the United States. In addition to the eighteen color photos which have previously appeared in **Audubon** there are twenty-eight line drawings of excellent quality by Chuck Ripper. **The Pleasure of Birds** concludes with a brief biographical sketch of each of the contributors.

Oscar L. Johnson

## 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** invite you to submit 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, July and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.

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# The LOON

FALL 1976

VOLUME 48 — NUMBER 3



# 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 (minimum lots of 20 for \$1.50 postage paid). 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 invites 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 invite 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, 6810 Tecumseh Lane, 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 . . .

## THE WINNER AND NEW CHAMPION

As many of you have probably heard, the Minnesota Supreme Court has acted in what has become known as "Bill Bryson's Marsh" with a landmark decision. The county is told, by the action of the court, to forget about putting a road through a marsh because of the importance of the marsh. The court's findings said that a county seeking to acquire land by eminent domain must comply with the Environmental Rights Act in Minnesota.

We are all very happy for Bill. I don't think any MOU member is unaware of the courage and steadfastness that Bill Bryson has shown in this trial. He very definitely stuck up for what he thought was right, and, to the surprise of a lot of people, the courts went along with him!

The trial will probably wind up being quoted over and over again across the United States as similar environmental questions arise and enter court. Other people in other courts will hear and take note of those important ideas. I think the Minnesota Supreme Court deserves applause for its perceptive recognition of the importance of natural areas in general, and, in this instance, marshes in particular. In the opinion, quite a discussion of marshland and its importance is advanced. In part, marsh is described as a thing of beauty to many people, a quiet and peaceful cathedral, and a natural sponge holding moisture to prevent flooding during wet times and releasing moisture to maintain water tables in dry times. The comment concludes "In short, marshes and swamps are something to protect and preserve." That's pretty perceptive language, let's hope that the rest of Minnesota heard it: I think MOU members, along with all environmentalists, might do well to repeat it in a lot of places.

Jack Mauritz

## BERT LYSTOR'S NOTES OF DISINTEREST

**First Magpie Record for Scott County**—On October 16, 1975 I was on a duck hunting trip with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. County, and my brothers Douglas, Carlton, Martin and Murray to our cabin at Flom, Minnesota. Since there aren't any lakes in the area, our cabin is located on the shores of the Flom sewage ponds. We were able to shoot our limit of ducks here since there were several Mallards feeding on the ponds all week. We had some of those ducks for supper that evening, but they tasted funny. After supper I excused myself and ran for the outhouse. That's when I saw a Black-billed Magpie perched on the roof of our outhouse, the first one I had ever seen.—**Scott County, 14321 Princess Place, Shakopee, Minnesota.**

**An Early Record for Franklin's Gull**—On April 31, 1976 my husband Perry, who always sleeps late, was still asleep at 8 a.m., even though he promised the day before to take me birding at dawn. But he was out with the boys again until all hours, even though he knows I don't like that bunch. After I nagged him for a half hour, he finally got up in his usual bad mood and stormed out to the car. Perry has a bad temper and was going to drive off without me, when he saw a flock of Franklin's Gulls flying over our farm pond. The time was 8:46 a.m., making this the earliest Perry had seen a Franklin's Gull by over three hours, since the lazy bum never gets up to go birding before noon. I told him over and over again to write up this note but, like I said, he's too lazy so I had to do it for him.—**Mrs. Perry Pothole, Rural Route 2½, Artichoke, Minnesota.**

**Little Gulls Seen at Mille Lacs**—On September 31, 1975 my Mommy and I were birdwatching along the shore of Mille Lacs Lake near our house. I was having fun watching all the cute little birds flitting through the trees. I don't know what they were, but they

were sure cute! Suddenly, my Mommy saw a flock of sea gulls flying by. Most of them were big mean-looking ones with black wing tips, but a couple of them were smaller with black on their heads. I don't know what they were, but they were sure little. And cute.—**Dickie Birdlover, Box 47, Garrison, Minnesota.**

**Cardinal Seen In Pope County.**—On February 30, 1976 I was on my way home from an environmental meeting in Morris, when I stopped for gas in Glenwood in Pope Co. While waiting for the tank to fill, I happened to look across the street and saw a man wearing a red hat, red robes and a cross around his neck coming out of a church. Since I had been to Rome last year on vacation, I was able to immediately identify him as a Cardinal, having seen several at St. Peter's Basilica. The only similar species with which a Cardinal could be confused would be Santa Claus, but there were no white edges to his red plumage, his shape was slim, not chunky, his cheeks were pale, not rosy, and at no time did he give a "ho, ho, ho" call which is characteristic of Santa Claus. **Elvira Mentalist, 9773 South Beach Blvd., Zim, Minnesota.**

**Documented Barred Owl Attack On Red Wing**—In the June 21, 1976 issue of the Red Wing Blackboard, a local newspaper, I came across an interesting article. It seems that Mrs. Saul Whet, prominent local businessman, lost his membership in the Honorable Order of Owls (HOO), a local fraternal club. When Mr. Whet protested his expulsion at the next city council meeting, he was ignored by those present who said that Saul's problem was no business of the city council. Saul Whet then stormed out of the meeting, shouting insults at everyone. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first documented attack of a barred Owl on Red Wing.—**Dr. Arnie Thologist, Bull Museum of Natural History.**

# WOODCOCK UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

by Dean Schneider

About March 25th, 1976, a TV news program said that a violent solar storm was disrupting radio communications in the North Atlantic Ocean. Sun storms usually mean good displays of northern lights, so I decided to check the sky each night several times before I went to bed. The first two nights were cloudy, and so was the third, but on the following morning, a news item mentioned a beautiful auroral display in New England. My growing frustration became acute then because I knew that, except for the overcast, we would have seen them here, too. Two more cloudy nights passed.

On the sixth night, March 31st, I was at a meeting that lasted until nine o'clock. While driving home with Jan Smith, I saw a suffused pearly glow over most of the northern sky, and we drove rapidly to Hawk Ridge where it would be dark enough to tell what was developing. On the ridge, the city lights below fogged the southern sky, but the pearly glow covered the entire northern half of the celestial dome, clear to the zenith. That was all, except for two cloud-like pearly patches not far from the main glow. We saw no flickering or streamers—just a steady glow which blotted out the northern stars. The Big Dipper hung upside down straight above; Orion was laid low in the West, mostly blotted out by city lights. As we got out of the car, I heard faintly the "peent" of an American Woodcock. "Listen!" I hissed at Jan, and she nodded, for she had heard it, too. This was early in the season for woodcock to be back, and they are supposed to do their sky dance only at dawn and dusk, though Bent, in *Life Histories of North American Shorebirds*, states that they may dance all night if the moon is full.

We heard two more distant "peents" then a bird within fifty feet of us sud-

denly peented. If you haven't heard this call of the woodcock, it is impossible to describe, but try saying "peent" loudly through your nose, then imagine a reedy, rather metallic, toy-like quality to it. If at this point you start to laugh, then you may have approximated the sound. As the bird does it, it is funny too, and the first peent of the year never fails to make me chuckle. The peent also sounds somewhat like the cry of the night-hawk.

I crept down the road towards the woodcock, trying to get close enough to hear the soft "tucko," which is a kind of gulping sound that he would be making before each peent. Woodcocks like moist soil covered by brush, but the male chooses a clearing for his mating ritual because after he finishes each series of "tucko-peents," delivered about once every five seconds for a minute or two, he likes to take off flying low for a few meters before he soars into the sky in a huge shallow spiral while producing a strange twittering sound. When the bird I was approaching took off, I saw him, about the size and shape of a softball, silhouetted against the glow of the aurora as he flew across the road, twittering madly. I couldn't see him as he circled higher and higher, but I pivoted slowly, tracking him with my ears. At the peak of his flight, somewhere up there under the lights and stars, perhaps 100 meters above me, the twittering became jerky, then stopped, like it is supposed to, and I waited through the brief silence that always occurs before a woodcock begins his chirping noise as he comes zooming in low for a landing at the place where he took off. I still could not see my bird as he came chirping in above the city lights spread below. He must not have come down just right, for I heard a tiny noise as if he had stumbled a bit on landing. Then

there was the obligatory few seconds of silence before the first peent of the new cycle, and I burst out laughing like I always do at this first peent. Presumably, a female woodcock stands nearby, not laughing so much as getting turned on by this sexy sky dance. Only recently, W. G. Sheldon discovered that the twittering sound the male makes on take-off is produced by the first three primary feathers of his wings, which are much narrowed for this function. The chirps that he makes as he comes down are vocal, and are sometimes called his flight song. Sheldon's book, **The American Woodcock**, is an excellent account of woodcock biology.

As I stared into the night, I imagined what the little peenter looked like as he stood there in his clearing, shaped like a short-legged baseball, his golfball-head resting directly on his body with no visible neck, a lead-pencil beak seven centimeters long, and big brown eyes almost on the back of his head. He would be colored all over exactly like dead leaves, almost impossible to see even in daylight. To feed, a woodcock makes repeated stabs into moist soil with his long long beak. If the bill's sensitive tip touches an earthworm, the tip opens slightly and grabs it. The eyes are on the back of the woodcock's head so that he can see upwards while probing in the mud. Because of his eye placement, he is forced to stand bill down even when not searching for worms; otherwise he would be staring behind himself most of the time. (His eyes are so far to the rear that his ears are actually in front of his eyes.) If you are ever walking in moist brushland and you find a bunch of 'pencil holes' in the mud, now you'll know who's been there. "Ah! woodcock tracks," you can say knowingly, with a chuckle, but don't expect the uninitiated to believe you.

So, the northern lights were a little disappointing, but listening to the woodcocks while watching the lights was something unique and marvelous

anyway. After a bit, we decided to drive on down the shore ten miles to Stoney Point. No city lights would fog the sky there, and maybe the aurora would be brighter by then.

As we arrived on the point, long streamers were shooting up from all over the northern horizon, first in one place, then another. We had to swivel our heads constantly so as not to miss anything. As the streamers hung in the sky, some of them began to flicker, and Jan murmured, "Pale fire," thinking of the Shakespeare quote that Nabokov used for the title of the novel. Shakespeare was writing of a campfire burning in daylight, the flames nearly invisible in the brilliant sunshine.

Soon, huge areas of the sky all around were hung with streamers and we began to notice pale reds, blues, and greens drifting amidst the pearly background. Once or twice we saw the hanging curtain effect so often described, the curtain seeming to wave, as in a slight breeze. Then things quieted down a bit and we became aware of the scene around us. Woodcock were peenting here, too. And a hissing drifted in from Lake Superior's surf below. On the distant horizon, a neat string of tiny lights lay like a necklace on the water where Duluth was.

Then the heavens began again, and before long, streamers leapt up, flickering all around the sky. Some began to pulse violently as they stood. Leafless birches, standing black against the glow, almost seemed to toss before the power of the rippling flashes. More and more streamers rose from all around the entire horizon, even across the lake. The streamers were so long and straight that they began to converge at the zenith of the sky, and then we became aware that a giant celestial teepee had risen around us. The entire sky was alight from horizon to zenith, even the lake glowed under it, reflecting the walls of the teepee. It seemed almost light enough to read by; I snatched a note

from my pocket and, indeed, I could nearly make out the scribbling.

By now our necks were cramped, after three hours, and we were exhausted. We realized that we had been "oohing" and "aahing" like children at a fireworks display. I thought how terrifying this would be if we were a primitive people, not understanding that what we saw was harmless. Jan whispered, "the beauty and the terror," a phrase from Annie Dillard. The high center of the teepee might be a focus out of which the gods could descend.

Finally we merely sat quietly under the flickering heavens while the woodcock peented and the surf hissed. For many years I had been envious of the tales others had told of the aurora. At last, I was jealous no more. I was full of the lights, and spent. No display could ever have been better than this.

And to my knowledge, no observation in woodcock literature describes them peenting under the aurora. Perhaps few people have ever had the opportunity to observe such an occurrence.—4722 Cooke Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55804.

## THE M.O.U. "300 CLUB"

In the Spring 1975 issue of "The Loon", the first listing of the "300 Club" was printed, giving the Minnesota Life List totals of the 10 people who had seen over 300 species in Minnesota. Since that time the list of members has grown by five and the totals for each member have grown considerably. The new members are Jo Blanich, Terry Savaloja, Bill Litkey, Don Bolduc and Henry Kyllingstad. Here are the standings as of August 1, 1976. Congratulations to our new leader, Ray Glassel.

Ray Glassel .....	334	Kim Eckert .....	320
Bob Janssen .....	331	Elizabeth Campbell .....	318
Bill Pieper .....	331	Don Bolduc .....	317
Harding Huber .....	331	Dick Ruhme .....	310
Ron Huber .....	331	Bill Litkey .....	307
Jan Green .....	321	Terry Savaloja .....	306
Paul Egeland .....	320	Jo Blanich .....	302
Henry Kyllingstad .....		301	

As I mentioned before the "Club" is just for the fun of it and to share our birding experiences and records. If you have seen over 300 species in the state send in your list and your name will be added to the list.—Bob Janssen.

# NESTING USE AND SUCCESS IN A CONIFER PLANTATION IN CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

by Drake A. Jackson

## INTRODUCTION

The primary reason for this study of avian nesting among conifers is to question the statement of some people that conifer plantations are "biological deserts" for wildlife. The major pro argument states the lack of wildlife (game) observed in these so called "void" areas. A study was instituted to investigate the "worth" of conifer areas in the possible production of non-game species.

My study area was a 2.5 acre block of Clay County Memorial Forest, Clay County, consisting of 378 trees of the species Red pine, Northern white cedar, white spruce and Green ash planted in a native warm season grass and annual area. Clay County Memorial Forest was planted in 1958.

I would like to express great appreciation to David Siegenthaler for his participation in field activities and to Douglas C. Keran for his help and constructive criticisms in completing this paper.

## METHODS & MATERIALS

This study was conducted during the month of June, 1975. Beginning on June 1 as many nests as possible were located and marked as to species of bird, tree species, number of eggs, number of young and the quadrant of the nest site in tree (by this I am referring to the direction of the nest in the tree relative to the trunk.) Young birds of proper age were banded with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service bands.

All information was recorded with lead pencil on heavy construction packaging tags to withstand adverse conditions and tied to an extended branch to be clearly visible when follow-up visits were made.

Nests were located by a 100% check of all trees on the study plot.

It was interesting to note that one

could expect young Mourning Doves in the nest when the flushing adult would exhibit a dramatic "broken wing" display. The adult would fly straight-away when the nest held only eggs.

After the initial survey (three consecutive days) the study area was revisited every few days to: a) locate new nests constructed during the study period, b) note renests by species, c) band young and d) determine nest success.

At the end of the period of study all tags were collected from the field, and the data they held calculated and tabled.

## RESULTS

A total of 46 nests were observed during the one month study period. Two nests were found in open grass not near trees (American Woodcock and Blue-winged Teal) and were not used in Table II or Table IV.

Species included Mourning Dove, Common Grackle, American Robin, Clay-colored Sparrow, American Woodcock, Blue-winged Teal, Eastern Kingbird and Cedar Waxwing. (Table I.)

Calculations of hatch success, percentage of eggs that hatched which fledged and percent of eggs that were laid which fledged (Table I) were determined both by species and combined, as were quadrant percentages of nest site in tree (Table II).

Three hundred and seventy eight trees were tallied of which 111 were Red pine, 212 White spruce, 53 White cedar and two Green ash. Percentage of total number of trees by species was calculated (Table III) to be compared with (Table IV) the percent of conifer species used as nest site.

Four nests by Mourning Doves produced two broods during June. Eggs

were in the nest when first located, these hatched, the young fledged and left the nest. Within five days new eggs appeared in the nest and were successfully hatched. Adults had not been banded so it is unknown if the same female was responsible for both clutches of eggs.

### DISCUSSION

June 1975 ended with a total production of 156 eggs on a 2.5 acre conifer area or 62.4 eggs produced per acre. Of those eggs laid no species had more than 11% mortality before the young birds fledged and left the nest.

Definite correlation developed for certain species as to their selection of a nest site location in a conifer. This shows dramatically in Mourning Doves and with American Robins to a lesser degree. No directional choice was apparent to the Common Grackle.

The percentages of conifer species chosen for nesting are higher than chance probability, indicating a def-

inite preference for white spruce (Table IV).

This study has been a short-term investigation and the number of individual observations were high but does suggest ideas which warrant further study.

Suggestions for future studies would be a longer study period beginning earlier in the nesting season and extending till all nesting activity ceased which could provide additional observations and species which nest at various times of the breeding season. Also noting prevailing winds during the study period, to correlate with quadrant nest site selection and success, when construction of nest began. Adults might be trapped and banded to document any second clutch nesting activity.

It is hoped this will stimulate interest in other similar or related studies which could help determine the potential use of cultivated conifer areas in wildlife production.

**Table I PRODUCTION SUCCESS IN CLAY COUNTY MEMORIAL FOREST. (June 1975)**

Species	Number of Nests	Total Eggs	Number Eggs Hatched	Hatch Success	% of Eggs Hatched Fledged	% of Eggs Laid Fledged	Number YY Fledged
Mourning Dove	22	53*	51	96.2	98.0	94.3	50
Common Grackle	12	51	51	100	100	100	51
American Robin	6	18	16	88.8	100	88.8	16
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	9	9	100	100	100	9
American Woodcock	1	3	3	100	100	100	3
Blue-winged Teal	1	15	14	93.0	92.8	80.0	13
Eastern Kingbird	1	4	4	100	100	100	4
Cedar Waxwing	1	5	5	100	100	100	5
Total	46	156	151	97.8	98.6	95.5	149

\* includes eggs from four nests which had a second brood.

**TABLE II QUADRANT LOCATION OF NEST IN TREE (PERCENT).**

Species	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Number of Nests
Mourning Dove	5.0	0	5.0	69.0	21.0	0	0	0	22
Common Grackle	17.0	17.0	0	0	25.0	17.0	7.0	17.0	12
American Robin	0	0	17.0	0	33.0	33.0	17.0	0	6
All Species	7.0	5.0	3.0	38.0	24.0	11.0	5.0	2.0	44*

\* some nests found away from trees

**TABLE III SPECIES BREAKDOWN OF CONIFERS (PERCENT).**

<b>Total Number of Trees</b>	<b>Red pine</b>	<b>White Cedar</b>	<b>White Spruce</b>	<b>Green Ash*</b>
378	29.0	14.0	56.5	.5

\* natural regeneration

**TABLE IV NEST SITE SELECTION BY CONIFER SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Red Pine</b>	<b>White Cedar</b>	<b>White Spruce</b>	<b>Green Ash</b>	<b>Number of Nests</b>
Mourning Dove	5.0	9.0	86.0	0	22
Common Grackle	33.0	0	67.0	0	12
American Robin	0	17.0	83.0	0	6
All Species	12.0	7.0	79.0	2.0	44*

\* some nests found away from trees

Brainerd Technical Institute, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

## THE FALL SEASON (Aug. 1 to Nov. 30, 1975)

by Paul Egeland

A record total of 285 species were reported by 63 observers. In my several years of compiling this report, this was the most difficult to compile, and happily so, because many more observers are keeping better records and more completely filling in the seasonal report.

The weather is always a topic of conversation and has its effect on migration. The fall season saw a marked contrast from one corner of the state to the other and marked contrast from month to month. August was generally cooler and drier than normal with the exception being the southeast and south central which were both warmer and wetter than normal. September was much cooler than normal, being 2.4 degrees below in the northwest and 4.1 degrees below in the southeast, and also drier in all sections. October was a contrast to September with temperatures being above normal but precipitation was, again, generally below average. November saw temperatures above normal, with precipitation being above the average by more than three inches in the south central and southeast, but below normal in the northwest.

There were a good number of casual and accidental bird sightings. The northern half of the state produced

most of them with the Duluth area, again, being the hot spot. From Duluth came the first state record of the Laughing Gull and the second state record of the Sabine's Gull. In addition, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Groove-billed Ani, Say's Phoebe, Thayer's Gull, and Townsend's Solitaire were seen.

Other highlights included a Carolina Wren and Burrowing Owl in Crow Wing County, a Worm-eating Warbler in Cass County, a Prairie Falcon in Clay County, a Carolina Wren in Minneapolis and Smith's Longspurs at Fort Snelling. The southwest produced all three scoters and a Little Gull at the Marshall Sewage Lagoons, two Burrowing Owls in Lincoln County, the first report in many years of a Barn Owl in Murray County and a Ferruginous Hawk in Pipestone County.

I have attempted to note birds of special interest by bold faced type and unusual dates also by bold face type. The style is consistent with that used in my prior work on this report and attempts to list early and late dates for the north and south parts of the state. This migration season did not produce many concentrations, and therefore, few peaks were noted.

Special thanks is due Kim Eckert who gave me a lot of assistance in compiling all this data.

Common Loon: late south 11-23 Wright BSH; 11-26 Hennepin CH; late north 11-19 Hubbard HF; 11-28 Duluth RJ.

Red-necked Grebe: early south 8-3 Wright ES; 8-4 Yellow Medicine GO; late south 10-23 Wright ES; 11-15 Wright ES; late north 11-5 Marshall KE; 11-9 St. Louis KE.

Horned Grebe: early south 8-23 Lyon HK; 9-21 Hennepin CH; late south 11-16 Washington DGW; 11-16 Hennepin EM; late north 11-8 Cook KE; 11-26 St. Louis JG.

Eared Grebe: 8-16 to 11-8 Lyon various observers; 9-20, 10-25, 11-16 Duluth various observers; 9-3 Marshall SV; all reports.

Western Grebe: late south 10-2 Pope DM; late north 10-27 Marshall SV; 11-9 Duluth KE; peak 9-8 Marshall (203) SV.

Pied-billed Grebe: late south 11-15 Hennepin EM; 11-16 Washington DGW; late north 11-15 Itasca MS; 11-30 Ottertail SM.

White Pelican: late south 10-18 Lincoln RJ, BL; 10-19 Freeborn DG; 11-23 Ramsey OJ; late north 10-19 Marshall SV; 10-26 Duluth, B. Rosenfeld, peak 10-6 Meeker (2000) WL.

Double-crested Cormorant: late south 11-5 Traverse KE; 11-9 Lyon PE; 11-16 Las Qui Parle AFE; late north 11-9 Duluth KE, Ottertail LCF.

Great Blue Heron: late south 11-10 Pipestone AD; Carver JRG; 11-15 Hennepin VL; 11-26 Wabasha RB; late north 11-1 Pine DB; 11-28 Ottertail SM.

Green Heron: late south 10-27 Washington EC; 10-29 Hennepin EM; 10-31 Ramsey DGW; late north 9-22 Marshall SV; 9-25 Pennington SV; record late dates both north and south.

Cattle Egret: 8-24 Lyon (12) KE, PE; 10-25 St. Louis ES; only reports.

Common Egret: late south 10-12 Nicollet VR; 10-16 Hennepin OJ; 10-23 Wabasha RB; late north 9-1 Doug-

las BB; 10-12 Marshall SV.

Black-crowned Night Heron: late south 9-28 Murray NH; 10-3 Martin RJ; 10-16 Hennepin OJ; late north 10-11 Marshall SV.

Least Bittern: only reports 8-19, 8-20 Hennepin RJ, KE, PE; and 8-2, 8-8 Marshall SV.

American Bittern: late south 11-11 Hennepin OJ; 11-13 Ramsey WL; 10-21 Marshall SV.

Whistling Swan: early north 9-28 Marshall SV; early south 10-5 Murray KE; 10-26 Big Stone BSR; late north 11-17 Mille Lacs MI; 11-29 Ottertail SM; late south 11-30 Stearns NH; Goodhue CF, Wabasha DWM.

Canada Goose: late north 11-18 Marshall SV; 11-20 Clay LCF; peak 10-10 Lac Qui Parle (70,000) AFE; 11-21 Olmstead (30,000).

White-fronted Goose: 10-8 to 10-27 Wabasha (6) RB; 10-13 Olmstead JF; 10-18 Lincoln RJ, BL; 10-30 Lyon (2.. Glen Scott fide KE; more reports than usual.

Snow Goose: early north 9-16 Duluth M. Kohlbry; 9-21 Marshall SV; early south 9-28 Murray NH; 10-1 Nicollet BDC; late north 11-7 Lake JG; 11-16 Ottertail SM; late south 11-21 Ramsey M. Johnson; 11-22 Big Stone BSR; 11-28 Wabasha WL.

Mallard: peak 11-14 Wabasha (5000) RB.

Black Duck: late north 10-29 Marshall SV.

Gadwall: late north 11-6 Roseau KE; 11-12 Marshall SV; late south 11-16 Ramsey GC; 11-22 Wabasha DWM; 11-23 Hennepin ES.

Pintail: late north 11-9 Duluth KE; 11-12 Marshall SV; late south 11-8 Wabasha DWM, Hennepin OJ; 11-16 Wabasha RB.

Green-winged Teal: late north 11-9 Ottertail LCF; 11-12 Marshall SV; late south 11-15 Hennepin OJ; 11-22 Wabasha DWM.

Blue-winged Teal: late north 10-25 Marshall DGW; late south 11-8 Lyon PE; 11-9 Stearns NH; 11-14 Wabasha DWM; peak 8-23 Lyon (2000) KE, PE, HK.

**Cinnamon Teal:** 10-25 Cyrus Pope county (shot by hunter).

**American Wigeon:** late north 11-9 Ottertail LCF; 11-11 Marshall SV; late south 11-15 Carver PVK; 11-23 Hennepin ES; 11-25 Wabasha RB.

**Northern Shoveler:** late north 11-5 Marshall SV; 11-6 Roseau KE; late south 11-8 Freeborn BSH; 11-15 Carver PVK; 11-23 Hennepin ES, CH.

**Wood Duck:** late north 10-27 Marshall SV; 11-1 Aitkin JG; late south 11-25 Wabasha DWM; 11-26 Hennepin EM; 11-30 Ramsey GC.

**Redhead:** late north 11-9 Duluth KE; 11-29 Ottertail LCF; late south 11-15 Wright ES; 11-30 Goodhue CF.

**Ring-necked Duck:** late north 11-9 Duluth KE; 11-30 Ottertail SM; late south 11-15 Wabasha RB; 11-23 Hennepin ES; 11-25 Goodhue CF; peak 11-10 Wabasha (2000) RB.

**Canvasback:** late north 11-6 Roseau KE; 11-29 Ottertail SM; late south 11-22 Hennepin ES; 11-25 Goodhue CF; 11-30 Wabasha DWM.

**Greater Scaup:** only reports north 10-25 Duluth RJ; 11-29 Cook RJ, JG.

**Lesser Scaup:** late north 11-17 Duluth DS; 11-30 Ottertail SM; early south 8-24 Lyon KE; late south 11-10 Wabasha RB; 11-13 Goodhue CF; 11-15 Hennepin OJ; peak 11-9 Mille Lacs (5000).

**Bufflehead:** early south 10-2 Pope DM; 10-12 Ramsey GA; late north 11-29 Ottertail SM, Cook JG, RJ; late south 11-12 Wabasha DWM; 11-15 Hennepin VL, OJ; 11-16 Ramsey DGW.

**Oldsquaw:** 10-19 Cook DGW; 10-24, 11-29 Cook RJ; 11-14 Duluth DS; all reports.

**Harlequin Duck:** 9-30, 10-1 Grand Marais, Cook county 2 females seen by L. and M. Confer.

**White-winged Scoter:** 10-1 Yellow Medicine GO; 10-18 to 10-30 Lyon RJ, BL, HK, and Glen Scott; 10-4 Duluth L. Confer; 11-8 Grant J. Dow; and Cook county on 10-19 (7) DGW, 11-8 (8) KE, 11-29 (1) JG, RJ.

**Surf Scoter:** 10-18 Lyon (14) RJ, BL; 10-31 Ramsey BDC; 10-12 Cook PF;

10-24 and 10-25 Lake and Cook RJ, JG.

**Black Scoter:** 10-18 Lyon RJ, BL; 10-25 to 11-11 Duluth 3 reports; 10-17 to 11-8 Cook 4 reports with 15 seen on 11-8 by KE, BL.

**Ruddy Duck:** late north 11-12 Marshall SV; 11-30 Ottertail SM; late south 11-5 Traverse KE; 11-9 Lyon PE.

**Hooded Merganser:** late south 11-15 Hennepin EM, Carver PVK; 11-23 Washington WL; 11-30 Ramsey GC; late north 10-24 Cook JG; 11-16 Otter tail LCF.

**Common Merganser:** late north 11-16 Hubbard HF; Ottertail LCF; peak 11-25 Goodhue (2000) CF.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** late south 11-23 Hennepin ES; 11-30 Goodhue CF; late north 11-8 Mille Lacs PVK.

**Turkey Vulture:** late north 10-28 Duluth Hawk Ridge; 11-9 Hubbard DM; late south 11-1 Stearns NMH; 10-25 Goodhue PF; peak 10-1 Duluth (116) Hawk Ridge.

**Goshawk:** early north 9-6 Duluth GC; only report south 10-25 Benton BL.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** late north 10-25 Grant SM; 10-28 Duluth Hawk Ridge; late south 11-29 Hennepin PF; peak 9-7 Duluth (703) Hawk Ridge.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 9-18 Washington WL; 11-30 Stearns NMH; only reports south, 20 sightings from Hawk Ridge in Duluth.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** late north 10-27 Marshall SV; 11-14 St. Louis JG; 11-15 Ottertail SM; peak 10-28 Duluth (1589) Hawk Ridge.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** reports north 8-5 St. Louis BDC; 10-4 Crow Wing PVK; 10-13 Duluth JG; reported in south from Anoka, Washington, and Goodhue counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** late north 9-21 Marshall SV; 10-11 Duluth Hawk Ridge; late south 10-27 Olmstead (12) VH; peak 9-13 Duluth (10,160).

**Swainson's Hawk:** reported from 8 counties south late dates 9-18 Lincoln JD; 9-20 Mower RK; 10-3 Yellow Medicine (2) GO.

Rough-legged Hawk: early north 10-4 Duluth Hawk Ridge; 10-16 Marshall SV; early south 9-6 Wabasha DWM; 10-1 Hennepin WKE.

Ferruginous Hawk: 9-23 Pipestone JD.

Golden Eagle: only reported in north 10-2 Cook L. Confer; 10-26 Ottertail (2) DGW; 10-29 Marshall SV; 11-6 Kittson KE; 11-4 Mille Lacs BDC; and 5 reports from Duluth Hawk Ridge.

Bald Eagle: 51 either adults or unidentified plus 13 immatures reported from the following 14 counties, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Beltrami, Marshall, St. Louis, Hubbard, Ottertail, Itasca, Mille Lacs, Freeborn, Big Stone, Anoka, Yellow Medicine, Wabasha, Hennepin, Washington, Mower and Carver.

Marsh Hawk: late north 11-6 Roseau and 11-7 Beltrami KE; late south 10-26 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 10-27 Freeborn RK; 11-6 Hennepin EM.

Osprey: late north 9-26 Itasca MS; 10-25 Duluth many observers; late south 10-4 Washington GC; 10-25 Olmstead JF; 10-27 Wabasha RB; also reported from Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Hubbard, Ottertail, Freeborn, Swift, Steele, and Hennepin counties.

Prairie Falcon: 10-8 Clay LCF.

Peregrine Falcon: 9-21 Duluth WL; 10-23 Marshall Joe Kotok; 9-8 to 10-8 Duluth Hawk Ridge (12) with an amazing (5) on 9-29; 10-1 Crow Wing NMH.

Merlin: 14 birds reported from St. Louis county from 8-5 to 10-25; also 8-27 Mille Lacs MI; 10-18 Itasca DB; 9-13 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 10-2 Yellow Medicine (3) GO; 10-10 Anoka OJ.

American Kestrel: late north 10-24 Marshall SV; 11-30 Ottertail SM; peak 9-6 Duluth Hawk Ridge (56).

Spruce Grouse: 8-30 Big Fork Itasca county 1M DB; 10-12 Hovland Cook county PF; only reports.

Ruffed Grouse: reported from Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Pine, Lake, Becker, St. Louis, Kanabec, Carlton, Cook, Kittson, Marshall, Morrison, Itasca, Ottertail, Winona, Wabasha, Washing-

ton and Dodge.

Greater Prairie Chicken: only report 9-14 Wilken (3) SM.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: 9-17 Marshall SV; and 11-1 Aitkin (12) JG.

Ring-necked Pheasant: reported from Cook, St. Louis, Wilkin, and 15 counties south.

Gray Partridge: reported from Yellow Medicine, Ramsey, Rock, Swift, Cottonwood, Lyon, Murray, Mower, Goodhue, and Lac Qui Parle, many reported that this bird is doing better than the Pheasant.

Sandhill Crane: 8-9 Marshall SV; 9-11 Duluth D. Evans; 9-20 Duluth Hawk Ridge; 10-9 Duluth (60) B. Murphy; 10-17 Marshall SV; 10-18 Beltrami; 10-1 Wilkin (350) SM; peak 10-11 Norman (3000) fide E. Anderson.

Virginia Rail: late north 9-28 Marshall SV; 10-21 Duluth D. Evans; late south 9-29 Washington GA; 10-1 Wabasha DWM; 10-19 Wright ES.

Sora: late north 8-23 Marshall SV; 9-24 Cass MS; late south 9-30 Washington GA; 10-2 Yellow Medicine GO, and Goodhue CF.

Common Gallinule: 9-15 Hennepin ES; and 10-27 Wabasha DWM.

American Coot: late north Mille Lacs MI; 11-30 Ottertail SM; 11-23 Washington WL; 11-27 Hennepin ES; 11-30 Wabasha DWM.

Semipalmated Plover: early north 7-27 Mille Lacs MI; 8-9 Marshall SV; late north 10-5 Duluth DS; early south 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-6 Pipestone KE, PE; late south 9-24 Ramsey GC.

Piping Plover: 7-27 Mille Lacs MI; only report.

Killdeer: late north 10-25 Duluth JG; 11-11 Mille Lacs MI; late south 11-9 Lyon PE; 11-22 Carver JRG; 11-30 Dodge VH; peak 8-23 Lyon (90) HK.

American Golden Plover: early 8-7 Goodhue CF; 8-16 St. Louis RJ; 8-20 Swift HH; late north 11-18 Duluth JG; late south 10-20 Washington GA; 11-1 Nicollet KE, PE; peak 10-4 Rock (400) KE.

Black-bellied Plover: early 8-10 Lyon HK; 8-16 Duluth RJ; 8-27 Mille Lacs MI; late north 11-11 Mille Lacs

MI; late south 11-7 Yellow Medicine GO; 11-9 Lyon PE.

Ruddy Turnstone: early 8-10 Lyon HK; 8-16 Duluth RJ, PE; late 11-8 Cook KE, BL; only reports.

American Woodcock: late north 10-30 Mille Lacs MI; 11-2 Pine BDC; late south 11-1 Olmstead JF; 11-5 Anoka fide OJ.

Common Snipe: late north 11-8 Crow Wing PVK; 11-8 Hubbard DM; and 11-11 Mille Lacs MI.

Upland Sandpiper: 8-2 Big Stone, Swift RJ; only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: late north 9-22 Mille Lacs MI; 10-4 Duluth L Confer; late south 10-4 Lyon HK; 10-21 Yellow Medicine GO.

Solitary Sandpiper: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-5 Rock KE, PE; 7-12 Mille Lacs RJ; late north 9-28 Marshall SV; late south 9-2 Murray AD; 9-14 Mower RK.

Willet: 7-19 Lyon KE, PE; 8-14 Marshall SV; and 9-5 Duluth GC; only reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-18 Washington GA; late north 11-7 Lake JG; 11-8 Marshall SV; late south 11-2 Hennepin KE, RJ, PE; 11-8 Lyon PE.

Lesser Yellowlegs: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-3 Marshall SV; 7-4 Waseca RJ; late north 9-21 Duluth JG; 9-26 Marshall SV; late south 10-16 Meeker BDC; 10-30 Wabasha DWM; 11-1 Nicollet KE, PE.

Red Knot: 9-24 Mille Lacs MI; 11-9 Mille Lacs T. Savaloja; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-6 Pipestone PE, KE; 7-11 Lake of the Woods BB; late north 11-2 Marshall SV; 11-7 Mille Lacs MI; late south 11-1 Nicollet PE, KE; 11-2 Wright ES; 11-8 Yellow Medicine PE.

Whiterumped Sandpiper: 8-10 Lyon HK (6); 8-20 Mille Lacs MI; 10-16 Meeker BDC; only reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-14 Mille Lacs MI; 7-18 Hennepin OJ; late north 9-8 Mille Lacs MI; 10-25 Duluth JG; late south 11-1 Nicollet PE, KE; 11-8 Yellow Medicine PE.

Least Sandpiper: early 7-6 Pipestone PE, KE; 7-7 Hennepin OJ; late

north 9-21 Marshall SV; 9-21 Duluth KE; 10-25 Mille Lacs MI; only late report south 9-28 Yellow Medicine GO.

Dunlin: early 8-10 Lyon HK; 8-25 Mille Lacs MI; late north 11-11 Mille Lacs MI; 11-16 Duluth DS; late south 10-18 Lincoln RJ; 11-1 Nicollet PE, KE.

Long-billed Dowitcher: early 7-7 Hennepin OJ; 7-31 Wright ES; late south 10-18 Lincoln RJ; 11-1 Nicollet PE, KE; 11-8 Yellow Medicine GO.

Short-billed Dowitcher: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-18 Wright ES; late south 10-16 Meeker BDC.

Stilt Sandpiper: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 7-20 Hennepin OJ; 8-9 Ottertail OJ; late north 9-21 Duluth KE, JG; 11-4 Mille Lacs BDC; late south 9-13 Martin RJ; 9-28 Yellow Medicine GO.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: early 8-7 Marshall SV; 8-17 Duluth JG; late 9-12 Mille Lacs MI; 9-20 Duluth JG; 9-28 Yellow Medicine GO.

Western Sandpiper: 8 reports, early 7-5 Pipestone KE, PE; 7-19 Lyon KE, PE, RJ; 8-16 Duluth RJ; late 8-23 Duluth JG; 8-26 Mille Lacs MI; with peak of (25) 8-23 Lyon HK.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: reported on 8 dates from Duluth 8-10 to 9-21; peak in Duluth on 8-30 (13) PE, KE; also reported on 8-23 (2) and 9-1 from Lyon county HK.

Marbled Godwit: only reports 8-2 Big Stone RJ; and 8-30 Lyon HK.

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 reports for this rare fall migrant 8-26 Mille Lacs MI; and 10-18 Lincoln RJ, BL.

Sanderling: early 6-28 Lyon PE; 8-17 Duluth JG; 8-28 Hennepin OJ; late 11-14 Duluth DS.

American Avocet: 8-24 Lyon KE, PE, HK; 8-16 Clay (4) fide E. Anderson; 10-18 Lincoln RJ, BL; only reports.

Wilson's Phalarope: late north 9-1 Clay BB; 9-24 Marshall SV; late south 9-13 Faribault RJ; 9-13 Hennepin OJ.

Northern Phalarope: early 7-13 Lyon KE; 7-18 Hennepin OJ; late north 8-19 Mille Lacs MI; late south 9-28 Yellow Medicine GO; 10-3 Watonwan RJ.

Parasitic Jaeger: 8-28 Freeborn Lake Freeborn county RJ; 9-7 Knife River Cook county N. Sundquist; 9-20 Duluth BL, H. Huber et al.

Glaucous Gull: 11-29 Grand Marais Cook county RJ, JG, PE.

Herring Gull: late north away from Lake Superior 11-9 Ottertail LCF; 11-17 Mille Lacs MI; late south 11-26 Hennepin CH; 11-30 Wabasha DWM; peak 11-29 Cook (2000) RJ, JG, PE.

**Thayer's Gull:** 11-28 St. Louis JG; 11-29 Grand Marais Cook JG, RJ, PE.

Ring-billed Gull: late north 11-26 Hubbard HF; 11-29 Ottertail SM; late south 11-26 Hennepin CH; 11-30 Goodhue CF; 11-30 Wabasha DWM.

**Laughing Gull:** First state record was an immature bird seen at Stoney Point St. Louis county on 8-16 by RJ, PE, and R. Glassel.

Franklin's Gull: late north 10-26 Grant DGW; 10-26 Clay LCF; late south 11-1 Carver (1000) JRG; 11-3 Jackson FKS; 11-19 Carver JRG.

Bonaparte's Gull: early 8-5 Mille Lacs RJ; 8-9 Marshall SV; 8-12 Aitkin ES; late north 11-9 Ottertail LCF; 11-17 Mille Lacs MI; late south 11-1 Nicollet KE, PE; 11-5 Big Stone KE.

**Little Gull:** 10-19 Lyon HK.

**Sabine's Gull:** second state record was seen on 8-30 at Duluth by KE, PE.

Forster's Tern: late north 9-26 Marshall SV; (only report north) late south 9-7 Lac Qui Parle HC; 10-2 Pope DM.

Common Tern: late north 9-11 Mille Lacs MI; 9-21 Duluth JG, RJ; late south 10-3 Wabasha RB; 11-30 Dakota fide NMH. (needs details).

Caspian Tern: late north 9-20 Duluth JG, RJ; 10-14 Mille Lacs MI; late south 9-22 Dakota M. Johnson; 9-28 Wright RJ; 10-11 Wabasha RB.

Black Tern: late north 9-12 Marshall SV; late south 9-1 Steele RJ; 9-2 Goodhue CF; 9-13 Wright ES.

Mourning Dove: late north 11-6 Roseau KE; 11-8 Cook KE, BL.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only reports 8-23 Redwood KE, PE; 8-24 Olmstead JF; 8-30 Carver RJ.

Black-billed Cuckoo: only report north 8-18 Duluth KE; late south 9-2

Le Sueur HC, Wabasha DWM; 9-13 Hennepin OJ; 9-17 Washington WL.

**Groove-billed Ani:** 10-27, Larsmont, St. Louis Co., G. Phipps.

**Barn Owl:** One seen in farm grove on 10-20 Murray AD.

Screech Owl: 8-24 Cottonwood LF; 9-15 Hennepin FN; 10-5 Lac Qui Parle AFE; also reported from Dodge, Lyon and Goodhue counties.

Great Horned Owl: reported 20 counties.

Snowy Owl: early north 9-13 Aitkin J. Cole; 10-31 Duluth D. Evans; 10-31 Marshall SV; also reported from Hubbard, Cook, and St. Louis counties; no reports south.

**Burrowing Owl:** 8:25 Lincoln (2) Leon Krog; 11-20 Bay Lake, Crow Wing Co. fide T. Savaloja.

Barred Owl: reported from 13 counties.

Long-eared Owl: 10-17, 11-9 Mille Lacs MI; also 79 were banded in Duluth at Hawk Ridge by D. Evans.

Short-eared Owl: 10-10 Marshall SV; 11-1 Fillmore RJ; 11-8 Yellow Medicine GO; 11-20 Carver JRG; these were only reports.

Saw-whet Owl: four sightings in Duluth on 9-19 JG, EC; 10-28 JG; 10-29 T. Bairg; 11-4 DS; 10-23 Hennepin VL; 10-30 Dakota JD; also 249 were banded at Hawk Ridge by D. Evans.

Whip-poor-will: 8-2 Crow Wing EC; 8-17 Anoka WL; 9-5 Olmstead JF; all reports.

Common Nighthawk: late north 9-9 Clay LCF; 9-20 Duluth DGW; late south 10-2 Blue Earth VR; 10-13 Freeborn DG.

Chimney Swift: late north 9-15 Duluth M. Kohlbry; late south 9-14 Ramsey DAB; 9-18 Blue Earth VR; 10-9 Hennepin EM.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: late north 9-10 Itasca MS; 9-20 St. Louis BDC; late south 9-29 Cottonwood LF; Dakota MW; 10-4 Lyon HK; 10-8 Wabasha RL.

Belted Kingfisher: late north 10-29 Marshall SV; 11-8 Hubbard DM; late south 11-22 Cottonwood LF; 11-23 Carver JRG.

Common Flicker: late north 10-24 Cook JG; 11-2 Mille Lacs MI; 11-15 Grant SM.

Pileated Woodpecker: reported from 23 counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported from 16 counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker: late north 10-14 Morrison EC; 11-8 Mille Lacs PVK; late west 10-4 Rock KE; 10-5 Murray AD; 10-19 Lac Qui Parle AFE.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: late north 10-5 Marshall SV; 10-10 Itasca MS; late south 10-1 Hennepin RJ; 10-15 Ramsey BS.

Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker: 10-11 Isanti PE, RJ; 10-12 Duluth J. Swanson; 10-16, 11-7 Crow Wing (2) EC; 11-8 Cook KE; all reports.

Eastern Kingbird: late north 9-21 Duluth JG; 9-26 Mille Lacs MI; late south 9-15 Swift HH; 9-16 Freeborn DG; 9-29 Ramsey DM; peak 9-1 Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle (100) AFE.

Western Kingbird: only report north 8-15 Itasca DB; late south 8-6 Rock KE; 9-1 Murray AD.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 10-25 to 10-28 Duluth ES plus many more, the bird was killed by a car on 10-28 and specimen is at UMD.

Great Crested Flycatcher: late north 9-9 Itasca MS; late south 9-7 Hennepin WKE; 9-11 Olmstead JF; 9-22 Murray AD.

Eastern Phoebe: late north 10-12 Clay LCF; 10-25 St. Louis OJ, RJ, JG; late south 10-5 Washington WL; 10-11 Rock KE; 11-13 Hennepin CH.

**Say's Phoebe:** this bird was seen by Marj Carr in rural Duluth on 9-24.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: late north 8-13 Morrison LR; 9-5 Duluth JG; late south 8-31 Hennepin OJ; 9-1 Steele RJ, KE; 9-3 Cottonwood LF.

Acadian Flycatcher: 8-20 Houston (3) KE; 8-24 Goodhue RJ.

Alder Flycatcher: only reports 8-11 Marshall SV; and 8-21 Morrison LR.

Willow Flycatcher: only reports 8-2 Big Stone RJ, PE; 8-6 Rock KE; 8-10 Olmstead JF.

Least Flycatcher: late north 9-4 Clay LCF; 9-9 Itasca MS; 9-20 Duluth DGW;

late south 9-9 Ramsey BS; 9-14 Washington WL; 10-1 Hennepin EM.

Eastern Wood Pewee: late north 9-13 Pine BB; 9-20 Clay LCF; late south 9-28 Rock KE; 9-29 Freeborn DG; 10-1 Lyon HK.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: late north 8-27 Duluth JG; late south 9-6 Wright ES, Washington WL; 9-15 Hennepin WKE.

Horned Lark: late north 11-8 Cook KE, BL; 11-9 Duluth KE; 11-29 Cook JG, PE, RJ.

Tree Swallow: late north 9-30 Hubbard WL; 10-9 Itasca MS; late south 10-7 Wabasha DWM, Ramsey EC; 10-9 Washington DGW.

Bank Swallow: late north 8-28 Duluth JG; 9-15 Marshall SV; late south 9-12 Goodhue CF, Wabasha DWM; 9-20 Yellow Medicine GO.

Rough-winged Swallow: no reports north late south 9-15 Washington DGW; 9-25 Goodhue CF; 10-4 Hennepin ES.

Barn Swallow: late north 10-7 Clay LCF; 10-17 Marshall SV; late south 10-18 Lincoln, Murray RJ, BL; 10-30 Swift HH; 11-1 Nicollet KE, PE.

Cliff Swallow: late north 8-30 Duluth KE, PE; 9-28 Marshall SV; late south 8-31 Hennepin OJ; 9-4 Anoka; 9-25 Goodhue CF, peak late August (4000) Marshall county SV.

Purple Martin: late north 9-7 Marshall SV; 9-12 Clay LCF; late south 9-12 Goodhue CF; 9-15 Hennepin ES, OJ; 9-20 Anoka DGW.

Gray Jay: reported from Cook, Lake St. Louis, Pine, Itasca, Aitkin, and Koochiching.

Black-billed Magpie: reported from 9 northwest and north central counties and at Duluth.

Common Raven: reported from 14 counties in the north central and north east.

Boreal Chickadee: 8-31 Itasca (4) DB; 10-18 Becker GO; 11-24 Sax Zim St. Louis JG; 11-30 Stearns NMH.

Tufted Titmouse: one unusual report of one 9-1 Mille Lacs MI; also reported from Hennepin ES, KE, PE, RJ, WKE; Ramsey EC; Goodhue CF;

and Olmstead JF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: early south 8-10 Washington WL; 8-18 Swift HH; and 9-2 Wright ES.

Brown Creeper: late north 10-21 Marshall SV; 11-5 Duluth JG; 11-16 Ottortail LCF, SM; early south 9-6 Washington BB; 9-26 Hennepin CH; 9-28 Rock KE.

House Wren: 9-26 Morrison LR; 9-28 Clay LCF; were the late north records, the late south records were 10-4 Rock KE, Ramsey GC; 10-5 KE.

Winter Wren: late north 10-2 Hubbard HF; 10-22 Duluth DS; early south 9-13 Faribault RJ; 9-23 Wabasha DWM; late south 11-11 Rock KE; 11-24 Cottonwood LR.

**Carolina Wren:** 10-6 Hennepin VL.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: late north 10-4 Duluth L. Confer; 10-10 Marshall SV; late south 10-12 Hennepin ES; 10-13 Scott BDC; 10-18 Lyon RJ.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: late north 9-14 Wilkin SM; 9-20 Duluth BL; late south 10-5 Pipestone KE; 10-22 Anoka BB; 11-2 Mower RK.

Mockingbird: only report 11-29 Grand Marais Cook county RJ, JG, PE.

Gray Catbird: late north 9-28 Hubbard WL; 10-5 Duluth M. Kohlbry; late south 10-28 Freeborn DG; 11-2 Wright ES; 11-9 Stearns NMH.

Brown Thrasher: late north 9-9 Clay LCF; late south 11-2 Stearns NMH; 11-3 Olmstead JF; 11-17 Freeborn DG.

Varied Thrush: 11-21 Esko, St. Louis county C. Spence; 11-24 Hennepin D. Murphy.

Wood Thrush: late south 9-28 Murray AD; 10-2 Ramsey BS; 10-19 Hennepin OJ.

Hermit Thrush: late north 10-18 Becker GO; 11-30 Ottortail SM; late south 11-5 Washington WL; 11-8 Jackson LR; 11-15, 16 Rock AD, KE.

Swainson's Thrush: late north 10-5 Duluth JG; 10-12 Cook PF; early south 9-2 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 9-3 Cottonwood LF; late south 10-17 Ramsey DAB; 10-20 Hennepin PF; 10-25 Mower RK.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: early 8-18

Duluth KE; 9-8 Marshall SV; late north 10-18 Duluth DGW; late south 10-13 Scott BDC; 10-18 Lincoln RJ.

Veery: late north 8-30 Duluth JG; 9-1 Marshall SV; late south 9-17 Blue Earth VR; 10-4 Olmstead JF.

Eastern Bluebird: late north 10-26 Ottortail DGW, St. Louis PE, RJ, JG; late south 11-1 Nicollet KE, PE; 11-1 Hennepin PF; 11-5 Big Stone KE; 11-9 Blue Earth VR.

**Townsend's Solitaire:** 9-22 Duluth, M. Carr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 8-20 Hous-ton (4) KE; 8-24 Goodhue RJ; 8-30 Ramsey GC; 9-6 Washington BB.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: late north 11-6 Ottortail SM; 11-8 Clay LCF; early south 9-21 Ramsey DM; 9-23 Hennepin ES; 9-24 Washington DGW.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: late north 10-19 Marshall SV; 11-5 Duluth JG; early south Hennepin FN; 8-28 Washington GA; late south 11-16 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 11-19 Washington WL; 11-29 Hennepin RJ.

Water Pipit: early 9-5 Duluth GC; 9-8 Mille Lacs MI; 9-8 Hennepin CH; 9-13 Blue Earth RJ; late north 10-27 Mille Lacs MI; 11-8 Cook BL; late south 10-13 Ramsey GA; 10-28 Dakota JD.

Sprague's Pipit: 8-10 Mahnomen R. Larson; 9-28 Rock KE; 10-3 Martin RJ.

Bohemian Waxwing: 10-27 St. Louis JG; 11-2 Ottortail SM; 11-8 Cook KE; 11-7 Koochiching KE; 11-5 Swift HH.

Northern Shrike: early 10-19 Marshall SV; 10-15 Duluth JG; 10-25 Hennepin CH; 10-29 Ramsey DM.

Loggerhead Shrike: late north 10-26 Ottortail SM; 11-6 St. Louis JG; 11-9 Ottortail LCF; late south 11-27 Fillmore G. Erickson.

Yellow-throated Vireo: late north 9-6 Clay LCF; 9-28 Hubbard WL; late south 9-6 Waseca RJ; 9-10 Goodhue CF; 9-21 Hennepin PF.

Solitary Vireo: late north 9-28 Hubbard WL; 10-3 Mille Lacs MI; early south 8-2 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 8-27 Wright ES; late south 10-6 Waseca GC; 10-10 Hennepin RJ; 10-15 Ramsey BS.

Red-eyed Vireo: late north 9-23

Itasca MS; 9-26 Morrison LSR; late south 9-28 Hennepin CH; 10-2 Blue Earth VR; **10-25** Washington WL.

Philadelphia Vireo: late north 9-21 Duluth DM; early south 8-28 Olmstead RJ; 8-30 Washington GA; late south 9-29 Hennepin EM; 10-3 Goodhue CF; 10-9 Cottonwood LF.

Warbling Vireo: late north 9-7 Marshall SV; late south 9-25 Hennepin ES; 9-28 Rock KE; **10-14** Hennepin FN.

Black-and-white Warbler: late north 9-23 Duluth JG; **10-15** Mille Lacs MI; late south 9-16 Ramsey DM; 9-23 Cottonwood LF; 10-1 Hennepin RJ.

Prothonotary Warbler: 8-23 Ramsey GC; 8-30 Washington GC; only reports.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** an exceptional record by Steve Blanich 11-15 Boy Lake Cass county.

Golden-winged Warbler: 9-4 Cass EM (only report north); late south 8-30 Washington GC, 8-26 Isanti RJ; 9-1 Cottonwood LF.

Blue-winged Warbler: only report 8-20 Houston KE.

Tennessee Warbler: early south 8-8 Hennepin EM; 8-18 Ramsey BS; late north 10-10 Duluth JG; 10-24 Cook RJ, JG; late south 10-4 Rock KE; 10-11 Washington BL; 10-15 Hennepin BDC.

Orange-crowned Warbler: early 8-22 Clay LCJ, Lyon HK, Cottonwood LF; late north 10-18 Clay LCF; **10-28** Duluth JG; late south 10-16 Hennepin ES; 11-16 Wright BSH.

Nashville Warbler early south 8-8 Hennepin EM; 8-18 Ramsey BS; late north 10-2 Duluth JG; 10-18 Oterrtail LCF; late south 10-16 Hennepin EM; 10-24 Ramsey GC.

Northern Parula: late north 9-13 Mille Lacs MI; 9-17 Duluth JG; late south 9-11 Blue Earth VR; 9-13 Faribault RJ; 9-25 Hennepin ES.

Yellow Warbler: late north 9-11 Marshall SV; 9-21 Duluth KE; late south 9-3 Wright ES; 9-6 Le Sueur RJ; 9-9 Hennepin EM.

Magnolia Warbler: early south 8-19 Wright ES; 8-23 Lyon HK; late north

9-18 Hubbard HF; 10-2 Duluth M. Kohlbry; late south 9-28 Yellow Medicine GO; 10-5 Dodge VH; **11-10** Blue Earth VR.

Cape May Warbler: early south 9-1 Steele RJ, KE; 9-6 Wright ES; late north 10-26 St. Louis RJ, PE, JG; **11-16** Lake P. Hofslund; late south 10-9 Olmstead.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 8-16, 19 Lake GC; 9-22 Duluth M. Carr; 8-24 Olmstead JF; and 10-17 to 10-21 Hennepin C. Jendro (2).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: early south 8-22 Lyon HK; 9-2 Wabasha DWM; late north 10-19 Cook DGW; 11-26 St. Louis JG; late south 11-2 Hennepin RJ; 11-6 Wabasha DWM; 11-10 Dakota M. Johnson.

Black-throated Green Warbler: early south 8-23 Lyon HK; 9-1 Wright ES; late north 9-21 Duluth DM; **10-12** Cook PF; late south 9-19 Hennepin WKE; 9-28 Dakota DGW; 10-14 Olmstead JF.

Blackburnian Warbler: early south 8-23 Lyon HK; Renville KE, PE; late north 9-14 Mille Lacs MI; 9-21 St. Louis RJ, JG; late south 9-12 Cottonwood LF; 9-16 Olmstead JF.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: early south 8-21 Hennepin VL; 8-22 Cottonwood LF; late north 9-15 Duluth JG; **9-30** Clay LCF; late south 9-13 Faribault RJ; 9-21 Hennepin WKE; 9-25 Goodhue CF.

Bay-breasted Warbler: early south 8-22 Lyon HK; 9-2 Cottonwood LF; late north 9-21 Carlton RJ, Marshall SV; late south 9-21 Hennepin CH, WKE; 9-28 Dakota DGW.

Blackpoll Warbler: early 8-23 Lyon HK; 8-25 Duluth JG; 9-2 Cottonwood LF; late north 9-24 Duluth JG; late south 10-9 Olmstead JF.

Pine Warbler: early south 8-22 Hennepin EM; 8-23 Lyon HK; late north 9-23 Duluth JG; 9-28 Hubbard HF; late south 10-4 Olmstead JF; **11-1** Hennepin B. Pieper.

Palm Warbler: early south 8-21 Murray AD; 9-1 Ramsey DM; late north 10-4 Clay LCF, Marshall SV; 10-24 Cook RJ, JG; late south 10-12

Hennepin EM; 10-19 Washington BL; 10-30 Olmstead JF.

Ovenbird: late north 9-14 Mille Lacs MI; 9-26 Morrison LSR; late south 10-3 Goodhue CF; 11-2 Hennepin V. Louis.

Northern Waterthrush: early south 8-4 Hennepin FN; 8-10 Murray AD; late north 9-6 Duluth JG; 9-13 Marshall SV; late south 9-14 Hennepin VL.

Louisiana Waterthrush: only report 8-11 Franconia Chisago co. EC.

Connecticut Warbler: late north 9-5 Duluth JG; 9-14 Mille Lacs MI; early south 8-30 Hennepin EM; late south 9-12, 21 Cottonwood LF; only reports south.

Mourning Warbler: early south 8-22 Cottonwood LF; 8-23 Redwood KE, PE; late north 9-23 Duluth JG; late south 9-7 Hennepin OJ.

Common Yellowthroat: late north 9-26 Morrison LSR; 9-28 Marshall SV; late south 9-28 Dakota DGW; 10-3 Goodhue CF; 11-2 Hennepin KE, RJ, PE, JG.

Wilson's Warbler: early 8-8 Murray AD; 8-18 Clay LCF; late north 9-21 Duluth DM; 9-28 Itasca MS; late south 9-18 Cottonwood LF; 9-20 Ramsey BS; 10-13 Hennepin CH.

Canada Warbler: early south 8-19 Murray AD; 8-22 Lyon HK; late north 9-11 Duluth JG; 9-22 Lake of the Woods HF; late south 9-19 Hennepin ES.

American Redstart: late north 10-2 Hubbard WL; 11-13 Duluth JG; late south 10-1 Hennepin RJ; 10-2 Blue Earth VR; 10-5 Washington WL.

Bobolink: late south 8-2 Swift RJ; 8-23 Lac Qui Parle; 8-30 Washington GC.

Eastern Meadowlark: late north 10-26 St. Louis JG, RJ; 11-8 Lake BL; late south 10-27 Wright BSH; 11-27 Mower RK.

Western Meadowlark: late north 11-5 Marshall SV; Wilkin KE; 11-16 Ottertail SM; late south 11-22 Cottonwood LR; 11-27 Yellow Medicine GO.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: late north 10-28 Marshall SV; 10-18 Clay fide E. Anderson; late south 10-1 Yellow Medicine GO; 11-10 Swift HH.

Red-winged Blackbird: late north 11-12 Marshall SV; 11-28 Ottertail SM.

Orchard Oriole: late 8-2 Big Stone, Swift RJ, PE; 8-6 Rock KE; 8-23 Redwood, KE, PE.

Northern Oriole: late north 9-1 Marshall SV; 10-26 Ottertail SM; late south 9-12 Hennepin FN; 9-25 Goodhue CF; 11-9 Ramsey EC.

Rusty Blackbird: early south 10-3 Goodhue CF; 10-9 Hennepin OJ; early north 9-11 Itasca MS; 9-21 Duluth JG; late north 11-1 Aitkin JG; 11-13 Marshall SV; late south 11-23 Yellow Medicine GO, Wright BSH; 11-30 Goodhue CF.

Brewer's Blackbird: late north 11-7 Itasca KE; 11-9 Ottertail LCF; late south 10-3 Martin RJ; 10-13 Scott BDC.

Common Grackle: late north 11-20 Mille Lacs MI; 11-29 Cook JG, RJ, PE; 11-30 Ottertail SM.

Brown-headed Cowbird: late north 10-28 Duluth JG; late south 11-11 Rock KE; 11-20 Dakota JD; 11-22 Cottonwood LF.

Scarlet Tanager: late north 9-15 Mille Lacs MI; 9-29 Hubbard WL; late south 9-29 Ramsey EC; 10-4 Hennepin ES; 10-7 Washington DGW.

Summer Tanager: 9-1 Rice Lake State Park Steele co., one heard KE.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: late north 9-25 Duluth JG; 10-24 Mille Lacs MI; late south 9-24 Washington EC; 10-3 Olmstead JF; 10-17 Hennepin WKE.

Cardinal: reports from the edge of its range were 10-24 Duluth C. Grant; 11-10 to 17 Duluth H. Nelson; 11-18 Ottertail SM; 8-8 Clay LCF; 9-11 Rock KE.

Blue Grosbeak: several reports from Blue Mounds State Park from 8-6 to 9-14 all from KE.

Indigo Bunting: late north 9-26 Morrison LSR; 10-2 Duluth JG; late south 9-6 Waseca RJ; 9-27 Ramsey DM; 10-17 Hennepin ES.

Dickcissel: only report 8-6 Rock KE.

Evening Grosbeak: early south 10-16 Hennepin PF; 10-28 Ramsey EC.

Purple Finch: early south 9-3 Good-

hue CF; 9-13 Pipestone KE.

Pine Grosbeak: early 10-25 Duluth W. Russell; 11-17 Hennepin DB.

Hoary Redpoll: all reports 10-28 Duluth DS; 11-15 Yellow Medicine GO; 11-24 St. Louis JG.

Common Redpoll: early north 10-24 St. Louis JG, RJ; 10-29 Marshall SV; early south 11-1 Nicollet KE, PE; 11-5 Pope DM.

Pine Siskin: early south 9-3 Goodhue CF; 9-13 Pipestone KE; 9-26 Lyon GO; peak 10-25 Duluth (1000) JG.

American Goldfinch: late north 11-6 Duluth JG; 11-16 Ottortail LCF; 11-30 Morrison LSR.

Red Crossbill: early south 8-16 Lyon NH; 8-23 Renville KE, PE; also reported from Mower, Wabasha, Goodhue, Becker, Pine, Lake, Marshall, and Duluth.

White-winged Crossbill: reported from Cook, St. Louis, Lake Itasca, Ottortail, Hubbard, and Duluth; only report south was 11-24 Hennepin VL.

Rufous-sided Towhee: late north 10-25 Duluth PE; late south 10-4, 11, 19 Rock (Spotted) KE; 10-8 Blue Earth VR; 11-26 Anoka S. Comstock.

Lark Bunting: 9-20 Duluth, RJ, JG.

Savannah Sparrow: late north 10-26 Ottortail DGW, St. Louis JG; late south 10-22 Lyon NH; 10-26 Goodhue CF.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 8-2 Swift RJ; 10-4 Rock KE.

LeConte's Sparrow: late north 10-11 Wilkin SM; early south 8-31 Hennepin OJ; 9-2 Lyon HK; late south 10-3 Watonwan RJ; 10-4 Hennepin OJ; 10-11 Olmstead JF.

Vesper Sparrow: late north 10-11 Clay LCF; 11-1 Aitkin JG; late south 10-14 Dakota AJ; 10-18 Lincoln RJ; 10-26 Goodhue CF.

Dark-eyed Junco: early south 8-4 Wabasha DWM; 9-3 Wright ES; 9-9 Anoka BB; late north 11-15 Clay LCF; 11-18 Duluth JG; 11-30 Morrison LSR.

Tree Sparrow: early north 10-4 Duluth DS; 10-10 Marshall SV; early south 9-28 Dodge VH; 10-11 Rock KE; Isanti PE, RJ; late north 11-11 Mille Lacs MI; 11-28 Ottortail SM.

Chipping Sparrow: late north 10-11 Cass HF; 10-12 Clay LCF; late south 10-14 Hennepin ES, Olmstead JF; 10-16 Meeker BDC.

Clay-colored Sparrow: late north 10-1 Clay LCF, Cook L. Confer; 10-11 Duluth JG; late south 10-9 Hennepin OJ; 10-12 Pipestone KE; 10-16 Dakota JD.

Field Sparrow: late south 10-14 Olmstead JF; 10-17 Hennepin ES; 10-21 Rock GO.

Harris' Sparrow: early north 9-11 Marshall SV; 9-20 Duluth JG; early south 9-27 Olmstead JF, Hennepin OJ; late north 10-21 Cass AS; 11-30 Clay LCF; late south 11-15 Ramsey DAB; 11-28 Cottonwood LF; 11-30 Lac Qui Parle AFE; peak 10-11 Rock (200) KE.

White-crowned Sparrow: early north 9-6 Duluth JG; 9-12 Marshall SV; early south 9-22 Ramsey WL; 9-24 Stearns MC, Cottonwood LF; late north 10-21 Clay LCF; 10-22 Duluth M. Kohlbry; late south 10-19 Wright ES; 10-22 Murray AD.

White-throated Sparrow: early south 9-3 Ramsey BS, Hennepin DB; late north 11-2 Clay LCF; 11-9 Duluth KE; late south 11-13 Goodhue CF, 11-19 Olmstead VH; 11-23 Lyon HK.

Fox Sparrow: early north 9-20 Duluth RJ; 9-26 Marshall; early south 9-22 Wabasha DWM; 9-25 Hennepin AJ, Ramsey GC; late north 10-25 Morrison LSR; 10-31 Clay LCF; late south 11-16 Olmstead JF; 11-17 Cottonwood LF; 11-22 Carver JRB.

Lincoln's Sparrow: early south 8-22 Lyon HK, Cottonwood LF; late north 10-12 Marshall SV; 10-11 Mille Lacs MI; late south 10-18 Lincoln BL; 10-19 Wright ES; 11-2 Hennepin RJ.

Swamp Sparrow: late north 10-17 Marshall SV; 10-26 St. Louis JG; late south 10-19 Rock KE; 10-24 Ramsey DM; 10-29 Hennepin VL.

Song Sparrow: late north 11-2 Marshall SV; 11-8 Duluth BL; late south 11-23 Mower RK; 11-25 Lyon NH.

Lapland Longspur: early north 9-13 St. Louis CH; early south 9-27 Hennepin OJ; late north 11-1 Aitkin JG;

11-2 Wilkin SM.

Smith's Longspur: 10-26 Fort Snelling Hennepin county (7) W. Jiracek.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 9-28, 10-4, 10-19 Rock KE; from 1 to 3 birds.

Snow Bunting: early north 10-13 Marshall SV; 10-16 Duluth JG; early south 10-16 Hennepin OJ; 10-20 Pope DM.

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# WINTER SEASON (Dec. 1, 1975 to Feb. 29, 1976)

by Kim Eckert

After we got clobbered by that blizzard in November, the worst part of the winter was over—before it really began! December temperatures were close to the average, varying no more than a couple of degrees above the norm in the Southeast and a couple below the norm in the Northeast. The high for the month was 58° at Austin and Winona, while the lowest was -38° at Tower. Snowfall did not cripple us either for the most part. Precipitation for December was a bit below average in most areas (at most .61" below in the West Central), while only the Southeast and South Central regions were slightly above normal. Four recording spots in the West Central received no more than a trace of precipitation, while Caribou (try to find that one on your Rand-McNally) received the most snow for December to the modest tune of 15".

January may have been colder than normal, especially early in the month, but things later on more than made up for it. All regions except the Northwest (which enjoyed a whopping .8° above normal) were colder than normal, with the extreme of 3.4° below average in the Northeast. High temperature for January was 44° on the 29th at Winona and Fairmont, while the low was a modest -40° on the 27th at Hoyt Lakes—an 84° difference in just two days. Precipitation for the month varied from .43" below the norm in the South Central to .51" above normal in the West Central. Grand Marais had more snow than anyone else (37.9").

Spring began in February this year. Temperatures were way above normal in all regions, from 8.1 to 10.6 degrees above average! While it was still cold at the beginning of the month (Tower had -41° on the 2nd), things really warmed up at the end with a high of 64° at Marshall on the 25th

Such conditions brought up many many spring migrants into the state as the species accounts demonstrate. We didn't get too much in the way of snow either (rain would have been more likely). All regions were at or below February precipitation norms (the South Central was the driest at .44" below average). And the most snow for the month was a mere 14.5" at Gunflint Lake. Such lack of snow may have been a boon to those yearning for spring, but that low precipitation in December and February is, at the time of this writing in August, in the process of drying up crops and potholes.

No less than 63 contributors (a record number for winter?) and 34 Christmas Counts (a record) supplied data on 137 species (5 short of last year's record). Because of the mild weather there were a lot of birds around for the Christmas Counts and a lot of migrants around in late February, but there wasn't much in the way of things sensational like last winter's Lewis' Woodpecker. The only "black letter" birds on the Christmas Counts, besides the now regular Varied Thrush on the St. Paul Northeast count, were late-lingering migrants. As usual, Afton had the highest count with 71 species, while Winona, Rochester and St. Paul Northeast were in the 50's. By far the best bird of the season was the always exciting Ivory Gull on New Year's Day at Duluth, one of six gull species seen here this winter (Herring, Glaucous, late Ring-billed, the rare Thayer's and the casual Iceland). Almost as unusual would be the Barn Owl in Stearns County, though substantiating details are still needed.

The most unusual late-lingering strays were the White Pelican in St. Paul, two Greater Scaup, a Surf Scoter at Grand Marais, a January

Ruddy Duck, unprecedented Ospreys at Hastings and Rochester, a late-February Virginia Rail, a catbird way up in Marshall Co. that overwintered, the December Cape May Warbler, a January Yellow-headed Blackbird, literally flocks of cowbirds on Christmas Counts, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the Bloomington count, a December Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrows in February. Populations of northern species were mixed. Raptors were down (though Snowy Owls were up, only one report each of Hawk and Great Gray Owls was turned in, and no one could find Gyrfalcon or Boreal Owl), Spruce Grouse were easier to find (five reports), Bohemian Waxwings were up, and winter finch numbers were mediocre (except for good flights of Evening Grosbeak, redpolls and Snow Bunting). It appears there may have been some identification problems this winter. The difficulty of separating immature Iceland from Thayer's Gulls continues and may even be compounding, Brewer's and Rusty Blackbirds in winter are easy to confuse, Common Redpolls may have been mistaken for Hoaries, and Tree Sparrows without breast spots sometimes are identified as Chipping. Finally, it is worth noting the good peaks of many species reported on some Christmas counts. While it would be hard to single out the most significant peak of the lot, my favorite has to be one of an always overlooked species at a never overlooked location: 7701 pigeons at Duluth set a new North American Christmas Count record! Hats off to a truly amazing ornithological event—wait a minute, on second thought, you better keep them on.

**Common Loon:** a late migrant on 12-7 in Minneapolis (KE, RJ), and one not that easy to explain on 2-16 at Virginia, St. Louis Co. (T Garvey).

**Red-necked Grebe:** now almost an annual winter event on Lake Superior; seen on 1-30 at Hovland, Cook Co. (TS) and on 1-31 off Split Rock Lighthouse, Lake Co. (KE).

**Horned Grebe:** a late migrant until 12-30 at Rochester (VH, JF).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** overwintered at Fergus Falls, **Otter Tail Co.** (SM); several also lingered until Christmas Count time in Aitkin, Kandiyohi, Big Stone and Hennepin Co's; also wintered at Black Dog L., Dakota as is almost normal.

**White Pelican:** stayed until 12-21 at Como L. in St. Paul (GA); latest date on record by 18 days.

**Great Blue Heron:** recorded during the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count period; also what was probably a very early spring migrant on 2-27 in Hennepin Co. (NMH).

**Whistling Swan:** seen on the Fergus Falls, Big Stone and La Crosse (25) Christmas Counts; 100 still at Weaver, Wabasha Co. on 12-2 (WDM) and one overwintered at St. Cloud from 12-2 on (NMH).

**Canada Goose:** reported from 19 counties north and west to Lac Qui Parle (250 overwintered), Big Stone, Yellow Medicine (1000 migrating on 12-27, OE), Otter Tail Marshall and Cass (Walker Christmas Count period); Rochester had 22,000 on the Christmas Count; early spring migrants on 2-15 in Wabasha (RL), 2-17 in Cottonwood (LF), and 4000 were back at Lac Qui Parle Refuge by 2-24.

**Snow Goose:** recorded on the Lac Qui Parle, La Crosse (19) and Rochester (also overwintered) Christmas Counts; early spring migrants on 2-24 in Lincoln Co. (300, LK) and 2-29 in Lac Qui Parle Co. (CH).

**Mallard:** reported from 29 counties north to Cook, St. Louis, Otter Tail and Marshall (12-13, SV); peak of 10,000 on the Wabasha Christmas Count.

**Black Duck:** reported from Cook, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, Olmstead, Wabasha (113 on the Wabasha Christmas Count) and Winona Co's.

**Gadwall:** as usual, 10 wintered at Shakopee, Scott Co. behind the restaurant.

**Pintail:** all kinds of reports: partic-

ipated in the St. Paul, Winona, Excelsior, and Afton Christmas Counts; also on the Bloomington Christmas Count period; overwintered in Scott and Hennepin Co's; also 12-28 Wabasha (WDM); 1-2 Dakota (M. Johnson); 2-14 Wabasha (RG).

Green-winged Teal: recorded on the Winona Christmas Count; also on 2-12 at Rochester (VH).

American Wigeon: reported during the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count period; also 1-11 and 1-15 in Hennepin Co. (VL, ETS).

Wood Duck: reported from Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin (wintered), Scott (wintered), and Wabasha Co's.

Redhead: seen on the Willmar Christmas Count, and what may have been a very early migrant on 2-20 at Rochester (VH).

Ring-necked Duck: reported on the Willmar, St. Paul and La Crosse Christmas Counts; also seen on 12-7 in Otter Tail (SM) and Hennepin (KE, RJ) Co's; 12-30 Olmstead (VH); and 1-1 Duluth (DS, JG).

Canvasback: seen on the Minneapolis, Bloomington (15), and Winona Christmas Counts; also overwintered at Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (SM), and (24) lingered in Wabasha until 12-10 (WDM).

Greater Scaup: two reports: 12-7 Minneapolis (RJ, KE) and 12-14 Cook Co. (JJ, SS); only the 2nd and 3rd winter reports on record.

Lesser Scaup: late migrants through Christmas Count time seen in Ramsey, Hennepin, Scott, Anoka, Dakota, Washington, Olmstead, Otter Tail (12-13, SM), Cook (12-16, JH) and Duluth (12-7, JJ, SS); also a possible early migrant on 2-15 in Wabasha Co. (JG).

Common Goldeneye: reported from 15 counties northwest to Otter Tail and Cass; for the 2nd winter in a row, down in numbers on Lake Superior.

Bufflehead: 12-7 Hennepin and Dakota Co's (KE, RJ); seen on the Afton Christmas Count and during the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count per-

iod; as late as 1-31 at Duluth (DS) and 1-30 in Cook Co. (JJ, SS); a possible early spring migrant on 2-14 Otter Tail (SM).

Oldsquaw: down in numbers in all three Lake Superior counties; also noted during the Walker Christmas Count period in Cass Co. (H. Hanson).

White-winged Scoter: a late migrant on 12-9 at Kimball Creek, Cook Co. (DS).

Surf Scoter: a very late migrant was at Grand Marais, Cook Co. from 12-10 to 12-24 (JH, JJ, SS).

Ruddy Duck: possibly the first overwintering bird on record was at Sherburn, Martin Co. on 1-24 and again on 2-28 (LR); early spring migrants 2-22 Dakota (ETS) and 2-29 Lac Qui Parle (CH).

Hooded Merganser: seen on the Wabasha Christmas Count and from 1-1 to 1-5 at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (BB, RG, DGW).

Common Merganser: reported from Cook, St. Louis, Cass, Lac Qui Parle, Big Stone, Dakota, Ramsey, Washington, Wabasha and Olmsted Co's; also an early spring migrant on 2-15 in Murray Co. (NH); also down in numbers on Lake Superior.

Red-breasted Merganser: from 12-17 to 1-3 at Duluth (RG, JG, DB); 12-14 in Cook Co. (JJ, SS); also 1-30 at Grand Portage, Cook Co. (TS).

Goshawk: reported from 13 counties south to Washington, Hennepin, Nobles and Lac Qui Parle.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported from Isanti, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmstead and Le Sueur Co's.

Cooper's Hawk: seen on the Bloomington Christmas Count and from 12-20 to 2-18 in Stearns Co. (NMH).

Red-tailed Hawk: reported from 19 counties north to Marshall (Warren Christmas Count) and Duluth (overwintered, DS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: continues to increase in winter; 12-28 Goodhue (RJ); 1-14 Stearns (NMH); early spring migrant on 2-24 in Crow Wing Co. (J. Blanich); overwintered in White-

water Wildlife Area, Winona Co.; also on the Afton Christmas Count.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** reported from 23 counties north to Marshall. Itasca and St. Louis Co's.

**Golden Eagle:** 4 reports: 12-14 Swift (HH); 2-8 and 2-12 Lac Qui Parle (CH, OE); 2-29 Clay (fide E. Anderson); also 2 adults and 1 immature wintered at Whitewater Wildlife Area, Wabasha-Winona Co's.

**Bald Eagle:** more reports than usual: Winona (2a), Houston (12), Wabasha (26), Freeborn (li), Goodhue (5a), Ramsey (li), Washington (9a, 2i), Dakota (6a), Sherburne (li), Lac Qui Parle (1a, 2i), Grant, Otter Tail, Cass (1a), Clearwater (2a), Hubbard (2a in early Feb., HF), Carlton (2 in Feb.), Marshall (li), Itasca (1a on 2-27, MS), St. Louis (3a), Lake and Cook (2a, li) Co's.

**Marsh Hawk:** reported on the Marshall, Owatonna, Afton and Winona Christmas Counts! also 1-21 Carlton (F. Kaliher), 1-26 Lake (MM); 12-28 and 2-29 Wilkin (SM); 2-16 Otter Tail (SM); 2-14 Blue Earth; 2-17 Murray (AD); more reports than usual.

**Osprey:** reported with good details from Hastings, Dakota Co. on 1-25 and 2-7 (JD) and from Rochester on the Christmas Count and during the second week of January; if correct, would be the first winter reports on record.

**Merlin:** 2-29 Stearns (NMH); possibly a very early spring migrant.

**American Kestrel:** reported from 24 counties north to Cook (Grand Marais Christmas Count), Pine 2-7, DGW and Otter Tail (12-7 and 2-16, SM) Co's.

**Spruce Grouse:** no less than 5 reports: present at Babbitt, St. Louis Co. (PD); 2 on 1-25 on Hwy. 1 in Lake Co. (DGW, MW); along Co. Rd. 2 in Lake Co. on 12-28 (J. Sublett); in Cook Co. on the Grand Marais Christmas Count; and 3 in Hubbard Co. on the Itasca Christmas Count.

**Ruffed Grouse:** reported from 26 counties including Fillmore, Olmstead, Ramsey and Polk (Crookston Christ-

mas Count) Co's.

**Greater Prairie Chicken:** reported only during the Crookston Christmas Count period.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** reported from Polk (Crookston Christmas Count period), Marshall (2-12 and 13, SV), and Aitkin (12-22 and 1-18, TS, JJ, SS) Co's.

**Bobwhite:** found during the Winona Christmas Count period; this has been a very scarce bird in recent years.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** reported from 33 counties including Polk and a peak of 262 on the Minneapolis Christmas Count.

**Gray Partridge:** reported from 16 counties including 105 on the Mt. Lake-Windom Christmas Count.

**Virginia Rail:** 1 present at Long Meadow Slough, Hennepin Co. from 2-21 to 2-28 (BDC, RJ); 4th winter report on record; why it showed up in late February is hard to figure unless it was an extremely early spring migrant.

**American Coot:** reported in Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, Washington, Scott, Olmstead, Wabasha, Winona, Houston (19 on the La Crosse Christmas Count), Kandiyohi, Big Stone and Otter Tail (overwintered, SM) Co's.

**Killdeer:** reported on the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count; wintered in Dodge Co. (VH); early spring migrant 2-26 Olmstead (VH).

**Common Snipe:** reported from Houston, Winona, Mower, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington.

**Glaucous Gull:** reported from 12-21 on in Duluth (up to 6 adults) and Cook Co. (21); again seen at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. on 1-2 (RG).

**Iceland Gull:** a first year immature with a light sub-terminal tail band was seen on 2-1 at Duluth (KE, P. Egeland, D. Ruhme); first indentified as a Thayer's until we read the article in the December issue of **American Birds**; that article seems to contradict some of what we believed about Thayer's Gulls previously; the issue is still complicated enough that

extreme care is necessary when trying to separate some of the lighter immature Thayer's from first year Iceland.

Herring Gull: down in numbers in all 3 Lake Superior counties; apparently overwintered at Black Dog L., Dakota Co.; lingered until 1-1 in Washington and Ramsey Co's (Afton Christmas Count, RH); late fall and early spring migrants in Wabasha Co. on 12-6 and 2-26 (WDM, RL).

Thayer's Gull: immature at Duluth on 2-1 (KE, TS, J. Blanich, M. Carr); also at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. on 1-2 (RG).

Ring-billed Gull: stayed until 1-1 in Dakota Co. (MW, DGW), 12-11 in Hennepin Co. (KCS). and 1-1 at Duluth (DS, OJ, Duluth Christmas Count).

Ivory Gull: this rare and elusive Arctic visitor was found at Duluth on 1-1 (DS, J. Smith, C. and P. Bergman).

Rock Dove: peak of **7701** on the Duluth Christmas Count.

Mourning Dove: reported from 31 counties north to Marshall (Warren Christmas Count), Polk (Crookston Christmas Count) and St. Louis (Duluth Christmas Count) Co's; peak of **174** on Wabasha Christmas Count; early spring migrant **2-22** Crow Wing Co. (TS); more reports than usual.

Barn Owl: an unconfirmed report of this casual species from Sartell, Stearns Co. on 1-23 (fide NMH); no details yet.

Screech Owl: reported from Big Stone, Lyon, Rock, Rice, Winona, Hennepin, Washington, Ramsey, Crow Wing and Stearns Co's.

Great Horned Owl: reported from 33 counties throughout the state including a peak of 14 on the Rock Co. Christmas Count.

Snowy Owl: common again this winter; reported from 21 counties south to Murray, Cottonwood and Mower Co's; peak of 7 on the Duluth Christmas Count.

Hawk Owl: only report was on 12-16 at Grand Portage, Cook Co. (JH); an unconfirmed report of 4 in late December from the Sax-Zim area of St. Louis Co. was not substantiated by

others birding the area.

Barred Owl: reported from 18 counties west to Clay, Stearns and Freeborn Co's; more reports than usual.

Great Gray Owl: only report was of one found dead in February in Otter Tail Co. (SM).

Long-eared Owl: 6 reports of this hard-to-find owl: seen on the Cottonwood (Lyon Co.) and Warren (Marshall Co.) Christmas Counts, and during the Itasca Christmas Count period (Clearwater Co.); also 12-27 Yellow Medicine (GO), 1-12 Freeborn (RKJ) and 2-22 McLeod (RJ).

Short-eared Owl: 2 reports: seen on the Warren and Afton Christmas Counts.

Saw-whet Owl: 2 reports: 1-8 Hennepin Co. (ETS) and 2-7 Crow Wing Co. (TS).

Belted Kingfisher: reported from 19 counties north to Otter Tail (12-30, GO), Mille Lacs (12-24 and 2-17, GO, WL) and Duluth (12-11 and 1-3, JJ, T. Garvey).

Common Flicker: reported from 21 counties north to Big Stone, Swift and Isanti Co's.

Pileated Woodpecker: reported from 31 counties west to Polk, Lac Qui Parle and Kandiyohi Co's; peaks of **10** on Excelsior, St. Paul Northeast, Afton and Itasca Christmas Counts; more reports than usual.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported from 16 counties north and west to Aitkin (overwintered, TS), Otter Tail (overwintered, SM), Big Stone (Big Stone N. W. R. Christmas Count), Lyon (Marshall Christmas Count) and Rock (Rock Co. Christmas Count) Co's.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from 16 counties north and west to Crow Wing (Crosby Christmas Count) and Stearns Co's; peak of 17 on the Sherburne and Winona Christmas Counts; more reports than usual.

Hairy Woodpecker: reported from 46 counties throughout the state.

Downy Woodpecker: reported from 45 counties throughout the state, though none were seen on the North-

woods Christmas Count (Pine Co.).

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 4 reports: Clearwater Co. (Itasca Christmas Count; wintered in Crow Wing Co. (TS); present in Hubbard Co. (fide HF); 2-15 and 2-28 in Cook Co. (JH); an unconfirmed report of 5 along with 1 Northern Three-toed in late December from the Sax-Zim area of St. Louis Co. was not substantiated by others birding the area.

Horned Lark: reported from 27 counties north to Otter Tail and Polk Co's; also "spring" migrants first noted 1-16 Olmsted (JF), 1-20 Wabasha (WDM) and 1-24 Goodhue (HC) in the South, and 1-30 Aitkin (TS), 2-10 Marshall (SV) and 2-17 Clay (LCF) in the North.

Gray Jay: reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Aitkin, Koochiching, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass and Marshall Co's; an unconfirmed peak of 71 in late December in the Sax-Zim area of St. Louis Co. was not substantiated by others birding the area who found no more than 9; 71 would be a new North American Christmas Count record.

Blue Jay: reported from 49 counties throughout the state including a peak of 633 on the Sherburne N. W. R. Christmas Count.

Black-billed Magpie: more common than usual again this winter; reported from Marshall (peak of 12), Polk (3), Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Aitkin, Clay and Otter Tail (3) Co's.

Common Raven: reported from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Koochiching, Cass, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard and Marshall Co's.

Common Crow: reported from 43 counties north to Polk (East Grand Forks Christmas Count), Clearwater (Itasca Christmas Count), Crow Wing, Aitkin, Duluth, Lake and Cook; peak of 894 on the Afton Christmas Count; spring migrants seen 2-15 St. Louis (DB), 2-19 Hubbard (HF) and 2-21 Becker (SM).

Black-capped Chickadee: reported from 47 counties throughout the state including a peak of 567 on the Itasca

Christmas Count.

Boreal Chickadee: reported from Cook (4 reports, peak of 5), Lake (1 report), St. Louis (4 reports, peak of 4) and Stearns (1-1 to 1-11 at Sartell, NMH); an unconfirmed peak of 52 in late December in the Sax-Zim area of St. Louis Co. was not substantiated by others birding the area who found no more than 5.

Tufted Titmouse: reported in Washington (10 on the Afton Christmas Count), Ramsey (12-17, 2-8 and 2-21, EC, DH), Dakota (Bloomington Christmas Count and on 1-5, BB, RG) and Olmsted (wintered, JF) Co's.

White-breasted Nuthatch: reported from 41 counties throughout the state including a peak of 202 on the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count; an unconfirmed count of 46 in late December in the Sax-Zim area of St. Louis Co. (rare in this area) was not substantiated by others birding in the area who found no more than 2.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from 28 counties throughout the state.

Brown Creeper: reported from 33 counties north to Marshall, Clearwater, Cass, Otter Tail, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing and St. Louis Co's; again more reports than usual.

Winter Wren: reported in Hennepin Co. on the Excelsior Christmas Count and on 2-22 (ETS).

Mockingbird: one at a feeder in Brooklyn Park, Hennepin Co. from 12-5 to 12-14 (fide OJ).

Gray Catbird: one wintered at Warren, Marshall Co. from 12-14 on (L. Johnson); only the 2nd overwintering bird on record.

Brown Thrasher: 5 reported on the Wabasha Christmas Count, and birds overwintered in Minneapolis (KG) and in Austin (fide RKJ); this species seems almost a regular winter visitor now.

American Robin: reported from 28 counties north to Marshall, Polk, Otter Tail, Clearwater, Aitkin, St. Louis and Cook Co's; more reports than usual.

Varied Thrush: only report this winter from White Bear Lake, Ramsey

Co. from 12-18 on fide EC).

**Hermit Thrush:** no less than 3 reports: from 11-23 to 1-6 in Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (SM); from 12-20 to 12-22 in Mower Co. (RKJ); from 12-7 to 12-23 in Hennepin Co. (H. Merriman).

**Eastern Bluebird:** a late migrant until 12-17 in Olmsted Co. (JF).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** fewer reports than usual; seen in Olmsted Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington and Clearwater (Itasca Christmas Count) Co's.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** reported from Cook, Lake, Duluth, Crow Wing, Beltrami, Polk, Marshall, Otter Tail, Clay (31), Swift, Lyon, Anoka, Hennepin (53), Ramsey (peak of 300 on 2-21, DH) and Washington; more reports than usual.

**Cedar Waxwing:** reported from 18 counties north to Polk, Otter Tail and Stearns Co's.

**Northern Shrike:** reported from 29 counties throughout the state including a peak of 9 on the Minneapolis Christmas Count.

**Starling:** reported everywhere except by the lucky observers on the Itasca, Northwoods and New Prague Christmas Counts.

**Cape May Warbler:** seen up to 12-21 at Castle Danger, Lake Co. (M. Penner); latest date on record by 17 days.

**House Sparrow:** not only did the Northwoods Christmas Count avoid Starling, but they also missed House Sparrow; no sparrows either on the Grand Marais Christmas Count.

**Meadowlark, sp.:** reported from 13 counties north to Marshall (Warren Christmas Count); also an early migrant on 2-24 in Nobles Co. (GO).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** seen until 1-2 in Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (RG); the second latest date on record.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** reported from 27 counties north to Cass, Otter Tail, Hubbard, Crow Wing and Cook Co's.

**Rusty Blackbird:** reported from 15

counties north to Clearwater and Otter Tail Co's; peak of 162 on the La Crosse Christmas Count.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** if correct, no less than 10 reports: seen in Winona, Steele, Ramsey, Hennepin, Wright, Stearns, Big Stone, Crow Wing (early Dec., TS), St. Louis (**Hibbing** Christmas Count) and **Polk** (Crookston Christmas Count) Co's; not all Rusty Blackbirds in late fall and winter are rusty, therefore care must be taken when identifying winter Brewer's.

**Common Grackle:** reported from 30 counties north to Marshall, Otter Tail, Clay, Wilkin, Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, St. Louis and Cook Co's; more than usual.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** reported from Ramsey, Dakota, Steele, Wabasha, Olmsted, Fillmore (until 2-7, GE), Winona (74 on the Winona Christmas Count) and Houston (214 on La Crosse Christmas Count) Co's; unprecedented numbers.

**Cardinal:** reported on 27 counties north and west to St. Louis (Duluth Christmas Count) and Big Stone (Big Stone N. W. R. Christmas Count); peak of 129 on the Afton Christmas Count.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** stayed until 12-27 for the Bloomington Christmas Count; the 3rd winter report on record.

**Evening Grosbeak:** reported from 42 counties south to Rock, Freeborn, Mower and Houston Co's; more widespread than usual.

**Purple Finch:** reported from 34 counties north to Cass, Polk, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Cook and Marshall Co's.

**Pine Grosbeak:** reported from 19 counties south to Sherburne, Washington and Le Sueur Co's.

**Hoary Redpoll:** reported from 15 counties south to Ramsey, Washington, Blue Earth, Freeborn, Dakota, Steele, Hennepin and Yellow Medicine Co's; even though this species is rare in the South and sometimes hard to tell from paler Common Redpolls, none of the South reports above had

details with them.

**Common Redpoll:** reported from 42 counties throughout the state including a peak of 1864 on the Sherburne N. W. R. Christmas Count; more reports than usual.

**Pine Siskin:** reported from 30 counties northwest to Clay, Clearwater and Cass Co's.

**American Goldfinch:** reported from 25 counties north to Otter Tail and Stearns Co's.

**Red Crossbill:** reported from 12 counties west to Otter Tail, Clearwater and Freeborn Co's.

**White-winged Crossbill:** reported from 14 counties south to Cottonwood and Washington Co's.

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** lingered into late December for the Owatonna Christmas Count (Steele Co.) and during the Wabasha Christmas Count period.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** reported from 38 counties north to Crow Wing, St. Louis, Cook, Polk, Cass and Clay Co's; peak of 558 on Afton Christmas Count.

**Tree Sparrow:** reported from 37 counties north to Polk, Marshall, Crow Wing and Lake Co's; peak of 895 on the Wabasha Christmas Count; though more common in the Southeast, this species was harder to find than normal in the Southwest.

**Chipping Sparrow:** one found dead in Rochester on 12-6 (VH); first December date on record; some Christmas Counts continue to report this species with no details.

**Field Sparrow:** seen in Goodhue Co. on 12-4 and 2-1 (MW, DGW, RG); also one at RG's feeder in Bloomington. Hennepin Co. from 1-3 to 2-13; only the 2nd and 3rd February reports on record.

**Harris' Sparrow:** 4 reports: seen during the Big Stone N. W. R. Christmas Count period; 12-9 in Lac Qui Parle Co. (OE); 1-9 and 2-25 in Freeborn Co. (DG); overwintered in Clay Co. (LCF).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 were in Hopkins, Hennepin Co. from 1-3 to

2-22 at a feeder; also a late migrant on the Big Stone N. W. R. Christmas Count.

**White-throated Sparrow:** reported from Crow Wing (Crosby Christmas Count); Lac Qui Parle (12-14, OE), Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Olmsted and Winona Co's.

**Fox Sparrow:** 1 on 1-6 in Minnetonka, Hennepin Co. (RG). Also reported on Afton and Winona Christmas Counts.

**Swamp Sparrow:** reported only during the St. Paul Northeast Christmas Count period.

**Song Sparrow:** reported from 13 counties north to Swift Co.

**Lapland Longspur:** reported from 13 counties north to the Crookston, Warren and Fergus Falls Christmas Counts; also an early spring migrant on 2-13 in Murray Co. (AD); more reports than usual.

**Snow Bunting:** reported from 41 counties throughout the state including peaks of 2366 on the Marshall Christmas Count and 3122 on the Mt. Lake-Windom Christmas Count; much more common than usual.

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**Black-bellied Plover, Duluth, Photo by Marj Carr**

# notes of interest

**SNOWY PLOVER AT MARSHALL** — One of the three small pale plovers at the sewage lagoons (at Marshall, Lyon County) today (May 1, 1976) was smaller and much lighter colored. It had dark legs and only a partial dark collar. (I had a strong disturbing feeling that this bird was not quite right for our area and made a quick sketch of the head.)



I then put the matter aside until a couple of days later, thinking that it was perhaps just an immature Semipalmated Plover. The dark legs kept bothering me, so I went to the books and confirmed my suspicion that the bird was indeed, a Snowy Plover. I have known this bird from North Dakota and Utah and I am now quite certain that it was a Snowy Plover, a fact that just didn't click immediately because I wasn't expecting to find it here. I suspect that this is exactly the reason why more Snowy Plovers have not been found among Piping Plovers in western Minnesota counties. **Henry Kyllingstad, 205 6th Street S., Marshall, Minnesota 56258.**

Editor's Note: With the above observation the Snowy Plover can now be officially added to the Minnesota state list as a hypothetical. Dr. T. S. Roberts in "The Birds of Minnesota" (1936) listed a single sight observation of this species on June 16, 1939 at Frontenac, Goodhue County by Eleanor Jilson. This record was not substantiated by details describing the bird. For this reason the record was not accepted by Green and Janssen in "Minnesota Birds" (1975). This species should be watched for in the numerous sewage lagoons in western areas of the state during the spring migration.

**TWO OBSERVATIONS OF HOODED WARBLERS** — On May 28, 1976 at approximately 10:00 A.M. in Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Minneapolis, I observed an adult male Hooded Warbler. I was attracted to the bird by its song—a rolling sound suggestive of one of the Magnolia Warbler songs. It seemed to me to be a swe e e e e t - swe e e e e t - swe-e-e-et- tee-tee repeated over and over. The bird in question was all yellow underneath except for a large black bib that extended from chin to belly. A black band extended around the side of the face to the nape and up over the top of the head to the forehead. The ear patch and side of face was yellow. The back and upper surface of wings were yellowish to olive green. The bird was observed with 8x36 Bushnell binoculars for about 10 minutes at dis-

tances of 50 to 100 feet. At Inspiration Peak, near Urbank, Ottertail County on May 31, 1976, at about 1:00 P.M. I heard the same song. After investigation, I saw briefly another male Hooded Warbler of the same description as the one above. The bird was in a mixed oak-basswood ridge with heavy brush covering the ground. The bird was observed with the same binoculars under partly cloudy skies at a distance of approximately 75 feet. **Donald Bolduc, 4211 Blaisdell Avenue So., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409.**

**CINNAMON TEAL IN GRANT COUNTY** — On April 5, 1976, at approximately 9:45 a.m., I was driving northward on Highway 59 in Grant County heading for Ottertail County. Approximately six miles south of the city of Barrett I noticed a small pond on the west side of the road, approximately 300 feet distant. Sedated by the warm sunny morning streaming in the windows, it took me a second or two to realize that the five male Blue-winged Teal inhabiting the pond had a Cinnamon Teal for a companion. Actively feeding, the ducks ignored my abrupt squealing stop. For perhaps three minutes I observed the Cinnamon Teal through 10x35 binoculars. At one time it stretched, flapping its wings, and displaying the powder blue wing patch and green speculum. Its head, neck, and body were a rich, almost glossy cinnamon. All six ducks remained in the pond as I drove off. On the return trip home the following day I again passed by the pond, but found it devoid of waterfowl. **Gary L. Otnes, Route # 2, Clarkfield, Minnesota 56223.**

**CINNAMON TEAL REPORT** — On April 29, 1976 a male and probable female were seen in Mower County by myself and Robert and Valerie Jensen. This was a seasonably wet area in a field a mile south of Austin. They were seen there May 3 for the last time and during this period other birders were able to list them. The male was doing the courtship head bobbing and a female was swimming with it. There were also Blue-winged Teal in the pond and the females were similar. We felt their actions indicated they were a pair. The head of the male seemed slightly darker than the breast and sides which were a deep rich cinnamon red. The leg and foot showed orange when it raised it once to scratch. The beak was black. The rump and tail seemed to shade toward black. There appeared to be lighter lines through the dark back. **Ronald Kneeskern, 1208 5th Street N.W., Austin, Minnesota 55912.**

**EARLY SNOWY EGRET IN MURRAY COUNTY** — In mid-afternoon on April 17, 1976, Ray Glassel, Hap Huber, Bill Litkey and I were birding the area around Current Lake in Murray County. As we scanned the lake for waterfowl, looking eastward, we noticed a white bird of the heron family flying towards us at a low level along the northwest shore. The bird was moving slowly against a strong headwind, so that all four of us were able to follow it easily with our binoculars as it approached. We noted first its all-white plumage and size, obviously smaller than a Great Egret, then the slender, black bill, and finally the dark legs and bright yellow feet which identified it to us as a Snowy Egret. The egret continued past us on our left at a distance of some 50 yards and landed less than a quarter-mile to the west. Pursuing quickly by car, we found it along the margin of a small, marshy pond, and approaching within 100 yards, were able to view the bird again. Using a 20-power B & L Balscope as well as our binoculars, we confirmed the field marks mentioned above. When Bill and Hap moved closer in an attempt to photograph the bird, it flushed and flew to an inaccessible

lake some three-quarters of a mile to the northwest. While the sky was overcast, the light was ample for clear, detailed observation for a period of several minutes. All observers have previously seen and identified Snowy Egrets in other parts of the U.S. Upon inquiring, we found that this sighting represents the earliest Spring date and the twelfth recorded observation of this species in Minnesota. **Dick Ruhme, 9655 Upton Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55431.**

**SNOWY EGRET NEAR LAKE CITY** — On Friday, May 14, 1976, we stopped on the entrance road to Hok-si-la Municipal Park, Lake City, Goodhue County. A small plumed egret was feeding in the water about 200 feet out from the road along with Mallards and Blue-winged Teal. About the same time as we were commenting on the many plumes on its head, we noticed that it had a thin, pointed black bill instead of the heavy yellow bill of the Great Egret. The only yellow was a small amount at the base of the bill extending to the eye. Its legs were black. After the bird had fed away from us about another 100 feet, it flew back to the water nearest us and showed the bright yellow feet of a Snowy Egret. In addition to the plumes at the back of the head, there were also shorter ones on the lower neck and others over the back. Checking Peterson and Robbins bird books confirmed it to be a Snowy Egret. We observed the bird through 7 x 50 binoculars and a 40x spotting scope for about 40 minutes. We checked the same area the next two days but did not see the bird again. **Dick and Gloria Wachtler, 17 Oakridge Drive, Birchwood, Minnesota 55110.**

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS AT AGASSIZ REFUGE** — On March 28, 1976 between 1:45 and 2:30 P.M. I saw two male Mountain Bluebirds near the headquarters of Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County. Both birds showed bright blue on backs, heads and tails. The breast was lighter blue, belly was whitish. Silhouette was obviously that of a bluebird or small thrush. When first seen the birds were facing away from me and were in very poor light; after walking around them so as to see the breast and be sure it was blue and not orange, I went back to the house and got Dick who came out to view the birds. Together we followed the birds around for about half an hour. Several times we had both birds in very good light as close as 30 - 35 feet. The birds were moving around the area, sometimes lighting on the ground, sometimes on a stick or small willow. Sometimes they would fly off and then back to the same place in the manner of a flycatcher. The birds did not give any sound while under observation. After the observation we consulted both Robbins Field Guide and Peterson's Western Field Guide to make sure that both birds were males. **Sarah and Dick Vasse, Agassiz N.W.R., Middle River, Minnesota 56737.**

**ANOTHER MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD IN ROCK COUNTY** — During the spring of 1974 two Mountain Bluebirds turned up in Rock County. One female was found near Hardwick in late March, and a male was seen at Blue Mounds St. Pk. in early April. Therefore, it was not all that unexpected to find another Mountain Bluebird at Blue Mounds on April 1, 1976. It was seen in the early evening feeding along the exact same section of fence as the male two years earlier. But this bird was a female, and when first spotted, it appeared a uniform grayish-brown as it perched on the fence. At first all I could think of was Eastern Phoebe, but it finally flew a short distance, revealing its bright blue tail, rump and wing tips. I knew then it was a blue-

bird, and its slimmer posture, more metallic or turquoise blue color, and lack of rusty on the breast identified it as a Mountain Bluebird. I watched it for about 20 minutes from a range of 20 to 100 feet, as it mostly sat still on the fence though periodically flying to the ground to briefly feed. Mountain Bluebirds, though currently listed as casual in Minnesota, have been turning up every recent year in early spring, mostly along the western border, and may actually be regular migrants here. Again, the unusual thing about my April 1 observation is not that this species is all that unusual, but that it was in exactly the same location as the male Mountain Bluebird in 1974. **Kim Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT AT BLUE MOUNDS** — In the late afternoon of May 12, 1976, I was birding along the wooded creek at Blue Mounds St. Pk. in Rock Co. As I approached a small plum thicket just below the dam, a bird about the size of a Harris' Sparrow (I use this size comparison because there were several Harris' around at the time) popped into view about 20 feet away. It was partly hidden by the leaves, but I could see its extensive yellow breast, greenish-brown back and white spectacles. At first the identification didn't register with me, but after a few seconds when the bird flew to the other side of the thicket, it dawned on me that I had been looking at a chat, a bird I had been searching for in this area for the past three years. Having experienced the chat's shy and skulking habits in other states, I was afraid I'd have difficulty finding the bird again for a better look. To my surprise, I had no trouble at all for the next 15 minutes following the bird around and getting unobstructed looks at it from as close as 10 to 20 feet. At leisure I had no difficulty observing the chat's breast, back and spectacles, and I could also see its thick bill and blackish lores. The bird flew and fed from bush to tree to rocks and to the ground, but at no time did it try to hide from view, nor did it call at any time (though three days later I faintly heard what may have been a chat in this area). Considering the Yellow-breasted Chat's reputation for being heard more often than seen, this was a most uncharacteristic chat. Formerly more common, the chat is now listed as only casual in the state, though it does occur regularly near Vermillion, S. D., about 80 miles southwest of Blue Mounds. Therefore, the Yellow-breasted Chat is to be looked for in the southwest corner of Minnesota. **Kim Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**WARBLER-SAPSUCKER ASSOCIATION** — Bent in *Life Histories of American Birds* reports the Yellow-rumped Warbler visiting at the borings of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker to feed on sap or insects attracted to it. On April 10, 1976, I saw an instance of this association which may be of interest. On that date while at the Roberts Sanctuary in Minneapolis I observed a sapsucker boring on a tree about four feet above its base. Sap was oozing from the holes and had defused down the trunk of the tree perhaps two and a half feet. In the area where the sap had defused, at approximately two feet below the sapsucker I saw a Yellow-rumped Warbler apparently feeding on something. I watched this for approximately five minutes. At all times the warbler kept at least two feet below the sapsucker. Finally I approached the tree to try to determine if there were any insects present that the warbler might be feeding on. This disturbed both birds which flew away. I could not find any insects visible to the naked eye. I left the area and returned about 15 minutes later and found that the birds had returned to their same relative positions as first observed. After another five minutes I left, leaving the birds still active on the tree. In any given area the sap-

sucker usually arrives during spring migration a few days ahead of the Yellow-rumped Warbler. It may be possible that this associative type of feeding is quite common as the Yellow-rumped Warbler, being ordinarily the earliest warbler in migration, probably finds very few insects to feed on and regularly makes use of the sap from sapsucker borings to supplement its diet. **Charles L. Horn, Jr., 5100 Juanita Avenue, Edina, Minnesota 55424.**

**BURROWING OWL OBSERVATION** — On May 7, 1976 I observed a Burrowing owl in Lyon County, Minnesota. The bird was 0.2 mile north of the Lyon-Murray County line on U.S. Highway 59 in Section 35, Township 109 N. Range 41 W. At 3:15 p.m. I was northbound on Highway 59 when I spotted a small creature in the ditch which I could not immediately identify. I stopped to investigate and found a Burrowing Owl standing in the ditch on the east side of the road. It was within one foot of the south entrance of a metal culvert at a field driveway. As I approached within twenty feet the owl squatted down in the grassy cover. Then it flew low onto the plowed field to the east, emitting a call consisting of a series of four or five screeches. The exposed tarsi were conspicuous as it stood on the bare ground. It was still only about 40 feet from me and I had a good opportunity to observe the owl with my 7 x 35 binoculars. Previously I had seen Burrowing Owls in prairie dog towns in southwest Oklahoma and was familiar with their identification. After several minutes the owl flew to the shoulder of the highway. It was then scared by a passing car and returned to the plowed field. The Burrowing Owl constantly watched me and occasionally bobbed its head during the next several minutes. At the culvert entrance I found two fresh bird droppings. When I looked up from the culvert the owl was gone. **Carrol Henderson, Assistant Manager, Lac qui Parle Wildlife Refuge, Watson, Minnesota 56295.**

**MAGPIE NESTING IN POLK COUNTY** — Nesting records for the Black-billed Magpie in Minnesota have been recorded in Beltrami, Marshall, Clay and Roseau counties. (*Minnesota Birds*, page 126-127). During the M.O.U. spring field trip to Crookston, Kim Eckert and I had a chance to visit the Eldor Omdahl farm on May 30, 1976. The farm is located in Brislet Township, Polk County, 4½ miles east of Highway 75 and 1½ miles south of the Marshall County line. Mr. Omdahl's farm is an "oasis" of trees, shrubs, brush and ponds in the "black desert" of the Red River Valley. When we arrived Mr. Omdahl showed us the magpie nest which was located about 20 feet up in a Blue Spruce. As we approached, the adult stayed very close to the nest, chattering in protest at our disturbance. I climbed a ladder Mr. Omdahl had provided for viewing the nest. The nest was a mass of sticks constructed in two separate parts, the upper part was like a roof over the lower nest. It was very difficult to see down into the nest, but, I could see at least two small young, there were possibly several more. Mr. Omdahl said that the magpies had been around in spring and summer for the last five years and he is sure that they have nested for at least the last three years. This site thus represents a fifth county in which magpies have been reported as breeding in Minnesota. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**IMMATURE GLAUCOUS GULL IN JUNE** — On June 5, 1976, at approximately 3:30 P.M. I was fishing trout at the mouth of the Knife River on Lake Superior, Lake Co. A pair of 10x35 binoculars hung from about my

neck. A large number of Herring Gulls, adults and immatures, were present at the mouth, flying about and resting on the shore. More in anticipation of fishing than birding, it required a few seconds to register the fact that an unusual gull was present with the Herring's overhead. The gull was distinctly tan, almost buff colored, with small dark mottling throughout its plumage. The wing primaries appeared lighter tan than the remainder of the bird. The tip of its bill bore a black spot. It could not be ascertained if the spot covered both the upper and lower mandible. The Gull was fully as large as the Herring Gull. I watched it as it accomplished two 360 degree spirals overhead at an altitude estimated between 75-100 feet, using the 10x35 binoculars. Apparently it was interested in the feeding activities of the Herring Gulls below it. However, it elected not to join them, and proceeded to fly towards the city of Duluth. During its spiral maneuvers I was able to view the dorsal and ventral aspects of its plumage. Immediately upon its departure from the area I returned to my vehicle and reviewed the gulls as pictured in the **Birds of North America**, Golden Field Guide. The gull observed as accurately depicted in the picture of a first winter immature Glaucous Gull, page 133 of the guide. Comparison of the immature Glaucous Gull with Immature Herring Gull was available at the time of the sighting, as several of the latter were present at the mouth of the Knife River. **Gary Otnes, RR#2, Clarkfield, Minnesota 56223.**

**LITTLE BLUE HERON AT WHITEWATER** — On April 23, 1976, Dave Palmquist and I were birding our way to the Twin Cities from Rochester. By 7:30 A.M. we had a pretty good list including Turkeys. As we drove north, by the ranger's residence in Whitewater we decided we should have seen a Green Heron by now and we should look in the marsh to the east. Just then, we both exclaimed "there's one!" We pulled the car over and



**The Loon**

decided to sit still in the car and see if it would come closer so we could get a picture. As the bird walked closer, we started snapping away. When the bird probed down and came up with a fish, we stopped snapping and just looked. Then half jokingly I said "that bird looks different—you don't suppose it's a Little Blue?" We peeled out our bird guides in a hurry and discovered indeed it was a Little Blue Heron! The dark legs and size, the obvious field marks we initially overlooked. With excitement we got our cameras ready again, but a truck came down the road and the bird flushed. The rest of the morning with each new sighting we kept saying "that bird looks different—you don't suppose . . ." Dave, park naturalist at White-water saw the bird on April 30 and May 2, about 6:30 A.M. in the same location. **Vince Herring, 2677 4th Ave. N.E., Rochester, Minnesota 55901.**

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK AT LAKE BENTON** — Hole in the Mountain County Park at Lake Benton, Lincoln County is perhaps Minnesota's only coulee: that is, a wooded area at the base of the Coteau des Prairies — the divide between the Missouri and Minnesota River watersheds. On May 23, 1976 there was a good wave of passerines here — many flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers and sparrows — when I caught a glimpse of a hawk flying along the edge of the trees above me. I hiked up to the top of the hill and located the hawk perched in a tree about 100 feet away. As the bird was facing me, I was immediately struck by the virtually pure white underparts: there were only a few light and random streaks on the sides of the breast. The sides of the head and neck were also whitish, and while the back of the hawk was not visible, I could see the edge of the folded wings to be reddish brown. I did not notice the leg color nor did I get an impression of size, though I did see that it was a *buteo*. As I started to walk around the bird to try to see its back, it took off and flew down behind the trees. I briefly lost sight of it, but after a few seconds it flew up out of the valley and soared overhead. As the hawk circled about 200 feet above me, I was immediately struck by the dark V of the legs and that this was a Ferruginous Hawk. The dark V stood out quite clearly since all the rest of the underparts were whitish: wing linings and primaries, breast, belly and tail. Again, I was not impressed one way or another by the size, but it did not have a chunky Red-tailed type shape because of its relatively longer wings—much like a Rough-legged. After about a minute, the hawk drifted off to one side enough to show its upperparts when it wheeled. The top of the tail was uniformly whitish, and there were distinct white "windows" near the wing-tips from above. The Ferruginous Hawk has to be one of the most misidentified *buteos*, often easily confused with some Red-tailed Hawks. I have seen Red-tails that seemed very large, or that had a whitish tail, or that showed "windows" on the upper surface of the wings, or that looked whitish enough to resemble a Ferruginous. While any light-phase adult Ferruginous should show these four marks, they should not be considered as diagnostic since some Red-tails show these characteristics. From the Ferruginous Hawks I have seen (including one about ten years ago in Minnesota) and from talking with others, I conclude that the dark V of the legs is probably the most diagnostic field mark since **all** adult light-phase Ferruginous Hawks that I know have this character, and **no** Red-tails that I have ever seen showed this. Other helpful Ferruginous field marks would be the longer wings (giving the bird a non-chunky and non-Red-tailed shape), rufous coloration on the upperparts, and lack of a band of streaks across the belly (which is characteristic of the Red-tail). The problem is that these marks are not always visible, so the fact remains that the Ferruginous Hawk is often a

difficult bird to identify. **Kim Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**MORE ON RUFFED GROUSE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY** — In "The Loon" Vol. 47:143, Jerry Sivets reported a Ruffed Grouse brood at Morris Baker County Park in Hennepin County. We have seen grouse broods in Elm Creek and Baker Park Reserves in both 1975 and 1976. Drumming males have been heard in Elm Creek, Baker and Crow-Hassan Park Reserves for the past three years. The Park Reserve District did introduce several birds captured at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge into Elm Creek in 1972, but, the other birds have moved in on their own. Spring populations for each Park Reserve are probably only four or five grouse. This is a precarious situation, but, they appear to be surviving. **Larry Gillette, Hennepin County Park Reserve District.**

**BIRDS OF PREY MORTALITY** — In a recent discussion with some people regarding predation and mortality of wildlife, the question arose as to what were the mortality factors for some of the "top carnivores" in the bird world. I have thought about this and, in going through my records, came up with the following documented mortality factors on birds of prey as I have witnessed in the Crow Wing County area since August of 1969, to the present. (Summer 1976). Number killed is in ( ).

#### Road Kills

Broad-winged Hawk (8)  
American Kestrel (3)  
Red-tailed Hawk (1)  
Immature Bald Eagle (1)  
Great Horned Owl (2)  
Long-eared Owl (1)  
Saw-whet Owl (1)

#### Shot

Broad-winged Hawk (2)  
Goshawk (2)  
Red-tailed Hawk (1)  
Bald Eagle (1)  
Cooper's Hawk (1)  
Great Horned Owl (2)  
Barred Owl (2)

The following is the number of birds that have been caught in improper muskrat and mink sets primarily. Not all animals died or were severely injured because they were removed promptly.

#### Traps

Red-tailed Hawk (3)  
Goshawk (2)  
Immature Bald Eagle (1)

Rough-legged Hawk (1)  
Great Horned Owl (12)  
Snowy Owl (1)

Two other mortality records are submitted for the Broad-winged Hawk. These were a result of predation: two nestlings were destroyed by a raccoon; one adult was killed in early morning by a Great Horned Owl. This is not a condemnation, but, a documentation of present day mortality factors for birds of prey. I am in the process of further investigations regarding hawks and owls and would appreciate any information regarding mortality that might be available. **Douglas C. Keran, Instructor, Fisheries and Wildlife Technology, Brainerd Area Technical Institute, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts**, compiled and edited by Daryl D. Tessen, Revised Edition, The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, 1976; 93 maps, 334 pages, \$4.95.

Once you get past the cover with its curious title and a strange drawing of what appears to be a Hudsonian Godwit, you'll find what has to be the most complete and exhaustive bird finding guide anywhere. Over 300 pages of information is here, all for the very reasonable price of 5 bucks, and while 90 birding areas are listed on the title page and table of contents there are probably over 500 spots mentioned in all since each of the 90 areas is subdivided into an average of five or six more specific locations.

Besides Editor Tessen, 63 birders contributed information and wrote the articles. If you don't know who Daryl Tessen is, you should be ashamed of yourself: get out eight dollars and buy a subscription to **American Birds**, because along with Bob Janssen, Daryl compiles the seasonal reports for the Western Great Lakes region. His credentials, therefore, are flawless to do such a guide even though he resides just across the Wisconsin line in Elgin, Illinois. But don't hold that against him: it's no worse than living in South Dakota and doing all your birding in Minnesota.

By far the best thing about this guide has to be the maps. All 90 areas are neatly and clearly mapped by Rick Robbins, who, unless related to Sam Robbins, I've never heard of. But it is his excellent maps that distinguish this guide above most other guides of this sort. Probably the worst mistake in the book is that the acknowledgement "to Rick Robbins for preparing the maps" is much too brief and unjustly buried in the introduction with the names of many others, none of whom probably came close to contributing as much.

Besides the maps, the book seems to

excel in its completeness. All of the state's experts seem to have been consulted, including La Crosse resident and past M. O. U. President Fred Leshner, who is true to his Minnesota roots and sneaks in an account of the La Crescent marsh which is on the "wrong" side of the border. Also, as far as I know, none of Wisconsin's better birding spots have been left out with two marginal exceptions. One is that the Upper Lake area just across the river from Red Wing is only marginally described, not mentioning interesting side roads and excellent river-bottom woods. The other is that the famous concentration of Canada Geese at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge is not directly mentioned. There are vague references to "many geese and ducks", "spectacular" feeding flights, and "large numbers of geese", but nothing else is said and nowhere does the name Canada Goose appear.

As good and as valuable as this guide is, there are still a few serious flaws. The most serious omission is that there is no index to bird species or to place names. A state-county map locates all the birding spots by number, and a table of contents lists the 90 areas, but most of the names of these areas are counties or cities, so that many good birding areas are named and buried somewhere in the text. So, for example, if you've heard that Wisconsin Point is a good migrant trap or that Little Gulls nest at Atkinson Marsh, you'll have to page through the whole book before you'll find where they are. Even more disappointing is the lack of species index. In these days of impatient listers interested in chasing only certain species, such an index is virtually essential. Most birders have never seen a Spruce Grouse or a Connecticut Warbler or a Henslow's Sparrow, and while you can find these in Wisconsin, you literally have to read the entire 334 pages

to be sure to find all the potential areas.

Another problem with trying to use this guide is that it's often difficult to sort out the more outstanding spots from the ordinary ones. Several areas say little or nothing about what birds to expect, so how do you judge whether to go there or not? For example, Superior, which is Location 19, is divided into four separate areas, two of which fail to mention any birds; another is Park Falls, number 27, which has eight birding spots but only three say what birds there are. A fair part of the book seems to waste time on common species: while there is nothing wrong with listing widespread species that are representative of an area's habitat, several areas lose their appeal when they highlight common birds as attractions to be looked for.

Barron County has one area that is supposed to be checked for Song Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat, and no less than two areas in which Black-capped Chickadees should be looked for. A final inconvenience is that seasonality is often obscure and even lacking in the articles. This is especially true for the winter season: few areas have information for this season. Virtually all the areas are partial to migration and/or summer (often with no distinction between the two), so that the winter birder has to page through a lot of material before finding much on winter possibilities.

But in spite of these shortcomings, there is no doubt that this is a guide worth having. It may be hard to find things and to sort through the wealth of material, but there's a lot of information here about a state that has almost as much to offer as Minnesota. Isn't that right, Fred?

**Kim Eckert**

**Breeding Birds of North Dakota** by Robert E. Stewart, Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo, 1975; 185 maps, 79 photographs, 18 paintings, 295 pages, \$18.50.

While there are a lot of state bird

books around, I'm not aware of any of them that compare with **Breeding Birds of North Dakota**. The main reason for this is that I've never heard of a state monograph that limited itself to the breeding season. You will not even find a list of migrant and wintering birds stuck somewhere in an appendix, for such is not the author's purpose. A bird book limited in this way may be unique, and thus it is easy to say that it is the best of its kind. But this excellent work is also better than most of any sort. Author Stewart, more than qualified for this project with his many years experience in the state, did not merely play the role of editor and compiler, relying on the field work of others. During the 1960's, Stewart spent ten systematic years covering not only every county, but almost every township in North Dakota. While the field notes of others and the ornithological literature was not overlooked (15 pages of appendix attest to this), the real quality of this book is attributable mostly to Stewart's thorough field work.

Of the 196 species known to have bred in North Dakota, the ranges of all but a few have been mapped. And these maps are a full half page, showing not a shaded breeding range, not symbols mapped per mere counties, but symbols delineated down to townships for each breeding species! I know of no range maps in any book to be as accurate, and such is only the result of the author's personal observations. Each species account, on the average about a page long, also includes information on how rare or common the bird is in different parts of the state, breeding habitat, nesting dates, nest construction and location, and clutch sizes. But clearly, the maps are the most impressive thing in the book.

Almost as impressive are the 38 pages of introductory material. Even if you read no farther than this, you would be excellently informed about the state and its birds. The most eye-catching part of the introduction is

the eight page section of habitat photos. Sixteen half-page color photographs vividly explore the state's prairie wetlands and grasslands, riparian woods, deciduous forests of the Turtle Mountains and Pembina Hills (an unexpected and very inviting area), ponderosa pines and badlands of the West. Each photo is captioned with the characteristic trees, shrubs and grasses identified, along with the bird species associated with it. Complementing these excellent maps is a detailed and valuable account entitled "Environmental Relationships of Breeding Birds". No less than 20 pages is devoted to every geographic region of North Dakota and each habitat community of the state, outlining the vegetation and birds associated with them. Even habitats such as farmsteads, towns and cities are included, and no less than eight distinct types of deciduous forest are described, along with ten different kinds of wetlands. A more complete analysis could hardly be imagined. The introduction also includes an account of the climate and physiography, three maps (physical features, biotic areas and place names), an explanation of the book's format, a discussion of breeding populations, and a brief account of how the state has changed environmentally since the 1800's.

You have to look pretty hard to find any faults. One might question why the state's six introduced species are purposely without range maps. While few care about the House Sparrow's range, there are many interested in pheasant, Gray Partridge and Turkey. Also, a few of the 22 "hypothetical" breeding species seem to be included in the book on pretty slim evidence. For example, the Wood Thrush is included only on the basis of a bird seen on May 30 (why not a migrant?) and another on July 4. Two "summer" Cerulean Warblers are included, one on June 1 and 2 and another on May 28; again, why weren't they migrants? Some of these species for which there is no hard breeding

evidence are even mapped. Probably the biggest shortcoming, in my opinion, is the inclusion of the 18 paintings by Walter Weber and Roger Tory Peterson. I believe it would have been better to omit them and keep the cost of the book down a bit. As highly as I'd recommend this book, you could hardly fault anyone for being hesitant to buy it with its \$18.50 price tag. The paintings seem to add little to the book; there are already 63 excellent photos of birds scattered through the text, almost all of them full or half page in size. Besides, Weber just doesn't appeal to me; a few of his paintings were OK but most of them were mediocre or just plain bad. And while no one could doubt Peterson's talent, haven't we seen enough of him already?

So buy this book if you can afford it. Observers in northwestern Minnesota especially would want to be aware of how the birds in neighboring North Dakota are doing. When you see how relatively common things like Ferruginous Hawk, California Gull, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Lark Bunting and Baird's Sparrow are in the eastern half of that state, it makes you wonder about the possibilities in our own state. Minnesota, it seems, has something to learn from North Dakota for a change.

**Kim Eckert**

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#### **REVISION SHEET AVAILABLE**

A sheet of corrections and additions for the book **A Birder's Guide to Minnesota** is now available. Those wishing a copy should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Kim Eckert, Box 47, Garretson South Dakota 57030.

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# THE COMMON LOON: Part I

by Judy McIntyre

The call of the loon brings to mind many things — the arrival of spring, wilderness, clear waters, the forested north country, mystery. For Minnesotans it means something special. In 1961 the Common Loon became our official State Bird and many of us share a possessive fondness for these large black and white diving birds that grace our lakes all summer.

Loons belong to the order **Gaviformes** and are birds of the northern hemisphere. The Common Loon breeds only in North America, Greenland and Iceland, although a recent report told of a pair nesting in Scotland. The other three species, Arctic Loon, Yellow-billed Loon and Red-throated Loon occur in northern Europe and Asia as well as in North America. The only one of the four that breeds in Minnesota is the Common Loon; the others are more northern.

Loons are normally present in Minnesota from April to November. They arrive when the ice leaves the lakes and a few are seen in late March when there is open water only in the rivers and lake inlets. Their fall departure occurs over an extended time and many are present on the larger lakes until they start to freeze. In October concentrations of several hundred to a thousand may be seen on Mille Lacs lake.

Loons use both large and small lakes for nesting and prefer a nest site on an island or small clump of sedge in a sheltered bay. Clutches usually consist of two eggs, sometimes one, and very rarely three. Loons may

re-nest if the eggs are destroyed and four nesting attempts have been recorded when eggs have been lost to predators, flooding, or deserted because of disturbance.

Both adults share in incubating the eggs (27 to 31 days) and caring for the young (11 weeks). Slightly less than half successfully raise young in any one year and the average brood size for these successful pairs is 1.5 fledged juveniles. Young raised on small lakes leave when they are about three months old and move to nearby lakes until they migrate.

Although each loon pair requires a territory that averages about 100 acres and thus may seem to be of solitary habits, groups of loons gather during July and August for ritualized ceremonies that have been referred to as Social Gatherings, Greeting Ceremonies, and Summer Flocking. These can be seen day after day on the same lakes from early in the morning until nine or ten o'clock and in the late afternoon and early evening. Their significance is still being debated and is not yet completely understood.

Loons are subject to human disturbance and will leave their nest if fishermen, boaters, or canoers come too close. This leaves the eggs exposed and vulnerable to predators. European studies of Arctic Loons show that loons are long-lived and may live to 30 or 40 years. Thus, the effect of continued inability to raise young may not be seen for many years and at this time a decline in Minnesota is not apparent. Although there are counties where loons formerly nested but have not done so for many years there are other areas where drained land, allowed to go back to its former lake condition, have re-attracted nesting birds. Some loons breed close to the

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*Editors Note: This is the first in a series of articles on our state bird by Judy McIntyre. Forthcoming articles will deal more specifically with the biology of the Common Loon.*

metropolitan area and some individuals are still seen occasionally on city lakes in Minneapolis throughout the summer.

To observe loons go to any part of Minnesota north from the Twin Cities where there are lakes. Loons are abundant in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, in the area made famous for loons by Sigurd Olson Jr.'s study. In Itasca State Park loons may easily be viewed during the summer on many lakes from the park roads. The fall concentrations at Mille Lacs can best be seen from the north and west sides.

During the months when Minnesota lakes are frozen loons winter off all the coasts of North America. Banding records are few but those available indicate the Minnesota population flies to Lake Michigan and from there to the Gulf of Mexico. Juveniles do not return to the breeding grounds until they become sexually mature and they

remain in coastal waters for at least two years.

Increased recreational pressures in our lake areas indicate that management may need to be implemented in the future to provide quiet sites during their May and June nesting period. In some areas, such as New Hampshire and Michigan, loon populations have declined and efforts are being made to provide undisturbed nesting habitat.

We are lucky. Every year thousands of loons summer on Minnesota lakes and thrill us with their exciting calls and spectacular displays. Our lake country is a heritage that we hold precious and one that deserves to be passed on to succeeding generations. Loons are a symbol of that treasure, their calls are tangible indicators that we have preserved the quality of our northern wilderness.—Oikos Farm, LaPorte, Minnesota 56461.



Can you find the Common Nighthawk chick in this picture?  
Photo by Jan Green, Blue Mounds State Park, July 16, 1976

## 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** invite you to submit 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, July and November to Mrs. Janet Green. See inside front cover.

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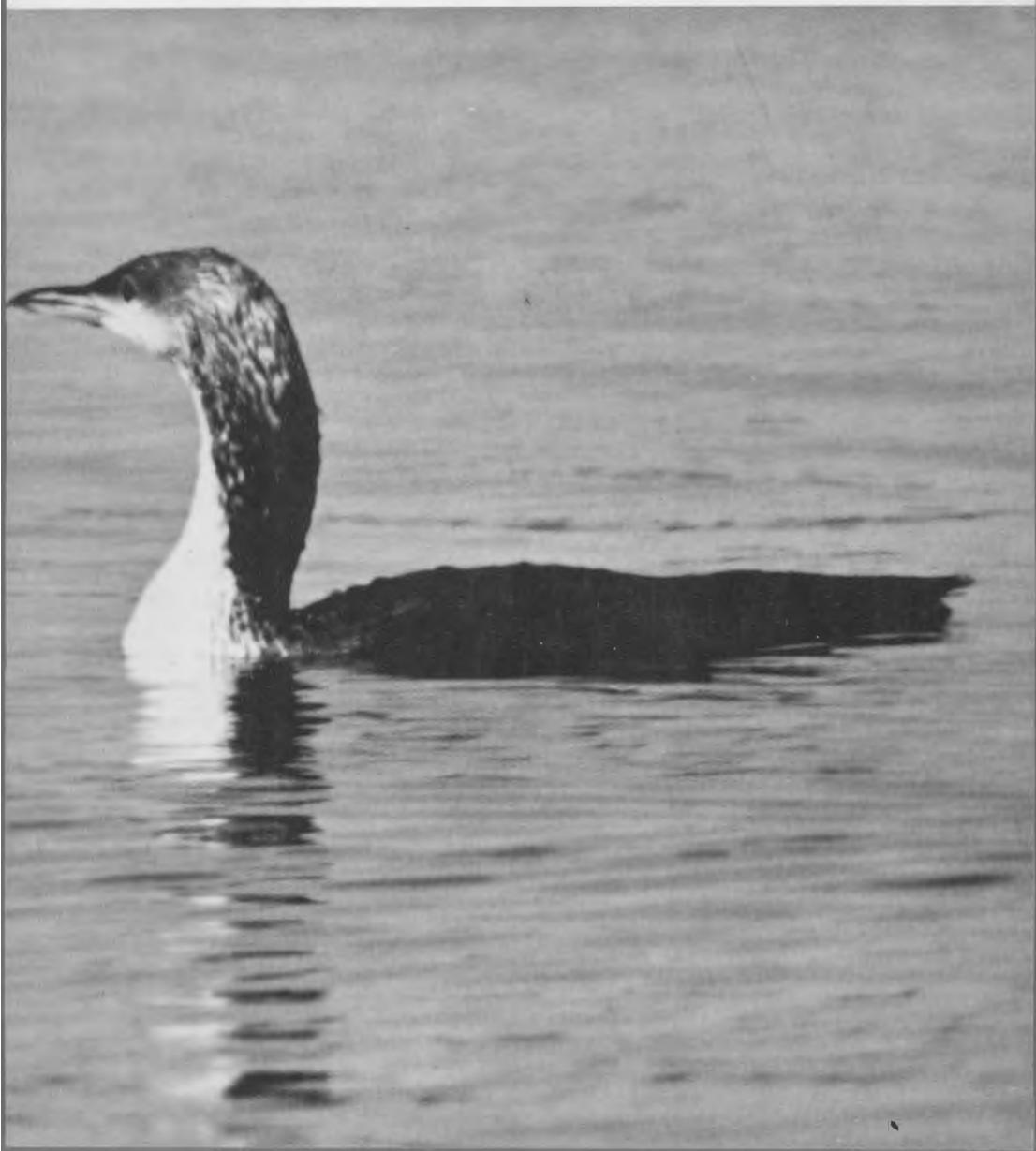
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**MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Karol Gresser, 8850 Goodrich Ave., Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, send Mrs. Gresser \$5 for a regular yearly subscription. Or other classes of membership that you 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 (minimum lots of 20 for \$1.50 postage paid). Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should also be sent to Mrs. Gresser.

**EDITOR OF THE LOON:** Robert B. Jansen, 14321 Prince Place, Hopkins MN. 55343. (phone 938-7464). The editor invites 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 invite 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. Marilyn Mauritz, 6810 Tecumseh Lane, 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'm sure every retiring president of MOU has had to resist the urge to entitle his last President's Page a "swan song" or some other play on bird words. In gratitude to those of you of MOU who have been most helpful and understanding for the last two years I will go no further with that nonsense!

More seriously, I really do feel that an officer retiring from an organization such as this can't help but accumulate large debts of gratitude. Special thanks are due this year to our retiring treasurer, Karol Gresser. Her work in this tedious job has been outstanding. All of MOU's membership has benefited. I'll not try to call individual attention to the rest of an enormous group of people for fear of missing someone.

I learned something in the last two years. My experiences as president confirmed my suspicions that MOU is far more than a group of people interested in birds and birding. It is clearly a group of people interested in environmental affairs and a group with remarkably uniform ideas of what a good environment can be. It's also a group of people willing to take a stand publicly as well as privately on the matters about which they have concern. That's great. I sincerely hope that attitude will persist and even develop further in this organization. People who take stands as environmentalists often are accused of being obstructionists. I don't think that would be a fair accusation for MOU. We have taken stands "for" many things rather than taking stands "against." We have said that we are for public retention of present public lands in northwestern Minnesota. We've said we are for careful study of potentially damaging projects such as mining development and timbering in northern Minnesota and the Garrison project in North Dakota. In general, we've said we're for knowing what we do to our environment as we attempt to provide a better life for humans. We all know that the most noble motive can do more damage than good if ill applied.

I've learned something else that the rest of you probably knew. Public officials, whether appointed for us or elected by us, benefit from our watching. They particularly benefit when we applaud their plusses and boo their minuses, and get the word to them. I have been favorably impressed with the response that most of my communications in the name of MOU have received at the state level. In general, answers have been reasonably prompt and pretty well informed. If we as an organization and as individuals stay awake in this regard, the situation should remain at least as good if not become better. That's worth working for.

Jack Mauritz

## BERT LYSTOR'S 1984 SPRING SEASON

The weather during Spring 1984 continued warm and very dry. Drought conditions which began ten years ago show no signs of letting up; weather modification programs or "cloud seeding" efforts have succeeded in getting Minnesota clouds to precipitate profusely — but only after they reach Wisconsin. Lakes, potholes and marshes continue to dry up to the extent that no one reported any water birds away from Lake Superior. Also note the effect of intense agricultural practices on cover for pheasants, and pressure from farmers to control marauding flocks of introduced Carolina Parakeets. With the Superior National Forest now completely lumbered and mined, the Chukar population continues to thrive in clear-cut areas with abandoned open-pit copper and nickel mines. Also interesting is the recent transformation of Duluth from a fall to a spring flyway for hawks, now that taconite tailings are filling in Lake Superior to the extent that there is no longer a "North Shore." Court appeals in the ten year old Reserve Mining case, however, are said to be near settlement.

This spring a total of ten species was reported, which is now about average for this season. This is partly due to conditions described above and partly due to continued "lumping" of species by the N. B. U. (National Birding Union), the organization formed from the remains of the conflict between the now defunct American Ornithologists Union and American Birding Association. Only six observers sent in reports. Birding activity is now at an all time low with the Arab oil boycott raising gas prices to \$6.00 a gallon, and with the German binocular boycott raising the price of a pair of Leitz Trinovids to \$5000. Most of the observations below come from Duluth, former birding hot spot of the 1970's, as most birders have flocked to reside

there in order to avoid the cost of driving up from the Twin Cities. As a final introductory note, DB and SC ran the 15th annual Minnesota Big Day on May 20 and had a record low total of seven species; next year they plan to rename this activity "Little Day" — with luck they hope to hit a record five species.

### **Prairie Falcon**

Early north 4-12 Duluth EM; 4-23 Duluth (865) AT; almost unknown in the state in the 1960's, this species is now regular due to our much drier climate; now that taconite tailings have filled up most of Lake Superior, Duluth is now on the South Shore of the lake and is a spring flyway for hawks.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Reported only from Duluth where the birds have adapted to nesting in grain trucks; this species was formerly common throughout most of the state, but intense farming methods have caused it to disappear from its former range.

### **Chukar**

Reported from St. Louis, Lake and Cook Co's; peak 5-8 Lake (2160) PP; thought to be disappearing in the 1970's, this species has done very well in the Superior National Forest thanks to clear cutting and the multitude of abandoned copper and nickel mines.

### **Duluth Polar Skua**

Early north 3-14 St. Louis DB; late north 5-17 Cook SC; in the 1970's birders were confused as to the true identity of most jaegers seen; recent research by AT has shown that all jaegers on Lake Superior are forms of the new species *Skua duluthensis*, and that Parasitic, Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers should all be dropped from the state list.

### **Sea Gull**

Reported from St. Louis, Lake and Cook Co's; birders formerly had identification problems trying to separate Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls; thanks to a recent ruling by the N. B. U., all North American gulls have been lumped into the single species **Larus lumpus**, thus eliminating the confusion.

### **Rock Dove**

Peak 3-28 Duluth (2,230,272,000), Alexander Wilson; Wilson reported that this flock was 240 miles long and a mile wide, and that the birds blotted out the noonday sun.

### **Carolina Parakeet**

Reported from 13 counties north to Traverse, Stearns and Chisago; formerly thought to be extinct, this species was rediscovered among the farmlands and orchards of Minnesota in 1977; wild celebration among ornithologists marked this rediscovery then, but now the parakeet is so numerous that it is consuming crops grown by farmers who want to see it eradicated as was the Monk Parakeet in the 1970's.

### **Starling**

Reported from all 87 counties on a trip by EM and PP from 5-11 to 5-24; their trip cost them a total of \$873.92 for gas.

### **House Sparrow**

Reported from 86 counties on this same trip; they missed this species only in St. Louis Co. where it is said this species no longer exists due to competition with the Rock Dove.

### **Dickie Bird**

Early north 3-1 Duluth BL; late north 5-31 Duluth BL; another recent action by the N. B. U. lumped all non-introduced passerines into the single species **Passerine dickii**, thus completing the goal of the former A. O. U. which began this project in the early 1970's.

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Dickie Birdlover, DB  
Scott County, SC  
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Elvira Mentalist, EM  
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## **BALD EAGLE RESEARCH PROJECT**

During the 1976 field season, several graduate students and I again banded and colormarked nestling Bald Eagles in conjunction with our studies on The Chippewa National Forest. We would appreciate receiving reports of sightings of these birds from field personnel or others making such observations. Please write to L. D. Frenzel, Dept. Ent. Fish. & Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Color-marking techniques employed were 1) non-toxic plastic paint to secondary flight feathers (mid-wing area), and 2) colored patagial tags (one inch strips of plasticized nylon around the middle of each wing). Authorized colors of white, blaze orange, and blue were used in coded combinations to individually mark eaglets.

Your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated, and in the past has resulted in 25% sighting returns of birds marked. This unusually high return has provided important information contributing to better understanding and managing this wildlife resource.

# AN AUTUMN 1976 JAEGER INVASION IN DULUTH

by Dean Schneider

Although three species of jaegers have been seen in Minnesota, the Parasitic, the Pomarine, and the Long-tailed, all are listed in Green's and Janssen's *Minnesota Birds* as very rare to accidental. The Parasitic is given as very rare on Lake Superior and casual elsewhere in the fall. Both the Pomarine (four fall records, all on Lake Superior) and the Long-tailed (two fall records, one spring, one summer, none of which were on Lake Superior) are accidental. The harbor area of Duluth is where by far the most jaegers are seen, but even here, more than one to three sightings in a given autumn would be unusual. This fall, some eleven observers logged a minimum of 18 sightings as given in Table 1.

## Species, Age, and Color Phase

Though even a distant jaeger may be easily identified as a jaeger, deter-

mining the species is difficult without an excellent look. A good look at a jaeger is rare, since the typical observation in Duluth seems to be of a distant bird flying rapidly. This combined with the lack of experience of most Minnesota observers in identifying jaegers, resulted in a number of doubtful species identifications. It is actually often easier to note the color phase and whether the jaeger is adult or immature than it is to tell the species. However, definite species identifications were made on two Pomarine Jaegers, an adult, and an immature, bringing the total of Pomarine sightings for Minnesota to six. A Note of Interest by Kim Eckert on his Pomarine sighting appears in this issue of the LOON. Considering the rarity of the Pomarine and Long-tailed, it is very likely that all sightings of unidentified species were Parasitics.

TABLE 1. AUTUMN JAEGER SIGHTINGS IN DULUTH, 1976. All locations, except as noted were in the harbor area.

Species	Number	Date	Comments
Parasitic?	2	Aug. 5	Both adults.
Parasitic	2	Aug. 11	Both adults. Caught shorebird
Pomarine	1	Aug. 12	Light phase adult
Parasitic	1	Aug. 12	Dark phase immature
Parasitic	1	Aug. 13	Dark phase immature
Parasitic	3	Aug. 13	Adults. Harrassing a martin
Jaeger sp.	1	Aug. 17	
Pomarine	1	Aug. 17	Adult, dark phase, at Stoney Point
Parasitic?	1	Aug. 22	Light phase. Killed and ate swallow
Parasitic	2	Sept. 1	One dark, one light phase. Adults
Jaeger sp.	2	Sept. 4	
Jaeger sp.	1	Sept. 25	Immature

### Dates of Observations

The range of dates for the Parasitic Jaeger is given in Green and Janssen for northern Minnesota as August 22 to September 21. The earliest date of this fall is for August 11, or 11 days earlier than the previous early date. In fact, most of the Parasitics (seven) were seen this fall before August 22, and the latest date was only September 1, so the invasion not only began early, but ended early as well.

### Behavioral Observations

The jaegers were seen singly, and in groups of two and three. All were seen flying, and many harrassed gulls, terns, and swallows. None were seen perched.

On August 11, as I was walking along the Lake Superior shoreline on Minnesota Point, I saw two adult Parasitic Jaegers fly by me about 20 m above the water and perhaps an equal distance from shore. They continued along the shoreline about 1000 m, then one began chasing a lone shorebird — a “peep” — low over the water. After closely following several swift turns of the peep, the jaeger gracefully plucked the bird out of the air with its beak. It then flew on, the peep dangling by its head or neck, with the other jaeger in pursuit. In the course of the two jaeger's struggles, the peep was dropped several times, each time beginning to fly away, but quickly being recaptured. A Herring Gull soon joined the fracas, which then ended with all participants on the water. The two jaegers shortly flew on, apparently leaving the peep with the gull, though at this distance, I could not be sure.

On August 22, Steve and Jo Blanch and Terry Savaloja watched a jaeger pursue a swallow and force it to the surface of the lake where it killed and ate it. They watched the jaeger

eat for nearly an hour, during which time it successfully defended its prey against a Herring Gull.

### Weather

The jaeger invasion proved to be the beginning of what Minnesota birders are now calling a “wild” fall, particularly in north-eastern Minnesota. Unusual numbers of Western North America species appeared, and northern birds also came down early and in high numbers, such as Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, and Snowy Owls.

Weather, always a prime factor in migrations, is of particular interest this year. A severe drought began in May and continued into winter. While August was unusually hot, and September's temperatures were fairly normal, October was very cold. The drought was coincidental with a continental strong westerly flow of air. In addition, arctic air masses began moving south very early this fall.

Both Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers breed on the islands of the Arctic Ocean and migrate south along the east and west coasts of North America. Therefore they could have been affected by the unusual westerly and northerly air flows, as other birds apparently were.

### Conclusions

Since several jaeger sightings (one a Pomarine) early in August are very unusual, it is possible that they caused more than normal interest in birding on Minnesota Point early this fall. This may have increased the number of sightings, but I still think it is safe to conclude that there was a remarkably large and early jaeger migration through Duluth this autumn.

Breaking the data down by species, color phase, and age provides numbers that are far too small to permit any significant further conclusions, however. **4722 Cooke Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55804.**

# BIRDS OF RICE COUNTY, MINNESOTA (Part I)

By Orwin A. Rustad

This is the second intensive bird survey of Rice County, Minnesota area to be published. The first, **Survey of the Birds of Rice County, Minnesota**, appeared in **The Flicker**, 29:43-63 and 100-118. A winter bird population census has been regularly conducted during the annual Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society. A summary of these counts, **Winter Birds of Rice County, Minnesota** (A 25 year summary) is published in **The Loon**, 48:11-13. Annual reports appear in **American Birds**, and earlier in the **Audubon Field Notes** under the heading of "Faribault, Minnesota."

All records and observations were conducted by the writer, unless otherwise stated. The survey includes the 14 townships of the county, which is located in the South central geographical region of Minnesota. General observations, and records have been kept by the writer, since before 1934. However, during recent years a more intensive faunal study has been conducted.

For the purpose of consistency, this paper follows **The New York State Standards of Abundance, Frequency, and Seasonal Occurrence**, Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 11, No. 1, Feb. 1957, Pp. 63-64.

## Frequency Standard

**Regular:** Recorded every year.

**Irregular:** Recorded less than once every year, but no less than once in five years, on the average.

**Occasional:** Recorded less than once in five years, but no less than once in ten years, on the average.

**Sporadic:** Recorded less than once in ten years, but no less than once in twenty years, on the average.

**Casual:** Recorded less than once in twenty years, on the average.

**Exotic (or accidental):** Recorded but because of its normal range not expected to occur again.

## Seasonal Occurrence

**Residents:** Breeding species; may occur as summer residents or permanent residents.

**Transients:** Birds of passage which occur in spring and/or fall but do not breed; may occur as spring transients or fall transients.

**Visitants:** Non-breeding birds which occur as temporary visitants; may occur as summer visitants, winter visitants, or vagrant visitants (irregular as to season).

The nomenclature and taxonomic sequence of this paper follows that of **Minnesota Birds, Where, When, and How Many** by Janet C. Green and Robert B. Janssen.

## LOONS

### Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

A fairly regular transient on Cannon, Sakatah and Wells Lakes. March 28, 1974 is the earliest spring record. Average for 11 dates: April 14-15. Latest fall record: Nov. 18, 1971, when six were seen on Cannon Lake.

## GREBES

### Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

An occasional transient on Cannon, General Shields and Wells Lakes. Only three known records for the county, with the most recent in 1966. Earliest spring records: April 18, 1965; the latest April 26, 1966.

### Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

An irregular transient, usually to be seen on Cannon and Wells Lakes, and occasionally on General Shields and Upper Sakatah Lakes. The earliest spring arrival date: April 2, 1964; the latest April 23, 1952. Average of 7 dates: April 14. One late summer record: August 28, 1952.

### Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

A sporadic transient observed at Cannon, General Shields and Wells

Lakes. Earliest spring records: April 27, 1953; the latest May 6, 1951. Only single individuals have been recorded at one time, with one exception when five were seen on April 29, 1965 on Wells Lake. One late summer record: August 28, 1952.

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

A casual transient with only one record for the county on April 17, 1971 at Circle Lake (**The Loon**, 43:24).

**Pied-billed Grebe** (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

A regular summer resident nesting at General Shields Lake and Twin Lake, and several large ponds near the north city limits of Faribault. Earliest spring arrival date: March 13, 1966. Average of 17 dates: March 28. The latest fall record is December 19, 1952 when two were seen in Northfield (**The Flicker**, 24:29). Nesting at Twin Lakes is recorded in **The Flicker**, 26:67. During the summer of 1976 the Pied-billed Grebes have regularly been seen at General Shields and Twin Lakes.

**PELICANS**

**White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

An irregular spring transient, less frequently seen in the fall. Earliest spring arrival date: April 3, 1951. The latest: April 27, 1953. Average of ten dates: April 18. Peak record date: April 18, 1937 when 20 were seen on the S.W. shore of Cannon Lake. Fall record: one individual was seen at Cannon Lake on Oct. 15, 1950 (**The Flicker**, 22:122).

**CORMORANTS**

**Double-crested Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

In the 1950's the cormorant was a regular summer resident on Cannon, General Shields and Wells Lakes. But because of a lack of recent nesting records, or of summer residents in the county, it is presumed to be an irregular transient at this time. In years of

peak number, the earliest spring arrival date was April 1, 1953, when six were seen on General Shields Lake. Average: April 8. Latest fall date: Oct. 23, 1951 when 20 were seen on Wells Lake. The peak years in numbers were 1951 when 500 were recorded on Wells Lake on April 17, and again in 1953 when 500 were recorded on April 27 on General Shields Lake. On May 1, 1952, 50 were observed on the S.W. corner of Heron Island at General Shields Lake. A similar roost was reported to be found on the S.W. shore of Canon Lake.

Not uncommon in the 50's was to see several dozen cormorants sunning themselves in the early spring sun on the west shore of Heron Island at General Shields Lake in the characteristic out-stretched wing manner. However, during those years, "cormorant hunts" were very popular, especially on week-ends, with dozens of dead birds found on the shore of Heron Island and General Shields Lake at the end of the day. There has been a drastic decline in the number of birds since the mid-50's. It is now rare to see a cormorant in Rice County.

Nesting: 10 occupied nests were recorded on July 20, 1956 on Heron Island at General Shields Lake by Robert Hanlon (**The Flicker**, 24:121). One female was collected (Pettingill) on May 5, 1940 at Northfield.

There are few recent records. An observation was reported for Rice County on April 25, 1966 (**The Loon**, 38:85). On May 1, 1970 three were observed at Cody Lake in the northwest part of the county. The most recent record was reported by Fran Teske, DNR Conservation Officer, having seen a small flock of cormorants during the 1971 spring migration.

**HERONS and BITTERNS**

**Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*)

A regular resident, nesting commonly on the 6.40 acre Heron Island at General Shields Lake. Earliest spring arrival date: March 10, 1974; the latest: April 30, 1939. Average of

27 dates: March 20-22. Records for the Great Blue Heron have been kept since 1938. The history of Heron Island dates back in the memory of older settlers and their descendants for at least 85 years. In 1968, Heron Island was purchased by the Rice County Park System and officially designated as a Bird Sanctuary. It is a part of the 104 acre McCullough County Park located along the N.W. shore of General Shields Lake.

A nesting survey of the heronry that was made by the writer on May 6, 1951 revealed that about 573 nests were built in 151 trees, with one to 24 nests in a tree, averaging 3.79 nests per tree (**The Flicker**, 24:120). All nests at this time apparently were occupied by Great Blue Herons.

On July 20, 1956 Robert Hanlon made a nesting survey finding 233 nests in 71 trees, averaging 3.28 nests per occupied tree. The density of breeding has decreased since 1951. Of the 233 nests, 214 were occupied by Great Blue Herons, 10 were occupied by Double-crested Cormorants and nine were in use by Great Egrets (**The Flicker**, 28:130-132).

Young have been observed being fed in the nest as early as April 27, 1953 and as late as July 4, 1953 (**The Flicker**, 26:67). Although no recent nesting survey has been conducted at Heron Island, the colony was still very active during the 1976 nesting season.

In 1972, a new colony of Great Blue Herons was started along the Cannon River about one mile east of Morris-town, with about 58 active nests at that time. In 1975, the Dutch Elm disease started killing the nesting trees exposing the nests. By the summer of 1976 all of the nesting trees were dead with adjoining trees also showing the invasion of the disease. The colony was abandoned in 1976. One can only speculate that the leafless trees caused the birds to desert the colony, and what might happen to the established colony at Heron Island when the disease spreads to that area, as the majority of the nest-

ing trees there are the White Elm.

A nesting colony also existed for a number of years on an island in west Cedar Lake, but was abandoned about 1940.

#### **Green Heron** (*Butorides virescens*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: April 24, 1975; the latest: May 23, 1969. Average of 14 dates: May 9-10. Nesting: young were seen on June 26, 1951, and June 21, 1952 at Northfield. Adults were seen feeding young on the nest at Northfield on July 4, 1953 (**The Flicker**, 26:67). A flightless young was found in Faribault on June 23, 1976.

#### **Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

One unconfirmed report of seeing this bird at General Shields Lake during the summer of 1971. This is the only known report for this county. Full details of the sighting were not available.

#### **Great Egret** (*Casmerodius albus*)

Irregular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: April 4, 1966 at Heron Island; latest: May 30, 1969 also at Heron Island. Average of 16 dates: April 28. Records have been kept since 1948 when the egret was first observed in the county at General Shields Lake on August 20. Egrets coming into the county prior to 1951 were all vagrants arriving during the summer between June to Sept., most of them in August.

In the June 1953 issue of **The Flicker** (25:81-82) the writer summarized **The Status of the American Egrets in Rice County** under "Notes of Interest." "During the last two weeks of August, 1948, three American Egrets were observed at various times feeding at the following lakes in Rice County: General Shields Lake and in a swamp located near the airport west of Faribault. These birds were first observed on August 20 of that year.

In 1949 the number of birds seen in Rice County increased to 13 or more. According to my field notes, August 11 was the first date on which the birds were observed that year.

They were found again at General Shields Lake (near the Great Blue Heron Colony), also at Lake Mazaska, and Mud Lake (located near General Shields Lake).

In the **Audubon Field Notes** (3:236) the following reference is made: 'Mrs. C. MacKenzie, Jr., writes that American Egrets have definitely nested on Heron Island on General Shields Lake, 10 miles northwest of Faribault, Rice County, Minnesota, and is sure of one nest, although there must have been more, because 12 and 14 birds were seen feeding at various times for about two weeks.'

On August 15, 1950, 16 of these birds were seen feeding at Lake Mazaska and were seen at various times for about two weeks.

In 1951 the earliest date for these birds to appear in the county was August 20 and the latest was September 24.

On April 23, 1952, three American Egrets were seen feeding near the Great Blue Heron Island at General Shields Lake. This is the earliest known date of arrival in this county. Again on May 1, while checking the nesting of the Great Blue Herons on the island, I observed three American Egrets flying with Great Blue Herons. On June 29 the number of American Egrets increased to six, and they were observed feeding a short distance from the Heron colony. Eleven were counted on the island on July 9.

The island was again visited on August 14, but the heronry was entirely deserted and only two Great Blue Herons were seen flying over the lake. No American Egrets were observed on this date.

Even though no nest was found, it is believed that the American Egrets did nest during that year on the island because of the increase in numbers during the summer and also the early date of arrival in the spring.

On May 19, 1953, two American Egrets were feeding near the Great Blue Heron Island at General Shields Lake. The area was again visited on

May 21 and one American Egret was seen to fly over the island and land on one of the trees. No nest was found in 1953.

On July 20, 1956 Robert Hanlon found nine occupied American Egret nests on Heron Island at General Shields Lake (**The Flicker**, 28:130-132).

These and four more references include all the known information on the nesting of the American Egret in Rice County: (**Audubon Field Notes**, Vol. 7, No. 5, Oct. 1953); (**The Flicker**, 21:87 and 103, 24:120).

Only two birds have been seen at Heron Island during the 1976 breeding season.

#### **Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Irregular resident. No large nesting colonies of this species are to be found in the county, such as are found in other parts of the state. A small number of nesting birds was found at Heron Island at General Shields Lake. The earliest spring arrival date: April 15, 1975, at Falls Creek Park east of Faribault; latest: May 1, 1953 north of Faribault. Average of 5 dates: April 25. Winter record: one seen flying along the Cannon River in Northfield on Jan. 14, 1969.

#### **Least Bittern** (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

It is seldom seen, being a small and very secretive bird. Nests in the county. A nest with four eggs was found in the county by Dana Struthers on June 30, 1953 (**The Flicker**, 26:67). An adult road-kill was found near Hunts Lake on May 13, 1970. A live bird was captured in the back yard of a home in Faribault on Aug. 18, 1974 following a severe wind storm. It was later released at Cannon Lake.

#### **American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

Regular resident, commonly found at General Shields Lake, especially in the marshy areas along the gravel road on the Northwest shore of the lake. The earliest spring arrival date: April 17, 1951 in Northfield; the

latest: April 29, 1971 at General Shields Lake.

## **SWANS, GEESE and DUCKS**

### **Whistling Swan** (*Olor columbianus*)

Regular transient.

Early Rice County newspapers make frequent references to the Whistling Swan migrating through the county. A comment in the March 13, 1878 issue of the Faribault Republican indicates that a decline in numbers of this species probably occurred before the 1870's. The newspaper stated that one Whistling Swan was shot and seven more seen on Cannon Lake and that "we understand that swans were quite frequent in the lakes when Mr. (Alexander) Faribault first came here." (1826).

The **Audubon Field Notes** (4:242) stated that "Whistling Swans arrived in Minnesota about the usual time (early part of April) with an unusually large concentration of about 500 reported from Faribault, Minnesota." Earliest spring arrival date: March 23, 1953; latest: April 30, 1963. Average of 14 dates: April 5.

### **Trumpeter Swan** (*Olor buccinator*)

It is probable that the Trumpeter Swan nested in the county in the early days. The March 13, 1878 issue of the Faribault Republican states that "there were two varieties" of swans found in the county when Alexander Faribault came here in 1826.

### **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*)

Regular transient; occasional resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 3, 1966 at Wells Lake; latest: April 6, 1970. Average of 13 dates: March 17 - 19. Fall: earliest: Sept. 30, 1970; latest: Oct. 15, 1951. Four have been recorded on the Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 20, 1969.

Nesting record: Very few nest in the county. Three young were seen and banded on May 27, 1963 at Wells Lake. Geese were reported nesting at General Shields Lake area during the summer of 1965. On July 19, 1976, three young were seen with the adult

in a back-water area of Cannon River near Faribault.

### **White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*)

Only one report of this species in the county, on April 13, 1965 (**The Loon**, 37:136).

### **Snow Goose** (*Chen caerulescens*)

Irregular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: April 2, 1950; latest: April 25. Average of 6 dates: April 13. Fall: latest: October 18.

### **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Regular resident, nesting commonly throughout the county. Earliest spring arrival date: March 4, 1966 and 1974; latest: April 7, 1965. Average of 18 dates: March 20-22. Fall migration usually starts in mid-September with 500 seen on Sept. 19, 1953. Wintering birds are common, usually recorded on the open stretches of the Cannon River.

### **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)

Regular transient, but usually in small numbers. Earliest spring arrival date: March 13, 1966 on Lake Sakatah; the latest: April 29, 1952. Average of 12 dates: March 21. Nesting: none have been recorded for the county.

### **Pintail** (*Anas acuta*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 3, 1974; latest: April 12, 1975. Average of 13 dates: March 25. All observations were made at Wells Lake. No nesting record is known for Rice County.

### **Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 17, 1968; latest: April 27, 1974. Average of 12 dates: April 6-7. Most observations were made at Cannon, General Shields and Wells Lakes.

Nesting: Not considered a nesting species for the county. In the spring of 1968, during haying operations, a "teal" nest was run over with the female killed. The eggs were taken and hatched at a local game farm. Not until these ducks were fully feathered out, were these ducks discovered to

be Green-winged Teal. At this time the writer was informed and invited to confirm the identification.

**Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*)

Regular resident, nesting throughout the county. Earliest spring arrival date: March 19, 1966 in Northfield along the Cannon River; latest April 19, 1953 at General Shields Lake. Average of 16 dates: April 1. Broods seen nearly each summer at General Shields Lake and on ponds at north edge of City Limits of Faribault.

**American Wigeon** (*Anas americana*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 4, 1974 at Wells Lake; latest: April 29, 1951 at Northfield. Average of 16 dates: March 23. Most commonly seen on Cannon, General Shields, Lower Sakatah and Wells Lakes.

**Northern Shoveler**, Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 18, 1968 and 1976 at Cannon and Wells Lakes. Latest: April 14, 1951 at Wells Lake. Average of 17 dates: March 30.

**Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*)

Regular resident, many nesting along the Cannon and Straight Rivers within city limits of Faribault. Earliest spring arrival date: March 17, 1974 at Lower Sakatah Lake; latest: April 22, 1951 at Northfield. Average of 17 dates: April 5. Nesting: many broods seen each summer at Cannon, General Shields and Wells Lakes; at ponds and along water courses in Faribault and Northfield.

**Redhead** (*Aythya americana*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 13, 1966 at Lower Sakatah Lake; latest: April 14, 1951 at Wells Lake. Average of 17 dates: March 26. Most commonly seen at Wells Lake.

**Ring-necked Duck** (*Aythya collaris*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 5, 1974 at Wells Lake; the latest: April 23, 1950 at Un-

ion Lake. Average of 19 dates: March 22-27. Most commonly seen at Cannon, General Shields and Wells Lakes.

Summer records are rare, with no nesting known. Summer 1951: two pairs on June 6, one male on June 19 and one female on July 13, all at Wells Lake. Summer 1966: one pair on July 20 at Wells Lake, and one female on the same date at Cannon Lake.

**Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 14, 1967 at Wells Lake; latest: April 16, 1965 at General Shields Lake. Average of 17 dates: March 28.

**Lesser Scaup** (*Aythya affinis*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 2, 1974 at Wells Lake; latest: April 23, 1950 at Union Lake. Average of 19 dates: March 22.

**Common Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*)

Earliest spring arrival date: March 1, 1952 on Wells Lake; latest: April 13, 1951 on Cannon River in Northfield. Average of 19 dates: March 20. Most spring observations are made on Wells Lake and in a stretch of open water on the Cannon River one mile east of Morristown.

Very few winter records: 1951, one female was seen on the Cannon River in Northfield from Feb. 9-24. 1971: seven were seen in open water on Lake Sakatah on Dec. 7.

**Bufflehead** (*Bucephala albeola*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 9, 1974 at Wells Lake; latest: April 17, 1951 at Wells Lake. Average of 17 dates: March 25-26. Most commonly found at Cannon, General Shields, Mazaska, Lower Sakatah and Wells Lakes.

**White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta deglandi*)

Accidental transient. Only one record. One female reported as seen at Lake Mazaska on Nov. 13, 1971 by James Haw, St. Olaf College, Northfield. Details of observation with des-

cription of the bird were not available.

### **Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 16, 1973 at Lower Lake Sakatah; latest: April 27, 1953 at General Shields Lake. Average of 15 dates: March 31.

### **Hooded Merganser** (*Lophodytes cuculatus*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 13, 1951 on the Cannon River at Northfield; latest: April 11, 1970 at Cannon Lake. Average for 14 dates: March 22-23.

### **Common Merganser** (*Mergus merganser*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: Feb. 27, 1954 on the Cannon River at Northfield; latest: April 7, 1965 at Wells Lake. Average of 19 dates: March 18.

### **Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 20, 1972 at Lower Lake Sakatah; latest: April 23, 1950 at Union Lake. Average of 16 dates: March 29.

## **VULTURES**

### **Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*)

Occasional transient. Only four spring and one fall record since 1951. Earliest spring migration date: April 14, 1974; latest: May 1, 1945. Fall record: Sept. 13, 1953 when one was seen at Northfield.

## **HAWKS, EAGLES and HARRIERS**

### **Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Casual winter visitant. Only one record when one was seen at Northfield on Dec. 22, 1968.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (*Accipiter striatus*)

Summer resident, but seen only on occasion. Several scattered records: 1952, one seen at Nerstrand Woods on July 15; 1953: one seen at Northfield on May 5 and a winter record at Northfield on Jan. 4; 1969, one recorded

at Northfield on Dec. 20; 1974: two seen at Cannon Lake on March 9.

### **Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Summer resident seen only on occasion. A few scattered records: 1951, four seen on March 27, two seen on April 17 and one on Dec. 29 at Northfield; 1952, three seen on April 20 and one on July 14 at Northfield. Nesting: 1940, a report of one nesting near Castle Rock; on June 7, 1951 William Longley recorded a nest with incubating eggs near Faribault (**The Flicker**, 24:21).

### **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Regular summer resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 3, 1940 at Faribault; latest: April 7, 1965 at Cannon City. Average of 21 dates: March 15.

Winter records are very common, having been recorded 15 out of 25 years on the Christmas Bird Count.

A Krider's Hawk was reported seen on Sept. 27, 1951 by William Longley in Rice County (**The Flicker**, 24:127).

There are two records of Harlan's Hawks. One seen on April 1, 1970 at General Shields Lake, and one seen on April 9, 1974 in Faribault.

### **Red-shouldered Hawk** (*Buteo lineatus*)

Casual transient. Only scattered records, with two spring dates. Earliest: March 9, 1954 in Faribault; latest: April 17, 1951 in Northfield. Fall: Oct. 31, 1951 in Nerstrand; Sept. 20, 1952 in Northfield. Winter: Dec. 31, 1953, Dec. 26, 1954, Dec. 26, 1955, and Dec. 22, 1962 all in Nerstrand area. Late Feb. dates: Feb. 28, 1953 and Feb. 27, 1954 in Nerstrand area. Breeding season: one record, on June 2, 1951 at Nerstrand Woods State Park.

### **Broad-winged Hawk** (*Buteo platyterus*)

Casual transient, with three spring dates. Earliest: April 13, 1965 (**The Loon**, 37:137); latest: May 10, 1951. Fall: Sept. 16, 1951 and Sept. 20, 1952 in Northfield.

### **Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Two records. April 17, 1965 (**The**

**Loon**, 37:137), April 20, 1975 (*The Loon*, 47:164).

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*)

Sporadic winter visitant, recorded on Christmas Bird Counts 12 of 25 years. More commonly seen since 1970. Latest date in spring: March 16, near Northfield. Most frequently found wintering south of Nerstrand along County 26 to State 60.

**Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Casual transient. Only three records: 1963, one reported seen by Alden Risser on Oct. 19 at Nerstrand Woods State Park (*The Flicker*, 35:139). On April 6, 1964 one was observed at Wells Lake. Another was reported as seen on Nov. 14, 1970 east of Northfield by F. Lee Alderson, DNR Conservation Officer.

**Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Casual transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 1, 1952 in Northfield; latest: April 17, 1974 in Faribault. Average of six dates: March 29. One was reported shot in Rice County on April 5, 1952 by a U.S. Game Management Agent. Fall: Dr. Dwain Warner reported that an immature Bald Eagle was killed at Faribault on Oct. 16, 1948 (*The Flicker*, 20:100).

**Marsh Hawk** (*Circus cyaneus*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 8, 1967 at Cannon Lake; latest: April 14, 1973 near Faribault. Average of 16 dates: March 19. Seen each summer in the area. Fall and winter records: seen on Nov. 22, 1952 and 1953. Also seen on Dec. 21, 1960 in Northfield area.

**OSPREY**

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Casual transient. Only three spring records: earliest April 16, 1951 in Northfield; latest: April 23, 1950 near Union Lake. Fall dates: Seen on Sept. 16, and Sept. 20, 1952 near Northfield. Also reported as seen on Sept. 7, 1971 near Hunts Lake by F. Lee Alderson, DNR Conservation Officer.

**FALCONS**

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)

One report for county. One was seen on April 13, 1965 in Rice County by Paul Egeland (*The Flicker*, 37:137).

**Merlin**, Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*)

Only one record on March 30, 1952 in Northfield.

**American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: decided increase in number on Feb. 27, 1964 in Northfield; latest: April 13, 1947 in Faribault. Average of 20 dates: March 16. Very common all summer in the area. Many winter records, recorded 15 out of 25 years during Christmas Bird Counts.

**GROUSE**

**Ruffed Grouse** (*Bonasa umbellus*)

Three known records for the county. On Jan. 23, 1940, Lansing A. Parker reported seeing 14 Ruffed Grouse 12 miles N.E. of Faribault (*The Flicker*, 15:54). In Oct., 1970, during the Bow Hunting season, Fran Teske, DNR Conservation Officer, reported seeing one in Nerstrand Woods State Park. On May 25, 1971, F. Lee Alderson, DNR Conservation Officer reported hearing the drumming of Ruffed Grouse in Nerstrand Woods State Park.

**Greater Prairie Chicken** (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

No longer found in the county. Early records show that this species was very common in the county. Mr. Louis Kaderlik of Faribault reported to the writer of seeing the Greater Prairie Chicken in the Lonsdale area as late as 1924-25. For history of Prairie Chickens in the county, refer to *Survey of The Birds of Rice County, Minnesota*.

**QUAIL AND PHEASANTS**

**Bobwhite** (*Colinus virginianus*)

Sporadic resident. Nesting of this species was quite common between 1930-34 near the boyhood home of the

writer in Faribault. Since that date, only scattered reports from the county. In 1950, several pairs were seen west of Faribault. Several coveys were seen near Northfield and one near Dudley-Kelly Lake during the summer of 1951. On Aug. 28, 1964, seven-eight young were seen near Northfield, and another brood seen near French Lake. In 1968, two adults were seen again near the south shore of French Lake. One adult was seen east of Faribault in 1972. On July 26, 1973 a brood of six-eight young were seen east of Faribault. In 1974 adults were seen in Forest Township. On Oct. 17, 1974 one was heard east of Faribault. Since 1974 none have been seen or reported to the writer.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Regular resident. Common throughout the county.

**Chukar** (*Alectoris chukar*)

No longer found in the county. The Minnesota Division of Game and Fish released this species in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

**Gray Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*)

Regular resident. The records of the Minnesota Game and Fish show that this species was released in the county between 1942-1956. It is not commonly seen in the area. Usually to be seen in the area to the south of Nerstrand to State 60.

**TURKEY**

**Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

A few were released in the county on or about Feb. 22, 1926. According to George Morris, Rice County Game Warden at that time, three birds were released in the Nerstrand Woods, but were probably shot as they disappeared shortly thereafter. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made since that date to release birds in the county. None exist to date in the area, as far as known.

**The Loon**

**CRANES**

**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*)

A number of references to the Sandhill Crane indicates that this species was probably abundant in the county in early days. No breeding records of this species have been found; however it is possible that it did nest in the county. According to **The Use and Conservation of Minnesota Game...** 1850-1900 by E. B. Swanson the Sandhill Crane was found in Rice County during the period 1868 to 1879. The October 4, 1872 issue of The Faribault Democrat reported that near Faribault the Sandhill Cranes were almost as plentiful as wild ducks and that "it is not an infrequent sight to see 40 or 50 of them standing at regular intervals upon some elevated piece of ground like so many sentinels."

In the spring of 1969, an unconfirmed report from a farmer living near Horseshoe Lake of seeing several in his field. His description of the birds, and their actions described the Sandhill Crane quite accurately. This is the first and only report of this species seen in this area in recent years, but must be considered hypothetical, as no identifiable photograph was available.

**RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS**

**Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*)

This species is a very rare transient in the county, with one being seen on May 13, 1951 in Northfield, and another on April 27, 1966 near Cedar Lake. An immature female was taken (Pettingill) on September 22, 1943. These are the only known records.

**Sora** (*Porzana carolina*)

Summer resident, but seldom seen with relatively few records. Earliest: April 29, 1974 at General Shields Lake. Several breeding period records: May 2 and June 1, 1951 when a male was seen carrying food near a roadside marsh area located one-half mile south of Northfield. No nest was found. Another record on June 6, 1951. In 1952, June 21; 1953, May 18,

June 3; 1954, May 9; 1963, May 14; 1968, May 14; and 1970, May 8.

One male was collected (Pettingill) on each of the following dates in the Northfield area: May 7, 1940, April 28, 1945, and May 15, 1951. Another male was collected in the Nerstrand area on May 30, 1943.

#### **Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One record: May 1, 1951, Fox Lake, Rice County (D. W. Warner shot one bird, but the specimen could not be found; a single feather was recovered which compared favorably with existing specimens), **Minnesota Birds**, Where, When and How Many, Green and Janssen, p. 78.

#### **Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Only two records: June 18, and July 20, 1952 at Wells Lake.

#### **American Coot** (*Fulica americana*)

Regular transient, sporadic resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 13, 1973 at Wells Lake; latest: May 5, 1940 at Cedar and Cannon Lakes. Average of 19 dates: March 24. Latest fall record when 1000 were seen on Oct. 6, 1974 at Wells Lake. Breeding: two broods were seen in June, 1952 at General Shields Lake; one brood was seen on July 25, 1973 on a pond at the north edge of Faribault; and one brood was seen on July 23, 1976 at General Shields Lake.

### **PLOVERS**

#### **Semipalmated Plover** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

Only two records, a transient seen on May 18, 1952 near Northfield, and five seen on July 19, 1952 also at Northfield.

#### **Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Regular resident. Very common nesting bird in county. Earliest spring arrival date: Feb. 22, 1939 at Northfield; latest: April 13, 1971 at Faribault. Average of 34 dates: March 17.

Breeding dates: 1951, nest with four eggs found at General Shields Lake on June 4; 1971, nest with four eggs found on July 4 at Cannon Lake; 1976,

nest with four eggs found on May 8 in Faribault.

#### **Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Only one record of this transient. Four were seen on Oct. 30, 1952 on a pond near Roberds Lake.

### **WOODCOCK, SNIPE and SANDPIPERS**

#### **American Woodcock** (*Philohela minor*)

Irregular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: April 7, 1974 near Cedar Lake; latest: June 1, 1951 at Nerstrand Woods State Park. Average of four dates: April 17

#### **Common Snipe** (*Capella gallinago*)

Irregular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 29, 1963 and 1972; latest: May 14, 1966 at Cannon Lake. Average of twelve dates: April 16. Earliest fall date: August 11, 1975. Individuals are frequently seen wintering in the area, although recorded only once on a Christmas Bird Count.

#### **Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularia*)

Irregular summer resident. Earliest spring arrival date: April 27, 1953 and 1974; latest: May 10, 1951. Average of 7 dates: April 29. Breeding: young on July 10, 1952 at General Shields Lake.

#### **Solitary Sandpiper** (*Tringa solitaria*)

Irregular transient. Earliest: April 8, 1968 at Wells Lake. Fall: earliest: Sept. 16, 1952; latest: Oct. 8, 1951.

#### **Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Only three dates for this transient. One was seen on April 17, 1953 in Northfield; one on April 7, 1964 at Cannon Lake; and ten seen on April 24, 1967 in Faribault.

#### **Lesser Yellowlegs** (*Tringa flavipes*)

Irregular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: April 10, 1965 near Faribault; latest: April 29, 1952 near Northfield. Average of 8 dates: April 23. Fall dates: earliest: July 27, near Northfield; latest: Oct. 2, 1952 Northfield.

**Willet** (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

Only one record: Aug. 3, 1955 when six were seen at Paulson's Marsh west of Northfield.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** (*Caladris melanotos*)

Only three records of this transient. On May 7, 1950 two were seen in Northfield; April 20, 1953: 13 were seen at Northfield; and on April 24, 1967 four were seen in Faribault.

**Least Sandpiper** (*Caladris minutilla*)

Only one record for this transient, when 20 were seen on May 18, 1952, in Northfield.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** (*Caladris pusilla*)

Only one record for this transient, when four were seen on July 9, 1952 at Wells Lake.

**GULLS and TERNS**

**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*)

Regular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: March 5, 1974 at Wells Lake; latest: April 11, 1948 near Faribault. Average of 11 dates: March 27.

**Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*)

Irregular transient. Earliest spring arrival date: April 8, 1968; latest: April 11, 1951 at Northfield. Average of ten dates: March 24.

**Franklin's Gull** (*Larus pipixcan*)

Irregular transient; most common in the fall. Earliest spring arrival date: April 14, 1964 at Northfield; latest: May 7, 1950 near Northfield. Very large fall flights nearly each year over Faribault. Earliest fall migration date: Sept. 2, 1966; latest: Oct. 14, 1951.

**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*)

Only one record for this transient. Ten were seen on April 20, 1965 at Cannon Lake.

**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Only one record of this transient. Twenty were seen on Sept. 20, 1963 at Wells Lake.

**Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: May 5, 1940 at Cannon and Cedar Lakes; latest: May 24, 1969 at

Faribault. Average of 16 dates: May 10.

Breeding: young at Wells Lake on July 13, 1951; young at Wells Lake on July 20, 1952; seen feeding young on June 19, 1963; seen feeding young at General Shields Lake on Aug. 11, 1974.

**PIGEONS and DOVES**

**Rock Dove** (*Columbia livia*)

Regular resident throughout the county.

**Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 10, 1974 in Faribault; latest: April 18, 1937 in Faribault. Average of 33 dates: March 25. Frequently winters, seen 11 out of 25 years on Christmas Bird Count. Common nesting species in county.

Banding record: one banded in Faribault on June 12, 1961 with a return in Texas on Sept. 15, 1961.

**Passenger Pigeon** (*Ectopistes migratorius*)

Passenger Pigeons were a very common summer resident in the county, with large nesting colonies found in the area as late as 1877. According to The Faribault Democrat of Friday, April 11, 1873 the "Wild Pigeons have made their appearance and wild ducks are plentiful in the markets." The Passenger Pigeons suffered from market hunters in Rice County as they did elsewhere. On May 30, 1877 The Faribault Republican stated that "The wild pigeons are very plentiful and our markets are well supplied with them daily by hunting parties." According to The Use and Conservation of Minnesota Game . . . 1850-1900 by E. B. Swanson, P. 146 (Unpublished thesis) "Large nesting colonies were formed at Faribault in 1877." Thomas S. Roberts in Birds of Minnesota states that "the large spring flocks ceased arriving about 1880 . . ." in Minnesota. No record has been found as to the location of the nesting colonies in the county. From conversation with old settlers it can be assumed that one nesting colony was located in the Morristown area. It is known that market

hunting for the "wild Pigeon" centered in that area. One old settler recalled his father telling of "wagon box loads of pigeons" being hauled from the Morrystown area to Faribault by the market hunters. It is quite probable that another nesting colony was located in the "Big Woods," a part of which is now known as the Nerstrand Woods State Park. Fred Kiekenapp, a senior citizen of Faribault whose father was an early settler in the area, recalled to me that his father had often spoken of the Passenger Pigeons nesting in the "Big Woods" area and that the pigeons had a local flyway from the woods, across "Frog Town" (the southeastern part of Faribault from Division street south and from Highway 218 east to Straight River) and up over the bluff (at the present location of Garfield School) enroute to their feeding grounds. The hunters would locate on top of the bluff and shoot the pigeons as they came over.

## CUCKOOS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: May 11, 1968; latest: May 22, 1972 at Falls Creek Park east of Faribault.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)

Regular resident. Earliest: May 22, 1972 in Faribault; latest: May 31, 1953.

## TYPICAL OWLS

**Screech Owl** (*Otus asio*)

Regular resident, nesting in Faribault. Young in nest on July 11, 1974. Two specimens were collected in Northfield by Pettingill; a female on Sept. 28, 1938 and a juvenile on June 5, 1939.

**Great Horned Owl** (*Bubo virginianus*)

Regular permanent resident, commonly nesting in area. On Feb. 24, 1951 a nest with three eggs was found about one mile north of Northfield near Waterford. On May 1, 1952 a nest with two young was found at Heron Island, General Shields Lake.

**Arctic Horned Owl** (Subspecies)

Winter visitant and has been recorded in the area twice. On Dec. 12, 1972 a local farmer caught one in a pole-trap.

On Jan. 1, 1976 a farmer trapped two of these owls with a Pole-trap which I was able to again identify positively.

**Snowy Owl** (*Nyctea scandiaca*)

Occasional winter visitant. Earliest fall date: Oct. 25, 1971 when one was seen near Northfield. Latest spring dates: April 15, 1950 when one was seen near Northfield. Other dates: Feb. 11, 1950; Feb. 7, 1954; Dec. 22, 1956; Nov. 18, 1962; Dec. 10, 1965; March 6, 1966; March 5, 1967; Nov. 23, 1971; and March 21, 1975. Only recorded one time on a Christmas Bird Count.

**Barred Owl** (*Strix varia*)

Regular permanent resident. Seen more frequently in the winter than in summer. Recorded on 7 out of 25 Christmas Bird Counts.

**Long-eared Owl** (*Asio otus*)

Rarely seen in the area, with only four records. One was seen on April 17, 1951 in Northfield; and one was seen in Northfield on the Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 26, 1954. Another winter record in Northfield was on Dec. 27, 1958. A road kill was found in Faribault on Oct. 25, 1967, which is now in the collection at Shattuck School, Biology Dept. Two specimens were collected (Pettingill) in the Northfield area, a male and a female on March 19, 1950.

**Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*)

Only one record for the county. One was seen in Northfield by Dr. George Rysgaard in 1962.

## GOATSUCKERS

**Whip-poor-will** (*Caprimulgus vociferus*)

There are only two recent records of the Whip-poor-will found in the county. On May 11, 1963 one was heard in Faribault by the writer. On May 21, 1974 one was heard by Dr.

George Rysgaard in Northfield.

There are only two earlier records. Prof. J. W. Hornbeck recorded two on May 5, 1921 in the Northfield area, indicating that the species was rare at that time and that it did not nest in the area.

**Common Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles minor*)

Regular resident nesting in Faribault. Earliest spring arrival date: April 27, 1974 in Faribault; latest: May 23, 1969 in Faribault. Average of 16 dates: May 16-17. Latest fall date: Oct. 3, 1953 in Northfield. Fall migration: earliest, Aug. 18, 1974 when great numbers were migrating over Faribault in a S.E. direction. Latest start of migration: Aug. 31, 1971 in Faribault. Average of 10 years: Aug. 26. Nesting: one young seen with female on the ground on July 7, 1973; one young seen with female on July 11, 1976.

#### SWIFTS

**Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*)

Regular resident. Earliest spring arrival date: April 1, 1933 in Faribault; latest: May 15, 1954 in Northfield. Average of 28 dates: May 2.

Nesting: July 20, 1920 in Faribault; July 20, 1976 in Faribault. Three specimens have been collected (Pettingill) in the Northfield area: a male on May 22, 1939, a male on June 3, 1950 and a female on May 29, 1951.

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*)

Regular summer resident. Earliest spring arrival date: May 14, 1965 in Nerstrand; latest: May 29, 1976 in Faribault. Average of 12 dates: May 20.

Nesting: nest with eggs found in Faribault, spring 1935.

**Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

Regular summer resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 8, 1976 in Faribault; latest: April 24, 1973 in Morristown. Average of 31 dates: April 6-7.

Nesting: nest with young found in

Northfield on July 1, 1959. Frequently found wintering in the area. Seen 10 out of 25 Christmas Bird Counts. One specimen was collected (Pettingill) in Northfield area, a male on April 10, 1943.

#### WOODPECKERS

**Common Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*)

Regular summer resident. Earliest spring arrival date: March 3, 1934 in Faribault; latest: April 20, 1975 Faribault. Average of 32 dates: March 27.

Nesting: 1951, nesting on May 29, young on June 24, young on July 25; 1952, young on June 26, young on August 5; 1953, eggs on May 28; 1965, young on June 26.

Frequently found wintering in the area. Was seen 10 years out of 25 on the Christmas Bird Counts.

Four specimens have been collected (Pettingill) in the Northfield area: a female on May 8, 1937, a male on April 29, 1939, a male on April 30, 1947 and a male on May 2, 1951.

**Pileated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

Regular permanent resident. Has been recorded on 18 out of 25 Christmas Bird Counts.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** (*Centurus carolinus*)

Regular permanent resident. The first known nesting record for Rice County is on June 1, 1953 when the young were observed being fed in the Nerstrand Woods State Park (**The Flicker**, 26:69).

Winter records: has been recorded on 21 out of 25 Christmas Bird Counts.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Earliest spring arrival date: March 10, 1953 in Northfield; latest: April 30, 1975 in Faribault. Average of 11 dates: April 15.

Nesting: one in Faribault on May 29, 1951; nest with young on August 2, 1952 in Dundas.

Wintering: seen on 10 out of 25 Christmas Bird Counts.

Three specimens have been collected (Pettingill) in the Northfield area: a female on May 22, 1957, a female on

Sept. 3, 1942 and a male on May 24, 1951.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

Regular summer resident. Earliest spring arrival date: April 10, 1953 in Northfield and in 1976 at Faribault; latest: April 25, 1964 in Northfield. Average of 12 dates: April 18. Three specimens have been collected (Pettingill) in the Northfield area: a male on May 9, 1937, a female on Oct. 3, 1940 and a male on April 12, 1943.

**Hairy Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos villosus*)

Regular permanent resident. One

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nest found on May 21, 1953 in Faribault. Has been seen on all 25 Christmas Bird Counts in the area. One male was collected (Pettingill) in Northfield on September 29, 1937.

**Downy Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos pubescens*)

Regular permanent resident. One nesting record on July 8, 1965 in Faribault. Has been recorded on each of the 25 Christmas Bird Counts in the area. A female was collected on Nov. 4, 1936 in the Northfield area. In the Nerstrand Woods State Park area a male was collected (Pettingill) on Sept. 21, 1944.

(To be continued)

## A NESTING STUDY OF COMMON GRACKLES IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

by Craig A. Faanes

This paper summarizes the results of a two year study of the reproductive success of Common Grackles nesting near a nuclear generating plant in southeastern Minnesota.

The major objectives of the study were: 1) study the ecology and nesting behavior of Common Grackles near a nuclear generating plant; 2) determine the reproductive success of the grackles; and 3) if any changes in reproductive success occurred, determine if the nuclear generating plant had any influence on the change.

### STUDY AREA

The 12 acre study area was located just north of the Northern States Power Company, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Goodhue County, Minnesota. During the study, 35.9 cm and 16.8 cm of precipitation were recorded for the period March through September for 1974 and 1975 respectively. The minimum and maximum temperatures recorded during the period of study were -12°C and 38°C in 1974, and -23°C and 35°C in 1975.

The study area was divided into two study plots. Plot 1 was composed of trees twenty-one years old. The dominant species were jack pine, red pine and scotch pine.

Plot 2 was composed primarily of conifers aged at nineteen years, with the dominant species being red pine and scotch pine.

The study area was bounded on the north and east by home sites. An alfalfa field bordered the area on the south, and a gravel road and a soybean field formed the west boundary.

### METHODS

Field observations were conducted throughout two study periods: 25 April to 3 September in 1974 and 3 May to 4 September in 1975. Most nest searches were conducted between 09.00 and 18.00 hours. This period was selected because most of the adult birds were feeding away from the nesting area. Therefore, I was less likely to disturb a brooding adult, and cause nest abandonment.

Nests were located by walking down each row of trees in the pine planta-

tion looking for constructed nests. Upon finding a nest, it was checked for indications of use (eggs present, broken shells, or droppings). All trees containing active nests (one in which at least one egg was laid) were marked with one and one-half inch colored plastic surveyors tape. The marking system consisted of a consecutive series of numbers (G-1, G-2 . . . ) according to when the nest was found.

Data for each nest were collected and recorded on a field data sheet. Data obtained included: date of observation, number of eggs in the nest, number of young in the nest, observable predation, condition of eggs and young, tree species used for nest platform and height of the nest above the ground. Each nest was visited between five to seven times during the nesting season. The above data were collected for each visit.

For final analysis, all nesting data were transferred to individual nest cards provided by the North American Nest Record Card Program at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

A 400 meter-long census line (Emlen, 1971) was established in each study plot. Bird population censusing was conducted in each study plot on a monthly basis. These censuses gave an indication of the population size and species composition for the entire area.

## RESULTS

### Nesting Phenology

Common Grackles returned to the study area on 30 March in 1974. Territorial displays commenced within one week after arrival in the area. The rate of displays increased until mid-May. After this time, courtship displays decreased in both frequency and intensity.

Nesting activity was first noted on 25 April, when one active nest was found. The number of active nests reached a peak of 73 during the week of 11-18 May. After this time, nesting activity decreased rapidly, with the last nest found on 27 June.

In 1975, the first grackles were ob-

served on 20 March, when a flock of 20 were found in the area. Territorial displays did not begin until 15 April. The intensity of territorial displays increased until late May, and had ceased by 25 June.

In 1975, nesting activity was first noted on 3 May, when one active nest was found. The number of active nests increased at a slower rate than in 1974, reaching a peak of 87 during the week of 25 May - 1 June. The number of active nests decreased at a slower rate than in 1974. The last active nest was located during the week of 4-11 July (Figure 1).

### Selection of Nest Trees and Nest

#### Height

Throughout the two study periods, only three nests were located in red pine trees, all others were constructed in jack pines. With regards to differences in nest placement in the two plots, one nest was constructed in Plot 2 during 1974, and two nests were constructed in this plot in 1975. All other nests were constructed in Plot 1.

Data were collected only in 1975 on the height of nests in the trees. During 1975, nest sites averaged 12.8 feet above the ground in trees ranging from 15 to 18 feet tall. Ninety-seven percent of all nest sites were 15 feet or less above the ground (Figure 2).

### Nesting Success and Productivity

#### Estimates

During the study, 518 nests were constructed. Of these, 414 (80.8 percent) were active. A total of 1,266 eggs were laid in the nests giving an average clutch size of 3.1. The number of eggs ranged from two to six.

Successful hatches were produced from 182 (44.0 percent) of the active nests. This represented a 56.0 percent loss from the start of the nesting season. A total of 795 young were fledged from the 182 successful nests (Table 1), for an average of 4.4 young produced per successful nest.

Throughout the 1974 nesting season, an additional 82 nests were found

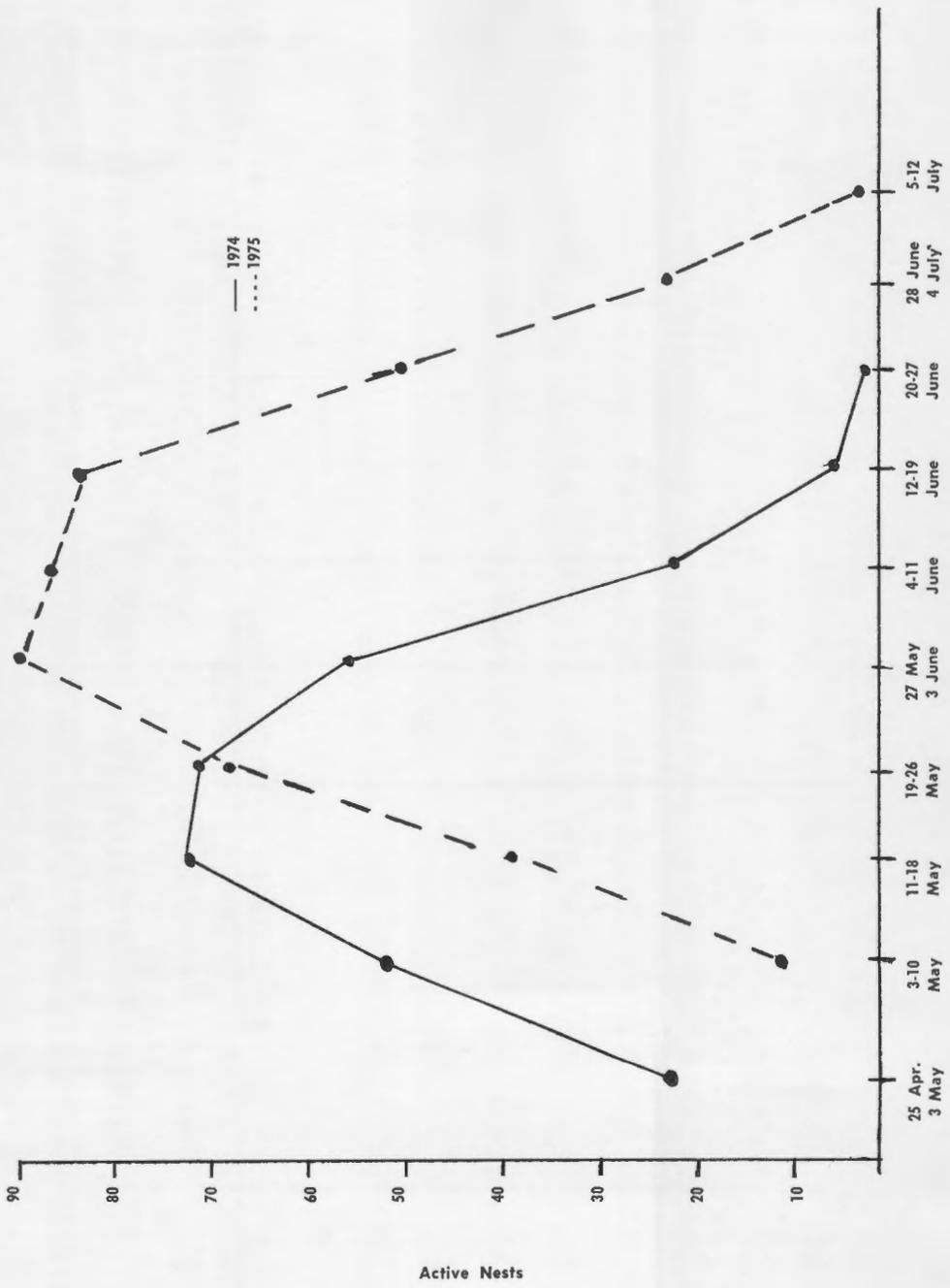


Figure 1. Active Common Grackle Nests by Weekly Periods — 1974 and 1975

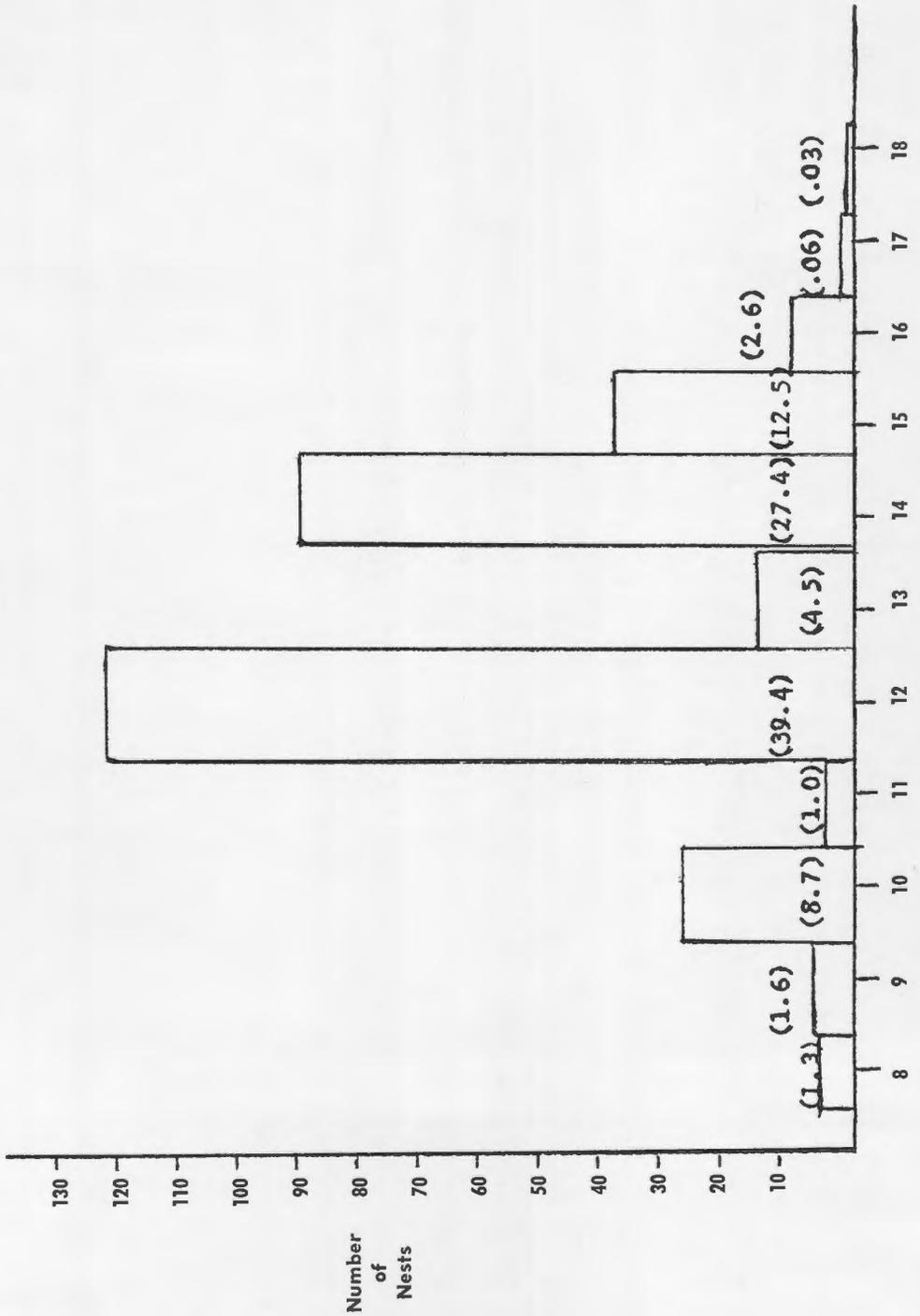


Figure 2. Height of Common Grackle Nests in 1975 ( )=Percent total at this height.

which contained evidence of producing young. This was indicated by the presence of the droppings of young birds in the nest. If these 82 nests were added to the total of 148 active nests located in 1974, it could be assumed that as many as 230 active nests could have produced young.

The 1974 breeding season population was estimated at 460 adult birds

(230 nests x 2 adults per nest). At the end of the nesting season, the fall population was estimated at 786 birds.

The 1975 breeding season population was estimated at 620 adults (310 nests x 2 adults per nest). The fall population was estimated at 1,050 grackles. This represented a 25.2 percent increase in the population.

Table 1.

**Comparison of Common Grackle Nesting Success between 1974 and 1975**

	1974	1975	Percent Change
Spring Population	460	620	+25.9
Active Nests	148	266	+44.4
Successful Nests	71	111	+36.0
Eggs Laid	455	811	+44.0
Clutch Size	3.1	3.1	—
Total Fledglings	326	469	+30.5
Fledglings per Successful Nest	4.6	4.2	-10.0
Fall Population	786	1,050	+25.2

Table 2. Grackle Production per Acre in the Two Study Plots

Plot	Year	Acres	Grackles Produced	Grackles per Acre
1	1974	8	322	40.2
1	1975	8	462	57.8
2	1974	4	4	1.0
2	1975	4	7	1.8

Table 3. Common Grackle Populations as Determined from Transect Counts

1974						
Plot	April	May	June	July	August	September
1	275	139	163	13	5	1
2	69	18	18	4	0	0
1975						
Plot	April	May	June	July	August	September
1	205	165	60	48	3	0
2	27	12	29	21	0	0

### **Production per Study Plot**

During 1974, only four young were produced in Plot 2. This is an average production of 1.0 young per acre. The 1975 production was seven grackles, for an average of 1.75 young per acre.

Grackle production was much higher in Plot 1. During 1974, 322 young were produced in this plot, for an average of 40.25 young per acre. During 1975, there were 462 young produced, for an average of 57.8 per acre.

In combining the totals for the two plots, an average of 27.2 young were produced per acre in 1974 and 39.1 per acre in 1975. This results in a two year average of 33.2 young produced per acre (Table 2).

Monthly population counts were conducted in both study plots in an effort to determine relative population values for the total area (Table 3).

### **Causes of Nest Failure and Mortality Factors**

Throughout the study, 56.0 percent of the nests failed to produce young. Nest abandonment, laying of infertile eggs, weather and predation contributed to the nest losses. Nest abandonment was observed in 15 nests in 1974 and in 30 nests in 1975. Seventeen dead grackles were found in 1974 and 29 in 1975. There was a 41.4 percent increase in mortality in 1975.

The possibility of young being knocked or pushed from the nest is low because of the depth of the nest. Seven of the dead young found in 1974 were victims of predation, as there was evident damage to the head and chest regions. Blue Jays, red squirrels and house cats were the probable predators.

In 1975, four of the dead young were found in the nest. The remainder were found throughout the study area. Eight of the dead birds were the victims of predation. The remaining 17 grackles were the result of gunshot wounds.

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Common Grackles return to this portion of Minnesota in mid-March.

Nest building activities do not begin until the third or fourth week of April. During the period between arrival and initiation of nesting, members of the nesting colony spend much of their time in a large flock foraging for food in the surrounding area.

Pair formation is a rather lengthy process in grackles, and begins shortly after arrival in the nesting area, and lasts into the nest building stage (Maxwell, 1965).

It appeared that the stimulation for nesting was a group function referred to as the "Darling Effect" (Darling, 1938). This factor of group stimulation was probably related to the relatively short nesting season at Prairie Island.

During 1974, nesting activity was noted for 64 days, and in 1975 for 67 days. In both cases, nesting activity decreased quite rapidly after peak numbers were reached. After nesting activities were completed, the grackles left the nesting area and fed and roosted with Red-winged Blackbirds along the Mississippi River.

With regards to nest site selection, Bent (1959) stated that "grackles are quite adaptable in their nesting habits; depending on the conditions at a particular locality." It appeared that this statement held true for the Prairie Island site. Throughout the study, grackles preferred jack pines over all other tree species available, for nest location. Only three nests out of 540 constructed were located in another tree species.

Maxwell (1965) and Jones (1969) found grackles preferred a single species, red cedar, though other species were available. Hamel (1973) found grackles to be adaptable in nest site selection. Thirty-eight nests he investigated were found in buttonbush, while the remainder were divided between red pine and spruce. Schmidt (1973) found no species preference, although the two most commonly used tree species used were red pine and red cedar.

I feel the selectivity shown for jack pines may have been an actual species

preference. Though other species of coniferous trees were present, grackles nested almost exclusively in jack pine. This preference was probably related to the density of jack pine in the plantation. The resulting increased density of nesting pairs may again be related to the Darling effect.

In the Prairie Island area, grackles nested at an average height of 12.8 feet in trees averaging 16 feet, or at 81.0 percent of the tree height. Grackle nests were almost invariably located in the top crotch of the tree. This probably resulted from the limited number of strong branches near the top of the trees. Also, nest placement near the top allowed greater visibility for the territorial male in nest defense. Schmidt (1973) found grackles nested at 73.9 percent of the tree height. He attributed this to being an adaptation for nesting in coniferous trees lacking suitable branches at lower levels.

Throughout the two years of this study, an average clutch size of 3.1 eggs per nest was found. Peterson and Young (1950) found an average clutch size of 4.8 eggs per nest. Wiens (1965) found an average clutch size of 4.8, and Jones (1969) found an average clutch size of 4.7.

It was felt that the lower clutch size in this study resulted from disturbance of the nesting pairs by the investigator. This disturbance resulted in nest abandonment during the egg laying stage. The outcome of which resulted in my finding incomplete clutches yielding lower clutch size. This hypothesis was supported by the findings of Snelling (1968), who believed his activities near nesting pairs caused abandonment which adversely affected reproductive success.

In terms of productivity, grackle production was comparable to other studies. Throughout the study, an average of 4.4 young were produced from each successful nest. Peterson and Young (1950) found an average of 4.0 young fledged per successful nest,

and Maxwell (1965) found an average of 4.7 per successful nest. Eyer (1954) found a surprisingly low average of 2.2 young fledged per successful nest. The two year average of 33.2 young produced per acre reflected the optimum nesting habitat available at Prairie Island. Unfortunately, no other studies were found which dealt with grackle production per acre, so comparisons are not possible.

The monthly population censuses conducted in the study plots were valuable in reflecting periods of peak populations, but they did not provide an accurate estimate of the population as a whole. No doubt the factors of different time of day and time of month the censuses were taken, and the flocking behavior of grackles contributed to the discrepancies between my population figures and those obtained from transect counts.

Losses of eggs and young occurred at a relatively high rate during both years. These egg and young losses can be attributed to four major factors: 1) infertile eggs; 2) weather; 3) predators and 4) human interference. The latter factor was the most important in this study. Human interference, by the investigator and others, no doubt led to nest abandonment and eggs becoming cold in the absence of the incubating adult. Most of the nest losses occurred during the early part of the nesting season. This part of the nesting season experienced colder temperatures than the latter part of the season. This factor of weather was important in regulating the nesting success of the grackles, and may have also contributed to the low clutch size.

A mortality rate of 6.0 percent for fledgling grackles was found for both years. Blue Jays, red squirrels and house cats were the most important non-human predators. The increased mortality in 1975 was due to illegal shooting, both by the owner of the plantation and a group of four boys found shooting "blackbirds." Peterson and Young (1950) found human inter-

ference, especially by small boys, was the greatest mortality factor in their study.

In conclusion, it appeared that the grackle population at Prairie Island was increasing. The large increase shown in 1975 may not have been of the magnitude indicated. If the outcome of the 82 additional nests found in 1974 were known, the total increase could possibly have been lower. The combined factors of: 1) an increase in the number of grackles returning to nest in the area; 2) an increase in the number and percentage of active nests and 3) an increase in the number and percentage of successful nests in the area contributed greatly to the overall increase in the population. These factors indicated that the population had the potential for marked increase each year.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# SPRING SEASON - MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 1976

By Terry Savaloja

In contrast with the spring of 1975 this spring was almost the exact opposite. 1976 was one of the driest springs on record, most of the state did not receive more than 2 inches of rain for April and May. Some areas in the south-west and west-central parts of the state received less or almost none and experienced severe drought conditions. May started out cool and with just over 1 inch of snow on the 2nd. After that the weather warmed up and stayed dry. Temperatures in April and May were above normal and in both months we received almost 75 percent of available sunshine. Good migrations occurred on May 13th, 14th and on May 19th, 20th, both accompanied by weather systems.

Summary: A total of 189 species were recorded by 89 observers.

A Red-throated Loon on 5-29 was the only report of this increasingly rare species. In the heron family, the Little Blue Heron was reported twice, the Snowy Egret twice, the Cattle Egret only once, and an extralimital record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron. White-fronted Geese showed up in western counties in their best numbers in many years. Big Stone and Agassiz NWR's came in with good waterfowl peak numbers. Cinnamon Teal were reported from the southern part of the state. Red-shouldered Hawks are still expanding and Swainson's appear to be doing very well. The rare Ferruginous Hawk was reported once. Yellow Rails were back in Aitkin Co. but most marshes were dry by late May. Marshall sewage lagoons came through with the first state record of a Snowy Plover and this bird should be watched for in western counties. A Long-billed Curlew was reported from Swift Co. and Wimbrels were reported in good numbers. Gulls once again made a good showing with four Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's and two Little Gull reports.

The first Monk Parakeet report in several years was in Wright Co., good shot! Two reports of Burrowing Owls are encouraging along with three Great Gray Owl reports. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher apparently over shot its home range and ended up in Lake Co. Black-billed Magpies are becoming common in the NW corner of the state. A Bewick's Wren in Crow Wing Co. was the first in several years, and Carolina Wrens may possibly be on the increase. Mountain Bluebirds are apparently changing their status in the state, with two reports again this spring. A new location for Sprague's Pipits and 17 reports for Loggerhead Shrikes are encouraging. In the warblers, Black-throated Blues were reported twice, Yellow-breasted Chats twice at Blue Mounds State Park, and Hooded Warblers twice, one from the northern part of the state. A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in Bemidji on 3-31 was the state's 5th record. Baird's Sparrows made a good showing and Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from a new area. Smith's Longspurs were reported once and Chestnut-collared Longspurs five times.

## Common Loon

Early south 3-23 Stearns NMH; 3-26, 4-1 Freeborn DG; early north 4-3 Morrison LSR; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI and Crow Wing DK.

## Red-throated Loon

1 report 5-29 St. Louis (1) FN.

## Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4-8 Stearns NMH; 5-1 Pope (10+) BH; early north 4-14 Marshall SV; 4-21 Crow Wing DK; 4-22 St. Louis JCG.

## Horned Grebe

Early south 3-25 Lyon HK; 4-5 Hennepin CH; 4-7 Lyon GO; early north 3-31 St. Louis DS; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI; 4-8 Marshall SV.

**Eared Grebe**

Early south 4-7 Lyon HK; 4-10 Cottonwood ED; 2 reports NE 4-27 St. Louis Helen Tucker; 5-20 Cook JH.

**Western Grebe**

Early south 4-17 Kandiyohi BH; 4-20 Lincoln LK; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle OJ; early north 4-27 and 5-7 Marshall SV, MS.

**Pied-billed Grebe**

Early south 3-14 Hennepin ETS; 3-18 Rice OR; 3-19 Olmsted VH; early north 3-24 Crow Wing DK; 4-1 Otter Tail GW; 4-5 St. Louis DS and Mille Lacs MI.

**White Pelican**

Early south 4-11 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 4-12 Yellow Medicine GO; 4-14 Washington WL; early north 4-15 to 4-21 Marshall SV; 4-22 Wilkin MS.

**Double-crested Cormorant**

Early south 4-1 Big Stone BS; 4-3 Pope BH; 4-4 Chisago DGW; early north 4-10 Otter Tail GW; 4-11 Marshall SV; 4-17 St. Louis DS.

**Great Blue Heron**

Early south 3-16 Hennepin HPR; 3-17 Stearns NMH; 2 reports on 3-18; early north 3-24 Mille Lacs MI; 3-26 Marshall SV; 3-27 St. Louis NJH.

**Green Heron**

Early south 4-2 Carver JRG; 4-4 Hennepin PCHS; 4-17 Olmsted VH; early north 4-27 St. Louis GN; 5-15 Morrison LSR; 5-18 Mille Lacs MI.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON**

2 reports: 4-23 to 4-27 Winona (1) VH and Dave Palmquist; 5-9 Wabasha Helen Tucker.

**SNOWY EGRET**

2 reports: 4-17 Murray (Currant Lake) BL, R. Glassel, H. Huber, R. Rhume; 5-14 Goodhue (1) DGW.

**Cattle Egret**

Only 1 report 5-29 Grant (1) RBJ.

**Great Egret**

Early south 3 reports on 3-27; early north 4-14 Marshall SV; 4-16 Otter Tail GW; 4-22 Crow Wing DK.

**The Loon****Black-crowned Night Heron**

Early south 4-4 Hennepin ETS; 4-7 Freeborn DG; 4-10 Lac Qui Parle AFE; early north 4-19 Marshall SV; 4-22 St. Louis P. Hofslund; 5-8 Otter Tail GW.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

2 reports: 5-6 Hennepin (1) JRG; 5-29 to 6-2 Aitkin (2)-W. Nelson.

**Least Bittern**

4 reports: 5-17 Dakota JG; 5-21 to 5-23 Freeborn DG; 5-23 Yellow Medicine (unusual southwest) GO; 5-29 Marshall (Agassiz NWR) LH.

**American Bittern**

Early south 4-12 Hennepin JG; 4-15 Lac Qui Parle CB; 2 reports on 4-17; early north 4-17 St. Louis JCG; 4-19 Marshall SV; 4-20 St. Louis GN.

**Whistling Swan**

Early south 3-19 Stearns NMH; 3-20 Wabasha GE; 3-22 Wabasha KE; early north 3-29 Crow Wing DK; 4-2 Pine ML; 4-4 Marshall AWR, SV; late 5-20 Big Stone BS.

**Canada Goose**

Early north 3-19 Marshall AWR, SV; 4-23 Hubbard HF and Mille Lacs MI.

**White-fronted Goose**

18 reports of 750+ individuals, more reports than usual. Early 3-20 Chippewa RBJ (8); 3-21 Lac Qui Parle HCK (2); 3-23 Cottonwood ED; peak 3-31 Big Stone (300) BS.

**Snow Goose**

Early south 3-2 Lincoln LK; 3-8 Olmsted VH; 3-19 Rock KE; early north 4-15 Marshall SV, AWR; 4-25 St. Louis NJH; 5-2 St. Louis DS, JH; peak several reports of 3000+.

**Mallard**

Peak 4-30 Marshall (5,000) AWR.

**Black Duck**

Early south 3-7 Wabasha WM; 3-13 Hennepin PCHS; 3 reports on 3-18; early north 4-4 and 4-10 St. Louis JCG; 4-12 Cook JH; 4-20 St. Louis GN.

**Gadwall**

Early south 3-2 Hennepin HPR; 3-4 Wabasha WM; 3-18 Goodhue LH; early

north 4-2 Marshall AWR; 4-9 Marshall SV; 4-11 Otter Tail GW; peak 4-30 Marshall (5,250) AWR.

### **Pintail**

Early south 3-2 Lincoln LK and Hennepin HPR; 3-7 Washington GA; early north 3-25 Marshall SV, AWR; 4-4 St. Louis JCG; 4-5 Crow Wing DK; peak 4-30 Marshall (750) AWR.

### **Green-winged Teal**

Early south 3 reports on 3-19; early north 4-2 Marshall SV, AWR; 4-3 Crow Wing DK; 4-7 Mille Lacs MI; peak 4-30 Marshall (3430) AWR.

### **Blue-winged Teal**

Early south 3-18 Fillmore GE; 4 reports on 3-20; early north 4-5 Crow Wing DK; 4-8 Otter Tail NJ; 4 reports on 4-9; peak 4-30 Marshall (11,300) AWR.

### **CINNAMON TEAL**

2 reports 4-17 to 4-29 Mower RKJ; 4-5 Grant GO.

### **American Wigeon**

Early south 3-2 Hennepin HPR; 3-18 Rice OR; 2 reports on 3-19; early north 4-2 Crow Wing DK; 4-3 Otter Tail GW; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI; peak 4-30 Marshall (2060) AWR.

### **Northern Shoveler**

Early south 3-10 Wabasha RL; 3-15 Yellow Medicine GO; 3-18 Rice OR; early north 4-3 Otter Tail GW and Crow Wing DK; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI; 4-8 Marshall SV, AWR; peak 4-30 Marshall (810) AWR.

### **Wood Duck**

Early south 3-10 Wabasha RL; 3-12 Ramsey RH; 2 reports on 3-18; early north 3-24 Crow Wing DK; 3-30 Marshall SV, AWR; 4-1 Aitkin JB; peak 4-15 Big Stone (300) BS.

### **Redhead**

Early south 3-2 Wabasha WM; 3-3 Hennepin HPR; 3-7 Big Stone BS; early north 4-3 Otter Tail GW; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI and Crow Wing DK; peak 4-15 Big Stone (2000) BS.

### **Ring-necked Duck**

Early south 3-7 Washington GA; 3-

15 Nobles GO; several reports on 3-18; early north 3-16 Otter Tail GW; 3-30 Crow Wing DK; 4-1 Mille Lacs MI; peak 4-30 Marshall (3330) AWR.

### **Canvasback**

Early south 3-15 Nobles GO; 3-18 Olmsted VH and Wabasha LH; early north 4-3 Otter Tail GW; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI; 4-10 Marshall SV, AWR; peak 4-23 Marshall (1780) AWR.

### **Greater Scaup**

19 reports: early south 3-22 Goodhue KE; 3-25 Lyon HK; 3-28 Yellow Medicine GO and Hennepin PCHS; early north 3-31 Mille Lacs MI; 4-10 and 5-11 St. Louis JCG; 4-20 St. Louis GN.

### **Lesser Scaup**

Early south 3-6 Washington JD; 3-14 Stearns NMH; several reports on 3-18; early north 3-23 Crow Wing DK; 4-3 Otter Tail GW; 4 reports on 4-4; peak 4-30 Marshall (10,400) AWR.

### **Common Goldeneye**

late south 5-2 Stearns NMH and Scott SG, PS; peak 3-26 Big Stone (1100) BS.

### **Bufflehead**

Early south 3-10 Hennepin PCHS; 7 reports on 3-20; early north 3-31 Mille Lacs MI; 4-2 Crow Wing DK; 4-3 Otter Tail and Morrison LSR; late south 5-12 Rock KE; late north 5-23 St. Louis JCG; peak 4-23 Marshall (630) AWR.

### **Oldsquaw**

6 reports all from Lake Superior: early 3-19 Cook (4) ETS; late 5-22 St. Louis RBJ, KE, TS, and Cook (38) LH; peak 5-15 Lake, Cook (45) DS.

### **Black Scoter**

3 reports: 5-18 St. Louis (1) GN; 5-19 St. Louis (1) JCG; 5-25 Lake (1) JH.

### **White-winged Scoter**

4 reports from Lake Superior: 4-22 St. Louis (1) GN; 5-15 Lake (45) DS; 5-22 St. Louis RBJ, KE, TS and Cook (1) LH; 1 report away from Lake Superior 5-11 Marshall (2) AWR.

**Surf Scoter**

2 reports 5-22 St. Louis RBJ, KE, TS; 5-23 Lake (2) LH.

**Ruddy Duck**

Early south 3-18 Rice OR; 3 reports on 3-19; early north 4-15 and 5-11 Marshall AWR; 4-29 Hubbard HF; 5-25 Morrison LSR; peak 4-16 Big Stone (400) BS.

**Hooded Merganser**

Early south 3-2 Wabasha WM; 3-14 Dakota SG, PS; 3-19 Rice OR; early north 3-20 Crow Wing DK; 3 reports on 3-29.

**Common Merganser**

Early north 3-31 St. Louis JCG; 4-2 Marshall SV, AWR; late south 4-24 Lyon HK; peak 4-15 Marshall (500) AWR.

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Early south 3-20 Dakota BDC; 3-21 Freeborn RKJ and Lac Qui Parle HK; early north 3-9 St. Louis JCG; 3-18 Crow Wing DK; 4-3 Morrison LSR; late south 5-16 Hennepin ERW; peak 4-29 St. Louis (300) JCG.

**Turkey Vulture**

Early south 3-19 Hennepin PCHS; 3-20 Wright BH; 3-28 Winona VH; early north 4-5 to 4-10 St. Louis Tom Davis, PD, NJH.

**Goshawk**

3 reports: 3-29 Marshall (1) SV; 4-6 Crow Wing DK; 4-24 Chippewa OJ.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Early south 3-1 Anoka JBB; 3-11 Le Sueur HC; 3-13 Wabasha WM; early north 3-4 Crow Wing JB; 4-3 Crow Wing DK; 4-11 Hubbard HF.

**Cooper's Hawk**

Early south 3-11 Olmsted JF; 3-20 Le Sueur HC; 3-20 Stearns NMH; early north 4-6 to 5-26 Crow Wing JB; 4-23 Mille Lacs MI; 5-11 Cook JH.

**Red-tailed Hawk**

Early north 3-15 Crow Wing DK; 3-21 Crow Wing JB; 3-23 Marshall AWR.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**

Early south 3-8 Washington GA; 3-18 Hennepin OJ; 3-22 Goodhue KE; reports north 3-1 Crow Wing Steve

Blanich; 4-1 Crow Wing DK; 5-14 Cass AS northward extension.

**Broad-winged Hawk**

Early south 3-17 Sibley HK (details?); 3-23 Wabasha WM (details?); 3-27 Anoka KL (details?); 4-3 Olmsted FS; early north 4-1 Crow Wing DK; 4-4 Clay LCF; 4-11 Mille Lacs MI; one report of the rare dark phase 5-2 Lac Qui Parle LH; Chris Hope.

**Swainson's Hawk**

16 reports of 20 individuals: early 4-4 Yellow Medicine GO; 4-14 Mower RKJ; other reports from 4-16 to 5-26 from Rock, Pipestone, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Dakota.

**Rough-legged Hawk**

Early north 3-13 Crow Wing JB; 3-19 Marshall SV; 3-24 Pine ML; late 5-16 Swift HK; 5-22 Carlton RBJ, KE, TS.

**Ferruginous Hawk**

1 report 5-23 Lake Benton Lincoln Co. light phase KE.

**Golden Eagle**

3 reports of 4 individuals (14 reports last year): 3-11 Houston (1 imm) FL; 3-20 Chippewa (2) RBJ, KE; 3-28 Lac Qui Parle (1) GO.

**Bald Eagle**

42 reports from 3-2 to 5-31 for a total of 160 individuals (45 adults, 30 imm, 85 no age); reported from St. Louis (10), Wabasha (76), Clearwater (3), Big Stone (5), Chippewa (17), Hennepin (2), Swift (4), Dakota (4), Goodhue (9), Anoka (1), Carlton (1), Le Sueur (1), Freeborn (7), Washington (1), Kandiyohi (1), Stearns (1), Houston (3), Otter Tail (1), Mille Lacs (2), Hubbard (2), Itasca (3), Marshall (2), Clay (1), Crow Wing (2), Cass (1).

**Marsh Hawk**

Early south 3-6 Goodhue SG, PS; 3-7 Dakota OJ; 3-11 Rice OR and Houston FL; early north 3-17 Marshall SV; 3-19 Aitkin JB; 3-22 Pine ML.

**Osprey**

Early south 4-13 Olmsted JF; 4-24 Wabasha RL and Yellow Medicine LR;

early north 3-27 Crow Wing DK; 4-3 Crow Wing JB; 4-10 St. Louis NJH; earlier in the north again this year.

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

7 reports 4-3 Goodhue BL; 4-8 Hennepin Karol Gresser; 4-16 Aitkin JB; 5-1, 5-2, 5-8, 5-11 Marshall AWR.

#### **Merlin**

4 reports 3-25 Stearns NMH (wintering?); 4-4 Lac Qui Parle CB; 5-1 Aitkin JB; 5-5 Hennepin OJ; 5-7 Beltrami MS.

#### **American Kestrel**

Early north 3-6 St. Louis Molly Kohlbry; 3-14 Otter Tail GW; 3-15 St. Louis DS.

#### **Turkey**

4-18 Wabasha (1) RL; 3-28 Winona (20) JB, TS.

#### **Spruce Grouse**

3-20 Cook (2) ETS.

#### **Ruffed Grouse**

Reported from 25 counties.

#### **Greater Prairie Chicken**

5 reports from 5-10 to 5-30 from Wilkin (83) and Polk (26).

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

2 reports: 3-4 Aitkin (3) JB; 5-29 Polk (3) GO.

#### **Bobwhite**

3 reports: 4-20 Dakota (1) BH; 4-25 Wabasha (1) WM; 5-16 Anoka JBB. Could all be released birds.

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

Reported from 24 counties.

#### **Gray Partridge**

Reported from Yellow Medicine, Stearns, Rock, Nobles, Murray, Lac Qui Parle, Pipestone, Lincoln, Cottonwood, Dakota, Mower, Rice, Jackson, Otter Tail, Marshall, Redwood, Crow Wing, Norman and Wilkin.

#### **Sandhill Crane**

9 reports: 4-7, 5-21, 5-29 Marshall JCG, SV, DGW; 3-26 Stearns NMH; 4-19 Houston FL (rare in Miss. Valley); 4-22 Becker MS; 4-28, 5-16 Anoka BB,

KL; 5-29 Polk ETS; 5-30 Roseau RBJ, KE.

#### **Virginia Rail**

Early south 3-2 Hennepin RBJ (wintering?); 4-19 Hennepin JG; 4-28 Cottonwood LR; 2 reports on 4-30; early north 4-29 Aitkin JB; 5-7 Marshall SV; 5-11 St. Louis JCG.

#### **Sora**

Early south 4-14 Wabasha WM; 4-17 Hennepin ETS; 4-21 Carver JRG; early north 4-21 Mahnomen MS; 4-28 Marshall SV; 5-8 Pine ML.

#### **Yellow Rail**

Early May Aitkin TS; 5-22 Aitkin RBJ, KE, TS (2 heard).

#### **Common Gallinule**

4 reports: 5-9 Anoka (1) KL; 5-16 Houston and Hennepin (2) BB; 5-29 Houston (7) DGW.

#### **American Coot**

Early south 3-1 Hennepin BE; 3-14 Dakota SG, PS; 3-15 Nobles GO; early north 3-22 Crow Wing DK; 3-28 Otter Tail GW; 4-5 Marshall SV.

#### **Piping Plover**

16 reports: 4-22, 5-1 Lyon HK; 7 reports on 4-24 Lac Qui Parle; 4-25 Lac Qui Parle ETS, CB; 5-5 Lyon BDC; 6 reports from St. Louis from 5-21 to 5-29 up to 6 in number.

#### **SNOWY PLOVER**

5-1 Lyon HK, first state record.

#### **Killdeer**

Early south 3-1 Lincoln LK; 3-7 Olmsted JF; 3-10 Fillmore GE; early north 3-19 Otter Tail GW and Crow Wing Steve Blanich; 3-21 Marshall SV; 3-24 Crow Wing DK.

#### **American Golden Plover**

Early south 3-24 Dakota RBJ; 4-10 Rock KE; 4-19 Freeborn HK; early north 4-25 Otter Tail GW; late 5-31 Marshall SV.

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

Early south 5-6, 5-9 Hennepin BE; 5-12 Lyon GO; 5-14 Lyon HK; early north 5-11 St. Louis GN; late 5-31 Anoka KL and Marshall SV.

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Early south 5-8 Lyon ED; 5-10 Lyon HK; 5-12 Lyon GO; early north 5-18 St. Louis DS, JCG; late 5-23 Lyon KE; 5-31 Marshall SV.

### **American Woodcock**

Early south 3-16 Houston FL; 3-20 Stearns NMH; 3-24 Freeborn DG and Goodhue RBJ; early north 3-27 Pine ML and St. Louis Dick Robertson; 3-31 Marshall SV and Crow Wing JB; also reported from Bib Stone and Roseau.

### **Common Snipe**

Early south 3-22 Fillmore GE; 3-24 Goodhue RBJ; 4-3 Wabasha and Hennepin PCHS; early north 4-1 Crow Wing DK; 3 reports on 4-6.

### **LONG-BILLED CURLEW:**

1 report: 4-24 Swift RBJ, KE, Paul England, Chuck Bergman.

### **Whimbrel**

4 reports of 20 birds: 5-23 Cook (Tofte) (17) Tom Hart; 5-26 St. Louis (1) BDC, BB; 5-30 St. Louis (1) CH, DGW; 5-31 Marshall (1) KE, RBJ, casual away from Lake Superior.

### **Upland Sandpiper**

Early south 4-18 Rock KE; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle RBJ; 2 reports north 5-21, 5-25 St. Louis GN.

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

Early south 4-13 Hennepin EJ; 4-17 Murray BL; 4-20 Hennepin JG; early north 4-24 St. Louis PD; 4-28 Marshall SV; 4-29 Crow Wing DK.

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

Early south 4-12 Carver HPR; 4-14 Hennepin PCHS; 4-15 Hennepin OJ; early north 5-5, 5-10 St. Louis JCG; 5-11 St. Louis GN; late 5-27 Winona VH.

### **Willet**

Early south 4-19 Stearns NMH; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle AFE, HK; 4-29 Hennepin HPR; no reports north; late 5-16 Lyon KE.

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

Early south 3-24 Lyon HK; 3-27 Yellow Medicine GO; 4-3 Wright BH;

early north 4-13 Aitkin JB; 4-14 Marshall SV; 4-21 Itasca MS; late 5-16 Stearns NMH and Yellow Medicine HK.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

Early south 3-23 Lyon HK; 3-24 Goodhue RBJ; 3-29 Yellow Medicine GO; early north 4-4 Crow Wing DK; 4-5 Otter Tail NJ; 4-13 Aitkin JB; late 5-25 St. Louis JCG.

### **Red Knot**

4 reports all from St. Louis Co. 5-18 (1) JCG; 5-21 (4-5) JH, DS; 5-26 (6) BB, BDC; 5-29, 5-30 (3) CH.

### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

Early south 3-24 Goodhue RBJ; 4-2 Lyon HK; 4-7 Lyon GO; early north 4-4 Crow Wing DK; 4-22 Marshall SV; 5-17 Cook JH; late 5-22 Lyon SG, PS.

### **White-rumped Sandpiper**

Early south 4-24 Lac Qui Parle CB; 5-1 Lyon GO; 5-5 Lyon BDC; only reports north 5-24 (6) and 5-29, 5-31 Marshall SV; late 5-30 Polk KE.

### **Baird's Sandpiper**

Early south 3-31 Dodge RBJ; 4-7 Lyon GO; 4-9 Lyon HK; 1 report north 5-22 Marshall SV; late 5-20 Hennepin BE.

### **Least Sandpiper**

Early south 4-10 Ramsey DGW; 4-20 Lyon HK; 3 reports on 4-24; early north 5-8 Marshall SV; 5-11 Mille Lacs MI; 5-17 Cook JH; late 5-28 Hennepin CH.

### **Dunlin**

Early south 4-22 Lyon HK; 5 reports on 4-24; early north 5-7 Marshall MS; 5-13 St. Louis DS; 5-18 St. Louis JCG; late 5-26 St. Louis JG.

### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

Early 5-7 Lyon; 5-10 Wright ETS; 5-11 Hennepin OJ; 3 other reports with call note data; late 5-15 Lyon BL.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

4-24 Lac Qui Parle several observers; 5-10 Wright ETS only ones with call note data.

### **The Loon**

### **Dowitcher Sp.**

22 reports from 4-24 to 5-27 from Lyon, Lincoln, Dakota, Goodhue, Cottonwood, Lac Qui Parle, Hennepin, Washington, Marshall.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

4-25 Lac Qui Parle ETS; 9 reports from Lyon Co. from 5-4 to 5-25; peak 5-12, 5-14 Lyon (200) HK; no reports north.

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

Early south 4-17 Lyon BL; 4-18 Cottonwood ED; 4-20 Lyon HK; early north 5-21 St. Louis DS; late 5-25 Lyon HK and St. Louis GN, JCG.

### **Western Sandpiper**

8 reports: 4-23 to 5-25 Lyon, up to 21 in number HK, GO, LH; 4-25 Lac Qui Parle BE; 5-9, 5-11 Olmsted JF; 5-11 Hennepin OJ.

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

2 reports of this rare spring migrant: 5-15 Goodhue ERW; 5-16 Yellow Medicine HK.

### **Marbled Godwit**

Early south 4-24 Lac Qui Parle RBJ, KE, CB; 4-25 Lac Qui Parle ETS; 2 reports north 4-22 Mahnomen MS; 5-27 Norman JCG.

### **Hudsonian Godwit**

Early south 4-23 Lyon HK; 8 reports on 4-24 Lac Qui Parle; reports north 5-9 (1), 5-16 (130) Marshall SV; 5-18 (2) St. Louis JCG.

### **Sanderling**

Early south 4-14 Lyon GO earliest date on record; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle several observers; early north 5-21 St. Louis GN, JH; 5-22 Marshall SV; late 5-28 Hennepin CH.

### **American Avocet**

16 reports: 5-1 Murray (16) KE; 5-2 (2) HK, 5-4 (1) GO, 5-5 (10) BDC, 5-12 (8) HK, 5-15 (1) BL, 5-23 (1) RL, all Lyon Co.; 5-3, 5-5, 5-7 Cottonwood LF; 5-22 Lac Qui Parle (2) KE; 5-15, 5-16, 5-24 Lac Qui Parle CB; 5-26 Grant RL; 5-30 Marshall (2) KE, ETS; 5-10 (2), 5-16 (8) Marshall SV.

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

Early south 3 reports on 4-23; early north 4-13 Aitkin JB; 5-10 Marshall SV.

### **Northern Phalarope**

Early south 5-13 Cottonwood LR, ED; 5-14 Lyon HK; 5-15 Lyon BL; reports north 5-10, 5-29 Marshall SV, JCG.

### **Glaucous Gull**

4 reports: 3-7 (8 imm, 2 ad), 4-7 (1 imm, 1 ad) St. Louis JCG; 3-18 Cook (1 imm) JH; 3-19 Cook (1) ETS.

### **ICELAND GULL**

1 report: 3-14 St. Louis JCG.

### **THAYER'S GULL**

1 report: 5-17 St. Louis DS.

### **Herring Gull**

Early south 3-14 Wabasha WM; 3-19 Rice OR; 3-20 Swift RBJ; early north 3-29 St. Louis NJH; 4-1 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Ring-billed Gull**

Early south 3-15 Nobles GO; 3-18 Wabasha LH; 3 reports on 3-19; early north 3-25 Mille Lacs MI; 3-30 St. Louis JCG, DS.

### **Franklin's Gull**

Early south 3-19 Lincoln LK; 3-25 Lyon HK; 3-27 Martin RBJ; early north 4-8 Marshall SV; 4-22 Becker MS; 4-23 Clay LCF.

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

Early south 3-27 Goodhue ETS; 4-9 Lyon GO; 3 reports on 4-10; early north 5-9 St. Louis JCG; 5-10 Marshall SV and St. Louis (1000) Tom Peek; 5-11 St. Louis GN; late 5-25 St. Louis JCG, GN.

### **LITTLE GULL**

2 reports both St. Louis: 5-18 (2 ad) JCG; 5-29 (2 imm) BL.

### **Forster's Tern**

Early south 4-2 Ramsey BH earliest date on record; 4-4 Kandiyohi LR and Jackson ED; 4-11 Hennepin BE; early north 4-24 Marshall SV; 5-7 Itasca MS; 5-8 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Common Tern**

Early south 4-10 Ramsey LH; 4-20

Hennepin CH; 3 reports on 4-25; early north 4-28 Mille Lacs MI; 5-4 Otter Tail NJ; 5-9 St. Louis JCG.

#### **Caspian Tern**

Early south 4-22 Hennepin CH; 4-23 Ramsey RH; 5-7 Dakota JG and Goodhue DB; early north 5-2 Mille Lacs JB; 5-8 Mille Lacs MI; 5-11 St. Louis JCG, GN; late 5-25 St. Louis JCG, GN.

#### **Black Tern**

Early south 4-24 Big Stone ETS; 4-29 Hennepin LH; 4-30 Hennepin SG, PS; early north 5-11 Morrison LSR; 5-12 Otter Tail NJ; 5-13 Mille Lacs MI and Crow Wing DK.

#### **Mourning Dove**

Early north 3-1 Mille Lacs MI; 3-22 Crow Wing DK; 3-27 Marshall SV.

#### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

5 reports: 5-25 Anoka JBB; 5-26 Hennepin ETS; 5-29 Norman RBJ; 5-31 Olmsted JF; 5-30 Wabasha Ray F. Bochmen.

#### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

Early south 3 reports on 5-17; reports north 5-9 St. Louis PD (details?); 5-18 St. Louis GN; 5-24 Itasca MS.

#### **Monk Parakeet**

1 report: 5-8 Wright (1 shot) DF.

#### **Screech Owl**

Reported from Rice, Kandiyohi, Stearns, Lyon, Lac Qui Parle, Crow Wing (Deerwood, 5-22, KE, TS, RBJ).

#### **Great Horned Owl**

Reported from 30 counties.

#### **Snowy Owl**

5 reports: 3-8 Aitkin (1) JB; 3-13 St. Louis JCG; 3-17 to 3-22 Anoka WL; 3-18 Mille Lacs (1) MI; 5-2 St. Louis (1) NJH.

#### **Burrowing Owl**

5-7 Lyon (1) Carroll Henderson, 5-29 Polk many observers.

#### **Barred Owl**

Reported from 18 counties.

#### **Great Gray Owl**

3 reports: 3-19, 3-20 (1) Aitkin Lloyd

#### **The Loon**

Paynter; 5-26 Aitkin (1 carrying food) JB; 5-30 Roseau (1) RBJ, KE.

#### **Long-eared Owl**

1 report: 4-7 Lyon NH.

#### **Short-eared Owl**

8 reports: 3-17, 4-5 Marshall SV; 3-25, 4-1 Rock KE; 3-27 Cottonwood LR; 4-17 St. Louis JCG, DS; 4-28 Lyon HK; 4-24 Wilkin LH; 5-30 Roseau RBJ, KE.

#### **Saw-whet Owl**

8 reports: 3-27 Itasca MS and Crow Wing DK; 4-6 St. Louis P. Hofslund; 4-8 St. Louis PD; 4-11 Crow Wing and 4-22 Aitkin JB; 4-28 Koochiching DB; 5-21 St. Louis GN.

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

Early south 4-10 Hennepin BE earliest date on record; 5-3 Hennepin Jim Crist; 5-7 Fillmore GE; reports north 5-11 Otter Tail NJ; 5-14 St. Louis PD; 5-21 Marshall and 5-15 Roseau SV.

#### **Common Nighthawk**

Early south 4-22 Hennepin FN; 5-8 Hennepin SG, PS; early north 4-16 Cass AS (details?); 5-13 Crow Wing DK; 5-19 Pine ML and Marshall SV.

#### **Chimney Swift**

Early south 4-16 Freeborn HK; 4-25 Stearns NMH; 4-28 Fillmore GE; early north 5-9 Otter Tail NJ; 5-10 Crow Wing JB; 5-11 Morrison LSR.

#### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Early south 4-29 Kandiyohi DA; 5-10 Wabasha RL; 5-13 Hennepin PCHS; early north 5-1 Clay LCF; 5-13 St. Louis GN; 5-14 Crow Wing JB and St. Louis JCG.

#### **Belted Kingfisher**

Early south 3-1 Hennepin BE; 3-5 Fillmore GE; 3-7 Lyon HK; early north 4-3 Otter Tail GW and Marshall SV; 4-4 St. Louis GN, JCG.

#### **Common Flicker**

Early north 3-27 Crow Wing DK; 3-30 Clay LCF; 3-31 Cass AS; 1 report of the red-shafted sub-species 3-27 Lyon NH.

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Reported from 28 counties.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Reported from 21 counties.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Early north 3-25 Crow Wing DK; 4-20 Pine ML; 5-9 Mille Lacs MI.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Early south 3-31 Freeborn DG; 3 reports on 4-3; early north 4-8 Clay LCF and Pine ML; 4-9 St. Louis PD; 4-12 Mille Lacs MI.

**Hairy Woodpecker.**

Reported from 35 counties.

**Downy Woodpecker**

Reported from 37 counties.

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker**

2 reports: 4-13 St. Louis (1) PD; 4-28 St. Louis (1) DS.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**

1 report: 4-30 Lake (1 dead) Mr. & Mrs. Larsen.

**Eastern Kingbird**

Early south 4-24 Lac Qui Parle KE, RBJ; 5-3 Kandiyohi DA; 5-6 Olmsted JF; early north 5-17 Marshall SV and Itasca MS; 5-18 St. Louis JCG.

**Western Kingbird**

Early south 5-8 Wabasha WM; 5-9 Rock LH; early north 5-16 Marshall SV; 5-22 Otter Tail NJ; also reported from Lake of the Woods 5-31 KE, RBJ.

**Great-crested Flycatcher**

Early south 5-8 Wabasha WM; 5-9 Olmsted JF; early north 5-14 Otter Tail NJ; 5-15 Crow Wing JB and Todd GW; 5-16 St. Louis JCG.

**Eastern Phoebe**

Early south 3-24 Ramsey BH; 3-27 Hennepin BE; 4 reports on 3-28; early north 3-30 Marshall SV; 3-31 Crow Wing JB and Itasca MS; 4-1 Crow Wing DK.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

Early south 5-15 Freeborn DG, JF; 5-16 Anoka KL; early north 5-19 Crow Wing DK; 5-22 Pine ML and St. Louis JCG.

**Acadian Flycatcher**

1 report: 5-16 Goodhue ETS earliest date on record.

**Alder Flycatcher**

Reports south: 5-6 Hennepin ETS; 5-24 Hennepin OJ; 5-28 Rock KE; early north 5-21 St. Louis GN; 5-24 St. Louis PD; 5-28 Marshall SV.

**Willow Flycatcher**

4 reports: 5-27 Olmsted JF; 5-30 Mower RKJ; 5-31 Roseau KE; 5-24 Wabasha Ray R. Bockman.

**Flycatcher Sp.**

"Traill's" Flycatchers not identified as Willow or Alder: Early south 5-5 Lyon HK; 5-7 Olmsted VH; 5-12 Yellow Medicine GO; 1 report north 5-19 Clay LCF.

**Least Flycatcher**

Early south 4-30 Hennepin RH; 3 reports on 5-5; early north 5-10 Itasca MS and Cas AS; 3 reports on 5-13.

**Eastern Wood Pewee**

Early south 4-13 Lyon HK; 4-25 Rice OR; 5-6 Ramsey LH; early north 5-23 Becker LCF and Pine ML; 5-26 St. Louis JCG.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Early south 5-14 Martin RBJ; 5-15 Goodhue GA, DGW; 5-16 Stearns KE; early north 3 reports on 5-22.

**Horned Lark**

Early north: 3 reports on 3-3.

**Tree Swallow**

Early south 3-25 Wabasha WM; 3-26 Dakota RBJ; 3-28 Winona VH; early north 4-5 Crow Wing DK; 4-6 Mille Lacs MI; 4 reports on 4-9.

**Bank Swallow**

Early south 4-11 Dakota JD; 4-19 Stearns NMH; 4-24 Fillmore GE and Houston FL; early north 5-6 St. Louis GN; 5-14 St. Louis PD; 5-17 Marshall SV.

**Rough-winged Swallow**

Early south 4-11 Houston FL; 4-16 Hennepin OJ; 4-18 Rock KE; early north 4-19 St. Louis JCG; 5-11 Mille Lacs MI; 5-13 St. Louis GN.

**Barn Swallow**

Early south 3-23 Olmsted JF; 4-12 Cottonwood ED; 4-15 Carver JRG; early north 4-27 Marshall SV; 5-5 Itasca MS; 5-6 St. Louis GN.

**Cliff Swallow**

Early south 4-24, 4-25 Lac Qui Parle AFE, RBJ; 4-28 Lac Qui Parle GO; early north 4-30 Marshall SV; 5-1 Lake ME; 5-6 St. Louis GN.

**Purple Martin**

Early south 3 reports on 4-4; early north 4-7, 4-15 St. Louis NJH; 4-10 Mille Lacs MI; 4-13 Crow Wing JB and Otter Tail NJ.

**Gray Jay**

Reported from Cook, Itasca, St. Louis, Cass, Aitkin, Hubbard Co's.

**Blue Jay**

Reported from 34 counties.

**Black-billed Magpie**

7 reports: 3-12 Otter Tail NJ; 4-6 Hubbard HF; 4-12 Marshall SV; 5-21 Roseau DGW; 5-29 Polk RL, JCG; 5-30 Polk (ad. at nest) RBJ.

**Common Raven**

Reported from Cass, Itasca, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Carlton, Crow Wing, Goodhue (5-16 OJ) Co's.

**Common Crow**

Reported from 33 counties.

**Black-capped Chickadee**

Reported from 31 counties.

**Boreal Chickadee**

3 reports: 3-13 to 3-19 Hennepin (3) ERW; 4-2 Cook JH; 5-22 Carlton TS, RBJ, KE.

**Tufted Titmouse**

3 reports: 4-9 Olmsted (1), 4-10 Fillmore (1) RBJ; 5-16 Wabasha Helen Tucker.

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

Reported from 30 counties

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

32 reports from Clay, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, Cook, Hubbard, Stearns, Roseau, Olm-

sted, Dakota, Wabasha, Lac Qui Parle, Anoka, Koochiching, Beltrami, Hennepin Co's.

**Brown Creeper**

Early south 3-1 Anoka JBB; 3-2 Kandiyohi DA; 3-10 Blue Earth VR; early north 3-23 Hubbard HF; 3-29 St. Louis JCG; 4-5 St. Louis DS.

**House Wren**

Early south 4-16 Fillmore GE; 4-18 Washington GA and Hennepin HPR; early north 5-9 Otter Tail GW and St. Louis DS; 5-11 Marshall SV and Mille Lacs MI.

**Winter Wren**

Early south 3-7 Hennepin ETS (wintering?); 3-28 Olmsted JF; 3-31 Mower RJK; 4-4 Rock KE; early north 4-6 St. Louis JCG; 4-10 Lake ME; 4-12 Cook JH.

**BEWICK'S WREN**

1 report: 4-8 Crow Wing JB (first in several years).

**CAROLINA WREN**

2 reports: 5-12 Goodhue Ross Wagner; 5-23 Pipestone GO.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren**

Early south 4-16 Hennepin OJ; 4-22 Cottonwood ED; 5-3 Hennepin JG; early north 5-4 Marshall SV; 5-11 St. Louis JCG; 5-13 St. Louis DS.

**Short-billed Marsh Wren**

Early south 4-11 Freeborn DG; 4-27 Anoka WL; 5-13 Hennepin JG; early north 5-8 Pine ML; 5-16 Marshall SV; 5-17 Itasca MS.

**Mockingbird**

4 reports: 5-5 Le Sueur Ward Tanner; early May Morrison (Royalton) NMH; 5-11 Carver HPR; 5-28 (Aitkin) Aitkin (1) Steve Blanich.

**Gray Catbird**

Early south 4-15 Hennepin BDC; 4-22 Olmsted JF; 4-27 Blue Earth DP; early north 5-13 Morrison LSR and Crow Wing DK; 3 reports on 5-14.

**Brown Thrasher**

Early south 4-2 Hennepin HPR; 4-15 Ramsey BDC; 6 reports on 4-17;

**The Loon**

early north 4-22 St. Louis GN and Crow Wing DK; 4-23 Itasca MS; 4-28 Marshall SV and St. Louis DS.

#### **American Robin**

Early north 3-20 Mille Lacs MI; 3 reports on 3-23.

#### **Wood Thrush**

Early south 5-10 Sherburne JBB and Washington GA; 5-12 Hennepin ETS; early north 4-19 Cass AS; 4-29 St. Louis NMH earliest dates for north; 5-14 St. Louis DS and Itasca MS; 5-17 St. Louis JCG very few reports.

#### **Hermit Thrush**

Early south 3-27 Freeborn DG; 3-31 Mower RJK; 4-3 Olmsted JF; early north 4-6 Mille Lacs MI; 4-8 Crow Wing DK; 4-16 St. Louis DS; late south 5-24 Anoka BB.

#### **Swainson's Thrush**

Early south 4-9 Ramsey RH; 4-14 Ramsey BDC; 4-25 Lac Qui Parle AFE; early north 4-28 St. Louis PD; 5-9 Mille Lacs MI; 5-13 Morrison LSR; late south 5-28 Rock KE.

#### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Early south 4-9 Cottonwood LF; 4-10 Wright DF; 4-20 Hennepin VL; (early dates); early north 5-8 Otter Tail GW; 5-13 Crow Wing DK; 5-15 Morrison LSR; late south 5-24 several reports.

#### **Veery**

Early south 4-29 Anoka HPR; 5-2 Lac Qui Parle LH; 3 reports on 5-6; early north 4-28 St. Louis PD; 5-11 St. Louis GN and Mille Lacs MI; 5-13 Itasca MS and Crow Wing DK.

#### **Eastern Bluebird**

Early south 3-6 Houston FL; 3-19 Carver HPR; 5 reports on 3-20; early north 3-30, 4-6 Marshall SV; 4-3 Mille Lacs MI; 4-4 Aitkin JB.

#### **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**

2 reports: 3-28, 3-29 Marshall (2 males) SV; 4-1 Rock (1) KE.

#### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Early south 4-30 Goodhue RBJ; 5-7 Goodhue DB; 3 reports on 5-8.

#### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 3-2 Hennepin RBJ; 3-20 Olmsted JF; 3-22 Olmsted VH; early north 3-28 Pine ML; 4-2 Crow Wing DK; 4-4 Aitkin JB; late south 5-10 Hennepin OJ.

#### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Early south 3-20 to 3-24 Hennepin ERW; 3-25 Olmsted JF; 3-27 Hennepin BE; early north 4-3 Clay LCF; 4-5 Mille Lacs MI; 4-10 Cass AS; late south 5-30 Anoka KL.

#### **Water Pipit**

14 reports: 4-10, 4-14 Rock KE; 4-11 Anoka KL; 4-24, 4-25 Lac Qui Parle 4 reports; 4-27, 5-2 Lyon GO, HK; 4-28 Dakota MW; 5-6 Cottonwood ED; 5-10 Marshall SV; 5-17 Cook JH; 5-22 St. Louis LH.

#### **Sprague's Pipit**

2 reports 5-6 (Blue Mounds State Park) Rock Co. (1) KE; 5-30 (Marcoux) Polk Co. (1) DB new location.

#### **Bohemian Waxwing**

12 reports: 3-4 (75), 3-23, 3-24 (8) Crow Wing JB; 3-8 to 3-30 (9) Washington DGW; 3-17, 3-18 St. Louis (150) P. Hofslund; 3-20 Washington (105) GA; 3-29, 3-31 Hennepin Brad and Mark Johnson; 3-29 Hennepin (8) RBJ; 4-10 Dakota (4) MW.

#### **Cedar Waxwing**

Early south 3-2 Washington DGW; 3 reports on 3-6; early north 3-4 Clay LCF; 3-27 Otter Tail GW.

#### **Northern Shrike**

Late south 3-25 Anoka KL; 3-28 Olmsted JF; 3-31 Hennepin PCHS; late north 4-3 Marshall SV; 4-8 St. Louis PD.

#### **Loggerhead Shrike**

17 reports: more than for several years 3-27 Nicollet RBJ and Stearns NMH; 3-27 to 4-22 Dakota several observers; 4-9 Clay LCF; 4-10 Fillmore RBJ; 4-11 Murray AD; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle OJ and Yellow Medicine HK; 5-8 Cottonwood ED; 5-19 Clay DGW; 5-29 Lake of the Woods GO; 5-30 Roseau KE, RBJ; 5-31 Cook JH.

#### **Starling**

Reported from 30 counties.

**Bell's Vireo**

1 report: 5-15 Goodhue (Vasa, 1) BDC.

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

Early south 5-10 Hennepin JG; 3 reports on 5-12; early north 5-15 Crow Wing JB and Marshall SV; 5-20 Clay LCF.

**Solitary Vireo**

Early south 5-1 Hennepin BE; 5 reports on 5-5; early north 5-13 St. Louis GN; 5-14 Crow Wing JB and St. Louis DS; 2 reports on 5-17; late south 5-23 Lincoln KE.

**Red-eyed Vireo**

Early south 5-6 Stearns NMH; 5-9 Rock LH; 5-10 Hennepin BB; early north 5-11 Itasca MS; 5-15 Lake ME; 5-20 St. Louis PD.

**Philadelphia Vireo**

Early south 5-6 Cottonwood ED; 5-8 Pipestone LH and Goodhue BE; 5-10 Lac Qui Parle (6) AFE; early north 5-14 St. Louis DS; 5-20 Clay LCF; late south 5-25 Hennepin VL and Olmsted JF.

**Warbling Vireo**

Early south 4-26 Hennepin FN (earliest date on record); 5-7 Goodhue JG; 3 reports on 5-8; early north 5-6 Crow Wing DK; 5-13 Itasca MS and Marshall SV; 5-14 Otter Tail NJ.

**Black-and-white Warbler**

Early south 4-18 Stearns MC; 4-23 Cottonwood LF; 4-28 Anoka BB; early north 5-1 Clay NJ; 5-6 St. Louis GN and Crow Wing DK.

**Phothonotary Warbler**

2 reports: 5-1 Houston FL (2nd earliest date on record); 5-20 Goodhue (1) LH.

**Golden-winged Warbler**

Early south 5-11 Hennepin BDC and Jackson ED; 3 reports on 5-12; early north 5-13, 5-21 St. Louis GN; 5-15 Crow Wing JB; Otter Tail (5-29, expansion) GW.

**Blue-winged Warbler**

14 reports: 5-1 Fillmore RKJ; 5-8

to 5-21 Goodhue many observers; 5-13 Hennepin OJ, PCHS; 5-14 Hennepin HPR; 5-23 Olmsted JF.

**Brewster's Warbler**

1 report of this hybrid: 5-16 Goodhue (1) ETS.

**Tennessee Warbler**

Early south 4-9 Freeborn DG; 5-6 Hennepin FN, BDC; 5-8 Anoka WL and Pipestone LH; early north 5-13 St. Louis GN and Marshall SV; 5-14 Crow Wing JB and St. Louis DS; late south 5-25 Murray AD and Olmsted JF.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

Early south 4-11 Dakota JD (ties early date); 4-28 Hennepin JG; 4-30 Goodhue RBJ; early north 4-30 Clay LCF; 5-1 Marshall SV; 5-3 Cook JH; late 5-22 Crow Wing JB.

**Nashville Warbler**

Early south 4-25 Cottonwood LF (ties early date); 4-30 Carver HPR; 5-4 Houston FL; early north 5-4 St. Louis PD; 5-7 Cass AS and St. Louis NJH; 5-10 St. Louis JCG; late south 5-24 Hennepin SG, PS.

**Northern Parula**

Early south 4-20 Olmsted VH; 5-6 Hennepin DB; 5-7 Goodhue JG; early north 5-13 St. Louis GN and Itasca MS; 5-15 St. Louis NJH, DS; late south 5-22 Redwood SG, PS.

**Yellow Warbler**

Early south 5-6 Wabasha WM; 4 reports on 5-7; early north 5-10 Crow Wing JB; 5-11 St. Louis JCG and Marshall SV.

**Magnolia Warbler**

Early south 6 reports on 5-11; early north 5-14 St. Louis PD; 5-15 St. Louis NJH and Crow Wing JB; 5-16 Marshall SV; late south 5-31 Lyon NH.

**Cape May Warbler**

Early south 5-12 Olmsted VH; 5-13 Goodhue WKE, BDC; 5-14 Goodhue FN; early north 5-12 Mille Lacs MI; 5-13 St. Louis GN; 5-14 St. Louis PD, DS; late south 5-19 Wabasha WM.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

2 reports: 5-19 Clearwater (1) WL; 5-28 St. Louis (Babbitt, 2) PD.

**The Loon**

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Early south 4-3 Hennepin PCHS; 3 reports on 4-4; early north 3-31 St. Louis Steve Walczynski; 4-2 Crow Wing DK; 4-8 Mille Lacs MI; late south 5-30 Lac Qui Parle AFE.

### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

Early south 5-1 Hennepin DB; 3 reports on 5-5; early north 5-8 St. Louis NJH; 5-9 St. Louis JCG; 3 reports on 5-13; late reports on 5-23.

### **Cerulean Warbler**

Early south 5-13 Goodhue BDC; 3 reports on 5-14; also reported from Sherburne, Stearns, Hennepin, Houston, Dakota, Fillmore.

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

Early south 5 reports on 5-12; early north 5-6 Crow Wing DK; 5-15 St. Louis NJH and Itasca MS; 5-17 St. Louis PD; late south 5-23 Blue Earth VR and Mower RKJ.

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Early south 5-7 Hennepin OJ; 5-9 Freeborn DG; 5-10 Ramsey WL; early north 5-12 Crow Wing JB and Pine ML; 3 reports on 5-13.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

Early south 5-9 Hennepin HPR; 5-12 Hennepin SG, PS; 4 reports on 5-13; early north 5-20 Marshall SV; 5-21 St. Louis GN; 5-22 Mille Lacs MI.

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

Early south 5-6 Dakota JD; 5-7 Hennepin OJ; 5-10 Olmsted VH; early north 5-12 Mille Lacs MI; 5-13 Marshall SV; 5-14 St. Louis DS; late south 5-31 Olmsted JF.

### **Pine Warbler**

Early south 5-5 Washington GA; 5-6 Stearns NMH and Wabasha WM; 5-11 Anoka JBB; early north 4-24 Crow Wing JB; 4-26 Itasca MS; 5-22 St. Louis PD.

### **Palm Warbler**

Early south 4-24 Hennepin HPR; 4-25 Hennepin CH and Goodhue SG, PS; 4-27 Dakota JG; early north 4-27

Clay LCF; 4-28 Marshall SV; 5-5 Itasca MS; late south 5-23 Lincoln KE.

### **Ovenbird**

Early south 4-25 Carvery HPR; 4-26 Cottonwood ED and Dakota JG; 4 reports on 5-5; early north 5-9 Cass AS; 5-10 Itasca MS and Lake ME; 5-12 Crow Wing JB.

### **Northern Waterthrush**

Early south 4-27 Cottonwood LF; 4-30 Goodhue RBJ; 5-1 Hennepin ETS and Houston FL; early north 5-4, 5-8 Marshall SV; 5-14 Crow Wing JB; 5-15 Morrison LSR and Itasca MS; late south 5-23 Lincoln KE.

### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

6 reports: 5-5 Hennepin CH; 5-6 Anoka (1) LH; 5-8 Goodhue (1) BE; 5-9 Wright (1) BH; 5-10 Wright (1) ETS; 5-12 Hennepin (1) DB.

### **Connecticut Warbler**

19 reports from 5-15 to 5-31 from Pipestone (2), Carlton (1), Beltrami (1), Roseau (2), Cottonwood (2), Clearwater (1), Hennepin (6), Itasca (2), Pine (1), Lincoln (1), Rock (1), Mower (2), Crow Wing (1), Mille Lacs (1).

### **Mourning Warbler**

Early south 5-13 Hennepin RBJ, HPR; 5-18 Hennepin FN; early north 5-15 Morrison LSR; 5-18 St. Louis GN; 5-20 Marshall SV and Crow Wing DK; late south 5-31 Cottonwood LF.

### **Common Yellowthroat**

Early south 4-28 Yellow Medicine GO; 4-30 Goodhue RBJ; 5-5 Mower RKJ; early north 4-28 St. Louis DS; 5-4 Cass HH; 5-10 Lake ME.

### **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**

2 reports: 5-12 (1) KE and 5-25 (1) GO both from Blue Mounds State Park, Rock Co.

### **HOODED WARBLER**

2 reports: 5-28 Hennepin (1 male) and 5-31 Otter Tail (1 male) DB.

### **Wilson's Warbler**

Early south 5-5 Wabasha WM; 5-8 Goodhue BDC and Hennepin ETS; 5-9 Hennepin BE; early north 5-13 Crow

Wing JB; 5-14 St. Louis PD; 5-15 Morrison LSR; late south 5-23 Lincoln KE and Hennepin BE.

#### **Canada Warbler**

Early south 5-11 Hennepin HPR; 5-12 Hennepin SG, PS, DB; 3 reports on 5-18; early north 5-14 Itasca MS; 5-21 Clay LCF and Crow Wing DK; 3 reports on 5-22; late south 5-28 Hennepin SG, PS.

#### **American Redstart**

Early south 5-7 Hennepin ETS; 5-8 Hennepin BE; 5-9 Hennepin DB, BDC; early north 5-11 St. Louis JCG; 5-12 Crow Wing JB; 5-13 St. Louis GN.

#### **House Sparrow**

Reported from 30 counties.

#### **Bobolink**

Early south 5-4 Carver HPR, JRG; 4 reports on 5-7; early north 5-12 Otter Tail NJ; 5-13 Marshall SV; 5-14 Todd GW and St. Louis DS.

#### **Eastern Meadowlark**

Early south 3-5 Freeborn DG; 3-7 Olmsted FS and Fillmore GE; 3-17 Wabasha WM; early north 3-22 Mille Lacs MI; 3-24 Pine ML; 3-27 Cook JH.

#### **Western Meadowlark**

Early south 3-1 Lincoln LK; 3-6 Dodge RBJ; 3-8 Stearns MNH; early north 3-6 Otter Tail NJ; 3-23 Otter Tail GW; 3-26 Clay LCF.

#### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

Early south 4-8 Hennepin LH; 4-9 Hennepin BE; 4-11 Lyon HK and Hennepin SG, PS; early north 4-13 Marshall SV; 4-17 Otter Tail GW; 4-20 Mahanomen MS; also reported mid-April Cook (Gunflint Trail) Justine Kerfoot.

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

Early north 3-8 Pine ML; 3-19 Crow Wing DK; 3-20 Wadena JB; 3 reports on 3-23.

#### **Orchard Oriole**

10 reports from 5-15 to 5-30 from Rock, Goodhue, Wabasha, Murray, Lincoln, Lac Qui Parle, Polk (5-29, 5-30 KE, DB, RBJ); Marshall (5-30, 2,

ETS) breeding status still unknown in NW.

#### **Northern Oriole**

Early south 4-26 Mower RKJ; 5-1 Hennepin JRG; 5-5 Hennepin HPR; early north 4-29 Cass HH; 5-8 Crow Wing JB; 5-11 Otter Tail NJ.

#### **Rusty Blackbird**

Early south 3-6 Dodge RBJ; 3-13 Lyon HK; 3-15 Rice OR; early north 4-8 Aitkin JB and Marshall SV; 4-16 Cook JH; 4-20 St. Louis GN; late south 5-20 Stearns MC.

#### **Brewer's Blackbird**

Early south 3-18 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 3-21 Mower RKJ; 3-23 Hennepin PCHS; early north 3-28 Lake ME; 3-31 Mille Lacs MI; 4-16 Aitkin JB and St. Louis DS.

#### **Common Grackle**

Early south 3-1 Lincoln LK; 3-2 Freeborn DG; 3-5 Anoka WL; early north 3-22 Crow Wing DK; 3 reports on 3-23.

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

Early south 3-1 Olmsted JF; 3-3 Fillmore GE; 3-9 Cottonwood ED; early north 4-4 St. Louis GN; 4-6 Crow Wing JB; 4-9 St. Louis JCG.

#### **Scarlet Tanager**

Early south 5-12 Olmsted VH and Lyon HK; 3 reports on 5-13; early north 5-13 Crow Wing JB; 5-17 Itasca MS; 5-20 Marshall SV.

#### **Cardinal**

3 reports north 3-18 to 4-24: Clay (1) LCF; 5-5 Crow Wing (1) JB; May St. Louis Henry Roberts.

#### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Early south 4-24 Hennepin OJ; 4-30 Goodhue RBJ and Olmsted JF; 3 reports on 5-3; early north 4-11 Lake ME; 4-30 to 5-4 Hubbard HF; 5-10 St. Louis JCG.

#### **Blue Grosbeak**

1 report: 5-30, 5-31 Murray AD.

#### **Indigo Bunting**

Early south 5-4 Rice OR; 5-6 Mower RKJ; 5-7 Olmsted JF; early north 5-20

Crow Wing DK; 5-21 St. Louis GN; 5-22 Mille Lacs MI.

#### **Dickcissel**

Only 6 reports 5-14 to 5-30 reported from Lyon, Murray, Freeborn, Olmsted, Mower and Polk (5-29, 1, ETS).

#### **Evening Grosbeak**

Late 5-24 Anoka JBB; 5-26 St. Louis JCG.

#### **Purple Finch**

Late south 5-16 Anoka KL; early north 3-20 Mille Lacs MI; 3-21 Clay LCF; 3-23 Crow Wing JB.

#### **Pine Grosbeak**

4 reports: 3-19 Itasca MS; 3-24 St. Louis JCG; 3-27 St. Louis DS and Cook JH.

#### **GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH**

3-21 Beltrami (Bemidji) JM 5th state record.

#### **Hoary Redpoll**

11 reports 3-5 (1), 3-24 (2) Clay LCF; 3-9 Washington DGW and Hennepin PCHS; 3-18 Itasca NMH; 3-20 (4) St. Louis PD; 3-20 to 3-27 Marshall SV; 3-21 (7) St. Louis DS; 3-23 Hennepin ETS; 3-24 to 3-26 Anoka KL; 3-31 (2) Cook JH.

#### **Common Redpoll**

Late south 4-8 Anoka KL; late north 4-11 St. Louis PD.

#### **Pine Siskin**

Late south 5-31 Olmsted JF; early north 3-10 Hubbard HF and Morrison LSR.

#### **American Goldfinch**

Early north 4-14 St. Louis GN; 4-26 Otter Tail NJ; 5-4 Mille Lacs MI.

#### **Red Crossbill**

16 reports: 3-21, 3-22 Crow Wing JB, DK; 3-27 Winona LH; 3-31 Mille Lacs MI; 4-26, 5-13 Hennepin VL; 5-2 Hubbard HF; 5-7 Olmsted JF; 5-14 Hennepin JG; 5-15 Stearns NMH; 5-16 Morrison DF; 5-21 Cass HH; 5-22 Hennepin CH; 5-29, 5-30 Polk ETS, RBJ, KE.

#### **White-winged Crossbill**

4 reports: 3-28 Cass (7) AS; 3-30 St. Louis (3) P. Hofslund; 5-29 Polk ETS, RBJ.

#### **Rufous-sided Towhee**

Early south 4-22 Goodhue JG; 3 reports on 4-24 Lac Qui Parle (spotted western race); early north 4-28 Cass HH; 5-16 Cass AS.

#### **Savannah Sparrow**

Early south 3 reports on 4-2; early north 4-16 Aitkin JB; 4-21 Mille Lacs MI; 4-24 Becker MS.

#### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

Early south 4-28 Lyon HK; 5-8 Rock LH, KE; 5-9 Rice OR and Hennepin BE; early north 5-20 Clay DGW; 5-22 Pope RBJ; 5-23 Pine ML.

#### **BAIRD'S SPARROW**

5-22 Clay Dr. Oscar Johnson; 5-31 Wilkin HK.

#### **Henslow's Sparrow**

1 report: 5-11 Wabasha (2) WM.

#### **LeConte's Sparrow**

13 reports, more than usual; 4-19 Dakota OJ, JG; 4-24, 4-25 Lac Qui Parle AFE, ETS; 5-6 Hennepin ETS and Olmsted Helen Tucker; 5-12 St. Louis BDC; 5-22 Aitkin RBJ, KE, TS; 5-22 Marshall DGW, SV; 5-28 Polk RL; 5-29 Marshall LH, JCG.

#### **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

5 reports: 5-27 to 5-30 Marshall SV, JCG, LH, DB; 5-28 Polk RL.

#### **Vesper Sparrow**

Early south 3 reports on 4-4; early north 4-14, 4-16 Marshall SV; 4-17 Clay LCF; 4-22 Norman MS.

#### **Lark Sparrow**

Early south 5-4 Olmsted VH; 5-5 Anoka KL; 5-6 Olmsted Helen Tucker; 1 report north 5-28 Clearwater ETS.

#### **Dark-eyed Junco**

Late south 5-21 Hennepin ETS; early north 3-1 Clay LCF; 3 reports on 3-19.

### Tree Sparrow

Early north 3-3 Clay LCF; 3-14 Otter Tail GW; 3-23 Marshall SV; late 5-13 St. Louis JCG.

### Chipping Sparrow

Early south 4-4 Freeborn DG and Stearns NMH; 4-5 Anoka BB; 2 reports on 4-8; early north 4-13 Otter Tail NJ; 4-17 Todd GW; 4-19 Crow Wing DK.

### Clay-colored Sparrow

Early south 4-28 Murray AD; 5-5 Lyon HK; several reports on 5-6; early north 5-8 St. Louis JCG and Marshall SV; 5-9 Otter Tail GW; 5-10 Otter Tail NJ.

### Field Sparrow

Early 3-13 Hennepin ERW (2nd earliest date on record); 3-18 Hennepin HPR.

### Harris' Sparrow

Early south 3-5 Freeborn DG; 3-27 Jackson RBJ; early north 3-1 Clay (wintering?) LCF; 5-5 Crow Wing JB; 5-6 Morrison LSR; late 5-23 Clay LCF.

### White-crowned Sparrow

Early south 3-1, 3-20 Hennepin (wintering?) ERW; 3-29 Dakota JD; 4-16 Stearns MC; early north 4-13 Cass AS; 4-27 Itasca MS; 4-30 Marshall SV; late 4 reports on 5-22.

### White-throated Sparrow

Early north 4-15 Clay LCF; 4-16 St. Louis JCG; 4-18 Crow Wing JB; late south 5-22 Hennepin BE and Stearns NMH.

### Fox Sparrow

Early south 3-20 Olmsted JF, VH; several reports on 3-25; early north 3-30 Clay LCF; 4-1 Mille Lacs MI; 4-2 Crow Wing DK; late 5-13 Stearns MC.

### Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 4-18 Rock KE and Hennepin ETS; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle OJ, RBJ; early north 4-16 Clay LCF; 5-1 St. Louis PD; 5-5 Morrison LSR; late south 5-23 Lincoln KE.

### Swamp Sparrow

Early south 3-24 Hennepin PCHS; 4-4 Anoka KL; 4-5 Washington GA; early north 4-17 St. Louis DS, JCG;

4-20 St. Louis GN; 4-22 Marshall SV.

### Song Sparrow

Early south 3-1 Anoka JBB; 3-8 Cottonwood LF; 3-15 Rice OR; early north 3 reports on 4-1.

### Lapland Longspur

Early south 3-6 Olmsted, Dodge RBJ; 3-7 Fillmore GE; early north 4-16 Aitkin JB; 4-19 St. Louis JCG and Aitkin PD.

### Smith's Longspur

4-13 Wilkin Frank Cassel. No

### Chestnut-collared Longspur

5 reports: 3-20 Cook ETS; 4-24 Lac Qui Parle AFE; 5-20 Clay DGW; 5-29 Clay RBJ, KE; 5-31 Clay JG; 5-22 Clay Dr. Oscar Johnson.

### Snow Bunting

Late south 3-22 Cottonwood LF; late north 4-27 Marshall SV.

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## **INFORMATION WANTED ON HERONS**

Records from Minnesota and surrounding areas may provide significant information pertaining to the apparently changing status of the following species: **Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Least Bittern and White-faced Ibis.** Provide information on sightings including dates, number(s) of birds, observer(s), locality, habitat and breeding status. This information is needed for study of recent heron influx into Manitoba. Please send information to **J. R. Hnytka, 9-419 Aulneau Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA.**

# notes of interest

**TURKEY VULTURE NEST IN ITASCA STATE PARK** — On August 3, 1976, the Community Ecology class of the Itasca Biology Session, while on a field trip, discovered two Turkey Vultures of fledgling age and their nest in the Wilderness Area of Itasca State Park, Clearwater Co., Minnesota. The first Turkey Vulture observed was perched on a fallen log flapping its wings. The bird attempted to fly to escape, but quickly crashed to the ground. It then fled on foot and regurgitated its stomach contents. This individual was approached to within one meter so that the brown-black facial skin and scattered downy white feathers were closely observed and photographed (Fig. 1). The nest was found in a mixed pine-hardwood forest on the old Bohall Trail in the top of a white pine stump approximately 6-7 meters tall. The nest cavity was formed by the hollowed out top of the stump, and the



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

outer edge was heavily spattered with fecal material. The second bird remained perched on the rim of the nest cavity the entire time the class was present (Fig. 2). A visit to the nest two days later failed to turn up the fledgling birds; however, a student reported seeing two young vultures a few days later about a mile from the nest site, which may have been the same birds. Although Turkey Vultures are regularly seen in the Itasca region, this is apparently the first sighting of a nest of this species in the park. Submitted on behalf of Dr. E. J. Cushing's Community Ecology Class by: **Mario Ramos, Jacob Miller, and Jeff Bryan, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.**

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN DULUTH** — Since there had been two reports during the fall (on September 3, 1976 and September 21, 1976) of a Great Black-backed Gull near the ore docks in Duluth, I had been stopping at 27th Ave. West every time I had a chance, but had never found any concentration of gulls near shore. In the early afternoon of October 2nd I noticed from the Interstate highway that gulls were loafing on the ore docks near the taconite piles. After driving down to the water, I took the path through the willows until the gulls were in view and I was still hidden by a few bushes. Scanning the mixed flock of Herring Gulls (about 15) and Ring-billed Gulls (about 40) with binoculars, I soon noticed a very large gull. It was much bigger than the Herring Gull next to it. In comparison to the Herring Gull it seemed to me that it was even bigger than most Glaucous Gulls. After watching it both standing and sitting, I went back to the car for the spotting scope since the gulls were too far away and the light was too poor to see the bill or plumage clearly. When I got the scope set up, the bird had its head tucked under the wing but soon raised it so I had a side view. The massive bill was very striking, being much wider at the gonyx than a Herring Gull. It was black for at least the distal two-thirds but appeared lighter at the base. Because I was looking into the sun I could not be sure of the exact color near the base of the bill. The huge head and heavy neck were also very obvious. It was difficult to see the plumage clearly because of the glare and the angle of the sitting birds (quartering away from me). The head and neck were white and the mantle seemed to be a brownish grey. The tips of the primaries and tip of the tail appeared to be a worn brown. The legs were flesh pink. As I was moving the scope to get a better view a car came around the taconite piles and the gulls took off. I could not find the Great Black-backed in the melee or when some landed on the taconite piles. However, even with such a short view and poor light, I am convinced that it was that species because of the size and shape of the head, neck and bill. **Janet C. Green, 9773 North Shore Dr., Duluth, Minnesota 55804.**

**FALL SUMMER TANAGER** — The Summer Tanager is a casual occurring species in Minnesota. Previous to this fall, there were nine spring records for the species, all from May and early June. Records are concentrated in the southern part of the state, but there are single records from Becker and St. Louis Counties in the north. On or about October 12, 1976, a Summer Tanager appeared at the feeder of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Seelig located at 3248 Morris Thomas Road in Hermantown, a suburb of Duluth. The bird remained at the feeder till October 21 when an early cold wave passed through the area. On October 21, Bil Pieper and I drove to the Seelig's to see if we could observe the bird. We arrived at 8:30 A.M. and within 15 minutes, the bird, an immature male in moult, appeared at the feeder. We had an excellent opportunity to observe and take notes on the bird during the next half hour. The bird first appeared in an apple tree on the north side of the house. It flew away, but returned in about five minutes to the feeder, which was about 15 feet from the kitchen window. I took the following notes on the bird at the time of observation. First impression was of a large orange-yellow tanager with a red tail and light bill. The upper mandible was dark on top, light on the sides, lower mandible was light. The head and back, brownish yellow, tending toward olive. The eye was dark with a light yellowish eye-ring. The upper wings (coverts) were an olive-brown. The primaries had a reddish tinge with the trailing edge dark.

The tail and under-tail were a rosey-red. The breast was a deep yellow-orange, darkest at the center. The belly was a yellow-orange. Legs and feet were a dark gray. The general shape was that of a tanager, more robust and with a much heavier bill than a Scarlet Tanager. The bird was last seen that afternoon by Dean Schneider and the Seeligs. Many other observers had seen the bird during the previous three days. This represents the first verified fall record for the state. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**SNOWY EGRET AT AGASSIZ REFUGE** — A Snowy Egret was observed at Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall County on the following dates in 1976: June 28, by Refuge Manager Howard Hill; July 19 by Refuge Manager Dick Vasse and on July 15, 23 and August 1 by myself. The bird was also observed by Kim Eckert on August 15. Details of the July 15 sighting are as follows: The egret flew up out of the ditch below the Ditch-11 structure in company with Black-crowned Night Herons. The distance when first seen was between 80 to 100 feet (paced). Light was good; the sun was to my right and somewhat behind-me. The egret was all white with a dark bill, dark legs and yellow feet; it appeared smaller and slimmer than the night herons it was with. (These details were written into my notebook at the time of the sighting). Previous experience: Both Dick and Sarah Vasse have had a fair amount of previous experience with this species in Illinois. Habitat: The Ditch-11 structure admits water into the ditch and then into Thief River from Agassiz pool. At the time of the sightings only a small amount of water was flowing into the ditch which was as a result very low. Ten to 25 Night Herons were feeding there most of the time. Other observers: All observers agreed on identification. Dick Vasse reported orally details of July 14 sighting. These almost identical to details of July 15. Hill only reported the presence of a Snowy Egret. **Sarah S. Vasse, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Middle River, Minnesota 56737.**

**CAROLINA WREN AT HAWK RIDGE** — Carol and I observed a bird on September 19, 1976 at Hawk Ridge that we thought you would be interested in knowing about. We were hiking down the Amity trail and came to the power line. At that point we encountered a flock of warblers, sparrows and other species. A small bird flew into the bushes almost immediately under the power line. At first glance I took it to be a Chipping Sparrow. In focusing our ten-power binoculars on the bird we discovered it to be a **wren**. We were close to the bird, about thirty feet and near the minimum focus of our glasses. Because of the obvious eye-stripe, we eliminated it as being a House or Winter Wren (though we did see a Winter Wren about fifteen minutes later). This wren we identified as the Carolina Wren. It had the brownish cap and wide eye-stripe, the light throat and buffy underparts. It could not have been the Long-billed Marsh Wren because its back was not streaked and it was too large for that species. Also, the buffy underparts on this bird came up to near the throat. We saw this bird about 10 A.M. In fact, it began to rain rather heavily on our way back from the location. We used the Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer, **Birds of North America**, for the identification. We did not have the book with us but checked on our suppositions upon returning to our car on the road. We were able to observe the bird for several minutes at the close range from nearly all angles. We have previously seen this species at various times in our trips to the south. According to Green and Janssen's publication, I believe there are no records

of observations of this species in St. Louis County unless they were seen after publication of your book. **Laurence and Carol Falk, Route 3, Box 46, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.**

**A KESTREL KILL IN DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS** — My office is located on the 13th floor of the Northwestern Bank Building in downtown Minneapolis and overlooks an inside court of the structure. When I walked into the office at 8:30 a.m. on September 30, 1976, I caught a glimpse of a bird flying by my window. Going to the window I discovered that an American Kestrel was in the court. On a window ledge of a wing of a building opposite me a Black-capped Chickadee was huddled. The kestrel made one pass at it, then flew in again and caught the smaller bird. It appeared that the chickadee made no attempt to escape. American Kestrels are fairly common in downtown Minneapolis during autumn migration, but I have seen them in the area in summer and winter as well. The frequency with which I've seen them in the summer leads me to believe that there may be a nesting pair somewhere on the south edge of downtown Minneapolis. **Charles L. Horn, Jr., 5100 Juanita Avenue, Edina, Minnesota 55424.**

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY** — During the Christmas Bird Count of January 3, 1976 at Fergus Falls, I heard of a Red-bellied Woodpecker on a farm near Battle Lake, Minnesota. The following day I drove to the Clifford Jorud farm, fifteen miles east of Fergus Falls on state highway 210. The weather was mostly sunny, wind S-SE at 10-12 mph, temperature -10 degrees. I arrived at 11:30 A.M. and waited no more than twenty minutes in the vicinity of the house before the bird showed itself. A suet feeder was hung on a box-elder tree about fifteen feet from the kitchen window. The woodpecker spent much of its time feeding there, as well as flying about the yard, alighting and feeding on many of the other trees. I had never seen this species previously, but identification was made simple by the distinct black and white horizontal barring of the back, the red-orange stripe running from forehead to nape, and the slurred "churr-r" call. The full head-stripe identified this as a male Red-bellied Woodpecker. The bird called often and was quite aggressive at the feeder. Mr. Jorud's son Daryl, a biology teacher in Fergus Falls, was the first to identify the bird and bring it to my attention. Mr. Jorud told me that he first saw the bird about December 1. I made several subsequent trips to the farm throughout the winter to check on the bird. It always seemed healthy and active. It was last seen on April 11, 1976. **Steve Millard, 304 N. Vine, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537**

**POMARINE JAEGER AT STONEY POINT** — On August 17, 1976 I was on a birding trip in the Duluth area. A fairly strong east wind had come up off Lake Superior, but since there wasn't much at Park Point that morning, I decided to check Stoney Point in the afternoon. Arriving about 2:30 P.M., I began to scan over the gulls swimming just offshore from the fishing shack. Finding nothing but Herring Gulls, I sat in the car and scanned the lake for anything that might fly by. About 3:00 two birds came into view from the east about 150 yards away. One was chasing the other, and at first glance they both looked like first year Herring Gulls. But almost immediately I then realized the second bird was a jaeger because of its flash of white in the primaries and its falcon-like wings and flight.

Even at that relatively long distance, I knew that this was a Pomarine Jaeger since it was nearly the same size as the Herring Gull it was chasing. It gave up the chase after a few seconds and flew towards me and the flock of swimming gulls. As it approached to as close as 50 or 60 yards, I could see it had projecting central tail feathers that seemed to form a square projection extending about an inch beyond the rest of the tail. I could not see if these feathers were twisted, but I could see clearly they were not pointed (as in a Parasitic Jaeger). Except for the white primaries, the bird was entirely dark (Marj Carr had seen a light-phase Pomarine at Duluth on August 12). While in view for about three minutes through 8.5 X binoculars, it was constantly harassed by swallows, and only twice briefly did it pursue any of the gulls present (both times its size was clearly noted to be nearly that of a Herring Gull. Though its flight was somewhat erratic and aimless, it flew with fairly slow and lazy wing beats. Finally, the jaeger flew off to the west towards Duluth and disappeared. This represents the sixth sighting of the Pomarine Jaeger in Minnesota, all from the Duluth area. The best time to look for jaegers is in the fall when an east wind is blowing in from Lake Superior, with early August through mid-September apparently the most favorable months. **Kim Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**IBIS SEEN IN CLEARWATER COUNTY** — On May 8, 1975, and for several days around that time, I saw what I believe to be a White-faced Ibis. The location was in Greenwood Township, Clearwater County, approximately six miles north of the town of Clearbrook. I work daily on the wild rice paddies owned by Northstar Enterprises, Inc., and Clearwater Rice, Inc., both of Clearbrook. It was on land owned by the former that I spotted the ibis. I have lived in Florida, so, of course, when I saw this bird, knowing by size, shape, color and bill, that it was an ibis, I assumed it was the Glossy. But after checking it out with various bird guides, I concluded on the basis of range that it was a White-faced. Here is a description of what I saw: large water bird — all dark plumage; long, bill curved downward — single bird. I had an unobstructed view of the bird, which was on a mudflat which did not have rice or cattails on it yet. Stayed in rice paddy, muddy area with flooding water. Used elimination method; not a curlew because dark, appeared black at the distance. Not a godwit, because bill curved downward. Not a heron, for bill was long and curved. **James N. Howard, Route 1, Leonard, Minnesota 56652.**

Editors Note: The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee accepted the above record as an ibis species. This record is most unusual and represents the most northerly occurrence for the ibis in the state.

**FIRST CURVE-BILLED THRASHER RECORD FOR MINNESOTA** — Since summer 1976 had been hot and dry with strong south to southwest winds prevailing through Labor Day, I had not done much birding in my usual spots in southwest Minnesota. So when a strong cold front moved through on September 7 and 8, I decided to drive over to Blue Mounds State Park late in the afternoon of September 9. There were not many birds in the wooded area along the creek, so I decided to hike along the cliffs to the south end of the park while my wife drove around to pick me up. The first bird I saw was in a plum thicket near the swimming beach about a minute after my wife drove off. This nondescript grayish bird immediately struck me as something unusual because the most noticeable about it was its

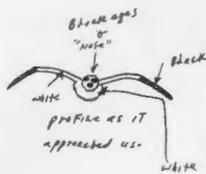
distinct red-orange eye. The bird was about 50 feet away partially hidden in the thicket, and all I could think of at first was Red-eyed Vireo. But after a few seconds the bird moved into the open and it was clearly too large for a vireo. My next thought was Black-billed Cuckoo because of its similar size and shape and because it had a distinctly decurved bill. I thought briefly that perhaps I was only seeing a red eye-ring. But the light was perfect with the sun directly behind me and there was no doubt that the iris itself was red-orange; also the bill was more strongly decurved. I approached to within 20 feet of the bird and watched it with 8.5X binoculars for about five minutes. When I got too close it flew to the other side of the thicket, but after a minute I located it again. Now it was in the shade only about 15 feet away and its eye was still that same red-orange color, eliminating any possibility of the sunlight distorting the color. Gradually I began to realize that I was probably looking at a Curve-billed Thrasher, a species I had seen many times in the Southwest. But since I had nothing to write with, I made a mental note of the bird's field marks until I got back to the car about an hour later.

Following is a description of the bird as taken from notes written in the car before any field guides were consulted. Size: about the same as or slightly smaller than Brown Thrasher (two or three were present for direct comparison), also similar in shape and actions; Plumage: even gray above, lighter or buffier gray below, breast with indistinct and diffuse smudges or spotting, no other visible marks seen when perched or in flight; Bill: about the same length as a Brown Thrasher's but definitely more sharply decurved, also seemed to be thicker at the base and more pointed at the tip; Eye: a clear and consistent red-orange.

Eventually the thrasher flew off into another thicket and became more wary. I had glimpses of it a couple more times but I was never able to get another decent look at it, though I remained in the area for another half hour. My tentative identification was confirmed when I got home and consulted the field guides. I had correctly remembered that the Curve-billed Thrasher is one of the few birds of any kind with red or orange eyes. Its plain gray coloration, thrasher size, shape and actions, decurved bill and light breast spotting (this was much closer to that illustrated in Peterson's Western and Texas guides than to the picture in Robbin's guide which shows darker and more extensive spotting), also left no doubt about its identity. Though there are a few other Curve-billed Thrasher records in the north central states (most notably the one that persisted recently in Wisconsin across the river from Wabasha County), this is the first record for Minnesota. The strong south to southwest winds which blew in hot and dry weather through September 7 also probably had something to do with blowing in this thrasher from the arid plains and deserts of the Southwest. But I'm certain this bird felt right at home in our own drought-stricken area. **Kim Eckert, Box 47, Garretson, South Dakota 57030.**

**WHITE-TAILED KITE IN WILKIN COUNTY** — On 10/11/76, MOU member Jerry Winkleman, my wife, Marion, and myself were observing longspurs on the flat prairie reaches of Wilkin County. At 12:30 p.m., we returned to our car, seated ourselves in the shade of it, and began to eat lunch. The sky was cloudless, the wind nearly calm, and the sun hot. Consequently the shade felt good, and we slumped tiredly. About 12:40 p.m., I chanced to glance over my pickle/pimento sandwich and noticed a falcon-like bird bearing down on us. I quickly brought it to the attention of my two com-

patriots, and we focused in on it, using 10x35, 8x50, and 7x60 binoculars, as it passed nearly overhead at an altitude we estimated to be 75-100 feet. It was a white bird — light-grayish-white, save for black wing tips that extended nearly to the wrist, grayish-black trailing wing edges, and black around its eyes. The eye color itself could not be ascertained. Possibly the beak, either most, or all of it, was also black, as the impression that two out of the three of us had was that the bird had two black eyes and a black "nose." It was midway in size between a Franklin's Gull and a Ring-billed Gull. Its wings were long, moderately swept back, and very pointed. Its tail also was very long and white. We all took note of the fact, both as the bird approached, passed over, and departed, that the long wings drooped downwards in a graceful arch from a point near the wrists to the wing tips.



at first it looked like a gull approaching in a glide.

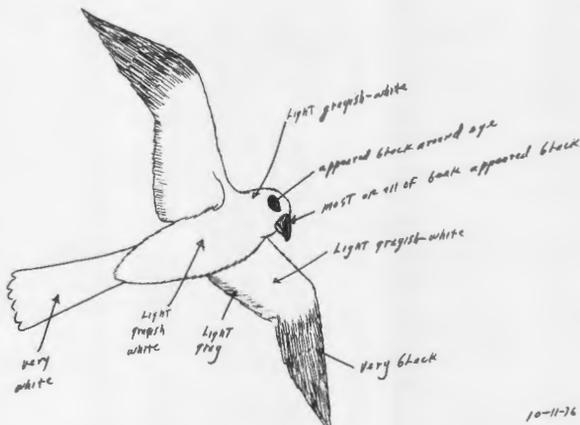
size midway between a Franklin and Ring billed Gull is probably the best way to describe it.

excellent glider

probably white-tailed Kite, mature

overall color: Light grayish-white...  
white dominant over gray

Years ago, in Japan, I observed children flying paper "bird" kites, with drooped paper wings. This bird's profile and wing characteristics reminded me of such paper kites. (Not very scientific, but edifying)



10-11-76 12:40 P.M.

observed for 12-16 seconds as it passed overhead & slightly to one side  $\approx$  75-100' altitude & azimuth.

within  $\approx$  3 miles west of nearby deserted town of Round Lake

It soared for a long distance before flapping its wings. The bird passed so closely overhead that its back and upper wings were not visible until it was quite far away. Nevertheless, we spilled a gallon of coffee and several sandwiches to the ground scrambling to our feet for a parting view. The back and upper wings appeared gray in comparison to the underparts, but the bird was heading into the sun by that time, so it is difficult to say. Consulting Peterson's **Field Guide to Eastern Birds** and Golden's **Birds of North America**, we admit amazement that the bird was most probably a mature White-tailed Kite. Both bird books indicate that such a bird has black wing tips, as well as a black spot on the wrist. We admit that the latter identifying mark was not seen during the 12-16 second encounter. This is unfortunate; yet considering the coloration, markings seen, size and

shape, and drooped-wing characteristic, it seems quite likely that, for whatever reason, a White-tailed Kite was observed. Having seen White-phase Gyrfalcons in the past, I can testify that the bird seen was much too small, and bore entirely different markings from a Gyrfalcon. **Gary L. Otnes, Route 1, Box 181, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537.**

**HUMMINGBIRD BEHAVIOR AT FEEDER** — During the summer of 1976 at Sugar Lake in Wright County, several neighbors were using sugar water feeders with success. We had a large feeder with four tubes and were pleased when a female hummingbird came in to feed. On August 28 I counted more than one bird and noticed some calling 'tip' and resting near the feeder on dead branches of a Basswood. The activity increased around the feeder until Sunday, September 12, when I counted at least 12+ hummingbirds — predominantly immatures. The young birds would sit together on the branches, two or three at once, between trips to the feeder. About mid-afternoon I noticed one hummingbird diving at the feeding birds, driving them away. It was a female hummer and it began to perch close to the feeder. When other hummers came to feed, they were chased off. Later one bird fed and perched above the female. The female looked up at the intruder, kept glancing sideways at it, finally zipped closer and landed. The younger bird did not move. The female rose and perched beside the visitor and when it still did not move, the female whirred into the air and with her beak made two sharp jabs to the immature's body. Result: one quick exit. The following week I watched the female defend the feeder successfully by staying nearby and feeding every fifteen minutes. On Tuesday, September 21, we came back to find the feeder empty and refilled it. The next morning we waited for the bird and about 10 A.M. I saw it hovering outside our French window, slightly slower in movement. I thought it was ill. It flew to the feeder and I saw its profile. The belly was protruding outward round and full. The bird looked like a green ball attached to wings and tail as it hovered about the porch in an upright position. George saw it pluck small insects or gnats from the air — the porch provides a protected corner for insects and spiders. I have read about the increase in body weight of hummingbirds before their flight to South America. This is the first time I have seen such an apparent gain in weight. When we returned the following Saturday the feeder was one fourth empty, the bird had left either September 23 or 24. **Evelyn T. Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416.**

**1974 REPORT OF A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** — A Swallow-tailed Kite was observed soaring almost directly overhead in clear view at a height of 100-150 feet for approximately one minute. The bold black and white markings plus the long forked tail made identification of this bird easy and unmistakable. The observation took place on July 13, 1974 at the Cedar Creek Natural History area, Anoka County. With me at the time of the observation were Stephen C. Pierson and Jane Gull, graduate students at the University of Minnesota, Department of Ecology and Behavioral Biology, Caroline Pierson and Bruce Worely. These observers are all moderately interested in ornithology and all are capable of identifying this species. **Stephen J. Maxson, Department of Biology, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201.**

**Editor's Note:** While the details on this observation are sketchy, the Swallow-tailed Kite is so obvious a species in the field it is difficult to imagine con-

fusion with any other species. This is the only record of the species since April 29, 1966, when one bird was found dead in Washington County and the first verified sight observation in the state in more than 50 years!

**BALD EAGLE - OSPREY STATUS REPORT, 1976** — This report is a summary of the 1976 Bald Eagle and Osprey census on the Superior National Forest. Records of census flights date back to 1961 although the intensive checking and record-keeping began in 1973. Data from 1961-1975 has been summarized by James Mattson and Al Grewe, North Central Forest Experiment Station, Research Note NC-198,1976. To date, nesting information is available on 194 eagle and Osprey nests. The Bald Eagle census flights are made between April 10-25 and the fledgling census from June 23-July 3. Osprey census flights are May 18-25 and July 26-August 6. A majority of the eagle and Osprey nests are in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. A helicopter was used on several of the flights. Accuracy of the census is much better with this slow flying aircraft. Considerable information was obtained on the nest tree size, shape, etc. We observed less disturbance to the birds than when using fixed winged aircraft. As soon as the necessary observation on the birds was completed we were able to leave the area quickly. With fixed-wing aircraft, a complete pass fairly close to the nest must be made, and usually at 70 mph. We collected information on the reaction of the birds to the helicopter to use in analyzing the effect of this aircraft to nesting activity in subsequent years.

**BALD EAGLE:** Twelve eagle nests were found and six nests were lost through blowdown this year. Two new territories were added to increase the census to 52 territories. A total of 67 known nests are on the Superior. This was a stable year for eagle nesting and nest success although nesting activity has decreased greatly on the eastern one-third of the Forest. Of 8 eagle territories on the Tofte and Gunflint Ranger Districts, only 1 territory was active and no young were produced. This decrease has been evident since 1973. Two active nests, where incubating eagles were present, in spring were lost through a blowdown and a possible black bear predation of the young in the other. A conservation officer observed a bear in the nest in mid-June. Evidently the "early" spring in northern Minnesota did not change the nesting dates of the eagles or Osprey.

TABLE 1

BALD EAGLE NESTING DATA

Year	Known Territories	Observed Territories	Active Territories No.	Active Territories %	Successful Territories No.	Successful Territories %	Number at Fledgling	Average Brood Size of Young	Young/Active Territory
1973	51	48	31	64	18	58	23	1.3	0.7
1974	61	47	28	65	14	50	18	1.3	0.6
1975	75	55	32	58	23	72	35	1.5	1.1
1976	52	52	26	50	20	76	29	1.5	1.1

TABLE 2  
OSPREY NESTING DATA

Year	Known Territories	Observed Territories	Active No.	Territories %	Successful No.	Territories %	Number of Young	Average Brood Size at Fledgling	Young/Active Territory
1973	47	29	15	52	6	40	9	1.5	0.6
1974	49	36	24	67	12	50	22	1.8	0.9
1975	40	34	25	73	10	40	15	1.5	0.6
1976	34	34	21	62	21	100	32	1.5	1.5

**OSPREY:** 100% of the active Osprey territories were successful in raising young this year. This is an extremely encouraging census on the Superior. Normally, 40 to 50% of the active territories are successful in raising young. On the Chippewa National Forest, located 100 miles west of the Superior National Forest, nest success was 48%. Six more Osprey territories (9 nests) were found this year and six were lost through blowdown. There are 34 known territories (38 nests) included in the Osprey census. **Karl P. Siderits, Superior National Forest, P.O. Box 338, Duluth, Minnesota 55801.**

**ARCTIC LOON ON LAKE HARRIET** — About sunset on June 13, 1976, Ed Batchelor called to tell me he had seen a queer looking loon on Lake Harriet. He stated that it did not appear to be a Common Loon. I discussed with him the possibility of a Red-throated and Arctic Loon. When I described the bill shape and the snake-like neck of the Red-throated Loon he said, "no way". Not being able to go immediately and for several days later to look for it, I dismissed the possibility that the bird would remain in the area for any length of time. Then, when William Stauffer called at 6:30 p.m., the evening of June 20, I went out immediately with a scope. The bird was about seventy-five yards away and the sun was shining on it. The size was smaller than a Common Loon, about  $3/5$  the size of a Common. The top of the upper mandible was dark gray to black, the rest of the bill was light gray. The bill was less robust than the bills of any Common Loons that I have ever seen and was straight. The top of the head was dark gray. There was no white in the feathers above, in front of or in back of the eye as a Common Loon shows. A large patch on the back of the neck was light gray and down the back of the neck it was dark gray to black. The back was dark gray with some black patches beginning to appear, no white spotting was seen. The front of the neck was white, the sides had some tinge of black with traces of black stripes sometimes visible. The belly was white as far as could be determined. The wings were white underneath. The fact that the bird had a light gray patch on the back of the head and a small bill in proportion to the head were strong indications to me that this was an Arctic Loon in winter plumage. I observed the bird for about fifteen minutes through a 25x Prominar scope. Reference books used while observing were Peterson's, FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS AND Robbins, Bruun & Zim, BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. I have seen Arctic Loons in breeding plumage in Yukon Territory and Alaska, others off the Pacific coasts. The bird remained on the lake for the remainder of June and throughout July. It was last seen by Karol Gresser on August 1, 1976. Several observers searched for the bird

the first week in August, but, could not find it. A series of photographs taken by my son Alison, on June 21 (see front cover), were viewed by Judy McIntyre and the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee. They confirmed the bird as an immature Arctic Loon, probably a first or possibly a second year juvenile. This represents the first summer record for the species in Minnesota, all previous records have been in the fall from Lake Superior in St. Louis County. **Don Bolduc, 4211 Blaisdell Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409.**

**LATE HUDSONIAN GODWIT** — At about 9:30 A.M. on November 5, 1975, Steve Keenes and I drove from the Holiday Inn to the new sewer plant construction site just east of I-535 South in Duluth. On the way in, parallel to the freeway, Steve noticed a bird he thought may have been a duck and he pointed it out to me. I looked, and the bird was flying 10-20' west of the car and south, same as we were travelling. I first noticed a long, up-curved bill and a definite black and white pattern in the wings. I knew this was some kind of shorebird. It flew 200-300' and landed, and I drove a bit further and then stopped and backed up. It didn't fly away until I had taken two photos. At about 1:30 P.M., I returned to the jobsite. Had guide books and again saw bird in the same ditch — when it flew, noticed very definite white rump patch, and tentatively identified it as a Hudsonian Godwit. Stopped car and again took one photo. Bird again flew, this time to weed patch in rail yard. Drove car to within 20' and stopped. Bird stooped down into the sparse weeds and I then moved car closer. He then flew and took one photo showing rump patch. About 2:00 P.M., left for Twin Cities. Again saw bird, this time feeding in the shallow ditch — stopped car — bird observed feeding for 3-4 minutes, then we left — this time noticed foot on his right leg was missing and he "hopped with a limp". **Description:** size of small duck, grayish black above, white and black pattern in wing — definite white rump and black tail — bill 4-6" long, upcurved, brownish near base, black tip, black long legs, foot on right leg missing. **Kenneth J. LaFond, 11008 Jefferson St. NE, Blaine, Minnesota 55434.**

**Editor's Note** — The above record represents the first November date for the Hudsonian Godwit and one of only a very few fall dates for the species in Minnesota.

**GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH AT BEMIDJI** — The Gray-crowned Rosy Finch is a typical western bird of accidental status in Minnesota. The following observation and identification was made on March 31, 1976 in Bemidji, Minnesota. It was between 10:30 and 11:00 A.M. when I glanced through the kitchen window to the bird feeder about 18 feet away and noticed a different Fringilid. The sunflower seed was still attracting members of this family, although the snow was nearly gone. The finch was darker and smaller than the female evening Crossbeak beside it. I looked unbelievably and ran for Peterson's Field Guides and my 7x35 binoculars. The lighting was excellent with the sun out full. It was obviously one of the rosy finches illustrated in the Western Guide and I began to look for identifying characteristics. The rose color on the wings and rump was

obvious. Great care was taken to eliminate the Hepburn's form by the amount of gray on the head, which did not extend to the nape of the neck but only on the top of the head. The Black Rosy Finch was eliminated by the darker coloration of the body. The Brown-capped Rosy Finch was eliminated because it lacks the gray crown entirely. Thus, it had to be a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, a life bird for me and an unusual record for Minnesota. I continued watching the bird for about 15 minutes as he flew back and forth from the ground to the feeder. About 11:20 a hawk flew through the yard and the birds disappeared for the day. **Mrs. Ann Mathisen, 1001 Miles, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601.**

**SWAINSON'S HAWK CONCENTRATION** — It is a well-known fact that large concentrations of certain species of hawks are seen during the fall at the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth. These concentrations, or "kettles" as they are called, consist mainly of Broad-winged Hawks. Occasionally, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged Hawks, Turkey Vulture and other species are observed in these kettles. To the best of my knowledge, there has never been a report of a "kettle" of Swainson's Hawks in the state. On September 26, 1976, at about noon, Paul Egeland, Dick Ruhme, Chuck Bergman and I observed a group of at least 60 Swainson's Hawks and two Red-tailed Hawks "kettling" over Highway 23, approximately two miles north of Pipestone, Pipestone County. We watched the kettle for approximately five minutes and noted other Swainson's Hawks in the general vicinity of the kettle. In all, during this short period, we estimated at least 70 of the birds in the area. This total was far more than I had ever seen in all my years of birding in Minnesota. What concentrated the birds is unknown, but earlier in the day, rain had fallen, and just prior to the observation, the wind had shifted to the northwest and skies began to clear. These are somewhat similar conditions that seem favorable to hawk concentrations in the Duluth area. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55434.**

**CAROLINA WREN AT FRONTENAC** — On May 12, 1976, while birding at Frontenac, Goodhue County, my wife and I saw a bird which neither of us had observed before. When the bird in question was first sighted, we were impressed by the large size for a wren and also by the eye-stripe. My first thought was the Bewick's Wren that we have often seen in Arizona. The buffy breast was then noted, and I felt that it must be a Carolina Wren. After we determined it was probably a new bird for our life-list, we took special note of the bird and went back to the car for our Field Guides. We both agreed that it was a Carolina Wren. I did also think of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, but the lack of dark on the head and back plus the size, ruled out this species. **Ross Wagner, Box 171, Mountain Lake, Minnesota 56159.**

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL BROOD IN WHITEWATER PARK** — Doug Jr. and I went down to Whitewater Park on July 2, 1976, hoping that he could actually show me a Whip-poor-will at the meadow behind the Headquarters where he stayed some years ago when he was working for the DNR. We walked along the road west at about 4:00 P.M., heard some "fitzbeew" flycatchers and saw several Mallard and Blue-winged Teal drakes, hens,

and some nearly grown young Mallards. The subject bird swam out from the reeds close in to us, followed by (I believe) six ducklings. I said to Doug something like "For gosh sakes, there's a Green-winged Teal hen and her brood. We better be sure, because breeding season Green-wings aren't seen in Minnesota, and I've only seen maybe a single bird or possibly three individuals over many years and these all up in the hook of the Mississippi (in Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, or Itasca counties)." So we dutifully put the glasses on the hen and noted: (1) Mouse gray rather than buffy, (2) No blue wing patch hidden, (3) Little different head shape (kind of hair up look), (4) Slightly smaller size was evident right away. The bird was now about 35-40 feet away, so just to be really sure, we put her into the air and she flew some 10-20 yards and then put down again to let the young come to her. She was Green-wing, for she had not a trace of blue patches (in her markedly grayer wings). Subsequently, a drake Green-winged Teal still in nuptial plumage swam out of the reeds at the far east edge of this little pothole and followed her and the brood to reed cover at the far edge (west) of the puddle. In reading this to Doug Jr., he recalls that he saw the hen and brood and identified them as Green-wings immediately and independently. **Douglas Campbell, 4917 Russell Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410.**

**ALBINO BARN SWALLOW** — In a previous issue of "The Loon" (45:136), I reported the sighting of an albino Rough-winged Swallow at LaCrescent, Houston County on September 22, 1973. While looking at shorebirds on the Marshall Sewage Lagoons on September 25, 1976, with Paul Egeland, Dick Ruhme, Chuck Bergman, Kim Eckert and Henry Kyllingstad, we noted an albino Barn Swallow among the hundreds of Barn Swallows that were seen over the ponds and in the general area. I believe the bird was a Barn Swallow because of size, shape, elongated tail and because it was with such a large concentration of exclusively Barn Swallows. The bird appeared totally white with the exception of a very slight brownish cast on the breast area. We were never close enough to the bird to determine eye-color. Once again, I noted the antagonism the normal-plumaged Barn Swallows displayed toward the albino. When the albino would leave its perch, several other individuals would chase after it and harass the bird. On the next day when we visited the area, most of the Barn Swallows had left the area, and the albino was not seen again. **Robert B. Janssen, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER SIGHTING AND WINTER WREN NESTING AT FRANCONIA** — On June 8, 1976, Ray Glassel, Jerry Gresser and myself drove out to Franconia, Chisago County, to see if we could see the Louisiana Waterthrushes which have been nesting there for some years. The first birds we saw and heard were a Cerulean Warbler and a Winter Wren. We walked over the bridge and along the path by the creek when Ray said he heard an Acadian Flycatcher. We listened and heard it again and then found it in the top of a tall dead tree. It looked very much like a Least Flycatcher, but the "Ah-choo" or "spit-chee" call was very distinctive and was repeated only at long intervals instead of close together like the Least's call. The time was around 9:00 a.m. and we did not definitely see the waterthrush that day. I returned to Franconia on June 16 to try and find the waterthrush again as this was a lifer for me. The first thing I saw after I entered the gate was the Louisiana Waterthrush, which was picking up food right alongside and even in the trail, after which it flew off towards the creek, I did not find a nest, but would assume that it had

a nest along the creek, as it came back several times. I heard the Winter Wren also at this point and then walked on down the trail. About twenty minutes later I was joined by a young man named Steve who lives at the beginning of the trail. We went back to the gate to see if we could find the waterthrush for him and as we were standing in the trail, I looked around and saw a Winter Wren with food in its mouth about 15 feet away from us. I watched and it flew towards the rock facing to the left of the trail, about one hundred feet from us. I moved closer and in about two minutes the wren flew out again, I walked up to the rock and in about a minute found a hole in the rock with the wren's nest in it. The hole in the rock was about two and one-half inches in diameter and this had been filled with twigs leaving just enough room for the wren to get through. I do not know how many young were in the nest as I did not have a flashlight and did not want to overly disturb the nest. The nest was much like the House Wren's being made of twigs. As far as I know, this is the farthest north the Acadian Flycatcher has been seen, and is also the farthest south there has been a confirmed nesting of the Winter Wren. **Bryon Bratlie, 9747 - 3rd Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55434.**

**OSPREY FEEDS AT NIGHT** — Although the Osprey is normally thought of as a diurnal bird, the following observation shows that under certain circumstances they can be active and hunt successfully at night. It was toward the end of July on the Mississippi River just before it enters Lake Andrusia (Beltrami County) when I was assisting with duck banding operations from an airboat fitted with searchlights. The time was close to midnight. The river before us was illuminated for about 100 feet from the lights operated by an on-board generator. There was no moon, although the sky was clear. An Osprey perched in a hardwood on the river edge, plunged into the water ahead of us and successfully captured a fish. He flew off into the night. **John Mathisen, 1001 Miles Street, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601.**

**YELLOW WARBLER AND A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE AT THEODORE WIRTH PARK** — Late Tuesday, October 19, 1976 I toured Wirth Park in Minneapolis after the first snowfall. There were many sparrows including Lincoln, Chipping and Swamp; but I was surprised to see a Yellow Warbler come up on a weed stalk and calmly peck at the seeds. I have heard warblers will supplement their diet of insects with seeds — this time I saw one eating seeds. On Sunday, October 24 I walked again after another snowfall and discovered the Yellow Warbler among the weeds with a group of sparrows and juncos. The warbler seemed familiar with this group of birds and took flight several times with them as they moved through the weeds as one flock. Satisfied that I had found the warbler again, I started back along the path. A large bird flew out of a tree top and through my Leitz 7x40 Trinovid binoculars I saw a shrike. I followed its flight and walked the same direction. About a block away I found the bird again and watched it move through the treetops and down into the brush. It was a Loggerhead Shrike. Following along to where I had seen it disappear, I heard terrified squawks from a large piece of brush. Thinking the bird had caught another, I walked up to the bush and was surprised to find the shrike about 15 feet away, making all the noise and looking at me. It kept up the loud squawks, which reminded me of a chat, as it moved through the center of the brush. Then it flew out and sat in the top of a nearby tree from which it began to sing a high-pitched tune similar to an Audubon bird squeaker with its *twit-wit-twee, twee, twee-twit*. I followed the shrike for at least one half hour or more, it kept

singing each time it landed on a tree top. Close views helped me identify it as an immature Loggerhead. It was feeding on the ground and in the brush; twice I saw it clean its bill, once to clean off mud or black dirt. Finally it flew toward the spring, I walked over to the nearby wet area and saw the shrike go down into the brush beside the underground spring.

**Evelyn Stanley, 213 Janalyn Circle, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416.**

Editor's Note: The above record for the Yellow Warbler is an extremely late date, and represents the first October record for this species in Minnesota. The previous late date for the state was September 30.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT MILLE LACS LAKE** — In response to the rare-bird alert precipitated by Terry Savaloja's sighting of a Red Phalarope at Mille Lacs Lake there was a congregation of birders at the wayside parking area at Garrison, Crow Wing County early in the morning of October 30, 1976. The wind off the lake was chilly and the sun was partly obscured by thin clouds. It was obvious that the phalarope was not off the wayside boat landing where Terry had left it the afternoon before, and finding a small grey shorebird that grey day in that big lake was going to be difficult at best. The birders split up into two groups and walked in opposite directions along the beach. I was in the group working its way northward together with Terry, Ray Glassel, Paul Egeland, Hap Huber, Dean Schneider, and Chuck Bergman. We flushed up some shorebirds from the beach and cattail margin — mostly snipe and Pectorals — but the major bird activity was the flocks of adult Bonaparte's Gulls that were feeding offshore and patrolling the beach. One flock of about 30 birds that was working over a small pool on the beach flat about a hundred yards away caught our attention. At about the same time Terry and Hap spotted one bird in the mass of constantly moving gulls that had black on the nape. They called our attention to the odd-plumaged gull, and about when we had all located it in the flock of hovering and diving Bonaparte's, it broke away from them and flew toward us. It passed right in front of us only about 50 feet away and continued flying along the shore to the north until we lost it from sight. There was much calling of "kittiwake" before the gull had even reached us and everyone, except Chuck who had started back before the gull was spotted, had a good opportunity to check the field marks as it flew past. There was complete agreement that it was an immature kittiwake before we headed back to the wayside to find the other birders who had moved around the point to the south and had not seen the gull. We headed out in cars northward along the shore, but although the rest of the morning was spent looking, the kittiwake was not seen again. Because of the range and rarity of the other species of kittiwake, it was presumed to be a Black-legged Kittiwake and is the second record for Minnesota.

The following notes on the plumage of the gull were made by me as soon as we had walked back to the wayside:

"Very distinctive wing pattern: black leading edge of primaries and black stripe across secondary coverts. The flight feathers enclosed in the black zig-zag were whitish — lighter than the grey pictured in the Robbins-Zim field guide. The back was grey, the head was white with a black spot behind the eye and a black line along the nape. The tail was white. I did not see the shape of the tail or the black trailing edge that an immature should have, but was not concentrating on this feature but rather on the head and back pattern. The legs were not seen. Size was noticeably larger than the Bonaparte's Gull but not as large as a Ring-billed Gull." **Janet C. Green, 9773 North Shore Dr., Duluth, Minnesota 55804.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**North American Game Birds of Upland and Shoreline** by Paul A. Johnsgard, 27 maps, 22 color and 29 black and white photos, 183 pages, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588. 1975. Paper \$6.95

Paul Johnsgard has been a prolific writer in the field of game birds. **North American Game Birds** is his third book in the last two years. Previously published were **Song of the North Wind** 1974 (see **The Loon** 46:129-130) and the monumental **Waterfowl of North America** in 1975. Previous to that (1968) he published **Waterfowl** in which were pictured and described all genera and species of the world's waterfowl.

In my opinion, all of these volumes have been excellent, especially the rather controversial **Song of the North Wind**, which showed the author's wide-ranging knowledge not only of the scientific, but the human and historical aspects of biology.

Johnsgard's current volume is intended as a guide to the more common species of American game birds, expanded over the normal field guide type of treatise. Information is also presented on the adaptations for survival and reproduction. Species covered include grouse, quails, partridges, pheasants and ptarmigans.

Under each species the author treats in separate paragraphs: other names, range, identification, field marks, age and sex criteria, habitat and foods, social behavior and reproductive biology.

Included with each species account, and the part I like best, are full-page range maps, showing distribution in North America and line drawings of each species. The color and black and white photos are good, but some of them seem too staged for me.

All of us who are game-bird "nuts" should have a copy of this book as a companion to our field guides.

Bob Janssen

**Checklist of the World's Birds** by Edward S. Gruson with the assistance of Richard A. Forster, Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Company, 10 East 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022. 1976. \$10.95.

According to the publisher's flyer, "That rare and long-awaited species of a book, **Checklist of the World's Birds**, at last has been sighted flying off the presses and heading toward eager bird "listers" and "tickers" all over the globe." This birder would have been waiting more eagerly if Ernest P. Edwards had not published his well-researched **A Coded List of the Birds of the World** in February, 1974, and James F. Clements had not followed in April of the same year with his **Birds of the World: A Checklist**. Gruson's book, then can scarcely be considered the first one-volume world check-list, though the flyer seems to suggest that this is so.

In his introduction Gruson says, "This is a book for "listers" and "tickers" . . . Its purpose is to "provide as complete a listing of the species of birds of the world as possible, to give the scientific name and an English common name for each of the species, to provide a source to which the reader is referred if more information about the species is wanted and to give a gross idea of its range." He has accomplished his purpose.

The book is organized in a manner which may make it easy for the non-scientist to use. The table of contents lists, first, an introduction, then follow the Latin names of some 160 families and 20 sub-families, essentially as given in Peters **Checklist of the Birds of the World**, a section of notes, a source code listing 72 titles, a bibliography of 5 pages and 118 titles (most recent title is 1973 which may explain why Edwards and Clements are omitted), an index of generic names and an index of English names. Orders are not mentioned. The author

has elected to list species within genera alphabetically by Latin names rather than make taxonomic judgments. This arrangement could make for easier reference, but it makes cross-reference to other works more difficult. I wonder why a book for listers and tickers would not better be arranged alphabetically by English names.

Use of the Peters order, with the corvids at the top of the evolutionary ladder, will please European ornithologists, though most American workers follow Wetmore or Van Tyne and Berger with the weavers or finches at the top.

Several important works have been omitted from his source list. I expected to find Bannerman's two volume **The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa** (1953), Mackworth-Praed and Grant's five volume **African Handbook of Birds** (1905-1973), Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley's **Birds of India and Pakistan** (1969-1972), Kobayashi's **Birds of Japan** (1965) and Berger's **Hawaiian Bird Life** (1972) as regional sources. No work on the birds of Japan or Hawaii is listed, though there are many titles covering such places as Dyaul Island, Tristan da Cunha, Palawan, Culion and the Celebes. Source references are listed without dates, and the last eight titles are missing from the bibliography where one might normally expect to find those dates.

Gruson gives no species total, but listers will find fewer birds to list in this volume. I added the species figures given for each family and arrived at a total of 8738 species as compared with Clements 8904 and Edwards 8908. It would seem that he missed some birds, perhaps through the omission of important source references, or he made some taxonomic judgments he is not admitting.

Good features of the book? Proof reading has been done with care so that few authors or bird names are spelled incorrectly and only one family is listed wrongly (Craticidae for

Craticidae). Paper, printing and binding are good, and the volume is smaller than Clements so that it would be more conveniently carried abroad. End papers, as with the other two publications, are maps of the faunal regions with letters keying species to their broad ranges. The \$10.95 price makes this the least costly of the three lists.

Gruson has taken a sensible approach to the matter of English common names. He states, "With regard to the English common names a pleasant disorder reigns. There are 'Rock Wrens' in the United States and New Zealand. Their only common characteristic is their name. Who is to change? Bird watchers in New Zealand or the United States? The American Ornithologists' Union or the Ornithological Society of New Zealand? . . . Who is to decide? It would seem especially inappropriate at this time for an American to be telling an English-speaking birder from another country what to call the birds of that country." Perhaps a group similar to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature will one day tackle the problem.

Meanwhile this book may, with its orderly arrangement and modest price, prove a useful aid to many traveling "listers and tickers."

Henry C. Kyllingstad

**A Season of Birds**, by Dion Henderson. Illustrated by Chuck Ripper. 87 pages. Tamarack Press, P.O. Box 5650, Madison, Wisconsin 53705. 1976. \$5.95.

About 40 one-page essays make up this collection, each one illustrated by a black-and-white drawing of a species of bird. The essays are pleasant, but not very interesting. Each contains a few facts about a bird, or a mouse, or a rabbit, and some superficially personal comments.

Henderson's thoughts here recorded are the ordinary sort of vague musings one has while watching birds at one's feeder — what used to be called "wool-gathering." He is a newspaper-

man and I would guess that he keeps his typewriter at a window overlooking his feeder. The settings of the essays usually are Henderson's feeder, in any case, and I suspect that he murmured these idle reminiscences into a tape recorder while sitting at his typewriter awaiting inspiration for better things. I imagine Henderson to be the sort of fellow who prides himself on being super-efficient and is now feeling pleased about producing a book so off-handedly.

The illustrations, in pen and ink and resembling engravings, are anatomically accurate and the poses are life-like, but any original quality is lacking — a perfect match to the text. They are the kind of pictures, like Utrillos, that timid people use to decorate the rooms of their houses in a non-committal way. This book would go well on a coffee table in a living room with Utrillos on the walls.

—Dean Schneider

**Prairie Birds in Color**, by Doug Gilroy. 112 pages. Western Prairie Books, Saskatoon, 440 2nd Ave. N., Saskatchewan S7K 2C4. 1976.

This book is so bad that the only function of a review of it is to categorically warn anyone not to even bother to glance through it. It is merely a random collection of color photographs that are so poorly reproduced as to be no better than the pictures in a newspaper. The birds in the photos are mainly just standing around, looking bored, as if waiting for Mr. Gilroy to, for God's sake, just go away. Some of the photos even have that greenish tint that film can get if you leave it in your closed car in the hot sun too long.

Each picture is accompanied by a banal, inane, and sloppily written caption. The information accompanying a close up of an Eastern Kingbird nest was the most exciting prose that I came across: "this (nest) was built on a low branch overhanging a stream — a very attractive setting, but I nearly fell in taking the picture."

You may think that I must be in a

truly foul mood to write so nastily, but believe me, I was in a **good** mood before I sat down to look over this book. And I am not alone in my disdain. Bob Janssen said it was bad when he asked me to do the review, and Judy McIntyre was adamant in her condemnation after spending a few minutes with it.

—Dean Schneider

**A Field Guide to Birds' Nests** in the United States East of the Mississippi River; by Hal H. Harrison, color photographs, ink drawings, 257 pages, Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston, 1975. \$8.95 (The Peterson Field Guide Series)

Don't dismiss this newest Peterson Field Guide as not being useful in Minnesota. The subtitle limits nests to those found "east of the Mississippi River," and the map in the text excludes Minnesota. Harrison clarifies the limit as those states which are ENTIRELY east of the river. Using the MOU Checklist and Seasonal Report, I marked the book indicating Minnesota breeders. Of Harrison's listing of 285 species, about 195 of them breed in Minnesota; the 90 that do not are mostly the coastal species, southern birds, and those limited to an isolated habitat, i.e. Kirtland's Warbler. About 15 normal Minnesota nesters are not included — over one-half of these are waterfowl, and all are birds usually found in the western portion of the state.

Harrison photographed 222 active nests containing eggs. Every colored photo is accompanied by an ink drawing of the bird by Ned Smith, placed in the lower corner, which makes a ready index for locating species. The excellent text for each nest includes information on breeding range, habitat, nest material and site, egg and clutch descriptions, incubation period and some breeding behavior. The greatest asset is the additional "notes" which amplify facts, status, or additional information peculiar to the species. Most of these facts are based on

recent studies.

The book is organized by AOU order of the species, not by nest site or materials, or by egg shape or color. Therefore, as a field guide, the book is useable only if the nest is found with the bird in attendance, or if the bird's territory is clearly established and one needs to read where to find the nest. The reader should understand that the nests will not be as visible as the pictures show. Obviously cavity nests have been cut open; some nests show that the vegetation normally hiding the nest have been snipped or displaced; others mention in the text that the nest is domed, but the photo shows the nest fully open to allow a clear picture of the eggs. A footnote regarding the dome displacement would have been valuable. Perhaps a reference to any disturbance was omitted because once a reader realizes that the nest was deliberately exposed for a photograph, one is confronted with the fact that the altering of the nest area probably caused the clutch of eggs to be lost. Personally, the merits of this book — the only complete photographic record of nest and eggs — justifies the probable losses. Harrison is not encouraging others to become nest photographers; but rather to learn more about a relatively unknown period of a bird's life. However, he did not include in his well-written chapter discussing general facts the dangers in finding and examining active nests. Human activity can lead predators to the nest through sight, smell, or the distress calls of the birds; or it can cause the birds to desert or leave the eggs exposed too long.

Although the book is primarily about nests, the portions devoted to eggs fills a void. There is a real need for an egg key. Please note that the collection of both nests and eggs are illegal; but an unhatched egg or an empty shell is fun to identify. There is no egg key per se, but this is a good start. A flip-through the book is not enough to identify an egg as

color varies and the picture may show one color whereas the egg description in the text may list a color-spectrum. The endpapers by Mada Harrison show egg marking terms and shape terms as used in the book — very helpful. The size of the eggs given are **average** sizes only — not the range and there has been some criticism of this. However, Harrison explains in the introduction that all criteria for identifying eggs is only relative as size, color, markings, texture, and shape may vary within a clutch.

If one is not a "nestologist" or an oologist, Harrison's book can simply be enjoyable reading and looking. As a working manual I found it very useable as a colored and visual aid in conjunction with either Headstrom's **Field Guide to Nests** (a key-type format) or Reed's 1904 classic **North American Bird Eggs** (a black-white paragraph description of nests and eggs).

Marlyn Mauritz

**A Field Guide to the Nest, Eggs and Nestlings of British and European Birds**, by Colin Harrison, color photographs, ink drawings, 432 pages, Demeter Press, Inc., Boston, Mass. 1975. \$12.50. (Quadrangle Field Guide Series).

The only fault to be found with **A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of British and European Birds** is that it is not for the North American continent! Hopefully it can serve as an excellent prototype to alleviate that fault.

Harrison covered the entire nesting cycle of species of British and European birds including the North African coast, Iceland, Canary Islands, Azores, and the Middle East. Designed as a companion to **The Birds of Britain and Europe** (with the same large range) by Heinzel, Fitter, and Parslow, Harrison thus eliminated the need to include identifying characteristics of adult birds.

The main text concisely describes

nesting habitat, the nest itself, breeding season for various latitudes, eggs, clutch size and variations, incubation, nestling description and markings, notes on nestling period, frequency of feeding, molts, and departure and dependency time. Ink drawings of head patterns, nests, and behavior poses are interspersed with the text. Following the species text are a series of plates of exceptional quality and the accompanying literature. The beautifully painted illustrations of 145 chicks, mostly percocial ones, are the work of Dr. Phillip Burton. The photographed museum egg specimens are shown  $\frac{3}{4}$  to life size and include more than one sample to register variation of color and markings.

The above mentioned make this book excellent — but there is more. The extensive compiling of data resulted in 11 pages for 3 keys, each of which helps limit the scope of investigation by leading from nest, egg, or young to a species or genus. Each of the three keys is cross-referenced. Briefly, the keys are organized according to: Nest — shape, size, and site; Egg — 17 categories of color and/or markings and size; Young — Percocial by color and markings, Altricial by mouth pattern and later by down markings.

Next there is a 15 page dissertation on the nesting period which is the most informative one that I have read. Because the latitudinal areas are similar to North American birds, many of the general ideas regarding nesting, plumage and behavior can be applied to our species, even the ones that are not the same.

Harrison's introduction, "Please Begin Here," is a plea and a warning for using extreme safety precautions during the highly vulnerable nesting season. Over 400 pages later, he reiterates the idea by stating that although nest record programs are very important, observers should keep away if intrusion might endanger the nest. Usually this aspect is ignored or omitted.

Obviously this is not a book in great demand by midwesterners for use as a "field guide," but the information that can be used or applied is valuable. The text, and 64 plates, and the ink illustrations make this book a good investment for both knowledge and pleasure.

Note: Having used the library copy of **The Birds of Britain and Europe** on adults for this review, I found to my dismay that Lippincott stopped printing it — a sad mistake as it also is excellent. Perhaps with Harrison's book, the Company will make another printing.

Marlyn Mauritz

**Parent Birds and Their Young**, by Alexander F. Skutch, 116 photographs, 18 tables, 19 figures, 503 pages, University of Texas Press, Austin and London, 1976, \$27.50.

Imagine a book 2" thick consisting of over 500 pages, 8" x 11", dealing exclusively with the mating, courtship, nesting, and fledgling aspects of birds from all over the world — and one is confronted with a vast amount of observation and interesting trivia such as the fact that of the pigments isolated in eggshells, the bright yellow is the only one that does not occur alone. Whereas many books on ornithology assign a few chapters to the relatively brief breeding period, Skutch has 34 chapters and he includes some areas previously ignored, i.e. the interrelationship among nestlings, how they leave the nest, helpers at the nest, and the use of nests by the birds after the breeding season. In short, **Parent Birds and Their Young** is the ultimate of avian breeding patterns and activity. The reader becomes steeped in the breeding cycle, and that is obviously what Skutch did as evidenced by the over 800 sources listed in the bibliography, 40 of which are his own published papers. Many of the tables and figures are his compilations of his observations or reading.

The book is not a field guide, a text-

book, nor a case study of certain species. Skutch discusses activities in general and then some of the variations and adaptations using examples from his 40 years of observations, done primarily in the tropical latitudes, plus other people's studies of specific species from around the world.

Skutch is listed as a "noted naturalist, and the author of books and over 200 articles in the field of ornithology, botany, conservation, and philosophy." The insertions of his philosophical views caused a slight consternation; it was interesting to read the sections reviewing the literature that debated the origins of various behaviors, but I could not always determine where the review ended and Skutch's view began. Wishing to avoid the red-flag word "anthropomorphic," it would be more accurate to state that in trying to avoid technicalities and sticking to a vocabulary for a general audience Skutch sometimes inferred moral judgment by using common words whose connotations elicit a morality—example "matrimonial fidelity," "divorce," and "neglectful fathers." Now there may be formal neutral terminology for his choices, but to compose a brief chapter title that says, "The male bird does not take part in nest building, incubation, feeding, and/or protection of either the female or young" makes "neglectful fathers" reasonable acceptable.

In a paragraph dealing with the concept that overzealous protection of

the nest by a species could endanger the breeding population, Skutch introduces the paragraph thus: "The **plunderers** of bird nests are of two kinds: **sneak thieves**, which carry off eggs or nestlings when parents are out of sight, and the habitual predators, which **pillage** nests even in the presence of their owners." (my emphasis) Such colorful language moralizes and totally ignores the food chain and natural population pyramid. Any animal's eating habits are based on his dietary needs, opportunities, and his capabilities. Statements like the above quote will exasperate the scientifically orientated, both by the actual statement and by the fact that the unknowing reader will readily accept it because he likes animals to have human qualities.

Actually, the criticism of the language is more of a warning to a potential reader. At first, I was turned off by the ill-chosen words and judgmental phrases, but I wanted the basic information and soon treated the "little gems" as a game. They became akin to the literary ploy of "comic relief" in an otherwise serious thesis, although Skutch never meant them that way. If you find over 500 pages on breeding too intense, use the 18 page index to choose species or behavior. More than likely, once started, the reader will overcome the awesome size of this book and continue to the end.

Marlyn Mauritz

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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.



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## SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of **The Loon** invite you to submit 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, July and November to Robert Janssen. See inside front cover.

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